

# **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**



**TOWN OF NORFOLK**

2017

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**FOR**

**NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS**

Prepared for:

**Community Preservation Committee**

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## **PLAN SUMMARY**

This 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan for Norfolk was prepared as the town continues to face steady population growth as well as commercial and industrial development. This development adds stress on the region's natural resources as well as the character of the Town. This Plan attempts to balance these pressures and contains the following major elements:

- A description of the public input utilized in developing the Plan;
- A demographic profile of the Town;
- A summary of recent growth trends;
- An environmental portrait of Norfolk
- An inventory of existing protected open space and recreation lands in Town;
- An analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- A statement of goals and objectives; and
- An action plan.

Among the recommended actions are to identify and rank key parcels to protect resources, acquire additional parcels, increase public awareness of open space and recreation needs and use cable TV and social media in that effort, establish greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies, increase the diversity of recreation opportunities, further protect and acquire water resources, establish a historic district, increase environmental awareness regarding use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals, promote trail and sidewalk development and work coordinate with abutting towns to protect water resources.

# INTRODUCTION

## **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the open space and recreation resources of Norfolk are protected and enhanced as the Town continues to grow and develop. A survey of residents (see Community Vision section and the Appendix for more details) conducted for this Open Space and Recreation Plan indicated strong support for preserving open space and recreation resources as well as historic places and buildings.

A common vision facilitates decision-making for everyone -- Town and State officials as well as developers and private landowners. This plan is intended to help provide that vision. It should also be noted that while this plan addresses the needs of Norfolk, natural and recreational resources do not end at Town boundaries. Efforts to coordinate open space and recreation planning with other towns in the region are also strongly encouraged. Coordination and cooperation in planning may lead to improved resource management and enhancement and diversification of recreational opportunities.

## **Prior Open Space and Recreation Planning Efforts**

Norfolk prepared a Master Plan in 1992 that was updated in 2007. Each of those included an Open Space and Recreation element. An Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed in 1996. A draft update of that plan was prepared in 2004 as part of a Community Development Plan, but it was never adopted or submitted to the Division of Conservation Services for approval. In addition, an "Open Space Corridor Strategic Plan" was completed in 2003. This plan identifies critical parcels to be preserved, with a focus on linking the existing protected areas together.

Norfolk had an open space subdivision provision in its Zoning Bylaw, which was completely rewritten in 2002. Two open space subdivisions had been approved under the original bylaw and most of the subdivisions in Town since the rewrite have taken advantage of the revised bylaw.

## **Planning Process and Public Participation**

The first step in preparing this update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was a survey of residents. The survey questions were based largely, but not exclusively, on the questions that were asked in 1994 as part of the 1996 OSRP. This was done in order to determine whether there has been a change in viewpoints and/or priorities over the past 20 years.

The draft questionnaire was prepared by the Community Preservation Committee with the assistance of PGC Associates. It was provided to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission for review and the final version reflects the input of those entities. It consisted of 10 substantive questions (some with multiple parts) and a final question regarding demographic information about the responder.

Paper copies were printed and were available at the November 18, 2014 Fall Town Meeting as well as in the offices of the Planning Board and Recreation Department. A link to the survey form was placed on the Town web site and a press release about the availability of the survey appeared in the

Country Gazette on December 19 and 26, 2014 and in Globe West on January 25, 2015. A total of 396 responses were received, all but 8 were completed on-line. A report on the survey results is included in the Appendix.

Following the survey, a public forum was held by the Community Preservation Committee on April 1, 2015 to present the results of the survey and to receive input on the draft goals and objectives that were based, in part, on the survey results. A second public forum was held on February 3, 2016 to present and receive input on the draft OSRP.

The comments received as a result of the forum were incorporated into the draft and it was sent to the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Recreation Commission for comment. Comments were received from representatives of all of those boards and commissions as well as from the Community Preservation Committee and incorporated into the draft. The updated draft was sent to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and comments from that organization were also incorporated.

## COMMUNITY SETTING

### Regional Context

One of the most significant regional aspects affecting Norfolk is its location within the Charles River Watershed Area. The Charles River serves as the town line between the towns of Norfolk and Millis and Norfolk and Medfield. Several rivers and streams meander across Town and flow into the Charles River, including Stop River, Mill River, Stony Brook and Cress Brook. Norfolk shares major aquifers with Franklin, Medway, Millis and Wrentham.

Norfolk is within 30 miles of Boston, Providence and Worcester. A high percentage of residents commute to these areas. Norfolk is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for the 102 cities and towns in the Boston metropolitan area, and its Southwest Area Planning (SWAP) subregion. This plan is compatible with MAPC's MetroFuture Plan, the regional development plan for metropolitan Boston, adopted in 2008. Among the major goals of MetroFuture are to focus on growth where it already exists, linked by efficient transportation choices and protecting natural resources.

The Town is traversed by two state highways. Route 1A crosses the southeast portion of town from Wrentham to Walpole. Route 115 runs northwesterly from Route 140 in Foxboro through the center of Norfolk and into Millis where it crosses Route 109 and terminates at Route 27 in Sherborn. Main Street also links Norfolk with Walpole to the east and to Franklin and I-495 on the west.

Norfolk serves the region as host of the Stony Brook Nature Center, owned and operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, a regional organization dedicated to preserving open space and education about the environment. It also hosts a state prison complex in the northeastern section of Town that straddles the town line with Walpole.

Norfolk participated in the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development's 495/Metrowest Development Compact, completed in 2012. That plan identified priority areas of local, regional and statewide interest for development, preservation and transportation. Norfolk's Town Center was identified as regional priority development area. Local priority preservation areas include the former Norfolk airport property, Longabardi Farm, Foley Farm, Comey's Pond, Jane and Paul's Farm, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections property and the former Buckley Mann site.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2012, is a 5-year plan developed by the Commonwealth to ensure eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. Norfolk is part of the Southeastern region in this plan.

Among its abutting towns, four out of seven have current Open Space and Recreation Plans. Franklin's expires in 2023, Foxboro's in July 2018, Medway's in June 2017, Walpole's in November 2016. Millis, Medfield and Wrentham do not have current plans.

Many of the characteristics discussed above contribute to a desirable quality of life. Therefore, like many of its neighbors, Norfolk has experienced an increase in residential growth in recent years.





While that growth has slowed since the turn of the century and especially during the recent economic downturn, there is currently an abundance of remaining undeveloped land. Smart growth planning is necessary to protect existing resources and to secure additional open space land for future conservation and recreation needs. Map 1 presents the regional context of Norfolk.

## **History**

The area that became the Town of Norfolk was first settled in the 1630's after the General Court approved a land grant for settlers who wanted to get away from Boston. The community developed around a few smaller settlements: North Parish, City Mills, Pondville and Highland Lake. Norfolk was incorporated as a town in 1870.

### *Manufacturing*

Many mills were established in Norfolk during the 1800's and the industrial revolution. Saw mills, corn mills and a box factory were prominent fixtures at Highland Lake, City Mills and Stony Brook. The largest of these companies was American Felt Mills who employed between 100 and 150 people. The building is still in use to this day by Camger Chemical to manufacture paint and varnish.

The Norfolk Woolen Company, founded by Frances Ray, ran a shoddy (reworked wool made from rags) factory on Stony Brook from 1862 until 1932 when it went bankrupt. The Buckley and Mann Company ran a textile mill on Lawrence Street from 1901 until 1994. The property is proposed for development as an open space preservation subdivision, but it has not been developed to date.

A thread mill was owned and operated near City Mills by Dr. Nathaniel Miller. During the American Revolution, Dr. Miller, who ran the first hospital in Town, was one of the first doctors to inoculate soldiers and civilians against small pox.

By the 1700's the Blake family had built mills and a farm on Stony Brook. Solomon Blake was running a sawmill on the brook across from a 2½-story house he built in 1762. Blake sold the sawmill, dam and water rights to a cotton manufacturing company, partly owned by Benjamin and Daniel Blake – his sons, in 1814. The mill was improved and a cotton mill, box factory and washing machine works were all built in the area.

In 1959, Mrs. Bennet Bristol, a descendent of the Blake family who had purchased the Stony Brook property, gave 238 acres to the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources to create the Bristol-Blake Reservation. In 1963, Mrs. Bristol bought the Enoch Blake home and gave it to the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The Society agreed to cooperate with the State in managing and protecting the property. While it is a conservation site today, for more than 250 years Stony Brook was a center of manufacturing and agricultural activities.

In 1848, a railroad was built which would provide transportation opportunities for manufacturing and agriculture to Norfolk. The addition of this new transportation further encouraged the founding of additional mills in the town.

## *Agriculture*

Farms have long been a mainstay of Norfolk and the Town economy. Dairy, crops, and poultry have been a major industry in Pondville. The largest farm was the Weber farm, which included a restaurant that attracted people from all over for its duck dinners.

During the early 1900's a watercress farm on the Myrtle Street and Lake Street area of Cress Pond shipped watercress to New York on the railroad. Norfolk was a rural and agricultural town before the 1950's with only a small amount of manufacturing. As time passed both of these industries declined in favor of residential development. Farms were sold and developed into dozens of houses and this trend has continued for more than four decades.

As late as 1980 seven dairy farms were still operating, but by 1996 only one remained. A small amount of horse, sheep and vegetable farming has remained in the Town and contributes greatly to the rural character of Norfolk while representing only a fraction of the economy. While most of the existing farms are taxed under the benefits given under Chapter 61A, this does not guarantee that these lands will be protected from future development.

## *Real Estate Development*

Created out of parts of the surrounding Towns of Franklin, Medway, Walpole and Wrentham, Norfolk was established on February 23, 1870. By the early 1900s Highland Lake was a recreation destination for Bostonians looking to spend the day in Norfolk courtesy of the railroad. Highland Lake's features, including a racetrack, dance hall, amusement park, baseball field, and skating rink in addition to the swimming and boating, made it an enjoyable escape for Norfolk's visitors.

The State acquired the land for Southwood (formerly Pondville) Hospital during World War I. The first use of the facility was to treat shell-shocked victims. It later was sold to a private, non-profit hospital (Caritas) who has since entered into an agreement with a private development company. The approximately 80 acres is a prime development site and has recently been proposed for a significant mixed-use development.

Norfolk State Prison was built in 1927 and in the 1930s Cedar Junction Correctional Facility was built. The area around these facilities has continued to be open space for many years. The Bay State Correctional facility opened in 1989 next to the Norfolk Prison. Norfolk received a \$2.8 million grant as mitigation for this facility and used it to build a new town hall. The Department of Corrections land includes more than 830 acres, much of it undeveloped.

In the early 1990's, Norfolk adopted the B-1 zoning district for the center of town and the C-1 district for the area around the Route 1A and 115 intersection leading to growth in both areas. A new Post Office and Olive Day Elementary School opened in 1994 and the new Town Hall opened in 1998. Liberty Lane and Meetinghouse Road made possible new commercial and residential development in the area of the commuter rail station. In 2016, a pocket neighborhood of 40 cottages on Main Street was approved continuing the trend to concentrate development in the Town Center. The C-4 zoning district in the northern end of town off Holbrook Street and Route 115 has led to the development of nearly 200 units of age-restricted housing as well as a small commercial center.

## Population Characteristics

### Population Growth

As Table 1 indicates, Norfolk experienced explosive population growth throughout the 1970's and 1980's and experienced a sharp drop in growth during the 1990's. Still, Norfolk's 11.1% growth rate during the 1990's was double the statewide rate of 5.5%.

**TABLE 1**  
**POPULATION GROWTH, 1970-2015**

Year	Population	Absolute Change <sup>6</sup>	Percentage Change <sup>6</sup>
<b>1970</b>	4,656 <sup>1</sup>	NA	<b>NA</b>
<b>1980</b>	6,363 <sup>2</sup>	1,700	<b>45.3%</b>
<b>1990</b>	9,270 <sup>3</sup>	2,472	<b>45.4%</b>
<b>2000</b>	10,560 <sup>4</sup>	876	<b>11.1%</b>
<b>2010</b>	11,227 <sup>5</sup>	188	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>2015*</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

Sources: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 U. S. Censuses and \*American Community Survey, 2011-2015

<sup>1</sup> Includes prison inmate population of 906. <sup>2</sup> Includes prison inmate population of 913.

<sup>3</sup> Includes prison inmate population of 1,348. <sup>4</sup> Includes prison inmate population of 1,762.

<sup>5</sup> Includes prison population of 2,241.

<sup>6</sup> Excludes prison population. For 2015, prison population is not available so the absolute change and percentage change are estimates based on the assumption that the prison population was the same as in 2010.

### Density

As Table 2 indicates, the average density in Norfolk increased from 253 persons per square mile in 1970 to 635 per square mile in 2015. This is lower than the average statewide density of 871 persons per square mile.

**TABLE 2**  
**POPULATION DENSITY 1970-2015**  
**(persons per square mile)**

Year	Norfolk <sup>1</sup>	Massachusetts
<b>1970</b>	253	<b>726</b>
<b>1980</b>	367	<b>732</b>
<b>1990</b>	534	<b>767</b>
<b>2000</b>	593	<b>813</b>
<b>2010</b>	606	<b>839</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>871</b>

Source: Computed by authors based on 14.83 square miles in Norfolk and 7800.06 square miles in Massachusetts

<sup>1</sup> Excluding prison population

It is important to note that average density is not necessarily an indicator of either the existence or quality of open space. Two towns with the same average density can have vastly different development patterns. One town could be developed into concentrated centers or villages surrounded by vast areas of open space, while the other could be characterized by low-density sprawl spread throughout its land area.

This concept is further illustrated by the reduction in the population of Boston from between 1950 and 2000 while the suburbs grew substantially. The City of Boston reached its highest population in 1950 at 801,444. This population was accommodated on about 46 square miles (about 3 times greater than the land area of Norfolk). In 2000, Boston’s population reached a low that was 26% less at 589,141. If the 212,303 people who left Boston were resettled in the suburbs at Norfolk’s current density of 769 per square mile, it would take 276 square miles, an area nearly 19 times larger than the area of Norfolk, to accommodate them. Clearly, concentrating development in city, town and village centers is a key component of protecting and preserving open space.

### Age

Table 3 presents the age breakdown for Norfolk and the state as a whole for the years 2000, 2010 and 2015. It indicates that while the median age in Norfolk is higher than the state’s and rising more rapidly, the percentage of residents 65 or older is smaller in Norfolk (though rising more rapidly than the state). Also, the percentage of school-age children has declined in both the town and state, but Norfolk had a higher percentage of school-age children in 2000 and 2010 but a lower percentage in 2015. The percentage of children under 5 increased between 2010 and 2015 but is still well below the percentage in 2000.

**TABLE 3**

**AGE 2000-2015  
(By percent)**

	2000		2010		2015*	
	Norfolk	MA	Norfolk	MA	Norfolk	MA
<b>0-4</b>	7.23%	6.26%	4.70%	5.60%	6.20%	5.50%
<b>5-19</b>	21.32%	20.14%	19.99%	19.15%	18.40%	18.50%
<b>20-64</b>	62.15%	60.01%	66.58%	61.45%	64.70%	61.50%
<b>65+</b>	5.46%	13.56%	8.72%	13.79%	10.60%	14.60%
<b>Total</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100%	100.00%	99.9%	100.10%
<b>Median</b>	37.4	36.5	42	39.1	43.4	39.3

Sources: 2000 and 2010 U. S. Census and \*American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

## **Income**

According to 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, the median household income in Norfolk in 2015 was \$141,278. This is more than double the statewide median of \$68,563. Median family income was \$150,096 compared to \$87,085 for the state as a whole. It is estimated that 26.3% of households in Norfolk had incomes of \$200,000 or more while 8.9% of Massachusetts households had that level.

Households with incomes below \$75,000 comprised 23.1% of Norfolk households compared to 53.6% of Massachusetts households. Among Norfolk families, 3.1% were below the poverty level. The figure is 8.2% for Massachusetts families.

## **Ethnicity**

Of Norfolk's 2015 population of 11,660 (as estimated by the ACS), 88.4% (10,308) are white, 5.8% (680) are black or African American, 1.0% (122) are Asian and 0.3% (31) are Native American. Furthermore, 5.8% (674) are Hispanic or Latino of any race.

## **Employment**

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the labor force in Norfolk has grown slightly from 4848 in 2010 to 5072 in 2015. The number of employed rose steadily from 4487 in 2010 to 4865 in 2015 while unemployed dropped from 361 to 207. The unemployment rate also dropped steadily from 7.4% in 2010 to 4.1% in 2015. In November 2016, the monthly unemployment rate was 1.9%.

The largest industry in Norfolk in 2015 was Transportation and Warehousing with 483 employees and 6 establishments. This was followed by Construction with 460 employees and 56 establishments, and Educational Services with 329 employees and 12 establishments. Health Care and Social Assistance and Accommodation and Food Services had 192 and 177 employees respectively, while Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade had 165 and 105 employees respectively. The highest average weekly wage was in the Wholesale Trade sector at \$1888. This was followed by Finance and Insurance at \$1807 and Professional and Technical Services at \$1305. The average weekly wage for all industries was \$1061.

## **Housing**

The ACS estimates that there are 3295 housing units in Norfolk. Of these, 3015 (91.5%) are single family homes. There are also 173 1-unit attached units, 49 duplexes, 19 units in buildings with 3 or 4 units and 32 units in buildings with 5 to 9 units. There were no units in buildings with 10 or more and there were 7 mobile homes.

Corresponding to the large population increases during those decades, 916 units were built in the 1980's, 561 in the 1970's and 376 in the 1990's. The ACS finds that 104 (3.2%) of the total housing units in Norfolk have been built since 2010.

## **Growth and Development Patterns**

### **Patterns and Trends**

Recent land use trends from MassGIS are illustrated in Table 4. The table indicates the acreage devoted to various land use categories as interpreted from aerial photographs by the Resource Mapping Project at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for the years 1971, 1985 and 1999. The table includes the absolute and percentage change between 1971 and 1999. The Resource Mapping Project is no longer active and another system produced by the Sanborn Map Company was used to determine 2005 land uses. That system attempted to use categories that correspond to the previous methodology to the extent practical, but due to the differences the 2005 data is added to the table for informational purposes but each category cannot be compared with those from the previous tabulations.

In 1971, the “developed” land in Norfolk (including recreation, residential, commercial, industrial, mining, urban open land, transportation, and waste disposal) totaled 1,791 acres or 18.2% of the total land area in Norfolk. The “undeveloped” area (including crop land, pasture, forestland, wetland, open land, water and woody perennial) totaled 8,062 acres, or 81.83% of the total. By 1985, the developed land had increased to 2,890 acres, a change of 1,099 acres. By 1999, the developed land totaled 3,549 acres – more than 36% of the Town's land area. Thus, developed land doubled (from 1,791 to 3,549 acres) between 1971 to 1999. Meanwhile, population increased by 127% (from 4,656 to 10,560) between 1970 and 2000.

Acreage devoted to commercial and industrial uses only increased by 48 acres during this period. Residential land area, however, increased by 1,706 acres. This increase accounted for almost all of the newly developed land and half of the total developed land. Almost 40% of this increase in residential land (667 of the 1,706 acres) was in the category of low density residential (lots larger than ½ acre).

The 1970 non-institutional population of 3,750 occupied a total of 1,232 residential acres in 1971, or about .33 acres per person. By 2000, the non-institutional population had increased by 5048 and occupied 2,938 acres in 1999. Thus, the additional population occupied .34 acres per person. In contrast to many communities, Norfolk has been very consistent (and moderate) in its land consumption as it develops. A 2003 Massachusetts Audubon study entitled “Losing Ground: At What Cost?” indicated that acreage per resident rates ranged from .52 to 4.56 in some communities for development since 1991.

Using the new method of calculating land uses, the Maps indicate that in 2005 Norfolk had 2042 acres of residential land. The reduction is likely accounted for by different assumptions about how much land surrounding residential buildings is associated with the housing.

**TABLE 4  
LAND USE CHANGES, 1971-2005**

LAND USE TYPE	1971	1985	1999	CHANGE 1971-1999		2005*
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES
<b>BRUSHLAND/SUCCESSIONAL</b>						<b>34</b>
<b>CEMETERY</b>						<b>7</b>
<b>CRANBERRY BOG</b>						<b>20</b>
<b>CROP LAND (AC)</b>	459.86	383.79	256.61	-203.25	-44.2%	<b>129</b>
<b>PASTURE (AP)</b>	137.56	178.78	143.73	6.17	4.48%	
<b>FORESTLAND (F)</b>	6285.40	5312.88	4680.33	-1605.07	-25.54%	<b>4751</b>
<b>FORESTED WETLAND</b>						<b>698</b>
<b>NONFORESTED WETLAND</b>						<b>898</b>
<b>INLAND WETLAND (FW)</b>	518.92	518.92	521.32	2.39	0.46%	
<b>GOLF COURSE</b>						<b>37</b>
<b>NURSERY</b>						<b>9</b>
<b>JUNKYARD</b>						<b>11</b>
<b>MINING (M)</b>	111.72	122.65	49.02	-62.70	-56.12%	<b>5</b>
<b>OPEN LAND (O)</b>	394.18	296.62	442.21	48.03	12.18%	<b>189</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION RECREATION (RP)</b>	30.08	30.08	30.08	0.00	0.00%	<b>66</b>
<b>SPECTATOR RECREATION (RS)</b>	3.30	3.30	0.00	-3.30	-100%	
<b>WATER BASED RECREATION (RW)</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a	
<b>MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RO)</b>	0.00	4.18	4.18	4.18	n/a	<b>14</b>
<b>HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R1)</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a	<b>14</b>
<b>MED. DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R2)</b>	400.74	1022.06	1436.15	1035.41	258.37%	<b>630</b>
<b>LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R3)</b>	830.92	1183.00	1497.88	666.96	80.27%	<b>1283</b>
<b>VERY LOW RESIDENTIAL</b>						<b>101</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL (UC)</b>	45.47	54.47	65.27	19.81	43.57%	<b>50</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL (UI)</b>	22.32	33.46	50.83	28.51	127.73%	<b>54</b>
<b>URBAN OPEN -OR- PUBLIC (UO)</b>	195.53	267.87	268.88	73.20	37.44%	<b>163</b>
<b>TRANSITIONAL</b>						<b>61</b>
<b>POWERLINES/UTILITY</b>						<b>96</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION (UT)</b>	112.28	112.28	115.96	3.68	3.28%	<b>122</b>
<b>WASTE DISPOSAL (UW)</b>	38.61	61.10	35.04	-3.57	-9.25%	<b>16</b>
<b>WATER (W)</b>	241.16	242.60	231.52	-9.64	-3.99%	<b>243</b>
<b>WOODY PERENNIAL – ORCHARD (WP)</b>	24.57	24.57	23.76	-0.81	-3.30%	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9852.62</b>	<b>9852.61</b>	<b>9852.77</b>			<b>9853.36</b>

Sources: University of Massachusetts Resource Mapping Project (from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission)

\*Land Use 2005, MassGIS (from Metropolitan Area Planning Council)



The biggest loss of undeveloped land was in the category of forestland, which decreased by 25% (1,605 acres) between 1971 and 1999. Pasture land increased during this period, peaking at the 1985 level, but still higher in 1999 (143 acres) than 1971 (138). Crop land was reduced by 44% (203 acres), almost half of its 1971 total (459 acres).

