



Plympton

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2016 - 2023



FOREWORD

This 2016 update to Plympton's Open Space and Recreation Plan was created by the Plympton Open Space Committee with the important support of Emilie Wetzel, Land Stewardship Coordinator serving at Wildlands Trust through the MassLIFT-AmeriCorps program. We thank her most sincerely for her outstanding contributions.

We extend warm thanks as well to Andrew Vidal, GIS Manager, at the Old Colony Planning Council and Emilie Wetzel for the excellent maps and to Deborah Stuart, Principal Assessor for the Town of Plympton, for her important assistance in updating the Town Parcel Inventory. We also thank the photographers who have donated their photos to help the Plan depict Plympton's special qualities-- David Bugbee, Glori Collver, Emilie Wetzel, Jon Wilhelmsen, Macaela Burnet and Dale Pleau.

This version of the Plan is built on the 2009 Plympton Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was prepared by James R. Watson, Supervisor, Comprehensive Planning, and Susan McGrath, GIS Coordinator, of the Old Colony Planning Council under the direction of Executive Director Pasquale Ciaramella. The 2009 Plympton Open Space Committee was closely involved in all aspects of that effort, which came after a 11 year hiatus.

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1 - SUMMARY

Plympton is a rural town in Southeastern Massachusetts with a strong historic character and a small-town sense of community. Fifteen miles square in size, it is the smallest town in southeastern Massachusetts, with just over 2800 residents and among the highest number of horse farms in the state. As such, Plympton is an anomaly in this region – looking and feeling more like a small town in Western Massachusetts, but facing the development pressures and high costs of being mid-way between Boston, Providence and Cape Cod. Our median income falls mid-range among the Commonwealth’s municipalities and 25% of our residents are over the age of 55.

Today, despite being rural in appearance, just over 3% of Plympton’s open space is permanently protected. About 30% of the town is in some form of Chapter 61- primarily for cranberries or horse farms, and much of the rest is private forestland, or wetlands. The “build out” analysis done by the Mass Executive Office of Environmental Affairs 15 years ago estimated that another 800 houses could be added to the town based on our zoning bylaws and buildable lands. Even if this estimate is wrong by 100% or more, it is clear that Plympton is likely to change.

In 2009, 89% of residents responding to the Open Space and Recreation Plan survey rated “saving Plympton’s rural character” as their #1 goal. At that time, less than 1% of our land was permanently protected, consisting mostly of the town cemetery and a small green. Since then, based on the needs and goals of the 2009 Plan, a 105 acre Park – the first in Plympton – has been added to the Town by almost unanimous vote at the largest Town Meeting in Plympton’s history. Enrolling residents in the “Parks” campaign produced a new and vigorous constituency for open space. Several other recommendations from the 2009 Plan also have been implemented, particularly much-needed improvements to recreational venues around the town.

The purpose of this update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to present financially prudent strategies for retaining the most valued aspects of Plympton’s current character and open spaces, while benefiting from appropriate development. The town budget is stretched even though taxes have been raised every year. Plympton’s local government is “staffed” predominantly by volunteers, with key paid positions for public safety, administration and finance and town clerk functions.

This Plan includes an updated inventory of Plympton’s open spaces, the results of a new residents’ survey and revised Goals, Objectives and project activities for the next seven years.

The Plan’s goals are to:

- Goal 1:: Protect Plympton’s current water supply and acquire land for future community wellheads

- Goal 2: Protect and preserve Plympton's natural resources, including water and unique wildlife habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Goal 3: Preserve the rural character, diverse agriculture and traditional New England elements of Plympton.
- Goal 4: Support and enhance passive and active recreation that is in balance with natural systems on Town- owned parcels that are designated for recreational use.
- Goal 5: Promote public awareness about Plympton's natural resources, conservation initiatives, historic features and recreational resources.

The Plan emphasizes fostering increased public/private partnerships in order to secure low-cost/high value returns for our open space investments. We believe such collaborations offer the best way forward for Plympton to keep its special character while meeting residents' needs.

The Plan finds that Plympton's major resources include:

- Its remaining rural character
- Over 70% of the Town's habitats that are in the top two BIOMAP core and landscape categories, indicating their high-value water, forest and natural benefits
- The extensive Chapter 61, 61A and 61B holdings, with potential for selective acquisition
- Plympton's strong agricultural heritage, with many cranberry bogs and related holdings including much streamside land
- Its growing equine culture that is 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 threatening the loss of open spaces are:

- Residential growth reflecting improved highway access and restored nearby commuter rail service
- An uncertain agricultural future including fluctuating cranberry prices, and increased land values, potentially affecting buildable bog-bordering lands.
- The Town's rural appeal

Significant remaining opportunities include:

- Large unprotected lands, especially in the Winnetuxet River area, that provide valuable ecosystem services including surface and groundwater protection, flood and stormwater mitigation, carbon capture and habitat protection for a variety of threatened species
- Many undeveloped areas which could be saved as permanent neighborhood features, giving most future residents nearby access to protected open space
- Potential opportunities for integrating streamside portions of Chapter 61 lands into a multi-purpose, connected open space system
- Remaining farmland and other land with the potential for cultivation or haying

The purpose of this Plan is to recognize that by planning now for growth and development, Plympton can retain the Town's rural character while preserving its extensive natural resources, which provide low cost/high value services now and for the future.



2 - INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Plan is an update of Plympton's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was created following an 11 year lapse. The 2009 Plan has been extremely useful during the last seven years. In particular, the results of the residents' survey and the inventory of key chapter and town-owned lands facilitated pursuing some of the Plan's top goals. The new 105 acre Parks are a direct result of the Plan's research and recommendations. (Three parcels which were cited as key conservation opportunities were combined into one large park, centering around the Jones River Brook).

The purpose of this 2016 Plan is to help the town set a direction for meeting its diverse Open Space goals, keeping in mind our staffing and fiscal constraints, and the benefits of fostering expanded collaborations with government and individuals. The resident survey completed for this 2016 update points to some new issues, while maintaining the core values articulated in 2009. The Plan's Goals, Objectives and Actions were created to reflect these values and concerns.

IMPACT OF THE LAST OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

In addition to the Parks, a number of other priorities and recommended actions from the 2009 Plan have been successfully completed. These include updating the deed for the 82 acres behind the Dennett School to secure it as permanent conservation land, and, under the aegis of the Recreation Commission, converting the former Winnetuxet "swimming hole" into a fishing pond with an area recognizing the Old Plympton Cotton Factory as a historic site; converting the derelict Parsonage playground into a basketball/tennis court; installing a walking path around the soccer fields at the Dennett Elementary School; and landscaping the fields at Harry Jason Junior Park for use by the Scouts and local families for camping and other outdoor activities. The large privately-owned Parsonage parcel cited in the 2009 Plan has been purchased by a private buyer who intends to keep it in agriculture. It comes with a federal conservation easement that will connect to the trail from the "fishing pond."

Concurrently with the last Plan, the town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which offers a new avenue for supporting some of the Town's goals. The new Parks were purchased for \$20,000 in CPA funds (and returned another \$25,000 to the town's general fund for back taxes) and all the other projects except the walking path also were supported by CPA. The residents recognize that CPA is an important strategic partner in meeting the town's goals, even though the total amount raised each year is relatively modest (approximately \$90,000). The town also has become a "green community" designated by the state for its energy conservation commitments. The newly increased Federal and state Tax Credit programs for individuals, as well as the state's increased emphasis on green infrastructure, smart growth and pending updated zoning legislation also will be useful in meeting aspects of the Plan. In 2015, the state tax credit was very helpful in securing the donation of the third section of the Parks, a beautiful large marsh (O'Neil Marsh) that also provides an entrance to the Parks near the school.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Plympton Open Space Committee (OSC) sponsored the creation of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which led to the Parks project based on the Plan's information. In 2008, the OSC secured a small state grant to hire the Old Colony Planning Council to take the lead in assembling and preparing the 2009 Plan's contents, with intensive involvement from Committee members. Many of that Plan's data and recommendations remain very useful today. This year, the OCPC was not available to research and write the update, but has been very helpful in providing updated maps. Therefore, given that the OSC has no staff support, nor funds to hire a consultant, we sought a new partner to help prepare the 2016 Plan. Over the last 6 years, the

Wildlands Trust and the OSC have established an excellent working relationship on a number of projects, so it was natural for the OSC to turn to the Trust to ask for staffing assistance to develop the Plan update. Since September 2015, the OSC has benefitted from the significant help of the MassLIFT-Americorps Land Stewardship Coordinator at Wildlands, Emilie Wetzel. Over the past year, Emilie has dedicated more than 250 hours to ensure the completion of this project. Emilie has focused on updating the parcel inventory, preparing and analyzing the resident survey, streamlining the format of the document, and overall editing of this plan. In addition, each of the seven OSC members has spent significant time updating particular sections as well as reviewing the updated inventory, and working together to create the new goals, objectives and actions.

The Open Space Committee has sought input from throughout town government as well as residents. In addition to OSC members, OSC meetings are regularly attended by representatives of other committees, including the Historical Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Community Preservation Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Agricultural Committee, and other community organizations. In the early winter of 2016, the OSC conducted a town-wide survey in order to gauge the public's use of current, and desire for future, open space and recreation facilities. The survey received 149 respondents. Additionally, a public information session was held in late spring, when the goals and objectives were in draft form, but before preparation of the final Plan. This session was held in the Town House, which is accessible, and was widely advertised through articles and ads in the local paper, as well as through a variety of town email networks and web sites. In addition, every town department head and committee chair received a detailed email asking for them and their committee/staff members to give us input.

Twenty-four people attended our public meeting. The presentation included details about each goal and objective, as well as a detailed review of the 2016 survey results. There were questions from the audience regarding the definition and operation of water districts, water supply and septic rules, how to help farms, the meaning of habitat designations, scenic roads, finding land for senior/affordable housing and how to participate in trail activities, which were answered at the meeting and are included in the final text of the Plan. There was general agreement that the goals and objectives were clear, diverse and appropriate.

3 - 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 houses on large lots (due to septic requirements) and many 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 with easy access to the relocated Route 44. In recent years, Sysco has located a major food warehousing and distribution center in the industrial park, contributing significantly to the tax base of the town. Commercial solar arrays have been developed in several areas. Heading north along the Plympton's easterly boundary shared with Kingston, one finds high tension lines, a 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, 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 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. Notably, tremendous efforts by the Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Wildlands Trust and scores of dedicated volunteers culminated in the development of what is now known as Plympton Parks. This conserved

105 acres is comprised of a formerly private parcel, now known as Churchill Park and the town-owned property now named Cato's Ridge Conservation Area, both of which were designated by the overwhelming support of Town Meeting in 2012 as conservation lands. The Parks also now include the O'Neil Marsh, which was donated in 2015. Churchill, Cato's Ridge, and the subsequently acquired O'Neil Marsh have created a virtual "emerald necklace" for the town, with conserved land now extending from Main Street to Ring Road. Thanks to an enormous volunteer effort and private donations, the Parks contain an extensive trail system and a 600 foot boardwalk that carries visitors comfortably across Jones River Brook and its surrounding wetlands. The boardwalk, completely paid for through a community-based fundraising effort, has proven to be enormously popular since its opening in 2015. The Community Preservation Act has played a critical role in the creation of Plympton Parks, by providing the funds to acquire the Churchill Park land off Main Street, thus creating public access. As discussed in the Inventory of Lands of Open Space and Recreation Interest, the town's fully protected holdings now include:

- The "Parks": Churchill Park, Cato's Ridge, and the O'Neil Marsh, a total of 105 acres;
- Two parcels owned and maintained by the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts- one for 17 acres on West St and the other for 43 acres on Oak St.;
- 82 acres behind the Dennett School, that were purchased in 1973 with a self-help grant but never recorded as conservation land;
- The largely undeveloped 53.2 acre Jason Park site south of Center Street near the Halifax line.

The total protected municipal acreage is 300.2 acres.



Boardwalk at Cato's Ridge Conservation Area

Most of the remaining municipally-owned acreage is used for town purposes such as the elementary school soccer fields, 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.

In addition, much of the town is under Forestry, Agricultural, or Recreational use taxation under Chapters 61, 61a or 61b. As of May 2016, some 383.13 acres were designated as Chapter 61 forestry lands. Much of this is within the floodplain. However, the upland portions are available for development unless the town acts on its right of first refusal. Given financial constraints, this right is rarely exercised.

In contrast, as of May 2016, there were 723.36 acres of cranberry bogs certified under Chapter 61A. This land is protected by its classification as a wetland resource area under M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40. Chapter 61A also covered 291.36 acres of field crops, 292.14 acres of tillable forage cropland, 346.3 acres of productive woodlands, and 584.38 acres of wetland and scrubland.¹

¹ As of May 2016

3.1.3 RECREATION RESOURCES

Plympton's recreational resources now include several sites that have been renovated since the 2009 Plan. These include the former Winnetuxet "swimming hole", now an historic area with a "fishing pond"; a new basketball/tennis court on Parsonage at the site of a derelict playground, a walking path around the soccer fields, and new grassy fields at Jason Park for use by the Scouts and local families for camping and other outdoor activities. These projects were sponsored by the Recreation Committee. In addition, the Dennett School playing fields and the Holt ball fields continue to be the place for most of the local children's team games.

The new Parks are very popular with children of all ages and families, who enjoy using the 2+ miles of varied trails.

In addition, there are 101.5 acres in recreation under Chapter 61B, including several horse farms which provide riding lessons and the Soule Farm, an environmental education center on the town's edge with Middleborough.

3.2 HISTORY OF PLYMPTON AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

3.2.1 HISTORY

Plympton was established as a town in 1707. It was originally a western precinct of Plymouth. Part of the land was ceded to create Kingston in 1726, and 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.

The Town of Plympton's Historical Asset Survey (October, 2013) divided the town into seven survey areas, several of which were villages within the community. Each of these villages contained industries that reflected the unique geography of the area such as a blacksmith and wheelwright shop in North Plympton, a nail factory and iron forge near Cato's Ridge, shoe shops in the West Plympton area, a rolling pin mill and a tack factory in the Southeast area, and ice houses in the Silver Lake region.

Plympton Village and Green has served as a focal point for the town since its earliest days. Plympton Green was established in 1702, five years before Plympton's incorporation as a town. The Green first served as a burying place, military training ground and location of the first meeting house (ca 1695-1698). Throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, religious, civic, commercial and residential properties were constructed around the Green. In 2007, the Plympton Village Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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 although a 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 pin 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, so named because of the California gold rush of the same year. The mill was located on the southern end of town near the Middleborough town line.

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 experienced a succession of occupants, and by the late 1920's most had disappeared from the landscape. 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 3.3 adapted from the 1988 Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

1. Harrub's Corner -The town's only local historic district, designated in 1970 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.

According to the Historic Properties Survey, completed in May, 2013 by Kathleen ZAXBroomer, Architectural Historian for the Plympton Historical Commission, seven properties at or near the County Road-Lake Street intersection, plus a historic bridge over the Jones River Brook are located within district boundaries. The Stephen Bryant Jr. House, 125 County Road (ca.1691/ca.1703) is widely considered the oldest house in Plympton. The John Bryant House at 147 Lake Street (ca.1719) was also built as a full height half house, as was the Stephen Bryant Jr. House.

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 the 1777-1778 smallpox epidemic.

3. The Little Mill -Plympton's first sawmill, built by Richard Wright. Two mill dams and an 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, on Ring Road. 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. Old Hayward Sawmill - At the site of Bradford House built about 1700, a former dam along the Jones River Brook 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 82 acres of conservation land purchased in 1973. 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. This site abuts an 82 -acre protected town open space holding adjacent to the Dennett School 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 is a significant scenic streetscape.

7. Old Town House (1850) -A two-story Greek Revival structure on Main St. 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 box mill 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 onto 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. Plympton Village- Plympton Green-- Adjacent to the 1702 Hillcrest 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 Bricknell's maps of the Cemetery and the Green at the Library.) The archaeological potential of this area is considered to be high.

11. West Main Street - Across from the Green stand several 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.



The Round House, Historic site #20- built of stone in 1857 and rebuilt in wood after the stone crumbled in the rain

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. Old Plympton Cotton Factory Site (Adam Wright's Second Grist Mill Site) -This is on the north side of the Colchester Stream, and an 1813 cotton mill known as the Queen Mills, was on the south side. This is now the town's fishing pond and recreation 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 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 ice houses between the street and lake, now the Brockton Reservoir.

25. Cato's Ridge Conservation Area -A series of relatively high hills north of Ring Road, just beyond the Martin Hayward home, that contain a reputed Native American burial ground and possibly an Afro-American cemetery prior to 1830. The Native American tradition of the hills and the surrounding neighborhood is somewhat confirmed by the many arrowheads and stone implements found there. Cato was the servant 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

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 – On Elm Street, home of the Revolutionary War heroine

32. North Village Cemetery- An important Colonial period resource situated at the town line with Kingston is the North Village Cemetery. The earliest identified burials were for members of the Bryant family during the Colonial period. It was acquired by John Higgins, a summer resident before 1883 and his descendents own the cemetery today.



Deborah Sampson Farm-- Elm Street

3.3 POPULATION

3.3.1 POPULATION TRENDS

In 1940 Plympton had a population of 532 (U.S. Census). By 2010, it had risen to 2,820 (U.S. Census), a 530.1% increase in seven decades. By 2017, the population had increased to 2,912. Table 3.1 illustrates the changes in Plympton's population since 1940. 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 3.2 shows the increase in housing units from 1980 to 2010. This shows a 169% increase; a percentage far larger than needed to house the natural increase in population from 1980 (142.8%). This reflects the creation of a multi -unit apartment building (the Woodlands) for senior citizens and affordable housing in the early 90's.

TABLE 3.1 - PLYMPTON'S POPULATION GROWTH 1940-2010

| Year | Total Population | Numerical Change | Percent Change from previous census |
|------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1940 | 532 | N/A | N/A |
| 1950 | 697 | 165 | 31.0 |
| 1960 | 821 | 124 | 17.8 |
| 1970 | 1,124 | 403 | 49.1 |
| 1980 | 1,974 | 850 | 75.6 |
| 1990 | 2,384 | 410 | 20.7 |
| 2000 | 2,637 | 253 | 10.6 |
| 2010 | 2,820 | 183 | 6.9 |
| 2017 | 2,912 | 92 | 3.3 |

Source: US Bureau of Census

TABLE 3.2 - HOUSING UNITS

| Year | Number of Units | Percent Change |
|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1980 | 617 | N/A |
| 1990 | 794 | 28.7 |
| 2000 | 872 | 9.82 |
| 2010 | 1043 | 19.61 |

Source: US Bureau of Census

Increased accessibility of the town 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 soil limitations and by the town's large lot zoning requirements discussed below under Section 3.4 Growth and Development.

3.3.2 POPULATION SUB-GROUPS

Table 3.3 shows the racial/ethnic composition of Plympton. The town is predominantly white and increasingly affluent. In 2010, only 89 persons out of 2,820 residents are non-white

(3.156%). In 2017, that number decreased to 80. Even allowing for double-counting of people with more than one racial identity, the town only has 112 people (3.97%) in minority groups. The total distribution is shown below. The 2014 American Community Survey estimates that 8.96% (249 people)² have some sort of disability. The largest age population sub-groups are the 40-65 year olds. This age bracket included nearly half (44%) of the town's population in 2010. Table 3.4 shows Plympton's age distribution.

TABLE 3.3 - MINORITY POPULATION TRENDS

| Group | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| White | 1024 | 1931 | 2335 | 2554 | 2731 | 2,832 |
| Black | 20 | 14 | 16 | 26 | 24 | |
| American Indian/ Alaska native | N/A | N/A | 1 | 16 | 8 | |
| Asian/P. Islander | N/A | N/A | 10 | 9 | 22 | |
| Hispanic | 77 | 6 | 29 | 11 | 36 | |
| Other | N/A | N/A | 22 | 32 | 8 | |
| Total | 99 | 20 | 78 | 94 | 98 | 80 |

Source: US Bureau of Census, 2010, American Fact Finder

TABLE 3.4 - AGE DISTRIBUTION IN 2010

| Age Group | Persons | Percentage |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| Under 5 | 125 | 4.4 |
| 5-9 | 182 | 6.4 |
| 10-14 | 185 | 6.6 |
| 15-19 | 213 | 7.6 |
| 20-24 | 151 | 5.4 |
| 25-29 | 113 | 4.0 |

² The ACS estimates that the population in 2014 was 2778 people, and the percentage is based on this data, not the 2010 census data.

| | | |
|-------|------|-------|
| 30-34 | 104 | 3.7 |
| 35-39 | 124 | 4.4 |
| 40-44 | 249 | 8.8 |
| 45-49 | 261 | 9.3 |
| 50-54 | 267 | 9.5 |
| 55-59 | 258 | 9.1 |
| 60-64 | 205 | 7.3 |
| 65-69 | 165 | 5.9 |
| 70-74 | 97 | 3.4 |
| 75-79 | 57 | 2.0 |
| 80-84 | 35 | 1.2 |
| 85+ | 29 | 1.0 |
| Total | 2820 | 100.0 |

Source: 2010, US Bureau of Census

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 2010 Census (reflecting 2009 earnings) found a median household income in Plympton of \$87,917. This was comparable to the Plymouth county income median of \$86,251 but considerably higher than Brockton's median income of \$57,861. According to the 2014 ACS FactFinder, Plympton's median household income in 2014 was \$94,505 with 3.8% of Plympton residents under the poverty level. This was quite a bit higher than the median household income in Plymouth county of \$75,816 and the state median of \$67,846, though the poverty level was considerably higher in Plymouth County (7.7%) and across the state (11.6%). By 2017, it was \$90,826.

3.3.4 COMMUTING PATTERNS

Table 3.5 shows the changing commuting patterns from 1990 to 2010 indicating a continued overall dependence on driving alone. Following the restoration of rail service, the proportion of those using public transportation increased to 3.1%, but the percentage of residents driving alone also increased, reaching 85%, while the proportion of those carpooling dropped to 5.3%. 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 in 1990, to 41 minutes in 2000, and dropped to 31 minutes in 2010.

TABLE 3.5 - COMMUTING PATTERNS

| | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Drive alone | 81.9% | 83.9% | 85% |
| Carpools | 11.8% | 6.4% | 5.3% |
| Public Transportation | 1.2% | 3.1% | 3.1% |
| Other Means | 0.9% | 0% | 0% |
| Walk/Work at Home | 4.3% | 6.6% | 6.6% |
| Average Time to Work | 29.8 minutes | 41.5 minutes | 31 minutes |

Source: US Bureau of Census, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 yr. est. Commuting Characteristics by sex

3.3.5 POPULATION DENSITY, INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Plympton has a low population density of 197 people per square mile. Compared to the average density of 860 people per square mile in the other South Shore towns, Plympton's open spaces and low number of residents makes it feel more like a town in the western part of Massachusetts. However, the Town's potential for population growth is somewhat constrained by the extensive wetlands, and water resources, dependence on residential wells and septic and minimal town services.

As indicated in Table 3.5, many residents commute to jobs out-of-town, although there are 58 small businesses located in Town that provide some opportunities. Each of these may employ up to ten individuals. Although there are no records on the exact number, it is likely that most local small businesses employ just a few people or only seasonal help. In addition, Plympton's agricultural and rural character is dependent on the 58 farms and bogs, 7 horse riding/stable facilities and 16 small forestry operations that are located in Town. Each of these operations provide opportunities for year-round or seasonal employment. As of 2016, local employment trends for these small businesses appear to be steady.

The biggest change in employment trends and opportunities is connected to the changed uses in Plympton's small industrial park of a few hundred acres. Until 2012, most of the acreage was in aging bogs, fallow fields and a large sand and gravel business. In 2012, the Syscio corporation, a national corporation based in Texas, built a large regional distribution center for non-perishable food and home care products on much of Plympton's industrially-zoned site. Thanks to the updated location of State Route 44 in 2007, a new Plympton exit to the industrial park provides convenient access to areas throughout the

South Shore. Several hundred people work at Sysco's Plympton site. While the number who live in Plympton is not available, the addition of this large facility created a welcome employment option for local residents. In addition to Sysco, four other businesses in the industrial park, including Hubbell/Lite Control, also employ a total of 50 -100 people.

Other local employment opportunities can be found nearby in several new or expanding business and medical parks and in large new shopping centers.



3.4 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS / COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

In the last 40 years, the Town of Plympton has experienced only a moderate growth going from 1,224 persons in 1970 to 2,820 persons by 2010. By 2017, it was 2,912.

Even at the peak of growth in the seventies, the population only grew by about 85 residents per year. Since then, growth has decreased; in the 1980s and 1990s Plympton's population grew at about 41 people per year. More recently, population growth in Plympton has slowed to a rate of about 22 people a year. Although these low growth rates seem minimal and of little consequence, compared to Plympton's population in 1960 of 657 people, Plympton has grown considerably.

Many factors contribute to this slow growth. 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. Indian Pond 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. 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 swimming hole off of the Winnetuxet River, but it was not a major attraction. It has now been converted to a fishing pond.

3.4.1 LAND USE PATTERNS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Plympton's land use pattern has been shaped by its many cranberry bogs and other agricultural areas, which are bordered by small meandering roads. Land use is also limited by the town's total dependence on private wells and septic systems. Plympton has no established backup system for water supply. The topography and soils 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.

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 Middleborough/Lakeville. Due to some growth in Middleboro and the Bridgewater, two local roads are now more actively used for east/west commuter traffic, although Route 44 remains the main corridor for that function.

Plympton's many small, rural roads offer excellent cycling opportunities. Since 1978, some have officially been part of the state-designated Claire Saltonstall Bikeway. This popular 135 mile cycling route, which goes from Boston to Provincetown, connects the scenic backroads of 26 towns, including in Plympton. Cyclists on the Bikeway often take local detours to enjoy Plympton's many scenic vistas.

Functionally, these small local roads also serve as the town's "pedestrian facilities", since there are no sidewalks in town, except for a few hundred feet near the library in town center. Now, thanks to the addition of large town-owned conservation lands, residents also can enjoy nature trails through diverse habitats. Some bog owners also continue to allow the public to walk around their farm areas, so Plympton residents have an increasing number of pleasant and safe walking areas away from traffic.

Today Plympton consists of a small concentration of civic buildings in the center with businesses just to the south on Route 58, 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 State Rte. 106, and the new industrial park at the eastern edge of town near the new section of state Rte. 44, much of which has been sold to Sysco for a local distribution center. Several new solar farms have also been installed in the industrial park, so only 50 acres of the industrially zoned area remains. For tax purposes, it would be useful to have more commercial properties in town.

This limited development is balanced by almost 2800 acres of small farms, largely equine operations, and cranberry bogs, many out of sight on low-lying back land. See the Land Use Map (Map 3.5). In all, Plympton still feels like a rural town experiencing minimal change. Yet with increased accessibility, the continued high rating for the local elementary school, 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 strip mall built in 2005 just south of the Center.

The other, Historic, FEMA-based Floodplain, and Groundwater Protection Districts are overlay districts which protect certain resources against natural and manmade 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, and municipal buildings as-of-right, along with churches and schools which are exempt from zoning except for reasonable dimensional requirements. It also requires special permits for 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 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, 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 and Recreation 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 Floodplain and Watershed Protection District, the Groundwater Protection District(s) and the Harrub's Corner Historic District.

The Floodplain and Watershed Protection District lands are defined by elevations based upon the geodetic survey maps and cover the town's wooded swamps and floodplains. In order to permit development other than "duck blinds or structures necessary for the cultivation of cranberries or the propagation of fish" in the Floodplain 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.

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 and Recreation 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 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

As outlined in our last Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town realized that our current Earth Removal Bylaw under Article VII of the Municipal Bylaws, while fundamentally capable of controlling Earth Removal operations, fell short of providing adequate operating standards and permit review.

Such bylaws are important not only to regulate removal of a resource, but also to protect the underlying groundwater 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 set at about 10 feet, varying inversely to the porosity of the soil.

In 2018, Plympton Town Meeting adopted a new, updated Earth Removal Bylaw which provides comprehensive operating standards, including for site restoration. One advantage of a general bylaw over a zoning bylaw is that it can regulate ongoing activities, not just proposed new facilities and activities. While we know of no current Earth Removal operation in Plympton, the new Bylaw does include substantial new standards and procedures for overseeing Exempt operations, to ensure that they are in compliance with the new standards.

4 - 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) 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). Another 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.

