

WESTWOOD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



**Prepared for the Westwood Planning Board
By the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**

Adopted by the Planning Board on December 15, 2020

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Town Departments and Other Entities

The Committee is grateful for the helpfulness of the following community members, Town department heads and members of their staffs, who were interviewed on more than one occasion and who provided valuable resources, information, and data in the preparation of this Plan:

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Planning Board Liaisons 2018-2020

The members of the Planning Board participated by serving as liaisons to specific sections of the Plan. Past member Michael McCusker and then current member William Delay served as the liaison on the Housing and Natural and Cultural Resources sections; Brian Gorman as liaison to Transportation and Open Space; Deborah Conant for Community Facilities and Town Centers; Christopher Pfaff for Economic Development and Land Use; David Atkins for Sustainability and Resiliency and Implementation. Robert Gotti joined the Planning Board in June 2020 and participated in the final public hearing presentations and review.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

In summer 2018, the Planning Board began discussing initial recommendations on how to update the current Comprehensive Plan last adopted in 2000. A full description of the all the public meetings, events, and detailed public participation summary is available in the appendix.

Summer 2018

Conception – The Planning Board created a Steering Committee Work Plan and developed a Committee Member Description of Duties and a Committee Application. The Board solicited volunteers at the annual Westwood Day event on September 29, 2018, as well as through the Community Connection Newsletter and a mailing to all residences. The Board also, created a webpage www.bit.do/WWComprehensiveplan.

November 5, 2018

Establishment – The Select Board established a resident steering committee. Members were assigned responsibility for specific subject area plan elements with one or two members per plan element. [Video](#)

November 19, 2018

Kick Off Meeting – The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee convened for a kick-off meeting. The agenda for this meeting, and all subsequent meetings of the Committee were posted on the Town website, with the Town Clerk, and sent to residents through the Town's e-notification system. All Committee meetings were recorded by Westwood Media Center and posted to the WMC YouTube channel. Minutes were made available on the Committee's webpage. The Committee decided to hire a public engagement consultant for the community visioning session. [Video](#).

Spring 2019

Survey – The community survey was distributed from March 20, 2019 through April 17, 2019 and received 811 total responses. Survey Monkey was selected as the survey platform and hard copies were made available at the senior center, Town Hall, both libraries, and Carby Municipal offices. The primary goal of the survey was to

reach as many residents as possible to solicit input on priority areas of focus for the Plan Update. Survey responses were anonymous but participants were given an option to voluntarily provide an email address in order to receive further notifications about the Plan's Update. Over 400 respondents provided email addresses.

May 18, 2019

Vision Session - The Committee hosted a community visioning session at the Thurston Middle School cafeteria on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Participants were offered lunch, transportation, and supervised activities for children. The event was publicized through numerous sources, including flyers, community newsletters, local access cable TV announcements, phone calls, and social media postings. The community visioning session attracted 61 residents. The complete list of questions and details of this event are provided in the Appendix in the Vision Session Summary. The event was filmed by Westwood Media Center and a full report with preliminary visioning ideas was provided and distributed in June 2019. [Video](#).

Fall/Winter 2019

First Draft Reviews - A first draft of each subject element was prepared by Committee members with participation by Planning Board liaisons. These first drafts were then posted to the Town website and distributed to Planning Board members for review at scheduled public meetings. Links to these drafts were included in email notifications in advance of each Planning Board meeting. All meetings were televised live by Westwood Media Center and streamed on YouTube. The purpose was to prepare a first draft for initial feedback and direction by the Planning Board and interested members of the public. All meetings to review these initial draft elements were held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning on October 22, 2019 and continuing through January 7, 2020.

February 2020

Open House - The Committee hosted two open houses, with informal office hour format, to allow residents to speak directly with Committee members about what they wished to see addressed in the Plan Update. Open houses were held on Monday, February 10, 2020 from 12:00-3:00 pm at the Council on Aging, and on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Library.

November 2020

Letters of Support - The Select Board, Recreation Commission, Housing Partnership, Council on Aging, Board of Library Trustees, Commission on Disability, Westwood Environmental Action Committee, Conservation Commission, and Pedestrian & Bicycle

Safety Committee each provided letters of support for the Plan Update. Copies of each of these letters are provided in the Appendix

November 17, 2020

Public Hearing & Adoption – The Planning Board opened a public hearing on November 17, 2020, to discuss the draft 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The hearing was then further continued to December 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020. The public hearing notice was published in the *Transcript & Bulletin* on October 29, 2020 and November 5, 2020. The draft Plan was first made available on the Town website on October 23, 2020. Ultimately, the Planning Board closed the public hearing and voted to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan on December 15, 2020.

The Committee thanks all members of the community that participated in providing invaluable ideas and input for this plan, including everyone who took the time to take the survey, attend the Saturday community visioning session, attend the various Planning Board public meetings, and participate in the open houses. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan would not have been possible without community participation throughout the course of the Plan's development.



Authority and Purpose

A Comprehensive Plan is an analysis of the current conditions in a community, with a focus on town services and land uses, and a shared vision for future growth. In developing an update to the Comprehensive Plan, the Committee and Planning Board examines where the Town is as of today, and works with stakeholders to develop a vision with goals and strategies to guide the Town through the next decade. A Comprehensive Plan is not a regulatory mandate of things that must be done, but rather a blueprint of what could be done to achieve that shared vision. It is developed without consideration of resource requirements or fiscal limitations. It is a forward looking document that captures the vision of the community and describes how the Town might best continue to evolve. The document serves as a guide for the community on how to achieve the vision laid out in the Plan. Town officials, decision makers, businesses, and residents should consider the vision and goals laid out in the Plan when crafting polices, goals, and bylaws that will shape the town over the next decade.

Westwood adopted its most recent Comprehensive Plan in 2000. The Planning Board committed to updating this plan beginning in summer 2018. State law, M.G.L. c. 41, §81D, gives the Planning Board lead responsibility for developing a Comprehensive Plan. The effort for an update involves contributions from a number of boards, committees, departments, private entities, citizens, and local institutions. This Comprehensive Plan Update is a product of a wide range of public participation that has occurred over the past two and a half years.

The Plan is organized in nine topic elements:

- Land Use.
- Natural and Cultural Resources.
- Open Space and Recreation.
- Community Facilities.
- Transportation.
- Economic Development.
- Town Centers.
- Housing.
- Resiliency and Sustainability.

Each element begins with a snapshot of that subject area followed by goals and objectives, a strategic approach, and potential action steps. A matrix assigning responsibility and general timelines for initiating action is provided at the end of the document. Committee members were assigned specific subject areas and asked to take the lead on drafting particular elements, however, all Committee members participated in the full Plan Update process. Similarly, Planning Board members served as liaisons for specific plan elements, but also participated in the review of each section of the complete Plan Update.

The COVID-19 Pandemic began when the Committee and Planning Board were well along in the process of updating the Plan, and was still ongoing when the Plan was approved. The Pandemic

staggered the economy and dramatically disrupted life, altering how we live, work, play, and move around. Households, businesses, non-profits and governmental organizations have all been impacted and forced to adapt to changing circumstances.

It is impossible at this time to predict the full impact and long term effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the community and the world. Some short-term adaptations, such as expanding outside dining and relying more heavily on online services, may have continuing value. Other impacts may prove persistent and require new approaches that have yet to be envisioned. It is thus conceivable that the Town and Planning Board will want to revisit this Plan sooner than originally anticipated, to reconsider some of the Plan's assumptions, planning objectives, and priorities in light of the continuing effects of the Pandemic. We have already seen the wisdom of many of our long term goals, which are among the measures widely espoused to increase resiliency to future public health crises: ample and accessible open space, retail serving local needs in town centers, encouraging options for alternative transportations, and supporting high-quality government services. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee believes the shared vision, goals and implementing actions expressed in this Plan will not change significantly after the coronavirus pandemic subsides and society returns to pre-COVID behaviors.

Vision Summary

Westwood envisions a vibrant, welcoming environment that encourages diverse options for living and working and provides plentiful opportunities for safe social interactions between community members. Major themes include the continued provision of high quality public services; preservation of our natural resources, open spaces, and scenic/historical sites; increased opportunities for inclusive and affordable housing options; thriving business districts; and meaningful progress in the use of renewable energy to reduce CO2 emissions and combat climate change. There is a community-wide desire to maintain and strengthen the welcoming charm that makes Westwood an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family, through thoughtful contextually and sensitive building design, with attractive streetscapes and gateways, and pedestrian-oriented, bicycle friendly, tree-lined streets. Westwood strives to achieve this vision through a cohesive collaborative public process that will aid in fostering a sense of community.

Zoning Accomplishment Summary

Consistent with the vision and goals laid out in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, Westwood has accomplished many of the recommended actions. Some highlights include the establishment of a Land Trust that has preserved over 200 acres of open space; the creation of new affordable housing units in excess of the state's minimum requirements; the achievement of greater variety in housing types, to include apartments, condominiums, and senior living residences; the mixed-use redevelopment of University Station; substantial improvements in Islington Center; the construction of new municipal buildings, including the Westwood Library, Islington Fire Station, and Police Headquarters; various park improvements; and several zoning changes that encouraged many of these beneficial redevelopment.

As recommended by the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, Westwood made substantial zoning amendments that directly guided desirable redevelopment. The Upper Story Residential Overlay District (USROD) zoning was established over a small area of the High Street Town Center, which led to the successful historic rehabilitation and redevelopment of the former Colburn School to include ground floor retail space and six upper levels. The residences were initially developed as apartments, but have recently been successfully converted to condominiums.

Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) zoning was adopted beginning in 2011, to encourage revitalizations of several commercial areas, including Westwood's two town centers. In the Islington FMUOD, 12 new apartments were created above two commercial storefronts in 2017, and a new mixed-use building with 18 condominiums above 14,000 square feet of commercial space is planned for construction in 2021 as part of the multi-phased redevelopment of Islington Center.

The University Avenue Mixed-use Overlay District (UAMUD) zoning was adopted in 2013 to encourage the mixed-use redevelopment of an underutilized and declining former light industrial area along University Avenue. This resulted in what is now University Station – a thriving complex of nearly two million square feet of retail, office, and residential development, including 350 apartments and 100 condominium units, all within a short walk of the Route 128 Commuter Rail Station, located at the intersection of Routes I-95 and I-93.

The town also adopted an Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) bylaw. The OSRD zoning provides a small density bonus for development proposals which include the construction of moderate and affordable housing units or for the preservation of historical structures. The OSRD bylaw also offers a larger density bonus for the development of age-restricted homes. The OSRD bylaw was recently applied in the redevelopment of the former Westwood Lodge property, which was approved in April 2019. That project will result in the conversion of the non-conforming 20-acre hospital property into 40 age-restricted townhouse duplexes, 5 single-family homes, and a 5-bedroom group home for developmentally disabled adults.

In 2016, the Town adopted zoning amendments to require that all residential special permit proposals for more than eight units of new housing are subject to inclusionary requirements. This requires a developer to provide the equivalent of 15% of the total number of proposed dwelling units affordable dwelling units eligible for listing on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI).

A series of revisions to the Zoning Bylaw were adopted in 2017 to decrease the number of tear-downs and over-sized reconstructions in neighborhoods with small lot sizes. Under the current bylaw, it is now more difficult for non-conforming structures to increase their non-conformities, thereby encouraging the preservation of existing more-moderately priced homes.

A special permit process allows for a single-family home constructed prior to 1938 to be converted into a two-family home, provided that the single-family appearance is maintained. This option is limited to no more than 1% of the total number of one-family and two-family homes in Westwood. Another special permit option allows for single-family homes within the General Residence (GR)

district to be converted to two-family homes if the property exceeds the minimum lot size requirement by at least 4,000 square feet.

Accessory apartments are allowed through a special permit process with size and appearance restrictions intended to maintain the property's single-family integrity.¹ In 2017 the total number of accessory apartments allowed was raised from 1% to 2% of one-family and two-family homes in Westwood, after the original cap was reached. There are currently 55 accessory apartments scattered throughout town.

ENDNOTES

¹ The floor area of the Accessory Apartment shall not exceed the lesser of nine hundred (900) square feet, or thirty-three percent (33%) of the floor area of the combined dwelling or dwellings if the footprint of the principal dwelling remains unchanged, or twenty-four percent (24%) of the floor area of the combined dwelling if the footprint of the principal dwelling is enlarged (Zoning Bylaw, Section 8.5.6.3).



University Station



Islington Center

LAND USE

BACKGROUND

Westwood's land use pattern is fully established, with over 80 percent of the Town's 7,155-acre land area now committed through development or preservation. This condition, characteristic of a mature suburb, will continue to influence the community's future development. Since most of the land is either developed or protected from development, any significant growth is possible only through intensification of existing developed areas, or new development of unprotected open land. As of 2020, 11 percent of Westwood's current open space is unprotected.

The Town's existing pattern of land use is the product of historical factors and past policy decisions. At the time the Town of Westwood was incorporated in 1897, the area that became Westwood was mostly outlying farms and a few mills alongside streams. After the turn of the century, Westwood experienced a migration of wealthy families from the city who purchased the large farms in the northern and eastern portions of the town for seasonal or year-round homes. Around the same time, street railways were built along High and Washington Streets which gave rise to small-scale commercial development along the routes and attracted newcomers to settle. Following World War I, the automobile displaced the railways and the Town experienced its first wave of residential subdivisions in the areas of Nahatan/Pond Streets, north of Buckmaster Pond, and Windsor/Hampton Roads. A second larger wave of suburbanization began after World War II and continued for decades. The 1949 rezoning of property near the Route 128 railroad station for light industrial and business uses eventually yielded the Westwood Industrial Park in the 1960s.

This history is imprinted on today's land use pattern. Commercial development, civic institutions, and higher density residential development cluster along the radial corridors of High and Washington Streets, while land along Route 1 and the Providence commuter rail line support regional-scale business. The early estate areas still exhibit the lowest residential densities and largest tracts of undeveloped land, and the densities of the remaining predominantly single-family residential neighborhoods reflect the zoning policies in place when they were developed.

Table 1: Westwood Land Use - 2019

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentage
Commercial	211	3.0
Community ¹	238	3.3
Industrial	85	1.2
Institutional ²	31	0.4
Mixed Use	137	1.9
Open Space	1,802	25.2
Residential Single Family	4,015	56.1
Residential Two Family	35	0.5
Residential 3+ Units	140	2.0
Roads	461	6.4
Total	7,155	100

Source: land use figures and percentages were calculated using Town GIS and the Westwood, MA Online Assessment Database for Fiscal Year 2019. The full parcel is assigned only one specific land use.

¹ Community: schools and municipal facilities

² Institutional: churches and American Legion Hall

Of the Town's 11 square miles, 59 percent is residential (55 percent is single-family residential, and the remainder is two, three-family, or multi-family residential). Over the past two decades, the Town has averaged about 11 additional single-family homes per year (see Table 2, Housing). Most of these, along with the new homes replacing teardowns, have not altered land use patterns though there is some modification of neighborhood character. The Town's Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) bylaw has been effective in shaping new residential developments to preserve open space, protect environmental quality, and respond to the housing needs of the community. The most significant growth and diversification of the Town's housing stock has occurred with the mixed-use redevelopment of commercial properties at University Station and in Islington Center.

Under current zoning, future single-family residential development will continue to involve small subdivisions, additional houses on scattered parcels, and redevelopment of existing residential properties. There is also potential for multi-family dwellings in mixed-use developments within the four FMUOD overlay districts that permit housing described earlier in the Westwood Accomplishments sections and shown on the official zoning map.

The percentage of land in commercial and industrial use has remained stable (under 5 percent of Westwood's total land area), but there has been appreciable redevelopment of that land to upgrade and expand commercial square footage and value, provide public amenities, and generate significant new tax revenue. This was a result of the Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD)

zoning being applied to many of Westwood's commercial and industrial districts. Most notable are University Station's nearly two million square foot transit-oriented mixed-use development, and the revitalization of the commercial and civic uses in Islington Center. Essential considerations for any redevelopment in the town centers are the size, scope, appearance, and type of business activities, as well as compatibility with adjacent residential neighborhoods.

After residential, the second highest percentage of land use is open space at about 25 percent of the total land area. This includes public and private land, both protected and unprotected. Hale, a private nonprofit organization, holds the largest tracts of unprotected open space amounting to 7.3 percent of the Town's land area. Another 100 acres with little or no protection is held by Norfolk Golf Club and by Dedham Country and Polo Club, which are private golf courses. The Town owns 750.5 acres, consisting of 43 parcels totaling 558 acres under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, four parcels with 73 acres under the control of the Select Board, and 13 properties totaling 120 acres dedicated to public recreation and educational uses managed by the School Committee or Recreation Commission. All unprotected land, whether public or privately held, can potentially be developed or changed to another use.

Massachusetts adopted the current zoning enabling act, M.G.L. Chapter 40A (known as the Zoning Act), outlining state wide zoning procedures in 1975. There have been various forms of legislation over the last decade to comprehensively update municipal land use practices to meet present demands, but none have yet come to fruition.

The predominant concerns regarding land use expressed by the public in the survey and visioning session include: maintaining a small town community character, especially in the town centers; preservation of natural resources and open space; expanding housing options; community cohesion; and fiscal stability.

Some elements of protecting community character are to manage the nature and appearance of the High Street, and Islington commercial districts; and protecting the Sandy Valley/Purgatory Brook and Noanet corridors. The character of the Town also depends upon social and economic qualities that land use may affect. For example, it is important to the character of the Town that current residents will still find appropriate housing here as they age, and that their children will have opportunities to live here, as well.

Every natural feature in the Town not already protected by ownership or control is a potential for development. Protection can be gained by open space acquisition, by conservation restrictions, or by shaping the development in the planning stage to provide protection, such as through Open Space Residential Development zoning. The 2000 Plan set as a modest objective preserving an average of 35 acres per year over the subsequent decade, bringing protected open land to at least 1,600 acres, and likely resulting in an approximately stable population. Between 2000 and 2018, Westwood Land Trust preserved an average of about 12 acres per year by securing conservation restrictions exclusively with private donations. Another 25 acres were preserved through conditions of approval on residential development projects.

Fiscal stability requires continuing to support economic development and doing so in ways that are not damaging to the basic residential qualities of the community. In 2019, commercial properties represented 16 percent of the Town's assessed valuations and 27 percent of total property taxes paid. The Town should continue to strengthen the commercial tax base to at least maintain this level of fiscal contribution and vitality from the commercial sector. This plan recommends this by calling for not expanding the geographic extent of existing commercial areas, but improving and

intensifying uses, while continuing protection of open space by relying on OSRD and FMUOD and other review standards to preserve as much open space and other desirable attributes as possible.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1:** Strengthen the design and quality of the pedestrian-oriented Villages, increase connectivity through pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and micro transit alternatives such as shuttles and ride-sharing, while maintaining the sound character of the Town, both business or residential.
- Objective 2:** Guide residential development to protect open space, serve diverse social needs, respect resource protection, and have visual compatibility with the character of Westwood.
- Objective 3:** Promote business development consistent with the overall objective of protecting residential quality of life.
- Objective 4:** Protect key open space resources through acquisition, conservation restrictions, and regulatory protection.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The major land use patterns of the Town are essentially committed by existing use and infrastructure patterns and reinforced by land use policies and regulations. Requiring additional attention, however, are the smaller-scale characteristics of development: not just what gets developed or how much gets developed, but also the specific qualities of that development, and how those smaller-scale characteristics reflect the preferences and interests of the Town. These actions are critical to success.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The order in which these actions are listed is not meant to signify priority but are arranged under subject categories.

General:

- L1. Foster a greater sense of community by connecting Westwood's commercial centers, schools and other institutions, open space resources, and recreation facilities through new or improved community gathering places, walking paths, bike paths, trails, and shuttle services.
- L2. Support legislation to reform the state's zoning, planning, and permitting laws (M.G.L. 40A the Zoning Act) to provide the Town with additional tools to pursue local objectives and better planning.
- L3. Repurpose municipally owned property, when available, to advance the Plan's objectives for town centers, housing, renewable energy, and/or open space and recreation.
- L4. Develop policies and criteria for preservation of the character of the Town's residential neighborhoods and commercial centers.

To promote quality of residential development and diversity of housing opportunities:

- L5. Continue to prioritize use of flexible density-based residential controls with performance-based incentives, as contained in the Open Space Residential Development and Flexible Mixed Use Overlay District provisions of the Zoning Bylaw, giving the Town a stronger voice in siting, environmental protection, and housing choice.
- L6. Conduct a review of past OSRD projects to explore whether the process and outcomes could be improved through bylaw or regulation revisions.
- L7. Explore options for greater diversity in housing by considering potential locations for "cottage communities," small lot elderly housing, and/or small-scale multi-family housing, with creative design to complement, rather than detract from, existing neighborhoods.
- L8. Explore incentives and regulatory provisions to preserve and expand the stock of starter homes and moderately priced housing.

To support viable, sustainable, and compatible business development:

- L9. Strengthen the town's civic/commercial centers by promoting pedestrian-friendly, compact, mixed-use redevelopment, coherent community-oriented design, and featuring social gathering spaces.
- L10. Work with commercial property owners in the town centers to continually upgrade properties to maintain and attract local retail, restaurants, and services benefiting the community.
- L11. Formalize the Planning Board design review process by establishing standards for architecture, building orientation, materials, and site design to achieve attractive and compatible commercial buildings, particularly for the desired village and pedestrian business areas on High and Washington Streets.
- L12. Foster mixed-use redevelopment in the Glacier/Everett Business District area, encouraging a compatible integration of office, industrial, retail, and residential uses.

To protect key resources:

- L13. Continue to include support for open space acquisition and protection as part of the Town's long-range financial planning.
- L14. Continue to identify open space, scenic, cultural, and natural features that are of special significance to the community and set priorities for acquisition or protection.

RESOURCES

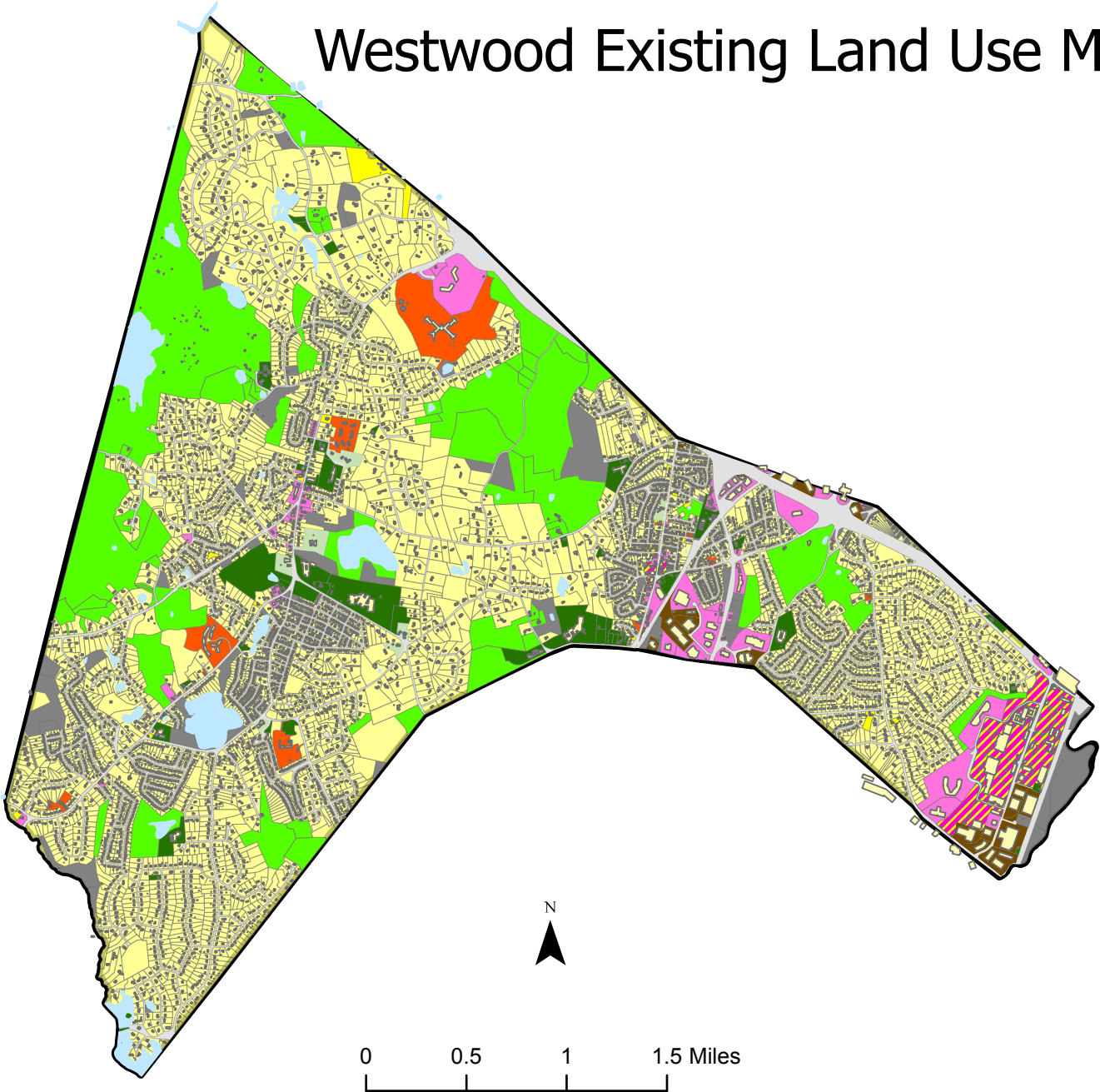
Westwood Open Space and Recreation Plan, Adopted by the Planning Board on February 26, 2019.

Fenerty, Marjory R. 1972. West Dedham and Westwood: 300 Years.

Westwood Annual Town Reports, 2000-2018.

Westwood Official Zoning Map, Amended May 2018.

Westwood Existing Land Use Map



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Commercial | Residential - Single Family |
| Community Facility (Schools/Municipal) | Residential - 2 Units |
| Industrial | Residential - 3 or more Units |
| Institutional (Religious and Other Non-Profit Institutions) | Vacant Land or Undeveloped |
| Mixed Use (Commercial & Residential Categories) | ROW |
| Open Space and Private Recreation (Protected & Unprotected) | bldgs |



Islington Center



Historic Colburn School on High St.

TOWN CENTERS

BACKGROUND

The existing village centers on High Street and Washington Street are critical elements in the Town's overall planning approach. The centers are vitally important in conveying the image of the community. The Town has limited means for guiding the character and development of private property, but has the ability to support the revitalization of the Town centers with investments in public facilities and infrastructure. Additional means include innovative regulatory tools, economic development incentives, coordination with property owners, and targeted outreach to current and prospective businesses.

Both corridors along Routes 109 and 1A have numerous, dispersed, and mostly small-scale commercial development and municipal facilities, with properties between and behind them containing predominantly single-family homes. These roads are commuter routes, with significant traffic congestion interfering with vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian movement along and across these corridors. Also, the distance between the corridors, the Town's limited east-west road connections, and the lack of a sidewalk along the primary connector, Gay Street, combine to create a distinct separation between Westwood's two town centers. A similar separation exists between the Route 1 highway business area and the University Station mixed-use area.

Over the last decade, small and specialty retailers and other local businesses have been greatly affected by a significant increase in online shopping. A shift towards entertainment and social gathering spaces, including food establishments and similar destinations that involve social interaction, is desired by residents and needed to maintain the vitality of local commercial centers. Niche retailing, specialty stores, coffee shops, gathering space, restaurants and similar destinations that provide opportunities for interaction between residents were emphasized in responses to the survey and discussed in the community visioning session.

Almost half (47%) of the survey respondents reported that Westwood's small-town character is among their favorite things about living in Westwood. Through the survey, visioning session, and Comprehensive Plan Open Houses, the Committee received strong support for additional dining options, greater variety of business types, increased opportunities for outdoor dining, and improvements to the aesthetics in these local business villages. Increasing the variety of businesses in each Town center might strengthen the local business districts by attracting more foot traffic. Depending on a property's location and zoning designation, Westwood's Zoning Bylaw permits outdoor seating at restaurants with written approval from the Building Commissioner and/or Planning Board review and approval. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Westwood's Select Board and

the state have adopted temporary expedited reviews and licensing changes to accommodate a greater degree of outdoor dining, including seating within converted parking spaces.

At the community visioning session, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee asked residents to identify their favorite places. Responses noted areas in the Town centers such as the School Street Playground, Libraries, the Council on Aging, and tree-lined High Street. The Town centers contain a majority of Town facilities including the Town Hall, Police Headquarters, two fire stations, two libraries, recreation areas such as Morrison Park and the School Street Playground, the multipurpose fields and track at the high school, and the Town Cemetery (see the Community Facilities and Services Element for a discussion of the challenges they present).

Zoning is the primary tool for shaping beneficial redevelopment of the Town centers. To encourage revitalization of the two Town centers, the Planning Board initiated several changes to the Zoning Bylaw over the past decade. Zoning requirements for the Local Business Districts encourage the placement of buildings close to the street while pushing parking spaces to the rear or sides of buildings. They limit retail sales and service uses to be no larger than 10,000 sq. ft. (except grocery stores) to encourage more desirable small-scale retail establishments, and exclude incompatible business uses such as car washes and motor vehicle sales facilities.

Most significant among recent zoning changes was the introduction of Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) zoning. FMUOD districts were drawn to overlay many of the commercial properties in the two centers, with bylaw provisions that provide incentives for redevelopment. These FMUOD overlay districts promote a mix of uses and establish dimensional controls to ensure cohesive and compact development at an appropriate "village center" scale. They allow residential uses above commercial storefronts, while imposing a 50% cap on residential floor area as a portion of any single development.

The FMUOD zoning has successfully attracted two mixed-use redevelopments in Islington Center, replacing previously underutilized and deteriorating commercial and institutional properties with attractive new buildings and a mix of commercial, municipal, and residential space. The two Islington Center Redevelopment Projects will result in thirty new downtown residences, improving the Town's desired mix of housing options and providing a needed supply of consumers to support the local business establishments. Together, these two new mixed-use developments add 14 units to Westwood's count on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI), thus assisting the Town in its efforts to maintain the minimum number of affordable housing units required under M.G.L Chapter 40B and thereby preserving local control over development.

In 2011, the Upper Story Residential Overlay District (USROD) zoning was adopted to overlay a few parcels on High Street. This allowed for the mixed-use redevelopment and restoration of the historic Colburn School with a first floor retail space and a total of six residences on the second and third floors. The USROD is an overlay district applying only to Town-owned properties, allowing for a collaborative process between the Town and private entities for the relocation and redevelopment of the historic former school building, providing space for the construction of a new library where the Colburn School building had been previously.

As other communities have done successfully, the Town uses a planning approach that employs site design to connect Westwood by establishing pedestrian-oriented villages, fostering social gathering spaces, and guiding construction that reflects a small-town village atmosphere. This encourages independent businesses and centers that respect the surrounding established suburban character (see "Land Use Element"). The results of the survey show that residents desire village centers that serve

as primary gathering spaces for people to mingle at community, civic, shopping, social, and sporting events, whether occurring at Morrison Park in Islington, or at independent businesses such as cafes, restaurants, or niche retail, all within a walkable pedestrian-centered environment.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following objectives guide the actions needed to realize the type and quality of the Town centers that residents desire to achieve:

- Objective 1:** Continue to balance the needs of residents and businesses while creating more vibrant and active Town centers with a diverse range of offerings.
- Objective 2:** Create an improved image for Westwood through its Town centers.
- Objective 3:** Enhance the small-town community character with attractive buildings, streetscapes, greenery, and amenities conducive to multi-generational gatherings.
- Objective 4:** Continue to prioritize the pedestrian experience by fostering walkable and intimate village centers to serve all residents and visitors.
- Objective 5:** Encourage additional developed areas like University Station to be considered village centers.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The strategic approach of this Plan is to carefully design actions in line with the stated desires of the community and its priority concerns as expressed by residents in the survey responses and visioning session discussions. These actions and improvements will advance and enhance the high quality of the Town centers in their economic and fiscal vitality, community character, community cohesion, and appealing physical character. They will enable the centers to each continue to serve as a welcoming community destination for residents of all ages.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not formerly prioritized, but are organized under topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives.

- TC1. Consider expanding the FMUOD and USROD on High Street to include additional business properties currently in the LBA Local Business District but not included in the overlay districts, in order to provide options for upper-story housing and flexible reuse.
- TC2. Collaborate with the Select Board if the Deerfield school becomes available following the construction of the new Hanlon-Deerfield Elementary School. The newly available open space could serve as a town green and community gathering place.
- TC3. Encourage property and business owners to make storefront and signage enhancements, façade restorations, more attractive window treatments and storefront displays, projecting signs, and other enhancements geared towards pedestrians and attracting customers. Explore funding opportunities to support these upgrades.

- TC4. Promote community cohesion by encouraging public, cultural, and civic events and activities in the Town centers. Work with the Neponset River Regional Chamber to promote local businesses, advocate for business needs, and organize merchants and activities.
- TC5. Encourage additional outdoor seating and street features such as benches; trash and recycling receptacles, bike racks, artwork, drinking water fountains, shade features, decorative lighting, and small gathering spaces wherever possible to allow for enhanced casual gatherings. Review and revise zoning and licensing procedures to ensure ample opportunities for sidewalk cafes.
- TC6. Apply universal design standards for all sidewalks, walkways, and crossings, to maintain a minimum six-foot clear passage for all pedestrian access.
- TC7. Establish a street tree replacement program and tree fund for the care of street trees, and create a list of recommended tree species best suited in village centers.
- TC8. Consider supplementing the existing Council on Aging bus with other ride-share and shuttle programs to bring people to and from the Town centers.
- TC9. Optimize zoning in Town centers to support community desires for first floor active uses that attract foot traffic such as coffee shops, cafes, sit-down restaurants, and entertainment uses, and to steer less active uses to upper stories or locations outside of the Town centers.
- TC10. Consider a process for the annual review of infrastructure, street furniture, and amenities in each of the Town centers.
- TC11. Improve pedestrian connections and biking options to the Town centers with enhanced sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting to provide safe access from surrounding neighborhoods and other business districts. Provide an accessible and safe walking path or sidewalk on Gay Street to connect the two Town centers.
- TC12. Consider formalizing the Planning Board design review process by establishing expanded standards for architecture, building orientation, materials, and site design to achieve the desired village and pedestrian centers.
- TC13. Encourage adjacent property owner collaboration to create more efficient site redevelopment, consistent with neighborhood aesthetics, by combining underutilized properties for redevelopment and shared parking.
- TC14. Encourage public art in business districts and Town gateway signage. Partner with local artists, and include public art and public amenity requirements in Town center project reviews.
- TC15. Incorporate public gathering areas, pocket parks, and seasonal outdoor amenities.
- TC16. Incorporate greenery such as trees, landscape islands, window boxes, raised planters, and green walls into public ways and commercial properties.
- TC17. Revise zoning to promote curb cut consolidation, improve vehicular traffic flow, and encourage shared parking, charging stations, and solar panels over parking spaces.

- TC18. Enhance the Town's public-private partnership with property owners and tenants in the Town centers. Continue to maintain an up-to-date contact list and meet with business owners to learn about their challenges and together identify opportunities for improvements.
- TC19. Improve regulations and local permitting to streamline the review and licensing process for desired businesses.



Gables Residential at University Station



Mixed Use Building, 323 Washington St.

HOUSING

BACKGROUND

Westwood is largely residential and is considered an “established suburb” by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). This term is applied to towns with predominantly single-family homes on moderately sized lots, inhabited by a relatively affluent population, and where there are limited amounts of vacant developable land, multi-family housing, and commercial development.

Existing housing in Westwood is mainly single-family dwellings with 4,608 out of 5,878 or 78.4% as single family and 1,229 dwellings in structures with two or more units. Eighty-five percent of households are owner-occupied.¹

Westwood’s residential land development patterns have continued with the construction of new single-family homes throughout Town on scattered vacant parcels, and with the subdivision of a few remaining larger parcels to create single-family house lots (Tables 2 and 3). The rate of new single-family home construction between 2000 and 2019 is approximately half that of the preceding two decades from 1980 to 1999.

Since 2000, 353 single family homes have been built in the town.² Notably, more than half of these are new homes built on lots where an existing house was demolished. As is seen in Table 2 for the years 2007 to 2018, 131 out of a total of 235 or 56% of building permits for single-family homes are the result of teardowns and reconstructions. Although these homes do not increase the number of housing units in town, they are generally larger than the homes they replaced, often on nonconforming lots, with the potential to influence neighborhood character and reduce the Town’s existing stock of more moderately priced housing.

Table 2: Building Permits for New Housing Units by Year³

Year	New single-family housing units	New single-family housing units replacing existing house	2 family	Units in buildings of 5+ units
2000	22	*		
2001	18	*		
2002	15	*		
2003	21	*		
2004	10	*		
2005	12	*		
2006	20	*		102
2007	1	9		
2008	6	7		
2009	3	9		
2010	9	3		
2011	7	13		
2012	4	6	2(4)	
2013	15	11		6
2014	12	15	2(4)	350
2015	12	19		
2016	6	14		
2017	10	10	1(2)	12
2018	19	15	1(2)	100
Totals	222	131*	12	570

* Data for new vs. replacement housing units was not broken out in the data source for years 2000-2006.

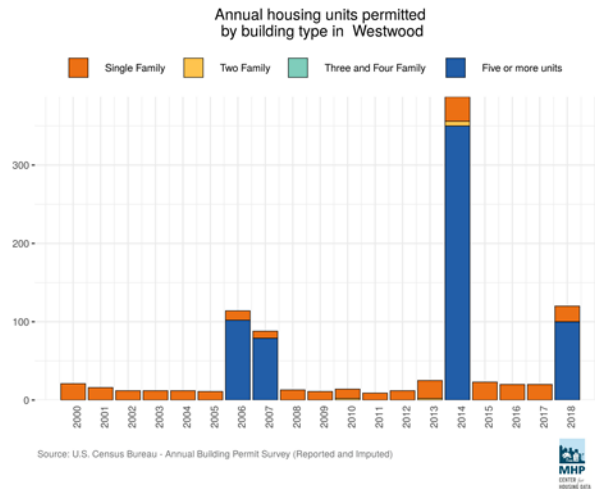


Figure 1: Annual housing units permitted by building type in Westwood
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Annual Building Permit Survey (Reported and imputed).

Table 3: New Subdivision & Multi-Family Housing Development Summary 2000-2019

New Housing Units by Type	Housing Type	Number of Units
Westwood Estates Subdivision, Hedgerow Lane. <i>Construction in progress</i>	Single Family	10
Far Reach Rd. OSRD Subdivision (<i>approved, construction anticipated 2021</i>)	Single Family	3
Morgan Farm Estates, off Dover Road. OSRD Subdivision	Single Family	10
Westview Estates, Thompson Ave.	Single Family	12
Fox Meadow Estates/FKA Captain's Crossing	Single Family	10
Phillip's Way	Single Family	5
Autumn Estates, Autumn Drive	Single Family	13
Powissett Estates	Single Family	10
Dover Road	Single Family	3
215 High Street	Single Family	1
600 Clapboardtree Street	Single Family	1
Currier Farms	Single Family	3
University Station, Gables Residential	Apartments	350
Westwood Place at University Station	Condos	100
Reynold's Farm Senior Residences, Town House Style	Single Family	12
321 Washington Street, Mixed Use Building	Apartments	12
288 Washington Street, Mixed Use Building <i>(approved, anticipated construction 2021)</i>	Condos	18
Clapboardtree Street (<i>40 age-restricted units, 6 single family, approved & construction started in 2020</i>)	6 Single Family 40 Duplex	46
Colburn School	Condos	6
Total:		625

As a result of Zoning Bylaw changes adopted to advance the housing and economic development goals of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, the number of multifamily units increased measurably. Prior to 2000, the Town had 731 units in buildings of 5+ units, almost all senior housing. Since then, 570 additional units have been constructed in buildings of five or more housing units, which represents 60 percent of the 947 new housing units constructed since 2000. These new multifamily units are concentrated in just a few buildings, mostly at University Station. These multifamily units were developed in response to needs identified by the community, diversifying the type, size, and cost of housing available in Westwood. These new units were all required by inclusionary housing provisions in the Zoning Bylaw, and these developments are key to maintaining the Town's desired percentage of affordable housing in excess of 10% of the total housing stock.

Westwood's total of 598 affordable units counted on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) represent 11.1% of all housing units, based on the Town's total of 5,389 year-round homes reported on the 2010 census.⁴ The Town currently exceeds the state standard under M.G.L. Chapter 40B. The total number of housing units will, of course, change upon release of the 2020 census and become the new "denominator" for determining the overall percentage of affordable units.

Westwood's affordable housing is a diverse portfolio offering 282 multi-family age-restricted units in Highland Glen, 69 rentals and 10 ownership units at University Station, 3 rental units in Islington Center, 38 single-family ownership homes in Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates, 11 Westwood Housing Authority rentals, and multiple group homes dispersed throughout Town serving residents with disabilities.

Housing options have also been expanded under Zoning Bylaw provisions which allow for the conversion of pre-1939 single-family homes to two-family homes, and for the creation of accessory housing units in single-family dwellings, both of which may be accomplished through a special permit process.

Policies and strategies for housing in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan promoted the use of various flexible regulatory techniques and incentives to diversify housing types and respond to the needs of seniors and those seeking below-market priced housing. New Zoning Bylaw provisions were then adopted to enable multifamily units as part of mixed-use developments, and to require a minimum percentage of affordable units in all new special permit projects. Other changes incentivize the construction of age-restricted and affordable housing units, allow upper-story residential units in designated portions of Town centers, and afford greater flexibility in subdivision design. Westwood's Zoning Bylaw now offers density incentives for desirable attributes, increases the opportunity for two-family housing and accessory units, and discourages the demolition of historic structures. The specifics of these zoning measures can be found in the Plan's Zoning Summary section.

Westwood is committed to fair housing principles and is diligent in maintaining its compliance with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40B. Westwood Town government has a Housing Agent, an active Fair Housing Committee known as the Housing Partnership, and an elected Housing Authority with broad statutory capacities. An independent, non-profit entity known as the Westwood Affordable Housing Associates, Inc. (WAHA) was created to foster affordable housing development. WAHA has helped create affordable housing rentals by acquiring and rehabilitating housing units throughout Westwood. WAHA currently manages a total of eleven units comprised of four duplexes and three single-family homes. Presently, the three single-family homes are not listed on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). Furthermore, in 2018, an Affordable Housing Account was established by Town Meeting and funded with \$1,000,000 to assist with affordable housing creation and preservation. Funds from this Affordable Housing Account were recently transferred to the Westwood Housing Authority for the use to secure two additional homes for renovation and reuse as affordable single-family rental units.

Westwood's median age increased by 4.7 years between 2000 and 2016, outpacing the general statewide population. The percentage of residents age 45 and over increased at a higher rate than the statewide demographic, with a noticeable decrease of people aged 20-39. A shortage of lower priced homes and an affordability gap created by the cost of newer construction may have contributed to this trend. In addition, seniors may be residing in their homes longer than expected for various reasons, including a shortage of modest "downsizing" homes at prices affordable to that demographic.

Westwood's population is less racially diverse than the statewide population, with 88% of the population identifying as white compared to 73% overall in Massachusetts.⁵ This, however, represents a 9% increase in diversity in Westwood since the 2000 census, when the population was 96% white. Westwood is also less racially diverse than the surrounding communities. Canton has 80% of the population identifying as white, while Dedham has 79%, Norwood 79%, Walpole 85%,

Needham 84%, and Dover 84%.⁶ When compared to the surrounding communities, the state, and across the nation, where 73% of the total population identifies as white, Westwood is significantly underrepresented with individuals that identify as Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, or multiracial. This is important to consider when evaluating the housing supply. This analysis identifies a weakness and an area for improvement in providing inclusive housing opportunities in Westwood’s existing housing stock.⁷

Westwood has experienced a significant increase in residential values. The median sales price for a single-family home in Westwood in 2019 was \$752,000 according to The Warren Group, an 88% increase over the 2000 median home price of \$399,500. Westwood’s housing stock is predominately owner-occupied at 86% of all housing. Renter-occupied is 14% of housing, well below the state’s average of 37%. For Westwood rental households, the median monthly rent is \$1,575 per month as of 2017, and over 45% of rental households pay monthly rents that exceed 30% of their gross monthly income.⁸ When a household spends more than 30% of its income on housing, that household is considered cost burdened. The median monthly housing cost for homes with mortgages is \$3,165 per month,⁹ and 30% have mortgage payments which exceed 30% of the households’ gross monthly income. The median annual household income in Westwood is \$145,799.¹⁰

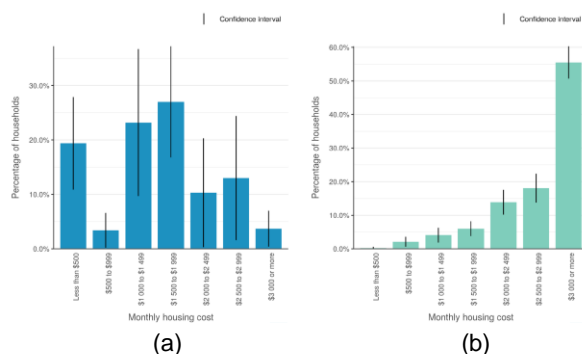


Figure 2: Monthly Housing Cost of Westwood:
(a) Renter Households. (b) Owner Households.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey. 2013-2017 5-year estimates.
 Table DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics.

Westwood’s housing inventory available for purchase has typically hovered between zero and one percent at any given time over the last several years. This extremely low inventory can create difficulty in securing housing at all income levels, presenting barriers for first time homebuyers.¹¹ According to Massachusetts Housing Partnership, a healthy vacancy rate of 2% is needed for housing supply to meet housing demand. Even homeowners not interested in moving can find themselves impacted by higher property valuation and taxation, potentially forcing some homeowners, such as those on a fixed income, to sell.

Input from the community on housing needs was provided through the survey, community visioning workshop, and open houses conducted for this Plan. A separate housing-specific survey and visioning session were also conducted a year earlier as part of the process for preparing the Town’s Housing Production Plan (HPP) adopted in 2019. Information and ideas gathered from both surveys and visioning sessions, and from the HPP, were helpful resources for setting goals for this Plan.

The community participation process revealed support for a range of housing options including moderately priced starter homes, affordable and low-income housing, and more opportunities to downsize to smaller housing types, including condominiums and age-restricted units. These options would provide opportunities for residents wanting to remain in Westwood as they age. The demolition of smaller homes and their replacement by larger houses, referred to as “teardowns,” was cited numerous times in both surveys as a contributing factor for first time homebuyers having difficulty entering the Westwood housing market. Forty-two percent of survey respondents ranked moderately priced housing as the most needed housing type. An additional 28% of survey respondents selected starter homes as a housing priority.¹²

Respondents to the 2018 HPP survey indicated strong support of single-family homes with 74% of respondents indicating there are not enough “starter homes” in Westwood today. A vast majority (71%) felt there were too many luxury single-family homes, and 40 to 50% felt there were not enough duplexes and three-family homes, condos, apartments, affordable homes, and senior housing units.¹³ Survey respondents also demonstrated strong support for accessory apartments and for a continued focus on affordable housing production.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The housing goals of this Plan reflect the goals of the 2019 Housing Production Plan and the Town’s desire to have more types of housing available for people in more types of situations. This includes young families, single heads of households, seniors, singles, persons with disabilities, and the local workforce.

Objective 1: Diversify the housing stock by increasing the availability of moderately priced homes, senior housing, rental units, condominiums and townhomes, and attached style housing.

Objective 2: Provide opportunities to increase the diversity of the community population.

Objective 3: Implement policies and regulations to provide more low- and moderate-income housing options.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Applicable boards should promote housing opportunities that respond to the needs expressed by the above goals and objectives by using the following strategic approaches. Westwood's Housing Production Plan also establishes clear goals and a proactive strategy for producing low- and moderate-income housing at a rate and in a manner that ensures it will be within the Town's control and compatible with community objectives.

Approach 1: Encourage private development of moderate and affordable housing through zoning incentives and cooperative negotiation with individual developers.

Approach 2: Seek to provide moderately priced housing particularly when redeveloping Town-owned land.

Approach 3: Provide educational outreach and encourage regular diversity training within local private entities such as real estate agents and local employers.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not in any prioritized order.

- H1. Revise the Zoning Bylaw to permit a greater range of housing types in all zoning districts and neighborhoods.
 - a. Identify, prioritize, and consider re-zoning Town-owned properties appropriate for moderately priced residences, should they become available.
 - b. Review the Town's experience with the accessory apartment bylaw for possible refinements including eliminating or increasing the 2% cap.
 - c. Conduct a review of the procedural and substantive effects of the changes made in 2017 to mitigate the impacts of teardowns in Section 4.5, Nonconforming Uses and Structures.
 - d. Consider expanding the area of the USROD or FMUOD overlay districts on High Street to cover additional commercial properties where redevelopment for mixed-use and upper story housing is desirable.
 - e. Consider increasing the density bonus in the OSRD to encourage moderate-income housing units, affordable housing, and historic preservation that increases the diversity of available housing in terms of size, density, cost, and especially accessibility to public transportation.
 - f. Explore the potential and mechanisms for smaller lot and smaller single- and two-family housing where it would be in context with surrounding "village or cottage style" environments.
 - g. Investigate amendments to encourage the preservation of smaller and more moderately priced homes.
- H2. Pursue implementation of the goals and recommendations contained in the 2019 Housing Production Plan, to further the Town's commitment to diversity and to continue to meet and exceed the statutory 10% standard of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, including an annual review of progress.
 - a. Explore innovative approaches to financing affordable housing, including use of the Town's Affordable Housing Fund to leverage lower interest rates and increase production of affordable or moderately priced housing and explore the possibility of setting up a separate Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
 - b. Investigate incentives and options to encourage affordable deed restrictions for accessory apartments or other less expensive residences.
 - c. Partner with developers, private property owners, and non-profit entities to produce moderately priced and affordable housing by working collaboratively with private entities, non-profits, and housing advocates.
 - d. Investigate additional methods to provide inclusionary affordable housing in development projects filed with the Planning Board under the Subdivision Control Law.

- H3. Establish policies and procedures to guide regulatory boards in their consideration of inclusionary affordable housing proposals for off-site units or other alternatives to meet the Town's needs and protect the privacy of residents.
- H4. Qualify the three affordable single-family homes owned by Westwood Affordable Housing Associates (WAHA) and all future WAHA properties for the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) through the efforts of the Westwood Housing Authority, WAHA, the Town's Housing Agent, and the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- H5. Provide Fair Housing and diversity training for various groups that directly and indirectly impact housing diversity including the Select Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board members. Encourage real estate agents, local businesses, and major employers to provide similar diversity training for their employees.
- H6. Strengthen the role of the Housing Partnership in community outreach and education, identification of unmet needs, and monitoring of affordable units for compliance with fair housing practices, and for placement on the Town's SHI.
- H7. Promote first-time homebuyer resources and provide technical assistance for first time homebuyers focusing on Westwood's under-represented population groups. Examine establishing a non-profit entity to provide financial assistance such as down payment and mortgage assistance to members of under-represented populations to create a more diverse and welcoming community.
- H8. Establish a Diversity Committee or Human Rights Committee to evaluate existing barriers and make recommendations to increase population diversity in Westwood.
- H9. Study the benefits of adopting the Community Preservation Act, which provides funding for historic preservation, open space protection, and affordable housing development.
- H10. Explore options to upgrade existing and future affordable housing through grants and funding programs to provide universal accessibility.
- H11. Encourage Town government, community groups, local businesses, and real estate agencies to collaborate on developing a program to provide material and information about the Town to welcome all new residents.
- H12. Support programs to encourage residents to make energy efficiency improvements to older dwellings and promote energy efficient alternatives for new construction to reduce carbon emissions and lower housing costs.
- H13. Identify creative ways to promote and supplement the Aid to the Elderly and Disability Tax Fund to assist with real estate tax costs.

Resources

U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010-2017

Comprehensive Plan Survey by Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Survey Monkey, April 2019.

Open Space and Recreation Plan, prepared by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Adopted by Planning Board February 26, 2019.

Town of Westwood Housing Production Plan, December 30, 2019, Adopted by Planning Board on November 19, 2019 with amendments; approved by DHCD on January 30, 2020, effective January 3, 2020.

Westwood Vision Session Report entitled “Westwood Comprehensive Plan, a Preliminary Vision, Goals and Objectives”, prepared for the Town of Westwood, Prepared by Community Circle with Barrett Planning Group, LLC, June 19, 2019.

Banker and Tradesman Warren Group, Year to Date from 2018 reported in 2019, Town of Westwood Assessing Records.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Massachusetts Community Types Classification System, July 2009.

Massachusetts Housing Partnership Center for Housing Data; Data Town Community Information.

ENDNOTES

¹ U.S. Census American Community Survey 2014-2018.

² New residential building permits, Building Official, Annual Town Reports, 2000-2018.

³ Annual Town Reports 2000-2018, Building Division Annual Reports.

⁴ The SHI was updated by DHCD on September 19, 2019. Periodic updates occur and this recent increase is due to the units at the Westwood Place condominiums at University Station.

⁵ U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS), Race & Ethnicity, 2012-2016.

⁶ U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS), Race & Ethnicity, 2012-2016.

⁷ U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS), Race & Ethnicity, 2012-2016.

⁸ Financial Characteristics 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census, American Fact Finder.

⁹ Financial Characteristics 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census, American Fact Finder.

¹⁰ Financial Characteristics 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census, American Fact Finder.

¹¹ U.S. Census American Community Survey, Housing Occupancy 2010-2017.

¹² Question 7 of the Town of Westwood Comprehensive Plan Community Survey, Survey Monkey, April 2019.

¹³ Housing Partnership Housing Survey, November 2018, Question 12.



Citizens, 200 Station Drive



Courtyard Marriott, University Station

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, Westwood has enjoyed a strong economy, a job rich environment, and a recent period of significant economic development activity with new businesses, services, restaurants, hotels, and housing. Commercial property, including industrial and mixed-use properties, comprises six percent of the 7,155 acres of land, but provides over 12,993 jobs and significant tax dollars for our Town budget.¹ Population has grown from approximately 14,618 in 2010 to an estimate of 16,127 in 2018 while the unemployment rate in Westwood was recorded at 2.6% vs. a state rate of 3.7% in 2017. The Town repeatedly sustains a significant balance in its Stabilization Fund, strong financials, excellent fiscal management, and healthy levels of cash. Standard and Poor's rating of Westwood is AAA with a stable outlook because of the Town's strong capacity to meet financial commitments, allowing the Town to borrow money easily and at low rates.

Westwood has several key attributes that have kept its economy strong. Westwood has easy access to employment centers like Boston and the high tech corridor and is located near the major highways of Interstate 95 and 93. It is convenient to Logan International Airport, commuter rail, and high speed rail service to New York City and Washington DC. Westwood has a desirable residential community, broad range of high-quality services, strong public education, and a positive quality of life that makes the Town an attractive place to live, work, and invest.

The Town's success over the past two decades in expanding and diversifying its commercial base contributed to the resiliency of the Town's economy during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Further, as businesses adapted operations in response to this crisis, the Town provided expeditious and flexible programs with temporary licensing modifications. The Town and business community is committed to working together to mitigate these economic challenges and minimize the financial and social impact to the community.

In 2014, Westwood established a Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) to improve efficiency of the various land use departments and to better assist existing and prospective businesses considering expansion or relocation in Westwood. This office supports projects that foster responsible economic growth while preserving Westwood's unique community character. DCED unified the Building, Planning, Health, Zoning, Conservation, Historical Preservation, Licensing, and Housing functions within a single department that supports community and economic development.

The Department of Community & Economic Development acts as the advocate for the interests of residential and commercial property owners. With this structure the Town realizes enhanced communication between departments, boards, and committees, and has been able to provide more efficient electronic permitting and improved government transparency through website enhancements, while implementing policies focused on economic development.

Zoning governs where particular land uses are permitted and prohibited, and thus is the Town's primary tool to guide growth. Zoning regulations and associated approval processes can be a major contributor to a Town's economic health and vitality. Over the last decade Westwood has evaluated all aspects of its Zoning Bylaw and made changes to achieve its economic development goals, most notably resulting in the University Station and Islington Center redevelopments. Zoning Bylaw amendments have included the creation of mixed-use and other overlay districts, along with new special permit options. Together these changes have incentivized redevelopment and provided a streamlined permitting approach. Flexible Multiple Use Overlay Districts (FMUODs) cover many of Westwood's commercial districts and allow additional zoning options for properties in those districts.

Other commercial properties, including several parcels along Route 1, have not yet benefited from redevelopment or substantial improvements, mainly because they remain zoned for residential use and their nonconforming zoning designations deter investment.

Importance of Economic Development for Westwood

1. Creates jobs for residents.
2. Provides convenient services for residents including restaurants, retailers, entertainment, and health care facilities.
3. Taxes on commercial properties and business services provide funds for education and broad Town services while also taking some of the tax burden off Westwood's residential homeowners. There are three significant ways commercial tax revenue is generated:
 - a. Commercial Property Tax – In FY 2019, commercial property values were 15.9% of the total tax base but commercial property owners paid 26.7% of property taxes. This is due to the commercial tax rate (\$28.24) being significantly higher than the residential tax rate (\$14.65). Over the 24-year span from 1991 to 2015, the share of commercial property value to total property value in Westwood dropped from 25% to a low of 12.5% in 2015. This decrease in commercial property value put more tax burden on residential property owners. The good news is that the percent of commercial value compared to total value has turned the corner. Since 2015, the commercial property value has increased from 12.5% to 15.9% in 2019. After a slight decrease to 14.9% in 2020, the commercial property value is expected to steadily increase as more commercial and mixed-use redevelopment adds value to the

commercial base. For FY 2019, commercial values alone increased by approximately \$79 million or 12%. That year it is estimated that residential homeowners saved an average of \$1,370 due to the split tax rate.

- b. Meal Tax – Revenue from the .75% added to the State tax on restaurant meals grew from just over \$56,000 in FY 2015 to approximately \$449,000 in FY 2019. Lower totals of Meals Tax revenue are projected for FY20 and FY21 due to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on restaurants and food establishments, but this source of income is expected to rebound in future years.
 - c. Hotel Tax – This 6% tax on hotel room charges grew from almost \$17,000 in FY 2016 to approximately \$330,000 in FY 2019. As with Meals Tax revenue, Hotel Tax revenue is also projected to be lower than usual in FY20 and FY21.
4. Investments encourage other neighboring locations to also upgrade their properties.
 5. Redeveloped properties under the Town’s revised Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) zoning can provide upper story multi-family housing to support a varied population including young individuals, small families, singles, large families, single heads-of-households, and senior citizens.
 6. Transit-oriented properties that are developed for housing, like those along University Avenue near the Route 128 Railroad Station, are more environmentally friendly as they reduce the need for automobile travel.
 7. New developments have allowed Westwood to achieve and sustain the threshold of 10% of housing stock being affordable housing. This is especially important in 2020 when the new decennial census will reset the affordable housing threshold levels and the former affordable units at Westwood Glen are no longer counted on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). Maintaining the 10% minimum gives Westwood the ability to avoid unfriendly 40B developments and keep local control over development size, location, scope, and appearance.

Westwood’s Five Commercial Areas

University Avenue

As of 2020, University Station is in the final stages of a nearly two million square foot, mixed-use development on 137 acres along University Avenue. This project is transit oriented, being adjacent to the MBTA/Amtrak station, with over 120 acres zoned for retail, restaurants, residential, office, and hotel use. The project includes: more than 700,000 square feet of stores, restaurants and other service establishments; 350 apartments and 100 condominium units; a Marriott Courtyard hotel; a 30,000 square foot Brigham & Women’s medical center which opened in 2018 and is expected to more than double in size by 2022; a 100,000 square foot office building for Citizen’s Bank completed in September 2020, and a 40,000 square foot office building for Meketa Investment Group which opened in November 2020. Citizen’s Bank, with 600 employees, was attracted to Westwood using a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) which provides a lower tax rate on a portion of the increased property value over a specified period of time. Property tax revenue for University Station development is now approximately \$5.5 million per year over the pre-development tax revenue for the land, and this tax revenue is expected to continue to grow as the newly added office space is assessed in future years. In addition, a significant portion of the Town’s Meals and Hotel tax is

generated in this area. The increase in office use provides a benefit to the local businesses because employees are likely to frequent nearby restaurants and businesses, thus supplementing spending in the local economy.

Islington

Islington Center is currently undergoing a \$35-million-dollar redevelopment. In 2017 a new fire station was constructed on the southeast corner of the Route 1A and East Street/School Street intersection and a private mixed-use redevelopment was simultaneously completed on the southwest corner of that intersection. Now, the other two corners are part of a three phase public-private partnership redevelopment. The three phases include 1) a new 10,000 square foot CVS that opened in fall 2019; 2) renovation of the former CVS building for new commercial use, plus a relocated and expanded Wentworth Hall, which will include the Islington Branch Library, Youth & Family Services Offices, and space for recreation and community services, which is slated for completion in mid-2021; and 3) a new mixed-use building with 18 condominiums and 14,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space replacing the old Islington Community Center, which is expected to be finished in 2022. This redevelopment is expected to result in an increase in tax revenue of approximately \$400,000 per year.

High Street Town Center

Westwood's High Street Center is a busy and active area with service businesses supporting the local community. Some properties have remodeled and upgraded their appearance, but opportunities exist for additional improvements and investment in other properties. Some new businesses have replaced old businesses keeping properties generally full and healthy. Many of the businesses are personal service establishments and professional offices. Residents have expressed a desire for more eating establishments and destination retail.

High Street/Lowderbrook Road

The High Street/Lowderbrook Road area near Route 95 is a campus setting office park that supports a variety of businesses and provides numerous jobs for the region and steady tax revenue for the Town.

Route 1

Route 1 is a highway business district that supports a broad range of commercial uses including industrial, office, car dealerships, restaurants, services, and retail. New commercial properties have been built along Everett Street and several new car dealerships (Acura, Porsche, and Audi) now exist on the southbound side of Route 1. A new Shell Station and Season's Market was recently developed on Route 1 South and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital just opened a pharmaceutical distribution facility on Wilson Way in Glacier Park. Redevelopment and updating of properties has been slower throughout the remainder of Route 1 and adjacent commercial areas.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Westwood's overall goals for economic development are:

Objective 1: Maximize the Town's commercial tax base by pursuing economic development that attracts the desired type of development to targeted locations and is complementary to Westwood's community character.

Objective 2 Foster the Town's village centers as a place to shop, dine, and mingle by encouraging a mix of desirable services and uses that generate increased foot traffic.

Objective 3: Provide jobs and other economic and social benefits for Westwood residents.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The Town's desire to provide high quality public services for education and general government requires ample support from a robust local economy. The financial strength of local businesses and industry bolsters the Town's overall financial health and together they achieve the quality of life desired for the community. Accordingly, the Town's economic development strategy focuses on attracting high quality diversified businesses that are financially strong, vibrant community partners which provide positive benefits to Westwood. Efforts focus on proactive support of local businesses, developers, and investors to encourage their doing business in Westwood, balanced with sensitivity to the Town's predominately residential character.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are organized under topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives, following an informal order. A more formal implementation schedule may be found in the implementation matrix section of this Plan.

- E1. Devote specific attention to preserving the small town feel and maintaining a New England Village appearance in areas that have high residential ownership such as High Street Center and Islington Center.
- E2. Support the continued development of University Station in its final phase by working with the developer to attract additional quality businesses, fill the remaining office space, and bring in services to best meet the demands of the local community.
- E3. Encourage redevelopment of underutilized properties along University Avenue outside of the University Station development. Promote uses that maximize the commercial tax base with minimal environmental impact such as offices, service industries, and restaurants.
- E4. Encourage development focused on commercial, office, quality retail, and restaurants along Route 1 and in adjacent areas including Glacier Drive and the Southwest Park near Route 95.
- E5. Examine zoning changes along portions of Route 1 that are currently zoned residential but which contain long-standing non-conforming commercial uses, such as Lambert's Plaza. Revise the zoning to reflect the commercial uses of this property and encourage upgrades while being sensitive to the adjacent residential neighborhood.

- E6. Support the current and on-going redevelopment of Islington Center. Encourage new retailers, restaurants, and service companies so that Islington Center can thrive as a destination for residents to shop, dine, and experience casual encounters in public spaces. Encourage attractive uses compatible with the village character
- E7. Work with commercial property owners to attract growing, financially strong businesses to the High Street/Lowderbrook Road Area near Route 95.
- E8. Encourage the continued upgrading of commercial properties in the High Street Town Center with a focus on specialty retailers, restaurants, and small professional offices. Encourage revitalization that is attractive and compatible with the Town Center village character in design, size, and scope.
- E9. Engage our local chamber of commerce, the Neponset River Regional Chamber, to actively support the business community with the focus on businesses in Westwood's Town Centers. Seek business community input on local economic needs and work with commercial property owners to identify ways to improve walkability, attractiveness, and the village feel of the High Street and Islington Centers.
- E10. Include green space, bike paths, and pedestrian connections to access eating, shopping, and parking in all developments. Avoid creating new traffic issues and whenever possible, improve traffic flow. In the University Avenue area, create additional pedestrian access points to the Amtrak/MBTA train station by completing the connection from the east side of the MBTA garage to the Marriott Courtyard Hotel.
- E11. Maintain a program of sidewalk and street upgrades with a focus on safety, walkability, and bicycle use as discussed in the Transportation section. Prioritize pedestrian and bike connections to the Town's economic centers.
- E12. Increase housing diversity and transit-oriented housing opportunities for new economic development projects. Create mixed-use developments with housing on upper stories and businesses on the first floor to maintain the commercial tax base.
- E13. Support a positive relationship with businesses and continue to streamline permitting as an incentive for business development.
- E14. Maintain the split tax rate for commercial and residential real estate. Regularly adjust it to mitigate major swings in real estate valuations with the long-term goal of using economic growth to increase the commercial tax base and reduce the tax burden on residential properties.
- E15. Utilize tax incentives, like TIF's (Tax Increment Financing), to attract significant business development only where there are clear long-term tax and other benefits to Westwood, and where it is necessary to compete with other towns offering similar incentives.
- E16. Consider formalizing the Planning Board design review process by establishing standards for architecture, building orientation, materials, and site design, particularly in the business areas on High and Washington Streets.

- E17. Explore whether Westwood would benefit from a business ambassador or business liaison program, even if on a part time or on call basis.
- E18. Review other towns' best practices and identify ways to balance vibrant economic development with requirements for appropriate design, use, scope, and size.
- E19. Complete implementation of electronic permitting for all Town departments, boards, and commissions to allow residents and businesses to achieve paper-free business with greater efficiency, coordination, recordkeeping, and transparency.
- E20. Seek to improve business regulations to provide more efficient permitting by reducing remaining overlaps among different boards and committees or by continuing to hold concurrent meetings for a single project.

RESOURCES

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 20, 2018, Town of Westwood, prepared by Finance Director.

Exhibit A.9 Town of Westwood Supplemental Financial Information, FY19 Budget Summary, prepared by Finance Director for Board of Selectmen and Finance and Warrant Commission.

Exhibit A.8 Town of Westwood Tax Rate History.

Town of Westwood, Financial Management Policies and Objectives, prepared by Finance Director, Adopted by Board of Selectmen January 12, 2014 and Revised January 13, 2014.

ENDNOTES

¹ MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/lmi>
MA Labor Market information, Municipal Employment Data, Westwood
<https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/lmi/MunicipalEmploymentData/LmiTown?A=000370>



Sen Ki, 1255 High St.



Buckmaster Pond

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

This section of the Comprehensive Plan is an assessment of the natural, historic, and cultural resources in Westwood. It includes environmental, wildlife, and geological features, and is an evaluation of the cultural resources contributing to the Town's historical and social identity. Westwood's natural and cultural resources play a critical role in supporting the overall health and social viability of the community. The overall landscape and social characteristics of a town are often what makes it special and unique to residents.

Natural Resources

The topography of Westwood is varied with numerous streams, wetlands and ponds, fertile upland, and many areas of bedrock and rock outcroppings. The Town is in two watersheds. Two-thirds of the southern portion of Westwood is in the Neponset River Watershed and the northeastern portion of the Town is in the Charles River Watershed.

Bodies of water and wetlands occupy approximately 155 and 464 acres of the Town's area, respectively. Buckmaster Pond at 28 acres is the Town's largest body of water. Since 1885, that pond has been available as a public water supply for the Town of Norwood. Thus, Norwood owns the water rights to Buckmaster Pond, limiting its recreational use. Westwood enjoys passive recreation in the park areas around the pond for hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, and enjoying the views along the Pond Street sidewalk.

In the northeast section of Town is Rock Meadow Brook with small ponds, Lee and Storrow, flowing to the Charles River. Also, Powissett Brook drains Hale's Noanet Pond as well as Cedar Swamp and Storrow Pond to the Charles River. In the southern end of Town, Bubbling Brook begins at the local restaurant of the same name and defines Westwood's boundary with Walpole. It, along with Mill Brook, draining the area slightly to the east, both flow into Pettee's Pond and then through Willet Pond into Norwood's Ellis Pond. There they are joined by Germany Brook, which drains Westwood's Buckmaster Pond and Pine Swamp. Hawes Brook then carries this combined flow downstream from Ellis Pond to the Neponset River in South Norwood. Meanwhile, Purgatory Brook rises in Sandy Valley and Dead Swamp near Lowell Woods and flows to Purgatory Swamp near Route 1

and Everett Street. There, before draining into the Neponset, it is joined first by South Brook and later Plantingfield Brook, coming down from Lyman's Pond behind the High School. A tiny stretch of the Charles River forms Westwood's border with Needham at the Town's northernmost tip. The Neponset River defines the lengthier eastern border with Canton running behind University Avenue. Westwood's Conservation Commission protects these resources along with the Town's many areas of wetland habitat under the Massachusetts Wetland's Protection Act and Westwood's local Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The Neponset River and its environs on the eastern border of Town bordering Canton are part of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which contains priority habitats of rare species. The area is designated an ACEC by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs based on the significance of the natural resources: the river and its adjacent wetlands and floodplains, the associated aquifers and public water supplies, and the diverse wildlife habitats. The designation directs State environmental agencies to take actions to preserve, restore, and enhance the resources of the ACEC, and is intended to encourage and facilitate stewardship by public and private owners. The Westwood portion of these environmentally sensitive areas is relatively small as most of the ACEC and habitat areas are in adjoining towns.

The Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD) has six wells in Westwood and eleven in Dedham. Westwood works closely with the DWWD by actively serving on its board and sending all Planning Board applications to the DWWD for review and comment. Westwood has established Water Resource Protection Overlay Zoning Districts to protect and maintain the existing and potential groundwater supply and recharge areas throughout Town. Westwood's Zoning Bylaw sets specific use and review criteria and requires a special permit application and public hearing when certain uses and new buildings or structures are proposed within 400 feet of a DWWD well or within a Water Resource Protection District.

Stormwater runoff is an on-going threat to water quality everywhere. In 2015, Westwood Town Meeting adopted a Stormwater Management Bylaw to review and regulate stormwater to ensure proper treatment and quantity of stormwater runoff into the stormwater systems. The Bylaw requires review of any disturbance over 5,000 sq. ft. to control flooding and protect against contamination and illegal discharge. Westwood's Zoning Bylaw includes Flood Area Overlay Districts to reduce flooding, preserve the ground water table, and limit development in flood-prone areas. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board, when reviewing applications, require low impact design techniques including rain gardens, pervious paving, reduced pavement by narrower roads, rainwater recharge systems for rooftops and parking areas, and best management practices.

The Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) section of the Zoning Bylaw and the Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) section both promote environmentally sensitive development. The OSRD provides residential incentives to conserve more open space. The FMUOD provides incentives, imposes performance standards, and offers mixed-use solutions in appropriate development areas.

Westwood has thirteen designated scenic roads: 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. Under the Scenic Road Regulations, the Planning Board reviews proposed removal and trimming of mature trees and the removal or relocation of ancient stonewalls within a scenic road right-of-way to preserve the road's natural, scenic, and aesthetic character.

In 2018, the Westwood Community Trails Program was established to promote the use, maintenance, and awareness of Westwood's trails. It is overseen by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee and administered by Hale to recruit and train volunteers, and organize trail programs such as hikes, trail maintenance, and clean-ups.

Westwood Land Trust was established in 1999 to promote the protection and stewardship of open space and natural resources in Westwood. Since its inception the Land Trust has successfully preserved over 220 acres by acquiring the development rights and placing conservation restrictions on Westwood properties.

Historic Resources

Westwood's land was originally part of the 1636 Dedham Grant. Over the years, a separate parish known as the Clapboard Trees was established which later became West Dedham. In 1897 that area was incorporated as the Town of Westwood. Early settlers were subsistence farmers who also harvested timber from the thick woodlands. Over the years, saw mills and grist mills developed along the Town's brooks and ponds. Taverns on Washington and High Streets were the centers of commercial activity.

The influence of the automobile on Westwood's development began in the 1930s after the demise of the two streetcar lines on Washington and High Streets and rapid residential development in the Islington and High Street areas. Following World War II there was a period of significant subdivision development and population increases. Much of this history is apparent in Westwood's current land use patterns.

The Westwood Historical Commission (WHC) works with other boards and commissions in planning and implementing programs for the identification, evaluation, and protection of Westwood's history. In 1995, the WHC documented the Town's history and over the next three years, conducted a multiple-phase comprehensive survey of Westwood's cultural resources. The resulting historical survey cataloged the cultural resources of the major periods of the Town's historic development from the first colonial European presence to the 1960s. It included a narrative history of the development of Westwood and a list of properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1998 Westwood established two honorary historic districts with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. One district is called the Colburn School-High Street District and includes 48 properties. The other is the Fisher School-High Street District with 20 properties. These districts stretch along High Street from Pleasant Valley Road to Church Square, the intersection of High, Pond, and Nahatan Streets. Although properties within the Colburn School-High Street District and the Fisher School-High Street District are publically recognized for their local historical and/or architectural significance, neither district is a regulatory Local Historic District, and no controls are currently in place to prevent the non-historic alterations of these properties.

In 2016, Westwood Town Meeting adopted a Historic Structures Demolition Bylaw to help preserve Westwood's historic structures constructed on or before December 31, 1910. This Bylaw gives authority to the Westwood Historical Commission to impose up to a six-month delay before a Demolition Permit may be issued by the Town's Building Division. The goal of this bylaw is to encourage owners to investigate opportunities to preserve historic buildings rather than move ahead

quickly with complete demolition. WHC meets regularly to review demolition and pre-determination requests under this bylaw.

The Westwood Historical Society was founded in 1965 and is a private, charitable, educational institution, supported by memberships and individual donations with a mission to preserve Westwood's history, educate the community, and advocate for historic preservation.

The following buildings and areas contribute to the Westwood's history and unique character:

The Town Pound: Initially part of the first land grant, it was built 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. A sketch made in 1899 by Lucius Damrell which included a large oak tree within the stone wall is on the Town seal.

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 currently the headquarters of the Westwood Historical Society, this one-room schoolhouse has been relocated several times and now serves as a living history setting for school programs and cultural activities. For the past 20 years, third-grade students in Westwood have spent a day at the Fisher School studying the curriculum of 1868. The students wear period clothing and use materials of the time. This program is run by the Westwood Historical Society with the support of the Westwood Public Schools.

The Colburn School: This former school building, constructed in 1874, was named for Warren Colburn, a Westwood educator who wrote the math book titled *Intellectual Arithmetic* that is used in Westwood's third-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 as a mixed-use building with retail space on the first floor and a total of six residences on the upper floors.

The Obed Baker House: This home was built by Obed Baker, a local teamster, for his wife Betsey Metcalf Baker in 1812. As a young girl in Providence, RI, she learned how to make a fashionable straw bonnet. Up until that time, straw bonnets were only available from England. She continued to make bonnets and taught other women this craft. Betsey is listed on Google.com as one of America's first entrepreneurs. The Obed Baker House was relocated to 909 High Street in 2002. Efforts to find a potential new use for this historic structure are ongoing.

Wentworth Hall: First built in 1884 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 Islington Branch Library in 1959. In 2018, Westwood Town Meeting approved the Islington Center Redevelopment project that involves relocating exterior walls of the historic Wentworth Hall and incorporating those walls in the construction of a new building across the street. The new Wentworth Hall will again house the branch library, and will contain an addition for Town Offices as well as a fully accessible lower level multi-use community space.

Westwood Town Hall: This Classical Revival brick building with slate roof was designed by Stebbins & Watkins Architects of Boston and constructed in 1910. It has served as the Westwood Town Hall ever since.

Cultural Resources

Westwood's cultural resources add to the community's character and sense of place. This includes a variety of organizations, libraries, Town services, and special events involving robust community participation. These cultural resources add to the overall feeling of community and create a welcoming environment for residents.

The Westwood Cultural Council (WCC) helps provide cultural opportunities for residents by giving grants to community members wishing to provide opportunities in the arts and humanities for Westwood residents. WCC receives grant funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Coalition.

Westwood's two libraries, the main library on High Street and the branch library on Washington Street, as well as the Town's human services departments and the Council on Aging, provide a wide variety of programming and services such as book clubs, youth programs, speakers, information sessions, educational programs, and social services for seniors, youth, teens, and other members of the community. Many of these events and offices, which have resided in the Islington Community Center (ICC) at the corner of East and Washington Street for the past decade, will take place in the new Wentworth Hall following its completion in 2021.

A quarterly newsletter containing a wide variety of local news and events and known as the Community Newsletter is mailed to all households. In 2018 the Town created the Westwood Wire, an electronic news bulletin distributed by email to subscribers. Westwood Wire is managed by the Town Administrator office to share town service updates, important information for residents, and local events. The Town's website serves as the hub of Town government information.

Westwood residents are active in a wide variety of ways, and resident engagement during the Comprehensive Plan update process demonstrated further growth in community involvement. Residents showed support for more opportunities for participation, an increased sense of community, and greater diversity. Westwood currently offers a variety of special community events that encourage cultural and community connection. Westwood Day is an annual community event held each fall that includes a variety of activities, entertainment, demonstrations, local vendors, a road race, and Westwood's homecoming football game. The Town also hosts a Westwood Little League Parade and opening day ceremony each spring.

Saint Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Cathedral hosts an annual Greek Festival each September celebrating Greek culture with traditional food, music, and dance. Diwali Festival of Lights is held annually by the Westwood Indian American Association to share Indian culture, pageantry, food, fashion, and rituals with the Westwood community. In 2019, the Westwood Library hosted an inaugural Eid al-Fitr celebration to learn about this holiday and religious tradition for Muslims, who break their month-long Ramadan fast celebrating with friends and family. Finally, a Christmas Tree Lighting is hosted each year by the Town along with winter activities in front of Town Hall.

Special Places

During the early visioning process of preparing this Plan, Town residents participated in the development of a "special places" inventory. Residents were asked to identify those places in Town

that define Westwood as a unique and special place. These could include outstanding views or landscapes, sites or buildings of historic value, or essential places of community activity. These are places that give form to residents' internal images of the community, are identified with cherished rituals, or contribute subconsciously to everyday life. The sites listed below are among the many places identified with photographs or noted as favorite places during the survey or visioning session.

Open Space and Natural Features

- Hale – 1,200 acres of woods, streams, ponds, and meadows.
- Lowell Woods.
- Gay Street – aesthetic and scenic road.
- Buckmaster Pond.
- Wentworth Conservation Area.

Institutions

- First Parish Church.
- Colburn School Building.

Water Resources

- Buckmaster Pond – fishing derby in spring, band concerts in summer.

Community

- Westwood Media Center – Westwood's local television for community and government programming.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Protect notable resources by fostering historic preservation and encouraging rehabilitation projects.

Objective 2: Increase opportunities for community gathering through artistic, cultural, and other place-making activities to strengthen the sense of community.

Objective 3: Protect and improve access to open space and natural resources.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Protection of natural, historic, and cultural resources requires a broad and cooperative effort among residents, businesses, institutions, community organizations, and state and local agencies, boards, and commissions. Regional intergovernmental coordination is necessary since these natural resources are not confined by Town boundaries. Commitment to historic preservation should be prioritized and supported and should follow the examples from other communities that have successfully implemented historic preservation methods.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not in any prioritized order.

NC1. Continue working cooperatively with neighboring municipalities, Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD), and regional groups such as the Neponset River Watershed Association

and Charles River Watershed Association to protect the quality and supply of groundwater and surface waters and related habitat.

- NC2. Utilize the provisions of the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD), Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD), and Environmental Impact and Design Review (EIDR) sections of the Zoning Bylaw and the Subdivision Rules and Regulations to achieve site design that is protective of environmental and cultural resources by:
- Keeping development away from sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands, and scenic areas.
 - Requiring stormwater improvements for all redevelopment projects.
 - Minimizing cut and fill, and the area over which vegetation is disturbed.
 - Minimizing impervious surfaces.
- NC3. Encourage new residential construction to be in the form of an Open Space Residential Development (OSRD), supporting open space preservation and low impact design techniques.
- NC4. Provide connections to fragmented open space and prioritize efforts to preserve contiguous areas of undeveloped land.
- NC5. Encourage redevelopment of commercial areas to include effective protection and management of natural resources.
- NC6. Collaborate with the Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD) to continuously review and evaluate best practices to reduce and prevent pollution and contamination to the water supply and aquifers.
- NC7. Ensure that stormwater systems do not degrade water quality.
- NC8. Adopt practices that require improvement to existing stormwater management systems when sites are redeveloped.
- NC9. Explore creating incentives to encourage redevelopment of historic properties, including the establishment of a historic preservation fund and a network of historic rehabilitation professionals who can be available when needed.
- NC10. Consider formalizing the Planning Board design review process by establishing standards for architecture, building orientation, materials, and site design, particularly in the Washington and High Street Town Centers.
- NC11. Explore zoning relief or other incentives for projects which preserve historic resources.
- NC12. Partner with University Station to host events at the plaza and park such as concerts, performances, and other cultural activities.
- NC13. Discourage use of invasive species by property owners and encourage their removal and proper disposal.
- NC14. Adopt a tree preservation bylaw to protect and preserve trees during construction.

- NC15. Explore the establishment of a tree fund for the care, replacement, and addition of street trees.
- NC16. Consider installing Scenic Road signs on designated scenic roads.
- NC17. Establish a historic plaque program to recognize appropriate historic renovations.
- NC18. Work with interested property owners to perform a survey of historically and/or architecturally significant properties to submit for consideration of listing on the National Historic Register.
- NC19. Review the Planning Board's rules and regulations for scenic roads under the Scenic Roads Law and consider revisions to require the re-use of removed stones and to require tree replacement.
- NC20. Consider submitting additional streets for Scenic Road Designation such as Gay Street, Clapboardtree Street, and other roads that may qualify.
- NC21. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Historic Structures Demolition Bylaw, consider lengthening the maximum period of demolition delay, and consider explicit incentives and alternatives to demolition.
- NC22. Explore funding opportunities for historic preservation and cultural enhancement.
- NC23. Investigate adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to preserve historic properties and acquire open space. Other eligible funding from CPA is for affordable housing and for outdoor recreation facilities which is discussed in the Housing section and in the Open Space and Recreation section.
- NC24. Consider developing a coordinated master calendar for all local cultural events and activities and identify who will maintain the calendar.
- NC25. Explore opportunities for "pocket parks and parklets" and other small or temporary gathering space throughout Town.
- NC26. Continue to utilize the Westwood Community Trails Program to organize trail maintenance, volunteer-lead hikes, and cleanup events.
- NC27. Collaborate with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to establish trail and sidewalk connections from the Warner Trail and University Avenue to the Blue Hills Reservation.
- NC28. Develop maps, brochures, electronic material, and signage to promote and raise awareness of trails, conservation areas, and historic sites.
- NC29. Work with the Neponset River Watershed Association and DCR to promote recreational use of the Neponset River and investigate the development of a canoe launch convenient to Westwood.

- NC30. Increase public education of and participation in recycling and solid waste reduction to prevent contamination. Provide recycling receptacles at all public places such as parks, fields, and town centers.
- NC31. Partner with the Westwood Cultural Council to continue to promote cultural diversity and to educate the Westwood community.
- NC32. Complete the historic rehabilitation and reuse of the Obed Baker House to ensure its preservation.
- NC33. Promote the use of the Fisher School for meetings, activities, and events.
- NC34. Design sidewalks and pedestrian improvements to be compatible with the natural environment by respecting stonewalls, mature trees, and other natural features, and providing buffers between vehicles and pedestrians.

RESOURCES

Westwood Open Space & Recreation Plan, adopted by the Planning Board February 26, 2019, conditionally approved by MA Department of Conservation and Recreation July 11, 2019.

Westwood Zoning Bylaw, May 6, 2019

Vision Session Preliminary Report, Special Places Campaign



Islington Fire Station



Police Headquarters

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

BACKGROUND

Public facilities make it possible for a municipality to provide services for the public good. Community facilities such as public buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and accompanying services support education, public works, public safety, and general town services, all of which contribute to the quality of life for Westwood inhabitants. Town residents recognize the role of public facilities in supporting a healthy and sustainable community and the need for their continued maintenance. Public Facilities, along with Town Center Revitalization and Traffic, were ranked as the top three planning areas in resident surveys, receiving 40%, 40%, and 38% of survey responses to the question for choosing the most important planning topics. Those areas were similarly echoed by participants of the vision session. Residents overwhelmingly expressed appreciation of the Schools, with 78% of survey responders listing the schools as their favorite thing about living in Westwood followed by the Council on Aging, Library, and the Town's financial stability.

Westwood's commitment to long range financial planning has proved effective in anticipating capital needs and managing costs. Over the last several years Westwood has found creative ways to fund capital projects. New development has successfully increased the commercial tax base and helped fund Town facilities and services. New and renovated public buildings have incorporated accessibility and energy efficiency upgrades but many older Town buildings lack these attributes. Recreation facilities such as an indoor recreation building were also desired by residents in both the survey and vision session. These are covered in the Open Space and Recreation section. All other facilities are discussed in this section of the plan.

Commission on Disability and advocacy for Universal Design

The Town has a nine-member Commission on Disability that meets monthly, provides advisory guidance for a variety of issues, and advocates for residents with disabilities and their families. The Commission provides advice and support in the areas of housing, transportation, physical access, and emergency planning. The Town completed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation and transition plan in 1992 which addresses the accessibility needs for the community

facilities in this section of the plan. An updated evaluation of accessibility at outdoor recreation facilities was included as part of the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Commission not only promotes accessible design, a requirement focused on the needs of people with disabilities, but strongly advocates for universal design, a term used throughout this plan. Universal design covers a wider spectrum and more holistic approach of human abilities. It includes design features that exceed the minimum accessibility requirements and are more inclusive to encourage access and enjoyment for all.

School Facilities

Between 2000 and 2005, the Downey and Martha Jones elementary schools underwent renovations and additions, and a new high school was completed in 2005. The School District has determined that facility issues at three additional elementary schools, the Deerfield, Hanlon, and Sheehan, should be prioritized, with the middle school needs to be addressed thereafter.

As documented in a 2015 study, the facility issues in the Deerfield, Hanlon, and Sheehan elementary schools are largely due to age, all more than 65 years.¹ Much of the existing, original plumbing and HVAC piping and components need replacement and the buildings are not fully ADA compliant. Educationally, the buildings lack sufficient space for art programs, small group instruction, and intervention services. Deteriorating conditions and structural limitations will continue to escalate. The buildings need to be modernized for safe and efficient operation, and for energy and accessibility requirements.

School enrollment projections are a contributing factor in the need for the Hanlon/Deerfield elementary school building project. After a period of declining enrollment, the latest estimates indicate a steady increase in the number of elementary age students entering the Westwood Schools over the next 10 years.² The enrollment projections from September 2018 show the K-12 student population increasing from 3,043 students in 2018 to 3,303 in 2028. New facilities are necessary to accommodate today's population and account for the anticipated future growth.

As a result of the 2018 feasibility and assessment process, the School District is presently pursuing funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for construction of an elementary school that will combine the Deerfield and Hanlon Schools. In 2017, the MSBA invited Westwood into its eligibility period after reviewing the Town's plans. In May 2018, Town Meeting approved funding a feasibility study. The School District, from fall 2019 into 2020, held several community forums to gather input and identify the important criteria for the project. Those conversations will inform the most cost-effective and educationally appropriate path forward, which was submitted to the MSBA in the summer of 2020. In June 2020, the School Building Committee voted to proceed with designing a combined Hanlon-Deerfield school, with a maximum enrollment of 560 students, to be situated on the site of the existing Hanlon School.

The elementary school project process is deliberately long, methodical, and thorough. The timeline is for completed design in 2021, commencement of construction in 2022, and completion expected in 2024. This is subject to approval by Town voters at a Town Meeting and a successful ballot question at Town Election to authorize a debt exemption override.

The School Department is also currently evaluating how to address the facility needs of the Sheehan School. Regarding the Thurston Middle School, the original section of the building was constructed

in 1938 and renovated in stages, most recently with HVAC improvements, but a more comprehensive upgrade will be needed over the next decade.

Water Supply and Use

Westwood's water is supplied through the Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD). The DWWD water rates are comparable for the metro Boston area with monthly customer billing. DWWD annually makes capital improvements such as new and replaced water mains, fire hydrants, water service lines, and water meters. The average daily water demand in 2018 of both communities was 3.70 million gallons. Westwood's portion makes up 42% or 1.55 million gallons daily. Westwood residential water use comprised an estimated 69% of its total.

Past projections of over 7 million GPD peak system wide demand have not quite been realized over the past 15 years with the highest level at 6.9 MGD. The additional supply from Fowl Meadow Well 5 added in 1997, and from the District becoming a partial MWRA member in 2006, has DWWD well positioned to meet peak demands. The District continues to be concerned with increases in sodium and chloride levels in Fowl Meadow Well 5 and the other wells along University Avenue. DWWD continues to encourage MassDOT to reduce the amount of sodium and chloride applied to its highways which end up in the nearby wells.

