

**CITY OF TAUNTON**  
**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**  
**2015 - 2022**

**Prepared by the Open Space Plan Committee**

Kevin Shea  
Kevin Scanlon  
Michele Restino  
Marilyn Greene

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Bill Napolitano  
Karen Porter  
Joy Reynes

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## **SECTION1 PLAN SUMMARY**

The purpose of this 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide a framework and guide for responsible conservation and recreation planning in the City of Taunton. Major goals of the plan include preserving and protecting Taunton's water resources, natural resources, and cultural resources, and providing ample public recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. The Open Space Committee also hopes to make the 2015 Plan more visible, more accessible (and available), and more user friendly (shorter and more direct). All of this is being done in an effort to better engage the community and potential partners in support of, and involvement in, the stewardship of our natural, cultural, and recreational assets.

While continued development remains the greatest threat to the City's open space and recreation resources (by reducing the amount of available land and also by placing more public use pressure on the areas that are available as well as the public infrastructure and municipal resources), a lack of public awareness of our natural and recreational assets and our plans to protect, preserve and improve them, is just as great a threat. The City's limited funds and competing demands have made land acquisition an undependable means of land protection. Actual protection of important lands in Taunton has been minimal during the last seven years. Similarly, stagnant budgets, increased responsibilities, and inadequate staffing have made recreational development, upgrades, and improvements extremely challenging over the same time period. Further challenges arose when City Hall suffered a devastating fire in 2010, and the seat of local government was relocated to the former Maxham School building on Oak Street, a short distance from the downtown. This temporary relocation is still in effect as of this writing while the historic City Hall building awaits renovation.

Taunton has been very active over the years in improving existing conditions in the urban core and outlying former industrial and mill areas. Since the late 1990's, Taunton has vigorously pursued a strategy of concurrently reclaiming brownfield and blighted sites, and reusing or repurposing the most suitable land for conservation, recreation, affordable housing, or ecological restoration related projects. A recent example of this approach is the reclamation of a deteriorating portion of an underutilized parking lot behind the City Hall and Police Station that was converted into an accessible public waterfront park along the Mill River (2011). This park is also designed to be part of a green infrastructure strategy to prevent the unabated flow of stormwater and sediment into the river. These creative approaches to land reclamation and repurposing can potentially help to meet the increased demands for conservation and recreation supply, help to offset the impacts of development, address stormwater and flooding issues, and simultaneously improve the community's quality of life.

The content of 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan is consistent with the state's current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements, as well as with the City of Taunton Master Plan. Approval of this updated 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS)

enables the City to become eligible for land acquisition and recreation facility reimbursement funding through grant programs administered by DCS.

***What is in the Plan?***

The core elements of the Open Space and Recreation Plan include: an analysis of the City's natural and cultural resources (including scenic resources, unique environments and environmental problems); an inventory of conservation and recreation lands currently owned by the state, city and private nonprofit groups; an analysis of community open space and recreation needs; and, an outline of the community's goals, objectives and the actions proposed to those needs.

In summary, the 2015 Plan addresses the desire of the community to work toward achieving the following broadly stated goals:

1. Protect and preserve the quality and quantity of our ground and surface water resources
2. Prevent the loss of our natural resources and habitat
3. Prevent the further loss of the rural, cultural, and historical qualities and assets of the City
4. Develop a city-wide multi-use trail system including walking, hiking, biking, and water access features, where feasible
5. Promote coordinated, responsible land use management and planning
6. Expand and improve recreational opportunities that promote healthy, life-long experiences for residents of all ages and abilities

## **SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION**

### **A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this open space plan is to provide a blueprint by which local, state and federal officials, organizations, agencies, and private citizens, might focus their energies and resources to address the conservation, open space, and recreation needs of the City of Taunton over the next seven years. The Open Space Plan Committee also hopes that in reading this plan, the public will become acquainted, or reacquainted, with the unique natural resources and cultural assets that are such an important a part of the history and character of the City of Taunton.

The 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan is the latest in a series of updates to the 1986 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the others having been completed in 1998 and 2007.

### **B. THE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In the spring of 2013, the City of Taunton's Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) initiated a process to address the updating of the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Also, in the spring of 2013, OECD asked the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) to provide technical assistance to the Open Space Plan Committee in order to complete the update of the 2007 plan.

SRPEDD secured funding to provide technical assistance to the Open Space Committee. During this time, with input from the Open Space Plan Committee, SRPEDD drafted an open space survey. The Open Space Survey was made available to the public online through Survey Monkey, with a link provided on the City of Taunton's website (home page). Hard copies of the survey were available at City Hall, the Taunton Public Library, the Council on Aging, as well as at Park & Recreation facilities. The survey's availability was advertised on local cable, in the local press, and at open/televised meetings of the Conservation Commission and City Council.

The initial survey was conducted between June 1 and August 20 of 2013, and was launched by a cover letter to the community from Mayor Hoye. Despite the length of time and availability of the survey, only 145 responses were received in hard copy (41) and online (104) by the closing date. Because of the low response rate, the Open Space Plan Committee and SRPEDD decided to post the survey again between October 1 and November 20, 2013. Hard copy surveys were available for pick-up and drop-off at City Hall and the public library, or could again be mailed to City Hall. People were asked not to respond to the re-posted survey if they had previously responded. The survey was publicized in a similar manner, and additional announcements were made to all municipal departments, committees, and commissions in order to get the word out. The second round of surveys brought another 122 responses

### **C. ENHANCED OUTREACH**

The Open Space Committee determined that the City Hall and library would provide the best pick-up and drop-off point for paper copies of the survey. This decision was made in consideration of the needs of the Environmental Justice (EJ), elderly, and ADA populations. The

town's EJ population is located largely in the downtown area, and in close proximity to the public library, Hopewell Park, and Memorial Park. During both survey cycles, surveys were made available at these park facilities as well to afford the EJ population additional opportunity to participate in the process. All of the hard copy pick-up and drop-off locations also provide public access by sidewalk, and public transportation (including all day fixed route bus and dial-a-ride service) and, all are ADA access compatible.

Translation services for all meetings, and for instances where English isolation is a limiting factor (or Limited English Proficiency, LEP), were made available through SRPEDD, as necessary and upon request. As part of SRPEDD's Title VI compliance program, we identify and include LEP populations.

The choice of venues for the public planning meetings considered travel distance and access from all parts of Taunton, as well as the accessibility and accommodation provided by the facility itself. Meetings were hosted by community and regional groups and held at: the Boyden Refuge (off of state Route 44, to the south and west), the Taunton Department of Public Works Building (on Ingell Street between state Routes 138 and 140, to the south and east), and at the SRPEDD Office (on state Route 138, to the north of the downtown). All three facilities have accessible community meeting rooms and rest rooms, and addressed all of the location, transportation, and accessibility concerns discussed above.

The information obtained in the 267 total responses was used as one of the primary means of gauging the public's needs and concerns. In addition to the surveys, all Open Space planning meetings were posted and open to the public.

## **SECTION 3 COMMUNITY SETTING**

### **A. Regional Context**

The City of Taunton is located in central southeastern Massachusetts within Bristol County. It lies 18 miles north of Fall River, 22 miles northwest of New Bedford, 18 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island, and 16 miles south of Brockton. Taunton is surrounded by the towns of Norton and Easton to the north, Raynham and Middleboro (Plymouth County) to the east, Lakeville (Plymouth County) to the southeast, Dighton and Berkley to the south, and Rehoboth on the west. Taunton is the third largest city in Massachusetts by land area (after Boston and Barnstable) with a total area of 49.6 square miles.

The city lies entirely within the watershed and floodplain of the Taunton River and its several confluent tributary rivers, including, the Three Mile River, the Mill River, Snake River, Cobb Brook, Furnace Brook, Segregansett River, and Cotley River. The Taunton River and its tributaries have historically been the most valuable shared regional resource for the city, and its neighbors along the Taunton. The river has shaped the city and region's evolution, commerce, recreation, and character over the past 375 years (supporting a thriving colonial herring fishery; iron and ship building industries; thriving ports, the Weir in Taunton being exceeded only by Boston and Providence in the mid to late 1800s in number of registered vessels and tonnage handled, and; once flourishing cotton textile and silver/pewter industries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century).

The beginnings of Taunton's corporate industrialization in the early 1800s took the form of heavy industry manufacturing mills producing locomotives and ship-sheathing. Subsequent industrial growth included textile mills and silversmiths, which in turn spurred an immigration boom (from mostly migrants of European ancestry). This population and economic expansion resulted in the dispersed growth of satellite villages and development into the city's outlying areas.

A star-shaped concentration of major roads in the Taunton Green, serving State Routes 24, 44, 140, and 138, turned the city into a transportation hub. With the advent of the interstate highway system, these state routes would come to provide easy access to and from Interstates 93, 95, 195, 295 and 495. Additionally, remnant rail lines from the area's rail system, circa 1800, are still being used for transporting goods and materials within the city perimeter.

More recently, Taunton's development has given different sections of the City entirely different characteristics. East and West Taunton have remained more rural, while central neighborhoods, in and around the downtown, have experienced intense residential and commercial development. By-products of historic dense residential and industrial development in the city's urban core and along its waterways are the associated adverse environmental impacts such as impaired water quality and inadequate stormwater and wastewater treatment systems. Another trend is the presence, rehabilitation, and utilization of former brownfields – industrially contaminated sites that are the city's legacy from the Industrial Revolution.

### **B. A Brief History of Taunton**

Native Peoples, like Wampanoag Nemasket subgroup, primarily inhabited Taunton and traveled along old trails in the Hockomock Swamp and beside the Taunton River and its tributaries. These native peoples lived along the coast in spring and fall for harvest, dispersing in summer to more

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Regional Context Map



- ▬ Taunton River Watershed
- City of Taunton
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- T MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- - - MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- T MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- ▬ MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines

numerous agricultural sites and grouping more closely at winter sites. Initial European contact with Native American populations began in approximately 1620 when the pilgrims settled at Plymouth. Along with increased trading and interaction with the immigrants however, epidemics of smallpox and other “new” diseases decimated the Native American population in the area.

The “Town” of Taunton was founded in 1637 when the settlements of Tecticut and Cohannet merged into one community. Taunton began to grow around the Taunton River and the Taunton Green, and later radiated outwards with the need for more land. In 1662, Taunton purchased an area of 50 square miles north of the town, now known as Norton, Easton, Mansfield and North Taunton. The south purchase, which followed in 1672, was a 12 square mile area, now known as Dighton. With the two land purchases, Taunton expanded to approximately 124 square miles. Industrial and commercial development concentrated around the Taunton Green while the surrounding areas remained mostly as woodlands and meadows.

In the 1700s, operations in iron production, supplied by the bog deposits of Scadding's Pond (now called Sabbatia Lake), and pottery and brick-making industries, supplied by rich deposits of clay found along the Taunton River, sprang up in the greater Taunton area.

During the early to mid-1800's Taunton mills expanded and company villages gradually evolved. Manufacturing industries in the area during this time included the iron industry, shipbuilding, brickyards, then later, textile mills and fine silver goods. In 1864, Taunton became a city, and earned the name “Silver City” from the silver factories based therein. Settlement patterns began to diversify from the city center outwards, and distinct residential neighborhoods with particular architectural building forms were formed. The Industrial Revolution had established industrial villages at Hopewell (cotton textile), Britanniaville (pewter and silver), Whittenton (iron), Oakland (cotton textile), East Taunton (cotton textile), and Westville (cotton textile), which developed into Taunton's middle and working class neighborhoods. The building boom was concentrated in Weir Village, where the first multi-family housing appeared. In quieter, less industrialized areas, large single-family homes for more affluent owners were built.

At the turn of the century, construction of street railway (trolley) systems in Taunton and surrounding towns revolutionized transportation in the region. First drawn by horses, later electrified trolleys allowed area residents to dispense with horses and carriages, but still be able to commute to work or travel in all types of weather. Many regional summer “resorts” were constructed at the endpoints of rail lines or street railways to attract non-commuter riders mainly on weekends. All too soon, this historical period was transformed with the rise of personal transportation. This drastic change in transport from mass transit to individual movement led to the demise of the environmentally friendly street railway and trolley system.

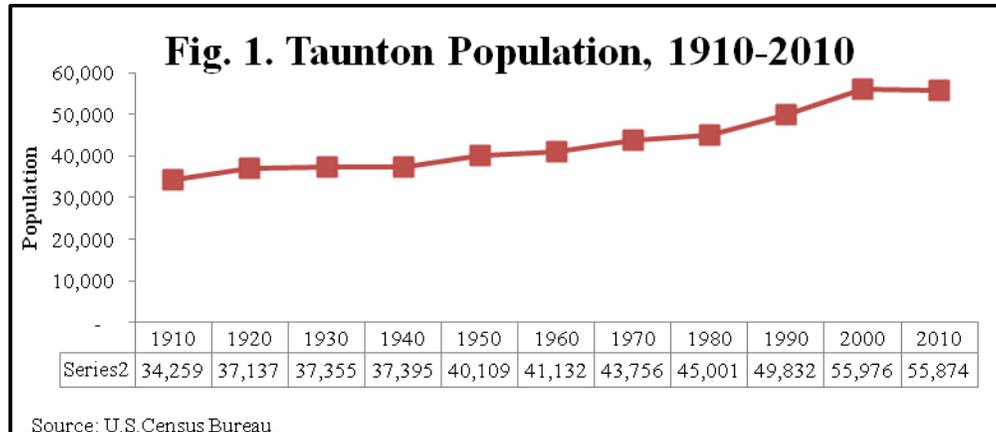
Taunton’s urban center first prospered during World War I, then crashed, but was somewhat buffered during the Great Depression of 1929 (compared to its surrounding cities when the textile mills foundered) by its more diversified industrial base, including the manufacture of stoves, hot air furnaces, and other iron products. As inner city areas declined, peripheral development assumed greater importance. Roadside commercial strips along the new roadways, and residential development brought about a more suburbanized mode of living.

## C. Demographic Profile of Taunton

### 1. Population Characteristics

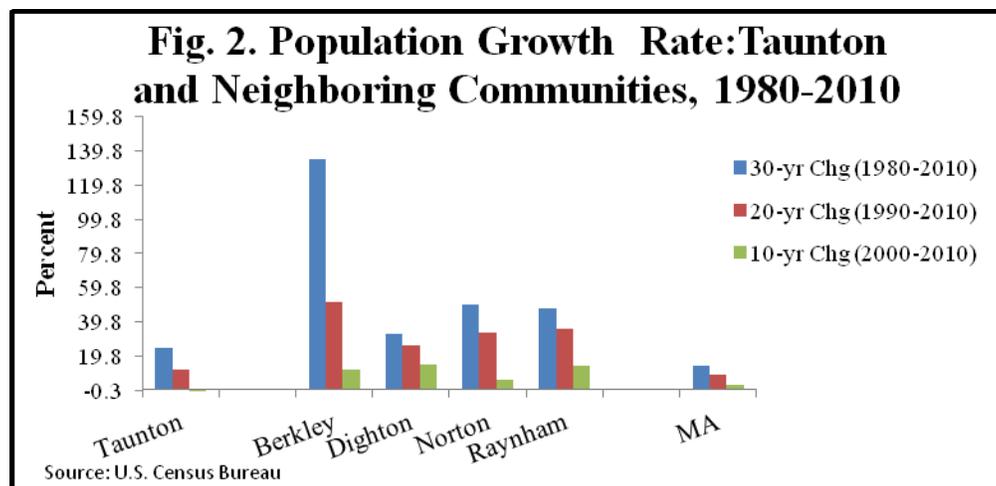
#### *Population Growth*

Taunton’s population growth trend from the turn of the century to the present shows that the city went through a moderate increase over time, of about 2,000 people annually as observed in Fig. 1.



The data demonstrate that Taunton maintained a stable population growth from 1910 to 2010.

Fig. 2 demonstrates the rate of population growth in the city of Taunton along with its neighboring communities for the past 30, 20, and 10 years.



In recent decades, Taunton almost approximates the state’s rate of population increase. Given this trend, it is safe to assume that the city will not undergo any dramatic rise or decline in population in the near future. The spurt of growth observed in the city and throughout the region from 1980 to 2000 was no longer evident in recent years.

Clearly, a stark disparity in population growth between the City of Taunton and its surrounding communities from 30 years ago to the present is unmistakable. While the towns around the city’s borders experienced rapid population growth during this period, Taunton’s rate of resident population increase paralleled the state’s slow rate.

*Population Projections*

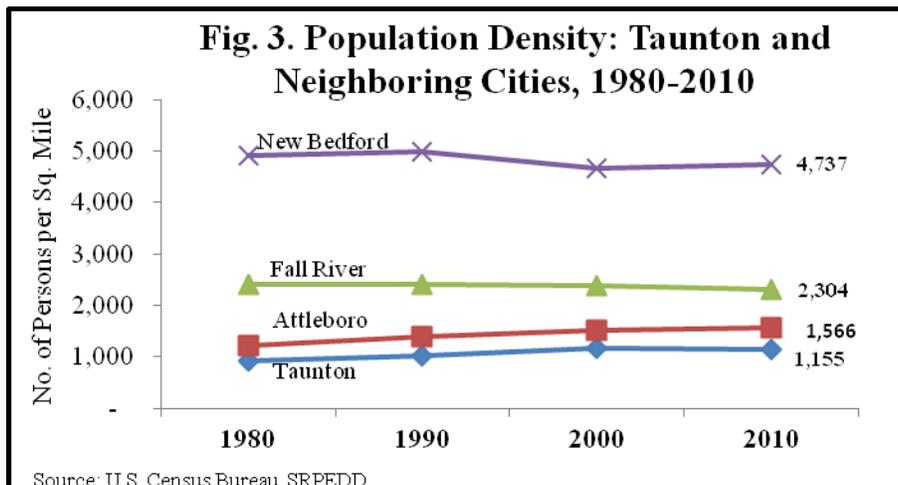
In order to help plan for future needs of communities, the regional planning agency (SRPEDD) projects the area’s population growth over the next two decades based on current U.S. Census data. Table 1 presents projected populations for Taunton and neighboring cities according to observed rates of growth in-between decades.

<b>Table 1. Population Projections for Taunton and SRPEDD Cities to 2030</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>
Attleboro	43,593	46,333	46,766
Fall River	88,857	94,032	99,831
New Bedford	95,072	96,971	101,490
Taunton	55,874	59,253	63,169
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, SRPEDD			

In Table 1, Taunton’s total population of 55,874 in 2010 is projected to increase by about 7,000 more inhabitants by the year 2030. This number assumes that no big pull factors from the countryside (such as a dramatic change in infrastructure like transportation, or the economy) will entice more people to become city residents during that time.

*Population Density*

The extent of crowding in the four cities which can be figured out through the number of occupants in a given area, can be seen in Fig. 3

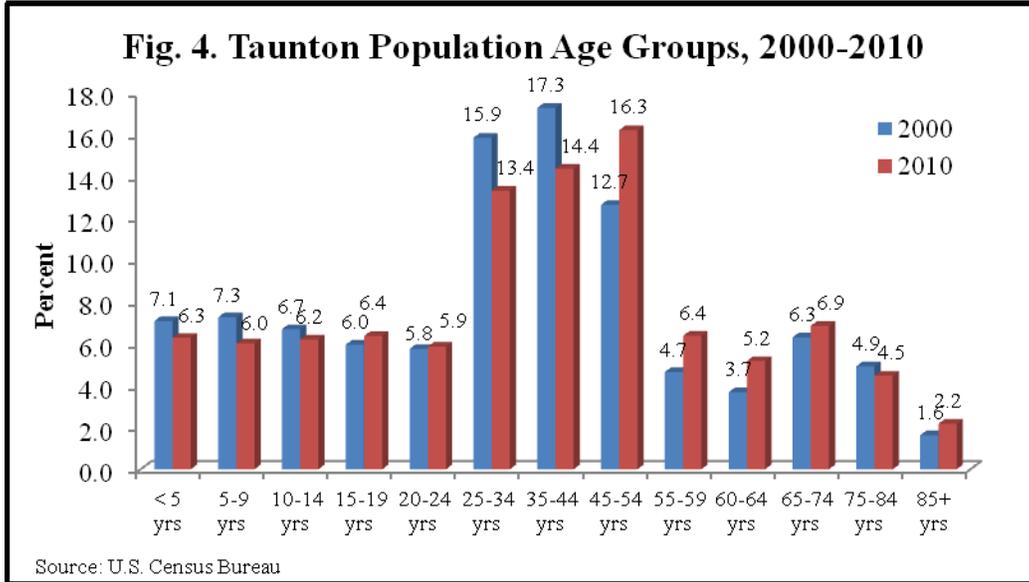


In over three decades, Taunton maintained a consistently lower population density, or persons per square mile, when compared to other cities in the region (Fig. 3).

New Bedford had four times more, and Fall River had about twice the population density of Taunton between 1980 and 2010.

*Population Age Profile*

The recent changes in age group distribution of Taunton’s population over a 10-year period: from 2000 to 2010 appear in Fig. 4.



From the data (Fig. 4), there was evidence of the contrast between the city’s decreasing number of very young children and the rapidly growing elderly population as of 2010.

Taunton’s great bulk of adult working population, specifically ages 25 to 54 years old in 2000 and 2010 seemed economically advantageous contemporarily, yet over time, there will be fewer future earners to replace the active labor force and provide adequate support for the dependent segments of the population.

An indication of the pace of aging of Taunton’s population can be gleaned through the median age of its residents, as displayed in Fig. 5.

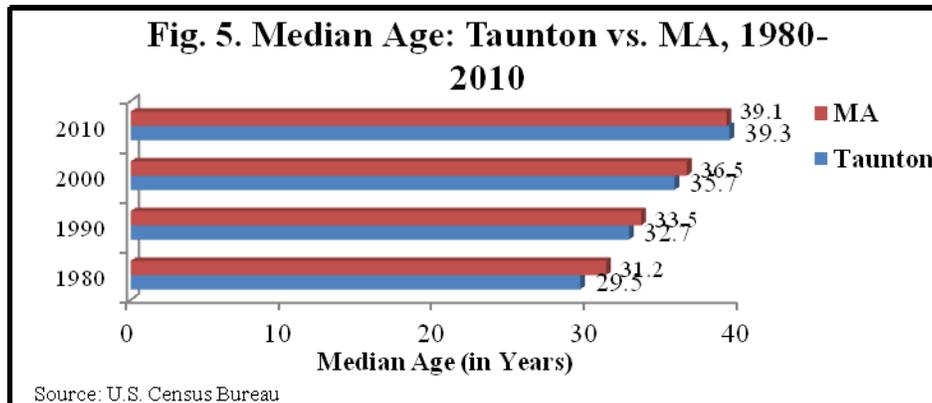


Fig. 5 reveals that Taunton’s population had started off at a lower median age than the state in 1980, but had overtaken the state’s median age by 2010.

Understanding the age composition changes of Taunton’s population is crucial in any plan for use and optimum benefit of its future beneficiaries. The city has only a modest population growth and has a robust labor force in 2010, but the residents are aging rapidly.

Compared with other cities in the region, Taunton is fortunate to have sufficient acreage with which to plan for the needs of its residents, while attempting to avoid any threat of overcrowding.

*Racial and Ethnic Profile*

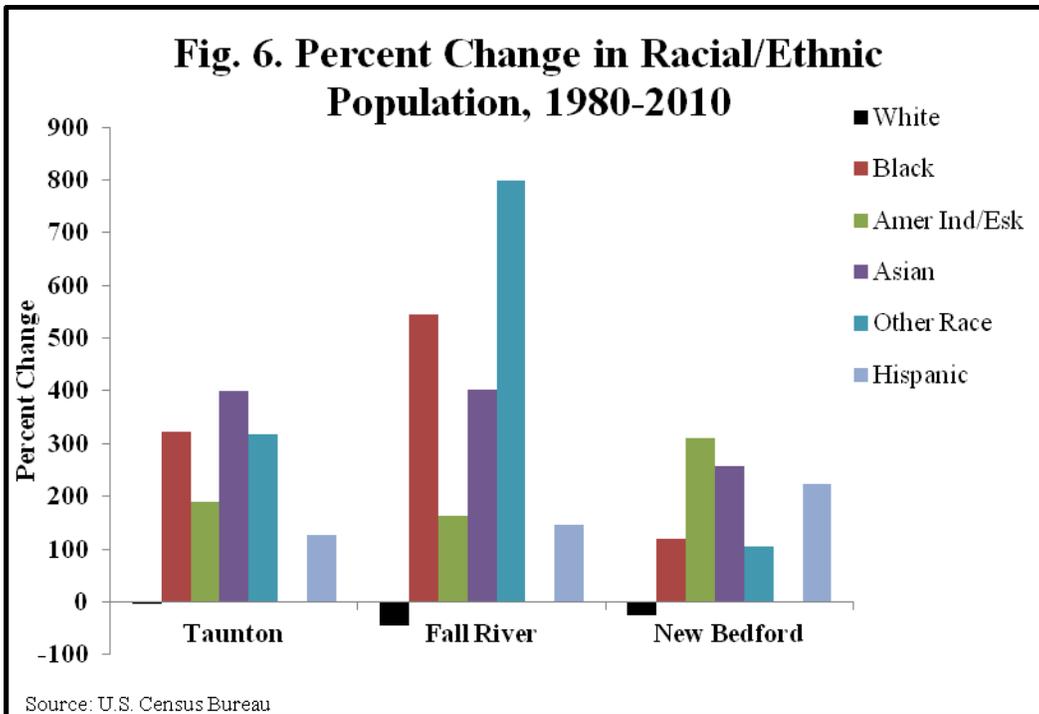
Taunton’s racial and ethnic population has undergone some changes in three decades. Table 2 shows the extent of these changes.

<b>Table 2. Race and Ethnic Population: Taunton, 1980-2010</b>				
<b>Race/Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>1980</b>		<b>2010</b>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Population	52,334		55,874	
White	50,642	96.8	48,742	87.2
Black	655	1.3	2773	5.0
American Indian	49	0.1	142	0.3
Asian	112	0.2	560	1.0
Hawaiian/Pacific Is.	12	0.0	25	0.0
Other	864	1.7	3,632	6.5
Hispanic	1,352	2.6	3,058	5.5
Source: U.S. Census Bureau				

From a mostly homogenous population (97% White) in 1980, Table 2 confirms that Taunton’s racial and ethnic composition had become more multi-racial by 2010. The percent change in the number of Black population is overshadowed by the percent change of those who classified themselves as “Other” which includes a combination of races. Additionally, the number and percent of Hispanics in the city had doubled over the 30-year period.

The percent changes in each racial and ethnic category for 1980 to 2010 period in Taunton and the other cities in the region are illustrated in Fig. 6.

Compared with its neighboring cities, the data covering 1980 to 2010 demonstrate that Taunton’s loss of its White population and the compensatory increase of Blacks and “Other Race” category were not as big as Fall River’s. Furthermore, the rise of the Hispanics in the city was not as high as New Bedford’s during the three decades examined (Fig. 6).



Clearly, the non-White or minority populations in Taunton and its nearby cities are increasing, and their numbers will inevitably grow in the decades ahead. As needs and interests in the use of open space vary according to racial and ethnic preferences, it becomes vital for the planning process to consider the racial and ethnic composition of the city a priority.

## 2. Taunton Household Characteristics

### *Household Types*

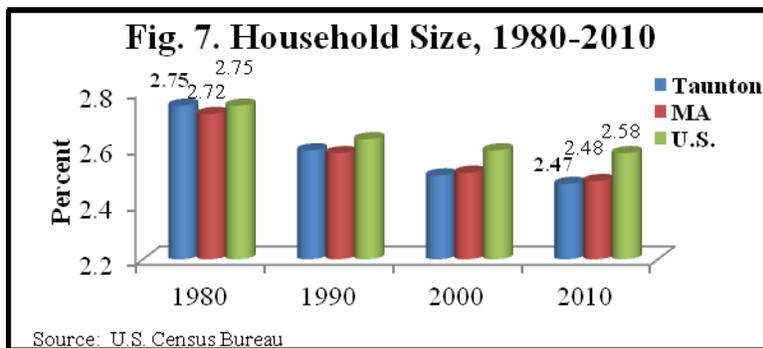
Data on household structure and composition categories have changed over the decades since data collection was started across the country. The most recent data on household typology for Taunton is presented in Table 3.

Household Types	Number	Percent
Total households	21,671	
Family households	14,287	65.9
Female householder, no husband with < 18 yrs old children	3,090	14.3
Householder living alone	5,870	27.1
Household 65+ years living alone	2,094	9.7
Household size	2.55	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau		

The 2012 data on household types in Taunton (Table 3) showed that two-thirds of the households remained family type or conventional households which consist of a husband, a spouse, and their own children. Another type of family households were those headed by women with no husbands present which comprised 14% in Taunton. An alternative type includes householders who live by themselves, comprising less than ten percent in the city as of 2012.

*Household Size*

A comparison of trends in average household size with the state and country is found in Fig. 7.



The number of persons in each household had dwindled from the 1980s to date. Even while the decline in household size throughout the country was gradual during the last three decades, the state and Taunton experienced a faster decline than the whole nation during the same period (Fig. 7).

*Elderly Living Arrangements*

People’s longevity has been prolonged with the advance of public health along with the availability of universal health care, thus the trend in longer active life demands alternative living arrangements. The assumption of the elderly staying or living with their families no longer holds. The most recent data on living arrangements among the older population (65+years old) in Taunton and other cities, are displayed in Table 4.

	Taunton	Fall River	New Bedford
Total households	22,332	38,457	38,761
Householder living alone	6,465 (29%)	13,428 (35%)	12,550 (33%)
% Male 65+	12.8	15.8	14.4
% Female 65+	16.1	19.1	8.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As of 2012, Table 4 gave evidence that the percent of the male and female population over 65 years choosing to live independently in 2012 was not as common in Taunton as it was in Fall River and New Bedford. Interestingly, elderly women in New Bedford were least likely to live alone which may reflect the practices and traditions of the racial and ethnic families in that city.

Even while households with small children have their planning issues, meeting the needs of the elderly which includes concerns of mobility, transportation, and a host of age-specific needs is another big future concern. This makes it imperative for open space planning in Taunton to consider various types of households and living arrangements and hopefully meet each one's respective needs while sharing the city's limited and scarce resources.

### 3. Taunton's Socio-Economic Profile

#### *Education*

Fig. 8 shows the educational attainment of Taunton adults (25+ years old) in 2012.

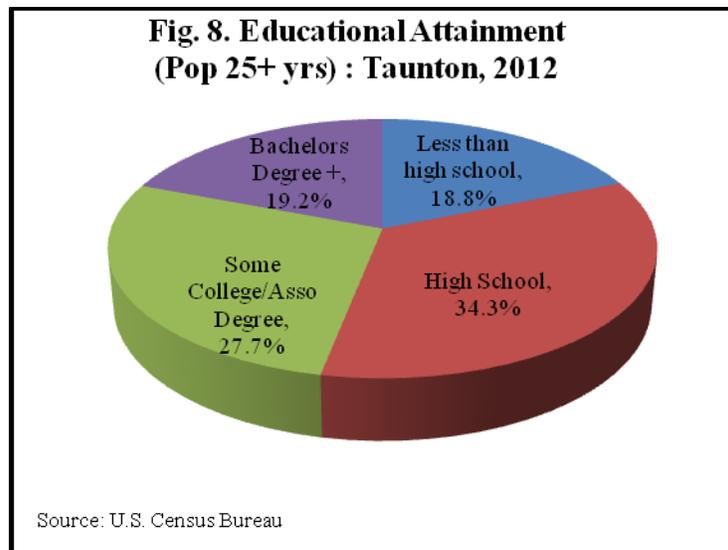
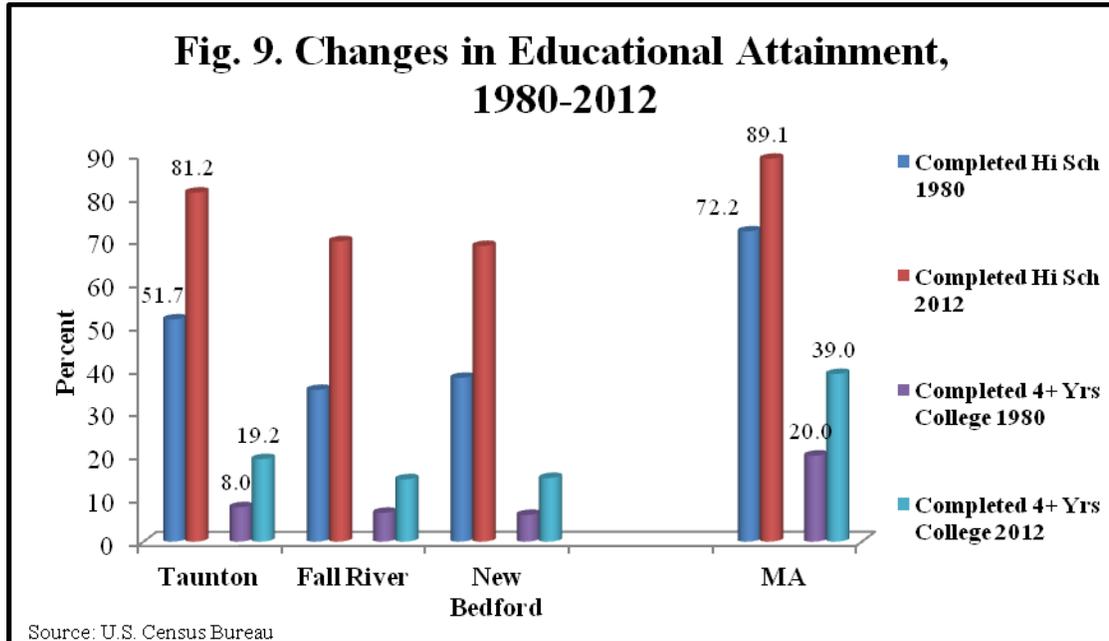


Fig. 8 reveals that only less than a fifth of Taunton's adult population (25+ years old) in 2012 had no high school education. Over a quarter attended college or earned an Associate degree. However those who attained college education (Bachelors Degree or higher) remained quite low: only less than a fifth of the city's adult residents.

A comparison of changes attained in educational levels from 1980 and 2012 between Taunton and its neighboring cities, and the state, is illustrated in Fig. 9.

As the data demonstrated, Taunton's population over 25 years achieved a substantial change in high school completion in over three decades along with those of the neighboring cities (Fig. 9). Although the city's college attainment levels from 1980 to 2012 remained quite low (less than half of the state's college achievement average (19%

vs. 39%), such a percent change was still higher than those attained by Fall River and New Bedford.



There is no doubt that, considerable effort in education are needed for Taunton and it neighboring cities in the years ahead just to be able to catch up with the statewide educational average. Meanwhile, significant implications on the city’s open space need and usage can be derived from the residents’ level of education inasmuch as recreational offerings and vital facilities involved will have to meet the requirements of the community’s tastes and preferences which are in turn largely rooted in their educational backgrounds.

*Income*

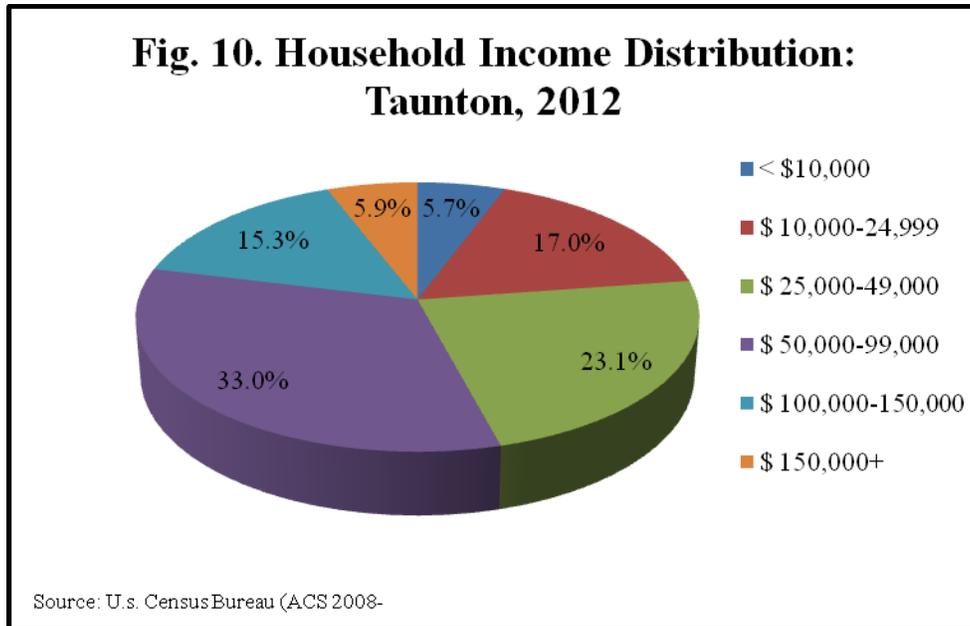
Household and individual incomes are useful measures of the area residents’ financial capability to afford goods and services. The median household and per capita income of Taunton and the state from 1980 are shown in Table 5.

<b>Table 5. Household Income, 1980-2012</b>				
	<b>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>		<b>PER CAPITA INCOME</b>	
	<b>Taunton</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>Taunton</b>	<b>MA</b>
<b>1980</b>	\$16,610	\$17,757	\$6,416	\$7,458
<b>1990</b>	\$32,315	\$36,952	\$13,613	\$17,224
<b>2000</b>	\$42,932	\$50,502	\$19,989	\$25,952
<b>2012</b>	\$53,631	\$66,658	\$26,144	\$35,485

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The data (Table 5) reveal that in the last three decades, Taunton’s median household income and per capita income were consistently lower than the state average.

Fig. 10 gives a closer look at the most recent data on household income breakdown for Taunton.



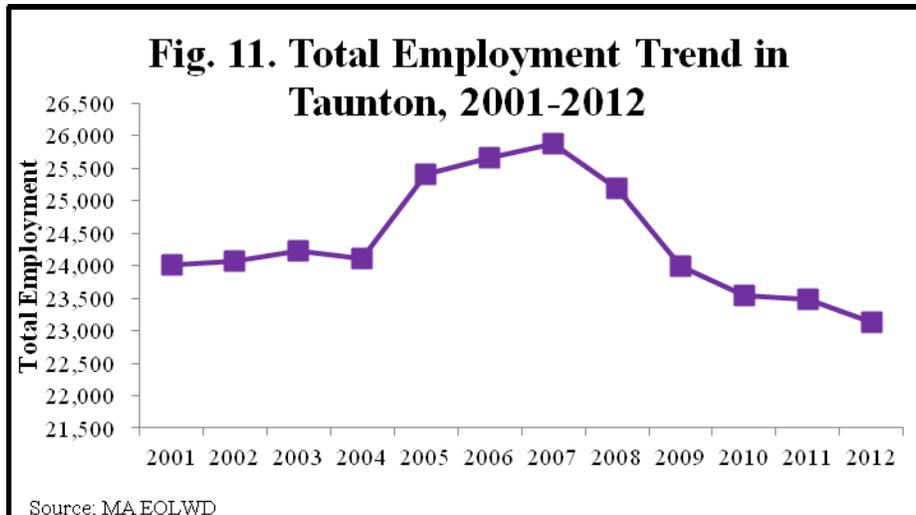
As Fig. 10 discloses, Taunton’s most recent household income distribution reflected a bulging middle income households (with incomes between \$25,000 and \$100,000). Furthermore, the data also showed that the city’s households belonging to the lower income (below \$25,000) and upper income (over \$100,000) categories comprised about about a fifth each, respectively, of the city’s total number of households.

Planning for the future of has to take into consideration the residents’ financial capability, where households can afford the resources needed to avail of any leisure and environmental enjoyment offerings.

#### **D. Taunton’s Economic Characteristics**

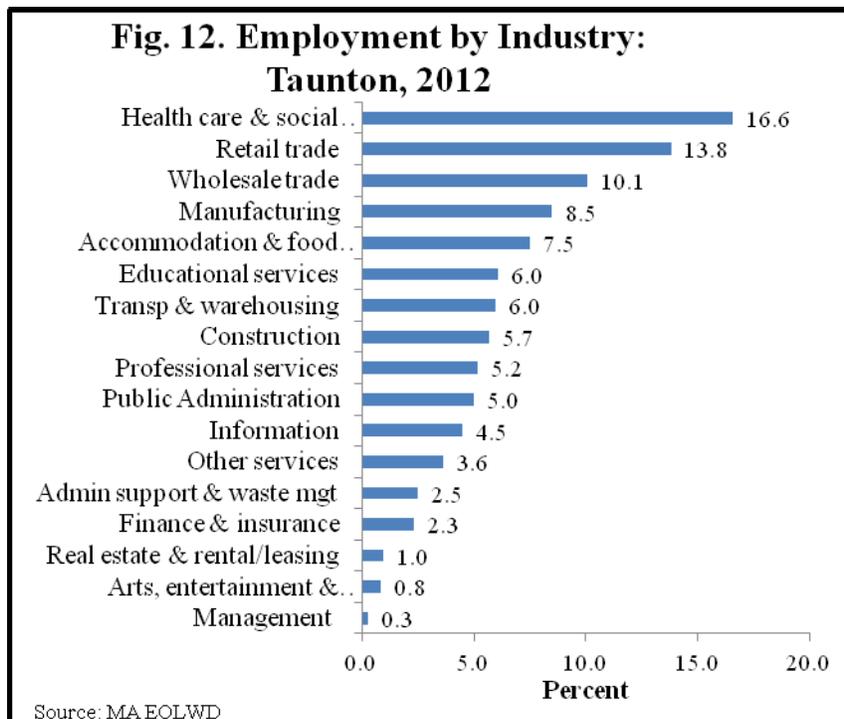
##### *Employment*

The trend in total employment for the city of Taunton appears in Fig. 11.



As can be observed from Fig. 11, the highest total employment in Taunton for the years 2001-2012 occurred in 2007, and declined thereafter along with the global economic recession. The city has yet to recoup the 2005 to 2007 employment numbers.

The latest employment by industry data available for Taunton was for 2012. Fig. 12 shows such a categorization.

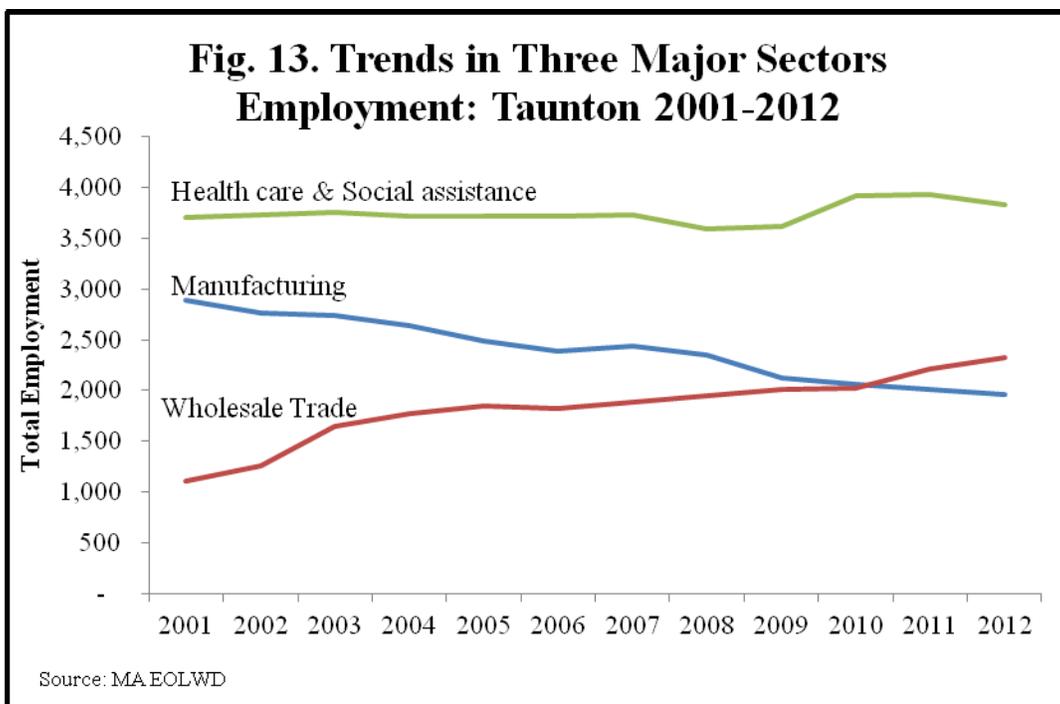


Health care and Social assistance jobs led over all other industries in employment numbers for Taunton in 2012 (Fig.12). Retail and Wholesale trade, along with Accommodation and food services were also major sources of employment in the area.