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 groundwater. 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 seek 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 the 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, especially 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 discreet 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 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. Identified as a conservation priority in the 2009 Plan, in 2015, culminating a 5 year effort, the Ridge and two neighboring parcels were assembled into the town's first Parks. One of the trails goes over the Ridge.
- The Center Street - Palmer Road Meadow Lands -An unusual expanse of extensive open fields and wet meadow and fresh marsh south of the Halifax line

- Cranberry Bogs - Though there are an estimated 723 acres of bogs³, 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 Colchester Street, and west of Cross Street.
- 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.

4.3 WATER RESOURCES

4.3.1 GROUNDWATER

Plympton relies on groundwater 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.

4.3.2 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 groundwater 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 of 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 199 square mile area of glacial outwash and recessional moraines dotted with kettle hole ponds." It is one of the largest dedicated aquifers in the Northeast. 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

³ Estimate based on May 2016's Chapter 61 land use codes from the Assessor's office. Any cranberry bogs not included in Chapter lands have not been accounted for.

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 two-thirds of Kingston and with the eastern two-thirds of Plympton. Refer to Map 3.1 in Appendix A for visualization of the aquifers that make up Plympton.

The Plymouth-Carver area has been experiencing rapid population growth for the last 10 years, and with it increased groundwater withdrawal. The aquifer has been seen as a regional water source in the past. The nearby city of Brockton has a century old contract to secure its waters from nearby Silver Lake. Although it also has contracted for a major supplementary supply through desalination of brackish water from the lower Taunton River, its continued dependence and heavy use of Silver Lake's waters has created water flow and quality issues particularly for Halifax, which lies just north of Plympton.

4.3.3 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

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 by the State Sanitary Code, Title V, setting standards for wastewater 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, which have been updated with the goal of fully protecting groundwater recharge.

The zoning, adopted in 1991, involves regulations controlling potentially harmful uses in the three Groundwater Protection zoning districts discussed in Chapter 3 and shown on Figure 3.7. 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 updated earth removal bylaw under Article VII of the Municipal Bylaws requires a Selectmen's permit to operate an earth removal operation and prohibits commercial mining. The Bylaw now outlines extensive application, hearing and permitting procedures, as well as operating standards that are protective of groundwater, as well as of other sensitive natural communities and built public areas. Exempt operations now are responsible for accounting for their maintenance operations and for applying for a permit for new activities.



4.3.4 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 stormwater 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 to 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 land ownership. 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 should get higher consideration for

possible acquisition as Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest and in the 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, (Map 3.7) 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, Map 4.3 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 groundwater 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. 4.4) 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 4.1 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 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 Map 4.3: Septic Limitations in Appendix A.

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 other significant areas along the southern edge of the Aquifer and in scattered areas to the north.

In terms of potential protective measures or acquisitions and areas of interest, this pattern adds to the value of land around and west of Indian Pond. It also is relevant to 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 2009 Plan also prioritized acquiring and protecting the “Gravel Pit” site which is mixed but contains a large central area of high recharge value over the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer. The new parks (Cato’s Ridge, specifically) encompass this site and adjacent areas, serving to maintain the quality of the Aquifer.

The town-owned low-lying land south of the Dennett School Site, which the 2009 Plan recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission, has now been transferred to the Commission for its open space and habitat value. It is generally mapped as severely limited for septic systems 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 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, 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 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 between three groups of cranberry bogs. This area also offers possibilities for an east-west watershed 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.

Lastly, the Winnetuxet River Area, which is in the Taunton River Watershed, is recognized by the Mass BioMap program for its extensive, ecologically significant water resources. This area has many unprotected parcels that provide multiple ecological services. The Town needs to develop a Plan to preserve a matrix of parcels in this area to assure these critical water resources and related services are preserved.

TABLE 4.1

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 | 1 |
| 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

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 targets 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 under a growing industrial park. The sand and gravel operation is now converting to several solar arrays, operated by private owners. Some of the industrial park, especially near Indian Pond, remains open and important to water recharge values.

Recommendation:

- Give high priority to any potential acquisitions in the Zone II recharge areas for any future public water supply systems and integrate such acquisitions with any open space/recreation acquisition programs

4.3.5 SURFACE WATERS, LAKES, PONDS, AND STREAMS

There are 9 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, Harrub's Corner Bog Pond, Bonney Pond, Plympton Bog Pond, North Brooks Street Bend Pond, Plympton Bog Pond, Prospect Road West Pond, Granny Pond, and Whetstone Brook Pond. None of these waters are suitable for recreational opportunities; many are current or former reservoir ponds created in conjunction with cranberry farms.

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 shallow 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 burrow area, and has been divided into separate parcels of land zoned for industrial use.

There is a narrow forested strip remaining along the edge of the pond. 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 and Recreation 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/Plymouth-Carver Aquifer. One of the major tributaries to the 44.5 mile long Taunton River is the Winnetuxet River.



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. It is currently negotiating with Halifax and the state to adjust its water withdrawal policies.

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, and through the new Parks. 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. In 2009, the Town adopted a Wetlands Bylaw which specifies standards for local wetlands, including vernal pools.

About ⅓ of Plympton consists of Wetlands (see Map 4.5) . In the eastern section, wetlands are abundant along the many small streams that coalesce near Mayflower Road to form the headwaters of Jones River Brook. The Brook and adjacent wetlands extend north through the new 108 acre Plympton Parks, then through neighboring Kingston before emptying into Cape Cod Bay. In the western section of Town, there are significant large wetlands associated with the tributary streams of the Winnetuxet River, which is part of the Taunton

River watershed. These are rated by the BioMap program of the Massachusetts Heritage Program as being some of the most ecologically significant in the state.

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 floodplain of the Winnetuxet River and other local streams and tributaries.

Historically, Plympton has sustained little flood damage due to this limited development within the floodplains. 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 have some small flooding potential. There are zoning regulations restricting development in the floodplain 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 floodplain 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 (Map 4.6) 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 VEGETATION

As of 1999, the town's vegetation consisted of:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Forest | Both uplands and wetlands (swamp) | 5689.0 acres |
| Non-forested wetlands | Marsh and wet meadow, grass and shrubs | 323.2 acres |
| Cropland | Varied field crops; presumably including hay fields | 313.7 acres |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Pasture | Managed grasslands | 278.9 acres |
| Orchard, Nurseries, and Cranberry bogs | Mostly cranberry bogs, which are largely mono-culture except along ditches and around reservoirs | 868.8 acres |

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.

Public Shade Trees- Plympton has shade trees throughout our public spaces in the town. These primarily consist of sugar maples, ashes and white pines, many of which are 100 years old or more. These large old trees are most notable on the Town Green and adjacent historic cemetery, as well as in the several town-owned conservation areas, together totalling almost 300 acres. The town employs a tree warden whose attention to the maintenance of the town's rural character has resulted in planting a number of slow-growing maples and other species in anticipation of losing some of the older trees, especially due to ash blight. There are also some large old shade trees along many of the historic roads, but it

is not easy to determine if these are town or privately owned, due to the great variability in individual plot deeds and the age of the old roads.

4.4.2 OPEN FIELDS

About 7% of the town is made up of open fields. According to 2016's Chapter land use codes, Plympton has 633.22 acres of cropland, till forage, pasture, and haying lands. 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. Some of these fields now have new housing along the edges, and a solar array in the northern part of the field that is in Halifax.

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 723.36 acres as of May 2016.⁴ The bogs are basically a monoculture; 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. About 70% of Plympton's habitats are classified as either Core or Supporting Habitats, the two most important. The following section draws on material from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

4.5 FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Plympton's wildlife reflects its ecological communities. These include forest, wetlands, open ponds and grasslands. Map 4.7 (Biomap and NHESP Priorities) shows areas of value for wildlife diversity. About 70% of Plympton's habitats are classified as either Core or Supporting Habitats, the two most ecologically important ranks. The following section draws on material from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. (NHESP)

4.5.1 TERRESTRIAL HABIT

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.

⁴ This estimate is based on the May 2016 Chapter 61 land use codes provided by the Assessor. Any cranberry bogs not designated as Chapter lands have not been included in this estimate, thus, it can be surmised that this is an underestimate.

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 grasslands are in heavily-maintained suburban lawns.

However there are remaining hay fields in Plympton (36.7 acres of which are a part of the Chapter 61 program as of 2016) 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 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Winnetuxet River supports a good chain pickerel population. This population can be attributed to severe spring flooding coinciding 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 bridle 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 nine 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, Pumpkinseed 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 pumpkinseed 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.

4.5.3.1 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 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 is a leading nonprofit land Trust 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 nonpoint source pollution along this corridor system.

Forest Corridors Plympton still has large forest tracts 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 coyotes, 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.

4.5.3.2 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. In 2009, Plympton approved a Wetlands Protection Bylaw, which includes a 200 foot setback from the riverfront area, as well as perennial streams, brooks and creeks, as well as a 25 foot “no touch” buffer zone between the wetland resource area and proposed disturbance. Operationally, the Conservation Commission has used a 50 foot no touch zone for this purpose, which was formally included in Bylaw regulations in 2020. In addition, the Bylaw *“presumes that all areas meeting the definition of “vernal pools” under section VIII of this bylaw, including the adjacent area , perform essential functions. “* . The burden is on the applicant to overcome this presumption through submission of credible evidence. In effect, vernal pools in Plympton are automatically protected, unless proven not to exist.

Although the town has only 6 Certified Vernal Pools, mostly on or near the new Parks,, 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 (Map ____).

4.5.4 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 certified Vernal pools 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 certified vernal pools 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 northern and western sections of the town are in the BioMap and much of the southern and eastern portion are considered to be Supporting Natural Landscape. The nearest Living Waters Core surrounds the Winnetuxet River in Halifax immediately downstream of the Plympton/ 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.

Rare species documented in Plympton as of 8/2/2016 follow:

4.5.4.1 Vertebrates

Pied-Billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*): Endangered 1992. 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

Eastern Box Turtle (*Terepene carolina*): Special Concern 2014. Primarily lives in dry upland oak and pine forest, using wetlands on hottest days.

Note: The Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys Guttata*) has been delisted and is no longer protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), although it remains of Special Concern. It is a member of the largest turtle family, often foraging and nesting in uplands but mostly found in forested and open wetlands and riparian zones.

4.5.4.2 Invertebrates

Attenuated Bluet-Damselfly (*Enallagma daeckii*): Special Concern 1994. Found in wetlands near well vegetated ponds with nearby woodland for shelter, nesting and mating with eggs laid on emerging plants

Pine Barrens Bluet (*Enallagma recurvatum*): Threatened 1994. Similar to above but generally restricted to shallow, sandy shores of Coastal Plain Pond.

Tidewater Mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*): Special Concern 1999. A freshwater mussel preferring stable sandy substrates and clean water. This calls for protecting the shores and riparian buffers of Silver Lake.

Eastern Pond Mussel (*Ligumia nasuta*): Special Concern 1999. Another freshwater mussel with preferences like those of the Tidewater Mucket.

Water-willow Borer Moth (*Papaipema sulphurata*): Threatened 1987.

Plymouth Gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*): Special Concern 2011. A vascular plant that favors wetlands, especially lakes and ponds.

4.6 SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

4.6.1 SCENIC ROADS, VISTAS AND GEOLOGY

Plympton, like other small towns in Southeastern Massachusetts has a mix of state, county, and town roads and unimproved trails, as well as historic roads, some dating to the 18th Century. The town's historic and diverse environment can be viewed on many of these, particularly along old winding and treed roads maintained by the town. Winter snow still makes a spectacle with snow and ice clinging to tree branches and pine boughs. Moreover, the scenic nature of many of Plympton's roads is created by the built environment such as an ancient cemetery, many stone walls, streams, bogs, ponds and dams, 18th and 19th century houses and churches. Multi-acre house lots ensure breathing space in neighborhoods. Consequently, there are several areas along roadways which create the well known and charming ambience of a New England village. Chief among these are Parsonage Road, Palmer Road, Elm Street, and Crescent Street. Parsonage begins at the town center and winds through several turns and elevations and ends at the Middleboro town line. Several houses along this road date to the Colonial era. There are others with Greek Revival architecture. Palmer Road passes through the town center, has the town green, the 17th century cemetery, town offices, a quintessential New England church, several period homes and a prominent horse farm. Elm Street, also beginning at the village center, has historic homes such as the birthplace of Deborah Sampson of War of Independence fame, a small livestock farm, and old stone walls. Main Street is interesting as a winding country road with some large deciduous trees offering seasonal foliage, the Plympton Historical Society building and several cranberry bogs. The entrance to the town-owned Churchill Park and an adjacent conservation area is on Main Street and connects with old cart paths and walking trails.

These four roads are representative of scenic roads in Plympton. Several others share the same characteristics and to a large extent represent most town roads. In short, Plympton's pastoral ambience as a mixed farm and residential community has been largely preserved helping to create the rural New England character of the town for which it has a well deserved reputation. (see map 9.3)

The town's other scenic resources include the many historic houses still occupied,, the extensive fields for farming various crops; the many, often secluded, cranberry bogs and adjacent uplands; the extensive open wetlands in the northern and western sections of the town, and closer-up features of local interest such as several road-side ponds, and the Town Green.

The Town Green and adjacent burial ground and surrounding varied historic buildings earlier described under Historic Resources, comprise the Town's center, and underline the Town's historic character. The town's original network of roads, all of which are still scenic, converge near the Center, and lead to outlying historic neighborhoods.



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; the northern end of Center Street, Cross Street, and east of Prospect Street near the Middleborough line.

The extensive open wetlands and fields along the Halifax line are the town's largest, most varied open lands, although housing along the edges is beginning to interrupt some of the views. They can be seen from both Rte. 58, (Palmer Street), and Center Street/Franklin Street on the Halifax line. See photo on page above.

At the other extreme, smaller-scale artifacts like the site of a former dam on Ring Road, now turned into a picturesque low waterfall and pool, give a sense of local history. The other historic sites inventoried under Historic Resources (Section 3.2), 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.

Plympton's best-known geological feature is now memorialized and protected in the "Parks", the town's newest and largest conservation land. Cato's Ridge Conservation Area". Is the most prominent feature in the Parks. This Ridge is one of the highest on the south shore (135 feet) consisting of bedrock with types of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock. In most areas of the town and the South Shore, the bedrock is fairly deep except for areas where steep slopes or outcrops exist. Cato's Ridge is one such area . There is now a trail that climbs to the Ridge and then winds down to the adjacent forests and marshes. Protecting Cato's Ridge and two adjacent parcels was the focus of the "Parks" project in 2012, which culminated in the largest town meeting in our history to protect these 105 acres. Cato was a servant/slave of an early settler in the 1700's. Early town maps show a small "Cato's House" located on the Ridge.

4.6.2 UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

Plympton has always been a small community because uplands for building houses and other structures are limited. Almost two-thirds of the town's land mass consists of extensive wetlands, bogs, streams and rivers, creating a predominantly aquatic environment. These characteristics have long been recognized-cranberry farming is an historic occupation here.

During the last twenty years, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage program, through its BioMap and Living Waters program, has documented and mapped Plympton's ecosystems, natural features and wildlife habitats. As a result, we now know that much of the town falls under one or both of the top ecosystem categories in the BioMap program-(1) "Core Habitat" that supports rare and other threatened species, exemplary natural communities and intact ecosystems, and (2)"Critical Natural Landscapes" composed of large natural landscape blocks minimally impacted by development, which sustain essential ecosystem functions and connections.

Some of the more generalized unique environments include:

- The extensive monoculture of cranberry bogs committed to production of one crop. 723.36 acres as of May 2016. 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 291.36 acres (as of May 2016) and sometimes leaving edible corn stubble for birds
- Pasture - Managed grasslands (possibly including hay fields) with habitat value depending on the degrees of grazing and the timing of haying (278.9 acres)

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

- Bonney Pond (estimated habitat of rare wetlands wildlife) -Center St.

- The Winnetuxet River (Wetlands) in western Plympton is 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 Annasnappitt Brook meet-near Pleasant Street and Carver line. This system goes into Carver and Cole Mill.
- The Jones River Brook, passing through the new Parks off Ring Road.
- 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 and Recreation Plan.

4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

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 cleanup 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 found 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 cleanup permit, or DEP approval.
 - RAO Class A1: A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has been reduced to background or a threat of release has been eliminated.
 - RAO Class A2: A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has not been reduced to background.
 - RAO Class C- A temporary cleanup. Although the site does not present a "substantial hazard", it has not reached a level of no significant risk. The site must be evaluated every five years to determine whether a Class A or Class B RAO is possible.
 - Pre-Classified = Not yet classified
 - Hours/days = required response time, the riskier the shorter.

As the table below shows (Table 4.7), 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.

TABLE 4.7 REPORTABLE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RELEASES IN PLYMPTON

| Address | Site Name | Reporting Category | Compliance Status | Date | Phase | RAO Class | Chemical |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------------------|
| 9 Bracket Terrace | -- | Two HR | Tier ID | 3/3/1995 | -- | -- | Oil |
| 190 Brook St. | Plympton Sand and Gravel | -- | RAO | 8/30/2000 | -- | A2 | Oil |
| 37 County Rd | Commerce Park | 72 HR | RAO | 8/5/1999 | -- | A2 | Hazardous Material |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------|------------|----|----|---------------------------|
| 125 County Rd | -- | Two HR | RAO | 11/8/1999 | -- | A2 | Oil |
| 141 County Rd. | -- | Two HR | RAO | 11/19/1996 | -- | A2 | Oil |
| 45 Main St. | CM Brackett Co. FMR | None | RAO | 12/26/2003 | IV | C1 | Oil and Hazardous |
| 179 Main St. | -- | Two HR | RAO | 12/7/2004 | -- | A2 | Oil |
| 266 Main St. | Former Plymouth Country Store | 72 Hour | Tier 2 | 4/27/2007 | II | -- | Oil |
| 272 Main St. | Plympton Service Center | -- | RAO | 11/22/2002 | | -- | Oil |
| 272 Main St. | Plympton Service Center | Two Hour | RTN Closed | 8/10/2006 | -- | -- | Hazardous Material |
| 18 Mayflower Rd. | House | Two Hour | Unclassified | 2/2/2007 | -- | -- | Hazardous Material |
| 132 Mayflower Rd. | CM Brackett | -- | RAO | 10/31/1995 | -- | A1 | Hazardous Material |
| 17 Prospect St. | -- | 72 Hour | RAo | 4/2/1996 | -- | 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 | 5/5/1994 | -- | A1 | Oil |
| Rte 106 | Rte. 106 | Two Hour | RAO | 3/23/2009 | -- | A1 | Oil & Hazardous Materials |
| Near 4 Grove Street | Truck fire | Two Hour | RAO | 11/1/2010 | -- | A2 | Oil |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----|-----------|----|----|-----|
| 89 Palmer Rd. | 89 Palmer Rd. | Two Hour | RAO | 5/2/2011 | -- | A2 | Oil |
| Spring Street Ramp | Spring Street Ramp of Rt 44 W | Two Hour | RAO | 6/20/2013 | -- | A2 | Oil |

Source: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Clean Up, updated 4/22/2016

4.7.2 LANDFILLS

The Plympton town landfill, located on Ring Road on the Kingston border, operated until the early 1970's. The refuse was burned every weekend, leaving a large ash area. When it was closed, it was clay-capped and four observation wells were installed that are monitored yearly

Since then, the town has operated a transfer station under contract to Waste Management. This first phase of this operation did not provide any recycling options. The refuse was thrown directly into the removal trucks. In 2010, a new transfer station was opened, which includes mobile bins for paper, glass and cans, as well as separate areas for large items such as tires, mattresses, and old home appliances. The Boy Scouts manage the returnable bottles and cans, using the proceeds for their troop activities. The former one-acre ash area is maintained with natural cover. No buildings are allowed in that section.

In 2017, the transfer station sponsored the town's first hazardous waste collection day, which was very successful and will be offered again bi-annually.

4.7.3 EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Erosion and sedimentation have not been major problems in Plympton, due to the low density of our housing. The town has moderate slopes except in a few small distinct areas where the elevations rise to between 70 and 130 feet. In 2012, the town established its first conservation land to protect the highest ridge in town, which is also over the town's portion of the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer. Other protective measures are applied through Orders of Conditions and site reviews of development projects brought before the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. The Conservation Commission applies the standards from the state Wetlands and Rivers Act, the town's Wetlands Bylaw, as well as from DEP's stormwater management requirements for commercial developments over 1 acre. The Planning and Zoning Boards also apply local and state regulatory standards to site plan review according to DEP stormwater and erosion controls statutes, as well as applying EPA requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge (NPDES) program. However, the state has recognized that because Plympton is not urbanized and has low density of housing, and also because there are no large water bodies in town, some aspects of the stormwater permitting process have been waived. For example, no catch basins are required on the town's narrow, local streets. Nevertheless, the town has a total of 447 catch basins. These

are required along Routes 58 and 106, state roads that run through the center of the town, and along its northern edge. There are also catch basins in the town's few developments. The roads are regularly serviced to maintain shoulders and prevent nonpoint run-off into wetlands. Site visits during the planning application process and subsequent development and operations are carried out to ensure that the requirements are being met. Earth Removal Permits are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. The updated Earth Removal Bylaw, which was approved by Town Meeting in 2018, includes extensive operating conditions for erosion and sedimentation management.

4.7.4 FLOODING

As the Flood Zone and Land Use map shows, (Map 4.6) 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 Floodplain 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 a major threat.

There are eight buildings, most of them residential, in the 100-year or 500-year floodplains 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.

These low-lying areas also are being considered in planning further open space acquisitions and in applying stormwater management strategies. As part of an ongoing review of Town Bylaws, over the next few years, the town will consider requiring/incentivizing 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.

The flood-related potential for serious dam failures is very low, since over the past 10 years, only two of the town's 14 dams were 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 a 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 mill dam on Ring Road, had been listed as "unsafe" by the state office in 2006, as presenting a significant hazard if it were to fail. This dam was dismantled in 2015 and replaced by a low waterfall, maintaining the historic mill stones and structures. The Office of Dam Safety now gives it a Good condition/low Hazard rating. Most of Plympton's other dams are cranberry bog reservoirs holding a very low head of stored water and being upstream of limited development.

4.7.5. NEW DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

Although there have been no subdivision developments built in Plympton in the last 8 years, as the economy has recovered since 2008, there has been an increase in building applications and permits. On average, Plympton is issuing 6-8 permits per year, still a

relatively low number compared to our neighboring towns, which issue 20 on average per year. However, because our planning bylaws follow the state's rules for development, the town does allow ANR (approval not required) for lots that meet the minimum frontage requirements. These ANR lots, plus retreat lots that require using backland of 120,000 square feet (vs the usual 60,000) represent almost all the recent building. The other new developments are solar farms, three of which exist in town as of 2016, ranging from 7 - 100 acres. Applications for new solar installations are increasing, as developers continue to approach local homeowners.

All residential, commercial and solar applications have to go through the Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission review. Due to Plympton's extensive wetlands, the impacts of development on vernal pools, adjacent wetlands and areas of high ecological value, as well as the placement of well and septic systems are closely considered by the BOH and Conservation Commission. Project alterations or denials may result from these reviews. However, the collateral impacts affecting the character of the town from overall increased development are harder to address within the Town's current bylaws. For example, many of the houses being built are along the roads, which in turn diminishes views of scenic landscapes and fragments natural areas, so that larger open spaces become inaccessible behind new houses.

The town has just begun a full review of its Bylaws, which will continue over the next few years. This provides an excellent opportunity to update the town's zoning bylaws so that new options such as Open Space Residential Design can be included among the options and tools available to the town as it plans its future.

The Open Space Committee continues to encourage residents' interest in creating conservation easements to protect important ecological features and/or compatible land uses that are consistent with town residents' goals to maintain Plympton's rural character. In 2016, an important historic farm and house along the WInnetuxet River was saved from development by a foresighted buyer who wanted to preserve this important and very visible feature of the town. It will continue to be a working farm.

4.7.6 GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION

Plympton is totally dependent on groundwater wells. Many wells are shallow- that is only 30 - 75 feet deep. Plympton also depends on individual septic systems, and has soils that are predominantly unfavorable to septic use (see Soils and Septic Limitations map 4.3 in Appendix A).

In the late 1970's, the wells of some houses on the west side of town, on the Middleborough border, became contaminated due to a plume of toxic water from the Middleborough landfill. Middleborough extended its town water to 11 Plympton houses, and maintains monitoring of its landfill's impact. To date, the town has had no other major problems with ground or surface water pollution, so there is an opportunity to examine what issues could emerge in

the future and take appropriate actions now to prevent the deterioration of Plympton's water quality and quantity in its aquifers and abundant wetlands. These issues include

- the efficiency of older septic systems that will diminish over time. Title V upgrades will reduce but not eliminate negative impacts on wetlands and groundwater
- the adequacy of current designations for Well protection areas, Flood Plain areas and Aquifer Protection Districts. Plympton's designations for these areas have not been updated over the last decades, but many other towns have similar designations from which we can learn.
- updating septic bylaw requirements to incorporate new technologies while protecting groundwater quality
- monitoring of winter road management practices and materials to assess salt and run-off impacts, especially on shallow wells.
- any other potential impacts that could negatively affect the wells, septic systems and other water -related benefits on which Plympton depends.

4.7.7. ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Plympton does not have any identified Environmental Justice populations. Geographically, Plympton is a small town - about 15 square miles. Today, about 3% of town land is in permanently protected open space- this consists largely of the new 100+ acre park/conservation area in the central/north section of town that has over one mile of trails, as well as the town green, land around the library and town cemetery in the center of town. The Wildlands Trust has two protected parcels as well that provide trail access - in the far north section and along the western edge of town, totalling about 100 acres. In addition, a protected 50 acre town forest on the west side is used for scouting camp-outs, soccer games and other activities. There is a small recreational area for tennis or basketball in the center of town, another small park with a pond , picnic area and short trail along a marsh in the south central section and an area at the school, in the central area, that has extensive playing fields, trails and playground equipment, as well as 82 acres of forests/wetlands adjacent, so each section of town has nearby open spaces for passive or active recreation. Driving from one end of Plympton to the other takes about 10 minutes in any direction, so all of these facilities are a short distance from every place in town.

4.7.8. FORESTRY ISSUES

Much of the Town's undeveloped land is forested, (second on size only to the extensive wetlands.) Forest areas include both wooded swamp and varied wooded uplands mixing pine and hardwoods. The forests are valuable as wildlife habitat, as limited sources of timber, as areas for varied recreation; (camping, hiking and fishing), as water purification and retention areas and as areas to absorb carbon dioxide.

Plympton does not have a town forestry plan. Most of the forests are privately owned and tend to be in comparatively large, but separately owned blocks, particularly north and south of West St., north of Upland Road, south of Maple St., and north of Ring Road. Many of these larger tracts are on lands with cranberry bogs. These are surrounded by roads which often allow wildlife crossing, but more "Form A" (Approval Not Required) development

around these blocks is beginning to isolate the wildlife species in them . 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 have great limitations for septic systems, so many of the new houses in the last 8 years have been adjacent to these wetlands/forest habitats. The increase in solar farms is also causing some of these forests to be removed for solar installations. To date, these projects have been in a former gravel pit, which had fragmented. degraded forests, as well as on cranberry lands, where the forests were established. The advent of commercial solar installations have led to the question of how to encourage and direct solar development through an updated bylaw. In any case, the town itself owns only a modest amount of forest, including about 50 acres next to the Town house as well as the forests in the Parks, so the issue of forestry management per se is not a high priority, but rather one of how best to encourage use and maintenance of the relatively small amount of uplands that exist.

5 - INVENTORY OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS

AN INTRODUCTION TO PLYMPTON'S OPEN SPACES

Since Plympton's first Open Space and Recreational Plan was completed in the 1980's, and through subsequent updates, Plympton residents have consistently rated "preserving Plympton's rural character" as their top priority. For this update in 2016, residents continued to rate preserving the Town's rural character at the top of their list, but ranked "protecting our water resources" a bit higher. This distinction reflects residents' growing concern about the town's dependence on private wells.

Yet it is sometimes hard to convince people that the Town's rural character is threatened by the loss of open space. A drive around town reveals why this may not be evident. Extensive cranberry bogs and other farms, many horse-riding facilities, and a number of old houses with barns and forested acreage along old scenic roads dominate typical Plympton views. What the drive doesn't reveal is how much of this vista is permanently protected – that is, legally preserved in perpetuity. The answer to that is only 3.1% - one of the very lowest in the Commonwealth.

Town committees and volunteer groups are making a concerted effort to provide information to residents about the many direct and indirect benefits that preserving open space provides and about the varied methods available to preserve it. The goal of the Open Space and Recreation

Plan is to document the role that open space plays in meeting the town's environmental, social and economic needs, and to present options for securing those benefits in the future.