DWWD continues to encourage water conservation measures through grants and partnerships to manage demand and maintain regulatory compliance. The District offers rebates and provides incentives to residents to purchase water efficient washing machines and water conserving toilets. Complimentary rain sensors, low flow showerheads, and aerators are distributed. Concerns of the District include the adequacy of future water supply, the management of seasonal demands, difficulty in securing new supply sources, and the impact of increased regulatory restrictions. The District satisfies water quality concerns by operating and maintaining its facility through an effective risk management and safety program to assure safe and unrestricted water service to every customer.

Public Works Roadways

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has a pavement management and sign inventory plan that every year generates significant roadway and neighborhood enhancements. The work is funded through the annual state Chapter 90 Program. In 2019, the Town approved a Road Improvement Bond for paving, curbing, and sidewalk improvements on Route 109 from North to Nahatan Street. Another Road Improvement Bond for sidewalk enhancements, safety improvements at crosswalks, and pavement preservation techniques applied throughout Town is proposed for FY2021. Pedestrian Infrastructure improvements such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and bike paths were listed as the most important facility priority receiving 62% of the survey responses. Pedestrian improvements and walkability were also highlighted at the vision session and the open houses. Improving traffic flow was identified as a top priority in all public input. These objectives are all discussed in the transportation section.

Public Works Fleet and Equipment

The vehicle fleet replacement program has been funded through the Town's capital program over the past several years and has kept the Town's fleet on track for a 10 to 12-year replacement schedule. Two to three new vehicles and equipment are ordered annually. Replacements and cost estimates are currently forecast ten years in advance.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Division of DPW completed a master plan in 2015 and constructed the expansion area identified in that plan the following year. That new section could reach capacity in ten years, but development and construction of the next phase should be completed well before then. Westwood Cemetery averages 60 burials per year and approximately 50 graves are purchased each year.

Sewer

The Town's Sewer Master Plan has been completed after many years and future efforts are to maintain the system. The Sewer Division operates an on-going Inflow and Infiltration program along with a Sewer Pump Station maintenance program. These capital programs continually ensure the stability of the system and its eleven pump stations.

Carby Street DPW Facility

The Carby Street Municipal Building was constructed in 2004 and meets universal design standards. It contains DPW administrative staff, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and other staff. The approximately 1,000 square foot DPW employee facility located behind the Municipal Building is a 50-year-old, dilapidated Cape house with one bathroom, no shower, no locker room, and no air conditioning. This building does not adequately support the needs of the staff of 25 and does not provide separate restroom facilities for men and women. There are 35 vehicles and pieces of equipment stored on the Carby site. Most of the equipment is housed in three garages totaling 11,000 square feet and one other structure. Two of the garages are over 50 years old, and the other was built in 2008. Due to lack of space, some vehicles such as the dump trucks are stored outside, subject to the weather, which reduces their life expectancy.

Trash and Recycling

The Town continues to provide weekly curbside pick-up for trash and bi-weekly for recycling, but recycling contamination is a continuing problem and a significant cost factor. The Town began providing single stream recycling in 2012. Due to contaminated material such as plastic bags and food waste on recycled items, the contractor, Waste Management, bills the Town every month a contamination fee which varies by the amount of contamination. The Town needs to continue to educate residents and has contracted with a company to provide residents updated information and help them identify what is recyclable and what is not. A part time recycling coordinator would also help with both education and enforcement.

Police Facilities

Safety and low crime rate was selected as the residents' top reason for living in Westwood in 80% of survey responses and is clearly an important factor in choosing to live in Westwood. A new police facility was constructed and opened in 2018. The new police headquarters features universal design; training space doubling as community meeting space, adequate storage for equipment, modern facilities for the handling of detainees, and a combined (police, fire and EMS) communications and dispatch center that processes over 35,000 calls annually. Evidence is now stored and handled using industry best practices. At 19,000 square feet the new facility is adequately sized for anticipated growth, therefore there is no capital building need for the police department for the foreseeable future.

Fire Facilities

The fire department has over 40 personnel that provide fire suppression, ambulance service, specialized search and rescue, fire prevention and code enforcement inspection, training, fire investigation, public education, and emergency management. A new 12,000 square foot Fire Station 2 at 300 Washington Street was constructed and opened in late 2017. The new facility replaced a small outdated 2-bay garage with a state-of-the-art 3-bay firehouse that supports current operational and emergency response needs. Fire Station 1 on High Street serves a dual function as the main fire station and the department administrative offices including Fire Prevention, Emergency Medical Services, and the Training Division. The building was originally designed to function with a half dozen personnel, but the department's daily staffing has nearly doubled reducing operational efficiency. It was constructed in 1948 and underwent a renovation in 1975³. The station is 10,000 square feet; has apparatus storage, gym, and support division offices in the basement; administrative offices, apparatus bays, living facilities on the ground level; and dormitories on the second floor. The site has limited room for expansion to meet current operational needs for work areas, offices, and storage. A 2016 Slab Evaluation Study and 2019 Update found structural and mechanical concerns such as concrete cracking of the apparatus bay floor, water damage throughout, corroded floor drains, and outdated and non-code compliant utilities⁴.

Library & Human Services

Westwood's public libraries consist of the Main Library on High Street and the Branch Library on Washington Street. The Main Library was opened in 2013 complete with public meeting space, study group areas, computer workstations, and various physical and on-line collections. The Branch Library (Wentworth Hall) has been moved from its original location on the east side of Washington Street and will re-open in its new location, which is currently under construction on the west side of the street. This relocation is part of the second phase of the 3-phase Islington Center Redevelopment Project. The new Wentworth Hall facility will include the Islington Branch Library as well as first floor offices for the Youth and Family Services Department and a lower level multi-functional community room available for recreational programs, public meetings, and community functions. When this project is completed in July 2021, the new Wentworth Hall will accommodate the uses and activities formerly held at the Islington Community Center (ICC) at the corner of East and Washington Street. The ICC building will be demolished in the third phase of the Islington Center Redevelopment Project.

Town Hall

Westwood's Town Hall on High Street is a 10,455 square foot building constructed in 1910. Its three floors accommodate various municipal offices such as the Finance Department, Town Administrator's office, Veteran Services office, and the Town Clerk's office. It is the primary contact for the public with Westwood's government. The building requires significant renovations to fully meet ADA requirements as it does not have an elevator. Town offices have outgrown the space and the HVAC system needs repair. A 2016 needs assessment and replacement analysis examined the current site and outlined future needs.

Senior Center

The Council on Aging building is located on Nahatan Street and was constructed in 1998. The facility is approximately 5,000 square feet located near the Middle and High Schools. It has universal design and is convenient to use. However, there is a need for more handicap parking spaces, and updates to the building's interior. There is also a need for more space to accommodate the high demand for programs. The Council on Aging offers over twenty health classes such as exercise, yoga and tai chi, creative activities such as quilting and knitting, educational programs, and book clubs. Annually, ten holiday lunches are held but each limited to 80 seniors because of seating capacity. The Council on Aging believes twice the number of seniors would attend if more space were provided.

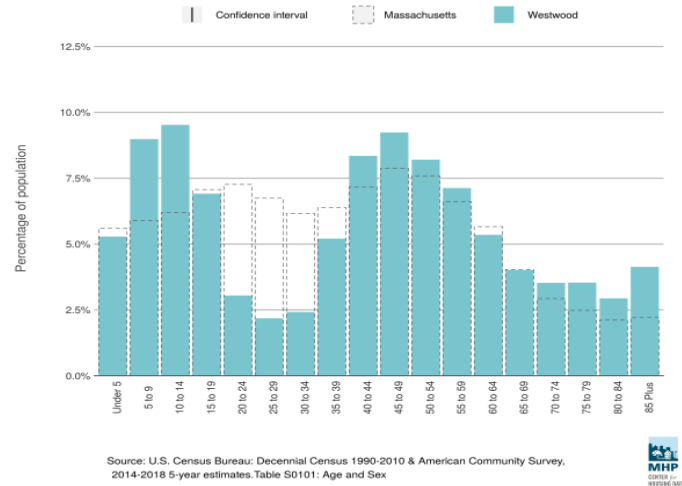


Figure 3: Age distribution of population Westwood v. State, 2010.

Over the last few years, the number of residents participating in programs at the Center has grown by more than 40% with over 3,000 seniors attending monthly programs or participating in outreach and transportation services. This is consistent with population data from the U.S. Census Bureau that shows Westwood's senior population is increasing at a higher rate than the statewide average (Figure 3). As Westwood's population ages more room for programming and activities will be especially important.

Network Infrastructure and Information Technology

The School and Town Information Technology departments maintain separate networks that are interconnected. Each of the schools and all Town buildings are connected by a fiber backbone (INET) centered in the Fire Station basement. It was installed by Comcast in 2003 and maintained by them as a condition of their cable license with the Town. Currently the Town network has a 1G bandwidth, while the school network was upgraded to 10G several years ago.

The condition of the network Infrastructure within each Town building varies with the age of the building. Buildings with limited Ethernet connections were upgraded in 2012. Public Wi-Fi, which is not connected to the Town network, is available in most Town buildings. The need for network infrastructure to support building systems such as lighting, HVAC, cameras, and security has stretched the network to its limits in many buildings.

Changes in technology and expanding use in utility systems require increased bandwidth. New construction requires expansion of the network. Buildings need to be evaluated and upgraded to accommodate the increased demand. Increasing the Town's network speed to 10G would allow for improved Wi-Fi connectivity.

Westwood Media Center has been instrumental in disseminating information to keep residents informed and engaged. Typically, Westwood Media Center films various town-wide events and programming, and records and streams all Select Board, Planning Board, Finance and Warrant

Commission, and Town Meetings. With the COVID-19 Pandemic beginning in early 2020, Westwood Media Center has provided a vital service to the Town and its residents by streaming and recording multiple remote meetings and public hearings, and by working with the Council on Aging and Recreation Department to film and broadcast extensive online programming.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal for community facilities planning is to keep pace with emerging needs to assure that Westwood's governmental services continue to provide high quality public services.

Objective 1: Public facilities are safe and secure.

Objective 2: Facility long-range planning is consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 3: Resources and facilities meet universal design standards.

Objective 4: Public facilities are energy efficient.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The Community Facilities section focuses on Town services and facilities by identifying and analyzing existing and forecasted needs for these facilities and services. The objectives listed above should be constantly considered when improving, replacing, or maintaining any Town facility. The goal is to make all users of the Town's facilities and resources feel safe, welcomed, and well served. The facilities should be adequate to enable Town services to be provided and maintained at the high level desired by all residents and visitors.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are prioritized under topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives followed by an informal priority order. A formal implementation schedule can be found in the implementation matrix section.

To implement public facility capital building needs:

- CF1. Prioritize the renovation and expansion of Town Hall to satisfy office space needs, upgrade the network infrastructure, improve heating and cooling, install an elevator and other upgrades to meet ADA and universal design standards, and improve energy efficiency.
- CF2. Complete the processes for designing and seeking local and state funding for an elementary school building project that addresses the facility and student needs at the Hanlon and Deerfield Schools.
- CF3. Continue to address the facilities needs at the Sheehan School and Thurston Middle School, focusing on the aging Thurston facility, through the annual and long-range capital planning process.
- CF4. Prioritize incorporating renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaics at all Town properties.
- CF5. Conduct a space needs assessment at the Westwood Senior Center and develop a timeline for expansion to address the growing needs of the Town's increasing elderly population.

- CF6. Following the relocation of the Branch Library to the new Wentworth Hall, explore the use of the new multi-purpose lower level community space for expanded library offerings including individual and small group collaborative study, along with programming for the Youth and Family Services and Recreation Departments.
- CF7. Investigate parking expansion options or additional shared parking arrangements for the main library.
- CF8. Consider addressing deficiencies at Fire Station 1 in the short term by relocating personnel and equipment, providing temporary storage space, securing additional temporary office space, and upgrading to universal design standards.
- CF9. Develop a plan to renovate, expand, or replace Fire Station 1.
- CF10. Expand the number of electric Town vehicles and charging stations at municipal properties to encourage public use.

To implement policies and planning for community facility improvement:

- CF11. Prioritize pedestrian infrastructure improvements through a Sidewalk Prioritization Plan and pursue funding for sidewalks and universal design improvements at road crossings as further described in the transportation section.
- CF12. Evaluate the feasibility of developing a new multi-purpose indoor recreation community center to serve the community's growing need for dedicated recreation space and programming such as basketball courts, an indoor track, and full size gymnasium for residents of all ages as described in the Open Space & Recreation Section.
- CF13. Implement the self-evaluation and transition plan to achieve universal design standards for all municipal facilities and school buildings, prioritizing public meeting and function spaces.
- CF14. Involve the Commission on Disability in the Planning Board's review process to make recommendations related to accessibility, universal design, and support for people with disabilities.
- CF15. Incorporate meeting space and multi-purpose function space including kitchens, where appropriate, in redevelopment and new construction projects to provide for community meetings, social functions, and events.
- CF16. Assess and evaluate all public buildings, particularly the schools and public meeting halls, for ample security and safety measures to determine needed improvements.
- CF17. Evaluate interest and opportunity areas for community gardens.
- CF18. Perform education, outreach, and enforcement for proper recycling through existing resources or consider hiring a recycling coordinator.
- CF19. Investigate having a metal recycling facility and a reuse area for furniture and other items.

To improve communication:

- CF20. Improve the Town's network by upgrading to 10G connectivity to increase network speed, replace the network core switch, all network node switches, and all servers, and add more Ethernet connections to accommodate increased technology needs.
- CF21. Implement electronic permitting for all Town departments, boards, and commissions to allow residents, businesses, contractors, and visitors to conduct online and paper free business to achieve greater efficiency, coordination, recordkeeping, and transparency.
- CF22. Develop practices and policies, and use digital meeting management software so that all materials and resources from all board, commission, and committee public meetings and all public projects are easily available for viewing on the Town's website with universal design features such as contrast, enhanced fonts, and magnification.
- CF23. Expand the contract with Westwood Media Center (WMC) to record, televise, and stream online additional Town board, commission, and committee meetings. Consider expanding legislative definitions beyond "cable" to include "streaming services" to ensure long term financial support for WMC.
- CF24. Consider adding a Director of Communications position to ensure the dissemination of vital Town messaging across multiple media of video, audio, website, email, and social media.

To maintain and improve public works facilities:

- CF25. Consider a comprehensive plan to upgrade the DPW facilities to adequately house and maintain the DPW fleet and provide adequate staff facilities with gender and disability accommodations.
- CF26. Explore designs to further expand Westwood Cemetery.
- CF27. Maintain a DWWD water rate structure that supports capital improvements and effective operation and maintenance of the District's water system.
- CF28. Complete the 2019 DWWD Comprehensive Planning Study and implement relevant recommendations.

To implement policy for facility maintenance, improvement, and replacement:

- CF29. Require all municipal redevelopment and construction projects to incorporate the review of universal design and sustainable best practices to maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy as described in more detail in the Sustainability Section.
- CF30. Regularly update long-term operation and preventative maintenance plans for all Town facilities and structures to improve regular maintenance and prolong the life of facilities.
- CF31. Design new municipal buildings and renovations to be representative of local history and compatible with surrounding buildings.
- CF32. Consider the establishment of a municipal facilities staff committee to assist the Town Administrator in the regular reviewing of capital building and long-range projects.

CF33. Continue to evaluate zoning and application procedures to encourage wireless carriers to pursue upgrades and fill communications gaps through collocation on existing facilities.

To increase racial diversity and representation:

CF34. Mentor and recruit new members to municipal boards, commissions, and committees with particular emphasis on encouraging greater participation by members of underrepresented populations.

CF35. Advertise and widely promote municipal and school employment opportunities in a broad range of locations reachable to diverse candidates.

Resources

Capital Needs Study for Westwood Public Schools Phase V – Master Plan, prepared by SMMA of Cambridge, dated June 17, 2015.

Evaluation prepared by Weston & Sampson, prepared for Fire Chief William Scoble, RE: Structural Evaluation of Apparatus Slab Draft, dated January 6, 2019 (18 pages). A 2019 updated assessment by Weston & Sampson is currently underway and report not yet issued.

Town of Westwood, Massachusetts Fire and Ambulance Services Study, prepared by Kent Greene, David Phares, Todd Leduc, dated June 2013 (80 pages).

Municipal Capital Needs Assessment and Replacement Reserve Analysis, prepared for Town of Westwood, prepared by RECAP Real Estate Advisors and On-Site Insight, dated December 21, 2016.

Dedham-Westwood Water District Annual Water Quality Report for 2018 and 2019 (8 pages) #dwwd3297090 and #3073000.

A Preliminary Vision, Goals and Objectives, Report prepared by Community Circle and Barrett Planning Group, dated June 19, 2019.

Town of Westwood Comprehensive Plan Community Survey, Survey Monkey, Spring 2019.

SMMA Phase V - Master Plan Capital Needs Study. Westwood Public Schools, June 17, 2015.

Annual Water Quality Report for 2018. Dedham-Westwood Water District.

Action Plan FY20 - Westwood Public Library.

Engineering Study for Westwood Fire Station 1, Weston and McKim.

ENDNOTES

¹ Capital Needs Study for Westwood Public Schools Phase V – Master Plan, prepared by SMMA of Cambridge, dated June 17, 2015.

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- ² MSBA Enrollment Projection – Westwood, September 2018, Provided by School Department, 10 Pages.
- ³ Town of Westwood, Massachusetts Fire and Ambulance Services Study, prepared by Kent Greene, David Phares, Todd Leduc, dated June 2013 (80 pages).
- ⁴ Evaluation prepared by Weston & Sampson, prepared for Fire Chief William Scoble, RE: Structural Evaluation of Apparatus Slab Draft, dated January 6, 2019 (18 pages). A 2019 updated assessment by Weston & Sampson is currently underway and report not yet prepared.



Morrison Park & Field, East Street



Prout Farm/Clapboardtree Meadow

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

BACKGROUND

Open space and recreation areas are highly valued in Westwood. The Town's open space and recreational facilities provide numerous benefits for the community, including health, social opportunities, climate resiliency, civic engagement, and enjoyment of the beauty of nature, all contributing to the Town's character. During the early stages of the public input process, Westwood residents spoke about open space, natural resources, and recreation facilities as treasured assets that make Westwood truly special.

The visioning session heard a strong desire for a community recreation center and expanding opportunities for active and passive recreation both indoors and outdoors. When asked to identify favorite things about living in Westwood, 47% of the 811 survey responders selected open space and trails. Walking trails, bike paths, and sidewalks were identified in the survey as items residents would like to see increased, chosen by 43%, 42%, and 62% of respondents, respectively. Eighty percent indicated protecting more open space is a high priority and 46% listed providing more recreational facilities for formal activities and organized sports as a "very important" or "important" goal.¹

Massachusetts recognizes the importance of open space and recreation and encourages municipalities to have an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) updated every seven years. In 2019, the Select Board and Planning Board voted to approve an updated plan for Westwood. The 2019 OSRP was completed by a committee, assisted by a consultant, working collaboratively with the community. A survey was conducted and 809 responders identified the following facilities as the top five priorities for the coming years: ice hockey rink at 39%, trails at 37%, a dog park at 31%, a community center at 30%, and an outdoor swimming facility at 25%.²

The approved 2019 OSRP provides the foundation for this element of the Comprehensive Plan. Natural resources such as water and wildlife are discussed in more detail in the Natural and Cultural Resources section.

A 2018 visioning session and corresponding survey for the Open Space and Recreation Plan found support for improved conservation land management, for universal design to encourage access and enjoyment by people with disabilities, and for additional recreation facilities, particularly an indoor recreation center. Universal design is a concept that supports features that exceed the minimum accessibility design requirements such as textured surfaces along walks, audio, ropes along trails, and braille on signage, all to accommodate people with a wider range of abilities.

Open Space

Approximately 1,802 acres totaling 25% of 7,155 acres of land in Westwood can be characterized as “open space.” The term “open space” refers to conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways, or an undeveloped area that is owned by an organization devoted to conservation. The term includes land that is legally protected for conservation or recreational interest, and similar land that is not protected against changes in use or development. Some open space is used for passive activities such as walking and hiking, while others include active recreational uses such as soccer, tennis, or baseball. In this section, the term refers to the broader notion of land that is committed to some degree of passive or active use.

Westwood has 981 acres of protected open space listed in Table 4 and owned by the Town and private owners, including parcels preserved within open space residential subdivisions. The Westwood Conservation Commission holds the majority of protected lands with 557 acres followed by the Westwood Select Board with 73 acres, mostly Lowell Woods and the Sandy Valley area. Protected land is property that is protected from development through a conservation or deed restriction, or by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. For the purposes of the Town's OSRP, protected land must have legal protection that includes public ownership and/or conservation restrictions recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B land is not classified as protected since the level of protection is more limited. Chapter 61 is the section of state law for forestry or woodlands, Chapter 61A is land used for agriculture, and Chapter 61B land is used for recreation. A significant portion, 821 acres, of Westwood's open space is unprotected with no guarantee that it will remain undeveloped.

Hale accounts for 521 acres of unprotected open space as shown in the below table. Hale is a private non-profit educational institution and a beloved resource for walking, biking, running, and swimming. Many Westwood residents as well as people throughout Greater Boston participate in Hale's year-round educational programs and its popular youth summer camps. However, most residents do not realize that Hale is unprotected land and how vulnerable it is.

Other unprotected lands include public recreation areas such as Town fields, playgrounds, and school properties as well as private recreation facilities such as Xaverian High School and Chapter 61 Land, which includes the Dedham Country and Polo Club, the Charles Bean farm on Clapboardtree Street, and large properties on Hartford Street. Table 5 and Map O1 show the protected and unprotected open space and recreation land in Westwood. During the inventory review stage of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the public engagement process, many of the open space and conservation areas were deemed to be in poor condition.³

The Westwood Land Trust was established as a 501(c)(3) public charity organization in 1999 to preserve open space and natural resources and help retain Westwood's rural character and native wildlife. The Land Trust has permanently protected over 220 acres since its inception. Most of the

property is privately owned and protected through conservation restrictions. 50 acres have been conveyed to the Town.⁴

Table 4: Protected and unprotected open space

Westwood Open Space – PROTECTED		
Ownership	Acreage	Percentage of Westwood’s Total Land
Conservation Commission	557.27	7.27%
Select Board	72.99	1%
Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD)	17.20	.2%
High Ridge Homeowners Association	35.14	.45%
Powisset Estates Homeowners Association	9.61	.12%
Chase Estates Homeowners Association	1.53	.02%
Neponset River Land Holding	17.46	.23%
Westwood Land Trust Owned	4.68	.06%
Private land with Conservation Restrictions	186.7	2.6%
Duncan M. McFarland	27.45	.36%
Groundhog Land Corporation	7.16	.09%
G.D. Fox Meadow, LLC	7.63	.09%
NW Land LLC	26.40	.34%
Gobbi FLP Trust	4.05	.05%
C/S Westview LLC	6.60	.09%
Subtotal	981.87	13.72%
Westwood Open Space & Recreation – UNPROTECTED		
Ownership	Acreage	Percentage of Westwood’s Total Land
Hale	521	7.28%
Public Recreation Properties	120.33	1.6%
Private Recreation Properties	82.82	1.1%
Chapter 61 Land	11.23	.15%
Chapter 61A Land	23.53	.30%
Chapter 61B Land	62.06	.8%
Subtotal	820.97	11.47%
TOTAL	1,802.84	25.2%

Recreation

A variety of recreational opportunities exists in Westwood. In this section recreation land refers to areas that are primarily devoted to recreational uses such as man-made facilities including parks and playgrounds, school yards, country clubs and golf courses, picnic areas, and passive recreation areas which may be publicly or privately owned. In this plan, Hale is considered in the open space section above.

In Westwood, public recreational facility management responsibilities are shared between the Recreation Department and the School Department. Maintenance is done by the Department of Public Works. Table 5 lists the public and private recreation facilities in Town. School properties provide most of the recreational opportunities as fields are often located on school property. Other properties managed by the Recreation Department include Morrison Park, the fields at Sheehan, the School Street Playground, June Street Playground, the Lion’s Club Tot Lot, and the indoor

swimming pool facility at the high school. In the Open Space and Recreation Plan's inventory of recreation properties, the school and Recreation Commission properties are generally categorized as being in good and excellent condition.⁵ The former Westwood Lodge property at 45 Clapboardtree Street, now known as The Homes at 45, was redeveloped into age-restricted housing as an open space residential development. The open space on the private property is to be maintained by the homeowner's association and the multi-purpose playing field was conveyed to the Town for continued recreation use.

Table 5: Public and private recreation facilities.

PUBLIC			
Property	Area Acreage	Management Agency	Use
School St. Playground	1.80	Recreation Commission	Baseball, Softball, Playground
Morrison Park	3.76	Recreation Commission	Baseball, Softball, Basketball
June St. Playground	3.08	Recreation Commission	Fields, Playground
Lion's Club Tot Lot	2.29	Recreation Commission	Playground
Sheehan Fields	6.25	Recreation Commission	Baseball
Swimming Pool at High School	NA	Recreation Commission	Swimming Pool
Deerfield School	8.54	School Committee	Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Playground
Hanlon School	8.59	School Committee	Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Playground
Thurston Middle School	17.44	School Committee	Baseball, Softball, Multipurpose Field
Downey School	9.81	School Committee	Baseball, Multipurpose, Basketball, Tennis, Playground
Sheehan School	4.27	School Committee	Baseball, Multipurpose Field, Basketball, Tennis, Playground
Martha Jones School	8.89	School Committee	Baseball, Basketball, Playground
Westwood High School	42.9	School Committee	Baseball, Football, Multipurpose Field, Basketball, Tennis, Outdoor Track, Lacrosse
PRIVATE			
Property	Area Acreage	Management Agency	Use
The Homes at 45, formerly Westwood Lodge	Field Use – 2.8 acres Open Space Area – portion of the 7 acres ⁶	Field – conveyed to Town for Public Recreation, Private HOA for Open Space	Multipurpose Field (soccer, lacrosse)
Norfolk Golf Club	43.96 (full site)	Private Club	Golf, 9-hole course
Xaverian High School	25.97 (full site)	Xaverian Brothers	Baseball, Football, Tennis, Outdoor Track
Life Time Athletic	7.89 (full site)	Life Time Fitness	Pool, Basketball, Fitness

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee spent a year developing the 150-page Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) adopted by the Planning Board in 2019 and which serves as the foundation for the following recommended actions.

In the Committee's deliberations of how the plan's recommendations might be funded, the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) was identified as a possible funding source that deserves

consideration. The Community Preservation Act is a state law (M.G.L. Chapter 44B) designed as a smart growth tool to encourage municipalities to implement projects for conservation of open space, athletic fields, historical preservation, and affordable housing. As of November 2019, 176 cities and towns have adopted the CPA in the 20 years since the program's creation. Similar communities that have adopted the CPA are Concord, Needham, Lexington, Acton, Wellesley, Wayland, Carlisle, Holliston, Hopkinton, Millis, and Norwood.

If adopted by the Town, two sources of funds are available for eligible projects. The first is the Community Preservation Fund made up of revenue from a surcharge on residential and/or commercial property taxes. The town may vote a surcharge of up to 3% of the real estate tax, and the first \$100,000 of the assessed property value may be exempted. Most towns have chosen to enact a 1% surcharge. If a given property is taxed \$6,000 a year, the CPA contribution would be an additional \$60 a year. This would generate approximately \$700,000 a year of funding available for CPA projects in Westwood.⁷

A second source of money is the State's Community Preservation Trust Fund which provides matching funds for CPA projects. Fees paid to the Registry of Deeds for recording deeds and plans become available to CPA communities as matching funds for these projects.

A sample of improvements and investments that other towns have made is included in the resource exhibits. Implementation of the CPA requires Town Meeting adoption and a Town election with this question on the ballot. Upon adoption, a Community Preservation Committee is established with appointed representatives from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Housing Authority, and Recreation Commission. The Committee would be responsible for setting priorities for funding and recommendations to Town Meeting for individual projects.

Overall, Westwood residents desire improved maintenance and awareness of conservation and open space, and additional recreation facilities, particularly indoor recreation such as a community facility to serve residents. Other desired needs include indoor basketball courts, pickleball, ice skating, indoor track, activities for seniors, and activities not associated with a particular sports organization.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Westwood's overall goals focus on preserving Westwood's character that values protection of open space, sensitive design, passive recreation, and providing high quality active recreation facilities for all residents and visitors.

Objective 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's scenic character.

Objective 2: Increase recreation facilities and programming for residents of all ages to fulfill any unmet or growing demand.

Objective 3: Expand and improve protected open space and conservation land by enhancing maintenance, access, awareness, and use.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The focus is on balancing the protection of open space and providing recreational opportunities while remaining sensitive to Westwood's treasured community character. To achieve many of these

goals, the Town will need to enhance resources and apply creative approaches to protect, acquire, and improve maintenance and awareness of open space areas. To expand and provide additional recreational opportunities to fill unmet and future recreational demands, the Town will need to invest in improvements and maximize current opportunities.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are prioritized under each general topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives for community character, open space, and recreation followed by an informal order.

Community Character:

- CC1. Encourage all new development to use the Open Space and Residential Development zoning bylaw and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to protect and preserve open space and natural areas, and reduce impervious surfaces with narrower road widths, and smaller building footprints and lots.
- CC2. Review the Planning Board's rules and regulations for scenic roads under the Scenic Roads Law to incorporate enforcement provisions to adequately protect the Town's designated scenic roads.
- CC3. Protect open space, natural features, and historical buildings that are significant to Westwood by identifying priorities and partnering with entities such as the Westwood Land Trust, Westwood Historical Society, Westwood Historical Commission, Westwood Conservation Commission, and other applicable agencies to combine resources.
- CC4. Encourage shared parking at nearby lots to accommodate visitors to currently undisturbed locations, rather than installing new parking.
- CC5. Increase the usability and attractiveness of trails, conservation land, and open space for seniors and people with disabilities by providing trail maps, promotional material, accessible parking, seating, accessible routes, and by applying universal design principles.
- CC6. Educate the community on the value and benefits of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and consider the adoption of the CPA as a funding source for open space protection, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Recreation:

- RE1. Prioritize developing a new multi-purpose indoor recreation community center to serve the community's growing need for dedicated recreation space and programming such as basketball courts, an indoor track, and full-size gymnasium for residents of all ages and abilities.
- RE2. Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs, including surplus or unused Town owned property.
- RE3. Partner with private entities to share an indoor ice-skating facility with surrounding towns. Examine options for a portable refrigeration system for outdoor recreational ice-skating.

- RE4. Expand the use of existing recreation fields and facilities by implementing use and maintenance plans.
- RE5. Expand outdoor recreation facilities by creating more multipurpose fields and consider installing field lighting for optimal usage at existing fields.
- RE6. Increase recreational opportunities and programs for adults and seniors, including pickleball courts.
- RE7. Incorporate universal design into all recreation facilities, playgrounds, and fields, providing parking, seating, accessible routes, and accessible gender-neutral rest rooms.

Open Space:

- OS1. Incorporate universal design with rope guides at trails, benches at resting areas, large print and braille signage, and wheelchair accessible surfaces at feasible locations to allow all visitors to experience outdoor areas.
- OS2. Prepare Management Plans for the maintenance and management of each conservation area.
- OS3. Consider developing a mobile application (App) featuring Westwood's open space and recreation areas to help increase awareness and use of these areas.
- OS4. Land acquisition should focus on areas contiguous to existing protected property to provide connectivity to open space. The space around Lyman's Pond in Rice Reservation could be developed for walking around the pond, stocked for fishing, skating in the winter, and include benches for relaxing.
- OS5. Collaborate with Hale to permanently protect its open space and recreational land by acquiring a conservation restriction on this land.
- OS6. Continue to encourage the donation of open space or conservation restrictions by private landowners.
- OS7. Actively pursue grants, donations, and funding to assist with open space acquisition, conservation access, and improvements. Establish a fund for open space acquisition.

RESOURCES

Open Space and Recreation Plan, prepared by Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Adopted by Planning Board February 26, 2019.

Open Space and Recreation Survey, Survey Monkey, 809 Responders, Open November 2017 to March 2018.

Comprehensive Plan Survey, Survey Monkey, 811 Responders, Open March 20 to April 17, 2019.

Comprehensive Plan Vision Session Report, June 19, 2019.

Map OR1: Open Space and Recreation Land, Westwood 2019.

Westwood Land Trust Protected Properties Descriptions, February 20, 2019.

Community Preservation Act Supporting Documentation.

Registry of Deeds, Norfolk County CPA Surcharges 2017 and 2018.

ENDNOTES

¹ Question 13 of the Westwood Comprehensive Plan Community Survey, Survey Monkey, Spring 2019 (811 Survey Responses).

² Question 6 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey, Survey Monkey, December 2017 – March 2018.

³ Open Space and Recreation Plan 2019, Westwood, Massachusetts, Adopted by Planning Board February 26, 2019, Table 12 - Protected Open Space Parcel Inventory, Pages 43-51.

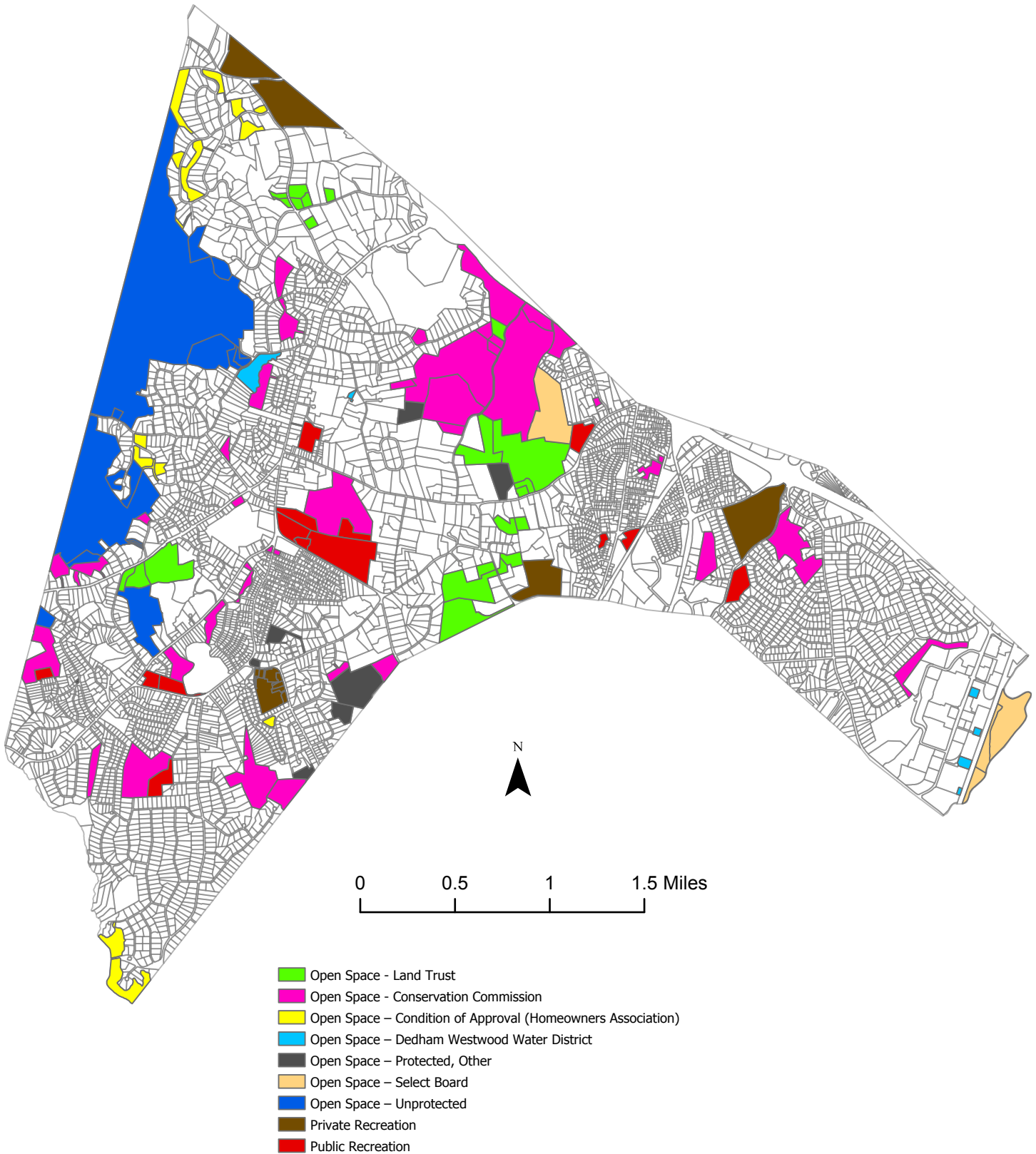
⁴ Westwood Land Trust Protected Properties Descriptions, February 20, 2019.

⁵ Open Space and Recreation Plan 2019, Westwood, Massachusetts, Adopted by Planning Board February 26, 2019, Table 14 - Public Recreation Properties, Pages 53-55.

⁶ The Open Space & Field Area at 45 Clapboardtree Street, formerly the Westwood Lodge, is currently under construction by the Green Company and categorized as private recreation but will become 2.8 acres of public recreation use and the remaining open space will become protected open space managed by the future Homeowners Association, anticipated fall 2020.

⁷ CPA Tax Background, Total Tax Collections Estimates FY19 Chart, Residential \$563k & Commercial \$181K, Page 3.

Map O1: Open Space and Recreation Land





Shared Use Path along University Ave.



Electric Car Station at Carby Municipal Offices

TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND

Westwood enjoys excellent regional access by automobile, rail, and a bus line, but lacks an effective network of transportation within the town. Any travel across town involves driving on multiple roads using residential areas as cut throughs. The Town would benefit from alternative transportation methods such as shuttle buses along with pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

The distribution of places where people live, go to school, shop, and visit makes transportation dependents of a large share of the population either too young, too old, or otherwise unable to drive or safely walk or bike. Access to the high school, middle school, and senior center from Islington requires automobile travel along narrow, winding Clapboardtree Street or a circuitous route via East, Pine, Gay, and High Streets. Narrow roads without sidewalks or shoulders throughout the Town make biking or walking impractical and unsafe for vulnerable residents.

The only options for non-drivers, other than walking or bicycling, are ridesharing companies such as Uber and Lyft, taxicabs, limited van services from the Council on Aging by appointment only for seniors and disabled residents, MBTA bus 34E on Washington Street, THE RIDE program by the MBTA for those who qualify, and a few private shuttle buses for specific senior residences and businesses. There are no other bus lines, no taxi stands except at the Route 128 Railroad Station, and no public shuttle bus service.

The morning commute creates congestion for Westwood residents as commuters from outlying towns fill High Street, Hartford Street, Washington Street, and Canton Street en route to Route 128. This makes it difficult for residents on side streets to enter the traffic, and for children to walk to school, pedestrians to cross, and bicycles to be safely used. Along these corridors, commuters utilize neighborhood side streets to bypass the congestion on the main streets, expanding and

exacerbating the impacts of the through traffic. The evening commute is the same problem in reverse.

These conditions have worsened since the last revision of the comprehensive plan. Significant improvements to High and Washington Streets, including the addition of turn lanes and traffic signals, and traffic calming measures on some neighborhood streets, have been installed over past years to mitigate these problems. These improvements have avoided even greater problems, but they have not addressed the fundamental lack of a comprehensive system incorporating multiple modes of transportation.

In 2012-2014, the Town adopted mixed-use zoning allowing multi-unit dwellings to promote transit-oriented development at University Station and the two town centers. This combination of commercial, office, and living facilities located near public transportation reduces the need for automobile travel and encourages walking and bicycling.

At the 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Westwood adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which seeks to accommodate all road users by creating a transportation network that equitably meets the needs of drivers, pedestrians, bikers, transit riders, persons with disabilities, and people of all ages. This policy adoption led to certification of Westwood as a Complete Streets Community by the state, and to the Town receiving two funding grants from MassDOT for intersection improvements and accompanying sidewalks at North Street/High Street and Pond Street/High Street.

In considering approaches to improving mobility, it is important to recognize our long-established land use pattern and how fundamentally transportation has been structured around the automobile in Westwood. This is unlikely to change, and automobiles will remain the primary mode of transportation in and through the Town as long as there are few alternative modes of transportation. For example, the Islington MBTA commuter rail station is underutilized because of limited amount of service and lack of adequate parking and amenities. The Islington stop is not ideal for most commuters coming into Westwood since it is not near any major employment center and provides no access to the High Street side of town, being used mostly by nearby residents to commute to Boston and Xaverian Brothers High School students. The Route 128 station is used by many residents who overwhelmingly drive there in single occupancy vehicles.

Regional cooperation and collaborative effort with nearby communities could help improve Westwood's transportation problems. Several Westwood Planning Board members serve as representatives to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC), and the MBTA Advisory Board.

Biking and walking are currently a small share of the transportation mode for Westwood, but over time there has been growing interest in biking and walking, not only as a recreational pursuit, but as a general quality of life issue. In 2009, the Town created the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee as an advisory committee to the Planning Board to help make Westwood a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly community. Its purpose is to identify needs and advocate for improvements related to walkability and pedestrian and bicycle safety. A Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan drafted by MAPC in consultation with the Committee was adopted by Town Meeting on May 5, 2014 and the Complete Streets Policy worked on and supported by the Committee was adopted the following year.

Interest in improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure remains high among Town residents. When asked to select improvements to the town, 60% of survey responders for this plan choose

improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Additionally, 62% said they would like to see more sidewalks, 43% more walking trails, and 43% would like to see more bicycle paths. Over one third (36%) responding to the survey said that improving public transportation was a “very important” or “important” goal. Improving transportation safety, reducing reliance on the automobile, and addressing traffic congestion were also major priorities discussed at the Community Visioning Session.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town's transportation goal is to develop a network of transportation options that allows all residents the opportunity to participate effectively in the community by having convenient access to community resources. This network should promote safety, minimize the negative effects of automobile traffic, and wherever possible promote an active and healthy lifestyle. The transportation network should connect all segments of our town.

The following objectives guide the policies and practices over the next decade:

- Objective 1:** Create a safe, equitable, and affordable transportation system for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, unifying the Town using all modes of travel to provide economic, recreational, educational, and living opportunities consistent with the character of the Town.
- Objective 2:** Utilize the Town's Complete Streets Policy to guide the proposal, design, and implementation of transportation projects. Progress should be measurable, specific, ongoing, and include evaluation and reporting.
- Objective 3:** Fund improvements through sources in addition to general tax revenue. The Town should incorporate a methodical approach to identifying alternative funding mechanisms, pursuing grants, and exploring all possibilities for the funding needed to meet the goals.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Transportation means more than simply allowing convenient travel from place to place. It can also be a component of a strong community. Over the past years, the conditions on High Street, Washington Street, and Canton Street have dominated planning and discussion, and significant improvements have been made. While these major roads must be maintained and any safety issues addressed, the Town has an opportunity to improve its transportation network using the Complete Streets Policy to utilize all modes available, with emphasis on biking, walking, and shuttle services. Incremental improvements should continue to be made to the transportation infrastructure. Biking and walking are not merely recreational activities to be accommodated, but components of a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life in Westwood and the connectivity of the Town.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not formerly prioritized but are organized under topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives, followed by an informal order of significance.

To support regional initiatives towards transportation improvement:

- T1. Continue leadership efforts under the Regional Working Group organized by the Neponset Valley Transportation Management Association and the Neponset River Regional Chamber to promote regional roadway, traffic, and public transportation improvements, and to strongly advocate for the completion of the MassDOT I-93/I-95 Interchange project.
- T2. Seek consistent participation in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC) by both Select Board and Planning Board members.
- T3. Work through the MBTA Advisory Board and directly with MBTA management to advocate for improved bus service on both Route 1A and Route 109, better commuter rail service, late night rail service, improvements to the Islington Station, and regular maintenance of the Route 128 Station parking garage.

To develop a Complete Streets transportation network within the town:

- T4. Continue to implement the Town's Complete Streets Policy where feasible. Use the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee, the Police, and DPW to gather data as well as feedback from residents to create annual reports as specified in the Policy.
- T5. Use the Complete Streets map and project prioritization plan to implement an ongoing and continuous sidewalk development and replacement program, maintaining an inventory containing the condition and priority of all existing and missing sidewalks.
- T6. Continue efforts to design and construct an accessible and safe walking path or sidewalk on Gay Street to connect High Street and Washington Street.
- T7. Implement various items from the Town-meeting approved "Dedham and Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan" to create a contiguous network of bicycle lanes and paths.
- T8. Consider a bicycle-sharing system.
- T9. Pursue the planning and development of a contiguous trail network.
- T10. Pursue implementation for shuttle bus service along High Street/Pond Street to University Station and possibly Dedham Corp. Center/Legacy Place, according to a state study which found such a route to be viable.¹ Consider additional routes, including a cross-town connection between the High Street and Islington villages. Examine various modes for the shuttles such as fixed route, variable route, and on-demand.
- T11. Investigate the coordination of bus and shuttle services within the Town and with adjacent communities by working through MAPC, TRIC, and the Regional Working Group with emphasis on connecting the bus line along Route 1A with the jobs along Route 1. Explore grants and funding sources encouraging sustainable transportation services.
- T12. Increase the number of bus stop shelters on existing and newly created routes and incorporating solar arrays.
- T13. Consider a cooperative program with ridesharing companies (Uber and Lyft) to provide reduced rate service for students, seniors, and the disabled.
- T14. Implement the recommendations of the recent Crosswalk Study conducted by the Town to identify safety concerns and ADA accessibility compliance at all pedestrian crossings.

- T15. Pursue funding for an adaptive signalization program on Route 109 to improve traffic flow.
- T16. Periodically review the traffic calming measures for Canton Street, Everett Street, and Forbes Road, as well as for High Rock Street, Dover Road, and Conant Road to determine their effectiveness and need for adjustments so that the desired levels of safety are achieved.
- T17. Conduct a traffic cut-through study for Route 109 and other problem areas to explore the most effective ways to deal with this problem.
- T18. Develop and publicize an App, dial 311, or other means for easily reporting potholes, signage, or other road related problems.
- T19. Encourage participation by all schools in programs like Safe Routes to School and actively work to decrease parental drop-off/pickup automobile trips, encourage walking and school bus use, and discourage high school students from driving to school.
- T20. Pursue additional streets and sections of streets for placing all utilities underground, as was done previously for sections of High Street, Washington Street, and University Avenue, and where possible, make use of the resulting space for sidewalks or walking paths.
- T21. Study the ability of the power grid to handle the future of more electric cars being recharged, and any improvements in capacity and equipment needed.
- T22. Continue to use the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee as an initial forum for the airing of traffic and safety concerns, Complete Streets implementation, and plans for street redesign and new street development. The Committee should serve as a subcommittee to the Planning Board, and through the Planning Board, as an advisor to the Select Board/Road Commissioners. Provide appropriate support to the Committee with DPW, Police Department, and Traffic Engineering staff participation as needed.

To coordinate local transportation policy and action:

- T23. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in redevelopment projects and subdivisions with the provision of new sidewalks, on-site or off-site paths or trails, or an equivalent contribution to the Town Sidewalk/Path Fund.
- T24. Establish consistent street design, reconstruction, repair, and street acceptance policies for the Select Board when acting as Road Commissioners, for DPW in its reconstruction and improvement programs, and for the Planning Board in its consideration of subdivision and special permit approvals.
- T25. Require appropriate mitigation measures for all developments that increase transportation demand.

To bring local zoning regulations into harmony with transportation objectives:

- T26. Review and update the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules and Regulations, and all other Planning Board regulations to be consistent with the Town's Complete Streets Policy and the latest environmental, stormwater, accessibility, and sustainability standards.
- T27. Continue to refine and implement context sensitive design standards that differentiate between village and industrial/commercial locations for such things as traveled way width,

centerline radii, maximum grades, storm water system approaches, and pedestrian and bicycle accommodation.

- T28. Revise Subdivision Regulations to promote street and path connectivity. Decide whether cul-de-sacs should be more restricted or prohibited outright, or whether path connections should be required at their ends.
- T29. Continue to codify the use of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures for all projects under review and strongly encourage all existing commercial uses in Town to adopt TDM measures.
- T30. Continue to review the parking regulations to consider:
- Maximum as well as minimum parking requirements, applying usual demand standards and overall limits.
 - Reduced requirements for transit-oriented developments.
 - Reduced requirements for developments containing affordable units.
 - Parking space pricing unbundled from residential unit pricing.
 - Transportation Demand Management rules, such as preferential parking locations for carpools.
 - Electric recharging stations.
 - Amount of bicycle parking.
 - Pick-up/Drop-off areas for shuttle buses, ride sharing, car sharing, and autonomous vehicles.
- T31. Review and strengthen the traffic mitigation requirements of the Zoning Bylaw. Consider making those requirements applicable to more projects, not just those requiring a special permit.
- T32. Simplify and expand the Planning Board's Earth Material Movement Environmental Impact Design Review by creating heavy truck routes for each section of Town, developing regulations for applying those routes, and referencing or including the relevant routes in all permits issued by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Building Department.

To use publicly funded projects for advancing the Town's mobility objectives:

- T33. Incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, grass and tree buffer strips between vehicles and pedestrians, and other traffic calming features in public roadway projects.
- T34. Consider traffic calming measures and devices where necessary to address speeding and safety issues.
- T35. Apply the principle of the "5 E's" to achieve safety improvements, particularly for schools:
- Engineering – Design physical and operational infrastructure improvements that reduce speeds, prevent conflicts, and establish safer and accessible crossings, walkways, trails, and bikeways.
 - Education – Teach about the broad range of transportation choices, offer training in bicycling and walking safety skills, and launch safety campaigns.

- Encouragement – Use events and activities to promote walking and bicycling.
- Enforcement – Partner with the police department to ensure that traffic laws are obeyed and utilize community enforcement such as crossing guards and student safety patrols.
- Evaluation – Monitor and review the results, from before to after.

To manage land use consistent with transportation objectives:

T36. Continue the implementation of the Village Zoning approach to encourage creative design and promote walking, bicycling, shared parking, and public transportation use for both the High Street and Islington villages in Land Use Element.

T37. Pursue mixed-use concepts for the Route 1 area in the Land Use Element and other parts of town to promote more compact development.

RESOURCES

Town of Westwood Policy on Complete Streets, adopted by Select Board on September 29, 2015, Adopted by Town Meeting as Article 18 on November 9, 2015.

Region wide Suburban Transit Opportunities Study - Phase II, Produced by Central Transportation Planning Staff for the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, December 2005.

Dedham and Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan, Prepared by MAPC under the Sustainable Communities program, April 2014.

Town Crosswalk Study and Evaluation, Prepared by BETA Group for the Department of Public Works.

Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Westwood, Revised through May 6, 2019.

Westwood Planning Board Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Revised through April 2015.

ENDNOTES

¹ Region wide Suburban Transit Opportunities Study - Phase II, by the Central Transportation Planning Staff for the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, December 2005.



Solar at Westwood High School



Target at University Station

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Sustainability and Resiliency is a new section of Westwood’s Comprehensive Plan and was added because these elements have become more critical since the writing of the 2000 Plan. Charting a sustainable path as our Town grows will ensure that actions today contribute to a better future for our children and grandchildren. Resiliency will determine whether we meet the unknown challenges of the next decade and beyond with optimism, hope, and perseverance, or allow disruptions to diminish and harm our community.

One of the greatest challenges facing not only Westwood, but our entire planet in 2020, is whether or not we can collectively address climate change in a way that slows the impact of global warming in time to avoid a future of environmental catastrophes and conflict over resources. While climate change is being caused by worldwide patterns of industrial growth, we can do our part to have an impact locally. We can challenge our community to do what needs to be done and provide an example and leadership to others.

Sustainability principles guide the proactive steps Westwood can take. We should ask ourselves, does the action we take today protect or harm the future? Planning for sustainability and resilience is an acknowledgement of the reality of our changing world. We need to plan so that catastrophic events, such as severe storms or man-made disasters, do not paralyze our Town and put our residents at unnecessary risk.

Westwood residents expressed their support for sustainability issues by voting almost two to one (5864 Yes, 2990 No) on a nonbinding ballot question in the November 3, 2020 state election which called for “...legislation that would require Massachusetts to achieve 100% renewable energy use within the next two decades, starting immediately and making significant progress within the first five years...”

SUSTAINABILITY

BACKGROUND

Sustainable practices are those that allow present generations to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability principles are applicable to all topics covered in this plan and have been embedded throughout policies and recommendations of this plan along with a conscious attempt to balance social, economic, and environmental considerations, incorporate equity and resilience, and link local actions to regional and global concerns, such as climate change.¹

This section complements the plan's policies and recommendations for land use, transportation, housing, natural resources, and infrastructure by prioritizing renewable energy and presenting specific strategies and steps to mitigate the climate crisis which is creating severe impacts to:

- **The natural environment:** The health, distribution, diversity, and abundance of plant and animal species.
- **Human health:** Vector-borne diseases, water supply and food production, prevalence of oppressive heat and humidity, and the formation and dispersion of air pollutants.
- **Public safety:** Damage from storms, floods, droughts, and fires.²

Many common practices are not sustainable long-term, including, most significantly, the burning of fossil fuels as the primary source for heating buildings and water, powering vehicles, equipment, and industrial processes, and generating electricity. The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, is causing the Earth to rapidly warm and has disrupted the relatively stable climate that humans depend upon. Billions of tons of CO₂ are released into the atmosphere from the use of coal, oil, and gas. As a result, climate and weather-related disasters have become more frequent and more intense as the Earth warms.

Climate change is a global, regional, and local threat that has become an urgent matter and is now a global crisis requiring aggressive actions. All efforts, big and small, to reduce greenhouse gasses over time will have measurable benefits. A significant reduction in fossil fuel use can be achieved through greater reliance on renewable energy sources such as photovoltaics, solar thermal systems, and wind power, as well as the use of heat pumps, electric vehicles, and conservation. Existing buildings can be converted, and new ones constructed as net zero buildings where the total amount of energy used by a building over time is at least equal to the amount of renewable energy created onsite or offsite. Achieving 100% renewable electricity is the most effective means to prevent irreparable damage. As of 2020, climate scientists are warning that conversion to clean renewable energy to drastically reduce fossil fuel use must occur within the next seven to ten years to avoid an irreversible change in the climate system.³

In 2008, Massachusetts became one of the first states to establish a program to address climate change, set economy-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and outline a regulatory framework.

Westwood has taken many important steps to become more sustainable. The Town has added some electric vehicles and charging stations at the Carby Municipal Building, installed PV solar systems at the High School, Thurston, Martha Jones, and Downey schools, converted to energy efficient street and traffic lights, and made numerous HVAC and lighting upgrades. The Town has participated in the state's Safe Routes to School program that assists with improvements for safe

biking and walking to middle and elementary schools. A Stormwater Management Bylaw was adopted by Town Meeting in 2015 requiring residential and commercial projects with any land disturbance over 5,000 sq. ft. to capture and treat stormwater runoff. The Westwood Land Trust, Select Board, School Department, and Conservation Commission have been key players in implementing sustainable practices.

The Select Board established an Environmental Action Committee (WEAC) in 2008 as an advisory committee on environmental concerns. WEAC proposes solutions to promote energy, water, and resource conservation, renewable energy, green building design, more efficient vehicles, reuse and recycling, and environmental education in Westwood. Each spring and fall, it sponsors a recycling event with the DPW for items not accepted at curbside. In 2019, the Committee initiated a Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) purchasing program for the Town to start offering lower group electricity rates and renewable energy options to all residents and businesses.

WEAC was instrumental in Westwood becoming a Green Community, a state program offering municipalities energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. This required meeting various criteria such as allowing as-of-right rooftop solar, purchasing fuel efficient municipal vehicles, and adoption of the Stretch Code (780 CMR 115 AA) of the Massachusetts Building Code. The Stretch Code requires newly constructed buildings to use less energy to minimize the life-cycle costs. The Town participates in an annual state certification process to demonstrate compliance with Green Community criteria to become eligible for grants for energy conservation projects.

Since receiving the Green Community designation, Westwood hired an Energy Manager to seek and manage grants to reduce energy use and emissions in municipal facilities. As of 2020, the Energy Manager has implemented over 50 projects valued at over \$2.83 million using \$1.43 million in Green Communities funding and approximately \$500,000 in Eversource incentives. In 2018, the Energy Manager received the Lead by Example Award from the Massachusetts DOER. Some of the recent projects awarded Green Community funding include converting all streetlights to LED, and new lighting at the Martha Jones Elementary School, the High School hallways, and the swimming pool. Solar panels were installed at the High, Thurston, Martha Jones, and Downey schools. Most recently new energy efficient ventilators were installed at Thurston Middle School.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town's sustainability goals should strive to align with the Commonwealth's goals of zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. That includes emissions from vehicles, buildings, operations, and electricity generation. The Town should endeavor to be more sustainable, encourage all residents and businesses to do the same, and incorporate sustainability into the mission of every Town department, commission, board, and committee.

Objective 1: Develop a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.

Objective 2: Educate residents on the sense of urgency around climate change action.

Objective 3: Promote the to conversion to clean renewable energy to drastically reduce fossil fuel use within the next seven to ten years.⁴

Objective 4: Promote healthy living for a healthy community.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Sustainable practices are found throughout this Plan, but this section focuses on what the Town can do to achieve sustainability by integrating this endeavor into all of the Town's operations, practices, policies, and municipal facilities with a strong emphasis on renewable energy.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not formally prioritized but are organized under topic categories related to the above goals and objectives, followed by an informal order of significance.

- S1. Develop a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan including the following:
 - Comprehensive energy use audit of all Town buildings, equipment, and vehicles to identify and prioritize improvements.
 - CO₂ reduction goals and actions to achieve those goals including:
 - Energy conservation;
 - Energy efficiency;
 - Energy purchasing with a goal of 100% renewable;
 - Net zero energy standards for new Town buildings;
 - Promotion of residential solar; and
 - Phase out of fossil fuel use.
 - Policies for the purchase of Town supplies that are greener products, with fewer single use, less plastic, more recycled and recyclable content, and more energy efficient.
 - Sustainable transportation with electric vehicles and charging stations.
 - Conversion to electric and battery powered equipment.
 - Shuttle bus service.
 - Infrastructure that promotes walking and biking.
 - Procedures for improved water conservation and pollution prevention.
 - Community education focused on sustainability.
 - Preservation, replacement, and planting of trees.
 - Path to Zero Waste by reduction, recycling, and composting.
 - Replacement of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides with less toxic and natural substitutes.
- S2. Consider climate change and greenhouse gas emission when any Town board, committee, or department creates any plans or programs, or makes decisions regarding the use, re-use, or improvement of Town land or facilities.
- S3. Continue the installation of roof solar panels and consider adding solar carports in parking lots on municipal and school property.
- S4. Conduct an annual Town-wide CO₂ production and energy use audit and report.
- S5. Consider the creation of a sustainability manager or sustainability planner position.

- S6. Continue energy conservation and strive to expand the use of renewable energy in Town facilities, operations, and the Town fleet. Establish net zero energy standards for new Town buildings.
- S7. Revise the Zoning Bylaw related to the Zoning Board of Appeals special permit to allow the installation of ground mounted solar panels based on conformance with design and performance standards which balance the need for renewable energy with neighborhood concerns.
- S8. Consider revising the Zoning Bylaw to create zoning incentives for buildings and developments that are Net Zero, LEED certified, or otherwise sustainable.
- S9. Strengthen Environmental Impact Design Reviews by the Planning Board to encourage greater energy efficiency, on-site stormwater treatment, Low Impact Design (LID), open space preservation, and tree plantings.
- S10. Review the Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Stormwater Bylaw to better address climate change issues and enable the Town to meet federal and state requirements for stormwater quality. Consider a stormwater utility to fund stormwater system improvements.
- S11. Utilize the features of the Town LED streetlight network to reduce lighting during late-night hours and save energy.
- S12. Explore programs to promote and incentivize energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy use by Town residents.
- S13. Build awareness of all residents, students, and Town officials and personnel of the urgency to combat climate change.
- S14. Engage WEAC and other Town groups to increase public awareness and participation in the early design stage review of sustainability elements for municipal construction projects.
- S15. Promote residential solar use and net zero energy attainment by participating in state programs for residential solar power.
- S16. Consider installing automobile electric charging stations for public use throughout Town. Identify policies and incentives to expand the public and private electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- S17. Explore programs to incentivize the transition to electricity to phase out commercial and residential natural gas, oil, and propane use.
- S18. Perform education, outreach, and enforcement for proper recycling through existing resources or consider hiring a recycling coordinator. Provide recycling receptacles at all fields, playgrounds, and other public buildings and facilities, and in appropriate commercial areas.
- S19. Partner with schools and extracurricular programs to educate children and residents about healthy lifestyle choices such as food, exercise, hygiene, and mental health to improve the overall health of the community.
- S20. Actively pursue opportunities through the Green Communities program for grants to support energy efficiency initiatives.

- S21. Facilitate walking, biking, and carpooling to work or school.
- S22. Continue to partner with the Dedham-Westwood Water District and Neponset River Watershed Association to maintain the community's drinking water supply and protect aquatic habitat through conservation and reduction/elimination of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

RESOURCES

National Academies of Science Engineering Medicine, June 18, 2019:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=06182019>

NASA Global Climate Change Vital Signs of the Planet: <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Global Warming Solutions Act Background: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/global-warming-solutions-act-background>

4th National Climate Assessment <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

Summary of Findings report entitled “Westwood, Massachusetts MVP Community Resilience Program, Resilience Building Workshop,” prepared by BETA Group for Town of Westwood, February 2020.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Sustainability Primer, 2015

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-05/documents/sustainability_primer_v9.pdf

Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness Program: <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>

RESILIENCY

BACKGROUND

Resiliency refers to the ability of a community to adapt to new circumstances and the ability to respond to and recover from extreme events caused by climate change and/or other man-made or natural disasters. Resiliency requires a clear understanding and acknowledgment of potential risks and vulnerabilities, planning, and preparedness to mitigate those risks.

Climate change-related natural and human-caused disasters are a major force that will impact Westwood and is a focus of resiliency planning in this element. Westwood may not be directly affected by sea level rise like coastal communities, but the Town is expected to experience more extreme weather events, more inland flooding due to intense precipitation, higher average temperatures, more summer days over 90 degrees, and more droughts, hurricanes, snow, and ice storms.⁵ The summer of 2020 was the warmest on record for Massachusetts and the fourth warmest in the United States.⁶ Westwood experienced periods of dry spells and periods of heavy rainfall such as a storm in late June 2020 that dumped 4 inches of rain in 90 minutes. The heavy rain in such a short time led to flooding, severe damage, and the closure of Norwood Hospital which serves many Westwood residents. With the increased heat there are expected health impacts and higher

risk of vector borne diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Disruption of critical infrastructure such as water, sewer, energy, transportation, and telecommunication will occur.⁷ The severity and the rate of climate change depends on the global human response to this crisis and is a significant challenge for all communities.

Westwood has begun the process of resiliency planning by applying for and receiving a state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant in 2019. The purpose of the grant was to complete a community-led planning process to designate Westwood as an MVP community. Next will be further state resiliency funding to complete vulnerability assessments and action-oriented plans. A workshop held in late 2019 with community stakeholders identified flooding, high wind and winter storms, droughts and extreme temperatures, and invasive species as the top hazards facing Westwood.

Health concerns were also identified as a major concern impacting Westwood and the region. In summer 2019, the dangerous mosquito born disease EEE was prevalent and expected to begin a three-year seasonal cycle. The outbreak of novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19 followed shortly after and became a public health pandemic in 2020 with far reaching economic and social impacts calling attention to the shortcomings of our resilience preparedness. COVID-19 led to devastating economic impacts in the first six months when many industries were significantly impacted. Public health impact with the contagious disease has been fatalities and unknown long-term effects. Social services and regional healthcare systems were overwhelmed.

Overflowing dams both natural and beaver-made have contributed to local flooding. Some areas that often experience flooding are University Avenue near the train station, which is also a community groundwater source. A second area that frequently floods is the neighborhood between Pond Street and Edgewood Road. High wind and winter storms pose a threat as they lead to fallen trees and downed power lines. Most of the Town is at risk due to the vulnerable combination of tree-lined streets and above-ground power lines.

The state MVP program provides a framework for developing a Resiliency Plan. Westwood recently (February 2020) completed the first phase of this planning process with a state grant. Since resilience spans across many areas, a Resiliency Plan requires input from many governmental departments, officials, committees, and boards in Town. A Resiliency Plan must also achieve full public participation and support to be effective.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Resiliency planning is necessary to better prepare for, manage, and respond to any disaster, to minimize stress, and to cultivate a better quality of life.

Objective 1: Create a Town resiliency plan or plans to determine the existing and future vulnerabilities to the Town from climate change and artificial or natural causes.

Objective 2: Build awareness among residents, students, and Town employees of the need to take action to reduce risk and increase resilience.

Objective 3: Take action to implement the resiliency plans.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Identifying weaknesses and threats and having plans and procedures in place is necessary to respond to emergency situations. The strategic approach emphasizes community empowerment and regional engagement to be able to respond and requires diligent direction and leadership from local and state officials. This approach also focuses on how Westwood can advance infrastructure and services with nature-based solutions that will have long term impacts on climate change and other natural and human-made disasters. Nature-based solutions use natural systems to work in combination with traditional approaches to address and respond to natural hazards.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

The following actions are not formally prioritized but are organized under topic categories related to the above overarching goals and objectives, followed by an informal order of significance.

- R1. Develop a combined Climate Action Resiliency and a Hazard Mitigation Plan that evaluates existing gaps, identifies solutions, and develops implementation strategies.
- R2. Complete the process to become a state-certified Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) community to allow Westwood to qualify and apply for future grants and programs.
- R3. Conduct a hydrologic study to identify weaknesses leading to flooding and make recommendations for improving culverts, low-lying roads and areas, and the stormwater system.
- R4. Develop updated flood maps to show areas that are at risk and vulnerable for increased extreme weather flooding.
- R5. Expand the Emergency Planning Committee to include human service leaders, local businesses, and community organizations.
- R6. Continue to review and improve the Town's emergency operations and communications system.
- R7. Place power lines underground to prevent storm-related power outages and allow more street trees.
- R8. Communicate the importance of resiliency planning to all Westwood residents, government officials, and board and committee members.
- R9. Identify local businesses and community partners such as local grocers, food suppliers, transportation providers, and housing services such as local hotels, to create a resource list and develop a relationship to be utilized in emergency situations.
- R10. Improve community engagement skills of health, police, and fire departments to strengthen abilities for health and wellness and disaster preparedness.
- R11. Build broad stakeholder networks that include social services, behavioral health, community organizations, businesses, academia, at-risk individuals, and faith-based organizations in addition to traditional public health, healthcare, and emergency management partners.

- R12. Support programs that serve at-risk individuals and assist individuals with vulnerabilities in taking an active part in protecting their health.
- R13. Develop a list of local volunteers to assist in the event of an emergency.
- R14. Aid households in having a disaster kit to provide the ability to shelter in place for up to 72 hours.
- R15. Facilitate strong social networks by establishing “neighbors helping neighbors” groups.
- R16. Cooperate with nearby towns to conduct regional resiliency planning.
- R17. Proactively reach out to senior, disabled, and assisted living facilities with vulnerable populations to prepare evacuation and emergency response plans.
- R18. Conduct semi-annual catch basin cleaning.
- R19. Strengthen and promote access to public health and social services by developing partnerships between local healthcare organizations and Westwood’s human services departments such as the Division of Youth and Family Services and the Health Division.

RESOURCES

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>

Resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: <http://www.resilientma.org/mvp>

Fourth National Climate Assessment, Chapter 18: Northeast: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/18/>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments. October 8, 2018: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

ENDNOTES

¹ Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Advisory Services Report Number 567. By David Godschalk, and FAICP, William Anderson, FAICP, 2012.

² Presentation by John P. Holdren on [Climate Science and Public Policy](#) (pdf) November 9, 2015.

³ IPCC SR15 (Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees C), Chapter 2, page 108, Table 2.2, https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_Chapter2_Low_Res.pdf
The blue highlighted bar in the table shows the remaining carbon budget for 1.5 degrees for three different levels of uncertainty. It shows that for a 67% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees, we can only emit 420 more gigatons of CO₂. We are emitting about 40 Gt per year and as of 2020 this report is two years old, so

our budget is now down to $420 - 80 = 340$ Gt. If we continue to emit 40 Gt/year, then we have about $340/40 = 8.5$ years left before exceeding 1.5 degrees of global temperature increase.

⁴ *Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet*, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA
<https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2865/a-degree-of-concern-why-global-temperatures-matter/>

⁵ Resilient MA, The Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth, <https://resilientma.org/changes>

⁶ *Assessing the U.S. Climate in August 2020*, National Centers for Environmental Information NOAA, September 9, 2020 <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/national-climate-202008>

⁷ Fourth National Climate Assessment - Chapter 18: Northeast,
<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/18/>

IMPLEMENTATION

The following Implementation Table summarizes the over 230 implementing actions of the various Plan elements. Listed is a summary of each action from each Plan element, the suggested lead agency to implement the action, and the time period when the action is expected to be initiated. The primary purpose of the table is to provide an easy reference list and a sense of the timing to be used by Town staff, boards, and the responsible entities. This may be used as an annual guide to document progress in implementing the Plan. After reviewing and adopting this Plan, the Planning Board agreed to review the status and execution of these implementing actions, beginning each May and continuing through the summer months as needed depending on timing and workflow.

The columns of the Implementation Table are as follows:

Action	The identifying number of each implementing action from each element.
Action Summary	A brief description of the implementing action.
Lead Agency	The suggested Town department, board, or committee that should take responsibility for implementing the action, listed in order of responsibility.
Ongoing	The action is already in progress and/or should be done on a regular basis.
Short Term	Expected to be initiated within two years.
Mid Term	Expected to be initiated within three to five years.
Long Term	Expected to be initiated after five years.
High Priority	A major area of concern that needs implementation as soon as possible.

The challenge of addressing this demanding agenda inevitably falls most heavily on the Select Board and Planning Board and the Planning Division, but others also are called upon to do a great deal. Keeping up with the schedule will call for careful priority setting and coordination among the responsible groups.

To assure sound implementation of this broad agenda, ongoing coordination and direction will be needed. Westwood has a strong tradition of Town organizations working closely together, and now has the staff and organizational structure to make that effort work.

This list of actions reflects not only the judgement of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and the Planning Board, but also the concurrence of the many organizations who reviewed and made suggestions on this Plan. Gaining that concurrence took some time but was worth pursuing. The Plan represents the collective intentions of the boards, agencies, and officials involved, as well as the broad array of citizens who participated.

The responsibility for Plan adoption lies with the Planning Board. The intention is that the Board will annually review the Implementation Table to help guide efforts over the forthcoming year. The Board will also provide each agency with a convenient format to update its progress, and to explain any departures from the implementation schedule. After the current coronavirus pandemic is stabilized the Town and Board will review and evaluate any necessary changes and re-examine priorities as needed.

Regularly plan to set aside time and resources for updates are of critical importance and are recommended for every seven to ten years. An update generally takes two years to complete, therefore, this Plan recommends beginning the update process no later than seven years from adoption or 2027. As noted in the introduction, this plan was finalized during a period of extraordinary disruption and uncertainty about future conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If certain changes brought about by the pandemic become long-term trends, it is possible that the Planning Board will want to revisit some of these measures in a couple years within a shorter timeframe.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
Land Use							
L1	Foster community gathering places, walking paths, bike paths, trails, shuttle services.	Select Board, Planning Staff, Conservation, Recreation		X			
L2	Support state's zoning, planning law reforms.	Planning Staff		X			
L3	Re-purpose municipally owned properties for Town centers, housing, or open space & recreation.	Select Board		X			
L4	Polices for preservation of residential and commercial center character.	Planning Board		X			
L5	Prioritize flexible density controls with performance incentives.	Planning Staff	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
L6	Review approved and completed OSRD projects and process.	Planning Staff		X			
L7	Explore options for greater diversity in housing..	Planning Staff, Housing	X		X		
L8	Strengthen Town centers.	Planning Staff, Economic Development		X			
L9	Work with commercial property owners to upgrade.	Economic Development, Planning Staff	X				
L10	Formalize & strengthen Planning Board's design review process for High & Washington Streets.	Planning Board		X			
L11	Mixed use at Glacier/Everett business area.	Planning Staff, Economic Development			X		
L12	Funding for open space.	Select Board			X		
L13	Prioritize open space protections & acquisitions.	Select Board, Land Trust, Conservation			X		
Town Centers							
TC1	Consider expand FMUOD/USROD on High St. to other business properties.	Planning Board		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
TC2	Collaborate with Select Board for Deerfield property.	Select Board, Planning Staff			X		X
TC3	Storefront and façade enhancements.	Economic Development				X	
TC4	Community cohesion with events and activities.	Economic Development, Recreation		X			
TC5	Outdoor seating, street furniture, gathering places.	Select Board, Public Works		X			
TC6	Apply universal design standards to sidewalks, walkways, crossings.	Public Works	X				
TC7	Street tree program/tree fund/recommended tree list.	Planning Staff, Public Works			X		
TC8	Expand shuttle and ride-share programs.	Planning Board			X		
TC9	Zoning for uses that generate foot traffic.	Planning Board		X			
TC10	Annual review of infrastructure and improvements.	Select Board, Public Works		X			
TC11	Sidewalk, crosswalk, lighting enhancements to Town centers.	Select Board, Public Works, Ped./Bike Com.	X				X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
TC12	Consider formalizing Planning Board design review process.	Planning Board		X			
TC13	Property owner collaboration on shared parking.	Economic Development		X			
TC14	Public art and public amenities.	Select Board, Planning Board			X		
TC15	Public gathering spaces.	Select Board Planning Board		X			
TC16	Incorporate greenery in public ways and commercial projects.	Select Board, Planning Board		X			
TC17	Zoning for shared parking, solar, electric car charging.	Planning Board		X			
TC18	Public-private partnerships.	Economic Development	X				
TC19	Streamline permitting process.	Economic Development, Licensing		X			
Housing							
H1	Zoning changes for greater housing choices	Select Board, School Com., Planning Board, Housing Partnership			X		

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
H2	Housing Production Plan compliance to increase subsidized housing inventory.	Housing Partnership, Planning Board, Housing Authority, Select Board	X				X
H3	Affordable Housing Policy Guide.	Planning Staff, Housing		X			
H4	Housing Authority properties on state's subsidized housing inventory.	Westwood Housing Authority, Housing		X			
H5	Fair Housing training.	Housing		X			
H6	Active Housing Partnership committee.	Housing, Housing Partnership	X				
H7	Promote first time home buying programs and provide assistance. Examine establishing a non-profit to assist under-represented populations.	Housing staff, Planning staff			X		
H8	Establish a Diversity or Humans Rights committee.	Select Board		X			X
H9	Study benefits of CPA.	Select Board, Finance			X		
H10	Upgrades to existing affordable housing stock.	Housing			X		

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
H11	Welcome package for new residents.	Town Administrator			X		
H12	Explore programs for energy efficient and renewable energy improvements for residence.	Select Board, WEAC			X		
H13	Supplement Aid to the Elderly & Disability Tax Fund.	Select Board, Finance			X		
Economic Development							
E1	Preserve small town feel.	Planning Board	X				
E2	Final phases of University Station	Town Administrator, Economic Development	X				
E3	Redevelop properties on University Ave.	Economic Development, Planning Staff	X				
E4	Encourage commercial development along Route 1.	Economic Development, Select Board, Planning Staff			X		
E5	Examine zoning changes along Route 1	Planning Board				X	
E6	Support development of Islington Center.	Select Board, Planning Staff, Economic Development	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
E7	Work with High St./Lowder Brook Drive property owners.	Economic Development		X			
E8	Encourage upgrades of High Street commercial properties.	Planning Staff, Economic Development	X				
E9	Engage local chamber for business support.	Economic Development			X		
E10	Include green spaces, pedestrian connections, bike paths.	Planning Board	X				
E11	Maintain street and sidewalk program.	Public Works, Ped./Bike Com.	X				
E12	Transit oriented housing opportunities.	Planning Board				X	
E13	Streamline business permitting.	Select Board, Planning Board, Economic Development	X				
E14	Maintain & adjust as needed split tax rate.	Select Board, Board of Assessors, Finance	X				
E15	Utilize tax increment financing (TIF).	Select Board, Finance			X		
E16	Consider formalizing Planning Board design review.	Planning Board		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
E17	Explore business ambassador liaison.	Select Board, Economic Development			X		
E18	Review & benchmark other towns.	Economic Development			X		
E19	Implement Town-wide electronic permitting	Town Administrator, Economic Development	X				
E20	Seek to improve business regulations.	Economic Development		X			
Natural & Cultural Resources							
NC1	Work with neighboring communities and regional entities to protect quality and supply of water and habitats.	Planning Staff, Conservation, Public Works				X	
NC2	Utilize performance based zoning and regulatory measures to protect environment & cultural resources.	Planning Board	X				
NC3	Encourage all new residential construction to be open space residential development.	Planning Staff		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
NC4	Provide connections to fragmented open space.	Select Board, Conservation, Land Trust				X	
NC5	Compatible economic development & resource protection.	Planning Staff, Conservation	X				
NC6	Collaborate with DWWD to prevent & reduce contamination.	Public Works	X				
NC7	Ensure water quality.	Public Works, Conservation			X		
NC8	Adopt practices that require improvement to stormwater management systems.	Planning Board, Conservation	X				
NC9	Explore creating incentives for historic property preservation (potential Historic Preservation Fund).	Historical Commission, Economic Development, Planning Staff				X	
NC10	Establish Washington & High Street design criteria.	Planning Board		X			
NC11	Zoning relief or other incentives to preserve historic resources.	Historical Commission, Planning Board			X		

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
NC12	Partner with University Station for events and activities.	Economic Development, Recreation		X			
NC13	Discourage use of invasive species.	Conservation	X				
NC14	Adopt a tree preservation bylaw.	Planning Board, Public Works, Conservation			X		
NC15	Explore establishment of a tree fund.	Planning Staff		X			
NC16	Consider installing scenic road signage.	Public works			X		
NC17	Historic plaque program.	Historical Commission			X		
NC18	Perform survey for National Historic Register listing.	Historical Commission				X	
NC19	Revise scenic road regulations.	Planning Board		X			
NC20	Consider adding new streets as designated scenic roads.	Planning Board		X			
NC21	Evaluate effectiveness of the Historic Structures Demolition bylaw.	Historical Commission, Select Board		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
NC22	Explore funding opportunities for historic preservation and cultural enhancements.	Economic Development, Planning Staff, Recreation				X	
NC23	Investigate benefits of the CPA.	Select Board, Finance			X		
NC24	Consider developing master calendar listing of events & activities.	Town Administrator, Economic Development, Recreation		X			
NC25	Explore opportunities for pocket parks and parklets.	Economic Development, Select Board, Public Works, Recreation		X			
NC26	Continue to utilize Westwood Community trails program.	Recreation, Public Works, Ped./Bike Com.		X			
NC27	Establish trail & sidewalk program to Blue Hills Reservation.	Ped./Bike Com., Select Board, Planning Board				X	
NC28	Develop promotional material to promote trails & historic sites.	Conservation, Recreation, Historical Commission, IT Department			X		
NC29	Improve opportunities for use at Neponset River.	Conservation, Recreation, Public Works				X	

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
NC30	Recycling public education campaign.	Public Works, WEAC		X			
NC31	Partner with Westwood Cultural Council.	Economic Development			X		
NC32	Pursue historic rehabilitation of Obed Baker House.	Select Board, Economic Development	X				
NC33	Promote use of Fisher School	Historical Commission		X			
NC34	Sidewalks to be designed with natural environment.	Select Board, Public Works		X			
Community Facilities							
CF1	Renovation & expansion of Town Hall, accessibility improvements.	Town Administrator, Facilities Management	X			X	X
CF2	Complete the elementary school building project.	School Committee	X				X
CF3	Address facility needs at High School, Middle school, Martha Jones and Downey.	School Committee			X		X
CF4	Prioritize incorporating renewable energy at town properties.	Select Board, School Committee		X			X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
CF5	Conduct needs assessment for senior center.	Council on Aging, Facilities Management				X	
CF6	Optimize space for Islington branch library and multi-purpose gathering space.	Library Board of Trustees, Recreation Commission, Planning Staff	X				X
CF7	Investigate parking expansion options at main library.	Select Board, Library Board of Trustees			X		
CF8	Address deficiencies at Fire Station I for temporary storage.	Fire		X			
CF9	Develop long range plan for Fire Station I renovation or expansion.	Select Board, Fire				X	X
CF10	Expand electric charging stations at municipal properties.	Public Works, Select Board		X			X
CF11	Prioritize pedestrian improvements through Sidewalk Prioritization Plan.	Pedestrian & Bike Safety Committee, Public Works	X				
CF12	Evaluate feasibility of multi-purpose indoor recreation community facility.	Recreation Commission, Select Board		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
CF13	Implement self-evaluation and transition plan for municipal properties.	Facilities Management, Commission on Disability			X		
CF14	Involve Commission on Disability in Planning Board application review process.	Planning Staff	X				
CF15	Incorporate meeting and multi-purpose space for new municipal construction.	Select Board,	X				
CF16	Evaluate security and safety measures at schools and public buildings.	Public Works, Facilities, School Dept.	X				X
CF17	Evaluate opportunity for community gardens.	Select Board, Public Works			X		
CF18	Education and outreach for recycling.	Public Works		X			
CF19	Investigate metal recycling facility and reuse area.	Public Works			X		
CF20	Upgrade to 10G to improve Town's network.	IT	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
CF21	Implement electronic permitting for all departments.	Town Administrator, All Depts.	X				
CF22	Develop practices for digital and accessible material for all public boards and committees.	IT			X		
CF23	Expand Westwood Media contract to cover more public meetings.	Select Board			X		
CF24	Devote staff to website updates and communications.	Town Administrator, All Depts.			X		
CF25	Upgrade Public Works facilities with adequate staff facilities for disability accommodations.	Public Works		X			
CF26	Pursue designs to expand Westwood Cemetery.	Cemetery Commission, Public Works			X		
CF27	Maintain water rate structure.	DWWD	X				
CF28	Complete DWWD Comprehensive Planning Study.	DWWD	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
CF29	Require municipal redevelopment to incorporate sustainable practices and maximize energy efficiency.	Select Board		X			X
CF30	Regularly update long term operation maintenance plans for Town facilities.	Public Works		X			
CF31	Design municipal facilities to represent local history and compatible with surroundings.	Select Board		X			
CF32	Establish municipal facilities staff committee.	Select Board			X		
CF33	Encourage upgrades for wireless facilities to fill communication gaps.	Planning Staff			X		
CF34	Mentor and recruit new members to boards and commissions with emphasis on currently underrepresented populations.	Select Board	X	X			
CF35	Advertise and promote municipal employment opportunities.	Human Resources, municipal & school	X	X			X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
Open Space & Recreation							
CC1	Encourage OSRD and LID techniques for new developments to preserve and protect open space.	Planning Staff	X				
CC2	Review scenic road regulations.	Planning Board		X			
CC3	Partner with Westwood Land Trust, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission to protect natural features and historic buildings.	Conservation, Historical Commission, Land Trust, Planning Staff			X		X
CC4	Encourage shared parking.	Planning Staff, Economic Development			X		
CC5	Increase usability and attractiveness of trails.	Public Works, Conservation, Recreation			X		
CC6	Educate the community on the benefits of the CPA.	Select Board, Finance, Housing Partnership, Conservation, Recreation, Historical Commission			X		

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
RE1	Prioritize developing a new multi-purpose indoor recreation community center.	Select Board, Recreation		X			
RE2	Identify properties that might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.	Recreation		X			
RE3	Partner with private entities to share indoor ice-skating facility and examine portable outdoor system.	Recreation, Public Works		X			
RE4	Implement use and maintenance plans.	Recreation, Public Works		X			
RE5	Expand outdoor recreation facilities by more multipurpose fields and lighting.	Recreation, Public Works		X			
RE6	Increase recreational opportunities and programs for adults and seniors.	Recreation			X		
RE7	Incorporate universal design into all recreation facilities.	Recreation, Disability Commission, Public Works			X		
OS1	Incorporate universal design at feasible locations.	Conservation, Disability Commission, Public Works		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
OS2	Prepare management plans for conservation areas.	Conservation, Public Works			X		X
OS3	Consider developing a mobile app to increase awareness of open space and conservation land.	Conservation, Land Trust			X		
OS4	Land acquisition for contiguous connectivity such as near Lyman's Pond.	Conservation, Select Board, Land Trust			X		
OS5	Collaborate with Hale to permanently protect land.	Town Administrator, Finance	X				X
OS6	Encourage open space donations or conservation restrictions.	Select Board, Land Trust	X				
OS7	Pursue grants, donations, funding for open space acquisition and improvements.	Conservation		X			
Transportation							
T1	Promote regional transportation improvements.	Public Works, Select Board, Planning Staff		X			
T2	Seek participation in MAPC & TRIC.	Planning Staff, Select Board	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
T3	Advocate for improved commuter rail service and maintenance of Rte. 128 garage.	Select Board, Planning Staff	X				
T4	Strive to implement complete streets policy.	Public Works, Select Board	X				
T5	Use the complete streets prioritization plan for replacement and maintenance.	Select Board, Public Works	X				
T6	Continue efforts to design and construct path or sidewalk on Gay Street.	Select Board, Public Works	X				X
T7	Work towards implementing recommendations of the Dedham-Westwood Pedestrian Connection Plan.	Select Board, Public Works, Ped./Bike Com.			X		
T8	Consider a bike-sharing program.	Select Board, Planning Staff			X		
T9	Pursue contiguous trail network.	Conservation, Ped./Bike Com.				X	
T10	Explore opportunities for shuttle bus service along High St. University Station, & Legacy Place shopping areas.	Economic Development			X		

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
T11	Investigate and coordinate bus and shuttle service with adjacent towns.	Economic Development, Planning Staff			X		
T12	Consider increasing number of bus shelters.	Select Board, Planning Staff			X		
T13	Consider cooperative rideshare programs.	Select Board, Economic Development, Planning Staff, Council on Aging		X			
T14	Implement crosswalk improvements.	Public Works	X				X
T15	Pursue adaptive signalization program on route 109.	Public Works		X			
T16	Review existing traffic calming measures for effectiveness.	Public Works			X		
T17	Conduct a Town-wide cut-through study.	Town Administrator, Public Works,			X		
T18	Develop App to easily report road problems.	IT, Public Works		X			
T19	Participate in Safe Routes to School, encourage walking to school.	School Dept., Public Works, Ped./Bike Com.	X				
T20	Pursue underground utilities.	Town Administrator				X	

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
T21	Study ability of power grid to handle electric vehicles.	Town Administrator, Energy Manager			X		
T22	Continue to use the Pedestrian/Bike Safety committee as initial forum for resident concerns, public safety and traffic problems .	Pedestrian & Bike Safety Com.	X				
T23	Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in projects or sidewalk/path contribution funds.	Planning Board	X				
T24	Establish street acceptance policies.	Select Board, Public Works			X		
T25	Require appropriate mitigation measures for projects that increase transportation demand.	Planning Board, Select Board	X				
T26	Review and update zoning bylaws, regulations for complete streets, sustainability, and accessibility.	Planning Board		X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
T27	Refine and implement context sensitive design standards and pedestrian accommodations.	Planning Board		X			
T28	Revise subdivision regulations to promote street and path connectivity.	Planning Board			X		
T29	Use Transportation Demand Measures for all projects.	Planning Board		X			
T30	Review parking regulations.	Planning Board			X		
T31	Review and strengthen traffic mitigation measures in zoning bylaw.	Planning Board			X		
T32	Simplify and expand earth movement bylaw and establish truck routes.	Planning Board, Public Works			X		
T33	Incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, trees in public roadway projects	Select Board, Public Works, Planning Board				X	
T34	Consider traffic calming measures to address speeding and safety.	Select Board, Ped/Bike Com., Public Works, Police	X				

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE							
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
T35	Apply engineering, education, enforcement, evaluation, encouragement for safety improvements.	Select Board				X	
T36	Continue implementation of village zoning.	Planning Board, Economic Dev.		X			
T37	Pursue mixed-use concept for Route 1.	Planning Board, Economic Development			X		
Sustainability & Resiliency							
S1	Develop Climate Action & Resiliency Plan.	Town Administrator, Public Works, Fire, Police, Conservation, Planning Staff		X			X
S2	Consider climate change in all Town decisions.	Town Administrator, Select Board, All Departments	X				X
S3	Continue installation of roof solar and add solar carports on municipal properties.	Select Board, School Com., Energy Manager, Facilities Management	X				X
S4	Conduct Town-wide CO ₂ energy use audit & report.	Select Board, Energy Manager	X				X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
S5	Consider creating a sustainability manager/planner position.	Town Administrator			X		X
S6	Energy conservation and use of renewable energy in Town facilities and fleet.	Select Board, WEAC, Public Works	X	X			X
S7	Explore zoning amendments for the review of solar special permits.	Planning Board		X			X
S8	Consider revising zoning for incentives for sustainable buildings.	Planning Board			X		X
S9	Strengthen EIDR to promote sustainability.	Planning Board			X		X
S10	Explore revisions Wetlands Protection Bylaw.	Conservation			X		X
S11	Reduce street-lighting during late night.	Public Works	X	X			
S12	Explore programs to promote and incentivize sustainability and renewable energy to residents.	Energy Manager, Select Board, WEAC		X			X
S13	Build awareness of urgency to combat climate change.	WEAC, School Dept., Energy Manager		X			X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
S14	Engage WEAC or other groups to increase public awareness of sustainability for municipal construction.	Energy Manager, Select Board		X			X
S15	Promote residential solar use.	Energy Manager, WEAC	X	X			X
S16	Consider electric vehicle stations for public use throughout Town.	Town Administrator, Facilities Management		X			X
S17	Incentivize transition to electricity to phase out fossil fuel use.	Select Board, Planning Board		X			
S18	Perform outreach and enforcement of proper recycling.	Public Works	X	X			
S19	Partner with schools and extracurricular programs for children and resident healthy lifestyles.	Health, School Dept., Youth & Family Services, Recreation	X	X			
S20	Pursue Green Communities grant programs.	Energy Manager, Public Works, Planning Staff	X	X			X
S21	Facilitate walking and carpooling to work and school.	Town Administrator, School Dept.	X	X			X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
S22	Partner with DWWD to promote water conservation measures.	DWWD, WEAC	X		X		
R1	Develop Climate Action Resiliency Plan	Select Board, Fire, Health, Public Works, Conservation, WEAC		X			X
R2	Complete process to become a certified MVP community.	Public Works		X			
R3	Conduct hydrologic study to identify flooding areas.	Public Works			X		
R4	Develop updated flood maps.	FEMA, IT, Conservation		X			
R5	Expand the Emergency Planning Committee.	Town Administrator, Fire, Health		X			
R6	Review Town's emergency operations and communications systems.	Police, Fire, Health, Public Works	X	X			
R7	Place power lines underground to prevent storm-related outages.	Select Board, Public Works			X		
R8	Communicate importance of resiliency planning.	Town Administrator		X			X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
R9	Identify local businesses and community partner entities for emergency situations.	Town Administrator		X			
R10	Improve community engagement skills of Health, Police, and Fire.	Town Administrator, Fire, Police, Health		X			
R11	Build broad stakeholder networks including social, behavioral health, community orgs, health.	Town Administrator, Fire, Police, Health		X			
R12	Support programs to serve at-risk individuals.	Health, Disability Commission, Council on Aging		X			
R13	Develop a list of local volunteers to assist in emergencies.	Health		X			
R14	Aid for disaster and shelter in place kit.	Health			X		
R15	Facilitate “neighbors helping neighbors” groups.	Town Administrator, Health			X		
R16	Promote cooperation with nearby towns.	Town Administrator			X		
R17	Proactively reach out to residences, vulnerable populations.	Health, Disability Commission, Council on Aging	X	X			

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority
R18	Conduct semi-annual catch basin cleaning.	Public Works		X			
R19	Promote and strengthen public health and social services.	Health, Human Service Town Depts., Council on Aging		X			



TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Select Board

John M. Hickey, Chair
Nancy C. Hyde, Clerk
Michael F. Walsh, Third Member

Christopher T. Coleman ICMA-CM, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Dir.
Patricia A. Healey, Assistant to the Town Administrator

December 11, 2020

David Atkins, Chair
Westwood Planning Board
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: 2020 Comprehensive Plan

Dear Mr. Atkins,

The Town of Westwood Select Board appreciates the time and effort expended by Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee members and Planning Board members in producing the update to Westwood's Comprehensive Plan. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan will be an effective tool for guiding the vision and goals for Westwood's future.

