

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Insert Photo

DRAFT

TOWN OF NATICK

2012

TOWN OF NATICK

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
PLAN**

2012 UPDATE

Board of Selectmen

Open Space Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Open Space Advisory Committee

With assistance from:

PGC Associates, Inc.
1 Toni Lane
Franklin, MA 02038
(508) 533-8106
gino@pgcassociates.com
www.pgcassociates.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many Town of Natick boards, commissions and departments participated in supplying and/or reviewing information that went into the preparation of this report. These include:

A special acknowledgement is due to the residents of Natick who attended and participated in the public forums and/or otherwise provided valuable comments and assistance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAN SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	2
Statement of Purpose	2
Planning Process and Public Participation	3
COMMUNITY SETTING	5
Regional Context	5
History of the Community	8
Population Characteristics	9
Growth and Development Patterns	13
ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	20
Geology, Soils and Topography	20
Landscape Character	23
Water Resources	25
Vegetation	31
Fisheries and Wildlife	38
Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	41
Environmental Challenges	45
INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST	49
Introduction	49
Protected Open Space and Recreation Lands	49
Other Public Lands	49
Other Private Lands	49
COMMUNITY VISION	67
Description of Process	67
Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals	67
NEEDS ANALYSIS	68
Summary of Resource Protection Needs	68
Summary of Community Needs	69
Summary of Management Needs	71
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	72
ACTION PLAN	74
Action Plan Summary Chart	75
REFERENCES	86
APPENDIX	87

LIST OF TABLES

1	Population Growth,1990-2010	. . . . .	10
2	Ethnicity, 2000 and 2009.	. . . . .	10
3	Current and Projected Population by Age Cohort	. . . . .	11
4	Income, 2000 and 2009	. . . . .	12
5	Land Use Changes, 1971-1999	. . . . .	15
6	General Soil Association	. . . . .	23
7	Water Resources	. . . . .	27
8	Common Wetland and Upland Species Observed in Natick	. . . . .	31
9	Wildlife Species in Natick	. . . . .	38
10	Vernal Pools	. . . . .	39
11	Protected Public Open Space and Recreation Parcels.	. . . . .	50
12	Protected Private Open Space and Recreation Parcels.	. . . . .	60
13	Conservation Restrictions	. . . . .	61
14	Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands	. . . . .	63
15	Private Cemeteries	. . . . .	64
16	Other Public Lands	. . . . .	65

LIST OF FIGURES

1	Regional Context	. . . . .	6
2	Zoning Map	. . . . .	18
3	Bedrock Lithology	. . . . .	21
4	General Soils Map	. . . . .	22
5	Land Use	. . . . .	24
6	Surface Waters	. . . . .	26
7	Aquifers and Public Wells	. . . . .	28
8	Zone II Areas	. . . . .	29
9	BioMap	. . . . .	36
10	Estimated and Priority Habitats	. . . . .	37
11	Scenic and Unique Resources.	. . . . .	42
12	Protected and Recreational Open Space	. . . . .	66
13	Action Plan Map	. . . . .	85

SECTION 1 – PLAN SUMMARY

DRAFT

Section 2 – Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

This is an update of Natick’s 2002 *Open Space and Recreation Plan*, which was written in 2002 as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to qualify for grants. The original plan was prepared by special Open Space Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen for that purpose. One of the recommendations of that plan was to establish and appoint the Open Space Advisory Committee as a permanent town committee, with responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the major goals of that Plan and updating the Plan as required. The permanent committee was approved by Town Meeting in April 2003 and comprises one representative each from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board; and four at-large members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Five-Year Action Plan from the 2002 Plan may be found at Appendix XX, together with specific accomplishments on these action items. Key accomplishments include the following:

Conservation/Protection

- Private landowners granted three new conservation restrictions (CRs), totaling about 37 acres. These are: Francis Hunnewell and Morgan Palmer, each adding to existing CRs along the Wellesley line; and Frank & Sheila Maguillon on Pleasant St.
- Natick received six acres of conservation land as part of the Walnut Hills Estate Development, and a 16-acre conservation restriction as part of South Natick Hills development.
- The Town transferred to the Conservation Commission custody of three Town-owned parklands, ensuring their permanent protection: Natick Community Organic Farm, Hunnewell Town Forest, and J.J. Lane Park.
- In a similar action, the Town of Framingham transferred to its Conservation Commission custody of Arthur Morency Woods, which is owned by Framingham, but 16 acres of which are located in Natick.

Recreation Fields

- Two new fields were opened near Lilja School: Sargent Field and MathWorks Field.

Administration/Policy

- Town Meeting adopted a number of Zoning By-Laws that include requirements for open space (e.g., Comprehensive Cluster Development Option) or pocket parks (Housing Overlay Option Plan (HOOP) and the Smart Growth Overlay District (Chapter 40R) Program).
- The Town created advisory committees to explore the Cochituate Rail Trail and the Cochituate Aqueduct, and created a new Town Forest Committee and Walking Trails Maintenance Committee.

Funding

- As a result of the Natick Mall expansion, the Town received \$7.2 million in mitigation funds for the Conservation Fund, plus an addition \$500,000 toward the Cochituate Rail Trail.

Trails

- Using a combination of Town-owned land and easements from developers, the town completed the 1.5-mile Eisenmenger Trail from Natick Center to South Natick.
- Many additional trails were completed, including the Mumford Wildlife Forest (part of the 16-mile Charles River Link Trail), Timothy Coolidge Hill, the Henry Wilson History Trail, Anniballi Park at Pegan Cove, and several parts of the Takawampait Trail.
- Trailhead kiosks and trail markings were completed for several trails.
- Townwide trail maps were published and distributed, as well as detailed maps of Hunnewell Town Forest and the Eisenmenger Trail.

The 2002 Plan expressed alarm at the pace at which new development was taking over existing open space. Fortunately, the emphasis in recent years has been to encourage redevelopment of underutilized land in the downtown area and on existing industrial land, through zoning such as the HOOP and the Smart Growth Overlay District (40R) program. The only large-scale development of open space since 2002 has been South Natick Hills, a 40B project built on a 55-acre site off South Main Street near the Sherborn border. As mentioned, 16 acres of that, with wetlands and rare species, was preserved through a conservation restriction, and a series of walking trails was promised.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In a sense the process of updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan began with the approval of the 2002 Plan. As the town has gone forward in implementing that plan, the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) has continuously sought feedback from the public and from town boards, including:

- Visibility: Presence at public events such as Natick Days; the Natick Community Farm pancake breakfast; and the town Health and Fitness Day
- Outreach: Public updates through e-mail lists and Facebook
- Volunteer activities: Encouraging trail volunteers and organizing trail days
- Town updates: Annual reports to the Board of Selectmen; and regular meetings with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Other valuable input has come from the “Natick 360” process, a comprehensive long-range planning process that resulted in a strategic plan for the town’s future. From May 2006 through March 2008, the town engaged in an array of outreach and discussion, with participation of several thousand residents and members of the business community, which included a series of Vision and Values Workshops; Strategic Options Workshops; a survey of residents; and planning-focused meetings among Natick 360’s five sponsoring town boards. The planning process addressed open space and recreation in the context of the wide range of issues important to the town’s future. Open space-related results developed through Natick 360 are summarized in *Section 7: Analysis of Needs*.

The OSAC undertook a review and update of the 2002 plan to fulfill the requirement that Open Space and Recreation Plans be updated every 5-7 years. With the recommendation of the OSAC, the Conservation Commission approved and funded hiring a consultant to be responsible for selected portions of the plan update. After examining three bidders, the Commission in June 2009 awarded the

contract to Gino Carlucci of PGC Associates. At that time the OSAC provided a status report to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Parks and Recreation Commission.

The OSAC decided to draw from the comprehensive public participation in the Natick 360 process, including the scientifically valid community survey rather than conduct another survey of residents. However, two public forums were scheduled to focus on open space and seek public comment, one at the beginning of the process, the other at the end. The first took place October 21, 2009 at the Library, and solicited public opinions on goals and priorities for open space. Fourteen members of the public participated and an additional 10 provided comments by e-mail.

After spending several months refining this and other input into updated Goals and Objectives, in November and December 2010 the OSAC presented a draft to Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Parks and Recreation Commission for their comments. The OSAC devoted a large portion of four additional meetings to the development of these the Goals and Objectives into a Seven-Year Action Plan.

Meanwhile, PGC Associates developed updates for Sections 3, 4, and 5. Section 5 (Inventory of Lands) proved a particular challenge, as the Assessor's database proved incomplete, and in some cases incorrect, in its description of land status.

To be continued...

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

Located 17 miles west of Boston in southern Middlesex County, Natick provides a mixture of suburban residential, commercial, and light industrial land use. Local and regional commercial districts are situated along its major highways, reflective of its location within an easy commute to Boston, Worcester, and Providence. Its three major transportation arteries are the Massachusetts Turnpike, Route 9, and the Boston and Albany Railroad, all of which connect Boston with western Massachusetts. Natick owes much of its growth to its location on these major east-west corridors. Routes 27 and 135, major collector roads, cross in the center of town and provide connections to Framingham to the west, Wellesley to the east, Wayland to the north, and Sherborn to the south. Route 16 travels through South Natick, connecting Wellesley and Sherborn. See **Map 1 Regional Context**.

Natick is within the jurisdiction of Boston’s Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and participates in regional planning efforts as part of the MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC), a sub-region of MAPC. Natick participated in MAPC’s 2008 production of “MetroFuture,” the official regional plan for Greater Boston. This Open Space and Recreation Plan is consistent with that plan, especially in its acknowledgment of regional natural and recreational resources, in its recommendation for communicating with neighboring Towns to identify potential trails which could cross town borders, and in focusing growth within existing cores with infrastructure.

The State Division of Conservation Services has a statewide open space and recreation plan called Massachusetts Outdoors 2006 also known as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Some of the findings of that plan for the region that includes Natick are discussed in Section 7, Analysis of Needs.

Natick is nestled between the upper basin of the Charles and Concord Rivers in Middlesex County and shares four of its largest and most popular open spaces with neighboring towns.

- The Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, consists of 624 acres plus another 165 acres under conservation restriction.¹ More than two-thirds of this area is within Natick, the remainder in Sherborn. It has 9 miles of walking trails through a variety of habitats, as well as a universally accessible trail. It provides a venue for hiking, birdwatching, photography, cross-country skiing and other activities, and offers year-round access.

¹ For a definition and information on Conservation Restrictions, see **Appendix**.

Map1: Regional Context



Natick DPW-GIS
75 West Street
Natick, Mass. 01760
March 15, 2011



- Cochituate State Park, managed by the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation, consists of over 1100 acres, including Lake Cochituate itself and the land surrounding the lake. Two of the lake's three "ponds" are located in Natick, while the northern pond lies in Framingham and Wayland.
- Pegan Hill Reservation, a 32-acre property managed by The Trustees of Reservations, is located in Dover and Natick. A glacial drumlin, its thickly wooded habitat is laced by remnant stone walls. It is open year-round, from sunrise to sunset, and has a one-mile walking trail.
- Morency Woods, a 14.5 acre property that spans Natick and Framingham and is under the control of the Framingham Conservation Commission. There are trail access points from both Natick and Framingham.

The Town of Natick sees opportunities and needs for cooperative effort with neighboring towns to preserve and manage a number of current open space projects:

- Natick maintains and operates a municipal golf course, Sassamon Trace, on land that is partly in Natick and partly in Sherborn.
- The Town has been discussing two old aqueducts that go through Natick and have the potential of providing trail links to neighboring towns.
- The Town would like to ensure that there remains continuous open space between Union Street, in Natick, and Lake Waban, in Wellesley, of which portions (nearly 200 acres) are currently under conservation restrictions.
- With a particular interest in aquifer protection, the Town retains an interest in the protection of Elm Bank in Wellesley, where one of Natick's town wells is located.

Among abutting towns, Sherborn completed an OSRP update in 2007, while Dover's plan was approved in 2011. Framingham, Wayland, Weston and Wellesley have either no plan or an expired plan.

B. Natick's History²

The town's original residents were Native Americans. Natick Plantation was established in 1651 by English missionary Reverend John Eliot along the Charles River as the first and largest Praying Indian town, which became a model for others in Massachusetts. Reverend Eliot converted them to Christianity and on October 14, 1651 successfully secured a charter from the Legislature granting them two thousand acres of land, part of the original "Dedham grant". Natick was known as the Indian town because the Indians had established their own government based on the English model, held town meetings, and elected their own town selectmen and other officials before the English settled in the town. The 1658 grant of the northwest piece of Dedham enlarged Natick to six thousand acres. Dedham's objections to this grant were only partially appeased by a substantial grant of land in Deerfield; Dedham's continuing resentment resulted in numerous boundary disputes affecting Natick.

King Philip's War (1675-1677) began with the discovery of the assassination of the Natick praying Indian John Sassamon. He had learned how to read and write English in Natick and provided much help to the settlers. He was assassinated because he warned the Governor that Philip was making plans against the English. Wampanoag Chief Metacomet (who was called King Philip) went to war against the settlers. As a result, Natick's Indian population was forced to resettle on Deer Island, despite John Eliot's protests and assurances that the Natick Praying Indians posed no threat. Most of Natick's Indians perished from the cold and lack of food and medical care while on Deer Island.

When English settlers began migrating to Natick center, they rebelled at having to travel to and support the Indian church in South Natick. The resulting "Meeting House Dispute" was resolved by a successful petition to the General Court in 1761, attaching northern Natick to Needham (formerly Dedham – which suffered its own rebellion resulting in the town of Needham splitting from Dedham). This "Needham Leg" extended west to Lake Cochituate and included downtown and all but a sliver of land at Natick's northern boundary. In 1781, Natick was incorporated as a town and in 1797 the "Needham Leg" was restored to Natick. As a result, Natick has been in Suffolk County, Norfolk County, and Middlesex County, presenting a challenge to those who are researching their genealogy or property ownership.

During the colonial and early Federal period Natick was predominately agricultural, with numerous orchards and lumber, grist and other mills. In 1835, the Boston and Albany Railroad was built through Natick, causing a rapid industrial expansion. Natick's growing shoe industry became the third largest shoe production community in the country, with 23 shoe manufacturers by 1880. In 1858, the H.H. Harwood Baseball factory, another "cottage industry," began producing the first center-wound balls with figure-eight-stitched horsehide covers, setting the standard for baseballs and producing Official League Baseballs.

² The major source for information on Natick history is Michael J. Crawford, *History of Natick, Massachusetts, 1650-1976* (Natick Historical Commission, 1978).

In 1874, a major fire destroyed almost all of the buildings in downtown Natick. The wooden buildings were replaced with predominately three-story brick buildings. That, and the depression of the railroad tracks below street level, dramatically changed Natick's appearance, and created one of the few wholly Victorian town centers in eastern Massachusetts.

Natick at one time boasted an airfield and an automobile factory, and east Natick was widely known for great greenhouses. Natick resident Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, may have had as its inspiration Natick's reputation as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Natick's Henry Wilson, Vice President from 1873-1876 under Ulysses S. Grant, was an abolitionist, and wrote the 3-volume "History of the Rise and Fall of the Slave Power in America" (1872-77), the final volume of which was published posthumously by his estate. Walnut Hill School, now a school for artistically gifted students, was established as a girls' school in 1893 on the site of the Harwood estate, and now attracts students from around the world.

Natick experienced rapid population growth in the 1880s, with immigrants from Ireland, England, Nova Scotia, Italy, and Albania. By the beginning of the 20th Century, the shoe industry was declining, and Natick slowly changed from a major manufacturing town to a commuter suburb of Boston. The population increased dramatically after World War II, with the economic stimulus of new high technology firms developing within Natick itself, and, to a greater extent, within an easy commute along Route 128 and Route 495. The establishment of two commuter-rail stops in Natick Center and West Natick provided easy public transportation to Boston. In the 20-year period between 1940 and 1960, Natick's population more than doubled, from 13,851 to 28,831. The "baby bust" dip in the birth rate during the late 1970s and early 1980s created a significant decrease in the number of people per household and a slow increase in population to 31,057 in 1970 before dropping to 29,461 in 1980. However, during the same period, Natick experienced a dramatic increase in new construction and significant loss of open spaces. Since 1980, the population has risen slowly to 30,510 in 1990, 32,170 in 2000 and 33,006 IN 2010.

C. Population Characteristics

Population Growth

Natick's population has been relatively constant since 1970, with some fluctuations. As stated above, in the 2000 Census, Natick had a population of 32,170, an increase of 5.4 percent since 1990. Table 1 indicates the recent growth from 1990 through 2010.

As the table indicates, population growth has been slow and steady from 1990 through 2010. As of March, 2011 the Town Census indicates a population of 32,369. It should be noted that the Town Census differs from the U.S. Census. One of the primary differences is that the U.S. Census counts college students living on or near their campus as residents of that location while the Town Census counts them as residents of Natick. Therefore, this usually results in a higher count than the U.S. Census. The lower number indicates that Natick has lost population since 2010.

**TABLE 1
POPULATION GROWTH 1990-2010**

	Population	Percent Change	Annual Growth Rate*
1990	30,510	3.6%	.35%
2000	32,170	5.4%	.53%
2010	33,006	2.6%	.26%

Source: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000, and 2010 Population Counts by U.S. Census

**Calculated by authors*

The 2000 U.S Census showed a total of 13,368 housing units in 2000, of which 13,080 were occupied. It indicated an average household size of 2.42. The decennial census no longer documents number of households. Its replacement, the American Community Survey, estimates the number of households in 2009 at 13,009 and an average household size of 2.50. However, it also indicates a margin of error of +/- 418 units.

Ethnicity

Table 2 indicates the ethnicity of Natick’s actual population in 2000 and estimated population for 2009. The predominant race in 2010 was white, with 87.2 percent of the population, followed by a small, but growing Asian population (6.3 percent, up from 3.9 percent in 2000). The remaining population is black (3.1 percent), American Indian 0.1 percent), other (1.9 percent), and two or more races (1.5 percent). Hispanics constituted 2.5 percent of the population. The trends to 2009 indicate growth in the Asian, African-American and Hispanic populations.

**TABLE 2
ETHNICITY, 2000 AND 2009**

Race	2000	2009
White	92.0%	87.2%
Black/African-American	1.6%	3.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	3.9%	6.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%
Other	0.8%	1.9%
Two or more races	1.6%	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2.0%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, and 2009 Population Estimates by U.S. Census

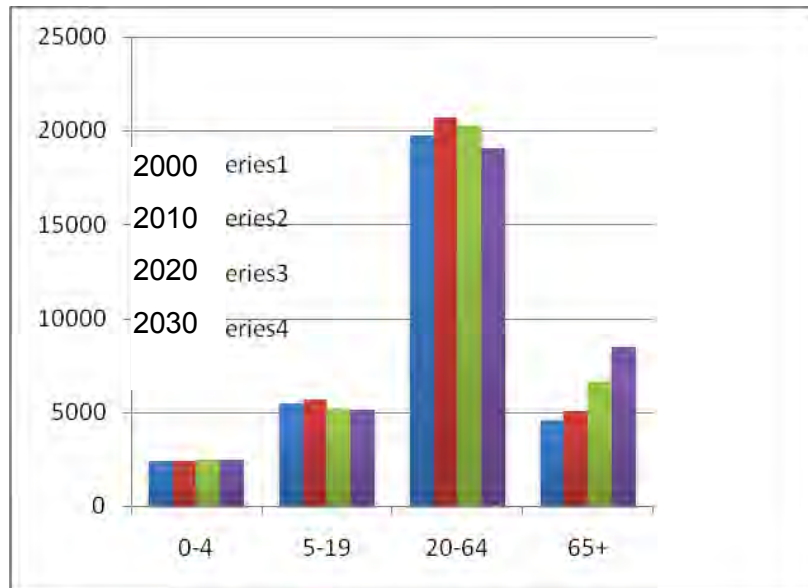
Age

Table 3 presents the actual 2000 population by age cohort as well as projections to 2030. The table indicates that children 5-19 years of age, which increased from 4713 in 1990 to 5448 in 2000, reach a peak of 5650 in 2010 then fall slowly to 5215 in 2020 and 5130 in 2030. These demographics may explain the rapidly increasing use of the town's recreation fields in recent years.