The Inventory of Town Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest identifies parcels that fall into one of three categories: 1) permanently protected 2)temporarily protected and 3) unprotected town-owned.

Permanently protected parcels consist of land that is permanently designated for conservation. In Plympton, these parcels are either town-owned and managed by the Conservation Commission, or owned by the Wildlands Trust, a non-profit land trust that serves Southeastern Massachusetts.

Temporarily protected lands are privately-owned parcels which fall under Mass General Law Chapter 61, which restricts the land's use to agriculture, forestry or passive recreation for between 5 and 30 years, in return for substantial reductions in property taxes. These lands can be removed from this status by the owner on a yearly basis, with the town having the first right to buy it. However, the town must complete the purchase within the tax year. A change in Chapter 61 status to convert the land to another use, such as residential development, may have substantial open space impacts.

Unprotected town-owned lands are municipally-owned parcels that are owned for public service purposes, i.e. around schools, libraries, cemeteries etc. Lands the town has received by tax title, or which are "owner unknown" are also listed here. Tax title lands are frequently auctioned off or temporarily retained for potential municipal services. "Owner unknown" parcels are common in long-established towns like Plympton. Fewer "owner-unknown" parcels remain each year, as the Assessor's office continues to verify old deeds and discover current ownership.

As of 2016, the parcels in the Inventory together comprise about 35% of Plympton's 15 square miles. 29.5% of these parcels are Temporarily protected, 2.5% are Unprotected, town-owned and only 3.1 % are Permanently protected by either the town or Wildlands Trust.

Plympton is currently receiving the following benefits from all the open spaces in the town:

- Protection of the water supply/drinking water filtration
- Protection from Stormwater flooding
- Natural cooling from forested areas
- Prevention/Reduction of pollution into ground and surface water and aquifers
- Opportunities for active and passive exercise
- Preservation of Biodiversity and Wildlife corridors, including for endangered/threatened species
- Maintenance of large blocks of healthy natural systems, some of which are ranked by the Massachusetts Heritage program as among the most ecologically valuable in the state

Through collaboration among the town's various land-oriented committees (ie Open Space Committee, Recreation Committee, Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Historical Commission) and related community groups, identifying and reaching out to owners of important open spaces is an ongoing effort. To date, such outreach has produced important results. Two key parcels for our first parks were secured by assisting the landowners. The first parcel of 10 acres was secured by resolving a

long-standing tax issue. The other important section of almost 20 acres was protected by helping the landowner qualify for the state tax rebate program. Each of these parcels acts as the gateway to a landlocked 90 acre parcel of diverse habitats over the Plymouth Aquifer. Together, they now comprise the town's first park which has become a favorite retreat for residents.

Through these experiences, it is clear that helping landowners understand the many tax-friendly and estate planning tools that are available to help them preserve open space is mutually beneficial

The Town manages the Permanent parcels through the Conservation Commission. The management of Unprotected parcels is dispersed among a number of municipal departments, such as the school, library, town hall, cemetery etc. The Temporarily protected parcels are managed by their private owners for the purpose cited in their Chapter 61 designation from the Town. The only Conservation Restriction pertains to Churchill Park. The Wildlands Trust holds that restriction. There are no Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, nor is there any federal or state land in town.

Through collaboration among the Town, local volunteer groups, the schools and library, local non-profits and residents, Plympton is working to secure Open Space benefits for Plympton today and in the future.

| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| OSP Map 5 | MBLU | Acreage | Category | Protection | Current Use | Location | Ownership | Managing Agency | Zoning | Public Access | Access for people with disabilities | Recreation Potential |
| 1 | 13/ 2/ 29/ E/ | 14.73 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | OFF BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 2 | 13/ 2/ 29/ G/ | 7.7 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | OFF BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 3 | 16/ 3/ 8/ 0/ | 32 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | WEST ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 4 | 16/ 4/ 1/ 0/ | 19.87 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | ELM ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 5 | 17/ 5/ 12/ 0/ | 29.14 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | MAYFLOWER RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 6 | 18/ 3/ 3/ 0/ | 25.5 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | MAYFLOWER RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 7 | 2/ 3/ 6/ 0/ | 60.83 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | LAKE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 8 | 20/ 1/ 98/ 0/ | 7 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | PROSPECT RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 9 | 20/ 1/ 99/ 0/ | 57 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | PROSPECT RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 10 | 20/ 2/ 1/ 0/ | 34.17 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | WINNETUXET RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 11 | 22/ 1/ 44/ 0/ | 15.43 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 12 | 22/ 1/ 46/ 0/ | 11.2 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 13 | 4/ 4/ 7/ 0/ | 23 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | LAKE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 14 | 5/ 1/ 11/ 0/ | 15 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 15 | 5/ 1/ 9/ A/ | 13.5 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 16 | 5/ 1/ 9/ B/ | 17.06 | Chapter 61 Land | Temporary | Forestry | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 17 | 15/ 1/ 18/ 0/ | 89.77 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CEDAR ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 18 | 11/ 2/ 13/ 0/ | 51.5 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 19 | 15/ 1/ 33/ / | 8.1 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CEDAR ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 20 | 18/ 3/ 2/ 0/ | 8.56 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAYFLOWER RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 21 | 2/ 1/ 13/ 0/ | 181.15 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 22 | 4/ 1/ 9/ 0/ | 12.4 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 23 | 16/ 3/ 3/ 0/ | 7.85 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | WEST ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 24 | 2/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 5.3 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | COUNTY RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 25 | 4/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 16.5 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 26 | 13/ 1/ 16/ 0/ | 3.07 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | UPLAND RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 27 | 18/ 3/ 19/ 0/ | 36.55 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | COLCHESTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 28 | 18/ 6/ 16/ A/ | 8.03 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 29 | 20/ 1/ 27/ 0/ | 73.92 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | PROSPECT RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 30 | 21/ 1/ 14/ A/ | 4.54 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | WINNETUXET RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 31 | 23/ 3/ 15/ 0/ | 32.4 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | PROSPECT RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 32 | 3/ 2/ 13/ 0/ | 10.13 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | LAKE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 33 | 3/ 2/ 8/ 0/ | 108.9 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | LAKE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 34 | 8/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 14.6 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | RING RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 35 | 10/ 1/ 5/ 0/ | 83.05 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 36 | 11/ 2/ 8/ 0/ | 7.25 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 37 | 17/ 2/ 2/ 0/ | 33.69 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | ELM ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 38 | 17/ 2/ 6/ 0/ | 25 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | ELM ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 39 | 22/ 1/ 47/ 0/ | 57.7 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAYFLOWER RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 40 | 3/ 1/ 3/ 0/ | 10.51 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | LAKE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 41 | 6/ 2/ 4/ 0/ | 14.1 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAPLE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|---------|
| 42 | 8/ 1/ 25/ A/ | 115 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | RING RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 43 | 18/ 6/ 18/ 0/ | 13.02 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 44 | 12/ 4/ 24/ 0/ | 183.23 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 45 | 13/ 1/ 17/ 0/ | 15.7 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | UPLAND RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 46 | 18/ 6/ 9/ A/ | 75.21 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 47 | 19/ 1/ 5/ 0/ | 35.67 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | OFF BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 48 | 21/ 4/ 7/ 0/ | 123.58 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 49 | 21/ 5/ 17/ 0/ | 32.1 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | PLEASANT ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 50 | 22/ 1/ 52/ 0/ | 116.62 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 51 | 21/ 5/ 7/ 0/ | 2.27 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 52 | 12/ 1/ 13/ A/ | 10.49 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 53 | 12/ 1/ 5/ 0/ | 23.8 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 54 | 12/ 2/ 5/ 0/ | 14.57 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 55 | 12/ 3/ 7/ 0/ | 24.78 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 56 | 13/ 2/ 29/ D/ | 202.01 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | UPLAND RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 57 | 13/ 2/ 31/ 0/ | 12.75 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 58 | 14/ 2/ 24/ A/ | 24.89 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 59 | 16/ 2/ 8/ 0/ | 76 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CROSS ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 60 | 18/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 10.24 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | BROOK ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 61 | 18/ 3/ 8/ A/ | 1.5 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | COLCHESTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 62 | 21/ 4/ 8/ A/ | 19.27 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | PLEASANT ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 63 | 6/ 1/ 4/ 0/ | 45.1 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 64 | 8/ 1/ 29/ 0/ | 20.82 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | RING RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 65 | 12/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 9.5 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | PALMER RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 66 | 12/ 2/ 25/ 0/ | 43.57 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 67 | 12/ 4/ 19/ 0/ | 38.6 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 68 | 21/ 1/ 23/ 0/ | 14.7 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | WINNETUXET RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 69 | 8/ 2/ 29/ 0/ | 41 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | RING RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 70 | 11/ 1/ 11/ 0/ | 15 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CENTER ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 71 | 12/ 3/ 8/ 0/ | 3.04 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CRESCENT ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 72 | 12/ 5/ 1/ 0/ | 19.3 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | CRESCENT ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 73 | 24/ 3/ 1/ 0/ | 14.36 | Chapter 61A Land | Temporary | Agricultural | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | Unknown |
| 74 | 10/ 1/ 4/ 0/ | 10 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | WEST ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 75 | 12/ 2/ 20/ 0/ | 6.74 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 76 | 24/ 1/ 1/ 0/ | 14.93 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | PROSPECT RD | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 77 | 7/ 3/ 2/ 0/ | 27.51 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 78 | 23/ 2/ 97/ 0/ | 25.01 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | SOULE ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 79 | 17/ 6/ 5/ 0/ | 7.66 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | MAIN ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |
| 80 | 22/ 1/ 48/ 0/ | 9.68 | Chapter 61B Land | Temporary | Passive Recreation | PLEASANT ST | Private landowner | Private landowner | RA | No | No | High |

| OSP Map 5 ID | MBLU | PID | Name of Site | Category | Protection | Acres | Location | Ownership | Managing Agency | Zoning | Current Use | Public Access | Access for people with disabilities | Recreation & Open Space Potential | Funding/Grant | Deed Restrictions | Condition |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 81 | 7 / 3 / 8 | 2033 | Churchill Park | Protected Public | Permanent | 10.8 | 0 Main Street | Town Owned, Conservation | Plympton Conservation Commission | RA | Passive Recreation: hiking, birding | Yes | No | Currently used | Community Preservation Act funds | Article 97: Conservation Restriction 2016 held by Wildlands Trust | Excellent |
| 82 | 8 / 2 / 28 | 2083 | Cato's Ridge | Protected Public | Permanent | 77 | 0 Ring Rd | Town Owned, Conservation | Plympton Conservation Commission | RA | Passive Recreation: hiking, birding | Yes | No | Currently used | N/A | Article 97 | Excellent |
| 83 | 8 / 2 / 30 | 2624 | O'Neil Marsh | Protected Public | Permanent | 16.7 | 0 Ring Rd | Town Owned, Conservation | Plympton Conservation Commission | RA | Passive Recreation: hiking, birding | Yes | No | Currently used | Donated | Deed restriction to Conservation Commission.. state tax refund program and Article 97 | Excellent |
| 84 | 13 / 2 / 1 | 1819 | Dennett Elementary School Conservation Lands | Protected Public | Permanent | 82 | 0 Upland Rd | Town Owned, Conservation | Plympton Conservation Commission | RA | Potential passive recreation: wildlife habitat | Pending | No | High | Massachusetts Self Help Grant in 1973 | Deed restriction to Conservation Commission and Article 97 | Very Good |
| 85 | 15 / 1 / 1 | 1297 | Winnetuxet River Preserve | Protected Nonprofit | Permanent | 16.5 | 0 West St | Wildlands Trust | Wildlands Trust | RA | Habitat and Water Protection | No | No | No | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 86 | 2 / 1 / 15 | 2198 | Person Preserve | Protected Nonprofit | Permanent | 42.26 | 0 Oak Street | Wildlands Trust | Wildlands Trust | RA | Passive Recreation--hiking, birding | Yes | No | Currently used | N/A | N/A | Very Good |
| 89 | 10 / 1 / 1 | 1648 | Harry Jason Junior Memorial Park | Protected Public | Permanent | 53.2 | 0 Center St | Town Owned | Plympton Recreation Commission | RA | Conservation and Recreation | Yes | No | Currently used | CPA funds used for field restoration | Article 97: Perpetual protection under open space and recreation committees | Excellent |
| UNPROTECTED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | 17 / 6 / 27 | 1482 | Town Green | Unprotected Town-owned | Low | 2 | 0 Main St | Town Owned | Public Space | RA | Passive Recreation | Yes | Limited | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 88 | 17 / 6 / 1 | 1451 | Town Cemetery | Unprotected Town-owned | Moderate | 14 | 0 Main St | Town Owned | Highway Department | RA | Passive recreation | Yes | Limited | No | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 90 | 21 / 3 / 7 | 1182 | Old Plympton Cotton Factory | Public Recreation | Moderate | 13 | 0 Winnetuxet Rd | Town Owned | Plympton Recreation Commission | RA | Passive Recreation: fishing, hiking | Yes | No | Currently used | CPA funds used for restoration | N/A | Very Good |
| 91 | 17 / 4 / 9 | 1434 | Parsonage Road Basketball and tennis courts | Public Recreation Facilities | Moderate | 1.5 | 0 Parsonage Rd | Town Owned | Plympton Recreation Commission | RA | Active Recreation: basketball and tennis | Yes | No | Currently used | CPA funds used for restoration | N/A | Excellent |
| 92 | 8 / 1 / 16 | 2053 | Dennett Elementary School | Public Recreation Facilities | Low | 10 | 80 Crescent St | Town of Plympton / School | Dennett School Dept. | RA | Active Recreation--playgrounds, tot lot, basketball, soccer, softball field, walking path | Yes, but limited hours | Limited | High | Town funds paid for walking path | N/A | Excellent |
| 93 | 17 / 2 / 17 | 1421 | Town Forest | Unprotected Town-owned | Low | 9.4 | 23 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 94 | 24 / 1 / 2 | 1060 | Tobey Lane Path | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5.8 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Wetlands |
| 95 | 17 / 2 / 16 | 1420 | Holt Memorial Field (PU-5) | Public Recreation Facilities | Low | 5.9 | 5 Palmer Street | Town of Plympton | Recreation Commission | RA | Active Recreation--Baseball fields | Yes | No | Currently Used | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 96 | 17 / 2 / 13 | 1417 | Holt Memorial Field | Public Recreation Facilities | Low | 2.1 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | Recreation Commission | RA | Active Recreation--Baseball fields | Yes | No | Currently Used | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 97 | 12 / 4 / 25 | 1798 | Old Town Hall | Partially Protected | High | 2.21 | 189 Main Street | Town of Plympton | Historical Society | RA | Civic Events | Yes | Yes | Currently Used | CPA funds for ADA access | N/A | Good |
| 98 | 3/2/2006 | 2240 | Silver Lake Chapel | Non-Profit | Low | 2.75 | 33 Lake Street | Silver Lake Chapel | Silver Lake Chapel | RA | Religious Events | Yes | Yes | No | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 99 | 8 / 1 / 4 | 2042 | Transfer Station | Town-Owned Land | Low | 16 | 100 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Highway Department | RA | Disposal | Yes | No | No | N/A | N/A | Very Good |
| 100 | 6 / 3 / 8 | 1968 | Maple Street Properties Block #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5.16 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 101 | 6 / 3 / 13 | 1971 | Maple Street Properties Block #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 102 | 6 / 3 / 14 | 1972 | Maple Street Properties Block #3 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 6.47 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 103 | 11 / 5 / 1 | 1705 | Palmer Road Properties Block #4 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5.5 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 104 | 11 / 5 / 11 | 1714 | Palmer Road Properties Block #5 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 16.22 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 107 | 22 / 3 / 1 | 1274 | Spring Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.4 | 0 Spring Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 108 | 18 / 4 / 12 | 1545 | Churchill Road #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 0.9 | 0 Churchill Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 109 | 12 / 2 / 2 | 1741 | Center Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1.75 | 0 Center Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 110 | 12 / 2 / 3 | 1742 | Center Street #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1.8 | 0 Center Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 111 | 7 / 1 / 3 | 1973 | Main Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 0.92 | 0 Main Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 112 | 4 / 1 / 2 | 2096 | Main Street #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 26.7 | 0 Main Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 113 | 17 / 2 / 15 | 1419 | Plympton Library | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1 | 248 Main Street | Town of Plympton | Library | RA | Library | Yes | Yes | No | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 114 | 12 / 1 / 6 | 1726 | Main Street #3 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 7.31 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 115 | 14 / 2 / 26 | 1947 | Brook Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.05 | 0 Brook St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Low | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 116 | 7 / 1 / 34 | 1994 | Maple Street #4 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.4 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 117 | 8 / 1 / 17 | 2054 | Crescent Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.75 | 0 Crescent St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 119 | 23 / 10 / 96 | 1055 | Unknown location #1 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 3 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 120 | 24 / 10 / 98 | 1081 | Unknown location #2 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 10 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 121 | 20 / 1 / 95 | 1113 | Unknown location #3 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 122 | 21 / 10 / 99 | 1207 | Unknown location #4 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1.75 | 0 Winnetuxet Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 123 | 15 / 10 / 92 | 1333 | Unknown location #5 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 2 | 0 West Street | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 124 | 11 / 10 / 92 | 1718 | Unknown location #6 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 5 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 125 | 11 / 10 / 97 | 1720 | Unknown location #7 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1 | 0 Center St | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 126 | 8 / 10 / 93 | 2085 | Unknown location #8 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 4 | 0 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 127 | 8 / 10 / 94 | 2086 | Unknown location #9 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 25 | 0 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 128 | 7 / 1 / 5 | 2437 | Unknown location #10 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 0.95 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 129 | 16 / 10 / 95 | 1388 | Unknown #11 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 8 | 0 Cross Street | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |

| OSP Map 5 ID | MBLU | PID | Name of Site | Category | Protection | Acreage | Location | Ownership | Managing Agency | Zoning | Current Use | Public Access | Access for people with disabilities | Recreation & Open Space Potential | Funding/Grant | Deed Restrictions | Condition |
|--------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 95 | 17 / 2 / 16 | 1420 | Holt Memorial Field (PU-S) | Public Recreation Facilities | Low | 5.9 | 5 Palmer Street | Town of Plympton | Recreation Commission | RA | Active Recreation--Baseball fields | Yes | No | Currently Used | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 96 | 17 / 2 / 13 | 1417 | Holt Memorial Field | Public Recreation Facilities | Low | 2.1 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | Recreation Commission | RA | Active Recreation--Baseball fields | Yes | No | Currently Used | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 97 | 12 / 4 / 25 | 1798 | Old Town Hall | Partially Protected | High | 2.21 | 189 Main Street | Town of Plympton | Historical Society | RA | Civic Events | Yes | Yes | Currently Used | CPA funds for ADA access | N/A | Good |
| 98 | 3/2/2006 | 2240 | Silver Lake Chapel | Non-Profit | Low | 2.75 | 33 Lake Street | Silver Lake Chapel | Silver Lake Chapel | RA | Religious Events | Yes | Yes | No | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 99 | 8 / 1 / 4 | 2042 | Transfer Station | Town-Owned Land | Low | 16 | 100 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Highway Department | RA | Disposal | Yes | No | No | N/A | N/A | Very Good |
| 100 | 6 / 3 / 8 | 1968 | Maple Street Properties Block #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5.16 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 101 | 6 / 3 / 13 | 1971 | Maple Street Properties Block #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 102 | 6 / 3 / 14 | 1972 | Maple Street Properties Block #3 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 6.47 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 103 | 11 / 5 / 1 | 1705 | Palmer Road Properties Block #4 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 5.5 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 104 | 11 / 5 / 11 | 1714 | Palmer Road Properties Block #5 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 16.22 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 107 | 22 / 3 / 1 | 1274 | Spring Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.4 | 0 Spring Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 108 | 18 / 4 / 12 | 1545 | Churchill Road #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 0.9 | 0 Churchill Rd | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 109 | 12 / 2 / 2 | 1741 | Center Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1.75 | 0 Center Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 110 | 12 / 2 / 3 | 1742 | Center Street #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1.8 | 0 Center Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 111 | 7 / 1 / 3 | 1973 | Main Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 0.92 | 0 Main Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 112 | 4 / 1 / 2 | 2096 | Main Street #2 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 26.7 | 0 Main Street | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 113 | 17 / 2 / 15 | 1419 | Plympton Library | Town-Owned Land | Low | 1 | 248 Main Street | Town of Plympton | Library | RA | Library | Yes | Yes | No | N/A | N/A | Excellent |
| 114 | 12 / 1 / 6 | 1726 | Main Street #3 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 7.31 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 115 | 14 / 2 / 26 | 1947 | Brook Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.05 | 0 Brook St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Low | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 116 | 7 / 1 / 34 | 1994 | Maple Street #4 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.4 | 0 Maple St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | Moderate | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 117 | 8 / 1 / 17 | 2054 | Crescent Street #1 | Town-Owned Land | Low | 2.75 | 0 Crescent St | Town of Plympton | None | RA | None | No | No | High | N/A | N/A | Good |
| 119 | 23 / 10 / 96 | 1055 | Unknown location #1 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 3 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 120 | 24 / 10 / 98 | 1081 | Unknown location #2 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 10 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 121 | 20 / 1 / 95 | 1113 | Unknown location #3 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1 | 0 Prospect Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 122 | 21 / 10 / 99 | 1207 | Unknown location #4 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1.75 | 0 Winnetuxet Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 123 | 15 / 10 / 92 | 1333 | Unknown location #5 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 2 | 0 West Street | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 124 | 11 / 10 / 92 | 1718 | Unknown location #6 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 5 | 0 Palmer Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 125 | 11 / 10 / 97 | 1720 | Unknown location #7 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 1 | 0 Center St | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 126 | 8 / 10 / 93 | 2085 | Unknown location #8 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 4 | 0 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 127 | 8 / 10 / 94 | 2086 | Unknown location #9 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 25 | 0 Ring Rd | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 128 | 7 / 1 / 5 | 2437 | Unknown location #10 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 0.95 | 0 Main St | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |
| 129 | 16 / 10 / 95 | 1388 | Unknown #11 | Town-Owned Land Unknown location | Low | 8 | 0 Cross Street | Town of Plympton | Town of Plympton | Unknown | None, currently | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | Unknown |

PROTECTED TOWN-OWNED PARCELS

NOTE: Of the five parcels below that are now permanently protected, only the Dennett School parcel and Harry Jason Park were so designated in 2009.

81) Churchill Park

Location: Off Main St, opposite Maple St intersection Acreage: 10.8 Access: small parking lot and trailheads Signage: Park sign near parking lot Soils and Vegetation: Predominantly lowland areas with poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, dominated by Red maple, Black Gum, etc. Small corridor of upland soils is likely characterized by a 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. Land is in BioMap Estimated and Priority Habitat. Uses: passive recreation Ownership: Conservation Commission, Town of Plympton Degree of Protection Permanent, via vote of 2012 Town Meeting, CPA funds and

conservation restriction with Wildlands Trust: Comments: hiking trails through pine woods and marshes connect to long boardwalk to Cato's Ridge Conservation Area



82) Cato's Ridge Conservation Area

Location: East of Main St., via Churchill Park, south of powerlines, north of O'Neil Marsh and Ring Road. Acreage: 77 Access: From Main St. via Churchill Park or from Ring Road entrance to the Parks, via O'Neil Marsh. Signage: Park Signs at Churchill Park parking lot and at Ring Road entrance Soils and Vegetation: Approximately half is wet, including bogs and a former bog pond; remainder is upland mixed forest Uses: Passive Recreation and wildlife habitat, water protection over Plymouth-Carver Aquifer Ownership: Conservation Commission Town of Plympton Degree of Protection: Permanent, via vote of 2012 Town Meeting and Article 97 status. Comments: Various trails through site, some of which date back 150 years, provide extensive hiking opportunities. Cato's Ridge area adds interest and variety to terrain due to its hills and glacial terrain; a 600 foot boardwalk commemorating Plympton families and friends connects the Ridge area to Churchill Park; Benches on the Boardwalk and throughout the Ridge Area invite people to stay and enjoy the area. In Bio map area



O'Neil Marsh in autumn

83) O'Neil Marsh

Location: north of Ring Road, Acreage:16.8 Access:via path in from Ring Road Signage: at top of path near Ring Road: Soils and Vegetation: Originally was a large meadow used for haying, then cranberry bogs til 1960's, since then a natural marsh Uses:paths border three sides of the marsh for walking and birding Ownership: Conservation Commission Town of Plympton Degree of Protection:Permanent via deed of gift in 2015, using Mass Tax Refund program and Article 97 status. Comments: connects to Cato's Ridge area.

84) Dennett Elementary School Conservation Lands

Location; Runs behind Dennett elementary, Crescent Street, and Ring Road.Acreage: 82 Signage: none as of 2016 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: passive recreation, hiking, wetlands. This parcel is bordered almost entirely by existing private homes, as well as cranberry bogs. Ownership: Town of Plympton, Conservation Commission Degree of Protection: High, held by Plympton's Conservation Commission (Recorded at Registry of Deeds in 2015, to record 1973 vote of Town meeting) Land was partially acquired with Self-Help state grant funds. Comments: This parcel has value for recreational use, and is quite scenic. Hiking/walking trails will be added in 2017. Size of parcel, and proximity to Jones River Brook, make it an important wildlife habitat. In BioMap area

89. Harry Jason Junior Memorial Park

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. Acreage: 53.2 Access: off Center Street; via a dirt drive to grass parking area and turn-around. Signage: Signed on Center Street. Soils and Vegetation: Site is largely in an Estimated and Priority Habitat Restrictions: Portions (<50%) along the Colchester Brook and its floodplains come under the Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts. Upland soils are likely characterized by a 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 the rear of the site. Uses: Since the 2009 Plan, two rough clearings have been converted, using CPA grant funds, to large grassed fields. These are now used primarily for Scouting activities, including camping and field days, family outings and informal soccer games, for which goals are in place. Extensive woodlands extending to the River remain in place behind and next to fields, the woodlands have an old trail that was created by some Scouts 10 years ago. There is great potential for hiking, expanded camping, community events and perhaps some river access. Ownership: Town of Plympton Open Space and Recreation Committee Degree of Protection: Permanent,, was gifted to the town in 1999; a deed restriction on the property limits use to passive recreation and open space as Recreation land and Article 97 status. Comments: This is used primarily by the Scouts as a camping and field skills site. Using CPA funds, the fields were completely renovated in 2013. There is also a network of hiking trails through the woodlands that needs to be renovated. 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). Adjacent to Ch. 61 lands.

PROTECTED NON-PROFIT PARCELS

85) The Wildlands Trust's Winnetuxet River Preserve

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 the road. Rear abuts a little over 200' of the Winnetuxet River. This parcel is for wildlife protection and does not have formal trails. Acreage: 16.5 Description: 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 the preservation/enhancement of wildlife habitat. 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: Habitat and water protection Ownership: Wildlands Trust 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. Several large (un-certified) vernal pools. Extensive wetlands connected to the floodplain of the Winnetuxet. Dense thickets of white pine in upland sections. Many large American Holly Trees. Some views of the Winnetuxet River floodplain and stream channel. Very high value as wildlife habitat. Recommendations: Encourage Trust to acquire streamside property to the 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.



86) Wildlands Trust's Person Preserve

Location, Access, Parking: Frontage on west side of Oak Street, near Lake Street intersection. Acreage: 42.26 Description: Wetlands and mixed woodlands with significant habitat diversity. Close to the Peterson Swamp WMA in Halifax Signage: Green Wildlands Trust "Person Preserve" sign at pull off area, small white Wildlands signage along trail, and No ATV sign at entrance. 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: Oak-hemlock-white pine forest and wetland areas of red maple swamp, and black gum Uses: Passive recreation; birding, hiking Ownership: Wildlands Trust Degree of Protection: High (Permanent) Comments: Former Ch. 61 forestry land. To the south abuts a large clearing on Lake Street used for farming.

