

REVISED
DRAFT (1/29/19)

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

20182019



WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

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DRAFT

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FOR

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Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee

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Adopted by the Westwood Planning Board on _____, 2019

Acknowledgements

In September 2017, the Select Board ~~of Selectmen~~ appointed the following individuals to a steering committee to work on an update of the Open Space and Recreation ~~Plan~~ Plan Steering Committee(OSRP).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAN SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	3
Statement of Purpose	3
Prior Open Space and Recreation Efforts	3
Planning Process and Public Participation	4
COMMUNITY SETTING	8
Regional Context	8
History of the Community.	10
Population Characteristics	13
Growth and Development Patterns	19
ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	25
Geology, Soils and Topography	25
Landscape Character	27
Water Resources	28
Vegetation, Wildlife and Fisheries.	30
Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	32
Rare and Endangered Species.	35
Environmental Challenges	35
INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST	38
Protected Open Space	38
Public and Private Recreation Facilities	47
Potential Inequities	52
Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands	52
Other Lands of Interest	54
COMMUNITY VISION	58
Description of Process	58
Open Space and Recreation Goals	59
NEEDS ANALYSIS	60
Resource Protection Needs	60
Community Needs (Recreation)	61
Community Needs (Open Space)	63
Management Needs	65
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	67
General Goals	67
Open Space Goals	68
Recreation Goals	70

ACTION PLAN	73
Action Plan	73
PUBLIC COMMENTS	89
REFERENCES	90
APPENDIX	91

LIST OF TABLES

1	Westwood Land Use	12
2	Population Growth, 1970-2016	13
3	Population Growth, Westwood and Abutting Towns 2000-2016	13
4	Population Density, 1970-2016	14
5	Age, 2000-2016	15
6	Median Household Income, Westwood and Abutting Towns, 2000-2016	15
7	Race and Ethnicity, Westwood and Abutting Towns, 2000-2016	16
8	Employment, Westwood Residents, 2006-2016	17
9	Westwood Employment by Sector, 2010-2016	18
10	Housing Units, Westwood and Abutting Towns, 2016	19
11	Rare and Endangered Species	35
12	Protected Open Space Parcels	40
13	Hale Reservation Properties	48
14	Public Recreation Properties	49
15	Private Recreation Properties	51
16	Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands	53
17	Other Municipal Properties	55
18	Survey of Recreation Facilities in Peer Towns, by Type	62
19	Comparison of Population Served per Facility in Peer Towns	63
20	Protected Land in Westwood and Peer Towns.	64

LIST OF MAPS

1.	Regional Context	9
2	Zoning Map	20
3.	Soils and Geologic Features	26
4.	Water Resources	29
5.	Vegetation and Wildlife	31
6.	Scenic and Unique Features	34
7.	Rare and Endangered Species	36
8	Protected and Recreational Open Space	39
9	Action Plan	88

Section 1: Plan Summary

This ~~2018-2019~~ Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an update of a previous plan completed in 2000. The plan contains the following major elements:

- A description of the public input utilized in developing the Plan;
- A demographic profile;
- A summary of recent and projected growth trends;
- An environmental description of the town;
- An inventory of existing protected open space and recreation facilities;
- An analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- A statement of goals and objectives; and
- A seven-year action plan.

~~—A major recommendation of the OSRP is for Westwood to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA allows communities to assess a property tax surcharge of between 1% and 3%. Funds collected under the CPA are set aside for certain allowable uses, including conservation, recreation, historic preservation and affordable housing. Communities which adopt the CPA are then eligible to receive a share of fees collected at Registries throughout the state. The extent of match varies from year to year, but is currently less than 20%. The funding generated by the CPA surcharge and match could be used to pay some of the other actions supported by the OSRP.—~~

The Community Setting section notes the history and population growth of Westwood. It notes that Westwood has seen relatively small but steady population growth since 1970 with the exception of a 5% decline in population during the 1980's followed by a surge of more than 12% during the 1990's. Population projections to 2030 indicate essentially little growth through 2030.

The Environmental Inventory and Analysis section describes the geology, soils and topography of the town and includes a description of landscape character. Major surface waters are noted and mapped along with wetlands, flood plains, public wells and wellhead protection areas. Priority habitat areas are also mapped and four species that are endangered, threatened or of special concern are identified. This section also identifies a number of environmental challenges facing the town, including protection of the town's water supply, management of stormwater, control of invasive species, and adaptation to climate change.

The Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest identifies 794 acres of protected open space owned by the Town and private owners, including parcels within open space subdivisions. Hale Reservation is shown in Assessor's records to have 325 acres of unprotected open space in Westwood (this report suggests that figure may possibly be underestimated by approximately 150 acres). Another 198 acres are in use as public and private recreation facilities, and 97 acres enjoy limited protection as Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands.

Public input was used to develop the goals and objectives. The goals include the following:

General Goals

GOAL 1: ~~Pursue adoption of Community Preservation Act (CPA)~~

~~GOAL 2:~~ Protect and enhance Westwood's community character

Open Space Goals

GOAL 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.

GOAL 2: Increase awareness about Westwood's existing open space and conservation areas to encourage use and protection.

GOAL 3: Identify, protect and acquire lands appropriate for open space and conservation that are contiguous to existing protected land, provide connectivity, have high natural resource and habitat value, or are in areas of town with limited open space areas.

Recreation Goals

GOAL 1: Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.

GOAL 2: Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming.

GOAL 3: Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.

GOAL 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs

GOAL 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities

GOAL 6: Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.

Each goal includes a number of objectives. The Action Plan makes recommendations addressing each of the objectives. It also identifies the lead agency for each action, recommends implementation mechanisms, includes a general schedule for each item, and proposes potential funding sources for implementing the action, where applicable.

~~In addition to adoption of the CPA, some of the other~~ Some of the major recommended actions include studying the feasibility of developing an indoor recreation community center and/or an indoor ice skating rink, acquiring additional open space, improving public knowledge about existing and planned open space and recreation facilities, developing management plans for each site, and increasing universal access to open space and recreation sites.

Properties related to the key recommendations are also mapped.

Section 2: Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the open space resources of Westwood are protected and recreation resources are expanded to accommodate the changing and diverse needs of its population as the town continues to grow and face demographic changes. While the town has experienced substantial development in recent years, significant areas of open space, rural character, and relatively compact development (at least near the two town center) still exist. Without thoughtful planning and a vision to guide development, these desirable features are in danger of being lost, as they have been in many other towns.

It should also be noted that updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) restores Westwood's eligibility for grants from the Division of Conservation Services of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Previous efforts to manage, acquire, plan for, or otherwise protect open space and address recreation needs have been undertaken in Westwood. These past efforts include the following:

- *Conservation/Recreation Master Plan, 1977;*
- *This is Your Land . . . ; 1978;*
- *Westwood Services and Facilities, 1995; and*
- *Town of Westwood Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2000*

Each of these efforts is discussed below.

B. Prior Open Space and Recreation Efforts

As noted in the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Westwood completed its first effort to address open space and recreation needs in 1977. The *Conservation/Recreation Master Plan* was completed by the Conservation Commission and included an inventory of existing conservation land as well as a "wish list" of privately-owned lands that would be desirable to conserve.

The following year (1978) the Conservation Commission produced a pamphlet entitled *This is Your Land . . .* to encourage conservation and exploration of significant open space properties. The next substantial effort toward conserving land was made until 1998 when Town Meeting approved the acquisition for conservation purposes of a 68-acre parcel known as Lowell Woods.

In 1995, the Town contracted with the firm of Archetype Architecture, Inc. to review services and facilities including those related to recreation. That study documented a need for additional playing fields to meet a growing demand and identified potential sites for those fields.

In 1996, Westwood initiated an effort to prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan. A 32-member Open Space and Recreation Task Force was formed and it hired the firm of Herr and James Associates to assist with plan preparation. An extensive public participation effort was

undertaken beginning in late 1996 and continuing through 1997. A completed plan was adopted by the Planning Board in February 2000.

It should be noted that one of the recommendations of the 2000 OSRP was the creation of a Westwood Land Trust (WLT). The WLT was created and in 2002 it produced *=Take a Hike!*, which described the open spaces in Westwood with an emphasis on trails.

The Town adopted the Dedham & Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan in April 2014.

C. Planning Process and Public Participation

This update of the 2000 OSRP was produced under the auspices of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee (OSRPC), with the assistance of consultants, PGC Associates, LLC, of Franklin, MA and J M Goldson of Boston, MA. Input from town officials and the general public was a critical component of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. It is the residents and Town officials, who live in and/or work in town, which have first-hand knowledge about Westwood and its opportunities, needs and challenges. Their contributions are integral to the identification and establishment of goals and objectives and, furthermore, help to ensure that any recommendations are feasible and will gain the critical support needed to warrant a reasonable chance for implementation. It is the input from the OSRPC, town officials and the general public that contributes in an essential way to the preparation of this plan.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

The public participation element of this plan consisted of two major parts: an open space and recreation survey and a Community Visioning Workshop. This element began and ended with the survey. The survey was available in two formats: electronic and paper. Most participants responded electronically.

Initially, the survey was available from November 13, 2017 through December 3, 2017. A total of 641 responses received during this timeframe: 621 electronic and 20 paper responses. Following the Community Visioning Workshop, the survey was reopened from February 1, 2018 to March 1, 2018. This second participation opportunity garnered an additional 168 respondents for a total of 809 respondents.

The survey included nine questions plus an open-ended prompt which provided an opportunity for the responder to share ideas or suggestions related to recreation and/or conservation in Westwood. The nine questions and a summary of their responses were:

1. In the past year, which of the following recreation areas listed below did you or your family use? (multiple Westwood sites were listed)
The site receiving the greatest use, as indicated by responders, is Westwood High School.
2. How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreational facilities found in Westwood? (Choices were: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor)

The majority of responders rated Westwood's recreational facilities as Very Good or Excellent.

3. Please identify any recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved. This prompt was followed with a listing of 19 facilities. Survey responses identified the following facilities as needing to be developed or improved:
 - a. Sheehan tennis courts/outdoor court
 - b. Recreation center/community center
 - c. Tennis courts
 - d. Outdoor pool
 - e. Tot lot
 - f. Dog park
 - g. Turf fields
 - h. Thurston fields and gym
 - i. Ice skating rink

Other facilities were identified in either the first administration of the survey or the second, but not both. Those responses are included in the full survey report, located in the appendix.

4. In the past year, what town/nonprofit open space areas listed below did you or your family use? (Multiple Westwood sites were selected)
Respondents identified Hale Reservation was the most used Open Space area followed by Lowell Woods.
5. Check up to five items below that you feel should be a priority in Westwood in the next five years. The top five items listed by responders were: ice hockey rink (39% of responses); trails (37 %); a community center (31%); a dog park (29%); and outdoor swimming facilities (26%).
6. What areas in Westwood should be acquired or restored for the future use of town residents for recreation or conservation purposes? The areas listed were acknowledged as ones that should be acquired for the future use of town residents. There were multiple properties acknowledged:
 - a. The Town's property in Islington, to be used for adequate parking for town offices and library and for open green space
 - b. Spaces along University Avenue and the office parks there that are otherwise undevelopable
 - c. The Canton/Downey area
 - d. Westwood Lodge
 - e. Recently purchased land from First Parish
 - f. More indoor space for winter activities
 - g. Land adjacent to the high school
 - h. The corner of Fox Hill and High Street
 - i. Pheasant Hill Park
 - j. Deerfield School, could be repurposed as a recreation and community center
 - k. Buckmaster Pond
 - l. Hale Reservation should be conserved

- m. Properties along Gay Street, Dover Road, and Summer Street
 - n. Land near University Station
7. How important is it to you to preserve the following?
 - a. Farmlands: 44% important and 45% somewhat important
 - b. Historic Buildings: 40% very important and 49% somewhat important
 - c. Historic Places: 43% very important and 50% somewhat important
 - d. Open spaces – conservation land: 71% very important
 - e. Open spaces – recreation land: 80% very important
 - f. Open spaces – water: 70% very important and 28% important
 8. How would you rate the following features of current and future open space in the Town?
 - a. Active Recreation: 81% of responders rated it very important
 - b. Passive Recreation: 49% rated it very important
 - c. Private, protected land: 36% rated it very important; 52% rated is somewhat important
 - d. Scenic Views and Landscape: 53% rated it very important; 42% rated it somewhat important
 - e. Wildlife Habitat: 60% rated it very important
 9. Would you support an effort to adopt the Community Preservation Act?

Nearly 41% of survey respondents indicated support for the CPA, but the results varied between the first and second groups of respondents, with the first group having 42% in support and the second group having only 36% in support of the CPA. **[Look at the age breakdown of respondents that were opposed to the CPA]**

The complete Survey Summary of Results is included in the appendix.

The Westwood Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Workshop

The Community Workshop was held on February 1, 2018, in the cafeteria of the Thurston Middle School at 850 High Street in Westwood. It was sponsored by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee. It was facilitated by Gino Carlucci, AICP, PGC Associates, LLC and Jennifer Goldson, AICP, JM Goldson community preservation + planning. The workshop began with introductions and opened with a Project Overview. The workshop addressed both recreation and open space/natural resources. About 43 people attended, as well as members of the OSRP Steering Committee and Town officials.

The Community Workshop focused the two main aspects of the OSRP: Recreation (Passive and Active) Resources and Needs and Open Space Resources and Needs. Participants were separated among several tables, each with a facilitator to assist with small group discussion. After each segment, the tables reported out. This aspect of the workshop contributed to the information shared among and between participants, OSRP Steering Committee members, and Town officials. Additionally, it informally provided an indication of what was important to the individuals who attended the workshop.

The main conclusions realized from the Workshop are:

- Westwood has a need for recreation opportunities for residents of all ages. The development of a community recreation center could help serve this need.
- The continued and improved maintenance of fields and recreation spaces is necessary, and more fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts would help ease the wear of current facilities and meet the needs of the community.
- The connectedness of Westwood’s open space resources and recreation facilities via walking paths, bike paths, and trails will help foster a greater sense of community in the town.
- Conservation of open space and natural resources is a priority for residents, both for recreational use via trails and for environmental preservation purposes.
- Participants largely agreed that open space resources in Westwood are largely unknown by residents, and that better signage, maps, and public outreach and education regarding open space would benefit the town.

The complete Community Workshop Summary of Results in full is included in the appendix.

Information gained from the survey and the workshop was used by the OSRPC to develop the OSRP goals and objectives. The goals and objectives in conjunction with the Needs Analysis formed the basis for the development of the recommendations in the Action Plan.

{Pending final actions] *The OSRPC provided a draft of this plan to the A “final draft” was distributed to the Planning Board on NovemberDecember 11—, 2018 for consideration. Following a duly noticed public hearing, the Planning Board revised and adopted the OSRP on February , 2019. Copies were also provided to the Select Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Commission, as well as to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Comments received by the Planning Board are included in the Public Comments section of this document.*

Section 3: Community Setting

A. Regional Context

Westwood is located within 12 miles of Boston near the I-95/93 (Route 128) beltway and I-95. It is traversed by three state-numbered highways: Route 109, Route 1 and Route 1A. All three routes pass through Westwood in a northeast-southwest direction. Two passenger rail lines also serve the town. There is a commuter rail/Amtrak station at 50 University Avenue, with 2,589 parking spaces and 44 handicapped accessible spaces. There is a smaller commuter rail stop, Islington Center, at 48 Carroll Avenue that includes 39 parking spaces and 1 handicapped accessible space. The Norwood Memorial Airport is just southwest of Westwood's border with Norwood. Map 1 illustrates Westwood's location within the region.

Westwood is bordered by Dover, Needham, Dedham, Canton, Norwood and Walpole. It is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for 101 cities and towns in the Boston metropolitan area, and its 10-member subregional group, Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC).

Among its abutting towns, four towns, Canton, Dedham (expired August 2017), Dover (expired November 2017) and Needham have expired plans but are researching initial steps or currently updating their existing Open Space and Recreation Plans. Norwood's plan expired in 2015 and Walpole's plan expired in 2016.

Westwood straddles two watersheds. Most of the town is in the Neponset River Watershed while the northeastern part is in the Charles River Watershed.

The Town of Westwood is the location of multiple woods and forests, surface waters, wetlands, conservation and open space lands. Additionally, it has numerous playing fields and recreational lands for youth and adult sports. It serves as a regional host, in concert with the Town of Dover, for the 1137 acre Hale Reservation property. Westwood is also home to University Station, a mixed-use development of retail, restaurant, office, residential and hotel uses adjacent to the Route 128 MBTA/Amtrak railroad station.

Many of the characteristics discussed above contribute to a desirable quality of life. In July 2015, CNN/Money Magazine named Westwood #13 on the list of the 100 Best Places to Live in the United States.

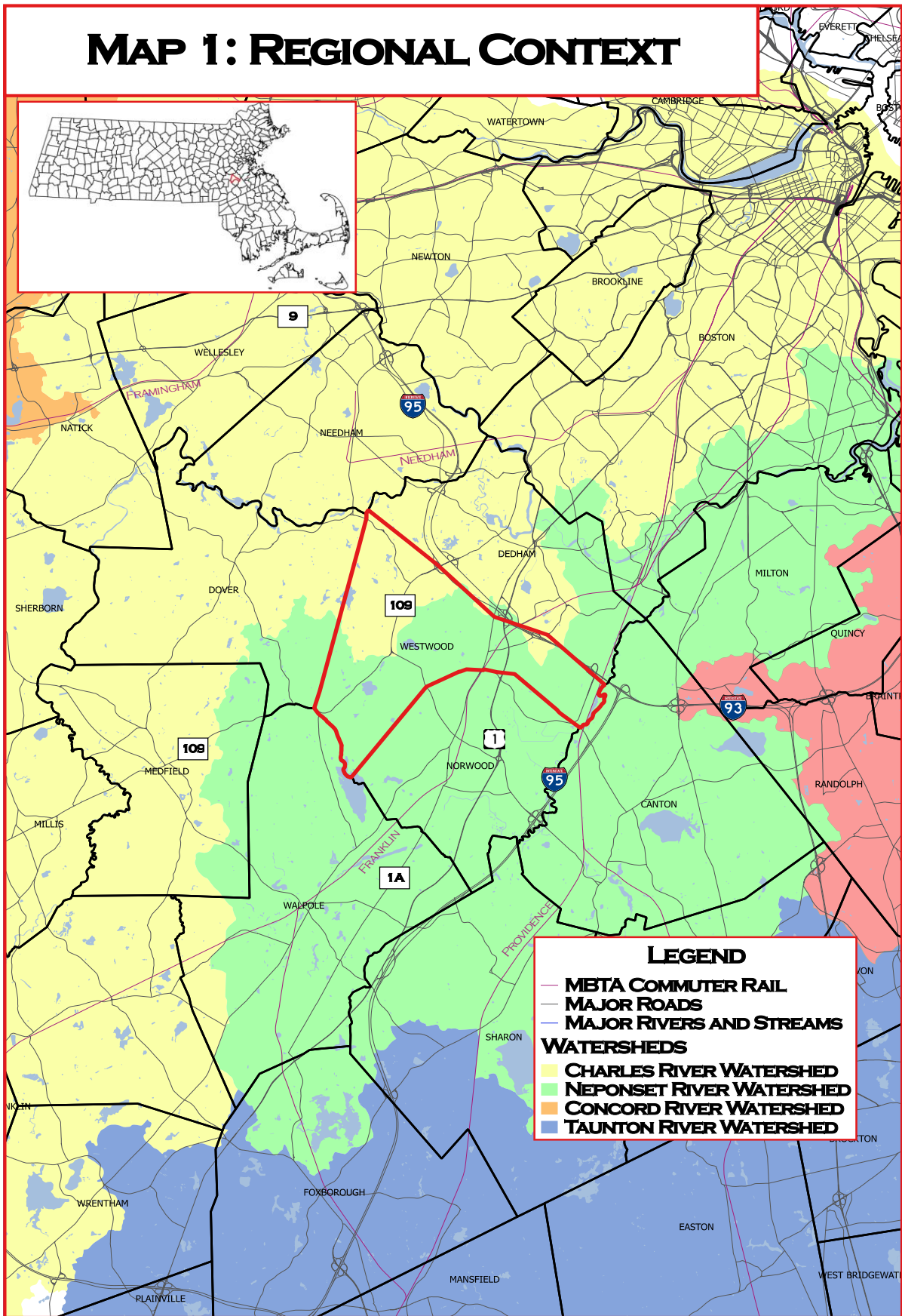
Westwood experienced a population decline during the 1980s. However, like many of its neighbors, the decline reversed in the 2000s and Westwood then experienced an increase in residential growth. Opportunities for development and redevelopment of land exist. Smart growth planning, as evidenced through Open Space and Recreation Plans, 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 Westwood.

