

PLYMPTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



DRAFT MAY 13, 2009

REMAINING LANDSCAPE; STONEWALLS, PASTURE, RESERVOIR AND BOGS ON CRESCENT STREET

**PLYMPTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
AND
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL
70 SCHOOL STREET
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301**

MAY 13, 2009

Foreword

This 2009 Plympton Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared by the following staff of the Old Colony Planning Council under the direction of Executive Director Pasquale Ciaramella:

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James R. Watson, Supervisor, Comprehensive Planning

The work was done in close cooperation with the Plympton Open Space Committee, as described below in the Introduction.

The Plan was financed by the town with additional funds from the Taunton River Campaign, and from a grant for examination of Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer protection issues from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

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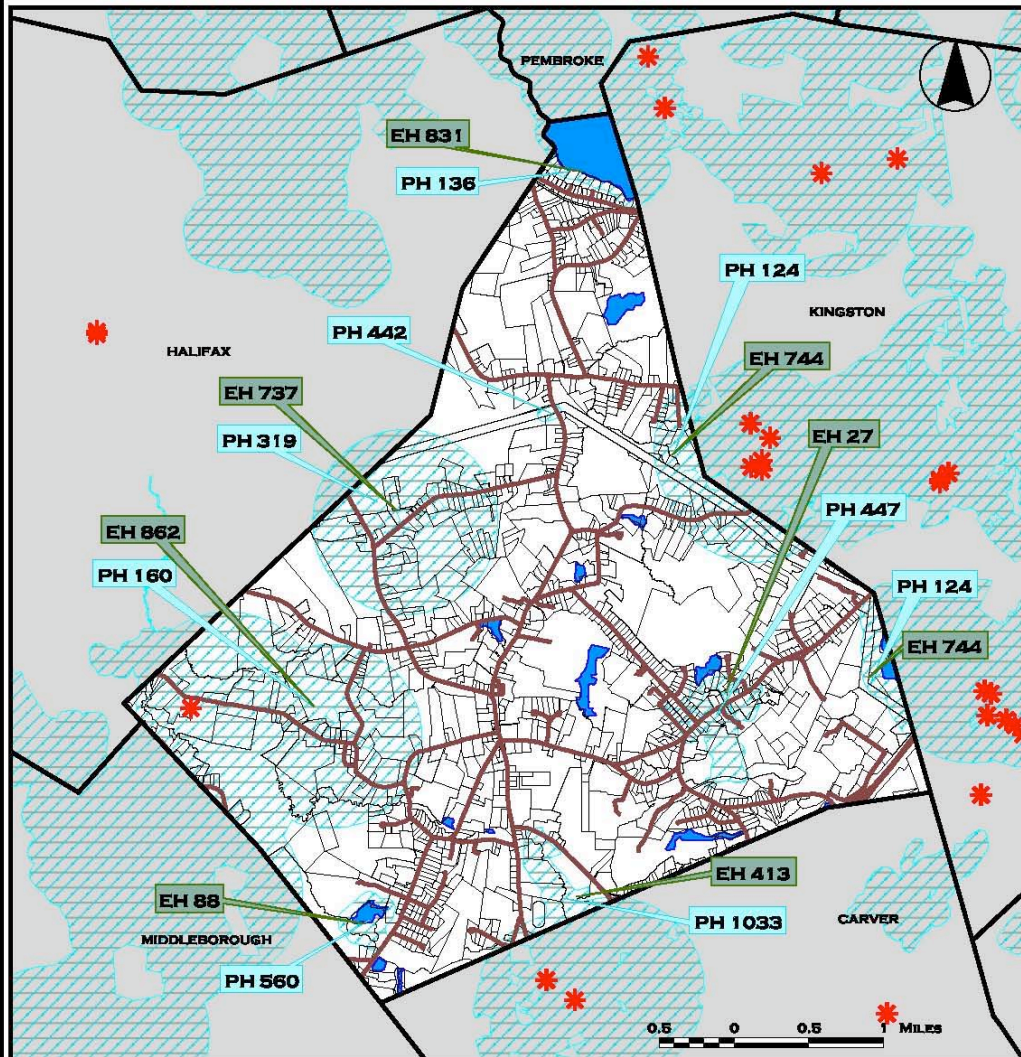
Plympton Maps

1.0	Plan Summary - None		
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3.0	Community Setting		
	Fig III-1 Locus	R	Need
	Fig III-2 Aerial Photo	O	Have, need color prints
	Fig. III-3 Natural & Hist Features	O	Have, Need new Fig #
	Fig. III-4 Population Age Income, race	R	Have on one sheet, need Fig #
	Growth and Development Patterns		
	Fig. III-5 Land Use/flooding	R	Have, need Fig #
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4.0	Environmental Inventory and Analysis		
	Fig IV-1 Topo sheet		Have it
	Fig. IV-2 Plymouth-Carver Aquifer.		Need , Redquested
	Fig IV-3 Soils, Septic limitations	R	Have old, changes and Fig # requested
	Fig. IV-4 Recharge Potential	O.	Requested, had draft
	.Fig IV-5 Water Resources with P-C SS Aq	R R	Have, hard to read
	Fig IV-6 Priority and estimated habitats	R	Have, needs Fig # or revision to 10/08
	Fig IV-7 BioMap		Have, needs Fig.# and revision to 10/08
	Fig.IV- 8 Scenic Res. and Unique Envir		Have, needs Fig #. #
	F.ig V-1 Lands of Cons and Rec. Int.		Have large draft
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	Priority/ Estimated Habitats Opt. Have. F.IV-6	after 4.5.3.3
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PRIORITY AND ESTIMATED HABITATS

FIGURE 4



- CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS
- ROADWAYS
- PARCELS
- SURFACE WATER
- PRIORITY HABITAT
- ESTIMATED HABITAT
- TOWN OF PLYMPTON
- SURROUNDING TOWNS



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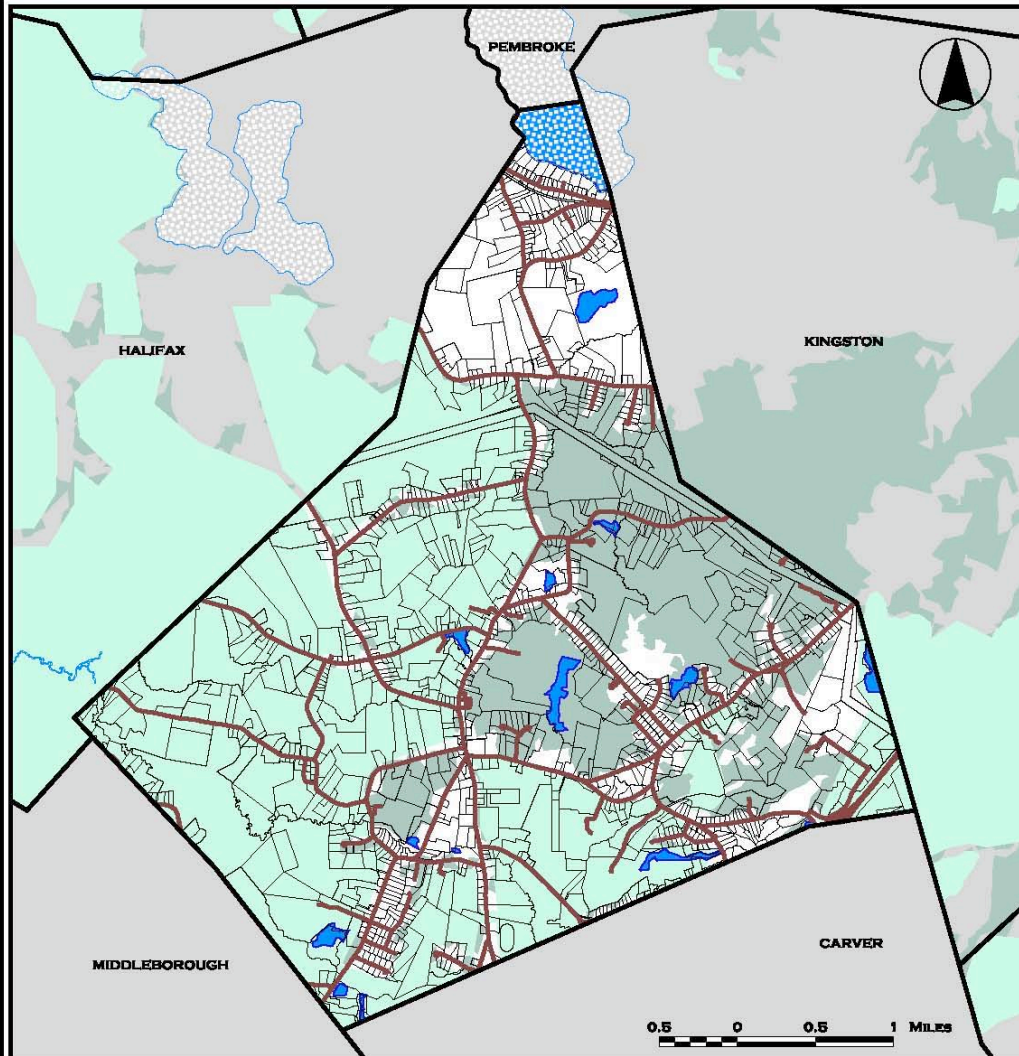
GIS DATA SOURCES:
MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC

OCTOBER 29, 2007

BIO - MAP:

GUIDING LAND CONSERVATION FOR BIODIVERSITY

FIGURE 5



- LIVING WATERS CORE
- ROADWAYS
- PARCELS
- SURFACE WATER
- BIOMAP CORE HABITAT
- SUPPORTING NATURAL LANDSCAPE
- TOWN OF PLYMPTON
- SURROUNDING TOWNS



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GIS DATA SOURCES:
MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC

OCTOBER 29, 2007

I Summary

This 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared under the guidance of the Open Space Committee and with its direct assistance, and it draws on the 1998 Open Space Plan and on work of the 1995 Open Space Plan committee.

As required by the Guidelines of the Division of Conservation Services, the Plan outlines social and environmental data describing the town and its context; examines influences on present growth and development trends; and inventories existing protected conservation and recreation areas and facilities and other protected public and non-profit holdings. It then identifies remaining lands of “Conservation and Recreation Interest” including extensive lands under Chapters 61, 61A and 61 B current use taxation and any other important unprotected holdings, and considers them for possible protection.

The Plan reviews the town’s natural and cultural resources, assets and development trends in order to preserve key open spaces and natural resources and to provide a range of recreation opportunities. The intent is to both preserve special open spaces town-wide and to have some open space near every neighborhood. The Plan also notes areas which are important as habitat, and as sources of ground water recharge for the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer.

The Open Space Committee directly surveyed the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands and evaluated the handicapped accessibility of the present holdings.

The Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest list many resources. Major ones are Indian Pond on the Kingston line, the open low wetlands along the Halifax line, the many cranberry bogs, natural wetlands and forested areas; the growing number of small horse farms; the Winnetuxet River and other streams; and the land of groundwater recharge value.

The Plan then suggests town open space and recreation goals, outlines implied needs, specifies a range of linked goals and objectives, recommends actions to save key resources, and summarizes near-term actions. These are laid out as studies and actions in Chapter IX, the Five Year Action Plan.

The Plan finds that Plympton’s major resources include:

- Its remaining rural character
- Its blocks of woodlands
- The extensive Chapter 61, 61A and 61B holdings with potential for selective acquisition

- The town's strong agricultural heritage with many cranberry bogs and related holdings including much streamside land
- Present and potential town-owned open space and recreation assets like the Dennett School area, Harry Jason Park, and the Gravel Pit.
- The scenic, but nearly hidden Indian Pond, and the smaller, but very visible, Bonney Pond
- Its growing equine culture preserving small farms and adding a means of enjoying the outdoors
- The regionally rare open view across fields and wetlands west of Palmer Road

The major factors in lost open spaces and the threatened loss of remaining opportunities are:

- Continuing large-lot residential development with minimum 60,000-square foot lots required in the extensive Agricultural and Residential District
- Growth reflecting improved highway access and restored nearby commuter rail service, and the town's varied amenities
- An uncertain agricultural future despite recently increasing cranberry prices, and the increased land values potentially affecting buildable bog support lands.

Given these pressures, the purpose of this plan is not to flatly restrict growth and development, but to identify and preserve the specific areas which should be saved due to their value to the community, the ecosystem, and town's future needs.

Significant remaining opportunities include:

- Many areas remaining undeveloped areas which could be saved and made permanent neighborhood features giving most future residents nearby access to protected open space
- Potential opportunities for integrating streamside portions of Chapter 61A land into a multi-purpose open space system
- Remaining farmland and land with the potential for cultivation or haying
- Possible specialized recreation opportunities in former sand and gravel pits

The recommended studies and actions over the next five years, or actions implicit in previous discussions are:

Year One

Studies /Plans

- Explore potential trails / bridle paths along the stream system and other potential routes
- Work with the Planning Board to develop cluster and/or Transferable Development Rights (TDR) bylaws
- Develop a mixed use plan for the Parsonage Road/ Winnetuxet Road Property
- With the Recreation Commission, study redevelopment or reuse of the Parsonage Road Playground – possibly adding skate board space

Action Items

- Work closely with the Community Preservation Committee
- Acquire the Parsonage Road/ Winnetuxet Property
- Support the Recreation Commission in building a new soccer field and playground at the Dennett School – accomplished.
- Transfer major town holdings to the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission or the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts, especially the land near the Dennett School

Year Two

Studies/Plans

- Study ultimate use of Jason Park
- Adopt Low Impact Design (LID) principles for land with high groundwater recharge value, Particularly over the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer
- Refine the list of Ch. 61,61A and 61B properties of interest, explore potential use of Conservation Restrictions (CRs) or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs)
- Explore the potential for community gardens
- Monitor the status of key scenic points such as along Crescent Street.
- Explore acquisition of an access point on Bonney Pond and development of a swimming area there.

Action Items

- Acquire the portion of Indian Head Pond in Plympton /
- Restore the Winnetuxet Road Swimming Hole
- Acquire an access point to Bonney Pond, add a swimming area if feasible
- Enact a cluster and/or TDR bylaw

Year Three

Studies/Plans

- Explore possible use of and access to Turkey Island in Turkey Swamp just east of the Halifax line
- Identify needed forest connections for wildlife movement, even across roads, e.g., along Lake St.
- Explore water-related trail possibilities
- Study possible vehicular recreation use of old sand pits
- Work with Kingston officials to study increased access to and protection of scenic Indian Pond over the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer on the Kingston line

Action Items

- Create an appropriately-located skateboard Park
- Complete the revised Jason Park plan, including some ballfields and a camping area
- Expand the Gravel Pit holdings to include Cato's Ridge; and acquire access over the adjacent land
- Act on any plans for increased access to or acquisition/protection of Plympton's portion of Indian Pond in cooperation with Kingston

Year Four

Studies/Plans

- Update, reconcile and correct inconsistent Assessors' plans and records
- Explore potential scenic easements, e.g., across from the Kiersted Farm on Crescent Street
- Consider expanding the Historic District

Actions

- Acquire selected Ch. 61A sites, possibly including parcels 5.6.35; 5.6.43; 5.6.46; 5.6.49; 5.6.53; 5.6.56 and 5.6.11
- Develop Turkey Island access and minimal facilities if feasible
- Acquire the sand pits south of Brook Street after any closing for aquifer protection and compatible recreation use

Year Five

Studies/Plans

- Explore access trails along power lines.

Actions

- Integrate nearby Chapter 61 land with Wildlands Trust of SE Mass. land and Harry Jason Park
- Expand the Dennett Pond Holdings

II INTRODUCTION

This Open Space Plan is intended to provide the Town of Plympton with goals, objectives and an action plan to protect and preserve its open space and natural resources and to meet its related recreation needs. With the re-vitalization of the Old Colony commuter rail lines and the relocation/expansion of Route 44, a well-conceived protection strategy and coordinated actions are needed if Plympton is to maintain its rural and agricultural character and preserve its natural heritage. With good local planning and active land acquisition and protection efforts, we can preserve many special places and still have needed new housing and sustainable economic development.

Today the Town of Plympton is a paradox; much of the town is remarkably beautiful and surprisingly undeveloped, yet much of this scenic open space is unprotected. While State and federal wetlands laws and related provisions protect extensive wetlands and riverine areas, there are significant upland areas that are likely be developed over the next few years if they are not protected.

It has been over eighteen years since the first Open Space Plan was developed. During this time, Plympton's rural character has changed little, largely because much of the town is wetland, and municipal water and sewer are unavailable. However, this is no reason to be complacent. Building regulations are enforced by often overburdened local boards and innovative systems for higher quality subsurface sewage disposal are now allowable and commercially available, making development of marginal land increasingly feasible. With the growing demand for developable land on the South Shore, Plympton is beginning to feel the pressures of accelerated development.

Accordingly, it was necessary to revisit the Open Space Plan and to revise it to reflect current conditions, concerns, and community planning objectives. With the plan's completion and publication, residents must act swiftly, in a committed and unified effort, to realize its overall goal of protecting and maintaining Plympton's valuable and unique open spaces while meeting other needs. Our assumption is that growth that preserves and protects can contain various components. Good, thoughtful overall community planning can allow farms, residences, business and industry to co-exist while maintaining a community that is worthy to be passed on to its the future residents.

The effort builds on the 1988 Plan and the work of the Open Space Plan Committee in the late 1990s, and incorporates much text from the Committee's draft plan. The revived process is under the direction of the current Open Space Committee chaired by former Conservation Commission member Christopher Lawrence and including Gail Briggs, Patty Johnston, Frank Perfetuo, and Bradford Prescott assisted by the Old Colony Planning Council. The Committee surveyed the Ch. 61,61A and 61B properties and did the handicapped accessibility self-evaluation.

Fig III-1 Locus

III Community Setting

3.1 Regional Context

Plympton is on the outer edge of Boston's South Shore suburban fringe, and is one town removed from the shore itself and from the north-south Route 3. It has remained the most rural town in the Old Colony Region with most recent growth consisting of expensive houses on large lots and many new small horse farms. It has long been isolated by natural and man-made barriers that have greatly affected the rate of growth and in some ways, the type of growth. The southeast corner of the town contains an industrial park responding to the completion of the relocated Route 44. Heading north along the Plympton's easterly boundary shared with Kingston one finds high tension lines, the former landfill, Indian Pond, and Barrows Brook. Silver Lake is at Plympton's northerly corner while the Great Cedar Swamp to the west divides Plympton from Halifax and Middleborough. The Middleborough Landfill on the town line is another formidable barrier to the south. In contrast to these isolating elements, the relocated Route 44 greatly increases the regional accessibility of the Industrial Park and the town as a whole, as does the restored commuter rail service available in the adjacent communities of Halifax, Kingston, Plymouth and Middleborough /Lakeville.

3.1.1 Land Resources

Total area in the Town of Plympton is 9644.4 acres according to the Old Colony Planning Council Data Book. Of these, only 1346.9 acres or 14% were developed for housing, business, industry, or waste disposal in 1999, while 2107.9 acres were used for agriculture, recreation, mining, and urban open land, portions of which could be converted to other uses; and another 5,689 acres were in forest, both wooded swamp and buildable upland. Thus great changes to Plympton's character are possible as discussed later.

Major factors affecting present and future land uses are the 3,500 acres located in the local Floodplain and Watershed Protection zoning district, the (often-overlapping) land with significant limitations for on-site sewage disposal, and the areas in the more recent Groundwater Protection Districts. These protective restrictions against development are vital for a community with extensive flood plains, on-site waste disposal, and no municipal water service. They are discussed under Zoning in section 3.4, Growth and Development Patterns.

3.1.2 Protected Land

The remaining undeveloped land in Plympton currently zoned for residential or commercial use has differing degrees of protection. As discussed in the Inventory of Lands of Open Space and Recreation Interest, the town's fully protected holdings are limited to:

- The only fully-protected private land, 17 acres on West Street along the Winnetuxet River near the Halifax town line, is owned and maintained by the Wildlands Trust of

Southeastern Massachusetts. This is a non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to preserving local open space and natural areas.

- A 3.5-acre riverside parcel near the intersection of Main Street and Winnetuxet Road purchased with state assistance and converted to a now-abandoned man-made swimming hole - signed “No Swimming.”



Town Common viewed from the Cemetery .

- The long, thin 2-acre Common and adjacent 14-acre cemetery along Main Street
- The large, largely undeveloped 53.2-acre Jason Park site south of Center Street near the Halifax line.

In all, the Town of Plympton owns total of 313 acres. Of this, nearly half is contained in two parcels; the 82 acres south of the Dennett School and the largely undeveloped 53.2-acre Jason Park which was given to the town. The 82 acres are off of Upland Road between Dukes Farm Road and the Dennett Elementary School and largely in the Flood Plain District. They reportedly were purchased with state assistance but are not under Conservation Commission management or otherwise fully protected.

Most of the remaining acreage is used for municipal purposes such as the elementary school soccer field, transfer station, town hall, fire station and cemetery, or is held for unpaid taxes. These are discussed in the Inventory of Land of Conservation Interest.

AERIAL PHOTO ~ PLYMPTON



FIGURE III -2



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW

APRIL, 2009

In addition, much of the town is under Forestry, Agricultural, or Recreation use taxation under Chapters 61, 61a or 61b. Under Ch. 61, Forestry, some 336 acres are under Forest Management Plans which are reviewed every ten years. Much of this is within the floodplain. However, the upland portions are available for development unless the town acts on its rights of first refusal. Given financial constraints this right is rarely exercised.

In contrast, there were 1,129 acres of cranberry bogs certified under 61A in 1999. This land is protected by its classification as a wetland resource area under M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40. Chapter 61A also covered 191 acres of field crops. 22 acres of necessary related land and 27 acres of tillable forage cropland as of 1999.

3.1.3 Recreation Resources

Plympton's recreational needs are now served by a two-ballfield complex for 12 year olds and younger next to the Town Hall; a small playground with an undersized basketball court on Parsonage Road; a soccer field and two playgrounds at the Dennett School; and the presently abandoned swimming area with a few acres of riverside land along Winnetuxet Road. The cleared, treeless portion of Jason Park is being studied for potential development of ballfields. It might also have potential for in-town camping and natural areas.

Meeting the needs for future recreational land ranked high on the survey completed by residents in the late 1990s. Other specialized recreation opportunities are the town's many horse farms and riding stables (which now may be taxed as recreation facilities under the current use taxation law Ch. 61B).

3.2 History of Plympton and Historic Resources

3.2.1 History

Plympton was established as a town in 1707. It was formed from part of Plymouth. A part was ceded to create Kingston in 1726; another part was annexed by Middleborough in 1734. Further land was ceded to establish Carver in 1790; Halifax annexed some Plympton lands in 1831; and bounds were established with an exchange of territory between Plympton and Halifax in 1863.

Late 17th and early 18th century settlement occurred on Brook Street, at Plympton Center, on Crescent Street, and at North Plympton. The 17th and 18th century economic base of the area was primarily agricultural but the Cannon Foundry was built at Ring Road in 1750. Other 18th century industrial sites include a grist mill on Barrows Brook, a sawmill opposite the cannon foundry on Ring Road, and a possible iron forge and grist mill on Winnetuxet Road. The early 19th century saw cotton and linen production at the mill on Winnetuxet Road. By the mid-19th century Winnetuxet Road was the industrial focus of the town with a rolling mill (c. 1822), a second cotton mill, and a grist mill. Industrial development proceeded southward; with the construction of a paper box mill, the 1849 California Mills. All industrial activity in this area appears to have been oriented toward Middleborough.

Settlement patterns during the 19th century remained linear, with new residential development scattered along existing roads. Railroad construction resulted in a small-scale summer resort development at Silver Lake in conjunction with the Old Colony Railroad's Silver Lake Grove (c. 1860-1880). Small-scale industrial activity occurred at the impounded Bonney Pond in the central portion of the town. Culture was offered by a lyceum created at Plympton Center in 1852. Later, a small-scale shoe factory was built on Main Street between Palmer and Winnetuxet roads (1870-1896).

Despite this activity, industrialization did not develop as much in Plympton as in towns to the west. By the early 20th century, many of the early industrial sites had had a succession of occupants, and by the late 1920's most had disappeared from the landscape. Presumably, Plympton was tied to the Middleborough-Bridgewater economy to some extent; but limited transportation was a major factor restricting industrial growth.

An underlying factor in Plympton's limited development is its lack of buildable land - the extensive system of bogs, swamps, and streams which provided water power to early activities now limits physical expansion, either industrial or residential. This constraint has been evident all through the town's development. It is particularly apparent in the pattern of early roads which, as in most communities, ran along uplands and ridges. These remain and the present road network differs very little from the network on the 1794 map of the town.

Plympton's rural quality has preserved many historic landscapes and historic landmarks. At least four houses date to the late First Period (1675-1725) making them over 250 years old. In addition, some 125 Plympton houses pre-date the Civil War. Because much of the town remains undisturbed, it is likely that archaeological sites remain in the centers of development; Harrub's Corner, around the Town Green, and along the Winnetuxet River.

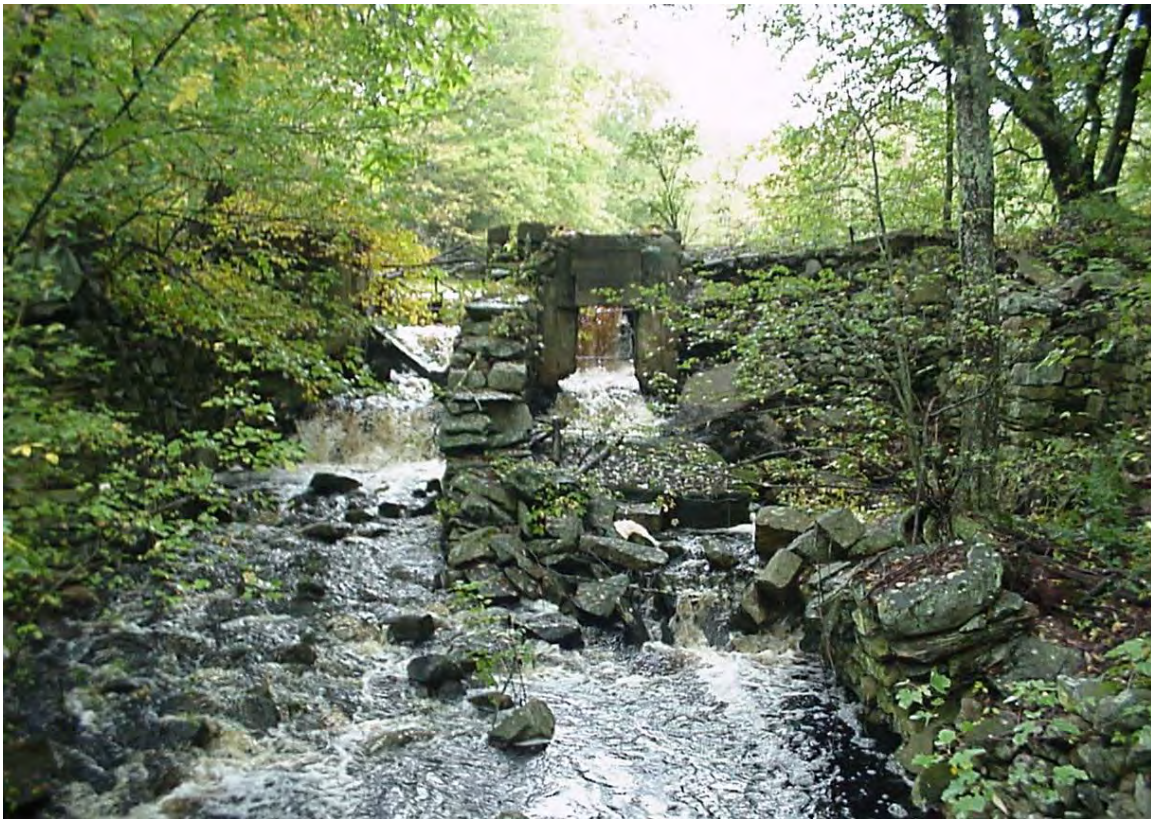
3.2.2 Historic Resources

The following describes the sites of historic events and buildings located on the Natural and Historic Features Map.(Fig III-3) adapted from the 1988 Open Space Plan by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

1. Harrub's Corner - The town's only historic district and site of the oldest (1689) house and two other pre-1725 colonial structures. County Road (Route 106) is considered an early Indian trail, with Lake Street the native route to Silver Lake and the Pembroke ponds. This is archaeologically significant because of the late 17th century settlement and relatively undisturbed landscape.

The neighborhood contains seven structures including three of four known houses dating from the first settlement period (1675-1725) according to the 1988 Open Space Plan. These are:

- The earliest, a one and a half story center-chimney cottage with later somewhat discordant paired roof dormers
- A two story center-chimney house on Lake Street



Industrial Remnants – The Deteriorated Dennetts Mill Pond Dam/millworks on Jones River Brook



Center Chimney House on Lake Street

- A nearby center-chimney house with an integral lean-to
- The restored 1700 Bradford House on Ring Road to the south.

2. Turkey Swamp - The large swamp between Maple Street and County Road, much of it in Halifax. Turkey Island is an upland area on the Halifax town line. At the northern edge of the swamp at Billingsgate is a small cemetery where Isaac Loring (age 21) was buried during 1777-1778 small pox epidemic.

3. The Little Mill - Plympton's first sawmill, built by Richard Wright. Two mill dams and a old iron water wheel mark the location. Boxboards were sawed here after the Civil War. The nearby farm was the home of Widow Crewe - one of the characters in Jane Austin's novel "Dr. LeBaron and His Daughters." Three trails traverse the area, which is intersected by power lines.

4. The Cannon Factory - Built in 1750 on Jones River Brook. This is the site of a surviving Federal Period tack factory, the Hayward Home, and a 500 year old black walnut tree. An Indian burial ground is reputed to be in this area, perhaps on the ridge to the north. This area is considered to be a well-preserved Colonial/Federal streetscape.

5. Dennett's Mill Pond - The site of Bradford House in 1700, the now-breached dam provided power for the Hayward Sawmill in 1800. Located on Ring Road, which is thought to be a native trail through Kingston to Duxbury Bay, the property abuts a school and is adjacent to 90 acres of conservation land purchased in 1976. There is abundant wildlife in the area and a potential well site.



1687 Gambrel Roof Cape with added Dormers on County Road

6. Perkins Sawmill Site (1893-1920) - Adjacent to the Kirstead Farm, on Crescent Street which abuts a 90-acre minimally-protected town open space holding. To the north is a smallpox cemetery. Crescent Street was part of the earliest north/south passage through town, and the area at the curve (see cover) is a significant streetscape.

7. Old Town House (1850) - A two-story Greek Revival structure built in the geographic center of Plympton, this is now home of the historical society. The building housed town government until 1974, and is considered to be part of a significant streetscape.

8. Bonney Pond- The site of a boxmill and sawmill. To the south is a smallpox cemetery with several slate headstones, and at the north end of the pond along Center Street is a reported small parcel of town-owned land donated for recreation. A trail here exits on Main Street, where a paper box mill operated from 1887-1917.

9. The Burial Ground - Established in 1702, where many of Plympton's earliest settlers are buried

10. The Town Green- Adjacent to the 1702 cemetery. Overlooking the Green are several significant Federal Period houses and a Greek Revival cottage. The early meetinghouses and schools were located here, along with the town pond, stocks and whipping post (see C. Bricknell's maps of the Cemetery and the Green at the Library.) The archaeological potential of this area is considered to be high.



New and old dam components at the Bonney Pond mill site

11. West Main Street - Across from the Green, this area contains significant buildings including a Greek Revival meetinghouse (1830); Union Hall, a duplicate of the old town house built by a group who opposed the town house location at Center Street; Randall's shoe factory (1870); a chapel (1886); a Queen Anne style country store; and the "stylish" hip-roofed library built in 1904, with a Colonial Revival portico and Beaux-Arts inspired sash.

