



2021-2028

Easthampton, MA

EASTHAMPTON

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Update



Prepared for:

City of Easthampton

Prepared by:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street

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Catalyst for Regional Progress

PVPC

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

Easthampton is a small city, approximately 13 square miles with many natural amenities and resources. The City has a distinct development pattern that is reflective of the history of mill development in our community. The damming of Broad Brook by Samuel Williston in 1847 and 1859 to create Nashawannuck (Upper Mill) pond and Lower Mill Pond transformed Easthampton from a rural village to an industrial center. Easthampton exhibits three major characteristics: a dense mixed-use center around the mill ponds, a protected eastern greenbelt that includes Arcadia

Wildlife Refuge and Mount Tom, and a western agricultural zone with protected active farmland.



Figure 1: View of Hampton Mills across Nashawannuck Pond

Since the development of the last Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2013, the City has achieved a long list of accomplishments for recreational needs and resource protection. Many of these successes were listed as goals and actions in the 2013 plan.

The most recent review of our resource and community needs highlighted priorities such as continued preservation of open

spaces and natural resources in, around, and near Mount Tom, the Manhan River, the Park Hill agricultural area, and the Barnes Aquifer. In addition to permanent protection of these natural resources, a focus on sustainable, long-term stewardship of these parcels remains a priority. Baseline studies, conservation restriction monitoring, and trail maintenance on City-owned parcels have been deferred for too long due to a lack of dedicated funding and staff time for these efforts. Citizens are also unclear on the location of open space parcels that are open to the public and the types of activities that can occur on these sites. Broadening connectivity of Easthampton's parks and open space resources to other activity nodes throughout the City was also identified as a critical need. New stewardship activities by the City and its land trust partners, along with annual capital and operating budget maintenance set-asides, and a city-wide wayfinding and education initiative can address these challenges in the coming years.

Other challenges or needs identified by the community include the lack of educational and wayfinding resources to help residents and visitors navigate to and among the City's many parks and open spaces. While most parks in Easthampton are well maintained, some require improvements in order to be compliant with American Disabilities Act requirements. In addition, many of our parks and protected open spaces either prohibit dogs altogether, or dogs off-leash. Development of a dog park would address this need. The beloved and highly used Manhan Rail Trail

has long been completed and serves as an important mobility and recreational asset in Easthampton, with connections to Northampton and Southampton. The next step is to broaden bicycle and pedestrian connections from the trail to neighborhoods, parks, and schools through formal bike lanes and more sidewalks, and formalize funding for ongoing maintenance of the Manhan Rail Trail.



Figure 2. Concert at Millside Park¹
Photo credit: Easthampton Planning Department

¹ Photo courtesy of Easthampton Planning Department

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to inventory, assess, and plan for future open space and recreation resources. Through this process, we have identified existing and potential needs that are not currently being met or will not be met unless we start to address these shortcomings today (Appendix A: Action Plan Map). The last OSRP was completed in 2013, and much has happened in the City since that time.

In the years since the last plan, the City and its partners have implemented a number of recommendations from the 2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the 2008 Master Plan. These include, but are not limited to:

- A boat launch and promenade on Nashawannuck Pond, completed in 2015
- Improvements in Nonotuck Park, where the Parks and Recreation Department upgraded the baseball fields and installed a splash park, new playground, pickle ball and bocce courts
- An accessible play structure installed at Maple Street Elementary Playground²
- A new building to house the Parks and Recreation Department
- Dredging of the White Brook and Broad Brook siltation basins utilizing Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding as part of the long-term maintenance of the pond's restoration investments
- A 2019 city-wide needs assessment and site evaluation for a dog park
- Collaboration with Northampton on an informational brochure about the Manhan Rail Trail.

The City has also worked with its neighboring communities and local land trusts on land conservation. In 2017, Easthampton and Southampton purchased 25 acres of land between Cook and County roads for aquifer protection. In 2019, the City and Kestrel Land Trust acquired 23 acres of land adjacent to Mt. Tom on East Street. Environmental quality improvements have been completed with the dredging of the Nashawannuck Pond sediment basins. Finally, in 2018 the City created a part-time Conservation Agent position to assist with implementing land protection and conservation priorities.

A number of recent planning projects in Easthampton have also addressed recommendations from the 2013 OSRP, outlining a broad vision of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity improvements across the City. In the fall of 2015, the City hired the Conway School of Design for the *Designing a Public Green Space at the Former Parsons School* study, which included an assessment and conceptual designs for a small public park behind the former Parsons Street school. The next winter, Conway students completed the *Park Hill Trails Study*, which looks at the feasibility of a trail network across a number of parcels in the Park Hill area.

² Since the time this play structure was installed, Easthampton residents voted to consolidate their three existing elementary schools into one single, new school. The Maple Street accessible playground will be schooler-used at a yet-to-be determined location.

Three studies have been completed that include bicycle and pedestrian connectivity city-wide. A winter 2019 Conway School study (“Emerging Pathways: A Conceptual Multi-Use Trail Network”) presents the City’s broadest connectivity vision to date. It proposes many connections to and from the rail trail to provide a large part of Easthampton’s population access to the new school via the rail trail. The proposal hinges on two key connections, the primary one being to connect the rail trail to the new school. This goal was elevated in the City’s 2008 Master Plan, in the 2013 OSRP, and the 2017 Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. A spring 2020 Conway School report (“Plains to School: A Conceptual Shared Use Path for Easthampton Students and Residents”) gets more specific on a different element from the 2019 plan, offering conceptual designs that would provide pedestrian and bicycle connections to the new school from the “Plains” neighborhood - a large, currently disconnected part of the City. If the previously proposed connection from the Manhan Rail Trail to the school is made, then the Plains to School connector would also allow those residents to access the Manhan Rail Trail. Finally, a recently completed 2020 Downtown Strategic Plan includes several elements that relate to the creation of pocket parks, open spaces, and other amenities in the downtown area.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

For this update, the City contracted with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to develop the required maps and to update parts of the plan. City Planner Jeff Bagg updated a number of elements with assistance from the Open Space and Recreation Committee. The Committee, formed in July, 2020, has representation from the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Department, Manhan Rail Trail Committee, Pascommuck Conservation Trust, Planning Board, Community Preservation Act Committee, and one member of the general public. The Committee met frequently to develop the community survey, plan and attend the Visioning Workshops, review draft chapters and maps, and develop goals, objectives, and actions based on data trends and comments from the public.

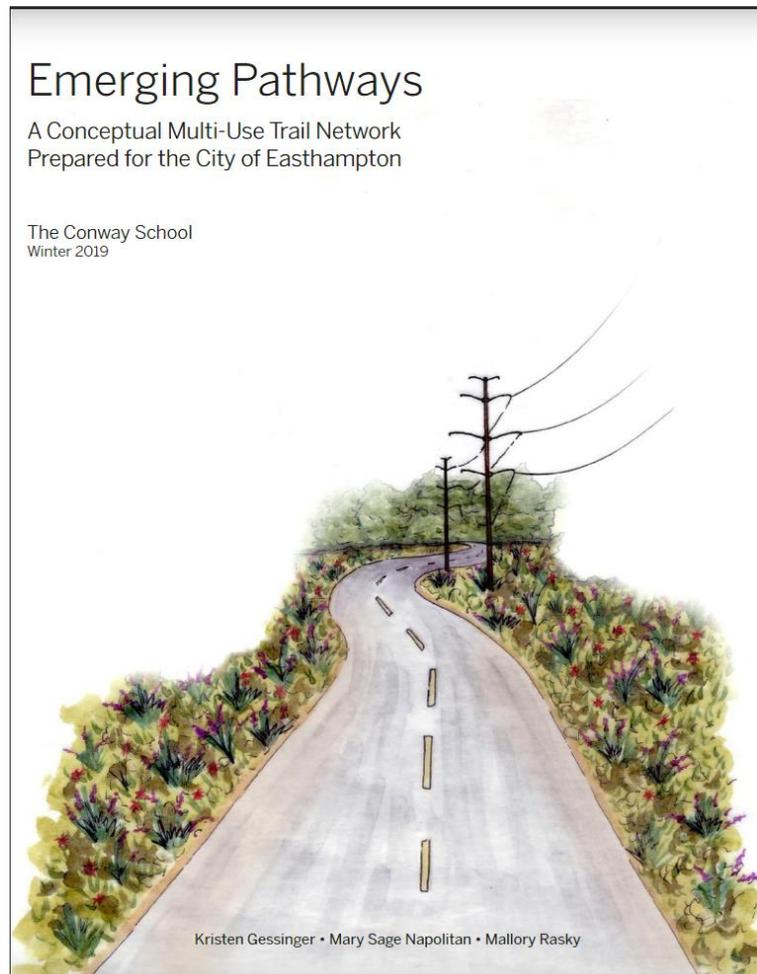


Figure 3: Conway School 2019 Report *Emerging Pathways: A Conceptual Multi-Use Trail Network*

It is relevant that the entire planning process took place in the midst of the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic. Not only did this strain the committee's ability to do interactive public engagement around the plan, it also raised interesting questions about Easthampton residents' relationship to parks and open space. During periods of quarantine, traffic on the Manhan Rail Trail and at other City parks skyrocketed. Nearly 75% of survey respondents said they had increased their use or enjoyment of open space or recreational opportunities in Easthampton as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. That the City's parks and open spaces play such a major role in residents' ability to manage work, family, and the stress of a pandemic while staying safe in their own neighborhoods, underscores the importance of these spaces to the City's character and quality of life.

The City and Committee developed the draft plan following the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for the preparation of state-approved open space and recreation plans. The Committee and consultant team collected and analyzed data to identify specific trends for open space and recreational needs. This data was then compared to the comments received from the community through the Public Participation process.

The plan used two methods for collecting information from the community to set future goals and priorities: a Community Survey and two Visioning Workshops. The committee spread the word about the survey and the Visioning Workshop with a postcard mailer sent to every address in the City. Other announcements were made via email notification, flyers posted at various locations through the City, and announcements on the City Facebook page. The Planning Department also issued a number of announcements on its Facebook page about the public survey, and set up an A-frame sign at the Nonotuck Park exit to recruit more survey respondents with interest in active recreation. In total, roughly 620 individuals responded to the survey, which they accessed online through a link either on the City's website at easthamptonma.gov or through the Planning Department Facebook page. Paper copies were available upon request from the Planning Department, but none were requested.

Easthampton's 2020 OSRP Update Public Survey elicited 620 responses, representing 8.6% of all households city-wide. This record-breaking response increases the OSRP committee's confidence that this plan's findings are aligned with community sentiments. Furthermore, Easthampton's survey responses align with responses to a statewide survey on recreation preferences and needs.

The Committee held the first virtual Visioning Workshop via Zoom on November 5, 2020, to provide details about the OSRP process and get input on the plan's overall goals and objectives. Roughly 16 members of the public attended the meeting, along with all OSRP committee members and consultant team. The second visioning session, held on January 27, 2021, was an opportunity for the committee to take questions and comments on the draft plan (which had been posted publically the month prior) and allow community members to help prioritize the projects presented in the updated 7-year action plan. Over 30 participants gathered on the Zoom meeting and gave input on which actions would have the greatest impact on them and their neighborhoods.

Finally, the Planning Department engaged the local Conservation Commission, and the Department of Parks and Recreation to assist with the ADA Self-Evaluation. The draft plan was available for public comments 30 days from January through February 2021. The Open Space Committee incorporated additional comments as needed, with the final plan completed in February, 2021.

C. ENHANCED OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), using data collected through the 2010 US Census, the City of Easthampton has two Census Blocks Groups that are considered Environmental Justice Areas. Based on the data, these two census blocks groups have a high concentration of low-income households (Appendix B: Environmental Justice Map). The total population of these two block groups is 2500 individuals, which comprised 15.6 percent of the total population in Easthampton as of the 2010 decennial census, the last count for which these data were available (EOEEA, 2010 Environmental Justice Populations).

In addition, the City has delineated a Target Area as required under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which incorporates the highest concentration of low-moderate income individuals in the City. The Target Area is larger than the two Environmental Justice Census Block Groups identified by the state (Appendix B: Environmental Justice Map).

The CDBG Target Area is comprised of Downtown Easthampton, the historic mill district along Pleasant Street and the core of housing that supports the two primary economic centers of the City.

This Target area includes the Pleasant Street, New City, and Holyoke Street neighborhoods in addition to the Downtown. About 38 percent of the total population in the City, and 42 percent of the total housing units, are located within the Target Area. As a result, this area is considerably denser in population and housing than the rest of the City. The Target Area also has the highest concentration of Low-Moderate Income individuals in the City (41 percent), and three times as many residents in poverty (17 percent) than the rest of the City.



Figure 4: CDBG Target Area

The Easthampton Community Center is the hub for those residents most in need of food and other social services, and is located within the Environmental Justice Area. In 2013, the Community Center was one of three locations within the City where paper copies of the Open Space survey were made available. Due to restrictions and precautions surrounding COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 plan update process, hard copy surveys were only made available upon request, which may have limited responses from residents without reliable access to a computer and the internet. The planning committee made every effort to overcome these challenges, perhaps most importantly with the project post card that was mailed to all Easthampton households (roughly 9,000 households) announcing the availability of the public survey and the date of the first public visioning session. This step was above and beyond the original outreach plan for the project, and effectively ensured that the planning team reached all Easthampton households.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

Easthampton is a residential and manufacturing community situated below the rugged Mount Tom Range in Western Massachusetts (Appendix C: Regional Context Map). Located in Hampshire County within the Pioneer Valley region, Easthampton is geographically the smallest community in the county at only 13 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Northampton, on the west by Westhampton, on the west and south by Southampton, and on the east by Holyoke. The Mount Tom Range establishes the eastern border with Holyoke and stretches to the northeast where it meets with the Connecticut River and Oxbow. Easthampton has historically been an industrial mill town but over the past decade has become a moderate-income bedroom community with a growing arts scene. Easthampton is close to the urbanized core of the Springfield metropolitan area and located within the Knowledge Corridor, the area comprising north-central Connecticut and the south-central Connecticut River Valley in Western Massachusetts, which contains a large concentration of higher-education institutions. To the west of Easthampton, the communities become more rural and less developed.

Easthampton is part of the Connecticut River Watershed and more specifically, the Manhan River sub-watershed. In Easthampton, the Manhan River is the main tributary stream to the Connecticut River. The North Branch of the Manhan, Hannum Brook, and Basset Brook flow into the Manhan



Figure 5: View of Easthampton from Mount Tom Summit

from the north. From the south, Broad Brook, White Brook, Wilton Brook and Brickyard Brook flow into a series of man-made ponds in the center of town. These waters eventually reach the Manhan River north of the City, and then flow into the Oxbow and the Connecticut River itself. Easthampton sits, within the Connecticut River floodplain, on the former bottom of Glacial Lake Hitchcock. The area has been covered by continental glaciers numerous times during the last 2 million years. The last ice sheet occurred approximately 15,000 years ago, leaving in its slow northward retreat meltwater streams that deposited thick layers of sand and gravel. These sands and gravel hold the underground reservoir that serve as Easthampton's sole drinking water supply. Known locally as the Barnes Aquifer, this ancient glacial formation extends in effect from the border of Connecticut up through Southwick, Westfield, Southampton, Easthampton, and up to Northampton. Groundwater for the Aquifer is regularly replenished where rainfall can soak into the ground.

From 1989 up until 2018, the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC), a regional coalition of four communities, facilitated by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), worked together to encourage best practices for Aquifer protection. This group has disbanded and there has been some discussion about renewing this effort. The group's website still serves as an important resource: <http://bapac.pvpc.org/index.html>

The land uses between Easthampton and our neighboring communities are fairly consistent.

- Along the Southampton-Easthampton boundary, the Southampton side hosts a large commercial district, while Easthampton is zoned Industrial and Residential in this area. Preliminary discussions between the two communities have occurred to discuss the idea of a commercial-residential gateway district that would encourage mixed-use development and design standards in this area.
- The Park Hill agricultural area is a Priority Protection Area for both Northampton and Easthampton.³ Recent planning projects have focused on advancing these protection efforts.
- The relationships between Holyoke and Easthampton regarding proposed land use along the Mount Tom Range at times have been controversial, especially in regard to wind energy proposals, but community leaders are making efforts to better collaborate on these issues.

Routes 10 and 141 are the main transportation corridors that connect downtown Easthampton to surrounding communities. Route 10 runs north to south between Northampton and Southampton via Easthampton. Route 141 begins in the center of Easthampton and brings commuters over Mount Tom to connect to Interstate 91. The Manhan Rail Trail is another important mobility corridor in Easthampton, with present-day connections to Northampton and Southampton and future planned connections as far as Boston to the East and the Connecticut shore to the south.

³ Pioneer Valley Planning Commission RPA-Region Priority Areas for Development & Protection December, 2014

B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

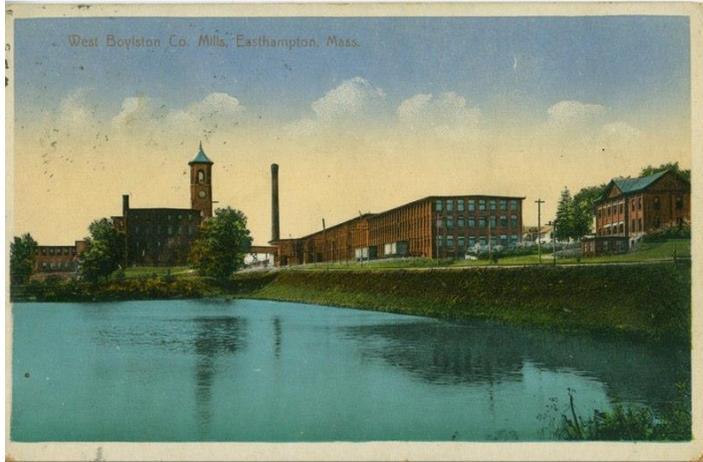


Figure 6: West Boylston Company Mills and Lower Mill Pond

Easthampton is an old city with a rich and varied history. The area was inhabited by Native Americans for thousands of years prior to European settlement. The Pocumtucks were the last Native American tribe to settle in the area and had many villages throughout the Connecticut River Valley. The Norwottucks, the local Indian group affiliated with the Pocumtucks, probably used the Connecticut River at the Oxbow and the Manhan River for transportation and fishing routes. The Pocumtucks were decimated by war

with the Mohawk Native Americans and smallpox epidemics brought from contact with the European settlers in the early half of the 17th century. Despite that sad history, Native Americans still live in the Valley. New England tribal communities and governments are working towards wider acknowledgement of their continued presence and are seeking greater respect for their legacy across the region.

Originally part of Northampton, the City began as an agricultural community. Easthampton was incorporated as its own political entity in Massachusetts in 1785, becoming a town in 1809 and a city in 1996. By the 17th century, small mills began to appear along the Manhan River and remained active until the 18th century. Civic buildings, such as the meeting house and residences were also established in the town center.

By the middle of the 19th century, the industrial revolution had taken root, leading to expansive industrial growth and community development. The Hampshire and Hampden Canal was in full operation for its entire route from New Haven to Northampton, although its success was short lived. In 1847, Samuel Williston, son of the town's first minister, opened a cloth button factory. His success in manufacturing buttons resulted in a virtual monopoly of the American button market. The original button factory still stands on Union Street and is currently used for retail / office space. In 1848, Williston constructed a suspender factory, calling it Nashawannuck Manufacturing Company. Only a portion of these original mill buildings remain.

In 1859, Williston Mills was constructed on Pleasant Street to provide cotton yarn and the first elastic web company in the United States. All of this manufacturing required water power, and by the 1850s, Williston dammed up the Broad Brook, creating Upper Mill Pond (now known as Nashawannuck Pond) and Lower Mill Pond. These two ponds are now important water recreation facilities in the heart of the commercial downtown district.

In the late 1800s, Williston Mills closed down and was quickly occupied by the West Boylston Company, a textile manufacturer. The mills attracted skilled workers from England, Germany, Ireland, Poland, and Canada answering the need for laborers. To respond to this influx of workers, mill owners, especially the West Boylston Company, built mill worker housing in three village areas – Hampden Terrace, New City, and Everett Street. Several of these villages were connected to the mills by pedestrian bridges over the mill ponds.

When the company ceased operation in 1932, buildings were subdivided, sold, and were used for various industrial and manufacturing purposes. By the 20th century's end, many of Easthampton's factories had downsized, closed, or relocated due in part to increasing global competition. Downtown vacancies surged, unemployment was high, and residents had to travel outside of the City for employment, spending both time and money outside of Easthampton. The collapse of large-scale domestic manufacturing in the 1960s and largely vacant mills, led to a period of uncertainty for Easthampton.

Starting in the late 1980s with One Cottage Street, mill spaces began to find new purpose as artist work places. In the late 1990s, Will Bundy and Milton Howard purchased Mill #6 on Pleasant Street, former manufacturing facility for Stanley Home Products. They had a vision to create a lively arts community through mixed-use residential live-work spaces, drawing on examples of such projects at the former Colt Manufacturing building in Hartford and the former A&P cannery and bakery building in Somerville. New zoning and permitting were among the many pioneering challenges Bundy and Howard overcame in developing Eastworks, an effort that in turn laid important groundwork for the redevelopment of other mill buildings and subsequent evolution of the City's arts and culture economy.

The arts and cultural scene has flourished, attracting artists and small entrepreneurs, and leading to increased tourist spending. In 2019, Easthampton City Arts and the Easthampton Planning Department partnered on the *Easthampton Futures Project* to facilitate a series of community workshops highlighting the City's arts and culture resources and discuss future needs. Local breweries, annual concert series like Millpond Live and festivals like



Figure 7: Union Street circa 1950

Cultural Chaos were mentioned as some of the many aspects of the creative scene in Easthampton that attract visitors from around the Pioneer Valley. The resulting project summary identified strategies to support arts and culture in Easthampton, including a strategy to increase the integration of arts and cultural resources into the development and improvement of outdoor public spaces. Other strategies focused on increasing citywide outreach and messaging to broaden awareness of and engagement with events, activities, and opportunities, and creating a working relationship with the planning department to improve cohesion of wayfinding and program branding – both strategies could work in conjunction with open space and recreation projects to expand outreach about existing resources, and improve wayfinding to help users find them.

Additional mill buildings in Easthampton have found new life as mixed-use facilities housing live-work apartments, retail, professional offices, restaurants, artist studios and galleries. In addition, conversion of the Pioneer Valley Railroad line, which transported goods to and from the mills, to the Manhan Rail Trail has further enhanced the revitalization of downtown and expanded recreational opportunities and connections to neighboring communities.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The population of Easthampton has remained fairly stable for the past 20 years, with a three percent increase since 1990 and an imperceptible drop since 2010 (Table 1). This is unique within the region. From 1990-2018 the Towns of Southampton and Westhampton both experienced a significant population increase of 37 percent. Westfield increased modestly at about eight percent and Holyoke and Northampton both saw a decline in population, about seven and two percent respectively. Over the same time period, the population of the Pioneer Valley region (Hampden and Hampshire Counties) saw over a four percent increase, which was lower than the 13.5% growth experienced by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole.

Similar to regional and national trends, the City's population is aging as the Baby Boomers near retirement age. Populations under the age of 25, including families with young children, continue to decrease. Older adults, or people 65 years and over, make up nearly 20 percent of the City's population, a greater share than in any of the surrounding communities or Hampshire County as a whole. As such, recreational resources that meet the needs and accommodate the abilities of these older residents will be an important component of this plan. Table 2 tracks changes in Easthampton's population by age group over the past 30 years. It shows that the median age in Easthampton – the midpoint between the City's youngest and oldest residents – has increased from 35.9 to 45.0 years. The number of children and young adults has steadily declined.

Table 1: Population and Population Change by Age Cohort, 1990-2010

Age Group	1990	2000	2010	2018	% Change (1990-2018)
Median Age	35.9	35.3	43.0	45.0	
Total Population	15,573	15,994	16,053	16,023	2.8%
Under 10	2,000	1,790	1,563	1,267	-57.9%
10-19	1,992	1,918	1,647	1,503	-32.5%
20-24	1,174	866	840	650	-80.6%
25-34	2,821	2,391	2,200	2,330	-21.1%
35-44	2,769	2,796	2,213	2,253	-22.9%
45-54	1,366	2,710	2,715	2,381	42.6%
55-64	1,270	1,261	2,563	2,568	50.5%
65-74	1,306	1,040	1,107	1,920	32.0%
75 and over	839	1,222	1,205	1,151	27.1%

Source: Easthampton 2014 Housing Production Plan; American Community Survey 2018.

The number of people living in a housing unit (a household) has been declining for decades in the United States as more people choose to live alone, have no children or have fewer children. Over the last two decades in particular, single-person households increased significantly while family households with children declined. This is consistent with national trends of smaller family sizes and couples having children later in life than historically noted.

Table 2: Downtown Population Characteristics

	City of Easthampton	Downtown Easthampton (2010)
Area (in square miles)	13.4 (8,674 acres)	0.27
Population	16,023	6,138
Housing Units	7,731	3,264
Population Density (Population/Area)	1,196	22,433
Housing Density (Housing Units/ Area)	577	11,929
Median Household Income	\$59,604	\$43,882
Low/Moderate Income Residents	41.1%	52.2%
Residents in Poverty	9.6%	17.6%
Homeownership	57.8%	45%

Source: 2010 Census of Population and Housing (for Downtown statistics); 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles; U.S. Census Bureau (2014-2018). Housing Units American Community Survey 5-year estimates

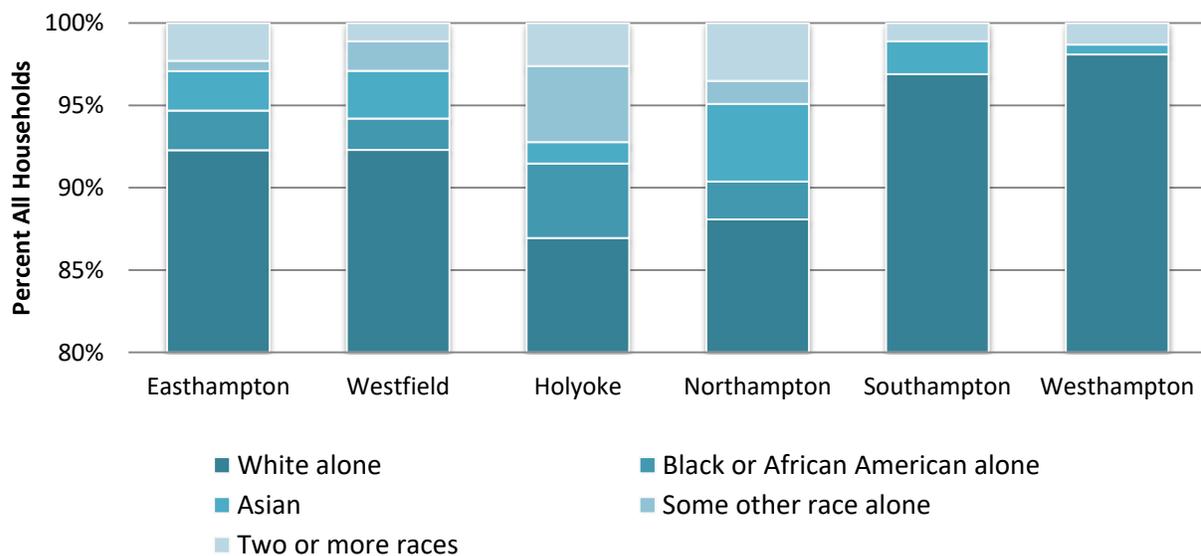
The overall density for Easthampton is 1,217 people per square mile, which is higher than the state average and many of the surrounding communities. The densest areas of Easthampton are within the downtown area along the Route 10 and Route 141 corridors. These areas also have some of the lowest-income populations in the City. Results of the most recent Decennial/complete count census showed that almost half the population living in the census blocks within the downtown area is

low-income individuals, with about 18 percent living in poverty (Table 2). In addition, a higher percentage of renters live in these census blocks than in other sections of the community.

The population of Easthampton is primarily white, encompassing about 89 percent of the total population (Table 3). All racial groups have decreased in population from 2010 to 2018 with the exception of African Americans, which have increased significantly by 107.5 percent and Hispanic populations which have increased by 30.8 percent. According to the US Census, almost ten percent of Easthampton residents over five years of age speak a language other than English at home.

Compared to some communities in the region, Easthampton is more diverse a community than the more rural communities of Southampton and Westhampton, which have about half of the population of Easthampton when combined. Holyoke and Northampton, some of the larger communities in the region, are notably more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity. Despite being less than half the size of Westfield, Easthampton is similar in racial and ethnic populations to this larger community and city.

Table 3: Regional Comparison of Households and Race



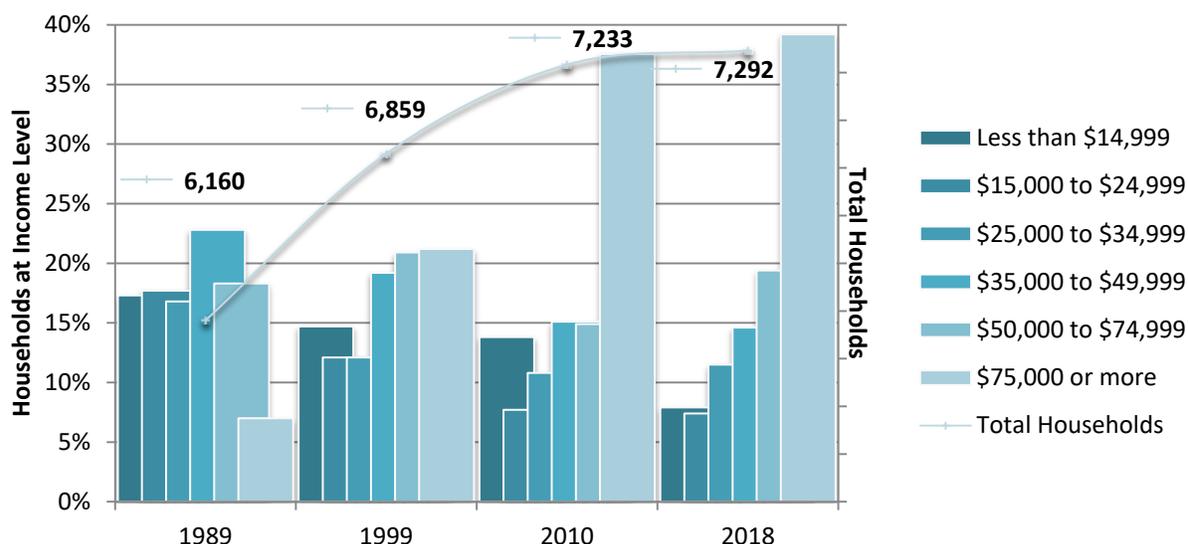
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2014-2018). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Easthampton is becoming steadily wealthier. Since the year 1989, households making over \$100,000 a year have increased substantially (Table 4). This may be a result of a higher number of households now with two incomes rather than one income as in the past. While the median household income of Easthampton has increased to \$59,604 a year, it remains lower than the 2017 regional average of \$65,994 for the Pioneer Valley. Roughly 9.6 percent of Easthampton residents are earning below the poverty level, and 28 percent of Easthampton school students in the 2019-

2020 academic year came from economically disadvantaged households.⁴ Providing walkable and bikeable access to public open space and recreational opportunities for these families is especially important.

Educational attainment of persons 25 and older show that at least 29.5 percent hold a high-school degree and 36.3 percent have four or more years in college (American Community Survey, 2018). Easthampton public school district in 2019 had about a 90 percent graduation rate overall, and 83 percent graduation rate for low-income students. In 2018-2019, 73 percent of graduating students planned to attend college or university (MA Department of Education, 2020).

Table 4: Easthampton Households by Income Level



Source: US Census, 1990, 2000; ACS 2010

Employment trends for Easthampton show about 9,865 people in the labor force in 2019, with a 2.7% unemployment rate. While local data was not available at the time of writing this plan, it is known that unemployment rates increased nationwide in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, with women leaving the workforce at higher rates than men. Only about one-quarter of the total local population commutes to jobs in Easthampton – most of the population commutes out of Easthampton for employment. Regionally, Springfield and Northampton are the two largest employment centers.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As noted in Section 2.C above, the City of Easthampton has two Census Blocks Groups that are considered Environmental Justice Areas due to a high concentration of low-income households.

⁴ ACS 2018 5-year Census, Table B17001; 2020 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The total population of these two block groups is 2500 individuals, which comprised 15.6 percent of the total population in Easthampton as of the 2010 decennial census, the last count for which these data were available (EOEEA, 2010 Environmental Justice Populations). Combined with Easthampton's CDBG Center Target Area, the City's Environmental Justice areas have three times as many residents in poverty than the rest of the City (Appendix B: Environmental Justice Map).

The Environmental Justice community is bordered by the Lower Mill Pond and Nashawannuck Pond, isolating this community from downtown, schools, and large open spaces, such as Nonotuck Park. Any path connectivity over the ponds would highly benefit this community, including a proposed path along Holyoke Street that would connect residential neighborhoods to the East of Nashawannuck Pond with a route to the Manhan rail trail and downtown businesses. Overall, pedestrian infrastructure improvements throughout the City will benefit the Environmental Justice community, as well as students, and seniors, who may not have access to an independent vehicle.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

PATTERNS AND TRENDS

The wellbeing and livelihood of a community is heavily influenced by its geographical location and physical characteristics. As cities grow and develop, the physical characteristics of the community and its environment change with it. Industrial mill ponds, farmland, and historic woodlots give way to new recreational, residential, and commercial opportunities. The City of Easthampton has been shaped by both natural forces and human development resulting in a unique place to live with opportunities for continued well-planned development.

Several natural elements, including the north branch of the Manhan River, Connecticut River Oxbow, Broad Brook, and Mount Tom figure prominently in the delineation and development of Easthampton. Mount Tom's profile dominates the eastern boundary, from which residents have a unique view of their community. The fertile agricultural lands below have a long productive history, and still contain active farms along East Street and across the City on Park Hill Road. The Manhan River, Nashawannuck, and Lower Mill ponds have long been important economic and recreational resources in the City. Neighborhoods are clustered around local schools and religious institutions near the center of town. But from Mount Tom, it is the massive scale of the old mill buildings and their central location within the City that is a prominent and identifying characteristic.



Figure 8: Echodale Farm, Park Hill Area

The City has a distinct development pattern that is reflective of the history of mill development in Easthampton. The damming of Broad Brook by Samuel Williston in 1847 and 1859 to create Nashawannuck (Upper Mill) Pond and Lower Mill Pond transformed Easthampton from a rural village to an industrial center. Today the historic dense center of the City is a combination of mixed use, mill industry, residential, and business development, all centered around the mill ponds. The city center was originally surrounded by agricultural and wooded lands, which over the past 60 years have diminished with the expansion of mostly residential growth into this surrounding green buffer. Over this same period of time, the City’s center has also expanded in a linear form, along Route 10 north, the main arterial road into the City of Northampton.

Like most communities in the region, the amount of developed land in Easthampton continues to increase, while the amount of undeveloped land continues to decline. As noted in the 2008 Master Plan, Easthampton has seen a continuous loss of forest and agricultural land since 1952, with a corresponding increase in residential and commercial lands. According to Mass Audubon’s “Losing Ground” report, the City saw 36 acres of newly developed land from 2012 to 2017.⁵ According to the latest Assessor’s Parcel database from MassGIS, nearly 90 percent of all parcels in Easthampton are classified as residential, with the majority (64 percent) of residential parcels used as a single family residence. Residential uses (including vacant parcels classified as residential) comprise about 4,615 acres, or 53 percent of the total acreage of the City.⁶

The greatest increase in developed land over recent decades has been in residential lots between a quarter and half-acre in size. Based on the Easthampton Zoning Ordinance (Appendix E: Zoning Map), lots of this size can be built in three zoning districts: R5, R10, and R15. The minimum lot size that is allowed in R5 for a single family home is 5,000 square feet (tenth of an acre); in R10, the minimum size is 10,000 square feet (quarter of an acre); and in R15, the minimum size is 15,000 square feet (third of an acre). These three zoning districts comprise 23 percent of the total land zoned in Easthampton, and are located generally within the City center and the surrounding neighborhoods. The next largest residential zoning district in Easthampton is R-35, which allows a minimum of 35,000 square feet (about three-quarters of an acre). This district comprises 40 percent of the total zoned

Table 5: Easthampton Zoning Districts by Land Area

District	Acres
R5	50.99
R10	657.77
R15	1,220.07
R35	3,456.80
R40	1,791.72
R80	617.47
DB	68.2
HB	170.78
NB	60.20
I	436.01
MI	108.43
Total Zoned Acres:	8,638.49

⁵ MassAudubon, Losing Ground 2020: Statistics. <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/losing-ground/statistics/town/easthampton>

⁶ Based on MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020, Property Type Classification Codes 013 100-199, and 1000-2000, based on guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wr/classificationcodebook.pdf>

lands in Easthampton and is primarily along East Street and the Park Hill-Loudville Road area, areas identified as Zone II Water Supply, and important landscapes for climate resilience in the 2014 PVPC study *Priority Areas for Development and Protection* (see map in Section 4F).

The R40 district, with minimum 40,000 square foot lot size, sits in the southern most section of the City (known as the Plains), and covers the Barnes Aquifer. Up until the year 1972, the Plains was zoned R15, which encouraged a higher density of residential development on an environmentally sensitive area. “Upzoning” this section of Easthampton to R40 was intended to help slow residential development in this area. In addition, several Open Space Residential (Cluster) Developments have been built in this area, providing some permanently protected open space for aquifer protection but often isolated or of a configuration or with ownership not providing broader public recreational or ecological benefits.

There are 290 tax exempt parcels in Easthampton, covering roughly 1,830 acres, or 21 percent of the total acreage in the City.⁷ Combined with Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands, these parcels with limited tax obligations total nearly 30% of the total acreage in Easthampton – around 2,500 acres. According to the assessor’s office, the City also contains 146 vacant, developable residential parcels, for a total of nearly 700 acres. There are also an additional 14 vacant developable parcels for commercial development and 16 vacant developable parcels for industrial development (MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors’ Parcels, October 2020).



Figure 9: Subdivision Development, East Street

⁷ MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020. Note: Tax exempt parcels were identified based on the “USE_CODE” attribute, where that attribute is between 900 and 999. See PROPERTY TYPE CLASSIFICATION CODES <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wr/classificationcodebook.pdf>.

Table 6: Land Use Trends (in Acres)			
LAND USE	1985	1999	2005
Cropland	1,487	1,092	706
Pasture	166	131	301
Forest	3,774	3,690	3,486
Wetland	39	24	563
Mining	25	26	25
Open Land	317	439	289
Participation Recreation	62	71	111
Water-Based Recreation	1	1	1
Multi-Family Residential	101	118	349
Residential - ¼ acre	77	77	531
Residential - ¼ to ½ acre	1,647	1,862	1306
Residential - ½ acre +	320	411	185
Commercial	120	139	320
Industrial	99	129	155
Urban Open Land	139	180	0
Transportation	37	41	17
Waste Disposal	15	15	40
Water	150	150	210
Woody Perennial	130	109	107
Total	8,706	8,705	8,702

Source: MassGIS, 2012

Note: The method for estimating land use changes by agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was modified significantly between 1999 and 2005. Therefore, the estimates for 2005 should not be considered comparable to the prior estimates for 1971, 1985 and 1999.

Most of the construction and real estate investment in Easthampton in recent years has been redevelopment and renovations; however, some new residential building has occurred. After a number of busy years of development - 95 residential units were permitted in 2005 - the economic downturn in 2008 slowed building activity considerably. However, Easthampton’s housing and construction market rebounded quickly. Between the years 2013 and 2020, the Easthampton Building Commissioner issued 83 building permits for new residential, commercial, or industrial construction. 62 of those permits were for new single-family homes and 7 were for multi-family dwellings with 2 or 3 units, along with 14 new commercial, industrial, or mixed-use buildings. This

suggests an average of at least 12 new residential units per year since 2013 when the last OSRP was published, excluding units built as part of mixed-use developments.⁸

A considerable number of residential units have been added in renovated mill buildings. While few large-scale residential developments have been constructed on open sites in recent years, increasing housing prices and development pressure may bring more greenfield proposals such as the hillside development slated for Mount Tom's north end in 2018. That project was forestalled when the land was acquired the City and Kestrel Land Trust for a 'trailhead park'.

On the commercial and industrial side, since 2017 a number of cannabis-related retail and processing enterprises have converted or constructed buildings in Easthampton. Much more significant recent land use impacts stem from numerous photovoltaic power proposals spurred by the Commonwealth's SMART tax incentive program. Projects were proposed for numerous large unprotected tract in Easthampton, many of considerable conservation value. Although some proposals have since been withdrawn, others are nearing completion or are due to start construction.

The City does not have any specific projections for new residential development in the coming years. However, 2 major developments were initiated in 2020. The redevelopment of 1 Ferry Street began in the Spring of 2020 and is expected to created up to 152 new housing units and 60,000 square feet of commercial space in renovated mill buildings over the next 10 years. Furthermore, a 17-unit condominium development on Loudeville Road was approved in the fall of 2020. No other major projects are under permitting at the time of writing this plan. However, a draft Housing Production Plan under review in the winter of 2020-2021 indicates that the City needs to produce at least 38 units of affordable housing *per year* in order to achieve the 10 percent minimum required under Chapter 40B. While many of these units may be developed in repurposed and renovated existing buildings, some new development will likely occur.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure--particularly roadways and water and sewer lines - can often be a driver for development to occur in specific locations. Existing gray infrastructure (transportation, water and sewage systems) is the framework for land development, and is one of the primary factors in determining what development density can be supported. The 2008 Master Plan acknowledges that the impact of additional residential development on Easthampton's current infrastructure must be considered when planning for growth, and new housing units should be concentrated in areas with existing capacity to meet increased demand.

⁸ SOCDS Building Permits Database, 2020. https://socds.huduser.gov/permits/output_annual.odt, data crosschecked and revised based on data provided by Assistant City Planner Jamie Webb in an email dated 10/28/2020 and by data provided by Gabriella Klinakis, Building Department in an email dated 11/4/2020.

Transportation infrastructure, in particular, can contribute to a community’s open space and recreational resources. Multi-use paths, well-connected bike routes, and robust sidewalk networks are all resources in and of themselves.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

The City of Easthampton has a total of 92 miles of roadway (PVPC, 2011). The major thoroughfares in the City are Route 10 and Route 141 (Appendix C: Regional Context Map). Route 10 traverses the City from Northampton to Southampton. Route 141 traverses the City from Holyoke and ends in the center of the City at the junction with Route 10. Interstate-91 can be accessed in Holyoke from Route 141. Secondary roads include East Street, Hendrick Street, Loudville Road, West Street, Florence Road, and Pleasant Street. All of these roads carry commuter traffic through Easthampton from local residential developments and neighboring communities.

The City of Easthampton is proud to have six miles of dedicated bicycle paths that connect to a larger regional network of 23 miles of bike trails in Northampton, Hadley, Amherst, and Belchertown. In Easthampton, the Manhan



Figure 10: Manhan Rail Trail Intersection (above) and Bikeshare Station at Millside Park (below)

Photo credit: Easthampton Planning Department

Rail Trail runs along an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The trail provides a no carbon commuter option for people working in Northampton or Amherst and for students attending UMASS, Amherst, and Smith College. And best of all it provides safe, free, and accessible health and recreation benefits for countless citizens.

The Manhan Rail Trail currently ends at Coleman Road in Southampton. The Southampton portion of the trail has been slow to materialize, although some progress has been made in recent years. The Town drafted a Southampton Greenway and Manhan Canal Trail Network Strategic Plan 2014, and in 2017 contracted with an engineering firm to conduct an environmental site assessment and review bridges and culverts along the railway where the new bike path segment would be sited.

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

The Manhan Rail Trail has been an economic engine of development; encouraging the redevelopment of old mill buildings, raising property values along the trail, and bringing numerous travelers into the City. It connects to a park, a beautiful mural and sculpture garden, and even a Little Free Library.

Easthampton has a specially established Manhan Rail Trail Committee that takes the lead on maintenance and enhancement of the trail. There is also a non-profit organization, Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, which is dedicated to preserving, beautifying, and promoting enjoyment of the Manhan Rail Trail. Future development of the Manhan Rail Trail and a continuous network of trails will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to access schools, parks, businesses, and neighborhoods.

While the Manhan Rail Trail's value to the City is undeniable, its cost may be less clear. As described in Section 0, above, the trail is largely maintained by a volunteer committee and the non-profit Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, with the City making minor annual financial contributions over the past 3 years. Current funding does not meet the need for maintenance, especially for projects requiring repair or replacement of trail segments. While there has been some informal conversation with city officials about the need for the City to assume responsibility of future maintenance funding for the trail, no official discussion on this issue has taken place. The Manhan Rail Trail Committee recommends that the City consider assuming the financial and management burden of trail maintenance within the next five years.

To allow more residents and visitors access to the numerous benefits along the rail trail, the City recently secured \$225,000 to install four ValleyBike Share stations and join the regional bikeshare program. All four stations located at City Hall, the Rail Trail at Millside Park, Old Town Hall and 90 Union St., are now operational, providing access to some of the City's most widely used recreational areas including the Manhan Rail Trail and Nonotuck Park. The location at Old Town Hall supports a connection to the downtown area that will be strengthened when the Union Street Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is constructed in 2022. A new station is under consideration on Parson St., funded by two separate MassDOT grants. There are also preliminary plans to install an

additional bikeshare station that is in close proximity to the new school and attempt to provide further connection for the Plains area of the City.

Easthampton's pedestrian network aims to connect the downtown area with residential, academic, and recreational opportunities. Connecting the Plains district of Easthampton to the new school is also a priority for the City. The "Plains to School" report was developed to explore an off-road multi-use path through several protection properties. It also identified key sidewalk gaps in the Plains area that are necessary to provide a safe route to the new school. It was found that safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure are needed on Plain Street, Strong Street, Phelps Street, Hendrick Street and Pomeroy Street. Plain Street and Strong Street were identified as high-priority connections to access the new school, and Hisgen Avenue improvements would be necessary to connect the Manhan Rail Trail to Nonotuck Park and thence the new school.

Beyond pedestrian safety, new sidewalks also spur economic revitalization. The City has consistently worked on sidewalk improvements over the years, with most focus being on sections in greatest disrepair or on improving student walking access to schools. The City conducted a Sidewalk and Intersection Inventory from 2014-2015 to feed into the 2017 Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (CSPP), both of which identified areas of the City's pedestrian infrastructure in need of repair or improvement. The CSPP has become the City's guiding document to direct continuous sidewalk and intersection improvement projects to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity. One example of such a project is the Ferry Street crossing/connection, which was upgraded under a MassWorks grant in fall 2020 to expand on-street connections from the beloved Manhan Rail Trail to downtown. This infrastructure project includes a 10-foot wide multi-use path adjacent to Lower Mill Pond. The public/private partnership is anticipated to continue and include the construction of a new bike path connection from Ferry Street to the Manhan Rail Trail within the next 3-6 years. The need for improvements on this segment was identified in the 2017 CSPP as one of the top 20 projects that were essential to improve mobility for all users. In addition, the Union Street crossing and connection to the Manhan Rail Trail at Liberty Street and Railroad Street is scheduled on the MassDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2023. This was also a top 20 priority project in the CSPP.

In the fall of 2020, the City created a temporary bike lane on the east side of Williston Ave. to provide a bicycle route from downtown to the High School and Nonotuck Park. The project also included a new path from the High School to Nonotuck. The temporary bike lane will serve to illustrate the pros and cons of the project which was originally proposed by the Manhan Rail Trail Committee as a priority for expansion of bicycle facilities in the City.