Manufacturing, which used to be a big industry in the city in the past decades, had been reduced to less than ten percent of the city's jobs in 2012.

Furthermore, the latest data on employment by industry in Taunton seemed to suggest an apparent shortage of jobs requiring highly skilled labor such as Professional Services, Information, Finance and Insurance, as well as Managerial positions in the city.

Three major industries are selected in Fig. 13 to shed light on the employment trends undergoing in Taunton from 2001 to 2012. These consisted of: Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade and Health Care and Social Assistance.



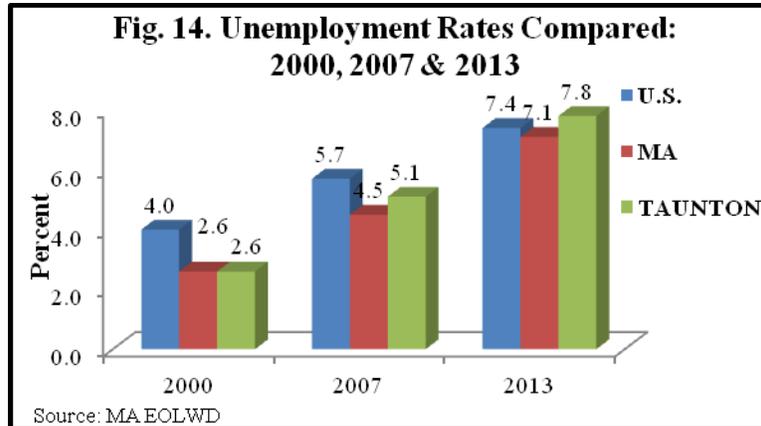
When the region's manufacturing sector declined around the later part of 2000s, Taunton's employment in this industry also plummeted (Fig. 13). The plight of the textile industry to overseas location a few decades earlier had already caused some economic distress in and around Taunton, and the widespread economic downturn exacerbated the city's manufacturing employment to date.

Meanwhile, a moderate but sustained rising trend in Wholesale Trade employment in the city had a boost from the big box businesses relocating into the city soon after 2002.

Conversely, the centrality of the city's location marked by the presence of a big hospital and satellite specialty clinics and health centers had drawn considerable employment in Health care and Social assistance sector, most notably in recent years, as noted from Fig. 13.

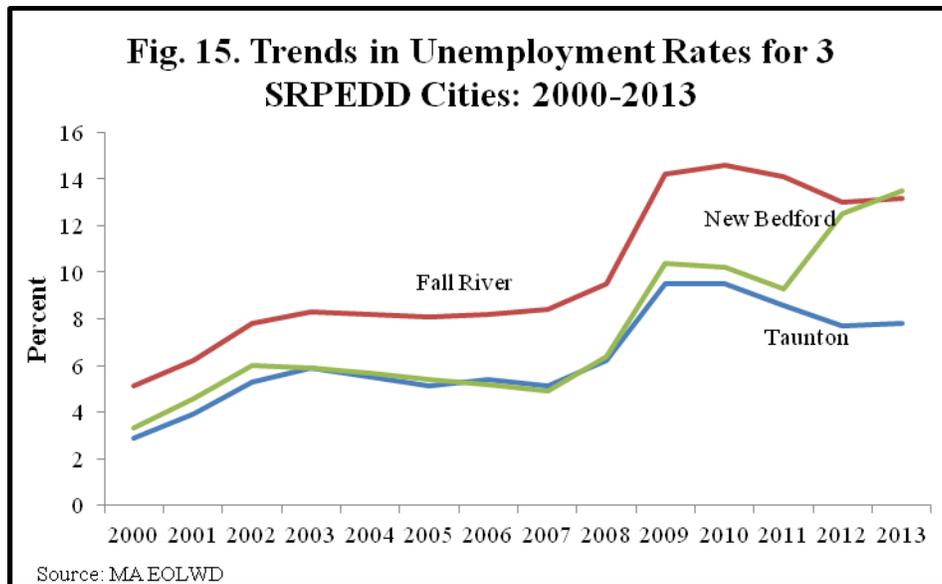
## Unemployment

The economic slump during the 2000s decade is portrayed in Fig. 14 through a comparison of unemployment rates between Taunton, the state, and the country.



Taunton had similar level of unemployment with the state in 2000, but the subsequent job losses around the city's manufacturing sector soon propelled Taunton's rates to be higher than statewide rates until 2013.

How the trends in unemployment rates for the regions' three major cities compare with one another from 2000 to 2013 can be seen in Fig. 15.



From 2000 to 2013, it is quite clear from the data that Taunton maintained the lowest unemployment rate among the three cities in the region. Fall River and New Bedford had rates higher than Taunton over the 13-year period. Also, while Taunton's unemployment rate showed a slight decrease the last two years, New Bedford's rate kept rising even while Fall River's rate remained very high (Fig. 15).

Overall, planning for the city’s future include engagement in options geared towards alleviating the area’s economic shortcomings, especially in its employment choices.

## E. Taunton Housing Characteristics

### *Housing Occupancy and Tenure*

The housing stock for the city of Taunton from 1990 to 2010, and the housing situation during those years are portrayed in Table 6.

	<b>Total housing units</b>	<b>Occupied</b>	<b>Renter-Occupied</b>	<b>Vacant (of Total)</b>
1990	20,281	18,849	7,965	7.1
2000	22,908	22,045	8,550	3.8
2010	23,896	22,332	8,517	6.6
<b>Pct change, 1990-2000</b>	13.0	17.0	7.4	
<b>Pct change, 2000-2010</b>	4.3	1.3	-0.4	
<b>Pct change, 1990-2010</b>	17.8	18.5	6.9	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau				

The data in Table 6 underlines the increasing housing stock in Taunton from 1990 to 2010. During this period, a housing crunch occurred prior to 2010, where about 93% of the existing units were occupied, mostly by owner households, and vacancy was very low. Soon after 2007 however (concurrent with the national recession and mortgage crisis), housing vacancy rose, and the number of renters increased. Most of the vacant housing units were for sale and only a few of these vacancies were for seasonal use.

### *Building Permits*

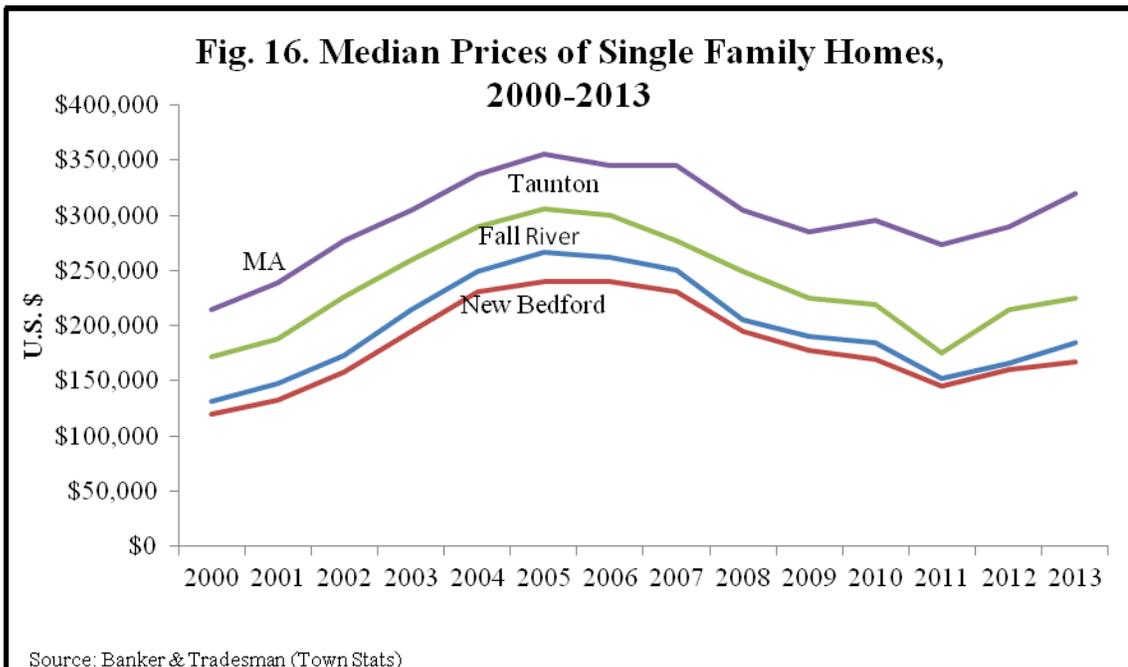
Table 7 shows the number of building permits issued by the City of Taunton since 2000.

	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>Single Family</b>	<b>Multi-Family</b>
2000	128	106	22
2001	83	69	14
2002	85	75	10
2003	88	76	12
2004	116	109	7
2005	159	137	22
2006	127	89	38
2007	83	59	24
2008	51	43	8
2009	60	50	10
2010	59	55	4
2011	31	29	2
2012	56	49	7
2013	242	90	152
Source: Data came from the Office of Building Inspectors of Taunton.			

The construction of new residential buildings is part of a city’s growth, but the pace of such a growth is managed through the issuance of permits to build new types of housing structures. As the data in Table 7 reveals, the city remained cautious in issuing building permits for new residential housing during the recent years. This move was highly consistent with the crisis in housing and housing foreclosures, which the city and the country were, and still are (though trending downward), undergoing at this time.

*Housing Costs*

Fig. 16 shows a comparison of the cost of single family residential housing in Taunton vis-à-vis neighboring cities, and the state average from 2000 to 2013.



Interestingly, the widening gap in prices of a single residential house in Taunton compared with the state average had widened during the recent past years, thereby making Taunton’s houses seem more affordable (Fig. 16).

Putting housing costs into perspective, when the median cost of a single family home in Taunton were examined more closely in Fig. 16, the data seemed to suggest that in comparison, Taunton’s house prices were considerably higher than those of Fall River and New Bedford.

Housing considerations are important elements in the planning of the city’s future landscape and community development. The moderate cost of housing in the city is a positive draw for families who might work and live in the city. Consequently planning for future city migrants should be part of any city plan.

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2010 Environmental Justice Map

Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are determined by identifying all Census 2010 block groups that meet any of the following criteria:

- Income** 25% or more of households earn 65% or less than the MA median household income
- Minority population** 25% or more of residents identify as a race other than white
- English language isolation** 25% or more of households have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English only or very well

- **Income**
- **Minority population**
- **English isolation**

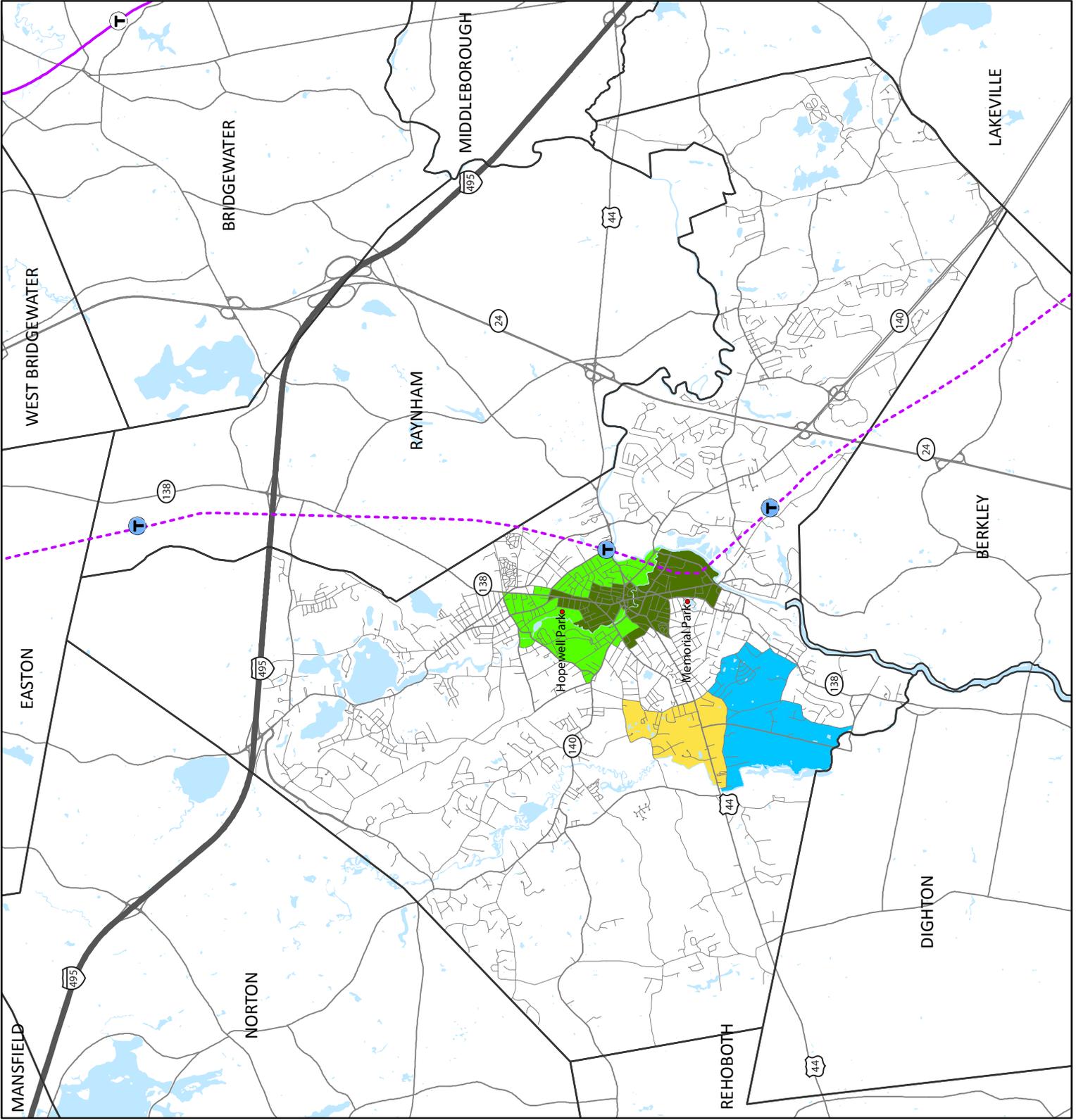
**Populations meeting two EJ criterion**

- **Income and minority population**
- **Income and English isolation**
- **Minority population and English isolation**

**Populations meeting three EJ criterion**

- **Income, minority population and English isolation**

- **Water**
- Interstates**
- Arterials and Collectors**
- Local Roads**
- Municipal Boundaries**
- T **MBTA Proposed Stations**
- T **MBTA Proposed Rail Lines**
- T **MBTA Active Commuter Stations**
- T **MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines**



## *Environmental Justice Populations*

Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are determined by identifying all Census 2010 Block Groups that meet any of the following criteria: Income -25% or more of the households earn 65% or less than the MA median income; Minority population- 25% or more of residents identify as a race other than white, and; English speaking isolation- 25% of the households have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English only or very well.

The combined data for Taunton shows two clusters of EJ populations in and below the downtown. These clusters each represent two distinct types of EJ populations based upon the criteria discussed above. In all, nine (9) of Taunton's thirty-one (31) Block Groups contain populations meeting EJ criteria. This accounts for 29% of the City's Block Groups and 24% of the City's population (See Environmental Justice Map).

The first two areas show minority and income level-based EJ populations in the immediate downtown area, extending south to the Weir (minority and income based) and north to the Hopewell/Hopewell Park area (income based). These areas are bisected by Route 138, running north and south, and by Route 44/Main Street/Dean Street, running east and west through the downtown area. This area is also bisected by the Mill River, running north and south, whose confluence with the Taunton River is just below the downtown. The population in these combined areas is of mixed age.

A third, smaller, minority population based EJ area, is located north and south along Route 44 to the west of the downtown. This area borders Memorial Park to the north and west, and extends north of Route 44, along the Three Mile River and south of 44 along Cohannet Street near the Boyden Sanctuary. The population in this area is also of mixed age to slightly older.

A fourth EJ area, based on English isolation, abuts the above-mentioned area at Cohannet, and extends south and west from Highland (below Memorial Park) to the Three Mile River/Warner Boulevard area, near the North Dighton town line. This is a much more rural, former open and agricultural area, with an older population.

Because the EJ areas are located in or immediately adjacent to the downtown or major transportation routes, the affected populations are in very close proximity to major cultural, recreational, and social facilities, (including school facilities, conservation lands, and public parks) all of which are ADA accessible. Pedestrian safety and accessibility to the greater downtown and its amenities has been much improved with the completion of the ADA compliant Downtown Sidewalk and Infrastructure Improvement project in 2014, funded through a MassWorks grant.

The downtown area is also served by public transportation, the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Authority (GATRA), with fixed route service to outlying areas, including shopping centers and commercial and service areas. GATRA also provides Dial-a-Ride, curb to curb service for senior citizens and transportation for individuals with disabilities.

The City has also been very active in addressing the state's goals of improving conditions in EJ areas through greening the urban environment, brownfield clean-up and reclamation, and elimination of environmental hazards in these areas (discussed further in the "Environmental Equity" section of this plan).

## **F. Growth and Development Patterns**

### *Patterns and Trends*

According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience report (2014), Taunton was ranked number five (5) in the state in acres of natural land and open land converted to development, between 2005 and 2013, at 293 acres. In the context of the Audubon report, natural land is defined as forest, wetland, and water; open land is defined as agricultural areas, bare soil, or low vegetation, and; developed land includes low density residential and commercial/industrial/high density residential development. Most of this recent development centered around Taunton's industrial parks, which are amongst the most rapidly growing in the region despite the sluggish economy. Historically, the 293 acres pales in comparison to the amount of land consumed by development in Taunton during the economic boom period from the late 1980's to late 1990's.

Overall, land use trends in Taunton have shown a constant shift from forested and open land to urban land over the past forty years. From 1971 to 2013 the amount of forested and open land has decreased by 13%, while amount of developed land has increased by approximately 80%. Active agricultural land, which occupied over 13% of the acreage in Taunton in 1971, today occupies only about 4% of Taunton's landscape. This reflects a 33% decrease from 1999 (a loss of over 600 acres), when agricultural land accounted for slightly over 6% of Taunton's total acreage.

Presently, about 37% of the land in Taunton (11,542 acres) has been developed for residential, commercial, industrial, or other purposes. Forest, wetlands, and open space presently account for about 53% of the land in Taunton (16,492 acres).

The trend towards increasing urbanization had been slowing in Taunton between the years 2000 and 2005. At the height of the development boom Taunton was seeing an average of 238 new building permits per year being issued (1990-1999). This figure decreased sharply, to an average of 71 new permits per year, by 2006. Speculation over this drop ranged from the declining local and national economy to the passage of more stringent local land use controls. In the harsher economic times of recent years, 2007-2012, concurrent with the national recession, the average number of building permits again decreased to 57 per year. Even in the "post recession/recovery period" beginning in 2010, the number remained low, most likely tied to the number of failed developments, bankruptcies, and foreclosures. This trend may be reversing as the economy continues its slow but steady improvement, as illustrated by the 242 building permits that were issued in 2013 (up from 56 permits issued in 2012, and the most issued since the mid 1990s).

The decline in the amount of active agricultural land reflects the region's aging farming population and the trends in lifestyle choices of their heirs. Many older farmers are retiring and their farms are not being retained for agricultural purposes by their heirs. For those who do

continue to farm the land, diversification, value-added products, and specialty crops have made agriculture an economically viable pursuit. In Taunton, significant amounts of long time, family owned and operated, or institutionally operated farmland, have been sold or converted to other uses (primarily commercial and industrial development), particularly in the last twenty-five years.

While not a startling figure, it is important to note that the amount of recreational land has decreased by about 1% (from 478 acres to 432 acres) between 1999 and 2013. This loss can be partially accounted for by recent school closings (five between 2007 and 2013) and the loss of the amenities associated with these facilities. The greatest impact here is to the recreational supply for the areas on the fringe of the urban core of downtown Taunton.

Finally, during the economic downturn and the accompanying lull in development, the City, along with regional conservation organizations, was able to protect an additional 359 acres between 2005 and 2013 according to Mass Audubon's data (Losing Ground, 2014). The City has been successful here in employing its Cluster Development Bylaw to set aside lands in perpetuity through Conservation Restrictions. While the Cluster Bylaw has been an effective way of preserving open land, it is not viable as a principal, long-term strategy by which to preserve intact wildlife corridors or ecosystems.

### *Infrastructure*

#### a) Transportation

Several important transportation routes and systems either traverse or skirt the City of Taunton. State Routes 138, 140, 24 (running north-south) and 44 (running east-west) are major bisectors of the City. Interstate 495 (running east-west) also passes through the City with an interchange located to the northwest part of the City near the Myles Standish Industrial Park. These routes all make the City very accessible to motorists throughout the region.

Residents of Taunton also have access to an MBTA commuter train that runs between the Town of Mansfield, Back Bay Station, and South Stations in Boston. The MBTA rail station is located in the downtown area of Mansfield, off of Route 140, to the northwest of Taunton. Other options for Taunton residents who commute to Boston include commuter rail service on the Attleboro (Shore) Line or on the Old Colony Line. The Shore Line makes stops in Providence, South Attleboro, Attleboro, and Mansfield. The old Colony Line stops in Lakeville (also serving Middleboro).

The MBTA, since the mid 1990's, has engaged in a very long, studied, and at times, controversial planning process to restore commuter rail service between Fall River, New Bedford, and South Station in Boston. This process took shape in the form of the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan (2009). The route alignment plan has been vetted publicly through two extensive federal, state, and local review processes. The preferred alignment would bring the rail from Boston, through Stoughton, Easton, and Taunton before splitting off to New Bedford and continuing on to Fall River. Under this preferred plan, there would be a station stop at Dean and Arlington Streets in Taunton. Some preparation work for the proposed rail expansion has been done in New Bedford and Fall River, at the ends of the line, but the entire project may not be realized (pending funding) until 2022 or later.

AMTRACK provides high-speed rail service between Boston and New York City, via Providence, RI. There are two AMTRACK stations located in close proximity to Taunton and can be accessed by local/regional bus service.

Freight rail service to the area is operated by Massachusetts Coastal Railroad, LLC. This is short line freight service based on a Modified Rail Certificate filed in 2007 by the LLC with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board. This modified route moves goods through the City along the Bay Colony Line's Dean Street Industrial track. This track runs 1.5 miles between the Weir Junction (south) and Ventura Grain on Longmeadow Road (this is the northern terminus of the Dean Street Industrial track). Customers along the line include Ventura Grain, Gallo (road salt), and Northeast Refrigerated. The track also has a connection to the CXS line which locally runs between Middleboro and Attleboro. This line is occasionally used to deliver goods to the Myles Standish Industrial Park off of Route 140 at the Taunton/Norton municipal boundary.

The Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Authority, GATRA, provides bus service to Taunton, including Dial-a-Ride, curb-to-curb service for senior citizens, and transportation for disabled individuals. GATRA's service runs from 6:00AM until 6:00PM on weekdays, and 9:00AM until 5:00PM on Saturdays. GATRA buses are ADA accessible and also have front mounted bike racks for bicycle commuters. GATRA also provides bus routes to 26 different communities in three counties as well as commuter service to Providence, Rhode Island.

Bloom Bus provides express service to Boston. Both GATRA and the Bloom Bus terminals/operations centers are located immediately west of the downtown area.

The Taunton Municipal Airport is overseen by the Taunton Municipal Airport Commission. The airport located in East Taunton and can be accessed via State Routes 140 and 44, and Interstate 495. The airport is classified as a General Aviation/General Utility Airport which means that it is able to serve small airplanes with a maximum gross takeoff of 12,500 pounds. As of this writing, the airport is in the process of developing a facility master plan to address runway safety issues and necessary improvements.

Pedestrian traffic options in the greater downtown were greatly improved with the recent completion of a two-phase Downtown Sidewalk and Infrastructure improvements project. The first phase of the project concentrated on a five block area around the Taunton Green, Broadway (Route 138), Post Office Square, the Superior Courthouse, and the recently constructed District Court Building. The second phase of the project included Main Street from Winthrop Street to Union Street, School Street, and Leonard Street. Overall, the project included the construction of concrete sidewalks, installation of new granite curb, drainage improvements, planting of shade trees, and the construction of wheelchair ramps to meet ADA requirements. All of these improvements have made the greater downtown and surrounding neighborhoods safer and more comfortable for pedestrian traffic. These improvements are also significant due to the cultural, educational, economic, retail, recreational, and governmental services afforded within the project area.

Biking opportunities are lacking in Taunton. Although the City has participated in the regional Taunton River Trail Committee (an effort to create a multimodal on and off-road trail system

from the Somerset/Fall River area to the Norton/Easton/Brockton area) on an informal basis at times over the past twenty years, there has made no formal pledge or commitment to the project. In the late 1990's, there was a feasibility study undertaken to assess the development of a proposed 6.6 mile bicycle and pedestrian path from the Boyden Refuge to Taunton High School. The feasibility study revealed several necessary right-of-way acquisitions, routing, and engineering challenges. The trail plan was never pursued any further and the committee appointed to oversee the process was discharged.

A more recent bicycle/pedestrian survey was undertaken in Taunton by SRPEDD (September 2010), on behalf of the City, as part of the South Coast Rail Project. The document evaluated future bike and pedestrian opportunities for the area from the City's downtown to the proposed Taunton Commuter Rail Station at Arlington and Dean Streets. Virtually all of the pedestrian transportation gaps and deficiencies uncovered in the 2010 survey were addressed by the Downtown Sidewalk project discussed above. The streets that were evaluated as potential bike routes/links in the survey have yet to be addressed, including the old Taunton River trail option.

#### b) Water

The City of Taunton receives its water from the Assawompset Ponds Complex (APC) located in the Towns of Lakeville, Middleboro, Rochester, and Freetown, and the Dever Wells located in Taunton. The City is authorized by the state to withdraw 7.49 million gallons per day (MGD) from the two sources.

The APC is the largest natural reservoir in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The APC is made up of five hydrologically connected ponds, Assawompset, Pocksha, Great Quittacus, Little Quittacus, and Long Pond, as well as nearby Elders Pond. The APC has a safe yield of 27.5 MGD, of which the City of Taunton is allowed to withdraw 7.29 MGD. Raw water from these ponds is treated at the Rocheleau Water Filtration Plant in Lakeville.

Two gravel-packed wells on the campus of the Paul A. Dever State School provide additional supply that is treated at the Myles Standish Industrial Park Storage Tank. Treated water from these sources is then pumped to the distribution system from which it is sent to homes, businesses, or to various storage facilities and reservoirs around the City. These storage facilities include: The Prospect Hill Reservoir (22.5 million gallons); Myles Standish Industrial Park Elevated Storage Tank (1million gallons); Oakland Elevated Storage Tank (.75 million gallons); Westville Elevated Storage Tank (.3 million gallons); and the East Taunton Elevated Storage Tank (1 million gallons). The combined distribution storage capacity of these facilities is approximately 25.5 million gallons.

Taunton's water system also has two interconnections, one to supply North Dighton, and one to supply the Massachusetts Correctional Complex in Bridgewater. Taunton also supplies water to some parts of Berkley, Lakeville, Middleboro, Raynham, and Norton. The Water Department continues to work diligently to insure the quality and quantity of its ground and surface water supplies. Information of the water supply system is made available to the public on the municipal website.

### c) Sewer

The City of Taunton operates its Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) on West Water Street through a contractual agreement with Veolia, a private firm. The facility collects and treats municipal wastewater from the seweried areas of Taunton as well as from parts of Raynham and North Dighton. The WWTF has a design flow capacity of 8.4MGD, with a peak flow capacity of 19.8 MGD. The dry weather average flow to the plant is about 6.5 MGD. Wet weather flows, due to heavy rain (stormwater inputs) and high groundwater, particularly in the spring, have exceeded 22MGD on occasion. The facility is federally permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discharge to the Taunton River (through a combined sewer outfall, CSO, Outfall 004) which flows into the Mount Hope Bay estuary and eventually into Narragansett Bay (RI).

Most of the developed areas of the City are tied into the municipal sewer system. Over the past two decades, the WWTF has had periodic challenges in meeting its discharge permit requirements due to a number of issues. Some of these problems are directly related to increased development, while others (such as illicit sewer connections, inflow/infiltration, deteriorated joints, cracked pipes, manhole covers, etc.) are related to an aging system and infrastructure. Because of this, the City has been subject to several enforcement actions for high flow related effluent (discharge) violations, including a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) order in 2005, and EPA administrative orders in 1994, 1996, and 2008.

The City has made a significant effort to address these administrative orders. The City has undertaken a program to identify and separate all manholes contributing to combined discharge of stormwater to sanitary sewers. Twenty-five (25) illicit connections have been eliminated as part of a Phase I Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Twelve (12) stormwater catch basins have also been separated from the sanitary sewer collection system. Approximately 600 homes have been surveyed in order to identify any possible sanitary discharges to storm drains (homes not tied into the sanitary sewer system in their neighborhoods). The City has also conducted camera aided inspections of the sewer lines to find areas of inflow and infiltration (I/I), and has over the past several years completed ten (10) phases of a twelve (12) phase I/I remediation program. GIS mapping of the sewer system has been completed and a prioritized list of outfalls was developed for future dry weather screening. In addition, the City has posted stormwater related information on the municipal website, and has continued to participate in a water quality sampling/monitoring program with the Taunton River Watershed Alliance and Veolia.

The EPA had issued a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the WWTF in 2004. Lower proposed discharge limits for nitrogen and necessary troubleshooting and infrastructure improvements have made the conditions of this permit potentially costly to the City. This scientific basis of the permit has also been challenged by the City, claiming that the data used to determine the conditions of the permit was collected many years prior to the numerous improvements made since 2004, as discussed above. The permit is still in the comment and review phase as of this writing (2014), with a final permit to be issued in 2015. The new NPDES permit will very likely have a significant impact on the expansion capabilities of the WWTF in the future.

## *Long-Term Development Patterns*

### a) Zoning

The City has undertaken two revisions to its Zoning Ordinance (as revised 02/02/10) since the last Open Space Plan (2007) that may have a direct impact on potential conservation and development issues in the urban core and in flood prone areas.

First, the City created a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Overlay District as a smart growth measure to allow for the development of mixed-use and pedestrian friendly centers around transit stations (including the proposed MBTA Commuter Rail Stations, planned as part of the South Coast Rail Project). One of the goals of TOD and smart growth is the preservation of open space. This goal is addressed by the requirement that at least 10,000 square feet of land in each TOD district be used as a public plaza to be landscaped and include lighting. Pedestrian accommodations include the provision of sidewalks with a minimum width of five (5) feet. The City has also explored the possibility of making bicycle connections to station areas.

A second zoning initiative involves the amendment to the Special Flood Hazard District in order to comply with the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Maps for the City of Taunton. The adaptation of supplemental language relevant to the updated maps and reconfigured flood zones provides an additional planning tool for flood prone/at risk areas as well as keeps local homeowners eligible for the state and federal flood insurance programs.

Another effort undertaken by the City, in conjunction with the South Coast Rail Project, and tied to local zoning and planning protocol, is the designation and mapping of Priority Development (PDA) and Priority Protection Areas (PPA) within the community. This community driven planning exercise was originally conducted in 2008 by the three regional planning agencies serving the thirty-one (31) communities addressed in the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan. In 2013, the regional planning agencies, including SRPEDD, revisited the original process and choices as part of a five year update process.

PDAs are areas that are appropriate for increased development or redevelopment due to several factors, including: good transportation access; available infrastructure (primarily sewer and water); an absence of environmental constraints, and; local support. PDAs can range from a single parcel to many acres, and can include small scale infill, commercial, industrial, mixed-use, transit facilities, or other such projects.

PPAs are areas that are important to protect due to the presence of significant natural or cultural resources, including, but not limited to: rare and endangered species habitats; areas critical to water supply; historic areas; scenic vistas, and; agricultural areas. PPAs can also vary greatly in size, from small species dependent areas, to large expanses of intact habitat. These sites may be candidates for protection through acquisition, conservation restriction, or other means.

A community's Priority Area designations can guide municipal decisions about zoning revisions, infrastructure investments, and conservation efforts. In addition, these Community Priority Area designations are used as the foundation for developing Regional and State Priority Area designations. Finally, in the fall of 2010, the Patrick Administration issued Executive Order 525 (E.O. 525) providing for the implementation of the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan and Corridor

Map (including PPAs and PDAs) through state agency actions and investments. These state actions have the potential to help leverage local and private investments in the priority areas. (See Taunton Community Priority Areas, Appendix A)

b) Build-Out Scenario

Existing zoning and planning regulations, in combination with the City’s current annual growth rate and amount of available land, are all considered in predicting what Taunton could look like at full build-out (meaning, if all potentially developable land was built upon).

SRPEDD, under the auspices of a contract with the then Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, prepared a build-out study for the City of Taunton in January of 2000. The study showed that the northern, eastern, and western areas of the City were particularly susceptible to growth. Building constraints such as wetlands, slopes, soils and waterways will have an impact on growth in these areas, but most likely not enough of an impact to preserve the rural forest and agricultural landscapes intact. The retention of agriculturally viable land is a key to preserving the character of north and west Taunton. Most of the remaining agricultural lands in the City are enrolled in MGL Chapter 61A tax reduction programs. This designation creates temporary land preservation in exchange for a lower tax rate on agricultural land (enrollment must be maintained in the various Chapter 61 Programs).

The potential build-out impacts for Taunton have been updated to account for 2010 data, and are summarized in Table F-1, below. It is important to note that the full build-out has no time frame associated with it, but reveals conditions when full build-out (consumption of all developable land) is finally achieved.

Table 8:  
Current Demographics and Build-Out Projections

Population	2010	55,874
	Build-Out	98,146
Students	2010	12,873
	Build-Out	20,005
Households	2010	21,671
	Build-Out	38,003
Water Use (gallons/day)	2010	3,100,000
	Build-Out	12,398,549

Summary of Build-Out Impacts:

Additional Developable Land Area (sq. ft.)	396,962,280
Additional Developable Area (acres)	9,113
Additional Residential Units	16,332

Additional Residents	42,272
Additional Commercial/Industrial Buildable Floor Area (sq. ft.)	35,726,695
Additional School Children at Build-Out	7,132
Additional Water Demand at Build-Out ( total, gallons/day)	5,973,549
Additional Residential Water Demand at Build-Out	3,162,749
Additional Commercial and Industrial Water Demand at Build-Out	2,810,800
Additional Municipal Solid Waste (tons/year)	21,633
Additional Non-Recyclable Solid Waste (tons)	15,384
Additional Recyclable Solid Waste (tons)	6,249
Additional Roadway at Build-Outs (miles)	130

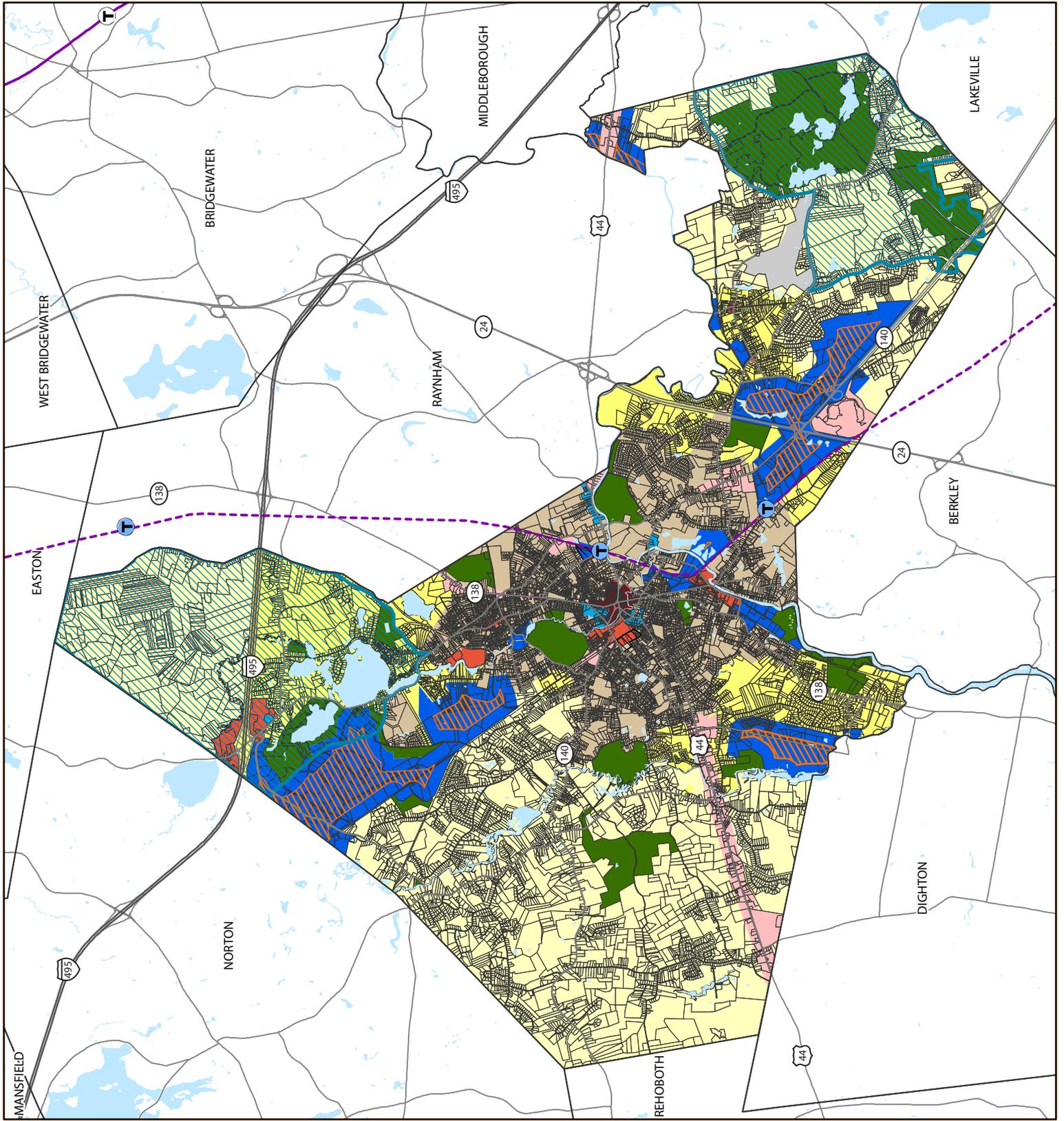
Again, all of these build-out projections are based on the consumption of all developable land with no definite time frame. There will undoubtedly be changes made to zoning, planning, and conservation regulations over time. There will be improvements made to the infrastructure that may well be accompanied by restrictions that limit growth potential (sewering capacity, available water supply, etc.). The build-out's ultimate value is that it presents us with a worst case scenario while we still have time to make beneficial regulatory and policy changes.

Two things that the City should look at in moving forward with conservation, recreation, and open space planning are: designating a central point of contact in the City for conservation and open space issues (this was cited by several regional conservation organizations as a need, when interviewed), and; developing a prioritization and ranking system for the acquisition, conservation, and preservation of its critical cultural and natural resource assets.

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Zoning Map

-  Rural Residential
-  Suburban Residential
-  Urban Residential
-  Airport District
-  Business District
-  Highway Business District
-  Central Business District
-  Industrial District
-  Office District
-  Open Space/Conservation
-  Transportation
-  Zone III Water and Aquifer Resource Protection Overlay District
-  Transit Oriented District - TOD
-  Adult Entertainment District - AED
-  Water
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  MBTA Proposed Stations
-  MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
-  MBTA Active Commuter Rail Line
-  MBTA Active Commuter Stations
-  Interstates
-  Arterials and Collectors
-  Local Roads

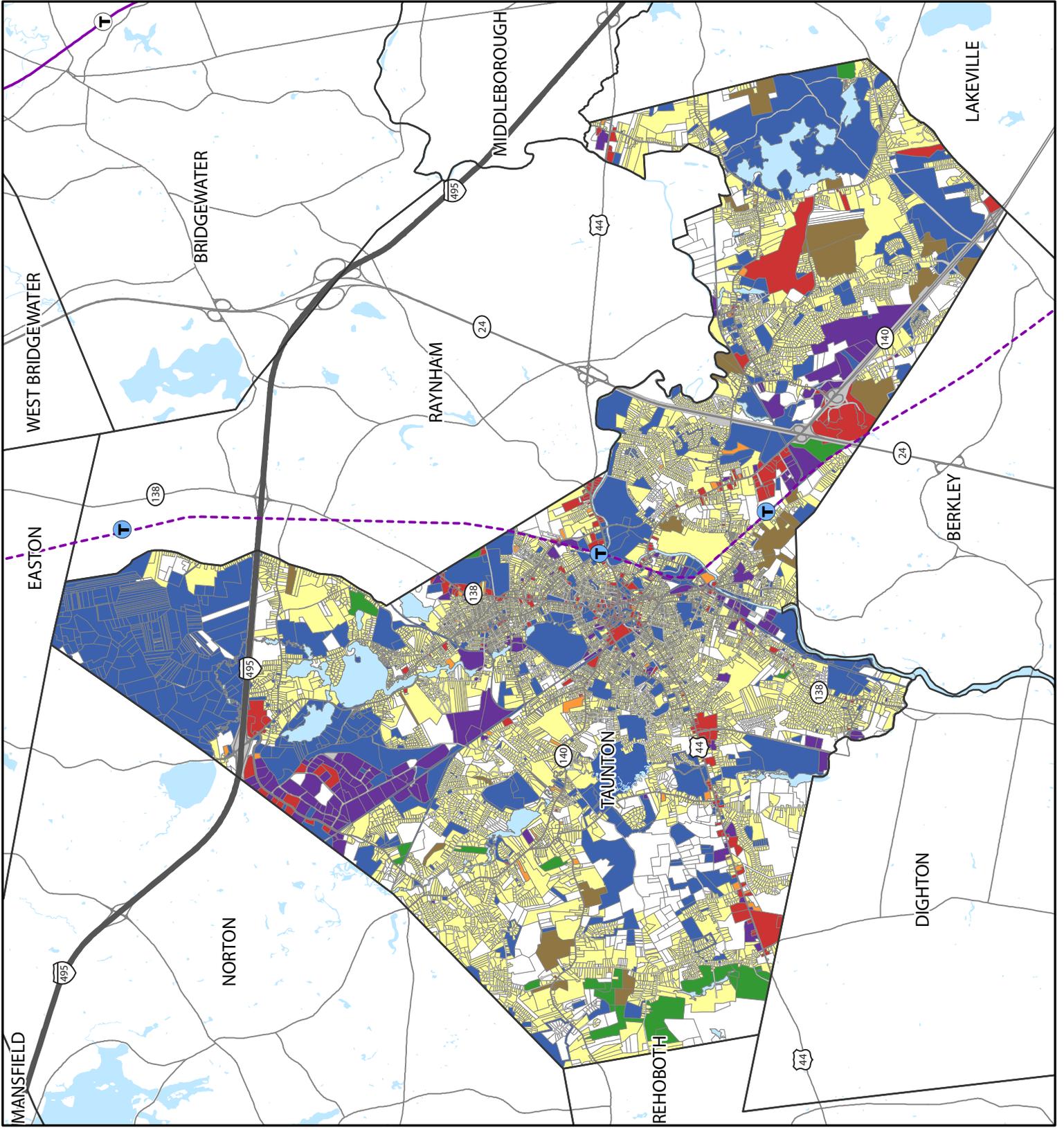


# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Land Use Map

### Legend

- Vacant or No Data
- Mixed-Use
- Residential
- Open Space and Recreational
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Water
- Utility and Transportation
- Municipal Boundaries
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- MBTA Active Computer Stations
- MBTA Active Computer Rail Lines



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

### **A. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

Taunton lies in the Bristol lowland section of Massachusetts at the upper edge of the Narragansett Basin. This area is characterized by low relief with occasional bedrock hills and oval shaped drumlins (smooth glacially streamlined hills) that rise above the general terrain.