Westwood has multiple open space connections with other towns in the region. While not always protected, these connections provide valuable wildlife habitat, corridors for wildlife migration and passive recreation opportunities for residents of Westwood and neighboring towns. The largest of these regional connections within Westwood is Hale Reservation. This 1137-acre site

straddles the town line between Westwood and Dover. Most of the acreage is in its natural state, with trails, ponds, and fields. Hale also has a number of buildings and associated parking areas to accommodate summer camps, private functions, corporate retreats, camping and other recreational and educational activities.

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MAP 1: REGIONAL CONTEXT



LEGEND

- MBTA COMMUTER RAIL
- MAJOR ROADS
- MAJOR RIVERS AND STREAMS

WATERSHEDS

- CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED
- NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED
- CONCORD RIVER WATERSHED
- TAUNTON RIVER WATERSHED

The Lowell Woods area is Westwood's largest Town-owned conservation area. It is separated from Dedham Town Forest by the south-bound lands of I-95/Route 128, which makes wildlife migration problematic. A tunnel connection could be considered in the future to better serve both wildlife and human hikers. The highway also links this area to Wilson Mountain in Dedham.

The Wight, Pignatelli and Traylor Conservation Areas combine to form 15 acres of protected land abutting Hale Reservation. In addition, they are connected by Mill Brook to Powisset Woods in Dover. The land in between is privately-owned but the brook provides a corridor for wildlife migration. Mill Brook also connects these conservation areas to Willet Pond, which straddles the town lines of Westwood, Norwood and Walpole. {Can we add another map showing these connections?}

One of the protected open space areas in Westwood that is of high regional significance is the 35 acres of Neponset River wetlands. Located east of University Avenue, this land is difficult to access from Westwood. Part of the Neponset River corridor, the river and its associated wetlands extend downstream northeasterly through Canton, Dedham and Milton to Boston Harbor, and connect through Fowl Meadow to the Blue Hills Reservation. These wetlands extend upstream southwesterly through Canton, Norwood, Sharon, and Walpole to Bird Pond and beyond to its source in Foxboro.

The Charles River just touches Westwood at its far northern point. However, it too provides an important natural corridor connecting Westwood with its neighbors. Cutler Park Reservation is just downstream. Rock Meadow Brook is a tributary.

History of the Community¹

Until its incorporation in 1897, Westwood was a part of the Town of Dedham and known as West Dedham. During the 1600's, West Dedham was primarily an agricultural area, with most of the farms concentrated near Rock Meadow Brook, Pond Plain Brook and Buckmaster Pond. The primary transportation routes were Kings Highway (also known as Middle Post Road, now Hartford Street), Lower Post Road (now portions of Washington and East Streets), Medfield Road (now High Street), Road to the Meeting House (now Fox Hill Street), Road to the Clapboard Trees (now Clapboardtree Street), and Cedar Swamp Road (now Dover Road). The first houses were built in the "Clapboard Trees" in the 1680's, which was within the maximum practical two-mile distance from the meeting house. A sawmill was built on Purgatory Brook in the early 1700's and became the center of what is now Islington.

The Clapboard Trees Parish Meeting House was first erected in 1731, and twice moved before arriving at its current location on High Street. One of America's oldest church buildings still in use, the building was moved to Church Street in 1809 to make room for the construction of a new meeting house for the Clapboard Trees Parish, and was then used by the First Baptist Church. This historic church building was moved again in 1989 to its current location on High Street.

¹ History prior to 2000 is derived from the 2000 OSRP with updates from records of the Westwood Historical Society, First Parish Church, First Baptist Church, Massachusetts Historical Commission reconnaissance Survey, and MACRIS database.

The Blue Hart Tavern on Washington Street was established in 1740 by Jeremiah Dean to serve travelers along the “Lower Post Road” portion of the King’s Highway (also known as the Boston Post Road), which ran between New York and Boston, via Providence. Just five years later, the Ellis Tavern was established on High Street by William Ellis to serve travelers along the “Middle Post Road” which ran from New York to Boston through Hartford. Both taverns were centers for political, military, social and business life for the community.

During the mid-1800’s, the influx of Irish fleeing the potato famine in Ireland provided an impetus for a major increase in the housing stock along High Street. This period also saw the development of the Springdale area (now known as Islington Center), spurred by convenient rail and street car transportation to and from Boston. Also during this time, small industries developed near the Town’s major brooks, particularly saw and paper mills. Most of these industries eventually closed or relocated to “South” Dedham and West Dedham remained a rural community while “South” Dedham became increasingly industrialized. In 1897, the people of West Dedham separated from Dedham and formed the present day Town of Westwood. Several reasons have been given for the separation, including the distance from the Dedham town center, lack of transportation and the fact that Dedham gave the Buckmaster Pond water rights to Norwood in 1885. The fact that Westwood broke away from Dedham accounts for its irregular shape and the lack of a traditional New England town center or village green.

The early 20th century marked the beginning of the migration of affluent families from Boston into Westwood, often called the “Estate Era.” Large homes and mansions were built on Summer, Canton, Fox Hill, Gay and High Streets. The arrival of the street railway during this time also had a significant impact on the Town’s development, including the introduction of relatively dense and affordable housing near Buckmaster Pond. (Fenerty, Marjory R., West Dedham and Westwood: 300 Years, 1972.)

Land use data from the last quarter of the 20th century into the very early 21st century reveals a number of use changes. Those changes, however, are difficult to quantify over the years because the methodology used in capturing this data changed in 2005. Prior to 2005, Massachusetts used “MacConnell” a schema that combined land cover and land use categories and was designed for manual interpretation of aerial photos. In 2005, Massachusetts transitioned to a statewide seamless digital dataset of land cover/land use, created using semi-automated methods, and based on 0.5 resolution digital ortho imagery (Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance).

Referring to Table 1, Land Use 1971 to 2005, Westwood has experienced a shift from agricultural to urban land use. In 1971, 250.4 acres of land was classified agriculture: crop, pasture or perennial. By 1999, agriculture had undergone a 33.71 percent reduction with only 166.0 acres of land in that use category. Advancing to 2005, the total acreage classified agricultural was 121.10. It is important to note, however, that for the 2005 calculation, a different methodology was employed and, as a result, the numbers are not exactly comparable to earlier years. That said, agricultural land use continued to decline.

Forest lands experienced a 16.47 percent reduction between 1971 and 1999, shrinking from 3054.3 acres to 2551.2 acres. Once again, while the new methodology used in 2005 makes comparisons difficult, in 2005, Westwood was shown to have 2448.2 acres of forest lands.

In contrast, urban land use, which includes commercial, industrial, public or transitional, transportation, open, and multiple categories of residential. Urban land use grew 17.20 percent, from 3390.6 acres in 1971 to 3973.9 acres in 1991. The 2005 data show only 3,626 acres of urban development, but this calculation is arrived at using a different methodology, so it's not strictly comparable.

One of the most significant changes in land use is the new University Station mixed-use development on University Avenue. This development encompasses 121 acres that are zoned to accommodate retail, office, residential and hotel uses. University Station is immediately adjacent to the Route 128 MBTA Commuter Rail/Amtrak Train Station, with direct access to the Interstate Highways I-93 and I-95. The mixed-use development contains over 650,000 SF of stores, restaurants and other service establishments, a 130-room hotel, a 64-bed memory care facility, and 350 residential apartments. Phase II, which is now under construction, will include 100 condominiums and approximately 200,000 SF of office development.

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TABLE 1
WESTWOOD LAND USE 1971 TO 2005

Category	1971 Acres	1985 Acres	1999 Acres	1971- 1999 Change	1971- 1999 %Change	2005* Acres *
Agriculture – crop	169.6	152.5	125.9	-43.7	-25.78%	96.5
Agriculture – pasture	57.9	41.0	36.5	-21.4	-37.02%	23.7
Agriculture – perennial [†]	22.9	22.9	3.6	-19.3	-84.16%	
Agriculture – Nursery						0.9
AGRICULTURE TOTAL	250.4	216.4	166.0	-84.4	-33.71%	121.1
Forest	2963.1	2885.0	2436.1	-527.0	-17.79%	2414.8
Brushland/Successional				0.0		9.3
Open land	91.2	127.1	115.1	24.0	26.30%	24.1
TOTAL OPEN	3054.3	3012.1	2551.2	-503.0	-16.47%	2448.2
Recreation – participation	175.7	178.2	178.9	3.2	1.83%	60.5
Recreation - Spectator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		98.5
Recreation – golf course				0.0		11.4
Recreation – water	2.9	3.9	3.9	1.0	36.30%	
RECREATION TOTAL	178.6	182.0	182.8	4.2	2.38%	170.4
Urban – commercial	55.6	65.0	68.2	12.6	22.66%	165.3
Urban – industrial	272.8	294.0	371.2	98.4	36.07%	273.9
Urban – mining	23.0	15.3	0.0	-23.0	-100.00%	
Urban – public or transitional				0.0		141.7
Urban – residential – multiple [†]	21.2	21.2	21.2	0.0	0.00%	35.4
Urban – dense residential	89.5	89.5	89.5	0.0	0.00%	85.4
Urban –medium residential	1021.7	1025.1	1076.5	54.8	5.37%	1266.5
Urban – low density residential	1684.4	1747.0	2149.6	465.2	27.61%	1419.7
Urban – very low density residential				0.0		142.1
Urban – transportation	102.8	105.6	105.6	2.8	2.71%	74.3
Urban – open	119.6	100.8	92.1	-27.5	-23.00%	4.9
Urban – other [#]				0.0		17.1
URBAN TOTAL	3390.6	3463.5	3973.9	583.3	17.20%	3626.3
Water –forested wetland				0.0		470.6
Water – non-forested wetland	125.6	123.0	123.0	-2.6	-2.05%	198.1
Water – open water	139.1	141.6	141.6	2.5	1.81%	122.8
WATER TOTAL	264.6	264.6	264.6	0.0	-0.02%	791.5
						*
TOTAL AREA (acres)	7138.6	7138.6	7138.6	0.0	0.0	7157.5

Source: MassGIS and MAPC
earlier years

*From different methodology so not exactly comparable to

Population Characteristics

Population Changes

As Table 2 indicates, Westwood experienced sustained growth over the 45-year period between 1970 and 2015 with a slight 5% decrease in the 1980s. The decrease was followed with a significant population bump of just over 12 % during the first decade of the 21st century. After that growth spurt, the population stabilized with increases of approximately 3% per decade.

**TABLE 2
POPULATION GROWTH, 1970 – 2016**

Year	Population	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
1970	12,750	NA	NA
1980	13,212	462	3.60%
1990	12,557	-655	-4.95%
2000	14,117	1560	12.42%
2010	14,618	501	3.54%
2016*	15,364	476	3.25%

Sources: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Table 3 presents a comparison of population growth with abutting towns and the state as a whole since 2000. The growth in Westwood and abutting towns, viewed as a region, together exactly matched the percentage growth of the state. However, Westwood had the second highest growth percentage at 8.8% during this period, second only to Walpole's 9.2 growth rate%.

**TABLE 3
POPULATION GROWTH, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2000 – 2016**

Town	2000	2010	2016*	Change 2000-2016	
				Number	Percent
Canton	20,775	21,561	22,562	1,787	8.6%
Dedham	23,464	24,729	25,272	1,808	7.7%
Dover	5,558	5,589	5,864	306	5.5%
Needham	28,911	28,886	30,167	1,256	4.3%
Norwood	28,587	28,602	29,018	431	1.5%
Walpole	22,824	24,070	24,913	2,089	9.2%
Westwood	14,117	14,618	15,364	1,247	8.8%
Total	144,236	148,055	153,160	8,924	6.2%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,547,629	6,742,143	393,046	6.2%

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and *American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Density

As Table 4 indicates, the average density in Westwood was only 1,151 people per square mile in 1970. This had increased to 1,387 people per square mile by 2016. Westwood's population density is significantly higher than the average statewide density of 864 people per square mile.

TABLE 4
POPULATION DENSITY 1970 – 2016
(people per square mile)

Year	Westwood	Massachusetts
1970	1,151	726
1980	1,192	732
1990	1,133	767
2000	1,274	814
2010	1,319	839
2016	1,387	864

Source: Computed by authors based on 2012-2016 American Community Survey and 11.08 square miles in Westwood and 7800.06 square miles in Massachusetts.

Westwood's population density is calculated by dividing the number of people residing in Town during a given time period by the number of square miles that constitute the Town. Within Westwood there are sections of greater and lesser density, as influenced by development patterns. Westwood has conservation lands, open space areas, parks, playing fields and more which reduce the density levels. On the other hand, Westwood has pockets of development with high residential numbers, which in turn, increase the density levels in those areas.

Age

Table 5 presents the age breakdown for Westwood and for the state, as a whole, for the years 2000, 2010 and 2016. The median age in Westwood increased from 41 years in 2000 to 45.7 years in 2016. While the median age in the state also increased, the state increase was less, approximately 2.9 years. Westwood median age has been consistently higher than the state median age and its increase of 4.7 years over the 16-year time period widened the gap with the state from 4.6 years in 2000 to 6.3 years in 2016. Over this same period, the percentage of Westwood residents in the 0 to 4-year age group has been trending downward. In 2000, this age group represented 7.80% of the population. That percentage decreased to 5.3% in 2010 and further decreased to 3.4% in 2016.

The percentage of school age population has fluctuated over the years. It climbed from 21.2 % in 2000 to 25.4% in 2010, but subsequently decreased slightly to 25.2% in 2016. The percentage of residents in the 65+years range also experienced a decline in 2010 but rebounded by 2016. The percentage of residents in the 35 to 64-year range was relatively stable during the 16-year timeframe, increasing from 41.5% in 2000 to 43.4 % in 2010 and then dropping slightly to 42.9% in 2016.

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**TABLE 5
AGE 2000 – 2016
(By percent)**

Range	2000		2010		2016*	
	Westwood	MA	Westwood	MA	Westwood	MA
Under 5	7.8%	6.3%	5.3%	5.6%	3.4%	5.4%
5-19	21.2%	20.1% %	25.4% %	19.2%	25.2%	18.3% %
20-34	10.6%	21.0%	7.7%	20.2%	8.8%	21.0%
35-49	41.5%*	39.1%*	22.8%	21.5%	19.0%	19.5%
50-64			20.6%	19.9%	23.9%	20.6%
65+	19.1%	12.7%	17.9%	13.7%	19.8%	15.1%
Total#	100.2%	99.2%	99.7%	100.1%	100.1	99.9%
Median	41	36.5	43.9	39.1	45.7	39.4

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

*Age broken down differently for 2000 Census

#Totals don't add up to 100% due to rounding

Income

Table 6 presents the median household income in Westwood and abutting towns, as well as the state as a whole, in 2000, 2010 and 2016. In 2016, Westwood's median household income was \$140,355, second highest in the region and almost double the median income for the state. Westwood's median household income had previously grown from \$87,394 (172% of state income) in 2000, to \$114,250 (177% of state income) in 2010. Westwood's median family income was also relatively high at \$207,879 in 2016, compared to the state's median family income of \$116,766.

**TABLE 6
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2000-2016**

Municipality	2000	2010	2016*
Canton	\$69,260	\$89,705	\$93,672
Dedham	\$61,699	\$80,865	\$87,108
Dover	\$141,818	\$164,583	\$189,265
Needham	\$88,079	\$114,365	\$139,477
Norwood	\$58,421	\$72,472	\$83,883
Walpole	\$74,757	\$89,697	\$99,102
Westwood	\$87,394	\$114,250	\$140,355
Massachusetts	\$50,502	\$64,509	\$70,954

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Race and Ethnicity

Table 7 presents the race and ethnicity for Westwood, abutting towns, and Massachusetts as a whole, as captured by the American Community Survey in 2016. According to this survey, Westwood's residents are 90.6% white, 0.2% Black or African American, and 7.1% Asian. Additionally, 2.7% identify as Hispanic or Latino. These figures differ from the racial data captured in the 2000 US Census, which recorded the town's population as 96% white, 0.5% Black or African American, and 2.5% Asian, with 0.9% identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

In comparison, the 2016 American Community Survey lists Massachusetts as 79.2% white, 7.2% Black or African American, and 6.1% Asian in 2016, with 10.8% Hispanic or Latino. This is a change from the 2000 US Census, which listed the state as 85% white, 5% Black or African American, and 4% Asian, with 7% Hispanic or Latino.

**TABLE 7
RACE AND ETHNICITY, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2016**

Town	White	Black or African American	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino of any Race*
Canton	18,883	1,331	0	1,547	11	233	557	904
Dedham	21,399	2,010	54	708	0	493	608	1,764
Dover	5,063	211	0	481	0	0	109	162
Needham	26,173	630	0	2,486	0	155	723	844
Norwood	24,412	1,349	3	2,077	0	820	357	1,648
Walpole	22,055	620	16	1,118	0	574	530	987
Westwood	13,934	42	0	1,085	0	69	234	430
MA	5,343,665	489,233	13,931	411,736	2,002	278,562	203,014	731,739

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2012 – 2016

*The figures in this column are not discrete. They are also included within the other categories as applicable.

Employment

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the labor force in Westwood has grown slightly but steadily from 6,546 in 2006 to 7,231 in 2012 and to 8,005 in 2016 (see Table 8). The number of employed recently rose from 6,328 in 2006 to 7,797 in 2016. The number of unemployed was almost reduced by half as it declined from 410 in 2010 to 208 in 2016. As the number of unemployed declined, so did the unemployment rate, which dropped from 5.7 in 2010 to 2.6 in 2016.

**TABLE 8
EMPLOYMENT BY WESTWOOD RESIDENTS, 2006 – 2016**

Employment 2006 to 2016					
Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Area Rate	MA Rate
2006	6,546	6,328	218	3.3	4.9
2008	6,817	6,549	268	3.9	5.5
2010	7,216	6,806	410	5.7	8.3
2012	7,231	6,918	313	4.3	6.7
2014	7,375	7,094	281	3.8	5.8
2016	8005	7797	208	2.6	3.7

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Labor and Workforce Development

Table 9 compares employment in Westwood, by sector, for 2010 and 2016. The number of establishments in Westwood grew from 507 in 2010 to 593 in 2016. During the same period, the number of employees increased significantly from 8,945 to 12,591. The largest sector is currently Retail Trade, with 1,864 jobs in 2016 (up from 1,066 jobs in 2010). The average weekly wage for jobs in Retail Trade in Westwood in 2016 is \$676. In comparison, the top-paying weekly wage in Westwood is in Wholesale Trade at \$2,861, followed by Finance and Insurance at \$2,716, and Professional and Technical Services at \$2,100.

