

TOWN OF NORWELL | 2021

Open Space & Recreation Plan

February 2021





Norwell 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan *February 2021*

Prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and
Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

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In memoriam

The Norwell 2021 Open Space & Recreation Plan is dedicated to the memory of:

Nancy Lynn Hemingway

Nancy was Norwell's well-respected Conservation Agent for many years, and she passed away during the development of this Plan on September 2, 2020. Nancy loved nature, hiking, and gardening and would often say that she felt most peaceful while in the woods. In honor of Nancy, the Norwell Conservation Commission (NCC) is dedicating its new Wildflower field to her—named "Hemingway Wildflower Field." The field is being seeded with native flowers and will be a place to walk, reflect, and just be with nature as Nancy always wanted. NCC will also be selecting a trail to dedicate to the newly acquired Cushing property where Nancy always walked, worked, and enjoyed.

Wesley H. Osborne Jr.

Wes was the Town's tree warden for 35 years and was also its first Conservation Agent. He is fondly remembered as a gentleman who affected the lives of three generations of Norwell residents through his work protecting and planting the trees that line town streets and his leadership in building a network of walking trails.

As a Conservation Agent and in retirement, he developed walking trails near Jacobs Pond with the town's Boy Scouts and maintained them. In 2000, conservation officials dedicated the 2-mile Wes Osborne Trail at Jacobs Pond. He was also recognized by the Nature Conservancy in 1992 for helping to preserve Black Pond Bog Preserve, a 1-acre kettle hole formed by a glacier.

Acknowledgements

This plan would not have been possible without the support and leadership of many people in Norwell. Professional support was provided by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency serving the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. Funding for this project was provided by the Town of Norwell.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) continues Town of Norwell's ongoing efforts to protect natural resources, conserve open space, and provide a variety of well-maintained recreational opportunities. Norwell's previous OSRPs were completed in 1977, 1987, 1997, 2005, 2010, and 2012. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) prepared the 2021 OSRP in close partnership with the 2021 OSRP Committee composed of staff and members of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Planning Department, Water Commission, Historical Society, Pathway Committee, Athletic Fields Committee, as well as Town residents.

The 2021 OSRP establishes a 7-Year Action Plan. The goals, objectives, and actions of the Action Plan are based on data analysis, consideration of the existing conditions and needs in Norwell, and robust community engagement, including:

- 691 responses to a Town-wide survey
- 54 participants' feedback at the first virtual public forum
- 56 participants' input at the second virtual public forum

Based on the survey, it is clear that Norwell has several beloved parks and trail systems, including the Clipper Complex, the Pathway, Jacobs Pond and Trails, the Norris Reservation, and Wompatuck State Park.

Throughout the planning process, the need for greater coordination and connectivity emerged as a common theme for recreation, resource protection, and management. For example, the 2021 OSRP includes a new focus on creating a safe, convenient, and accessible network of walking and biking beyond recreational walking trails to include connections between homes, schools, and parks. Also, in terms of management, a strong culture of civic engagement has resulted in several volunteer committees in Norwell. However, volunteers and staff identified the need for greater communication and coordination between the various committees and their respective efforts.

To ensure the community's vision for open space and recreation is met, it is recommended that an OSRP Implementation Committee assemble and regularly meet to steward the 2021 OSRP. The OSRP Implementation Committee will provide strategic direction to staff, who will be primarily responsible for implementing the Action Plan. With the adoption of the 2021 OSRP, the real work begins.

2. INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Plan

Section 2 includes a statement of purpose and outlines the planning and public participation process undertaken for this OSRP. Sections 3 and 4 provide background information on the Town, including history, demographic data, development patterns, and the natural environment. This information helps to set the community and natural context for the inventory of the Town's present open spaces and recreation facilities contained in Section 5. Sections 6 through 8 identify the Town's future open space and recreation needs and outline community priorities. Finally, the detailed Action Plan in Section 9 provides a prioritized seven-year program to address the identified community needs.

In addition, a stand-alone Executive Summary with the Action Plan has been prepared for easy reference to encourage the use of the Plan in the Town's decision-making.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the 2021 Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is three-fold:

- (1) To serve as a seven-year roadmap for addressing the Town's open space and recreation needs
- (2) To ensure Norwell's eligibility for grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to acquire new land parcels for conservation and recreation purposes
- (3) To inform Norwell citizens about the Town's current open space and recreation resources so that they may be used and enjoyed to their maximum potential

As a planning document, the 2021 OSRP is designed to work in concert with Norwell's 2005 Master Plan, which describes a vision of Norwell in 2021 as "green, with a network of protected open space and regulations that promote environmentally-sound, appropriate development." The 2021 OSRP goals and objectives are consistent with other Master Plan objectives, including:

- Shaping development to be in harmony with town character and environmental constraints
- Protecting the town's natural beauty, water resources, and environmental health through a network of "green infrastructure."
- Preserving historic buildings and landscapes

The 2021 OSRP also ensures Norwell's eligibility for future land grants from the state. Norwell has benefited from state grants in the past, which have enabled the Town to purchase significant open space resources. To continue to qualify for these and other grants, the Town must have an updated and state-approved OSRP. The 2021 OSRP will meet that requirement for the next seven years.

This OSRP is not only a valuable planning document; it is an outreach and educational tool as well. It provides a wealth of information about the Town's history, regional setting, demographics, and development patterns. It offers an overview of important natural resources found in Town and a comprehensive parcel-based inventory of all lands that hold open space and recreational value. The 2021 OSRP Committee hopes that the information provided in the 2021 OSRP helps further engage Norwell citizens in advancing open space, conservation, and recreation goals.

Planning Process & Public Participation

The planning process and preparation of this OSRP was coordinated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), under the direction of, and with input from the OSRP Committee (Committee) composed of staff and members of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Planning Department, Water Commission, Historical Society, Pathway Committee, Athletic Fields Committee, and Town residents.

As a first step in the public outreach process, the OSRP Committee and MAPC developed an OSRP Survey that aimed to identify community goals and priority projects, assess community satisfaction of open space and recreation resources, and invite input on community actions to preserve open space and improve recreation facilities. The survey was primarily distributed on-line, and paper copies were available at Town Hall. The survey was distributed through the following means:

- Postcard with link to an online survey mailed to every household
- Press releases in local newspapers
- Announcements on cable TV
- Town email listservs
- Social media
- Individual outreach to nonprofits and community groups
- Individual outreach to Town Boards and Committees
- Individual outreach to members of the public who have been involved in past planning efforts

There were 691 responses to the survey, providing valuable insight into the community's open space and recreation use, goals, and needs.

The OSRP Committee hosted a virtual public forum on October 1, 2020, available through computer and phone, which 58 residents attended. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and public health concerns, an in-person forum was not possible. The purpose of the forum was to introduce the OSRP planning process, present the survey findings, and discuss the 2021 OSRP goals. In addition, participants at the forum engaged in small group discussions about the objectives of each proposed goal.

A Working Draft of the 2021 OSRP was posted on the Town website and circulated for public review on November 11, 2020. A week later, the OSRP Committee hosted a second virtual public forum on November 19, 2020, to review and discuss the Working Draft with special attention on the proposed Action Plan. The OSRP Committee conducted targeted outreach about the Working Draft and second virtual public forum to community leaders, including the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and the Council on Aging, who will play critical roles in implementing action items. Fifty-six residents attended the second forum, and several submitted written feedback which was incorporated into the final plan.

3. COMMUNITY SETTING

REGIONAL CONTEXT

- *County:* Plymouth
- *Land Area:* 21.2 square miles or 13,548 acres
- *Neighboring municipalities:* 23 miles south of Boston. Adjacent Towns include Hanover and Rockland to the west, Pembroke to the south, Marshfield to the southeast, Scituate to the east, and Hingham to the north, as shown in Map 1: Regional Context.
- *Defining natural features:* The Town's eastern boundary with Marshfield is defined by the North River, a tidal estuary that is also a state-designated Scenic River. While Norwell does not have a coastal waterfront, it is considered a "South Shore" Town and is part of the Massachusetts South Coastal Watershed.

Regional Planning

Norwell is part of the 101 municipalities in the Boston metropolitan area that are represented by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAPC works with communities through eight sub-regional organizations whose members are appointed by chief elected officials and planning boards. Figure 1 illustrates Norwell is a member of one of such eight sub-regional organizations, the South Shore Coalition (SSC), which includes the Towns of Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Marshfield, Pembroke, Rockland, Scituate, and Weymouth.

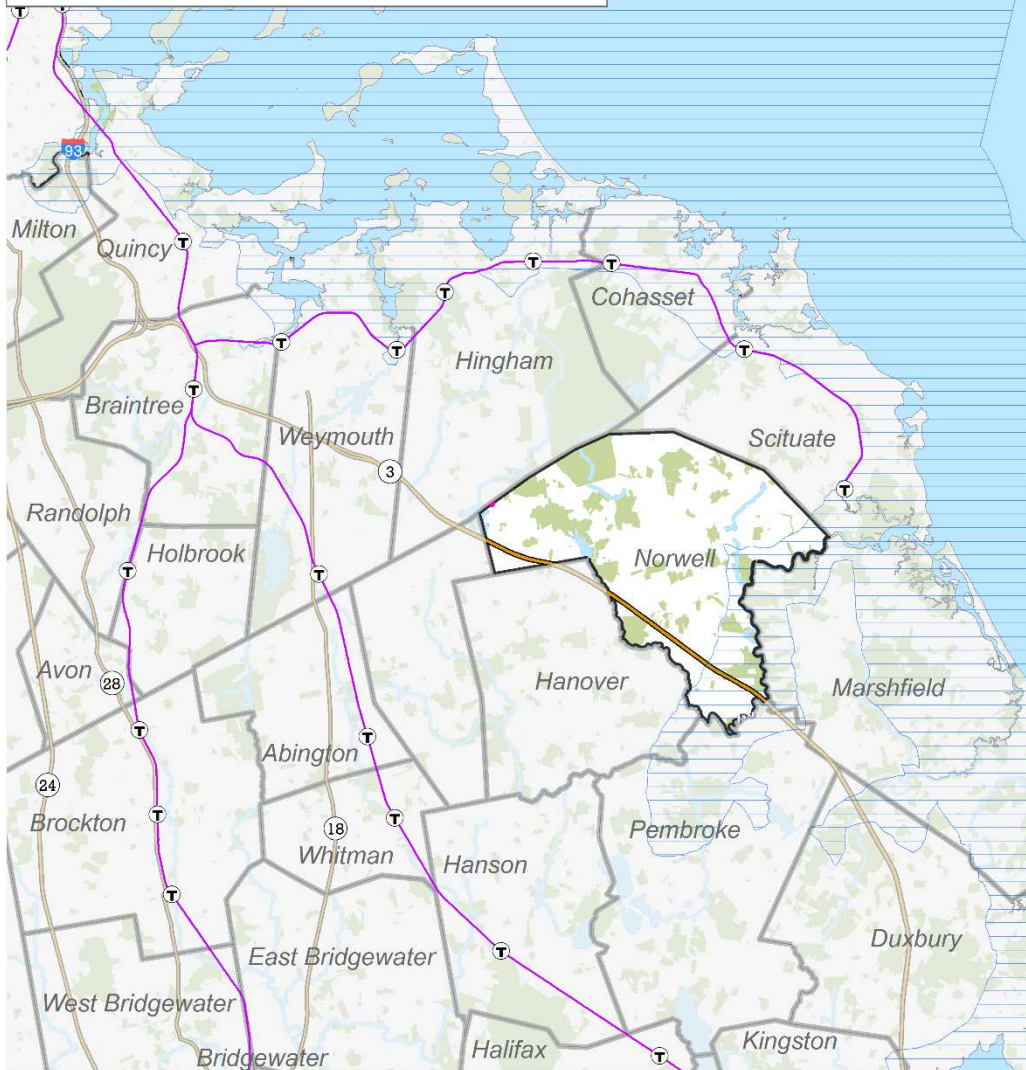


Jacobs Pond and Clipper Complex in the foreground, Image source: Karl Swenson

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 1: Regional Context



- MBTA Commuter Rail Stations
- MBTA Commuter Rail Lines
- Open Space
- Water Bodies
- Massachusetts Coastal Zone
- Major Roads
- Massachusetts Towns

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

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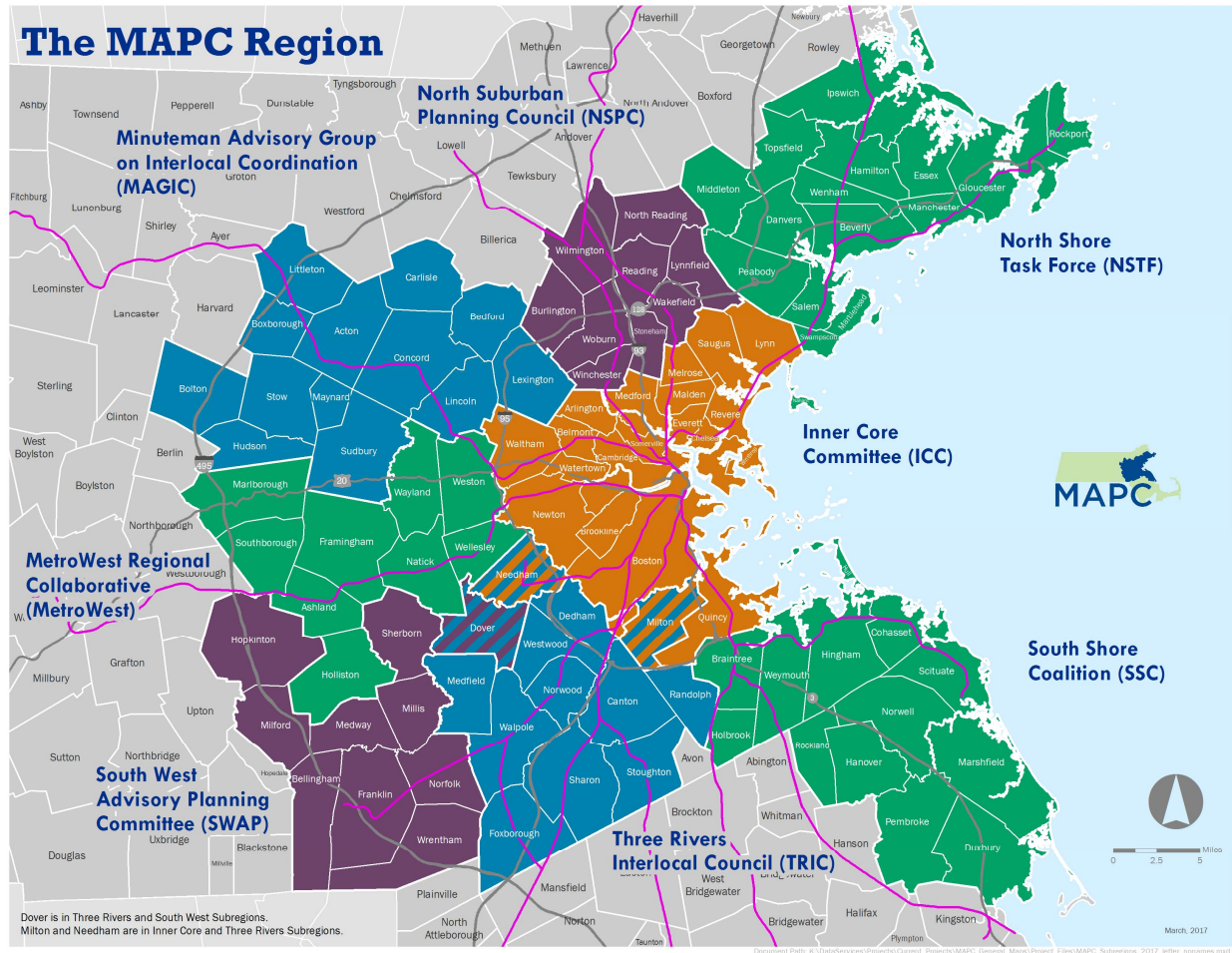
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT, Mass CZM

December 2020



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Figure 1. MAPC Region



MetroFuture is the long-term regional plan for the Boston metropolitan area.¹ The plan includes goals and objectives as well as strategies for accomplishing these goals. Some of the goals particularly relevant to Norwell’s 2021 OSRP include:

- #9 The region’s landscape will retain its distinctive green spaces and working farms.
- #10 Growth in the region will be guided by informed, inclusive, and proactive planning.
- #11 The region will be prepared for and resilient to natural disasters and climate change.
- #23 All neighborhoods will have access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth.
- #25 More residents will build regular physical activity into their daily lives.
- #31 The region’s residents—including youth, seniors, and immigrants—will be well informed and engaged in civic life and community planning.

¹ MAPC, *MetroFuture*, May 2008.

- #47 Most people will choose to walk or bike for short trips.
- #63 The ecological condition of wetlands will improve, and fewer wetlands will be lost to development.
- #64 The region will retain its biodiversity and will have healthy populations of native plants and animals, and fewer invasive species.
- #65 A robust network of protected open spaces, farms, parks, and greenways will provide wildlife habitat, ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.

It is imperative that municipal governments coordinate their efforts to identify and protect important shared resources. Many of Norwell’s ecologically valuable resources, including wildlife and waterways, extend beyond the Town’s borders. While this coordination is not always easy to accomplish, especially in New England, which prides itself on home rule governance, it is an important and necessary goal that communities actively pursue. Norwell is cognizant of this fact and has worked successfully with neighboring communities in various municipal projects in the past and will continue to do so in the future. For example, Norwell’s Conservation Agent initiated the South Shore Conservation Commission Network to increase education, awareness, and collaboration around conservation issues.

Coordinated efforts are increasingly focused on building resiliency to the effects of climate change, as communities along the South Shore are threatened by more significant inland flooding, more extreme storms, sea-level rise, high heat, and drought. The South Shore Climate Resiliency Network is a new collaboration between Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership (MassBays), the municipalities in the South Shore Coalition (as referenced above), Kingston, and Plymouth. The South Shore Climate Resiliency Network meets quarterly to share information and resources and aims to pursue regulatory changes to strengthen resiliency.

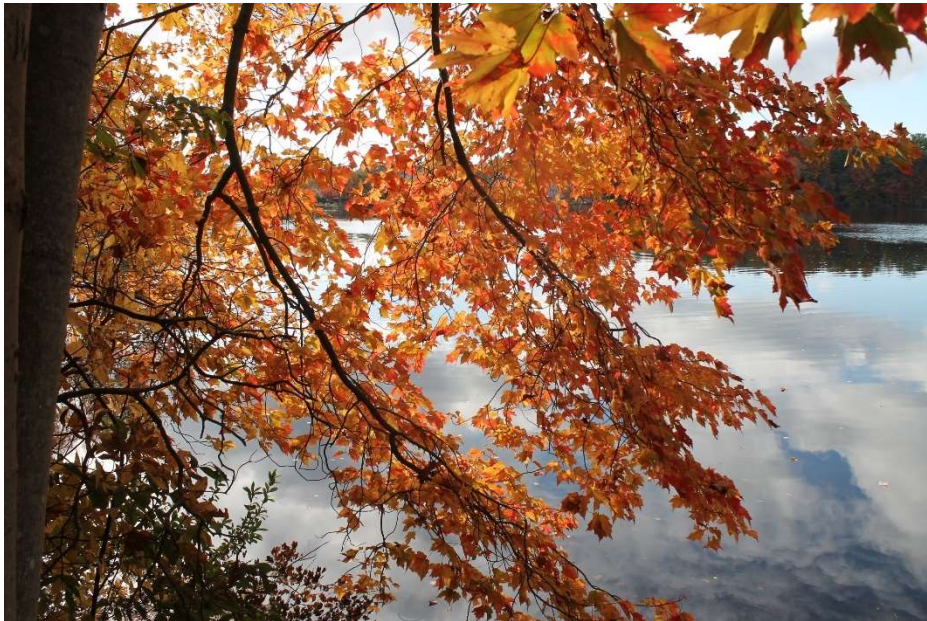


Image source: Ron Mott

HISTORY²

- Pre 1600: The history and development of Norwell has been shaped by the North River. The first inhabitants of the land, the Massachusetts tribe, lived in what is now the greater Boston area. Their territory extended across the Mystic, Charles, Neponset, Weymouth Fore, and North Rivers, which they called home for thousands of years. The Massachusetts managed the land for agriculture, hunting, fishing, and gathering of wild seeds, nuts, greens, berries, and fruits. Their settlements were mostly along the North River and in the Assinippi area. The Massachusetts spoke the same language as their native neighbors to the south, the Wampanoag.
- Early 1600's: The first European settlers arrived and introduced disease that decimated the densely populated coastal areas of the Massachusetts. With mortality rates as high as 90 percent, the Massachusetts were left vulnerable to attack from other tribes, as well as an onslaught of English colonists in the mid-1600s.
- 1634: Robert and Honor Stetson left the Scituate harbor area and settled upriver-- thus becoming the pioneer European settlers of what would become South Scituate (in 1849) and then eventually Norwell (in 1888).
- 1653: Within only 50 years of arrival of Europeans, the Indian title to the lands comprising Scituate and today's Norwell was purchased from Josiah Wompatuck, Chief of the Mattakeesets.
- 1670: The prolific shipbuilding industry in Norwell began with the establishment of the Wanton Yard. The confluence of natural materials (timber from the forests lining the river and iron from the ponds of Hanover and Pembroke upstream) made the tidal river an ideal location.
- 1675-1678: King Philip's War marked the final and unsuccessful armed attempt by Native Americans to defend their land from colonization. After the conclusion of the war, the European settlement at South Scituate began to prosper.
- 1675-1775: Shipbuilding increased, and more families settled on the North River.
- 1720's: European development began in the Assinippi area when David Jacobs of Greenbush built grist and sawmills at the boundary of Hanover and Norwell. At this time, Third Herring Brook was dammed to form Jacobs Pond. These mills operated for nearly two centuries.
- 1775-1830: Shipbuilding on the River peaked with five shipyards in operation, after which increased demand for larger ships requiring deeper water led to a decline in shipbuilding on the North River.
- 1849: 213 years after the incorporation of the Town of Scituate, the people of what is now known as Norwell voted to establish South Scituate as a separate Town.
- 1870s: The High Street area of town was home to the successful Grose Shoe Factory— one of the biggest employers in the area.

² 2012 *Norwell Open Space Plan*, unless otherwise indicated.

- 1870-1915: The Late Industrial Period saw the construction of a trolley line on Washington Street (Route 53) between Assinippi/High Street and Accord Pond in Hingham, increasing growth at Assinippi.
- 1874: The James Library in Norwell Center was dedicated after the land was donated by Israel Nash and funds donated by Josiah James and matched by numerous townspeople.
- 1888: Summer resident Henry Norwell offered the Town \$2,500 (\$68,500 in 2020 money) per year for ten years toward the roads' upkeep, and the residents voted to change the Town's name to Norwell in his honor.



Image source: Melissa Halatsis

- 1895: Thomas Gaffield offered eight acres between River and Forest Streets to be used as a town park.
- 1919: The prevalence of poultry thefts in town necessitated the presence of the state police, who first occupied a small building in Norwell Center and, in 1935, built a modern facility that still stands today.
- 1921: The Ridge Hill Grove on High Street was purchased by the Union Athletic Association and hosted numerous baseball leagues.
- 1930s: "Jacobs Lake Shores," a small-lot, residential summer community that was later winterized, was built off of Route 53 on Jacobs Pond.
- 1942: The first zoning bylaws were created for Norwell. Business districts were established in Norwell Village, Queen Anne's Corner, and on Route 53. Residential districts restricted building height, setbacks, and lot sizes—which were set at 20,000 square feet (less than 1/2 acre).
- 1947: The land court ruled that the zoning bylaws were invalid. Unrelated, Water Department established and started laying main pipes and purchasing water from Hanover in the early 1950s.
- 1948: Planning Board established.

- 1950: Zoning Board established.
- 1952: New zoning bylaws are enacted. Business District A (Norwell Center) and B (Washington Street) are created. Residential Districts are restricted to 1-acre lots or ½ acre lots with a frontage of 100 feet or more.
- 1952: The Zoning Board granted permission for 163 lots to be created on Franklin Road, off Grove Street, called Norwell Homes.
- 1953: The Subdivision Control Law (MGL c.41 §§81K-GG) is adopted.
- 1954: Recreation Commission established.
- 1958: Conservation Commission was established.
- 1961: The construction of the Southeast Expressway (Route 3) to Derby Street was completed, and plans to complete the final 11 miles to Duxbury were imminent. Norwell became less of an agricultural community and more of a commuter town.
- 1962: Saltmarsh Conservation District was established.
- 1963: Route 3 was completed between Boston and Cape Cod.
- 1964: First Recreation Director hired.
- 1965: Conservation Commission bought the first property.
- 1974: Floodplain, watershed, and wetlands protection districts were established.
- 1978: The Zoning Act (MGL c.40A) is adopted.
- 2002: The Community Preservation Act (MGL c.44B) is adopted.
- 2009: The Norwell Open Space Residential Development Bylaw is adopted.
- 2015: The Complete Streets Program (MGL c.90I) is adopted.

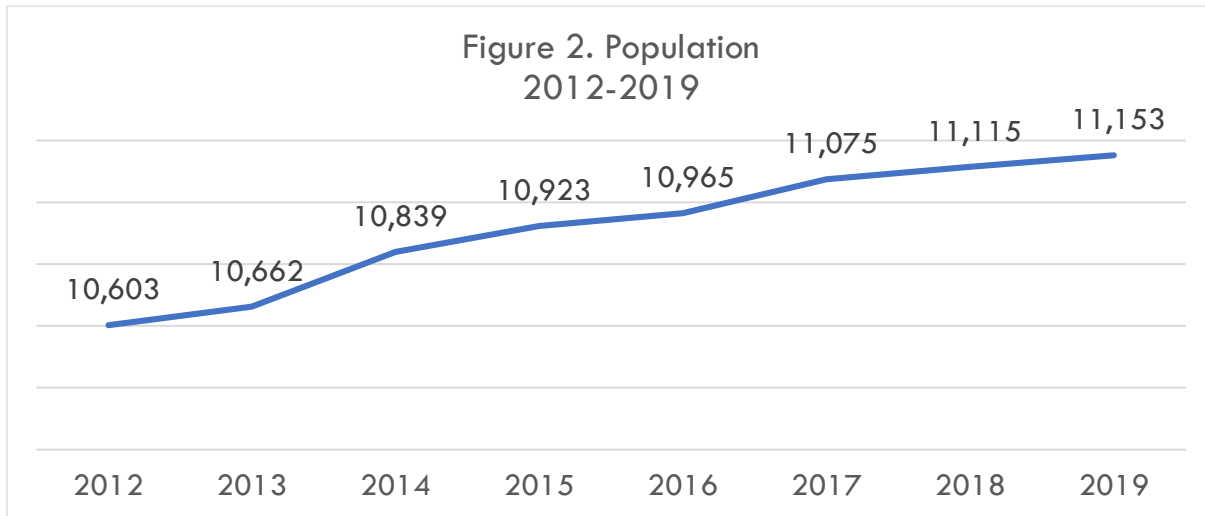


Jacobs Pond, Image source: Melissa Halatsis

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population

The population of Norwell is estimated at 11,153³ residents. Figure 2 illustrates Norwell's population growth between 2012 and 2019. Over the seven years, the population increased by about 5%; over the same time period, the population of Plymouth County grew a similar amount of 4%.



The current growth rate is modest compared to the mid-twentieth century. Table 1 illustrates Norwell's population grew rapidly between 1950 and 1970, tripling from 2,525 residents to 7,796.

Table 1. Norwell Population 1930-2019

Year	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019
Population	1,519	1,871	2,525	5,207	7,796	9,182	9,279	9,765	10,506	11,153
Percent Change		23%	34%	107%	50%	18%	1%	5%	8%	6%

Source: US Census

Population density influences demand for public outdoor parks and recreation spaces. In high-density areas, residences may lack private yard space. Typically these areas would benefit from neighborhood parks or playgrounds. In residential areas with lower density where many properties have private yards, there may be less demand for neighborhood parks and more of a demand for trails, playgrounds, and sports fields.

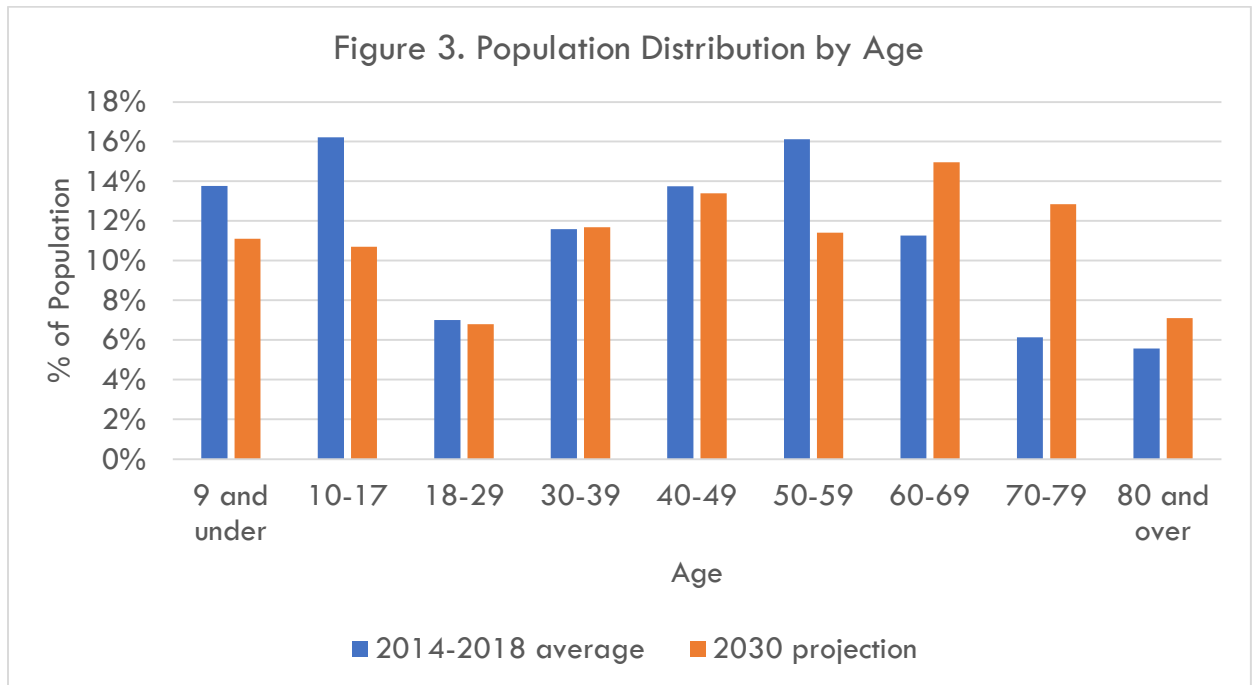
Norwell has a population density of 531 persons per square miles or 0.8 persons per acre, similar to Topsfield, Wrentham, and Pepperell. Its population density is roughly average compared to other municipalities state; however, compared to municipalities in Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Plymouth counties, comprising the greater Boston region, Norwell has a relatively low population density. Therefore, demand for public open space may be less than that in higher-density municipalities.

³ US Census Population Estimates, July 1, 2019

Demographics

- **Race:** Norwell’s population is racially homogenous—95% of residents are non-Hispanic white. About 2% of the residents are Latino, and another 2% Asian American.
- **Age:** Median age is 42.5 years, a decrease from 43.8 in 2010. Figure 3 illustrates the percentage of the population by age and the projected age distribution by 2030. There are a substantial number of young people in Norwell—28% of the population is 18 years or under, compared to 20% in Plymouth County.⁴ Twenty-three percent of Norwell residents are 60 years of age or older (same as in 2010).

However, the current age distribution is projected to shift. As is true in most municipalities in Massachusetts, Norwell’s population is getting older. Currently, 23% of Norwell residents are 60 or older.⁵ In comparison, about ten years ago, only 21% of the population was 60 or older.⁶ The senior population is projected to increase rapidly to an estimated total of 35% of the population by the year 2030.⁷ The Town should plan for this potential growth by working through the Town’s Council on Aging to examine services, recreational needs, and housing options for the elderly population. In addition, the portion of the population under 18 years is expected to decline by 2030.⁸



Sources: MAPC, *Stronger Region Projections*, 2014; US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018

⁴ US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

⁵ US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018

⁶ US Census: American Community Survey, 2005-2009

⁷ MAPC, *Stronger Region Projections*, 2014

⁸ MAPC, *Stronger Region Projections*, 2014

- *Disability:* Compared to 12% in Plymouth County, eight percent of the Norwell population has a disability, including physical, mental, and sensory disabilities. Most residents with disabilities are seniors, yet almost one in five people with a disability are youth under the age of 18. Although a relatively small portion of Norwell’s population has a disability, this updated OSRP aims to provide access and serve each Norwell resident.
- *Environmental Justice:* In 2002, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) adopted an Environmental Justice Policy to provide equal protection and meaningful participation for all Massachusetts residents with respect to environmental regulations and policies. This policy also supports equitable access to environmental assets, including parks, open space, and recreation areas.⁹ The State has identified communities that contain Environmental Justice Populations—communities with high percentages of low-income households, residents that identify as a race other than white, and households that have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English very well.

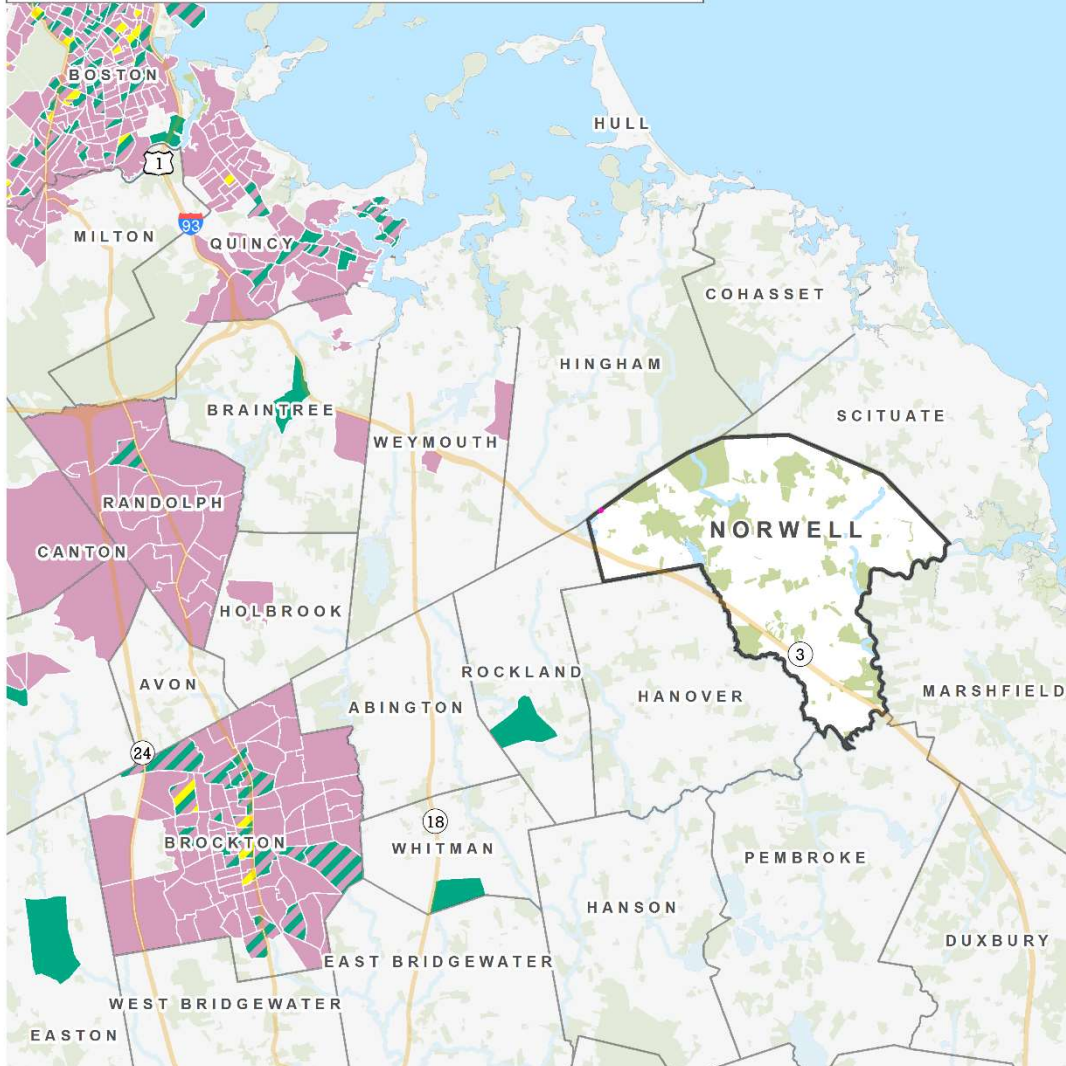
Map 2 illustrates that Norwell does not have any formally identified Environmental Justice Populations. Nonetheless, it is critical to assess the distribution of environmental benefits such as open space and parks and burdens such as polluted sites across the Town. The distribution of and access to open space and parks is further discussed in Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis under Environmental Equity.

⁹ Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. “Environmental Justice Policy”

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 2: Environmental Justice Communities



Population Meeting EJ Criteria

- English Proficiency
- Income
- Minority Population
- Income & English Proficiency
- Minority Population & English Proficiency
- Income & Minority Population
- Income, Minority Population & English Proficiency

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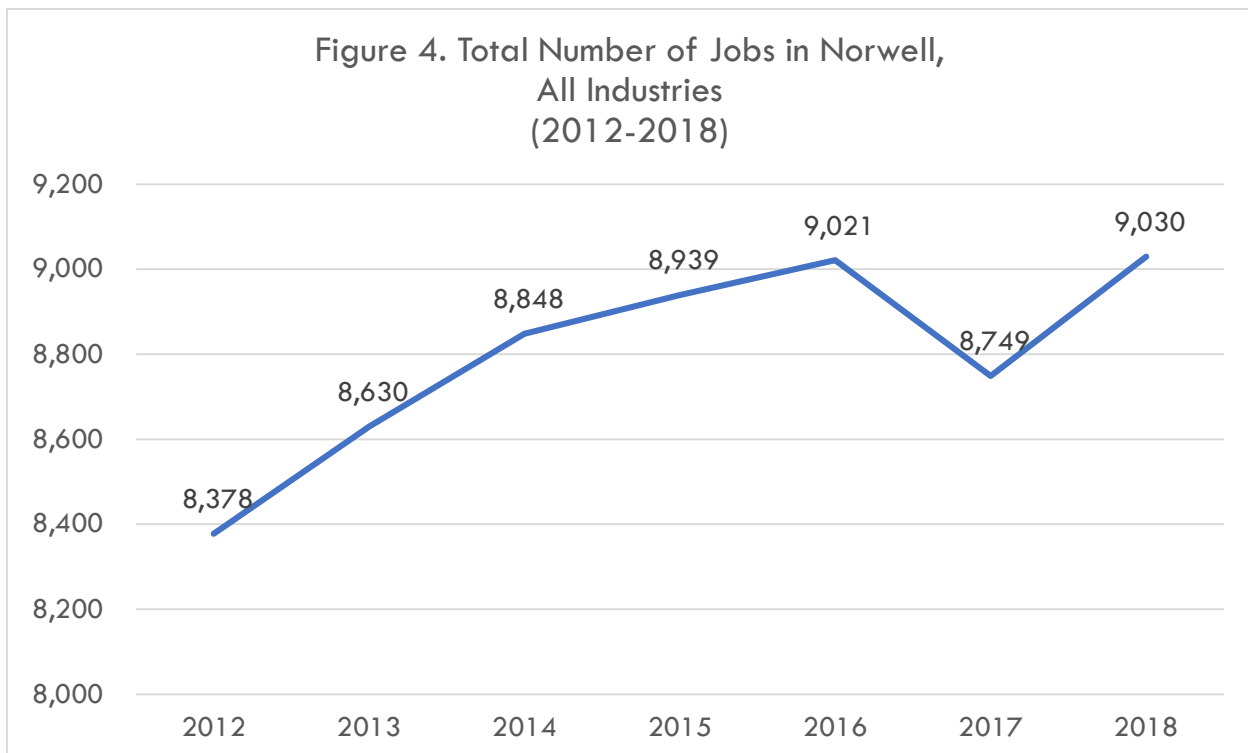
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Economy

- *Income:* Norwell is an affluent town with an annual household median income of \$151,300. In comparison, the median household income in Plymouth County during the same time was \$85,700.¹⁰ However, the number of households experiencing poverty is increasing. Approximately 10 years ago, there were between 17-145 households in poverty, and now there are between 563-995.¹¹ The definition of “poverty” depends on the household size—for example, the poverty line for a family of four is \$26,200 annual income.
- *Unemployment:* According to data showing the average between 2014-2018, the unemployment rate in Norwell is 4%.¹² The coronavirus pandemic that began in spring 2020 has dramatically impacted the economy of Massachusetts. Between March 16 and April 11, over 561,000 initial unemployment claims were filed in Massachusetts.¹³ Data on the impact of the pandemic on Norwell’s economy is not yet available.
- *Job growth:* Figure 4 illustrates the increase in the number of jobs located in Norwell. Between 2012 and 2018, the number has increased by seven percent from 8,378 to 9,030 jobs. At the same time, the number of “establishments” (i.e., employers) as well as the average wage, adjusted for inflation, has also grown. However, as stated above, the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in substantial unemployment, which would seem to suggest that the number of jobs in Norwell will likely decline.



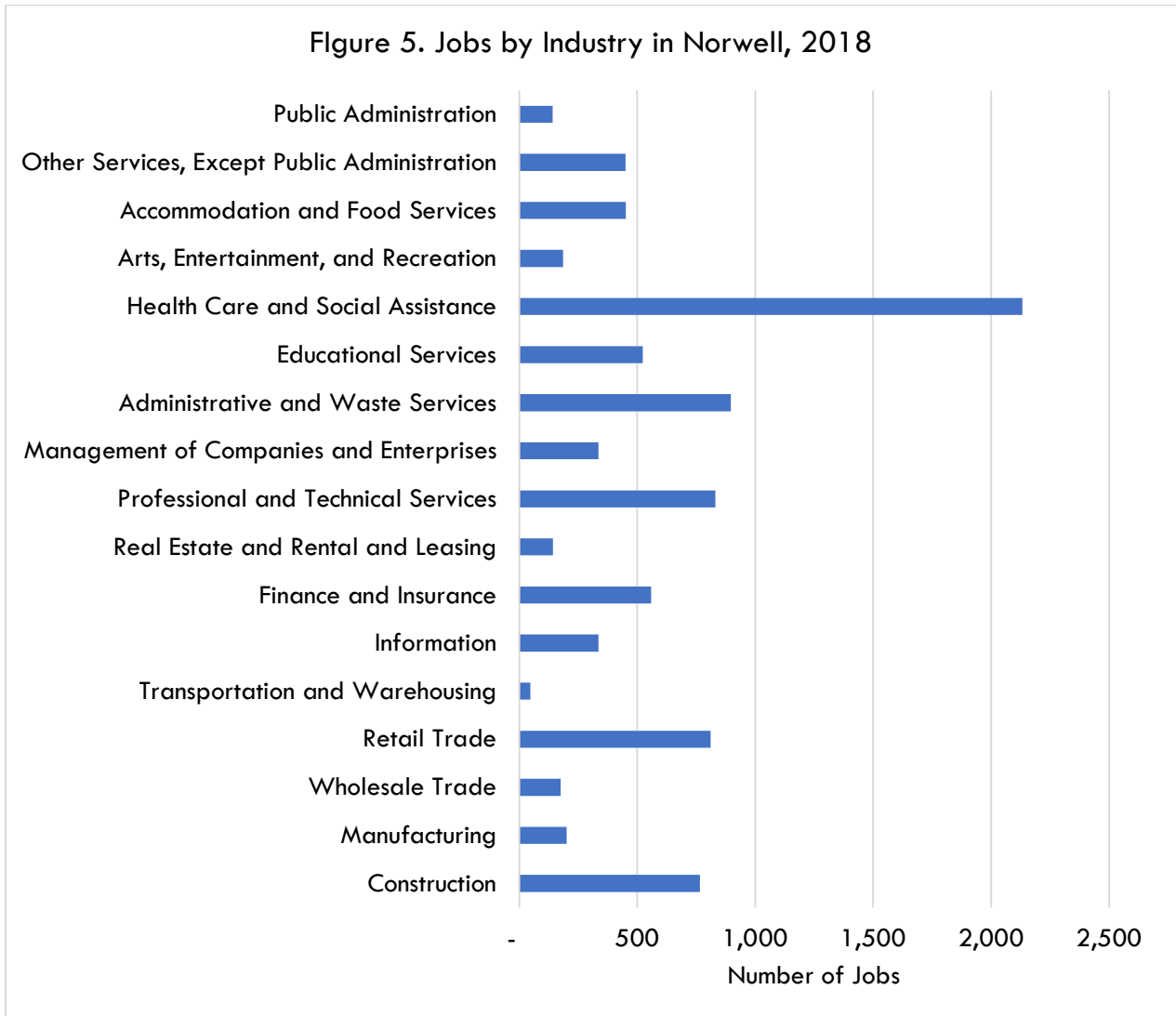
¹⁰ US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

¹¹ US Census: American Community Survey, 2005-2009.

¹² US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

¹³ MAPC, “COVID-19 Layoff Housing Gap”, 2020

- *Industry:* Health Care and Social Assistance is the dominant industry in Norwell, providing almost a quarter of the town's jobs. Figure 5 illustrates employment distribution by industry.¹⁴ The coronavirus pandemic has hit the hospitality and retail industries the hardest, thus suggesting that Norwell's jobs in other industries may be more insulated from the pandemic's economic effects.



Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, 2018

¹⁴ Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, 2018

Housing

- *Units:* 3,700 occupied housing units, including 250 renter-occupied units.¹⁵
- *Cost of housing:* The median sales price for a single-family home in Norwell in 2019 was \$639,000, an increase of 35% from 2012.¹⁶ Table 2 shows the median prices for single-family homes in Norwell from 2012-2019. A household would have to have an annual income of approximately \$160,000 to afford the typical single-family home in Norwell, almost double the median income of Plymouth County.¹⁷ Therefore, Norwell housing costs are prohibitively expensive for most residents of the County.

Table 2. Norwell Median Sales Price for Single-Family Homes, 2012-2019

Year	Median Price	% Annual Change
2012	\$ 475,000	
2013	\$ 546,250	13%
2014	\$ 500,000	-9%
2015	\$ 542,500	8%
2016	\$ 588,575	8%
2017	\$ 594,625	1%
2018	\$ 599,450	1%
2019	\$ 639,000	6%

Source: The Warren Group

There are more than 1,000 households in Norwell that are “cost-burdened” by housing (30% of the total number of households). “Cost-burdened” is defined as spending more than 30% of annual income on housing. Households that rent are particularly cost-burdened—approximately half of all households that rent in Norwell spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing.¹⁸

Without new low-cost housing options, Norwell will continue to exclude households with lower incomes and wealth and continue to stay economically homogenous. In addition, limiting housing options also perpetuates Norwell’s racial homogeneity and regional segregation. As explained in the *Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2019*, “lack of diversity in the housing stock means a lack of diversity in our communities—whether it be by income, race, ethnicity, family type, or generation.”¹⁹ This Plan considers the need for new housing and the potential to provide access to Norwell’s open space and parks to non-residents, especially those unable to become Norwell residents due to income.

¹⁵ US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018

¹⁶ The Warren Group

¹⁷ Mortgage affordability was determined based on a calculated monthly mortgage payment according to a 30-year term with a standard down payment of 5%, \$1,000 in annual homeowner’s insurance, a 4% annual interest rate, and a PMI factor of 7.5%.

¹⁸ US Census: American Community Survey, 2014-2018

¹⁹ The Boston Foundation. *The Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2019: Supply, Demand and the Challenge of Local Control*. June 2019.

- *Subsidized housing:* Approximately 100 subsidized housing units. The Commonwealth has a goal that 10% of each municipality’s units are subsidized to promote income diversity and reduce concentrations of wealth and poverty in the region.²⁰ Norwell falls far short of this goal, with about three percent of its units subsidized. The Town is working to promote the development of more affordable housing, and there are a few projects currently in the process of review.

The Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit housing entity similar to the Norwell Housing Authority, has purchased, refurbished, and sold a number of homes in Town to qualifying individuals and families. A Habitat home, once purchased, counts towards the Town’s Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI).

Additionally, there are a number of Department of Developmental Services (MassDDS) Group Homes in Town that serve the developmentally-challenged population. Each resident in a group home individually counts towards the Town’s SHI.

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Patterns and Trends

With the arrival of European settlers, shipbuilding along the North River and agriculture became the primary industries beginning in the 1600s continuing through the early 1800s (shipbuilding) and early 1900s (agriculture).²¹ As land was cleared and harvested of trees for shipbuilding, farms were developed. Hay was harvested in the salt marshes and used as animal forage. The endless web of stone walls today attests to the former layout of fields and to the previously tree-less landscape—a result of both shipbuilding and fuel needs. As shipbuilding waned, the sawmills continued, and tanneries, shoemaking, produce farming, and poultry farming was pursued. Forested areas began to rebound.

The population increased sharply during the mid-twentieth century. Roughly 73% of the homes seen in Norwell today were built over a 50-year period (1940–1990). This growth in residential homes is directly related to the construction of the Southeast Expressway, which provided highway access from Norwell and the rest of the South Shore to Boston for employment, goods, and services.

In addition, federal and state policies and programs of the early and mid-twentieth century contributed to the development of low-density, suburban growth. After World War II, the GI Bill enabled many veterans to obtain low-interest mortgages, and home building increased sharply. Many of the programs that encouraged suburban growth and homeownership exclusively benefited white households. For example, the Federal Housing Administration’s loan program explicitly discriminated against people of color by assessing credit-worthiness based on the racial composition of neighborhoods, commonly known as “redlining.” In addition, a substantial portion of white residents in Boston moved out of the city as a result of the effort to integrate the City’s schools, resulting in what is called “white flight” to suburban areas, such as Norwell.²²

Residential growth first began in the section of Town adjacent to Route 53 (Washington Street). Small houses typical of that era were built on lots as small as 7,000 square feet before residential

²⁰ In order to promote more affordable housing, the Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Law allows housing proposals to seek exemptions from local zoning and other regulations in municipalities where less than 10% of the total housing stock is affordable for low or moderate-income residents (households at or below 80% of median area)

²¹ According to some accounts, the last ship was built in Norwell in 1871.

²² The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism

zoning required minimum of one-acre lots. If the zoning had continued to allow smaller lot sizes, then the same population growth might have had less impact on the open space and natural resources of Norwell. Smaller lot sizes allow for a smaller footprint on the land, requiring less land for each new resident and less land for new roads and infrastructure. Smaller lot sizes also often require less water as lawns are smaller, and they emit fewer greenhouse gas emissions as destinations are closer to each other, allowing for residents to walk to their destinations or to take shorter automobile trips. Instead, the increase in low-density development resulted in the conversion of agricultural and forested land. The Trust for Public Lands has found that since 1950, Massachusetts has developed land at a rate six times that of its population growth.

In the past 20 years, a few subdivision projects have both included new homes and conservation of open space, as described below.

- **Donovan Farms:** Donovan Farm is a 55 years and older restricted Village Residence Development (VRD) built-in 1999 under the 55+ Village Overlay District (VOD). Developments in the VOD require a two-thirds supermajority Town Meeting vote but allow for cluster development on any parcel(s) of land within the VOD.
- **Wildcat Hill:** This 46-lot “cluster” development was the first approved and built under Norwell’s Open Space and Residential Development (OSRD) Bylaw adopted in 2009. The houses are on half-acre lots surrounded by open space.



Town Center, Image source: Karl Swenson

WILDCAT HILL

OSRD Definitive Subdivision Plan

in

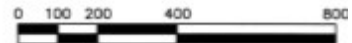
Norwell, Massachusetts



January 28, 2010
Revised April 28, 2010

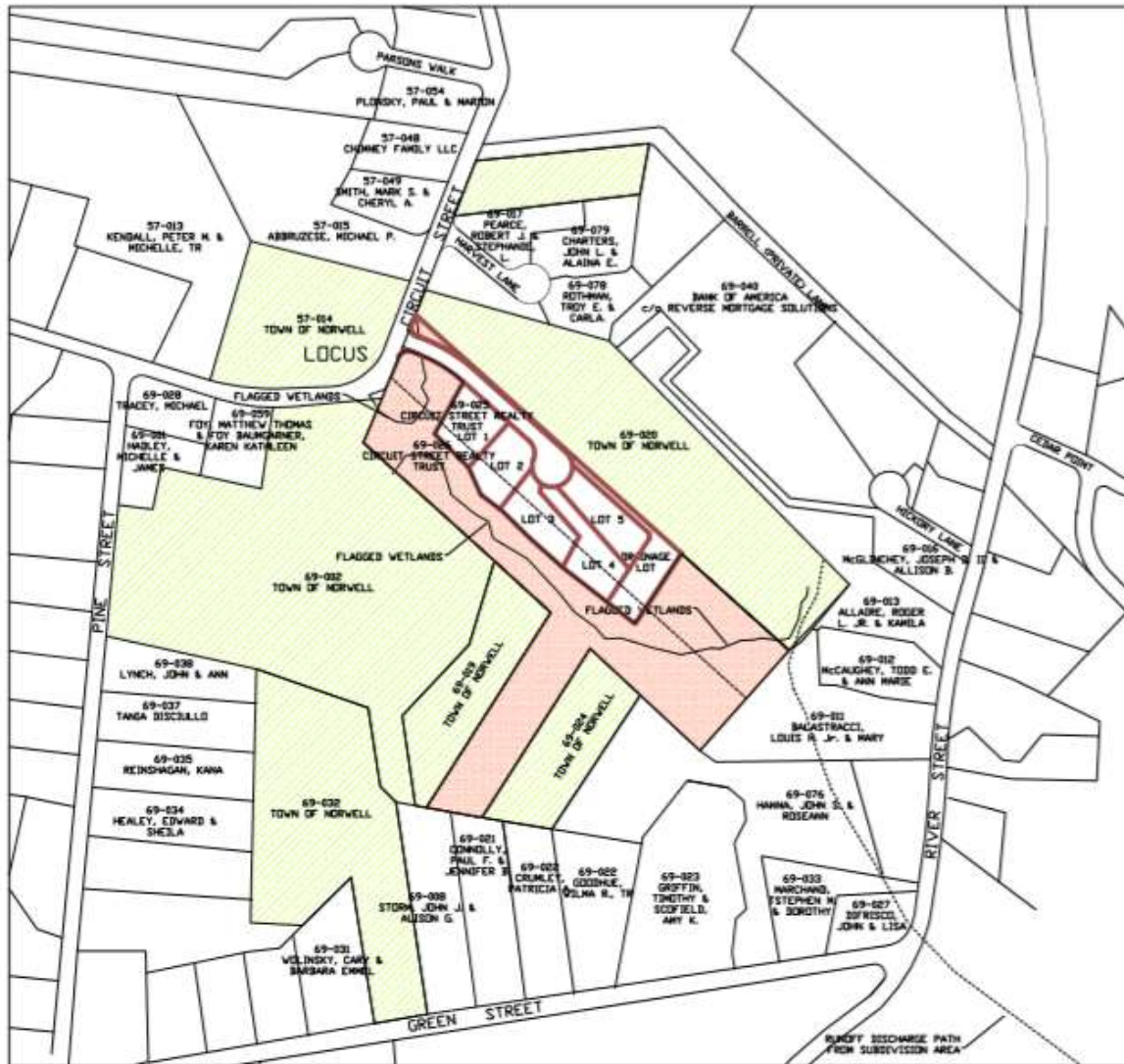
SCALE: 1" = 200'

Revised August 18, 2010
Revised October 28, 2010
Revised December 30, 2010
Revised January 13, 2011



- Hitching Post Lane: This 5-lot OSRD subdivision is under the permitting stage as of 2020. The site plan exemplifies the purpose of the OSRD Bylaw, with relatively smaller lots and large amounts of contiguous open space that is connected by a trail to the surrounding public open space and trail system.

HITCHING POST LANE- OPEN SPACE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION
DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION PLAN



Infrastructure

Municipal Groundwater Wells and Drinking Water

Norwell is served almost entirely by a municipal water system that relies on ten wells that pump groundwater after treatment into the municipal system. A few residences in Norwell are served by the Hingham and Scituate municipal systems.

All of the Norwell municipal water is disinfected with chlorine and adjusted for pH with potassium hydroxide. Treatment locations are located at Grove Street (Wells 2,3, 5 and 10), Washington Street (Wells 4, 7, and 8), South Street (Wells 1 and 6), and Bowker Street (Well 9). The wells in the South Street Wellfield are also treated to remove elevated levels of iron, manganese, and organic color.

Every year, Norwell conducts more than 1,000 water quality tests for more than 100 drinking water contaminants. The results are summarized in a Consumer Confidence Report that the Town mails to all residents every summer and is available on the Water Departments.

The Town has a permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to pump an average of 1.35 million gallons per day (mgd), with a peak day demand (usually in early June) of over 2 mgd. The system now serves nearly 3,550 residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial customers. The system pumps about 360 million gallons of water per year, resulting in an average daily demand of just less than one million gallons. Long-term systematic improvements have resulted in higher and more sustainable yields of drinking water.

The system is managed by a Superintendent who reports to an elected three-member Board of Water Commissioners. The Town by-laws empower the Board to impose water restrictions during periods of high demand. In the summer of 2020, the Commissioners instituted voluntary water restrictions due to demand that exceeded the safe removal of water from the well fields. The search for new water supplies is ongoing.

Wastewater

The Town has no municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system. Wastewater disposal is on-site, except for a few buildings located in Assinippi Industrial Park, a portion of which is tied into the Rockland Wastewater Treatment System.

Increasingly, residential developments within the Town are providing shared septic systems, innovative/alternative technology systems, and/or small on-site wastewater treatment plants for multiple residences. The on-site innovative/alternative technology systems and small wastewater treatment plants improve the resulting effluent quality.

Transportation

In 1845, the Old Colony Railroad Company built a train line from Boston to Plymouth. Usage hit an all-time high in 1911 but started to decline as service reductions were mandated during World War I to conserve fuel, equipment, and labor for the war effort. The decline in public transit service continued with competition from the automobile in the 1920s, and ultimately ended in June of 1959, coinciding with the opening of the Southeast Expressway (Route 3). However, rail access between the South Shore and Boston was restored in 2007, when the Greenbush Line was completed, with stations in bordering Scituate and Hingham, as well as Cohasset, Weymouth, Quincy, and Boston.

Due to reduced ridership and the resulting budget shortfalls during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has reduced commuter rail service and has proposed more substantial cuts for 2021. In addition, there is no public transportation available within Norwell nor paratransit service for residents with disabilities. The Council on Aging provides the only supplemental transportation/para transportation services to individuals age 60 and older or adults under age 60 with a disability. This service is limited based on municipal funding and staffing.

Historically, population growth has paralleled the Town's improved transportation infrastructure as more residents commute to jobs and opportunities outside of Town. The restoration of the commuter rail from Boston to Scituate may contribute to population growth in the area, as new residents are attracted to the convenience and climate benefits of commuter rail. The terminus of the commuter line resides in the Greenbush area of Scituate, located less than a mile from the Norwell town line, at the intersection of Routes 3A and 123. Unless new housing is built in infill (vacant parcels within previously built areas) and higher-density locations, population growth may result in loss of open space.

The bicycle infrastructure is limited. The Bicycle & Pedestrian Path (Pathway), which, when complete, will run east/west, connecting the High School to the Town Center, provides a paved, off-road bicycle and walking path. As of 2020, Phase I and II of the Pathway have been completed, extending from the High School to Gaffield Park and connecting the Middle School along the way. Phase IIIA from Gaffield Park to the Norris Reservation and Town Center is under construction. In addition, there are shared-lane markings (sharrows) along Old Oaken Bucket Road.

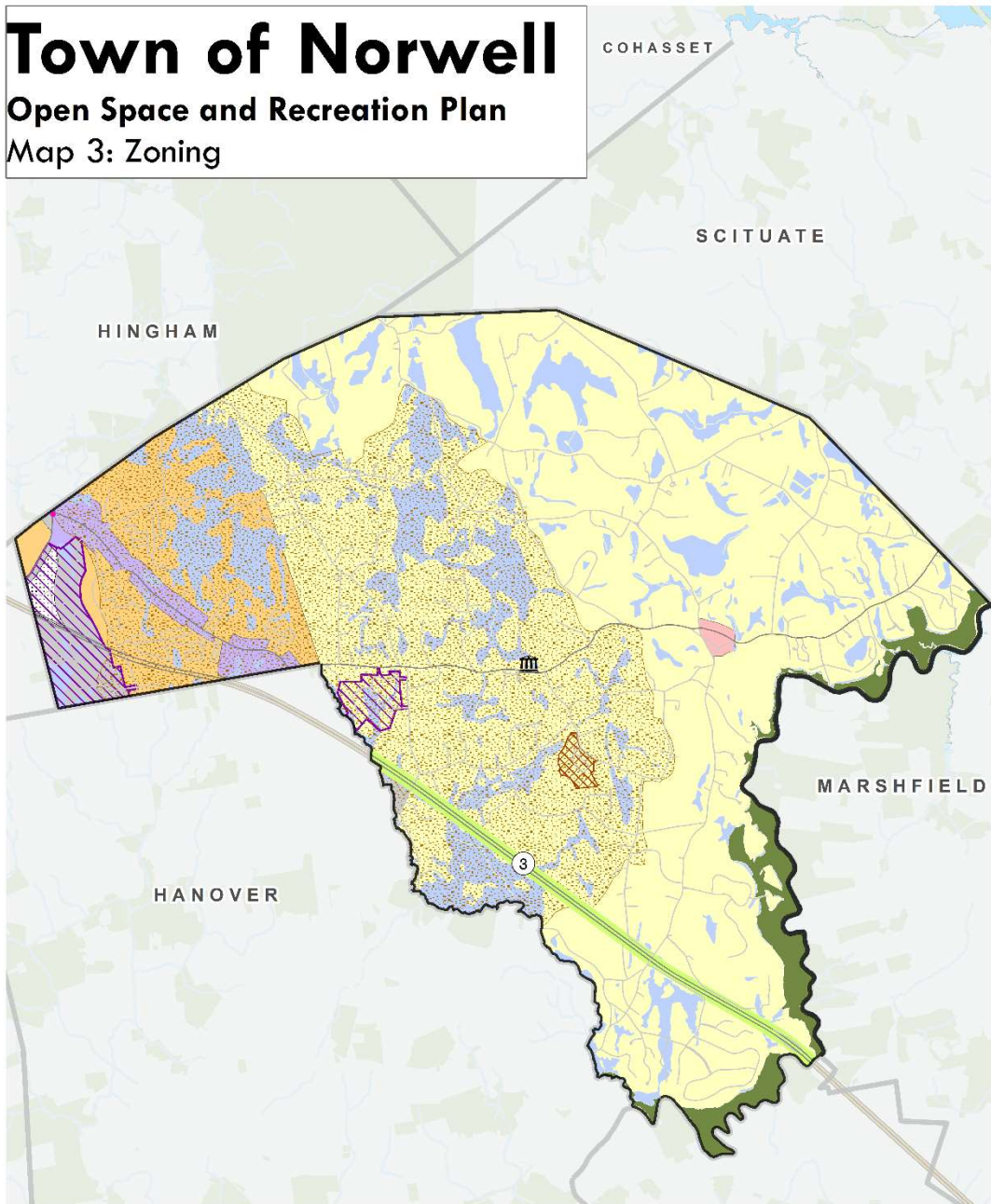
There is also an ongoing project to improve the sidewalks along Main Street from the Hanover Town line to the Town Center. Phases I and II are completed with improved sidewalks from the Town line to the Town Hall, and the final phase from the Town Hall to Town Center is in progress. The sidewalks are intended for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Most subdivisions in Town are granted a waiver to construct a sidewalk on one side of the road instead of on both sides; In return, the developer donates to the Planning Board's Pedestrian Enhancement Fund, which funds pedestrian enhancements in other areas of Town. The Complete Streets Committee has utilized most of those funds for the construction and design of the Main Street Sidewalk Project.

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 3: Zoning



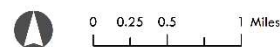
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Route
- Non-numbered route
- Route 3 Buffer Zone
- Wetlands
- Saltmarsh Conservation District
- Town Halls
- Business A
- Business B1-8
- Business C1-3
- Residence A
- Residence B
- Aquifer Protection District
- Wireless Facility Overlay District
- Village Overlay District
- Adult Entertainment Overlay District

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

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60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 | (617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

January 2021



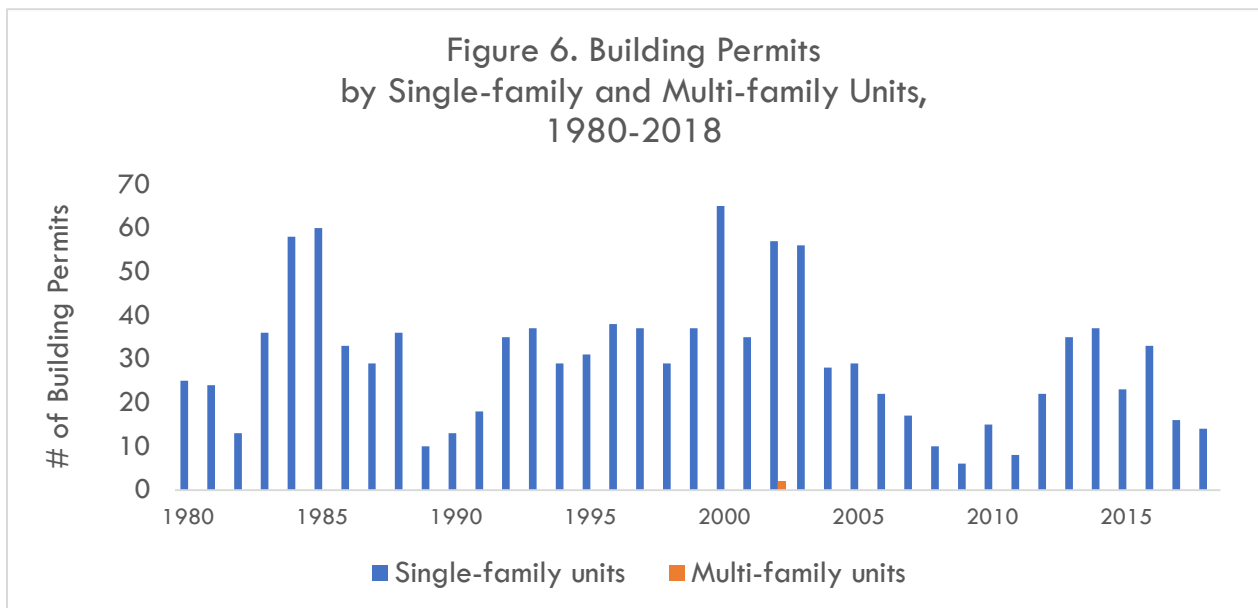
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Long Term Development Patterns

Norwell has a relatively simple zoning structure with two residential zoning districts (Residence A and B), three business districts (Business A, B and C), and seven overlay districts (Village, Aquifer, Wireless, Adult, Salt Marsh Conservation, Route 3 Buffer, and Solar²³), as shown in Map 3: Zoning. All districts have a one-acre minimum lot size, and the Town is primarily zoned for residential use.

Recent Zoning amendments include allowances for medicinal marijuana (2013) as well as medicinal and recreational marijuana cultivation, research, and development (2020); the creation of a solar overlay (2015); updated FEMA mapping (2017); increased signage (2020); stormwater MS4 compliance (2020); and the creation of the Accord Pond Park Economic Development District (2020).

Figure 6 shows the number of building permits granted each year over the past few decades in Norwell. The number of permits tracks with trends in the national economy, including a decrease in the building during the Great Recession. The figure also shows that nearly all residential development in Norwell is single-family units rather than multi-family. However, this trend may be changing with the 2018 development of 40 River Street, an 18-unit multi-family development called “Herring Brook Hill 40B,” and the approval of a couple of multi-family affordable housing projects.



Source: Census Building Permit Survey, 1980-2018

²³ The Solar overlay is not shown in Map 3: Zoning.

Table 3 lists recent and planned development projects in Norwell from 2012 to 2020.

Table 3: Recent and Planned Development Projects in Norwell (2012-2020)

Development	Type/Description	Status	Location
White Barn Village	40 residential units	Planning	South of Route 123 near the Middle School
Simon Hill Village	126 residential units	Planning	Central Norwell, near Simon Hill and the Howe Conservation Land
Hitching Post Lane OSRD	5 residential units	Planning	Central Norwell, off of Circuit Street
Anthemion Memory Care Center	60-bed memory care facility	Permitted	Western Norwell, off Cordwainer Drive
Elevated Access Center	20,000 sq. ft. marijuana manufacturing facility	Permitted	Western Norwell, off Cordwainer Drive
Old Oaken Bucket Estates	26 residential units	Permitted	Northern Norwell, north of Cross Street
Schooner Estates	9 residential units	In Construction	Southern Norwell, north of Stetson Road
Damon Farm at Queen Anne's Corner	32 residential units	In Construction	Corner of Routes 53 (Washington Street) and 228 (Pond Street)
Norwell Estates	15 residential units	In Construction	Southern Norwell, west of River Street
40 River Street Herring Brook Hill	18 senior residential units	Completed in 2018	Downtown, off of River Street
Forest Ridge	5 residential units	Completed in 2017	Northern Norwell, east of Summer Street
Wildcat Hill	46-lot residential units	Completed in 2017	South-central Norwell, off Wildcat Lane
Henry's Lane	8 residential units	Completed in 2017	Northern Norwell, off Norwell Avenue
Cowings Cove	7 residential units	Completed in 2015	Northern Norwell, east of Summer Street
South Shore Medical Center	Medical buildings and office space	Completed in 2015	Off of Route 3, in Assinippi Business Park

Source: MAPC, 2020, <massbuilds.com>

4. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

GEOLOGY, SOILS, & TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

Norwell's surficial geology was created by glacial and wind action. Glacial action and soft bedrock material are responsible for carved-out valleys that were later filled with a variety of materials, including till, clay, sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders. Now, Norwell's surficial geology is defined mostly by till or bedrock, with large areas of sand and gravel in the western portion of the Town and floodplain alluvium along the waterways. As shown in Map 4: Surficial Geology, Avalon Granite is the dominant rock type. There are a number of wetland areas that may have been historic ponds that are now characterized by many feet of peat, clay, sands, and gravel deposits. The deepest layer of these historic pond deposits discovered to date is an area of 90-foot thick materials in Old Pond Meadows, south of Route 3 and about a half-mile east of the end of South Street. The second deepest layer of deposits above bedrock is at the end of South Street near the present course of Third Herring Brook at Municipal Pumping Well No. 1, where the deposits are about 60 feet deep. In some locations, there are ledge outcrops where bedrock reaches ground elevation.

Norwell's few bedrock outcrops give a glimpse of the glacial influences that shaped this area:

1. Hoop Pole Lane directly behind Town Hall, likely the largest rock outcrop in Town
2. East Side of Damon Pond
3. Just West of Wildcat Brook on Forest Street (Diorite, mafic rock)
4. Gaffield Park
5. The far end of High School Rock Football Field (Dedham Granite)
6. The Rapids on the North River
7. The intersection of Mill and South Streets (Removed – was a Dedham Granite outcrop)
8. Tiffany Road by Third Herring Brook
9. Main Street

"Eskers", characterized by long winding ridges of stratified sand and gravel, are found in several locations in Norwell. It is believed that eskers were formed within ice-walled tunnels by streams that flowed within, above, and under glaciers as they slowed. After the retaining ice walls melted, stream deposits were left behind as long winding ridges. The esker trail around Jacobs Pond is an excellent local example of this phenomenon.

Norwell's soils are primarily a Scituate-Essex-Merrimac soil association characterized by nearly-level to gently-sloping, moderately well-drained soils formed in glacial till. Scituate soils tend to be very stony sandy loams, wet in spring and fall, and most suitable for pastureland or woodland. Essex soils also are well-drained but stonier and tend to follow the higher elevations in Town. Merrimac soils were formed in sand and gravel and are very well-drained.

These soils usually present no significant barriers to construction. However, because nearly 30% of the Town is comprised of wetlands and there are areas with pockets of boulders and other obstacles, it is often necessary to try several locations to find a suitable site for a septic system for a private residence. This often results in a need for larger lots and sometimes limits the number of lots in a subdivision.

Norwell's sloping hills are the creation of a Town-wide drumlin field leftover from the ice ages. The lowest points in Town are found along the North River (sea level), while the highest is Mt. Blue (220 ft.) and Judge's Hill (240 ft.) at the northern end of the Town. The top of both Judge's and Paradise Hills (200 ft.) are home to water standpipes that create a gravity-pressurized municipal water system. Most of the rest of the Town gently rises and falls between 75 foot and 150-foot elevations. The North River and its floodplain cut a half-mile-wide channel through this sandy plateau, leaving fairly steep 50'-100' wooded bluffs in some areas.

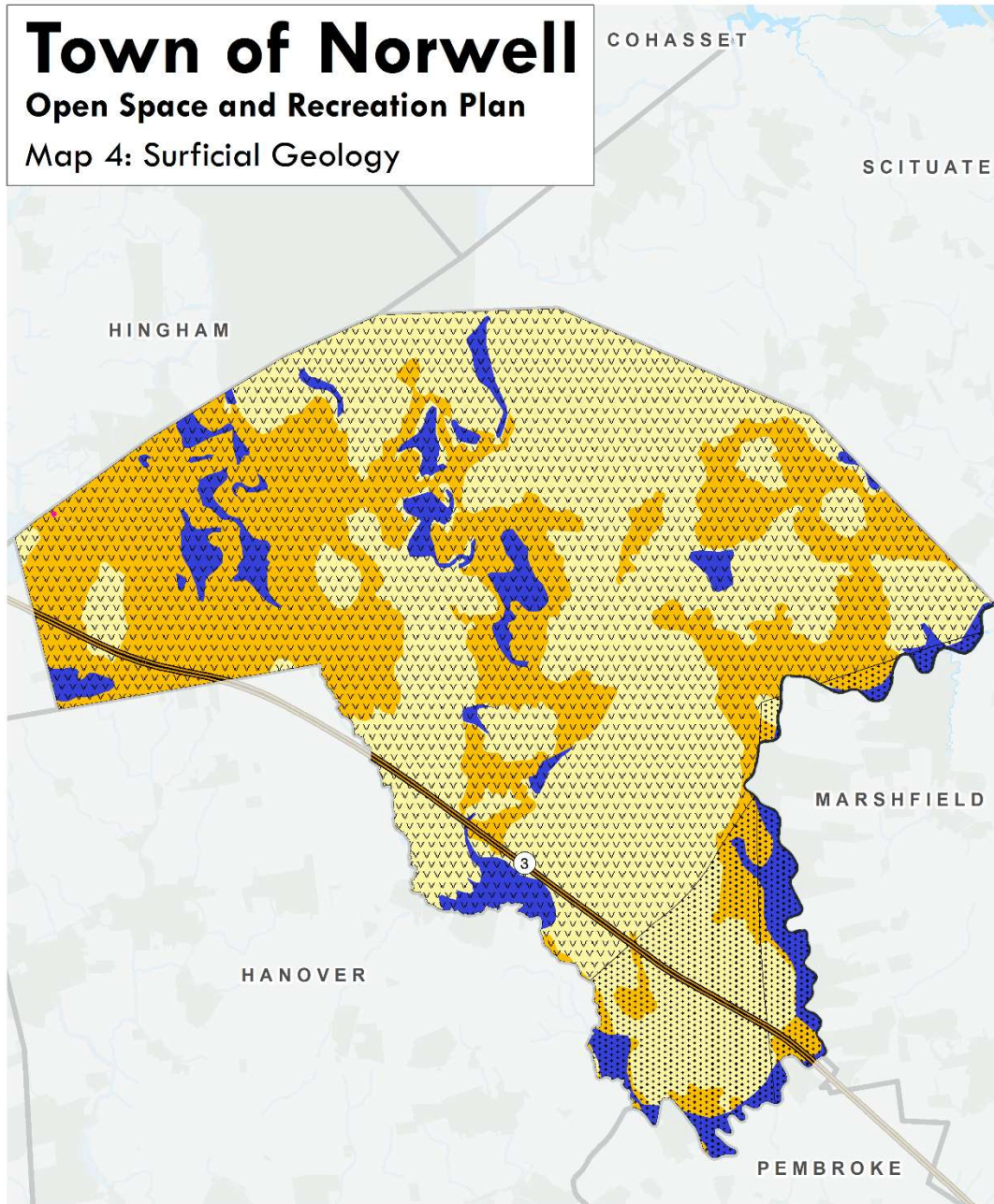


Jacobs Farm, Image source: Melissa Halatsis

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 4: Surficial Geology




— Major Roads


Rock Type

 Avalon Granite

 Narragansett Basin Sed.

Surficial Geology

 Sand and Gravel

 Till or Bedrock

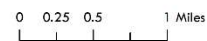
 Floodplain Alluvium

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Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

December 2020



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Landscape Character

The Town of Norwell is located in the “Southern New England Coastal Plain and Hills” region as defined by the EPA. Norwell’s landscape character is defined by scenic roadways lined with trees and stone walls. Common, treasured Town features include open fields, ponds, large wetland resource areas, and the North River. The North River forms a portion of the Town’s boundary-stretching from Scituate to Pembroke. Norwell’s landscape can be characterized as a sloping coastal plain dotted with small hills and valleys.

Norwell contains many broad, flat swamps, some of which are associated with streams and others that are isolated, including one notable wetland southeast of the intersection of Grove and Prospect Streets that is completely isolated from any other surface waters. Surface and subsurface hydrology and flow direction are significant factors that impact land use as well as resource areas.

WATER RESOURCES

Watersheds

Roughly 30% of the Town’s area is comprised of water and wetlands. Norwell is part of the Massachusetts South Coastal Watersheds. More specifically, the Town lies in two major watershed basins: the Weir River in the north, and the North River Basin for the remainder and majority of the Town, as shown in Map 5a: Water Resources. The following lists the watershed sub-basins and significant surface water bodies found in Norwell:

- Accord Pond along Norwell’s west border flows into the Weir River Basin to the north.
- Jacobs Pond (Upper Third Herring Brook) drains into the Third Herring Brook to the south and ultimately the North River to the southeast.
- Wildcat Brook watershed includes, from west to east, Wildcat Creek, Margaret’s Brook (just east of the Town Offices), and Wildcat Brook, all flowing into Third Herring Brook.
- Upper Second Herring Brook flows south into the North River Basin at the Norris Reservation.
- Stony Brook at the easterly end of Norwell flows southeasterly into the North River.
- First Herring Brook at the northeast portion of Norwell flows south and then easterly into the tidal Herring River before merging into the North River estuary in Scituate.
- The North River Basin which includes the creeks and streams along River Street, including Dwelley’s Creek, Copeland Tannery Brook, and the un-named stream that crosses Lantern Lane and Tiffany Road before flowing into the Third Herring Brook at Tack Factory Pond.

Under the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the area within 200 feet of the mean annual high water line of a permanently flowing river is designated as “Riverfront Area” and afforded special protection as a resource area (rather than a buffer zone). In addition to having jurisdiction over various wetlands and 100-year floodplain, the Norwell Conservation Commission also has jurisdiction over any project proposed in the 200-foot Riverfront Area. Further, the Norwell [Town](#)

[Code §61.3\(B\)](#) affords a 50-foot no-disturb zone around jurisdictional wetlands, vernal pools, and perennial rivers and streams.

The upper reaches of streams, or headwaters, are essential habitats for the food chain base within aquatic systems. These areas can also provide high species diversity, which is a measure of system health.

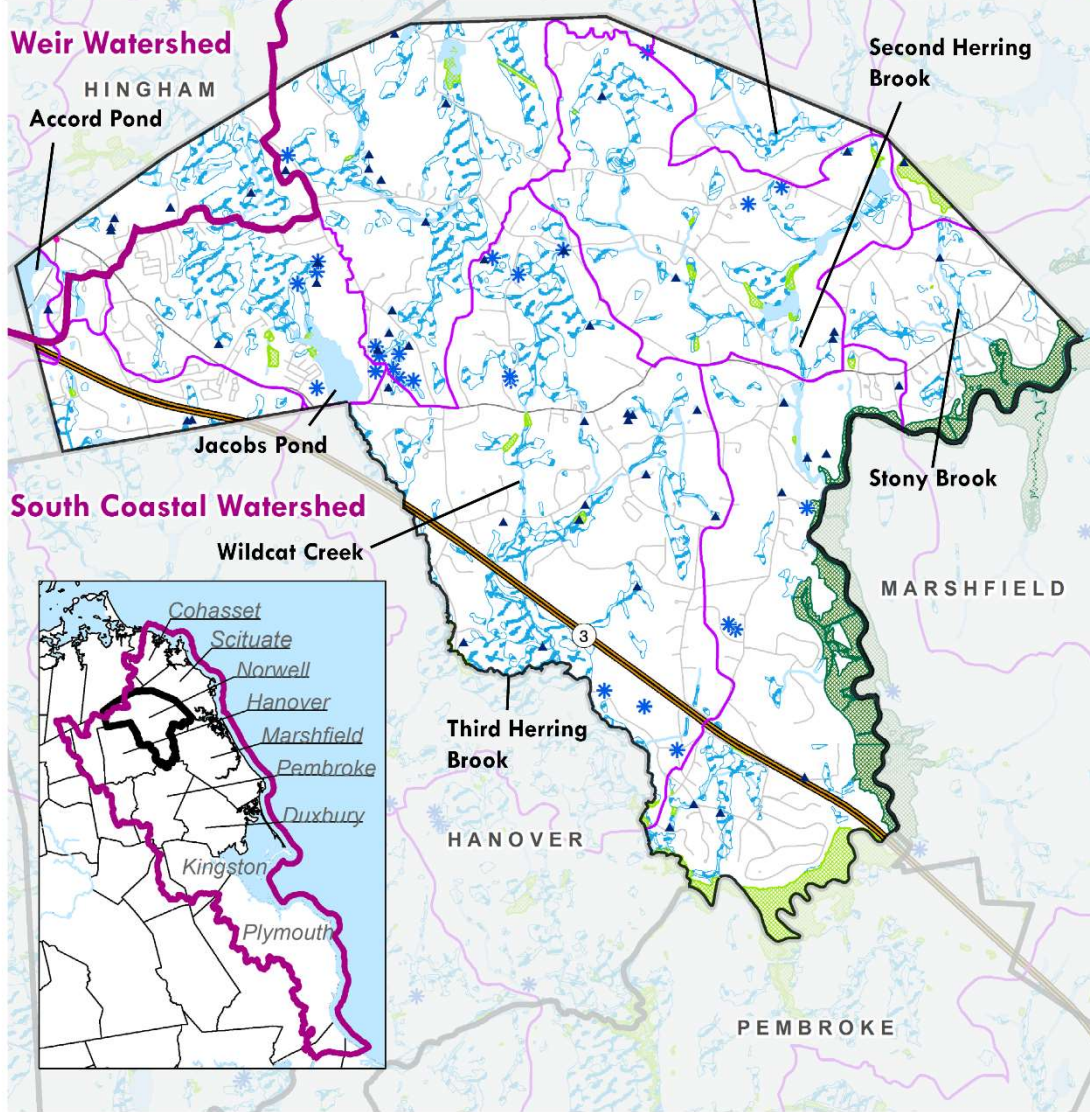


Cliff Prentis Bridge, Image source: Marynel Wahl

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 5a: Water Resources



- Major Watersheds
- Sub-basins
- * Certified Vernal Pools
- ▲ Potential Vernal Pools
- National Wetlands Inventory**
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Lake; Freshwater Pond
- Rivers and Streams

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Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

December 2020



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Ponds

Norwell has one natural pond, Black Pond, identified as a kettle hole. There are 13 man-made ponds of varying sizes throughout Norwell that were primarily built for saw and grist mills in the 1700's and 1800s. None of the ponds are suitable for swimming, but many are used as fishing spots, for ice-skating, and some for non-motorized boating. The most notable ponds include:

- Jacobs Pond, a man-made recreational pond used for fishing, canoeing, and skating and historically also used for swimming, located between Washington Street (Route 53) and Jacobs Lane, is the Town's largest and most visible pond with more than 50 acres. Although Jacobs Pond was listed on the 1998 Massachusetts DEP 303d list of impaired waterways due to "noxious aquatic plants," it has since been removed and is now identified as "Category 4B".²⁴
- Hatch Pond, which connects to Cole School and contains trails, observation platforms, benches, and outdoor classroom areas.
- Accord Pond is located partially in Norwell, and the water rights belong to Hingham.
- Bound Brook Pond (aka Stockbridge Pond) is a significant resource to wildlife, especially waterfowl. It also provides skating, fishing, and other recreational values. It, too is plagued by noxious weeds and poor water quality.
- Torrey's Pond off of Mill Lane, a man-made pond from the damming of Second Herring Brook and a popular skating location.

Eutrophication, which is a very slow process when naturally occurring, taking 5,000 to 10,000 years in kettle holes, has resulted in the conversion of a number of kettle holes to swamps. The bulk of this conversion has occurred more recently within the last 100-200 years. The increased density of houses and other impervious surfaces can expedite eutrophication due to associated nutrients entering the waters in runoff containing fertilizers.

The Black Pond Bog property was purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1962 as its first purchase in the Commonwealth due to its unique features and surrounding habitats. The flows from the Pond and wetlands complex reach the Second Herring Brook just below Torrey Pond.

The North River

The North River is a tidal estuary that comprises most of the Town's eastern border and is one of the South Shore's most scenic and historically significant attractions. An estuary is a river that is heavily influenced by the tides and has both fresh and saltwater features. The headwaters of the River are in Pembroke, and the River and/or its tributaries pass through Hanson, Pembroke, Hanover, Marshfield, Norwell, and Scituate before emptying into the ocean between 3rd and 4th Cliffs in Scituate. Many different habitat types are found in and around the North River estuary, including shallow open waters, freshwater tidal marsh (one of three in Massachusetts), salt marshes, mud flats, wooded swamps, and even a freshwater Wild Rice stand. The North River is a unique natural resource and, as such, is afforded special protection as the Commonwealth's only Scenic River to date.

²⁴ Category 4b is reserved for waters impaired by one or more pollutants that are expected to attain their designated uses without TMDL implementation

In May of 1977, the North and South Rivers were designated as a National Natural Landmark (NNL) by the Secretary of the Interior. Under the NNL program, the North and South Rivers are described as “classic examples of drowned river mouth estuaries, supporting at least 45 species of fish and many species of birds . . . the site contains salt marsh, brackish marsh, and freshwater marsh areas.” The NNL Program encourages and supports the preservation of sites that illustrate the geological and ecological history of the United States, thus strengthening an appreciation of America’s natural heritage.

The North River is the only “Scenic River” in eastern Massachusetts, protected as such under the 1978 Scenic Rivers Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 21, s.17B). The North River Commission was established that same year to enforce protection of the River with authority to regulate such actions as development and vegetative cutting within a 300-foot corridor of the River’s natural banks. The Commission is comprised of representatives from each of the six Towns that abut the River, including Norwell. Recent financial concerns at the North River Commission budget could have a serious effect on the North River corridor, limiting the Commission’s review of the development and the potential impacts on scenic values and habitat.

Aquifer Protection

Norwell relies solely on groundwater for its municipal water system. As a result, actions occurring on lands above the groundwater aquifers must be monitored closely. The Town owns or controls a 400-foot diameter around each of its drinking water wells, called Zone A, as shown on Map 5b: Water Resources. There are strict limitations on land use activities within these Zones due to the potential for contamination. Zone B is the theoretical area from which the wells draw water under drought conditions, and Zone C is the area that contributes surface water to the Zone II soils under drought conditions.

The Town has mapped these zones into a series of Aquifer Protection Overlay Districts to assist with appropriate development. These zones outline the most sensitive areas for groundwater and surface water pollution in Norwell. The aquifer areas are composed mainly of sands and gravels that can allow pollutants to travel quickly to groundwater resources. The deepest public well in operation in 2020, Well #10, is about 60 feet; Well #11 expected to be put into operation in another decade, will be about 90 feet deep. The aquifer or groundwater protection zones are shown on Map 5b: Water Resources.

The Town has also taken the step of identifying contributory areas to the Town of Scituate Municipal Wells and surface water supply and the Town of Cohasset’s Surface Water Supply. One of Norwell’s Overlay districts in the eastern portion of Town protects the Town of Scituate well fields. Conversely, the Town of Scituate owns 28 acres off First Parish Road in Norwell for surface water protection purposes.

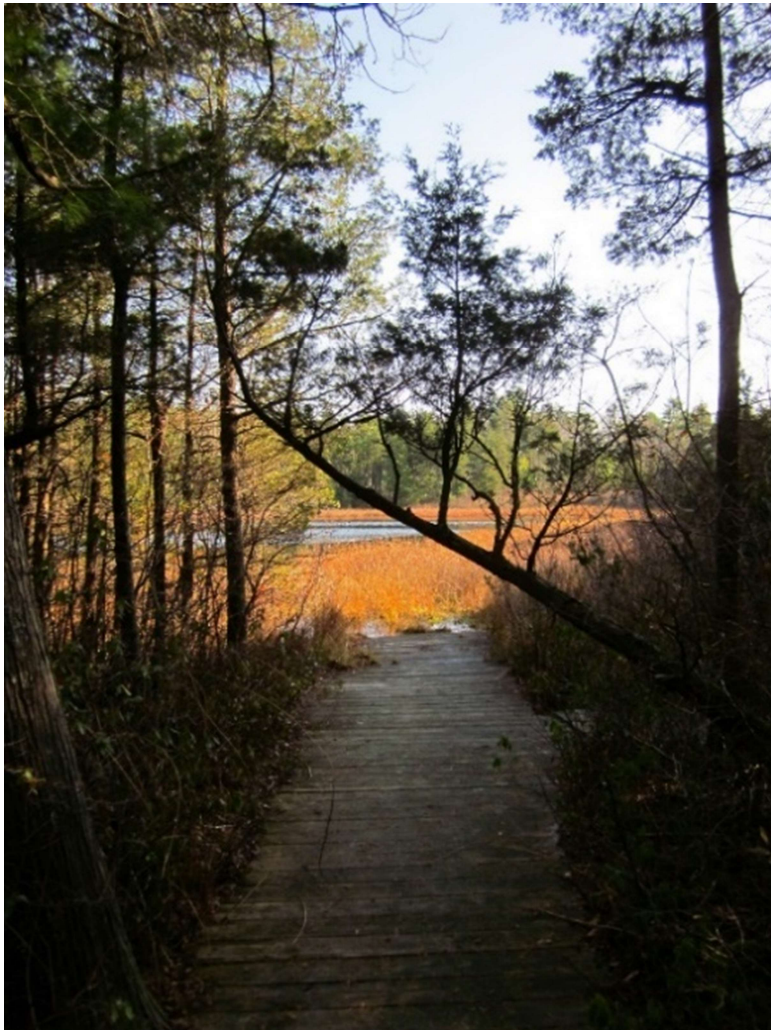
The Weir River Watershed

Norwell’s Grove Street wellfield lies entirely within the Weir River watershed. Municipal pumping wells 2, 3, 5, and 10 currently supply more than 30% of the drinking water in Norwell. Wise management of the water and wetland resources along Accord Brook by both Norwell and Hingham is an important component of conserving the resources while continuing to use the groundwater from these wells. Pumping Well Number 2 has the best quality water in Norwell, similar to the Mount Blue spring within Wompatuck State Park.