The highest point in the City is Prospect Hill, at two-hundred (200) feet above sea level and the lowest point is ten (10) feet above sea level at the confluence of the Taunton and Three Mile rivers. The average elevation in the City is forty-four (44) feet above sea level. The local relief consists of gently rolling hills with low lying river valleys and flatlands dotted with ponds, lakes, streams, and wetlands interspersed throughout the City.

The geology of the area is largely the result of Pleistocene (latest period of repeated glaciation, about 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago) glacial erosion and deposition. The dominant surface materials in the City are various unconsolidated glacial deposits and organic peats. The surface deposits consist of unstratified drift, tills, and stratified drift. There is also an abundance of sorted sand and gravel throughout the area.

Areas affected by glacial drift are characterized by kames (mount, knob, or ridge of glacial sediment), kame terraces, and kettle (depressions) terrain. Deposits of organic peat are prevalent in the depressions. Large outwash plains extend north and east to the Taunton River and form part of the Taunton River Valley and the Hockomock Swamp. Both of these areas are comprised of clays and silts overlain in many places by organic peat.

Glacial till is characterized by ground moraines, eskers, and ice rafted boulders. This type of material is coarse, and areas of till occur at the surface in many areas of west Taunton where the divide between the Three Mile and Segregansett Rivers consists of a series of hills of till. Similar topography can be found southwest of the Taunton Municipal Airport.

Surface bedrocks are primarily granite, siltstone, and sandstone conglomerates. Pre-glacial valleys cut into bedrock criss-cross the area. There are also minor fault lines that run generally from the southwest to the northeast and are associated with anthracite coal seams. These subsurface features make excellent regional aquifers. Soil depth is generally shallow over these bedrock areas.

#### *Climate*

Taunton is considered to have a temperate humid continental climate. The City's normal average annual temperature is 28.6 degrees Fahrenheit in January and 71.5 degrees Fahrenheit in July. The daily fluctuation in temperature for the Taunton area ranges between 20-30 degrees. Temperatures and weather are moderated by the City's proximity to the coast and the Atlantic Gulf Stream. The growing season – the number of days between the last killing frost in the spring (early April) and the first killing frost in late summer or fall (mid October) – has an average range of 160 to 180 days. Taunton's average annual precipitation is 48.8 inches.

## *Soils Profile*

The various soils in a community are found in naturally recurring groups. Soil groups, commonly referred to as general soil areas, are composed of identified soils occurring in similar patterns, varying in size of occurrence, throughout a given area.

Soils within a general soil group may possess some similarities or differ greatly in their properties. The deciding factors in their association are that they generally formed in similar materials, and the dominant soils within a general soil area are the largest in extent in that area. Suitability of a general soil area for a particular use is determined by the characteristics of the dominant soil therein. This type of information is contained within the scope of a soil survey. A soil survey can be used to point out various soil limitations for agricultural, septic systems, commercial, or industrial development, or other like considerations. Factors considered in such a survey include soil behavior for selected uses, wetness, composition, stability, slope and friability (how brittle the soil is). Accompanying maps delineate broad areas of soils, series, types, and shapes of occurrence. (More detailed information on the soil types common to Taunton can be found in the Soil Survey of Bristol County, Massachusetts, Northern Part, by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1978.)

Also included in the soils profile, and of particular interest in terms of land use planning, is a discussion of soils limitations based on a breakdown of soils into map units. Each map unit consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils that occur in various patterns in the landscape. The map unit is named for the major soils. Windsor-Muck-Hinckley is an example of a map unit found in the Taunton area.

Some map units are made up of two or more dominant kinds of soil. These are called soil complexes. Soils in this category are so complexly mixed or so small in size that they are virtually inseparable on a soils map. Charlton-Rock outcrop-Paxton complex is an example of such a soil complex that is also found in the Taunton area.

### *Narrative Soil Survey, Taunton*

AgA – Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level, and well drained. It is found on terraces and outwash plains. This soil has few limitations for most urban use. This soil is classified by the USDA as a Prime Farmland Soil.

CpB- Charlton-Paxton very stony fine sandy loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes. This category consists of deep, nearly level and gently sloping well-drained soils on hills and ridges. These Charlton and Paxton soils are in such intricate patterns that it is not practical to map them separately. These soils have fair potential for most urban use with limitations being large stones on the surface and seasonal high water table in the Paxton soil.

CsB - Charlton-Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes. This category consists of deep, nearly level and gently sloping well-drained soils on hills and ridges; same limitations as described above.

CuC - Charlton-Rock outcrop-Paxton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes. This category is similar to those described above with a significant difference being the presence of rock outcrop at the surface. The limitations are also similar as those above with the additional limitations of rock outcrop and large stones at the surface.

De - Deerfield loamy sand. This soil is deep and nearly level, gently sloping and moderately well drained. The soil is limited for urban use because of seasonal high water table.

HfB - Hinckley sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, gently sloping and excessively drained. The soil has few limitations for most urban use.

HfC - Hinckley sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes. This soil is deep, moderately sloping or rolling and excessively drained. The soil is limited for most urban uses because of slope.

HfD - Hinckley sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes. This soil is deep, moderately steep or hilly, and excessively drained. The soil is limited for urban use because of slope.

MC - Medisaprists, deep. These soils are nearly level and very poorly drained. They consist of deposits of organic material in depressions, and extend to a depth of 60 inches. These soils have poor potential for urban use. Limitations are: high water table, hazard of flooding, and low bearing strength.

PbB - Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level and gently sloping, and well-drained. It is generally on the tops and upper side slopes of drumloids. The soil has fair potential for most urban use. Its limitations are: moderately slow or slow permeability, large stones, and a brief seasonal high water table.

PcB - Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes; the same general description and limitation as for PbB above, except that its potential for urban use is poor.

PcC - Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes. This soil is deep, moderately sloping, and well-drained. It is generally on side slopes of drumloids. This soil has poor potential for urban use. Large stones, moderately slow or slow permeability, and a brief seasonal high water table are limitations.

Ra - Raynham silt loam. This soil is deep, nearly level and poorly drained. It is found in low areas and depressions near large streams. This soil is limited for most uses due to high water table and slow permeability.

RdA - Ridgbury fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level, and poorly drained. It is in depressions and along drainage ways in the uplands. The soil has limitations for most urban development: high water table and slow permeability.

RdB - Ridgbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, gently sloping, and poorly drained; the same limitations as the above category.

ReA - Ridgbury extremely stony, fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes; the same description as for Ridgbury soil above. Additional limitation: stones on surface.

ReB – Ridgbury extremely stony, fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes; the same description as for Ridgbury soil above. Additional limitation: stones on the surface.

Sb – Scarboro mucky loamy fine sand. This soil is deep, level or nearly level, and very poorly drained. It is in pockets and depressions on outwash plains. The soil is limited for urban use by the high water table for long duration.

ScA – Scio silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level and moderately well drained. It is found near larger streams. The soil has limitations for urban use because of a seasonal high water table and high potential frost action. This soil is classified by the USDA as a Prime Farmland Soil

StB - Sudbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, gently sloping and is found on outwash plains. This soil has limitations for urban use because of wetness, seepage, and potential frost action. This soil is classified by the USDA as a Prime Farmland Soil.

Wg – Whitman fine sandy loam. This soil is deep, nearly level, and very poorly drained. It is in depressions and low areas on uplands. The soil has limitations for urban use: high water table and moderately slow permeability in the substratum.

Wh – Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loam (same description as for Whitman above. Additional limitation: stones on the surface).

WnA – Windsor loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level, and excessively drained. It is found on glacial outwash plains. This soil has few limitations for most urban use.

WnB – Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes; same description and limitations as above.

### *Important Farmlands*

Maps of important farmlands are part of a nationwide farmland inventory completed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These maps show the location and extent of the best land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This land is irreplaceable and its location should be known by all who are interested in maintaining agricultural self-sufficiency.

The NRCS maps indicate areas that have been designated as prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance. Soil surveys and national or state criteria are the basis for making these designations (see map of agricultural soils).

Prime Farmland is the land that has the best combination of soil properties for growing crops. National SCS criteria are used to assess these soil qualities and determine which areas qualify as prime farmland.

Prime farmland soils retain and provide ample moisture for crops, have favorable temperatures, growing season, acceptable salt content and acidity, and have few or no surface stones. They are

permeable to water and air, are not excessively erodible, are not saturated with water for long periods of time, and do not flood frequently. In Taunton, pockets of Prime Farmland Soils are found along the Taunton River in eastern Taunton, and in Westville in the Three Mile River watershed.

Unique farmland is land other than prime that is used for production of specific high-value crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture needed to produce high quality specialty crops. These areas can include cranberry bogs like those that are found in eastern Taunton, in and around Massasoit State Park.

Farmland of statewide importance is the land that is also important for growing crops but it has one or more soil properties which do not qualify for prime farmland. The soils of such land may be moderately erodible, may not provide ample moisture for crops, or may be less permeable to water and air. They also may have surface stones but are not numerous enough to preclude their removal for cultivation

Areas not designated as important farmlands are much less suited to cultivation. Crops can be grown on some such lands, but with difficulty, expense, and likelihood of erosion.

### *Farmland Preservation*

In conjunction with inventorying and mapping important farmlands, the state provides farm owners with alternatives to selling their lands for non-farm purposes or commercial development through the Farmland Assessment Act (General Law Chapter 61,61A, and 61B) and the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act (APR). These programs not only ease development pressures for the farm owner and preserve an important natural feature, but also allow the owner the opportunity to realize the value of the development rights of their property.

Under the Chapter 61 programs, actively farmed, forested, or eligible recreational land is permitted to be assessed and taxed on its actual use value rather than its potential development value. Although designed to provide an impetus for continued use of land for agricultural purposes, this is not a permanent preservation program or strategy.

Under the APR program, the Commonwealth compensates landowners for their willingness to place a permanent restriction on their land prohibiting all non-farm development and allowing only for agricultural uses. The landowner retains all rights of ownership including the rights to lease land, sell land, rights of privacy, and right to will it to heirs. Further, under this program a farmer may sell the development rights to the Commonwealth and the restricted farmland to another farmer.

Taunton presently has one farm, Reed Brothers Farm, participating in the APR program. The land under APR restriction is mapped and inventoried by owner and acreage according to the most recent Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) statistics. The parcel under APR restriction is located on the boundary between Taunton and North Dighton. The APR accounts for 138 acres of land along the Three Mile River, including 127 acres of land in Taunton and 9 acres of land in North Dighton.

Taunton also has an additional fifteen (15) property owners and approximately 700 acres of land enrolled in the various Chapter 61A program. This acreage is predominantly agricultural land and is located in the eastern and western portions of the City.

## **B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

The gently rolling countryside, relatively flat topography and prominent river corridors of Taunton have given rise to its particular landscape, which plays a vital role in defining the character of the City. Elevations in town range from 10 feet at the confluence of the Three Mile and Taunton Rivers, to approximately 200 feet above sea level at Prospect Hill. The dense, urban area around the historic center is home to the remnant of the industry that grew up around the Taunton and Mill Rivers.

The wetland, meadow, and forested land to the west and east, remains rural and more sparsely developed, even to this day. These areas also contain the remaining pockets of productive agricultural land in the City. The agricultural lands in the Three Mile River and east Taunton are mentioned by many people for their scenic landscape values as well as their links to Taunton's more rural past. Many ponds and small unnamed tributary streams are also found in the wooded eastern and western reaches of the City, and are important not only for their landscape value, but also for the recreational and environmental services that they provide to the people of Taunton.

Any substantial loss or adverse impact to these types of areas would affect the cultural identity of the City, the rural recreational opportunities available, and the environmental integrity of these resources.

## **C. WATER RESOURCES**

There are three major rivers in the City of Taunton: The Taunton River; the Three Mile River, and; the Mill River-Snake River. The Three Mile River is also a major tributary of the Taunton River with its confluence located in North Dighton. The Mill River-Snake River is also a tributary of the Taunton River, and flows through the downtown with its confluence located just below the downtown area.

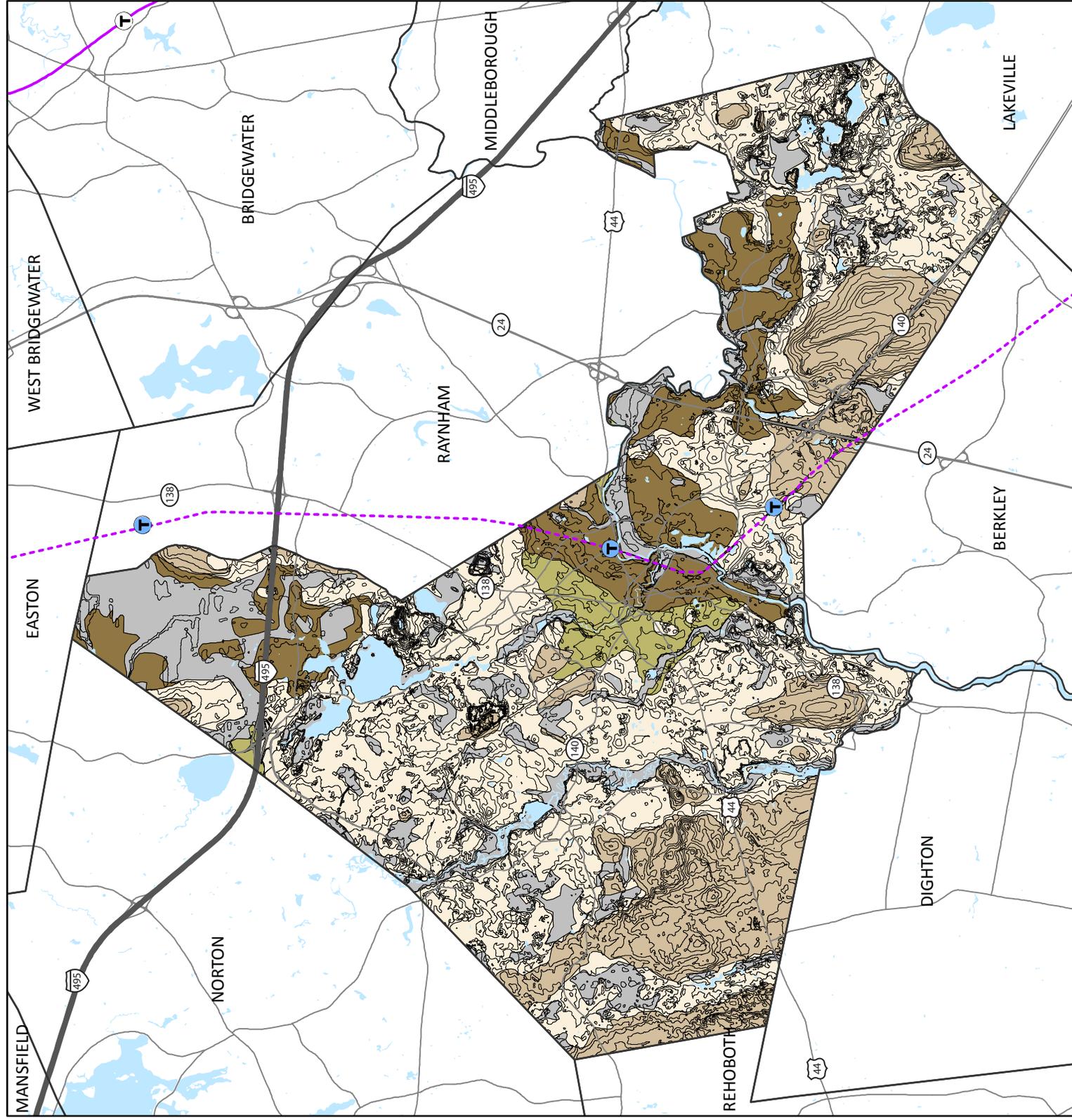
The Taunton River is one of the most prominent cultural, historical, and natural resources in southeastern Massachusetts. Its watershed drains 562 square miles (359,680 acres) and contains the entirety or portions of forty-three (43) cities and towns. The Taunton is the longest undammed coastal river in New England at approximately forty (40) miles. It has been federally designated as a Wild & Scenic River (2009), state designated as a Heritage River (2002), and is part of the state designated Wampanoag Commemorative Canoe Passage (1976), a water route used by the Native Peoples to travel from Massachusetts Bay in Scituate to the Mount Hope/Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island. This historic use is reflective of the Taunton River's relatively flat landscape, dropping only twenty (20) feet over its forty mile course. The Taunton River is tidal up to the confluence with the Three Mile River in North Dighton (although the tidal push is evident into Raynham), which is recognized as the upper limit of the Mount Hope Bay estuary. The City of Taunton is located slightly west of the geographic center of the watershed.

The Taunton has numerous points of public access along the river and in neighboring communities. The river is used for fishing and boating (canoe, kayak, and small motorized) and

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Surficial Geology Map

- Legend**
- 3 Meter Topo
  - Sand & Gravel
  - Till or Bedrock
  - Large sand deposits where distinguished from sand and gravel deposits
  - Fine - grained deposits
  - Floodplain Alluvium
  - Water
  - Municipal Boundaries
  - Interstates
  - Arterials and Collectors
  - Local Roads
  - MBTA Proposed Stations
  - MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
  - MBTA Active Commuter Stations
  - MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines

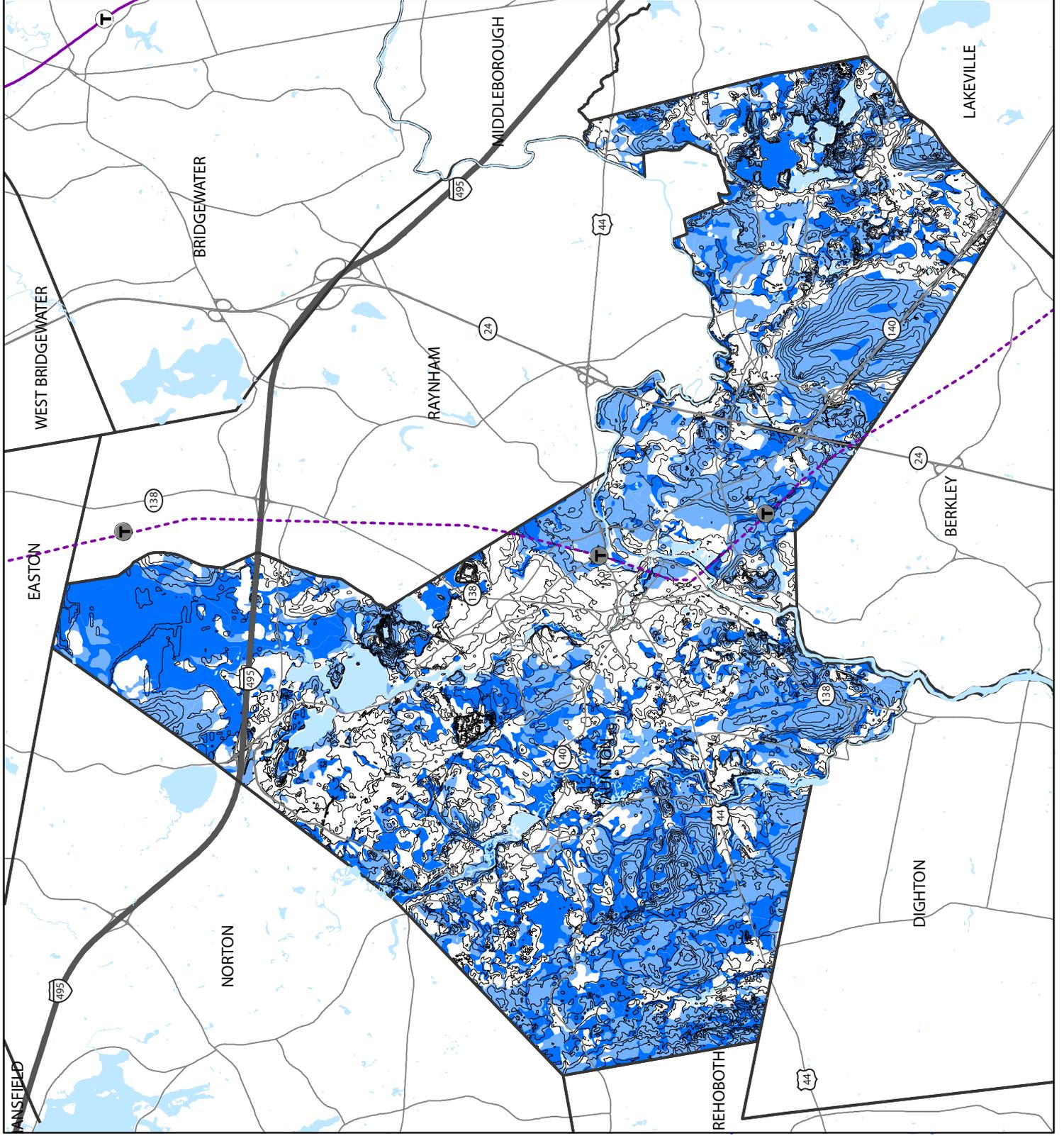


# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Hydric Soils Map

### Legend

- 3 Meter Topo
- All hydric
- Partially hydric
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines

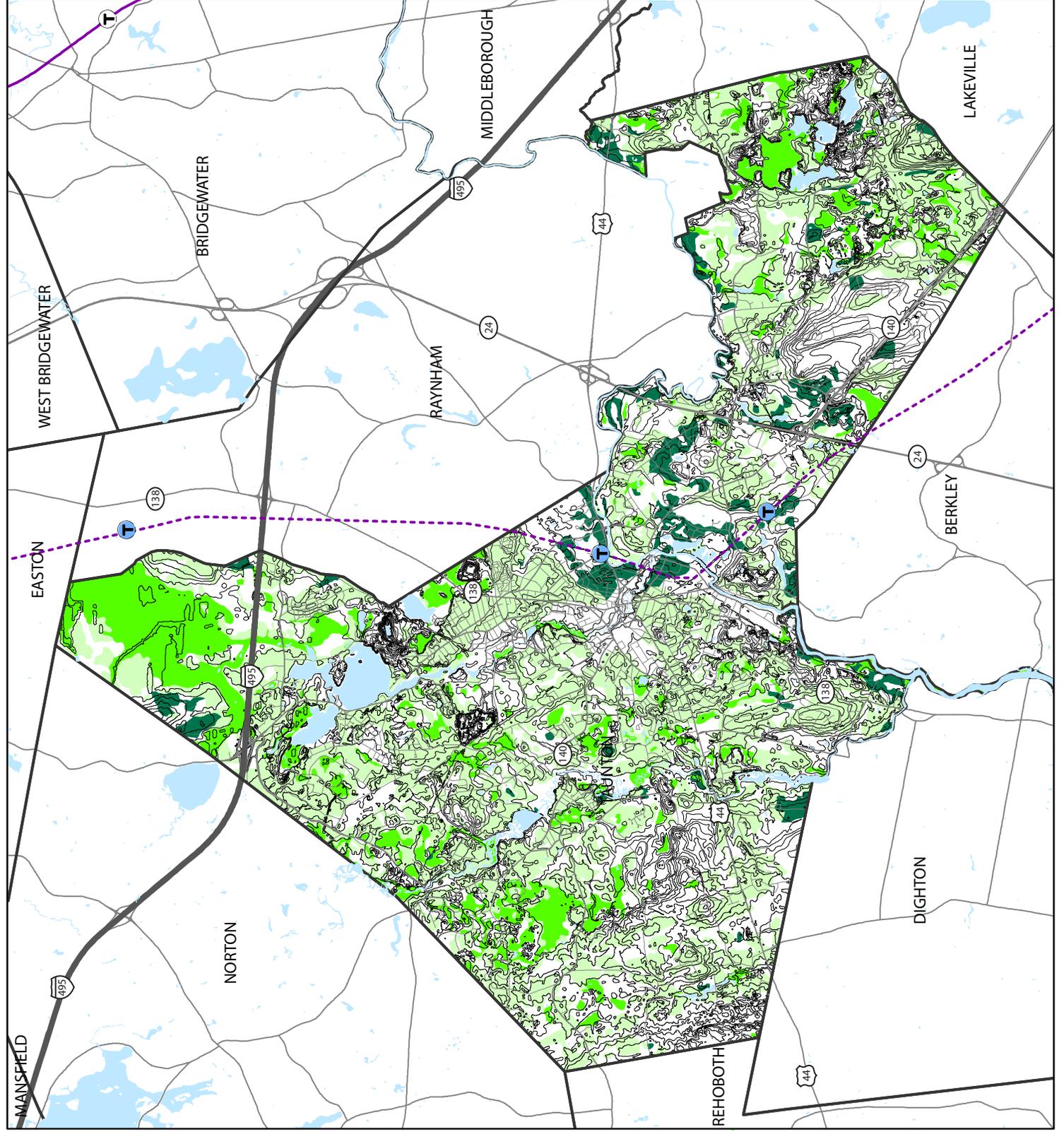


# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Farmland Soils Map

### Legend

-  3 Meter Topo
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Water
-  Interstates
-  Arterials and Collectors
-  Local Roads
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  MBTA Proposed Rail Stations
-  MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
-  MBTA Active Commuter Stations
-  MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



the parks, conservation, cultural and historic amenities, and recreation areas along its banks afford excellent passive recreational opportunities for local and regional populations and visitors to the area.

The Three Mile River is located in the western part of Taunton and flows in a southeasterly direction from its headwaters at the confluence of the Wading and Rumford Rivers in Norton. The river flows approximately 12 miles (it is not three miles long!) through west Taunton into the Taunton River in North Dighton. The river drops only about twenty-five (25) feet in elevation over its entire course. The Three Mile River drainage area is approximately 84.5 square miles, extending northward into Mansfield, via the Wading and Rumford Rivers. A portion of the Three Mile River sub-watershed (14,276 acres) in Norton, Taunton, and Dighton, was designated by the state's Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs (EEA) as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in 2008. The ACEC designation should help the City in its efforts to further protect important public water supply areas around the Dever wells, a groundwater supply for Taunton. The headwaters of the Segregansett River are also located within the rural southwestern corner of the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC. The Segregansett (or Seggie as it is referred to locally) is classified as a Class A, Public Water Supply by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Surface Water Quality Standards and Source Water Assessment Protection Program (SWAP). The Seggie flows to a pumping station in Dighton, and from there it is fed into the Somerset surface water reservoir.

Recreationally, both the Three Mile and the Seggie are used by canoeists, kayakers, and fisherman (although canoeing and kayaking can be challenging on stretches of the Three Mile due to the presence of industrial dams and, the Seggie due to tidal influence).

The Mill River-Snake River sub-watershed drains an area extending northward into Sharon, Massachusetts. The river enters the City as the Snake River, flowing southerly into man-made Lake Sabbatia (Taunton's largest lake) on Bay Street. The river then flows out of Sabbatia as the Mill River, continuing its southerly flow through the downtown and former industrial area and into the Taunton River. Historically, the Mill River portion of this system was dammed beginning in the early industrial period in order to provide water/water power for mills and silver operations along the river. This was good for the emerging textile, pewter, silver, and other industries, but had a devastating effect on the native fishery, specifically the river herring population. After the textile industry left the area in the early twentieth century, the remnant dams served no purpose but to impound water, drown the original river channel and submerge its natural floodplain. Over the years, this led to increasing flood hazard issues along the Mill River as these aging dams fell into ill repair. In 2005, the remnant dam at the Whittenton Mill complex nearly breached during a significant storm event, and the downtown area and neighborhoods adjacent to the dam had to be evacuated for several days while emergency repairs were made. The Whittenton Mill dam and two others on the Mill River have been removed or repaired since 2012. The final dam, owned by Reed & Barton, is scheduled to be removed in 2015 (this program is discussed further in the *Environmental Challenges* section of this plan).

Recreationally, the Mill River is used for fishing and, with improved access and restored stream bank and floodplain since the dam removals, used by more hikers, canoeists, and kayakers.

There are numerous other named and unnamed streams and water bodies in the City that provide water access for various forms of passive and active recreation. In Massasoit State Park in east

Taunton, a chain of five ponds (Big Bearhole, Little Bearhole, Middle, Kings, and Furnace Ponds) make up the Lake Rico system. These ponds are generally accessible and offer public opportunities for fishing and canoeing. Watson Pond State Park, in west Taunton, offers fishing and boating opportunities as well. Lake Sabbatia, located directly across Bay Street from Watson Pond State Park, also offers water access for boating and fishing.

Other areas, such as Willis Pond, Black Pond, Oakland Mill Pond, Bunk Pond, and Prospect Hill Pond offer canoeing, fishing, and scenic opportunities, but all have access issues (either physical access due to terrain and vegetation issues, or restricted access through surrounding private property).

Taunton also contains four (4) coldwater streams that are state certified Coldwater Fisheries Resources (CFRs) under the DEP's "Outstanding Resource Waters" Program. These coldwater streams include Spring Brook in Massasoit State Park, the Segregansett River from its source in western Taunton, and two unnamed tributaries to the Taunton River.

### *Drinking Water Supply*

As previously discussed in Section 3, Taunton's public water supply system is primarily supplied by the Assawompset Pond Complex, or APC, located in Middleboro, Lakeville, Freetown, and Rochester (several miles to the east of Taunton). The watershed of the APC is approximately 49.7 square miles, or 31,808 acres of land. The ponds themselves account for an area of 9.47 square miles, or 6060 acres. The APC is the principal public drinking water supply source for both New Bedford and Taunton. The two cities also contribute supplemental supplies for several communities through service agreements.

The Massachusetts DEP has completed a SWAP Report for the City of Taunton's public water system, as required under provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that states, as part of SWAP to: conduct a comprehensive inventory of all land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources; make an assessment of the susceptibility of drinking water supply sources to contamination from the surrounding land uses, and; publicize the results to provide support for improved water supply protection.

The DEP assessment of the Taunton water supply system resulted in a susceptibility ranking of "high" due to the number of potential water quality/pollution threats in the APC's watershed. These threats relate to surrounding land uses, specifically: proximity of roads and highways and potential for runoff; septic systems and cesspools; agriculture, including cranberry bogs and horse farms.

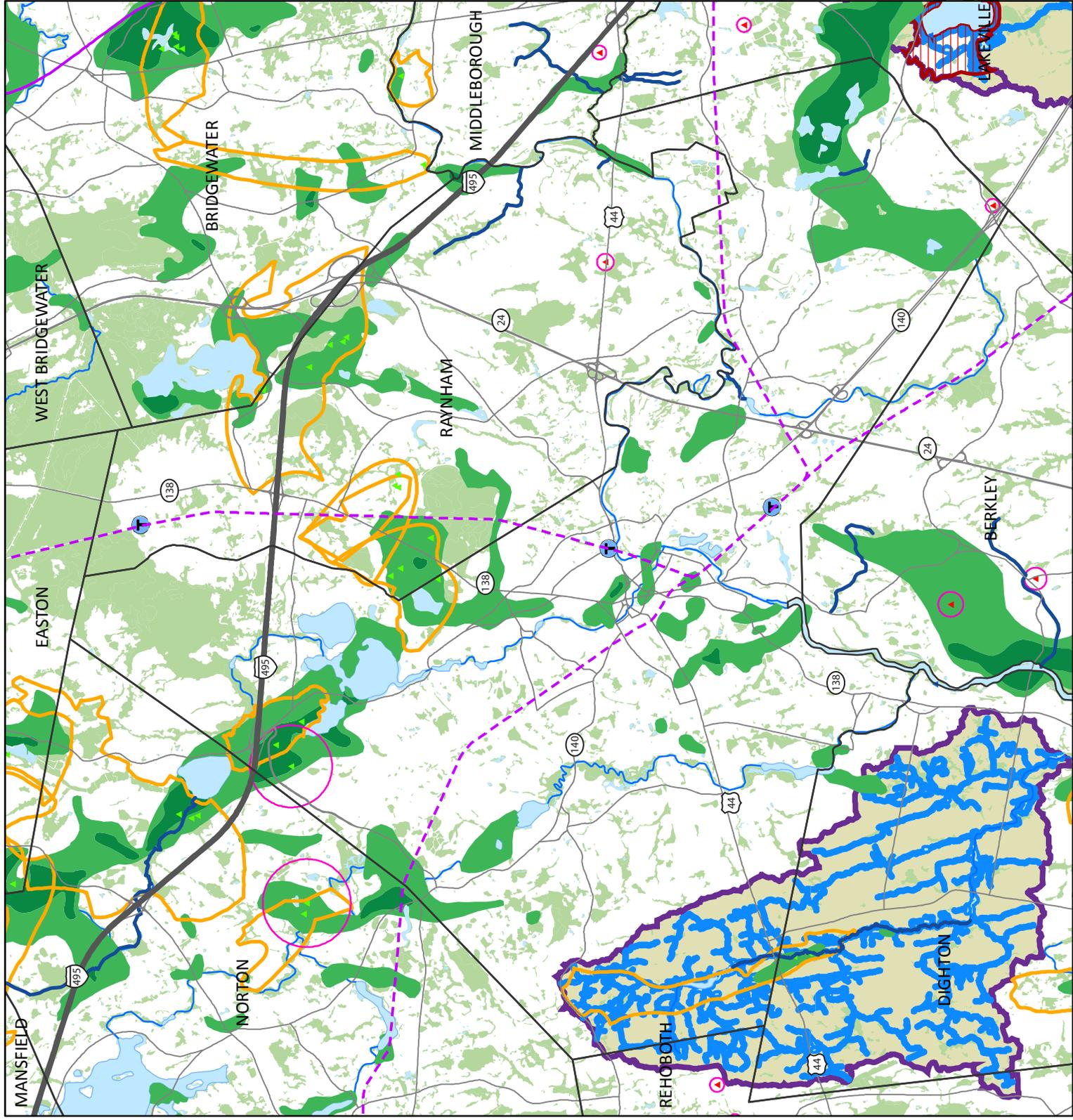
In an effort to protect the quality of the APC, both New Bedford and Taunton have worked to acquire land around the reservoir over the years. Currently, the cities control over 8,100 acres of land around the APC (New Bedford controls over 7,800 acres of this total). Both cities also participate in the APC Management Committee, a group that also includes Lakeville, Middleboro, Freetown, Rochester, and state agencies. The APC Management Committee meets quarterly to discuss how best to manage and protect the APC. Committee members also cooperatively patrol the ponds in order to prevent any inappropriate use of pond shore lands. The City's Dever Wells are gravel packed groundwater wells, located in a productive aquifer in proximity to the Myles Standish Industrial park. These wells are protected by local zoning

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Water Resources Map

### Legend

- ▲ Community Groundwater Source
- ▲ Surface Water Intake
- ▲ Non-Community Groundwater Source
- ▲ Emergency Surface Water
- Interm Wellhead Protection Areas
- DEP Approved Zone II
- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Public Water Supply Watershed
- Aquifer**
- High Yield
- Medium Yield
- Wetland
- Cold Water Fishery Pond
- Cold Water Fishery River
- Rivers and Streams
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- T MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- T MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



bylaws and applicable state regulations. There are a few low to moderate yield aquifers that also underlay the City and are recharged through the movement of water through the soil during storm events. These areas, if in practical and suitable locations, could be looked at for their future potential as public water supply areas.

### *Flood Hazard Areas*

The Taunton River Watershed, within the City of Taunton, has experienced chronic flooding and flood related loss for decades. Repetitive flooding areas include Cobb Brook, Summer Street, Old Tremont Street, Railroad Avenue, and Middleboro Avenue. The flood of record for Taunton occurred on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1968. Flood hazards along the Taunton River and its tributaries have resulted in large part from historical development patterns during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. During this time, the Taunton and Mill Rivers, in particular, were used primarily as industrial rivers whose floodplain and floodway were compromised by mills, factories, housing, and transportation growth. Current flooding problems have been linked to sedimentation resulting from unabated stormwater inputs (Cobb Brook), as well as the industrial era remnant dams that impound and channelize a portion of the Mill River above and through the downtown (two of these dams, Hopewell/State Hospital Dam, and Whittenton Mill Dam, have been removed and the river channel and bank restored, since 2012).

Beginning in 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) undertook a project to revise the flood maps for the Narragansett Bay Watershed, including the Taunton River in southeastern Massachusetts. Final Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are expected to be completed by 2015. In order to remain in compliance with the Flood Insurance Program, the City amended its Special Flood Hazard District bylaw.

## **D. VEGETATION**

### *Forests*

Taunton's woodlands are comprised of mixed hardwoods and softwoods that are common to the region. Upland forests in northern and western parts of Taunton are characterized by: Red and Black Oak, Red and Sugar Maple, Beech, Eastern White Pine, some Gray Birch, Yellow Birch, and Black Birch, Hemlock and Cedar. Red Maple and Silver Maple dominate the swamp areas in this part of the City. In the eastern part of Taunton, you will find areas covered by scub oak and pitch-pine forest more typical of nearby Plymouth or Cape Cod. This forest type is a result of the very sandy soils that are found in parts of this area. There is an excellent example of this forest type, along with a significant White Pine stand, in the five-hundred (500) acre Hutt Forest in East Taunton.

According to Mass Audubon's Losing Ground (2014), Taunton ranked in the top twenty (20) communities in forest land converted to development between 2005 and 2013. Each community in the top twenty lost more than one-hundred (100) acres of forest land during this period. One of the most severe consequences of development on forest land is the habitat fragmentation that it causes, particularly to sensitive wildlife species habitats, wildlife corridors, and interior forest bird populations. The loss of forest land can also result in increased erosion/soil loss, loss of streamside buffering, diminished water quality, reduced recharge of groundwater and, poorer air

quality, all of which are important environmental services that forest land provides a host community.

### *Public Shade Trees*

Public shade trees are defined in Massachusetts General Law (MGL Ch.87, Section 1) as trees within the public way or on the boundaries thereof. Shade trees are an important part of the aesthetic in an urban environment, and they also provide wind breaks, relief and shelter from the sun, and help to improve air quality. Taunton has always placed a high value on public shade trees, particularly as part of its downtown streetscapes. The recently completed Downtown Accessibility project also involved the planting of 57 new shade trees. Shade trees are also an important part of the Mill River Park, a conversion of the lower parking lot behind City Hall, in the downtown. This project included plantings in the park along walkways and along the river bank. There is also informational signage on site referring to the plants and trees found in the park.

The Planning Board also requires plantings in subdivisions/developments and strives to maintain existing native stock. The City's Department of Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds (PCPG) has developed a management plan for the maintenance of all vegetation in public areas (Vegetation Management Plan, 2011- 2015).

### *Wetlands*

Taunton also supports a substantial amount of wetland communities. These areas are characterized by water at, or just below the surface of the ground, such that they support a variety of wetland indicator plants. The wetland areas of Taunton are a mix of fresh scrub-shrub swamp areas, wet forested areas, and areas of slow moving streams and adjacent floodplains. The scrub-shrub swamps are dominated by persistent emergent wetlands vegetation while the forested areas are predominately occupied by broad leaved deciduous vegetation. Significant wetland areas occur along the Three Mile River and its watershed in the western portion of the City, and along the Snake River corridor into the Hockomock Swamp (an area of approximately 16,800 acres, 2,300 acres of which are located in Taunton) in the northern section of the City. The quality of these wetlands varies according to their proximity to major roadways and surface water impoundments. River and stream flow is somewhat slow due to the relatively flat topography in the river corridors.

The Hockomock Swamp is the largest freshwater wetland in southern New England and contains some of the largest and best examples of Atlantic White Cedar Swamp in the state. The Three Mile River Watershed contains spectacular Alluvial Red Maple Swamps and a rare Small river (Silver Maple) Floodplain Forest. While Red Maple Swamps were considered abundant habitat in Massachusetts, from a global perspective, we are fortunate to be a center for this ecologically important community. The Small river Floodplain Forest is documented by NHESP to be the finest of only four high-quality examples of floodplain forests on small rivers in the state. All three of these areas are considered Priority Natural Communities by NHESP.

Threats to all of these exemplary communities include clearing, encroachment by development, and changes upstream that would change the hydrologic aspects of the entire area.

Wetlands serve a number of important natural functions, including: protection of public and private water supply; protection of groundwater supply; flood control; storm damage prevention; prevention of pollution; protection of fisheries, and; protection of wildlife habitat. The Conservation Commission has adopted a local Wetlands Protection Bylaw that enhances the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, which protects wetlands and the public interests that they provide.

## **E. FISH AND WILDLIFE**

The diversity of habitat in the Taunton River Watershed and its sub-watersheds provides good to excellent habitat opportunities for numerous fish and wildlife species. Large undeveloped areas of swamp, forest, river corridor, and agricultural land, provide corridors and habitat connectivity that attract a variety of wildlife species, indigenous and migratory, to the Taunton area.

In Massachusetts, the Department of Fish & Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Massachusetts Program, developed BioMap2 to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change (*BioMap2*).

BioMap2 incorporates the historic collected data of the NHESP, the State Wildlife Action Plan (2005), and TNC's North Atlantic Eco-regional Assessment to identify Core Habitat Areas and Critical Natural Landscapes across the state. Core Habitat includes areas that are important for: the retention of biodiversity; the integrity and persistence of natural communities and rare species and Species of Special Concern, and; retention of intact ecosystems. TNC's Critical Landscapes identify large natural landscape blocks that have suffered only minor impact from development, and that if afforded adequate protection, will support all of the values inherent in Core Habitats as well as contributing to the resiliency of a City, town, or region in the face of climate change.

TNC has identified the riparian zone of the Taunton River and its largest tributaries (the Three Mile and Mill Rivers), areas surrounding "coldwater streams", imperiled species habitats, NHESP identified species habitats, and NHESP natural communities identified as rare, endangered, or of special concern, as priorities for protection in the Taunton area.

More information on the Core Habitats and Critical Landscapes that include the City of Taunton is found in Appendix B. A list of more commonly occurring species in the City of Taunton is found in Appendix C.

### *Rare Species and Significant Natural Communities*

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Taunton has seventeen (17) listed species ranging from endangered to species of special concern, and five (5) Priority Natural Communities occurring in NHESP Core Habitats in or in proximity in the region.

## Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) Listed Species and Status

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status
<b><i>Mussels</i></b>		
<i>Leptodia ochracea</i>	Tidewater Mucket	SC
<i>Liguma nasuta</i>	Eastern Pondmussel	SC
<b><i>Insects</i></b>		
<i>Callophrys hesseli</i>	Hessel's Hairstreak	SC
<i>Enallagama recurvatum</i>	Pine Barrens Bluet	T
<b><i>Amphibians</i></b>		
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Eastern Spadefoot	T
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	T
<b><i>Fishes</i></b>		
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon	E
<b><i>Reptiles</i></b>		
<i>Emydoiden blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC
<b><i>Plants</i></b>		
<i>Platanthera flava</i>	Pale Green Orchis	T
<i>Carex typhina</i>	Cat-tail Sedge	T
<i>Cardamine longii</i>	Long's Bitter-cress	E
<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Plymouth Gentian	SC
<i>Scirpus longii</i>	Long's Bulrush	T
<i>Eleocharis tricostata</i>	Three-angled Spike-sedge	E
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>	Philadelphia Panic-grass	SC

<b>Priority Natural Communities</b>	<b>Community State Rank</b>
Small river Floodplain Forest	S2
Alluvial Red Maple Swamp	S3
Coastal Atlantic White Cedar Swamp	S2
Acidic Graminoid Fen	S3
Coastal Plain Pondshore	S2

"Endangered" (E) species are native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory.

"Threatened" (T) species are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory.

"Special concern" (SC) species are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

The Community State Rank is part of the Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts, and reflects the habitat type's regional rarity or threat by prioritization, with rankings from S1 to S5. Critically Imperiled communities are given a rank of S1 and are considered to have 5 or fewer documented good sites or limited acreage remaining across the state. Imperiled communities have a rank of S2, indicating 6-20 good sites or limited acreage remaining across the state. Vulnerable communities have a rank of S3, indicating 21-100 good sites or limited acreage across the state.

Any native species listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also included on the state list. The rules and regulations and precise definitions relative to the establishment of the Commonwealth's list of endangered, threatened, and special concern species are set forth in 321 CMR 10.00, et seq.