**TABLE 9
WESTWOOD EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR
2010-2016**

	2010			2016		
	Establish-ments	Ave. Monthly Employees	Ave. Weekly Wages	Establish-ments	Ave. Monthly Employees	Ave. Weekly Wages
Total, All Industries	507	8,945	\$1,441	593	12,591	\$1,416
23 - Construction	67	487	\$1,674	63	720	\$1,512
31-33 - Manufacturing	12	316	\$1,532	12	216	\$1,578
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	6	177	\$1,584	4	17	\$1,259
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	6	139	\$1,466	8	199	\$1,605
42 - Wholesale Trade	38	403	\$1,980	46	641	\$2,861
44-45 - Retail Trade	34	1,066	\$823	47	1,864	\$676
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	8	244	\$919	9	267	\$954
51 - Information	6	886	\$1,176	NA	NA	NA
52 - Finance and Insurance	31	713	\$2,216	36	739	\$2,716
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	26	274	\$872	33	323	\$912
54 - Professional and Technical Services	93	799	\$1,685	102	1,162	\$2,100
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	29	333	\$1,136	NA	NA	NA
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	45	1,191	\$1,900	80	1,454	\$1,644
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	11	112	\$560	7	258	\$415
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	22	224	\$328	31	522	\$386
81 - Other Services, Except Public Administration	71	160	\$495	68	199	\$626

Source: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_es_a.asp#IND_LOCATION

Housing

The predominant land use in Westwood is single-family residential. As of December 31, 2017 there were 5816 housing units in Westwood. The majority of housing units, 4483, were single family houses. Additionally, there were 12 one-unit attached houses. Westwood also had 70 units in duplexes, 12 units in 3 or 4-unit buildings, 15 housing units in structures with 5 to 9 units, 12 units in structures with 10 to 19 units, and 1212 units in structures with 20 or more units. Another 22 single-family homes and 118 condominium units are approved for development with construction ongoing or anticipated in the next two years.

**TABLE 10
HOUSING UNITS, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS**

Town	Single Family	1-unit attached	2-unit	3 or 4 units	5 to 9 units	10 to 19 units	20 or more units	Total units
Canton	5,908	667	500	114	660	737	713	9,299
Dedham	6,230	474	950	532	141	124	1,455	9,906
Dover	1,978	34	26	0	21	0	0	2,059
Needham	8,301	444	667	183	176	155	934	10,860
Norwood	5,815	668	1,550	1,054	824	1,372	1,372	12,272
Walpole	6,895	538	422	297	394	251	410	9207
Westwood*	4483	12	70	12	15	12	1212	5816
MA	1,480,037	150,133	289,336	305,757	165,245	121,059	300,652	2,836,658

Source: American Community Survey 2012 – 2016

*with adjustments based on Tax Assessor's records through December 2017.

Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

As illustrated by the Zoning Map (Map 2), Westwood's development is primarily characterized by low density residential development. Minimum lots sizes of 40,000 SF are predominant west of Route 109 and between Canton Street and University Avenue. Very low density development (80,000 SF minimum lot sizes) is found between Route 109 and Route 1A. Medium density development is located between Route 1 and Canton Street (20,000 SF minimum lot size) and in the neighborhood across Nahatan Street from Westwood High School (15,000 SF minimum lot size). The highest density development (12,000 SF minimum lot size) is found in neighborhoods near Routes 1 and 1A which are in walking distance to the Islington Center commuter rail station.

Non-residential development is restricted to four distinct commercial districts. Two local business districts are located along High Street and Washington Street corridors, with convenience retail, service and small office uses. A highway business district is located along Providence Highway, with industrial/office, retail, service and automotive uses. Westwood's major commercial, industrial and mixed-use development is found along University Avenue,

with convenient access to Interstate Highways I93 and I95 and the combined Amtrak/Route 128 commuter rail station.

As noted above, urban land uses have increased over the past 50 or so years while agricultural and forest land uses have declined accordingly.

Infrastructure

The Town Report captures the vast responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and its infrastructure responsibilities: “The Town’s infrastructure includes: the sewer collection system; storm drain system; roadways, sidewalks, bikeways, and other transportation facilities; street lighting and traffic control devices; buildings, grounds, fields, and parks; cemeteries; solid waste and recycling programs; municipal vehicles and equipment; and public facilities (Westwood 2016 Town Report). The Town of Westwood is a good steward of its buildings and structures, and exercises its responsibilities through various departments and divisions, most under the aegis of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Within the DPW, the Sewer Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 87 miles of gravity sewers and ten pumping stations. Recycling and Waste Management Division picks up trash every week. Recycling is picked up every other week. The Highway Department maintains and repairs all of Westwood’s roads, streets, street signs, sidewalks and subsurface drainage systems to provide for safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The Facilities Department is responsible for the maintenance of multiple town buildings:

- Town Hall – 580 High Street
- Police Headquarters – 588 High Street
- Fire Department –
 1. Station I – 637 High Street
 2. Station II – 300 Washington Street
- Carby Street Municipal Office Building
50 Carby Street
- Library
 1. Main Library – 660 High Street
 2. Islington Branch – 280 Washington Street
- Public Schools
District Administration – 220 Nahatan Street
Westwood High School and Westwood Integrated Preschool - 200 Nahatan Street
Thurston Middle School – 850 High Street
Deerfield Elementary School – 72 Deerfield Avenue
Downey Elementary School – 250 Downey Street

Hanlon Elementary School – 790 Gay Street
Martha Jones Elementary School – 80 Martha Jones Road
Sheehan Elementary School – 549 Pond Street

- Recreation Department
240 Nahatan Street
- Senior Center
60 Nahatan Street
- Islington Community Center
288 Washington Street

Long-Term Development

The Zoning Bylaw sets the basis for the long-term development of the Town. Map 2 presents the Zoning Map. The vast majority of the Town falls within the Single Residence C and E zoning districts which require 40,000 and 80,000 square foot lots respectively. The Islington/Route 1/Route 1A area has the densest development and consists largely of the Single Residence A and B districts, and General Residence which require lot sizes of 12,000 to 20,000 square feet. That area also has the Highway Business district between Routes 1 and 1A. The University Avenue area is zoned Industrial and, as noted previously, is currently undergoing a major mixed-use redevelopment. There are also two Administrative-Research-Office districts (one off Route 109 in the northern part of town and another abutting Route 128 in the southern end. Two Local Business districts are located on Route 109 (LBA) and Route 1A (LBB).

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) projects Westwood's population to be essentially steady over the next few years. In a 2014 report, MAPC used two different scenarios which they label as "Status Quo (SQ)" (representing existing trends) and "Stronger Growth (SR)" (representing adoption of smart growth measures to project Westwood's population to be 14,325 (SQ) or 14,539 (SR) in 2020 and 14,507 (SQ) or 14,919 (SR) in 2030. All of these are less than the American Community Survey estimate for 2016 of 15,364.

The primary bylaws and regulations that affect long-term development are the following:

Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) -- The OSRD bylaw provides residential development incentives designed to conserve more open space. The bylaw identifies six purposes, each associated with residential housing. The first purpose is: To conserve natural, hydrological and wetlands resources, wildlife habitat, scenic corridors and views, agriculture, horticulture and forestry operations, cultural resources and other natural and man-made features of value to the community. Building on this foundational intent, subsequent purposes speak to a smaller development footprint, more design flexibility, and the inclusion of a 4-Step Process to make certain these purposes are attained. The final two purposes, encouragement of senior housing development and greater housing choices, can be accomplished through the reward of density bonuses pursuant to OSRD special permits.

Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) -- Overlay districts often provide incentives or requirements that encourage development and/or offer protections. The Town of Westwood has seven Flexible Multiple Use Overlay Districts (FMUOD), each of which are tailored to the specific areas they serve. The purpose of these overlay districts is to encourage creative, efficient and appropriate solutions to development that are both protective of existing neighborhood character and responsive to the varied needs of commercial and mixed-use developers.

Scenic Roads Rules and Regulations were adopted for the purpose of establishing uniform rules and procedures for the designation of scenic roads and the regulation of certain types of work within the public right-of-way of scenic roads. The current regulations include revisions through May 2, 2011. There are 13 designated scenic roads in Westwood: Canton Street, Dover Road, Downey Street, East Street, Everett Street, Fox Hill Street, Grove Street, Milk Street, Mill Street, Sandy Valley Road, Summer Street, Thatcher Street, and Woodland Road.

Stormwater Management, Chapter 350 of the Code of Westwood was adopted by Annual Town Meeting, Article 16, on May 4, 2015. “The purpose of this bylaw is to protect the health, safety, general welfare, and environment in the management, operation, and maintenance of the Town's stormwater system by regulating or prohibiting actions detrimental to either the proper quality or quantity of water in the system. Actions regulated or prohibited include unauthorized or improper connections and discharges to the stormwater system, allowing or enabling pollutants to enter the system, and controlling construction site runoff and post-construction runoff. Stormwater runoff is potentially a major cause of:

- Impairment of water quality and flow in lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands, groundwater and drinking water supplies;
- Contamination of drinking water supplies;
- Contamination of downstream areas;
- Alteration or destruction of aquatic and wildlife habitat;
- Overloading or clogging of municipal stormwater management systems; and
- Flooding.”

Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Chapter 392 of the Code of Westwood, was adopted by the 1989 Annual Town Meeting, Article 18 of the General Bylaws, with amendments over the years. Its purpose: “is to protect wetlands and adjoining land areas in the Town of Westwood by controlling activities deemed by the Conservation Commission likely to have a significant or incremental effect upon wetland values, including but not limited to the following: public or private water supply, groundwater supply and quality, flood control, storm damage prevention, prevention of pollution, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and erosion and sedimentation control (collectively, the "wetland values protected by this bylaw").” The purposes of the Wetlands Protection Act and town’s Wetlands Protection Bylaw are:

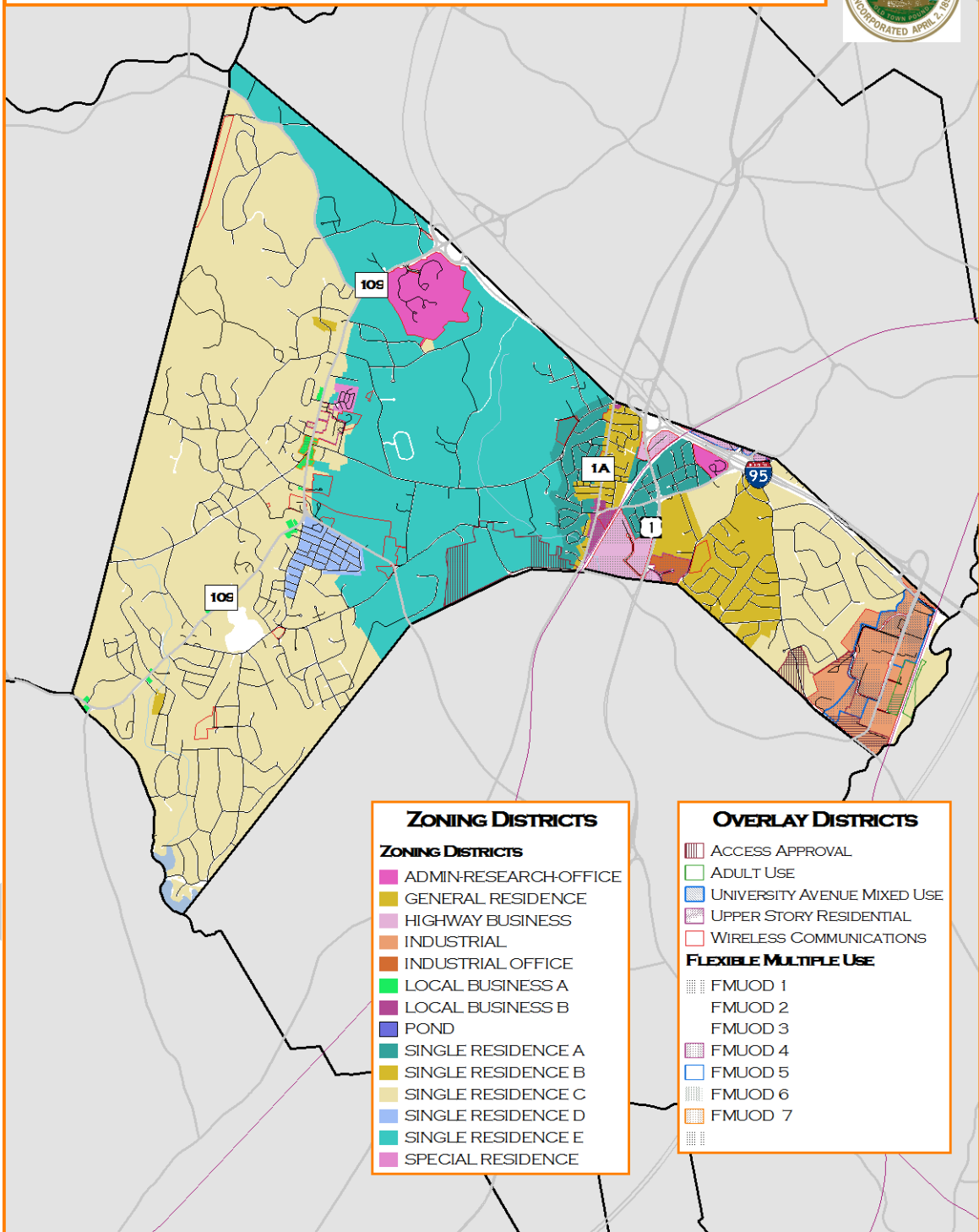
- Protection of public and private water supply;
- Protection of ground water supply;
- Flood control;

- Storm drainage prevention;
- Prevention of pollution;
- Protection of land containing shellfish;
- Protection of fisheries; and
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

Historic Structure Demolition, Chapter 250A of the Code of Westwood was adopted by the Annual Town Meeting, Article 22, May 2, 2016. “The purpose of this bylaw is to maintain the character of the Town of Westwood, protecting its historic and aesthetic resources built on or before December 31, 1910, by surveying, preserving, rehabilitating, researching, or restoring, whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of Westwood. The intent of this bylaw is to encourage owners to seek alternative options to preserve historic buildings rather than complete demolition. This bylaw authorizes the Westwood Historical Commission to impose delays of up to six months before the Building Commissioner may issue demolition permits for historic properties regulated by this bylaw.”

Flood Area Overlay District, section 9.2.1 of the Westwood Zoning Bylaw was amended in 2012 to reflect all references to the Flood Insurance Rate Map effective as of July 17, 2012. The purpose of the Flood Area Overlay District (FAOD) is to reduce flood losses, to preserve and maintain the ground water table, to protect the public health and safety of persons and property against hazards of flood water inundation and to limit and control the development of flood prone areas.

MAP 2: ZONING



- ZONING DISTRICTS**
- ZONING DISTRICTS**
- ADMIN-RESEARCH-OFFICE
 - GENERAL RESIDENCE
 - HIGHWAY BUSINESS
 - INDUSTRIAL
 - INDUSTRIAL OFFICE
 - LOCAL BUSINESS A
 - LOCAL BUSINESS B
 - POND
 - SINGLE RESIDENCE A
 - SINGLE RESIDENCE B
 - SINGLE RESIDENCE C
 - SINGLE RESIDENCE D
 - SINGLE RESIDENCE E
 - SPECIAL RESIDENCE

- OVERLAY DISTRICTS**
- ACCESS APPROVAL
 - ADULT USE
 - UNIVERSITY AVENUE MIXED USE
 - UPPER STORY RESIDENTIAL
 - WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
- FLEXIBLE MULTIPLE USE**
- FMUOD 1
 - FMUOD 2
 - FMUOD 3
 - FMUOD 4
 - FMUOD 5
 - FMUOD 6
 - FMUOD 7



DATA SOURCE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF WESTWOOD
 TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2018



Rules and Regulations for Environmental Impact & Design Review (EIDR) Approval were adopted September 1, 2015. The purpose of these rules and regulations is the establishment of uniform rules and procedures for the granting of Environmental Impact & Design Review (EIDR) Approvals pursuant to Sections 7.3, 8.3, and 9.4 of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Westwood.

Earth Material Movement Bylaw, was updated May 4, 2015 in its entirety. The bylaw ensured that “No soil, loam, sand, gravel, topsoil, borrow, rock, sod peat, humus, clay, stone or other earth material shall be exported, imported and/or regraded on any premises within the Town unless such export, import and/or regrading will constitute an exempt operation as hereinafter provided or is done pursuant to a special permit therefor granted by the Planning Board.”

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Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils and Topography²

The Town of Westwood is approximately 10.97 square miles and located in the northern area of Norfolk County, bordered by Dover on the west, Needham on the north, Dedham on the east and northeast and Canton, Norwood and Walpole on the south. The Town is completely underlain by Pre-Carboniferous bedrock of which granite predominates, especially in the western side of Town. Most of the exposed bedrock is found in the northwestern area of Town.

Landforms are the result of the erosion of an uplifted valley floor during the Cretaceous Period. Some of the exposed bedrock to the west of High Street is part of the original valley wall. Two other valleys are buried beneath Purgatory Brook and the Neponset River.