12. Rolling Pin Mill (1850) - The site is not far from Parker Field, where town baseball teams played from 1890-1903, and south of the cranberry bogs created in 1893.

13. Adam Wright's Second Grist Mill Site - This is on the north side, and an 1813 cotton mill known as the Queen Mills, was on the south side. This is now the town's inactive swimming area.

14. Site of the first mill in Plympton - A grist mill built by Adam Wright in 1680

15. Shovel Shop - The site of factories in operation from 1786-1925

16. Rendering Mill (1900) - Also the location of the smallpox cemetery, where Deacon Timothy Ripley is buried

17. Site of Mills operating from 1814-1927 - Grist, cotton/woolen, saw, and thread mills

18. Site of 1822 Rolling Mill

19. General Site of Several Factory Schools - The foundation of the last one remains.

20. Round House - First built with fieldstone in 1857 by Zenas Washburn, a spiritualist. After crumbling in a rainstorm it was rebuilt in wood. This Italianate house is topped with a round cupola, and has inset porches on the second story.

21. Snappet Mill (1840) - A sawmill site in an area of archaeological significance

22. California Mills - Built in 1849, the year of the gold rush, and operated as a grist, saw, and box mill until struck by lightning and burned in 1941

23. Cooper Shop - Built in 1900 to produce cedar barrels.

24. Silver Lake Grove - A pleasure park in the 1860s and 1870s built on the shore of the .



New dam at site 13 on the Winnetuxet River, just above diversion to inactive swimming area

renamed Jones River Pond. Following the sinking of the vessel, Lady of the Lake, the Park closed and the dance pavilion was moved to become the Silver Lake Chapel. Earlier, the arrival of the railroad in 1845 allowed profitable ice cutting and storage with huge icehouses between the street and lake, now the Brockton Reservoir.

25. Cato's Ridge - (Kato's Hill, Ridge Hill) - A series of relatively high hills north of Ring Road, just beyond the Martin Hayward Sawmill, it is a reputed Indian burial ground and possibly the Afro-American cemetery prior to 1830. The Indian tradition of the hills and the surrounding neighborhood is somewhat confirmed by the many arrowheads and stone implements found there. Cato was the slave of Dr. Caleb Loring, who came from Hull to Harrub's Corner in 1703. He died in 1806.

26. Trout Brook Tack Factory Site - Near the source of the Jones River; brook trout pools are now found nearby.

27. Randall's Bogs - The site of Plympton's first bogs, built in 1890 by George Randall

28. Indian Pond - A Great Pond on the Kingston line, reputedly site of a native settlement



The Round House- built of stone in 1857 and rebuilt in wood after the stone crumbled in the rain

29. Winnetuxet Village - By 1800 the village had four separate water privileges on the Winnetuxet river and dominated the town's economic life. The old Lakenham Road to Carver forded the Winnetuxet River nearby. At the intersection of Main and Pleasant is a Federal era culvert and the area is considered to be excellent for archaeological research.

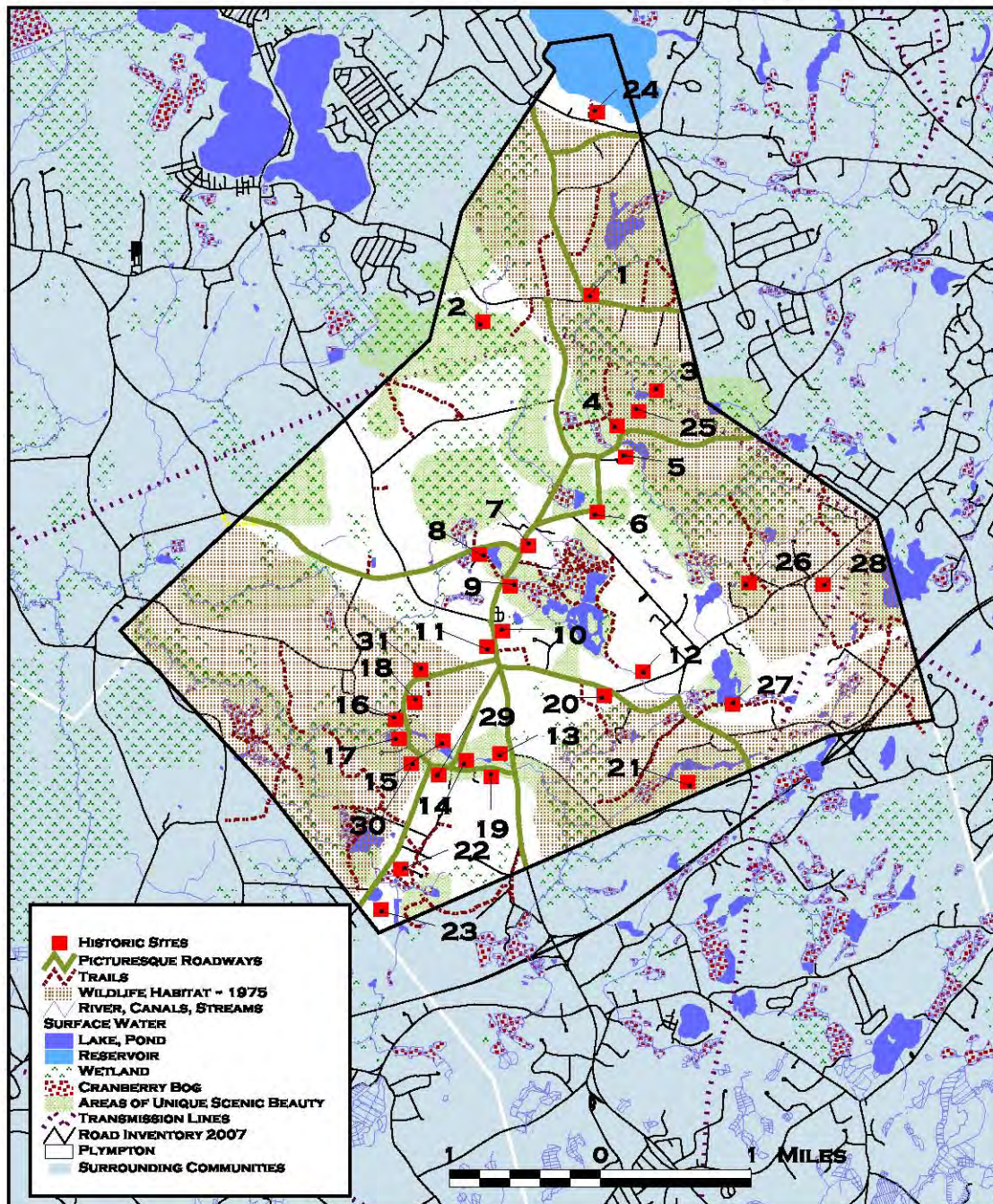
30. Prospect Hill - A high elevation over which the Middleborough Road passes. A significant Greek Revival house overlooks the hill and houses from the Federal and Early Industrial periods are in the area. To the north lie the upper and lower factory ponds.

31 Deborah Sampson House – Home of the Revolutionary War heroine

NATURAL & HISTORIC FEATURES



FIGURE III - 3



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

70 SCHOOL STREET

BROCKTON, MA 02301

GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

AUGUST, 2008

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Population Trends

In 1940 Plympton had a population of 532 (U.S. Census). By 2000 it had risen to 2,801 (U.S. Census), a 426.5 increase in five decades. Table III-1 illustrates the changes in Plympton's population since 1940 as well as its projected population into the first decades of this century.

The growth reflects natural increase (the number of births compared to the number of deaths) and net migration (the number of people who move into a town compared to the number who move out.) While there has been some natural increase, most of the town's recent growth is due to new families moving into town. An examination of housing data supports this conclusion. Table III-2 shows the increase in housing units from 1980 to 2000. This shows a 41.5% increase; a percentage far larger than needed to house the natural increase in population.

Table III-1

Plympton's Population Growth 1940-2010

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	NUMERICAL CHANGE	PERCENT OF CHANGE
1940	532	N/A	N/A -
1950	697	165	31.0
1960	821	124	17.8
1970	1,224	403	49.1
1980	1,974	750	61.2
1990	2,384	410	20.7
2000	2,637	410	10.6
2010 Projection	3,249	448	16.0
2020 Projection	3,724	475	14.6
2025 Projection Projection	3,962	238	6.4

Source: US Bureau of Census, Projections by the Old Colony Planning Council

Table III-2

Housing Units

Year	Number Of Units	Percent (%) of Change
1980	617	N/A
1990	794	28.4
2000	872	9.8

Source: US Bureau of Census

Increased accessibility via the relocated Route 44, and commuter rail service in nearby Halifax and Kingston support the projected population growth. However it will be constrained by soils limitations and by the town's large lot zoning requirements discussed below under Growth and Development..

3.3.2 Population Sub-Groups

Table III-3 shows the racial/ethnic composition of Plympton. The town is predominantly white and increasingly affluent. Only 94 persons out of 2,637 residents were in any listed minority group in 2000, even allowing for the possible double counting of any Black Hispanics, and this was fewer than the 99 of 1970 . The total distribution is shown below. The 2000 US Census estimates that 343 people or 19.18% of the 1798 persons over the age of 21 have some form of disability. See mapped Social data on Figure III-4.

The largest age population sub-group is the 15-44 year olds. This age bracket included over 50% of the town's population in 2000. Table III-4 shows Plympton's age distribution.

3.3.3 Income Trends

The town is becoming more upper income with the building of more expensive housing and the in-migration of higher-income households. The 1990 Census (reflecting 1989 earnings) found a median household income in Plympton of \$46,151, ranking of 94th out of 351 communities state-wide. This was well above the OCPC regional median of \$42,183 (an approximation based on the average of community medians; not a separately calculated regional median) and the Brockton PMSA figure of \$37,403, and was 24.9% above the state median of \$36,952.

Table III - 3

Minority Population Trends

Group	1970	1980	1990	2000
White	1,024	1,931	2,335	2,554
Black	20	14	16	26
American Indian	N/A	N/A	1	16
Asian/P. Islander	N/A	N/A	10	9
Hispanic	77	6	29	11
Other	N/A	N/A	22	32
Total	99	20	78	94

Source: US Bureau of Census

By the 2000 Census the comparable 1999 median household income was \$70,045, further above the approximate OCPC median of \$58,269 and the Brockton PMSA median \$52,058, and it had risen to 38.7% above the state median of \$50,052. In contrast, the 1999 per capita income of \$25,480 was just below the state level of \$25,952, as it had been in 1989, suggesting relatively large families. In addition there were still some very low income families among single-headed households, with two of 31 male householders and 10 of 55 female householders having incomes below the very low Federal Poverty level.

3.3.4 Commuting Patterns

Table III - 5 shows the changing commuting patterns from 1990 to 2000 indicating a continued overall dependence on driving alone. Following the restoration of rail service, the proportion of those using public transportation increased to 3.8%, but the percentage of residents driving alone also increased, reaching to 83.9%, while the proportion of those carpooling dropped to 6.4%. While the availability of service in Halifax and Kingston may have attracted only a small proportion of the new residents, it has given residents a travel option that probably attracts relatively affluent Boston-oriented commuters

During the same period the average commute had increased from 29.8 minutes to 41.5 minutes reflecting the general trend towards longer distance commuting over frequently more congested roads (and the 45 to 48 minute rail trip from Halifax to South Station.)

Table III- 4
Age Distribution

AGE GROUP	PERSONS	PERCENTAGE %
Under 5	144	6.1
5- 14	407	17.2
15-44	978	41.3
45-64	684	28.9
65 & over	154	6.5
Total	2,637	100.00

Source: 2000, US Bureau of Census

Table III - 5
Commuting Patterns

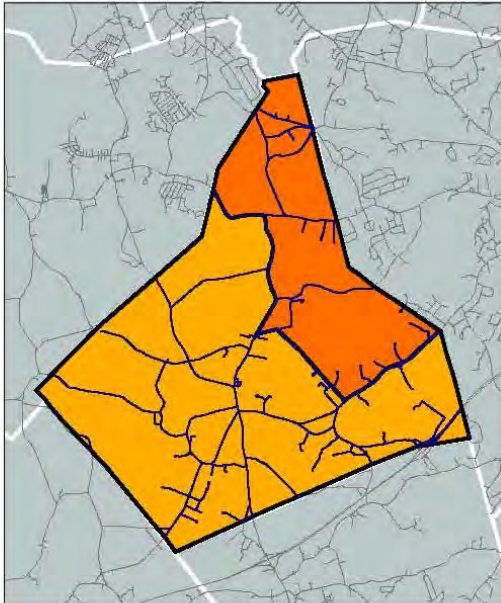
	1990	2000
Drive Alone	81.9%	83.9%
Carpools	11.8%	6.4%
Public Transportation	1.2%	3.1%
Other Means	0.9%	0%
Walk/Work at Home	4.3%	6.6%
Average Time to Work	29.8 minutes	41.5%

Source: US Bureau of Census, 1990, 2000

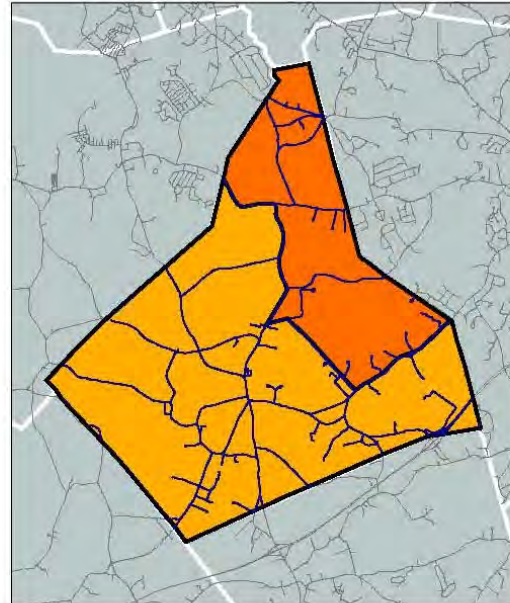
DEMOGRAPHICS BY BLOCK GROUP, PLYMPTON

FIGURE III - 4

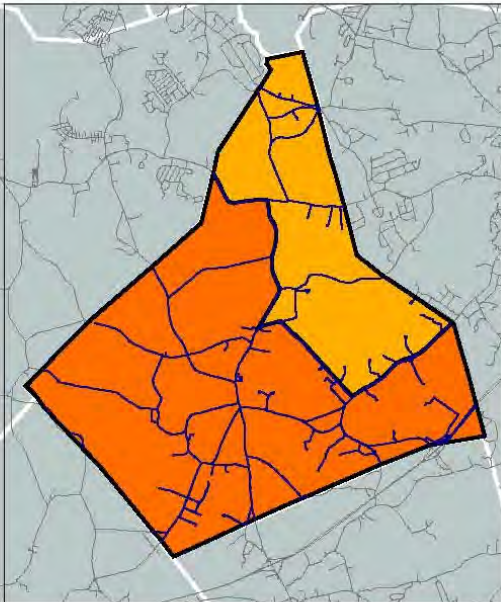
PER CAPITA INCOME



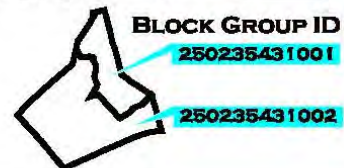
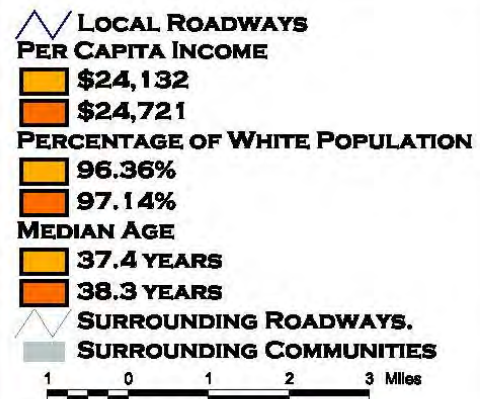
MEDIAN AGE



% OF WHITE POPULATION



LEGEND



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
 GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, US CENSUS

APRIL, 2009

3.4.0 Growth and Development Patterns / Community Overview

In the last 30 years the Town of Plympton has experienced only a moderate growth going from 1,224 persons in 1970 to 2,637 persons by 2000. Even at the peak of growth in the seventies the population grew by about 75 residents per year and growth in the 1980s and 1990s was at about 41 persons per year. These numbers may seem minimal, but should be compared to Plympton's 1960 population of 657.

Many factors contribute to this slow growth. For many years no major highway went through the town. Route 3 passed to the east in the Town of Kingston and Route 495 connecting to Route 24 passed to the west in the Town of Middleborough. This has changed with the upgraded and relocated limited-access Route 44 now touching the southeastern corner of the town and with the restored commuter rail service in the adjacent towns of Kingston and Middleboro/Lakeville making the town more attractive for Boston-oriented commuters.

The topography and soils further restrict growth with almost one third of Plympton having wetland areas, high water tables or soils too tight for private subsurface sewage disposal systems. This is particularly important since the town relies on both on-site private water-supply wells and on-site wastewater disposal. However changes in the State Sanitary Code allowing Innovative and Alternative disposal systems will make some difficult lots buildable.

Another factor limiting the town's appeal is its lack of significant ponds or lakes. The large Silver Lake to the north is a reservoir with no swimming allowed and the much smaller impounded Bonney Pond has much seasonal aquatic vegetation and is largely a source of water for a nearby cranberry bog. The scenic Indian Pond is relatively inaccessible via a power line right-of-way and is largely out-of-sight behind steep formerly-mined banks. However, there are rewarding trails and reported good fishing for those who find their way. It is mostly in the Town of Kingston, and the surrounding land is owned by a few private parties.

Other mapped ponds are largely out-of-sight cranberry bog impoundments, and one pond, Dennetts Pond is much reduced after breaching of its dam. Therefore, there are no former pond-based summer colonies being converted to year-round use, as in many nearby towns. The lack of ponds led to the creation of a currently unused swimming hole off of the Winnetuxet River, but it was not a major attraction.

3.4.1 Land Use Patterns

The town's land use pattern consists of a small concentration of civic buildings in the center with businesses just to the south, scattered low-density housing along some major

streets such as Upland Road, a few very small one cul-de-sac subdivisions and occasional retreat lots, scattered commercial uses along Rte. 106, and an industrial park being developed at the eastern edge of town near Rte. 44.

This limited development is balanced by many small farms, largely equine operations, and over 800 acres of cranberry bogs, many out of sight on low-lying back land. See the Land Use Map (Fig. III- 5). In all, Plympton still feels like a rural town experiencing minimal change. Yet with increased accessibility, improved on-site waste disposal systems, and the outward migration from Greater Boston and Brockton, change can be expected.

3.4.2 Zoning

The town's land use and development policies are partially implemented through its zoning bylaw and map. In Plympton's case the bylaw has only four basic districts (Agriculture-residential, Business, Light Manufacturing and Industrial). Most of the town is in the low-density Agricultural-Residential District with a few areas of Business or Light Manufacturing along major roads and an extensive Industrial area at the Industrial Park next to Route 44. This zoning gives little guidance on desired residential development, and the Business-zoned strip along Rte. 58 may be too extensive to concentrate commercial uses around a viable pedestrian-oriented center, as illustrated by the new strip mall built just south of the Center .

The other, Historic, FEMA-based Flood Plain, and Ground Water Protection Districts are overlay districts which protect certain resources against natural and man-made hazards, but do not control the basic allowed uses.

Provisions/Mapping

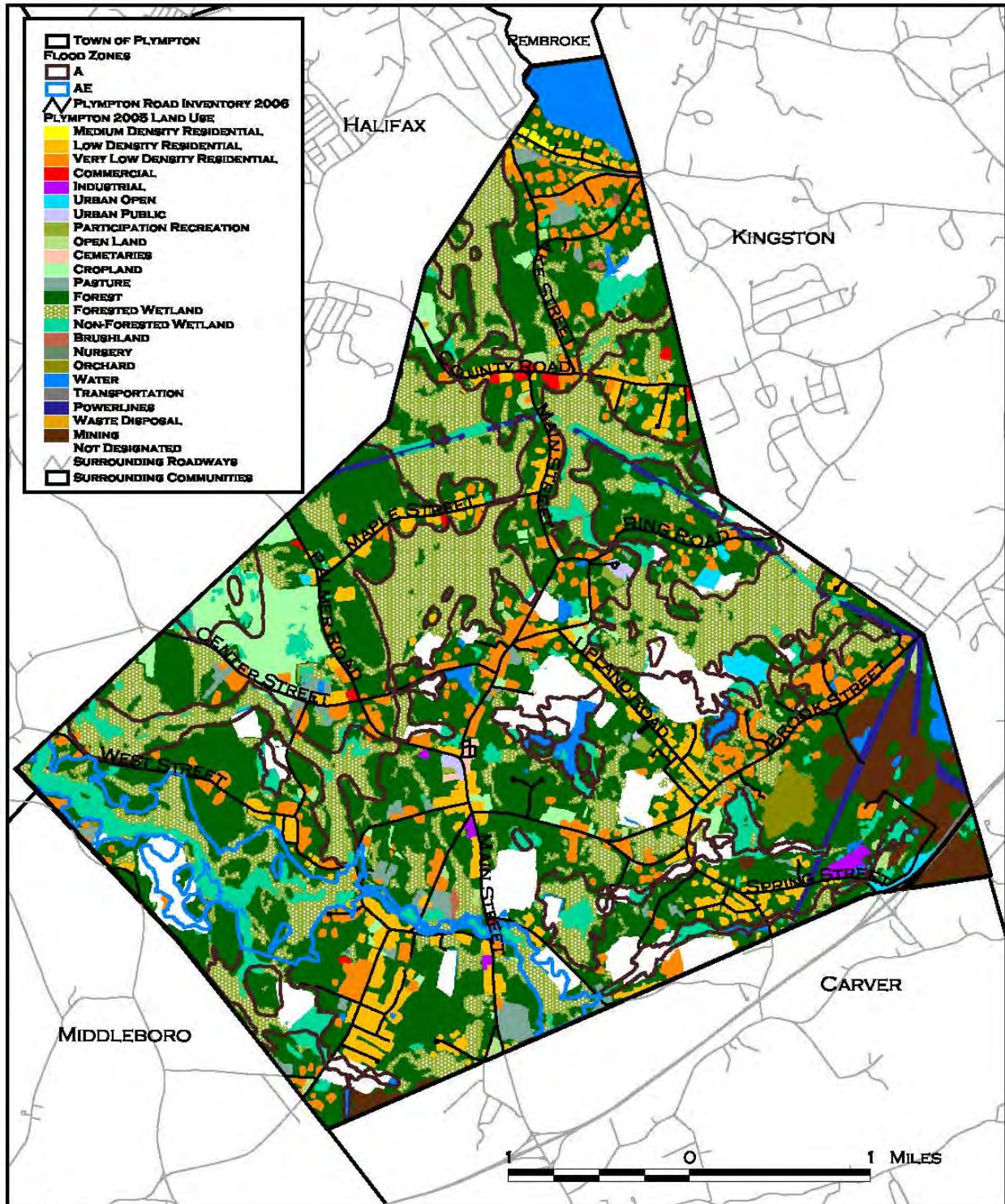
The bylaw is largely hierarchical in that uses allowed in the more restrictive districts like the A-R District (e.g., housing) are allowed in the less restrictive districts like the Light Manufacturing District even if not compatible with that district's basic purpose. Fortunately the Manufacturing District is more selective and new housing is prohibited there.

The Agricultural /Residential District (A-R) requires 60,000 square-foot lots and 200' of frontage for most uses, 100,000 square-foot lots for two- family houses, and 120,000 square feet with 40' of frontage for retreat lots.

It permits agriculture, (specifically listing farms, gardens, greenhouses, livestock raising, and plant nurseries), one and two-family dwellings, renting up to 4 rooms with board, overnight cabins, and municipal buildings as-of-right, along with churches and schools which are exempt from zoning except for reasonable dimensional requirements. It also allows a diverse transportation, civic, medical, commercial recreation and transient housing uses (motels, guest houses, tourist homes), accessory uses and golf courses by special permit; and also requires special permits for fur-bearing animal raising

LAND USE 2005 & FLOOD ZONES

FIGURE III - 5



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL,
GIS SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW

70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301

APRIL 2009

and sale, kennels, and riding stables. In addition it explicitly prohibits a wide range of commercial and industrial uses.

The A-R District is essentially mapped town-wide except for a few areas of Business or Light Manufacturing along major roads and at the Industrial Park next to Route 44. Thus the District gives little guidance in shaping Plympton's residential patterns. However it does attempt to protect residential areas. When other districts abut the A-R District, side and rear yards must be increased from the usual 30' to 50' and material must be added "where natural vegetation is not sufficient to provide a visual screen."

The Business District allows most retail and service uses including hotels and motels as-of-right, along with housing and agriculture and the exempt religious and educational uses. It also allows most of the AR District's specially-permitted uses by special permit and prohibits a wide range of manufacturing, distribution, adult entertainment and hazardous uses such as manufacturing explosives.

It is mapped over Route 58 north and south of Center St, and from just above Elm Street to well below Winnetuxet Road.

The Light Manufacturing District allows heavy commercial uses such as contractors' yards, lumber yards, feed stores, fuel yards, junk yards (by special permit), warehouses and undefined light manufacturing along with most of the Permitted and Specially Permitted uses allowed in the A-R and Business Districts, and the exempt religious and educational uses. It is mapped only on a short segment of Palmer Road (Rte.58) from the Halifax line to Maple Street, and along Route 106 on either side of Main Street.

The Industrial District allows manufacturing, processing, assembly and fabricating prohibited elsewhere, and most non-residential uses allowed elsewhere as-of-right, and can allow adult entertainment enterprises and junkyards by special permit. It excludes housing and hotels allowed elsewhere and the various hazardous uses prohibited elsewhere.

It is mapped over existing industries and over a heavily mined area forming the Plympton Industrial Park in the easternmost section of the town next to Route 44.

Overlay Districts

The authors of the 1988 Plympton Open Space Plan noted that the town had no aquifer protection zoning, agricultural protection zoning, or phased growth controls and very little conservation land, and observed that "Without all of the above plus some creative zoning to protect open spaces within developments, Plympton will become another suburban community with big yards" (p.31.)

Some progress has been made with the adoption of the three overlay districts; the Flood Plain and Watershed Protection District, the Groundwater Protection District(s) and the Harrub's Corner Historic District.

The Flood Plain and Watershed Protection District lands are defined by elevations based upon the geodetic survey maps and cover the town's wooded swamps and flood plains.

In order to permit development other than "duck blinds or structures necessary for the cultivation of cranberries or the propagation of fish" in the Flood Plain and Watershed Protection District, the Board of Appeals must issue a special permit based on findings that the site is not "subject to seasonal or periodic flooding or unsuitable because of drainage conditions" and that the proposed structure is allowed in the underlying district and will not endanger its occupants.

The Groundwater Protection Districts restrict development of hazardous uses in three sub-districts (GPD I, II and III) in proportion to the districts' transmissivity and overall water resource value. The most hazardous uses are prohibited everywhere. Others are prohibited in GPD I (potentially producing over 100 gallons/minute) and often in GPD II (potentially producing under 100 gallons /minute), but some may be allowed by Special Permit from the Planning Board in the GPD II District or in GPD III (producing minimal flows). GPD I and II are mapped over various identified parts of town while the least productive residual GPD III is mapped everywhere else. The applicant must show provisions for maintaining groundwater recharge while preventing any spills or releases of hazardous substances from contaminating ground or surface water.

The districts do not prohibit normal residential development which is consistent with the State Sanitary Code and with the bylaw's limitations on the use or release of toxic or hazardous materials.

To protect Silver Lake from potentially contaminated groundwater flowing to it, the Old Colony Planning Council assisted the town in extending the most protective (GPI) zoning to the land from which groundwater flows to the Lake in 1993. This reflected data in the 1988 Silver Lake Geohydraulic and Land Use study sponsored by the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The Harrub's Corner Historic District is the town's only historic district. It is mapped around the intersection of County Road and Lake Street and is described above under Historic Resources.

New construction and modifications to existing buildings must receive certificates of appropriateness, non-applicability or hardship by the local Historic District Commission under the Historic District bylaw and related state regulations.

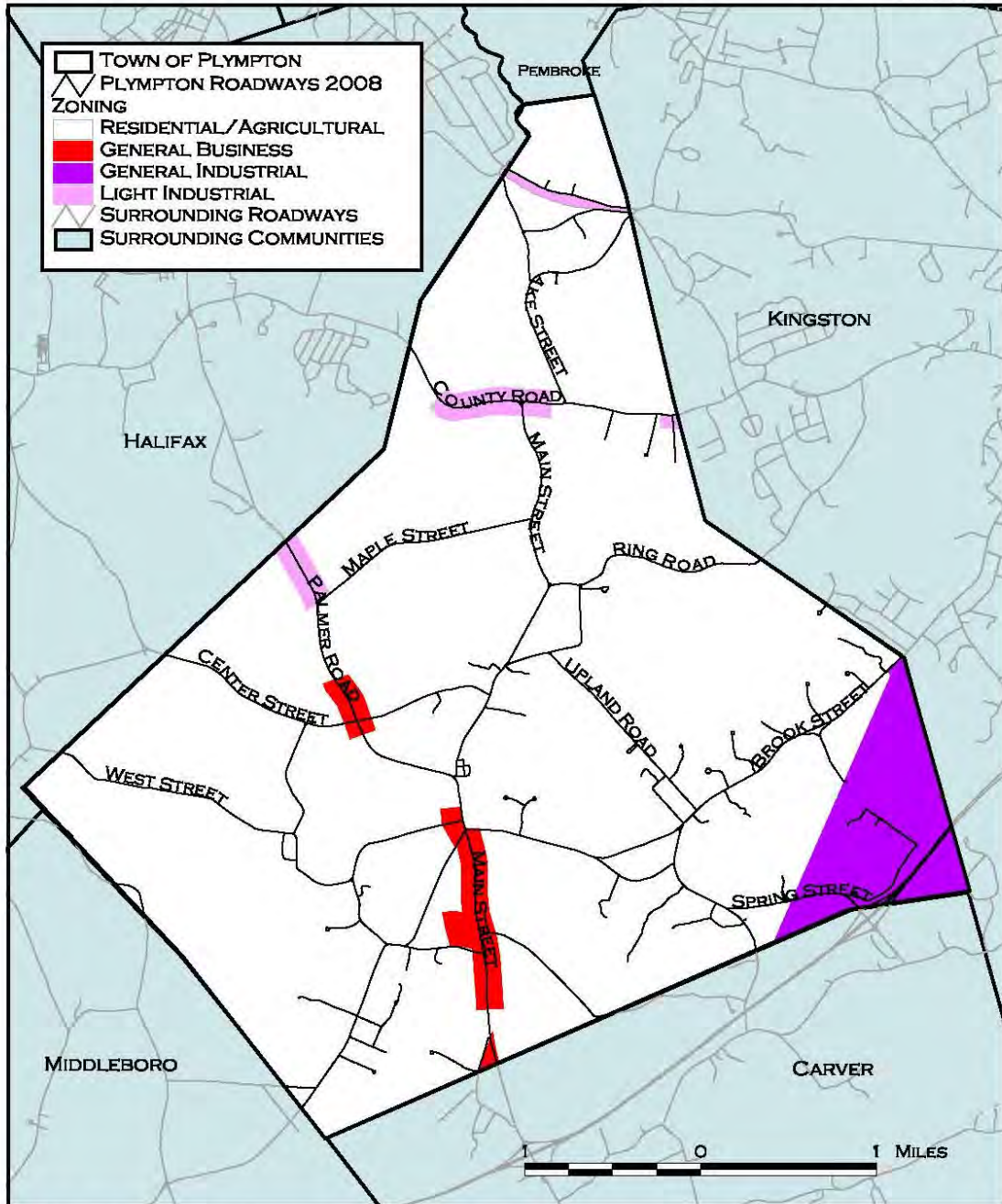
Comments

Some local observers feel that strict subdivision control rules and regulations have also discouraged mass building as large residential developers have preferred to build in nearby towns where their costs would be less.