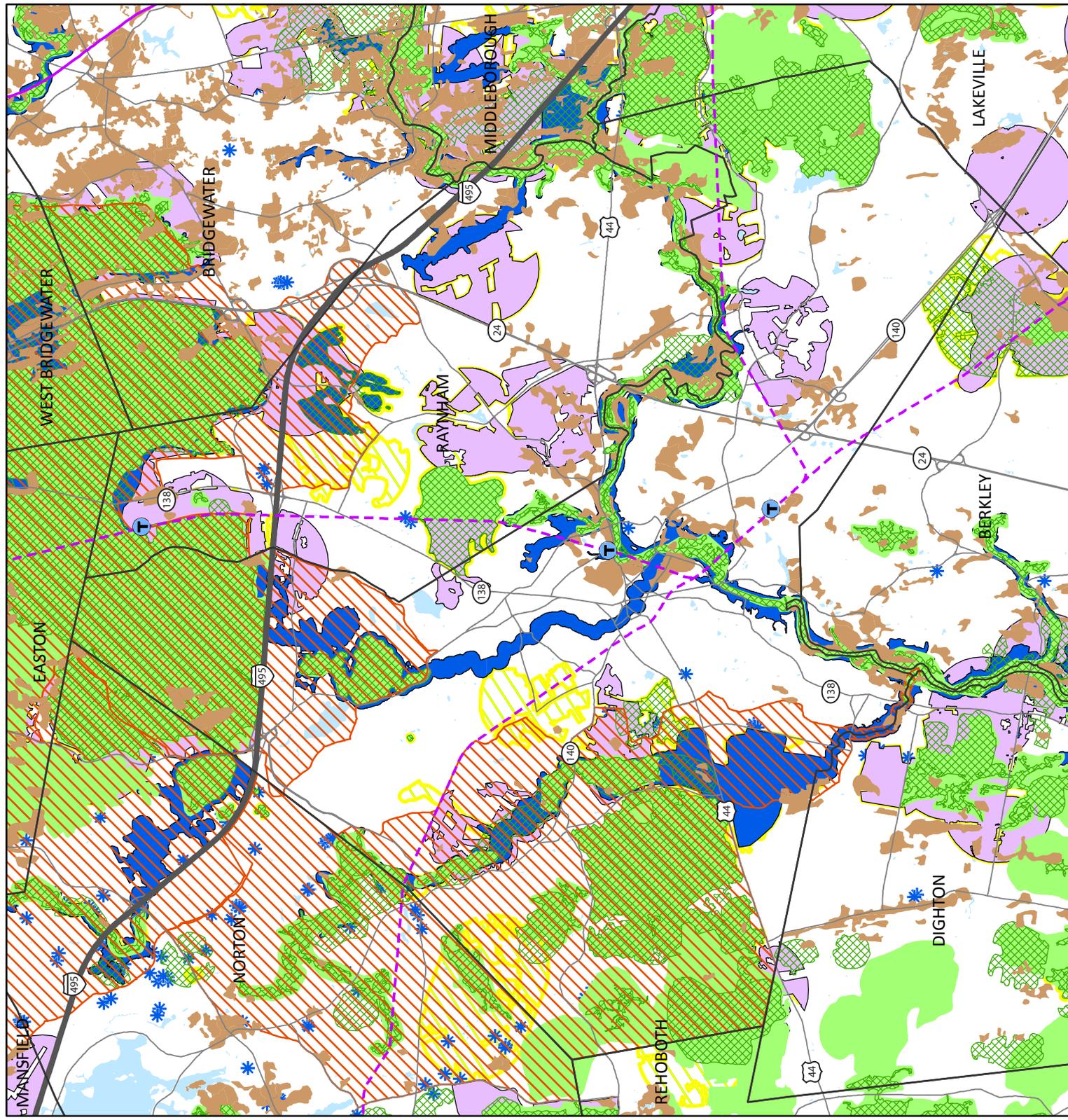
### *Coldwater Fisheries*

In October of 2014, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) provided communities with another important conservation planning tool, an online map of Coldwater Fisheries Resources (CFR). Coldwater streams are state classified as Critical Areas, and they are certified by DEP under its "Outstanding Resource Water" Programs. These streams provide important habitat for a number of species, including trout. Trout are a very important indicator species in gauging the health of a coldwater stream as they are typically more sensitive to

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Habitat Map

- Legend**
-  All areas are prime farmland
  -  ACECs
  -  BioMap2 Core Habitat
  -  BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape
  -  Globally Rare Species - Tier 1 (TNC)
  -  Globally Rare Species - Tier 2 (TNC)
  -  NHESP Natural Communities (MassGIS)
  -  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools (MassGIS)
  -  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (MassGIS)
  -  NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife (MassGIS)
  -  Water
  -  Interstates
  -  Arterials and Collectors
  -  Local Roads
  -  Municipal Boundaries
  -  MBTA Proposed Stations
  -  MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
  -  MBTA Active Commuter Stations
  -  MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



changes in temperature, water quality, and stream flow within their resident streams. The CFR database is derived from fish samples collected annually by DFW staff biologists and technicians. The hope is to update the database as new streams are sampled annually by staff.

The current CFR database shows four coldwater fisheries in Taunton: the Segregansett River from its source near Tremont Street; an unnamed tributary to Dean Brook; Spring Brook in Massasoit State Park, and; an unnamed tributary to the Taunton River. Many of the coldwater streams in the area occur as very narrow brooks, creeks, or spring fed waterways that emerge from and flow through heavily vegetated areas, are unnamed, and in some cases, don't appear on maps.

Threats to CFRs include roadway runoff, cutting of streamside vegetation, and other activities that can reduce the amount of shading and increase the stream's temperature. Small breaks in streamside vegetation can affect the entire reach of a coldwater stream. An even greater threat to CFRs may be the general lack of awareness of where these critical resources are located within the Greater Taunton area. (Information on the care of CFRs is found in Appendix D).

### *Vernal Pools*

A vernal pool (sometimes referred to as a spring pool), is a shallow depression in the landscape that contains water for only a portion of the year. These pools may be only a few square feet in size or cover acres of land. Vernal pools also vary in appearance, as well as when and how long they are full, and their principal source of water.

While vernal pools do not support fish, they do provide very important habitat for various species of frogs, turtles and salamanders. Many of these species must return to these vernal pools in order to breed. Some of the species found in vernal pools include: Wood frogs, Spring peepers, Spotted salamanders, Spotted turtles, and Wood turtles. Vernal pools are also often part of wildlife corridors allowing the movement of these species between other wetland areas.

The NHESP has published GIS maps of the Commonwealth showing potential and certified vernal pools. NHESP has a documentation and certification process for vernal pools available online or by contacting their offices. According to NHESP's most recent data, Taunton currently has twenty (20) certified vernal pools. The majority of the certified vernal pools are located in the western and northwestern portion of the City, in the Three Mile River Watershed. The greatest threat to vernal pools stems from development related impacts. The City has worked with staff in neighboring Norton in recent years to identify and certify vernal pools within the Three Mile River Watershed to assure that human activity will have a minimal impact on these important wildlife corridors and breeding areas.

There are many more potential vernal pool sites in the City according to the NHESP database. These areas should be surveyed and documented as part of a community natural resource inventory and assessment.

## F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

In 1981, an inventory of scenic landscapes found throughout Massachusetts was completed by the former Department of Environmental Management (DEM). This information was compiled in the Scenic Landscape Inventory to help guide conservation, preservation, and acquisition efforts in the Commonwealth's cities and towns. The inventory was based on a culturally oriented approach coupled with a visual assessment. Sites included in the inventory were classified as either Distinctive (areas of the highest visual quality), Noteworthy (areas of lesser, but important visual quality), and Common (areas that may contain attributes of the first two categories, but lack consistently high levels). Taunton had no Distinctive or Noteworthy landscapes listed in the final list of sites.

In 2005, Taunton participated in the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Heritage Landscape Inventory. This project was carried out in cooperation with the Taunton River Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council. Heritage landscapes are those special places that help to define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are geographic areas that contain both natural and cultural resources, and they are areas that reflect human interaction with the environment that reflect the use and development of the land (the list of sites and a map from the 2005 Heritage Landscape Inventory for Taunton are found in Appendix E).

The series of public meetings and field visits to sites in Taunton revealed much about the heart and soul of the community, and the issues that the City needs to address in order to retain our important historic places and cultural identity. In addition to the information gathered in the Heritage Landscape Inventory, information gathered in the 2013 Taunton Open Space Survey and subsequent public meetings was also incorporated into the following summary and accompanying map.

The Three Mile River Watershed, the Mill River/Snake River Watershed, the Cotley River, and the Taunton River, were amongst the most commented on scenic and unique areas in both the Open Space Survey and at public meetings. Taunton's rivers and tributary systems were the most often mentioned areas in regard to the cultural and historic development of the City.

The agricultural landscapes, both active and remnant, in the Westville area and in eastern Taunton, are seen as valuable scenic resources that contribute greatly to the character of the community. Specifically mentioned agricultural landscapes were the Reed Brothers Farm on South Walker Street (along the Three Mile River), the former Thayer Farm (now the Westville Conservation Area on North Walker Street), the McCaffery Farm on Caswell Street, and the Couto cranberry bogs at Highstone and Precinct Streets.

The Boyden Refuge was not only identified as one of the most important open space areas in the City, but also recognized for its scenic views and vistas along the Three Mile River corridor. The Sharp Estate, Westville Conservation Area, the Idella Lewis property and floodplain forest adjacent to the Parker Golf Course, were also mentioned for their cultural, scenic, or natural resource character.

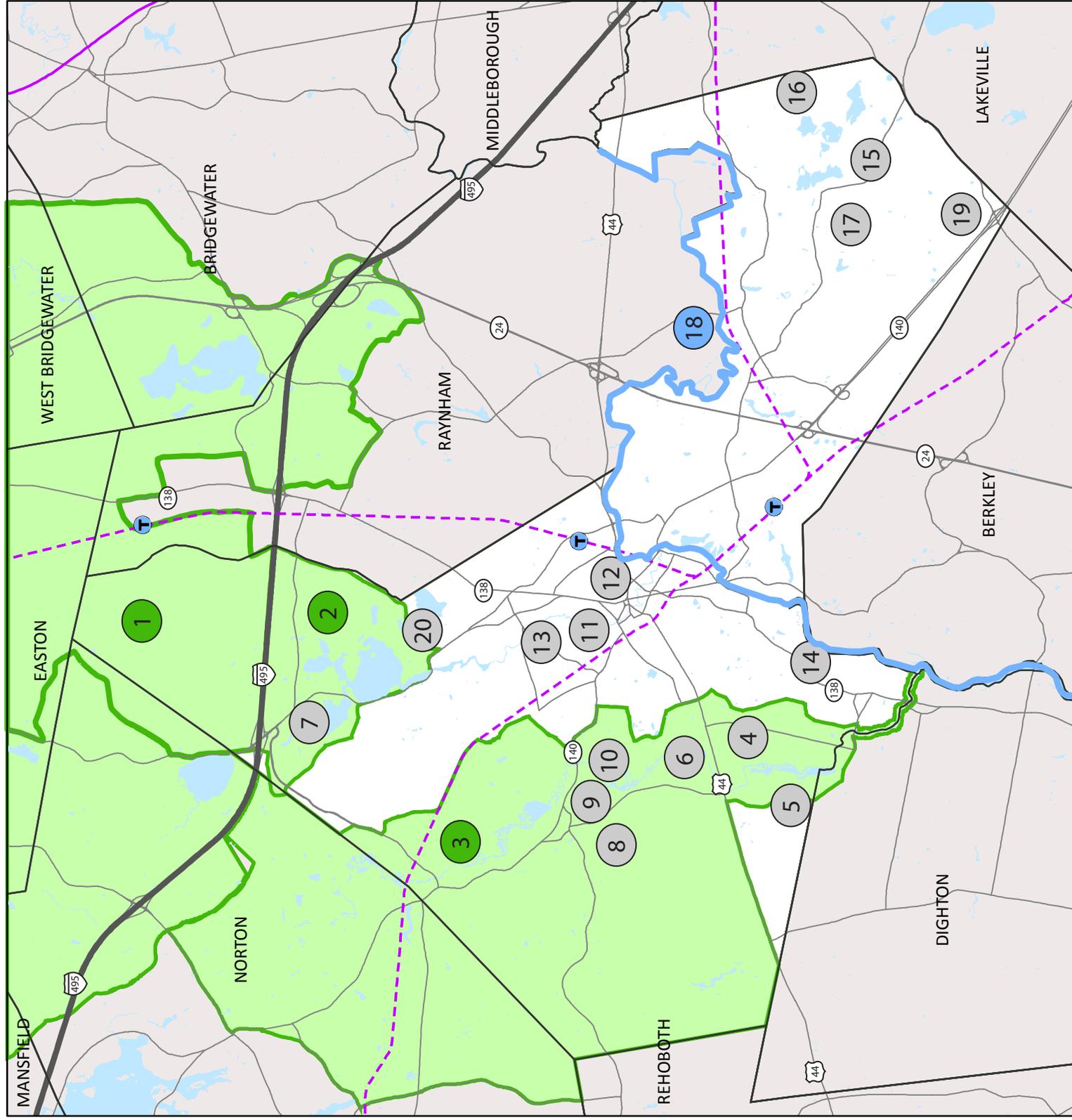
Massasoit State Park and Watson Pond State Park were also recognized not only for their recreational attributes, but for their landscapes and aesthetics as well. Many other people mentioned the architectural beauty of certain areas in the downtown, particularly the Church

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Scenic Resources and Unique Environments Map

### Legend

- ACECs
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- T MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- T MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



1. Hockomock Swamp ACEC
2. Canoe River Aquifer ACEC
3. Three Mile River Watershed ACEC
4. Boyden Refuge
5. Reed Farm
6. Westville Conservation Area
7. Watson Pond State Park
8. The Sharp Estate
9. Parker Memorial Golf Course
10. Idella Lewis Property/Small River Floodplain Forest
11. Taunton State Hospital
12. Taunton Green Area
13. Reed & Barton
14. Walker Blake Cemetery
15. Couto Cranberry Farm
16. Massasoit State Park
17. Spring Rain Farm ( MacCaffrey)
18. Taunton River
19. Hutt Forest
20. Mill River/Lake Sabbatia/ Snake River

Green area and the views from the Taunton Green/Courthouse area. Several people also mentioned the view of the Taunton River from the overlook at the historic Walker-Blake Cemetery.

Taunton is also one of only four (4) communities in the Commonwealth to contain parts of at least three (3) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACECs (the other communities being Boston, Bourne, and neighboring Norton). An ACEC is an area containing concentrations of highly significant cultural, historic, archaeological, agricultural, inland surface waters, water supply, habitat resources, natural hazard areas, and special use areas. An area considered for ACEC nomination must document at least four (4) of these features in order to be eligible for designation. The Three Mile River ACEC documented all nine of these features.

The formal designation of an ACEC is made by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. The designation recognizes the environmental significance of an area to the Commonwealth and its citizens.

The City of Taunton contains a small portion of the Canoe River Aquifer ACEC in north Taunton (1,250 acres), and substantially larger portions of the Hockomock ACEC (2,300 acres) and the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC (8,751 acres). In total, 12,301 of Taunton's 30,878 acres, or approximately 40%, is part of state designated ACECs. This is extremely significant to the overall landscape character, cultural, historical, and ecological/eco-regional value of land within the City.

#### *Unusual Geologic Features*

As previously mentioned in the *Topography And Geology* portion of this plan (Section 4A), Taunton is located primarily on an outwash plain consisting of gently rolling hills with low lying river valleys and flatlands. The City's relief is a product of glacial advance and retreat over millions of years. In some instances, the glacial processes left areas that are distinct in the landscape of Taunton. Prospect Hill, for example, is the largest mapped single summit kame in the Taunton Quadrangle according to the U.S. Geological Survey (ranging up to 200 feet high and one-half mile across at the base).

The Hutt Forest in East Taunton also contains an unusual habitat for this part of Bristol County. In addition to its significant stand of native White Pine, it contains a section of scrub oak and pitch-pine forest, located in sandy soils, that is more characteristic of the soils and vegetative communities found on Cape Cod.

#### *Cultural and Historical Areas*

The history, culture, and character of an area are reflected in its buildings, structures and sites. These historic features provide a community with a continuing sense of its past and a tangible, visual example of its heritage. However, lack of foresight in planning as an area grows and develops often leads to significant historical resources being destroyed, changed beyond recognition, or to the encroachment of structures that are incompatible and detract from the historic value of an area.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a means for communities to preserve their historic resources through the establishment of historic districts. As stated in the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) "Guideline for Establishment of Historic Districts," the purpose of the Historic District Act is to promote that public welfare through the preservation and protection of: a) the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant in the history of Massachusetts and its cities and towns, b) to maintain and improve the settings of buildings and places, and c) to encourage new designs that are compatible with the existing buildings in a district.

Local Historic Districts are administered at the municipal level are special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of building and place are preserved and protected by local historic district commissions. Taunton adopted a local historic district ordinance in 1979 and designated the Church Green Local Historic District. The local Historic District boundaries are larger than the Church Green National Register District.

The MHC also keeps a statewide Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. According to the MHC, Taunton's inventory of historic resources documents over 750 individual resources and many areas that date from pre-Contact Period to 1988.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. All National register properties are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Taunton's National Register program began in 1977 with the listing of the Church Green Historic District. It expanded greatly with a Multiple Resource Area Nomination that included six districts and 86 individual listings. Also listed in the State Register are those properties protected by a preservation restriction, per the requirements of MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A preservation restriction (PR) runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation tools available. All properties with PRs are automatically listed in the State Register. Taunton has two properties that are protected by PRs, the First Parish Church and the School Street School (a list of National Register Properties appears in Appendix F).

The City has been very proactive in the protection and preservation of its cultural and historic assets. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program was initiated in Taunton in 1987. It is responsible for some of the past façade improvements and unification of signage in the downtown area.

There is a demolition delay bylaw on the books that provides a six month delay of demolition. Properties older than 50 years that are slated for demolition must be reviewed for historical and architectural significance.

Taunton's Cluster Development Bylaw requests that a developer design buildings that show harmony with the terrain and surrounding neighborhoods. There is also a minimum open space requirement for urban or rural and single or multi-family developments.

## *Archaeological Resources*

In addition to the inventory of residential, manufacturing, and historical locations contained in this report, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) also recommends that special attention be given to potential sites of archaeological significance that exist within the City. According to the MHC reconnaissance survey report for Taunton, this part of the Taunton River Watershed is well represented in the three subfields of archaeology: prehistoric, historic, and industrial. The likelihood of surviving early settlement artifacts, including sites associated with the Native Peoples, (early contact period, 1500 - 1620) is greatest in the relatively undeveloped western and northwestern sections of the City.

In the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC, MHC has documented site records for eleven (11) prehistoric archaeological sites. Members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (MAS) have identified at least another dozen sites along tributaries in and around the ACEC area. These sites provide further evidence of long and short-term occupation by Native Peoples along streams and wetlands from the Archaic Period (10,000 to 3,000 years ago) through the Woodland Period (3,000 to 450 years ago). There is also related evidence of Native occupations further east and north (Mill River-Snake River, Hockomock Swamp). Former DCR Archaeologist Tom Mahlstedt pointed to the area from Peace Haven in Freetown, along the Taunton River and up the Three Mile River corridor into Norton, as one of the most potentially significant archaeological areas in the Taunton River Basin.

The most in-depth archaeological surveys undertaken in the Greater Taunton Area in the last 50 years were associated with the construction of I-495 (which runs through north Taunton). These surveys were carried out in the 1980s. An additional report on potential archaeological resources along the Taunton River corridor, for a two kilometer radius around the Peace Haven site in Freetown, was prepared by the Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) for the Taunton River Wild & Scenic River Study Committee in 2006.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's Inventory of Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth has documented records for ancient Native Peoples sites in the Upper Taunton River Watershed (Middleboro, Lakeville, Taunton, Bridgewater areas). No fewer than forty (40) prehistoric sites in this area document the presence of Native Peoples in the Upper Taunton for nearly 12,000 years. Significantly, because many of these sites have been excavated and published by members of the MAS, we have much more detailed information about their age and function than in other parts of the state. Unfortunately, many of the MAS sites have not been reported to or filed with the MHC on the appropriate forms and therefore cannot be listed as officially documented.

Archaeologists believe that there was something special about the Taunton River area during early prehistoric times because there is an unusually high frequency of Early Archaic sites (10,000 to 8,000 years ago). The abundant natural resources of the Taunton River itself, its many tributaries, the water route available between Massachusetts Bay and Narragansett, and proximity of a well watered coastal plain must have been very important at this time. Because of these favorable conditions, successive occupation by the Native peoples occurred until about 400

years ago when the first Europeans began to enter, settle, and also take advantage of the attributes of the area.

Few additional archaeological surveys have been conducted in conjunction with development projects in the City, and the available inventory and survey data do not provide a representative inventory of the ancient and early historic period archaeological resource base.

There is a potential wealth of ancient and historical period archaeological sites present in the City that have not yet been identified and evaluated, making consideration and protection of these resources difficult. A city-wide reconnaissance-level archaeological survey is recommended to provide a map of archaeologically sensitive areas. Funding for a city-wide survey could be sought through matching state grants. The known important sites should be properly documented and registered with MHC. Potentially sensitive areas that may contain multiple natural and cultural resources should be proposed for land acquisition or conservation, with potential funding coming by way of private non-profit, state, and federal grants.

## **G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

### *Hazardous Waste Sites*

The DEP's Bureau of Waste Site Clean-Up lists 381 records of sites/reportable releases in the City of Taunton. According to the most recent listing, a majority of these sites are classified as having some resolution. The record for the City also includes twenty-four (24) sites listed as having "Activity & Use Limitations" (closed or resolved with restrictions for reuse).

A majority of these listed sites are a result of petroleum related spills or contamination. Many of the remaining sites involve contaminants related to the manufacturing processes employed by historic and traditional industries, such as foundries, jewelry, plating, and metal finishing. These sites, often referred to as brownfields, are for the most part, confined to the industrial and urban areas around the downtown. Some of the sites are in old industrial areas, are abandoned, and are considered blighted (showing evidence of the decline of a once thriving area of the city).

Taunton, in conjunction with federal, state, and local partners, has done an excellent job of assessing, cleaning up, and promoting reuse opportunities on its brownfield sites over the past twenty years. The City has run a very successful brownfields program through its Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD). The OECD Brownfields Program recently received two grants totaling \$1.2 million from the EPA. The first grant (\$200,000) will be used to fund an inventory and prioritization of sites and to perform environmental site assessments. The second grant (\$1 million) will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the City of Taunton will provide low interest loans and sub-grants to support clean-up activities on contaminated sites.

### *Landfills*

The City's Department of Public Works manages solid waste for the City. Solid waste is handled at the Taunton Sanitary Landfill located at 340 East Britannia Street in Taunton. The 84

acre site is owned by the City and consists of landfill sections and cells, and a residential recycling/solid waste collection drop-off area. The landfill is operated by Waste Management, under a contract with the City, for the disposal of municipal solid waste, non-municipal solid waste, municipal sewage sludge, and grit and screenings from the City's municipal wastewater treatment plant. The majority of residents dispose of their non-hazardous solid waste and recyclables through weekly curbside pick-up. The landfill is permitted to handle up to 685 tons per day.

The landfill also houses a methane (landfill) gas-to-energy operation through a contract with Fortistar Methane Group. The methane produces electricity that is purchased by the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant (TMLP) to supply its customers in the Greater Taunton Area. The landfill methane energy is part of TMLP's "green" portfolio of alternative sources of energy.

There have been the usual problems at the landfill over the years including expansion issues, odor issues, and encroachment issues. The biggest challenge facing the City now is the fact that the landfill, which was scheduled to close by 2013, must close by 2016. The City was exploring an option with Interstate Waste Technologies (IWT) to replace the existing landfill by March 2015 with a transfer station, recycling center, and waste-to-energy facility on land near the Myles Standish Industrial Park. The DEP rejected IWT's plan on the basis that it violated a state moratorium on the incineration of municipal waste. A subsequent City Council vote in January of 2014 terminated this option following the DEP decision.

#### *Erosion/Chronic Flooding/Sedimentation*

The flood of record in Taunton occurred on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1968. Cobb Brook, The Mill River, and areas along the Taunton River, east of the downtown, have experienced chronic flooding and flood related problems. These problems have been due in large part to historical development patterns which have resulted in flood plain encroachment and diminished floodway capacity. These problems have been compounded by aging, former industrial dams along the Mill River, and residential encroachment, channelization, and flow restrictions in the floodway of Cobb Brook.

Both the Mill River and Cobb Brook have been the focus of several flood remediation studies that have involved, at various times: the Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Public Works, SRPEDD (regional planning agency), the MA Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs (EEA), U.S. Fish & Wildlife, the USDA, the Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), local and regional non-profits, and others.

There is an ongoing dam removal and river restoration project on the Mill River that so far (as of 2014) has led to two dam removals, a dam renovation with fish passage, and the restoration of over a mile of riverbank resource area. A third, and final dam, is scheduled to be removed in 2015.

Cobb Brook has had chronic flooding problems for decades. Several years ago, the City revised and implemented a remediation plan for Cobb Brook that had first been developed by the USDA in 1984. The project covered the area from state Route 138, east to the confluence with the Taunton River. A second phase of this project is being proposed to address flooding in the more

urbanized area of Cobb Brook, extending west from Route 138 for several blocks into residential neighborhoods.

The Taunton DPW recently applied for a grant to develop a green infrastructure solution for this portion of Cobb Brook involving stormwater capture and infiltration on a parcel of City owned land.

The City has created a Stormwater page on its municipal website. The Stormwater page provides visitors with links to federal, state, local, and regional agencies and non-profit organizations, as well as stormwater information resources. The City also participates in the Barstow's Pond Dam Removal/Cotley River Restoration project. This is another multi-agency/organization partnership, led by Save The Bay (RI) working to remove aging and unsafe dams in order to address flood hazards, fisheries habitat restoration, stream flow, and water quality issues.

The City has some severe erosion and sedimentation issues to deal with at the Boyden Wildlife Refuge. Erosion on the slopes of hillside trails overlooking the Three Mile River is an ongoing problem at Boyden. Instability and safety issues have caused regular and lengthy closures of the river trail area. The erosion has occurred due largely to natural processes and has undermined the boardwalk and fencing along the slopes. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has been asked to look at the trail on occasion over the last twenty years. The challenge to retain the recreational use, address the erosion problem and stabilize the slope, and prevent sediment build-up in the river, may be physically and fiscally impossible at this point.

#### *Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Problems*

As previously discussed in Section 3 of this plan, the City has been dealing with Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) problems at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) for years. Infiltration problems can be attributed to groundwater entering the system through aging, defective or, broken sewer pipes. Inflow problems are the result of stormwater entering the system through catch basins, roof drains, sump pumps, defective manhole covers, or other illicit connections. The volume of water entering the sewer collection system through I/I reduces the capacity of the system to transport wastewater.

The City has been working to remedy these problems by extending sewer service to areas that have experienced chronic septic/on-site failures as well as replacing sewer pipes responsible for the majority of I/I problems. This is part of a multi-year plan developed in response to DEP and EPA enforcement orders issued between 1994 and 2009. The plan also involves the use of closed circuit camera surveys of the pipes throughout the system in order to develop a televised/video record of potential problem areas. These existing and potential I/I hot spots can be assessed and given the appropriate repairs. This is part of a twelve phase I/I plan. The City is now working on Phase 10.

The DPW has also spent a considerable amount of time and effort to inspect and replace manhole covers that allowed stormwater into the sanitary sewer system during periods of moderate to heavy rainfall.

All of these actions directly relate to the quality of the water that is discharged to the Taunton River and ultimately, the Mount Hope/Narragansett Bay.

### *Forests*

Taunton lost over one hundred (100) acres of forest land to development between 2005 and 2013 (according to Mass Audubon's Losing Ground, 2014). This placed Taunton in the top twenty communities in the state in forest land converted to development during this time period. As previously discussed in Section 4D, (VEGETATION, page 37) of this plan, the loss of forest land can result in habitat fragmentation that impacts human, fish, and wildlife populations. Planning for growth while keeping in mind the importance of the environmental services provided by forest land will result in development that: is more beneficial to recharge by maintaining more of the diverse forest canopy; more beneficial as wind and weather breaks as well as providing improved air quality through the filtering of air bourn pollutants; more beneficial to river and stream habitat and water quality by maintaining streamside buffers; more beneficial to soil retention through less lot clearing (also decreasing erosion and sedimentation), and; more beneficial to the life and movement of fish and wildlife populations by retaining more intact corridors and interior forest habitats.

### *Development Impacts*

Between 2005 and 2013, Taunton experienced growth and land consumption at a rate that was significantly slower than the previous decade. Despite this slowdown, Taunton still ranked in the top 50 in the state for acres developed per square mile, including natural land and open land converted to development in acres per square mile (Losing Ground, 2014).

Some of this development has brought economic benefit to the City and the region. The Myles Standish Industrial Park, for example, is one of the largest and most successful facilities in all of New England. It has continued to expand during the past several years, with plans to continue to do so over the next several years. There is a new water treatment facility at Myles Standish that treats and stores water for the municipal supply system pumped from the City's Dever Wells. The City's sewerage upgrades and I/I program have also helped to improve surface and groundwater quality in targeted areas.

Taunton has also continued its very successful brownfield reuse program to promote housing, recreation, and environmental restoration projects. These types of activities provide necessary services while preventing the need to develop additional natural lands or "green space".

But development does ultimately place increased demands on standard municipal services and infrastructure through steady growth (police, fire, sewer, water, roads, schools, parks, recreation, etc.) as well as on the environmental services provided by the City's natural resources or "green infrastructure" (filtering of air and water bourn pollutants; streamside buffering; fish and wildlife habitat and corridors; groundwater recharge; food production; flood storage).

The City should plan for the future with a goal of promoting responsible growth through land use planning and management policies that consider the value of environmental services and their impact on local and regional resiliency.

### *Impaired Waters*

Overall, the groundwater resources of the City have maintained their relative quality over the years. The City recognized the importance of the protection of groundwater for its drinking water supply concurrent with the building boom of the 1990s, passing a Water Resources Protection District Bylaw back in 1992.

Surface water quality in the Taunton River and its major tributaries, has presented a constant challenge to the City. According to the DEP's *Integrated List of Waters*, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I (U.S. EPA New England) *Waterbody Assessment*, and the DEP/EPA *Final Pathogen TMDL for the Taunton River Watershed*, waterbodies within the Taunton River Watershed are listed as impaired for various reasons including pathogens (bacteria), nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus), low dissolved oxygen, non native aquatic invasive species, and turbidity.

The Taunton River is on the state's *Integrated List of Impaired Waters* due to pollution from pathogens (bacteria) and nitrogen. The *TMDL* report lists stormwater as a significant support for the presence of these pollutants.

The Three Mile River is listed for pathogens (bacteria) with land use and runoff as a probable sources of the impairment; Big Bearhole Pond for noxious aquatic plants and low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment; Cain Pond for low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment and turbidity; Lake Sabbatia for low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment and noxious aquatic plants, and; Watson Pond for low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment, algal growth, total phosphorus, noxious aquatic plants, and turbidity (a more detailed list of impaired waters appears in Appendix G).

The Taunton River Watershed is also in the 11% to 25% range of impervious cover in parts of the City of Taunton. Streams in this range tend to show degradation due to urbanization, including altered stream geometry, declining physical stream habitat, water quality degradation, and falling biodiversity. The City must to continue to: pursue a strategy of remediation of point and nonpoint sources of pollution as they are identified; promote stewardship of rivers and streams, retain streamside buffers and habitat connections; protect remaining intact floodplain; address the invasive plant species problem around its ponds, and: make improvements in the greater downtown area to alleviate pollutant loads and downstream flooding.

### *Environmental Equity*

The City of Taunton is committed to providing all residents with equal access to conservation, parks, and recreational opportunities. Environmental equity assures an unbiased distribution of environmental benefits, such as open space and recreation areas, to all neighborhoods and populations including the Environmental Justice (EJ) community.

Taunton is very fortunate to have state park facilities on the east and west ends of its corporate bounds (Watson Pond State Park to the west, and Massasoit State Park to the east). The state parks provide trails, water access, and passive recreational opportunities only minutes from the urban environment. The rest of Taunton's recreational stock is fairly well dispersed throughout the City, and is supplemented by the holdings of several private interests (YMCA, Taunton Little

Leagues, Taunton Youth Soccer, etc.), School Department facilities, Conservation Commission lands, and other state recreational facilities.

Several school closings in the past few years have resulted in the loss of some of the traditional neighborhood playgrounds and play areas. The City has also yet to develop its land set aside for active recreation on Warner Boulevard, which would relieve some of the burden on existing school and recreational facilities.

The state recognized EJ communities in Taunton are located in, and in close proximity to, the downtown. These areas are also close to municipal park land (Mill River Park, Memorial Park, Hopewell Park) as well as some of the City's primary cultural assets (Taunton Green, Church Green, the Old Colony Historical Society Museum). School Department facilities are also located in close proximity to both of the EJ communities. The Taunton Public Library is located close by in the downtown, and is accessible via public transportation and recently improved pedestrian links.

The City recently completed a two-phase Downtown Sidewalk and Infrastructure improvement project. This project made the greater downtown area more accessible, improved pedestrian safety, improved stormwater management, and "greened" the urban landscape. Phase one of this project encompassed the five block area around the Taunton Green, Broadway, Post Office Square, the Superior Courthouse, and the recently constructed District Court Building. Phase two included Main Street from Winthrop Street to Union Street, School Street, and Leonard Street. Both phases of this project included the construction of concrete sidewalks, installation of new granite curb, water line upgrades, drainage improvements, planting of shade trees, and the reconstruction of wheelchair ramps to meet ADA requirements.

This project will impact the entirety of the EJ population living in the greater downtown area.

The Mill River Restoration Project will have a tremendous impact on the EJ community located in the Hopewell neighborhood. This project seeks to remove dangerous dams that are flood hazards to the neighborhoods adjacent to the river as well as the downtown; restore river and stream bank habitat and floodplain; restore the native fishery; provide river access and trail opportunities at points along the Mill River, and; improve the water quality of the river. The project has been ongoing since 2007, and to date has: removed dams at Hopewell/State Hospital, Whittenton Mill, and participated in the reconstruction of the dam and fish ladder at Lake Sabbatia; developed trails and a trail brochure for the State Hospital land adjacent to the restored Mill River stream bank, and; participated in the design and development of the Mill River Park behind City Hall. All of these projects also included the removal of invasive plant species from the stream bank and restored flood plain areas. There will be an ongoing water quality monitoring program and periodic fish surveys.

This entire project and all of its components go directly through the EJ community. The final dam removal is scheduled for the summer of 2015.

## **SECTION 5 INVENTORY OF LAND**

Open space includes a variety of land types that provide numerous benefits to residents of the City, and the region, in terms of aesthetics, natural resources, recreational opportunities, and economic vitality. Open space also plays an important part in shaping the character and identity of a community. As open space disappears due to encroaching development, visual amenities and irreplaceable natural, cultural, and historic resources (community assets) are lost forever. In addition, the demand on the remaining open space and resource base increases, threatening the ability of the land to support human and wildlife activity while retaining its ecological integrity.

This section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan contains an inventory of land that is important to the City in terms of its current status as either open space or recreation areas. Private sites are also included in this inventory even though their continued availability is not guaranteed by any restriction or legislated protection. These sites may be valuable for their aesthetic appeal, natural resource attributes, passive/active recreational potential, or contribution to the character of the community.

### *Open Space and Land Inventory*

Continued development remains the greatest threat to the City's open space and recreation resources by reducing the amount of available land and also by placing more public use pressure on the areas that are available. Open space planning efforts must continue to keep pace with this reality while finding more creative ways to accomplish the same goals.

Consistently rapid development during the last several decades has cleared and segmented vast acreage, leaving only a few large unbroken areas. The City's limited funds and competing demands for them have made land acquisition an undependable means of land protection. Actual protection of important lands in Taunton has been minimal during the last decade. The only actual fee simple land acquisition was the Joseph Warner Boulevard property (1998). This approximately 100-acre property received both Self-Help and Urban Self-Help funding to assist in the purchase, which incorporates both active recreation and passive recreation/open space in its land use strategy. The Betty's Neck property (2002) was a cooperative venture with the towns of Lakeville and New Bedford that protected over 100 acres of land important to water supply protection in all three municipalities. Taunton used State Revolving Loan (SRF) funds and received Land and Water Conservation Fund reimbursement as well as private assistance from the non-profit Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts (WLT). These two projects alone netted the City over 200 acres in additional conservation land and over \$1,000,000 in grants from the State. No other fee simple transactions have been made by the City since 1998. All additional land protection occurred in the form of deed restrictions including the Reed Farm, which has been protected through the state-sponsored Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program and City and land trust sponsored Conservation

Restrictions (CR's), which have been successful at protecting several additional parcels. The varied tax and open space benefits of conservation restrictions, and the lack of sufficient funding for outright land acquisition in Taunton, have encouraged the use of CR's and Chapter 61 as a primary means of land protection in the City. This latter strategy is not considered a viable, long-term approach to land conservation on any level (see discussion on Chapter 61 Programs below).

While the City's land protection activities have been minimal in recent years, some critical land protection has been accomplished through the increased efforts of non-profit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), and particularly, the Wildlands Trust. The Wildlands Trust, through land donations, conservation restrictions, partnership grants, and other conservation methods, has protected an additional 96 acres since 2007. These efforts include the acquisition of a unique 45 acre Oxbow on the Taunton River, at the Raynham/Taunton line near Paul Revere Terrace. Another significant acquisition, accomplished in partnership with TNC and TTOR, was the 54 acre Melo property (the former Thayer Farm) along the Three Mile River. In this instance, TNC and TTOR put up the City's match for a DCS LAND Grant as well as the additional funding needed to complete the deal. TTOR also holds a Conservation Restriction (CR) on this property.

Although Taunton has received important Self-Help and Urban Self-Help funding from the State to assist in recent land purchases over the years, it still does not have a consistent source of revenue with which to match potential state and federal grants. This lack of a match has caused the City to miss some outside funding opportunities in recent years. Despite the fact that the public has supported consideration of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) by a two-thirds margin in each of the last two Open Plan Surveys, the City has yet to bring it to the public for significant debate or a City Council vote. The CPA, particularly as recently amended, would substantially increase the City's ability to access land acquisition, historic preservation and renovation, and recreational improvement funds.

In addition to continued efforts to preserve the remaining open space, many cities and towns in the region, including Taunton, are reclaiming and cleaning up contaminated sites and reusing the land for conservation and recreation related purposes. This land reclamation strategy is known as "brownfield redevelopment." The City has an excellent track record regarding brownfield clean-up, and site rehabilitation and reuse, particularly in the Weir section of the City, Ingell Street, and Water Street areas. Millions of dollars in state, federal, and local funding have helped to jump start the transformation and reinvestment in these areas. In terms of promoting brownfield reuse and neighborhood reinvestment, the City has led by example in redeveloping the former Taunton Silversmith site (in the Weir) into the current DPW headquarters.

There are two main categories based on Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services definitions for protected and unprotected lands. Protected lands are public or semi-public parcels

which are permanently reserved for conservation purposes, which is not the case for all public land. Unprotected lands contain a mixture of City owned and private land. City owned land is all land not committed for conservation purposes or parks not dedicated to MGL Ch. 45, Section 3 or 14 (which are protected under Article 97). Private land is all land enrolled in MGL Ch. 61, 61A, or 61B, and other private lands that add significantly to the open space in the City.

The unprotected lands in the City have been divided into four sub-categories:

- multi-purpose open space land;
- Chapter 61B Recreation Lands;
- Chapter 61A Agriculture land; and,
- Chapter 61 Forest lands.

The owner, location, map and parcel, size of the parcel, recreational potential, public and handicapped access, current use of the site, degree of protection, condition, purchase grant source, and zoning for each parcel is included. The zoning districts are; UR- Urban Residential, SR- Suburban Residential, RR- Rural Residential, ID, Industrial District, OSC- Open Space Conservation District, BD- Business District, OD- Office District, and Highway Business District.

Conservation Land- There are 20 sites totaling 5,568.98 acres which is approximately 18 % of the City's land area. However, the majority of this land (4450 acres) are concentrated in two state owned areas, Massasoit State Park and Hockomock Swamp. All of these sites are owned by the Taunton Conservation Commission or the State.

Conservation Easements- There are 12 easements identified totaling in excess of 314 acres. These properties have Conservation Restrictions placed on them to prevent development and are owned by Homeowners Associations in Cluster Developments. The conservation benefits run to the Conservation Commission.

Active Park and Recreation Land- There are 11 active park and recreation sites identified totaling 246.56 acres. The largest of these facilities is the Parker Municipal Golf Course totaling 195 acres.

Multi-Purpose Open Space Land- There are 9 sites identified totaling 39.0 acres. These facilities are all schools and serve a variety of purposes other than solely recreation.

Conservation and Recreation Land Owned by Private Organizations- There are 7 conservation and recreation sites owned by private organizations including over 68 acres owned by The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts. Taunton Sports Club, Taunton Eastern Little League, Western Little League, and Taunton Youth Soccer use the other areas.

## Chapter 61 Properties

Agricultural Land (61A) In this category there are 38 parcels and 689.53 acres of land. All of these lands are assessed under MGL Chapter 61A, the Farmland Assessment Act. This program also does not afford any long term protections to preserving these lands, only a current commitment. These lands are all privately owned.

### Recreation Land (61B)

There are 9 parcels and 98.01 acres of land that are assessed under MGL Chapter 61B Recreation Land Assessment Program. While this designates a current commitment by the owner, there is no assurance of the permanence of recreation use.

### Forest Lands (61) –

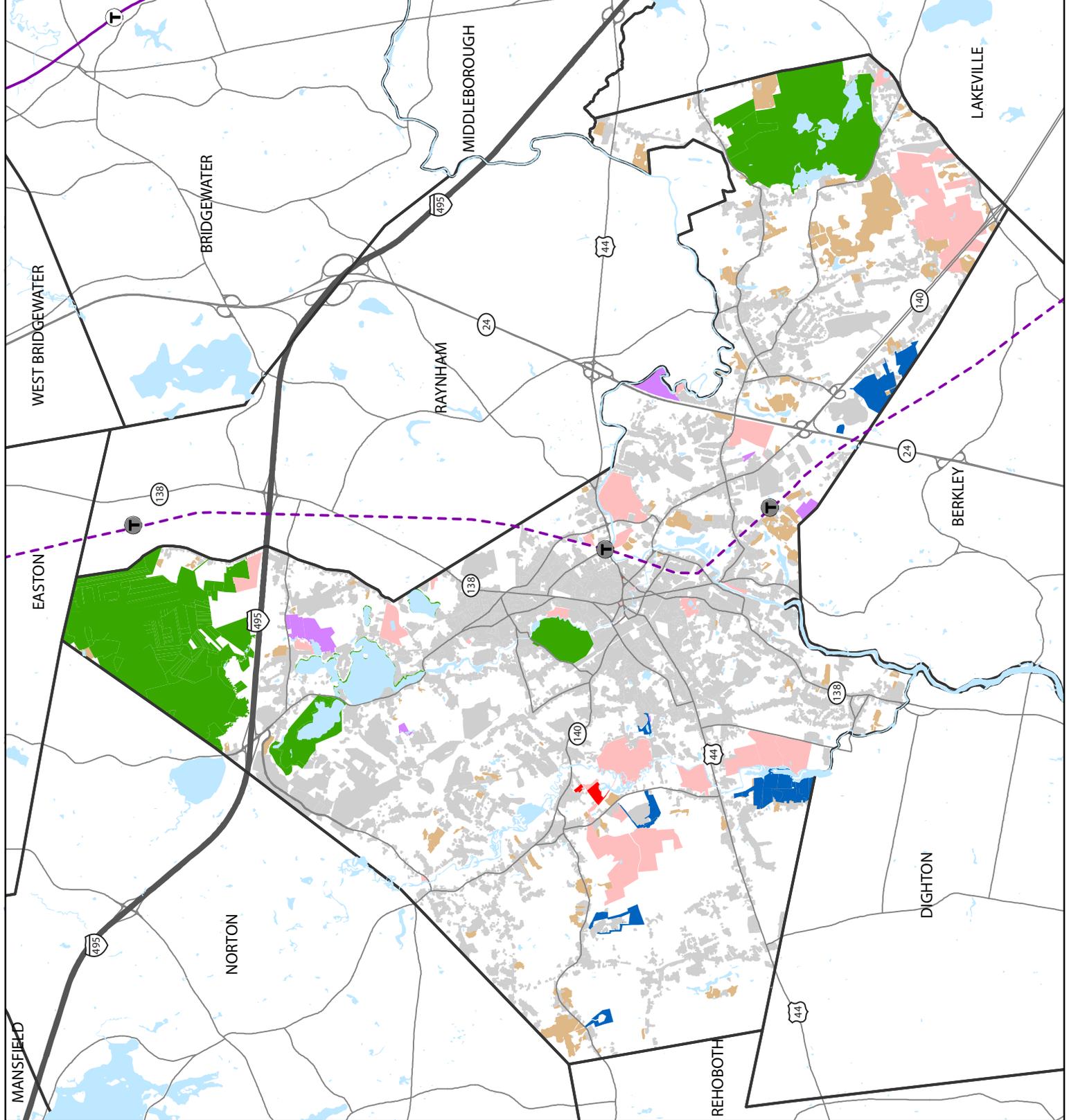
There are 8 sites containing 20 parcels and 359.63 acres of land assessed under MGL Chapter 61, the Forest Land Assessment Act, which also indicates a current commitment but no long term assurance against development. These lands are entirely privately owned and are in addition to the forest areas owned by the State and City. The enrollment period in this program is ten (10) years and requires a minimum of ten (10) acres of land and a forest management plan in order to be enrolled.