Adoption of this plan will further encourage the town's efforts towards maintaining and creating a community that encourages such things as open space; pedestrian gateways; historic property protection; diverse housing opportunities and achieves renewable energy goals and attracts businesses for fiscal stability. The Select Board will do its part to support measures in the Comprehensive Plan that sustain the high quality of life provided to all our residents.

The Board recognizes that as our town evolves and changes with time, amendments to the 2020 Comprehensive Plan may be necessary. At this time, the Select Board supports the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and looks forward to fruitful discussions of its goals and objectives.

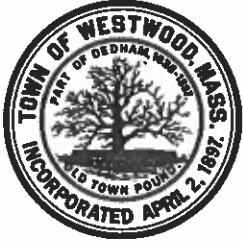
Sincerely,

John M. Hickey
Chair, Select Board

Nancy C. Hyde
Clerk, Select Board

Michael F. Walsh
Third Member, Select Board

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



TOWN OF WESTWOOD

Board of Trustees
Paul Fitzgerald, Chair
Wendy Thornton, Secretary
Jessica Cole
Mary Masi-Phelps
Mary Beth Persons
Maureen Von Euw

Westwood Public Library
660 High Street • Westwood, MA 02090
Phone: 781-326-7562
Fax: 781-326-2768

Tricia Perry, Director
tperry@townhall.westwood.ma.us

14 September 2020

Ms. Abigail McCabe, Town Planner
2020 Comprehensive Planning Committee
Town of Westwood
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Ms. McCabe and Members of the Westwood 2020 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

The Library Board of Trustees wishes to extend our sincere thanks to you and the members of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for the work that you have accomplished in putting together a cohesive and informative plan for the Town of Westwood.

The Board of Library Trustees has been involved throughout the process, and Thomas Viti, as a member of the Committee and former Library Director, has kept the members of the Library Board of Trustees apprised and informed of all recommendations and has provided many updates for both the Trustees and Library staff as the Library facilities portion of the Comprehensive Plan has evolved.

The Board of Library Trustees supports the adoption of the proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fitzgerald
Chair, Library Board of Trustees

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



COUNCIL ON AGING

November 9, 2020

Dear Planning Board Chair Atkins and members of the Planning Board,

The Westwood COA Board and I have had the opportunity to review the Comprehensive Plan with the Steering Committee and provide comments on needs of the seniors and on the draft.

I have reviewed a draft with committee members Tom Viti, Steve Olanoff and with Town Planner Abby McCabe and have had a chance to provide comments in the Communities Facilities Section and input on the Resiliency Section.

The Council on Aging has had input in the final draft which incorporates the needs and desires of the Council on Aging.

We appreciate the Steering Committee's work on this important long-range plan and look forward to working on implementing the action strategies to help best serve Westwood's seniors and residents daily and in the years ahead.

Warmly,

**Lina Arena-DeRosa
Director of Council on Aging**

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Michael McCusker, Chair
Abraham Glaser
Christopher Pfaff
Louis Rizoli
Deborah Conant, Alternate



Sarah D. Bouchard
Housing & Zoning Agent
sbouchard@ownhall.westwood.ma.us
(781) 251-2598

**HOUSING PARTNERSHIP
FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Christopher Coleman,
Fair Housing Director/ Ex-officio Member

To: Planning Board
Cc: Abby McCabe, Town Planner
Date: November 10, 2020
Re: Comprehensive Plan, Housing Section

The Housing Section of the Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed by both the Housing & Zoning Agent, Sarah Bouchard, and the Housing Partnership and Fair Housing Committee. Both have the opportunity to provide input and comment upon the goals and implementation actions reflected in this section.

In 2019, the Town of Westwood adopted a Housing Production Plan focused on the Town's general housing needs and strategy to produce affordable housing that meets Westwood's goals for increased housing diversity. We find the Comprehensive Plan Housing section to be consistent with those goals. The Housing section seeks to diversify the Town's housing stock through zoning and policy changes, preserve the character of existing homes and neighborhoods, moderate housing costs, and expand access to housing for all individuals regardless of ability, race, income level, or other protected class.

The Housing Partnership supports the Comprehensive Plan and looks forward to working closely with the Planning Board to implement the recommended actions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bouchard
Housing & Zoning Agent

Michael McCusker
Chair of the Westwood Housing Partnership

Carby Street Municipal Building • 50 Carby Street • Westwood, MA 02090

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent
kcatrone@townhall.westwood.ma.us
(781) 251-2580

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John Rogers, Chairman
Stephen David
Helen Gordon
Kresna Maneva
D.J. Sheer
Todd Sullivan
Todd Weston

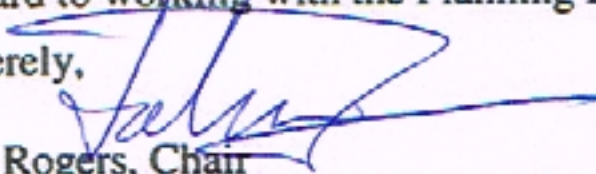
Westwood Planning Board
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

November 11, 2020

Dear Planning Board Members,

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the Open Space and Recreation section of the Comprehensive Plan, including the goals and action items, and voted at our October 28, 2020 meeting to send you this letter with our formal support. Numerous Commissioners have participated in the Comprehensive Plan process, as well as the recently adopted Open Space and Recreation Plan, and find them consistent, particularly goals for conservation land management, and the proactive pursuit of grants and other funding resources to proactively improve existing conservation land. The Commission looks forward to working with the Planning Board and others in implementing the recommended actions.

Sincerely,


John Rogers, Chair
Westwood Conservation Commission

Carby Street Municipal Building • 50 Carby Street • Westwood, MA 02090

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Michael Kraft, Chair
Kela Klosi, Vice Chair
Heather Ford, Secretary
Steven Olanoff
George Lester
Robert R. Gotti

Abigail McCabe, AICP, Town Planner
amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us
(781) 251-2581



PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2020

Letter of Support for Comprehensive Plan

Dear Planning Board Members,

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee has reviewed the Town Centers and Transportation elements of the Comprehensive Plan and had the opportunity to review and provide comments. The goals and implementing actions listed in these sections support this group's desire for more physical connections throughout the Town and safe and active streetscapes. During the drafting, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee members Kate Wynne and Steve Olanoff were also members of this Committee and actively participated throughout the process. The Committee enthusiastically endorses the Plan's high priority for a sidewalk on Gay Street. The Committee also supports the Plan's focus on walkability, accessibility improvements, universal design to provide more than the minimum access for residents of all abilities, alternative modes of transportation, and traffic calming measures. The Commission looks forward to assisting the various town departments and committees in fulfilling the Plan's goals to best serve the community.

Sincerely,

Michael Kraft

Committee Chair
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety



TOWN OF WESTWOOD

(COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

October 26, 2020

Jack Wiggin
Chair
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Westwood Town Hall
Westwood, Massachusetts

Dear Jack,

During the last few years, Town officials, staff, and residents have been involved in revising our Comprehensive Plan and developing a detailed plan for the open space and recreation opportunities. The Commission on Disability has been an active partner with the Planning Board, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and the Open Space and Recreation Committee in identifying and making recommendations that would improve universal access to Westwood community facilities and programs. The Commission is pleased to write in support of the final report of this multi year planning process.

Throughout the planning process, the Commission on Disability stressed the importance of using principles of Universal Design. These principles guide the creation of environments that are usable by all people, regardless of their age, size, ability or disability, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.¹ Adoption of universal design is important in light of prevalence data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control that one in four adults lives with a disability.² Thoughtful design ensures that all members of the community are able to participate in civic life.

The Commission on Disability provided specific input that has been incorporated into the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Housing Production Plan and the Community Facilities Section of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

Access to Open Space and Recreation

¹https://projects.ncsu.edu/design/cud/about_ud/udprinciplestext.htm

²<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0816-disability.html>

The Commission on Disability identified simple low cost measures that would increase access for families, senior citizens as well as for individuals with disabilities of all ages:

- ensure that the entry to recreation and conservation properties allow access for wheelchairs,
- provide at least one accessible portable bathroom at recreation sites,
- provide braille, high contrast and large print signage, and posts with guide ropes for individuals with visual impairments
- provide benches, or strategically placed boulders along trails to allow senior citizens and others to rest periodically
- provide a paved path around a pond and improve an existing conservation trail to provide access.

Housing Needs of People with Disabilities

The Housing Production Plan provides a coordinated vision and strategy for housing development within the community. The Plan contemplates adoption of goals such as encouraging single family home development and preservation for first time and low and moderate income homebuyers, developing supportive housing for people with disabilities, promoting housing stability for senior citizens, and increasing the number of affordable rental and ownership units for senior citizens.

The Commission supports these important goals for our community and stressed the importance of incorporating principles of universal design in housing. Universal design results in housing that is usable by all people, regardless of their age, size, ability or disability, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Access to Community Facilities

State and federal laws have been enacted over the last 50 years to eliminate barriers that prevent citizens with disabilities from participating in full civic life, including: the Massachusetts Architectural Barriers Act (1968), the Massachusetts Special Education law (1972), Section 504 of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1973, the federal Education of the Handicapped Act (1975, later, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 1990), and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A generation of young adults has grown up, expecting to be able to fulfill their potential and to make a contribution to their community.

Since the prior Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2000, many of our community facilities have been either renovated or replaced. The new facilities comply with disability access requirements and allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in civic events. The Commission on Disability is pleased that so much progress has been made throughout the Town in providing disability access to municipal and school buildings throughout the community. Our historic Town Hall, built in 1910, continues to be in need of access improvements. This lack of access at Town Hall is a noticeable

obstacle to full participation in civic life for disabled citizens and a barrier to Town employees who experience a temporary or permanent disability.

The Commission on Disability supports the goals of the revision of the Comprehensive Plan which will enable our town to eliminate the remaining physical impediments to full civic participation for all members of our community.

Respectfully,



Anne Berry Goodfellow



Jette Meglan

Co-chairs
Commission on Disability



TOWN OF WESTWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
RECREATION COMMISSION

Ann Delaney, Chair
Joyce Cannon, Vice Chair
Sheila Moylan, Secretary
Mitchell Katzman, Member
Bob Phillips, Member
Paul Tucceri, Member
Elizabeth Phillips, Associate Member

Richard Adams, Interim Recreation Director
radams@townhall.westwood.ma.us

October 28, 2020

Westwood Planning Board
Abigail McCabe, Town Planner
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Letter of Support for Comprehensive Plan

Dear Planning Board Members,

The Recreation Commission has reviewed the draft Open Space and Recreation Section and had the opportunity to review and provide comments. The goals and implementing actions listed in the Recreation Section are consistent with the Recreation Committee's goals. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee members Charlie Donahue and Steve Olanoff, and Town Planner Abby McCabe met with the Recreation Commission at a meeting on January 23, 2020 and the final draft reflects our comments. The Recreation Commission's implementing actions are listed in an informal priority order and providing an indoor multi-purpose recreation center to serve residents of all ages remains a top priority. The actions listed in this Plan are consistent with the recently adopted Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Commission looks forward to fulfilling its goals to continue provide the best quality recreation services to the community.

Sincerely,

Ann Delaney,
Chair Recreation Commission

Westwood Recreation
240 Nahatan Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 461-0070
www.westwoodrec.com
recreation@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Westwood Environmental Action Committee



Westwood Environmental Action Committee
25 November 2020

Abby McCabe
Town Planner

Dear Ms. McCabe,

It was a pleasure to have you join the November meeting of the Environmental Action Committee (WEAC). As you know, the committee reviewed the draft Resiliency and Sustainability section of the Comprehensive Plan. We appreciate all of the work that you and others have put into the formation of this plan which will be a tremendous guiding force for years to come.

On November 12, 2020 WEAC voted unanimously to support the Resiliency and Sustainability section of the Comprehensive Plan. We recognize that there will be some minor editing and formatting changes as the plan is refined. However, we are in support of the objectives and recommended actions that were laid out in the plan.

Thank you again for all of the work that has gone into this plan.

Sincerely,

Stephen Harte
Chair, WEAC

APPENDIX

List of Public Meetings and Public Events for Participation

In summer 2018, the Planning Board began discussing initial recommendations on how to update the current Comprehensive Plan last adopted in 2000.

August – September 2018 Planning Board created Steering Committee Work Plan, Committee Member Description and Duties, Committee Application, solicited volunteers at Westwood Day event on Saturday, September 29, 2018, Community Connection Newsletter mailing to all residences, created webpage www.bit.do/WWComprehensiveplan, Planning Board and other Town Facebook group pages, Twitter, email blasts to various staff, boards, and committees, Town emails through Town website notification system, Westwood Wire monthly town news email subscription, notecards located at both libraries, Town Hall, Senior Center, and Islington Community Center.

October 12, 2018 Eighteen Steering Committee applications submitted to Select Board for consideration of Appointment.

November 5, 2018 Select Board established a resident steering committee comprised of 18 members consisting of the applicants that submitted complete applications. Members were assigned responsibility for a subject area two per plan element. Two members later resigned due to time commitment conflicts. [Video](#).

November 19, 2018 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee convened for the first kick-off meeting. All meetings of the Committee were posted on the Town website, with the Town Clerk, Town e-notification system, and filmed by Westwood Media Center. Minutes are available on the Committee's webpage. Committee decided to hire a public engagement consultant to help manage, run, and take the lead on a community visioning session. Created a Public Participation Plan for meetings, events, and public input in a separate exhibit in the appendix. [Video](#).

Winter 2019 Committee members reviewed current 2000 Comprehensive Plan, drafted survey questions, and began outreach to related town staff, committees, and stakeholders.

March 20 - April 17, 2019 A 17 multiple choice question community survey and cover letter released on March 20 and closed on April 17, 2019 with 811 total responses. Survey Monkey was the survey platform and hard copies were made available at the senior center, Town Hall, both libraries, and Carby Municipal offices. Primary goal was to reach as many residents as possible to collect input on priority areas to

APPENDIX

focus. The survey was anonymous with option to provide an email to receive further notifications about the Plan's Update and over 400 emails were collected. The survey was publicized on the Town's website on the homepage, email notifications through Town's website, individual email blasts, Planning Board and other town and local Facebook groups, school department's bulletin, Westwood Media Center, Westwood Wire, email to all board and committee members, announced at various board meetings.

April 11 & May 9, 2019

The Committee met to prepare for the Saturday vision session. Organized a 'special places' campaign for residents to highlight favorite places in Westwood. [April 11](#) and [May 9 Videos](#).

May 18, 2019

In partnership with Community Circle and Judi Barrett Planning Group, the Committee hosted a vision session at Thurston Middle School in the cafeteria on a Saturday from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch, transportation, and activities for children were offered. The event was publicized by distributing flyers at various local businesses and residential buildings throughout town, email blasts to all that provided emails with survey, board and committee members, social media on Twitter and Facebook, on the homepage of the website, published in the Hometown Weekly newspaper delivered to all residences, on INSIDE WESTWOOD on Westwood Media Center, press release in Westwood Patch, Committee member word of mouth, flyers at town buildings, school district bulletin, displayed on sandwich board sides at Town Hall and key locations along major roads, town email notification system, reverse 911 phone call, Westwood Wire, local groups such as Rotary Club, Young Women's Clubs, and religious institutions. 61 residents, excluding committee members, attended the visioning session. The Consultant, Committee Chair, and staff gave an introduction to the Update and progress since the 2000 Plan. Participants broke into small groups with 5-8 participants at a table with 1-2 committee members to facilitate. Each table was asked a series of questions for discussion with small groups and the full group. The complete list of questions and details from the day are provided in the Appendix in the Vision Session Summary. The event was filmed by Westwood Media Center. [Video](#).

June 2019

Community Circle with Barrett Planning Group, LLC prepared a detailed summary of the day, the questions, responses, discussion, and photographs, summary entitled "Elements of a Vision for Westwood's Future: Summary of Public Input from Public Form May 18, 2019. A report entitled "A Preliminary Vision,

APPENDIX

Goals and Objectives based on community conversation as of May 18, 2019” dated June 19, 2019 was prepared by Community Circle with Barrett Planning Group. The report captures the initial vision, preliminary themes and preliminary goals of the community based on the vision session and survey. This report was distributed to; all email contacts, all vision session participants, and survey responders that provided an email. The Committee members used this report when drafting the updated Plan.

July – August 2019

Each steering committee group met with the Planning Board liaison, Committee Chair, Vice Chair and staff to start working on a first draft for the 2019 Update.

September 25, 2019

Steering Committee met as a group to review initial goals and recommendations to gain feedback on initial draft recommendations and summarize vision session. The Committee scheduled first draft presentations to go before the Planning Board one to two at a time. [Video.](#)

Fall/Winter 2019

A first draft of each subject element was prepared by each group and reviewed by the group and Planning Board liaison. The first draft was distributed to Planning Board members and posted to the website and meeting email notification system one week prior to each of the following meetings. All meetings were televised by Westwood Media Center and streamed live on local government channels and YouTube. The primary purpose was to prepare a first draft for initial feedback and direction by the Planning Board and members of the public. Presentations were at the beginning of each Planning Board meeting 1-2 sections at a time requesting public input for next draft. On October 2, 2019 the schedule of the presentation was publicized on the website, flyers at town buildings, community newsletter, Westwood Wire. All meetings began at 7:00 pm Tuesday evenings on the following dates fall through January 7, 2020.

October 22, 2019

Community Facilities. [Video.](#)

November 5, 2019

Open Space & Recreation, Natural & Cultural Resources. [Video.](#)

November 19, 2019

Transportation, Resiliency & Sustainability. [Video.](#)

December 10, 2019

Land Use, Housing. [Video.](#)

January 7, 2020

Economic Development, Town Centers. [Video.](#)

APPENDIX

- January 15, 2020** Committee met to summarize recent meetings and review input from Planning Board meetings and next steps for next draft. [Video.](#)
- January/February 2020** Attended Council on Aging and Recreation Commission meetings for comments on draft and request letter of support.
- February 2020** The Committee hosted two open houses to serve as informal office hour format to allow residents to speak with Committee members about what they'd like to see. Open houses held on Monday February 10 12-3:00 pm at the Council on Aging and February 13 4-7:00 pm. Flyers were created, email notifications, and publicized in Westwood Wire. Approximately 30 residents participated.
- Spring/Summer 2020** Committee members, planning board liaisons, and staff reviewed each section in detail to incorporate comments, final editing, and compiling all material, including requesting letters of support.
- October 15, 2020** Committee met to review final draft and vote to recommend submitting updated Plan to Select Board and then Planning Board. [Video.](#)
- October 26, 2020** Select Board review of Comprehensive Plan. Final draft posted to website and distributed to Board on October 21, 2020. [Video.](#)
- Fall 2020** Letters of Support provided by Select Board, Recreation Commission, Housing Partnership, Council on Aging, Conservation Commission, Board of Library Trustees, Commission on Disability, Westwood Environmental Action Committee, Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee.
- Fall 2020** Planning Board held a public hearing on November 17, 2020 to review and discuss the updated Comprehensive Plan. The public hearing was published in the *Transcript & Bulletin* on October 29, 2020 and November 5, 2020. The hearing was continued to December 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020 the final 2020 Comprehensive Plan was ultimately adopted on December 15, 2020. The full plan was made available on website beginning on October 21, 2020. Email notifications with final draft sent to all survey responders, vision session participants, open house participants, Westwood Wire subscriber notification, email blasts, and social media notifications.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Activities and General Timeline

Introduction

Westwood is beginning the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan previously adopted in 2000. This public participation program will help guide the planning process in the 2019 update. This Plan will offer all residents, businesses, interest groups, property owners, stakeholders, government entities, and any other group or organization.

Public Participation Opportunities

WEBSITE *[on going]*. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee’s webpage on the Town’s website will be used as the primary source of information. It will be updated on an ongoing basis as material is available and will be used to provide general information, meeting agendas and minutes, draft plan sections, maps, fact sheets, upcoming meeting and events, and any other related studies and information. The Comprehensive Plan webpage can be found on the town’s main page at <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us> under Active Boards and Committees & Commissions for “Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee” or:

http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/gov/boardcomm/active_boards_committees_n_commissions/comprehensive_plan_steering_committee/default.htm

COMMUNITY SURVEY *[March 21 – April 17, 2019]*. Survey to obtain public opinions and preferences on subject areas.

VISIONING SESSION WORKSHOP *[Spring 2019]*. A visioning process gives residents the opportunity to express what they like about Westwood and aims to develop a consensus on what the community would like to create, change, or preserve. This will be a widely publicized town-wide forum in a workshop style with a professional facilitator. People will participate in exercises to identify issues and identify top priorities. The exact date will be scheduled at least a month in advance. All sources shall be used to promote this event; email blasts, Westwood Media Center, Press Release, meeting postings, Facebook, Twitter, flyers, newsletter (Council on Aging) etc.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS & PRESENTATIONS TO LOCAL GROUPS *[Winter 2019 – Summer 2019]* Committee members are responsible for meeting with, outreach to, and organizing focus group sessions and interviews with specific groups to discuss and solicit input. Steering committee members should contact the relative town staff to arrange a meeting or the relative board/commission chair to get on an agenda. Presentations will be throughout the planning process. It is recommended the committee members meet with staff early in the process to gather data and meet with the groups to solicit input and feedback on section drafts. Stakeholder groups include but are not limited to: the Westwood Land Trust, the Recreation Commission, School Committee, Conservation Agent, Conservation Commission, Housing Agent, Housing Partnership and Fair Housing Committee, Housing Authority, Islington Center

Task Force, Youth & Family Services Advisory Board, Board of Library Trustees, School Committee, Public Works Director, Sewer Commission, Permanent Building Committee, Municipal Facilities Task Force, Westwood Historical Commission, Westwood Historical Society, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee, Council on Aging, Disability Commission, Westwood Environmental Action Committee, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals.

PUBLIC MEETINGS *[On going]* The Town posts all meeting agendas for all boards and committees with the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. All meetings are posted to the Town's website on the homepage on the Events calendar. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to receive an email notification for all meeting notifications. This is the best way to know what items will be discussed at any town meeting. You may sign up to receive notifications:

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/mytown>

The Planning Board will include a Comprehensive Plan Update and Response to any submitted comments or questions on all meeting agendas throughout the planning process. Any comments or questions may be emailed to the Town Planner at amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us. The Planning Board meets regularly on Tuesday evenings, typically two Tuesdays a month. The 2019 schedule is available on the Planning Division's webpage.

E-DISTRIBUTION *[On going]*. Signing up to receive emails for all town official meeting postings is strongly encouraged. All governmental boards, commissions, and committees must post meeting agendas at least 48 business hours in advance and is the best way to stay informed on official business. Additionally, the Town has an email subscription services to receive updates. A monthly one is distributed to everyone that signs up and individuals may elect to sign up specifically for the Comprehensive Plan subscription which may have more frequent notifications. You may sign up here:

Town Email Subscription:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MAWESTWOOD/subscriber/new>

Official Board Agendas: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/mytown>

SOCIAL MEDIA. The Westwood Planning Board has recently created a Facebook page to stay engaged and transparent with all Planning Board, land use, and comprehensive planning activity. Please like and follow the Planning Board at <https://www.facebook.com/WestwoodPB>

Residents and businesses are encouraged to follow and may submit comments to be answered at a public meeting. Comments may be submitted at any time in the process. However, Planning Board and Steering Committee members should not respond or engage in comments on social media because Boards and Committees are subject to Open Meeting Laws and will respond at the officially posted public meeting. Questions may be submitted and answered at the following Planning Board or Steering Committee meeting. Staff may also be contacted for more immediate responses. You may contact the Town Planner at amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us

WESTWOOD MEDIA CENTER Available at all Planning Board meetings and all Comprehensive Plan related events and meetings should be filmed. The full video is available at <http://westwoodmediacenter.tv/> usually within 24 hrs. of a meeting. All Planning Board meetings are televised and the Steering Committee will participate in public meetings with the Planning Board in the spring/summer 2019 to present findings, goals, draft sections, and solicit input from residents and the Planning Board. Staff will work with Steering Committee members to arrange these meetings. The Planning Board typically meets on Tuesday evening's beginning at 7:00 pm twice a month but more meetings may be needed to focus solely on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The exact date and time will be coordinated with the Town Planner and will be dependent on the Steering Committee's progress and the Planning Board's agenda. The Planning Board will have a standing agenda item for the Comprehensive Plan and when section drafts become available by the Steering Committee meetings will be arranged to focus on the comprehensive plan. Agendas may focus on one or two sections an evening when there are no other agenda items.

WRITTEN COMMENTS *[Ongoing]* When the Steering Committee has subject area drafts they will be made available on the website for review and comment. Each plan section will include a background, goals and objectives, strategic approach, and implementing actions.

DOCUMENT ACCESS All material will be posted to the town's website and the Comprehensive Plan webpage once it becomes available.

OPEN HOUSE (S) & WORK SESSIONS *[Summer 2019]* The Steering Committee will hold an "Open House" to present a draft plan with recommendations in an informal manner to foster and obtain public input. The first of these open houses should be scheduled midpoint of the planning process prior to attending the first Planning Board meeting. The Open House will provide an opportunity for the Steering Committee to present initial findings and seek input before going to the Planning Board but after the survey and after the vision session so that findings and initial recommendations can be presented. The Steering Committee will then attend a series of Planning Board meetings to present recommendations focused on specific sections at a time. These meetings will serve as the primary work sessions for the Steering Committee, all interested residents, and the Planning Board to work together in a public session that will be televised.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS *[throughout 2019 general updates, subject sessions Summer-Fall 2019]*. Each plan section will be reviewed, discussed, and developed at a series of Planning Board meetings throughout the planning process. Steering Committee members, specific sections at a time, will attend Planning Board meetings. Residents may elect to attend certain meetings based on the specific subject area. All meetings are open to the public. Planning Board meetings will be the primary sources for public input because they meet on a regular basis (Tuesday evenings), they are televised by Westwood Media, held at accessible locations, will have agendas, minutes, and material to be reviewed will be publically available.

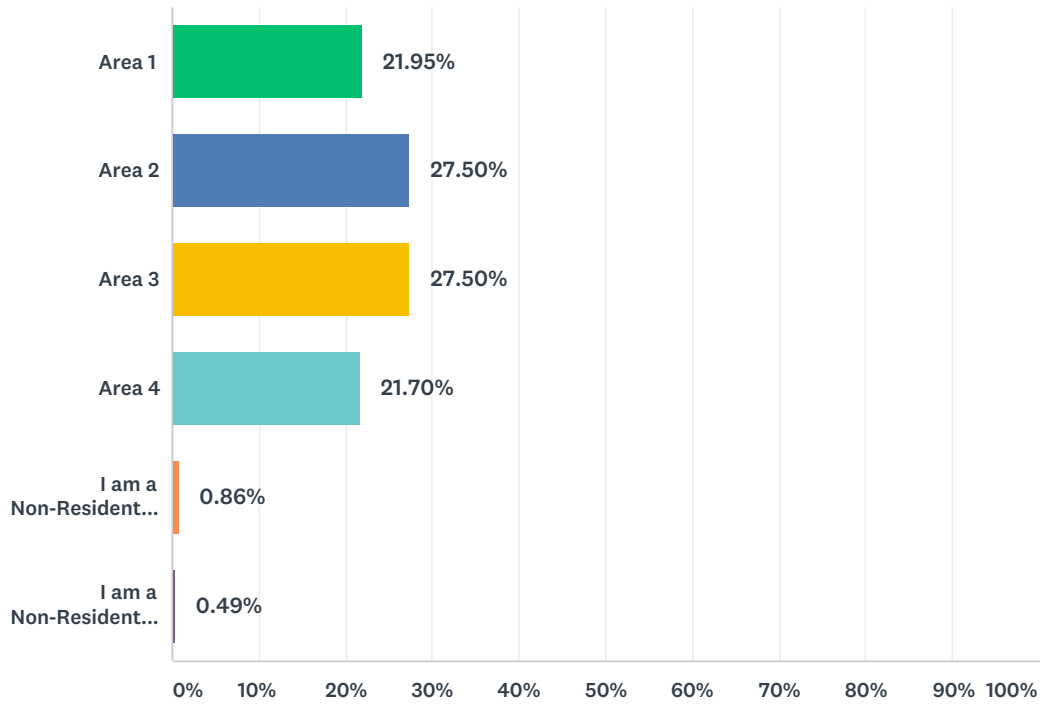
PUBLIC HEARING Final plan adopted by the Planning Board *[Fall 2019]*. After the Steering Committee finalizes a draft plan, they will recommend the draft plan be forward to the Planning Board for final review and adoption. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing that will be

advertised in the local newspaper for two successive weeks and posted on the website, posted with the Town Clerk, and electronic notification system inviting public comments. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 81D requires the Planning Board by a majority vote adopt the Comprehensive Plan/Master Plan and furnish a copy to the MA Department of Housing and Community Development.

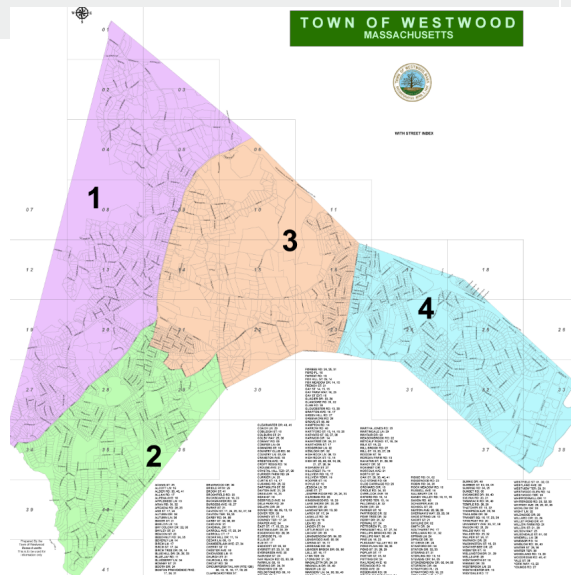
Other *[Fall 2019]* Once the Planning Board adopts the Updated Comprehensive Plan they will ask for Town Meeting endorsement. The Town Meeting article process begins with submission to the Board of Selectmen to be scheduled for Town Meeting. All articles are then reviewed by the Finance and Warrant Commission prior to Town Meeting. The Steering Committee and the Planning Board may hold public information sessions in the fall prior to Town Meeting to inform residents of the plan. Fall Town Meeting is held on the second Monday of November and the Annual Town Meeting in the spring is held the first Monday of May.

Q1 What area of Town do you live in? See Map Below.

Answered: 811 Skipped: 0

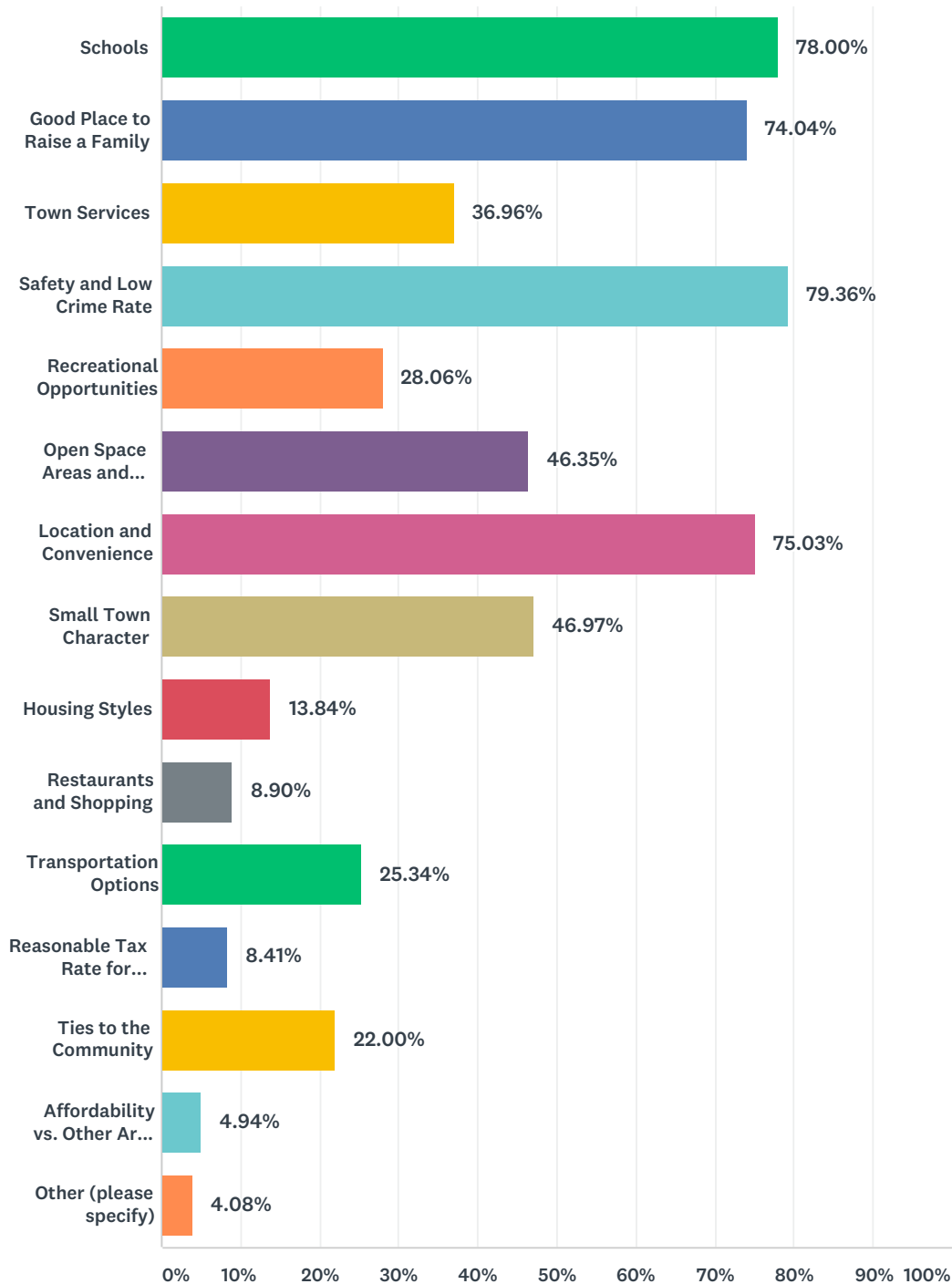


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	Count
Area 1	21.95%	178
Area 2	27.50%	223
Area 3	27.50%	223
Area 4	21.70%	176
I am a Non-Resident Business Owner	0.86%	7
I am a Non-Resident Property Owner	0.49%	4
Total Respondents: 811		



Q2 What are your favorite things about living in Westwood? Check all that apply.

Answered: 809 Skipped: 2

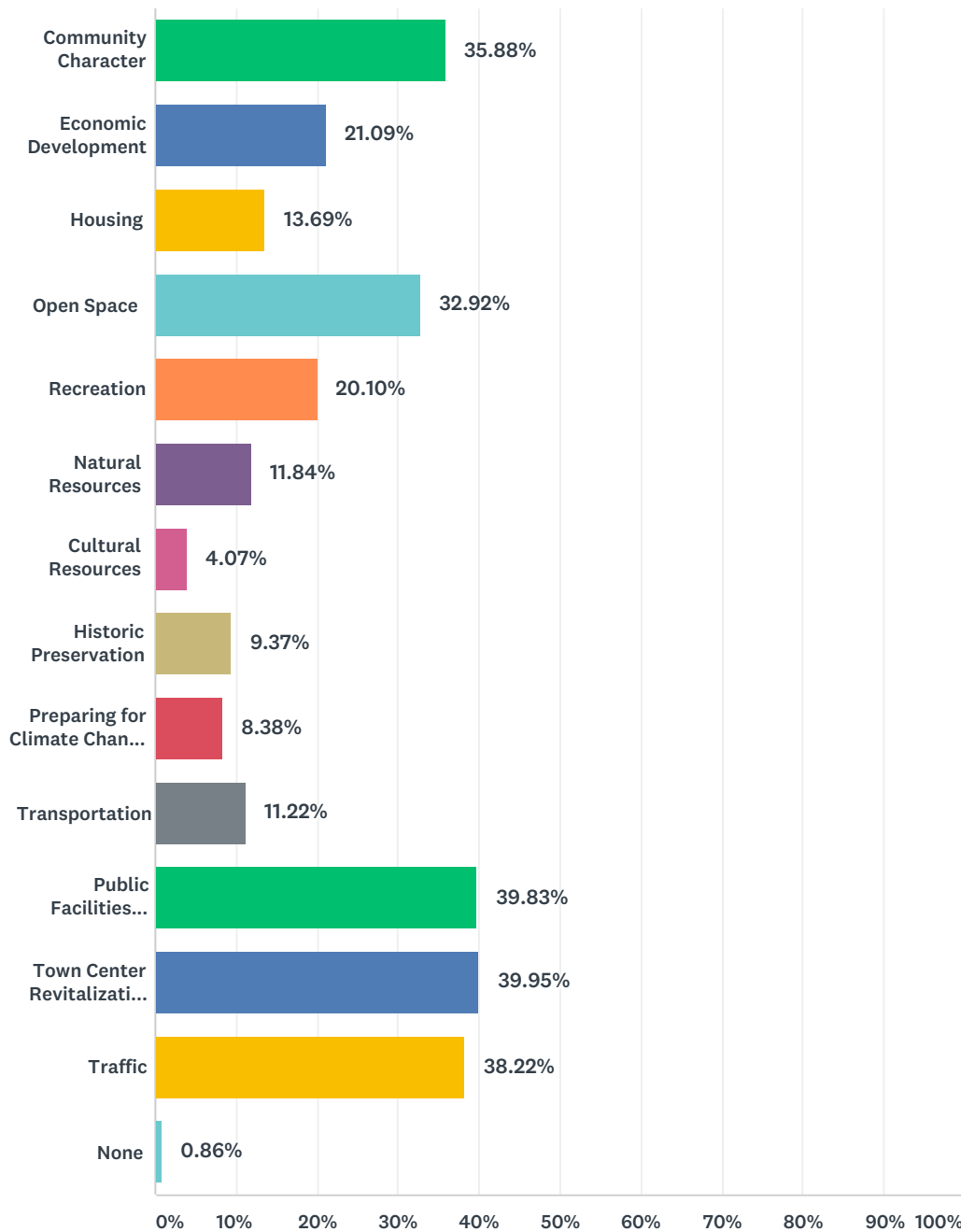


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Schools	78.00% 631
Good Place to Raise a Family	74.04% 599

Town Services	36.96%	299
Safety and Low Crime Rate	79.36%	642
Recreational Opportunities	28.06%	227
Open Space Areas and Trails	46.35%	375
Location and Convenience	75.03%	607
Small Town Character	46.97%	380
Housing Styles	13.84%	112
Restaurants and Shopping	8.90%	72
Transportation Options	25.34%	205
Reasonable Tax Rate for Services Provided	8.41%	68
Ties to the Community	22.00%	178
Affordability vs. Other Area Towns	4.94%	40
Other (please specify)	4.08%	33
Total Respondents: 809		

Q3 Which of the following planning topics are most important to you? Pick up to three.

Answered: 811 Skipped: 0

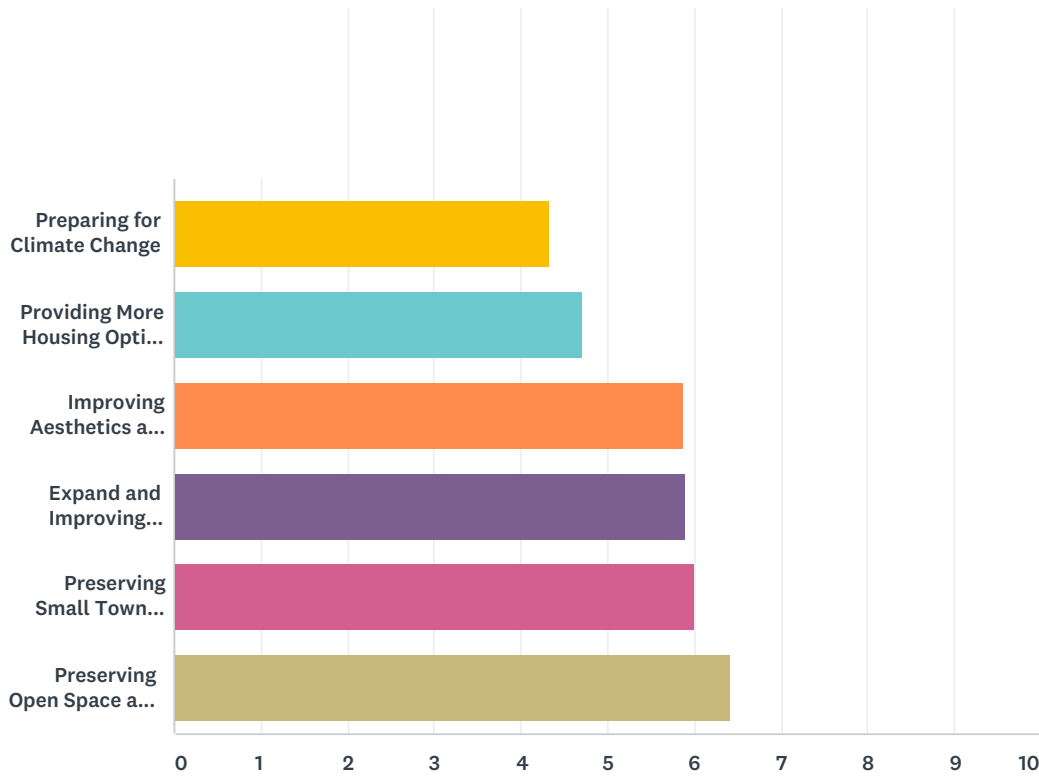


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Community Character	35.88% 291
Economic Development	21.09% 171
Housing	13.69% 111
Open Space	32.92% 267

Recreation	20.10%	163
Natural Resources	11.84%	96
Cultural Resources	4.07%	33
Historic Preservation	9.37%	76
Preparing for Climate Change and Natural Disasters	8.38%	68
Transportation	11.22%	91
Public Facilities (Includes Schools and Town Buildings)	39.83%	323
Town Center Revitalization/Improvement	39.95%	324
Traffic	38.22%	310
None	0.86%	7
Total Respondents: 811		

Q4 How should the Town prioritize the following planning areas? Please rank each item below with the number 1 being most important and 6 being least important.

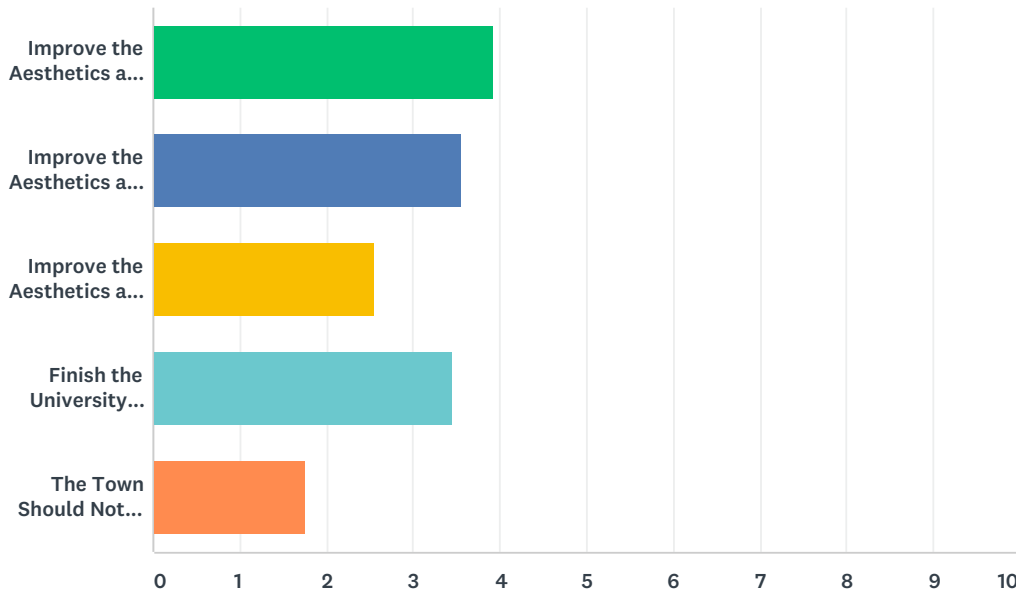
Answered: 798 Skipped: 13



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Preparing for Climate Change	4.56% 35	7.03% 54	9.11% 70	16.41% 126	22.66% 174	40.23% 309	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	768	4.34
Providing More Housing Options and Diversity of Housing Stock	10.16% 78	9.90% 76	9.11% 70	11.59% 89	30.47% 234	28.78% 221	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	768	4.71
Improving Aesthetics and Development in Commercial Areas	23.70% 173	17.81% 130	16.30% 119	16.85% 123	15.34% 112	10.00% 73	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	730	5.88
Expand and Improving Recreational Opportunities, both Indoor and Outdoor	17.01% 125	21.90% 161	21.09% 155	20.41% 150	12.79% 94	6.80% 50	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	735	5.90
Preserving Small Town Character	26.42% 205	17.91% 139	16.62% 129	18.43% 143	10.05% 78	10.57% 82	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	776	6.01
Preserving Open Space and Protecting Natural Resources	22.40% 166	26.86% 199	29.28% 217	14.04% 104	6.34% 47	1.08% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	741	6.42

Q5 How should the Town prioritize the following economic development planning areas? Please rank 1 being the most important and 5 the least important.

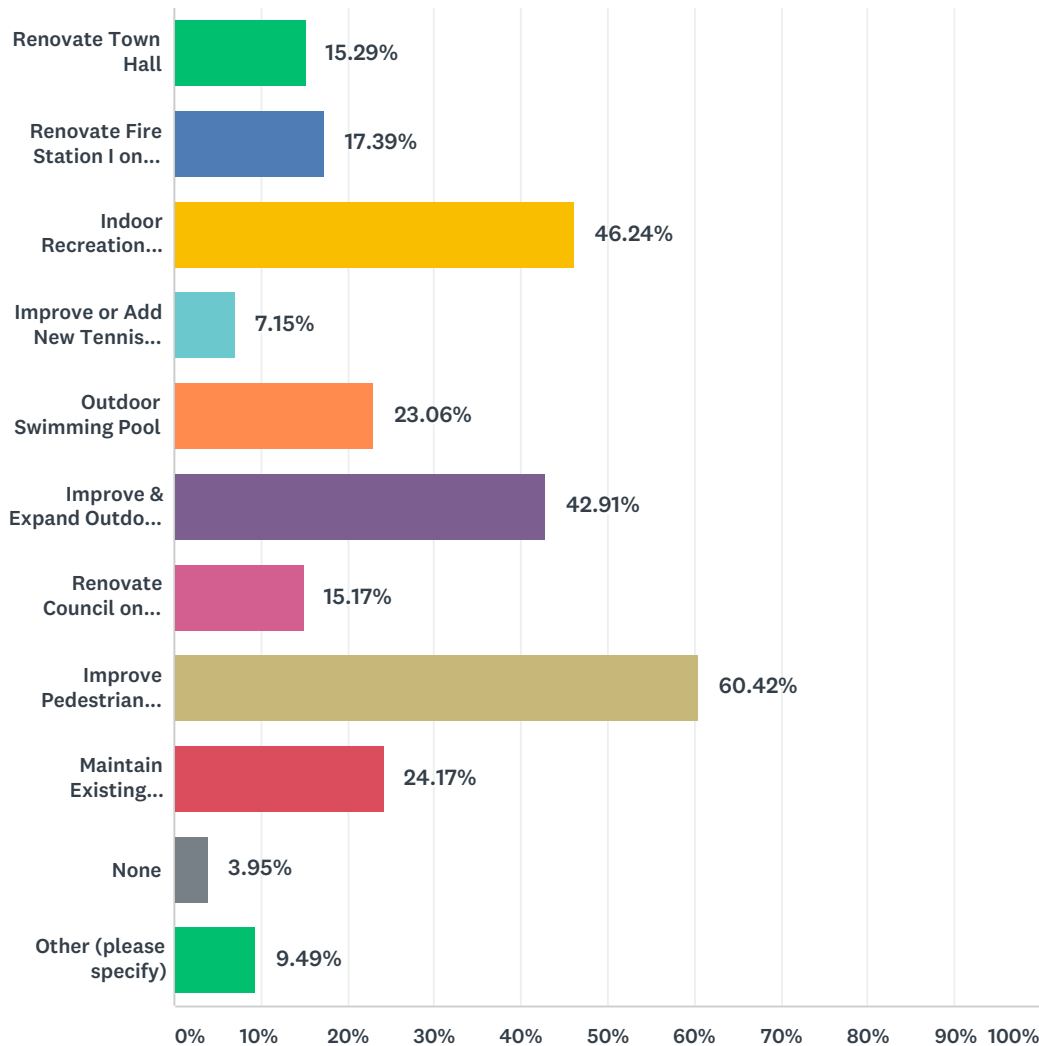
Answered: 794 Skipped: 17



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Improve the Aesthetics and Development along High Street (Route 109)	43.86% 325	25.51% 189	15.25% 113	12.01% 89	3.37% 25	741	3.94
Improve the Aesthetics and Development along Washington Street (Route 1A)	20.39% 148	35.26% 256	27.82% 202	12.95% 94	3.58% 26	726	3.56
Improve the Aesthetics and Development along Providence Highway (Route 1)	5.55% 40	10.68% 77	28.16% 203	45.77% 330	9.85% 71	721	2.56
Finish the University Station Development including Attracting Office Uses	25.14% 185	26.09% 192	23.37% 172	20.79% 153	4.62% 34	736	3.46
The Town Should Not Prioritize Aesthetic Improvements or Commercial Development in Business Areas	12.50% 88	3.55% 25	4.55% 32	5.82% 41	73.58% 518	704	1.76

Q6 Which community facilities do you think the Town should prioritize improving? Pick up to three. Note: The Islington branch library (Wentworth Hall) is not on the following list because a renovation is underway. It will also include a new multi-purpose community space and town offices. Construction is expected late 2019.

Answered: 811 Skipped: 0

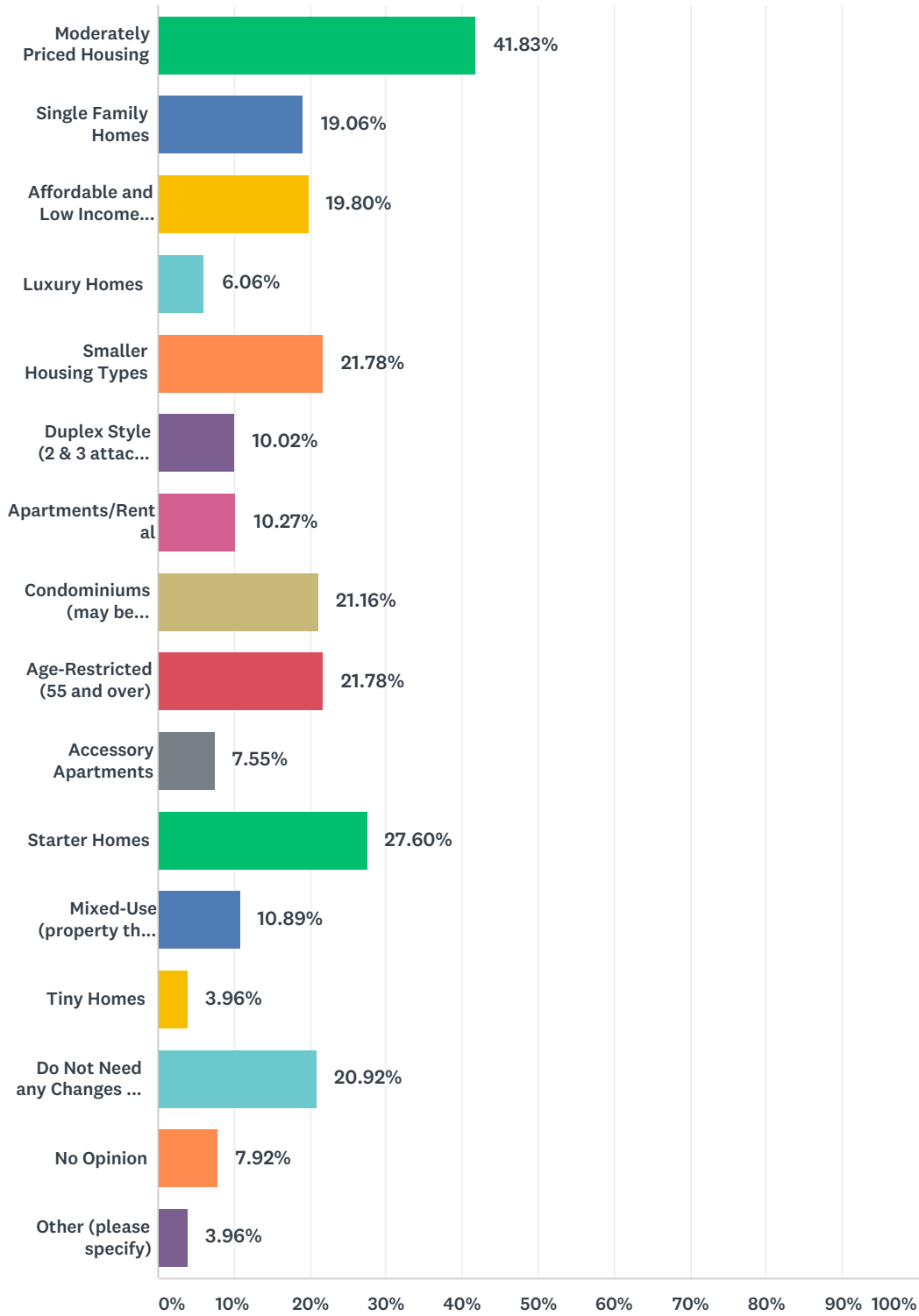


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Renovate Town Hall	15.29%	124
Renovate Fire Station I on High Street	17.39%	141
Indoor Recreation Facility/Community Center (such as a track, skating rink, area for winter activities)	46.24%	375
Improve or Add New Tennis Courts	7.15%	58
Outdoor Swimming Pool	23.06%	187
Improve & Expand Outdoor Recreational Facilities (parks, fields etc.)	42.91%	348

Renovate Council on Aging (Senior Center)	15.17%	123
Improve Pedestrian Infrastructure (Crosswalks, Sidewalks, and Bike Paths)	60.42%	490
Maintain Existing Community Facilities But Don't Add New Ones	24.17%	196
None	3.95%	32
Other (please specify)	9.49%	77
Total Respondents: 811		

Q7 In 2018, the median sale price of a single-family home in Westwood was \$775,000*. Please indicate whether you think Westwood needs more of the following housing types. Check all that apply.*Banker & Tradesman, Warren Group (December 2018)

Answered: 808 Skipped: 3

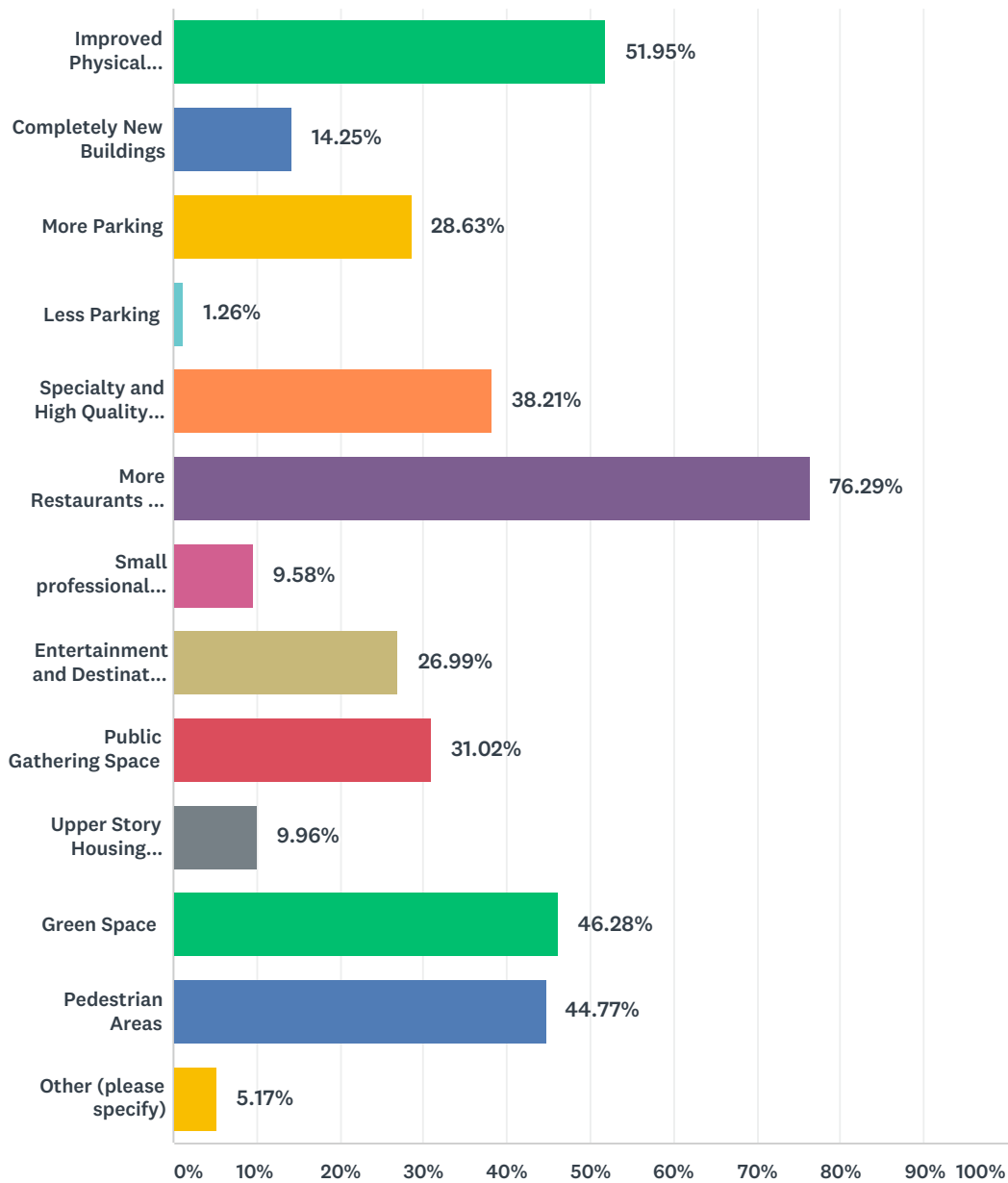


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Moderately Priced Housing	41.83%	338
Single Family Homes	19.06%	154
Affordable and Low Income Homes	19.80%	160
Luxury Homes	6.06%	49
Smaller Housing Types	21.78%	176

Duplex Style (2 & 3 attached single-family units)	10.02%	81
Apartments/Rental	10.27%	83
Condominiums (may be townhouse, attached, detached, garden style)	21.16%	171
Age-Restricted (55 and over)	21.78%	176
Accessory Apartments	7.55%	61
Starter Homes	27.60%	223
Mixed-Use (property that includes housing and retail or office)	10.89%	88
Tiny Homes	3.96%	32
Do Not Need any Changes in Housing Types	20.92%	169
No Opinion	7.92%	64
Other (please specify)	3.96%	32
Total Respondents: 808		

Q8 What would you like to see more of in the business areas? Check as many that apply.

Answered: 793 Skipped: 18

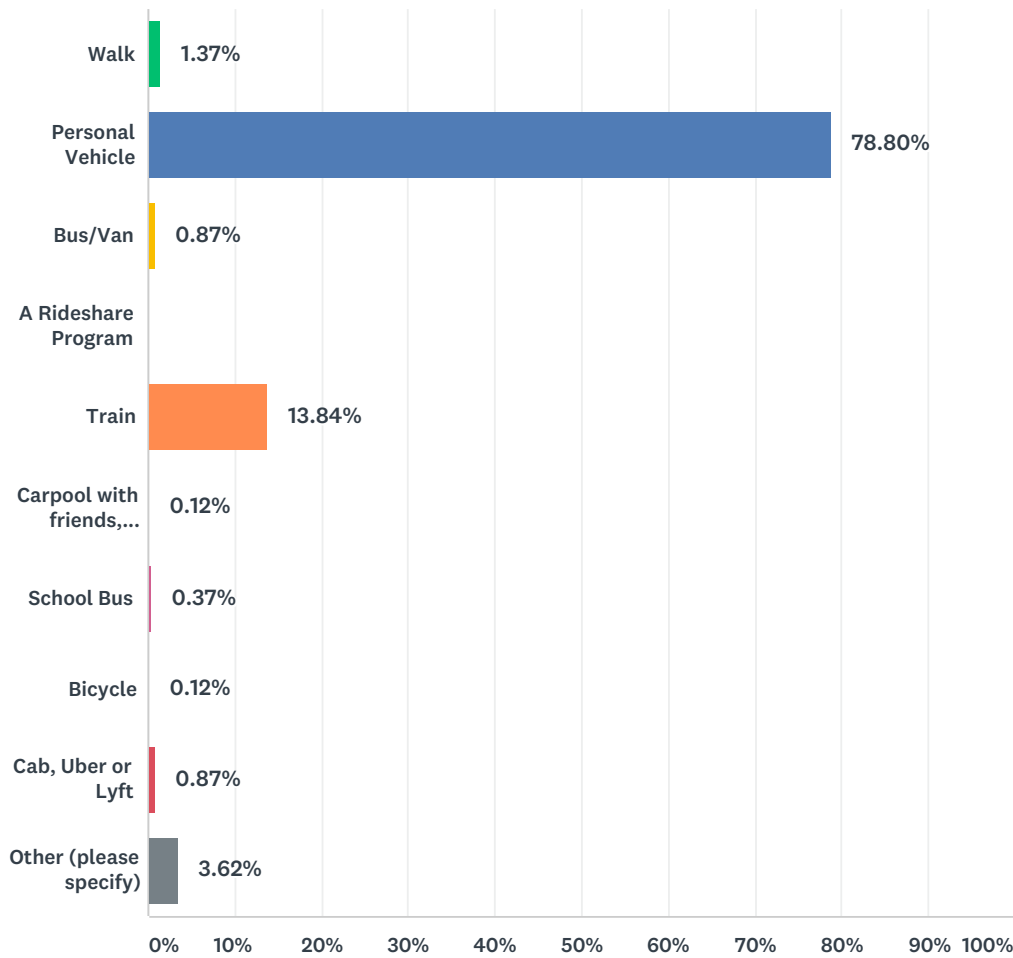


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved Physical Appearance of Existing Buildings	51.95%	412
Completely New Buildings	14.25%	113
More Parking	28.63%	227
Less Parking	1.26%	10
Specialty and High Quality Retail Shops	38.21%	303

More Restaurants and Dining Options	76.29%	605
Small professional Offices	9.58%	76
Entertainment and Destination Uses	26.99%	214
Public Gathering Space	31.02%	246
Upper Story Housing Opportunities	9.96%	79
Green Space	46.28%	367
Pedestrian Areas	44.77%	355
Other (please specify)	5.17%	41
Total Respondents: 793		

Q9 What mode of transportation do you most often use on a regular basis for commuting to work or school?

Answered: 802 Skipped: 9



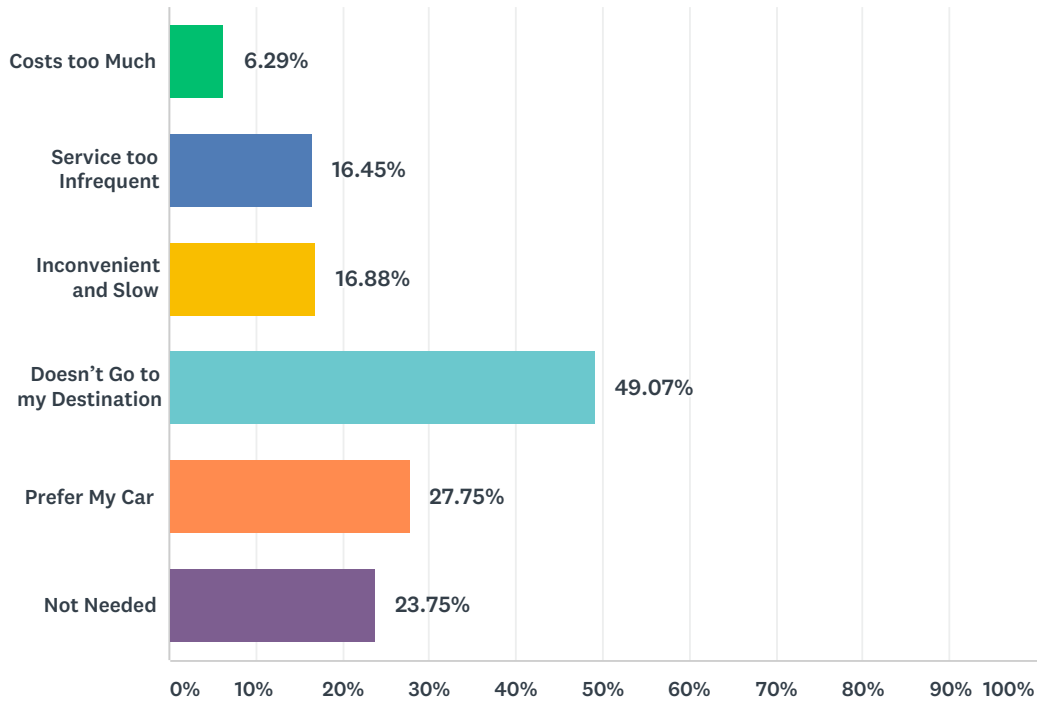
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	1.37%	11
Personal Vehicle	78.80%	632
Bus/Van	0.87%	7
A Rideshare Program	0.00%	0
Train	13.84%	111
Carpool with friends, relatives, peers, coworkers etc.	0.12%	1
School Bus	0.37%	3
Bicycle	0.12%	1
Cab, Uber or Lyft	0.87%	7
Other (please specify)	3.62%	29

TOTAL

802

Q10 If you rarely or never use public transportation, what is the reason? (check all that apply)

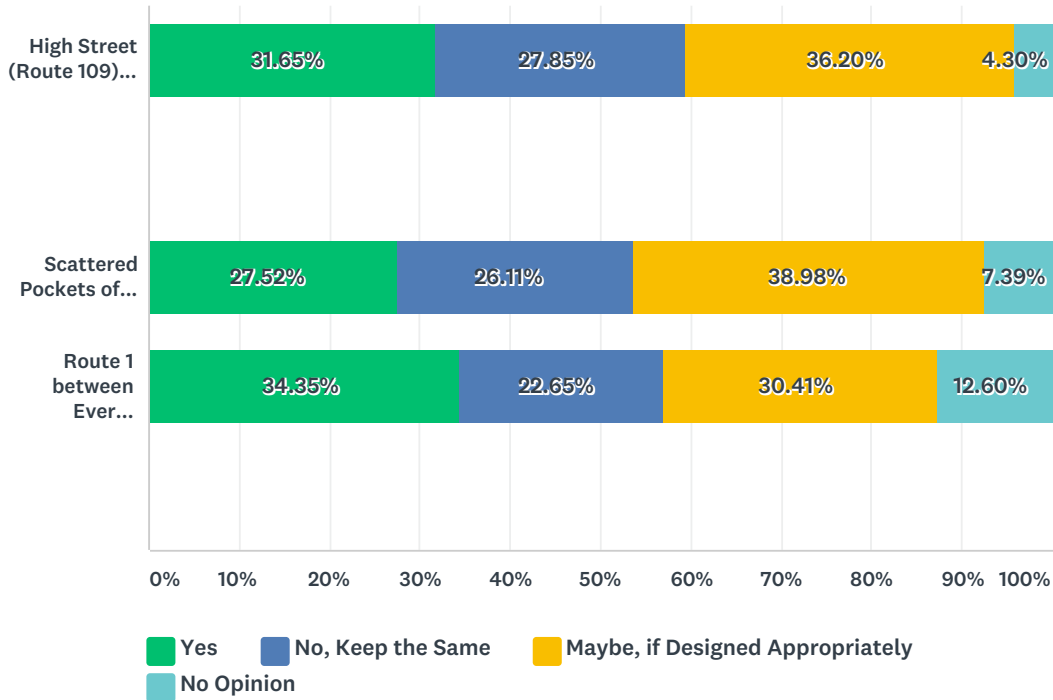
Answered: 699 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Costs too Much	6.29%	44
Service too Infrequent	16.45%	115
Inconvenient and Slow	16.88%	118
Doesn't Go to my Destination	49.07%	343
Prefer My Car	27.75%	194
Not Needed	23.75%	166
Total Respondents: 699		

Q11 Would you favor a mix of commercial, retail, and upper story residential development in the following areas currently used by businesses?

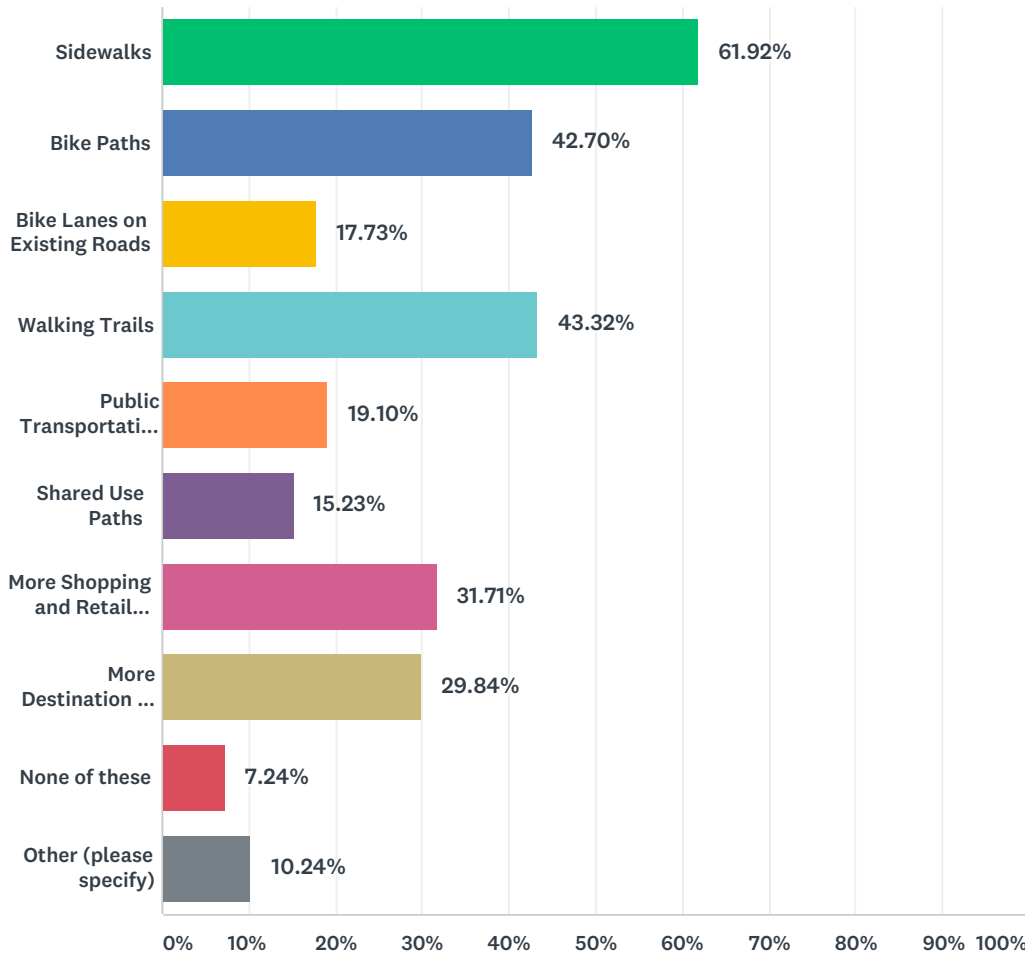
Answered: 798 Skipped: 13



	YES	NO, KEEP THE SAME	MAYBE, IF DESIGNED APPROPRIATELY	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
High Street (Route 109) Business Center (Area near Hartford and Gay Streets)	31.65% 250	27.85% 220	36.20% 286	4.30% 34	790	2.13
Scattered Pockets of Businesses on High Street (Route 109)	27.52% 216	26.11% 205	38.98% 306	7.39% 58	785	2.26
Route 1 between Everett Street and the East Street Overpass	34.35% 270	22.65% 178	30.41% 239	12.60% 99	786	2.21

Q12 Which of the following, if any, would you like to see more of in Westwood?

Answered: 801 Skipped: 10

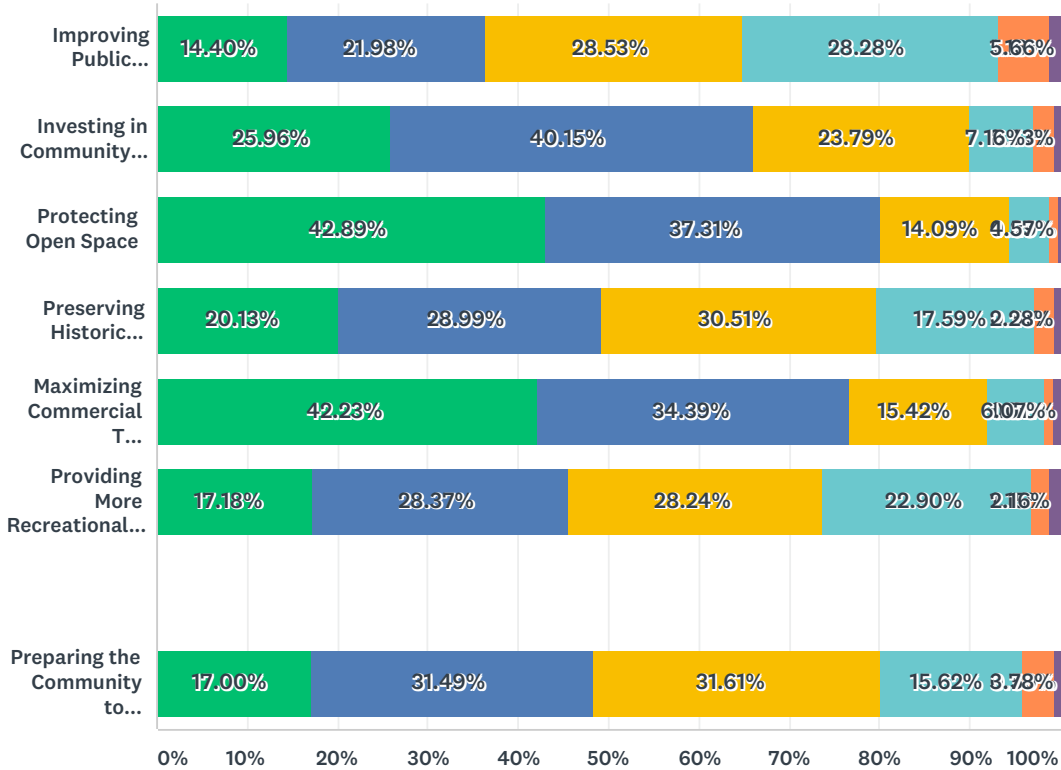


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sidewalks	61.92%	496
Bike Paths	42.70%	342
Bike Lanes on Existing Roads	17.73%	142
Walking Trails	43.32%	347
Public Transportation Options	19.10%	153
Shared Use Paths	15.23%	122
More Shopping and Retail Stores	31.71%	254
More Destination and Entertainment Venues	29.84%	239
None of these	7.24%	58
Other (please specify)	10.24%	82

Total Respondents: 801

Q13 How important are the following goals to you?

Answered: 800 Skipped: 11



■ Very Important
 ■ Important
 ■ Mildly Important
 ■ Not Important
■ No Opinion
 ■ Unsure

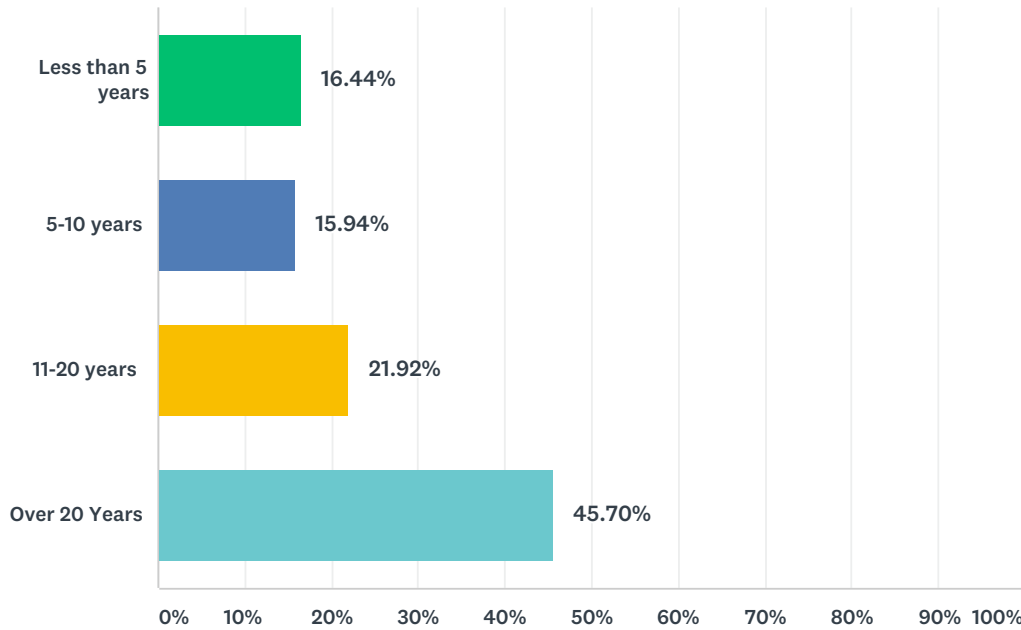
	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	MILDLY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	UNSURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Improving Public Transportation	14.40% 112	21.98% 171	28.53% 222	28.28% 220	5.66% 44	1.16% 9	778	2.92
Investing in Community Facilities to Provide Excellent Service for Residents and Employees	25.96% 203	40.15% 314	23.79% 186	7.16% 56	2.43% 19	0.51% 4	782	2.21
Protecting Open Space	42.89% 338	37.31% 294	14.09% 111	4.57% 36	0.89% 7	0.25% 2	788	1.84
Preserving Historic Structures and Sites	20.13% 159	28.99% 229	30.51% 241	17.59% 139	2.28% 18	0.51% 4	790	2.54
Maximizing Commercial Tax Revenue to Help Stabilize the Residential Tax Rate	42.23% 334	34.39% 272	15.42% 122	6.07% 48	1.01% 8	0.88% 7	791	1.92

Providing More Recreational Facilities for Formal Activities such as Organized Sports	17.18% 135	28.37% 223	28.24% 222	22.90% 180	2.16% 17	1.15% 9	786	2.68
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Preparing the Community to be Ready for and Resilient to Natural Disasters and Environmental Changes?	17.00% 135	31.49% 250	31.61% 251	15.62% 124	3.78% 30	0.50% 4	794	2.59
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Q14 How long have you lived in Westwood?

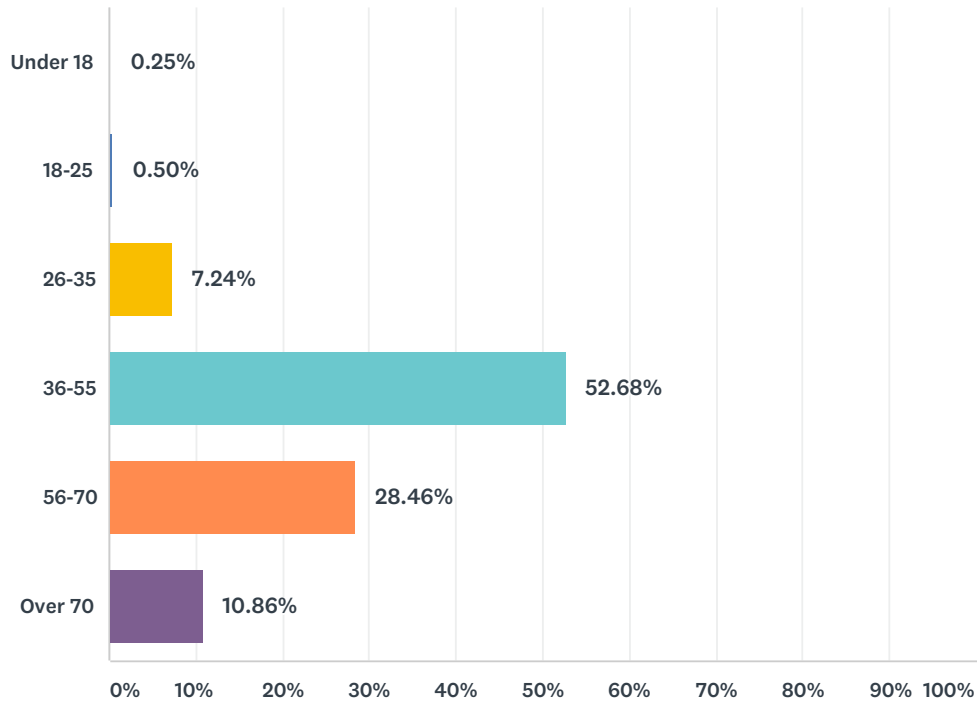
Answered: 803 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	16.44%	132
5-10 years	15.94%	128
11-20 years	21.92%	176
Over 20 Years	45.70%	367
TOTAL		803

Q15 What is your age?

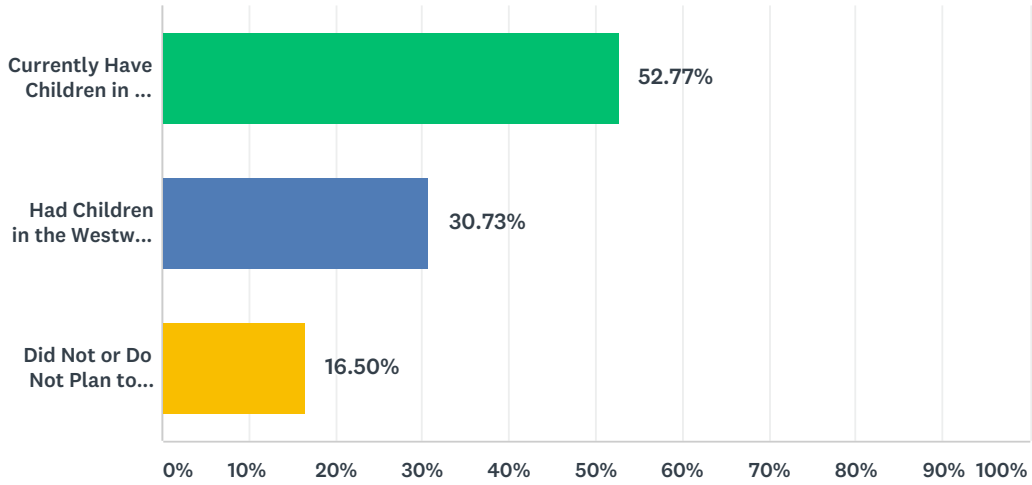
Answered: 801 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.25%	2
18-25	0.50%	4
26-35	7.24%	58
36-55	52.68%	422
56-70	28.46%	228
Over 70	10.86%	87
TOTAL		801

Q16 Which Best Describes You?

Answered: 794 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Currently Have Children in the Westwood School System	52.77%	419
Had Children in the Westwood School System	30.73%	244
Did Not or Do Not Plan to Educate Children in the Westwood School System	16.50%	131
TOTAL		794

Q17 Email Address

Answered: 419 Skipped: 392

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	0.00%	0
Company	0.00%	0
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	100.00%	419
Phone Number	0.00%	0

Acknowledgement

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee held a community visioning session and public forum was held on a half day on a Saturday on May 18, 2019. The Town and Steering Committee greatly appreciate the residents that took the time to attend and participate in this event. The feedback and ideas from the visioning session helped guide the Steering Committee members in their work as they then began drafting the update to the Comprehensive Plan after the visioning session. This forum provided a way for residents to converse and brainstorm ideas that are ultimately refined and reflected in the final Comprehensive Plan. The following members of the community are greatly appreciated in making this Plan successful. The names were collected from a hand written sign in sheet and we apologize if any names are missing or incorrectly spelled.

Sudha Sarma	Anne Sheehy
Catherine Qius	Hillary Koher
Jennifer Atkins	Peggy Hanlon
Sandra Castaldini	Jan Thompson
Eileen Keyes	Charlie Thompson
Robert Messina	David Warshay
Mike Martel	Jessica Cole
Jill Martel	Jack Sharry
Amy Walesky	Cindy Neville
Navaneel Biswas	Carol Bruce
Peggy Chiurri	Josepha Jowdy
William Cooney	Kevin Longval
Eleana Cavanagh	Betty McClure
Matt Cavanagh	Brian Gorman
Marlyse Schwartz	Jen Skoglund
Paul Adams	Dee Nolan
Michael Young	Maya Plotkin
Greg Rinaldi	Doug Obey
Deirdre Slocum	Joanna Hamilton
Leslie Warner-Maloney	Stephen Springer
Fran Fusco	Paula McLaughlin
Al Fusco	Matt Walesky
Marge Eramo	Stephen Whelan
Stephen Whelan	Joe Previterra
Chris Previterra	David Atkins
Ellen Rollings	Mike McCusker
Carole Lefebvre	Pat Petrous
Marie Cairo	Bill Brooks
Liza Arend	Paul Kelly

**ELEMENTS OF A VISION FOR
WESTWOOD'S FUTURE:
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT FROM
PUBLIC FORUM
(May 18, 2019)**



Design by Steven Kane

Meeting Purpose and Process

Purpose: To invite the Westwood community to come together and generate ideas that will create a shared vision for Westwood's future. This in turn will be used as the foundation for an action plan that will outline the steps necessary to attain this vision.

Process:

The public forum was held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM at the Thurston Middle School Cafeteria. Approximately 60 people attended and participated at the meeting, including 5 high school students who also gave their input. The high school students also provided childcare. Lunch was served and transportation was available if needed.

Following a brief presentation participants were divided into eight (8) discussion groups (plus the student group) of approximately eight (8) persons; each group was facilitated by a Steering Committee member. Participants were engaged and conversations were lively. Afterwards, each group presented their group's priorities. Noteworthy is the fact that there was a significant degree of consensus regarding residents' desires as well as their concerns.

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

During the small group discussions, participants were asked the following questions:

1. **What are your FAVORITE things about Westwood (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)?**
2. **What are your LEAST favorite things about Westwood (that you feel are important to change in the future)?**
3. **What is MISSING from Westwood?**
4. **What would you predict to be some important ISSUES to take into account when planning for Westwood's future? (Opportunities and Challenges)**
5. **If you could do ONE THING to improve Westwood, what would it be?**

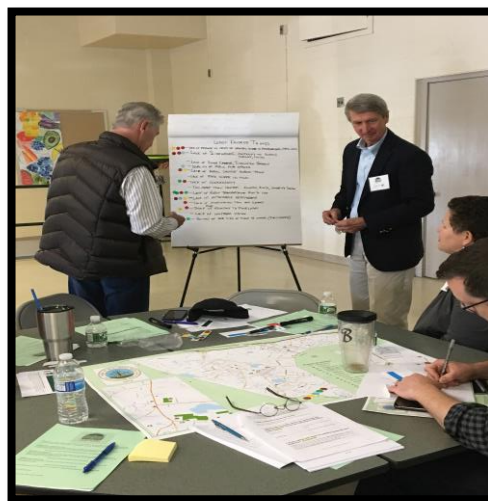
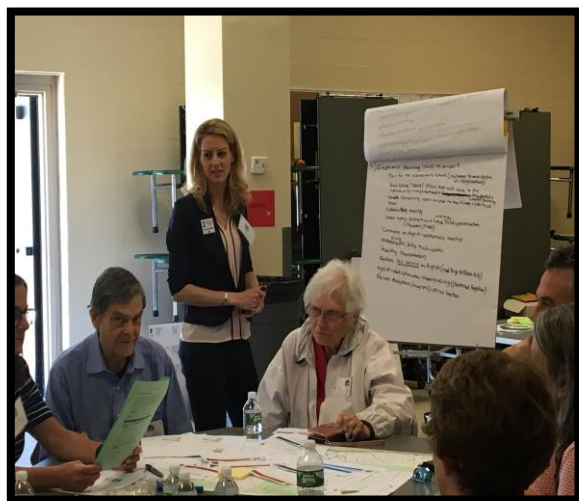
Additionally, participants were asked to respond in writing to the following three questions:

What is your favorite "Special Place"¹ in Westwood?