ZONING ~ TOWN OF PLYMPTON



FIGURE III - 6



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

APRIL, 2009



Brick End Federal Period House at Harrubs Corner being Scraped and Repainted

A continuing ingredient in the building mix is the use of "retreat lots." These are larger parcels of backland (120,000 square feet versus 60,000 square feet for a standard lot) that may be used for one dwelling with no subdivision roadway. This lessens the amount of pavement compared to subdivision development and allows a tranquil setting, but requires more land per unit than normal.

Most recent growth has been in small subdivisions, in "Approval not required" lots along existing roads, and in retreat lots. In addition there is a noticeable increase in small horse farms and related facilities.

The townspeople generally support recent practices, but realize the need to actively develop long-term natural resource and open space goals and objectives; and to identify key parcels and areas for conservation, historic, recreation and water resource protection. Protecting water resources for agricultural and potable uses even beyond the Groundwater Protection Zoning Districts is a great concern.

The consensus of the Open Space Plan Committee is that balanced growth can meet varied needs while preserving and protecting various town resources and assets. Thoughtful consideration can allow farms, residences, business, industry and open lands to co-exist, and can help to support preservation of a community that can be proudly passed on to future residents.

Other Protections

The Wetlands Protection Bylaw

The town's newly enacted non-zoning Wetlands Protection Bylaw "is intended to use the Home Rule Authority of the Town of Plympton to protect the resource areas under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. 131,C.44) to a greater degree than in the Act and to protect all resource areas for additional values (such as agriculture, aquaculture and rare species habitat) beyond those (in the Act.)" The Commission shall assume that activities in buffer areas and in Riverfront areas (defined in the Rivers Protection Act) potentially affect the protected resources, (unless disapproved) and that vernal pools and surrounding areas have essential habitat functions unless this is disapproved.

The Conservation Commission may accept applications (Notices of Intent) which are combined with applications under the Wetlands Protection Act and then may take into account "any loss, degradation, isolation and replacement or replication of any such protected resource areas elsewhere ...resulting from past activities...and foreseeable future activities ...and may implement conditions which [it] deems necessary or desirable to protect the resource area values..." When no conditions could protect the resource area values the Commission may refuse a permit, but it has considerable ability to require mitigation when needed and to waive requirements when appropriate.

The Earth Removal Bylaw

The Town also has an earth removal bylaw under Article VII of the Municipal Bylaws which requires a Selectmen's permit "remove any soil, loam, sand or gravel except in conjunction with the construction of a building on the parcel and except for the continued operation on the same parcel of an existing sand and gravel pit."

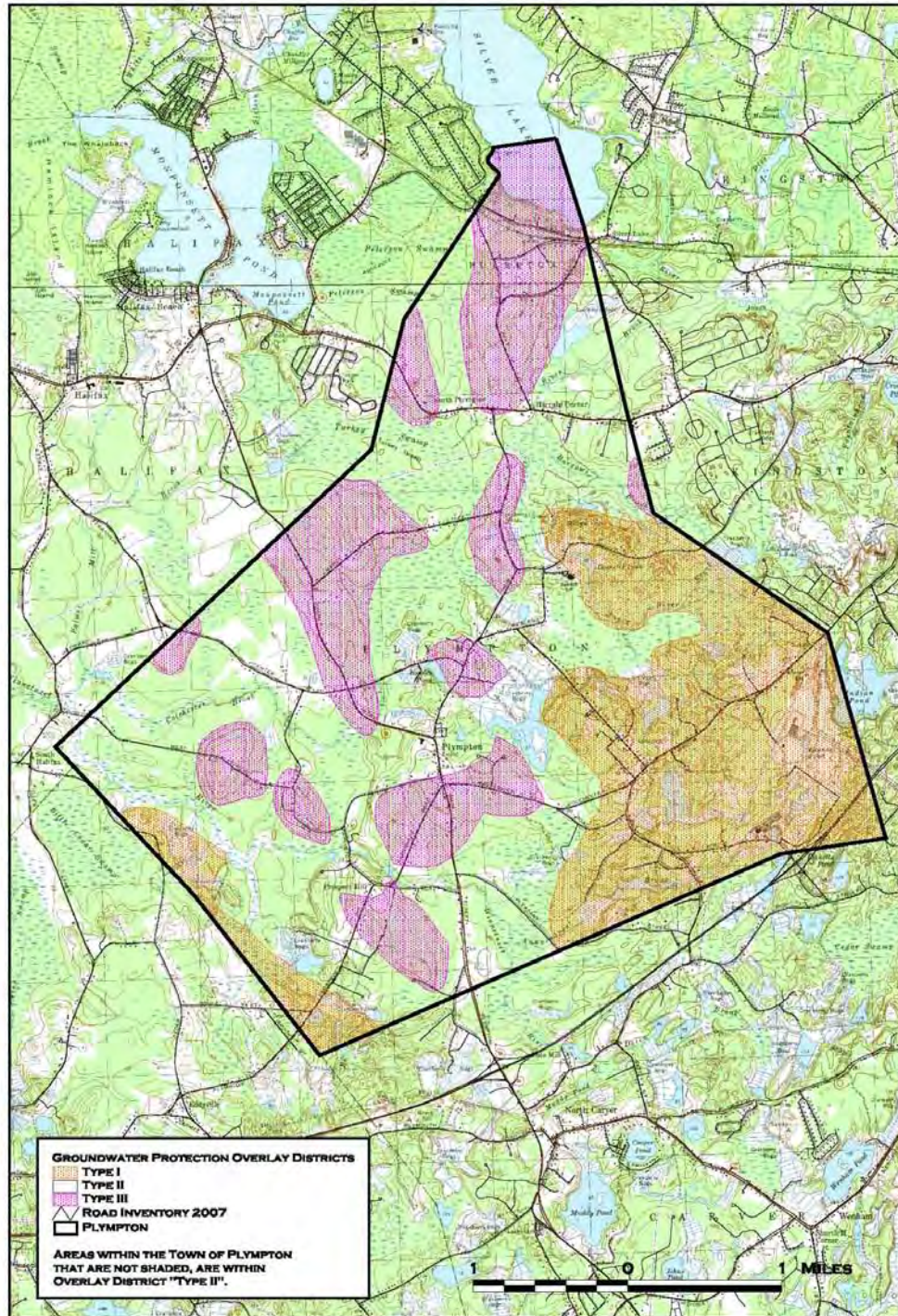
Such bylaws are important not only to regulate removal of a resource, but also to protect the underlying ground water from contaminants leaching through the remaining soil. Therefore, they commonly require maintenance of a given depth to the water table, particularly the seasonal high water table, beneath the bottom of the excavation, and require a protective and aesthetically acceptable site restoration Plan. This remaining depth to groundwater is commonly about 6', varying inversely to the porosity of the soil. The Plympton bylaw sets no standard and has no site restoration requirement unless the Selectmen apply these on a case by case basis.

One advantage of a general bylaw over a zoning bylaw is that it can regulate ongoing activities, not just proposed new facilities and activities. This may be more difficult when the ongoing activity is related to a particular facility or practice, but it still offers some leverage over potentially harmful actions. Thus Plympton's exemption of even "an existing sand and gravel pit" limits the opportunity to add protective requirements to present operations.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICTS



FIGURE III - 7



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

70 SCHOOL STREET

BROCKTON, MA 02301

GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

AUGUST, 2008

FIGURE III - 7

Recommendations:

Strengthen the Earth Removal bylaw by:

- Setting depth to groundwater requirements
- Requiring a site restoration plan
- Removing or reducing the exemption for ongoing operations

IV Environmental Inventory and Analysis

4.1 Geology, Soils, and Topography

Plympton's topography is primarily gently rolling with elevations generally 100 feet above mean sea level. The highest point (210 feet msl) is in the southeastern portion of the town bordering Carver and Kingston. Very few areas have severe slopes, i.e., over 15% (rising 15 feet over a 100-foot distance). Other significant high ground is Cato's ridge which divides the South Coastal (Jones River) and Taunton River basins.

Plympton's topography was formed by glaciers during the last ice age, over 10,000 years ago. The glaciers scoured the surface of the town. Later, as the ice receded, water from the melting glacier formed streams which transported and deposited sediment as glacial outwash. As the sediment was deposited, it filled valleys in the bedrock surface, forming broad, flat outwash plains. Some of the waterborne sediment was deposited against remnants of glacial ice and created dams. After the dams were breached and lakes were drained, the topography assumed its present appearance with many wetland pockets connected by slow-moving, low gradient streams.

Bedrock in the local area includes types of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock. In most areas, the bedrock is fairly deep except for areas where steep slopes or outcrops exist.

Most of the unconsolidated geologic material owes its origin to the ice age glaciers, which created areas of glacial till and outwash. Till is a jumbled mixture of silt, sand, clay, cobbles, and boulders. It is common in drumlins and often drains slowly. Outwash deposits are well-sorted materials of finer-textured stratified layers. Areas of glacial outwash are prime locations for the storage of large volumes of ground water. The eastern portion of the town includes areas with such soils and is over the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer described below.

The highest point in town mentioned above has been heavily mined for sand and gravel to make way for an industrial park and super highway. The remaining topography has been threatened in the past, primarily by those who seeking to convert uplands into bogs.

The soils in Plympton are characteristic of the Hinckley-Merrimac-Muck association, which consist of broad, low ridges; nearly level plains and terraces; and knobby, irregular ridges. Intermingled with these are extensive low, flat, wet areas. These low areas consist mainly of organic soils known as muck. Other very poorly-drained soils in Plympton are Scarboro, Carver, and Peat. The terrain and soil composition of Plympton makes much of it ideal for the production of cranberries, but limited for residential and commercial development. As indicated on Map of Soil Limitations for Septic Tank Disposal, most of Plympton has moderate to severe limitations for the successful functioning of septic systems. Therefore careful planning and on-site testing is necessary to overcome soil conditions and to avoid future water contamination.

Since many areas with slight soil limitations have already been developed, much future development will be proposed in more marginal areas, emphasizing the need for conscientious, creative, and foresighted land use management practices.

4.2 Landscape Character

The town's landscape consists of low, gently rolling woodlands and low areas of wooded swamp, punctuated by many small open areas, commonly small horse farms, and large, colorful low-lying cranberry bogs (though many are out of sight on low-lying backland). There is a dramatic open landscape to the northwest on the Halifax border west of Palmer St. (Rte. 58.) and much rougher terrain with many abrupt sand hills in the southeastern corner of the town. A relatively small amount of development on Form A lots along existing roads can wall off these views of woods and major open areas. Small subdivisions with curving entrance roads can be more discrete though they are often marked by entrance roads which are wider than the through roads they connect to. The recommendations section suggests approaches to encouraging small discrete subdivisions in place of such view-blocking development. Major features include:

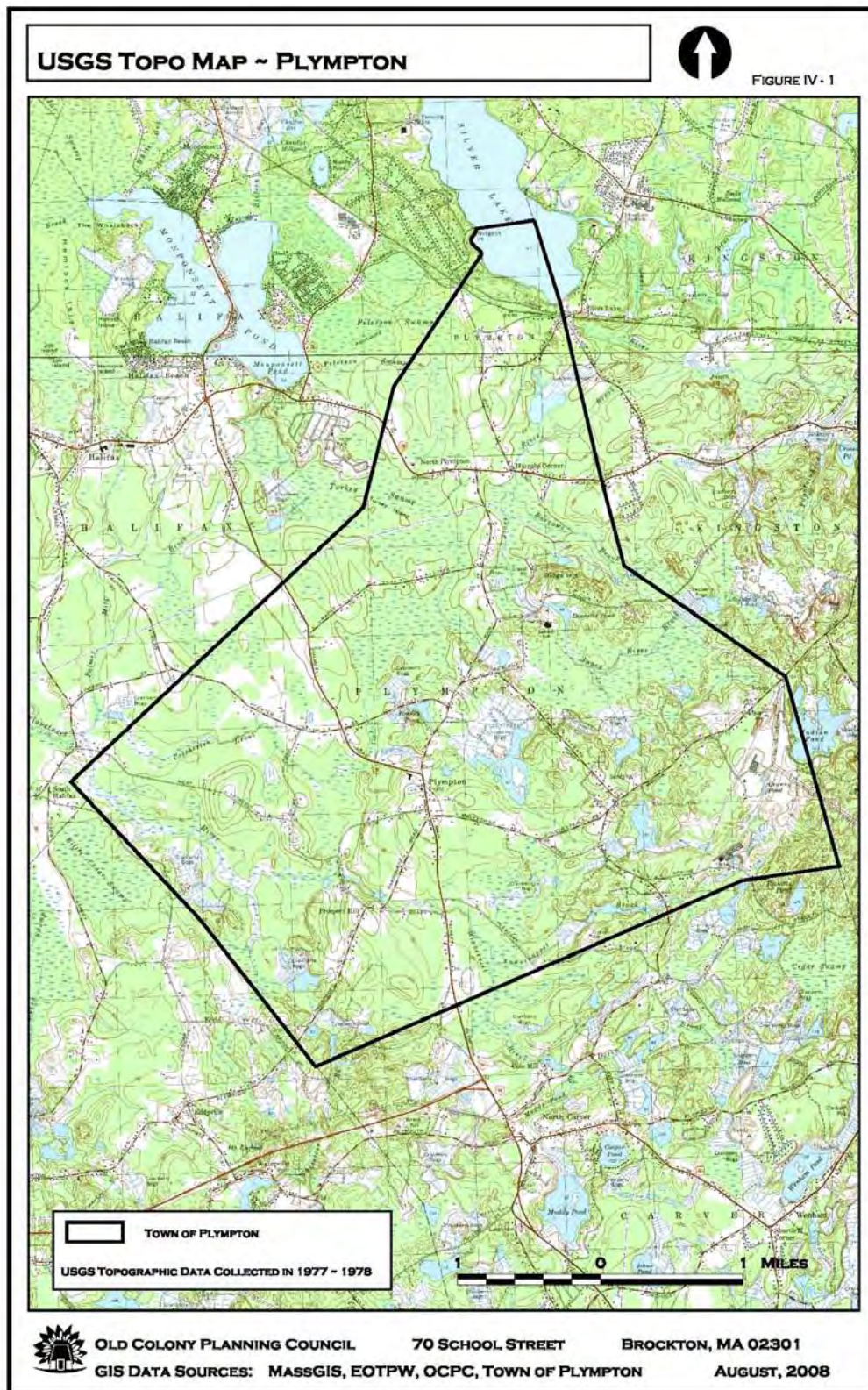
Turkey Swamp- A large wooded swamp which between Maple Street and County Road, with a large area in Halifax. Turkey Island is an upland area of the swamp and lies on the Halifax town line. At the northern edge of Turkey Swamp at Billingsgate there is the small cemetery where Isaac Loring (aged 21) was buried during the smallpox epidemic of 1777-78. East of this site across the brook is Wolf Rock. At one time the area was dotted with trails.

Cato's Ridge - (Kato's Hill, Ridge Hill) - A series of relatively high hills off to the north of Ring Road, just beyond the Martin Hayward Sawmill, and at the edge of the T.L. Edwards gift and discussed in the Inventory of Lands of Conservation Interest.

The Center Street-Road Palmer Road Meadow Lands - An unusual expanse of extensive open fields and wet meadow and fresh marsh south of the Halifax line



Franklin St. Looking towards Palmer St.



Cranberry Bogs Though there are an estimated 800-plus acres of bogs, most are on low-lying backland out of sight from the road and their rich colors and seasonally changing character are often unseen. Particularly visible bogs are those east of Main Street and south of Mayflower Road, south of Pleasant St., on either side of Brook Street, north of Colechester Street, and west of Cross Street.



Man Made Bogs East of Main Street. These were wooded swamp in the late 1970s.

Horse Farms An increasingly important feature is the town's growing group of small horse farms. Though often having only 10 to 20 acres, they are situated very visibly along roads where their common white horizontal board fences catch the eye. They are generally eligible for present use taxation as farms under Ch. 61A a, or as recreation facilities under Ch.61B. They do much to maintain Plympton's rural character.



Idyll River Horse Farm at Carver Line

4.3 Water Resources

4.3.1 Groundwater

Plympton relies on ground water from private wells for all of its drinking water as there is no municipal water supply. These are typically shallow dug wells or deeper drilled wells. All homes and businesses rely on these sources. Therefore, the community must protect the quality and quantity of its groundwater.

Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer

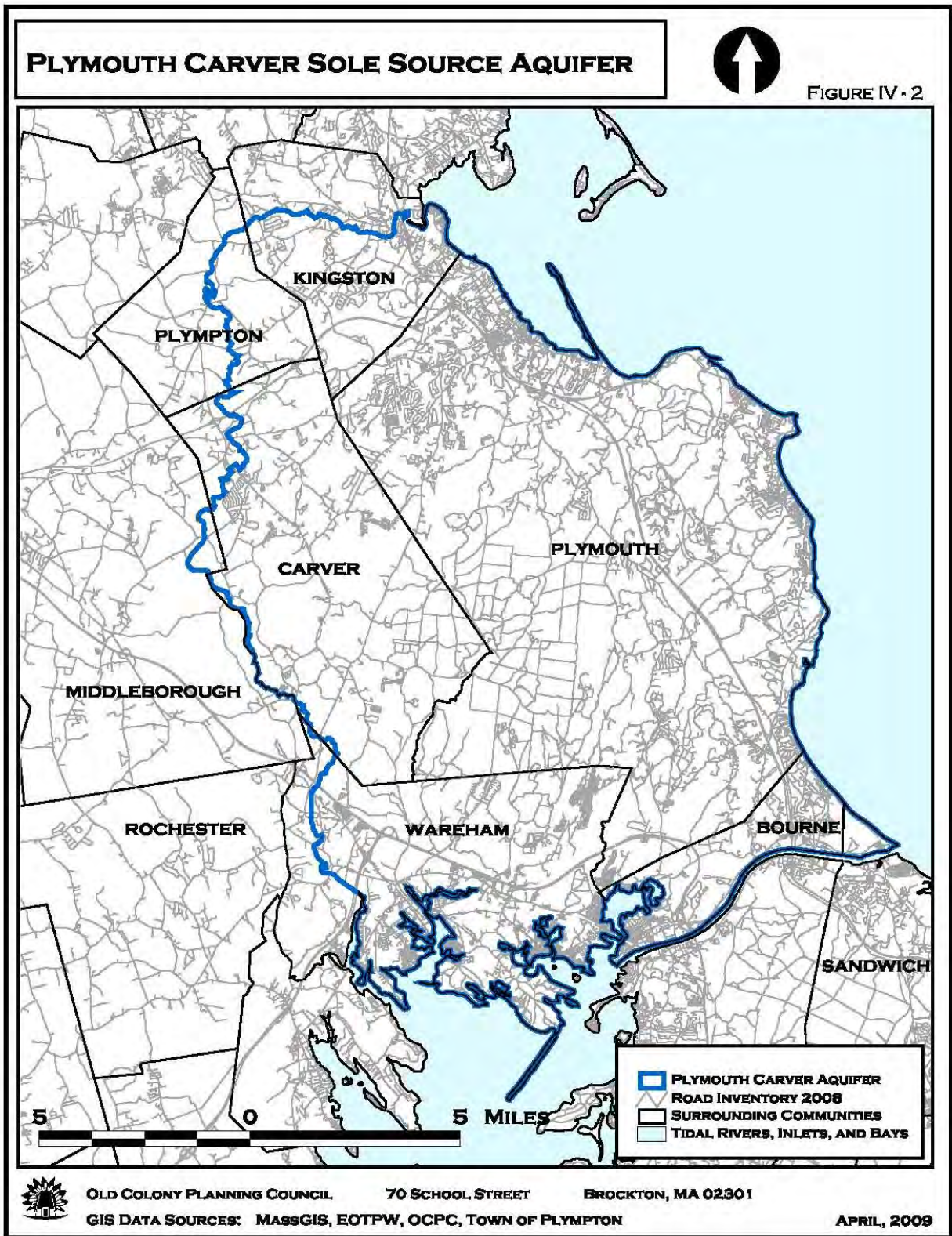
The eastern half of Plympton is over a small portion of the extensive Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer designated in 1990. This includes the easternmost part of the town which has the coarsest soils and hence the fewest limitations for septic systems and the greatest potential for ground water recharge.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the sole source designation requires that “the aquifer ...supply 50% or more of the drinking water for the aquifer service area; and that the volume of water which could be supplied by alternatives is insufficient to meet demand” should the aquifer become contaminated. The Aquifer provides most if the water for the communities over it though in the case of Carver and Plympton this is by many private wells. .

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that , “The Plymouth Carver Source Aquifer is a 140 square mile area of glacial outwash and recessional moraines dotted with kettlehole ponds.” Williams and Tasker (1974) estimated that the 100-foot plus thick water table aquifer contains 540,000,000,000 gallons of freshwater, and that an average of 120,000,000 gallons per day flows through the aquifer and discharges to streams and the ocean. The Aquifer is recharged almost entirely from precipitation.

As far back as 1985, about 59 million gallons per day were used, 82 percent of it for cranberry production.

The Aquifer has the largest potential for groundwater supplies in Southeastern Massachusetts and is the second largest aquifer in Massachusetts. It is bounded on the north and east by Cape Cod Bay, on the south by the Cape Cod Canal and Buzzards Bay, and on the southwest, west, and northwest by low hills that form the approximate ground water divides of the Sippican, Taunton and Jones River basins. It is under all of Plymouth, most of Carver and Wareham, and small portions of Bourne, Sandwich and Middleborough, along with the southern 2/3rds of Kingston and with the eastern two-thirds plus of Plympton.



The Plymouth-Carver area is presently experiencing rapid population growth, and with it increased ground water withdrawal. The aquifer has been seen as a regional water source in the past. This has diminished as the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system now has surpluses due to extensive conservation and system improvement measures, and Brockton's nearby Silver Lake system has contracted for a major supplementary supply through desalinization of brackish water from the lower Taunton River.

Groundwater Protection

Despite remote alternative sources it remains important to protect the amount and quality of the Aquifer's water (and other water resources) for both present and future needs. The amount is increasingly protected by the state's Stormwater Management Regulations emphasizing groundwater recharge and exemplified by the much-recommended Low Impact Development (LID) approach to site design.

The quality of the supply is partially protected the State Sanitary Code, Title V, setting standards for waste water treatment and disposal, by local treatment facilities serving parts of Kingston and Plymouth, and by the town's earth removal regulations and groundwater protection zoning.

The zoning, adopted in 1991, involves regulations controlling potentially harmful uses in the three Groundwater Protection zoning districts discussed in Chapter III and shown on Figure III-7. These provisions restrict potentially harmful land uses in proportion to the transmissivity (rate of movement of water through the soil) and expected well yields in each District.

The earth removal bylaw under Article VII of the Municipal Bylaws requires a Selectmen's permit to "remove any soil, loam, sand or gravel except in conjunction with the construction of a building on the parcel and except for the continued operation on the same parcel of an existing sand and gravel pit," This is discussed and improvements are recommended in Chapter III.

Water Resource Protection Implications for the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer

To protect the aquifer and other resources it is important to ensure that no potentially contaminating activities are over the recharge areas and that protective provisions are in place to remove any contaminants from storm water before it is recharged to the ground. This can be accomplished by land ownership and management, and by regulation.

Ownership is the most effective form of land protection. It gives the public complete control over the use of land and allows installation or modification of any needed protective systems or programs. However, the public is unlikely be able to own all of the

major recharge areas and priorities must be set. Thus groundwater protection zoning is important as a means to regulate overlying uses regardless of landownership. This is particularly true in Plympton which depends on many individual private wells scattered across lands with all degrees of recharge capacity. (The relationship can be inverse as some of the most buildable areas are over firm till soils which are among the least favorable for water potential or waste disposal.) This can be seen by comparing the maps of land use, groundwater protection zoning, and limitations for septic systems.

None-the-less ownership offers the most effective form of protection. Given limited resources for acquisition, lands with coarse soils will get higher consideration for possible acquisition in the discussion of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest, in the statement of Needs; and in the Five Year Action Plan. To focus such efforts, the following discussion explores the areas over the Aquifer which are most important for recharge and most deserving of protection. The prospective areas with a high value for recharge are suggested by the maps of the Groundwater Protection District and of land with Soil Limitations for Septic Systems, as well as other maps of recharge-related soil types.

The first, the earlier map of the Groundwater Protection Overlay District, (Figure III-3) shows land expected to have a high yield for well water and a high transmissivity - the rate of movement of water through the soil. These areas should also be good for groundwater recharge so long as water quality is protected.

The map of Soil Limitations for Septic Tank Sewage Disposal, Figure IV-3 shows land with such limitations due to a high water table, underlying hardpan limiting the downward movement of water, and steep slopes. The soils with few limitations or with limitations only due to steep slopes should also be good for groundwater recharge so long as water quality is protected.

The first map suggests that most of the southeastern corner of the town has a high potential for ground water recharge while the second shows a more irregular pattern with the southeastern-most corner remaining the most significant, while other fragmented areas with a high potential are along the southern edge and the northern end of the land over the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer, or are scattered throughout the western portion of the town.

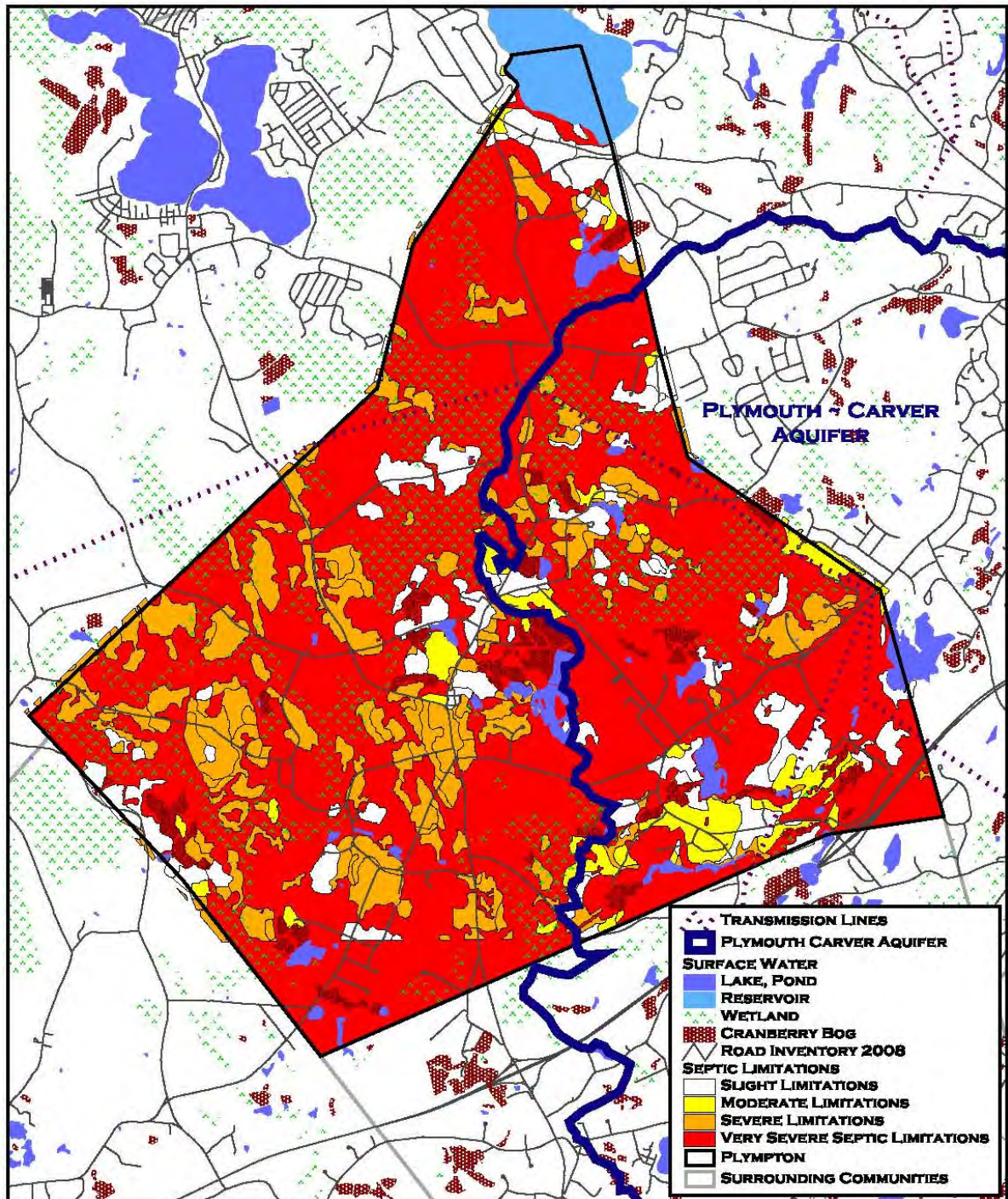
A third, more detailed review of potential recharge values reflecting the character of the underlying soils (Fig. IV-4) confirms the high value of the southeastern corner of the town and reveals a very irregular pattern elsewhere. This reflects the many varied small areas of different soil types defined and mapped by the former US Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the present Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The following Table IV-6 suggests the value of these soil types for groundwater recharge. This is similar to their suitability for septic systems since soils restricted by high water tables, underlying bedrock or hardpan (fragipan) limiting downward water movement are generally poor for recharge. However some areas restricted only due to steep slopes may

SEPTIC LIMITATIONS



FIGURE IV-3



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301

GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

APRIL, 2009

still be valuable for recharge. The table reflects the reported basic porosity of the soils qualified by limitations from underlying hardpan, muck, or other constraints on either initial absorption or the downward movement of water to the aquifer. It then estimates their recharge value from 1 best, to 5, worst. The results are shown on Figure IV-3

The significance of these types can be seen by looking at the distribution of the most absorbent soil types on the map extract from the Soil Survey. This shows a more complex pattern of recharge value. The greatest area of high recharge value (1) remains in Plympton's southwest corner along with with other significant areas along the southern edge of the Aquifer and in scattered areas to the north.

In terms of presently proposed acquisitions and areas of interest, this pattern adds to the value of:

- The proposed acquisition of land around and west of Indian Pond.
- The sand and gravel land (5.6.47 and 5.6.48) west of the power lines and in some cases under Chapter 61
- The isolated parcel of surplus state highway land southeast of Rte. 44
- The "Gravel Pit" site (5.4.11) which is mixed but contains a large central area of high recharge value

In contrast, much of the town-owned low-lying land south of the Dennett School Site (5.3.2) recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission for its open space and habitat value is generally mapped as severely limited for septic systems to due to a high water table and is in the lowest categories for probable recharge value. Only the area immediately southwest of the pond and one near the center of the site have expected recharge values of 1. This is typical of most of the lands of special interest which tend to be low-lying and with tight soils.

The lands of under Chapter 61, 61A and 61 B also generally tend to be quite mixed, combining cranberry bogs with uplands used as a source of material for seasonally sanding the bogs. The land at the north end of the Morse Bros bogs (5.6.17) west of Upland Road has a large area of high recharge value (#1) as does much of the Ch. 61B Upland Club property west of Upland Road. These do not need protection by acquisition so long as they are used for their present purposes. However the areas excavated for bog sand might benefit from strengthened the earth removal regulations to retain a protective depth to groundwater, as discussed earlier.