## **Infrastructure**

The most significant infrastructure elements in Norfolk are the transportation network, and water service. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Norfolk maintains a system of bridges and culverts and about 72 miles of roads, including access to two major connector roads, Main Street and Route 115. These connector roads link Norfolk to Walpole, Franklin, Wrentham, Medfield, Millis and other communities as well as providing access to Routes 1, 1A and 95.

Besides roads, Norfolk is home to several other transit and pedestrian transportation infrastructure, including an MBTA rail station, bus service from the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) and a number of sidewalks. With parking for up to 500 vehicles, the MBTA is a very attractive commuting opportunity. GATRA provides daily service (except on Sundays) to Wrentham, Foxboro and Franklin on its Tri-Town Connector. Bicycle racks are provided at the rail station, and Norfolk requires that at least 1 bicycle space is provided for every 20 parking spaces so bicycle racks are present at municipal and commercial facilities.

Norfolk's water system exists primarily through the town's four municipal wells and individual private wells. There are 57 miles of water lines and two 1-million-gallon storage tanks. Due to an aggressive program to repair leaks, the volume of water pumped has dropped from 257.3 million gallons in 2009 to 159.2 million gallons in 2014. In order to accommodate future growth, the Town is pursuing development of a fifth well site.

Most sewer services in Norfolk are private, independent systems. The Town recently acquired a small wastewater treatment plant serves the Town Center area (including both townhouses and commercial development) that was developed privately. A second private treatment system serves a 136-unit age-restricted housing development with commercial space. A common septic system with force mains also serves the Town's largest industrial park off Route 1A near the Wrentham town line in the C-1 district.

## **Long-Term Development**

The current trend in single-family housing development could negatively affect the rural character of the town. To counteract this possibility, the Town of Norfolk has enacted bylaws and regulations to protect the environment and open space.

The Earth Removal Bylaw was adopted in 1970 to limit the impact from the removal of soil, gravel, sand or loam by requiring a special permit issued by the Planning Board. The bylaw has minimized cutting and filling associated with development since it was enacted. Exemptions include operations of a farm, nursery or cemetery as well as removal of less than 500 yd<sup>3</sup> for an approved road or construction project, removal for

Town of Norfolk purposes and removal associated with an existing single family residence.

The Wetlands Protection Bylaw adopted in 1989 protects wetlands and related water resources for their inherent benefits. The bylaw protects public and private water supply, and groundwater. Also addressed are flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water pollution prevention, aesthetics, agriculture and aquaculture. Exempt from this bylaw are existing public utilities, normal maintenance and emergency projects.

The Board of Health adopted the Underground Tank Bylaw (UTB) in 1981 to ensure that all tanks used to store liquids other than water underground were properly located. Tanks are not allowed in the Zone of Influence of a public water supply or below the groundwater level. Tanks must be made out of fiberglass if they are within four feet of high water or within 100 feet of surface water. To compliment the UTB, the State's Title 5 sanitation standards regulates septic systems.

Floodplain/Wetland Protection Districts were created in 1974 to prohibit alteration to flood levels during the predicted 100-year storm and to allow flood zones to continue to function as groundwater recharge areas, flood storage basins, wildlife habitat and open spaces available for recreation, education, and general welfare of Norfolk residents. Land intensive recreational uses include commercial golf courses, private clubs, and structures that would normally require special permit review by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

In 1992, the Watershed Protection District was created to protect the water supply in the Town of Norfolk. All land within 25 feet from the center of the watercourse and within 25 feet from the high-water line of wetlands is included. Building within the 25-foot buffer, including construction landfills or facilities to store salt, petroleum or other hazardous materials is prohibited.

Also established in 1992 were the Aquifer and Water Supply and Interim Wellhead Protection Districts. Created to protect and preserve aquifers and areas of groundwater supplies for public drinking, these bylaws create zones identified on the "Aquifer and Water Resource Protection Map – Town of Norfolk" which may be amended as needed.

Norfolk and it's neighboring towns all face pressure from increased residential growth. Norfolk must diversify its tax base and acquire or protect open space to create a desirable community character.

Zoning bylaws were changed at the Town Meeting in November 1993 to attract new businesses to Norfolk as explored in the Master Plan. These changes made it easier to develop commercial property in the Routes 115 and 1A areas as well as the Town Center.

Two zoning changes adopted to preserve open space and the Town character were "Maximum Lot Coverage (Section H.1) and "Open Space Preservation (Section H.2). Section H.2 gives the Planning Board the authority, by special permit, to group smaller residential lots together to preserve at least 25% of the land as undeveloped open space. This alternative subdivision design allows for single family developments and saves open

space at the same time. The bylaw was significantly amended in 2002 to put more emphasis on the quality of open space.

Zoning Section F.11, Site Plan Approval is required for any building other than a single-family home. This is to ensure that any changes to the land are compatible to the environment.

The Shade Trees Act (M.G.L. c.87) and the Scenic Roads Act (M.G.L. c.40, Section 15c) help to maintain Norfolk's rural character. The Shade Trees Act states that a shade tree (any tree with a diameter greater than 1.5 inches and one foot from the ground) shall not be cut by anyone other than the Norfolk Tree Warden without his written permission. The only exception to this is trees that endanger a person on a highway or to control pests such as Dutch Elm disease.

The Scenic Roads Act allows a non-numbered road to be designated as a "scenic road." Thereafter any repair, maintenance, reconstruction or other work that involves the removal of stone walls or trees must be approved by the Planning Board. Most roads are designated as scenic roads, with the exception of Route 115 and Route 1A, and roads within subdivisions.

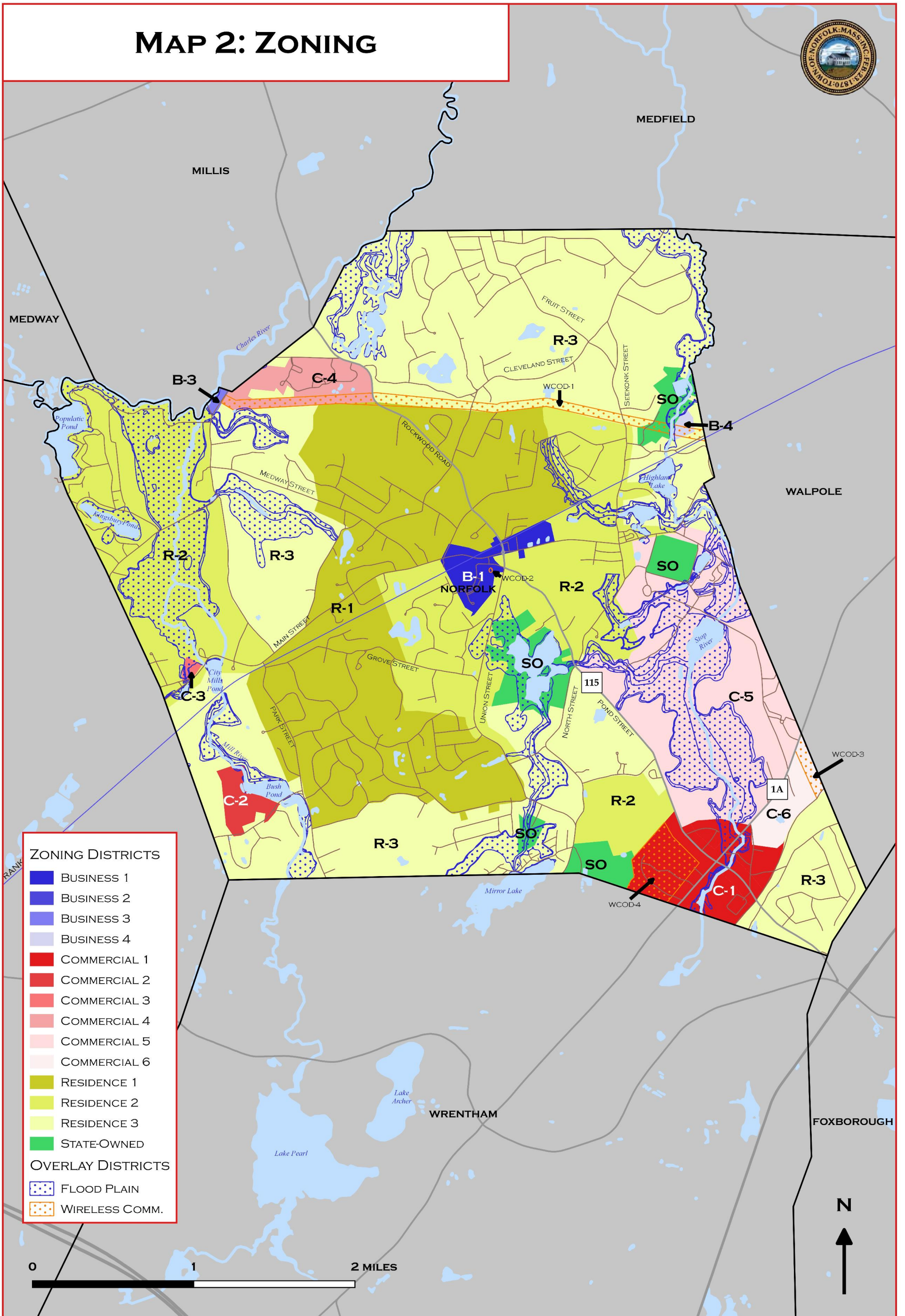
A buildout analysis completed in 2001 by the MAPC projected that at that time there were an additional 3,009 developable acres in Norfolk This translates into 2,295 additional residential units, 6,816 additional residents (for a total buildout population of 17,276), more than 2.8 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, about 1,052 additional school children (for a buildout total of 2,846), an additional demand for water of 727,895 gallons per day and an additional 41 miles of roadway. It should be noted that buildout analyses are not a forecast nor are they associated with a time schedule. They simply estimate what ultimate development would be if the Town is fully built out under existing Zoning Bylaws.

MAPC projects slow growth for Norfolk through 2030. Using 2 different assumptions (labeled "Status Quo" for the lower end of the range and "Stronger Region" for the upper end), it projects Norfolk's population to be 11,401-11,565 by 2020 and 11,623-11,944 by 2030 compared to 11,407 in 2014. It should be noted that developments under Chapter 40B of Massachusetts General Laws, of which several have been proposed in Norfolk, may impact these projections.

The Town's B-1 zoning district in the center of town provides for mixed-unit development and with greater residential densities than the single-family districts which allow 1 house per 30,000 (R-1), 43,560 (R-2) and 55,000 (R-3) square foot lots. The C-1d and C-6 districts also allow denser, multi-family and mixed-use development. The B-1, C-1 and C-6 districts are the primary business and commercial districts

Map 2 illustrates Norfolk's zoning districts.

# MAP 2: ZONING



ZONING DISTRICTS	
[Dark Blue Box]	BUSINESS 1
[Medium Blue Box]	BUSINESS 2
[Light Blue Box]	BUSINESS 3
[Very Light Blue Box]	BUSINESS 4
[Red Box]	COMMERCIAL 1
[Dark Red Box]	COMMERCIAL 2
[Medium Red Box]	COMMERCIAL 3
[Light Red Box]	COMMERCIAL 4
[Pink Box]	COMMERCIAL 5
[Light Pink Box]	COMMERCIAL 6
[Yellow-Green Box]	RESIDENCE 1
[Yellow Box]	RESIDENCE 2
[Light Yellow Box]	RESIDENCE 3
[Green Box]	STATE-OWNED
OVERLAY DISTRICTS	
[Blue Dotted Box]	FLOOD PLAIN
[Orange Dotted Box]	WIRELESS COMM.



PREPARED BY:

DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
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# ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

## **Geology, Soils and Topography**

Norfolk's geology is a result of glacial activity that occurred most recently about 20,000 years ago. It consists of an uneven mass of bedrock covered with till or outwash material. The bedrock is generally less than 50 feet below the surface, but outcrops are not uncommon.

Map 3 illustrates the soils of Norfolk. Most (about 56%) of the soils are sandy and gravelly soils (Hinckley-Windsor-Sudbury Association). These soils are good for a variety of development; residential, commercial or industrial and are especially good for developing new sources of groundwater as well as mining sand and gravel.

Norfolk is also home to large sections of Gloucester-Charlton-Acton (20%) and Muck-Whitman-Ridgebury-Scarboro (17%) soils. Gloucester-Charlton-Acton are moderately to well drained stony soils that are well suited for agriculture (once the stones are removed), recreation and woodland. Site characteristics may render them poorly suited for sewage disposal. Muck-Whitman-Ridgebury-Scarboro are poorly to very poorly drained mineral soils found along waterways and floodplains. They excel in recreation, wildlife and woodlands uses but are very limited in terms of residential, commercial and industrial development because of water saturation.

There are also pockets of stony Scituate-Paxton-Essex soils found in 4% of the town. They are moderately well drained and best suited for agriculture and woodland because of their ability to hold moisture. Thus, these soils are poorly suited for residential, commercial and industrial development that require on-site sewage disposal because of this high permeability.

The very stony Hollis-Shapleigh is also found in a minority of the town (3%) and is best suited for wildlife and woodland because of the presence of shallow bedrock, limiting the prospects for development.

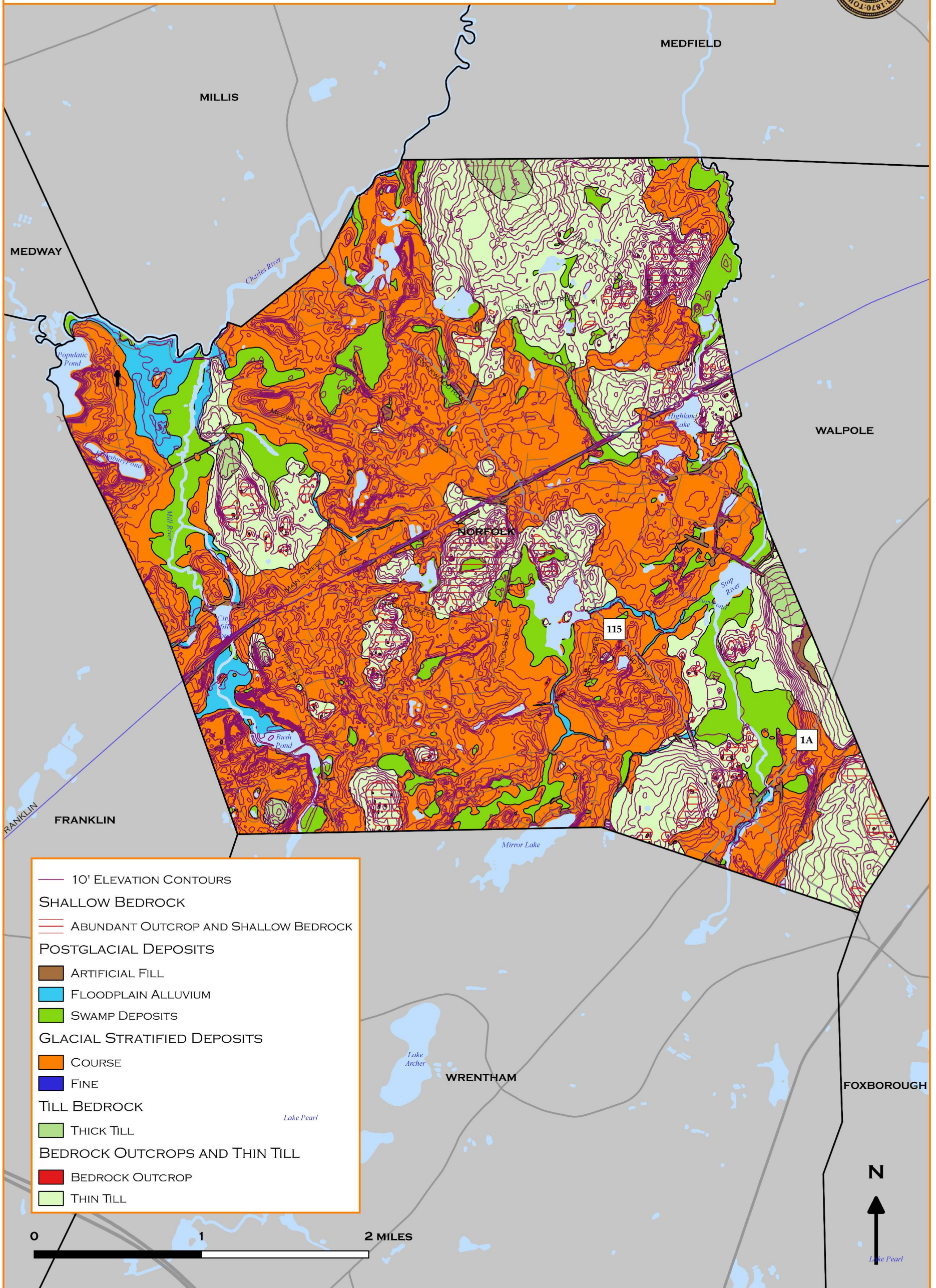
Norfolk consists of post-glacial low hills and open valleys and elevations ranging from 120 to 300 feet above sea level. The presence of the Charles River at the northern border provides surface draining via smaller tributaries.

## **Landscape Character**

Norfolk offers a scenic landscape character that offers wooded landscape accentuated by farmlands and ponds. The Town still has several farms including horse and fruit/vegetable as well as designated open space and conservation land to preserve its rural appearance. These elements provide a pleasant and productive environment in which to live and work.

The Town Center is being developed and expanded in a manner consistent with traditional New England town center development. Overhead utilities were moved

# MAP 3: SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES



- 10' ELEVATION CONTOURS
- SHALLOW BEDROCK
- ABUNDANT OUTCROP AND SHALLOW BEDROCK
- POSTGLACIAL DEPOSITS
- ARTIFICIAL FILL
- FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM
- SWAMP DEPOSITS
- GLACIAL STRATIFIED DEPOSITS
- COURSE
- FINE
- TILL BEDROCK
- THICK TILL
- BEDROCK OUTCROPS AND THIN TILL
- BEDROCK OUTCROP
- THIN TILL

0 1 2 MILES



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
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underground, the roadways reconstructed and two roundabouts installed. Also, sidewalks and pedestrian facilities have been improved. The public library was expanded and Town Hill improved. Townhouses have been developed within walking distance to the MBTA commuter rail station and additional residential development in and near the Town Center has been proposed. Some commercial development has also taken place in the area once known as the “moonscape,” with more being proposed.

Norfolk’s many streams, brooks, ponds and wetlands provide wildlife and recreational opportunities. Canoeing and fishing are popular along the Charles River as well as Highland Lake and City Mills Pond. Stony Brook and the Bristol Blake Reservation provide access to hiking trails and as well as opportunities to observe wildlife habitats. Since the development of open space subdivisions, there are now several additional dedicated open space areas available to nearby residents.

### **Water Resources**

Map 4 illustrates the surface waters of Norfolk. As discussed previously, the Charles River has had an impact on the Town’s development and history. Beginning at Populatic Pond and flowing eastward, the entire Town drains into the Charles River or its tributaries, the Mill River and the Stop River.

The Mill River originates in Wrentham, flows through Lake Pearl as Eagle Brook and crosses the Wrentham-Norfolk line where the Mill River continues through City Mills Pond, Cress/Millers Brook and Comey’s Pond before connecting with the Charles River.