Norwell Flood Hazard Areas

Map 5b: Water Resources delineates the location of the 100-year floodplain (shown as “1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard”) and 500-year floodplain (shown as “0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard”) in Norwell. These flood hazard areas are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) based on historical flooding. There is a small amount of 500-year floodplain in the northeast portion of Norwell along the First Herring Brook. The 100-year floodplain extends along the North River along the eastern edge of Norwell, Wildcat Brook in southern Norwell, within Wompatuck State Park in northern Norwell, and in northwestern Norwell.

The FEMA floodplains do not account for the projected change in precipitation patterns due to climate change. Analyzing more recent flood events can help inform planning and preparation for future flooding. For example, scientists suggest that the rainfall and flooding that occurred in March 2010 will become increasingly common. The March 2010 event was so severe that 87 properties in Norwell received flood insurance or disaster assistance. Map 5b: Water Resources shows the location of flood claims from March 2010, which are primarily located in northwestern Norwell along Route 53.

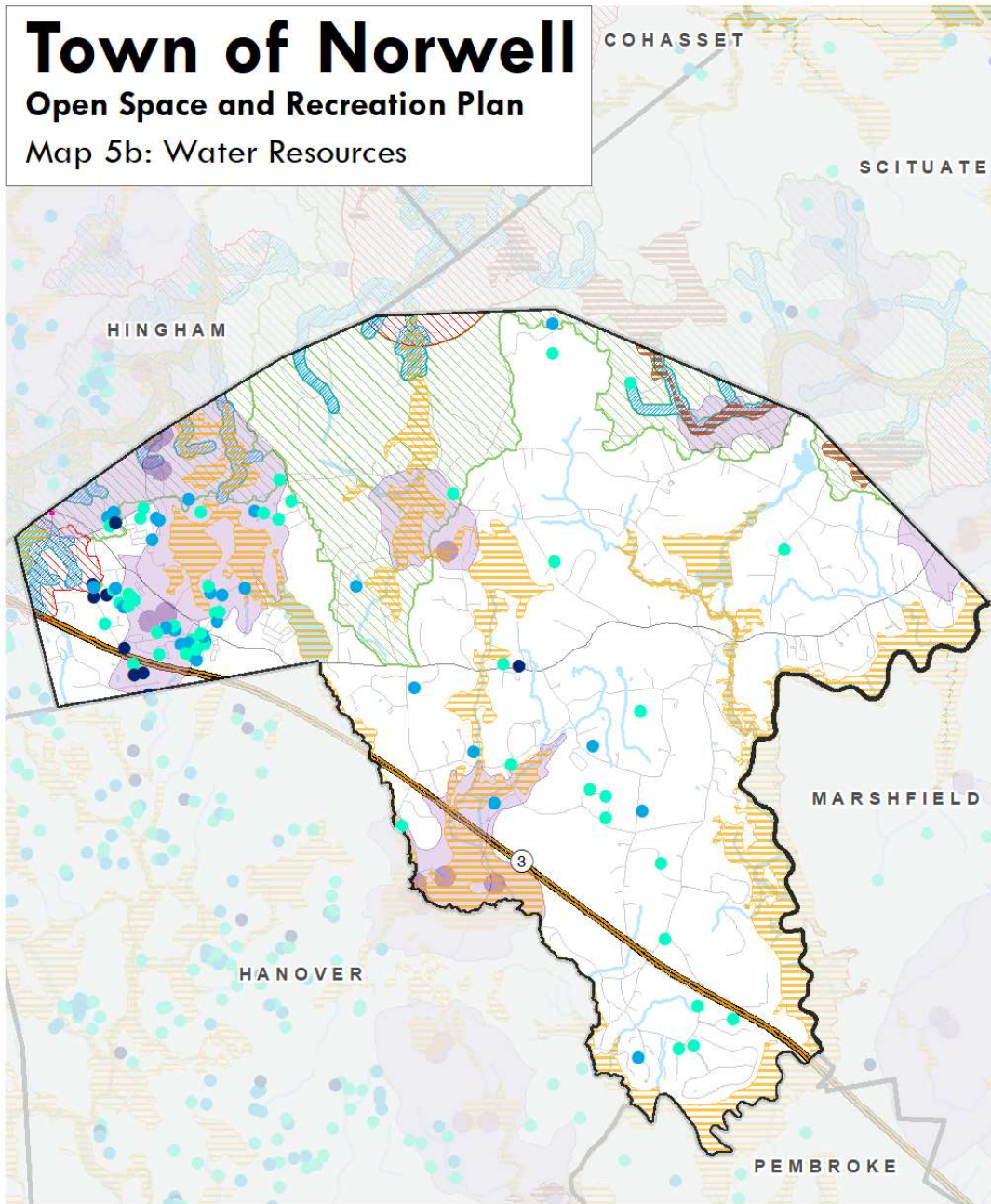


Black Pond Bog, Image source: Colleen Kissell

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 5b: Water Resources



FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer
 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding

Surface Water Protection Area
 ZONE A
 ZONE B
 ZONE C

Ground Water Protection
 DEP Approved Zone II
 DEP Approved Zone I

Rivers and Streams
 Lakes and Ponds

**March 2010 Flood Claims*
 Lowest Floor Flood Depth**

0 to 3 inches
 4 inches to 1 foot
 1 foot plus

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council
 60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 | (617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

December 2020

*Locations enlarged to comply with federal privacy requirements.



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Wetlands

Wetlands, including marshes, swamps, and bogs, serve a number of vital roles in both the natural and built environments. First, wetlands are highly productive systems and provide important habitats for many species of wildlife. They also act as “sponges,” absorbing and detaining surface waters. In this latter role, wetlands are critical to maintaining the quantity of water supplies by maintaining relatively stable groundwater levels. They also protect water quality by filtering out pollutants and thereby reducing the contamination of streams, lakes, and groundwater. Wetlands also prevent downstream damage from flooding.

Because of the important roles played by wetlands, it is essential that they be protected. Activities that create impervious surfaces result in increased runoff rates, reduced flood storage, and elevated peak flows, leading to more significant damage from storms. Alteration of wetlands reduces wildlife habitat and plant diversity and can increase contamination of streams, rivers, and ponds due to reduced filtration of pollutants.

Under the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L., Ch. 131, sec. 40), wetlands are defined in terms of vegetative cover and hydrological indicators (including soil characteristics), and the Act regulates dredging, filling or altering areas within 100 feet of such wetlands. Additionally, the Wetlands Protection Act also regulates activities in the previously-described Riverfront Area, as well as within other resource areas, in order to contribute to eight interests: 1) protection of public and private water supply; 2) protection of groundwater supply; 3) flood control; 4) storm damage prevention; 5) prevention of pollution; 6) protection of land containing shellfish; 7) protection of fisheries; and 8) protection of wildlife habitat. Under Massachusetts law, local Conservation Commissions are responsible for implementing the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act. In addition, Norwell passed its own Wetlands Protection bylaw (Article XVI-a) that further protects natural resources. In particular, the Town’s bylaw establishes a 50-foot buffer zone around wetlands in which new construction is prohibited.

Map 5a: Water Resources included previously herein illustrates the locations of wetlands in Town. Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetlands are found throughout Town, especially in the northern and central portions of Norwell. Estuarine and Marine Wetlands extend along the North River on the eastern edge. Lastly, the main Tidal Freshwater Emergent Wetland is located at the southern tip of Norwell, although a few others can be found throughout the Town.

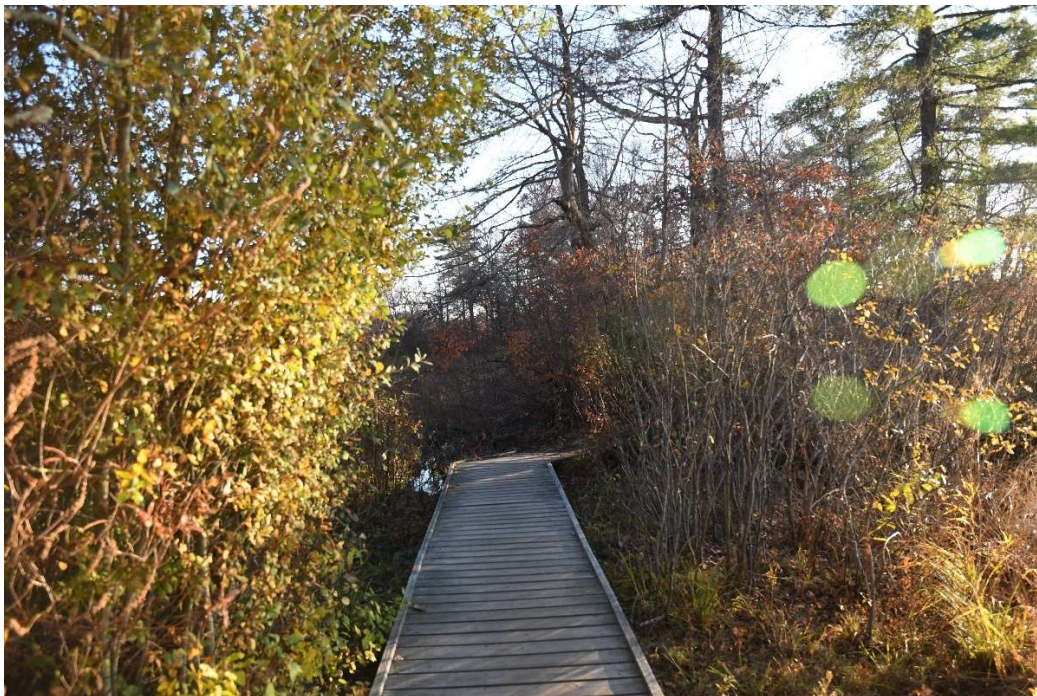
VEGETATION

Freshwater resources and the tidal influence of the North River have helped create diverse natural communities in Norwell. There are extensive, intact fresh and saltwater marshes along the North River. White pine, red maple, and various oak trees, including red, black, and white oak, are the predominant upland tree species. Groves of beech and clusters of holly trees reaching 30 to 40 feet are also prevalent. One significant grove of tall holly trees exists on private land off of Hoop Pole Lane. Red maples, black tupelo, and sweet pepperbush are commonly found in the lowland and swampy areas.

Core & Priority Habitat

Massachusetts BioMap2 is a statewide map produced by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) with funding from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), and is designed to guide the protection of the state's biodiversity. The map itself represents the areas that are the most viable exemplary natural communities and habitat for rare plant and animal species and depicts the surrounding landscape that buffers and connects habitat areas. Map 6: Wildlife Habitat illustrates the Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes, according to BioMap2 in Norwell. Core habitat is found along the North River at the eastern edge of Norwell, around Wildcat Brook in southwestern Norwell, and in Wompatuck State Forest Park and Cuffee Hill in the northern portion of Norwell. Critical Natural Landscapes surround the areas of Core Habitat.

In addition, the NHESP identifies priority habitats representing the geographic extent of the habitat of state-listed rare species based on observations documented within the last 25 years. The priority habitats in Norwell are located in the eastern part of the town, as shown in Map 6. In these areas, proposed projects or activities must be reviewed by the NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations. Areas delineated as Priority Habitats can include wetlands, uplands, and marine habitats.

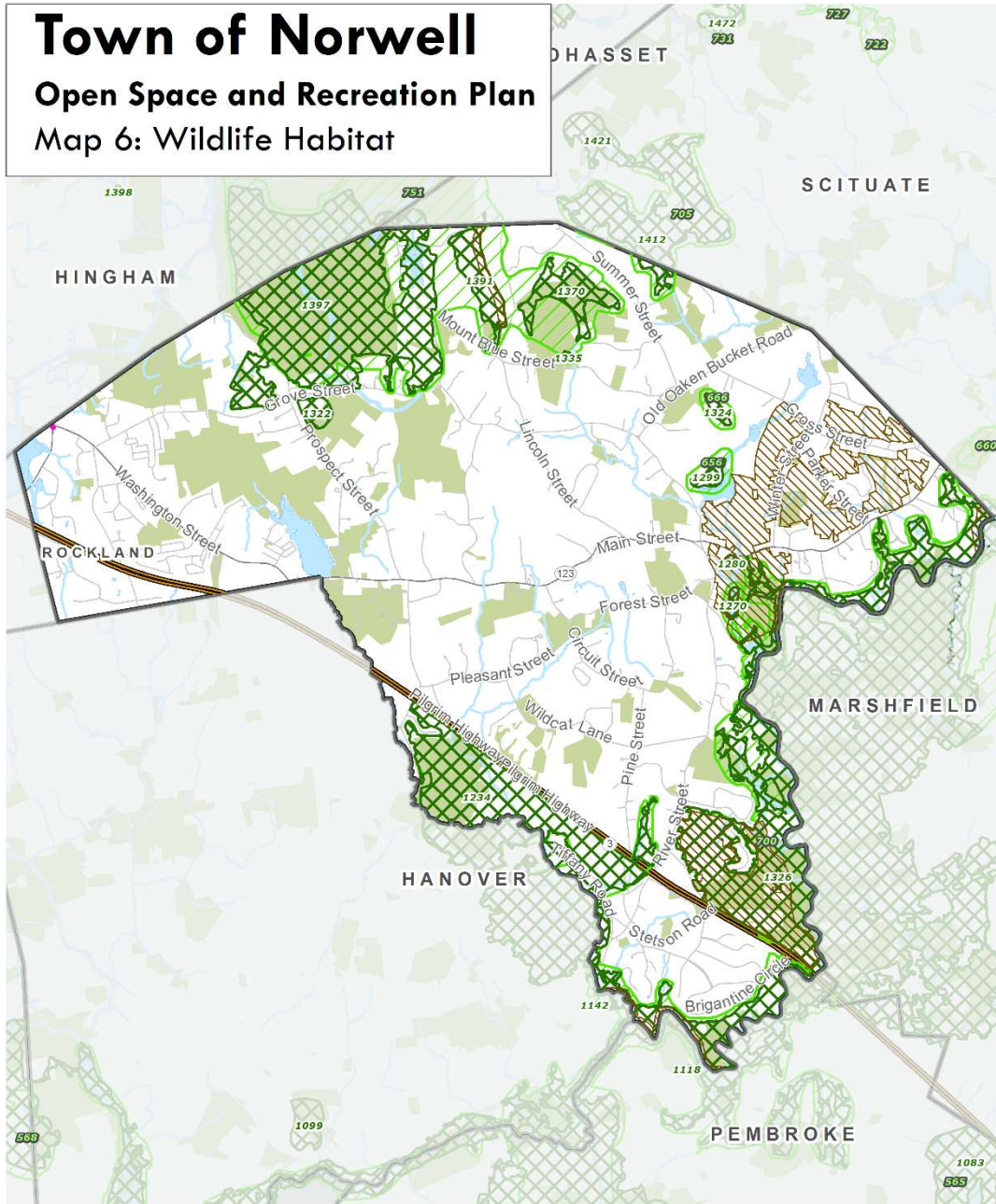







Jacobs Pond, Image source: Melissa Halatsis

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 6: Wildlife Habitat



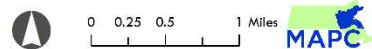
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  All Open Space

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

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December 2020



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Forest Lands

The total area of Norwell is 21.2 square miles of which approximately 0.3 square miles is open water and approximately 20.9 square miles is land. Forested land occurs throughout the Town but is a patchy mosaic interspersed and broken by large developments, open water, and farmland. However, Norwell is fortunate to have some areas of large, uninterrupted, and protected woodland. Wompatuck State Park is situated in Norwell, Hingham, and Cohasset and has 3,467 acres of undeveloped land; 537 of those acres lie in Norwell. Wompatuck State Park contains many diverse natural communities, including Successional White Pine Forest and many different types of wetlands. Almost half of the Norwell portion of Wompatuck State Park is considered an Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife by the NHESP.

The Cuffee Hill and Judges Hill/Black Pond Bog complex provides approximately 277 acres of contiguous, undeveloped, and protected open space. This entire open space area is valuable because of its position in the landscape. It is situated at some of the highest elevations in Norwell and is therefore valuable for sub-watershed protection, and it also protects Core Habitat.

The majority of the forests on conservation lands are comprised of mature state trees approaching the century mark. These forests are primarily in an unmanaged state resulting in dense white pine areas with no understory. This combination frequently leads to the death of the forest. A long-term, comprehensive forest management plan is a priority action item for the Town.

Notably, Norwell is home to the Super Maple, a large-diameter maple. The Super Sugar Maple on Judges Hill is more than six feet in diameter.

Agricultural Lands and Open Fields

Agricultural lands contribute both scenic and wildlife values to a community. As Norwell has become more and more residential, much of the farmland has been sold to development. There are still some active farms in Norwell today that farm hay and a variety of produce. Others maintain farm animals such as sheep, cows, alpacas, chickens, goats, and horses. Many species of wildlife find the resources they need for all or part of their lifecycle on agricultural lands, including cranberry bogs, where migratory birds and ducks stopover in the open reservoirs, spotted turtles have been known to estivate on the bottom, frogs inhabit the channels and adjacent ponds, and raptors perch on the surrounding tree canopy. Other animals, such as white-tailed deer and foxes, will often use cranberry bog reservoirs for a water source.

The Hornstra Farm (formerly Loring Farm) on Prospect Street is the largest active farm in Town. This idyllic farm property is roughly 71 acres and was farmed for more than 240 years by the Loring Family. In 1980, Mr. Loring sold the development rights to his property to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Town of Norwell to provide protection in perpetuity under Norwell's first Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), and one of the first APRs written by the Commonwealth. In 2010, Norwell acquired an additional Conservation Restriction on the remaining 2.4 acres with Community Preservation Act funds, which ensures that no part of the land can be used for anything except an active farm. The character and historical significance of this charming farm echo the importance of farms to our local community in earlier days. Hornstra Farm is known for its high-quality ice cream and is a destination in Norwell for visitors and locals. Only a few dairy farms remain in Plymouth County, where once scores of such farms supplied food for local residents and summer visitors.

There are not many remaining areas of open meadows or fields in Town. In addition to the cranberry bogs, the Donovan Farms on Pleasant Street, the Cushing Fields on Main Street, Fresh Meadow (an old hay field), and Jacobs Farm on Jacobs Lane and Main Street are the major areas of open land. Some of these areas are already protected in perpetuity, while others are in some type of conservation restriction. See Chapter 5 for more details.



Image source: Ron Mott

Public Shade Trees

Massachusetts regulations define public shade trees as all trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof, including trees planted by the tree warden (or a private organization acting with the written consent of the tree warden) for the purpose of improving, protecting, shading, or ornamenting the public way. Norwell has a Tree Warden whose responsibilities are primarily maintenance and responses to calls and complaints, including keeping brush and growth down on Town roadsides, drainage areas, culverts, and rights-of-way.

Upland Communities

The following upland natural communities are located in Norwell. The state listed index of rarity is given beside each natural community, and classifications are primarily found in “Classification of Natural Communities of Massachusetts” by Swain and Kearsley, 2020. This Classification system assigns an alpha-numeric reference to natural communities based upon the rarity of the community. Those natural communities that are considered rare are listed as S1 on the continuum and those considered secure are listed as S5. Discussions with local naturalists Fred Saint-Ours Jr. and Steve Ivas helped to identify locations where these types of communities occur in Norwell.

Oak/Hickory Forest (S4) Oak-Hickory Forest is defined as a hardwood forest dominated by a mixture of oaks with hickories mixed in at lower densities. The subcanopy can include hop hornbeam (*Ostrya americana*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*). This is a broadly defined and variable forest type. The Norris Reservation contains examples of this natural community.

White Pine-Oak Forest (S5) White Pine-Oak Forests are comprised of a mixed dominance of oaks and white pine in the canopy and dominate the upland forests of Norwell. This natural community usually has a prominent heath shrub layer, with low bush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*). The White Pine-Oak Forest is probably the most common natural community in Norwell and the area in general. Good examples can be found on the Town-owned Stetson Meadows property.

Successional White Pine Forest (S5) Successional White Pine Forest is defined as old-field (several decades) with a white pine overstore and other non-dominating co-occurring species. Other co-occurring species include white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The shrub layer varies from sparse to thick and usually contains elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and sometimes non-native species such as buckthorn, honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose. This community can also be found throughout Norwell.

Cultural Grassland (No state ranking) Cultural Grasslands are open communities created and maintained by humans that generally occur on sand or other droughty, low nutrient soils. They are important for the conservation of grassland bird communities. Donovan and Cushing Fields, owned by the NCC, and Jacobs Farm, owned by the Town, are good examples of cultural grasslands. Hilltop Meadow, an upland area on Pine Street behind the soccer fields that was the former Town landfill, provides habitat to a surprising diversity of wildflowers, red-tail hawks, saw-whet owls, Eastern meadowlarks, and migratory dragonflies.

Wetland Communities

The following wetland natural communities are located in Norwell. These natural communities are referenced using the same alpha-numeric system used for Upland Communities following “Classification of Natural Communities of Massachusetts” by Swain and Kearsley, 2001. The complete NHESP description is available for each rare and unique natural community in Appendix J, Helpful Links Associated with Land Conservation and Recreation.

Freshwater Tidal Marsh (S1) Freshwater tidal marshes are defined as “Typically 5 or fewer occurrences, very few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream especially vulnerable to extirpation in Massachusetts for other reasons.” Freshwater Tidal Marshes occur along free-flowing coastal rivers in the upper reaches of tidal influence and are comprised of mixed herbaceous marsh species. Dominant species include blue joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), sedges (*Carex stricta*), narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), and sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*). All efforts should be made to maintain the protection of this fragile and rare habitat.

Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (S2) The most significant area of the Atlantic White Cedar swamp that is found in Norwell probably does not match the natural community description by Swain and Kearsley. In Norwell, vegetation compositions matching this description typically occur in small pockets within larger hardwood/conifer wetlands. Old Pond Meadows might contain one of

the only state-recognized examples of Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp in town. The area contains a 3-5 acre stand of Atlantic White Cedar. Jacobs Pond, Bound Brook Pond, and Black Pond Bog also contain small pockets of Atlantic White Cedar.

Acidic Shrub Fen (S3) Acidic Shrub Fens are acidic peatlands dominated by mostly deciduous shrubs. They are less acidic and nutrient-poor than level bogs. In the eastern part of the state, they are usually found along wet pond margins. Black Pond Bog is often considered a very good example of this type of natural community. However, the best examples in Norwell are Valley Swamp, sections of Jacobs Pond, and segments of the Second Herring Brook as it runs through the Norris Reservation.

Level Bog (S3) Level bogs are acidic dwarf ericaceous shrub peatlands, typically with pronounced hummock-hollow topography. They are the most acidic and nutrient-poor of Massachusetts' peatland communities. Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) is dominant with a typical mix of rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), and bog laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*). The NHESP identifies Black Pond Bog as a Level Bog.

Emergent Marsh (S4) Both Deep Emergent Marshes and Shallow Emergent Marshes (both S4) occur along the North River in Norwell. It is difficult to separate these two natural communities, and according to the DEP Wetlands Inventory 1:5000 data layer, Norwell has both types of communities.

Wet Meadow (S4) A Wet Meadow is defined as a graminoid emergent marsh that is temporarily flooded. Repeated disturbances such as mowing keep this habitat open. Tussock-forming sedges are often dominant. An excellent example of a wet meadow is the Third Herring Brook valley below South Street as it enters Hanover.

Hemlock Hardwood Swamps (S4) Hemlock Hardwood Swamps occur in poorly drained basins in bedrock and till and are found typically throughout the central and western portions of the state. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is the dominant canopy species but is associated with holly, white pine (*Pinus strobus*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*). Shrubs form in canopy gaps between the dense conifers and hardwoods. Commonly associated shrubs include alders (*Alnus* spp.), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*). The ground layer is hummocky and covered with various moss species. Black Pond Brook, north of the power line, contains an excellent example of a Hemlock Hardwood Swamp. More recently, the hemlock woody adelgid has affected the hemlock forest resulting in a decline of large tracts of hemlock.

Red Maple Swamp (S5) Red Maple Swamps are the most common forested wetland in Norwell, as well as in Massachusetts. Red maple swamps are highly variable and occur in a variety of physical settings. Red maple is strongly dominant in the canopy overstory with co-occurrence of a variety of species, which may include yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*). The shrub story is often dense and well-developed (<50% cover but can be variable).

Red Maple swamps can be important vernal pool habitats in areas where there are two to three months of ponding and an absence of fish. Examples of Red Maple Swamp natural communities in Norwell include the wetlands along both sides of Bowker Street and the Miller Woods Conservation Area's swamps.

Shrub Swamp (S5) Shrub swamps are highly variable communities that are shrub-dominated and occur on mineral or mucky mineral soils that are seasonally or temporarily flooded. Norwell has a number of good examples of this natural community, including Dead Swamp, Hoop Pole Swamp, and portions of Bound Brook Pond.

Vernal Pools Generally, a vernal pool can be defined as a depression where water is confined and persists during the spring and early summer of most years, and specific species depend on the ephemeral water body for all or part of their lifecycles, and where fish do not survive.²⁵ Vernal pools often occur in fall as well but do not generate the same attention as the spring pools. In Massachusetts, vernal pools vary widely in size, shape, depth, and other characteristics. Wood frogs (*Hyla versicolor*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), and fairy shrimp (*Eubranchipus spp.*) are obligate vernal pool species, meaning they depend on vernal pool habitat to complete all or a portion of their lifecycle. All except the marbled salamander have been identified in Norwell. The marbled salamander is a State-listed Threatened species and has not been confirmed in Norwell or Hingham.²⁶ It should be noted that Massachusetts is at the far northern reach of the habitat range for the marbled salamander. It is prolific in many southern states.

Vernal Pools and the area within 100 feet of the pool are considered a habitat feature under the Wetlands Protection Act. When certified, they are also considered an Outstanding Resource Water and protected by the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards and 401 Water Quality Certification regulations.

Many vernal pool species utilize the pools for breeding and then migrate significant distances to uplands for the remainder of the year. Access by species reliant on vernal pools can be negatively impacted through the segmentation of their travel routes by development. Some towns including Norwell, have adopted by-laws providing greater protection for the habitat surrounding vernal pools. Map 6a: Water Resources shows the certified and potential vernal pools in Norwell, which are mostly clustered to the east of Jacobs Pond. There are also several potential vernal pools in the northwestern portion of town, as well as in central Norwell, south of Main Street.



Pitcher plants, Image source: Melissa Halatsis

²⁵ Burne, 2000

²⁶ Massachusetts List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species, 2012

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species

The rare vegetation species identified and confirmed by NHESP in Norwell are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Rare Vegetation Species in Norwell

Common Name	Scientific Name	MA Endangered Species Act Status	Most Recent Observation
Estuary Beggars-ticks	<i>Bidens hyperborean</i>	Endangered	2008
Parkers Piperwort	<i>Eriocaulon parkeri</i>	Endangered	2008
Gypsywort	<i>Lycopus rubellus</i>	Endangered	2000
Pale Green Orchis	<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Threatened	2000
Swamp Dock	<i>Rumex verticillatus</i>	Threatened	2010
Wild Senna	<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Threatened	Historical

Source: MA List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species, www.mass.gov

Invasive Plants

A number of invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, have been confirmed in Norwell. No scientific surveys have been done. Local naturalists and scientists can confirm that Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergia*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), garlic mustard (*Allairia petiolate*), European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), floribunda roses (*Rosa multiflora*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) are all present to some extent.

The distribution of these species or the rate of invasion is not known. Most of the invasive species mentioned above can be seen at the Town's large conservation parcels, including the Norris Reservation, Stetson Meadows, Jacobs Pond, and Fogg Forest, as well as at the Town soccer fields. There is an extensive invasion of purple loosestrife just upstream of the Mill Pond Dam owned by the YMCA of Hanover. All of these areas could benefit from an invasive species management plan. However, the management of invasive species is an arduous process. It requires thoughtful consideration of various factors, including effective methods and the likelihood of success based on landscape context and off-site sources.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

The diversity of natural communities in Norwell supports an equally diverse array of wildlife species. Jeff Corwin, a well-known animal activist, grew up in Norwell and began his career by learning about the wildlife right here in town. Norwell wildlife has been well documented from a variety of sources.

In this section, the highlights for each group of wildlife are presented. Species included in these lists are often derived from a “theoretical list” based on the existence of preferential natural communities and reported observations. Species that have been observed and reported in Town are then confirmed with input from biologists and naturalists. The Town should continue to add to these lists as more is learned about which species inhabit Norwell.

Animals migrate for feeding, breeding, or overwintering, and occasionally vehicular collisions result in mortalities or injuries. A consortium has established a public website where observations of animal mortality can be reported. These reports help establish a better understanding of where incidents occur and shape decision-making about how to better protect wildlife. Additionally, specialized organizations are equipped to aid injured animals. See Appendix J, Helpful Links Associated with Land Conservation and Recreation.

Birds

There are more than 70 confirmed species of breeding birds and 23 additional possible breeding species in Norwell. Many areas of Town, such as Bound Brook Pond on Mt. Hope Street, provide excellent habitat for a diversity of birds and waterfowl. Local naturalists and residents confirm that this area provides a habitat for a diversity of migratory waterfowl. The open land behind the Pine Street Hill soccer field provides habitat for screech owls, barred owls, great horned owls, and American kestrels.

A section of the North River that extends from the Hanover Town line to the Center of Norwell was one of the first areas recognized and nominated for an Important Bird Area (IBA) for the marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), a Species of Conservation Interest in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Audubon Society defines an IBA as a location providing essential habitat to one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. The North River is a very important stopover for migratory birds and is also essential to resident waterfowl. The River is incredibly valuable as wildlife habitat because its tidal influence supports a diversity of habitats.

One bird that has undergone a tremendous rebound statewide is the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Wild turkeys were found commonly throughout Massachusetts at the time of Colonial settlement. By the late nineteenth, turkeys had almost entirely disappeared from the State. By 1996, turkey’s populations were thriving once again throughout the state. Turkeys are commonly seen in Norwell crossing streets, grazing in fields, roosting in trees, or even flying.

Amphibians

The Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), American Toad (*Bufo americanus*), Spring Peeper (*Hyla crucifer*), Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*), American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*), Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*), and Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*) are all relatively common in Norwell. Some are obligate vernal pool breeders.

Reptiles

Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*-Species of Concern), Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*-Delisted), Eastern Racer (*Coluber constrictor*), Northern Watersnake (*Norodia sipedon*), Common Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) all find habitat in Norwell. Although Norwell has a habitat appropriate for Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*), none have ever been confirmed and documented.



Wildlife in Miller Woods, Image source: Marynel Wahl

Butterflies

Butterflies are not only enjoyable to observe, but they also serve a vital function in the environment by pollinating many species of plants. They are also very fragile because they often are dependent upon only one or two species of vegetation for their food source. If that food source becomes rare and hard to find, then the species of butterfly is also put at risk.

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*), Eastern Tiger Swallowtails (*Papilio galucus*), Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*), and Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*) are just a few of the common butterflies that were identified by The Science Center staff during Biodiversity Days. The Massachusetts Audubon Society hosts a butterfly atlas online recording the distribution of butterflies that populate the Commonwealth.

Insects

The Elderberry Long-Horned Beetle (*Desmocerus palliates*-Species of Conservation Interest in Massachusetts) is a striking insect with a dark metallic blue body with bright gold and orange wings that resides in Norwell. It was formerly listed as a Species of Concern until reports around the Commonwealth indicated a more secure population. In 2010, it was delisted and remains a Species of Conservation Interest in Massachusetts.

Norwell's habitat supports pockets where fireflies are prevalent. There are approximately 20 to 30 species of fireflies in New England. The species that flash come in three main genera (groups of closely related species): *Photinus*, *Pyraetomena*, and *Photuris*. These flying beetles were once very common in New England, but their nighttime presence has become less common in recent years. A citizen science study called Firefly Watch based at the Museum of Science collects data about firefly behavior, and distribution is provided by its volunteers.

Dragonflies and damselflies are flying insects of the order *Odonata* commonly found in both wet and dry environments in Norwell. Dragonflies and damselflies are beautiful, harmless, and ancient and prey on other insects, including mosquitoes. These expert fliers control each of their wings independently by flapping their wings both up and down as well as rotating their wings forward and back, which allows them to move straight up or down, fly backward, stop and hover all while flying at either full speed or slow motion. The Mocha Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora linearis*-Species of Concern) and New England Bluet Damselfly (*Enallagma laterale*-Species of Conservation Interest in Massachusetts) inhabit Norwell.

Nuisance insects, including mosquitos and deer ticks, are prevalent in Norwell, with the abundance of wetlands and wildlife. Mosquitos potentially carry West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus. The Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture keeps Mosquito populations in check. Deer ticks potentially carry diseases like Lyme disease, but not all deer ticks carry bacteria.

Fish

Norwell has many freshwater brooks and streams, as well as the tidally influenced North River. These factors contribute to a diversity of freshwater species, as well as anadromous fish. The freshwater species include natives such as brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), and four different species of stickleback. Four species of anadromous fish have been confirmed in Norwell including the blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), american shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). All four species live in the ocean, and at least the first three species undertake upriver

spawning migrations in the spring. Dams that were established in the early colonial days up to the twentieth century affect the breeding success of anadromous and catadromous fish directly as obstacles to their migration and indirectly by changing the natural conditions potentially affecting recruitment. In May 2012, a deceased 6-foot sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp.) was landed in the North River. Sturgeon species are listed as endangered by both the Commonwealth and the Federal government.

Every spring, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Mass Wildlife) stocks Second Herring Brook (Norris Reservation Pond) with trout and the Third Herring Brook with rainbow trout. Smelt eggs have recently been reported in Second Herring Brook by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Mammals

Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), common gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) were all identified during The Science Center's Biodiversity Day 2002 and have been easily confirmed by many observers. Norwell has most of the other mammals that are found commonly throughout southeastern Massachusetts but there are a few worth mentioning in more detail because they are either making a comeback or expanding their range.

River otters (*Lutra canadensis*) have been spotted on River Street near Third Herring Brook. In order to survive, river otters require the first 200-300 feet of a riparian corridor (parallel to the river) to have healthy habitat. They were historically distributed throughout the state but have disappeared due to development along their river corridors. Pollution and vehicular collisions have also taken a toll on their ability to survive. In some areas, River otters appear to be making a comeback.

Fishers (*Martes pennanti*) is a type of weasel and has been sited crossing River Street, at Jacobs Farm, and parallel to Winter Street. By the 19th century, fishers had been eliminated from the state due to the extensive clearing of land for agriculture. Fishers made a comeback in the state as mature forests became re-established. Fishers need mature, dense, coniferous or mixed coniferous-hardwood forests with closed canopy and tend to avoid traveling in large open areas. Local naturalists have confirmed that they are present in Norwell. The extent of their range in Town or if they spend their entire lifecycle in Norwell's forests is not known.

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) populations have rebounded from nearly a century of decline. Early colonial impacts on forest habitat virtually eliminated the species from the Commonwealth. Today, efforts to conserve and restore habitat are associated with a thriving white-tailed deer population. These deer are highly adaptable and successful breeders. Their increased numbers have brought several negative impacts including a wide distribution of deer ticks, vehicular collisions, and over-grazing of numerous native plant species. Research focused on deer impacts on shrubs and the succession of the forest canopy is ongoing. Towns across Massachusetts are identifying deer management strategies to mitigate the impacts of the white-tailed deer. The United States Forest Service employs a botanist who specializes in deer management studies that help towns, states, and private organizations to make informed decisions about managing their local deer populations.

Bats are nocturnal and consume a vast amount of mosquitos and other insects. They suffer from White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a white, crusting fungus on their muzzles and other parts of their

bodies during winter hibernation. WNS depletes the winter fat reserves too quickly by the middle of winter, causing them to begin to forage during the winter, which leads to starvation. Norwell resident, Roger Landry, is a bat expert who also builds bat houses that provide an alternative to natural bat dwellings such as caves where high rates of WNS are now impacting bat populations.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Wildlife

NHESP has documented two Species of Concern in Norwell: the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and the mocha emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora linearis*). “Species of Concern” are native species that have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occurs in such small numbers or with restricted distribution or very specialized habitat requirements that they could quickly become threatened within Massachusetts (Endangered Species Act).

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are unfragmented areas of wildlife habitat that allow populations of animals to move freely, disperse into new areas, and intermingle with other individuals of their species. fragmentation is a growing problem for wildlife species that depend on intact areas of habitat for their survival. The North River serves as a riverine corridor for four species of anadromous fish: the blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and american shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and is a likely corridor for river otters (*Lutra canadensis*).

Habitat fragmentation is a major threat to the survival of many species. Not only do species face fragmentation of their habitat due to development, but physical barriers such as highways, dams, substandard culverts, and large expanses of impermeable surfaces restrict the animals’ ability to breed, find the resources they need to survive, and migrate without the threat of vehicle mortalities. Many species move out daily to seek food or shelter. Sufficient continuity in their range is needed for adaptation and survival. Additional impacts to habitat loss include the conversion of meadow edges to lawn or forest. The transitional shrub layer between field/lawn and forested areas is critical to many species, and it is one of the most endangered habitat areas due to development into areas previously considered marginal.

Norwell’s major highways and state roads, including Route 3, Route 53 (Washington Street), and Route 123 (Main Street), act as barriers for many terrestrial and semi-aquatic species. Turtles, snakes, salamanders, frogs, and many small mammals fall victim to vehicular mortality more often than the larger mammals. Dead gravid (egg-bearing) female turtles are often found on Grove Street, Prospect Street, Jacobs Lane, Winter Street, and Mount Blue Street. These streets have extensive wetlands/habitat areas on both sides, and the turtles often cross to find appropriate habitat to lay their eggs. The Town should attempt to protect large tracts of open space that can provide un-fragmented habitat, including transitional meadow edge, for a wide variety of species. Reporting animal mortalities will also assist in establishing greater protection.

SCENIC RESOURCES & UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

Norwell possesses features of great natural beauty, engendering pride and appreciation in its citizens and admiration from visitors and neighbors. The beautifully maintained colonial homes, historic village district, open fields, stone walls, and forests are awe-inspiring and reflect the pride its citizens have in its history. The North River, as seen through the eyes of a hiker or a boater, is enchanting. See Map 7: Scenic Resources and Unique Features for numerous points of interest in Town, including those listed below.

The North River

The North River is a beautiful tidal estuary, a unique and fragile habitat with salt and freshwater features. The River is bordered by several large tracts of conservation land (most notably the Norris Reservation and Stetson Meadows) that offer walking trails and beautiful River views. Norwell also has two public boat launch sites: the Union Street Bridge and the end of Chittenden Lane.

Black Pond Bog

The 87-acre Black Pond Bog Nature Preserve was The Nature Conservancy's first purchase in Massachusetts in 1962. It is a unique environment that contains a pocket of Atlantic White Cedar swamp, an upland forest, a meadow where one can see ecological succession, and a quaking bog surrounding Black Pond. Quaking bogs are composed of sphagnum moss, rushes, sedges, and decaying vegetation forming an apparent solid base that is actually a woven mat laying over pooled water or mud. The name stems from the shaking or quaking effect that occurs when weight is placed on the bog mat. The Pond itself is a glacial kettle hole filled with peat that has a limited water supply. The water is extremely acidic and low in nutrients. These factors, combined with the cool, coastal climate, make the Black Pond Bog plant community unusual.

Surrounding the Bog are concentric rings of plant communities beginning with a floating mat of sphagnum moss that contains carnivorous plants including sundews and pitcher plants, as well as sedges, cranberries, cotton-grass, wild orchids, Leatherleaf, and swamp loosestrife. Around this mat is a wet shrubby zone with highbush blueberry, poison sumac, and Atlantic white cedar. A red maple swamp is outside the shrub zone, which grades into the nearby upland forest dominated by white and red oak, American beech, eastern hemlock, and some American holly. A boardwalk and trail system provides accessibility to the property and connects with the Town's Cuffee Hill Conservation Area to the west and north.

South Shore Natural Science Center/Hanover YMCA (The Science Center)

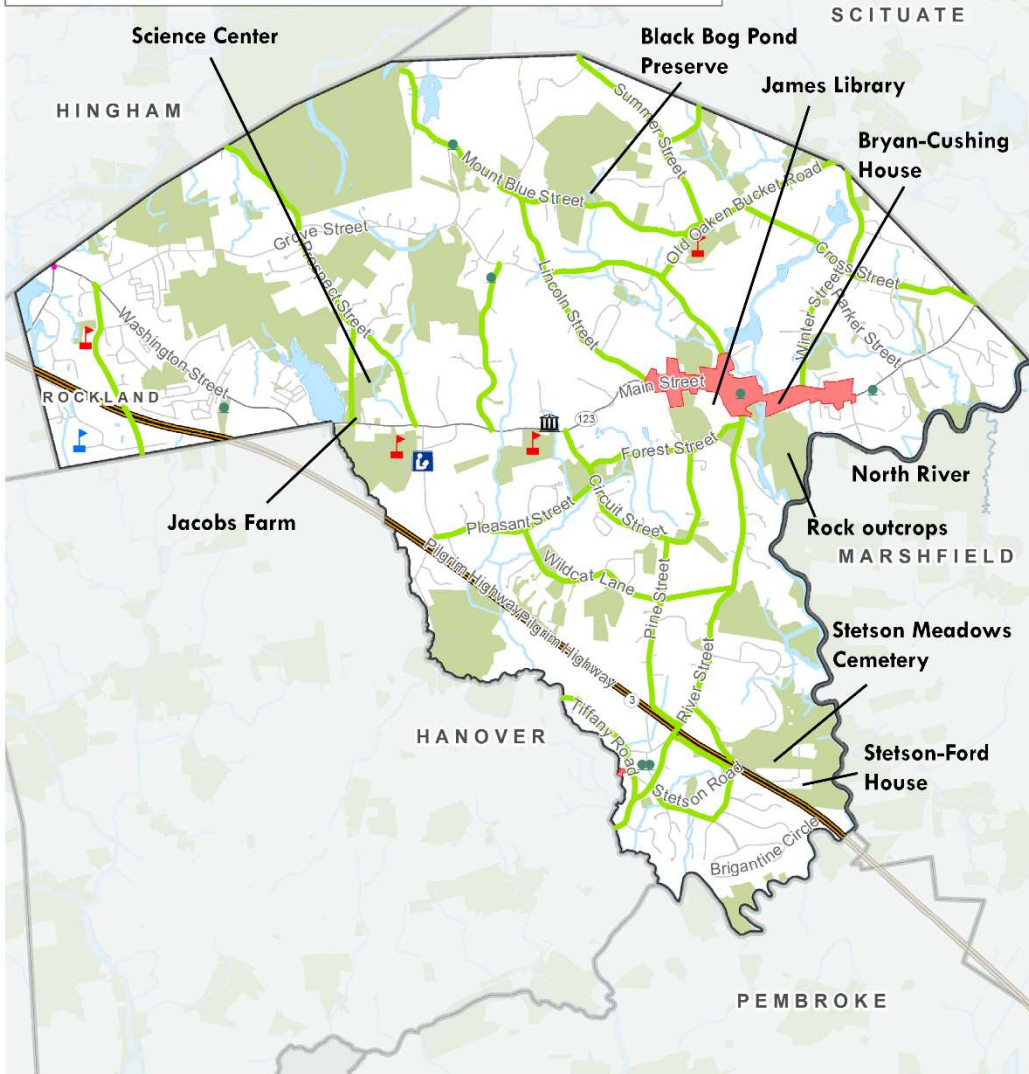
The Science Center is located on Jacobs Lane in Norwell, adjacent to Jacobs Farm. The Science Center is run under the auspices of the YMCA and is dedicated to educating the public about the natural and cultural environments of the South Shore through a variety of programs for people of all ages.

The Science Center sits on 27 acres and is surrounded by an additional 200 acres of Town conservation and recreation land consisting of meadows, woodland, and Jacobs Farm fields and Jacobs Pond. There are many trails and picnicking spots for residents and members to enjoy as well as wildlife exhibit displays within The Science Center.

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 7: Scenic Resources & Unique Features



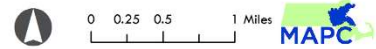
-  Town Halls
-  Charter School
-  Public School
-  Public library
-  Burial Ground
-  National Register of Historic Places
-  Scenic Roads
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  All Open Space

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
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Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

December 2020



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Scenic Roads

One way in which towns may protect scenic vistas is through the Scenic Road Designation Program (M.G.L. Ch. 40, s.15c). This law allows a road other than a numbered route going beyond a town's boundaries and not owned or maintained by the Commonwealth to be designated as a Scenic Road. After a road has been designated as a Scenic Road, any repair work that involves the cutting or removal of trees or stone walls must be approved by the Planning Board. Adopted at the 1976 Annual Town Meeting, Table 5 lists Norwell's Scenic Roads, as shown on Map 7: Unique Features.

Table 5: Norwell's Scenic Roads

1	Bowker St	13	Circuit St
2	Norwell Ave	14	Green St
3	Jacobs Ln	15	Lincoln St
4	Stetson Rd	16	Pine St
5	Stetson Shrine Ln	17	Pleasant St
6	Tiffany Rd	18	Mount Blue St
7	Central St	19	Wildcat Ln
8	First Parish Rd	20	Winter St
9	High St	21	Cross St
10	Old Oaken Bucket	22	Forest St
11	Prospect St	23	Summer St
12	River St		

The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, or Historical Commission may recommend such a designation, which then must be approved by the voters at Town Meeting. Usually, residents initiate the request for scenic road designation of their street. For example, the residents of Bowker Street, alarmed by a plan to widen their street, were instrumental in the designation of their street as a Scenic Road at a 1976 Town Meeting. It is apparent that the protection afforded by the Scenic Road designation has enabled these roads to retain much of their historic rural charm.