The concentration of Ch.61, 61A and 61B holdings south of Mayflower St., northeast of Pleasant Street, and west of Brook Street contains much land in recharge category 1

Table IV- 6
Estimated Recharge Value of Soils Found in Plympton's Portion
of the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer

Soils in PCA	Septic Limitation	Degree of porosity	Estimated Recharge value
CaA,B	Slight	Excessively drained	1
CaC	Moderate, Steep	Excessively drained	1
CcD	Moderate	Excessively drained, stoney	1
HaA,HaB,	Slight	Rapid water movement	1
HaC, HaE	Moderate	Slopes, Droughty	1
MfA, MfB	Slight	Well to Excessively Drained, High Permeability	1
MfC,	Moderate, slopes	" " " " " " " "	1
MfE	Severe, steep	" " " " " " steep	
WnB	Slight	Excessively drained, rapid movement	1
WnC	Moderate, slopes	" " " " " " " "	1
EnA,B	Slight	Well drained, fine sand over coarse sand	2
EnC	Moderate, slope	Well drained under slow sand layer	2
GbA,GbB	Slight	Well to Somewhat excessively drained some FP	2
GbC	Moderate	Well to Somewhat excessively drained some FP	2
GcB,C	Severe FP	Well drained but some FP	2
GcB ,C	Severe	Well drained over firm material	2
GdB.C	Moderate	Excessively drained or well drained	2
GdC	Moderate	Well drained sometimes over dense material	2
DeA,B	Severe, WT	Moderately well drained	3
EsA,B,C	Severe Fragipan(FP)	Well drained above and below FP	3
EtB,C	Severe,FP	Well drained bur in till,FP	3
GaA,GaB	Severe FP	Well drained but FP below	3
HoB,HpC	Severe BR	Well to excessively well drained but over BR	3
SeA,B	Severe, WT, FP	Moderately well drained over till and FP	3
SfA, B	Severe, WT,FP	" " " " " " " "	3
SgA	Severe WT, FP	Moderately well drained, over fragipan	3
AuA	Severe, WT	Poorly drained , WT	4
BtA	SevereFP,WT	Very Poorly drained	4
NoA,NoB	Severe, water table, FP	Poorly drained, high water table	4
NpA,B	Severe , WT, FP " "	Poorly drained , fragipan	4
Sa	Severe , WT,	Very Poorly drained, high water table, tight soils	4
ScA	Very Severe, Muck,,WT	Very Poorly Drained, permeable over muck	4
Fr	Severe,	flooded marshes, tight soils	5
Mu,Mv	Very Severe	Very poorly drained shallow or deep muck	5
Pe	Very Severe	Peat, very Poorly drained	5
Sb	Very Severe	Sanded Muck cranberry bogs, very tight and wet	5
Bo	unknown	Top soil removed from till , Variable	?
Ma	Unknown	Land filled with varied materials, variable	?

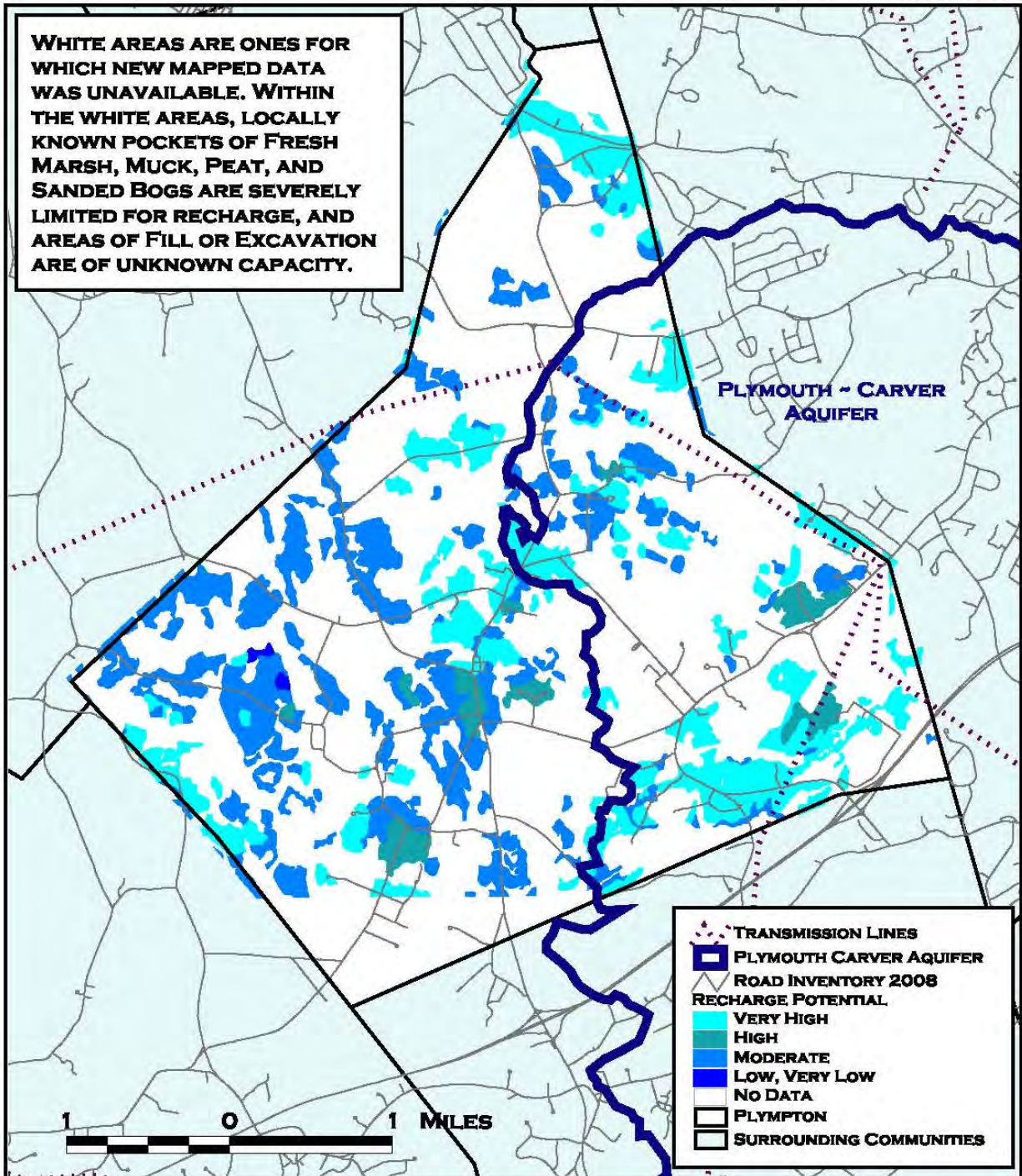
Source: Adapted from Plymouth County Soil Survey, USDA, Soil Conservation Svc. 7/1969

SOILS BY RECHARGE POTENTIAL



FIGURE IV - 4

WHITE AREAS ARE ONES FOR WHICH NEW MAPPED DATA WAS UNAVAILABLE. WITHIN THE WHITE AREAS, LOCALLY KNOWN POCKETS OF FRESH MARSH, MUCK, PEAT, AND SANDED BOGS ARE SEVERELY LIMITED FOR RECHARGE, AND AREAS OF FILL OR EXCAVATION ARE OF UNKNOWN CAPACITY.



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

70 SCHOOL STREET

BROCKTON, MA 02301

GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

APRIL, 2009

between three groups of cranberry bogs. This area also offers possibilities for an east-west greenway partially along the Annasnapet Brook. The combined recharge and open space value potential would be reasons to consider acquisitions along this corridor if land becomes available.

The concentration of Ch.61, 61A and 61B holdings south of Mayflower St., northeast of Pleasant Street, and west of Brook Street contains much land in recharge category 1 between three groups of cranberry bogs. This area also offers possibilities for an east-west greenway partially along the Annasnapet Brook. The combined recharge and open space value potential would be reasons to consider acquisitions along this corridor if land becomes available.

In addition there are also scattered private holdings with a high recharge capacity over the Aquifer. One example is the land southeast of Rebecca Way, north of the powerline and on the Kingston Town Line.

These and other apparent high value recharge areas and potential open space / recreation acquisitions need more site-specific examinations based on more detailed mapping than is readily available.

Beyond this, a large portion of the coarse soil in the southeast corner of the town is now in sand and gravel operations, or in existing or proposed industrial uses in a growing industrial park. The sand and gravel operation might be an attractive site for ‘Badlands’ recreation such as ATV and trail bike riding as well as a protected recharge area if it ever closes. In the meantime, neither the sand and gravel operations nor the industrial property would be appropriate for acquisition and should be protected by effective regulations.

Recommendations

- Give particularly close examination to any potential acquisitions in the Zone II recharge areas of any future public water supply systems and integrate such acquisitions with any open space/recreation acquisition programs
- Upgrade the Earth Removal regulations as discussed earlier and suggested below
 - Require a definite depth to the underlying groundwater reflecting the porosity of the intervening soil and the prospects for hazardous uses after closure
 - Add site restoration requirements calling for a tight cap and pretreatment of potentially contaminated storm water
 - Reduce or remove the exemptions for ongoing operations

4.3.2 Surface Waters, Lakes, Ponds and Streams

There are 10 ponds ranging from one to 25 acres wholly within Plympton, and two ponds (Silver Lake and Indian Pond) that lie partly in Plympton. The ponds within the town are:

Barrows Brook Pond	Harrubs Corner Bog Pond
Bonney Pond	Plympton Bog Pond
North Brooks Street Bend Pond	Plympton Bog Pond South,
Dennetts Pond	Prospect Road West Pond
Granny Pond,	Whetstone Brook Pond

Silver Lake The 666-acre Silver Lake is part of the South Coastal Drainage Basin. The South Coastal Basin has an area of about 135 sq. miles and includes minor river basins that drain into Plymouth Bay and Cape Cod Bays along the South Shore. The basin contains numerous wetlands, many of which are used to cultivate cranberries. Many small lakes and ponds are scattered throughout the basin. Silver Lake, in its northwestern corner is the largest.

Since the early 1900s, the City of Brockton and Town of Whitman have been served by the Silver Lake water supply which is supplemented by water from the Monponsett Ponds in Halifax and Hanson, (in the Taunton River Basin) and Furnace Pond and Oldham Pond in Pembroke (in the North River portion of the South Coastal Basin.) The Lake covers the northern end of Plympton and portions of the towns of Pembroke and Kingston, and borders the town of Halifax. Silver Lake has a total surface area of 666 acres (approximately 1/4 of the area in Plympton) and a total storage volume of 4,970 million gallons drawing on a relatively small watershed of approximately 1.2 square miles. This suggests that it also draws on groundwater, such as the water flowing from Plympton.

As Brockton's primary water source, the Lake is designated Class A waters by the state Department of Environmental Protection. These are designated as public water supplies, and as excellent habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, and are suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation except where restricted to protect drinking water.

Silver Lake is a Great Pond under the state Waterways Regulations. This is a water body having a water surface area of ten or more acres in its natural state. Projects in, on, or over any Great Pond trigger Ch. 91 jurisdiction and subsequent regulatory permitting requirements. In particular, citizens of the Commonwealth have access to great ponds through private land so long as they “shall not tread on any man’s corn”(grain).

Indian Pond Indian Pond is a great pond partially located within southeastern Plympton. The majority of its surface area is within the neighboring town of Kingston. The land in Plympton surrounding Indian Pond is zoned for industrial use. Most of this area has already been cleared and used as a sand and gravel borrow area, and has been

divided into separate parcels of land zoned for industrial use. However, at this time of this plan, no development has occurred. Completion of the Route 44 extension will undoubtedly spur such development.



Above partially overgrown northern portion of Indian Pond; below, the clear southern section looking towards Kingston



There is a narrow forested strip remaining along the edge of the pond. Within this strip is an improved road private road which provides access to a few pondside dwellings in Plympton and Kingston. The pond has informal trails and is reputedly a good fishing spot.

Bonney Pond A cranberry bog reservoir and former mill pond south of Center Street. The former sawmill and box mill site has a one-acre public access parcel according to the 1988 Open Space Plan.



Bonney Pond viewed from its dam

Others

Plympton has many other water bodies of varying sizes; commonly associated with active cranberry bog systems. Although in private ownership, many of these ponds are accessible to the public for passive recreational uses.

River Systems

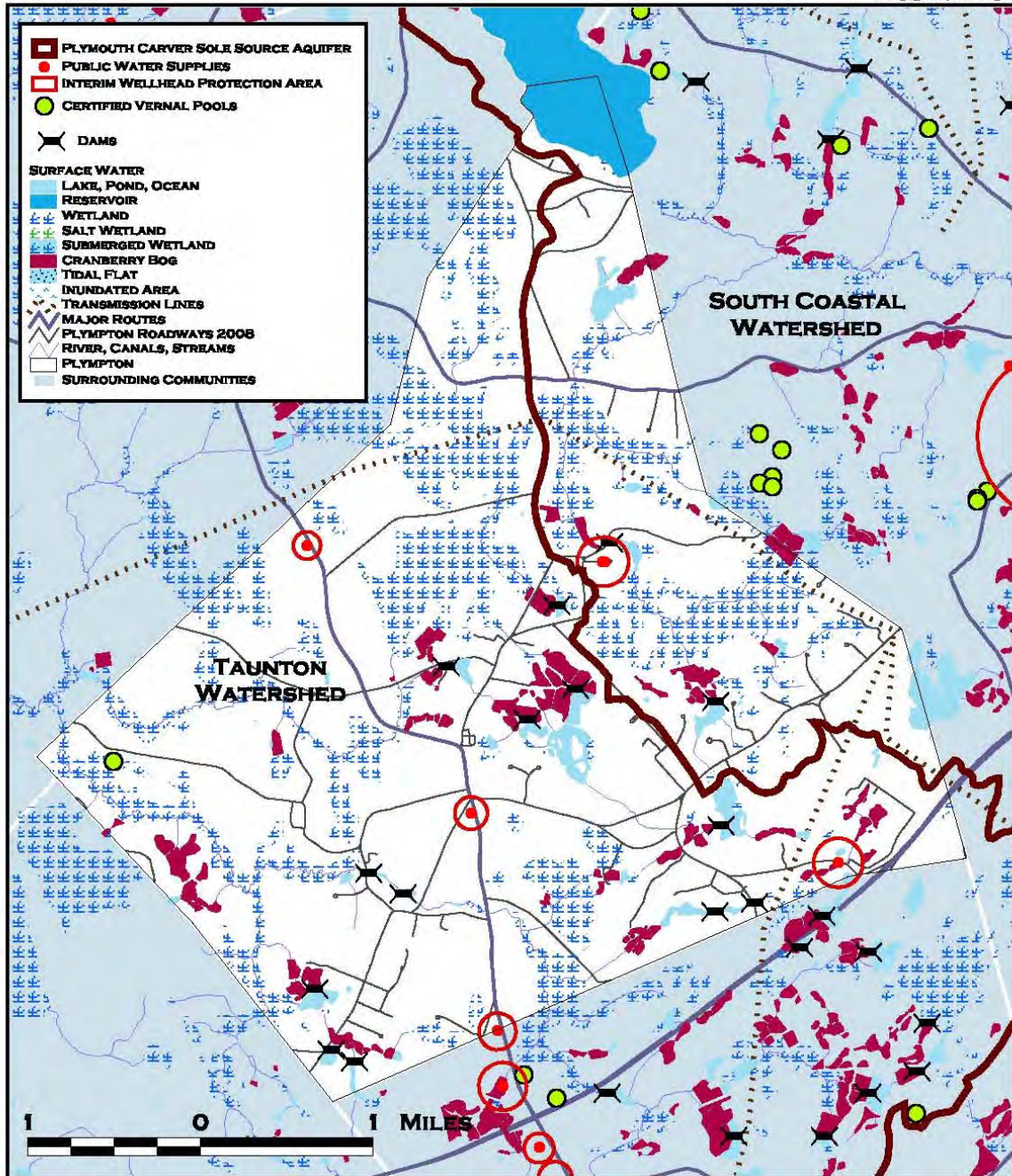
Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act Wetlands Resource Areas. Under the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act (1996) land (both upland and vegetated wetland) within 200 feet from the bank of a river or perennial stream (or in some cases 100' or 25') is now a protected resource area (Riverfront Area). Any activities proposed within the Riverfront Area falls under the jurisdiction of the local conservation commission and can be severely restricted to protect that resource.

Plympton is divided between the Taunton River Basin, described above, and the South Coastal Basin. One of the major tributaries to the 44.5 mile long river is the Winnetuxet River.

WATER RESOURCES, PLYMPTON



FIGURE IV-5



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

70 SCHOOL STREET

BROCKTON, MA 02301

GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

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The Winnetuxet River originates in the northwest corner of Carver at the confluence of Muddy Pond Brook and Doten Brook. It flows northwest through the towns of Carver and Plympton and then into Halifax to its confluence with the Taunton River. Other main tributaries to the basin within Plympton include Colchester Brook and Annasnappitt Brook.

The confluence of Colchester Brook and the Winnetuxet River is located in South Halifax, just over the Plympton-Halifax town limits. The Annasnappitt Brook joins the river in south Plympton, just east of Route 58. These waterways drain the western and southern portions of the town.

According to the March 1989 DEM Taunton River Basin Inventory and Analysis of Current and Projected Water Use, twenty-eight communities obtain all or part of their public water supplies from the Taunton River basin. Brockton has long gotten much water from the Basin's Monponsett Ponds and it will soon get a significant supply from desalinization of water from the lowest, brackish portion of the river in the town of Dighton.

The South Coastal Basin drains the eastern portion of the town via the Jones River.

The Jones River flows easterly from Silver Lake to Plymouth Bay. Major tributaries to the Jones River are Barrows Brook and the Jones River Brook, both of which flow northerly through eastern Plympton. The confluence of the Jones River Brook and the Jones River is in Kingston.

The DEP-DWPC has designated the Winnetuxet and Jones Rivers as Class B inland waters; designated as a habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, and for primary and secondary contact recreation.

Wetlands

Wetlands are a major feature of the Plympton's landscape. These resource areas include extensive areas of Palustrine forested broad-leaved deciduous swamp and Palustrine broad-leaved deciduous scrub, shrub and emergent swamps which border numerous water bodies and waterways.

Wetlands have become recognized as uniquely important components of the landscape. Vegetated wetlands lying adjacent to waterways and water bodies are presumed significant to water supply, to groundwater, to flood control, to storm damage protection, to prevention of pollution, and to the protection of fisheries and wildlife habitat. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131, sec. 40) and its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) prohibit removing, filling, dredging or altering of wetland resource areas without an Order of Conditions from the local conservation commission regulating the work.

Cranberry bogs, though often man-made, are considered to be wetlands and are subject to the Wetland Protection Act. However, activities defined as normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural use in the Wetland Regulations are exempt from the Act. Other activities associated with cranberry growing which are not defined as normal maintenance or improvements are considered to be Limited Projects. The Commission may permit work in the bogs and adjacent wetlands, provided the farming activities are carried out according to general conditions in the Wetland Regulations.

Flood Hazard Zones

Plympton's residential areas are primarily along the major roads traversing the town. A significant portion of the town consists of low-lying swamps, some of which have been made into cranberry bogs. Generally, there is little development on the flood plain of the Winnetuxet River and other local streams and tributaries.

Historically, Plympton has sustained little flood damage due to this limited development within the flood plains. In addition, the extensive wetlands tend to reduce flood flows and related damage. There are no structural flood protection measures in the town though some small dams may potential. Flood control. There are zoning regulations restricting development in the flood plain areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages communities to adopt wider more restrictive floodways and to minimize the amount of fill allowed in the new Riverfront Areas. In addition, the Wetlands Protection Act authorizes conservation commissions to restrict flood plain filling without compensatory flood storage.

FEMA has developed a Flood Insurance Rate Map for the town of Plympton. As the Land Use and Flood Zone map above (Figure III-5) shows, there are extensive 100-year flood hazard areas along most of the major waterways including the Winnetuxet River, Jones River Brook, and Colchester Brook.

4.4 Flora

As of 1999 the town's vegetation consisted of:

Forest -	Both upland and wetlands-swamp	5,689.0 acres
Non- forested wetlands -	Marsh and wet meadow, grass and shrubs	323.2 acres
Cropland -	Varied field crops; often bare during winter	313.7 acres
	Sometimes leaving edible corn stubble	
	Presumably including hay fields	
Pasture -	Managed grasslands	278.9 acres
Orchard, Nurseries and	mostly bogs) -	868.8 acres
Cranberry Bogs	These are largely a mono-culture except	
	along ditches and around reservoirs	

4.4.1 Forest Lands

The town's undeveloped land is largely forest, both wooded swamp and varied wooded upland mixing pine and hardwoods. It tends to be in comparatively large blocks particularly north and south of West St., north of Upland Road, south of Maple St., and north of Ring Road. These are surrounded by roads which often allow wildlife crossing, but more "Form A" (Approval Not Required) development around these blocks will begin to isolate their inhabitants. Except for the areas north and south of West Street, these are largely wooded swamp according to the USGS topographic sheets. These are difficult to develop as wetland, and as land with great limitation for septic systems.

The forests are valuable as wildlife habitat, as limited sources of timber, as areas for varied recreation; (camping, hiking and fishing), as water retention areas since they shed very little water, and as areas to absorb carbon dioxide (at least until they die or are burned). In addition, they give an appealing background or setting for houses. (This leads to the question of whether to encourage development in woods rather than on scarce open fields, perhaps through varied density requirements. This could be visually more attractive, but at the cost of some of these significant forest values.)

The habitat value is often greatest in areas of edge where the diversity of food and cover are greatest. So selective cutting may benefit habitat. (See discussion of habitat values below.)

Extensive swampy areas dominated by swamp maples, pines and briars may be impassable especially during wet seasons giving good protective cover, but limiting their recreational value. At the same time scattered swamp islands remain slightly higher and drier. This suggests providing access to areas such as Turkey Island in the midst of the Turkey Swamp south of County Road along the Halifax line.

4.4.2 Open Fields

The town has very few open fields with 313.7 acres listed as croplands and 278.9 listed as pasture in 1999. The most dramatic open views are the open wetlands and other grasslands west of Palmer Road and north of Center Street and running into Halifax, as discussed above under Landscape Character.

4.4.3 Cranberry Bogs

The town's area in bogs grew during the 1980s with rising cranberry prices, then contracted in the 1990s with drastically falling prices, and now are slowly recovering, but abandoned bogs are still to be seen in the region. There were 868.9 acres as of 1999. The bogs are basically a mono-culture; large areas producing only one crop except for the more varied aquatic habitat along the drainage ditches and the surrounding support land, most commonly sandy pinehills used as a source of sand.

4.5 Fisheries and Wildlife

The town's wildlife reflects its ecological communities. These include forest, wetland, open ponds, and grasslands and are shown combined in the BioMap showing areas of value for wildlife diversity. The following section draws on material from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

4.5.1 Terrestrial Habitat

The Drier Forests are generally second growth forests (due to early logging) dominated by hard and soft woods (pine, oak, maple.) They provide good cover for most wildlife associated with these areas. Floodplain forests are also found along our river tributaries. Many local species, such as the whitetail deer and red fox, require access to a mixture of forest, wetland, and open land for the food and shelter needed for survival.

Wetland Areas are also important to wildlife. Wetlands provide water and plants needed for food. Wetlands also moderate the extreme temperature conditions, thereby providing good shelter for wildlife in summer and winter. Muskrat, mink, waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, reptiles and amphibians are found in these areas. Some turtles require both wetlands and uplands at different times and for different purposes.

Grasslands The animals inhabiting grasslands, earthworms, insects and burrowing rodents are essential to nutrient cycling and soil aeration. Larger animals, particularly many birds and rodents, help to disperse seeds. Unfortunately such habitat is fast disappearing from the region. Open fields in New England increased dramatically following European colonization and eighty percent of New England had been cleared by 1850. Today regenerating forest and a burgeoning human population are reclaiming open land, and some low-lying open land has been converted to cranberry bogs. Thus much of our grass lands are in heavily-maintained suburban lawns.

However there are remaining hay fields in Plympton and with correct management practices, particularly timing mowing around nesting periods they can attract grassland wildlife species such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, swallows, hawks and others.

Many wildflowers cannot survive the grazing, mowing and competition with the introduced grasses, and are uncommon today. Some of these, such as wild indigo and other members of the pea family are important in maintaining fertility by incorporating nitrogen into the soil.

4.5.2 Riverine Habitat

The major rivers (Winnetuxet and Jones) of Plympton are parts of riparian corridors of the Taunton River Watershed and South Coastal Basin, respectively. Riparian corridors are naturally vegetated shorelines found along the sides of our rivers. The zone extends at least 100 feet back from the water's edge. The corridors furnish food, water, and shelter,

supporting a wide diversity of animals. Connected riparian zones (greenways) provide protected habitat, and paths that serve as biological highways for animals and plant movement. In our watersheds, muskrats, otters, mink, and other water loving animals depend on greenways for survival.

Riparian areas are also home to a variety of birds including warblers, thrushes, hummingbirds, and others. Rapidly growing vegetation produces multi-storied habitats, with older trees often having holes that provide nesting sites for wood ducks, woodpeckers, and other cavity seekers. These birds all depend on riverways to complete their life cycles.

According to the Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Winnetuxet River supports a good chain pickerel population. This population can be attributed to severe spring flooding coincident with the spawning activities of chain pickerel. This flooding offers the chain pickerel a maximum number of spawning sites in a flooded marsh.

In addition the River is annually stocked in spring with brook and brown trout by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The river holds brown trout throughout the year and also has a diverse warm water fish population of brown bullhead, golden shiner, bluegill, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, tessellated darter, American eel, redbfin pickerel, chain pickerel, creek chubsucker, yellow perch, banded sunfish, swamp darter and bridge shiner.

The Winnetuxet also has been stocked with blueback herring by the Division of Marine Fisheries with 6600 blueback herring introduced from 1989 to 1993. The downstream Taunton River supports large runs of such anadromous species. Many fish travel up the Taunton and Town Rivers to Lake Nipinicket to spawn and in the process move by the mouth of the Winnetuxet where some may take a side bar and stray up into our system. As Colchester Brook is a tributary to the Winnetuxet River and does not appear to have any obstructions, fish entering into the Winnetuxet could also find their way into that brook.

The South Coastal River Basin, drained by the Jones River Brook in the eastern section of town is also important for wildlife, according to the Division of Marine Fisheries. Barrows Brook is a tributary of Jones River Brook which feeds into the Jones River and finally into Plymouth Harbor. Barrows Brook is annually stocked in spring with brook and brown trout. The Jones River system supports populations of several species, and runs of river herring and American eel could possibly reach Plympton.

Other streams include the Annasnappet Brook draining the southeast corner of the town to the Winnetuxet River, and the much longer Colchester Brook running from the smaller "Indian Pond" east of Brook Street through Bonney Pond and ultimately to the Winnetuxet River in Halifax.

4.5.3 Fish Species in Open Ponds

As noted above, There are 10 ponds ranging from one to 25 acres wholly within Plympton, and two ponds (Silver Lake and Indian Pond) that lie partly in Plympton.

No specific fisheries information is available on the ponds but all can be considered to be warm water ponds. According to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife typical species include:

Largemouth Bass	Chain Pickerel,
Bluegill	Pumkinseed Sunfish
Yellow Perch. Brown	Bullhead
Golden Shiner	

Indian Pond (Kingston/Plympton - 66 acres) is a natural, shallow warm water pond with a fish population of chain pickerel, yellow perch, bluegill, golden shiner, brown bullhead and pumkinseed sunfish. Largemouth bass have also been reported.

The pond supports a community very like a Coastal Plain Pond shore community. It has an outlet which true coastal plain ponds lack, but it supports a NHESP Priority Natural Community type. It is worth protecting the Pond's shore line for the rare species habitat it provides on and around the pond. . The NHESP notes that "For all (that) these species appear to be somewhat common in Massachusetts (for rare species) they are all close to their global centers of distribution, and all their habitats are important for global biodiversity."

Silver Lake (Pembroke/Plympton/Kingston) is a natural deep lake. The lake is used as a water supply for Brockton. The pond is reported as having a diverse warm water fish population and a summer 1968 temperature and dissolved oxygen profile indicated that trout could be supported during summer.

4.5.4.1 Corridors for Wildlife Migration -Riparian Corridors (Source/TRWA)

Healthy fish populations depend upon greenway conditions which include stable river channels, no siltation, and a steady supply of clean water, food, and shelter. When available, overhanging vegetation provides shade, and is a home to insects. It also produces organic matter, a key food source for fish and other aquatic life in the food chain.

Jones River Corridor The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has identified the Jones River as important to anadromous fish species. The Jones River serves as a wildlife corridor from the ocean to inland parts of the river.

The Division reports that Jones River has the potential to support a large population of alewives. Although most tributaries are obstructed and offer little spawning area, construction of two fishways on the north branch would allow alewives to reach Silver

Lake. Since Silver Lake is a water supply, water level fluctuations could be a problem. However, in view of the large potential spawning area available, the feasibility of opening Silver Lake to alewives should be evaluated. If sufficient flow for adult and juvenile migration can be maintained, fishways should be constructed at the dam at Wapping Street and at the outlet of Silver Lake.

Smelt spawn in the Jones River below the first dam and in Smelt Brook, a small tributary. Small numbers of shad have been observed in the river. The amount of shad spawning area should be determined, and if substantial, a shad restoration program should be initiated.

A key recommendation of this plan is to join other community efforts to carefully manage the corridors and protect critical areas. The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts is a lead non-profit coordinating the Taunton River Protection Program along with the Taunton River Watershed Alliance and the related Taunton River Campaign. These include tributaries such as Plympton's Winnetuxet River. The Jones River Watershed Association and representatives from towns including Plympton are working to prevent non-point source pollution along this corridor system.

Forest Corridors Plympton still has large forest tracks which are important to interior forest species such as certain songbirds that require large areas for breeding, food, and shelter. For example, the Wood Thrush, which has been declining, is still able to find nesting habitat here because of the rich and relatively large forest corridors still left. The quality, as well as the spatial arrangements of habitats, are important when managing for wildlife. When the forest becomes fragmented by human uses, edges are created. These can be valuable in supporting diverse species but they also give open-land predators access to feed on birds and their young. Creeping urbanization also allows increases in predators that live around humans such as coyote, raccoons, and cats. It is important to protect and carefully manage adjacent tracts of forest, and to allow safe crossings between tracts to meet the wildlife requirements of interior species.

4.5.4.2 Vernal Pools

A vernal pool is a seasonal pond existing in a confined depression that fills up with water in the spring and has no fish species to prey on young salamanders and other amphibians. The Wetlands Protection Act includes not only the vernal pool itself, but also an area up to 100 feet wide surrounding the pool.

Although the town has only one Certified Vernal Pool, on or near holdings of the Wildlands Trust of South Eastern Massachusetts, there are many Potential Vernal Pools in Plympton. One cluster is just east of Crescent Street and another is just north of Spring Street. (In addition local observers have heard wood frogs on Cross Street and they are Obligate species for vernal pools.) These Vernal pools are valuable wildlife habitat because of the wide range of species that depend on them. They also serve as migratory

corridors between the aquatic and terrestrial environments. The state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program notes that "There are many clusters of potential vernal pools, which provide extra habitat value ...since each pool is somewhat different and provides alternate habitat in different years and seasons." See the map of Priority and Estimated Habitats.

4.5.3 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Protection Plan

The inclusive ("Priority") or wetland-oriented ("Estimated") habitats for Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species, and the town's only certified Vernal pool and Potential Vernal Pools are shown on the following map while the town's areas of BioCore, Supporting Natural Landscape and Living Waters Core are shown on the subsequent BioMap.

The map of "Estimated" habitat is used in enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act and shows areas of probable habitat of rare wetlands wildlife species. The map of "Priority" habitats shows general locations of all rare species, both plant and animal, for use with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Often they differ with the Estimated Habitat being a subset of the Priority Habitats but in Plympton they are the same with some mapped upland included in the Estimated Habitats. This map also shows the town's one certified vernal pool and several clusters of potential vernal pools based on aerial photographs.