UNPROTECTED TOWN-OWNED PARCELS, PROVIDING CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND OTHER OPEN SPACE USES



87 & 88) The Town Green/Common and Hillcrest Cemetery

Location: In the Center of Plympton, along Main Street and next to Palmer Rd. Acreage: 2 & 14 Description: The Green is long & narrow with trees, lawn, a flag pole and a bandstand setting the character of the community, with historic houses adjacent to it. The historic cemetery is adjacent to the north Access: Access is off Main Street with parking in cemetery roads or at nearby town buildings Signage: Minimal .Restrictions: In BioMap Area

90) The Old Cotton Factory Historic site, with fishing pond

Location, Access, Parking : Property fronts Route 58 and Winnetuxet Road. Developed access (gravel drive, turn-around) on Winnetuxet Road; small parking area.Acreage: 16 Description: An impounded diversion of the Winnetuxet River contained by earthen berms and drained back the river. A large marsh with small trail on north side Facilities: Small parking area, two picnic tables under pine trees, a renovated small pond for fishing. An mid-20th century small dam and control structure adjacent to the picnic area impounds the river to the east. Trail connects to the dam. Signage: Historic sign marker - The Cotton Factory, with history described Restrictions: Sizable portions (~50%) of the property are along Winnetuxet River and its associated wetlands and are subject to the applicable Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts. Soils and Vegetation: Mostly lowland

riparian. Poorly drained peat-type soils common in local wetlands, the overstory 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, Degree of Protection: Town property, 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 created decades ago as a “swimming pond”, that is now designated as a fishing hole, with a small picnic area alongside a dam and waterfall. Scenic, pleasant spot with recreational access for picnicking, fishing, walking. It is also important ecologically to preserve the riparian area associated with the river. Property received a CPA grant via the Recreation Commission in 2013 to renovate the old pond into a fishing hole, restore the picnic area and gravel drive and create a walking path around the pond. Also erected a historic sign as the site of the former Cotton Factory in the 19th Century.

91) Parsonage Road Courts

Location, Access, Parking: On Parsonage Road just south of Town Center next to a new heavy commercial building but remote from housing; parking along road Acreage: 1.3 acres Description: Small playing Court for basketball that can be converted to tennis court Signage: At courtside. 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. Site was totally renovated with CPA funds in 2014, now regularly used.



Some of the recreational facilities at Dennett Elementary School

92) Dennett Elementary School

Location, Access, Parking: Via Dennett Elementary School driveway off of Crescent Street and Ring Road; much parking between school and soccer field. Acreage: Listed as 10.5 acres, mapped as 30 acres, and scales as close to 30 acres. Signage: Yes; on Crescent Street Restrictions: When school is not in session, and the facility is not being used for sports or 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 and 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; and a soccer field, softball field, and new small tot lot south of the school. Ownership: Town of Plympton Degree of Protection: Moderate. Though unlikely, town could close school and sell property if needs changed greatly

93) Town Forest

Location, Access, Parking: Palmer Road, west of Town Hall and east of new Highway Barn Acreage: 9.4 Signage: none Restrictions: None . 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 from Palmer Road and near Town Center, land has open space value by being connected to 61A land to the south.

94) Tobey Lane Path

Restrictions: Land is classified as wetlands by town; 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 Acreage: 5.8 Location: 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. 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 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.

95 & 96) Holt Memorial Field

Location, Access, Parking: Junction of Palmer Street and Main Street, next to Town Hall, police station and library, parking on site. Acreage: 8.0 acres. Total site, with an estimated 3 acres of playfields. Description: Multi-purpose playground / ballfield Facilities: Little League field, T Ball field, four picnic benches, and a concession stand. Uses: Actively used baseballs fields Ownership Town/Recreation Commission Degree of Protection: low,

Comments: Valuable multi-purpose space with the advantage of overall centrality and availability compared to the Dennett School playground, Transfer control to Recreation Commission if necessary.

97) Old Town Hall/Historic Society

Location and Access: Site fronts on Main St., across from Center Street and abuts private property on three sides Acreage: 19,800 Sq. Ft. Signage:by roadside Restrictions: Historic site Soils and Vegetation: Mostly cleared land and sand. Uses: Civic events in Old Town Hall and with Historical Society Ownership/Management: Town and Plympton Historical Society Degree of Protection: Under Town control Comments: Maintain current use, a CPA grant in 2012 was used to create ADA access to all parts of the building



98) Silver Lake Chapel

Location: Property fronts on Lake Street and backs onto major bogs. Access: From Lake Street Acreage: 2.75 Signage: Small Chapel Sign Restrictions: Unknown. Most of the 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

99) Transfer Station

Location: South of Ring Road; north of extensive Ch.61A bog land. Acreage: 16 Access: From Ring Road Signage: Facility identification sign 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

100, 101, & 102) Maple Street Properties Block #1

Restrictions: Portions (~50+%) of the property are wetlands and would be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act .Acreage: 5.05, 5.0, 6.47 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 BioMap Estimated and Priority Habitat. Uses: none Ownership: Town/Tax Title Comments: Some uplands present, which may be buildable. Use for affordable/senior housing? Alternatively, if combined with two adjoining properties along Palmer Road (Palmer Road Properties Block #1) could be grouped into one large tract that would be valuable as wildlife habitat, wetlands, and for preserving rural feel of the community.

103 & 104) Palmer Road Properties Block #2

Location and Access: Properties along Palmer Road. No developed access. Acreage: 5.05, 5.0, 6.47 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 a 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 BioMap Estimated and Priority Habitat. Uses: None Ownership: Town/Tax Title Degree of Protection: Low Comments: May have some upland for use for affordable/senior housing. 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 the community.

105) Prospect Road #1: Middleborough/Carver Line Property

Location and Access: Off Prospect Street, on Middleborough and Carver town lines. Access is limited, with no frontage on Prospect.Acreage: 9.7 Signage: None 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.

107) Spring Street

Location & Access: Both parcels front on Spring Street and are accessible over power line easement Acreage: 1.3 and 1.13 Zoning: Industrial Restrictions: none Uses: none Ownership: Town of Plympton Degree of Protection: low Recommendations: None at present.

108) Churchill Road

Location and Access: Frontage on Churchill Road Acreage: 19,800 Sq. Ft Signage: None Zoning: Residential/Agricultural Restrictions: There is a possible pond on lot; and a brook through site. Soils and Vegetation Streamside plants and trees Uses: None -unbuildable lot Ownership/Management: Town/Tax title Degree of Protection: low Comments: A brook runs through the property. Recommendations: Turn over to the Conservation Commission as a small neighborhood natural area

109 & 110) Center Street

Location and Access: Frontage on Center St. Acreage: 1/7 of an acres and 1 1/2 acres Signage: None Zoning: Residential/Agricultural Restrictions: None known Soils and Vegetation: Young forest and sand Uses: site of Old town barn and woods dump Ownership/Management: Town Degree of Protection: low Comments: Rear of lot was used by Highway Dept. to dump wood, steel barrels, culvert piping and refuse.

111) Main Street

Location and Access: Site fronts on Main St. for access and abuts private property on three sides Acreage: 41,277 Sq. Ft. 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 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 Maple St. block 1, given access easements. Recommendations: Define and explore possibilities with abutters.

112) Main St.

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 landlocked Acreage: 26.7 acres 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 Comments: Possible open space /habitat



113) Town Library

Location and Access: on Palmer Road, in town building complex, opposite intersection with

Main St. Acreage:1 Signage: opposite intersection in road, at front of lawn Ownership and

Management: Town of Plympton, Library Board of Trustees Degree of Protection: Low

Comments: The library serves as Plympton's social center. It sponsors a variety of educational and social networking programs throughout the year, in addition to maintaining a diverse array of books, magazines and online literature and other services for local residents.

114 - 117) Town-owned parcels, inaccessible; These are small, town-owned parcels with known locations (see map) of mixed habitats with low/moderate value for various open space purposes, not accessible

119 - 129) Town-owned parcels, in unknown location

There are scattered town-owned properties with unknown locations, according to the Assessor. Most are less than 5 acres in size.



5.5 CHAPTERS 61, 61A AND 61B

Selected Lands under Present Use Taxation

Please note: The numbers below starting with 5.5 refer to that section's description in the 2009 Plan. The text and assessor parcel numbers have been updated, but sometimes retain cross-references to former town assessment parcel/block numbers, which may be useful for location purposes.

1 & 2) 5.5.16

Location: West of Brook St. Acreage: 14.73 acres & 7.7 Acres 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.

3) 5.5.22

Assessors' Numbers: 16-3-8 (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 the tributary to the Winnetuxet River.

4) 5.5.9

Assessors Numbers: 16-4-1 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 the edge of Estimated Habitat and Priority Habitat land to the east.

5) 5.5.27

Assessor's Numbers: 17-5-12 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.

6) 5.5.6

Assessor's Numbers: 18/3/3, 18/3/4, 18/3/5 (includes adjacent 11,200 square foot sliver) Acreage: 24, 11,200 sq ft., 6 for 25.5 acres Location: 73 Mayflower Rd. Use: woods and private residence Notable features: The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities.

7) 5.5.37

Assessor's Numbers: 2-3-6 Acreage: 39 acres per map, but 60.82 acres on Assessor's 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.

8) 5.5.55

Assessors' Numbers: 20-1-10 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

9) 5.5.56

Assessors' Numbers: 20-1-99 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 (Tobey's Lane area) 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

10) 5.5.29

Assessors Numbers: 20-2-1

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.

11 & 12) 5.5.45

Assessor's Numbers: 22-1-44, 15.427 Acres, 43= 11.2 Acres 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 lines and many miles of riding paths. Abuts 9+ acres of unclassified woodland under the same ownership.

13) 5.5.35

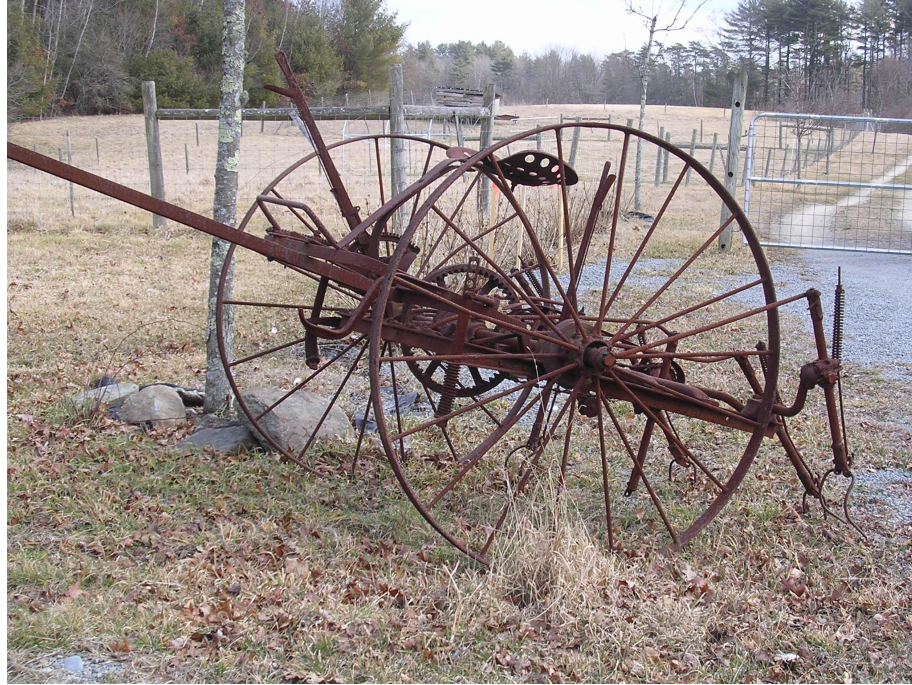
Assessor's Numbers: 4-4-7, Acreage: 25 Location: East of narrow frontage on Lake Street
Use: Private residence on retreat style lot mostly cleared with some woods, including uplands
Notable features: Adjacent to other 61A parcels on three sides. Jones River Brook runs along the southern edge of it.

14) 5.5.31

Assessors' Numbers: 5-1-11 Acreage: 15 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 #16 below and with joint management of intervening elderly housing open space in cooperation with the South Shore Housing Development Corp.

15) 5.5.32

Assessor's Numbers: 5-1-9A 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.



16) 5.5.33

Assessor's Numbers: 5-1-9 Acreage: 17.06 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 (#14-26 acres) to east and the 13.5 acre #15 parcel to the west. North side abuts Jones River Brook.

17) 5.5.53

Assessors' Numbers: 15-1-18 Acres: 89.77 acres Parcel lines are obscure to the 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.

18) Assessor's Numbers: 11-2-13 Acreage: 51.5 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. (Also see #36)

19) Assessor's Numbers: 15-1-33 Acreage 8.1 acres, Location Cedar St. Use: cranberry bogs with small farm shed

20) 5.5.7

Assessor's Numbers: 18-3-2 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.

21) 5.5.41

Assessor's Numbers: 2-1-13 Acreage: 181.15 acres 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.

22) Assessor's Numbers: 4-1-9- Acreage: 12.4 acres Location: County Rd Use: crops for sale, CSA & farm stand-Billingsgate Farm, Notable features: fields are parallel to County Rd, with long stone wall; contributes to town's rural character

23) 5.5.30

Assessor's Numbers: 16-3-3 Acreage: 7.85 Location: 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 the house.

24) Assessor's Numbers: 2-1-1-0 Acreage: 5.3 Location: County Rd Use: crops

25) Assessor's Numbers: 4-1-1-0 Acreage: 16.5 Location: Main St Use: Orchards and small house



26) 5.5.17

Assessor's Numbers: 12-4-24; 13-1-16; 13-1-17 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 Colchester Brook oriented trail system in conjunction with site

27) 5.5.5

Assessor's Numbers: 18-3-19, 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.

28) 5.5.3 & 5.5.4

Assessors' Numbers: 18-6-16 and 18-6-16A Acreage: 8.03 + 8.02 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. Notable features: the property contains a significant open field and pond. The property abuts significant, privately-owned open space amenities

29) 5.5.19

Assessors' Numbers: 20-1-27

Acreage: 73.92 on Assessor's list; Parcel runs into unlisted land (B2-1-97 and 98) and land of Poole (B2-1-99). But on map B-1 the same land is shown as B1-2-98. Assessors explain that the 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 Floodplain.

30) Assessor Number 21-1-14A. Acreage: 4.54 Acres, Location: Winnetuxet Rd Uses: forage and small crops

31) 5.5.54

Assessors' Numbers: 23-5-15-0, Acres:32.4, Location: East of Prospect Road, south of Tobey Lane. Uses: Cranberry bogs and related upland Notable Features: Directly across from parcel 20-1-27 noted above.

32) 5.6.39.1, 5.6.39.2 5.5.39

Assessor's Numbers: 3-2-13 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 the south of the same owner. East side extends into Kingston and fronts on Kingston's West Street.

33) 5.5.38

Assessor's Numbers: 3-2-8 Acreage: 108.9 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.

34) Assessor's Number 8-1-1, Acreage 14.6, Location: Ring Road, Uses: cranberries and forage , bordered by white pine uplands

35) 5.5.24

Assessors' Numbers: 10-1-5 Acreage: 83.05 Location: Center St Uses: wood and crops; Notable Features: 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

36) 5.5.2

Assessor's Number 11-2-8-0, Acreage 7.25, Location 94 Center ST at Palmer Rd,
Uses: Garden Center/agricultural with retail sales (Sunrise Gardens) and residence; Notable
Features: Gardens and greenhouses contribute to the agricultural and rural context of the
community, important component of town's working agriculture (Also see #18)

37) 5.5.20

Assessors' Numbers: 17-2-2 Acreage: 33.69 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

38) Assessor's Number: 17-2-6-0 Acreage: 25, Location: Elm St, Uses: working sheep farm,
Notable Features: extensive enclosed fields, bordered by stonewalls at street, with deep
recessed mixed hardwood and pine forest, with farmhouse and red barn, typifies town's rural
character

39) 5.5.52

Assessors' Numbers: 22-1-47 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.

40) 5.5.57

Assessors' Numbers: 3-1-3, 20-1-99 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.

41) Assessor's Number 6-2-4-0, Acreage: 14.1, Location: Maple St, Uses: wood production
Notable features: house is one of oldest in town

42) 5.5.18

Assessors' Numbers: 8-1- 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

43) Assessor's number 18-6-18, Acreage 13.02, Location: Brook St Uses: Pasture and barn

44) Assessor's number 12-4-24-0; See number 26

45) Assessor's number 13-1-17-0; See number 26

46) 5.5.44

Assessor's Numbers: 18-6-9A, Acreage 75.23. 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 lines 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.

47) 5.5.47

Assessor's Numbers: 19-1-5, Acres: 35.67 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.

48) 5.5.25

Assessor's Numbers: 21-4-6, 21/4/7, 21/4/8, 21/4/9, 21/4/11 Acreage: 123.58 acres listed under 21-4-7 (which is mapped as only 30.01 acres alone). Individual mapped parcels add up to 116.73 acres. Boundaries are uncertain.

21/4/6 --15.75 acres; 21/4/7--30.01 acres; 21/4/8-26.82 acres; 21/4/9--21.38 acres;

21/4/11-- 21.18 acres; 21/4/15--1.58 acres = 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

49) 5.5.26

Assessor's Numbers: 21-5-17 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 are in Estimated and Priority Habitat.

50) 5.5.46

Assessor's Numbers: 22-1-52, 22-1-49A, 22-1-57A Acres: 108.2 - 114.62 MaListed 52 -104 +/- 110.42 57A -1.2 1.2 49A -3.0 3.0, 108.2 acres TOTAL 116.62 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 a large swath of agricultural/ forest lands between Main St. and Brook St. at the Carver line.

51) Assessor's Numbers: 21-5-7 Acreage: 2.27 Location: Main St Uses: pasture

52) 5.5.12

Assessor's Numbers: 12-1-13A Acreage: Listed as 29 acres, mapped as 14.411 acres. Assessor map 2015 shows 10.49 Combined with adjacent Ch. 61A parcels to the 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 the pond and includes a 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 the center of the town.

53 & 54) 5.5.50

Assessors' Numbers: 12-1-5, (also 12-1-5a, 12-1-5b) Acres: 12-1-5 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. 12-1-5 : 4.25 acres; 12-1-5A: 2 acres; 12-1-5B: 17.25 acres = 23.50 total 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

55) Assessor's Numbers: 12-3-7 Acreage:24.78 Location: Main St Uses: Cranberry farming, with bordering softwood forests

56) Assessor's Numbers: 13-2-29D Acreage: 202.01 Location: Upland Rd, Uses: cranberry farming and forage crops, with bordering mixed wood forests

57) 5.5.15

Assessor's Numbers: 13-2-31 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 Dennett property.

58) 5.5.48

Assessors' Numbers: 14-2-24A , 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.

59) 5.5.21

Assessors' Numbers: 16-2-8 Acreage: 76 (Possibly more in two smaller parcels of bogs and woods to the north abutting Colchester 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 the southern end of Harry Jason Park. Wooded uplands would make a good backdrop to probable residential development along the north side of West Street.

60) Assessor's Numbers: 18-1-1 Acreage: 10.24 Location: Brook St, Uses: forage crops with some mixed forests at edges

61) Assessor's Numbers: 18-3-8A Acreage: 1.5 Location: Colchester St, Uses: see #27

62) 5.5.4

Assessor's Numbers: 21-4-8A Acreage: 19.27 part of a larger 44.61 acres 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.

63) Assessor's Numbers: 6-1-4-0 Acreage: 45.1 Location: Center St

64) 5.5.14

Assessor's Numbers: 8-1-29 Acreage: Listed as 20.82. 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 Dennett property. Site is near the geographic center of town.

65) 5.5.51

Assessor's Numbers: 12-1-1 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.

66) 5.5.10

Assessor's Numbers: 12-2-25 Acreage: 43.57 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, 12-2-5. Note nearby landlocked parcels; old woodlots?

67) 5.5.11

Assessor's Numbers: 12-4-19 Acreage: 38.6 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.

68) 5.5.28

Assessor's Numbers: 21-1-23 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

69) Assessor's Numbers: 8-2-29 Acreage: 41 Location: Ring Rd Uses: See # 42

70) Assessor's Numbers: 11-1-11-0 Acreage: 15 Location: Center St Uses: farm crops for farmstand, CSA and pick your own Notable features: large fields for locally grown summer crops, along heavily travelled road; contributes to town's rural character

71) Assessor's Number: 12-3-8-0 Acreage: 3.04 Location: Crescent St Uses: hay fields on one of the most scenic corners in town, with distant views of the farms and pond below

72) 5.5.13

Assessor's Numbers: 12-5-1 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.

73) 5.5.49

Assessor's Numbers: 24-3-1 Acres: 14.36) Location: 399 Main St. Uses: Horse Farm 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

74) Assessor's Numbers: 10-1-4-0 Acres: 10 Location: West St Uses: hiking and other passive recreation in fields and mixed wood forests

75) Assessor's Number: 12-2-20 Acres: 6.74 Location: Main St Uses: hiking and other passive recreation Uses: hiking, birding and nature watch in fields and mixed forests

76) Assessor's Number: 24-1-1-0 Acres: 14.93 Location: Prospect Rd Uses: hiking, birding and nature watch in mixed forest habitats

77) Assessor's Numbers: 7-3-2 & 7/3/9 (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 Assessor's map. However the two combined make 27.5 acres.) Acreage: 27.51 Location: Main Street, North of Ring Road Use: passive recreation; field, woods and some old cranberry bogs, house and construction yard, includes some uplands Notable features: Adjacent to Plympton Parks-Churchill Park,

Cato's Ridge Conservation Area and O'Neil Marsh- and includes emergency access road (not for public use).

78) Assessor's Number: 23-2-97-0 Acres: 25.01 Location: Soule St Uses: Nature recreation and farming education for local communities operated by the Soule Homestead, under Middleborough, Ma ownership. Extensive outreach and ongoing events throughout the year.

79) Assessors' Numbers: 17-6-5 Acreage: 7.65 Location: Main St. Use: Horse Farm, Private residence (LU=017, Ch.61A) Features: Actively-used horse meadows, major new barn, adjacent to Town Green, Historic area .

80) Assessor's Number 22-1-48-0 Acres: 9.68 Location: Pleasant St. Uses: horse farm and bridle trail system, nature watches and hiking



6 - COMMUNITY VISION AND GOALS

6.1 INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The residents of the Town of Plympton have consistently valued preserving the town's rural character, open space and natural resources. This can be verified by a review of the results of the Surveys for the last two Open Space and Recreation Plans (in 1998 and 2009), as well as in past annual reports. The results of resident surveys for those Plans, as well as the town's Growth Policy Statement in the seventies and an early version of the Open Space and Recreation Plan in the eighties, consistently reflect these goals and concerns. The resident survey conducted in 2016 affirms these same issues, by ranking protecting the town's water resources and rural character and providing opportunities for passive recreation as the top three priorities.

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. In a town as small as Plympton, getting the balance right is important- to expand the municipal tax base while keeping the town's essential character intact.

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 byproduct of development. Plympton residents rely exclusively on private wells for their water, and private septic systems for disposal. Most of Plympton's soils are rated as having severe septic limitations.

Since the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Sysco Corporation has opened a large regional center in the town's industrial center right off of Route 44. Its substantial tax share has been a significant boost to local revenues, but by no means a "cure-all" for meeting all costs. In addition, a number of small solar projects have recently been built in town, which will provide a 20 year fixed fee in lieu of yearly taxes, so these sources also help to increase revenue. Nevertheless, the town continues to seek appropriate new businesses to contribute to the municipal budget without compromising the town's appearance and quality of life.

While pursuing a broader tax base, securing multipurpose "open space" land is needed to keep Plympton liveable. This cannot be overemphasized. If Plympton is to retain its character as a rural community, open spaces must be preserved now. These include local farms and fields, town forests, wetlands and riparian areas along our two Rivers, areas with high recharge values, green belts, land adjacent to affordable/senior housing for recreation, bridle paths, and wildlife sanctuaries (over 70% of Plympton's habitats are in the top 2 classifications on Biomap).

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 connection. The education of our children is conducted in a three town regional middle and high school. Our emergency calls go to a central dispatch located in Duxbury and our emergency services effectively participate in a multi-town backup system. The rivers and their tributaries are regional in scope. These facts are understood and appreciated by residents.

In many ways, Plympton's goals have remained the same for the past 40 years. In 1972, the Planning Board wrote : "The greatest danger is apathy. The responsibility of community planning has no end. No one can rest on past achievement." Plympton grew very slowly for the next 35 years, but now the pace of new development is picking up, due in part to the advent of the SE Massachusetts commuter rail systems that were introduced 20 years ago, as well as to high prices for residential development around the South Shore. Plympton needs to take the initiative now to secure its future.

As the 1970 Planning Board also noted: "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."



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 the following:

Plympton's goal is to remain a rural town with scattered housing of varying design and setbacks along existing roads in compact neighborhoods, as well as in scattered outlying neighborhoods mixed within extensive farmland and a network of connected open spaces. Along with protected open space near all existing or probable neighborhoods, there will be a compact, diverse, readily accessible town center, and a range of low-key/passive recreational opportunities. This vision includes encouraging broad community support and involvement in achieving these open space goals.

7 - ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

7.1 SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

Plympton's Resource protection needs are:

- Protection of the quality and quantity of surface water resources, such as wet meadows, streams and rivers, vernal pools and marshes, as well groundwater resources.
- Coordination of open space protection with actions to protect aquifers and related major water resources such as the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer covering the eastern third of the Town and the Taunton River Watershed for the western sector of town.
- Protection of core areas in BioMap especially large blocks of forest and wetlands, and their connecting upland and riparian corridors
- Protection of large areas used for cranberry growing, especially recently abandoned upland bogs, which could return to forest or be developed, and related lands that have suitable water resources (a pond or reservoir) and nearby sources of sand
- Protection of key natural systems to maintain Plympton's "natural infrastructure"
- Protection of prime farmland
- Increased collaboration and communication among the various town boards to ensure adequate review of land development and wetlands applications, such as for Earth Removal, and adoption of up-to date bylaws on land planning, such as for Open Space Residential Design and other flexible options. These functions lie mostly with the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Ongoing communication with the Board of Selectmen is key.

7.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

There have been multiple opportunities to identify Plympton's Community Needs over the last few years, including public meetings and written questionnaires. The results of the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan Resident Survey were particularly helpful, as was the 2012 update of the SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) Statewide Goals. The highlights from the Resident Questionnaire and the SCORP updated Facilities Inventory are summarized below. The Resident Plan survey and detailed results are in Appendix B

7.2.1 SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE 2016 PLYMPTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SURVEY

The following open space /conservation and recreation needs were identified through the 2016 Resident Survey.

The things people like most about Plympton:

- Rural character

- Quietness
- Community
- Agriculture/ Right to Farm
- Small town

To preserve these values:

- 82% of respondents indicated that it's extremely important to preserve Plympton's rural character
- 89% indicated it's important to set aside open land for conservation and recreation

Top Priorities for Conservation:

- Protecting water resources
- Providing areas for wildlife habitat
- Creating access to rivers/ponds
- Creating areas for passive recreation
- Preserving areas of historical/ cultural worth

Means to achieve:

- 71% felt town bylaws should be drafted to encourage more open space in new developments
- 75% Community Preservation funds should be used to protect land
- 71% thought town residents should donate land or place conservation restrictions on their land
- 67% thought land trusts should be used to protect land

Recreation Interests and Activities:

Top three things to do in Plympton:

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Birding

--The most popular Open Space in Plympton is "the Parks" (84% frequently or occasionally use them)

--The least-well known property is Wildlands Trust's Person Preserve—34% didn't know where it was located.

The most desired facilities included:

- Nature trails (most popular —84% say extremely or very important)
- Playgrounds (51% say extremely or very important)
- Outdoor education facilities (50% say extremely or very important)

Regarding handicapped accessibility of Plympton's open space and recreational facilities, most respondents were unsure whether Plympton provided adequately accessible facilities,

but 23% thought that the facilities were somewhat useful, and 15% thought they were not useful for those with disabilities. (See section 7.5 below for information on Plympton's ADA compliance and readiness)

In terms of town structure, 70% of respondents thought it was extremely or somewhat important to group businesses and services in a compact, walkable center.

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

7.2.2 SCORP GOALS

In 2012, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated the statewide Recreation Plan. During the previous year, thousands of people attended forums, answered written surveys and participated in phone interviews to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the status of Massachusetts' recreational assets. In addition to developing broad statewide goals, the SCORP also identified regional goals, based on the demographic, ecological and economic profiles of each region.