Historical Sites

Norwell has a tremendous history and has many beautiful structures and sites that illustrate this in modern times. Beautiful old homes are marked with small but visible plaques, and the sites of several historic shipyards are commemorated today by handsome signs along the edge of the North River. As shown in Map 7: Unique Features, Norwell Town Center is on the National Register of Historic Places. Listed in 1982, the district includes 34 buildings, such as the Cushing Center (formerly the Town Hall), the James Library, fire station, post office, several restaurants, and small shops, a church and cemeteries, several homes, and also the Town Common and patriotic monuments. In addition, there are other historical sites in Norwell, as listed in Table 6. The Historical Commission is a dedicated group of Norwell residents working to protect and preserve the historical integrity of the Town. The Commission oversees historic properties owned by the Town, including the Jacobs Farmhouse and outbuildings, the Stetson-Ford House, and the James Library. The Jacobs Farm is protected by a historical restriction held by Historic New England, and the James Library has a historic restriction held by the Town of Norwell, whereas the Stetson-Ford House, a 1700's colonial, has no preservation restriction. The Stetson-Ford House is currently listed on the National Register

for Historic Places, and the Jacobs Farmhouse application for the National Register was compiled during the preparation of this updated OSRP.

Table 6: Historic Sites in Norwell

Site	Address	Notes
Jacobs Farmhouse	4 Jacobs Lane	- State Register of Historical Places - Town-owned
Stetson-Ford House	2 Meadow Farms Way	- National Register of Historic Places, Individual Property - Town-owned
Bryant-Cushing House	768 Main Street	- National Register of Historic Places, Individual Property - Privately owned

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Climate Change

Climate change will exacerbate many of the existing environmental challenges in Norwell. These include erosion and flooding from more intense storms and invasive species expansion from increased heat and drought. The impacts are already being felt. In the last five years, Massachusetts has experienced more frequent and severe weather events. Record-breaking snowfall in 2015, a wide-spread and severe drought in 2016, the warmest year on record in 2017, and four Nor'easters in one month and flooding comparable to the “Blizzard of 1978” in 2018 are just some examples.

In order to avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, the global community must cut emissions in half within the next 10 years (by 2030). In comparison, if emissions continue at current rates, scientists expect devastating impacts including severe heat waves that will affect more than one third of the world population, a severe drought that will affect more than 400 million urban residents, and that nearly all of the world’s coral reefs will die.²⁷ These most catastrophic impacts can be averted with emissions reductions and natural carbon sequestration, such as wetlands restoration and afforestation. However, even if emissions are dramatically reduced within the next 10 years, a certain amount of climate change is inevitable due to the gases that have already been emitted. The US Environmental Protection Agency projects that climate change will continue to result in increasing temperature and changes in precipitation patterns; sea-level rise, wetland loss, and coastal flooding; threats to ecosystems and natural resources; and public health hazards.

However, there are effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the Town. In 2015, Norwell became a Green Community in the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Designation and Grant Program by pledging to cut municipal energy use by 20 percent over five years and meeting other criteria to support clean energy use. Additional tools also exist to help reduce emissions locally. MAPC’s Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool²⁸ provides a step-by-step guide for municipalities to account for local emissions, from which strategies to reduce climate pollution can be developed, as well as becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change.²⁹ Open

²⁷ International Panel on Climate Change. *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 Celsius Summary for Policymakers.*

²⁸ MAPC Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool

²⁹ US Environmental Protection Agency. *What Climate Change Means for Massachusetts.*

space and recreation planning can mitigate flooding, erosion, invasive species, extreme temperatures, and other climate change impacts.

Norwell has been proactive in planning for becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including completing a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) report in 2020.³⁰ It was developed based on data analysis and a full-day workshop with Town and community leaders in November 2019. Norwell's MVP report identifies the following four hazards in Norwell that will be exacerbated by climate change:

- Flooding
- Heatwaves/drought
- Severe storms (wind, ice, snow)
- Sea level rise (the tidal portion of the North River runs along Norwell's southern border)

In addition, through the planning process of this updated OSRP, wildfire was identified as a potential threat of climate change, as drought and invasive species damage the health of Norwell's forests.



Queen Anne's Lace in farm fields at the corner of Lincoln and Main Streets, Image source: Judith Enright

³⁰ Town of Norwell Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings, 2020.
<https://www.townofnorwell.net/sites/g/files/vyhlf1011/f/uploads/norwell_mvp_report_final.pdf>

Temperature

According to the US National Climate Assessment 2018, temperature in the Northeast US has increased by almost two degrees Fahrenheit between 1895 and 2016. Future temperature projections for the Northeastern US show an increase in average summer temperatures and are projected to increase at an accelerated rate.³¹ A number of local temperature projection models for Massachusetts and the Boston region also demonstrate an increased likelihood of heatwaves, as indicated by the increased number of days over 90 and 100 degrees each year.^{32, 33} Just within the 7-year time horizon of this updated OSRP, Norwell can expect an increase in the number of hot summer days over 95° Fahrenheit above what is currently experienced.³⁴ Young and elderly populations and people with preexisting health conditions are especially vulnerable to hot weather.³⁵

According to a 2019 analysis of climate vulnerability in the Boston region, Norwell has “extremely low” and “moderately low” vulnerability to extreme heat compared to other towns in the area.³⁶ The analysis is based on exposure to heat islands (in which the immediate local temperature is greater than the regional temperature due to the retention of heat by pavement and dark roofs), as well as the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the population. The heat exposure is expected to be relatively low in Norwell due to a large amount of forest land and open space that reduces ambient temperature, as opposed to large amounts of paved surfaces and black roofs, which increase ambient temperatures.

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

In the context of Open Space & Recreation Planning, environmental equity refers to differences in the benefits and burdens of land use and air quality. For example, environmental equity can be impacted by the siting of landfills near residential areas with African American and Latinx households or the disinvestment in parks near residential areas with low-income households. In Massachusetts, a community is identified as an “Environmental Justice” community based on median household income, race, and English-language proficiency. Norwell does not have any formally identified Environmental Justice populations.

However, important differences in access to open space and recreation still exist between different groups of residents. For example, residents who do not have access to a vehicle or cannot drive, including the youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and some low-income residents, are unable to access most parks and open spaces in Norwell without the help of someone who can drive them. Generally, protected open space and conservation areas are well distributed throughout town, with a slight preference for long-term protected areas in northern Norwell.

Passive recreation areas are also well distributed throughout Norwell. Active recreation areas are concentrated around the schools in central Norwell. Although there are trails in the northern and southern portions of Town, there are no playgrounds or active recreation facilities outside of the central east-west Main Street corridor. Recent investments in Reynolds playground were aimed to better serve the local, middle-income neighborhood.

³¹ *Climate Ready Boston*, 2016

³² City of Cambridge, *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment*

³³ Northeast Climate Science Center, UMass Amherst. *Massachusetts Climate Change Projections*.

³⁴ *ibid.*

³⁵ Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. *Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan*.

³⁶ Metropolitan Area Planning Council. “Climate Vulnerability in Greater Boston”.

In order to promote greater equity throughout the Boston region, it is also important to promote access to public open space areas and parks across municipal lines. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, public beaches throughout New England were closed to non-Town residents, leaving many people without safe and healthy means of recreating and escaping the heat by swimming or walking in a forested area. In particular, lower-income households are often unable to afford homes near the beach or in areas with well-maintained parks. Therefore, providing access to open space areas and parks to non-Town residents, especially those acquired or improved with State and/or Federal monies, is an important equity concern. In particular, Norwell's Wompatuck State Park provides a valuable open space area for residents of many nearby municipalities.

In addition, certain environmental challenges affect vulnerable populations more than other populations. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the factors that lead to vulnerable population health impacts are:

- “Exposure: Exposure is contact between a person and one or more biological, psychosocial, chemical, or physical stressors, including stressors affected by climate change;
- “Sensitivity: Sensitivity is the degree to which people or communities are affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate variability or change; and
- “Adaptive capacity: Adaptive capacity is the ability of communities, institutions, or people to adjust to potential hazards, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.”³⁷

As climate change will affect different people differently, environmental equity is an important consideration in becoming more resilient to extreme weather. For example, older residents are at higher risk from hot temperatures from climate change due to their increased sensitivity to extreme heat. Low-income residents who cannot afford air conditioning are more vulnerable to heat, due to their increased exposure and lack of adaptive capacity. To clarify, these populations are not inherently more vulnerable—instead, there are systems and policies that result in greater vulnerability for certain populations. If the systems and policies reduced vulnerabilities, the threat of climate change would be mitigated.

Norwell's MVP identifies the following potentially vulnerable segments of the community:

- Seniors
- People with medical needs
- Low-income residents

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE

Disposal Sites

There are no known Federal Superfund Sites in Norwell. There have been, however, 81 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup disposal sites for oils and hazardous materials in Norwell.³⁸ See the Appendix for the full list of hazardous materials sites in Norwell. Sixty-six of these sites have undergone appropriate cleanup and have achieved regulatory closure in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP; 310

³⁷ Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. *Climate and Health Profiles*.

³⁸ MA Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. *Waste Site and Reportable Releases*.

CMR 40.000). There are five clean-up phases, beginning with an initial site investigation (Phase I), and culminating in a full-scale clean up (Phase V). There are 15 active disposal sites listed in Table 7 that have not achieved regulatory closure in Norwell, one more than in 2012.

Table 7: Hazardous Materials Sites in Active Clean-Up Process

Release Address	Site Name Location Aid	Phase	Chemical Type
72 Washington Street	Former Shell Station	PHASE V	Oil
West Street	State Police Barracks	PHASE V	Oil
32 Pond Street	Fabricare House	PHASE V	Oil
4 Whiting Street	Getty Service Station	PHASE V	-
Route 228 and 53	Former Queen Anne's Arco	PHASE V	Oil
724 Main Street	Joseph's Pontiac Garage and Gulf Station	PHASE V	Oil
49 Washington Street	Jiffy Lube	PHASE IV	Hazardous Material
507 Washington Street	Norwell Cleaners	PHASE IV	Hazardous Material
32 Gln. Trailer Park	Off 214 Washington Street Route 53	PHASE IV	Oil
22 Pond Street	Former Shaw Saab	PHASE II	Oil and Hazardous Material
16 Old Oaken Bucket Road	Residence	PHASE II	Oil
109 Prospect Street	None	PHASE II	Oil
310 Main Street	None	PHASE II	Oil
10 Pond Street	Former South Shore Acura	PHASE II	Oil and Hazardous Material
46 Bridge Street	Off Route 123	PHASE II	Oil

Source: MA Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. *Waste Site and Reportable Releases*.

Norwell Landfill

The Pine Street Landfill, located at the intersection of Pine and Circuit Streets, was closed in 1976 and capped in 1977. A leachate collection system was not constructed to collect direct leachate from the facility. There are no active landfills in Town that would impact the environmental health of adjacent neighborhoods.

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION

Erosion and sedimentation from construction sites are problematic and require considerable diligence to implement effective control measures. For the upland areas, construction sites that are adjacent to wetlands are managed in accordance with the Town of Norwell Wetlands Protection Bylaw ([Chapter 61 of the Norwell Town Code](#)), and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection and Rivers Protection Acts (MGL c.131 §40). Erosion and sedimentation controls are standard conditions in all Orders of Conditions issued under the above-referenced Bylaw and the Act. Planning Board and Board of Appeals regulations for subdivisions and site plan review (Chapters [302](#) and [301](#) of the Norwell Town Code, respectively) also require compliance with MassDEP stormwater management regulations. This extends the requirements for erosion and sedimentation controls of smaller sites beyond the 100-foot buffer zone of wetlands.

EPA requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge (NPDES) Program have resulted in a required stormwater permitting process for any development that disturbs more than one acre of land. This process will result in developers submitting a plan for review that will show how they will control runoff, sedimentation, and erosion. Norwell also is subject to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements of the NPDES Phase II Storm Water Program, which requires identification of stormwater outfalls, maintenance of the stormwater system, development and implementation of a stormwater management program (SWMP), and obtaining an NPDES permit.

Stormwater is one of the largest sources of sediment loading into wetland resources. Norwell's stormwater bylaw includes best management practices to address stormwater discharge with new green technology, design, and materials. Many of the stormwater drainage structures in Norwell discharge directly either into wetlands or watercourses, and if systems are not maintained or if inadequate controls are implemented on construction sites, this can result in the discharge of large amounts of sediments to these waterways.

Beyond construction, the factors that lead to contaminated stormwater include many seemingly innocuous residential activities such as landscaping activities, chemically treating lawns, salting driveways, washing cars in driveways, not picking up pet waste, and other common daily actions in addition to the more obvious industrial and construction activities that release sediments and pollutants into stormwater systems.

There is another type of erosion concern present in Norwell—the erosion of the banks along the North River Estuary and tidal creeks caused by recreational boating. River speed limits have been set at six miles per hour for more than two decades to mitigate this source of erosion. The presence of the Norwell Harbormaster helps reduce some of the vessel speeding that erodes the banks.

CHRONIC FLOODING

Chronic flooding refers to flooding that happens so frequently that the land can no longer be used the way it was used before it began to flood. It is generally defined as flooding that occurs 26 times or every 2 weeks or more per year. It may happen from exceptionally high tides without a storm (sunny day flooding) or from storm events.³⁹

Although the Town, due to its elevation and topography, has many streams and wetlands that provide flood storage during non-frozen months, it does not contain many areas subject to chronic flooding. Some of the wetland areas that contain streams during most of the year converge with streams that expand into the entire wetland during spring snowmelt periods. A good example is the Old Pond Meadows wetlands complex that contains water a foot or more deep during some spring runoff and storm events.

A small residential community (King's Landing) is situated very close to the North River banks in a flood plain. This community has been exposed to potential floods since the mouth of the North River broke through in 1898.

GROUNDWATER & SURFACE WATER

Norwell's water system is completely dependent upon groundwater wells. The 10 active wells are less than 60 feet deep, resulting in a high potential for contamination from ground or surface water. Wells that are greater than 60 feet deep are more likely to have clay layers between the surface

³⁹ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Accessed 2021

and the water-bearing sands and gravels, thus reducing pollution risks. Plans for an 11th well include construction to approximately 90 feet deep, and the well is anticipated to come on-line in approximately 10 years.

Since the Town has no Municipal or Industrial Wastewater Treatment System, the aquifer or water-bearing areas may be subject to contaminants that flow off the streets through catch basins and into wetlands and streams or substances that are poured down a residential or industrial drain. Additionally, poorly designed development could adversely impact the protected areas around the wells and potentially reduce the land available to develop potential additional water sources. The efficiency of older septic systems will be reduced over time and could further adversely impact the Town's drinking water supply by the addition of fecal coliform bacteria and nitrates. Title V upgrades to these septic systems will reduce but not eliminate the negative impacts of effluent entering wetlands, groundwater resources, and water bodies.

Road salt intrusion from winter snow and ice clearing operations also will adversely impact the shallow well-drinking water supply. The search for alternatives to road salt includes pre-treating roads with brine, which keeps ice and snow from adhering to roads and leaves less salt residue to enter wetlands and stormwater systems. To enhance wellhead protection, the Town has approved Aquifer Protection Overlay Zoning and Town Wetlands Zoning to provide guidance on local sensitive areas.

Norwell's Water Department and Boston College conducted research on a plume of road salt emanating from the Massachusetts DOT salt barn along Route 53 in Hanover. The Town also has a source of road salt at its DPW yard on Main Street that affects Wildcat Brook. The Town has begun upgrading the storage area at the DPW yard and adopting new road salt handling methods to address this issue.

The Massachusetts DEP 303d list identifies surface water bodies that do not meet expected water quality standards. There is one surface water body in Norwell that is listed on the 2016 Massachusetts DEP 303d list of impaired waterways: Longwater Brook from Norwell to the confluence with Drinkwater River for *E. Coli* levels.⁴⁰ In comparison, the 1998 303d list included Jacobs Pond and Bound Brook Pond.



Chittenden Landing, Image source: Colleen Kissel

⁴⁰ MassDEP, 2016 *Integrated List of Waters*.

5. INVENTORY OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS

The Town is committed to protecting and preserving natural eco-systems, open space, greenways, water resources, recreational spaces, and access as outlined in the Master Plan that expires in 2025. Adherence to these goals has resulted in the preservation of natural treasures and parks frequented by Norwell residents and other visitors, as well as important habitats and natural communities supporting Norwell's abundant wildlife populations. It is important to note that despite heavy commercial and residential development pressures evident in many of the surrounding communities, Norwell has been successful in maintaining its open space and recreation commitment.

The term "open space" can refer to a wide range of land uses, from school athletic fields to conservation lands held specifically for wildlife habitat management. This section identifies lands in Norwell that are protected in perpetuity, as well as other lands that contribute to the Town's current open space and recreational resources but are not permanently restricted to open space or recreational use.

The inventory was created based on the 2012 Open Space Inventory, data from the Town Assessors' 2019 records, and close examination by the Norwell Town Planner of hundreds of individual deeds. Through the preparation of the 2021 OSRP, it became apparent that there was a significant need for improved digital and spatial documentation of Norwell's open space, including record of the manager and level of protection for each parcel. The Norwell Assessor's records do not clearly identify open space or recreation land in Norwell. The data gathered to create the 2021 Open Space Inventory will be submitted to the Massachusetts Bureau of Geographic Information to update the State's geospatial database of open space, which will help ensure the maintenance and public access of the data.

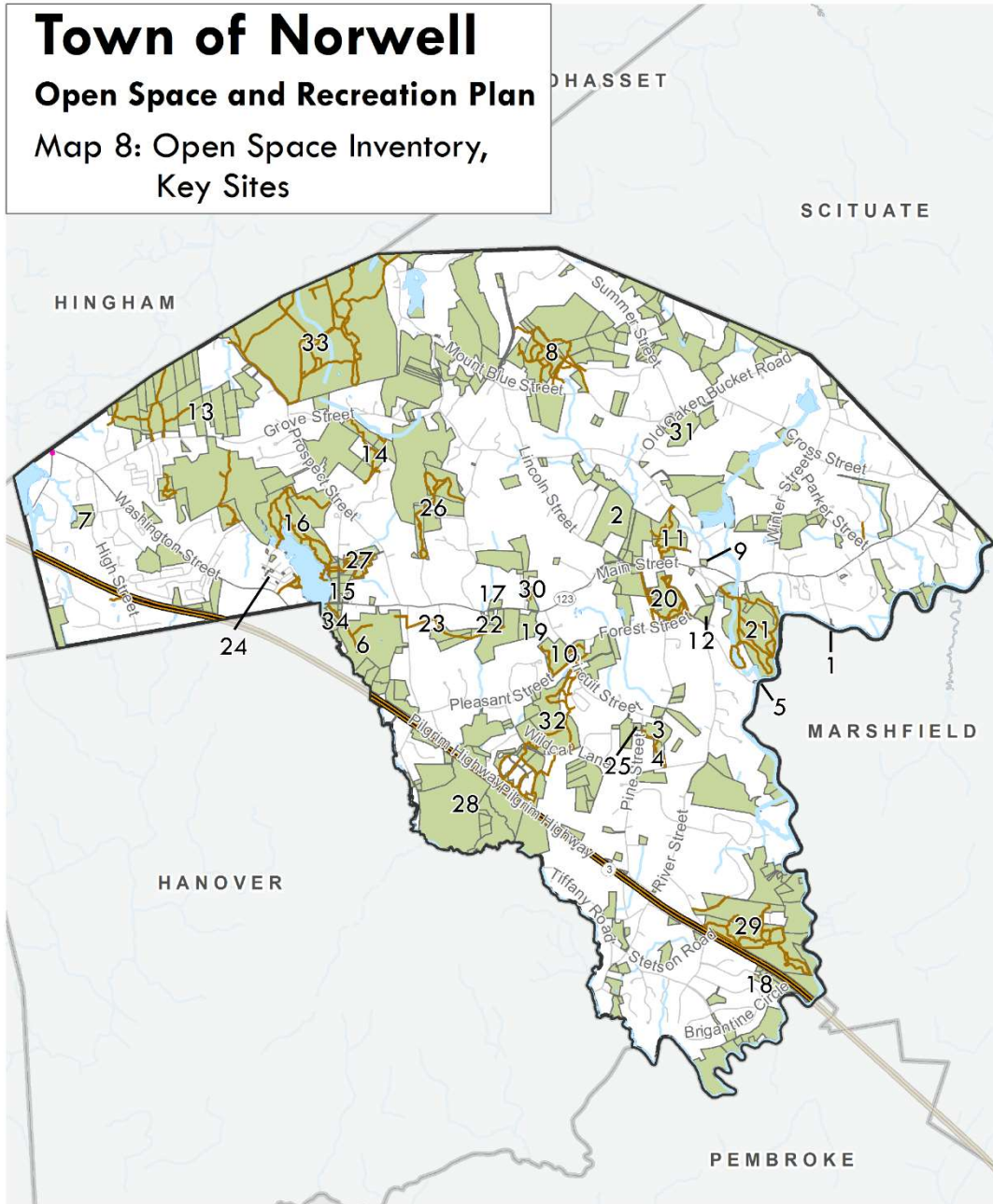
Norwell's beloved parks, fields, and forests are identified on Map 8 and listed in Table 8. These are the key open space and recreation lands, and facilities accessible for the public's enjoyment. For a larger version of Map 8, see Appendix A.

Some of the areas, such as Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond, are composed of several parcels with different owners, managers, and levels of protection, while others, such as Gaffield Park, are composed of just one parcel. Map 9 and Table 9 show the open space and recreation areas by level of protection and the group responsible for the management of the land and/or facility. For a larger version of Map 9, see Appendix A. For the full list of private and public open space and recreation areas, see Appendix B: Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands.

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 8: Open Space Inventory, Key Sites



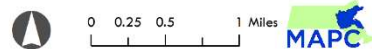
- Open Space and Recreation areas
- Trails
- Major Roads

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
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Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

January 2021



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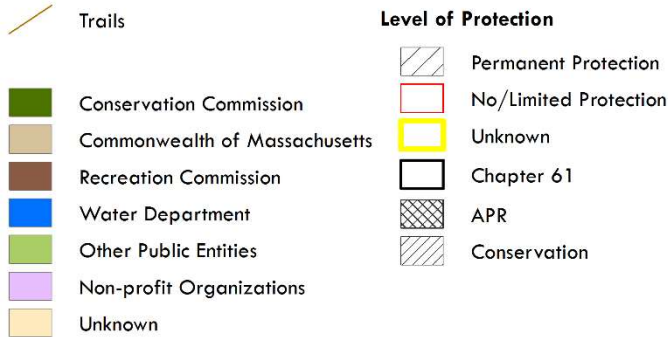
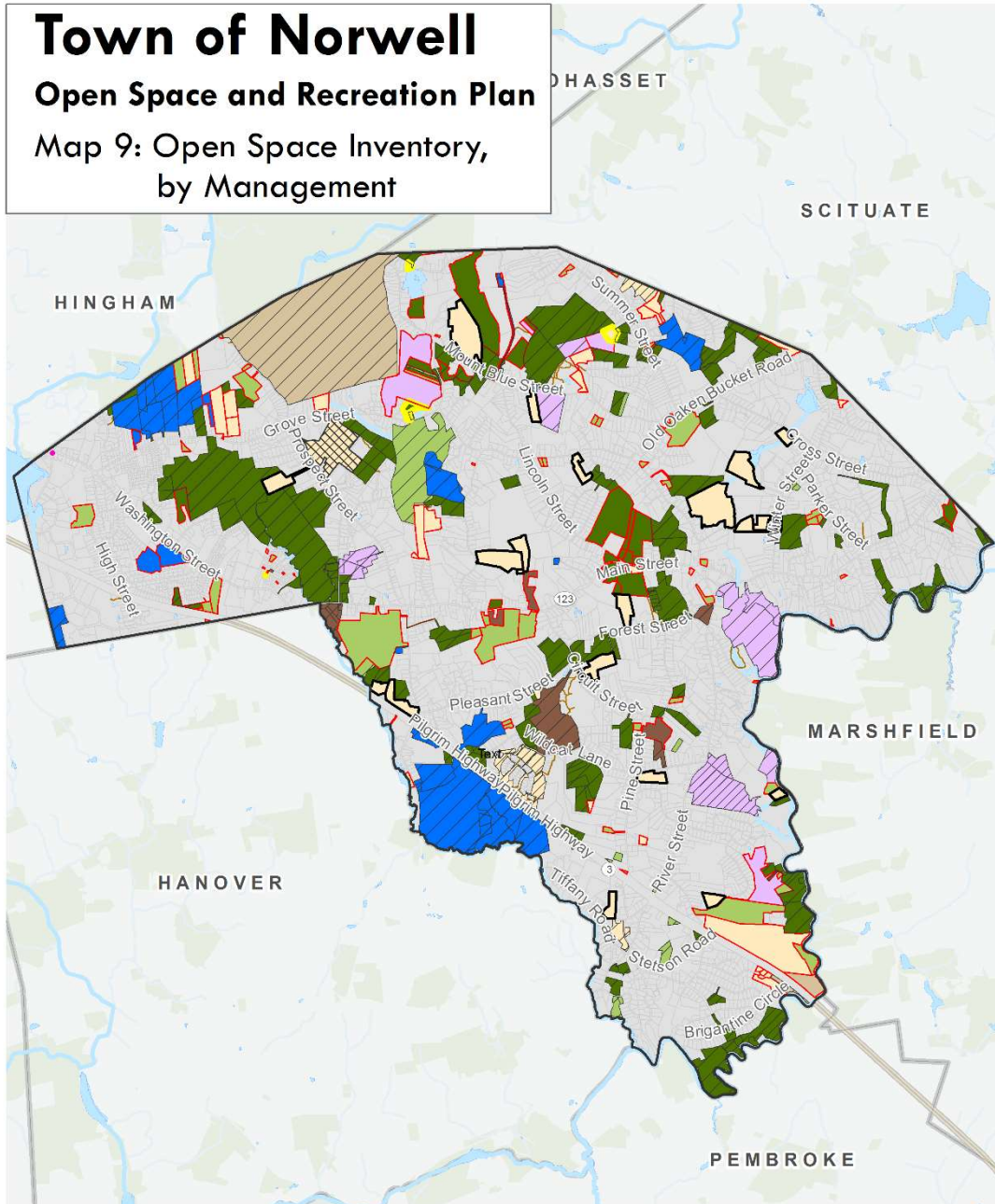
Table 8: Open Space Inventory, Key Sites

Map ID #	Name	Acreage	Recreational Use
1	Bridge Street Landing	0	Water access
2	Carleton	124	Walking and biking trails
3	Centennial Park/Pine Street Fields	17	2 multi-purpose fields, 1 basketball/pickleball court, 1 seasonal ice-skating
4	Charles "Ed" White Recreation Land	7	Walking and biking trails
5	Chittenden Landing	0	Water access
6	Clipper Complex/High School	100	8 tennis courts, 3 ballfields, 2 synthetic turf fields/track, 2 multi-purpose field, concessions
7	Cole School	13	1 playground, 1 ball field, 2 multi-purpose fields
8	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	242	Walking and biking trails
9	Cushing Center	1	Function hall, events
10	Donovan Farm Fields	53	Agriculture
11	Fogg Forest	38	Walking and biking trails, picnic area
12	Gaffield Park	8	Playground, Walking and biking trails
13	Grove Street Trails	205	Walking and biking trails
14	Hatch Lots	53	Walking and biking trails
15	Jacobs Farm Fields	16	Agriculture
16	Jacobs Pond	403	Walking and biking trails
17	Main Street Farm Fields	4	Agriculture
18	Masthead	11	Walking and biking trails
19	Middle School	14	Gym, programs, athletic fields
20	Miller Woods	46	Walking and biking trails
21	Norris Reservation	120	Walking and biking trails
22	Osborne Field	48	1 ball field, 3 multi-purpose fields
23	Pathway	(2 miles)	Walking and biking trail
24	Reynolds Playground	0	Playground, 1 basketball court, picnic area
25	Senior Center	2	Elderly programs, event space
26	Simon Hill & Bowker Street	209	Walking and biking trails
27	South Shore Natural Science Center	28	Education
28	South Street Water Department land	278	Water source protection, Walking trail
29	Stetson Meadows	205	Walking and biking trails
30	Town Hall/East Field	11	2 multi-purpose fields
31	Vinal School	28	Playgrounds, 2 ballfields, 2 multi-purpose fields
32	Wildcat	178	Walking and biking trails
33	Wompatuck State Park	542	Walking and biking trails
34	Woodworth Park	17	3 ball fields
	Total	3,022	

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 9: Open Space Inventory, by Management

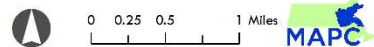


The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
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Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

February 2021



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**Table 9: Norwell's Open Space Inventory
by Level of Protection and Manager**

Manager	Acreage	Parcels
Permanently protected (Article 97, Deed/Conservation/Agricultural/Historical Preservation Restriction)		
Conservation Commission	1,440	158
Water Department	550	31
Recreation Department	107	11
Commonwealth of MA	538	2
Other Public	161	15
Non-profit	284	13
Private	11	1
Unknown (Town-owned & privately owned)	121	9
TOTAL	3,213	240
Unprotected land (Chapter 61/61A/61B, no legal protection)		
Conservation Commission	275	24
Water Department	41	5
Recreation Department	34	3
Commonwealth of MA	17	4
Other Public	345	55
Non-profit	136	4
Private	288	22
Unknown (Town-owned & privately owned)	237	25
TOTAL	1,372	142
Unknown level of protection		
Conservation Commission	6	2
Recreation Department	<1	1
Unknown	5	1
TOTAL	11	4

PROTECTED LAND

There are 3,213 acres over 240 parcels permanently protected in Norwell. Properties that fall into the protected lands category include:

- Town-owned land held in fee simple by a municipality for natural resource protection (Article 97). On the municipal level, lands that are acquired through the Town's Conservation Commission and Water Department for conservation purposes are protected under Massachusetts Constitution Article 97. Changing the use of lands held under Article 97 requires a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting followed by a two-thirds vote of the state legislature, making it very difficult for a municipality to sell or transfer those lands for other purposes. Several parcels in Norwell have been deeded to the Norwell Conservation Commission without explicit protections from development or reselling. These parcels are identified as having "limited" protection.
- Town-owned historical land protected through a historical restriction held in perpetuity.
- State-owned parklands (Article 97).
- Private Land Trust-owned lands, held outright, with deed restrictions or through a Conservation Restriction (CR) held in perpetuity.
- Private lands that have enrolled in the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR).



Jacobs Farm Fields, Image source: Ella Wise

Norwell Conservation Commission

The NCC was established in 1958 and acquired its first piece of property in 1965. The Commission acquires lands by purchasing fee title and receiving and stewarding gifted lands and manages activity that takes place on those parcels. According to the 2012 OSRP, the Conservation Commission managed 1,533 acres. Based on the 2012 OSRP open space inventory and a review of the deeds for properties owned by the Town performed by the Town Planner in December 2020, it is estimated that the Conservation Commission manages 1,722 acres across 184 parcels, shown in Map 9. More than half of the land managed by the Conservation Commission, 1,051 acres across 84 parcels, contributes to the primary open space areas and parks identified in Map 8 and Table 8, while 671 acres across 100 parcels are outside of the primary open space areas and parks. The majority of land managed by the Conservation Commission, 1,440 acres over 158 parcels, is permanently protected by a conservation restriction or Article 97 protection, as shown in more detail in Table 10. However, as described later in this Section, the Conservation Commission also manages 282 acres over 26 parcels for which there is no explicit, permanent legal protection and six acres over two parcels for which the level of protection is unknown.

Table 10: Protected Land Managed by Norwell Conservation Commission

Owner	Level of Protection	Site name	Acreage	# of Parcels
Town of Norwell	Article 97	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	142	6
		Donavan Farm Fields	53	3
		Fogg Forest	38	2
		Grove Street Trails	25	5
		Hatch Lots	53	5
		Jacobs Farm Fields**	16	7
		Jacobs Pond	392	10
		Miller Woods	46	15
		Simon Hill & Bowker Street	15	1
		Stetson Meadows	42	3
		Wildcat	56	10
		Other	420	73
	Conservation Restriction	Other	30	3
Town of Scituate	Article 97	Other	9	1
Private Individuals/ Homeowners Associations	Conservation Restriction	Other	91	13
Unknown	Article 97	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	11	1
Total			1,440	158
Notes:				
* "Other" refers to parcels that are not within the primary open space areas and parks.				
** Jacobs Farm Fields is protected by a historical deed restriction held by Historic New England				

The NCC has established rules and regulations governing the use of its land. Many of these conservation lands provide for passive recreation such as walking and horseback riding trails, cross country skiing in the winter, and boating and fishing. Management plans are available for Stetson Meadows, Jacobs Pond Recreational Area, and Donovan Farm. Extensive woodland trail systems

are maintained by the Norwell Senior Volunteers on eight conservation parcels, including Cuffee Hill, Wildcat Trails, Donovan Fields, Jacobs Pond Area, Stetson Meadows, Miller Woods, Fog Forest, and Hatch Lots. Trail connections and loops have been created, linking many trail systems. For example, the trails on Donovan link to a trail system on recreation land located on Wildcat, which then links to a trail network created on conservation restriction land that is part of the Wildcat subdivision. Another similar trail network exists between the multiple parcels held by the NCC and The Nature Conservancy off of Mt. Blue Street.

The Norwell 2017 Trail Map & Guide illustrates the network of trails and provides more detailed maps and explanations of each major open space area. The Trail Map & Guide is available on the Town website, and images of each trail description from the Trail Map & Guide are shown on the following pages in Figure 7.⁴¹

Figure 7: Norwell Trail Maps & Guides

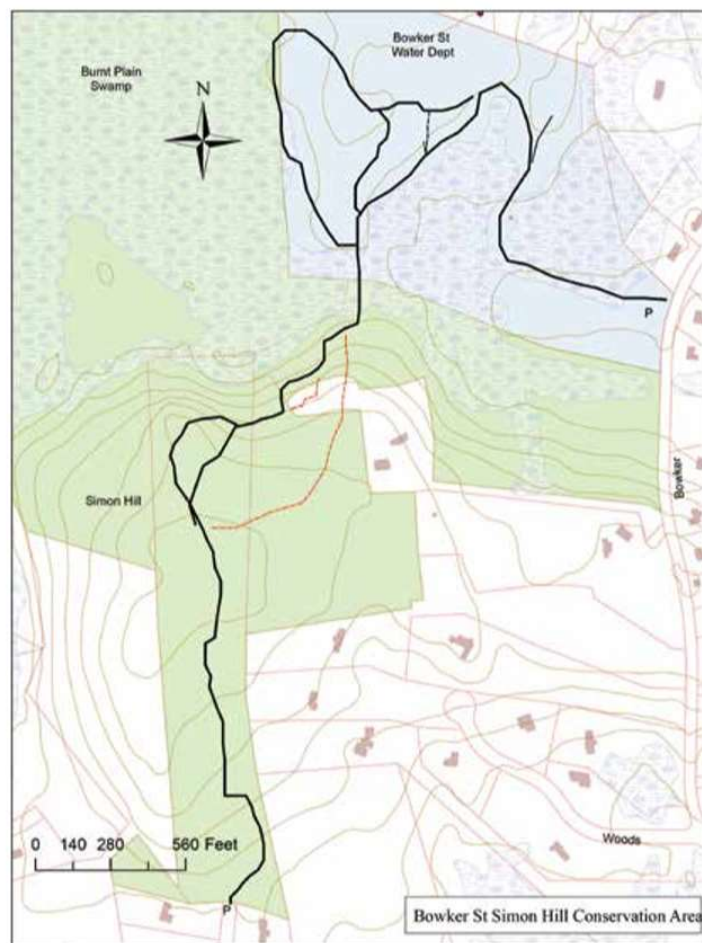
Bowker Street Simon Hill

In the early days of South Scituate a Mr. George W. H. Litchfield owned a shoe shop on Norwell Avenue. When this closed the shoe makers from that area would hike their way from Bryant's corner by way of Bowker Street over Simon's Hill and on to Prospect Street. They hung their lanterns on a post in front of the Henry Main House on Prospect Street. They then would walk to Assinippi to catch the trolley to Rockland where they worked in a shoe factory located there.

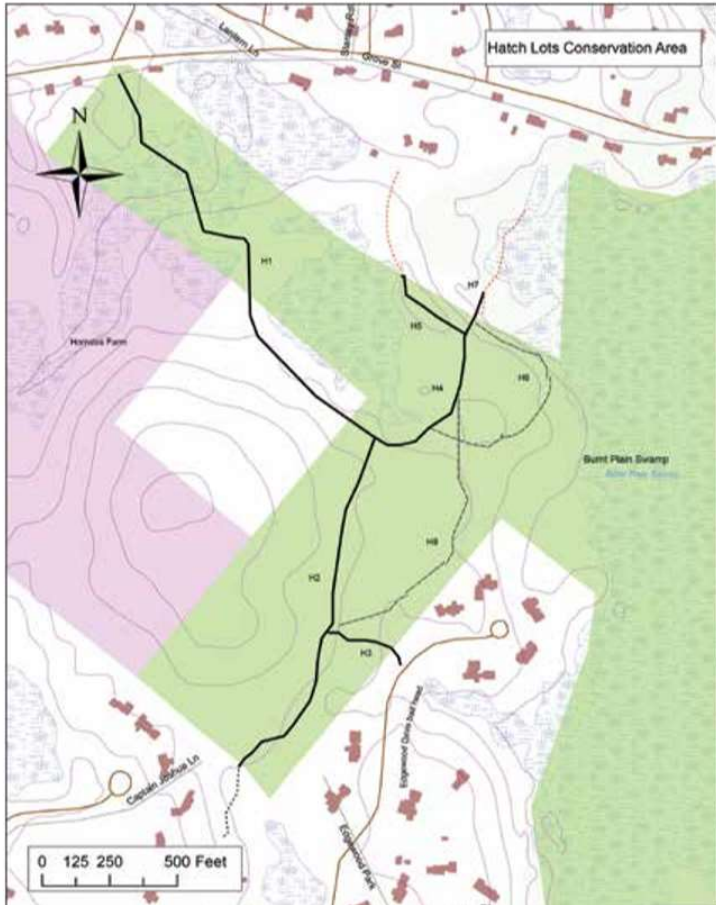
At night they would reverse the morning trek. It is said that all one could see were the lighted lanterns coming and going over the hill.

It is also written that the "Shoemaker Trail" was considered a town road until Bowker Lane became a town road in 1870. At that time the road was extended from Main Street to Grove Street. The Shoemaker trail still exists today from the base of the hill on Bowker Street to Prospect Street. Simon Hill has many other trails on it, all of these created as trails by the Native Americans and then widened by early settlers.

*Taken from "Foot Trails" contained in the Norwell Atlas by Professor William Gould Vinal.



⁴¹ <<https://www.townofnorwell.net/open-space-recreation-implementation-committee/pages/town-woodland-trails-and-paths>>



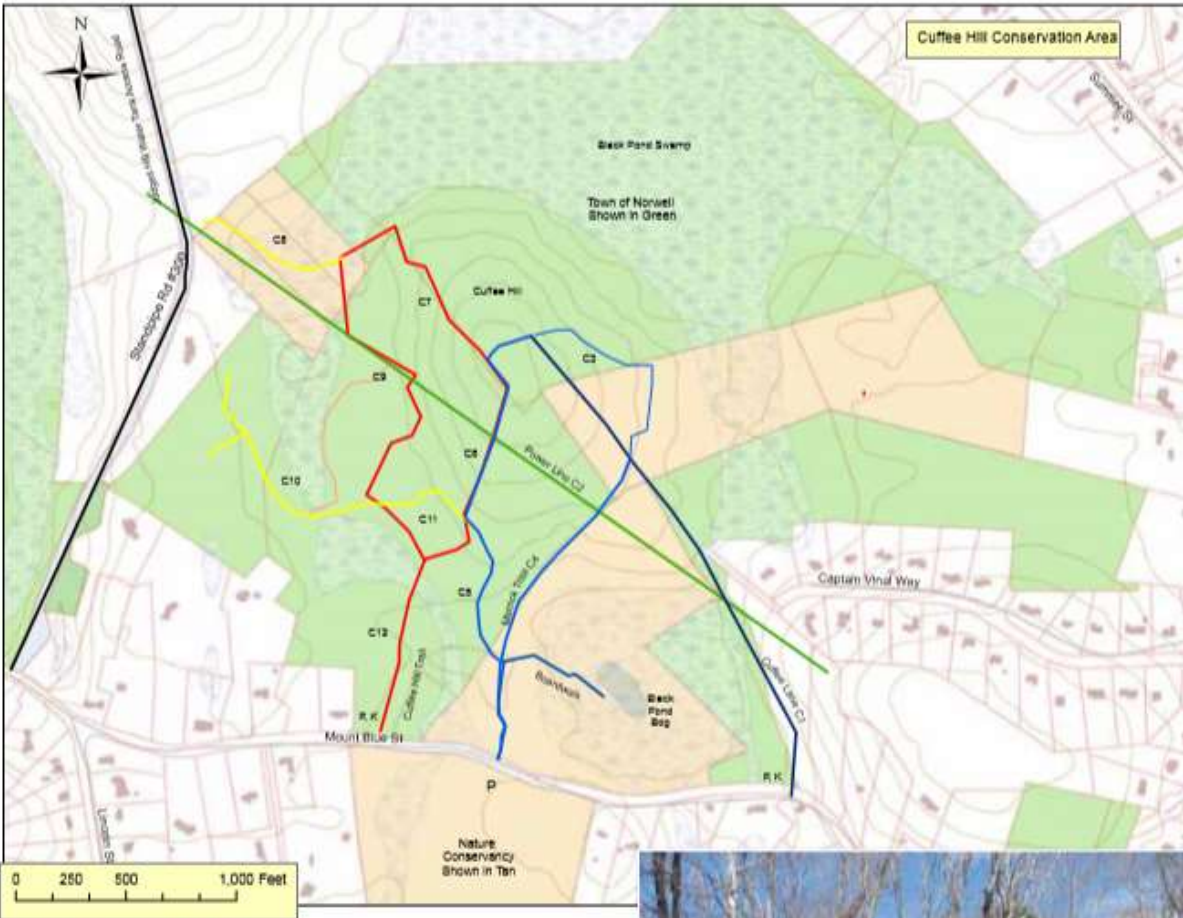
Hatch Lots

The Hatch Lots are named after a group of historic wood lots created by a farmer named Samuel Hatch in the 1800s. The uplands are dominated by areas of Beech and Pine, while the swamp historically had been dominated by White Cedar, widely used for construction and roof shingles. The Loring Farm Trust sold 14 acres to the Town in 1977. At that time three other lots that were held under the Town were transferred to Conservation. The conservation land connects the neighborhoods on the corner of Grove and Prospect Streets to Edgewood Park, where there are currently entrances. Hornstra Farm lies to the west of the property. Several old unmaintained woodland trails lead to the edges of these fields and to the swamp. Burnt Plain Swamp, a large wetland complex spanning over a hundred acres, abuts the site to the east; a tributary stream runs through the Hatch Lots and connects to the Burnt Plain Swamp off site. This property as well as most of the conservation areas contain geocache locations hosted by nearby residents or visitors. These geocache sites provide recreational opportunities beyond the scenic trails. Guests are encouraged to explore the landscape off the trails with map and compass to avoid getting lost.



Jacobs Pond

Jacobs Pond is a 60 acre, man-made pond. It was created in 1730 when the Third Herring Brook was dammed at Main Street, Route 123. Originally the pond was called Snapper Pond, a colloquial abbreviation for the local Indian name Assinippi, which meant rocky water. The head waters for Third Herring Brook are located in the southern portion of Valley Swamp. The brook exits the south end of the pond at the dam. Jacobs Pond and Third Herring Brook are part of the North River Watershed. Energy from the flume at the dam was used to run grist and sawmills. The gristmill was abandoned and the sawmill burned in 1920. There was a brick manufacturing facility on the Assinippi Parcel from 1680 to 1830.



Cuffee Hill

The Cuffee Conservation Area is part of a unique sensitive ecosystem that includes Core Habitat and a rare quaking bog. Black Pond Bog, an 83-acre preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy is a significant feature. The Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program classifies Black Pond Bog as a 'Quaking' or "Level Bog'. There are pockets of white cedar swamp growing out of the thick sphagnum moss mat that encircles the pond. Preserving this area allows the Town and Nature Conservancy to protect the biodiversity and ecological integrity of this special Black Bog environment. The property derives its name from an historic stone-wall-lined cart path, which begins on Mt. Blue Street and extends through the property, known as Cuffee's Lane. Cuffee Conservation Area is the largest continuous area of protected and town-owned open space in Norwell, it is also home to some of the Town's most prized natural and cultural resources. It contains an extensive trail network and has been identified as part of a larger regional "Greenway" in the Norwell Master Plan.





Donovan Wilcat

Donovan Fields property through which this trail winds, was part of a large land grant in colonial days, known as White Oak Plains. When acquired by the town in 1997, the two houses and the old orchard field were sold and a cluster-zoned housing development was built, the first in the town. Terms for that development included the construction of part of this trail. As the Donovan trail winds south, it moves onto Wildcat Hill, an area originally settled by freed slaves. The Donovan Farm Fields are currently licensed to local farmers for agricultural use. The larger of the Donovan Fields contains several older structures, the largest a cold storage shed which has been used at various times for storage of hay,

pumpkins, apples and farm equipment. There is an old smoke shed behind the north west corner of the storage shed as well as an old stone fire pit across the stream near the old skating pond which can be found along Margret's Brook. The Bike Path which runs from the High School to the Town Center winds around the outside edge of the larger Donovan Farm Field.