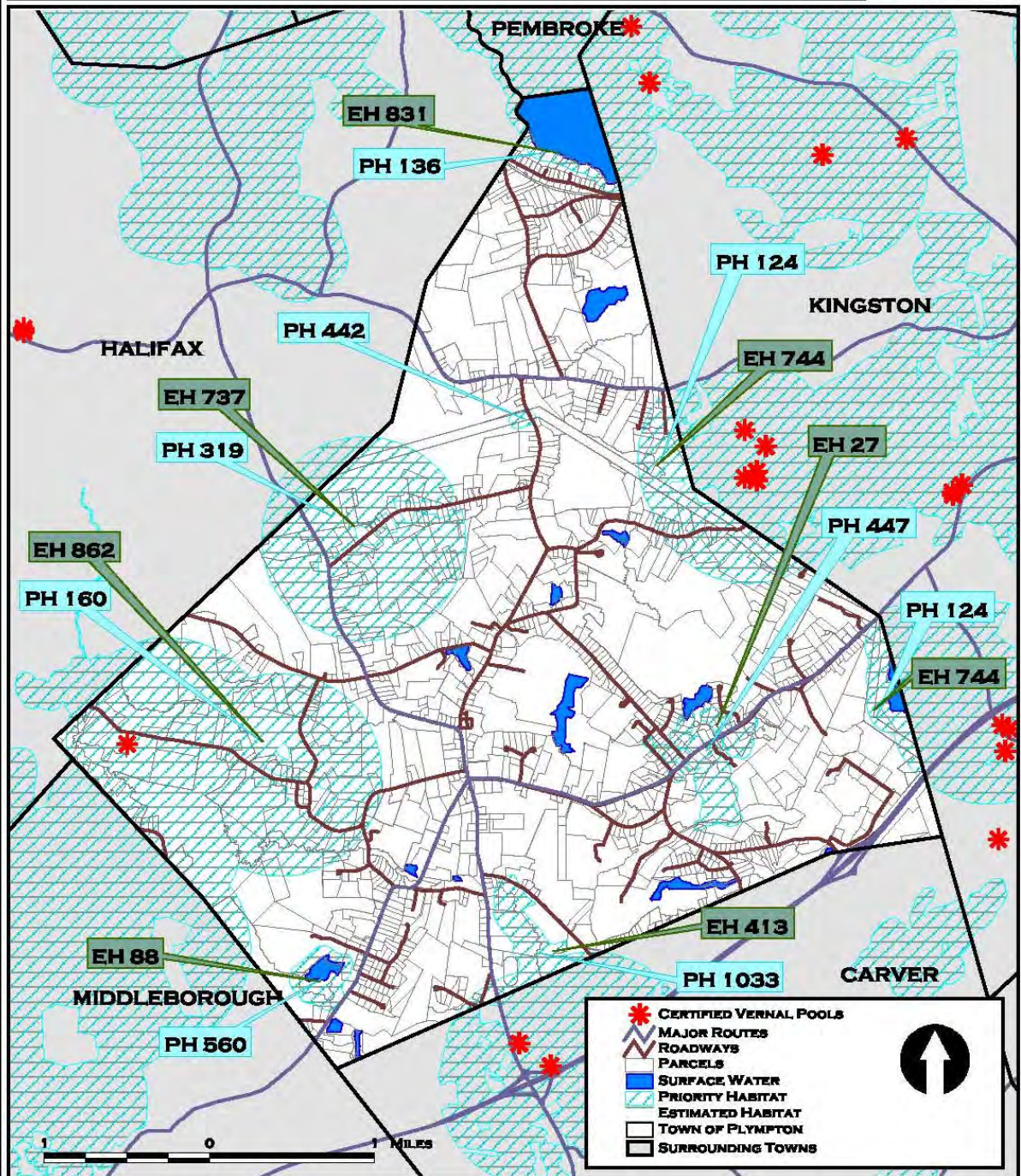
In contrast the BioMap shows more extensive areas. As explained by the NHESP Program, "the BioMap and Living Waters Cores were produced ...to identify the areas of most importance for biodiversity: they are based on known locations of rare species and uncommon natural communities, and incorporate habitats needed by rare species to maintain the local populations. BioMap focused on species of upland and wetlands; Living Water focused on aquatic species" As can be seen, much of the western section of the town is in the BioMap and scattered portions of the eastern end are considered to be Supporting Natural Landscape. The nearest Living Waters Core surrounds the Winnetuxet River in Halifax immediately downstream of the Plymton/ Halifax line.

In addition to the mapped areas the NHESP notes that "Silver Lake and Indian Pond support significant diversity; the uplands around them help to protect and buffer important areas.

PLYMPTON OPEN SPACE PLAN

PRIORITY AND ESTIMATED HABITATS

FIGURE IV - 6



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC

BROCKTON, MA 02301

APRIL, 2009

Rare species documented in Plympton as of 8/23/07 follow:

4.5.3.1 Vertebrates

Names sighting	Status	Most recent
The Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) Like to nest in old trees for isolation and near water offering fish	Endangered	1999
Pied-Billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>) A bird that prefers to nest in marshes, lakes, ponds and other wetlands with edges fringed with cattails, reeds etc. for cover and nesting areas	Endangered	1992
Eastern Box Turtle (<i>Terepene carolina</i>) Primarily lives in dry upland oak and pine forest, Using wetlands on hottest days.	Special Concern	2007
Note: The Spotted Turtle (<i>Clemmys Guttata</i>) has been been de-listed and is no longer protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act(MESA). It Is a member of the largest turtle family, often forging and nesting in uplands but mostly found in forested and open wetlands and riparian zones.	Delisted	1996

4.5.3.2 Invertebrates

Attenuated Bluet-Damsel Fly (<i>Enallagma daeckii</i>) Found in wetlands near well vegetated ponds with nearby woodland for shelter, nesting and mating with eggs laid on emerging plants	Special Concern	1994
Barrens Bluet (<i>Enallagma recurvatum</i>) Similar to above but generally restricted to shallow, sandy shores of Coastal Plain Pond.	Threatened	1994
Tidewater Mucket (<i>Leptodea ochracea</i>) A freshwater mussel preferring stable sandy substrates and clean water. This calls for protecting the shores and riparian buffers of Silver Lake.	Special Concern	1999
Eastern Pond Mussell (<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>) Another freshwater mussel with preferences like those of the Tidewater Mucket	Special Concern	1999

Water-willow Stem Borer (<i>Papaipema sulphurata</i>) A nocturnal moth, laying its eggs in willow plants and found only in S.E. Mass'. vernal ponds, seasonally flooded swamps, and stream and pond edges.	Threatened	1987
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4.5.3.3 Vascular Plants

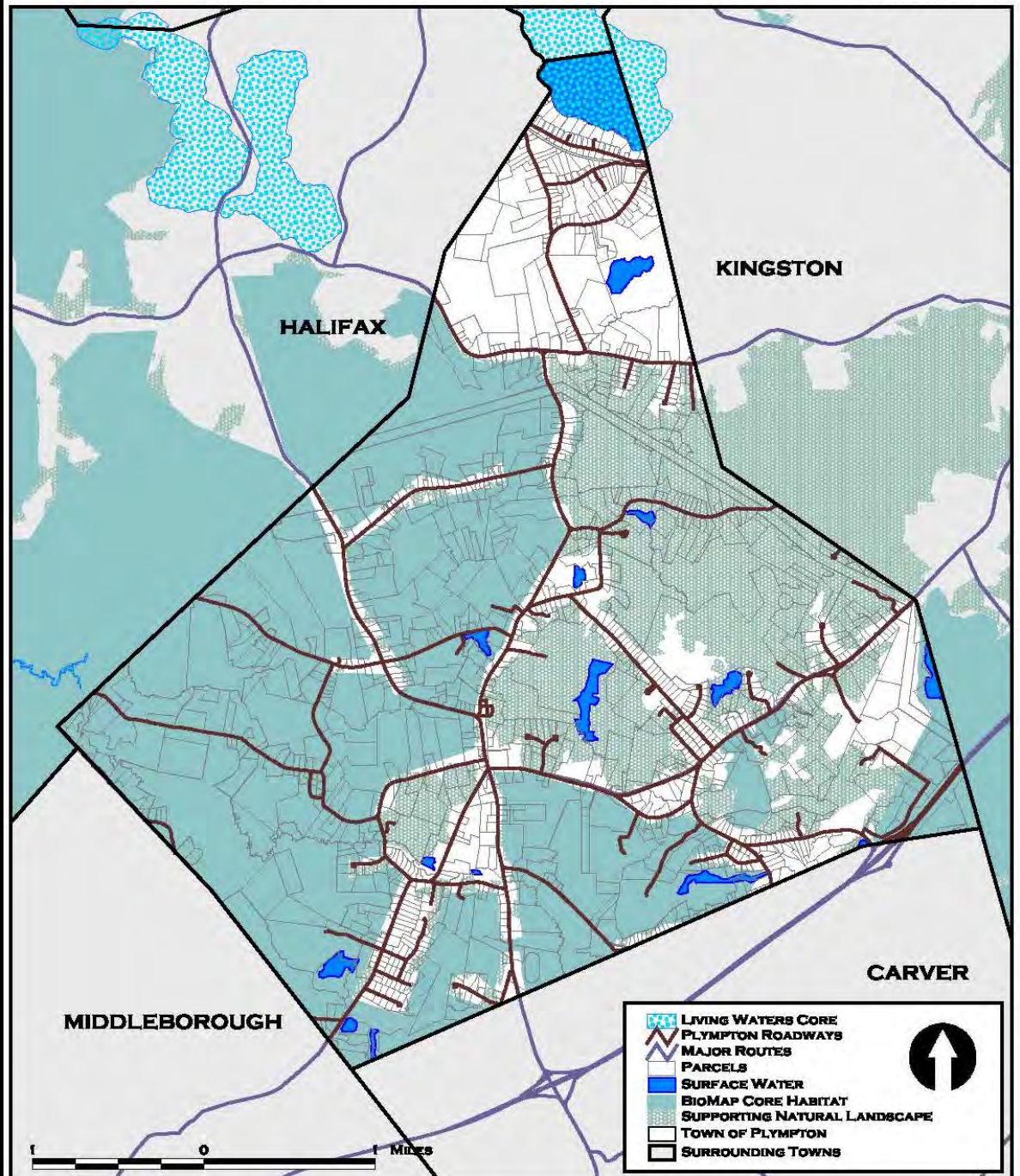
Plymouth Gentian (<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>) A perennial herb found only at the summer water line on sandy to peaty shores of freshwater coastal plain ponds.	Special Concern	1997
--	-----------------	------

Pink Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>) Like the above but it grows on slightly drier areas higher on the shoreline	Watch List (Unofficial) Globally uncommon but locally abundant	n.a.
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BIOMAP

GUIDING LAND CONSERVATION FOR BIODIVERSITY

FIGURE IV-7



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC

BROCKTON, MA 02301
APRIL 2009

4.6 Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

4.6.1 Scenic Resources

The town's scenic resources include the dramatically-set Indian Pond which is offset by privately-owned high ground on the Plympton side, the many, often secluded cranberry bogs; the extensive open wetlands on the Halifax line; and closer-up features of local interest such as the breached Dennett Pond dam shown earlier, and the Town Green.

The man-made Town Green and adjacent burial ground and surrounding varied historic buildings earlier described under Historic Resources are the town's most prominent scenic resource.

The difficult access to Indian Pond makes it more challenging to find than others surrounded by low lands or on major roads, since it requires tact and some scrambling, but the effort is worthwhile as shown in the earlier photographs.



Remaining Landscape; stonewalls, pasture, reservoir, and bogs across from Keirstead Farm on Crescent Street

The cranberry bogs can be quite beautiful open vistas with their rich colors and seasonal change, green, sanded, or red , exposed or flooded. Unfortunately, most, by their nature, are on low lands far from major roads. However some scenic bogs can be seen west of Main Street south of Mayflower Street; south of Pleasant Street; east of Brook Street; and east of Prospect Street near the Middleborough line.

Another landscape, a barrenly dramatic one, is the extensive area of exposed sand south east of Brook Street, southwest of the powerlines, and west of the Kingston/Carver town lines.

The extensive open wetlands along the Halifax line are the town's largest, most varied open lands. They can be seen from both Rte. 58, (Palmer Street), and Center Street/Franklin Street on the Halifax line. See photo on page IV-3.

At the other extreme, smaller-scale artifacts like the breached Dennett Pond dam are picturesque, giving a sense of local history. The other historic sites inventoried under 3.2.2, Historic Resources, are generally the sites of an impressive number of streamside mills and are set well in from any roads. Even vestigial facilities are generally hard to find and see.

4.6.2 Unique Environments

Some of the more generalized unique environments and their 1999 areas include:

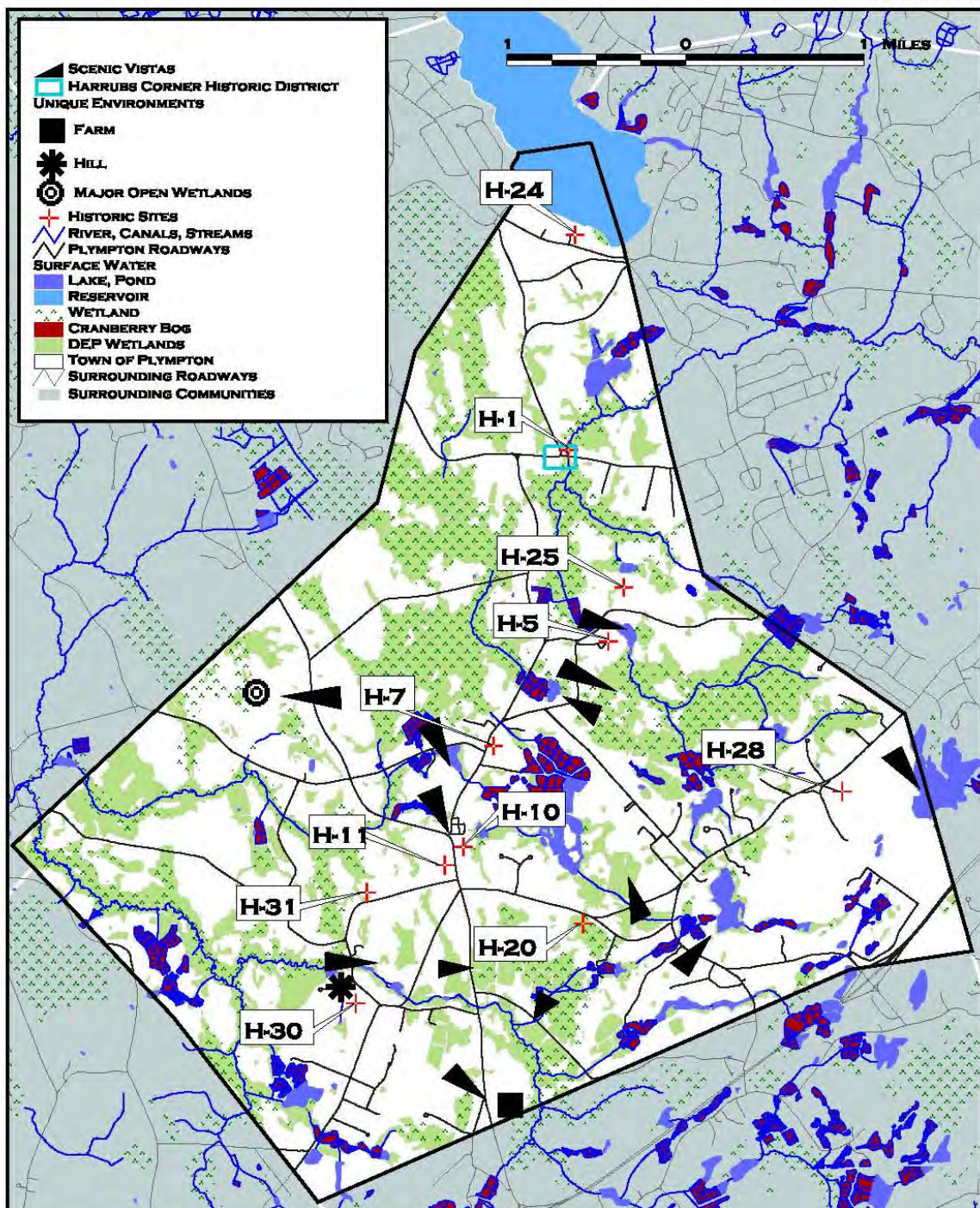
- The extensive monoculture of cranberry bogs committed to production of one crop.
868.8 acres
These are slightly moderated by the varied aquatic life in the bog ditches and around bog reservoirs and the commonly partially-excavated surrounding sand hills.
- Pockets of wooded Swamp
Unmeasured
- Non-forested wetlands - marsh and wet meadow, grass and shrubs 323.2 acres
- Croplands - Varied field crops, often bare during winter and 313.7 acres
and sometimes leaving edible corn stubble for birds
- Pasture - Managed grasslands (possibly including hay fields) with habitat 278.9 acres
value depending on the degrees of grazing and the timing of haying.

Other, specific, areas included in the earlier list of habitats which might be considered unique or special interest environments include:

SCENIC RESOURCES & UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS



FIGURE IV - 8



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
 GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, DEP, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

APRIL, 2009

- Bonney Pond (estimated of habitat of rare wetlands wildlife) - Center St.
- The Winnetuxet River (Wetlands) in western Plympton associated with Middleborough's Little Cedar Swamp and the Great Cedar Swamp in Halifax and Middleborough.
- A pond /bog reservoir in the southeast corner of Plympton - West of Prospect St.
- Wetlands where Winnetuxet River and Annasnappett Brook meet- near Pleasant Street and Carver line. This system goes into Carver and Cole Mill.
- Dennett Pond and the Jones River Brook which passes through it.
- The pond – sometimes mapped as a second “Indian Pond” (Estimated Habitat of Rare Wetlands Wildlife) - South of Brook Street and North of Spring Street.
- Colchester Swamp, Turkey Swamp and the area between Montello Street on the Carver Line and the Blanchard Estate noted in the 1988 Open Space Plan

4.7 Environmental Problems

4.7.1 Hazardous Waste Sites

Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21E, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a "hands-off" approach to regulating sites contaminated by oil or hazardous materials throughout the state. Instead the Massachusetts Contingency Plan ("MCP") empowers responsible private "Licensed Site Professionals" (LSPs) to assume control over the investigation and remediation of oil and hazardous material releases subject to DEP regulations and ultimate oversight.

MGL C21E, requires that to be considered as cleaned up permanently, 21E sites need to pose no significant risk to health safety, the environment, and public welfare. The definition of acceptable risks reflects both current and future uses of the property, and affected groundwater, with lower standards for prospective industrial uses than for housing and institutions.

Responsibility for site evaluation and clean up is with the LSPs who are licensed by the Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals. When dealing with oil and hazardous material sites, the LSP is involved with all phases of assessment, containment and removal, greatly reducing the role of, and burden on the Department of Environmental Protection.

Interested and concerned residents and business owners may obtain updated information about state-listed oil and/or hazardous waste release sites from the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup web site under MassDEP. Individual site files may be reviewed through the DEP File Review Coordinator.

The MCP has strengthened public notification requirements for the existence of local sites and related activities and the Board of Selectman and Board of Health are notified of proposed or completed local activities. Concerned residents may also request that any Tier Classified site be a Public Involvement Property (PIP). The party responsible for the release of hazardous materials then must present their proposals in a public forum for comments and to address all comments.

Local properties with a documented release of oil or hazardous materials and their status follow.

These sites listed under Sec. 21E have summary codes. The main ones used below are:

NDS = Not a Disposal Site according to DEP

NFA = DEP finding that No Further Action is needed.

RAO = "Response Action Outcome" Statement filed by owner or agent that no significant risk or substantial hazards remain

Tiers 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2 = Sites ranging from the most severe to least severe, with Tier 1A requiring a permit and direct DEP supervision of responses while 2 requires no clean-up permit, or DEP approval.

Pre-Classified = Not yet classified

Hours/days = required response time, the riskier the shorter.

As the table below shows, most of the town's release sites have been resolved (e.g. classified as RAO or closed) or are of relatively low risk (Tiers 1D and 2). There are just two unclassified residential lots one of which contained "hazardous material" while the other is undefined.

4.7.2 Flooding

As the following Flood Zone and Land Use map shows, the town has extensive low-lying areas identified by FEMA as within the 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas and likely to flood during such major storms. However development in these areas is restricted under the town's Flood Plain and Watershed Protection District and the Wetlands Protection Act. In addition most of the town is on relatively high ground along roads and the town's streams are relatively small so that flooding is not now a major treat.

Specifically, the town contains eight buildings, most of them residential, in the 100-year or 500-year flood plains though only three were in the National Flood Insurance Program as of 2004. During the period from 1978 to 2004 Plympton had five claims with a relatively high average payment of \$12,987. This suggests that risks are limited and concentrated.

At the same time these low-lying areas should be considered in planning further open space acquisitions and in developing storm water management strategies. To lessen initial flood flows the town should require a maximum of Low Impact Development (LID) approaches to minimize runoff and increase recharge through techniques such as reduced impervious surface and drainage through grass swales or water absorbing and rain gardens.

Dam Failures

The flood related potential for serious dam failures is difficult to judge since only two of the town's 14 dams are rated for condition by the state's Office of Dam Safety in the Department of Conservation and Recreation. One, the Bonney Pond dam south of Center St., is in Fair condition (on scale of Unsafe, Poor, Fair and Good) and presents a Low Hazard (on a scale of Low, Significant and High) if it were to fail. The other, the very deteriorated Dennetts Pond milldam south of Ring Road, is listed as "unsafe" and as presenting a significant hazard if it were to fail. However, the aerial photograph following the table below shows very little low-lying downstream development that could be affected. Most of Plympton's other dams appear to be cranberry bog reservoirs holding a very low head of stored water and being upstream of limited development. See Figure III-5 Land Use and Flood Zones.

Table IV-7**Reportable Hazardous Material Releases in Plympton**

Address	Site Name	Reporting Category	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical
9 Bracket Terrace	-	Two Hour	Tier ID	3/3/95	-	-	Oil
190 Brook St.	Plympton Sand and Gravel	-	RAO	8/30/2000	-	A2	Oil
37 County Rd.	Commerce Park	72 Hour	RAO	8/5/99	-	A2	Hazardous Material
125 County Rd.	-	Two hour	RAO	11/8/99	-	A2	Oil
141 County Rd.	-	Two hour	RAO	11/19/96	-	A2	Oil
45 Main St.	CM Brackett Co. FMR	None	RAO	12/26/03	IV	C1	Oil and Hazardous Material
179 Main St.	-	Two Hour	RAO	12/7/04	-	A2	Oil
266 Main St.	Former Plymouth Country Store	72 hour	Tier 2	4/27/07	II	-	Oil
272 Main St.	Plympton Service Center	-	RAO	11/22/02		-	Oil
272 Main St.	Plympton Service Center	Two hour	RTN Closed	8/10/06	-	-	Hazardous Material
18 Mayflower Rd.	House	Two hour	Unclassified	2/2/2007	-	-	Hazardous Material
132 Mayflower Rd.	CM Brackett	-	RAO	10/31/95	-	A1	Hazardous material
17 Prospect St.	-	72 hour	RAO	4/3/1996	-	A1	Oil
24 Ring St.	House lot	Two hour	Unclassified	1/8/2007	-	-	-
58 Spring St.	Arcata Graphics	None	RAO	5/5/1994	-	-	-
65 Spring St.	Arcata Graphics	None	RAO	5/5/94	-	A1	Oil

Source: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Clean Up



Limited development, inactive Cranberry bogs, and wetlands downstream of the “Unsafe” Dennett’s Pond Dam listed as presenting a “Significant” hazard.

V Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

5.1 Protected Public Parcels

Winnetuxet Swimming Area - See 5.7 Recreation Facilities

Parsonage Road Playground - See 5.7 Recreation Facilities

5.1.1 The Town Green/Common and Cemetery

Assessor's Numbers: C-6-27; C3-6-1

Acreage: 2.14

Acres Description, Facilities: A long narrow green with trees, lawn, a flag pole and a bandstand setting the character of the community; and an historic cemetery to the north

Location: In the Center, along Main Street across from Palmer Road .

Access, Parking: Access is off Main Street with adjacent curb-side parking.

Signage: Minimal, but handsome facilities are apparent.

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: In BioMap Area

5.1.2 Harry Jason Junior Memorial Park

(This is listed here because it is still more of an open space holding than a developed recreation facility)

Assessor's Numbers: A4-1-1

Acreage: 53.2

Description, Facilities: Extensive woodlands partially cleared for ballfields, trails, and a campground

Location: Property fronts on Center Street close to the Halifax town line. It abuts Colchester Brook along the south/south-western border as well as several privately-owned properties.

Access, Parking: Access is off Center Street; via a dirt drive to rough parking areas and turn-arounds.

Signage: Signed on Center Street.

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Portions (<50%) along the Colchester Brook and its floodplains come under the Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts. A deed restriction on the property limits use to recreation and open space. Site is largely in an Estimated and Priority Habitat area and in the BioMap area.



Harry Jason Park with partially cleared ball fields and surrounding pines

Soils and Vegetation: Upland soils likely characterized by mixture of clay, gravel, and loam with mature stands of white pine (dominant), red and black oaks, and to a lesser extent red maple, pitch pine, etc. Lowland and riparian areas are poorly-drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red Maple, Black Gum, etc. Extensive woodlands to rear of site.

Uses: Considerable recreational use and potential. The Boy Scouts have an undeveloped camp site and have developed some of the old logging roads as hiking/nature trails. Portions of the uplands have been cleared for construction of uncompleted baseball fields. Some potential for hiking, expanded camping and well-regulated hunting.

Ownership: Town Recreation Commission

Degree of Protection: High (permanent) as Recreation land

Comments: Though one of town's largest and most protected properties, it is not used to full potential due to incomplete construction of the ballfields and limited signage and overall publicity. High value for recreation and wildlife. Important ecologically for frontage on Colchester Brook, one of the most important and significant perennial streams in Plympton (tributary of Taunton River).

Recommendations: Complete development of some ballfields, develop and sign hiking trails, improve parking areas, expand camping for broader use, consider expansion to adjacent Ch. 61 lands, and promote use of Park.

5.2 Protected Nonprofit Parcels

5.2.1 The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts West Street Woods

Assessor's Numbers: A3-1-1

Acreage: 16.5

Location, Access, Parking: Along south side of West Street, with an old logging road. It is across from a much larger Ch. 61A holding. Parking only along road. Rear abuts a little over 200' of the Winnetuxet River.

Description, Facilities: Natural woodlands, small section of riverfront, old logging road. In Estimated habitat and Priority Habitat areas. Includes or is adjacent to a certified Vernal Pool.

Signage: Small "Wildlands Trust" sign high on tree near access point

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Wildlands Trust; property is held for public access and passive recreation, and for preservation/enhancement of wildlife habitat, and aesthetic qualities. All activities are subject to Trust's regulations.

Soils and Vegetation: Mostly lowland riparian, with small areas of upland. Poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, overstory dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Many obligate wetland plant species; meadow/shrub swamp community along Winnetuxet floodplain; one of best and most pristine examples of this community type in eastern Massachusetts.

Uses: Recreation; hiking, wildlife viewing, other forms of nature-based recreation

Ownership: Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts

Degree of Protection: High (Permanent) as Non-Profit trust land

Comments: Property includes one of only two preserved frontages (including the stream channel) on the Winnetuxet River. Old logging trail available for hiking traverses much of the upland sections of this property. Several large (un-certified) vernal pools.

Extensive wetlands connected to floodplain of the Winnetuxet. Dense thickets of white pine in upland sections. Many large American Holly Trees. Some views of Winnetuxet River floodplain and stream channel. Very high value as wildlife habitat.

Recommendations: Encourage Trust to acquire streamside property to south in order to preserve integrity of the pristine Winnetuxet riverfront and its unique floodplain community. Available parcels abutting this property should be among the highest priorities for conservation/preservation of open space, especially when these properties contain frontage along the river/floodplain.



Wildlands Trust woodlands south of West Street, public but identified only by a small, high sign



5.3 Partially Protected Parcels

5.3.1 Dennett Elementary School

Assessor's Numbers: D5-1-16

Acreage: Listed as 10.5 acres, mapped as 30 acres, and scales as close to 30 acres.

Description; facilities: Elementary School, small playground and soccer field. **See Recreation section**

Location, Access, Parking: Via Dennett Elementary School driveway off of Crescent Street and Ring Road; much parking between school and soccer field.

Signage: Yes; on Crescent Street

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: When school is not in session, and the facility is not being used for any other official event, access is commonly blocked by a locked gate.

Soils and Vegetation: Parcel is dominated by school building, paved parking lot, and access road. Open grassy areas are maintained for sports and activities.

Uses: Dennett School, playground, soccer fields (See picture of soccer field under 5.63).

Ownership: Town of Plympton

Degree of Protection: Moderate. Though unlikely, town could close school and sell property if needs changed greatly

Comments: Current use is appropriate but too limited..

Recommendations: Remove time limits on playground use, expand access to allow use of the adjacent 82-acre parcel for recreation. Improve access to Dennett Pond through this parcel, and explore recreation possibilities there.



Dennett School Playground - Open after school during a soccer game. Site is behind school, out of sight of soccer fields and future large playground, and is often gated off when school is closed.

5.3.2 Dennett Elementary School Conservation Lands

Assessor's Numbers: D4 - 2-1

Acreage: 82

Location and Access: Runs behind Dennett elementary, Crescent Street, and Ring Road. In the old Open Space Plan, it is listed as Parcel #3, and referred to as “Town Conservation Land”.

Signage: None

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Portion of the property along the Jones River Brook and associated floodplains would be subject to the Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts.

Soils and Vegetation: Oak, Pine, and impressive large American Holly trees; border of inner property line is delineated by Jones River Brook. Mixture of wetlands and uplands.

Uses: Vacant wooded area, wetlands. This parcel is bordered almost entirely by existing private homes, as well as cranberry bogs.

Ownership: Town of Plympton, no known protective covenants

Degree of Protection: Partial as town-owned land with open space value, but not designated as such

Comments: This parcel has value for recreational use, and is quite scenic. However, access is problematic due to very little street frontage. Development possibilities would be very limited. Hiking/walking trails could be considered. Size of parcel, and proximity to Jones River Brook, make it important wildlife habitat.

Recommendation: The Town should transfer this property to Conservation.

5.3.3 Town Forest

Assessor's Numbers: C3-2-17

Acreage: 9.4 on Assessors' sheet

Location, Access, Parking: Palmer Road, west of Town Hall and east of new Highway Barn

Signage: For Highway Department

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Nothing noted .

Soils and Vegetation: Wooded uplands

Uses: Woodland east of new highway barn and north of Sampson Farm 61A land. The barn is reportedly now on a separate parcel.

Degree of Protection: Partial as it is town-owned land with open space but not designated

Comments: Remaining very visible land has open space value given connected 61A land to south..

Recommendations: Transfer to Conservation Commission

5.3.4 Main Street Old Town Hall/Historic Society

Assessors' Numbers: C4-4-25

Acreage: 19,800 Sq. Ft.

Location and Access: Site fronts on Main St. and abuts private property on three sides

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Historic site

Soils and Vegetation: Mostly cleared land and sand.

Uses: Old Town Hall and Historical Society

Ownership/Management: Town
Degree of Protection: High
Comments: Maintain current use
Recommendations: As above.

5.3.5 Lake Street (Silver Lake Chapel)

Assessor's Numbers: D7-2-6

Acreage: 2.75

Location: Property fronts on Lake Street and backs onto major bogs.

Access: From Lake Street

Signage: Small Chapel Sign

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Unknown. Most of site appears to be upland .