WATER SUPPLY

Easthampton is one of many communities in the region that relies on groundwater for its source of drinking water. The source of the public water supply in the City is part of a series of productive sand and gravel aquifers (Barnes and Great Brook Aquifers) that extend south to north, from the Connecticut border through Southwick, Westfield, Holyoke, Southampton, Easthampton, to Northampton. The Barnes Aquifer, from which Easthampton gets its supply, has been distinguished

by EPA as a Sole Source Aquifer (Easthampton Water Works, 2018). The Barnes Aquifer is shown in the map in Figure 11.

Currently, there are six wells that draw water from the Barnes Aquifer in Easthampton; these are the Nonotuck Park Well, the Nonotuck Road Well, the Brook Street Well, the Hendrick Wellfield and Pines Well off Hendrick Street, and the Maloney Well off Lovefield Street (not currently active due to high manganese content). The Nonotuck Park Well and Brook Street Wells are high quality sources that are pure enough to enter the distribution system without any treatment or chemical additions. These sources account for about 50 percent of the total daily supply for Easthampton residents.

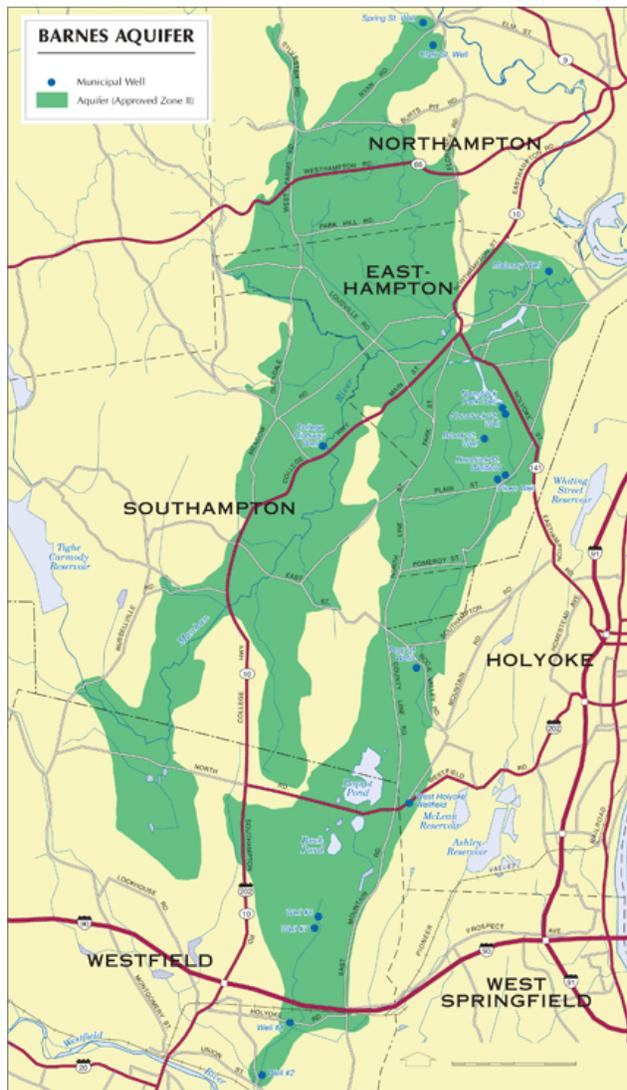


Figure 11: Map of the Barnes Aquifer

In the early 1980s the Hendrick Street Wellfield and the Pines Well were found to contain the volatile organic compound, Trichloroethylene, (TCE), in amounts that exceed the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA, therefore that water undergoes treatment before entering the distribution network.

Approximately 130 miles of underground water main delivers water to almost the entire City with service connections to 99.8% of buildings. Only 22 residences in the City rely on private wells for drinking water, and there are no plans to extend the water distribution system to those homes (IWRMP, 2018). Water services are also provided to large commercial users, such as a grocery store, in Southhampton, for an increased fee.

As of 2020, the water system in Easthampton has a permitted withdrawal limit of 3.31 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and a total capacity of 6.295 MGD. The 2019 average daily withdrawal was only 1.26 MGD, roughly 38 percent of their permitted withdrawal limit and 27 percent of the water system’s total capacity.⁹ Because the City has an estimated

⁹ According to Michael Czerwiec, water Quality Programs Manager at Easthampton Water Department, as documented in an email dated 10/14/20 from Michael to Jeff Bagg. [file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/CCR2018\(2\)%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/CCR2018(2)%20(1).pdf)

maximum daily surplus of approximately 0.76 MGD, there is an interest in establishing a permanent interconnection between Southampton and Easthampton to potentially sell water supply to Southampton as a source of additional revenue (IWRMP, 2018).

According to the Easthampton Integrated Water Resources Management Plan completed in 2018, four of Easthampton's groundwater supply wells (Hendrick Street Wellfield, Pines Street Well, Nonotuck Road Well, and Brook Street Well) are located within the Manhan River Subbasin that has been determined to have August net groundwater depletion levels of 25% or greater, which is an indication of negative environmental impacts on streamflow and aquatic habitat according to US Geological Survey studies. Although Easthampton does not have an established baseline withdrawal, the WMA Guidance Document states that all groundwater permittees with withdrawals in subbasins with significant groundwater depletion must minimize the impacts of their withdrawals in those subbasins. Therefore, there is the potential that in the future Easthampton may be required to implement minimization efforts to reduce environmental impacts of its withdrawals. Based on a review of the City's current conservation and demand management measures, the IWRMP recommends the following measures:

- Complete leak detection surveys of the entire water distribution system every 3 years;
- Create a formalized repair program in accordance with AWWA Manual 36;
- Ensure 100% metering of the distribution system;
- Create and maintain a Meter Evaluation Program;
- Create a detailed accounting system to estimate confidently estimated municipal use (CEMU) values on an annual basis to ensure that every authorized use is being properly documented including unmetered municipal use.
- Develop a Public Education and Outreach Program; and
- Retrofit municipally-owned public buildings with water saving devices.

SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Most of the City (98.7%) has access to the City wastewater collection system, with the exception of 80 residences in the Plains Area (southern part of Easthampton), on River Street and Old Springfield Road (northern part of the City near the Oxbow), and on Mineral Street (in the northwest corner) that rely on a private septic system. There are no plans to extend the collection system to these areas as the cost per parcel would be high and there are no apparent recurring failures or areas with poor soil condition that would warrant an environmental need to connect.

According to the 2018 IWRMP, the design capacity of the Easthampton Wastewater Treatment Plant is 3.8 MGD, with an average daily flow of 1.35 MGD or 35.5 percent of its total capacity. This average daily 1.35 MGD comes from two sources: sanitary flow coming from Easthampton buildings through the sewer system, and infiltration and inflow (I/I) entering the sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater. The average daily sanitary flow is 0.73 mgd (58 percent of the average daily water usage of 1.26 MGD), while the average daily I/I flow is 0.62 MGD, or 446 percent of the average daily wastewater flow (IWRMP, 2018). The IWRMP recommended a suite of sewer system improvements that would reduce excessive I/I and reduce operational costs.

D. LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Easthampton exhibits three major community characteristics: a dense mixed-use center, a protected eastern green belt, and a western agricultural residential zone. The prominence of Mount Tom and Nashawannuck Pond serve as important identities and reference points for the community. The protected natural resources of Mass Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and Mount Tom State Reservation, along with Route I-91 and Connecticut River, combine to give a strong sense of boundary and backdrop to the east. The challenge is to promote new opportunities for land use development within this existing framework. Easthampton citizens have stated that they would like to see new, denser development occur in the center city, where infrastructure already exists, while protecting key areas of green space on the City edges. There is also a need to encourage new housing and recreational opportunities, while preserving neighborhood character. The struggle to satisfy and strike a balance between the City's housing needs with open space protection will continue in the coming years. The key recommendations and strategies in this plan will provide guidance on how to encourage appropriate development and protect valuable open space in order to retain the historical and existing development patterns which have defined Easthampton for generations.

A 2018 report by Harvard Forest, "Wildland and Woodlands," examined conservation and land cover trends across New England, specifically with regards to loss of forest and farmland across the region. The report showed that Easthampton had lost 2.6% of land area with prime farmland soil to development between 2001 and 2016, a greater percentage than in any other community within the region and significantly greater than directly neighboring communities.¹⁰ The Wildland and Woodlands vision calls for, among other things, protecting at least 7% of the New England landscape as farmland, reducing the global impact of the region's food supply by localizing fruit and vegetable production and shifting livestock increasingly towards a pasture base. In Easthampton, this means permanently protecting existing forest and farmland and utilizing them for education, recreation, wildland reserves, and natural resource production. Tools for implementation include zoning measures, TDRs, and incentives for developers to voluntarily incorporate protected space into their planning, as well as educating private landowners on the benefits of land conservation.

In 1999, the Massachusetts EOE provided every community in the Commonwealth with a build-out projection and the community impacts associated with maximum development (Table 7). While it is unlikely that this much development will occur in Easthampton, it is important to consider the implications of growth on the City's open spaces and natural resources. If Easthampton were to grow to its maximum capacity based on current zoning and land use, the City could see its population almost double, with a 50 percent increase in the number of households. The build-out also projects an increase of developed land by 3,000 acres (Community Development Plan, 2001).

¹⁰ Wildlands and Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities: Broadening the Vision for New England. 2017. Harvard Forest, Harvard University. <http://wildlandsandwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/W%26W%20report%202017.pdf>; The study region for percentage of farmland lost included 19 municipalities within the Kestrel Land Trust service area.

	2001	Build-out	Difference
Population	15,994	27,847	11,853
Students	1,978	2,840	862
Households	7,083	11,787	4,704
Total Water Use (gallons/day)	1,833,460	3,619,210	1,785,750
Additional Resources			
Residential Water (gallons/day)		1,427,084	
Commercial / Industrial water (gallons/day)		358,686	
Total Solid Waste (tons/year)		6,080	
Non-recyclable Waste (tons/year)		4,324	
Recyclable Waste(tons/year)		1,756	
Roadways		40	

Source: PVPC, 2001

The build-out's 3,000 acre developed land figure would consume essentially all remaining agricultural land and extensive natural habitats in upland areas. As noted elsewhere, at present there are few existing regulatory constraints preventing that outcome. However, recent re-use of existing buildings for new residential and commercial uses suggests an alternative path which could accommodate much of the expected demographic increase through re-use and re-development at greater density on the existing built footprint or on underutilized properties.

Even as the City approaches full buildout, opportunities to place permanent development restrictions on valuable open space and natural resources still exist within Easthampton. A 2014 study by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission identified priority areas for development and protection based on a GIS analysis of lands most suitable for smart growth and lands with critical and sensitive habitats and natural resources that would be most sensitive to the impacts of development.¹¹ These priority areas for protection in Easthampton are shown in Figure 12, below, and include parcels along the base of Mount Tom, across the Barnes Aquifer, in the Park Hill agricultural area, and more.

¹¹ Full methodology for the project is available here: http://www.pvpc.org/sites/default/files/PRIORITY%20AREAS%20FOR%20DEVELOPMENT%20AND%20PROTECTION%20map%20criteria%2011_09_14_edit_CC_JD_FINAL.pdf

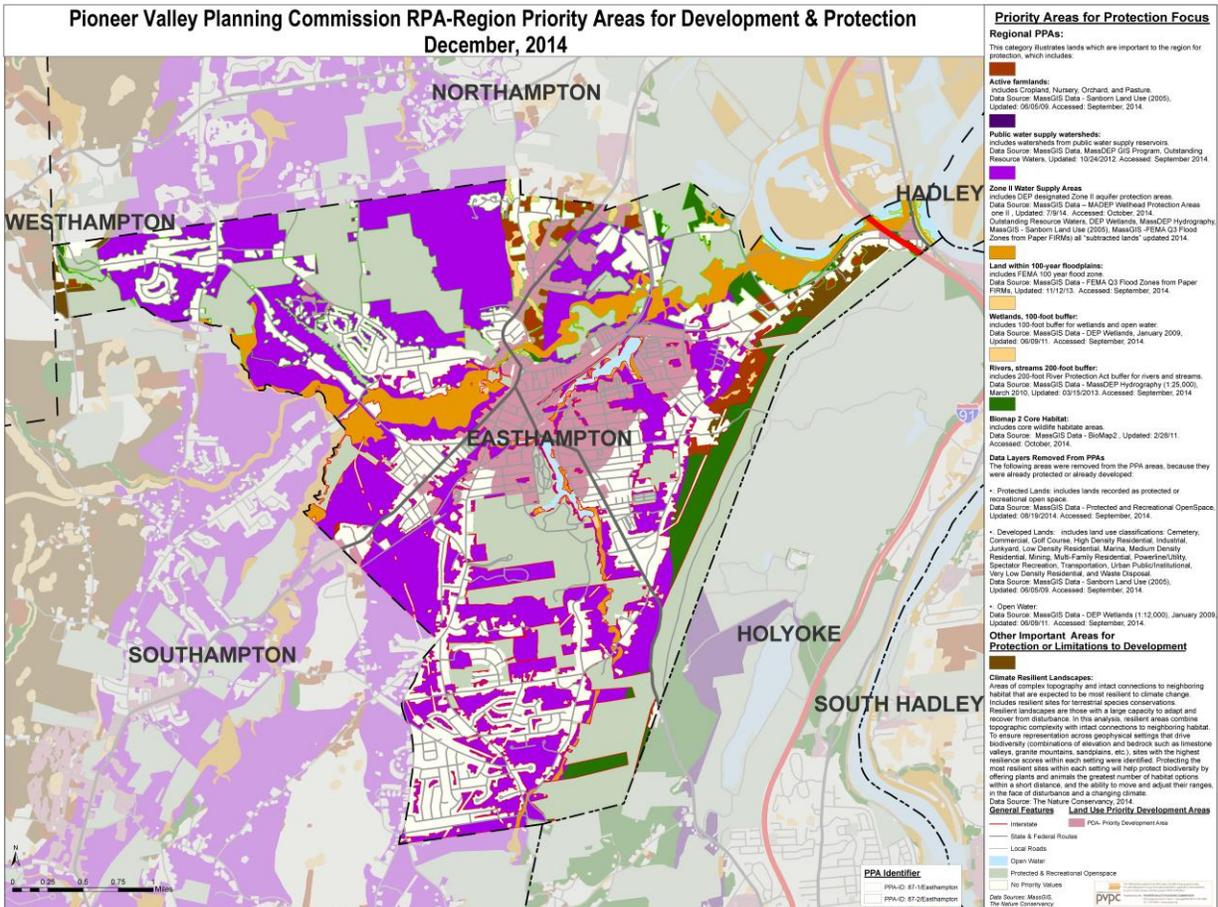


Figure 12. Priority Areas for Protection

Easthampton has been proactive in updating a number of interconnected City planning elements related to long-term development patterns, including the Downtown Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, Historic property inventory (Main Street), and the CDBG infrastructure Planning Study for New City. It has also adopted and used a number of innovative zoning ordinances to steer development toward Downtown and into areas with existing infrastructure and excess capacity. The Mill Overlay District encourages the redevelopment of existing mill buildings and is located along the public transit route and the Manhan Rail Trail, which creates a direct link to downtown Easthampton. The Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) ordinance allows developers flexibility in lot size and shape in exchange for the protection of open space. This ordinance has been used in Easthampton to provide hundreds of acres of protected open space, however some developers find it difficult to use.¹² Where OSRD has been used, the resulting open spaces have been of varying quality in respect to natural resource protection and public recreational access, or with set-asides consisting of floodplain or other unbuildable areas.

¹² According to the 2014 Easthampton Housing Production Plan

The City has also adopted an Aquifer Protection Overlay District and a Floodplain and Manhan River Protection District. These two Overlay Districts limit residential development and prohibit the manufacture or storage of hazardous materials in these resource areas (Appendix E: Zoning Map). The City would like to review the OSRD to find ways to increase incentives and promote greater utilization.

In 2006, Easthampton adopted a Transfer of Development Rights Ordinance, which provides for increased density of residential and commercial development in the Receiving Area while preserving open space in the Sending Area (Appendix F: Transfer of Development Rights Map). The Receiving Area in Easthampton is the Downtown area, the Industrial Districts, and along South Main Street and Florence Road. The Sending Areas are resource protection areas around Park Hill, East Street, and along the Manhan River. To this date, the TDR ordinance has never been utilized. Like the OSRD, the TDR ordinance can be an important tool to help balance future development and resource protection, and as such the City would like to revise it to encourage greater utilization. Consultation on site design earlier in the regulatory process can also improve the quality and coherence of protected areas, as in the Paul Street subdivision.

Finally, the City adopted a Chapter 40R Smart Growth District in 2010 (Appendix E: Zoning Map). The ordinance encourages compact, mixed use development and affordable housing in designated areas through an expedited permitting process. To date, there have been two housing projects permitted under the Chapter 40R ordinance. Cottage Square at the former Easthampton Dye Works opened in 2015 with 50 units of affordable housing in a historic mill located in the heart of downtown Easthampton. Apartments in the redeveloped property are available for residents earning between 30 to 60 percent of the Area Median Income. All apartments are deed restricted for 30 years. Financing for the project was committed through Federal and State Historic and Affordable Housing Tax Credits, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, HOME Funds, Affordable Housing Trust Funds, Housing Stabilization Funds, and a permanent mortgage. The other approved but not yet built 40R project is a three story mixed use building containing 19 housing units (four affordable units) at the existing Jim's package store property.

The Parsons Village development, also completed in 2015, contains 38-units of rental housing grouped into seven buildings on a 4.34 acre site in the New City neighborhood. The development includes a community house, picnic areas, and a playground that is available to the public. Thirty units are reserved for households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income. Eight units are set aside for households whose income is at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income. Funding for the project is through Department of Housing and Community Development. Construction was completed in July 2015.

Other major developments occurring in Easthampton are within the mills on Pleasant Street and downtown at the original Samuel Williston button factory on Union Street. Of the six mills located along Pleasant Street, four of them have undergone major renovations as mixed use buildings, with retail, professional offices, art studios, restaurants, and residential units. Both public and private investment was leveraged within and surrounding these mills to reach maximum buildout within the next five years. In Downtown, the newly renovated Button Building provides a mix of retail and professional office space to support the expanding downtown activity.

Updating this Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a valuable opportunity for the City to compare its Open Space goals with its local land use plans. Among some of the resources available, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Mass Audubon (massaudubon.org/bylawreview) both offer bylaw review tools to help the City ensure its zoning bylaw prioritizes Open Space Residential Design or Natural Resource Protection Zoning as the preferred, by-right (no special permit required) form of development. Making such structural changes as this and others to the City's regulatory framework will enable future development and project design to be linked with the land protection priorities highlighted in this OSRP. Future parcel development would then automatically contribute to other efforts of protecting the highest priority portions of the City. The City has also been proactive in updating other related interconnected planning documents to better strike the balance between development and land protection. These include: the Downtown Strategic Plan; Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment; Historic Inventory of Main St.; and the CDBG Infrastructure Planning Study for New City.

E. CONCLUSION

One of the most important challenges that the City will need to address in regard to land use is how to best balance open space protection with development pressures. It is clear citizens of Easthampton are concerned about loss of open space and working landscapes in the City, and have concerns regarding development on environmentally sensitive lands, such as the East Street corridor or the Barnes Aquifer. The City has taken steps to encourage infill development through proactive planning, zoning updates, public infrastructure projects that support private investment. Better utilization of some of these tools, such as Transfer of Development Rights and Chapter 40R will direct growth to the City centers where infrastructure is available and away from our natural resource areas including undeveloped prime farmland Park Hill and along East Street, and any undeveloped land over the Barnes Aquifer.

Acquisition of key open space parcels is necessary to create linkages between existing permanently protected lands and develop a cohesive city-wide greenway network. Parcels along the base of Mount Tom, especially along Broad Brook and Hendrick Street, should be acquired to protect the Barnes Aquifer and preserve the scenic quality of the mountain. Park Hill contains the greatest concentration of working farms and provides sweeping views of the Mount Tom Range. The Manhan River contains some of the most diverse ecological habitat in the City, and could provide another water recreation resource in the City. The floodplains along the Connecticut River not only have a rich and varied history as Native American grounds, but are also home to a variety of wildlife. All of these places are considered special in the community and are worthy of protection. The acquisition of other, isolated open space parcels would enable creation of small pocket parks in the more developed areas of Easthampton. A parcel at the corner of Parsons and Federal Street as well as a parcel behind the former Parsons Street Elementary School have long been identified as priorities for open space and recreational opportunities.

Passive and active recreational opportunities are available throughout the City, especially within the downtown area where the highest concentration of low-moderate income population resides. However, the public has noted that some of these recreational facilities are aging, and resources to upgrade are needed. In addition, there are several neighborhoods within the City where there are

no parks or playgrounds within walking distance. New or expanded parks could also be developed to support the existing recreational activities that are currently occurring on and surrounding Lower Mill and Nashawannuck Ponds. For example, the Pleasant Green currently contains a playground, walkways, and a few benches, but additional amenities could better serve the dense population nearby. Generally, more outreach is needed to determine the recreational needs and desires of the City's residents in this and other neighborhoods.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic that wreaked havoc across the globe in 2020 influenced user behavior and the patterns of use of Easthampton's public open spaces. As many Easthampton residents transitioned into working remotely and spending more time at home, they have also been spending more time outdoors at Easthampton's open and green spaces. Thus, the societal role these spaces play for Easthampton residents is more important than ever. Enhancing connections to parks and natural spaces is an important foundation for supporting equity, physical health, psychological well-being, and recreational enjoyment.



Figure 13: Manhan River

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Despite its small size (approximately 13 square miles), Easthampton contains several important natural features that contribute to its character and conservation value. Principal among these are the Mount Tom Range, the Nashawannuck Pond, and the Manhan River and its tributaries. Every Easthampton resident is aware of the Range and the river system, and many make use of them for recreation or, at the least, aesthetic appreciation. Residents may not be aware, however, that both the Mount Tom Range and the Manhan River system host a diversity of both common and rare species that comprise relatively intact natural communities. That wide-ranging mammals, including fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and bobcat (*Felis rufus*), find habitat in the City, is due to the high quality of these areas. The City also includes fine agricultural areas that remain productive due largely to a glacial Lake Hitchcock that occupied the Connecticut River Valley some 10,000 years ago. The presence of these important natural resources and open spaces amidst residential, commercial, and light-industrial land uses, is one of Easthampton's defining characteristics.

The City of Easthampton contains 2,210 acres of BioMap2 Core Habitat, identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program with only 873 of the acres protected as of 2012 when this report was published. Core Habitat is land that is critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the state. There are four areas within Easthampton that contain Core Habitat and these include five Aquatic Cores and areas for 33 Species of Conservation Concern.

There are also 1,517 acres of Acres of Critical Natural Landscape, with only 606 (40%) acres under permanent protection. Critical Natural Lands provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, enhance ecological resilience, and ensure long-term integrity. Easthampton contains five areas of Critical Natural Landscape, including two Landscape Blocks and four Aquatic Buffers.

A. GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Easthampton is flanked to the east by the Mount Tom Range, the five peaks and exposed basalt rock faces of which provide a dramatic backdrop for the City. Part of the Metacomet Ridge, the Mount Tom Range formed during the Triassic Era (180-220 million years ago) when volcanic eruptions exuded lava from a fissure that extended south to New Haven, Connecticut. During the Pleistocene Era (1.8 million to 11,000 years ago) glacial sculpting with great sheets of ice some two miles thick molded the steep western face, scraping deep grooves into the Range.

Elevations within the Mount Tom Range are: 1,202 feet at Mount Tom, 1,014 feet at Whiting Peak, 822 feet at Goat Peak, 835 feet at Dry Knoll, and 827 feet at Mount Nonotuck. These peaks, all of which are located within the Mount Tom State Reservation, provide outstanding vistas west toward the Hilltowns and north across the Connecticut River Valley from open areas and from two observation towers. While the Range's steep and often talus western slopes have prevented most development, some of the ridgeline, particularly at Mount Tom, is staked with communication

towers and there have been recent explorations for wind development. Though some of the ridgeline is officially part of Holyoke, its visual presence is significant to Easthampton’s landscape.

From the steep faces of the Range, the land slopes gently westward. Much of Easthampton's topography is characterized as level to rolling countryside. The largest tracts of level land occur along the Manhan River and the Oxbow of the Connecticut River, and in the southern portion of the City off Strong, Phelps, and Hendrick streets, known as the “Plains.” To the west and northwest, the land generally rises in elevation. Park Hill in the northwest is a gentle plateau that offers spectacular views east to the Mount Tom Range.

Major slopes are sorted by the U.S. Geological Survey into two broad categories. Generally speaking, any slope from 0 to 15 percent is considered suitable for development. Slopes greater than 15 percent are considered "excessive" or "steep" for residential and agricultural uses. Steep slopes, which account for 18 percent of the City’s land area, occur along the Mount Tom Range, the shoreline of the Lower Mill Pond, and the terrace escarpments of the Manhan River’s mainstem and north branch, Hannum Brook, Bassett Brook, Wilton Brook, and Brickyard Brook. Approximately 82 percent of Easthampton's land falls in the 0 to 15 percent gradient (Table 8).

Table 8: Slope Analysis, Easthampton

Slope	Approximate Square Miles	Land Area
0-15 %	11.1	82%
15% and over (steep and excessive)	2.5	18%
Total	13.6	100%

Source: US Geological Survey Maps

Due to the high potential for erosion on steep slopes, it is best to preserve these areas as undeveloped, particularly with the recent climate change related increase in intense rain events. Moderate slopes from 5 to 15 percent should be restricted to

low density patterns of residences and agriculture. Level lands are generally suitable for more intensive development, including business, industry, and residential uses. However, level lands subject to flooding from adjacent streams, the Manhan River, and the Connecticut River should remain open as agricultural and conservation land. (Appendix D, Water Resources Map)

The USGS 2010 Surficial Geology Map shows that there is a corridor of Floodplain Alluvium (sand, gravel, silt, and some organic material) along the Manhan River and the North Branch. The southern part of the City, from Plain Street to Pomeroy Street and the northwestern corner of Easthampton involves Coarse Deposits (50% gravel clasts in which cobbles and boulders predominate). For most of the rest of the City surficial material involves Fine Deposits (very fine sand, silt, clay).

SOILS

Retreating glaciers during the Pleistocene Era led to the formation of Lake Hitchcock, an extensive waterbody that covered the Connecticut River Valley, including most of Easthampton, for approximately 4,000 years and stretched 210 miles north and south. Lake Hitchcock drained as the naturally formed glacial dams in Connecticut eroded in stages and left behind alternating layers of gravel, sands, silts, and clay deposits.

These stratified glacial deposits provided optimal conditions for the formation of the Barnes Aquifer, the City's critically important drinking water resource mentioned above. These deposits of fine sands, silts, and clay, also contributed to the production of rich alluvial soils as local rivers and streams carved valleys and terraces into the deep and varied glacial material, and delivered soils to their floodplains with seasonal extremes in flow. Well drained soils like those south of Plain St., east of East St. (along the slope of Mt. Tom corridor), around Nashawannuck Pond, and throughout the Barnes Aquifer Protection District are important to protect from further development to ensure future groundwater and aquifer recharge. (See Appendix G: Soil Drainage Map)

Of its 8,704 total acres, Easthampton contains 3,433 acres designated as "prime farmland soils" and 1,677 acres designated as "state and locally important farmland soils." Prime farmland soils contain the best combination of physical characteristics for producing crops. These categories carry no protections in and of themselves, but can be useful in determining priority lands for conservation. The three categories of Prime Farmland include:

- Prime Farmland - Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for economically producing sustained high yields of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.
- Farmland of Unique Importance - Land other than prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance that might be used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. Examples of such crops are tree nuts, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables. In Massachusetts, Unique soils are confined to mucks, peats, and coarse sands. Cranberries are the primary commercial crop grown on these soils. The presence of other crops on these soils is usually, possibly always, limited to small, incidental areas.
- Farmland of Statewide Importance - This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops, as determined by the appropriate state agency or agencies. Generally, these include lands that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

The areas with prime agricultural soils occur along the floodplain of the Manhan River, along the East Street corridor at the base of the Mount Tom Range, and throughout the northern and southern ends of the City. (Appendix H: Farmland Soils Including Developed Areas; Appendix I: Farmland Soils in Undeveloped Areas). While state and locally important farmland soils do not meet the requirements of prime farmland soils, they are of statewide importance for the production of crops. These soils can produce economically significant crop yields when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods and, if conditions are favorable, may even produce as high a yield as prime farmland soils.

One of the greatest threats to prime farm land in Easthampton is pressure from large scale solar developers. There have been 4-5 such projects proposed in recent years, one of which was built and another one permitted.

B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The City is fortunate to be located amidst several distinctive landforms that provide scenic beauty as well as unique environments.

- The eastern slopes and exposed columnar basalt cliff faces below the ridge of the Mount Tom Range reflect changing shadows and colors throughout the day with the arc of the sun in the sky. At the same time, the Range provides one of the most important sites for rare species in western Massachusetts, supporting 41 rare and uncommon plants and animals, five of them globally rare (MA NHESP, March 2013). The slopes and foothills of the Range along East Street are home to several farms, fields, and residences, and trails in this area offer hikers a way to the top for views.



Figure 14. View of Mt. Tom Range from former Tasty Top property on Northampton Rd.

Photo credit: Mary Lou Splain

- The series of streams that drain to Broad Brook and form Nashawannuck and Lower Mill ponds lie at the heart of the City and are an important reminder, along with adjacent mill buildings, of Easthampton's legacy as a manufacturing town. Today, important government offices, art studios, shops, business, and the 260-acre Nonotuck Park are made more attractive with these water resources in their midst. The most iconic view within the City in fact is from the north end of Nashawannuck Pond to Mount Tom in the background. Because the view resembles the neck of a glass bottle it is known locally as "the bottle." In addition, White Brook, which drains to this area through Nonotuck Park, is noted for providing important habitat.



Figure 15: View of Mount Tom from the north end of Nashawannuck Pond.

Photo credit: Mary Lou Splain

- The Manhan River (both north branch and mainstem) tumble from nearby hillsides and then flow a winding course through the City. The river and its corridor include fields, wet meadows, shallow marshes, shrub and forested wetlands and provide habitat for fish, mussels, dragonflies, turtles, and other species. A recent addition to Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area, supported with supported with funding from the Community Preservation Act, Pascommuck Conservation Trust, and private donations from local residents and businesses, has protected additional riparian lands to provide public access for enjoyment of 37 acres along the river.



Figure 16: Manhan River from the bridge on Fort Hill Road.

Photo credit: Mary Lou Splain

- Park Hill is one of the most extensive and uncompromised areas remaining in agricultural use. This area contains the City's only community garden plots and the City-owned Echodale Orchards which is undergoing a City-funded restoration. The community gardens and the pick your own opportunities at Park Hill Orchard combined with the area's gentle slope that provides views of the Mount Tom Range have made it a destination for many a resident on a summer's day. The Orchard also hosts "Art in the Orchard," an ongoing community cultural event with outdoor sculptures. The Park Hill area has also been studied for future trails and passive recreation opportunities.



Figure 17. View of the Park Hill Orchard, looking southeast towards Mount Holyoke State Reservation
Photo credit: Russell Steven Powell, Growing Produce.com

- The Oxbow of the Connecticut River, celebrated in Thomas Cole's famous 1836 painting entitled, "View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm," is an eminently unique landform. Though not a constant visual like the Mount Tom Range for City residents, all waters draining from Easthampton enter the Oxbow via the Manhan River. There are several residences and farm fields, and the area is also home to Massachusetts Audubon Society's 728-acre Arcadia Sanctuary.¹³

¹³ <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia/about>



Figure 18: View of the Oxbow, looking north from Mount Holyoke State Reservation

Photo credit: PVPC

- The Manhan Rail Trail, though itself a cultural rather than natural feature, is an important asset for Easthampton. A paved, multi-use greenway winding through the heart of the scenic Pioneer Valley, it offers the convenience of downtown shops and restaurants combined with spectacular views of mountains, rivers, and ponds. Part of the New Haven to Northampton Canal Trail and recently designated a National Recreation Trail, the Easthampton portion is six miles long, with an additional section in Northampton connecting to the Norwottuck / Central Massachusetts Rail Trail.

C. WATER RESOURCES

WATERSHEDS

Easthampton is part of the Connecticut River Watershed and more specifically, the Manhan River sub-watershed. In Easthampton, the Manhan River is the main tributary stream to the Connecticut River. The North Branch of the Manhan, Hannum Brook, and Basset Brook flow into the Manhan from the northwest. From the southeast, Broad Brook, White Brook, Wilton Brook and Brickyard Brook flow into a series of man-made ponds in the center of town. These waters join the Manhan River which then flows into the Oxbow of the Connecticut River.

Table 9: Water Quality in Easthampton’s Surface Waters

Name	Segment ID	Class	MA Integrated List Category*	Size	Water Quality Issues
Broad Brook	MA34-18	B, Cold Water Fishery	2	9.3 miles from headwaters in Holyoke to inlet at Nashawannuck Pond	Fish community data indicates supports aquatic life, but not assessed for other uses.
White Brook	MA34-14	B	3	1.8 miles from headwaters in Easthampton to inlet at Nashawannuck Pond	No uses assessed.
Wilton Brook (incl. Upper Rubber Thread Pond and Rubber Thread Pond)	MA34-15	B, Warm Water Fishery	5	1.1 miles from headwaters to outlet at Rubber Thread Pond	Lower 0.4 miles impaired for non-native aquatic plants and aquatic plants.
Nashawannuck Pond	MA34057	B	5	30.0 acres	Impaired for aquatic life due to non-native aquatic plants, nutrient/eutrophication biological indicators, and phosphorous.
Lower Mill Pond	MA34048	B	4c	30.0 acres	Aquatic life impairment due to non-native aquatic plants, e.g. <i>Trapa natans</i> . Fish consumption advisory is not currently assessed.
Manhan River	MA34-11	B	5	18.9 miles from the outlet at Tighe Carmody Reservoir in Southampton to confluence with Connecticut River, Easthampton	Supports aquatic life, but impaired for primary contact due to E. Coli in lower 6.2 miles for <i>E. coli</i> bacteria. A 2018 study found impairment was likely caused by hobby agricultural (livestock) activities upstream of Easthampton. ¹⁴

* Category 2 = Attaining Some Uses; Other Uses Not Assessed; Category 3 = No Uses Assessed; Category 4a = TMDL is Completed; Category 4c = Impairment not Caused by a Pollutant; Category 5 = Waters requiring a TMDL
 Sources: Massachusetts Year 2016 Integrated List of Waters, <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/01/07/16ilwplist.pdf>; Connecticut River Water Quality Assessment Report, 2003.

¹⁴ PVPC, 2018, Manhan River Bacterial Source Tracking Project. <http://www.pvpc.org/projects/manhan-river-bacterial-source-tracking-project>

SURFACE WATER

The pond system in Easthampton was created to supply industrial waterpower early in the town's history. There are four ponds in this system fed by various streams:

- Upper Rubber Thread Pond, also known as Williston Pond, which is fed by Wilton Brook and outlets to Rubber Thread Pond
- Rubber Thread Pond, which flows into Nashawannuck Pond
- Nashawannuck Pond, which receives water from both the Broad and White Brook watersheds in addition to Wilton Brook
- Lower Mill Pond, which is fed by flow from Nashawannuck Pond and the Brickyard Brook watershed and which then outlets under Ferry Street and flows a short distance to the Manhan River (Appendix D: Water Resources Map)



Figure 19. Lower Mill Pond

Photo Credit: Easthampton Planning Department

Land development and corresponding impervious surfaces in the watersheds that drain to these ponds continue to result in water quality and aesthetic problems. Table 9 above describes the water quality issues in the City's major surface waters, as evaluated by MassDEP.

In the summers of 2019 and 2020 there have been suspected cyanobacteria cells in Nashawannuck Pond, though follow-up sampling has not confirmed these concerns. In both cases, the community was warned not to make contact with the water because the bacteria releases toxins that are very

harmful to people and animals. Cyanobacteria cells have been known to cause asthma-like symptoms and lead to brain and liver damage.¹⁵

In the Nashawannuck Pond watershed, numerous measures have been taken to improve water quality over the last two decades. Around Upper Rubber Thread Pond, at the Williston-Northampton School, there have been investments to date of more than \$1.7 million to improve water quality. Around Nashawannuck Pond itself there have been investments of more than \$2 million, including: the installation of a Gabion weir on the White Brook tributary; construction of a siltation basin on the Broad Brook tributary; installation of sediment controls including three Vortech swirl separators along nearby roadways; bank stabilization/erosion and sediment control structures at four locations along Nashawannuck Pond; and outreach to homeowners on the importance of riparian buffers and erosion control. In 2011, the City undertook a massive project to dredge the pond for accumulated sediments that contributed to excessive weed growth and interfered with boating, swimming, and visual enjoyment of the pond. Unfortunately, ongoing sedimentation continues, and the four bank stabilization/erosion control structures along Nashawannuck Pond are in need of an upgrade.

¹⁵ <https://www.gazettenet.com/Easthampton-warns-people-to-stay-out-of-Nashawannuck-Pond-because-of-an-abundance-of-algae-27774049>



Figure 20: Nashawannuck Pond Dredging Project

At present, the City is dredging the White Brook and Broad Brook siltation basins as part of the long-term maintenance of the pond’s restoration investments. The Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee maintains a website with updates on the progress of the project, as well as detailed histories of other activities.

ACCESS

As outlined in the table Table 10 below, public access to many Easthampton waterbodies is available, although most of these legal access points are either undeveloped and unmarked or require walking in from road frontage to reach the water.

Access to Nashawannuck Pond is available from Brookside Cemetery which includes a wooden overlook to the pond; the Boat Ramp (Boat House Beach) on Water Lane; Nonotuck Park; and directly from the downtown area. There are multiple fishing access locations, especially at the locations of



Figure 21. Boat House Beach

Photo Credit: Easthampton Planning Department

past bank stabilization projects, which are heavily used to enjoy views and fish. Boat access can be obtained from the Boat House Beach. Along Rubber Thread Pond, Pascommuck Conservation Trust maintains a small park and gazebo, and there is a short walking path along the southern shore.

At the Lower Mill Pond an outdated, paved boat launch provides access though this facility is in need of improvements. The Manhan Rail Trail and Lower Mill Pond (Millside) Park border the northwestern shore of the pond. Work here in recent years is helping to realize the vision for this area - defined during the Urban Rivers Vision sessions under Massachusetts Environmental Secretary Bob Durand – as a recreational commons that also links the Manhan Rail Trail with local neighborhoods, and the redeveloped historic mills.

Table 10: Public Access to Easthampton Streams and Rivers		
Stream/River	Name/owner	Access Point
North Branch Manhan	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest / New England Forestry Foundation	Loudville Road
Bassett Brook	Town Farm/City	Oliver Street
Brickyard Brook	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area/ Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Mt. Tom Avenue & East Street
Broad Brook	Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area/ Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Brittany Lane
	Katherine Root Conservation Area/City	Hendrick Street
	Boruchowski Conservation Area/City	Hendrick Street
	Rocky Parcel/City	Hendrick Street
Connecticut River Oxbow	Mass Audubon	Arcadia Sanctuary
	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area and E Florence Smith Nature Trail / Pascommuck Conservation Trust	East Street & Manhan Rail Trail
Hannum Brook	Hannum Brook Conservation Area / Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Carillon Circle
Unnamed tributaries from north to Manhan	City (Camp Cook)	Highland Avenue
Manhan River	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area / Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Ranch Avenue
	Edward J. Dwyer Conservation Area / Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Terrace View Street, corner of former Burt Ford lot
	City (land next to waste water treatment plant)	Manhan Rail Trail
	City land next to former water works building	Route 10 at water works building
Wilton Brook	Main St. Cemetery/City	Main Street
	John Bator Park / Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Williston Avenue
White Brook	White Brook Middle School/City	Park Street
	Nonotuck Park/City	Nonotuck Park Road
	Galbraith Fields/ Williston Academy	Park Street

Boat access to the Connecticut River in Easthampton is available from the state boat launch located on the Oxbow and adjacent to Route 5. This is heavily used during warm weather, particularly by power boats. Access for non-motorized boats, such as canoes, to the Oxbow and Connecticut River is also available through Arcadia Sanctuary.

Public access to the Manhan River also remains limited. Two permanently protected parcels owned and managed by the Pascommuck Conservation Trust (PCT) provide public access to the river. These parcels are open to the public, although they do not appear to be well known. PCT has also protected land along the North Branch of the Manhan River and Hannum Brook. Boating on the river is difficult, given the amount of fallen debris and shallowness of the river in certain locations. Kayak and other small boating access points exist near the Southampton border and at the former Waterworks building where there is an unofficial boat launch at a City-owned property.

Current floodplain and other environmental regulations generally protect the Manhan River floodplain from direct impacts from residential and commercial development. However, the future challenge along the Manhan River corridor may be balancing protection and restoration of habitat of rare, threatened, and endangered species with enhanced public access to this sensitive environmental area.

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

These are areas that are susceptible to overflow of streams during periods of heavy flooding, including the 500-year storm event (of 0.2%). For the most part, federally mapped floodplains in Easthampton are associated with the Manhan River and the Connecticut River Oxbow (Appendix D: Water Resources Map).

WETLANDS

Wetlands are primarily located in the floodplains of the Manhan River and adjacent to the many streams and ponds in the City. There are also pockets of wetlands scattered throughout the City, including marshes and shrub swamps off of Florence Road, around Bassett Brook, and in and around the Oxbow.

Wetlands are extremely valuable because of the role they play in maintaining a safe and healthy environment. Some of the functions wetlands perform are:

- During periods of heavy rainfall they act as natural water storage areas, reducing damage from flooding. Preserving wetlands can reduce the need for expensive structural flood control measures.
- Wetlands protect water quality by trapping and filtering sediments from upland runoff. If wetlands are altered these sediments may then clog stream channels and fill ponds and lakes.
- By trapping nutrients from runoff, wetlands make highly productive ecosystems and contribute to the overall balance and diversity of the environment.
- Wetlands provide habitat for a great variety of amphibians, plant and animal life, and thus can provide recreational and educational opportunities for residents.

- Wetlands are generally linked to the ground water system. Depending upon underlying formations, surface water may percolate through and add to ground water supply.
- Wetlands serve as discharge/recharge areas for aquifers. Alteration here can seriously disrupt the ground water system, create drainage problems and affect water quality.

AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

All of Easthampton's water supply comes from the Barnes Aquifer. The City has six wells, including the 106-unit Hendrick Street Well Field (Appendix D: Water Resources Map). These wells also include the Pines Well, Nonotuck Road Well (currently inactive) Nonotuck Park Well, the Brook Street Well, and the Maloney Well (currently inactive). The 2003 Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report prepared for MassDEP describes the active wells as follows:

- The Hendrick Street Wellfield, the oldest component of the system, was developed in 1908, consists of 106 driven wells of various depths and has an approved withdrawal rate of 1.2 MGD.
- The Pines Well, built in 1962, is a 10-inch gravel developed well, with an approved withdrawal rate of 1 MGD. The Pines Well (05G) is located approximately 150 feet from the western portion of the Hendrick Street Wellfield (04G).
- The Nonotuck Park Well (08G) is a replacement well for the original Nonotuck well, which is now listed as an emergency source only. The replacement well went on line in 1995 and is an 18 by 24-inch diameter gravel packed well with an approved withdrawal rate of 1.14 MGD.
- The Brook Street Well (09G) was completed in 1998 in the central part of town and is a 24 by 36-inch diameter, gravel packed well with an approved yield of 1.2 MGD withdrawal.
- The Maloney Well is located approximately 2 miles north, (downgradient) of the other Easthampton sources. The Maloney Well is an 18-inch diameter, gravel developed artesian well installed in 1976 with an approved withdrawal rate of 1.7 MGD. Due to high manganese levels, the Maloney Well is used primarily to supplement the system under high demand.

Each well has associated areas known as a Zone I and Zone II defined by the MassDEP. A Zone I area is the protective radius required around a public water supply well. For public water system wells with approved yields of 100,000 gallons per day or greater, the protective radius is 400 feet. Tubular wellfields require a 250 foot protective radius. The Zone II is the area of the aquifer that contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharge conditions that can be realistically anticipated (180 days of pumping at safe yield, with no recharge from precipitation).¹⁶

The Zone I for the Hendrick Street Wellfield is a radial distance of 250 feet from the outer perimeter of the wellpoints resulting in an oval shaped Zone I. The remaining wells each have a Zone I radius of 400 feet. The Pines Well, Brook Street, Hendrick Street and Nonotuck Park sources are located within approximately 1 mile of each other and the Zone II includes all of those sources. The Zone I

¹⁶ These definitions come from MassDEP's website:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-supply-protection-area-definitions.html>

for the Maloney well has a radius of 400 feet and the Zone II for the Maloney Well incorporates a large area as it is at the mouth of three buried valley aquifers that merge and discharge to the Connecticut River valley just east of the Maloney Well site.¹⁷

These delineations serve as the foundation for the City's Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone. This overlay zone, however, does not include the Zone II for the Maloney Well in the northern part of the City. The major reason for this is that the Maloney well is located in an area that has a clay layer above the sand and gravel aquifer that ranges in thickness from zero to more than 100 feet. Holes in the layer are limited to areas where Eskers are present. This clay layer underlies much of the most densely developed part of the City and is believed to offer protection from most land use activities. The City, as a result, has sought to establish standards in this Zone II that are based on thickness of the clay layer rather than using the same standards that exist for the Zone II in the southern part of Easthampton.¹⁸

While the City's Aquifer Protection District limits residential development and prohibits the manufacture or storage of hazardous materials in the aquifer recharge area, there currently is no local Wellhead Protection Plan. Explicitly called for in the City's 2008 Master Plan, a Wellhead Protection Plan would identify strategies to protect the drinking water supply and provide a timeline for protection strategies, at the same time as providing legal support for the existing aquifer protection bylaws. The Water Quality Programs Manager at Easthampton Water Department has also recommended establishing an Easthampton Aquifer Protection Committee to support and direct efforts for drinking water protection.

The City has taken important steps towards protecting the City's drinking water, and most recently in 2017, collaborated with the Town of Southampton to purchase 25 acres of land between Cook and County roads for aquifer protection. The purchase was comprised of a \$400,000 LAND Grant, \$343,000 from Easthampton CPA and \$386,000 from Southampton CPA. Easthampton has also been an active member of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) until it disbanded in 2018. BAPAC was formed in 1989 through a Memorandum of Agreement between the communities supplied with water from the Barnes Aquifer including Southampton, Westfield, and Holyoke. BAPAC reviewed and commented on Developments of Regional Impact, typically projects requiring a Special Permit under local zoning, to provide additional guidance regarding best management practices for aquifer protection. BAPAC was also involved in pollution prevention education and outreach to homeowners and businesses, land conservation over the aquifer, and research regarding issues affecting the aquifer. In the absence of BAPAC, the City may have to take a more active role in conducting education and outreach to property owners, including private well owners, about best practices on lawn and garden chemical applications, and to schools about the Barnes Aquifer and Best Management Practices to prevent pollution. The City should also alert

¹⁷ <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/1087000.pdf>

¹⁸ Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee Report on Fiscal Year 2012 Activities (July 2011 to June 2012)

landowners to and educate them about existing deed covenants prohibiting use of lawn chemicals, and endeavor to enforce these.

D. VEGETATION

GENERAL INVENTORY

Easthampton's vegetation is characteristic of the Connecticut River Valley region. The Northern Hardwood forest type meets the Oak-Hickory forest type in this area of western Massachusetts. The presence of this transition zone, along with the land-use history of Easthampton, contributes to a diversity of plant species.