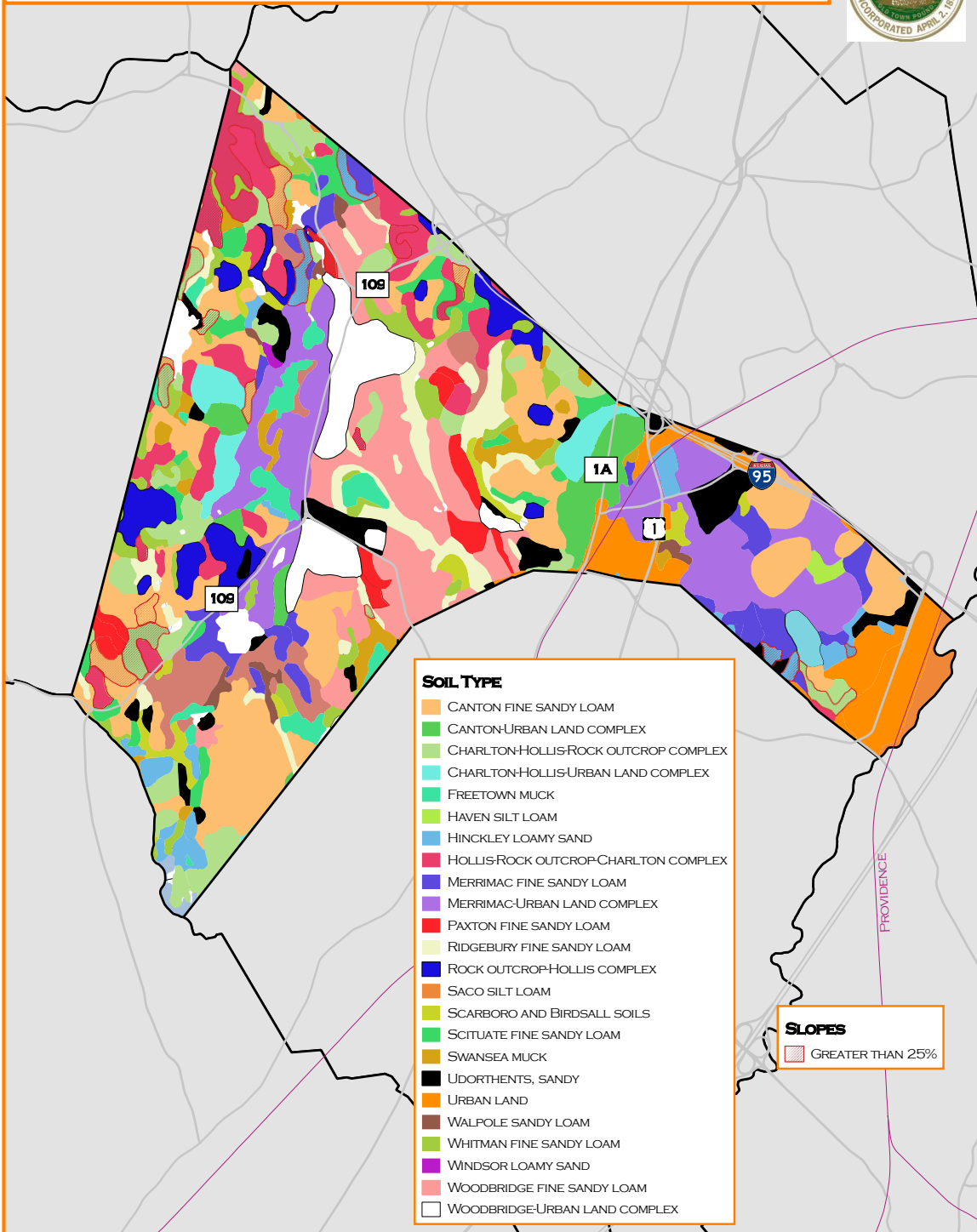
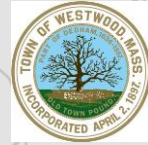
Most of Westwood sits on ground moraine (material deposited beneath a glacier), but many other depositional landforms also created by glaciers occur. Around Buckmaster Pond there is an extensive area of outwash plain (sand and gravel carried by streams flowing out of a glacier and deposited over an extensive area). The area around Town Hall is located on a kame terrace (linear deposit of sand and gravel formed between the edge of the glacier and the wall of the valley in which it sat). Most of the eastern area of Town is kame or kame plains (mounds of sand and gravel deposited against or upon ice at the lower end of a glacier). An esker (an elongated ridge created from sand and gravel deposited by streams flowing either under, in or upon a glacier) runs southward from the junction of Route 128 and Canton Street to the Norwood line. Most of the esker is gone as it was mined for its sand and gravel.

Map 3 illustrates the soils of the Town of Westwood. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has identified eight soil associations within Westwood, the majority of which are considered unsuitable for most types of residential and commercial development. The Hollis-Whitman soil association is concentrated along the northern border of the Town and constitutes approximately 25.7 percent of the Town's land area. The soil is characterized by a very to extremely rocky fine sandy loam which severely constrains urban development, but has few limitations for woodland, wildlife or recreational uses. The Canton-Woodbridge soil association is found primarily in the southwestern area of Town, from Buckmaster Pond south to Bubbling Brook. Well-drained Canton soils also have a fine sandy loam surface soil and contain many stones and boulders. It constitutes approximately 11.1 percent of the Town's land area and also moderately limits development potential because of its stony surface.

The Paxton-Hollis association is found primarily in the northern part of Town and constitutes approximately 4.9 percent of the land area. Well-drained Paxton soils have a fine sandy loam surface soil and subsoil and the underlying olive-colored glacial till is dense and compact. Because of a slowly permeable hardpan, this soil has severe limitations for residential, commercial and industrial uses where on-site sewage disposal is necessary. The Hinckley-Made Land-Gravel Pit association is a sandy and gravelly soil which comprises 19.2 percent of the Town. This soil, in comparison to the other soil types, has fewer limitations for more intensive urbanized development. The largest tracts of this soil association can be found in the southeastern area of Town.

² This section is mostly derived from the 2000 OSRP

MAP 3: SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT

TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2018



The Woodbridge-Whitman soil association occupies approximately 19.2 percent of the land area in Town, primarily between Nahatan and Winter Streets. These are moderately well drained soils that have a fine sandy loam surface soil and subsoil. The wetness of this soil and the hardpan present in much of the area moderately restricts most types of development. The Sudbury-Merrimac association is concentrated around Buckmaster Pond and is a moderately well-drained sandy and gravelly soil that occupies about 10.4 percent of the land area. The well drained parts of this soil area have few limitations for urban uses although a seasonal high water table in the wetter parts of the area will limit the density of development.

The Millis-Woodbridge-Hollis association occupies approximately 4.2 percent of the total land area in Westwood and is characterized by well-drained soils that have a fine sandy loam surface underlying a coarse hardpan. This soil also has severe limitations for more intensive development because of the hardpan. The Muck-Scarboro-Fresh water marsh soil is found in the wetland areas and is characterized by very poorly drained bog soils formed in accumulations of organic materials that are in an advanced state of decay. It makes up approximately 5.3 percent of the Town and because of the wetlands, places the most severe limitations for residential, commercial or industrial uses.

Landscape Character

Westwood offers a variety of landscapes from urban developments with businesses, services, and commuter rail service to rural, scenic open spaces accented with woodlands and surface waters. The Town has several conservation lands, open space lands under the aegis of the Westwood Land Trust, private lands including Hale Reservation and several open space residential developments.

Westwood has multiple centers of activity that are reflective of its robust character. These centers include: the Route 1 highway business district with retail and service businesses; Route 109/High Street shopping district; University Station with commuter rail and AMTRAK stops, shopping, dining and a hotel, and the Washington Street/Islington Center, with its privately and municipally-owned properties is being redeveloped.

There are thirteen roads in Westwood that are designated Scenic Roads. This designation helps to support the character of the Town through the oversight by the Planning Board of tree removal, road repairs, and changes to scenic stone walls.

The character of the town is further protected by the Demolition Bylaw sponsored by the Historical Commission and adopted at Town Meeting on May 2, 2016. “The purpose of this bylaw is to maintain the character of the Town of Westwood, protecting its historic and aesthetic resources built on or before December 31, 1910, by surveying, preserving, rehabilitating, researching, or restoring, whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of Westwood” (<https://ecode360.com/31343526>).

Westwood is home to two libraries, a senior center, numerous parks and recreational facilities including an indoor swimming pool, and conservation lands. Its recreation department sponsors a

variety of youth and adult sport programs. The town's highly regarded public schools also contribute to the Town's character and include: Westwood Integrated Preschool; five elementary schools: Deerfield School, Downey School, Hanlon School, Martha Jones School, and Sheehan School; Thurston Middle School; and, Westwood High School.

Water Resources³

The Town of Westwood is split by two large watersheds: the Neponset River watershed drains the southern two-thirds of the Town and the Charles River drains the remaining northern one-third of the Town. In the southern part, Mill Brook and Bubbling Brook are joined at Pettees Pond from which they flow through Willet Pond into Ellis Pond. There they are joined by Germany Brook which drains Buckmaster Pond and Pine Swamp, which then empties into Hawes Brook and eventually reaches the Neponset River. Another major tributary, Purgatory Brook, flows through Slab Pond and is eventually joined by South Brook and Plantingfield Brook before reaching the Neponset River. To the north, Rock Meadow Brook flows through Rock Meadow, Stevens and Lee Ponds before draining into the Charles River. The Powissett Brook drains Dunklin's Hole, Cedar Swamp, Noanet, Worthington and Storrow Ponds before reaching the Charles River.

Bodies of water and wetlands occupy approximately 123 and 669 acres of the Town's area, respectively, according to the 2005 analysis of land uses types. Buckmaster Pond, located near the intersection of High and Pond Streets, is the Town's largest body of water (approximately 28 acres). Since 1885, it has been available as a public water supply for the Town of Norwood. Other significant surface water bodies include Pettees Pond, Lee Pond, Stevens Pond, Martha Jones Pond, Willett Pond, Haslam Pond, Lyman's Pond and Noanet Pond.

Buckmaster, Lyman's and Martha Jones Ponds are accessible for recreational purposes on lands managed by either the Town or the Conservation Commission. Buckmaster Pond is often used for hiking, bird watching, picnics and fishing. The Town sponsors an annual fishing derby in the spring and band concerts along its banks during the summer. Lyman's Pond is a blue heron rookery that attracts bird watchers from across the region.

Noanet Pond is located on the Hale Reservation, which encompasses 1137 acres of wooded lands, 20 miles of trails and four ponds in Westwood and Dover. Hale Reservation is a private nonprofit that welcomes public visitors. Swimming and boating are available to nonmembers by fee.

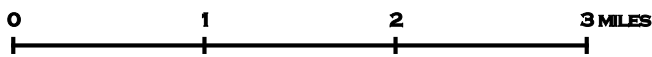
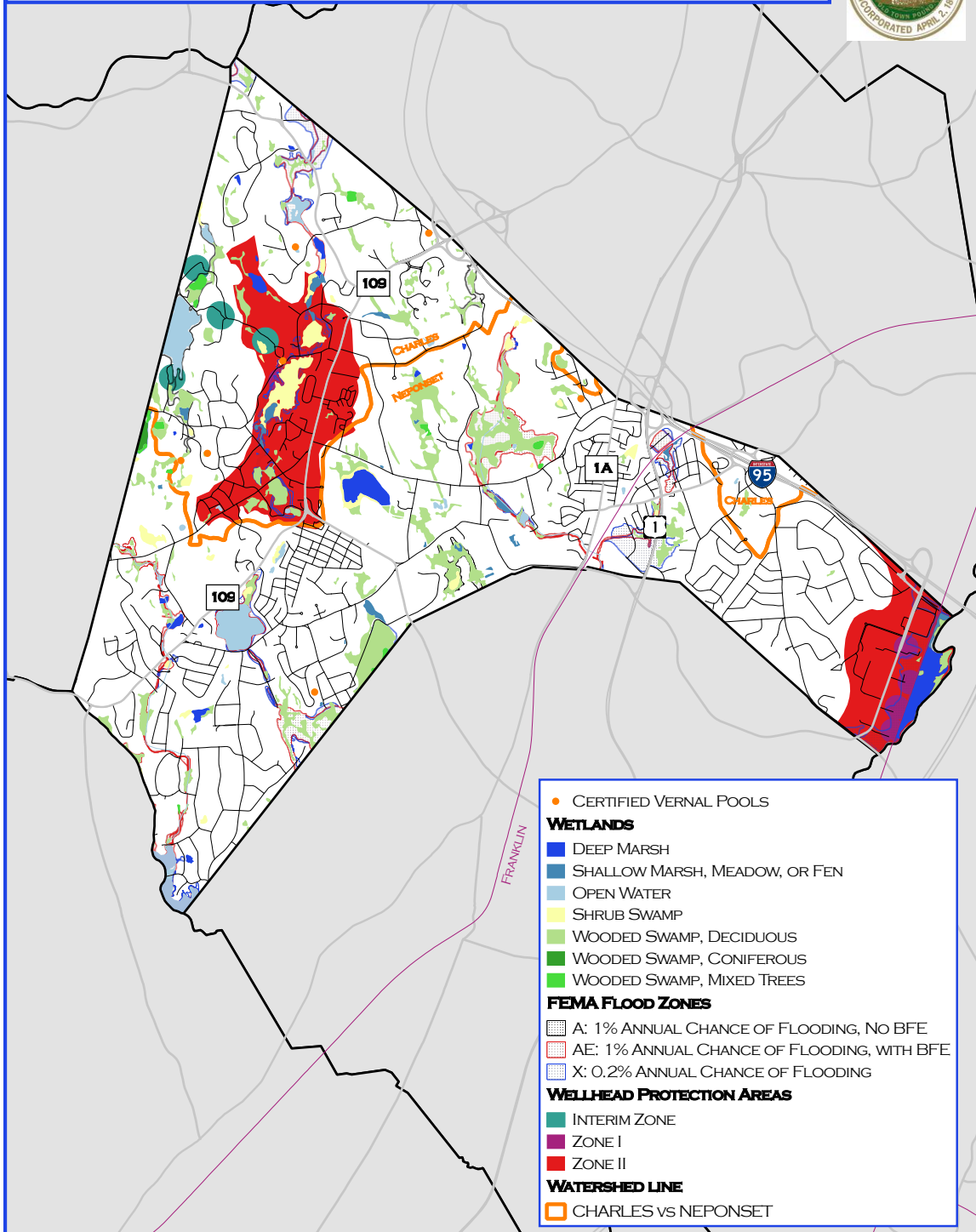
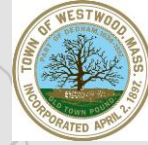
Surface water quality in the Neponset River water basin has improved in recent years. Among the most widespread problems has been fecal coliform contamination resulting from malfunctioning sewers and septic systems, along with high metal concentrations, low dissolved oxygen, high in-stream temperatures, storm water pollution and eutrophication. The Environmental Protection Agency's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for Massachusetts, originally issued in 2003, has improved treatment of stormwater before it enters rivers and streams. It has already had a positive effect on surface water quality. An updated permit went into effect on July 1, 2018 that will result in additional improvement in water quality.

³ A portion of the water resources information is taken from the 2000 OSRP.

As shown on Map 4, Westwood is home to two watersheds: the Neponset River watershed in the southern part of town and the Charles River watershed in the northern part of town. Map 4 illustrates the surface waters of Westwood. The waters in the Town of Westwood include: Bubbling Brook, Germany Brook, Mill Brook, Pecunit Brook, Plantingfield Brook,

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MAP 4: WATER RESOURCES



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT

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Pongapog Brook, Powissett Brook, Purgatory Brook, Rock Meadow Brook, an Unnamed Tributary, Buckmaster Pond, Lyman's Pond, Noannet Pond, Willet Pond, and the Neponset River.

(source:https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/305b303dStats/tblReporting_Westwood.pdf)

The public water supply for Westwood is the Dedham -Westwood Water District, which is a member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. The District's water supply is groundwater. There are fourteen wells: six in Westwood and eight in Dedham. Membership in the MWRA enables the District the ability to purchase supplemental water, as needed.

Vegetation, Wildlife and Fisheries⁴

Map 5 depicts the types of vegetation in the Town. Westwood lies on the border of two major forest zones. The hemlock-northern hardwood zone to the north meets a mixed hardwood forest from the south in which the oak-hickory strains predominate. This is characteristic of the mosaic pattern of forests in Westwood. Since large areas of Town are sprout lands, forest growth is generally young, often only 60 to 70 years old. The largest trees in Town are found along streets, occasionally in the woods along stone walls and at the junction of these walls. Street trees are all varieties of hardwoods and fence marker trees are generally white pine or oak.

The following descriptions of the primary types of vegetation in Westwood are from the 2000 OSRP:

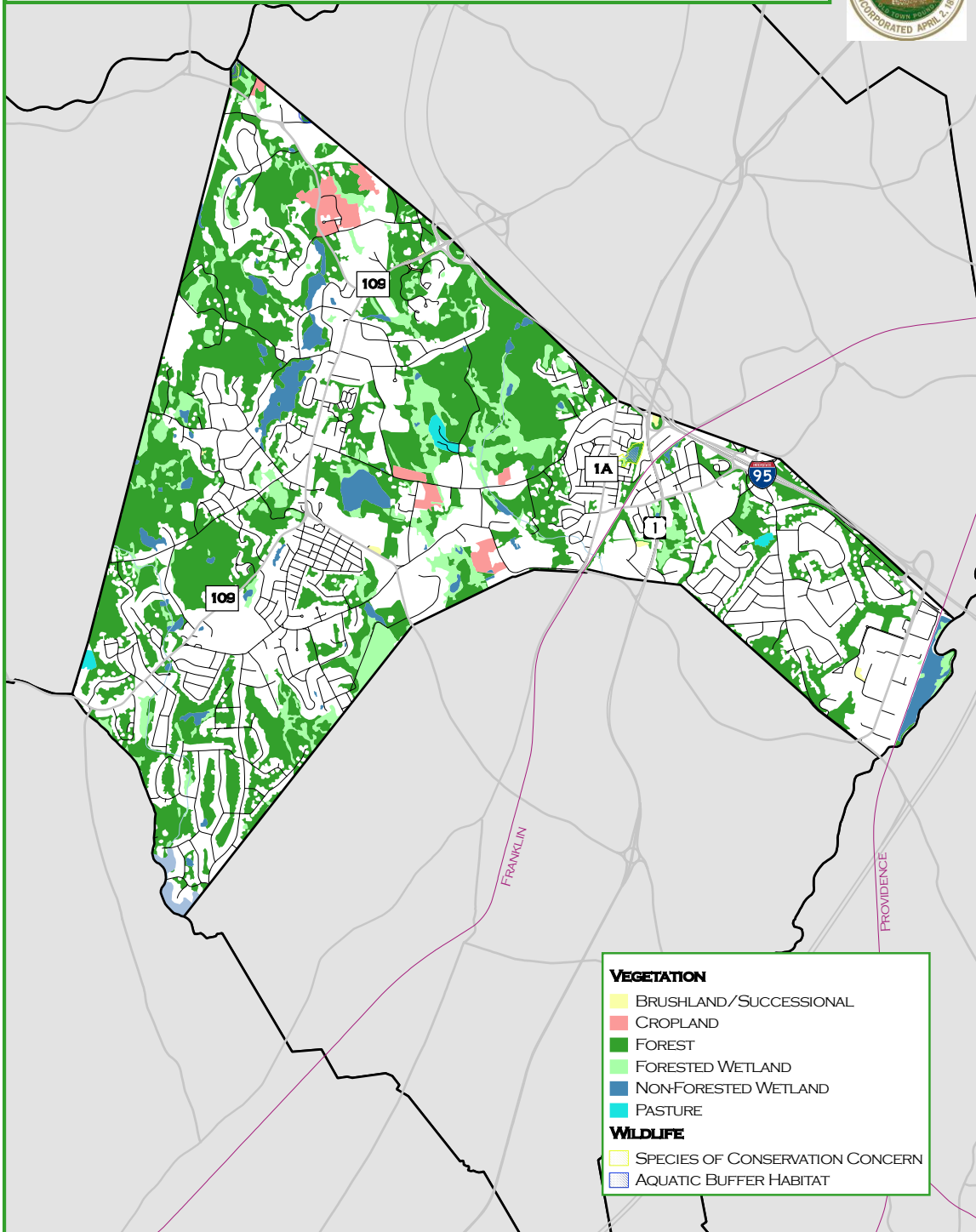
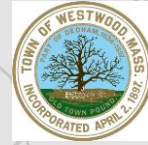
1. Oak-hickory forest is commonly found on warm, dry upland sites where bedrock is close to the surface, the hickory drops out and forest composition is limited almost exclusively to oak and blueberry (as found in Pleasant Hill). Associates are blueberry and occasionally white pine.
2. Red maple forest is found in low, wet areas and wet pastures. The trees are generally 25 to 40 feet tall and can include such types as sassafras, pepperbush, ferns and bullbriar. Good examples of this classification are located around Lyman's Pond and Germany Brook.
3. A few small stands of hemlock occur on the cooler, north-facing slopes in Baker Reservation and on the High Ridge Estates and Gillette properties.
4. Several extensive stands of white pines, probably planted and now gone to seed, occur on drier sites since they have little or no ground cover other than patches of Canada Mayflower. One such stand grows along the western edge of the Martha Jones Conservation Area.
5. An increasingly noticeable pattern of growth is the suburban lawn arrangement which can include maples, oaks, ashes, hickories and pines, in addition to the indigenous trees. There are also a wide variety of ornaments including Blue Spruce, Catalpa,

⁴ This section mostly derived from 2000 OSRP.