Soils and Vegetation: Not inventoried; likely to be a mix of upland and lowland types typical of the southeastern Massachusetts biotope.

Uses: Site of the Silver Lake Chapel earlier moved from a lakeside recreation area

Ownership/.Management: Silver Lake Chapel

Degree of Protection: Low, as non-profit with a non-open space purpose.

Comments: High apparent value as the site of the historic Silver Lake Chapel. Low recreational, wildlife value.

Recommendation: Consult closely with Historical Commission



Silver Lake Chapel, Small Church with a small amount of backland

5.3.6 Transfer Station

Assessor's Numbers: D6-1-4

Acreage: 16

Location: South of Ring Road; north of extensive Ch.61A bog land.

Access: From Ring Road

Signage: Facility identification sign

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Unknown, except for potential 21E issues. Site appears to be upland .

Soils and Vegetation: Largely wooded irregular upland terrain beyond transfer station

Uses: Town trash transfer station and woodland

Ownership/.Management: Town

Degree of Protection: Low, (Temporary, as could be sold if surplus).

Comments: Possible connection to Ch..61A bog land and Jones River Brook to the rear

Recommendation: Investigate potential connection to any future trails

5.4 Town-Owned land, Largely Tax-Title.

5.4.1 Maple Street Properties Block #1

Assessor's Numbers: B5-3-8, B5-3-13, B5-3-14

Acreage: 5.05, 5.0, 6.47

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Portions (~50+%) of the property are wetlands and would be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Soils and Vegetation: Upland soils likely characterized by mixture of clay, gravel, and loam with mature stands of white pine, red and black oaks, and to a lesser extent red maple, pitch pine, etc. Lowland areas poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Land is in Estimated and Priority Habitat.

Uses: Unknown

Ownership: Town/Tax Title

Comments: Land of little apparent recreational, scenic or cultural value. However, if combined with two adjoining properties along Palmer Road (Palmer Road Properties Block #1) it could be grouped into one large tract that would be valuable as wildlife habitat, wetlands, and for preserving rural feel of community.

Recommendations: Ask Selectmen to transfer to Conservation.

5.4.2 Palmer Road Properties Block #2

Assessor's Numbers: B4-5-1, B4-5-11.

Acreage: 5.5, 16.22

Location and Access: Properties along Palmer Road. No developed access.

Signage: None

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Portions (~50+%) of the property are wetlands and would be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Soils and Vegetation: Upland soils likely characterized by mixture of clay, gravel, and loam with mature stands of white pine, red and black oaks, and to a lesser extent red maple, pitch pine, etc. Lowland areas poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Land is in Estimated and Priority Habitat.

Uses: None/Unknown

Ownership: Town/Tax Title

Degree of Protection: Low

Comments: Land of little apparent recreational, scenic or cultural value. However, if combined with three adjoining properties along Maple Street (Maple Street Properties Block #1) could be grouped into one large tract that would be valuable as wildlife habitat, wetlands, and for preserving rural feel of community. Some, albeit limited, value for commercial development due to frontage on Route 58 (Palmer Road).

Recommendations: Ask selectmen to transfer to conservation.

5.4.3 Prospect Road #1: Middleborough/Carver Line Property

Assessor's Numbers: B1-3-19

Acreage: 9.7

Location and Access: Off Prospect Street, on Middleborough and Carver town lines. Access is limited, with no frontage on Prospect.

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Any portions of property containing wetlands and or perennial streams would be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts, respectively.

Soils and Vegetation: Not surveyed; likely a mix of upland and wetlands typical of the southeastern Massachusetts biotope.

Uses: Landfill buffer

Ownership/Management: Town of Middleboro

Degree of Protection: Low

Comments: Property should be put into conservation status as it has low overall value due to its proximity to problematic Middleborough landfill. However, land undoubtedly has value as wildlife habitat and could potentially serve as a buffer for landfill-associated runoff.

Recommendation: Ask Middleboro selectmen to transfer to conservation.

5.4.4 Prospect Road #2

Assessor's Number: C1-1-2

Acreage: 5.8

Location & Access: Off Prospect at end of Tobey Lane cul-de-sac; access through narrow trail

Zoning: Agriculture/Residential

Restrictions: Land is classified as wetlands by Assessors; however, the major portion is dry, with exception of forest stream and a possible vernal pool, which would be subject to Mass Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts

Soils & Vegetation: Upland/ wetland. White pine, oak, maple

Uses: Passive recreation, remnants of old walking trail to Montello Street.

Ownership/Management: Town of Plympton

Degree of Protection: Low

Comment Beauty, location of this parcel and abutting privately-owned equally landlocked properties suggest possible cooperative use for walking trails, bird watching, etc.

Recommendation: Examine potential for an easement to an existing short easement at the end of Tobey Lane.

5.4.5 Spring Street

Assessor's Number: D2-3-1 and 0002

Acreage: 1.3 and 1.13

Location & Access: Both parcels front on Spring Street and are accessible over power line easement

Zoning: Industrial

Restrictions: none

Uses: none

Ownership: Town of Plympton

Degree of Protection: low

Recommendations: None at present.

5.4.6 Churchill Road

Assessors' Numbers: D3-4-12

Acreage: 19,800 Sq. Ft.

Location and Access: Frontage on Churchill Road

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: There is a possible pond on lot; and a brook though site.

Soils and Vegetation Streamside plants and trees

Uses: None trees on an unbuildable lot

Ownership/Management: Town/Tax title

Degree of Protection: Slight; depending on town's disposition

Comments: A brook runs through the property.

Recommendations: Turn over to the Conservation Commission as a small neighborhood natural area

5.4.7 Center Street

Assessors' Numbers: C4-2-2 and C4-2-3

Acreage: 1/7 of an acres and 1 1/2 acres

Location and Access: Frontage on Center St.

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: None known

Soils and Vegetation: Young forest and sand

Uses: Old town barn and woods dump

Ownership/Management: Town

Degree of Protection: Slight; depending on town's disposition

Comments: Property is occupied by the old Town Barn and shed. Rear of lot was used by Highway Dept. to dump wood, steel barrels, culvert piping and refuse. Barn is stable but needs maintenance. Shed is unstable

Recommendations: Clean up backwoods areas. Reconsider use of barn.

5.4.8 Main Street

Assessors' Numbers: C5-1-3

Acreage: 41,277 Sq. Ft.

Location and Access: Site fronts on Main St. for access and abuts private property on three sides

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Wetlands Protection Act

Soils and Vegetation: Partially wet, young forest with minimal ground cover and a brook running through the property

Uses: Woods

Ownership/Management: Town/tax Title

Degree of Protection: Low, depending on town disposition

Comments: Property is across the street from privately-owned bogs and close to major town holding between Main St. and the power lines. Lot could have a support role (picnic area and parking) for trails into lot 5.4.11 given access easements. An alternative would be to swap with an adjacent private owner to get improved access to lot 4.5.11.

Recommendations: Define and explore above possibilities.

5.4.9 Main St.

Assessors' Numbers: C6-1-2 (4.4acres) C6-1-25 (22.3 acres)

Acreage: 26.7 acres

Location and Access: C6-1-2 on Main St. for access and abuts private property and power lines on three sides. C6-1-25 is kitty-corner to the southwest and is otherwise land-locked.

Signage: None

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Mapped as wooded swamp to rear, hence coming under Wetlands Protection Act

Soils and Vegetation: Partially wet, young forest with minimal ground cover

Uses: Woods, wooded swamp

Ownership/Management: Town/tax Title

Degree of Protection: Low, depending on town disposition

Comments: Possible open space /habitat

Recommendation: Explore and define above possibilities

5.4.10 Gravel Pit

Assessors Numbers: D5-2-28

Acreage: 77

Location: East of Main St., south of powerlines, north of Cato's Ridge /Ridge Hill area

Access: From powers lines or from Main St. along private dirt road at edge of bogs on parcel C5-3-9 to west.

Signage: None

Soils and Vegetation: Approximately half is wet, rest is old gravel pit, bogs and a pond on lot line to rear

Uses: Woods, possible source of sand /gravel, hiking, wildlife habitat

Ownership: Town

Degree of Protection: Low as is surplus town land and has been proposed for various purposes; Town Barn, elderly housing

Comments: Various trails going though site are well-positioned for recreation as access from powerlines is available. Proximity to Cato's Ridge/Ridge Hill area adds interest and variety to terrain; suggests adjacent acquisition.

Recommendation: Transfer property to Conservation Commission, negotiate access along drive through land to the west, explore acquisition of all or part of Cato's Ridge and integrate trails.

There are also scattered properties with unknown locations, for example:

Assessors Numbers: C3 -10-95

Acreage: Nominal 8-acre parcel of unknown location, thought to be north of West St according to the Assessors.

5.5 Chapters 61, 61A and 61B

Selected Lands under Present Use Taxation

5.5.1

Assessor's Numbers: C5-3-2,9 (The listed owner of parcel 5-3-2 is the same on the Chapter Land list but with 27 acres, not the 17.5 acres on the Assessors' map. However the two combined make 27.5 acres.)

Acreage: 27 (mapped as 27.5)

Location: Main Street, North of Ring Road

Use: field, woods and some cranberry bogs, house and construction yard, includes some uplands

Notable features: Adjacent to town-owned 77-acre property and includes present informal access road.



61ABogs (5.6.1) off of Main Street, also informal access to Town Gravel Pit holdings (5.4.11)

5.5.2

Assessor's Numbers: B4-2-8

Acreage: 7.25

Location: 94 Center Street at Palmer Road

Use: Garden Center/ agricultural with retail sales structure (Sunrise Gardens) and residence

Notable features: Gardens and greenhouse contribute to the agricultural and rural context of the community, important component of town's working agriculture.

5.5.3

Assessors' Numbers: D3-6-16

Acreage: 9.7

Location: Brook St. between Mayflower Rd. and Colchester Street

Use: farm and farm stand

Notable features: Organic farm, petting zoo, and farm stand with a long and integral history with the town. Prominent location on road into town. Scenic rural farmstead, surrounded by woods, truck crops, hayfield, greenhouse, and farm buildings, bordered on three sides by agricultural land, it contributes to town's the agricultural and rural character. It abuts significant, privately owned Ch.61A open space amenities.

5.5.4

Assessor's Numbers: D3-6-16A

Acreage: 8.025

Location: Brook St north of Barrow property above

Use: private residence and field

Notable features: the property contains a significant open field and pond. The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities.

5.5.5

Assessor's Numbers: D3-3-19, 8A

Acreage: 36.55 + 1.5

Location: North of Colchester Street

Access: From Colchester Street and Churchill Road.

Use: Cranberry bogs

Notable features: Property is mostly in bogs. It abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities. The current use contributes to the agricultural and rural context of the community.

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5.5.6

Assessor's Numbers: D3-3-3,4,5 (includes adjacent 11,200 square foot sliver)

Acreage: 24, 11,200 sq ft., 6 for 25.45 acres

Location: 73 Mayflower Rd.

Use: woods and private residence

Notable features: The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities.

5.5.7 Assessor's Numbers: D3-3-2

Acreage: 8.56

Location: 67 Mayflower Rd. (adjacent to 5.6.6 above)

Use: farm and farm stand

Notable features: Small farm contributes to the town's rural character, Site abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities.

5.5.8 Assessor's Numbers: C3-1-12

Acreage: 16.3

Location: Rear of Elm Street, small frontage on Elm. St. (Abuts 5.6.9, B3-4-1)

Use: Hayfields, upland forest (Ch.61)

Notable features: Meadows and significant upland forest well above the Winnetuxet, at edge of Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat.

5.5.9

Assessors Numbers: B3-4-1

Acreage: 12.2

Location: South of 49 Elm Street, Abuts 5.6.8 and 5.6.29

Use: Appears to be a retreat lot and woods (Ch.. 61.) There are at least 2 clearings on the property with the remaining 70% heavily wooded. Some uplands.

Notable features: Property is a strong component of a larger contiguous open space in the area with Taylor Pond and the Winnetuxet River nearby. Property abuts other woodland above, and is at edge of Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat land to east.

5.5.10

Assessor's Numbers: C4-2-25

Acreage: 41.98

Location: Main Street, north of Center St.

Use: Some cranberry bogs, residence, woods, some uplands

Notable features: The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities. Has functioning agricultural use with significant woodland preserved. Location is geographically centered to the town. Abuts 14 acres of bog on Ch.61A, C4-2-5. Note nearby landlocked parcels; old woodlots?

5.5.11

Assessor's Numbers: C4-4-19

Acreage: 38.35

Location: Main Street, east side, south of Center St., south of large Morse Bros. Bogs

Use: cranberry bogs, woods, a house, and some uplands. Runs back to bog reservoir on Colchester Brook

Notable features: The property abuts significant cranberry bogs, is geographically centered to the town.

5.5.12

Assessor's Numbers: C4-1-13

Acreage: Listed as 29 acres, mapped as 14.411 acres. Combined with adjacent Ch. 61A parcels to south (C4-1-5a and b, Heinonen) across a dashed line (i.e., uncertain) boundary it would be 33.661 acres. Nothing mapped appears to add up to 29 acres.

Location: 41 Center Street

Use: Cranberry bogs, woods, some uplands, horse pastures, and a house. Site contains Bonney Pond mill dam. (An adjacent parcel C4-1-12 crosses pond and includes house.)

Notable features: The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities including woods and bogs just downstream of Bonney Pond. Area is in Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat. Property combines functioning agriculture with significant woodlands, and extensive and impressive upland forests with large white pine stands interspersed with many large American Holly Trees. Pond is an impoundment of Colchester Brook, which has associated wetlands/floodplain. Location is in center of the town.

5.5.13

Assessor's Numbers: C4-5-1

Acreage: 18.39

Location: Crescent Street, corner of Upland Road

Use: Hayfields, mostly upland with barn (across the street from residence)

Notable features: The landmark farm with its hay fields abuts significant cranberry bogs, woods and the town's Dennett School Lands (5.3.2). It contributes to the town's agricultural/rural character and is a strong component of a larger contiguous open space in the area.



Long- established farm selling hay and firewood

5.5.14

Assessor's Numbers: D5-1-29

Acreage: Listed as 23.5, mapped parcel says 9.103 and looks like it.

Location: South of Ring Rd. with limited frontage

Use: Nearly all in Cranberry bogs with pond edge and surrounding woods.

Notable features: SW corner abuts town's Dennent property. Site is near geographic center of town.

5.5.15

Assessor's Numbers: D4-2-31

Acreage: 12.75

Location: Brook St. (behind Granville Baker Way), seemingly land-locked.

Use: cranberry bogs and pond

Notable features: The property contains a bog and small pond/reservoir. Adjacent much larger properties (extensive wooded swamp and limited bogs) to west abut town Dennent property.

5.5.16

Assessor's Numbers: D4-2-29 - mapped but not on list. Instead there are unmapped parcels:

29D, 121.0 acres

29E, 14.73 acres

29O 89.3

225.03 acres)

Acreage: Mapped as 228.55 acres, but listed parcels total 225.03 acres

Location: West of Brook St.

Use: Cranberry bogs, bog support land, ponds, and woods

Notable features: The property contains the town's apparent largest cranberry bogs and abuts the town's Dennett property.

5.5.17

Assessor's Numbers: C4-4-24; D4-1-16; D4-1-17

Acreage: 183.23; 3.07; 16.0 = 202.3 acres

Location: Main St. + Upland Rd with access available from both Upland Rd. and Main St.

Use: cranberry bogs, ponds and woods (less than 25% upland)

Notable features: The property is a significant, privately-owned cranberry bog with woods. The property has a functioning agricultural use. Location is geographically centered to the town. Property abuts cranberry bogs, woods and Upland Sportsman's Club.

Potential use/importance: Existing use and its benefits should be maintained. Property is a strong component of a contiguous open space in the area.

Recommendation: Consider conservation land use and Colechester Brook oriented trail system in conjunction with site 5.6.11.

5.5.18

Assessors' Numbers: D5-1- 25A

Acreage: 115

Location: South of Ring Road, possibly reached through 5.6.14 and surrounding land

Use: Wooded swamp, bogs and support land

Notable Features: Extensive swamp and woods abutting Jones River Brook and the Dennett School Conservation lands

5.5.19

Assessors' Numbers: B2-1-27

Acreage: 73.92 on Assessor's list; 28.4 on map/ but parcel lines are obscure or missing and other land is probably in the total. Parcel runs into unlisted land (B2-1-97 and 98) and land of Poole (B2-1-99). But on map B-1 same land is shown as B1-2-98. Assessors explain that area has no complete plans.

Location: West of Prospect Road, north of Soule St..

Use: Bogs, reservoir, woods, wetlands, support land and some upland. Bogs are across OCPC-Interpreted parcel line but land is coded as 710-bogs; contiguous with extensive Bogs along Winnetuxet River.

Notable Features: Ponds and wetlands, much of this is in Priority and Estimated Habitat and is along Winnetuxet River Flood Plain.

5.5.20

Assessors' Numbers: C3-2-2

Acreage: 34.95

Location: 46 Elm St.

Use: "Sampson Farm," Private residence, large cow pasture

Notable Features: Deborah Sampson birthplace historic house. Very scenic, historic property, large pasture, upland forest, one of town's most beautiful properties

5.5.21

Assessors' Numbers: B3-2-8

Acreage: 76 (Possibly more in two smaller parcels of bogs and woods to the north abutting Colechester Brook)

Location: West of Cross Street, North of West St. with narrow r.o.w. to West St.

Use: Cranberry Bogs, pond - bog reservoir, and forest

Features: Bogs visible along Central Street frontage and woods. Extensive varied holdings almost abutting southern end of Harry Jason Park. Wooded uplands would make a good backdrop to probable residential development along the north side of West Street.

5.5.22

Assessors' Numbers: B3-3-8 (Uncertain rear lot line)

Acreage: 32

Location: 14 West St.

Use: A farm with several structures and a barn, and two clearings and a residence

Features: Large, actively used pastures, 70% heavily wooded upland and wetland, very scenic, large pasture, upland forest. In Estimated and Priority Habitat, wetlands feeding tributary to Winnetuxed River.

5.5.23

Assessors' Numbers: C3-6-5

Acreage: 7.65

Location: 271 Main St. .

Use: Horse Farm, Private residence (LU=017, Ch.61A)

Features: Actively-used horse meadows, major investment in a new barn shown under Landscape, adjacent to Town Green, Historic area .

5.5.24

Assessors' Numbers: A4-1-5

Acreage: 83.05

Location: Much frontage on West St. at Halifax line, more land is in Halifax fronting on Franklin St.

Use: Meadows, hay fields, croplands, wetlands along Colechester Brook

Features: Large tract of undeveloped land containing a long stretch of Brook, one of town's main riverine systems, tributary of Taunton River. In Estimated and Priority Habitat, adjacent to Harry Jason Park and across from Wildlands Trust land.

5.5.25

Assessor's Numbers: C2-4-6,7,8,9,11

Acreage: 123.58 acres listed under C2-4-7 (which is mapped as only 30.01 acres alone). Individual mapped parcels add up to 116.73 acres. Boundaries are uncertain.

6- 15.75 acres
7- 30.01
8- 26.82
9- 21.38
11- 21.18
15- 1.58

116.73 acres

Location: Northeast of Main and Pleasant Streets up to Mayflower Road. .

Use: Extensive network of bogs developed from upland woods since the late 1970s,. one of few bogs visible from a main road.

5.5.26

Assessor's Numbers: C2-5-17

Acreage: 32.1

Location: Pleasant Street at Carver line

Use: Cranberry bogs, some wetlands, upland.

Notable features: Active cranberry bogs, northeast of the confluence of Annasnappet Brook and Winnetuxet River. All but bogs is in Estimated and Priority Habitat.

5.5.27

Assessor's Numbers: C3-5-12

Acreage: 29.14

Location: North of Pleasant St., south of Mayflower Road. (Boundary with C2-5-8 is unclear on map.)

Use: Undeveloped forests in Ch. 61, wetlands

Notable features: Medium-sized tract of upland and wetland forest east of large cranberry bogs.

5.5.28

Assessor's Numbers: C2-1-23

Acreage: 14.7

Location: South of Winnetuxet Road

Use: Cranberry bogs, few woods

Notable features: Cranberry bogs made from former uplands, surrounded by upland forest

5.5.29

Assessors Numbers: B2-2-1

Acreage: 34.16

Location: 94 Winnetuxet Road

Use: Horse farm, private residence

Notable features: meadows, uplands, wetlands, intermittent streams, borders Taylor Pond, a Winnetuxet River impoundment, sloping terrain.

5.5.30

Assessor's Numbers: B3-3-3

Acreage: 7.85

Location: 52 West Street

Use: Private residence, small sheep/horse pasture, forest.

Notable features: Large vernal pool on or adjacent to property. Northern portion of property is in Estimated and Priority Habitat; most is excluded; scenic meadow behind house.

5.5.31

Assessors' Numbers: D6-1-11

Acreage: 14.4

Location: County Road (Rte. 106) at Kingston Town Line

Use: Heavily wooded upland, no structures or use apparent

Notable features: Old cemetery on parcel near road frontage. Does not appear to be maintained. Adjacent to Plympton Elderly Housing (26 acres) to the west on one side and the Kingston Town line on the other. Across the Kingston line looks to be hundreds of acres of open space. North tip looks to touch Barrow's Brook. South side has access on County Road. Land may have potential for joint efforts with Kingston on adjacent Ch. 61A land on Kingston line, combined with parcel 5.5.33 below and with joint management of intervening elderly housing open space in cooperation with the South Shore Housing Development Corp.

5.5.32

Assessor's Numbers: D6-1-9A

Acreage: 13.5

Location: County Road (Rte. 106) near Kingston Town Line

Use: Private residence on retreat style lot heavily wooded, including uplands

Notable features: Adjacent to large 18.5 acres 61A parcel to the east and another large 25 acre 61A retreat style parcel to the northwest. Close to Jones River Brook. South side has access from County Road.

5.5.33

Assessor's Numbers: D6-1-9

Acreage: 18.5

Location: County Road (Rte. 106) near Kingston Town Line, east of 5.6.32

Use: Private residence with partial clearing with remaining heavily wooded, including some uplands

Notable features: Adjacent to Plympton Elderly Housing (26 acres) to east and the 13.5 acre 5.6.32 parcel to the west. North side abuts Jones River Brook.

5.5.34

Assessor's Numbers: D6-2-39

Acreage: 16.5

Location: South of County Road

Use: Structure and some clearing at the road frontage. Remainder mostly heavily wooded. Little apparent agricultural use.

Notable features: Has frontage on County Road and directly across the street from two other 61A sites possibly owned by same family. South side abuts power line easement and Barrow's Brook.

5.5.35

Assessor's Numbers: C6-4-7

Acreage: 25

Location: East of narrow frontage on Lake Street

Use: Private residence on retreat style lot mostly cleared with some woods, including uplands

Notable features: Adjacent to other 61A parcels on three sides. Jones River Brook runs along southern edge it.

5.5.36

Assessor's Numbers: C6-4-8 (Not on Assessors' 61 list)

Acreage: 3.7

Location: East of Lake St., landlocked between 5.6.32 and 5.6.35

Use: Woodlands

Notable features: Almost totally surrounded by 61A parcels on Jones River Brook

5.5.37

Assessor's Numbers: C7-3-6

Acreage: 39 acres per map, but 60.82 acres on Assessors list.

Location: East of Lake Street

Use: Private residence with greenhouse, perhaps a barn with other smaller structures on cleared section for agricultural use. Remaining land is all heavily wooded, including some uplands.

Notable features: Appears to have approximately 1500 feet of frontage on Lake street. Adjacent to other 61A parcels. .

5.5.38

Assessor's Numbers: D7-2-8

Acreage: 110

Location: Lake Street to Kingston own Line

Use: Long-established Cranberry Bogs crossing Kingston line, upland forest and bog reservoir connected to Jones River Brook

Notable features: Abuts several other large 61A parcels. East side abuts Kingston open space and bogs. South side is along Jones River Brook.

5.6.39.1

5.6.39.2

5.5.39

Assessor's Numbers: D7-2-13

Acreage: 10.13

Location: East of Lake Street on Kingston Town Line

Use: Cranberry Bog pond, residence and woods

Notable features: Abuts other large 61A bog parcels to south of same owner. East side extends into Kingston and fronts on Kingston's West Street.

5.6.40

Assessor's Numbers: C7-3-1,2

Acreage: 1.2 = 7.2 acres

Location: South of Lake Street

Use: Agricultural – Large barn on site with land clearings. Residence on site.

Notable features: Includes lot to north with frontage on Lake Street. The property has a functioning agricultural use.

5.5.41

Assessor's Numbers: C7-1-13

Acreage: 102.2 per map, 198.86 per Assessors Ch. 61 list

Location: 5 County Road

Use: Several structures and barn. Appears to be a farm. Clearing at the road on both sides of main structures for agriculture. The remaining 80% heavily wooded. Mixed uplands and wooded swamp.

Notable features: Has frontage on County Road and abuts hundreds of acres of open space to the east. One of the largest un-intensively used Ch. 61 holdings.

5.5.42

Assessor's Numbers: C7-1-15

Acreage: 42.25

Location: West of Oak Street

Use: None. Heavily wooded, much upland, some wooded swamp. No structures or clearings.

Notable features: Has frontage on Oak Street To the south abuts a large clearing on Lake Street used for farming. To the north appears to be a private residence with home.

5.5.43

Assessor's Numbers: C2-4-8

Acreage: 44.61

Location: East of Pleasant Street, south of 5.6.27 with unmapped boundary

Use: cranberry bogs, wetlands, woods

Notable features: Active cranberry bogs; part of larger complex of active cranberry bogs in center of town.

5.5.44

Assessor's Numbers: D3-6-9, 18, 45,

Acreage: listed as 112.26; mapped as 97.37

9= listed as 73.92 mapped as 64.5 ac.

18= “ “ 13.02 ac. “ “ 13.02

45= “ “ 19.87 ac. “ “ 19.87

112.26

97.37

Location: East of Brook Street

Use: Cranberry bogs, pick-your-own blueberry patch. Residence.

Notable features: Scenic roadside farm. Horseback riding trails run through woods and open land, allowing access to power line and riding trails on adjoining properties. Rich wildlife habitat, allowing frequent glimpses of fox, coyote, heron, and many other animals. NHESP listed for Estimated and Priority habitat for rare species. Reservoir area is Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat. Reservoir connects to Colchester Brook.

5.5.45

Assessor's Numbers: D2-1-44,43

Acres: listed as 26.63 Ac

Mapped as

44= 15.427

43= 11

26.427

Location: 59 Brook St.

Use: Forest, and horse farm on property. Residence.

Notable Features: Well-maintained forest trail network connecting with riding trails on adjacent properties, connecting with power line and many miles of riding paths. Abuts 9+ acres of unclassified woodland under same ownership.

5.5.46

Assessor's Numbers: D2-1-52,49A,57A

Acres: 108.2 - 114.62

Mapped	Listed
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52 - 104 +/-	110.42
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57A - 1.2	1.2
-----------	-----

49A - 3.0	3.0
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108.2 acres 114.62 acres

Location: Brook St./Pleasant St.

Use: Cranberry bogs

Notable Features: Annasnappet Brook forms the reservoir for these bogs, and runs through them to the Winnetuxet River. Property forms part of large swath of agricultural/forest lands between Main St. and Brook St. at the Carver line.

5.5.47

Assessor's Numbers: E3-1-5,

Acres: 38.54

Location: 190 Brook St. via Plympton Sand and Gravel drive running south from Brook Street

Use: 38 acres of sand and gravel business, with related unproductive land. LU code: 047.

Notable Features: Abuts town industrial park. Two power line easements run through property.



Mechanical dry harvesting at bogs south of Pleasant Street.

5.5.48

Assessors' Numbers: E4-2-24A ,

Acres: 24.89

Uses: Cranberry bogs and related upland

Notable Features: Triangular parcel between Brook St. and Boston Edison Powerline and land under a lesser power line easement held by the New Bedford Gas and Edison Light Company, and next to a sand and gravel operation.

5.5.49

Assessor's Numbers: C1-3-1, CI-3-3

Acres: 34.61 (20.25 and 14.36)

Location: 399 Main St.

Use: Harness racing farm; truck crops

Notable Features: Scenic horse farm at southern entrance to town. 14-acre pasture fronting on Main St. Much is in Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat and listed as Priority Habitat for Rare Species by NHESP. Winnetuxet River runs along the eastern border of property dividing it from Harju bogs at 5.6.26

5.5.50

Assessors' Numbers: C4-1-5, (also 5a, 5b)

Acres: #5 is listed as 23.8 acres, but only mapped as 4.25 acres, while combination of commonly owned 5, 5A and 5B totals 23.5 acres.

5 = 4.25 ac.

5A = 2 ac.

5B= 17.25 ac.

23.50 acres

Location: Between Center and Palmer Street reached via a drive from Center St. through 5.6.12.

Use: Long-established bogs at edge of significant upland; bogs on smaller parcels; woods on larger.

Notable Features: Contiguous with other Ch.61 parcels south of Bonney Pond

5.5.51

Assessors' Numbers: C4-1-1

Acres: 9.5

Location: North of Palmer Street, south of sites 5.6.12 and 5.6.50.

Uses: cranberry bogs and related upland

Notable Features: 8.1 acres of cranberry bogs south of Bonney Pond and surrounded by forest and wetlands. With 5.6.12 and 5.6.50 this land runs from Palmer St. to Center St.

5.5.52

Assessors' Numbers: D2-1-47

Acres: 57.7

Location: 96 Mayflower Rd. , north of Briggs horse farm

Uses: Cranberry bogs, residence

Notable Features: 8.1 acres of cranberry bog surrounded by forest, wetlands and bog reservoir with many kinds of upland and swamp plants and wildlife.

5.5.53

Assessors' Numbers: A3-1-18

Acres: 110 on map, 106.14 on list; Parcel lines are obscure to south.

Location: Between Cedar and West Streets along Winnetuxet River

Uses: Extensive Cranberry bogs, extending into Middleboro, some uplands

Notable Features: Very large holding with much land along Winnetuxet River, in Estimated and Priority Habitat areas; significant for water resource protection and wildlife habitat.

5.5.54

Assessors' Numbers: B1-3-15,16

Acres: 42.2

15= 32.4

16= 8.8

Total 42.2

Location: East of Prospect Road, south of Tobey Lane.

Uses: Cranberry bogs and related upland

Notable Features: Directly across from parcel B2-1-27 noted above.

5.5.55

Assessors' Numbers: B2-1-10

Acres: 6.3

Location: West of Prospect Road, south of Winnetuxet Road .

Uses: Pasture and residence, some wetlands

Notable Features: Surrounded by housing or agriculture

5.5.56

Assessors' Numbers: B2-1-99

Acres: 57

Location: West of Prospect Road, south of Winnetuxet River; ill-defined boundaries with extensive Harju and Atwood lands.

Uses: Pasture and residence, some wetlands. May contain bogs mapped as included, but possibly in B2-1-27 Assessors explain that area has no complete plans.

Notable Features: Extensive area of woodlands, wetlands, fresh marsh and probable bogs south of Winnetuxet River and north of another stream

5.5.57

Assessors' Numbers: D7-1-3, B2-1-99

Acres: 10.5 (including two smaller adjacent parcels)

Location: North of Lake St., several parcels west of town line.

Uses: Woods, tree farm/nursery according to Assessors' records with house and several buildings on site.

Notable Features: Isolated site in partially developed area with fairly intensive use.

5.6 Public Recreation Facilities

5.6.1 Winnetuxet Swimming Area (Mapped as PU-1)

Assessor's Numbers: C2-3-7

Acreage: 11.5

Location, Access, Parking : Property fronts Route 58 and Winnetuxet Road. Developed access (gravel drive, turn-around) on Winnetuxet Road; small parking area.

Description: An impounded diversion of the Winnetuxet River contained by earthen berms and drained back the river.