**TABLE 3
POPULATION PROJECTIONS TO 2010, 2020 AND 2030 BY AGE COHORT**

AGE GROUP	2000	2010	2020	2030
0-4	2370	2388	2440	2496
5-9	2124	2073	1948	2009
10-14	1903	1890	1742	1719
15-19	1421	1687	1525	1402
5-19	5448	5650	5215	5130
20-24	1219	1610	1496	1319
25-29	2076	1872	2037	1833
30-34	2905	2175	2392	2272
35-39	3198	2603	2405	2690
40-44	2860	2839	2297	2524
45-49	2476	2972	2444	2252
50-54	2056	2277	2014	1522
55-59	1619	2269	2600	2182
60-64	1335	2117	2588	2466
20-64	19,744	20,734	20,273	19,060
65-69	1159	1519	2105	2425
70-74	1191	1199	1941	2386
75-79	990	956	1230	1712
80-85	660	755	740	1206
85+	608	631	635	724
65+	4608	5060	6651	8453
TOTAL	32,170	33,833	34,579	35,139

Source: MAPC, 2006



The median age of Natick’s population is steadily increasing. Also, as the above chart illustrates, while the 0-4, 5-19 and 20-64 population is projected to remain relatively steady through 2030, the 65+ cohort, which has risen from 3,984 in 1990 to 4,608 in 2000, continues to increase steadily to 5,060 in 2010, and then increases dramatically to 6,651 in 2020 and then to 8,453 by 2030. This may explain the growing interest in trails and other forms of “passive” recreation.

Income

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Natick’s per capita income in 1999 was \$36,358, median household income was \$69,755 and median family income was \$85,715. As shown in Table 4, by 2009, these figures were estimated to have increased significantly. The estimated U.S. per capita income in 2009 was \$27,041, while median household and family incomes were \$51,425 and \$62,363 respectively.

**TABLE 4
INCOME, 2000 AND 2009**

	2000	2009
Per Capita Income	\$36,358	\$44,221
Median Household³ Income	\$69,755	\$86,583
Median Family⁴ Income	\$85,715	\$111,189

Sources: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000, and 2009 Population Estimates by U.S. Census

³ A household includes all people who occupy a housing unit.

⁴ A family is two or more people related by birth, marriage or adoption and residing together.

Employment Trends

Natick is an economically vibrant community, with a low unemployment rate and is known as a business-friendly community. As a testament to the desirability of Natick, many major employers have chosen to locate their world or national headquarters in Natick, including: Cognex, MathWorks, Boston Scientific, and BJ's, among others.

That may account for Natick's lower unemployment rate, historically lower by at least one-third than the statewide rate. In February 2011, the unemployment rate in Natick was 5.1%, compared with statewide rate of 8.7%. In 2011, Natick's total labor force was 18,787. The average weekly wage increased from \$910 in 2002 to \$1128 in 2010. The largest sector in 2010 was Retail Trade with average monthly employment of 5,902, followed by Professional and Technical Services (5,003), Education and Health Services (4,462), and Leisure and Hospitality (2,301).

D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

Natick's commercial center began in the south and shifted north in several stages, following the development of the local transportation system. In the mid-17th century Natick was settled on the Charles River, in what is now South Natick. In the mid-19th century the railroad hastened development of what became downtown Natick. With the advent of the automobile in the 20th century, commercial activity moved further northward to Route 9 and finally toward the Massachusetts Turnpike's Exit 13.

In the 19th century, in Natick and throughout Massachusetts, the economy shifted from agricultural to industrial. Natick's geography was dramatically changed in 1835, when the railroad connecting Boston and Worcester was built through the geographical center of town. The area around the train station became known as downtown Natick, which quickly surpassed South Natick in population and economic activity. The railroad made downtown Natick an ideal site for new factories, and housing for the workers sprouted up nearby. South Natick experienced some of this type of growth, although to a much lesser extent. Maps from the late 1800s show Natick as two distinct communities – downtown Natick and South Natick. In other areas of Natick, abandoned farmland reverted back to woods. Between 1800 and 1900, Natick's population increased tenfold, from about 900 to 9,000. In 1900, nearly 2,000 persons were employed in manufacturing, and only 123 in agriculture.

In the 20th Century as manufacturing declined, Natick became a bedroom community of Boston. By 1950, two-thirds of Natick's full-time workers were employed outside of Natick, including Boston. Workers could live in downtown Natick and easily commute by train or car to their jobs. In the 1930s, Route 9 was built as the state's first divided highway, allowing easy automobile access to Boston or to Worcester. In 1957, the Massachusetts Turnpike was constructed along the old aqueduct right-of-way, with Exit 13 at the Natick-Framingham border. The Turnpike, along with the existing Route 9, gave commuters access to Boston, as well as new high technology jobs located along Route 128 to the east and Route 495 to the west

Post-WWII housing for the returning soldiers and their families was built in East Natick, North Natick (known as Wethersfield), and West Natick. These areas have retained their friendly neighborhood character and affordability, and they continue to be sought out by young families. During this time, Route 9 became a regional commercial center. In 1952, Shoppers World was built, just across the Framingham line, as New England's first regional shopping center, followed by the Natick Mall and Sherwood Plaza in the 1960s. The housing and commercial developments during this period used up the majority of buildable land in the central and northern parts of town. Only South Natick escaped this round of development, primarily because it was less accessible to the major transportation routes.

The area within walking distance of the West Natick train station experienced another building boom in the early 1970s and 80s, with a large subdivision of homes built on the site of a former golf course on the northern side of Route 135, and large condominium and apartment complexes, Natick's first experiment with "cluster zoning" were built on the southern side of Route 135 on former open space. This is where Natick's highest population density is located and where there has been little to no accommodation for open space.

Route 9's commercial development, which began with Shopper's World, expanded into what is known as the "Golden Triangle," an area defined by Route 9, Route 30, and Speen Street, although the commercial activity extends considerably beyond these streets. This area is about half in Natick and half in Framingham. Although the vacant land in this area is long gone, the density of activity continues to increase, as single-story structures and parking lots have been largely replaced by retail and office buildings with associated parking garages. The area near Exit 13 off the Massachusetts Turnpike continues to be one of the most desirable locations for office buildings and retail space in Metrowest. A new condominium development associated with Natick Mall and a nearby apartment complex, both completed between 2007 and 2010, are significant as the first residential developments in this part of Natick since colonial times. The new residential population creates new demand for open space and recreation in this part of town.

During the 1990s and into the new millennium, substantial subdivision development has occurred wherever available land could be acquired, consuming a significant amount of woodland and open space. Table 5 illustrates the changes in land uses from 1971 to 1985 to 1999 (most recent year available). As the table illustrates, agricultural land declined by 30% between 1971 and 1999 and forestland declined by 17%. In absolute terms, 519.9 acres of forest land was lost.

During the same period, urban land increased by 797.9 acres, or 15.1%. The largest increase was in multiple, and high-, medium- and low-density residential development, which increased by 708 acres. This is interesting because the population increased by 1113 between 1970 and 2000. In other words, the 1970 population occupied about .13 acres per person (dividing the total acreage devoted to multiple, high-, medium- and low- density residential land uses by the 1970 population of 31,057), but it took .64 acres per person to accommodate the additional 1113 persons added to the population between 1970 and 2000.

TABLE 5
LAND USE CHANGES, 1971-1999

LAND USE TYPE	1971	1985	CHANGE 1971-1985		1999	CHANGE 1985-1999		CHANGE 1971-1999	
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	PERCENT
Crop Land (Ac)	230.8	201.4	-29.4	-12.74%	186.9	-14.5	-7.20%	-43.9	-19.02%
Pasture (Ap)	193.7	167.5	-26.2	-13.53%	113.2	-54.3	-32.42%	-80.5	-41.56%
Perennial	105.9	103.9	-2	-1.89%	68.4	-35.5	-34.17%	-37.5	-35.41%
TOTAL AGRICULTURE	530.4	472.8	-57.6	-10.86%	368.4	-104.4	-22.08%	-162	-30.54%
			0						
FORESTLAND (F)	3004.1	2794.8	-209.3	-6.97%	2484.2	-310.6	-11.11%	-519.9	-17.31%
OPEN LAND (O)	202.7	196.3	-6.4	-3.16%	167.3	-29	-14.77%	-35.4	-17.46%
Participation Recreation (Rp)	183.8	134.6	-49.2	-26.77%	123.4	-11.2	-8.32%	-60.4	-32.86%
Spectator Recreation (Rs)	4.5	3.9	-0.6	-13.33%	3.9	0	0.00%	-0.6	-13.33%
TOTAL RECREATION	188.3	138.5	-49.8	-26.45%	127.3	-11.2	-8.09%	-61	-32.40%
			0						
Commercial (Uc)	541.6	588.6	47	8.68%	605.0	16.4	2.79%	63.4	11.71%
Industrial (Ui)	138.7	156.8	18.1	13.05%	161.4	4.6	2.93%	22.7	16.37%
Mining (M)	16.0	16.0	0	0.00%	16.3	0.3	1.88%	0.3	1.88%
Public or Transitional	350.9	336.7	-14.2	-4.05%	351.6	14.9	4.43%	0.7	0.20%
Multiple Residential	100.2	201.7	101.5	101.30%	203.9	2.2	1.09%	103.7	103.49%
High Density Residential (R1) ¹	579.6	580.2	0.6	0.10%	580.2	0	0.00%	0.6	0.10%
Med. Density Residential (R2) ²	2520.8	2579.6	58.8	2.33%	2928.0	348.4	13.51%	407.2	16.15%
Low Density Residential (R3) ³	850.3	969.8	119.5	14.05%	1047.4	77.6	8.00%	197.1	23.18%
Transportation (Ut)	140.7	140.7	0	0.00%	143.0	2.3	1.63%	2.3	1.63%
Waste Disposal (Uw)	55.3	55.3	0	0.00%	55.3	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL URBAN	5294.1	5625.4	331.3	6.26%	6091.9	466.5	8.29%	797.8	15.07%
			0						
Inland Wetland (Fw)	398.0	389.8	-8.2	-2.06%	378.4	-11.4	-2.92%	-19.6	-4.92%
Water (W)	608.1	608.1	0	0.00%	608.1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL WATER	1006.1	998.0	-8.1	-0.81%	986.5	-11.5	-1.15%	-19.6	-1.95%
TOTAL AREA	10,225.8	10,225.8			10,225.8				

Source: University of Massachusetts Resource Mapping Project

¹Lot of less than ¼ acre. ²Lot sizes of ¼ to ½ acre. ³Lot sizes of more than ½ acre.

Infrastructure

a. Transportation System

Natick is served by multiple transportation modes including major highway systems (Massachusetts Turnpike and Route 9), local and collector systems (Routes 135, 27, and 16), and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) rail system. Interstate routes 95 (state Route 128) and 495 divide the region into transportation corridors connected by numerous “spokes” providing access to Worcester (25 miles), Boston (18 miles) and Providence, R.I. (35 miles), numerous inter-state train and bus facilities, and six airports within 40 miles (Boston, Manchester, N.H., Bedford, Worcester, Providence, and Norwood).

The MBTA provides commuter-rail passenger service to Boston and Worcester and is one of the fastest growing commuter rail lines in the Boston Metropolitan area. Natick is a member community of the Metrowest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) system, which provides four routes with stops in Natick: one route terminates at the Riverside station on the Green Line, while a second provides hourly service to Natick Mall, both train stations, and key shopping areas. The Natick commuter shuttle route services the Natick Center train station and a number of major employers.

Anecdotally, an increasing number of Natick residents are using Natick’s road to commute both short- and long-distance by bicycle.

In conjunction with the Town of Natick, the state has redesigned and reconstructed Route 135 (the east-west highway through the center of town, between the Framingham and Wellesley borders). The upgraded roadway provides vastly improved safety vehicular safety at intersections, improved crosswalks, better sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.

b. Water Supply System

The current water supply for Natick is drawn from a public water supply system of several wells, two reservoirs, and a distribution system of water mains located throughout the town. Town groundwater resources are protected through the town’s Aquifer Protection District (APD). Projects proposed within this district must comply with the Bylaw.

c. Sewer Service

Natick sewer service, for the most part, is tied into the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) sewer extension, which carries the waste to a treatment facility at Deer Island in Boston Harbor. Many older homes still have septic systems and have not tied into the public sewer system. As additions and new construction continues, the Town Health Department and Conservation Commissions urge residents to “hook-up.” The MWRA has recently been renovating the old MWRA system through Natick the last few years.

Long Term Development Patterns

Natick's zoning map is attached as **Map 2**, and an aerial view of Natick is attached as **Map 2A**. Until the early 2000's, most of Natick's single-family housing was built in areas with zoning requirements ranging from 12,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet. The most significant recent developments have taken place in South Natick in residential zoning of 40,000 square feet (one acre). Some of these subdivisions have opted for the Cluster Development provision, which allow a greater number of total units, in exchange for leaving at least 30 percent of the total land area as preserved open space. In recent practice, the Planning Board has negotiated as much as 50 percent preserved open space.

Natick's commercial and industrial zoning is concentrated in two parts of town: The "Golden Triangle" area, defined by Route 9, Route 30, and Speen Street, is zoned for commercial or industrial uses. Additional commercial zoning continues east along Route 9 to the Wellesley border. The second area is downtown Natick, which constitutes a "Downtown Mixed Use District." This zoning allows a mixture of uses, including single and multi-unit residential, commercial, and offices. Additionally, on the downtown's north edge are two small industrial zones, in which lie some of the remaining brick factory buildings from Natick's industrial past.

Natick continues to be a prime location for a number of prominent and sizable commercial businesses. These include Cognex, Whitney Place, and the expansion of Natick Mall, now known as the Natick Mall.

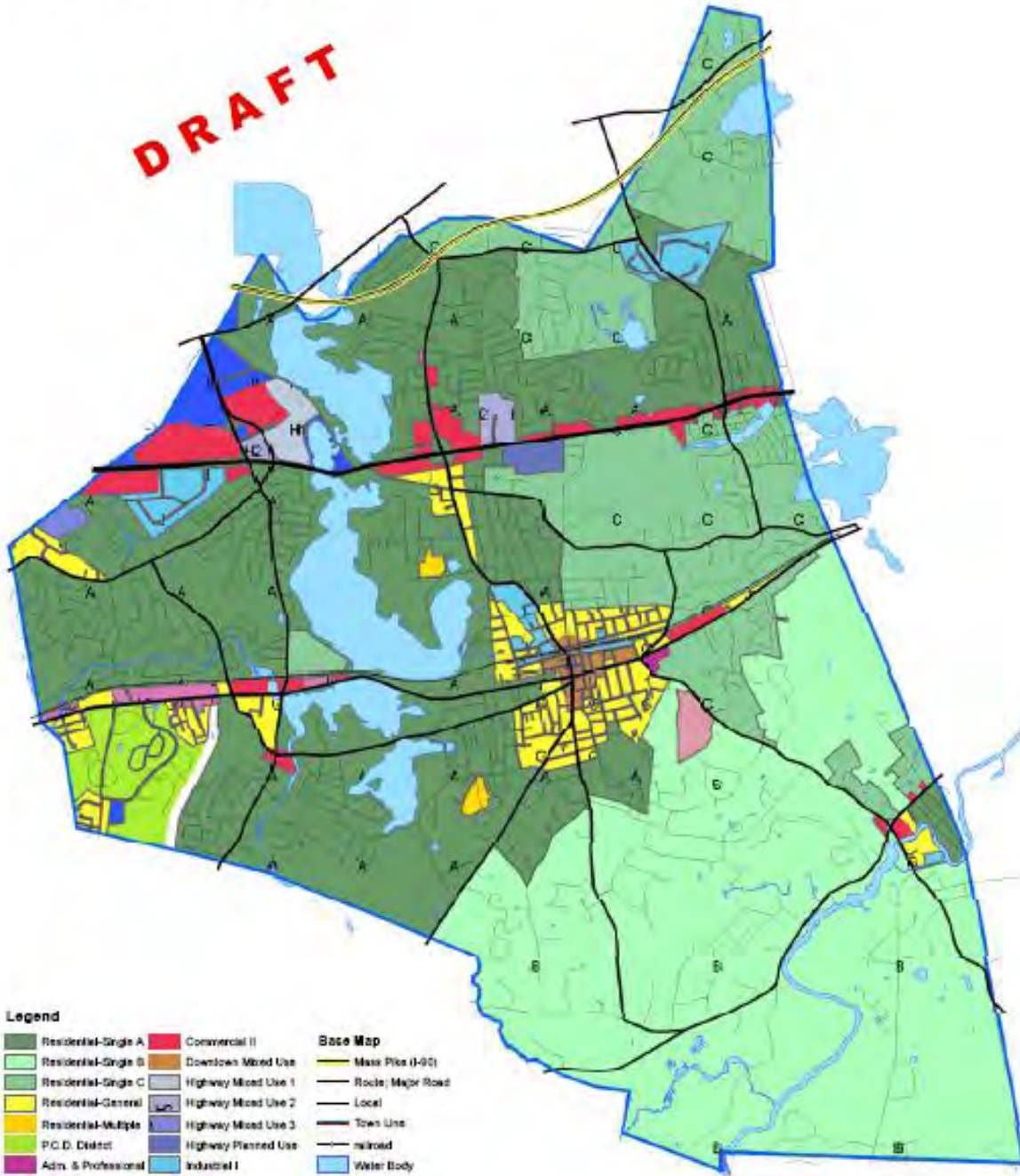
In recent years, there has been more neighborhood activism and more efforts by Town boards to preserve some of the open spaces that neighborhoods have enjoyed for decades. New projects could continue to deplete the amount of available open space, particularly interconnecting greenways necessary to biodiversity. Natick's Planning Board and Conservation Commission and their staffs work with developers to preserve interconnecting stretches of open space and trails.

On December 3, 2002, Natick Town Meeting adopted a Zoning Bylaw to provide developers with a Comprehensive Cluster Development option, permit them to build more housing units in large parcels, in exchange for providing 10 percent of the units as affordable housing, and leaving 50 percent of the land as protected and publicly accessible open space.

In 2003, Town Meeting adopted a Housing Overlay Option Plan (HOOP) overlay zoning district. This provision, which applies to two districts in downtown Natick, allows more intensive housing development provided that a minimum of 12% of the resulting units are affordable along with certain other requirements. The HOOP includes incentives for the creation of open space. In 2008, Town Meeting created a Smart Growth Overlay (SGO) 40R district. Plans for the first 40R housing project, located on the former site of a paper reprocessing facility, have been approved by the Planning Board.