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Open Space Map

### Legend

- State
- Private
- Municipal
- Local
- Non-Profit
- Active Agriculture (Land Use 2005)  
Cranberry Bog; Cropland; Nursery; Orchard; Pasture
- Developed (Land Use 2005)  
Commercial; High Density Residential;  
Industrial; Junkyard; Low Density Residential;  
Medium Density Residential; Office; Warehouse;  
Medium Density Residential; Unimproved Land; Public Institutional;  
Very Low Density Residential; Waste Disposal
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



## Conservation Lands

**Table 5.1: Taunton Conservation Lands**

<b>NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER</b>	<b>MAP/ PAR</b>	<b>SIZE</b>	<b>ZONE</b>	<b>FEATURES/ CURRENT USE</b>	<b>REC. POTEN. (Y/N)</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)</b>	<b>MGT</b>	<b>DEGREE OF PROTECTION</b>	<b>CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)</b>	<b>PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE</b>	<b>ADA INVENTORY STATUS</b>
Woodward	7-27- 48-15	5.5	OSC	Three Mile; canoe, nature observation	Y, limited	limited	CC	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Sharpe Estate /N Walker St	7-35- 54-13A	253.0	OSC	wetlands; nature observation	Y, limited	Y, limited	CC	perpetuity	undev-	N/A	Complete
Boyden Park /Cohannet St	1-28- 65-62	52.0	OSC	river, upland; picnic, fishing	Y	Y	CC	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Hutt Forest/ Kingman St	4-43- 46	500.0	OSC	wooded upland; hiking, viewing	Y	Y, limited	CC	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Snake River / Scaddings St	8-32- 52-26	11.0	OSC	River; hiking, nature observation	Y limited	Y, limited	CC	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Willis Pond/ Old Norton Ave		31.0	RR	pond; fishing, canoeing	Y	Y	CC	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Massasoit State /Middleboro Ave	4-49- 64-57	2,300.0	OSC	ponds, forests; hiking, fishing	Y	Y	DCR	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete
Watson Pond/ Bay Street	8-37- 57-85	13.0	OSC	pond, upland; nature observation, picnic	Y	Y	DCR	perpetuity	good	N/A	Complete

Hockomock Swamp/ Prospect Hill St	8-47 etc too many to list	2150. 0	RR	forested wetlands; hiking, hunting	Y	Y, limited	DCR	perpetuity	undeveloped	N/A	Complete
Memorial Park/ Somerset Ave	6-2-3-6	16.28	ID	grass; concerts, skating	Y	Y	PCPG	Perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Weir Riverfront Park/East Water St	6-11- 38-28	8.0	ID	river, grass; playground, canoe	Y	Y	CC	perpetuity	good	Self Help	Complete
Walker Park /West Water St	6-6-18- 1,2,3,4, 12A	0.25	BD	grass; concerts	Y	Y	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Robert Treat Paine Park /Main St	3-2-	0.7	BD	grass/ statue; historic urban	N	Y	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Taunton Green	3-3-0-0	0.5	BD	Historic City Green memorials; special events, benches	N	Y	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Liberty & Union/Mini Park/Main St	4-8-	0.5	BD	grass; memorial	N	Y	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Urban Self Help/CDBG/ Dept. of Interior (Fed.)	Complete
Bunk Pond/Prospect Hill St.	8-43- 63-88A	110	RR	pond; fishing, canoeing	Y	Y, limited	CC	perpetuity	undev.	Self Help	Complete
Lot C-2/Shores St.	9-18- 22-566	2.25	UR	brook, wetlands; walking	Y	Y	CC	perpetuity	undev.	Unknown	Complete

Cain's Pond/ Myricks Street	4-52- 67-16	3+-	RR	pond; canoeing, fishing	Y	Y	CC	perpetuity	good	LWCF	Complete
Warner Blvd		56		undeveloped			CC			Self Help	
Warner Blvd		56		undeveloped			PCPG			Urban Self- Help	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5,568.98acres</b>								

Management Key:

CC: Taunton Conservation Commission    DCR: MA Department of Conservation and Recreation    PCPG: City Parks, Cemeteries, and Public Grounds

## Conservation Restrictions

It is not commonly known that land purchased or designated and used for conservation purposes is not always protected in perpetuity from development. The best way to ensure a parcel's perpetual protection is to place language in the deed to that effect. Such language is known as a "conservation restriction, or CR", and is one of the major land protection tools being used today. A conservation restriction may be owned by a non-profit land trust or another non-profit organization including the town itself; it does not necessarily have to be held by the owner of the land. In many cases, a land trust may hold a conservation restriction on land that is owned by a private landowner or even on land that is owned by the town or state. Conservation restrictions may vary in duration and therefore expire after a period of time (often referred to as a "sunset clause". In order to ensure *perpetual* protection, a permanent conservation restriction should be assigned to the deed and recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

It is very important to remember that land used for conservation and recreation is not always protected and can be developed by the municipality at any time, provided the appropriate legal steps are followed. According to state law, land acquired for the purposes of natural resource protection **cannot** be converted to any other use without the following actions:

- 1.) the matter must be taken up at town meeting or City Council and pass by a 2/3 vote;
- 2.) the city/town must file an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) with EOEEA's MEPA Unit; and,
- 3.) the matter must pass by a 2/3 vote of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Finally, if the land was acquired with assistance from one of the EOEEA's Division of Conservation Service's funding programs, the converted land must be replaced with land of equal monetary value and recreational or conservation utility.

These steps are meant to ensure that land acquired for conservation and recreation remains protected, however if these steps are adhered to, it is possible to change a parcel's designation and that possibility scares many open space planners. It is conceivable that future politics and municipal land use needs may change a city/town's approach to conservation and recreation parcels, and develop them for other purposes. Also, many parcels do not have clear deed language, or even if they do, their land use status not always known by land planners. Therefore, for the purposes of open space planning, these parcels must be perceived and treated as unprotected land until a thorough deed examination is conducted. The City of Taunton

should research all publicly owned land to establish its land use (conservation and recreation) status. Lands that are not legally protected in perpetuity should have a permanent conservation restriction assigned to their deed and recorded with the Registry of Deeds.

Conservation restrictions are the easiest and most reliable means of ensuring the perpetual protection of land. The City should work in conjunction with land trusts and other private land conservation organizations (i.e. The Wildlands Trust, Trustees of Reservations, The Nature Conservancy, etc.) to acquire conservation restrictions on all unprotected municipal lands even if they are currently designated as conservation and recreation land, and on any privately owned land that exhibits conservation values, including wetland resource areas.

Table 5.2 lists properties in the City with conservation restrictions on them. All of these are required open space set-asides as part of subdivision developments. None of the properties listed below were purchased outright.

Table 5.2 Taunton Conservation Restrictions

NAME/ LOCAT. / OWN ER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)/MGT.	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Williams Crossing /Deer Track Lane	4-21	18.3	Res.	walking trail wetlands	N	N	Home- owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Apple Valley Farms/ Quequecha n Rd	1-31- 82-47	31.7	Res.	wetlands, streams, river	N	N	Home- owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Dexter Farms/ Marcia Bliss Way	1-31- 83- 745	21.0	Res.	wetlands, streams, river	N	N	Home- owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues



Dexter Farms/ Marcia Bliss Way	1-31-83-745	21.0	Res.	wetlands, streams, river	N	N	Home-owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Fall Brook Fields Fall Brook Drive	7-37-55-6W	28.5	Res.		N	N	Home-owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Leighton Grove/ Lehner Drive		31.5	Res.		N	N	Home-owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Rivers Edge	36-232	19.5	Res.	Wetlands, streams, woods	N	N	Home-owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
Segregan -sett Woods	61-72	39.0	RR	Wetlands, streams, woods, fields	N	N	Home-owners As soc.	Conservation Restriction/ perpetuity	Good	Not purchased but required as part of subdivision development	No ADA Issues
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>336.17</b>	<b>acres</b>								

## **Park and Recreation Lands**

Table 5.3, *Active Park and Recreation Land*, lists 11 properties totaling 246.56 acres. Some outdoor facilities and all indoor facilities are associated with public schools as the City does not have a dedicated Recreation Center building. To ensure that the most important City owned land is protected in perpetuity for public conservation and recreation use, the town should prioritize all town owned parcels for their conservation and recreation value, regardless of category, and pursue their permanent protection through the establishment of conservation restrictions.

In addition to the existing recreation lands, the City is considering adding additional facilities at the Pole School on County Street when the new school is developed on Harris Street, and on the recently acquired Warner Blvd. Land.

**Table 5.3A Taunton Active Park and Recreation Land**

NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT.	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)MGT.	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Whittenton Field/	8-27-	5	UR	Playground, Basketball Court Multi-Purpose field	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Hopewell Park, Hamilton Street/City Park and Rec.	8-1-3- 14 a,b,c	10	OSC	bathroom, 1 baseball field, 1 softball fields 2, football field, swimming pool, 3 basketball courts, and a children's playground.	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Urban Self Help	Complete
Westside Park/Field/ Clifford Street/ City Park and Rec.	7-15- 27-73	8	UR	a multipurpose field, little league field,	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Shore Street Field/ Shores Street/ City Park and Rec		5	UR	1 Soccer Field	Yes, current	good	THA	perpetuity	good	Fed.	Complete

Davol Field/Oak Street/ Park and Rec	7-13-34-31	5	UR	little league field, a basketball court, and a children's playground	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Weir Park /First St P ark and Rec	1-19-52-38A+57	2.56	OSC	baseball & softball field, soccer field, basketball ct. shade pavilion, and a children's playground.	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Hartshorn Park/Long meadow Road. Park and Rec	4-16-28-10	7	UR	softball field, little league field, children's playground	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Roderick Field/Dewert Ave., Park and Rec	7-16-	5	UR	baseball field, 3 basketball courts, children's playground	Yes, current	good	THA	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete
Sikorski Field/ Middlebor o Ave/ Park and Rec	4-54-29B-31	8	ID	1 softball field, 1 baseball field, 1 basketball court, children's playground.	Yes, current	good	PCPG	perpetuity	good	Unknown	Complete

Parker Golf Course /Fisher Street /Golf Course Com.	7	185	OSC	9 hole golf course	Yes, current	good	GCC	perpetuity	good	Urban Self Help	Complete
South St. Playground	6			Tot Lot		Good	PCPG		Good	N/A	Complete
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>246.50</b>								

### Multi-purpose Open Space Land

Taunton *Multi-purpose Open Space Land*, lists 9 properties totaling 39.0 acres in Taunton.

**Table 5.3B Taunton Multi-Purpose Open Space Land**

NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT.	DEGREE OF PROTECTIO N	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)/MGT.	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Fitsmons Arms/Olney St./THA		0.25	UR	general recreati on meeting area	N	Limited	SD	None	Good	N/A	Complete
Summer School/Summer St/ School Dept.	4-7- 13-12	0.25	UR	Children's Playground	N	Limited	SD	None	Good	N/A	Complete
Mulcahy School/Clifford St./School Dept.	27-73- 7-15	3.0	UR	gymnasium, 2 basketball cts 2 badminton courts, 2 volleyball courts	N	Limited	SD	None	Good	N/A	Complete
Martin Middle School/Caswell St./School Dept.	4-34- 51-7	10	SR	baseball field, softball field4 tennis cts, 2 basketball cts Children's playground, gym. children's playground	N	Limited	SD	None	Good	N/A	Complete
Bennett School, North Walker Street, /School Dept.	7-37- 55-9b	1	RR		N	Limited	SD	None	Good	N/A	Complete





## **Agricultural Land Tax Law Property (M.G.L. Chapter 61A)**

The agricultural and horticultural land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61A is designed to encourage the preservation of the state's valuable farmland and promote active agricultural and horticultural land use. It offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long term commitment to farming. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner when the land is removed from classification. Under Chapter 61, the city or town is also given an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for any purpose other than to continue raising farm products.

Eligible property must consist of at least 5 contiguous acres of land under the same ownership and be "actively devoted" to agricultural or horticultural land use under Chapter 61A. Land is used for agricultural or horticultural purposes if it is used primarily and directly to raise or grow the following for sale in the regular course of business:

- Animals, including, but not limited to dairy cattle, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, ponies, mules, goats, bees and fur-bearing animals, or products derived from the animals.
- Fruits, vegetables, berries, nuts and other foods for human consumption, feed for animals, tobacco, flowers, sod, trees, nursery or greenhouse products.
- Forest products under a forest management plan approved by the State Forester (see Chapter 61 discussion).

Land is also used for agricultural and horticultural purposes if it is used primarily and directly in a manner related to the production of the animals or crops and that use is necessary and incidental to the actual production or preparation of the animals or crops for market.

For the land to be considered "actively devoted" to a farm use, it must have been farmed for the two fiscal years prior to the year of classification and must have produced a certain amount of sales. The minimum gross sales requirement is \$500 for the first 5 acres of productive land. That amount is increased by \$5 for each additional acre of productive land being classified, unless the additional acreage is woodland or wetland. In that case, the amount is increased by only \$.50 for each additional acre.

The minimum gross sales requirement for land being used to cultivate or raise a farm product that takes more than one season to produce its first harvest is satisfied if the land is being used in a manner intended to produce those sales within the product development period set by the Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission<sup>20</sup> for the particular crop or animal.

Buildings and other structures located on the parcel, as well as any land on which a residence is located or regularly used for residential purposes, do not qualify for classification and continue to be assessed a regular local property tax. Table 5.4, Taunton *Chapter 61A Properties*, lists 38 parcels totaling 689.53 acres in Chapter 61A status.

**Table 5.4 Taunton Chapter 61A Properties**

NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT.	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)/MGT.	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Curran, James and Jo-Ann, No Precinct Street	4-37- 54-20	15.9	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Curran, James and Jo-Ann, No Precinct Street	4-37- 54-20A	2.5	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Curran, Robert & Rainville, N. Precinct St.	4-44- 59-24	1.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Curran, Robert & Rainville, N. Precinct St.	4-44- 59-25	0.5	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Curran, Robert & Rainville, N. Precinct St.	4-44- 59-27	11.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A

Curran, Robert & Rainville N. Precinct St.	4-44-59-26	2.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Curran, Robert & Rainville, Middleboro Ave.	4-44-59-23	0.82	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Chace, Vernon & Marcella/ Tremont St.	7-40-56-7	8.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Chace, Vernon & Marcella/ Tremont St.	7-34-53-1	5.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Chace, Vernon & Marcella/ Tremont St.	7-40-56-8	1.0	RR	orchard	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Bliss, Lawrence/ So. Crane Ave	7-27-47-6A	42	RR	Field crops	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Bliss, Lawrence/ Crane Ave South	7-27-47-2	12.0	RR	Field crops	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Garda, Louis, Linden St	4-20-31-15	21.0	UR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Hoffman, Francis, Bay St.	8-30-46-38	7	UR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A

Martin, Etta M, County Street	4-27- 40-10	20.0	ID	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Martin, Etta M, Middleboro Ave	4-23- 36-50A	4.11	SR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Martin, Etta M, Stevens Street	4-27- 40-4A	6.0	ID	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Martin, Etta M, Middleboro Ave	4-23- 36-61	20.0	SR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Martin, Etta M, Middleboro Ave	4-23- 36-63	12.0	SR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Fasalo, Ronald , Pratt St.	6-14- 48-34X	16.0	UR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Fasalo, Ronald , Pratt St.	6-14- 48-20	15.0	UR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Fasalo, Ronald , Plain St	6-14- 48-73A	65.8	UR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Deniz, Peter So Precinct St	4-50- 64-79R	33.0	RR	vegetables	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Deniz, Peter & Enis, So, Precinct St.	4-48- 64-34B	10.4	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Rossi, Joseph, Tremont	7-35- 54-26	24.0	RR	pasture	limited	None	Private	Short-term	Good	N/A	N/A





## Forestland Under M.G.L. Chapter 61

The forest land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61 is designed to encourage the preservation and enhancement of the state's forests. It offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long term commitment to forestry. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner when the land is removed from classification and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for non-forestry uses.

Eligible parcels must consist of at least 10 contiguous acres of land under the same ownership and be managed under a 10-year management plan approved and certified by the State Forester in order to qualify for and retain classification as forest land under Chapter 61. Buildings and other structures located on the parcel, as well as the land on which they are located and any accessory land, do not qualify for classification and continue to be assessed a regular local property tax.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61 allows landowners to reduce the property tax burden on their woodlands if they are willing to keep the forested land undeveloped and in wood production. Land certified under Chapter 61 is taxed at 5 percent of fair market value or at \$10 per acre, whichever is greater. In addition, a products tax of 8 percent is charged on the stumpage value of any wood cut from the property.

To qualify for Chapter 61, landowners must have 10 or more contiguous acres of private woodland managed for wood production under an approved long-term forest management plan. The plan must be approved by the DEM service forester and then filed with the local board of assessors. To continue in the program, the plan must be renewed every 10 years. As part of the agreement, the town receives an option to purchase the property if the owner decides to sell to someone other than a relative.

Generally speaking, if the land is not kept in wood production for at least 10 years, the costs incurred will be greater than paying the normal tax bills as they come due. If landowners choose to remove their land from Chapter 61 prior to the 10 year anniversary, they must repay all the taxes which were avoided and a 14 percent interest penalty.

Table 5.6, *Taunton Chapter 61 Properties*, shows that Taunton has a total of 20 parcels totaling 359.63 acres classified under this category. It is recommended that the City routinely monitor this status of these properties and take appropriate action to protect them through their Right of First Refusal option should the current owners decide to sell.

Table 5.6 Taunton Chapter 61 Properties

NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT.	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Conlon, Joseph, Tremont Street	7-32- 53-61X	14.0	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-41- 56-15A	2.0	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-40- 56-19	16.75	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-40- 56-21	7.2	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-40- 56-2X	15.59	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-40- 56-3X	14.0	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F TR, Burt Street	7-40- 56-22	18.0	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Lafleur, Bruce F	7-40- 56-20	16.0	RR	Forest	limited	none	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A





## **Recreation Land Under M.G.L. Chapter 61B**

The recreational land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61B is designed to encourage the preservation of the Commonwealth's valuable open space and promote recreational land uses. It offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long term commitment to preserving land in an undeveloped condition or for use for outdoor activities. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for any purpose other than to maintain it as open space or for recreational use.

Property must consist of at least five contiguous acres of land under the same ownership in order to qualify for and retain classification as recreational land under Chapter 61B. The land must fall into one of the following two categories to qualify:

1. It must be maintained in a substantially natural, wild or open condition or must be maintained in a landscaped condition permitting the preservation of wildlife and natural resources. It does not have to be open to the public, but can be held as private, undeveloped, open space land.
2. It must be used for certain recreational purposes and must be open to the public or members of a non-profit organization. Recreational purposes include land used primarily for any of the following outdoor activities, so long as they do not materially interfere with the environmental benefits of the land: hiking, camping, nature study and observation, boating, golfing, non-commercial youth soccer, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, skiing, swimming, picnicking, private non-commercial flying, hang gliding, archery, and target shooting. Buildings and other structures located on the land, as well as the land on which a residence is located or regularly used for residential purposes, do not qualify for classification and will continue to be assessed a regular local property tax.

Under Chapter 61B, the owner still pays an annual property tax to the city or town in which the classified land is located. However, the tax is based on the commercial tax rate for the fiscal year applied to the value of the land for recreational purposes, rather than its fair market value as would be the case if the land were not classified. The value of the land for recreational purposes is determined annually by the assessors and cannot exceed 25 percent of the fair market value of the land. The property tax is due in the same number of installments and at the same time as other local property tax payments in the city or town. Interest is charged on any overdue taxes at the same rate applicable to overdue local property taxes.

The city or town has an option to purchase any classified land whenever the owner plans to sell or convert it to a residential, commercial or industrial use. The owner must notify by certified mail the mayor and city council or the selectmen, assessors, planning board and conservation commission of

the city or town of any intention to sell or convert the land to those uses. If the owner plans to sell the land, the city or town has the right to match a bona fide offer to purchase it. If the owner plans to convert the land to another use, the city or town has the right to purchase it at fair market value, as is determined by an impartial appraisal. The city or town may also assign its option to a non-profit, conservation organization. The owner cannot sell or convert the land until at least 120 days after the mailing of the required notices or until the owner has been notified in writing that the option will not be exercised, whichever is earlier. This option is not available to the city or town and the notice requirement does not apply if the recreational use is simply discontinued, or if the owner plans to build a residence for his or her use, or the use of his or her parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister, the surviving spouse of any of those relatives, or an employee working full time in the recreational use of the land.

To ensure the continued protection of all Chapter 61 properties, the city's Conservation Commission and the Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Assessor, should conduct an annual review (including interviews with owners) of all Chapter 61 properties to assess which properties should be pursued for potential acquisition. By conducting these reviews annually, the city can develop a ranking and prioritization system for potential acquisition. This will provide a rationale and clear direction for the city in its pursuit of securing the funding necessary for land purchases that the 120 day Right of First Refusal period does not necessarily provide. During this annual assessment, other potentially qualified properties in the city, not currently enrolled in the Chapter 61 programs, should be evaluated for possible inclusion.

**Table 5.5 Taunton Chapter 61B Properties**

NAME/ LOCAT./ OWNER	MAP/ PAR	SIZE	ZONE	FEATURES/ CURRENT USE	REC. POTEN. (Y/N)	PUBLIC ACCESS (Y/N)	MGT.	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	CONDITION (GOOD, FAIR, POOR)	PURCHASE GRANT SOURCE	ADA INVENTORY STATUS
Taunton Fish and Game, Round Street	7-34- 53-19	2.07	RR	Fishing	fair	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Taunton Fish and Game, Round Street	7-34- 53-18	2.03	RR	Fishing	fair	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Taunton Fish and Game, Round Street	7-34- 53-22	7.39	RR	Fishing	fair	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Taunton Fish and Game, Round Street	7-33- 52-83		RR	Fishing	fair	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Segregansett Country Club,Burt Street	1-37- 78-31	23.0	RR	Golf	good	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A
Segregansett Country Club,Burt Street	1-37- 78-8X	5.0	RR	Golf	good	limited	Private	short-term	Good	N/A	N/A



## SECTION 6 COMMUNITY VISION

### A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The Open Space Committee sought input for the updated Open Space Plan from the citizens of Taunton through the distribution of an Open Space and Recreation Survey during the summer of 2013, and again in the fall of 2013. The survey was available on Survey Monkey via a link on the City website, and in hard copy at City Hall, at Park & Recreation facilities, at the Taunton Public Library, and through the Council on Aging. The information obtained in the responses to the survey was used as one of the means of gauging the public's needs and concerns.

In addition to the survey, SRPEDD, on behalf of the Open Space Committee, participated in a number of public meetings and conducted in-person and telephone interviews as a means to collect public opinion and supplemental data. These activities included: open working meetings; community goals, objectives, and action plan meetings hosted by municipal, local, non-profit, and regional groups, and; conversations with municipal staff and others directly associated with the major issues raised by the public through the survey and public meetings.

#### Progress Report from the 2006 (revised, 2007) Open Space Plan

In the course of developing the Action Plan for the 2015 Open Space Plan, there was a great deal of discussion and review undertaken in the public process order to assess the progress made in implementing the previous Open Space Plan's Action Plan. The City, through its various departments, partnerships, and the efforts of several individuals, has been able to address and implement several of these Action Plan items, or items that are related to specific recommended actions.

A list of these items includes:

- Secured the designation of the Three Mile River Watershed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) in 2008 in conjunction with the Towns of Norton and Dighton, and the regional planning agency (SRPEDD) ;
- Secured possession of the Dever wells;
- Worked with a coalition of local, state, regional, and federal partners to secure the federal Wild & Scenic River designation of the Taunton River in 2009;
- Working with a coalition of planning, environmental, academic, and state organizations, and funded through a Gateway Cities Grant, converted a degraded portion of a municipal parking lot into an urban riverway park along the Mill River in the downtown; the park is located behind the City Hall, Police Station, Downtown Business area, Marion Manor (nursing home), and in close proximity to the Church Green and Taunton Green National Historic Register areas, in 2011 (this project is part of a systemic Mill River Restoration Plan; it is also a future potential location for a municipal skate park);
- Through the OECD, received another Brownfield Program Grant worth \$1.2 million to continue the city's very successful brownfield assessment and clean-up programs;

- Through the Mill River Restoration Partnership, completed a dam removal and riverbank/fisheries restoration project at the Hopewell/Taunton State Hospital Dam in 2012; this project helped to alleviate flooding, erosion, sedimentation, water quality, public access, and fish passage issues on the Mill River;
- Completed a second dam removal, through the same partnership and for the same purposes as stated above, at the Whittenton Mills complex in 2013;
- Through Mass DOT, and with the Mill River Partnership, completed a dam/bridge restoration project at Morey's Bridge/Lake Sabattia, in 2013, that addresses traffic safety issues as well as stream flow, flooding, and fish/eel passage into the upper watershed ;
- The City has completed the first ten phases of a twelve phase Inflow/Infiltration project designed to improve the quality and quantity of water received, treated, and discharged by the wastewater treatment plant (into the Taunton River);
- The City has completed, through its Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD), a Downtown Sidewalks Improvement Project that began in June of 2012. This project addressed ADA needs in the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, pedestrian/traffic safety issues, and added fifty-seven trees to the downtown/urban core within the project area;
- The Conservation Commission, in conjunction with The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA), and others, secured the 54 acre Melo property (former Thayer Farm land) on North Walker Street, along the Three Mile River, in 2010. The site, now the known as the Westville Conservation Area, contains 32 acres of open meadow and 3300 feet of river frontage on the Three Mile River;
- Completed the first phase of a flood hazard remediation project on Cobb Brook, between the discharge to the Taunton River and Somerset Avenue (Route 138);
- Received an informational kiosk for the Weir Waterfront Park as part of the National Park Service Challenge Grant Program, "Pathways of the Taunton", administered by the Taunton River Stewardship Council;
- Received a grant through the state's "Our Common Backyards" grant program to construct a splash pad feature at Hopewell Park;
- Received a grant through the Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative to develop programs and policies that promote healthy eating, active living, and healthy and safe physical environments;
- Through the Taunton Housing Authority and Mass Works, completed the Hope VI mixed housing project on a 6.4 acre former brownfield site, Parcel 6A, off of Mason Street;
- Completed the demolition of the former F.B. Rogers brownfield site to prepare it for reuse;
- Is working with Save the Bay, DER, NOAA and other project partners to complete a dam removal/river restoration/flood hazard mitigation project at Barstow's Pond, on the Cotley River, by 2016.

## **B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS**

Taunton is a city of contrasts. The dense development of the downtown and the area immediately surrounding, historically grew around the Taunton River and Mill River in order to

accommodate business and industry. This dense development is not so much in evidence in the eastern, southern and western portions of the city. These sections are more rural, with large areas of passive and active open land. Agricultural parcels, forestland, wetlands, streams, and ponds located throughout these less developed areas, have been important in the overall preservation of the more rural characteristics of the city. Unique landscapes, such as the Small river Silver maple flood plain forest, Hockomock Swamp ACEC, and the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC, are not only local resources, but significant to the Commonwealth as well.

In 2015, the stewardship of existing assets, coupled with the challenges of developing new opportunities for the public, makes establishing sound conservation planning strategies a necessity. With a growing population, fewer financial resources with which to operate, and more competition for those remaining financial resources (competitive grants, etc.), the City and its citizens need to be organized, creative, and resourceful in maximizing partnership opportunities, pursuing new and innovative ways to generate revenue, and developing prioritization criteria for addressing the future open space, conservation and recreation needs.

Below is a broad brush list of Conservation and Recreation Goals based upon the results of the process described in Section 6A above.

- Goal 1: Protect the quality and quantity of the city's ground and surface water resources
- Goal 2: Prevent the loss of critical natural resources and retain the integrity of existing intact habitat areas and fisheries/wildlife corridors
- Goal 3: Prevent the loss of the rural, cultural, and historical qualities and assets of the City
- Goal 4: Develop a city-wide multi-use trail system including walking, hiking, biking, and water access features, where feasible
- Goal 5: Promote coordinated, responsible land use management and planning
- Goal 6: Expand and improve recreational opportunities that promote healthy, life-long experiences for residents of all ages and abilities

## **SECTION 7 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS**

### **A. CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

Over the past several years, the Conservation Commission, aside from meeting its responsibilities under the Wetlands Protection Act, has also been working with other municipal boards, commissions, departments, and committees, to protect and increase the conservation and open space assets of the City. These efforts also involve outside partnering organizations and include pursuing: long-range greenway/trail/canoe and kayak (blueway) projects; improved public access to conservation areas; watershed protection, and; habitat and ecological restoration plans (such as those efforts underway on the Mill River and the Cotley River). The Commission is also working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to address chronic flood and water quality management issues in areas such as the Mill River, Cotley River, Lake Sabbatia, and Cobb Brook. Several of these projects also relate directly to nutrient management issues in the Taunton River and its tributaries.

In order to further protect the quality and quantity of Taunton's water resources, the Commission should assess and prioritize the acquisition/permanent protection of open space. This assessment should not only include land that meets conservation and recreation needs, but also provides river and stream buffers, preserves critical habitat linkages and functions, and protects recharge areas near existing and future potential water supply sites. Healthy environmental systems require a network of vital connections that help to preserve the services that these systems provide to our cities and towns (water quality, air quality, fish and wildlife habitat, etc.). By protecting and restoring naturally functioning ecosystems, we help to preserve the "green infrastructure" that is critical to the overall health and resiliency of our cities and towns.

This approach can complement regulatory measures currently being employed by the Planning Board (Cluster, Water and Aquifer Resource Protection, and Open Space Conservancy bylaws), and the Water Department (through its master plan), and should be employed as part of a comprehensive municipal natural resources protection strategy.

Another part of a more comprehensive municipal natural resources protection strategy would be to develop management plans for all of its conservation holdings. This could be part of an ongoing effort and involve other conservation partners such as the Wildlands Trust, Taunton River Watershed Alliance, or organizations like AmeriCorps. A plan was developed for the Westville Conservation Area in 2010, in conjunction with the Watershed Alliance and Trustees of Reservations, and could serve as a model. The process should begin by addressing municipal lands (and Conservation Restrictions) held in areas recognized as critical to the city's natural resources. If parcels already have management plans, they should be revisited in order to see if they are still appropriate, and if they are being addressed.

Areas that are critical for their conservation, recreation, and cultural values, and are heavily used and favored by the public, should also undergo regular need assessments and upgrades. In Taunton, the Boyden Wildlife Refuge is just such an area (by far, the most popular area in the Open Space Survey). This City property, and former home of the Conservation Commission, is maintained in partnership with the non-profit Friends of the Boyden Refuge, who use the office located on the property. The Boyden office is also home to the Taunton River Watershed

Alliance (TRWA). The Boyden provides the community some of the best access to the Three Mile River currently available, as well as conservation, recreation, and family programs and events sponsored by the Friends and the TRWA.

The Boyden has been in a state of physical decline for well over a decade. Buildings are in need of repair (and upgrade, including energy efficiency), part of the River trail system has been closed off due to erosion/stability issues, and several trail areas need new fencing for safety purposes. The parking lot also needs repair/grading. Because of a lack of funds, the City has not been able to effectively partner with the Friends of the Boyden to adequately maintain this facility.

## **B. PARKS & RECREATION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS**

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Massachusetts Outdoor 2012, is a five-year plan developed by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The plan is required for state participation in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants programs. The SCORP also provides an overview of the recreational preferences of the citizens of each geographic region of the Commonwealth as determined through a public participation and outreach process. The profile of recreational use afforded by the SCORP also provides municipalities with a planning tool for addressing the future needs and uses of our outdoor recreational resources.

The SCORP summary of the Commonwealth's Eastern and Southern Regions, which includes Taunton, indicates that water based activities and playgrounds provide the most popular recreational outlets for families in the regions. The SCORP also revealed that the most popular facilities for adults and seniors are hiking and walking trails, adolescents find athletic fields and skate parks most popular, for children playgrounds and athletic fields, and for preschoolers are playgrounds and water facilities. The SCORP also indicated that trails are the type of facility that has increased the most in popularity over the past five years, as well as the activity that people believe will increase the most in popularity over the next five years.

Finally, it should also be noted that the SCORP indicated that citizens in this region favored restoring/reinvesting in and maintaining existing recreational facilities. This is something that the City's residents would very much like to see become a standard in policy and practice.

The SCORP summary for the Southern and Eastern Regions largely reflects the City's recreation preferences and goals. Based upon both the Open Space survey and feedback at community meetings, the top five choices for the types of recreation facilities that are needed or should be expanded in Taunton were (in order of preference): hiking and walking trails; bike paths; family picnic areas; conservation areas, and; children's play areas.

The city's Parks Cemeteries and Public Grounds (PCPG) Department is committed to providing quality year-round recreational programs for all residents of the City as well as facility maintenance of all parks, recreation, conservation, and cemetery properties (including handling tree and brush removals). The PCPG has a very good and informative web page located on the city's website. The page is kept up-to-date with all of the recreational programming, leagues/contacts, policies, and special events available to the citizens of Taunton. In carrying out

its mission, the PCPG continues to work with municipal offices, various youth leagues and programs, civic organization, non-profits, and the schools in providing outstanding recreational opportunities for people of all ages (a list of PCPG facilities, an example of its programs, and a list partnering leagues and associations appears in Appendix H).

Fiscal challenges, in the form of an adequate budget and committed municipal investment, must also be met in order to maintain the quality of life opportunities that so many residents depend upon (particularly, the ability to stay local and have a variety of passive and active recreational choices, despite age or ability). Currently, the PCPG operates on a budget that is less than 1% of the total municipal budget, and has about half of the staff and more responsibilities than it had several years ago. In the meantime, PCPG has seen participation in its summer recreation programs and special events continue to grow dramatically. The winter programs have seen increased demand as well, but are limited by the availability of space due to the dependency on school facilities and scheduling (the city still lacks a dedicated municipal indoor recreation facility). This is not a sustainable formula for maintaining a quality parks and recreation program (facilities and offerings).

Based upon the amount of public use of its existing recreational facilities, and use limitations related to accessibility issues at some of these facilities, the City should begin a vigorous effort to address upgrade and compliance issues at these facilities (as assessed in the current ADA Transition Plans, found in Section 11 of this plan). This is the issue that was seen by the public as a necessary first step to deal with the overall needs of the recreation system. Addressing upgrade and compliance issues will allow for maximum and efficient use of several of the more popular and developed municipal parks and recreation holdings. This will also allow for greater levels of participation in the parks and recreation system by people of all ages and abilities.

Some of the facilities/opportunities specifically mentioned as “recreational and community needs” (in terms of upgrades, repurposing, or new development) at public meetings and in Open Space Survey comments, included:

- The rehabilitation or repurposing of the playground area and address the field flooding issue at Sikorski Park;
- The rehabilitation of Memorial Park;
- Develop a skate park, either in its originally intended space behind City Hall (the Mill River Park) or on the proposed alternate site at Longmeadow Road;
- Develop the active recreation portion of the Warner Boulevard property to help address the need for additional multi-purpose fields and relieve the burden put on school facilities;
- Develop the passive recreation portion of the Warner Boulevard property as a trail system and transition area into the adjacent Boyden Refuge;
- Develop bike/pedestrian paths (including links to planned and existing regional trails);
- Fix the access road to Weir Park;
- Develop more passive and active recreational opportunities for the older population;
- Find, rehabilitate, or construct a building to serve as a community recreation center. This has been a “needs” issue in every Open Space Plan update since 1986. The public believes that addressing this issue will avoid the need to rent space and allow for greater

flexibility in scheduling community recreation events; it will also decrease the current dependency and physical burden placed upon the school facilities.

Community planners have traditionally looked to the National Park and Recreation Association Standards (NPRA) as a benchmark for the number of facilities/opportunities/acres a community should have per units of population. These standards are still very useful as guides, but have become more difficult to achieve in leaner economic times as communities struggle to maintain their current recreational assets and stock. Partnerships (local and regional), reinvestment, and repurposing may hold the keys to the maximum and efficient use of current recreational stock as well as the ability to expand and offer more (and more diverse) quality experiences to citizens of all ages and abilities. An overview of Taunton's current recreation stock per the NPRA Standards is found in Table 7.1.

### Special User Group Needs

#### *Seniors*

Taunton's senior population participates in a number and variety of special programs provided by the City's Human Services Department. Taunton is similar to state and national trends in that its population is aging and remaining more active than in years past. Data presented in Figure 4, in Section 3 of this plan shows that the percentage of Taunton's population aged 55 and over showed a measurable increase between 2000 and 2010. Furthermore, Taunton's Median Age increased by over three (3) years during this same period, and passed the state Median Age figure for the first time.

Many people in this age group, both in survey responses and in community meetings, were looking for the City to provide increased outdoor activities for seniors (walking, hiking, etc.).

#### *Citizens with Disabilities*

The City has prepared a self-evaluation and transition plan for its recreational facilities as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These plans are carried out through a municipally appointed ADA Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for working to bring all municipal services, infrastructure, and buildings into compliance with the Act. The ADA Coordinator is not responsible for privately owned facilities.

The ADA Transition Plan in Section 11 of this plan contains an inventory of the public recreation facilities of the City of Taunton (exclusive of the School Department facilities; the School Department must conduct their own assessment and prepare a Transition Plan for their facilities). The Transition Plan takes inventory of the improvements needed to bring a facility into ADA compliance. The City has been attempting to address these needs as funding allows, and has accomplished some of the necessary tasks.

All future recreation facilities should be designed with the needs of citizens with disabilities in mind, in terms of site access, physical use, and ability to view events and cultural/scenic landscapes.

Table 7 B-1:  
Recreational Needs Analysis (Per NRPA Standards)  
City of Taunton, population 55,600

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Recommended # of Units per Population</b>	<b># of Community-Open Fee Accessible Facilities Currently in Taunton</b>	<b>Future Needs</b>
Basketball	1 per 5,000	18	--
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	1	--
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	2*	--
Tennis	1 per 2,000	27	1
Volleyball	1 per 3,000	18	1
Baseball	1 per 3,000	18	1
Softball	1 per 3,000	10	8
Football	1 per 20,000	6	--
1/4 Mile Track	1 per 20,000	4	--
Soccer	1 per 10,000	6	--
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	2	--
Hiking Trails	1 mile per 2,500	8.2miles	14 miles
Golf Courses	18 holes per 25,000	1**	1

\* Field hockey/multi-purpose fields are located at Taunton High School; City also has 4 multi-purpose areas that can be utilized.

\*\* This is a nine-hole public course

The following quote from the Subdivision and Site Plan Handbook is an important reminder to any community assessing the adequacy of its recreational facilities:

“Ideally, the national standards should stand the test in communities of all sizes. However, the reality often makes it difficult or inadvisable to apply national standards without question in specific locales. The uniqueness of every community, due to differing geographical, cultural, climatic and socioeconomic characteristics, makes it imperative that every community develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space.”<sup>1</sup> (taking into account such factors as population density, average age and income, average land values, etc.)<sup>2</sup>

1) Subdivision and Site Plan Handbook, David Listoken and Carole Walker, New Jersey; Rutgers University, 1989, p. 229-230.

2) Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association; National Park Service Standards.

## C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

Beyond the management needs of the physical conservation and recreation assets of the town, the Open Space Plan Committee saw the need to manage the flow of information/education regarding the Open Space Plan as a major priority. One of the great comments received during the discussions of what the City hopes to accomplish with the update of the Open Space Plan was:

“Make it more of a verb, and less of a noun!”

People see a real need to promote the plan, increase public awareness, involvement, and local government efficiency. The following ideas are a synthesis of those offered at Open Space Plan Committee and community meetings, and in follow-up interviews:

### *Financial Commitment*

The City needs to bring local adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to a vote in the Municipal Council. The CPA has been presented to the City Council for discussion and study three times since 2006. Local adoption of the CPA has been supported by 60% of the respondents during the last two Open Space Plan community surveys. CPA funds would not only allow the City to fund conservation, recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing projects, but would allow the City greater flexibility in pursuing grants that require matching funds. The CPA would certainly help the city meet many of the conservation and recreation needs and challenges discussed above (information on the CPA and its benefits appear in Appendix I).

### *Management*

The Mayor and City Council need to appoint a permanent Open Space Committee (OSC). The OSC can serve as the City’s initial point of contact for, and to oversee the implementation of, the Open Space Plan. This will also improve both the internal communication process, and in turn, communication with external agencies, organizations, and potential partners. The OSC can also meet on a regular basis to make sure that the Open Space Plan’s Action items are being addressed (or delayed for whatever reasons) and keep the plan and the City’s accomplishments in the public eye.

The Mayor and City Council need to appoint a Pathways Committee to help develop local bike and pedestrian routes and also to engage similar regional groups who would like to forge trail links with Taunton. Taunton has been unofficially represented on the Taunton River Trail Committee since its inception in 1992. At one time, Taunton was very committed to developing local and regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

In 1997, the City Council convened a committee to research the feasibility of developing a bike path for the City. This committee included representatives from such City departments as Community Development, Planning, Engineering, Conservation, and also included citizens and members of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance. Taunton applied for, and received, a \$70,323 Transportation Enhancements Planning grant in 1998-99, through the then Mass Highway (now Mass DOT). The grant awarded funding to conduct a feasibility study of a proposed 6.6 mile bicycle and pedestrian path extending from the Boyden Refuge to the Taunton

High School. The feasibility study revealed several property acquisition, route, and engineering challenges, and the trail plan was never pursued and the committee discharged.

SRPEDD is in the process of updating its Regional Transportation Plan in 2015, and is also working with community bicycle, pedestrian and trail committees to develop a Regional Bicycle Plan. Taunton should have a committee to represent the City in this regional effort.

### *Education*

The city needs to actively promote public interest, engagement, and involvement in conservation, recreation, and open space planning. A necessary first step in this process is to place the Open Space Plan on the city website (it currently is not) in an easily accessible location. Many other related documents such as the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC Stewardship Plan, The Taunton River Stewardship Plan, the Hockomock ACEC designation, the Canoe River ACEC designation should also be put up at the same location or be referenced with links to the documents provided, where necessary.

The city needs to develop and promote local public education materials describing available conservation, recreation, and open space assets and opportunities. Significant resource areas and areas with special designations are not currently publicized or promoted by the city. Some of these areas/designations include: The Wampanoag Commemorative Canoe Passage; the State Heritage River designation of the Taunton River; the federally designated Wild & Scenic Taunton River; the Hockomock, Canoe River, and Three Mile River Watershed state designated ACECs; the Hopewell/State Hospital Dam removal and river restoration/trail development project. Most of the public information about these areas and projects was developed and distributed by outside organizations. As previously stated, this material could be scanned in, linked, or uploaded to the appropriate page(s) on the city's website.

Developing a recreation facilities brochure would complement the existing PCPG web page. A Conservation Commission holdings/assets/opportunities brochure could go hand-in-hand with the development of materials for the Conservation Commission web page on the city's website. An improved web page and physical materials would help to forge stronger ties between the Commission and potential conservation partners, as well as to promote the public ownership and the need for stewardship of these outstanding resources.