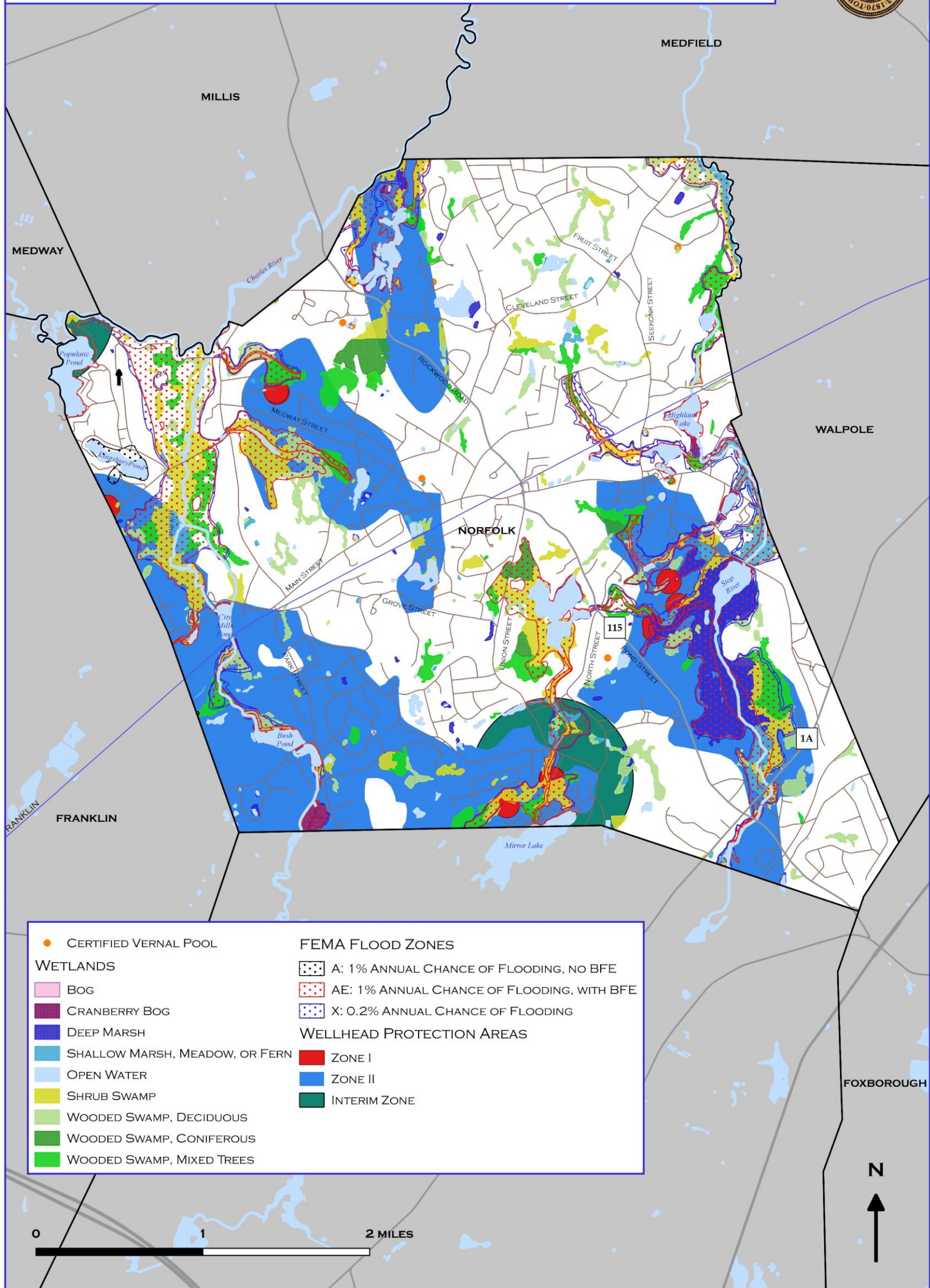
In the east, the Stop River begins near the border with Wrentham and runs by the Norfolk State Correctional Institute as well as Highland Lake and tributaries Stony Brook, Mann Pond Lateral and Prison Farm Lateral before entering Medfield and connecting to the Charles River.

There are many bodies of water in Norfolk, but that does not mean that they are all easily accessible and usable. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) gives high priority to inland waterway access and the expansion of water-based recreation. However, disparity exists; Populatic Pond has a boat ramp with on-street parking but City Mills Pond and Comey’s Ponds are owned by the Conservation Commission and are only intended for fishing and picnicking. Also owned by the Commission is a shorefront on Kingsbury Pond, and while Highland Lake is also publicly accessible, all other ponds are privately owned with public access prohibited.

Norfolk has a history of flooding with major floods in 1936, 1938, 1955 and 1968 with 1955 classified as a “rare flood” even greater than a 100-year event as two hurricanes arrived one after the other. Hurricane Connie deposited 2 inches of rain and Hurricane Diane added another 14.8 inches. March of 1968 brought another flood when heavy rain (5.5 inches) fell during a winter of heavy snowfall and already water-saturated soil and streams.

As a result of the intense flooding from these events, the Army Corps of Engineers has studied the surrounding area and determined the importance of the extensive marshes, swamps and wet meadows surrounding the Charles River in greatly reducing flooding in

# MAP 4: WATER RESOURCES



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
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the communities nearby. This study led to Congress authorizing the “Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area” (Public Law 93-251) and allowing the Army Corps of Engineers to acquire 17 wetland areas totaling 8,103 acres.

Three of these areas are partially or entirely within Norfolk; Area G along the Charles and Stop Rivers, Areas K along the Stop River and Area L along the Mill River. Totalling 36.35 acres, this land is preserved in its natural state for flood control, fish and wildlife management and passive recreation (bird watching, hiking, canoeing, fishing, cross-country skiing). Public access to this land is available through the Corps which encourages the above passive recreation activities, but limits access due to the proximity of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections facility.

Map 4 illustrates the Town’s wells, aquifers, and the Zone II water supply protection areas. Norfolk’s aquifers represent a significant resource of potential regional significance since they must be protected to guarantee a clean water supply in the years to come. Norfolk has 4 municipal wells (2 each at Gold Street and Spruce Road), which draw from the Charles River Watershed. There are also several Department of Corrections wells and Wrentham State School wells located in Norfolk. The exceptional soil conditions make Norfolk’s land area better than normal for aquifers.

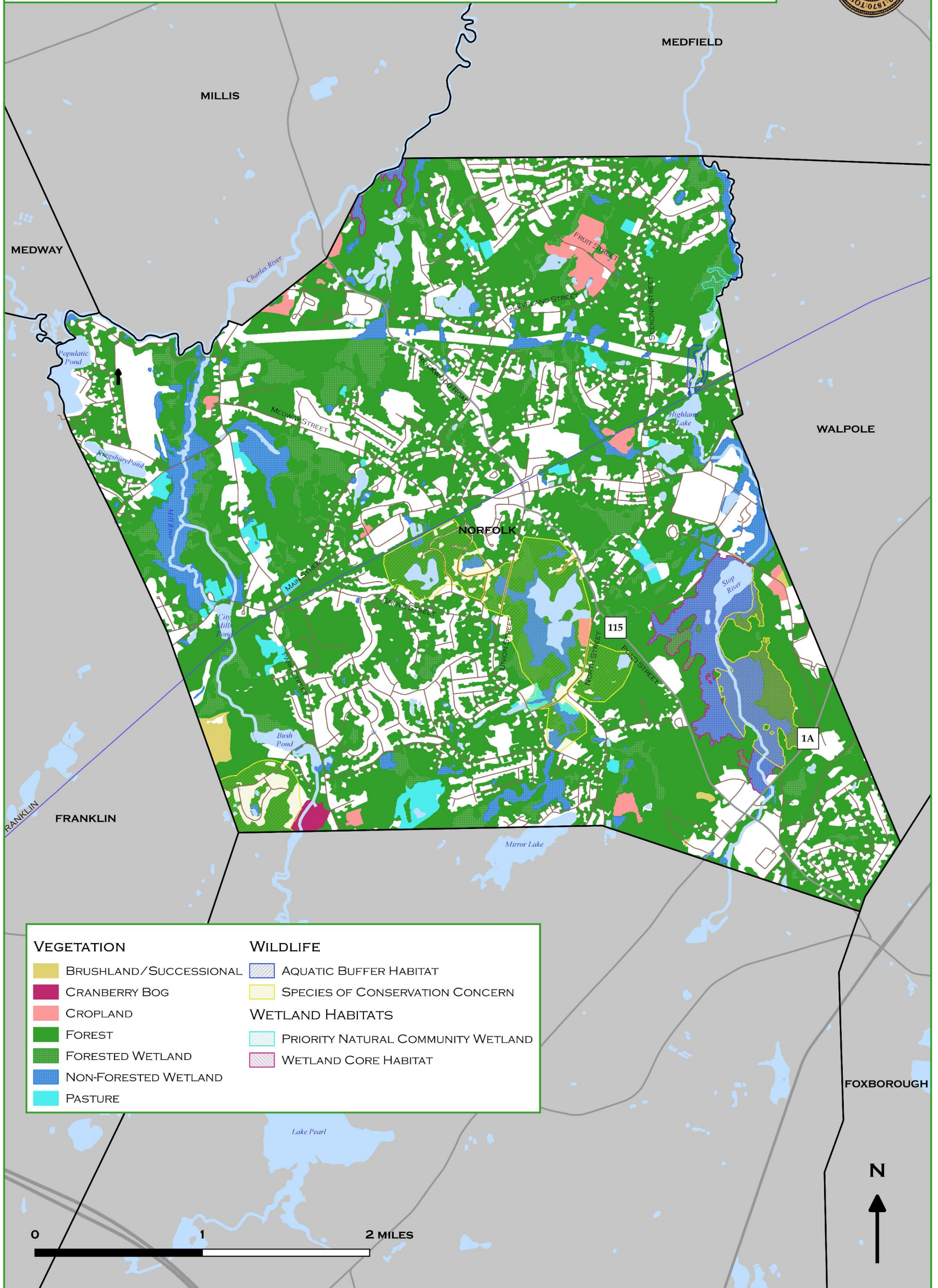
Map 4 also illustrates the wetlands in Norfolk. Wetlands are scattered throughout the Town, with heavier concentrations along the major waterways. Approximately 1,239 acres (12.5% of Norfolk’s land area) have been identified as wetlands. These areas are protected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c.131, s.40). Norfolk also has its own wetlands protection bylaw. In addition, Norfolk’s local Conservation Commission regulations provide protection for vernal pools which is not provided in the State law.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified flood zones shown on several Community Panels as listed in the Zoning Bylaw, and most recently updated on July 17, 2012. As reported in Table 4, there was no net loss of wetlands in Norfolk in the period from 1971 to 1999.

### **Vegetation, Wildlife and Fisheries**

Map 5 depicts the types of vegetation of the Town. Norfolk’s vegetation is dominated by deciduous forests. Upland forests are typically dominated by red oak, shagbark hickory and white pine which tend to appear in land cleared since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Forested Wetlands are largely red maple near streams to water and include speckled alder, highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush underbrush with elm, poplar and willow trees. Similarly, the Scrub-shrub Wetlands have trees growing in saturated or standing water, these are usually willow, buttonbush, meadow sweet, hardhack and red-osier dogwood. The Emergent Wetland is home to semi-woody plants growing in water up to eighteen inches deep including cattail, purple loosestrife, reed blue-joint, and sedge while Aquatic vegetation either floats or has roots on the bottom contains white water lily, bladderwort and duckweed.

# MAP 5: VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE



VEGETATION	WILDLIFE
BRUSHLAND/SUCCESSIONAL	AQUATIC BUFFER HABITAT
CRANBERRY BOG	SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN
CROPLAND	<b>WETLAND HABITATS</b>
FOREST	PRIORITY NATURAL COMMUNITY WETLAND
FORESTED WETLAND	WETLAND CORE HABITAT
NON-FORESTED WETLAND	
PASTURE	

DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
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The Eastern Box Turtle has been reported in Norfolk and the Town is home to one of 29 breeding sites in Massachusetts for the Great Blue Heron, recently removed from the Rare Animal List because of sites like this.

Marshes, ponds, streams and wet meadows are home to black ducks, wood ducks, mallards, blue-winged teal and Canada goose. The Charles River is home to trout. Wildlife game species include the gray squirrel, cottontail, woodcock, grouse, ring-necked pheasant and white tailed deer while other wildlife includes beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, skunk, fox, fishers, red squirrels and raccoon.

The Mill River through Norfolk represents its most significant wildlife corridor as it traverses the entire west side of Norfolk from Wrentham to Millis where it joins the Charles River. Some of it is protected as part of the Army Corps of Engineers Natural Valley Storage Area, while other areas are protected by virtue of associated wetlands. A second significant corridor is the Stop River on the eastern part of town. It flows through the large parcel owned by the Department of Corrections and has significant wetlands associated with it. To a lesser extent, the high-tension power lines also provide a transportation corridor for wildlife through the northern section of Norfolk.

Norfolk encourages the preservation and enhancement of public shade trees by enforcing the Shade Trees Act and Scenic Roads Act to help protect existing public shade trees. Its subdivision regulations require the addition of public shade trees within a 7-foot strip between the edge of pavement and sidewalk along new roads.

## **Scenic and Unique Environments**

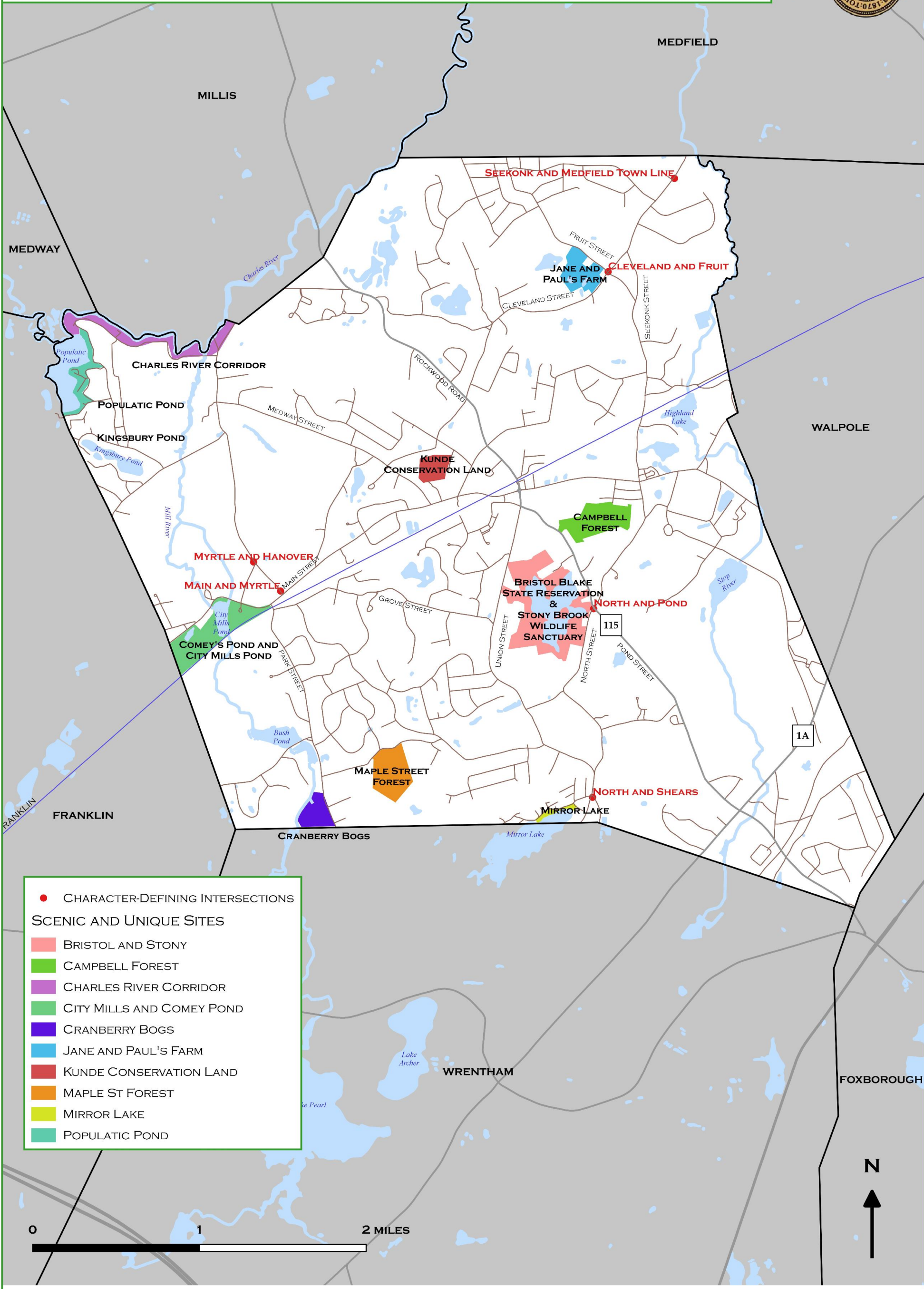
Norfolk's scenic environments are illustrated by Map 6. Norfolk's character owes its attractiveness to its rural landscape. Norfolk is home to many "scenic" roads, roads that have been maintained for 50+ years and have homes that reflect that heritage and have some stone walls intact. In fact, except for Routes 115 and 1A, all roads in Norfolk built before 1986 are scenic roads. They are protected from unnecessary changes in development and allow people to continue enjoying the town as it was in an earlier time.

There are no State identified scenic areas in Norfolk. However, there are several locally significant areas including:

- City Mills Pond – A nine-acre pond near the Franklin side of town that is perfect for fishing and skating in the winter.
- Clark & West Streets – An antediluvian oak tree is situated amongst wetlands and the Stop River across from the prison
- Campbell Town Forest – This woodland is located near the center of town and is a high priority of the Conservation Commission.
- Kunde Conservation Land – Twenty acres of land donated in memory of Mrs. Ida Kunde and located behind the H. Olive Day Elementary School, these woods, vernal pools and trails are easily accessible.
- Jane and Paul Newton's Farm – Located on Fruit Street, this farm specializes in vegetable, strawberry picking and raising a few sheep while running a small fruit and vegetable stand during the summer.
- Cranberry bog – Near Park Street and the Foley Dairy Farm and is situated among Norfolk's rolling hills. Production has been reduced in recent years.
- Union, between King and North Street – Overlooks pastoral farmland.
- Charles River – Views of the water and access to canoeing and boating on Town-owned conservation land.
- Myrtle Street – Farmland owned by the Holmes family for generations, the field between Main and Myrtle Streets is hayed twice a year.
- Massachusetts Audubon Stony Brook and Bristol Blake Reservation – A large area of protected wetlands, water, and woods that is accessible to the public for hiking.
- Populatic Pond – A public boat ramp provides access to this 40-acre water feature, while the right-of-way to the ramp provides excellent views.
- Norfolk Trout Club/Upland Game Club – These private clubs provide wonderful views of the Charles River and have three trout ponds surrounded by woodland.
- Town Hill – A locally developed scenic landscape.

The area around Noon Hill is distinctive both as the highest elevation in Town but also in its home to pressurized springs which, according to the Massachusetts Division of Water Resources, are the only circumstance in which water will appear to run uphill.

# MAP 6: SCENIC AND UNIQUE FEATURES



- CHARACTER-DEFINING INTERSECTIONS
- SCENIC AND UNIQUE SITES
- BRISTOL AND STONY
- CAMPBELL FOREST
- CHARLES RIVER CORRIDOR
- CITY MILLS AND COMEY POND
- CRANBERRY BOGS
- JANE AND PAUL'S FARM
- KUNDE CONSERVATION LAND
- MAPLE ST FOREST
- MIRROR LAKE
- POPULATIC POND



Historic buildings in Norfolk include many which predate the Town's incorporation in 1870. Two homes were built in the 1600's, the Federated Church was built in 1833; the Grange Hall was built in 1860, Pondville Cemetery was established on Everett Street in 1757 and the Town cemetery and crypt were built in 1745 and 1750. Lake and Myrtle Streets were laid out in the late 1600's and Town Hill is the site of Norfolk's first Town Hall, which burned down in 1922.

### **Rare and Endangered Species**

Table 5 lists the rare and endangered species in Norfolk as listed by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). The table shows that the Few-seeded Sedge, Andrew's Bottle Gentian, Sweet Coltsfoot, three vascular plants, are endangered. The Grass-Leaved Ladies'-Tresses and the Marbled Salamander are also listed as threatened.

Two other species, the Bridle Shiner, a fish, and Eastern Box Turtle are listed as of "Special Concern." This category means that these are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

DFW has also designated both Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife in Norfolk. These are habitats that may be home to some of the rare and endangered species and thus are worthy of protection. The Priority Habitats are intended to inform the public about rare plant and animal species locations. The Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife show estimated habitats for all documented occurrences of rare wetlands wildlife within the last 25 years. Map 7 presents the Estimated and Priority Habitats in Norfolk. Each of the areas shown is both a Priority and an Estimated Habitat.