Fogg Forest & Miller Woods

Fogg Forest is a 37+ acre property located between Main Street and Central Street. The property was donated by Isabella and Helen Fogg in 1972 in memory of their husbands, Horace and Faulkner Fogg. The land was donated as a refuge and sanctuary for wildlife. The main trail forms a loop with several one-way spurs, it is relatively flat, passing through a mixed pine and hardwood forest interspersed with fields of fern. Rhododendron bushes line the trail and are spectacular when blooming in the spring. Another spur from the right leads to the access on Central Street. This trail crosses Black Pond Brook via a bridge. This trail is somewhat rugged and difficult. Stone walls border and intersect many of the trail sections. Benches are located along the trail. A picnic area with 2 donated tables is located in the Main St field. One of these is ADA accessible and open to the public on a first come first serve basis.

Miller's Woodland trails are lined by stone walls, red maple swamps and varied wildlife including fox and turkey. The scenic woodland nestled close to downtown is surrounded by horse farms. The property borders Jordan's Lane, a historic cart path that connects Main Street with Forest Street. Miller's Wood has remained unchanged for more than 150 years. Originally it was part of the historic 1835 house at 580 Main Street. In the 1930s, Lillian and Spencer Miller (a Boston Wool merchant) purchased the property including the stable space they needed for their horses. In 1946 widowed Lillian Miller sold the back wood lot off Forest St. to the town. A small picnic area is located just off the parking area.





Stetson Meadows

The Stetson Meadows Conservation Area, part of the 100 Acre Farm owned by the Cornet Stetson Family was purchased in 1972 by the Town of Norwell to prevent further development of the land along the North River. From the Stetson Meadows Management Plan - The history of the Stetson Ford property issued to Robert Stetson as a land grant in 1634 is intertwined with the history of Norwell. The chain of ownership is part of the history of the 100 year tie to the North River shipbuilding industry. Topography includes a drumlin and moraine landscape with many low wetlands and woody swamps as well as salt marshes. The plant and animal species found here are too numerous to list. Interested visitors are encouraged to contact the Commission for copies of the Stetson Meadows management plan which contains significant more detail.



Trails include the Twin Pines Trails known for giant pines on either side of the trail; the River Loop Trail with beautiful large Beech trees, (aka salt marsh trail); Stetson trail, which runs back to the entrance road from the parking area.

Water Department

The Norwell Water Department currently services approximately 95% of the total population with municipal water. The Norwell Water Department currently has 10 well pump stations that lie in four well field areas: South Street, Washington Street, Grove Street, and Bowker Street. The Town of Scituate owns 28 acres off First Parish Road for wellhead protection. The 2012 OSRP claimed that the Norwell Water Department-owned and managed approximately 602 acres, including wells, aquifer protection buffer lands, water treatment plants, and water storage tanks. According to the 2021 Open Space Inventory, the Water Department manages 591 acres across 36 parcels, of which 550 acres is permanently protected as shown in Table 11 and illustrated in Map 9. With their specific permission, the Board of Water Commissioners allows passive recreation, such as walking and hiking, on the land under its care and control.

Table 11: Protected Land Managed by Norwell Water Department

Owner	Level of Protection	Site Name	Acreage	# of Parcels
Town of Norwell	Article 97	Grove Street Trails	131	9
		Simon Hill & Bowker Street	40	3
		South Street Water Dept land	278	10
		Other	59	6
Town of Scituate	Article 97	Other	42	3
Total			550	31
Notes: * "Other" refers to parcels that are not within the primary open space areas and parks.				

Other Town Owned Property

The Town owns an additional 271 acres of protected land managed by entities other than the Conservation Commission or Water Department, as shown in Table 12 and illustrated in Map 9. For example, Gaffield Park, located at the intersection of River St. and Forest St., is a children’s playground located on eight acres now managed by the Recreation Commission. The land was deeded to the Town in 1896 to be used as a public park.

Table 12: Protected Town-Owned Land Not Managed by Conservation Commission or Water Department

Manager	Level of Protection	Site Name	Acreage	# of Parcels
Board of Selectmen	Article 97	Simon Hill & Bowker Street	126	1
		Stetson Meadows	7	1
		Other*	21	8
Recreation Commission	Article 97	Wildcat	75	1
		Reynolds Playground	<0	1
	Deed Restriction	Gaffield Park	8	1
Recreation Commission in partnership with other entities	Article 97	Charles “Ed” White Recreation Land	7	1
		Woodworth Park**	17	7
Unknown	Article 97	Wildcat	3	1
Total			271	27
Notes:				
* “Other” refers to parcels that are not within the primary open space areas and parks.				
** Woodworth Park/Little League Fields is protected by a historical deed restriction held by Historic New England				

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Park Land

Wompatuck State Park lies within the Towns of Hingham, Cohasset, Norwell, and Scituate. The land was previously used as a Federal military storage depot. In 1967, the Federal Government’s General Services Administration sold 2,900 acres to the Commonwealth’s Department of Environmental Management. An additional 604 acres of federal property at the northeastern boundary of the park were donated to the state in 1985.

Approximately 534 acres (or 15% of the total park acreage) are within Norwell, as shown in Map 9. In the southern portion of the park in Norwell, there are two ponds, Holly Pond and Boundary Pond, that are used by hikers and birdwatchers. Mount Blue spring is a beneficial source of spring water used by many visitors. There is a 12-acre cleared field used for ball games and other activities. There are 12 miles of bicycle trails within the park that are located in Norwell.

PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT PROTECTED LAND

Map 9 also illustrates open space and recreational land managed by non-profit groups.

The Trustees of Reservations

The Norris Reservation is a 120-acre parcel made possible by the generous gift of longtime Norwell resident Eleanor Norris. It is an exquisite piece of land owned by the Trustees of Reservations with frontage on the North River that features small mill ponds, river views, Second Herring Brook, and an old boathouse on the North River wooded upland, and salt marsh.

The Nature Conservancy

The 87-acre Black Pond Bog Reserve was the first parcel acquired in Massachusetts by The Nature Conservancy. The property includes a pond and peat bog, a unique feature in this area. Black Pond is a typical "Kettle Hole" pond surrounded by a quaking bog and white cedar, red maple swamp. The property is mostly wooded and has trails, including a boardwalk through part of the bog. It was acquired through the joint efforts of well-known local conservationist Captain Bill Vinal, the Town of Norwell, and The Nature Conservancy and was dedicated June 2, 1962. This parcel abuts several other large parcels managed by the Norwell Conservation Commission.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society

The Massachusetts Audubon Society owns a 12-acre parcel of the marsh along the North River. There are no facilities and no public access other than from the River. The land is known as the Chase Garceau land.

The South Shore Natural Science Center/Hanover YMCA (The Science Center)

The Science Center offers natural history programs for children and adults. The 27-acre parcel features self-guided nature trails through woodlands and wetlands. There are four Certified Vernal Pools on the grounds. One trail, the Tupelo Trail, is for people with disabilities and meets the American Disabilities Act standards.

Permanent Conservation Restrictions

A Conservation Restriction or CR is a legally binding agreement that divides interests in the land among two or more parties, with the landowner retaining ownership of the property and the land conservation organization, such as a land trust or a public agency, holding the conservation restriction. The conservation organization is responsible for enforcing the terms of the conservation restriction to ensure that the conservation values of the property are protected in perpetuity. Conservation Restrictions are permitted under the Conservation Restrictions Act (M.G.L. Ch. 184) and must be approved by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs.

There are many forms of conservation restrictions, some permanent and some with defined time limits. Public access may be permitted but is not required. Conservation restrictions have a number of advantages: (1) they cost less than a fee simple acquisition, (2) the owner still pays real estate taxes (although at a lower rate), and (3) the owner continues to maintain the land.

Table 13 lists the conservation restrictions in Norwell protecting 23 parcels totaling 257 acres. The inventory of conservation restrictions is based on a careful review of individual deeds performed by the Town Planner.

Table 13: Land with Conservation Restrictions

Owner	Map	Block	Lot	Acreage
Maxwell Land Trust	3B	10	104	11
Town of Norwell	4C	11	73	4
	4C	11	74	5
	4C	11	69	22
The Reserve Homeowners Association	20C	55	14	1
	20C	55	14-16,47-49, & 56	16
	20C	55	49-50	0
	20C	55	51	0
	20C	55	49-52	9
Wildcat Hill Homeowners Association Trust	24C	65	87	2
	24C	65	99	29
	24A	65	118	1
	24A	65	40	0
	24A	65	122	9
		65	117	6
St Ours, Frederick Trustee	25D	71	2	69
DeGhetto, David	25A	71	8	11
Barque Hill Association	29C	78	112	1
	29A	78	113	5
	29C	78	114	10
	29C	78	115	32
	29C	78	116	5
	29C	78	117	10
Total				257

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

An Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) is a variation of a Conservation Restriction whereby the purpose is to preserve agricultural land. The APR program pays farmers the difference between the fair market value and the agricultural value of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction that precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

There is one APR in the Town of Norwell: the 71-acre Hornstra Farm property located on Prospect Street. In 1980, Albert Loring, the last member of the Loring family to farm this historic property, signed an agreement to preserve the property as a farm in perpetuity. The restriction is held jointly by the Town and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and prohibits any construction or activity detrimental to retaining the agricultural use. It allows only the construction of houses for family members and employees and structures related to the sale of agricultural products, but only with the prior approval of the holders of the restriction. In 2009, John Hornstra, a local family farm owner, purchased the land with plans to continue the tradition of farming. Hornstra Farm raises dairy cattle, pasture, and hay feed and produces and processes milk and dairy products for sale to the local community. Hornstra's ice cream has become a regional favorite.



Hornstra Farm, Image source: Karl Swenson

UNPROTECTED LAND

There are 1,383 acres over 146 parcels of open space and recreation land in Norwell with limited or no protection. More specifically, unprotected lands include:

- Town-owned lands not protected under Article 97, including parcels that have been deeded to the Conservation Commission, for which the deeds do not include explicit language about the future use of the parcel for conservation purposes. In addition, Town-owned lands held by the Recreation Commission are often unprotected. School athletic fields are valuable as open space at the moment but might be needed to accommodate future building additions.
- Private lands restrict land use for a short term (5-30 years) under a Conservation Restriction (CR). The most common program restricts land use to forestry, agricultural/horticultural, or recreational uses under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B, respectively. Landowners who elect to enroll their property under Chapter 61/61A and 61B or chose to put a CR on their property do so in exchange for a sizeable reduction in property taxes on that land. If the landowner wishes to sell the property or make a change in the land use, the Town must be given the right of first refusal. With this potential, these lands are vulnerable to development and should be considered part of a strategic plan for potential conservation and/or recreation purposes.
- Public and private lands for which the level of protection is unknown.

In addition, there are thousands of acres of unprotected privately-owned, undeveloped land that has no level of protection.

Town-Owned

As shown in Table 14 below, there are 810 acres over 106 parcels of Town-owned unprotected open space and recreation land, including 803 acres that are not legally protected and 7 acres for which the level of protection is unknown.

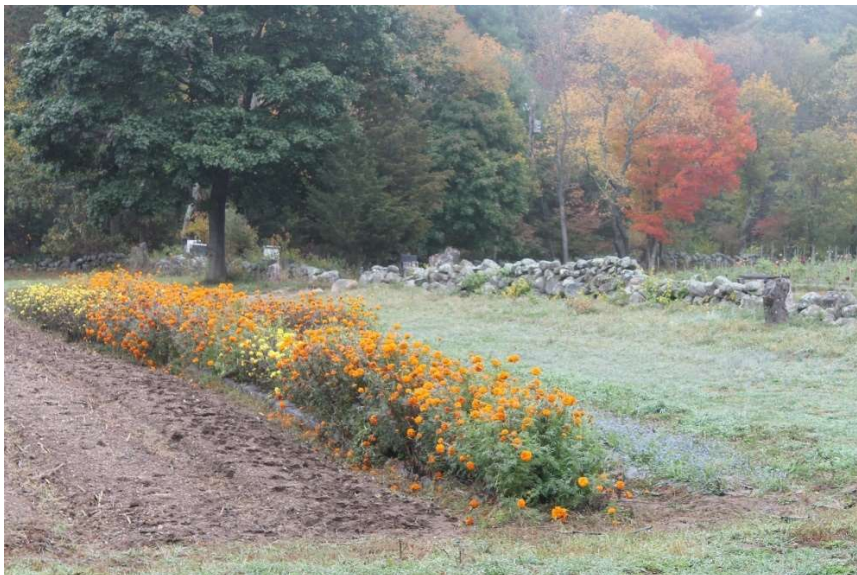


Image source: Ron Mott

Table 14: Unprotected Town-Owned Land Not Managed by Conservation Commission or Water Department

Manager	Site Name	Acreage	# of Parcels
Board of Health	Other	2	1
Board of Selectmen	Bridge Street Landing	<0	1
	Chittenden Landing	<0	1
	Cushing Center	1	1
	Grove Street Trails	29	3
	Stetson Meadows	58	3
	Other	62	38
Conservation Commission	Carleton	124	10
	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	12	1
	Jacobs Pond	11	1
	Main Street Farm Fields	4	1
	Other	98	8
Council of Aging	Senior Center	2	1
Recreation Commission	Centennial Park	17	1
	Osborne Field	6	1
	Town Hall/East Field	11	1
	Other	<0	1
School Department	Cole School	13	1
	Middle School	14	1
	Vinal School	28	1
	Osborne Field	41	1
Water Department	Grove Street Trails	10	3
	Other	31	2
Unknown	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	14	1
	Grove Street Trails	10	1
	Masthead	10	2
	Simon Hill & Bowker Street	27	3
	Other	62	14
	Jacobs Farm Fields	1	1
	Stetson Meadows	99	1
	Wompatuck State Park access	8	1
Total		810	106
<p>Notes: 803 acres have limited protection, and 7 acres have unknown protection. * "Other" refers to parcels that are not within the primary open space areas and parks.</p>			

Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

Norwell has nine cemeteries with known gravestone locations maintained privately or by the Town: the newly-built Stetson Meadows Cemetery, Washington Street Cemetery, First Parish Cemetery, Second Church Cemetery, Stockbridge Cemetery, Bowker Cemetery, Church Hill Cemetery, Pinehurst Cemetery, and the Jacobs-Collamore Cemetery. The site of the old Quaker Cemetery is unknown, but a location is presumed. A large stone marks the site of the former Second Church Graveyard at Wilson Hill at the end of Old Meetinghouse Land, but no gravestones remain at that location. There is a single gravesite at the Damon Cemetery off of Damon Way and a few private burial grounds and tombs throughout the Town. These cemeteries total almost 55 acres, with one of the largest being the Stetson Meadows Cemetery, adjacent to the Stetson Meadows Recreation and Conservation Area.

Public Access to the North River

There are two Town-owned public access landings along the North River: the Bridge Street Town landing and the Chittenden Lane landing. Bridge Street landing provides a launch for both motor-powered and non-motorized boats, as well as two benches that overlook the River and trash receptacles. The Chittenden Lane landing, primarily used as a local fishing spot, has four parking spots, a dock, benches, and trash cans.

Chapter 61 Land

Chapter 61 of the Commonwealth's General Laws relates to the classification and taxation of forest land and forest products. Under this taxation program, parcels of 10 or more contiguous acres under an approved management plan are taxed at 5% of fair market value. Taxes for properties enrolled in chapter 61/61A are calculated based on current property use (e.g., the productive potential of the land for growing trees), instead of the fair market or development value. If the forestry use is discontinued, a penalty must be paid. When land under Chapter 61 is put up for sale, the municipality has 120 days in which to exercise its right of first refusal to purchase the land at full market value. This provision allows municipalities the opportunity to plan for the acquisition of parcels with conservation and recreation value.

Chapter 61A is the Farm Assessment Act that provides for the use-value assessment of agricultural and horticultural land of at least five acres. There are provisions similar to Chapter 61 regarding taxation, the penalty for discontinuing the use, and the municipality's right of first refusal when the land is put on the market. This offers the Town an opportunity for acquiring parcels that are priorities for maintaining Norwell's much-valued rural scenic quality.

Chapter 61B provides for a reduction in the tax assessment of at least 75% on parcels five acres or more that are classified as recreational, wild, or open land.

Since 2012, four parcels totaling 36 acres were unenrolled from Chapter 61 since 2012. The parcels under Chapter 61 are listed in Table 15 and identified in Map 9.

Table 15: Land Enrolled in Chapter 61

Type of Protection	Map	Block	Lot	Acreage
Chapter 61A	6	1	6-1	44
Chapter 61	23	23	23-23	15
Chapter 61A	35	21	35-21	64
Chapter 61	40	25	40-25	12
Chapter 61A	40	32	40-32	25
Chapter 61A	42	28	42-28	9
Chapter 61A	44	44	44-44	9
Chapter 61B	47	11	47-11	50
Chapter 61A	47	33	47-33	6
Chapter 61	47	35	47-35	21
Chapter 61A	48	37	48-37	9
Chapter 61A	48	38	48-38	1
Chapter 61A	48	39	48-39	6
Chapter 61A	51	12	51-12	2
Chapter 61A	53	26	53-26	6
Chapter 61A	53	28	53-28	14
Chapter 61A	56	32	56-32	13
Chapter 61A	57	4	57-4	1
Chapter 61A	57	42	57-42	16
Chapter 61A	70	4	70-4	10
Chapter 61A	71	5	71-5	4
Chapter 61A	72	8	72-8	7
Chapter 61A	74	26	74-26	8
Total				352

Wetlands

Norwell has an abundance of wetlands and salt marsh, totaling roughly 30% of the Town's land area. About 4,264 acres of waterways, ponds, and wetlands on municipal lands and in residents' backyards, of which 2,687 acres are wetlands. Wetlands are currently protected from development under the Norwell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, but laws can change. The only true way to protect land is to purchase and preserve it through Article 97 status and/or Conservation Restrictions in perpetuity.

Other Town Owned Property

There are a number of other Town-owned properties that offer some conservation protection. These are lands managed by the Fire Department, Police Department, the Highway Department, and the Board of Selectmen. None of these parcels offer any kind of long-term conservation protection other than the fact that the Town owns them. These lands are largely developed, but some have land that could be evaluated for conservation and/or recreation uses.

LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

The 2005 Open Space and Recreation Committee proposed that 30% of the Town should be protected in order to maintain its semi-rural character and ecological integrity. The 2012 Plan maintained the same goal and established a ranking system to guide conservation activities shown in Table 15.

This updated 2021 OSRP pursues the same goal, aiming for the protection of an additional 800 acres. Notably, the Conservation Commission can make progress on this goal by permanently protecting the 248 acres of unprotected Town-owned land that it currently manages. The protection of additional land should be pursued strategically based on the open space criteria in Table 16.



Jacobs Pond, Image source: Marynel Wahl

Table 16: Open Space Criteria

Ground Water Supply (including Hanover, Scituate, and Cohasset)	
Existing Zone 1 (identified as potential ground water supply)	3 points
Existing Zone 2 (mapped recharge area surrounding ground water supply)	2 points
Existing Zone 3 (within watershed of ground water supply)	1 point
No existing or potential function as water supply	0 points
Surface Water Supply/Quality/ Soil Erosion (including Scituate, Hingham and	
Parcel would protect a Class A water (within 400 ft. of surface water supply & 200 ft. from	3 points
Parcel would protect a Class B water (within half mile of surface water supply)	2 points
Parcel would protect a Class C water (within watershed of surface water supply)	1 point
Parcel is not proximate to any surface waters	0 points
Maintenance of Biological Diversity or Wildlife Habitat	
Parcel is within Core Habitat, Supporting Natural Landscape, and certified and potential vernal	3 points
Parcel is identified as Natural Resources Priorities in the Master plan	2 points
Parcel is identified as local natural communities or is contiguous to existing habitat	1 point
Parcel does not provide significant habitat functions	0 points
Buffering Conflicting Uses	
Site buffers public site or large scale private site from conflicting adjacent land uses	3 points
Site buffers small scale private sites from conflicting uses	2 points
Site buffers sites that are not sensitive to adjacent uses	1 point
Site does not serve a buffering role	0 points
Recreational Value	
The parcel is recognized as a destination for recreational activities including potential bikeway, athletic fields and pedestrian network as outlined in the master plan and/or	3 points
The parcel meets criteria identified in the Master Plan and/or Open Space and Recreation Plan for	2 points
The parcel is not identified in the Master Plan and/or Open Space and Recreation Plan but provides	1 point
The parcel does not provide recreational values	0 points
Scenic Views	
The parcel provides a distinctive landscape view from a public way or provides a vista from which to view significant and distinctive landscape qualities.	3 points
The parcel is associated with an identified visual element of the town including scenic	2 points
The parcel provides distinctive views but is not readily accessible to the public	1 point
The parcel does not provide scenic qualities	0 points
Landscape/Greenways Context	
The parcel is contiguous to existing protected open space and recreation lands AND is identified as	3 points
The parcel is located in the “Protective River Corridor” as identified in the NSRWA’s <u>North River</u>	3 points
The parcel abuts existing open spaces and recreation lands	2 points
The parcel does not abut open space but is identified with a greenway corridor between existing open spaces	1 point
Note: This Open Space Criteria was copied from the 2012 Norwell Open Space & Recreation Plan. Deb Lenahan was a key author of the criteria.	

Lands of Interest: Norwell's Islands, Clam Flats, and Other Land in Scituate

In 1849, Norwell (then called South Scituate) separated from Scituate, and the two Towns agreed upon a division of so-called "common" land. For the sum of \$1,350, Norwell acquired an amount of real estate that included the Town common and other parcels such as the land where Cushing Hall (the old Town hall) sits today.

The Town was also granted sections of salt meadow or flats on the North River. More precisely, the deed names the land: "The Gulph Island, the Middle Green Island and sunken flat, the Jacob Flat, the Northey Flat, the Great Green Island...The Great Green Flat and Hummock Flats, they being all the flats that have been annually let at auction" apparently for the purposes of shellfishing and salt haying.

Scituate renounced any claim to the land: "To them, the said inhabitants of South Scituate, their successors and assigns to their own exclusive use and behoove forever so that neither the said inhabitants of Scituate nor any person nor persons claiming by, though, or title to the above named real estate or its appurtenances or to any part or parcel thereof forever."

The land was a very valuable property in 1848 and remained so for many years. After the Great Storm of 1898 (called the Portland Gale after the steamship that sunk during the storm), the North River's configuration changed dramatically, creating a new mouth, today known as the "New Inlet." New beaches, channels, islands, and flats appeared, changing the appearance of the Norwell property. Unfortunately, it does not seem that either town established clear boundaries after the storm, or as a result, over time, it became unclear which flats belonged to Norwell and which ones did not.

For years Norwell residents could obtain parking stickers to be able to use Scituate beaches, and a few "old-timers" still remember the free clam licenses Scituate used to provide Norwell residents. For 137 years, Norwell's townspeople paid taxes to Scituate on the islands and flats in the North River; the payments finally stopped in 1986. A competent title search would establish boundaries, and Norwell residents could potentially enjoy clamming, picnicking, swimming, and fishing on Scituate beaches as earlier generations once did.

6. COMMUNITY VISION

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

This 2021 update adds to a history of OSRPs adopted in Norwell in 1977, 1987, 1997, 2005, 2010, and 2012. The 2021 OSRP reflects fundamental principles common to each of the previous OSRP’s with some adjustments as necessary to address the changing needs and desires of residents, as well as the changing challenges and opportunities for conservation and recreation.

To refine the goals of the 2021 OSRP, the OSRP Committee conducted a public outreach process, including a Town-wide survey and virtual public forum, as described in Section 2: Introduction. In particular, the virtual public forum on October 1, 2020, focused on reviewing and updating the goals. At the forum, the goals of the 2012 Plan were presented, and participants were invited to respond to live polling questions about the prioritization of each 2012 goal. The results of the poll are presented in Table 17. The goals of the 2021 Plan are listed in order of priority, based on the virtual public forum poll results.

Table 17: Poll Results from Participants at Virtual Public Forum on 10/1/2020

Goal	“This goal is of highest priority.”	“This goal is still relevant but less of a priority.”	Discard: this goal has been sufficiently addressed or is less of a priority.”
1. Support passive and active recreation in balance with nature.	68%	32%	-
2. Protect the quality and quantity of Norwell’s water supply.	93%	7%	-
3. Protect natural resources and promote biodiversity.	38%	62%	-
4. Protect Norwell’s scenic quality and historic resources.	59%	38%	3%
5. Overarching – sustain and protect the Town’s quality of life as an overall Town initiative.	50%	31%	19%

In addition, participants were invited to suggest new goals, and participants were able to vote the proposed goals up or down. Two of the most highly supported suggestions related to safe pedestrian and bicycle access. Based on this feedback, a new goal—“Provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle network”—has been added to the 2021 OSRP. Improving access includes improving access for everyone, including people whose current accessibility may be limited due to varying physical, mental, and developmental abilities.

Discussion at the October 1 virtual public forum also revealed confusion about the purpose of Goal 5—“Over-arching: Sustain and protect the Town’s quality of life as an overall Town initiative”. Comments were also made about the need for stronger implementation of the OSRP, including the need for greater coordination between and clarity among the various volunteer committees in town. Therefore, Goal 5 was clarified to focus on implementation.

COMMUNITY VISION

Residents and community leaders have consistently sought to protect ecologically and historically valuable open space, including the Town's water supply, and provide quality recreational opportunities for its residents. Twenty years ago, the community vision was: to retain its unique and beautiful semi-rural character while maintaining a healthy environment and water supply. This remains a priority today, with additional interest in providing public recreational opportunities, including places to walk, and making it safe and convenient to get around town by walking and biking.



Carleton clean-up team, Image source: Marynel Wahl

7. NEEDS ANALYSIS

The OSRP Committee determined the Town's open space and recreation needs through a combination of examining past OSRPs, public input through a Town-wide survey, and a virtual public forum (as described in Section 2 Introduction), and consideration by the OSRP Committee.

Over the course of the planning process, the need for greater coordination and connectivity emerged as a common theme across Norwell's recreation, resources protection, and management needs.

- **Recreation:** There are many trails and parks in Norwell, and the relatively new Pathway is very well-used. However, community members identified a need for greater connection between trails, parks, and sidewalks.
- **Resources protection:** There is a substantial number of parcels protected in Norwell. However, the open space inventory illustrates a fragmented landscape that would benefit from more continuity/connection between protected land.
- **Management:** A strong culture of civic engagement has resulted in several volunteer committees in Norwell. However, throughout the planning process, volunteers and staff identified the need for greater communication and coordination between the different committees and their respective efforts and less reliance on volunteer labor to advance the work of the Town. Therefore, it is recommended that an OSRP Implementation Committee composed of representatives from existing Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Departments assemble and regularly meet to steward this updated OSRP. The OSRP Implementation Committee would provide strategic direction to staff, who would be primarily responsible for implementing the Action Plan.

COMMUNITY & RECREATION NEEDS

Norwell residents are fortunate to have many recreational opportunities available to them. The Norwell Recreation Department develops and oversees numerous recreation programs for residents of all ages and even non-residents when space is available. Activities sponsored by the Recreation Department provide a variety of choices for preschoolers to elders, including playgroups, sports and games, arts and crafts, summer activities, educational courses, music, drama, fitness, wellness, and field trips for all ages.

In addition, since 2012, the Town has been proactively expanding the pedestrian and bicycle network, completing 15,000 linear feet of the Pathway, 15,000 linear feet of sidewalk on Main Street, and 5,000 linear feet of sidewalk in residential neighborhoods. With these improvements, the Town continues to expand its accessibility and connectivity to schools, municipal buildings, historic buildings, and recreation amenities, as well as provide new options for active recreation.

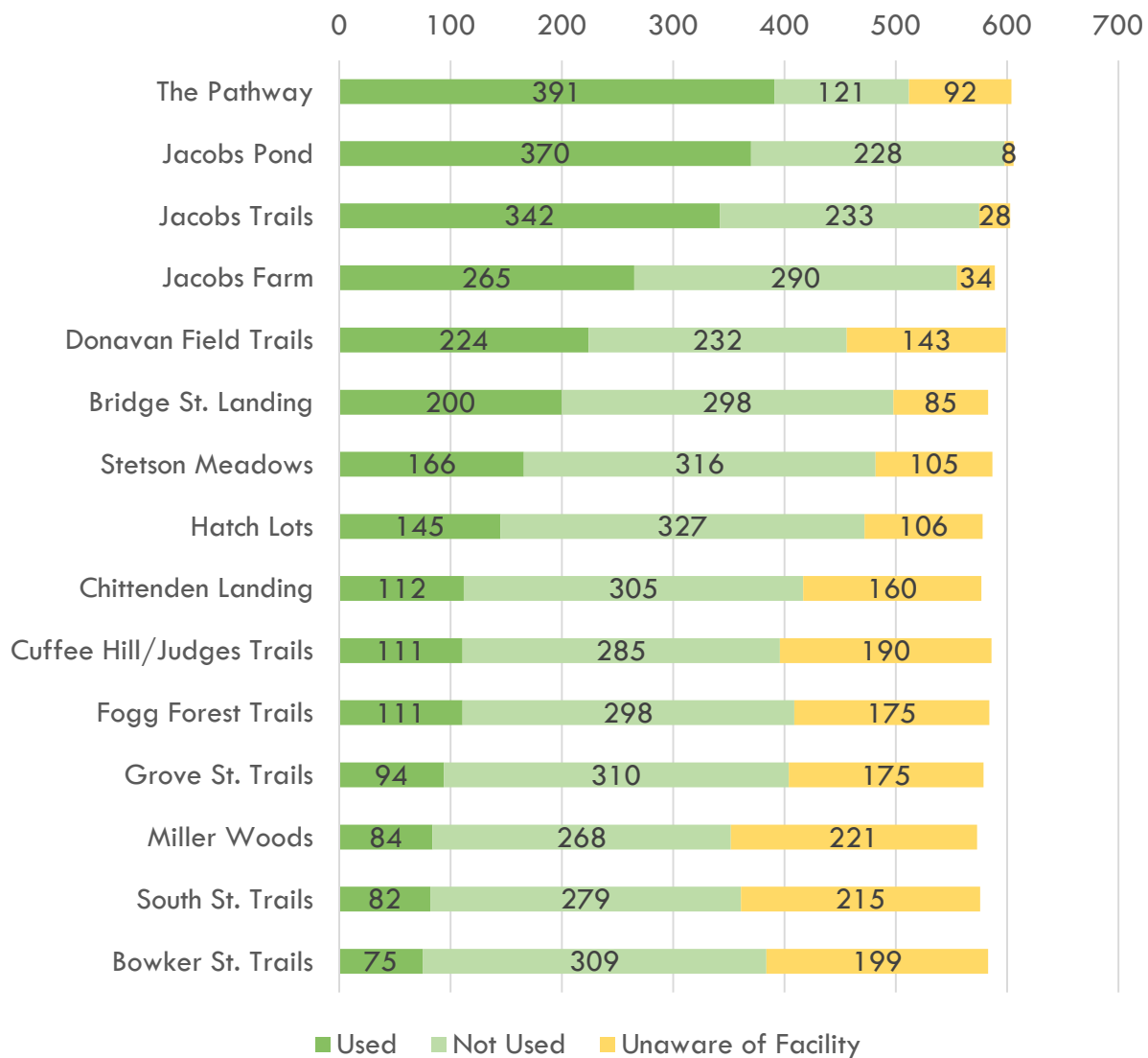
The outreach survey was designed to uncover and better understand the community's recreation needs. The findings of the survey are illustrated and summarized below. Questions about the use of open space areas were divided into separate questions based on the owner of the area.



The Pathway, Image source: Jane Cafferty

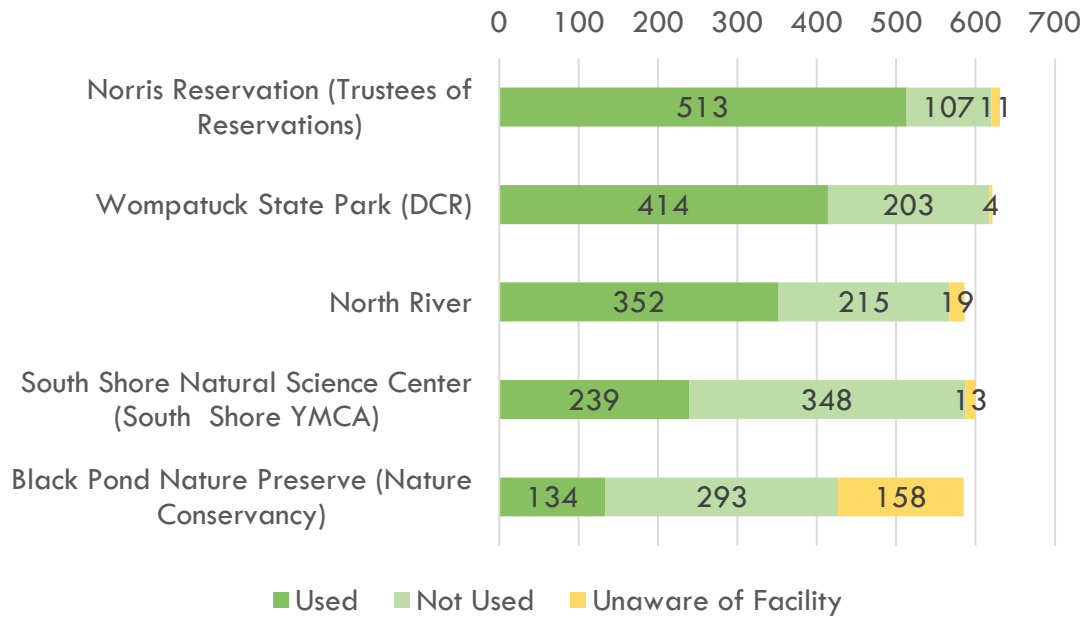
Survey results demonstrate that the most commonly used Norwell-owned open space areas are the Pathway and Jacobs Pond and its trails; (the Pathway was not included in this question because it is not Town-owned). More than half of the respondents had visited both within the previous 18 months. However, even given that popularity, 15% of the survey respondents are unaware of the Pathway. More than 30% of respondents are unaware of many of the Town-owned parks available to them, including Cuffee Hill and Miller Woods. This finding demonstrates the need to better inform all Town residents of existing Town resources.

Which Town of Norwell-owned parks, conservation, or open space areas have you or members of your household used for recreation or leisure purposes in the last 18 months?



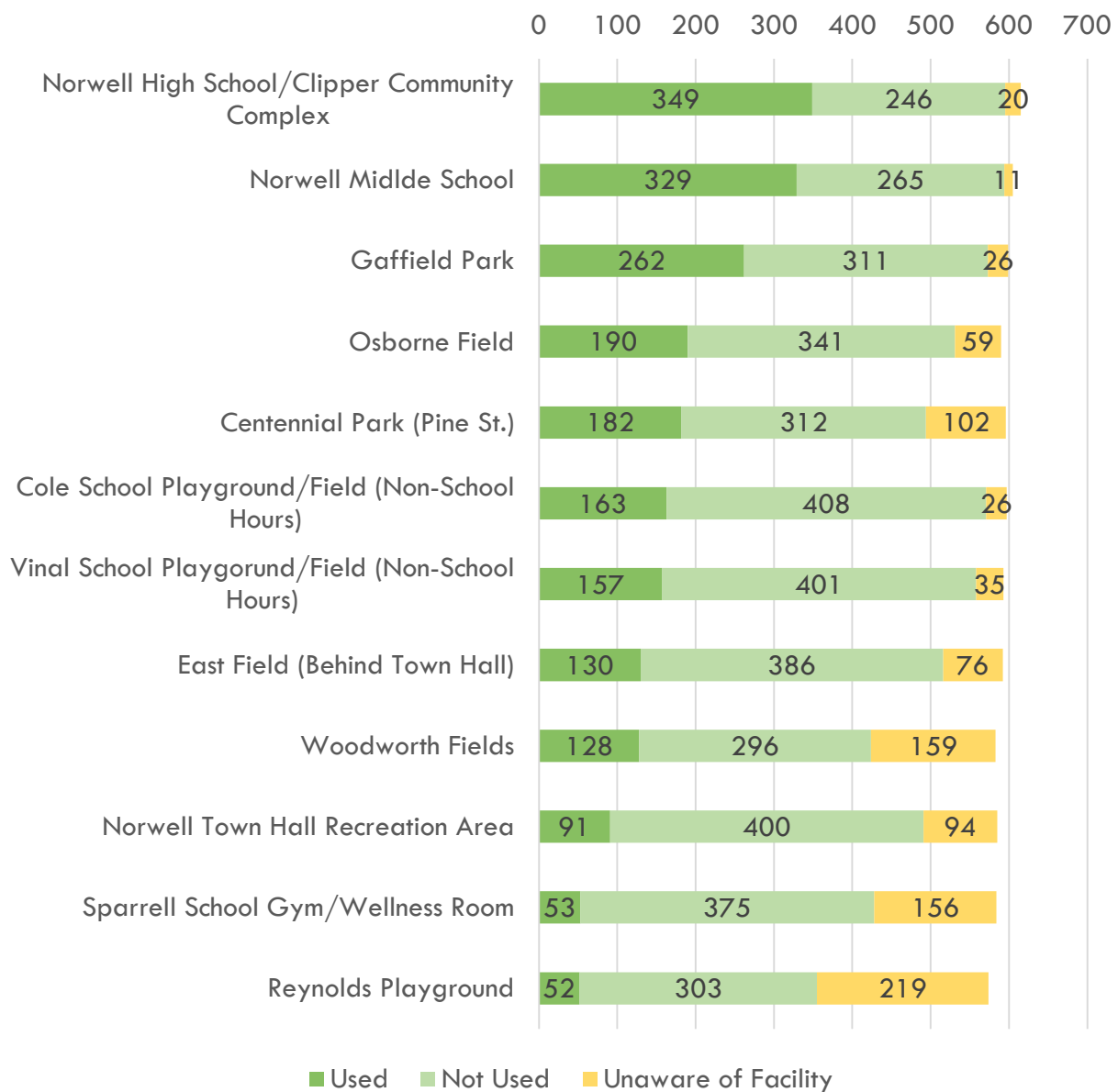
Open space areas in Norwell that are owned by other entities are also very well-used, with the Norris Reservation and Wompatuck State Park being the most commonly used among them. Almost all survey respondents were aware of these areas, the North River and the South Shore Natural Science Center.

Which Non-Town of Norwell-owned park, conservation, recreation or open space areas have you or members of your household used for recreation or leisure purposes in the last 18 months?



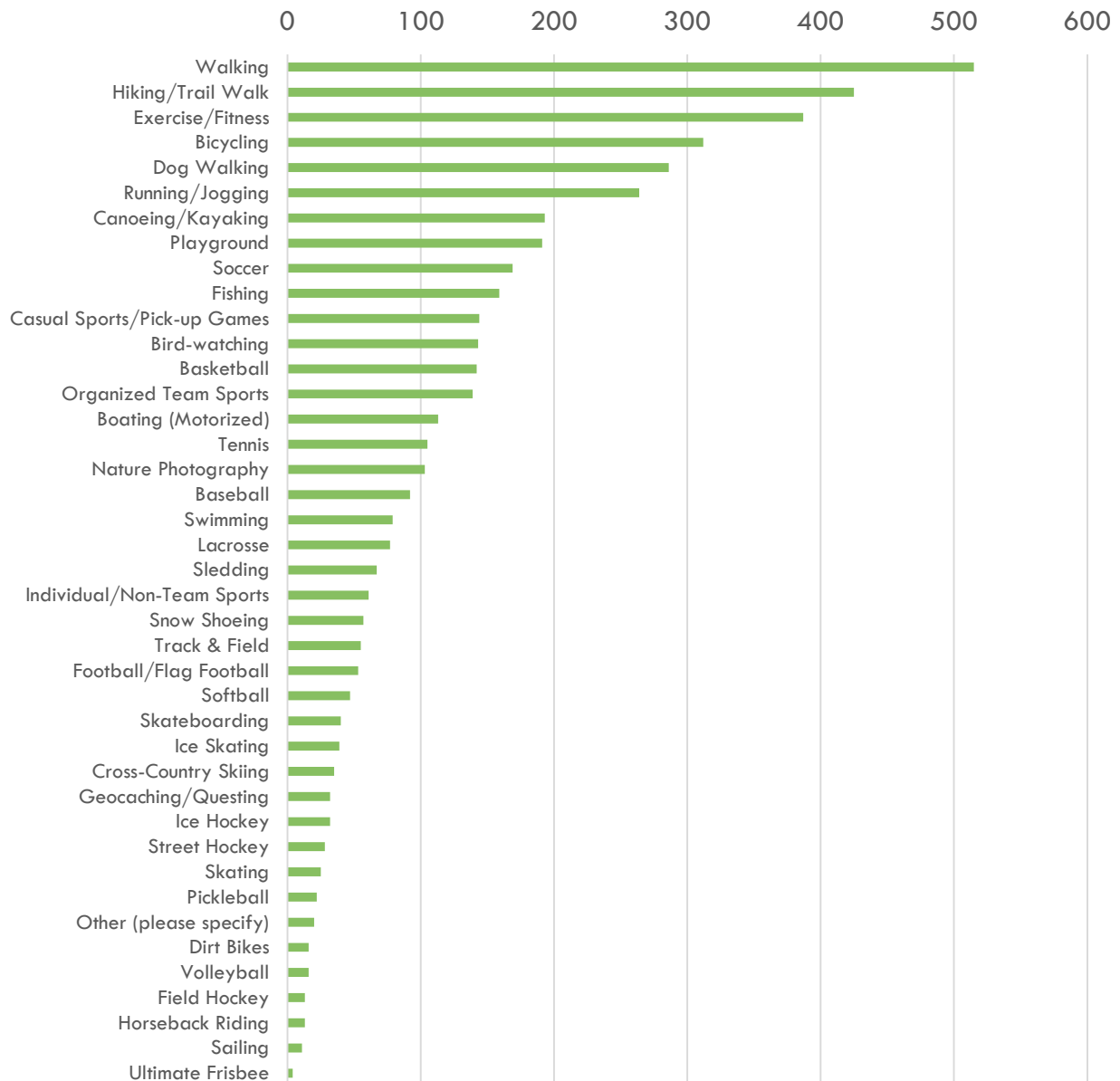
The most commonly used parks and recreational areas are the Norwell High School and Clipper Community Complex, the Norwell Middle School, and Gaffield Park. More than half of the respondents had used the High and Middle School facilities in the previous 18 months. In addition, almost all of the respondents were aware of the High and Middle School fields and Gaffield Park. The fewest number of respondents had heard of Reynolds Playground, but this is expected as Reynolds is mainly intended to serve the local neighborhood. A substantial portion of the respondents were also unaware of the Sparrell School Gym, the Norwell Town Hall Recreation Area, Woodworth Fields, East Field, and Centennial Park.

Which Town of Norwell-owned recreation areas have you or members of your household used in the last 18 months for recreation or leisure purposes?



The most common activities and sports in Norwell are walking, hiking, exercise, bicycling, dog walking, and jogging, according to the survey. Water activities are also very popular: 30% of respondents had canoed or kayaked in the previous 18 months, and 25% had fished. Similarly, team sports such as soccer and basketball are popular, with more than 20% of respondents playing both in the previous 18 months. Similar to other towns, there is increasing interest in pickleball among adults of all ages. A member of the Council on Aging noted that Norwell residents are going to other towns to play because of greater access and availability elsewhere.

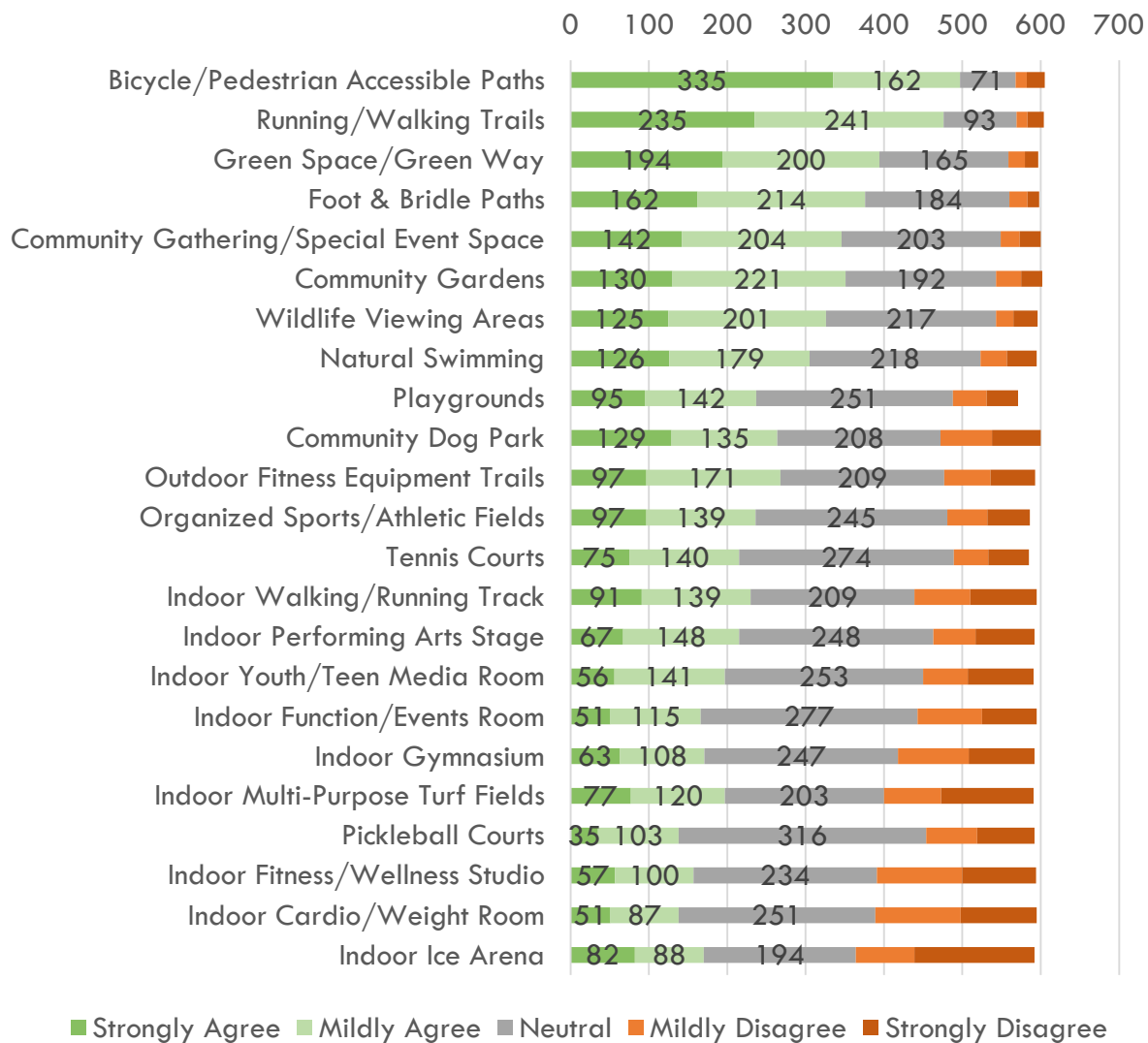
Which activities/sports have members of your household participated in the last 18 months in Town of Norwell parks, conservation, recreation or open space areas?