FOREST LAND

Forests once covered the area, but were harvested and cleared in the late 1700s to make way for farming. The slopes of the Mount Tom Range, the 148-acre Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest owned by the New England Forestry Foundation, and stretches of land along the Manhan River are among the areas with forests of significant size. Forest land in Easthampton typically tends toward mixed hardwoods. Coniferous stands, generally hemlock and white pine, inhabit areas along the Mount Tom Range and stream valleys as well as in old fields. Pockets of pitch pine are found in the sandy soils of the southern part of town. There is one Chapter 61 parcel of approximately 80 acres in Easthampton, located on Westview Terrace. Chapter 61 (forest land), described in more detail in Section 5, is a voluntary program designed by the Massachusetts Legislature that gives preferential tax treatment to those landowners who maintain their property as open space for the purposes of timber production.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Farms contribute not only to the City's economic well-being, but also to its historic and scenic wealth. A majority of the remaining agricultural lands in Easthampton are located primarily along the base of the Mount Tom Range and on Park Hill and Florence Road. Corn and hay, as well as apples and mixed vegetable crops (sold at farm stands and CSA), are all important economically in Easthampton.

At the time of this plan's development, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to, among the more dire impacts to life and safety, a greater awareness of food security and how the disruption of global supply chains can impact local food pricing and availability.

Growing food locally may be more important than ever before, and Easthampton's working farms such as Mountain View Farm, Park Hill Orchard, and others may be essential to the City's long-term food security. However, and as noted in the City's most recent Master Plan, "Agriculture is a challenge to preserve and protect. The economics of modern agriculture, escalating land costs, and the need to coexist with residential development are among the challenges associated with farmland preservation."

Over 630 acres of farmland in Easthampton are protected through the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources, Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. The APR program

offers to pay farmland owners and other owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction on any use of the property that has a negative impact on its agricultural viability. The APRs on Park Hill alone comprise a 287-acre block in Easthampton that includes Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Significance and connects to a major block of APR protected land in Northampton. See Table 11 below for a listing of properties protected under this program in Easthampton.

Table 11: Easthampton Agricultural Preservation Restrictions			
Parcel ID	Site Name	Acres	APR Holder
102_2	Micka	18.2	MDAR, Northampton Con Com
112_34	Burt Jairus S APR	30.6	MDAR
113_18	Pomeroy Farm	10.8	MDAR
113_22	Pomeroy Farm APR	30.3	MDAR
117_2_1	Sena APR/ Park Hill Orchards	1.8	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
117_2_1	Sena APR/ Park Hill Orchards	24.9	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
117_4	Sena APR/ Park Hill Orchards	97.3	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
118_12	Chicoine Gabrielle B APR	41.3	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
124_7	Noble Farm	59.6	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
126_44	Easthampton Town Farm	53.6	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
126_45	Echodale Farm APR	139.9	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
138_110	Laurin Carol A APR	27.1	MDAR, City of Easthampton
142_6	Laurin Carol A APR	23.8	MDAR, City of Easthampton
142_9	Laurin Carol A APR	8.2	MDAR, City of Easthampton
149_57	Mountainview Farm	8.5	MDAR
149_60_1	Mountainview Farm	8.4	MDAR
171_23	Chicoine APR	30.1	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com
171_80	Chicoine APR	16.0	MDAR, Easthampton Con Com

Source: MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020; MassGIS Data: Protected, Recreational, and Open Space, October, 2020; Easthampton Assessor, 2020
Notes: Where multiple entities are listed under "APR Holder," there are multiple APRs on the parcel.
Con Com: Conservation Commission
MDAR: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
MHC: Massachusetts Historical Commission

In addition, there are some 756 acres of lands in Easthampton that are under Chapter 61 (Forest land), Chapter 61A (Agriculture), and Chapter 61B (Recreation). These lands are not permanently protected, but under the Chapter, the City has a Right of First Refusal to match a buyer's offer if a landowner opts to sell enrolled land..

The City can take steps to foster a more dynamic and collaborative relationship with the local farming community. OSRP planning participants suggested a wide-ranging educational and

promotional effort that would identify and highlight agricultural resources such as small farms and farm stands to ensure residents and visitors know about local farms and how to visit them.

PUBLIC SHADE TREES

Public shade trees are an important part of a community's infrastructure. Not only do large trees provide aesthetic value to a community's streets and natural areas, but they also provide value as "green infrastructure" that control and cleanse stormwater, reduce soil erosion, absorb carbon and air pollutants, and reduce the "heat island effect" by shading surfaces such as pavement and brick.

The City of Easthampton has had an active Tree Warden for many years, operating under the Parks and Recreation Department. The Tree Warden is consulted and holds a public hearing in coordination with the Planning Board before the removal of any Public Shade Tree. The City does not currently have an inventory of Public Shade Trees, which would provide information on species, maturity, and condition, nor does it have a Public Shade Tree planting program, or a Tree Committee. These are all activities the community could implement in the development of a local Public Shade Tree program. As the standing tree warden retired in September 2020, the City has an opportunity to restructure the operational responsibilities of the position going forward in order to support the long term goal of planting more shade trees city-wide. Future street tree planting initiatives can be funded through available state programs such as Green Communities and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, and federal grant programs.

WETLAND VEGETATION

Several types of wetlands are found in Easthampton: wet meadows, marshes, shrub, and forested wetlands, as well as the Oxbow. Easthampton's rivers and streams and section of the Oxbow also boast exemplary occurrences of several Natural Heritage And Endangered Species Program-designated 'Imperiled' Core Habitats (High-Terrace Floodplain Forest, Small-River Floodplain Forest (one of only three locations state-wide), and Transitional Floodplain Forest). Species found in these areas include green ash, sycamore, red and silver maple, and American elm. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and the Pascommuck Conservation Trust have taken measures to preserve the lands on which these wetland species grow by purchasing and preserving strips along both the Oxbow and Manhan River, but several miles of streamfront corridor along the Manhan and its tributaries remain protected from development only by physical constraints, and are still vulnerable to degradation of habitat.

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FLORA SPECIES

Rare plants in Easthampton are mostly either along the Manhan River or on the Mount Tom Range. Rare plants growing in floodplains along streams or rivers include:

- Green Dragon (threatened), a relative of jack-in-the-pulpit;
- Gray's Sedge (threatened), a perennial grass-like plant;
- Moonseed (unofficial plant watch list) a shade tolerant woody vine ;
- Swamp Lousewort (endangered), a very rare species has not been reported in Easthampton since 1930.

Rare plants associated with the Mount Tom Range, including in sloped forest habitats, are:

- Climbing Fumitory (special concern), a vine;
- Purple Clematis (special concern), a vine;
- New England Blazing Star (special concern), an endemic, globally rare, perennial;
- False Pennyroyal (endangered), a blue-flowered annual of the mint family;
- Autumn Coralroot (special concern), a perennial orchid;
- Butternut (unofficial plant watch list) a deciduous tree native to eastern North America that is susceptible to butternut canker that is devastating butternut trees in the wild.

A complete list of rare plant species is shown in Table 12.¹⁹

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Year
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Green Dragon	T	2008
<i>Boechera missouriensis</i>	Green Rock-cress	T	2017
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Gray’s Sedge	T	2019
<i>Clematis occidentalis</i>	Purple Clematis	SC	2009
<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>	Autumn Coralroot	SC	2000
<i>Liatris scariosa</i> <i>var. novae-angliae</i>	New England Blazing Star	SC	2009
<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	Swamp Lousewort	E	1930
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Spiked False Oats	E	2003
<i>Ludwigia polycarpa</i>	Many-fruited Seedbox	E	ND
N/A	Plant, 3 species, Name not released*	E	ND
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed	T	ND
<i>Carex squarrosa</i>	Squarrose Sedge	T	ND
<i>Sphenopholis nitida</i>	Shining Wedgegrass	T	ND
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Linear-leaved Milkweed	T	
<i>Carex typhina</i>	Cat-tail Sedge	T	2019

KEY TO MESA STATUS: E = Endangered. T = Threatened. SC = Special Concern.
 *NHESP does not release the names of species deemed particularly susceptible to collection.
 Most Recent Year means the year of the most recent record in the NHESP database. Some Watch List dates are not available.
 Source: Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and BioMap2 (2012)

¹⁹ The list of species in this section comes from a July 1, 2020 letter from NHESP Habitat Protection Specialist Lynn Haper to Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Emily Slotnick.

E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

INVENTORY

The slopes of the Mount Tom Range, the Connecticut River Oxbow, and the Manhan River watershed are of particular value as wildlife habitats.

The Mount Tom Range functions as a wildlife refuge as well as a major migration route for birds. Rare species of moths, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians including Marbled, Jefferson, Four-toed, and Spring Salamanders as well as Eastern Box Turtles are also found within the Range. Many large raptors are often in the vicinity.

The Mass Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary maintains over 600 acres of marsh, meadow, forest, pond, and streams along the Oxbow in Easthampton and Northampton. Many species of wildlife live year-round in the Sanctuary and Pascommuck Conservation Trust's Old Trolley Line Conservation Area, as well as the surrounding floodplain forest and protected farmland, or migrate through seasonally. These include deer, rabbit, fox, bear, grouse, muskrat, turtles, ducks, pheasant, herons, birds of prey, and swallows, and fish including pike, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, and brown bullhead. Also present are numerous insects, including butterflies, and odonates, some threatened." Rare bird species such as the Eastern Meadowlark, bobolinks and savannah sparrows have been observed nesting in the area. Great Blue Herons have also established a rookery near the grasslands.

In addition to land creatures, the Manhan River and a few of its tributaries currently support a native trout population and the North Branch of the Manhan supports one of the few native trout populations in Massachusetts. The Manhan corridor also hosts several threatened dragonfly species, while three rare species of freshwater mussel occur in Easthampton's waters.

COLDWATER FISHERIES RESOURCES

Coldwater streams are areas of streams that contain water cold enough throughout the year to support coldwater fish such as brook trout, Atlantic salmon, white suckers, blacknosed and longnose dace and slimy sculpin among others. Due to these species' inability to adapt to warmer temperatures, the effects of climate change on these streams are of critical concern. Easthampton contains five coldwater fisheries resources streams which include:

- Bassett Brook
- Hannum Brook
- North Branch Manhan River
- Broad Brook
- Manhan River

VERNAL POOLS

Vernal pools are ephemeral wetlands that fill annually from snowmelt, rain, and the rising groundwater of spring and early summer. In most years, the pools completely dry out by mid- to late summer. Many woodland amphibians and reptiles need both aquatic and terrestrial habitats to complete their lifecycles, and numerous species have evolved life cycles that exploit the temporary nature of this wetland without the predation of fish. In many upland areas, where the nearest wetland or other water body is thousands of feet away, vernal pools are the only aquatic breeding grounds in the area. Some of the state's rarest amphibians are completely dependent upon vernal pools for their breeding grounds.

Easthampton has 9 Certified Vernal Pools (CVP) and 45 Potential Vernal Pools (PVP).²⁰ Potential Vernal Pools are identified from aerial photographs and require verification on the ground. Clusters of vernal pools provide particularly good habitat for species that depend on vernal pools for habitat. The clusters mean that there are alternate habitats if something happens to one pool, and slightly different conditions in each may provide different habitats for pool dependent species. There is a dense cluster of Potential Vernal Pools east of Bassett Brook north of some development. Another cluster is located along the Manhan River. Visiting and evaluating more of the Potential Vernal Pools for certification would provide more protection to these wetlands and the species that use them.²¹ The City is encouraged to require developers to certify vernal pools on any property requiring permits from the City as well as certifying any pools on City-owned land.

CORRIDORS FOR WILDLIFE MIGRATION

Based on photography documenting wildlife species, one of the major corridors in Easthampton appears to be the Manhan River. Bobcat, bear, deer, moose, coyote, fisher and many bird species have been photographed along the river by local residents.

According to The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tool, there is a climate corridor with confirmed diversity along the eastern border of Easthampton, adjacent to Mount Tom. A climate corridor is a narrow conduit in which the movement of plants and animals becomes highly concentrated. This location is home to rare species and unique communities that have been confirmed based on ground inventory. Nonotuck Park has been identified as resilient land. Resilient land is a place that is buffered from climate change because it contains a variety of microclimates that create climate options for species. Along the Manhan River, closest to Main Street, is resilient land with confirmed diversity. This is resilient land that contains known locations of rare species or unique communities based on ground inventory.

²⁰ July 1, 2020 NHESP letter,

²¹ Ibid.

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FAUNA SPECIES

Easthampton has a mix of rare, threatened, and endangered species using aquatic habitats, wetlands, and/or uplands. These include two species of turtles, three species of freshwater mussels, two species of birds, and three species of dragonflies. These species of dragonflies are good indicators of ecosystem health, confirming that there is high-quality freshwater habitat for other aquatic species as well. Easthampton has an exceptional number of animal and plant MESA-listed species for one municipality.

Spotlight: Peregrine Falcon



The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird on earth and is capable of diving at speeds of up to 242 miles per hour. Fully grown Peregrine Falcons have a blue-gray to slate-gray backside and a white underside interspersed with black. They have yellow legs and feet. The birds are 15 - 20 inches long with a wingspan of 38 - 44 inches, and males are slightly smaller than the females. Within Easthampton, these birds of prey can be found at Mount Tom. They frequently nest on manmade structures such as buildings and bridges or less frequently on rocky cliffs. These birds are unique in that they do not bring in any materials to build a nest, but rather find a site with accumulated soil or gravel and scrape out a depression to lay their eggs. Loss of habitat and other human disturbances are the greatest threats to the Peregrine Falcon.

Spotlight: Wood Turtle



The wood turtle is a medium sized amphibian, 5.5-8 inches in length, with a sculpted shell, and an orange legs and neck. Their head is black but is sometimes speckled with yellow spots. Wood turtles inhabit riparian areas. They prefer slow moving mid-sized streams with muddy banks where they can hibernate and open areas with sand banks where they can nest. Common threats to this species survival are hay-mowing operations, development of wooded stream banks, roadway casualties, collection as pets, unnaturally inflated rates of predation in suburban and urban areas, forestry and agricultural activities and pollution of streams.

The Mount Tom Range, located along the eastern border of Easthampton, is a major wildlife habitat area of statewide importance. The Range contains several different ecological habitats and a number of threatened species. The Manhan River and its tributaries encompass riparian areas along the banks, fields, wet meadows, shallow marshes, shrub and forested wetlands, and the Oxbow along the west side of the Connecticut River. This diverse area contains habitats for a variety

of important species. Table 13 includes a list of all known rare animals documented in Easthampton.²²

Table 13: Rare Animal Species Documented in Easthampton (as of July 1, 2020)			
Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Year
Vertebrates			
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose Sturgeon	E	1999
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	2008
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2008
<i>Falco peregrineus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	E	2010
<i>Antrostomus vociferous</i>	Eastern Whip-poor-will	SC	2018
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark	SC	2018
<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander	SC	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	SC	
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	T	
	Animal, 3 species, Name not released*	E	
Invertebrates			
<i>Pyrrhia aurantiago</i>	Orange Sallow Moth	SC	2007
<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>			
<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	Yellow Lampmussel	E	2005
<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Eastern Pondmussel	SC	2001
<i>Ophiogomphus asperses</i>	Brook Snaketail (dragonfly)	SC	1997
<i>Leptodea ochracea</i>	Tidewater Mucket	SC	
<i>Hylogomphus abbreviatus</i>	Spine-crowned Clubtail	SC	
<i>Gomphurus ventricosus</i>	Skillet Clubtail	T	
<i>Stylurus amnicola</i>	Riverine Clubtail	E	
<i>Gomphurus fraternus</i>	Midland Clubtail	E	
Source: Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program			
Notes: Most Recent Year means the year of the most recent record in the NHESP database. Some Watch List dates are not available.			
KEY TO MESA STATUS: E = Endangered. T = Threatened. SC = Special Concern.			
*NHESP does not release the names of species deemed particularly susceptible to collection.			

F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

A trip through Easthampton includes a drive in the country, a view from a mountaintop, and a glimpse across a river. Expansive vistas of Pomeroy Mountain to the west, Mount Tom Range to the south and east, and the iconic water features dotting the City help orient visitors and residents alike. The features that set Easthampton apart from the surrounding cities and towns include the resources so important to ecosystem concerns within the City borders: the Oxbow and the Mount Tom Range, the farmlands found in the Park Hill area, the Manhan River, and the ponds in the

²² Wood Turtle photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/44075517@N00/47990258631> Patrick Randall, "Wood Turtle, *Glyptemys insculpta* (LeConte, 1830)." Middlesex County, Massachusetts. 2019; Dhairya dixit, "Peregrine Falcon with a kill of common teal in Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India." 2017. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Peregrine_falcon_with_common_teal_kill.jpg

center of town. While the city does not boast any geologic features that would be considered unique within the Pioneer Valley region, this combination of ponds, river, open fields, and the mountain range create a landscape that is uniquely Easthampton.

Excellent views of and from the Mount Tom Range are found throughout Easthampton. The view in the center of town across Nashawannuck Pond to the slopes of Mount Tom, shown below, continues to define Easthampton. The East Street area at the base of the Range provides a close-up view of the Range while wide-angle vistas are found in areas along Park Hill in the northwestern corner of town.



Figure 22. Iconic view across Nashawannuck Pond to the slopes of Mount Tom

Photo Credit: Mary Lou Splain

Also interesting are the glimpses of the mountain that can be caught unexpectedly. These are common as one enters Easthampton from Route 10. The Route 10 corridor, which is zoned for Highway Business, serves as a gateway to the City. Preservation of the best remaining views along this road, specifically those of the Mount Tom Range, should be considered and balanced against allowing focused development in areas of existing goods and services. In all cases, views of the mountain rely on the relatively wild and undeveloped quality of the mountain itself. However, much of the lower slopes of the Mt Tom range in Easthampton is not protected from development, despite the physical limitations of soils and slope. The City should consider using zoning tools, such as developing a ridgeline protection or steep slope ordinance to limit disturbance of these areas in order to prevent erosion, reduce the risk of landslides, and preserve the scenic resource.

Less easily viewed but as distinctive to Easthampton are wooded dingles leading down to the Manhan and its tributaries, carved into and hidden below the generally flat landscape of the City's main roadways. Away from Mount Tom, views from and within densely populated Easthampton's parks and conservation lands often present visitors with surprisingly natural landscapes of riverbanks, floodplain forest, farm fields, and woodlands.

In a 2009 Reconnaissance Report for the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, local residents defined six priority landscapes and historic features based on history as well as scenic value. Among those noted in the report are the following scenic and historic resources:²³

- Agricultural areas at Park Hill and along lower slopes of the Mount Tom Range
- Williston-Northampton School campus, which includes historic residences as well as academic buildings important to the City;
- City center, from the Emily Williston Memorial Library to Memorial Hall, including the mill ponds and the rail trail, the mill buildings, dam, and fishing site;
- Mill workers' housing at New City, Maple Street, Pleasant Street, and the Green;
- Pascommuck Old Settlement Area.

More than 75 percent of respondents to the OSRP survey said that it was "Very Important" to protect scenic views in Easthampton. Easthampton's most beloved views, landscapes, and historic features are illustrated on the Scenic Resources and Unique Environments, and the Unique Features and Historic Resources maps in Appendix J.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

NEW DEVELOPMENT

A central challenge for Easthampton is how to balance development with resource protection and quality of life issues. Easthampton is among one of the smallest municipalities in the Commonwealth by land area, and over thirty percent, 3,021 acres, of the City is developed. According to Mass Audubon's 2020, *Losing Ground: Nature's Value in a Changing Climate* report, 21 percent of the City's land area is under permanent protection. In the reporting period between 2012 and 2017, there were 36 acres of newly developed land in Easthampton, and 180 acres of newly conserved land. Based on MassGIS' 2016 Land Use/Land Cover analysis, almost 15% of the City's land cover across all parcels is classified as "impervious", while roughly 64% is some type of undeveloped natural land.²⁴ Protecting the remaining natural land from development will be essential in preserving Easthampton's character.

²³ Easthampton Reconnaissance Report, Connecticut River Valley Reconnaissance Survey, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, June 2009.

²⁴ Includes lands with cover name: Bare Land, Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, Grassland, Palustrine Aquatic Bed, Palustrine Emergent Wetland, Palustrine Forested Wetland, Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland, and Scrub/Shrub

The City currently has within its borders three core areas or blocks of protected open space—the Mount Tom Range, Nonotuck Park, and Park Hill—that provide tremendous value for recreation, agriculture, water supply, and wildlife. Building on these important blocks and developing additional core areas, namely along the Manhan River, Broad Brook, and along the slopes of the Mount Tom Range, are important challenges. Such expanses of protected lands will better help to give shape to the City’s growth, directing development/redevelopment to the most appropriate areas.

Places of particular challenge for the City are:

- The slopes of Mount Tom remain an important resource for the community as is evidenced in this area’s selection as a priority heritage landscape for the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. Most of the farms that once operated along these slopes and along East Street have been sold, some of which have been converted into residential subdivisions in the past decade.
- Florence Road – Some large parcels of available land in the Park Hill Priority Protection Area.
- Barnes Aquifer – Some parcels of available land over the aquifer.

The 2014 PVPC study *Priority Areas for Development and Protection* created a data set illustrating categories of lands designated as suitable for smart growth development or important land for protection.²⁵ The resulting “Priority Areas for Protection Focus” maps generated for each municipality in the Pioneer Valley showed parcels that stand out by nature of their value to farming, drinking water supply, flood risk management, wetlands and wildlife habitat protection, and climate resilience. As shown in Figure 12 in Section 3, these priority areas for protection align with the core blocks of protected open space mentioned previously as City priorities.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND BROWNFIELD SITES

Brownfields, while a challenge, also present opportunities for redevelopment in areas that already have infrastructure in place. In addition, these sites can save the development of “green” sites that would otherwise be developed. Since 2013, there have been 25 sites that have undergone some level of petroleum or hazardous material cleanup as reported in the MassDEP 21E Reportable Release Database. Each site has been returned to compliance status. There are several old mills and some former commercial and industrial buildings that are perceived to have some level of contamination given their former use.

LANDFILLS

²⁵

http://www.pvpc.org/sites/default/files/PRIORITY%20AREAS%20FOR%20DEVELOPMENT%20AND%20PROTECTION%20map%20criteria%2011_09_14_edit_CC_JD_FINAL.pdf

Easthampton has two decommissioned landfills that were once operated by the City government. A 2.3-megawatt solar photovoltaic array has been installed at the capped Oliver Street landfill. This project was the first solar landfill project in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

City residents and officials have also paid close attention to the future of the regional landfill on Glendale Road in Northampton, which closed in the spring of 2013. The City of Northampton had been planning to expand the landfill's operation to increase the lifetime of the facility and allow for the disposal of more municipal waste. Though the landfill is located within the Zone II of Easthampton's Maloney Well, MassDEP had provided Northampton with a waiver to circumvent drinking water regulations and allow for expansion. Citizen concern about contamination of the Maloney Well and about health impacts to those living in close proximity to the landfill factored into votes by Northampton's Board of Public Works and City Council to not support expansion.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Stormwater and Erosion Control standards in the City's General Ordinance require several best management practices to prevent sedimentation. Despite efforts to curb runoff and downstream sedimentation from new and redevelopment, sediment loading continues to be an issue for local waters. Weirs and a sediment forebay were on tributaries to Nashawannuck Pond in the years leading up to the 2010 dredging project. Although effective at containing sediment, the structures do require routine cleaning, which is the impetus to the current dredging efforts on White Brook and Broad Brook.

CHRONIC FLOODING

Four locations were recognized in the City's 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan for localized flooding:

LOWER FORT HILL ROAD

This area is located near the confluence of the Manhan River and the Oxbow of the Connecticut River, and typically floods annually, creating road closures. No structures could be affected by a flood incident here.

WEST STREET

The portion of West Street that floods is adjacent to the confluence of Hannum Brook and the Manhan River. Approximately two structures could be affected by a flood incident at this location.

MEADOWBROOK DRIVE

This street runs parallel to the Manhan River floodplain. Approximately 12 single family homes could be affected by a flood incident here.

RIVER STREET

This street is adjacent to the Oxbow of the Connecticut River. About five structures could be negatively impacted in a flooding event, costing the City roughly \$1,159,000.

SURFACE WATER POLLUTION AND IMPAIRED WATER BODIES

Easthampton has made important strides in improving water quality not only with the significant investments in the Nashawannuck Pond watershed, but also with implementation of an ordinance that extends improved stormwater management practices required for wetland jurisdictional areas to upland areas throughout the City. Such standards will be further strengthened with the new development and redevelopment requirements in the latest EPA stormwater management permit.

As noted in this section, several water bodies are listed as impaired. This includes the lower 0.4 miles of Wilton Brook, including Upper Rubber Thread and Rubber Thread Pond, for non-native aquatic plants; Nashawannuck Pond for non-native aquatic plants, nutrient/eutrophication biological indicators, and phosphorous; and the Manhan River for *E. coli* bacteria.

GROUNDWATER POLLUTION

Protection of the City's drinking water supply remains critically important. The Aquifer Protection Overlay District provides some checks on land use in the southern part of the City, but it remains important to extend protections to the Zone II within the northern part of the City. The City would like to review this regulation to ensure it provides adequate protection for drinking water resources city-wide.



Figure 23: Easthampton Solar Landfill Project

BAPAC made strides toward protecting lands that are most hydrologically connected to the aquifer and where development could be most detrimental, namely along Broad Brook. BAPAC also regularly reviewed any major projects proposed for areas located in Zone II.

As noted in the City's most recent Master Plan, the continued and heightened protection of the Barnes Aquifer will require a review of existing protective regulations as well as a vigorous education campaign for property owners over the aquifer's Zone II area in particular.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native invasive species—species from outside of New England which have the potential to cause long-term environmental and/or economic harm to the region—are widespread in the City's natural and landscaped areas. Invasive plants common in Easthampton include black swallowwort (*Cynachum louiseae*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis*

thunbergii), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). The invasive grass Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is also common along the Manhan River in Easthampton. In unmanaged areas, these species outcompete native species, altering the composition and structure of native vegetation communities, and potentially disrupting ecological processes including succession, nutrient cycling, and wildlife habitat functions. Some of these effects can affect human health. For example, research has demonstrated that thickets of Japanese barberry may host larger populations of black-legged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*, also known as deer ticks) than un-invaded forest stands; these areas may therefore be reservoirs for the organism that causes Lyme disease in people and other susceptible animals. Additionally, many invasive plants also encroach into landscaped areas (lawns and plantings) or agricultural fields, creating management challenges for homeowners or farmers.

Invasive insect species present in Easthampton also pose a variety of risks to natural areas and landowners. For example, hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) has the potential to kill eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), an important canopy and subcanopy tree in natural forest areas, and also a common landscaping species. Stands of hemlock in the Mt. Tom State Reservation have been impacted by hemlock woolly adelgid, with some trees dying from the infestation. The decline of hemlock in the City will affect natural community function as well as property values. Another invasive insect, Asian multicolored lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*), is perhaps more familiar to Easthampton residents, as it commonly overwinters in buildings; swarm of beetles are frequently seen in porches during the warming days of spring. As a third example, viburnum leaf beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*) has recently arrived in Easthampton. This species' larvae skeletonize the leaves of viburnum shrubs, which are both often used in landscaping as well as common in natural vegetation communities. As the shrubs generally die after a few years of attack, the viburnum leaf beetle has the capacity to inflict both high economic and ecological harm.

The community should find ways to address invasive species along the river and in other parts of the City, either through organizing volunteer efforts or seeking funding to hire consultants for invasive species removal.

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

It makes sense that the major swaths of protected open space—Park Hill and lands associated with the Mount Tom Range—are located at some distance from the City Center. There are, however, important protected recreational lands within walking distance of Easthampton's Environmental Justice areas and the CDBG Center Target Area. These are neighborhoods with the highest concentration of low to moderate income residents, and three times as many residents in poverty than the rest of the City (Appendix B: Environmental Justice Map). The neighborhoods and corresponding open spaces are shown in Table 14 below. Of these four neighborhoods that comprise the Target Area, the New City neighborhood and Holyoke Street seem most in need of resources within a half-mile walking distance.

Target Area Neighborhood	Nearby Open Space	Average Walking Distance to Open Space (in miles)
Pleasant Street	Manhan Rail Trail	0.10
	Lower Mill Pond (Millside) Park	0.29
	Edward Dwyer Conservation Area	0.10
	Pleasant Street Green Playground	0.17
New City	Manhan Rail Trail	0.75
	Lower Mill Pond (Millside) Park	1.30
	Playground at Parson Street School	0.50
Holyoke Street	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	0.85
Main Street / Union Street / Cottage Street	Manhan Rail Trail	0.15
	Nonotuck Park	0.66

Source: 2013 Easthampton OSRP

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

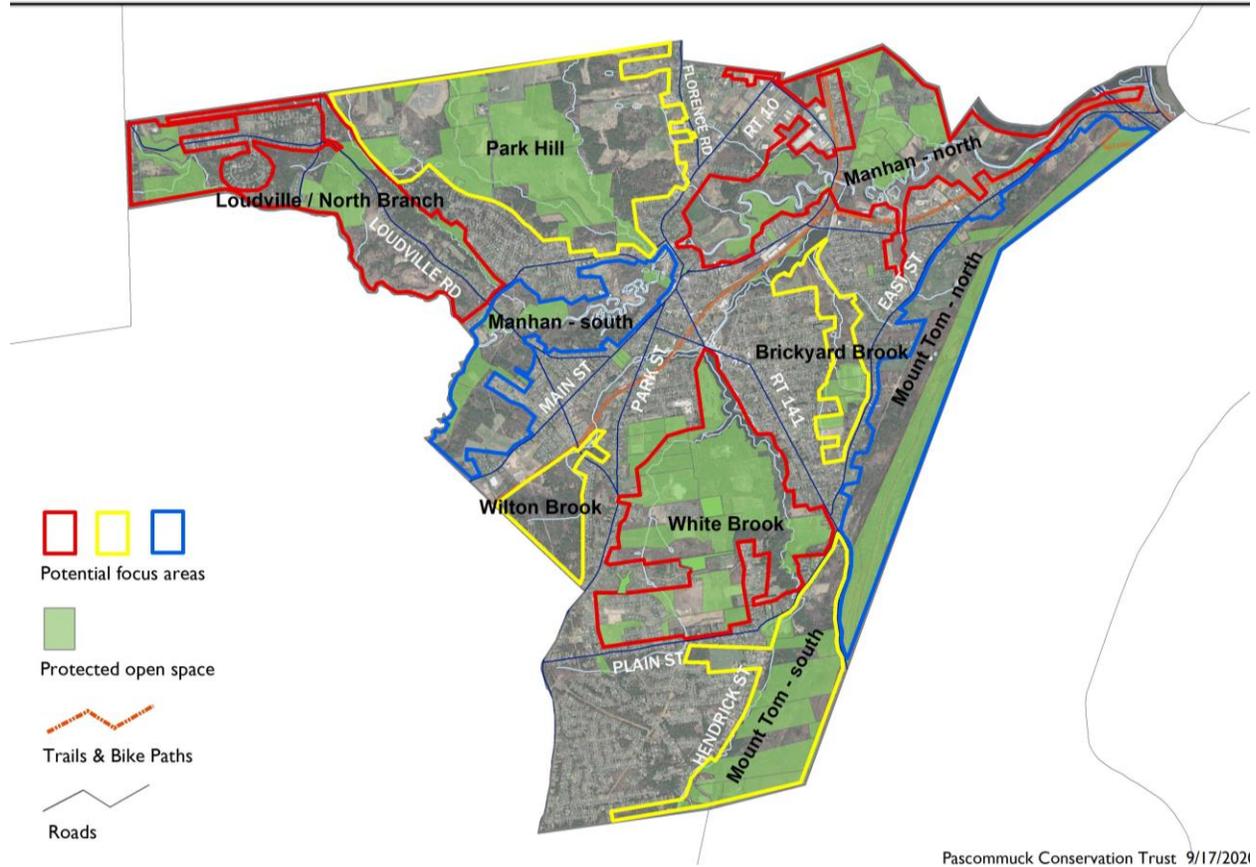
The Massachusetts NHESP has put forth a few recommendations to help decide what the highest priorities for conservation actions are. These include land protection, habitat management, regulation and education and outreach. More than 88 percent of Easthampton residents responding to the 2020 OSRP survey felt that it was “Very Important” to protect Easthampton’s groundwater/aquifer; forests; rivers and streams; and wildlife habitat²⁶. In response to another question asking about specific areas of the City to protect based on boundaries in the figure below, more than 2/3rd of respondents selected Mt. Tom North and Mt. Tom South as “High” priorities for protection, and more than half chose the Park Hill Area and Manhan North as “High” priorities for protection.

To protect the most valuable land for species habitat and resource protection, the City should encourage and work with non-municipal conservation agencies to conserve the unprotected parts of Mt. Tom and East Mountain, in particular, as these areas support significant numbers of MESA-listed species. To aid with habitat management, the City should assess its recreation and conservation areas for the presence of invasive species and encourage the owners of large conserved properties to do the same. The regulation and monitoring of conservation efforts is essential for their impacts to be worth the investment of both time and money. The City should encourage its Conservation Commission to enforce the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and provide the necessary financial and staff support to enable them to do so. Since there is no board or official in charge of enforcing the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered

²⁶ The survey question did not include an option to select air quality, yet a number of respondents selected “Other” and wrote in concerns over air and noise pollution from automobiles, and light pollution. We recommend adding this category to the public survey during the next OSRP update.

Species Act (MESA), Easthampton could consider having the Conservation Commission and the Building Inspector notify development applicants of the presence of Priority Habitats of Rare Species on the applicant's property.

EASTHAMPTON: Potential focus areas for conservation



Lastly, the development of community support for conservation of biodiversity through education and outreach is necessary for many of these efforts to gain traction within the city. Local schools could offer field trips to conservation areas, have students write articles about conservation for the school website and newspaper, and encourage students to conduct biodiversity surveys and observations on conservation land. These are just a few methods that could be utilized to build support in a low-cost effective way that will pay off in the future.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Government agencies, landowners, non-profits, and local land trusts all play a role in the important task of preserving open space for the benefit of current and future populations. Land conservation, especially on a permanent, landscape scale, provides numerous community benefits: protecting diverse landscapes; preserving habitat for rare or endangered species; maintaining species diversity; ensuring water quality; facilitating wildlife adaptation to climate change; and enhancing recreational access.

Open space also has a critical role to play in the fight against climate change, and efforts to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Lands that best support wildlife, absorb pollutants, and filter stormwater should be prioritized for protection. Climate-resilient open spaces and conservation lands not only protect wildlife but also provide natural defenses against flood, drought and other risks to people.

It is through thoughtful planning and active stewardship that Easthampton's open spaces, critical plant and animal habitats, neighborhood parks, and quality outdoor recreation facilities remain a part of the communities' landscapes. Without planning, the appearance of the community, the lifestyle of its residents, and the condition of its natural resources can be dramatically altered in a short period of time due to unexpected changes in land use patterns.

INVENTORY

The inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest describes ownership, management agency, lots size, primary use, public access, and type of public grant accepted for each parcel (see also Appendix K: Protected and Recreational Open Space Map and Appendix L: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest). Further detail on current use, zoning, condition, and recreation potential (potential future interventions that could broaden recreational opportunities on a site) is provided in **Error! Reference source not found.** for all City-owned conservation and recreation parcels²⁷. The degree of protection from destruction or degradation that is afforded to various parcels of land owned by private, public, and nonprofit owners is also evaluated.

- Private lands can be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions, or conservation easements, known in Massachusetts as Conservation Restrictions (yet some non-statutory easements only run for a period of 30 years and those lands are therefore not permanently protected open space).

²⁷ **Error! Reference source not found.** shows all City-owned conservation and recreation parcels, the majority of which are managed by either the Easthampton Parks and Recreation Department or the City of Easthampton Conservation Commission. All other City-owned protected open space parcels, including those under the management of other City departments, are included in Table 17.

- Lands under special taxation programs, Chapter 61, 61A or 61B, are actively managed by their owners for forestry, agricultural, horticultural or recreational use. The town has the right of first refusal should the landowner decide to sell and change the use of the land. Therefore, it is important to prioritize these lands, track their status, and consider steps the community should take to permanently protect these properties [if the opportunity should arise].
- Lands acquired for watershed and aquifer protection are often permanently protected open space.
- Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected open space, provided that they have been dedicated to such uses as conservation or recreational use by deed. Municipal properties may be protected via a City Council vote to acquire them.
- Private, public and non-profit conservation and recreation lands are protected under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution.

A. PRIVATE PARCELS

CHAPTER 61, 61A, AND 61B

Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B is a voluntary program designed by the Massachusetts Legislature to tax real property in the Commonwealth at its timber resources, agricultural, or recreational value rather than its highest and best use (development) value. Landowners who enroll their land in the program receive property tax reductions in exchange for a lien on their property. The terms of the lien require that enrolled land remain in an undeveloped state and be managed for forest production, agricultural production, or recreation. Furthermore, the lien provides the municipal government of the City/town in which the enrolled property is located a right of first refusal should the landowner put the land up for sale while it is enrolled in the program. Towns may assign their right of first refusal to a state agency or a non-profit land trust. Landowners who develop their land while enrolled in the program, or for a period of time after withdrawing from the program, may be required to pay penalties.

In Easthampton, there are 79 acres enrolled in Chapter 61 forest land, 611 acres enrolled in Chapter 61A (agriculture), and 67 acres enrolled in Chapter 61B (recreation) (Table 15). The Right-of-First Refusal process in Easthampton is handled through the Mayor’s office, in consultation with the City Council, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board. This might be improved with a systematic approach to tracking, prioritizing, and strategizing for exercise of rights-of-first refusal, involving City planning staff and land trusts early on as potential partners with knowledge of land protection priorities.

Designation	Parcel ID	Lot Size	Street	Zoning
61	165_47	78.9	WESTVIEW TERR	R15
61A	102_2*	18.16	PARK HILL RD	R35
61A	102_4	11.6335	PARK HILL RD	R35
61A	102_5	33.17	PARK HILL RD	R35

Table 15: Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B Lands				
Designation	Parcel ID	Lot Size	Street	Zoning
61A	112_33	8.85	CLAPP ST RR	R35
61A	112_34*	28.88	CLAPP ST	R35
61A	113_18*	10.83	CLAPP ST	R35
61A	113_22*	31.23	CLAPP ST	R35
61A	115_3	30.0035	FLORENCE RD	R35
61A	117_2_1*	25	PARK HILL RD	R35
61A	117_4*	97.18	PARK HILL RD	R35
61A	118_12*	39.7635	OLIVER ST	R35
61A	119_99	46.21	TORREY ST	R35
61A	124_7*	59.51	TORREY ST	R35
61A	125_27_1	6.8	OLIVER ST	R35
61A	125_27_2	6.2035	OLIVER ST	R35
61A	125_4	9.34	LOUDVILLE RD	R35
61A	131_15	7.51	CLAPP ST RR	R35
61A	132_18	5.39	EAST ST	R35
61A	138_110*	27.14	EVANS AVE	R35
61A	142_6*	23.92	GLENDALE ST	R35
61A	142_9*	8	POMEROY	R35
61A	142_9_1	0.8	POMEROY	R35
61A	146_174	2.4	CLARK ST	R15
61A	147_13	0.69	KIRBY ST	R35
61A	147_2	16.5035	EAST ST	R35
61A	147_5	22.58	EAST ST	R35
61A	147_7	1.15	KIRBY ST	R35
61A	149_21	6.86	CLARK ST	R15
61A	149_57*	8.6435	EAST ST	R15
61A	149_60_1*	8.42	EAST ST	R15
61A	158_37	8.1135	EAST ST	R15
61A	161_4	4.73	DAVID	R40
61A	161_4_1	0.78	DAVID	R40
61A	164_9	3.1	COLEMAN RD	I
61A	165_28	0.63	PARK ST	R15
61A	165_48	10.84	PARK ST	R15
61A	165_49	26	MAIN ST	R15
61A	167_31	11.69	BROOK ST	R40
61A	170_11	11.63	HENDRICK ST	R40
61A	171_23*	25.64	HOLLY CIR	R40
61A	171_24	0.65	CRESTVIEW DR	R40
61A	171_80*	15.98	OPEN SPACE	R40
61A	172_69	0.6	KINGSBERRY	R40
61B	112_4	20.5035	CLAPP ST	R35
61B	125_28	12.1735	OLIVER ST	R35

Designation	Parcel ID	Lot Size	Street	Zoning
61B	129_23_1	16.4035	HIGHLAND AVE	R15
61B	134_14	20.6035	EAST ST	R35
61B	138_4_1	10.8	WEST ST	R35
61B	138_5	3.3235	WEST ST	R35
61B	152_247	14.8735	GLENDALE ST	R35
61B	165_55	8.4935	WESTVIEW TERR	R15
61B	167_21	19.04	BROOK ST	R40
61B	175_78	7.3735	HENDRICK ST	R40
61B	175_79	4.39	HENDRICK ST	R40
61B	178_7	21.5	HENDRICK ST	R80
61B	179_61	15.1	STRONG ST	R40

** Denotes property that also has Agricultural Preservation Restriction. Property owners may choose to put APR property under Chapter 61A because tax rates for protected open space is often higher than the agricultural use values under Chapter 61A.*

Source: MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020; MassGIS Data: Protected, Recreational, and Open Space, October, 2020; Easthampton Assessor, 2020

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION (APR)

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction program is a voluntary program that offers a non-development alternative to farmland owners for their agricultural lands who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. The program offers farmers a payment up to the difference between the “fair market value” and the “fair market agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. (MA DAR, 2013) More recent APRs also include an 'Option To Purchase Premises At Agricultural Value', ensuring that protected farmland is not sold at prices beyond the reach of working farmers.

The City has roughly 630 acres of land under the APR program. Several of these properties are also enrolled in the Chapter 61A program, since tax rates for protected open space are often higher than the agricultural use values under Chapter 61A. A complete list of APRs in Easthampton can be found at Table 11.

B. PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS

The City owns 725 acres of land used for public recreation and/or conservation purposes. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the second largest public land owner in Easthampton with 365 acres as part of the Mt. Tom Reservation, and Pascommuck Conservation Trust is the third largest non-profit land owner, with 207 acres.

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

The Manhan Rail Trail is a paved, multi-use greenway winding through the heart of the scenic Pioneer Valley. It offers the convenience of downtown shops and restaurants combined with spectacular views of mountains, rivers, and ponds. Part of the New Haven to Northampton Canal Trail, the Easthampton portion is six miles long, with an additional section in Northampton connecting to the Norwottuck / Central MA Rail Trail.

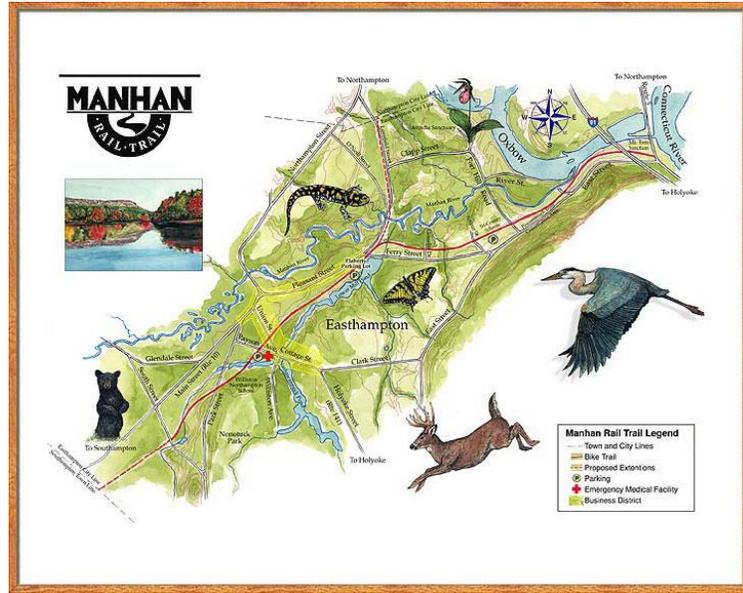


Figure 24: Manhan Rail Trail

The Manhan Rail Trail is proving to be an economic engine, encouraging the redevelopment of old mill buildings, raising property values along the trail, and bringing numerous travelers into the City. It connects to parks, a beautiful mural and sculpture garden, and even a Little Free Library. The trail provides a no carbon commuter option for people working in Northampton or Amherst and for students attending UMASS, Amherst, and Smith College. And best of all it provides safe, free, and accessible health and recreation benefits for countless citizens. The Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving, beautifying, and enjoying the Manhan Rail Trail (www.manhanrailtrail.org).

The Southampton portion of the trail is progressing rapidly and will provide further opportunities for travel and recreation when completed. Future development of the Manhan Rail Trail will concentrate on providing the residents of the City with greater connectivity to neighborhoods, parks, and schools.

NONOTUCK PARK

The city’s largest park, Nonotuck Park is located off Williston and Lownds Avenue on Daley Field Road in Easthampton. The park is used for many types of recreation. The Park is open from March until the end of October and operates daily from 8:00 a.m. until dark. Facilities at the park include: beach sand volleyball court, outdoor pool and water spray park, 33 picnic sites, four pavilions, seven youth softball diamonds (60’), one adult softball diamond (65’), two baseball diamonds (90’), 15-acre soccer complex, two children's playgrounds, three clay court tennis courts, two outdoor basketball courts, fishing access to Nashawannuck Pond, three bocce courts, horseshoe area, bicycle paths, and a nature trail.

Nonotuck Park is also home to a summer day camp for children aged 6-13, swimming lesson programs, local baseball, softball, and soccer team games and tournaments. The Toteman Nature

Trail winds around the perimeter of the park for enjoyment of nature, bird watching, and relaxation.



Figure 25. Nonotuck Park

Photo credit: Easthampton Planning Department

LOWER MILL POND (MILLSIDE) PARK

Located at 2 Ferry Street along the Manhan Rail Bike Path, the Lower Mill Pond Park is designed for passive recreation as well as an entertainment complex with an acoustical band shell that hosts the “Arts in the Park” concert series Friday evenings during the summer months. The park has great water views with picnic tables, seasonal restrooms, a basketball court, outdoor exercise equipment and Manhan Rail Bike Path access. This facility is open to the public and rental opportunities are available by contacting the Parks and Recreation office.

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

Located at the corner of Route 10 and Florence Road, the Katherine Root Wayside Park is dedicated to passive recreation. It provides three picnic tables and grills to enjoy a picnic. It also provides a spigot attached to the town water supply for passersby.

NASHAWANNUCK POND PROMENADE PARK

The park features an 8-foot-wide, street-level boardwalk running 500 feet along Cottage Street and Williston Avenue, and a 1,600-square-foot stone plaza where the two streets converge. Two boat gangways at the plaza and a third down the boardwalk on Williston Avenue allow access to the pond by canoe and kayak. Landscaping and benches are provided throughout to improve the visitor's experience.

Completed in 2015, the Nashawannuck Pond Boardwalk project has been a tremendous success and a catalyst for people to explore the pond for a wide range of recreational opportunities including kayak and paddle boat rentals and fishing. The recently completed downtown plan includes an "extending the boardwalk" concept which would further expand upon these facilities to meet community demand.

PULASKI PARK

Pulaski Park is a passive recreation area located in the center of Easthampton, at the rotary where Northampton Street (Route 10), Main Street, and Pleasant Street merge. The park hosts many activities in its Gazebo: pumpkin carving in October, beautiful holiday lighting in December graces the park, and many wedding ceremonies are also held within the Gazebo throughout the year.