Tulip trees and Magnolia. These street trees are usually maples, ashes, oaks, lindens and horse chestnuts.

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MAP 5: VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

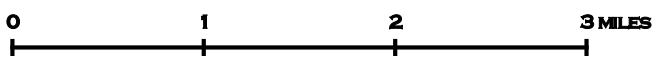


VEGETATION

- BRUSHLAND/SUCCESSIONAL
- CROPLAND
- FOREST
- FORESTED WETLAND
- NON-FORESTED WETLAND
- PASTURE

WILDLIFE

- SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN
- AQUATIC BUFFER HABITAT



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT
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6. "Old field" and roadside communities commonly have Junipers, Red Maples, Grey Birch, Sweet Fern and Poison Ivy. Examples are found on the Currier Conservation Area and the easement running behind Westwood High School.
7. The pitch pine found behind the Westwood Lodge (off Clapboardtree Street) is a fire controlled type of community and may include scrub oak, black cherry, blueberry, grasses and other "old field" successional species.
8. The Bubbling Brook and Wentworth Conservation Areas contain tussock and brush swamp. The brush is 15 to 20 feet tall alders which do not quite achieve a closed canopy and the tussocks of grass are approximately a foot high and a foot in diameter and randomly spaced throughout the swamp.
9. Some pastures remain, including a stretch of Gay Street which is lined with them and to the south of Clapboardtree Street.
10. There is extensive marshland along the Neponset River. It is a chest-high growth in a variety of perennial wet-site plants.
11. Shallow water vegetation is common to all but a few ponds. Common species are lily pads, pickerel weed, duckweed and sedges and can be found in ponds located on Baker Reservation, Martha Jones, Rice and Wentworth Conservation Areas.

Westwood is home to squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, opossum, skunks, snapping turtles, wood chucks, red fox, coyotes and deer. There are over 100 species of resident, migrant, and wintering birds frequenting Westwood, including ducks, herons, hawks, owls, wild turkeys, woodpeckers, crows, and blackbirds, swallows, and many songbirds. Bubbling Brook still supports a cold-water fishery and river otter and Lyman's Pond is an outstanding blue heron rookery. Portions of Mill Brook continue to support a variety of bird life including belted kingfishers, great blue herons, red winged blackbirds, eastern phoebes, Baltimore orioles and northern flickers.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program lists one "Habitat of Rare Wetlands and Certified Vernal Ponds" in Westwood, near the Town's border with Dover, south of Noanet Pond. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program also lists two areas of "High Priority Sites of Rare Species Habitats and Exemplary Natural Communities." The larger of these two sites surrounds Purgatory Brook in the Islington section of Town. The other site is near the aforementioned Noanet Pond site.

Scenic and Unique Environments

As part of the 2000 OSRP, a list of scenic and unique environments was compiled by town residents. The places included on the list were deemed by participants as contributing to the definition of Westwood as a special and unique place. The list included the following areas:

- The Old Cemetery which is the burial site of Robert Steele, drummer boy from the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill;

- The historic Bubbling Brook restaurant, which heralds the beginning of spring in the community with its annual opening in April and signals the official end of the summer with its closing in September;
- Town Hall, the central place for community life in Westwood;
- Chiara's Restaurant (formerly Youlden's Hobbies), in a charming building across from Town Hall, fits in with the ambiance of a small town;
- The Shuttleworth property on Dead Swamp Road, which provides a 180 degree panoramic view of nature;
- The unpaved section of Sandy Valley Road with its scenic views and historic stone walls;
- Gay Street, a bucolic road that provide glimpses of open fields, wooded areas and old stone walls;
- The corner of Summer and Grove Streets, which provide scenic views of rolling fields, an abandoned orchard and an old, majestic home.

When considering Westwood's history, its architecture and events, the following additional structures and areas are among the numerous resources that further contribute to the town's scenic and unique environment:

- **The Town Pound:** Initially part of the first land grant, it was built as a place to hold animals that strayed from their owners and were waiting to be claimed. The pound, was originally enclosed by a wooden fence and later a stone wall. In 1899 was Lucius Damrell sketched the Town Pound and submitted his drawing, which included a large oak tree within the stone wall, for consideration as the Westwood Town Seal. It was accepted and remains the Town Seal to this day.
- **Oven Mouth:** This is a Native American Landmark, also known as Devil's Oven. This cave was used by Native Americans during the Colonial Period of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- **Old Westwood Cemetery – West Dedham Cemetery:** This cemetery was constructed in 1752 on Nahatan Street at High Street.
- **The Fisher School:** Built in 1845 on Clapboardtree Street and is currently the headquarters of the Westwood Historical Society. The only one-room schoolhouse still in existence in Westwood. The structure has been relocated a few times and today is sited adjacent to the Thurston Middle School. The school closed in 1905; however, it has a new role as a living history setting for school programs, as well as cultural activities. For the past 20 years, every 3rd grade student in Westwood spends a day at the Fisher School studying the curriculum of 1868. The students wear period clothing – bonnets and aprons for the girls, suspenders for the boys. They use the reading books and math books of the period. Math is done with chalk on slates. Paper was too expensive.

Quill pens are used for writing. A dunce cap is used for fun. Students learn about the history and economy of the period. They can learn to play marbles. This program is run by the Westwood Historical Society with the support of the Westwood Public Schools.

- **The Colburn School:** This is a former school building, constructed in 1874, and named for Warren Colburn, a Westwood educator who wrote the math book titled *Intellectual Arithmetic*

that is used in Westwood's 3rd grade program at the Fisher School. This book was used by elementary schools in 26 states in 1868 and in countries throughout the world. The Colburn School building was historically preserved in 2012 for reuse as a mixed-use building with a bank on the first floor and 6 apartments on the two upper stories.

- **The Blue Hart Tavern:** This historic structure was built on Washington Street in 1740 by Jeremiah Dean to serve travelers along the "Lower Post Road" portion of the King's Highway, which ran between New York and Boston. Kings Highway was laid out in 1650 and had as many as 20 inns and taverns for travelers to rest. According to local historians, George Washington stayed at the Blue Hart Tavern. The building is slated for relocation, restoration and reuse in 2019. The structure will be moved to 277 Washington Street, approximately 500 feet north of the original location.

- **The Obed Baker House:** Built by Obed Baker for his wife Betsey Metcalf Baker in 1812. As a young girl in Providence, RI, Betsey Baker learned how to make a fashionable straw bonnet. Up until that time, straw bonnets were only available from England. She continued to make bonnets in West Dedham (now Westwood) as the wife of Obed Baker, a local teamster, and taught other women this craft. The local bonnet makers supported local churches. Betsey is listed on Google.com as one of America's first entrepreneurs. She assisted other entrepreneurs in starting the Foxboro straw bonnet industry which employed thousands of women. The Obed Baker House was relocated to at 909 High Street in 2002. Efforts to find a new use for this historic structure have continued.

- **Wentworth Hall:** This historic structure has served many purposes since its construction in 1884. First built as a one room schoolhouse, this building also served as the first Westwood Town Hall, a community center, a place for church services, a fire station, and offices for the Parks and Recreation Department, before becoming the home of the Islington Branch Library in 1959.

- **Westwood Town Hall:** This Classical Revival brick building with slate rood was designed by Stebbins & Watkins Architects of Boston, MA and constructed in 1910. It has served at the Westwood Town Hall ever since.

Map 6 illustrates the locations of the Scenic and Unique Features

[Map 6 – Scenic and Unique Features to be added here]

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Rare and Endangered Species

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts maintains a database of rare and endangered species. The database for Westwood includes four entries as listed in Table 11. Map 7 illustrates the Estimated Habitats of Rare and Endangered Species and Priority Habitats.

Table 11

Rare and Endangered Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Class	MESA* Status*	Most Recent Observation
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Callophrys hesseli</i>	Hessel's Hairstreak	SC	1982
Beetle	<i>Cicindela rufiventris hentzii</i>	Eastern Red-bellied Tiger Beetle	T	1987
Vascular Plant	<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	New England Blazing Star	SC	1897
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Neurocordulia obsoleta</i>	Umber Shadowdragon	SC	2007

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-by-town-viewer>

Downloaded December 5, 2017 *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act T= Threatened SC= Special Concern

Environmental Challenges

One of the major environmental challenges in the area concerns both the quality and quantity of the water supply. Westwood is served by the Dedham-Westwood Water District and some properties are served by private wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality regulates and monitors public water supplies for both quality and quantity. It is imperative that both the quality and quantity of these water sources be maintained. Both Westwood and Dedham have aquifer protection districts to protect public wells from contamination.

The State's efforts to encourage keeping wastewater local and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 storm-water management regulations will also help assure that more water is returned to the ground to recharge aquifers and in a way that maintains quality while also reducing flooding potential. Open space can be a key component in addressing this issue. Also, educational efforts regarding the use of fertilizers and pesticides as well as reduced lawn areas and native plantings can help reduce non-point source pollution to surface waters. Westwood's DPW has a printed brochure (also posted online) that helps educate residents on practices to protect the water supply.

In 2015, the Town adopted a bylaw regulating stormwater management as well rules for Environmental Impact and Design Review. This will help reduce negative impacts on water quality and quantity as well as other environmental impacts, and will further the purposes of the Wetlands Protection Act and town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw are:

- Protection of public and private water supply;
- Protection of ground water supply;
- Flood control;
- Storm drainage prevention;

- Prevention of pollution;
- Protection of land containing shellfish;
- Protection of fisheries; and
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

Another environmental challenge is the cleanup and reuse of brownfields. Westwood has a small number of contaminated sites that need to be cleaned up and reused. In addition to removing a threat to groundwater (and surface water), redeveloping such sites both returns the site to productive use and reduces the need to expand infrastructure and develop green field sites.

One additional challenge involves the gradual conversion of open water bodies to vegetated wetlands through the growth of invasive vegetation and accelerated eutrophication, which is believed to be exacerbated by improperly mitigated runoff.

[Map 7 –Estimated and Priority Habitat Map to be added here]

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Invasive species also present a challenge to Westwood 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 has caused, and is expected to continue causing, more frequent and more intense rainfall, as well as more and longer periods of drought. Green infrastructure can play a role in both helping reduce climate change and mitigating its impacts.

There are no environmental justice populations in Westwood, and no obvious environmental equity issues. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. No sub-populations or areas have been identified as receiving unfair treatment.

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Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

A. Protected Open Space

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 several valuable functions including habitat and green infrastructure. Depending on the type (e.g. forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland, etc.) open space can provide habitat for both plant and wildlife, help replenish aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, produce a sustainable source of a wide range of resources, and absorb and/or treat pollutants. Open space can also offer numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and add 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.” Municipal water supplies can be protected by Zones 1 and 2 designated by the Department of Environmental Protection. An Open Space and Recreation Plan facilitates a municipality’s ability to exercise the rights of its people under Article 97 by identifying open space and recreation lands, identifying appropriate protective measures and planning for future conservation and recreation needs.

While it represents only a relatively small portion of its total land, Westwood does have some important lands protected as open space. In this report, protected open space is defined as land that is designated to have no or minimal development on it. It must have legal protection for such status that includes public ownership and/or conservation restrictions recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands are not classified here as protected since their level of protection is minimal and the record shows that much land with such protection has been developed in recent years.

The Town itself is the largest holder of protected land. As illustrated in Map 8 and tabulated in Table 12 the Town owns 630.26 acres, of which 43 parcels totaling 557.27 acres under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and another 4 parcels with 72.99 acres under the control of the ~~Select Board of Selectmen~~. Most of the protected land is in the Lowell Woods/Sandy Valley area.

The Dedham-Westwood Water District owns 17.2 acres. The Westwood Land Trust owns 4.68 acres. Another 143.03 acres are owned by various homeowners associations and other entities.

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MAP 6
(To be updated)

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

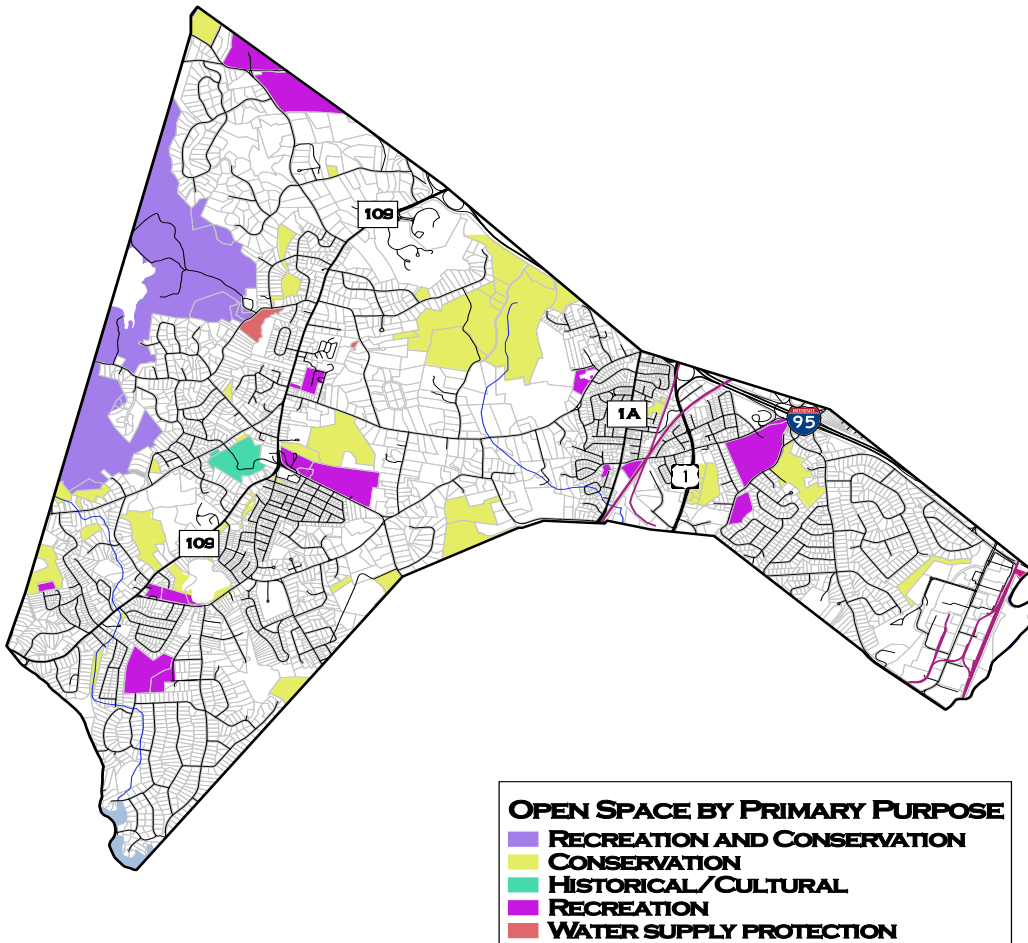


TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD								
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission								
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Conant Road	05-001	8.80	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Rear Birch Tree Dr	09-155	9.57	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	No	SRC	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Lorraine Rd	09-194	8.00	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Halsam's Pond	Farm Ln	10-015	3.00	Conservation/ Excellent Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	214a Fox Hill St	10-052	2.92	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-053	64.30	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-054	2.02	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-055	3.93	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Mulvehill C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-056	88.50	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Rear Farm Lane	10-057	3.07	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Rear High St (Sandy Valley Rd)	10-058	28.95	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-059	2.09	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-001	8.66	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD								
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission								
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-004	7.02	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	High Rock St	13-074	2.38	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Baker/Deviney C.A.	Hartford St	13-179	1.47	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Rice Reservation C.A./Lyman's Pond	Rear Nahatan St	14-116	46.10	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Grimm C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	15-015	38.42	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Lot 15 Sandy Valley Rd	15-028	4.11	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Railroad Place	16-130	0.48	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Moodie St	16-133	4.32	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	GR	Article 97
Cedar Hill C.A.	6 Cedar Hill Dr	16-443	0.88	Conservation/ Good G Poor	Passive	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Wight/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-009	6.13	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Pignatelli/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-012	1.13	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Traylor C.A.	Hartford St	19-016	6.82	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Crouse Pond C.A.	High St East	20-101	0.63	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD								
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission								
Crouse Pond C.A.	Rear Westview Ter	20-124	2.60	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Twin Post C.A.	Twin Post Rd	20-174	1.99	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Veterans Park C.A.	High St	21-031	0.46	Conservation/ Good Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Temple C.A.	40 Pond St	21-089	0.53	Conservation/ Good Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRD	Article 97
Clapboardtree Meadow/Prout Farm C.A.	Clapboardtree St	22-084	22.65	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	Article 97
O'Toole C.A.	Providence Hwy	24-094	12.31	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRB	Article 97
Currier Reservation C.A.	Downey St	24-225	30.56	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRB	Article 97
Pheasant Hill C.A.	Pheasant Hill St R	27-022	20.15	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Lakeshore Memorial Park C.A.	Corner High St & Lake	28-046	6.00	Conservation/ Good Excellent	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Pitts/Ruynassardt C.A./Buckmaster Pond	1238 High St	28-059	9.11	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Reiner C.A.	Nahatan St	29-073	6.99	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Fay C.A.	Coach Ln (Rear)	29-087	3.31	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC/SRE	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD								
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission								
Endicott C.A.	Endicott St	33-037	13.10	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Draper Ave. C.A.	Draper Ave	34-057	6.00	Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Martha Jones C.A.	Rear Martha Jones Rd	35-237	28.02	Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Winter St	36-005	11.79	Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Arcadia Road	36-026	28.00	Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Subtotal			557.27					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Select Board of Selectmen								
Shuttleworth Land	Dead Swamp Road	16-437	37.46	Trail/Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-013	3.10	Conservation/ Good Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-014	7.03	Conservation/ Good Poor/	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Blue Hill Dr South	38-015	25.40	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	Article 97
Subtotal			72.99					

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Dedham-Westwood Water District DWWD)								
DWWD Land	213 Fox Hill St	09-065	0.77	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRE	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	200 Dover Road	09-165	11.48	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRC	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	154 University Avenue	33-007	1.38	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	Dartmouth St	38-004	0.92	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	34 Yale St	38-009	2.19	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	346a University Ave	38-011	0.46	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	Zone 1 and 2
Subtotal			17.20					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: High Ridge Homeowners Association								
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-026	7.18	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-033	4.71	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-048	9.14	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-054	2.19	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-059	9.76	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	03-016	1.29	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Storrow Circle	04-007	0.87	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			35.14					

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATIO N POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Powissett Estates Homeowners Association								
Powissett Estates	Shoe String Ln	13-194	2.14	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
Powissett Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-205	3.90	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
Powissett Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-206	2.47	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
Powissett Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-208	1.10	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			9.61					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Chase Estates Homeowners Association								
Chase Estates	5 Whitney Ave.	36-129	1.53	Open Space/ <u>Excellent</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Neponset River Land Holding								
Willet Pond	Rear Brook St.	41-001	6.46	Conservation/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	CR?
Willet Pond	Brook St.	41-036	11.00	Conservation/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	CR?
Subtotal			17.46					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Westwood Land Trust								
WLT	Summer St	03-024	1.33	Conservation/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	CR
WLT	Summer St	03-031	1.43	Conservation/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	CR
WLT	159 Summer St	15-128	1.92	Conservation/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	NO	SRE	CR
Subtotal			4.68					

Continued

TABLE 12

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAP/ PARCEL</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>	<u>EXISTING USE/ CONDITION</u>	<u>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Duncan M. McFarland								
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-017	16.85	Conservation/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO		CR
	Gay St. Rear	15-029	10.43	Conservation/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	NO		CR?
	3 Highview St.	27.040	0.17	Conservation/ <u>Excellent</u>	Passive	NO		CR?
Subtotal			27.45					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Groundhog Land Corporation								
	Rear Bridle Path	29-126	5.90	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	Condition of Approval
	Clapboardtree St.	29-135	1.26	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			7.16					
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: G.D. Fox Meadow LLC								
	Fox Hill St. (Rear)	15-005	7.63	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRE	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: C/S Westview LLC								
	Winter St.	29-119	6.60	Open Space/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO	SRC	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: NW Land LLC								
	Winter St.	29-122	26.40	Conservation/ <u>Good</u>	Passive	NO	SRC/SRE	CR?
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Gobbi FLP Trust								
	Autumn Drive	36-153	4.05	Open Space/ <u>Poor</u>	Passive	YES	SRC	Condition of Approval
TOTAL PROTECTED LAND			794.05					

B. Public and Private Recreation Facilities

A variety of recreational opportunities exist in Westwood. While conservation land (listed in Tables 6 and 7) is usually also available for some recreation activities (hiking, bird-watching, etc.), recreation land here is defined as areas devoted and used primarily for one or more specific recreation uses that require:

- o A large portion of the site;
- o Man-made facilities or significant alteration of the natural landscape; and
- o Intensive maintenance.