In terms of new facilities, survey respondents most supported more bicycle and walking paths, as well as a community gathering/event space, community gardens, and swimming facilities. Based on the survey, indoor facilities are in less demand. In particular, one question examined the support for an indoor recreation community center, and approximately half of the respondents responded in support. However, support for indoor facilities may have been impacted by the fact that this OSRP was developed during the coronavirus pandemic. The threat of spreading the virus from spending time indoors with others may have discouraged interest in indoor recreation facilities.

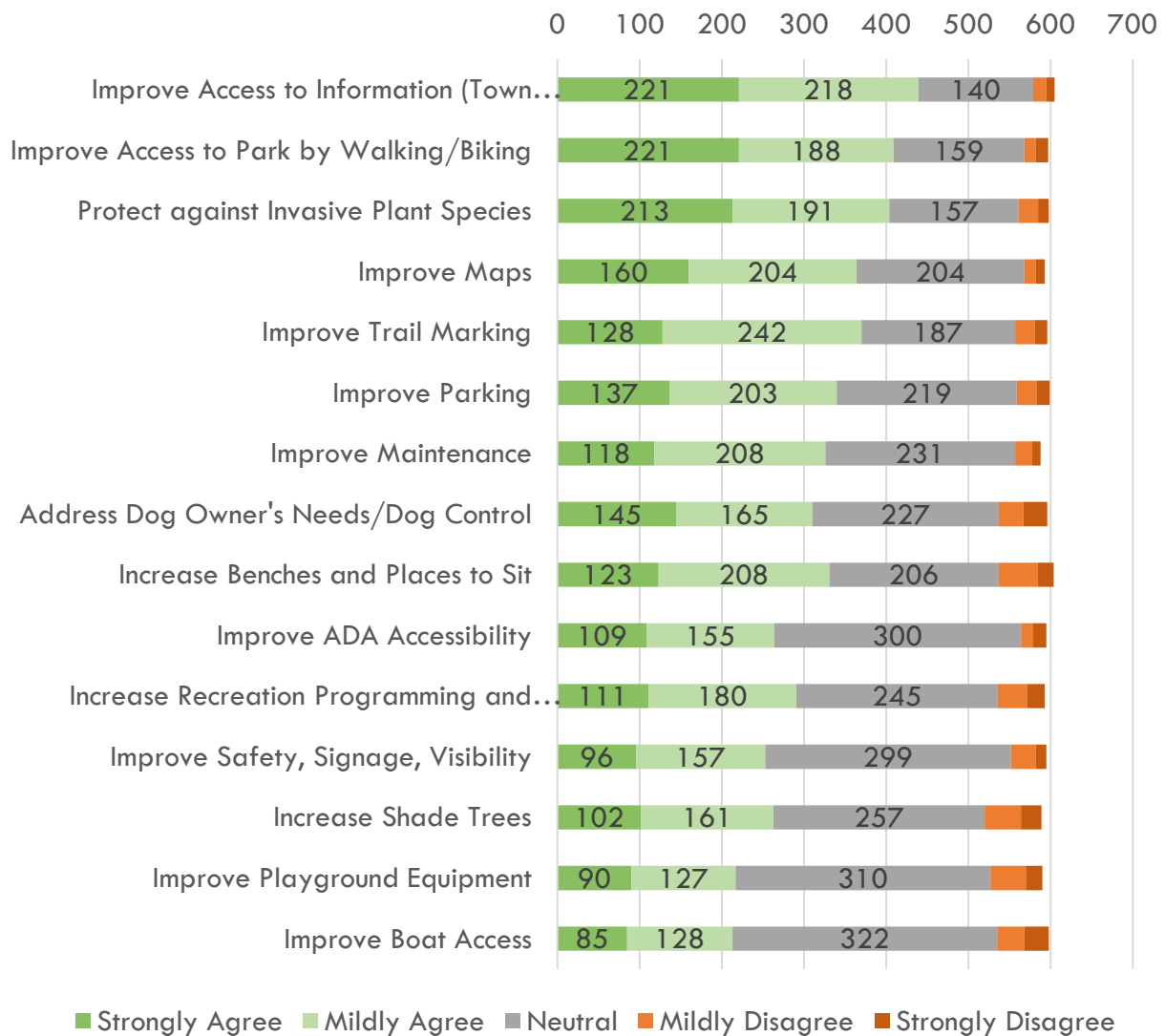
The 2012 Plan had documented strong community support for more athletic fields. However, as described in Section 2—Introduction, tremendous progress has been made in the past few years to offer a greater number of and improved athletic field spaces in Norwell. In result, increasing the number of and improving athletic fields is a lower priority for survey respondents.

Do you or members of your household agree with increasing the quantity and/or improving the quality of the following?



In terms of improvements to existing facilities, survey respondents most supported improving access to information, improving access to parks by walking and biking, and protecting against invasive species. The 2012 survey found a similar need among respondents for more information, maps, and signage available about areas with public trails and access. The 2012 OSRP also noted that survey respondents commented that sidewalks connecting public facilities (schools, parks, playgrounds) and along busy roadways, including in and around Norwell Center, where desired. This interest continues as the most recent survey and the virtual public forum found strong support for more safe walking and biking paths and connections. There is relatively little demand for improved maintenance or recreational programming, suggesting that the parks are already relatively well-maintained, and the programming is meeting the community's needs.

The following is a list of potential areas of improvements that could be made to EXISTING parks, open space, recreation and conservation areas in the next 7 years. Do you or members of your household agree that these improvements should be made?



Age-Friendly Communities

In 2006 the World Health Organization began an initiative to create age-friendly communities throughout the world. While the initial goal was to address aging concerns in metropolitan and urban areas, it became clear that this ideology could be applied regardless of the size of the community. What was also quickly learned is that while addressing the needs of older adults, communities can actually create an opportunity to ensure that the needs of individuals of all ages and abilities were addressed.

For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, there are more individuals over age 60 than those under age 20. This trend will continue for many years. In 2018, Gov. Baker designated Massachusetts as an Age-Friendly State, with the goal that all 351 communities would work towards this designation.⁴² As of 2021, there are 195 communities in Massachusetts in the process of or that have successfully acquired the age-friendly status. In 2018, the Governor also introduced this designation as an option within the Community Compact and by doing so, offered funding opportunities for those communities working towards this designation.

There are 8 themes to be addressed as part of age-friendly initiatives: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, and Community & Health Service. Several of these themes, including Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Social Participation, and Community & Health Service, are related to open space and recreation facilities and programs. Currently, Norwell's Senior Center provides a variety of recreational, social, and educational programs, as well as support services to Norwell's older residents.

Planning for youth and teenagers is also important to meet the needs of all residents. The recently developed Clipper Complex is very well-used by teenagers and helps provide outdoor recreation space for youth and families alike. Almost half of the survey respondents (46%) have someone under the age of 18 in their household. Sidewalks and bicycle facilities were a high priority for most survey respondents, and it is also a priority for youth. One survey respondent stated they would like to see Norwell pursue: "more sidewalks and bike paths so the kids can walk and ride their bikes safely, especially on Prospect Street to Hornstra." This is a good example of how planning for one age group can benefit individuals of all ages and abilities. Also, survey respondents identified demand for a splash pad or outdoor water feature for children, a place for teens to congregate, and a skate park.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a five-year plan that assesses statewide recreation demand and supply, identifies future needs, and guides state-wide outdoor recreation policies. It can also be a useful community planning tool.

In 2017, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) updated the Massachusetts SCORP to help guide the distribution of federal funding to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space, renovation of parks, and development of new parks. The goals and objectives of the 2017 SCORP are shown in Table 18.

⁴² Executive Office of Elder Affairs. *ReiMagine Aging*.

Table 18: Massachusetts 2017 SCORP Goals and Objectives

Goal	Objective
1: Access for underserved populations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces in areas that lack existing or useable open spaces, such as Environmental Justice neighborhoods2. Develop parks and open space that offer amenities that go above and beyond ADA requirements for people with disabilities3. Consider the needs of underserved demographic groups—senior citizens and teenagers—in the park and open space designs4. Encourage the establishment of programming endowments
2. Support the statewide trails initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces that can provide a trail network2. Fill in the gaps of existing trail networks3. Ensure that any existing or new trails are fully accessible to people with disabilities
3. Increase the availability of water-based recreation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the acquisition of land that will provide for water-based recreation2. Support the acquisition of land that will increase drinking water supply protection3. Develop water-based recreational facilities, including swimming areas, spray parks, boating facilities, fishing areas, etc.
4. Support the creation and renovation of neighborhood parks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks where none currently exist2. Develop amenities supported by neighborhood parks, such as playgrounds, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens3. Work with community development organizations to improve walking access to local parks

Source: Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2017.

To inform the 2017 update, EOEEA conducted on-line and phone surveys. The top 2 facilities that participants wanted to see were biking paths and hiking/walking trails, reflecting the same community needs as in Norwell.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Impacts of Climate Change

The “2020 Norwell Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings” identifies stakeholders’ highest priority concerns about local climate change impacts.⁴³ The top recommendations to improve resilience include:

- Water supply management
- Forest and tree management to address health of trees during increased droughts, fire risk, and pests and invasive species.
- Stormwater management to address increased inland flooding and severity of storms.

Forest and tree management was also a concern raised within the OSRP Committee and in the open-ended survey responses.

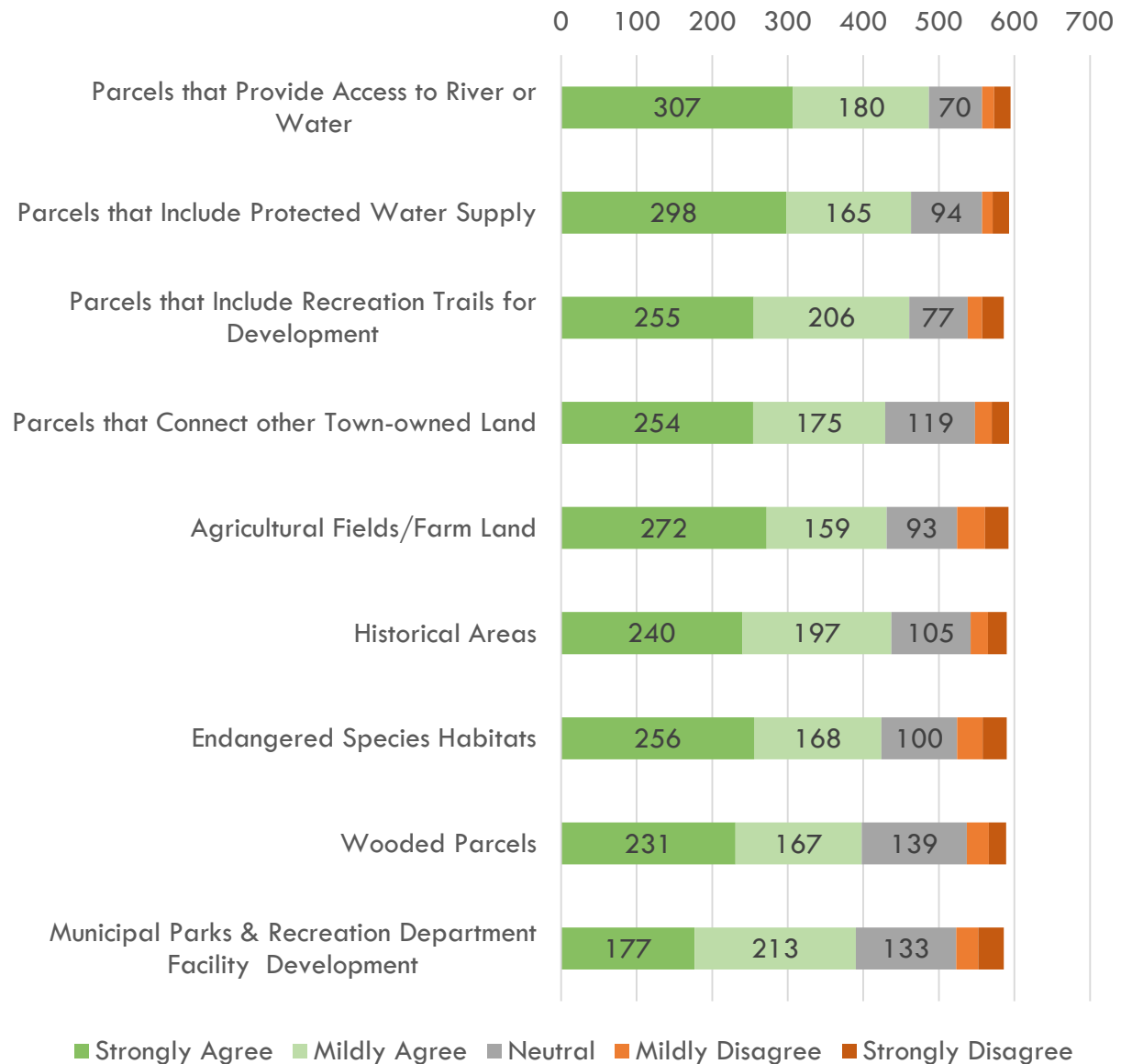
Water Supply

Norwell maintains its own water supply; thus, protecting the quality and quantity has and continues to be a high priority for resource protection. Open space conservation, in the form of outright purchases or conservation restrictions on undeveloped land, is a critical strategy for protecting Norwell’s water quality. According to the 2021 OSRP survey, more than two-thirds of respondents support protecting parcels to protect the water supply. In addition, management practices that prevent unwanted pollutants from entering the groundwater supply can complement land conservation

Additionally, public awareness about water conservation and water pollution prevention is a proven way to protect water resources. The Water Department has partnered with the North and South Rivers Watersheds Association (NSRWA) to educate residents about water conservation. A portion of the Water Department budget supports the work of the Greenspaces MA Coalition, a part of the Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association, through the NSRWA. The Coalition has created guidance on mowing, pesticide alternatives, fertilizing alternatives, composting, lawn watering, automatic irrigation systems, planting beds, low maintenance plants, managing stormwater, rain gardens, and urban gardening.

⁴³ Town of Norwell Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings, 2020.
<https://www.townofnorwell.net/sites/g/files/vyhlf1011/f/uploads/norwell_mvp_report_final.pdf>

Do you or members of your household agree with purchasing or otherwise protecting undeveloped properties/land for the following recreation or conservation purposes?



Connectivity

Connectivity between areas of open space supports both greater recreational opportunities and natural resource benefits. There are a large number of parcels protected in Norwell, but many are small and fragmented. Linking natural resources and open areas increases habitat value over that realized by isolated islands of open space.

The 2005 Master Plan prioritized creating a network of trails, paths, and routes and identified two particular potential greenways. “Greenways” are defined as protected continuous open space corridors that contain diverse natural resources, historic sites and landscapes, and opportunities for

recreational trails. These corridors help protect unique land and water resources, create public places for passive recreational activities such as walking in the woods and picnicking, in addition to providing creative outdoor classrooms and learning places. The establishment of this network will require private stewardship agreements, conservation restrictions, and land acquisition.

As identified in the 2012 Plan, there are two potential “Greenways” in Norwell that epitomize these concepts by providing uniquely beautiful scenery along walking trails through landmasses that also provide critical wildlife habitat functions. The first and most important should encompass the Third Herring Brook from Church Hill to Wompatuck State Park because it drains the largest and least-disturbed area and contains the wells and recharge areas for most of Norwell’s drinking water. The second Greenway could be developed along the North River and Second Herring Brook from Stetson Meadows to Black Pond. These areas provide great aesthetic value and critical environmental services such as flood control, filtering and recharge of water supplies, and absorption and treatment of runoff from developed areas. These two Greenways could be the focus of a new Area of Critical Environmental Concern.



The Pathway, Image source: Stacy Minihane

MANAGEMENT NEEDS

OSRP Implementation

It is necessary for the Town to have the tools and policies at hand to shepherd the updated 2021 OSRP and implement the action items. Based on the survey, the virtual public forum, and discussion among the OSRP Committee, the management needs are:

- Coordination between volunteer committees
- Accountability to implement the OSRP
- More staff resources

Coordination

In order to implement the 2012 Plan, it was recommended that a new standing Open Space & Recreation Committee be formed. As stated in the 2012 Plan: “The proposed Committee would work closely with already established Town commissions, boards, and departments, as well as Norwell’s citizenry, to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the 2012 Plan and the overarching goal of setting aside 30% of Norwell as open space in perpetuity as proposed by the 2005 NOSRP Committee.” The Conservation Agent and Recreation Department worked to support a standing Committee but found it challenging to maintain engaged membership. Volunteers serve on numerous Committees in Town and already give generously of their time. In fact, there have been comments in response to the survey, at the virtual public forum, and informally with Town staff that there is a proliferation of volunteer committees. Therefore, the 2021 OSRP aims to improve implementation by leveraging existing resources and supporting better coordination. In addition, the new goal to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure incorporates new entities in the implementation of the 2021 OSRP, including the Complete Streets Committee and the Highway Department.

To implement the action items with efficient use of existing resources and time, this OSRP recommends the assembly of an OSRP Implementation Committee composed of a representative from the existing Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Departments critical to successful implementation. The OSRP Implementation Committee will provide strategic direction, while Department staff would perform the majority of the work of actual implementation.

In addition, inclusion of the 2021 OSRP in the next Norwell Master Plan will help integrate the OSRP into the Town’s overall strategies and objectives, as well as support implementation.

Accountability

Currently, there is no system of accountability for OSRP implementation and monitoring. The newly formed OSRP Implementation Committee would provide oversight and accountability through monitoring progress. In particular, regular reports to the public about the status of the Action Plan items will help strengthen accountability. Where possible, staff will assume responsibility for implementing the Action Plan in order to relieve the reliance on volunteer labor and increase accountability.

Staffing

Currently, the Conservation, Recreation, and Planning Departments each have one full-time staff and a part-time administrative assistant. Survey responses demonstrate relative satisfaction with recreation programming. To implement the actions in this updated OSRP, better serve youth and

seniors, and fully meet the potential of active and passive recreation, additional staffing resources may be needed.

Strategic Conservation

Effective land conservation and stewardship requires careful preparation and management. The 2021 OSRP Committee supports the 2005 and 2012 Committee's goal of protecting 30% of Townlands. To meet the goal of protecting 30% of Townlands, the Town needs to protect approximately 800 acres. Some of this goal will be met through the review process and proper recordings of past transactions, and the remainder will be met through strategic planning, outreach, and future transfer and acquisition of properties.

Parcel Data and Ownership

Moving forward, the 2021 OSRP Committee recommends a town-wide review of conservation, open space, and recreation properties and updated records and maps. As part of this effort, the Committee suggests a thorough review of Norwell's Assessor's records, Conservation Commission records, including Orders of Conditions and Town Meeting records, to establish the full and accurate number of conservation restrictions that exist in Town. In addition, there may be more unrecorded conservation restrictions and easements that would be found through a thorough title search of land ownership. Identifying and mapping the full body of conservation restrictions and easements would be extremely helpful to future strategic land management planning.

Change of Use

Preparing for potential land-use changes is an essential component of conserving open space. Accurate records are necessary for effective ranking and decision-making. In addition, identifying individuals who can build relationships with families, corporations, land trusts, and non-profit organizations interested in conserving land is a key element to a future potential change of use.

Town-owned land not held under Article 97 should be evaluated to see if some lands could be better managed or developed to meet Town goals. Townland that abuts neighborhood areas could be developed for small community parks. Other lands could be developed for bridle paths or more walking trails. Townland with unique or rare environmental features could be transferred to the Conservation Commission to be held under Article 97. It would greatly benefit the Town to conduct a thorough title search to settle land ownership questions and review management and use status.

Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties are afforded favorable taxation rates to maintain the intended classification and utilization of those properties as forest land; products, agricultural and horticultural land; and recreation; and wild or open land. When the owners of these properties consider removing these favorable classifications for other options such as development, the Town is granted the right of first refusal. Accurate reporting on these properties is crucial for strategic planning and budgeting to conserve these properties as appropriate.

Land Management Plans

Norwell owns several special parcels of open space that can support more than one activity. Plans for these areas, prepared historically by volunteer effort, encourage use while preserving natural function and beauty. Following up the successful efforts to create Land Management Plans for Stetson Meadows, the Donovan Farm, and Jacobs Pond, the 2021 OSRP seeks action to create Land Management Plans for Fogg Forest, Miller Woods, Hatch Lots, the combined Donovan/Wildcat Trails, and Cuffee Hill properties.

The 2021 OSRP Committee proposes that these Land Management Plans should be consolidated into one booklet and archived digitally for easy reference and access by individuals interested in or assigned to implement the plans. As new Land Management Plans are developed and adopted, the final version should be added to the archives. With time, the value of these individual land management plans might go beyond maintenance and improvement and become the basis for a comprehensive town-wide land management plan that would include land acquisition focused on priority-ranked properties. Additionally, the health of conservation lands requires the implementation of invasive species and forestry management plans.

Conservation Restrictions

In the past, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), as well as the Conservation Commission, had evaluated using one of the local land trusts to hold conservation restrictions on the properties the Town acquires through CPA funding and through Commission acquisition. The Maxwell Trust, Ltd. primarily focuses on protecting land in Scituate. They have expressed an interest in working with the CPC. Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts focuses, as the name says, on lands in Southeastern Massachusetts but has also expressed an interest in working with the Conservation Commission and CPC. The 2021 OSRP Committee suggests that the creation of a Norwell-based land trust be explored, while simultaneously, a renewed effort is made to establish working relationships with other land trusts, non-profit organizations, corporations, and residents that might be interested in establishing conservation restrictions on their land in Norwell.

8. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Norwell's past Open Space & Recreation Plans generated four fundamental goals with associated objectives focused on protecting the Town's natural resources, water supply and promoting recreation while maintaining the Town's unique aesthetic quality of life. The 2012 Plan added an overarching goal focused on incorporating the objectives and action items of the four existing goals into a town-wide approach to channel and maximize effective Town participation into a united, strategic approach. The 2021 OSRP includes a new goal in response to community input gathered during the survey and virtual public forum.

The fulfillment of all six goals, including the over-arching goal, will be achieved through cooperation at all levels of Town government, the involvement and leadership of dedicated residents, and strategic partnerships with other local and regional organizations. By improving workflow, collaboration, documentation, and planning, the entire Town benefits from the addition of open space and improved recreation activities.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Protect the Quality and Quantity of Norwell's Water Supply

- A. Acquire land and/or easements/restrictions to protect water supply quality, quantity, and recharge
- B. Promote water conservation through public education, conservation plans, and prevention of stormwater runoff and water diversions
- C. Protect drinking water quality through best management practices available

Goal 2: Provide a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle network

- A. Provide a network of safe and accessible sidewalks, walking trails, and bicycle infrastructure to connect key destinations
- B. Expand and improve trail system for passive recreation
- C. Promote safe and healthy walking and biking

Goal 3: Support and Enhance Passive and Active Recreation in Balance with Nature

- A. Support and enhance recreation facilities and programs
- B. Acquire space for active recreation
- C. Improve public awareness of and involvement in recreational resources
- D. Enhance North River access
- E. Increase accessibility

Goal 4: Protect Norwell's Scenic Quality and Historic Resources

- A. Identify scenic, cultural, and historical resources
- B. Protect identified scenic, cultural, historical, and archaeological resources
- C. Promote historical knowledge and improve public awareness of Norwell's historical features

Goal 5: Protect Natural Resources and Promote Biodiversity

- A. Preserve 30% of Norwell as Open Space
- B. Research and inventory unique habitats and natural resources
- C. Acquire land and/or easements/restrictions to protect natural resources and biodiversity
- D. Improve management of current Town-owned properties

Goal 6: Create reliable and strategic means for implementing the OSRP

- A. Promote effective coordination, accountability, and resources allocation amongst Boards, Committees, Commissions, and committees, Boards, and Departments
- B. Update Norwell's database of conservation and recreation parcels
- C. Collaborate with neighboring towns, non-profits, and other entities

9. ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan presented below is a combination of short- (3-6 months), mid- (6-24 months), long-term (2-7 years), and ongoing (continuous) strategies for the years 2021-2028. Priority actions are noted in bold with asterisks. The highest priority action is *6.1: Establish a permanent OSRP Implementation Committee to meet regularly to monitor progress on implementing OSRP actions*, which will support the success of all other Actions.

Implementation of each action will require the coordinated participation of multiple entities, including Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Department staff. However, one to three “Lead” entities have been assigned for each action. The “Lead” is intended to be primarily responsible for overseeing the action item to completion. Once the OSRP Implementation Committee is established, the “Lead” may be adjusted based on the Implementation Committee’s suggestion. This Action Plan is meant to be used in conjunction with other municipal planning documents, and each recommended action item is subject to additional Town approval and/or appropriation as necessary. A selection of the place-based action items from the Action Plan are shown on Map 10: Action Plan Map.

Several of the actions may be completed within existing operating budgets and/or volunteer efforts. In addition, new sources of funding may be needed to implement certain actions of the Action Plan. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Drinking Water Supply Protection grant program (DWSP):** The DWSP grant program provides financial assistance to public water systems and municipal water departments for the purchase of land or interests.
- **MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Planning Assistance Grants (EEA):** Grants are available to the Commonwealth’s municipalities and Regional Planning Agencies acting on their behalf to support their efforts to plan, regulate (zone), and act to conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts’ Sustainable Development Principles.
- **MA Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program (LWCFS):** The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and conservation areas.
- **Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity grant program (LAND):** The LAND Grant Program helps cities and towns acquire land for conservation and passive recreation purposes. The grants reimburse cities and towns for the acquisition of land in fee or for a conservation restriction
- **MassWorks Infrastructure Program (MassWorks):** MassWorks provides grants to communities to help them prepare for success and contribute to the long-term strength and sustainability of our Commonwealth.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action grant (MVP):** The MVP Action Grant offers financial resources to municipalities that are seeking to advance priority climate adaptation actions
- **Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant program (PARC):** The PARC Program was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park.

The following abbreviations are used in the Action Plan:

Athletic Fields Committee (AFC)
Board of Selectmen (BOS)
Commission on Disabilities (COD)
Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
Conservation Commission (ConComm)
Council on Aging (COA)
Highway / Tree & Grounds Departments (HTGD)
Historical Commission (HC)
North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA)
Pathway Committee (PATH)
Planning Board (PB)
Planning Department (PD)
Recreation Commission (REC)
Town Meeting (TM)
Water Department (NWD)

GOAL 1: Protect the quality and quantity of Norwell's water supply				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Acquire land and/or easements/restrictions to protect water supply quality, quantity, and recharge				
1.1 ***	Identify areas for future potential well sites, as well as parcels for acquisition to protect the aquifer and/or that are contiguous to Zones II and III.	NWD	Ongoing	NWD, TM
1.2	Determine lawful claim of all municipal properties with uncertain ownership to ascertain which parcels are protected for water supply purposes in perpetuity.	NWD, Town Counsel	Mid-Term	NWD, TM
Objective B: Promote water conservation through public education, conservation plans, and prevention of stormwater runoff and water diversions				
1.3	Create and implement public outreach initiatives and educational materials that promote using water conservation measures, such as NSRWA "GreenScapes" Program that teaches homeowners how to create beautiful landscapes while protecting water resources.	NWD	Ongoing	MVP, NWD, TM
1.4	Analyze the possibility of a bylaw limiting the square footage of lawns that can be installed as part of new construction.	NWD	Mid-Term	EEA, NWD, TM
1.5	Analyze impacts from irrigation and private wells on the quality and quantity of Norwell's water supply, and pursue a bylaw or other mechanism to limit adverse impacts.	NWD, PB	Mid-Term	MVP, NWD, TM
Objective C: Protect drinking water quality through best management practices available				
1.6	Distribute information on Best Management Practices for landowners within water supply areas.	NWD	Ongoing	NWD
1.7 ***	Display information on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II stormwater regulations in the Town Hall, Library, and on the town's website.	HTGD	Short-Term	NWD, TM

GOAL 2: Provide a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle network				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Provide a network of safe and accessible sidewalks, walking trails, and bicycle infrastructure to connect key destinations.				
2.1	Plan for and promote connections between existing sidewalks and continue to extend and create new sidewalks and trails.	Complete Streets Committee	Ongoing	EEA, MassWorks, TM
2.2	Explore installation of bicycle infrastructure, such as sharrows, signage, and bike lanes, depending on the local context, to promote safety for all road users.	Complete Streets Committee, Traffic Safety Committee, HTGD	Long-Term	TM
2.3 ***	Continue the “Pathway Committee” to further the development of a town-wide bicycle and pedestrian path system that links schools, recreation facilities, commercial areas, the commuter rail station; & other neighboring towns’ trail systems.	PATH	Ongoing	TM
2.4 ***	Incorporate Complete Streets Prioritization Plan into roadway resurfacing activities	Complete Streets Committee, HTGD	Long-Term	MassWorks, TM
Objective B: Expand and improve trail system for passive recreation.				
2.5	Complete construction of path system in the Black Pond area, including linking the Cuffee’s Lane Property, repairing existing boardwalks and constructing a bridge for utility trucks.	PATH, ConComm	Long-Term	PARC, CPC, TM
2.6	Develop feasibility study in coordination with NSRWA regarding the Third Herring Brook Trail to extend from the South Shore Natural Science Center to the YMCA.	ConComm, PATH	Mid-Term	TM
Objective C: Promote safe and healthy walking and biking.				
2.7 ***	Create signage, programs, and events to make existing sidewalks, pathways, and trails more dynamic and invite more usage. Offer communication materials and events in accessible formats.	PATH, ConComm, Complete Streets Committee, COD	Mid-Term	PARC, CPC, TM
2.8	Promote “traffic calming” to make all roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists.	Traffic Safety Committee	Ongoing	TM, Chapter 90

GOAL 3: Support and enhance passive and active recreation in balance with nature				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Support and enhance recreation facilities and programs				
3.1	Develop and implement a maintenance plan for Town/School athletic fields and playgrounds, including a long-term capital budget &/or bonding plan.	REC, AFC	Long-Term	TM, Capital Budget Committee
3.2 ***	<p>Determine needs, priorities, feasibility, and funding resources for improving active recreation facilities based on data from the 2012 Town of Norwell Athletic Fields Assessment & Master Plan (Gale), 2019 Town of Norwell Athletic Fields Utilization Study, and Town of Norwell 2021 Open Space & Recreation Plan Community Survey.</p> <p>Feasibility Plan/Needs Assessment to investigate developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6+ Acres off South St. (abutting NHS and New Library) for Recreational Purposes (i.e., athletic fields, facilities, park, community recreation/gathering space, etc.) • 20+ Acres on Wildcat Lane for Recreational Purposes (i.e., athletic fields, facilities, parks, community recreation/gathering space, etc.) • Green St. /Edward White Area for Recreational Purposes (i.e., athletic fields, facilities, park, community recreation/gathering space/trail connection, etc.) • West Side of Osborne Fields to expand playing area for soccer/MPR sports. 	Capital Budget Committee, REC, AFC, School Committee, COD	Short-term	TM, Capital Budget Committee, CPC
3.3	Consider existing schools, town buildings, or facilities for reuse or development for Open Space preservation or development for recreational purposes based on needs identified in the 2012 Athletic Fields Assessment & Master Plan or 2021 OSRP.	School Committee, REC, AFC, COD	Ongoing	TM, Capital Budget Committee, CPC
3.4	Develop Memorandum of Understanding with Youth Sports Organizations and other user groups to define expectations and responsibilities of maintenance at Town/School athletic fields and Clipper Community Complex.	REC, AFC	Mid-term	REC
3.5 ***	Develop a land-use plan for the Carleton/Cushing property.	ConCom	Short-Term	TM
3.6	Implement programming to improve community recreation at underused facilities, such as Cushing Center, Pine Street, and Town Center.	REC	Ongoing	REC, TM

3.7	<p>Improve variety of active recreation opportunities for all age groups and abilities including adults and Active Aging Adult population (50+, 70+)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire staff or volunteer to work collaboratively with Council on Aging, Recreation Department, Library, and Conservation Department to develop and implement programming. Through staff, programming, signage, and multi-media marketing/communication plan improve awareness and communicate benefits and value of Town's open space and recreation amenities to Norwell residents. Develop programming to make all recreation areas more dynamic and active to all residents. 	REC, COA, COD	Long-Term	REC, TM
3.8	Encourage Norwell Recreation programming and Town recreation spaces and facilities to meet local, statewide and National Recreation & Park Association benchmarks based on town size, population, per capita, etc.	REC	Mid-Term	REC, TM
3.9	Encourage collaboration between Council on Aging, Recreation Department, and other Town Departments and community organizations to work towards obtaining Massachusetts "Age-Friendly Community" status.	REC, COA, COD	Ongoing	REC, COA, TM
3.10	Promote safe and healthy recreation options for all ages and abilities during the COVID pandemic.	REC	Short-Term	REC, TM
3.11	Explore the feasibility of a possible site for an outdoor community gathering place, special event space, and/or community garden.	REC, ConCom	Short-Term	PARC, TM, CPC, Capital Budget Committee
3.12	Explore the feasibility of a dog park, including community need, costs, and maintenance requirements.	REC	Mid-Term	PARC, TM
Objective B: Acquire space for active recreation (see Goal 2, Objective B regarding passive recreation)				
3.12	Encourage adequate and accessible open space and park & recreation facilities in new residential & commercial developments (i.e. playgrounds, trails, courts, field space, etc.) (State law specifically prohibits requiring open space within developments as a condition of approval unless fair market value is paid to the developer)	PB, REC	Long-Term	N/A
3.13 ***	Engage in strategic planning for acquiring, improving, and maintaining properties for recreation.	REC	Ongoing	REC, TM
3.14	Develop a strategy for the usage of upland tax title properties to develop active recreation areas for neighborhoods and community-wide usage.	REC, Treasurer-Collector	Long-Term	REC, TM
Objective C: Improve public awareness of and involvement in recreation resources				
3.15	Establish community groups to help maintain trails on town-owned conservation lands.	ConCom	Ongoing	N/A

3.16 ***	Update and distribute the Town trail map, including in accessible formats. < https://www.townofnorwell.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif1011/f/uploads/norwell_conservation_trail_map_2017.pdf >	ConCom m, COD	Ongoing	CPC, TM
3.17 ***	Create, improve, and maintain a cohesive signage program to increase awareness and access to conservation and recreation areas.	ConCom m, HTGD	Ongoing	PARC, CPC, TM
3.18	Provide updates regarding trails and passive recreation to the Recreation Department to incorporate in their communications.	ConCom m, REC	Ongoing	N/A
3.19	Develop dynamic recreation, enrichment, and interpretive programming at trails and conservation areas.	REC, ConCom m	Ongoing	TM
3.20	Clarify and communicate potential use of public trails for horseback riding, except on Water Department land and where explicitly prohibited.	REC, ConCom m	Mid- term	PARC, TM
Objective D: Enhance North River access				
3.21	Improve public access, parking, signage along the North River by acquiring land, promoting existing access points, and meeting ADA compliance.	ConCom m, NSRWA	Ongoing	LWCF, PARC, CPC, TM
3.22	Perform title search of Scituate and Norwell boundaries to potentially restore clamming, picnicking, swimming, and fishing on Scituate beaches as prior Norwell generations did.	ConCom m	Ongoing	N/A
Objective E: Increase accessibility				
3.23	Identify and upgrade existing open space and recreation spaces to meet ADA/MAAB accessibility standards.	COD, REC	Ongoing	TM
3.24	Proactively consider ADA/MAAB accessibility standards in any new open space and recreation projects.	COD, REC	Ongoing	TM

GOAL 4: Protect Norwell's scenic quality and historic resources				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Identify scenic, cultural, archaeological, and historical resources				
4.1	Continue to update Norwell's Survey of Historic Resources.	HC	Long-Term	N/A
4.2 ***	Identify or investigate identified priority areas for protections that preserve the scenic and rural qualities of Norwell.	ConComm, CPC	Long-Term	N/A
4.3	Identify or investigate identified priority areas that preserve the archeological and historic resources of Norwell.	HC	Long-Term	N/A
Objective B: Protect identified scenic, cultural, archaeological, and historical resources				
4.4	Protect scenic and historic landscapes and structures by acquiring conservation, agricultural or historical restrictions on identified resources.	HC, ConComm	Long-Term	N/A, TM
4.5	Create outreach materials explaining how historical preservation benefits Norwell's scenic quality.	HC	Long-Term	N/A, TM
4.6	Create additional outreach materials related to scenic roads.	HC, PB	Mid-Term	N/A, TM
4.7	Pursue design guidelines for the Town Center.	HC, PB, PD	Long-Term	N/A, TM
4.8	Revisit the appropriateness of Local Historic Districts in Norwell if a substantive group of residents initiates the process.	HC	Long-Term	N/A
Objective C: Promote historical knowledge and improve public awareness of Norwell's historical features.				
4.9	Create, improve and maintain signage to improve awareness of historical features, specifically Cuffee's Lane on Mt. Blue Street and Native American trail predating Wildcat Trail.	Historical Society, HC	Long-Term	N/A, TM
4.10	Create a marketing plan that identifies scenic, cultural, and historic sites in Norwell through social media, website, print media, and improved signage.	HC	Long-Term	N/A

GOAL 5: Protect Norwell's natural resources and promote biodiversity				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Preserve 30% of Norwell as open space				
5.1	Protect an additional 800 acres by legally protecting open space that is already Town-owned and managed by the Conservation Commission, as well as through new acquisitions using the Open Space Criteria in Section 5.	ConComm	Long-Term	LAND, LWCF, CPC, TM
5.2	Employ the Community Preservation Act for the acquisition of open space as well as funding recreation, historical resources and affordable housing initiatives.	CPC	Ongoing	CPC, TM
5.3	Investigate the feasibility of developing a Land Trust in Norwell.	ConComm, CPC	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.4	Reach out to residents in order to seek new land acquisitions opportunities.	ConComm	Mid-Term	CPC, TM
5.5	Pursue acquisition of land and/or restrictions/easement to connect open space acres.	ConComm	Mid-Term	LAND, LWCF, CPC, TM
5.6	Create outreach materials for landowners that present possible options and benefits of land preservation.	ConComm	Mid-Term	CPC, TM
5.7	Adopt a parcel ranking system, to identify priority parcels, for land acquisition or conservation purposes.	Board of Assessors, Town Treasurer-Collector	Mid-Term	CPC, TM
5.8	Strategically plan for the transfer of 61, 61A, 61B properties.	Board of Assessors, Treasurer-Collector, Town Counsel	Mid-Term	CPC, TM
Objective B: Research and inventory unique habitats and natural resources				
5.9	Prioritize lands for protection based on unique community habitats and species, including Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) BioMap2, Living Waters, Potential and Certified Vernal Pools and Priority and Estimated Habitats, and other relevant reports and criteria.	ConComm	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.10	Develop bio-inventories of unique habitats and species.	ConComm	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.11	Identify potential vernal pools that are located on Town property that could be developed or that are located on private property using the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) latest MassGIS data layer. Survey the vernal pools on developable Town property and, if they meet certification criteria, submit the necessary information to NHESP for their certification. Reach out to landowners with potential vernal pools on their properties and offer to survey for certification, or otherwise offer information as to the environmental benefits of certification as well as other considerations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate conservation land on River Street, presumed to be a wet meadow. 	ConComm	Long-Term	CPC, TM

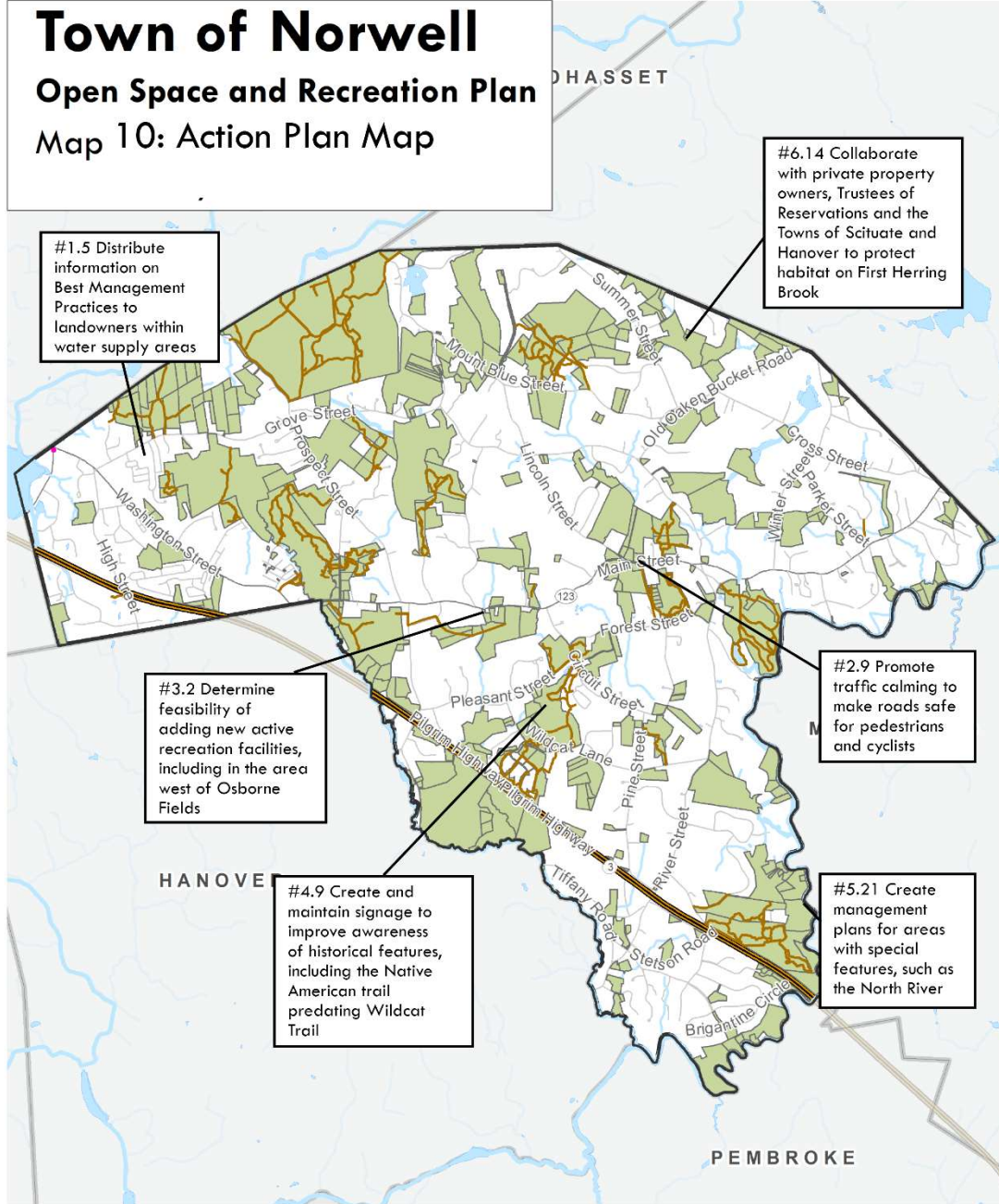
5.12	Continue to investigate (on Town-owned land or with private property owner permission), promote, educate, and certify other Potential Vernal Pools not on the latest MassGIS data layer.	ConComm	Ongoing	CPC, TM
5.13	Pursue bylaw amendments to initiate additional review thresholds within unique and special habitat areas, such as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) around the North River. Focus on endangered, threatened and species of concern, (e.g., Eastern Box Turtle), species of conservation interest in Massachusetts (e.g. Marsh Wren).	ConComm	Long-Term	N/A
Objective C: Acquire land and/or easements/restrictions to protect natural resources and biodiversity				
5.14	Acquire lands or conservation restrictions on parcels that are contiguous with existing open space, have unique environmental features, will buffer sensitive ecological resources, or provide unfragmented habitat for wildlife.	ConComm, CPC	Long-Term	LAND, LWCF, CPC, TM
5.15 ***	Determine lawful claim of all municipal properties with uncertain ownership to ascertain which parcels are protected for natural resources purposes in perpetuity.	Board of Assessors, Town Treasurer-Collector, Town Counsel	Mid-Term	CPC, TM
Objective D: Improve management of current Town-owned properties				
5.16 ***	Research and pursue funding options, in addition to CPA, for maintenance and management of open space.	ConComm, CPC	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.17 ***	Develop a forest management plan, with a particular focus on fire risk management.	ConComm, CPC, HTGD	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.18	Continue management plans for Fogg Forest, Miller Woods, Hatch Lots, Cuffey Hill, Jacobs Pond, Wildcat/Donovan, Stetson Meadows, and Carleton/Cushing.	ConComm	Long-Term	CPC, TM
5.19	Develop invasive species management program.	ConComm	Long-Term	CD, TM
5.20	Create management plans for the following special feature areas: Third Herring Brook, Black Pond (in coordination with the Nature Conservancy), areas abutting Wompatuck State Park, and the North River.	ConComm	Long-Term	CD, TM
5.21	Create management plans for stream corridors or "Greenways."	ConComm	Long-Term	CD, TM
5.22	Create a recreation trail scorecard with identifiable standards; initiate school group projects to grade the trails throughout Norwell.	ConComm	Long-Term	CD, TM
5.23	Transfer Town lands with unique and rare environmental features/values to the Conservation Commission.	ConComm, BOS, Board of Assessors	Long-Term	Town staff time

GOAL 6: Create a reliable and strategic means for implementing the OSRP				
#	Action	Lead	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
Objective A: Promote effective coordination, accountability, and resource allocation amongst Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Departments.				
6.1 ***	Establish a permanent OSRP Implementation Committee to meet regularly to monitor progress on implementing OSRP actions.	ConComm	Short-term	None needed
6.2	Establish a communication plan and publicize findings on status and implementation of OSRP action items to encourage accountability.	OSRP Impl. Committee	Ongoing	Town staff time
6.3	Research and pursue, if needed, additional funding and staff for monitoring and implementation of the plan.	ConComm	Mid-term	Town staff time
Objective B: Update Norwell's database of conservation or recreation parcels.				
6.4	Update town's GIS data layer, including accurately identifying high-priority parcels.	Board of Assessors, PD	Ongoing	Town staff time
6.5	Organize, and convert Conservation Department files to electronic format (e.g.) including at least order of conditions and conservation restrictions.	ConComm	Ongoing	CD staff time
6.6	Create a comprehensive conservation restriction and easement list.	ConComm	Ongoing	CD staff time
6.7	Develop a procedure for town-acquired property to properly register the deed and post it on-line for general and ease of use, including all classifications and restrictions.	BOS, Board of Assessors, PD	Short-term	Town staff time
6.8	Ensure the Board of Assessors has up-to-date and accurate information regarding town-owned conservation & recreation properties, conservation restrictions/easements, and special classifications.	ConComm, Board of Assessors	Mid-term	Town staff time
6.9	Conduct a thorough title search of Town records to settle land ownership questions to determine management and use status and to plan for acquisitions.	TC, Board of Assessors, ConComm	Short-term	EEA, Town staff time
Objective C: Collaborate with neighboring Towns, non-profits, and other entities				
6.10	Collaborate with neighboring Towns, the State, land trusts, and other entities to promote conservation and recreation for general public benefit.	BOS, ConComm	Ongoing	Town staff time
6.11	Continue participation in South Shore Climate Resilience Network.	ConComm	Ongoing	Town staff time
6.12	Convey all conservation restrictions to an existing land trust or similar entity for stewardship of open space.	CPC, ConComm, BOS	Ongoing	Town staff time
6.13	Partner with NSRWA to hold informational seminars for private and non-profit landowners regarding land protection strategies and tools.	ConComm	Ongoing	Potential grants, fundraising
6.14	Consistent with 5.14, acquire parcels or conservation restrictions for habitat protection on First Herring Brook through collaborating with Norwell property owners, the Towns of Scituate and Hanover, and/or the Trustees of Reservations.	Town Counsel, BOS, ConComm	Ongoing	LAND grant

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 10: Action Plan Map



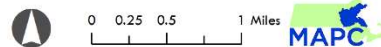
- Open Space & Recreation areas
- Trails
- Major Roads

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
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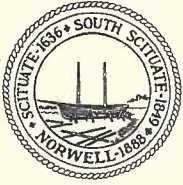
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

January 2021



Document Path: K:\DataServices\Projects\Current_Projects\OpenSpace_Plans\Norwell\ProjectFiles\OpenSpaceInventory\Norwell_OSRP_9_OpenSpaceInventory_KeySites_ella.mxd

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS



OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TOWN OF NORWELL

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NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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February 24, 2021

Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
c/o Marynel Wahl, Chair
Town of Norwell

Dear Members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Committee:

Thank you for your outstanding and exhaustive work on behalf of the Town of Norwell to create the 2021 Norwell OSRP. This document does an excellent job of laying out the Town's priorities for protection and use of our natural resources. In conjunction with our forthcoming 2021 Master Plan and unanimously supported 2019 Housing Production Plan, we believe this lays out the many goals and aspirations of Norwell. The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted our support for the OSRP during our meeting this evening.