Pulaski Park contains the Kasimer Pulaski Monument, dedicated to the Polish war general, and a monument depicting the first town meeting house in Easthampton, as well as the Mayher Drinking Fountain.

PARSONS STREET PARK

Parsons Street Park is a neighborhood park with a toddlers' playground, baby swings and park benches. It is located at the corner of Parsons and Exeter Streets.

PLEASANT STREET PARK

Pleasant Street Park is located on Pleasant Street and Pleasant Green. It is a children's neighborhood playground with a play structure and benches. This playground was upgraded with Community Development Grant funds in 2007.

PLAIN AND STRONG STREET PLAYGROUND

Plain and Strong Street Playground consists of several playground structures and swings.

TED SPARKO MEMORIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

This community garden was created in 2010 by a small group of volunteers on City-owned conservation land on Park Hill. The garden is made up of forty 20-by-20-foot plots.



Figure 26: Ted Sparko Memorial Community Gardens

Table 16: City-Owned Conservation and Recreation Lands

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Current Use	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants	Zoning	Condition	Recreation Potential
175_6	HENDRICK ST RR	Boruchowski Parcel	City Con Com	68.2	Part of the Broad Brook Forest area. The area has network of largely unmarked hiking trails. This parcel contains a small trail head and footbridge	Yes	In perpetuity	SH	R80	Good	Large potential for enhanced use through trail improvements including markings, parking access, trailhead, and map. Steep grades restrict accessibility improvements. This area was the subject of a 2021 MassTrails grant for tree removal from 2015 Microburst
151_167	WILLISTON AVE	Brookside Cemetery	City Parks & Rec	33.2	Cemetery	Yes	Limited	None	R40	Good	None - built out. Potential to connect Brookside cemetery parking area with pedestrian access to Nashawannuck Pond Promenade.
129_22	HIGHLAND AVE	Camp Cook	City	17.5	Wooded parcel, no parking or access, no trails	Yes	Limited	None	I	Fair	Passive recreation potential but access and parking present challenges. Planning study and public engagement required.
156_42	LOWNDS AVE	Daley Field	City Parks & Rec	13.1	Playfields (within Nonotuck Park), stone house	Yes	Limited	None	R10	Good	Bathroom renovations needed (stone house), possible re-routing of entrance could support enhanced bicycle and pedestrian shared use path. Could support connection to new K-8 School.
135_110	JANES LN	East Street Cemetery	City Parks & Rec	1.8	Cemetery	Yes	Limited	None	R15	Good	None - built out
178_8	HENDRICK ST RR	Easthampton Town Forest	City Con Com	45.8	Part of the Broad Brook Forest area. The area has network of largely unmarked hiking trails.	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R80	Good	Large potential for enhanced use through trail improvements including markings, parking access, trailhead, and map.
117_1	PARK HILL RD	Echodale Farm	City Con Com	24.1	Ted Sparko community gardens. Bulletin board, garden plots, Town water spigot, equipment shed, picnic table, gravel parking, loosely defined trails through orchard	Yes	In perpetuity	SH	R35	Good	Add ADA parking spot, picnic tables and benches, add accessible garden plot and ramps to access plot. Area also supports cross county skiing. Potential to establish a trail network to connect several of the adjacent permanently protected parcels.
169_3, 170_2	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City DPW Water Division	10.2	Water Supply Protection	No	In perpetuity	None	0	0	No - restricted area
175_17, 175_17_1	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City DPW Water Division	43.5	Water Supply Protection	No	In perpetuity	ALA	0	0	No - restricted area
170_3	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City DPW Water Division	4.5	Water Supply Protection	No	In perpetuity	None	0	0	No - restricted area
128_99	FLORENCE RD	Katherine Root Wayside Park	City Parks & Rec	0.3	Passive recreation. Picnic tables, grills, a spigot attached to the town water supply. Limited parking.	Yes	In perpetuity	None	HB	Fair	Accessibility improvements incl. path to sitting area, ADA picnic table, and accessible parking space.
130_18	LOVEFIELD ST RR	Lovefield Wellfield	City DPW Water Division	28.8	Water Supply Protection	Unknown	Limited	None	0	0	No - restricted area
136_99	PLEASANT ST RR	Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park)	City Parks & Rec	4.2	Acoustical band shell, picnic tables, seasonal restrooms, basketball court, outdoor exercise equipment, Manhan Rail Trail access	Yes	In perpetuity	USH	MI	Good	Accessibility improvements incl. ADA parking, fix uneven surfaces, ramp to boat launch, and fix benches.
136_101	PLEASANT ST	Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park, Western parcel))	City Parks & Rec	3.9	Passive recreation, short paved trail, Manhan Rail Trail access	Yes	In perpetuity	USH	MI	Good	This property contains a potential area for an envisioned pedestrian crossing over lower mill pond. The pedestrian connection has been identified in the Conway School Emerging Pathways and Downtown Strategic Plan. This is the site of one of two former pedestrian connections that existed at the turn of the century to connect the mill worker housing to the mills.
51_58	MAIN ST	Main Street (Pulaski) Park	City Parks & Rec	0.6	Gazebo, war memorial, water spigot, trash cans, benches, passive recreation	Yes	Limited	None	DB	Good	Accessibility improvements incl. dedicated ADA parking and a ramp to the gazebo.
151_24	MAIN ST	Main Street Cemetery	City Parks & Rec	5.4	Cemetery	Yes	Limited	None	R10	Good	None - built out
111_32	EAST ST	Mount Tom North Trailhead Park	City Con Com	12.5	Vacant land acquired by the City of Easthampton and combined with the adjacent to 10 acres acquired by Kestrel Land Trust in 2018/2019 for passive recreational purposes. See Recreational Potential for	Yes	In perpetuity	PARC, CPA	R35	Excellent	Complete development of parking area, trailhead, 1,200 accessible path and gathering area. Connection to New England Scenic Trail. All planned as part of a 2020 PARC grant + CPA funded project. Completion expected June 30, 2022.

Table 16: City-Owned Conservation and Recreation Lands

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Current Use more information.	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants	Zoning	Condition	Recreation Potential
151_166	NASHAWANNUCK POND	Nashawannuck Pond Promenade Park	City Parks & Rec	0.2	Street-level boardwalk and plaza, canoe and kayak access, landscaping, benches	Yes	In perpetuity	PARC, CPA	R40	Excellent	None - built out. However, areas adjacent to the Boardwalk along the pond in Brookside cemetery have been identified in the Downtown Strategic Plan as desired for expanded public access.
157_83	PARK ST	Nonotuck Park	City Parks & Rec	139.3	Playfields, volleyball court, pool and water spray park, picnic sites, pavilions, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, fishing, bocce, horseshoes, bicycle paths, and nature trail.	Yes	In perpetuity	USH	R40	Good	Park requires infrastructure maintenance, and upgrades, incl. accessibility improvements. The department of parks and rec. has prioritized upgrades to the swimming pool for the near future.
165_1	PARK ST	Nonotuck Park	City Parks & Rec	64.0	Dredged soils from Nashawannuck Pond, informal mountain biking trail, and city drinking water pump house.	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R40	Fair	High potential for recreational opportunities in the future. Requires planning study and public input.
118_5	OLIVER ST	Oliver Street Land	City	8.9	Informal and unmarked trails exist, but are not mapped or maintained. The site does not contain any parking.	Unknown	Limited	None	R35	Good	The site was chosen as a potential location for a dog park in 2019. A schematic plan showed a dog park, perimeter trail and parking. City Council determined it was too far from the center of Easthampton. Other uses such as disc golf and/or passive trails system could be created.
135_122	FEDERAL ST	Parson Street Park (Tot Lot Playground)	City Parks & Rec	0.1	Toddlers' playground, baby swings and park benches	Yes	In perpetuity	None	NB	Fair	Accessibility improvements incl. ADA path to side, accessible benches, and accessible play features. In 2021 the City is adding a ValleyBike share location at this site.
172_87	STRONG ST	Plain and Strong Street Playground	City Parks & Rec	3.9	Playground structures and swings, picnic table, benches	Yes	Limited	None	R40	Good	Accessibility improvements incl. ADA parking and picnic table, paved paths to amenities, and new signage
170_60	BROOK ST	Plain Street (Guistina) Conservation Area	City Con Com	8.7	Informal and unmarked trails exist but not mapped or maintained. The site does not contain any parking.	Yes	In perpetuity	SH	R40	Good	Formalized parking, add trails in interior of property incl. accessible trail, improve trail maintenance, install signage. This site was identified as an important location to connect the plains neighborhood to the new K-8 school. See 2020 Conway School Plains to School report
136_40	PLEASANT GRN PK	Pleasant Green	City Parks & Rec	2.2	The site is a large common associated with the Pleasant Green neighborhood. It contains a significant, relatively new play structure and benches.	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R15	Good	Updated site furniture and possible additional amenities. Planning study required with public engagement. 2021 MVP Green Infrastructure master plan includes conceptual design for green infrastructure improvements at this site.
160_56	HOLYOKE ST	Town Agricultural Land (Hendrick and Holyoke St.)	City	32.3	Agriculture fields and some forest, western edge of parcel abuts Nonotuck Park	No	Limited	None	R40	Good	Requires planning study and public input.
157_125	WATER LN	Town Beach (Boathouse Beach)	City Parks & Rec	0.9	Paved boating and fishing access to Nashawannuck Pond. Parking incl. ADA space.	Yes	Limited	None	R10	Excellent	None - recently renovated.
126_44	OLIVER ST	Town Farm (APR)	City Con Com	53.6	Leased to local farmer for hay production.	Limited	In perpetuity	None	R35	Good	Limited opportunities due to APR restriction. Possible use as cross country ski trail system as listed in 2015 Conway School Study.
126_44	OLIVER ST	Town Farm (HPR)	SMOC	2.5	Formerly "poor farm", now the Easthampton Lodging House with 23 single room units of affordable housing - listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35	Good	Limited opportunities due to HPR restriction. Possible use as a small parking area for cross country ski trail system as listed in 2015 Conway School Study.
51_2	MAIN ST RR	Town Hall Backland	City	3.1	The property does not contain any recreational uses	Yes	Limited	None	DB	Poor	None anticipated. This parcel is adjacent to the DPW facility and contains extensive wetlands and is not connected to any other recreational facilities
157_83	PARK ST	White Brook Middle School	City School Department	43.9	0	Yes	Limited	None	R40	0	0
125_5	LOUDVILLE RD		City Con Com	12.0	The property consists of steep slopes and does not contain any recreational uses	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35	Good	No recreation potential, but could serve as wildlife corridor with adjacent APR and agricultural parcels.
169_2	MOUNTAIN RD		City Con Com	27.3	Part of the Broad Brook Forest area. The area has an	Yes	In perpetuity	SH	R80	Good	Large potential for enhanced use through trail improvements

Table 16: City-Owned Conservation and Recreation Lands

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Current Use	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants	Zoning	Condition	Recreation Potential
					unmarked hiking trail which connects to the Boruchowski parcel.						including maintenance (microburst tree removal), parking area at adjacent DPW water works, and markings. This area was the subject of a 2021 MassTrails grant for tree removal from 2015 Microburst
176_5	MOUNTAIN RD		City	4.8	This is a small but important part of the Broad Brook Forest area. The area contains an unmarked hiking trail which connects to the Boruchowski parcel and others in the same conservation area.	Unknown	Unknown	None	R80	Good	This particular parcel connects two larger protected parcels together. Its potential is limited to a trail connection.

Notes:
 Grants: ALA - Aquifer Lands Acquisition, CPA - Community Preservation Act, PARC - Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, SH - State Self-help, USH - Urban Self-help
 Manager: City=City of Easthampton; Con Com=Conservation Commission; DPW=Department of Public Works; Parks and Rec= Parks and Recreation Commission; SMOC=South Middlesex Opportunity Council in Framingham

Table 17: All Other Public Protected, Recreational, and Open Space Parcels

Parcel ID	Street	Site Name	Fee Owner	Owner Type	Lot Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants	Zoning
134_15	EAST ST	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	S	11.9	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
134_15	EAST ST	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	S	1.9	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
169_1	CHRISTOPHER CLARK RD	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	S	339.7	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R80
111_31	EAST ST	Little Mountain Conservation Area	Kestrel Land Trust	L	10.2	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	CPA	R35
130_16	LOVEFIELD ST	Old Trolley Line Conservation Area	LR Pomeroy	L	19.7	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
113_22	CLAPP ST	Old Trolley Line Wildlife Refuge	LR Pomeroy	L	30.3	Agriculture	No	In perpetuity	None	R35
107_1	COOMBS RD	Arcadia Wildlife Refuge	Massachusetts Audubon Society	L	8.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
106_6	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society	L	41.3	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
112_5	FORT HILL RD	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society	L	4.0	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
106_5	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society	L	0.8	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R15
107_2	CLAPP ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society	L	1.0	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	55.7	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	0.2	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	0.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	0.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	6.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	0.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	0.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
120_15	DRURY LN	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	6.4	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
120_21	LOUDVILLE RD	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation	L	7.5	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
149_57_1	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	8.9	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R15
149_54	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	6.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	CPA	R15
168_13	BRITTANY LN	Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	7.0	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R40
130_8	LOVEFIELD ST	Dwyer Family Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	0.6	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	I

Table 17: All Other Public Protected, Recreational, and Open Space Parcels

Parcel ID	Street	Site Name	Fee Owner	Owner Type	Lot Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants	Zoning
129_40	PLEASANT ST RR	Edward Dwyer Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	34.4	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R15
126_31	CARILLON CIR	Hannum Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	17.6	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
151_163	LAKE ST	John Bator Park	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	0.6	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R10
124_36	ASHLEY CIR RR	North Branch Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	2.2	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
132_10	EAST ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	0.0	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	I
111_2	RIVER ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	3.9	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
111_1	EAST ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	0.7	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
113_18	CLAPP ST	Pomeroy Farm	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	10.8	Agriculture	Unknown	In perpetuity	None	R15
154_33	MAIN ST RR	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	16.6	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
152_216	PAUL ST	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	24.4	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	CPA	R10
137_8	WEST ST	S. K. Drondowski Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	4.1	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
130_10	LOVEFIELD ST	Tichy Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	2.2	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	I
171_14	BAYBERRY DR	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	11.8	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R40
171_30	OPEN SPACE SOUTH	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	4.4	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R40
123_3	ASHLEY CIR	0	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	L	0.8	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity	None	R35
158_55	MAYHER ST	St Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cemetery	Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield	N	7.9	Historical/Cultural	Unknown	Limited	None	R15
156_65	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL	N	28.2	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	None	None	R40
156_57	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL	N	10.9	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	None	None	R40
156_58	TAFT AVE	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL	N	24.3	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	None	None	R40

Notes: Owner Type: S=State, L=Land Trust, N=Non-Profit; Grants: CPA=Community Preservation Act

Table 18: Conservation Restrictions

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	Owner/ Manager	Primary Use	Conservation Restriction Owner
111_31	EAST ST	Little Mountain Conservation Area	Kestrel Land Trust	Conservation	City of Easthampton Con Com
111_32	EAST ST	Mount Tom North Trailhead Park	City of Easthampton Con Com	Recreation	Kestrel Land Trust
149_54	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Cons. Area/Mutter’s Field	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Conservation	City of Easthampton Con Com
152_216	PAUL ST	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust	Conservation	City of Easthampton Con Com
179_24_1	HENDRICK ST	Kuzeja CR	Kuzeja RT	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton
179_26	STRONG ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton, Town of Southampton
182_35	STRONG ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton, Town of Southampton
182_36, 183_1	BURT ST	Kuzeja CR	Trustees of the Kuzeja Real Estate Trust	Conservation	City of Holyoke Con Com, Town of Southampton Con Com, City of Easthampton Con Com
182_36, 183_1	BURT ST	Hendrick Street Wells CR	Kuzeja Edward J etal	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton
182_37	POMEROY ST	Hendrick Street Wells CR	Kuzeja Edward J etal	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton
182_38	POMEROY ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G	Water Supply Protection	City of Easthampton, Town of Southampton

Source: MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020; MassGIS Data: Protected, Recreational, and Open Space, October, 2020; Easthampton Assessor, 2020

Notes: Con Com=Conservation Commission

ARCADIA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Mass Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary straddles Northampton and Easthampton on the floodplain of the Connecticut River's Oxbow spanning 723 acres. While walking along Arcadia's five miles of trails, evidence of white-tailed deer, black bear, otter, beaver, and other interesting creatures can be seen. The sanctuary's forest, meadows, marsh, and wetlands are great places to explore at any time of year. Arcadia also holds nature camps for elementary school children during vacations and the summer. The Sanctuary also has a pre-school program.

PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST

The Pascommuck Conservation Trust (PCT) is a 501(3)(c) non-profit, charitable organization, formed in 1982, which protects important land and other natural resources in Easthampton for the public benefit. PCT has no paid staff and relies on volunteers, donations and the support of the community to carry out its mission. Early priorities of the Trust included establishing a river greenbelt along Easthampton's Manhan River. The Manhan River continues to be a focus area for the organization, as it is the major tributary from Easthampton flowing into the Connecticut River. At present, the Trust owns a total of 163 acres in 13 conservation areas including a small downtown park.

MOUNT TOM STATE RESERVATION

Located mostly in Holyoke, Mt. Tom State Reservation boasts an unparalleled view of the Connecticut Valley north and south, the Berkshire mountains to the west and the Pelham hills to the east. Owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation and Recreation, this 2,161 acre facility offers 22 miles of hiking and walking trails, picnicking, fishing on Lake Bray, and cross country skiing and ice skating in the winter. Mt. Tom State Reservation also offers a children's play area. Lake Bray is a small waterbody consisting of less than 10 acres. Today the Reservation includes about 47 of the 80 tree species found naturally in Hampshire County. The Reservation is one of the premier hawk watching spots in New England in the fall.

Parcel ID	Street	Site Name	Lot Size (Acres)	Owner/ Manager
106_5	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	0.8	Massachusetts Audubon Society
106_6	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	41.3	Massachusetts Audubon Society
107_1	COOMBS RD	Arcadia Wildlife Refuge	8.1	Massachusetts Audubon Society
107_2	CLAPP ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	1.0	Massachusetts Audubon Society
111_1	EAST ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	0.7	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
111_2	RIVER ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	3.9	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
111_31	EAST ST	Little Mountain Conservation Area	10.2	Kestrel Land Trust
112_5	FORT HILL RD	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	4.0	Massachusetts Audubon Society
120_15	DRURY LN	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	6.4	New England Forestry Foundation
120_21	LOUDVILLE RD	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	7.5	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	55.7	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	0.2	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	0.1	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	0.1	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	6.1	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	0.1	New England Forestry Foundation
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	0.1	New England Forestry Foundation
123_3	ASHLEY CIR	North Branch Conservation Area	0.8	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
124_36	ASHLEY CIR RR	North Branch Conservation Area	2.2	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
126_31	CARILLON CIR	Hannum Brook Conservation Area	17.6	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
129_40	PLEASANT ST RR	Edward Dwyer Conservation Area	34.4	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
130_10	LOVEFIELD ST	Tichy Conservation Area	2.2	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
130_16	LOVEFIELD ST	Old Trolley Line Conservation Area	19.7	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
130_8	LOVEFIELD ST	Dwyer Family Conservation Area	0.6	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
132_10	EAST ST	DAR Memorial Boulder plot	0.0	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
137_8	WEST ST	S. K. Drondowski Conservation Area	4.1	Pascommuck Conservation Trust

Parcel ID	Street	Site Name	Lot Size (Acres)	Owner/ Manager
149_54	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	6.1	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
149_57_1	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	8.9	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
151_163	LAKE ST	John Bator Park	0.6	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
152_216	PAUL ST	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	24.4	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
154_33	MAIN ST RR	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	16.6	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
156_57	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	10.9	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL
156_58	TAFT AVE	Williston Northampton School	24.3	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL
156_65	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	28.2	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL
158_55	MAYHER ST	St Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cemetery	7.9	Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield
168_13	BRITTANY LN	Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area	7.0	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
171_14	BAYBERRY DR	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	11.8	Pascommuck Conservation Trust
171_30	OPEN SPACE SOUTH	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	4.4	Pascommuck Conservation Trust

Source: MassGIS Data: Standardized Assessors' Parcels, October 2020; MassGIS Data: Protected, Recreational, and Open Space, October, 2020; Easthampton Assessor, 2020

Notes: Selection based on Owner Type use codes: N - Private Nonprofit, B - Public Nonprofit, L - Land Trust, 2 - EOEEA or non-profit

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL PARCELS

MAP_PAR_ID	SITE_ADDR	LOT_SIZE	OWNER1	ZONING
106_2	LOVEFILED ST ADJ	3.4535	MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC CO	I
106_4	LOVEFIELD ST ADJ	0.32	MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC CO	R15
111_13	RIVER ST	8.1635	EASTHAMPTON CITY OF	R35
130_19	LOVEFIELD ST	4.3235	MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC CO	MI
131_1	ARTHUR ST	7.0935	EASTHAMPTON CITY OF	I
131_26	FORT HILL RD	4.92	EASTHAMPTON CITY OF	R35
131_6	ARTHUR ST	2.4635	EASTHAMPTON CITY OF	I

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The City of Easthampton conducted public outreach for the Open Space and Recreation Plan in two formats: one through a community survey and the other through two public visioning workshops.

A community survey was conducted from October 14 to November 15, 2020. The survey was available electronically via Google Forms, and in hard copy format by request from the Planning Department. Hard copy surveys were not widely distributed as a rule due to precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Notice of the survey was issued via press release in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and *Springfield Republican*, on the City website and Facebook page, and via email blast through the City Planning Department to municipal boards and committees. Approximately 3.8 percent of the residential population or 8.4 percent of households responded (619 responses). Survey results are in Appendix M: Open Space and Recreation Citizen Survey.

The Committee held a community visioning session on November 5, 2020 via Zoom (Appendix N: Summary of Public Visioning Workshop) which was attended by over 25 residents. Jeff Bagg, city planner and Emily Slotnick, PVPC project manager, gave an overview of the Open Space and Recreation Planning process and presented interim results of the community survey, as well as a summary of achievements the City has made since the publication of the previous OSRP. During the presentation, presenters asked participants to participate in a live poll to contribute to the vision statement for the plan update. The poll asked participants: Complete this sentence: "I envision Easthampton as a community where... (Note: you can vote on the other ideas submitted)". The result of this exercise, along with committee input, is the OSRP vision statement presented below.

Easthampton is a community where all residents can gather to share the City's parks and open spaces, which offer a wide variety of recreational activities. Easthampton's parks and conservation areas are destinations, widely known throughout the community.

Easthampton's public open spaces contribute to a culture of equity and inclusiveness, and strengthen all other aspects of this vibrant city.

The City's downtown and neighborhood streets and multi-use paths serve as green connectors, reflective of a commitment towards equitable public space, bicycle and pedestrian mobility, and environmental stewardship.

Farmland and farming are valued for their role in food security and their contribution to community character.

Natural and scenic resources including wildlife habitat and water quality are valued, protected, and respected, and the City's land use regulations effectively safeguard these resources.

Following the presentation, participants followed a link in the Zoom chatbox to an interactive virtual sticky-note exercise through Miro with the purpose of brainstorming on objectives for the plan’s 5 goals. Almost all participants who had attended the Zoom presentation joined on the Miro board, and after a brief introduction on how to use the tool produced an abundance of ideas for the committee to work with and incorporate in developing the 2021 OSRP objectives and action plan. Meeting notes and the presentation summary are included in Appendix N.

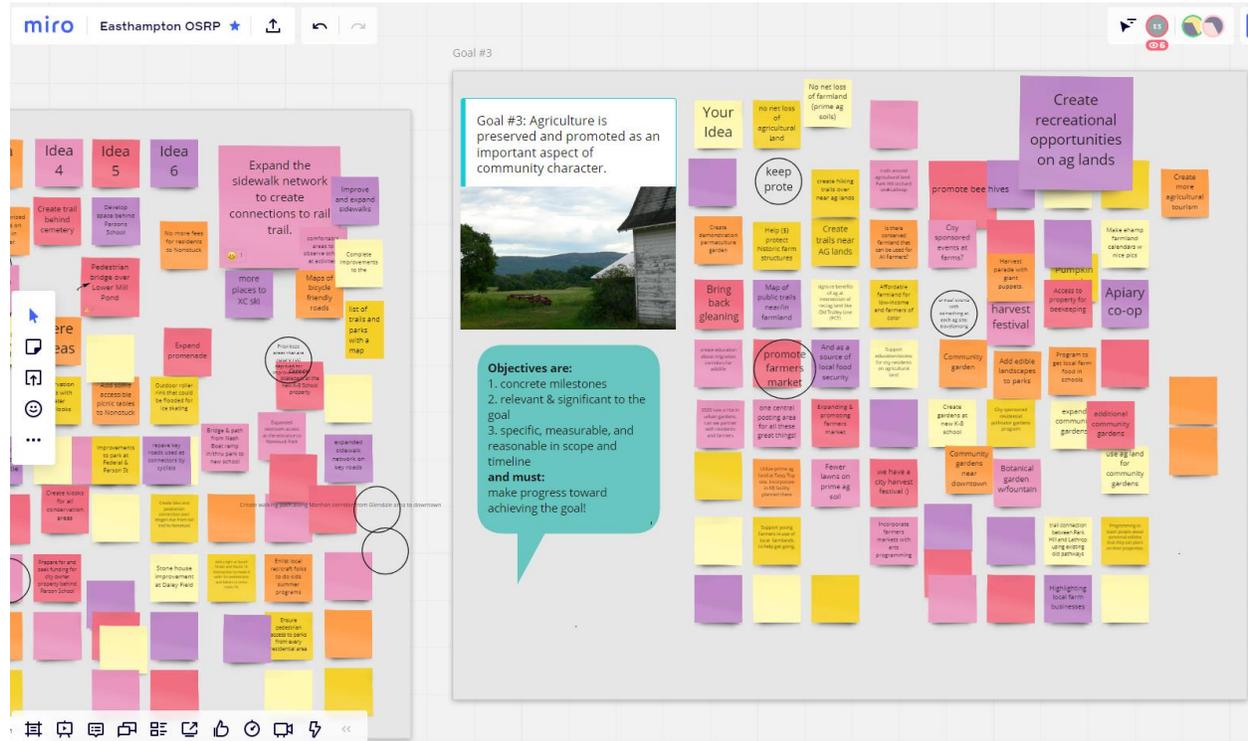


Figure 27: Screenshot of the interactive sticky-note component of the first visioning session.

In January, 2021, the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan update was issued for public comment for a 30-day period. Comments were reviewed by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and incorporated into the final plan.

B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

During the Open Space Visioning workshop, Easthampton residents engaged in setting goals and objectives for a variety of thematic issues including agriculture, resource protection, and parks and recreation. The following goals were developed with the Open Space and Recreation Committee after the results of the survey and visioning session were reviewed and analyzed for trends.

GOAL #1: EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE IMPROVED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS.

GOAL #2: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS.

GOAL #3: AGRICULTURE IS PRESERVED AND PROMOTED AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF COMMUNITY CHARACTER.

GOAL #4: LANDS OF NATURAL RESOURCE, SCENIC, AND RECREATION VALUE ARE PROTECTED AND WELL STEWARDED, AND ARE CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH NEIGHBORHOODS.

GOAL #5: GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER ARE PROTECTED AS CLEAN AND ABUNDANT RESOURCES.

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

How to best balance open space and resource protection with development pressures is among the City's greatest challenges for the coming years. Since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2013, City officials have worked diligently to encourage infill development through proactive planning, zoning updates, and public infrastructure projects that support private investment near the City center where infrastructure is available.

Easthampton continues to have four broad natural resource areas that are priorities for open space protection:

- Mount Tom
- Manhan River
- Park Hill agricultural area
- the Barnes Aquifer

These special places are listed by community members time and again as natural areas that are in most need of protection and recognized as critical to preserving community character and complementing the existing development pattern in the City. As discussed earlier in this plan, more than two-thirds of all 620 OSRP survey respondents in 2020 indicated that Mt. Tom - North and Mt. Tom - South are "High" priorities for protection, and more than half chose the Park Hill Area and Manhan River - North as "High" priorities for protection. To another question, more than 88 percent of respondents indicated that it was "Very Important" to protect Easthampton's groundwater/aquifer; forests; rivers and streams; and wildlife habitat from future development.

Given the few remaining vacant parcels remaining for development in Easthampton, future development should primarily be infill or redevelopment of underutilized parcels. Some of the remaining open tracts are located in natural resource areas identified as priority for protection, such as East Street and Park Hill Road. In addition, there are some key vacant parcels in the Aquifer Protection District that should be conserved for water quality purposes. Existing land use tools and strategies available to developers including the Transfer of Development Rights, Chapter 40R, and Open Space Residential Development ordinance have thus far been underutilized in protecting these vulnerable areas. Effective promotion or incentivizing of these tools would help continue to direct growth away from areas identified as priorities for protection.

MOUNT TOM

Mount Tom and its ridgeline provide a spectacular scenic backdrop throughout the City. Glimpses of the mountain can be seen in almost every neighborhood in Easthampton, and particularly stunning views can be seen from the Park Hill area, across Nashawannuck Pond in the heart of downtown, and along East Street and Hendrick Street, which run along the base of the mountain. The unique environment of the slopes of Mount Tom is also home to important rare, threatened, and endangered species. Much of the land along the slopes of Mount Tom, however, is privately

owned and due to the scenic views from these higher altitudes is attractive for high-end home building and under continued threat of development.

Current zoning of Mount Tom and its ridgeline along East Street, though requiring large lots, doesn't offer much protection against destruction of the habitat and scenery (the stretch along Hendrick Street has seen much more land protection and is therefore less vulnerable). Adoption of a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance would not only control the visual impact of new development along the mountain, it would also protect the steep slopes from erosion and the disturbance of rare, threatened and endangered species habitat. An example Ridgeline / Hillside overlay district was presented to City Council for consideration in 2007, but was unfavorably received by land owners and never adopted. Given the changes that have occurred to Easthampton's demographics and landscape since 2007, revisiting the proposal today may yield different results.

In the absence of a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance or similar regulation in this area, it will be incumbent upon the City and land trusts to communicate consistently with landowners in order to redirect potential development. The City and its partners, including the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, should continue to acquire key parcels along East and Hendrick Streets to better protect the Mountain, and to provide better access to the well-used hiking trail networks including the New England Scenic Trail/ Monadnock-Metacomet Trail.



Figure 28: View of Mt. Tom Range from the soccer fields in Nonotuck Park.
Credit Mary Lou Splain

MANHAN RIVER

As discussed earlier in Section 3, this major tributary to the Connecticut River is an important natural resource for Easthampton as it winds through much of the City. Recognizing the significant ecological values of the Manhan River, the Pascommuck Conservation Trust has long had a vision for a protected greenway along the river corridor. At the same time, the Manhan River has certain challenges, chief among these being the prevalence of invasive plants.. While land protection in this corridor continues as opportunities arise and some of the explorations around enhanced recreational access to the Manhan River take shape, it will be important to safeguard this sensitive environmental area through a program of invasive species management and careful consideration of possible public access locations.

PARK HILL AGRICULTURAL AREA

Agricultural lands continue to define Easthampton in many ways. They are not only places that yield fresh grown local food, but some of these lands have also become destinations for enjoying the outdoors and connecting with community. Park Hill Orchard and the nearby Community Gardens are among the most highly visible of these lands in Easthampton, though Mountain View Farm on East Street plays a key role in this as well.

Many of the large family farms located along Park Hill are permanently protected or hold Agricultural Preservation Restrictions. However, along with much of the extensive agricultural and woodland nearby on Florence Road, a few large agricultural parcels on Park Hill remain unprotected and vulnerable to development (Appendix I: Farmland Soils in Undeveloped Areas Map). Survey respondents ranked lands on Park Hill as most important for protection and the idea that farmlands soils should be protected for food production for the long term was an important theme during the public visioning workshop.

Attendees at the public visioning workshop also expressed interest in working with the Agricultural Commission to promote agri-tourism in Easthampton and revitalize the former Copaco Orchard, currently owned by the City, to support a local food economy. There is also interest in establishing a trail network to connect several of the permanently protected parcels on Park Hill, including Echodale and the Community Gardens, as well as neighboring land on Florence Road, including the Lathrop Community, through passive recreational opportunities. The City should continue to partner with local land trusts, farmers, and private land owners to expand and connect the network of active agricultural lands in the City.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. Under CPA, communities create local Community Preservation Funds for project implementation.

CPA Administrative Funds may support:

- Inventory and assess the need for rehabilitating parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields
- Inventory lands of conservation interest and help define priorities
- Identify possible collaborative open space regional projects for community preservation
- Conduct environmental assessments and feasibility studies for open space purchase
- Develop applications for LAND grants and other open space protection funding sources

CPA Project Funds may support:

- Assistance in purchase of conservation or agricultural preservation restrictions or easements
- Conducting site analyses and development of concept designs for parks and recreation areas
- Development and implementation of local recreation facilities such as trail way-finding systems
- Preparing baseline documentation for CPA protected lands

BARNES AQUIFER

Another priority carried over from the 2013 survey and expressed again in the most recent public survey is protection of the Barnes Aquifer and the groundwater it provides to City residents. This is consistent with the results of the 2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which found that protecting drinking water was among the most important services our state and local parks and open spaces provide.

The City has safeguarded this natural resource through its participation in the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC). A regional coalition of four communities, facilitated by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), BAPAC worked together to encourage best practices for Aquifer protection. As this group disbanded in 2018, the City may now have to take a more active role in promoting best practices to help prevent contamination of drinking water supply. It is often difficult for people to understand that what they do on the surface of the land, around homes and businesses, matters and that substances soaking into the ground can impact the purity of waters in the aquifer.

The City has also worked to acquire parcels within the Zone II drinking water supply area, drawing on work that BAPAC members did some years ago to identify those lands most hydrologically connected to the aquifer, where development could be most detrimental. Some of these areas extend into the Town of Southampton and are important to its drinking water supply as well, so municipal cooperation is key. The 2017 joint purchase of 25 acres between Cook and County roads for aquifer protection is a prime example of this collaboration between Easthampton and Southampton.

As noted in the City's most recent Master Plan, continued and heightened protection of the Barnes Aquifer also requires a review of existing protective regulations. Also needed is a robust education campaign for property owners, in particular those in the aquifer's Zone II, which should raise awareness of regulations, and ensure observance of protective clauses in deeds restricting pesticide use in the neighborhood. The City should go further to develop a local Wellhead Protection Plan as called for in the 2008 Easthampton Master Plan. A Wellhead Protection Plan would identify potential threats to groundwater resources and coordinate future protection efforts.

There are a number of other related activities that participants at the public visioning session highlighted. These activities include:

- enhancing protection of wetlands and waterways through the adoption of a local wetlands ordinance; and
- advancing greater understanding about best practices to avoid stormwater pollution (proper disposal of pet waste and trash, and use of rain barrels and rain gardens to retain and/or reduce the velocity and volumes of storm flows).

STEWARDSHIP OF PROTECTED OPEN SPACES

While much of the focus for open space protection has been the purchase of key open space parcels for passive recreation, habitat protection, and agricultural preservation, stewardship of these lands has not always been a priority. Partnerships for stewardship between the City and local land trusts to improve these resources for all users should be explored. While volunteers play an important role in overall stewardship, they are not a certain or reliable resource, and they require staff time to mobilize and manage. For sustainable improvements to land stewardship, the City should fund a full-time conservation agent to monitor existing Conservation Restrictions and Agriculture Preservation Restrictions, and to formulate and implement management plans for all City-owned protected parcels. The City could also consider enhancing conservation area stewardship through addition of dedicated staff or hiring of contractors.

B. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services conducted an Outdoor Needs Survey as part of its 2017 SCORP update. When asked which activities a member of their household planned to participate in over the next 12 months, the top responses included: walking or jogging (on trails and greenways), hiking, and walking or jogging (on streets and sidewalks). Respondents explained what motivates them to participate in outdoor recreation. The number one response was for

physical fitness, followed closely by mental well-being and being close to nature. The nearness of an outdoor recreation facility to home was the top reason that it was visited most frequently.

These state-level survey responses provide an important reference point for the input gathered during Easthampton's OSRP update process. Like state-wide preferences, Easthampton residents seek to improve neighborhood walkability, expand off-road trail network range and connectivity, and broaden access to nature within one's community. The high rate of response to the Easthampton survey allowed the committee to understand the specific needs of special groups such as the elderly and teens. However, response rates among residents 65 years and older (155 responses) was far greater than those aged 18 and under (5 responses).

The teens that did respond to the survey provided a glimpse into the needs of young people in Easthampton. The Manhan Rail Trail, Nashawannuck Pond Promenade, Daley Field, and the Williston Athletic Fields are the most frequently used recreational features among young people. The majority of young people responding to the survey are active in the following recreational activities: on road biking/cycling, fishing, and walking (on-road or sidewalk), trail and on-road jogging, skateboarding, swimming (in outdoor pool), swimming/wading (in ponds or streams), canoe/kayaking, and walking/hiking (off-road, trail). Two or more of these respondents suggested improvements or expansion are needed for on-road walking and cycling infrastructure, ice skating facilities, outdoor pools and swimming areas in ponds and streams, Specific requests included developing a place to go sledding, creating a public flower garden to walk through, adding a slide and shade structures to the existing pool, and building a dedicated facility for skateboarding. All teen respondents indicated strong support for making new multi-use path (paved bicycle and pedestrian) connections from the Manhan Rail Trail to the New School, and 4/5 strongly supported making connection to parks.

Easthampton survey results also underscored the value of nearby open space and recreational resources as use during the Covid-19 pandemic skyrocketed. Nearly 75% of survey respondents indicated that their enjoyment of open space or recreational opportunities in Easthampton increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With more residents utilizing recreational resources in the community than ever before, the insights gleaned from the significant amount of local survey responses are even more valuable to understanding what residents care about and what they need.

Specific community needs, including the needs of seniors and teens, that were highlighted through the planning process are summarized into the categories below.

ACCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Passive and active recreational opportunities are available throughout the City, especially within the downtown area where the highest concentration of low-moderate income population resides and within Easthampton's Environmental Justice Low Income Block Group as identified in the 2010 US Census (Appendix B: Environmental Justice Areas). While there are several neighborhoods within the City where there are no parks or playgrounds within walking distance, eighty five percent of OSRP survey respondents indicated that there is either a park, trail, or conservation area

within a ten-minute walk from their home. Some respondents noted that Precincts 1, 3, and 5 lack safe routes to access to the Manhan Rail Trail. Others suggested adding community gardens within the downtown area, to provide access to individuals who may not have a car to get to the existing gardens in the Park Hill area. The City should continue to work to identify opportunities to develop new parks within a half-mile of homes, regardless of age or income, and to ensure these parks are accessible to those with disabilities.

This plan identifies a number of measures the City can take to better meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and needs of disabled residents for equal access to open space and recreational facilities. Demographic trends also show the possible need for programing for aging adults. People 65 years and over make up nearly 20 percent of the City's population, a greater share than in any of the surrounding communities or Hampshire County as a whole. As such, recreational resources that meet the needs and accommodate the abilities of these older residents will be an important component of this plan. The results of the ADA self-assessment (Appendix O: ADA Access Self-Evaluation) provide guidance to City officials on how to program for disabled youth and adults, as well as ageing adults with mobility challenges. Specific needs include:

- Bathroom renovations at Daley Field (Nonotuck Park)
- Improved smoothed paved surfaces between the rail trail and parking lot at Millside Park
- Updated site furniture at Pleasant Street Playground

General needs for ADA accessibility improvements at multiple parks and open space facilities include:

- ADA tables and seating options
- Designated painted handicap spaces and ADA parking signage
- ADA playground features
- Improved paths and access ramps to features inside parks
- Improved signage and wayfinding

Other ideas for ADA improvements include creating a new public community garden site with handicap accessible raised beds.

Sometimes the greatest barrier to accessing a resource is lack of knowledge. More than half of the 2020 OSRP survey respondents (310 of the 620 respondents), indicated that they don't know where four of the City's open space conservation recreation areas are: Giustina Conservation Area, Edward J. Dwyer Memorial Conservation Area, Hannum Brook Conservation Area, and Boruchowski Conservation Area. In part, this is attributable to the lack of well-marked access points and parking areas, which make it tough for many would-be users to know about resources in the first place. Pascommuck Conservation Trust also reports that Board members encounter many residents unaware of the existence of the organization itself, suggesting the Trust needs to expand its outreach.

Several ideas that emerged to promote understanding about the location of these recreational resources include: evaluating parking and access at existing conservation areas and developing

strategies for fixes where needed and appropriate, installing additional signage alerting the public to nearby recreational sites, and developing, and developing a booklet on existing public lands within Easthampton with information on access, parking, and trail head locations. Also, the City must support underrepresented residents' participation in and access to recreational opportunities and conservation lands, and it can do so by conduct enhanced outreach for all projects in accordance with the EOEEA Public Participation in Environmental Justice Communities Guidance.

CITY PARKS

EXISTING PARKS

Nonotuck Park, the City's largest and most used park is in need of a new vision. The 2008 Master Plan identified the need for a Nonotuck Park master plan, and that need has been echoed in this OSRP update process. Such a master plan would prioritize resource needs for facility improvements throughout the park, develop a timeframe, and identify possible funding sources for implementation.

At Pleasant Street Green, the City currently maintains a playground, sidewalk, and a few benches, but a study of the area would provide important insights on what improvements could be made to support needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

NEW PARKS

Several recent and forthcoming planning efforts address the potential for new City parks. Though they have different geographic foci, these plans collectively offer insights into how to best serve residents. The survey associated with this plan update particularly highlights residents' interest in broadening the network of pocket parks, with an equitable distribution across all neighborhoods.

The recently completed 2020 Downtown Strategic Plan includes several elements that relate to the creation of pocket parks, open spaces, and other amenities in the downtown area. Most importantly is the opportunity created in the downtown area with the move of the Center-Pepin Elementary Schools and Maple Street Elementary School in spring/summer 2022 to the new consolidated "Mountain View School" near White Brook. Accounting for the vacancies on these properties, the downtown plan evaluation process identified as critical the need to either keep, upgrade, or otherwise replicate the playgrounds in this location. The plan and its findings also support the concept of small areas in the downtown for people to experience some type of open or green space or recreation.

A recent CPA funded study provides baseline information on several large City-owned parcels, some of which seem suitable for other new parks. Many of these parcels are worthy of independent site-specific assessments or "mini master plans" to determine best proposed future use with an eye toward connections to adjacent properties.

In 2015, the former Parsons Street Elementary School was sold and renovated into 12 apartment units. The City retained the 1-acre parcel behind the school building, previously identified as an open space priority, and possible site for a new park, playground, or community garden. This would provide an amenity within the New City neighborhood, previously identified as an Environmental

Justice area in Easthampton. This entire area will be studied for infrastructure needs if the City is awarded its next CDBG grant.

ENHANCED OR NEW PARK PROGRAMMING AND FACILITIES

Easthampton residents expressed interest in increased water-based recreation. Contributing to this interest may be several recent improvements, including the 2015 Nashawannuck Pond Boardwalk project. This project has been a tremendous success and a catalyst for people to explore the pond for a wide range of recreational opportunities including kayak and paddle boat rentals and fishing. The recently completed downtown plan includes an "extending the boardwalk" concept, which would further expand upon these facilities to meet community demand.

Given that many protected open spaces and places in Easthampton prohibit dogs, residents have also expressed great interest in a dog park. A 2019 committee-based visioning project with Berkshire Design Group assessed seven potential locations. Participants at a public forum then identified two key sites – Nonotuck Park and a site on Oliver Street. Subsequently, neither site was deemed appropriate, and no final selection was made. Earlier in 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted against putting a dog park in Nonotuck Park. Given these challenges, the commission must continue to explore options and additional sites to consider. "Dog friendly" places in the community should also be accounted for within the wayfinding and public education materials previously discussed.

Other key points of interest expressed by residents during the OSRP update process include:

- More opportunities for winter sport activities, including ice skating (Holyoke's 4-season facility at Community Field is a good example)
- Expanded access to swimming facilities, both indoor and outdoor
- Increased restroom access at public parks
- Establishment of a skate park that includes space for roller skating and roller blading
- Establishing new and enhancing existing mountain biking opportunities
- Consideration for other passive recreational activities such as frisbee golf
- Expanded pickle ball facilities, both outdoor and indoor

Going forward, park improvements also ought to identify possibilities for integration of arts and culture. The 2019 Easthampton Futures Project called for the City to increase the integration of arts and cultural resources into the development and improvement of outdoor public spaces. Any investment in parks should be evaluated for opportunities to engage local artists as part of the design and planning process.



Figure 29. Aerial view of Nashawannuck Pond Promenade Park
Photo credit: Easthampton Planning Department

TRAILS

According to the Open Space survey, the Manhan Rail Trail is the most utilized recreational resource in the City – 50 percent of the survey respondents use the trail weekly. Other trails that figure prominently in terms of use (both weekly and monthly) include (in order of most use): Mt. Tom Reservation, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Mutter's Field, and Brickyard Brook, Old Trolley Line, Old Pascommuck, Pomeroy Meadows, Broad Brook, Boruchowski, and Dwyer Conservation Areas.

“Connections” emerged as a major theme in the update's survey and visioning. This supports the City's current focus of expanding trail connectors, through bike lanes, multiuse paths, or sidewalks, to neighborhoods, parks, and schools. Survey respondents strongly support connecting the Manhan Rail Trail to all of the cited destinations using all these means. A primary goal over the next several years will be to create additional formal bicycle and pedestrian connections to the new K-8 elementary school. This would include new multiuse paths from the rail trail to the north, Plains neighborhood to the south, and Nonotuck Park to the east. Other specific connections respondents cited as important are from the rail trail to Mt. Tom Reservation and the Loudville area, as well as to major destinations, including the new River Valley Coop location, post office, and the Big Y in Southamton.

Since the 2002 Urban Rivers Plan, a bridge over Lower Mill Pond has been identified as a critical connection. Lower Mill Pond once contained two pedestrian bridges that allowed mill workers to

walk from their homes to their jobs in the mills. Easthampton's thriving mill district and associated neighborhoods would be once again connected. The concept was identified in the 2020 Downtown Strategic Plan and is the subject of a UMass Graduate Student's senior thesis project to gather additional public support for the project.

Several public survey respondents stressed the continued importance of connecting to regional multi-use pathways as critical to enabling people to travel by bicycle instead of car. The ValleyBike stations help in this regard and the addition of a potential new station at Mill Pond Park should help support increased uses along the Pleasant Street Mills and Lower Mill Pond.

Specific recommendations for trail improvements included: adding rail trail observation decks/overlooks at key points along the way, and expanding trails specifically suited for mountain biking and cross-country skiing.

Wayfinding signs and development of a local trail guidebook would be instrumental in promoting greater use and access to trails. The City has been involved in conversations to join a regional effort to develop an online guide to local trails that would provide residents with ready information and details on access, uses, and connections. PVPC is currently preparing a grant request in hopes that this can be developed.

C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

Many protected lands in Easthampton are managed by a variety of non-city groups such as state agencies, non-profits, and land trusts. Management of City-owned open space and recreational facilities is also split among several different City departments. Most recreational facilities are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. Facilities that are located on public school grounds are managed by the School Department. Currently, Nashawannuck Pond, with the exception of Boathouse Beach, is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Office. The Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee provides recommendations to the Mayor's office regarding future needs for the Pond. Boathouse Beach itself is under the management of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Planning Department provides support through grant writing and other technical assistance to all of these various City departments for acquisition, rehabilitation, and development of these properties and facilities.