Examples of recreation facilities include parks and playgrounds, schoolyards, country clubs/golf courses, campgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, etc. Such facilities can be publicly or privately owned and accessible.

One exception to the above definition of recreation land is Hale Reservation. Hale Reservation is a private, nonprofit recreational and educational institution. While a portion of its site does fit the definition, a significant majority of its 1137 acres, split between Westwood and Dover, more closely fits the definition of open space but it is not currently protected. Its unique and significant nature warrants presentation in its own category in Table 7.

As noted in the Needs Analysis section, while Assessor's records indicate that Hale Reservation has 325 acres in Westwood, MassGIS's calculated area for Hale is 493 acres. Hale states on its web site that it owns a total of 1137 acres in Dover and Westwood. Dover's Assessor's Office indicates that 663 acres are in that town. If accurate, that would mean that 474 acres are in Westwood, which more closely approximates the area calculated by MassGIS.

The other recreation facilities in Westwood are discussed below. Tables 8 lists the public recreation sites in Westwood while Table 9 lists the private sites (excluding Chapter 61B sites already listed in Table Y). As the table indicates, schoolyards provide the majority of the recreation sites in Town as fields tend to be located on or adjacent to school sites. In addition to the school sites, other properties managed by the Recreation Commission include:

- Morrison Park – Little League and Softball fields;
- Sheehan Fields – Little League and Soccer fields
- Westwood Lodge – Full-size soccer/lacrosse field (not owned by the Town but its field is managed by the Recreation Commission);
- School Street Playground – Playground for 2 to 12-years old with two tee-ball fields;
- Lions Club Tot Lot – Playground adjacent to the Senior Center for 2 to 5-years old ; and
- June Street Playground - recently installed playground

TABLE 13

HALE RESERVATION

LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA	EXISTING USES	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
80 Carby St	04-001	112.07	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Longmeadow Dr	05-078	5.35	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Stevens Circle	05-090	7.69	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-036	18.49	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-044	3.44	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-045	2.67	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
573 Dover Rd	12-001	1.42	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	13-186	6.66	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Morgan Farm Rd	13-215	3.85	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Hartford St	19-017	4.60	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Hartford St	20-013	124.26	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-178	0.43	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-179	0.52	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-180	0.41	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Hartford St	27-025	3.64	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
1255 High St	28-033	29.72	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
TOTAL		325.22				

Source: Assessors Database 2018

TABLE 14

PUBLIC RECREATION PROPERTIES

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES/ FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN-OWNED OR MANAGED PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							
School St. Playground	44 School St.	1.80	23-082	Baseball/softball, playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/SRA	Article 97
Morrison Park	440-480 East St.	3.76		Baseball, softball, basketball	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ LBB	Article 97
June St. Playground	Pheasant Hill St R	3.08	27-221	Fields, playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ SRC	Article 97
Lion's Club Tot Lot	60 Nahatan Street	2.29	21-349	Playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/SRC	None
Sheehan Fields	Pond St.	6.25	28-078	Baseball	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	Article 97
Westwood Lodge	45 Clapboardtree St.	5.00±	29-123	Multipurpose field	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	None
Sub-total		34.17					

Continued

TABLE 14

PUBLIC RECREATION PROPERTIES (Continued)

NAME	LOCATION	AREA*	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
SCHOOL PROPERTIES							
Deerfield School	72 Deerfield Ave	8.54	14-094	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	None
Hanlon School	790 Gay St.	8.59	16-005	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	None
Thurston Middle School	850 High St.	17.44	21-047 & 347	Baseball, softball, multipurpose field	School Committee	Good	None
Westwood High School	200 Nahatan St.	42.9	21-048 & 346	Baseball, football, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, track, lacrosse	School Committee	Good	None
Downey School	Downey St.	9.81	24-135	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	None
Sheehan School	549 Pond St.	4.27	28-077	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	None
Martha Jones School	Martha Jones Road	8.89	35-089	Baseball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	None
Total Public Recreation Acreage (including schools)		120.33					

Sources: Assessors Database 2018 and Recreation Commission Inventory

*Includes entire school site

TABLE 15

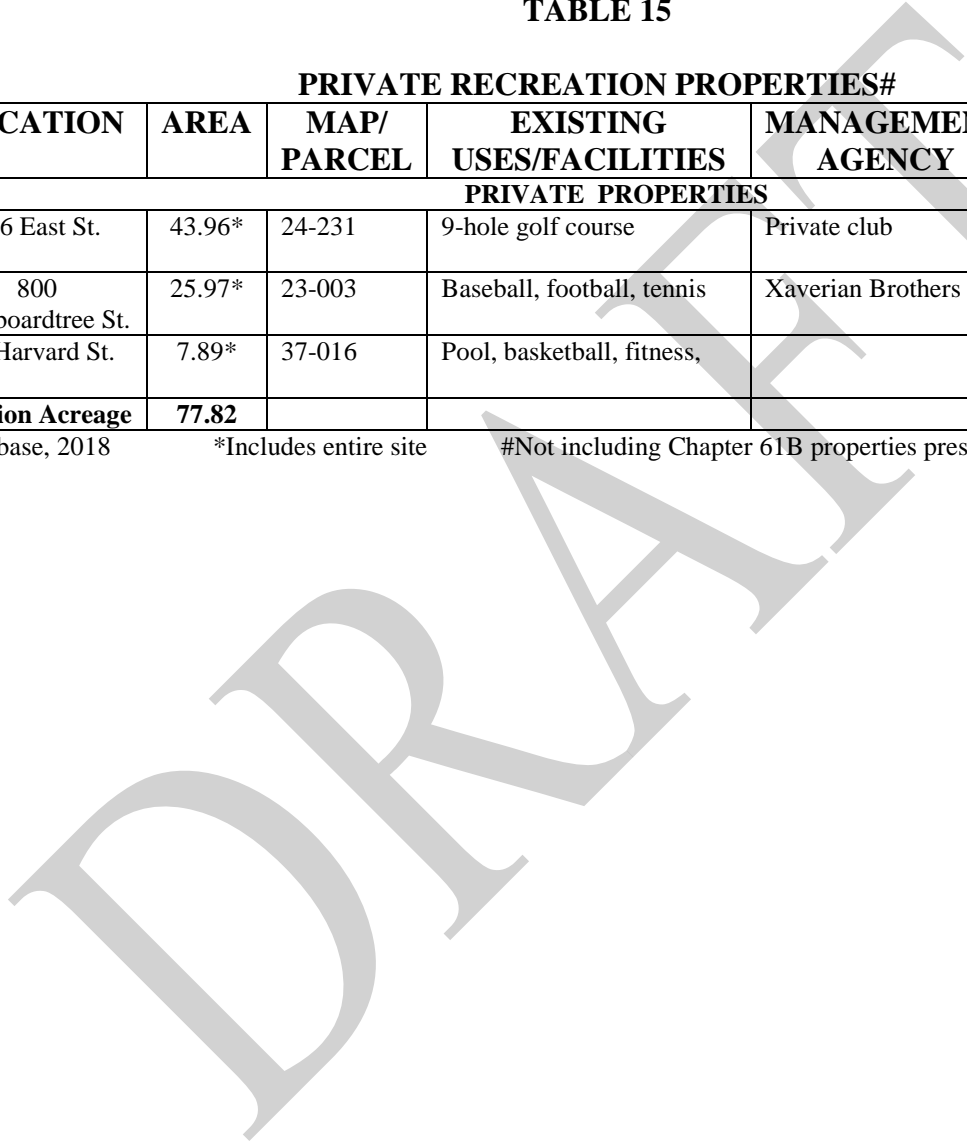
PRIVATE RECREATION PROPERTIES#

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
PRIVATE PROPERTIES							
Norfolk Golf Club	166 East St.	43.96*	24-231	9-hole golf course	Private club	Excellent/SRC	None
Xaverian High School	800 Clapboardtree St.	25.97*	23-003	Baseball, football, tennis	Xaverian Brothers	Excellent/SRE	None
Life Time Athletic	44 Harvard St.	7.89*	37-016	Pool, basketball, fitness,		Excellent/ FMUOD/UAMUD	None
Total Private Recreation Acreage		77.82					

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

*Includes entire site

#Not including Chapter 61B properties presented in Table 16.



Private facilities include the Norfolk Golf Club 9-hole golf course); Xaverian Brothers High School (baseball, football, tennis) and Life Time Fitness (Pool, basketball, fitness). In addition, the Dedham Country and Polo Club, (listed as a Chapter 61B property in Table Y rather than in Table 9) straddles the town line with Dedham and offers golf, pool and tennis. While not available to the general public, these facilities add to the diversity of recreation opportunities in Westwood.

C. Potential Inequities

There are no environmental justice populations in Westwood. An Environmental Justice community is one or more U.S. Census block groups where the median household income is below 65% of the state median, or at least 25% of the population is other than white or at least 25% of households have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English well. Environmental Justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in a clean and healthful environment. Furthermore, as Map 8 illustrates, open space and recreation areas are well distributed throughout the Town. All neighborhoods are within reasonable proximity to both conservation and recreation areas.

D. Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands

In order to encourage the preservation of certain activities and land uses (namely forestry, agriculture, and recreation), the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allow a property tax break for these land uses. In return for this tax break, the property owners who take advantage of it must make the parcel available for purchase by the town in which it is located before it may be sold on the open market. Since towns rarely have the available funds to purchase these parcels, the law does not provide much protection. However, to the extent that the tax break may help keep the land use economically feasible, it does provide some incentive to continue the land use rather than make the land available for development. Furthermore, landowners who continue to maintain their lands under this program should be acknowledged for their stewardship efforts.

Named after the section of state law that allows this, Chapter 61 land is that which is used for forestry or woodlands, Chapter 61A land is used for agriculture, and Chapter 61B land is used for recreation.

As Table 16 indicates, Westwood has a total of 96.87 acres of Chapter 61, 61A and 61B land as follows:

- **Chapter 61:** Westwood has four parcels totaling 11.23 acres. All four parcels are owned by the same entity.
- **Chapter 61A:** There are presently two parcels totaling 23.58 acres under common ownership.
- **Chapter 61B:** The Dedham Golf and Polo Club is classified as a recreation property under Chapter 61B. Its two parcels total 62.06 acres in Westwood.

TABLE 16
CHAPTER 61, 61A AND 61B LANDS

LOCATION	OWNER	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (ACRES)	ZONING	PUBLIC ACCESS
Chapter 61					
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-012	0.80	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-018	2.17	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-181	5.76	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-182	2.50	SRC	No
Subtotal			11.23		
Chapter 61A					
Clapboardtree St	Charles S Bean II & Elena A Trs.	22-051	11.79	SRE	No
Clapboardtree St	Charles S Bean II & Elena A Trs.	22-053	11.79	SRE	No
Subtotal			23.58		
Chapter 61B					
77 Westfield St	Dedham Golf & Polo Club	01-009	21.76	SRE	No
469 Summer St	Dedham Golf & Polo Club	03-006	40.3	SRE	No
Subtotal			62.06		
TOTAL			96.87		

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

E. Other Lands of Interest

Table 17 presents other municipally-owned land. While many of the parcels are developed or already serve other Town functions, this list could serve as the starting point for achieving some of the objectives in Section 6 that call for identifying sites for new recreation facilities or additional open space properties.

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TABLE 17

OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITIO N	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
Town Pound	High St - Town Pound	05-042	0.19	ARO	Good	Select Board Of Selectmen	Yes
DPW	50 Carby St	08-038	5.23	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Conant Rd	09-193	1.04	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	09-230	3.42	SRE	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Fire Station 1	637 High St	14-046	1.02	SRC	Fair	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Town Hall & Police Station	580-590 High St	14-071	2.59	SRC	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Library	660 High St	14-079	1.05	SRC	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	High St	14-131	5.44	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	107 Gay St	14-169	4.10	SRE	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-016	9.88	SRE	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	68 Lull St	16-039	0.03	GR	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Lull St	16-094	0.08	GR	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Grafton Ave	16-181	0.01	GR	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Blue Hill Vista Strip	Elm Street	17-190	0.10	ARO	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Canton St	18-008	0.70	SRB	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Woodland Rd	20-017	2.38	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
New Cemetery	High St	20-072	31.44	SRC	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes

	Wildwood Dr	20-139	0.47	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Hartford St	20-172	1.07	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Obed Baker House	909 High St	21-042	0.46	LBA	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	No
	High St	21-043	1.05	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	No
Old Cemetery	Pond St & Nahatan	21-088	5.15	SRD	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Senior Center	60 Nahatan St	21-349	2.29	SRE	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Former First Parish Land	Nahatan St	21-350	5.10	SRE	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Clapboardtree St	22-052	23.20	SRE	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes

Continued

TABLE 17

OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
	Schaefer Ave (Rear)	23-156	0.28	SRA	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Municipal Parking Lot	227-283 Washington St	23-163	0.69	LBB	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Islington Library	280 Washington St	23-188	0.44	LBB	Fair	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Islington Community Center	288 Washington St	23-189	0.28	LBB	Poor	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	East St	23-190	0.10	LBB	Fair	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Islington Fire Station	300 Washington St	23-215	0.69	LBB	Excellent	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-006	3.28	SRA	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-075	1.24	SRB	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-076	1.69	SRB	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes

						<u>Of Selectmen</u>	
	Providence Hwy	24-077	1.27	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-079	1.25	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-080	1.08	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-081	2.90	IO	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Downey St	24-087	0.06	IO	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Canton St	24-230	0.24	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	285 Canton St	25-032	0.18	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	56 Crystal Hill Ter	27-213	4.43	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Olde Carriage Rd	29-067	0.37	SRE	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Rear Winter St	29-120	1.84	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Dela Park Rd	29-158	0.32	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Hawktree Dr	31-058	0.27	SRB	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr North	33-002	0.04	I	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr	33-005	0.64	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
	Rear Stanford Dr	34-089	3.20	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes
Former Sewer Pump Station	Sunrise Rd	34-132	0.10	SRC	Good	<u>Select Board Board Of Selectmen</u>	Yes

Continued

TABLE 17

OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
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	Arcadia Rd	35-179	0.10	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Rear Whitney Ave	36-071	5.04	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	Trailside Dr	39-007	3.14	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
	41 Clearwater Dr	41-010	0.92	SRC	Good	Select Board Board Of Selectmen	Yes
Subtotal			143.57				
Sewer Pump Station	177 Far Reach Rd	02-060	0.37	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	410 Summer St	03-018	3.84	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	6a Stonemeadow Dr	05-095	0.09	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	220 Conant Rd	09-226	1.33	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	215 Clapboardtree St	29-083	0.05	SRE	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	91 Dela Park Rd	29-168	0.09	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	Partridge Dr	32-212	0.09	I	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	160 Arcadia Rd	36-057	0.26	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	86 Brook St	41-037	0.19	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Subtotal			6.31				
Affordable Housing	38-40 Grafton Ave	16-178	0.14	GR		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Affordable Housing	46 Grafton Ave	16-180	0.14	GR		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Affordable Housing	1007 High St	20-095	0.35	SRC		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Subtotal			.63				
TOTAL			150.51				

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

Section 6: Community Vision

Description of Process

The Community Vision in the form of Goals and Objectives, was the key element to serve as the foundation for the Action Plan. As presented in Section 2 Introduction, the OSRP is being prepared under the auspices of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC). The OSRPC includes representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Historical Commission, Council on Aging, Commission on Disability, ~~Select Board of Selectmen~~, Board of Health and School Committee; along with a representative from the Westwood Land Trust; representatives from youth sports organizations; and at least two unaffiliated resident representatives. Key Town staff, including the Conservation Agent, Recreation Director, Public Works Director, Town Planner, and Director of Community & Economic Development served as ex officio members.

The first step was to conduct a survey of residents. The survey was presented on the main page of the Town web site as well as on individual department pages. Paper copies were also available at Town Hall and upon request. The survey was very successful as more than 800 responses were received in two rounds.

The second step was a community forum. The forum was advertised in the local newspaper (Westwood Press, January 17, 2018 edition) as well as the Town web site, on Facebook, and on Twitter. The Recreation Department's Facebook posting reached 251 readers and received 20 reactions or post engagements. The Recreation Department's Twitter account received 849 impressions and 20 engagements. There were over 60 residents in attendance, 43 residents of who signed in and actively participated in group discussions, and the forum was broadcast live on Westwood Media Center's cable access government channel.

At the forum, the goals and objectives from the 2000 OSRP were presented in order to get input as to which, if any, of those were still valid and which needed to be amended, dropped or added. The results of the first round of the survey (641 responses) were also presented. The survey was also reopened and an additional 168 responses were received.

Based on the input from the forum and the survey, a draft set of updated goals and objectives were drafted and presented to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. The OSRPC invested extensive time and multiple meetings to ensure that the adopted set of goals and objectives accurately reflected the diverse perspectives of its members and met the needs of the Town

Open Space and Recreation Goals

GENERAL GOALS

GOAL 1: ~~Pursue Adoption of Community Preservation Act (CPA)~~

~~GOAL 2:~~ Protect and enhance Westwood's Community character

OPEN SPACE GOALS

GOAL 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.

GOAL 2: Increase awareness about Westwood's existing open space and conservation areas
To Encourage Use and Protection.

GOAL 3: Identify, protect and acquire lands appropriate for open space and conservation that are contiguous to existing protected land, provide connectivity, have high natural resource and habitat value, or are in areas of Town with limited open space areas.

RECREATION GOALS

GOAL 1: Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.

GOAL 2: Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming

GOAL 3: Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.