### *Land Acquisition and Preservation*

The Open Space Plan Committee, the public, and several partnering conservation organizations also identified the need for a formal Land Acquisition/Protection Strategy for conservation and open space parcels. The goal here would be to promote a more unified and purposeful approach to land acquisition by the city that would focus on: keeping significant natural corridors intact; retaining the integrity of significant blocks of watershed and agricultural land; looking at land function as well as features in a complementary context, and; promoting a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach as to how and why land is preserved or acquired.

This strategy should be used to target susceptible natural resource areas in Taunton's three ACECs, along its river corridors, and in areas of agricultural significance (in essence, a way to address issues in identified Core Habitat, high-quality streams, Heritage Landscape Inventory

and Critical Natural Landscape areas). The City's forest land and coldwater fisheries resources are extremely vulnerable to development impacts and would greatly benefit from a more studied approach to land acquisition and protection.

The city should continue to promote agricultural retention, preservation, and assistance programs offered by both MDAR and the USDA. The amount of agricultural land in the city has diminished greatly over the last sixty years. Much of this land has been converted into commercial land (the Galleria Mall, for example), industrial land (portions of both the Myles Standish and Liberty and Union Industrial Parks), and various residential developments. As recently as 2005, a significant amount of land in the Three Mile River Watershed (including Norton, Easton, Taunton, Dighton, and Berkley) was considered "regionally significant" to farming by both MDAR and USDA, who targeted the area for participation in their programs.

The city has to plan for agriculture, not around it. Poorly planned land use can have negative impacts on viable farm operations. The recently established downtown farmers' market is a step in helping to promote and support local and regional agriculture. The city could also establish an Agricultural Commission and develop Right-To-Farm Bylaws to help increase community awareness of farms and their business needs. This can also help with retention of agricultural lands, promote the practice of agriculture, and encourage new farmers to invest in the community. The city can also sponsor workshops on intergenerational transfer of property to help older farm owners and their heirs.

#### *Rehabilitation and Reuse*

The city has been a leader in the assessment, clean-up, and reuse of brownfield properties for the past two decades (the City's own DPW facility being constructed on the former Taunton Silversmith brownfield site in the Weir). There is currently an opportunity for the City to reassess the potential use of the former F.B. Rogers site on West Water Street and possibly repurpose/convert it into a linear waterfront park. This would create another recreational/access point on the federally designated Wild & Scenic Taunton River. This effort would be led by the City's OECD and may also include finding space for the development of an indoor recreational facility.

The City should continue to pursue a policy of river restoration and stream continuity improvement. The removal of old industrial dams and restoration of the associated impoundments on the Mill River has resulted in the presence of a significant native herring population in the river for the first time in over 200 years. To date, two dams (Hopewell/State Hospital and Whittenton Mill) have been removed. Once the West Britannia dam (Reed & Barton) is removed, fish will be able to access Lake Sabbatia, Watson Pond, Winnecunnet Pond, and thirty (30) miles of river and stream habitat in the upper Mill River Watershed. More than thirty (30) acres of impoundment will also be restored to natural floodplain wetland, eliminating a significant flood hazard to the surrounding neighborhood and the downtown area. A similar project is underway at Barstow's Pond, near the Liberty and Union Industrial Park. This project will restore eight (8) miles of fisheries habitat on the Cotley River.

## **SECTION 8 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Analysis of the Open Space Surveys, along with input from public planning sessions and meetings, indicated that there was a slight shift in public priorities from the prior plan. Natural resource and conservation, particularly water quality and quantity related topics, carried a greater weight with the public while multi-use trails rose to prominence amongst recreation issues. The suggested means by which to address the goals and objectives of this plan (“Local Lead/Partners) left many options to consider and reflected an awareness of the more limited municipal and other resources available and necessary to accomplish proposed tasks.

### **Goal 1: Protect the quality and quantity of the City’s ground and surface water resources.**

- Objective 1: Assess and eliminate possible pollution sources in important water resource areas in the most practical and efficient manner possible.
- Objective 2: Support natural resource conservation and protection in important water resource, wetland and watershed areas.

### **Goal 2: Prevent the loss the natural resources and habitat.**

- Objective 1: Work to document species habitat records for the city and the NH&ESP database in order to preserve our biodiversity, variety of habitat, and intact ecosystems.

### **Goal 3: Prevent the loss of the rural, cultural and historical qualities and assets of the City.**

- Objective 1: Support the preservation of open space through various traditional, innovative, and creative means.
- Objective 2: Promote cultural and historical preservation and renovation projects.
- Objective 3: Identify and preserve significant archaeological resources.

### **Goal 4: Develop a city-wide multi-use trail system, with regional links, including walking, hiking, biking, and water access features, where feasible.**

- Objective 1: Work with local, regional, state, and federal partners to plan and develop local and regional multi-use trail systems.

### **Goal 5: Promote coordinated, responsible land use management and planning.**

- Objective 1: Review the existing plans and management policies used by all City departments, dealing with land use, acquisition, conservation, open space, and recreation to ensure compatibility.

### **Goal 6: Expand and improve recreational opportunities that promote healthy, life-long experiences for residents of all ages and abilities.**

- Objective 1: Improve the built environment to advance opportunities for healthy living .
- Objective 2: Address the recreational needs of a growing and diverse population.

**SECTION 9 ACTION PLAN**

**Goal 1: Protect the quality and quantity of the town’s ground and surface water resources.**

Objective 1: Assess and eliminate potential pollution sources in important water resource areas in the most practical and efficient manner possible.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal funds; technical assistance funds and services through the regional planning agency, non-profits, state, and federal agencies (MA CZM CPR grant funds, DEP green infrastructure grants, Narragansett Bay Program water quality grants program, etc.)

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Review the DEP 303d list, Narragansett Bay Comprehensive Management Plan (Narragansett Bay Program, RI), DCR Water Assets Study, TMDL report, and other recent environmental issue reports; prioritize the most sensitive, at-risk areas, and; seek mitigation or corrective action.	All municipal boards and departments dealing with land use issues, environmental issues, stormwater management, etc. Potential partners include the State DCR and DEP, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, SRPEDD, Save the Bay, Narragansett Bay Project.	Should begin immediately and be monitored for progress at regular intervals (quarterly, semi-annually or annually).
1b. Assess municipally-owned properties for potential environmental issues, particularly around water resource areas, drinking water supply areas, and recreation areas/facilities, and address concerns as required.	Water Department, Conservation Commission, OECD, TEMA, Board of Health, Public Works/ Highway Department, Recreation, Planning Board, Assessor’s Office.	Begin an immediate review of facilities and environmental challenges outlined in respective plans and explore effective and efficient ways to address these issues (through a timetable and prioritization approach).

1c. Review and improve, as necessary, Water Department, Conservation 2015 -2016

the existing water resource protection provisions of the Zoning Bylaws, Planning Board Rules and Regulations, etc..

Commission, Planning Board, others as needed (SRPEDD, etc.).

Objective 2: Support natural resource conservation and protection in important water resource, wetland, and watershed areas.

Potential Funding Sources: State, federal, municipal, and non-profit funds for land and water conservation actions; Mass DOT, DEP, Mass Environmental Trust, and; Transportation Alternatives Program, EPA, USDA, and MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) funds for flooding and stormwater related actions.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
2a. Secure open land adjacent to important water supply areas, conservation, recreation or water access holdings, using various tools (conservation restrictions, deeded easements, purchase, etc.).	City Council, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Water Department; potential partners could be local, regional, and state agencies (MA Dept. of Fish & Game, DCR), land trusts or conservation organizations (TNC, Wildlands Trust, TTOR).	Ongoing
2b. Promote public education on land and water related issues through outreach, media, printed materials, forums, workshops, seminars.	Municipal departments and boards; local media and newspapers; federal, state and regional conservation partners (Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Taunton River Stewardship Council, Mass Audubon, etc.).	Ongoing

2c. Review municipal land holdings for conservation land value and status of protection.	Conservation Commission, OECD, Assessors, local, regional, and state land agencies; non-profits	Ongoing
2d. Work to resolve the long-standing problems with sediment build-up and flooding due to infrastructure issues within the Mill River, Cobb Brook, other streams and tributaries, including: sediment and debris; culverts, dams.	TEMA, Water Dept., all applicable City departments and commissions; MassDOT, TNC, DER, SRPEDD, Save the Bay, Narragansett Bay Project	2015 and ongoing
2e. Assess and improve drainage systems; repurpose appropriate City owned land for stormwater storage and treatment (green infrastructure).	DPW; Conservation Comm.; Planning Board; other federal, state, local, non-profit organizations, as necessary	2015 and ongoing

**Goal 2: Prevent the loss of natural resources and habitat.**

Objective 1: Work to document species habitat records for the town and the NHESP database in order to help to preserve our biodiversity, variety of habitat, and intact ecosystems.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal funds; technical assistance services through state agencies, non-profits, regional planning agency, regional colleges and universities.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Begin a comprehensive survey and registration process of species, habitats (including vernal pools),	Conservation Commission; NHESP staff, Environmental groups and organizations, colleges	2015 and ongoing

unique natural communities, rare, endangered, or threatened communities, etc.; pay particular attention to areas highlighted in NHESP's BioMap 2, TNC plans, etc.

and universities, DCR, SRPEDD, Save the Bay, TNC, Mass Audubon, others as needed.

1b. Work cooperatively to protect or preserve land that links existing protected areas and provides habitat connectivity and wildlife passages, without concern for municipal boundaries.

Appropriate municipal boards and commissions other parties as needed (state, local, regional, non-profit); Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee; Three Mile River ACEC Committee, Town of Norton, Town of Dighton, Town of Berkley, Town of Raynham.

Ongoing

1c. Adopt the Community Preservation Act to help fund conservation and open space acquisition in priority areas.

Mayor, City Council, PCPG, Housing, OECD, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations

2015 - 2017

**Goal 3: Prevent the loss of Taunton's rural, cultural and historical qualities and assets.**

Objective 1: Support the preservation of open space through various traditional, innovative and creative means.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds through the regional planning agency, non-profits, Taunton River Stewardship Council.

ACTION

LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

1a. Establish a prioritization process

Conservation Commission,

2015 and ongoing.

and plan for the promotion and retention of active agriculture, and the enrollment of farmland and wood lots into Ch. 61 and APR programs.

Assessor's Office, Historical Commission; Planning Board; City Council; USDA; Massachusetts Association of Agricultural

1b. Review existing land use and planning regulations for the potential of exercising options such as limited development plans, transfer of development rights (TDR), etc.

Commissions; SEMAP Planner, Planning Board in conjunction with appropriate City departments, boards, and committees; potential inclusion of SRPEDD.

2015 and ongoing.

Objective 2: Promote cultural and historical preservation and renovation projects.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds through state, federal, non-profits, regional college and university programs, MA Cultural Council, Taunton River Stewardship Council, SRPEDD.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
2a. The City should develop a Historic Preservation Plan in order to determine new and update old priority projects.	Historical Commission and other related municipal departments as necessary; federal, state, and local partners (MHC, DCR, etc.)	2016 - 2019
2b. Adopt the Community Preservation Act to fund potential historic restoration, acquisition, planning, preservation and related priority projects.	Mayor, City Council, PCPG, Historical Commission, OECD, Conservation Commission, Housing, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations	2015 - 2017

2c. Promote historic signage efforts to highlight and link cultural and historical assets.	Planning, Conservation Commission, PCPG, Historical Commission, Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton River Stewardship Council, NPS DCR Heritage Landscape Program, Taunton River Trail Committee	2015 and ongoing
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Objective 3: Identify and preserve significant archaeological resources.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources in conjunction with technical assistance/services/resources from state agencies, non-profits, and the regional planning agency.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
3a. Adopt measures to protect areas of potential cultural and archaeological sensitivity.	Appropriate municipal boards and commissions in conjunction with Historical Commission, MHC, DCR, Old Colony Historical Society, Massachusetts Archaeological Society, and others as appropriate.	2015 and ongoing

**Goal 4: Develop a City-wide multi-use trail system (including walking, hiking, biking, and water access features, where feasible).**

Objective 1: Work to develop a local multi-use trail system.

Potential Funding Sources: state (DCR), regional planning agency (SRPEDD), Mass DOT, and federal resources for multi-modal recreational trail planning; state (Office of Boating and Fishing Access; MCZM), municipal funds and resources; Mass In Motion; non-profit technical assistance/services/funds.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Appoint a local Pathways Committee to develop local bike, pedestrian, and water trail plans; work with regional groups to develop links to Taunton.	Mayor, City Council, others as necessary	2015 and ongoing
1b. Using existing on-road and off-road trails, and the ability to tie into other municipal and regional trails, (Norton/Mansfield Rail Trail; Taunton River Trail in Dighton and Somerset); develop a plan and timetable for the creation of additional local trails and links to existing trails.	PCPG, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, OECD, DCR (Boating and Fishing Access), SRPEDD, Mass Audubon, Scouts, TRT, NPS, TNC, TRWA, Friends of Boyden, and others as appropriate	2015 and ongoing.
1c. Assess the ability of the City to link key open space parcels, City properties, schools, recreation facilities, etc. (“knit” together existing open space holdings) with bike and pedestrian paths.	Conservation Commission, Recreation, Planning, School Department, Selectmen, other City/town departments as applicable.	2015 and ongoing
1d. Secure funding sources for multi-purpose trail/facility planning and construction.	Conservation Commission, OECD, others as appropriate, (DCR Greenways and Trails Demonstration Grants Program, MCZM Coastal Access, DCR Boating and Fishing Access, SRPEDD, etc.)	2016 and ongoing
1d. Develop and publish a City Trail Map/Brochure.	PCPG, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission	2016 – 2017; update as needed

**Goal 5: Promote coordinated, responsible land use management and planning.**

Objective 1: Review the existing plans, management policies, and practices used by all City departments dealing with land use, acquisition, conservation, open space, and recreation to ensure proper coordination and compatibility.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services from the regional planning agency.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Appoint a standing Open Space Committee in order to work internally and intra-municipally to plan, develop, and implement projects and update the Open Space Plan as changes occur and milestones are met.	Mayor and City Council	2015 and ongoing
1b. Develop a specific digitized Open Space and Recreation parcel database for the City so that all departments are working off of the same data when addressing acquisition, preservation, planning, management, and remediation issues.	Planning, Assessor, all departments and management partners as necessary	2015 and ongoing
1c. Develop uniform prioritization criteria for a formal land acquisition/protection strategy.	As above.	2015 - 2016

**Goal 6: Expand and improve recreational opportunities and provide healthy, life-long experiences for citizens of all ages and abilities.**

Objective 1: Improve the built environment to advance opportunities for healthy living.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources; Mass In Motion; technical assistance/services/funds from state, regional, and non-profit agencies, organizations, and programs; AmeriCorps trail volunteers; NPS Rivers and Trails Assistance.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD &amp; PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
---------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------

1a. Increase the funding (currently about 1% of the municipal budget) and staff for PCPG in order to adequately operate, maintain, and improve the park & recreation system.	Mayor, City Council	2015
--	---------------------	------

1b. Promote policies and regulations that expand opportunities and protect potential sites for healthy community design projects (community gardens, fitness parks)	All appropriate City Boards, Commissions, Departments and others as necessary.	Ongoing
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Objective 2: Address the recreational needs of a growing and diverse population.

Potential Funding Sources: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds from federal, state, and non-profit agency programs.

2a. Undertake a comprehensive reuse study for	OECD, DEP, TEMA, City Council, Conservation	2015 - 2018
---	---	-------------

the F.B.Rogers property that includes the potential for trails, linear park land, waterfront access, indoor recreation center.

Commission, PCPG, Historical Commission, Planning Board, National Park Service Recreation Trails Assistance Program, USDA NRCS, SRPEDD, others as needed.

2b. Adopt the Community Preservation Act and utilize the recreational provisions of the Act to help meet the local need.

Mayor, City Council, PCPG Conservation, Housing, Historical Commission, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations, others as needed.

2015 - 2017

2c. Address the needs highlighted in the ADA Transition Plan for Park & Recreation and Conservation facilities.

PCPG, Conservation, ADA Coordinator, Planning, City Council, Mayor, OECD, others as necessary.

2015 and ongoing

2d. Develop more diverse, year round recreational opportunities for seniors.

PCPG, ADA Coordinator, OECD. others as necessary.

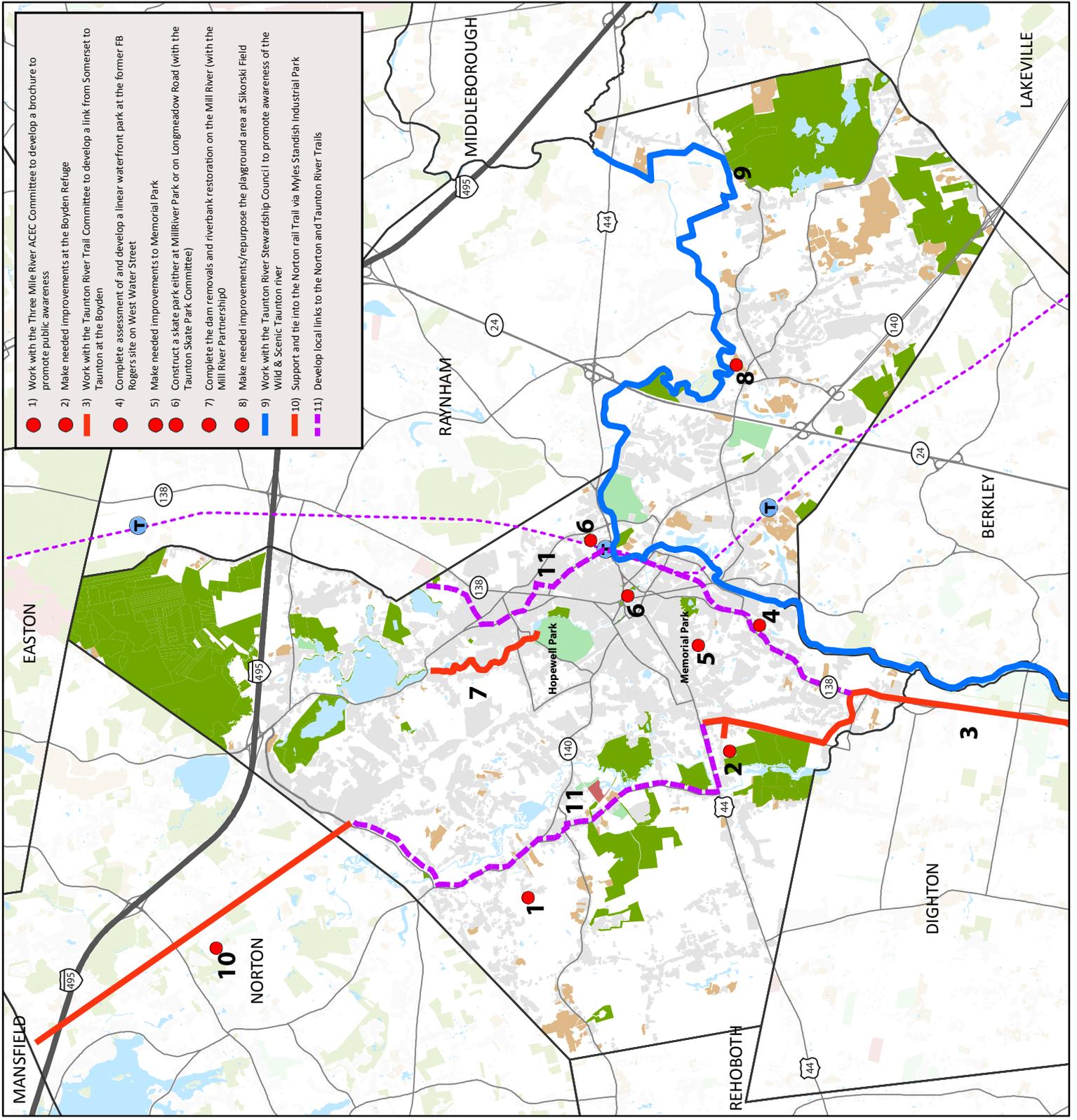
2015 and ongoing

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Action Plan Map

### Legend

- In Perpetuity
- Limited
- Term Limited
- None
- Unknown
- Active Agriculture (Land Use 2005)  
Cranberry Bog, Copland, Nursery, Orchard, Pasture
- Developed (Land Use 2005)  
Commercial; High Density Residential; Industrial; Junkyard; Low Density Residential; Marine; Medium Density Residential; Mining; Multi-Family Residential; Urban Public/Institutional; Very Low Density Residential; Waste Disposal
- Water
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- MBTA Active Commuter Rail Lines



- 1) Work with the Three Mile River ACEC Committee to develop a brochure to promote public awareness
- 2) Make needed improvements at the Boyden Refuge
- 3) Work with the Taunton River Trail Committee to develop a link from Somerset to Taunton at the Boyden
- 4) Complete assessment of and develop a linear waterfront park at the former FB Rogers site on West Water Street
- 5) Make needed improvements to Memorial Park
- 6) Construct a skate park either at MillRiver Park or on Longmeadow Road (with the Taunton Skate Park Committee)
- 7) Complete the dam removals and riverbank restoration on the Mill River (with the Mill River Partnership)
- 8) Make needed improvements/repurpose the playground area at Sikorski Field
- 9) Work with the Taunton River Stewardship Council to promote awareness of the Wild & Scenic Taunton river
- 10) Support and tie into the Norton rail Trail via Myles Standish Industrial Park
- 11) Develop local links to the Norton and Taunton River Trails

1 mile

## **SECTION 10 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **SECTION 11 ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan**

The following Self Evaluation and Transition Plans were developed in accordance the protocol presented in Appendix H of the state's Open Space and Recreation Planner's Handbook (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, rev. March 2008). A written summary of the comments from the inventory sheets is contained in the Transition Plan for each site. Implementation of these Transition Plans is the responsibility of the controlling commission or department. In some instances, such as where the City has Management Agreements in place with the state, the planning, scheduling, and implementation of these plans will be conducted on a partnership basis.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

On July 26, 1990 President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

#### **Definition of a Disability**

The term "disability" with respect to an individual means;

- A. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual;
- B. A record or such impairment; or
- C. Being regarded as having an impairment.

If an individual meets any one of the three tests, he or she is considered to be an individual with a disability for purposes of coverage under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans With Disabilities Act is comprised of 5 major sections or Titles, as follows:

Title I	ADA Employment Section
Title II	ADA Public Service and Public Transportation Section
Title III	ADA Public Accommodations and Services Section
Title IV	ADA Telecommunications Section
Title V	ADA Miscellaneous Section

Title I and II concern the public sector, such as the City of Taunton, and are addressed in this report. The remaining Titles concern the private sector only.

## ADA Coordinator

**Contact:** [Kevin Scanlon](#) , ADA Coordinator

**Phone:** 508-821-1051

**Fax:** 508-821-1043

### Additional Links:

[Planning and Conservation Dept.](#)

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a Federal law that was adopted in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that, in certain circumstances, prohibits discrimination based on disability. The ADA states that a covered entity shall not discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability. This applies to job application procedures, hiring, advancement and discharge of employees, [worker's compensation](#), job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. Additionally, no individual may be discriminated against on the basis of disability with regards to the full and equal [enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations](#) of any place of public service or accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation or provides a public service. One of the requirements of the Act was that all cities and towns had to appoint an ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator is responsible for working to bring all Municipal services, infrastructure and City owned buildings into compliance with the Act. Privately owned facilities do not fall under the ADA Coordinator's purview. For any issue with a City provided service or city owned building you can contact the Planning and Conservation office to address the issue.

The Additional Links section contains links to several State and Federal websites for additional information and assistance with compliance on privately owned facilities

## **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to assess the compliance of the City of Taunton to the Americans with Disabilities Act and to develop a tool to assist the City to come into compliance where areas of non-compliance are found.

- Compliance with ADA regulations require the City to complete a Self-Evaluation by January, 1993. Section IV of this report is such a Self-Evaluation which may be accepted by the Municipal Council.
- Compliance with ADA regulations require that the City may not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities and must reasonably accommodate the disabilities of qualified applicants or employees.
- Compliance with ADA regulations requires the City to make structural changes to existing facilities only when program accessibility is not feasible any other way.
- Implementation of the recommendations in the Transition Plan (Section V of this report) will bring the City into full compliance with all aspects of the ADA regulations.

It should be noted that unlike existing structures, any new construction in the City must be designed and built as fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. Further, it should be noted that there does exist an enforcement mechanism for those who are aggrieved by a public entity's non-compliance with the regulations of the ADA. An aggrieved party may file a civil lawsuit in the Federal District Court, or complaints may be filed directly to the US Department of Justice. It is not mandatory that a grievance be filed using the City's adopted grievance procedures.

The Transition Plan outlines specific recommendations to make the individual facility accessible. The recommendations do not give detailed dimensional specifications in all cases. The ADA regulations and AAB regulations should be referred to prior to implementing the recommendations for each facility.

## **Compliance Requirements**

It is the intention of the City of Taunton to be in compliance with the provisions of the ADA. Toward that end the City has completed or initiated compliance procedures as delineated below;

### **A. Notice of Rights**

In a paid advertisement in a newspaper with local circulation, the City gave notice to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested parties of their rights under ADA. A copy of this notice is included in this report in Appendix A.

### **B. Opportunity for Input**

In the paid advertisement noted in A, above, the City indicated the opportunity of any interested party to have input into the self-evaluation process for the City.

### **C. ADA Coordinator**

The City has appointed an ADA Coordinator whose task is to disseminate information regarding the provisions of ADA and to hear and act upon grievances regarding ADA compliance issues.

The ADA Coordinator is the City Planner. The City Planner may be reached during business hours at City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton Ma 02780; or by telephone at 508-821-1051.

#### **D. ADA Grievance Procedure**

An adopted procedure for those who feel aggrieved by the City's compliance efforts regarding ADA is attached to this report as Appendix B.

#### **E. Self-Evaluation**

The ADA requires each public entity to complete a self-evaluation of its current policies and practices to identify those that are not consistent with the requirements of the Act so that they may be corrected. A more detailed summary of the City's self-evaluation is included as the following section of this report.

#### **F. Transition Plan**

Based upon the self-evaluation described in E, above, the City has developed a Transition Plan which details structural changes required for program accessibility. The Transition Plan is included as Section V of this report.

#### **Self-Evaluation**

The self-evaluation which follows will be divided into two sections. The first will describe the existing condition of the service provision of the City as it relates to the regulations of ADA Title I, or employment issues. The second will describe the existing condition of the service provision of the City as it relates to Title II, or facilities and program accessibility.

#### **Title I Personnel**

##### **1. Oversight**

The department head has hiring authority in the City for all employees not under the jurisdiction of elected officials. All other positions are hired by the Mayor and/or the Municipal Council.

The school department's hiring authority is determined by the Education Reform Act which grants responsibility to individual school principals for staff with confirmation by the Superintendent. The principals and administration staff are hired by the Superintendent and the School Committee.

##### **2. Rules and Regulations**

The union contracts dictate the majority of the procedures for advertising and hiring employees. There are also policies stated within the City Ordinances that govern all employees and are the only written personnel regulations for non-union employees. Neither then rules and regulations nor the existing union contracts contain any language which discriminates against individuals with disabilities.

##### **3. Hiring Practices**

Interviews with staff have shown that hiring procedures for the City are informal and vary according to the position to be filled. Interviews are held by department heads and the appropriate

elected officials. Appointments of full time staff are made by the appointing authority which may be the department head, Mayor, Municipal Council or another board or commission in the city. There is no standard, written interview questionnaire used by the City. There is no standard application form used by the city. There is no written demonstration of any City practice which discriminates against an individual with a disability.

The Police Department is covered by Civil Service and follows standard Civil Service hiring practices. There exists no evidence that discriminatory practices are employed by the City in hiring union covered positions.

In the schools, interviews are held by either principals, department heads, central administrative staff or elected officials. Hiring practices by the schools are governed by the Education Reform Act.

Physical examinations are required for all employees in all school and City positions.

#### **4. Job Descriptions**

Job descriptions for city positions and school positions provide a high level of detail for duties, responsibilities, and conditions of employment. Existing job descriptions in the schools contain no language that is discriminatory against individuals with disabilities. Existing job descriptions for the City contain no language which is discriminatory against individuals with disabilities.

#### **5. Work Sites**

Review and assessment of the working environment for all municipal employees was completed. Few work areas could easily accommodate a disabled individual in a wheelchair. No specialized office equipment for use by individuals with disabilities employees currently is owned or used by the City or schools, with the exception of telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's) at the City Clerk's office and a volume enhancer for a telephone in the Building Department.

## **Grievance Procedures**

**City of Taunton, Massachusetts**

**Americans with Disabilities Act  
(ADA)**

### **Grievance Procedure**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the ADA grievance procedure is to ensure a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints by any city employee, applicant, service recipient, or member of the general public that she/he or a specific class of individuals has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability by the City of Taunton. Any grievant may, by her or himself file a complaint with the City of Taunton within ninety (90) days of the date of the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by the City for good cause.

#### **Applicability:**

This grievance procedure has been adopted by the City of Taunton.

#### **Standing:**

A grievance may be brought by any city employee, applicant, service recipient, or member of the general public. Only the grievant will have official standing; that is, the grievance must be brought directly by the grievant seeking redress or remedy, unless, the grievant is unable, because of the disability, to represent her/himself.

#### **Legal Representation:**

This grievance procedure is meant to be informal, and cannot be legally binding on either party. Therefore, legal representation on behalf of either party is discouraged and shall only be allowed in special circumstances. Such legal representation obviously carries with it a threat of litigation and is thus contrary to the intent of the policy. Similarly, any grievance or complaint involving existing or threatened civil or criminal litigation cannot be addressed by this policy.

#### **Procedure:**

This procedure has been structured to try to resolve the problems at the operating level. For example, if the problem is within the Building Department, the department head of that department would be responsible for implementing any action resulting from the grievance.

#### **STEP 1- DEPARTMENT LEVEL:**

The grievant shall first attempt to resolve the complaint at the level of the department exercising jurisdiction. This grievance may be either oral or written, and shall be submitted to the department head (or designee), who shall meet the grievant as necessary.

The department head shall notify the ADA Coordinator upon receipt of the grievance.

The department head shall issue a written finding, with copies to the grievant and the ADA Coordinator, within twenty (20) working days of submission of the grievance.

**STEP 2 - ADA COORDINATOR LEVEL:**

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, or if the department head lacks authority or jurisdiction, the grievant may submit the grievance to the ADA Coordinator.

Said submission must be in writing and filed within ten (10) working days of the finding of the department head.

The ADA Coordinator (or designee) shall meet with the grievant and shall issue a written finding within twenty (20) working days of the submission of the Step 2 grievance, and shall provide a copy of the finding to the grievant.

**STEP 3 - MUNICIPAL COUNCIL:**

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, she/he may submit the grievance to the Municipal Council.

Said submission must be in writing and filed within ten (10) working days of the findings of the ADA Coordinator.

The Municipal Council (or designee) shall meet with the grievant and shall issue a written finding within twenty (20) working days of the submission of the Step 3 grievance and shall provide a copy of the finding to the grievant.

**NOTE:**

Any decision or recommendation that requires approval of actions or commitment of funds beyond the level of normal departmental authority must be submitted by the department head or the ADA Coordinator to the appropriate board or committee, together with her/his recommendation for action. Said board or committee must approve the ADA Coordinator's recommendation prior to implementation, and must seek any necessary funding from the Municipal Council.



**City of Taunton, Massachusetts**

**Statement of Grievance  
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Name: -----

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the City of Taunton:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Resident
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Describe)

Description of Disability: -----

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What Action Are You Requesting: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grievant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Title II Buildings, Services, and Programs**

### **Building/Facility Summaries**

#### **1. John F Parker Municipal Golf Course**

The Golf Course is accessed by two curb cuts on Fisher Street in Taunton. The facility has a 50 to 60 parking lot located in front of a small clubhouse. There are two designated handicap parking spaces near the right hand side of the building which has a small patio and a doorway that is at grade. The left hand side has a door accessed by a non-compliant ramp and door. The paths and exterior walkways are all handicap accessible. However, the clubhouse needs modifications to the doorways, the existing ramp and bathrooms.

#### **2. Boyden Wildlife Refuge**

The Boyden Refuge is currently the home of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to preserving the quality and integrity of the Taunton River, its tributaries, and the natural resources of the watershed. The Refuge is maintained by the City in partnership with the non-profit Friends of the Boyden Refuge. The building consists of a main entrance and side sliding door entrances, one main floor and restrooms. The park also contains, over 2 miles of walking trails, picnic areas and a wetlands boardwalk. Bathrooms have recently been made accessible and a ramp has been added to make the office totally accessible.

#### **3. Taunton Green**

The Taunton Green is located in the center of downtown Taunton and is the focal point for the City. The green has existed in one form or another in this same location since the 1700's. The current layout of the Green is a square with pathways forming an X pattern with all of the paths converging on the center of the Green. The center of the Green features a fountain with a walkway surrounding the fountain. There are four paths on and off the Green, all of which are crosswalks crossing city streets, which have been improved for accessibility as part of the recent \$2.1 million Downtown Sidewalks Improvement Project.

#### **4. Hopewell Park**

Hopewell Park is located on Hamilton and Hopewell Streets in Taunton. The facility contains 1 baseball field, 4 softball fields, a football field, swimming pool and bathhouse, 3 basketball courts, a half mile running track and a children's playground. The park is accessed at several points along its frontage on the two streets. The pool and bathhouse is located in the center of the park near the street with the football field located to the left and the children's playground to the right. The ball fields are located to the left, right and rear of these facilities. The only accessibility issue is access to the pool for an individual with a disability.

## **5. Memorial Park**

Memorial park is located off of Somerset Avenue in Taunton. The park has two entrances off of Somerset Avenue that connect to each other forming a semi-circle, with parallel parking on each side of the access drive. There are walking trails suitable for wheelchair traffic winding through the site with a pond in the middle and park benches along the edges. There are no curbs requiring curb cuts on the site and no designated parking lot.

## **6. Whittenton Field**

Whittenton Field is located on Pleadwell Street with a second access on Richard Street. The entrance on Pleadwell Street is compliant with ADA requirements and provides access to the little league field. The park is bisected by a fence that prevents access to the basketball courts and grassed areas that are on the far side of the ball field. This portion of the park is accessed off of Richard Street which does not have an accessible entrance due to the gap in the fence being too narrow, a stone barrier in the middle of the access path, and the uneven grade of the path.

## **7. Westside Field**

This field abuts the Mulcahey Middle School and is located on Clifford Street in Taunton. The facility consists of a multi-purpose field, a little league field, basketball courts and a small children's playground. The facility shares parking with Mulcahey Middle School. There are no curbs or other barriers to prevent access to all of the facilities in the park.

## **8. Shore Street Field**

Shore Street Field is a soccer field located on Shores Street in Taunton. There is one entrance off of Shores Street that enters into a dirt parking lot that runs the entire frontage along Shores Street. The fields are separated by a 4 foot fence that has a 36 inch wide opening to allow access to the fields. The fields are leveled and predominately grass in cover.

## **9. Davol Field**

Davol Field is located on the corner of Oak Street and Oak Ave in Taunton. The field consists of a little league field, a basketball court, and a children's playground. Access to the field is off of Oak Ave for vehicles. A dirt parking lot runs the length of the field's frontage on Oak Ave. The little league field is located closest to the intersection to the two above mentioned streets with the basketball court and the playground located furthest from the intersection. The little league field is separated from the parking area by a 4 foot fence but there are opening in the fences to allow access to the fields. There is clear access to the playground and basketball courts.

#### **10. Weir Riverfront Park**

This park is located on East Water Street along the banks of the Taunton River. The park consists of lawns interspersed with trees. The park contains a paved walking trail that winds through the length of the park connecting the three entrances and the park's facilities. The park contains a bandstand that is fully accessible, a children's playground that is fenced in but also has a 48 inch wide access gap in the fence and a path that encircles the playground equipment. There are also several picnic tables and park benches throughout the park and a canoe launch in the southern portion of the park. The canoe launch is the only portion of the park that is not accessible to an individual with a disability and is not accessible due to the slope of the banks of the Taunton River being too steep.

#### **11. Hartshorn Park**

This park is located on Longmeadow Road in Taunton and is accessed by two curb cuts that form a semi-circle in front of the ball fields. There is an access drive that extends from the left curb cut that runs along the left side of the property. There are two handicap spaces designated near the concession stand and bleachers. There are two ball fields located to the right of the access drive and a small playground located to the left of the access drive. The bleachers and the two ball fields are accessible to individuals with disabilities. However the access path to the fenced in area for the children's playground needs to be re-graded and the bathrooms located in the concession stand need to be made accessible to individuals with disabilities.

#### **12. Roderick Field and Playground**

This park is located off of Dewert Avenue in Taunton. The park consists of a children's playground, basketball courts and a baseball field. The site is relatively level with access paths to the playground and no barriers to the baseball field and basketball courts which are accessed by traversing the grass fields. There are sidewalks abutting the area of the park where the playground is located and these sidewalks do not have the required curb cuts to provide access.

#### **13. Sikorski Field**

This field is located off of Middleboro Avenue in East Taunton. The complex has one access, a dirt road, that provides access to a baseball field and a parking area. The access road continues on site through a gap in a chainlink fence. There are two basketball courts, a playground and a dirt parking area for vehicles located on either side of the road. The playground equipment was recently removed by the City due to disrepair associated with vandalism.

To the rear of the site, the access drive ends and the land drops off to a softball field located at an elevation approximately 20 feet lower than the access drive. This field is accessed by a set of stairs and is not ADA accessible and has had chronic flooding problems due to its orientation.

#### **14. Church Green**

This park is located in Taunton's historic district at the corner of Main Street, Dean Street, and Spring Street. The park consists of a lawn with a fountain. The area is level and there are no barriers to accessibility in the park area. However, the sidewalks that provide access to the park do not have the required curb cuts.

### **15. Walker Park**

Walker Park is located on West Water Street in Taunton on the banks of the Taunton River. The park is a landscaped park of lawns and trees with a bandstand made of brick and stone in the center. The park is fully accessible with the exception of the bandstand which is only accessible by two sets of stairs.

### **16. Robert Treat Paine Park**

This is a landscaped park at the intersection of Main Street and Summer Street in Taunton's downtown. The area is dominated by a statue of Robert Treat Paine with a grass lawn and walkways on the remainder of the site. The walkways are all accessible with the required curbcuts providing access to the site.

### **17. Liberty and Union Mini-Park**

This facility is located on Main Street in Taunton. The park is an urban park with park benches and paved walkways and minimal landscaping. The park consists of two levels. The first level is flat and fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. The second level is accessed by a set of stairs and is inaccessible to wheelchair bound individuals.

### **18. Weir Park**

This facility is located on First Street in Taunton and is split into two separate lots. The first lot is located on the east side of First Street and has access trails connecting the park to Memorial Park. This area has no parking facility and the park consists of 2 sets of children's playground equipment, a basketball court, monkey bars and two swing sets spread out on the site with grass in between. The site is fully accessible with the exception of the access to the site through the fence on the park's edges facing First Street. A 36" access path is needed.

The second portion of the facility is located approximately 200 feet up the street on the west side of First Street. This area has a large dirt parking lot with 3 designated handicap parking spaces in the lot closest to the access path in the fence to the ballfields and the portion of the parking lot closest to the other portion of Weir Park. This parking area serves as access for both areas. There are two ballfields in this portion of the park that are fully accessible except for the width of the access path through the fence between the parking lot and the ballfields.

### **19. South Street Field**

There are no compliance issues related to the South Street Field.

### **20. Mill River Park**

This is a new (2011) facility and is completely ADA compliant.

## **Transition Plan**

### **Title I Personnel**

#### **Compliance Guidelines**

In determining what "compliance" with ADA means, it is important to understand the following statement from the Americans with Disabilities Act:

"Employers with 15 or more employees may not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Employers must reasonably accommodate the disabilities of qualified applicants or employees, including modifying work stations and equipment, unless undue hardship would result".

The term "qualified individual with a disability" means an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the employment position that such individual holds or desires. For the purposes of this title, considerations shall be given to employer's judgment as to what functions of a job are essential, and if an employer has prepared a written description before advertising for the job, this description shall be considered evidence of the essential functions of the job.

The term "reasonable accommodation" may include: (A) making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; and (B) job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, appropriate adjustment or modification of examinations, training materials or policies, the provision of qualified readers or interpreters, and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

In general, the term, "undue hardship" means;

- (A) an action requiring significant difficulty or expense, when considered in light of the factors set forth in subparagraph (B).
- (B) factors to be considered in determining whether an accommodation would impose an undue hardship on a covered entity include;
  - (I) The nature and cost of the accommodation needed under this Act
  - (II) The overall financial resources of the facility or facilities involved in the provision of the reasonable accommodation; the number of persons employed at such facility; the effect on expenses and resources, or the impact or otherwise of such an accommodation upon the operation of the facility
  - (III) The overall financial resources of the covered entity; the overall size of the business of a covered entity with respect to the number of its employees, the number, type, and location of its facilities; and
  - (IV) The type of operation or operations of the covered entity including the composition, structure, and functions of the workforce of such an entity; the geographic separateness, administrative, or fiscal relationship of the facility or facilities in question to the covered entity.

1. The City does not have any written hiring procedure that overtly discriminates against individuals with disabilities. However, the City and schools need to enhance their position of compliance by adopting the following simple statement which declares its non-discrimination intent and would be incorporated into all job descriptions;

"The City of Taunton, in conformance with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, hereby declares that it will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in the practice of its employment decisions (i.e.- application process, employment, compensation, advancement or discharge, training and other conditions of employment".

2. With few exceptions, job descriptions have been written for all positions for which the City and school hires staff, both full and part-time. The job descriptions need to be rewritten in such a manner that essential versus non-essential job components are clearly delineated. (A public entity is allowed to not hire an individual who cannot perform an essential job component; the public entity is required to consider hiring an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who may not be able to perform duties that are considered non-essential.
3. The City and schools, in their hiring process, must refrain from asking questions in the interview process, their interview questionnaires, or subsequent to an employee's hire, which relate to a candidate's or employee's disability, whether said disability is apparent or not apparent. This practice will mitigate actual or the appearance of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Questions may be asked regarding a candidate's or an employee's ability to perform an essential job component written in the job description. Candidates may be asked to demonstrate their ability to perform any such essential component. If performance of such a task requires a special device or accommodation in order to be performed properly, a determination must be made by the employer if the provision of such a device or accommodation provides the employer an undue hardship as defined above.
4. A guideline for formulating interview questions should be created and circulated to department heads to ensure compliance. Examples of questions to ask and not to ask should be included.

## **Title II Buildings, Services, and Programs Compliance Guidelines**

In carrying out changes to facilities and services in order to comply with ADA regulations it is important to remember the following:

"It is not required that a public entity take any action that it can demonstrate would constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program, or activity, or would cause an undue administrative or financial burden. Regardless of that, a public entity is required to take some action that would not trigger this limitation and ensure program accessibility. A public entity is required to make structural changes to existing facilities only when program accessibility is not feasible any other way (i.e. reassignment of services to an accessible building, or the provision of auxiliary aids). Where "structural changes" to existing facilities are the only way to arrive at

program accessibility, a "transition plan" outlining the steps necessary to complete the structural changes is required."

### **Recommendations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for City facilities describes compliance with the ADA in the form of physical access into the buildings or facilities from the outside (to the services, classes, activities, and meetings, allowing for participation in all that is offered by the City), and then leaving the building after obtaining the services offered (to the public, students, etc.). Under Title II, the ADA prohibits discrimination by public entities with the emphasis on access to all services, activities, and programs. This Plan will identify the physical barriers, describe the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible, specify the schedule for compliance, and indicate the official responsible for the implementation of this Plan. This Plan will be reviewed by the City's ADA Coordinator and the individual responsible for each facility to ensure that all facilities comply with the ADA. Employment and policies, covered under Title I of the ADA, will be addressed separately.

### **General Provisions**

#### **MATERIALS, DOCUMENTS, FORMS FOR THE BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED**

In complying with the ADA for materials compliance, City staff and the school administration and School Committee shall make available a copy of each document, form, or commonly handed out materials used by the public, when requested, in large print, braille or audible form. A master copy of these documents shall suffice for when they are requested by the public or students.