7.2.3. SCORP Regional Goals

SCORP'S updated regional goals are particularly relevant to Plympton, as both a small town and a community in SE Mass. These are:

- The areas of Massachusetts that are developing more rapidly than others are referred to by Mass Audubon as the "sprawl frontier". The communities in the sprawl frontier are those in the Interstate 495 belt and southeastern Massachusetts.
- When working to identify the most critically important wildlife habitat to protect, local and state agencies, as well as land trusts, have a valuable tool in BioMap which combines rare species and natural community data with spatial data that identifies wildlife species and habitats... as well as analysis of large, well-connected, and intact ecosystems. The information also incorporates the ideas of ecosystem resilience to address future climate change impacts. Each community across the state received a map that identifies what is referred to as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape so that all parties can target land acquisitions with a limited amount of land protection funding in an informed and targeted manner. Note: Two-thirds of Plympton's land ranks in one or both of BioMap's top two categories.
- In addition to valuing outdoor areas for recreation, residents rank their top three values as: "protecting wildlife habitat, improving the quality of life, and protecting drinking water supplies.". Improving the quality of life was particularly important to households with children, residents with a higher educational attainment, middle and higher income residents, and women. Men were more likely to mention wildlife habitat protection than women.

- The SCORP statewide phone survey found that drinking water was among the most important non-outdoor recreation value of the land respondents visit (just behind wildlife and quality of life, but far above all other values). Forests are the best source of treatment for public water supplies. The dense canopies and complex soils filter rainfall and nonpoint source pollution from developed areas.

7.2.4 SCORP Statewide goals

The four goals of the 2012 Massachusetts SCORP are to:

- 1) Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation
- 2) Increase the availability of water-based recreation
- 3) Invest in recreation and conservation areas close to home for short visits
- 4) Invest in racially, economically and age diverse neighborhoods

Goals 1 and 3 are particularly relevant to Plympton. Under goal 1,(trails) SCORP noted the following examples as being particularly helpful:

- Trails that allow for hiking, walking, biking, and other diverse uses,
- Trails that provide shorter loops within a community and link to longer trail systems regionally, and
- Trails which provide easier access to wildlife viewing.

Plympton residents have articulated these goals, in particular because we have had so few areas with walking trails. In addition, Plympton has many horse farms, so establishing a trail system for horse riding would be very popular. We also hope to link with walking trails in nearby towns, and have good opportunities, especially near the Kingston and Middleborough borders. Lastly, people enjoy seeing our abundant wildlife so we are exploring ways to provide more viewing stations that are reasonably accessible.

Goal 3 is relatively easy for Plympton to meet - because we are small, every place in town is a short trip, so our challenge is to make each place provide an easy to use opportunity no matter how much time one has to spend. For Goal 4, the age diversity of our residents is relevant because about 25% of our population is over 55. The trail strategies noted above incorporate finding ways to make sure that our trails and open spaces are usable by all ages .Goals 2 is not relevant - we have no water based recreational opportunities.

7.3 SUMMARY OF PLYMPTON'S OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION AND RECREATION NEEDS

7.3.1. RANKING OF RECREATIONAL NEEDS by Plympton's residents, using a combined value of extremely/very important for each one:

- 1) Nature Trails (83%)
- 2) Playgrounds (51%)
- 3) Outdoor Education facilities (50%)
- 4) Picnic Areas (46%)
- 5) Fishing Areas (38%)
- 6) Athletic Fields (38%)
- 7) Bridle Paths (31%)
- 8) Athletic Courts (29%)
- 9) Hunting Areas (26%)
- 10) Campgrounds (12%)

Therefore, consistent with the needs suggested by the SCORP standards, this study suggests local needs for:

- Areas that provide more nature trails
- Varied recreation facilities serving all population groups and providing many local opportunities
- Updated and expansion of playground facilities, for a variety of age groups
- The exploration of creating outdoor education facilities near the elementary school
- Areas for picnicking, fishing, and swimming
- 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

7.3.2 OPEN SPACE/ CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

The results of the resident survey, as well as the site inventories and analyses, provide a framework for implementing open space and conservation strategies:

- Integrating permanent open space within existing neighborhoods or prospective neighborhoods
- Protecting a wide range of open spaces: wetlands to protect water quality, farmed fields, woodlands especially those classified as “core” or “supporting”, and greenbelts connecting stream-sides and related open lands
- Linking varied open spaces through selective acquisitions and protective easements
- Cooperating with cranberry bog owners to get maximum use of potential crossings via bog roads linking other holdings and resources
- Retaining agricultural land including 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.
- Maintaining continuous stream-side greenways as feasible along the Winnetuxet River, Colchester Brook, Jones River Brook and other streams where feasible
- Creating handicapped accessibility to feasible sites and facilities
- Protecting scenic views especially across the meadows and marsh noted above

- Protecting major riparian areas including stream channels, floodplains, 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.
- Creating a scenic road network, and of isolated historic sites (ones not in an Historic District) such as the Sampson Farm Homestead and Birthplace.



Restored Parsonage Road Basketball and Tennis Court



Soccer field at Harry Jason Park

7.4 MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGES OF USE

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. This approach might be particularly useful for creating Affordable and/or Senior Housing .

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
- Retain, 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, 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 to develop or expand sources of revenue for open space and recreation (and housing and historic preservation) purposes, such as Community Preservation Act funds and grant opportunities

- 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 (See below_

7.5 ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR TOWN FACILITIES

Through the completion of the Program Accessibility facility inventory, the Open Space and Recreation Committees have identified physical obstacles that inhibit people with disabilities from fully accessing Plympton Open Space and Recreation facilities. This Transition Plan outlines the priority changes that should be made to correct these problems. The Town is sensitive to the fact that twenty-five to thirty percent of the population are senior citizens who may benefit from facility modifications or adaptations. With this need in mind, a working committee reviewed the Town's open space and recreational facilities to identify current obstacles and suggest remedies. In many cases, relatively minor adjustments in access or accommodation would bring the facilities into ADA compliance.

A Transition Plan is presented below for each of the Open Space and Recreation facilities in the community. The Transition Plan was completed with input from representatives of the Council on Aging, Building Department, Historical Commission, Plympton Historical Society, Plympton Garden Club, Recreational Committee, Open Space Committee, Planning Board and individuals with disabilities who participate in various Town activities.

Parsonage Road Basketball and Tennis Court

These courts are located near the center of Plympton and are used predominantly by members of the community on a spontaneous basis. Basketball hoops are adjustable by height, as are the tennis nets.

Current obstacles: A small parking area does not have any handicapped parking spaces and the path of access to the courts needs improving by creating a smooth, packed surface. Correcting these deficiencies will be a priority. Schedule for completion: June, 2022; Chair, Recreation committee

Winnetuxet Picnic Area

This small pond and picnic area abuts an old mill site on the Winnetuxet River, and a large marsh that has abundant wildlife. There is also a short walking path through the marsh.

Current obstacles:

The pond area, including picnic tables, is a priority opportunity to meet the needs of both disabled people and seniors by providing a scenic and restful place for relaxing, picnicking, and enjoying the river and marsh views. Currently, picnic tables are not handicapped accessible and

there is no designated handicapped parking. Providing handicapped parking spaces, as well as handicapped accessible picnic tables is essential. Meeting these goals is a high priority of the transition plan. Schedule for completion: June 2022, Chair, Recreation Committee

Holt Memorial Ballfields

These playing fields are utilized extensively by the Plympton Youth Athletic teams for baseball, softball and T-ball. They are located in the center of town with 40 adjacent parking spaces parking and three handicapped spaces.

Current obstacles: Access to the ballfields is via an uphill grade and not on a firm path. Although a concession stand and seasonal porta-potties are available, neither are handicapped accessible. Installing these adjustments is a high priority given the number of people who use these fields on a regular basis. Schedule for completion: January, 2022, Chair, Recreation Committee and BOS

Dennett Elementary School Ballfields and Walking Path

These ballfields are used by organized youth sport groups on a rental basis. A walking path with a hard-packed surface surrounds the playing fields. A large parking lot is adjacent with two handicapped spaces.

Current obstacles: There is no accessible path from the parking lot to the ballfields a short distance away, nor to the adjacent walking path. The porta-potty rental needs to be changed to handicapped accessible. We will explore if some section of the walking path around the fields could be made ADA accessible, and how to connect that section to the parking lot. Schedule for completion: January, 2023. Chair Recreation Committee

Harry Jason Park

Harry Jason Park is a fifty-six acre open space area that has been donated to the Town of Plympton expressly for the purpose of recreational activities. It is currently used for camping and other Scout activities, by both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The renovated fields also are used for practice by local soccer teams.

Current Obstacles: Parking is on a grass lot about 50 feet away from the fields. There is no easy access for people with disabilities. An ADA lot that is close to the field would be desirable. Deed restrictions on the property prohibit some forms of construction. We will explore how or if ADA accommodations may be introduced in accordance with the terms of the deed. Schedule: June 2023, Chair, Recreation Committee

The Parks Complex off Main Street

The Parks complex consists of 100+ acres of trails winding through extensive wetlands, forests and marshes. Churchill Park off Main Street is the gateway to these three linked conservation

areas with 1.5 miles of walking trails. These areas consist of fairly challenging terrain, including root-covered trails through forests, hilly paths with changes in elevation up to 130 feet and a number of wetlands' crossings over planks or boardwalks. Parking is available for six vehicles.

Schedule: While the Town supports the idea of altering some section of these parks to be ADA accessible, this is not likely to be feasible in the foreseeable future.

A. Letters on policies and procedures from the Town Administrator and the Highway Superintendent/ADA Coordinator:



TOWN OF PLYMPTON
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town House
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367
(781) 585-2700

August 24, 2020

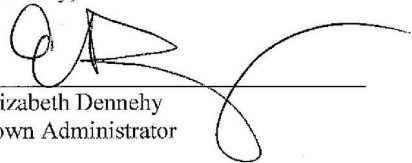
To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Town of Plympton, ADA Coordinator Information

Please accept this correspondence as official notice that the Town's Highway Superintendent, Robert Firlotte, is designated as the Town of Plympton's ADA Coordinator.

Feel free to contact us at (781) 585-2700 should have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Dennehy
Town Administrator



TOWN OF PLYMPTON
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Highway Department

23 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367

September 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Town of Plympton, Hiring Practices

Please accept this correspondence as official notice that the Town of Plympton's hiring practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is true with respect to all aspects of our hiring and employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training and testing, medical examinations and questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration, all where applicable.

Specifically, the Town's Wage and Personnel Bylaw, Personnel Policies and any collective bargaining agreements are written and executed in a manner that is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Feel free to contact the Town at (781) 585-2700 should have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Robert Firlotte
Highway Superintendent / ADA Coordinator
Town of Plympton

Recreational/Open Space Facilities Inventory: August 2020

| Facility | Uses | Current Status |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parsonage Road Courts near Rte. 58 intersection | Basketball or Tennis court; Basketball hoops and tennis net are adjustable by height; | Small parking lot is a short distance from the court but has no ADA parking spaces or ADA path to courts; no ADA viewing bench |
| Winnetuxet Pond Picnic Area | Picnicking, wildlife viewing of pond, marsh and forest areas, short walking trail by marsh | The two picnic tables are not handicapped accessible, have good views of the pond and marsh. Parking lot is near the picnic area but no designated ADA parking spaces. Narrow trail is on wetlands through marsh, not ADA compliant. |
| Holt Memorial Ballfields in Town Center | Playing fields used by Plympton Youth Athletic groups for baseball, softball and soccer | Parking lot for 40 spaces adjacent to fields has three handicapped spaces. However, a short access path from the parking area to fields and viewing benches is needed. Concession stand and porta-potties not ADA conforming. Hard surface playing fields |
| Dennett Elementary School Ballfields and walking paths | Youth Athletics fields for a variety of team sports, hard-packed walking loop around fields, observation seating | Large Parking lot with two handicapped spaces. No accessible path from lot to fields – a short distance. No ADA porta potties. May need to upgrade part of the walking path to conform to ADA. Hard surface playing fields |
| Harry Jason Park, Center St | Boy and Girl Scout camping and outdoor activities, practice fields for local soccer teams | Parking lot is on grass, no ADA spaces; Lot is 50 feet + from playing fields over grassy area. Addition of ADA spaces close to fields is needed. Playing fields on grass |
| The Parks complex- Main St | 100 acre park consisting of extensive wetlands, forests and marshes; Hilly terrain, rough trails at changing elevations. Many tree roots and rocks on trails; Planks over wetland areas | Due to extensive rough terrain, altering some section of this area to be ADA accessible is not likely in the foreseeable future |
| | | |

8 - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Since the adoption of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, there have been many public discussions about maintaining the Town's rural character, protecting natural resources and providing areas for passive recreation.

One of the first results of these forums was the creation of the Town's first conservation area in 2012- over 100 acres of mixed upland and wetlands encompassing the Jones River Brook . These new "parks" were almost unanimously supported by the largest Town Meeting (200 residents) in Plympton's history. This historic vote reflected residents' growing understanding that Plympton's natural resources and Town character were at risk. Their subsequent generous donations of time and money to equip the Parks, plus their support at subsequent Town Meetings to acquire neighboring parcels, underscored residents' increased conservation awareness.

The five Goals and Objectives below reflect residents' growing interest in Open Space and Recreational issues since the last Plan. The results of the resident survey and the insights from the SCORP state Plan are incorporated into these goals.

It is worth noting that there was a small but significant shift in residents' priorities this year. In every Open Space and Recreation Survey since the 1980's, "Preserving Plympton's rural

character” ranked as the #1 goal. It continued to receive significant support in 2016. However, for the first time, “Protecting our Water resources” and the related goal of “Protecting Natural Resources” received slightly higher rankings. The differences in the ranking among the priorities is small.

Goal 1: Protect Plympton’s current water supply and acquire land for future community wellheads

Objective 1A: Review DEP maps of Town areas contributing to local water supply and fill in information gaps as needed

Objective 1B: Create a Water Study Committee of relevant Town departments to determine if the Town has adequately protected future community water supply wellheads,

Objective 1C: Prioritize and acquire land as needed for future community wellheads

Objective 1D: Work with Board of Selectmen, Planning, Zoning, Health and other Boards to adopt bylaws, regulations and agreements that protect the water supply now and in the future

Goal 2: Protect and preserve Plympton’s natural resources, including water and unique wildlife habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Objective 2A: In the Taunton River Watershed area of Town, especially near the Winnetuxet River, evaluate the natural infrastructure services provided by Critical Natural Landscape #465, one of the largest in the state, as well as by the Core Habitat #798, in order to develop a land protection and management plan for this area

Objective 2B: Identify and protect high priority lands through acquisition, easements and restrictions to preserve natural resources, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity and to maintain functioning ecological connections

Objective 2C: Based on BioMap 2, protect unique habitats and natural communities to support state-listed Animal and Plant species

Objective 2D: Evaluate and update as needed Plympton’s current Watershed Protection Districts for their contributions to maintaining the groundwater table, protecting against floods and contamination, preserving streams and conserving watershed areas

Objective 2E: Promote the adoption of updated planning and zoning bylaws to ensure that future residential and commercial development in Plympton effectively integrates growth with natural resource preservation

Goal 3: Preserve the rural character, diverse agriculture and traditional New England elements of Plympton.

Objective 3A: Promote and support Plympton's farming and farming-related businesses

Objective 3B: Work closely with the Agricultural Commission and the local agricultural community to collaborate in maintaining local farms and farmland, to anticipate industry-driven changes and to secure permanent protection of key agricultural lands

Objective 3C: Protect scenic roads and vistas, historic open space and related resources and buildings

Objective 3D: Promote development that is historically sensitive and maintains Plympton's scenic qualities

Objective 3E: Partner with the Historical Commission to identify, promote and implement historical preservation projects particularly related to open space preservation

Objective 3F: Support the development of a walkable town center that meets the needs of all age groups, particularly seniors, and locate traffic-generating activities to the perimeter of the Town

Goal 4: Support and enhance passive and active recreation that is in balance with natural systems on Town-owned parcels that are designated for recreational use.

Objective 4A: Via the Recreational Committee and Open Space Committee, seek feedback from the public about the use and maintenance of current recreational areas, and priorities for future recreational services, including pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle trails, as well as soccer fields, basketball courts etc.

Objective 4B: In collaboration with the Planning Board and Bylaw committee, seek ways to access and secure lands adjacent to proposed housing developments for common uses, such as "pocket parks," bandstands, walking trails and community gardens.

Objective 4C: Support and expand groups of volunteers who help maintain town recreational areas by clearing trails, and maintaining other facilities

Goal 5: Promote public awareness about Plympton's natural resources, conservation initiatives, historic features and recreational resources.

Objective 5A: Increase public awareness about the benefits of conservation, agricultural and historic preservation, how residents can contribute to these goals and what opportunities exist in Town for passive and active recreation

Objective 5B: Foster residents' appreciation of Plympton's rural character by promoting local agricultural, conservation and historic activities

Objective 5C: Educate residents about the impact of land-use and development on natural resources

Objective 5D: Provide informational forums and materials to landowners about the conservation, financial and legacy benefits of preserving land

9 - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The recommended studies and actions over the next seven years, including actions implicit in previous discussions, are listed below. The Open Space Committee will continue to have overall management and implementation responsibility for the Plan. As noted below in the particular actions, the OSC also will take the responsibility for seeing the actions through to completion, although all of these goals will be done in collaboration with a range of town, regional and resident groups. Partnerships with other town departments will be crucial to this process, in particular the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen for bylaw and overall policy changes, working closely with the relevant local authorities, including the Conservation Commission, the Agricultural Commission, the Board of Health, and the Historic Commission. The Recreation Commission has been a strong partner as well and stands ready to work on more projects. As you will from the attached letters of support, all of these departments are enthusiastic about the Plan and how it can help them achieve their goals. We have strong established working relationships with all, as well as with the Wildlands Trust, the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, the Old Colony Planning Council and a number of the neighboring conservation commission departments.

Each of these town departments has an operating budget which is decided each year at Town Meeting. The OSC and Conservation Commission budgets are modest, but responsive to annual needs. In addition, the OSC has had strong support from the Community Preservation Committee for special projects. Town Meeting has awarded the OSC three grants to either acquire open space or to provide technical assistance that enables private citizens to make conservation arrangements with the Town.

A discussion of the Action Maps follows the Action List.

| SECTION 9 - ACTION PLAN | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goal 1: Protect quality and quantity of Plympton's water supply | | | | |
| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Study, Plan, or Action</u> | <u>Responsible Parties & Collaborators</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
| | | | | |
| 1A: Create a Water Study Group to determine if the Town has adequately protected community water supply | Recruit members from Town departments and residents, set goals and timeline | OSC, BOS | 2017-2018 | Staff time, volunteer time |
| | Contract with a hydrogeologist to analyze Town's current situation and develop information bases | OSC, WSG | 2018-2019 | CPA, DLTA, TRSC, Dept budgets |
| | Secure expert's reports on current status, future needs and potential locations | OSC, WSG | 2020 | CPA, DLTA, TRSC, Dept budgets |
| | Review current DEP and other water supply maps to identify secured public water resources | OSC, WSG | 2020-2022 | MET, CPC, DLTA |
| | Determine required size, number and locations of potential public water supplies | OSC, WSG | 2020-2022 | CPC, DLTA, Drinking water supply grants |
| | Identify sites for potential acquisition as community wells and/or recharge areas | OSC, WSG | 2020-2022 | CPC, DLTA, Drinking Water Supply grants |
| | Identify areas for potential acquisition that are contiguous to Zones II and III | OSC, WSG | 2020-2022 | Community assistance to small towns, Drinking Water Supply, DLTA, CPC |
| | Assess how the Wetlands Act, the Town's Wetlands bylaw and Title 5 influence quality and quantity of water supply, and related wetlands resources, including rivers and streams | OSC, WSG | 2019-2022 | DLTA, MET, Dept budgets |
| | Evaluate and update as needed Plympton's current Watershed Protection Districts for their contributions to maintaining the groundwater table, protecting against floods and contamination, preserving streams and conserving watershed areas | OSC, WSG | 2019-2022 | CPC, DLTA, TRSC, DEP 319 |
| | Create communications program to keep residents informed about WSG findings, next steps and new approaches | OSC, WSG | 2020-2022 | MCC, TRSC, CPC, Dept budgets |
| | | | | |
| 1B: Prioritize and acquire land for future community wellheads and aquifer conservation | Determine optimal locations for future wellheads, prioritize options | WSG | 2020-2021 | Community assistance to small towns, Drinking Water Supply, MET, CPC, LAND |
| | Develop funding strategy and timetable for acquiring wellheads or key aquifer areas | WSC, OSC | 2020-2021 | Staff and volunteer time |
| | Begin acquisition program for priority sites | WSC, OSC | 2021-2022 | Drinking Water Supply, town capital funds, CPC |
| | | | | |
| 1C: Adopt bylaws, regulations and practices that protect the water supply now and in the future | Incorporate Low Impact Design (LID) principles for land with high groundwater recharge value | OSC, WSG, BOS, PB, BOH, BLR | 2019-2022 | MVP, DLTA, SNEP, staff & volunteers |
| | Limit impervious surfaces and nitrogen loading in the Aquifer Overlay Districts | OSC, PB, BLR | 2020-2024 | Dept budgets, MVP, staff & volunteers |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Promote water conservation measures such as Greenscapes program | OSC, WSG, BOS, PB, BOH, BLR | 2019-2022 | TRSC, CPC, MET |
| | Include education about stormwater management in public outreach program | OSC, WSG | 2020-2024 | TRSC, CPC, MCC, MET |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Goal 2: Protect Plympton's natural resources, including water and unique wildlife habitats | | | | |
| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Study, Plan, or Action</u> | <u>Responsible Parties & Collaborators</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
| | | | | |
| 2A: In the Taunton River Watershed area near the Winnetuxet River, evaluate the natural infrastructure services provided by Critical Natural Landscape #465, as well as by Core Habitat #798 | Specialist ecologists conduct resiliency analysis of WR area to assess green infrastructure services | OSC, RPA'S. | 2020-2021 | MVP and TRSC |
| | Invite landowners to participate in study and participate in next steps | OSC, RPA'S | 2020-2022 | Staff and volunteer time |
| | Produce reports and databases to develop land management objectives or acquisition goals | OSC, RPA'S | 2020-2022 | MVP and TRSC |
| | Provide community outreach program about green infrastructure, study goals and results | OSC, RPA'S | 2020-2022 | MVP and TRSC |
| | | | | |
| 2B: Identify and protect high priority lands through acquisition, easements and restrictions to preserve natural resources, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity and to maintain functioning ecological connections | Analyze potential land for conservation by related attributes: Land contiguous with existing town owned land or land owned by a land conservation organization such as Wildlands Trust or Trustees of the Reservations. Environmentally sensitive areas such as cedar swamps, river corridors, vernal pools, Biomap status, etc. Land with current or future value as a recreation area. Important aquifers. Scenic roadways. Important agricultural lands. Important wildlife habitats. | OSC | 2020-2024 | MVP and TRSC, Dept budgets |
| | Develop and implement a plan for protecting parcels that contain or impact high value habitat | OSC | 2020-2024 | LAND, Conservation assistance to small towns, LWCF, Conservation partnerships (with Wildlands Trust), DEP Culvert Replacement 319 grants |
| | With landowners, develop land management "best practices" for high value habitats | OSC | 2020 - 2024 | CPC, TRSC, staff |
| | Continue to investigate, educate about and certify vernal pools | OSC | 2017-2024 | MCC, Staff and volunteers |
| | Consider acquisition requirements: Feasibility Potential acquisition costs Potential partnerships in the acquisition effort (individuals, landowners, land trusts, state and federal programs etc.) Level of public support needed to preserve the parcel. | OSC, AC, CPC, HC | 2021-2023 | CPC, TRSC, staff and volunteers |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Benefits to the community that will be derived from acquiring the parcel. | | | |
| | For each proposed Town acquisition, develop and implement a funding and outreach strategy | OSC, AC, | ongoing | CPC, TRSC, staff and volunteers |
| | Work cooperatively with other town boards to build a broad base of support | OSC, CC, HC, | 2018-2024 | CPC, TRSC, staff and volunteers |
| | Communicate with the public throughout the process; hold public informational meetings as appropriate | OSC, CC, HC, CPC, PB, RC | 2018-2024 | CPC, TRSC, staff and volunteers |
| | Drive fundraising efforts if necessary and appropriate. | OSC | 2018-2024 | Staff and volunteer time |
| | Sponsor warrant articles for annual town meeting | OSC, CC, HC, CPC, PB, RC | OSC, CC, HC, CPC, PB, RC | Staff and volunteer time |
| | Strengthen review procedure for Town committees to advise BOS on upcoming Tax Title lands for their values to recreation, water conservation and open space goals | BOS, CC, PB, RC | 2017-2018 | Staff and volunteer time |
| | | | | |
| 2C: Promote the adoption of updated planning and zoning bylaws, and related reviews, to ensure that future residential and commercial development in Plympton effectively integrates growth with natural resource preservation | Consider adopting various conservation -friendly zoning, bylaws and ordinances in use by other Mass municipalities and permitted through current Mass statutes, including: Local SubDivision Control Open Space Zoning and model bylaw Mixed - Use Zones Concentrated Growth Districts Performance Zoning Conservation Overlay Districts Low- Impact Development | OSC, BLR, PB | 2017-2024 | MVP, TRSC, staff and volunteers |
| | Involve residents in learning about these options and drafting local versions | OSC, BLR, PB | | Staff & volunteers |
| | Update Earth Removal Bylaw | OSC | 2017-2019 | Departmental budgets and staff time |
| | Update Solar Bylaw | OSC | 2018-2019 | Departmental budgets and staff time |
| | Support the placement of traffic-generating activities at the perimeter of the community, especially along major roadways and near the Industrial Park. | OSC, BLR, PB | 2018-2024 | Staff and volunteer time. DLTA funds |
| | Support the development of a walkable town center that meets the needs of all age groups, particularly seniors | OSC, BLR, PB | 2020-2024 | Staff and volunteer time, DLTA funds |
| | When new bylaws are adopted, provide user -friendly overview to residents | OSC, BRC | 2021-2024 | Dept budgets, staff |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Goal 3: Preserve the rural character, diverse agriculture and traditional New England elements of Plympton

| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Study, Plan, or Action</u> | <u>Responsible Parties & Collaborators</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | |
| 3A: Support farming and farming-related businesses, especially sustainable agriculture. | Explore the feasibility of a “Grown in Plympton” marketing label for agricultural products | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | MDAR, DLTA, TRSC |
| | Identify producers, distributors, and retailers interested in participating in GP label | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | MDAR, DLTA, TRSC |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| | Plan an annual event with AC highlighting Plympton's agricultural resources | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | MDAR, DLTA, TRSC |
| | Promote the tax benefits of enrolling in Chapter 61 for agriculture | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | Dept budgets, MDAR, staff and volunteers |
| | Collaborate with the Agricultural Commission to secure permanent protection of specific high value agricultural lands. | | | CPA, APR, Conservation partnerships, MDAR |
| | Remind BOS to inform Open Space Committee when Chapter 61 land owners request removal from status | OSC, BOS, AC | 2020-2024 | Staff and volunteers |
| | Work to protect farmland and other valuable open space using all available methods | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | CPA, DLTA, Conservation assistance to small towns |
| | Stay informed about potential industry-driven changes in land-use from agriculture | OSC, AC | 2020-2024 | Staff and volunteers |
| | | | | |
| 3B: Protect scenic roads and vistas | Study best practices from other rural towns for protecting Scenic Roads | OSC | 2017-2018 | MET, MCC, DLTA, Staff & volunteers |
| | Identify and catalog roads or road segments which may be considered for Scenic Road designation | OSC | 2017-2018 | MET, MCC, DLTA, Staff & volunteers |
| | Propose Scenic Road Bylaw to Town Meeting | OSC, CC | 2020-2022 | MET, MCC, DLTA, Staff & volunteers |
| | Work with the Highway Department to implement the Scenic Road Bylaw guidelines for designated roads | OSC, HD | 2018-2024 | MCC, MET, Dept budgets |
| | Update catalog of potential Scenic Roads with any new information | OSC | 2018-2024 | Staff and volunteers |
| | Integrate findings from Historical Buildings Surveys with Open Space plan | OSC, HC | 2018-2024 | Staff and volunteers, DLTA |
| | Incorporate historical values into updated bylaws for land use and town design | OSC, HC | 2018-2024 | Staff and volunteers, DLTA |
| | | | | |
| 3C: Partner with the Historical Commission to support protection of historic resources | Promote development that is historically sensitive and maintains Plympton's scenic qualities | OSC, HC, CPC | ongoing | MHC, MCC, MET, DLTA, CPC, DCR |
| | Protect historic open space and related resources and buildings | HC, OSC | ongoing | CPC, LAND, TRSC, Town Capital funds |
| | Identify potential joint Open Space and Historical Preservation projects under the Community Preservation Act | OSC, HC, CPC | ongoing | CPC, Staff & volunteers |
| | Identify potential joint projects with Ag Committee, Housing Committee, Open Space and Historical Commission that incorporate several town goals and values | OSC, HC, AC, HC | ongoing | CPC, Staff & volunteers |
| | | | | |
| Goal 4: Support residents' use and enjoyment of Plympton's open space and recreational areas | | | | |
| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Study, Plan, or Action</u> | <u>Responsible Parties & Collaborators</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
| | | | | |
| 4A: Improve residents' information about Town open space and recreational areas | Publish online "A guide to Plympton's Open Space and Recreational Areas" which describes the facilities and allowed activities at each site | OSC, RC | 2021-2022 | TRSC, MET, MCC, DLTA, TRAILS |
| | Publish online a map highlighting Town-owned open space and recreational areas, including trails | OSC, RC | 2021-2022 | TRSC, MET, MCC, DLTA, TRAILS |
| | Improve and maintain signs at each areas | OSC, RC | ongoing | MCC, Staff & |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|
| | | | | volunteers, Dept budgets |
| | Locate kiosks at each site which list the allowed activities, site map and other information | OSC,RC | 2017-2021 | MCC, Staff & volunteers, Dept budgets |
| | Determine appropriate use policies for each reserve | OSC,RC | 2017-2021 | Staff and volunteers |
| | Seek opportunities to create pocket parks, community gardens etc | OSC,PB, BLR | 2020-2024 | Staff and volunteers |
| | Seek to connect neighborhoods with walking trails | OSC,PB, BLR | 2017-2024 | MCC |
| | Identify and catalog land parcels surrounding senior and affordable housing which have the potential for common uses | OSC, BOS | 2022-2023 | MCC, NPS Community Assistance Program |
| | Secure lands adjacent to current and proposed residential developments for common uses | OSC, CPC | 2017-2024 | CPA, PARC |
| | | | | |
| 4B: Encourage and support neighborhood-based recreational opportunities throughout the Town | Enhance recreational opportunities for all age groups, including our large senior population | OSC,RC | 2017-2019 | CPC, MCC, DLTA |
| | Solicit suggestions from public regarding current use policies and maintenance | OSC, TC | 2017-2024 | Staff & volunteers |
| | Strive to create/upgrade recreation opportunities that are ADA compliant | | | CPC, Mass Trails, DLTA |
| | Create a Friends committee for each site to manage upkeep and trails | OSC, TC,RC | 2020-2024 | CPC, volunteers |
| | | | | |
| 4C: Promote residents' use of the open space and recreation areas | Sponsor a yearly town-wide open space/ recreational upkeep day | | | Departmental budget, Donations,volunteers |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Goal 5: Foster residents' appreciation of Plympton's rural character through improved public awareness and educational activities

| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Study, Plan, or Action</u> | <u>Responsible Parties & Collaborators</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| 5A: Promote residents' awareness of Plympton's natural resources, conservation initiatives and recreational resources. | Create an online brochure that describes and celebrates the environmental, agricultural and historic assets of Plympton and how they benefit the Town | OSC,AC, HC | 2020-2023 | MET, CPC, MCC |
| | Publish an annual public event calendar, anchored by a town-wide Plympton Day celebration on spring election day weekend | OSC,AC, HC, BOS | ongoing | MCC, Dept budgets, volunteers |
| | Through the Agricultural Commission, SEMAP and 4H, sponsor farm events and information | AC | ongoing | DLTA, TRSC |
| | Collaborate with the Historical Commission, Historical Society, Garden Club, Dennett School, Scout troops, etc to host events and information about Plympton's culture and history | OSC, HC, HS, DS | ongoing | DLTA, TRSC |
| | Collaborate and support the Library's ongoing educational and cultural activities as the Town's community center | OSC,HC, TL,AC | ongoing | MCC, CPA, Staff & volunteers |
| | Display and describe the Town's conservation areas through an online brochure | OSC,CC | 2021 | CPA, TRSC, MCC |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| | Use the Town website and news releases to commemorate and celebrate Town events in photos and articles | OSC,CC, HC,AC | 2021-2024 | Dept budgets, staff |
| | Provide information, data and discussions about status of the Town's natural resources and the impacts of various land-uses on them | OSC,AC, CC,HC | 2021-2024 | CPA, MCC, Staff & volunteers |
| | Provide informational forums and materials to landowners about the conservation, financial and legacy benefits of preserving land | OSC,CC, AC | 2020-2024 | CPA, MCC, Staff & volunteers |
| | | | | |
| 5B: Provide information to residents about how town bylaws, tax options and other programs can support private conservation and and rural development | Develop and implement an ongoing plan for educating landowners about the benefits of conserving private lands. Evolve the plan over time in response to the feedback. | OSC, CC, HC | 2020-2024 | CPA, Cape Cod Compact, Wildlands Trust, Dept budgets |
| | Sponsor at least one informational meeting during the year. | OSC, CC, BLR, HC | 2018-2024 | CPA, Cape Cod Compact, Wildlands Trust, Dept budgets |

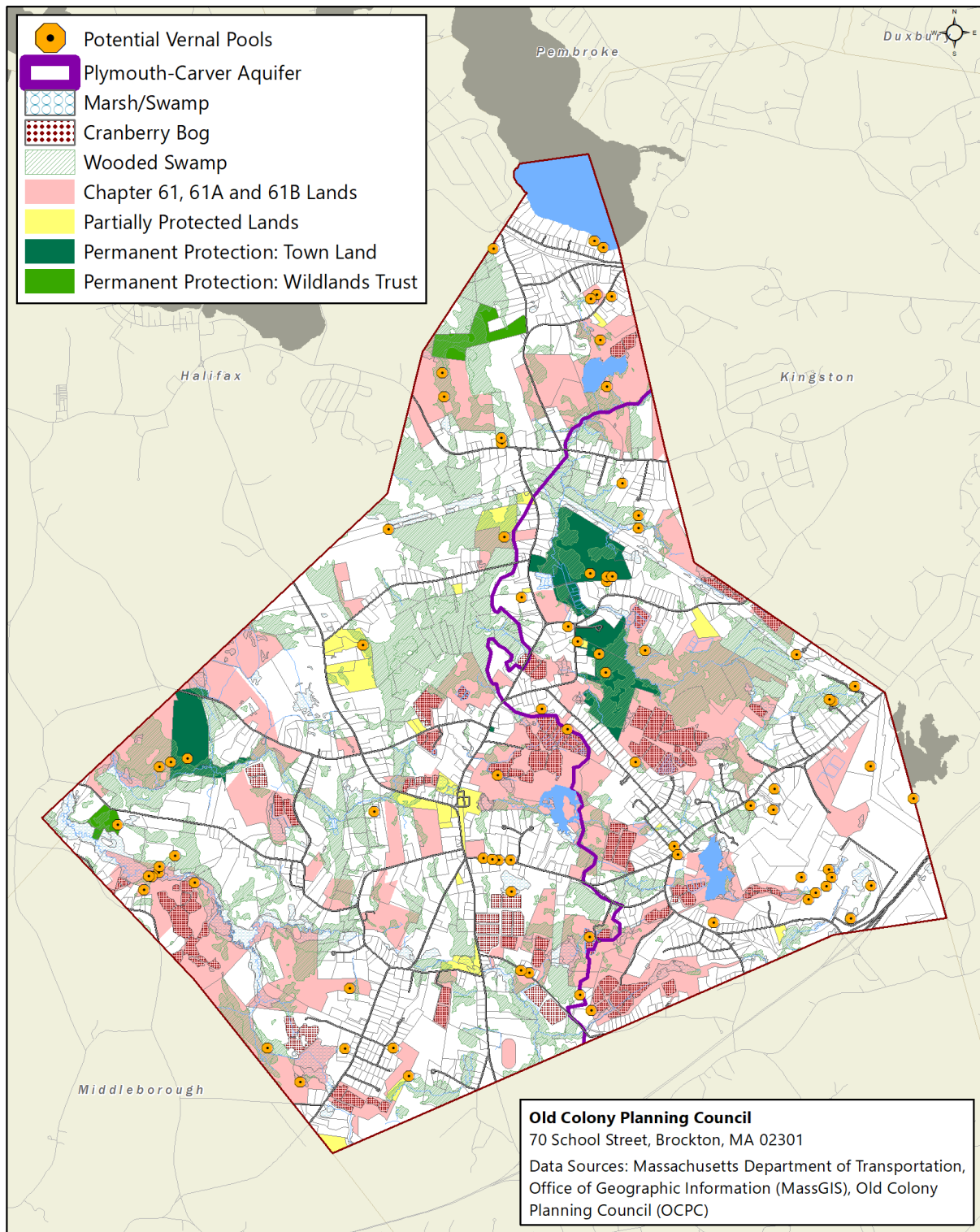
ACTION MAPS

The Plan presents the Action Maps in three sections. Although we attempted to assemble one composite, the physical/geological/biological characteristics of Plympton don't lend themselves to simply depicting proposed actions. . For example, ⅔ of the Town is either in Core or Supporting Habitats, and there are extensive wetlands important for maintaining groundwater supplies.

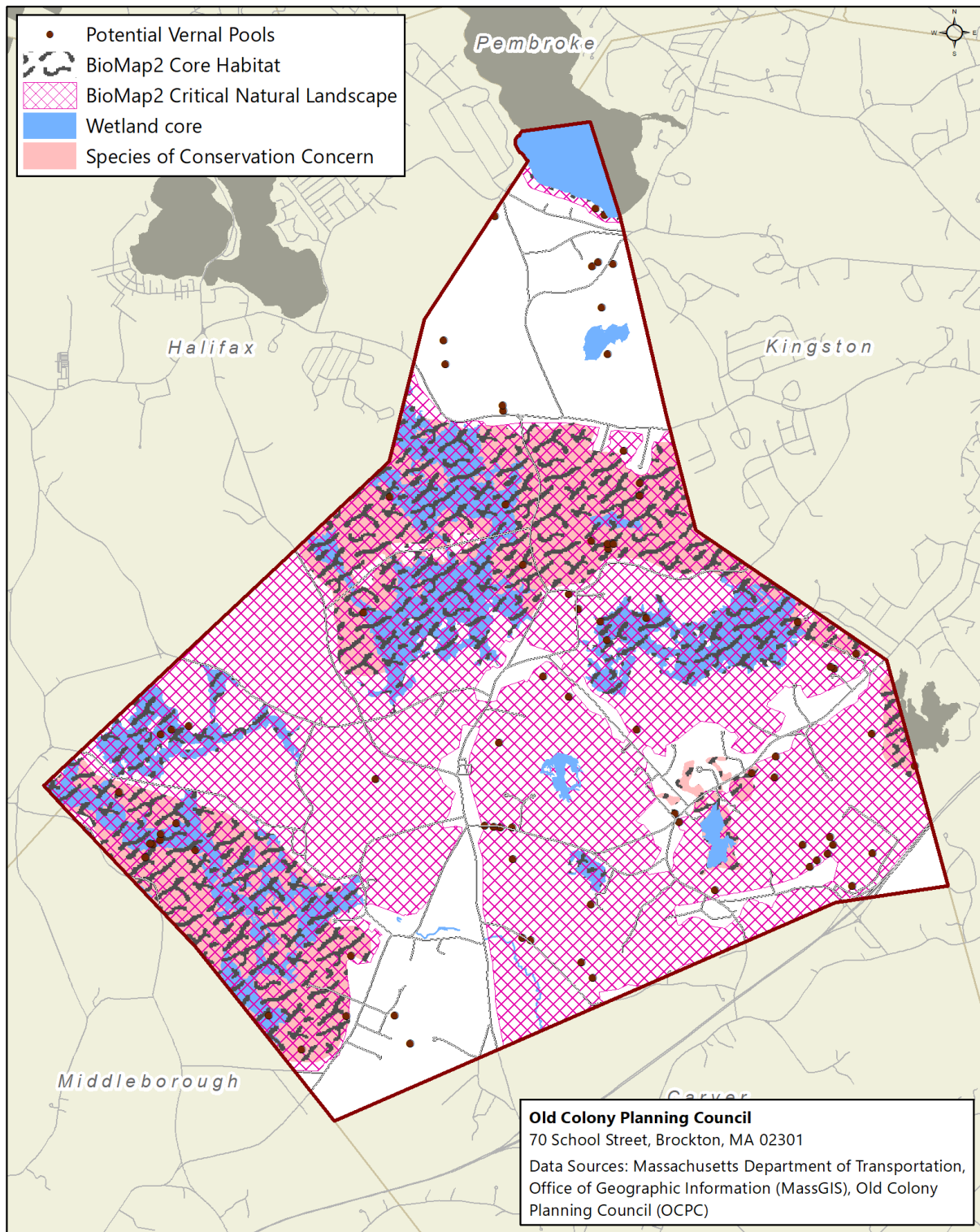
So there are three Action Maps. Map 9.1 presents the Wetlands Resources, noting intact/extensive wetlands, recharge areas, designated interim well sites, potential vernal pools and priority wetlands habitats. These build on the maps in Section 3 that show the Town's extensive groundwater protection overlay districts and town-wide severe septic limitations due to our soils. Conservation and protection of the Town's water resources is an important goal and among the residents' highest priorities. The Plan therefore recognizes that pursuing opportunities that meet this goal, at lowest cost, are the preferred way to proceed. A similar strategy pertains to the next map, Map 9.2 - Intact Wetlands and Species of Concern. As noted above, most of the Town is covered by BioMap and NHESP Criteria. This action map shows the designated BioMap areas, as well as the priority and estimated habitats. We will pursue opportunities that cover multiple aspects of these criteria, while recognizing that much of the Town's land provides valuable environmental benefits. The third map, Map 9.3, depicts Plympton's scenic historic roads, dating back to the Town's first century, starting in 1707. Preserving Plympton's scenic resources, which tend to be along our early network of roads, have large old trees, stone walls and historic houses. The Town also has a number of vistas of extensive open land, many of which are in Chapter 61. Our actions toward this goal will focus on the local roads that exclude state highway designations, working with the Highway Department to determine best practices and the Historic Commission to explore the value of a local bylaw.

We also will reach out to Chapter landowners to make them aware of the Town's appreciation of the scenic value of their lands.

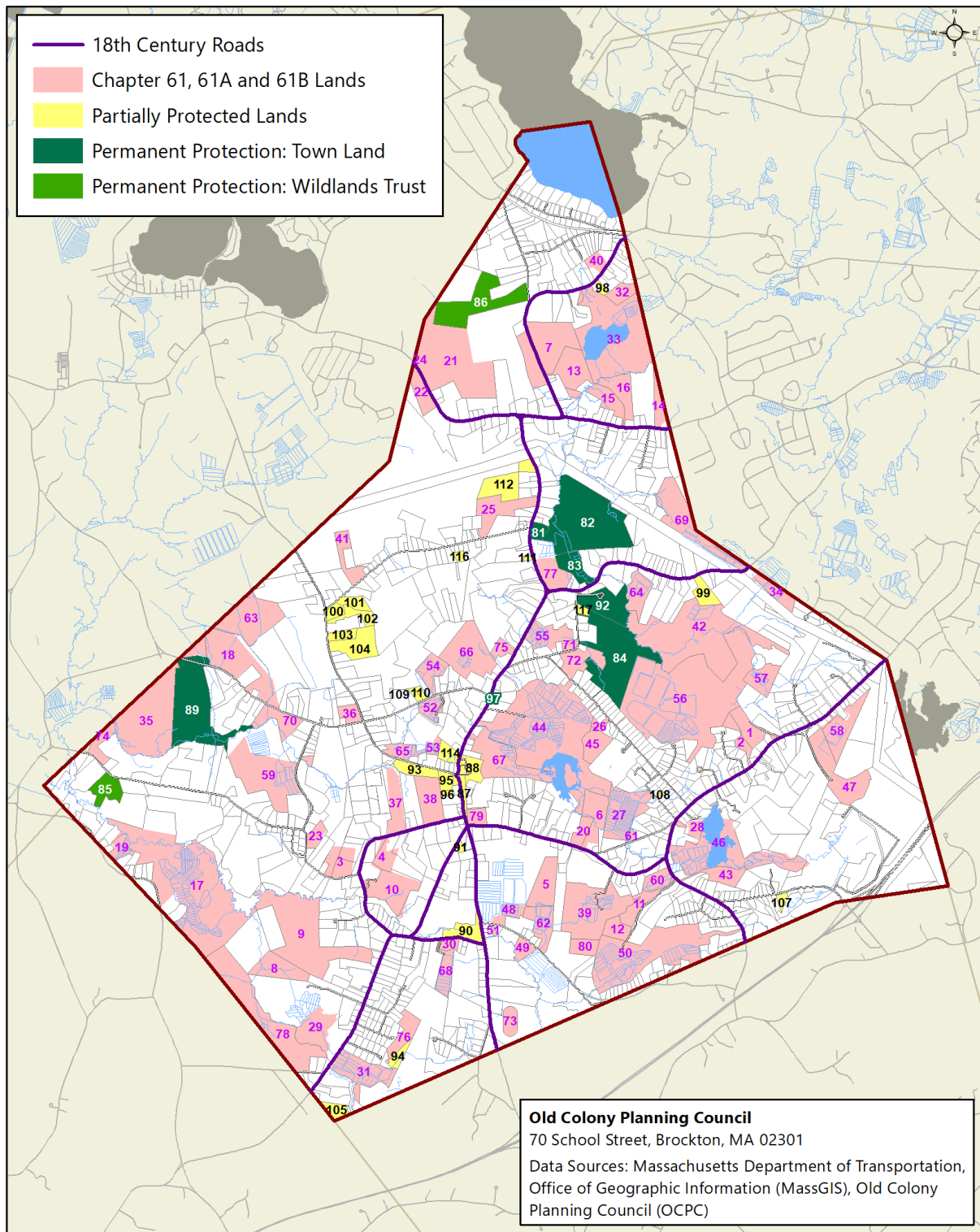
9.1 Action Map - Wetlands Resources



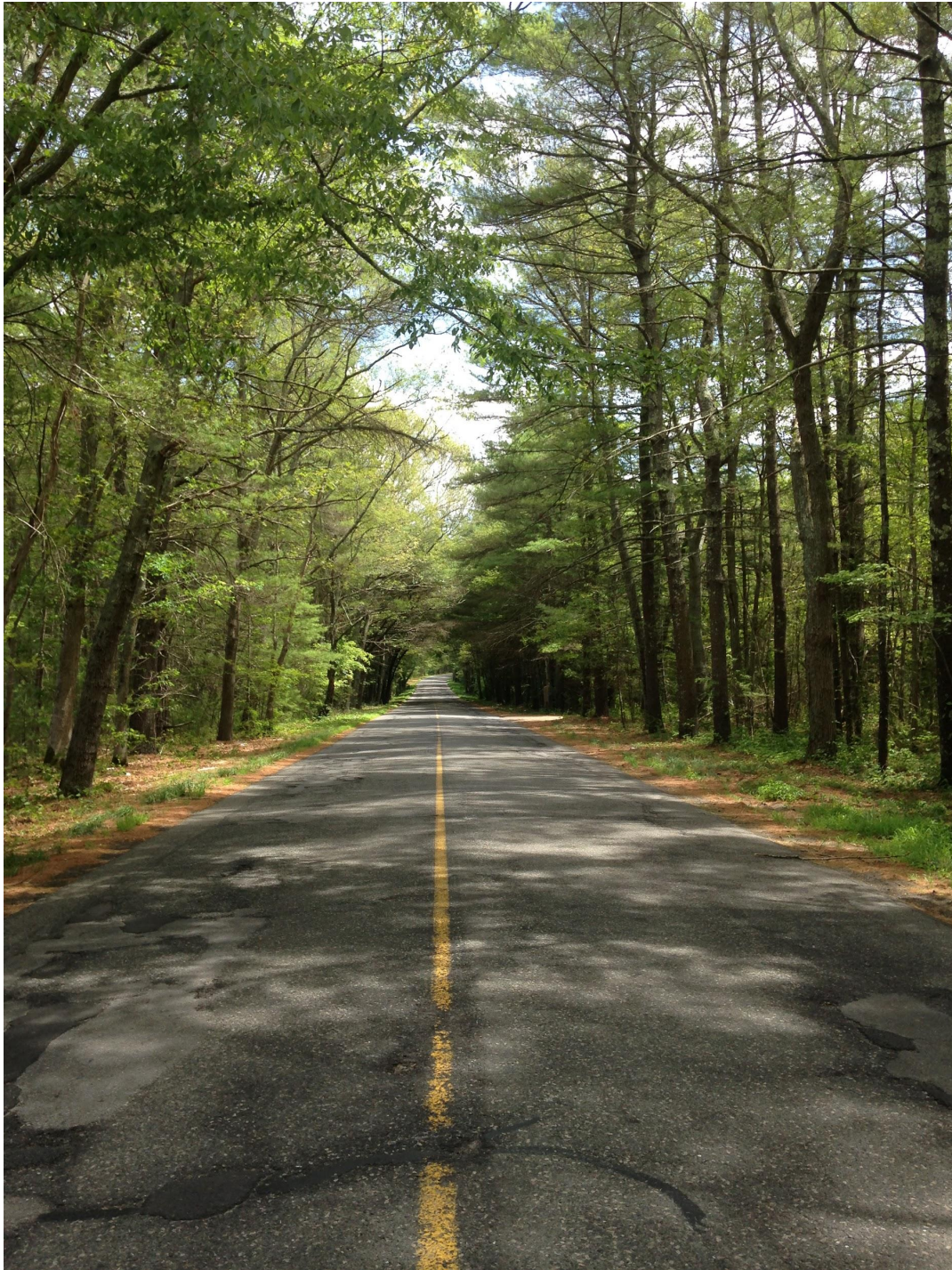
9.2 Action Map - Intact Wetlands and Species of Concern



9.3 Action Map - Historic Scenic Roads



10 - PUBLIC COMMENTS





TOWN OF PLYMPTON
Plympton Town House
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, Massachusetts 02367
Telephone: (781) 585-2700 Fax: (781) 585-2700

**Plympton Board of
Selectmen**

July 25, 2016

To Open Space Committee Co-Chairs Vicki Alberti and Linda Leddy,

I am writing as the Chair of the Plympton Board of Selectmen to confirm my support of the 2016 Open Space Plan. I attended the public hearing that was held this past spring and, along with the 23 other people who attended, agree with the Plan's goals and objectives.

I continually hear from other residents that they, like myself, moved to Plympton because it is a rural town that supports the right to farm and is a quintessential example of the best of small town America. It is important for Plympton to retain this character not only for the residents that love living here but also for the benefit of the entire state.

Massachusetts farming, whether it is a corn field, a cranberry bog or a horse farm, creates food, recreation, business and a visual reminder of the life that formed our country. The careful protection and preservation of natural resources is critical to the future of life on our planet. It is absolutely essential that it happens everywhere, even in a little town in southeastern Massachusetts.

The public and private collaboration that helped to create Churchill Park, the Cato's Ridge Conservation Area and the O'Neil Marsh (known collectively as The Parks) is a joy to share with others. This is not to say that there were no bumps on the road to its creation but the end product is one that can be enjoyed by residents of the town and anyone else that cares to visit.

Our town wants and needs some residential and commercial development but we need this to be done in a well-planned and thoughtful manner. This Open Space plan will give us a tool to encourage reasonable development while maintaining the very reasons we all moved here – farming, open space, small town living and proximity to all the other things that Boston has to offer.

Sincerely,

Colleen Thompson

Chair, Plympton Board of Selectmen

**Town of Plympton
Planning Board**
Plympton, Massachusetts 02367

July 25, 2016
Linda Leddy
Open Space Committee
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367

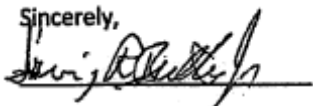
Dear Ms. Leddy;

The Plympton Planning Board is in receipt of the abstract of the new Open Space Plan and are in agreement with its concepts of

1. Protecting and preserving Plympton's natural resources, historic character, and the role of agriculture and agricultural lands in Plympton.
2. Ensuring that future residential and commercial development in Plympton progresses in a manner balancing growth with natural resource preservation.
3. Exploring opportunities for land conservation and recommending parcels to designate for conservation status when it benefits the town.
4. Promoting public awareness, use of, and knowledge of Plympton's historic and natural resources of land conservation and recreation.
5. Fostering increased public/private partnerships in order to secure low-cost/high value return for open space investment.
6. Collaborating with other boards to determine the best way to ensure Plympton will keep its special character while meeting residents' needs.

The Planning Board would like to congratulate the Open Space Committee for its efforts on behalf of Plympton.


Sincerely,



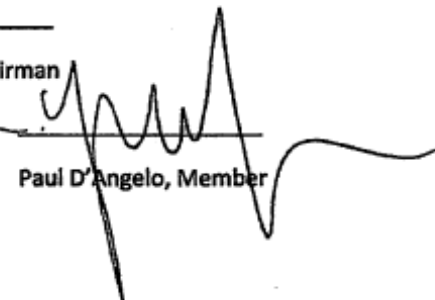
Irving R. Butler, Jr., Chairman



William E. McClellan, Vice-Chairman



Deborah Anderson, Secretary



Paul D'Angelo, Member



Old Colony Planning Council

Lee Hartmann
President

70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4097



Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director

Telephone: (508) 583-1833
Fax: (508) 559-8768
Email: information@ocpcrpa.org
Website: www.ocpcrpa.org

August 2, 2016

Ms. Linda Luddy
Co-Chair, Plympton Open Space Committee
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367

Re: Plympton Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Luddy:

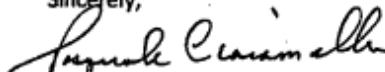
Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) planning staff has recently completed a review of the Town of Plympton's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Plan is consistent with OCPC's Regional Policy Plan and is in general compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Open Space and Recreation Plan requirements. The Seven Year Action Plan presents community needs and issues of concern that were gathered via public meetings and via a community survey. Plympton town officials and volunteers have and continue to work diligently with a variety of partners, including watershed groups, conservation organizations, and land trusts, and in particular the Wildlands Trust, whose staff assisted in the preparation of this Plan update.

The Plan includes a thorough environmental inventory and analysis of Plympton's land as well as a thorough inventory of lands that are of conservation and recreation interest. The Plan does a great job of promoting long-range planning for growth and conservation, responsible conservation and land use planning, including forestry management, water resource protection, and protection of the Town's cultural and historical resources.

OCPC recommends and supports the certification of the updated Plympton Open Space and Recreation Plan. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Senior Community Planner Eric Arbeene at (508) 583-1833 x213 or at earbeene@ocpcrpa.org

Sincerely,


Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director



TOWN OF PLYMPTON
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town House
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367

(781) 585-2700
FAX: (781) 585-2700

July 25, 2016

To whom it may concern,

Good day. I write on behalf of the Plympton Community Preservation Committee after having reviewed the latest draft of the 2016 Open Space Plan created by Plympton's Open Space Committee (OSC).

This is an impressive document, all the more so for having been completed almost entirely with volunteer efforts. The Plan includes the results of the OSC's recent town wide survey, a detailed inventory of chapter and town-owned land, and a detailed listing and discussion of OSC's and town goals in the coming years

The Plan offers an incredibly valuable roadmap and direction for meeting Plympton's open space goals. In particular the list of goals is comprehensive, orderly, well thought through, practical, and with great care balances the financial and political realities of a small community like Plympton. We are most appreciative of the OSC's efforts, look forward excitedly to continued collaboration and supporting the implement the OSC's excellent and farsighted plan.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Russo

Chair, Plympton Community Preservation Committee

Email: M Russo2@msn.com

Cell: 781-264-1220



TOWN OF PLYMPTON

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Town House
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367
TEL: (781) 585-3220
FAX: (781) 582-1505

July 31, 2016

Dear Plympton Open Space Committee,

The Plympton Agricultural Commission has reviewed the draft Open Space Plan which you have prepared. We support it, and are very pleased that one of its' top goals is to expand support for agriculture and related farming businesses in Plympton.

As you point out, more than 1/3 of Plympton's land is used for agriculture. Our farmers not only contribute to our local economy, they are a big part of the reason that Plympton still is rural. We are glad to see that residents rate keeping Plympton's rural character as one of the town's most important goals.

We also agree with the Plan's goal of having the town committees work more closely together on a regular basis. There are many good ideas in the Plan that the Open Space Committee and the Agricultural Commission should implement together and with other town groups. We look forward to doing this with you.

Thank you for all your hard work in putting this together.