Facilities: Small dirt parking area, two picnic tables under pine trees, a graded now-overgrown beach featuring a No Swimming sign. An interesting dam and control structure adjacent to the picnic area impounds the river to the east.

Signage: None except for "No Swimming"

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Sizable portions (~50%) of the property are along Winnetuxet River and its associated wetlands and would be subject to the applicable Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts, as would the man-made pond.

Soils and Vegetation: Mostly lowland riparian. Poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, the over story is dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Many obligate wetland plant species. Some (limited) open meadow habitat.

Uses: Recreation. Picnicking, fishing.

Ownership: Town/Recreation



Winnetuxet River Diversion, A Former Swimming Area

Degree of Protection: High if controlled by the Recreation Commission, moderate if general town property potentially available for other uses.

Comment: Property includes one of only two town-owned frontages (including the stream channel) on the Winnetuxet River. This includes a large wetland/pond/backwater through which the river flows, a dam/waterfall, and then a stretch of river as it runs westward towards Taylor Pond. The site also includes a man-made pond and town beach that is no longer in use and a small picnic area alongside a dam and waterfall. Scenic, pleasant spot with recreational access for picnicking, fishing, walking. Picnic area needs upkeep. It is also important ecologically to preserve riparian area associated with river. Recreation Commission would expect Board of Health to be involved in any restoration for swimming use.

Recommendations: Improve maintenance, signage, accessibility; explore revival of swimming hole for town use.

5.6.2 Parsonage Road Playground (Mapped as PU-2)

Assessor's Numbers: C-3-4-9

Acreage: 1.3 acres

Location, Access, Parking: On Parsonage Road just south of Town Center next to a new heavy commercial building but remote from housing; possible informal parking along road

Description: Small, under-maintained, isolated playground

Facilities: Paved two-basket basketball court, climbing structures, swing set, half-buried truck tires to climb and small play riding facilities.



Parsonage Road Playground

Uses: Limited playground use, but some basketball use, probably due to location away from children and its poor conditions.

Signage: None.

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Ownership: Town/Recreation Commission

Degree of Protection: High as recreation property

Comments: Site has advantage of overall centrality and availability compared to Dennett School Playground which is closed after school hours. But lack of immediate neighborhood gives it an isolated feel and poor conditions probably cause and reflect disuse. Site is presently a low priority to Recreation Commission given little use and a very low budget for all facilities.

Recommendations: Consider major upgrading and regular maintenance or replacement elsewhere, seek local parent involvement .

5.6.3 Dennett Elementary School Soccer Field (Mapped as PU-3)

5.6.4 Dennett Elementary School Playground (Mapped as PU-4) (Described further at 5.3.1 Dennett Elementary School)

Assessor's Numbers: D5-1-16

Acreage: Listed as 10.5 acres, mapped as 30 acres and scales as close to 30 acres

Description; facilities: Elementary School; two playgrounds one with multi-purpose structure, jungle gym, climbing structure, large sandbox, two basketball hoops, benches,

picnic tables and a soccer practice field north of the school (see photo at 5.3.1); and a soccer field, softball field, and new small tot lot south of the school.

Location, Access, Parking: Via Dennett Elementary School driveway off of Crescent Street and Ring Road; much parking between school and soccer field.

Signage: Yes; on Crescent Street

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Ownership: Town/ Schools

Restrictions: When school is not in session, and the facility is not being used for any other official event, access is blocked by a locked gate. Recreation Commission expects gate to be left open after they install large rocks to protect soccer field from vehicles

Uses: limited by present gating policy

Degree of Protection: Moderate (Temporary, as schools could be converted to another use.)

Comments: Current use is appropriate but too limited. Recreation Commission has built a small community playground with play structures on the more visible south side of the building by the soccer field, but the facility is still gated off after school. Users can walk in but not drive all the way in.

Recommendations: Remove time limits on playground use, expand access to allow use of the adjacent 82-acre parcel for nature-oriented recreation. Improve access to Dennett Pond through this parcel, and explore recreation possibilities there.



Players and Parents at Dennett School Soccer Field

5.6.5 Holt Memorial Field (PU-5)

Assessors' Numbers: C3-2-16,13

Acreage: 8.0 acres. Total site, with an estimated 3 acres of playfields.

Location, Access, Parking: Junction of Palmer Street and Main Street, next to town hall, police station and library, parking on site.

Description: Multi-purpose playground / ballfield

Facilities: Little League field, T Ball field, four picnic benches (six swings, one slide, and jungle gym listed in 1988 Plan have been removed).

Uses: Actively used soccer field

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Ownership Town/Recreation Commission, but listed as Town of Plympton

Degree of Protection: High if held by Recreation Commission, but probably moderate as listed as held by Town.

Comments: Valuable multi-purpose space with the advantage of overall centrality and availability compared to the Dennett School playground which is closed after school hours, but limited by removal of playground facilities. Site has been proposed for a new town hall.

Recommendations: Examine use of facilities and potential for restored playground structures and added facilities, e.g., adult sitting area or exercise circuit. Transfer control to Recreation Commission if necessary.

5.6.6 Harry Jason Junior Memorial Park (Described more fully under 5.1.2. See photo there.)

Assessor's Numbers: A4-1-1

Acreage: 53.2

Description, Facilities: Extensive woodlands partially cleared for ballfields, trails, campground

Location: Property fronts on Center Street close to the Halifax town line and abuts Colchester Brook along the south/south-western border, as well as several privately-owned properties.

Access, Parking Access is off Center Street; via a dirt drive to rough parking areas and turn-arounds.

Signage: Signed on Center Street.

Ownership Town/Recreation Commission, but listed as Town of Plympton

Degree of Protection: High if held by Recreation Commission, but probably moderate as listed as held by Town.

Comments: A deed restriction on property limits use to recreation and open space. The Recreation Commission sees little need for more ballfields here as the town may use those at Silver Lake High School. They feel that the cleared area could better be used as a wildflower area and nature preserve, and that site could be connected to adjacent areas with trails along the edge of the present holding.

Recommendation: Study possible mix of uses noted above, trails along Colchester Brook and expanded camping opportunities.

5.7 Private Existing or Potential Recreation Facilities

5.7.1 Bonney Pond Access Point (PR-1 if existing)

Assessors' Numbers: Pond occupies parts of C4-1-10,12, and 13, but a reported separate access point is not evident

Acreage: Approximately one-acre access point according to the 1988 Open Space Plan, but none is shown on Assessors' map or list, and the Recreation Commission is aware of none.

Location, Access, Parking: South side of Center Street, roadside parking. Pond has advantages of centrality, visibility and accessibility compared to Indian Pond or most bog reservoirs, but the reported access point is unconfirmed.

Description: Reported but unconfirmed access point to Bonney Pond

Facilities: A minimal walk-in area, presumably by the dam.

Uses: Viewing scenery, presumably fishing, nature study, picnicking, canoeing, skating...etc.

Signage: None

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Ownership: Town according to 1988 plan, but private according to assessors and Recreation Commission

Degree of Protection: Partial if municipal land, not a Conservation or Recreation holding, none if privately owned. Public would have access rights if it is a Great Pond (10 or more acres in its natural un-impounded state). It scales to slightly over 10 acres but it is not on the State list of Great Ponds.

5.7.2 Sportsmans Club (PR-2)

Assessors' Numbers: D4-1-1, 20b

Acreage: 38.715 acres; 24 acres at D4-1-1 and .24 acres at D4-1-20b

Location, Access, Parking: South side of Upland Road, Center Street, roadside parking; a major holding abutting much 61A land to north, west and southwest

Description: Private rod and gun club for members and guests but facilities may be rented or used by others, and softball field is often available to public free.

Facilities: Clubhouse, shooting range, 3d Shooting range for animal figures, outdoor pavilion for events, softball field, volleyball set up.

Uses: Shooting, outdoor gatherings

Signage: Identifying Club

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Ownership: Private club

Degree of Protection: Low without a conservation restriction

5.7.3 Powerlines (PR-3)

(Described below at 5.8.1.8)

Assessors' Numbers: C6-1-3 The main power line appears to be one parcel, owned by what was Boston Edison Co., running from the Halifax line to the Kingston line.

Acreage: 150.08

Notable Features: The mainly treeless power line right-of-way enters from Halifax, crosses the town, abuts Indian Pond between Brook Street and the Kingston line, and exits at the Kingston line. Another, lesser right-of-way to the west goes from Kingston where it crosses the Boston Edison power line at the east end of Brook Street and runs to Carver, just east of the southern end Brook Street. The eastern and western ends of the main power line run through lands in Estimated and Priority Habitats. Some power lines offer informal opportunities for riding, hiking or ATV use, cross country skiing, bird watching and access to present and proposed public holdings.

5.7.4 Sand Pits (PR-4) Badlands opportunities described below at 5.8.1.9

5.8 Unprotected Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest of Various Owners

5.8.1 Private Lands

5.8.1.1 Parsonage Road/Winnetuxet Road Land

Assessor's Numbers: C2-3-11, 108,10E,10A

Acres: 31.64

10 = 15.88

108 = 5.6

10E= 2.4

10A= 7.76

Total 31.64

Location and Access: East of Parsonage Road, along Winnetuxet River, primary access from Parsonage Road, also from 399 Main St.

Use: Inactive horse farm, house, barns and temporary housing units

Notable Features: Extensive, somewhat overgrown pasture to north, woods, including a portion of the Winnetuxet River to south. Site borders town-owned portion of River and inactive swimming area to east. Important scenic and environmental values.

Property is no longer on Ch.61A. (or Ch.61?)

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential over most of site; Commercial along Main St. frontage to east.

5.8.1.2 West Street /River Land

Assessors' Numbers B3-10-95, possibly plus 15.28-acre B3-1-27 to west.

Acreage: Mapped as 10 acres, but scales off to several times that.

Location and Access: Property fronts West Street and backs on to the Winnetuxet to the southeast and southwest.

Access: Along an old logging road off West Street.

Signage: None

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Restrictions: Portion (~25%) of the property along the Winnetuxet and associated floodplains would be subject to the Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts.

Soils and Vegetation: Upland forest on a shallow drumlin sloping to fresh marsh along the edge of the river. Upland soils likely characterized by mixture of clay, gravel, and

loam with impressive, mature stands of white pine (dominant), red and black oaks, and to a lesser extent red maple, pitch pine, etc. Lowland and riparian areas poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc.

Uses: None. Apparently logged at one time after succession, sporadic hunting, hiking, offers access to Winnetuxet River bottomlands and main stream channel.

Ownership/Management: Private developers .

Notable Features: Large size, recreational potential, frontage on Winnetuxet River, and high wildlife value. Owner previously proposed cluster residential project saving some open space.

5.8.1.3 Indian Pond

Assessors' Numbers: E4-2-1,21, 22,

Acres Land 20.7, Water 10.7

Location: On Kingston town line, south of Brook Street, east of power lines. Access is via a gated dirt road along power line, and through land of private owners.

Zoning: Industrial

Uses: Hiking, fishing. Site has walkable trails down to shore, beginning within the private property.

Notable Features: Secluded location over a slight ridge and down a steep slope. Site is in mapped Estimated and Priority Habitat and has habitat value like that of a coastal plain pond according to State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; One of the town's few natural ponds as opposed to impoundments.



Productive Habitat at Secluded Indian Pond

5.8.1.4 Land around Dennett Pond

Assessors' Numbers: D5-1-12, 30,15

Acres

12- 6.87 acres

30- .5 acres

15- 5.0 acres (all or part, depending on presence of a house)
12.37

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural;

Location: On either side of Dennett Pond, west of Ring Road

Uses: Vacant rocky woodland including land bracketing pond and old dam

Notable Features: Picturesque terrain, complementing town's school holdings and Ch.61A holdings covering the upper end of the pond

Ownership: Private

5.8.1.5 Land across from Dennett Pond / Ridge Hill / Cato's Ridge

Assessors' Numbers: D5-2-27, (possible rear land behind house/gallery) 27B, 27A,1,2 (excluding houses.)

Acres: 21.12

27 - 6.4 Possible land behind house /gallery

27B- 1.3

27A - 1.4

1- 4.3

2- 7.8 Partial acquisition west of house
21.12

Location: West of Ring Road including part of Ridge Hill backing on to the gravel pit

Uses: Habitat, hiking, filling a gap between Dennett Pond and the gravel pit area.

Notable Features: Varied terrain. Site would add rare high ground to any trails between Pond and gravel pit. An historic site discussed in Section III 3.2.2..

Ownership: private

5.8.1.6 Turkey Island in Turkey Island Swamp

Assessors' Numbers B5-2- 99

Acres: 270

Zoning: Residential/ Agricultural

Location: South of County Road, north of powerlines and east of Halifax Line

Vegetation: Wooded swamp, pine on upland, hardwood on lowland

Uses: Predominantly pine "island" of three pieces of higher ground (>50'MSL) in extensive wooded swamp extending far into Halifax

Notable Features: Possible view of swamp habitat from higher ground. Possible access from Main St. via powerline right of way

Ownership: private, power company

5.8.1.7 Crescent Street Farm

(5.6.13 In Inventory; described further there)

Assessors' Numbers: C4-5-1

Location: Crescent Street, corner of Upland Road

Acreage: 18.39

Notable Features: This landmark farm with its hay fields abuts significant cranberry bogs, woods and the town's Dennet School land (5.3.2.) It contributes to the town's remaining agricultural character.

5.8.1.8 Powerlines

Assessors' Numbers: C6-1-3 As described under 5.7.3, the main power line appears to be one parcel, owned by what was Boston Edison Co., running from the Halifax line to the Kingston line.

Acreage: 150.08

Notable Features: The main treeless power line right-of-way enters from Halifax, crosses town, abuts Indian Pond between Brook Street and the Kingston line, and exits at the Kingston line. Another, lesser, right-of-way to the west goes from Kingston where it crosses the Boston Edison power line at the east end of Brook Street to Carver, just east of the southern end Brook Street. The eastern and western ends of the main power line run through lands in Estimated and Priority Habitats. Some power lines offer informal opportunities for riding, hiking or ATV use, cross country skiing, bird watching and access to present and proposed public holdings depending on the terrain and vegetation.,

5.8.1.9 Sand Pits

(Also described under 5.6.4.8)

Assessor's Numbers: E3-1-5

Acres: 38.54

Location: 190 Brook St. via Plympton Sand and Gravel drive running south from Brook Street

Use: 38 acres of sand and gravel business, with related unproductive land. LU code: 047.

Notable Features: Abuts town industrial park. Two power line easements run through property. Such sites might accommodate trail bikes, ATV use etc. subject to noise controls if negotiable.

5.8.2 Town-Owned Parcels of Conservation Interest

5.8.2.1 Maple Street Properties Block #1

(5.4.1 in Inventory above. See full description there)

Acreage: 16.52

Soils and Vegetation: Upland clay, gravel, and loam with mature stands of white pine, red and black oaks, and some red maple, pitch pine, etc;. Low land with poorly drained peat-type soils dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Land is in Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat.

Comments: Land of little apparent unique recreational, scenic or cultural value but might be combined with adjoining properties along Palmer Road (Palmer Road Properties Block #1) into one large tract valuable as wildlife habitat, and preserving rural character despite intervening private parcel.

Recommendations: Ask Selectmen to transfer to Conservation Commission; study above possibilities.

5.8.2.2 Palmer Road Properties Block #2

(5.4.2 in Inventory above. See full description there)

Acreage: 21,72

Restrictions: Portions (~50+%) of the property are wetlands and would be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Soils and Vegetation: Upland soils likely characterized by mixture of clay, gravel, and loam with mature stands of white pine, red and black oaks, and to a lesser extent red maple, pitch pine, etc. Lowland areas poorly-drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red Maple, Black Gum, etc. Land is in Estimated and Priority Habitat.

Comments: Land of little unique recreational, scenic or cultural value. But combined with three adjoining properties along Maple Street (Maple Street Properties Block #1) could make one large tract valuable for wildlife habitat, and for preserving rural feel of community.

Recommendations: Ask selectmen to transfer to Conservation Commission; study above possibilities

5.8.2.3 Tobey Lane Path

(5.4.1 Prospect Road #2 in inventory above. See full description there.)

Assessor's Number:C1-1-2

Acreage: 5.8

Restrictions: Land is classified as wetlands by assessors; however, the major portion is dry, with exception of forest stream and possible vernal pool, which would be subject to Mass Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts

Comment: Off Prospect St. at end of Tobey Lane cul-de-sac; access through narrow trail. Beauty, location of this parcel and abutting privately-owned equally landlocked properties suggest possible cooperative use for walking trails, bird watching, etc.

Recommendation: Examine potential for an easement to existing short easement to nearby easement at end of Tobey Lane and another through adjacent woods to Heather's Path and/or bogs to the north.

5.8.2.4 Dennett School "Conservation Land"

(5-3-2 in Inventory above, see full description there)

Assessors' Numbers: D4-2-1

Acreage: 82

Location and Access: Behind Dennett elementary, Crescent Street, and Ring Road. In the old Open Space Plan, it is listed as Parcel #3, and referred to as "Town Conservation Land.

Uses: Vacant wooded area, wetlands, bordered almost entirely by private homes, and cranberry bogs.

Comments: Parcel has value for recreational use, and is quite scenic but access is problematic due to minimal street frontage. Hiking/walking trails could be considered. Size of parcel, and proximity to Jones River Brook, make it important wildlife habitat.

Recommendation: Transfer this property to Conservation Commission.

5.8.2.5 Town Forest

(See 5.3.3 in Inventory above)

Assessor's Numbers: C3-2-17

Acreage: 9.4 on Assessors' sheet

Location, Access, Parking: Palmer Road, west of Town Hall; east of new Highway Barn

Soils and Vegetation: Wooded uplands,.

Uses: Woodland east of new highway barn and north of Sampson Farm 61A land. Barn is reportedly now on a separate parcel.

Degree of Protection: Partial as town-owned land with open space, but not designated

Comments: Remaining very visible land has open space value given connected 61A land to south..

Recommendations: Transfer to Conservation Commission

5.8.2.6 Gravel Pit

(See 5.5.11 in Inventory above)

Assessors Numbers: D5-2-28

Acreage: 77

Location: East of Main St., south of powerlines, north of Cato's Ridge /Ridge Hill area

Access: From powers lines or from Main St. along private dirt road at edge of bogs on parcel C5-3-9 to west.

Soils and Vegetation: Approximately half is wet, rest is old gravel pit, bogs and a pond to rear

Uses: Woods, possible source of sand /gravel, hiking, wildlife habitat

Ownership Town

Degree of Protection: Low as is surplus land proposed for various uses, Town Barn, elderly housing

Comments: Various trails going though site are well positioned for recreation use if given access from powerlines. Nearby Cato's Ridge/Ridge Hill area adds interest/variety to terrain; suggests adjacent acquisition.

Recommendation: Transfer property to Conservation Commission, negotiate access along drive through land to the west, explore acquisition of all or part of Cato's Ridge and integrate trails.

5.8.2.7 Transfer Station (Also 5.3.6)

Assessor's Numbers: D6-1-4

Acreage: 16

Location: South of Ring Road; north of extensive Ch.61A bog land.

Access: From Ring Road

Signage: Facility identification sign

Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Restrictions: Unknown, except for potential 21E issues. Site appears to be upland.

Soils and Vegetation: Largely wooded irregular upland terrain beyond transfer station

Uses: Town trash transfer station and woodland

Ownership/.Management: Town

Degree of Protection: Low, (Temporary, as could be sold if surplus).

Comments: Possible connection to Ch.61A bog land and Jones River Brook to the rear.

Recommendation: Investigate potential connection to any future trails

Fig. V-1 Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest.

Fig. V-1 rear

VI Community Vision and Goals

6.1 Description of Process

This Vision draws heavily on the draft by the previous (1995) Open Space Planning Committee and quotes from material that illustrated its concerns.

The residents of the Town of Plympton have consistently valued open space and the preservation of natural resources. This can be verified by a review of past annual reports of the Planning Board. Along with this review we can now incorporate more recent knowledge. In those reports, plus the Growth Policy Statement of the seventies and the Open Space Plan of the eighties, there is a consistency of goals and concerns. A recent survey again reinforced these same issues as summarized below under Needs.

The planned growth of a community is a multi-faceted thing. It consists of an expansion of industry and business which does not infringe upon the rights of its neighbors; and it consists of a quality of building that will last and not deteriorate into a rural slum. A conclusion to the building of an interchange on Route 44 near the Granny Pond Industrial Area - An expansion of the industrial base is an absolute necessity. (Planning Board, 1971)

Meaningful and effective open space will happen and will be preserved only in conjunction with a sound municipal tax base. Thus an ongoing set of incentives that promote both good quality residential growth and an expansion of industrial use within presently designated areas is needed. However, with today's knowledge these proposals now will take into account the aquifer areas in the town and their potential contamination as a by-product of development.

The creation of multipurpose conservation land is needed to keep the community liveable. This cannot be overemphasized. If Plympton is to retain its character as a rural community, open spaces must be preserved now. This will include town forests, green belts, land for recreation, bridle paths, and wildlife sanctuaries. (Planning Board, 1970)

The idea was to develop a series of mini-playgrounds that would provide an area in each neighborhood.

The concept was one of visual amenity with a variety of purposes associated with general open space. The value of ongoing open space is still a priority but with the changes to society, few parents would be comfortable with sending their children down a busy street to a small playground. The differing functions of open space areas are now better understood. In the recent (1995) survey there was general support for a larger recreation area for soccer and baseball. The survey also indicates the broad concern and support for the preservation of historic places. What is added to the information is a better understanding of the fragile quality of the wetlands and the rivers.

"The Board envisions the planned growth of the community as an integral part of a region. Our concerns must not stop at our town's boundaries and we need to be innovators toward building a region which allows communities to remain distinctive but not aloof and exclusive." (Planning Board 1970)

The residents of Plympton place a great value on local autonomy and individualism. There is a reluctance to become involved with large entities. However, in the midst of this, there is also a history of regional concern. The education of our children is conducted in a four town regional high school. Ambulance service is provided in a joint contract with Middleborough. Mutual Aid in fire and police matters is routine. The rivers and their tributaries are regional in scope. These facts are understood and appreciated by residents.

The goals are in many ways the same and the willingness to implement these goals remain in place. Let us hear the counsel of twenty five years ago.

The greatest danger is apathy. The responsibility of community planning has no end. No one can rest on past achievement. (Planning Board 1972)

The only protectors of the community are those of us who live in it, and our determination, however taxed, must stand fast against those whose motives are personal and not communal." (Planning Board 1970)

6.2 Overall Community Vision

Drawing on the values and implications in the above statements, the Plan's vision of the town of the future is of:

A rural/suburban town with scattered housing along existing roads, in small developments, in compact neighborhoods, and in scattered outlying neighborhoods mixed with extensive continuing farmland; and with a network of varied open spaces generally connected to each other, along with protected open space near all existing or probable neighborhoods, a compact, diverse, readily accessible town center, and a range low-key recreation opportunities.

6.3 Statement of 2009 Open Space and Recreation Goals

GOAL ONE: TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE TOWN'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

GOAL TWO: TO PRESERVE THE CHARACTER AND RURAL ATMOSPHERE OF PLYMPTON.

GOAL THREE: TO PROMOTE BALANCED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES, TOWN CHARACTER, AND RURAL ATMOSPHERE OF PLYMPTON.

GOAL FOUR: TO PROVIDE VARIED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS OF PLYMPTON RESIDENTS.

GOAL FIVE: TO DEVELOP A LINKED SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AREAS FOR HUMAN AND WILDLIFE USE

GOAL SIX: TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS, USE, AND EDUCATION REGARDING PLYMPTON'S HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL GOALS.

GOAL SEVEN: TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE GOALS AND SUBSEQUENT OBJECTIVES THROUGH REGIONAL OR MULTI-COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN COOPERATION WITH ADJACENT TOWNS, THE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

VII Analysis of Needs

7.1 Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Plympton's Resource protection needs are:

- Protection of local and regional surface water and ground water resources in both quantity and quality. Coordination of open space protection with actions to protect major water resources such as the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer covering the eastern third of the Town.
- Protection of areas in the BioMap including large blocks of forest, and needed connecting upland and riparian wildlife corridors.
- Protection of areas with a potential for cranberry growing, especially recently abandoned upland bogs which could return to forest or be developed, and lands that combine suitable soils/topography, water resources (a pond or reservoir) and nearby sources of sand.
- Protection of any other prime farmland
- Joint management of the privately-owned major open fields, wet meadows, and marshes between Palmer St./Monponsett Street and Center Street/Franklin on the Plympton/Halifax line, possibly through conservation restrictions

7.2 Summary of Plympton's Open Space/Conservation/Recreation Needs

7.2.1 Survey Results

The open space and conservation needs and recreation needs are suggested by the results of the Open Space Committee's 2007 Community Survey.

The overall results were that:

What people like most about Plympton:

- Rural character
- Space
- Room to do what you want
- Safety
- Small town feel
- Remaining agriculture.

To preserve these values:

- 84% of respondents indicated that it is extremely important to preserve Plympton's rural character.
- 90% indicated that it is important to set aside open land.
- 75% of respondents supported acquisition of land for passive recreation.
- 72% of respondents supported the idea of greenbelts.

Priorities for conservation (top 3)

- Protection of wells
- Countering loss of natural habitats
- Countering the loss of rural qualities of the town.

Similarly, residents felt that it was most important to save:

- Wildlife habitat
- Agriculture
- Potential well fields, water supply.

Means

- 87% of respondents felt it necessary to draft bylaws to encourage open space development
- 54% favored preserving rural character by donation or conservation restrictions (as opposed to fee simple ownership?)
- 45% favored doing it with Community Preservation Act Funds.

Recreation Interests and Activities:

The top 3 things to do in Plympton

- Bird watching
- Walking
- Hiking.

The top 3 things to do in other towns (presumably due to limited opportunities in Plympton)

- Camping
- Fishing
- Swimming.

Regarding swimming and fishing –

83% of respondents do not have access to the privately-owned ponds. (Note: Only Monponsett Pond and Indian Pond are State listed Great Ponds to which all may have access.)

65% indicated support to improve such access.

The top five desired more or better facilities were:

- Permanently protected open space with public access
- Wildlife habitat
- Nature hiking trails
- Bike paths
- Outdoor education facilities.

Regarding hiking, biking, and bridle trails-

75% of respondents support idea of town-wide multi-use trails.

Regarding handicapped accessibility-

40% of respondents did not feel that access to open space was adequate for the disabled population.

Land use and Community Development Issues

The three most important business types were

- Agriculture
- Working farms
- Recreation.

In terms of town structure -

57% of respondents feel it important to group businesses and services in a compact, walkable center.

What are the most important issues for open space and recreation in the town?

- Development of town-wide multi-use (hiking, biking, riding) trails
- Use of /access to existing lands and properties
- Enforcement of existing land protection measures (wetlands protection, zoning, Board of Appeals issues, Health Board regulation...)
- Development of a swimming area/town beach
- Diversifying the tax base, e.g., promoting the Industrial park for revenue
- Adopting the Community Preservation Act
- Limiting uncontrolled development
- Construction of play areas
- Limiting development in wetlands.

These findings, concerns and values are reflected in this plan.

7.2.2 Open Space/Conservation Needs

The survey results, and the inventories and analysis above suggest the following open space and conservation needs:

- Permanent open space next to all existing neighborhoods or prospective neighborhoods as suggested by the map of septic limitations, local market activities and the town's Master Plan
- Protection of a wide range of open spaces; woodlands, meadows, streamside areas, and greenbelts connecting with other facilities, fresh marsh and related open lands
- Linked varied open space through selective acquisitions and protective easements
- Cooperation with cranberry bog owners to get maximum use of potential crossings via bog roads linking other holdings and resources
- Retention of agricultural land beyond cranberry production; hay fields, vegetable farms, livestock grazing etc. possibly via conservation easements or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions
- Keeping any town-owned fields or bogs in production, or returning them to production possibly by leases to local farmers.
- Continuous stream-side greenways as feasible along the Winnetuxet River, Colechester Brook and other streams where feasible
- Handicapped accessibility to feasible sites and facilities
- Protection /enhancement of scenic views especially across the meadows and marsh noted above
- Protection of major riparian areas including stream channels, flood plains, headwaters and associated uplands when possible. These include areas along the Winnetuxet River and Colchester Brook in the Taunton Basin and Barrows Brook in the Jones River Watershed.
- Protection/enhancement of isolated historic sites (ones not in an Historic District) such as the Sampson Farm Homestead and Birthplace.

7.2.3 Recreation Needs

There is no easy way to measure the need for recreation facilities. The state has quantitative guidelines suggesting the number of acres of a particular facility type needed for a given population. These are found in past Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) and are applied below. However, as the Plan acknowledges in

reviewing varying regional interests and demands, such overall standards do not recognize that the demand for a facility or activity reflects many factors including the population's age groups, sex, income, and ethnic traditions; local patterns of interests; and the present availability of opportunities. Also, the past standards focus on facilities for competitive team sports and are less helpful in measuring the need for places for activities such as hiking, fishing, swimming, bicycling, gardening or camping.

In addition, reliance on such published standards alone could lead to missing unique local opportunities such as:

- Rock climbing or swimming in an abandoned quarry
- Gardening on former farm fields
- Hiking, sledding or skiing over a properly-shaped capped landfill
- Canoeing on local streams
- Motorized sports like dirt bike riding in an old sand pit.

The Traditional public recreation facility definitions and past standards follow:

- **Tot Lots** One half-acre for each 1000 persons in densely-populated neighborhoods. The population served would live within one-quarter mile. Facilities should include swings, slides and other equipment for five year olds.

(Ideally they would also have facilities or activities for accompanying adults ,e.g., sitting areas, tables and benches, and/or exercise circuits.) In a very low-density town like Plympton, smaller numbers would need to be served by each lot to get a better distribution town-wide.

- **Playgrounds:** Playgrounds serve as outdoor games centers for particular neighborhoods. Facilities should include play devices, running areas, swings and benches. Larger playgrounds should include an area for tot lot activities. Some standards require a 5-acre minimum size. SCORP standards require one acre per 250 children of elementary school age in densely-populated neighborhoods, and a service area radius of one-quarter mile.
- **Neighborhood Park:** A neighborhood park is similar to a community park, but serves a smaller geographic area. The purpose of this type of park is to provide water, forest, or landscaped settings as an aesthetic release from development. Past standards for a neighborhood parks are one-half acre serving a one-quarter to one-half mile radius. This need maybe less when individual house lots are large, but there still could be value to a gathering place.
- **Community Parks:** These serve the entire community and provide a large contiguous open space area for town residents. Some standards call for 20 or more acres for a community park. Harry Jason Park could evolve to serve this need though it is at the far western edge of the town.

- **Playfields:** Playfields are a community's center for outdoor sports competition for all ages, but especially for teenagers and adults. They can be all-purpose (available for both spontaneous and organized activities) or specialized, i.e., designed specifically for use as baseball, football or soccer field to meet dimensional standards. Past SCORP guidelines called for 3 acres per 1,000 residents, with a minimum size of 10 acres. Playfields also require a parking area with adequate number of parking spaces. These needs are partially met at with the Dennett School's soccer field and softball field and could be met at a developed Harry Jason Park.

Comment: The condition of the Parsonage Road playground suggest little interest in playgrounds that do not have a strong neighborhood connection, which is rare in very low-density communities. The need may seem to be less in low-density, relatively affluent communities like Plympton where more families have large yards, but playgrounds and tot lots can allow more children (and parents) more interaction than is available in isolated private yards.