What else makes Westwood unique?

How would you define Westwood's town character? Identify some of the features that contribute to it.

A summary of the participants' input is provided in the pages that follow.



¹ "Identify those places in Town that define Westwood as a unique and special place. These could include outstanding views or landscapes, sites or buildings of historic value, or essential places in the community's life. These are places that give form to residents' internal images of community, are identified with cherished rituals, or contribute subconsciously to everyday life." (Definition from Westwood Comprehensive Plan: 2000)

Highlights of Participant input (Most frequent responses)

Favorite Things

- Open space
- Small town character
- Schools

Also:

- Balanced growth
- Transportation options (out of Town)
- Location/convenience
- Residents /friendly neighbors
- Library
- Youth-oriented community

Least Favorite Things

- Traffic
- Taxes (too high)
- Poor walkability

Also:

- High Street Business Area
- Two towns feeling
- Lack of transportation options (within Town)
- Lack of connectivity

Missing from Westwood

- Walking/biking infrastructure
- Recreation Center
- Mix of businesses (especially dining options)

Also:

- More and better no-car transportation options
- Outdoor active and passive recreation opportunities

Future Opportunities for Westwood

- Demographic changes
- Solid tax base/bond rating
- Excellent schools “brand”

Future Challenges for Westwood

- Income inequality
- Balancing schools and growth
- Neighborhood schools vs. consolidated
- Town budget
- Traffic
- Aging population

If you could do one thing to Improve Westwood...

- Improve traffic conditions
- Lower taxes
- Recreation/Community Center
- Improve pedestrian/bike safety
- Act as one town

Also:

- Open-mindedness
- Town-wide shuttle
- Make Westwood more “green”

What is your favorite SPECIAL PLACE in Westwood?

*Open land
Hale Reservation
Lowell Woods
Woods and conservation areas
Hiking/walking trails*

“School Street playground – years of children and adults making new friends, bonding and making memories”

*Library
School Street playground
New cemetery*

“Hale Reservation – natural beauty, open to public, place to exercise, good memories.”

*University Avenue and the large selection of shopping options
Tree-lined entrance to High Street
High Street and Washington Street*

“Lowell Woods- it’s great to have walking trails so close to home.”

*Gay Street’s farm-like and scenic character and the natural beauty/flora/fauna of Lyman’s Pond
View of iconic white church and steeple*

“High and Washington Streets give the town a small-town feeling”

What else makes Westwood UNIQUE?

*Great schools
Neighborhoods
Small- town feel
Family-friendly
Location
Open space
Diverse people
Quiet
Rural feel
Common sense
Plenty of shopping nearby
Open meadows
Established trees
High quality of sports*

“Focus on welfare/growth/safety of children.”

“The school system is superb.”

“Combination of open area, natural resources, nature bodies and conservation areas in proximity to residential properties.”

*White church and steeple in Islington Center
Accessibility to surrounding towns/resources*

“A residential town where the neighbors know each other.”

“A small, peaceful, safe town close to 128 and Boston.”

“Proximity to Boston but still retains a small town feel.”

How would you define Westwood's TOWN CHARACTER?

Excellent schools
Open spaces
Country roads
Natural beauty
Good schools and sports
Historic buildings
Old-growth trees
Old stone walls
Classic New England town
Family-friendly
Safe and charming
Education is a priority
Bridging the old and the new
Smart and open
Lots of walkers, runners, and cyclists
Semi-rural feel
Forward-thinking and well-run
Beautiful architecture

"A peaceful, safe, small town with lots of friendly people."

"A little bit of something for everyone."

"A great small town to raise a family."

"Family-friendly, neighbor helping neighbor, parents involved in school and coaching sports."

"Balance of access to nature and natural resources as well as amenities (e.g. grocery stores, train stations, auto dealerships as well as open space."

"Peaceful, attractive, modern, somewhat of a rural feel yet sophisticated."

There were also a few participants that expressed concerns regarding what they perceived to be negative aspects of the Town's character, in some cases due to recent changes.

"Vanishing rural charm"
"Declining, uncertainty of Islington Community Center, demolition of Blue Hart Tavern, oversized buildings on inadequate lots."
"previously there was small-scale development"
"need more connectivity with more sidewalks and bike lanes"
"somewhat snooty"
"expensive"
"sometimes insular and afraid"
"without much of a center of community"
"declining, knee jerk reactions. No consideration of what residents want and need"
"divided!"
"Scattered and small-scale retail and lack of good restaurants and dining options or general places of commerce"

"Islington/Westwood divide - need to come together for mutual decisions. This DIVIDE needs to heal and end. We are the TOWN OF WESTWOOD!!"

Detailed Notes from the Small Group Discussions

Unless otherwise noted, eight groups prioritized their input. Because two of the groups left the prioritization exercise for the end at which point some of the participants had left, the number of dots unfortunately does not include their input.

1. What are your FAVORITE things about Westwood?

Favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Green space, parks, trails, recreation</i> • <i>Hale Reservation (11) (summer club, Membership Beach, Lowell Woods, Scouting programs, Sen-Ki, Buckmaster Pond)</i> • <i>School Street Playground</i> • <i>Greenery, trees</i> • <i>The guided trail hike (from Westwood Community Trails)</i> • <i>Preservation of natural resources has improved since 2000</i> • <i>Would like double the current amount of open space</i> 	8	42
Small town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Small population</i> • <i>Quiet neighborhoods</i> • <i>Close, tight neighborhoods</i> • <i>Peaceful and safe</i> • <i>Bucolic</i> • <i>Shared goals</i> • <i>Community feeling</i> • <i>Schools, town sports, scouts</i> 	6	30
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strong schools & education focus</i> • <i>Support for small neighborhood schools</i> 	7	27
Well balanced community with thoughtful growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strong school system, University Station for economic development, good public services; a beautiful town with commercial areas, meets modern needs</i> • <i>Keep sensitive with tight zoning</i> • <i>Balance development and preservation</i> 	3	13

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Many options</i> • <i>Train station, AMTRAK</i> 	4	10
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proximity to Boston</i> • <i>Access to major arteries and cities</i> 	4	9
Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Diverse, friendly, different cultures</i> • <i>neighbors</i> 	2	5
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Both</i> 	3	5
Youth-oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All kinds of opportunities based on kids interests</i> 	1	5
Solid financial plan/bond rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Town has strong and solid financial plan/bond rating</i> • <i>Affordability relative to town services</i> 	2	4
Senior Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>COA</i> 	2	4
Islington Steeple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Former Church</i> 	1	3
Good public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public safety</i> 	3	2
Affordable senior housing		1	2
Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nice historic architecture and features</i> 	1	2
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Access to board meetings, etc.</i> 	1	1
Environmentally conscious		1	

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Bubbling Brook		1	
Islington Center improvements		1	

2. What are your LEAST favorite things about Westwood?

Least favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Everywhere, but particularly on High Street and Route 1A</i> • <i>Need controls in residential areas</i> • <i>109 & Washington</i> • <i>Truck traffic</i> • <i>High school</i> • <i>Eliminate cut throughs</i> • <i>Gay St./Hartford St. Light Cycle</i> • <i>Safety for drivers on new lanes on High Street at Town Pond</i> 	8	40
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Too high</i> 	3	17
Poor walkability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of response to pedestrians at crossing traffic lights, speed limits exceeded, need better enforcement</i> • <i>Kids not walking to schools and activities as often as used to</i> • <i>Pedestrian safety especially on High Street at Town Pond</i> 	5	14
High Street Business Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Could be improved to provide a mix of uses, more independent businesses, compatible businesses</i> • <i>Make more aesthetically pleasing</i> 	2	12

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Least favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Two towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Divisiveness</i> • <i>Politics of one side of town versus the other</i> • <i>“the other side of town: us vs. them: we need to create a community space together</i> • <i>Idea and feeling that there are two sides of Town. Feeling of a division in Town. Want more cohesion.</i> • <i>Some residents stick to themselves</i> 	4	11
Lack of transportation options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need public shuttle across town</i> • <i>Lack of bike share</i> • <i>Lack of public transportation on High Street side</i> • <i>Need to reduce reliance on automobiles</i> 	3	9
Lack of connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>because of lack of continuous sidewalks to schools, services, fields</i> • <i>lack of shuttle, pedestrian and bikeways</i> 	1	9
Lack of public information and input into development process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Town is reactive to developers, rather than proactive</i> • <i>Lack of transparency for developer selection and design. Should have 3 developers selected with public input to select the chosen developer. More public design input</i> 	2	8
Lack of variety of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Would like to see more unique & more variety (not all banks & service uses)</i> • <i>More retail businesses in town centers</i> 	3	7
Lack of long-term vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unbalanced growth</i> • <i>Population density control based on available resources (roads, water, air quality)</i> • <i>Town takes reactive, unbalanced approach to development</i> 	4	6

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Least favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Façade of Plaza @ High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be changed but no suggestions (some feel New England Charm is desired) 	1	6
Lack of affordable restaurants		1	5
Lack of attractive Town Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for more charming town centers, more of a destination for community 	1	5
Lack of coordination between Town and School Dept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of planning and decision-making Find right balance of resources to expend for economic development and public schools; schools are currently strong, maintain strong education and Town's focus on education 	2	4
Town Hall building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs improvements; it is small, old, and not enough room for town offices, could be renovated 	1	3
Quality of public play spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In need of maintenance & improvements 	1	2
Maintenance of Buckmaster Pond		1	1
Lack of diversity		1	1
Communication with residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication overload Failure to reach people not on internet 	1	
Lack of Islington branch of Senior Center		1	
Too many town centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islington, High Street & University Station No "true" town center 	2	

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Least favorite feature	Comments	# of groups	# of dots
Abandoned buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Washington St. towards south/Norwood side of street 	1	
New Fire Station on High Street		1	

3. What is MISSING in Westwood?

Missing feature	Comments	# of groups
Walking/biking infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkways, Bike paths, Bike share Sidewalks on Gay Street Connect the trails and trail areas 	7
Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor track, movie nights Swimming, park Outdoor pool YMCA/YWCA 	5
Mix of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing a Hardware Store, coffee shops, restaurant choices More casual dining restaurants Taverns, restaurants, public house A traditional Town center 	5
More and better no-car transportation options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shuttle bus around town Coordinate/collaborate with surrounding towns Better connection with the T (possibly a shuttle) Bike Share 	4

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Missing feature	Comments	# of groups
Outdoor active recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tennis courts and other facilities</i> • <i>Co-curriculars with schools and Hale</i> • <i>Fitness course</i> • <i>Need an outdoor field and multi-use recreational space (possible opportunity exists at Deerfield Elementary School)</i> 	4
Town concerts and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Free events for all</i> 	2
Outdoor passive recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More passive facilities (e.g. hiking, walking areas, connections, paths, biking, sidewalks)</i> • <i>Outdoor learning</i> 	2
Town Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Town green (like Norwood and other towns)</i> 	2
Affordable senior housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More accessory apartments for seniors</i> 	2
Sustainability measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Town-wide climate change goals</i> • <i>Curbside composting</i> 	2
Activities for teens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recreation</i> • <i>Life skills (e.g. balancing checkbooks, etc.)</i> 	2
Hot line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To provide anonymous tips on conditions that town departments should respond to</i> 	1
Enforcement of parking rules		1
Unity of people		1
Senior Center/COA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That is big enough to serve the Town</i> 	1
Reuse plan for the Deerfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The location near the library, Town Hall, High Street, Police and Fire Station makes it an</i> 	1

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

Missing feature	Comments	# of groups
School	<i>important piece of land. Prepare a thoughtful and careful plan</i>	
Tree preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tree ordinance</i> 	1
Dog Park		1
Adult Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Separate from the Recreation Department (e.g. for learning languages, etc.)</i> 	1
Finding a tenant for the Obed Baker house		1
Architectural Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To advise projects</i> 	1
Community gardens		1
Community Center		1
Shared space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Music venue</i> 	1
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Would like to see more people/residents getting involved in Town. More involvement from everyone. Not the same people at Planning Board/voting, etc.</i> 	1
Cultural activities / resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theaters, cafés</i> 	1
Investment in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need to invest more in schools</i> 	1
Comprehensive traffic mitigation		1
No true Town Center		1

Missing feature	Comments	# of groups
Range in housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately priced homes • Starter homes 	1
Economic diversity		1

4. What would you predict will be some of the important ISSUES to take into account when planning for Westwood’s future?

OPPORTUNITIES	How should we take advantage of these?	# of groups ²
Demographics, population, age changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community in All Respects • Housing stock for first time homebuyers • Increase representation on town boards • What are other towns rations on Select Board based on population size? 	3
Strong Town financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize funds for traffic plan • Reach out to neighboring towns for collaborative effort • Solid tax base • Keep bond rating up 	3
Leveraging our school “Brand”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School consolidation (could be both an opportunity and a challenge) 	2
Shorten timeline on projects		1
More people working remotely (i.e. fewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in traffic. Need for local spaces and businesses (cafes) that people can work from 	1

² Out of 7 groups

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

OPPORTUNITIES	How should we take advantage of these?	# of groups ²
commuting to workplaces		
Day services for parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plan for/accommodate this use</i> 	1
Continuing technological improvements: cell phones , WiFi		1
Can make a great safety plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leverage our resources to make a strong holistic safety plan, looks like Westwood should have the money</i> 	1
DPW culture is strong		1
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Connect them</i> • <i>Continue to maintain and clean up trails (using school groups and trail program)</i> 	1
Main Fire Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Repair and improve</i> 	1
Preserve historic buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthen historical building protection</i> 	1
Artificial turf fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide more fields without taking open space</i> 	1
Improve town centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Redevelop High Street and make more aesthetically pleasing</i> • <i>More restaurants</i> • <i>Outdoor seating/cafes</i> • <i>More pedestrian friendly</i> 	1
School system		1
Hale Reservation		1

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OPPORTUNITIES	How should we take advantage of these?	# of groups²
Leverage other town facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regionalize services (partner with other towns)</i> 	1

CHALLENGES	How should we address these?	# of groups³
Income inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No starter homes</i> • <i>Regressive tax</i> • <i>Cost of living increasing, need controls to keep down</i> 	3
Balancing the school and educational focus and commercial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continue to take a balanced and well thought out approach</i> • <i>Diminishing student enrollment</i> 	2
Neighborhood schools vs. consolidated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mixed feelings about having more neighborhood schools and consolidating elementary schools</i> • <i>Both an opportunity and a challenge</i> 	2
Town Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frivolous spending when we are well funded – would like to see a rainy day fund</i> • <i>Small housing stock/high tax rate/services</i> 	2
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>everywhere, but especially on Route 109/High Street</i> • <i>Mitigation needed</i> 	2
Aging population and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Affordable senior housing</i> 	2
Impacts of climate change on vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Require plantings that can tolerate predicted conditions due to climate change impacts</i> 	1

³ out of 7 groups

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

CHALLENGES	How should we address these?	# of groups³
Deerfield Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prepare a plan for the school</i> 	1
Empty buildings on Washington Street		1
Kids not walking as much as used to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More sidewalks, keep neighborhood schools (5 elementary schools)</i> 	1
Funnell Community for access to 128/95		1
Mental health of students		1
Technology		1
Improving the Islington Train Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Islington residents were opposed to moving the station</i> 	1
Accessory apartments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Should it be limited only to seniors? Why?</i> 	1
Air B&B type rentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is regulation needed?</i> 	1
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tax relief</i> • <i>Commercial vs. residential</i> 	1
Artificial turf fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cost of periodically replacing</i> 	1
Redeveloping to scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintain small spaces while still updating (small town character)</i> 	1
Improving walkability		1

CHALLENGES	How should we address these?	# of groups³
Number of buildable lots is decreasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wetlands/diminishing resources areas</i> • <i>Town is built out and developed</i> 	1
Cost of town improvements		1

5. If you could do ONE THING TO IMPROVE Westwood, what would it be?

One thing to improve...	Comments	# of groups⁴	# of dots
Improve traffic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduce/enforce speeding regs</i> • <i>Regional effort to address traffic on 109</i> • <i>Restrict heavy trucks on 109 (like Dedham)</i> 	4	22
Lower taxes		2	20
Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For teens: entertainment, recreation</i> • <i>Something for all ages</i> • <i>Make high school gym facilities available to adults for membership</i> • <i>Community centers on both sides of Town</i> 	3	19
Improve bike and pedestrian safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smart lights on 109 and safety plan town-wide for sidewalks</i> • <i>Fully implement crosswalk safety study</i> • <i>Better sidewalks</i> • <i>Gay Street sidewalk</i> 	3	17

⁴ out of 7 groups

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

One thing to improve...	Comments	# of groups ⁴	# of dots
Act as one town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walkability between the two centers</i> • <i>Heal the divide between Islington and the rest of Town. Westwood is one community but has a history of being two separate and distinct parts of town.</i> • <i>Provide same town services on both sides of Town (e.g. now there is decorative holiday lighting on High Street but not on Washington St. in Islington, landscaping services should be same on both sides of town, etc.)</i> 	3	13
People remaining open-minded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Diversity acceptance</i> • <i>Listen to all viewpoints</i> 	2	12
Town-wide shuttle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One way of reducing the feeling of "two towns"</i> • <i>Town trolley/bus/town transportation</i> 	2	9
Make Westwood more "green"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sustainable energy</i> • <i>Increase recycling frequency to weekly</i> • <i>Alternative energy subsidies and incentives</i> • <i>More leadership from Select Board</i> 	2	9
Opportunities for lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adult Education Opportunities</i> • <i>More classes for teens</i> 	1	8
Increase range and variety of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More high end stores at University Station</i> • <i>More businesses</i> 	2	8
Improve Business District on High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More aesthetically sensitive, more restaurants, dining, activities, decorative lighting, walkable)</i> 	2	7

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One thing to improve...	Comments	# of groups ⁴	# of dots
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make it more of a destination</i> • <i>Needs refacing or replacement</i> 		
Public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conducive to casual meeting</i> 	1	6
Increase community engagement		1	6
More open space protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Land Trust preservation</i> • <i>Protect meadows, fields & open space areas</i> • <i>Free co-curricular programs with Hale and schools/outdoor learning</i> 	2	5
Improved coordination between Town and School Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Seem to be on separated and uncoordinated tracks</i> 	1	4
Improve area along Washington Street in Dunkin Donuts area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>away from downtown</i> 	2	4
Special places that add value to the community and neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Qualitative places through thoughtful and careful planning</i> 	1	2
More transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Select Board</i> 	1	2
Town Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Define the boundaries</i> 	2	2
Elementary METCO program		1	1
Restore bus service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On Rt. 109/High Street</i> 	1	1

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

One thing to improve...	Comments	# of groups ⁴	# of dots
Plan for the future of the elementary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Five neighborhood schools versus consolidated schools</i> 	1	
More library parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At main library</i> 	1	



Westwood Youth Voice

Four Westwood High School students volunteered to provide childcare at the public forum. Additionally, they were given instruction to conduct visioning exercises with the six children under their care during the visioning session. The teens and children presented their thoughts at the session and also submitted the following in writing.



What is your favorite thing in Westwood?

- The parks
- Westwood Day
- Schools
- Education

What we want to see happen in Westwood

“For the past couple of days, we have recently seen more amounts of trash not being separated into recycling around Westwood. Together we envision a place where people are more aware of where they put their trash and to put effort in saving the environment.”

Children’s Opinion:

- *“People should start picking up trash”*
- *“We should put trash where it belongs”*
- *“Do a fundraiser to promote picking up trash”*
- *“Recycle more”*

“Another thing we would love to see happen in Westwood is a community garden; this could be a fun way to bring the Westwood community together. The garden could include a variety of flowers, vegetables and fruits.”

Children’s Opinion:

- *“I would love to plant things with my family!”*
- *“We should plant trees because they help us breathe”*
- *“I want to see a plant grow that I planted”*

“Take a book, leave a book” is a concept where we would have small libraries around Westwood. Each library will have a variety of adult and children’s books. This could be a fun way to encourage reading and strengthen the community.”

Children’s Opinion:

- *“When people are bored, they can bring their unused books and take the books they like”*
- *“Reading is fun!”*
- *“I want to walk around and read books all day”*

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Participants were asked to respond to three questions in writing. Cards were provided for their response to each question. Participants were then asked to place their responses on a surface treated with adhesive, referred to as the “sticky wall.” Participants’ responses are provided below.

“Sticky Wall” Responses Consolidated:



A forum participant reading the “sticky wall” responses

1. **What is your favorite SPECIAL PLACE in Westwood and why?**

- *Westwood public library- a place to learn*
- *Westwood public library – main: friendly and helpful employees, many interesting and information programs*
- *School Street playground*
- *Islington Center, high school area*
- *Shuttleworth woods and conservation areas*
- *Islington Center before this awful new development*
- *Gay Street*
- *Library – have used this service since I was a child. Feeds my intellect and social. Churches feed my soul*
- *Hanlon School, Lowell Woods, Hale, Fisher School*
- *Sen-Ki Woods – combination of history, public space, hiking/walking trails in a central location with parking -> would love it to be more accessible by foot and public transportation*
- *By far Hale Reservation – all that space, wonderful programs and open to the public*
- *As I've lived here a long time, I have several: Lowell Woods as I spent most of childhood playing in them, the ICC as many friends have gathered there over the years, and the new cemetery as it's a beautiful, peaceful place and my father is there*
- *Open land trust spaces. Benefits all of us in many ways*
- *Public library, walking University Ave., large selection of shopping options*
- *Hale Reservation*
- *The tree-lined entrance to High Street from 128*
- *School Street Playground, Morison Field, Hale Reservation*
- *Gay Street's farm-like and scenic character and the natural beauty/flora/fauna of Lyman's Pond for adjoining conservation area and properties (residential)*
- *Hale, library and School Street playground*
- *Hale Reservation*
- *Hale Reservation – great recreational environment just off the I-95 highway*
- *Hale Reservation, Lowell Woods and walk in woods*
- *Hale reservation, Carby St. side and Beaett side*

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- *Hale Reservation, trees*
- *Drive south on East Street and view iconic white church and steeple*
- *Hale Reservation and my house – love the gorgeous view of the sky out back with the world at my fingertips out front*
- *Shuttle worth woods behind Hanlon School*
- *Hale - open space, trails, lakes, programs*
- *School Street Playground – years of children and adults making new friends, bonding and making memories*
- *Lowell Woods – it is great to have walking trails so close to home*
- *Hale Reservation – High and Washington Streets give the town a small-town feeling. High Street and Islington Centers – small town feeling, University Station – providing many of the conveniences we used to have to go out of town to find*
- *New library is fantastic! Children’s programming and Readers Advisory are great!*
- *Islington Brach Library (Claire Connors!!). Looking forward to the renovations*
- *Hale Reservation – natural beauty, open to public, place to exercise, good memories*
- *Library, Buckmaster Pond, Hale Reservation*
- *Hale Reservation and School Street playground*
- *Hale Reservation and Buckmaster Pond*
- *I love the library an can't wait to have improved Islington library that I can walk to. Wish I could safely walk to main library.*
- *Hale Reservation, Islington Center, Lowell Woods, Buckmaster Pond area, Gay Street, Thatcher, Milk Street area*
- *Hale, Buckmaster Pond, Flahive Filed, Thurston Fields*
- *Lowell Woods – I enjoy how we have this open, natural space*
- *Buckmaster, some trails*

2. **What else makes Westwood UNIQUE?**

- *Schools, neighborhood, location*
- *Open space*
- *Diverse people in a small town*
- *Accessibility to surrounding resources/towns. Focus on welfare/growth/safety of children. Green spaces, especially public spaces and trails. Pockets of historical and long-lived institutions*
- *Quaint, family-friendly, close to Boston, great schools*
- *Low-key town - great proximity to major highways, Boston, Logan, Cape and Islands*
- *It has a small-town feel*
- *White church and steeple in Islington Center. Very disappointed to see parts of view obstructed by new building (School Street)*
- *Combination of open area/natural resources/nature bodies and conservation areas in proximity to the residential properties*
- *Proximity to Boston but still retains a small-town feel*
- *Hale Reservation, Bubbling Brook, Ice Creamery*
- *Open space. Location and safety. Family orientation. Small-town feel. Quiet*
- *A residential town where the neighbors know each other*
- *Churches, Colburn School, excellent leadership*
- *One-of-a-kind Town Administrator. High quality town and sewer. Rural feel. Off a major highway. Very convenient community*

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- *Common sense. Our town has made decisions which have helped to improve our town in many ways. The vision of our town has greatly improved the spirit and spaces for education*
- *Great schools*
- *Small-town environment with easy access to Boston and Providence*
- *Awesome School St. Playground. Community building by smaller local elementary school*
- *Rural charm - resident since 1972*
- *Small-town feel. Access to commuter rail line (2)*
- *Hale*
- *Good feel as a town. Fantastic location (easy access to town, plenty of shopping nearby). Hale Reservation. Established trees. Investment in town areas (love the sidewalks)*
- *Small town, near Boston, still has open space*
- *School system is superb. Hale Reservation*
- *Its accessibility to Boston and points southwest*
- *Quiet*
- *Small-town feel, people get to know you*
- *Land trust - open meadows*
- *Great schools and open space*
- *Size of the town, still retains high quality of sports, school and natural beauty*
- *Westwood Station- retail station. Wegmans*
- *Small-town feel with easy access to highway and Boston*
- *Sort of close to Boston but still feels rural*
- *Less developed/smaller*
- *The geographic location, being close to Boston and also having all types of transportation while maintaining a true suburban town feeling*
- *The people and the schools*
- *A small, peaceful, safe town close to 128 and Boston*
- *We used to be one of the few remaining towns in this area that still had a small-town feel. I'd like to see what's left of that preserved.*

3. **How would you define Westwood's TOWN CHARACTER? Identify some of the features that contribute to it.**

- *Excellent schools, open spaces, country roads*
- *Vanishing rural charm*
- *Natural beauty, good schools and sports, not too large – good size*
- *Declining, uncertainty of Islington Community Center, demolition of Blue Hart Tavern, oversized buildings on inadequate lots*
- *Highway convenience, top notch school system, access to rail travel*
- *Peaceful, safe, small town with lots of friendly people*
- *A little bit of something for everyone*
- *Family friendly, neighbor helping neighbor, parents involved in school and coaching sports*
- *Historic buildings and old-growth trees, classic New England town, small-scale development (previously), quality schools, family-friendly*
- *A great small town to raise a family*
- *Stable financially, safe and charming*

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- *Safe, small-town feel*
- *In-town shuttle bus transportation, more connectivity with more sidewalks and bike lanes*
- *Somewhat snooty*
- *Quaint, education is a priority, community-focused*
- *Balance of access to nature and natural resources as well as amenities e.g. grocery shops, train stations, auto-dealerships/repair shops, as well as open space*
- *Expensive*
- *Bridging the old and the new, smart and open, but sometimes insular and afraid. A quiet home community, but without much of a center of community*
- *Hard working citizens! Everyone tries to make what they have look great. Pride*
- *Somewhat rural*
- *Preserve the neighborhood schools which they have had so much success with*
- *Small in size, town meeting, great schools, fantastic library, friendly residents, land preservation*
- *Declining, knee-jerk reactions. No consideration of what residents want and need*
- *Open space is important. Wolverine-pride. Schools are great.*
- *Open space, old stone walls, schools*
- *Divided!*
- *Good moral values, New England charm*
- *Small town USA*
- *High-quality community, strong educational environment, semi-rural feel yet right off a major highway*
- *Residential*
- *Islington/Westwood divide- need to come together for mutual decisions. This DIVIDE needs to heal an end. We are the TOWN OF WESTWOOD!!!*
- *Westwood is a town where neighbors help each other out. Westwood does not feel a need to “compete” with other towns because we are secure in our community- I feel accepted and I can count on neighbors to help*
- *Friendly, clean, kept in repair. Lots of walkers, runners, and cyclists. Great meeting space*
- *School system, town services, and open spaces*
- *A small commuter town with real schools accentuated by proximity to rail lines and highways. Scattered and small-scale retail and lack of good restaurants and dining options or general places of commerce*
- *Peaceful, attractive, modern, somewhat of a rural feel yet sophisticated. Mature trees, beautiful architecture. Forward-thinking and well-run – new buildings (library, school, Islington, etc.)*
- *Great place to raise a family – schools, people, location and open space*

4. **Additional Comments or Questions?**

- If you feel you didn't have an opportunity to bring something up and/or you weren't sure that your idea of concern are within the scope of a comprehensive plan, please write your thoughts here and give this paper to a member of the Consultant team or Steering Committee.
 - i. *One place for community info*

SUGGESTIONS BOX

The following comments were placed in a Suggestions Box at the Forum

- *Reduce speed limits and restrict commercial truck movement along residential roads. Limit them to use Route 109 and I-95.*
- *Minimize low cost housing and over crowding with apartment complexes.*
- *Preserve all the conservation land as well as the water bodies as well as the scenic roads/routes.*

Perks of Participation



Refreshments



Raffle prizes

WESTWOOD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Preliminary Vision, Goals and Objectives

(Based on the community conversation as of May 18, 2019)

Our Town. Our Future



Prepared for:

The Town of Westwood

Prepared by:

Community Circle with Barrett Planning Group, LLC

Date: June 19, 2019



Community Circle

Planning, Programming & Public Participation



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Thanks to the Steering Committee and to the members of the public that participated in providing input to help develop the vision and goals put forth in this document.

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And a special *Thank you!* to **Steven Kane**
for designing the logo and tagline (see cover)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The purpose of undertaking a visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan is to understand shared values by involving stakeholders in crafting a Vision Statement and Goals for the future. As the process evolves strategies will be identified for achieving these goals. These too will be developed with stakeholder input.

Process

The visioning process was comprised of one town-wide forum and a town-wide survey. There was also an on-line social media platform (Facebook page) made available. Input was gathered and a vision and set of goals were developed based on participants' desires and concerns. The discussion during this phase of the process is focused on **"What do we want?"** At later phases, an assessment of existing conditions will be conducted answering the questions *"What do we have?"* and *"What is most important."* Finally this last stage of the process, the development of an Implementation Plan responds to the question: *"How do we get there?"*

This vision and set of related goals will form the foundation for developing an action plan in subsequent stages of the planning process.

Goals of public process

Involving the public in creating a vision and goals to guide future decisions is critical to the process. It is important for the Plan to reflect taxpayer's concerns and desires. It is also important in order to garner support for the Plan's implementation. The Vision and Goals that result from the visioning process are the foundation upon which an action

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS

- What do we have?
- **What do we want?**
- What is most important?
- How do we get there?

A Comprehensive Plan looks at:

- Developing a shared vision
- What to preserve?
- What to change?
- Concerns?
- Improvements?
- New and/or updated tools needed?

Goals for the public process include:

- Identify critical issues
- Define shared goals
- Establish priorities for the future
- Build support for Plan

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plan is built. They provide guidance and direction to future decision-making.

The following is the product of the input to the Steering Committee to date. It is anticipated that the Vision and Goals will go through several iterations before the completion of the Plan as the Committee gathers additional input from a continued community conversation and conducts research into existing conditions and future needs and trends.

PRELIMINARY GOALS

The order in which the goals are presented here do not in any way imply ranking or priority.

- 1.0 Work to UNIFY Westwood, to reduce the sense that it is two towns.
- 2.0 Improve TRANSPORTATION so that it is safe and pleasant and so that reliance on the automobile is reduced.
- 3.0 Support residents of ALL AGES.
- 4.0 Provide a wide range of HOUSING options to accommodate people at various stages in the lifecycle and with a range of income levels
- 5.0 Improve the existing TOWN CENTERS so that they are destinations for residents to shop and dine and experience casual encounters in public spaces.
- 6.0 Promote additional ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in order to increase the tax base as well as to provide more opportunities for shopping and dining.
- 7.0 Protect and maintain the Town's NATURAL RESOURCES including its beautiful woods, ponds, parks and other open space and increase opportunities for RECREATION for all ages.
- 8.0 Preserve Westwood's HISTORIC resources and expand opportunities for CULTURAL activities.
- 9.0 Ensure that Town FACILITIES and SERVICES adequately meet the needs of the Town's residents.
- 10.0 Implement measures to protect the environment so that it is SUSTAINABLE and available for the next generation to enjoy.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this first phase of the Comprehensive planning process was to identify shared values regarding the future development of Westwood. These are used to develop a vision and set of goals upon which to build an action plan with strategies to achieve these. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide future decision-making.

Process

The public's input was used to develop the Preliminary Vision and Goals set forth in this document. Residents were invited to a town-wide public forum on May 18, 2019. The purpose of the forum was to discuss their concerns and desires regarding the future of Westwood. A town-wide survey was also distributed to all households by the Planning Department. Additionally, a request was made for residents to post their favorite "Special Place" in Westwood on Facebook.

What is a Comprehensive Plan

- A basis for decision-making for future development
- A process leading to a plan of action based on a town's shared values and goals
- A set of priorities for addressing the full range of issues facing a town

Developing a Shared Vision for Westwood's Future

Crafting a vision statement is a way of understanding and describing the desired future as envisioned by a group of people. It is by definition aspirational and should embody a community's shared values and be inspiring.



Community Conversation: What were the key themes?

The following is a brief overview of the key themes that emerged from the discussions at the Visioning Session. ***It should be noted that there seems to be a significant degree of consensus between those present at the public forum and those who responded to the town-wide survey.***

- A desire to preserve the **small town feeling** many appreciated about the Town while simultaneously providing more opportunities for community gathering, recreation, entertainment and dining.
Almost half (47%) of SURVEY respondents reported that Westwood's small town character is among their favorite things about living in Town.
- Consensus regarding a strong desire for a **Community /Recreation Center**. Additionally a strong interest was expressed in expanding opportunities for both active and passive, indoor and outdoor recreation.
- A desire for a more traditional town center, but also to **improve existing Town centers** especially in terms of aesthetics and the range of businesses located there. Especially desired are additional dining options.
Almost half (40%) of SURVEY respondents report that town center revitalization is most important to them.
- A desire to **reduce the feeling that the Westwood is two towns** by better connecting the two "sides," providing equal access to services and facilities and by creating spaces and activities for all to participate in.
- A strong interest in **improving and expanding options for transportation** including providing safe and pleasant opportunities for walking, biking and a town shuttle.
More than one-third (38%) of SURVEY respondents reported that addressing issues related to traffic is most important to them.
- A very strong **appreciation for Westwood's natural features** including Hale Reservation, Lowell Woods, and Buckmaster Pond among the most frequently mentioned.
- Much appreciation was expressed for the **public schools**, although there seemed to be a lack of consensus or at least some mixed feelings regarding the issue of consolidating or keeping the neighborhood elementary schools.
- A concern regarding providing **support and services for the senior population**, including affordable housing and additional Council on Aging services.

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- An appreciation of Westwood’s **historic buildings** and a desire to preserve and protect these.
- A desire to preserve the **town character**, especially in new development and redevelopment through more oversight of the development process and design appears to be a shared value as is the desire to improve aesthetics in existing commercial areas.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES (2019)

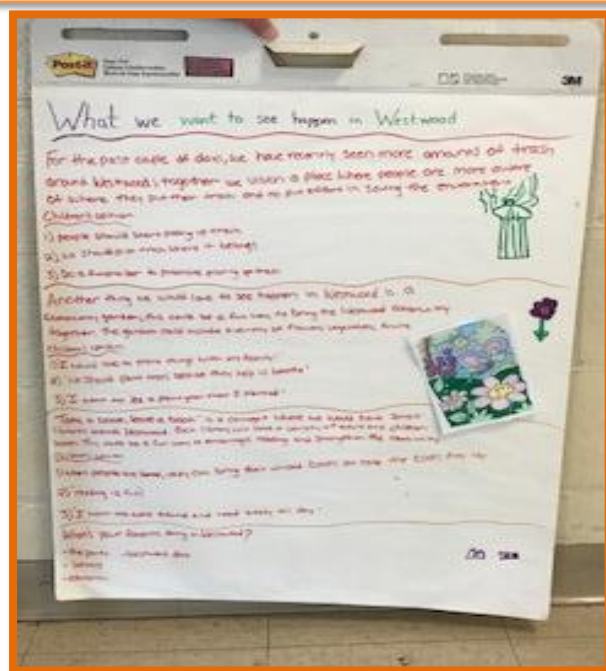
Some of the shared values identified in the visioning process 2019

- Preserve and connect open spaces and natural resources
- Improve aesthetics and expand range of businesses in commercial areas
- Provide a wide range of housing options
- More opportunities for recreation (active and passive)
- Support for the senior populations
- More for teenagers to do
- Increased opportunities for community gathering
- Improved and increased options for transportation (especially walking and biking)
- Preservation of small town character
- New development in keeping with Westwood’s character
- Reduction in the divide between the “two towns” feeling
- “Greener” Westwood

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES (2000)

Some of the key community priorities in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan

- Preserve Open Space
- Manage Growth
- Diversify Residential Development
- Increase Commercial Tax Base
- Preserve Historic Character
- Improve Town Centers



Youth Voice

Elements of the Vision for Westwood's Future

A vision describes the kind of community participants imagine as a best possible outcome of their collective actions. A vision is a broad-brush image of what a community values and sees as the future. A vision statement should inspire and challenge a community's citizenry and leadership to reach toward common aspirations and communicate to newcomers and outsiders the direction in which the community intends to move.

A vision affirms a community's commitment to a set of values to be used as a lens through which to view information and make future decisions. Having a vision helps to frame subsequent discussions regarding how to achieve a desired future and helps to keep these discussions focused.

The following represents a compilation of ideas suggested by community members who participated in the planning process. The ideas included here are topics that gained relative consensus or were consistent with other thoughts expressed by participants.

PUBLIC FORUM PARTICIPANT PRIORITIES

Favorite Things

- Open space
- Town character
- Schools

Priorities

- Traffic
- Fiscal stability to maintain tax base
- Walking/biking infrastructure
- Recreation/Community Center
- Improvements to Town Centers (aesthetic and mix of businesses, especially more restaurants)
- Needs of senior population
- Reduce feeling of being two towns

TOWN-WIDE SURVEY (811 responses)

Favorite Things

- Safety
- Schools
- Location
- Good place to raise a family

Most important planning topics

- Community character
- Preservation of open space
- Public facilities
- Town center revitalization
- Traffic

Priorities

- Preservation of open space and natural resources
- Pedestrian infrastructure (crosswalks, sidewalks, bike paths)
- More restaurants and dining options

VISIONING SESSION: MOST FREQUENT RESPONSES

Favorite Things

- Open space
- Small town character
- Schools

Also:

- Balanced growth
- Transportation options (out of Town)
- Location/convenience
- Residents /friendly neighbors
- Library
- Youth-oriented community

Least Favorite Things

- Traffic
- Taxes (too high)
- Poor walkability

Also:

- High Street Business Area
- Two towns feeling
- Lack of transportation options (within Town)
- Lack of connectivity

Missing from Westwood

- Walking/biking infrastructure
- Recreation Center
- Mix of businesses (especially dining options)

Also:

- More and better no-car transportation options
- Outdoor active and passive recreation opportunities

Future Opportunities for Westwood

- Demographic changes
- Solid tax base/bond rating
- Excellent schools “brand”

Future Challenges for Westwood

- Income inequality
- Balancing schools and growth
- Neighborhood schools vs. consolidated
- Town budget
- Traffic
- Aging population

If you could do one thing to Improve Westwood...

- Improve traffic conditions
- Lower taxes
- Recreation/Community Center
- Improve pedestrian/bike safety
- Act as one town

Also:

- Open-mindedness
- Town-wide shuttle
- Make Westwood more “green”

Special Places

One of the key goals of a comprehensive plan is to protect and enhance those qualities that make a place special, that separate it from other places. With the spread of strip mall development and chain stores, many municipalities have begun to lose their uniqueness. One of the objectives of the comprehensive plan is to understand what those who live and work in a municipality most appreciate and to make recommendations to protect and even enhance these features.

“Identify those places in Town that define Westwood as a unique and special place. These could include outstanding views or landscapes, sites or buildings of historic value, or essential places in the community’s life. These are places that give form to residents’ internal images of community, are identified with cherished rituals, or contribute subconsciously to everyday life.”
(Definition from Westwood Comprehensive Plan: 2000)

The 2000 Comprehensive Plan identified what it called “special places” that define Westwood as a unique and special place. As part of this visioning process, participants were asked on Facebook and at the Public Forum what they consider to be their “favorite special place.” There was much consensus regarding what participants regard as their favorite special places.

Participants’ favorite “special places”

- Open space and conservation lands
- Hale Reservation
- Lowell Woods
- Hiking/walking trails
- Library
- School Street playground
- High & Washington Streets
- University Avenue
- Lyman’s Pond
- Iconic white church & steeple
- Tree-lined entrance to High Street
- Gay Street’s scenic character



*Participants’ Facebook selfies and written responses to “What is your **favorite special place** in Westwood?”*

A VISION FOR WESTWOOD'S FUTURE

IMAGINE...a Westwood that feels like a **unified town** with **beautiful and vibrant town centers** where Westwood residents go to shop and dine at a variety of establishments. A Westwood that even though has additional development manages to preserve its **small town character**. Historic buildings are preserved and new development and redevelopment is managed so that it is compatible with the New England charm that is desired.

IMAGINE....a Westwood where **walking and biking is safe and pleasant** and town centers, public facilities, schools, recreational areas and open spaces are connected by a continuous sidewalk system, crosswalks, bike paths and trails. Reliance on the automobile is further reduced by the availability of a **town shuttle** that helps move people around town.

IMAGINE....a Westwood that continues to preserve its treasured **open space and conservation lands**. That protects its beautiful woods, lakes and ponds, and stone walls and where the walking and hiking **trails have been extended** and are well maintained so they can be enjoyed by all.

IMAGINE... a Westwood that continues to **support excellence in education** not only at its **schools**, but also at the library and other establishments, such as the Senior Center and Community Center that offer **opportunities for lifelong learning** for all ages.

IMAGINE... a Westwood where a **wide range of housing types** is available to individuals and families at different stages of the lifecycle as well as a range of incomes, including affordable and appropriate housing for the Town's **senior citizens** as well as **starter homes** for first time homebuyers.

IMAGINE... a Westwood with an approach to **economic development** that helps to enhance the tax base with desirable economic activity in appropriate locations in ways that are compatible with the Town's character.

IMAGINE... a Westwood that provides a wide **range of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities** including a **Recreation/Community Center** where both physical activities as well as a variety of artistic and other interests can be pursued. A Westwood where there is a variety of **opportunities to gather** at a number of town events, concerts, movie nights, etc.

IMAGINE... a Westwood that continues to provide **excellent community services and facilities** by maintaining existing facilities and updating in whatever ways are necessary, including continuing to incorporate technology and exploring regional opportunities in order to increase efficiency.

IMAGINE... a Westwood where there is **broad-based participation** on the part of the many residents that volunteer to work on Boards and Committees, where technology continues to help government activities to be **transparent** and where the public is kept abreast of progress on the comprehensive plan goals and asked to provide **input into decision-making** as relevant.

IMAGINE... a Westwood that **prioritizes future resilience**, that develops Town goals to address the potential negative impacts of climate change, provides information and incentives to residents and businesses for their use of alternative energy sources, increases its recycling rate, and implements other **measures that protect the environment**.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The order in which the goals are presented here do not in any way imply ranking or priority.

GOAL 1.0 Work to UNIFY Westwood, to reduce the sense that it is two towns

Objective 1.1. Improve physical CONNECTIONS between the Town centers

Objective 1.2. Increase opportunities for COMMUNITY GATHERING

Objective 1.3. Reduce feelings of DIVISIVENESS

GOAL 2.0 Improve TRANSPORTATION so that it is safe and pleasant and so that reliance on the automobile is reduced

Objective 2.1. Improve the safety and ease of WALKING and BIKING

Objective 2.2. Improve and increase PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION options

Objective 2.3. Reduce AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC

GOAL 3.0 Support residents of ALL AGES

Objective 3.1. Provide facilities, programs and services to meet the needs of SENIORS

Objective 3.2. Support YOUTH

GOAL 4.0 Provide a wide range of HOUSING options to accommodate people at various stages in the lifecycle and with a range of income levels

Objective 4.1. Provide housing for ALL STAGES in the lifecycle

Objective 4.2. Provide housing for a range of INCOME LEVELS

GOAL 5.0 Improve the existing TOWN CENTERS so that they are destinations for residents to shop and dine and experience casual encounters in public spaces

Objective 5.1. Improve EXISTING COMMERCIAL AREAS

6.0 Promote additional ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in order to increase the tax base as well as to provide more opportunities for shopping and dining

Objective 6.1. Develop a LONG-TERM VISION

Objective 6.2. Support NEW USES

GOAL 7.0 Protect and maintain the Town's NATURAL RESOURCES including its beautiful woods, ponds, parks and other open space and increase opportunities for RECREATION for all ages

Objective 7.1. Increase ACCESS to the Town's natural features

Objective 7.2. Increase OPPORTUNITIES for recreation for all ages

GOAL 8.0 Preserve Westwood's HISTORIC resources and expand opportunities for CULTURAL activities

Objective 8.1. Protect HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Objective 8.2. Expand CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL 9.0 Ensure that Town FACILITIES and SERVICES adequately meet the needs of the Town's residents

Objective 9.1. MAINTAIN Town facilities and provide STATE-OF-THE-ART services

Objective 9.2. Improve COMMUNICATION between residents and Town government

Objective 9.3. Continue to support the SCHOOLS and the focus on excellence on education

GOAL 10.0 Implement measures to protect the environment so that it is SUSTAINABLE and available for the next generation to enjoy

Objective 10.1. Prepare for the potential negative impacts of CLIMATE CHANGE

Objective 10.2. Take measures to PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The main underlying theme of the community conversation was the desire to preserve the small town feeling and the character of the town while unifying the two parts of Town and creating more opportunities for coming together as a community.

GOALS OBJECTIVES & IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

The goals and objectives that follow have been developed based on input gathered at the public forum held on May 18, 2019. Over sixty (60) people attended and participated in small group discussions. Additionally the input from a town-wide survey was incorporated. Eight-hundred and eleven (811) people responded to the survey. Of these, the majority have lived in Westwood for more than 20 years (46%), are between the ages of 36 and 55 (53%) and currently have children in the Westwood School System (53%). Of interest is the degree to which there were common themes in the responses of those attending the forum and those responding to the survey. As a result there can be relative confidence that these can be considered shared values.

Participants sometimes offered specific suggestions regarding the ways to accomplish the goals and objectives. These are labeled “Ideas for Strategies” and should be revisited in subsequent phases of the planning process.

As previously mentioned, the following is the product of the input to the Steering Committee to date. It is anticipated that the Vision and Goals will go through several iterations before the completion of the Plan as the Committee gathers additional input from a continued community conversation and conducts research into existing conditions and future needs and trends.

The order in which the goals are presented and are numbered do not in any way imply ranking or priority.



GOAL 1.0: ONE WESTWOOD

Work to unify Westwood, to reduce the sense that it is divided into two parts.

OBJECTIVE 1.1. IMPROVE PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE TOWN CENTERS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Improve walking and biking connections
- Establish a town shuttle to help to connect the parts
- Increase the connectivity of the trail system.

“We need more connectivity with more sidewalks, bike lanes and an in-town shuttle bus.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

OBJECTIVE 1.2. INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GATHERING

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Hold town concerts and events that are free for all and widely publicize these
- Create Village Commons
- Create a Dog Park
- Establish Community Gardens
- Develop a Community Center and/or Recreation Center for all ages
- Establish a music venue for all to share
- Encourage theater and other cultural activities

Youth Voice

“Another thing we would love to see happen in Westwood is a community garden; this could be a fun way to bring the Westwood community together. The garden could include a variety of flowers, vegetables and fruits.”

OBJECTIVE 1.3. REDUCE FEELINGS OF DIVISENESS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Explore and explain the reasons for divisiveness
- Increase transparency, education and communication
- Create a community space together
- Encourage unity
- Work to “heal the divide”

“We need to come together for mutual decisions. This divide needs to heal, needs to end. We are the Town of Westwood.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

GOAL 2.0: TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

Improve transportation so that it is safe and pleasant and so that reliance on the automobile is reduced.

78.8% of SURVEY respondents report using a car most often to get to work or school.

OBJECTIVE 2.1. IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND EASE OF WALKING AND BIKING

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Provide continuous sidewalks, crosswalks and walkways in high pedestrian traffic locations (including schools, town facilities, recreational facilities, commercial areas, etc.)
- Maintain and repair the existing sidewalks
- Provide bike paths, Bike Share, and bike racks
- Enforce waiting times for pedestrians to cross at cross walks
- Connect the trails and trail areas
- Install smart traffic signals on 109
- Develop a Town-wide pedestrian safety plan

Almost two-thirds (60%) of SURVEY respondents prioritized improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure over improving other community facilities and 62% said they would like to see more sidewalks, 43% more walking trails and 43%, would like to see more bike paths.

“Walkability is also something that benefits all community members.”
– SURVEY COMMENT

OBJECTIVE 2.2. IMPROVE AND INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Explore options for a town shuttle
- Coordinate/collaborate with surrounding towns on regional solutions
- Better connections with the T
- Improve Islington Train Station
- Restore commuter bus service on 109/High Street

Over one third of residents (36%) responding to the SURVEY said that improving public transportation was a “very important” or “important” goal.

OBJECTIVE 2.3. REDUCE AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Increase safety on new lanes on High Street at Town Pond
- Restrict truck traffic
- Enforce speed limits
- Enforce parking rules
- Provide alternatives to automobile travel
- Develop a comprehensive traffic mitigation plan
- Install speed humps to slow traffic and reduce the cut through traffic
- Reduce cut through traffic especially in residential areas

GOAL 3.0 SUPPORT RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

Meet the needs specific to various demographics including Westwood’s senior citizens and youth.

OBJECTIVE 3.1. PROVIDE FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO MEET NEEDS OF WESTWOOD’S SENIOR CITIZENS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Support the development of affordable and appropriate housing for seniors
- Provide opportunities for life long learning
- Increase the capacity of the Council on Aging and programming at the Senior Center
- Consider an Islington branch Senior Center

OBJECTIVE 3.2. SUPPORT YOUTH

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Provide additional opportunities for recreation
- Provide support for learning life skills (e.g. balancing checkbook, etc.)
- Provide entertainment options
- More (extra-curricular) classes for teens
- Need a place for teens to hang out (e.g. teen center)

“Provide a place for teens to gather instead of them hanging out at Dunkin’s or Starbucks. A bowling alley or place with pool tables or skateboard park.”

–SURVEY RESPONDENT

GOAL 4.0: HOUSING

Provide a range of housing options to accommodate people at various stages in the lifecycle and with a range of income levels.

OBJECTIVE 4.1. PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ALL STAGES IN THE LIFECYCLE

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- More accessory apartments for seniors
- Support for first-time homebuyers
- Affordable and appropriate housing for seniors

“It is very hard to downsize and stay in Westwood.” – SURVEY RESPONDENT.

“Important to keep the character of existing homes – do not allow oversized homes/lot size and limit approvals of knockdowns as needed.” – SURVEY RESPONDENT

One fifth (22%) of SURVEY respondents felt that 55+ housing units are needed. Additionally, respondents identified other housing types needed that could be occupied by a variety of individuals, including seniors; these include “smaller housing types,” “accessory apartments,” and “duplex style,” “tiny homes,” “condos,” among others.

OBJECTIVE 4.2. PROVIDE HOUSING FOR A RANGE OF INCOME LEVELS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- More accessory apartments
- Encourage the development of moderately-priced homes
- Encourage the development of starter homes

“Facilitate converting larger homes into condominiums.” – SURVEY RESPONDENT

“I do not support high rise multi-story apartment/condo buildings.” – SURVEY RESPONDENT

Almost half (42%) of SURVEY respondents felt that more “moderately priced housing” is needed while almost one-third (28%) felt that more “starter homes” are needed while another fifth (20%) felt that more affordable and low-income homes are needed.

GOAL 5.0 MAKE TOWN CENTERS MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACES

Improve the existing town centers so that they are destinations for residents to shop and dine and experience casual encounters in public spaces.

OBJECTIVE 5.1. IMPROVE EXISTING COMMERCIAL AREAS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Attract more coffee shops and restaurant choices
- Improve aesthetics of the buildings (e.g. “New England charm”)
- Provide better walking and biking infrastructure
- Add more outdoor seating opportunities
- Attract a more diverse mix of uses (e.g. Hardware store, more unique shops)
- Make town centers more of a destination
- Establish a Design Advisory Board to help preserve the Town’s character

Over three-fourths (76.29%) of SURVEY respondents reported that they would like to see more restaurants while 38% would like to see specialty retail in the commercial areas.

Additionally, over half (52%) said they would like to see an improvement in the physical appearance of buildings, and almost half (46%) would like more green space and pedestrian areas (45%).

A majority of respondents support allowing housing over retail (combination of those responding “Yes” and “Maybe if designed appropriately”)

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

- Better define the boundaries of the town centers
- Relax liquor license regulations to support restaurants
- Better enforce signage regulations
- Provide municipal parking lots rather than lots at each business
- Improve signage, landscaping and other streetscape features.

“I do 90% of dining and shopping outside Westwood due to a lack of options.” – SURVEY RESPONDENT

“I would like a more charming town center.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

GOAL 6.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promote additional economic development in order to increase the tax base as well as to provide more opportunities for shopping and dining.

OBJECTIVE 6.1. DEVELOP A LONG-TERM VISION

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Be proactive to attract development
- Recruit desired businesses
- Increase transparency regarding developer selection process
- Limit development to locations with adequate infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.)

“Retail is scattered and there is a lack of good restaurants.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

OBJECTIVE 6.2. SUPPORT NEW USES

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Need for local spaces (co-work) and coffee shops for those working remotely
- Consider regulations for Air B&B-type rentals

“More people will be working remotely and will need local spaces and businesses (cafes) that people can work from.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

GOAL 7.0 NATURAL RESOURCES, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Protect and maintain the Town’s natural resources including its beautiful woods, ponds, parks, and other open space and increase opportunities for recreation for all ages.

OBJECTIVE 7.1. INCREASE ACCESS TO THE TOWN’S NATURE FEATURES

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Provide additional trails and connect existing ones
- Create outdoor learning opportunities (coordinate with schools and Hale)
- Develop a tree ordinance to preserve trees
- Maintain and clean trails (invite school groups and trail program to help)
- More open space protection (Land Trust)

One-third (33%) of SURVEY respondents reported issues related to open space as being most important to them.

“Sen-Ki Woods is one of my favorite special places in Westwood. I would love it to be more accessible by foot and public transportation.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

OBJECTIVE 7.2. INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION FOR ALL AGES

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Playgrounds need maintenance and improvements
- Consider developing a Recreation/Community Center (indoor track, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, movie nights)
- Provide more outdoor recreation (ideas include tennis courts, basketball courts Co-curriculars with Hale, fitness course, ice skating rink, pickle ball courts, multi-use recreational space)
- Provide more artificial turf fields
- Make high school gym facilities available to adults for membership

Almost half (46%) of SURVEY respondents said that “providing more recreational facilities” was a “very important” (17%) or “important” (28%) goal.

Almost half of SURVEY respondents reported desiring an indoor Recreation/Community Center (46%) and more outdoor recreational facilities (43%).

“Students need a recreational center to go to after school. The library is over capacity and the kids need a safe and fun place to congregate, especially on “short Wednesdays.”
– SURVEY RESPONDENT.

“One of the things that makes Westwood unique is the focus on welfare, growth and safety of children. Green spaces, especially public spaces and trails.” – FORUM PARTICIPANT

GOAL 8.0 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Preserve Westwood’s historic features and expand opportunities for cultural activities.

One fifth (20%) of SURVEY respondents said that “preserving historic structures and sites” is a “very important” goal. An additional 29% said it is an “important” goal.

OBJECTIVE 8.1. PROTECT HISTORIC BUILDINGS

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Strengthen historic building protection
- Find a new use for the Obed Baker House

“My favorite special place is the drive on East Street and the view of the iconic white church and steeple.”

- FORUM PARTICIPANT

OBJECTIVE 8.2. EXPAND CULTURAL RESOURCES

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Encourage theater and other cultural activities

“It would be great to have town concerts and events free to all residents.”

- FORUM PARTICIPANT

GOAL 9.0 TOWN FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Ensure that Town facilities and services adequately meet the needs of the Town's residents.

OBJECTIVE 9.1. MAINTAIN TOWN FACILITIES AND PROVIDE STATE-OF-THE ART SERVICES

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Town Hall should be renovated in order to better accommodate town offices
- Develop reuse plan for the Deerfield School
- Keep up with changes in technology and continue to update and make improvements
- Repair and improve the main Fire Station
- Consider regionalizing services/facilities by partnering with surrounding towns where relevant
- Provide more parking at the Library
- Create an indoor recreation facility/Community Center for all
- Expand and improve outdoor recreational facilities (including parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.)
- Install solar powered traffic warning lights at crosswalks
- Maintain the solid tax base and bond rating in order to support and update town facilities and services

"Maintain current facilities before starting new projects" – SURVEY RESPONDENT

"Why don't we share costs with Dover and use their transfer station?" – SURVEY RESPONDENT

OBJECTIVE 9.2. IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND TOWN GOVERNMENT

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Establish means to tailor communication to individual interests
- Reach people through multiple channels of communication
- Establish an on-line platform where residents can report on conditions that Town Departments should respond to

Comprehensive Plan, Westwood, MA

- Encourage more and broader resident participation and involvement in town governance
- Consider expanding the Select Board (see other towns ratio to population)
- Establish a communication hub: one place for access of community information

“I would like to see more involvement from more people, not always the same faces on Committees, voting, etc.” - - FORUM PARTICIPANT

OBJECTIVE 9.3. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOLS AND THE FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Support decision-making process regarding consolidating elementary schools versus having smaller, neighborhood schools
- Better coordinate planning and decision-making between the Town and the School Department
- Invest more in the schools; renovate the schools that need it
- Plan for decreased student enrollments

78% of SURVEY respondents reported that the schools were among their favorite things about living in Westwood.

Additionally, “schools” were mentioned as one of the top three favorite features of the Town by the public FORUM participants.

“The schools and their maintenance should be a top priority.” SURVEY RESPONDENT

Youth Voice

“Take a book, leave a book” is a concept where we would have small libraries around Westwood. Each library will have a variety of adult and children’s books. This could be a fun way to encourage reading and strengthen the community.”



GOAL 10.0: MAKE WESTWOOD “GREENER”

Implement measures to protect the environment so that it is sustainable and available for the next generation to enjoy.

OBJECTIVE 10.1. PREPARE FOR THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Develop Town-wide climate change goals
- Town should lead by example
- Require plantings that can tolerate predicted conditions due to climate change impacts

“I like the Town’s commitment to conservation and green energy.” SURVEY RESPONDENT

Almost half (49%) of SURVEY respondents said that “preparing the community to be ready for and resilient to natural disasters and environmental changes is a “very important” (17%) or “important” (32%) goal.

OBJECTIVE 10.2 TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

- Curbside composting
- Increase recycling to once a week
- Provide alternatives to automobile travel
- Implement sustainable energy sources
- Provide subsidies and incentives to residents and businesses using alternative energy sources

Youth Voice

“For the past couple of days, we have recently seen more amounts of trash around Westwood. Together we envision a place where people are more aware of where they put their trash and to put effort in saving the environment. We should all try to recycle more.”

“I like that Westwood is environmentally conscious.” - - FORUM PARTICIPANT

NEXT STEPS

Articulating a vision and set of related goals is the first step in the comprehensive planning process. In order for this to have any meaning, the plan needs to include an inventory and assessment of existing conditions and an implementation plan that outlines action steps necessary to achieve the vision and goals.

The **inventory of existing conditions** consists of an assessment of the Town's resources:

- Population and Housing
- Economic Development
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources, Open Spaces and Recreation
- Transportation and Circulation
- Public Facilities and Services
- Land Use and Zoning

Identifying **key opportunities and challenges** as well as **priorities** is a critical part of the process.

The implementation plan includes strategies and action steps to achieve the vision and goals as well as the parties responsible for implementing these, potential partners, phasing/timing, priorities, existing resources, and potential funding sources.

The public should be involved throughout the planning process, with opportunities to provide input and to be kept up to date with progress.

The next step in Westwood's comprehensive planning process is to identify any portions of the population that the Committee feels are not adequately represented in the vision and goals and to conduct targeted outreach to these groups if relevant.

For more information see the Comprehensive Plan page on the town's website:

WWW.BIT.DO/WWCOMPRESHENSIVEPLAN

Why a Comprehensive Plan?

- Define a vision for the future
- Take stock
- Update
- Respond to demographic & other changes
- Be proactive, coordinate Town actions
- Anticipate future challenges
- Ensure Westwood's desirable features are preserved
- Define direction and steps to take towards a desired future
- Create a tool to aid in decision-making



Continue to invite stakeholders to participate throughout the process

TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS

RECEIVED
By Town Clerk at 3:47 pm, Oct 23, 2020

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PLANNING BOARD

**WESTWOOD PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Westwood Comprehensive Plan Update

The Westwood Planning Board will hold a remote public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom Webinar**, regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update submitted by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. This long-range town-wide plan is a visionary document setting goals and recommended actions for Westwood for the next five to ten year. The Steering Committee will present the updated Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Board. The Planning Board will review and take public comments. The full 2020 Comprehensive Plan, history, and more information can be found on the Committee's webpage at: www.bit.do/WWComprehensiveplan

The meeting will be filmed live by Westwood Media Center (WMC) available for viewing on Comcast channel 12 and Verizon channel 42 and on WMC's YouTube. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to use Zoom by following the instructions below or by going to <https://zoom.us/> clicking on 'join meeting' and entering the meeting webinar ID.

Please click the link below to join the webinar, Enter Name and Email:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82741725652?pwd=RW1FT2JQUmZWaTIDakpWekpPZkpNdz09>

Passcode: 895410

Or Dial in by Telephone:

877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 827 4172 5652

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing via Zoom by computer, tablet, Chromebook, smartphone, or calling in using the above information and make their views known to the Planning Board. You may also submit comments in writing to the Planning Office by email to amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us preferably at least three business days in advance to allow time for receipt and Board distribution. The final meeting agenda and zoom information will also be provided on the Town's calendar on the website's homepage 3-5 days in advance at: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/>.

Westwood Planning Board

Community Preservation Act

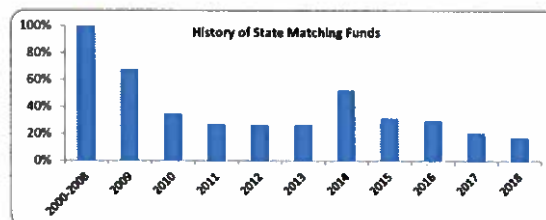
The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. CPA also helps strengthen the state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the Commonwealth's workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth's historic and natural resources. Over a decade of work went into the creation of the CPA; it was ultimately signed into law by Governor Paul Cellucci on September 14, 2000 (MGL Chapter 44B).



The concept of a statewide enabling authority to preserve community character had its original inspiration in the Nantucket Islands Land Bank, the first program of its kind in the United States, passed in 1983. This land conservation program was created to acquire, hold, and manage important open space resources and endangered landscapes of Nantucket Island for the use and enjoyment of the general public.

Background

- Cities and towns that adopt the CPA generate monies for their local Community Preservation funds through the implementation of a local CPA property tax surcharge of up to 3% of the tax levy against real property and through the receipt of annual state matching funds, at variable rates.
- Adopting communities may include any or all of the following surcharge exemptions:
 - Low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing.
 - Commercial/industrial property if the community annually adopts a higher tax rate for those classes.
 - An exemption of \$100K of the assessed valuation of residential parcels.
 - A new exemption (added in 2012) for the first \$100K of property value for commercial and industrial properties.
- Amounts generated by the surcharge are not subject to the levy limitations of Proposition 2 ½.
- The CPA surcharge does not raise the tax rate for the adopting community; it assesses a surcharge on property tax bills after they have been calculated based on the community's current tax rate.
- The CPA statute created a statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, administered by the Department of Revenue. This Trust Fund provides matching distributions to communities that have adopted the CPA each year, at variable rates, depending on the amount of revenues collected that year, and the number of communities participating in the program.
- All CPA communities are guaranteed a disbursement from the Community Preservation Trust Fund as an incentive for participating in the CPA program.
- From FY2003 – FY2008 state matching grants were reimbursed to communities at 100% of the net surcharge raised. Fiscal year 2009 was the first year that the state matching grants were not reimbursed at 100% of the net surcharge committed.



Community Preservation Act Cont'd

- For each fiscal year, the community must spend or reserve at least 10% of the annual revenue in the Fund for each of the Act's community preservation purposes – open space, historic resources and affordable housing.
- CPA adopting communities are required to establish a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to administer the program.
- To date, 173 municipalities in the state have adopted CPA (see attached map).

Other Comments

- The CPA surcharge is displayed as a separate item on tax bills.
- To determine the surcharge, multiply the real estate tax on the parcel (as reduced by any property exemption) by the adopted %.
- Real estate parcels that are fully exempt from property taxes are not subject to the surcharge.
- Taxpayers who are eligible to defer property taxes under GL, Ch 59 (section 5(41A) may not defer the surcharge.
- Recommendation by Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and a Town Meeting appropriation are both required to spend any CPA funds.
- Monies may not be appropriated directly into the Fund.
- Acceptance may be revoked (Town Meeting and ballot) after waiting at least 5 years after the referendum passed. The surcharge continues to be assessed until all obligations funded by CP funds are paid.
- Community can issue bonds against their future CPA revenue stream to fund large projects for which adequate CPA funds are not currently available.

What is Required to Adopt?

- Majority vote of municipal legislative body (Town Meeting) and subsequent voter approval at the next regularly scheduled municipal election or general state election, whichever comes first. Must accept MA General Law, Chapter 44B, Sections 3 – 7.

Community Preservation Act Cont'd

What About Westwood?

Then.....

- In 2001, a formal CPA Coalition was formed (see attached report).
 - Adoption of the CPA was brought before residents at the Town Election at which time the question was defeated by a vote of 1,111 in favor and 1,492 opposed.
 - At that time the surcharge level put to voters was 3%, and the exemptions were low income and the first \$100,000 of residential property.
 - Some reasons for the failure.....
 - The Business Development Advisory Board opposed the CPA because they felt it was a disproportionate tax on business.
 - Proposition 2 ½ override and potential tax increase for the high school project was pending.

- In 2008, adoption of the CPA was brought before Town Meeting. The Finance Commission recommended Indefinite Postponement which was supported by a vote of 137 in favor and 69 opposed.
 - Some Fincom reasons for the failure....
 - School \$2.8M operational override the year prior.
 - Westwood Station efforts underway to increase tax revenues.

Now.....

Options				
Surcharge - up to 3%				
Exemptions:				
•	Low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing.			
•	Commercial/industrial property.			
•	An exemption of \$100K of the assessed valuation of residential parcels.			
•	A new exemption (added in 2012) for the first \$100K of property value for commercial and industrial properties.			

Total Tax Collections				
	FY19	← Potential CPA Tax →		
		3%	2%	1%
Residential	\$56,380,530	\$1.69M	\$1.12M	\$563K
Commercial	\$18,154,202	\$544K	\$363K	\$181K
Total	\$74,534,732	\$2.2M	\$1.4M	\$744K

Tax Bill Impact					
	Value	FY19 Tax Bill	← Potential CPA Tax →		
			3%	2%	1%
Residential	\$634,000	\$9,288	\$278	\$185	\$92
Commercial	\$1,000,000	\$28,240	\$847	\$564	\$282

Community Preservation Act Cont'd

Sampling of "Yes" and "No" Communities

"No" Communities To Date

	<u>Year Voted</u>		<u>Year Voted</u>
Andover	2002	Foxborough	
Attleboro		Franklin	
Avon		Lynnfield	
Bellingham		Mansfield	
Brookline	2006, 2018	Medfield	Current CPA Study Committee
Burlington		Milton	
Danvers	2016	Stoneham	2013
Dedham	2017	Walpole	
Dover		Winchester	

"Yes Communities"				
Town	Year Adopted	% Adopted	Exemptions	Some Projects
Needham	2006	2%	Low income, first \$100K – residential.	Town Hall preservation study/design/actual preservation (approx \$14M); trails plan, purchase of recreation land, High Rock homes.
Norwood	2018	1%	Low income, first \$100K – residential and commercial.	Chapel at Highland Cemetery – rehab and restoration (\$400K).
Wayland	2002	1.5%	Low income, first \$100K – residential.	Repair historic gravestones, affordable housing demo and site prep; artificial turf field; consolidation of historical records; athletic field design.
Wellesley	2003	1%	Low income, first \$100K – residential.	Land purchase for open space, restore historical street sign, preservation of historical materials, clock tower, park rehab, purchase/rehab group home.
Weston	2002	3%	Low income, first \$100K – residential.	Historic resource rehab, recreation land rehab, creation of recreation land, support of community housing.

Uses of CPA Funds

- Recreation
- Open Space
- Historic Preservation
- Community Housing

Recreation

- Athletic fields, parks, playgrounds
- Non-commercial youth and adult sports
- Trails
- Community gardens

Open Space

- Grasslands, fields, forest land
- Stream, lake, and pond frontage
- Protect scenic vistas
- Land wildlife or native preserve
- Agricultural land

Historic Preservation

- Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration
- Determined by local Historical Commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of the town

Community Housing

- Acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing and for the restoration of community housing



COUNTY OF NORFOLK
COUNTY OF PRESIDENTS
REGISTRY OF DEEDS

NORFOLK REGISTRY DISTRICT OF THE LAND COURT

WILLIAM P. O'DONNELL
REGISTER OF DEEDS
ASSISTANT RECORDER OF THE
LAND COURT

January 18, 2019

Ms. Abigail McCabe
Westwood Planning Department
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Ms. McCabe,

The fees for the Community Preservation Act are set by the State Legislature on land documents recorded here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. I thought the chart on the reverse side would be of interest to you. It provides an illustration of the funds generated by the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in your community based on recorded real estate filings during the 2018 calendar year.

The Community Preservation Act was signed into law on September 14, 2000. Today there are 175 Massachusetts communities that have adopted the Community Preservation Act, including this year the town of Plainville in Norfolk County. Just over 2.1 billion dollars has been raised to date statewide. The Registry of Deeds, at no additional cost to the Commonwealth or local communities, collects these revenues for the state once a document is recorded. The monies are then forwarded to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. The funds collected by the Commonwealth are then redistributed back to the communities that have adopted the CPA through a variety of formulas.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which is located at 649 High Street, Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, genealogists, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information. For assistance please contact our Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101, or visit our website at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

I hope you find this data to be timely, informative and useful. In the meantime, if I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 781-461-6116 or by email at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org. I wish you a healthy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

William P. O'Donnell
Norfolk County Register of Deeds

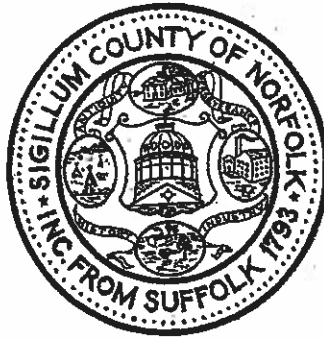
WPO/aag

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NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)
SURCHARGES BY TOWN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

TOWN	TOTAL
AVON	\$18,450
BELLINGHAM	\$66,660
BRAintree	\$112,570
BROOKLINE	\$150,350
CANTON	\$86,090
COHASSET	\$39,420
DEDHAM	\$83,650
DOVER	\$23,650
FOXBOROUGH	\$58,270
FRANKLIN	\$110,350
HOLBROOK	\$40,100
MEDFIELD	\$44,150
MEDWAY	\$47,000
MILLIS	\$31,420
MILTON	\$86,060
NEEDHAM	\$103,370
NORFOLK	\$40,980
NORWOOD	\$80,170
PLAINVILLE	\$29,560
QUINCY	\$244,110
RANDOLPH	\$100,420
SHARON	\$56,740
STOUGHTON	\$96,000
WALPOLE	\$88,710
WELLESLEY	\$87,090
WESTWOOD	\$51,890
WEYMOUTH	\$200,460
WRENTHAM	\$47,530



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NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)
SURCHARGES BY TOWN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

TOWN	TOTAL
AVON	\$18,030
BELLINGHAM	\$68,890
BRAINTREE	\$124,580
BROOKLINE	\$166,930
CANTON	\$94,080
COHASSET	\$42,810
DEDHAM	\$90,580
DOVER	\$29,780
FOXBOROUGH	\$62,360
FRANKLIN	\$117,830
HOLBROOK	\$47,080
MEDFIELD	\$46,790
MEDWAY	\$48,810
MILLIS	\$34,740
MILTON	\$95,820
NEEDHAM	\$108,540
NORFOLK	\$40,180
NORWOOD	\$83,730
PLAINVILLE	\$35,410
QUINCY	\$273,240
RANDOLPH	\$110,070
SHARON	\$60,270
STOUGHTON	\$105,140
WALPOLE	\$94,180
WELLESLEY	\$103,680
WESTWOOD	\$54,980
WEYMOUTH	\$215,200
WRENTHAM	\$53,870

≈ #22M

Community Preservation Act Coalition

Community	Exemptions	Community	Exemptions
Concord	1.5/LI/100/R	Boston	1/LI/100/RC
Newton	1/None	Norwood	1/LI/100/RC
Needham	2/LI/100/R	Canton	1/LI/100/RC
Lincoln	3/LI/100/R	Braintree	1/LI/100/R
Concord	1.5/LI/100/R	Fall River	1.5/LI/100/R
Lexington	3/LI/100/R	New Bedford	1.5/LP/100/R
Acton	1.5/LI/100/R	Quincy	1/LP/100/R
Duxbury	1/LI/100/R	Springfield	1.5/100/RC
Cohasset	1.5/LI/100/R	Waltham	2%/LI/100/R
Hingham	1.5/LI/100/R	Weymouth	1/LI/100/R
Wellesley	1/LI/100/R	1.5 – 3% of taxes LI – Low Income Exemptions 100-100,000 Exemptions R - Only on residential C – On commercial also	
Weston	3/LI/100/RC		
Wayland	1.5/LI/100/R		
Sharon	1/LI/100/R		
Belmont	1.5%/LI/100/R		
Carlisle	2%/LI/100/R		
Holliston	1.5/LI/100/R		
Hopkinton	2/LI/100/R		
Medway	3/LI/100/R		
Millis	1/LI		

Surcharge for Westwood 2017 Registry of Deeds (surcharges on deeds, mortgage, discharge etc.) - \$54,980 in surcharges for Westwood were sent to Mass Department of Revenue to the state pool.

Now 172 communities in since 2000

Some of Concord Projects Funded by Community Preservation Coalition (50 projects since 2013)

- Water bottle filling capacity at playing fields
 - Seating area at fields
 - Rail trail
 - Field renovations
 - New equipment for children's playground
 - Reconstruction of football, baseball fields
 - Nature-based play area
 - Walking paths
 - Construction of children's center
 - New playground at Ripley School
 - Purchase 80 acres of open land
 - Preserve open space at Warner Pond
-
- Front steps of church
 - Replace roof, masonry of historic structure
 - Repairs to cemetery
 - Restore windows at former high school
 - Pilot archeology program
 - Restore windows at First Parish Church
 - Restore cast iron fountain
 - Restore exterior facades of 1851 building
 - Restore cupola on colonial style building
 - Roof and dormer on 1767 building
 - Restore and reconstruct stone wall
 - Replace mechanical and electrical systems in 1930 Little building
 - Preserve affordable housing
 - Create new affordable housing
 - Four additional senior housing units
 - Assisted living development
 - Replace roof 1983 affordable housing
 - Consultants monitoring affordable housing units

Some of Bedford Projects Funded by Community Preservation Act (50 total projects since 2002)

- Create skateboard park
 - Purchase 6,000 square feet next to existing ball park
 - Tennis court construction
 - Swing set for playground
 - Improve bike path
 - Feasibility study bike path extension
 - Feasibility study forest boardwalk
 - Increase accessibility to existing walks
 - Modern play structure
 - Design study town athletic fields
 - Improvement Spring Brook Park
 - Improve accessibility to town trails
 - Creation of a sprinkler park
 - Purchase 16-acre lot next to wildlife refuge
 - Purchase 5 acres for Fawn Lake
 - Appropriation long acquisitions
 - Acquisition land for open spaces
 - Land purchases
-
- Renovation of old town hall
 - Repair work 1720 house
 - Renovations town center building
 - Archaeological survey
 - Replace Job Land house roof
 - Restore gravestones in Old Burying Ground
 - Restoration of old mill
 - Preservation of Old Burying Ground
 - Create Historic Properties Preservation Fund
 - Predevelopment work for housing
 - Current condo with affordable housing
 - Fund affordable housing rental development
 - Bedford Housing Trust for moderate income

Some of Needham Projects Funded by Community Preservation Coalition (28 projects since 2013)

- Preschool playground
- Athletic fields
- All purpose trail and improvements
- Pedestrian paths
- Town common
- Improve Mills field
- New pool
- Newman athletic fields
- Rosemary Recreation Complex
- Outdoor pool facilities
- All-person trail
- Outdoor classroom for new elementary school
- Two natural turf athletic fields
- Open space plan
- Part-time housing specialist

Town Clerk Vital Records

Can-Do Attitude Alive and Well in Canton

Boston Globe 3/4/18 South Page S-1

Town builds on heritage, hopes to provide more activities, access for residents

Made possible by Community Preservation Act

- Paul Revere Copper business 1801
- Copper rolling mill preservation
- Preserve Olde English Burying Ground
- Preserve David Tilden House constructed in 1709
- Replace Hockey Rink
- Public Access to Reservoir Pond
- Eliminate Traffic Snarls
- Private golf entertainment center

Coalescence of people becoming more actively involved in the community and the means to study projects through Community Preservation money.

The funds help move projects from just an idea to the drawing board through the study phase and finally to fruition.

Canton adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2012. In the last 4 years, they have raised and received \$2.47 million.

Westwood, Massachusetts

MVP Community Resilience Program

Resilience Building Workshop

February 2020

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



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Norwood, Massachusetts 02062
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MVP Community Resilience Program

Westwood, Massachusetts

Resilience Building Workshop

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Prepared by: **BETA GROUP, INC.**

Prepared for: Town of Westwood, MA

February 2020

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1.0 OVERVIEW

The Town of Westwood, located in the North of Norfolk County, is in both the Charles River Watershed Basin and Boston Harbor Watershed Basin. Westwood is a suburban town whose growing population was under 15,000 at the time of the 2010 census but, has grown to over 16,000 according to 2017 estimates. The town has a large area of wetlands and several water bodies in town, including Noannet and Buckmaster Ponds, as well as several brooks. Additionally, there are several critical areas subject to frequent flooding such as University Ave. train station.

Over the past several years there have been an increasing number of impacts due to climate change that have affected the Town of Westwood. With more frequent storms and associated high winds, Westwood is experiencing downed trees and powerlines causing problems town-wide, as seen during extreme weather in 2012. Extreme rainstorms flooded homes and closed roads with serious affect to University Ave. In more recent years the town has experienced a variety of environmental hazards from invasive species, vector borne disease from mosquitos, which became a widespread problem this year, and extreme flooding effects from an increasing number of beaver dams. Not only have weather patterns become more severe, but the demographic of local wildlife is shifting as well, bringing in larger numbers of animals like beavers, which can seriously affect streams and flooding in a way not previously seen in Westwood.

In response to the effects of climate change, the Town of Westwood sought out the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program and conducted a Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop in order to identify and address the growing vulnerabilities in Town.

The Workshop's central objectives were to:

- Define top local natural and climate-related hazards of concern;
- Identify existing and future strengthen and vulnerabilities;
- Develop prioritized actions for the Community;
- Identify immediate opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience.



Participants Sign-In to Westwood CRB Workshop

Westwood partnered with BETA as its state-certified MVP Planning grant provider to assist with the process and facilitate the CRB workshop. The core team set goals for the workshop and identified and engaged community members to participate. Inviting members of the municipality to directly address

intensifying natural hazards due to climate change creates more targeted solutions to these problems and, encourages the community to take ownership of the ongoing efforts involved in these solutions. This program is designed to foster discussion in order to help municipalities identify the vulnerabilities, strengths, and opportunities to take action to reduce risk and build resilience in their communities.

1.1 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP

As part of the MVP Program, the Town of Westwood received a grant to host the CRB Workshop. This report documents the results from the CRB Workshop which BETA facilitated, following the CRB framework. The CRB framework is a system of discussions and note taking developed by The Nature Conservancy and prescribed by the MVP Program. The goal of this workshop was to further investigate the Town's prior planning efforts and resiliency measures and to develop a list of strengths, and priority actions to focus on in the immediate future.

1.1.1 PARTICIPANTS AND PLANNING

The participants were selected with guidance from the CRB Workshop Participant Worksheet. An effort was made to invite participants from several different areas of town involvement in order to have a broad range of perspectives on how climate change would affect the Town. There were 16 participants representing many different departments for the town and region, as well as 3 BETA facilitators. This was crucial to the success of the program, as the Fire Department representative noticed different hazards than the Neponset River Watershed Association (NRWA) representative Highway department, and the Town Administrator. Additionally, workshop participants who had never attended a CRB workshop had a more town-focused approach, where regional representatives who had previously participated in a CRB Workshop had a broader approach to discussion. This diversity of thought and perspective allowed the workshop to be highly informative and an overall success. The list of invitees and participants is attached in **Appendix A**.



Participants listen to BETA Presentation

The participants were divided into three groups, distinguished by the colors red, blue, and green, as noted on the maps and matrices. These teams were split up using the “mixed sector” approach, described in the CRB Workshop Guide as grouping “participants from diverse sectors together to foster an exchange of different perspectives and actions for community resilience building. This approach helps participants see the connections comprehensively and develop common actions with co-benefits across sectors.” These effects were evident, and the diversity in thought led to a difference in priorities, creating a dynamic discussion throughout the workshop, where participants were introduced to assets and perspectives which they had not previously considered. In the end the groups were able to identify resiliency opportunities that solved multiple vulnerabilities across departments. The core team for the

CRB Workshop consisted of Andy Dennehy of BETA, Mike Jaillet, former Town Administrator, Todd Korchin Director of Public Works and Brendan Ryan Department of Public Works

1.1.2 WORKSHOP PROCESS

It was decided that the workshop would be held in two, four-hour sessions, held on Tuesday, November 12 and Thursday November 14, 2019. Workshop sessions were held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Westwood Building Department. BETA led this workshop with multiple CRB-trained individuals. They provided an overview of climate change in the area as well as climate observations and projections from the Northeast Climate Science Center research, and implications that these changes will have on Westwood's infrastructure, society, and environment so participants could have a more informed discussion throughout the rest of the workshop. The presentation is attached in **Appendix B**.

Throughout the Workshop process, BETA facilitators led the participants in discussion, often using some of the "Triggering Questions" identified in the CRB workshop Guide. Some questions which proved to be most useful were: What hazards have impacted your community in the past? What hazards are impacting your community currently? Where and how often do these impacts occur? What natural resources are important to your community? What makes this infrastructure vulnerable? Location, age, building codes, type of housing?

1.1.2.1 DAY 1

The first four-hour session was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 and began with an overview of the CRB Workshop, the goals of this session and climate change predictions for the Boston Harbor Basin by BETA MVP-Certified facilitators Melissa Recos, P.E. and Andrew Dennehy, P.E. Some of the research and projects presented were that precipitation is projected to increase 8%, there will be 28% fewer days below freezing, and up to 4 times as many days over 90° F by 2050. A summary of this information, which was given to participants as a handout, is attached in **Appendix C**. A map of the town overlaid with FEMA flood zones was provided to each small group and a map depicting critical facilities in town was also displayed for reference. These maps can be found in **Appendix D**.



Andy Dennehy of BETA Presents Power-Point to Workshop Participants

The participants then broke out into their designated small groups for further discussion. Small group discussions began by discussing hazards affecting Westwood and developing a list of the top four hazards of concern each group felt Westwood was most impacted by. Groups annotated maps to highlight vulnerable areas, infrastructure, flood zones, and community resources in order to better

assess which hazards to prioritize in the Risk Matrix. Groups were made up of a facilitator (a member of the BETA team), a scribe/spokesperson, and three other workshop participants.

The participants then returned to the larger group to discuss and come to a consensus on the top four hazards moving forward. After a discussion of the hazards brought up by both groups, the top 4 agreed upon hazards were identified as Flooding, High Wind/Winter Storms, Drought/Extreme Temperatures and Invasive Species. After this discussion, the participants returned to their groups in order to discuss features and add them to the matrix. Looking at the map in conjunction with the four identified hazards allowed the participants to more clearly see the flood risk areas as well as identify the locations most impacted by the other three hazards identified as a priority. This was very helpful in discussion of which features were most important. Participants also identified who owned each feature and categorized it as vulnerability or strength. These matrices can be found in **Appendix D**.

1.1.2.2 DAY 2

The second four-hour session was held on Thursday November 14, 2019 and began with a brief presentation and overview of day one. The participants then returned to their small groups to fill in the Risk Matrix by discussing action items that address the hazard and the feature by either posing a solution to a hazard/feature or enhancing the strengths of a feature against a specific hazard identified in the previous session. Some common action items included tree trimming, investigate beaver control program, investigate dam removal or maintenance, and looking into alternative power sources, especially for areas that often lose power. Throughout the small group discussions, the BETA facilitators stayed with groups to ask questions to prompt discussion (triggering questions) and provide guidance.



Small Group Discussion of Priority Hazards Using Town Map

After actions had been identified, the small groups decided whether each action was a high, medium, or low priority and if the time frame was short term, long term, or ongoing action. This prioritization naturally separated the many actions into categories, making it easier to distinguish the *most* important. Using this information each small group determined their top five or six priority actions to present to the large group.

After all groups had completed the above tasks individually, participants reconvened to discuss, rank and prioritize together in order to come to a consensus on the highest priority actions to be taken across Westwood. Each group explained their thought process and stated their top five actions. A discussion ensued in which the group at large deliberated why some items should or shouldn't be included in the priority actions. The results and any other notable information throughout the process of the workshop are described in the following sections of this report. The sheets where each group contributed their ideas during large group discussion can be found in **Appendix E**.

2.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 CURRENT CONCERNS & CHALLENGES

2.1.1 TOP HAZARDS OF CONCERN

During the individual group discussion, the following hazards were identified as being most prevalent and/or impactful in the Town of Westwood and were brought up for discussion in the larger group.

- Inland Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Drought
- Health Concerns
- Heat/ Wildfires
- High Wind/Heavy Snow
- Extreme Temperature
- Invasive Species



Participants Discuss Priority Hazards in Large Group

The small groups had many of the same concerns in mind while choosing top natural hazards. One

of the most common concerns was the recent outbreak in EEE in the area as well as the serious impact beavers have on the local culverts, streams and floodplains. One group addressed EEE under the hazard “Health Concerns” while another grouped mosquitos, beavers and other types of wildlife under “Invasive Species”. These concerns were universal among participants and recognized as important, especially considering the Town currently does not have a solution or mitigation effort in place for these species. In recent years the beaver population has dramatically increased, and the effects are being seen all over Town.

Flooding was universally thought to be a problem, as the consequences are severe. Additionally, as rains and impermeable surfaces increase, so does the risk of serious storms, flashfloods, and other rain events which cause flooding, and have serious consequences to Town functioning. Conversation continued in greater depth during the discussion of features and actions and, is discussed in later sections.

Ultimately, some of these hazards could be grouped together into one category and through the discussion there was largely group consensus on what the top four hazards should be with some discussion of the wording. The group decided on the following hazards as the top four.

Top Hazards

- **Flooding**
- **High Wind/ Winter Storms**
- **Drought/Extreme Temperature**
- **Invasive Species**

2.1.2 AREAS OF CONCERN

In discussing the top hazards, participants naturally began pointing out areas where these hazards often occur. The hazards which triggered the most discussion were flooding and invasive species. Participants circled various locations marking out both natural and beaver dams, which contribute to flooding problems in the area. When dams overflow or are released the down-stream area often floods, especially if it coincides with a storm event, as noted on the map.

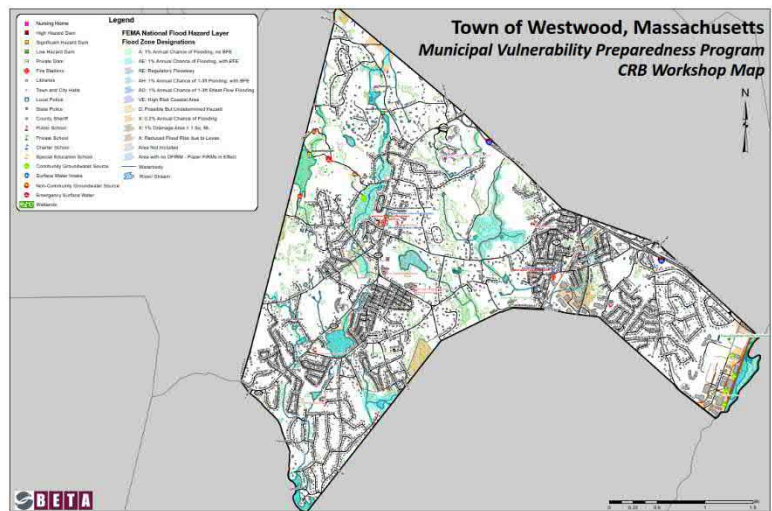
Some areas that often experience flooding are the University Ave. train station, which is also a community groundwater source. A second area that frequently experiences flooding is a low-laying neighborhood between Pond St. and Edgewood Rd. Work was recently done in this area on the drainage system which has alleviated much of the flooding.