City-owned protected open spaces are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. As stated earlier, the stewardship of properties maintained by the Conservation Commission has been lacking in the past. Occupied with its extensive regulatory responsibilities, the volunteer Commission has limited time or resources available to develop forestry/wildlife management plans, walking trails, parking and accessible public access. Sustainable long-term stewardship of these resources will require increased annual funding dedicated to conservation property maintenance, including a full-time conservation agent (currently funded as a part-time position) to manage and inspect conservation restrictions. One additional full time employee to maintain trails and parking areas should also be considered.

The Parks and Recreation Department has made great progress in implementing the objectives in their 1998 Recreation Plan, as seen through its operation, maintenance, and recreation

programming. Expansion of these services and areas is contingent upon increased funding. While there has been some casual conversation with City officials about the need for the City to assume responsibility of future maintenance funding for the Manhan Rail Trail, no official discussion on this issue has taken place. The Manhan Rail Trail Committee recommends that the City consider assuming the financial and management burden of trail maintenance within the next five years.

While non-profit “Friends of” groups have been instrumental in making improvements to facilities across the City in the past, volunteerism can be unreliable and is not always sufficient to make large-scale facility improvements. City department heads and volunteer leaders support creating a maintenance line item in the annual capital budget for all new and existing park facilities and conservation areas/trails. Requesting new parks proposals to be accompanied by a staffing plan demonstrating how the new resource will be supported and maintained, either through committed volunteer support or dedicated budget sources, could be an effective approach to ensure future maintenance needs are met.

Funding open space and conservation is a challenge for most communities, and Easthampton is no exception. Fortunately the City, its residents and conservation partners have a long history of working together to create and maintain a variety of recreational and conservation amenities city-wide. The Planning Department is often at the center of these partnerships, in many cases serving as the liaison between the various boards and committees needed to advance projects on City-owned land. The Open Space Advisory Committee formed to oversee the update of this OSRP has representation from the same boards and committees, as well as from the public and non-profit sector, whose input and cooperation is critical to carry out implementation of the actions recommended in this plan. It is the hope that this committee will stay in place after the completion of this plan update to oversee implementation of the Goals, Objectives, and Actions.

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

For all of the goals, objectives, and actions that follow, the availability of funding is paramount. It should be understood that safeguarding existing sources and diligently pursuing new sources of funding will be necessary to achieve the proposed actions in this plan.

Goal #1: Existing recreational facilities and opportunities are improved to meet the needs of residents.

Objectives:

- Maintain playgrounds and tot lots to the same safety standards applied to schools
- Improve maintenance of existing swimming facilities, and expand amenities
- Improve access to information about recreational opportunities for users of all ages and incomes
- Upgrade existing trails to meet the needs of a variety of users
- Secure funding for routine and long-term maintenance of the Manhan Rail Trail to improve safety, comfort, and enable year-round use
- Improve safety of and increase connections between pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the city

Goal #2 Recreational facilities and opportunities are expanded to accommodate the needs of residents.

Objectives:

- Expand the pedestrian and bicycle network to increase connections to the rail trail, neighborhoods, the new school, and other activity nodes
- Broaden the network of pocket parks so they are equitably distributed across all Easthampton neighborhoods
- Prioritize projects that expand access or connect to areas that are currently underserved by recreational and/or natural resources
- Expand facilities for winter-based recreation

Goal #3: Agriculture is preserved and promoted as an important aspect of community character.

Objectives:

- Preserve remaining open space with prime agricultural soils for permanent agricultural use, including Park Hill and Florence Road, and land along East Street
- Promote agritourism by developing annual farm-related programs
- Improve working relationship between the City and Easthampton's agricultural community
- Foster partnerships between local farms and food service providers to fuel a vibrant local food economy and increase food security
- Expand recreational opportunities that tie into agricultural lands
- Expand community gardening opportunities by creating new plots on public land

Goal #4: Lands of natural resource, scenic, and recreation value are protected and well stewarded, and are connected with each other and with neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Ensure residents and visitors know where conservation lands are and rules and regulations for use
- Create a protected greenway along the Manhan River
- Protect ecological resilience of private and public conservation lands through stewardship and maintenance
- Improve trail conditions through maintenance and stewardship
- Review and revise local land use regulations so they effectively encourage compact development where appropriate and protect priority lands

Goal #5: Groundwater and surface water are protected as clean and abundant resources.

Objectives:

- Permanently protect important recharge land over the Barnes Aquifer
- Control and minimize surface water sedimentation
- Elevate the need to maintain good water quality as a primary objective of local regulations, and revise regulations accordingly
- Increase enforcement of local regulations protecting Groundwater and surface water
- Expand education and outreach about water quality and quantity protection

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The 7-year action plan has been updated based on the analyses presented in this plan and the public input received throughout the planning process. Many of the OSRP survey respondents proposed project ideas that directly related to the plan goals and objectives, and some of those ideas are included here. However, given that more than 620 people responded to the survey, not all recommendations are included in this action plan. The full survey results will serve the City for the next 7 years as valuable tool for decision making, and should be consulted as part of decision-making processes on future open space and recreation actions. The full results are available upon request from the Planning Department.

NOTE: Under “Responsible Party” the lead party is listed first, with supporting organizations and entities listed thereafter.

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
Goal #1: Existing recreational facilities and opportunities are improved to meet the needs of residents			
1. Create a Master Plan for Nonotuck Park	Year 1	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation
2. Evaluate opportunities for new recreation amenities at Nonotuck Park or other locations such as an outdoor fitness area, skate park, disc golf, and more ADA accessible picnic tables.	Year 2-3	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation, CPA
3. Continue expanding access to and from the Manhan Rail Trail to connect neighborhoods, parks, and the new school. Explore options to bridge gaps in connections due to water resources and to upgrade Rail Trail street crossings.	Ongoing	Manhan Trail Committee, Planning Department, Dept. of Public Works	Transportation Enhancement funds, MassTrails Grants, CPA, Safe Routes to School, Land and Water Conservation Grant
4. Implement upgrades to playgrounds throughout the City including at Pleasant Green and the pocket park at Parsons St. and Federal St. Prioritize improvements in the Maple and Ferry Street neighborhoods.	Ongoing	Parks and Rec., Planning Department	CDBG, CPA, ADA funds; foundations
5. Develop wayfinding materials to guide residents and visitors around Easthampton, highlighting key open space and recreational areas. Waypoints could include parks and rail trail access, arts and cultural installations and facilities, and more. Some wayfinding signage should big enough for auto users to see in order to direct	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Rail Trail committee, PCT, Chamber	MassTrails Grants

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
them to trails and open space properties. Include ADA enhancements for safety and navigation.*			
6. Improve parking capacity and implement traffic calming measures where needed at City recreational facilities and conservation areas.	Year 3	Parks and Rec., Planning Department	MassTrails Grants, Capital Budget
7. Create maintenance line items in the annual capital budget for all new and existing park facilities and conservation areas/trails.	Year 1-3	Parks and Rec., City Council, Planning Department	General Fund
8. Secure funding to complete planned improvements to Nonotuck Park Pool.	Year 1	School Dept., Parks and Rec.	City appropriation, PARC Grant
9. Seek funding for design and construction of sidewalks to improve pedestrian experience and walkability. Prioritize access/connections to open spaces and rec facilities, making ADA improvements, and implementing the top 20 projects from the 2017 Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.	Ongoing	Planning Department	Complete Streets, Chapter 90, Capital Improvements, CDBG
10. Design and construct informational kiosks at all conservation areas in the City. *	Year 1-5	Planning Department, Conservation Commission, PCT	MassTrails Grants, CPA
11. Improve and expand on-road bike infrastructure and provide more bike parking.	Year 3-7	Planning Department, DPW	Complete Streets
Goal #2: Recreational facilities and opportunities are expanded to accommodate the needs of residents			
1. Complete design and construction of a boardwalk extension for the Nashawannuck Pond Promenade	Year 6	Planning Department, Parks and Rec.	Land and Water Conservation Fund
2. Continue to explore the feasibility of creating a dog park, including identification of possible locations, and creation of rules and regulations	Year 2-3	Planning Department, City Council	Stanton Foundation
3. Identify locations, acquire sites (if necessary), and construct new pocket parks in neighborhoods lacking access to green space	Ongoing	Planning Department, Parks and Rec.	PARC; CDBG; CPA; foundations
4. Design and build “best practices” mountain biking trail network at the Boruchowski parcel and around Nonotuck Park	Year 2-3	NEMBA, Conservation Commission, volunteers	MassTrails Grants

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
5. Identify locations and improve access to cross-country ski trails, including arranging grooming on existing suitable routes and marking cross country skiing as an allowed activity on signage and maps	Year 1-3	Planning Department, Parks and Rec.	Private landowners, intern, DLTA
6. Evaluate sidewalk needs to improve upon existing data and create a map showing greatest areas of sidewalk need, showing population density and areas to connect with open space and recreation areas	Year 1-3	Planning Department, Dept. of Public Works	Complete Streets, intern, DLTA
7. Conduct enhanced outreach in accordance with the EOEEA Public Participation in Environmental Justice Communities Guidance to support underrepresented residents’ participation in and access to recreational opportunities and conservation lands.	Ongoing	Planning Department	All projects
Goal #3: Agriculture is preserved and promoted as an important aspect of community character			
1. Explore opportunities for new community garden in accessible location.	Year 1	Garden Committee, Planning Department, Conservation Commission	CPA; PARC; Garden Donations
2. Create new educational and promotional materials to ensure residents and visitors know about local farms and how to visit them. Include small farms, farm stands, farmers markets, community gardens, etc.*	Year 3-5	Agricultural Commission, Mayor's Office , CISA	MVP, CPA, other grants
3. Determine viability for food production on City-owned land on Park Hill Road such as Echodale Orchard.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Agricultural Commission, Garden Committee	None needed
4. Work with landowners to expand farming and protection of farmland through fee acquisitions and/or donations of agricultural preservation or conservation restrictions.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, PCT, Kestrel Trust, Trust for Public Land	Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Dept of Agricultural Resources
Goal #4: Priority Protection Areas are protected and well-stewarded, and are connected with each other and with neighborhoods.			
1. Promote public access to conservation lands with improved signage, maps, and educational outreach, and acquisition of new easements to expand parking areas and access points. Parking is	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, PCT	CPA, Conservation Donations Account

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
<p>needed at the Guistina Conservation Area and Boruchowski parcel conservation area among other locations.*</p>			
<p>2. City and land trust partners work collaboratively to develop and support a corps of paid and volunteer land stewards for conservation land maintenance. Building this capacity could include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer Conservation Restriction monitoring trainings for volunteers or contract out CR monitoring • Fund a full time Conservation Agent position and trail/stewardship staff or contractors • Ensure stewards have implicit bias training • Recruit more land stewards of color 	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, PCT	Full-time conservation agent required
<p>3. Review and amend zoning ordinances, including but not limited to the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and OSRD ordinances, solar bylaw, and subdivision regulations, with the goal of balancing future development and resource protection.</p>	Year 3-4	Planning Department, Planning Board, City Council, Public, PVPC	None needed
<p>4. Promote greater utilization of the Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District Ordinance</p>	Ongoing	Planning Department, Planning Board, Mayor, Development and Industrial Commission	None needed
<p>5. Work with conservation partners and land owners to identify land protection opportunities within the core priority protection areas, and seek funding to implement protection.</p>	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, PCT, Kestrel Land Trust, PVPC	LAND grant, MVP
<p>6. Adopt Ridgeline Protection Ordinance to protect the steep slopes of Mount Tom from erosion and disturbance of rare, threatened, and endangered species</p>	Year 3-5	Planning Department, Planning Board, City Council	None needed
<p>7. Develop a plan for and implement management of invasive plants in important habitat areas, including conservation lands and along the Manhan River</p>	Year 2-5	Planning Department, Conservation Commission, PCT, Mass Audubon	Dept. of Environmental Management, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
8. Create a city tree program. Conduct a public shade tree inventory and provide free street trees to residents, and develop a volunteer tree steward corps.	Year 4	Planning Department, Tree Warden	Urban Forestry grants, Green Communities
Goal #5: Groundwater and surface water are protected as clean and abundant resources			
1. Develop a local Wellhead Protection Plan for the municipal wells	Year 1-3	Dept. of Public Works	Dept. of Environmental Protection
2. Establish an Easthampton Aquifer Protection Committee to support and direct efforts for drinking water protection	Year 1-3	Planning Department, DPW, City Council	None needed
3. Draft and adopt a local Wetlands Ordinance based on the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission’s sample Ordinance to increase protection of isolated wetlands and climate sensitive and resilient wetlands.	Year 1	Conservation Commission	MAPC
4. Expand education and outreach to private well owners, schools, and the general public about the Barnes Aquifer including Best Management Practices to prevent pollution and protect supply. Create materials about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proper waste (especially dog waste) disposal • invasive/non-native species and the benefits of native landscaping • rain barrels and other at-home conservation options* 	Ongoing	Planning Department, Conservation Commission, City Council	MVP
5. Maintain sediment control measures to Nashawannuck Pond and other surface waters, and monitor for new erosion issues.	Ongoing	Mayor’s Office, Nashawannuck Pond Committee	TBD
6. Evaluate winter snow storage and management practices, including opportunities to reduce use of harmful de-icing agents and consider alternative snow storage locations away from Manhan River and Barnes Aquifer	Year 1-3	Dept. of Public Works	TBD
7. Work with landowners to protect open space over the Barnes Aquifer through fee acquisitions, conservation restrictions, agriculture preservation restrictions, and/or donations	Ongoing	Planning Department, Conservation Commission, BAPAC	LAND grant, Drinking Water Supply Protection grant

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding opportunities
8. Improve enforcement of local regulations protecting and conserving groundwater and surface water, including outside water use bans, deed restrictions, and constraints on pesticide use.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	Full-time conservation agent needed
9. Review and revise, as necessary, local regulations to increase their ability to protect groundwater and surface water. Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the existing stormwater bylaw • Create a rain garden requirements for new parking lots • Incentivize the use of green infrastructure • Require inclusion of protective deed restrictions in aquifer recharge areas and require flag to buyer when properties are sold. • Monitor and regulate lawn care services' use of restricted pesticides. 	Year 1-3	Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Dept. of Public Works, PVPC	DLTA

Notes:

- ADA *Americans with Disabilities Act*
- BAPAC *Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee*
- CDBG *Community Development Block Grant Programs*
- CISA *Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture*
- CPA *Community Preservation Act*
- Chamber *Greater Easthampton Chamber of Commerce*
- EOEEA *Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*
- LAND *Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Grant Program, MA DCR*
- MVP *Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program, MA EOEEA*
- NEMBA *New England Mountain Biking Association*
- PARC *Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program, MA DCR*
- Parks and Rec *Easthampton Department of Parks and Recreation*
- PCT *Pascommuck Land Trust*
- TBD *To be determined*

* *All education/outreach materials, including signage, and maps, should be created in accessible formats to ensure disabled citizens have equitable and ready access to the information*

Seven Year Action Plan, by Year Action Begins

The following list is for planning purposes only. Changing City priorities and the timing of available funding will affect the sequence of completion of the recommended actions.

Year One

- Create a Master Plan for Nonotuck Park
- Create a maintenance line item in the annual capital budget for all new and existing park facilities and conservation areas/trails.
- Secure funding to complete planned improvements to Nonotuck Park Pool.
- Design and construct informational kiosks at all conservation areas in the City.
- Identify locations and improve access to cross-country ski trails
- Evaluate sidewalk needs to improve upon existing data and create a map showing greatest areas of sidewalk need
- Explore opportunities for new community garden in accessible location.
- Develop a local Wellhead Protection Plan for the municipal wells
- Establish an Easthampton Aquifer Protection Committee to support and direct efforts for drinking water protection
- Draft and adopt a local Wetlands Ordinance based on the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission's sample Ordinance.
- Evaluate winter snow storage and management practices, including opportunities to reduce use of harmful de-icing agents and consider alternative snow storage locations away from Manhan River and Barnes Aquifer
- Review and revise, as necessary, local regulations to increase their ability to protect groundwater and surface water.

Year Two

- Evaluate opportunities for new recreation amenities at Nonotuck Park or other locations such as an outdoor fitness area, skate park, disc golf, and more ADA accessible picnic tables.
- Develop wayfinding materials to guide residents and visitors around Easthampton, highlighting key open space and recreational areas.
- Continue to explore the feasibility of creating a dog park, including identification of possible locations, and creation of rules and regulations
- Design and build "best practices" mountain biking trail network at the Boruchowski parcel and around Nonotuck Park
- Determine viability for food production on City-owned land on Park Hill Road such as Echodale Orchard.
- Promote public access to conservation lands with improved signage, maps, and educational outreach, and acquisition of new easements to expand parking areas and access points.
- Develop a plan for and implement management of invasive plants in important habitat areas, including conservation lands and along the Manhan River

Year Three

- Improve parking capacity and implement traffic calming measures where needed at City recreational facilities and conservation areas.
- Improve and expand on-road bike infrastructure and provide more bike parking.
- Create new educational and promotional materials to ensure residents and visitors know about local farms and how to visit them.
- Review and amend zoning ordinances, including but not limited to the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and OSRD ordinances, solar bylaw, and subdivision regulations.
- Adopt Ridgeline Protection Ordinance to protect the steep slopes of Mount Tom from erosion and disturbance of rare, threatened, and endangered species

Year Four

- Create a city tree program. Conduct a public shade tree inventory and provide free street trees to residents, and develop a volunteer tree steward corps.

Year Five

- N/A

Year Six

- Complete design and construction of a boardwalk extension for the Nashawannuck Pond Promenade

Year Seven

- N/A

Ongoing

- Continue expanding access to and from the Manhan Rail Trail to connect neighborhoods, parks, and the new school.
- Implement upgrades to playgrounds throughout the City
- Seek funding for design and construction of sidewalks to improve pedestrian experience and walkability.
- Identify locations, acquire sites (if necessary), and construct new pocket parks in neighborhoods lacking access to green space
- Conduct enhanced outreach in accordance with the EOEEA Public Participation in Environmental Justice Communities Guidance to support underrepresented residents' participation in and access to recreational opportunities and conservation lands.
- Work with landowners to expand farming and protection of farmland through fee acquisitions and/or donations of agricultural preservation or conservation restrictions.
- City and land trust partners work collaboratively to develop and support a corps of paid and volunteer land stewards for conservation land maintenance.

- Promote greater utilization of the Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District Ordinance
- Work with conservation partners and land owners to identify land protection opportunities within the core priority protection areas, and seek funding to implement protection.
- Expand education and outreach to private well owners, schools, and the general public about the Barnes Aquifer including Best Management Practices to prevent pollution and protect supply.
- Maintain sediment control measures to Nashawannuck Pond and other surface waters, and monitor for new erosion issues.
- Work with landowners to protect open space over the Barnes Aquifer
- Improve enforcement of local regulations protecting and conserving groundwater and surface water

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Michael Czerwiec, Water Quality Programs Manager at Easthampton Water Department, as documented in an email dated 10/14/20 from Michael to Jeff Bagg

Russell Steven Powell, 2016 Photo of Park Hill Orchard, Growing Produce.com

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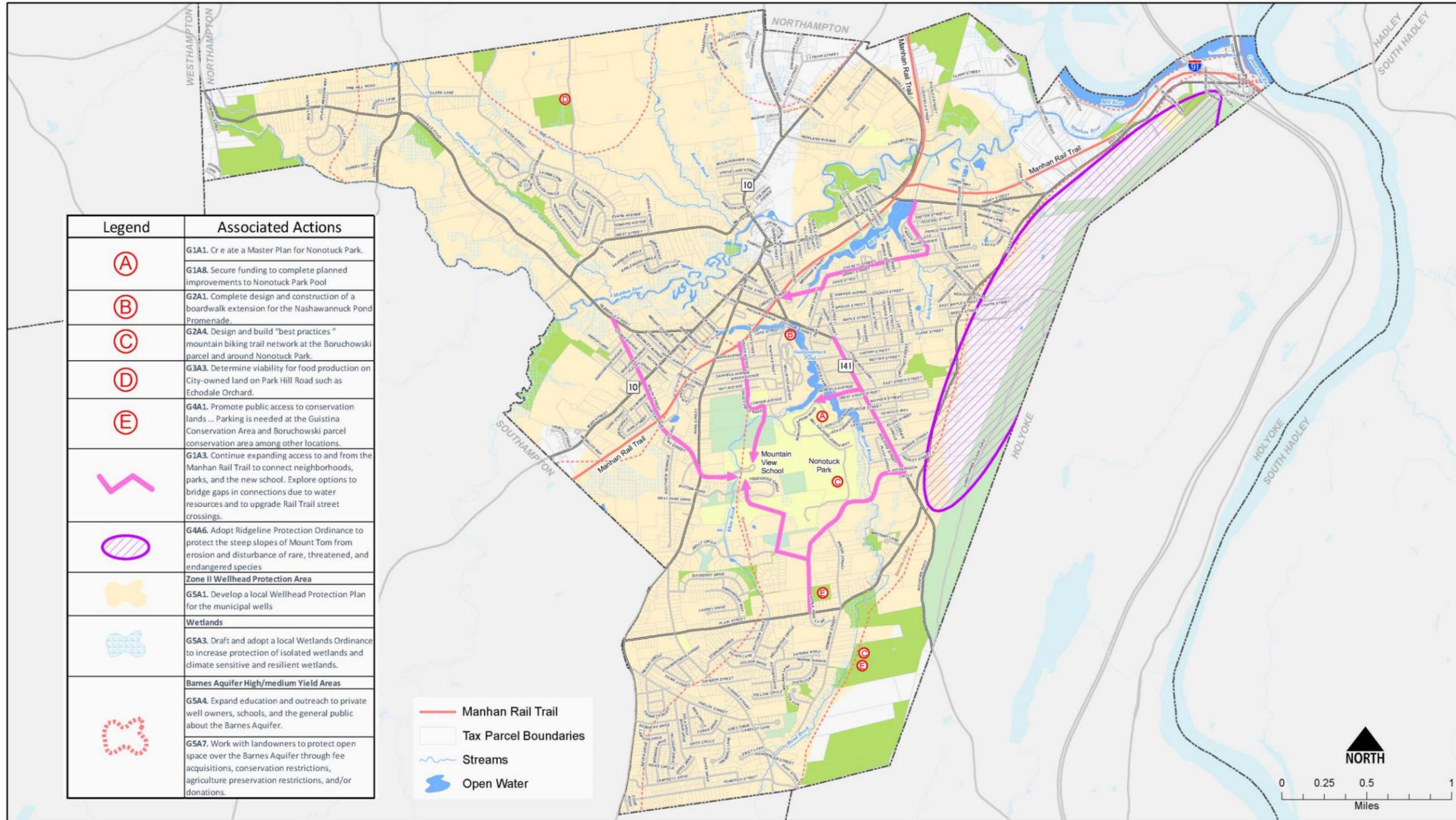
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APPENDIX A-K (MAPS)

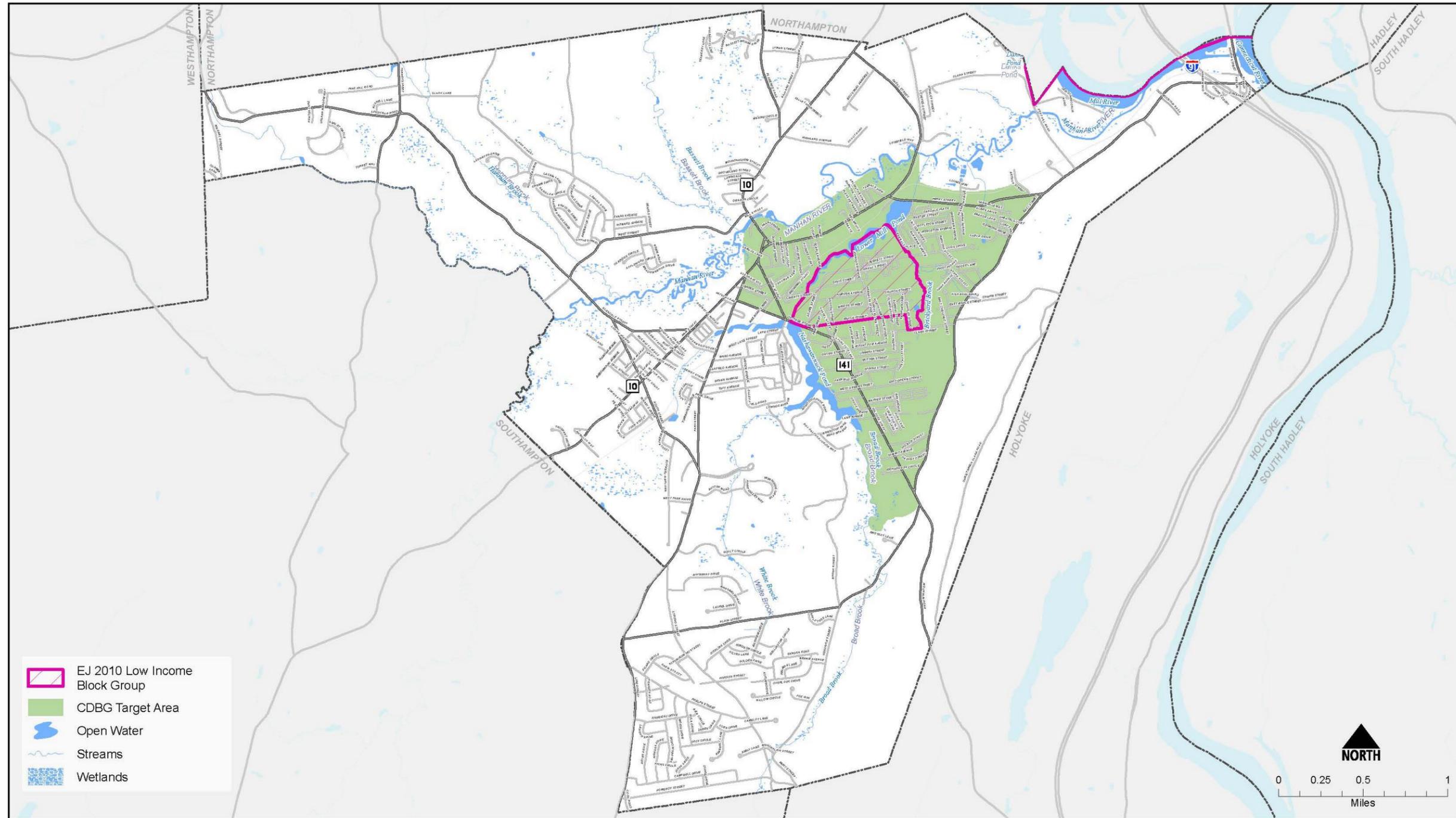


ACTION PLAN 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan EASTHAMPTON, MA

NOTE:
The majority of proposals from the 2021-2028 OSRP Action Plan are not focused on one or more specific locations, and are therefore left off of this map. You can read more about all of the proposed actions in Section 9 of the plan body.

DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.





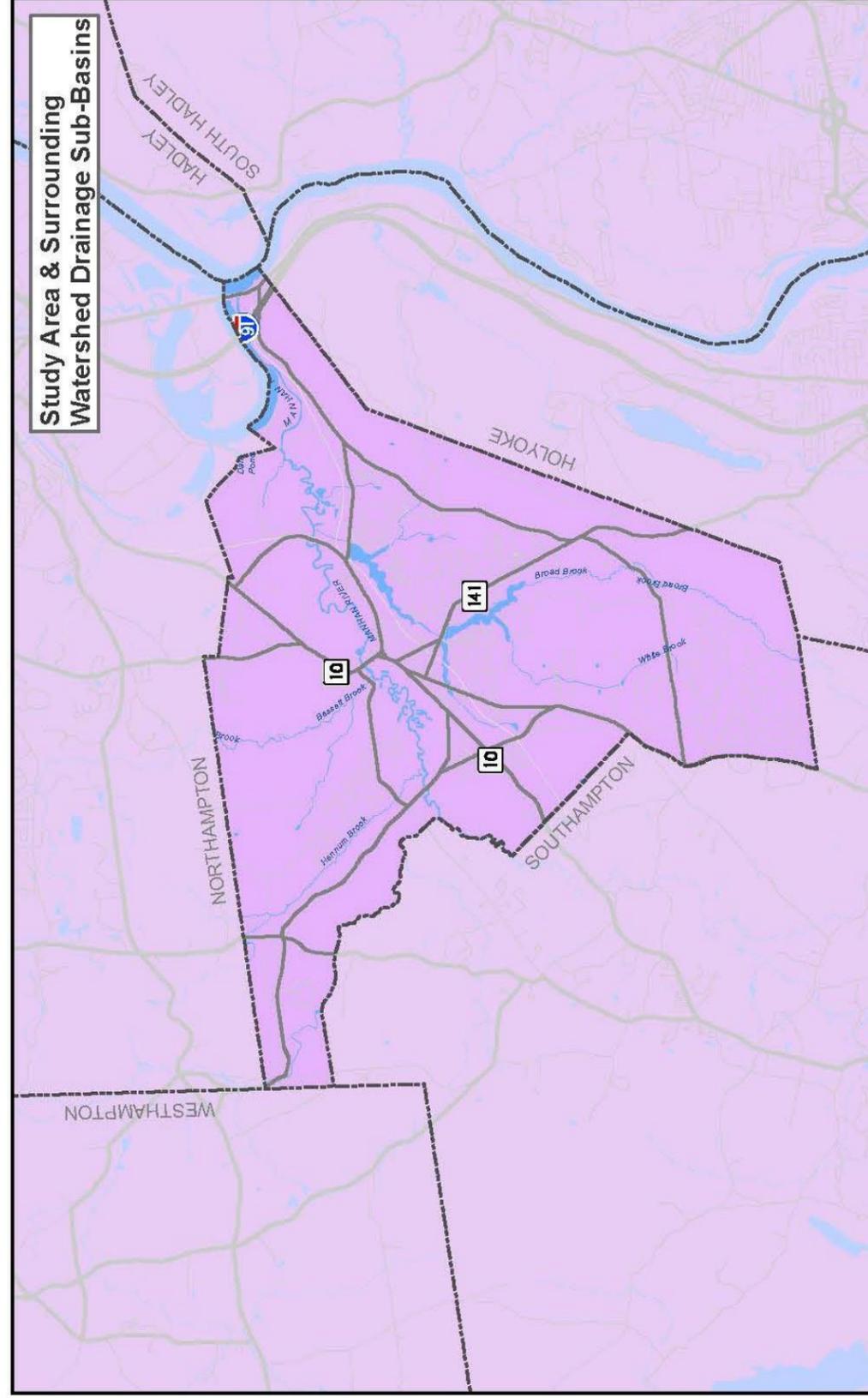
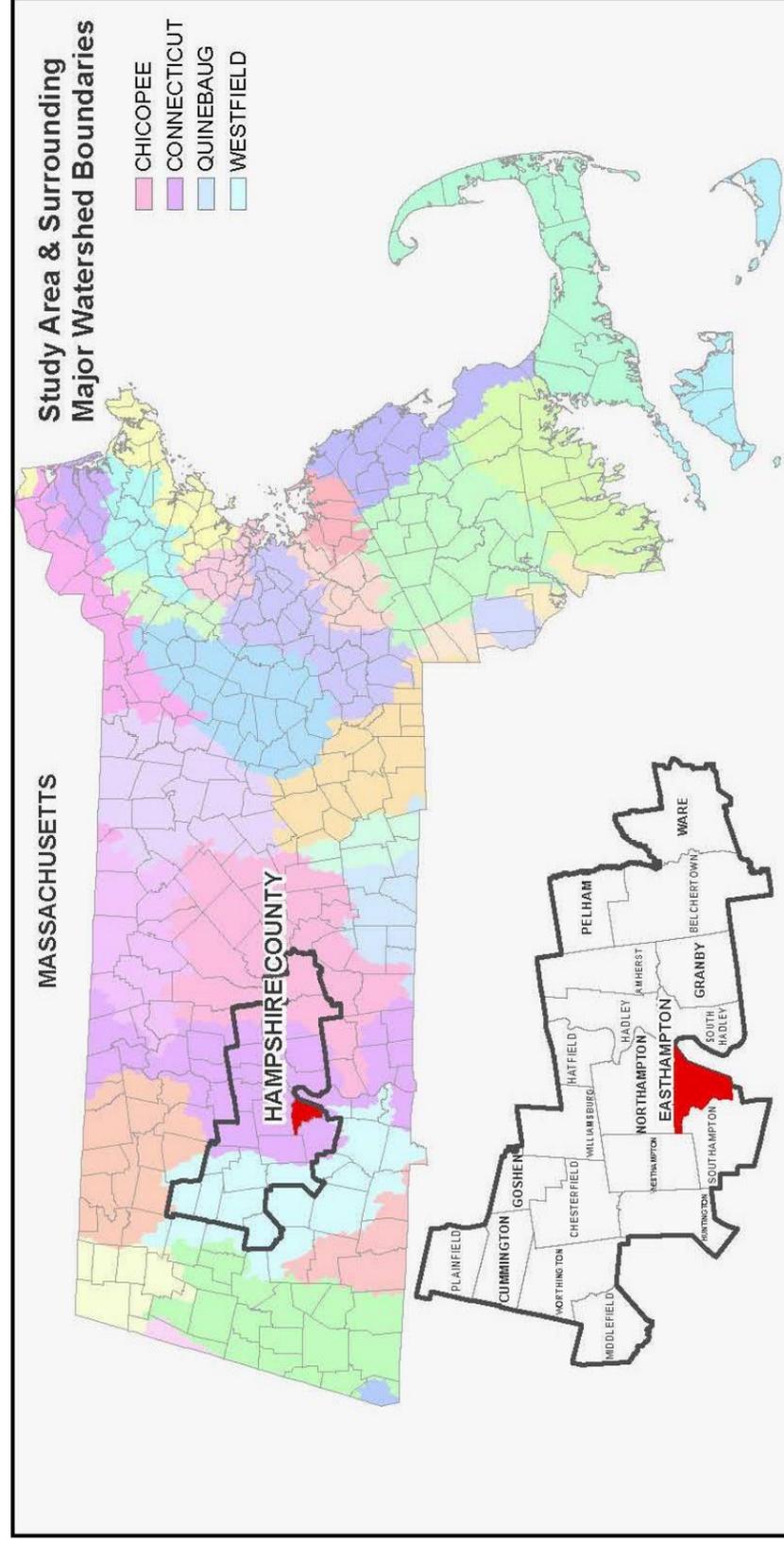
Environmental Justice and CDBG Target Area
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

EASTHAMPTON, MA

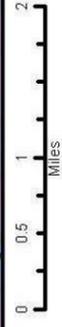


DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
The 'CDBG' Target Area was georeferenced by PVPC staff. The Environmental Justice Populations (derived from 2010 Census Block Groups) was developed and provided to the PVPC from MassGIS
Dated: 10/23/21

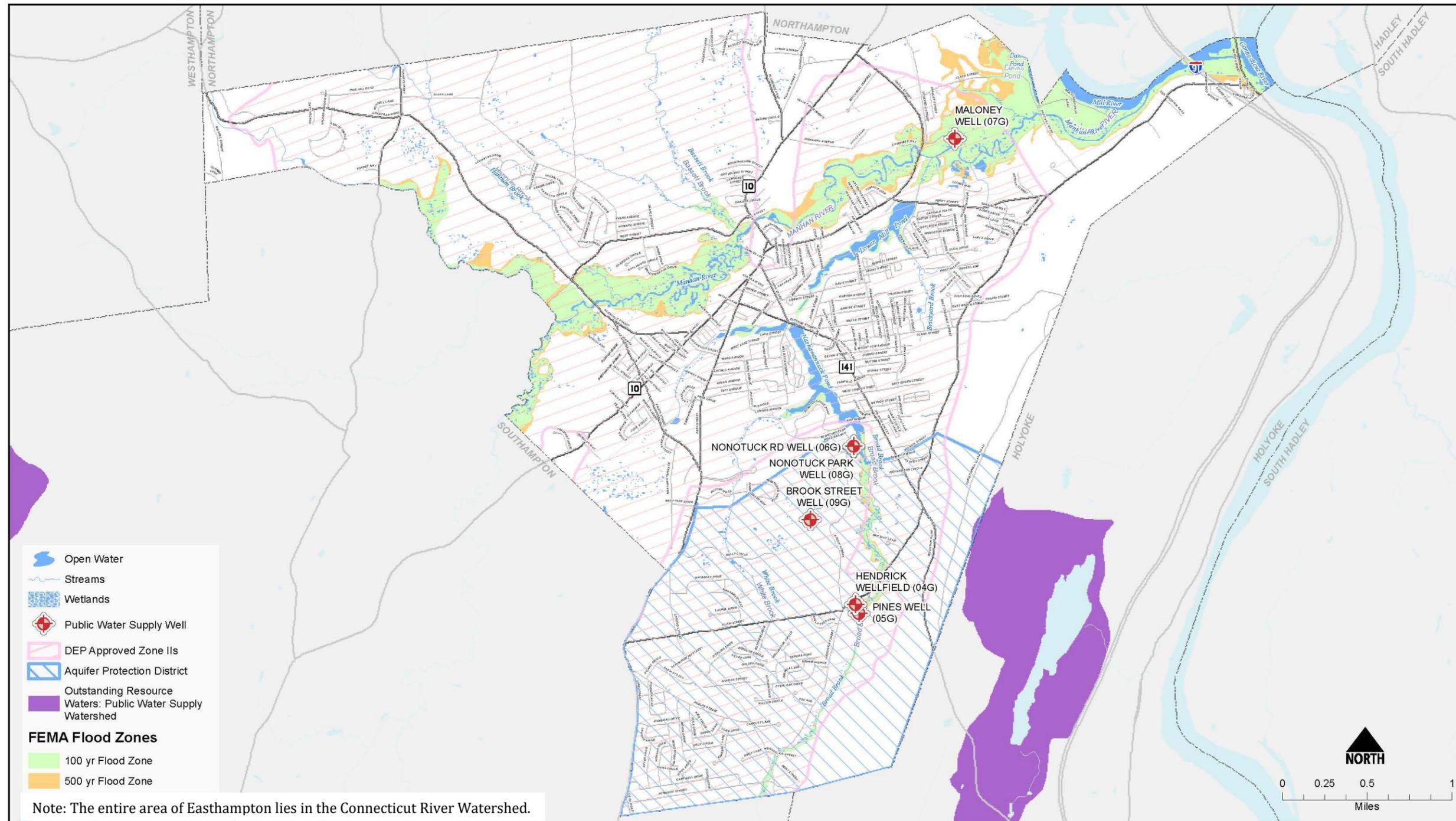




REGIONAL CONTEXT
 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan
EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
 MAJOR ROADS: MASSGIS
 WATER BODIES: MASSGIS
 WATERSHEDS: MASSGIS
 Aerial Imagery: Google Earth
 Design: [unreadable]

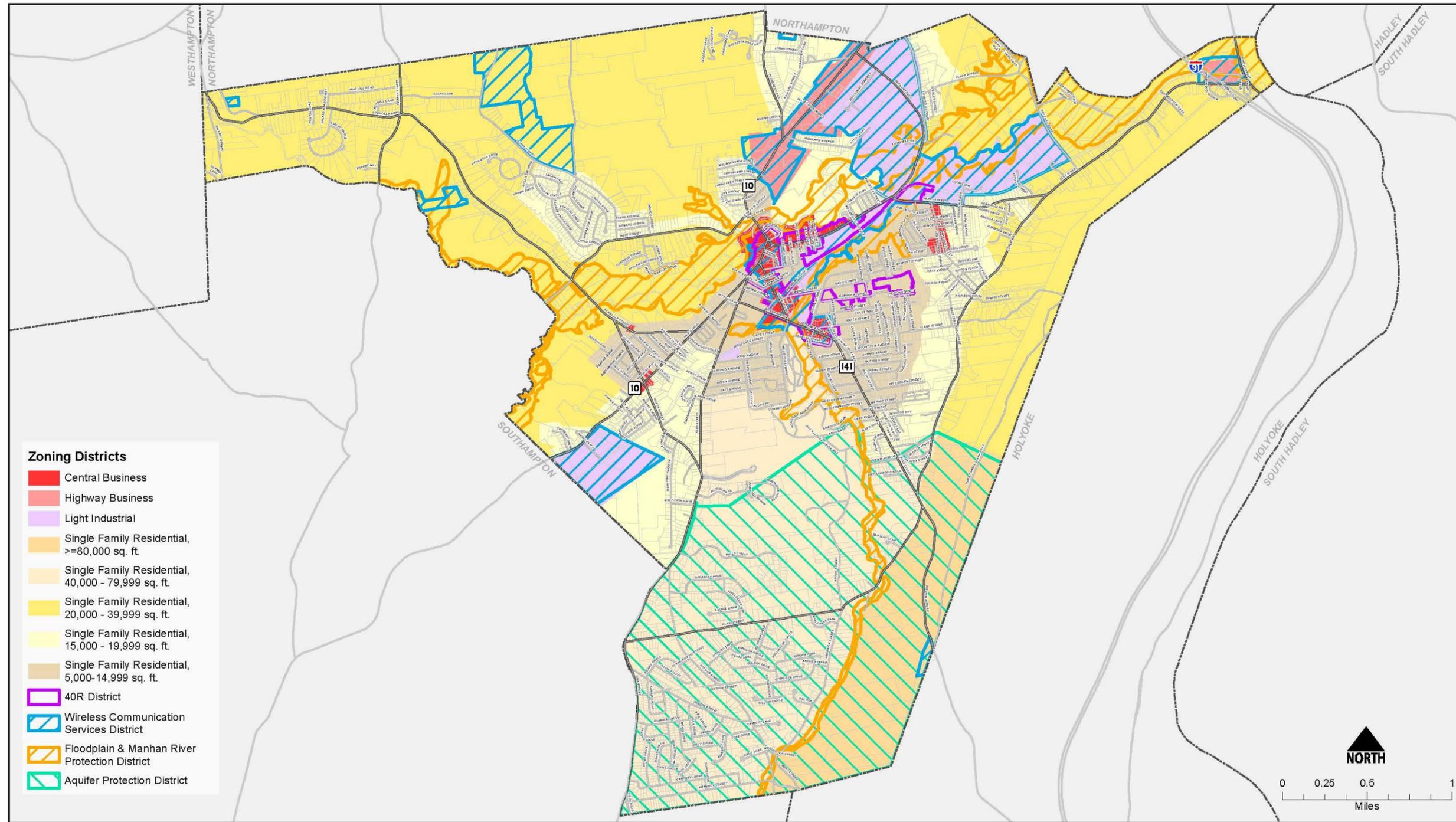


WATER RESOURCES
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

EASTHAMPTON, MA

DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
Dolinger 10/23/20





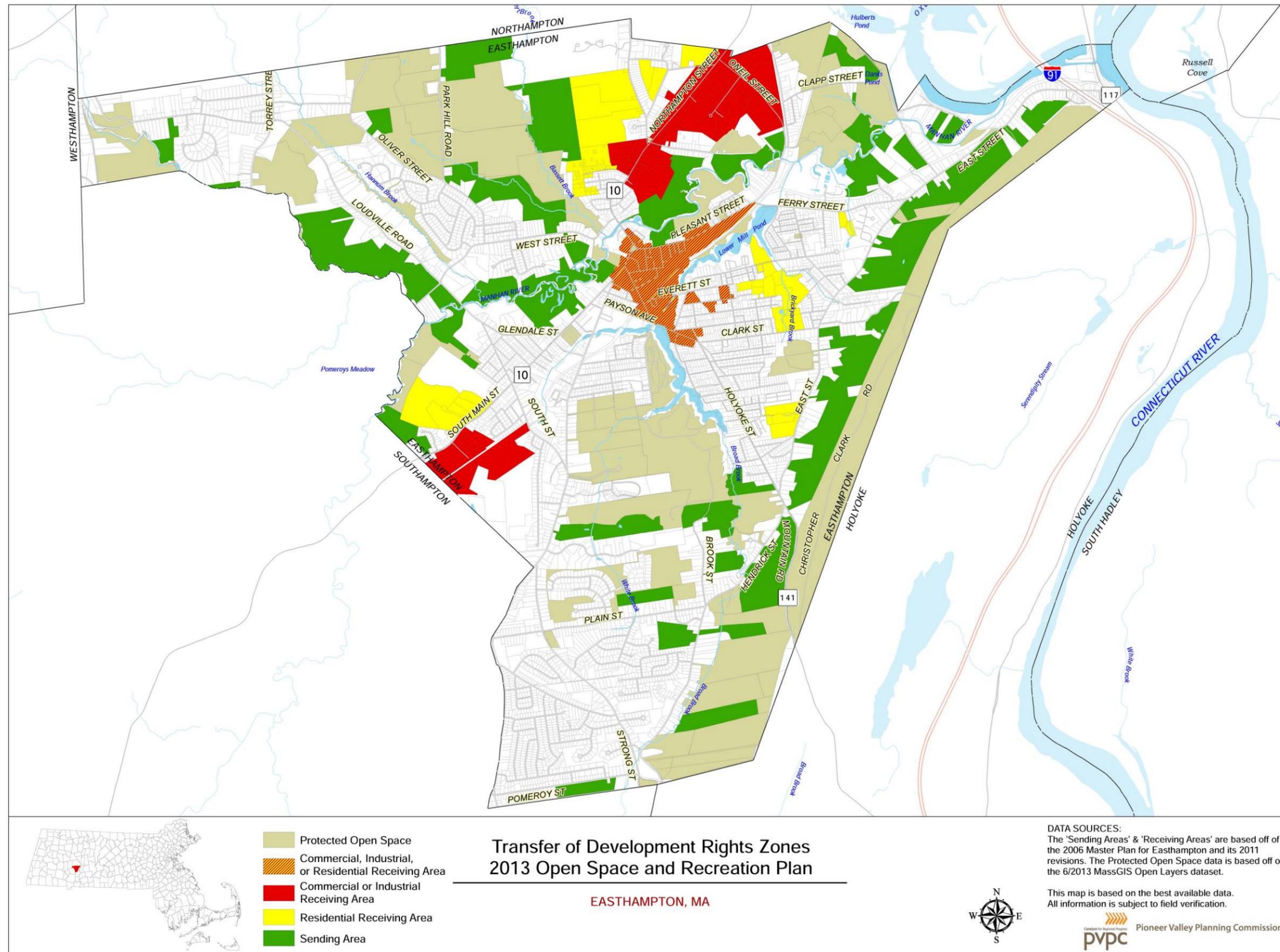
ZONING
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