Regional Demands or Needs are suggested by the present use of facilities in Southeastern Massachusetts. An extract from the discussion in Massachusetts Outdoors 2000!, the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), follows:

Demand in the Southeastern Region

Activities

By a wide margin, the three most popular individual activities in the Southeastern Region are close in percentages: swimming at 60.1%, sightseeing, tours and events at 57.3% and walking at 57.1%. In fact, the sightseeing, tours, and events category received its highest level of interest statewide in this region. Well below that level of participation, substantial numbers also enjoy playground activities (37.9%), fishing (34.2%), and hiking (32.6%). Nearly one quarter of the population of this region has experience during the year with golfing (24%), and watching wildlife and nature study (23.7%). Lesser, but still significant, numbers (10-20%) also experience picnicking, sunbathing, biking (both types), skiing (downhill), non-motorized boating (motor boating is just under 10%), and canoeing.

When grouped by type of activity, the water-based activities predominate, but as in other regions, there is strong participation in some dimension of each type. A rough rank order would be water-based, passive, trail-based, field-based, and wilderness activities.

While one community with limited shoreline, few major hills and a small population cannot be expected to meet all the regional needs or desires, this extract does suggest meeting desires such as swimming, hiking and biking that can be done locally, as well as making some provision for field sports and other more organized activities.

Local Needs

Past published SCORP standards suggest the following present and future needs:

Item/ Standards	Population	Supply	Calculated Total Need	Net Need
Playgrounds				
One acre Per 250 Elem. School Children in dense areas (some require 5-acre Minimum)	2000 population 407 5-14 years	Town has two totaling almost two acres unless Dennett is considered to be a tot lot	Slightly under two acres	Enough Sites but possibly needs three more acres
Tot Lots				
Half acre per 1000 pop, within ¼ mile in dense areas	Total, 2637	None unless Dennett Sch. Playground is counted	Three, but more could be needed for good coverage	Several for good coverage
Community Park				
20+ acres		None as such, but Jason Park could serve if less remote	One such park	One such park if desired
Playfields				
Three acres /1000 pop at 10 acres each	Tot. 2637.	Town has an est. 10-12 ac. at Dennett School. and an est. 3 acres of Playfields at the Holt Field	On a population basis need for <10 acres	Some sports may be underserved but there are other resources as noted below
Tennis Courts				
		None Known	None Known	Two on Basis of population

Since these standards were designed for dense neighborhoods with little informal open space and small yards (and since they omit other interests such as skate boarding), they are only suggestive of needs in Plympton.

The Recreation Commission Chair sees continued slow town growth and little need for more facilities, pointing out the availability of a softball field at the Upland Sportsman's

Club and of baseball fields at Silver Lake High School. This also reflects the very limited maintenance budget. He notes that girls softball at the Dennett School is self-sustaining.

In addition to the needs suggested by the SCORP standards, this study suggests local needs for:

- Varied recreation facilities serving all population groups and exploiting many local opportunities
- Swimming facilities - since no designated swimming area is available following the closure of the man-made beach off of Winnetuxet Road
- Space for motorized “Bad Lands” activities such as riding all terrain vehicles (ATVs), trail bikes or snowmobiles - possibly in some of the former sand pits and related rough terrain between Brook Street, Spring Street, and the Kingston line.
- A Skate board and in line skating park
- An adopted town-wide system of single use or joint use pedestrian and bicycle trails, and bridle paths, along with potential trail bike and snow mobile trails. The bike/pedestrian system should be binding on new development so that the easements required under the subdivision Rules and Regulations are able to tie into the over-all system.
- Space for community gardens for people with land that is too rocky, wet or shaded for a home garden.
- Handicapped accessibility to all feasible sites and facilities

7.3 Management Needs, Potential Changes of Use

The town’s limited inventory of open space and recreation facilities reduces maintenance needs, but the present very low budgets leave some facilities such as the Parsonage Road Playground nearly useless.

Beyond this, the holdings which are simply municipal land rather than land held by open space or recreation agencies, have limited protection since they could conceivably be converted to other uses or sold.

At the same time there may be areas with great unique recreation potential which are privately-owned or held by public agencies with no open space or recreation function.

In addition, some public or private land may have a potential for mixed development whereby a portion of a site is planned and released for public or private development and

the proceeds help to support acquisition and maintenance of the remaining land of hopefully greater open space or recreation value.

Recommended Management Actions include:

- Transfer selected municipal holdings and tax title land of open space or recreation value to the Conservation Commission or Recreation Commission as recommended in the Inventory
- Identify and acquire land with significant potential for mixed development, and analyze the potential mixed-use of such parcels
- If possible without compromising the sites' open space or recreation values, separate selective portions of developable land for continued municipal ownership or for affordable housing or other public purposes before transferring open space or recreation portions to the two commissions.
- Work with the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, The Nature Conservancy, The Taunton River Watershed Alliance, The Trust for Public Land and other non-profits as appropriate to protect land and maximize mutual benefits
- Work with Town Meeting and other bodies to increase the maintenance budgets for town recreation facilities and open space
- Work to develop new sources of revenue for open space and recreation (and housing and historic preservation) purposes, such as the recent adoption of the Community Preservation Act
- Identify opportunities to fund improved handicapped accessibility of key open space areas and recreation facilities and implement them
- Develop a process for following through on needs identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) handicapped accessibility self-evaluation
- Revise hours of use policies to allow full use of the present and future Dennett School playgrounds.

VIII GOALS, METHODS, AND OBJECTIVES

The program's overall concerns and methods include education, awareness, maintenance and protection through controlled access and promotion of the town's open space and recreation amenities. They reflect a sense that people cannot fully appreciate the value of these resources and protect them if they have limited awareness of them and access to them.

GOAL ONE: TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE TOWN'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Methods/Objectives

- A. Protect and preserve riparian, watershed, and wetland areas, including streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and vernal pools

Objective: Implementation of an annual household waste oil and hazardous material disposal day by the Board of Health and Conservation Commission

Objective: Confirmation of present NHESP mapped Potential Vernal Pools and identification of any others.

Objective: Accomplishment of this Plan's diverse proposals to protect these resources.

- B. Protect surface water quality through regulation, acquisition, and other tools.

Objective: Inclusion of Low Impact Development principles in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations

Objective: In conjunction with the Planning Board, review of the protective provisions of the Floodplain and Watershed Protection District bylaw and drafting any needed revisions.

- C. Protect public and private groundwater supplies, including portions of the town that fall within the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer.

Objective: Evaluation of the town's specific groundwater resources, water supply needs and existing land use regulations in cooperation with the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen

Objective: In conjunction with the Planning Board, review of Plympton's Floodplain and Watershed Protection District Map to potentially include extensive recharge areas if appropriate

Objective: Identification/ranking of ground water supply and recharge areas from the maps of Groundwater Protection Zoning, Soil Limitations for Septic Systems, or other sources

Objective: In conjunction with the Planning Board and the Board of Health, review of the Groundwater Protection zoning bylaw and other land use regulations to restrict uses which may pollute the aquifer, and preparation of any needed revisions

Objective: Application of the ground water significance of present and potential town holdings to setting priorities for acquisition and for developing management policies particularly as to the effects on the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer.

Objective: Acquisition or increased protection of lands potentially protecting the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer.

D. Protect and preserve unique Estimated and Priority wildlife habitats.

Objective: Consideration of Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat designations in ranking sites for protection.

E. Promote public awareness of natural resources and assistance in their protection

Objective: Increased public awareness and support for acquisitions

Objective: A public which understands existing regulations protecting wetlands, waterways, water bodies, floodplains and wildlife, and which reports prohibited practices

Objective: Creation of a reference library of all applicable local, state and federal environmental regulations and official guidance documents as a resource to town officials, permitting authorities and residents.

F. Promote eco-sustainable agriculture

Objective: Leasing a significant proportion of any potentially productive town fields and bogs to growers, subject to sustainable agriculture practices

Objective: Provision of technical support to the Agricultural Commission

Objective: Increased use of ecologically sustainable agricultural practices such as integrated pest management through information programs done in conjunction with the Conservation Commission

G. Protect and preserve wetland resource areas, wildlife habitats and unique habitats.

Objective: Development and distribution of more detailed maps of Estimated and Priority Habitats and of any other unique habitats, in cooperation with the Conservation Commission, local observers, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts and other resources

GOAL TWO: TO PRESERVE THE CHARACTER AND RURAL ATMOSPHERE OF PLYMPTON.

Methods/Objectives

- A. Protect and preserve the town's historic character including historic buildings, streetscapes, landmarks, and village districts using a wide variety of tools and resources

Objective: Identification of various historic houses, potential historic districts, landmarks, roadways and cemeteries in the town working in conjunction with several organizations (including Historic District Commission, Historical Commission, Massachusetts Historical Commission and Plympton Historical Society)

Objective: Expansion of the Harbors Corner Historic District, if warranted

Objective: Use of the Community Preservation Act to fund open space and historic preservation projects along with housing activities of others.

- B. Protect and preserve scenic vistas and roadways

Objective: Identification and designation of Scenic Roads such as portions of Lake Street, Center Street, Palmer Street, Crescent Street and others

Objective: If feasible, acquisition of scenic easements over particularly significant view corridors like that west of the bend in Crescent Street.

- C. Protect and preserve farmland and other valuable open space

Objective: Identification of potentially available pieces of Ch. 61, 61A and 61B land with the potential for continued farming under lease to a local grower

Objective: Develop a process for leasing a significant amount of town-owned inactive bogs to local growers

Objective: Acquisition of key sites like a former horse farm on the Winnetuxet River

Objective: Work for full knowledge of opportunities under Chapters 61, 61A and 61B present use taxation by all landowners

Objective: Complete knowledge of land conservation options by landowners.

GOAL THREE: PROMOTE BALANCED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES, TOWN CHARACTER, AND RURAL ATMOSPHERE OF PLYMPTON.

Methods/Objectives

- A. Develop a master plan for the town that integrates combined directives from town boards, commissions, and departments, and resident values as revealed in the Open Space Survey into a cohesive blueprint for Plympton's future

Objective: Creation of a broad-based body to assist the Planning Board in preparing a new master plan

Objective: Selection of a consultant and production of the Master Plan

- B. Use the master plan process, regulations and discretionary review powers to reconcile and accommodate competing goods, e.g., housing, non-residential tax base, natural open space, recreation, habitat preservation, and resource protection, particularly of ground and surface water

Objective: A complete examination of the relations between the town's varied regulatory functions

Objective: Identification of competing desirable objectives in the context of the potential of available land

Objective: Placement of commercial and municipal traffic-generating activities at the perimeter of the community, especially at the industrial park to lessen impacts on the center of the town

Objective: Concentration of small scale commercial and institutional uses in the town center to reduce commercial sprawl along major roads and support a more diverse walkable center.

- C. Promote and improve communication, coordination, and cooperation between town boards, commissions, and departments as they relate to residential and commercial development

Objective: Establishment of a routine multi-agency department head and board meetings to informally review new development.

- D. Expand development options available to allow projects to use land efficiently and save valuable open space or habitat portions of a site.

Objective: An adopted Cluster or Open Space Residential zoning bylaw allowing use of smaller lots and roadways and preservation of the remaining land as open space

Objective: Identification of opportunities for mixed development on major town holdings or Ch.61, 61A and 61B parcels such as the Gravel Pit.

Objective: Modification of development plans to increase open space protection by exploring alternatives with receptive developers, e.g., on the West Street site.

E. Support and expand present beautification efforts from residents and businesses

Objective: Creation of a beautification organization to tap into potential resources such as CPA funds to beautify public areas.

GOAL FOUR: PROVIDE VARIED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS OF PLYMPTON RESIDENTS.

Methods/objectives

A. Acquire and develop recreational sites for present and future needs

Objective: Identification of prospective long-term needs in cooperation with the Recreation Commission and any other interested parties.

B. Maintain and improve existing recreational resources

Objective: Commitment of funding and upgrading the Parsonage Road Playground (making it functional) if it is to be retained

C. Continue and expand recreational programs and facilities for freshwater access, swimming, hiking, biking, riding, field sports, canoeing/kayaking, skate-boarding etc. with multi-purpose fields, playgrounds, bridal, bike, and hiking trails, skate board parks, accessible, safe swimming and boat launching areas, and space for informal badlands activities such as ATV use and trail bike riding

Objective: Creation of an innovative centrally-located skate board park possibly at the Parsonage Road playground

Objective: Development of swimming areas at Bonney Pond if water quality allows and /or at a repaired and upgraded Winnetuxet Road pool or elsewhere.

Objective: Adoption of town-wide pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail system binding on future developments.

Objective: Reservation of suitable land for community gardens on existing public land, purchased 61A land, or possibly fertile land leased on an ongoing farm.

- D. Identify and exploit opportunities offered by unusual sites; e.g., trail biking and bridal paths in an old sand pit, rock climbing in a former quarry, sledding on a capped landfill.....

Objective: Exploration of such opportunities with land owners and the Recreation Commission to identify possible areas in the eastern portion of the town and key issues such as noise, liability, and groundwater quality protection.

- E. Explore recreation needs of the elderly with the Recreation Commission and the Council on Aging

Objective: Development of a recreation plan for the elderly including consideration of any facilities needed beyond the Townhouse and the Senior Housing function room

- G. Research and identify potential parcels of land for future athletic and health maintenance needs. Approach owners of these parcels to consider possible use of their land.

Objective: Development of an inventory of potential sites for inclusion in an updated Five Year Action Plan and for acquisition when needs arise and future resources allow

Objective: Development with the Recreation Commission and the Council on Aging of an overall recreation activities and facilities plan.

GOAL FIVE: DEVELOP A LINKED SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AREAS FOR HUMAN AND WILDLIFE USE

Methods/Objectives

- A. Maximize wildlife habitat by acquiring adjacent properties and improving connectivity when opportunities arise.

Objective: Acquisition of selective frontage land along streets dividing major forest blocks such as the middle portion of Lake Street or across the western part of County Road into the extensive BioMap areas and areas of Estimated or Priority Habitats in the western half of the town.

- B. Develop a multi-use trail network linking town conservation, recreational, and historic properties.

Objective: Examination of the possibility of a multi-use trail from the Carver line to the Halifax line along the Winnetuxet River using public holdings, negotiated passage along the edge of the Harju Bogs south of Pleasant Street and West Street, and along the A.W. Perry land, and other private holdings where possible.

Objective: Examination of the possibility of a Multi-use trail system along Colechester Brook from a pond east of Brook Street past bogs and horse farms to the Halifax line where feasible

Objective: A trail connection to Turkey Island from the power line using a boardwalk if needed and adding a sitting structure if appropriate

Objective: Connection of subdivisions to various destinations through the Subdivision Rules and Regulations and with resources such as the Safe Routes to School program.

- C. Develop and maintain access points to water bodies for canoeing, kayaking, and other non-motorized recreational boating

Objective: Acquisition of an access easement to Indian Pond and improvement of the trails through the site's varied terrain with a connection to the adjacent power lines

- D. Identify and protect key wildlife areas, e.g., grasslands nesting habitat, multi-use edge habitat, and needed access to breeding land around known and certified vernal pools, turtle nesting grounds, and connection between key forest blocks and others to be defined

Objective: A close analysis of the terrain and ownership patterns in areas of Estimated and Priority Habitat and the BioMap area generally, to identify crucial areas to protect by various means, acquisition, construction of road under-crossings, fish ladders...

Objective: Protection of the certified vernal pool near West Street, and the two clusters of potential vernal pools on the Dennett School Conservation land and between the power line and Spring Street

GOAL SIX: PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS, USE, AND EDUCATION REGARDING PLYMPTON'S HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL GOALS

Methods/Objectives

- A. Develop brochures, web page presentations and/or other material to demonstrate the importance of Plympton's unique natural and historic features and inform residents of methods and opportunities to experience them

Objective: Establishment of a pilot PR program in conjunction with a non-profit conservation group who would produce the material for monthly mailing by the Committee to every household for a year and subsequent evaluation of any increased residents' responsiveness to conservation issues.

Objective: Recruitment of a guest columnist to write for local papers concerning conservation issues with far-ranging regional implications

Objective: Further increased conservation awareness through use of the present open space display, additional handouts at various town activities, open houses and environmental events such as Earth Day

Objective: Development of a program to elicit the “Open Space Amenity Concern of the Month.”

B. Work with schools to encourage conservation awareness

Objective: Presentation of two elementary school programs per year with maximum hands-on outdoor experiences

C. Establish critical zones, and methods to protect them as discussed under Goal One and publicize them

Objective: Significantly increased public awareness of the Ground Water Protection and Flood Plain and Watershed Protection Districts by publishing the respective maps and explanatory text in the local paper. Focus on the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer.

D. Provide resource information and technical assistance for water quality protection, forestry management, and wildlife conservation

Objective: An informed public which is aware of information and technical assistance resources such as the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, the US Natural Resources Conservation Service (ex. Soil Conservation Service) and state agencies such as the Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Environmental Protection, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

GOAL SEVEN: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE GOALS AND SUBSEQUENT OBJECTIVES THROUGH REGIONAL OR MULTI-COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN COOPERATION WITH ADJACENT TOWNS, THE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Methods/objectives

A. Encourage the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board and Conservation Commission to investigate and seek to cooperate with regional groups that promote the protection of wildlife corridors, rivers, unique habitats, and water supply sources.

Objective: Creation of an awareness of the interdependence of natural resources shared between neighboring communities

Objective: Cooperation with the Town of Kingston increasing access to Indian Pond while protecting its habitat value and the privacy of pond-side residents.

Objective: Enhanced protection of the scenic rare open field and fresh marsh habitat along the Plympton / Halifax line between Rte. 58 and Center St. / Franklin St.

- B. Participate in regional planning actions that protect and preserve the ecological integrity shared with communities in the immediate areas

Objective: Development of working relationships with counterpart agencies in Halifax, Kingston and the other surrounding towns

Objective: Creation of joint management policies for Indian Pond, the scenic rare open field and fresh marsh habitat along the Plympton / Halifax line between Rte.58 and Center St. / Franklin St., and any other shared resources.

- C. Encourage the town boards to cooperate with non-profit regional groups that promote the protection of wildlife corridors, rivers, unique habitats, and water supply issues such as the Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, and watershed associations, particularly the Jones River Watershed Association, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, and the Taunton River Watershed Association

Objective: Achieving working relationships with such groups to facilitate local and regional open space actions

- D. Create an awareness of the interdependence of natural resources shared between neighboring communities

Objective: Increased awareness of such interdependence exhibited in cooperation on multi-community issues through approaches described above.

IX Five Year Action Plan

Year One

The first listed is the lead agency

Responsible Party/
Funds

Studies /Plans

S-1	Explore potential trails/bridle paths along the stream system and other potential routes	OSC,CC, RC / DCR,CPC
S-2	Explore protective acquisitions along the Winnetuxet River and other major stream segments	CC,OSC/ CPC
S-3	Work with the Planning Board to develop cluster and/or Transferable Development Rights (TDR) bylaws	PB,OSC/ EOHED

Initials Used:

AC	Agricultural Commission
BA	Board of Assessors
BS	Board of Selectmen
CC	Conservation Commission
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
DAR	Department of Agricultural Resources
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation - Source of Recreational Trails Grants
DCS	Division of Conservation Services - Source of LAND (ex Self Help) and PARC (ex Urban Self Help) and related Federal funds.
DFW	State Division of Fish and Wildlife
DEP	State Department of Environmental Protection
EOHED	Executive Office of Housing and Economic .Development .
HC	Historic Commission
HDC	Historic Districts Commission
HD	Highway Department
MTC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Source of alternative energy funds
MCCS	Manomet Centerfor Conservation Sciences
OSC	Open Space Committee
PB	Planning Board
RC	Recreation Commission
TM	Town Meeting
WTSEM	The Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts

S-4 Develop a mixed-use plan for the Parsonage Road/Winnetuxet Road Property	CC,OSC,RC/ Volunteers
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S-5 With the Recreation Commission, study redevelopment or reuse of the Parsonage Road Playground - possibly adding skate board space.	OSC,RC/ DCS
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Action Items

A-1 Work closely with the Community Preservation Committee to identify and fund recommended acquisitions	OSC,CC/ CPC,DCS
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A-2 Acquire the Parsonage Road/ Winnetuxet Road Property	RC,CC/ DCS,CPC
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Year Two

Studies/Plans

S-6 Study ultimate use of Jason Park and possible expansion to Ch.61A land along Colchester Brook to the southwest	RC,PB,OSC
--	-----------

S-7 Adopt Low Impact Design (LID) principles for land with high groundwater recharge value, particularly over the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer	PB,CC,BOH
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S-8 Refine the list of Ch. 61,61A and 61B properties of interest, explore potential use of Conservation Restrictions (CRs) or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs)	OSC,AC,CC , BS, PB
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S-9 Explore the potential for community gardens	OSC, AC, RC
---	-------------

S-10 Monitor the status of key scenic points such as along Crescent Street	PB,OSC,HC
--	-----------

S-11 Explore acquisition of an access point on Bonney Pond and development of a swimming area there.	RC/OSC
--	--------

Action Items

A-3 Transfer major town holdings to the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission or Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts, especially the land near the Dennett School	BS,RC,CC/ Volunteers
--	-------------------------

A-4 Establish Community Garden sites	RC,AC,CC
A-5 Restore the Winnetuxet Road Swimming Hole	RC/DCS/CPC
A-6 Acquire an access point to Bonney Pond, add a swimming area if feasible	RC,CC/ CPC
A-7 Enact a cluster and/or TDR bylaw.	PP, BS, TM/ EOHED
Year Three	
Studies/Plans	
S-12 Explore possible use of and access to Turkey Island in Turkey Swamp just east of the Halifax line	OSC,CC,RC/ DCR,DCS
S-13 Identify needed forest connections for wildlife movement, even across roads, e.g., along Lake Street	OSC,CC,MCCS, DFW
S-14 Explore water related trail possibilities	CC,RC,OSC/ DCR, CPC
S-15 Study possible vehicular recreation use of old sand pits	RC,BS,OSC
S-16 Work with Kingston officials to study increased access to and protection of all of scenic Indian Pond over the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer on the Kingston line.	CC,BS,OSC/ CPC,DCS
Action Items	
A-8 Create an appropriately-located skateboard Park	RC,OSC,BS/ CPC
A-9 Complete the revised Jason Park plan, including some ball fields and a camping area, and possible brookside expansion to the southwest	RC,OSC,CC/ DCS
A-10 Expand the Gravel Pit holdings to include Cato's Ridge; acquire any needed access over the adjacent land	OSC,CC/ DCS,CPC
A-11 Act on any plans for increased access to or acquisition/protection of Plympton's portion of Indian Pond in cooperation with Kingston.	CC,RC,OSC/ DCS,CPC

Year Four

Studies/Plans

S-17 Update, reconcile and correct inconsistent assessors' plans and Records	BA,PB/ BA
S-18 Explore potential scenic easements, e.g., across from the Kiersted on Crescent Street	CC,OSC,HC
S-19 Consider expanding the Historic District.	HDC, HC, PB

Actions

A-12 Acquire selected Ch. 61A sites, possibly including some or all of parcels 5.5.35; 5.5.43; 5.5.46; 5.5.49; 5.5.53; 5.5.56 and 5.5.11	CC,AC,OSC, BS/CPC,DCR, WTSEM
A-13 Develop a Turkey Island access and minimal facilities if feasible	RC,CC,OSC/ CPC, DCR
A-14 Acquire the sandpits south of Brook Road after any closing for aquifer protection and compatible recreation use.	RC,CC/DCR, CPC

Year Five

Studies/Plans

S-20 Explore potential access trails along power lines.	RC,CC,OSC/ DCR
S-21 Update this Plan to cover the period 2014 to 2019.	OSC,CC,PB/ Volunteers, Town Funds

Actions

A-15 Integrate selected nearby Chapter 61,61A, and 61B land with the Wildlands Trust of SE Mass. land and Harry Jason Park	CC,AC,BS/ CPC,DCS
A-16 Expand the Dennett Pond Holdings.	CC,OSC BS/ DCS,CPC

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5 4 I-5

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5 4 I-5

I-1 I-2 I-3 I-4 I-5

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

IX-1 IX-2 IX-3 IX-4

X Public Comments - To come

XI - References

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Property listings, maps, and other resources of the Plympton Board of Assessors

Table V-1
Summary Inventory of
Public and Non-Profit Owned
Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Name Ownership Map/Lot	Manage- ment/ Area	Use	Condition	Public Access	Access for Disabled	Recreation potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Type of Assist- ence	Deed Restriction
Protected Land										
Public										
Town Cons./Rec Lands										
5.1.1 Town Common C-6-27	Town 2 acres	Iconic open space	Good	No fee, along much front-age	Good, level ground	Much; varied Public uses	A/R	High, as public land	Unknown	Unknown
5.1.2 Harry Jason Park A4-1-1	Town Rec. Comm. 53.2 acres	Nature study, Planned ballfields	poor	No fee. public	Poor, irregular ground	Great; Camping. sports. nature	A/R	High as Rec. Land	gift	For rec. and open space use
Non-profit										
5.2 West Street Woods A3-1-1	Wildlands Trust of SE Mass 16.5 acres	Hiking wildlife habitat	Good, as wildland	No fee; Non- profit	Poor, Ir- regular ground	Moderate, Hiking, nature study, river access	A/R	High as NP open space	Unknown	Unknown
Partially Protected										

5.3.1 Dennett Elem. School D5-1-16	Silver Lake School Dist. 30 acres +/-	Soccer, Play- ground	Good	Public, No Fee but closed after school	Fair, level ground	Great, Potential for multiple sports.& Pgnd	A/R	Temporary as could be sold	School funds	Unknown
5.3,.2 Dennett School Cons lands D4-2-1	Town (not Cons. Comm.) 82 acres	Hiking, nature	Good aa natural land	Public,no fee, Little Front- age.	Poor, Irregular low land	Grat for nature, habitat . scenic	A/R	Temporary as could be sold	Unknown	Unknown
5.3.03 Highway Barn C3-2-17	Town .9.4 acres	Wooded uplands and barn	Good	public, no fee,	Fair, low land	Moderate Open Space potential	A/R	Temporary as could be sold.	Town Funds	Unknown
5.4.8 Main St C4-4-25.	Town 5 acre	Old Town Hall and Hist. Soc.	Good	public, no fee,	Fair. level land	Good, already in historic use	A/R	High ,given Historic Use	Town funds	Unknown
Minimal Protection										
Misc. town- owned land										
5.4.1 Maple St. lots B5-3-8; B5-3-13; B5-3-14	Town .16.5 acres	Tax Title, largely wetlands	N.A.	Public, No fee	N.A..	Hiking, Nature observa-tion	A/R	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.2 Palmer Rd. Lots B4-5- 1;B4-5-11	Town 21.7 acres	Tax Title, largely wetlands	N.A.	Public, No fee	N.A.	Hiking, Nature observa-tion. Especially	A/R	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown

Table V-1 - 2

						with.5.4.3				
5.4.3 Prospect Rd.# 1 B1-3-19	Town of Middle- boro 9.7 acres	Landfill buffer	N.A.	Public, no fee (LF Buffer)	N.A.	Limited; wildlife habitat	A/R	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.4 Prospect Rd.#2 C1-1-2	Town 5.8 acres	Tax Title, partly wetlands	N.A.	Public, no fee	N.A.	Limited, part of potential trail	A/R	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.5 Spring St. D2-3-1; D2-3-2	Town 2.4 acres	Tax title	N.A	Public, no fee	N.A.	Limited, part of potential trail	Ind.	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.6 Churchill Rd D#-4-12.	Town .5 acres	Tax title, woods	N..A	Public, no fee	N.A.	Possible local natural area	A/R	Minimal; could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.7 Center St. C4-2-2,C4- 2-3	Town 2.2 acres	Old Town Barn & woods dump	Fair	N.A.	N.A.	Minimal, used by DPW	A/R	Limited, used but could be sold	Town funds.	Unknown
5.4.9 Main St C5-1-3.	Town .9 acres	Tax Title. wooded wetlands	N.A.	Public, no fee	N.A.	Slight in Conjunction with 5.4.11	A/R	Limited, could be sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.10 Main St. C6-1-2; C6-1-25	Town 26.7 acres	Tax Title. wooded wetlands	N.A.	Public, no fee	N.A.	Slight, Poss. future powerline trails	A/R	Limited, Could be Sold	None; Tax taking	Unknown
5.4.11 Gravel Pit D5-2-28	Town 77acres	Woods, trails possible sand source	Fair trails	Public, no fee	Poor,. rough terrain	Consider- able,trails,.P ower- lines, adjacent	A/R	Limited, Could be sold unless Transferred to Cons.	None; gift to town from T.L. Edwards	Unknown

Table V-1 - 3

						Catos's Ridge		Comm.		
Other Tax-Exempt Properties										
5.5.1 Silver Lake Chapel D7-2-6	S.L. Chapel 2.75 acres	Chapel moved from Amusement park)	Good	Non-profit, open to all	Good, has a ramp	Limited, church	A/R	Low as non-profit w/o open space or rec. purposes	Unknown	Unknown
Public Recreation Facilities										
5.7.1 Winnetuxet Swimming Hole C2-3-7	Town/ Recreation Comm.? 11.5 acres	Inactive man-made swimming hole	Poor, Overgrown and closed	Public, No fee	Poor access to beach (see ADA self-evaluation)	Considerable if restored	A/R	High if controlled by Rec. Comm., low if surplus town land	Town Funds	Unknown
5.7.2 Parsonage Road Playground C3-4-9	Town/ Recreation Commission 1.3 acres	Deteriorated playground	Poor, overgrown, broken equipment except for basketball	Public, No fee	Fair, level ground off of road, but deteriorated surfaces	Moderate if restored	A/R	High is Recreation Commission property	Town funds	Unknown
5.7.3 / 5.7.4	School District	Small playground and	Good	Public, no fee,	Fair. level	Considerable, pgnd	A/R	Moderate as school	School District/	Unknown

Table V-1 - 4

Dennett Elem. School playground and soccer field D5-1-16	Listed as 105 acres but; mapped and scales as 30 acres	soccer and softball fields		but limited play-ground hours	ground, see ADA self-evaluation	being moved and expanded		could close; higher if under Rec. Comm.	Town (Rec. Comm.) Funds	
5.7.5 Holt Mem. Field C3-2-13,16	Town 8 acres	Multi-purpose play ground/ ballfield	Good	Public, No fee	Fair, see ADA self-evaluation	Much with potential restored or added facilities .See text.	A/R	Moderate as listed as town land. High if Rec. Comm. land	Town /Rec. Comm. funds	Unknown
5.7.6 Harry Jason Jr. Mem. Park A4-1-1 See 5.1.2										
5,8,1 Bonney Pond Access point Pond is on C4-1-10,12 and 13 but reported	Private owners 1988 OS Plan lists approx. one-acre access point	Pond/ cranberry reservoir, fishing .	Unknown	Private land	N.A.	Moderate, informal recreation w/o official access point	A/R	None except wet-lands protection act if privately owned	N.A.	Unknown

Table V-1 - 5

access point is not found .										
5.8.2 Upland Sportsmans club D4-1-1,20b	Private Listed as 38.7 acres; mapped as 24.2 acres.	Shooting range, ballfields, clubhouse	Good	Private land often used by public	Unknown	Considerable with varied facilities	A/R	None	N.A.	Unknown
Other Private holdings of interest are discussed in text above.										

Table V-1 - 6

Appendix A - Handicapped Accessibility Self-Evaluation

Plympton Open Space Committee (POSC) Accessibility Study for Conservation and Recreation Properties. Since the Conservation Commission maintains no facilities this survey focuses on the following Recreation Commission Properties. It also covers miscellaneous town facilities

A. Letter on policies and procedures from Joseph Freitas, Chair of the Board of Selectmen

B. Recreation Facilities

1. The Winnetuxet Road Swimming Hole
2. The Palmer Road Baseball Fields (Holt Memorial Park)
- 3 The Dennet School Baseball and Soccer Fields
4. The Parsonage Road Playground
5. Harry Jason Park

C. Miscellaneous Town Facilities