Westwood has experienced a number of weather-related events in recent years, and these events are expected to increase due to climate change. Flooding in the low-laying areas, especially those near bogs and downstream of dams are a major concern for Westwood. High winds /winter storms posed another major concern for many of the workshop participants, because this weather leads to fallen trees and downed power lines, especially the power lines of Martha Jones school, which can have serious affect on the function of the school.

2.1.3 IMPORTANT FEATURES RELATED TO IDENTIFIED HAZARDS

Based on the frequency and severity of the four identified hazards, the groups discussed which areas, communities and systems would be most affected by the occurrence of these hazards. Three categories of town features were discussed: infrastructural, societal and environmental. Below is a list of all the community features the groups identified:

- Infrastructural
 - Culverts
 - Dams
 - Bridges
 - Sewer Infrastructure
 - Roadways
 - Low-laying areas
 - Sewer Pump Stations
 - Town Buildings
 - Drainage Infrastructure
 - Power and Communication
 - Domestic and well Water systems
 - Transportation
- Societal
 - Low income/ Disadvantaged Population
 - Public Services Staff
 - Children/Students
 - Schools
 - Residential Areas
 - Hale Reservation
 - Business community
 - Parks/Playgrounds/fields
 - Commuter Traffic
 - Elderly Population
 - Shelter Facilities
 - Vulnerable Neighborhoods



Map of Westwood used in the CRB Workshop Process

- Faith based organizations
- Environmental
 - Conservation Area
 - Parks & Open Space/ Sports Fields
 - Water Protection Districts
 - Buckmaster Pond-Reservoir
 - Rivers/Brooks
 - Watersheds/Flood plains
 - Ground water/Water table/Well Fields
 - Dams
 - Trees
 - Wildlife



Participants Discuss Features in Small Groups

It is important to note that not all these features were considered vulnerabilities. Some of these features are already strong and as the small groups began to think about ranking, the largest vulnerabilities were identified and prioritized.

2.1.4 PRIORITIZING ACTIONS

Some of the common action items that related to the biggest concerns came up repeatedly in small groups and are described below.

- *Hydrologic Study:* With so many dams, culverts and bridges in town, participants wanted to be able to assess the current conditions and areas for improvement. This would include a catch basin cleaning and maintenance plan, as well as a drainage study and floodplain analysis. A full-scale analysis of all the related facets of hydrology is important to be able to best understand and develop solutions to the flooding, and drainage issues in Town.
- *Tree Trimming:* During high wind or heavy snowstorm events, downed trees and branches cause major maintenance problems in Town, especially to the Martha Jones School, which often loses power. Tree trimming is extremely important preventative maintenance which the Town would like to encourage Eversource to continue to keep up with, as many of these trees are not maintained by the Town. The tree-trimming program will also address related concerns expressed by many of the participants regarding power and communication systems.
- *Investigate and Develop Beaver Management Plan:* There are many beavers and dams in Town, including a large area where beavers frequently build dams and lodges, as marked on the blue group map in **Appendix D**. This is extremely difficult for the town to manage because the beaver population seems to be growing and they construct dams at an alarming rate. This can have various affects downstream and, the Town does not have an effective management plan at this time.
- *Dams:* This was a major theme throughout the workshop; as projected rains increase, participants discussed the worry that Westwood will not be able to manage the increase in flow through drain system, and other mitigation efforts. One of the biggest discussions revolved around the necessity or effectiveness of dams and, whether to release, repair or deconstruct them. Participants understood the need for more flood mitigation in the coming years but, were hesitant to rely on dams for this process. Because of this, a dam study was a highly ranked need moving forward.
- *Conant Road Culvert:* Culverts were a major point of concern among all of the workshop participants; whether they discussed undersized culverts or beavers damming up culverts causing flooding, or an old culvert in need of replacement or repair. While all culverts were

discussed, Conant Road Culvert was especially cause for concern as it is undersized and nearing the end of its useful life. The town has particular issues with this culvert and the participants spent significant time discussing related actions.

- *Engage Student Population in Resiliency Efforts*: Many of the participants expressed the desire to engage the student population in a water management, recycling, or other resilience education programs. Many participants felt that engaging the student population would not only teach the next generation but, will also encourage their families to consider conservation as well.

Some of these items became incorporated into the top five priority action items, while the rest of that list came from more general concerns addressed in the top four hazard categories facing Westwood.

2.2 STRENGTHS AND ASSETS

Workshop participants noted that the town has strengths in each of the three feature categories: societal, environmental, and infrastructural. Some of the features were noted as both a strength and a vulnerability, like the water system and the power and communication systems. The participants agreed that having a trees and open space in town is a great asset. Open space provides options for increasing flood storage or restoring floodplains, in the event the Town chooses to investigate that. Trees provide habitat for wildlife and help with erosion control.

Town Public services, such as DPW, Fire and Police departments, are also considered a strength by the group at large. Westwood has a fire house at two locations to provide swift response in case of emergency all over town and, has a centralized filling station at the DPW for all municipal trucks. It is critical to town safety and operations that these services are maintained as a strength. **Appendix D** has a more detailed description for reference.

Another priority to the participants was the involvement of students in conservation efforts. The Neponset River Watershed Association (NRWA) already has a program that integrates the students into their public outreach program. This is an asset that is currently being taken advantage of by Westwood and, will hopefully build on to increase this strength moving forward.

2.3 FUTURE ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

2.3.1 PRIORITIZING ACTIONS

Below is a list of all the actions organized by how each group ranked them (high, medium and low priority). Additionally, there are a few actions that were ranked differently by different groups. In this list some similar items were combined; for more information, see **Appendix D**.

The high priority actions are as follows:

- Undersized Culverts (Esp. Conant Rd): Hydrologic study of assets to identify vulnerabilities & culvert upgrades with recommended actions, Identify natural flood storage/ LID applications throughout town, consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Culvert cleaning/maintenance program, Evaluate small ponds for animal/ mosquito habitat
- Dams (Esp. @ Crystal Hill): Look at legal ramifications and town obligation for longevity of dam, Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, consider dam removal options to protect culverts and other assets, develop maintenance plan, Evaluate small ponds for animal/ mosquito habitat
- Bridges: Culvert sizing study, Culvert cleaning program, Beaver Control program

- Roadways & low-laying areas: Create a plan/study identifying vulnerable neighborhoods & populations within for evacuation & emergency response, Study of assets with recommended actions, Knotweed program, Preventative paving measures (avoid frost heaves etc.), Drainage Study, Additional CB cleaning, equipment upgrades, Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, Additional pretreatment of roads before storms
- Wastewater Pump Stations: Address Flooding (esp. Conant Rd), Backup Power, Backup pumps, bypass connection, Electronics cooling, Beaver Control Plan
- Drainage Infrastructure: Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan, Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's, Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan
- Power & Communication: Test/Upgrade/Maintain Emergency Communication Systems and infrastructure, Study on Town-wide Emergency Communication Systems (DPW, Fire & Police), Investigate backup power for Town facilities, Continue to improve Emergency operations center, Consolidate all communication, Solar backup system/ microgrid for Police/Fire/ Town hall, Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, or Relocate wires underground, Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source & Conservation Education
- Elderly, Disabled, Low-Income, Disadvantaged Population: Cooling stations, bottled water, A/C program, Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter , Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds, Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Educate & market plans in place, Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter , Evaluate Emergency Operation Plan, Actively Maintain list of high risk people
- Schools: Frequent loss of power at Martha Jones School, Look into new generator, Investigate Alternative Power Source and storage of power. Maintain generator at Highschool because it's a shelter, Air Condition Schools, Look into Alt Power to support schools, Continue energy efficiency assessment with Tom Philbin, Continue & enhance school environmental education, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds, Move programs inside or earlier in the day
- Groundwater/Water Table: Investigate LID measures, Water Conservation & Stormwater management to augment infiltration, Investigate LID measures & opportunities
- Floodplains and Conservation areas: Downed tree removal and disposal, Investigate opportunities to increase flood plain, Investigate ways to coordinate with surrounding towns, Dredging/disposal, flood storage, Water Restoration/Conservation outreach, Develop study to identify and Implement management plan for invasive species (plants, insects and animals especially beavers) general health of conservation Areas Removal & Disposal of Growth, outreach about water quality & pet waste, Educate Public on Concerns & issues

The Medium priority actions are as follows:

- Sewer Pump Station & System infrastructure: Hydrologic study to identify needs/vulnerabilities, Continue to implement I/I Plan, Investigate sewer systems located in Flood Plan
- Wells & Domestic Water system/hydrants: Work with district to ensure maintenance & upgrades are done, Investigate Water conservation Regulations for new development, Implement & update water conservation program, implement/ update stormwater bylaw

- Town Buildings: Protect HVAC at Police HQ, Energy Efficient Upgrades, Mosquito Control, Investigate backup power for Town facilities, Continue to improve Emergency operations center,
- Shelter facilities @ High School & Council on Aging: Update current plan, create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there & Solar power backup system
- Businesses & Faith based organizations: Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Engage with businesses, Reach out to organizations and include in emergency management planning, Tree trimming equipment upgrades, storm management, Mosquito/Tick Control, Business outreach
- Students/Children: Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan, Education Outreach & communication, Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Look into Alternative Power Source, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito/ Tick Breeding grounds, Move programs inside or earlier in the day
- Residential Area: Investigate Alternative Power Source, Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan, Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's , Continue to be licensed to operate shelter and provide necessities in the event of power outage, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds
- Dams: Study of removal/maintenance & improvements, Mosquito and Beaver control
- Parks and Open Space: Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasive species & general health of conservation Areas, mosquito/ tick control & education, Develop and Implement management plan for invasive species (plants, insects and animals) Investigate & create policy for invasive plants, Continue to acquire open space & floodplains, Turf in lieu of grass, Shading & trees, Plant more trees, Investigate locations , investigate resilient trees, Continue and Expand trail maintenance, Tree/Overgrowth management/ Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, Investigate LID measures & opportunities, Drainage Study/ Upgrades
- Well fields & water Protection Districts: Outreach/ De-icing, Continue implementing regulations to protect District & flood plains, Water conservation Outreach, Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasive species & general health of conservation Areas
- Rivers, Brooks, Streams, and Watersheds:

The low priority actions are as follows:

- Public Safety: Upgrade fuel system and storage facility, Estimate Fuel need and consumption, Evaluate, Equip & Train staff on how to properly manage these emergencies
- Commuter Traffic: Signage/Light boards & Communication, Knotweed program and Beaver control.
- Buckmaster Pond Reservoir: Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of conservation Areas, Mosquito control, Drainage Maintenance, water restoration/Conservation outreach
- Wildlife: Develop Beaver management plan/ Investigate Dam removal & wetland restoration, Communicate EEE Risk and ways to avoid, Pre-treat mosquito breeding grounds, Investigate water conservation Regulations, Plan to protect trout population in streams

2.3.2 HIGHEST PRIORITY ACTIONS

The top actions, presented to by the small groups, to all the participants are listed below. As in other categories there was overlap in the findings and opinions of the groups.

- Hydrologic Study to identify flooding vulnerabilities & projects
- Dams – look at legal ramifications & town obligation for longevity
- Consolidated communication system addressing resilience and redundancy
- Upgrade fuel system and storage capacity for Town Vehicles
- Educate public & Study to develop maintenance plan for invasive species and general health of conservation areas
- Perform Risk analysis on condition of local dams and culverts
- Evaluate drainage systems capacity and assess upgrades
 - Associate with road master plan
- Investigate critical locations to be exempt from brown outs/ look into alternative power sources
- Enhance emergency Operations center and communications
- Evaluate small ponds for animal/ wildlife habitats
- Coordinate with surrounding towns to investigate increasing floodplain/ flood storage
- Study on Bridges/Culverts
- Radio system upgrades
- Underground power
- Mosquito/beaver control
- Drainage studies
- Public outreach



Participants Discuss Top Priority Actions

After each group presented their proposed top action items there was a large group discussion about the merits of each. Participants discussed how feasible and pertinent each action was to the priority hazards listed earlier. In general, the participants recognized each action as important to the town and the discussion proceeded to come up with consensus on the top priority actions to be taken as a result of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Workshop. The results are as follows:

Highest Priority Actions

- **Emergency Operations and Communication Systems**
- **Develop Stormwater Master Plan (Including culvert sizing, overall hydrology/floodplains, street drainage capacity analysis, dam investigation)**
- **Community Education and Outreach**
- **Undergrounding Power**
- **Mosquito/ Beaver Control**
- **Fuel Storage and Capacity**

The emergency operations and communications were prioritized because they are crucial to the function of the town, and while many participants wanted to focus on preventative or restoration measures, everyone recognized the importance maintaining and developing the emergency response systems.

Participants saw a wide range of stormwater issues, and drainage areas that the Town does not adequately understand. Because of this they agreed that developing a stormwater master plan would be beneficial in order to organize and prioritize the different parts of the expansive stormwater system. This also allows the Town to have a holistic view of any stormwater problem. A study allows research to determine the best method, whether it is increasing flood storage, installing L.I.D. measures or upsizing a culvert to address a flooding issue.

Community Education and Outreach was prioritized because without involvement, the projects chosen by town leadership will be less effective and supported. Informing the public of the risks of hazards and the benefits of mitigation actions creates a more environmentally conscious public, which is the ultimate goal. All participants agreed that this is a crucial effort.

Underground Power was prioritized because the Martha Jones school often loses power during events due to fallen trees or branches on the power lines. While it is a priority to resolve a power outage anywhere in town, losing power at the school has a greater risk to more people, affecting all the students and their families or care givers, as well as teachers and other staff. This is extremely disruptive to the school schedule and therefore was seen as a very high priority.

This year as there was a major EEE outbreak which cancelled outdoor events, increased need for treatment and additional precaution, and posed serious health risks to residents, especially children and the elderly. Westwood like many other communities in the region were unprepared for this outbreak, therefore many of the participants emphasized pretreatment and preparedness. Additionally, the beaver population has increased dramatically in recent years and have been damming up multiple rivers in Westwood, causing some flooding. The Town has been working to solve this problem in a way which won't harm the beaver population while maintaining the natural flow of the river but have yet to come to a solution.

Currently, the Town has a fuel storage and filling station is currently located near the DPW, this has many benefits but because of the centralized location, in the event of an emergency it is possible that town vehicles could be cut off from fuel.

While this document describes much of the discussion that ensued during the CRB workshop there is additional detail in the Appendices. See **Appendix D** for a list of all the actions and assets whether it was considered a strength or vulnerability, and **Appendix E** for list of all priority hazards and priority actions.

2.4 PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

Westwood presented the CRB process and summary of findings at a public listening session at Westwood Public Library on March 2, 2020. This meeting was held before a regularly schedule Board of Selectmen Meeting and was advertised on the Town's website and residents and interested parties were encouraged to attend.

The following topics were discussed during the Listening Session:

- Overview of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program
- Nature Based Solutions and their role in the Program
- Climate data and projections
- Impacts from Climate Change
- Workshop overview
- Hazards, features and actions identified during the workshop
- Priority Actions developed during the workshop
- The next steps for the Town in the program

Input from the attendees of the Listening Session was focused on public outreach and education programs and an increase in renewal energy sources such as solar power for Town-owned properties. In particular, attendees felt increased involvement of the Town's public schools would be beneficial. The overall hydrology of the Town was also a topic of discussion with several large environmental areas discussed with particular concern about flooding associated with these areas.

All of their concerns had previously been captured in the Workshop and are included in the Summary of Findings.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

3.1 CONTINUING WITH THE MVP PROGRAM

Conversations held through the MVP CRB Workshop and listening session highlighted climate related challenges facing Westwood and enlightened participants and the public to the importance of preparing for and addressing them. Participants identified many short and long term strategies for adapting to the changing climate.

The findings will serve as a basis for Westwood's MVP Action Grant application, providing an opportunity to take the community's ideas and turn them into actions. Priority actions identified during the workshop will also be integrated into local planning efforts to improve the town's resiliency to the effects of climate change.

4.0 CITATION

BETA Group (2020, February). MVP Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings, Westwood, MA.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the MVP Core Team members and CRB workshop participants. Thank you to the Town of Westwood for providing and coordinating a space to host the workshop and listening session and for making the workshop a priority for town staff to take part in.

Funding for the CRB workshop was provided through a Massachusetts MVP Planning Grant.

APPENDIX A

List of Participants

Appendix A: List of Participants

11/12/2019	11/14/2019	First	Last	Town Department/ Role
x	x	Ken	Aries	Westwood Public Schools
		Cindy	Barenthaler	Public Works Departmet
		Richard	Barry	Operations Manager
		Karon	Catrone	Conservation Agent
		Richard	Cerullo	Deputy Fire Chief
	x	Eileen	Commane	DWWD
x	x	Ian	Cooke	Neponset River Watershed Ass.
x	x	John	Deckers	Westwood Fire Department
		Joe	Doyle	Building Inspector
		Patricia	Healey	Public Works Departmet
x	x	Mike	Jaillet	Town Aministrator
x	x	Pete	Kane	Resident
x	x	Todd	Korchin	Westwood Public Works
x	x	Nora	Loughnane	Community & Economic Dev.
x	x	Abby	McCabe	Westwood Planning
		James	McCarthy	Facilities Manager
	x	Carolyn	Meklenburg	MVP Regional Coordinator
	x	Jared	Orsini	Health Director
x	x	Phil	Paradis	BETA/Public Works & Engineering
x	x	Mike	Perkins	Building Department
x	x	Brendan	Ryan	Westwood Public Works
x	x	Karon	S. Catrone	Conservation Commission
x		Jeffrey	Silva	Westwood Police
	x	Joe	Vinci	Westwood Police

11/12/2019	11/14/2019	Name	BETA Group Title
x	x	Andrew Dennehy, PE	Project Manager
x	x	Mary Beth Irwin	Engineering Designer
x	x	Melissa Recos, PE	Project Manager



APPENDIX B

- **Community Resilience Building Workshop Presentation
Lancaster, MA**

Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP)

Westwood, MA

November 12th, 2019



Welcome and Introductions

- Andy Dennehy, Associate, BETA Group, Inc.
- Melissa Recos, Project Manager, BETA Group, Inc.
- Mary Beth Irwin, Engineering Designer, BETA Group, Inc.

Municipal Vulnerability Program Agenda

- Program Overview
- Workshop Overview
- Science and Resources Information
- Introduction to Small Team Exercise
- Reporting Small Team Findings
- Summary Discussion
- Wrap-up and Introduce Workshop #2 (Wednesday)

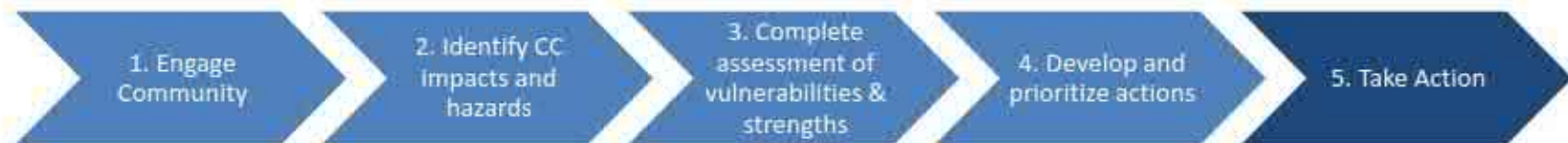
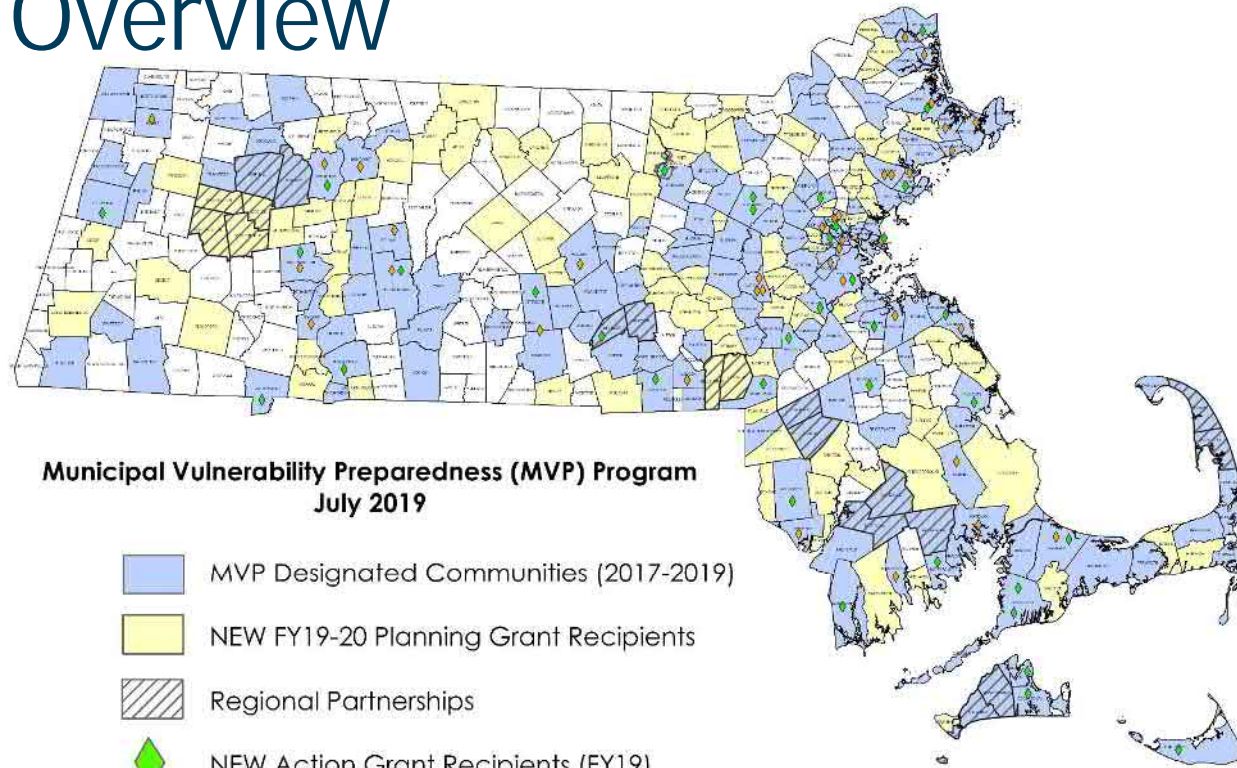
Program Overview

EXECUTIVE ORDER 569: AN INTEGRATED CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH 9.16.16



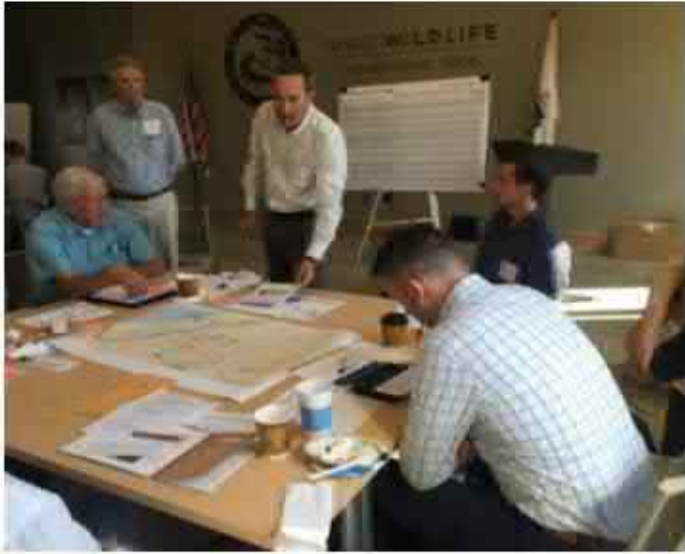
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change
- Preparing for the impacts of climate change
 - State Adaptation Plan
 - Agency Vulnerability Assessments
 - Municipal Support
 - Climate Coordinators

Program Overview



Program Overview

Two MVP Grant Opportunities



RFR 1: MVP Planning Grant



RFR 2: MVP Action Grant

Nature Based Solutions

Nature-Based

Nature-Based Solutions use natural systems, *mimic* natural processes, or *work in tandem with* traditional approaches to address natural hazards like **flooding**, **erosion**, **drought**, and **heat islands**.



**Green
Infrastructure**

**Low Impact
Development (LID)**



Nature Based Solutions



Floodwater Detention and Retention Basins



Daylighting Rivers and Streams



Open Space Preservation through Land Acquisition



Green Streets

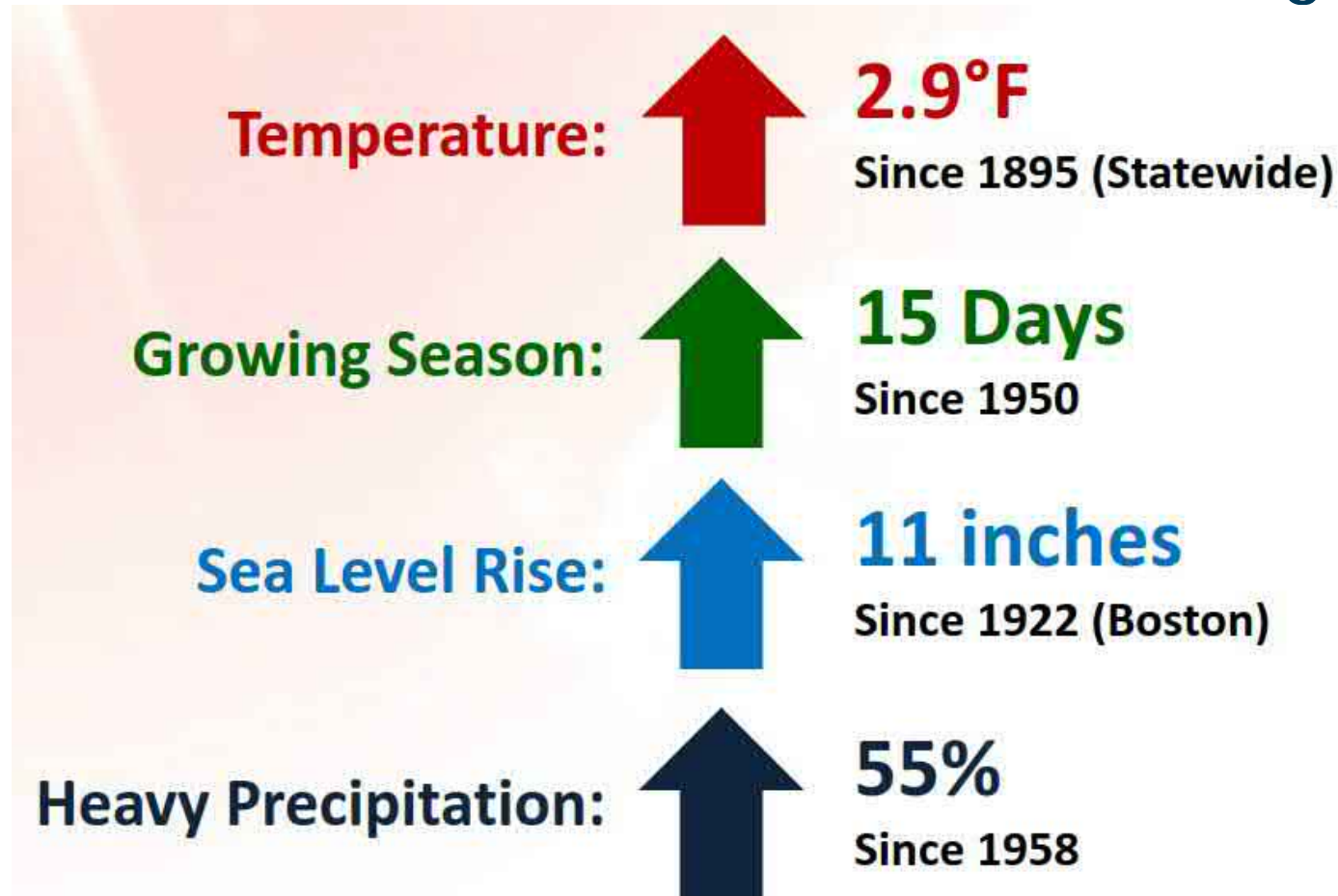


Flood Friendly Culverts



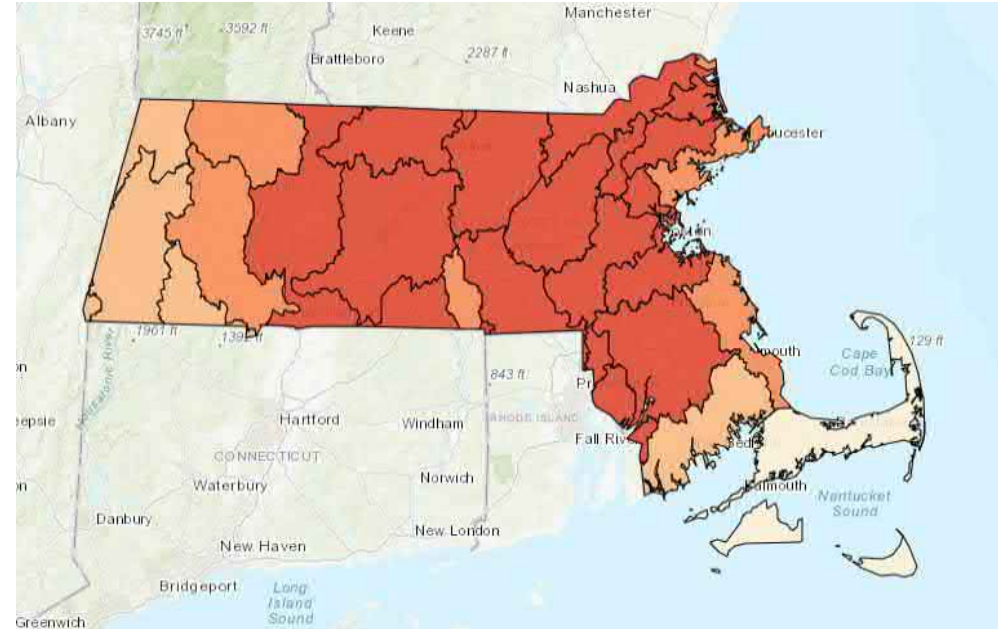
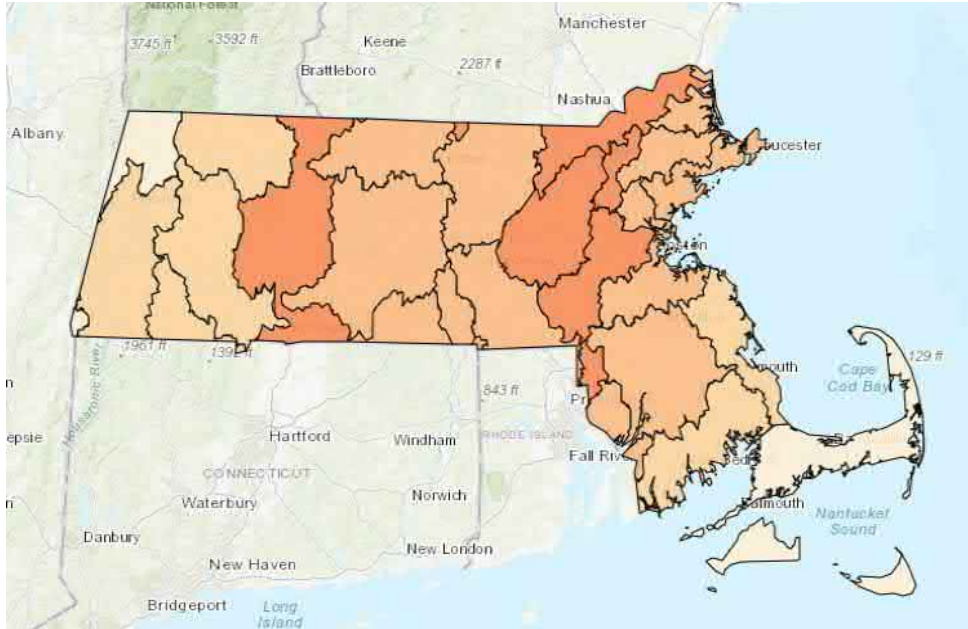
Regulatory and Policy Approaches to Address Hazards

Massachusetts Observed Climate Changes



Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in # of Days above 90°F – 2050 Scenarios



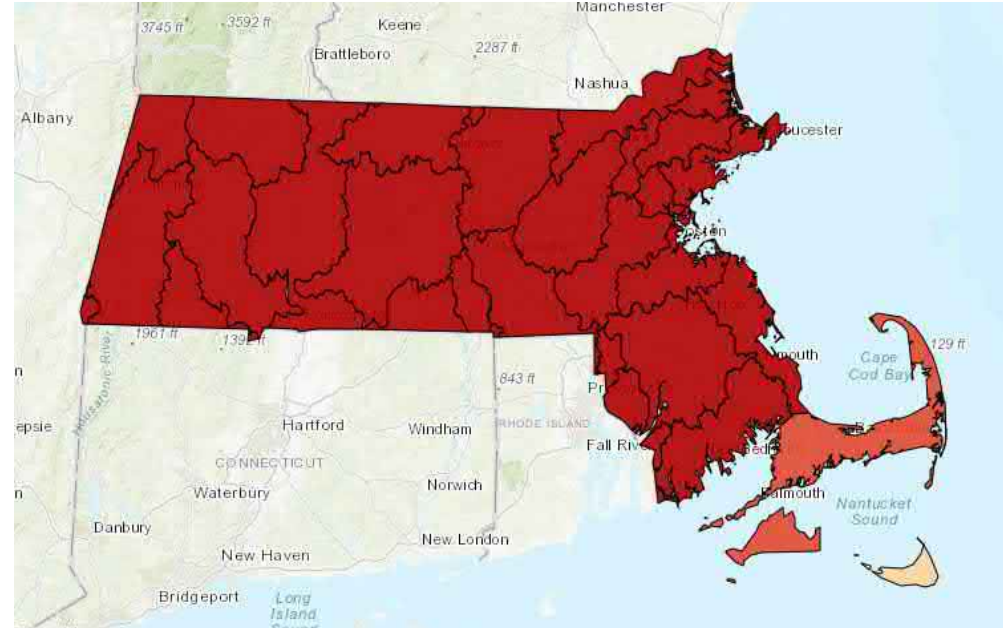
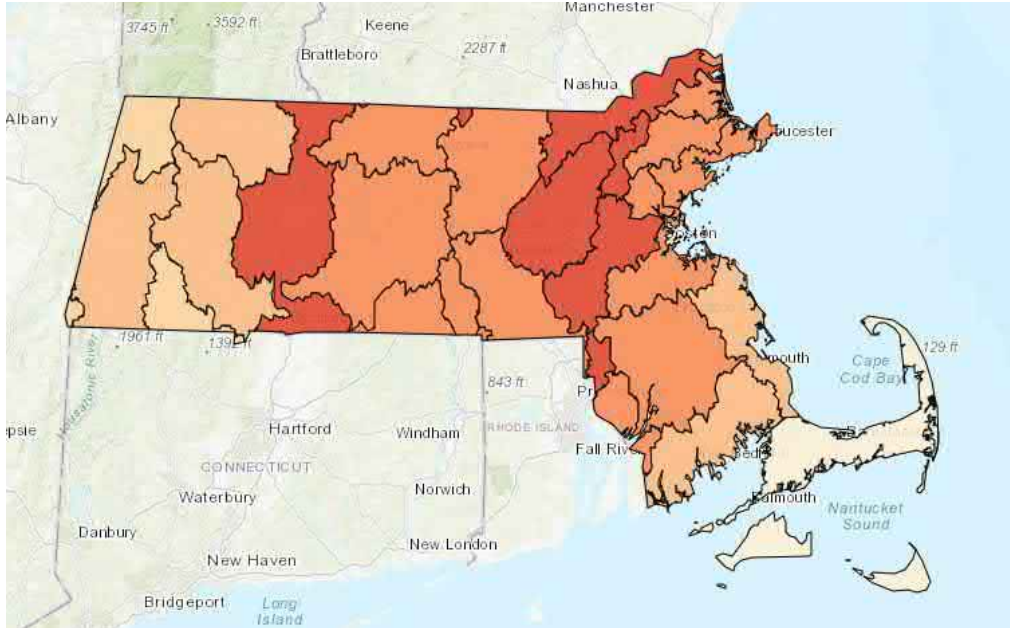
Projected change in # days above 90°F



+7.6 +12.4 +16.5 +21.8 +39.4

Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in # of Days above 90°F – 2090 Scenarios



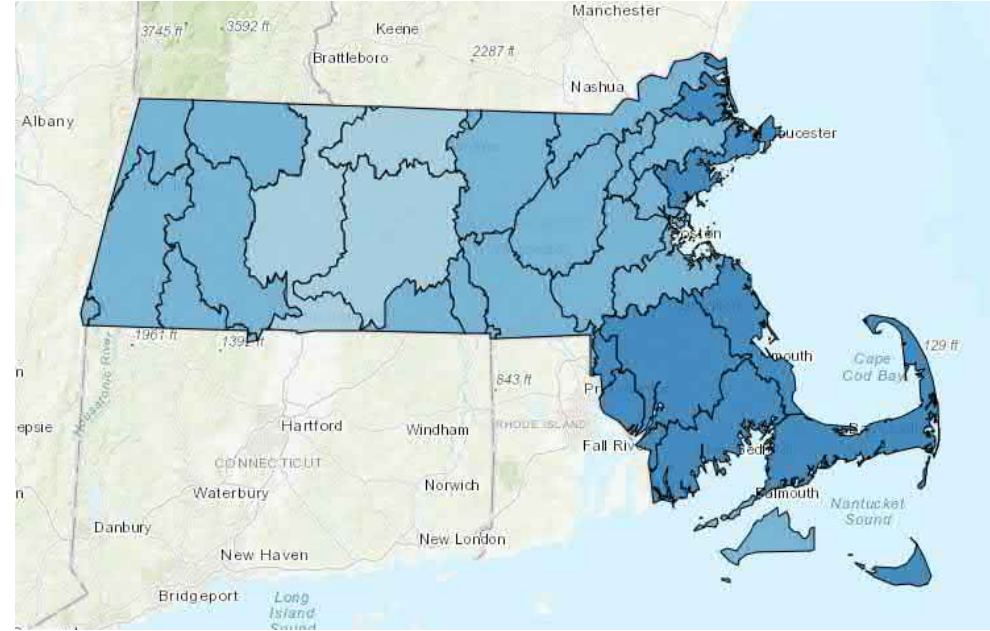
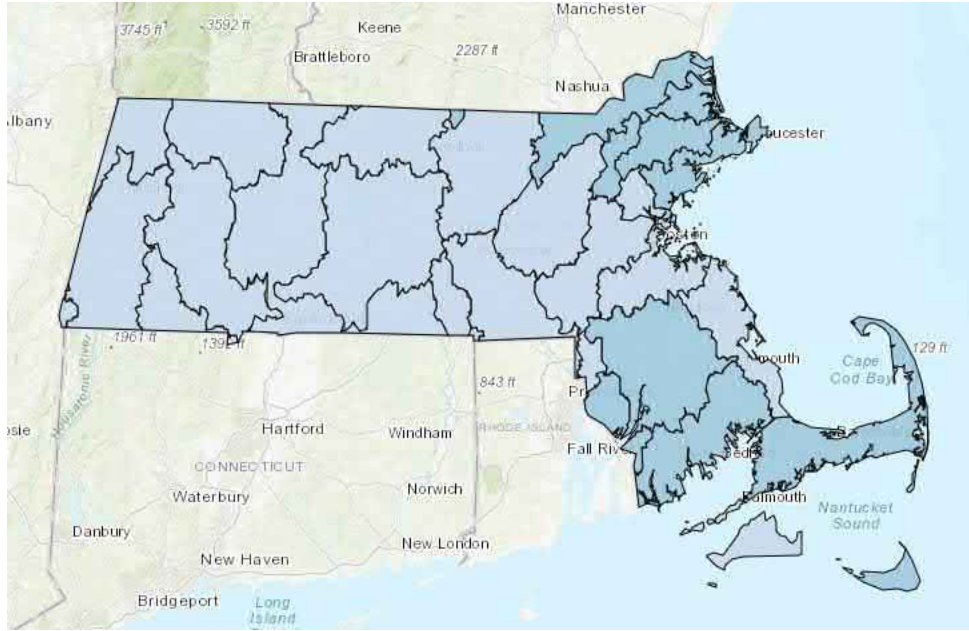
Projected change in # days above 90°F



+7.6 +12.4 +16.5 +21.8 +39.4

Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in # of Days below 32°F – 2050 Scenarios



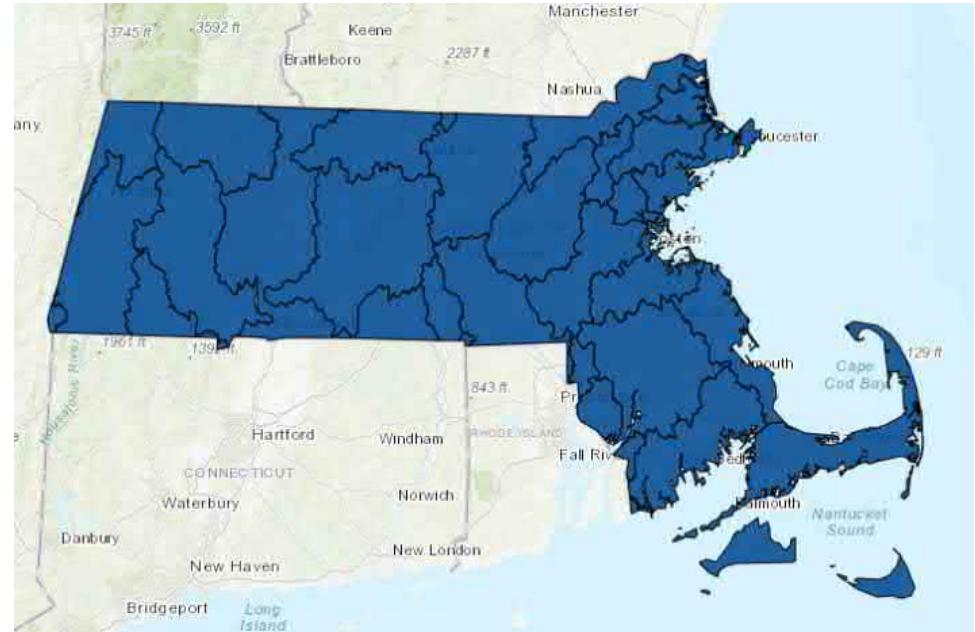
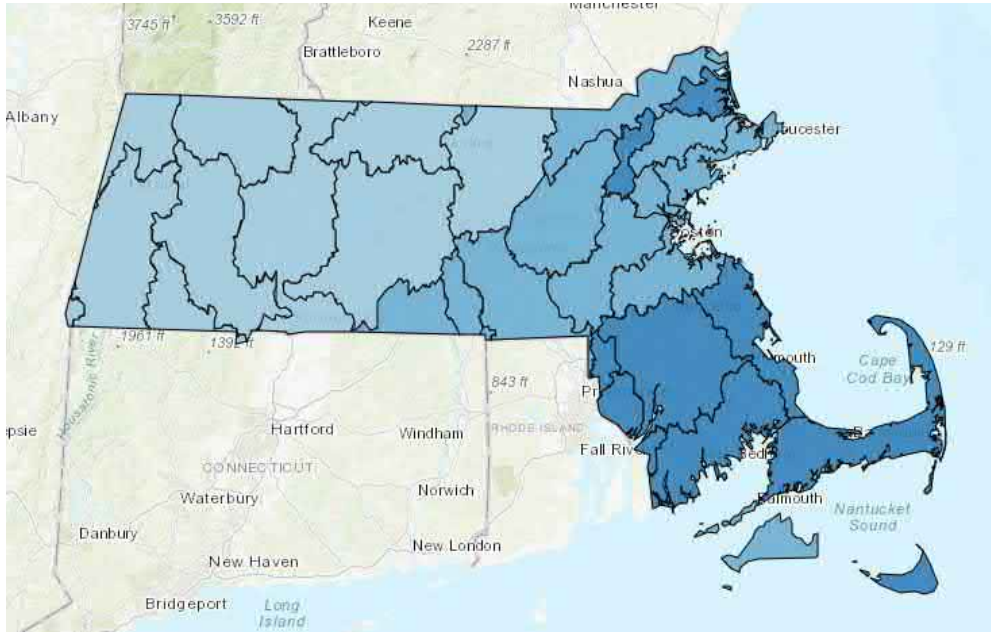
Projected change in # days below 32 °F



-20.6 -25.6 -30.8 -33.9 -47.3

Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in # of Days below 32°F – 2090 Scenarios



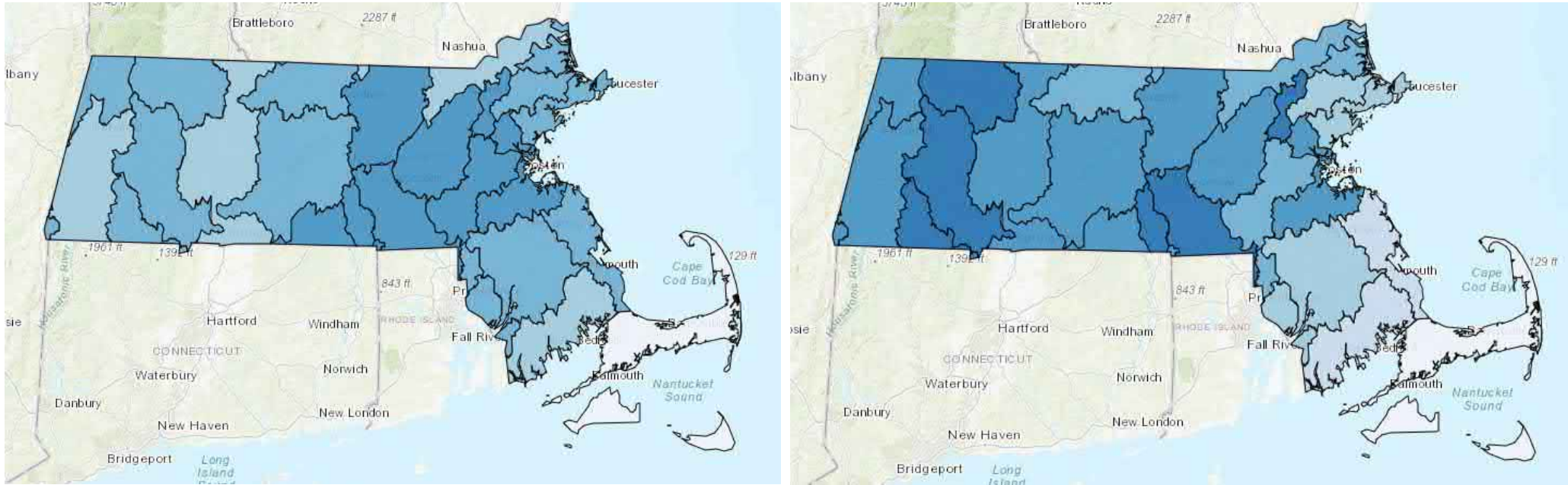
Projected change in # days below 32 °F



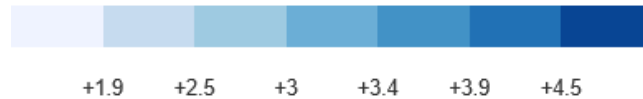
-20.6 -25.6 -30.8 -33.9 -47.3

Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in Inches of Precipitation– 2050 Scenarios

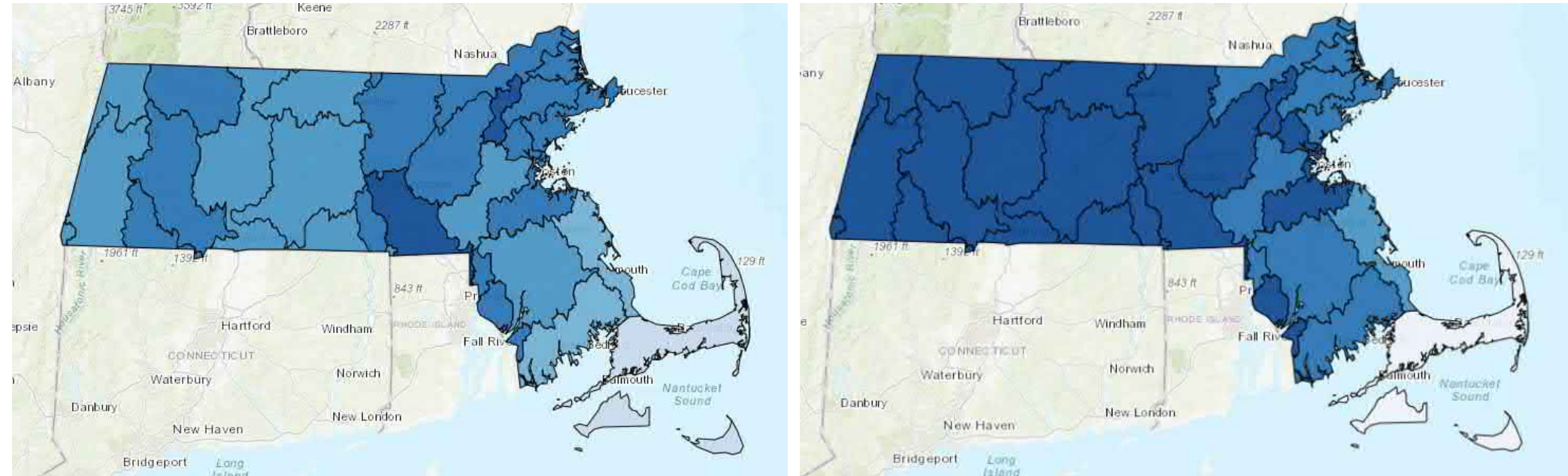


Projected change in inches of total precipitation

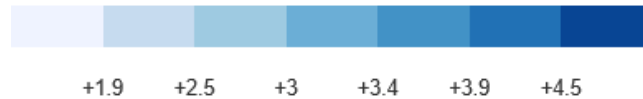


Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Change in Inches of Precipitation– 2090 Scenarios



Projected change in inches of total precipitation



Massachusetts Projected Climate Changes

Variable	Observed Value (1971-2000 average)	Change by 2050s	Change by 2090s
Annual average temperature	47.5 °F	Increase by 2.8-6.2 °F	Increase by 3.8-10.8 °F
Number of days per year with daily Temp > 90°F	5 days	Increase by 7-26 days	Increase by 10-63 days
Number of days per year with daily Temp < 32°F	146 days	Decrease by 19-40 days	Decrease by 24-64 days
Heating degree-days per year (HDD)	6839 Degree-Day °F	Decrease by 773-1627	Decrease by 1033-2533
Cooling degree-days per year (CDD)	457 Degree-Day °F	Increase by 261-689	Increase by 356-1417
Growing degree-days per year (GDD)	2344 Degree-Day °F	Increase by 531-1210	Increase by 702-2347
Total Precipitation per year	47 inches	Increase by 0.9-6 inches	Increase by 1.2-7.3 inches
Number of days with precip > 1 in	7 days	Increase by 0-3 days	Increase by 1-4 days

Impacts from Climate Change

- Increasing Temperatures
 - Increase in heat-related illnesses
 - Changes to growing seasons
 - Larger demands on energy systems
- Increased Precipitation and Downpour Intensity
 - Increased risk of flooding
 - Water quality impacts
 - Impact on agriculture and natural ecosystems
- Changes to Rain and Snow Patterns
 - Reduced snow cover
 - Potential increase in drought events
 - Impacts to habitats and species

Workshop Overview

- Characterize Hazards (Workshop #1)
- Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths (Workshop #1)
- Identify and Prioritize Community Actions (Workshop #2)
- Determine the Overall Priority Actions (Workshop #2)
- Develop Comprehensive Summary Products (Workshop #2)

Workshop Overview

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org					
H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
V = Vulnerability S = Strength									
Features				Location	Ownership	V or S			
Infrastructural									
Societal									
Environmental									

Characterize Hazards

Identify past, current, and future hazards (large team).

Direct participants to make a list of hazards (causes of impacts) that the community has dealt with, currently faces, and anticipates experiencing in the future (i.e., tornados, ice/wind storms, drought, wildfire, tsunamis, sea level rise, landslides, earthquakes, etc.). Utilize the following triggering questions to accelerate dialogue and surface initial agreement on top four hazards.

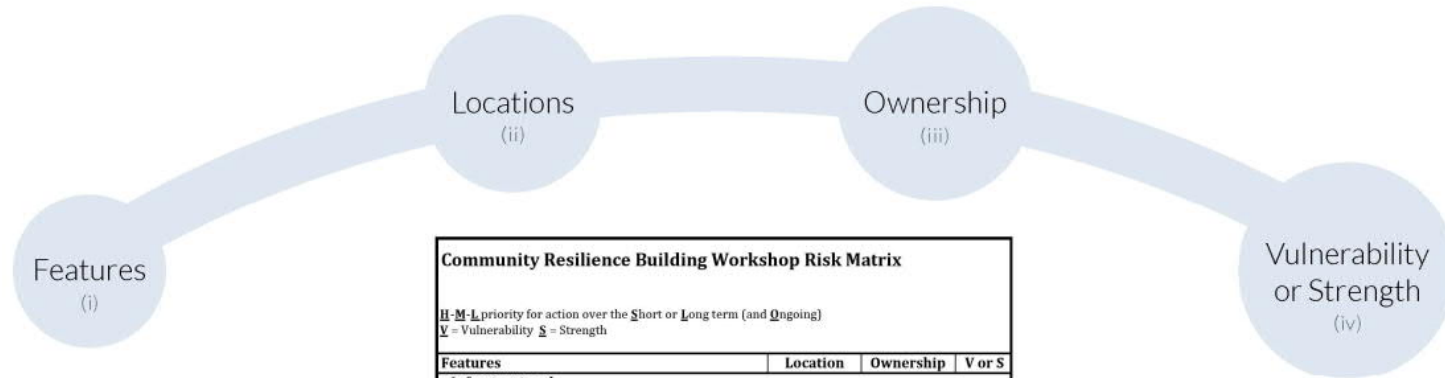
- What hazards have impacted your community in the past? Where, how often, and in what ways?
- What hazards are impacting your community currently? Where, how often, and in what ways?
- What effects will these hazards/changes have on your community in the future (5, 10, 25 years)?
- What is exposed to hazards and climate threats within your community?
- What have been the impacts to operations and budgets, planning and mitigation efforts?
- Others concerns or considerations related to impacts?

A **Hazard** is like the sun. The **Risk** from that hazard is sunburn. The **Vulnerability** includes the length of **Exposure** of skin to the sun. The **Action** to reduce risk from the hazard is to apply sunscreen or seek shade.



Top to bottom: © Rich Reid/TNC, © Dewan King/TNC, © Jay Harrod/TNC

Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths



Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix			
H = H igh priority for action over the S hort or L ong term (and O ngoing) V = V ulnerability S = S trength			
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S
Infrastructural			
Societal			
Environmental			

Steps C1, C2 and C3 below focus on identifying infrastructural, societal and environmental vulnerabilities and strengths. Each step requires three tasks to complete the Risk Matrix: **(i)** identify features, **(ii)** describe feature locations, **(iii)** identify feature ownership, and **(iv)** identify each feature as a vulnerability or strength, or both.

Hazard Characterization

- Inland Flooding
- Tsunami
- Severe Winter Storm
- Drought
- Extreme Temperatures
- Tornadoes
- Landslide
- Wildfires
- Coastal Flooding
- Invasive Species
- Earthquakes
- Coastal Erosion
- Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
- Other Severe Weather (strong wind, extreme precipitation)

Introduction to Small Team Exercise

- Team Facilitators
- Introductions
- Choose Team Spokesperson and Scribe
- Discuss 4 Top Hazards

Hazard Characterization

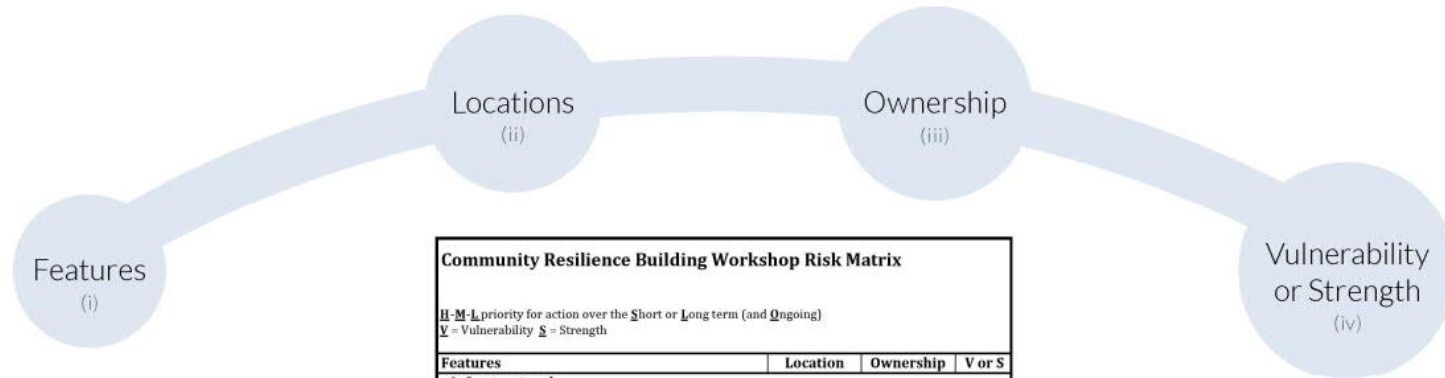
- Inland Flooding
- Tsunami
- Severe Winter Storm
- Drought
- Extreme Temperatures
- Tornadoes
- Landslide
- Wildfires
- Coastal Flooding
- Invasive Species
- Earthquakes
- Coastal Erosion
- Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
- Other Severe Weather (strong wind, extreme precipitation)

Reporting Small Team Findings

Small Group Breakout #1

- Spokesperson to present findings on hazards to full group
- Full group develops top 4 hazards

Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths



Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix			
H = H igh priority for action over the S hort or L ong term (and O ngoing) V = V ulnerability S = S trength			
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S
Infrastructural			
Societal			
Environmental			

Steps C1, C2 and C3 below focus on identifying infrastructural, societal and environmental vulnerabilities and strengths. Each step requires three tasks to complete the Risk Matrix: **(i)** identify features, **(ii)** describe feature locations, **(iii)** identify feature ownership, and **(iv)** identify each feature as a vulnerability or strength, or both.

Reporting Small Team Findings

Small Group Breakout #2

- Spokesperson to present findings on features to full group
- Full group discusses findings

Wrap-up and Introduce Workshop #2

- Consensus on hazards
- Discussion of assets
- Any questions from today's workshop
- Workshop #2
 - Identify and Prioritize Community Actions
 - Determine the Overall Priority Actions

Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP)

Westwood, MA

November 14th, 2019



Welcome and Introductions

- Andy Dennehy, Associate, BETA Group, Inc.
- Melissa Recos, Project Manager, BETA Group, Inc.
- Mary Beth Irwin, Engineering Designer, BETA Group, Inc.

Municipal Vulnerability Workshop Agenda

- Reporting Small Team Findings on Assets
- Summary Discussion on Assets
- Small Group Breakout
 - Develop Actions
 - Prioritize Actions
 - Urgency of Actions
- Reporting Small Team Findings on Priority Actions
- Consensus on Priority Actions
- Wrap-up

Characterize Hazards

Identify past, current, and future hazards (large team).

Direct participants to make a list of hazards (causes of impacts) that the community has dealt with, currently faces, and anticipates experiencing in the future (i.e., tornados, ice/wind storms, drought, wildfire, tsunamis, sea level rise, landslides, earthquakes, etc.). Utilize the following triggering questions to accelerate dialogue and surface initial agreement on top four hazards.

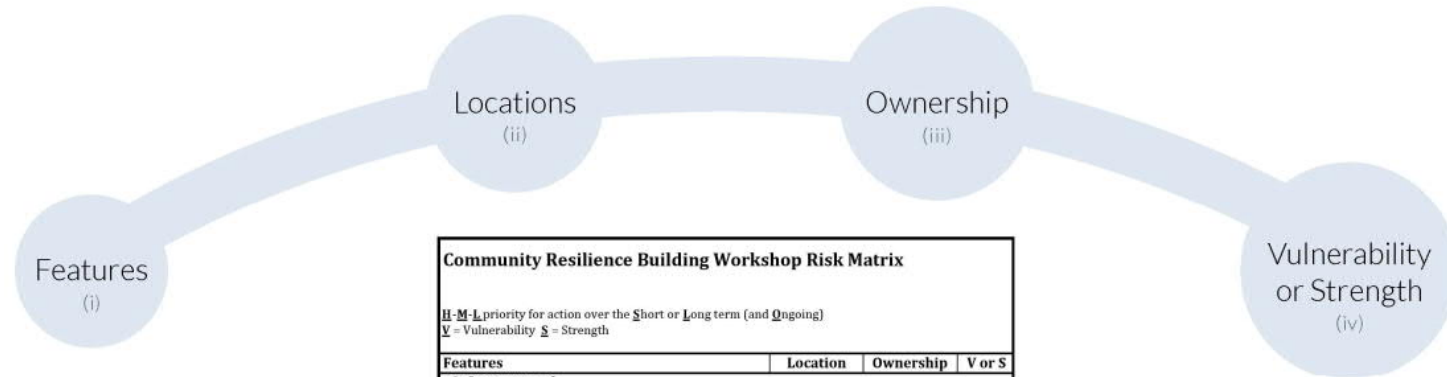
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- What hazards are impacting your community currently? Where, how often, and in what ways?
- What effects will these hazards/changes have on your community in the future (5, 10, 25 years)?
- What is exposed to hazards and climate threats within your community?
- What have been the impacts to operations and budgets, planning and mitigation efforts?
- Others concerns or considerations related to impacts?

A **Hazard** is like the sun. The **Risk** from that hazard is sunburn. The **Vulnerability** includes the length of **Exposure** of skin to the sun. The **Action** to reduce risk from the hazard is to apply sunscreen or seek shade.



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Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths



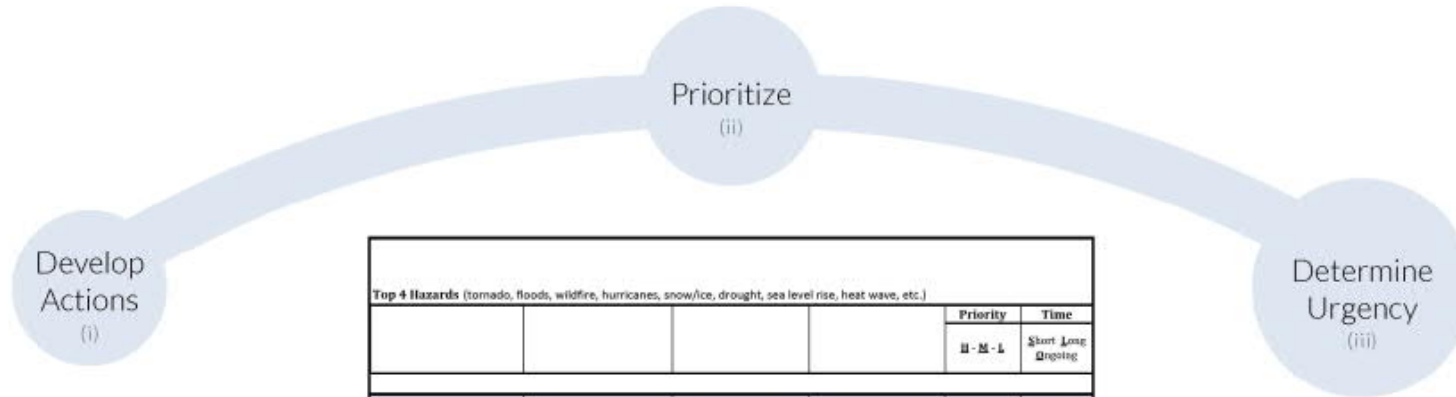
Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix			
<small>H = <u>H</u>igh priority for action over the <u>S</u>hort or <u>L</u>ong term (and <u>Q</u>ngoing) V = Vulnerability S = Strength </small>			
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S
Infrastructural			
Societal			
Environmental			

Steps C1, C2 and C3 below focus on identifying infrastructural, societal and environmental vulnerabilities and strengths. Each step requires three tasks to complete the Risk Matrix: **(i)** identify features, **(ii)** describe feature locations, **(iii)** identify feature ownership, and **(iv)** identify each feature as a vulnerability or strength, or both.

Introduction to Small Team Exercise

- Team Facilitators
- Introductions
- Choose Team Spokesperson and Scribe
- Develop Actions
- Prioritize Actions
- Develop Urgency

Introduction to Small Team Exercise



Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
				Priority	Time
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing

Steps D1, D2 and D3 below focus on identifying and prioritizing infrastructural, societal and environmental actions. Each step requires three tasks to complete the Risk Matrix: **(i)** develop actions, **(ii)** prioritize actions (**H**igh, **M**edium, **L**ow), and **(iii)** determine urgency (**O**ngoing, **S**hort-term, **L**ong-term).

Introduction to Small Team Exercise

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix				Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)				Priority	Time	
H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing) V = Vulnerability S = Strength				Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	H-M-L	Short Long Duration	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S							
Infrastructural										
Town Campus	Specific	Town	V	Verify risk from flooding events; identify alternative locations during peak flooding; Verify maintenance plan annually				H	S	
Evacuation Routes - Roads	Town-wide	Town/State	V	Install highly visible signage for evacuees routes; Develop and implement communication program				H	S	
Electrical Distribution System	Multiple	CLAP/Town	V	Write floodplain area, establish plan to address protection and long-term relocation of equipment	Upgrade transformers; Maintain power line protection zone (tree trimming)			H	O-L	
Dams (inland and coastal)	Multiple	Private	V	Prevent possibility of catastrophic dam failure; identify and remove dams to minimize downstream flooding due to failure				H	L	
Railway and State Bridges	Multiple	Amtrak/State	V	Improve communications between parties; Expand green/gravel infrastructure and improve bridge structures; Assess vulnerability and prioritize infrastructure improvement list				M	S	
State Roads/Intersections	Town-wide	State/Town	V	Coordinate with DOT, volunteers, public works to improve response; Post signage to warn of flooding risk in critical intersections				M	L	
Wharves and Shore Infrastructure	Shore	Town-State-Private	V	Pursue comprehensive shoreline management plan; Establish community dialogue on retaining/rebuilding infrastructure					L	S
Waste Water Treatment Facility	Specific	Town	V	Conduct alternative siting feasibility study; Relocate to low risk area within next 25 years					L	L
New Ambulance Center	Specific	Town	S	Gettime to support services in budget; Add additional staff and vehicle in next annual cycle						Ongoing
Zoning Regulations (maintain large lot size)	Multiple	Town	S	Current building codes control development in risky areas; Consider additional zoning incentives (TDHs) to reduce risk to residential units						Ongoing

More examples of actions:

- Improved access in high-risk locations
- Reduce housing stock in vulnerable areas
- Prioritize development in low-risk areas
- Integrate future risks in capital improvement plans
- Flood-proof manhole covers
- Secure new generators for critical facilities

When prioritizing, consider factors such as:

- Funding availability and terms
- Agreement on outstanding impacts from recent hazard events
- Necessity for advancing longer term outcomes
- Contribution towards meeting existing local and regional planning objectives

Examples of urgency:

- Current project to install hurricane-proof roof on school is an ongoing (O) action.
- Ensuring evacuation procedures are updated annually is considered a short-term (S) action.
- Reducing housing stock in high-risk areas, elevating a road, or replacing a bridge are long-term (L) actions.

Reporting Small Team Findings

Small Group Breakout

- Spokesperson to present findings on priority actions
- Full group develops top five priority actions

Wrap-up

- Discuss actions and priorities
- Consensus on top priority actions
- Questions?
- Next Steps
- Wrap-up

APPENDIX C

- **CRB Workshop Handouts**

Westwood Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Workshop

BOSTON HARBOR BASIN CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS (TEMPERATURE)¹

SUMMARY OF MODELING RESULTS

- By 2050, average temperatures could increase by 10%. By 2090, average temperatures could increase by almost 19%.
- Number of days with temperatures +90 °F could increase by 4 times as today by 2050. By 2090, there could be almost 8 times as many +90 °F than today.
- Number of days with temperatures below freezing could drop by almost 28% by 2050 and almost 50% by 2090.
- Less energy is expected to be spent on heating in the winter, but more energy is expected to be spent on cooling in the summer.

TEMPERATURE PROJECTIONS

Variable	Baseline (1971-2000)	Mid-Century (2050s)	End of Century (2090s)
Average Annual Temperature (°F)	50.13	53.94 – 55.37	54.98 – 59.46
Maximum Annual Temperature (°F)	59.55	63.29 – 64.65	64.32 – 68.70
Minimum Annual Temperature (°F)	40.70	44.58 – 46.07	45.65 – 50.12
Annual Days with Max Temp over 90°F	7.85	23.76 – 31.31	28.46 – 61.68
Annual Days with Min Temp below 32°F	119.21	94.24 – 86.03	86.43 – 60.04
Annual Heating Degree-Days (Base 65°F)	6,079	5,096 – 4,830	4,821 – 3,991
Annual Cooling Degree-Days (Base 65°F)	636	1,047 – 1,247	1,198 – 1,859
Annual Growing Degree-Days	2,733	3,472 – 3,793	3,697 – 4,732

¹ Source: Northeast Climate Science Center, 2018. Massachusetts Climate Change Projections. University of MA Amherst. Published by MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Available at: <http://resilientma.org/data/datamajor-river-basins>.

BOSTON HARBOR BASIN CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS (PRECIPITATION)¹

SUMMARY OF MODELING RESULTS

- Average annual precipitation could increase 8% by 2050s and almost 11% by 2090s.
- Greatest increase in precipitation will occur during winter months.
- Greatest increase in consecutive dry days will occur during fall months.

PRECIPITATION PROJECTIONS

Climate Parameter	Baseline (1971-2000)	Mid-Century (2050s)	End of Century (2090s)
Annual Precipitation (inches)	46.07	49.55 – 49.79	50.49 – 51.02
Winter Precipitation (inches)	11.82	12.83 – 13.01	13.58 – 14.46
Spring Precipitation (inches)	11.59	12.38 – 13.22	12.76 – 13.96
Summer Precipitation (inches)	10.51	10.77 – 11.58	10.64 – 11.54
Fall Precipitation (inches)	12.18	12.67 – 12.84	12.31 – 12.49
Annual Days with Precipitation over 1 inch	9.06	10.51 – 11.06	11.19 – 11.88
Annual Days with Precipitation over 2 inches	1.27	1.68 – 1.82	1.72 – 1.99
Annual Days with Precipitation over 4 inches	0.08	0.14 – 0.16	0.13 – 0.20
Annual Consecutive Dry Days	17.46	18.43 – 18.45	18.07 – 19.35

¹ Source: Northeast Climate Science Center, 2018. Massachusetts Climate Change Projections. University of MA Amherst. Published by MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Available at: <http://resilientma.org/data/datamajor-river-basins>.

Westwood Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Workshop

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA¹

Parameter	Breakdown
Total Area	11.4 square miles
% of Land Use	Agriculture = 1.7% Forest = 40.8% Open Space = 3.3% Recreation = 2.4% Urban = 50.0% Water = 1.7%
Population	14,621
Age	0-19 = 28% 20-34 = 9% 35-64 = 43% 65+ = 20%
Household Income	<\$40,000 = 14% \$40,000 - \$60,000 = 9% \$60,000+ = 77%
% Below Poverty Line	2%
Race	Asian = 7% Black = 0% White = 91% Other = 2%
Ethnicity	Hispanic = 3% Not Hispanic = 97%
Environmental Justice	0%
% Population Over 65 Living Alone	5.9%
Heart Attack Hospitalizations	17.9 (age-adjusted rate per 10,000 people)
Asthma Emergency Visits	25.4 (age-adjusted rate per 10,000 people)
Pediatric Asthma Prevalence	11.2% of all children enrolled in grades K-8

¹ Source: MA Dept of Public Health, 2018. MA Environmental Public Health Tracking Community Profile for Westwood. Report Created on October 24, 2019.

Westwood Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Workshop

EXAMPLES OF STRENGTH AND VULNERABILITIES¹

INFRASTRUCTURE

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Main road floods during storms, blocking emergency response.
- Power outages during heat waves lead to health concerns.
- Wildfire and high winds resulting in supply chain interruptions.
- Sewer pump stations become submerged and inoperable.
- Compromised rail system due to heat-related warping of tracks.

Examples of Strengths:

- Critical road elevated and passable by emergency management
- Hurricane roof installed at school with improved sheltering capacity.
- Hardened utility lines reduce outages due to ice storms.
- Undersized culvert replaced to reduce flooding in key intersection.
- Improvement to communication systems during extreme weather.

SOCIETAL

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Senior housing without backup generators during heat waves.
- Residents without access to transportation during hurricane evacuation.
- Household contamination and sewage mobilization during flooding.
- Limited areas of refuge in elementary schools during tornados.

Examples of Strengths:

- Reliable communications protocols across departments for all employees.
- "Neighbor-helping-neighbor" program aligned with emergency operations.
- Well-supported volunteer organizations (fire, ambulance, CERTs).
- Faith-based and civic groups with hazard preparedness plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Proliferation of subdivisions in wildfire and flood prone areas.
- Lack of urban tree canopy increasing heat island effect.

Examples of Strengths:

- Forested watersheds maintain drinking water supply during droughts.
- Native, vegetated slopes remain stable after intense 24hr rain events.
- Floodplains provide stormwater storage and downstream flood reduction.

¹ Source: Community Resilience Building Workshop Guide, communityresiliencebuilding.com

APPENDIX D

- **Workshop Matrices and Maps**

Town of Westwood, Massachusetts

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

CRB Workshop Map



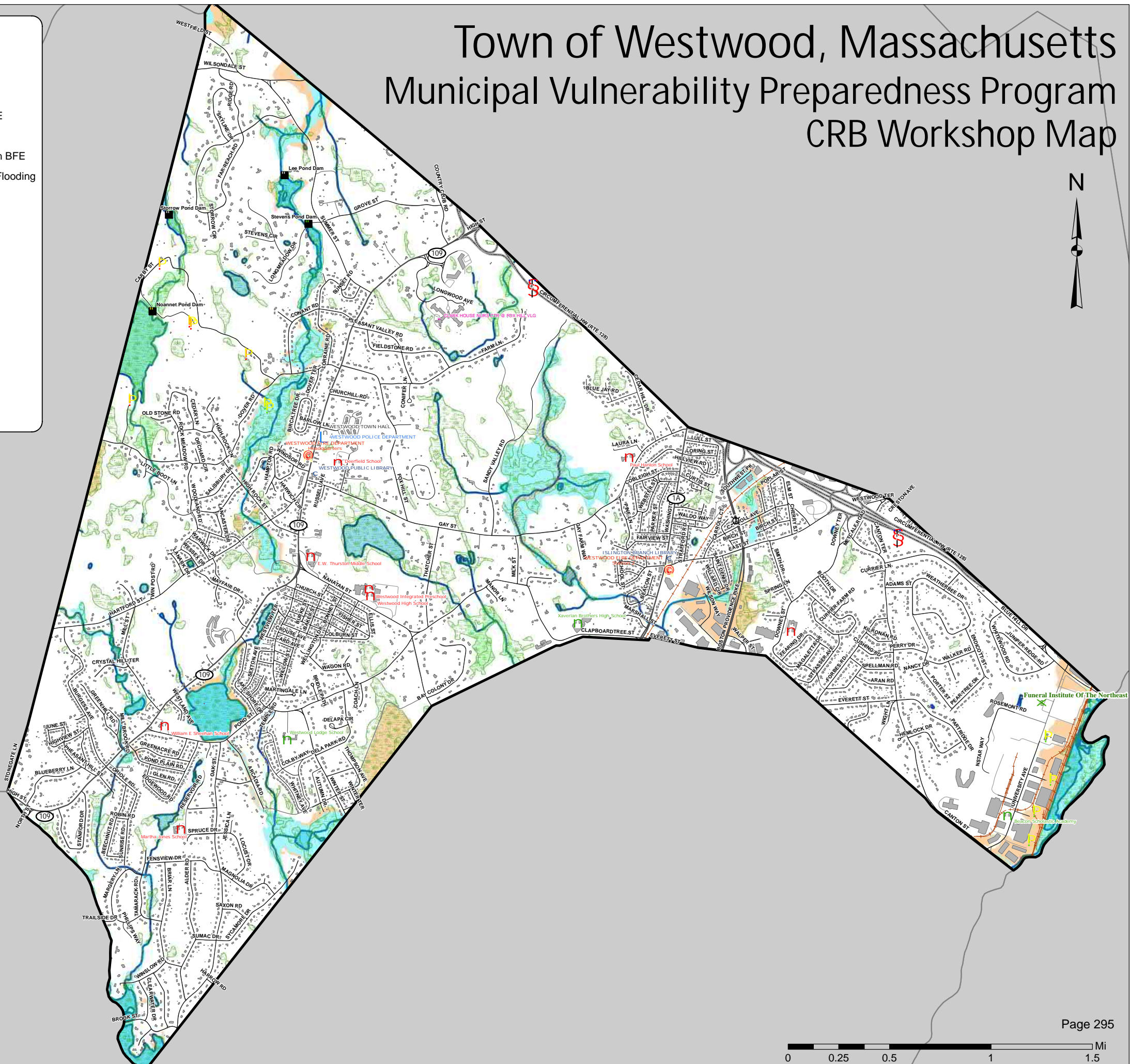
Legend

- Nursing Home
- High Hazard Dam
- Significant Hazard Dam
- Low Hazard Dam
- Private Dam
- ⊙ Fire Stations
- Libraries
- n Town and City Halls
- L Local Police
- L State Police
- b County Sheriff
- n Public School
- n Private School
- n Charter School
- n Special Education School
- P Community Groundwater Source
- P Surface Water Intake
- P Non-Community Groundwater Source
- P Emergency Surface Water
- Wetlands

FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer

Flood Zone Designations

- A: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, no BFE
- AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE
- AE: Regulatory Floodway
- AH: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Ponding, with BFE
- AO: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Sheet Flow Flooding
- VE: High Risk Coastal Area
- D: Possible But Undetermined Hazard
- X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding
- X: 1% Drainage Area < 1 Sq. Mi.
- X: Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee
- Area Not Included
- Area with no DFIRM - Paper FIRMs in Effect
- Waterbody
- River/ Stream



Town of Westwood, Massachusetts

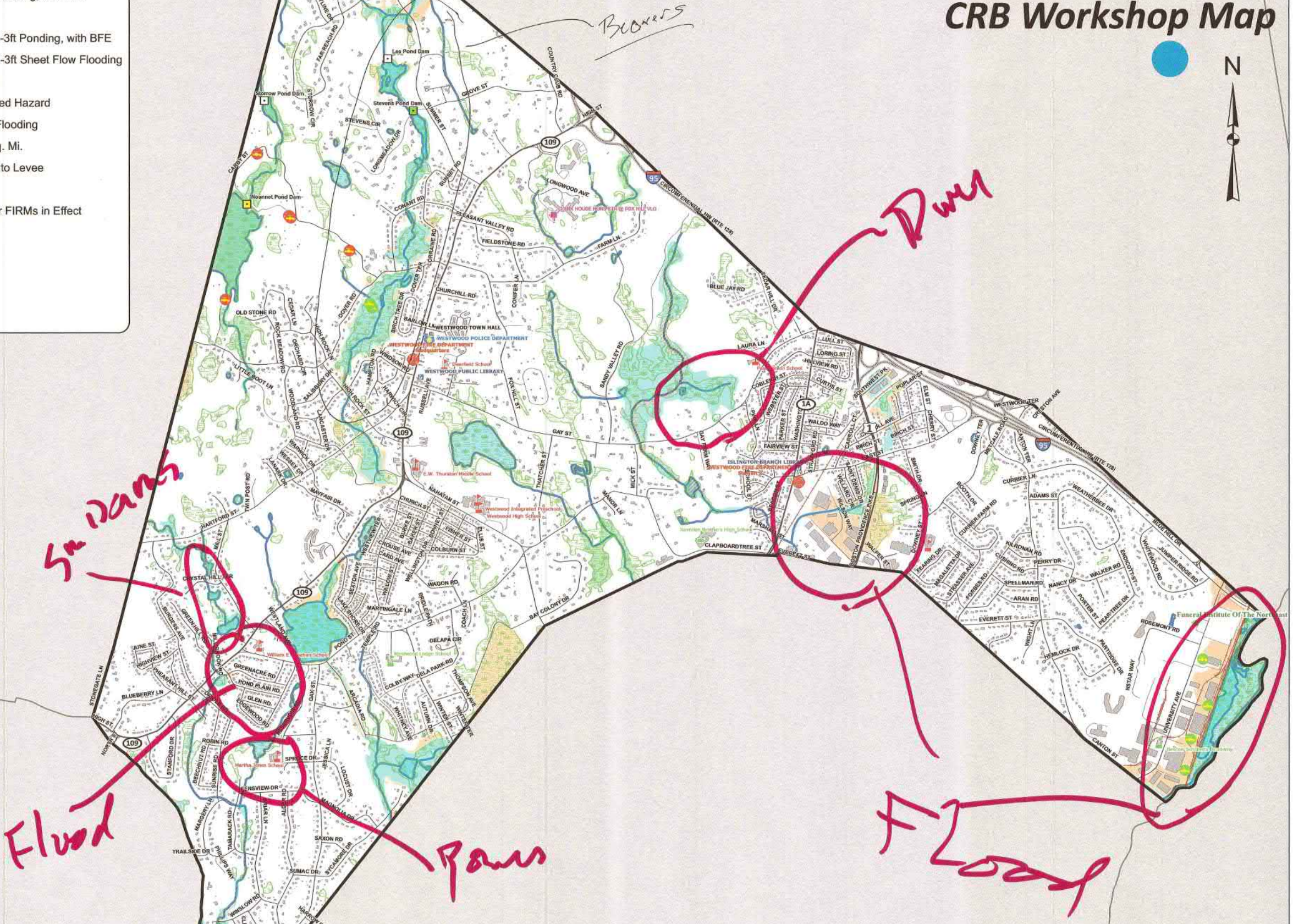
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

CRB Workshop Map

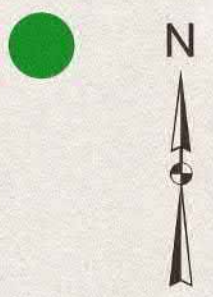


Legend

	Nursing Home		FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer
	High Hazard Dam		Flood Zone Designations
	Significant Hazard Dam		A: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, no BFE
	Low Hazard Dam		AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE
	Private Dam		AE: Regulatory Floodway
	Fire Stations		AH: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Ponding, with BFE
	Libraries		AO: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Sheet Flow Flooding
	Town and City Halls		VE: High Risk Coastal Area
	Local Police		D: Possible But Undetermined Hazard
	State Police		X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding
	County Sheriff		X: 1% Drainage Area < 1 Sq. Mi.
	Public School		X: Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee
	Private School		Area Not Included
	Charter School		Area with no DFIRM - Paper FIRMs in Effect
	Special Education School		Waterbody
	Community Groundwater Source		River/ Stream
	Surface Water Intake		
	Non-Community Groundwater Source		
	Emergency Surface Water		
	Wetlands		



Town of Westwood, Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program CRB Workshop Map

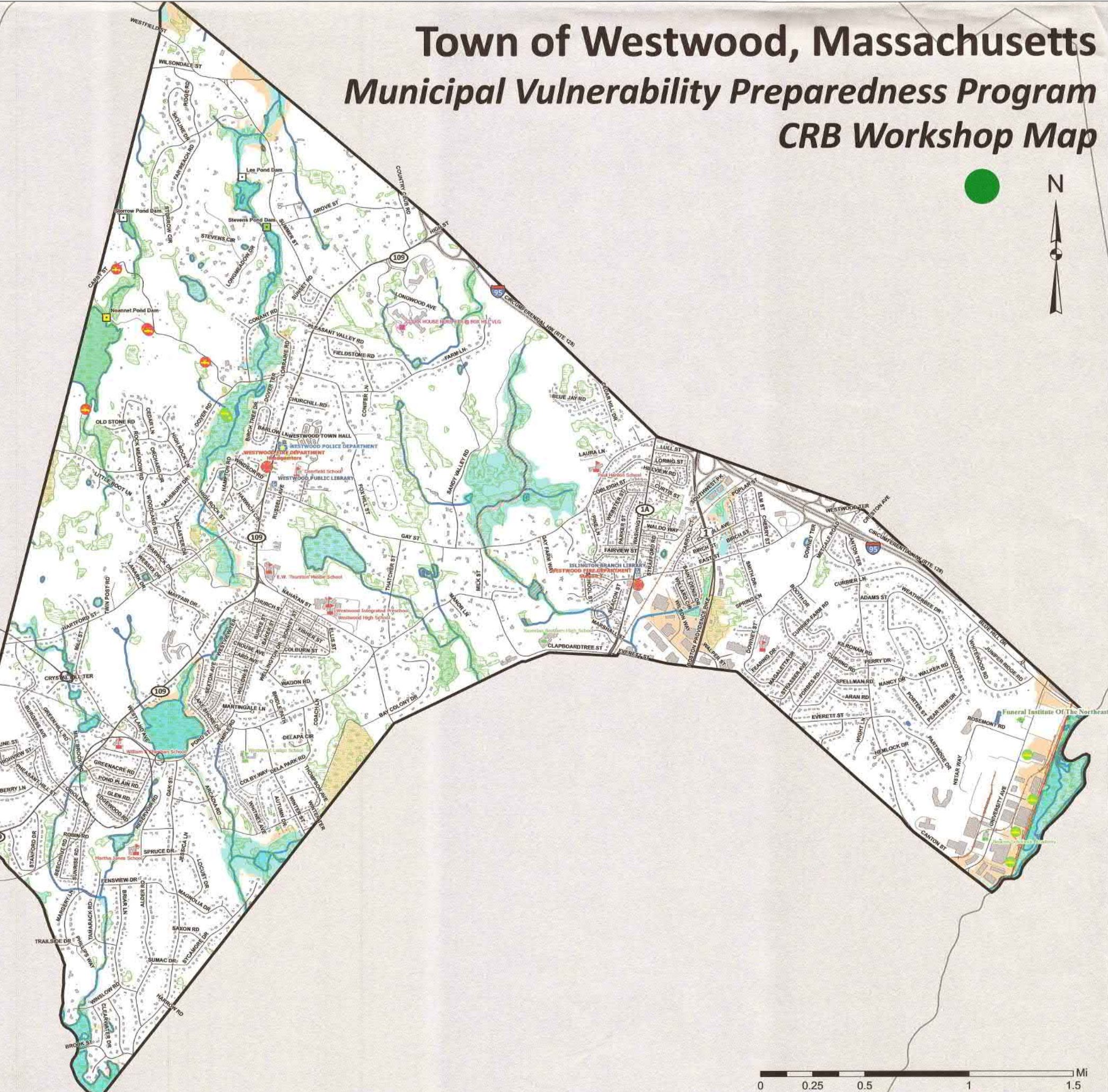


Legend

- Nursing Home
- High Hazard Dam
- Significant Hazard Dam
- Low Hazard Dam
- Private Dam
- Fire Stations
- Libraries
- Town and City Halls
- Local Police
- State Police
- County Sheriff
- Public School
- Private School
- Charter School
- Special Education School
- Community Groundwater Source
- Surface Water Intake
- Non-Community Groundwater Source
- Emergency Surface Water
- Wetlands

**FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer
Flood Zone Designations**

- A: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, no BFE
- AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE
- AE: Regulatory Floodway
- AH: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Ponding, with BFE
- AO: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Sheet Flow Flooding
- VE: High Risk Coastal Area
- D: Possible But Undetermined Hazard
- X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding
- X: 1% Drainage Area < 1 Sq. Mi.
- X: Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee
- Area Not Included
- Area with no DFIRM - Paper FIRMs in Effect
- Waterbody
- River/ Stream