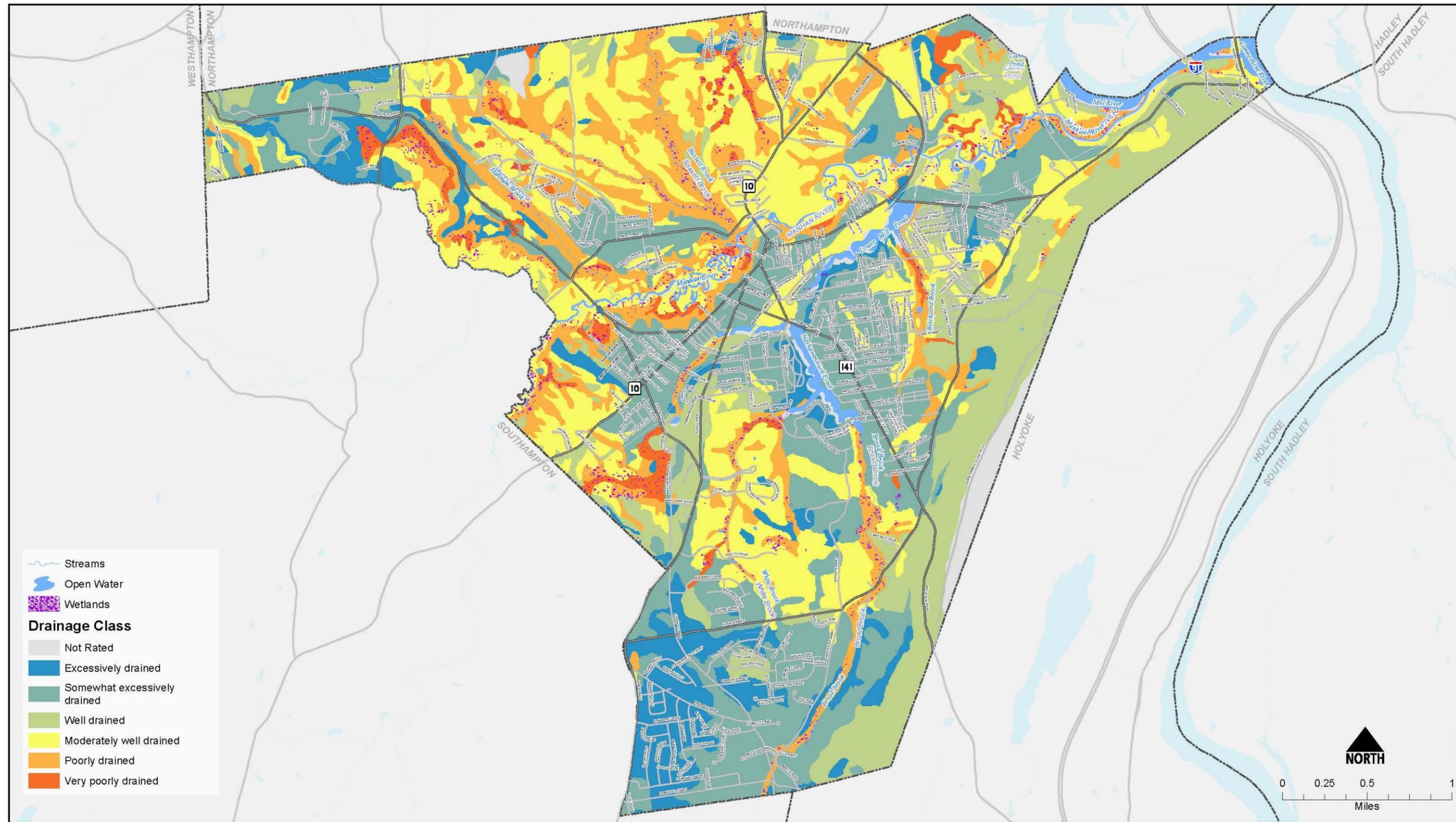
EASTHAMPTON, MA

DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
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MASS GIS Office of Geographic Information
A Sustainable Resource for Computerized Technology and Data

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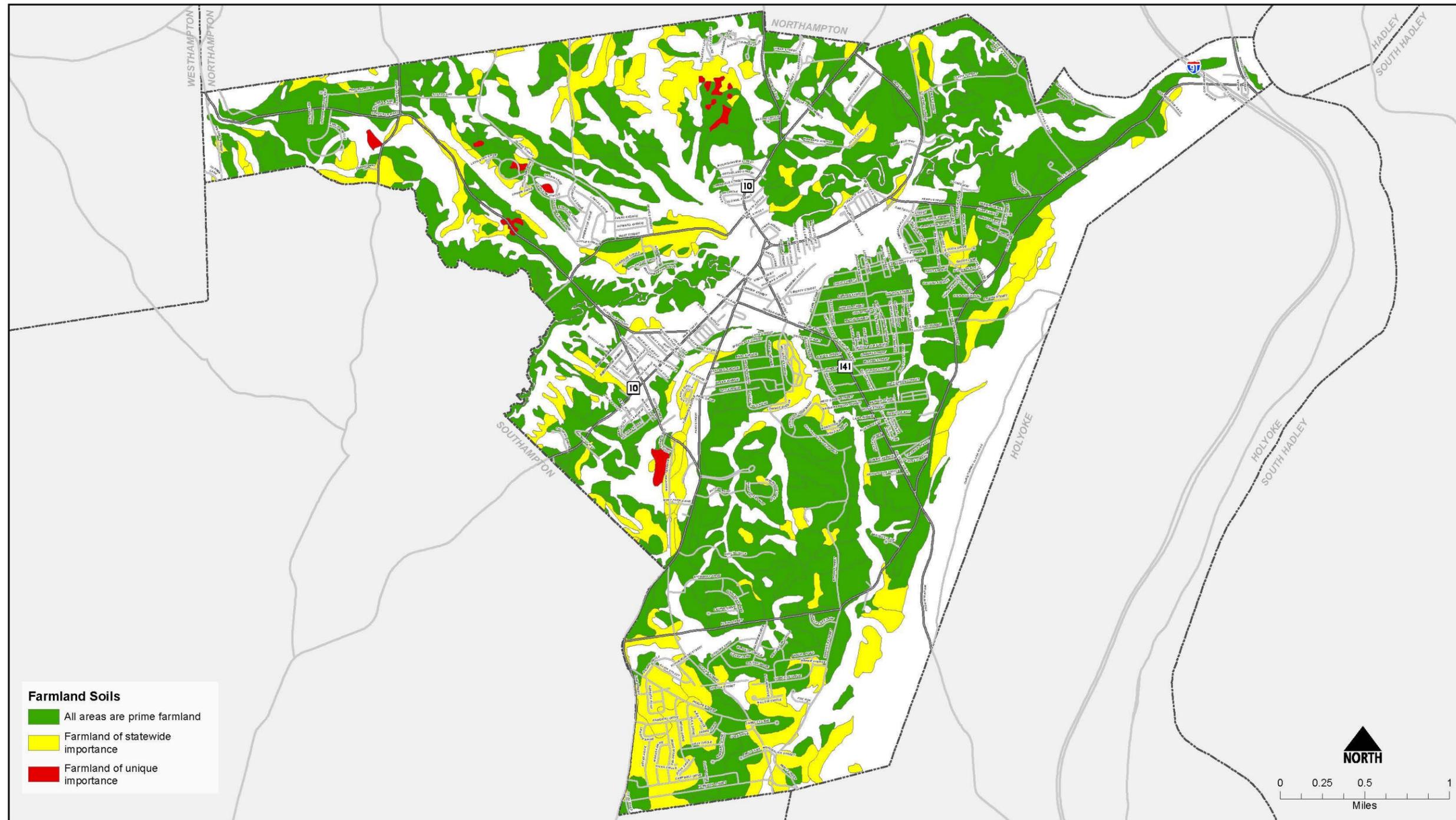
SOIL DRAINAGE
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan
EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
 MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
 This map is based on the best available data.
 All information is subject to field verification.
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MASS GIS Office of Geographic Information
 A Service Bureau for Computer Technology and Data

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FARMLAND SOILS
(including developed areas)
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan
EASTHAMPTON, MA

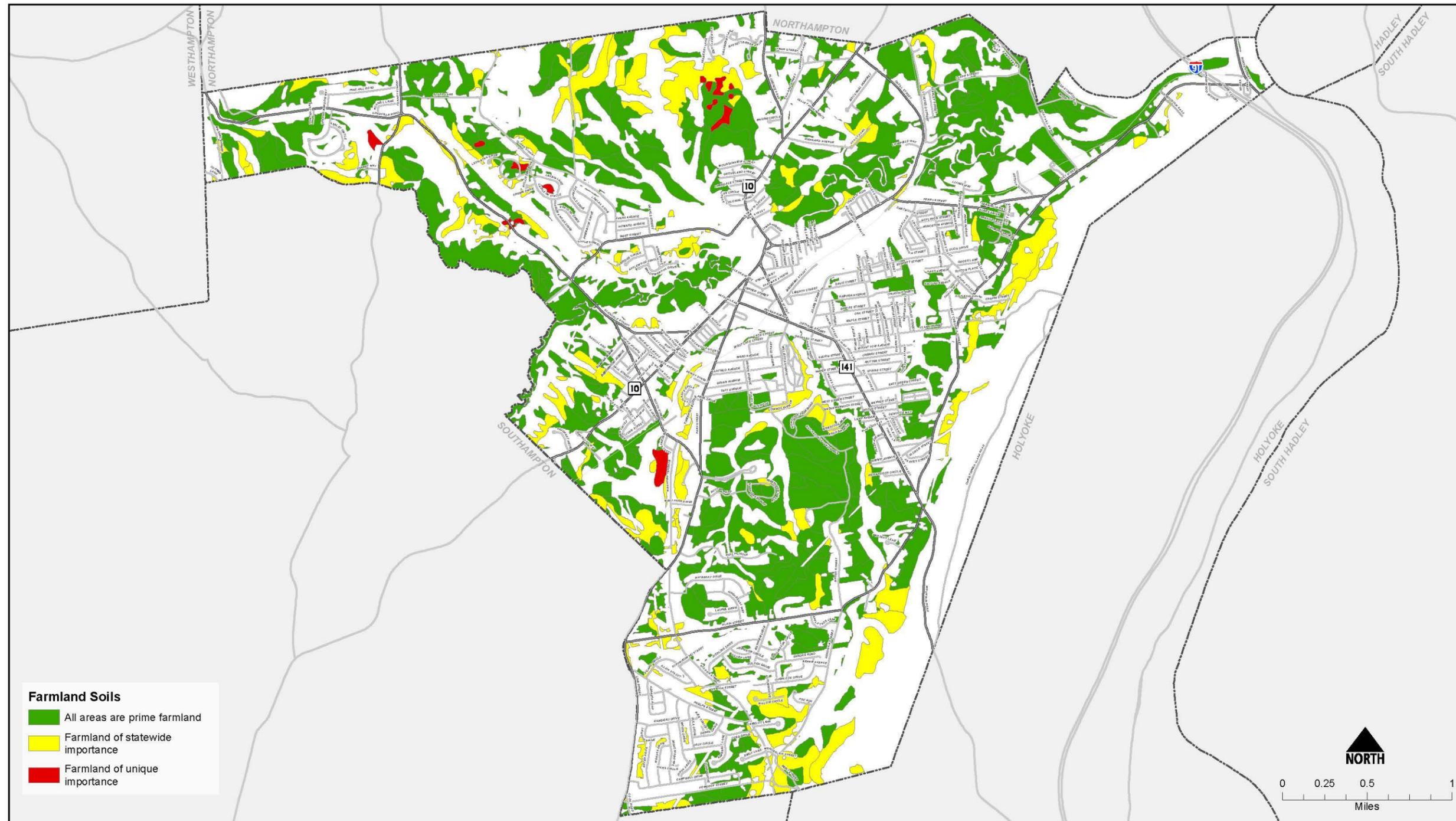


DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
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A Statewide Resource for Geospatial Technology and Data

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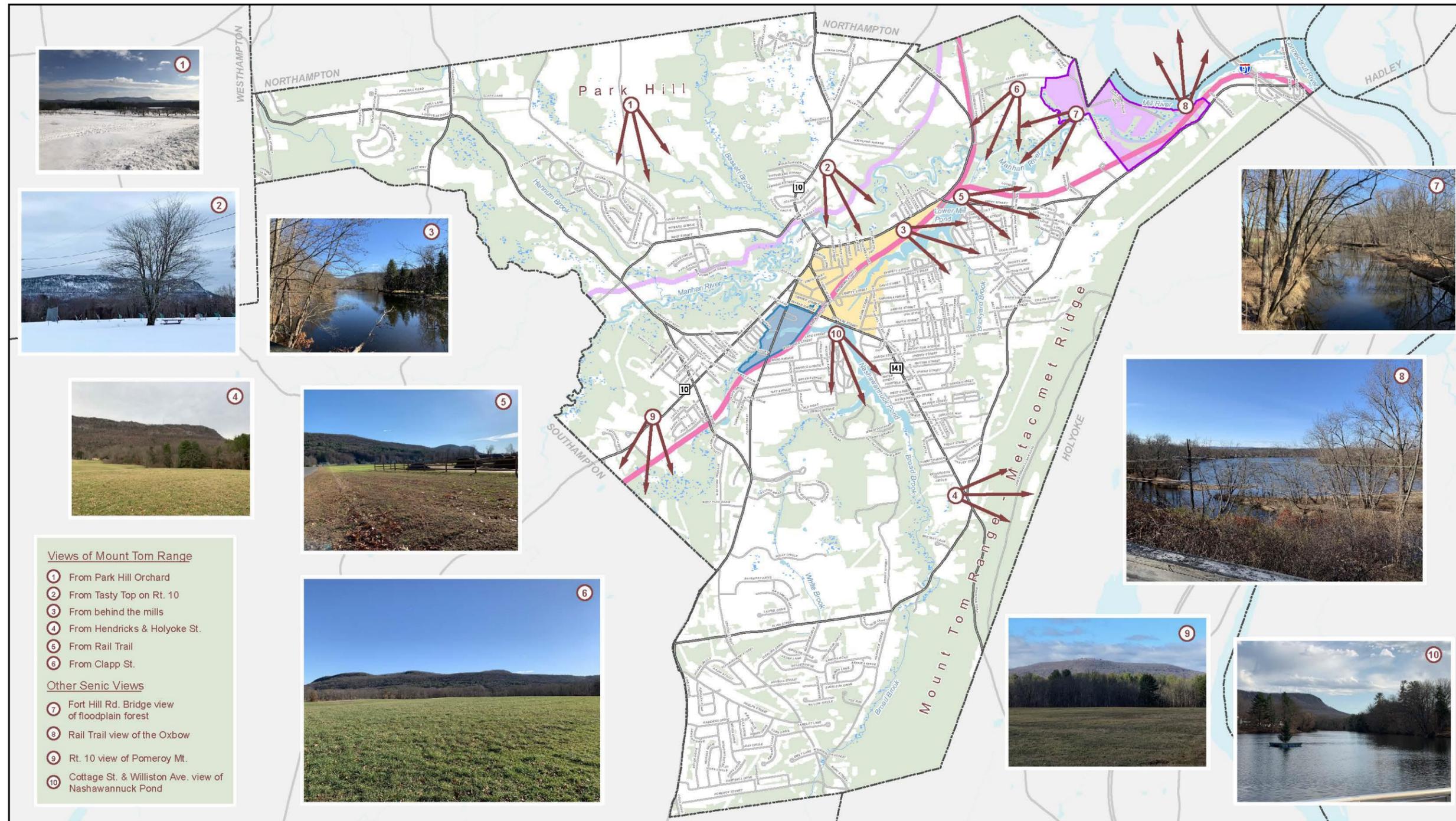
FARMLAND SOILS IN UNDEVELOPED AREAS
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
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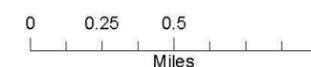




- Manhan Rail Trail
- Hampshire Hampden Canal (1829 - 1847)
- Easthampton Town Center
- Williston Northampton School
- Pascammuck Old Settlement
- Open Water
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Forested Area

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments 2020 Open Space and Recreation

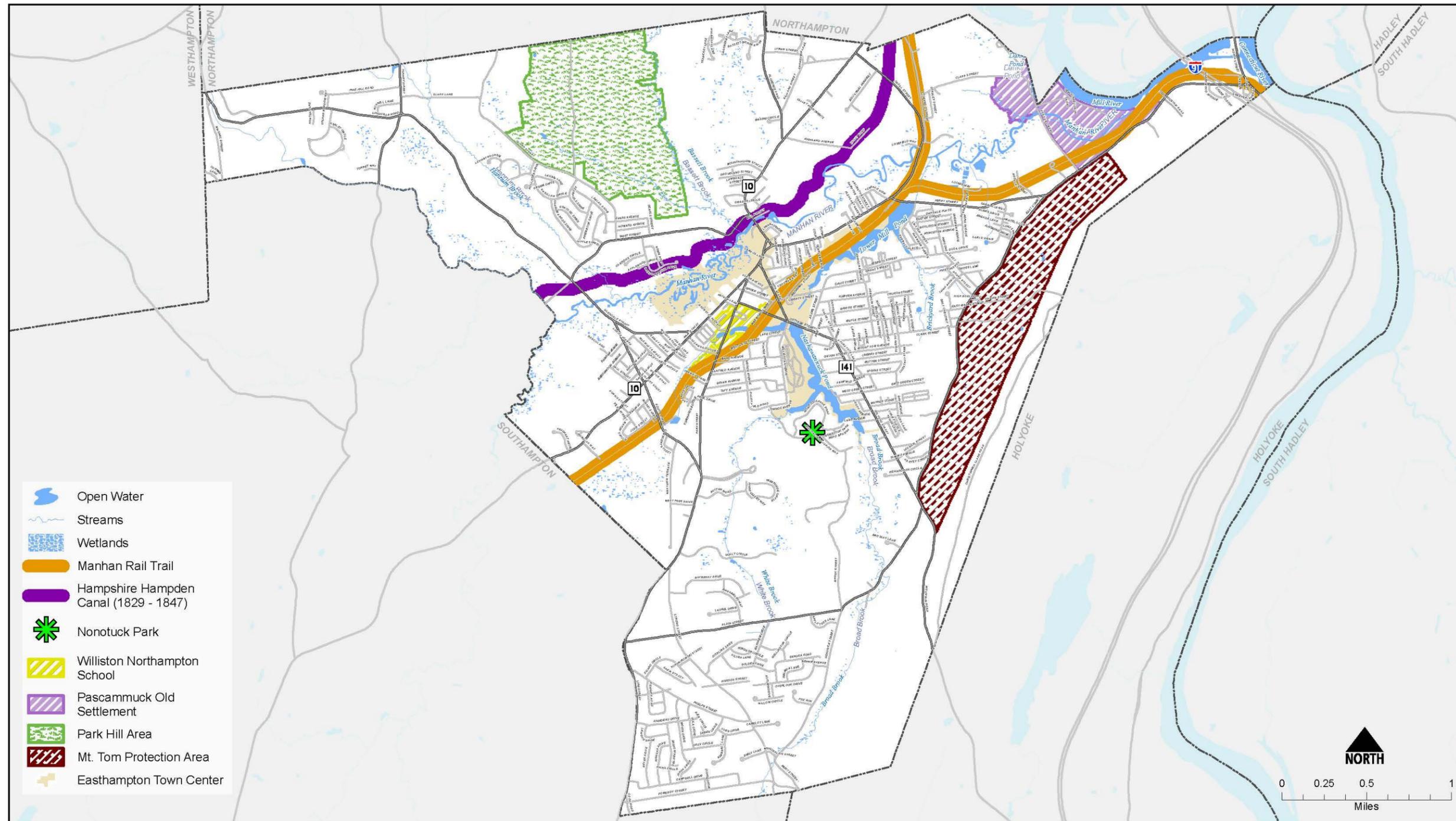
EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
Dolinger 12/23/20

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Photos #2 - #10 - Mary Lou Swain.
All photos taken from the public right of way.





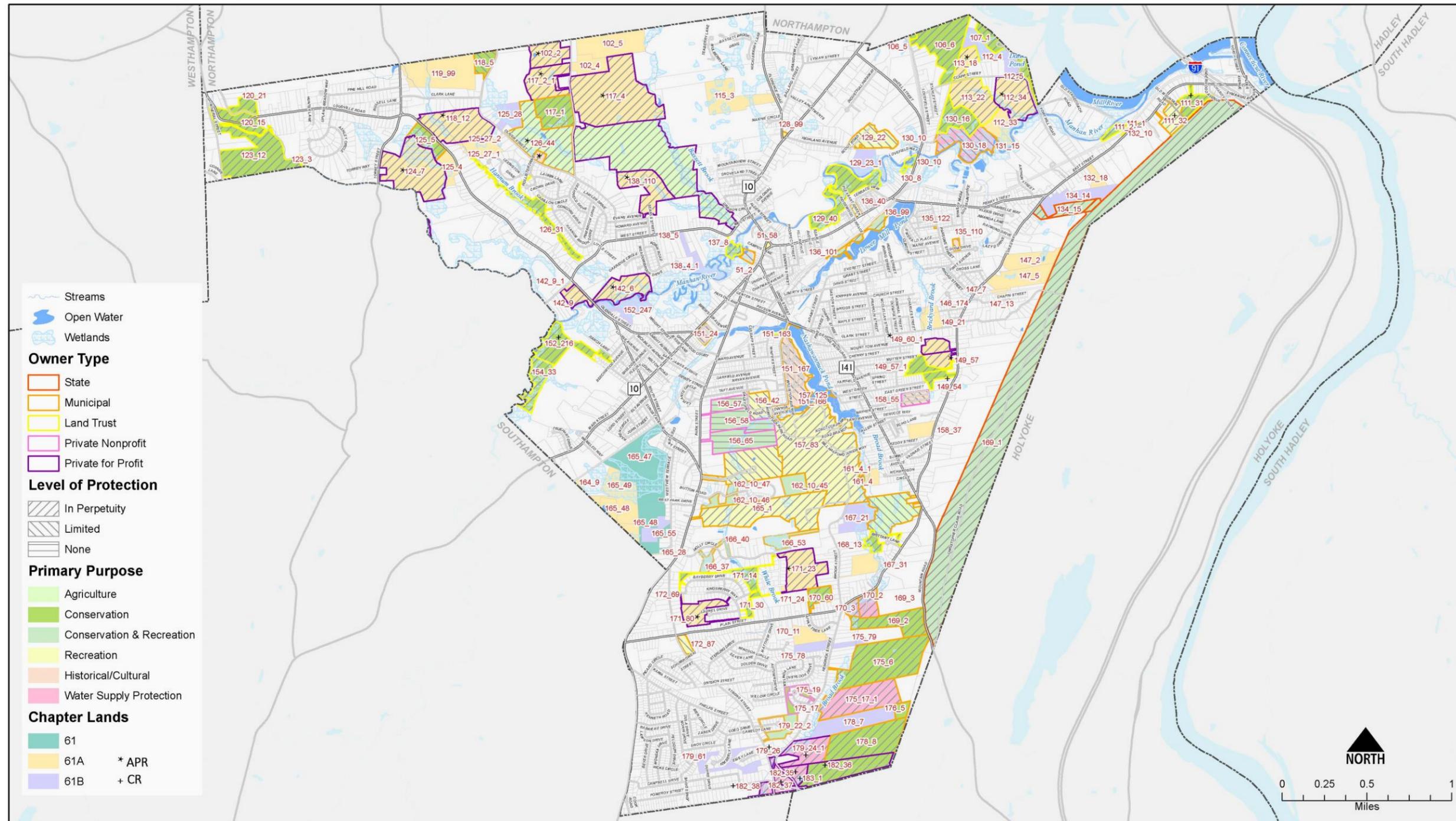
Cultural and Historic Resources 2020
Open Space and Recreation Plan

EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.
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PROTECTED & RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE
2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

EASTHAMPTON, MA



DATA SOURCES:
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
This map is based on the best available data.
All information is subject to field verification.



APPENDIX L: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL INTEREST

The table below includes all protected, recreational, and open space lands in Easthampton, including public, private, and non-profit parcels. The Parcel ID's correspond with the labels on the Protected Recreational, and Open Space Map in Appendix K.

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	FEE_OWNER	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Public Access	LEV_PRO T	Grants
112_34	CLAPP ST	Burt Jairus S APR	Burt Jairus S and William C		30.6	Agriculture	No	P	None
118_12	OLIVER ST	Chicoine Gabrielle B APR	Chicoine Gabrielle B		41.3	Agriculture	No	P	None
175_6	HENDRICK ST RR	Boruchowski Parcel	City	City Con Com	68.2	Conservation	Yes	P	SH
151_167	WILLISTON AVE	Brookside Cemetery	City	City Parks & Rec	33.2	Historical/Cultural	Yes	L	None
129_22	HIGHLAND AVE	Camp Cook	City	City	17.5	Recreation	Yes	L	None
156_42	LOWNDS AVE	Daley Field	City	City Parks & Rec	13.1	Recreation	Yes	L	None
135_110	JANES LN	East Street Cemetery	City	City Parks & Rec	1.8	Historical/Cultural	Yes	L	None
178_8	HENDRICK ST RR	Easthampton Town Forest	City	City Con Com	45.8	Conservation	Yes	P	None
117_1	PARK HILL RD	Echodale Farm	City	City Con Com	24.1	Conservation	Yes	P	SH
169_3, 170_2	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City	City DPW Water Division	10.2	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None
175_17, 175_17_1	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City	City DPW Water Division	43.5	Water Supply Protection	No	P	ALA
170_3	HENDRICK ST	Hendrick Street Wellfield	City	City DPW Water Division	4.5	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None
128_99	FLORENCE RD	Katherine Root Wayside Park	City	City Parks & Rec	0.3	Recreation	Yes	P	None
130_18	LOVEFIELD ST RR	Lovefield Wellfield	City	City DPW Water Division	28.8	Water Supply Protection	Unknown	L	None
136_99	PLEASANT ST RR	Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park)	City	City Parks & Rec	4.2	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	USH
136_101	PLEASANT ST	Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park, Western parcel))	City	City Parks & Rec	3.9	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	USH
51_58	MAIN ST	Main Street (Pulaski) Park	City	City Parks & Rec	0.6	Recreation	Yes	L	None
151_24	MAIN ST CEMETARY	Main Street Cemetery	City	City Parks & Rec	5.4	Historical/Cultural	Yes	L	None
111_32	EAST ST	Mount Tom North Trailhead Park	City	City Con Com	12.5	Recreation	Yes	P	PARC, CPA
151_166	NASHAWANNUCK POND	Nashawannuck Pond Promenade Park	City	City Parks & Rec	0.2	Recreation	Yes	P	PARC, CPA
157_83	PARK ST	Nonotuck Park	City	City Parks & Rec	139.3	Recreation	Yes	P	USH
165_1	PARK ST	Nonotuck Park	City	City Parks & Rec	64.0	Recreation	Yes	P	None
118_5	OLIVER ST	Oliver Street Land	City	City	8.9	Conservation	Unknown	L	None
135_122	FEDERAL ST	Parson Street Park (Tot Lot Playground)	City	City Parks & Rec	0.1	Recreation	Yes	P	None
172_87	STRONG ST	Plain and Strong Street Playground	City	City Parks & Rec	3.9	Recreation	Yes	L	None
170_60	BROOK ST	Plain Street (Guistina) Conservation Area	City	City Con Com	8.7	Conservation	Yes	P	SH
136_40	PLEASANT GRN PK	Pleasant Green	City	City Parks & Rec	2.2	Recreation	Yes	P	None
160_56	HOLYOKE ST	Town Agricultural Land (Hendrick and Holyoke St.)	City	City	32.3	Agriculture	No	L	None
157_125	WATER LN	Town Beach (Boathouse Beach)	City	City Parks & Rec	0.9	Recreation	Yes	L	None

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	FEE_OWNER	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Public Access	LEV_PRO T	Grants	
126_44	OLIVER ST	Town Farm (APR)	City	City Con Com	53.6	Agriculture	Limited	P	None	
126_44	OLIVER ST	Town Farm (HPR)	City	SMOC (South Middlesex Opportunity Council in Framingham)	2.5	Historical/Cultural	Yes	P	None	
51_2	MAIN ST RR	Town Hall Backland	City	City	3.1	Historical/Cultural	Yes	L	None	
157_83	PARK ST	White Brook Middle School	City	City School Department	43.9	Recreation	Yes	L	None	
125_5	LOUDVILLE RD		City	City Con Com	12.0	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
169_2	MOUNTAIN RD		City	City Con Com	27.3	Conservation	Yes	P	SH	
176_5	MOUNTAIN RD		City	City	4.8	Conservation	Unknown	X	None	
134_15	EAST ST	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation		11.9	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	None	
134_15	EAST ST	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation		1.9	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	None	
169_1	CHRISTOPHER CLARK RD	Mount Tom State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation		339.7	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	None	
149_60_1	EAST ST	Atmore_Droesher MLCT APR	Droesher Eilen J and Antonia M Atmore		8.4	Agriculture	No	P	None	
149_57	EAST ST	Atmore_Droesher MLCT APR	Droesher Eilen J and Antonia M Atmore		8.5	Agriculture	No	P	None	
126_45		Echodale Farm APR	Echodale Farm LLC		139.9	Agriculture	No	P	None	
171_23	HOLLY CIR	Gawle APR	Gawle Bernard P and Julia A		30.1	Agriculture	No	P	None	
171_80	OPEN SPACE WEST	Gawle APR	Gawle Bernard P and Julia A		16.0	Agriculture	No	P	None	
111_31	EAST ST	Little Mountain Conservation Area	Kestrel Land Trust		10.2	Conservation	Yes	P	CPA	
182_36, 183_1	BURT ST	Hendrick Street Wells CR	Kuzeja Edward J etal		7.4	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None	
182_37	POMEROY ST	Hendrick Street Wells CR	Kuzeja Edward J etal		2.3	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None	
179_24_1	HENDRICK ST	Kuzeja CR	Kuzeja RT		21.0	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None	
179_26	STRONG ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G		0.9	Water Supply Protection	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None
182_38	POMEROY ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G		3.4	Water Supply Protection	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None
182_35	STRONG ST	Kuzeja-Block/Fournier CR	Kuzeja-Block Anna and Fournier Bertha K and John G		5.5	Water Supply Protection	Water Supply Protection	No	P	None
142_9	POMEROY MEADOW RD	Laurin Carol A APR	Laurin Carol and Ronald H		8.2	Agriculture	No	P	None	
142_6	GLENDALE ST	Laurin Carol A APR	Laurin Carol and Ronald H		23.8	Agriculture	No	P	None	
138_110	EVANS AVE	Laurin Carol A APR	Laurin Carol and Ronald H		27.1	Agriculture	No	P	None	
130_16	LOVEFIELD ST	Old Trolley Line Conservation Area	LR Pomeroy		19.7	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
113_22	CLAPP ST	Old Trolley Line Wildlife Refuge	LR Pomeroy		30.3	Agriculture	No	P	None	
107_1	COOMBS RD	Arcadia Wildlife Refuge	Massachusetts Audubon Society		8.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
106_6	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society		41.3	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
112_5	FORT HILL RD	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society		4.0	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
106_5	LOVEFIELD ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society		0.8	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
107_2	CLAPP ST	Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society		1.0	Conservation	Yes	P	None	
102_2	PARK HILL RD	Micka	Micka Stephen P and Joan		18.2	Agriculture	No	P	None	
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		55.7	Conservation	Yes	P	None	

Parcel ID	Street	SITE_NAME	FEE_OWNER	MANAGER	Lot Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Public Access	LEV_PRO T	Grants
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		0.2	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		0.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		0.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		6.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		0.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_12	MINERAL ST	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		0.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
120_15	DRURY LN	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		6.4	Conservation	Yes	P	None
120_21	LOUDVILLE RD	Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest	New England Forestry Foundation		7.5	Conservation	Yes	P	None
124_7	TORREY ST	Noble Farm	Noble Fred H and Ruth A		59.6	Agriculture	No	P	None
149_57_1	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		8.9	Conservation	Yes	P	None
149_54	EAST ST	Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		6.1	Conservation	Yes	P	CPA
168_13	BRITTANY LN	Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		7.0	Conservation	Yes	P	None
130_8	LOVEFIELD ST	Dwyer Family Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		0.6	Conservation	Yes	P	None
129_40	PLEASANT ST RR	Edward Dwyer Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		34.4	Conservation	Yes	P	None
126_31	CARILLON CIR	Hannum Brook Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		17.6	Conservation	Yes	P	None
151_163	LAKE ST	John Bator Park	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		0.6	Recreation and Conservation	Yes	P	None
124_36	ASHLEY CIR RR	North Branch Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		2.2	Conservation	Yes	P	None
132_10	EAST ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		0.0	Conservation	Yes	P	None
111_2	RIVER ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		3.9	Conservation	Yes	P	None
111_1	EAST ST	Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		0.7	Conservation	Yes	P	None
113_18	CLAPP ST	Pomeroy Farm	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		10.8	Agriculture	Unknown	P	None
154_33	MAIN ST RR	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		16.6	Conservation	Yes	P	None
152_216	PAUL ST	Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		24.4	Conservation	Yes	P	CPA
137_8	WEST ST	S. K. Drondowski Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		4.1	Conservation	Yes	P	None
130_10	LOVEFIELD ST	Tichy Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		2.2	Conservation	Yes	P	None
171_14	BAYBERRY DR	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		11.8	Conservation	Yes	P	None
171_30	OPEN SPACE SOUTH	White Brook Plains Conservation Area	Pascommuck Conservation Trust		4.4	Conservation	Yes	P	None
123_3	ASHLEY CIR		Pascommuck Conservation Trust		0.8	Conservation	Yes	P	None
158_55	MAYHER ST	St Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cemetery	Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield		7.9	Historical/Cultural	Unknown	L	None
117_2_1	PARK HILL RD	Sena	Sena Lawrence G		1.8	Agriculture	No	P	None
117_2_1	PARK HILL RD	Sena	Sena Lawrence G		24.9	Agriculture	No	P	None
117_4	PARK HILL RD	Sena APR	Sena Lawrence G		97.3	Agriculture	No	P	None
182_36, 183_1	BURT ST	Kuzeja CR	Trustees of the Kuzeja Real Estate Trust		36.4	Conservation	No	P	None
156_65	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL		28.2	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	N	None
156_57	PARK ST RR	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL		10.9	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	N	None
156_58	TAFT AVE	Williston Northampton School	WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL		24.3	Recreation and Conservation	Limited	N	None

Notes:

Grants: ALA - Aquifer Lands Acquisition, CPA - Community Preservation Act, PARC - Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, SH - State Self-help, USH - Urban Self-help

Manager: City=City of Easthampton; Con Com=Conservation Commission; DPW=Department of Public Works; Parks and Rec= Parks and Recreation Commission; SMOC=South Middlesex Opportunity Council in Framingham

APPENDIX M: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PUBLIC SURVEY

Easthampton is in the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Your responses to this questionnaire will help City committees, boards and departments set priorities for open space and recreation planning and policy, and will also help the City qualify for state and federal grant programs.

Open space may include both public and private lands. Recreation includes active and passive recreation. Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions, place minimal stress on a site’s resources, and are often compatible with natural resource protection.

This survey is a total of 17 questions split into 5 short sections: About you; Where do you recreate in Easthampton, and how often?; Activities and facilities in Easthampton; Resource protection and resilience; and, Planning ahead.

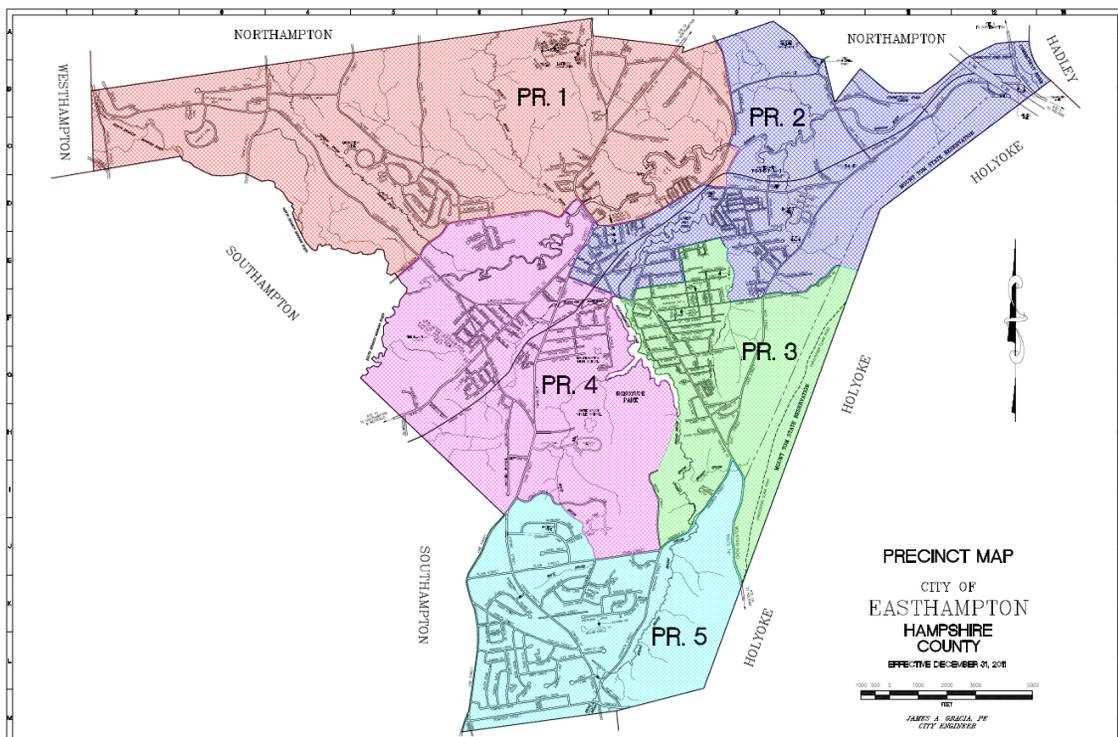
ABOUT YOU (We encourage each member of your household to take this survey individually!)

1. What is the age of the person completing this survey?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

2. Which Easthampton voting precinct do you live in? (See map below)

- Precinct 1
- Precinct 2
- Precinct 3
- Precinct 4
- Precinct 5
- I don't live in Easthampton



3. Is there a park, trail, or conservation area within a ten minute walk from your home that you use?

Yes No

WHERE DO YOU RECREATE IN EASTHAMPTON, AND HOW OFTEN?

The following questions ask about active recreational facilities such as ball fields and playgrounds (Question #4), Nonotuck Park facilities (Question #5), passive recreation facilities such as trails and conservation areas (Question #6), and water resources such as ponds, brooks, and rivers (Question #7).

4. How often do you use the following active recreational facilities? (Note that Nonotuck Park facilities, trails and other passive recreation facilities, and water resources facilities will be addressed in the following questions):

	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Once every few years	Never	Don't know where it is
Community Garden at Park Hill Road						
Manhan Rail Trail						
Pleasant Green Playground						
Plain and Strong Streets Playground						
Center School Playground						
Maple School Playground						
White Brook Middle School Fields						
Other Schools						
Nashawannuck Pond Promenade						
Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park)						
Daley Field						
Williston athletic facilities						
Other Parks (specify below)						

5. How often do you use the following facilities at Nonotuck Park?

	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Once every few years	Never	I don't know where this is
Outdoor pool						
Spray Park						
Baseball/softball fields						
Soccer fields						
Pickleball courts						
Bocce courts						
Tennis courts						
Volleyball courts						
Basketball courts						
Horseshoe area						
Picnic sites/ pavilions						
Playgrounds						
Toteman Nature Trail						
Other Nonotuck Park Trails						

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

6. How often do you use the following trails and conservation areas in Easthampton for recreation? (Note that water resources will be addressed in the following question):

	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Once every few years	Never	I don't know where this is
Boruchowski Conservation Area						
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Audubon)						
Mount Tom State Reservation						
Edward J. Dwyer Memorial Conservation Area						
Old Pascommuck Conservation Area						
Brickyard Brook Conservation Area						
Mutter's Field Accessible Trail (at Brickyard Brook)						
Pomeroy Meadow Conservation Area						
Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area						
Old Trolley Line Conservation Area						
John Bator Park						
Hannum Brook Conservation Area						
Katherine Root Wayside Park						
Pulaski Park (at the Northampton St, Main St, Pleasant St rotary)						
Giustina Conservation Area						
Other (specify below)						

7. How often do you use the following water resources in Easthampton for recreation? (e.g. fishing, boating, and swimming):

	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Once every few years	Never	I don't know where this is
Nashawannuck Pond						
Nashawannuck Pond boat launch						
Manhan River						
Bassett Brook						
Hannum Brook						
Lower Mill Pond						
Lower Mill Pond boat launch						
Connecticut River						
State boat ramp at Oxbow						
Other Connecticut River locations						
Other water resources in Easthampton? Specify:						

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES IN EASTHAMPTON

8. How do you use the water resources referenced in the question above?:

	Swimming	Fishing	Boating	Don't Use
Nashawannuck Pond				
Nashawannuck Pond boat launch				
Manhan River				
Bassett Brook				
Hannum Brook				
Lower Mill Pond				
Lower Mill Pond boat launch				
Connecticut River				
State boat ramp at Oxbow				
Other Connecticut River locations in Easthampton				
Other water resources in Easthampton Specify:				

9. Please check all of the following recreational activities that you do in Easthampton, and let us know how you feel about the facilities for these activities.

	Yes, I do this in Easthampton	No change needed to existing facilities	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be expanded	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be improved
Attend art and Cultural events				
ATV-ing				
Baseball/softball				
Basketball (outdoor)				
Biking/ cycling (on-road)				
Birding/ nature watching				
Boating (motorized)				
Bocce				
Camping				
Canoeing/ kayaking				
Cross country skiing				
Dog walking				
Fishing				
Football				
Frisbee golfing				
Horseback riding				
Horseshoes				
Hunting				
Ice skating/ice hockey				
Inline skating				
Jogging (sidewalks, on road)				

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

	Yes, I do this in Easthampton	No change needed to existing facilities	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be expanded	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be improved
Jogging (trail)				
Lacrosse				
Mountain biking (off-road)				
Off-road multi-use trails				
Pickleball				
Picnicking				
Playgrounds				
Scoterling/ one-wheeling				
Shuffleboard				
Skateboarding				
Snowmobiling				
Snowshoeing				
Soccer				
Swimming (in outdoor pool)				
Swimming/ wading (in ponds or streams)				
Tennis				
Volleyball (outdoor)				
Walking (on-road or sidewalk)				
Walking/hiking (off road, trail)				
Other (Specify below)				

If you selected that you want to expand or improve recreational opportunities in the question above, feel free to tell us which specific facilities need to be expanded or improved. _____

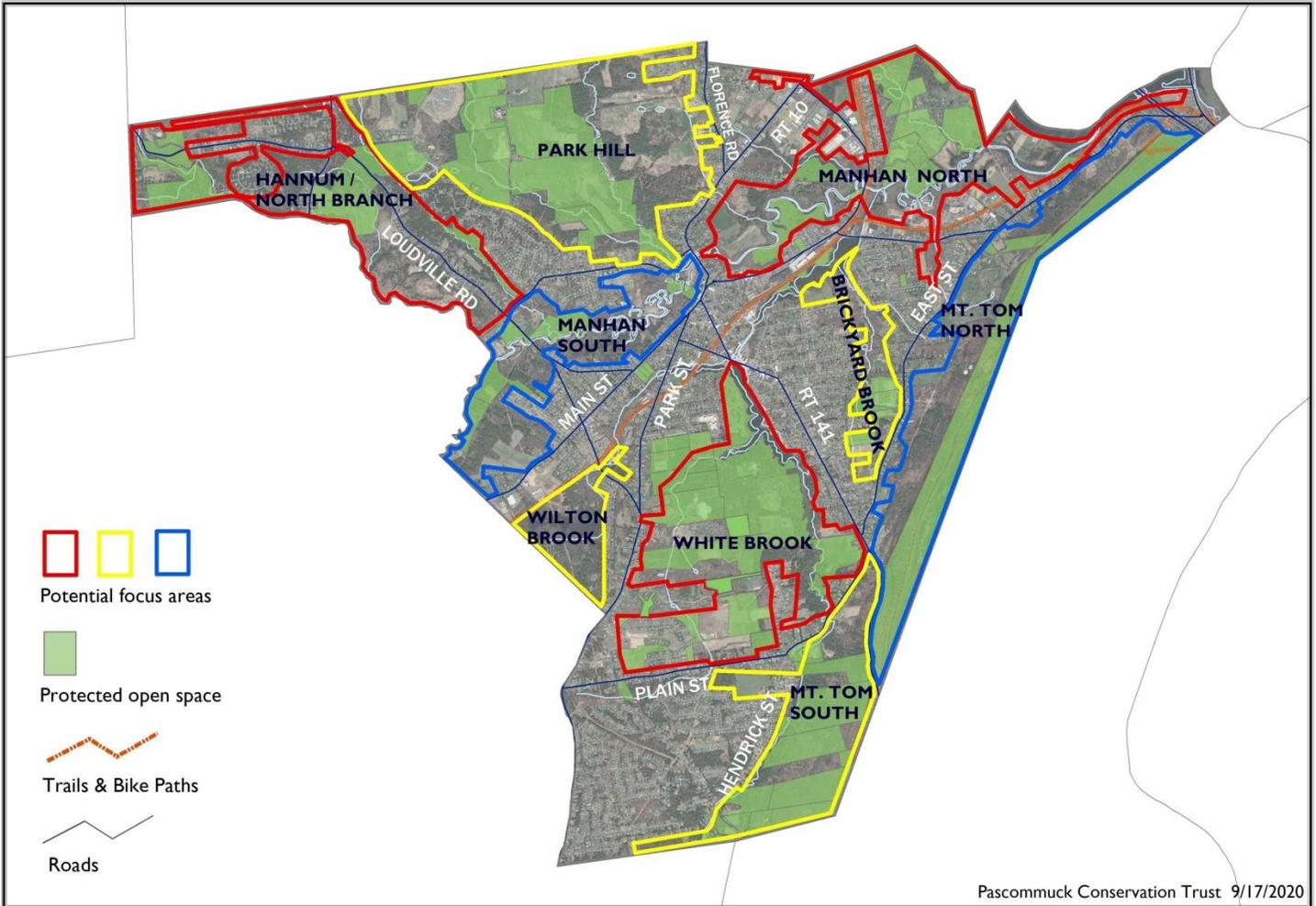
RESOURCE PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE

10. How important is it to you to protect these natural resources in Easthampton?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Unimportant
Farmland				
Forests				
Groundwater/aquifer				
Historic and cultural resources				
Natural floodplains				
Open space (undeveloped land)				
Rivers, streams, ponds				
Scenic views				
Wildlife habitat				
Other natural resources in Easthampton (Specify below)				

11. Of the highlighted "zones" on the map below, where is land protection most important? Please rank the importance of pursuing land protection in the areas shown on the map, "High" should be the highest priority for land protection, and "Low" the lowest priority. You may also or add your own option/focus area in the comment option below.

EASTHAMPTON: Potential focus areas for conservation



	High	Medium	Low
Hannum / North Branch			
Park Hill Area			
Manhan North			
Manhan South			
Brickyard Brook			
Mt. Tom North			
Wilton Brook			
White Brook			
Mt. Tom South			

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

Other area in Easthampton (Specify below)			
--	--	--	--

12. The next question asks you about specific issues related to open space and recreation planning. These issues are described below.

Climate resilience: The ability of a community and its facilities (such as roads, buildings, parks, water, food, & electrical supplies) to survive and thrive in the face of climate change.

Examples: Protection of floodplains and forests can reduce neighborhood flooding and temper the effects of rising temperatures.

Food security: The accessibility to healthy, affordable food for all community members, and the capacity of a community's food supply to recover quickly in the face of disruptive local or outside events.

Example: Preserving and enhancing local farming and farmland can enhance food security.

Environmental equity: The even distribution of environmental benefits (access to parks, clean air, playing fields) and environmental risks (exposure to pollution, toxic substances, unhealthy buildings) among a community's racial, ethnic, gender, and economic groups.

Example: People who live within walking distance of parks are more likely to meet recommended levels of physical activity than those who live beyond walking distance. Trails which extend into all neighborhoods support the physical health and wellbeing of all residents.