Map 2: Zoning Map

DRAFT



- Legend**
- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Residential-Single A | Commercial II | Base Map |
| Residential-Single B | Downtown Mixed Use | Mass Pike (I-93) |
| Residential-Single C | Highway Mixed Use 1 | Route; Major Road |
| Residential-General | Highway Mixed Use 2 | Local |
| Residential-Multiple | Highway Mixed Use 3 | Town Line |
| P.C.D. District | Highway Planned Use | Railroad |
| Adm. & Professional | Industrial I | Water Body |
| Hospital "H" | Industrial II | |
| Limited Commercial | Boston Edison Element | |



Natick DPW-GIS
 75 West Street
 Natick, Mass. 01760
 March 14, 2011



The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' buildout analysis done in 2002 showed 1,534 acres of developable land, the vast majority of it with residential zoning. If all this land were developed, according to the analysis, Natick would have 4,034 additional residents – a 13 percent increase.

According to the Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest (Section 5 of this Plan), Natick has several categories of land that might be developed.

- The most likely to be developed are several large parcels of privately owned land with no protection.
- The town has a considerable amount of privately owned land with minimal protection – land that might not be protected in the future.
- Finally there are major parcels of land used by town, state or federal government land that might be declared surplus property at some point. These provide the Town of Natick with an opportunity to obtain the land before it is developed.

SECTION 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

1. Essential Structure

Natick is dominated by low elevation terrain, which is generally less than 200 feet above mean sea level. The major high and low points in town vary from the broad, dominant slopes of Pleasant Hill, Carver Hill, and Drury Hill to the low, rolling areas of Natick Center and West Natick. Elevations range from roughly 135 feet along the Charles River and Lake Cochituate to 410 feet at Pegan Hill, the highest point in Natick. From Pegan Hill, a series of four hills with elevations of 300 feet or greater run along the eastern side of the town up to Route 9. These hills include Carver Hill (300 feet), Broad Hill (312 feet), Train Hill (300 feet), and Pleasant Hill (313 feet). Drury Hill and Tom Hill (both with elevations of 300 feet) are the only dominant slopes in western Natick.

Most of the underlying bedrock in Natick is covered by surficial deposits, although bedrock outcrops are common. The largest area of rock outcrops occurs in the region between Indian Brook, Dug Pond, Everett Hill, and Davis Brook. Stratified deposits of well compacted glacial till are the dominant geologic feature in both the Charles River and Sudbury River watersheds. This till is largely the result of two deglaciation lakes (Lake Charles and Lake Sudbury) that left these deposits as the glacier receded.

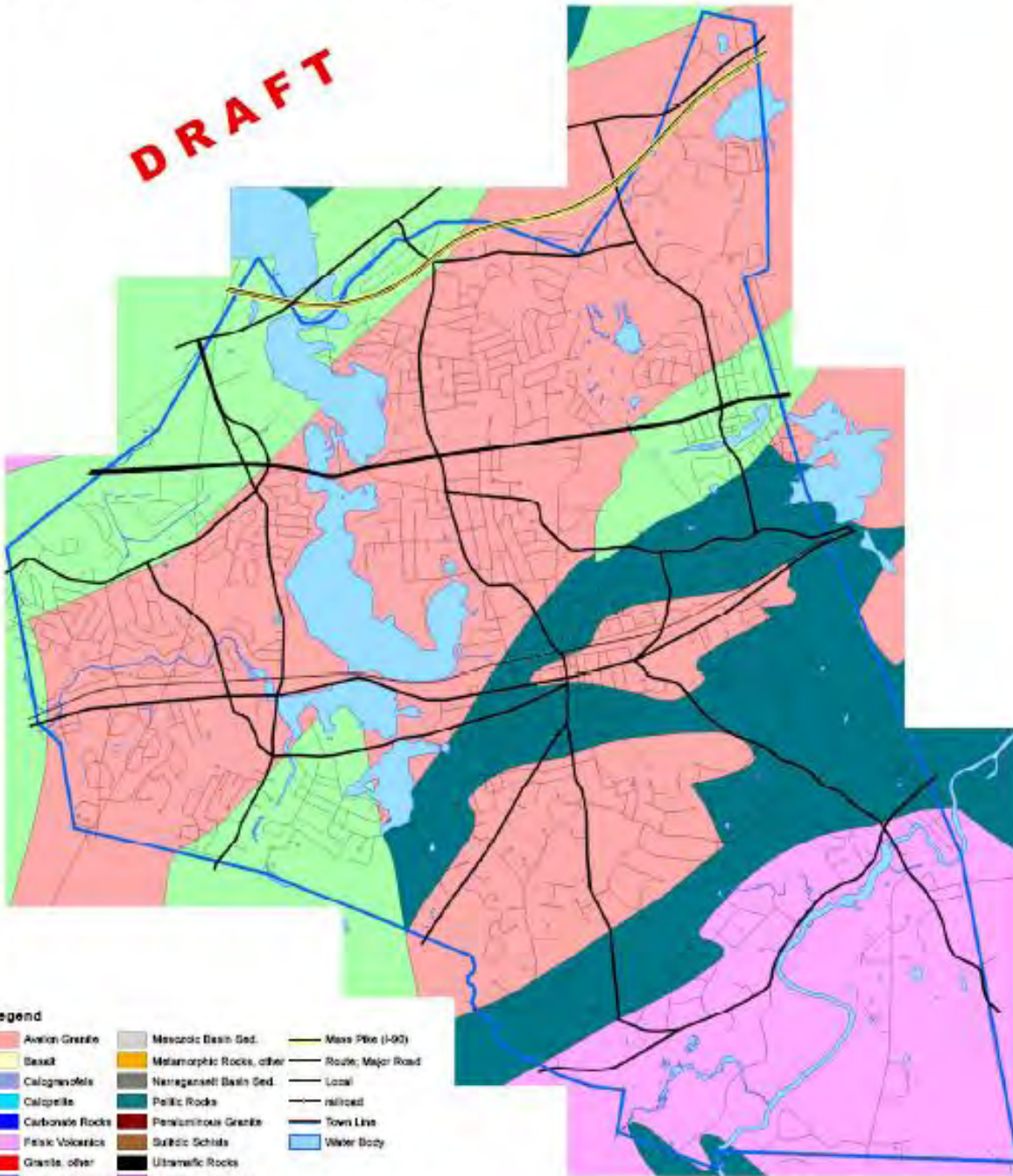
A large preglacial valley is carved into the bedrock between the Sunkaway, Morse's Pond, Coolidge Hill, Indian Brook, and the Charles River. The till deposits in this area are generally less than 20 feet thick and are comprised of gravel and sands with some clay combined in a poorly sorted mixture. Several of the town's water supply wells are located in this large, water-bearing region. **Map 3** presents Natick's Bedrock Lithology.

A 1968-69 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service soil survey has been updated. In addition, Coffin and Richardson (1979) provide information on soil characteristics. See **Map 4** (General Soils Association) and Table 6 (General Soil Association)

Natick is covered by a variety of glacial soils. The soils are generally mixed glacial drift on the drumlin hills; (i.e., Pleasant Hill, Broad Hill, Carver Hill, and Tom Hill); sandy to rocky soils on the outwash areas; (i.e., the gravel pit on Oak Street, Little County Road, and the U.S. Army Natick Labs area); and peats and organic mucks in the wetland areas (i.e., the Sunkaway, Davis Brook, and Indian Brook drainage). Covering almost half of Natick are well-drained, permeable, and usually stone free Hinckley soils, which have good agricultural potential and can produce large volumes of water from deep wells, but can also easily absorb sewage effluent. Their coarse substratum provides little filtering action and the water in wells can be polluted if located near a source of contamination.

Map 3: Bedrock Lithology

DRAFT



Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Avalon Granite | Mesozoic Basin Sed. | Mass Pike (I-90) |
| Basalt | Metamorphic Rocks, other | Route, Major Road |
| Calcareous | Narragansett Basin Sed. | Local |
| Calcareite | Pelitic Rocks | railroad |
| Carbonate Rocks | Peraluminous Granite | Town Line |
| Felsic Volcanics | Sulfidic Schists | Water Body |
| Granite, other | Ultramafic Rocks | |
| Glenville Granite | Unconsolidated Sed. | |
| Mafic Rocks | Water | |

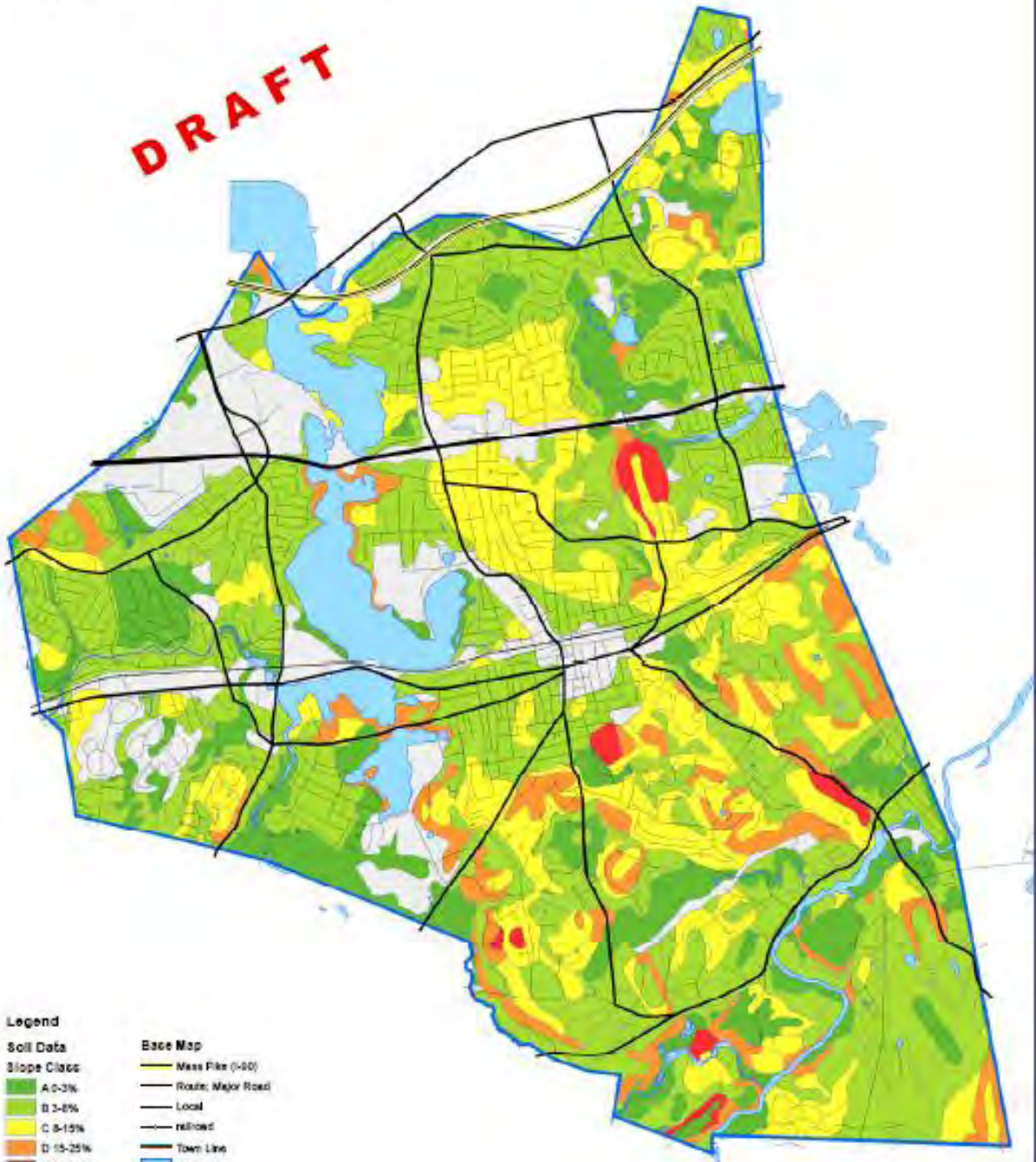


Natick DPW-GIS
 75 West Street
 Natick, Mass. 01760
 March 14, 2011



Map 4: General Soils Map

DRAFT



Legend

Soil Data

Slope Class

- A 0-3%
- B 3-8%
- C 8-15%
- D 15-25%
- E 25-30%
- Urban (No slope)

Base Map

- Mass Pike (I-495)
- Route: Major Road
- Local
- railroad
- Town Line
- Water Body



Natick DPW-GIS
75 West Street
Natick, Mass. 01760
March 14, 2011



**TABLE 6
GENERAL SOIL ASSOCIATIONS**

	Acres	Percentage
Hinckley-Made Land Association	4,704	46
Woodbridge-Paxton Association	2,050	20
Hollis Association	1,740	17
Windsor-Deerfield Association	810	8
Muck Association	480	5
Canton-Muck Association	450	4
TOTAL	10,234	100

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service

2. Effects on Development, Drinking Water and Wastewater

Natick relies on groundwater for its drinking supplies. Glacial soils provide the primary medium by which the aquifers are recharged. The aquifers that serve as Natick's primary source of drinking water need to be protected. Because Natick is on the MWRA wastewater system, future development will be tied into that system. While this will not contribute to problems because of septic systems, it will continue the drawdown and removal of water from Natick aquifers through the MWRA system, possibly contributing to future shortages of water.

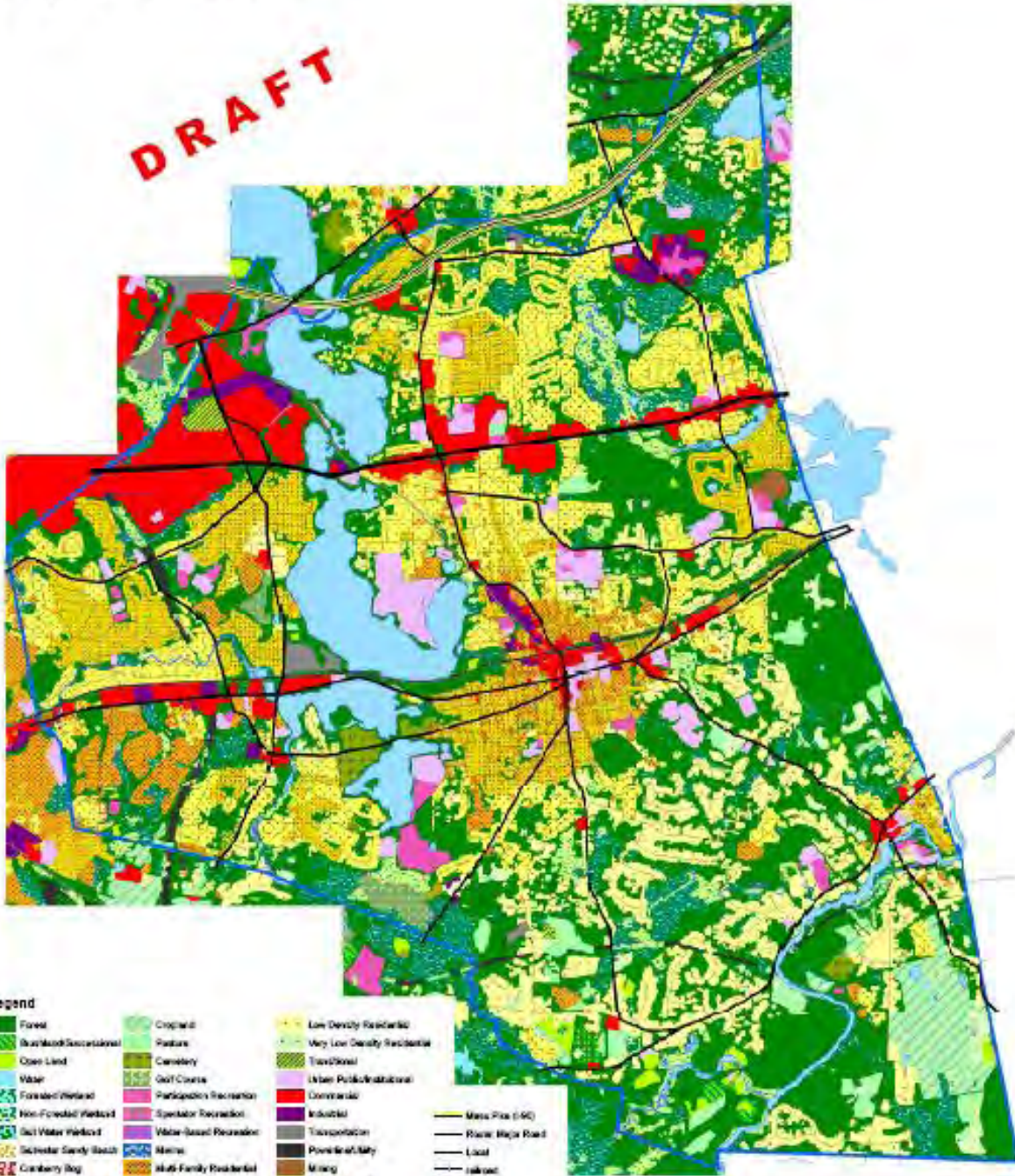
Since Natick does have a municipal water supply and a municipal sewer system, the impacts of soils, geology and topography are minimized compared to towns that do not have such municipal systems. However, as more of the land gets developed, the remaining land is more and more marginal land with more issues to be addressed as it is developed.

B. Landscape Character

Natick has a great variety of landscapes –with several lakes, ponds, rivers and streams, dotted here and there with forests and open agricultural lands. **Map 5** illustrates the various land uses in Natick. The highest point in Natick is Pegan Hill, 410 feet above sea level on Pegan Lane, owned by The Trustees of Reservations. West of the entrance to Pegan Hill is Mumford Wildlife Forest, an early New England Forestry Foundation educational forest. To the north are Train Hill, Broad Hill, and Carver Hill, all nearly three hundred feet high. Natick has many lakes, covering 621 acres, which

Map 5: Land Use

DRAFT



Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Forest | Cropland | Low Density Residential |
| Barren/Successional | Pasture | Very Low Density Residential |
| Open Land | Cemetery | Traditional |
| Water | Golf Course | Urban Public/Institutional |
| Forested/Wetland | Participatory Recreation | Commercial |
| Non-Forested/Wetland | Spectator Recreation | Industrial |
| Salt Water Wetland | Village-based Recreation | Transportation |
| Secretarial Sandy Beach | Mining | Powdermill/Utility |
| Cemetery Bog | Multi-Family Residential | Mining |
| Orchard | High Density Residential | Waste Disposal |
| Nursery | Medium Density Residential | Archeology |

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| Mass Pike (90) | Water Body |
| Road/High Road | |
| Local | |
| Intersect | |
| Town Line | |



Norick DPW-GIS
 75 West Street
 Norick, Mass. 01760
 March 14, 2011



form a necklace of water running from Lake Cochituate, originally called Long Pond, in the north to Dug Pond in the south. A two-minute walk takes you from the frenetic activity of the Natick Mall to the shores of Lake Cochituate, where fishermen, boaters and bathers peacefully co-exist in their recreational pursuits.

The one hundred acres Hunnewell Town Forest, donated by the Hunnewell family, descends from Walnut Hill to Route 9 at the Sunkaway. The Sassamon Trace Golf Course, on Route 27 and West Street, abuts a large expanse of Sherborn open space and the Natick High School recreational fields. Across West Street are Timothy Coolidge Hill and an additional ball field. A short drive south on Rockland Street to Everett Street brings you past a cider mill and out to Route 16 across from Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, where deer can be seen grazing in the early morning mist or twilight evenings. Heading east toward South Natick village, the views to the south of the Charles River and the large undeveloped expanses of woodlands on the opposite shore are exquisite, topped only by the turn down past the historic Bacon library and the South Natick Dam, where the Charles River cascades over the falls and under a historic stone arch bridge, as canoers and a variety of birds share the water. A right on Pleasant Street brings you to Belkin Lookout Farm, a large working farm, part of which is protected by an agricultural preservation restriction.