Many thanks for all of your hard work, especially during the limitations imposed by Covid 19. We commend your successful efforts to involve the wider community via remote workshops.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Morin
Town Administrator



OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF NORWELL

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February 24, 2021

Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
c/o Marynel Wahl, Chair
Town of Norwell

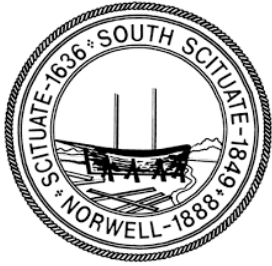
Dear Members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Committee:

Thank you for your outstanding and exhaustive work on behalf of the Town of Norwell to create the 2021 Norwell OSRP. This document does an excellent job of laying out the Town's priorities for protection and use of our natural resources. In conjunction with our forthcoming 2021 Master Plan and unanimously supported 2019 Housing Production Plan, we believe this lays out the many goals and aspirations of Norwell. We have therefore unanimously voted our support for the OSRP during our meeting this evening.

Many thanks for all of your hard work, especially during the limitations imposed by Covid 19. We commend your successful efforts to involve the wider community via remote workshops.

Sincerely,

Ellen H. Allen, Chair
Norwell Board of Selectmen



Office of Planning Board

TOWN OF NORWELL – COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

Planning Department
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
Phone: (781) 659-8021
Fax: (781) 659-7795

www.townofnorwell.net

Brendan Sullivan, Chair
Jamie Crystal-Lowry, Vice-Chair
Scott Fitzgerald, Clerk
Brian Greenberg, Alt. Clerk
Michael Tobin, Member

Kenneth Kirkland, Town Planner

To: Ella Wise
From: Town Planner / Planning Director
Date: February 25, 2021
RE: **Open Space & Recreational Plan Update**

Dear Ella:

The Planning Board has reviewed the update of the Open Space & Recreation Plan, and unanimously supports the updated and revised Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Kirkland, MPA, MRP, AICP
Town Planner / Planning Director

2/25/2021

Date



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

December 22, 2020

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

Re: Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan

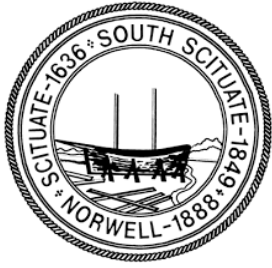
Dear Ms. Cryan:

This letter will serve as MAPC's review of the Town of Norwell 2021-2028 Open Space and Recreation Plan. MAPC enjoyed working with the Town of Norwell to develop this plan. It was written to comply with the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) guidelines and to integrate a regional perspective on the issues addressed during the planning process. We have also worked to make the plan consistent with the goals and objectives of *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area. We believe that the participation of Town staff and the Open Space and Recreation Committee, as well as MAPC's regional perspective, has generated a plan that will help to guide the Town in its continued efforts to improve open space and recreation opportunities and facilities in Norwell.

MAPC wishes the best of luck to the Town as it moves forward with implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Ralph Willmer, FAICP
Principal Planner and Technical Assistance Program Manager



Office of Complete Streets
Committee

TOWN OF NORWELL – COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

Planning Department
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
Phone: (781) 659-8021
Fax: (781) 659-7795

www.townofnorwell.net

Peter Bloomfield, Chair
Ellen Moshier, Vice-Chair
Christopher Madden, Clerk
Brendan Sullivan, Member
Kevin Cafferty, Member
Joseph Rull, Member
Glenn Ferguson, Highway Surveyor

Kenneth Kirkland, Town Planner

To: Ella Wise
From: Town Planner / Planning Director
Date: February 25, 2021
RE: **Open Space & Recreational Plan Update**

Dear Ella:

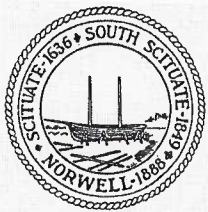
The Complete Streets Committee has reviewed the update of the Open Space & Recreation Plan, and unanimously supports the updated and revised Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Kirkland, MPA, MRP, AICP
Town Planner / Planning Director

2/25/2021

Date



Norwell Council on Aging
P.O. Box 699, 293 Pine St., Norwell, MA 02061
781-659-7878 Fax: 781-659-0215

February 8, 2021

George Grey
Norwell Recreation Director
345 Main St.
Norwell MA 02061

Dear George,

On behalf of the Norwell Council on Aging and the Board, we offer our support for the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Plan is a comprehensive and well written document. We are encouraged that this will be used as an active planning tool to advance Norwell's conservation, open space and recreation goals. The Council on Aging and the Board Members appreciate being a part of the review process and having the opportunity to provide input on behalf of Norwell's older adult residents. Implementation of this plan will help also advance the goal of making Norwell an Age-Friendly Community. If we can assist in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Susan Curtin, M.S.
Director, Norwell Council on Aging

John Mahoney
Chair, Council on Aging Board



**TOWN OF NORWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061-0295
(781) 659 - 8022

February 25, 2021

Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
c/o Marynel Wahl, Chair
Town of Norwell

Dear Members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee:

Thank you for your outstanding work on the behalf of the Conservation Commission and the Town of Norwell in creating a seven-year action plan for the protection and use of the town's natural resources. After having reviewed the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan and given your committee feedback on a draft, the Conservation Commission members have voted to endorse your final plan unanimously at our meeting on February 23, 2021.

We are impressed with all the work and commitment that went into this plan. We believe it will be a valuable resource for the town as we continue to preserve the natural environment for the enjoyment of the residents of Norwell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Saunders'.

Will Saunders
Norwell Conservation Agent



NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

781-659-1888 | www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org

January 1, 2021

Ms. Marynel Wahl
Norwell Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee
Conservation Commission
345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Dear Ms. Wahl and members of the OSRP Committee:

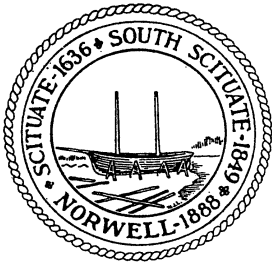
Thank you for your time and hard work to update the Open Space & Recreation Plan for the Town of Norwell. This update will allow the Town to apply for state grants and will provide planning direction for the next seven years. The OSRP directs Town employees and volunteers to protect the Town's water supply, provide and enhance the Town's recreation resources, and promote Norwell's natural resources. The Plan also proposes an Action Plan to protect our town's scenic quality and historic resources—and for this important goal the Historical Society is especially pleased.

The Society looks forward to assisting the Norwell Historical Commission in their work to identify and protect historic and archeological resources. We also encourage the Historical Commission and the OSRP Implementation Committee to use the resources of the Society to create signage and outreach materials, and to improve awareness of Norwell's historical features.

The Historical Society looks forward to being a part of the implementation of this exciting plan.

Very sincerely,

Wendy M. Bawabe, president
Norwell Historical Society



TOWN OF NORWELL WATER DEPARTMENT
345 MAIN STREET
NORWELL, MA 02061
781-659-8076

Marynel Wahl, Chairperson
Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
Norwell Conservation Commission
345 Main Street - P.O. Box 295
Norwell MA 02061-0495

16 Feb 21

RE: Review and Support for Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Wahl,

The Town of Norwell Water Department appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the draft of the Open Space and Recreation (OS & R) Committee's seven-year update of the OS & R Plan. We note that the Plan draws from the Town's Master Plan so that the two documents provide not only a rationale for moving the Town forward, but also provide action items that create the methods by which this result may be accomplished.

We note that Goal 2 of the 2012-2019 OS & R Plan has been moved up in priority to Goal 1, Protection of the Quality and Quantity of Norwell's Water Supply, and we have been involved in the selection of specific action items over the course of the Plan's drafting.

We agree with the six action items presented in the Plan, and note that the work involves more than just the Water Department: it involves a wide range of stakeholders to complete work on these items. We look forward to collaboration partners in completing these action items.

We continue to search for sources of high-quality water in the Town, a task which is proving more difficult as land is developed. Targeting additional watershed lands for acquisition near our existing wellfields is of prime importance to the Board of Water Commissioners. Purchases since the last Open Space Plan (2012-2019) have concentrated on opportunities for additional protection of the Grove Street Wellfield. Three parcels adjacent to the Grove Street Wellfield (that contains Municipal Wells 2, 3, 5, and 10) have been acquired since 2012.

We also feel strongly regarding the protection of water supplies in adjacent towns through overlay district of both surface and groundwater up-gradient areas. We continue to work with the various Town Boards to ensure further protection of not only our own water supplies, but our neighboring towns' supplies.

We are currently involved in research to discover if any long-term stable chemicals are within the Town's water supply. Recent technical advances have taken water testing across the trillion parts per million (one in 1,000,000,000,000) threshold for some of these contaminants. We look forward to results and will provide treatment for these chemicals should they be discovered in the water supply. We hope to have the Town's support with treatment facilities should they be necessary. We may require support from other boards as well to maintain our existing water withdrawal registrations and permits.

An attempt at boring a bedrock test well was made recently off Bowker Street. It was not a source of groundwater. We have other locations that we will be researching for bedrock wells in the near future.

M. Wahl, Norwell Open Space and Recreation Committee – 16 Feb 21 – Page 2/2

We were successful in boring a water line across (i.e. under) a Deciduous Forested Swamp and under a Perennial Stream from South Street to Tiffany Road recently. Another water line will be bored under Route 3 from Stetson Shrine Lane to Stetson Road in the near future, to provide for additional supply to the southerly portion of the Town, across Route 3.

Limits on irrigation with Town water, and on the size of new lawns are two other action items in the plan that we will not necessarily be the principals on, but will support other boards and committees.

We would like to thank the Open Space and Recreation Committee for preparing this document, and look forward to working with the identified stakeholders and Norwell residents to complete the action items. If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact me.

For the Norwell Water Commissioners,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Ivas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Steve Ivas, Norwell Water Commissioner

xc: F. St. Ours, Norwell Water Commissioner
Peter Dillon, Norwell Water Commissioner and Member of Board of Health
John McInnis, Norwell Water Superintendent



345 Main Street, P.O. Box 295
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
781-659-8046
recreation@townofnorwell.net

February 23, 2021

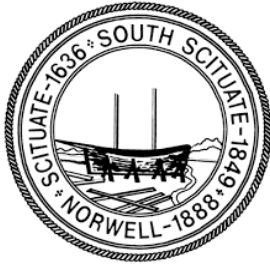
George Grey
Norwell Recreation Director
345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Dear George,

I write on behalf of the Norwell Recreation Commission in support of the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan. I strongly support this Plan and the focus on actions to maintain and increase the variety of recreational opportunities to enhance the lives of those in our community. Members of the Recreation Commission have participated in both OSRP virtual forums as well as provided input and comments in the town-wide online survey. I am optimistic that by using this Plan, the town's decision makers will advance the community's priorities while protecting the town's natural beauty and historical character. If the Norwell Recreation Commission can assist in any way to further the Plan's programs, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Christopher Madden
Chair, Norwell Recreation Commission



Office of Pathway
Committee

TOWN OF NORWELL – COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

Planning Department
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
Phone: (781) 659-8021
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www.townofnorwell.net

*Kevin Cafferty, Chair
Patrick Palzkill, Vice-Chair
Christopher Madden, Clerk
Brendan Sullivan, Member
Roy Bjorlin, Member
James Kelliher, Member
William Lazzaro, Member
Pamela Brake, Alt. Member
Heather Hanley, Alt. Member*

Kenneth Kirkland, Town Planner

To: Ella Wise
From: Town Planner / Planning Director
Date: February 25, 2021
RE: **Open Space & Recreational Plan Update**

Dear Ella:

The Pathway Committee has reviewed the update of the Open Space & Recreation Plan, and unanimously supports the updated and revised Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Kirkland, MPA, MRP, AICP
Town Planner / Planning Director

2/25/2021

Date

11. REFERENCES

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U.S. Census Population Estimates, 2019.

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APPENDIX

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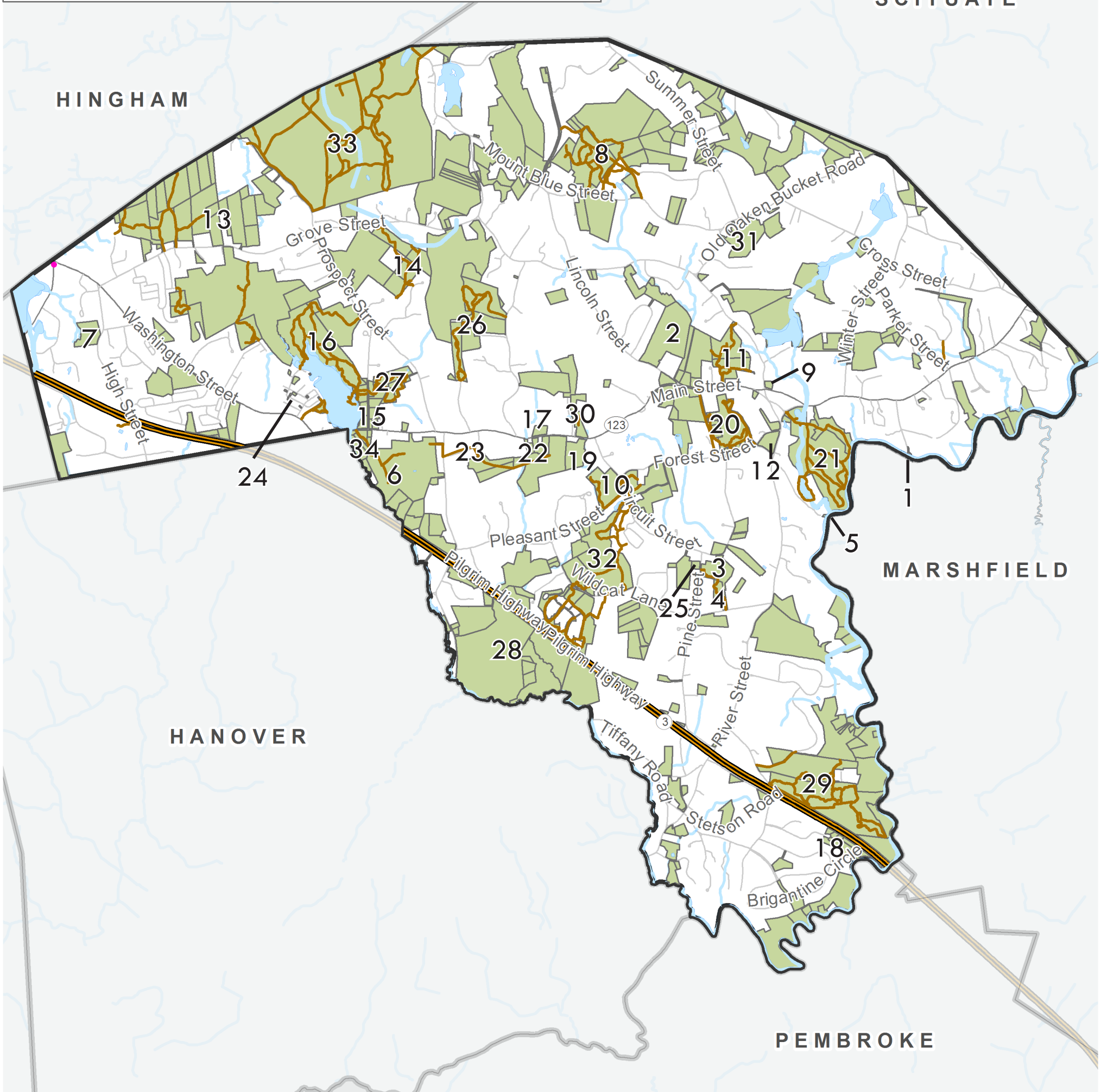
A. Pull-out Open Space Inventory Maps

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Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 8: Open Space Inventory, Key Sites



- Open Space and Recreation areas
- Trails
- Major Roads

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

January 2021



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

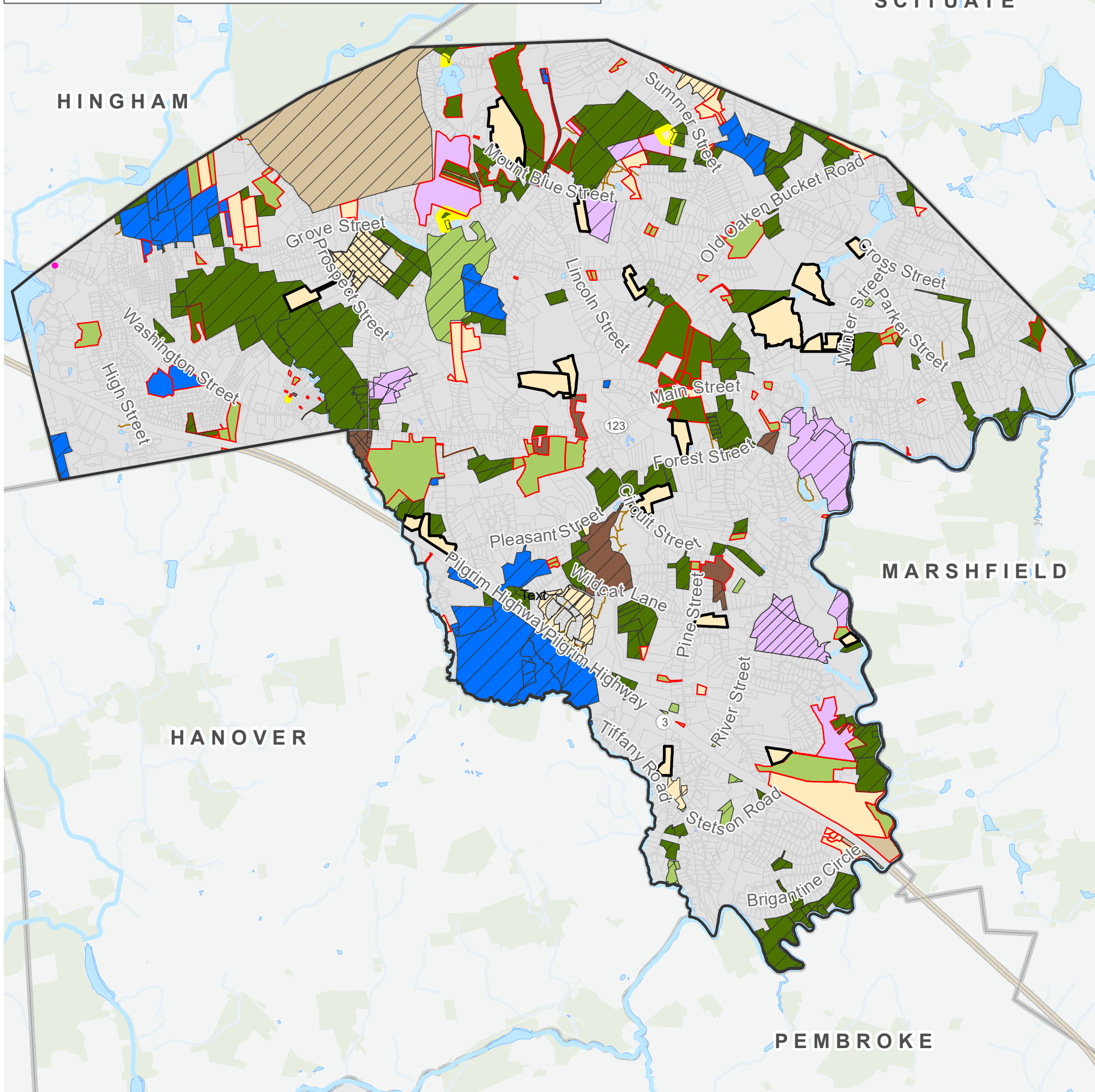


ID #	Site Name
1	Bridge Street Landing
2	Carleton
3	Centennial Park
4	Charles "Ed" White Recreation Land
5	Chittenden Landing
6	Clipper Complex/High School
7	Cole School
8	Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond
9	Cushing Center
10	Donavan Farm Fields
11	Fogg Forest
12	Gaffield Park
13	Grove Street Trails
14	Hatch Lots
15	Jacobs Farm Fields
16	Jacobs Pond
17	Main Street Farm Fields
18	Masthead
19	Middle School
20	Miller Woods
21	Norris Reservation
22	Osborne Field
23	Pathway
24	Reynolds Playground
25	Senior Center
26	Simon Hill & Bowker Street
27	South Shore Natural Science Center
28	South Street Water Department land
29	Stetson Meadows
30	Town Hall/East Field
31	Vinal School
32	Wildcat
33	Wompatuck State Park
34	Woodworth Park

Town of Norwell

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 9: Open Space Inventory, by Management



Trails

- Conservation Commission
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Recreation Commission
- Water Department
- Other Public Entities
- Non-profit Organizations
- Unknown

Level of Protection

- Permanent Protection
- No/Limited Protection
- Unknown
- Chapter 61
- APR
- Conservation

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

February 2021



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B. Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Land

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Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Bridge Street Landing	22A	61	56	6186 / 277		RA	0.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	River access	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Carleton	14D	41	17	50061 / 282		RA	3.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	27	50061 / 282		RA	3.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	28	50061 / 282		RA	23.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	29	50061 / 282		RA	3.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	30	50061 / 282		RA	8.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	30			RA	2.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	45	34	50061 / 282		RA	50.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton	14D	56	26	50061 / 282		RA	7.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton		56	29	50061 / 282		RA	20.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Carleton		56	31	50061 / 282		RA	2.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Potential future community/rec recreational uses	Yes, trails exist, plans for parking	Limited	Purchased with CPA funds
Centennial Park/Pine Street Fields		69	2			RA	16.5	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	2 multi-purpose fields, 1 basketball/pickleball court, 1 seasonal ice-skating	Good	Potential further recreational uses and connection to "Ed" White fields with improved drainage and assessment of landfill cap	Yes, parking	Limited	Recreation Revolving Reserves & Maintenance Account used for 2018 sealcoating of basketball court

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Charles "Ed" White Recreation Land		69	32			RA	6.8	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	trail	Good	Potential further recreational uses and connection to Centennial Park	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	Donated property
Chittenden Landing		71	37	3650 / 244		RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	River access	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Clipper Complex/High School	19C	53	24	27259 / 243		RA	6.7	Town of Norwell	School Department	8 tennis courts, 3 ballfields, 2 synthetic turf fields/track, 2 multi-purpose field, concession stand	Excellent, Good, Fair depending on facility	Tennis courts need renovation, JV soccer and baseball fields will need renovation, front field needs turf	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	CPA funds and community fundraising for turf fields in 2014; CPA funds for softball field in 2016
Clipper Complex/High School	19A	53	35	3641 / 499		RA	93.4	T Mobile	School Department	8 tennis courts, 3 ballfields, 2 synthetic turf fields/track, 2 multi-purpose field, concession stand	Excellent, Good, Fair depending on facility	Tennis courts need renovation, JV soccer and baseball fields will need renovation, front field needs turf	Yes, parking	Limited	CPA funds and community fundraising for turf fields in 2014; CPA funds for softball field in 2016
Cole School		17	29	2404 / 85		RB	13.2	Town of Norwell	School Department	1 playground, 1 ball field, 2 multi-purpose fields	Good	Ball field needs renovation	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		6	5			RA	46.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		6	6			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	8A	6	19	3329 / 387		RA	11.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes	Limited	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	3C	7	11	3329 / 387		RA	2.4	Nature Conservancy	Nature Conservancy	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Limited	-
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		8	10			RA	72.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		8	13			RA	11.3	Unknown	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	In natural state	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	4B	9	26	41911 / 313		RA	14.5	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Limited	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	4B	9	28			RA	4.7	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	-	Unknown	-
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		9	29			RA	13.0	Nature Conservancy	Nature Conservancy	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		9	32			RA	3.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		9	83			RA	14.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond	3D	9	87	5140 / 55		RA	12.7	Nature Conservancy	Nature Conservancy	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Limited	-
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		9	88			RA	4.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	Cuffee's Lane: Purchased with CPA funds
Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond		42	29			RA	29.8	Nature Conservancy	Nature Conservancy	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Cushing Center	15C	48	1	3391 / 44		BA	1.5	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Function hall, rental facility, special events	Fair	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	CPA funds for parking
Donavan Farm Fields		55	13			RA	24.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	Yes, potential new community uses	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Donavan Farm Fields		57	2			RA	23.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	Yes, potential new community uses	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Donavan Farm Fields		57	29			RA	4.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Fogg Forest		45	38			RA	16.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails, picnic area	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Donated property
Fogg Forest		45	39			RA	21.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails, picnic area	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Donated property
Gaffield Park		58	50			RA	7.7	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission	Playground, walking trails	Excellent	None planned	Yes, parking	Deed restriction	Donated property; CPA funds used for playground improvements in 2019
Grove Street Trails		1	11			RA	14.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		1	12			RA	8.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		12	5			RB	1.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Water supply	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	1			RB	3.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wellfield protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	2			RB	7.7	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	3			RB	7.8	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	4			RB	21.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellhead, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	5			RB	27.4	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellhead, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Grove Street Trails		13	6			RB	20.6	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellhead, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	7			RB	17.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	5D	13	13	44400 / 195		RB	3.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		13	18			RB	0.5	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6A	14	1	16430 / 235		RB	9.7	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6A	14	2	47433 / 18		RB	10.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6A	14	4			RB	4.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		14	5			RB	24.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellhead, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		14	9			RB	3.8	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6A	14	10	12371 / 108		RB	2.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Watershed Protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6B	14	16	5247 / 123		RB	2.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails		14	23			RB	9.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Grove Street Trails	6D	14	26	49991 / 234	334 of 2018	RB	3.0	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Hatch Lots	4A	11	23	4041 / 603		RA	9.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Watershed Protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Hatch Lots		35	22			RA	10.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Hatch Lots		35	24			RA	10.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Hatch Lots		35	27			RA	9.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Hatch Lots		35	41			RA	13.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Unknown
Jacobs Farm Fields		28	10			RA	2.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Farm Fields		28	11			RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Farm Fields		28	12			RA	3.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Jacobs Farm Fields		29	25			RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Farm Fields		29	26	9038 / 3		RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Farm Fields		29	27			RA	2.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Farm Fields		29	40			RA	2.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost
Jacobs Pond		23	24			RB	181.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond	0	24	1	4109 / 588		RB	6.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		24	2			RB	4.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond	0	24	9	19287 / 250		RB	16.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond	0	24	48	15221 / 24	595 of 1994	RB	11.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		27	142			RB	3.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		28	3			RA	33.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		28	7			RA	0.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		28	8			RB	139.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails, water access	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		28	9			RA	3.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Jacobs Pond		28	15			RA	3.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails, water access	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Land purchased from Historic New England at low cost; LAND grant; CPA funds used for maintenance
Main Street Farm Fields	20A	40	16	17449 / 22	293 of 1999	RA	3.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, education, agriculture	Good	None planned	Yes, on-street parking	Limited	Property donated
Masthead		78	127			RA	1.0	The May Institute, Inc.	Conservation Commission	Walking trails, picnic area, mountain	Good	None planned	-	Limited	-

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
										biking, access to North Rive					
Masthead		78	165	43777 / 315		RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Walking trails, picnic area, mountain biking, access to North Rive	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Masthead		78	166	43777 / 315		RA	8.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Walking trails, picnic area, mountain biking, access to North Rive	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Middle School	20A	55	8			RA	14.0	Town of Norwell	School Department	Gym, programs, athletic fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Miller Woods		58	5			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	6			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	7	5533 / 436		RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	8			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	9			RA	31.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	10			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	11			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	12			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	37			RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	44			RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	45			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	46			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	47			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods	21A	58	48	5533 / 436		RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Miller Woods		58	49			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Norris Reservation		60	24			BA	1.2	Trustees of Reservations	Trustees of Reservations	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Norris Reservation		60	28			RA	102.7	Trustees of Reservations	Trustees of Reservations	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Norris Reservation		60	54			RA	16.3	Trustees of Reservations	Trustees of Reservations	Walking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Osborne Field	20A	55	7	1707 / 350		RA	41.2	Town of Norwell	School Department	Recreation	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	CPA funds used for ballfield in 2020
Osborne Field	20A	55	57	17449 / 22	293 of 1999	RA	6.3	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	1 ball field, 3 multi-purpose fields	Excellent	Potential walking trail, field renovations	Yes, parking	Limited	CPA funds used for ballfield in 2020
Reynolds Playground		27	98			RB	0.3	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission	Playground, 1 basketball court, picnic area	Excellent	None planned	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	CPA funds, community fundraising, and Recreation Revolving Fund Reserves for major renovations and playground improvements
Senior Center		67	5			RA	1.9	Town of Norwell	Council of Aging	Elderly programs	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	Unknown
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		36	16			RA	7.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		36	17			RA	32.2	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street	0	36	20	Unknown		RA	126.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		36	26			RA	0.7	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		37	53	43931 / 267		RA	16.4	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		37	55	43931 / 267		RA	10.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		37	57			RA	15.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Simon Hill & Bowker Street		37	60	43931 / 267		RA	0.8	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
South Shore Natural Science Center		29	8			RA	2.1	South Shore Science Center	South Shore Natural Science Center	Education	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
South Shore Natural Science Center		29	9			RA	5.2	South Shore Science Center	South Shore Natural Science Center	Education	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
South Shore Natural Science Center		29	10			RA	5.6	South Shore Science Center	South Shore Natural Science Center	Education	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
South Shore Natural Science Center		29	30			RA	4.3	South Shore Science Center	South Shore Natural Science Center	Education	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
South Shore Natural Science Center		29	33			RA	10.8	South Shore Science Center	South Shore Natural Science Center	Education	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
South Street Water Department land	23B	64	1	3592 / 446		RA	5.6	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	23D	64	11	3620 / 740	681 of 1970	RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	23D	64	12	3620 / 740	681 of 1970	RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	23D	64	13	Unknown		RA	26.2	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	23D	64	14	3620 / 740	681 of 1970	RA	142.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Plant & well, trails	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	26A	64	33	6186 / 276		RA	3.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	26A	64	34	18653 / 115		RA	31.1	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	24C	64	35	18653 / 115		RA	27.5	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	26A	64	37	18653 / 115		RA	4.0	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
South Street Water Department land	26A	74	1	18121 / 313	890 of 1999	RA	35.4	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Watershed protection, trails	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	Purchased with Water Department funds
Stetson Meadows		73	1			RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows		73	2	Unknown		RA	3.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Stetson Meadows		73	3			RA	16.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows		73	4			RA	25.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows		73	5			RA	9.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows		73	7			RA	98.7	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Conservation, trails, picnic area	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows		73	10			RA	44.6	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation, trails, picnic area	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None-purchased by Town
Stetson Meadows	29A	76	12	1222 / 323		RA	6.9	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None-purchased by Town
Town Hall/East Field	20A	40	23	1505 / 283		RA	11.0	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission	2 multi-purpose fields	Excellent	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None
Vinal School	9C	46	39	3258 / 422		RA	27.8	Town of Norwell	School Department	Playgrounds, 2 ballfields, 2 multi-purpose fields	Good	Ballfields need renovation	Yes, parking	Limited	CPA funds for playground improvements in 2015
Wildcat	24C	65	99	40840, 238		RA	28.6	Wildcat Association Trust	-	-	-	-	-	Conservation Restriction	-
Wildcat		65	117	40840, 238		RA	6.4	Wildcat Association Trust	-	-	-	-	-	Conservation Restriction	-
Wildcat	24A	65	118	40840, 238		RA	1.0	Wildcat Association Trust	-	-	-	-	-	Conservation Restriction	-
Wildcat	24A	65	122	40840, 238		RA	8.5	Wildcat Association Trust	-	-	-	-	-	Conservation Restriction	-
Wildcat		66	4			RA	13.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat		66	5			RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat		66	8			RA	6.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat		66	9			RA	2.5	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat		66	13	46414 / 306		RA	1.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat		66	18			RA	75.4	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission	Walking and biking trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat	24B	67	29	Unknown		RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant

Appendix B Table 1: Key open space and recreation sites															
Site Name	Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
Wildcat	24B	67	56	Unknown		RA	11.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat	24D	68	2	3436 / 79	Book 1 Page 399	RA	3.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat	24D	68	3	9688 / 95	Book 1 Page 399	RA	3.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat	24D	68	4	5266 / 295	Book 1 Page 399	RA	5.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wildcat	24D	68	6	5376 / 186		RA	9.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Trails	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	LAND grant
Wompatuck State Park		2	99			RA	533.8	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Walking & biking trails	Good	None planned	-	Perpetuity	-
Wompatuck State Park	7C	15	34	46437 / 93	330 of 2013	RA	7.9	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Yes, it provides access to Wompatuck State Park	Limited	LWCF
Woodworth Park		53	1			RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	2			RA	7.0	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	3			RA	2.2	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	4			RA	2.7	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	5			RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	6			RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016
Woodworth Park		53	12			RA	2.2	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission in partnership with others	3 ball fields	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	Purchased from Historic New England at low cost; CPA funds for improvements in 2016

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
21C	69	18	46414 / 170		RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Health	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
1C	1	1	21179 / 312		RA	0.5	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12C	34	1	Unknown		RB	10.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Cemetery	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8C	44	2	5906 / 151	888 of 1971	RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2B	5	2	Unknown		RA	0.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Cemetery	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27B	72	2	Unknown		RA	0.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19B	55	3	40376 / 54		RA	2.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8C	44	3	5906 / 150	888 of 1971	RA	1.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
20A	55	4	17449 / 22	293 of 1999	RA	2.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28D	77	6	27572 / 204	49 of 1961	RA	5.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
25D	71	6	8707 / 217		RA	3.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	6	9505 / 321		RA	0.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28D	77	7	17704 / 282	49 of 1961	RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2B	4	7	2767 / 184		RA	1.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8D	43	7	3611 / 220	638 of 1963	RA	1.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3B	7	7	Unknown		RA	2.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	8	12368 / 233		RA	2.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
26B	74	8	Unknown		RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8D	43	9	3611 / 220		RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	68	11	16908 / 172	215 of 1966	RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	12	3849 / 643		RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7D	36	13	Unknown		RA	0.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	14	9959 / 48		RA	3.7	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3B	10	14	9959 / 52		RA	0.6	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
18A	33	14	Unknown		RB	0.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3B	10	16	16683 / 227		RA	0.7	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	68	18	9505 / 321		RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8D	9	19	8146 / 216		RA	2.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	68	19	9505 / 321		RA	2.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
6C	22	20	3436 / 80		RB	1.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	68	22	4136 / 230		RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
21A	58	23	Unknown		RA	3.5	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
25A	69	24	8338 / 146		RA	2.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Recreation		None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24A	65	35	10001 / 242	247 of 1972	RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
27C	76	35	3158 / 439		RA	1.8	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24A	65	36	10001 / 243	247 of 1972	RA	1.2	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	36	6000 / 216		RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	38	2818 / 19	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	38	7167 / 14		RA	2.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	39	4377 / 138		RA	3.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	39	4687 / 212	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15A	46	43	17456 / 125	7/ 335	RA	2.7	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8D	46	45	11837 / 50	391 of 1970	RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	11	51	4333 / 378		RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27C	70	55	4374 / 418		RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28B	75	57	6186 / 272		RA	0.3	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16C	61	63	37883 / 201	625 of 1966	RA	0.5	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Cemetery	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	66	Unknown	Book 5 Page 934	RB	1.0	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	94	7690 / 142	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
18A	32	102	3359 / 402	251 of 1967	RB	3.1	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
18A	32	104	Unknown		RB	0.5	Town of Norwell	Board of Selectmen	Unknown	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
29A	76	1	3459 / 551		RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27D	72	1	3459 / 551		RA	2.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
	59	2			RA	4.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2D	38	3	12938 / 53		RA	9.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8A	6	3	4087 / 252	613 of 1967	RA	15.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	yes, parking	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27B	72	3	6186 / 275		RA	2.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27D	72	4	6184 / 274		RA	0.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
25D	71	4	6410 / 148		RA	3.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2B	4	4	Unknown		RA	0.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Unknown	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2B	4	5	15776 / 183		RA	5.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	38	5	5801 / 222		RA	0.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
27B	72	5	6186 / 273		RA	4.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
14A	39	6	33904 / 347		RA	6.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	10	3849 / 643		RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2D	5	10	5426 / 193		RA	9.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3C	7	10	9959 / 50		RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	11	16683 / 225		RA	6.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
4D	11	12	3852 / 126	216 of 1974	RA	8.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
9A	46	12	4932 / 344		RA	8.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	Trails	Yes, via Vinal School	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8A	6	12	Unknown		RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Watershed Protection, trails	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	68	13	16604 / 286		RA	4.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	13	3488 / 453	782 of 1968	RA	25.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	13	3849 / 643		RA	3.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
25B	57	14	5426 / 196		RA	3.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Town forest	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	3	15	3849 / 643		RA	0.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
8B	9	20	8146 / 216		RA	7.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	Potential trails	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
2B	6	20	9959 / 49		RA	70.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
25A	69	20	Unknown		RA	9.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Habitat/Natural Resources, Town forest	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16D	62	27	16939 / 344		RA	0.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7D	3	27	20700 / 66		RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28B	77	27	27322 / 100	221 of 1991	RA	1.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16B	62	28	16939 / 344		RA	3.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
22B	61	28	6186 / 278		RA	6.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16B	62	29	21492 / 135	1006 of 1976	RA	7.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
22B	61	29	3740 / 612		RA	3.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7D	3	29	Unknown		RA	5.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Unknown	None, likely a tax taking or donation
22B	61	30	4218 / 662	954 of 1976	RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19A	29	31	5267 / 58	450 of 1968	RA	1.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19B	54	34	23837 / 286	583 of 1968	RA	12.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12A	20	34	9476 / 85	746 of 1987	BB-6	3.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16D	62	35	3701 / 296	Book 7 Page 330	RA	3.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15A	46	37	3760 / 554		RA	27.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
20B	56	37	6186 / 279		RA	0.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Habitat/Natural Resources	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
23B	64	38	26967 / 61	838 of 2003	RA	2.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	9	38	4374 / 419		RA	1.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19B	54	38	5426 / 195		RA	8.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
14B	44	39	12494 / 315	29 of 1964	RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Fair	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
15B	51	40	18907 / 339	868 of 1967	RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12A	20	40	9476 / 85	746 of 1987	BB-6	3.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24B	68	40	Unknown		RA	2.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	9	41	4333 / 376		RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
3B	10	42	3213 / 437		RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	9	42	4333 / 379		RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24D	68	42	5539 / 462	363 of 1984	RA	20.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
9C	11	42	Unknown		RA	3.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	11	43	4333 / 377		RA	1.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
3D	9	43	4333 / 386		RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
22A	61	44	3264 / 760		RA	13.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19D	53	50	36995 / 64	788 of 1999	RA	6.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19D	53	51	38609 / 185	788 of 1999	RA	5.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
19D	53	52	38609 / 182	788 of 1999	RA	8.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24A	65	53	18215 / 348	303 of 1991	RA	9.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	38	54	4217 / 469		RA	9.3	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
	65	54			RA	3.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
9B	11	58	3972 / 676	216 of 1974	RA	7.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	In natural state	None planned	Yes, on-street parking	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
9A	46	67	4932 / 344		RA	0.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16C	51	68	14031 / 128	370 of 1972	RA	2.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Wetlands protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16D	62	69	11206 / 295	1103 of 1973	RA	5.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, picnic area, scenic view	In natural state	None planned	Yes, parking	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
4C	11	69	29094, 338		RA	21.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Watershed protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Conservation Restriction	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28B	77	70	10394 / 6	221 of 1991	RA	3.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16D	62	71	3701 / 296	Book 7 Page 330	RA	1.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
4C	11	73	29094, 338		RA	3.7	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Open to the public, but no formal access	Conservation Restriction	None, likely a tax taking or donation
4C	11	74	39747, 190		RA	4.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Open to the public, but no formal access	Conservation Restriction	None, likely a tax taking or donation
28B	77	75	31207 / 231	742 of 2005	RA	6.2	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	38	75	Unknown		RA	4.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
7B	38	83	39845 / 146	121 of 2011	RA	6.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
14B	44	98	12494 / 315	1237 of 1972	RA	9.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation, trails	Fair	None planned	Yes	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16A	52	105	15221 / 21	316 of 1995	RA	13.5	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
18A	32	105	Unknown		RB	6.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Habitat/Natural Resources	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
16A	52	106	15221 / 21	316 of 1995	RA	0.6	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
9B	50	117	27322 / 98	615 of 2002	RA	7.4	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Conservation	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
29E	78	118	5376 / 188		RA	36.1	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
29D	78	131	6186 / 271		RA	1.9	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
29C	78	132	6186 / 270		RA	1.8	Town of Norwell	Conservation Commission	Salt Marsh protection	In natural state	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	112	4217 / 468	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Recreation Commission	Recreation	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Unknown	None, likely a tax taking or donation

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
6C	14	14	47433 / 23		RB	19.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
10C	50	16	43385 / 335	117 of 1965	RA	1.4	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
6B	14	17	44772 / 309		RB	10.9	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
6D	14	18	47433 / 23		RB	7.6	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	19	45106 / 147	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
4C	10	27	40718 / 173	1406 of 1986	RA	6.3	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
14D	56	28	57772 / 282		RA	3.5	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
4C	10	34	40718 / 173	1406 of 1986	RA	7.2	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
24D	68	41	41435 / 279	Book 7 Page 876	RA	2.0	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26B	70	62	Unknown		RA	2.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	83	Unknown	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.3	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	108	Unknown	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
29B	78	128	43777 / 315	685 of 1973	RA	1.0	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
12D	27	143	Unknown	Book 5 Page 934	RB	0.1	Town of Norwell	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely a tax taking or donation
26A	75	1	5218 / 193		RA	0.4	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Watershed protection, fishing access	Good	None planned	Yes	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
8A	6	14	3391 / 699	613 of 1967	RA	6.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Water tank, trails	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds

Appendix B Table 2: Other open space and recreation parcels owned by the Town of Norwell														
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted
24A	65	17	18215 / 348	303 of 1991	RA	31.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Watershed Protection	Good	None planned	Open to the public, but no formal access	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
14C	41	28	2421 / 304	328 of 1955	RA	1.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Water tank	Good	None planned	None	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
19D	53	33	3839 / 64	55 of 1971	RA	1.7	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Good	None planned	None	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
17B	18	73	17006 / 323	481 of 1997	BC-2	17.1	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Water tank	Good	None planned	None	Perpetuity	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
12C	30	81	3294 / 42	340 of 1966	RB	14.9	Town of Norwell	Water Department	Wellhead, trails	Good	None planned	Yes, parking	Limited	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds
0	30	120	3641 / 495	909 of 1970	RB	16.3	Town of Norwell	Water Department				Open to the public, but no formal access	Limited	None, likely purchased by Water Department with Town funds

Appendix B Table 3: Other open space and recreation parcels privately owned or owned by other public entities										
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Level of Protection
	35	21			RA	63.7	Hornstra Farm	Unknown	Agricultural	APR
	47	35			RA	21.3	Calandrella, Timothy	Private owner	-	Chapter 61
	40	25			RA	12.4	Osborn	Private owner	-	Chapter 61
	23	23			RB	15.1	Parker	Private owner	-	Chapter 61
	53	26			RA	5.9	Acton, John & Teresa	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	53	28			RA	13.9	Acton, John & Teresa	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	48	37			RA	8.9	Bennett, Robert & Julia	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	48	38			RA	1.0	Bennett, Robert & Julia	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	51	12			RA	2.1	Bennett, Robert & Julia	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	70	4			RA	9.7	Clark, Peter & Candace Trustees	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	40	32			RA	24.9	Dirubbo, David & Catrina	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	74	26			RA	8.0	Gingras, Barbara	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	47	33			RA	5.9	Kopacz, John Trustee	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	44	44			RA	8.5	Marsh, John & Carol Trustees	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	42	28			RA	9.1	Mason, Philip & Pamela	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	6	1			RA	44.1	Mecheam, Bruce	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	72	8			RA	7.0	Meyer, Richard & Susan	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	48	39			RA	6.3	Prentiss, Clifford & Judith	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	71	5			RA	3.9	St Ours, Frederick Trustee	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	56	32			RA	13.1	Thomson, Alan Life Estate	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	57	4			RA	1.5	Whittaker, George & Jean	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	57	42			RA	15.7	Whittaker, George & Jean	Private owner	-	Chapter 61A
	47	11			RA	49.9	Bennett, Robert & Julia	Private owner	-	Chapter 61B
29C	78	112	5503, 48		RA	1.4	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
29A	78	113	5503, 48		RA	4.9	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
29C	78	114	5503, 48		RA	10.1	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
29C	78	115	5503, 48		RA	32.1	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
29C	78	116	5503, 48		RA	4.9	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
29C	78	117	5503, 48		RA	10.2	Barque Hill Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
25A	71	8	17763, 280		RA	10.6	DeGhetto, David	Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc.	-	Conservation Restriction
3B	10	104	39515, 315		RA	11.1	Maxwell Land Trust	Private owner	-	Conservation Restriction
25D	71	2	17439, 245		RA	69.3	St Ours, Frederick Trustee	Trustees of Reservations	-	Conservation Restriction
20C	55	14	15307, 83		RA	0.9	The Reserve Homeowners Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
20C	55	51	15307, 83		RA	0.2	The Reserve Homeowners Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
20C	55	14-16,47-49, & 56	15307, 83		RA	15.7	The Reserve Homeowners Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
20C	55	49-50	15307, 83		RA	0.2	The Reserve Homeowners Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
20C	55	49-52	15307, 83		RA	8.6	The Reserve Homeowners Association	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
24A	65	40	40840, 238		RA	0.1	Wildcat Hill Homeowners Association Trust	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction
24C	65	87	40840, 238		RA	2.0	Wildcat Hill Homeowners Association Trust	Conservation Commission	-	Conservation Restriction

Appendix B Table 3: Other open space and recreation parcels privately owned or owned by other public entities										
Map	Block	Lot	Book & Page	Plan # (if applicable)	Zoning	Acreage	Ownership	Management	Use	Level of Protection
6B	1	7	3436 / 81	3 of 1961	RA	1.1	CIL Realty	Board of Selectmen	Conservation	Limited
3A	7	1	Unknown		RA	0.3	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Unknown	Limited
23D	63	12	2887 / 293		BC-3	0.4	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Unknown	Limited
29B	73	6	2887 / 293		RA	15.1	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Unknown	Limited
23D	63	12	2887 / 293		BC-3	0.4	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Unknown	Unknown	Limited
23D	63	5	13483 / 326	1024 of 1988	RA	1.8	SOUTH SHORE YOUNG MENS CHRISTIAN	Unknown	Unknown	Limited
4D	11	11	39515, 315		RA	7.6	Town of Scituate	Unknown	-	Limited
7B	38	7	5443 / 146		RA	9.9	TRENZ JAMES W & CHRISTINE R	Conservation Commission	-	Limited
0	72	6	Unknown		RA	39.2	Stetson Kindred of America	Stetson Kindred of America	Conservation, trails	None
7A	3	25	4251 / 674		RA	81.2	Weymouth Heights Club	Boy Scouts	-	None
26D	75	65	1393 / 81	Book 2 Page 883	RA	9.0	Church Hill Cemetery	Unknown	Cemetery	Perpetuity
29A	75	80	5106 / 151	157 of 1982	RA	0.1	Church Hill Cemetery	Unknown	Cemetery	Perpetuity
29B	78	129	2887 / 293		RA	4.6	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Unknown	Perpetuity
25D	71	11	Unknown		RA	13.5	Mass Audobon Society	Mass Audobon Society	Conservation	Perpetuity
0	75	67	1044 / 524		RA	1.4	Pinehurst Cemetery	Unknown	Cemetery	Perpetuity
4C	11	54	Unknown		RA	9.2	Town of Scituate	Conservation Commission	Watershed Protection	Perpetuity
4C	11	3	39515, 315		RA	40.6	Town of Scituate	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Perpetuity
0	11	4	39515, 315		RA	0.5	Town of Scituate	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Perpetuity
0	11	5	39515, 315		RA	0.6	Town of Scituate	Water Department	Wellfield protection	Perpetuity

C. Accessibility Self-Evaluation

The following properties are under the jurisdiction of the Town of Norwell. The sites were evaluated in December 2020 by the Recreation Director as well as a member of the Norwell Commission on Disabilities and MAPC staff. The recommended and suggested improvements were developed during the site visits using the Massachusetts OSRP Workbook. Since the printing of the 2012 Norwell Open Space & Recreation Plan, the Town of Norwell has been diligent in implementing the transition plan items to proactively improve accessibility at new and renovated public recreation facilities.

All Norwell Recreation Department programs are open to all abilities. The seasonal Recreation Program Guide asks that when special accommodations are needed, the Recreation Department is given a two-week notice to make arrangements, and all reasonable accommodations are met. For afterschool and summer activities for school-age children, the Norwell Recreation Department coordinates services to provide inclusion aides to participants to allow the participant to be included in activities.

Facility Inventory: Active Recreation Properties

Bridge Street Landing

Description: Public access to North River with boat ramp.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No handicapped spaces	Delineate handicapped spaces
Ramp	Boat ramp	Provide handicapped accessible boat ramp
Site access	Hard packed gravel surface	Provide a hard-packed, wide pathway to boat ramp
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



Centennial Park/Pine Street Fields

Description: Centennial Park is located on Pine Street in Norwell, MA. The fields are officially under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health since the fields are located on the top of a Town Landfill which was capped in the 1980's. The Recreation Department oversees facility scheduling and booking. The facility is a complex of multiple sections of grass, multi-purpose rectangular fields, plus a Basketball Court which is also lined for Pickleball. The multi-purpose rectangular fields serve a major hub for Norwell Youth Soccer during the Fall and Spring. The Basketball Courts were refinished and relined in 2018 to include Pickle Ball. The courts are used for community usage as well as Norwell Recreation Department programming. The Norwell Men's Club has been responsible for the last 5 years for installing a seasonal outdoor skating rink for community usage in half of the Parking Lot during the Winter months.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	No designated spaces; gravel surface with approximately parking for 40-50 vehicles; no curb cuts	Asphalt Parking lot with delineated spaces
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	Routes of Accessibility are required to court and to the field area. No designated spectator area.	Work with the Board of Health to determine the long-term viability of the landfill cap and plan. Provide handicapped-accessible site access to the basketball court and multi-purpose grass fields and spectator seating.
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A

Chittenden Landing

Description: Public access to North River with fishing dock and canoe/kayak launch.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	No handicapped spaces	Delineate handicapped spaces
<i>Ramp</i>	Boat ramp	Provide handicapped accessible boat ramp
<i>Site access</i>	Hard packed gravel surface	Provide a hard-packed, wide pathway to the boat ramp
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A

Clipper Complex/High School

Description: The Norwell High School Campus includes multiple natural grass fields: Varsity Baseball Field, JV Soccer Field, JV Baseball Field, JV Girls Softball Field, and the Front Practice Field. Norwell High School campus also includes 8 tennis courts. These playing fields are used primarily for Norwell High School sports but are also used for Norwell Youth Sports, Norwell Recreation programming and general community usage. In the Fall of 2014, the Clipper Community Complex opened. The Clipper Community Complex consists of the two turf fields referred to as “The Stadium/Track Field” and “Multi-Purpose Field.” Both fields are used for Norwell High School Sports and are also used for Norwell Youth Sports, Norwell Recreation programming, and general community usage in addition to rental to private/for-profit sports clubs for games, practices, camps, and clinics. The Clipper Community Complex renovations were possible due to Community Preservation Act Funds and private fundraising. Facility Booking and Scheduling is overseen by the Recreation Department.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	3 handicapped spaces closest to facilities including access aisles; paved surface; no slope; curbcuts	None
<i>Ramp</i>	ADA ramp provided to spectator area with ADA accessible seating for football field/track	None
<i>Site access</i>	Accessible access to football field/track; spectator seating for the baseball field and soccer field is no accessible seating; access to the dugout is greater than 32”; access to tennis courts with a continuous, paved surface	Provide access to baseball and soccer field spectator seating;
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	Seasonal Portable Restrooms with 1-2 ADA Accessible Restrooms	None
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	Accessible snack bar	None
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	Accessible picnic table on a paved surface with continuous access from the accessible parking	N/A



Cushing Center

Description: Cushing Center is a historical Norwell landmark available for special occasions, with a seating capacity of 20 people.

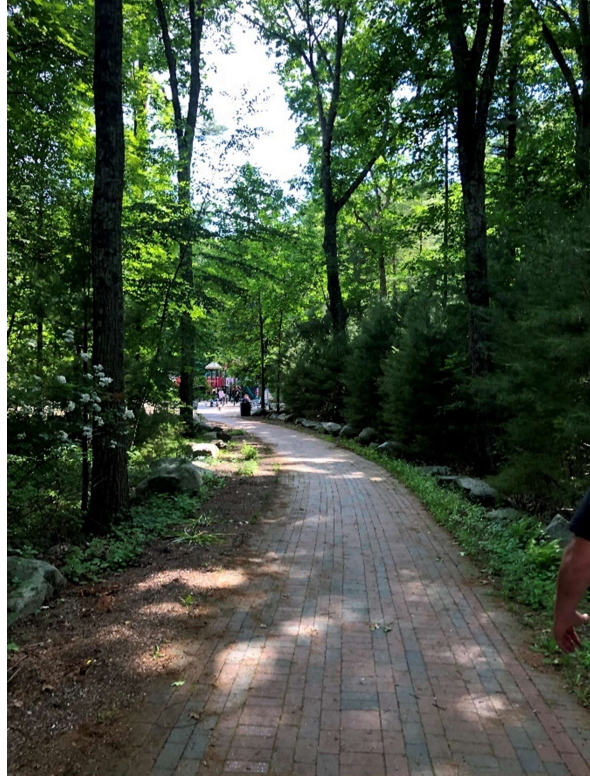
Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	Two handicapped spaces out of 26-50 total; fully meeting specifications: located closest to the entrance, minimum width >13 feet with an access aisle, van space, sign with international symbol appropriately located, evenly paved surface, slope <5%, curb-cut to the pathway	None
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	Access from disembarking area to the outside elevator; the path of travel is >3 feet wide, <5% slope, continuous hard-packed surface, appropriate curb cuts	None
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	Entrances are wheelchair-accessible with doors at 36 inches in height, wide clearings, signage, and accessible elevators. There are no mats or grates.	None
<i>Restrooms</i>	Meet all specifications: 5 foot turning space; >1 sink 22 inches from the wall with open knee space, covered pipes, lever-activated handle, located 34 inches in height; >1 stall accessible to a person using a wheelchair with dimensions of 120 inches by 60 inches, a lever-activated lock; towel and soap dispensers accessible at 34 inches in height	The toilet is 12 inches from the wall, and should be 18 inches
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	Floors are hard-wood or low-pile carpet, no protruding objects, corridor width >3 feet Light switches (45" high) and outlets (20") are at appropriate heights No drinking fountains or public phones	None
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A

Gaffield Park

Description: Gaffield Park is located on the corner of Forest and River St. near the historic Town Center of Norwell. Gaffield Park is a destination playground for the South Shore. Thousands of children and families from Norwell and the South Shore have enjoyed the use of this park, and it has been recognized recently by South Shore Living and Macaroni Kid as one of the “Best Playgrounds in the Area.”

The control and oversight of Gaffield Park was transferred from the Board of Selectmen to the Norwell Recreation Commission in 2018. Due to lack of funding and maintenance, aspects of Gaffield Park had fallen into disrepair in the nearly 20 years since its last renovation. The Town of Norwell received a grievance from MAAB due to lack of accessibility. In light of the MAAB Grievance, the Recreation Department has embarked on a multiple-phase project to improve Gaffield Park’s play value, safety, and accessibility. Through primarily Community Preservation Act Funding, accessibility was improved in many ways, mostly evident in the installation of over 5,000 square feet of poured-in-place rubber surfacing. The new rubber surfacing provides safety, durability and most importantly, accessibility (meeting ADA and MAAB standards) to all play elements. As a secondary effect, the installation of the rubber forced the Town to reconsider the original layout of the play elements. The overall layout of Gaffield Park was improved to better define space, maximize usage of the rubber surfacing, and provide routes of accessibility to all equipment. ADA Accessible equipment includes transfer modules, a four-person totter, and accessible swings, as well as a 45-foot asphalt pathway that connects the existing brick pathway to the rubber surfacing.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	1 designated space; dirt surface with water pooling; no access aisle	Asphalt parking lot with delineated spaces is scheduled for completion in spring/summer 2021
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	Wide, paved walkway with rubber surfacing to play equipment	None
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	3 picnic tables, none are accessible	Add harder surfacing to provide access to a picnic table



Osborne Field

Description: Osborne Fields is a complex of multiple sections of grass multi-purpose rectangular fields located on Main Street adjacent to Norwell Middle School under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. In 2019-20, the Town of Norwell undertook the project to improve the existing ballfield which had deteriorated over the years. The existing ballfield consisted only of a backstop and skin infield and was used primarily by Norwell Girls Softball. The Osborne Ballfield Project allowed for the infield to be renovated, draining to be improved, and new fencing and dugouts to be installed. The entire footprint of the ballfield was shifted approximately 20 feet away from the existing Pathway. Concrete pads and asphalt walkways were installed to provide ADA accessible pathways to spectator and player areas. In addition, accessible pathways were paved on the outside of the facility, and handicapped parking was designated to improve accessibility. The renovated ballfield now meets all Norwell Little League specifications, and they serve as the primary user.

The photos on the following page show the new accessibility improvements.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	Two handicapped spaces shared with the Pathway access, including access aisles on a paved surface	Provide additional handicapped spaces, as the Pathway is heavily used
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	The wide, paved surface provided access to ball field and spectator seating and soccer field; no accessible spectator seating for soccer field but wheelchair could be parked on the paved surface near benches; accessible spectator seating as part of bleachers for ballfield; accessible dugout with a paved surface and entrance >32"	None
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A



Pathway

Description: The two-mile trail includes paved walking/cycling trails, sidewalks, and boardwalks connecting the High School and Gaffield Park. There are a number of conservation properties along the route, offering various additional recreation facilities and trails.

The photos below show recent accessibility improvements.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	2 handicapped spaces provided at the Middle School	Provide additional handicapped spaces, as the parking is shared with Osborne Field and the Pathway is heavily used
<i>Ramp</i>	None	None
<i>Site access</i>	The trail has a paved, hard-packed, or boardwalk surface with at least 3" width and minimal slope	None
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A



Reynolds Playground

Description: Reynolds Playground is located on Prouty Avenue and is a small neighborhood, “Pocket Park.” Through Community Preservation Act Funding and Recreation Department Reserves Funding, as well as contributions from a neighborhood steering committee, Reynolds Playground received a full overhaul and renovation in Fall 2018. The new Reynolds Playground layout is over 8,000 square feet with over 3,000 square feet in poured-in-place rubber. The new rubber surfacing provides safety, durability, and, most importantly, accessibility (meeting ADA and MAAB standards) to all play elements. The playground includes a play structure, multiple individual play elements, a swing bay, and an accessible raft swing. A new asphalt pathway was installed to provide routes of accessibility to both the playground area and the existing basketball court. The basketball court was re-sealed and re-lined, and both basketball backboard/rim units were replaced. The fencing and gates protecting the playground were repaired and replaced and new park furnishings such as picnic tables, garbage receptacles, benches were also installed. The Recreation Department continues to work with the Tree & Grounds Department and neighborhood residents to monitor and maintain Reynolds Playground.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	Unmarked, on-street parking	Delineate a handicapped space
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	Wide paved walkway; no sloping; rubber surfacing under play equipment; curb cuts to provide a continuous surface	None
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A



Town Hall/East Field

Description: East Field is a grass field that can serve as one or two multi-purpose rectangular fields located to the rear of Norwell Town Hall at 345 Main St. The field space is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. It is accessible through a wooded pathway near a grass field behind Town Hall.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	No handicapped parking	Improvements planned for 2020-2021 to designate handicapped parking
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	Pathway through the woods	Improvements planned for 2020-2021 to provide ADA accessibility from the Town Hall Parking Lot to the field
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A

Woodworth Park

Description: Woodworth Park is a complex of three baseball/softball fields located off of Main Street across from Jacobs Pond. Fields #1 & #2 are used primarily by Norwell Little League. Field #3 is a skin (dirt) infield and is used primarily by Norwell Girls Softball. When available, the fields are also used by Norwell Recreation Department and community, business, or families. Woodworth Park is under the Recreation Commission jurisdiction but has deed restrictions managed by Historic New England (HNE) who must approve all maintenance and facility improvements. In 2016-2017, The Town of Norwell undertook the project to improve Field #3 which had deteriorated over the years. The infield, fencing, dugouts and Fencing were repaired or replaced through Community Preservation Act Funding. As suggested in 2012, concrete pads and asphalt walkways were installed to provide accessible pathways to spectator and player areas.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No designated spaces; gravel surface with water pooling	Delineate handicapped spaces near ballfields with access aisles
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	No accessible spectator seating; bleachers are 4 tier or 3 tier "open" seating (no guardrails); gates onto field #1 are narrow at 30"; gates onto field #2 meet ADA standards at 39"; gate onto field #3 is too narrow at 27" and 28" although there is access through an 8' maintenance gate#3 does allow field access with an 8' maintenance gate; the field #3 access from player bench to the field has a change of level greater than 1/2"; there is 6-8" rise from player bench to home plate and changes from grass to stone dust surfacing	Improve accessible paths from player areas to the field on field #3; provide accessible spectator seating
Stairs and Doors	The concrete block dugouts on field #1 are not accessible with narrow openings of 30" with the hinge. The dugout entrance on field #2 is just wide enough at 32.5" & 33". The seating inside all the dugouts could not accommodate a wheelchair with no bench cutout space and a change in level greater than 1/2".	Provide access to the dugout
Restrooms	Inaccessible port-o-potties	Provide accessible port-o-potties
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	The drinking fountain is easy to operate but too high at 44"	Ask the Norwell Water Department to replace the water fountain with one meeting ADA guidelines.
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A

Picnic area	Snack bar	Provide access to the snack bar with a ramp or lower service window
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Facility inventory: Conservation Properties with Trails

Cuffee Hill & Black Bog Pond

Description: This conservation area includes the Black Pond Bog, an 83-acre preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy, as well as approximately 160 additional acres owned and protected by the Town. There are three entrances to the conservation area, providing a network of trails.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	One handicapped space in the main parking lot	Delineate the space and access aisle to ensure access
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



Charles “Ed” White Recreation Land

Description: The Charles “Ed” White Recreation Land is 7.7 acres of land which abuts Pine St. and runs to Green St. The entrance is located on Green St. and was donated to the Town of Norwell in 1999. It is currently a mostly wooded area with a trail that leads into Pine St./Centennial Park. It is a mostly wooded area with a trail maintained by the Conservation Department. The parcel of land has been considered as a potential expansion of the Pine St./Centennial Park Athletic Fields in the future.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
<i>Parking</i>	Minimal on-street parking	Delineate the space and access aisle to ensure access
<i>Ramp</i>	None	N/A
<i>Site access</i>	The dirt trail is narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
<i>Stairs and Doors</i>	None	N/A
<i>Restrooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Floors, drinking fountains, telephones</i>	None	N/A
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	None	N/A
<i>Shower Rooms</i>	None	N/A
<i>Picnic area</i>	None	N/A



Donavan Farm Fields and Wildcat Trails

Description: The Donovan Farm Fields were purchased by the Town in 1997 and are currently leased to local farmers for agricultural use. The Pathway runs along the outer edge of one of the Farm Fields. The trails within the Farm Fields also connect with the Wildcat trail.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	One van accessible, handicapped space on a hard-packed surface	Delineate the space and access aisle to ensure access
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



Fogg Forest

Description: Fogg Forest is a 38-acre conservation area with a loop trail and several spurs accessible off of Main Street and adjacent to the Carleton property.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	On-street, unmarked parking along Main Street (Route 123)	Create a handicapped space
Ramp		N/A
Site access	Relatively wide but uneven dirt trails with some stone walls intersecting trail sections	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	One ADA accessible picnic table near the parking	None



Grove Street Trails

Description: Trail system through protected land managed by the Water Department.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No handicapped space; dirt parking lot surface with water pooling	Provide a handicapped space and access aisle on a hardpacked surface
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A

Hatch Lots

Description: Series of wooded lots adjacent to Edgewood Park, Hornstra Farm, and the Burnt Plain Swamp conservation area. A short trail system runs through the lots.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No handicapped space; dirt parking lot surface with water pooling	Provide a handicapped space and access aisle on a hardpacked surface
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



Jacobs Pond

Description: Jacobs Pond and conservation area provides trails, boat access, and picnic areas along the 60-acre Jacobs Pond. The boat ramp was recently improved by handicapped accessibility features.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	Two handicapped spaces provided near the boat ramp on hard-packed surface	None
Ramp	The wooden ramp from handicapped parking to boat ramp provided; ramp slope becomes too steep	Improve rail to reduce slope to no greater than 5% (1:20)
Site access	Hard-packed, no water pooling; boat ramp is handicapped accessible	None
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area		





Miller Woods

Description: Protected forest land adjacent to Gaffield Park near Town Center and Fogg Forest.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No handicapped space; dirt parking lot surface with water pooling	Provide a handicapped space and access aisle on a hardpacked surface
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



Simon Hill & Bowker Street*Description:*

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking		
Ramp		
Site access		
Stairs and Doors		
Restrooms		
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones		
Swimming Pools		
Shower Rooms		
Picnic area		

Stetson Meadows

Description: The Stetson Meadows Conservation Area provides a trail system along approximately 200 acres of land adjacent to the North River.

Facility	Evaluation	Recommendations
Parking	No handicapped space; dirt parking lot surface with water pooling	Provide a handicapped space and access aisle on a hardpacked surface
Ramp	None	N/A
Site access	Dirt trails are narrow and uneven	Some extent of the trail system could be hard-packed and widened for access
Stairs and Doors	None	N/A
Restrooms	None	N/A
Floors, drinking fountains, telephones	None	N/A
Swimming Pools	None	N/A
Shower Rooms	None	N/A
Picnic area	None	N/A



D. Designation of ADA Coordinator and Grievance Procedure

Public Notice

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Town of Norwell does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Norwell does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

The notice is provided as required by Title I and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the intent of the Town of Norwell to fully comply with the provisions of the ADA.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to The Town of Norwell designated ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Name: Thomas Barry

Title: Norwell Building Inspector

Office Address: Building Department 345 Main St., Norwell MA 02061

Phone - 781-659-8018

Hours/Days - Mon/Tue 8:00-4:15, Wed 8-7:30 PM, Thurs 8:00-4:00 PM

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Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Norwell are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator. This notice is available in large print, on audio tape, and in Braille, from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Title I - See attached

Title II- Public Services

State and local governments may not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to existing facilities must be accessible. Existing facilities must meet program accessibility requirements consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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

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

The information in this notice must be communicated on an ongoing basis in formats that ensure access to persons with visual, cognitive, physical or hearing impairments. This may include the use of public service radio and television announcements, printing information in brochures, program notifications and other municipal publications, sending notices to disability organizations, including organizations that have telephone tapes for people who are blind, posting notices in municipal facilities and printing notices in local newspapers.

Massachusetts Office on Disability
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

1-800-322-2020 voice/TDD
1-617-727-7440 voice/TDD

SELECTMEN

Memo

To: Tom Barry, Building Inspector
Nancy Hemmingway, Conservation Agent
Barbara Childs, Human Resources

From: Lynda J. Allen, Exec. Ass't to Town Administrator

Date: October 3, 2019

Re: Americans with Disabilities Act

At the meeting on October 2, 2019, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the following three documents for the Town of Norwell:

- Public Notice/ADA,
- ADA Grievance Procedure policy
- Grievance Form For Violations of the ADA Act

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**TOWN OF NORWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061-0295
(781) 659 - 8000

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**TOWN OF NORWELL
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
ADA Grievance Procedure**

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT POLICY

The Town of Norwell does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. The town does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communications in programs and services in the Town of Norwell are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Officer.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
COMPLAINTS**

The following Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. The procedure ensures a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints by any 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 Town of Norwell. Any Grievant may, by her or himself file a complaint under 28 CFR Part 35 with a Federal Agency or the Town within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by the Town, or Federal Agency for good cause.

Applicability:

This grievance procedure has been adopted by all agencies of the Town of Norwell, with the exception of the Norwell Public Schools and the Norwell Housing Authority, both of which maintain separate grievance policies in accordance with regulations issued by the Massachusetts Office of Education and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education and Development, respectively.

Standing:

A grievance may be brought by any Town Employee, Applicant, Service Recipient or Member of the General Public. Only the Grievant shall 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 a disability, to represent her/himself. However, the Grievant may be accompanied at any meeting or hearing by other family members or friends, not to exceed to two (2), if she/he desires. However, such others have no standing in this procedure and their participation may be limited at the discretion of the hearing officer.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interview of a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

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

ADA Coordinator
Norwell Town Hall
345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

This grievance policy does not supplant any provision of an existing collective bargaining agreement with an employee representation group. Any grievance processed (or in process) under the terms of collective bargaining agreement may not be submitted though this ADA Grievance Procedure.

Legal Representation:

This grievance procedure is meant to be informal, and cannot be legally binding on either party. Therefore, legal representation on the behalf of either party is discouraged and shall only be allowed in special circumstances. Such legal representation obviously carries with it the threat of litigation and is thus contrary to the intent of this 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 problems at the operating level; that is, at the level of the department or agency that would be responsible for implementing any action resulting from the grievance.

Step I -Department Level:

The Grievant shall first attempt to resolve the complaint at the level of the department exercising jurisdiction; i.e. with responsibility for the action, program, or service at issue. The grievance may be oral or written, and shall be submitted to the Department Head (or designee), who shall meet with the Grievant as necessary.

The Department Head shall notify the ADA Coordinator upon receipt of the grievance.

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The Department Head shall issue a written finding, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as large type, Braille or audio tape, with copies to the Grievant and to the ADA Coordinator, within twenty (20) working days of submission of the grievance.

Step 2 -Building Inspector (ADA Coordinator):

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 to discuss the complaint and possible resolution. Within twenty (20) working days of submission of the Step 2 grievance, the ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as large type, Braille or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Norwell and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

Step 3: -The Board of Selectmen

If the response by the ADA Coordinator ~~complaint~~ is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Grievant, she/he may appeal the decision of the ADA coordinator to the Board of Selectmen. Said submission must be in writing and filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the ADA Coordinator response.

The Board of Selectmen (or designee) shall meet with the Grievant and shall issue a written finding within twenty (20) working days after receipt of the appeal of the step 3 grievance A copy of the written finding, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as large type, Braille or audio tape, with a final resolution of the complaint shall be provided to the Grievant.

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 ADA Coordinator to the appropriate Board or Commission, together with his recommendation for action. Said Board or Commission must approve the recommendation prior to implementation, and must seek any necessary funding from the Town Meeting.

Norwell Commission on Disabilities:

The Department Head and ADA Coordinator may refer a grievance or complaint or any part thereof to the Commission on Disabilities for advice and for technical assistance and support on a formal or informal basis.

Adopted by the Norwell Board of Selectmen on October 2, 2019

Ellen Allen, Chair
Alison Demong,
Jason Brown,
Joseph Rule
Bruce Graham

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**Actions for the Town of Norwell to implement as mandated by the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Requirement 1:

28 CFR Part 35.105

Establishes a requirement (based on the section 504 regulations) that a public entity evaluate current policies and practices to identify and correct any that are not subject to the provisions of 504. This evaluation must be on file and available for public inspection for three (3) years.

Requirement 2:

28 CFR Part 35.107

Requires Public entities of more than 50 employees to designate a responsible employee and adopt grievance procedures.

Requirement 3:

28 CFR Part 35.170

Details the Complaint Procedure.

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Title I (Personnel) Compliance Guidelines

The following is an excerpt from the Title I regulations:

“Employers with 15 more 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 due hardship would results.

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 judgement 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 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 entity; the geographic separateness, administrative, or fiscal relationship of the facility or facilities in question to the covered entity.

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TOWN OF NORWELL

345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061-0295
(781) 659 – 8000

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GRIEVANCE FORM
FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

1. Name: _____
 First Middle Initial Last
 Street: _____
 City & State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Email: _____

2. Who or what do you allege has violated the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act:

Department/Organization/Business: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City and State: _____

3. Please describe the particular way in which you believe you have been denied access to a Norwell service, program or activity due to your disability:

4. Please specify all dates, times and locations of incidents:

5. Have you pursued resolution of your complaint through the internal grievance procedure of the organization? Yes or No (please circle).

If yes, what is the status:

6. Have you filed a complaint with respect to this matter with any other Federal, State or Local Government Agency? Yes or No (please circle).

If yes, name of Agency: _____

Street Address: _____

City&State: _____ Zip: _____

7. Describe in detail the alleged discriminatory conduct or actions. If more space is required to answer this or any other question on this form, attach additional sheets. (Note: in describing discriminatory conduct, it will be helpful if you could provide information as to other persons allegedly treated in the same manner; or non-handicap persons treated differently; has the organization given an explanation for its conduct or actions?)

8. If known, please provide the names and contact information of any witnesses:

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Please submit this form to the Selectmen's Office with any written materials, dated documents, etc., which you think are relevant to this complaint.

(signature) (date)

E. Discriminatory Harassment Policy

§ 5-5. Discriminatory harassment.

- A. It is the goal of the Town to promote a workplace that is free of discriminatory harassment ("harassment") of any type, including sexual harassment. Discriminatory harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal or physical, that is based on a characteristic protected by law, such as age, criminal record (inquiries only), disability, gender, gender identity, genetics, military status, national origin, ancestry, race, color, religion, sexual orientation or participation in discrimination complaint-related activities (retaliation). The Town will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects employment conditions, that interferes unreasonably with an individual's performance or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.
- B. Harassment of employees occurring in the workplace, in connection with work-related travel, and/or work-sponsored events will not be tolerated. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about harassment or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated.
- C. If any of our employees believe that he or she has been subjected to discriminatory harassment, the employee has the right to file a complaint with our organization. This may be done in writing or orally. In addition, residents, visitors, applicants, vendors, contractors, their agents and employees, or other third parties who believe they have been subjected to discriminatory harassment may also file a complaint with our organization using the procedures described herein.
- D. Furthermore, employees may also file a complaint if they have been subjected to harassment from residents, visitors, applicants, vendors, contractors, their agents and employees, or any other third parties in the workplace, while performing work-related duties, or other work-related activities.
- E. Prompt reporting of harassment is in the best interest of our organization and is essential to a fair, timely, and thorough investigation. Accordingly, complaints should be filed as soon as possible following the incident(s) at issue. If you would like to file a complaint you may do so by contacting the Human Resources Manager at 781-659-8060 or the Town Administrator at 781-659-8000, 345 Main Street, Norwell. Both are available to

discuss any concerns you may have and to provide information to you about our policy on harassment and our complaint process.

- F. Because the Town takes allegations of harassment seriously, we will respond promptly to complaints of harassment. Where it is determined that inappropriate conduct has occurred, the Town will act promptly to eliminate the conduct and impose such corrective action as is necessary, including disciplinary action where appropriate.
- G. Please note that while this policy sets forth our goals of promoting a workplace that is free of harassment, the policy is not designed or intended to limit our authority to discipline or take remedial action for workplace conduct which we deem unacceptable, regardless of whether that conduct satisfies the definition of harassment.
- H. A full copy of the Town's Discriminatory Harassment Policy is available by contacting the Human Resources office.

F. Hazardous Materials Sites

RTN	Release Address	Site Name Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
4-0016053	72 WASHINGTON ST	SHELL STATION FMR	72 HR	02/21/2001	RAO	02/21/2012	PHASE V	A2	Oil
4-0010259	WEST ST	STATE POLICE BARRACKS	TWO HR	02/03/1994	REMOPS	09/09/2009	PHASE V		Oil
4-0000705	32 POND ST	FABRICARE HOUSE	NONE	04/15/1989	REMOPS	04/07/2020	PHASE V		Oil
4-0000608	4 WHITING ST	GETTY SERVICE STATION	NONE	01/15/1989	RAO	10/04/2012	PHASE V	A2	
4-0000134	RTE 228 AND 53	QUEEN ANNS ARCO FMR	NONE	01/15/1987	REMOPS	02/24/2009	PHASE V		Oil
4-0000133	724 MAIN ST	JOSEPHS PONTIAC GARAGE AND GULF STATION	NONE	05/09/1986	RAO	04/10/2009	PHASE V	A2	Oil
4-0021513	49 WASHINGTON ST	JIFFY LUBE #343	120 DY	09/02/2008	RAO	08/31/2012	PHASE IV	A2	Hazardous Material
4-0019682	507 WASHINGTON ST	NORWELL CLEANERS	120 DY	03/22/2006	TIER 2	03/28/2007	PHASE IV		Hazardous Material
4-0011269	32 GLN TRLR PARK	OFF 214 WASHINGTON ST RTE 53	TWO HR	04/12/1995	RAO	02/16/2007	PHASE IV	A2	Oil
4-0024036	22 POND STREET	FORMER SHAW SAAB	120 DY	06/20/2012	RAO	06/21/2013	PHASE II	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0021669	16 OLD OAKEN BUCKET RD	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	12/03/2008	RAO	06/22/2010	PHASE II	A2	Oil
4-0019694	109 PROSPECT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	04/04/2006	RAO	11/05/2007	PHASE II	A2	Oil
4-0013918	310 MAIN ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	06/01/1998	RAO	04/05/2002	PHASE II	A2	Oil
4-0012574	10 POND ST	SOUTH SHORE ACURA FMR	120 DY	12/17/1996	RAO	09/03/1999	PHASE II	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0010009	46 BRIDGE ST	OFF RTE 123	72 HR	10/06/1993	RAO	12/19/1995	PHASE II	A1	Oil
4-0028104	36 WASHINGTON STREET	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	120 DY	11/14/2019	UNCLASSIFIED	11/14/2019			
4-0028094	ROUTE 3 NORTH BOUND	RTE 3 NORTH AT MILE MARKER 29.8	TWO HR	11/19/2019	PSNC	03/19/2020		PN	
4-0028080	409 CIRCUIT STREET	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	11/18/2019	PSNC	07/13/2020		PN	
4-0028019	9 TYLER STREET	RESIDENTIAL STREET	TWO HR	10/17/2019	PSNC	12/13/2019		PN	
4-0027970	262 MAIN STREET	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE	TWO HR	09/10/2019	PSNC	01/08/2020		PN	
4-0027948	33 SIMON HILL ROAD	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	09/03/2019	UNCLASSIFIED	09/03/2019			
4-0027905	89 WASHINGTON STREET	MOBIL GAS STATION	TWO HR	08/12/2019	PSNC	10/09/2019		PN	
4-0027520	10 WASHINGTON STREET	HOMEGOODS	TWO HR	10/24/2018	PSNC	12/19/2018		PN	
4-0027146	RTE 3 NORTH BETWEEN EXIT 13/14	DOT,D.W. WHITE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT	TWO HR	03/09/2018	PSNC	05/08/2018		PN	
4-0026583	ROUTE 3 SOUTHBOUND	ROUTE 3 SOUTHBOUND	120 DY	05/09/2017	PSNC	07/17/2017		PN	
4-0026468	40 NORWELL AVENUE	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	12/19/2016	PSNC	10/20/2017		PN	
4-0025814	40 ACCORD PARK DRIVE	OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT	TWO HR	10/01/2015	PSNC	11/12/2015		PN	
4-0025529	80 WASHINGTON ST	PAD MOUNTED TRANSFORMER	TWO HR	03/04/2015	PSNC	05/04/2015		PN	
4-0025258	59 POND STREET	AUDI OF NORWELL	120 DY	08/06/2014	PSNC	07/15/2015		PN	Oil
4-0025251	59 POND STREET	AUDI NORWELL	120 DY	07/29/2014	PSNC	10/10/2014		PN	Hazardous Material
4-0024923	INT. HIGH ST + LONGWATER DRIVE	ROADWAY	TWO HR	12/11/2013	RAO	01/24/2014		A1	
4-0024681	VIC 170 WASHINGTON STREET	RT 53 SOUTH ROADWAY	TWO HR	07/23/2013	RAO	10/23/2013		A1	Oil
4-0024284	NEAR 82 STETSON RD	POLE 18/5	TWO HR	11/02/2012	RAO	01/02/2013		A1	
4-0024063	141 LONGWATER DRIVE	INDUSTRIAL PARK	TWO HR	07/17/2012	RAO	09/17/2012		A1	Oil
4-0023871	19 WASHINGTON STREET	RESIDENTIAL DWELLING	TWO HR	04/02/2012	RAO	05/07/2012		A1	Oil
4-0022948	59 POND STREET	RIETZL PORSHE-AUDI	120 DY	11/05/2010	RAO	12/30/2010		B1	Oil
4-0021751	49 WASHINGTON ST	JIFFY LUBE # 343	120 DY	01/13/2009	RTN CLOSED	09/02/2009			Hazardous Material
4-0021668	515 WASHINGTON ST	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	11/13/2008	DPS	11/13/2008			Hazardous Material
4-0021297	507 WASHINGTON ST	NORWELL CLEANERS	72 HR	06/06/2008	RTN CLOSED	05/07/2014			Hazardous Material
4-0020718	141 LONGWATER DR	ARAMARK WEARGURARD	TWO HR	08/20/2007	RAO	10/19/2007		A1	
4-0018765	STETSON SHRINE LN	POLE 17A7	TWO HR	11/05/2004	RAO	01/04/2005		A2	Oil
4-0018657	35 MASTHEAD DR	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	09/02/2004	RAO	10/04/2004		A2	Oil
4-0018239	249 HIGH ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	01/22/2004	RAO	10/28/2009		A2	Oil
4-0018232	150 CENTRAL ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	02/04/2004	RAO	12/09/2004		A2	Oil
4-0018082	PINE AND WILDCAT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	10/20/2003	RAO	12/16/2003		A1	Oil
4-0017648	310 MAIN ST	DPW	TWO HR	02/20/2003	RAO	05/12/2003		A2	

4-0017157	291 MT BLUE ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	06/21/2002	RAO		08/27/2002		B1	Oil
4-0016942	10 WASHINGTON ST	QUEEN ANN ARCO FMR	72 HR	03/13/2002	RTN CLOSED		05/13/2002			Hazardous Material
4-0016941	72 WASHINGTON ST	SHELL GAS STA FMR	72 HR	03/12/2002	RTN CLOSED		02/04/2003			Oil
4-0016674	72 WASHINGTON ST	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	10/22/2001	RAO		10/21/2002		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0016621	75 MASTHEAD WAY	RESIDENCE	72 HR	10/12/2001	RAO		10/11/2002		A2	Oil
4-0016466	RTE 3 N	200 FT NORTH OF RIVER ST	TWO HR	08/07/2001	RAO		02/21/2002		A2	Oil
4-0016350	271 WASHINGTON ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	07/03/2001	RAO		11/05/2001		A2	
4-0016160	998 MAIN ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	04/02/2001	RAO		06/01/2001		A2	Oil
4-0016067	72 WASHINGTON ST	SHELL STATION FMR	72 HR	02/28/2001	RAO		05/04/2001		A1	Oil
4-0015433	102 OLD OAKENBUCKET RD	VINAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	72 HR	04/20/2000	RAO		08/21/2000		A2	Oil
4-0015288	86 HIGH ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	02/18/2000	RAO		09/27/2000		A2	Oil
4-0015227	RTE 3 S	MILE MARKER 30	TWO HR	01/08/2000	RAO		03/17/2000		A2	Oil
4-0015012	BRIGANTINE CIR	POLE 18	TWO HR	09/16/1999	RAO		11/22/1999		A2	Oil
4-0014863	6 WEST ST	STATE POLICE BARRACKS	72 HR	07/16/1999	RTN CLOSED		01/13/2000			Oil
4-0014568	CORDWAINER DR	SE OF NURSING HOME	120 DY	03/05/1999	RAO		08/02/1999		A1	Hazardous Material
4-0014470	40 RIVER ST	NORWELL POLICE STATION	72 HR	01/20/1999	RAO		03/19/1999		A1	Oil
4-0014450	310 MAIN ST	NORWELL HIGHWAY DEPT	72 HR	01/08/1999	RTN CLOSED		06/08/1999			Oil
4-0014129	88 MASTHEAD DR	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/20/1998	RAO		09/21/1998		A2	Oil
4-0014117	142 PARKER ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/18/1998	RAO		02/03/1999		A2	Oil
4-0013242	82 GREEN ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/01/1997	RAO		09/30/1997		A2	Oil
4-0013234	36 MAY ELM ST	COLLINS RESIDENCE	72 HR	07/31/1997	RAO		09/29/1997		A2	Oil
4-0013154	334 MAIN ST	HENRY GOLDMAN SCHOOL	72 HR	07/03/1997	RAO		07/10/1998		A2	Oil
4-0013101	44 OLD POTTERY LN	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	06/16/1997	RAO		06/10/1998		A2	Oil
4-0012792	MT HOPE ST	POLE #15	TWO HR	01/21/1997	RAO		03/21/1997		A1	Oil
4-0012749	10 AND 22 POND ST	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	12/27/1996	DPS		12/24/1997			Hazardous Material
4-0012566	43 MASTHEAD DR	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	10/17/1996	RAO		12/18/1996		A1	Oil
4-0012425	111 CROSS ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/14/1996	RAO		05/22/1997		A1	Oil
4-0012405	376 WASHINGTON ST	GARDEN CTR	TWO HR	08/11/1996	DEPNFA		08/26/2008			Oil
4-0012240	7 GROVE ST	BUS TERMINAL	72 HR	06/06/1996	RAO		08/05/1996		A2	Oil
4-0012196	TIFFANY RD	POLE #11 (25KVA)	TWO HR	05/21/1996	RAO		07/22/1996		A2	Oil
4-0010697	41 ACCORD PARK	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	08/22/1994	RAO		04/07/1995		B1	Hazardous Material
4-0010290	SATUIT LN	PAD MOUNT #1 OFF WINTER ST	TWO HR	02/25/1994	RAO		01/13/1995		A2	Oil
4-0009999	89 WASHINGTON ST	MOBIL STATION 01 QLW	NONE	01/15/1991	RAO		08/24/1994		A2	Oil
4-0009941	75 POND ST	SOUTH SHORE VOLVO	NONE	06/29/1990	RAO		10/16/1995		A2	Oil
4-0000726	223 MAIN ST	HILLTOP SERVICE STATION	NONE	10/15/1989	DEPNFA		04/24/1996			
4-0000713	433 WASHINGTON ST	NORTH RIVER ELECTRIC SUPPLY	NONE	01/15/1989	DEPNFA		08/02/1995			Oil
4-0000674	119 WASHINGTON ST	SULLIVAN TIRE CO FMR	NONE	01/10/1989	RAO		10/27/1995		A3	Oil
4-0000665	95 WASHINGTON ST	SUNOCO SERVICE STATION	NONE	12/14/1988	RAO		02/23/1995		A2	Oil
4-0000529	10 AND 22 POND ST	SOUTH SHORE ACURA	NONE	10/15/1988	DEPNFA		07/23/1993			Oil
4-0000524	271 WASHINGTON ST	ATLANTIC TOWING CO	NONE	10/15/1988	RAO		11/05/2001		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0000402	412 WASHINGTON ST	BOSTON WHALER INC	NONE	10/15/1987	RAO		03/14/1997		B1	