13. When you consider open space and recreation in Easthampton, how important are the following issues to your thinking?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Unimportant
Climate resilience				
Food security				
Environmental equity				
Loss of open space to development				

PLANNING AHEAD

14. Please indicate your level of support for making new connections from the Manhan Rail Trail to the following locations:

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Do Not Support
Neighborhoods				
Parks				
New School				
Other locations in Easthampton Specify:				

15. Please indicate your level of support for creating the following pedestrian connections to and over local water resources:

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Do Not Support
Lower Mill Pond foot bridge				
Nashawannuck Pond foot bridge (connecting Holyoke Street to Nonotuck Park)				
Bridges over other ponds, streams, or rivers in Easthampton that create a pedestrian barrier Specify:				

16. Have you increased your use or enjoyment of open space or recreational opportunities in Easthampton as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (Circle one)

Yes No

17. Do you have anything else to tell us about your thoughts on Easthampton’s open spaces and/or recreational opportunities?

18. Would you like us to contact you about future Open Space and Recreation Plan Update meetings or other project milestones? If so, please provide your email address below.

Thank you for taking our survey!

Completed paper surveys can be deposited in **the drop box at the municipal building, 50 Payson Ave.**

The survey will be open until November 15th. Interim survey results will be presented at a public meeting on November 5, and final results will be included in the final Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, expected to be released early spring of 2021.

Did you find this survey interesting? Join us for more!

Virtual Public Visioning Session

For the Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Virtual Meeting, November 5th, 6-8pm

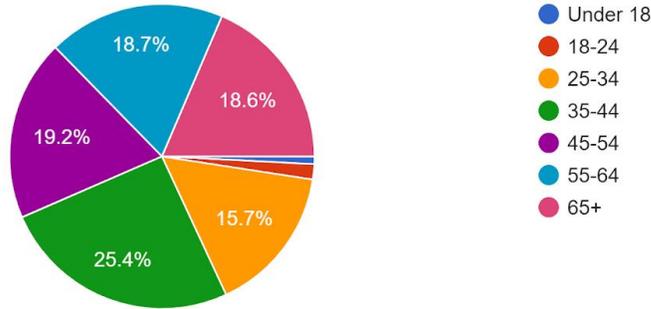
Email planning@easthamptonma.gov or go to www.easthamptonma.gov/osrp for meeting details.

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

SURVEY RESULTS

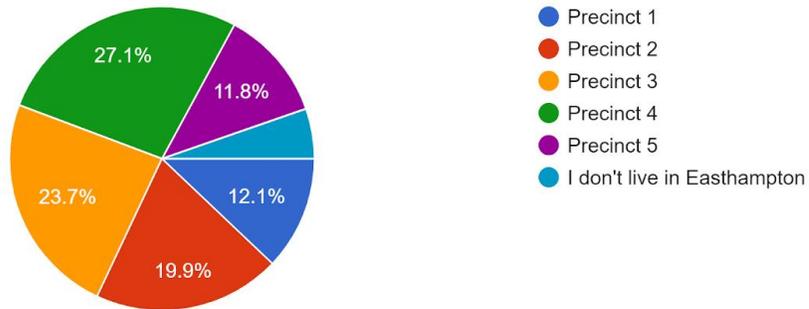
What is the age of the person completing this survey?

619 responses



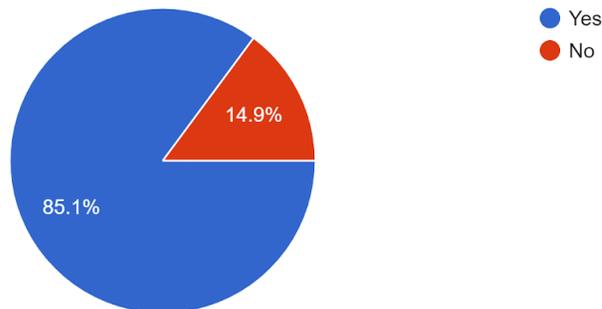
2. Which Easthampton voting precinct do you live in?

619 responses



3. Is there a park, trail, or conservation area within a ten minute walk from your home that you use?

619 responses



4. How often do you use the following active recreational facilities? (Note that Nonotuck Park facilities, trails and other passive recreation facilities, and water resources facilities will be addressed in the following questions)

	Few times per year	I don't know where this is	Monthly	Never	Once every few years	Weekly
Community Garden at Park Hill Road	67	111	3	391	39	8
Manhan Rail Trail	128	3	136	18	23	311
Pleasant Green Playground	43	115	17	401	38	5
Plain and Strong Streets Playground	53	89	12	418	38	9
Center School Playground	48	94	7	434	28	8
Maple School Playground	33	78	11	439	36	22
White Brook Middle School Fields	69	50	21	410	62	7
Other schools	41	76	20	439	30	13
Nashawannuck Pond Promenade	171	11	175	60	30	172
Lower Mill Pond Park (Millside Park)	289	13	115	82	69	51
Daley Field	106	96	39	249	88	41
Williston athletic facilities	95	25	61	326	55	57
Other parks	74	73	72	231	26	142

5. How often do you use the following facilities at Nonotuck Park?

	Few times per year	I don't know where this is	Monthly	Never	Once every few years	Weekly
Outdoor pool	69	18	7	452	67	6
Spray Park	83	27	30	405	57	17
Baseball/softball fields	55	12	21	440	62	29
Soccer fields	79	14	49	388	55	34
Pickleball courts	25	69	13	470	20	22
Bocce courts	33	28	5	507	45	1
Tennis courts	64	20	20	461	43	11
Volleyball courts	28	49	6	491	42	3
Basketball courts	1	50	13	13	478	51
Horseshoe area	20	40	4	521	33	1
Picnic sites/ pavilions	146	11	27	265	160	10
Playgrounds	105	12	47	347	58	50
Toteman Nature Trail	143	56	112	140	63	105
Other Nonotuck Park Trails	120	38	100	140	68	152

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

6. How often do you use the following trails and conservation areas in Easthampton for recreation? (Note that water resources will be addressed in the following question.)						
	Few times per year	I don't know where this is	Monthly	Never	Once every few years	Weekly
Boruchowski Conservation Area	48	345	28	136	36	26
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Audubon)	239	8	122	73	117	60
Mount Tom State Reservation	184	1	162	26	70	175
Edward J. Dwyer Memorial Conservation Area	59	333	25	142	44	16
Old Pascommuck Conservation Area	95	253	46	142	64	19
Brickyard Brook Conservation Area	90	246	45	107	57	74
Mutter's Field Accessible Trail (at Brickyard Brook)	97	206	54	118	66	78
Pomeroy Meadow Conservation Area	81	274	36	149	55	24
Broad Brook Meadows Conservation Area	92	277	34	138	54	24
Old Trolley Line Conservation Area	98	267	46	129	55	24
John Bator Park	62	309	26	162	46	14
Hannum Brook Conservation Area	44	321	17	183	43	11
Katherine Root Wayside Park	25	264	11	275	39	5
Pulaski Park	124	35	51	268	122	19
Giustina Conservation Area	31	380	8	171	23	6
Other trails or conservation areas in Easthampton	46	199	34	278	23	39

7. How often do you use the following water resources in Easthampton for recreation (e.g. fishing, boating, and swimming)? (Note: the following question will ask how you use these water resources.)						
	Few times per year	I don't know where this is	Monthly	Never	Once every few years	Weekly
Nashawannuck Pond	170	14	59	236	98	42
Nashawannuck Pond boat launch	118	16	34	350	86	15
Manhan River	106	28	36	360	71	18
Bassett Brook	27	183	5	381	21	2
Hannum Brook	28	170	4	386	29	2
Lower Mill Pond	84	29	33	404	55	14
Lower Mill Pond boat launch	44	41	20	467	43	4
Connecticut River	129	16	42	286	122	24
State boat ramp at Oxbow	73	29	17	414	76	10
Other Connecticut River locations in Easthampton	33	67	19	460	33	6
Other water resources in Easthampton	27	119	10	453	8	2

8. How do you use the water resources referenced in the question above?				
	Boating	Don't use	Fishing	Swimming
Nashawannuck Pond	219	309	77	14
Nashawannuck Pond boat launch	208	383	23	5
Manhan River	74	446	53	46
Bassett Brook	7	588	16	8
Hannum Brook	8	581	18	12
Lower Mill Pond	68	493	51	7
Lower Mill Pond boat launch	76	520	20	3
Connecticut River	181	334	48	56
State boat ramp at Oxbow	138	455	20	6
Other water resources in Easthampton	19	566	12	22

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

9. Please check all of the following recreational activities that you do in Easthampton, and let us know how you feel about the facilities for these activities.

	Yes, I do this in Easthampton	No change needed to existing facilities	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be expanded	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be improved
Attend art and Cultural Events	488	168	218	103
ATV-ing	12	324	22	23
Baseball/softball	55	355	19	21
Basketball (outdoor)	54	316	28	30
Biking/ cycling (on-road)	345	157	226	176
Birding/ nature watching	320	239	136	60
Boating (motorized)	32	324	15	19
Bocce	39	324	20	30
Camping	21	267	80	43
Canoeing/ kayaking	234	251	119	56
Cross country skiing	122	227	133	133
Dog walking	197	244	116	61
Fishing	90	302	35	34
Football	12	326	9	16
Frisbee golfing	26	275	73	31
Horseback riding	8	314	24	16
Horseshoes	7	330	6	10
Hunting	11	319	22	17
Ice skating/ice hockey	81	251	109	56
Inline skating	40	300	41	30
Jogging (sidewalks, on road)	202	236	101	73
Jogging (trail)	198	235	113	60
Lacrosse	8	333	10	10
Mountain biking (off-road)	107	240	108	65
Off-road multi-use trails	163	227	116	73
Pickleball	46	311	37	20
Picnicking	202	253	86	68
Playgrounds	139	265	66	81
Scootering/ one-wheeling	17	322	15	12
Shuffleboard	7	315	22	20
Skateboarding	47	270	83	52
Snowmobiling	5	326	15	14
Snowshoeing	105	269	77	40

9. Please check all of the following recreational activities that you do in Easthampton, and let us know how you feel about the facilities for these activities.

	Yes, I do this in Easthampton	No change needed to existing facilities	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be expanded	Easthampton facilities/ opportunities should be improved
Soccer	49	320	12	15
Swimming (in outdoor pool)	89	240	97	95
Swimming/ wading (in ponds or streams)	141	227	120	108
Tennis	73	297	37	39
Volleyball (outdoor)	16	318	18	14
Walking (on-road or sidewalk)	415	166	182	191
Walking/hiking (off road, trail)	423	176	213	148
Other	40	221	18	29

10. How important is it to you to protect these natural resources in Easthampton

	Neutral	Somewhat important	Unimportant	Very important
Rivers, streams, ponds	6	49	0	564
Groundwater/aquifer	8	16	0	595
Wildlife habitat	10	59	1	549
Farmland	26	103	1	489
Forests	5	41	1	572
Scenic views	27	115	2	475
Natural floodplains	42	112		465
Open space (undeveloped land)	41	111	4	463
Historic and cultural resources	43	192	7	377
Other natural resources in Easthampton	186	87	58	288

11. Of the numbered "zones" in the map below, where is land protection most important? Please rank the importance of pursuing land protection in the areas shown on the map, "High" should be the highest priority for land protection, and "Low" the lowest priority. You may also or add your own option/focus area in the comment option below.

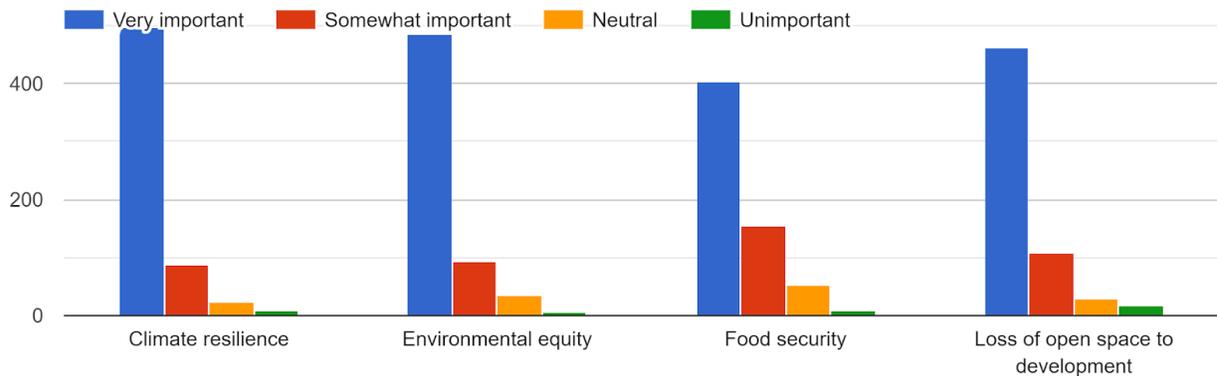
	High	Medium	Low
Hannum / North Branch	188	238	79
Park Hill Area	333	164	34
Manhan North	331	168	37
Manhan South	302	180	51
Brickyard Brook	262	197	63

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

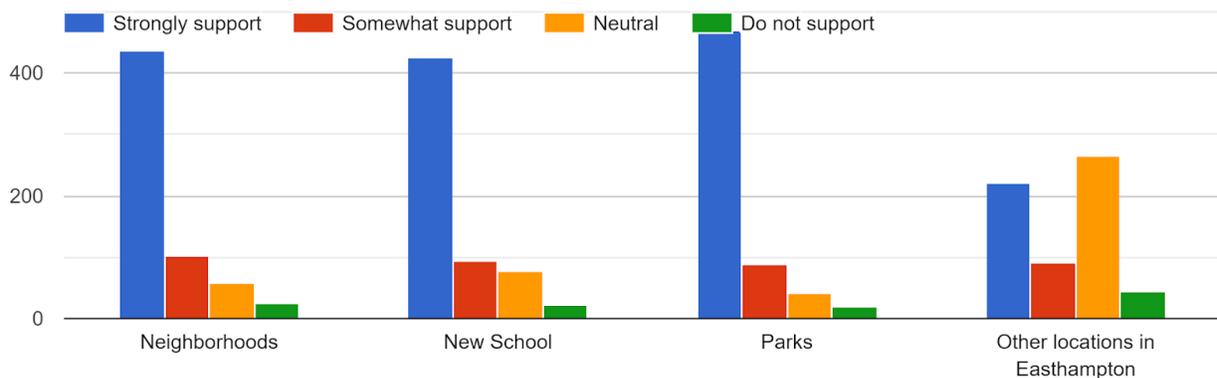
11. Of the numbered "zones" in the map below, where is land protection most important? Please rank the importance of pursuing land protection in the areas shown on the map, "High" should be the highest priority for land protection, and "Low" the lowest priority. You may also or add your own option/focus area in the comment option below.

	High	Medium	Low
Mt. Tom North	447	77	29
Wilton Brook	175	251	80
White Brook	280	200	54
Mt. Tom South	444	76	27
Other area in Easthampton	106	126	149

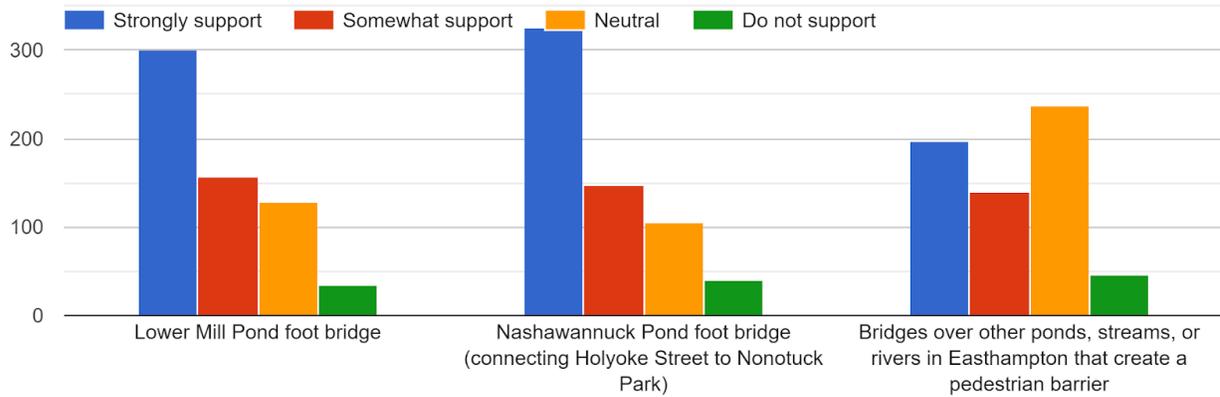
12. When you consider open space and recreation in Easthampton, how important are the following issues to your thinking?



13. Please indicate your level of support for making new multi-use path (paved bicycle and pedestrian) connections from the Manhan Rail Trail to the following locations:

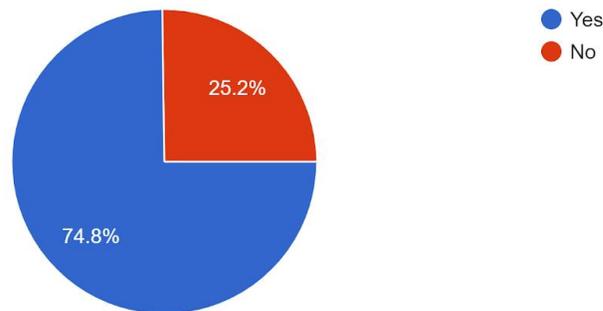


14. Please indicate your level of support for creating the following pedestrian connections to and over local water resources:



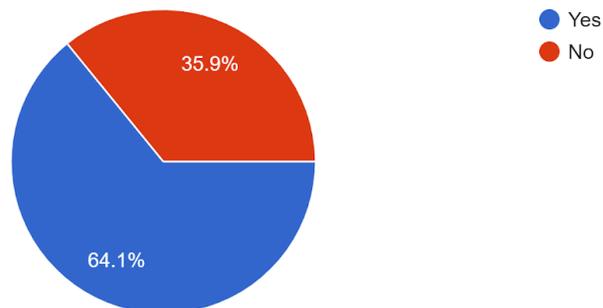
15. Have you increased your use or enjoyment of open space or recreational opportunities in Easthampton as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

615 responses



17. Would you like us to contact you about future Open Space and Recreation Plan Update meetings or other project milestones?

616 responses



APPENDIX N: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC VISIONING WORKSHOPS

The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post. At the top, the profile of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is visible, with a logo and the text 'Pioneer Valley Planning Commission' and '39m · 🌐'. The main text of the post reads: 'PVPC is excited to be working with the City of Easthampton to update its plan to maintain and expand the community's open spaces and recreational opportunities - now more important than ever!'. Below this is a link to a note published by the City of Easthampton, dated '2d · 🌐'. The note features a collage of images: a sign that says 'OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN', a person walking on a wooden boardwalk, a sign that says 'You can help the City make decisions about open space and recreation management over the next seven years!', a sign that says 'TAKE THE SURVEY! open until 11/15/20', and a sign for 'L.L. TOITMAN NATURE TRAIL'. Below the images, the text reads: 'Public Participation Sought to Update Easthampton's Open Space and Recreation Plan'. Underneath that is a 'PRESS RELEASE' notice: 'For More Information, Contact: Jeff Bagg, City Planner 413-529-1406 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE'. A 'See More' link is provided. At the bottom of the post, there is a 'Like' button with a count of '1', and buttons for 'Comment' and 'Share'. A comment input field at the very bottom says 'Write a comment...' with icons for emojis, GIFs, and stickers.



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Nicole LaChapelle

PRESS RELEASE

For More Information, Contact:

Jeff Bagg, City Planner
413-529-1406

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2020

Public Participation Sought to Update Easthampton’s Open Space and Recreation Plan

Easthampton is updating its 2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which guides City decisions about open space and recreation management and growth over the next seven years.

The OSRP assesses the current status of recreation and conservation lands in the community and identifies community needs based on a set of goals and objectives developed through a facilitated process. The project will be guided by a steering committee comprised of John Mason (Parks and Recreation Director), Cassie Trager (Conservation Agent), Salem Derby (City Councilor), Brenda Salyer (Planning Board member), Jay Ryan (CPA & Conservation Commission member), Marty Klein & Gerrit Stover (Pascommuck Conservation Trust), and Mary Lou Splain (resident).

“Easthampton residents want to get involved and understand daily operations of our government. This survey and community meeting opens the door resident engagement and helping us understand existing and future needs for our parks, trails, and open space preservation efforts”, said Mayor LaChapelle.

Interested residents may get involved in the following ways:

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

1. Take the online survey! It is the City's best method to collect information directly from residents. Participation is critical. Hard copies of the survey will be available upon request.
2. Attend a virtual Public Visioning Session! It will be held online on November 5th, 2020, from 6-8pm.

"We are trying hard to get the word out. We have funded a town-wide mailer to 9,000 households so residents and interested people know this project is underway and how to participate", said City Planner Jeff Bagg.

The survey will ask important questions such as "where do you recreate", "which areas do you think need improvement", "where is land protection most important", and much more.

The OSRP is being developed with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and funding from Easthampton's Community Preservation Act.

To access the survey, to attend the Public Visioning Session, or learn more about this project, click here, or go to: <https://easthamptonma.gov/osrp>

EASTHAMPTON CITY HALL • 50 PAYSON AVE. • EASTHAMPTON • MASSACHUSETTS • 01027
413-529-1400 • easthamptonma.gov

Post card mailer, sent to all Easthampton addresses.



Agenda

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | 5 min |
| 2. Meeting Logistics and Polling Instructions | 5 min |
| 3. Plan Overview | 45 min |
| ➤ What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan? | |
| ➤ Existing Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Survey Results• Successes since 2013 Plan | |
| 4. Participant Interaction: Goals and Objectives | 45 min |
| 5. Next Steps | 5 min |

Easthampton OSRP Visioning Session Notes
November 5, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

Responses to PolleEV Question: Complete this sentence: "I envision Easthampton as a community where..."

- Nonotuck park and other local parks become destinations and more widely known throughout the community.
- all age ranges can enjoy seeing and/or participating in multiple areas at the same time
- The downtown streets are reflective of our overall beautiful and green community
- all residents can enjoy a variety of recreational activities within the City
- The open space and recreation needs of everyone in the community are met and habitat and water quality are valued, protected and respected by all.
- Volunteers from the community are mobilized to help steward open space/rec areas.
- farmland is valued as important to our food security, in addition to its value to community character.
- places are connected for bicycles and pedestrians
- variety of options throughout Easthampton for all ages
- protect lots of open spaces and water quality
- Bike paths reach all neighborhoods.
- Lots of trails
- land uses are protective of our precious water supply.
- everyone has easy access to nearby open space and there is more protected farmland to grow food.
- All citizens have access to safe, high quality recreational experiences and natural areas
- there are numerous and varied recreation opportunities.
- The rail trail could be reached by all neighborhoods.
- accessible green space and recreational opportunities coexist with a vibrant city.
- A variety of outdoor exercise is readily available to all.
- Bringing green into downtown streets
- There is connectivity between all open space areas
- Open spaces and recreational facilities are equitable--accessible, welcoming, and available especially to those who have not had access/been welcome in these places.
- everything is connected with safe bike and pedestrian pathways, open space is protected, and everyone is welcome and accepted.
- lots of trails, varied length and rigor
- ... people of all ages and abilities can safely, comfortably and enjoyably use our public streets for walking, biking, jogging, scootering, etc.

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

Responses to Sticky Note Exercise on Objectives

Goal 1

Improve boat access on Nashawannuck Pond and the Manhan River

Expand Nashawank Pond promenade to cemetery area

Upgrade trails - Toteman and trails behind White Brook

Connect rail trail to Hilltown Charter School

a lot of this stuff exists already.

loop walking path, gravel

more benches

Create trail behind cemetery to connect to Brickyard Brook/Mutters cons area

plow the bike path

birding locations to visit for ay of birding

Outdoor rink Like at Amelia in Westfield

have city takeover funding bike path

sidewalk on coleman ave to access commercial area on rt 10

brochure of places to access

Create master plan for Nonotuck Park

playground master planning

List of trails and trail maps with good mobile functionality

Publicize locations of lesser known trails and parks

Sledding hill?

Shade canopies at Nonotuck Pool

Keep Maple School Playground after school closes

add wayfaring signage along bike path

Clarify parking areas at walking paths/trails

Improve opportunities for winter sports (e.g., outdoor ice skating rink)

A safe place for rollerskating or roller blading

dog-free areas that are enforced

Disc golf course at Nonotuck park/adjoining city property

skatepark

Add interpretive signage to pond walkway.

Increase and improve sidewalks

Add historic information about native peoples at local recreational areas

Visitors center in maple school

add historical markers along rail trail

Flashing crosswalks at all rail trail road crossings.

create web page where people can upload/share photos, observations of nature seen in E'ton.

bocci court

Markings and signage for trails in Nonotuck Park

sidewalks along

prioritize connecting the new school to the bike path with year round access

Work with Southampton to expand rail trailer
add tennis courts
Develop more complementary programming that entails learning about how to: ice skate, paddle board, ride a unicycle, etc.
Bike paths all over!
Ensure that land care practices on fields at Nonotuck do not pollute water supply.
Neighborhood access to rail trail
Expand Rail Trail connectors
Skate park!
Pedestrian access to Mt Tom from city center

Goal 2

Expand the sidewalk network to create connections to rail trail.
Improve and expand sidewalks
a functional entrance to Nonotuck Park
Create trail behind cemetery
Develop space behind Parsons School
no snowmobiling near residents
No snowmobiling near residents homes
No motorized vehicles on pond in winter
No more fees for residents to Nonotuck
comfortable areas to observe others at activities.
Complete improvements to the
add viewing deck on rail trail overlooking oxbow
handicapped accessible trails
Pedestrian bridge over Lower Mill Pond
Expand mountain biking - Borowski
more places to XC ski
Maps of bicycle friendly roads
list of trails and parks with a map
more public rest rooms near rail trail
Here Ideas
Expand promenade
Prioritize areas that are nature-rec. deprived for improvements.
Consider skatepark at the new K-8 School property
Outdoor roller rink that could be flooded for ice skating
Consider nonhuman residents needs also
No hunting near park trailer
observation decks with water overlooks
Add some accessible picnic tables to Nonotuck
Expanded restroom access at the entrance to Nonotuck Park
Bridge & path from Nash Boat ramp in/thru park to new school

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

portapottie at rail trail entrances
expanded sidewalk network on key roads
latrines rather than porta pottie
improvements to park at Federal & Parson St
repave key roads used as connectors by cyclists
Create kiosks for all conservation areas
Bike lanes on Holyoke St
Create bike and pedestrian connection over Hisgen Ave from rail trail to Nonotuck
Create walking path along Manhan corridor from Glendale area to downtown
Add a light at South Street and Route 10 intersection to make it safer for pedestrians and bikers to cross route 10.
Enlist local rec/craft folks to do kids summer programs
Make park/space booking process simpler
Prepare for and seek funding for city owner property behind Parson School
Stone house improvement at Daley Field
Improve access to information about recreational opportunities across age and income spectrums
natural area near schools for use by science classes
Ensure pedestrian access to parks from every residential area
add kiosk to rail trail behind mills

Goal 3

Create recreational opportunities on ag lands
No net loss of farmland (prime ag soils)
no net loss of agricultural land
keep protected land undisturbed. keep open space
trails around agricultural land - Park Hill orchard and Lathrop
create hiking trails over near ag lands
Create more agricultural tourism
promote bee hives
Create demonstration permaculture garden
Create trails near AG lands
Is there conserved farmland that can be used for All Farmers?
City sponsored events at farms?
Make ehamp farmland calendars w nice pics
Help (\$) protect historic farm structures
Harvest parade with giant puppets.
Pumpkin patch
Access to property for beekeeping
Map of public trails near/in farmland
signs re benefits of ag at intersection of rec/ag land like Old Trolley Line (PCT)
Affordable farmland for low-income and farmers of color
Bring back gleaning

Apiary co-op

annual events with something at each ag site; travel among them as part of celebration

harvest festival

create education about migration corridors for wildlife

And as a source of local food security

Support education/access for city residents on agricultural land

Community garden

promote farmers market

Program to get local farm food in schools

Add edible landscapes to parks

one central posting area for all these great things!

Expanding & promoting farmers market

Create gardens at new K-8 school

City-sponsored residential pollinator gardens program

2020 saw a rise in urban gardens, can we partner with residents and farmers

expand community gardens

additional community gardens

Community gardens near downtown

use ag land for community gardens

Utilize prime ag land at Tasty Top site. Incorporate in MJ facility planned there

Fewer lawns on prime ag soil

we have a city harvest festival :)

Botanical garden w/fountain

Support young farmers in use of local farmlands to help get going.

Incorporate farmers markets with arts programming

trail connection between Park Hill and Lathrop using existing old pathways

Programming to teach people about perennial edibles that they can plant on their properties.

Highlighting local farm businesses

Goal 4

Create a protected greenway along the Manahan River

Update solar bylaws to help direct to appropriate areas

Fund a full time Conservation Agent position

Create paid stewardship roles for POC

Educate residents that open space can bring visitors and bring capital to local businesses

Create a tree removal fee for development projects

Recognize community volunteers

Engage community volunteers for stewardship

education for abutters to conservation areas regarding conservation interests/responsibilities

Protect priority habitats through conservation

Free trees for residents (like Noho does)

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

encouraging community awareness of invasive/non-native species & benefits of native landscaping
preserve wildlife corridors
protect aquifer!!
Continue to protect parcels adjacent to Mt. Tom
Begin CR monitoring trainings for volunteers
stewardship should include elimination of non-native invasives and encourage natives
protect remaining farmland along East St. at base of Mt Tom
protect wildlife & habitats
Limit use of home pesticides and fertilizers
Try to establish some safe areas for people to create safe areas to kayak on the CT river in the oxbow area, where motor boats don't take over.
encourage homeowners to plant natives so their property is part of wildlife corridors
protect millside park with stronger more video surveillance
info signs about area (see those at PCT Old Trolley Lint) makes it feel important to protect
Publicize, educate public about invasive plants and how to control 😊
Planting native plants on city property to support pollinators 😊
dont disturb habitat & waterways with foot traffic
Protect Mt. Tom range/view from more cell towers.
millpond bridges!
encourage homeowners to plant natives so their property is part of wildlife corridors
educate dog walkers about dog waste disposal
educational signs to explain priorities/goals
Bioswales in streets
support rainwater collection to decrease the strain on our water sources
Educate about bears.
create bylaw to prevent removal of trees of a certain size in face of development
remove old windmill from Mt. Tom
better lighting for the rail trail at night
more parking areas for mt tom
judicious use of solar farms
signage on storm drains highlighting their connection to the aquifer
More pedestrian access to Mt Tom
Recruit more land stewards of color
path from rail trail to ehs/nonotuck
More education on drinking water supply protection.
enhanced stormwater management bylaw
Ensure stewards have implicit bias training
keep wild area w/wild
Education around needs of local flora and fauna (and why they are important to human health)
Ensure wild spaces are a priority in addition to recreation
Monitor erosion along Nash Pond caused by bike trails close to water

Goal 5

Educate, educate, educate!

Regularly test water quality in Broad Brook, Manhan

create a public swimming area that's safe (if that's possible?)

stream crossing inventory/improvement planning

enforce outside water use bans

Education around littering

teach how to grow an organic salad lawn

more garbage cans

informational plaques by the ponds abt local fauna

Mountain View Farm and Park Hill Orchards may be willing to do some teaching about farming/processing food and would be great at it!

Incorporate LID into subdivision regulations

Enforce deed restrictions and other constraints on pesticide use

discourage use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides

ensure no old factory waste in sediment in Lower Mill and Nah Pond

Bioswales again

promote rain barrels

more trashcans

hold a farm tour route of local farms

Protect Barnes Aquifer recharge areas from development

Rain garden requirement for any new parking lots

reduce dog waste getting into waterways

Thank you for your work!

encourage organic gardening practices in public green space

promote living roofs

Incentivize (\$) planting meadows and rain gardens

reduce lawns

seek green energy power for well heads

BAN NIPS!

Incentivize less lawn

discourage unnecessary water use for lawns

Eliminate lawns and plant natives !!!!

teach Mt. View farm how to grow lettuce

wetlands protection bylaw

Restrict pesticide use in lawns

Stormdrain decals

educate about lawncare products

Green parks trash in/out

Regular community trash clean up

outdoor water ban education/enforcement during droughts

Garden tour/contest - promote non-lawns

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

- Increase the use of permeable paving
- Pursue Green Infrastructure for City projects
- Watershed education
- Incentivize permeable paving
- Protect any lands that become available in Broad Brook Watershed.
- Use more green infrastructure for recharge.
- Enforce deed restrictions and other constraints on pesticide use
- Education around dog waste
- Prohibit sale and use of harmful lawn chemicals in City.
- Provide free trees for residents (like Noho does)

Easthampton OSRP Visioning Session 2 January 27, 2021 5:30-7:30PM

Easthampton Planning Department
January 9 at 10:36 PM · 🌐

We've completed a draft of Easthampton's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

We're hoping you'll take a look and tell us which action action from the 7 year action plan will have the greatest impact on you or your neighborhood? Please review the 7 year Action Plan then email planning@easthamptonma.gov

These types of future planning documents are super critical to provide the outline for where we focus our efforts on maintenance, enhancements and new facilities!... [See More](#)

**EASTHAMPTON
OPEN SPACE &
RECREATION PLAN**

REVIEW THE DRAFT!

Tell us which action from the 7 year Action Plan will have the greatest impact on you or your neighborhood, and why?

ATTEND A MEETING
to be held virtually Wednesday
1/27/21 at 5:30 pm

For all the details go to: easthamptonma.gov/osrp

👍 22 4 Comments 8 Shares

Easthampton Planning Department
 January 26 at 1:12 PM · 🌐

Join us for a virtual meeting for Open Space and Recreation in Easthampton. Wednesday 1/27 at 5:30 pm.

There is no shortage of work to pursue in the next 7 ... [See More](#)

👍 1 2 Comments 1 Share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Most Relevant ▼

 Write a comment... 😊 GIF 🗨️

 **Angelique Baker**
 Oh darn, I was trying to attend
 Like · Reply · 8h

[View 1 more comment](#)

 **Easthampton Planning Department**
 January 26 at 1:12 PM · 🌐

Join us for a virtual meeting for Open Space and Recreation in Easthampton. Wednesday 1/27 at 5:30 pm.

There is no shortage of work of work to pursue in the next 7 years. What do you think?

For more information and to get the log-in information, click here: ... [See More](#)

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The 7 year action plan has been updated based on the analysis presented in this plan and the public input received throughout the planning process. Many of the staff survey responses proposed project ideas that directly related to the plan goals and objectives, and some of those ideas are included here. However, given that more than 620 people responded to the survey, not all recommendations are included in this action plan. The full survey results will serve the City for the next 7 years as a valuable tool for decision-making, and should be consulted as part of the decision-making process on future open space and recreation actions. The full results are available upon request from the Planning Department.

NOTE: Under "Responsible Party" the lead party is identified, with supporting organizations and entities listed throughout.

Action	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding Opportunities
1. Update the Master Plan for Westwick Park	Year 1	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation
2. Evaluate opportunities for new recreation amenities at Westwick Park or other locations such as an outdoor fitness area, skate park, disc golf, and more ADA accessible picnic tables	Year 2-5	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation, CPA
3. Continue expanding access to and from the Mountain Rail Trail to connect neighborhoods, parks, and the new school. Explore options to bridge gaps in connections due to water resources and to upgrade Rail Trail street crossings.	Ongoing	Mountain Trail Committee, Planning Department, Dept. of Public Works	Transportation, Professional Study, West Franklin County (CPA, Sub-Region to School, Land and Water Conservation Grant)
4. Supplement upgrades to playgrounds throughout the City including at Pleasant Grove and the pocket park at Parsons St. and Federal St. Prioritize improvements in the Maple and Ferry Street neighborhoods.	Ongoing	Parks and Rec., Planning Department	CPA, CPA, ADA Grants, Foundations
5. Develop and install amenities to picnic pavilions and tables around Easthampton, highlighting key open space and recreational areas. Amenities could include picnic and table areas, with and without pavilions and facilities, and more. Some wheelchair signage should be enough for some users to use in order to direct	Year 2	Government Commission, Planning Department, Rail Trail Committee, PCC, Chamber	West Franklin County

10 | Page

Item	Priority	Timeline	Responsible Party	Funding Opportunities
1. Update the Master Plan for Westwick Park	High	Year 1	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation
2. Evaluate opportunities for new recreation amenities at Westwick Park or other locations such as an outdoor fitness area, skate park, disc golf, and more ADA accessible picnic tables	Medium	Year 2-5	Parks and Rec.	City appropriation, CPA
3. Continue expanding access to and from the Mountain Rail Trail to connect neighborhoods, parks, and the new school. Explore options to bridge gaps in connections due to water resources and to upgrade Rail Trail street crossings.	Medium	Ongoing	Mountain Trail Committee, Planning Department, Dept. of Public Works	Transportation, Professional Study, West Franklin County (CPA, Sub-Region to School, Land and Water Conservation Grant)
4. Supplement upgrades to playgrounds throughout the City including at Pleasant Grove and the pocket park at Parsons St. and Federal St. Prioritize improvements in the Maple and Ferry Street neighborhoods.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks and Rec., Planning Department	CPA, CPA, ADA Grants, Foundations
5. Develop and install amenities to picnic pavilions and tables around Easthampton, highlighting key open space and recreational areas. Amenities could include picnic and table areas, with and without pavilions and facilities, and more. Some wheelchair signage should be enough for some users to use in order to direct	Medium	Year 2	Government Commission, Planning Department, Rail Trail Committee, PCC, Chamber	West Franklin County

Agenda

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions 5 min
- 2. Meeting Logistics and Polling Instructions 5 min
- 3. Process Overview 20 min
 - Survey
 - Visioning Session
- 4. 2021-2028 Action Plan and Discussion 60 min
- 5. Next Steps 10 min

20210127-222356_Open-Space_gallery_1760x900

Zoom Comments

January 27, 2021 5:30-7:30PM

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): HI Aaron, thank you for joining us and for sharing that information. If you experience any technical difficulties please let me know and I can get the recording to you.

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Hey Jeff there's been a request for you to speak louder if possible.

Mayor Nicole LaChapelle: will this be posted afterwards? will the chat be saved as well?

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Hello everyone? Please utilize the chat here to let us know any questions or comments you may have and I will be posting links to polls here throughout the presentation.

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Hi, the chat should be saved as a separate transcript along with the recording which I think is planned to be posted!

Jeff Bagg, City Planner: cassie can you drop the link?

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): <https://pollev.com/>

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): The link to the first poll is:

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): What are you looking forward to most after the quarantine?

https://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/xwW4iVNHctRZI3trx7stS

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Yes!
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Great answers everyone!
Attendee: link doesn't work for me...says 'activity unavailable'
Kenneth Comia: I'm here to help!
Attendee: "accessed via iPhone"
Attendee: dining out with friends, movies
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Jeff thank you for letting me know, please try refreshing the page and let me know if it's still not working.
Attendee: what's the username?
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): If you are still experiencing technical difficulties with the polling, please feel free to enter your response in the chat as it will be saved.
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Hi Peter, it should be emilys119
Attendee: thanks!
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): No problem! Please let me know if have any other issues and thanks for participating!
Attendee: Will do. 🖱

Goal #1

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is the link for the current poll: Goal #1
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/mRi4lUkSxoxUAPdqE8lax?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Chat is now enabled for discussion and please feel free to put your votes in the chat as well if you are having issues with the polling.
Attendee: 3,5,7,9
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is the link to the poll again: Goal #1
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/mRi4lUkSxoxUAPdqE8lax?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Easthampton Zoom: 11A
Easthampton Zoom: 1A
Attendee: The poll isn't working for me
Attendee: When I follow the link I get a msg "Activity unavailable
Try logging in as the activity owner, or contact the activity owner to request access."
Attendee: it is unavailable
Attendee: I had the issue, but was able to fix it
Attendee: It could be that too many people are entering responses at the same time
Attendee: The specific links didnt work
Easthampton Zoom: Can Jeff speak louder?
Attendee: All look good, really good but I think creating maintenance line in budget would help make sure these changes last.
Attendee: But going to the /emilys119 URL worked for me
Attendee: skateboard park!
Attendee: Wayfinding materials should not list private properties with trails unless owners provide express approval
Attendee: vote B
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Please try [pollen.com/emilys119](https://www.pollen.com/emilys119) as an alternative to the link I posted earlier
Attendee: I selected 7 because there is no way to improve and continue unless the city funds maintenance.

Easthampton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey

Attendee: #4 To bring CHILDREN to play
Attendee: having open spaces which are "open for animals etc." are preferred. thanks
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Please also feel free to to post your votes here in the chat.
Attendee: Proper sidewalks will greatly improve safety and accessibility in my neighborhood

Goal #2

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is the link for the next poll: Goal #2
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/lvEF6L3Z8xt3JnnCXLJIX?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Attendee: having technical problems with poll. trying to install app?
Attendee: 4,5,6
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Matt downloads shouldn't be necessary, please try
<https://pollev.com/emilys119>
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is link to the next poll again: Goal #2
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/lvEF6L3Z8xt3JnnCXLJIX?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Attendee: alternative site brings up server error in '/' Application error
Attendee: Goal #2 Line 5 NO SNOW MOBILES! on Poor Farm Land
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Jill is this link working for you? Goal #2
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/lvEF6L3Z8xt3JnnCXLJIX?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Attendee: Boardwalk extension would help create access and safety for so many!
Easthampton Zoom: #2 - 6
Attendee: b
Attendee: Goal # 2 I vote for 6
Attendee: Goal #2 Jeff, we met once, I was with a small group of kids who ride at nonotuck park and at the boruchowski (among others) with Covid restrictions the kids needed that way to get out safely and still be compliance with covid rules. biking was a perfect activity
Attendee: There is no #7 on Goal #2
Attendee: neither link is working for me. activity unavailable. can you double check the Emily119 link is correct? thanks! 119
Attendee: Can't access <https://www.pollen.com/emilys119> either. So, for this Goal #2, I vote #6
Attendee: Again, sidewalks are hugely important for safety in neighborhoods
Attendee: c
Attendee: could you tell me again what to look up in pollev
Attendee: name of the poll
Attendee: Safety and security of pedestrians is crucial.
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): The link is either: <https://pollev.com/emilys119>
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): or Goal #2
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/lvEF6L3Z8xt3JnnCXLJIX?flow=Default&onscreen=persist
Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Thank you everyone for your written responses here as well, they will be recorded!
Attendee: that works. thanks!
Attendee: I actually would downvote mountain biking if I could, especially at Boruchowski -- destination mountain bike locations have minimal other conservation value
Attendee: sidewalks really need to be improved!

Goal #3

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is the link to the next poll: Goal #3
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/0X40fYEs48kUsp3d20NY2?flow=Default&onscreen=persist

Attendee: Sidewalk on Hendrick between 141 and Plain is a safety MUST. Very dangerous walking.
Easthampton Zoom: 3, 2

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): Here is a link to the next poll again: Goal #3
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/0X40fYEs48kUsp3d20NY2?flow=Default&onscreen=persist

Attendee: It seems to me that the overall goal should also include agriculture as a local food source, not just community character

Attendee: Can't wait to see outcome from this meeting. I have to jump off for a committee meeting. This is awesome. Thanks.

Attendee: nice to have new accessible community gardens

Attendee: Goal #3 vote #1

Attendee: I think the farmers we have should be the first place to start.

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): No need to apologize! Thank you for your input!

Attendee: 4

Easthampton Zoom: link didn't work

Attendee: tough choice to only pick one as they are ALL very important, but I think education is the start (#2) and then expand (#4)

Cassie Tragert (Conservation Agent): HI please try <https://pollev.com/emilys119>

Attendee: Goal # 2 Line 5 Maintainance to any walking or snow skiing should not disrupt PROTECTED Habitat by using snowmobiles and is very disrupted to the residents on Oliver Street. Poor Street Farm Land It is NOT meant to be a snowmobile trail!

Note: in the beginning or presenting Goal 4 actions, the zoom meeting crashed due to technical difficulties. All participants were knocked out, and not allowed to get back in. The project team reconvened with a separate link to record the remainder of the meeting for the purposes of the public posting. The project team immediately made an announcement on Facebook, and sent an email to all individuals on the project's mailing list apologizing for the inconvenience, and asking them to share their input on the actions in Goal 4 and 5 either on Facebook or directly to planning@easthamptonma.gov.

APPENDIX O: ADA ACCESS SELF-EVALUATION

ADA Assessment Part 1: Administrative Requirements

Designation of the ADA Coordinator

The City has designated Jeffery Bagg, City Planner, as the ADA Coordinator. Mr. Bagg's office is located in the Planning Department at the Municipal Building, 50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027. His phone number is 413-529-1406.

The City also has a Commission on Disabilities, established on November 3, 2004. The Commission holds monthly meetings. More information on the Commission can be found on the City's website at www.easthampton.org.

I attest that this information is correct.

Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor

Date

Grievance Procedure

The attached grievance procedure is available on the City's website at www.easthampton.org as well as posted in the City's municipal building.

Public Notification Requirement

Public notice is given to employees and the general public that the City of Easthampton is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of a disability. Every effort is made to remove barriers to notification and attendance at public meetings. The attached public notice is posted at all municipal facilities / buildings, including: the Municipal Building, parks and recreation facilities, the Council on Aging, Public Safety Complex, school buildings, public works buildings, and the Old Town Hall.

Participation of Individuals with Disabilities

The City of Easthampton has an active Commission on Disability who meets monthly and serves as an advocate for their constituents. The Commission is committed to work with various city departments to ensure that citizens and visitors to the City have full and equal access to all programs and services in the City.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIREMENTS

THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON ADVISES APPLICANTS, PARTICIPANTS AND THE PUBLIC THAT IT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN ADMISSION OR ACCESS TO, OR TREATMENT OR EMPLOYMENT IN ITS PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON HAS DESIGNATED THE FOLLOWING PERSON TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS. INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

**JEFF BAGG, CITY PLANNER
50 PAYSON AVENUE
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027
(413) 529-1406**

ADA Assessment Part 2: ADA Self Evaluation Report, Facility Inventory

In the summer and fall of 2020, Bryce Lloyd-Hahn (Planning Department intern), the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Conservation Agent assessed city-owned parks and recreation facilities for Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance. In addition to the facilities inventoried in this plan, other private or publicly owned recreation facilities exist in the city that are not included in this survey because they are not under the care and control of the City of Easthampton.

It should be noted that, in 2019, the City applied for an ADA Improvement Planning Grant in order to prepare a comprehensive Self Evaluation of facilities and create a new Transition Plan (Transition Plan last updated in 2009) in order to better position itself to incorporate accessibility projects into the capital planning process as well as prioritize work that can be accomplished through grants or other funding sources.

The following plan provides a summary of each of the city-owned recreation and conservation areas, recommended actions for improving accessibility, and a Facility Inventory Worksheet with a detailed assessment of each of the features present and comments regarding the accessibility of the feature.

- ADA Assessment Part 2: ADA Self Evaluation Report, Facility Inventory 3
- PARKS AND RECREATION 4
- Nonotuck Park..... 4
- Millside Park..... 12
- Pleasant Street Park/Playground 17
- Plain and Strong Street Playground 21
- Parsons Street Tot Lot Playground..... 25
- Pulaski (Main Street) Park..... 29
- Katherine Root Wayside Park 33
- Boathouse Beach 36
- Nashawannuck Pond Boardwalk/ Promenade Park 39
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION 43
- Boruchowski Parcel 43
- Community Gardens 48
- Guistina Property 54
- Holly Circle OSRD 59
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- OTHER OWNERSHIP 67
- Manhan Rail Trail 67
- Boy Scouts of America campground 72
- Mutter’s Field Accessible Trail 77

NONOTUCK PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION

Nonotuck Park

Address/Road Name

Existing Conditions:

Nonotuck Park is the largest park in the city and upgrades to facilities have occurred over time, bringing the equipment and elements at the park up to ADA compliance. The park includes: 270 Acre Park with Pool, Spray Park, 4 Pavilions, 26 Picnic Sites, 2 Playgrounds, 9 Baseball/Softball Fields, 5 Soccer Fields, 2 Tennis Courts, 2 Basketball Courts, 2 Pickleball Courts, Beach Volleyball Court, 4 Bathrooms and numerous trails throughout the park.