#### **SNOW REMOVAL:**

Snow is to be removed from the accessible entrances, parking spaces, ramps, sidewalks and any portion of the accessible path of travel into a City building or school within four (4) hours after the stoppage of the snowfall, or if school will be in session within 4 hours of when public access is needed to the school.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY :**

The School Superintendent's Office is responsible for scheduling all structural changes to schools with the Building Department. The Building Commissioner shall be responsible for all structural changes to City buildings and the Park and Recreation Director shall be responsible for all changes to park facilities. Each City office or department shall be responsible for implementing all policies into their working schedules to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities.

#### **1. John F Parker Municipal Golf Course**

1. Install a new ramp on the left side of the clubhouse that is in compliance with ADA regulations.
2. Renovate the restroom facilities to comply with ADA regulations for accessibility.

## **2. Boyden Wildlife Refuge**

The restrooms need to be made accessible.

### **Men's Room**

Interior access door too heavy

Need to install ADA accessible water fountain

Exterior door too heavy and closes too fast

Need to install grab bars on toilet

Need to lower the towel dispenser and move the toilet paper dispenser

### **Ladies Room**

Interior access door too heavy

Need to install ADA accessible water fountain

Exterior door too heavy and closes too fast

Need to install grab bars on toilet

Need to lower the towel dispenser and move the toilet paper dispenser

Install second sink for ADA accessibility to the sink

Adjust handicap signs on parking spaces to proper height.

Fix handicap ramp so that it has the required 18" clearance to the latch handle side of the door.

The door to the office is too heavy and needs to be adjusted properly

Remove barriers in front of the walking paths to allow for the minimum 36" path.

Designate and post signage on the trails as being accessible or non-accessible, since portions of some of the existing trails cannot be made accessible due to topography and water.

## **3. Taunton Green**

No Outstanding Issues

## **4. Hopewell Park**

The Hopewell Park, located on Hopewell Street, was upgraded with assistance from a grant from the Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD). The prevailing need on site is a manual lift to allow persons with disabilities to access the public swimming pool. This lift will enable all of the park's recreation equipment to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

## **5. Memorial Park**

There are no outstanding issues in this park

## **6. Whittenton Field**

- a. Widen the gap in the fence on Richard Street for the access path to a minimum of 36 inches, remove the stone obstruction and re-grade the path to a smooth surface with a 1:20 slope.
- b. Create an access path linking the currently separated portions of the park together with an accessible walking path along the perimeter of the ballfield.

## **7. Westside Field**

There are no outstanding issues for this facility.

## **8. Shore Street Field**

No Outstanding Issues for this facility.

## **9. Davol Field**

No Outstanding Issues for this facility.

## **10. Weir Riverfront Park**

- a. If possible, develop and implement a plan to make the canoe launch accessible to individuals with disabilities (coordinate with the Department of fish & Game's Office of Fishing and Boating Access).

## **11. Hartshorn Park**

- a. Re-grade the access path providing access to the fenced in children's playground.
- b. Renovate the Men's and Ladies restrooms for handicap accessibility.

## **12. Roderick Field and Playground**

- a. Install the required curb cuts on the sidewalks abutting the park.

There are no outstanding issues in the park area.

## **13. Sikorski Field**

The entire playground portion of facility should be revisited, redesigned, and repurposed, if necessary. There are numerous issues to be dealt with here – recreational, social, and environmental (flooding).

## **14. Church Green**

- a. Install required curb cuts on the sidewalks providing access to the park.

There are no outstanding issues in the park area.

## **15. Walker Park**

- a. Install a ramp on the existing bandstand that complies with ADA regulations.

## **16. Robert Treat Paine Park**

There are no outstanding issues for this facility.

## **17. Liberty and Union Mini-Park**

- a. Install a ramp providing access to the second level of the park facility.

**18. Weir Park**

- a. Widen the access path through the fence immediately adjacent to the parking lot and ball fields on the west side of First
- b. Install a 36" inch wide access to the playgrounds on the east side of First Street

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Department of Fish and Game [www.mass.gov/dfg](http://www.mass.gov/dfg)  
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**APPENDIX A:**  
**TAUNTON COMMUNITY PRIORITY AREAS**  
**SOUTH COAST RAIL STUDY 2013**

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**CITY OF TAUNTON**  
**SOUTH COAST RAIL CORRIDOR PLAN**  
**PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT & PROTECTION AREAS FIVE-YEAR UPDATE**

**INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the updated Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) in the city of Taunton. This community-driven land use planning exercise first took place in 2008, when three Regional Planning Agencies, SRPEDD, MAPC, and OCPC, worked alongside local residents, business owners, officials, and organizations to designate the areas that were most important for development or preservation in each community. All thirty-one (31) South Coast Rail (SCR) Corridor communities participated in this project in 2008 and again in 2013.

In 2013, the three Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) revisited these 31 communities to review and update the 2008 designations. Updates took into account new data that became available over the last five years as well as new municipal priorities. The "Five-Year Update" process was an opportunity to confirm choices made during the 2008 process, to revise previous designations, and to make new choices that acknowledged new conditions. During this review process, the SRPEDD website provided current information to the public, including a calendar of SCR Five-Year Update meetings and a resource library of relevant information sheets and maps.

*What are Priority Development Areas (PDAs)?*

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are areas that are appropriate for increased development or redevelopment due to several factors including good transportation access, available infrastructure (primarily water and sewer), an absence of environmental constraints, and local support. PDAs can range in size from a single parcel to many acres. Potential development ranges from small-scale infill to large commercial, industrial, residential, or mixed-use projects. Town and village centers, Chapter 40R Districts, industrial parks, and proposed commuter rail station sites are typical examples of PDAs.

*What are Priority Protection Areas (PPAs)?*

Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) are areas that are important to protect due to the presence of significant natural or cultural resources, including endangered species habitats, areas critical to water supply, historic resources, scenic vistas, and farms. Like PDAs, the PPAs can vary greatly in size. Sites may be candidates for protection through acquisition or conservation restrictions.

*What are Combined Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas (Combined Areas)?*

In Combined Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas, communities welcome development; however, the development is expected to be sensitive to its site and the surrounding area. This may include development that complements the older structures within a historic district or low impact development that protects nearby water resources or biodiversity.

*What do PDAs and PPAs do for my city or town?*

A community's Priority Area designations can guide municipal decisions about zoning revisions, infrastructure investments, and conservation efforts. For example, some communities choose to incorporate these designations into their Master Plan. Also, municipalities are implementing these designations using technical assistance available through State funding programs such as the South Coast Rail Technical Assistance and District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA).

In addition, the Community Priority Areas serve as the foundation for developing Regional and State Priority Area designations. Lastly, through Executive Order 525 (see below), the Patrick Administration asked certain state agencies to consider priority areas when making funding commitments.

*Regional and State Priority Areas*

The Community Priority Areas are essential to the process of determining the Regional and State Priority Area Maps. Local designations determined to be of regional significance through a regional screening process, including public input received at regional public workshops, make up the Regional Priority Areas map. In turn, the Community and Regional Priority Areas are the basis for the State Priority Area Map.

*Executive Order 525 (E.O. 525)*

In fall 2010, Gov. Patrick issued Executive Order 525 (E.O. 525) providing for the implementation of the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan and Corridor Map (Corridor Plan) through state agency actions and investments. The Executive Order calls for state investments to be consistent with the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan's recommendations to the maximum extent feasible. These state actions have the potential to leverage local and private investments in the priority areas. The Executive Order also directs state agencies to conduct a retrospective analysis to determine how consistent their actions and investments in the region have been with the Corridor Plan goals.

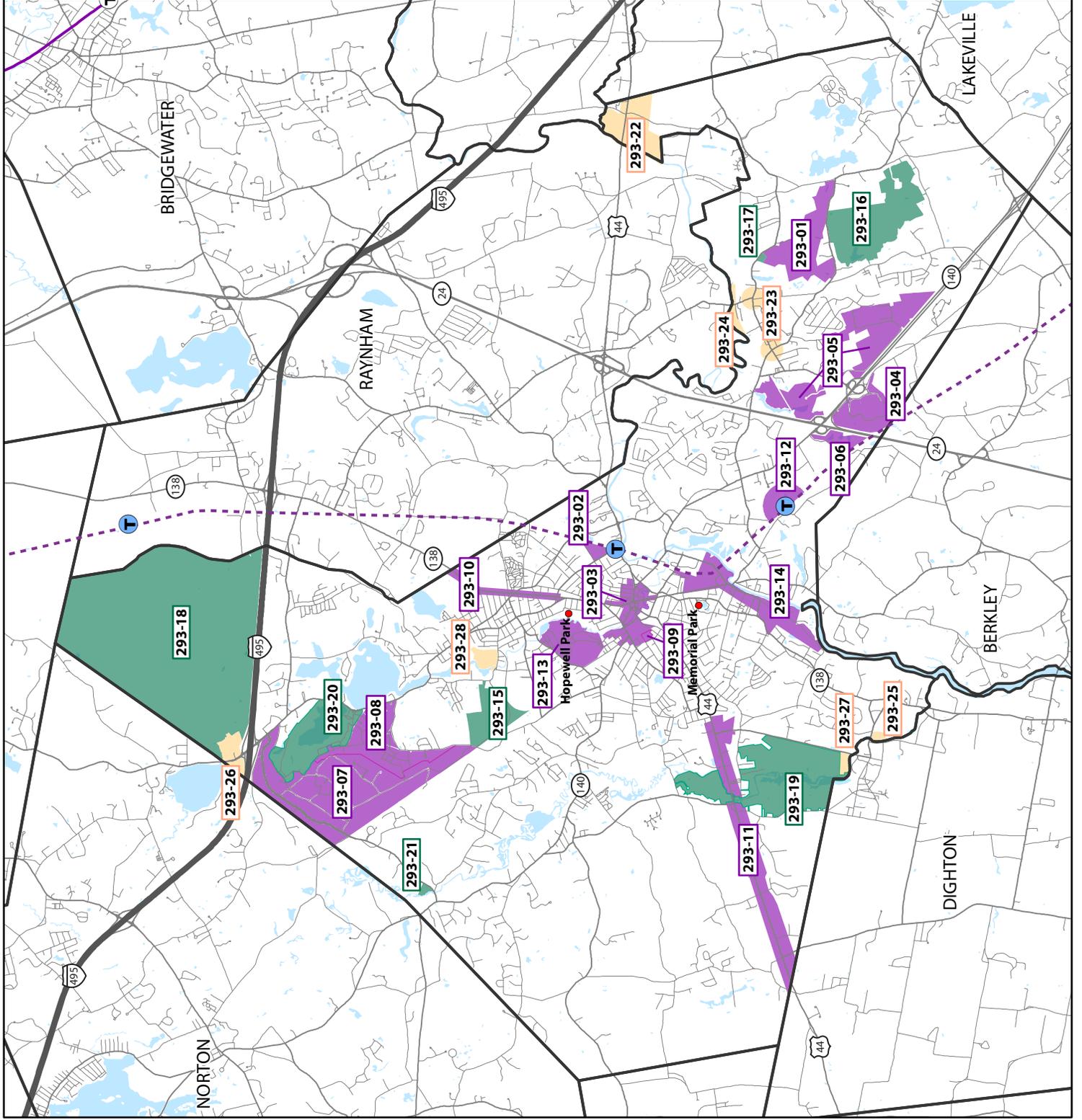
**2013 Taunton Community Priority Area List**

<b>ID Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>
293-01	Airport Development District	Development	228.72
293-02	Dean Street TOD	Development	23.03
293-03	Downtown Taunton Business District	Development	135.13
293-04	Galleria Redevelopment	Development	142.20
293-05	Liberty and Union Industrial Park	Development	356.77
293-06	Mini Golf Redevelopment	Development	44.90
293-07	Myles Standish Industrial Park	Development	691.06
293-08	Myles Standish Industrial Park Expansion and Life Science Center	Development	245.84
293-09	Parcel 6A Housing	Development	6.35
293-10	Route 138 Business Corridor	Development	71.86
293-11	Route 44 Highway Business	Development	365.92
293-12	Target Station Site	Development	70.17
293-13	Taunton State Hospital	Development	147.85
293-14	Weir Redevelopment Area	Development	231.71
293-15	Aggregate Quarry Future Park	Protection	143.38
293-16	East Taunton Cranberry Bogs	Protection	380.22
293-17	Historic Hangar	Protection	3.98
293-18	Hockomock Swamp ACEC	Protection	2177.04
293-19	Three Mile River ACEC	Protection	547.24
293-20	Watson Pond	Protection	276.41
293-21	Woodward Springs Park	Protection	7.32
293-22	East Taunton Business District	Combined	190.11
293-23	East Taunton Neighborhood Nodes	Combined	62.79
293-24	Former Riverworks Industrial	Combined	23.40
293-25	Harrodite Mills	Combined	8.82
293-26	North of I-495 Business District	Combined	51.38
293-27	Warner Boulevard	Combined	14.18
293-28	Whittenton Mixed Use	Combined	33.00

# City of Taunton Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Community Priority Areas, 2013

- Priority Development Areas (PDAs)
- Priority Protection Areas (PPAs)
- Combined PDA/PPA
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads
- T MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- Water



1 mile



**APPENDIX B:**  
**NHESP CORE HABITATS AND CRITICAL LANDSCAPES**



BioMap2

Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World

## Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and The Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed *BioMap2* to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change.

*BioMap2* combines NHESP's 30 years of rigorously documented rare species and natural community data with spatial data identifying wildlife species and habitats that were the focus of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). *BioMap2* also integrates The Nature Conservancy's assessment of large, well-connected, and intact ecosystems and landscapes across the Commonwealth, incorporating concepts of ecosystem resilience to address anticipated climate change impacts.

Protection and stewardship of *BioMap2* Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape is essential to safeguard the diversity of species and their habitats, intact ecosystems, and resilient natural landscapes across Massachusetts.

## What Does Status Mean?

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife determines a status category for each rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), M.G.L. c.131A, and its implementing regulations 321 CMR 10.00. Rare species are categorized as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern according to the following:

- Endangered species are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range or are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts.

# BioMap2



MA Department of Fish & Game | Division of Fisheries & Wildlife | Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program • The Nature Conservancy

Get your copy of the *BioMap2* report! Download from [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org) or contact Natural Heritage at 508-389-6360 or [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us).

- Threatened species are likely to become Endangered in Massachusetts in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
- Special Concern species have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked or occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become Threatened in Massachusetts.

In addition NHESP maintains an unofficial watch list of plants that are tracked due to potential conservation interest or concern, but are not regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act or other laws or regulations. Likewise, described natural communities are not regulated by any law or regulations, but they can help to identify



Natural Heritage  
& Endangered  
Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230, West Boylston, MA 01583  
phone: 508-389-6360 fax: 508-389-7890

For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).



ecologically important areas that are worthy of protection. The status of natural communities reflects the documented number and acreages of each community type in the state:

- Critically Imperiled communities typically have 5 or fewer documented good sites or have very few remaining acres in the state.
- Imperiled communities typically have 6-20 good sites or few remaining acres in the state.
- Vulnerable communities typically have 21-100 good sites or limited acreage across the state.
- Secure communities typically have over 100 sites or abundant acreage across the state; however, excellent examples are identified as Core Habitats to ensure continued protection.

In 2005 the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife completed a comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) documenting the status of Massachusetts wildlife and providing recommendations to help guide wildlife conservation decision-making. SWAP includes all the wildlife species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), as well as more than 80 species that need conservation attention but do not meet the requirements for inclusion under MESA. The SWAP document is organized around habitat types in need of conservation within the Commonwealth. While the original BioMap focused primarily on rare species protected under MESA, *BioMap2* also addresses other Species of Conservation Concern, their habitats, and the ecosystems that support them to create a spatial representation of most of the elements of SWAP.

### ***BioMap2*: One Plan, Two Components**

*BioMap2* identifies two complementary spatial layers, Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape.

Core Habitat identifies key areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth. Protection of Core Habitats will contribute to the conservation of specific elements of biodiversity.

Critical Natural Landscape identifies large natural Landscape Blocks that are minimally impacted by development. If protected, these areas will provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience to natural and anthropogenic disturbances in a rapidly changing world. Areas delineated as Critical Natural Landscape also include buffering upland around wetland, coastal, and aquatic Core Habitats to help ensure their long-term integrity.

The long-term persistence of Massachusetts biological resources requires a determined commitment to land and water conservation. Protection and stewardship of both Critical Natural Landscapes and Core Habitats are needed to realize the biodiversity conservation vision of *BioMap2*.

### Components of Core Habitat

Core Habitat identifies specific areas necessary to promote the long-term persistence of rare species, other Species of Conservation Concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems.

### Rare Species

There are 432 native plant and animal species listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) based on their rarity, population trends, and threats to survival. For





Species of Conservation Concern, beyond the species and exemplary habitats described above, *BioMap2* identifies intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur.

### Components of Critical Natural Landscape

Critical Natural Landscape identifies intact landscapes in Massachusetts that are better able to support ecological processes and disturbance regimes, and a wide array of species and habitats over long time frames.

### Landscape Blocks

*BioMap2* identifies the most intact large areas of predominately natural vegetation, consisting of contiguous forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds, as well as coastal habitats such as barrier beaches and salt marshes.

### Upland Buffers of Wetland and Aquatic Cores

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers.

### Upland Habitat to Support Coastal Adaptation

*BioMap2* identifies undeveloped lands adjacent to and up to one and a half meters above existing salt marshes as Critical Natural Landscapes with high potential to support inland migration of salt marsh and other coastal habitats over the coming century.

The conservation areas identified by *BioMap2* are based on breadth and depth of data, scientific expertise, and understanding of Massachusetts' biodiversity. The numerous sources of information and analyses used to

### Legal Protection of Biodiversity

*BioMap2* presents a powerful vision of what Massachusetts would look like with full protection of the land most important for supporting the Commonwealth's biodiversity. While *BioMap2* is a planning tool with *no regulatory function*, all state-listed species enjoy legal protection under the [Massachusetts Endangered Species Act \(M.G.L. c.131A\)](#) and its implementing regulations ([321 CMR 10.00](#)). Wetland habitat of state-listed wildlife is also protected under the [Wetlands Protection Act Regulations \(310 CMR 10.00\)](#). The *Natural Heritage Atlas* contains maps of [Priority Habitats](#) and [Estimated Habitats](#), which are used, respectively, for regulation under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and the Wetlands Protection Act. For more information on rare species regulations, and to view Priority and Estimated Habitat maps, please see the [Regulatory Review](#) page at [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhsp/regulatory\\_review/reg\\_review\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhsp/regulatory_review/reg_review_home.htm).

***BioMap2* is a conservation planning tool that does not, in any way, supplant the Estimated and Priority Habitat Maps which have regulatory significance. Unless and until the *BioMap2* vision is fully realized, we must continue to protect our most imperiled species and their habitats.**

create Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape are complementary, and outline a comprehensive conservation vision for Massachusetts, from rare species to intact landscapes. In total, these robust analyses define a suite of priority lands and waters that, if permanently protected, will support Massachusetts' natural systems for generations to come.





## Understanding Core Habitat Summaries

Following the Town Overview, there is a descriptive summary of each Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape that occurs in your city or town. These summaries highlight some of the outstanding characteristics of each Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape, and will help you learn more about your city or town's biodiversity. You can find out more information about many of these species and natural communities by looking at specific fact sheets at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

## Additional Information

For copies of the full *BioMap2* report, the Technical Report, and an [interactive mapping tool](#), visit the *BioMap2* [website](#) via the Land Protection and Planning tab at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org). If you have any questions about this report, or if you need help protecting land for biodiversity in your community, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program staff looks forward to working with you.

Contact the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

By phone 508-389-6360  
By fax 508-389-7890  
By email [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us)  
By Mail 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230  
West Boylston, MA 01583

The GIS datalayers of *BioMap2* are available for download from MassGIS at [www.mass.gov/mgis](http://www.mass.gov/mgis).



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered  
Species Program**

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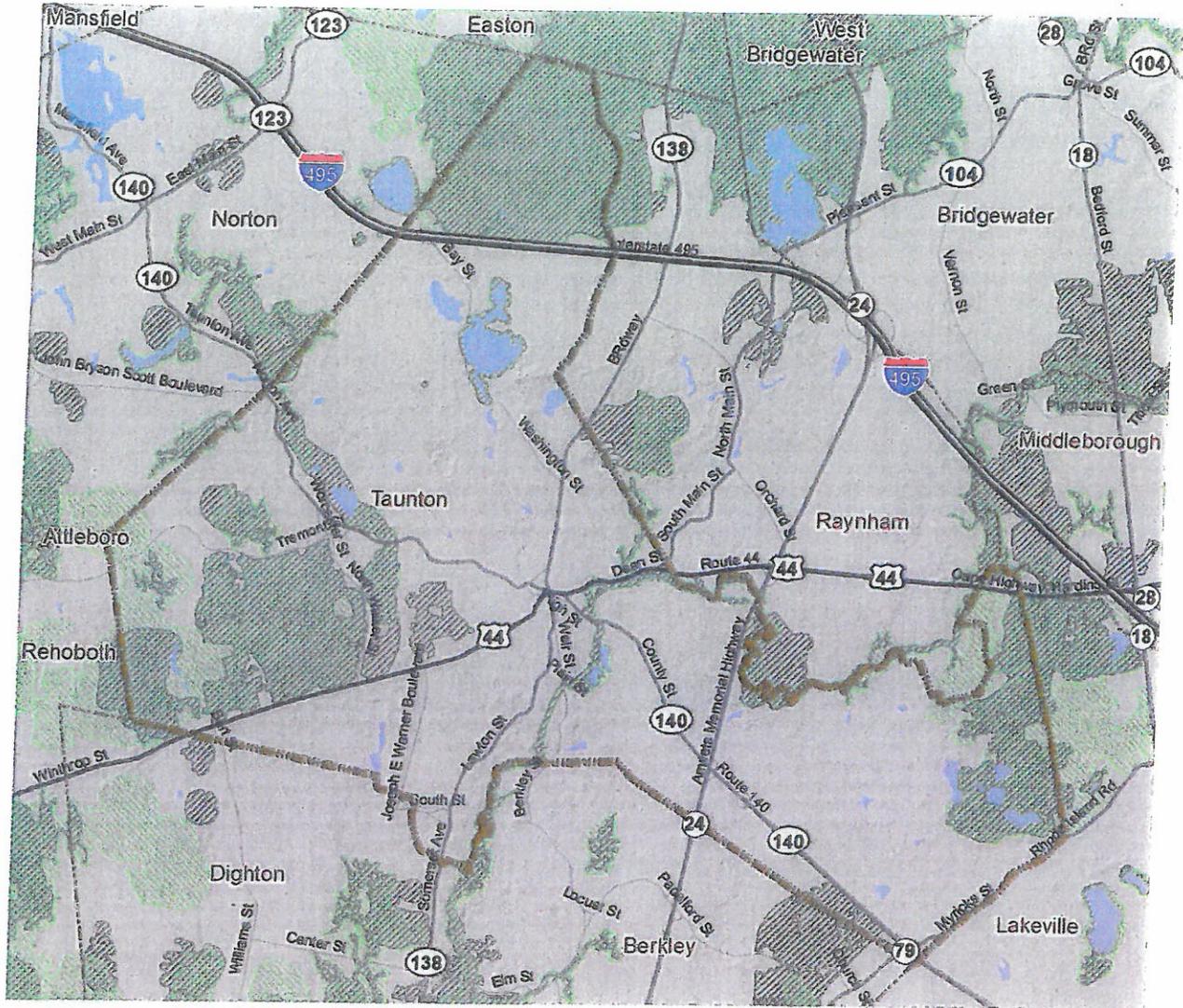
For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).



BioMap2

Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World

### BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape in Taunton



BioMap2 Core Habitat



BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

1 Mile



Natural Heritage  
& Endangered  
Species Program

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For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

**APPENDIX C:**  
**LIST OF COMMONLY OCCURRING PALNT, FISH, and WILDLIFE**  
**SPECIES IN TAUNTON**

General Inventory of Plant Species (indigenous /observed)

Trees

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Pine
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Black Birch
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray Birch
<i>Castanea dentate</i>	American Chestnut
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic White Cedar
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red Cedar
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder (naturalized)
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Speckled Alder
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet Gum
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
<i>Syringa sp.</i>	Lilac
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Ilex mucronata</i>	Mountain Holly
<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	Sheep Laurel
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Catalpa

Shrubs

<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepper Bush
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<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Black Raspberry
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Low Bush Blueberry
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	High Bush Blueberry
<i>Gaylussacia sp.</i>	Huckleberry
<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	Fox Grape
<i>Vitis amurensis</i>	River Grape
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	Cranberry
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac
<i>Rhus vernix</i>	Poison Sumac
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	Catbrier/Horsebriar

### *Herbaceous Plants*

<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Horseweed
<i>Epilbium angustifolium</i>	Fireweed
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White Wood Aster
<i>Aster Novaeangliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Calico Aster
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Common Chicory
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace
<i>Verbascum thapus</i>	Common Mullein
<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>	Whorled Loosestrife
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe Pye Weed
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	Sweet White Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Chimaphila maculata</i>	Spotted Wintergreen
<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	Indian Pipe
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early Goldenrod
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough-Stemmed Goldenrod
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock

*Typha latifolia*  
*Lilium philadelphicum*  
*Cypripedium acaule*  
*Silene latiflora*  
*Phytolacca americana*  
*Linaria vulgaris*

Broad-Leaved Cattail  
Wood Lily  
Pink Lady Slipper  
White Campion  
Pokeweed  
Butter-And-Eggs

*Invasive Species*

*Acer platanoides*  
*Elaeagnus umbellata*  
*Euonymus alatus*  
*Frangula alnus*  
*Rosa multiflora*  
*Celastrus orbiculatus*  
*Hesperis matronalis*  
*Lythrum salicaria*  
*Polygonum cuspidatum*  
*Phragmites australis*

Norway Maple  
Autumn Olive  
Winged Euonymus/Burning Bush  
Glossy Buckthorn  
Multiflora Rose  
Asiatic Bittersweet  
Dame's Rocke  
Purple Loosestrife  
Japanese Knotweed  
Common Reed

*Fishes (indigenous/ reported)*

<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>	American Shad
<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>	Alewife
<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Bluegill Sunfish
<i>Osmerus mordax</i>	Rainbow Smelt
<i>Perca flavescens</i>	Yellow Perch
<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Largemouth bass
<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	Smallmouth bass
<i>Esox niger</i>	Chain Pickerel
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	Native Eastern Brook Trout
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea lamprey
<i>Catostomus punctatus</i>	White sucker
<i>Poxomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Crappie
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	American eel

*Amphibians and Reptiles (indigenous/observed)*

<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	Spotted Salamander
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	Red- backed salamander
<i>Bufo americanus</i>	American Toad
<i>Bufo fowleri</i>	Fowler's Toad
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	Spring Peeper
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Gray Tree Frog
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog
<i>Rana clamitans</i>	Green Frog
<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Wood Frog
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle
<i>Terrapene Carolina</i>	Box Turtle
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Garter Snake
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Black Racer
<i>Heterodon platyrhinus</i>	Eastern Hognose Snake
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	Northern Water Snake

*Mammals (observed/reported)*

<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Eastern Gray Squirrel
<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Red Squirrel
<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Eastern Chipmunk
<i>Marmota monax</i>	Woodchuck (Groundhog)

<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Snowshoe Hare
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon
<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Opossum
<i>Myodes gapperi</i>	Redback vole
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed deer
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Gray Fox
<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	Northern Short-tailed Shrew
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse
<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	White-footed mouse
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Porcupine
<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	River otter

*Birds (indigenous/documentated breeding and migratory)*

*Documented Breeding Birds*

<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	Canada Goose
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard Duck
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-Tailed Hawk
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker
<i>Picoides villous</i>	Hairy Woodpecker
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-Bellied Woodpecker
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee
<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Tufted Titmouse
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler

<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird

### *Observed/Migratory Birds*

<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ringed Neck Pheasant
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing
<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	Killdeer
<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Pine Warbler
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Black Duck
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush
<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Broad-winged Hawk
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black and White Warbler
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo

*Vireo olivaceus*

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

*Pandion haliaetus*

Red-eyed Vireo

Bald Eagle

Osprey

**APPENDIX D:**

**TEN WAYS CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS CAN HELP PROTECT  
COLDWATER STREAMS AND THEIR HABITATS**

## Ten Ways Conservation Commissions Can Help Protect Coldwater Streams and Their Inhabitants

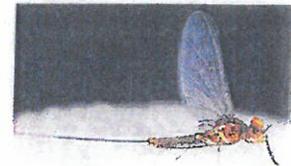
[Prepared by Russ Cohen, Rivers Advocate, Mass. Dept. of Fish & Game, (617) 626-1543, [Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us). First Presented at the MACC Environmental Conference, Worcester MA, 3/1/08 - this version revised 3/5/10.  
NOTE: This document is intended for educational purposes only and does not necessarily represent the viewpoint of agencies and commissions having regulatory authority over coldwater streams.]

- (1) ► Find out where the wild trout/coldwater stream reaches are in your community (e.g., consult list on MA Div. of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW)'s Coldwater Fish Resources (CFR) web page: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/fisheries/conservation/cfr/cfr\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/fisheries/conservation/cfr/cfr_home.htm)



NOTE: the failure of a stream to appear on the list does not mean there are no CFR species there; it may be that DFW staff has yet to conduct fish species sampling in that waterway. Conservation Commissioners, anglers and others may know of wild trout streams not (yet) on DFW's list and can bring them to DFW's attention (see page 5).

- (2) ► Use the state Rivers/Wetlands Act law and regulations and the permitting process to retain/restore streamside vegetation along "CFR" and similar streams to enhance the Riverfront Area Resource Area's functions and values (help keep water shaded, cool and clean + fuel the aquatic food chain, e.g.) for the eight Interests of the Act (for more information, see the nine Riparian Area fact sheets at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/riverways/resources/riverfactsheets.htm>).



- (3) ► Use new provisions in the Rivers/Wetlands regulations to minimize adverse thermal, sediment or other impacts to coldwater streams. New language relating to stormwater (<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/regulati.htm#wl>) and effective as of January 2, 2008 amended 310 CMR 10.04 and the Water Quality Certification (401) regs at 314 CMR 9.02 by adding the following definitions:

**"Cold-water fishery** - the mean of the maximum daily temperature over a seven day period generally does not exceed 68° F (20°C) and, when factors such as habitat can support a year-round population of aquatic life such as trout. Waters designated as cold-water fisheries by [DEP] in 314 CMR 4.00 and waters designated as cold-water fishery resources by DFW are cold-water fisheries. Waters where there is evidence based on a fish survey that a cold-water fish population and habitat exist are also cold-water fisheries. Cold-water fish include but are not limited to brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), creek chubsucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*) and fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*)." [N.B.: DFW's "CFR" species list does not include creek chubsucker or fallfish, but it does include the slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) and longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*). DFW has requested that DEP modify its list accordingly.]

**"Critical areas** mean "Outstanding Resource Waters" and "Special Resource Waters" as designated in 314 CMR 4.00; Recharge Areas for public water supplies as defined in 310 CMR 22.02 (Zone Is, Zone IIs, and Interim Wellhead Protection Areas for ground water sources and Zone As for surface water sources); Bathing Beaches as defined in 105 CMR 445.000, cold-water fisheries, and shellfish growing areas."



310 CMR 10.05(6)(k) Standard 4 (*excerpt*): “Stormwater management systems shall be designed to remove 80% of the average annual post-construction load of Total Suspended Solids (TSS)... The required water quality volume, the runoff volume requiring TSS treatment ... equals 1.0 inch of runoff times the total impervious area of the post-development project site for a discharge ... near or to the following critical areas ... [which includes] cold-water fisheries ... A discharge is near a critical area if there is a strong likelihood of a significant impact occurring to said area, taking into account site-specific factors”. This language can be properly interpreted to mean that Standard 4, as well as Standard 6 below, also apply to any tributaries to cold-water fisheries, perennial or intermittent, if sediment-laden, heated or other degraded stormwater runoff entering the tributaries would have a strong likelihood of degrading the cold-water fishery they flow into.”



310 CMR 10.05(6)(k) Standard 6 (*excerpt*): “Stormwater discharges ... near or to any ... critical area require the use of ... best management practices determined by [DEP] to be suitable for managing discharges to such area as provided in the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook

...  
A discharge is near a critical area, if there is a strong likelihood of a significant impact occurring to said area, taking into account site-specific factors.”

DEP Stormwater Standards apply to new development or redevelopment activities proposed in Wetland Resource Areas or Buffer zones that trigger the filing of a Wetlands Notice of Intent or §401 water quality application. If there is a cold water fishery, specific stormwater BMPs are required. In such circumstances, decentralized Low Impact Development (LID) measures to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces must be considered; source control and pollution prevention measures are selected first and then structural treatment practices are selected. Pretreatment must be provided, prior to discharge of stormwater runoff to a terminal treatment practice, for stormwater discharges to cold water fisheries.

► See the Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook (<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/v2c2.pdf>) to find out which specific BMPs are and are not recommended where cold water fisheries are present.

Stormwater BMPs that are recommended for cold water fisheries include:

- Vegetated filter strips - p.17
- Bioretention areas and rain gardens - p.23
- Dry and wet swales (swales must be lined if used for pretreatment) - p.77
- Infiltration basins - p.86
- Leaching catch basins (if pretreatment is provided and pretreatment standards are met) - p.100
- Drainage channels - p.69



*Bioretention - Rain Garden*

Stormwater BMPs that are not recommended for cold water fisheries include:

- Constructed stormwater wetlands - p.36
- Dry detention basins - p.108
- Wet basins (a.k.a. wet retention ponds) - p.63

(4) ► Draft/adopt a local wetlands bylaw that goes beyond the requirements of the state Rivers/Wetlands Act + regulations. Examples:

- extend the Riverfront Area's coverage to all streams regardless of whether they "flow throughout the year" [see Note 3 of MACC model local wetlands bylaw - [http://www.maccweb.org/documents/MACC\\_Model\\_Bylaw.doc](http://www.maccweb.org/documents/MACC_Model_Bylaw.doc)]
- require a greater width of vegetated area along a coldwater stream than state law/regs require - DFW is developing BMPs to incorporate into local bylaws

► Draft/adopt a local wetlands or other bylaw that subject stormwater discharges into coldwater streams to a higher level of scrutiny or mitigation. Examples:

- Require greater than 80% TSS removal and/or treatment of more than 1" of runoff
- Incorporate DFW BMPs for CFR streams (once drafted) into local bylaws

(5) ► Work with planning and/or other municipal boards to adopt zoning and subdivision bylaws enabling low impact development (LID) techniques that keep potentially harmful land use practices away from coldwater stream habitats. Examples:

- zoning overlay districts along coldwater stream corridors
- open space residential development bylaws
- subdivision regulations limiting lot-clearing/lawn creation

[See Smart Growth Toolkit <http://www.eot.state.ma.us/smartgrowth/07toolkit/index.html>]

(6) ► Assert jurisdiction over any activities that may "alter" coldwater stream habitat and/or harm CFR and/or other sensitive aquatic species, such as:

- condition the operation of flow control points at the outlet of lakes and ponds, water supply reservoirs, etc. where CFR species and habitat in the stream reach below the flow control point may be harmed (by lake drawdown/refill, e.g.)
- condition the operation of irrigation withdrawals that deplete flow in CFR streams

See 310 CMR 10.04 - definition of "alter": "Alter means to change the condition of any Area Subject to Protection Under M.G.L. c. 131, § 40. Examples of alterations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) the changing of pre-existing drainage characteristics, flushing characteristics, salinity distribution, sedimentation patterns, flow patterns and flood retention areas;
- (b) the lowering of the water level or water table;
- (c) the destruction of vegetation;
- (d) the changing of water temperature, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and other physical, biological or chemical characteristics of the receiving water."

(7) ► Use the MEPA comment process to reduce adverse impacts of proposed development projects on coldwater streams and other sensitive aquatic species. Subscribe to the MEPA Environmental Monitor to keep track of Environmental Notification Form (ENF) or other MEPA filings in your community or watershed -<http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/emonitor.aspx>

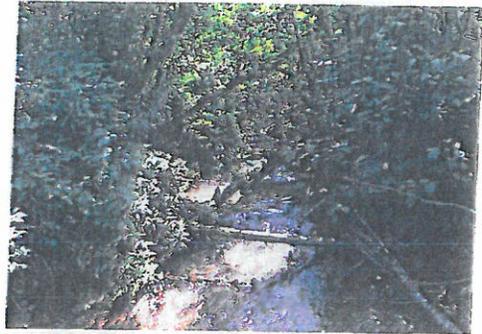
(8) ► Be receptive to proposals by state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, Trout Unlimited, land trusts and others seeking to restore and enhance coldwater stream habitat and/or continuity by, e.g., removing dams, fixing dropped and/or undersized culverts, adding or retaining large woody debris, etc.

(9) ► Acquire or assist others to acquire undeveloped land along coldwater streams and manage the lands to safeguard coldwater species habitat. Examples:

- Westport Land Conservation Trust's acquisition (with DFW's help) of the 50-acre Herb Hadfield Conservation Area, protecting Angeline Brook and its sea-run brook trout population:  
<http://www.westportlandtrust.org/places.html>

- Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Mass.'s acquisition of a conservation restriction (CR) preserving nearly 1,000 feet of frontage along Poquoy Brook in Lakeville, one of the few cold water streams draining into the Taunton River and supporting a native trout population:

<http://www.wildlandstrust.org/documents/pdf/WLT07AnnRep.pdf>



(10) ► Educational outreach to riparian property owners and managers to raise awareness of the functions, values and sensitivities of coldwater streams and how to reduce impacts to coldwater stream organisms and habitats. See Selected Internet Resources on Riparian Areas and Vegetated Buffers for examples of science-based, on-line outreach materials:

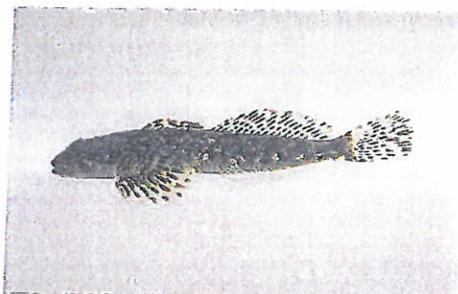
[www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/riverways/pdf/internet\\_resources\\_riparian\\_veg\\_buffers.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/riverways/pdf/internet_resources_riparian_veg_buffers.pdf)

as well as the nine fact sheets at

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/riverways/resources/riverfactsheets.htm>.



*Longnose Sucker*



*Slimy Sculpin*

*The following prepared with Glenn Krevosky, EBT Environmental Consultants (508) 987-0979*

Development projects adjacent to streams supporting naturally-reproducing wild trout can harm coldwater species by discharging sediment, warm water and other pollution. While the use of best management practices can reduce (or eliminate) adverse impacts, this is often not done because the developer's consultant(s) and local or state reviewers are not aware that a stream affected by the project supports a wild trout population that can be imperiled by stormwater runoff.

One way to increase awareness of local coldwater streams by landowners, environmental consultants and reviewers is to propose they be added to the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's "CFR" list, maintained by Todd Richards [[todd.richards@state.ma.us](mailto:todd.richards@state.ma.us), (508) 389-6336]. This list includes all the waterways for which DFW has documented the presence of naturally-reproducing populations of trout or other "coldwater" fish species. There are other streams deserving CFR status that are not on this list because DFW has

yet to evaluate them. Here's the link to the on-line version of the CFR list:  
[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/fisheries/conservation/cfr/cfr\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/fisheries/conservation/cfr/cfr_home.htm)

During field work, wetland scientists may visit cold water streams that are not on DFW's CFR list. Conservation Commissioners and Agents, volunteer water monitors, shoreline survey participants, anglers and others may also be aware of the presence of wild trout or other coldwater species that can be documented by the state. DFW staff is interested in hearing about these streams and evaluating them for possible inclusion on the CFR list.

The confirmation of a stream as a "cold water fishery" affords the stream "Critical Area" status under state wetlands and water quality regulations and requires a more rigorous standard of stormwater BMPs to ensure development projects don't harm sensitive trout populations and habitats.



*"Trout Stream in the Tyrol"*  
Painting by John Singer Sargent

EBT Environmental has been involved in cold water fisheries projects since 1979, and asks that you contact Rich Hartley [(508) 389-6330, [Richard.hartley@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.hartley@state.ma.us)] or Todd Richards (see above) at the Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife, Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581, when you encounter unlisted trout streams. A USGS locus map should be sufficient to initiate the process for stream assessment.

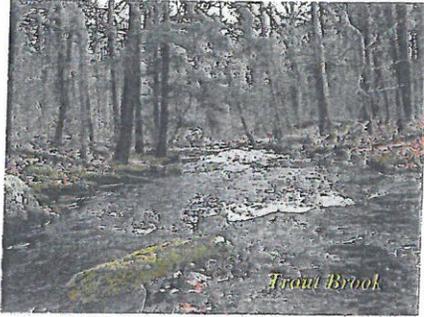
Even if a stream is on the DFW's "CFR" list, it may not get full protection if the stream segment is not listed as a cold water fishery in Mass. Surface Water Quality Standards Regulations (<http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/314cmr04.pdf>) The DEP's list of stream segments classified as "cold water fisheries" is much less extensive than DFW's CFR list.

Some developers and/or their consultants erroneously believe that the failure of a stream to be officially classified as a cold water fishery by DEP means that there is no obligation on their part to implement rigorous BMPs as required for "critical areas" under the DEP Stormwater Policy. In fact, either the inclusion of a stream on DFW's CFR list, or where a fish survey confirms that a cold-water fish population and habitat exists, is enough to qualify a stream for "critical area" status and trigger the increased level of protection called for in the stormwater regulations.

Also - the 2008 revision of the Mass. Surface Water Quality Standards increased the recognition and protection of coldwater streams and their inhabitants. The language of the most relevant excerpt (at 314 CMR 4.06(1)(d)7):

7. Cold Water - in these waters dissolved oxygen and temperature criteria for cold water fisheries apply. Certain waters not designated as cold water in 314 CMR 4.00 may contain habitat that supports a cold water fish population and, in such cases, the cold water fish population and habitat shall be protected and maintained as existing uses. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is responsible for identifying cold water fish populations that meet their protocol regardless of whether or not the water meets the cold water criteria in 314 CMR 4.00. Where a

cold water fish population has been identified by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as meeting their protocol, but the water has not been documented to meet the cold water criteria in 314 CMR 4.00, the Department will protect the existing cold water fish population and its habitat as an existing use



In other words, if a stream is classified as a “cold water” or “CFR” stream by DEP or DFW, the coldwater fishery is deemed an “existing use”, and stormwater discharges and other DEP-regulated activities that impair that use (cause excessive thermal or sediment loading to the waterway, e.g.) are in violation of the state water quality standards.

**APPENDIX E:**  
**2005 HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY LIST OF SITES**

**APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY**

This list is a summary of all landscapes discussed at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Taunton on June 27 and the follow-up fieldwork on July 12, 2005. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** Landscapes are grouped by type. The chart has two columns – the name of the resource and the location are in the first and notes about the resource are in the second.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction      CR = Conservation Restriction  
 LHD = Local Historic District                      NR = National Register  
 PR = Preservation Restriction                      \* = Priority Landscape

<b>Agriculture</b>	
<i>Couto's Cranberry</i>	12-15 acres bequeathed to the Bristol Agricultural School and restriction requires that it be used for agriculture only and cannot be sold.
<i>McCaffery's Farm</i>	East Taunton. Also known as Spring Rain Farm. Grow strawberries, and until recently also raised livestock. Presently for sale with city having right of first refusal. The family has been known to have a strong belief in agriculture and preserving the living landscape.
<i>Peirce Dairy Farm</i> 196 Middleborough Ave.	East Taunton. Was a dairy farm and also did some timbering. Still hayed. Building constructed out of wood from the land – old farmhouse, barns and silos remain.
<i>Reed Farm</i> South Walker St.	APR. 138 acres most of which is in Taunton and some in Dighton.
<i>Stapleton Farm-Shannon</i> Highstone & Precinct Sts.	Cranberry farm.
<i>Thayer Farm-Melo Property*</i> North Walker St.	Now owned by Melo family. Approximately 50 acres of farmland in a flood plain with confirmed Native American site in upland area of farm. Historically harvested hay and grew market garden crops. Now is hayed.
<i>Warner Blvd. Farms</i>	Wooded areas of which at least half are under development – other half to be open space.
<b>Burial Grounds and Cemeteries</b>	
<i>Black Cemeteries</i> Berkley & Pratt St.	Two cemeteries on the corner of Berkley and Pratt Sts., one in which there are early burials of African Americans.
<i>Dever's Burial Ground</i>	Part of the state school.