*Private dam
check for live
concern for downstream neighborhood
Floodng issues*

Appendix D: Compiled Ranking Matrix

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org					
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
				Flooding	High Wind/ Winter Storms	Drought / Extreme Temp	Invasive Species		
				Priority					
				Time					
				H - M - L					
				Short Long Ongoing					
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S						
Infrastructural									
Sewer Pump Station & System Infrastructure	Town-wide	Town	V & S	Hydrologic study to identify needs/vulnerabilities, Continue to implement I/I Plan, Investigate sewer systems located in Flood Plan				Various	S - O
Dams (Esp. @ Crystal Hill)	Town-wide & 42 Mill St	Private	V	Look at legal ramifications and town obligation for longevity of dam, Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions				H	S & L
Culverts (undersized)	Town-wide	Town & Private	V	Hydrologic study of assets to identify vulnerabilities & culvert upgrades with recommended actions, Identify natural flood storage/ LID applications throughout town, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Culvert cleaning program, develop Maintenance Plan				H	S & L
Bridges	Town-wide	Town, State & Federal	V & S	Culvert sizing study, Culvert cleaning program				H	L/O
Roadways & Low-lying areas	Town-wide	Town, State & Federal	V & S	Create a plan/study identifying vulnerable neighborhoods & populations within for evacuation & emergency response, Study of assets with recommended actions.				Various	S & L & O
				Drainage Study, Additional CB cleaning	Equipment Upgrades, Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, Additional pretreatment	Previous Paving Measure	Knotweed Program		
Waste Water Pump Stations	Town-wide	Town	V & S	Address Flooding (esp. Conant Rd)	Backup Power, Backup pumps, bypass connection	Electronics Cooling	Beaver Control Program	H	L/O
Wells & Domestic & hydrant water system	Town-wide	Public & DWWD	V & S	Work with district to ensure maintenance & upgrades are done, Monitor Water Quality in Major Flood event		Work with district to ensure maintenance & upgrades are done, Investigate Water conservation Regulations for new development, Implement & update water conservation program, implement/ update stormwater bylaw		Various	S & O
Town Buildings	Town-wide	Town	V & S	Investigate backup power for Town facilities, Continue to improve Emergency operations center		Energy Efficient Upgrades		M	L
Drainage Infrastructure	Town-Wide	Public & Private	V & S	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's		Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan	H	S & O
Power & Communication	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, or Relocate wires underground		Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source & Conservation Education		Various	S & L & O
				Test/Upgrade/Maintain Emergency Communication Systems and infrastructure, Study on Town-wide Emergency Communication Systems (DPW, Fire & Police), Investigate backup power for Town facilities, Continue to improve Emergency operations center, Consolidate all communication, Solar backup system/ microgrid for Police/Fire/ Town hall					
Societal									
Shelter facilities @ High School & Council on Aging	Nahatan St	Town	V & S	Update current plan, create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there & Solar power backup system				M	O
Elderly, Disabled, Low-Income, Disadvantaged Population	Town-wide	Private & Public	V	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Educate & market plans in place, Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter, Evaluate Emergency Operation Plan, Actively Maintain list of high risk people.				H	S & O
				Cooling stations, bottled water, A/C program, Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter, Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source		Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds			
Public Safety	Town-Wide	Town	V & S	Upgrade fuel system & storage facility, Estimate Fuel need and consumption				L	O
Businesses & Faith based organizations	Town-wide	Private	V & S	Evaluate, Equip & Train staff on how to properly manage these emergencies				Various	O
				Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Engage with businesses, Reach out to organizations and include in emergency management planning	Tree trimming equipment upgrades, storm management	Business outreach	Mosquito/ tick control		
Students/Children	Town-Wide		V & S	Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Education Outreach & communication		Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Look into Alternative Power Source		Various	O
				Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan	Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's	Continue & enhance school environmental education, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito/ Tick Breeding grounds, Move programs inside or earlier in the day			
Schools	Town-Wide	Town		Frequent loss of power at Martha Jones School, Look into new generator, Investigate Alternative Power Source and storage of power. Maintain generator at Highschool because it's a shelter.		Air Condition Schools, Look into Alt Power to support schools, Continue energy efficiency assessment with Tom Philbin		H	L & O
Residential Area	Town-Wide		V & S	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan, Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's, Continue to be licensed to operate shelter and provide necessities in the event of power outage		Investigate Alternative Power Source		M	S & O
Commuter Traffic	Town-wide		V	Signage/ Light boards & Communication				L	S
Environmental									
Buckmaster Pond- reservoir	Pond St.	Town, Norwood & Private	V	Drainage maintenance		Water Restoration/Conservation outreach		L	O
Well fields & Water Protection districts (2)	University Ave & High St	Town, DWWD & Private	V	Continue implementing regulations to protect District & flood plains, Outreach		Outreach / De-icing		Various	O
Flood Plains & Conservation Areas	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate opportunities to increase flood plain, Investigate ways to coordinate with surrounding towns, Dredging/disposal, flood storage		Downed tree removal/ Disposal		Various	S & L
Parks & Open Space	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate LID measures & opportunities, Drainage Study/ Upgrades		Continue and Expand trail maintenance, Tree/Overgrowth management/ Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees,		Various	L & O
Dams	Town-wide	Private	V	Dam study/Removal/ Maintenance & improvements				M	L
Wildlife	Town-Wide		V & S	Develop Beaver management plan/ Investigate Dam removal & wetland restoration		Investigate water conservation Regulations, Plan to protect trout population in streams		L	O
Rivers, Brooks, Streams & Watersheds	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Restore streams & wetlands to hold flood waters, Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, Drainage studies & develop Maintenance Plan		Investigate ways to improve Water Quality, Investigate locations to plant more trees/investigate resilient trees, Investigate water conservation Regulations, Plan to protect trout population in streams, Water Restoration/Conservation outreach		Various	S & L & O
Groundwater / Water Table	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate LID measures & opportunities		Water Conservation & Stormwater management to augment infiltration, Investigate LID measures & opportunities		H	O



Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
 V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	FLOODING	HIGH WIND/ WINTER STORMS	DROUGHT / EXTREME TEMP.	INVASIVE SPECIES	Priority	Time
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing				
Infrastructural									
DAMS & CULVERTS	TOWN-WIDE	PUBLIC & PRIVATE	V	Risk Assessment Study of Assets with Recommended Actions - Develop Maintenance Plan	Consider options to protect culverts from log debris		Evaluate small ponds for Annual/maximum height	H	S&L
DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE			V&S	Continue to implement Catchment's cleaning/maintenance Plan Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving to associate w/ Road Maintenance	Add Havenwood Markings to identify location of CR's			H	S&L
WELLS / WATER SUPPLY		PUBLIC DWWD	V&S	Monitor WG in Major Flood event.	Test/maintain Study on Town-wide Water Systems Investigate Backflow to Tank	Investigate Water Conservation Reg. to New	Implement & update Water Conservation Program	H	↓
POWER & COMMUNICATION		PUBLIC Town & PRIVATE	V&S		Continue to encourage Eversource to trim trees Continue to improve Emergency Ops center	Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from Brown out Look into Alternative Power Source		H	↓
SEWER		Town	V&S	Continue to implement IFA Plan Investigate sewer system located in Flood Plan				L	O
TRANSPORTATION		TOWN, STATE & PRIVATE	V&S	See DAMS/Culverts				M	S&L
Societal									
ELDERLY POPULATION	TOWN-WIDE		V	Evaluate Emergency Op. Plan Actively Maintain High Risk People			Communicate EEE Risk ways to avoid Pre-train Mosquito Breeding Plans	H	S&O
LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS			V					M	S&O
PUBLIC SAFETY		Town	V&S	Evaluate/Equip & Train Staff on how to Properly Manage these Emergencies				L	O
STUDENTS			V&S	Continue & Enhance School Environment Education Programs			Move programs inside or earlier in the day	L	O
RESIDENTIAL AREA			V&S	Copy From Drainage		Investigate 4th Power Source		M	S&O
SCHOOLS		Town	S&V	Continue to be licensed to operate shelter to provide necessities in the event of power outages Frequently inspect power generator Investigate Alternative Power Source ↳ Maintain generator @ H.S. in this shelter	Martha Jones → look into new generator Investigate Alternative Power Source ↳ Tom Phillips	Air Condition Schools look into Alt Power to Support Continue Energy efficiency Assess	Copy from Students	H	L&O
Environmental									
TREES	TOWN WIDE	TOWN & PRIVATE	V&S	Develop plan Investigate Manage Bowers S/D in Removal & wetland restoration	See Eversource comment	Plant more trees - investigate location Investigate Resilient trees	Investigate & create Policy for Invasive plants	M	L&O
WILDLIFE		GOD				Investigate Water Conservation Regs Plan to protect Trout Pop. in streams		L	O
PARKS & OPEN SPACE		TOWN & PRIVATE		Investigate LID measures & opportunities	Continue & Expand trail Maintenance	Continue to acquire open Space & Flood Plains	Develop & Management Plan for river beds	M	L
STREAMS & WATERBODIES				Copy From Drainage Plan Restore to hold Flood waters streams/wetlands	Copy Dam & Culvert	Investigate ways to improve W.Q.		M	S&L
FLOOD PLAINS				Increase Flood Plan Investigate opportunities to Investigate ways to conduct w/ sustainability				M	S&L
GROUNDWATER/WATER TABLE						Water Conservation & Stormwater Mgmt. to prevent infiltration		H	O

Appendix D: Blue Group Ranking Matrix

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org									
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)									
				Flooding	High Wind/ Winter Storms	Drought / Extreme Temp	Invasive Species	Priority	Time				
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing				
H - M - L priority for V = Vulnerability	Features	Location	Ownership	V or S									
Infrastructural													
	Dams & Culverts	Town-Wide	Public & Private	V	Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Maintenance Plan		x	Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, consider options to protect culverts, develop maintenance plan, Evaluate small ponds for animal/ mosquito habitat		H	S & L		
	Drainage Infrastructure	Town-Wide	Public & Private	V & S	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's	x	Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan		H	S & O		
	Wells / Water Supply	Town-Wide	Public & DWWD	V & S	Monitor Water Quality in Major Flood event	x	Investigate Water conservation Regulations for new development, Implement & update water conservation program, implement/ update stormwater bylaw		x	H	S & O		
	Power & Communication	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	x	Test/Maintain Emergency Communication Systems, Study on Town-wide Emergency Communication Systems, Investigate backup power for Town facilities, Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees, Continue to improve Emergency operations center	Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source		x	H	S & O		
	Sewer	Town-Wide	Town	V & S	Continue to implement I/I Plan, Investigate sewer systems located in Flood Plan	x	x	x	L	O			
	Transportation	Town-Wide	Town, State & Private	V & S	Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Maintenance Plan		x	x	M	S & L			
Societal													
	Elderly Population	Town-Wide		V	Evaluate Emergency Operation Plan, Actively Maintain list of high risk people		Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source		Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds		H	S & O	
	Low Income Households	Town-Wide		V	Evaluate Emergency Operation Plan, Actively Maintain list of high risk people		Investigate Critical locations to be exempt from brown-outs, Look into Alternative Power Source		Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds		M	S & O	
	Public Safety	Town-Wide	Town	V & S	Evaluate, Equip & Train staff on how to properly manage these emergencies						L	O	
	Students	Town-Wide		V & S	Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan.		Continue & enhance school environmental education programs, Look into Alternative Power Source		Continue & enhance school environmental education, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds, Move programs inside or earlier in the day		L	O	
	Residential Area	Town-Wide		V & S	Continue to implement Catch basin cleaning/ maintenance plan. Evaluate system capacity & assess upgrade when Re-paving, associate with Road Master Plan, Add Pavement Markings to identify locations of CB's , Continue to be licensed to operate shelter and provide necessities in the event of power outage		Investigate Alternative Power Source		Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds		M	S & O	
	Schools	Town-Wide	Town	V & S	x	Frequent loss of power at Martha Jones School, Look into new generator, Investigate Alternative Power Source and storage of power. Maintain generator at Highschool because it's a shelter.	Air Condition Schools, Look into Alt Power to support schools, Continue energy efficiency assessment with Tom Philbin		Continue & enhance school environmental education, Communicate EEE Risk & ways to avoid, Pre-treat Mosquito Breeding grounds, Move programs inside or earlier in the day		H	L & O	
Environmental													
	Trees	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	x	Continue to encourage Eversource to trim their trees,	Plant more trees, Investigate locations , investigate resilient trees		Investigate & create policy for invasive plants		M	L & O	
	Wildlife	Town-Wide		V & S	Develop Beaver management plan/ Investigate Dam removal & wetland restoration	x	Investigate water conservation Regulations, Plan to protect trout population in streams		Develop Beaver management plan/ Investigate Dam removal & wetland restoration, Communicate EEE Risk and ways to avoid, Pretreat mosquito breeding grounds		L	O	
	Parks & Open Space	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate LID measures & opportunities	Continue and Expand trail maintenance	Continue to acquire open space & floodplains		Develop and Implement management plan for invasive species (plants, insects and animals)		M	L	
	Streams & Waterbodies	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Restore streams & wetlands to hold flood waters, Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Maintenance Plan	Risk Assessment/ Study of assets with recommended actions, Consider options to protects culverts from large debris, develop Maintenance Plan		Investigate ways to improve Water Quality, Investigate locations to plant more trees/investigate resilient trees, Investigate water conservation Regulations, Plan to protect trout population in streams		Develop and Implement management plan for invasive species (plants, insects and animals)		M	S & L
	Flood Plains	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate opportunities to increase flood plain, Investigate ways to coordinate with surrounding towns	x	x	Develop and Implement management plan for invasive species (plants, insects and animals)		M	S & L		
	Groundwater / Water Table	Town-Wide	Town & Private	V & S	Investigate LID measures & opportunities	x	Water Conservation & Stormwater management to augment infiltration, Investigate LID measures & opportunities		x	H	O		

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
 V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	FLOODING	HIGH WIND / WINTER STORM	DROUGHT / EXT. TEMPS	INVASIVE SPECIES	Priority	Time
								H-M-L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
WASTEWATER PUMP STATIONS	T.W.	TOWN	V/S	ADDRESS FLOODING (SPEC. CONANT PD)	BACK UP POWER / BACK UP PUMPS	ELECTRONICS COOLING	BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM	H	L/O
BRIDGES / CULVERTS	T.W.	TOWN / STATE / FED.	V/S	CULVERT SIZING / STUDY	N/A	N/A	↓	H	L/O
ROADWAYS	T.W.	TOWN / STATE / FED.	S	DRAINAGE STUDY / ADDL CB CLEANING	EQUIPMENT UPGRADES / TREES TRIMMING	PREV. PAVING MEASURES	KNOTWEED PROGRAM	H	O
POUCE/FIRE/DPW RADIO SYSTEMS	T.W.	TOWN	V	UPGRADE/REPLACE COMM. SYSTEMS	→	→	N/A	H	S
TOWN BUILDINGS	T.W.	TOWN	V/S	N/A	PROTECT HVAC/ROOFS	ENERGY EFF. UPGRADES	MOSQUITO CONTROL	M	L
POWER & COMM. SYSTEMS	T.W.	EVERSOURCE / VERIZON/COMCAST	V	N/A	TREE TRIMMING / RELOC. U.G.	CONSERV. EDUCATION	N/A	H	L/O
Societal									
ELDERLY & DISADVANTAGED POP'S	T.W.	N/A	V	OUTREACH / TRANSPORTATION / COMMUNICATION / SHELTERS	→	COOLING STATIONS / BOTTLED WATER / A/C PROGRAM	N/A	H	S
COMMUTOR TRAFFIC	T.W.	N/A	V	SIGNAGE/LIGHT BOARDS / COMMUNICATION	→	→	KNOTWEED PROGRAM / BEAVER CONTROL	L	S
PARKS / PLAYGROUNDS / FIELDS	T.W.	TOWN	S	DRAINAGE STUDY / UPGRADES	TREE/OVERGROWTH MANAGEMENT	TURF / I.L.O. GRASS / SHADING / TREES	MOSQUITO CONTROL	L	L/O
HALE	NORTHWEST SECTION	PRIVATE	S	↓	↓	N/A	EDUCATION ↓	L	L
CHILDREN	T.W.	PARENTS	V	EDUCATION / OUTREACH / COMMUNICATION	→	→	MOSQUITO/TICK CONTROL	H	O
BUSINESS COMMUNITY	T.W.	PRIVATE	S	N/A	TREE TRIMMING / EQUIP. UPGRADES / STORM MANAGEMENT	BUSINESS OUTREACH	↓	H	O
Environmental									
RIVERS / BROOKS / WATERSHEDS	T.W.	N/A	V	DRAINAGE STUDIES & MAINT. / OUTREACH	N/A	WATER POSTER / OUTREACH / CONSERV.	REMOVAL & DISPOSAL / BEAVERS OF GROWTH / OUTREACH	H	L/O/S
CONSERVATION AREAS	T.W.	TOWN	S	DREDGING / DISPOSAL / FLOOD STORAGE	DOWNED TREE REMOVAL / DISPOSAL	↓	↓	M	O
WET FIELDS	T.W.	DWWD	V	OUTREACH	OUTREACH / DEICING	↓	N/A	H	O/S
BUCKMASTER POND	POND ST.	TOWN / NORTON	V/S	DRAINAGE MAINT.	N/A	↓	MOSQUITO CONTROL	L	O
BUCKMASTER POND DAMS	T.W. / ESTATE	PRIVATE	V	DAM STUDY / REMOVAL / IMPROVEMENTS	MAINT.	N/A	↓ BEAVERS	M	L

Appendix D: Red Group Ranking Matrix

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org						
H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long V = Vulnerability S = Strength				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)						
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Flooding	High Wind/ Winter Storms	Drought / Extreme Temp	Invasive Species	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing	
Infrastructural										
Waste Water Pump Stations	Town-wide	Town	V & S	Address Flooding (esp. Conant Rd)	Backup Power, Backup pumps, bypass connection	Electronics Cooling	Beaver Control Program	H	L/O	
Bridges/Culverts	Town-wide	Town, State & Federal	V & S	Culvert sizing study, Culvert cleaning program	N/A	N/A	Beaver Control Program	H	L/O	
Roadways	Town-wide	Town, State & Federal	S	Drainage Study, Additional CB cleaning	Equipment Upgrades, tree trimming, Additional pretreatment	Previous Paving Measure	Knotweed Program	H	O	
Police/Fire/DPW Radio Systems	Town-wide	Town	V	Upgrade communication Systems			N/A	H	S	
Town Buildings	Town-wide	Town	V & S	N/A	Protect HVAC at Police HQ	Energy Efficient Upgrades	Mosquito Control	M	L	
Power & Communication Services	Town-wide	Eversource, Verizon & Comcast	V	N/A	Tree Trimming/Relocate wires underground	Conservation Education	N/A	H	L/O	
Societal										
Elderly & Disadvantaged Population	Town-wide	N/A	V	Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter			Cooling stations, bottled water, A/C program, Outreach, Transportation, Communication & Shelter	N/A	H	S
Commuter Traffic	Town-wide	N/A	V	Signage/ Light boards & Communication			Knotweed program & Beaver control	L	S	
Parks/Playground/ Fields	Town-wide	Town	S	Drainage Study/ Upgrades	Tree/Overgrowth management	Turf I.L.O. grass, Shading & trees	Mosquito/ tick control	L	L/O	
Hale	Northwest Section	Private	S	Drainage Study/ Upgrades	Tree/Overgrowth management	N/A	mosquito/ tick control & education	L	L	
Children	Town-wide	Parents	V	Education Outreach & communication			Mosquito/ tick control	H	O	
Business Community	Town-wide	Private	S	N/A	Tree trimming equipment upgrades, storm management	Business outreach	Mosquito/ tick control	H	O	
Environmental										
Rivers/ Brooks/ Watersheds	Town-wide	N/A	V	Drainage studies & Maintenance/ outreach	N/A	Water Restoration/Conservation outreach	Removal & Disposal of Growth, Beavers control plan, outreach about water quality & pet waste	H	L/O/S	
Conservation Areas	Town-wide	Town	S	Dredging/disposal, flood storage	Downed tree removal/ Disposal	Water Restoration/Conservation outreach	Removal & Disposal of Growth, Beavers control plan, outreach about water quality & pet waste	M	O	
Well Fields	Town-wide	DWWD	V	Outreach	Outreach / De-icing	Water Restoration/Conservation outreach	N/A	H	O/S	
Buckmaster Pond	Pond St.	Town & Norwood	V & S	Drainage maintenance	N/A	Water Restoration/Conservation outreach	Mosquito control	L	O	
Dams	Town-wide	Private	V	Dam study/Removal/ Maintenance & improvements			N/A	Mosquito and Beaver control	M	L

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
 V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Flooding	High Wind/ Winter Storms	Drought/ Extreme Temps	Invasive Species	Priority	
								H-M-L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Sewer Pump Station & system infrastructure	TW	Town	V/S	Hydrologic study to identify needs/vulnerabilities of culverts				H	S
* Dam at Crystal Hill	42 Mill	Private	V	Look at legal ramifications and town obligation for longevity of dam				H	S
Culverts (undersized townwide)	TW	Town & Private	V	Hydrologic study to identify vulnerabilities & culvert upgrades Identify natural flood storage/LID applications throughout town				H	S
Domestic & hydrant water system	TW	DWWD	V/S	Work with district to ensure maint & upgrades are done		Work with district to ensure maint & upgrades are done		L	O
Electrical system & Communication Network	TW	Public & Private	V	← Consult with all communication providers to upgrade & maint infrastructure → ← Solar back-up system/microgrid for Police/Fire/Town Hall, purchase portable generators & backups →				M	S
Low lying areas & roadways	TW	Public & Private	V	Create a plan/study identifying vulnerable neighborhoods & populations within for evacuation & emergency response				H	S
Societal									
Shelter Facilities @ HS & COA	20N Nahant St	Town	S/V	Update current plan/ Create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there	Solar power back-up system			M	O
Elderly Population & Disabilities/Disadvantage	TW	Private	V			Educate & Market plans in place		H	S
Vulnerable Neighborhoods	TW	Public & Private	V					H	S
Public Services (Police/Fire/DPW)	TW	Public	S	Upgrade fuel system & storage facility Estimate fuel need & consumption				H	S/L
Businesses	TW	Private	S/V		Engage with businesses to include in emergency planning			L	O
Students	TW	N/A	S/V			Education & engagement		M-L	O
Faith based organizations	TW	Private	S		Reach out to organizations and include in emergency management plans			M-L	O
Environmental									
Buckmaster Pond-Reservoir	Pond Street	Town on Norwood & Westwood & Private	V					L	O
Water Protection Districts (2)	University Ave & High Street	Town & Private	V	Continue implementing regulations to protect District & flood plains				L	O
Parks & Open Space/Sports Fields	TW	Town & Private	S/V					M	O
Conservation Areas	TW	Town	S				Educate public on concerns & issues Study & maintain to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of Cons. Areas	H	S
								#	

Appendix D: Green Group Ranking Matrix

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org					
H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
V = Vulnerability S = Strength				Flooding	High Wind/ Winter Storms	Drought / Extreme Temp	Invasive Species	Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S					H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Sewer Pump Station & System infrastructure	Town-wide	Town	V & S	Hydrologic study to identify needs/vulnerabilities of culverts				H	S
Dam at Crystal Hill	42 Mill St	Private	V	Look at legal ramifications and town obligation for longevity of dam				?? H	S
Culverts (undersized)	Town-wide	Town & Private	V	Hydrologic study to identify vulnerabilities & culvert upgrades, Identify natural flood storage/ LID applications throughout town				H	S
Domestic & hydrant water system	Town-wide	DWWD	V & S	Work with district to ensure maintenance & upgrades are done		Work with district to ensure maintenance & upgrades are done		L	O
Electrical system & Communication network	Town-wide	Public & Private	V	Consolidate all communication, continue to upgrade & maintain infrastructure, Solar backup system/ microgrid for Police/Fire/ Town hall, Purchase portable generators & hookups				M	S
Low-lying areas & roadways	Town-wide	Public & Private	V	Create a plan/study identifying vulnerable neighborhoods & populations within for evacuation & emergency response				H	S
Societal									
Shelter facilities @ High School & Council on Aging	Nahatan St	Town	V & S	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there				M	O
Elderly/Disabled/ Disadvantaged Population	Town-wide	Private	V	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Education & market plans in place				H	S
Vulnerable Neighborhoods	Town-wide	Public & Private	V	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there				H	S
Public Services (Police/Fire/ DPW)	Town-wide	Public	S	Upgrade fuel system & storage facility, Estimate Fuel need and consumption				H	S/L
Businesses	Town-wide	Private	V & S	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Engage with businesses to include in emergency planning				L	O
Students	Town-wide	N/A	V & S				Education & engagement	M & L	O
Faith based organizations	Town-wide	Private	S	Update current plan/ create a plan to maintain access to facilities, ability for people to get there & emergency personnel to get there, Reach out to organizations and include in emergency management plans				M & L	O
Environmental									
Buckmaster Pond- reservoir	Pond St.	Town, Norwood & Private	V				Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of conservation Areas	L	O
Water Protection districts (2)	University Ave & High St	Town & Private	V	Continue implementing regulations to protect District & flood plains			Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of conservation Areas	L	O
Parks & open space/ sports fields	Town-wide	Town & Private	V & S				Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of conservation Areas	M	O
conservation areas	Town-wide	Town	S				Educate Public on Concerns & issues, Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives & general health of conservation Areas	H	S

APPENDIX E

- **Top Priority Voting Results**

Inland Flooding ✕ ✕
High wind / Heavy Snow ✕
Drought ✕
Extreme Temps ✕ Heat ✕
Invasive Species

Hurricanes
Health concerns

Flooding Winter storms
High wind / ~~Heavy snow~~
Drought / Extreme temps
Invasive species

- Hydrologic Study to identify flooding vulnerabilities & projects
- Dam-look at legal ramifications & town obligation for longevity
- Consolidated Communication System addressing resilience & redundancy
- Upgrade fuel system & storage capacity
- Educate public & Study to identify maintenance plan for invasives and general health of conservation areas

- PERFORM RISK ANALYSIS ON LOCAL DAMS & CULVERTS
↓
CONDITION OF
- EVALUATE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS CAPACITY & ASSESS UPGRADES
↳ ASSOCIATE WITH ROAD MASTER PLAN
- INVESTIGATE CRITICAL LOCATIONS TO BE EXEMPT FROM BROWN
OUT / LOOK INTO ALTERNATE POWER SOURCES
- ENHANCE EMERGENCY OPS. CENTER & COMMUNICATIONS
- EVALUATE SMALL PONDS FOR ANIMAL/WILDLIFE HABITATS
- INVESTIGATE INCREASING FLOODPLAIN/FLOOD STORAGE/
COORDINATE W/ SURROUNDING TOWNS

Red Group

Priority Actions

- Bridge/Culvert Study
- Radio System Upgrade
- Undergrounding Power
- Mosquito/Beaver Control
- Drainage Studies
- Public Outreach

- Emergency Ops. & Communication Sys.
- Develop Stormwater Master Plan
 - ↳ Culvert Sizing
 - ↳ Overall Hydrology/Flood plains
 - ↳ Street Drainage Capacity Analysis
 - ↳ Dam Investigation
- Community Education & Outreach
- Undergrounding Power
- Mosquito/Beaver Control
- Fuel Storage & Capacity

Town of Westwood

Housing Production Plan



Submitted to DHCD December 30, 2019

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Acknowledgements

The Housing Partnership would like to recognize the efforts and support of the Select Board, town staff, and residents who devoted their time, ideas and participation to the successful creation of this Plan.

Housing Vision

• • •

The Town of Westwood aims to be proactive in its efforts to plan and develop a diversified housing supply that best serves the varied needs of its residents. The Town aims to advance principles of housing choice, sustainability and affordability.

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Introduction

The Town of Westwood has developed this Housing Production Plan (HPP) in compliance with Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's 760 CMR 56.03(4) [Housing Production Plans]. This Plan was developed in coordination with the Town of Westwood Housing & Zoning Division, Housing Partnership, Planning Board, Select Board, and with input from residents through a survey and community workshop.

Per DHCD guidelines, a Housing Production Plan, or HPP, is a proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing. It should be developed with opportunities for the community to become informed of and influence the planning process and outcome. A HPP is an important tool for municipalities to plan for affordable housing development through a diverse housing supply. Municipalities that successfully adopt this approach to development of low-income and moderate-income housing are encouraged to identify and execute implementation strategies. HPPs may be certified by DHCD when a municipality that has not yet met its statutory minima on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) instead meets an interim goal and demonstrates steady progress towards hitting the statutory minima.

Regardless of the municipality's position on the SHI, a HPP can serve as a coordinated vision and strategy for housing development, with a particular focus on affordability. Westwood hopes to continue its history of progress and success in affordable housing development and utilize this HPP as a study document and planning tool that enables it to plan for a future that both preserves the Town's assets and achieves its vision for housing choice and affordability.

About Westwood

The Town of Westwood is an 11 square mile community in Norfolk County located 12 miles southwest of Boston. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council categorizes Westwood as an "Established Suburb", which it defines as a residential suburb with mostly single-family homes on moderately sized lots, an affluent population, and limited but still present amounts of vacant developable land, multi-family housing, and commercial development.

Westwood boasts a beautiful suburban setting that offers residents access to multimodal transportation, diverse retail and commercial selection, excellence in education and passive recreation opportunities at conservation areas and municipal facilities. It is bordered by the municipalities of Needham to the north, Medfield and Dover to the west, Dedham to the east, and Norwood and Walpole to the south.

Westwood is proud to be "Open for Business", with over five hundred businesses across town contributing to the Town's economic health and providing jobs and retail opportunity to residents. The quality of the Town's schools is recognized statewide with students consistently scoring in top

percentiles on MCAS, and the overwhelming majority of students graduating from the high school continue to pursue higher education. Westwood's residents are conveniently located to both Interstate 95 and Route 1, which both run through the town. The town contains two train stations servicing major hubs; Islington station provides MBTA Commuter Rail service to Boston and Route 128 Station, which serves as the sole regional stop for AMTRAK high speed rail service to Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. as well as MBTA Commuter Rail trains to Boston and Providence. MBTA bus service operates on Washington Street through Islington Center with regular service to the MBTA Subway, via the Orange Line's terminal station at Forest Hills.

The Town of Westwood is governed by the Select Board, which is made up of three members who are elected for three-year overlapping terms. The Town adopted a Home Rule Charter, which provides for the Select Board, Open Town Meeting, and Town Administrator form of government. The Town of Westwood boasts high quality municipal services, with two libraries, a senior center, Youth & Family Services, first rate police and fire departments, recreational facilities and an array of other services available at Town Hall and Carby Street Offices.

Housing Needs Assessment

Summary

The Town of Westwood is a thriving suburban community that has seen significant transition in land use over the course of its nearly 125-year history. The town's development patterns are largely characterized by its relatively stable population, scattered vacant parcels, predominant single-family home zoning, and expected new growth in the form of infill or limited redevelopment.

Methodology

Sources for this needs assessment included data from the US Census Bureau from 1930 – 2010, American Community Survey from 2011 – 2017, projections from the UMASS Donohue Institute, Department of Housing and Community Development's Subsidized Housing Inventory, the Warren Group, Building Permit records, and records from the Town Assessor. Technical assistance for data synthesis and aggregation was provided by the Center for Housing Data at Massachusetts Housing Partnership.

The majority of the data presented relied on the American Community Survey, or ACS. While the US Census is known to be the most comprehensive, accurate source of information, its decennial nature does not allow for updated figures, particularly at a point in time nearing the close of the decade. The ACS is an annual, continual survey conducted by the US Census Bureau and is widely regarded as a top source of housing and demographic information. Data in the US Census Bureau is generated by survey, with 3.5 million addresses randomly selected annually to receive a survey of housing, personal and community demographic information. The US Census Bureau recommends the ACS as a premier source for public officials when engaging in planning efforts and tracking yearly changes throughout their communities.

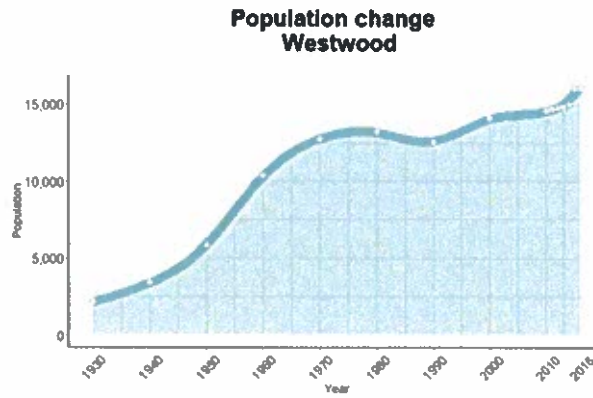
Even so, ACS data has a larger margin of error than the Census. Since the ACS is based on a sample, rather than a report of all households, the data is inherently limited in its ability to provide exact population counts in any particular category. Rather, the Census Bureau recommends that users rely on ACS data to identify estimates of the characteristics of a population, and cautions against drawing large conclusions about statistically small differences in data between two ACS estimates. This report seeks to identify general trends in Westwood's demographics: population, age, income, and housing statistics. The report uses the best data available at the time of writing and will provide a basis for the Town's analysis of 2020 Census data when it is published.

Population & Demographic Analysis

Total Population Changes

Westwood experienced sustained, significant growth in the period of time from 1930 and 1970, followed by a brief period of decline in the 1980s and continued growth through 2010 (Census, ACS).

Westwood's population grew between 1930 and 1970

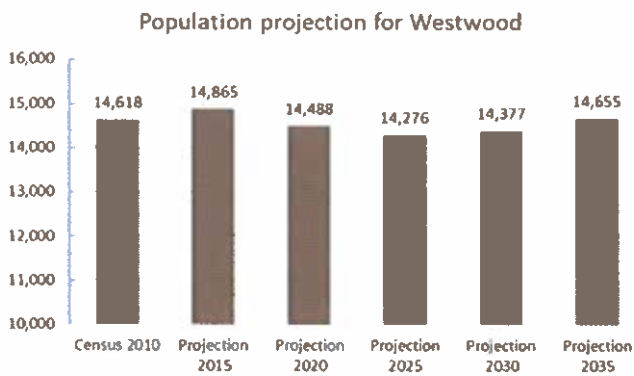


U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program



Figure 1: Population Change

It is not expected to grow in the next 15 years



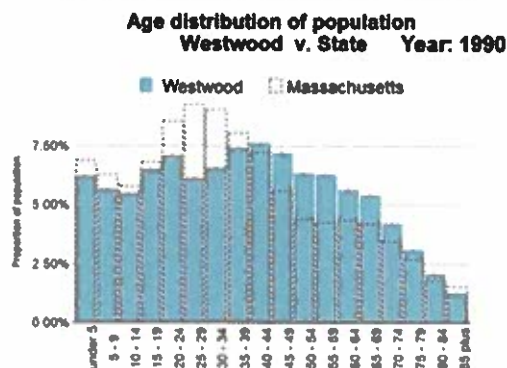
The population has remained stable since then. Using a projection model that accounts for the effects of mortality, migration, and fertility on population change, Westwood's population is not expected to grow significantly in the next 15 years (UMass Donohue Institute Population Projections). This projection does not consider the impact of local policy changes (i.e., zoning bylaw changes).

Figure 2: Population Projection

Age

Age distribution in a community is an important consideration when evaluating housing supply and planning for future development. The presence or absence of certain age groups when compared to a statewide age distribution can yield valuable information about gaps in the current housing supply. In Westwood, the population has rapidly aged in recent decades.

Since 1990, the percent of residents over 45 has increased



U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey

Figure 3: Age Distribution 1990

The median age increased by 4.7 years between 2000 and 2016, which outpaced the aging of the general statewide population (which only saw a 2.9-year increase).

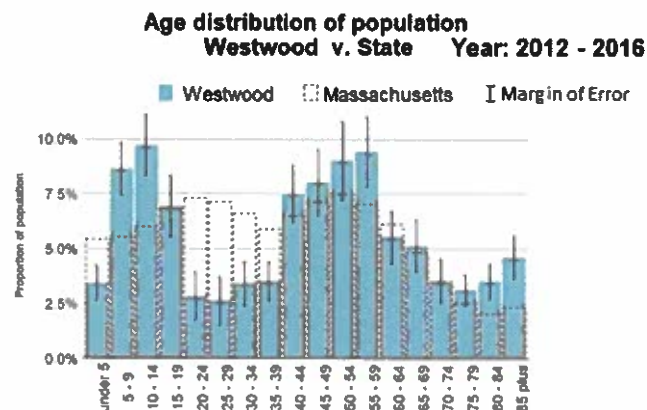
The percentage of total residents over 45 has increased at a rate that also exceeds that of Massachusetts statewide, with a visible gap of people aged 20-39 that has grown consistently since 1990 (Census).



What does this mean for Westwood? A healthy housing market offers a variety of housing options that meet the needs of all market groups, including affordable and flexible options for both young adults and senior citizens. If a town's housing supply does not meet that demand because it is too costly or lacks diversity of housing type, a stagnant market may result, with shifts in population that may not have occurred otherwise.

For example, according to the ACS, Westwood residents under the age of 4 have been declining; children aged 0-4 represented 7.80% of the population in 2000 and only 3.4% in 2016 (ACS). With an identified decline in the young adult (20-39) population, a decline in children aged 0-4 would seem to be an unsurprising correlated trend. The ACS data on children aged 0-4 isn't sufficient to identify either the scope of this decline or the

Today, there are very few young adults



U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey

Figure 4: Age Distribution 2012-2016



cause; it is possible that the ACS margin of error is responsible for inflating the decline, and certainly some of that decline may be consistent with demographic changes experienced statewide due to macro-level impacts such as the economy. Still, the trends are a useful data point when planning for residential development. Another notable observation is that Westwood has observed an increase in residents aged 65 and older. Senior citizens may be residing in their homes longer than expected for various reasons, including the 2008-2009 recession or the shortage of modest, “downsize” homes at reasonable prices. These identified trends show that Westwood must plan for meeting the housing needs of seniors by addressing overall supply, affordability, accessibility, and stability for existing residents who wish to remain in their homes.

In summary, the impact of an insufficient housing supply can ripple throughout a community, affecting not only households potentially excluded from a community but the infrastructure of the community itself as it plans for schools, programs and services.

Race

Westwood’s population is less racially diverse than the statewide population, with 88.2% of residents identifying as white compared to 72.9% overall in Massachusetts (ACS). In Westwood, 8.8% of residents identify as Asian, which is higher than statewide figures of 6.2%. Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, or multiracial individuals are all significantly underrepresented in Westwood compared to the general Massachusetts population.

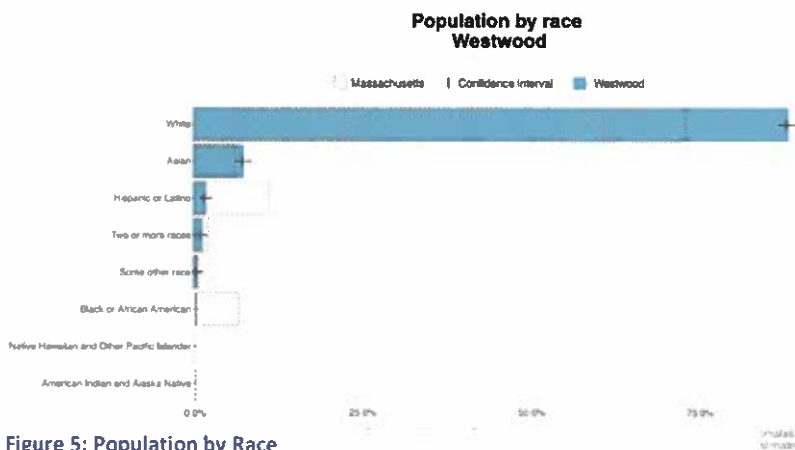


Figure 5: Population by Race

It is incumbent upon any municipality to plan for a housing supply that is inclusive to all residents regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, veteran or active military status, age, familial status (i.e., children), and source of income (i.e., Section 8 voucher). State and federal law protect the rights of the groups against housing discrimination.

Through its town staff and Fair Housing Committee, Westwood is careful to monitor affordable housing distribution against the provisions of the Fair Housing Act and is prepared to respond as required to allegations of housing discrimination within the community and private market as required by state law. Fortunately, over the past three decades, few Fair Housing complaints have been filed in Westwood, and the Town has a history of supporting affordable housing development dating back to the mid-1970s. Regardless, decades of exclusionary lending practices by the federal government prior to the adoption of the Fair Housing Act in 1969 had lasting impacts on racial segregation in communities everywhere.

Planning for residential development and redevelopment in Westwood must seek to incorporate ways to mitigate inequities rather than perpetuate them. A housing supply that is diverse in affordability and type is most inclusive. Westwood’s early adoption of inclusionary zoning requirements, flexible multiple use overlays, and its history of affordable housing development for seniors and families are examples of its approach toward a more diverse housing stock. The Town will continue to support inclusive housing options for residents.

Income & Employment

According to ACS data, Westwood’s median household income is almost double the median income statewide, at \$140,355 in 2016. Of Westwood’s six adjacent towns, only Dover surpasses Westwood in median household income.

Westwood has a highly educated population, with educational attainment of bachelor’s degrees, graduate and professional degrees dramatically outpacing that of the state. Consequently, labor force participation is also high in Westwood, with lower unemployment rates than the state average and a greater total labor force as a percentage of population.

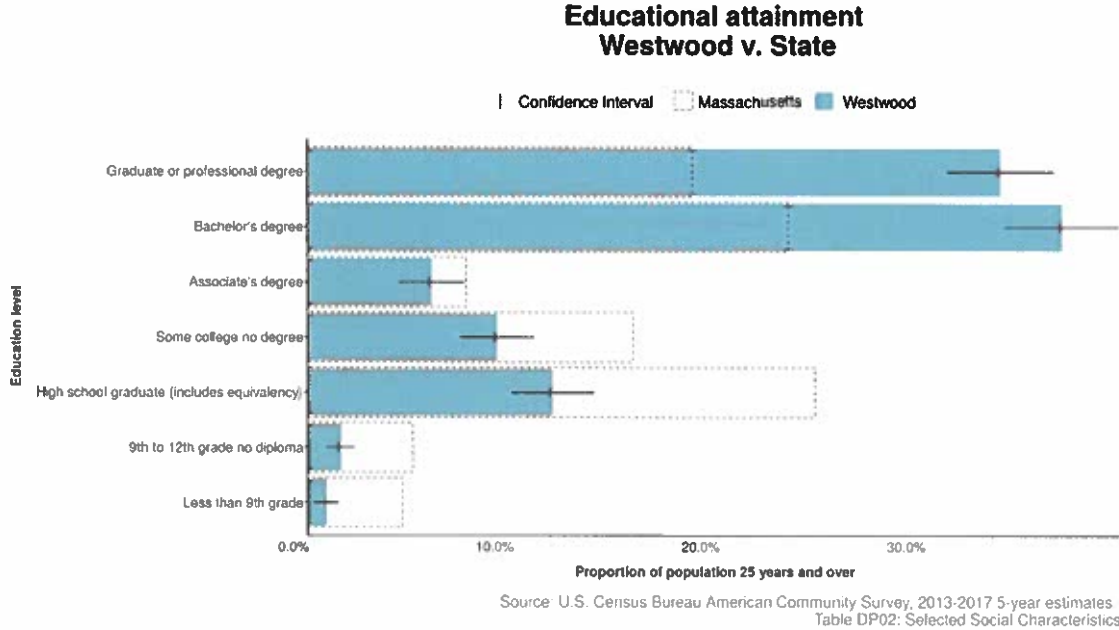


Figure 6: Educational Attainment

Despite this, a significant percentage of households in Westwood qualify as “cost burdened”, which according to the US Census Bureau, occurs when a household spends more than 30% of its income on housing costs. When a household spends more than 50% of its income on housing costs, it is designated as “severely cost burdened”. This metric is a measure of housing affordability on a household level, comparing the impacts of the overall housing market to the personal finances of the household.

In Westwood, renter households are more cost burdened (24.3%) and severely cost burdened (16%) than owner households (17.9% and 3.6%, respectively). With 21.5% of all owner households reporting some level of cost burden, these figures demonstrate that although homeownership is widely associated with increased financial stability and Westwood’s median income is high, a significant percentage of residents are not immune to the high costs of housing in Westwood.

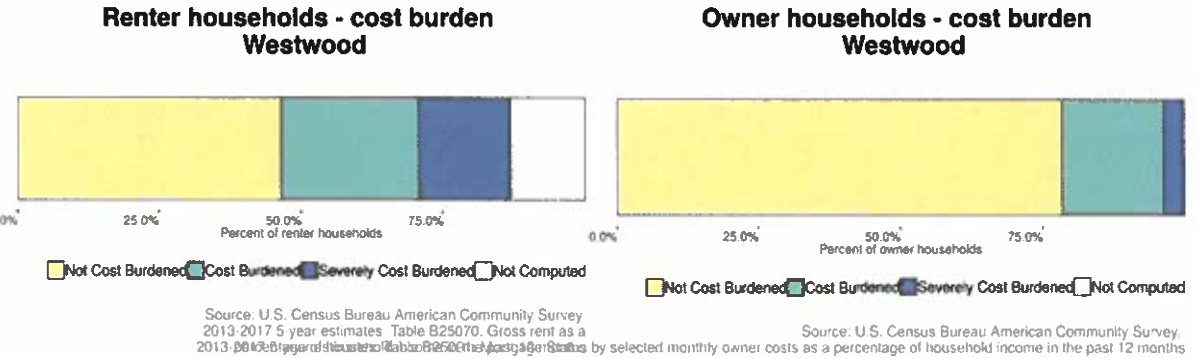


Figure 7: Cost Burden

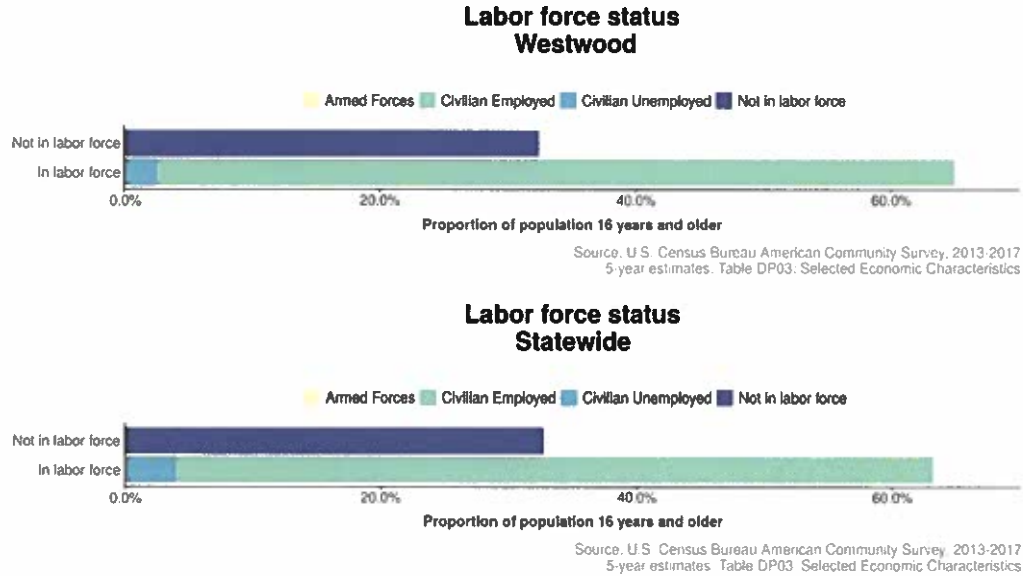


Figure 8: Labor Force Status

Housing Supply

Zoning

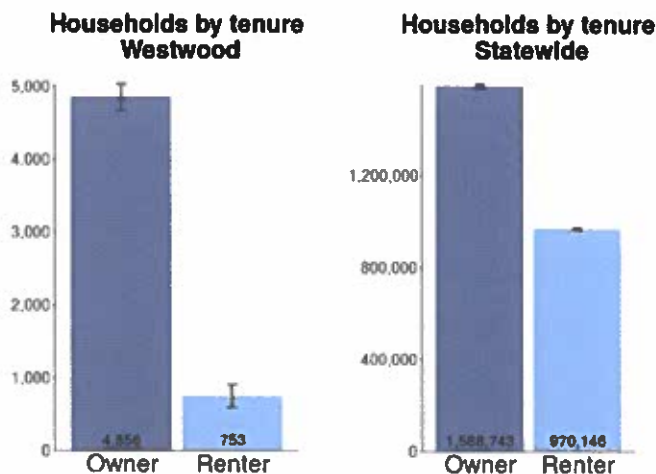
Westwood's zoning primarily supports low density residential development, although some substantial changes have been made in recent years to promote mixed use and multi-family development in certain areas of town. The town is marked in its high degree of variability between neighborhoods, which offer distinctive character and individuality. Residential zoning districts diverge significantly, from walkable, transit friendly parcels in the General Residence district, requiring 12,000 sq. ft. minimum lot sizes, to pastoral estate style properties in the Single Residence E district, requiring 80,000 sq. ft. minimum lot sizes. Seven (7) Flexible Multiple Use Overlay Districts were adopted in recent years and four (4) of these overlay districts promote mixed-use commercial and higher density residential development in locations best suited for investment and growth.

Westwood's Zoning Bylaw imposes affordability requirements on all residential developments allowed by special permit. These requirements call for 15% of the total number of new housing units to be restricted in perpetuity as affordable dwelling units eligible for listing on the SHI. This 15% requirement is designed to ensure a sufficient number of affordable units to support the new special permit development, plus additional affordable units to offset those housing units created through by-right development elsewhere in town. The University Station Mixed Use District (UAMUD) section of the Zoning Bylaw also requires the inclusion of affordable housing within any residential component of the University Station Development.

Type

Due in large part to its traditional zoning pattern, Westwood's housing stock is predominantly comprised of single-family, owner occupied homes. Renters represent a substantially smaller percentage of the town's population than they do statewide.

Is Westwood's housing stock diverse?



U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016, 5-year estimates

The vast majority of homes in Westwood (4,483 out of 5,816 overall housing units) are classified as single-family homes, according to Town Assessor records through December 2017. Duplexes, townhomes and multi-family buildings are a significant minority in Westwood's overall housing composition. However, the percentage of multi-family

Figure 9: Households by Tenure

units has increased significantly over the past five years, with the creation of 450 multi-family units at University Station (350 rental units plus 100 ownership units), and the recent approval of another 30 multi-family units in Islington Center (12 rental units plus 18 ownership units) and 40 age-restricted ownership townhomes at the site of the former Westwood Lodge Hospital. Each of these multi-family housing developments contains an affordable component.

Affordable Housing & SHI

**Housing units by building type
Westwood v. State**

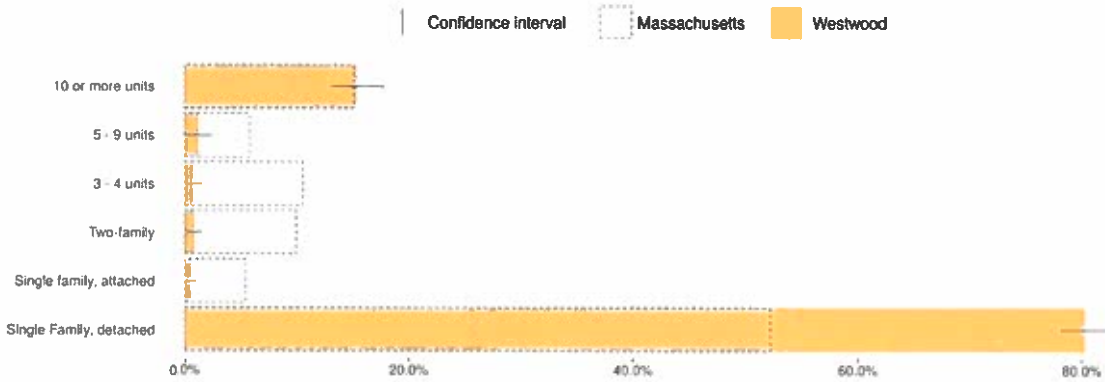


Figure 10: Building Type

Table S2504 Physical Housing Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units

At present, Westwood currently has met one of the statutory minima criteria of Chapter 40B, with over 10% of the town’s year-round housing units listed as affordable on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). A total of 598 affordable units represent 11.1% of the town’s total 5,389 year-round housing units as reported on the 2010 Census. These affordable units offer a variety of housing type, bedroom size and programs. Westwood’s SHI portfolio includes rental apartments, single-family ownership units, age restricted communities, Department of Developmental Services group homes, and Westwood Housing Authority duplex rentals, with bedroom counts ranging from 1-4 per unit. All of the multi-family affordable units developed over the past decade have been 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units.

Although the Town has been motivated and proactive in its efforts to promote affordable housing production through the adoption of inclusionary provisions in its Zoning Bylaw, ongoing residential development, coupled with an expiring affordability restriction on a senior housing complex in 2016, left the Town vulnerable to challenge after many years of SHI compliance. The Town has been responsive to this challenge and is working aggressively to meet its affordable housing goals through the 2020 Census and beyond. A total of 12 new affordable units have been added to Westwood’s SHI count in 2019, and 17 additional affordable SHI units have been approved for development and are pending construction and listing at the time of this writing.

Housing Vacancy

Vacancy rates are extremely low in Westwood. According to the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, a healthy vacancy rate -- typically 7-8% for rental units and 2% for homeownership units -- is a sign that a housing market has enough supply to meet demand. Hyper vacancy occurs when vacancy rates significantly exceed those benchmarks and is a sign of blight and deterioration of a community. Adversely, extremely low vacancy rates are a sign of stagnant housing production and lead to rapid, unsustainable rises in housing costs, particularly for rental units, which can, in turn, lead to instability in the overall market. In Westwood, vacancy rates for both rental and ownership have hovered near zero for the last 5-7 years, but briefly surged shortly after the construction of multi-family development in the University Station project. Low vacancy rates can create difficulty in locating & securing housing for residents at all income levels and can create barriers to entry for first time homebuyers. Even homeowners not interested in relocation can find themselves impacted by inflated market costs through higher property valuation and taxation. This can be especially challenging for older homeowners who rely on fixed incomes.

Affordable housing, in particular, is in high demand in Westwood. A quarterly survey of Local Action and Comprehensive Permit units conducted by the Housing & Zoning Division reports a current affordable housing vacancy rate of less than 1% at the time of application. Waiting lists for affordable units of all sizes stretch to as many as 3 years in multi-family developments. In urban areas, homelessness rates also tend to rise when vacancy rates are extremely low, but homelessness has been a limited problem in Westwood.

Housing Costs

The current median sale price for a single-family home in Westwood has been reported by the Warren Group as \$740,000. According to data released by the Warren Group in 2019, the single-family homeownership market is suffering from a lack of housing supply as well, with total YTD sales declining

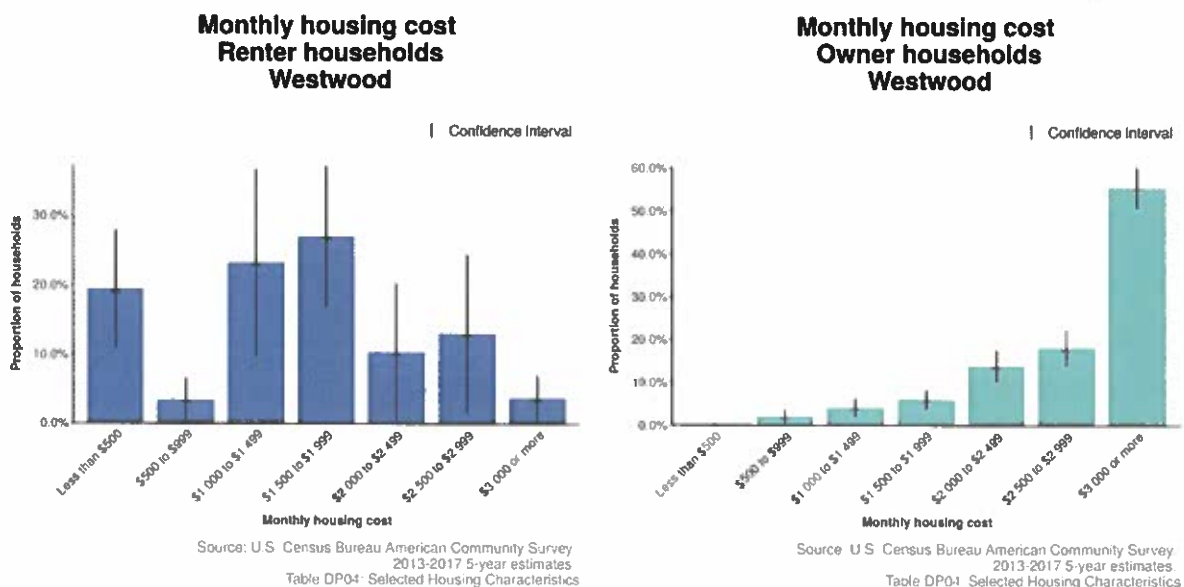


Figure 11: Monthly Housing Cost

by 12% in the last year.

Critically, the Housing Affordability Index for a single-family home in Westwood is 90, meaning that the median household income is insufficient to finance the median priced home in Westwood.

68% of Westwood owner-occupied households held a mortgage in 2017. Of these, the median monthly housing cost was \$3,165. For nearly 30% of these households, these costs represented over 30% of the households' gross monthly income (ACS). For households who rent, in 2017 the median monthly rent was \$1,575 per month. For over 45% of these households, monthly rent exceeded 30% of gross monthly income.

Constraints on Development

Westwood is a maturing suburb with little remaining undeveloped land. Under current zoning requirements, new residential development would largely be expected as redevelopment of existing residential properties, especially through single-family demolition and reconstruction. There is potential for new multifamily dwellings in mixed-use developments within the four FMUOD overlay districts that permit housing.

Market forces

A primary constraint on development is the high cost of land in Westwood. In the last decade, market forces have increased the cost of property in Westwood and surrounding communities. Westwood's excellent public school system, proximity to transportation, and bucolic setting has made property highly desirable. Compounding these forces in the single-family market is a strong trend toward teardown activity, whereupon more affordable, modest homes are being purchased by developers and replaced with significantly more expensive homes. Teardown activity has surged in recent years, leading to an inflation of sales prices for single-family homes and reducing the Town's modest "starter home" stock. In 2017, Town Meeting voted on a series of amendments to the Zoning Bylaw which had the effect of reducing the ability of a nonconforming parcel to further impede into the setbacks. Nonetheless, teardown activity continues, and while replacement structures are now more in keeping with neighborhood setback patterns, replacement homes tend to sell at 2 to 2-1/2 times the sale price of the structures they replace. Vacancy is extremely low and the inventory of single-family homes on the market is limited.

Open Space and Natural Resources

Westwood has been successful in protecting a significant amount of open space land and has a long history of active protection and conservation of natural resources. Protected open space land is defined as land that has no or minimal development or potential for development due to a legal protection for such status that includes public ownership through conservation restrictions or other legal protection recorded at the Registry of Deeds through 2018. The total acreage for protected land in Westwood is 794 acres, which represents 11% of Westwood's total land area.

There is also a significant amount of recreation area in town, both privately and publicly owned. Recreation areas include parks, playgrounds, school yards, country clubs/golf courses, picnic areas, etc. Hale Reservation is a private non-profit recreation and education institution and its land is not currently protected. Hale Reservation owns approximately 475 acres of land in Westwood. Most municipally owned land in Westwood is deed restricted for conservation.

Westwood residents continue to value open space and natural resources. One of the principal themes of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan was to preserve open space and manage growth. Westwood has made great strides in this area in the years since this plan was adopted. The Westwood Land Trust was established in early 2000 and has acquired and protected 220 acres of land since its inception. In 2018,

Westwood updated the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This update was ultimately approved in early 2019, and open space acquisition and protection continues to be a designated priority in the 2019 OSRP. Additionally, the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan expressed a greater emphasis on improving the management and conditions of Westwood's open space and conservation land and increasing awareness of existing open space and conservation areas. The 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan also placed a greater emphasis on recreation goals, including structured recreation facilities such as a community center and active recreation spaces. This marked a shift from the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was more focused on acquiring land to prevent development of high-value natural areas and to increase opportunities for passive recreation. In 2019, Westwood is also in the planning stages of updating the Comprehensive Plan and early input has found that while open space and recreation areas are considered valuable assets of the community, improving existing facilities with physical connections, more trails, more sidewalks, more landscaping and a greater emphasis on the pedestrian experience have been identified as top priorities.

Westwood's Zoning Bylaw seeks to balance preservation of open space with residential development through two main tools: An Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) and Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) bylaws. The OSRD bylaw provides incentives of density increases when more open space areas are protected in a residential development. The FMUOD bylaw permits mixed-use commercial and residential development in four (4) districts overlaying commercial areas, to encourage and incentivize higher density development in those areas, including the creation of upper-story housing in each of the town's local business districts. These smart growth initiatives aim to preserve open space and maximize residential growth opportunities in higher density areas. The resulting development benefits from appropriate existing infrastructure and capacity. Westwood's plans for future residential development must continue to seek a balance between protection of its ample natural resources and its need to address the growing demand for housing.

Traffic & Roadway Infrastructure

Route 109, Washington Street (Route 1A), and Route 1 are three major arterials that travel through Westwood. Western commuters use these three routes as primary sources both during the morning and evening commutes, resulting in a surplus of non-local traffic along these corridors. The Town of Westwood has invested in several studies and measures in trying to assist with traffic flow during these peak time commutes; however, additional development and increasing populations in nearby towns are constant variables that are leading to more traffic. Traffic applications have also put a stress along our primary and secondary roadways, as routes recommended by these applications often take vehicles through neighborhoods which were not designed for through traffic, all in an effort to get commuters to their final destination more quickly.

Increased traffic flow will be something the Town of Westwood has to be constantly looking at and trying to improve. Hand in hand with the volume and speed of traffic, the Town must consider pedestrian safety. Any approvals for additional development must include appropriate pedestrian accommodations, such as safer, more compliant sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and improvements to existing and potential crossing locations. It is imperative that similar pedestrian safety considerations are also

taken with respect to development in abutting communities whose residents and commuters will utilize stretches of the Town's roadway and infrastructure daily.

Education & School Capacity

Westwood currently has a grade configuration of: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, with Pre-K housed at the high school. The District has five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Between 2000 and 2010, the Downey and Martha Jones elementary schools underwent renovation and expansion; and a new high school was fully constructed. As part of assessment and planning over the past decade, the District has determined that the Deerfield, Hanlon, and Sheehan elementary schools have facility needs including improved compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and replacement of aging plumbing and heating components. In some respects, these elementary schools also lack suitable space for 21st century instruction that must be addressed. Similar needs have been raised at the middle school.

A capacity analysis completed in 2018 indicates that the District can comfortably accommodate 1,518 elementary students. Currently, the District's elementary enrollment is only 1,286 students. Forecasts project a gradual increase through the 2027-2028 academic year to 1,470 students.

While there is currently ample capacity for elementary-age students in the District, the distribution of students among our five elementary schools can be impacted by residential developments. In 2018, the District created a "buffer zone" for residents of University Station to address increasing enrollment at Downey School. Families that newly enroll students are currently assigned to Deerfield, Downey, or Hanlon, depending upon which school can best accommodate additional students within a particular grade while remaining within the School Committee's class size guidelines. This practice has been effective and financially viable for the placement of a small number of students at a time when elementary enrollment is relatively low. However, as elementary enrollment rises throughout the District, it may be difficult to employ a similar strategy. An influx of students within one elementary school could instead result in a need to redistrict.

The District is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to receive funding to address needs in its older elementary school facilities. In February 2019, the Westwood Public Schools was voted into the MSBA's Feasibility Study where a plan for the size, scope, and cost of an elementary building project is formalized. Community input will be used to form the criteria important to future school buildings. This vision will be used to develop a cost-effective, educationally appropriate solution. The current timeline would have building designs completed in 2020, construction beginning in 2021, and a completed project in 2023.

Westwood Public Schools are committed to providing a quality education that challenges and supports every student residing in Westwood.

Split Tax Rate & Municipal Finance

Given rapidly increasing property values in Westwood, real estate tax valuation by the Town has also been affected. FY19 was a full revaluation year, and the value of residential real estate in Westwood increased 5.5% from FY18. As property assessments must reflect market conditions and sales activity, residents are sensitive to property taxes and increasing costs of living.

To partially alleviate concerns over rising residential tax rates, Westwood currently utilizes a split tax rate, allowing the Town to charge a higher tax rate for commercial properties than it does for residential properties. Given the considerable impact of commercial value to overall municipal finances, the town continually strives to strengthen its commercial property base. The multi-phase, mixed-use development at University Station has led to a significant increase in commercial value as a percentage of total value from 12.5% in 2015 when University Station opened to 15.97% in 2019. Commercial property in Westwood currently pays 26.7% of taxes, saving the average homeowner \$1,370 or 15% of their tax bill.

Development efforts to expand Westwood's commercial tax base allow Westwood to preserve and expand its commercial value, reducing the financial strain on residential households. This applies pressure on redevelopment efforts in favor of commercial activity. Over the last 5 years, due to successful commercial redevelopment, particularly at University Station, Westwood has incrementally lowered the residential tax rate from \$15.24 to 14.65 per thousand dollars of residential value, and the commercial tax rate has lowered slightly from \$28.79 to \$28.24 per thousand.

Other Municipal Infrastructure

Westwood's Sewer Department is the major functioning utility owned, operated, and maintained by the Town. There are assessments done regarding potential impacts to the system whenever any newly proposed development or housing comes before the community. Capacity and flow rates are the primary concerns the Sewer Engineer must assess to ensure that neither will become an issue based on the potential increases associated with development. If there is a concern or a reason to address a potential problem, the Sewer Commissioners will require (based on the scale of the project) a form of mitigation by the developer to ensure that the existing infrastructure is not compromised.

The newly active MS-4 Storm-water permit requires extensive tracking and monitoring by the community. Run off and outfall testing could constrain development depending upon the nature of a proposed development plan. Projected numbers account for typical concerns based on amounts of infiltration entering the Town's system along with impacts to accounting and monitoring activities.

Public Safety: Fire

The Westwood Fire Department utilizes a resource allocation model that adds additional staffing during peak time frames to handle incident volume. The model is called Peak Level & Surge staffing, which increases our minimum staffing from 7 to 9 personnel between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm. During this

time frame, the Fire Department also has additional administrative staffing that can surge, by adjusting daily duties from Admin to Suppression as need demands.

The Fire Department has traditionally observed a trend that for every 100 new residential units, the Fire Department observes an increase in incident volume of 12%, inclusive of EMS and Fire related incidents. However, the Department has recently observed a greater increase in calls overall (2018 total calls were 3472, up from 2017 at 3124) so this number will fluctuate over time. The Department has been receiving a greater increase in calls to for assistance to residents that are 55 years old or older. The Department strives to adjust to meet changing needs and relies on decisions based on incident data and response times. The Department is constantly watching for changes in trends and makes resource deployment changes based on those trends, in an effort to ensure the quickest response times. For example, in April 2019 the department upgraded Engine 2 to an Advanced Life Support unit, which means that the personnel assigned to that vehicle are able to function as paramedics and initiate medical aid faster and even before the ambulance arrives. This change came about because data showed that the Department had the appropriate staffing and incident volume to support purchasing the additional equipment to enable Engine 2 to be reclassified as an Advanced Life Support unit.

The Westwood Fire Department can sufficiently adjust capacity to meet the demands of residential and commercial growth in Westwood.

Public Safety: Police

The Westwood Police Department examines resource allocation by calls for service and committed patrol time to develop staffing needs. Because it does not add personnel incrementally during peak times on an overtime basis, the Police Department monitors what services it can absorb before it needs to increase staffing levels. Minimum staffing, while highly undesirable from an administration perspective, is 3 patrol officers for two weekday shifts (7am-3pm and 11pm-7am) and 4 patrol officers on the same shifts during weekends or select holidays. Night staffing (3pm-11pm) is 4 officers on both weekdays and weekends.

The Police Department has traditionally observed the same trend as the Fire Department, that for every 100 new residential units, the Fire Department observes an increase in incident volume of 12%, inclusive of EMS and Fire related incidents. The Police Department responds to all Fire Department calls in addition to Police Department calls, so as demand for the Fire Department increases, demand for the Police Department increases concurrently. In addition, total calls for service for the Police Department have elevated to over 31,000 calls per year. As such, the Police Department is constantly watching for changes in trends and makes resource deployment assessments and alterations, as needed, based on those trends to provide the safest and most efficient response.

The Westwood Police Department can sufficiently meet the demands of residential and commercial growth in Westwood at this time, and continues to monitor changes that require staff increase or realignment.

Community Engagement Strategy

Community engagement is an important component of the Housing Production Plan. The Housing Partnership's goal for community input was to provide a variety of formats and media through which the public could participate. The two tools selected by the Housing Partnership for community engagement were a survey and a community visioning workshop. Additionally, two public hearings were advertised and held by the Planning Board as it considered adoption of the Housing Production Plan, and the Select Board also held an open meeting to consider adoption. Public input was encouraged throughout the process and accepted by the Housing Division, which holds full time business hours.

Survey

The survey, titled "A Survey of Housing Needs in Westwood" was published on October 15, 2018 and was open for three weeks, closing on November 5. The survey was available to respondents both online and in paper format. The Housing Partnership pursued a wide-reaching marketing strategy to notify the public, with advertisements distributed via the town website, official social media pages (Facebook pages for Planning Board and the Town, Town Twitter), the town's emailed monthly newsletter Westwood Wire, the town's weekly Schools Bulletin, Westwood Press and Hometown Weekly newspapers for two consecutive weeks, posters at Town Hall, Carby Street Municipal Building, Westwood Youth & Family Services, Westwood Council on Aging Senior Center, Westwood Library, and twice via town-wide email listserv. The digital survey platform, Responster, was chosen for its ability to adapt easily to mobile phones and tablets in addition to desktop format, in the hopes that ease of use would expand participation. The platform allowed an option to restrict surveys to one submission per device, which was enabled to control for integrity of results while still preserving the anonymous nature of the survey. A total of 206 responses to the survey were received and aggregated into digital format.

The survey was divided into three basic sections. The first section was comprised of basic demographic information that sought to compare survey respondents to the overall population of Westwood. Survey respondents answered questions including housing type, years in current home, annual income, and monthly gross housing costs. The second section contained questions about the individual respondent's current and future housing needs. Questions in this section included whether the respondent was concerned about his/her current housing situation, and if so, why; whether there were intentions of moving, and if so, to where; and narrative options for respondents to share personal experiences with housing choice or affordability. The third and final question sought to identify opinions about the current housing inventory and potential development. It gave respondents a chance to identify which housing types were "not enough" or "too many", to identify ideal locations for future development, to select qualities for residential development, and to provide narrative feedback on housing in Westwood.

Community Visioning Workshop

A Community Visioning Workshop was held at the Downey Elementary School Cafeteria on November 13, 2018 at 7 pm. The location was selected for accessibility, capacity, and suitability respective to AV needs and parking. The workshop was open to the public and was advertised using a diverse marketing

strategy to notify the public, with advertisements distributed via the town website, official social media pages (Facebook pages for Planning Board and the Town, Town Twitter), the town's emailed monthly newsletter Westwood Wire, the town's weekly Schools Bulletin, Westwood Press and Hometown Weekly newspapers for two consecutive weeks, posters at Town Hall, Carby Street Municipal Building, Westwood Youth & Family Services, Westwood Council on Aging Senior Center, Westwood Library, and twice via town-wide email listserv.

About 25 participants attended the Community Visioning Workshop. The workshop opened with a welcome from the Chairperson of the Housing Partnership and a presentation by the Housing & Zoning Agent on preliminary highlights of the Needs Assessment, survey responses, and a general overview of Chapter 40B. Attendees then participated in a series of small group discussion exercises led by the Housing & Zoning Agent. Group exercises were designed to foster collaborative discussion of the town's vision for diversity of housing choice and its strategy for affordable housing production. Small groups were selected at random upon participants' arrival at the workshop, and the groups were led by members of the Housing Partnership and volunteers from the Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. During each exercise, a discussion prompt was introduced by the Housing & Zoning Agent and then group leaders were tasked with facilitating and recording input on paperboards or maps provided for each question. Group leaders diligently worked to ensure inclusive conversation, where each participant was given the opportunity to share thoughts. At the close of the assigned time, groups shared brief summaries of their work with the larger group. The six exercises included the following discussions:

1. Introductions: Name, Neighborhood, What brought you to Westwood? Why have you stayed?
2. Perfect World: What does a successful housing market in 2035 look like?
3. Obstacles: Difficulties and challenges to the "perfect world" described previously
4. Strategies: Drawing on best practices, what ideas could serve Westwood's unique needs?
5. Strategic Zoning: Mapping the town for strategic regulatory changes that encourage affordable housing
6. Parcel Mapping: Mapping the town to identify parcels for Comprehensive Permits

Housing Webpage

Throughout the drafting of this plan, a page was maintained on the town's website to provide ongoing updates on the Housing Production Plan. Meeting materials and recordings were uploaded to the page and feedback was openly solicited via the office of the Housing & Zoning Agent.

Community Engagement Outcomes

Community engagement efforts served to increase opportunities for the public to share input and feedback with the Housing Partnership. Consistent themes throughout the various forms of community engagement showed support for increased affordable housing production and overall housing affordability.

Summary of Survey Outcomes

Although the survey was intended to serve as a tool for public participation, and not a statistically significant representation of the entire community, basic demographic points measured in the survey were consistent with the needs assessment data.

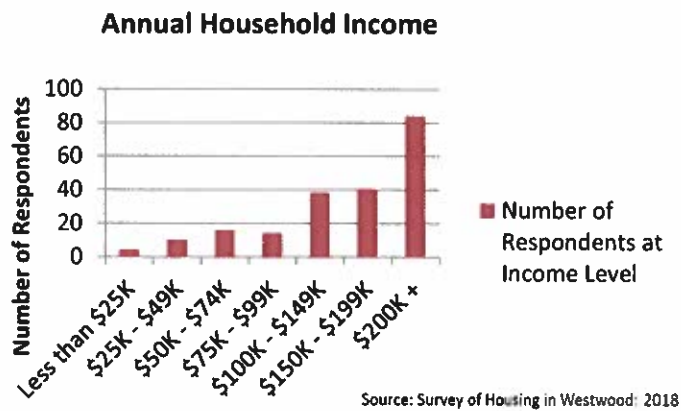


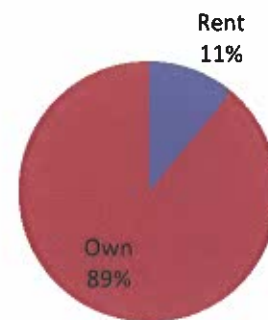
Figure 13: Survey Household Income

Survey respondents skewed heavily toward higher household incomes as well, mirroring statistical analysis for the general population found in the needs assessment.

Despite what might be considered as measures of relative housing stability (high household income and single-family home ownership), a significant percentage of survey respondents (33%) indicated that they were concerned about their household's ability to maintain its current housing, with affordability a leading cause, followed by the ability to pay for maintenance and improvements, the ability to locate their next housing, and the ability to live independently due to health/mobility issues.

Of the 206 respondents to the survey, an overwhelming majority (91%) resided in single-family homes, and 89% owned their homes, which is representative of the total population, with ACS data showing over 80% of Westwood's housing stock populated by detached single-family homes and a rental rate of 13.4% (US Census Bureau, 2012-2016 5 Year Estimates).

Housing Tenure



Source: Survey of Housing in Westwood: 2018

Figure 12: Survey Housing Tenure

In this area, survey responses supported and were supported by needs assessment data showing that despite relatively high economic factors such as household income and homeownership, a high percentage (21.5%) of owner households are either cost burdened, spending over 30% of income on housing costs, or severely cost burdened, spending over 50% on housing costs.

When asked to assess the current housing supply, survey respondents indicated preference for affordability and increased housing type diversity.

Survey respondents demonstrated strong support in favor of affordable single-family homes, with 74% of respondents indicating that there are not enough “starter homes” in Westwood today. 71% felt there are too many luxury single-family homes. Moderate but still significant groups (40%-57%) felt there are not enough duplex/3 family homes, condos, apartments, affordable homes, and senior housing.

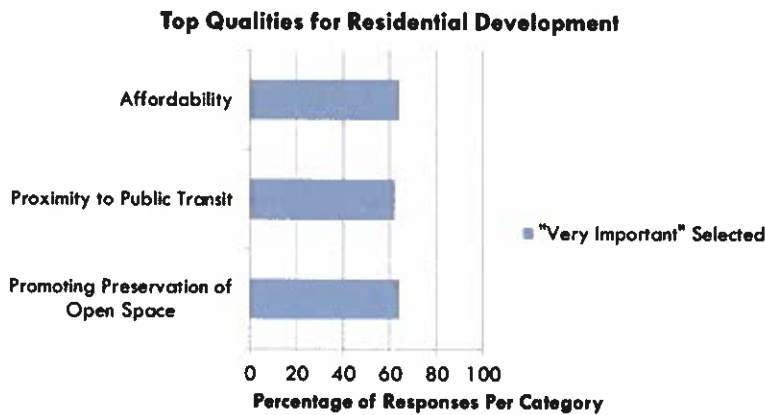


Figure 15: Survey Qualities for Residential Development

When considering top qualities for residential development, three attributes receiving top marks as “Very Important” were Affordability, Proximity to Public Transit, and Preservation of Open Space.

In a series of questions about housing stability measures, respondents were asked to weigh in on how the Town should prioritize funds and initiatives that aimed to help keep people housed

in their current homes and/or in Westwood generally. Outcomes showed survey respondents favored accessory apartments and affordable housing production as high priority measures. Westwood currently has an accessory apartment program that allows such units by special permit, up to 2% of the total number of single-family and two-family dwelling units in Westwood).

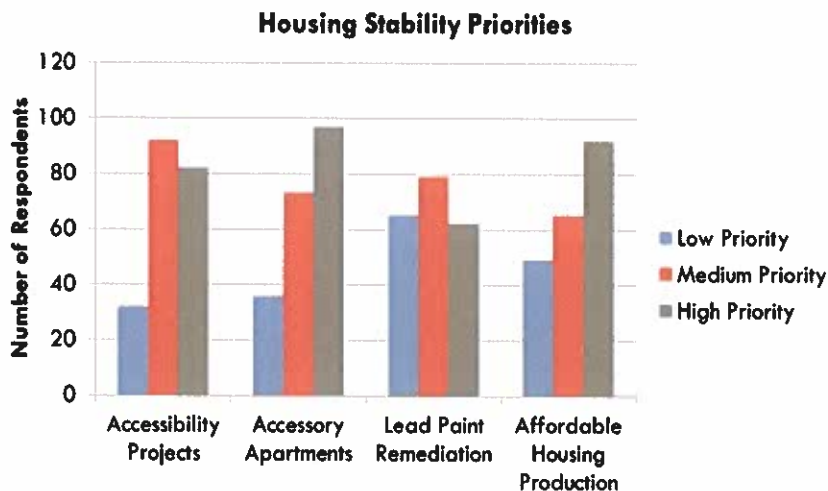


Figure 16: Survey Housing Stability Priorities

Narrative Feedback

The survey offered opportunity for respondents to provide their thoughts on housing needs in narrative format. Generally, the comments submitted by respondents provided a thoughtful, provocative view on the current state of Westwood's housing supply and anticipated personal housing related needs.

Many people expressed concern about their continued ability to pay for housing in Westwood, stating that a retiree's income was insufficient to keep up with property taxes or that there were limited opportunities to downsize while still staying in the community. Some seniors expressed that their children were unable to afford to live here with their families. Some comments addressed the difficulty of residing in Westwood on a single income, as a result of divorce or other personal circumstances.



Multiple respondents discussed the need for increased supportive housing in the community, describing the needs of their children with disabilities and their own concerns about their children being cared for in perpetuity. Group home development was supported in several comments.

Still others expressed their views on a lack of affordability for young families. Respondents discussed the strength of the school system as a draw but shared that there were limited options for families to move out of their starter homes to houses that fit their growing families. Others described an environment where young families could not afford to make the jump from renting to purchasing their first homes.



Respondents used this space to reflect on the ways their personal values informed their opinions on housing development; multiple respondents expressed an interest in development that increased economic and racial diversity, and that took into account access to public transportation, overall sustainable construction, and preservation of green space.

"My son and his wife would like to live in Westwood but housing prices are too high"

"We will be sad to leave"

"We are dismayed by the large number of tear-downs, removing affordable sized houses"

"Divorcing parents are struggling to keep their children in district"

"Affordability is a deterrent"

"I love this town"

"We have enjoyed the community and appreciate commitment to schools...we may be priced out of our home"

Concerns about Residential Development

The narrative comment section also offered a glimpse at the concerns that many residents may have regarding housing development and its potential impact on the Town. Comments from residents expressed the following issues and questions:

- Interest in increased transparency and public involvement/participation regarding land use decisions
- Concern about higher taxes
- Concern about increased demand on infrastructure and public safety services
- Impact on schools
- Demonstrated lack of public knowledge about MGL Chapter 40B
- Debates over appropriate areas of town for higher density housing
- Fear of worsening traffic
- Concerns about potential for fraud and need for increased oversight in affordable housing programs
- Fear of losing pastoral quality, open space
- Fear of decreased safety

Although these concerns are not exclusive to residents of Westwood, and may not represent the totality of Westwood residents' opinions on housing development, the Town must anticipate and address these concerns throughout all stages of its affordable housing development strategy. Continued engagement with the community to better educate residents on the need for affordable housing and how it operates, to inform abutters about mitigation efforts for particular projects, and to increase public participation in planning efforts can be expected to yield more positive outcomes that both address residents' concerns and achieve the Town's goals for housing production.

Summary of Visioning Workshop Outcomes

The Community Visioning Workshop was an opportunity for participation by residents, and attendees took advantage through robust small group discussion and brainstorming. Attendees were divided into three groups at random and a group leader captured each group's discussions. Although the groups had ideas and visions as unique as the individuals within them, there were strong reoccurring themes throughout the workshop.

When envisioning a successful Westwood housing market in the future, the groups spoke often about intergenerational living. Participants imagined a Westwood where residents at all stages of life could find a home, both young and old, and where residents could return to the Westwood they grew up in as children. Their "Perfect Westwood" included ample open space and preservation of existing resources, where neighborhoods were highly walkable and strongly defined. Groups envisioned vibrant communities where people could both work and live and where diversity thrived and was honored as a community value. Groups found consensus in imagining a Westwood where the sense of community was strong. Groups envisioned neighborhoods made stronger through increased density and smaller lot sizes for starter family homes.

The groups transitioned to a discussion of obstacles and challenges relative to their housing visions. All expressed concern about market forces driving what they considered to be undesirable market activity, driving up housing costs and pricing residents out of the community. All identified teardown activity as both a consequence and cause of concern when thinking about the community as a whole. Groups wondered if private developers had enough incentive to construct the styles of housing they thought Westwood needed, and some expressed concern that the town's Zoning Bylaws did not sufficiently allow or incentivize residential development that would meet their housing goals. The need to increase the commercial tax base was a discussion point of groups as well, and groups also identified such challenges as public resistance to density, government commitment, drive-through traffic from other towns, and racism and discrimination as obstacles to meeting their housing goals.

The groups reached consensus on a variety of strategies and tools to combat these obstacles. Each thought the Zoning Bylaw would be a useful tool for expanding and incentivizing the kind of housing they thought Westwood needed: starter homes, low rises, duplexes, age restricted housing, and cluster development. Groups discussed innovation in the procurement and use of funding sources to construct affordable housing, such as the Community Preservation Act, permitting incentives and fees, nonprofit developers and public/private partnerships, tax incentives and land trusts. Participants debated an array of strategies to discourage teardown activity that ranged from complete prohibition to time delay regulation or fees.

The groups identified sections of town that they believed to be appropriate for their ideas, including many of the existing overlay districts along 1A and Route 1, the former Westwood Lodge parcel, the 22 Everett Street parcel, and more.

Each group's written materials have been included in the Appendices section of this report.

Housing Vision

The Town of Westwood holds firm in its commitment to such guiding principles as housing choice, sustainability and affordability. It seeks to sustain its long history of compliance with MGL Chapter 40B through dynamic development that best meets the needs of the Town and region.

Through this Housing Production Plan, the Town envisions a collaborative effort that engages all stakeholders to meet its affordable housing goals: residents, elected officials, property and business owners, and municipal staff will plan and develop a diversified housing supply that provides housing of choice for all residents regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability, family status, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. This collaboration is demonstrated in the wide scope of support it has already received, through the efforts of the Housing Partnership, a dedicated group of residents appointed by the Select Board, through adoption by the Select and Planning Boards, and through the involvement and input of the community who contributed to this Plan through the Housing Survey and Community Visioning Workshop.

The Housing Production Plan proposes to build upon existing successes to reach such goals as increased diversity, preservation of open space, and expanded housing of choice for first time homebuyers, low-income and moderate-income households, seniors, and the disabled. The Plan gives priority to those strategies that support regional planning efforts of housing production and land/water conservation, as well as the sustainability principles set forth by DHCD. The implementation strategy set forth in this Plan leverages existing regulatory controls, studies potential zoning changes to allow for increase residential development of affordable housing, and utilizes an inventory of both municipally owned and private parcels to encourage opportunities for affordable housing. Together, these strategies support the overall vision for affordable housing production in Westwood.

Housing Production Plan Goals

1. Encourage single-family home development/preservation for first time and low/moderate income homebuyers
2. Develop supportive housing for people with disabilities
3. Promote housing stability initiatives for seniors
4. Increase the number of affordable rental and ownership units for seniors
5. Encourage housing development in ways that protect open space and conservation land
6. Seek equitable distribution of affordable units throughout Town that seeks to mitigate discriminatory housing development patterns
7. Maintain and exceed Subsidized Housing Inventory statutory minimum by 1%
8. Pursue initiatives that support regional needs and planning collaborations
9. Preserve and expand existing deed restricted affordable housing units

Housing Production Implementation Plan

At the time of this writing, the Town of Westwood has currently met its statutory minima obligation under MGL Chapter 40B. 11.1% of the town's year-round housing units are currently deed-restricted as affordable. Its portfolio of affordable housing is wide-ranging in tenure and type. Units designated as rental, ownership, family, elderly/disabled, group home, public and privately-owned are represented on Westwood's Subsidized Housing Inventory.

When the 2020 Census is released, Westwood anticipates that the total year-round housing units will increase due to market development over the last ten years. Westwood currently has a number of affordable projects in progress, with a number of units already permitted or in the permitting process and anticipated to come online in the next 2 years. The Town's current goal is to maintain its compliance and stay above 10% after the 2020 Census is published. However, a preliminary review of building permit activity over the last decade shows that even if Westwood falls below 10%, the intermediate goals published by DHCD (27 added units of affordable housing, representing a .5% increase or 54 added units, a 1.0% increase) would be well above the threshold necessary to achieve full compliance with Chapter 40B requirements.

This Housing Production Plan sets forth a strategy to maintain its compliance with 40B, but it is also intended to serve as a comprehensive strategy for overall housing affordability, accessibility, and community development. Westwood's history of success in compliance with Chapter 40B already includes such progressive and dynamic approaches as inclusionary zoning, an active Housing Partnership and Housing Authority, public/private partnerships for development, an Open Space Residential Development bylaw, mixed-use zoning, and an accessory dwelling unit bylaw. This Housing Production Plan seeks to expand upon these practices to meet its housing goals.