**TABLE 5****RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Class	State Rank	Most Recent Observation
Ambystoma Opacum	Marbled Salamander	Amphibian	T	2005
Notropis Bifrenatus	Bridle Shiner	Fish	SC	1995
Terrapene Carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	Reptile	SC	2013
Carex Oligosperma	Few-Seeded Sedge	Vascular Plant	E	1905
Gentiana Andrewsii	Andrews' Bottle Gentian	Vascular Plant	E	1910
Petasites Frigidus Var Palmatus	Sweet Coltsfoot	Vascular Plant	E	1897
Spiranthes Vernalis	Grass-Leaved Ladies'-Tresses	Vascular Plant	T	1907

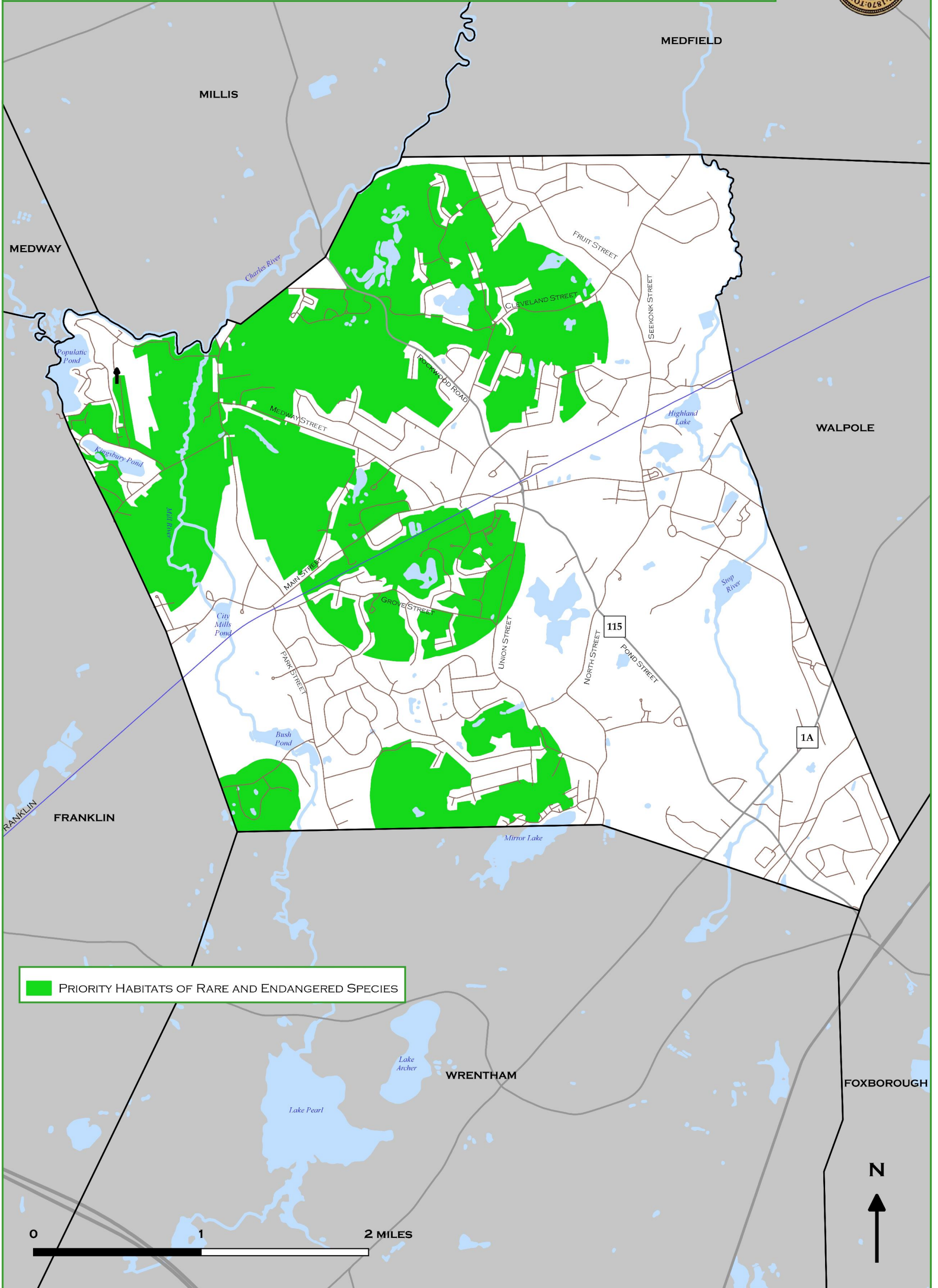
Source:<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

E = Endangered

# MAP 7: RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



 PRIORITY HABITATS OF RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



## **Environmental Challenges**

For the most part, the environmental challenges listed in the 1996 Open Space and Recreation Plan (including the hazardous waste sites, landfill, and chronic flooding) have been addressed. However, some challenges remain.

One serious issue is the adequacy of domestic water supply. Norfolk's capacity is limited and recent population growth and other factors have strained the system. Seeking and protecting future water sources is an ongoing effort

Stormwater is another issue. Norfolk adopted a stormwater management bylaw in 2007 to control erosion and to prevent contaminants from entering its stormwater system. The Town continues to move forward in implementing EPA's s Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) stormwater management regulations that are resulting in improvements of both the quantity and quality of stormwater that is returned to the ground while reducing flooding hazards as well. Planning Board and Conservation Commission regulations also require controls for erosion and stormwater management.

Norfolk has no Town sewer system. However, the Town aggressively enforces Title 5 requirements to protect ground water. Also, the Town has approved a private small wastewater treatment plant to accommodate denser commercial and residential development in the Town Center, and the Town acquired the plant in 2015. A second private treatment plant was approved to serve an age-restricted housing development of 136 units with a commercial component in the C-4 mixed-use district in the northern part of town. A common septic system serving an industrial park was also approved

Invasive species also present a challenge to Norfolk and the region. In recent years, non-native insects and plants have damaged and in some cases replaced native species. While difficult to manage, efforts should be made to identify the invasives and address to the extent possible. Related to the issue of invasives but an issue in its own right, is that of climate change. While a changing climate invites new species to the area, it also may cause greater and more frequent storms as well as periods of drought.

Contamination from an on-site sewer treatment facility at the former Southwood Hospital site on Route 1A has delayed redevelopment of that site. However, efforts have progressed toward a plan to clean up the contamination and developing a mixed-use redevelopment project.

The Buckley Mann site on Lawrence Street also presents an environmental challenge. An open space subdivision was once approved for the site but never developed. A 40B project has been proposed more recently (2016). One of the challenges of the site is the contamination remaining from the industrial operation.

Another environmental challenge is the decline of Kingsbury Pond. A combination of drought and drawdown from municipal wells serving Franklin have caused the water level to drop significantly.

Open space and recreation areas are well distributed throughout Norfolk. Therefore, there are no environmental equity issues.

## **INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST**

A critical responsibility in long-range municipal planning is protecting lands of conservation and recreation interest. Conservation lands are typically undeveloped parcels used for passive recreation and/or conservation, and protected from development through a conservation or deed restriction or by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. Recreation lands are generally improved parcels used for, or have the potential to be used for, active recreation. Such parcels may be owned and/or managed by public, private or nonprofit entities.

Protected open space serves valuable functions to both human beings and wildlife. Depending on the type (e.g. forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland, etc.) open space can provide natural habitats for both plants and wildlife, help to replenish and protect aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, produce a sustainable source of natural resources, and absorb and/or treat human-caused pollutants. In addition to its positive impact on the environment, open space also offers residents numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and adds scenic views to the landscape.

Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of Massachusetts protects the right of the people of the Commonwealth to “clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment.”<sup>1</sup> An Open Space and Recreation Plan facilitates a municipality’s ability to exercise the rights of its people under Article XCVII by identifying open space and recreation lands, identifying appropriate protective measures and planning for future conservation and recreation needs.

The following tables highlight Norfolk’s most prominent lands of conservation and recreation interest. Map 8 presents protected and recreation land as it appears in the MassGIS database. Additionally, a comprehensive database inventory with additional properties and data is attached to this Plan in the Appendix.

### **Private Parcels**

#### **Agricultural Properties**

The laws of the Commonwealth set forth multiple programs for protecting its agricultural lands, including the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR), and the Chapter 61A program. The APR Program is a voluntary program in which the Commonwealth agrees to pay the owner of agricultural land the difference between the land’s fair market value and its agricultural value in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which will preclude any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.<sup>2</sup> To date, no land in Norfolk has been submitted to the APR Program.<sup>3</sup>

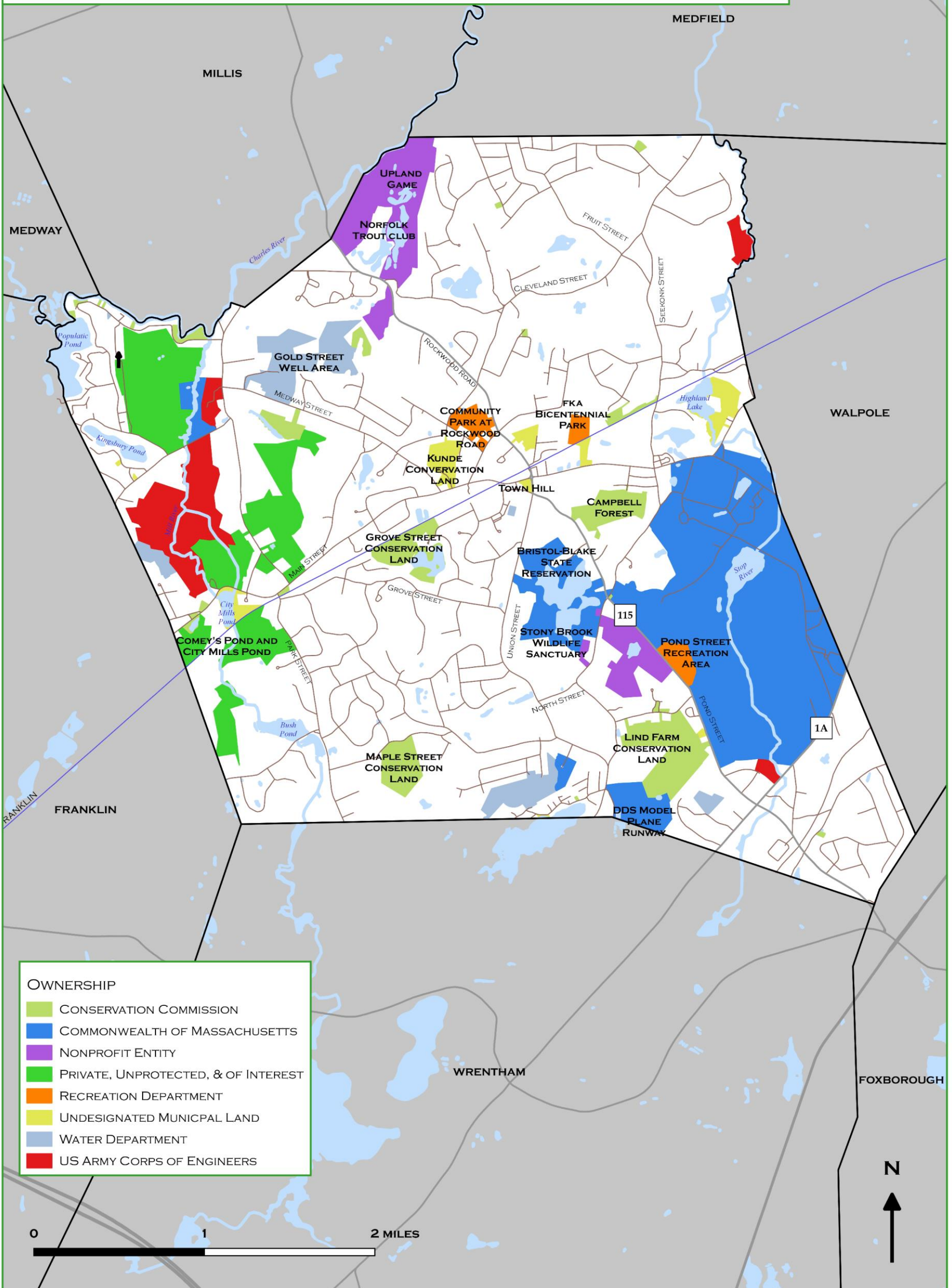
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<sup>1</sup> Article 97 of constitution amendments

<sup>2</sup> 330 CMR 22.00

<sup>3</sup> Assessors/State GIS data.

# MAP 8: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
 TOWN OF NORFOLK - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2016

PREPARED BY:  
**PGC Associates**  
 Municipal Land Use Planning Consultants, INC.

While the APR provides permanent protection to agricultural land, Chapter 61A provides temporary protection in the form of a Right-of-First-Refusal (to purchase the property in the event of a sale or change of use) to the municipality in exchange for reduced property taxes for the landowner.<sup>4</sup> Table 6 presents land in Norfolk that is protected under the Chapter 61A program.

### **Forest Land**

The largest privately-owned uninterrupted blocks of woodland in Norfolk are restricted under the Chapter 61 program. The Chapter 61 program subjects a participating landowner to a 10-year active forest-management commitment in exchange for a reduction in property taxes.<sup>5</sup> Table 7 presents land in Norfolk that is protected under the Chapter 61 Program.

### **Perpetual Conservation Restrictions**

Fee interest in property is not necessary to permanently protect open space. A municipality may protect private land by requiring or persuading its landowner to record a deed restriction, such as a Conservation Restriction, to protect open space. A Conservation Restriction is an “interest in land acquired through gift, purchase, or regulatory exaction which [is] designed to preserve natural resources from adverse future change.”<sup>6</sup> The Conservation Restriction is essentially a contract between the landowner (the Grantor) and the beneficiary of the Restriction (the Grantee), in which the Grantor promises to keep the applicable land undeveloped for the benefit of the Grantee. Often the Grantee is the municipality in which land is located. The Grantee may be another entity such as a nonprofit organization. Conservation Restrictions require approval from the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to establish certain legal protections. Notably, a Conservation Restriction under General Laws Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 may run in perpetuity, and does not require re-recording like a conventional restriction under Section 26.<sup>7</sup> Table 8 presents private parcels in Norfolk that are protected by perpetual Conservation Restrictions.

The first seven parcels presented in Table 8 represent an important tactic in obtaining Conservation Restrictions. Those parcels are developed lots within the large Christina Estates subdivision. The Conservation Restrictions on the wetland portions of those lots were recorded by the subdivision developer in connection with the Conservation Commission’s approval of the proposed subdivision.

### **Temporary Conservation Restrictions**

Conservation Restrictions that were not approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs under M.G.L. c. 184 §31-33 expire by law after 30 years, but are renewable for 20 year terms through re-recording.<sup>8</sup> Table 9 presents private parcels in Norfolk that are (or once were) protected by temporary Conservation Restrictions.

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<sup>4</sup> Chapter 61A

<sup>5</sup> Chapter 61

<sup>6</sup> Cite to Conservation Restriction Handbook

<sup>7</sup> Id

<sup>8</sup> M.G.L. c. 184 §26

**Table 6  
Protected Agricultural Land (Chapter 61A)**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Condition	Public Access	Zoning	Protection Status
<b>103 Boardman St</b>	22-54-42	39.75	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>110 Park St</b>	6-1-6	28.4	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>115 Park St</b>	6-44-1	12.07	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>47 Fruit St</b>	16-34-194	22.12	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>38 Fruit St</b>	16-55-69	24.61	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>25 Fruit St</b>	23-34-213	25.19	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>106 Seekonk St</b>	22-76-23	11.73	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>123 Seekonk St</b>	23-54-55	6.05	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>18 Fruit St</b>	23-55-75	7.81	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>39 Miller St</b>	3-6-10	24.1	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>River Rd</b>	4-13-50	168	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>River Rd</b>	4-27-7	0.18	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>River Rd</b>	4-13-45	0.18	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>River Rd</b>	4-13-49	0.47	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>Main St</b>	7-39-6	4.56	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>22 Park St</b>	7-42-2	43.26	Good	No	R1	61A (Temporary)
<b>Myrtle St</b>	8-6-17	1	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>Myrtle St</b>	8-6-36	0.82	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>95 Holbrook St</b>	10-32-75	17.21	Good	No	I	61A (Temporary)
<b>North St</b>	12-61-18	6.12	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>42 Turner St</b>	16-34-220	18.99	Good	No	R3	61A (Temporary)
<b>5 Evans Lane</b>	21-72-20	29.4	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)
<b>Myrtle St</b>	4-13-44	2.2	Good	No	R2	61A (Temporary)

(Continued)

**Table 6**  
**Protected Agricultural Land**  
(Continued)

Location	Parcel	Acreege	Condition	Public Access	Zoning	Protection Status
<b>Myrtle St</b>	9-12-3	15.22	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>Myrtle St</b>	9-30-2	3.4	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>20 Myrtle St</b>	8-37-14	108.67	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>14 Baltimore St</b>	10-34-133	6.1	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>36 Needham St</b>	21-57-11	19.94	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>1 Saddle Ridge Way</b>	19-69-8-5	15.73	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>167 North St</b>	19-69-8-6	2.76	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>68 Myrtle St</b>	8-37-17	13.6	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>Main St</b>	8-40-4	5.2	Good	No	R1	61A
<b>72 Myrtle St</b>	9-37-18	12.2	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>Baltimore St</b>	10-33-2	15.9	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>Union St</b>	12-61-21	5.4	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>4 Evans Lane</b>	21-72-23	6.68	Good	No	R2	61A
<b>71 Cleveland St</b>	16-34-143	5.02	Good	No	R3	61A
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>730.04</b>				

Source: Assessors Data

**Table 7  
Protected Forested Land (Chapter 61)**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Owner	Condition	Public Access	Zoning	Protection Status
<b>Lawrence St</b>	6-1-5	9.5	Slattery	Good	No	R3	61
<b>Park St.</b>	6-1-7	23	Slattery	Good	No	R3	61
<b>Toils End Rd</b>	7-45-8	8.41	Holmes	Good	No	R1	61
<b>King St</b>	7-46-170	36.01	Holmes	Good	No	R1	61
<b>68 Myrtle St</b>	8-37-56	11	Picone	Good	No	R3	61
<b>Dean St</b>	9-32-104	6.5	Knowles	Good	No	R1	61
<b>72 Myrtle St</b>	9-37-18	8	Picone	Good	No	R3	61
<b>20 Dean St</b>	10-32-74	8.03	Knowles	Good	No	R1	61
<b>14 Baltimore St</b>	10-34-133	80.7	Upland Game	Good	No	R3	61
<b>6 Baltimore St</b>	10-34-163	34.15	Bentley	Good	No	R3	61
<b>75 Cleveland St</b>	16-34-141	17.28	Weeber	Good	No	R3	61
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>242.58</b>					

Source: Assessors Data

**Table 8  
Perpetual Conservation Restrictions<sup>9</sup>**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Grantor	Grantee	Condition	Public Access	Zoning
<b>2 Cypress Ln</b>	16-34-249	1.18	Bowen	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>16 Evergreen Rd</b>	16-34-250	1.28	Glaser	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>34 Massachusetts Ave</b>	16-34-265	1.90	Woodford	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>2 Applewood Rd</b>	17-34-202	1.00	Pagliuca	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>16 Applewood Rd</b>	17-34-215	1.81	Iontosca	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>14 Applewood Rd</b>	17-34-216	1.80	Fiddes	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>46 Massachusetts Ave</b>	17-16-34	1.05	Crump	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3
<b>282 Dedham St</b>	18-69-1-1	6.02	282 Dedham St LLC	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	C
<b>7 King Phillip Tr</b>	22-73-19	5.00	Cargill	Town of Norfolk	Good	-	R3
<b>97 North St</b>	20-71-20	6.42	Fuller, John and Janet	Mass Audubon	Good	No	R3
<b>22 Marshall St</b>	19-71-19-17	6.55	Nasuti Family Trust	Mass Audubon	Good	?	R3
<b>134 Farrington</b>	12-62-236	23.71	Paddock & Corrals LLC	Town of Norfolk	Good	No	R3

Source: Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

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<sup>9</sup> Perpetual Conservation Restrictions approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs



**Table 9**  
**Temporary Conservation Restrictions**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Grantor	Grantee	Condition	Public Access	Zoning
<b>Evergreen Rd</b>	16-34-264	13.02	Intoccia	Greaves	Good	No	R3
<b>Applewood Rd</b>	17-34-221	9.2	Intoccia	Greaves	Good	No	R3
<b>Evergreen Rd</b>	16-34-248	10.2	Intoccia	Greaves	Good	No	R3

Source: Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

### **Private Recreation Lands**

The Commonwealth's Chapter 61B program provides similar benefits to those offered under Chapters 61 and 61A, but is applicable to wildlife or recreation lands with a minimum size of 5 acres. However, the Chapter 61B program requires annual resubmittal of an application. In addition to 61B properties, Norfolk is host to Forekicks, a large recreation facility with indoor fields and courts as well as an outdoor golf course. Table 10 presents private recreation lands in Norfolk.

### **Public and Non-Profit Parcels**

#### **Non-Profit Parcels**

The majority of non-profit-owned Open Space in Norfolk belongs to Mass Audubon, an organization committed to protecting natural resources for the people and wildlife of Massachusetts. Mass Audubon owns, and along with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, manages the large Bristol-Thompson Acres land, commonly known as Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is open to the public for a small fee (and free for Norfolk residents). In addition to the Mass Audubon properties, significant Open Space at 12-14 Baltimore Street is owned by Upland Game, Inc. and the Norfolk Trout Club, respectively, and is preserved by those organizations for fishing and hunting. These lands are listed in Table 11.

#### **Norfolk Conservation Commission**

Table 12 presents municipal properties with recorded deeds establishing the Conservation Commission as the managing agency pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40 Section 8C. The language of the Deeds establishes a permanent restriction for the land to remain as Open Space under the management of the Commission.

The majority of Conservation Commission facilities are unimproved parcels best suited for conservation or passive recreation. A more complete description of the condition of the improved facilities is provided in the American with Disabilities Act Self Evaluation analysis in the Appendix to this Plan.

#### **Norfolk Water Department**

The Norfolk Water Department also manages significant Open Space in Norfolk, most of which hosts or abuts Water Department facilities such as wells and pumps. To ensure water quality, recreation at these sites is limited. Table 13 presents Open Space managed by the Norfolk Water Department.

#### **Norfolk Recreation Department**

The Recreation Department manages three major facilities for active recreation (Table 14), including the Town's newest recreation facility, The Community Park at Rockwood Road which was established primarily with Community Preservation Act funding. A more thorough analysis of Recreation Department facilities is provided in the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Self-Evaluation analysis included in the Appendix to this Plan.