Northeast Natick still has a number of wooded areas, as well as several vernal pools. It has been targeted by more recent development and its character is at risk of changing.

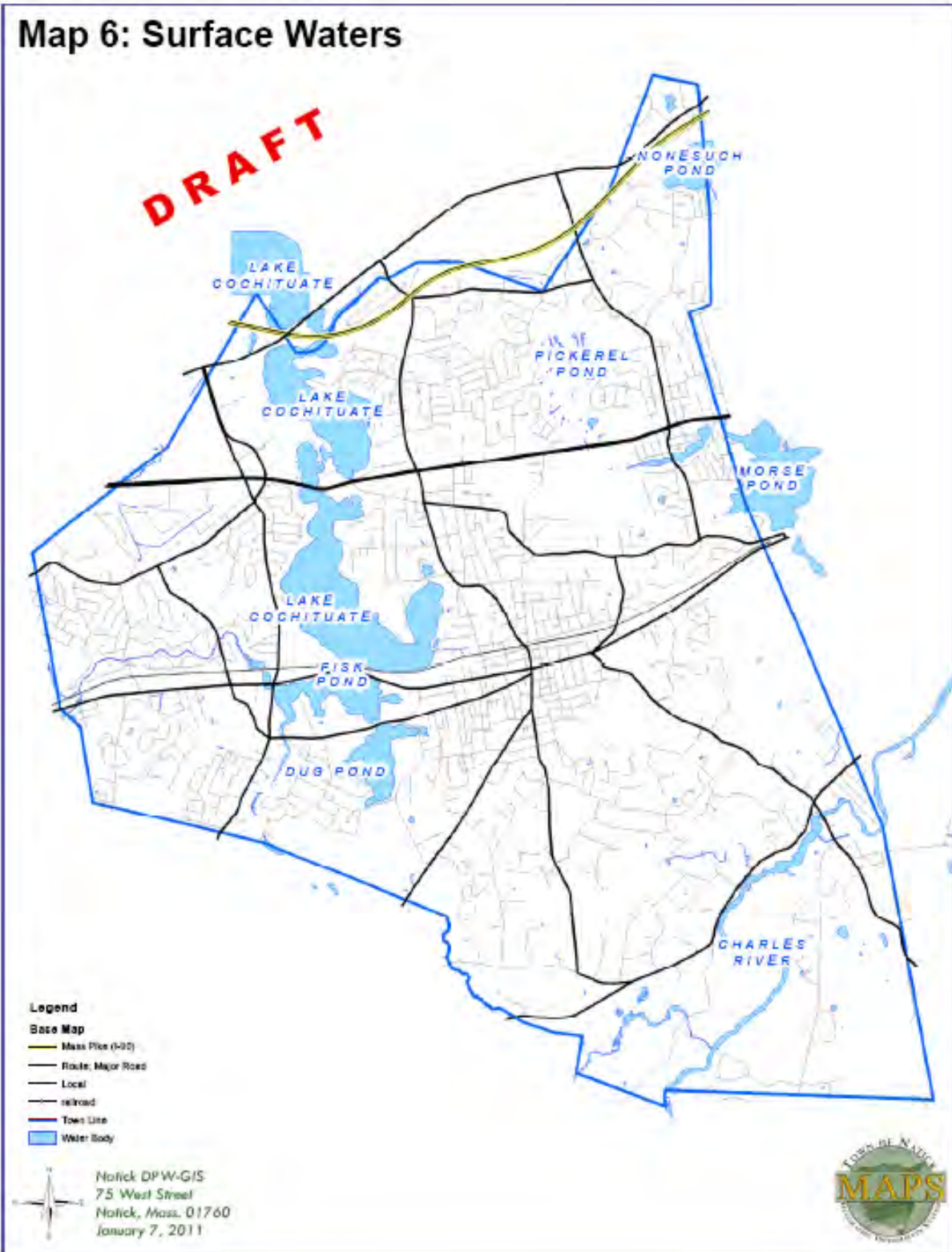
Numerous trails connecting these diverse areas have been and are being preserved. Building on the trail network is an important component of promoting and protecting Natick's landscape character.

C. Water Resources

Water bodies and wetland areas cover approximately 13.5 percent of the town's total area. A nearly continuous chain of lakes and wetlands extends through the town, from north to south. The water bodies comprising this chain include Lake Cochituate, Fisk Pond, Dug Pond, and the Indian Brook drainage. This chain continues through the southern portion of Natick along the Charles River corridor. The northeastern corner of Natick is dominated by the low-lying Sunkaway area and Nonesuch Pond. The Sunkaway is a low area that crosses and frequently floods Route 9, and at one time was subject to continual sinking despite the constant filling and shoring up of the area. A road improvement project related to an expansion at Mathworks may address this problem. Many smaller low-lying areas are scattered throughout the town.

1. Watersheds

Natick is divided in half with two watersheds: the Charles River, which drains the eastern and southern portions of the town, and the SuAsCo (Sudbury-Assabet-Concord), which drains the western and northern portions of town. The watershed boundaries are shown on **Map 6**.



Note: Need to add watershed boundary, wetlands and flood hazard areas to this map.

These drainages are classified as Class B waters under Massachusetts regulations (314 CMR 4.05). The Charles River passes through the southeastern corner of Natick. Major sub-basins within the Charles River watershed consist of Indian Brook (including Dug Pond), Davis Brook, and Jennings Pond (which includes the Sunkaway region and Pickerel Pond). Natick's portion of the SuAsCo watershed includes Lake Cochituate and Fisk Pond, with their tributary basins of Beaverdam Brook, Course Brook, Pegan Brook and Snake Brook. Table 7 below is a list of all resources under each watershed area:

**TABLE 7
WATER RESOURCES**

<u>SuAsCo Watershed</u>	<u>Charles Watershed</u>
Lakes Cochituate	Charles River
Little Roundy	Nonesuch Pond
Fisk Pond	Pickerel Pond
Course Brook	Mud Pond
Meadow Pond	Jennings Pond
Beaverdam Brook	Morses Pond
Snake Brook	Dug Pond
Pegan Brook	Indian Brook
Wildwood/Speen Pond	Davis Brook
	Saddlebrook Pond
	MacArthur Pond
	Bacon Pond
	Grist Mill Ponds

2. Surface Water

Water bodies and associated wetlands in Natick comprise a total of 1,287 acres, approximately 13.5 percent of the town's gross acreage. The largest water body is Lake Cochituate, which covers roughly 440 acres within Natick. A complete list of ponds and brooks is given in Table 7 above.

Surface waters in Natick provide many recreational opportunities. Lakes, ponds and rivers offer fishing, swimming and boating. They are often surrounded by scenic walking trails with particularly good areas for bird and animal watching. The Charles River has a boat launch at the dam that is often used by canoers. Cochituate State Park encompasses all of Lake Cochituate and Fiske Pond and provides swimming, boating, and picnicking opportunities. The Town maintains a swimming beach at Dug Pond.

3. Aquifer Recharge Areas

The Aquifer and Recharge and Zone II areas are shown on **Maps 7 and 8**. The main aquifer generally stripes the town's subsurface from North to South, links to the north with Wayland and stretches over to Weston, to the east to Framingham then south, to Sherborn. The recharge areas are typically found in the second concentric circle around the aquifer area, but often sporadically

Map 7: Aquifers and Public Wells

DRAFT



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Aquifer Protection District Base Map | |
| Aquifer | Mass Pike (I-90) |
| Aquifer Recharge | Route, Major Road |
| Natick Water | |
| Public Wells | Town Line |
| | Railroad |
| | Water Body |



Natick DPW-GIS
75 West Street
Natick, Mass. 01760
March 14, 2011



Map 8: Zone II Areas

DRAFT



Natick DPW-GIS
75 West Street
Natick, Mass. 01760
March 14, 2011



shifting. From the information on **Map 7**, it appears more land in Natick is aquifer or recharge area than not.

4. Flood Hazard Areas

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) most recent Q3 Flood Zone data from June 4, 2010 there are four levels of flood hazard areas present in Natick: A, AE, X500 and ANI. Zone A is an area inundated by 100-year flooding or which no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been determined. Zone A areas in Natick are located around Nonesuch, Fiske, and Dug Ponds and around Lake Cochituate. Zone AE is an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which BFE's have been determined. In Natick these areas include the Wetlands around Jennings Pond and along Mud Pond Stream south of Route 9, around Cochituate Pond, along Beaver Dam and Davis Brooks, and along the Charles River. Zone X500 is an area inundated by 500-year flooding; an area inundated by 100-year flooding with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; or an area protected by levees from 100-year flooding. X500 zones in Natick include wetlands south of Winter Street, wetlands around Pickerel Pond and along Mud Pond Stream north of Route 9, along Beaver Dam Brook, three patches of wetlands south of Route 135 just west of Fisk, Dug and Cochituate Ponds, wetlands near Everett Hill, wetlands along Davis Brook, wetlands north of the Route 16 and Union Street intersection, and along the Charles River. There are also X500 zones along a short brook near Glen Street and around a small water pool in the northernmost part of town just north of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Zone ANI (Area Not Included) is an area that is located within a community or county that is not mapped on any published Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Soldier Systems Center (Army Lab) on Lake Cochituate is designated as Natick's only ANI zone. **Map 6** illustrates the flood hazard areas.

5. Wetlands

Natick has wetlands information located on maps with scales of 1"=100' that also includes flood plain information and transition zones. Any activity within this 100 feet and/or within 200 feet of a river or perennial stream is subject to the discretion of the Conservation Commission, as per the Wetlands Protection Act (Chapter 131, section 40), River's Protection Act (a 1996 amendment to the Wetlands Protection Act), the state regulations pertaining to these acts (310 CMR 10.00 and 310 CMR 10.58 respectively), Stormwater Management Policy and Natick's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations.

The Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Article 79 of the Natick Bylaws, passed Town Meeting on April 27, 2000 and took effect the following August 24th. The new Bylaw increased the restrictions placed on wetlands in town by providing a larger buffer area or transition area where poisons, toxins, etc. could be filtered out prior to entering the resource area. In addition, it provides wildlife corridors. It also provides stormwater management controls by providing additional storage area for access water. This Article can be accessed at the Natick website at: http://www.natickma.gov/-Public_Documents/NatickMA_Clerk/TownByLaws.pdf. Wetlands are shown on **Map 6**.

D. Vegetation

1. General Inventory

As shown on **Map 5**, vegetation within Natick is typical of the eastern Massachusetts region. Upland areas are dominated by a mixed deciduous and coniferous tree line, while the low-lying wetlands are predominantly red maples. The undeveloped open fields in Natick have combinations of upland grasses, goldenrods, and asters with scrub shrubbery dominated by roses and brambles. Wetland communities form combinations of trees, shrub, and herbaceous layers, which are listed below. Some wetland areas exist as either shrub swamps or herbaceous marshes. A large portion of the Sunkaway is an Atlantic white cedar swamp, which is much less common than red maple swamps.

Several years ago, a field survey was conducted at various locations within the town (i.e., the Sunkaway, Pegan Cove Park, Indian Brook, and the Bacon Street Water Supply Area) to identify representative vegetation communities. The more common species observed in Natick's uplands and wetlands are listed in **Table 8**.

TABLE 8
COMMON WETLAND AND UPLAND PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN NATICK

Upland Vegetation

Tree Layer:

Red Oak
White Oak
White Pine
Gray Birch
Black Cherry

Shrub Layer:

Honeysuckle
Witch Hazel
European Buckthorn
Multiflora Rose
Bramble

Herbaceous Layer:

Upland Grasses
Goldenrod
Club Moss
Common Dewberry

Wetland Vegetation

Tree Layer:

Red Maple
Ash

Shrub Layer:

Alder
Sweet Pepperbush
Highbush Blueberry
Swamp Dogwood
Arrow-wood
Swamp Azalea
Withe-rod

Herbaceous Layer:

Sedges
Common Cattail
Cinnamon Fern
Skunk Cabbage
Hydrophilic Grasses

2. Forest Land

There are several large portions of forested land in Natick, including a Town Forest, public parks, and private wildlife sanctuaries. All sites offer valuable recreational experiences and important wildlife habitats.

The Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, accessible at 280 Eliot Street, is a large uninterrupted 626 acre block of woodlands (including some in neighboring Sherborn) that includes nine miles of walkable trails in addition to a quarter-mile universally accessible trail and boardwalk along Indian Brook. The habitats include both woodland and wetland areas. The Sanctuary has recreational value in walking and hiking, birdwatching, photography and sketching. In the winter months, the network of trails can be used for snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

Coolidge Woods and Coolidge Hill offer a scenic recreational area just a short walk from Natick Center. The short walk south from downtown makes the Coolidge woods a valuable recreational escape from the urban area of downtown. Coolidge Woods marks the start of the new 1.6-mile Eisenmenger Trail, which continues past MetroWest Medical Center and across easements through several housing developments.

The Hunnewell Town Forest is a 100 acre plot of land donated to the town by Mary Hunnewell in 1933 – in memory of her late husband Horatio Hollis Hunnewell. The forest includes a variety of topography, such as pine-covered slopes, mixed hardwood forest, a small stream, a marsh and a small pond. While the steep slopes are covered by pine trees, the lower and damper areas are home to red maple trees, sweet pepperbush shrubs and poison ivy. The forest is accessible from either Oak Street or Bacon Street.

Pegan Cove Park is adjacent to Cochituate State Park and is leased by the Town from the Mass DEP. The 22-acre park has an entrance lined by a unique covering of white pine. Despite its location on the lake, boating and swimming are prohibited in the park. However, it does offer recreational activities such as hiking, birdwatching, biking, fishing, and picnicking. In the winter time, skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating are permitted.

Mumford Wildlife Forest is a managed forest operated by the New England Forestry Foundation, offering newly created trails that provide a view, on a clear day, of Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock, 59 miles away. The trails continue through the adjacent Pegan Hill Reservation, owned by The Trustees of Reservations.

3. Public Shade Trees

Public Shade Trees are managed by the Land Facilities and Natural Resources Department under the Tree Warden. Such trees line public streets and right-of-ways and landscape public grounds such as cemeteries, schools and the town common.

At the Fall Town Meeting on October 10, 1995, Article 25 was adopted addressing public shade trees in the Zoning Bylaw and adding the definition, “All trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof, and where the boundaries of the way cannot be made certain by records or

monuments a tree shall be taken to be within the highway and to be public property until the contrary is shown.”

According to the subdivision rules and regulations in Natick, any tree twelve (12) inches in diameter or larger shall not be removed in the construction of a new subdivision. If the Planning Board rules that such a suitable tree is not retained, it must be replaced by a minimum of two trees with a minimum diameter of two (2) inches. The species must be approved by the Tree Warden and planted on each lot five (5) feet from the property street lines. Subdivision approval requires the Tree Warden’s signature for this compliance.

4. Agricultural Land

Two plots of scenic agricultural land in Natick offer particular recreational opportunities to the public. The Belkin Family Lookout farm (formerly Marino Lookout Farm) is one of the oldest working farms in the country. The farm was originally established in 1650 by Natick’s original settlers with John Eliot. Since then, it had been owned and managed by eight different families and individuals until Steve and Joan Belkin purchased it on July 21, 2005.. In addition to its scenic views and agricultural value, the farm also includes a petting zoo with emus, goats, donkeys, rabbits and sheep. (<http://www.lookoutfarm.com>)

The non-profit Natick Community Organic Farm was founded in 1974 and has produced organic crops ever since. Additionally, it provides open space and educational opportunities for the public. Its educational emphasis is on year-round classes for youth. In 2009 the Town transferred ownership of the property to the Conservation Commission, ensuring its permanent protection as open space.

5. Wetland Vegetation (source: Habitat Values of New England Wetlands, Cathy Pedevillano/Army Corps of Engineers Waltham, MA May 1995)

Wetland vegetation in Natick is typical of wetland vegetation found throughout New England. Palustrine Forested Wetlands are wetland areas commonly referred to as “wooded swamps.” The flora in this habitat is varied in the canopy level by species such as red maple, white cedar, hemlock, spruce and fir. Other trees sometimes found in Palustrine Forested Wetlands include white pine, yellow birch, elm and ash. Wetlands shrubs occurring in these areas include highbush blueberry, sweet pepper-bush, swamp azalea, silky dogwood and common arrowwood. The herbaceous vegetation includes cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, royal fern, skunk cabbage, spotted jewelweed, sphagnum and goldthread.

Palustrine Scrub-shrub Wetlands are dominated by species that are still in the sapling and shrub stages. Such species include highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, spicebush, arrowwood, winterberry, willow alder, dogwood, common elder, buttonbush and meadowsweet.

Additionally, herbaceous species associated with these areas include cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, spotted jewelweed, sphagnum sedges, rushes and hydrophilic grasses. The vegetation is an important resource for associated wildlife as it provides nesting habitats and food resources for various bird and insect species.

Other wetland areas include Palustrine Emergent Wetlands, Lacustrine Habitat and Riverine Habitat wetlands. Palustrine Emergent Wetlands are the marsh and wet meadow areas. These are easily recognized by cattail vegetation and sometimes also contain tussock sedge, blue flag, and water willow. Lacustrine Habitats are permanently flooded lakes or reservoirs while Riverine Habitats are deepwater areas with flowing water such as rivers and streams. Both habitats provide trees and shrubs along their banks that serve as unique resources for wildlife.

6. Rare Species

According to the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natick is home to six different rare species of vegetation:

Shining Wedge Grass – Last sighted in 1915, Shining Wedge Grass is currently classified as a threatened species. It is a perennial grass with shiny dark green blades. It has a slender stem that grows $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall. It will grow in either dry or moist conditions, often in rocky woods and hillsides.

Podgrass – Podgrass is a tall grass (9-18 inches) with spaced out leaves and yellow-green flowers. It is currently classified as endangered and was last sighted in 1899. It grows in acidic peatlands often alongside sedges and sphagnum mosses. Podgrass is currently threatened by water quality issues. Road salt, residential lawn fertilizers and septic system pollutants cause unsuitable conditions.

Threadfoot – Last sighted in 2001, Threadfoot is listed as a species of Special Concern. It is a freshwater plant species that grows in flowing waters such as the Charles River. Its fleshy pads tend to anchor to cobbles and rock ledges. The species is currently threatened by siltation, water pollution and drastic water flow changes.

Lion's foot – Lion's foot is native to the Southeastern United States but extends as far north as Massachusetts. It was last seen in Natick in 1905 and is now listed as endangered. It is a long-lived perennial with flowering stems as tall as one to two meters. It is found inland in open rocky woods and along power line right of ways. Its current threats are shading from trees and shrubs, and browsing by deer.

(<http://www.newenglandwild.org/docs/pdf/Nabalusserpentarius.pdf>)

Andrew's Bottle Gentian – This is a Herbaceous flower species that grows deep blue flowers from two to four centimeters. Its stems are as tall as thirty to sixty centimeters. While native to the Northeast United States, the plant was last sighted in Natick in 1917 and is currently listed as endangered (Blanchan, Neltje (2005). *Wild Flowers Worth Knowing*. Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation.)

Purple Milkweed – The Purple Milkweed is a herbaceous plant species native to the Eastern United States. It has pink flowers that turn purple as they mature. These flowers have a tendency to attract butterflies and are often used for this purpose in gardens. It is currently listed as endangered, and was last seen in Natick in 1943. (Blanchan, Neltje (2005). *Wild Flowers Worth Knowing*. Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation.) Map 10 illustrates the Priority and Estimated Habitats in Natick.