Sincerely,

Dick Harlfinger

Chairman, Plympton Agricultural Commission

Plympton Conservation Commission

Town House
Plympton, Mass. 02367

Aug 1, 2016

Dear Plympton Open Space Committee members,

The Plympton Conservation Commission has reviewed the updated Open Space Plan which you have just completed. We believe it will serve the needs of Plympton very well in the next 7 years.

We are particularly pleased to see that protecting water resources and related habitats are among the Plan's top priorities. As you note, although Plympton appears to have considerable open space, we are also a town that has soils ill-suited to intensive development and extensive wetlands that are important to conserve to protect both people and environmental systems. We also appreciate the Plan's recognition of the residents' desire for additional protected open space. These are all issues that regularly come before the Conservation Commission, so we can testify that having an analysis of town needs and a Plan to work from in the coming years will be a great help.

We appreciate too that one of the Plan's priorities is to sponsor more educational programs for residents to help them understand both the benefits and limits of living in such a wetlands-rich town.

We extend our thanks to you all for such a comprehensive and useful update and look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of our town.

Sincerely,


Rick Burnet

Chairman



TOWN OF PLYMPTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

31 AUGUST 2016

Plympton Open Space Committee
5 Palmer Road
Plympton, MA 02367

Re: 2016 Open Space Plan

Dear Open Space Committee Members:

Plympton is a unique community - not only within the South Shore of Massachusetts, but also within the Commonwealth as well. Its ability to retain a rural character with such a close proximity to Boston sets it apart from other towns and creates a unique character which is difficult to replicate. Plympton has historically been an outlier in the "what everybody else is doing" camp. Not just in the recent past, but historically as well. Houses were built in Plympton long after any respectable Bostonian would build that style in the "big" city. They did have sporadic booms in town thanks largely to their half-day mills on the Winnetuxet River and its short-lived advantageous location close to the new Old Colony rail line in the mid-1800's. But for the most part this has been a sleepy agrarian town.

Fast forward to the late 1990's and again the Old Colony rail line spurred growth - though it should be noted that many folks did not move to Plympton because it was a 10-minute drive to the Halifax commuter rail station, but rather because they could commute into Boston - or drive up to the Rte 128 belt within a reasonable time frame and still live in a largely rural and agrarian community. The farming and animal husbandry culture in this town helps define the landscape that encourages people to join the community from many surrounding towns like Duxbury, Kingston and Hanover. It is unique on the south shore and folks leave other wonderful communities to come here to experience something a bit different. Couple that with the significant percentage of homes that are 75 year or older (more than 15 % of Plympton's housing stock) and it is little doubt that the combination of the natural and built landscape make Plympton a special place - especially given its proximity to Boston.

The proposed Open Space Plan lists of two of their goals the following:

- To preserve the rural character and traditional New England atmosphere of Plympton.
- To promote public awareness, use of, and knowledge of Plympton's historic and natural resources, as well as promoting public awareness of land conservation and recreational goals.

These are both critical to helping to preserve the rural character of a town only 38 miles from the center of Boston. How many places can you go within 38 miles of our capital and regularly see horses, cows or chickens strolling about with old homes in the background - and a lifestyle for many of its residents that represents a nice blend of modern needs with the best that was the past.

For many, many years, Plympton was a forgotten community that preserved itself not because of a Plan, but rather because it was just off the beaten path. It has been featured in the Boston Globe real estate section twice since 1908 as a desirable community that provides a rural character so close to Boston. Without careful planning and initiatives such as this Open Space Plan, this will be lost. And while not perfect, I have seen to some extent what careful planning can produce. In the town where I grew up in MetroWest - they had some forward thinkers many years ago - and now over a 1/3 of its land is protected open space - adding significantly to the visual and historical landscapes that make that town special. For Plympton this Plan builds on the prior one and provides our small community with the opportunity to march forward in an effort to help preserve some of what make this a special and historic place to live.

5 Palmer Road, Plympton, MA 02367 * 781-585-3220
historicplympton.com

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan that so many have had the opportunity to participate in creating. Plympton is a community that has a significant number of historic resources which are both worthy of preservation and are strengthened by open space initiatives such as this. I am strongly in support of the adoption of the new Plan and look forward to the fruits it should bare.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wilhelmsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Wilhelmsen, Chair
Plympton Historical Commission

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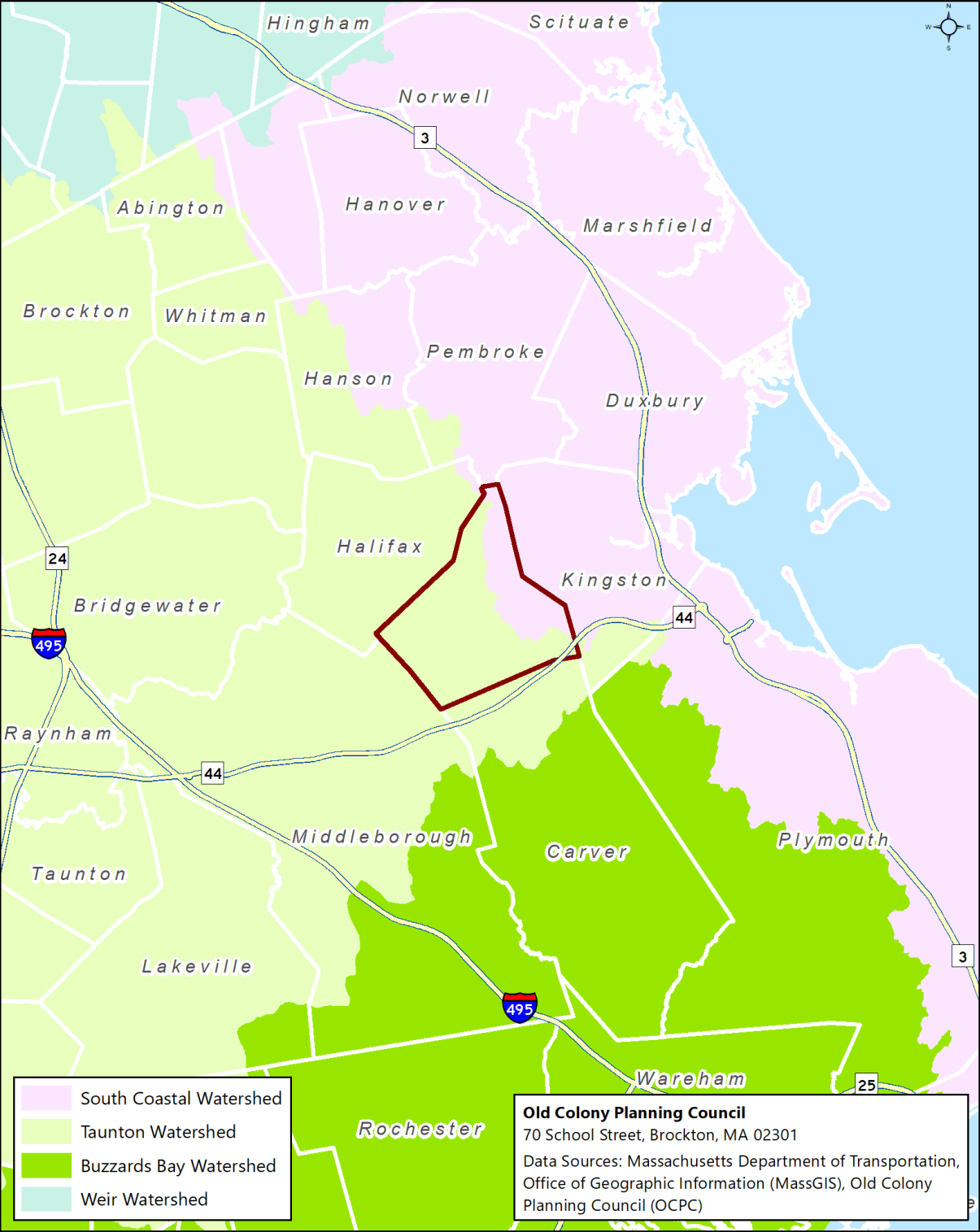
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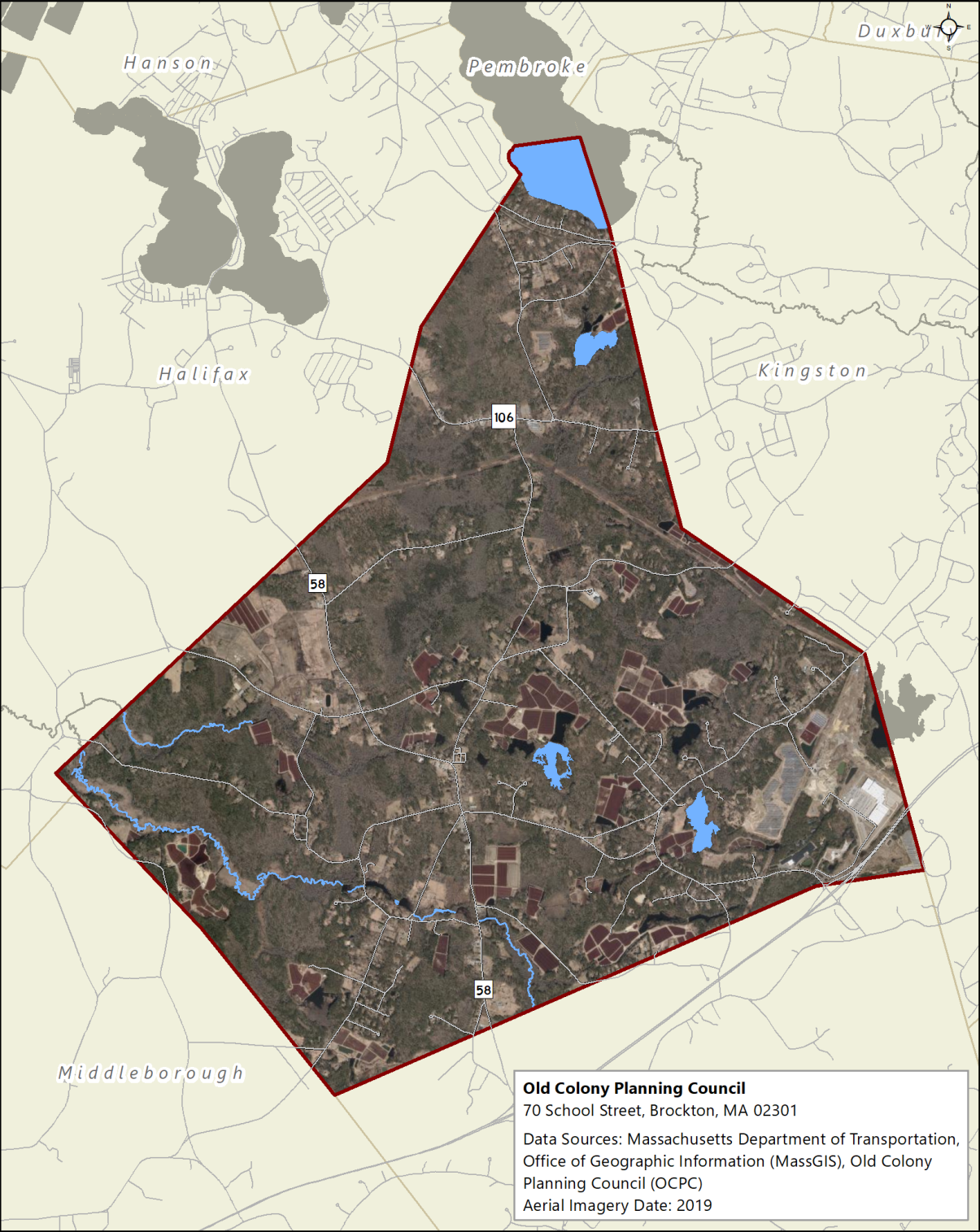
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APPENDIX A - MAPS

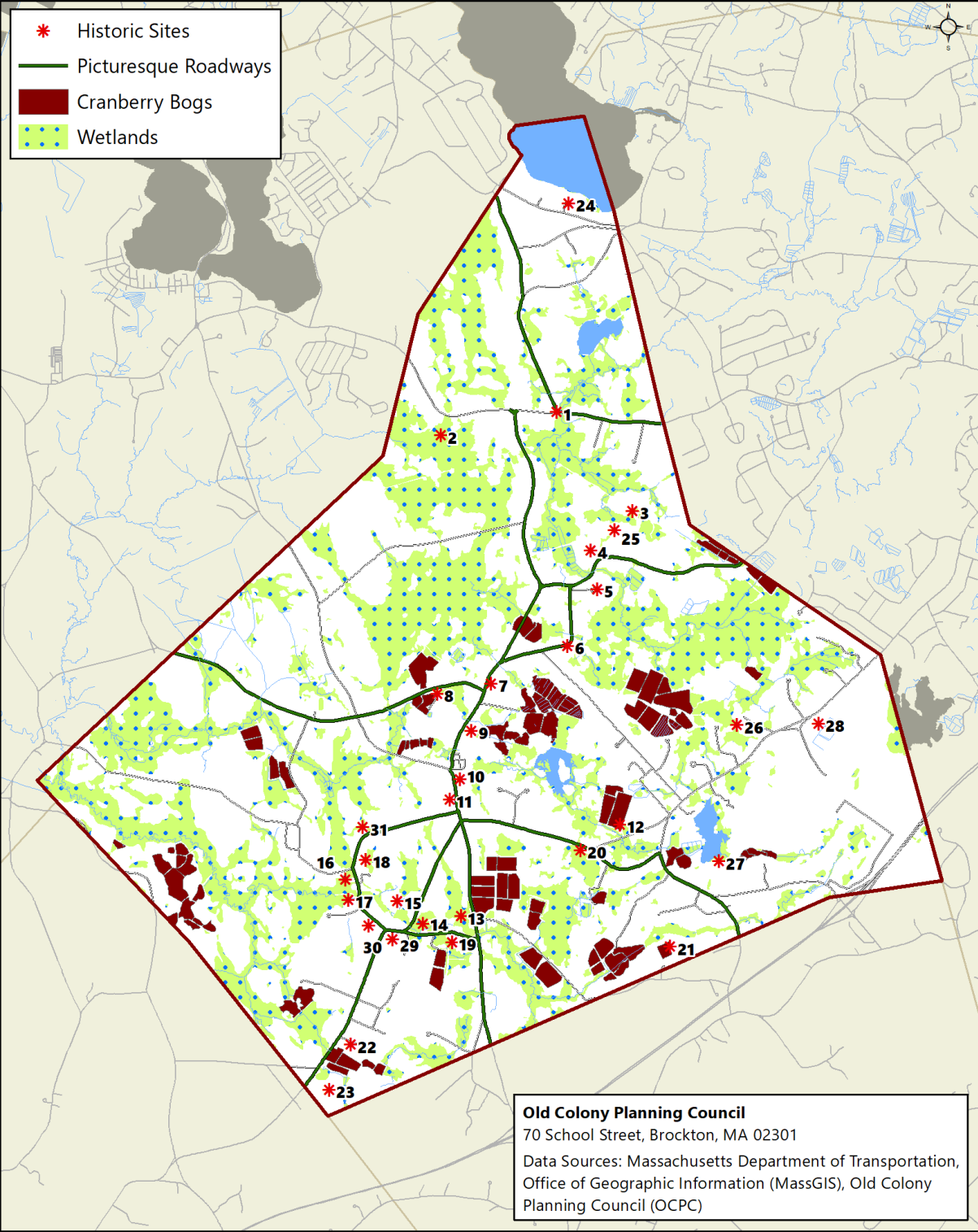
3.1 Locus Map and Watersheds



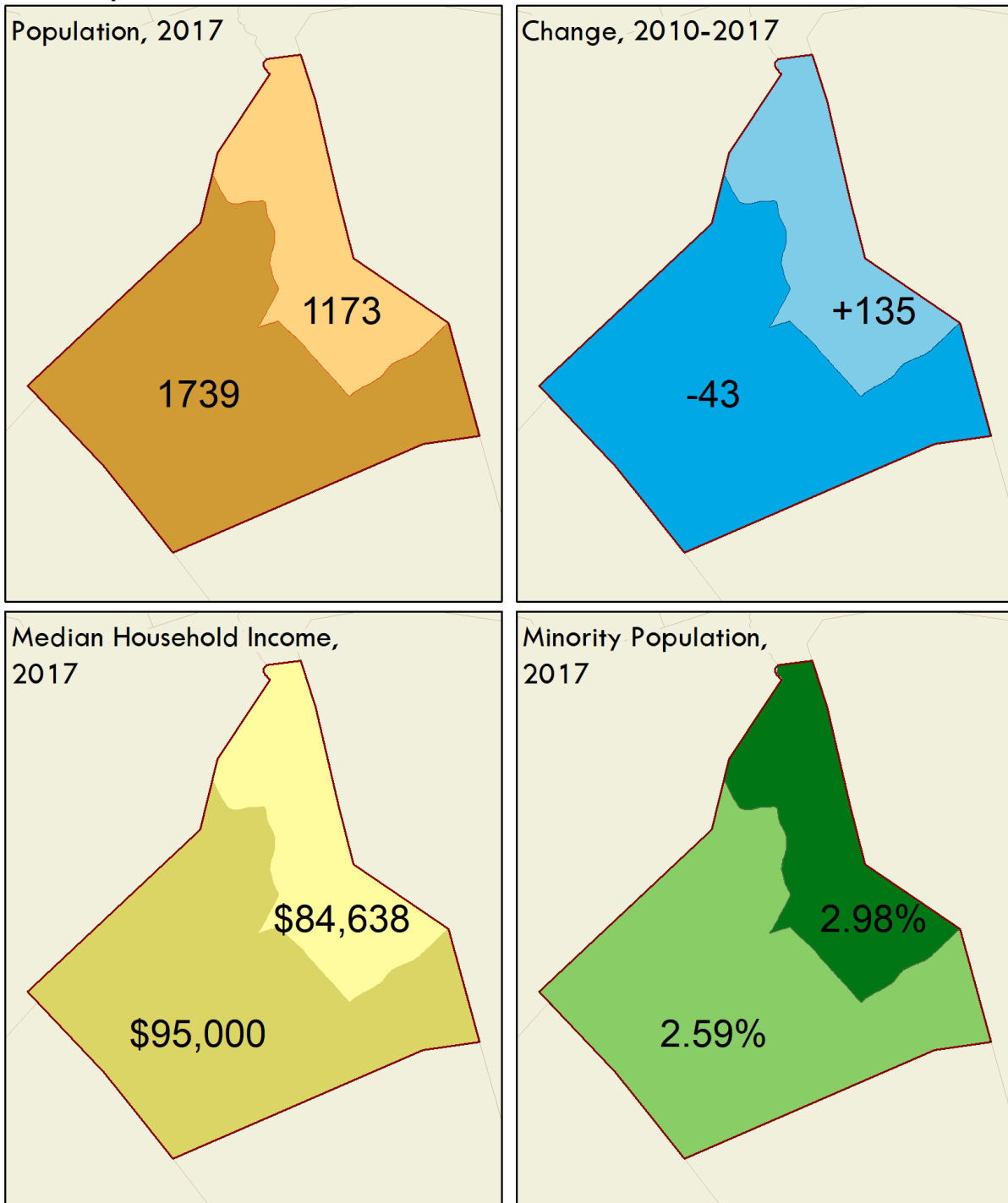
3.2 Aerial Map



3.3 Natural and Historic Features



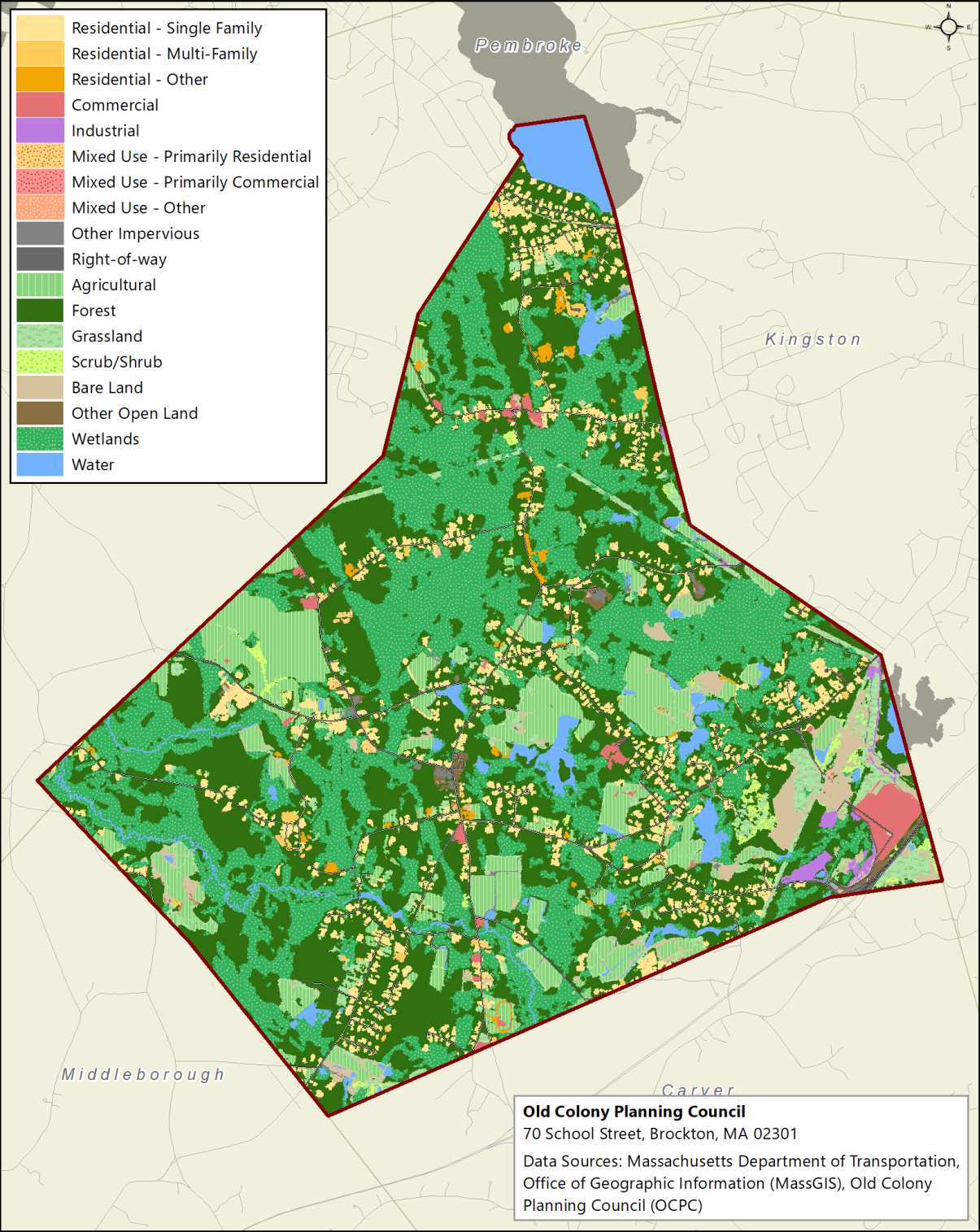
3.4 Population Characteristics



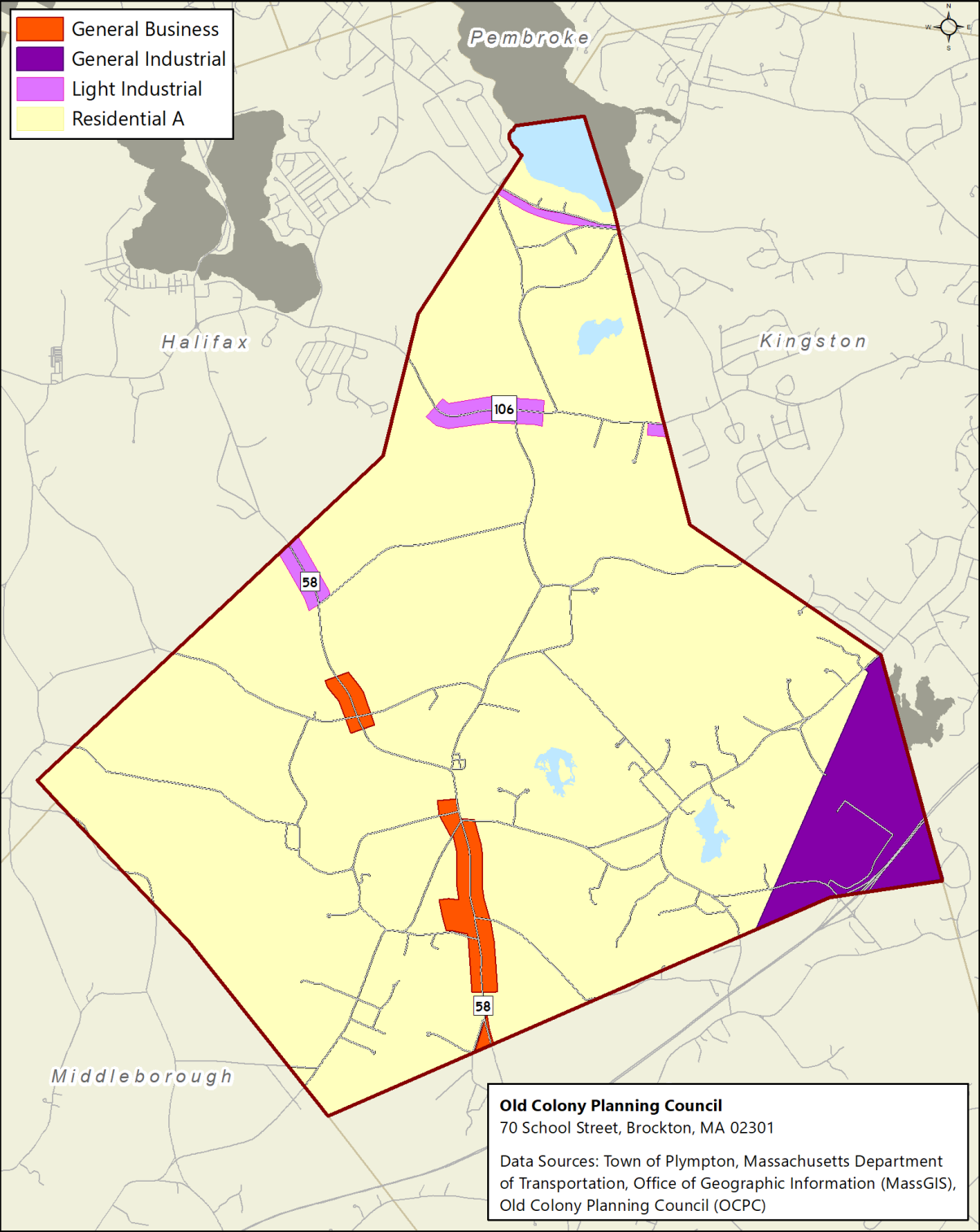
Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Data Sources: Massachusetts Department of Transportation,
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Old Colony
Planning Council (OCPC)