Ten percent of the picnic tables in the park are handicap accessible, two water fountains, accessible fields and play equipment can all be found at the park. There are also 9 handicap parking spaces, which is two more than what is required. The park also hosts the Special Olympic Summer Games. The inventory sheet shows that 3 of the 4 restrooms are ADA compliant. Ideally, the park should upgrade this last facility to be compliant as well.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Renovate Stone House Bathroom on Daley Field and reopen as ADA accessible
2. Replace or repair old ADA parking signs
3. Repaint ADA parking spaces as needed
4. Add additional ADA tables at Picnic sites nearest to Bathroom 2
5. Add paved pathway and add additional piece of ADA equipment to the Nonotuck Park Playground

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks Department



Figure 1. ADA crossing at Nonotuck Park



Figure 3. Nonotuck Park Signage



Figure 3. Example ADA picnic table

NONOTUCK PARK



Figure 5. Swing set at Nonotuck Park



Figure 5. Playground at Nonotuck Park

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	4 sites ADA accessible/hard organic material
		Access to Open Spaces	yes
		Back and Arm Rests	10 benches
		Adequate number	No, need more ADA picnic tables (only 10 of 120 are ADA accessible)
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	24"-30"
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	Some of the 30
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	50 total, some near paths
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes – 4 pavilions total	
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	Yes	
Trails		Surface material	Organic hard packed – 2+ miles of trails
		Dimensions	
		Rails	No
		Signage (for visually impaired)	No
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	Yes
		Location from accessible parking	Yes
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	Yes
		Location from accessible path into water	Yes
	Beaches	Handrails	Yes
		Location from accessible parking	Yes
		Shade provided	Yes
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	Yes
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	yes
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	Yes
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes
		Berm cuts onto courts	No
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A

NONOTUCK PARK

	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	yes
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A – other – we host special Olympic summer games.
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Braille signs at one bathroom	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A	

PARKING

Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			Need to have 6 new ADA signs
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		

RAMPS

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	X		
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	X		
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	X		
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	X		
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	X		
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	X		
Non-slip surface	X		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	X		

NONOTUCK PARK

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

NOTES:

NONOTUCK PARK

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

NOTES: No stairs on site

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		There are 4 bathrooms on this site, and 3 of 4 are ADA accessible. The Stone House Bathroom on Daley Field on Daley Field requires renovations in order to be compliant.
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		3 of 4 facilities
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		3 of 4 facilities
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		3 of 4 facilities
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		3 of 4 facilities
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		3 of 4 facilities
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		3 of 4 facilities
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		

NONOTUCK PARK

Stall door is 36" wide	X		3 of 4 facilities
Stall door swings out	X		3 of 4 facilities
Stall door is self-closing	X		3 of 4 facilities
Stall door has a pull latch	X		3 of 4 facilities
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		3 of 4 facilities
Coat hook is 54" high	X		3 of 4 facilities
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		3 of 4 facilities
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		3 of 4 facilities
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		3 of 4 facilities
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		3 of 4 facilities
1 1/4" diameter	X		3 of 4 facilities
1 1/2" clearance to wall	X		3 of 4 facilities
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		3 of 4 facilities
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		3 of 4 facilities
42" long	X		3 of 4 facilities
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		3 of 4 facilities
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		3 of 4 facilities
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		3 of 4 facilities

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors			
Non-slip surface	X		
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	X		
Hand operated push button or level controls	X		
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	X		
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition

NONOTUCK PARK

			Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	X		Lights are on or automatic
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	X		No outlets
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	X		
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	X		
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high	X		
Letters and numbers raised .03"	X		
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		

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

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

PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes

NONOTUCK PARK

<p>A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>12 accessible picnic tables</p>
<p>For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.</p>			<p>N/A</p>
<p>Top of table no higher than 32" above ground</p>	<p>X</p>		
<p>Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions</p>	<p>X</p>		
<p>Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter</p>	<p>X</p>		

MILLSIDE PARK
Millside Park

Address: 2 Ferry Street

Existing Conditions:

This is a park situated between the Pleasant Street Mill Buildings and the Lower Mill Pond. The Manhan Rail Trail abuts the park and hosts a ValleyBike station. There is a band shell, restroom facility, a fitness area, basketball courts, a pavilion, playground, and a boat launch to the Lower Mill Pond and. These are all accessible from the parking lot off Ferry Street. The paths are concrete and asphalt. There are no new ADA improvements needed at this time at this location, though the following recommendations could be considered for future site improvements.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Designate handicap parking spaces with paint and signs
2. Fix uneven surfaces between railtrail and parking lot (see Fig. 9)
3. Provide ramp to allow access to boat launch/pond
4. Update picnic table to allow easier access
5. Fix benches

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks Commission



Figure 6: Parking Lot Entrance



Figure 8: Play Structures



Figure 10: Picnic Table



Figure 7: Performance Shell



Figure 9: Uneven Rail Trail Connection



Figure 11: Steep Boat Launch

MILLSIDE PARK

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	7 benches and 2 picnic tables. Needs to be out of travel lane on rail trail
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	Compliant
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Compliant – 4 trash cans
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Compliant
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,		N/A	
Trails		Surface material	Compliant
		Dimensions	Compliant
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	Need accessible signage
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
	Shade provided	N/A	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings,	Same experience provided to all	Compliant
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Compliant
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	Compliant
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Compliant
		Berm cuts onto courts	Compliant
	Equipment	Height	Compliant
		Dimensions	Compliant
		Spectator Seating	Need to be fixed, broken benches
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No accessible paths
		Handrails	No ramps or handrails
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		Braille placards
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		N/A

MILLSIDE PARK

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50 * (50)	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	No designated handicap spaces directly adjacent, but do exist in Mill parking area nearby
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	See above
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		x	Only 8' spaces
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		x	Only 8' spaces
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	No signage
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	No signage
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	No signage
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	x		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		x	No paint from rail trail access point
RAMPS – N/A			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	Uneven transition from rail trail (Fig. 4)
No ponding of water		x	Uneven transition from rail trail (Fig. 4)
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs		X	Boat launch should have stairs and ramp
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	Boat launch ramp is greater than 5% grade
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	Boat launch ramp is greater than 5% grade
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane		X	Boat launch ramp is greater than 5% grade
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curbs on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		x	Boat launch ramp is greater than 5% grade
Entrances – N/A			

NOTES: Facilities closed and not evaluated due to COVID-19.

MILLSIDE PARK

STAIRS and DOORS – N/A

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

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

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES

Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors			
Non-slip surface	X		
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A

MILLSIDE PARK

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

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area- N/A

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			Only 1 table on site, and only accessible by protruding into the rail trail path of travel.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.		X	
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground		X	
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter		X	

PLEASANT STREET PLAYGROUND

Pleasant Street Park/Playground

Address: Pleasant Street/Pleasant Street West across from the Mill district

Existing Conditions:

This is a playground between the residential neighborhood adjacent to Pleasant St. and the Pleasant St. Mill Buildings. This playground was upgraded in 2007 to include new playground equipment and site amenities. There are 10 sitting areas, one of which is ADA accessible. There are 4 trash cans, and two of these area ADA compliant. The play structure has handicap accessible features, and there is one handicap parking space.

The rectangular plot is flanked by Pleasant St. West, Terrace View, and Pleasant St. East. Sidewalks only exist on the opposite sides of the streets, with the only crosswalks at the junction of Pleasant Street. Access from the surrounding neighborhood lacks curb cuts. There are no buildings on the site.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Designate painted handicap spaces and add ADA parking signage
2. Add ADA playground equipment
3. Improve connections between road and the paths
4. Provide van drop-off area
5. Improve access to the playground from the path
6. Update the site furniture

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks Commission



Figure 12: Entrance from Pleasant Green West



Figure 14: Picnic Table



Figure 16: Pleasant Street Entrance



Figure 13: Bench and Play Structure



Figure 15: Entrance Pooling (No Crosswalk)

PLEASANT STREET PLAYGROUND

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	1 table, 9 benches	
		Access to Open Spaces	1 table, 9 benches	
		Back and Arm Rests	No arm rests on benches	
		Adequate number	yes	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes – 4 total, 2 ADA compliant	
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		N/A		
Trails		Surface material	Concrete walks	
		Dimensions		
		Rails	N/A (flat site)	
		Signage (for visually impaired)	no	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A	
		Location from accessible parking	N/A	
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A	
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A	
		Handrails	N/A	
		Location from accessible parking	N/A	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	no	
		Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes - 1-3" drop from walk to mulch play area
			Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	yes
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	yes	
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A	
	Equipment	Height	N/A	
		Dimensions	N/A	
		Spectator Seating	N/A	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
		Handrails	N/A	
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
		Handrails	N/A	
	Equipment	Arm Rests	N/A	
		Bait Shelves	N/A	
		Handrails	N/A	
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A	
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A	
		Guided Hikes	N/A	
		Interpretive Programs	N/A	
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		N/A	

PARKING

Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces
Up to 25	1 space
26-50	2 spaces
51-75 *	3 spaces * not specified
76-100	4 spaces
101-150	5 spaces
151-200	6 spaces
201-300	7 spaces
301-400	8 spaces

PLEASANT STREET PLAYGROUND

401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	x		No designated spaces marked
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	x		No designated spaces marked
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	x		No designated spaces marked
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	x		No designated spaces marked
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		No designated spaces marked
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	x		No designated spaces marked
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		x	Many eroded spaces with uneven surfaces
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	x		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		x	No designated path marked
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		x	No designated path marked
RAMPS – N/A			

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		x	No pull off area, must disembark in travel lane
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		x	No pull off area, must disembark in travel lane
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		x	Entrances are uneven
No ponding of water		x	Ponding on W. entrance
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	x		
3 ft wide minimum	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	x		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		x	No current drop-off areas
Entrances – N/A			

NOTES: Potential for drop off area along Pleasant Street, which has a designated sidewalk unlike Pleasant Green E/W. Need signs and paint for designating parking spaces.

PLEASANT STREET PLAYGROUND

STAIRS and DOORS – N/A

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – N/A

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES – N/A

NOTES: There is no accessible water to the public on site. This is in conflict with the recreation use of the site.

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES – N/A

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area – N/A

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A

PICNICKING

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

PLAIN AND STRONG STREET PLAYGROUND

Plain and Strong Street Playground

34 Plain St, Easthampton, MA 01027

Existing Conditions:

This is an ~1.3 acre playground that serves the residential neighborhood of Plain and Strong Street in the SW portion of the city. This playground has playground equipment with handicap accessible features. The site is accessible by vehicle by a discrete dirt driveway along Strong St. and unofficial pull-offs along the road. The parking area is not delineated with uneven surfaces and no specific path between the area to disembark and the playground structures. The amenities include a painted metal and composite material play-structure, swings, slides, benches, and a picnic table.

A recent study for the Plains-to-School trail recommended installation of sidewalks along south side of Plain Street. Consider connecting the playground to that sidewalk, providing non-vehicle accessibility.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Create a graded / even surface for the parking area and paths to site amenities
2. Designate a parking space for persons with disabilities
3. Designate paths to site amenities
4. Clarify the park entrance with signage
5. Install or add new ADA picnic table

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks Department



Figure 17: Playground Entrance (Strong St.)



Figure 18: Playground Path



Figure 19: Swings



Figure 20: Play-structure



Figure 21: Benches + Waste Receptacle



Figure 22: Strong Street N

PLAIN AND STRONG STREET PLAYGROUND

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

PARKING			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	Not designated or graded
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	Not designated
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	Not designated

PLAIN AND STRONG STREET PLAYGROUND

Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	Not designated
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	Not designated
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	Not designated
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	Not designated
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	Ungraded surface
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	Not paved
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	Not paved
RAMPS			
NOTES: No ramps on site			

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	Not designated
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	Not designated
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	Currently unpaved (dirt)
No ponding of water		x	Not graded
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		Currently unpaved (dirt)
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	x		Currently unpaved (dirt)
3 ft wide minimum	x		Currently unpaved (dirt)
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		x	Ungraded
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		x	Ungraded
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane		x	Roots and clumps grass patched impede path
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		x	Currently unpaved (dirt)
Entrances			
NOTES: No structures with doors on property.			

NOTES: Not currently paved or with ADA approved materials.

STAIRS and DOORS
NOTES: No buildings on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules
NOTES: No restroom on site

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES
NOTES: No building on site.

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area
NOTES: No swimming pool on site.

PLAIN AND STRONG STREET PLAYGROUND

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use

NOTES: No showers on site.

PICNICKING

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

PARSONS STREET TOT LOT PLAYGROUND

Parsons Street Tot Lot Playground

Corner of Parson and Federal St.

Existing Conditions:

A small playground facility that is adjacent to a former elementary school. There are limited play structures at this location – 1 swing set – as well as two benches, but there is no ADA access to these features. There is no dedicated parking lot so users rely on on-street parking. As any future upgrades are completed at this location, Parks and Recreation will ensure that this location improves in ADA compliance.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Install ADA path/side walk to benches
2. Add ADA sitting
3. Add ADA playground feature

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks Department



Figure 25. Parsons Street Tot Lot

Figure 25. Parsons Street Tot Lot bench

Figure 25. Parsons Street Tot Lot swing set

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Access to Open Spaces	Yes
		Back and Arm Rests	No arm rests
		Adequate number	Yes
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	No cans – trash in trash out
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,	N/A	
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
	Shade provided	N/A	

PARSONS STREET TOT LOT PLAYGROUND

Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	No
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	No
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	N/A
	Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
Handrails			N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		N/A

PARKING: On street- no parking lot			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			N/A
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			N/A
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			N/A
			N/A
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			N/A
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			N/A
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			N/A
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or			N/A

PARSONS STREET TOT LOT PLAYGROUND

Painted yellow			
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

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

PARSONS STREET TOT LOT PLAYGROUND

Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

NOTES: None of the above applies

STAIRS and DOORS – N/A

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – N/A

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES – N/A

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area – N/A

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A

PICNICKING – N/A

PULASKI PARK

Pulaski (Main Street) Park

Main Street

Existing Conditions:

This park is located in a busy downtown rotary adjacent to Main Street. There is a gazebo/pavilion with trash cans and a water spigot for events, along with benches along the path that bisects the site. There is not dedicated parking for this park as it is in the center of the Main Street thoroughfare, but handicap parking spaces are located on Main Street. To access the park, there are crosswalks to the North, East, and West. Getting to the park can be difficult due to fast moving traffic and many blind spots. The pavilion is not handicap accessible. This will be considered with any future upgrades to this structure.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Provide sidewalk bump-outs to shorten the distance in the street
2. Install curb cut mats and textured paint
3. Create a ramp to allow access to the gazebo
4. Improve visibility for crossing from Northampton Street
5. Provide handicap parking along one of the adjacent streets

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Park and Recreation



Figure 26: Main Street East Entrance



Figure 28: Gazebo without Ramp



Figure 30: Pleasant Street Crossing



Figure 27: Benches and Bins



Figure 29: Northampton Street Entrance



Figure 31: Main Street West Entrance

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

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

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

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

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	x		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	x		
Entrances – N/A			

NOTES: No doors on gazebo.

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs			
No open risers	x		
Nosings not projecting		x	
Treads no less than 11" wide	x		
Handrails on both sides	x		
Handrails 34"-38" above tread	x		
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)		x	
Handgrip oval or round		x	
Handgrip has a smooth surface		x	
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"		x	
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
Doors – N/A			

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – N/A

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES – N/A

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES – N/A

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area – N/A

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A

PICNICKING – N/A

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

Katherine Root Wayside Park

Corner of Florence Rd and Rt. 10

Existing Conditions:

A small pocket park for passive recreation with two picnic tables, this park has limited parking onsite accommodating 3 cars. Handicap parking is available at Bak Plaza across the street. There is a lighted flag pole on site, but no ADA access to tables. Any future upgrades to this location should consider the addition of one handicap parking space.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Install ADA path/side walk to table
2. Add ADA Picnic Table
3. Designate new handicapped parking

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks and Recreation



Figure 33 KRW Park



Figure 33. KRW Picnic Table

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Access to Open Spaces	Yes
		Back and Arm Rests	No
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No cans - Trash in trash out
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A	
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,	N/A	
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. Swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		N/A

PARKING: 3 spots, no ADA spot			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		x	Parking is in adjacent plaza. Add ADA spot
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		x	
RAMPS			

KATHERINE ROOT WAYSIDE PARK

<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES – No specific site entrance, so these do not apply			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Path of Travel			
Entrances			

The following categories are not present on site, and there for are not applicable.

STAIRS and DOORS
RESTROOMS
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES
SWIMMING POOLS
SHOWER ROOMS

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

BOATHOUSE BEACH PARK

Boathouse Beach

Water Ln.

Existing Conditions:

This parcel, located in a residential area, once contained a boathouse and active swimming area. Today, the area provides paved boating and fishing access to Nashawannuck Pond. A parking area is located on the parcel, but access is difficult due to lack of curb cuts. Renovations completed in recent years by the Department of Fishing and Boating Access added formal boat launching access and improved accessibility, adding 4 parking spaces for a vehicle with a trailer and 1 designated ADA Van parking space. The state now maintains the boating and fishing facility, though the property is still owned by the City.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. None

Schedule: N/A

Responsible Entity: Parks & Recreation & Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Figure 34. Boathouse Beach Accessible Parking Spot



Figure 35. Boathouse Beach Boat Launch



Figure 36. Boathouse Beach Parking area entrance

BOATHOUSE BEACH PARK

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

PARKING: 8 total parking spaces, with 1 ADA and van accessible spot

Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces
Up to 25	1 space
26-50	2 spaces
51-75	3 spaces
76-100	4 spaces
101-150	5 spaces
151-200	6 spaces

BOATHOUSE BEACH PARK

201-300		7 spaces
301-400		8 spaces
401-500		9 spaces
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X	Yes van accessible space that meets all standards
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		N/A
RAMPS – No ramps onsite		

The following categories are not present on site, and there for are not applicable.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES
STAIRS and DOORS
RESTROOMS
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES
SWIMMING POOLS
SHOWER ROOMS
PICNICKING

NASHAWANNUCK POND BOARDWALK/ PROMENADE PARK
Nashawannuck Pond Boardwalk/ Promenade Park

Address: Cottage Street

Existing Conditions:

The City completed the Nashawannuck Pond Promenade/boardwalk in 2014, providing public access around the downtown pond, including three accessible ramps to three floating docks. The park is a boardwalk that runs along the Northeast corner of Nashawannuck Pond, across from the Easthampton Municipal Building. The boardwalk consists of hardwood planking which abuts a concrete sidewalk. There are benches along the length of the boardwalk and guardrails along the perimeter of the pond. The midpoint of the boardwalk opens to access areas to the water with stairs and ramps to docks.

This park is handicap accessible from the sidewalks on Cottage Street and Williston Avenue. In addition, there are handicap accessible gangways and boating docks.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Ensure the ramp does not get too steep in connection to the dock

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Parks & Recreation



Figure 37: Benches + Boardwalk Cottage St



Figure 39: Dock Connection



Figure 41: Boat Launch



Figure 38: Dock and Ramp



Figure 40: Williston Ave. Crossing



Figure 42: Waterfront Stairs

NASHAWANNUCK POND BOARDWALK/ PROMENADE PARK

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

NASHAWANNUCK POND BOARDWALK/ PROMENADE PARK

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

NASHAWANNUCK POND BOARDWALK/ PROMENADE PARK

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	x		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	x		
Entrances – N/A			

NOTES: No public buildings on site.

STAIRS and DOORS – N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES – N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area – N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A
PICNICKING – N/A

BORUCHOWKI PARCEL

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In general, there are few if any designed/formal designated trails on Conservation Commission open space parcels in Easthampton. Those that are in place are not ADA compliant, nor are there any publically-funded special programs administered, but there could be potential to amend this in the future.

Boruchowski Parcel

Hendrick Street (Map: 175-6)

Existing Conditions:

There are well-marked trails systems in place at the Boruchowski Parcel on Hendrick Street, but given its location on Mount Tom (which is largely designated Priority Habitat by NHESP) and steep grade changes existing throughout, it would be difficult to implement an ADA compliant trail at this location. There is also no dedicated parking at this location, and it is likely that visitors utilize Bernie Avenue for parking.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Remove protruding roots along path and establish regular removal of low hanging branches into the path.
2. Replace existing bridge to be wider with more slip resistant surfacing.
3. Install designated parking area with accessible parking.
4. Evaluate all trails for steepness and general difficulty, and mark trails to correspond with those evaluations.

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission

BORUCHOWKI PARCEL



Photos: Top left and right: foot bridge; Middle let: walking path; Middle right: park sign; Bottom: uneven/natural trail surface



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	None
	Grills	None
	Trash Cans	None
	Picnic Shelters	None
Trails		Network of unmapped trails.
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None

BORUCHOWKI PARCEL

	Beaches	None
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	None
	Access Routes	None
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis 	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Boat Docks	Access Routes	None
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Restrooms	Access Routes	None
Water Fountain	Access Routes	None
Parking		None
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	None
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	None
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	None

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 (0 Spaces)	1 space (None designated as such.)		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		No	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		No	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		No	
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is		No	No curb.

BORUCHOWKI PARCEL

present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	No curb.
RAMPS			None.
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			Not applicable.
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			Not applicable.
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			Not applicable.
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			Not applicable.
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			Not applicable.
Handgrip oval or round			Not applicable.
Handgrip smooth surface			Not applicable.
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			Not applicable.
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			Not applicable.
Non-slip surface			Not applicable.
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			Not applicable.

Notes: No official parking area. Can park on Bernie Avenue across the street unofficially.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water		No	Possible at spots on interior trails.
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures			
Path does not require the use of stairs	Yes		No stairs on site, but some areas very steep.
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		No	Dirt with leaves.
3 ft wide minimum		No	Fluctuates throughout trails.
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		No	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		No	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	Yes		Bridge on site and protruding roots throughout.
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, higher than 80"		No	Some low branches hanging in path.
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		No	No curb.
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance		No	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			Not applicable.
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			Not applicable.
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			Not applicable.
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			Not applicable.
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			Not applicable.

BORUCHOWKI PARCEL

Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			Not applicable.
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Notes: No built structures on site.

Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			Not applicable.
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			Not applicable.
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			Not applicable.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			Not applicable.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			Not applicable.

Notes: No doors on site.

STAIRS AND DOORS

Notes: No doors or stairs on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface	Yes		Some mats on bridge ~1ft wide.
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored		No	
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	Yes		Bridge ~3ft wide.
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor		No	Some low branches in path.
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			Not applicable.
Hand operated push button or level controls			Not applicable.
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			Not applicable.
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			Not applicable.
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			Not applicable.

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, controls, and signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for aside reach			Not applicable.
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			Not applicable.
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			Not applicable.
Signs One sign at entrance parking area by road.			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			Unknown.
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			Not applicable.
Letters and numbers at least 1¼" high	Yes		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		No	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	Yes		Yellow letters on dark red.

Notes: One bridge on site and one sign at entrance. Sign not sturdy when touched.

PICNICKING

Notes: No picnic tables on site.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community Gardens

Park Hill Road (Map: 117-1)

Existing Conditions:

Located on Park Hill Road, there is a gravel parking area for 4-5 cars, and no dedicated space for handicap parking. The gardens also do not have any raised, handicap accessible garden plots. There have been discussions in the city regarding the development of garden plots within the downtown area that would be more readily accessible to those without a car. If and when these plots are developed, it would be important for the Conservation Commission to work with the Community Garden Committee to develop a few handicap accessible garden plots for individuals who have mobility impairments.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Pave parking area and create designated accessible parking spot.
2. Install ramp to lower planting plot areas from parking area.
3. Install accessible picnic benches and raised garden plots.
4. Establish alternative community garden with more accessible features in another location in the city.

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission

COMMUNITY GARDENS



Photos: Above left: gravel parking area; Above right: Facility sign; Middle left: hose hook-up shed; Middle right: Picnic table; Bottom left: Informational kiosk and community bulletin board; Bottom right: Equipment shed.

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	1 Table (not accessible style)
	Grills	None
	Trash Cans	None
	Picnic Shelters	None

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Trails		Some overgrown through orchard area.
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None
	Beaches	None
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	None
	Access Routes	None
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis 	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Boat Docks	Access Routes	None
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Restrooms	Access Routes	None
Water Fountain	Access Routes	1 Faucet for hose hook up.
Parking		3-4 car capacity. Gravel, no lines or accessible signs.
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Community Garden.
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	None?
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	Committee contact?

PARKING

<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25 (3-4 Spaces)		1 space (None designated as such.)	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle.		No	None designated, but no set space lines so a van could fit if space available.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	Yes		Hard packed gravel.
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		No	None.
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	None.
RAMPS			1 Ramp at shed, ~2ft long and ~5ft wide piece of plywood.
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			Unknown.
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails		No	
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		No	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		No	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		No	
Handgrip oval or round		No	
Handgrip smooth surface		No	
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"		No	
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail		No	
Non-slip surface		No	
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction		No	

Notes: Parking lot is packed gravel then grassy slope to garden area

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water	Yes		
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures			
Path does not require the use of stairs	Yes		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		No	
3 ft wide minimum	Yes		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			Unknown
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	Yes		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	Yes		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	Yes		None.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		No	None.
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance		No	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors		No	
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	Yes		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	Yes		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist		No	
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space		No	None.
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		No	None.

Notes: Only physical entrance is to shed.

Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			Unknown.
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			Unknown.
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum		No	None.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		No	
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			Unknown.

Notes: Could not access shed interior.

STAIRS AND DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs	No stairs on site.		
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening	Yes		
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			Unknown.
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			Unknown.
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			Unknown.
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			Unknown.
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)		No	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor		No	
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			Unknown.
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked		No	None.
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			Unknown.

Notes: Only door associated with shed. Could not access shed interior.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules
--

Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors	Only floor in shed, could not access interior.		
Non-slip surface			Unknown.
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			Unknown.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			Unknown.
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			Unknown.
Drinking Fountains One faucet for hose hook up – no drinking fountains.			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			Not applicable. Yes for hose hook-up
Hand operated push button or level controls			Not applicable.
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			Not applicable.
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			Not applicable.
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			Not applicable.

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, controls, and signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach		No	None.
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor		No	None.
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible		No	None.
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			Unknown.
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed		No	
Letters and numbers at least 1¼" high	Yes		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		No	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	Yes		White letters on green.

Notes: None.

PICNICKING

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

Notes: None.

GUISTINA PROPERTY**Guistina Property**

Off Plain Street (Map: 170-60)

Existing Conditions:

The Guistina Property on Plain Street has one unmarked trail along the perimeter of the property and shares a parking easement with 115 Plain Street. This parcel was obtained as part of an approved Open Space Residential Development subdivision project. However, given the limited change in topography, it seems possible to implement a handicap accessible trail at this location, as well as develop a more formalized parking area. This property is currently part of planning for a Plains-To-School trail. Current thinking has that trail passing by Giustina with potential for a spur into the conservation area. Parking for the trail on or near Giustina would serve the Giustina Conservation Area as well.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Install trails in the interior of the property that meet ADA specifications.
2. Expand and repave existing parking area or install new alternative parking area that meets ADA specifications.
3. Install signage with trail map and description of conditions.
4. Establish regular maintenance of trails to remain clear of obstructions/hazards.

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission

GUISTINA PROPERTY



Photos: Above: driveway with broken paving and gravel; Bottom left: Property sign; Bottom right: Parking area shared with 115 Plain St.

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	None
	Grills	None
	Trash Cans	None
	Picnic Shelters	None
Trails		None discernable in wooded area, mowed path along edge of parcel.
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None
	Beaches	None
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	None
Game Areas:	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Boat Docks	Access Routes	None
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Restrooms	Access Routes	None
Water Fountain	Access Routes	None

GUISTINA PROPERTY

Parking		1 Spot, broken pavement/gravel. Shared with 115 Plain Street.
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	None
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	None
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	None

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 (1 Space)	1 space (None designated as such.)		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		No	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		No	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		No	
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		No	None.
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	None.
RAMPS			None.

Notes: Parking lot is broken paving and gravel in between. Very uneven and partially used by 115 Plain Street.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	

GUISTINA PROPERTY

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water	Yes		
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures			
Path does not require the use of stairs	Yes		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		No	
3 ft wide minimum	Yes		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	Yes		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	Yes		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	Yes		
Objects protruding more than 4” from the wall must be within 27” of the ground, or higher than 80”	Yes		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	Yes		No curb.
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance		No	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			Not applicable.
Minimum 32” clear width opening (i.e. 36” door with standard hinge)			Not applicable.
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			Not applicable.
Door handle no higher than 48” and operable with a closed fist			Not applicable.
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			Not applicable.
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			Not applicable.

Notes: No physical entrances. Only known path is dirt around parcel edge. Evidence of mowing and some protruding roots around edge path. No discernable paths through woods, though may exist under leaves/light snow.

Door mats less than ½” thick are securely fastened			Not applicable.
Door mats more than ½” thick are recessed			Not applicable.
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½” maximum			Not applicable.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			Not applicable.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			Not applicable.

Notes: No doors on site, just path right off parking lot.

STAIRS AND DOORS

Notes: No doors or stairs on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS – Not applicable			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, controls, and signs	Not applicable.		
Signs			One sign at entrance parking area by road.
Mounting height must be 60” to centerline of the sign			Unknown.

GUISTINA PROPERTY

Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			Not applicable.
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high	Yes		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		No	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	Yes		White letters on brown.

Notes: No built structures on site, except one hanging sign at entrance by road.

PICNICKING

Notes: No picnic tables on site.

HOLLY CIRCLE OSRD
Holly Circle OSRD

Holly Circle (Map: 166-37); (Map: 166-40); (Map: 166-53); (Map: 166-66)

Existing Conditions:

Four parcels were placed as set-asides with an approved Open Space Residential Development subdivision project. Considering the amount of wetlands and streams, none of these parcels are ideal for passive recreational opportunities. There is no trail system in place at this location nor is there much general access with one parcel having no frontage and the majority of the others having a low wooden fence along any frontage.

The envisioned Plains-to-School Trail would pass through one of these open space parcels and thus provide an accessible route from Plain Street to the new school, the Tree House Community, adjacent natural areas, and potentially, also to Nonotuck Park and its paved paths.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Evaluate feasibility to create an accessible path in this location.

Schedule: N/A

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission, Connections to south would also involve Pascommuck as partner.



Photo: Street view of property. No access to site. Low wooden fencing in front of the one frontage to the road.

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	None
	Grills	None
	Trash Cans	None
	Picnic Shelters	None
Trails		None

HOLLY CIRCLE OSRD

Swimming Facilities	Pools	None
	Beaches	None
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	None
	Access Routes	None
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis 	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Boat Docks	Access Routes	None
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Restrooms	Access Routes	None
Water Fountain	Access Routes	None
Parking		None
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	None
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	None
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	None

PARKING (<i>None designated as Accessible Spaces.</i>)			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 (0 Spaces)	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		No	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		No	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		No	
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		No	
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	

HOLLY CIRCLE OSRD

RAMPS			None.
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Notes: No access to site. Low wooden fencing in front of one of the frontages to the road.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
None.			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water		No	
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures			
Path does not require the use of stairs		No	No stairs on site.
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		No	No paths on site.
3 ft wide minimum		No	
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		No	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		No	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			Not applicable.
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			Not applicable.
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		No	
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance		No	No paths on site.
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			Not applicable.
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			Not applicable.
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			Not applicable.
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			Not applicable.
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			Not applicable.
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			Not applicable.

Notes: No built structures on site or paths.

Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			Not applicable.
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			Not applicable.
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½"			Not applicable.

HOLLY CIRCLE OSRD

maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			Not applicable.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			Not applicable.

Notes: No doors on site.

STAIRS AND DOORS

Notes: No doors or stairs on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Floors

No floors or paths.

Drinking Fountains

No drinking fountains.

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES

Notes: *No built floors, paths, or signage on site.*

PICNICKING

Notes: No picnic tables on site.

WEST STREET APR
West Street APR
West Street

Existing Conditions:

On paper, the West Street parcel has a trail around the perimeter of the parcel boundary. On ground, these foot paths could not be located. There is no parking to access this property. Significant grade changes and multiple stream crossing would make it difficult to develop an ADA compliant trail system.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Evaluate feasibility for accessible trails despite steep grade/wetlands present.
2. Install signage for property.

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission



WEST STREET APR

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	None
	Grills	None
	Trash Cans	None
	Picnic Shelters	None
Trails		None
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None
	Beaches	None
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	None
	Access Routes	None
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis 	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Boat Docks	Access Routes	None
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	None
	Equipment	None
Restrooms	Access Routes	None
Water Fountain	Access Routes	None
Parking		None
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	None
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	None
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	None

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 (0 Spaces)	1 space (No parking.)		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		No	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	

WEST STREET APR

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		No	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		No	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		No	None.
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	None.
RAMPS			None on site.

Notes: No parking area associated with site and no access to interior by any trails.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water		No	
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures		No paths on site.	

Notes: No built structures on the site. Terrain is steep and wetlands below. No paths to interior.

Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			Not applicable.
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			Not applicable..
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			Not applicable.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		No	No signage.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		No	

Notes: No built structures on site.

STAIRS AND DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs			
		No stairs on site.	
Doors			
		No doors on site.	

Notes: No built structures on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules		No restroom on site.	
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Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
		No floors on site.	
Drinking Fountains			
		One faucet with hose hook up.	
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, controls, and signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the		No	None.

WEST STREET APR

floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor		No	None.
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible		No	None.
Signs			None.
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign		No	
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed		No	
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high		No	
Letters and numbers raised .03"		No	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color		No	

Notes: No signage to mark site or trails.

PICNICKING – N/A

Notes: No picnic tables or cleared areas.

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL OTHER OWNERSHIP

Manhan Rail Trail

N/A

Existing Conditions:

Managed and maintained by the Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, the trail has a total length of 6 miles within the City of Easthampton, connecting to both the City of Northampton and Town of Southampton. The trail is paved its entire length, and is less than 5% grade, meeting accessibility requirements. Public restrooms are available along the trail seasonally at Millside Park, and year round at the Public Safety Complex (32 Payson). Both locations have accessible bathrooms. Parking is available at the Easthampton Public Safety Building at 32 Payson Ave., at Millside Park off of Ferry Street, at the Northeast Center for Youth and Families (203 East Street), and at a small lot at the Route 5 end of the trail. The trail has a small green and white marker on a post or fence every mile.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Repair trail surface in areas where tree roots have grown underneath
2. Upgrade Rail Trail street crossings
3. Identify highly traveled informal paths connecting to the rail trail and formally integrate them into the trail network

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: City of Easthampton, Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail



Photos: Left: Manhan Rail Trail bridge over Rt. 10; Center: Sunrise on the trail behind the mills on Pleasant Street.; Right: Manhan Rail Trail through City center.

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	COMMENTS/TRANSITION NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	There are benches at various locations along the bike path, though none are accessible except for those at Millside Park, profiled separately in this plan.
		Access to Open Spaces	
		Back and Arm Rests	
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No picnic shelters within the Manhan Rail Trail property boundaries.
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		Same as above	
Trails		Surface material	Asphalt
		Dimensions	6 miles by roughly 10'
		Rails	Y, some locations
		Signage (for visually impaired)	No
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

Fishing Facilities	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A	

NOTES: The Manhan Rail Trail connects to a number of public recreational amenities that are profiles elsewhere in this report.

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	Y		Easthampton Public Safety Building at 32 Payson Ave., at Millside Park off of Ferry Street, at the Northeast Center for Youth and Families (203 East Street), and at a small lot at the Route 5 end of the trail.
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	Y		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	Y		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	Y		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Y		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	Y		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	Y		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Y		
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	Y		
Curb cut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to	Y		

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1½" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access – There are numerous informal access points to the trail, with formal access points at the trailheads at Route 5 near the Oxbow; at Coleman Road, Southampton and at the connection with the Manhan Rail Trail in Northampton at the Easthampton City line near Lovefield Street.			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	y		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	y		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	y		
No ponding of water	y		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	y		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	y		
3 ft wide minimum	y		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	y		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	y		With the exception of some areas where tree roots have raised the asphalt
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			N/A
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A

MANHAN RAIL TRAIL

Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened		N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed		N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum		N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		N/A
NOTES: No buildings included in the Rail Trail.		

STAIRS and DOORS

NOTES: No stairs or doors

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules

NOTES: No restrooms as part of this site. Public restrooms are available along the trail seasonally at Millside Park, and year round at the Public Safety Complex (32 Payson). Both locations have accessible bathrooms.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES

NOTES: No floors, drinking fountains, or telephones as part of this site.

SWIMMING POOLS

NOTES: N/A

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use

NOTES: N/A

PICNICKING

NOTES: No picnic tables on the Rail Trail

BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMPGROUND
Boy Scouts of America campground
Highland Avenue (Map: 129-22)



Photos: Top left: sign in woods; top right: grown-in camp area; Middle left: tree down over trail; Bottom left: water spigot; Bottom right: access road.

Existing Conditions:

This 16-acre parcel was granted to the City of Easthampton from the Boy Scouts of America in 1950. The deed maintains that this property is to be used for “general recreational purposes”; however active management of this parcel has been non-existent. Access to the parcel is available off Highland Avenue; there are no formal handicap parking areas and the parking area is within Right-of-Way which shares a driveway with 79 Highland Avenues. There is an existing trail which

BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMPGROUND

appears to be in good shape, is flat and about 8’ wide. The trail provides access to a former camping area (now filled with trees), which is also in a flat area which could be converted to an accessible area. It appears this parcel has potential to be converted into an accessible trail network.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Pave parking area and create designated accessible parking spot.
2. Pave or install hard pack gravel over current path and clear obstructions (fallen tree).
3. Clear vegetation from some existing flat areas and install accessible picnic benches.
4. Install signage for area and trails with trail map.

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Conservation Commission

Add photos with captions of elements listed above, where available

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	<i>None</i>
	Grills	<i>None</i>
	Trash Cans	<i>None</i>
	Picnic Shelters	<i>None</i>
Trails		<i>One path which leads off the property.</i>
Swimming Facilities	Pools	<i>None</i>
	Beaches	<i>None</i>
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	<i>None</i>
	Access Routes	<i>None</i>
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis 	Access Routes	<i>None</i>
	Equipment	<i>None</i>
Boat Docks	Access Routes	<i>None</i>
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	<i>None</i>
	Equipment	<i>None</i>
Restrooms	Access Routes	<i>None</i>
Water Fountain	Access Routes	<i>1 Faucet for hose hook up. Not known if potable or working.</i>
Parking		<i>3-4 car capacity. Gravel, no lines or accessible signs.</i>
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	<i>None</i>
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	<i>None</i>
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign	<i>None</i>

BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMPGROUND

	language interpreter) for meetings	
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PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 (3-4 Spaces)	1 space (None designated as such.)		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		No	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		No	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		No	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		No	None designated, but no set space lines so a van could fit if space available.
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		No	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	Yes		Hard packed gravel.
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		No	None.
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		No	None.
RAMPS			None on site.

Notes: Parking area is gravel Right-of-Way which looks like it's part of the driveway for 79 Highland Avenue. Resident explained people often park there to access trail.

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		No	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		No	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		No	
No ponding of water	Yes		
Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures			
Path does not require the use of stairs		No	
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		No	
3 ft wide minimum	Yes		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			Unknown Site primarily flat but one section of trail with significant slope.
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		No	Large tree fallen across path.
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	Yes		

BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMPGROUND

Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"		No	Low hanging branches into path and large tree fallen across path.
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		No	None.
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance		No	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors		No	
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)		No	
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door		No	
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist		No	
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space		No	None.
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		No	None.

Notes: No built entrance, though parking area to path is flat gravel. No signage marking trail or labelling the property.

Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			Not applicable.
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			Not applicable..
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			Not applicable.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		No	No signage.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		No	

Notes: No built structures on site except an old flag pole.

STAIRS AND DOORS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs	No stairs on site.		
Doors	No doors on site.		

Notes: No built structures on site.

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules	No restroom on site.
--	-----------------------------

Notes: No restrooms on site.

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors	No floors on site.		
Drinking Fountains	One faucet with hose hook up.		
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	Yes		
Hand operated push button or level controls		No	
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible		No	
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain		No	Not applicable.
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach		No	Not applicable.
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			

BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMPGROUND

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, controls, and signs	<i>None.</i>		
Signs			<i>None.</i>
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed		<i>No</i>	
Letters and numbers at least 1¼" high		<i>No</i>	
Letters and numbers raised .03"		<i>No</i>	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color		<i>No</i>	

Notes: no signage to mark site or trails. One faucet in site interior, connection and potability of water unknown.

PICNICKING	<i>No picnic tables or cleared areas.</i>
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Notes: No picnic tables or cleared areas.

MUTTER'S FIELD ACCESSIBLE TRAIL
Mutter's Field Accessible Trail

Address: 405-417 East Street

Existing Conditions:

This is designated ADA accessible trail system located between E. Green and East Streets, comprised of a large meadow, surrounded by woodlands and two small brooks. The 1800-foot stone-dust trail loops around a 2-acre meadow, with non-accessible trail offshoots including the Brickyard Brook trail.

Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

1. Create accessible signage for trailhead

Schedule: 2021-2028

Responsible Entity: Pascommuck Conservation Trust



Figure 43: Handicap Parking Space



Figure 46: Meadow Path



Figure 44: Entrance Bench



Figure 47: East Green Street Entrance



Figure 45: Bridge from East Street



Figure 48: East Green Street Bridge

MUTTERS FIELD ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

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

MUTTERS FIELD ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25 *	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	x		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		x	10' space with 4' aisle
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	X		
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	X		
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	X		
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	X		
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"	X		
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail	X		
Non-slip surface	X		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	x		

MUTTERS FIELD ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
Entrances – N/A			

NOTES: No building on site.

STAIRS and DOORS – N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES – N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES – N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area – N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use – N/A

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

APPENDIX P: PUBLIC COMMENT AND LETTERS OF REVIEW



City of Easthampton Planning Board

50 Payson Avenue Easthampton MA 01027

Board Members:

Jesse Belcher-Timme, Chair
Harry Schumann
James Zarvis
Chris Cockshaw
Austin Sanderson

January 20, 2021

Ms. Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Theoharides,

On behalf of the Easthampton Planning Board, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan update. On January 19, 2021 the Planning Board voted 4-0 (one absent) to recommend submission of the Plan to the Division of Conservation Services. Over the past year, the City through its steering committee and Planning Department have worked closely with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to update the Plan consistent with DCS requirements and the recommendations of the regional land use plan Valley Vision 4.

The City has seen the value and importance of establishing community supported goals and continuing to work strategically to align key projects with appropriate funding sources. We have used our CPA funds carefully to seed early project designs and to seed the funding and creation of larger projects. As a Planning Board, we understand the need as outlined in the Plan to consider additional zoning amendments to better direct growth to desirable areas while protecting more sensitive or important outlining areas, including but not limited to the views of Mt. Tom.

Although this plan was created during COVID 19, the extra efforts to engage residents through a City-wide mailing, social media updates, and two virtual meetings have allowed us to create a strong vision for our Open Space and Recreation goals for the next 7 years – and beyond.

This plan was prepared according to the guidelines that were issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and contains all requirements set forth. We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

James Zarvis, Acting Planning Board Chair



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Easthampton Municipal Building
50 Payson Ave., Ste. 100
Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027-2260
Telephone #: (413) 529-1400, ext. 460
Fax #: (413) 529-1417

February 9, 2021

Ms. Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Theoharides,

On behalf of the Easthampton City Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

We have seen the value and importance of establishing community supported goals and continue to work strategically to align key projects with appropriate funding sources. We have used our CPA funds carefully to seed early project designs and to seed the funding and creation of larger projects. We understand the need to invest in upgraded infrastructure within Nonotuck Park, expand recreation opportunities in some of our oldest neighborhoods, to support the larger goal of creating new pedestrian and bicycle connections to our new K-8 elementary school, along with the many other important action items outlined in the Plan.

Although this plan was created during COVID 19, the extra efforts to engage residents through a City-wide mailing, social media updates, and two virtual meetings have allowed us to create a strong vision for our Open Space and Recreation goals for the next 7 years – and beyond.

We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Margaret Conniff

05C560CEC4EB40D...
Margaret Conniff, City Council President



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027
www.easthamptonma.gov

February 8, 2021

Ms. Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Theoharides,

On behalf of the Easthampton Conservation Commission, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan update. On February 8th, 2021 the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend submission of the Plan to the Division of Conservation Services. Over the past year, the City through its steering committee and Planning Department have worked closely with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to update the Plan consistent with DCS requirements and the recommendations of the regional land use plan Valley Vision 4.

The City has seen the value and importance of establishing community supported goals and continuing to work strategically to align key projects with appropriate funding sources. We have used our CPA funds carefully to seed early project designs and to seed the funding and creation of larger projects. As a Conservation Commission, we understand the need to support and fund maintenance of our valuable open space as well as promote it through the actions proposed in the plan.

Although this plan was created during COVID 19, the extra efforts to engage residents through a City-wide mailing, social media updates, and two virtual meetings have allowed us to create a strong vision for our Open Space and Recreation goals for the next 7 years – and beyond. We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Cassie Tragert

(Conservation Agent, Signing on Behalf of the Conservation Commission)



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE
c/o Planning Department, 50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027
www.easthamptonma.gov – 413.529.1405

February 17, 2021

Ms. Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan, Easthampton, MA

Dear Secretary Theoharides,

On behalf of the Easthampton Community Preservation Act committee (CPA), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

We have seen the value and importance of establishing community supported goals and continue to work strategically to align key projects with appropriate funding sources. We have used our CPA funds carefully to seed early project designs and to seed the funding and creation of larger projects. We understand the need to invest in upgraded infrastructure within Nonotuck Park, expand recreation opportunities in some of our oldest neighborhoods, to support the larger goal of creating new pedestrian and bicycle connections to our new K-8 elementary school, along with the many other important action items outlined in the Plan.

Although this plan was created during COVID 19, the extra efforts to engage residents through a City-wide mailing, social media updates, and two virtual meetings have allowed us to create a strong vision for our Open Space and Recreation goals for the next 7 years – and beyond.

We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Rist, Chair
Easthampton Community Preservation Act Committee



Manhan Rail Trail Committee
50 Payson Avenue
Easthampton, MA 01027

January 26, 2021

Melissa Cryan
Grant Programs Supervisor
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Manhan Rail Trail Committee has reviewed and voted to support the 2021 City of Easthampton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The committee feels strongly that the goals and actions proposed in this plan will move the city closer to meeting its recreational needs and resource protection priorities.

These needs and priorities were established by the Open Space and Recreation Committee which sought and thoroughly reviewed input from citizens, elected officials, city employees, city boards and others using surveys, virtual visioning sessions and outreach.

The Manhan Rail Trail Committee has long believed that connecting the rail trail to city parks and schools is of the highest priority, and this plan addresses that need.

The committee also supports the improvements to other recreational facilities and the expansion of protected resources as listed in the plan. We believe that each of these proposals when combined with rail trail accessibility will provide the city with a highly desirable network of trails, open spaces and facilities, meeting its needs for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Barbara LaBombard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara LaBombard, Chair, Manhan Rail Trail Committee