**Table 10  
Private Recreation Properties (Chapter 61B)**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Owner	Condition	Public Access	Zoning	Protection Status
<b>3 Sweetland Farm Rd</b>	14-40-12	5.37	Geden	Good	No	R1	61B
<b>Main St</b>	3-6-53	25.18	Longview	Good	No	R2	61B
<b>12 Baltimore St</b>	10-34-134	113.08	Norfolk Trout	Good	No	R3	61B
<b>27 Seekonk St</b>	10-34-134	8.64	Wood	Good	No	R3	61B
<b>Everett St</b>	21-56-9	13.14	Stahl	Good	No	R2	61B
<b>28 Longmeadow Rd</b>	25-89-1	9.24	Hurley	Good	No	R3	61B
<b>86 Boardman St</b>	12-62-206	9.65	Carreiro	Good	No	R3	61B
<b>Pine St</b>	15-53-19	24.32	Forekicks	Good	Fee	R1	None
<b>1 Dean St</b>	9-31-1	5.5	One Dean Realty Trust	Good	Fee	C4	None

Source:

Assessors

Data

**Table 11  
Non-Profit Open Space**

Site Name	Location	Parcel	Acreage	Owner	Condition	Public Access	Zoning	Protection
<b>Upland Game</b>	14 Baltimore	10-34-133	96.60	Upland Game	Good	No	R3	61B/Temporary
<b>Norfolk Trout Club</b>	12 Baltimore	10-34-134	71.46	Norfolk Trout Club	Good	No	R3	61B/Temporary
<b>Bristol-Thompson Acres (Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary)</b>	North St	13-60-36	16.00	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R3	-
	108 North St	20-60-31	1.20	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R2	-
	153 North St	19-71-20	3.91	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R3	-
	North St	20-71-21	47.70	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R3	-
	North St	20-71-27	36.00	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R3	-
	Marshall St	20-71-33	8.94	Mass Audubon	Good	Fee*	R3	-

Source: Assessors Data

\*No fee for Norfolk residents

**Table 12  
Conservation Commission Properties\***

Site Name	Address	Parcel	Area (Acres)	Zoning	Current Use/Condition	Public Access/Recreation Potential
Comey's Pond	383 Main St.	2-3-3	6	R-2	Good	Yes/Passive
River Road Fishing and Boat Launch	River Road	4-30-1	7.1	R-2	Fishing-Boat launch/Good	Yes/ water-related
Campbell Forest	Main Street	14-57-73	42.07	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Campbell Forest Parking	49 North Street	14-57-75	0.32	R-2	Parking/Good	Yes/Parking
<b>Lind Farm Conservation Land</b>	<b>17 Marshall Street</b>	<b>19-69-59</b>	<b>64.15</b>	<b>R-2</b>	<b>Conservation/Good</b>	<b>Yes/Passive</b>
Pondville Conservation Land	78 Pond Street	19-69-15	25.50	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Kenneth Wood Conservation Land	Main Street	22-56-34	7.40	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
At Freeman-Kennedy School	70 Boardman Street	22-53-41	4.59	R-1	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Maple Street Conservation Land	Maple Street	6-62-200	36.4	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
329 Main Street	329 Main Street	7-40-1	0.62	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Grove Street Conservation Land	Grove Street	13-41-6	5.18	R-1 R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Keeney Pond Conservation Land	Keeney Pond Road	13-41-66-1	6.08	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
	Grove Street	14-41-71	1.21	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
	Keeney Pond Road	13-41-65-1	15.56	R-1 R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive

Continued     **Bold = Purchased with LAND grant**     \*Properties listed are in the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and protected by Article 97.

**Table 12**  
**Conservation Commission Property\***  
(Continued)

Site Name	Address	Parcel	Area (Acres)	Zoning	Current Use/Condition	Public Access/ Recreation Potential
Grove Street Conservation Land	Off Briarwood Rd	8-41-7	20.22	R-1	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Rubin Conservation Land	Medway St	9-37-50	8	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
	Medway St	9-37-56	8.68	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Pond/Needham Corner	North Street	20-72-4	0.24	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
43 Noon Hill	43 Noon Hill Ave	24-55-88	1.60	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Hasting Conservation Land	Medway Branch	9-32-105	7	R-1	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Bird Farm Conservation Land	7 Main Street	21-79-2	25.6	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Old Mill Meadow Conservation Land	Old Mill St	22-53-40-6	5.38	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Bristol Pond Estates Open Space	18 Marshall St.	19-71-19-16	0.76	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
	14 Marshall Street	19-71-19-15	0.76	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Johnson Conservation Land	Lake Path	5-25-2	0.66	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Eisner Conservation Land	51 Everett Street	25-87-40	0.73	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Dang Conservation Land	7 Pennacook	17-34-76	0.69	R-3	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
372 Main Street Rear - Wetlands	372 Rear Main St	2-6-25-1	1.77	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive
Main/School/Short Parcel	Main Street	2-5-1	0.50	R-2	Conservation/Good	Yes/Passive

Source: Assessors Data

\*Properties listed are in the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and protected by Article 97.

**Table 13  
Water Department Properties**

Location	Parcel	Acreage	Condition	Public Access
Beaverbrook Road	12-62-235	22.82	Good	Yes
17 Gold St	9-32-103	5.02	Good	Yes
25 Gold St	9-32-17	32.39	Good	Yes
Medway Branch	9-32-19	15.43	Good	Yes
Medway Branch	9-32-16	14.24	Good	Yes
Gold St	9-32-31	6.89	Good	Yes
Sharon's Ave	19-69-28	8.47	Good	Yes
28 Union Street	14-41-27	1.30	Good	Yes
School Street	2-6-29	7.63	Good	Yes
Beaverbrook Road	12-62-207	11.54	Good	Yes
Miller Street	3-6-56	5.85	Good	Yes
Medway Street	9-36-13	19.89	Good	Yes
Medway Street	9-36-2	2.65	Good	Yes
Ridgefield Road	12-62-223	1.26	Good	Yes

Source: Assessor's Data

**Table 14  
Recreation Department Properties\***

Site Name	Address	Parcel	Area (Acres)	Zoning	Current Use/Condition	Public Access/ Recreation Potential
Pond Street Recreation Area	33 Pond Street	20-72-56	20.83	C-5	Fields/Trail/Good	Yes/Active
Community Park at Rockwood Road	49 Rockwood Rd.	14-48-2	16.67	R-1	Playground/Excellent	Yes/Active
At Freeman-Kennedy School	70 Boardman St.	15-53-42	8	R-1/B-1	Fields/Good	Yes/Active

Source: Assessors Data

\*Properties listed are Town-owned lands managed by the Recreation Department and protected by Article 97.



**Other Municipal Land**

The Town has significant holdings whose managing departments are unidentified in recorded documents. In particular, City Mills Pond is a facility with undesignated management that is ripe for improved recreation opportunities. Many smaller lands of Open Space interest have been acquired through tax takings over many years. A more thorough analysis of the improved facilities listed in Table 15 is available in the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Self-Evaluation analysis included in the Appendix of this Plan, and a comprehensive inventory of undesignated municipal holdings is also included in the Appendix.

**State and Federal Land**

The Army Corps of Engineers controls 311 acres in fee and about 500 acres in easement in Norfolk, mainly for flood control, as part of the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area. This land is located in three areas: Area G along the Stop River by the Walpole line; Area K near the Stop River by the Wrentham line; and Area L along the Mill River by the Franklin line. While public recreation is encouraged in Areas G and L, it is discouraged in Area K because of its proximity to the Correctional facility.

Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Management runs the Bristol Blake Reservation. The 138-acre area is made up of Stony Brook Pond and surrounding wetlands with walkways and activities coordinated by the Nature Center. It abuts the Stony Brook Reservation lands of Mass Audubon.

Table 16 Presents State and Federally-owned Open Space located in Norfolk.

**Table 15  
Other Town-Owned Lands**

Site Name	Location	Parcel	Acreage	Zoning	Condition	Public Access
<b>Populatic Pond Boat Launch</b>	Lake Shore Drive	4-17-ROW	0.20	R2	Fair	Yes
<b>City Mills Pond</b>	Main Street	7-3-11	15.10	R3	Poor	Yes
<b>Mirror Lake</b>	Mirror Lake Ave	12-64-2	0.46	R3	Fair	Yes
		12-64-16	7.20	R3	Good	Yes
<b>Kingsbury Pond</b>	28 Kingsbury Road	3-9-9	0.21	R2	Good	Yes
	21 Kingsbury Road	3-7-10	0.37	R2	Good	Yes
<b>Pondville Conservation Land</b>	74 Pond Street	19-69-54	1.00	R2	Good	Yes
<b>Kunde Conservation Land</b>	232 Main Street	14-47-1	24.84	R1	Good	Yes
<b>98 Main Street</b>	98 Main Street	14-56-32	2.93	R2	Good	Yes
<b>Old Town Hall</b>	100 Main Street	14-56-33	3.34	R2	Fair	Yes
<b>Highland Lake</b>	King Phillip Trail	22-73-18	40.82	R2	Good	Yes
<b>Freeman Kennedy School</b>	Rockwood Road	15-53-77	8.2	R1	Fair	Yes
<b>Town Hill</b>	North Street	14-51-1	1.6	R2	Excellent	Yes
<b>Highland Lake MBTA frontage</b>	King Phillip Trail	22-73-51	0.56	R1	Good	Yes
<b>Seekonk Street</b>	Seekonk Street	23-76-18	17.92	R3	Good	Yes
	Off Maple	12-62-201	38.66	R3	Good	Yes
<b>Weeber Property</b>	Cleveland Street	16-34-141-3	6	R3	Good	Yes
	Off Cleveland	16-34-141-2	23.72	R3	Good	Yes
<b>Spruce Acres Conservation Land</b>	Ivy Court	12-62-9	2.71	R3	Good	Yes
<b>Christina Estates Drainage Parcel</b>	18 Massachusetts Ave	17-34-91	1.11	R3	Good	Yes
	Medway Branch	9-32-32	4.09	R1	Good	Yes
	Seekonk Street	24-55-130	7.56	R3	Good	Yes
	Lawrence Street	6-2-11	5.00	R3	Good	Yes

Continued

**Table 15**  
**Other Town-Owned Lands**  
(Continued)

Site Name	Location	Parcel	Acreage	Zoning	Condition	Public Access
	Boardman Street	14-49-4	2.79	R1	Good	Yes
	Boardman Street	14-49-5	1.77	R1	Good	Yes
	Boardman	15-53-42	8.00	R1	Good	Yes
	River Road	4-27-4	1.09	R2	Good	Yes
	74 Park Street	6-1-4	9.50	R3	Good	Yes
	Main Street	7-2-2	12.15	R3	Good	Yes
	5 Hanover Street	7-6-45	1.00	R2	Good	Yes
	1 Hanover Street	7-6-46	1.01	R2	Good	Yes
	33 Medway Branch	9-36-15	9.99	R1	Good	Yes
	9 Cedar Road	12-62-78	2.80	R3	Good	Yes
	Mirror Lake Ave	12-62-86	3.81	R3	Good	Yes
	37 Ridge Road	13-46-238	2.17	R1	Good	Yes
<b>Solar Array (Former landfill)</b>	Medway Branch	15-32-27	50.49	R1	Good	No
	11 Daisy Drive	23-76-51	1.60	R3	Good	Yes
<b>Pondville Cemetery</b>	Everett Street	25-83-3	1.80	R3	Good	Yes
	Union Street	679	6.00	0	Good	Yes
	King Street	680	4.00	0	Good	Yes
	Massachusetts Ave	16-34-255	3.95	R3	Good	Yes
	Evergreen Road	16-34-251	1.42	R3	Good	Yes
	Chatham Road	9-36-122	1.31	R3	Good	Yes
	Trail Side Way	13-41-64	2.10	R2	Good	Yes
	Keeney Pond Road	14-41-72	3.04	R2	Good	Yes
	6 Medway Branch	15-48-20	1.56	R1	Good	Yes

Source: Assessors Data

**Table 16  
State and Federal Open Space Properties**

Site Name	Location	Parcel	Acreage	Owner	Manager	Zoning	Condition	Public Access
<b>DDS Model Plane Runway</b>	North St	18-69-3	46.00	Comm of MA	DDS	C1	Good	No
<b>Bristol Blake Reservation</b>	North St	13-60-38	138	Comm of MA	DCR	R3	Good	Yes
	Pond St	19-72-3	814.08	Comm of MA	DOC	C5	Good	No
	Main St	21-79-1	18.00	Comm of MA	DOC	C5	Good	No
	Seekonk St	23-76-23	17.21	USA	Army Corps	R3	Good	Yes
	Miller St	4-12-12	25.37	USA	Army Corps	R2	Good	Yes
	Miller St	3-6-31	90.61	USA	Army Corps	R2	Good	Yes
	Myrtle St	3-6-32	145.00	USA	Army Corps	R2	Good	Yes
		20-57-1		Comm of MA			Good	?
<b>Wrentham Development Center (well)</b>	184 Union St	12-62-12	18.30	Comm of MA	DMR	R2	Good	No
	Miller St	3-6-42	10.45	USA		R2	Good	Yes
	Dedham St	19-72-32	8.43	USA	-	C	Good	Yes
	Miller St	223	14.00	USA	-	R2	Good	Yes

Source: Assessors Data

## COMMUNITY VISION

### **Description of Process**

The Open Space and Recreation Goals listed below are derived from the 1996 Open Space and Recreation Plan, a survey completed in February 2015 with nearly 400 responses, (a report on the complete results of the survey is included in the Appendix) and from a public forum held on April 1, 2015. Additional input was received from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Board of Selectmen following their review of a draft version of the goals.

### **Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals**

The following are the goals of this Open Space and Recreation Plan:

1. Identify, preserve and protect the historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the Town.
2. Protect and enhance the quality of Norfolk's surface and ground water as source municipal and private drinking water and for wildlife and recreation use.
3. Increase environmental awareness among all sectors of the community.
4. Enhance public access to and use of existing conservation lands where appropriate, and establish continuous greenbelts, especially along waterways.
5. Improve and increase recreational opportunities in Norfolk.

These goals are expanded with a set of objectives for each in Section 8, Goals and Objectives, of this report.

## NEEDS ANALYSIS

### **Resource Protection Needs**

As the Community Setting section indicates, while the rapid growth of the 1980's and 1990's has slowed, development continues steadily in Norfolk. In addition to negative impacts on natural resources (wildlife habitat, water recharge areas, etc.), this development has impacted the character of the town by eliminating scenic views and transforming rural roadways into suburban collector roads. The need to conserve natural resources (especially water resources) and to preserve community character supports efforts to acquire additional open space and to develop policies and regulatory measures that protect natural resources.

The 2001 Buildout Analysis by EOEa estimated that Norfolk had at that time 3009 additional developable acres. The residential and commercial development that could result would increase water demand from about 920,857 gallons per day in 2000 to 1,648,752 gallons per day at buildout. The Water Assets Study points out that this potential future demand is 145% of the current state-regulated annual withdrawal level for the Norfolk Water Department and the Massachusetts Correctional Institute combined (1.14 million gallons per day). It also represents 87% of the approved daily volume (1.89 million gallons per day).

Map 6 presents the Estimated and Priority Habitat areas of Norfolk, and Map 3 presents water resources. These areas are also in need of protection, though most of them are already fairly well protected either through regulatory means (e.g. the Aquifer, Water Supply and Interim Wellhead Protection District) or as protected private or public open space. However, the maps indicating the extent of the districts need updating.

In 2003, a study entitled "Open Space Corridor Protection Strategic Plan" was prepared for the Norfolk Planning Board. This study identifies 14 key areas, categorized into "high," "medium" and "low" priority, that contribute to the Town's character. The parcels also have the potential to provide critical links between other already-protected open space areas. The links will help maintain wildlife corridors while also providing the possibility of developing a trail system between and among the open space areas.

The continued use of open space subdivisions and encouraging development where infrastructure is available (e.g. Town Center and C-1 district) are ways to protect resources. CPA funds also provide the opportunity to acquire additional lands and/or development rights.

### **Community Needs (Recreation)**

The demand for active recreation facilities has grown significantly in the region. There is always a need for additional recreation facilities for youths, in particular, but for all ages generally. As the survey indicates, Norfolk has improved the number and quality of recreation facilities and programs significantly over the past few years. The survey found

that the facilities most desired were a swimming pool, sidewalks, bike trails, turf fields and hiking/skiing trails. The recent Recreation Strategic Plan has identified additional recreation needs, including improving existing fields.

The 2012 SCORP survey of public officials found that trails and multiuse fields were the recreation elements most in need of more resources. This finding is also supported by the survey conducted for this OSRP as strong support was indicated for biking and hiking trails as well as sidewalks.

As mentioned above, links among current and/or future open space and recreation facilities are needed both within the town and between the town and surrounding region. Such links promote wildlife migration (thus allowing greater biodiversity) as well as provide opportunities for passive recreation for humans.

### **Management Needs**

As discussed above under Resource Protection Needs, compact development is a means of more efficiently using land to accommodate growth while protecting natural resources. Important steps to amend zoning bylaws and other measures have been taken in the town. However, additional measures to encourage compact, sustainable development remain an important management need.

The open space development bylaw has been successful in that almost all recent subdivisions have been developed in this manner. The age-restricted provision of the Zoning Bylaw has also encouraged developments so far that provide denser housing units with open space and/or recreational opportunities integrated into the design.

In addition, as growth continues, water resources are being strained. Growth results in more water use while also increasing the amount of impervious surface. Recent policy changes at the state level to encourage more recharge of stormwater into the ground and more decentralized (rather than centralized) wastewater treatment facilities will help improve the situation to some degree.

While the need to protect aquifer and recharge areas is important, educational and regulatory measures to encourage conservation and recharge of stormwater and wastewater are also major components. A public education campaign could include a web site, slide show, cable TV video, presentations to civic groups, etc. Information on existing open space and its functions as well as desired expansions of the system could be included.

Another need is public access to already-protected open space. Facilities such as parking, signs, and trails coupled with improved public awareness would result in greater use and appreciation of our natural resources. There is a need for awareness among the citizens of Norfolk where existing protected open space is located and what recreational opportunities are offered there. Second, there is a need for improved facilities (including features that permit usage by elderly and handicapped persons in compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements) to allow for increased usage by the public. In general, management plans, including trail maps, for each open space parcel should be developed in both paper and electronic formats.

Finally, there is a need to review the legal status of Town-owned parcels. Some parcels that appear to be under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission do not have deeds documenting that (See Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest).

A similar need is to review the land use codes assigned to tax-exempt parcels in the Assessors database. Since the parcels are tax-exempt, the Land Use Codes do not affect tax collections. However, correcting miscoded parcels can facilitate analysis of Town, State, Federal and non-profit properties.



## **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goals and objectives listed below represent an expansion of the goals listed in the Community Vision section. Some of the objectives may appear under more than one goal. They represent more specific, generally measurable, steps that can be taken to advance then goals.

### **GOAL 1: Identify, preserve and protect the historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the Town.**

#### **Objectives:**

- Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting natural resources and wildlife corridors.
- Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting historic landscapes and/or community character.
- Utilize the Community Preservation Committee's Land Ranking Criteria in prioritizing parcels for potential acquisition.
- Continue to encourage/promote the protection of open space in new development plans, especially by the use of the open space subdivision bylaw.
- Acquire additional conservation and open space lands. Encourage donations of open space by landowners.
- Utilize Community Preservation Committee to coordinate among Town Boards and Commissions, and contact land owners.
- Increase public awareness of the value of open space, and encourage citizen input.
- Preserve historically significant buildings and sites.
- Establish historic districts and a historic preservation bylaw.
- Protect scenic roads.

### **GOAL 2: Protect and enhance the quality of Norfolk's surface and ground water as sources of municipal and private drinking water and for wildlife and recreation use.**

#### **Objectives:**

- Acquire/protect additional water resources for recreation and protection of current and future municipal water supply sources.
- Maintain communication and cooperation with neighboring towns to protect water resources which cross town borders.
- Increase public awareness re: use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals as well as maintenance of septic systems.
- Promote responsible use of private wells.

### **GOAL 3: Increase environmental awareness among all sectors of the community**

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase public awareness of important habitat areas.
- Establish/expand environmental awareness programs in the schools.
- Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage.
- Use methods such as a web site, social media and/or cable access TV to increase public awareness of open space and recreation facilities, issues and potential actions.
- Use surveys, public meetings and other means to encourage input from residents.
- Establish a committee with responsibility for awareness of environmental and energy sustainability.

### **GOAL 4: Enhance public access to and use of existing conservation lands where appropriate, and establish continuous greenbelts, especially along waterways.**

#### **Objectives:**

- Develop management plans for each conservation parcel.
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage.
- Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate.
- Encourage and support trail development and trail connections, including sidewalks, where possible.
- Re-establish a Conservation Fund for the maintenance of existing conservation open space parcels.
- Develop a detailed map of open space and recreation areas including trails.