According to its most recent publication in August 2009, the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has certified 17 vernal pools in Natick. Vernal pools and their surrounding critical terrestrial habitats support wetlands vegetation that is critical for the accompanying wildlife population. Vernal pools are discussed in more detail below.

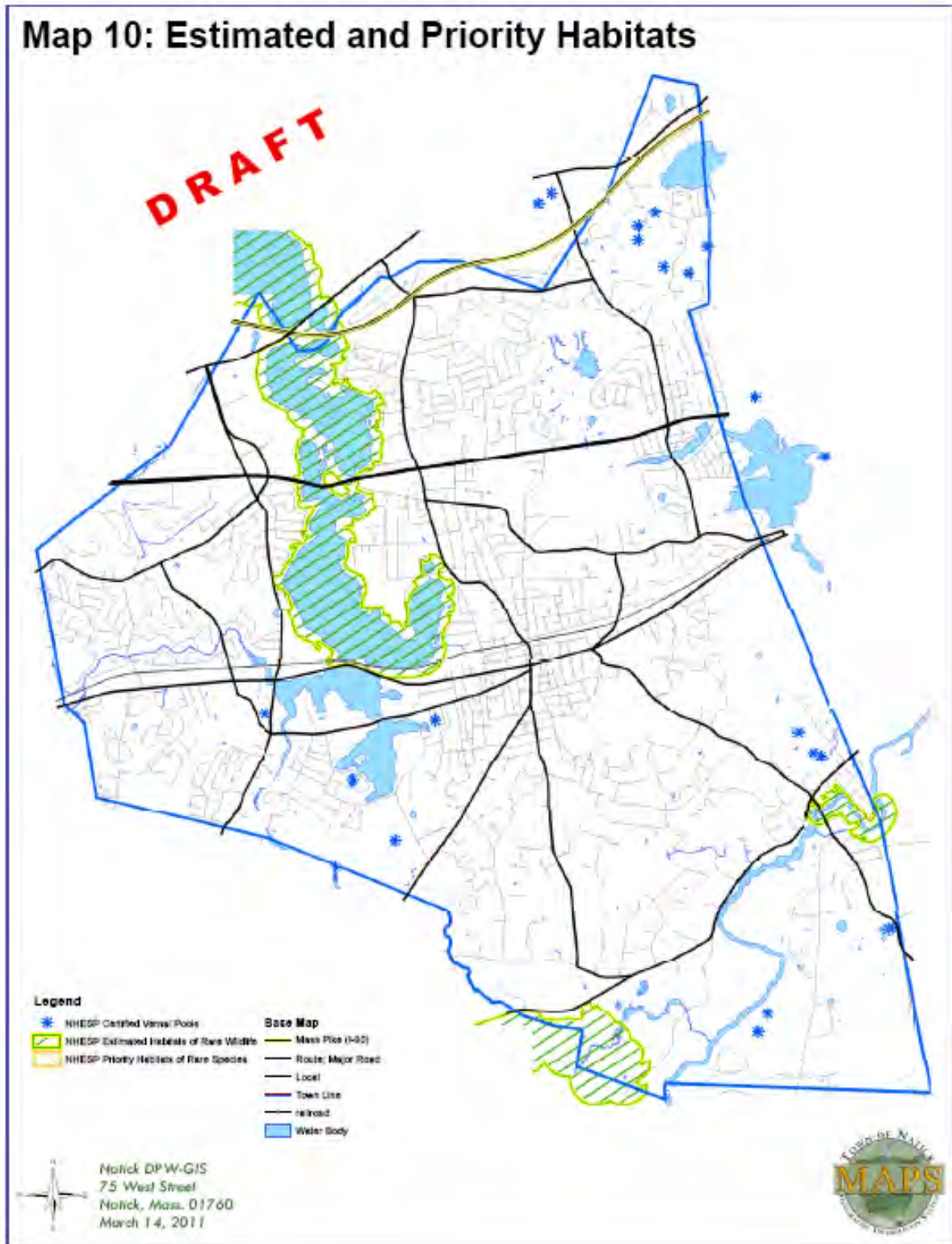
In addition to the Priority and Estimated Habitats, NHESP has produced a mapping project regarding land conservation and biodiversity that identifies Core Habitats and Critical Natural Landscapes throughout Massachusetts. The Core Habitats are the most viable habitats for rare species and natural communities. The Critical Natural Landscape habitats are the buffer areas that connect core habitats and contain mostly undeveloped land. The initial BioMap was produced in 2001 and it was updated in 2010). This project, is available as an interactive map at: <http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap2.htm>

The updated BioMap2 indicates 5 Core Habitat areas with abutting Critical Natural Landscape habitats in Natick. . These include the entire Lake Cochituate region, Charles River south of dam at the Wellesley line, an area near South Natick Hills a portion of Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary straddling the Sherborn town line and some areas near Pickerel Pond.

Map 9 presents the BioMap2 and **Map 10** illustrates the Priority and Estimated Habitats.

Insert Biomap2 – Map 9

DRAFT



E. Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Inventory

The topography in Natick encourages plant diversity and in the undeveloped areas creates cover and food for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. For most species, the best habitats are found in areas that are well watered, have abundant understory vegetation, and are relatively free of human intervention. For some game species, such as white-tail deer or beaver, the size of the contiguous range is important. Recently, sightings of moose, coyotes, beaver, turkeys, minks, river otter, and red fox have become more common. White tail deer frequent the town. Specific wildlife data for Natick are not readily available; however, based on the Charles River Corridor Plan, Charles River Watershed Association, the presence of species listed in **Table 9** (Wildlife Species in Natick) can be inferred.

**TABLE 9
WILDLIFE SPECIES IN NATICK**

Birds

Migratory/songbirds: bunting, sparrow, towhee, cardinal, goldfinch, oriole, vireos, and warblers (some rare)

Birds of prey: hawks and owls

Waterfowl: geese, ducks and teal

Marsh and rium birds/waders: rail, woodcock, bittern (rare), and heron

Upland game birds: grouse, quail and pheasant

Great Blue, Black-crowned Night, and Green Herons are common along the Charles River.

Reptiles/Amphibians

Frogs, salamanders (some rare), snakes, toads and turtles

Small Mammals

Beaver, chipmunk, fox, muskrat, otter, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel, mink, fisher, and coyote

Large Mammals

White tailed deer

Source: Charles River Corridor Plan, Charles River Watershed Association

Fishing is a very popular recreational activity in Natick. Largemouth bass, yellow perch, bullheads, pickerel, sunfish, and white suckers are the primary warm-water species caught. Few of the streams in the Charles River watershed, however, are capable of supporting natural populations of cold-water fish. The region relies on stocking of several streams and ponds to support a “put-and-take” fishery for rainbow and brown trout. For example, a total of approximately 300 rainbow, brown trout, bass, salmon, and tiger muskie are released into Lake Cochituate, Dug Pond, and the Charles River annually. The fish-stocking program is managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. For updates on the stocking program, go to: <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/dfwrec.htm>

In addition to the fish stocking programs, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, in conjunction with other state and federal agencies, have begun a program to restore anadromous fish runs in the Charles River. It is anticipated that the once abundant shad, alewife, and blueback herring populations will begin to increase once the construction of fish ladders along the Charles River has been completed, and sixty miles of the Charles River will again be open to anadromous fish.

2. Vernal Pools

Vernal Pools certified by NHESP in Natick are listed in Table 10. Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising ground water and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations. Many amphibian and invertebrate species rely on breeding habitat that is free of fish predators. (Mass DWELE). [REFERENCE UNCLEAR]

**TABLE 10
VERNAL POOLS**

	Pool ID Number	Street Address	Parcel ID
1	905	Winter Street	04-0000010C
2	906	Winter Street	04-0000010CK
3	<i>1370</i>	<i>251 South Main Street</i>	<i>59-00000010</i>
4	<i>1583</i>	<i>45 Lakeview Avenue</i>	<i>50-00000063</i>
5	<i>1623</i>	<i>21 Mill Street</i>	<i>49-00000226</i>
6	1982	12 Front Street	54-0000070
7	1983	Cedar Street	54-0000065F
8	1984	42 Leach Lane	54-0000080
9	2023	Devin Drive	08-0000035C
10	<i>2025</i>	<i>21 Mill Street</i>	<i>49-00000226</i>
11	<i>2123</i>	<i>26 Kensington Road</i>	<i>09-0000009A</i>
12	<i>2413</i>	<i>11 Oakland Street</i>	<i>51-00000119</i>
13	<i>2713</i>	<i>50 Kensington Road</i>	<i>09-0000010B</i>
14	<i>2777</i>	<i>107 Pleasant Street</i>	<i>70-00000003</i>
15	<i>2991</i>	<i>109 Pleasant Street</i>	<i>70-0000002C</i>
16	<i>3142</i>	<i>Tech Circle</i>	<i>09-00000028</i>
17	<i>5087</i>	<i>155 Glen Street</i>	<i>78-0000004A</i>
18	<i>5088</i>	<i>155 Glen Street</i>	<i>78-0000004A</i>

Italicized Vernal Pools are new additions since the 2002 Natick OSRP

Sources: MassGIS and Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

A number of vernal pool indicator species are of concern in Massachusetts. The blue-spotted and jefferson salamanders are listed as species of special concern along with the fairy shrimp. The marbled salamander and spadefoot toad are listed as threatened. Other species present include the spotted salamander, wood frog, and featherfoil. Several other species are facultative vernal pool species in Massachusetts. The eastern ribbon sand eastern hognose snakes are listed as present under their state conservation status. Special Concern species include the four-toed salamander, spotted turtle, wood turtle and eastern box turtle. The blanding's turtle and the ringed boghaunter dragonfly are listed as threatened and endnagered respectively. These species of special concern are particularly endangered by the destruction of vernal pools and their surrounding terrestrial habitats.

3. Corridors for Wildlife Migration

An analysis of existing open space and NHESP Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape Habitat lands reveals two possible pathways to serve as corridors for wildlife migration in Natick. Probably pathways occur when several large tracts of habitats are located in close enough proximity for wildlife to travel from one area to another. (Proposed Map) One such stretch of land creates a potential North-South corridor from Lake Cochituate on the Wayland town line to South Main Street (Route 27) on the Sherborn town line. The corridor at its northern extent includes conservation open space around Lake Cochituate from the Wayland town line southward to West Central Street (Route 135). It continues with a small tract of Cochituate State Park recreational open space along West Central Street, and southward to conservation open space surrounding Fiske Pond. Next, it reaches recreational open space around and south of Dug Pond extending to South Main Street where it continues into Sherborn.

There is a potential East-West corridor for wildlife migration in South Natick along the Charles River. The Charles River, which offers a natural wildlife corridor, supports great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, and green herons (Ron McAdow: <http://www.tiac.net/users/rmcadow/ChasRiverHTML/ChasR04.html>), as well as a large number of more common waterfowl. The corridor begins at the intersection of the Natick, Dover and Sherborn town lines and continues northeasterly along the Charles River through a Critical Natural Landscape habitat area. It continues along the river just south of Route 16 to the Glen Street Park conservation open space. Finally, it crosses through South Natick falls and into the Hunnewell Field Playground conservation open space before crossing the Dover town line.

4. Rare Species

The NHESP's list of Rare and Endangered Species by town is available at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_n.htm#natick. According to the publication, the Boreal Turret Snail is the only species in Natick that is listed as endangered and was last sighted in 1977. Two species, Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle and Mustard White are listed as Threatened and have been spotted historically. All other rare species in Natick are listed as species of Special Concern. These include the Blue-spotted salamander (last sighted in 2003), Purple Tiger Beetle (1937), Intricate Fairy Shrimp (1998), Mocha Emerald (1971), Triangle Floater (2000), Eastern Pondmussel (2006), Creeper (2000) and Eastern Box Turtle (2007).

It is important to note that NHESP does not have the resources to conduct methodical surveys of rare species by town, so species which were last seen many years ago may still be present but difficult to detect.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Map 11 presents Scenic and Unique Resources in Natick. A discussion of them follows.

1. Scenic Landscapes

The Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary is a large and well-maintained natural area located along the Charles River in South Natick and neighboring Sherborn. Broadmoor includes woodlands and meadows, but is best known for its water. A boardwalk traverses Indian Brook and its wetlands areas, giving the public, and particularly schoolchildren, first-hand knowledge of the functions and importance of wetlands.

Lake Cochituate consists of three interconnected ponds, all within the Cochituate State Park. The park is enjoyed as many as 200,000 visitors each year, many from urban areas in and around Boston. They come to enjoy swimming, boating, and picnicking. Although houses surround most of the lake, the state park owns a strip abutting the lake, providing natural scenery for park visitors.



The Hunnewell Town Forest has several large strands of White Pines and Hemlocks, and is entered by a path along Little Jennings Pond, a scenic wetlands area.

Lookout Farm offers a pick-your-own fruits and a farm store. Lookout is one of several remaining farms in South Natick offering picturesque vistas of open space in a relatively quiet, undisturbed section of town.

The Sassamon Trace golf course, formed from the capping of Natick's landfill and abutting former apple orchards in Sherborn, and surrounded by school recreational fields and wetlands, presents an imposing feature, part of a broad expanse of open lands in both Natick and Sherborn.

Natick has a number of designated scenic roads: Winter and Frost streets in the northeast corner of town; Bacon and Walnut streets north of the town center; and many streets in the more rural southern part of town: Cottage Street, Dover Road, Everett Street, Farwell Street, Glen Street, Glenwood Street, Pegan Lane, Pleasant Street, Rockland Street, South Street, Union Street, and Woodland Street.

Town committees and community groups are working at connecting all of these wonderful places to each other, to conservation lands, to other towns, and even to the Natick Mall and businesses whose employees use or would like to use alternative means of transportation. These efforts are positive steps at preserving and utilizing to its best advantage the invaluable open space remaining in Natick.

2. Major Characteristic or Unusual Geological Features

Natick has several notable hills that offer scenic value and should be protected: Pegan Hill, Carver Hill, Broad Hill, Train Hill, Pleasant Hill, Drury Hill, and Tom Hill. The valley between the Sunkaway, Morse's Pond, Coolidge Hill, Indian Brook and the Charles River is another notable geological feature. The Charles River and especially its waterfall in South Natick offer particular scenic value.

3. Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas

Natick's origins as a Praying Indian town mean it is also rich in archeological sites throughout the town. One of numerous Indian burial grounds is located on Pond Street within a block of downtown. Recent improvements to the intersection of Route 16, Union Street and Pleasant Street unearthed Indian remains and artifacts, as did the construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike ramps at Route 30. Several residential building projects either unearthed similar archaeological materials, or were suspected of doing so. The Legislative grants to the Natick Indians of thousands of acres of land in South Natick and around Long Pond (now Lake Cochituate) make it extremely likely that many more such sites exist.

In addition to its natural attractions, Natick has a number of areas of historical interest. The John Eliot Historic District, in the center of South Natick, is the site of the original Praying Indian settlement of 1651. This area is still has the character of the early 19th Century, with Colonial, Federalist, and Greek Revival architecture. The Henry Wilson Historic District, running along West Central Street in Natick Center, preserves a number of houses from the mid-19th Century, including the home of Henry Wilson, 18th Vice President of the United States, as well as the cobbler shop once owned by Wilson. The new Henry Wilson History Trail connects these sites with Wilson's grave at the Old Dell Park Cemetery.

Natick Center also includes Main Street, dominated by three and four-story brick buildings built immediately after the Great Fire of 1874. One of these buildings, the 1875 Fire House, has been renovated by The Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN) as a regional center for visual and performing arts. The 9,000 square foot, 290 seat handicapped accessible facility offers modern state-of-the-art performance amenities in a historic setting. Programs at TCAN include national performers, emerging artists, arts education, classical music, community theatre and visual arts. More information is available at <http://www.natickart.org>. Walnut Hill School, which holds performances and exhibits and also supplies talent to TCAN, is world-renowned as an educational facility for high schoolers gifted in the arts.

The Town Common becomes the town gathering-place during warm months, with weekly outdoor concerts at the bandstand, farmer's markets, flea markets, and holiday festivals for families. The entire downtown area has been revitalized in recent years by the renovation of the Old Fire House by the Center for Arts, and the construction of the municipal complex and library, along with restaurants such as the Dolphin, Dah Mee, Bakery on the Common, and Park Street Ice Cream.

The Museum of World War II is a well-kept secret but valuable historic resource. It is a 10,000 square foot museum that, according to its website, was described by London's Imperial War Museum as "a fully staffed private collection containing the most comprehensive display of original World War II artifacts on exhibit anywhere in the world."

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/09/24/veil_lifts_on_a_trove_of_wwii_treasures/

Natick has two public libraries. The downtown Morse Institute Library, built in 1873 in Victorian Gothic style, has more than doubled in size, with the addition architecturally sensitive to the old, as provided in Mary Ann Morse's will. South Natick's historic Bacon Free Library, overlooking South Natick Dam, also houses the Natick Historical Society and its collection of Natick's history and natural history.

4. Unique Environments

Natick has no areas designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. However, there are important ecosystems. The area including Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary appears on the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's BioMap,⁵ showing an important area for biodiversity based on the occurrence of rare species. Broadmoor provides critical habitat for many species that can be observed by walking the many trails that thread through the sanctuary.

Additionally, the Charles River corridor provides a habitat for the "threadfoot" plant, as well as animals including waterfowl, white-tailed deer, mink, and otter. A unique Atlantic white cedar swamp is located around Mud Pond in the "Sunkaway" area. More information on plants and animal species, and ecosystems with Natick are found elsewhere in this section.

G. Environmental Challenges

1. Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites

According to the DEP, there have been 373 reportable releases of hazardous waste in Natick since 1986. The information is available at <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp>. Of those 373 reportable releases, 259 were oil, 42 were hazardous materials, 21 were mixtures of oil and hazardous materials and 51 were other types of hazardous waste.

The DEP classifies the sites of hazardous waste releases by their compliance status. Most sites in Natick are classified under various statuses that are not cause for serious concern. However, ten sites in Natick are classified under Tier 1, which is the most dangerous level. The AGT Laboratories site has been classified under Tier 1B, which is the second most dangerous level of a Tier 1 site. The release on this site requires a permit, but since it is not Tier 1A the work may be performed by a Licensed Site Professional without prior consent from the DEP. Nine other sites fall under Tier 1C, which fall under the same requirements as 1B but are not considered as hazardous.

2. Landfills

According to the Massachusetts DEP, there are two sites in Natick designated as current or former solid waste sites. Both sites are related to the Natick Landfill on West Street. The Landfill ceased operations in 1993 and was certified as capped in 2003. It was then transformed into a 75-acre golf course located in both Natick and the Town of Sherborn. The DEP also recognizes the site as an active compost site.

⁵ Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, "BioMap; Guiding Land Conservation in Massachusetts" (2001), p. 51.

3. Erosion

The banks of the Charles River must be monitored for erosion. Runoff from impervious surfaces including buildings, roads and parking lots can contribute to erosion far downstream from their location.