Goal	Objective	Responsible Entities	Completion Date
Goal 1: Encourage single-family home development/preservation for first time and low/moderate income homebuyers between 80% - 120% AMI	Study feasibility of zoning amendments to discourage teardown of existing “starter homes”; include all zoning districts/overlays in study	Planning Board, Select Board	May, 2021
	Study feasibility of zoning amendments that reduce lot sizes to encourage construction of modestly priced and sized single-family homes in zoning districts SRB, SRC and SRE	Planning Board, Select Board	May, 2021
	Study feasibility of zoning amendments to expand by right construction of low rise development; include all zoning districts/overlays in study	Planning Board, Select Board	May, 2021
	Study feasibility of zoning amendments to expand by right construction of two-family and three-family home development; include all zoning districts/overlays in study	Planning Board, Select Board, Housing Partnership	May, 2021
	Advise and study a future Community Preservation Act campaign to grow funds for housing development, historic preservation and open space preservation	Select Board, Housing Partnership, Historical Commission, Land Trust	May, 2025
	Promote first-time homebuyer resources, including educational opportunities and financial assistance programs for interested buyers. Provide technical assistance for residents in need of assistance/advocacy	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
	Assess sustainability and maximize energy efficiency of new deed restricted affordable units; whenever possible, encourage installation of energy efficient appliances, high efficiency heating and cooling systems, and rooftop solar PV to support long-term sustainable and affordable properties. Promote state and federal rebates/incentives to control costs.	Westwood Housing Authority, Housing Partnership	Ongoing

Goal 2: Develop supportive housing for people with disabilities	Partner with DDS providers to secure land and deed restrict for supportive housing and group homes	Housing Partnership, Select Board, Westwood Housing Authority	Ongoing
	Engage with Lifeworks, an existing DDS provider located in Westwood, to secure a parcel associated with the former Westwood Lodge property at 45 Clapboardtree Street to construct supportive housing	Select Board	May, 2020
Goal 3: Promote housing stability initiatives for seniors	Consider expanding capacity for accessory apartment production in all zoning districts. Study options such as lifting 2% cap, potential for by right accessory units with conditions, and incentive programs for affordable deed restrictions (grants/loans for construction, reduced/waived permitting fees, reduced dimensional requirements, etc.)	Planning Board, Select Board	May, 2025
	Pursue CDBG funds for housing stability programs to include accessibility grants/loans for income qualified seniors and similar initiatives	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
Goal 4: Increase number of affordable rental and ownership units for seniors	Consider expanding capacity for accessory apartment production in all zoning districts. Study options such as lifting 2% cap, potential for by right accessory units with conditions, and incentive programs for affordable deed restrictions (grants/loans for construction, reduced/waived permitting fees, reduced dimensional requirements, etc.)	Planning Board, Select Board	May, 2025
	Create partnerships with nonprofit developers to invest in creatively financed projects that serve households at not more than 50% AMI	Housing Partnership	Ongoing

<p>Goal 5: Encourage housing development in ways that protect open space and conservation land</p>	<p>Consider expanding capacity for accessory apartment production in all zoning districts. Study options such as lifting 2% cap, potential for by right accessory units with conditions, and incentive programs for affordable deed restrictions (grants/loans for construction, reduced/waived permitting fees, reduced dimensional requirements, etc.)</p>	<p>Planning Board, Select Board</p>	<p>May, 2025</p>
	<p>Consider expanding existing Open Space Residential Development bylaw to encourage increased use, affordable production, and land preservation by considering reducing minimum lot size and land area requirements, etc. Conduct case study of successful bylaw initiatives in other municipalities and review applicability of Best Practices to Westwood's OSRD bylaw.</p>	<p>Planning Board, Select Board</p>	<p>May, 2021</p>
	<p>Study zoning amendments to expand by right construction of low rise development (expanded height restrictions and/or higher density residential units) in additional districts/overlays</p>	<p>Planning Board, Select Board</p>	<p>May, 2021</p>
	<p>Study zoning amendments to expand by right construction of two-family and three-family home development in additional districts/overlays</p>	<p>Planning Board, Select Board</p>	<p>May, 2021</p>
	<p>Advise and study a future Community Preservation Act campaign to grow funds for housing development, historic preservation and open space preservation</p>	<p>Select Board, Housing Partnership, Historical Commission, Land Trust</p>	<p>May, 2025</p>
<p>Goal 6: Seek equitable distribution of affordable units throughout Town that seeks to mitigate discriminatory housing development patterns</p>	<p>Consider expanding inclusionary zoning requirements in all zoning districts</p>	<p>Planning Board, Select Board</p>	<p>May, 2021</p>

	Work with WHA/WAHA to implement compliant marketing plans that allow for full inclusion of units on the SHI	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
	Establish an incentive program for developing deed-restricted affordable housing for selected parcels (22 Everett St, 21 Westwood Glen Road)	Housing Partnership	May, 2025
	Conduct Fair Housing training for Select Board, ZBA, and Planning Board to inform land use decisions that abide by the Fair Housing Act	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
	Promote first-time homebuyer resources, including educational opportunities and financial assistance programs for interested buyers. Provide technical assistance for residents in need of assistance/advocacy	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
Goal 7: Maintain and exceed Subsidized Housing Inventory statutory minimum by 1%	Study option for deed restriction of affordable accessory apartments. Research feasibility and conduct cost analysis of incentive programs for affordable deed restrictions (grants/loans for construction, reduced/waived permitting fees, reduced dimensional requirements, etc.).	Planning Board, Select Board, Housing Partnership	May, 2021
	Partner with WAHA/WHA to develop affordable rentals for family households below 30% AMI and 80% AMI	Housing Partnership	Ongoing
	Work with WHA/WAHA to implement compliant marketing plans that allow for full inclusion of affordable units on the SHI	Housing Partnership	May, 2025
	Study feasibility for residential development and create strategy for issuing RFPs to develop deed restricted affordable housing on two municipally owned parcels, located at Twin Post Road and Wildwood Drive.	Select Board, Housing Partnership	Ongoing
	Establish an incentive program for encouraging filing of Comprehensive Permit applications for selected parcels, including 22 Everett St, 21 Westwood Glen Road	Planning Board, Housing Partnership	Ongoing

<p>Goal 8: Pursue initiatives that support regional needs and planning collaborations</p>	<p>Continue to participate in regional planning efforts that address housing development, such as Three Rivers Interlocal Council and Metropolitan Area Planning Council</p>	<p>Housing Partnership, Planning Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Partner with neighboring communities to provide training opportunities for land use boards</p>	<p>Housing Partnership, Select Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Goal 9: Preserve and expand existing deed restricted affordable housing units</p>	<p>Work with WHA/WAHA to explore additional funding streams and grants for small housing authority capital projects and operating expenditures</p>	<p>Housing Partnership</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Pursue CDBG funds for housing stability programs to include financial assistance for income qualified affordable homeowners to perform capital repairs</p>	<p>Housing Partnership</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>Assess sustainability and maximize energy efficiency of new deed restricted affordable units; whenever possible, encourage installation of energy efficient appliances, high efficiency heating and cooling systems, and rooftop solar PV to support long-term sustainable and affordable properties. Promote state and federal rebates/incentives to control costs.</p>	<p>Westwood Housing Authority, Housing Partnership</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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Zoning Map
(See Attached)



TOWN OF WESTWOOD MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

WITH STREET INDEX

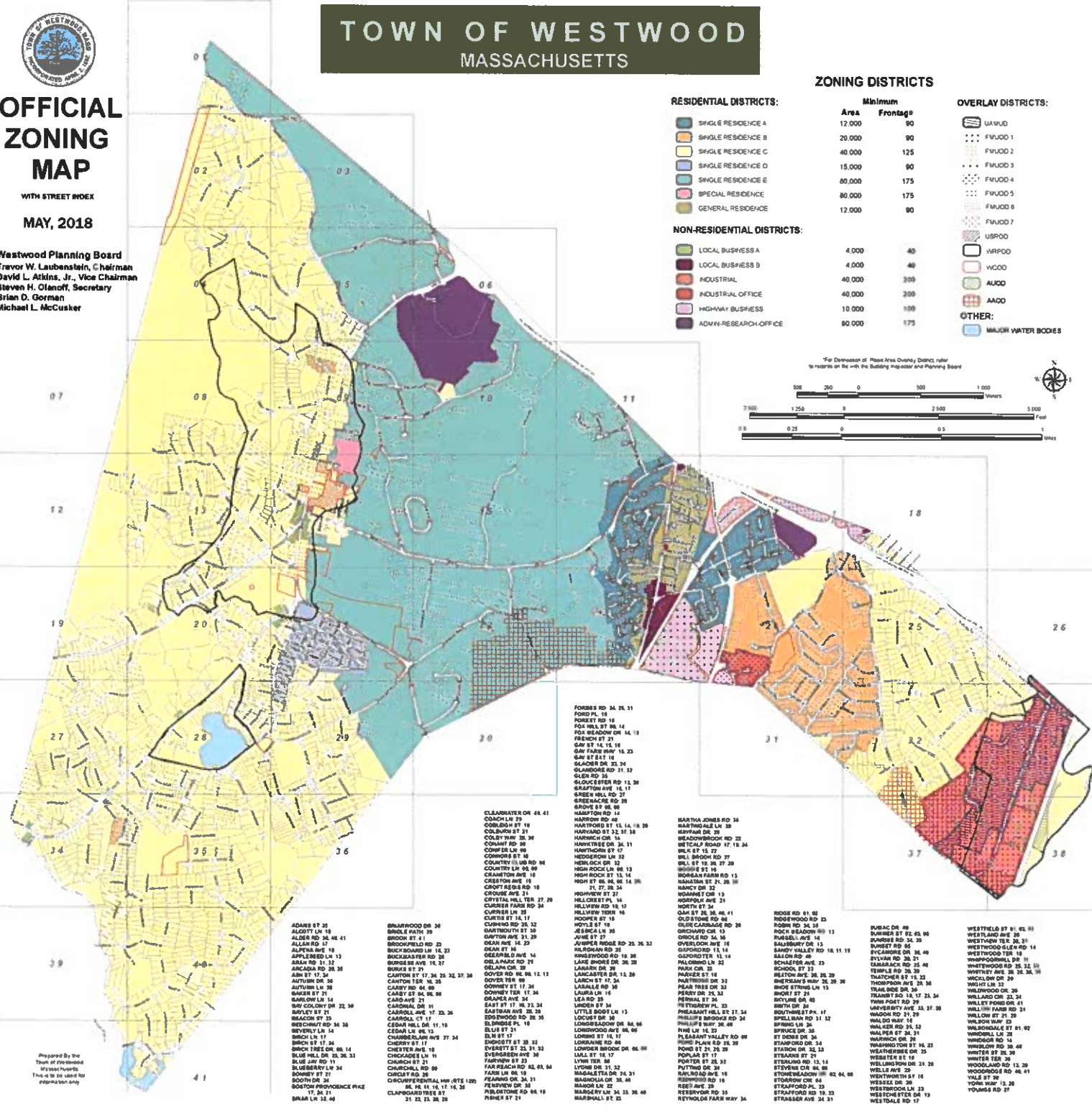
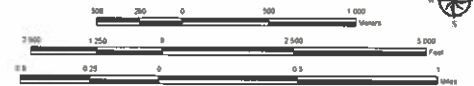
MAY, 2018

Westwood Planning Board
Trevor W. Laubenstein, Chairman
David L. Atkins, Jr., Vice Chairman
Steven H. Olanoff, Secretary
Brian D. Gorman
Michael L. McCusker

ZONING DISTRICTS

District Name	Minimum		Overlay Districts
	Area	Frontage	
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS:			
Single Residence A	12,000	90	UAUUD
Single Residence B	20,000	90	FVUUD 1
Single Residence C	40,000	125	FVUUD 2
Single Residence D	15,000	90	FVUUD 3
Single Residence E	80,000	175	FVUUD 4
Special Residence	80,000	175	FVUUD 5
General Residence	12,000	90	FVUUD 6
			FVUUD 7
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS:			
Local Business A	4,000	40	USROD
Local Business B	4,000	40	WRPOD
Industrial	40,000	200	WUOD
Industrial Office	40,000	200	AUOD
Highway Business	10,000	100	AAOD
Admin-Research Office	80,000	175	OTHER:
			Major Water Bodies

The Department of Planning and Economic Development is responsible for the Building Inspector and Planning Board



- FORBES RD 24, 25, 31
- FOOD PL 16
- POWERY RD 15
- POW HILL ST 14
- POW WADLOW DR 14, 15
- PRENBY ST 25, 14
- SAV ST 14, 15, 16
- SAV FARM HWY 14, 25
- SLACKER DR 25, 34
- SLACKER RD 21, 32
- SLACKER RD 11, 30
- SLACKER AVE 15, 17
- SAGE HILL RD 25
- SMITH ST 14, 15
- SPRINGFIELD DR 24
- SPRINGFIELD DR 25
- SPRINGFIELD DR 26
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Prepared By the
Town of Westwood
Revised
This is to be used for
reference only

5.2 TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS¹

DISTRICTS	DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS										
	Minimum Lot Area (sq ft)	Minimum Lot Frontage (feet)	Minimum Lot Width (feet)	Minimum Nonwetland Area ² (sq ft)	Minimum Front Setback ³ (feet)	Minimum Side Yard Setback ⁴ (feet)	Minimum Rear Yard Setback ⁴ (feet)	Maximum Building Coverage (%)	Maximum Impervious Surface (%)		
5.2.1 SRA	12,000	90	90	12,000	25	15 ⁵	30 ⁶	25	50		
5.2.2 SRB ¹³	20,000	90	90	15,000	25	15 ⁵	30 ⁶	25	50		
5.2.3 SRC ¹³	40,000	125	125	30,000	40	20 ⁷	30 ⁸	25	50		
5.2.4 SRD	15,000	90	90	12,000	25	15 ⁵	30 ⁶	25	50		
5.2.5 SRE ¹³	80,000	175	175	60,000	40	20 ⁷	30 ⁸	25	50		
5.2.6 GR	12,000	90	90	12,000	25	15 ⁵	30 ⁶	25	50		
5.2.7 SR	80,000	175	175	60,000	40	20 ⁷	30 ⁸	25	50		
5.2.8 LBA	4,000	40	40	4,000	10	15 ⁹	15	25	80		

5.2.9	LBB	4,000	40	40	4,000	0	15 ⁹	15	25	80
5.2.10	HB	10,000	100	100	10,000	50	15	15	50	80
5.2.11	I	40,000	200	200	12,000	50	15 ¹⁰	15 ¹¹	50	80
5.2.12	IO	40,000	200	200	12,000	50	15 ¹⁰	15 ¹¹	50	80
5.2.13	ARO	80,000	175	175	60,000	50	30 ¹²	30	30	50

5.3 NOTES FOR TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

¹ Shall not apply to sewage pumping stations operated by the Town.

² The term "Nonwetland Area" shall mean land other than the fresh water wetland as that term is defined in M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40. The Minimum Nonwetland Area shall be measured in contiguous square feet. The Minimum Nonwetland Area requirement of 12,000 square feet in all Residential Districts shall apply to all lots created prior to the date of adoption of this provision. M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 6 may also limit the requirements for certain other lots.

³ The minimum front setback distance shall be measured from the nearest street line; provided, however, that where the street has a right-of-way width of less than forty (40) feet, the setback distance shall be measured from a line on the lot twenty (20) feet from and parallel to the center line of said street.

⁴ The minimum side yard and rear yard setbacks shall be the minimum horizontal distance from the lot line to the nearest point of a building or structure.

⁵ Except that a portion of any building or structure not exceeding fifteen (15) feet in height shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the side lines of its lot, and a detached accessory building or structure having a height of less than fifteen (15) feet and a front setback of at least seventy-five (75) feet shall be set back a minimum of three (3) feet from the side lines of its lot.

⁶ Except that a detached accessory building or structure having a height of less than fifteen (15) feet shall be set back a minimum of three (3) feet from the rear line of its lot.

⁷ Except that a portion of any building or structure not exceeding fifteen (15) feet in height shall be set back a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the side lines of its lot, and a detached accessory building or structure having a height of less than fifteen (15) feet and a front setback of at least one hundred (100) feet shall be set back a minimum of six (6) feet from the side lines of its lot.

⁸ Except that a detached accessory building or structure having a height of less than fifteen (15) feet shall be set back a minimum of six (6) feet from the rear line of its lot.

⁹ Unless the wall facing a side lot line is either a party wall or, if adjoining another lot in the same district, a wall with its outer face coincident with such line. The space between buildings or structures, if any, shall not be reduced to less than fifteen (15) feet.

¹⁰ Except that if the side yard abuts a railroad right-of-way, there shall be no minimum side yard setback.

¹¹ Except that if the rear yard abuts a railroad right-of-way, there shall be no minimum rear yard setback.

¹² Each side yard setback shall be increased by one (1) foot for each foot that the height of the building exceeds fifteen (15) feet; provided always that the side yards shall total not less than forty (40) percent of the lot width.

¹³ See Section 8.3 OPEN SPACE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT for density and dimensional requirements for OSRD.

Community Visioning Session Materials: Introductions

From
Norwood
Dedham
Mittford

Proximity to Boston
inertia

all kinds of housing

Disabilities Committee
Apartments & houses
Neighborhood

maybe a ramp?

● Schools ***

Active Older Population

Zero net energy home

Proximity to
Oceanside Mountains

initially an investment

Wetwood Environmental
Action Committee

IEB

Accommodations

Back & forth about
staying or going.

Community

Public Schools

great neighbors

● Convenience to museums/City
Hospitals.

Exercise 1: Introductions

Group 5

731

6 people

Zoning Board

single family house

Schools 31 yrs ago

close to 128

good rep, poli:

location

neighborhood, street

Jail W

SF apartment in past

grew up here and stayed

Steve

42 years here

apt in Allston; looking and built house in WW

no reason to leave

convert to 128; work

Dave - all diff for past 30 years - open space, land built town

Avi

2003 in Allston

from Israel rent Newton looked all over

School system 4 kids

apartments in Israel, none also

Baltimore rental

kids are now dispersed

house too big; expensive transition

Lynne

1992 from Norwood

for schools; want public school

kids like to stay but hard to find someone to downsize

would like a smaller house

finding the space

Exercise 1: Introductions

Group 3

Tom
From RI

→ * I slington off - Craft Regis
apts / single family home
1992 schools

Retired would like to stay
not a house you could live in
\$ price + not available
great community

→ Elaine
grew up in NJ
rented Belmont +
Hartford St
moved to W W for schools
good investment
will retire here
great community

→ Al Funes
grew up in Boston
3 family home^{2 family}
high schooler
came for schools
* I slington
single family

→ Cheryl
single family home
Brookline / Quincy
schools → getting married
convenient
done with college

* I slington → great size to retire
convenient / highway
great area to walk

Mary Ann Carty
1980s Willard
police officer
good schools

* kids / done or almost done
* schools
* location

having Duplex
types from WPA
affordabilities great neighbors
* I slington
grew up in
Dedham / WPA

- Diversity
Socioeconomic
- Neighborhood Communities
Remain Strong.
- WHA Transparency
& more formal
Structure
- state
Recognized
Housing Authority
- Helpful
- Integrated Ages in
neighbourhoods (kids)
- Kids to be able
to live here
- Lower taxes to
create affordability
to keep Seniors
here.
- Settings that
create community
without isolating
- More community
Centers →
A Community
Center.
(post-graduation)
- Walkability.
- Smaller lots w/ more
open space
- maintain / increase
green space / trees.
- Enable privately
held 40B apartments

Exercise 2: Perfect World

Group 3

Success 2035

Core elements

Housing Vision

- diversity of types of Housing / seniors downsizing
- entry level

Balance open space needs and provide diversity of types of housing

- Sense of community
- people who grew up here or can afford to stay here including people who serve the town

Mixed types of diversity of housing
 manage the look

- Downsize affordably and stay in Westwood
- sense of community meets the needs of all age groups with → diff demographics

- pretty community
 - young families to be able to afford
 - people who grew up here can't stay
 - service to town can't afford it.

\$ price range
 could not afford Needham
 Open space element depending on where you live - community changes

2035 ^{core} elements of perfect world

7/16

- biker lanes
- sidewalks
- (in-habit)
- mixed use
- + small housing
- concern about big houses displacing - not ^{take} walking or walking
smaller and more compact options w/o maintenance
- + a better mix for younger and older people
- accessibility
- 55+ in town reasonable prices: single story, shed space
- + affordable for police, fire, other people
- open space

Exercise 3: Obstacles

Group 1

- Taxes & Tax Payer inflexibility (defer tax or until sale)
- Housing Authority is lacking in resources (not state funded) to meet the needs of economically diverse residents.
- Town does not have its own services - electric, cable (economically scale).
- Services not scalable for "rapid" growth - ~~rapid~~
- residents' resistance to change
- Intentions of Developers to make money vs. Building what the town needs/wants.
- Community Awareness of upcoming ~~the~~ issues of ~~opportunities~~ advantages/Education
- Economics
- What is buildable.
- By laws which allow huge rebuilds.
- City Sprawl(?)
- Road planning for drive thru traffic from Franklin. (Traffic)
- look at set backs.
- Developers vs. existing home owners.

Exercise 3: Obstacles

Group 3

Main Obstacles

- ①. Too Nice of town → demand → because we are desirable prices increase
- Victims of Market Forces - Housing Crunch
 - Because of schools
 - schools →
- ②. • Canabalizing small houses into "McMansions" → special permits
various
- "Incentive For Homeowners Benefit to seller" → Builders tax
- Housing preservation
 - need to overpaying for property
 - goal in town → trying to increase commercial tax revenue & create diverse affordable housing at times those forces seem at odds → heavy emphasis on commercial
 - Town to ^{truly} commit to put this vision of diverse housing in place
- ③

Exercise 3: Obstacles

Group 5

8:03pm

suburban mentality of big house w/ yard + garage + pool

builders build for biggest profit

housing production industry no incentive to build a 1200 sf house

not enough buildable land

Zoning to encourage smaller houses - current zoning is 2 acre lots

- if we added 2000 units concern that home prices would drop; town would explode
- could we use land more efficiently?
- public resistance to density
- resistance to different people moving to westwood

Incentivize potential lots for Affordability

Exercise 4: Strategies

Group 1

- more two-families (that looks good)
- Starter Home District
- accessory dwellings
- Tax Credit Programs (set more non-profit developers.)
- A more involved Town with Sections 40B
- Age Restricted Development. Clusters, Ranch homes near each other & common space - new development
- Using CPC funds for community housing.
- Family Restricted for 40B also.
- Non-specified thinking around two family housing.
- Needs Based Cluster - dogs? - condos?
- Flipping @ a highly elevated \$ But slow.... keeps flipping away.
- Tear down Regime and offset w/ benefits elsewhere in town.
- Faster permitting w/ a kind of "toll"
- By laws prohibiting "Flipping" → incentivize it to fill another need of the town.
- Tax the heck out of two houses where there once was one. \$ one that could have been two at sale.
- Historical houses, keep in the town.

Exercise 4: Strategies

Group 3

Strategies: ~~*~~ Town owned school land

→ multifamily houses → for the town to purchase for affordable housing

Proactively ~~prop~~ solicit current owners to see if they have an interest in selling to affordable housing

if sprinkling in isn't possible → make affordable housing neighborhoods

- starter areas - small homes, small plots
- downsizing areas
- multipurpose areas

Deed Restrictions

go to land trust → land/diverse partnership which is devoted to → housing

creating a CPC → ~~to~~ → 55+ Housing / townhouses & condos

~~*~~ asking folks who are running for office to commit to affordable/diverse housing

~~*~~ Senior Housing as a priority ~~*~~ useful lowrise by zoning regulations

Exercise 4: Strategies

Group 5

Public Private partnerships +

Historic property - if consolidation what happens to the property?
closed school property to become affordable housing

allow low rise 4-6 stories for addit housing, mixed use

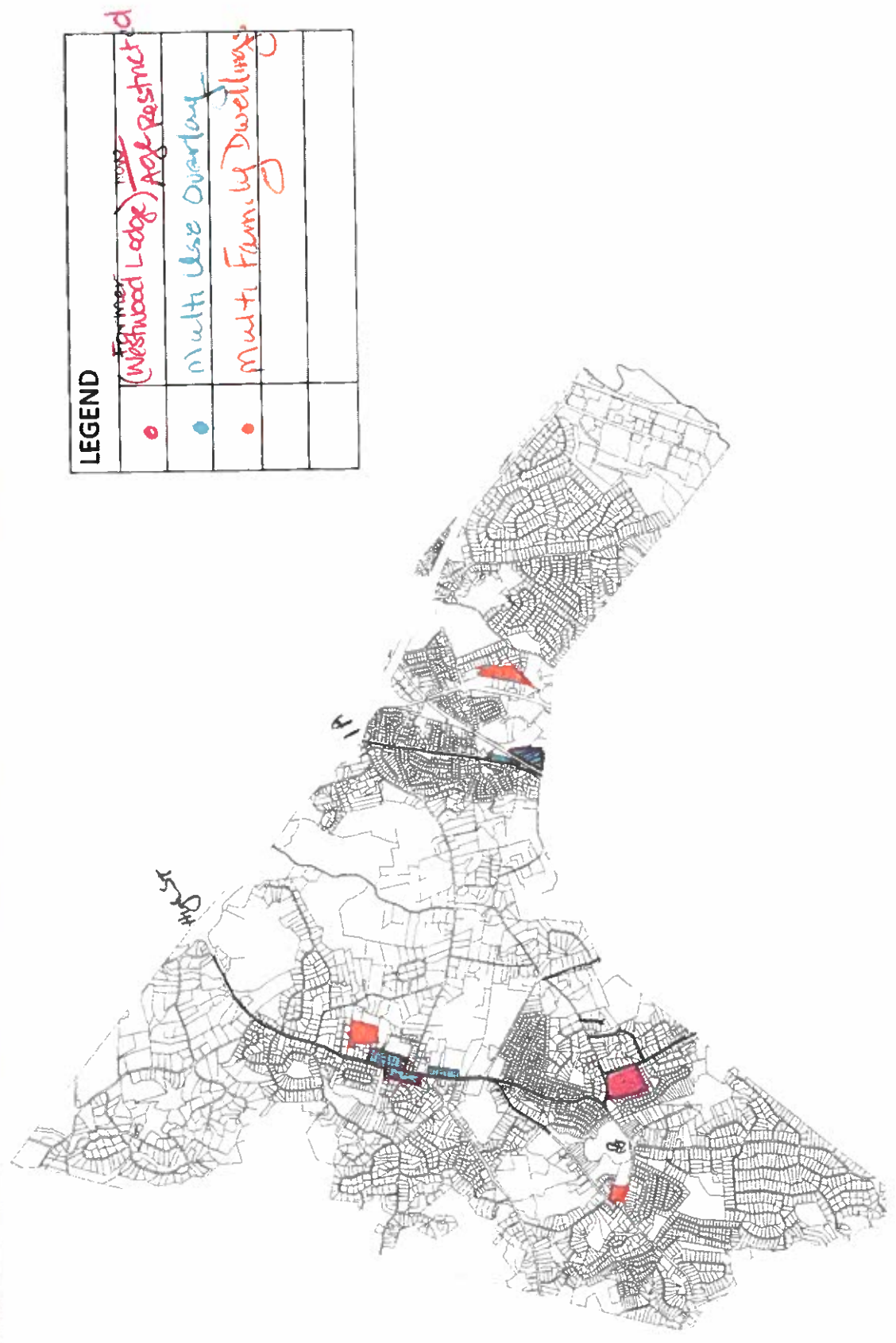
~~allow~~

allow rental apartments in a specialty zone district - when?

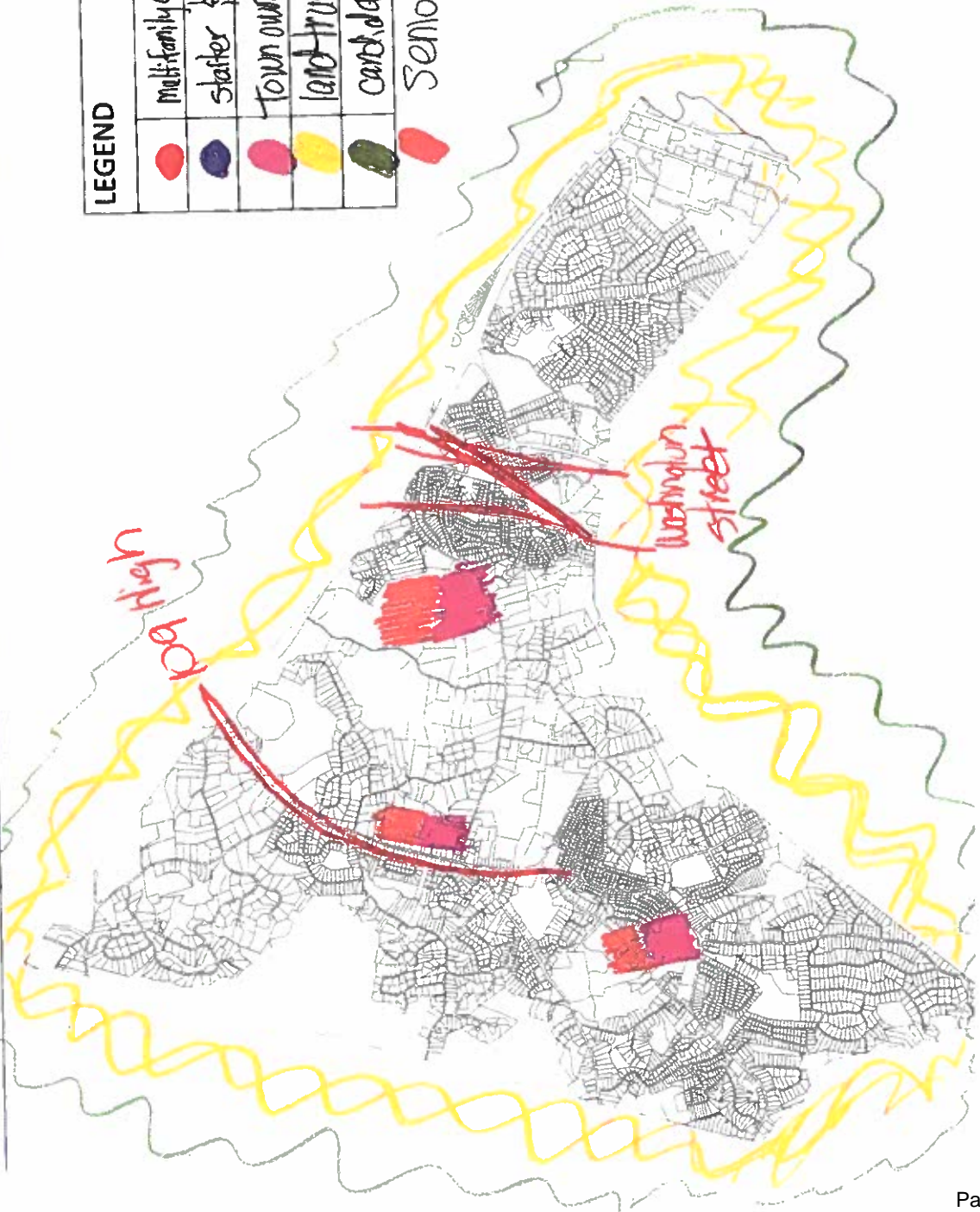
modular homes for families town partners with developer

Zoning to limit expansion of homes based on floor ratios

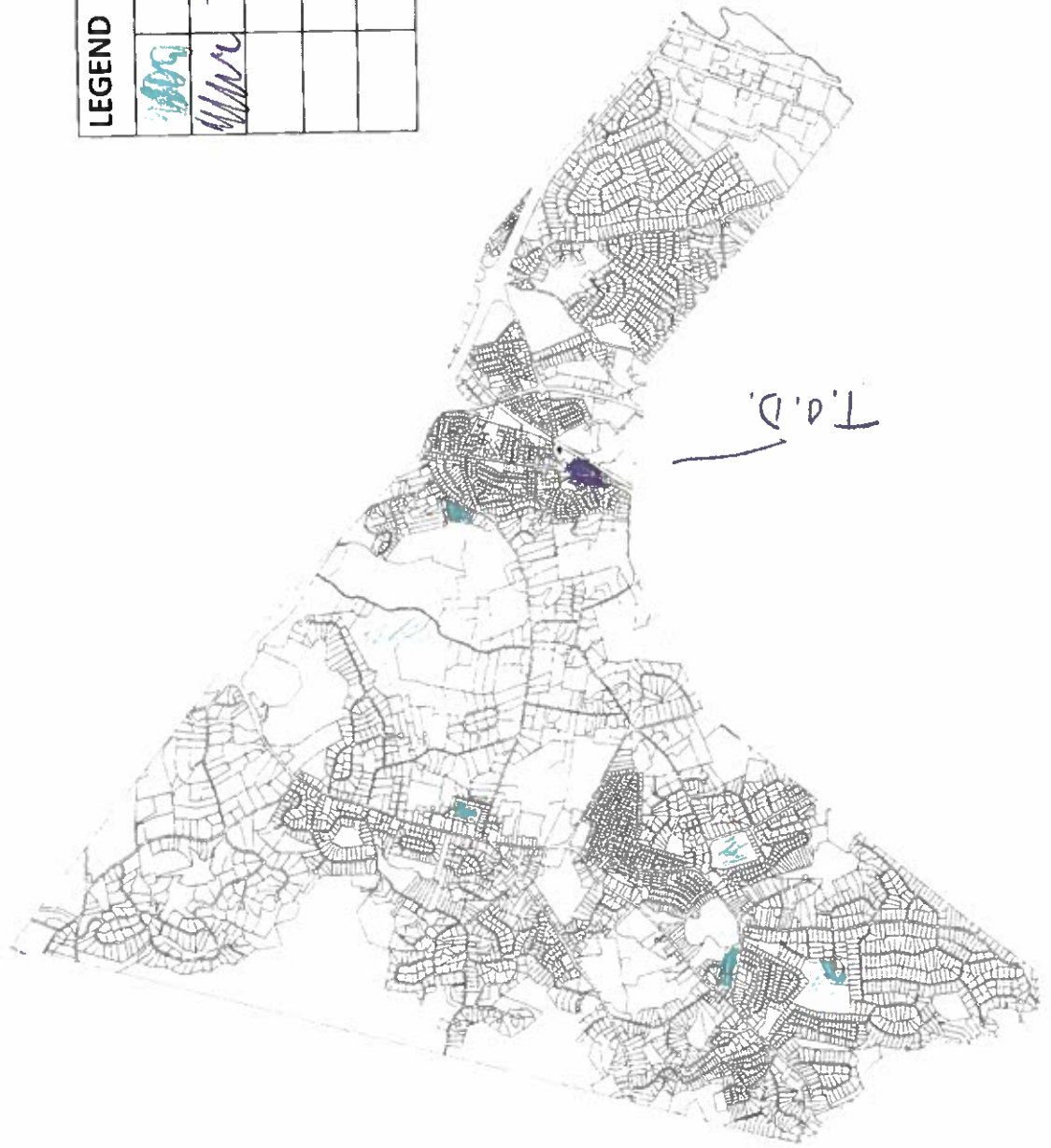
Exercise 5: Strategic Zoning





Exercise 5: Strategic Zoning



Exercise 5: Strategic Zoning



LEGEND	
	Schools to Homes
	Transit Oriented Dev

Community Visioning Session Materials: Parcel Mapping

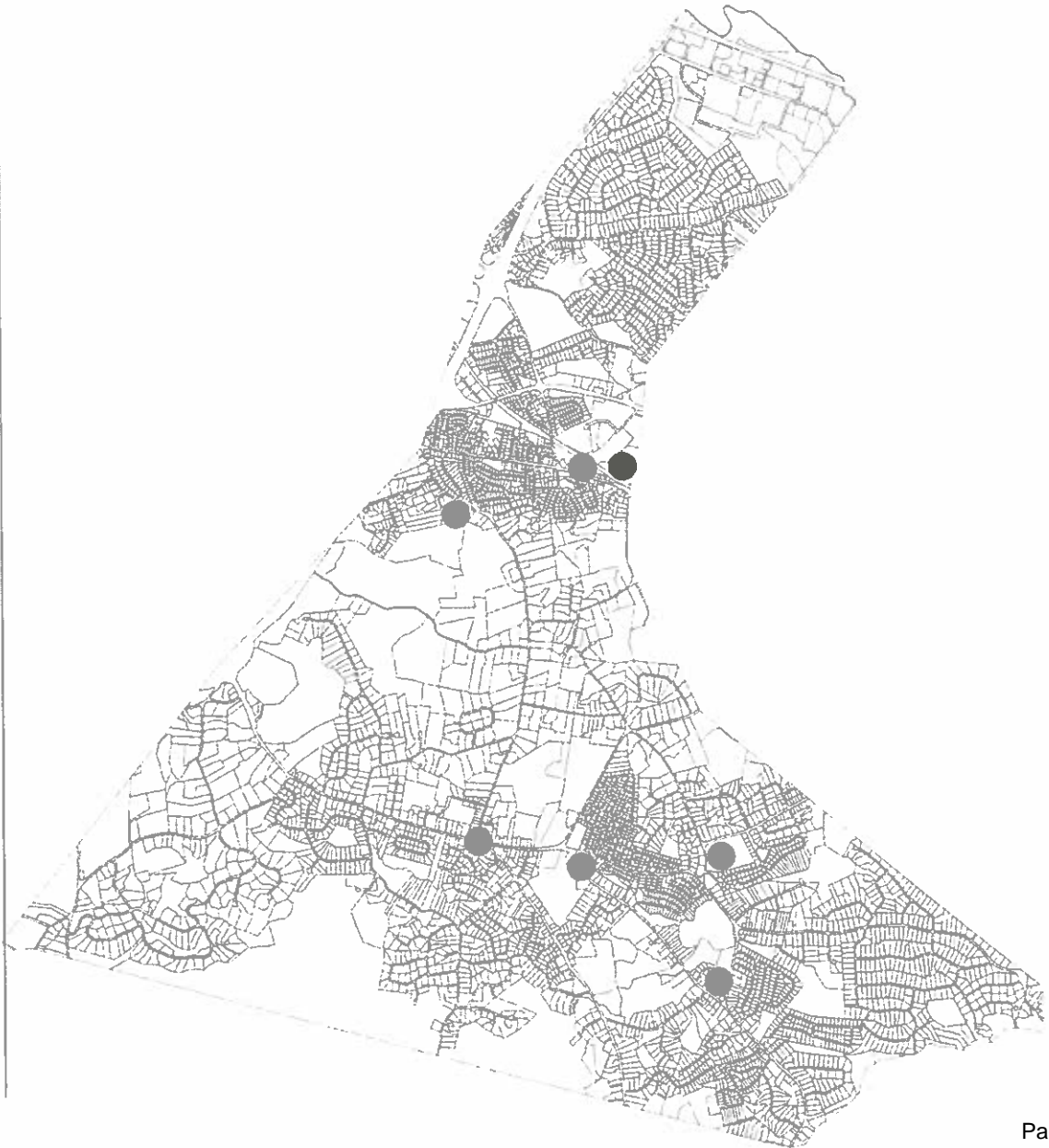
June

Group 3

Exercise 6: Parcel Mapping

LEGEND	
●	Schools
●	Everett Street (fun bus)
●	florist / pt / cleaners pg
●	Mixed use + development tail-end of Washington Street
●	Education*





LEGEND	
●	Affordable / Community

Survey Results

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2019



WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared by:

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

FOR

WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared By:

Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee

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2020
2020-0047

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In September 2017, the Select Board appointed the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee.

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The OSRP Committee is supported in their work by members of the Town of Westwood professional staff. These staff members serve in an ex officio capacity.

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Section 1: Plan Summary

This 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.

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 Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest identifies 795 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 land.

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

General Goals

GOAL 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's community character.

GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

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 land appropriate for open space and conservation.

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.

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 with relatively compact development in and near the two Town centers), significant areas of open space and rural character 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 land 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 not 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 as part of the creation of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town. An Open Space and Recreation Task Force was formed and the firm of Herr and James Associates was hired to assist with the preparation of both

plans. An extensive public participation effort was undertaken beginning in late 1996 and continuing through 1997. Both completed plans were adopted by the Planning Board in February 2000.

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

The Town adopted the Dedham & Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan written by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) 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 Committee (OSRPC), with the assistance of consultants, PGC Associates, LLC, of Franklin, MA and JM Goldson of Boston, MA. Input from Town officials and professional staff, and the general public was a critical component of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. They live in and/or work in the Town, and 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 professional staff, and the general public that contributes in an essential way to the preparation of this plan. The Committee held seven public meetings including the community wide visioning workshop and all were filmed by Westwood Media Center, broadcast on the local cable channel, and published on Westwood Media Center's YouTube channel.

The public participation element of this plan consisted of two major parts: an open space and recreation survey and a Community Visioning Workshop.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

The survey was available in two formats: electronic and paper. The Town publicized the availability of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey on the Town's webpage beginning on November 13, 2017. Paper copies of the survey, as well as handouts containing the link to the electronic version of the survey, were made available to the public at the Westwood Public Library, the Islington Branch Library, the Westwood Senior Center, Westwood Town Hall, and the Carby Street Municipal Office Building. Paper copies of the survey and handouts containing the electronic survey link were also distributed to attendees at the November 13th Fall Town Meeting, the November 21, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting, and the November 28, 2017 Planning Board meeting. In addition, the availability of the Open Space survey was communicated to the public through public service announcements on Westwood Media Center's local cable access channel, and a link to the survey was posted to both the Town's Facebook page and the Westwood Recreation Facebook page on November 15, 2017.

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 and distributed by the Westwood School Department my email to all students in grades 9 thru 12. This second participation opportunity garnered an additional 168 respondents for a total of 809 respondents. It should be noted that virtually all of the respondents in the first group were 25 or over. By contrast, 64% of the respondents in the second group were under 18 and another 13% were 18-24 for a total of 77% being under 25.

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. Land along University Avenue and the office parks that is 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, to be repurposed as a recreation and community center
 - k. Buckmaster Pond
 - l. Hale Reservation to 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 space – conservation land: 71% very important
 - e. Open space – recreation land: 80% very important
 - f. Open space – 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. The larger difference is in those opposed to the CPA. While only 23% of the first group were opposed to the CPA, 43% of the much younger second group were opposed.

The complete results are included in the appendix.

Community Visioning Workshop

The Community Visioning 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 Committee. It was facilitated by Gino Carlucci, AICP of PGC Associates, LLC, and Jennifer Goldson, AICP of JM Goldson community preservation + planning.

Plans for the Community Visioning Workshop were communicated to the public through a January 8, 2018 article in the Westwood Press, through a letter to the editor printed in the Westwood Press on January 18, 2018, through announcements at various Planning Board and Board of Selectmen meetings in December 2017 and January 2018, and through public service announcements on Westwood Media Center's local cable access channel. Notice of the Community Visioning Session was also prominently carried on the Town's webpage from January 4 through February 1, 2018, and a flyer for the workshop was included in the January 10, 2018 Westwood District Bulletin, which was published by the Westwood School Department and distributed by email to all families with children in the public school system. In addition, flyers advertising the Community Visioning Session were made available to the public at the Westwood Public Library, the Islington Branch Library, the Westwood Senior Center, Westwood Town Hall and the Carby Street Municipal Office Building. Finally, the Community Visioning Workshop was publicized on the Town's Facebook page on January 16, 2018, on the Westwood Recreation Department's Facebook page and on its Twitter account on January 9, 2018, and again on Westwood Recreation's Facebook page on January 30, 2018.

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 Committee and Town staff and officials. The workshop was filmed by Westwood Media Center, broadcast on local cable channels, and published to the Westwood Media Center's YouTube channel.

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 Committee members, and Town staff and 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 areas 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.

The OSRPC provided a draft of this plan to the Planning Board on December 11, 2018 for consideration at a public hearing. Notice of the Planning Board public hearing was advertised in the Westwood Press on November 23, 2018 and November 30, 2018. The date, time and location of the Planning Board public hearing was also posted with the Town Clerk and Town's website on November 20, 2018, and to the Town's Facebook page and to the Recreation Department's Facebook page on December 5, 2018. Following a duly noticed public hearing, the Planning Board revised and adopted the OSRP on February 26, 2019. Copies were also provided to the Select Board, 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 Station, 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 13-member subregional group, Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC). It is also part of the South Region in the 2017 Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

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

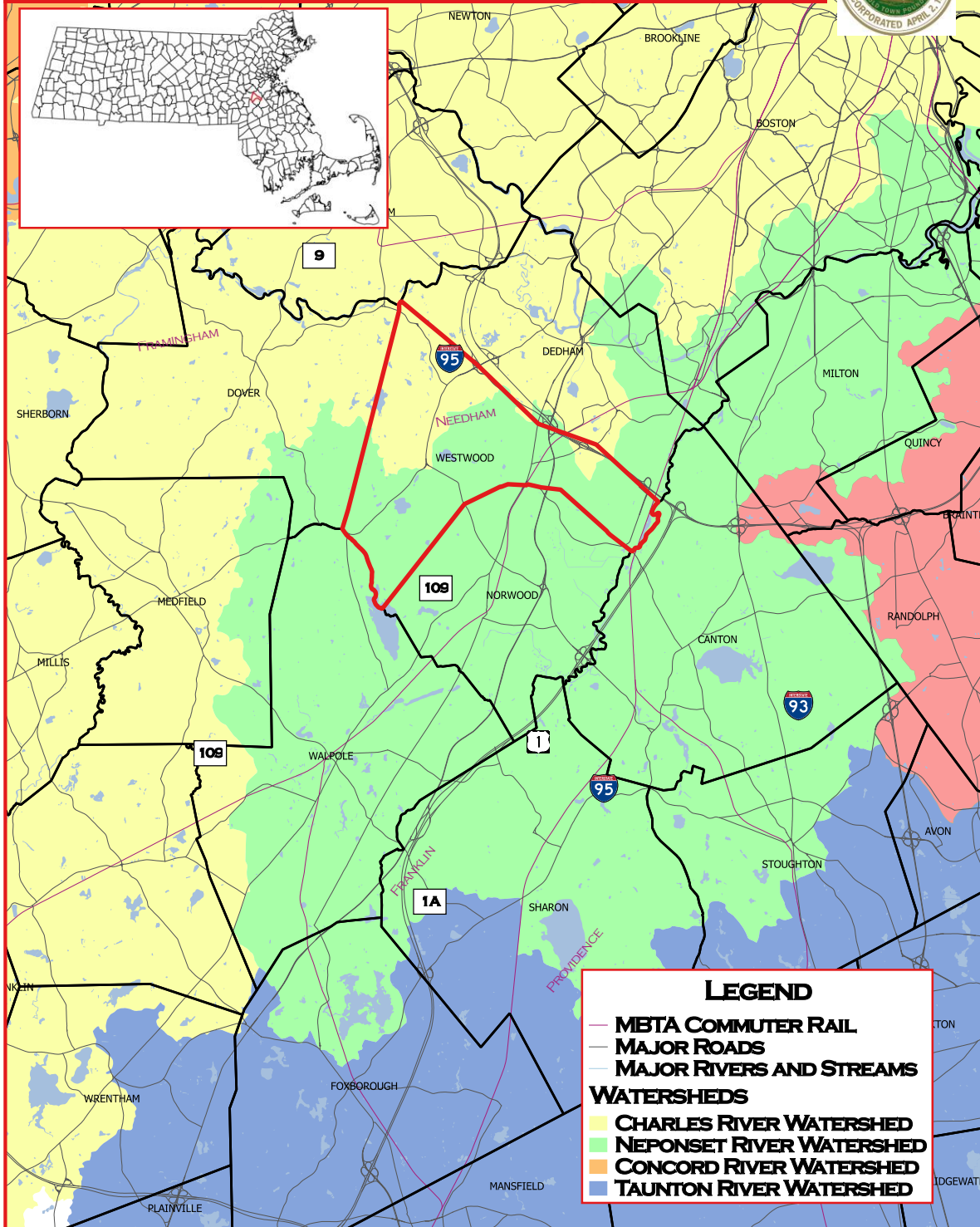
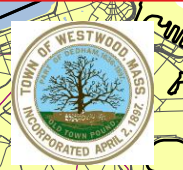
Westwood straddles two watersheds. About two-thirds of the Town is in the Neponset River Watershed while the remaining northeastern part is in the Charles River Watershed.

The Town of Westwood is the home of multiple woods and forests, surface waters, wetlands, conservation and open space land. Additionally, it has numerous playing fields and recreational land 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 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.

MAP 1: REGIONAL CONTEXT

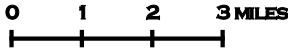


LEGEND

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

WATERSHEDS

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

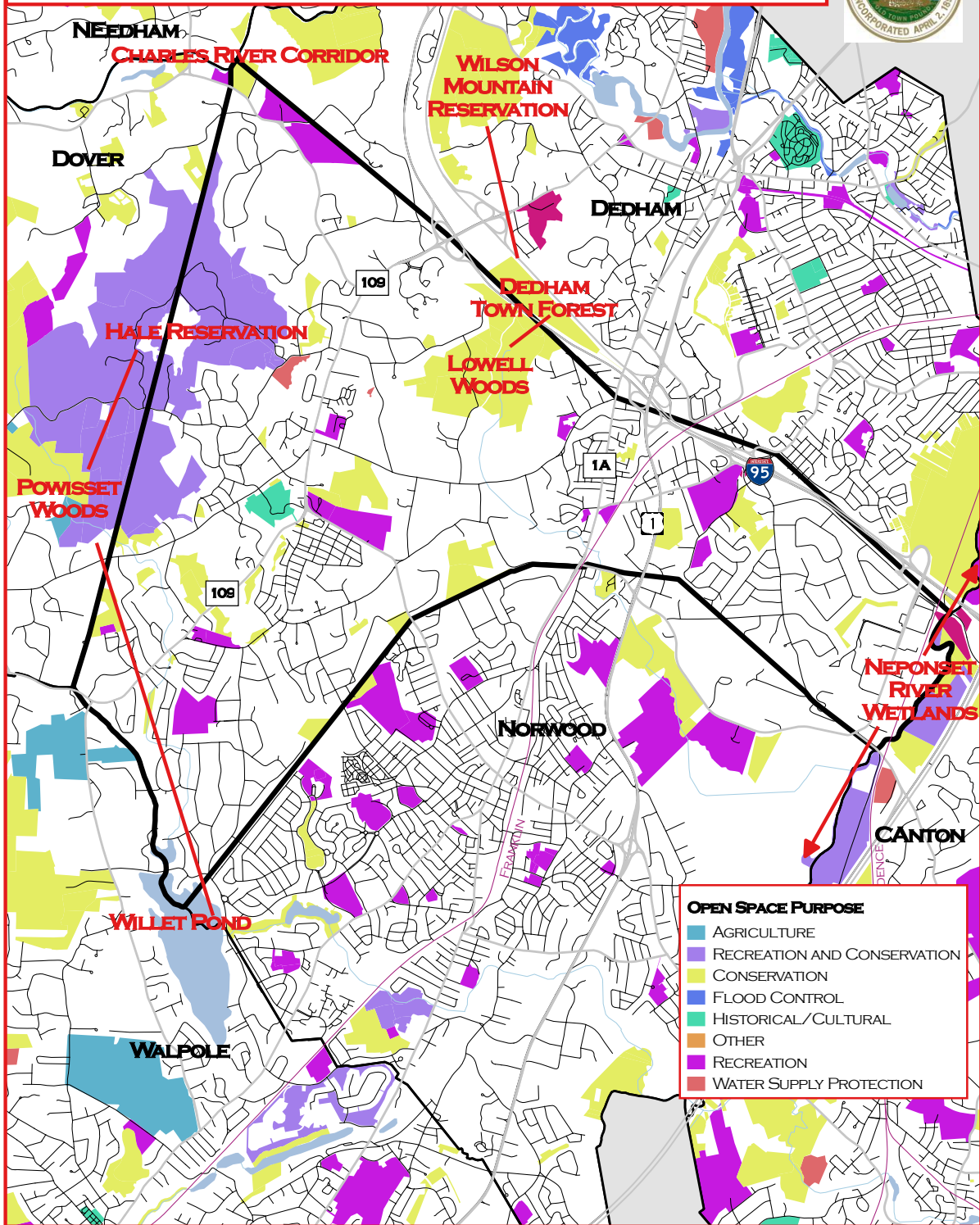
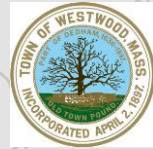


DATA SOURCE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF WESTWOOD

TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019



MAP 1A: REGIONAL OPEN SPACE CONNECTIONS



OPEN SPACE PURPOSE

Blue	AGRICULTURE
Purple	RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
Yellow	CONSERVATION
Light Blue	FLOOD CONTROL
Green	HISTORICAL/CULTURAL
Orange	OTHER
Pink	RECREATION
Red	WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT
 TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019



Westwood has multiple open space connections with other towns in the region. Map 1A illustrates these connections. Hale Reservation, shared with Dover, is the largest single connected area. Other examples include the Charles River and Neponset River which form wildlife corridors among multiple towns. Mill Brook connects Westwood conservation land with Powisset Woods in Dover and Willett Pond on the Westwood-Walpole-Norwood town lines. More discussion of these connections can be found under “Fisheries and Wildlife” in Section 4.

B. 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.

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), 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.

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 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 land 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 land.

In contrast, urban land use, which includes commercial, industrial, mining, public or transitional, transportation, open, and multiple categories of residential, 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/Amtrak Station, with direct access to 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.

Regional Planning

MetroFuture is the official 30 year regional plan for the Greater Boston area, adopted in 2008. The *MetroFuture Plan* includes 65 goals, objectives and implementing strategies related to sustainable growth, housing, transportation, and community vitality. Currently, The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is leading the process of working with cities, towns, and various stakeholders to update the 2008 plan to develop a new regional plan to set regional goals through

2050 in *MetroCommon 2050*. *MetroCommon* is focusing on challenges and opportunities such as traffic congestion, the rising cost of housing, climate change, equity of wealth and health.

**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

*From different methodology so not exactly comparable to earlier years

C. 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 land, 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.

**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	8,005	7,797	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	9,207
Westwood*	4,483	12	70	12	15	12	1,212	5,816
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.

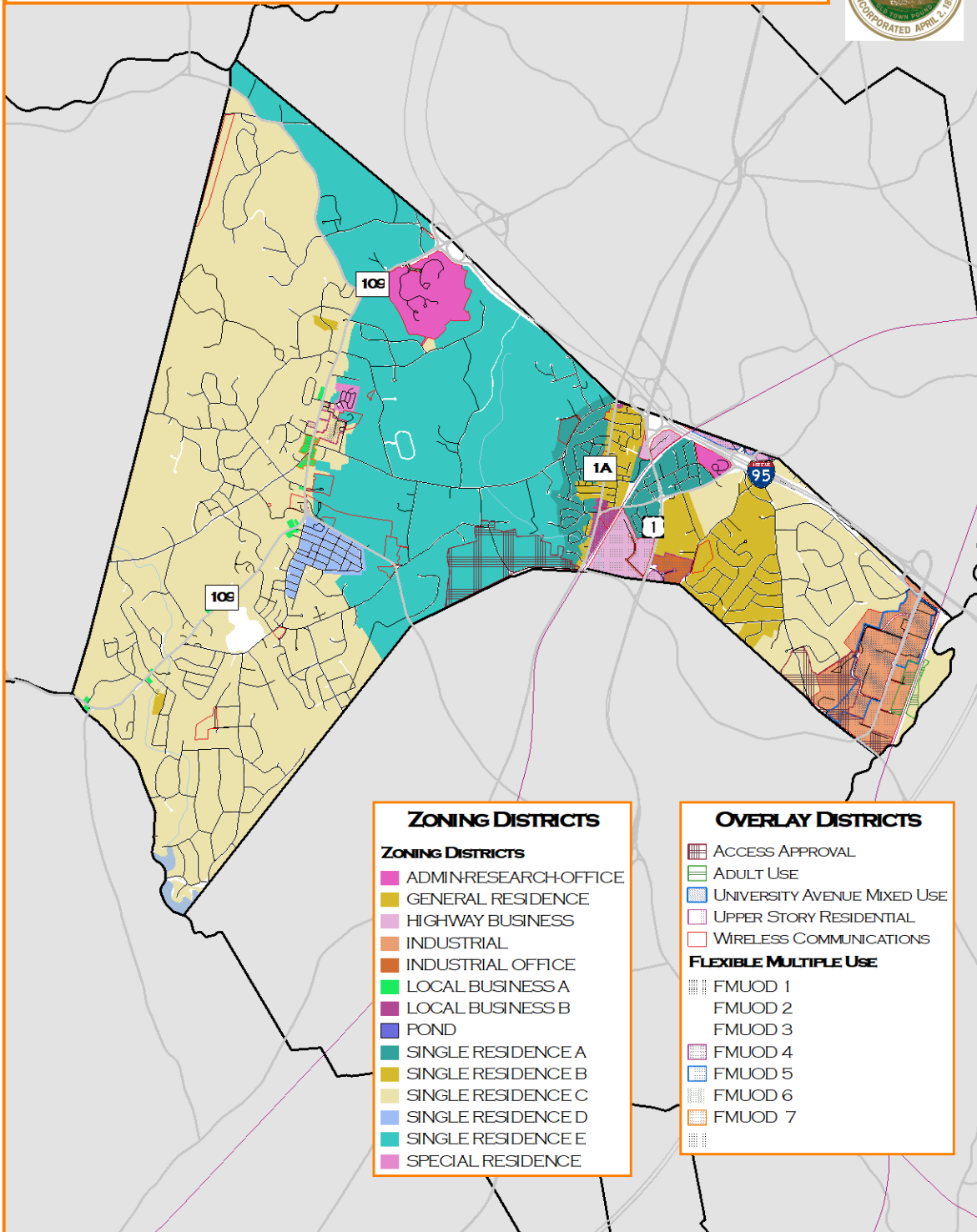
D. Growth and Development Patterns

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 MBTA 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,

MAP 2: ZONING



- 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

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with convenient access to Routes I-93 and I-95, and the Route 128 MBTA/Amtrak 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). The Recycling and Waste Management Division picks up trash every week. Recycling is picked up every other week.

Transportation Systems – 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. According to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s apportionment of Chapter 90 funds, Westwood has 81.35 miles of roadway. Westwood is served by the Route 128 MBTA Commuter Rail/Amtrak Train Station, as well as the Islington stop on the Franklin commuter rail line. Norwood Memorial Airport is just to the southwest of the University Avenue area.

Westwood has an extensive network of trails, which are highlighted on the Town’s web site and in the Dedham and Westwood Bicycle & Pedestrian Network Plan. These include the Lowell Woods area and Currier Reservation. The Town plans to construct a major new sidewalk on Gay Street from Deerfield Avenue to Buckboard Lane. In addition, the Town has a Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee that is pursuing additional pedestrian and bicycle amenities. Westwood has a Complete Streets policy and participates in the State’s Complete Streets program to fund additional pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Sewer Systems -- Within the DPW, the Sewer Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 87 miles of gravity sewers and ten pumping stations. There are about 5000 sewer customers in Westwood. Parts of the town are served by septic systems.

Water System – Westwood is a member of the Dedham-Westwood Water District, which was created in 1985. The District has fourteen wells, six in Westwood and eight in Dedham. It also has emergency connections with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the City of Boston and the Towns of Norwood and Needham. The system currently has the capacity to pump and treat about seven million gallons of water per day. The average daily use is about 4.25 million (including both towns). The District is committed to limiting water use to 65 gallons per day per person in order to ensure supplies are adequate to serve future needs.

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: “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 the 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.

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 an Environmental Impact and Design Review therefor granted by the Planning Board.”

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. 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.

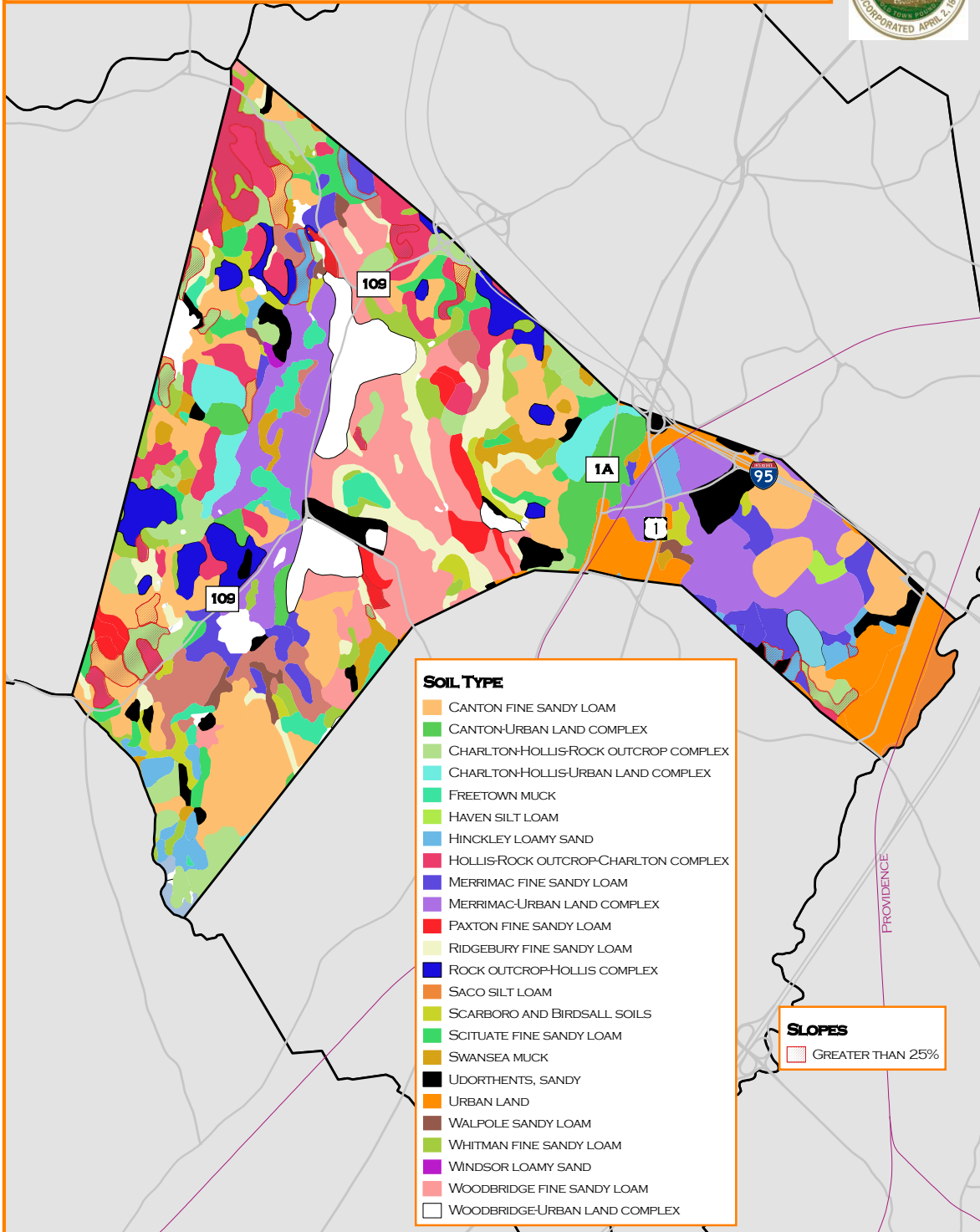
Most of Westwood sits on ground moraine (material deposited beneath a glacier), but many other depositional landforms also created by glaciers occur. Around Buckmaster Pond there is an extensive area of outwash plain (sand and gravel carried by streams flowing out of a glacier and deposited over an extensive 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

² This section is mostly derived from the 2000 OSRP

MAP 3: SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES



SOIL TYPE

- CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM
- CANTON-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- CHARLTON-HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX
- CHARLTON-HOLLIS-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- FREETOWN MUCK
- HAVEN SILT LOAM
- HINCKLEY LOAMY SAND
- HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP-CHARLTON COMPLEX
- MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM
- MERRIMAC-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM
- RIDGEBURY FINE SANDY LOAM
- ROCK OUTCROP-HOLLIS COMPLEX
- SACO SILT LOAM
- SCARBORO AND BIRDSALL SOILS
- SCITUATE FINE SANDY LOAM
- SWANSEA MUCK
- UDORTHENTS, SANDY
- URBAN LAND
- WALPOLE SANDY LOAM
- WHITMAN FINE SANDY LOAM
- WINDSOR LOAMY SAND
- WOODBRIDGE FINE SANDY LOAM
- WOODBRIDGE-URBAN LAND COMPLEX

SLOPES

- GREATER THAN 25%



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

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urbanized development. The largest tracts of this soil association can be found in the southeastern area of Town.

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.

B. Landscape Character

Westwood offers a variety of landscapes from urban developments with businesses, services, and commuter rail service to rural, scenic open space accented with woodland and surface waters. The Town has several conservation areas, open space protected under the aegis of the Westwood Land Trust, private land 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 section, with its privately and municipally-owned properties 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.

C. 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 watershed 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 Pond and Lee Pond before draining into the Charles River. The Powisset Brook drains Dunklin's Hole, Cedar Swamp, and 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

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

1, 2018 that will result in additional improvement in water quality.

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, Ponkapoag Brook, Powisset Brook, Purgatory Brook, Rock Meadow Brook, an Unnamed Tributary, Buckmaster Pond, Lyman's Pond, Noanet Pond, Willet Pond, and the Neponset River. (source:https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/305b303dStats/tblReporting_Westwood.pdf)

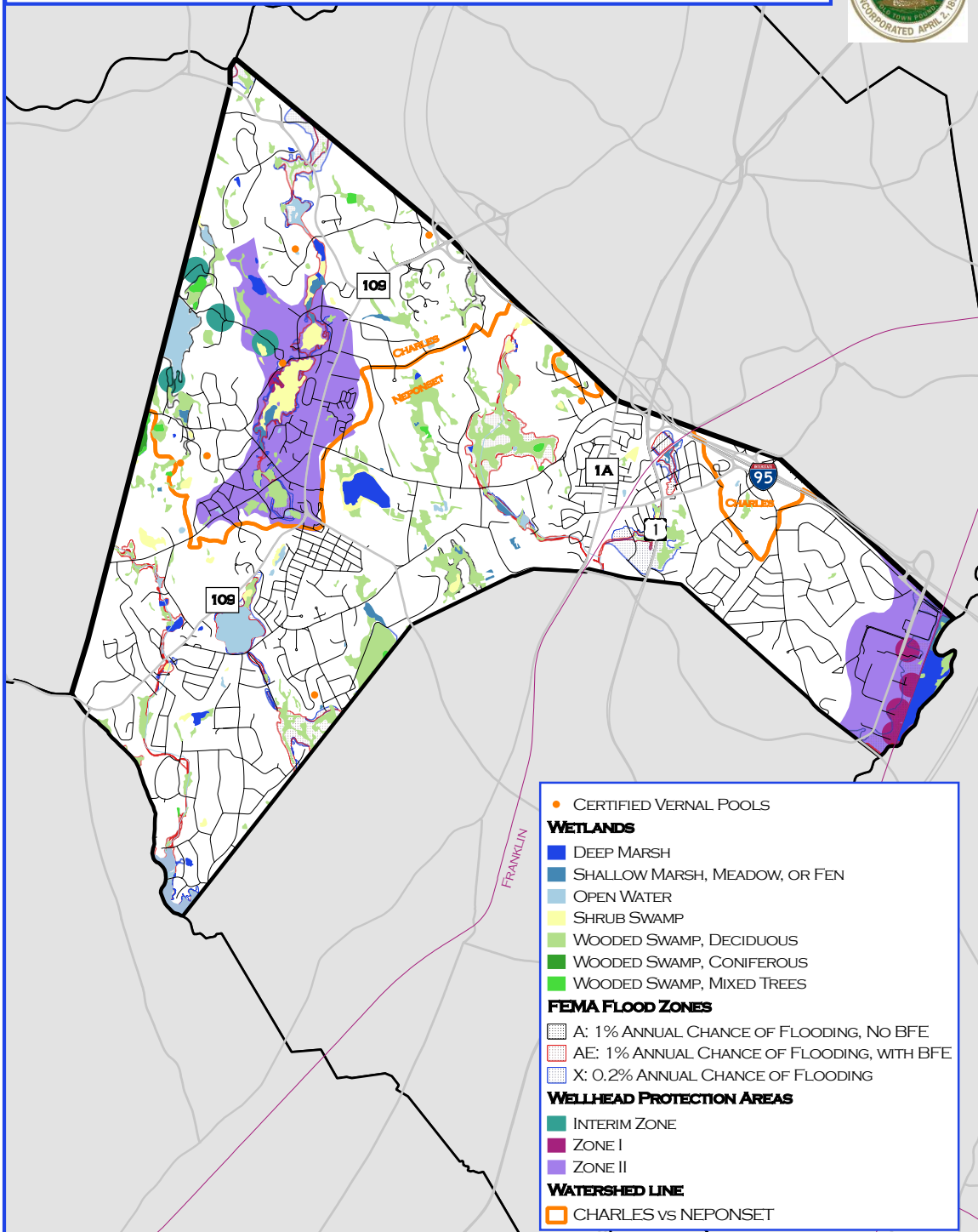
The public water supply for Westwood is the Dedham-Westwood Water District, which is a member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The District's water supply is groundwater. There are seventeen wells: six in Westwood and eleven in Dedham. Membership in the MWRA enables the District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

Five of the Westwood wells are adjacent to the Neponset River. The Zone II recharge area for these wells straddles the University Avenue area. The sixth well is near Rock Meadow Brook and its Zone II area straddles a section of Hartford Street and High Street (Route 109).

Wetlands are scattered throughout the Town. The most prominent area is in the geographic center of town to the north and south of Gay Street. Other significant wetlands are found in the areas abutting the Neponset River, and south of Clapboardtree Street along the Norwood town line.

The flood hazard areas defined by FEMA are primarily located along the major streams. This includes the Rock Meadow Brook corridor, lands adjacent to Purgatory Brook, and the areas along Mill Brook and Bubbling Brook. An area of Islington to the east of Route 1 is in the 100-year flood zone and the area between University Avenue and the Neponset River is in the 500-year flood zone.

MAP 4: WATER RESOURCES



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

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D. Vegetation⁴

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.

Public shade trees in Westwood are protected by the Scenic Road Act (M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 15C), and the Public Shade Tree Act (M.G.L. Chapter 87). The Public Shade Tree Act defines public shade trees as:

All trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof including trees planted in accordance with the provisions of section 7 shall be public shade trees; and when it appears in any proceeding in which the ownership of or rights in a tree are material to the issue, that, from length of time or otherwise, the boundaries of the highway cannot be made certain by records or monuments, and that for that reason it is doubtful whether the tree is within the highway, it shall be taken to be within the highway and to be public property until the contrary is shown.

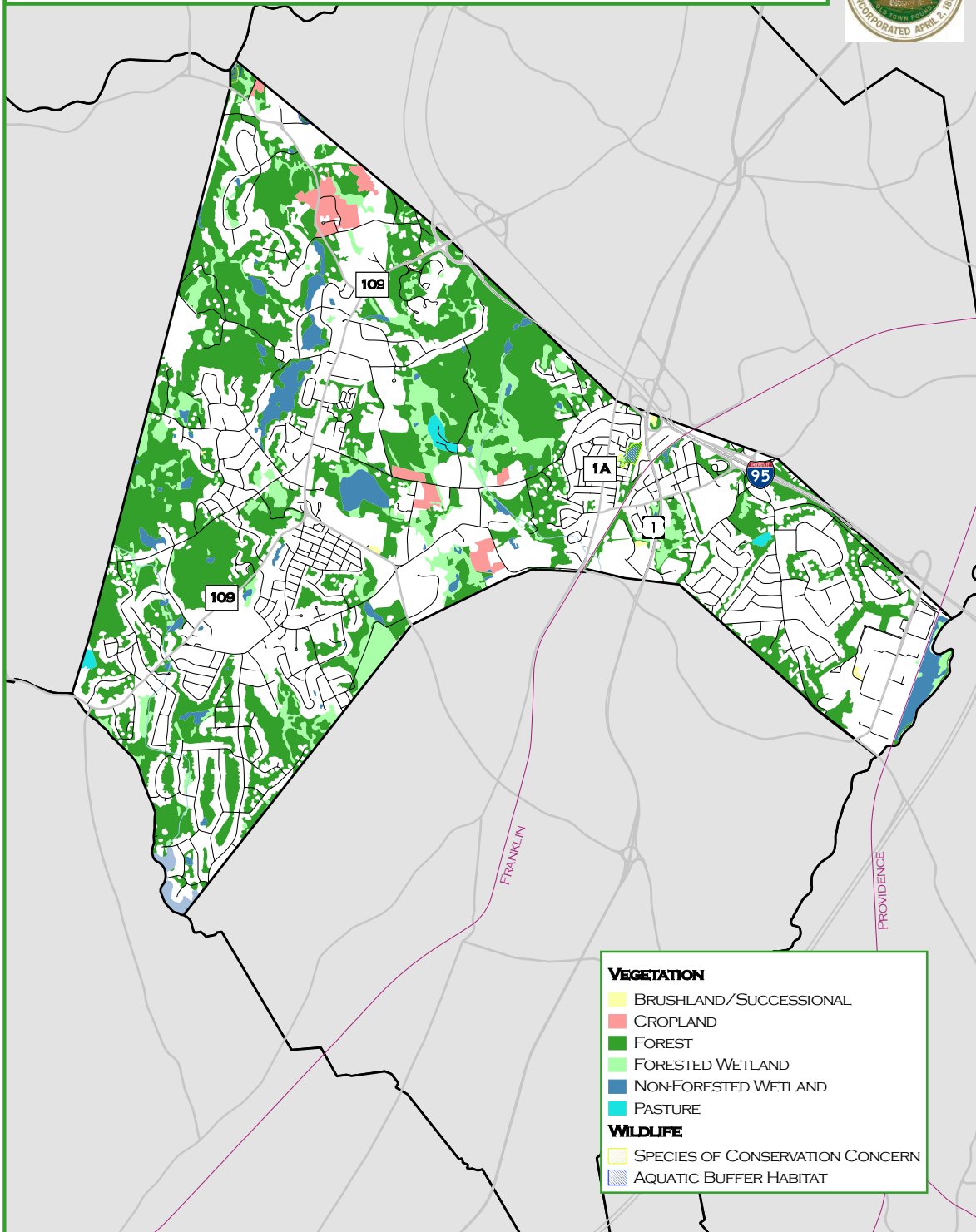
Westwood has 11 designated scenic roads (Canton Street, Dover Road, Downey Street, East Street, Everett Street, Grove Street, Milk Street, Mill Street, Sandy Valley Road, Summer Street, and Woodland Road). Public shade trees on these scenic roads cannot be removed without a public hearing before the Planning Board. On roads that are not designated as scenic, a public hearing before the Tree Warden is required before public shade trees can be removed.

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 Lowder Brook 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

⁴ This section and Fisheries and Wildlife mostly derived from 2000 OSRP.

MAP 5: VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE



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

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5. Canada Mayflower. One such stand grows along the western edge of the Martha Jones Conservation Area.
6. 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, Tulip trees and Magnolia. These street trees are usually maples, ashes, oaks, lindens and horse chestnuts.
7. “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.
8. The pitch pine found behind the former Westwood Lodge property (presently addressed 45 Clapboardtree Street) is a fire controlled type of community and may include scrub oak, black cherry, blueberry, grasses and other “old field” successional species.
9. 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.
10. Some pastures remain, including a stretch of Gay Street which is lined with them and to the south of Clapboardtree Street.
11. There is extensive marshland along the Neponset River. It is a chest-high growth in a variety of perennial wet-site plants.
12. 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.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

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.

Wildlife corridors are important to provide for migration and to promote biodiversity. 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. Map 1A in the Regional Context section illustrates these connections.

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.

The Lowell Woods area is Westwood's largest Town-owned conservation area. It is separated from Dedham Town Forest by the south-bound lanes 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.

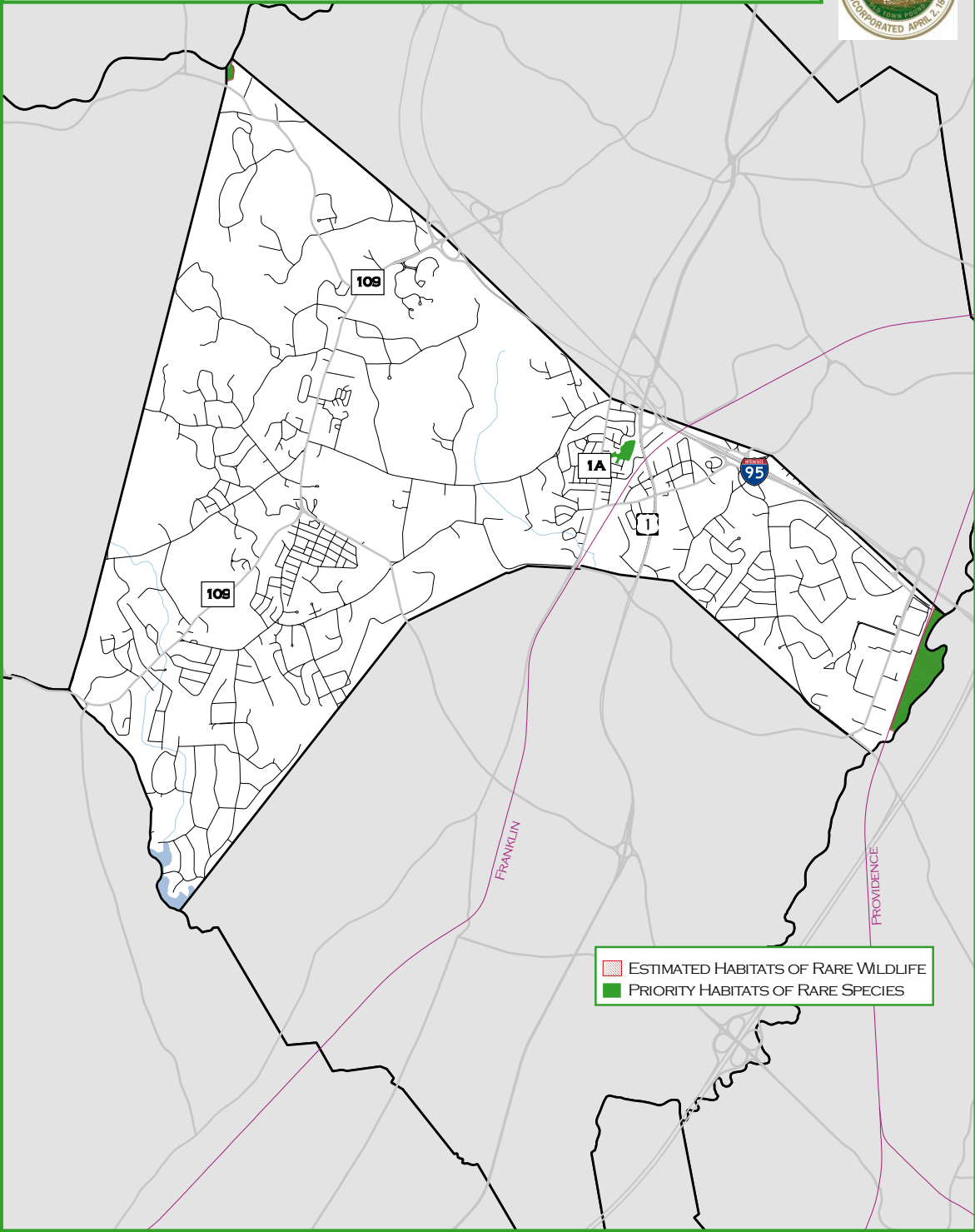
One of the protected open space areas in Westwood that is of high regional significance is the 35 acres of Neponset River wetlands. Located east of University Avenue, this land is difficult to access from Westwood. Part of the Neponset River corridor, the river and its associated wetlands extend downstream 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.

F. 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.

MAP 6: RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



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

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TABLE 11
RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taxonomic Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	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>Liatrix 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

G. 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, which 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 provides glimpses of open fields, wooded areas and old stone walls;
- The corner of Summer and Grove Streets, which provides scenic views of rolling fields, an abandoned orchard and an old, majestic home.

Each of these scenic environments continues to define the character of Westwood. 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 unique geologic feature is a cave that 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 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 roof was designed by Stebbins & Watkins Architects of Boston, MA and constructed in 1910. It has served at the Westwood Town Hall ever since.

Map 7 illustrates the locations of the Scenic and Unique Features.

H. Environmental Challenges

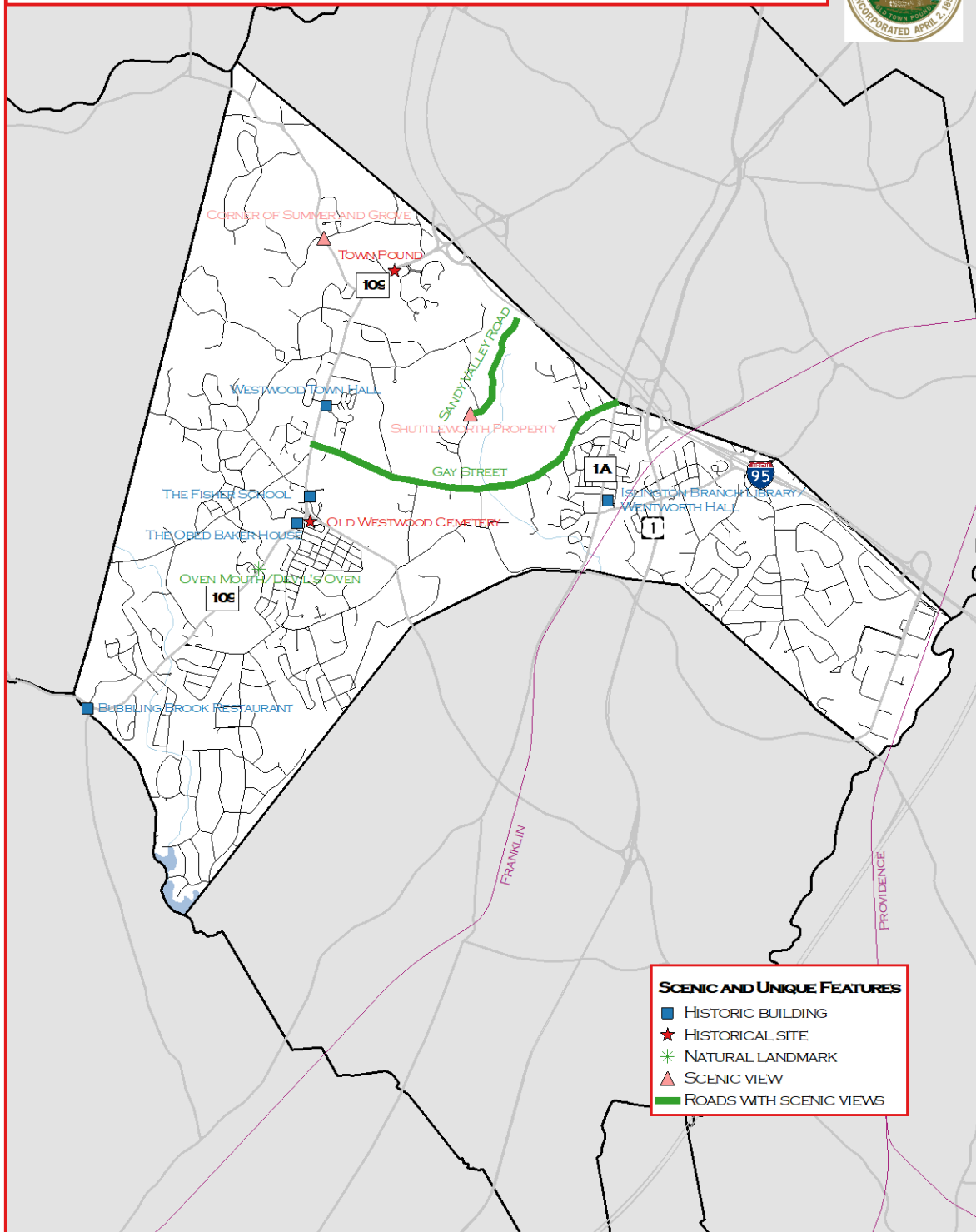
One of the major environmental challenges in the area concerns both the quality and quantity of the water supply. Westwood is served by the Dedham-Westwood Water District and some properties are served by private wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulates and monitors public 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 do so in a way that maintains quality, while also reducing flooding potential. Open space can be a key component in addressing this issue. 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, and has long standing regulations for Environmental Impact and Design Review by the Planning Board. These regulations will help reduce negative impacts on water quality and quantity. They will also address other environmental impacts, such as erosion and sedimentation that are often byproducts of construction sites. These regulations work in conjunction with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw to further the following purposes:

- 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.

MAP 7: SCENIC AND UNIQUE FEATURES



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

TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019



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 returns the site to productive use and reduces the need to expand infrastructure and develop green field sites.

The Town has a closed landfill. According to the Solid Waste Program of the Bureau of Waste Prevention in the Department of Environmental Protection, the landfill closed in 1971. Its closure status is incomplete (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/01/vt/inactlf.pdf>).

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. Again, the stormwater management bylaw and Environmental Impact and Design Review rules have reduced this problem.

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 them 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. The FEMA flood hazard areas presented in the Water Resources section will likely face greater challenges in the future. However, efforts to improve climate resiliency will help mitigate these effects. Green infrastructure can play a role in both helping reduce climate change and mitigating its impacts.

The History of the Community section presented the land use changes between 1971 and 2005, resulting in the reduction of 500-600 acres of forest land over that period of time. More recently, an extensive mixed-use development was constructed along University Avenue within the Zone II areas of five of Westwood's six municipal water supply wells. This development was approved with stringent environmental controls to significantly improve water recharge and to protect those water supply wells. MAPC projects slow population growth over the next few years. A slowing of growth, coupled with the implementation of environmentally sensitive development regulations, will significantly reduce the environmental impact of additional development.

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.

Section 5: Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest

A. Protected Open Space

A critical responsibility in long-range municipal planning is protecting land of conservation and recreation interest. Conservation land is 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 land is generally improved parcels used for, or having 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, sustainably produce 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.

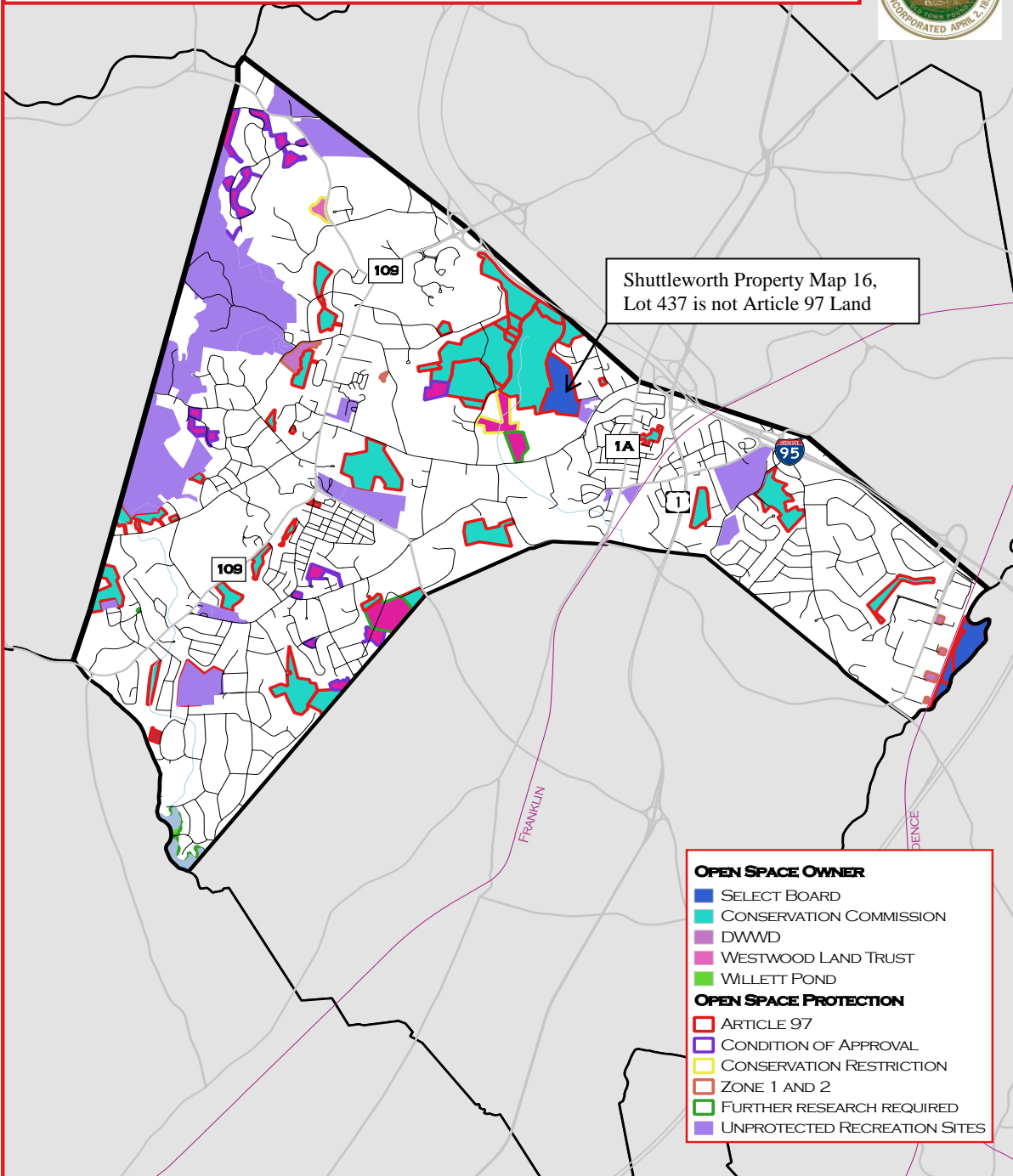
Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of Massachusetts protects the right of the people of the Commonwealth to “clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment.” Municipal water supplies can be 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 land, 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 land 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 land is 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.

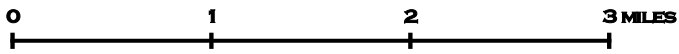
The Town itself is the largest holder of protected land. As illustrated in Map 8 and tabulated in Table 12 the Town owns 630.26 acres, of which 43 parcels totaling 557.27 acres under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and another 4 parcels with 72.99 acres under the control of the Select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

MAP 8: PROTECTED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION LANDS



- OPEN SPACE OWNER**
- SELECT BOARD
 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 - DWWD
 - WESTWOOD LAND TRUST
 - WILLETT POND
- OPEN SPACE PROTECTION**
- ARTICLE 97
 - CONDITION OF APPROVAL
 - CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
 - ZONE 1 AND 2
 - FURTHER RESEARCH REQUIRED
 - UNPROTECTED RECREATION SITES



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

TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019



**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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission</u>									
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Conant Road	05-001	8.80	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Rear Birch Tree Dr	09-155	9.57	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	No	SRC	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Lorraine Rd	09-194	8.00	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Halsam's Pond	Farm Ln	10-015	3.00	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	214a Fox Hill St	10-052	2.92	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-053	64.30	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-054	2.02	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-055	3.93	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Mulvehill C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-056	88.50	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Rear Farm Lane	10-057	3.07	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Rear High St (Sandy Valley Rd)	10-058	28.95	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-059	2.09	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-001	8.66	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission</u>									
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-004	7.02	Conservation/Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	High Rock St	13-074	2.38	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Baker/Deviney C.A.	Hartford St	13-179	1.47	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Rice Reservation C.A./Lyman's Pond	Rear Nahatan St	14-116	46.10	Conservation/Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Grimm C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	15-015	38.42	Conservation/Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Lot 15 Sandy Valley Rd	15-028	4.11	Conservation/Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Railroad Place	16-130	0.48	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Moodie St	16-133	4.32	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	GR	None	Article 97
Cedar Hill C.A.	6 Cedar Hill Dr	16-443	0.88	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Wight/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-009	6.13	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Pignatelli/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-012	1.13	Conservation/Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Traylor C.A.	Hartford St	19-016	6.82	Conservation/Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Crouse Pond C.A.	High St East	20-101	0.63	Conservation/Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission</u>									
Crouse Pond C.A.	Rear Westview Ter	20-124	2.60	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Twin Post C.A.	Twin Post Rd	20-174	1.99	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Veterans Park C.A.	High St	21-031	0.46	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Temple C.A.	40 Pond St	21-089	0.53	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRD	None	Article 97
Clapboardtree Meadow/Prout Farm C.A.	Clapboardtree St	22-084	22.65	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
O'Toole C.A.	Providence Hwy	24-094	12.31	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRB	None	Article 97
Currier Reservation C.A.	Downey St	24-225	30.56	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRB	None	Article 97
Pheasant Hill C.A.	Pheasant Hill St	27-022	20.15	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Lakeshore Memorial Park C.A.	Corner High St & Lake	28-046	6.00	Excellent	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Pitts/Ruynassard t C.A./Buckmaster Pond	1238 High St	28-059	9.11	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Reiner C.A.	Nahatan St	29-073	6.99	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Fay C.A.	Coach Ln (Rear)	29-087	3.31	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC/SRE	None	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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission</u>									
Endicott C.A.	Endicott St	33-037	13.10	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Draper Ave. C.A.	Draper Ave	34-057	6.00	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Martha Jones C.A.	Rear Martha Jones Rd	35-237	28.02	Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Winter St	36-005	11.79	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Arcadia Road	36-026	28.00	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Subtotal			557.27						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Select Board</u>									
Shuttleworth Land	Dead Swamp Road	16-437	37.46	Trail/Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	None	
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-013	3.10	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-014	7.03	Conservation/ Poor/	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Blue Hill Dr South	38-015	25.40	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Dedham-Westwood Water District DWWD)</u>									
DWWD Land	213 Fox Hill St	09-065	0.77	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRE	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	200 Dover Road	09-165	11.48	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRC	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	154 University Avenue	33-007	1.38	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	Dartmouth St	38-004	0.92	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	34 Yale St	38-009	2.19	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	346a University Ave	38-011	0.46	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
Subtotal			17.20						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: High Ridge Homeowners Association</u>									
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-026	7.18	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-033	4.71	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-048	9.14	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-054	2.19	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-059	9.76	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	03-016	1.29	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Storrow Circle	04-007	0.87	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	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>RECREATION POTENTIAL</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESS</u>	<u>ZONING</u>	<u>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Powisset Estates Homeowners Association</u>									
Powisset Estates	Shoe String Ln	13-194	2.14	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-205	3.90	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-206	2.47	Open Space/Good		Passive	YES	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-208	1.10	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			9.61						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Chase Estates Homeowners Association</u>									
Chase Estates	5 Whitney Ave.	36-129	1.53	Open Space/Excellent	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Neponset River Land Holding</u>									
Willet Pond	Rear Brook St.	41-001	6.46	Conservation/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	
Willet Pond	Brook St.	41-036	11.00	Conservation/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	
Subtotal			17.46						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Westwood Land Trust</u>									
WLT	Summer St	03-024	1.33	Conservation/Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	CR
WLT	Summer St	03-031	1.43	Conservation/Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	CR
WLT	159 Summer St	15-128	1.92	Conservation/Poor	Passive	NO	SRE	None	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>TYPE OF GRANT</u>	<u>LEVEL OF PROTECTION</u>
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Duncan M. McFarland</u>									
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-017	16.85	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	Sandy Valley Rd	None	CR
	Gay St. Rear	15-029	10.43	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	NO	Gay St. Rear	None	
	3 Highview St.	27.040	0.17	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	NO	3 Highview St.	None	
Subtotal			27.45						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Groundhog Land Corporation</u>									
	Rear Bridle Path	29-126	5.90	Open Space/Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
	Clapboardtree St.	29-135	1.26	Open Space/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			7.16						
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: G.D. Fox Meadow LLC</u>									
	Fox Hill St. (Rear)	15-005	7.63	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRE	None	Condition of Approval
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: C/S Westview LLC</u>									
	Winter St.	29-119	6.60	Open Space/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: NW Land LLC</u>									
	Winter St.	29-122	26.40	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	SRC/SRE	None	
<u>MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Gobbi FLP Trust</u>									
	Autumn Drive	36-153	4.05	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
TOTAL PROTECTED LAND			795.17						

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
- 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

Westwood Lodge – Full-size soccer/lacrosse field (not owned by the Town or managed by the Recreation Commission, but its use is scheduled by the Recreation Commission);

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.