GOAL 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs

GOAL 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities

GOAL 6: Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.

Section 7: Needs Analysis

Resource Protection Needs

As the Community Setting section indicates, the Town of Westwood has experienced steady growth between 1970 and 2016. While the population declined in the 1980s, it grew faster in the 1990's. Overall, Westwood's population grew from 12,750 in 1970 to 15,364 in 2016, averaging roughly 500 additional persons per decade. While there are numerous positive

aspects of growth, growth also has impacts associated with pressures on the natural and built environments.

Growth often contributes to changes in a town's character such as through the loss of open space and transformation of rural roadways into suburban collector roads. As referenced at the community workshop and identified in the responses to survey questions, the town's character is important to residents and needs to be protected. The town's character has been supported through the acquisition of open space and conservation lands, and by development of policies and regulations that protect Westwood's natural resources.

Growth can also increase stress on water recharge areas and wildlife habitat, creating a need to conserve natural resources, especially water. Maps 4 in the Environmental Inventory section illustrate the water resources of Westwood. Westwood is split between the Charles and Neponset River watersheds. Three of the four aquifer areas are in the Neponset River Watershed. The aquifer closest to the Neponset River has well sites and a corresponding Zone II. Two other aquifer areas do not yet have Zone II's but need to be protected for future use. The largest Zone II area is in the Charles River watershed. The Dedham-Westwood Water District has 6 wells in Westwood (11 in Dedham) and has authority to purchase up to 200,000 gallons per day from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, but it is imperative that the local wells be protected for both capacity and quality.

Map 7 presents the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species areas of Westwood and abutting communities. A Priority Habitat is based on the known geographical extent of habitat for all state-listed rare species, both plants and animals, and is codified under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Estimated Habitats are a subset of Priority Habitats and are based on the geographical extent of habitat of state-listed rare wetlands wildlife and is codified under the Wetland Protection Act (WPA) (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/regulatory-maps-priority-estimated-habitats>).

Map 7 displays an area identified as Priority Habitat 1131, which includes both Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species to the southern corner of Westwood, bordering Norwood. This area also comprises a portion of a large Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Westwood portion of these environmentally sensitive areas is relatively small as most of the ACEC and Priority and Estimated Habitat areas are in adjacent towns.

Protecting these important resources is critical. The Management Needs section below presents some of the potential and existing tools that are available to help fulfill this need. Maps, social media, town website, signage and other means to identify and increase awareness about those resources will help highlight the need and build support for protection measures.

Community Recreation Needs

Survey and Workshop

Westwood residents had the opportunity to participate in a needs survey and a community workshop, thereby contributing to the foundational thinking of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. (Note: See the appendix for more information on the survey and workshop).

The survey queried responders about the overall quality of recreational facilities in Westwood. Approximately 63 percent of responders ranked Westwood's recreation facilities as very good or excellent. Thirty percent of responders indicated the recreation facilities as **good**. The survey respondents were also asked to rank a list of recreation items, indicating those considered to be a priority. The top five recreation items identified as **priorities** by survey responders are:

- ice hockey rink (39 percent of total responses),
- trails (37 percent),
- a community center (31 percent),
- a dog park (29 percent), and
- outdoor swimming facilities (26 percent).

When asked which recreation facilities, located in Westwood, were used by the survey responder or the responder's family in the last year, the responses revealed that Westwood High School fields were used by 83 percent of responders. This was followed by Sheehan Elementary School fields (64 percent), the Thurston Middle School fields (63 percent), the Westwood High School gym (54 percent), and Buckmaster Pond (50%). School-based fields were the leading recreation areas located in Westwood, as indicated by survey responders.

The community workshop included a review of the 2000 OSRP recreation goals:

1. Acquire new recreation areas in areas of Town which have a shortage of active recreation areas.
2. Establish and Maintain a Town-wide network of publicly and privately held open spaces for active and recreational activities.
3. Provide quality recreational opportunities for all segments of Westwood's population.
4. Improve maintenance of recreation fields.
5. Create a system of bikeways, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, connecting the two town centers, recreation areas and other public facilities.

Workshop participants found the 2000 OSRP goals to be relevant but stated they needed more specificity, and they wanted to add some goals reflective of current needs, such as providing recreation options for all ages, including seniors. A primary comment was that the previous goals lacked inclusion of indoor recreation. The most prominent recreation needs identified were the development of an indoor recreation center including basketball courts, as well as an indoor skating rink, and tennis and pickleball courts. It was noted that the Town's current resources and facilities are not sufficient to serve the needs of all current residents. In particular, the needs of the disabled and those over 55 need to be addressed.

The Recreation Commission surveyed several peer towns to compare facilities offered as well as the usage of those facilities. The results of the survey are shown in Table 18.

**Table 18
Facilities By Type**

Town/ Population	Soccer / multi- use (lacrosse/field hockey)	Softball or 60' baseball	90' Baseball	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Outdoor swim
Bedford 13,320	2 full 12 small shared fields	6 60' 1 t-ball	3	1	3 plus small areas at elementary schools	7	1 Pond at Springs Brook Park
Canton 21,561	1 full 8 half - all shared use	8 - all shared use	1	1	2	6	1 Pool - outdoor
Concord 17,669	7 full 3 youth	5	2	1	4	8	Beede Aquatic Center - Multiple Indoor Pools and Splash Pad
Medfield 12,024	6	9	2	2	4	6	1 Pond at Hinkley Swim Pond
Sharon 17,612	5	8	2	1	1	13	1 Lake at Memorial Park Beach
Sudbury 18,317	6 full 6 youth	5- LL/softball 1tball	2	2	6	10	Atkinson Swimming Pool and Diving Well Aquatic Center (Pond was deemed non swimmable)
Weston 11,261	15+	7	2	1	3	9	2 Pools – Indoor at Middle School and outdoor at Weston Memorial Pool
SUBTOTAL 111,764	42 full 75 total	50	14	9	23	59	
Westwood 14,618	4 full 12 half	5LL 4SB, 2TB	2	2	9	7	1 Indoor Pool
TOTAL 126,382	46 full 87 total	61 Total	16	11	32	66	

Source: Westwood Recreation Commission, Survey of Comparative Towns
NA= Not Available

The table below compares the number of facilities in each category to the population of all the peer communities (including Westwood) to those in Westwood alone by dividing the population by the number of each facility:

**Table 19
Comparison of Population Served Per Facility, Westwood and Peer Communities**

Town/ Population	Soccer / multi-use (lacrosse/field hockey)	Softball or 60' baseball	90' Baseball	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Outdoor swim
Westwood 14,618	Full: 1 per 3,655 All: 1 per 914	1 per 1,329	1 per 7,309	1 per 7,309	1 per 1624	1 per 2,088	NA
PEER COMMUNITIES 111,764	Full: 1 per 2,661 All: 1 per 1490	1 per 2,235	1 per 7,983	1 per 12,418	1 per 4859	1 per 1,894	NA
TOTAL 126,382	Full: 1 per 2,747 All: 1 per 1,453	1 per 2,072	1 per 7,899	1 per 11,489	1 per 3,949	1 per 1,915	1 per 18,054

The table indicates that Westwood’s recreation facilities compare well with the peer communities except for full size soccer/multiuse fields and outdoor swimming (since Westwood has no outdoor swimming facility). In addition to adding a soccer/multiuse field, increased demand could also be met through measures to expand use of existing fields such adding lighting and/or artificial turf.

Community Needs (Open Space)

Survey/Community Workshop

Most survey responders visited **Hale Reservation** during the past year. Fewer, but still a significant number, visited the **Lowell Woods/Sandy Valley/Mulvehill/Fox Meadow/Germany Brook Conservation area** and the **Martha Jones Conservation Area**. Responders were asked to identify the importance of preservation of a variety of lands/structures/places within Westwood. Eighty percent of responders marked open spaces - recreation land as **very important** to preserve. This was followed by open spaces -- conservation land (71%) and open spaces – water (70%).

The community workshop participants reviewed the Open Space goals from the *2000 OSRP*.

1. Acquire new conservation areas that
 - a. Are contiguous to existing protected land
 - b. Have high natural resource and habitat value
 - c. Are in areas of Town that have a shortage of open space areas
2. Protect and enhance Westwood’s natural environment
3. Encourage increased use and appreciation of Westwood’s existing conservation areas

4. Identify and protect those places – open spaces, scenic, cultural, and natural features – of special significance to the community
5. Establish and manage a Town-wide network of publicly and privately held open spaces for the protection of critical land and water resources, habitats and scenic vistas
6. Better manage the design, location, and rate of new residential and commercial development in a manner that protects important natural and cultural resources
7. Preserve Westwood’s rural character, with a focus on village centers and open space.

A variety of comments were made by participants about these goals from 18 years ago. Noting that the Westwood Land Trust had been established and a number of properties had been acquired, some felt the focus should shift from acquiring conservation lands to maintaining and protecting existing lands. However, others wanted to continue the focus on acquiring new open spaces. A third group of participants noted that the Town should continue to acquire conservation lands but the acquisition should be targeted and balanced with the current needs of the community.

A reoccurring comment was the need for education about open space and conservation lands. Some participants shared that residents did not know the location of the lands or the amenities associated with them. Other specific needs identified included:

- Easements to connect open spaces over private property
- Protection for Buckmaster Pond
- Awareness of open space opportunities if an elementary school were to be eliminated
- Smaller building footprints on land

As noted above, the Recreation Commission surveyed several comparable towns to identify recreation facilities in those towns. Table 20 below presents the protected open space in those same comparable towns as derived from MassGIS attribute data. Only those lands characterized as permanently protected are included.

Table 20
Protected Land in Westwood and Comparable Towns

	Acres of Protected Land	Total Land Area mi ²	Total Land Area Acres	Percentage Protected
Bedford	1871	13.9	8896	21.0%
Canton	3195	19.6	12,544	25.5%
Concord	5171	25.9	16,576	31.2%
Holliston	2593	19.0	12,160	21.3%
Medfield	3208	14.6	9344	34.3%
Sharon	5898	24.2	15,488	38.1%
Sudbury	4913	24.6	15,744	31.2%
Weston	2677	17.3	11,072	24.2%
Westwood	794	11.1	7104	11.2%

Source: MassGIS

It should be noted that the other towns generally have large areas owned by the state or federal governments or by large private, non-profit land trusts, which Westwood does not

have. However, Westwood has a minimum of 325 acres of Hale Reservation within its borders, which are not currently protected. If those acres were to become permanently protected, Westwood's percentage would rise to 15.2%. Also, while Assessor's records indicate 325 acres, MassGIS's calculated area for Hale is 493 acres. Hale indicates on its web site that it owns a total of 1137 acres in Dover and Westwood, and Dover's Assessor's Office records show 663 acres in that town which, if accurate, would mean that 474 acres are in Westwood.

The acreage needs to be verified, but if there are 474 acres in Westwood and they were to become permanently protected, Westwood's percentage of protected land would rise to 17.8%. In any case, permanent protection of Hale Reservation is an important open space need.

Community Preservation Act

~~A major recommendation of the OSRP is for Westwood to consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA).~~ The CPA is a state law that encourages cities and towns to pursue projects that include conservation, outdoor recreation, historical preservation and affordable housing. ~~172-173~~ Massachusetts communities have ~~already~~ adopted this law over the past 18 years.

~~The~~ In towns that have adopted the CPA, ~~provides for~~ two sources of funds are made available to pursue these eligible projects. The first source ~~would be~~ is raised by the town through the imposition of a property tax surcharge of ~~between 1% and up to~~ 3%. This surcharge ~~could~~ may be applied to all properties, or ~~could~~ may exclude commercial properties. ~~The~~ A town ~~could~~ may also exempt the first \$100,000 of assessed value, and ~~could~~ may adopt other income and/or age exemptions to assist financially challenged property owners. ~~If for example, if a town set~~ the CPA amount ~~was set~~ at 1%, a property owner who ordinarily paid \$10,000 per year in property taxes would receive a tax bill for an additional \$100. That additional \$100 would be placed in the CPA reserve account. In Westwood, a 1% surcharge, limited to residential properties, could be expected to generate approximately \$700,000 per year

~~If Westwood~~ Towns which adopts the CPA, ~~it could~~ then gain access to a second funding source. Registries of Deeds throughout the state collect fees for the recording of land documents. These fees are sent to the state and are then used to match local CPA funds. The extent of the match varies from year to year, but is generally currently less than 20%. In 2017 alone, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds sent \$55,000 to the state that was raised from document recordings associated with properties in Westwood. These funds were then made available to communities that had adopted the CPA. To date, Westwood property owners have contributed approximately \$1 million to the state CPA fund. ~~If Westwood adopts the CPA, it would join the other 172~~ Only the 173 communities that have adopted the CPA ~~communities that~~ have access to these funds.

Additional information about the CPA can be found in Exhibit ___.

Management Needs

~~Since the~~The foundation of maintaining and enhancing the Town's open space and recreation assets is having the resources to do so, ~~a major management need is the pursuit and adoption of the CPA. The resulting r~~Revenues ~~could be used~~must be identified for the purposes of maintaining, enhancing and acquiring open space or recreation properties, developing or rehabilitating recreation facilities, ~~developing affordable housing and/or historic preservation projects.~~

~~CPA funds cannot be used to fund indoor recreation facilities so another management need is to identify resources that could be used to~~and ~~developing and sustaining the~~ indoor recreation facilities, such as the community center and ice skating rink that have been identified as needs. Some options include state grant funds, collaborating with neighboring towns and/or private entities, and identifying revenue-generating activities that could be derived from components of those indoor recreation facilities.

Collaborative efforts are also possible in supporting open space and outdoor activities. These could include entities such as Hale Reservation, Westwood Land Trust, Neponset and Charles River Watershed Associations, scout and youth sports groups, etc.

Other management needs include developing use and maintenance plans for each conservation area and improved maintenance for recreation areas and facilities. Included in this would be increased connectivity, development of trails, adding benches and tables, encouraging their use as focal points of town interaction, and improved communication about the existence and availability of each of the sites and facilities.

Protecting and enhancing Westwood's community character is also an important need as indicated by the survey and workshop. Many tools are already in place to accomplish this. Westwood government leaders, town staff, and citizens have been diligent in protecting the Town's resources. Over the course of the past several years town bylaws, zoning bylaws, specific rules and regulations, and design guidelines, were added to Westwood's legislation that informs and guides development in an effort to continue to protect the Town's natural and historic resources which contribute to the Town's character, while simultaneously safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its residents. These include regulatory tools such as:

- Open Space Residential Development
- Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District
- Historic Structure Demolition
- Environmental Impact & Design Review
- Scenic Roads Act
- Stormwater Management Bylaw
- Complete Streets Policy
- Bicycle Parking Design Guidelines

Regarding priorities for the next 5-10 years, the following additional management needs were identified:

- Prepare management and maintenance plans for each of town-owned conservation and recreation properties.
- Explore potential to collaborate with other towns and/or nonprofits to provide recreation and conservation opportunities.
- Continue to identify and protect places with special significance to the community.
- Expand efforts to increase awareness about recreation and conservation lands.

Finally, there is a need to review and update the land use codes assigned to tax-exempt parcels in the Assessors database. Updating the codes to the latest version of Property Type Classification Codes issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services will facilitate analysis of Town, State, Federal, and nonprofit properties going forward.

Section 8: Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives listed below represent the addition of objectives to the goals listed in the Community Vision section. The goals and objectives were prepared based on the OSRP Survey, the OSRP Visioning Workshop, conversations with the Open Space and Recreation Committee members, and discussions with Town staff.

Each goal is supported by one or more objectives. The objectives represent more specific, generally measurable steps that can be taken to advance the goals. Some of the objectives may appear under more than one goal. Goals and objectives are not listed in priority order.

General Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: ~~Pursue Adoption of Community Preservation Act (CPA)~~

~~Objectives:~~

- ~~Identify options for configuring a CPA proposal in terms of rates and exemptions.~~
- ~~Analyze potential revenue impacts of each option.~~
- ~~Estimate typical impacts on taxpayers of each option for different assessment levels.~~
- ~~Identify potential open space and recreation projects that could be funded with CPA funds.~~
- ~~Collaborate with affordable housing and historic preservation advocates to identify potential needs and/or projects in those areas.~~
- ~~Confirm recent and projected State matching funds.~~
- ~~Request Board of Selectmen sponsorship of Town Meeting article for adoption of CPA~~

Goal 2: ~~Protect and enhance Westwood's Community Character~~

~~Objectives:~~

- ~~• Continue process of identifying and protecting those places in Town such as open space, scenic, cultural and natural features that are of special significance to the community.~~

- Investigate the feasibility of adopting the CPA as one potential future funding source for acquisition, development and/or management of open space and recreation properties.
- Promote the Open Space Residential Development bylaw as well as Low Impact Development and narrower road widths.
- Preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and sites.
- Employ Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District, as appropriate.
- Use Historic Structure Demolition bylaw, when appropriate.
- Encourage character-appropriate redevelopment of Westwood's Village Centers.
- Explore the possibility of shared parking arrangements for the use of existing commercial parking spaces to accommodate users of nearby open space and recreation areas.
- Protect scenic roads.
- Collaborate with Westwood's Historical Commission and Historical Society to educate Westwood residents, as needed, about the Town's history.

Open Space Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.

Objectives:

- Prepare Conservation Land Management Plans for each conservation area:
 - Provide detailed description and assessment of each property.
 - Define purpose and uses.
 - Establish the maintenance practices required, allowed, and restricted.
 - Create policies for grass mowing and tree cutting, and invasive species, disease, and pest control.
 - Assign responsibilities and timing for implementing all aspects of the plan.
- Identify resources needed for ongoing maintenance and management of conservation areas:
 - Identify which maintenance tasks can be addressed through voluntary stewardship, which should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and which will require outside services.
 - Identify funding sources for sustained maintenance of conservation area.
 - Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to organize volunteer trail work and cleanups of conservation areas.
 - Establish partnerships with volunteer organizations such as girl scouts, boy scouts and “friends of” groups to assist in the stewardship of conservation areas.
 - Explore grant opportunities for pilot projects.
- Foster handicap accessibility and inclusivity at conservations areas, wherever feasible:
 - Identify areas where accessible paved paths can be installed.
 - Provide large print and/or braille signage, and information regarding topographic characteristics of conservation areas to assist users in determining limitations to access.
 - Install benches or resting rocks in strategic locations.
 - Install rope guides along trails, where feasible and appropriate.
 - Consider all-terrain wheelchairs for use at one or more conservation areas

Goal 2: Increase awareness about Westwood’s existing open space and conservation areas to encourage use and protection.

Objectives:

- Promote the Town’s open space and conservation land to serve as focal points of community interaction and to encourage use and protection.
- Develop annotated maps and brochures for each conservation area open for public use that include information such as trails, natural habitat/vegetation, and special features.
- Create an App with information about open space/conservation areas in Westwood.
 - App would identify location and activities encouraged or prohibited in each area.
 - App would include the annotated maps and brochures for each area.
 - App would identify topographic or other physical challenges for each area.

- Update Town websites to provide access to the open space and conservation App and to download it.
- Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to introduce Westwood residents to open space/conservation areas and educate them to the value and importance of land protection.
- Collaborate with schools and service organizations in creating initiatives and programs to inform Westwood residents about open space and conservation areas.
- Create and install informative signage to direct Westwood residents to open space and conservation areas in Town.
- Sponsor or encourage cable access shows featuring open space and conservation land.