4. Chronic flooding

. The lower parking lots and playing fields at the existing high school is the site for the new high school building, and neighbors are concerned that this location has been known to flood extensively during heavy rains. Architects for the proposed new school believe that the flooding is due to an insufficient 50-year old drainage system at the old building and are confident that the problem can be resolved by removing obstruction from that pipe that drains water to Dug Pond. The site is not within a flood zone. <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1395049530/Reports-of-flooding-on-Natick-High-School-site-worries-School-Committee>

Another area subject to chronic flooding is the MBTA train tracks near the Natick Center station. The MBTA often is forced to close the Natick line of its commuter rail when tracks flood after serious rainstorms. The station is built in a trench downtown, below the surface level of the streets. Runoff tends to accumulate particularly on the inbound track. The temporary solution is to bring pumps to remove the water. However, the MBTA proposes to eventually install a \$300,000 pumping station to provide a more permanent solution. <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x280666001/MBTA-work-wont-fix-track-flooding-in-Natick>

Other areas of flood concern are located in the Flood Hazard areas discussed in part C4 of this section.

5. Sedimentation

The Natick Soldiers System Center, formerly known as Natick Labs is currently planning to clean polluted sediment from the bottom of Lake Cochituate. The bottom of the lake has been contaminated with Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that were released in the 1980s, possibly in a transformer explosion at the Natick Labs research facility. The Army has proposed a range of plans for treating the sediment, from doing nothing to undergoing a dredging and disposal plan at a price of \$21.7 million. Any plan must be approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2009/04/12/tainted_fish_are_no_catch/

The Charles River is also at risk for sedimentation. According to the Charles River Watershed Association, the river south of Watertown Dam contains sediment and associated chemicals with the potential to cause “serious, persistent environmental and public health problems.” Chromium, lead, copper, mercury, DDT and various fossil-fuel combustion products can all be found in this part of

the river. Many hazardous compounds have been banned, but remain present in sediments that will require cleaning for years to come.

6. New development

The major issue for Natick appears to be, not so much the historic hazardous waste spills, but monitoring existing residential development and commercial developments to make sure that all reasonable precautions are being taken to avoid additional spills. Since the early 1980s, the Planning Board has imposed Aquifer Protection District controls on all new or redeveloped commercial and industrial sites located over or near the town's aquifers. Each of these permits mandates a variety of specific requirements that each property owner must abide by. It is not clear, however, that any official in the Town of Natick is inspecting any of these sites to make sure that the Planning Board's requirements are being met.

7. Ground and Surface Water Pollution

The DEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report to assess the water supply sources in town. The report found that there are hazardous material storage and contaminations in Zone I. The DEP recommends that Natick develops a wellhead protection plan.

In 2008, the Water Division began the fifth phase of its water main realigning project. Five and a half additional water mains have been cleaned and lined to remove manganese and other contaminants that have accumulated for over one hundred years. The Water Division also drained, cleaned, and inspected both water storage tanks

http://natickma.gov/Public_Documents/NatickMA_Pubworks/images/waterqualityreport.pdf

Problems identified with the existing water supply system include high manganese content, which is common in New England. According to the Water Dept. Superintendent, Cypress Wells at Evergreen and the Springvale wells have had a volatile organic compound problem in the past. The Town of Natick has installed an effective filter treatment system at the Springvale site, which handles all of north Natick's volatile organic compound problems adequately and effectively. The Town has recently drilled 2 replacement wells at Springvale. It continues to sample and monitor the quality of the water as to implement stormwater improvements to reduce impacts on drinking water.

8. Impaired Water Bodies

According to the EPA's latest data from 2006, there are three impaired water bodies in Natick: Jennings Pond, Lake Cochituate and the Charles River. Jennings Pond has been reported as an impaired water body on each EPA report since 2002. The pond is contaminated by noxious aquatic

plants. Lake Cochituate has also appeared on the report each year since 2002 and is contaminated by organic enrichment/oxygen depletion, pathogens and toxic organics. The Charles River has a more extensive presence on the impaired water bodies list. It has appeared on each report since 1998, and is contaminated by Noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, organic enrichment/oxygen depletion, pathogens, toxic organics and turbidity north of the South Natick Dam. South of the dam, it is impaired by metals, noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, organic enrichment/oxygen depletion, pathogens, turbidity and unknown toxicity.
http://iaspub.epa.gov/waters10/state_rept.control?p_state=MA&p_cycle=2006

Ongoing efforts to improve the condition of these impaired bodies are extremely important. The Army's plan to remove sedimentation from Lake Cochituate is a strong first step in cleaning that water body. The Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) continuously works to develop strategies to clean the river. In 1995, the CWRA's research convinced the EPA to launch a plan to restore the Charles to fishable and swimmable conditions by 2005. Water quality has significantly improved through wastewater treatment and the elimination of contaminated discharges. The goal has been met along most of the river but some areas remain in need of improvement. Milfoil continues to be a problem in Lake Cochituate.

9. Invasive Species

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there are thirty-three (33) varieties of invasive species currently threatening Middlesex County. Twenty-three (23) of those species are exotic while the other ten (10) are native transplants. The table is available at [http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/SpeciesList.asp?Size=200&Group=&Sortby=\[Group\],Genus,Species,SubSpecies&status=0&FMB=0&pathway=0&StCo=MA+--+Middlesex](http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/SpeciesList.asp?Size=200&Group=&Sortby=[Group],Genus,Species,SubSpecies&status=0&FMB=0&pathway=0&StCo=MA+--+Middlesex) or in Appendix ____.

10. Environmental Equity

The water quality in Lake Cochituate has become an important environmental equity issue due to the number of people who use its fish as a part of their diets. Marco Kaltofen, who runs an environmental investigation firm in Natick and was cited in the Boston Globe, has interpreted an Army survey and concluded that 97 percent of all fish taken home from the lake are going to minority or immigrant households. Kaltofen believes that the language gap and lack of a local education prevent such people from acquiring the knowledge necessary to deter them from eating the fish. Additionally, a tougher economy increases the amount of people relying on local fishing as a staple of their diets. It is imperative to continue with efforts to improve and maintain the water quality in the lake. Pregnant women and children are particularly at risk for eating contaminated fish causing both physical and mental disorders.

SECTION 5 -- INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

A. Introduction

Protected open space serves several valuable functions. Depending on the type (e.g. forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland, etc.) open space can provide valuable habitat for both plant and wildlife, help replenish and protect aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, produce a sustainable source of a wide range of resources, and absorb and/or treat pollutants. Open space also offers numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and adds scenic views to the landscape. “Protected” open space is land that is preserved because it is under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, is subject to a conservation restriction or other deed restriction, is owned by a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the preservation of open space, is dedicated as park land or is otherwise protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution

B. Protected and Recreational Open Space

This section provides an inventory and map of areas that are important to Natick due to their current open space value and/or recreational use. Private as well as public sites have been included (See **Tables 11** through **15**). Though continued open space or recreational use is not guaranteed on those private sites identified, these parcels nonetheless are important to the Town. Undeveloped private lands provide aesthetic amenities, maintain the community’s rural character, and assist in protecting the Town’s natural resource base.

The parcels are also included on **Map 12, Protected and Recreational Open Space**

C. Other Public Lands

Table 16 presents other public lands [narrative to be added]

D. Other Private Lands

[narrative to be added]

Additional narrative to be inserted here regarding the tables.

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS

(1) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/CONSERVATION COMMISSION								
6.1	Winter Woods (Winter Street)	03-01 03-13A 03-13B 04-10 04-10CK 04-11 04-12	12.84	R3	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.2	Nonesuch Pond Oak Hill Rd End	04-20A	0.075	R3	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.3	Winter Street	04-10C	2.22	R3	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.4	Pine Hill Oak Street (231, 252, 257)	08-35 08-36 08-35B 08-35D	17.67	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.5	Oak Street (Wayland Town Line)	08-6A 08-17C	.54	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.6	Pryor Road (10, 15, 25)	13-147 13-387 13-126A	8.46	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.7	Sunkaway/ Pickerel Pond Worcester Street/Oak Street/Pickerel Road/ Pamela Road	14-16, 14-68 14-69, 14-70 14-71, 14-78, 14-104, 14-112 15-103, 20-97A 20-97B, 20-97C, 20-97F, 20-97E 20-102A, 21- 140B, 21-240BB	155.54	RSA RSC Com II	Conservation/ Well Protection	ConCom (Public Works 14-78 & 20-97E)	Yes (Boat launch, trails)	Yes
6.8	Euclid Ave (circle)	14-111	0.18	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Possible pocket park)	Yes

Continued *Bold indicates purchase with LAND (Formerly Self-Help) funds

TABLE 11
PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
 (Continued)

(2) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Continued)								
6.9	10 Ingleside Road/Petersen Street (off 15)	15-108A 15-108	2.42	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Adjacent to Cochituate Aqueduct)	Yes
(3) .10	Wellesley Road-Whittier Rd ext.	15-153 15-155 15-157	0.57	R4	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Adjacent to Cochituate Aqueduct)	Yes
6.11	Hunnewell Town Forest 440 Worcester St	20-2, 20-3	97.45	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.12	41 Worcester Road	20-96	.75	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.13	Arlington Road (circle)	20-152A	0.29	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (possible pocket park)	Yes
6.14	10 Shore Road	21-9A	0.08	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	No	Yes
6.15	Grove Road	21-111	0.01	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.16	31 Grove Road	21-52A	0.128		Conservation	ConCom	No	Yes
6.17	42 ½ Bacon Street	29-23A	0.04	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Public path)	Yes
6.18	Mechanic Street	35-106	0.93	LI	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (parking and access to rail trail)	Yes

Continued

TABLE 11

**PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)**

(4) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Continued)								
6.19	Bacon Street	36-241	6.25	RSC	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (trails)	Yes
6.20	Boden Lane	39-36, 39- 36ZB	.95	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.21	24 Edwards Rd	41-24	0.17	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Adjacent to Beaver Dam Brook)	Yes
6.22	128 Speen Street	41-83A	0.4	Com II	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Adjacent to Beaver Dam Brook)	Yes
6.23	Hunters Court End	43-402	6.16	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.24	14 Sylvia Ave.- 16&17 Spooner Ave.	48-37 48-38	.84	RSA	Conservation	ConCom	No	Yes
6.25	21 Home Avenue	48-49A 48-49B	0.67	RESGEN	Conservation	ConCom	No	Yes
6.26	Grace Circle	51-31FA 51-31FB	.79	R3	Conservation	ConCom	No	No
6.27	Sherman Nature Preserve Front Street- Cedar Street/	54-65C 54-65F	12.92	R2	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Trails)	Yes
6.28	Farwell Street	60-7D	1.50	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	No	Yes

Continued

TABLE 11

**PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)**

(5) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Continued)								
6.29	Cottage Street	61-7E	2.86	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	No	No
6.30	90 Cottage Street	61-17	2.50	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes?	Yes?
6.31	Natick Community Organic Farm/Eliot Street	63-40, 68-12AC	30.02	RSB	Organic Farm	ConCom	Yes	Yes
6.32	26 Dover Road, 51 Water Street, Water Street end	64-42, 64-64, 64-64B	2.00	RSA/ RSB	Conservation			
6.33	South Main St.	65-1 65-1B 65-1C	16.03	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Abuts Sherborn Conservation land)	Yes
6.34	61 Cottage Street	67-17	0.09	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Abuts Sudbury Aqueduct)	Yes
6.35	146 Cottage Street	67-29D 67-30D	13.70	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Abuts Sudbury Aqueduct)	Yes
6.36	186 Eliot Street	68-11	1.60	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Boat Launch)	Yes
6.37	Pegan Lane	79-6	0.62	RSB	Conservation	ConCom	Yes (Abuts Pegan Hill Reservation)	Yes
Sub-Total, Conservation Commission			408.26					

Continued

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)

(6) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT								
6.38	Murphy Field 155 North Main Street	27-151A 27-151B 27-151C	3.55	RESG/ RSA	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.39	Cole Recreation Center 179 Boden Lane/ 144 Hartford Street	31-258A, 31-258B, 31-259	9.86	RSA	Recreation/ Dept. offices	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.40	185 Speen Street/J.J. Lane Park	33-35A	3.26	RSA	Park	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.41	Loker Park Tot Lot 79 Walnut Street	35-1	2.13	RSA	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.42	Navy Yard Field 41 Washington Avenue	35-300	2.53	RESGEN	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.43	Henry Wilson Memorial Building 181 West Central Street	40-72	2.25	RESGEN	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.44	Indian Burial Ground	43-255	0.30	RESGEN	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes (Benches)	Yes
6.45	Cottage Square 77 South Main Street	44-34	0.15	RESGEN	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.46	Natick Common 12-20 South Main Street, 3-5 East Central Street	44-131A 44-131B 44-131C 44-131D	1.65	DMU/ RSC	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes

Continued

TABLE 11

**PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)**

(7) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF NATICK/RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT (Continued)								
6.47	Lincoln Square 90 East Central Street	44-288	0.18	RSC	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.48	Coolidge Field 90 East Central Street	44-380	3.66	RSA	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.49	Coolidge Hill 38 School Sreet Ext	52-150	19.00	RSA	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.50	Coolidge Park Sheridan Street end	52-164	19.24	RSB	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.51	Sassamon Trace 251 South Main Street	59-10	74.22	RSA	Golf Course	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.52	Chase Arena 75 West Street	59-12	15.50	RSA	Arena	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.53	Glen Street Park 33 Glen Street	63-14	8.00	RSB	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.54	Grove Park/South Natick Multi- Purpose 23 Pleasant Street	63-21 63-21A 63-21B	2.89	RSB	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.55	South Natick Dam (Old Town) Park 7 Pleasant Street	63-23	0.56	RSB	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.56	Shaw Park 53 Eliot Street	63-61	0.79	RSB	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
6.57	Hunnewell Park 24 Pleasant Street	64-48	11.21	RESGEN	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes

Continued

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)

(8) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
6.58	Mary Bunker Community Park Vesta Road	18-67B, 18-67C, 18-67D, 18-67E, 18-68A, 18-68B, 18-68C, 18-68D, 18-68E, 18-68F	5.06	RSA	Recreation	Recreation and Parks Dept.	Yes	Yes
Sub-Total, Recreation and Parks Dept.			185.99					
TOWN OF NATICK/OTHER (Continued)								
6.59	Jennings Pond 53 Oak Street	21-95A	9.90	RSC	Recreation	Selectmen	Yes	Yes
6.60	24 Worcester Street	21-115	0.07	Com II	Close to Jennings Pond	Public Works	No	Yes
6.61	Springvale Well 1076 Worcester Street	26-168	4.30	RSA	Water Supply	Public Works	Yes (Trails only)	Yes
6.62	Sargent & Mathworks Fields Oak Street	29-270A, 30-14A, 30-36AB, 30-36B, 30-37A, 30-38, 30-37D*, 30-36A*	36.96	RSC	Morse's Pond Well Water Supply Recreation Fields	Public Works	Yes (Trails and active recreation)	Yes
6.63	Boden Lane Cemetery	39-38	.39	RSA	Cemetery	?	No	Yes
6.64	West Field 56 Mill Street	40-77A	1.17	RSA	Recreation	Selectmen	Yes	Yes
6.65	Broad Hill Reservoir 90 Union Street	45-22, 45-12D	7.71	RSC	Water Supply	Public Works	Yes (Trails)	Yes
Sub-total, Other Town lands			60.5					
TOTAL PROTECTED TOWN LANDS¹			654.75					

Continued **These properties are shown in Natick GIS as owned by John and Barbara Goodman and contain 2.22 acres. Recently acquired?*

¹Includes land owned in fee only. See Table 8 for Conservation and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)

(9) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS								
6.63	Cochituate State Park	Map 6:31,31A Map 11: 9A, 13A, 14B, 14C, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21B, 22,23B, 27, 30, 31, Map 12: 60A, 64C Map 17: 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 118, 39A, 75A, 113A, Map 25: 9A, 12A, 24A, 253A, 253B Map 26: 19A, 39A, 158A, 168B, 168D Map 33: 3B, 28A Map 35: 311 Map 41: 23A, 28A, 69A, 72A 80, 83, 83C, 83D, 95A, 98, 119A, 119B, 119C, Map 42: 34, 35 Map 43: 436, 436A Map 49: 120A, 123A, 128A, 133A, 139C, 140C, 149A, 149B, 149C, 239A, 242A, 243C, Map 58: 30A, 92D, 93H, 96 State Park (101)	337.62	RSA, Ind II, ResGen, Com II	Recreation	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Yes

Continued

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)

(10) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS (Continued)								
6-64	Sudbury Aqueduct Cottage St/Leach Lane/Union Street	54-13, 54-81, 54-79, 62-3, 67-4, 67-16, 67-37, 68-14, 71-5A, 71-5B, 71-5C	20.4	RSB, RSC	Aqueduct	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	Yes	Yes
6.65	Cochichuate Aqueduct Oak Street/ Commonwealth Road/Pine Street/North Main Street	6-21A, 7-77, 7-80, 7-80A, 8-1A, 14-75A, 14-75B, 14-75C, 14-75D, 15-105, 15-109A, 15-109B, 15-109C, 15-109D,	19.53	RSA, RSC	Aqueduct	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	Yes	Yes
6.66	Hultman Aqueduct Commonwealth Road	2-3, 2-4A, 2-4B, 2-4C, 2-4D, 2-10A, 2-10B, 2-12B	8.31	RSC	Aqueduct	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	Yes	Yes
6.67	Water Street	64-65A	0.67	RSA	Conservation	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Yes
TOTAL PROTECTED STATE LANDS			386.53					

Continued

TABLE 11

PROTECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS
(Continued)

(11) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF WELLESLEY								
6.68	Morse Pond Off Border Road	30-37B, 30-37C	1.25	RSC	Recreation/Pond	Wellesley Park Department	Yes	Yes
TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM								
6.69	Morency Woods Off Morency Street	39-32A, 39-32B, 39-32C	16.14	RSA	Forest	Framingham ConCom	Yes	Yes
TOWN OF WAYLAND								
6.70	Hultman Aqueduct	3-9	3.71	RSC	Wooded	Wayland	Yes	Yes
TOTAL PUBLIC PROTECTED OPEN¹ SPACE AND RECREATION LANDS			1050.02					

¹Includes land owned in fee only. See Table 8 for Conservation and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions
Source: Natick Assessor's Office.