<i>East Taunton Cemetery</i> Caswell St.	Also known as Caswell Street Cemetery in East Taunton. Established in 1741.
<i>Mayflower Hill Cemetery</i> 235 Broadway	53.53 acres extending along East Britannia Street and Washington Street. Thousands of stones from the 1800s to present day. Civil War monument.
<i>Mount Pleasant Cemetery</i> Crocker, Cohannet & Barnum Sts.	NR. Approximately 10 acres framed by hills – Mt. Pleasant, Crocker Hill, and Ridge Hill. Laid out in the 1830s in the garden style with a path system laid out in 1836. Over 500 markers. Majestic trees that are important aspects of the character.
<i>Neck of Land Cemetery</i> Summer St.	NR. This is the oldest public cemetery in Taunton. It is at the confluence of the Mill and Taunton Rivers. Burials range from 1687 to 1889 and there are approximately 123 stones noted in the cemetery according to the MHC form.
<i>St. Joseph's Cemetery</i> 475 E. Britannia St.	19 <sup>th</sup> century cemetery with over 1,000 stones with burials continuing into the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
<i>St. Mary's Cemetery</i> 100 E. Britannia St.	19 <sup>th</sup> century cemetery with approximately 50 to 100 stones.
<i>Walker-Blake Graveyard</i> Somerset Ave. & Cleary Flood Dr.	Second oldest cemetery in Taunton – ca. 1678 to 1912 with 169 known burials. Also known as Walker Burial Ground, Rose Cemetery and Richmond Cemetery. Surrounded by a security fence. One person left an endowment to maintain cemetery so there is a level of care here not available in other private cemeteries.
<b>Civic / Commercial</b>	
<i>Church Green</i>	NR, LHD. The Green was established in 1638 and most of the surrounding buildings date from 1825 to 1900. The 1829-30 First Parish Church is the fourth meetinghouse at this location. Across Summer Street is the 1848/1896 Taunton City Hall. The statue is of Robert Treat Paine who practiced law in Taunton before serving in Continental Congress and signing the Declaration of Independence.
<i>Squares</i>	Named after WWI and WWII veterans and important persons in United States history. Documentation on file at Old Colony Historical Society but need public awareness so names are not lost.
<i>Taunton Green *</i> Broadway, Main, Weir, Winthrop, Cohannet and Court Sts.	NR. Downtown area. Star Theatre (Main St.), Central Station (School and Leonard, 1869 – reported to be the oldest operational fire station in the US), Masonic Lodge, Leonard Block (105-111 Main St., 1870), Superior Court House (NR-has lost its flame), St. Mary's complex (Broadway, 1868). Taunton Green was the site of mustering out for various conflicts as well as the welcome home. Has oldest holiday display dating from 1914.
<b>Industrial</b>	
<i>Anchor Forge</i>	Located in Westville on the Three Mile River.

<i>Old Colony Iron Works Site</i> 96 Old Colony Ave.	NR. This site was a mill complex from ca. 1824 to ca. 1920, producing shovels, nails and then cotton goods. Nemasket Mill Complex built in ca. 1895 to replace the Old Colony Iron Works which burned in 1881. Nemasket Mill produced cotton products and in 1900 became New England Cotton Mill and produced yarn. The cotton factory has been converted to the River Bend Condominiums.
<i>The Quarry</i>	Located in the Whittenton neighborhood. The use of the quarry once retired from quarrying is the subject of the recovery plan, which is in place and which is essential to the quality of life in the area. It must be enforced. Now owned by Aggregate Industries.
<i>Reed &amp; Barton*</i> W. Britannia and Danforth Sts.	A 14-acre site on the Mill River at Britanniaville. First the mill produced "Britanniaware" which was a fine grade of pewter, then converted to silver holloware and other silver and later stainless steel flatware. Raceways and dams remain as well as buildings ranging in construction dates from ca. 1830s to 1890s with a couple of modern buildings added in the mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<i>F. B. Rogers Silver Company</i> West Water St.	On the Taunton River at the old Weir Stove Company site, is the abandoned F. B. Rogers Silver Company building which operated until 1982. It is a large three-story brick structure along the Taunton River.
<b>Institutional</b>	
<i>Churches</i>	St. Mary's (complex – church (1868), rectory (1903), school (1907) on Broadway), St. Jacques (Whittenton St., construction dates: 1906, 1953), West Congregational Church (Winthrop St. 1824, NR), Pilgrim Congregational Church(45 Broadway, 1852, NR), Immaculate Conception Complex (construction dates from 1918 to 1954 in Gothic and Colonial Revival styles, Bay St.), Synagogue Agadath Achim (Winthrop St., 1913).
<i>Paul A. Dever School *</i> Bassett St. & Bay St.	Also known as Camp Myles Standish, a staging area during WWII. State-owned property of which only part is occupied. Has a burial ground.
<i>Masonic Lodge *</i>	On Taunton Green area. Important civic and institutional property. Was the Francis Baylies House. Built by Joseph Lord, Taunton's sixth postmaster.
<i>Schools</i>	Cohannet School (will house courthouse offices temporarily), Hopewell School, School Street School (renovated for city offices – NR district), Walker School (Weir Village area).
<i>Synagogue</i>	Agadath Achim (Winthrop St., 1913).
<i>Taunton State Hospital *</i> Danforth St.	Established in 1854. On bank of Mill River. Designed by Elbridge Boyden as State Mental Asylum. Only part of campus used today.
<b>Natural Features</b>	
<i>Big Bearhole Pond</i> Highstone Street	Part of a three-pond system located in Massasoit State Park. Bog iron pits here.
<i>Bunk Pond</i> Off Rt. 495	City-owned man-made pond in Hockomock Swamp area. Just south of Rt. 495. Good fishing, however access is limited.

<i>Cain Pond</i> (Rt. 79) Rhode Island Rd.	City-owned pond used for canoeing.
<i>Cobb Brook</i> *	Small brook or stream that flows through the western edge of the city center, former mill site. Threatened by development and no partners to advocate for quality of water. Need to maintain proper drainage so that the brook which flows diagonally through the center of Taunton flows to the Taunton River properly.
<i>East Pool Pond</i>	Bog iron source.
<i>Hocomock Swamp</i>	The swamp has about 16,950 acres and is the largest vegetated freshwater system in Massachusetts. Taunton's acreage is all the land north of Rt. 495 and includes part of the Snake River which goes through the swamp. An Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
<i>Mill River</i>	This river runs from Lake Sabattia (on Bay Street) into Mill Pond, over the Mill Pond Dam and through the center of Taunton into the Taunton River. Scenic stone lined raceways and several impoundments.
<i>Oakland Mill Pond</i>	Some canoeing and fishing with limited access.
<i>Lake Ricco</i>	Part of a three-pond system in Massasoit State Park including Big Bearhole Pond, Middle Pond and Lake Ricco. Most of land bordering the ponds is state-owned and undeveloped. Bog iron source.
<i>Richmond Pond</i> Middleborough Ave.	Located in East Taunton. Early mill site.
<i>Sabbatia Lake</i> Bay Street	Part of the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Connected to Watson Pond and feeds into Mill River. Developments of early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century summer cottages on its shores with poor waste water disposal systems. Bog iron pits here.
<i>Segregansett River</i>	Located in the southwestern part of the City. Part of Somerset water supply.
<i>Silver Maple Floodplain Swamp</i>	In Oakland. Borders city-owned golf course.
<i>Taunton River</i>	Application in progress for federal Wild and Scenic Designation.
<i>Three Mile River</i>	Application in progress to obtain an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation for this river which passes through three communities (Dighton, Norton and Taunton). 253 acres of agricultural land in Taunton along the ACEC corridor. Passes through Westville and Oakland villages of Taunton. River begins at the Wading and Rumford Rivers in Norton and flows to the Taunton in Dighton.
<i>Watson Pond</i> Bay St.	In Watson Pond State Park. Also part of the Canoe River ACEC. Bog iron pits located here.
<b>Open Space /Parks</b>	
<i>Gertrude M. Boyden Wildlife Refuge</i> 1298 Cohannet St.	City-owned refuge in Westville. It was the Laura Thomas Estate which the city purchased in 1968 using donated private funds that were designated for purchase of a bird sanctuary. Approximately 52 acres with wooded trails on the Three Mile River. Features are open fields, fishing areas and about two miles of nature trails. There also are a fragrance garden, covered bridge and look-out cabin. Suffers from lack of maintenance, little used due to lack of knowledge as there is little

	published information. Major erosion problems which have led to closing of trail. Gates have been left open. Once had kite and other festivals. Conservation commission office once was located on the property. Application pending for Urban Self-Help funding.
<i>Hopewell Park</i> Hamilton St.	Ten acres of city owned park and recreation land on Mill River. Amenities include a bathhouse, baseball and softball fields, football field, swimming pool, basketball courts and a playground.
<i>Hutt Forest</i> Kingman St.	City-owned land at Big Bearhole Village. Former Emma Hutt estate including 500 acres of wooded upland and forest which is undeveloped.
<i>Idella Lewis</i> North Walker St.	City-owned golf course on corner of Fisher St. and North Walker St. opposite the Sharpe Estate. In Oakland section.
<i>Lagoon's Park</i> East Water St.	City-owned park on Taunton River. Historic Weir Village Port. Poor condition.
<i>Memorial Park</i> Somerset Ave.	Park area has walking trails and a pond and is used for passive recreation.
<i>John F. Parker Municipal Golf Course</i> Fisher St.	This 185-acre parcel has a nine-hole course that is city owned.
<i>Plonka Property</i> Gordon Owen Pkwy.	City owned.
<i>Scaddings Pond Area</i> Scaddings St.	City-owned field in North End section of city. Snake River. Bog iron pits here.
<i>Segregansett Golf Club</i> Gulliver St.	Private club that is well maintained. A small cemetery is on the property.
<i>Sharpe Estate</i> North Walker St.	On corner of Glebe Street West and North Walker St. City-owned open space and conservation land that was formerly an estate. The Conservation Commission manages this 253-acre site which is protected in perpetuity. Fall Brook runs through the property.
<i>Taunton Green</i>	Part of NR district. See Taunton Green under Civic - Commercial.
<i>Terra Property</i> Paul Revere Terrace	City-owned property.
<i>Woodard Spring</i> Harvey St.	A trolley park on Three Mile River in the Oakland section of Taunton.
<i>Weir Riverfront Park</i> East Water St.	City-owned park on Taunton River. Historic Weir Village Port. Only 2.5 acres with athletic fields, a shade pavilion and a playground all of which are used frequently and require maintenance. Weir Corporation involved.
<i>Woodard Spring</i> Harvey St.	A trolley park on Three Mile River in the Oakland section of Taunton.

<b>Residential (Neighborhoods, Village)</b>	
<i>Britanniaville</i>	On Mill River. Location of Reed & Barton.
<i>East Taunton *</i>	Farm land, open space and state forest in East Taunton. Silver City Galleria built here.
<i>Historic Houses</i>	Many on Winthrop Street and on Broadway.
<i>Hopewell Village</i> Hopewell, Albro, Bay Sts.	On Mill River. Brick tenements, capes, Greek Revival houses from ca. 1818 to 1860s. Old cotton mill structures of Taunton Manufacturing burned in 1903.
<i>Middleborough Ave.</i>	Workers' housing in East Taunton.
<i>Oakland</i> Tremont St., Mill Lane	Cotton mill and associated housing of capes and Greek Revivals on the Three Mile River.
<i>Portuguese Village*</i> School St.	Distinctly cultural influences. Portuguese American Civic Club (PACC), St. Anthony's Church where mass is said in Portuguese. Bragga Square at School St. Includes several side streets.
<i>Hopewell Mill Area</i> Albro Ave.	Mill housing some of which dates to early 1800s on Albro Avenue. Also on Cottage St., Danforth St., W. Britannia St. Housing on Bay St. and Broadway meshes with that of various mills.
<i>Weir Village</i> Water, Weir and Ingall Sts.	On Taunton River. Historically ship building businesses and boarding houses on Plain St. Walker School, Weir Grammar School, Weir Park, Taunton River Park. Peripheral areas of neighborhood are the most vulnerable to change. Cohannet Mills #3 (1890) was a cotton spinning mill. Also 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century residences and commercial buildings.
<i>Westville</i> So. Walker, No. Walker, Winthrop, Cohannet Sts.	NR. On Three Mile River. Cotton mill here in 19 <sup>th</sup> century replacing 18 <sup>th</sup> century iron foundry. Housing includes capes and Italianate style. West Congregational Church of 1824 is a Federal style meetinghouse.
<i>Winthrop St.</i>	Housing. Many stately houses owned by former industrialists, bankers, etc.
<i>Whittenton Village</i> Bay & Whittenton Sts.	On Mill River. A 17 <sup>th</sup> century bloomery became a tack factory and a cotton mill. Historically a French Canadian followed by Polish neighborhood. Housing predominately 1880 to 1910 Italianate with 20 <sup>th</sup> century commercial structures.
<b>Transportation (Bridges, Landing, Roads)</b>	
<i>Dean Street Railroad Bridge</i> Dean St.	Dean Street is Route 44 from the Raynham town line westerly to Church Green. The bridge crosses the abandoned railroad line just east of the center of Taunton.
<i>Old Colony Railroad Station</i> 40 Dean St.	Built by the Old Colony Railroad in 1876 near the center of Taunton

<p><b>Railroad and Trolley Tracks</b> Various locations</p>	
<p><b>Railroad Bridges &amp; Street Bridges</b></p>	<p>Spring Street Bridge over Mill River was constructed in 1929. Summer Street Bridge was constructed in 1934. Tremont Street Bridge over Three Mile River was constructed in 1936. W. Britannia Street Bridge over the Mill River was constructed in 1927.</p>
<p><b>Taunton Municipal Airport</b> Middleboro Ave. &amp; Westcoat Drive</p>	<p>NR listing for King Airfield Hanger. Est. in 1919 in East Taunton area known as King's Field. Played a significant role in the development of the first flight school training pilots after WWI. Became a public municipal airport in the 1960s when 109 acres were taken by eminent domain from the King Family. Richmond pond and a frog pond on property. The airport expanded by 1964 to be 241 acres.</p>
<p><b>Weir Bridge</b> Plain Street</p>	<p>The Weir Bridge carries Plain Street over the Taunton River in the Weir section of the city. The current 1955 steel beam bridge replaced a swing bridge which replaced a draw bridge both of which could be moved for ships carrying cargo up the Taunton. By 1955 the Taunton River no longer had ships needing clearance coming up this far, thus the 1955 bridge did not have to accommodate this mode of transportation.</p>

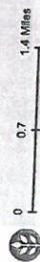
# TAUNTON OPENSOURCE & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Note: Detailed legend, all categories may not appear on the map.

1. Cobb Brook
2. Dever School - Camp Myles Standish
3. East Taunton
4. Gertrude Boyden Wildlife Refuge
5. Portuguese Village
6. Reed & Barton
7. Taunton Green Area
8. Taunton State Hospital
9. Thayer Farm



Department of  
Conservation and Recreation



**APPENDIX F:**  
**LIST OF NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER SITES**

## Appendix D: National Register of Historic Places Listings

#	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED
1	MA	Bristol	Atwood, Charles R., House	30 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
2	MA	Bristol	Barnum School	Barnum St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
3	MA	Bristol	Bartlett, J.C., House	12 Walnut St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
4	MA	Bristol	Bassett, C.J.H., House	20 Chestnut St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
5	MA	Bristol	Beattie, W.C., House	289 W. Britannia St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
6	MA	Bristol	Bristol County Courthouse Complex	9, 11, 15 Court St.	Taunton	1978-03-28
7	MA	Bristol	Brow's Tavern	211 Tremont St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
8	MA	Bristol	Brownell, Henry G., House	119 High St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
9	MA	Bristol	Buildings at 80 and 88 W. Britannia St.	80 and 88 W. Britannia St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
10	MA	Bristol	Capron, George, House	6 N. Pleasant St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
11	MA	Bristol	Central Fire Station	Leonard and School Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
12	MA	Bristol	Church Green	U.S. 44 and MA 140	Taunton	1977-12-16
13	MA	Bristol	Cohannet Mill No. 3	120 Ingell St.	Taunton	2006-11-29
14	MA	Bristol	Colby, Samuel, House	74 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
15	MA	Bristol	Dean, Abiezar, House	57 Summer St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
16	MA	Bristol	Dean, George, House	135 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
17	MA	Bristol	Dean, Jonathan, House	175 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
18	MA	Bristol	Dean, Lloyd, House	164 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
19	MA	Bristol	Dean, Theodore, House	26 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
20	MA	Bristol	Dean-Barstow House	275 William St.	Taunton	1984-07-05

#	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED
21	MA	Bristol	Dean-Hartshorn House	68 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
22	MA	Bristol	East Taunton Fire Station	Middleboro Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
23	MA	Bristol	Eldridge House	172 County St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
24	MA	Bristol	Fairbanks-Williams House	19 Elm St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
25	MA	Bristol	Field, Albert, Tack Company	19 Spring St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
26	MA	Bristol	Fuller-Dauphin Estate	145 School St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
27	MA	Bristol	Godfrey, Gen. George, House	125 County St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
28	MA	Bristol	Godfrey, Richard, House	62 County St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
29	MA	Bristol	Harris Street Bridge	Spans Taunton River at Dean and Harris Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
30	MA	Bristol	Haskins, Sarah A., House	18 Harrison St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
31	MA	Bristol	Higgins-Hodgeman House	19 Cedar St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
32	MA	Bristol	Hodges House	41 Worcester St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
33	MA	Bristol	Hopewell Mills District	Bay St. and Albro Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
34	MA	Bristol	Hopewell School	Monroe St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
35	MA	Bristol	Kilmer Street Fire Station	Oak and Kilmer Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
36	MA	Bristol	King Airfield Hanger	Middleboro Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
37	MA	Bristol	Knapp, Job, House	81 Shores St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
38	MA	Bristol	Lawrence, William, House	101 Somerset Ave.	Taunton	1985-07-10
39	MA	Bristol	Leonard School	W. Britannia St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
40	MA	Bristol	Leonard, James, House	3 Warren St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
41	MA	Bristol	Lincoln, Ambrose, Jr., House	1916 Bay St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
42	MA	Bristol	Lincoln, Asa, House	171 Shores St.	Taunton	1984-07-05

#	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED
43	MA	Bristol	Lincoln, Gen. Thomas, House	104 Field St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
44	MA	Bristol	Lord-Baylies-Bennett House	66 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
45	MA	Bristol	Lothrop Memorial Building-G.A.R. Hall	Washington and Governor Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
46	MA	Bristol	Lothrop, H.B., Store	210 Weir St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
47	MA	Bristol	Macomber, Calvin T., House	312 W. Britannia St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
48	MA	Bristol	Marvel, Theodore L., House	188 Berkley St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
49	MA	Bristol	Mason, N. S., House	58 Tremont St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
50	MA	Bristol	McKinstrey House	115 High St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
51	MA	Bristol	Morse House	6 Pleasant St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
52	MA	Bristol	Morse, Henry, House	32 Cedar St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
53	MA	Bristol	Mount Pleasant Cemetery	Crocker, Cohannet, and Barnum Sts.	Taunton	2002-12-05
54	MA	Bristol	Neck of Land Cemetery	Summer St.	Taunton	1985-07-10
55	MA	Bristol	North Taunton Baptist Church	1940 Bay St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
56	MA	Bristol	Old Colony Iron Works-Nesmasket Mills Complex	Old Colony Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
57	MA	Bristol	Old Colony Railroad Station	40 Dean St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
58	MA	Bristol	Old Weir Stove Company	W. Water St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
59	MA	Bristol	Paull, Alfred, House	467 Weir St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
60	MA	Bristol	Pilgrim Congregational Church	45 Broadway	Taunton	1984-07-05
61	MA	Bristol	Reed and Barton Complex	W. Britannia and Danforth Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
62	MA	Bristol	School Street School	School and Fruit Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05

#	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED
63	MA	Bristol	St. Mary's Complex	Broadway and Washington St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
64	MA	Bristol	St. Thomas Episcopal Church	115 High St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
65	MA	Bristol	Staples, Sylvanus N., House	21 Second St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
66	MA	Bristol	Stone House	15-17 Plain St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
67	MA	Bristol	Sweet, Albert, House	179 High-land St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
68	MA	Bristol	Taunton Alms House	Norton Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
69	MA	Bristol	Taunton Green Historic District	Broadway, Taunton Green, Main and Court Sts.	Taunton	1985-03-01
70	MA	Bristol	Taunton Public Library	Pleasant St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
71	MA	Bristol	Taunton State Hospital	W. bank of the Mill R. at Danforth St.	Taunton	1994-01-21
72	MA	Bristol	Thomas, H.P., House	322 Somerset Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
73	MA	Bristol	Tisdale-Morse House	17 Fayette Pl.	Taunton	1984-07-05
74	MA	Bristol	Union Congregational Church	W. Britannia and Rockland Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
75	MA	Bristol	Union Mission Chapel-Historical Hall	Cedar St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
76	MA	Bristol	US Post Office--Taunton Main	37 Taunton Green	Taunton	1987-10-19
77	MA	Bristol	Vickery, Capt. David, House	33 Plain St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
78	MA	Bristol	Vickery-Baylies House	56 Summer St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
79	MA	Bristol	Walker School	Berkley St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
80	MA	Bristol	Walker, Peter, House	1679 Somerset Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
81	MA	Bristol	Washburn, Samuel, House	68 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
82	MA	Bristol	Washington School	40 Vernon St.	Taunton	1984-07-05

#	STATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	LISTED
83	MA	Bristol	Weir Engine House	530 Weir St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
84	MA	Bristol	Westville Congregational Church	Winthrop and N. Walker Sts.	Taunton	1984-07-05
85	MA	Bristol	White, William L., Jr., House	242 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
86	MA	Bristol	Whittenton Fire and Police Station	Bay St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
87	MA	Bristol	Whittenton Mills Complex	Mill River and Whittenton St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
88	MA	Bristol	Williams, Abiathar King, House	43 Ingell St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
89	MA	Bristol	Williams, Enoch, House	616 Middleboro Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
90	MA	Bristol	Williams, Francis D., House	3 Plain St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
91	MA	Bristol	Williams, N.S., House	1150 Middleboro Ave.	Taunton	1984-07-05
92	MA	Bristol	Willis, Joseph, House	28 Worcester St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
93	MA	Bristol	Winslow Congregational Church	61 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
94	MA	Bristol	Winthrop Street Baptist Church	58 Winthrop St.	Taunton	1984-07-05
95	MA	Bristol	Woodward, William, House	117 Arlington St.	Taunton	1985-07-10

**APPENDIX G:**  
**LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS**

# Summary of Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status in Massachusetts Taunton, MA

ID	Waterbody Name	Watershed Name	Category	Acres		Miles		Cause	TMDL
				In Town - Total					
MA62-01_2008	Taunton River	Taunton	2			1.8	20.4		
MA62-28_2008	Snake River	Taunton	3			3.2	3.3		
MA62-29_2008	Mill River	Taunton	3			3.4	3.4		
MA62-41_2008	Cotley River	Taunton	3			3.2	5.9		
MA62-43_2008	Cobb Brook	Taunton	3			3.5	3.5		
MA62-53_2008	Segreganset River	Taunton	4c			1.9	7.9		
MA62-56_2008	Three Mile River	Taunton	5			8.2	12.8		
MA62011_2008	Big Bearhole Pond	Taunton	5	37.68	37.68			Pathogens	
MA62-02_2008	Taunton River	Taunton	5	0	183.61			Organic enrichment/Low DO	

1) Adapted from Final Massachusetts Year 2008 Integrated List of Waters (CN 281.1, 12/2008); available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/08list2.pdf>  
 2) For additional information on TMDLs and to view reports, see: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>  
 3) For Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, and waterbody classes and uses, see: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/314cmr04.pdf>

**Assessment of Waterbody Segment**  
 Category 2 - Attaining some uses; other uses not assessed  
 Category 3 - Insufficient information to make assessments for any use  
 Category 4a - TMDL is completed  
 Category 4c - Impairment not caused by a pollutant  
 Category 5 - Impaired or threatened for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL

# Summary of Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status in Massachusetts Taunton, MA

ID	Waterbody Name	Watershed Name	Category	Acres		Cause	TMDL
				In Town - Total	In Town - Total		
MA62030_2008	Cain Pond	Taunton	5	2.77	2.77	Pathogens	
MA62115_2008	Middle Pond	Taunton	4c	25.86	25.86	Organic enrichment/Low DO Turbidity	
MA62122_2008	Mount Hope Mill Pond	Taunton	4c	38.45	45.18		
MA62136_2008	Oakland Pond	Taunton	3	37.62	37.62		
MA62148_2008	Lake Rico	Taunton	4c	187.98	187.98		
MA62149_2008	Prospect Hill Pond	Taunton	3	41.29	41.89		
MA62159_2008	Richmond Pond	Taunton	4c	5.77	5.77		
MA62166_2008	Lake Sabbatia	Taunton	5	265.42	265.42		

1) Adapted from Final Massachusetts Year 2008 Integrated List of Waters (CN 281.1, 12/2008); available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/08list2.pdf>  
 2) For additional information on TMDLs and to view reports, see: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>  
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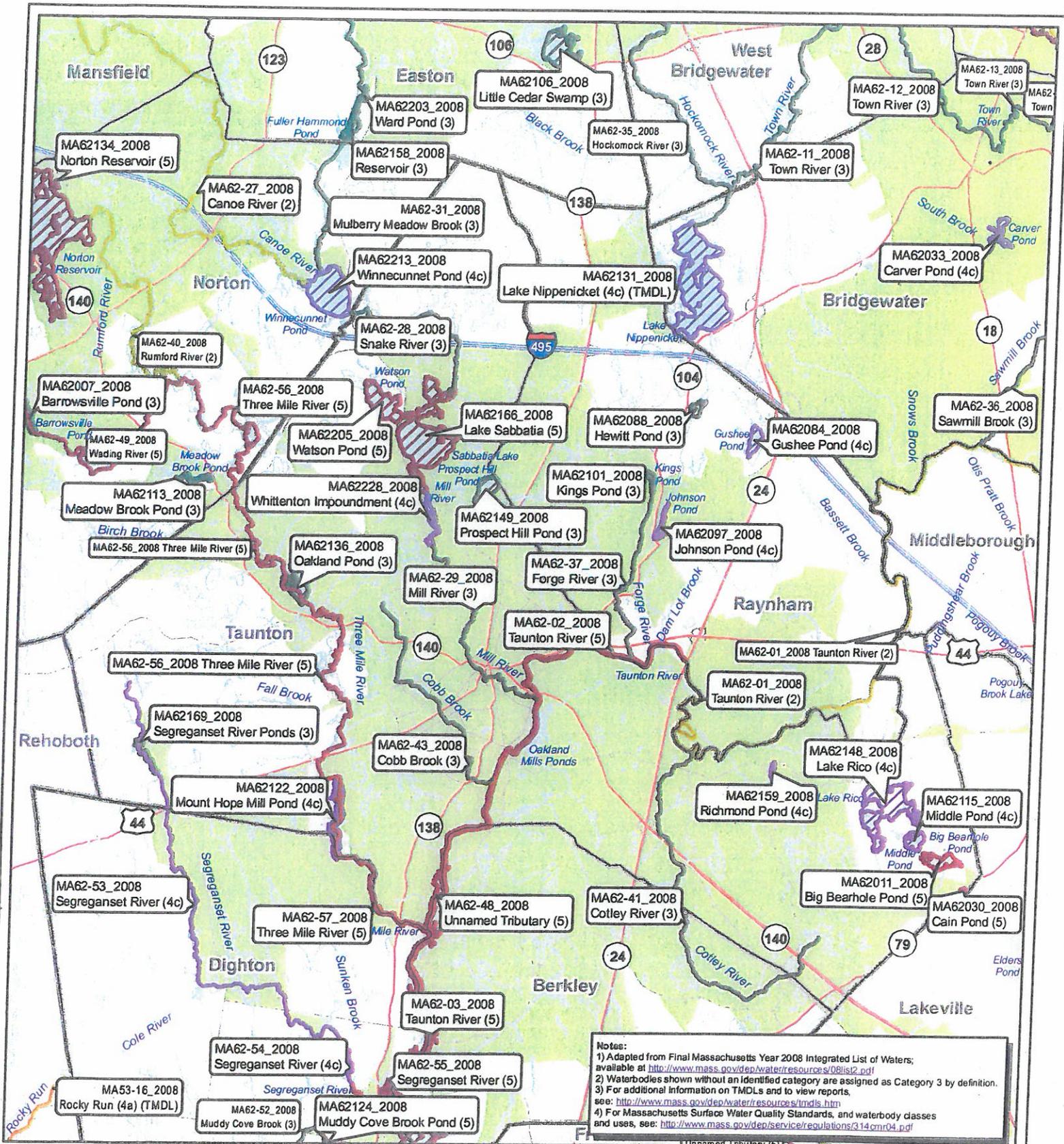
Note: The accuracy of mileage and acreage estimates is limited for waterbodies that serve as or span municipal boundaries

# Summary of Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status in Massachusetts Taunton, MA

ID	Waterbody Name	Watershed Name	Category	Acres		Miles		Cause	TMDL
				In Town	Total	In Town	Total		
MA62169_2008	Segreganset River Ponds	Taunton	3	13.73	13.73				
MA62205_2008	Watson Pond	Taunton	5	77.52	77.52			Noxious aquatic plants Nutrients Organic enrichment/Low DO Turbidity	
MA62228_2008	Whittenton Impoundment	Taunton	4c	20.05	20.05				
MA62-48_2008	Unnamed Tributary	Taunton	5	0	1.05			Cause Unknown Flow alteration* Other habitat alterations* Thermal modifications	
MA62-57_2008	Three Mile River	Taunton	5	0	13.8			Pathogens	

1) Adapted from Final Massachusetts Year 2008 Integrated List of Waters (CN 281.1, 12/2008); available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/08list2.pdf>  
 2) For additional information on TMDLs and to view reports, see: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdlis.htm>  
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Assessment of Waterbody Segment  
 Category 2 - Attaining some uses; other uses not assessed  
 Category 3 - Insufficient information to make assessments for any use  
 Category 4a - TMDL is completed  
 Category 4c - Impairment not caused by a pollutant  
 Category 5 - Impaired or threatened for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL



# Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status Taunton, MA



Map produced by EPA Region I GIS Center  
Map Tracker ID 6678, February 25, 2010  
Data Sources: TeleAtlas, Census Bureau,  
USGS, MassDEP

## Waterbody Label

State ID,  
Waterbody Name (Category)  
(TMDL(s) approved for this waterbody)

## Assessment of Waterbody Segment

Category 2: Attaining some uses, other uses not assessed  
Category 3: Insufficient information to make assessments for any use.

Category 4a: TMDL is completed and approved for one or more pollutants  
Category 4c: Impairment not caused by a pollutant  
Category 5: Impaired or threatened for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL

Waterbodies  
Swamp/Marsh  
MS4 Urbanized Areas (2000 Census)  
Municipal Boundaries

See companion table for a listing of pollutants, non-pollutants, and TMDLs for each waterbody

**APPENDIX H:**  
**LIST OF PARKS (PCPG) FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND PARTNERING  
LEAGUES**

## RECREATION PLAYGROUND & FIELDS

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<u>Field:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>SITE FEATURES:</u>
Davol Field	Oak Street	Little League Field Basketball Court Childrens Playground
Hartshorn Park	Longmeadow Road	Adult Slow Pitch Softball Field (2) Childrens Playground
Hopewell Park	Hopewell & Hamilton Streets	Municipal Swimming Pool Baseball Field Softball Fields (2) Football Field Basketball Court (3) Childrens Playground
Sikorski Field	Middleboro Avenue	Adult Slow Pitch Softball Field Baseball Field Childrens Playground
South Street	South Street	Childrens Playground
Weir Park	First Street	Baseball Field Softball Field Basketball Court Childrens Playground
Westside Park	Clifford Street	Multi Purpose Field Little League Field
Whittenton Field	Pleadwell & Richard Streets	Childrens Playground Basketball Court Multi Purpose (Soccer) Field

## PUBLIC AREAS & MEMORIALS

<u>FIELD:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>SITE FEATURES:</u>
Boyden Sanctuary	Cohannet Street	Public Walking Nature Trails Canoe Launch Covered Bridge
Calvey Memorial	Rte 44 Dean Street	Honey Calvey Memorial Garden
Dutra Memorial	Hart Street	Alfred Dutra Memorial Garden
Hart Street Monument	Hart & Linden Street	WWII Veterans Memorial
Liberty & Union Plaza	Main Street	Richard Dewert Memorial Park
Martin Parkway	Martin Parkway & Washington	Fred Martin Memorial
Memorial Park	Somerset Avenue	Childrens Playground Walking Area, Pond
Robert Treat Paine	Summer Street	Across from City Hall
Taunton Green	Rte 44 & Rte 138 intersection	Public Area - Soper Fountain
Vietnam Fountain	Church Green & Spring Street	Vietnam Memorial Fountain
Walker Park	West Weir Street	Bandstand
Weir Riverfront Park	East Water Street	Childrens Playground Walking Area Boat Launching Ramp

# City of Taunton Cemeteries

Name	Location	Established	Available Lots	Acres
Bassett	Crane Ave. near Harvey St.	1845	None	0.1568
Bezer Lincoln	Watson St. near Bay St.	1832	None	0.0506
Burt, Crane, Gulliver & Walker	Gulliver St. near Burt St.	1739	None	0.76
Caswell & Fairbanks	Behind Caswell Grove	1805	None	2.37
Caswell Street	Caswell St./Staples St.	1741	None	1.26
Crane Avenue	Crane Ave. 1/4 mi. from Norton line	1750	None	1.2
East Weir	Behind 57 Plain St.	1797	None	1.5
Field Cemetery	Between 34 & 48 Field St.		None	
Franklin Woodward	1396 Norton Ave. (in woods)		None	
Hathaway	1600 Somerset Ave.	1838	None	
King	1300 Middleboro Ave.	1811	None	0.2686
Knapp	rear 494 Tremont St., end Seg. Rd.	1852	None	1.32
Mayflower Hill	Broadway/E. Britannia St.	1779	None	0.0883
Mount Pleasant	Cohannet St. /Barnum St.	1840	YES	54.53
Neck 'O Land	Summer St. Bridge	1836	None	10.5
North Taunton	1871 Bay St./Field St.	1687	None	0.67
Oakland	20 Glebe St.		None	1.75
Padleford	Middleboro Ave. (airport)	1728	None	4.93
Pine Hill	Stevens St./Pinehill St.	1792	None	0.0557
Plain	Broadway/Washington St.	1750	None	3.54
Quaker Burial Grounds	South Crane Ave. near Harvey St.	1727	None	6.58
Staples	Staples St./Seekel St.		None	2.15
Westville	1291 Cohannet St.	1745	None	2.16
White	34 South St. & Railroad Ave.	1787	None	5.23
William Walker	113 Burt St.	1841	None	
		1835	None	0.0392
Total Acres=				101.1092

# League Information



## Little League

### Taunton East Little League

[www.eteamz.active.com/TauntonEastLittleLeague](http://www.eteamz.active.com/TauntonEastLittleLeague)

Complex – 508-880-8829

### Taunton West Little League

[www.twll.net](http://www.twll.net)

Complex – 508-823-8082

## Babe Ruth

### Babe Ruth

[www.tauntonbaberuth.com](http://www.tauntonbaberuth.com)

508-210-4157



## Girls Softball

### Girls Softball

[www.tauntongirlssoftball.org](http://www.tauntongirlssoftball.org)

508-823-1945

### Taunton Dynamites

[www.tauntondynamites.com](http://www.tauntondynamites.com)

## Soccer



### Taunton Youth Soccer

[www.tauntonyouthsoccer.org](http://www.tauntonyouthsoccer.org)

508-822-9970

## Football & Cheerleading

### Pop Warner

[www.tauntonpopwarner.com](http://www.tauntonpopwarner.com)

508-822-1101



### Aleixo Ice-Skating Rink

[www.fmcarenas.com](http://www.fmcarenas.com)

508-824-4987

### Massasoit State Park

[www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)

508-822-7405

### Watson's Pond

617-727-3180

508-884-8280



Visit us on the web!

<http://www.Taunton-ma.gov>

Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds



# Summer Festival 2012

Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>



Program Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Summer Festival Program runs for 8 weeks outside at Hopewell Park. Spend one or all eight weeks participating in this fun outdoor recreational program offered to Taunton children ages 5-12. Enjoy arts & crafts, sports, swimming, games, and lots of other fun things with your friends each day. Lunch is served by the Taunton School Department as part of the summer food program offered by the USDA. Summer Festival is held inside at Coyle Cassidy Gym in the event of rain. Registration is limited to 100 children per week, and all children must be at least five years old, but no older than 12 by June 1, 2012. There is an \$85.00 fee per week to participate in this recreational program and this includes all special events, trips, and activities. (There is an additional fee if enrolling in extended hours.)

Extended Hours are available each day before and after the Summer Festival. Morning Care (6:45 AM – 8:30 AM) is an additional \$5.00 per day or \$20 weekly, Evening Care (3:30 PM – 5:15 PM) is \$6.00 per day or \$25 weekly, or both AM & PM \$8.00 per day or \$35 a week.

## Summer Festival Weekly Trips

June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Pirate Adventures  
Plymouth, MA

July 5<sup>th</sup>  
Roger Williams Zoo  
Providence, RI

July 12<sup>th</sup>  
Mystic Aquarium  
Mystic, CT

July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Paw Sox Game  
Pawtucket, RI

July 26<sup>th</sup>  
The Movies -  
Ice Age 4  
Seekonk, MA

August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Fenway Park Tour  
& Frog Pond  
Boston, MA

August 9<sup>th</sup>  
College Pond  
S. Carver, MA

August 17<sup>th</sup>  
Canobie Lake  
Salem, NH

## All Programs Canceled July 4<sup>th</sup>

*Above trips are subject to change*

*Non-Resident fee after June 17<sup>th</sup> (if space allows) is \$105.00 per week*

### Scholarships Available

Through a Community Development Block Grant, scholarship money is available to be used towards Summer Festival 2012. Eligible Taunton Families may apply for a Scholarship and attend Summer Festival for the reduced rate of \$35.00 per week as space allows.

#### 50 Scholarships Available Each Week

Applications will be available for up to two (2) weeks\* of Summer Festival per child at this reduced rate. Each Scholarship is good to use toward the regular program hours of 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM and do not include any extended care options which are available at the regular rate.

\*Eligible Taunton Families may apply for additional Scholarships if available after June 1, 2012.  
(Call 508-821-1415 for availability)

### Beginning on Wednesday – April 18, 2012

Applications will be available at the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Office, 170 Harris Street between the hours of 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

#### Household Limits\*

Family Size	2	\$52,000
	3	\$58,500
	4	\$65,000
	5	\$70,200
	6	\$75,400

\*Based on HUD Guidelines PY 12

Income verification is required for all sources of income. For more information on Scholarships or income verification sources you may contact the office at 508-821-1415.

Scholarships funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the City of Taunton Mayor's Office of Community Development.

**APPENDIX I:**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA) FACT SHEET**

# PRESERVING YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT



**WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)?** The CPA enables cities and towns in Massachusetts to create a local dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation projects and to also receive funds from the state Community Preservation Trust Fund each year for these projects.

**HOW IS CPA FUNDING GENERATED?** CPA funds are generated through two sources: a surcharge of up to 3 percent on property tax bills and an annual disbursement of funds from the state Community Preservation Trust Fund, which distributes funds each October to communities that have adopted CPA. The state funds are generated through fees at the Registry of Deeds. If your community has not adopted CPA, you haven't been receiving these annual funds!

## **WHAT PROJECTS CAN CPA FUNDS SUPPORT?**

Each fiscal year, CPA communities must spend, or set aside for future spending, the following share of its annual CPA revenues on three core areas:

- 10 percent for open space
- 10 percent for historic resources
- 10 percent for community housing

The remaining 70 percent of the revenues may be spent or reserved for future projects in any of these three areas, or for funding outdoor public recreation projects (i.e. ball fields, hiking or biking trails). CPA funds may never be directed to the general town fund; they may only be spent on the three CPA core areas and outdoor recreation.

## **CPA IN YOUR COMMUNITY COULD PROVIDE FUNDING TO:**

- Restore and preserve historic town halls, documents, churches, cemeteries and other structures
- Create new ball fields, boat launches, and trails for walking and biking
- Preserve land to protect drinking water, local agriculture and wildlife habitat
- Develop a housing plan to determine the housing needs of local residents and then use CPA to address those needs (i.e., support housing for seniors; rehab old apartments to create condos to serve young families or small households)
- Leverage additional dollars from state, federal, and foundation grants

**WHO DECIDES  
HOW CPA FUNDS  
ARE SPENT?**

**YOU DO!**

After adopting CPA, municipalities must establish a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to solicit proposals for local CPA-funded projects, and recommend projects to the local legislative body for approval (Town Meeting or the City Council). All CPA projects must be approved by the local legislative body to receive CPA funds.

This local control means communities decide what is special and important to preserve in their own city or town.

For more information, visit [communitypreservation.org](http://communitypreservation.org)

Or call the Community Preservation Coalition at:

617/367.8998

**HOW MUCH WOULD CPA COST THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER?\***

Most towns adopting CPA in the past year have elected to include an exemption for the first \$100,000 of taxable value of residential real estate. Listed at right are calculations for the approximate annual cost per homeowner if your community adopted CPA with this exemption.

Several communities have adopted additional available exemptions, such as an exemption from the surcharge for low-income households and low- and moderate-income senior households.

TOWN	COST PER AVG. RESIDENT			
	1%	1.50%	2%	3%
Attleboro	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$60
Berkley	\$26	\$39	\$52	\$78
Brockton	\$14	\$21	\$28	\$43
E. Bridgewater	\$29	\$43	\$58	\$87
Fall River*	\$12	\$19	\$25	\$37
Foxborough	\$37	\$55	\$74	\$111
Freetown	\$22	\$32	\$43	\$65
Halifax	\$29	\$44	\$59	\$88
Lakeville	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$69
Mansfield	\$37	\$56	\$75	\$112
N. Attleboro	\$25	\$38	\$51	\$76
Norton	\$26	\$38	\$51	\$77
Raynham	\$28	\$43	\$57	\$85
Somerset	\$20	\$29	\$39	\$59
Taunton	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$48

**HOW MUCH WOULD CPA GENERATE FOR MY COMMUNITY?\***

TOWN	REVENUE			
	1%	1.50%	2%	3%
Attleboro	\$374,620	\$561,929	\$749,239	\$1,123,859
Berkley	\$63,684	\$95,527	\$127,369	\$191,053
Brockton	\$637,339	\$956,009	\$1,274,678	\$1,912,017
E. Bridgewater	\$145,436	\$218,154	\$290,872	\$436,309
Fall River*	\$495,858	\$743,788	\$991,717	\$1,487,575
Foxborough	\$269,270	\$403,904	\$538,539	\$807,809
Freetown	\$103,096	\$154,643	\$206,191	\$309,287
Halifax	\$83,608	\$125,413	\$167,217	\$250,825
Lakeville	\$118,076	\$177,114	\$236,152	\$354,228
Mansfield	\$349,765	\$524,648	\$699,531	\$1,049,296
N. Attleboro	\$293,935	\$440,902	\$587,870	\$881,805
Norton	\$184,972	\$277,458	\$369,944	\$554,915
Raynham	\$204,301	\$306,451	\$408,601	\$612,902
Somerset	\$221,210	\$331,816	\$442,421	\$663,631
Taunton	\$474,772	\$712,158	\$949,544	\$1,424,316

Listed at left is the amount your community could generate locally with CPA (with the first \$100,000 exemption). Note that this figure does not include revenue your community would receive annually from the State CPA Trust Fund.

*\*Both charts use FY11 data except for starred communities, where FY10 data was used*

147 cities and towns have adopted CPA, including Acushnet, Bridgewater, Carver, Dighton, Middleborough, Rehoboth, Swansea and Wareham.



Pictures above show projects completed with CPA funding in municipalities across the state