Goal 3: Identify, protect and acquire lands appropriate for open space and conservation that are contiguous to existing protected land, provide connectivity, have high natural resource and habitat value, or are in areas of Town with limited open space areas.

Objectives:

- Preserve and enhance Westwood’s natural environment through acquisition or protection of open space and conservation land.
- Update maps of Town-owned and privately-owned open space lands:
 - Indicate natural resource and habitat areas;
 - Note historic/scenic vista areas;
 - Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space lands.
- Identify and acquire lands with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat or water supply protection.
- Identify and acquire land to provide connectivity to an open space network.
- Identify and acquire lands in areas with limited open space.
- Acquire conservation restrictions when more appropriate than land acquisition.
- Continue to encourage donations of open space by landowners.
- Ensure the perpetuity of Town conservation land by properly recording the deeds to state the conservation purpose of the land.
- Permanently protect the open space and recreational land of Hale Reservation by acquiring a conservation restriction on this land.
- Encourage use of Open Space Residential Development for new residential developments.
- Collaborate with Westwood Land Trust, Inc. and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space.
- Collaborate with Charles River and Neponset River Watershed Associations to promote the continued improvement of water quality in the Charles and Neponset Rivers.
- Discourage use of invasive species by residents and encourage their removal and proper disposal.
- Monitor and adopt as appropriate best practices for sustainability and resiliency to climate change.

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Recreation Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.

Objectives:

- Continue to update inventory for indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Establish Use & Maintenance Plans for all fields facilities, including:
 - Map location.
 - Allowed uses and times of uses.
 - Regular maintenance schedule.
 - Needed improvements (i.e.: lighting, artificial turf, additional field space, etc.).
- Undertake handicap accessibility improvements to all playgrounds and fields, including:
 - Develop parcel specific accessibility plans;
 - Identify funding for accessibility improvements;
 - Create schedule for implementation of accessibility improvements.
- Improve communication by providing easy-to-use methods including web site and mobile apps to report maintenance issues.
- Add lighting to an existing field (e.g. Thurston).
- Expand Wentworth Hall to accommodate recreational programs currently operating in the Islington Community Center.

Goal 2: Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming

Objectives:

- Evaluate feasibility of developing a new Indoor Recreation Community Center with:
 - Administrative – offices; welcome/registration areas;
 - Programming space – classrooms, multipurpose functional space, kitchen, fitness center, etc.;
 - Gym space – one or more full size regulation basketball courts.
- Select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.
- Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment for an indoor recreational facility.
- Consider collaboration with other organizations to develop the center.
- If feasible, design and develop a new Indoor Recreation Community Center.

Goal 3: Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.

Objectives:

- Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs:

- Identify mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed;
- Identify town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use:
 - Consider possible locations including the former First Parish property, a former school site (should an existing school go off line), or other potentially available sites;
- Identify privately-owned property which could be acquired and developed for recreational use:
 - Consider possible locations including Westwood Lodge or other potentially available sites.
- Identify means of replacing any indoor basketball courts that are eliminated following school consolidation, either within new consolidated school facility or in separate community recreational facility.

Goal 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs

Objectives:

- Evaluate feasibility of developing one or more new multipurpose fields.
- Select one or more parcels from those properties identified in Goal 3 that are best suited for multipurpose field use:
 - Consider environmental concerns, parking, and other issues related to multipurpose field development;
 - Consider potential for field lighting;
 - Consider additional open space/recreational uses that be accommodated on the same parcel(s).
- Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create one or more new multipurpose fields.
- If feasible, design and develop at least one additional multi-use field.

Goal 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities

Objectives:

- Evaluate feasibility of sharing an indoor ice skating facility with surrounding towns.
 - Initiate contact with Norwood and with the Boston Skating Club to determine the feasibility of participating in its rink project
 - Survey other abutting towns about potential interest in a regional rink;
- Evaluate feasibility of establishing an outdoor ice skating facility for winter use.
- Evaluate feasibility of establishing a new indoor ice skating facility in Westwood.
 - Identify funding mechanisms for development and operation of an indoor ice skating facility:
 - Research public – private partnerships to fund this initiative
 - Seek out revenue generating opportunities that would enable the rink to cover some/all of its capital and/or operating costs
- If a decision is made to pursue development of an in-town rink, select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 which is best suited for an indoor ice skating facility.

- Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create an indoor ice skating facility.
- If feasible, design and develop an indoor ice skating facility.

Goal 6: Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.

Objectives:

- Continue to update inventory of recreation programs.
- Consider results of survey and visioning workshop to help in determining the need for additional programs.
- Explore opportunities for regional recreational facilities and/or services.
- Create or enhance programs and opportunities for recreation of 55+ aged population.

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Section 9: Action Plan

The following pages contain an Action Plan to implement the goals and objectives specified in Section 8. For each objective, a lead agency is identified as well as potential supporting entities, implementation mechanisms, a rough schedule and possible funding sources. The Action Plan covers a seven-year period. Map 9 illustrates some of the recommended actions.

~~It should be noted that one of the primary steps in the Action Plan is adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Therefore, the CPA is cited as a possible funding source for several of the objectives. If the CPA is not adopted, then obviously CPA funds would not be available as a funding source.~~

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ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: <u>PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER PURSUE ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)</u>					
Identify options for configuring a CPA proposal in terms of rates and exemptions.	Board of Selectmen	Finance DCED Assessors Recreation Com	NA	2018-2019	NA
Analyze potential revenue impacts of each option.	Finance	Assessors	NA	2018-2019	NA
Estimate typical impacts on taxpayers of each option for different assessment levels.	Finance	Assessors	NA	2018-2019	NA
Identify potential open space and recreation projects that could be funded with CPA funds.	DCED	Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation	NA	2018-2019	NA
Collaborate with affordable housing and historic preservation advocates to identify potential needs and/or projects in those areas.	DCED	Housing Historical Com Historical Society	NA	2018-2019	NA
Confirm recent and projected State matching funds.	Finance	DCED	NA	2018	NA
Request Board of Selectmen sponsorship of Town Meeting article for adoption of CPA	DCED	Finance Planning Recreation Conservation Housing Historical Com DPW	NA	2018-2019	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOAL 2: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER					
Continue process of identifying and protecting those places in Town such as open space, scenic, cultural and natural features that are of special significance to the community.	DCED	Planning Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation Housing Historical Com Historical Society IT/GIS	Review maps showing important features, survey residents, review historical documents	2018 2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> <u>LAND Grant</u>
<u>Investigate the feasibility of adopting the CPA as one potential future funding source for acquisition, development and/or management of open space and recreation properties:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Analyze potential revenue impacts of each option.</u> • <u>Estimate typical impacts on taxpayers of each option for different assessment levels.</u> • <u>Identify potential open space and recreation projects that could be funded with CPA funds.</u> • <u>Collaborate with affordable housing and historic preservation advocates to identify potential needs and/or projects in those areas.</u> • <u>Confirm recent and projected State matching funds.</u> 	<u>Select Board</u>	<u>Finance</u> <u>DCED</u> <u>Assessors</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Conservation</u> <u>Housing</u> <u>Historic preservation</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>2020-2025</u>	<u>NA</u>

<u>Request Select Board sponsorship of Town Meeting article for adoption of CPA</u>					
Promote the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) bylaw as well as Low Impact Development and narrower road widths.	DCED	Planning DPW	Permit applications, Informational materials	2019-2025 2018-2025	NA
Preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and sites.	Historical Commission	DCED Planning DPW	Purchase, zoning incentives,	2019-2025 2018-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> <u>CPA</u>
Employ Historic Structure Demolition bylaw, when appropriate	Historical Commission	DCED Building	Permit applications,	2019-2025 2018-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> <u>CPA</u>
<u>Explore the possibility of shared parking arrangements for the use of existing commercial parking spaces to accommodate users of nearby open space and recreation areas.</u>	<u>DCED</u>	<u>Planning</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Conservation</u>	<u>Permit applications, easements, zoning incentives</u>	<u>2019-2025</u>	<u>NA</u>
Support Westwood's Village Centers.	Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u>	DCED Planning DPW	Zoning incentives, infrastructure improvements	2019-2025 2018-2019	MassWorks, Complete Streets
Protect scenic roads.	Planning	DPW	Permit applications	2019-2025 2018-2025	Permit fees
Collaborate with The Westwood Historical Commission and The Westwood Historical Society to educate Westwood residents, as needed, about the Town's history.	DCED	Historical Com Historical Society	NA	2019-2025 2018-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LANDS APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION THAT ARE CONTIGUOUS TO EXISTING PROTECTED LAND, PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY, HAVE HIGH NATURAL RESOURCE AND HABITAT VALUE, OR ARE IN AREAS OF TOWN WITH LIMITED OPEN SPACE AREAS					
Protect and enhance Westwood’s natural environment.	ConCom	DCED DPW	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD,	2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA LAND grant
Update maps of Town-owned and privately-owned open space lands: Indicate natural resource and habitat areas; Note historic/scenic vista areas; Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space lands.	IT/GIS	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation DPW	Assessor’s Records	2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA
Identify and acquire lands with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat or water supply.	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Dedham-Westwood Water District	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD	2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA LAND grant
Identify and acquire lands in areas with limited open space.	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation	Assessor’s Records OSRD	2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA LAND grant

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1 (CONTINUED)					
Encourage use of Open Space Residential Development for new residential developments.	DCED	Planning	OSRD	2019-2025	NA
Continue to encourage donations of open space by landowners.	Westwood Land Trust	Board of Selectmen Select Board DCED Conservation Planning	Federal Tax incentives	2019-2025	NA
Collaborate with Westwood Land Trust, Inc. and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space areas.	DCED	Board of Selectmen Select Board Westwood Land Tr Conservation Planning IT/GIS	Establish committee OSRPC	2019-2025	NA
Collaborate with Charles River and Neponset River Watershed Associations to promote the continued improvement of water quality in the Charles and Neponset Rivers.	DPW	DCED Conservation Planning	Stormwater management Improvements Public education	2019-2025	NA
Enhance the town's open spaces to serve as focal points of community interaction.	DCED	Conservation Recreation DPW	Improve signage Improve access Increase connectivity	2019-2025	NA

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1 (CONTINUED)					
Discourage use of invasive species by property owners and encourage their removal and proper disposal.	Conservation	Planning	Website info Social media Cable access	2019-2025	NA
Monitor and adopt as appropriate best practices for sustainability and resiliency to climate change.	Planning	DPW DPW Health DCED Conservation Building	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program	2019-2022	MVP
Identify and acquire lands desirable for open space network.	DCED	Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation IT/GIS Planning DPW	OSRD Purchase, CR	2019-2025	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA LAND grant Recreation Trails grant
Prepare Conservation Land Management Plans for each conservation area: Provide detailed description and assessment of each property. Define purpose and uses. Prepare the plan and policies for maintenance and protection	Conservation	DPW	Environmental consultant	2019-2021	<u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA Usage fees Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS.					
<p>Identify resources needed for ongoing maintenance and management of conservation areas:</p> <p>Identify which maintenance tasks can be addressed through voluntary stewardship, which should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and which will require outside services.</p> <p>Identify funding sources for sustained maintenance of conservation area.</p> <p>Establish partnerships with volunteer organizations such as girl scouts, boy scouts and “friends of” groups, etc. to assist in the site stewardship of conservation areas.</p> <p>Explore grant opportunities for pilot projects.</p>	<p>Conservation</p> <p>DPW Conservation</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>DCED</p>	<p>DPW</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Finance DPW</p> <p>DPW Recreation</p> <p>Conservation Recreation DPW Finance</p>	<p>Environmental consultant</p> <p>Explore private uses like cell tower, solar, hay/crops, etc.</p>	<p>2019-2021</p>	<p><u>Town budget or CPA (if adopted)</u> CPA</p> <p>Donations Fees</p>

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION.					
<p><u>Foster handicap accessibility and inclusivity at conservations areas, wherever feasible:</u></p> <p><u>Identify areas where accessible paved paths can be installed.</u></p> <p><u>Provide large print and/or braille signage, and information regarding topographic characteristics of conservation areas to assist users in determining limitations to access.</u></p> <p><u>Install benches or resting rocks in strategic locations.</u></p> <p><u>Install rope guides along trails, where feasible and appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>Consider all-terrain wheelchairs for use at one or more conservation areas</u></p>	<p><u>Conservation</u></p>	<p><u>DPW</u> <u>Finance</u> <u>Disability</u> <u>Commission</u></p>	<p><u>Environmental consultant</u></p>	<p><u>2019-2025</u></p>	<p><u>Town budget</u> <u>or CPA (if</u> <u>adopted),</u> <u>Grants</u></p>

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION.					
<p>Create an App with information about open space/conservation areas in Westwood:</p> <p>App would identify location of open of <u>open</u> space/conservation areas in Westwood.</p> <p>App would include information such as trails, natural habitat/vegetation, special features of each site, etc.</p> <p><u>App would identify topographic or other physical challenges for each area.</u></p>	IT/GIS	Westwood Land Tr Conservation DPW DCED	Social media	2019-2020	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Collaborate with schools and/or service organizations on the development and implementation of initiatives to inform Westwood residents about open space/conservation areas in town.	Conservation	IT/GIS School Dept. Westwood Land Tr DCED	Web site Social media Cable access	2019-2025	NA
Create and install informative signage to direct Westwood residents to open space/conservation areas in Town.	Conservation	DPW Planning		2019-2020	Town budget

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3 (CONTINUED)					
Develop annotated maps or brochures for each conservation area that will be open for public use.	IT/GIS	Conservation DCED DPW Recreation	GIS	2019-2020	Town budget
Update Town websites with expanded information about open space/conservation lands.	Conservation	IT/GIS DCED DPW Recreation	Town staff	2019-2020	Town budget
Sponsor or encourage cable access shows featuring open space lands.	OSRPC	Conservation Recreation DCED	Cable access	2019-2025	Town budget
Adapt Town websites to provide an optimized mobile experience when seeking information about open space and conservation areas.	IT/GIS	Conservation Recreation DPW	Town staff	2019-2022	Town budget
Continue to update inventory of recreation programs.	Recreation	DPW	Staff time	2019-2025	Town budget
Consider results of survey and visioning workshop to help in determining the need for additional programs.	Recreation	NA	Commission and staff time	2019-2021	Town budget
Explore opportunities for regional recreational facilities and/or services.	Recreation	DCED Planning DPW	Commission and staff time	2019-2021	Town budget

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 1: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL WESTWOOD RESIDENTS.					
Create or enhance programs and opportunities for recreation of 55+ aged population	Recreation	COA	Commission and staff time	2019-2025	Town budget
Establish Use & Maintenance Plans for all fields facilities, including: Map location. Allowed uses and times of uses. Regular maintenance schedule. Needed improvements (i.e.: artificial turf, lighting, etc.).	Recreation	DPW	Consultant	2019-2021	Town budget
Undertake accessibility improvements to all playgrounds, including: Develop parcel specific accessibility plans; Identify funding for accessibility improvements; Create schedule for implementation of accessibility improvements.	Recreation	Disability Commission DPW	Staff time Consultant	2019-2022	Town budget PARC

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 2: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES TO MEET DEMONSTRATED NEED					
Improve communication by providing easy-to-use methods including web site and mobile apps to report maintenance issues.	IT/GIS	Recreation DPW	NA	2019-2021	Town budget
Add lighting to an existing field (e.g. Thurston).	Recreation	DPW	NA	2019-2020	Town budget User fees
Expand Wentworth Hall to accommodate recreational programs currently operating in the Islington Community Center.	DCED	Planning Recreation Youth & Family Services DPW	NA	2019-2021	Mitigation fee

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 3: IDENTIFY PROPERTIES WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE UNMET RECREATIONAL NEEDS.					
Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs:	Recreation	DCED Planning DPW	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed;	Recreation	COA Youth Sports Orgs DCED	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use: Consider possible locations including the former First Parish property, a former school site (should an existing school go off line), or other potentially available sites;	Board of Selectmen <u>Selectmen Select Board</u>	DCED Recreation DPW School Dept. Planning	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify privately-owned property which could be acquired and developed for recreational use: Consider possible locations including Westwood Lodge or other potentially available sites.	Board of Selectmen <u>Selectmen Select Board</u>	DCED Recreation DPW Planning	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify means of replacing any indoor basketball courts that are eliminated following school consolidation, either within new consolidated school facility or in separate community recreational facility.	Board of Selectmen <u>Selectmen Select Board</u>	School Dept. Recreation DPW DCED Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 4: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING					
<p>Evaluate feasibility of developing a new Indoor Recreation Community Center with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Administrative – offices; welcome/registration areas;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Programming space – classrooms, multipurpose functional space, kitchen, fitness center, etc.;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Gym space – one or more full size regulation basketball courts.</p>	<p>Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u></p>	<p>DCED Recreation DPW Planning Building</p>	<p>Consultant</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>	<p>Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u> DCED DPW Planning</p>	<p>Consultant</p>	<p>2019-2024</p>	<p>Town budget</p>
<p>Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment for an indoor recreational facility.</p>	<p>Finance</p>	<p>Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u> Recreation DCED DPW</p>	<p>Consultant</p>	<p>2019-2024</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>If feasible, design and develop a new Indoor Recreation Community Center.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>	<p>BOS DCED DPW Planning Building</p>	<p>Architectural firm</p>	<p>2019-2024</p>	<p>TBD</p>

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 5: DEVELOP NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES					
Evaluate feasibility of developing one or more new multipurpose fields.	Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u>	Recreation DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget
<p>Select one or more parcels from those properties identified in Goal 3 that are best suited for multipurpose field use:</p> <p>Consider environmental concerns, parking, and other issues related to multipurpose field development;</p> <p>Consider potential for field lighting;</p> <p>Consider additional open space/recreational uses that be accommodated on the same parcel(s).</p>	Recreation	Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u> DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create one or more new multipurpose fields.	Finance	Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u> Recreation DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2024	CPA Town budget <u>or CPA (if adopted)</u>
If feasible, design and develop at least one additional multi-use field.	Recreation	Board of Selectmen <u>Select Board</u> DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 6: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR SKATING FACILITY					
Evaluate feasibility of establishing an indoor ice skating facility.	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> <u>Board</u>	Recreation DCED DPW Planning Building	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
Initiate contact with Norwood to determine feasibility of participating in its rink project, and/or other abutting towns about a regional rink;	Recreation	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> <u>Board</u> DCED	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget
Identify funding mechanisms for development and operation of an indoor ice skating facility: Research public – private partnerships to fund this initiative Seek out revenue generating opportunities that would enable the rink to cover some/all of its capital and/or operating costs	Finance	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> <u>Board</u> Recreation DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
If a decision is made to pursue development of an in-town rink, select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 which is best suited for an indoor ice skating facility.	Recreation	<u>Board of Selectmen</u> <u>Board</u> DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

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ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 6: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR SKATING FACILITY					
Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create an indoor ice skating facility.	Finance	Board of Selectmen Board Recreation DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
If feasible, design and develop an indoor ice skating facility.	Recreation	Board of Selectmen Board DCED DPW Planning Building	Architectural firm	2019-2024	TBD

Map 9 – Action Plan Map to be added here

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Section 10: Public Comments

| Letters from MAPC, ~~Board of Selectmen~~Select Board and Planning Board are required here. Letters are also desirable from Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission at a minimum.

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Section 11: References

To be added

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Appendix

To be added. Will include ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, Summary of Survey Results and Summary of Community Workshop.

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