TABLE 12

PROTECTED PRIVATE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PARCELS

(12) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
PRIVATE NON-PROFIT PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS (MGL 59, Section 5, Charitable Exemption)								
7.1	Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary 280 Eliot Street	72-6, 73-1, 73-2, 73-23, 73-7, 74-1, 74-11, 74-1A, 76-3, 77-5, 77-6A, 77-6B, 77-7, 77-8A	441.59	RSB	Recreation, Habitat	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Yes	Yes (Fee)
7.2	Pegan Hill Pegan Lane	75-5, 79-5, 79-7	32.16	RSB	Recreation	The Trustees of Reservations	Yes	Yes
7.3	Mumford Wildlife Forest Pegan Lane	79-4	32.47	RSB	Forestry	New England Forestry Foundation	Yes	Yes
7.4	Pegan Lane	75-1AA	.168	RSB	Conservation	Dover Land Conservation Trust	Yes	Yes
Sub-total, Non-Profit lands			503.39					
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS (APR)								
7.5	Belkin Lookout Farm	70-5, 75-10	106.20	RSB	Agriculture	Private	Yes	Yes (Fee)
Sub-Total, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions			106.20					
OTHER PRIVATE PROTECTED LANDS#								
7.6	Hopewell Farms Trust/ Everett Street Hopewell Road	66-33, 66-34, 66-35, 71-2E, 71-2H, 71-2HA, 71-10, 72-63	52.77	RSB	Conservation	Private	Yes	No
Sub-Total, Other Private Protected Lands			52.77					
TOTAL NON-PROFIT, APR AND OTHER LANDS			662.36					

Source: Natick Assessor's Office *#Planning Board is researching additional lands such as in Fairway Estates, Lookout Ridge, etc. preserved through cluster subdivisions that will be added to table.*

TABLE 13

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS
(Continued)

(13) S ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	GRANTOR	APPLICATION/ APPROVAL DATES	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	HOLDER OF RESTRICTION	ASSESSORS MAP/LOT#	COMMENTS
8.1	Broadmoor 155 Glen St.	Arnold Hunnewell	9/21/1978/ 10/25/1978	18.8	RSB	Conservation	MassAudubon	78-4A (part)	Broadmoor area
8.2	Mathworks Route 9	Apple Hill Association	7/7/1983/ 8/6/1983	12.3	RSC	Conservation	Town of Natick	19-7, 19-8, 27- 39 (parts)	Mathworks
8.3	Algonquin Hill 70 Union Street	Algonquin Hill Homeowners Association	10/7/1991/ 10/31/1991	43.7	RSC	Conservation	Town of Natick	45-18, 45-23A, 45-75, 53-42, 53-44 (parts)	Public Trail easement
8.4	Broadmoor 152 South Street	Emily L. S. Lewis	9/3/1991/ 12/31/1991	0.39	RSB	Conservation	MassAudubon	77-5	Part of Broadmoor
8.5	Broadmoor 155 Glen Street	Arnold W. Hunnewell	11/13/1991/ 12/26/1991	36.0	RSB	Conservation	MassAudubon	78-4A (part)	Part of Broadmoor
8.6	Near Mumford Wildlife Forest Pegan Lane	Harry J. & Cynthia P. Healer	6/9/1992/ 8/28/1992	3.4	RSB	Conservation	Dover Land Conservation Trust	79-3	Part of larger parcel in Dover. Abuts Mumford Wildlife Forest
8.7	Pegan Lane	Elizabeth B. Jackson	6/9/1992/ 8/28/1992	0.2	RSB	Conservation	Dover Land Conservation Trust	79-3	
8.8	Leach Lane	Louisa B. VonClemm	8/27/1992/ 12/21/1992	43.38	RSB	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	46-4 (part)	Part in Wellesley and part in Leach Lane area
8.9	Community Organic Farm Eliot Street	Benjamin B. Taylor & Marshall Colins Trust	6/1/1993/ 6/28/1993	3.0	RSB	Farm	Town of Natick Community Organic Farm		Corner of Riverbend and Eliot Streets

Continued

TABLE 13

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS
(Continued)

(14) S ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	GRANTOR	APPLICATION/ APPROVAL DATES	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	HOLDER OF RESTRICTION	ASSESSORS MAP/LOT#	COMMENTS
8.10	Fair Street	Arnold N. , Walter & Jane P. Hunnewell	3/8/1996/ 9/6/1998	19.6	RSB	Conservation	MassAudubon	69-36, 69-39	Adjacent to Glenwood Cemetery and Charles River
8.11	Hunnewell Farm Leach Lane	Walter Hunnewell & Hunnewell	10/8/1996/ 1/30/1997	4.0	RSC	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	55-54, 55-59 (part)	Part of Hunnewell Farm
8.12		DIV Natick	4/22/1997/ 10/30/1997	1.1		Conservation	Town of Natick		Walnut Street
8.13	Leach Lane	Francis D. Hunnewell	11/20/1997/ 12/24/1997	20.8	RSB	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	54-80 (part)	Part of Hunnewell/ Leach Lane area
8.14	Leach Lane	Morgan Palmer	6/28/1999/ 12/20/1999, 2009	29.9	RSB, RSC	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	38-1, 38-1A (part)	
8.15	Ice House Lane	B & B Land Corp.	5/24/2002/ 6/29/2002	.35	RSA	Conservation	Town of Natick	59-16A	Ice House Lane
8.16	Leach Lane	Francis O. Hunnewell	11/21/2003/ 12/23/2003	7.0	RSC	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	54-80 (part)	Part of Hunnewell/ Leach Lane area
8.17	Pleasant Street	Frank & Sheila Maguillon	5/2/2005/ 8/5/2005	5.7	RSB	Conservation	The Trustees of Reservations	70-15A, 70- 15D (part)	
8.18	South Main St./Rockland Street	South Natick Hills	2011	15.8	RSB	Conservation	Natick Conservation Commission	66-2A (part)	
TOTAL CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS				265.42					

Source: Dave Dimmick and Martin Kessel

TABLE 14

CHAPTER 61, 61A and 61B LANDS

(15) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES	OWNER
CHAPTER 61						
9.1	1 Dorset Lane	38-1A	65.404	RSC	Forestry	Morgan Palmer
CHAPTER 61A						
9.2	Belkin Lookout Farm 13 Pegan Lane (61)	70-5, 75-7, 75-8A, 75-10B, 75-10C, 75-10D, 75-15, 75- 10, 79-4B	148.11	RSB	Truck crops (vegetables), Orchards, Nurseries	Trans National Group, SCV LLC
9.3	Windy-Lowe Nursery 305 Eliot Street	72-39E	11.433	RSB	Truck crops	Philip Flagg
9.4	Sunshine Farm/ 2 Speen Street	57-3	11.55	RSA	Truck crops	Lawrence Geoghegan
9.5	Leach Lane, Harp Court	55-59 55-54	5.63	RSC	Field crops Pasture	Hunnewell Land Trust
9.6	80 Rockland Street	66-10	7.5	RSB	Field crops	Martin Kozlowski Real Estate Trust
9.7	155 Glen Street	74-1B	11.02	RSB	Field crops	Arnold W. Hunnewell
9.8	155 Glen Street	78-4A	54.61	RSB	Non-productive land	Indian Farm Trust
9.9	Fair Street, Glenwood Street	69-36, 69-39	41.99	RSB	Field crops	Arnold W. Hunnewell Jr., et al
9.10	8 Wayside Road 159 Cottage Street	66-9, 67-15, 67-14	25.166	RSB	Field crops Pasture	John J. McHugh
CHAPTER 61B						
9.11	Phillips Pond Road, 115 Glen Street	.74-5NA, 74-3A, 74-3B, 74-3C, 69- 55, 74-3, 74-5, 74- 3D	15.024	RSB	Hiking trails	Phillps Pond Homes Association
9.12	70, 112, 120 Union Street, Woronoco Drive	45-18, 45-23A, 45- 75, 53-42, 53-44	48.19	RSC	Hiking trails	Algonquin Hill Homeowners Association
9.13	Farm Hill Road, Davis Brook Drive,	62-9FA, 62-9FB, 62-9FC, 62-9FD	21.411	RSB	Hiking trails	Woodland Village Homeowners Corporation
TOTAL CHAPTER 61, 61A AND 61B LANDS			467.04			

Source: Natick Assessors Office

Natick Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011

**TABLE 15
PRIVATE CEMETERIES**

(16) ITE#	DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONE	EXISTING USES	OWNER
10.1	North Cemetery North Main Street	18-11	2.8	RSA	Cemetery	North Cemetery Association
10.2	Dell Park Pond Street	41-120, 42-23* , 50-73	45.75	RSA	Cemetery	Dell Park Cemetery
10.3	Hebrew Cemetery Windsor Avenue/ Fairview Avenue	59-38, 59-39, 59- 40, 59-41, 59- 45A, 59-45B, 59- 45C 59-46, 59- 47, 59-48A, 59- 48B, 59-48C,	5.14	RSA	Cemetery	Hebrew Cemetery Association, Inc.
10.4	Old North Burying Grounds Union Street	54-60B	.45	RSB	Cemetery	Mr. Peabody and his successors
10.5	Glenwood Cemetery Glenwood Street	69-37, 69-38	19.5	RSB	Cemetery	Glenwood Cemetery Associatioin
10-6	St. Patrick's Cemetery	50-36	16.44	RSZ	Cemetery	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston
TOTAL PRIVATE CEMETERY LANDS			90.08			

Source: Natick Assessors Office

****Shown on Assessor's Map, but does not come up on Assessor's Database or GIS search.***

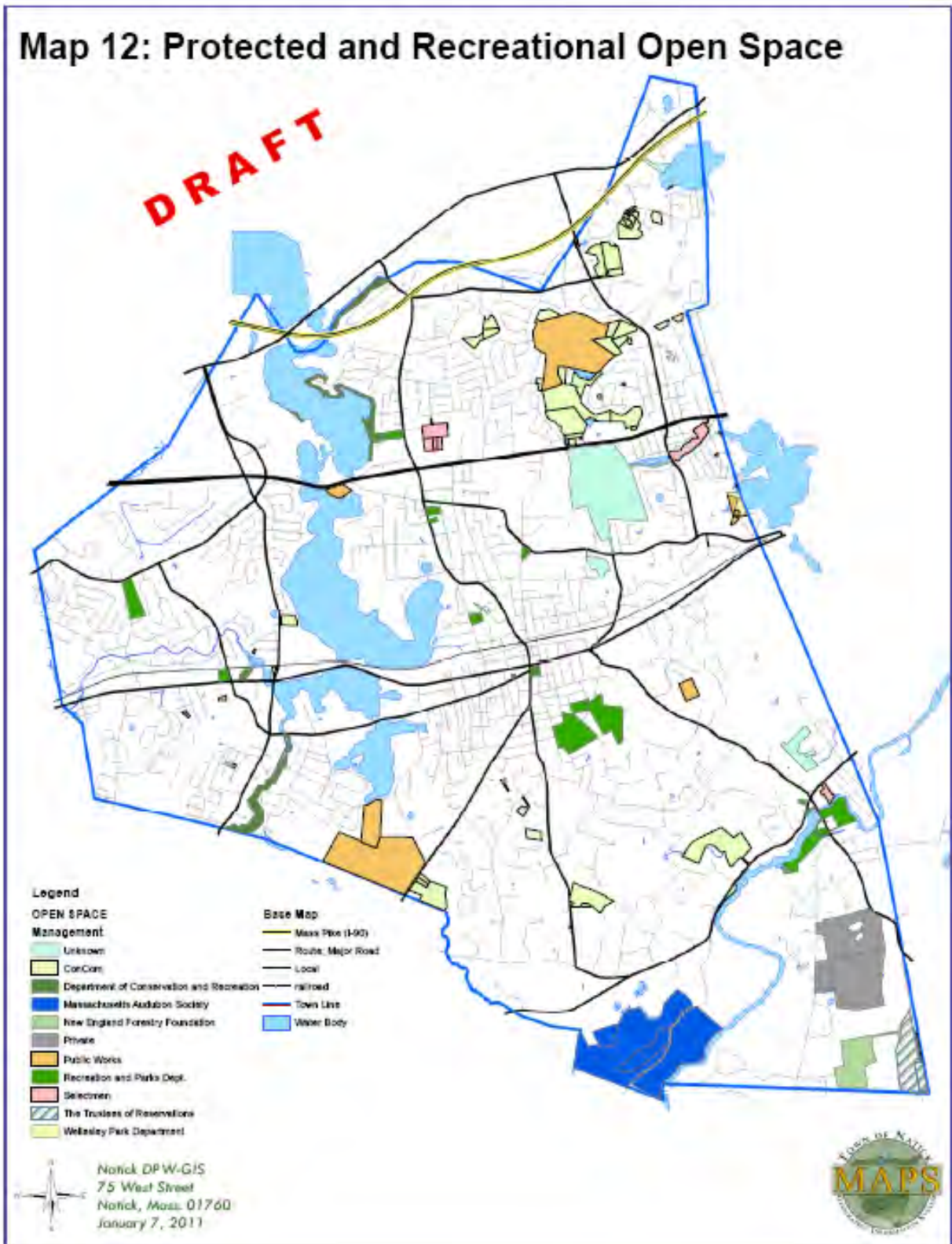
Draft 9-16-11

Table 16 to be inserted here

Other Public Lands

DRAFT

Map 12: Protected and Recreational Open Space



Section 6 – Community Vision

A. Description of Process

The process for developing an updated set of Goals has gone on continuously as the town worked to fulfill the Goals set forth in the 2002 Plan. As elaborated in *Section 2: Introduction*, the Open Space Advisory Committee has been gathering ongoing feedback through its public outreach efforts. There was also a huge amount of public participation in the Natick 360 process, which looked at open space among Natick’s overall long-range planning. And, finally, the OSAC organized a range of public forums and board meetings aimed specifically at developing this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The broad Goals in this plan are similar to those stated in the 2002 plan. One goal has been added (item 5), two have been enlarged significantly (items 2 and 3), and others have been reworked in minor ways, based on the input received.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

1. Protect Natick’s open spaces, including lakes, rivers, streams, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations
2. Provide and maintain playing fields and other recreational facilities that support the needs of the population
3. Preserve and protect the town’s water supply, wildlife, and other natural resources
4. Provide a system of walking and bicycle trails that connect our open spaces and provide a way to travel throughout the town
5. Seek opportunities for reclaiming previously developed sites for recreational opportunities
6. Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the town’s open spaces, trails, natural resources, and recreational opportunities
7. Develop and implement a management plan for open space

SECTION 7 – ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Most of Natick's land has already been developed. There are a few remaining larger tracts and smaller parcels of undeveloped land. The Wetlands Protection Act and the town's Wetlands Bylaw will protect most, if not all, of the remaining privately owned wetlands from direct development. However, development pressures currently being faced will negatively impact many wetlands through increased runoff from impervious surfaces and associated pollution, as well as pollution from pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers from newly-developed lawns.

In addition, the destruction of upland forest and field areas through development will negatively affect wildlife habitat. Deer, turkeys, foxes, woodpeckers, wood thrushes and many other upland species will be displaced.

As part of the "Natick 360" process, over 325 citizens gathered for a series of Values and Visions workshops. This input was consolidated into six core "Values" – one of which was "Natick's stewardship of its diverse open spaces, and natural resources." In addition, community input was developed into seven key "Visions" – one of which was to create a future in which "Natick's natural resources are preserved and accessible to the community." This "Vision" was further elaborated as follows:

Natick supports responsible stewardship of its natural resources, including its aquifer, open spaces, forests and trees, farms, parks, lakes, wildlife habitat and views. Natick may exercise this stewardship through appropriate acquisition, regulation, mitigation and restoration strategies.

Natick's population is currently growing, but unlike prior periods of growth, the current growth is primarily in multi-unit dwellings downtown and in 40B developments. Natick has a commitment to "Smart Growth," which can provide housing for more residents with the least impact on open space and natural resources.

Residents demonstrated support for this approach in the Natick 360 Community Survey, a random survey with 1192 completed responses. When asked for their level of agreement with 20 different statements about the future of Natick, "Plan proactively for growth" and "Reduce negative impacts on the environment" ranked 3rd and 4th, each gathering 84 percent agreement.

A priority in the preservation of the remaining open land is the protection of aquifers and the land through which they are recharged. The need to protect these areas is extremely high, given Natick's dependence on groundwater for its water supply.

Also, many of our existing protected open spaces would be enhanced by improving and developing linkages between them, such as the proposed Takawampait Trail linking downtown Natick with the Charles River in South Natick. Besides providing the obvious recreational benefits, these linkages will maintain or restore Natick's ecological network, by providing greenways and wildlife corridors. Eventually, these corridors could connect the Sudbury River (in Saxonville in Framingham) and Lake Cochituate with the Charles River via the proposed Cochituate Rail Trail and the Takawampait Trail.

In general, residents demonstrated strong support for Town purchase of more open space. In the Natick 360 Community Survey, when asked about their willingness to pay additional user fees, property taxes, and/or sales taxes to help fund various items in Natick. "Purchase of land for future parks and open space" ranked 8th of 23 items listed, with 60 percent strongly or somewhat in support. (In fact, much open space purchase can be accomplished without cost to residents, through the use of mitigation money currently in the Conservation Fund.)

Based on the survey, Public Hearing, and other input, the priorities for open space protection can be summarized as follows:

- Connect existing parcels to provide both wildlife corridors and recreational trails for residents.
- Protect areas with environmental impacts, particularly those adjacent to water bodies and areas with critical wildlife habitat.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

Natick, like many eastern Massachusetts communities, is being faced with an increased growth in population, which results in demands for increased local recreational services. These include both active and passive recreation opportunities, which involve recreation programs and facilities alike. This combined with an emergence of leisure activities puts an increased demand on the community of Natick.

As development has spread throughout the town, the need for more neighborhood recreational facilities has grown, especially in underserved neighborhoods like North and West Natick. In addition, the intense use of the existing facilities has resulted in the degradation of playing fields and outdoor facilities.

The Natick Recreation and Parks Department identifies the recreational needs in Natick as follows:

- 1) Improve maintenance of outdoor sites and facilities along with the development of existing areas to get the most recreational value from them.
- 2) Acquire additional land so as to provide a greater variety of facilities for the public use (active and passive recreation).
- 3) Develop more passive recreation opportunities in the community (trails, picnic areas, etc.)

Natick's playing fields are currently in maximum use, and are being damaged from overuse. Given the substantial increase in the youth recreation population in town, the introduction of new sports, like lacrosse, and the substantially increased demand for additional playing fields, Natick needs to look into the acquisition and/or lease arrangement for utilizing new lands throughout Natick. There are also active user groups for playing fields, and the need for fields continues to exceed the demands. More fields are needed.

Lake Cochituate receives 200,000 visitors each year and is one of the most popular destinations in the greater Boston area for swimming, picnicking, field sports, boating and fishing, according the *Cochituate State Park Management Plan*, by the Department of Environmental Management. The National Guard site

lies on the shores of Lake Cochituate and could provide a much-needed addition to Lake Cochituate's recreational uses. The *Cochituate State Park Management Plan* urges that, should this property become surplus, the state should make every effort to add it to Cochituate State Park.

The increased interest in passive recreation is indicated, in part, by the growing number of walkers and joggers in Natick. This has led to the need for an expanded multi-purpose trail system. These trails could be built as part of a system to connect either the commercial and residential centers of the town or to connect existing open space areas as part of a greenbelt system. Examples of this include the new Eisenmenger Trail and proposed Takawambpait Trail connecting the South Natick area to the Downtown area and the Cochituate Rail Trail, which will connect Downtown Natick to the Natick Mall/North Framingham area.

The Cochituate and Sudbury aqueducts offer some scenic views through North Natick and South Natick, respectively. The public uses portions of the aqueducts now, but further use is possible. The Town is currently working with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and has created a study committee to explore use of the Cochituate Aqueduct.

Many newcomers and a surprising number of longer-term residents are unaware of existing recreational opportunities. Many Town-owned facilities are not identified by signs. Until recently, there had been no town-wide maps showing the location of both active and passive recreational amenities. Recently several town boards and citizen's groups have gotten together to work on correcting these problems.

The substantially increased demand for, and use of, existing recreation facilities has caused a deterioration of many of them. There is a need to improve maintenance of existing facilities to provide safe and adequate facilities. Irrigation systems should be developed where needed and existing facilities should be rested occasionally to allow renovation or rejuvenation.

Based on comments made at our Natick Days table and comments at our Public Hearing, Natick residents have indicated tremendous enthusiasm for walking and bicycle trails. Particular needs expressed:

- Provide parks and recreational opportunities in high-density parts of town, particularly West Natick and downtown.
- Provide more trail maps, both online and in print.
- Create more trails, both for exercise and recreation and also to connect parts of town.
- Create trails particularly suited for bicycles.
- Provide better directional signs, particularly on the two long trails, Eisenmenger and Takawambpait trails.
- Provide organized walks so people can become more familiar with the trails. (The Natick 360 Community Survey showed residents feel very safe in Natick, but less so in town parks, particularly among those aged 65 and older. Guided walks and other educational programs could address this perception.)