### **GOAL 5: Improve and increase recreational opportunities in Norfolk.**

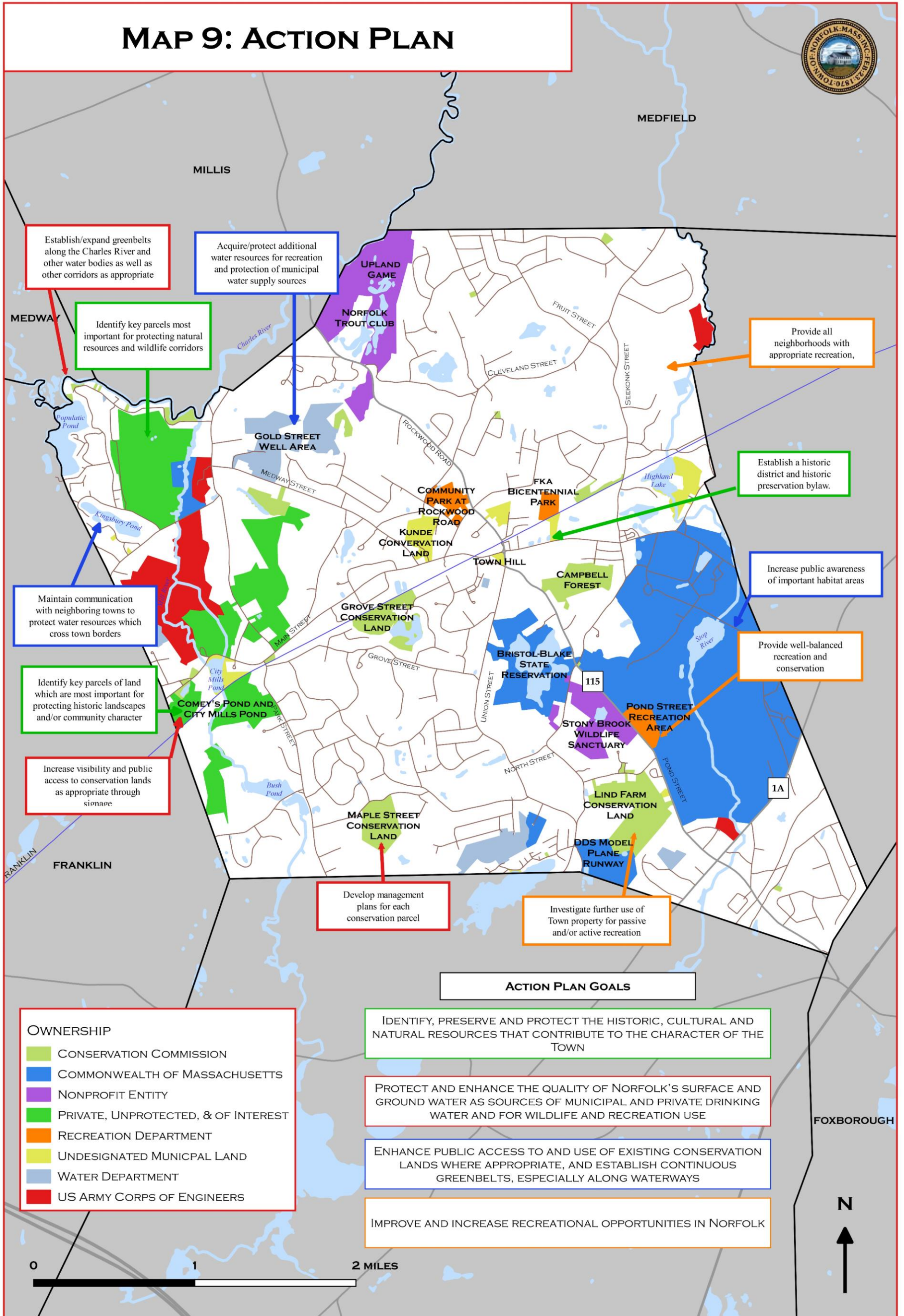
#### **Objectives:**

- Inventory and evaluate available conservation and recreation funding programs.
- Provide well-balanced recreation and conservation opportunities.
- Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation.
- Establish a cost-effective maintenance schedule for municipal recreation and conservation facilities.
- Use reliable and durable equipment when developing or redeveloping parks and playgrounds.
- Review and implement as appropriate recommendations of the recent Recreation Strategic Plan.

## **ACTION PLAN**

The following chart lists the Goals and Objectives from the preceding section in a format that identifies the recommended lead agency or organization for each objective, other organizations which may need to be involved, potential implementation mechanisms, a general schedule during which each objective should be implemented or acted upon and potential funding sources. Map 9 presents, in a general manner, those areas of town with the highest priority to be targeted for acquisition and/or protection based on environmental resources, proximity to a major stream or currently protected open space or recreation potential.

# MAP 9: ACTION PLAN



Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate

Acquire/protect additional water resources for recreation and protection of municipal water supply sources

Identify key parcels most important for protecting natural resources and wildlife corridors

Provide all neighborhoods with appropriate recreation.

Maintain communication with neighboring towns to protect water resources which cross town borders

Establish a historic district and historic preservation bylaw.

Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting historic landscapes and/or community character

Increase public awareness of important habitat areas

Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage

Provide well-balanced recreation and conservation

Develop management plans for each conservation parcel

Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation

### ACTION PLAN GOALS

IDENTIFY, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE TOWN

PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF NORFOLK'S SURFACE AND GROUND WATER AS SOURCES OF MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE DRINKING WATER AND FOR WILDLIFE AND RECREATION USE

ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND USE OF EXISTING CONSERVATION LANDS WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND ESTABLISH CONTINUOUS GREENBELTS, ESPECIALLY ALONG WATERWAYS

IMPROVE AND INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NORFOLK

- OWNERSHIP**
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION
  - COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
  - NONPROFIT ENTITY
  - PRIVATE, UNPROTECTED, & OF INTEREST
  - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
  - UNDESIGNATED MUNICIPAL LAND
  - WATER DEPARTMENT
  - US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT  
 TOWN OF NORFOLK - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2016

PREPARED BY:  
**PGC Associates**  
 Municipal Land Use Planning Consultants INC

## ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

GOALS/OBJECTIVES	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POTENTIAL FUNDING
<b>GOAL 1: Identify, preserve and protect the historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the Town</b>					
Identify key parcels most important for protecting natural resources and wildlife corridors	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Utilize CPC Land Ranking Criteria	2017-2024	CPA Open Space Development
Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting historic landscapes and/or community character	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Utilize CPC Land Ranking Criteria	2017-2024	CPA Open Space Development
Utilize CPC Land Ranking Criteria in prioritizing parcels for potential acquisition	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen,	Utilize CPC Land Ranking Criteria	2017-2024	NA
Continue to encourage/promote the incorporation of open space into new development plans, especially by the use of the open space subdivision bylaw	Planning Board		Flexibility in Rules and Regulations Density bonus already in place	2017-2024	NA
Acquire additional conservation and open space lands. Encourage donations of open space by landowners	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Provide information about tax benefits	2017-2024	CPA PARC grants Debt exclusion
Community Preservation Committee to coordinate among Town Boards and Commissions, and contact land owners	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Boards/Commissions Appoint Representatives	2017-2024	NA

(Continued)

**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>
<b>GOAL 1: Identify, preserve and protect the historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the Town (Continued)</b>					
Increase public awareness of the value of open space, and encourage citizen input	Community Preservation Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Web site, surveys Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2017-2024	CPA Town Budget
Preserve historically significant buildings and sites	Historical Commission	Community Preservation Committee	Historic District Bylaw	2017-2019	CPA Debt exclusion
Establish a historic district and historic preservation bylaw.	Historical Commission	Planning Board, Selectmen	Town Meeting	2017-2019	NA
Protect scenic roads	Planning Board	Tree Warden, Selectmen	Scenic Road Act	2017-2024	NA
<b>GOAL 2: Protect and enhance the quality of Norfolk’s surface and ground water as sources of municipal and private drinking water and for wildlife and recreation use</b>					
Acquire/protect additional water resources for recreation and protection of municipal water supply sources	DPW	Community Preservation Committee Conservation Commission, Planning Board	Water Supply/Aquifer Protection Districts, Stormwater Management Regulations, Purchase, Open Space Subdivisions, Transfer of Development Rights	2017-2024	CPA LAND grants Water User Fees
Maintain communication with neighboring towns to protect water resources which cross town borders	DPW	Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board	Water Supply/Aquifer Protection Districts, Stormwater Management Regulations, Purchase, Open Space Subdivisions, Transfer of Development Rights	2017-2024	CPA LAND grants Water User Fees

(Continued)

**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>
<b>GOAL 2: Protect and enhance the quality of Norfolk’s surface and ground water as sources of municipal and private drinking water and for wildlife and recreation use (Continued)</b>					
Increase public awareness re: use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals as well as septic systems	Conservation Commission	Board of Health DPW	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2017-2022	Town Budget CPA
Use surveys, public meetings and other means to encourage input from residents	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage, Public Meetings	2017-2024	Town Budget CPA
Establish a committee with responsibility for environmental awareness	Selectmen	Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Planning Board	Selectmen Establish, Relevant Boards/Commissions Appoint Representatives	2017	Town Budget
<b>Goal 3: Increase environmental awareness among all sectors of the community</b>					
Increase public awareness of important habitat areas	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Conservation Commission	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2017-2024	Town Budget CPA
Establish/expand environmental awareness programs in the schools	School Committee	Mass. Audubon <i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Community Education	2017-2022	School Budget Town Budget CPA
Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Mass. Audubon Conservation Commission	Community Education	2017-2022	Town Budget CPA

(Continued)

**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>
<b>Goal 3: Increase environmental awareness among all sectors of the community (Continued)</b>					
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Conservation Commission Selectmen Community Preservation Committee	Signage for land identification and parking areas, web site information	2017-2022	Town Budget CPA
Use methods such as a web site social media and/or cable access TV to increase public awareness of open space and recreation facilities, issues and potential actions	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i>	Norfolk Community TV, Conservation Commission Recreation Commission	Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure	2017-2024	Town Budget CPA
<b>GOAL 4: Enhance public access to and use of existing conservation lands where appropriate, and establish continuous greenbelts, especially along waterways</b>					
Develop management plans for each conservation parcel	Conservation Commission	Selectmen	Develop policies specific to resources at each site	2017-2019	Town Budget Fees
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage	Conservation Commission	<i>Environmental Awareness Committee</i> Selectmen	Signage for land identification and parking areas, web site information	2017-2018	Town Budget Fees
Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate	Conservation Commission	Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee, Planning Board	Community Preservation Funds, Open Space Subdivision Bylaw, Donations, Easements	2017-2024	CPA LAND grants Debt exclusion

(Continued)



**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>
<b>GOAL 4: Enhance public access to and use of existing conservation lands where appropriate, and establish continuous greenbelts, especially along waterways (Continued)</b>					
Encourage and support trail development and trail connections, including sidewalks, where possible	Conservation Commission	Planning Board, Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee	Mitigation funds Open space subdivisions	2017-2024	CPA Recreation Trails Grants, Development mitigation funds, Town budget
Re-establish a Conservation Fund for the maintenance of existing conservation open space parcels.	Conservation Commission	Selectmen, Planning Board	Town Meeting vote	2017-2018	Town Meeting Mitigation funds Donations
<b>GOAL 5: Improve and increase recreational opportunities in Norfolk</b>					
Inventory and evaluate available conservation and recreation funding programs	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission	Selectmen, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee	Staff time	2017-2024	CPA LAND and PARC grants, Recreation Trails grants
Provide well-balanced recreation and conservation opportunities	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission	Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee, Planning Board	Staff time	2017-2024	CPA LAND and PARC grants, Recreation Trails grants

(Continued)

**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>
<b>GOAL 5: Improve and increase recreational opportunities in Norfolk (Continued)</b>					
Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission	Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee	Assessors records Staff time	2017-2018	Town Budget
Provide neighborhoods with appropriate recreation, park and/or playground facilities.	Recreation Commission	Selectmen, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee	Open Space Subdivision bylaw, Proposed state legislation allowing set-aside of subdivision land for playgrounds, Community Preservation Funds	2017-2024	Town Budget CPA
Establish a cost-effective maintenance schedule for municipal recreation and conservation facilities	DPW	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Selectmen	Establish committee to evaluate present policies and make recommendations for changes	2017-2018	Town Budget
Use reliable and durable equipment when developing or redeveloping parks and playgrounds	Recreation Commission	Selectmen	Establish durability and reliability as criteria when purchasing equipment	2017-2024	Town Budget PARC grants CPA
Review and implement as appropriate recommendations of the recent Recreation Strategic Plan	Recreation Commission	Selectmen	Staff time	2017-2020	Town Budget PARC grants CPA

## PUBLIC COMMENTS



**TOWN OF NORFOLK  
PLANNING BOARD**  
ONE LIBERTY LANE  
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS 02056

TEL: (508) 528-2961  
FAX: (508) 541-3300

[www.virtualnorfolk.org](http://www.virtualnorfolk.org)

April 18, 2017

To whom it may concern;

The Norfolk Planning Board has reviewed the recently revised Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Norfolk. The plan is important to the town as it helps guide decisions moving forward that will have a lasting positive impact for future residents. The plan will provide a common vision for the town to preserve openspace and recreational resources into the future. It will also help with improved resource management and enhancement of recreational opportunities for the town.

We are in support of this plan and appreciate all the work that has been done to complete this document.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Maheu". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michelle Maheu,  
Planning Board Chair



**TOWN OF NORFOLK**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

ONE LIBERTY LANE  
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS 02056

JACK HATHAWAY  
Town Administrator

(508) 528-1408  
(508) 541-3366 – Fax

April 18, 2017

To whom it may concern;

The Norfolk Board of Selectmen is in possession of the recently revised Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Norfolk. This plan was originally written years ago and now revised to assist the town in reaching our goals in preserving important open space parcels and ensuring the town maintains exceptional recreational opportunities for residents now and in the future.

We support this plan going forward and commend the work that has gone into the plans development. We hope that the continued spirit of volunteerism that has led to the writing of this document continues for the future of our Town. We thank all that have contributed to this plans development.

Signed,

Jeffrey Palumbo,  
Chair, Board of Selectmen

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## REFERENCES

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs,  
Division of Conservation Services

The Open Space Planner's Workbook ([www.mass.gov/envir/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs))

Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements ([www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/osplanreq08.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/osplanreq08.pdf))

Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)  
([www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/scorp-2012-final.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/scorp-2012-final.pdf))

Department of Fish and Game

List of Rare Species in Massachusetts

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development ([http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi\\_town.asp](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp))

Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html)

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

[www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=norfolk%20county%20registry%20of%20deeds](http://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=norfolk%20county%20registry%20of%20deeds)

Norfolk Assessors Office

Norfolk Open Space Committee, 1996 Open Space and Recreation Plan

U.S. Department of Agriculture (undated) Soil Survey of Norfolk and Suffolk Counties, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010

American Community Survey, 2011-2015

# Appendix

Approval letter from Division of Conservation Resources  
ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan  
Report on Survey Results

2017



Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Matthew A. Beaton  
SECRETARY

Gino Carlucci  
PGC Associates, Inc.  
1 Toni Lane  
Franklin, MA 02038

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

Thank you for  
review for compliance  
pleased to write that  
DCS grant rounds th

Congratulation  
questions or concern

ADA ACCESS SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN  
PGC Associates, Inc.

## **Introduction**

The ADA Self Access Evaluation is “a detailed assessment of the recreation department and conservation commission [that]... includes a site-by-site inventory of all recreation and conservation areas and buildings, programs or services and a transition plan if any changes are necessary to make these public facilities, programs, or services accessible. The Assessment should ensure compliance with Federal anti-discrimination regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended (“ADA”).<sup>10</sup>

The requirements of the ADA are administered in Massachusetts by the Architectural Access Board (“AAB”), as set forth in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.<sup>11</sup> The purpose of the ADA requirements is to “seek to create or adapt sites, buildings and facilities so that they can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.” For the purpose of an OSRP, public recreational and conservation facilities must be evaluated for compliance with the ADA in accordance with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. It should be noted, however, that the DCS Workbook emphasizes the creation of an accessible system of facilities rather than an inventory of facilities in which every site is fully accessible.

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<sup>10</sup> ADA

<sup>11</sup> 521 CMR 19:00



## **Part I: Administrative Requirements**

### **1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator**

The ADA Coordinator for the Town of Norfolk is its Town Administrator:

Jack Hathaway  
One Liberty Lane  
Town Hall, Room 205  
Norfolk, MA 02056  
508-440-2855  
hathaway@virtualnorfolk.org

The following letter signed by Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Jeffrey Palumbo, officially designates the Town Administrator as the ADA Coordinator: Also attached is a letter from Mr. Hathaway confirming employment practices are consistent with ADA requirements.

### **2. Public Notification and Grievance Procedure**

The following ADA Compliance Policy is from the Board of Selectmen's Policies as most recently amended on July 16, 2014. It is posted on the Town web site as well as Town Hall:

#### **ADA COMPLIANCE POLICY**

Rationale: This policy is adopted to facilitate and ensure timely and cost effective compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for the Town of Norfolk facilities and employees. Policy: Town Owned Facilities: It is the onus of all town boards, committees, and departments that are planning new construction or acquisitions through purchase, rental, or lease of facilities, or remodeling and/or additions to existing facilities, to adhere to the following procedure:

1. Contact the Town Administrator in writing at the inception of your planning process, prior to securing the services of an architect/designer/engineer. The Town Administrator will brief your group on the essential elements of ADA. Town Employees: The Town of Norfolk is committed to the fair and equal employment of people with disabilities. Reasonable accommodation is the key to this nondiscrimination policy. While many individuals with disabilities can work without accommodation, other qualified applicants and employees face barriers to employment without the accommodation process. It is the policy of the Town of Norfolk to reasonably accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship. In accordance with the Massachusetts law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities when such accommodations are directly related to performing the essential functions of a job, competing for a job, or to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment. This policy applies to all applicants, employees, and employees seeking promotional opportunities.

**Definition Disability:** For purposes of determining eligibility for a reasonable accommodation, a person with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that materially or substantially limits one or more major life activities. Reasonable accommodation "Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Examples of accommodations may include acquiring or modifying equipment or devices; modifying training materials; making facilities readily accessible; modifying work schedules; and reassignment to a vacant position. Reasonable accommodation applies to three aspects of employment: 1. To assure equal opportunity in the employment process; 2. To enable a qualified individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of a job; and 3. To enable an employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment. Procedure - Current employees and employees seeking promotion 1. The employee shall inform his/her supervisor or the ADA Coordinator designee of the need for an accommodation.

2. The ADA Coordinator/designee may request documentation of the individual's functional limitations to support the request. Any medical documentation must be collected and maintained on separate forms and in

separate, locked files. No one will be told or have access to medical information unless the disability might require emergency treatment.

2. When a qualified individual with a disability has requested an accommodation, the employer shall, in consultation with the individual:

- Discuss the purpose and essential functions of the particular job involved. Completion of a step-by-step job analysis may be necessary.
- Determine the precise job-related limitation.
- Identify the potential accommodations and assess the effectiveness each would have in allowing the individual to perform the essential functions of the job.
- Select and implement the accommodation that is the most appropriate for both the individual and the employer. While an individual's preference will be given consideration, the Town of Norfolk is free to choose among equally effective accommodations and may choose the one that is less expensive or easier to provide.
- The ADA Coordinator or designee will work with the employee to obtain technical assistance, as needed.
- The ADA Coordinator or designee will provide a decision to the employee within a reasonable amount of time.
- If an accommodation cannot overcome the existing barriers or if the accommodation would cause an undue hardship on the operation of the business, the employee and the ADA Coordinator or designee shall work together to determine whether reassignment is possible/available or may be an appropriate accommodation.

**Procedure - Job applicants**

1. The job applicant shall inform the hiring manager of the need for an accommodation. The hiring manager will discuss with the ADA Coordinator or designee the needed accommodation and possible alternatives for the applicant.
2. The ADA Coordinator or designee will make a decision regarding the request for accommodation and, if approved, take the necessary steps to see that the accommodation is provided. Definition Undue hardship. An undue hardship is an action that is unduly costly, extensive, substantial, or disruptive, or that would fundamentally alter the nature or operation of the Town of Norfolk.

**Procedure for determining undue hardship**

1. The employee will meet with the ADA Coordinator or designee to discuss the requested accommodation.
2. The ADA Coordinator or designee will review undue hardships by considering: The nature and cost of the accommodation in relation to the size, the financial resources, and the nature and structure of the operation; and
3. The impact of the accommodation on the nature or operation of the Town of Norfolk.
4. The ADA Coordinator designee will provide a decision to the employee.

**Appeals** Employees or applicants who are dissatisfied with the decision(s) pertaining to his/her accommodation request may file an appeal with the Board of Selectmen within a reasonable period of time, for a final decision.



**TOWN OF NORFOLK**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

ONE LIBERTY LANE  
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS 02056

**JACK HATHAWAY**  
Town Administrator

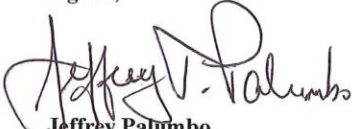
(508) 528-1408  
(508) 541-3366 – Fax

April 12, 2017

To whom it may concern;

I hereby confirm that Town Administrator Jack Hathaway has been appointed as the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Norfolk.

Signed,



**Jeffrey Palumbo,**  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen



**TOWN OF NORFOLK**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

ONE LIBERTY LANE  
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS 02056

**JACK HATHAWAY**  
Town Administrator

(508) 528-1408  
(508) 541-3366 – Fax

To whom it may concern;

This letter is being written to confirm that as the Americans with Disabilities Coordinator for the Town of Norfolk, and after consultation with our Director of Human Resources, Scott Bragdon, I hereby confirm that Norfolk's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration, are consistent with ADA requirements."

Signed,

**Jack Hathaway,**  
Town Administrator

2. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

*Achieved through the Community Preservation Committee’s survey of residents’ opinions and preferences. and the Town’s ADA Coordinator.*

**Part II: Program Accessibility**

The DCS Workbook calls for an inventory and a future transition plan that includes the buildings, recreation facilities and equipment (swimming areas, tot lots, etc.), programs, and services under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or Recreation Department, including lessees or concessionaires. The inventory is an analysis of the existing conditions at conservation and recreation sites for compliance with the AAB regulations, while the transition plan identifies a path towards improved accessibility and ADA compliance.

Facility Inventory:

There are sixteen sites in the Town of Norfolk that are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department or Conservation Commission and include the requisite facilities to require study for ADA compliance. Four are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department and twelve are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The sites offer a variety of opportunities for public use, however, their most frequently-reviewed facilities were recreation facilities, parking, ramps, site access/path of travel/entrances, rest rooms, and picnicking areas:

1. Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities in Norfolk include picnic sites, trails, tot lots, and playing fields and courts. The facilities were reviewed for their proximity to accessible paths and their compliance with accessibility requirements set forth by the AAB. Common requirements include accessible dimensions and features on equipment, proper signage including for the visually impaired, and accompanying programs and services that provide opportunities to the disabled community.