**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	RECREATION POTENTIAL	TYPE OF GRANT	PUBLIC ACCESS	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	Playground. Site has reached development potential.	None	Yes	Article 97
Morrison Park	440-480 East St.	3.76	23-216	Baseball, softball, basketball	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ LBB	Park and fields as developed. Site has reached development potential.	None	Yes	Article 97
June St. Playground	Pheasant Hill St.	3.08	27-221	Fields, playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ SRC	Field, and playground, as developed. Site has reached development potential.	None	Yes	Article 97
Lion's Club Tot Lot	60 Nahatan Street	2.29	21-349	Playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/SRC	Playground as Site has reached development potential. developed.	None	Yes	None
Sheehan Fields	Pond St.	6.25	28-078	Baseball	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	Fields, as developed. Site has reached development potential.	None	Yes	Article 97
Swimming Pool at High School	200 Nahatan Street	NA	21-048	Swimming pool	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	Pool, as developed.	None	Yes	None
Sub-total		17.18								

Continued

**TABLE 14
PUBLIC RECREATION PROPERTIES (Continued)**

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES /FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	RECREATION POTENTIAL	TYPE OF GRANT	PUBLIC ACCESS	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
SCHOOL PROPERTIES*										
Deerfield School	72 Deerfield Ave	8.54	14-094	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	Fields and playground, basketball, as developed. Recreation uses fulfilled.	None	Yes	None
Hanlon School	790 Gay St.	8.59	16-005	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	Sports fields, basketball court, as developed.	None	Yes	None
Thurston Middle School	850 High St.	17.44	21-047 & 347	Baseball, softball, multipurpose field	School Committee	Good	Multipurpose, fields, as developed. Site has reached development potential.	None	Yes	None
Westwood High School	200 Nahatan St.	42.9	21-048 & 346	Baseball, football, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, track, lacrosse	School Committee	Good	Multiple recreational uses, as developed. Site has reached	None	Yes	None

							development potential.			
Downey School	Downey St.	9.81	24-135	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	As currently used, has met development potential.	None	Yes	None
Sheehan School	549 Pond St.	4.27	28-077	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	As currently used, has met development potential.	None	Yes	None
Martha Jones School	Martha Jones Road	8.89	35-089	Baseball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	As currently used, as developed has met potential.	None	Yes	None
Total Public Recreation Acreage (including schools)		117.62								

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							
Westwood Lodge	45 Clapboardtree St.	5.00±	29-123	Multipurpose field	Westwood Lodge	Good/SRC	None
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		82.82					

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

*Includes entire site

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

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 Land

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 land 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 LAND**

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 Land 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 Community Vision (Section 6) that call for identifying sites for new recreation facilities or additional open space properties.

**TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES**

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
Town Pound	High St - Town Pound	05-042	0.19	ARO	Good	Select Board	Yes
DPW	50 Carby St	08-038	5.23	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Conant Rd	09-193	1.04	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	09-230	3.42	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
Fire Station 1	637 High St	14-046	1.02	SRC	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Town Hall & Police Station	580-590 High St	14-071	2.59	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Library	660 High St	14-079	1.05	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	High St	14-131	5.44	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	107 Gay St	14-169	4.10	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-016	9.88	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	68 Lull St	16-039	0.03	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Lull St	16-094	0.08	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Grafton Ave	16-181	0.01	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
Blue Hill Vista Strip	Elm Street	17-190	0.10	ARO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Canton St	18-008	0.70	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Woodland Rd	20-017	2.38	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
New Cemetery	High St	20-072	31.44	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	Wildwood Dr	20-139	0.47	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Hartford St	20-172	1.07	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
Obed Baker House	909 High St	21-042	0.46	LBA	Good	Select Board	No
	High St	21-043	1.05	SRC	Good	Select Board	No
Old Cemetery	Pond St & Nahatan	21-088	5.15	SRD	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Senior Center	60 Nahatan St	21-349	2.29	SRE	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Former First Parish Land	Nahatan St	21-350	5.10	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Clapboardtree St	22-052	23.20	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes

Continued

**TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES (Continued)**

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
	Schaefer Ave (Rear)	23-156	0.28	SRA	Good	Select Board	Yes
Municipal Parking Lot	227-283 Washington St	23-163	0.69	LBB	Good	Select Board	Yes
Islington Library	280 Washington St	23-188	0.44	LBB	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Islington Community Center	288 Washington St	23-189	0.28	LBB	Poor	Select Board	Yes
	East St	23-190	0.10	LBB	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Islington Fire Station	300 Washington St	23-215	0.69	LBB	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-006	3.28	SRA	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-075	1.24	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-076	1.69	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-077	1.27	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-079	1.25	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-080	1.08	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-081	2.90	IO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Downey St	24-087	0.06	IO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Canton St	24-230	0.24	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	285 Canton St	25-032	0.18	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	56 Crystal Hill Ter	27-213	4.43	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Olde Carriage Rd	29-067	0.37	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Winter St	29-120	1.84	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Dela Park Rd	29-158	0.32	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Hawktree Dr	31-058	0.27	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr North	33-002	0.04	I	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr	33-005	0.64	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Stanford Dr	34-089	3.20	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
Former Sewer Pump Station	Sunrise Rd	34-132	0.10	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes

Continued

**TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES (Continued)**

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
	Arcadia Rd	35-179	0.10	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Whitney Ave	36-071	5.04	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Trailside Dr	39-007	3.14	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	41 Clearwater Dr	41-010	0.92	SRC	Good	Select Board	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

A. 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, 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 with 43 residents signing in and actively participating in group discussions. In addition, 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 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

The entire OSRP was then presented to the Planning Board, which opened a hearing on the plan in December 2018 and continued it through several meetings in January and then to February 12, 2019. Additional revisions were made to the goals and objectives in response to those hearings.

Section 7: Needs Analysis

A. 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 the transformation of rural roadways into suburban collector roads. As identified in both the community workshop and the responses to survey questions, the Town's character is important to residents and needs to be protected. The Town's character has long been supported through the acquisition of open space and conservation land, and by the 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. Map 4 in the Environmental Inventory section illustrates 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 a Zone II 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 in 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 at 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, later in this document, 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.

B. 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 percent). School-based fields were the most used 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 that would include basketball courts, as well as an indoor skating rink, and tennis and pickleball courts.

It was noted that the Town's existing resources and facilities are not sufficient to serve the needs of all current residents. While the overall quality is highly rated, the respondents indicated a shortage of active recreation facilities (including fields, ice hockey and indoor basketball), particularly to serve youth sports. Also, the needs of the disabled and those over 55 were particularly noted as needing to be addressed. The ADA Self-Evaluation Plan in the

Appendix notes the need for improved access to fields, as well as accessible picnic facilities, benches, etc. at various locations. Conservation areas could also use paved paths where feasible, benches, signage in large letters and braille, and rope guides where appropriate, in order to better serve the elderly and disabled. All-terrain wheelchairs, and pathways to accommodate them, would also help the elderly and disabled to enjoy these conservation areas.

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

The table below compares the number of facilities in each category to the population of all the peer communities (not 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 1,624	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 4,859	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

NA= Not Available

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.

The 2017 Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan survey of residents found that 78.1% rated their community's recreation facilities as good or excellent. The top activities in popularity mentioned in the SCORP survey were walking, running or jogging (the only category with more than 50% support); followed by hiking (mentioned by about of third of respondents). The next three were swimming in freshwater or saltwater (19%); road biking (18%) and swimming in pools (15%). The most desired improvements in local facilities were hiking trails, playgrounds, paved multi-use trails and swimming pools and spray parks.

C. Community Open Space Needs

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, and Martha Jones Conservation Areas. Responders were asked to identify the importance of preservation of a variety of land/structures/places within Westwood. Eighty percent of responders marked open space - recreation land as very important to preserve. This was followed by open space -- conservation land (71%) and open space – 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 space, 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 space 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 land to maintaining and protecting existing land. However, others wanted to continue the focus on acquiring new open space. A third group of participants noted that the Town should continue to acquire conservation land 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 land. Some participants shared that residents did not know the location of the areas or the amenities associated with them. Other specific needs identified included:

- Easements to connect open space 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 presents the protected open space in those same comparable towns as derived from MassGIS attribute data. Only land characterized as permanently protected is 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	1,871	13.9	8,896	21.0%
Canton	3,195	19.6	12,544	25.5%
Concord	5,171	25.9	16,576	31.2%
Holliston	2,593	19.0	12,160	21.3%
Medfield	3,208	14.6	9,344	34.3%
Sharon	5,898	24.2	15,488	38.1%
Sudbury	4,913	24.6	15,744	31.2%
Weston	2,677	17.3	11,072	24.2%
Westwood	795	11.1	7,104	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.

D. Management Needs

The foundation of maintaining and enhancing the Town’s open space and recreation assets is having the resources to do so. Revenues must be identified for the purposes of maintaining, enhancing and acquiring open space or recreation properties, developing or rehabilitating recreation facilities, and developing and sustaining 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.

Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is one potential source of funds. The CPA is a state law that encourages cities and towns to pursue projects that include conservation, outdoor recreation, historical preservation and affordable housing. There are now 173 Massachusetts communities that have adopted this law over the past 18 years.

In towns that have adopted the CPA, two sources of funds are made available to pursue eligible projects. The first source is raised by the town through the imposition of a property tax surcharge of up to 3%. This surcharge may be applied to all properties, or may exclude commercial properties. A town may also exempt the first \$100,000 of assessed value, and may adopt other income and/or age exemptions to assist financially challenged property owners. For example, if a town set the CPA amount 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.

Towns which adopt the CPA, 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 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. Only the 173 communities that have adopted the CPA have access to these funds.

Additional information about the CPA can be found in the Exhibits.

Other Management Needs

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 years, Town bylaws, zoning bylaws, specific rules and regulations, and design guidelines were added to Westwood's legislation that inform and guide development to continue to protect the Town's natural and historic resources. This contributes 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 land.

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.

A. Open Space and Recreation Goals

GENERAL GOALS

GOAL 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's community character.

GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

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 land appropriate for open space and conservation.

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.

B. General Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: 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, including historic stone walls.
- Explore other possible funding sources such as the CPA. 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 opportunities for 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.
- Regularly review and evaluate actions for consistency with the region’s MetroFuture regional plan and MetroCommon 2050 regional plan.

GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Increase usability of recreational facilities and trails for visitors with sight, mobility, hearing, and other impairments.
- Provide accessible parking spaces and accessible paths to all facilities.
- Provide accessible seating at fields, playgrounds, and open spaces areas such as at accessible picnic tables.
- Explore ways to provide better access to and improved experiences for people with physical impairments and seniors such as width of trails, trail surfaces, and accessible bathrooms.
- Provide information related to the extent of public access on trail maps, websites, apps, social media, trail signage, and any other resources.

B. 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.
- Identify handicap accessibility, corresponding maintenance required, and desired accessibility improvements.
- 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 each 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 feasible conservations areas:
 - 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 accessibility limitations.
 - 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, parking, and entry points.
 - App would list 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.
- Collaborate with the 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.

Goal 3: Identify, protect and acquire land appropriate for open space and conservation.

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 land:
 - Indicate natural resource and habitat areas;
 - Note historic/scenic vista areas;
 - Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space land.
- Identify and acquire land that is contiguous to existing protected land and with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, or flood control.
- Identify and acquire land to provide connectivity to an open space network.
- Identify and acquire land 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 the Westwood Land Trust and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space.

C. 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 web sites 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 identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.
- Identify funding sources for 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 the mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed;
 - Identify Town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use:
 - Consider the former First Parish property, an existing school that becomes available, or other potential sites.
 - Identify privately-owned property which could be acquired and developed for recreational use:
 - Consider Westwood Lodge or other potential sites.

- Identify how to replace any indoor basketball court that is eliminated by school consolidation, either in a new consolidated school or in a separate community recreational facility.

Goal 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs

Objectives:

- Evaluate the feasibility of developing more multipurpose fields.
- Select parcels identified in Goal 3 suitable for multipurpose field use by considering:
 - Environmental concerns, parking, and other related issues;
 - Field lighting;
 - Accommodating additional open space/recreational uses.
- Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of new multipurpose fields.
- 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 establishing an outdoor ice skating facility for winter use.
- Evaluate 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 for funding.
 - Seek out revenue generating opportunities to cover some or all of its capital and/or operating costs.
- If pursuing development of an in-Town rink, select the most suitable parcel identified in Goal 3.
- Identify funding sources for 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.

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.

ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: 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 Historical Com IT/GIS	Review maps showing important features, survey residents, review historical documents	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND Grant
Explore other possible funding sources such as the CPA. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Select Board	Finance DCED Assessors Recreation Conservation Housing Historical Com Historical Society Westwood Land Tr	NA	2020-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER (CONTINUED)					
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	NA
Preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and sites	Historical Com	Select Board DCED DPW Westwood Land Tr Historical Society	Informational materials; Acquisition	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Private donations
Employ Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District, as appropriate	DCED	Planning DPW	Permit applications, Informational materials	2019-2025	NA
Use Historic Structure Demolition bylaw, when appropriate	Historical Commission	DCED Building	Permit applications	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Encourage character-appropriate redevelopment of Westwood's Village Centers.	Select Board	DCED Planning DPW	Zoning incentives, infrastructure improvements	2019-2025	MassWorks, Complete Streets
Explore opportunities for shared parking arrangements for the use of existing commercial parking spaces to accommodate users of nearby open space and recreation areas.	DCED	Planning DPW Recreation	Permit applications	2019-2025	NA
Protect scenic roads.	Planning	DPW	Permit applications	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER (CONTINUED)					
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	NA
GENERAL GOAL 2: PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS AT ALL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE AREAS TO PROTECT ENHANCED ACCESS FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS					
Increase usability of recreational facilities and trails for visitors with sight, mobility, hearing, and other impairments	Recreation	DPW	Infrastructure improvements, signage, printed materials	2019-2025	Permit fees, Grants
Provide accessible parking spaces and accessible paths to all facilities	Recreation	DPW	Infrastructure improvements	2020-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS					
Prepare Conservation Land Management Plans for each conservation area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Identify handicap accessibility, corresponding maintenance required, and desired accessibility improvements. • Assign responsibilities and timing for implementing all aspects of the plan. 	Conservation	DCED DPW Planning IT/GIS Recreation Historical Com Historical Society	Environmental consultant	2019-2021	Town budget, LAND Grant

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS (CONTINUED)					
<p>Identify resources needed for ongoing maintenance and management of conservation areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 each 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 Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and “Friends of” groups to assist in the stewardship of conservation areas. • Explore grant opportunities for pilot projects. 	Conservation	DPW DCED Finance Recreation Assessors Hale Reservation Girl Scouts Boy Scouts	Environmental consultant, Explore private uses like cell tower, solar, hay/crops, etc.	2020-2025	Town budget, Grants, Private Donations, Fees

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS (CONTINUED)					
Foster handicap accessibility and inclusivity at feasible conservations areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 accessibility limitations. • 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. 	Conservation	DPW Finance Commission on Disability	Environmental consultant	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD’S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION					
Promote the Town’s open space and conservation land to serve as focal points of community interaction and to encourage use and protection.	Conservation	Select Board Commission on Disability	Town staff	2019-2025	Town budget, Grants
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.	Conservation	IT/GIS Westwood Land Tr	Town staff	2019-2021	Town budget, Grants
Create an App with information about open space/conservation areas in Westwood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • App would identify location, parking, and entry points. • App would list 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. 	Conservation	Select Board Westwood Land Tr DPW DCED IT/GIS	Social media	2019-2020	Town budget, Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
Update Town websites with expanded information about open space/conservation land.	Conservation	IT/GIS DCED DPW Recreation	Town staff	2019-2020	NA
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.	Ped/Bike Committee	Conservation Recreation DPW	Hale Reservation staff	2019-2020	Town budget
Collaborate with schools and service organizations in creating initiatives and programs to inform Westwood residents about open space and conservation areas.	Conservation Ped/Bike Committee	IT/GIS School Dept. Westwood Land Tr DCED Recreation DPW	Web site Social media Cable access Hale Reservation staff	2019-2025	NA
Create and install informative signage to direct Westwood residents to open space and conservation areas in Town.	Conservation	DPW Planning Westwood Land Tr	NA	2019-2020	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
Sponsor or encourage cable access shows featuring open space land.	Conservation	DPW Recreation DCED	Cable access	2019-2025	Town budget
Collaborate with the 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
Discourage use of invasive species by property owners and encourage their removal and proper disposal.	Conservation	Planning DPW	Website info Social media Cable access	2019-2025	NA
Monitor and adopt as appropriate best practices for sustainability and resiliency to climate change	DCED	Select Board Planning DPW	Town staff	209-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION					
Preserve and enhance Westwood’s natural environment through acquisition or protection of open space and conservation land.	Con Com	DCED DPW	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Update maps of Town-owned and privately-owned open space land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate natural resource and habitat areas; • Note historic/scenic vista areas; • Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space land. 	IT/GIS	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation DPW	Assessor’s Records	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Identify and acquire land that is contiguous to existing protected land and with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, or flood control.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Dedham-Westwood Water District	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Identify and acquire land to provide connectivity to an open space network.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation	Assessor’s Records OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION (CONTINUED)					
Identify and acquire land in areas with limited open space.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation	Assessor's Records OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Acquire conservation restrictions when more appropriate than land acquisition.	Westwood Land Tr	Select Board DCED Conservation Planning	Federal Tax incentives	2019-2025	NA
Continue to encourage donations of open space by landowners.	Westwood Land Trust	Select Board DCED Conservation Planning	Federal Tax incentives	2019-2025	NA
Ensure the perpetuity of Town conservation land by properly recording the deeds to state the conservation purpose of the land.	Select Board	Conservation DCED	Town staff	2019-2025	NA
Permanently protect the open space and recreational land of Hale Reservation by acquiring a conservation restriction on this land.	Hale Reservation	Select Board Westwood Land Trust	Town staff	2019-2025	NA
Encourage use of Open Space Residential Development for new residential developments.	DCED	Planning	OSRD	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3:					
IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION (CONTINUED)					
Collaborate with the Westwood Land Trust and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space.	DCED	Select Board Westwood Land Tr Conservation Planning IT/GIS	Establish committee	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES TO MEET DEMONSTRATED NEED					
Continue to update inventory for indoor and outdoor facilities.	Recreation	DPW School Dept.	Town staff	2019	NA
Establish Use & Maintenance Plans for all fields facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map location. • Allowed uses and times of uses. • Regular maintenance schedule. • Needed improvements (i.e.: lighting, artificial turf, additional field space, etc.) 	Recreation	DPW Planning	Town staff	2019-2021	NA
Undertake handicap accessibility improvements to all playgrounds and fields, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop parcel specific accessibility plans; • Identify funding for accessibility improvements; • Create schedule for implementation of accessibility improvements. 	Recreation	Commission on Disability DPW Planning	Town staff Consultant	2019-2022	Town budget, PARC
Improve communication by providing easy-to-use methods including web site and mobile apps to report maintenance issues.	IT/GIS	Recreation DPW	Town staff	2019-2021	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES TO MEET DEMONSTRATED NEED (CONTINUED)					
Add lighting to an existing field (e.g. Thurston).	Recreation	DPW	Electrical Contractor	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	Architectural firm	2019-2021	Islington Center Project funds
RECREATION GOAL 2: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING					
Evaluate feasibility of developing a new Indoor Recreation Community Center with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Board	DCED Recreation DPW Planning Building	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget, Grant
Select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 2: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING (CONTINUED)					
Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment for an indoor recreational facility.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Town staff	2019-2024	NA
Consider collaboration with other organizations to develop the center.	Recreation	Select Board YMCA Sports Organizations	Staff time	2019-2025	NA
If feasible, design and develop a new Indoor Recreation Community Center.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning Building	Architectural firm	2019-2024	Town budget, Private funds, User fees

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed; • Identify Town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider Westwood Lodge or other potential sites. 	Recreation	DCED Planning DPW School Dept.	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify how to replace any indoor basketball court that is eliminated by school consolidation, either in a new consolidated school or in a separate community recreational facility.	Select Board	School Dept. Recreation DPW DCED Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 4: DEVELOP NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS					
Evaluate the feasibility of developing more multipurpose fields.	Select Board	Recreation DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget
Select parcels identified in Goal 3 suitable for multipurpose field use by considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental concerns, parking, and other related issues; • Field lighting; • Accommodating additional open space/recreational uses. 	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of new multipurpose fields.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Develop at least one additional multi-use field.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

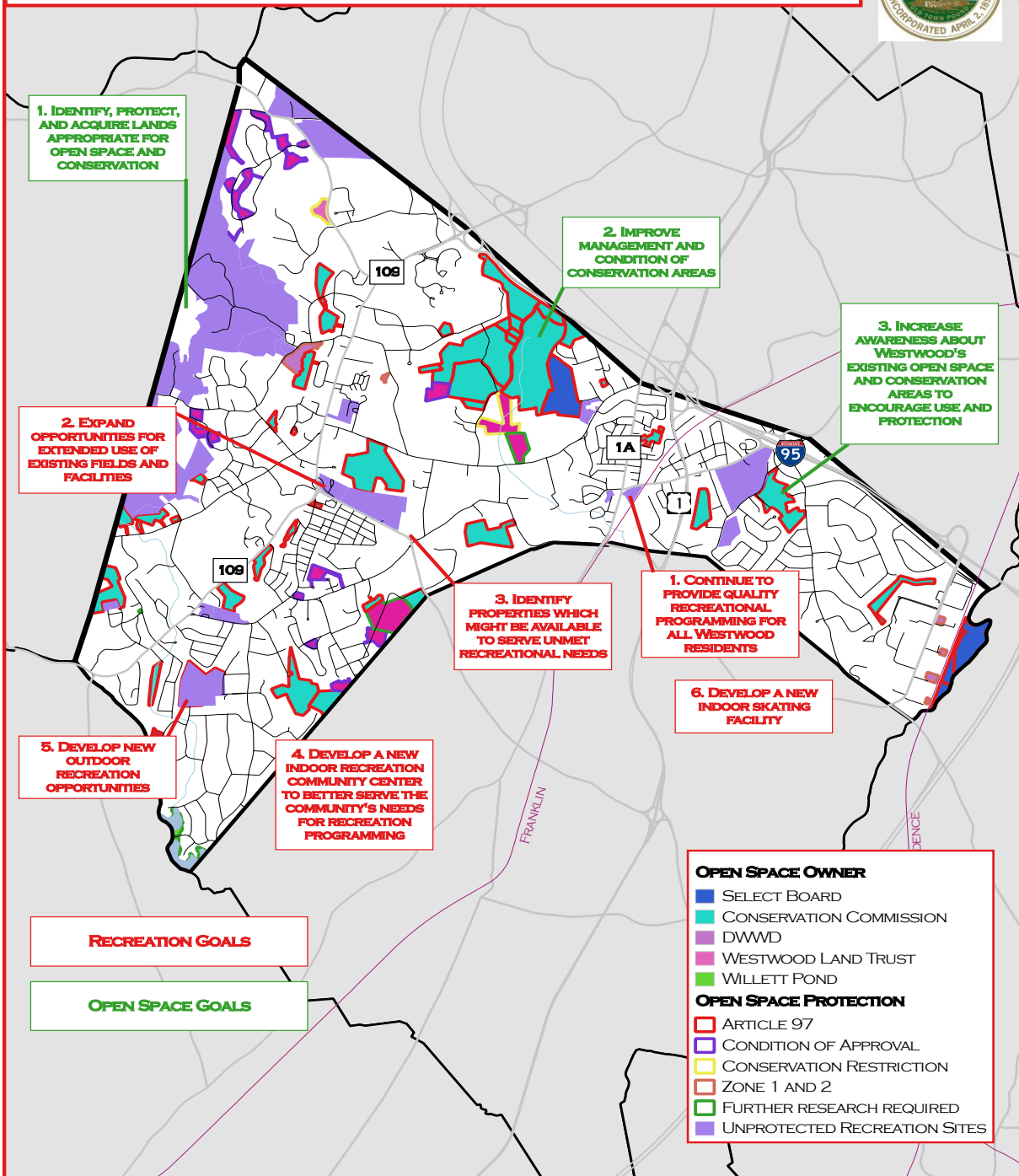
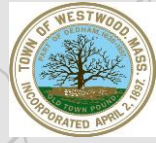
RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 5: DEVELOP NEW ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES					
Evaluate feasibility of sharing an indoor ice skating facility with surrounding towns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Select Board	Recreation School Dept. DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2021	Town budget
Evaluate establishing an outdoor ice skating facility for winter use	Recreation	Select Board DPW DCED Building	Consultant	2019-2025	Town budget
Evaluate establishing a new indoor ice skating facility in Westwood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify funding mechanisms for development and operation of an indoor ice skating facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research public-private partnerships for funding; ○ Seek out revenue generating opportunities to cover some or all of its capital and/or operating costs. 	Recreation	Finance DCED DPW Schools Sports Organizations	Consultant	2019-2025	Town budget, Private funds

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 5: DEVELOP NEW ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)					
If pursuing development of an in-Town rink, select the most suitable parcel identified in Goal 3.	Select Board	Recreation DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2021-2025	Town budget
Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create an indoor ice skating facility.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Staff time	2021-2025	NA
If feasible, design and develop an indoor ice skating facility.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning Building	Architectural firm	2021-2025	Town budget, Private funds
RECREATION GOAL 6: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL WESTWOOD RESIDENTS					
Continue to update inventory of recreational programs	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Staff time	2021-2025	NA
Consider results of survey and visioning workshop to help in determining the need for additional programs	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Architectural firm	2021-2025	Town budget, Private funds
Explore opportunities for regional recreational facilities and/or services	Recreation	Select Board DCED	Town staff	2019-2025	Town budget, Grants, User fees
Create or enhance programs and opportunities for recreation of 55+ aged population	Council on Aging	Recreation	Town staff and commissions	2019-2025	Town budget, User fees

MAP 9: ACTION PLAN



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

TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019



Section 10: Public Comments



TOWN OF WESTWOOD COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SELECT BOARD

Select Board

Michael F. Walsh, Chair
John M. Hickey, Clerk
Nancy C. Hyde, Third Member

Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

David Atkins, Chair
Westwood Planning Board
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Mr. Atkins,

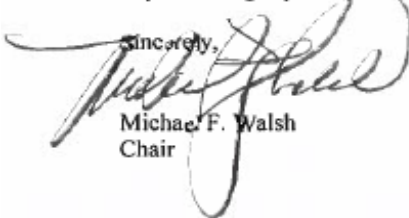
The Town of Westwood Select Board appreciates the time and effort expended by Planning Board and Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee members in producing this draft update to Westwood's Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The updated OSRP will provide valuable data and perspective that will be useful to Westwood's residents, boards and committees. This document will also be an excellent source of information to guide the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee as that committee works to update Westwood's Comprehensive Plan. The Select Board of Westwood shares these values and is supportive of future efforts to achieve articulated goals.

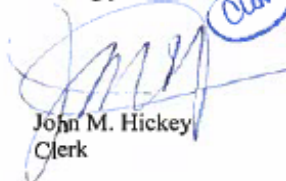
The updated OSRP will be an effective tool for preserving Westwood's community character through identification of broad goals and objectives and specific action items. Adoption and endorsement of this plan will further encourage the town's protection and management of its valuable open space, as well as the enhancement of the Westwood's high-quality recreational facilities. We will continue in our efforts to provide the highest quality recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

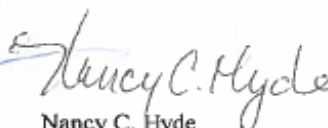
What is uncertain at this point are specifics regarding both funding sources and sizing up priorities relative to other town needs. The Select Board has solicited input from the town's Long Range Financial Planning Committee and has concluded that we do not support seeking Town Meeting approval of the Community Preservation Act at this time.

We respectfully recommend that that the Planning Board frame its discussion regarding the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in the context of a possible future funding source for the OSRP's many open space and recreation goals, rather than as a goal in itself. With this modification, the Select Board enthusiastically supports the OSRP goals and objectives and proposed action plan and looks forward to implementing aspects of this plan in the coming years.

Sincerely,


Michael F. Walsh
Chair


John M. Hickey
Clerk


Nancy C. Hyde
Third Member

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us

TOWN OF WESTWOOD
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

John Rogers, Chairman
Stephen David
Helen Gordon
R.J. Sheer
Todd Sullivan, Vice Chair
Todd Weston
Vesna Maneva



Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent
kcatrone@townhall.westwood.ma.us
781-251-2580

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ms. Abigail McCabe
Westwood Planning Board.
Westwood, MA 02090

January 28, 2019

re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. McCabe:

The Westwood Conservation Commission has reviewed and commented on the Westwood Open Space and Recreation (OSR) plan and held a public hearing on the draft plan to receive public comments on February 2, 2018. The commission is excited that the approved OSR plan will allow the Town the opportunity to apply for much needed state and federal grants to develop a Conservation Land Management Plan for maintenance of Conservation owned properties.

The plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's Open Space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of town expenditures. The Westwood Conservation Commission provides its overwhelming support of the plan.

Sincerely,

Karon Skinner Catrone
Westwood Conservation Agent
Westwood Conservation Commission



TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
RECREATION COMMISSION

Mitchell Katzman, Chair
Joyce Cannon, Vice Chair
Lynn Connors, Secretary
Ann Delaney, Member
Sheila Moylan, Member
Bob Phillips, Member
Paul Tucceri, Member
Elizabeth Phillips, Associate Member

Nicole Banks, Recreation Director
nbanks@townhall.westwood.ma.us

February 11, 2019

Westwood Planning Board
Abigail McCabe, Town Planner
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. McCabe,

The Westwood Recreation Commission has reviewed and commented on the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan dated February 8, 2019. The plan is a result of comprehensive research and puts forth well thought out recommendations that satisfy Westwood's recreation and open space needs. Approval of this plan by the Commonwealth enables the Town of Westwood to apply for funding grants to be used toward the completion of the projects specified.

The Westwood Recreation Commission supports the Draft OSRP and looks forward to assisting the Town in implementing the action plans to accomplish the recreation goals outlined.

Sincerely,

Ann Delaney
Recreation Commission Member
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Member

Section 11: References

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Appendix

- ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
- Survey Results

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Introduction

The ADA Self Access Evaluation is “a detailed assessment of the recreation department and conservation commission [that]... includes a site-by-site inventory of all recreation and conservation areas and buildings, programs or services and a transition plan if any changes are necessary to make these public facilities, programs, or services accessible. The Assessment should ensure compliance with Federal anti-discrimination regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended (“ADA”).⁵

The requirements of the ADA are administered in Massachusetts by the Architectural Access Board (“AAB”), as set forth in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.⁶ The purpose of the ADA requirements is to “seek to create or adapt sites, buildings and facilities so that they can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.” For the purpose of an OSRP, public recreational and conservation facilities must be evaluated for compliance with the ADA in accordance with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. It should be noted, however, that the DCS Workbook emphasizes the creation of an accessible system of facilities rather than an inventory of facilities in which every site is fully accessible.

⁵ ADA

⁶ 521 CMR 19:00

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

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

Michael Jaillet
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-4172
mjaillet@townhall.westwood.ma.us

The following letter signed by Michael F. Walsh, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, officially designates Michael Jaillet as the ADA Coordinator: A letter from Michael Jaillet certifying the Town's nondiscrimination policy also follows.



TOWN OF WESTWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Select Board

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Nancy C. Hyde, Third Member

Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
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Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

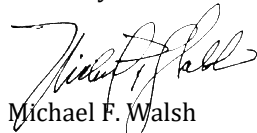
Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Please be advised that our Town Administrator, Michael Jaillet, is currently Westwood's ADA Coordinator.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely



Michael F. Walsh
Chairman

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us



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Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

As the Town of Westwood's ADA Coordinator, I hereby confirm that Westwood's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration, are consistent with ADA requirements.

In the event you have questions regarding this matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

Michael Jaillet
Town Administrator

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us

2. Grievance Procedures

The following ADA Compliance Policy is in place for the public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made in connection with accessibility of conservation or recreation facilities:

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). This may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provisions of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Westwood.

The Town of Westwood's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complains of disability discrimination. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request. The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to: "The Office of the Town Administrator, 580 High Street, Westwood, Massachusetts, 02091."

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolution.

Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Westwood and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the Town Administrator or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Counsel or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, Town Counsel or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolution.

Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, Town Counsel or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where, appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint. All written complaints received by the Town Administrator or his/her designee, appeals to the Town Administrator or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town of Westwood for at least three years.

3. Public Notification Requirements

3.0 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

3-1. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM The Town of Westwood commits itself to the principles and practices of equal employment opportunity, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order No. 227 as amended; MGL Chapter 151B; and all other applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. The Town of Westwood, recognizing the right of an individual to work and to advance on the basis of merit, ability, and potential without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, color, disability, religion, national origin, national ancestry, or age, resolves to take affirmative action measures to ensure equal opportunity in the areas of hiring, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment, layoff or termination, rate of compensation, training programs, and all terms and conditions of employment. The Town of Westwood shall strive to eliminate any systemic discrimination that may be pervasive throughout the place of employment, or throughout the personnel program that could adversely affect the Town's goals relative to equal employment opportunity. It is intended that the affirmative action plan of the Town shall constitute a formalization of philosophy and practice sufficient to guarantee equality for all persons employed by or seeking employment with the Town of Westwood, and shall serve as a firm statement of public policy endorsed by the highest levels of Town Government.

3-2. STRUCTURE TRUCTUREAND IMPLEMENTATION The Town Administrator shall annually appoint an Affirmative Action Officer. In the absence of such appointment, said position shall be filled by the Town Administrator.

3-3. THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER SHALL: (A) Be responsible for the development and implementation of policies, procedures, guidelines, and regulations for the Town to ensure that the Town employment process operates in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all subsequent amendments, relevant State laws, and Municipal policy; and (B) Monitor hiring practices and appointments of all Town departments and agencies of Town Government for compliance with federal and state law as cited above.

3-4. COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS Any written complaint alleging violation of the procedural terms and intent of this section shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Program, except that complaints of discriminatory treatment on the basis of a disability should be referred to the Affirmative Action Officer.

Public Notification Notices are posted in Town Hall indicating that the Town of Westwood does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Town's standard employment application includes a non-discrimination statement (see attached) and is posted on the Town's web site.

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

Achieved through the survey of residents' opinions and preferences and input from Commission on Disability and ADA Coordinator.

Part II: Program Accessibility

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

Facility Inventory:

There are seven sites in the Town of Westwood that are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or Recreation Department and include the requisite facilities to require study for ADA compliance. All seven are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department. The sites offer a variety of opportunities for public use, however, their most frequently-reviewed facilities were fields or playground equipment with associated parking, paths, picnic areas, and restrooms.

1. Recreation Facilities

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

2. Parking

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

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

Source: 521 CMR 23.2.1

Furthermore, one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one space, shall be van accessible.⁷ Van accessible spaces must provide a minimum vertical clearance of eight feet, two

⁷ 521 CMR 23.2.2

inches at the parking space and along at least one vehicle access route to such spaces from site entrances and exits. The space shall also have a minimum dimensions of eight feet in width as well as an eight foot wide adjacent access aisle, and be marked by a sign designating it as “Van Accessible”.⁸ Alternatively, the van requirement may be satisfied by having all handicapped spaces eleven or more feet wide.⁹

3. Ramps

For the purposes of ADA compliance, any part of an accessible route with a slope greater than 5% shall be considered a ramp.¹⁰ Ramp designation triggers slope, rise, width, and landing requirements as well as gripping requirements on rails and surfaces. Site Access, Path of Travel and Entrances.

Any accessible route shall provide a continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible spaces and elements inside and outside a facility.¹¹ The route must adhere to width, turning radius, passing space, and slope requirements. Furthermore, an accessible route may also be designated as a walkway, giving rise to further requirements set forth in 521 CMR 22:00.

4. Rest Rooms

None of the facilities include permanent public toilet rooms. However, most of the sites provide at least one portable toilet. The portable toilets, however, are not accessible.

5. Picnicking

Picnic areas are regulated under recreational facilities in 521 CMR 19.6. The regulations require that picnic facilities be accessible from an accessible route that is paved or hard packed.¹² Additionally, 5% of tables provided at a site shall comply with 521 CMR 19.5.2, which sets forth dimensional requirements for accessible tables. By and large, the picnic facilities at Westwood recreation sites do not comply with the requirements.

The following Facility Inventory is a comprehensive accessibility evaluation of sites with public facilities that are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department and Conservation Commission. A photo and summary of the facility are provided for each site, followed by the ADA facility inventory form edited to include the applicable features for each site. Conservation sites that are simply natural areas with no parking or man-made facilities of any kind are not included.

Lowell Woods

Address: Sandy Valley Road

Parcel Nos.: 10-52,53,55,56,57,58,59; 11-01,04; 15-15,28; 16-437

Acreage: 290+ (Including Grimm, Sandy Valley, Mulvehill and Shuttleworth)

⁸ 521 CMR 23.4.7

⁹ 521 CMR 23.4.7

¹⁰ 521 CMR 24:00

¹¹ 521 CMR 20.1

¹² 521 CMR 19.6.1

Facilities: Parking area, signage, trails

This area has a gravel cul-de-sac at the end of Sandy Valley Road. There is a gravel parking area. Miles of marked trails but no handicapped accessibility.



Lowell Woods		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Trails		The majority of trails are made of gravel surfaces. Minor grading maintenance is needed to smooth the transition between gravel and pavement at entrances and exits
		The trails vary in width from 3 to 6 feet
		There is no signage for the visually impaired at or along trails
PARKING		
Total Spaces	~5-7	unmarked
Required Accessible Spaces:	1	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	0	
Access:	Parking is located at the end of the dirt road, Sandy Valley Lane.	
Signage	There is a signage kiosk with information about the trails.	
	There are no signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is gravel	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The trails are natural	

Morrison Field

Address: 300 Washington Street

Parcel No.: 23-215-0T

Acreage: 3.07 (Includes fires station)

Facilities: Parking lot, signage, concessions, fields, courts, paths, picnicking, and portable toilet facilities.

This facility includes a little league baseball field, a softball field, a basketball court and supporting facilities. The paved parking lot includes the required number of handicapped spaces, but they could be moved closer to the park entrance. Appropriate ramps and a paved sidewalk provide access to the park. Within the park, a hard-packed gravel path passes through the little league facilities and provides access to the basketball court and batting cages. It does not, however, reach the softball field. Overall the facility provides good access.



Morrison Field		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Most tables and benches are located adjacent to accessible paths
		Most tables and benches are located in open spaces
		Tables and benches do not have back and arm rests
		There is adequate accessible seating at the little league field, but not at the softball field
	Trash cans	There are 8 trash cans and 3 recycling cans located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	There are no picnic shelters at the facility
Picnic areas at the little league field are located near accessible paths, trash cans, and parking		
Trails		The majority of trails are made of gravel surfaces. Minor grading maintenance is needed to smooth the transition between gravel and pavement at entrances and exits
		The trails vary in width from 3 to 6 feet
		There is no signage for the visually impaired at or along trails
Game Area 1: Little League Baseball	Access Routes	The little league field is located adjacent to accessible paths
		Pads are in place for a smooth transition from path to field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Sufficient width and surfaces allow access to equipment areas. A brick-paved area is also available for spectating. Accessible trails lead to training areas (batting cages). Equipment could be stored more carefully so as not to interfere with accessible path. The porta-potty is not accessible.
Game Area 2: Basketball	Access Routes	The basketball court is accessed by gravel trail. Transition from gravel to paved court requires minor grading maintenance
	Equipment	The paved surface inside the court is an adequate condition but beginning to crack. A trash can is accessible on the paved surface and there is adequate room . on the sidelines and baseline for spectators
Game Area 3: Softball	Access Routes	There are no access routes to the facilities or spectator areas
	Equipment	There are bleachers and dugouts, but they are not accessible. There is a porta-potty, but it is not accessible or located on an accessible path

PARKING		
Total Spaces	31	
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	2	Includes one van space
Access:	There is a ramp from the handicap spaces to the sidewalk near the playing fields	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is stable, firm, and slip resistant	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance lacks signage	
	Primary entrance contains sufficient width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	
PICNICKING		
	Only 1 picnic table observed met accessibility requirements, and it was located in the softball field away from accessible paths, and also in subpar condition	

School Street Playground

Address: 44 School Street

Parcel No.: 23-082

Acreage: 1.8

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Parking lot, tot lot, two small softball fields.

The School Street Playground includes a tot lot playground and two small softball fields. The parking lot has six marked spaces, including one handicapped van space, as well as three potential additional spaces that are unmarked but were in use. Inside the tot lot a small picnic shelter covers two picnic tables. Additionally, there are three trash cans, two benches, and a portable toilet. The surface within the tot lot is wood chips, but there is also a small grass area next to the tables. There is no accessible path to provide access within the tot lot or to the rear of the side where the softball fields are located.



School Street Playground		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Two picnic tables, but not adjacent to accessible paths
		Tables covered, benches uncovered
		Benches have backs, but no arm rests. No backs or arm rests on tables
	Trash cans	Three trash cans, no recycling. Not located adjacent to accessible paths.
	Picnic Shelters	The picnic shelter contains two tables
No accessible path to picnic shelter		
Tot Lot	Access Routes	Gate to tot lot is at parking lot next to accessible spaces
		The path within the tot lot is loose gravel
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Tot lot equipment is over a woodchip type surface. A grass area is adjacent to the picnic shelter.
Softball Fields		Two small softball fields at the rear of the site - no additional facilities
PARKING		
Total Spaces	6	3 potential unmarked spaces were also observed in use
Required Accessible Spaces:	1	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	1	Van
Access:	There is direct access from the van space to the tot lot	
Signage	There are no signs specifically indicating direction, but the direction is clear	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is loose gravel	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is not a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	

Westwood Lodge

Address: 45 Clapboardtree Street

Parcel No.: 29-123

Acreage: 2.0

Jurisdiction: Private (Currently used by recreation department)

Facilities: Parking lot, multipurpose field

The multipurpose field is part of the Westwood Lodge Hospital property. However, it is currently used by the recreation department. The lodge parking lot that abuts the field is intended to serve the hospital building. While there are no handicapped-designated spaces adjacent to the field, the hospital uses portable handicapped parking signs and could designate a few spaces near the field. There are no other supporting facilities.



Westwood Lodge		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Game Area 1: Multipurpose field	Access Routes	There is no path leading from parking to the field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		There are two trash receptacles, but not recycling. There is one portable toilet, but it is not handicapped accessible. There is no seating.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	101	
Required Accessible Spaces:	5	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	4	Two spaces appear capable of accommodating vans but are not signed for such.
Access:	The spaces are located next to the lodge and not next to the field.	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL	N/A	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance lacks signage for the field	
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	

Peter White Memorial Field

Address: Pond Street

Parcel No.: 28-078

Acreage: 6.25 (Includes adjacent field for Sheehan school)

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Baseball field with multipurpose field in outfield

This baseball field is located on the same parcel as, and shares access with, another field associated with Sheehan school. Therefore, it does not have designated parking, but the Sheehan school's parking lot is nearby. While there is no direct path from the parking to the field, there is a concrete sidewalk along Pond Street that passes the outfield.



Peter White Memorial Field		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Most tables and benches are located adjacent to accessible paths
		Most tables and benches are in open spaces
		Tables and benches do not have back and arm rests
		There is adequate accessible seating at the little league field, but not at the softball field
	Trash cans	There are 8 trash cans and 3 recycling cans located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	There are no picnic shelters at the facility
Picnic areas at the little league field are located near accessible paths, trash cans, and parking		
Game Area 1: Baseball	Access Routes	The little league field is located adjacent to accessible paths
		There is no pathway to the baseball field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Three sets of bleachers with varying proximity to the field. There is no path to the bleachers. Additional facilities include dugout benches, batting cages, four trash cans (no recycling), and one portable toilet (not handicapped accessible).
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	No designated parking lot; parking available at adjacent Sheehan school
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	No handicapped spaces are available near access to the field

Thurston School Multipurpose Fields

Address: Nahatan Street

Parcel No.: 21-347

Acreage: 7.84

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department use of school field

Facilities: Multipurpose field space

A few fields located to the rear of the school building on a separate parcel. Although there is no designated parking, a nearby school lot provides access. The handicapped spaces in the lot are located near the school entrance, and not near the field entrance. A paved, accessible path provides access to some of the fields and spectator seating. However, a large gate meant to block vehicular access could impede handicapped access as well.



Thurston School Multipurpose Fields		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Game Area 1: Full size soccer field	Access Routes	A paved, level path provides access from the parking area to the bleachers but may be blocked by a gate at times.
		The path goes near the bleachers, but not into the seating area.
	Equipment	One set of open bleachers provides spectator seating.
		There were two trash cans (no recycling) observed.
		One portable toilet was on site (not handicapped accessible)
Game Area 2: Small soccer fields	Access Routes	There is no access route to the fields
	Equipment	One set of open bleachers provides spectator seating. Two trash cans and zero recycling cans were observed
PARKING		
Total Spaces	45	
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	5	Spaces each have varying ability to accommodate van
Access:	Although the lot is for the school, it is located adjacent to the fields and the path. Three of the handicapped spaces are located near the path	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	

High School Multipurpose Field

Address: Nahatan Street

Parcel No.: 21-346

Acreage: 6.44

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department use of school field

Facilities: Multipurpose turf field, accessible path, bleachers, basketball court, batting cages

This field located to the rear of the high school parking lot provides multiple recreation opportunities and a paved path that provides access to, or near to, all of them. There is no designated parking lot, but the high school parking lot provides abundant parking with a direct accessible route. However, there are no handicapped spaces near access to the field.



High School Multipurpose Field		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Game Area: Multipurpose field	Field; team benches; spectator seating	Four sets of bleachers all located on accessible path
		Sufficient width and surfaces allow access to equipment areas. The path surrounds the entire field and provides access for spectators at the bleachers and also to team benches. Six trash receptacles and one recycling receptacle were observed.
Game Area 2: Basketball Court; practice cage	Batting/other practice cage; basketball court	The accessible path passes by the court and practice areas. There is a portable toilet in the vicinity, but it is not handicapped accessible.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There is no dedicated parking, but the school's lot is adjacent and provides access to the accessible path to these facilities
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	There are no handicapped spaces in proximity to facilities.
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is stable, firm, and slip resistant	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Signage does not indicate recreation department vs school jurisdiction at the field	
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	

Community Tot Lot

Address: 60 Nahatan Street

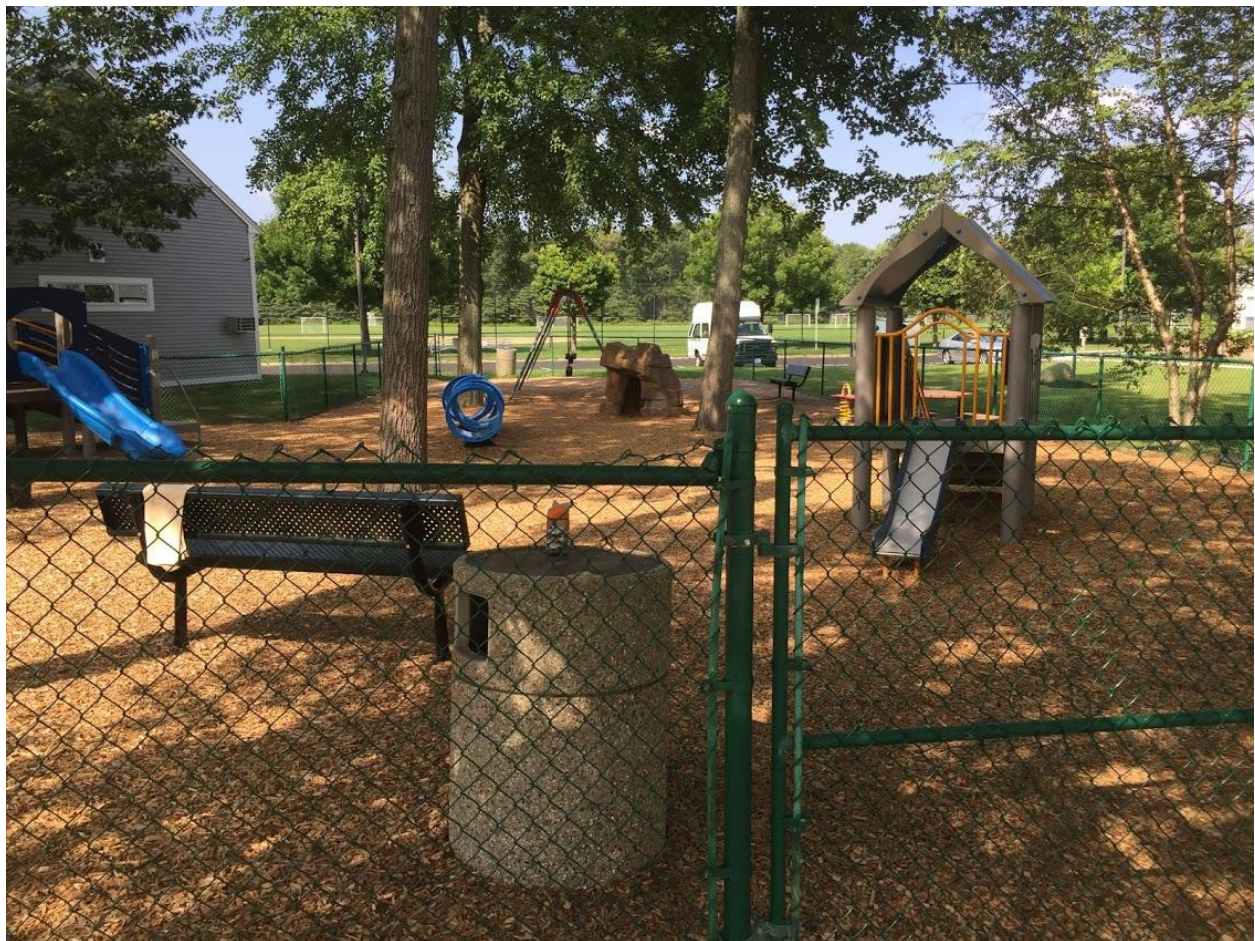
Parcel No.: 21-349

Acreage: 2.29

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Tot lot only

The Community Tot Lot is located on the same parcel as the Council of Aging building. It does not have its own parking lot, but parking is available at the Council of Aging building and along the street. There is also a concrete sidewalk from Nahatan Street to Thurston middle school that provides access. However, the groundcover within the tot lot is wood chips.



Community Tot Lot		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Tot Lot	Access Routes	The tot lot is accessed by a concrete sidewalk
		The transition from sidewalk to gate is gravel
	Equipment	Playground equipment and a bench are located on a wood chip surface
		Two trash cans, no recycling, and one bench were observed. The bench has a back but no arm rests
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There are no dedicated parking spaces, but parking is available at the adjacent senior center
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the facilities for someone in a wheelchair, though the direction is clear	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	There is no path of travel within the tot lot	
ENTRANCES		
	There are gated entrances on two sides of the tot lot	
	Primary entrance contains sufficient width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	

June Street Playground/Pheasant Hill Park

Address: Pheasant Hill St

Parcel No.: 27-221

Acreage: 3.08

Jurisdiction: Recreation Department

Facilities: Field, playground equipment

The June Street Playground is located at the end of Pheasant Hill Road. It does not have its own parking. The entrance is stone dust and the surface is not suitable for wheelchairs. The groundcover within the tot lot is engineered wood fibers. The Commission on Disabilities has had input on the design and facilities within the playground. It is still under development and additional accessibility improvements are planned.



June Street Playground/Pheasant Hill Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	Notes
Tot Lot	Access Routes	The tot lot is accessed by a stone dust path from the end of an asphalt path.
	Equipment	Playground equipment and 3 benches are located on a wood chip surface. There are 4 swings, of which one is accessible. Other equipment includes a slide and some climbing structures. The equipment was chosen in conjunction with the Commission on Disability and is accessible. There is room to move between the structures.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There are no parking spaces.
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	NA
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	None
SIGNAGE	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the facilities for someone in a wheelchair, though the direction is clear.	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Path of Travel	There is no accessible path of travel to or within the tot lot	
Entrances	There is a single stone dust path from the end of Pheasant Hill Street	
	The entrance contains sufficient width but not a smooth surface.	
Disembarking area at entrance	There is not sufficient width at the disembarking area for a van-accessible space.	
PICNIC FACILITIES	Tables and Benches	There are 3 benches and 1 picnic table. The table is only 24” high so not wheelchair accessible. The benches have backs but no sides.
	Trash cans	There is a single trash can (no recycling). It is not on an accessible path (but path will be made accessible

Westwood Swimming Pool

Address: 200 Nahatan Street

Parcel No.: 21-048

Acreage: 36.46 (High School site)

Facilities: Indoor swimming pool, parking lot, restrooms, showers, water fountains, emergency telephone, lifts.

This modern facility includes handicapped accessible restrooms and showers. The paved parking lot includes the required number (3) of handicapped spaces, and they are located directly in front of the main entrance with an access ramp and short accessible path to the entrance. Wide, unobstructed corridors facilitate access to both the main pool area and the spectator area. There is a stairway down to the pool area with a lift (with backup generator) for persons with disabilities. The pool itself has a graduated step ramp plus a lift to facilitate access, as well as an alternative access/exit path without stairs in cases of emergency. Audible and lighted emergency alarms are located throughout the facility. Special programs and custom private lessons are provided for persons with special needs. Overall the facility provides excellent access.



Westwood Swimming Pool

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

LOCATION

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

LOCATION

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

NOTES

LOCATION

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

NOTES

LOCATION

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			34"
Extends at least 22" from the wall		X	20"
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self-closing		X	
Stall door has a pull latch	X		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		
Coat hook is 54" high	X		
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		17"
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1 1/4" diameter	X		
1 1/2" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		33"
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc.) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		

NOTES

LOCATION

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface	X		
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	X		
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	X		
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	X		
Hand operated push button or level controls	X		
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	X		
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain	X		One of 2 is recessed and meets dimensions.
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	X		
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor	X		48"
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide	X		
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified	X		
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc., must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	X		Lights are all on sensors to automatically turn on and off.
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	X		
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	x		
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	X		
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high		X	1"
Letters and numbers raised .03"	X		
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		

NOTES

LOCATION

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

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36” by 60” minimum, with a 36” door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	X		
Floors are non-slip surface	X		
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	X		
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	X		
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	X		
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42” to 72” above the floor	X		
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16” deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18” to the top of the seat, and at least 24” long	X		Except seats are not padded.
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds	X		
2 grab bars are provided, one 30” and one 48” long, or one continuous L shaped bar	X		One stall has L-shaped bar with one leg of it less than 48” because stall is less than 48”.
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36” above the floor line	X		

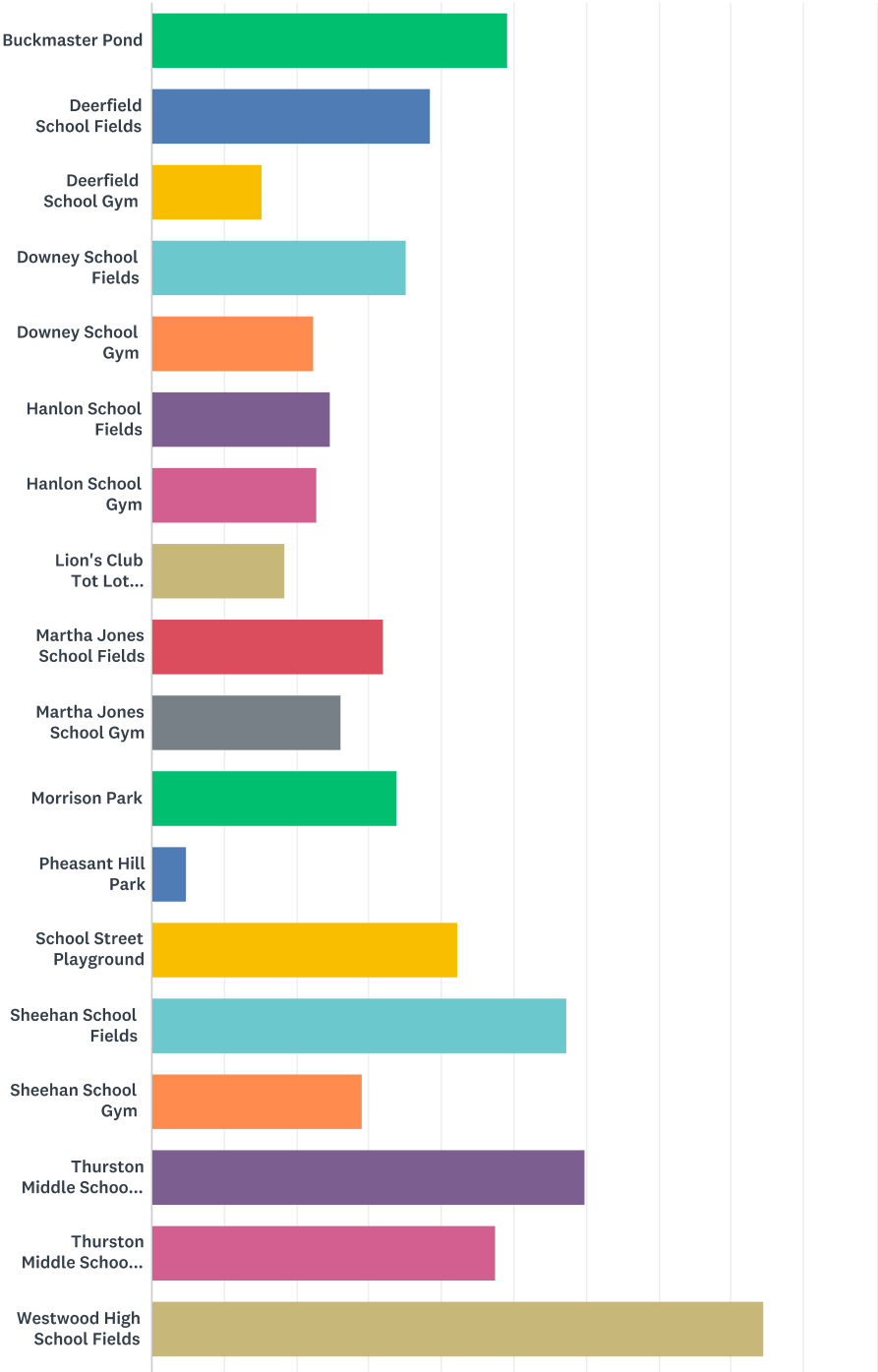
LOCATION

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

OSRP Survey Results

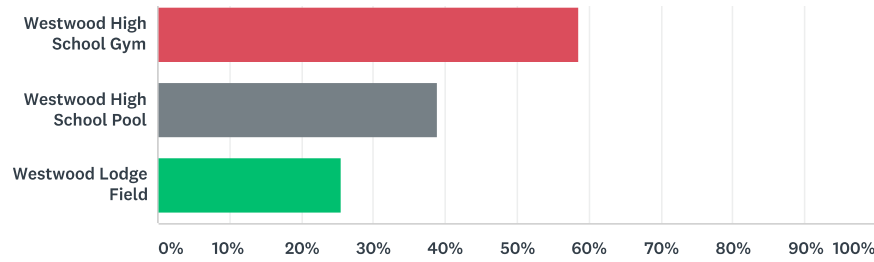
Q1 In the past year, which of the following recreation areas listed below did you or your family use?

Answered: 783 Skipped: 24



Westwood Open Space and Recreation Survey

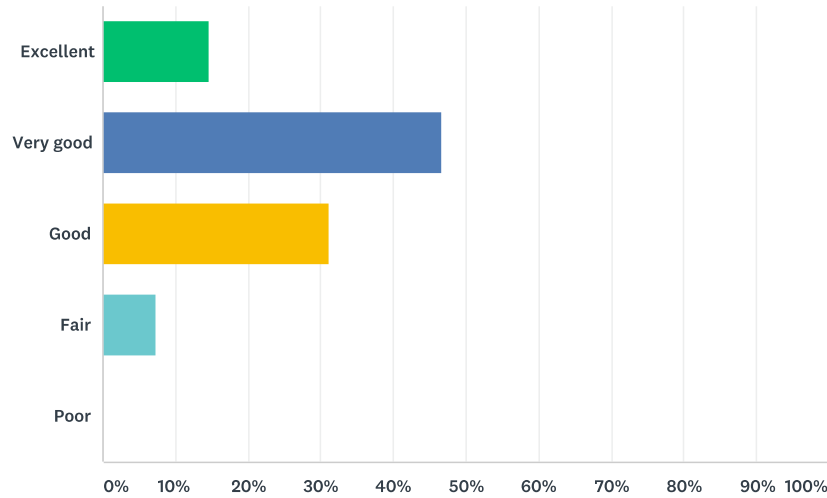
SurveyMonkey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Buckmaster Pond	49.17%	385
Deerfield School Fields	38.57%	302
Deerfield School Gym	15.20%	119
Downey School Fields	35.12%	275
Downey School Gym	22.48%	176
Hanlon School Fields	24.78%	194
Hanlon School Gym	22.73%	178
Lion's Club Tot Lot Playground	18.39%	144
Martha Jones School Fields	31.93%	250
Martha Jones School Gym	26.05%	204
Morrison Park	33.84%	265
Pheasant Hill Park	4.73%	37
School Street Playground	42.27%	331
Sheehan School Fields	57.34%	449
Sheehan School Gym	29.12%	228
Thurston Middle School Fields	59.90%	469
Thurston Middle School Gym	47.51%	372
Westwood High School Fields	84.55%	662
Westwood High School Gym	58.62%	459
Westwood High School Pool	38.95%	305
Westwood Lodge Field	25.54%	200
Total Respondents: 783		

Q2 How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreational facilities found in Westwood?

Answered: 789 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	14.70%	116
Very good	46.64%	368
Good	31.18%	246
Fair	7.22%	57
Poor	0.25%	2
TOTAL		789

Q3 Please explain:

Answered: 649 Skipped: 158

Individual answers not categorized.

Q4 Please identify any recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved:

Answered: 646 Skipped: 161

Responses in Common:

- University Station Area
- Properties along Gay Street/Gay Street, for bike route or walking paths
- Westwood Lodge Land
- Hale Reservation
- First Parish Parcel
- Land adjacent to the high school / Nahattan Street entrance to WHS

Nov 13 - Dec 3, 2017

641

- More soccer and lacrosse fields
- School baseball fields
- Elementary school gyms
- More connecting sidewalks and trails, as well as bike paths
- More lighting in most fields
- More basketball gyms
- Sheehan gyms and fields
- Pheasant Hill Park
- Playground run-down

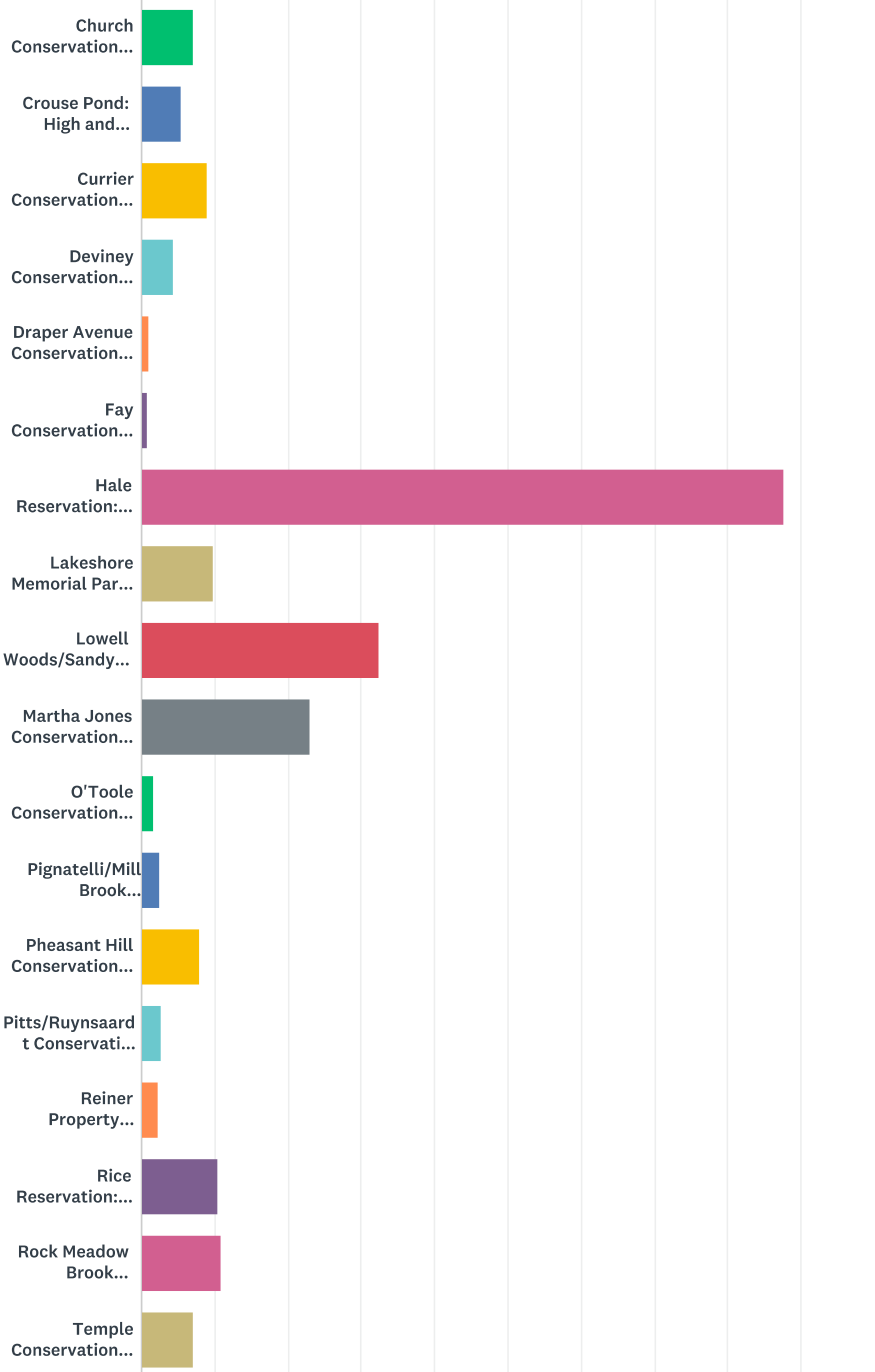
Feb 1 - March 1, 2018

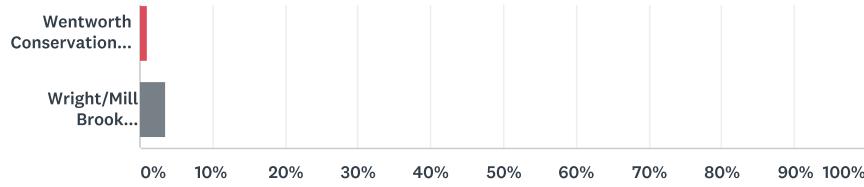
168

- Deerfield outdoor court
- Softball fields
- High school weight room
- Buckmaster Pond

Q5 In the past year, what town/nonprofit open space areas listed below did you or your family use?

Answered: 675 Skipped: 132

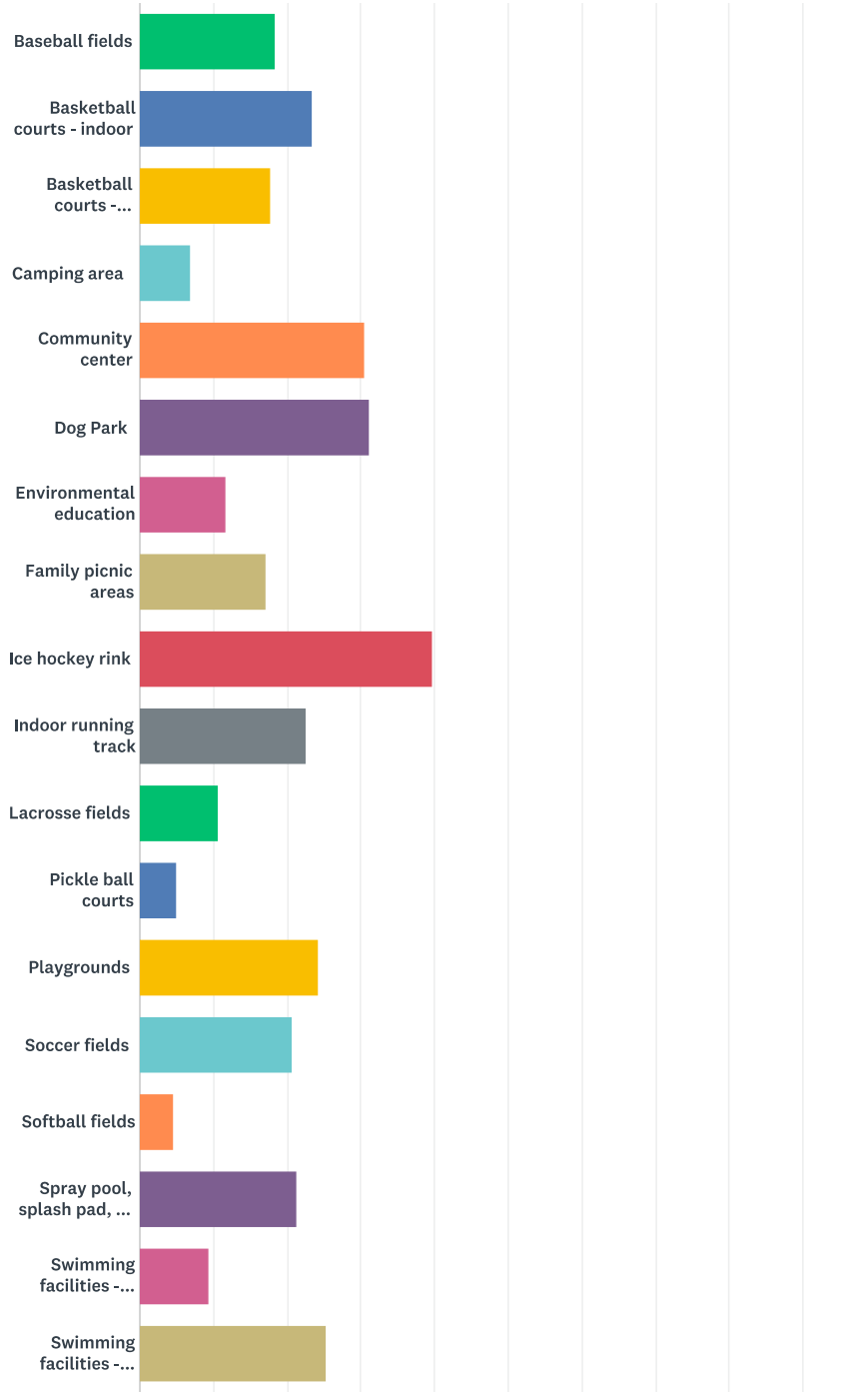


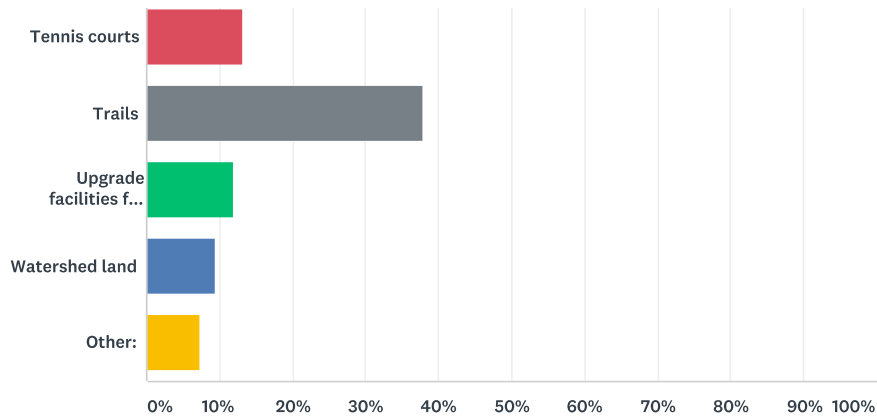


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Church Conservation Area: High Street	7.11%	48
Crouse Pond: High and Westwood Streets	5.48%	37
Currier Conservation Area: Downey and Canton Streets and Booth Drive	9.04%	61
Deviney Conservation Area: Between High and Hartford Streets	4.44%	30
Draper Avenue Conservation Area: Draper Avenue and Stanford Drive	1.04%	7
Fay Conservation Area: Coach Lane (rear)	0.74%	5
Hale Reservation: Carby Street	87.56%	591
Lakeshore Memorial Park: High Street and Lake Shore Drive	9.78%	66
Lowell Woods/Sandy Valley/Mulvehill/Fox Meadow/Germany Brook Conservation Area	32.44%	219
Martha Jones Conservation Area: Edgewood and Sunrise Roads, Martha Jones School	23.11%	156
O'Toole Conservation Area: Smith Drive and Providence Pike	1.78%	12
Pignatelli/Mill Brook Reservation: Hartford Street	2.52%	17
Pheasant Hill Conservation Area: Burgess Ave and Town line	7.85%	53
Pitts/Ruynsaardt Conservation Area: High Street	2.67%	18
Reiner Property Conservation Area: Nahatan Street	2.22%	15
Rice Reservation: Pond, Gay, and Thatcher Streets, Senior High School	10.52%	71
Rock Meadow Brook Conservation Area: along Brook, Conant, and Dover Roads and High Rock Street	10.81%	73
Temple Conservation Area: Pond Street	7.11%	48
Wentworth Conservation Area: Wentworth and Curtis Streets	1.04%	7
Wright/Mill Brook Conservation Area: Hartford Street	3.56%	24
Total Respondents: 675		

Q6 Check up to five items below that you feel should be a priority in Westwood in the next five years.

Answered: 791 Skipped: 16





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball fields	18.46%	146
Basketball courts - indoor	23.39%	185
Basketball courts - outdoor	17.70%	140
Camping area	6.83%	54
Community center	30.47%	241
Dog Park	31.23%	247
Environmental education	11.63%	92
Family picnic areas	17.07%	135
Ice hockey rink	39.70%	314
Indoor running track	22.50%	178
Lacrosse fields	10.75%	85
Pickle ball courts	4.93%	39
Playgrounds	24.27%	192
Soccer fields	20.73%	164
Softball fields	4.68%	37
Spray pool, splash pad, or water features	21.37%	169
Swimming facilities - indoor	9.48%	75
Swimming facilities - outdoor	25.28%	200
Tennis courts	13.15%	104
Trails	37.80%	299
Upgrade facilities for handicapped accessibility	11.88%	94
Watershed land	9.48%	75
Other:	7.33%	58

Q7 What areas in Westwood should be acquired or repurposed for the future use of town residents for recreation or conservation purposes? Please describe the site(s) in detail below.

Answered: 457 Skipped: 350

Responses in Common:

- University Station Area
- Properties along Gay Street/Gay Street, for bike route or walking paths
- Westwood Lodge Land
- Hale Reservation
- First Parish Parcel
- Land adjacent to the high school/Nahattan Street entrance to WHS

Nov 13 - Dec 3, 2017

641

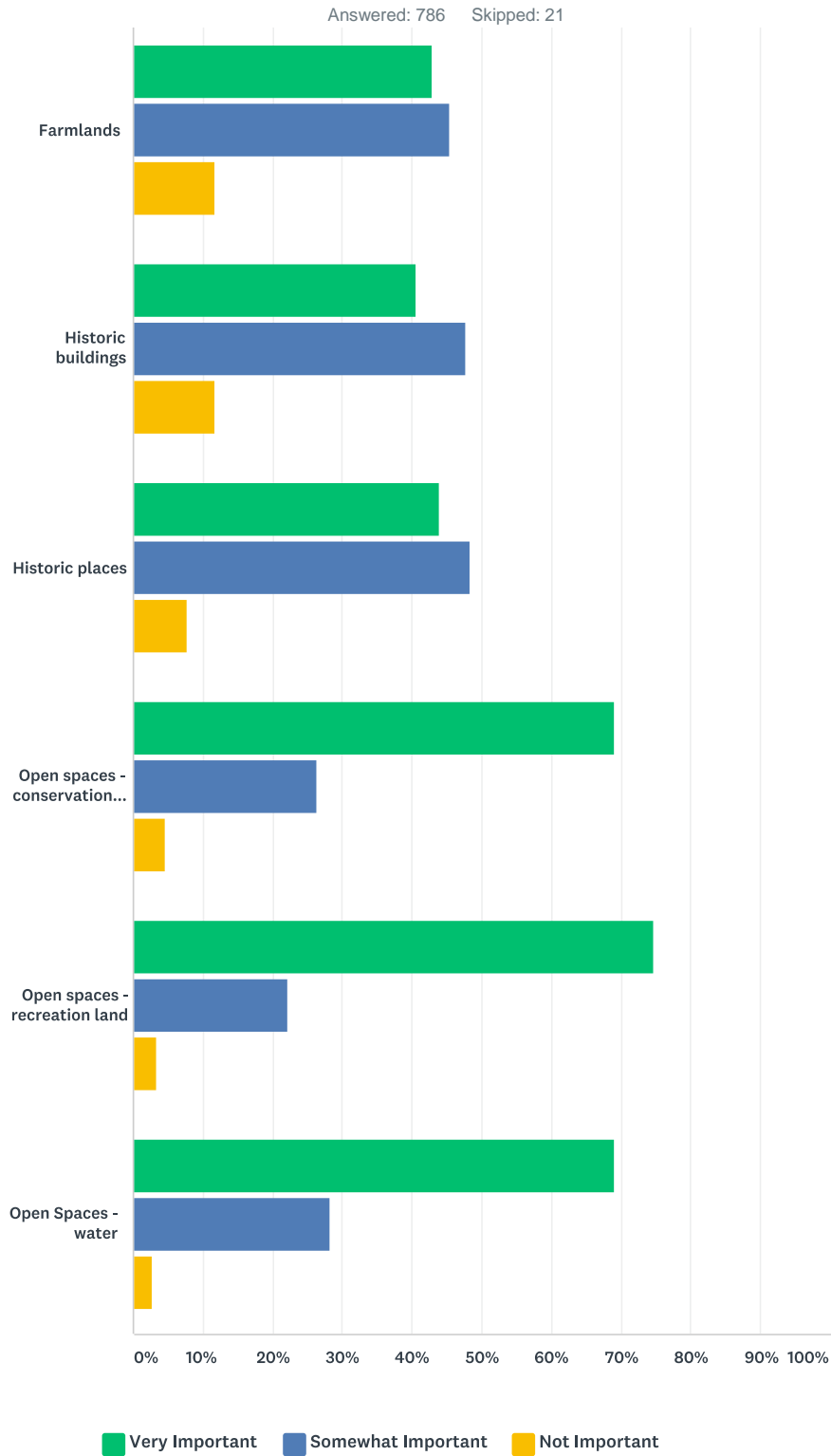
- Town's property in Islington
- The Canton/Downey Area
- More indoor space for winter activities
- Corner of Fox Hill and High Street
- Pheasant Hill Park
- Deerfield School
- Buckmaster Pond

Feb 1 - March 1, 2018

168

- Sheehan School grounds
- Islington Community Center
- Rice Reservation
- Westwood Station

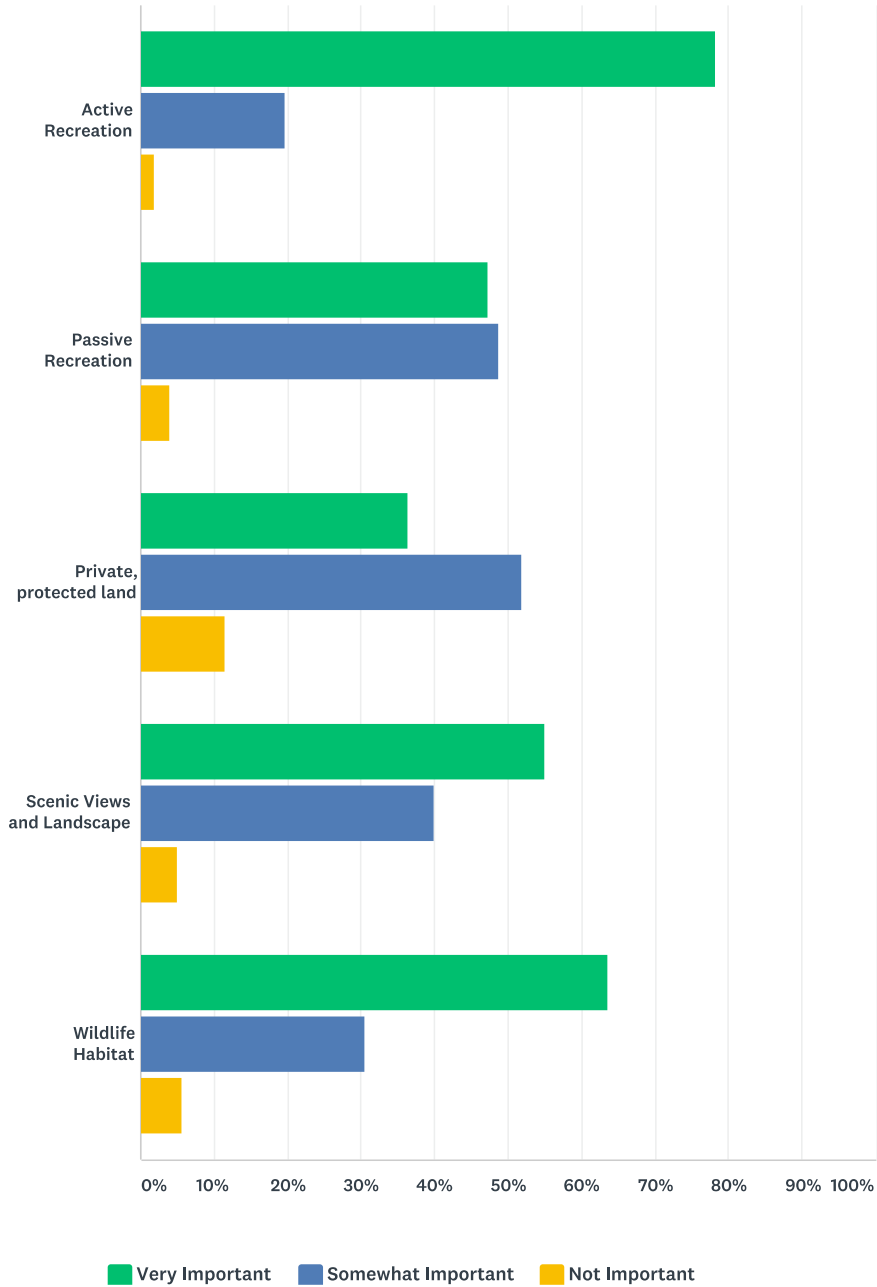
Q8 How important is it to you to preserve the following?



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Farmlands	42.84% 332	45.42% 352	11.74% 91	775
Historic buildings	40.52% 314	47.74% 370	11.74% 91	775
Historic places	43.99% 337	48.30% 370	7.70% 59	766
Open spaces - conservation land	69.02% 537	26.35% 205	4.63% 36	778
Open spaces - recreation land	74.58% 581	22.08% 172	3.34% 26	779
Open Spaces - water	69.07% 536	28.22% 219	2.71% 21	776

Q9 How would you rate the following features of current and future open space in the Town?

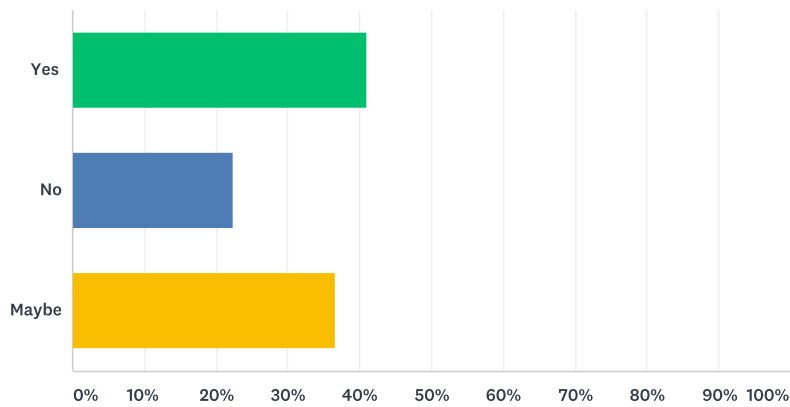
Answered: 776 Skipped: 31



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Westwood Open Space and Recreation Survey				SurveyMonkey
Active Recreation	78.28% 602	19.77% 152	1.95% 15	769
Passive Recreation	47.28% 357	48.74% 368	3.97% 30	755
Private, protected land	36.41% 276	51.98% 394	11.61% 88	758
Scenic Views and Landscape	55.02% 422	39.90% 306	5.08% 39	767
Wildlife Habitat	63.62% 488	30.64% 235	5.74% 44	767

Q10 Would you support an effort to adopt the Community Preservation Act? The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a Massachusetts state law (M.G.L. Chapter 44B) passed in 2000. It enables communities that adopt it to create a local dedicated fund for open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, development of affordable housing and the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Funds for these purposes are raised through a voter-authorized surcharge on local property tax bills of up to 3%. Local adoption of CPA triggers annual distributions from the state’s Community Preservation Trust Fund to the town’s Community Preservation Fund. Currently, 156 cities and towns have adopted the CPA. Westwood last considered the CPA in 2001, when it failed to pass.

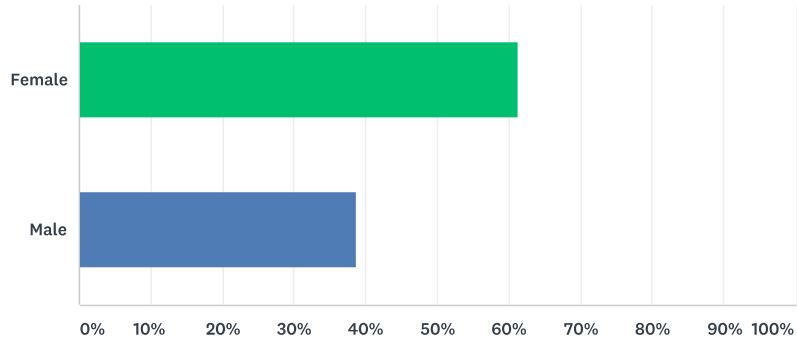
Answered: 779 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.95%	319
No	22.34%	174
Maybe	36.71%	286
TOTAL		779

Q11 What is your gender?

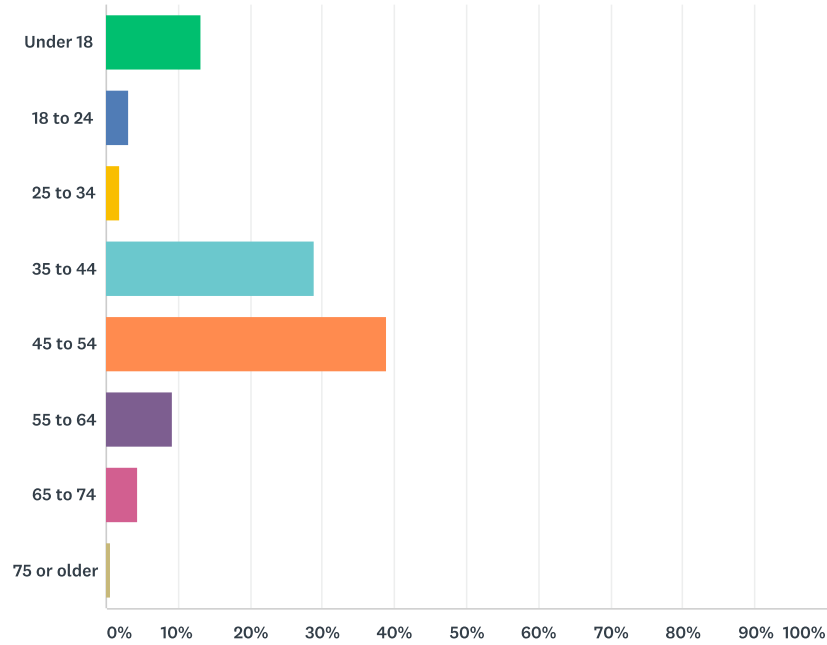
Answered: 759 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	61.40%	466
Male	38.60%	293
TOTAL		759

Q12 What is your age?

Answered: 757 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	13.08%	99
18 to 24	3.04%	23
25 to 34	1.85%	14
35 to 44	28.80%	218
45 to 54	38.84%	294
55 to 64	9.25%	70
65 to 74	4.49%	34
75 or older	0.66%	5
TOTAL		757