- Creating trails to link historic sites (such as the recent Henry Wilson History Trail), with appropriate historic markings
- Maintain open space parcels, playing fields, and trails.
- Respond to the need for a dog park. Current *de facto* use of Coolidge Field presents conflicts with sports uses.
- Develop the Cochituate Rail Trail
- Develop fully accessible trails.

C. Management Needs

Responsibility for many of the open space and recreational goals is clear. For example, the Recreation and Parks Commission is responsible for playing fields and other recreational facilities and programs. The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting sensitive resource areas. However, other goals are not so clear. Since approval of the prior Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Open Space Advisory Committee has overseen trails development and maintenance through a Trails Subcommittee. However, the Planning Board created and enforced the easements that many trails followed, and the Conservation Commission funded trails maintenance, and oversaw overall management of conservation lands. In 2011, the Conservation Commission restructured trails responsibility with creation of a new Walking Trails Maintenance Committee.

A need that was stated frequently is the need to maintain the land, trails, and recreational facilities that we have. There is a clear need for a Management Plan that includes specific tasks, who is responsible, and what resources are required.

Identification of parcels is also a key need. As we assembled our Inventory of Open Space, we realized that, as in 2002, there is no central place to find all Conservation Restrictions, Deed Restrictions, trail easements, Chapter 61 lands, and other documentation of open space. This information should be centrally available to all boards and commissions.

While many of Natick's boards and agencies work well together, there is a clear need for improved communication among them. One example is that, in the past, properties have come out of Chapter 61, 61A or 61B status, but interested boards, like the Conservation Commission, had not received notice of their change. The Board of Selectmen and the Assessor's Office should be encouraged to notify the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Advisory Committee of any change in the status of any protected parcel.

SECTION 8 – OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Protect Natick’s open spaces, including lakes, rivers, streams, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations
 - 1-A Protect privately held open space through acquisition, conservation restrictions, easements, and other means
 - 1-B Permanently protect public and quasi-public open space
 - 1-C Develop potential revenue streams for open space preservation
 - 1-D Seek federal, state, and private grants to preserve additional open space for the town
 - 1-E Develop and maintain zoning and land use tools to protect open space
 - 1-F For all above Objectives, prioritize:
 - Areas that enhance existing Open spaces, by creating larger contiguous parcels or connecting existing open space, neighborhoods, trails, or wildlife corridors
 - Open space in areas of the town currently deficient in open space
 - Areas adjacent to rivers and ponds and environmentally sensitive areas
 - Areas of historic significance
 - Priority wildlife habitats
2. Provide and maintain playing fields and other recreational facilities that support the needs of the population
 - 2-A Maintain existing fields and recreation facilities
 - 2-B As needed, develop town-owned land or secure additional land for fields and recreation activities
3. Preserve and protect the town’s water supply, wildlife, and other natural resources
 - 3-A Protect open space near water resources and the Aquifer Protection District
 - 3-B Limit use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers townwide
 - 3-C Support environmental best practices in storm water management
 - 3-D Foster wildlife corridors and preserve habitats
4. Provide a system of walking and bicycle trails that connect our open spaces and provide a way to travel throughout the town
 - 4-A Acquire land or secure easements to provide continuous walking and bicycling trails, to be used both for recreation and transportation
 - 4-B Develop and mark these trails

5. Seek opportunities for reclaiming previously developed sites for recreational opportunities
 - 5-A Strategically acquire developed parcels for conversion or restoration to open space or recreation use, based upon priorities of Objective 1-F
 - 5-B Convert properties to appropriate open space or recreation uses
6. Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the town's open spaces, trails, natural resources, and recreational opportunities
 - 6-A Use print and electronic resources to publicize the location, amenities, and availability of town open spaces
 - 6-B Develop and maintain signs to mark all publicly accessible open spaces
 - 6-C Promote universal access for trails, recreation facilities, and conservation areas and provide information for those with special need
 - 6-D Foster appreciation of open space and recreation resources to encourage a broader commitment to the community as a whole
7. Develop and implement a management plan for open space
 - 7-A Identify responsibilities and resources for all types of open space and recreation parcels
 - 7-B Engage residents, businesses, and to the greatest extent possible as active stewards or sponsors
 - 7-C Promote coordination among the various town boards, commissions, and departments responsible for open spaces, including the Board of Selectmen, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, School Committee, and the Open Space Advisory Committee

SECTION 9: ACTION PLAN

The following chart summarizes the key recommended actions the Town of Natick should undertake to address its open space and recreation needs over the next seven years. The chart also identifies the lead agency and supporting agencies (if any) for each recommendation, a schedule for implementation, potential implementation mechanisms, and possible funding sources, where applicable. Figure 13 illustrates the recommendations.

DRAFT

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
Goal 1: Protect Natick’s open spaces, including lakes, rivers, streams, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations					
1-A Protect privately held open space through acquisition, conservation restrictions, easements, and other means					
(1) Prioritize key privately held open space parcels [Same as I-F]	OSAC	ConCom, Planning Board	See 1-F	2012	N/A
(2) Protect key open space parcels using the Conservation Fund and other available funds	Conservation Commission	OSAC	N/A	2012-18	Conservation Fund, mitigation negotiation
(3) Secure open space as part of the permitting process	Planning Board	ZBA; ConCom	Permitting process	2012-18	N/A
(4) Actively encourage landowners to put land under conservation restrictions or Agricultural Preservation Restriction	OSAC or ConCom	Cmty Dev Ofc; Town Admin; Selectmen	Buy or gift	2012	Mitigation funds; donation ?
(5) Review appropriateness of utility easements and “paper” streets for open space	OSAC; Trails Comm.	Cmty Dev Ofc	Need legal clarification of Town title	2012-13	
1-B Permanently protect public and quasi-public open space					
(1) Preserve open space held by the Town that is not already protected as open space	ConCom	School Comm BOS	Discuss with BOS	2012-18	N/A
(2) Work with state and federal agencies to ensure protection of future surplus properties, including the National Guard Depot	BOS Town Admin	ConCom Fire/Police Depts Parks & Rec state officials	Negotiations	2012-18	Conservation Fund; other
(3) Continue to work with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority regarding preservation of land along the Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueducts	ConCom	OSAC Coch Aqueduct Advisory Comm	Existing committees	2012-18	N/A

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
1-C Develop potential revenue streams for open space preservation					
(1) Continue to seek payments to the Conservation Fund and other mitigation from developers	Planning Board	ConCom	Board practices and policies	2012-18	Mitigation
(2) Assess community interest, and if appropriate take steps for a new Town-wide vote on the Community Preservation Act	Selectmen	OSAC Historic Comm Housing Auth	Town Meeting; Ballot question	2012-18	Tax
1-D Seek federal, state, and private grants to preserve additional open space for the town					
(1) MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation	Selectmen	Parks & Rec OSAC; Comm Dev Off (CDO)	CDO to seek grant opps; sync w/ related grants secured by others	2012-18	Grants
(2) Massachusetts LAND and PARC programs	ConCom	OSAC CDO	CDO to seek grant opps	2012-18	Grants
(3) Others	CDO	ConCom; OSAC	Reactive	2012-18	Grants
1-E Develop and maintain zoning and land use tools to protect open space					
(1) Ensure that new zoning bylaws encourage the set aside of open space, trail easements, Conservation Fund payments, etc.	CDO Participating boards	OSAC	Specifications for new zoning bylaws	2012-14	N/A
(2) Ensure the public receives open space benefits during site plan reviews by Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals	Planning Bd; ConCom; ZBA	OSAC	Secure trail easements, open space as approp	2012-18	N/A

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
1-F For all above Objectives, prioritize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that enhance existing open spaces, by creating larger contiguous parcels or connecting existing open space, neighborhoods, trails, or wildlife corridors • Open space in areas of the town currently deficient in open space • Areas adjacent to rivers and ponds and environmentally sensitive areas • Areas of historic significance • Priority wildlife habitats 					
(1) Classify all considered parcels by these criteria	OSAC	ConCom Environ Compliance Off	Database (non-public)	2012-18	N/A
(2) Hold periodic meetings among relevant Town boards to rank the priority of specific parcels	OSAC	Planning Board ConCom	Joint meetings	2012-18	N/A
Goal 2: Provide and maintain playing fields and other recreational facilities that support the needs of the population					
2-A Maintain existing fields and recreation facilities					
(1) Develop and implement a management plan, as described in Goal 7	Parks & Rec	DPW; Town Admin	Review regularly to ensure implementation	Ongoing	Town budget, Conservation Fund
2-B As needed, develop town-owned land or secure additional land for fields and recreation activities					
(1) Conduct periodic needs assessment for different current and future uses	Parks & Rec	OSAC	Annual review of Plan	Annual	N/A
(2) Create pocket parks, with priority for densest neighborhoods, particularly downtown	Parks & Rec	OSAC	Review density v. open space at "microscopic" level; involve neighborhood	1 neighborhood every 2 months	Conservation Fund, Grants

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
(3) Develop J.J. Lane and adjacent leased land	Parks & Rec	CDO		2012-13	Conservation Fund, Grants, Town Meeting
(4) Re-create field adjacent to new community center	Parks & Rec	Community Ctr Bldg Comm	p/o Bldg Comm	2012-13	Community Center bonds?
(5) Develop fields and facilities at East School	School Comm	Parks & Rec		2012-13	TBD
(6) Create dedicated dog parks	Parks & Rec	OSAC	Resident groups as catalyst	2012-13	TBD
Goal 3: Preserve and protect the town's water supply, wildlife, and other natural resources					
3-A Protect open space near water resources and the Aquifer Protection District					
(1) Protect land around these areas	ConCom	MA DCR	Various	Ongoing	N/A
(2) Limit the allowed activities near water resource areas and within the APD	ConCom; Planning Bd; ZBA	MA DCR	Zoning Bylaws	Ongoing	N/A
(3) Explore creating open space districts to buffer large bodies of water, using conservation restrictions, zoning, overlay districts, or other means	Cmty Devt and associated boards	Zoning consultants	Zoning bylaws	2012-14	N/A
3-B Limit use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers townwide					
(1) Maintain lists of discouraged and recommended items	ConCom	Board of Health	Social media; outreach, events; Natick Pegasus	2012; annual update	Town Budget
(2) Limit use of non-organic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers by the Town	ConCom Board of Health	DPW	DPW Board of Health	Ongoing	Town Budget
(3) Provide information to discourage such use by private parties, particularly in the APD and near water bodies	CDO	Board of Health DPW	Social media; outreach, events; Natick Pegasus	Ongoing	Town Budget

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
(4) Promote use of organic fertilizers and Integrated Pest Management	CDO	Health Dept; DPW	Social media; outreach, events; Natick Pegasus	Ongoing	Town Budget
(5) Provide public education regarding limiting lawn size, maintenance and water	CDO BOS (as Water Commission)	Health Dept; DPW	Social media; outreach, events; Natick Pegasus	Ongoing	Town Budget
3-C Support environmental best practices in storm water management					
(1) Provide regular maintenance of drainage	DPW	ConCom		Ongoing	Town Budget
(2) Put signs on catch basins indicating where the water ends up	DPW	ConCom	Eagle Scout proj?	ASAP	Town Budget
3-D Foster wildlife corridors and preserve habitats					
(1) Work with Mass Audubon, the state's Natural Heritage program, and schools to identify critical habitats	ConCom Environmental Compliance Officer	Mass Audubon, State School Dept	Review of maps; walks; data and base creation & usage	Ongoing	?
(2) Develop signage to alert the public of critical habitats	ConCom	OSAC	Request DPW	?	?
Goal 4: Provide a system of walking and bicycle trails that connect our open spaces and provide a way to travel throughout the town					
4-A Acquire land or secure easements to provide continuous walking and bicycling trails, to be used both for recreation and transportation					
(1) Acquire and develop the Cochituate Rail Trail	BOS; Cochituate Rail Trail Adv Comm	ConCom OSAC	In process	2012-18	Conservation Fund, grants
(2) Complete Takawampait Trail	OSAC	Trails Maint Committee	Negotiations	2012-14	Conservation Fund, fundraising
(3) Ensure public access to Sudbury Aqueduct	ConCom	MWRA	Discuss w/MWRA	2012-13	N/A

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
(4) Continue to explore and if appropriate develop the Cochituate Aqueduct	ConCom	Cochituate Aqueduct Study Comm	Discuss w/MWRA	2012-15	Conservation Fund, grants, fundraising
(5) Explore use of utility easements for trails	ConCom CDO	OSAC Trails Comm	Legal opinion from Town Counsel	2012-14	N/A
(6) Explore use of “paper” streets for trails	OSAC	CDO Trails Comm	Legal opinion from Town Counsel	2012-14	N/A
(7) Develop trail from Broads Avenue to Sherman Nature Reserve	ConCom	OSAC		2012-14	N/A
(8) Continue to develop additional trails	OSAC	ConCom; Planning Bd; Trails Comm	Review of maps (macro & micro) Public input	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising, grants
4-B Develop and mark these trails					
(1) Develop trail construction standards	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (professional); adopt existing e.g. AMC?	2012	N/A
(2) Design trails	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (professional & volunteer)	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising
(3) Build trails	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (professional & volunteer)	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising
(4) Mark trails	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (volunteer)	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising
(5) Place offsite directional signs for trails	Trails Comm	ConCom	Identify existing standards	2012-14	Fundraising, Cons Fund

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
(6) Place kiosks or signs at trailheads with amenities	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (volunteer)	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising
(7) Provide pet waste bag dispensers	Trails Comm	ConCom	TBD (volunteer)	2012-18	Conservation Fund, fundraising
Goal 5: Seek opportunities for reclaiming previously developed sites for recreational opportunities					
5-A Strategically acquire developed parcels for conversion or restoration to open space or recreation use, based upon priorities of Objective 1-F					
(1) Continue dialog regarding National Guard site	Town Admin	Many	Negotiation	2012-14	
(2) Monitor other potential state and federal surplus sites	CDO	Many	Negotiation	Ongoing	
(3) Monitor potential commercial and industrial properties	ConCom	Planning Bd ZBA	Negotiation	Ongoing	?
(4) Review tax delinquent properties	OSAC BOS	Treasurer/Collect or	Prioritize annually when list is generated	Ongoing	?
5-B Convert properties to appropriate open space or recreation uses					
(1) Determine needs in collaboration with neighbors, abutters, and town boards	OSAC	Parks & Rec; ConCom	Public input thru outreach/events	Ongoing	
(2) Develop sites accordingly	ConCom	Parks & Rec		Ongoing	Fundraising Cons Funds
Goal 6: Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the town's open spaces, trails, natural resources, and recreational opportunities					
6-A Use print and electronic resources to publicize the location, amenities, and availability of town open spaces					
(1) Develop town-wide open space and trail maps	OSAC	Trails, Town Forest Comm, ConCom; DPW	Regular review	2012-18	Fundraising, Conservation Fund

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
(2) Develop a web site as part of the Town web site, public displays and presentations, and other means to provide public information	OSAC IT	Trails, Town Forest Comm Dept; DPW		2012	Fundraising, Conservation Fund
(3) Sponsor trails walks and canoe or bicycle trips to introduce people to the available opportunities	OSAC	Trails, Town Forest Comm, ConCom		2012-18	N/A
(4) Place large trail maps at strategic locations in town	OSAC	Economic Devt Comm		2013-15	Fundraising, Cons Fund
(5) Promote through traditional and social media outlets	OSAC	Economic Devt Comm		2012-18	N/A
6-B Develop and maintain signs to mark all publicly accessible open spaces					
(1) Determine who is responsible for signs	ConCom	Trails Comm; DPW	Assignment	2012	N/A
(2) Determine a consistent graphic standard for signs	ConCom	Econ Devel Comm	Identify existing standards	2012-13	N/A
(3) Acquire funding for acquisition and installation of signs	ConCom	Econ Devt Comm		2012-14	Fundraising
(4) Purchase and install signs	DPW	ConCom	Request	2012-13	N/A
6-C Promote universal access for trails, recreation facilities, and conservation areas and provide information for those with special need					
(1) Designate accessibility levels	Disability Officer	Trails Comm	Use state as standards	2012	
(2) Continue to work with the Commission On Disability for design of new facilities and improved accessibility of existing facilities	Disability Officer	Trails Comm		2012-18	Grants
(3) Indicate accessibility levels in brochures, maps, and other public materials	OSAC	Disability Officer, Trails Comm	Include in print material development	2013-18	Included in print materials
(4) Particularly look at places with higher population of seniors and people with disabilities	OSAC	Parks & Rec		2013-18	

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
6-D Foster appreciation of open space and recreation resources to encourage a broader commitment to the community as a whole					
(1) Provide programs in schools	OSAC	School Dept	Plan/schedule activities	2012-18	N/A
(2) Participate in Natick Days and other town events	OSAC		Plan/schedule activities	2012-18	N/A
(3) Provide guided walks and programs to foster open space appreciation	OSAC	Trails, Bike, Rail Trail, Aqueduct committees	Plan/schedule activities	2012-18	N/A
(4) Use trails to promote connectivity between communities	OSAC	OSAC	Work with neighborhood groups	2012-18	fundraising
Goal 7: Develop and implement a management plan for open space					
7-A Identify responsibilities and resources for all types of open space and recreation parcels					
(1) Catalog all documents relating to open space (such as Town meeting actions, Town purchases, conservation restrictions, grants of easements, conditions included in Town board decisions, etc.) and ensure that the Town Assessor and relevant Town boards have this information	CDO		Hire consultant?	2013	Town Meeting appropriation
(2) Develop plans for conservation land, trails (both Town-owned and easements), playing fields, parks, and other	OSAC	"Owners" of each parcel		2012	N/A
(3) For each one of these, list tasks, who makes decisions, who does work, and where money and other resources are going to come from	"Owners" of each parcel			2012	N/A
(4) Determine annual budget requirements and sources	"Owners" of each parcel	ConCom BOS		2012	N/A
(5) Annually review implementation of management plan	OSAC	ConCom Parks & Rec CDO; BOS	Intentionally scheduled	Annual	N/A

Recommendation	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Implementation Mechanisms	Schedule	Possible Funding
7-B Engage residents, businesses, and to the greatest extent possible as active stewards or sponsors					
(1) Develop standards for trail stewardship	Trails Comm	ConCom; OSAC	Addendum to Mgt Plan	Ongoing	N/A
(2) Define opportunities for trail and open space sponsorship	Trails Comm	ConCom; OSAC	Natick Pegasus, etc.	Ongoing	N/A
(3) Find stewards	Trails Comm	ConCom; OSAC	Active outreach	Ongoing	N/A
(4) Find sponsors	Trails Comm	ConCom; OSAC	Active outreach	Ongoing	N/A
(5) Engage volunteer groups in trail work	Trails Comm	Various	Active outreach	Ongoing	N/A
(6) Provide recognition to stewards, sponsors, and volunteers	Selectmen	Trails Comm; ConCom		Annual dinner?	Fundraising
7-C Promote coordination among the various town boards, commissions, and departments responsible for open spaces, including the Board of Selectmen, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, School Committee, and the Open Space Advisory Committee					
(1) Track progress on these Action Plan items, and report quarterly to relevant Town boards and committees	OSAC	Selectmen; Town Admin		Quarterly	N/A
(2) Encourage communications among boards and committees	OSAC	Selectmen; Town Admin		Review other's reports in semi-real time	N/A

Figure 13
Action Plan Map

To be added

DRAFT

REFERENCES

To be added

DRAFT

APPENDIX

To be added

DRAFT