2. Parking

Any public recreation or conservation site with designated off-street parking shall comply with the parking and passenger loading zone provisions set forth in 521 CMR 23.00 (“the Parking Requirements”). The Parking Requirements set forth a minimum number of accessible spaces that must be provided according to the number of total spaces available in the lot, as follows:

<b>Total Spaces In Lot</b>	<b>Required Minimum Number of Accessible Spaces</b>
15-25	1
26-50	2
51-75	3
76-100	4
101-150	5
151-200	6
201-300	7
301-400	8
401-500	9
501-1,000	2% of total
1,001+	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

Source: 521 CMR 23.2.1

Furthermore, one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one space, shall be van accessible.<sup>12</sup> Van accessible spaces must provide a minimum vertical clearance of eight feet, two inches at the parking space and along at least one vehicle access route to such spaces from site entrances and exits. The space shall also have a minimum dimensions of eight feet in width as well as an eight foot wide adjacent access aisle, and be marked by a sign designating it as “Van Accessible”.<sup>13</sup> Alternatively, the van requirement may be satisfied by having all handicapped spaces eleven or more feet wide.<sup>14</sup>

### 3. Ramps

For the purposes of ADA compliance, any part of an accessible route with a slope greater than 5% shall be considered a ramp.<sup>15</sup> Ramp designation triggers slope, rise, width, and landing requirements as well as gripping requirements on rails and surfaces. Site Access, Path of Travel and Entrances

Any accessible route shall provide a continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible spaces and elements inside and outside a facility.<sup>16</sup> The route must adhere to width, turning radius, passing space, and slope requirements. Furthermore, an accessible route may also be designated as a walkway, giving rise to further requirements set forth in 521 CMR 22:00.

### 4. Rest Rooms

None of the facilities within the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department or Conservation Commission include permanent public toilet rooms. However, some facilities do provide portable toilets which are subject to accessibility standards set forth in 521 CMR 30.1.2.

### 5. Picnicking

Picnic areas are regulated under recreational facilities in 521 CMR 19.6. The regulations require that picnic facilities be accessible from an accessible route that is paved or hard packed.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, 5% of tables provided at a site shall comply with 521 CMR 19.5.2, which sets forth dimensional requirements for accessible tables.

The following Facility Inventory is a comprehensive accessibility evaluation of all sites in the Town of Norfolk under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department or Conservation Commission with public facilities:

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<sup>12</sup> 521 CMR 23.2.2

<sup>13</sup> 521 CMR 23.4.7

<sup>14</sup> 521 CMR 23.4.7

<sup>15</sup> 521 CMR 24:00

<sup>16</sup> 521 CMR 20.1

<sup>17</sup> 521 CMR 19.6.1

**Community Park at Rockwood Road (“Kid’s Place”)**



Address: 49 Rockwood Road

Parcel No.: 14-8-2

Acreage: 16.67\*

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Parking lot, signage, tot lot, community garden, trails, and portable toilet facilities.

Community Park at Rockwood Road is a new (2014) park, funded by Community Preservation Act revenue, with a focal point of a tot lot playground that is intended to entertain children ages 2-12. It was built on land formerly known as Gump’s Farm that was the site of a proposed market-rate housing development. It replaced the former “Kids’ Place” playground on nearby Boardman Street. In addition to the tot lot, the site includes conservation land trails and a community public garden.

The 34-space parking lot has two compliant handicapped spaces, one of which is a van space. A ramp between the two spaces provides access to an accessible route which traverses the grounds of the park and provides access to the playground, restrooms, garden and trails.

<b>Facilities</b>			
<b>Trails</b>		Surface material	Asphalt/Concrete
		Width	4’+
		Rails	No
		Signage (for visually impaired)	No
<b>Play Areas (tot lots)</b>	All play equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	Yes
	Access routes	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	Yes

**Picnic Facilities**

Tables and Benches

Enough space between equipment for wheelchair  
Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths

Yes  
Benches Yes, Tables No

Access to Open Spaces  
Back and Arm Rests  
Adequate Number

Yes  
Back Yes Arms No  
Yes

Grills

Height of Cooking Surface  
Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths

n/a  
n/a

Trash Cans  
Picnic Shelters

Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths  
Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths  
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc

Yes  
Yes  
Yes

<b>Parking</b>			
Total Spaces	34		
Required Accessible Spaces	2		
Existing Accessible Spaces	2		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
<b>Specification for Accessible Spaces</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance	x		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			n/a
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	x		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	x		
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			n/a
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with 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 minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		

<b>Site Access</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		
<b>Path of Travel</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		

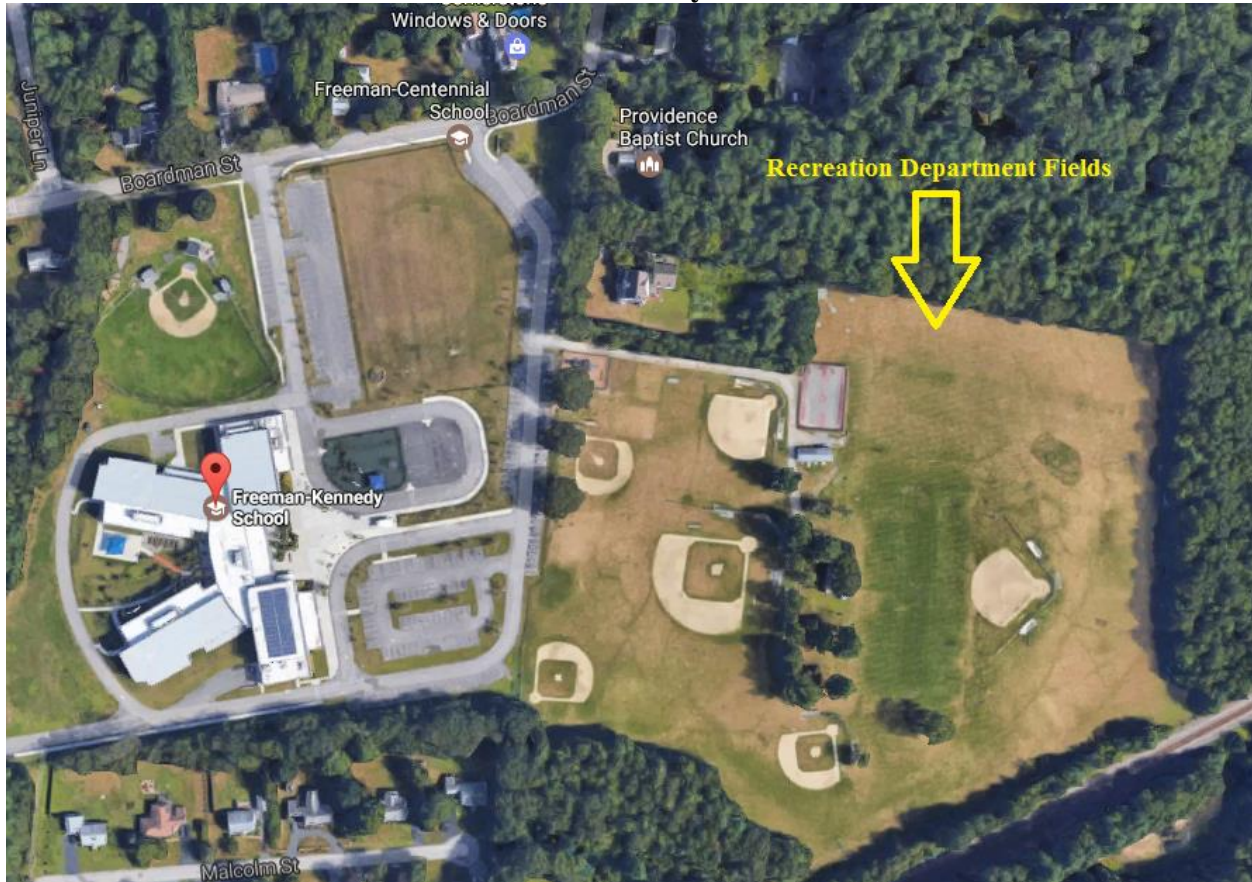


Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	x		
3' minimum width	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using 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		

<b>Portable Toilets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5%, not less than one, are accessible	x		
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility	x		

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

## Freeman Kennedy School



Address: 70 Boardman Street

Parcel No.:

Acreage:

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Basketball court, softball field, little league field, soccer field, football field

Description: The Freeman Kennedy School, which replaced the Freeman Centennial School, was constructed at the site of the former Bicentennial Park. Bicentennial Park which was under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department. Therefore, the Recreation Department retained jurisdiction over some of the fields and facilities at the school which are located on a separate 8 acre parcel of land. The facility is accessed through the parking lot at the school, and a path from the parking lot that leads to the Recreation Department parcel. Those access facilities are outside the jurisdiction of the department. It is worth noting, however, that it would be beneficial for the Town to designate some of the spaces near the access path as accessible spaces. The baseball and softball fields are currently undergoing a ~\$60,000 rehabilitation plan in accordance with the Town of Norfolk Master Plan.

**Facilities**  
**Games Areas**

Access Routes	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	No
	Berm cuts onto courts	No
Equipment	Height	-
	Dimensions	-
	Spectator Seating	Inaccessible

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		x	Path ends at the beginning of the Recreation Department portion of land
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		x	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		x	
No ponding of water			n/a

## Pond Street Recreation Complex



Address: 33 Pond Street

Parcel No.: 20-72-56

Acreage: 20.83

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Parking, signage, six playing fields, volleyball court tennis courts, basketball court, skate park, tot lot, sheltered picnic area, portable rest rooms, walking trail.

Pond Street Recreation Complex is by far the largest recreation site in the Town of Norfolk. The entire facility is surrounded by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile perimeter path that is mostly an accessible route. The facility is marked by signage near the entrance to its ~200 space parking lot. Although the lot is mostly compact gravel, it features six handicapped spaces, two of which are van accessible, that are paved with asphalt. The handicapped spaces are located at the starting point of an internal accessible route that reaches the vast majority of facilities at the site. There is also a paved drop-off loop at the main entrance and a paved path connecting the park lot and main entrance to the sidewalks on Pond Street.

### Facilities

<b>Trails</b>		Surface material	Stonedust
		Width	4'+
		Rails	No
		Signage (for visually impaired)	Yes
<b>Play Areas (tot lots)</b>	All play equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	No
	Access routes	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	Yes
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	Yes
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	Tables and Benches	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	Yes

		Access to Open Spaces	Yes
		Back and Arm Rests	No
		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	Yes
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc	Yes
<b>Games Areas</b>	Access Routes	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	Yes
		Berm cuts onto courts	No
	Equipment	Height	n/a
		Dimensions	n/a
		Spectator Seating	n/a

<b>Parking</b>			
Total Spaces	34		
Required Accessible Spaces	2		
Existing Accessible Spaces	2		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
<b>Specification for Accessible Spaces</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance	x		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	x		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	x		
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			n/a
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with 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 minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		

<b>Site Access</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		

<b>Path of Travel</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	x		
3' minimum width	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable 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		

<b>Portable Toilets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5%, not less than one, are accessible	x		
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility	x		

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

## Town Hill



Address: North Street

Parcel No.: 14-51-1

Acreage: 1.6

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Parking, signage, paved walking path, benches, gazebo

Description: Town Common includes brick path leading to gazebo with benches and trash can. Well-kept grounds with open green space. No parking facilities but town library parking abuts site.

### Facilities

<b>Trails</b>	Surface material	Brick
	Width	4'+
	Rails	No
	Signage (for visually impaired)	No

<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	Tables and 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	Yes
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc	Yes – restrooms/fountains available in library



## Campbell Forest



Address: 49 North Street  
 Parcel No.: 14-57-73  
 Acreage: 42.07  
 Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission  
 Facilities: Gravel parking area, walking trails

The Harold E. Campbell Forest Town Forest, established in 1972 and named in 1974, is a simply walking trail accessed by a small, unimproved parking area with no designated spaces. The terrain of the trail, which includes steep slopes, rocks and tree roots, renders its passage difficult for the disabled community.

### Facilities

<b>Trails</b>	Surface material	Dirt
	Width	6'+
	Rails	No
	Signage (for visually impaired)	No

<b>Parking</b>	
Total Spaces	Room for 4; 0 designated
Required Accessible Spaces	n/a
Existing Accessible Spaces	n/a
Required Van Spaces	n/a
Existing Van Spaces	n/a

## City Mills Pond



Address: Main Street

Parcel No.: 7-3-11

Acreage: 15.1

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Gravel parking area, picnic tables, trash cans, signage, water access

City Mills Pond, created by the damming of Mill River for water-powered manufacturing mills, is located on Main Street at the crossing of Mill River. Although there is no signage at the street, there is an informational sign on the site describing the area's history and some nearby historic sites. The site is accessed via a long and wide gravel loop with two points of egress on Main Street. There are parking areas alongside the loop, with space for about 4-6 cars although no spaces are marked. There is a small picnic area with two dilapidated picnic tables, neither of which is ADA-compliant, and two trash cans. However, there is no accessible route providing access to the picnic facilities, trash cans, or the pond itself.

The City Mills Pond site appears to be a good site to provide recreational opportunities for the disabled community. There is ample space for handicapped parking spaces, and little slope to interfere with an accessible route between facilities. The picnic tables, which are in need of replacement, could be replaced with ADA compliant tables. Although water access is complicated by steep slopes, the picnic area would require only modest improvements.



Dilapidated picnic tables near parking area



Gravel/dirt vehicular access route



Inaccessible trash receptacle

Inaccessible trash receptacle



Informational sign that does not include information for visually-impaired

**Facilities**

**Picnic Facilities**

Tables and Benches	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	No
	Access to Open Spaces	Yes
	Back and Arm Rests	No
	Adequate Number	Yes
Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	n/a
	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	n/a
Trash Cans	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	No
Picnic Shelters	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	No
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc	No

**Fishing & Facilities**

Access Routes	Located Adjacent to Accessible Paths	No
	Handrails	No

<b>Existing Parking</b>	
Total Spaces	Room for ~6; 0 designated
Required Accessible Spaces	n/a
Existing Accessible Spaces	n/a
Required Van Spaces	n/a
Existing Van Spaces	n/a

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
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			Not observed in field

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

## Comey's Pond



Address: 383 Main Street

Parcel No.: 2-3-3

Acreage: 6.00

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Gravel parking area, water access

Description: Comey's Pond has been under Conservation Commission ownership since its purchase in 1979. The six-acre site includes the pond itself and a small gravel loop that provides access from Main Street, although there is no signage at the street. The gravel loop does not have any designated parking spaces. There is no accessible path on the steep slope from the gravel loop to the water. The topography renders Comey's Pond a difficult site for accessible development.

## Kingsbury Pond



Address: 28 Kingsbury Road

Parcel No.: 3-9-9

Acreage: 0.21

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Trash can, beach area, water access

There is a small public beach at Kingsbury Pond near 28 Kingsbury Road. Near the site is a small area of on-street parking which is not designated. There is also a trash barrel on site. There is no signage and no accessible route to the beach area. There does, however, appear to be space for some modest accessible facilities.

## Kunde Conservation Land



Address: behind Olive Day School (223 Main Street)

Parcel No.: 14-47-1

Acreage: 24.84

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Walking trails

The Kunde Conservation Land site provides walking trails for public use. However, parking and access are provided off-site, at the Olive Day School, which is not within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.

## Lind Farm Conservation Area



Address: 17 Marshall Street

Parcel No.: 19-69-59

Acreage: 64.15

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Walking trails

Lind Farm has no facilities besides unimproved walking trails.



## Mirror Lake



Address: Mirror Lake Ave

Parcel No.: 12-64-2

Acreage: 0.46

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities, Bench, beach area, water access

There is no designated parking area, or any trails or facilities at this site other than a bench near the water.

## Old Town Pond/Kenneth Wood Conservation Land



Address: 98-100 Main Street

Parcel No.: 14-56-32, 14-56-33, 22-56-34

Acreage: 13.67

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Walking trails

An old gravel trail leads from the old town hall parking lot to the former Town Pool. The trail is of sufficient width and grade for access, but the pool was abandoned long ago. There are no facilities within the jurisdiction of the recreation department to be inventoried.

## **Pondville Conservation Land**



Address: 74-48 Pond Street

Parcel No.: 6-19-54 and 19-69-15

Acreage: 26.5

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Walking trails, signage

Pondville Conservation land provides a network of unimproved walking trails, and a large sign that is not designed for the visually impaired. There are no facilities to be inventoried.

## Populatic Pond and Boat Launch



Address: Lake Shore Drive (ROW)

Parcel No.: 4-17-ROW

Acreage: 0.2

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Boat launch

The Populatic Pond access and boat launch is a part of the parcel that serves as the right-of-way for Lake Shore Drive. Although there is no signage, there is a paved pathway all the way down to the water that provides access and serves as a boat launch. However, there are no designated parking spaces and no other facilities.

## River Road Fishing and Boat Launch



Address: River Road

Parcel No.: 4-30-1

Acreage: 7.1

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Trash can, water access

The River Road Fishing and Boat Launch provides access to the Charles River near the intersection with Myrtle Street. The minimal facility, which does not have signage, includes a small gravel area for parallel parking (but no designated spaces), a trash barrel, and a gravel area leading down to the water and the fishing/boat launching area. The slope to the water is steep, complicating any potential for constructing an accessible route.

**REPORT ON RESULTS OF CITIZEN SURVEY  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN  
February 27, 2015**

**Introduction**

The first step in preparing an update to the Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was a survey of residents. The survey questions were based largely, but not exclusively, on the questions that were asked in 1994 as part of the 1996 OSRP. This was done in order to determine whether there has been a change in viewpoints and/or priorities over the past 20 years.

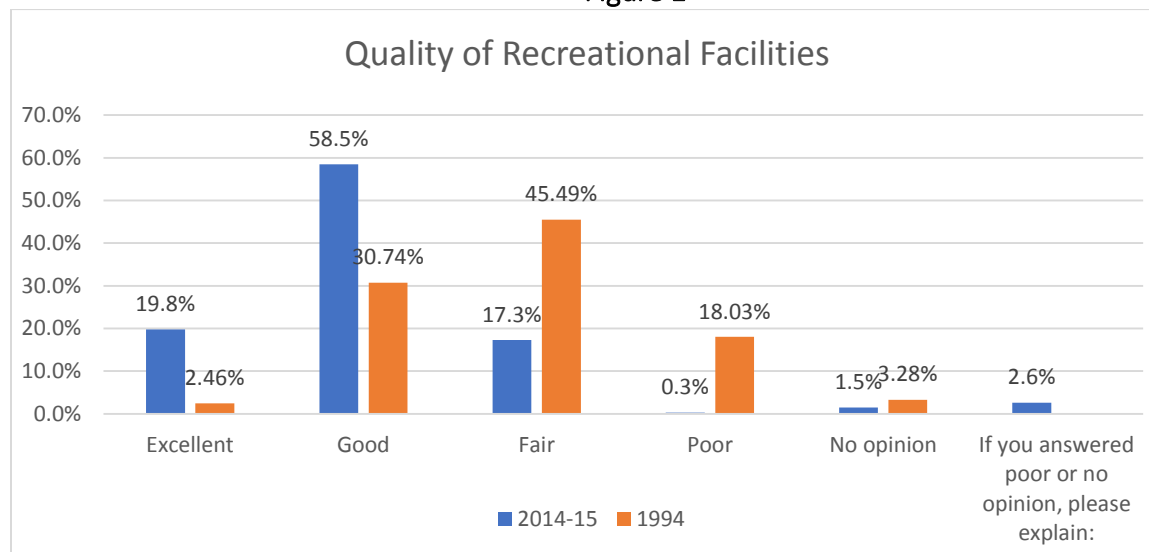
The draft questionnaire was prepared by the Community Preservation Committee with the assistance of PGC Associates. It was provided to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission for review and the final version reflects the input of those entities. It consisted of 10 substantive questions (some with multiple parts) and a final question regarding demographic information about the responder.

Paper copies were printed and were available at the November 18, 2014 Fall Town Meeting as well as in the offices of the Planning Board and Recreation Department. The survey was also available on-line. A total of 396 responses were received, all but 8 were completed on-line.

**Highlights**

The most dramatic finding of the survey was the change in perception of the quality of recreational facilities in Norfolk. Nearly 20% (19.8%) rated the recreational facilities found in Norfolk as “excellent” compared to just 2.46% in the previous survey. An additional 58.5% rated them as “good” for a total of 78.3% answering “good” or “excellent” while just 33.2% so rated the facilities in 1994.

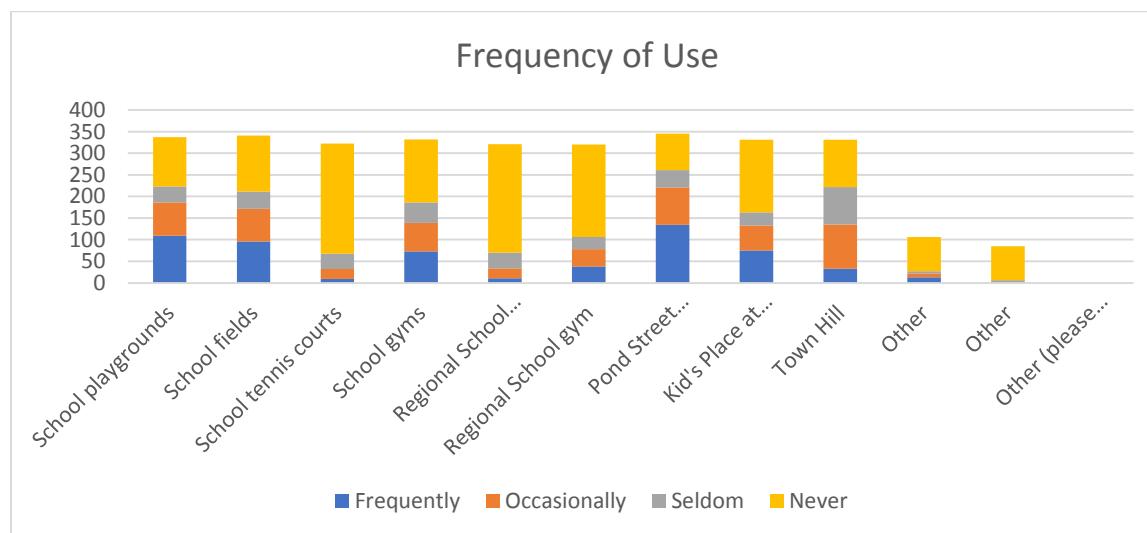
**Figure 1**



The most significant change since 1994 has been the development of the Pond Street Recreation Facility. However, there have also been new school facilities, a new Kid’s Place, additional conservation land and open space as well as private facilities such as Fore Kicks and Norfolk Arena.

Further evidence of the impact of the new facilities is supported by the responses to the question about frequency of use. As Figure 2 illustrates, The Pond Street Recreation Facility was one most cited as frequently used, followed by the school fields, playgrounds and gyms. Kid’s Place and Town Hill also scored highly on this question.

Figure 2



Regarding open space and conservation lands, Massachusetts Audubon’s Stony Brook was by far the most popular. Of the 335 respondents who answered the question about which open space areas did they or their family visit during the past year, 187 (55.8%) said they visited Stony Brook frequently or occasionally. The next most frequently or occasionally visited spots were Pondville Conservation Land (26.2%), Kunde Conservation Land (18.5%), and Campbell Town Forest (11.6%). Kingsbury Pond and Mirror Lake were also popular at 11.0% and 10.7% respectively.

Respondents were also asked about private facilities and those in neighboring towns. The most popular private facility was Fore Kicks. A total of 110 respondents said they visited it frequently or occasionally, followed closely by Norfolk Arena (105) and the Adirondack Club (100). Other facilities cited included Sweatt Beach in Wrentham (78), Rocky Woods in Medfield, the Wrentham/Franklin ponds and lakes (66) and the Hockomock YMCA’s in Foxboro (62) and Franklin (51).

While the results are not strictly comparable because more choices were offered in the new survey, the question about participation in specific recreational activities did reveal some interesting differences between 1994 and 2014-15. In 1994, the most popular activity (participated in frequently or occasionally) was “walking/hiking” at 74.9%. In the more recent

survey, this rate dropped to 45.1%. The “frequently” item accounted for most of the drop, going from 54.2% to 32.3%.

Bicycling and tennis also dropped significantly, from 58.7% and 35.9% respectively to 37.8% and 17.4%. Other activities with significant declines include swimming (62.7% to 39.9%), ice skating (52.2% to 31.6%), fishing (42.4% to 25.8%), baseball/softball (31.5% to 23.2%) and basketball (30.1% to 20.9%). It should be noted that percentage declines do not necessarily mean that total numbers have declined since population has increased. Also, at least a portion of the decline could be attributed to more choices available now than in 1994.

There were no major increases that stand out. Despite the decline, walking remained the most popular activity at 45.1%. It was followed by swimming (39.9%), bicycling (37.9%), jogging (34.7%) and soccer (31.5%). The most popular activities that had not been asked about in 1994 were snowboarding (17.6%), motorized boating (14.4%), paddleboarding (10.7%) and lacrosse (10.2%).

Table 1 illustrates the average rankings for responses to the question about ranking the top 5 recreational facilities that need to be developed or improved. Respondents were asked to rank these facilities in priority order from 1 (most needed) to 5 (least needed). The table presents the average of those rankings from 1 to 5.

**Table 1 – Ranking of Desired Facilities**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Swimming pool	2.43
Sidewalks	2.45
Bike trails	2.66
Turf fields	2.67
Hiking/skiing trails	2.82
Conservation areas	2.98
Sports fields	3.00
Recreation complex	3.02
Town pond	3.12
Tennis courts	3.24
Boat landings	3.26
Neighborhood Parks	3.41
Golf course	3.43
Family picnic areas	3.44
Children’s playgrounds	3.53
Outdoor amphitheater	3.63
Town common	3.70

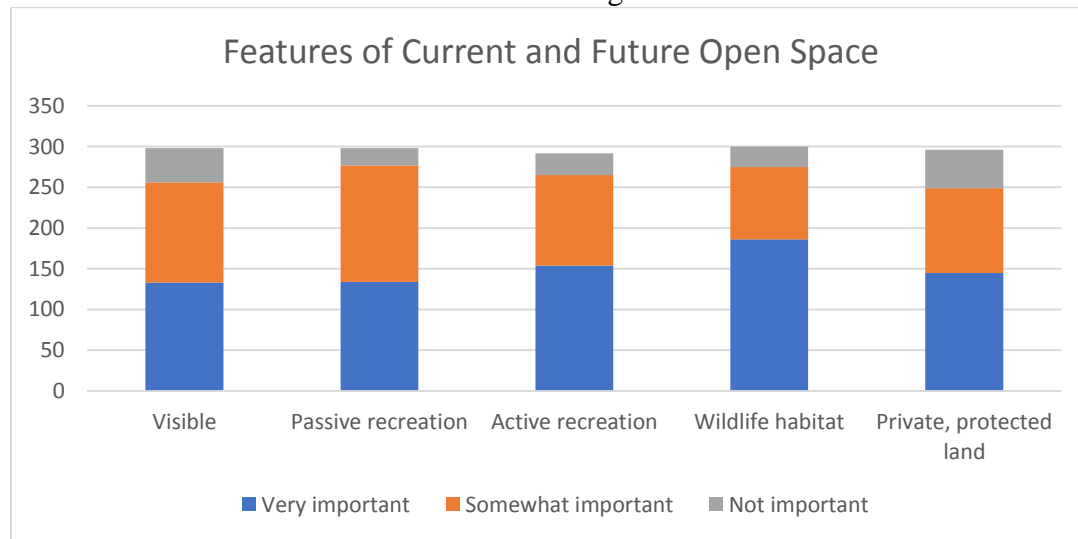
A swimming pool was ranked as the facility that respondents think most needs to be developed with an average ranking of 2.43. Sidewalks were a close second at 2.45. Bike trails, turf fields



and hiking/skiing trails round out the top 5. These results support those of the previous question where walking, swimming, bicycling, jogging, and soccer were the top 5 activities.

Perceptions of the characteristics of open space that are most important changed significantly between 1994 and the present. Figure 3 presents the opinions on this issue.

Figure 3



Wildlife habitat was selected as the most important aspect of open space by 62% of respondents while just 8.33% thought it was not important. In 1994, only 31.73% thought this was important and 39.85% thought it was not important. Table 2 compares the results of this question in the recent survey with those of the 1994 survey. As the table illustrates, being visible and protecting private land also rose in importance.

Table 2 – Rating of the features of Current and Future Open Space

2014-2015			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Visible	44.63%	41.28%	14.09%
Passive recreation	44.97%	47.99%	7.05%
Active recreation	52.74%	38.01%	9.25%
Wildlife habitat	62.00%	29.67%	8.33%
Private, protected land	48.99%	35.14%	15.88%

1994			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Visible	15.45%	27.24%	57.32%
Passive recreation	48.54%	34.67%	16.79%
Active recreation	43.37%	34.05%	22.58%

Wildlife habitat	31.73%	28.41%	39.85%
Private, protected land	8.43%	17.24%	74.33%

Figure 4 presents views on the importance of preserving various features of Norfolk. While preserving open spaces with water received the highest percentage of “Very Important” responses, all 6 features received very low percentages (all under 7%) of “Not Important” responses. In 1994, all features except “Open Space-Water” received double-digit responses in the “Not Important” category.

Figure 4

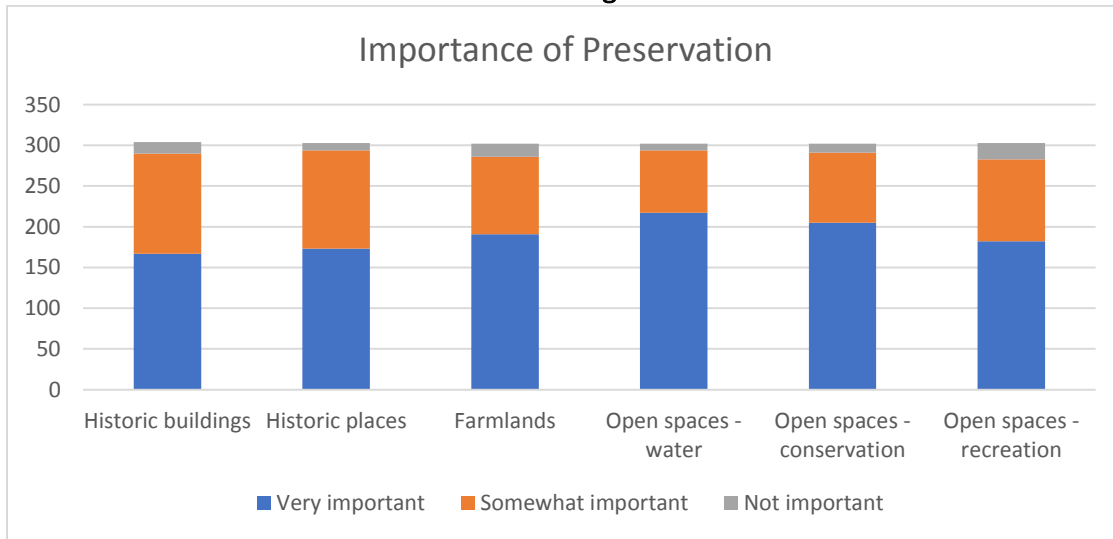


Table 3 illustrates what people believe the Town should spend money on. Strong majorities still support investing in open space and recreation, though the number responding “no” increased in all three categories. A significant change from 1994 is a reduction in support for recreational facilities. Again, this is likely a reflection of the progress the Town has made in developing both public and private recreational facilities since 1994.

Table 3 – Identification of Items the Town Should Spend Money On

2014-2015

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Identify and maintain conservation areas	71.71%	12.50%	15.79%
Develop recreational facilities	63.16%	21.05%	15.79%
Acquire open space	64.36%	17.82%	17.82%

1994

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Identify and maintain conservation areas	71.65%	10.34%	18.01%
Develop recreational facilities	80.71%	6.69%	12.60%
Acquire open space	68.09%	9.34%	22.57%

Complete results of the survey, including demographic information about respondents, is included in the Appendix.

## APPENDIX

### SURVEY RESULTS

#### Q1: How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreational facilities found in Norfolk?

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Answered: 388 Skipped: 8

Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	19.85%	77
Good	58.51%	227
Fair	17.27%	67
Poor	0.26%	1
No opinion	1.55%	6
If you answered poor or no opinion, please explain:	2.58%	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>388</b>

## Q2: During the past year, what town playgrounds, parks or fields listed below did you or your family use:

Answered: 362 Skipped: 34

	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Total
School playgrounds	<b>32.34%</b> 109	<b>22.85%</b> 77	<b>10.98%</b> 37	<b>33.83%</b> 114	337
School fields	<b>28.15%</b> 96	<b>21.99%</b> 75	<b>11.73%</b> 40	<b>38.12%</b> 130	341
School tennis courts	<b>2.80%</b> 9	<b>7.14%</b> 23	<b>11.18%</b> 36	<b>78.88%</b> 254	322
School gyms	<b>21.99%</b> 73	<b>19.88%</b> 66	<b>14.16%</b> 47	<b>43.98%</b> 146	332
Regional School tennis courts	<b>3.43%</b> 11	<b>7.17%</b> 23	<b>11.21%</b> 36	<b>78.19%</b> 251	321
Regional School gym	<b>11.88%</b> 38	<b>12.50%</b> 40	<b>8.75%</b> 28	<b>66.88%</b> 214	320
Pond Street Recreation Facility	<b>38.84%</b> 134	<b>25.22%</b> 87	<b>11.59%</b> 40	<b>24.35%</b> 84	345
Kid's Place at Rockwood Rd.	<b>22.66%</b> 75	<b>17.52%</b> 58	<b>9.06%</b> 30	<b>50.76%</b> 168	331
Town Hill	<b>9.97%</b> 33	<b>30.82%</b> 102	<b>26.28%</b> 87	<b>32.93%</b> 109	331
Other	<b>12.26%</b> 13	<b>8.49%</b> 9	<b>4.72%</b> 5	<b>74.53%</b> 79	106
Other	<b>1.18%</b> 1	<b>1.18%</b> 1	<b>4.71%</b> 4	<b>92.94%</b> 79	85

### Q3: During the past year, what town/nonprofit open space areas listed below did you or your family use:

Answered: 335 Skipped: 61

	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Total
Lind Farm Conservation Area	5.28% 16	11.22% 34	9.24% 28	74.26% 225	303
Pondville Conservation Land (Rt. 115)	9.21% 28	19.74% 60	13.49% 41	57.57% 175	304
Campbell Town Forest (Rt. 115)	4.58% 14	8.17% 25	12.75% 39	74.51% 228	306
Kunde Conservation Land (H.O. Day)	4.92% 15	15.41% 47	14.43% 44	65.25% 199	305
Comey Pond	1.69% 5	1.69% 5	7.43% 22	89.19% 264	296
City Mills Pond	2.01% 6	6.35% 19	10.70% 32	80.94% 242	299
Maple Street Conservation Land	0.68% 2	3.05% 9	6.44% 19	89.83% 265	295
Keeney Pond Conservation Land	3.39% 10	4.07% 12	7.12% 21	85.42% 252	295
Grove Street Conservation Land	2.36% 7	4.71% 14	6.06% 18	86.87% 258	297
Old Mill Meadow Conservation Land	1.38% 4	2.42% 7	4.84% 14	91.35% 264	289
Mass Audubon's Stony Brook	27.38% 89	30.46% 99	16.92% 55	25.23% 82	325
Mirror Lake	3.97% 12	7.95% 24	10.93% 33	77.15% 233	302
Kingsbury Pond	5.03% 15	7.05% 21	7.72% 23	80.20% 239	298
Highland Lake	2.37% 7	4.07% 12	8.14% 24	85.42% 252	295
Weeber property off Chicatabut	1.37% 4	0.34% 1	5.15% 15	93.13% 271	291
Christina Estates open space	2.70% 8	1.69% 5	7.43% 22	88.18% 261	296
Bristol Pond Estates open space	1.70% 5	3.06% 9	4.08% 12	91.16% 268	294
Gumps Farm	5.33% 16	9.00% 27	16.67% 50	69.00% 207	300
River Road fishing/boat launch	2.39% 7	6.14% 18	9.22% 27	82.25% 241	293
Populatic Pond boat launch	2.73% 8	5.12% 15	4.10% 12	88.05% 258	293
Route 115 boat launch	1.68% 5	5.39% 16	6.73% 20	86.20% 256	297
Town Pond	1.99% 6	4.65% 14	8.64% 26	84.72% 255	301

## Q4: During the past year, what private or neighboring town's facilities in did your family use:

Answered: 322 Skipped: 74

	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Total
Walpole pools	1.40% 4	0.70% 2	1.75% 5	96.15% 275	286
Plainville Park Terrace Pool	4.18% 12	5.92% 17	9.76% 28	80.14% 230	287
Adirondack Club Franklin	24.07% 71	9.83% 29	9.15% 27	56.95% 168	295
Wrentham/Franklin ponds/lakes	6.48% 19	16.04% 47	12.97% 38	64.51% 189	293
Sweatt Beach	8.39% 25	17.79% 53	15.10% 45	58.72% 175	298
Millis Oak Grove Farm	1.43% 4	5.36% 15	8.21% 23	85.00% 238	280
Trustees/Rocky Woods Medfield	8.47% 25	14.92% 44	11.53% 34	65.08% 192	295
Hockomock YMCA Franklin	10.18% 29	7.72% 22	9.12% 26	72.98% 208	285
Hockomock YMCA Foxboro	10.69% 31	10.69% 31	6.90% 20	71.72% 208	290
Fore Kicks	19.13% 57	17.79% 53	14.43% 43	48.66% 145	298
Norfolk Arena	17.69% 52	18.03% 53	15.65% 46	48.64% 143	294
DCR Veterans Memorial Ice Rink (Franklin)	3.14% 9	6.62% 19	7.32% 21	82.93% 238	287
Rodman Ice Rink (Walpole)	1.76% 5	5.99% 17	4.58% 13	87.68% 249	284
Upper Charles bike trail (Milford)	2.11% 6	8.10% 23	5.63% 16	84.15% 239	284
Wrentham State Forest	4.81% 14	8.93% 26	12.03% 35	74.23% 216	291
Foxboro State Forest	4.81% 14	9.28% 27	11.00% 32	74.91% 218	291
Del Carte Open Space & Rec/Pleasant St. Franklin	4.23% 12	6.34% 18	7.39% 21	82.04% 233	284
Borderland State Park	4.64% 13	9.29% 26	10.71% 30	75.36% 211	280
Other	14.85% 15	4.95% 5	3.96% 4	76.24% 77	101
Other	6.17% 5	1.23% 1	0.00% 0	92.59% 75	81

## Q5: During the past year, how often had you or your family participated in the following recreational activities in Norfolk or elsewhere?

Answered: 324 Skipped: 72

	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Total
WINTER SPORTS Ice Skating	21.96% 65	24.32% 72	19.93% 59	33.78% 100	296
Cross-country skiing	5.76% 17	11.19% 33	7.80% 23	75.25% 222	295
Snowmobiling	1.72% 5	2.41% 7	4.47% 13	91.41% 266	291
Snowshoeing	6.10% 18	15.25% 45	10.85% 32	67.80% 200	295
ORGANIZED SPORTS Baseball/softball	23.96% 69	6.25% 18	7.29% 21	62.50% 180	288
Basketball	18.84% 55	7.53% 22	9.25% 27	64.38% 188	292
Football	5.63% 16	4.93% 14	5.99% 17	83.45% 237	284
Hockey	12.46% 36	5.88% 17	5.88% 17	75.78% 219	289
Lacrosse	7.47% 21	3.91% 11	3.20% 9	85.41% 240	281
Soccer	36.36% 108	9.76% 29	5.72% 17	48.15% 143	297
Field Hockey	2.14% 6	1.79% 5	1.79% 5	94.29% 264	280
WATER SPORTS Fishing	16.20% 46	18.66% 53	15.14% 43	50.00% 142	284
Swimming	44.08% 134	22.37% 68	8.22% 25	25.33% 77	304
Canoeing/Kayaking	18.33% 55	18.33% 55	17.33% 52	46.00% 138	300
Motorized boating	6.99% 20	9.79% 28	9.79% 28	73.43% 210	286
Paddleboarding	2.83% 8	9.19% 26	7.77% 22	80.21% 227	283
INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Bicycling	35.02% 104	25.93% 77	12.12% 36	26.94% 80	297
Jogging	33.78% 100	19.26% 57	13.18% 39	33.78% 100	296
Tennis	8.93% 25	12.14% 34	14.64% 41	64.29% 180	280
GENERAL RECREATION Golf	22.46% 64	15.79% 45	13.33% 38	48.42% 138	285
Disc golf	1.81% 5	3.97% 11	7.94% 22	86.28% 239	277
Playground	36.86% 108	16.04% 47	11.26% 33	35.84% 105	293
Roller blading	3.26% 9	9.42% 26	8.33% 23	78.99% 218	276
Walking/hiking	58.92% 185	23.25% 73	7.01% 22	10.83% 34	314
Horseback riding	7.83% 22	4.27% 12	7.83% 22	80.07% 225	281
Other	9.64% 8	2.41% 2	0.00% 0	87.95% 73	83
Other	7.89% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	92.11% 70	76



**Q6: Please identify the TOP FIVE recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved in priority order from 1 to 5:**

Answered: 292 Skipped: 104

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Bike trails	3	462	174
Swimming pool	2	282	116
Hiking/skiing trails	3	460	163
Conservation areas	3	334	112
Recreation complex	3	365	121
Town common	4	207	56
Town pond	3	259	83
Sports fields	3	231	77
Neighborhood Parks	3	218	64
Tennis courts	3	120	37
Family picnic areas	3	186	54
Children's playgrounds	4	141	40
Golf course	3	120	35
Outdoor amphitheater	4	109	30
Boat landings	3	88	27
Sidewalks	2	444	181
Turf fields	3	128	48
<b>Total Respondents: 292</b>			

## Q7: How would you rate the following features of current and future open space in Town?

Answered: 305 Skipped: 91

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Visible	44.63% 133	41.28% 123	14.09% 42	298
Passive recreation	44.97% 134	47.99% 143	7.05% 21	298
Active recreation	52.74% 154	38.01% 111	9.25% 27	292
Wildlife habitat	62.00% 186	29.67% 89	8.33% 25	300
Private, protected land	48.99% 145	35.14% 104	15.88% 47	296

## Q8: How important is it to you to preserve the following?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 87

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Historic buildings	54.93% 167	40.46% 123	4.61% 14	304
Historic places	57.10% 173	39.93% 121	2.97% 9	303
Farmlands	63.25% 191	31.46% 95	5.30% 16	302
Open spaces - water	71.85% 217	25.50% 77	2.65% 8	302
Open spaces - conservation	67.88% 205	28.48% 86	3.64% 11	302
Open spaces - recreation	60.07% 182	33.33% 101	6.60% 20	303

## Q9: Do you think the Town should spend funds to:

Answered: 312 Skipped: 84

	Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
Identify and maintain conservation areas	71.71% 218	12.50% 38	15.79% 48	304
Develop recreational facilities	63.16% 192	21.05% 64	15.79% 48	304
Acquire open space	64.36% 195	17.82% 54	17.82% 54	303

## Q11: Please provide the following optional demographic information:

Answered: 299 Skipped: 97

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	37.12%	111
Female	62.88%	188
<b>Total</b>		<b>299</b>

## Q12: Please provide the following optional demographic information:

Answered: 305 Skipped: 91

Answer Choices	Responses	
18-34	5.25%	16
30-45	39.67%	121
45-65	45.57%	139
65+	9.51%	29
<b>Total</b>		<b>305</b>

## Q13: Please provide the following optional demographic information:

Answered: 300 Skipped: 96

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
How many years have you lived in Norfolk:	16	4,829	300
How many people live in your household?	4	1,044	295
How many of those are under 18?	1	379	290
In the last 5 years, approximately how many Town Meetings have you attended?	3	928	289
<b>Total Respondents: 300</b>			