3.5 Land Use



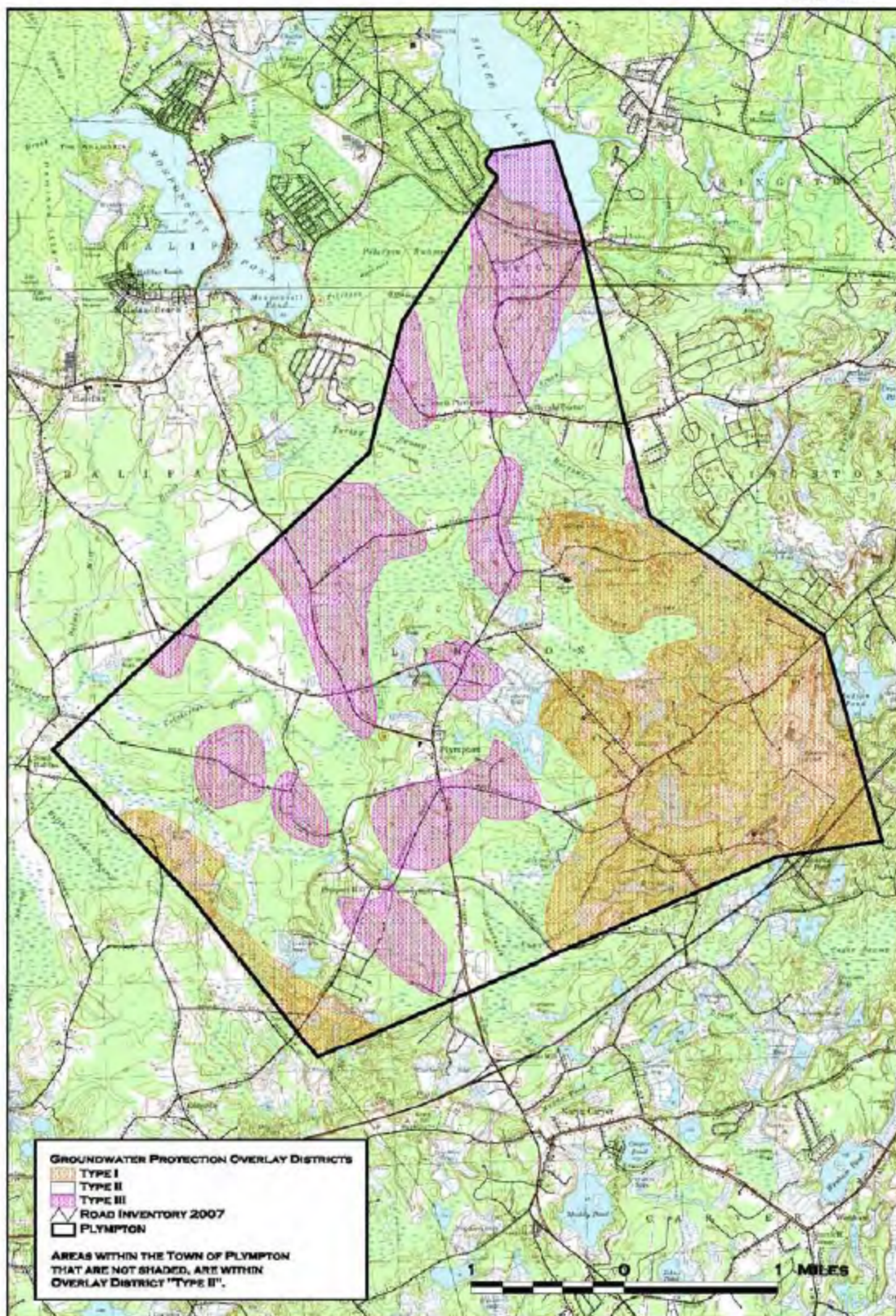
3.6 Zoning



GROUNDWATER PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICTS



FIGURE 3.7



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

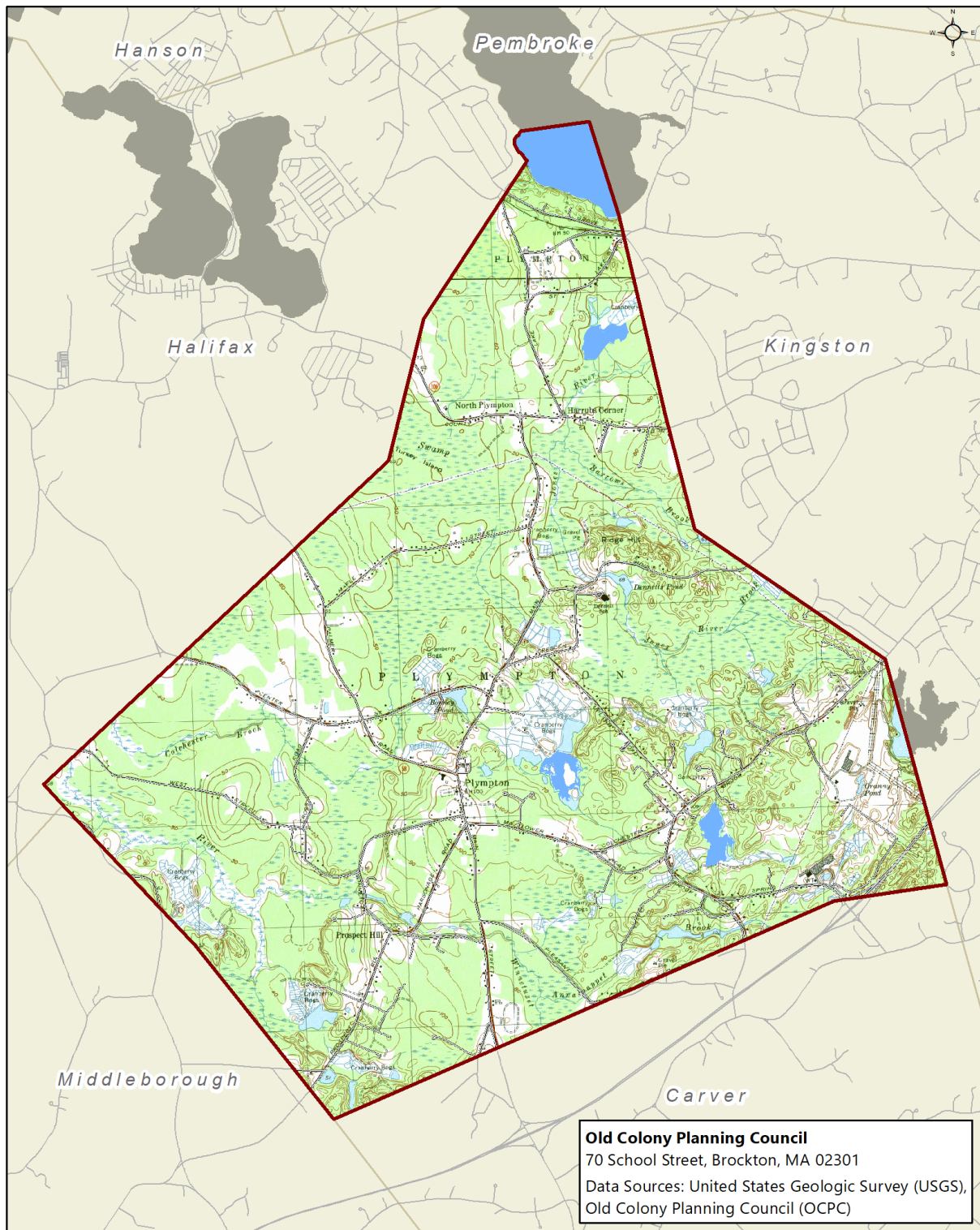
70 SCHOOL STREET

BROCKTON, MA 02301

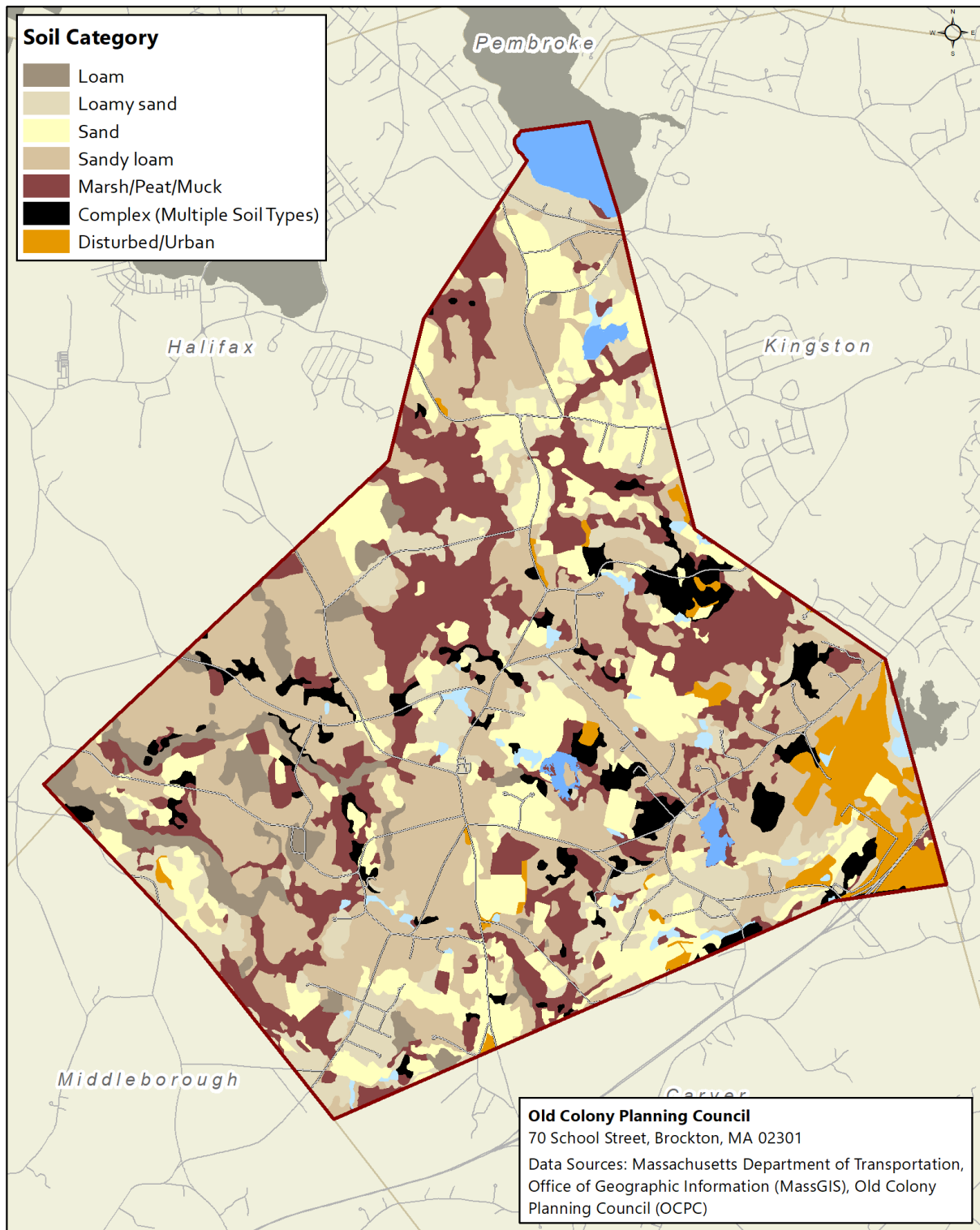
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF PLYMPTON

AUGUST, 2008

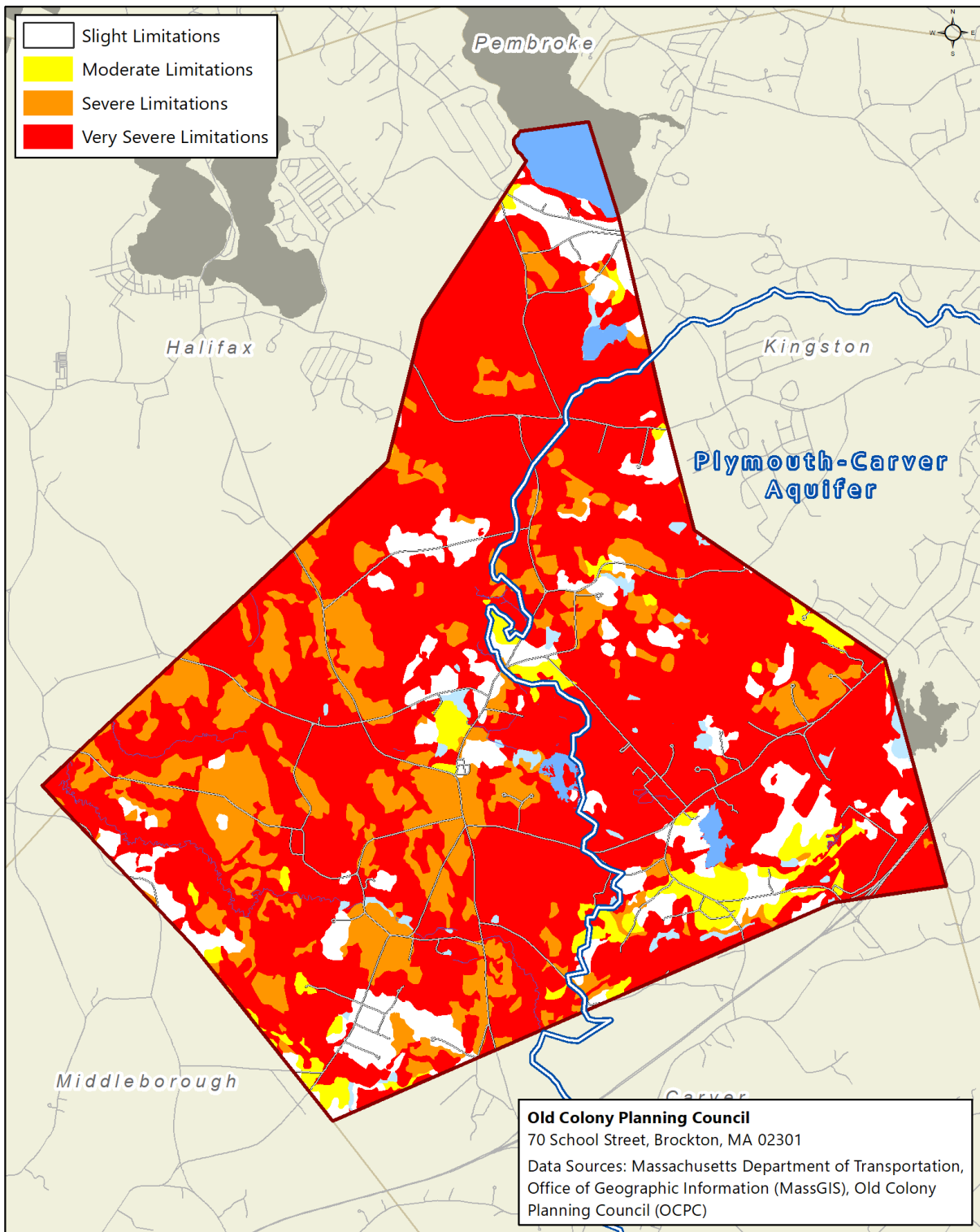
4.1 Topographic Map



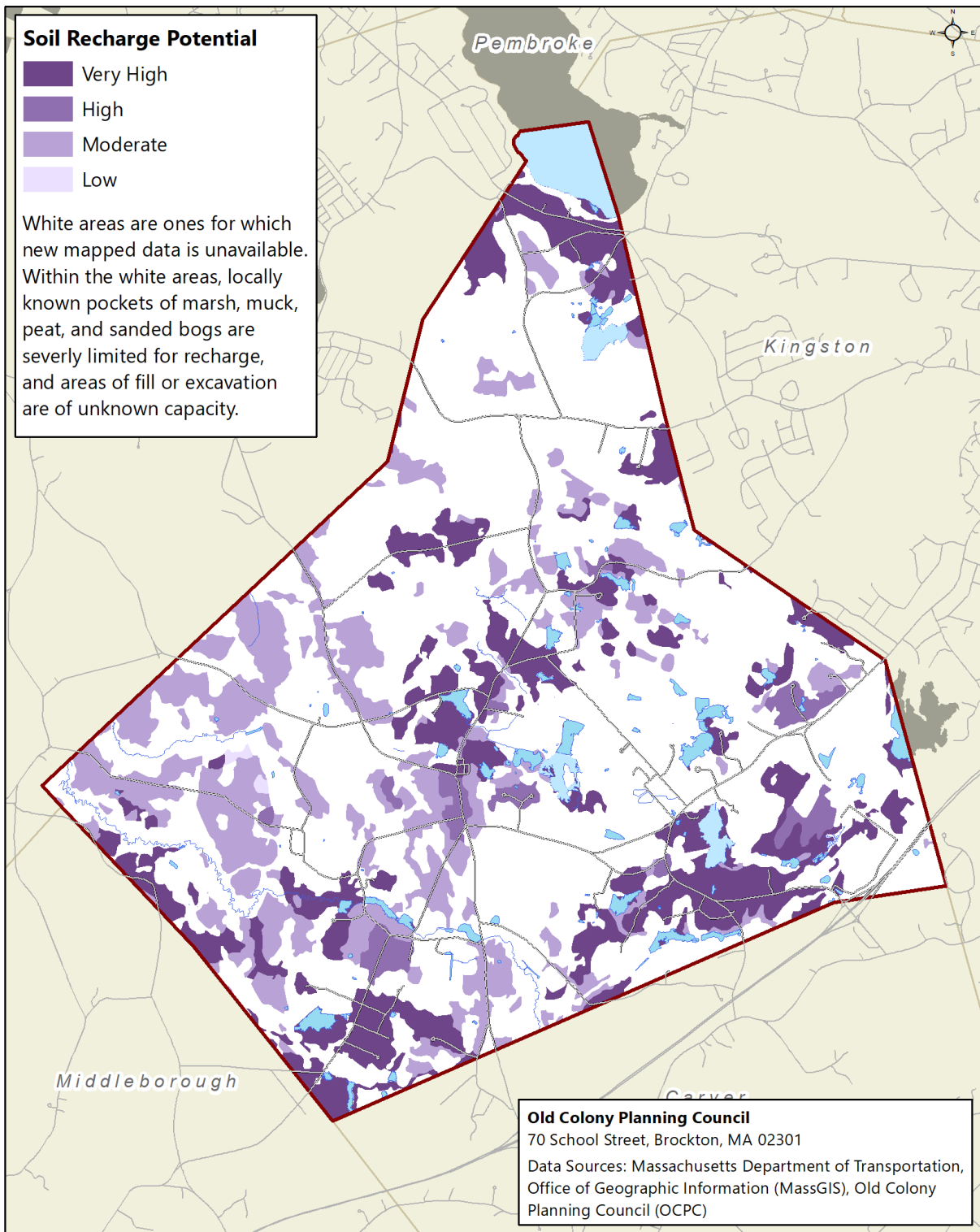
4.2 Soils and Geologic Features



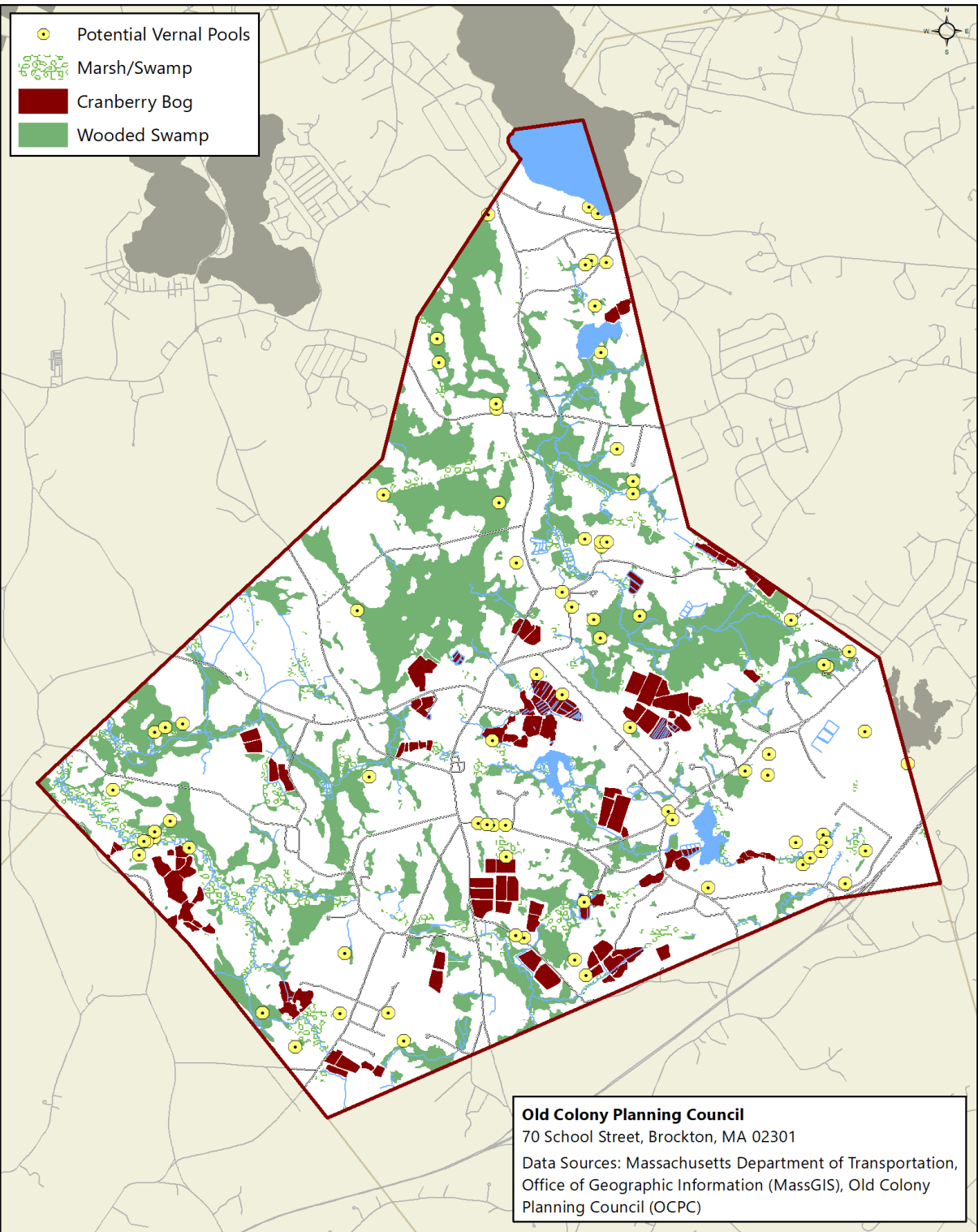
4.3 Septic Limitations



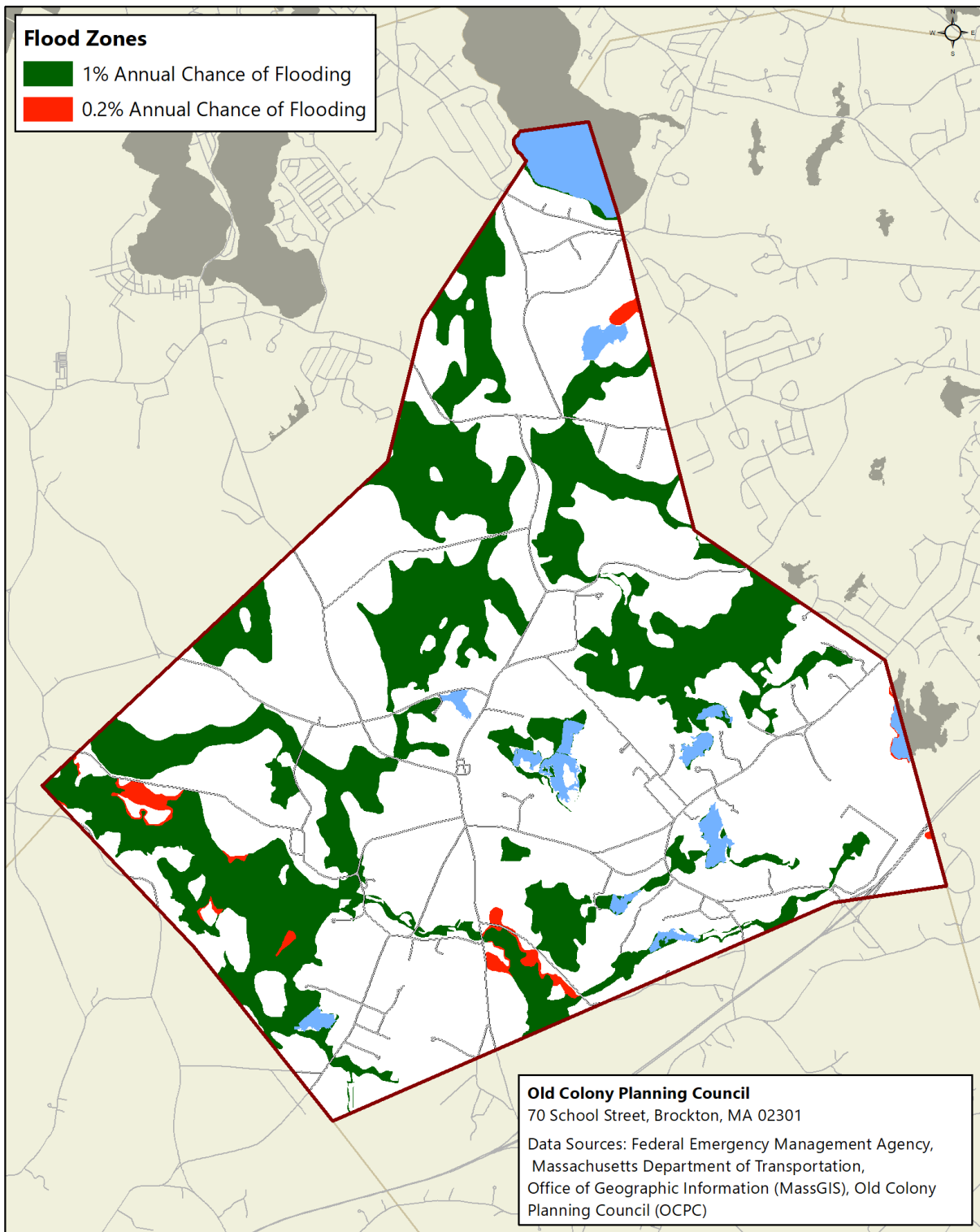
4.4 Soils by Recharge Potential



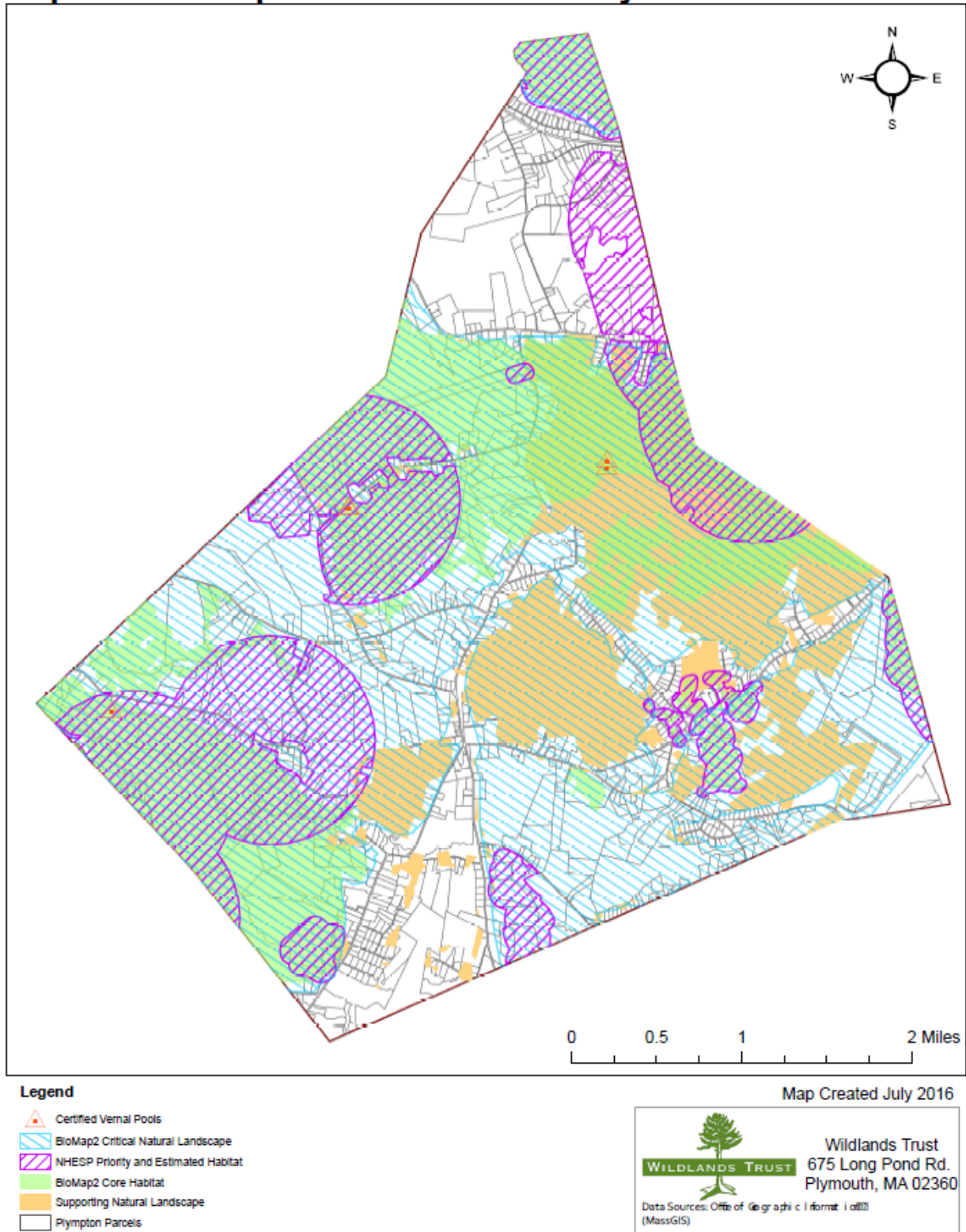
4.5 Wetlands Resources



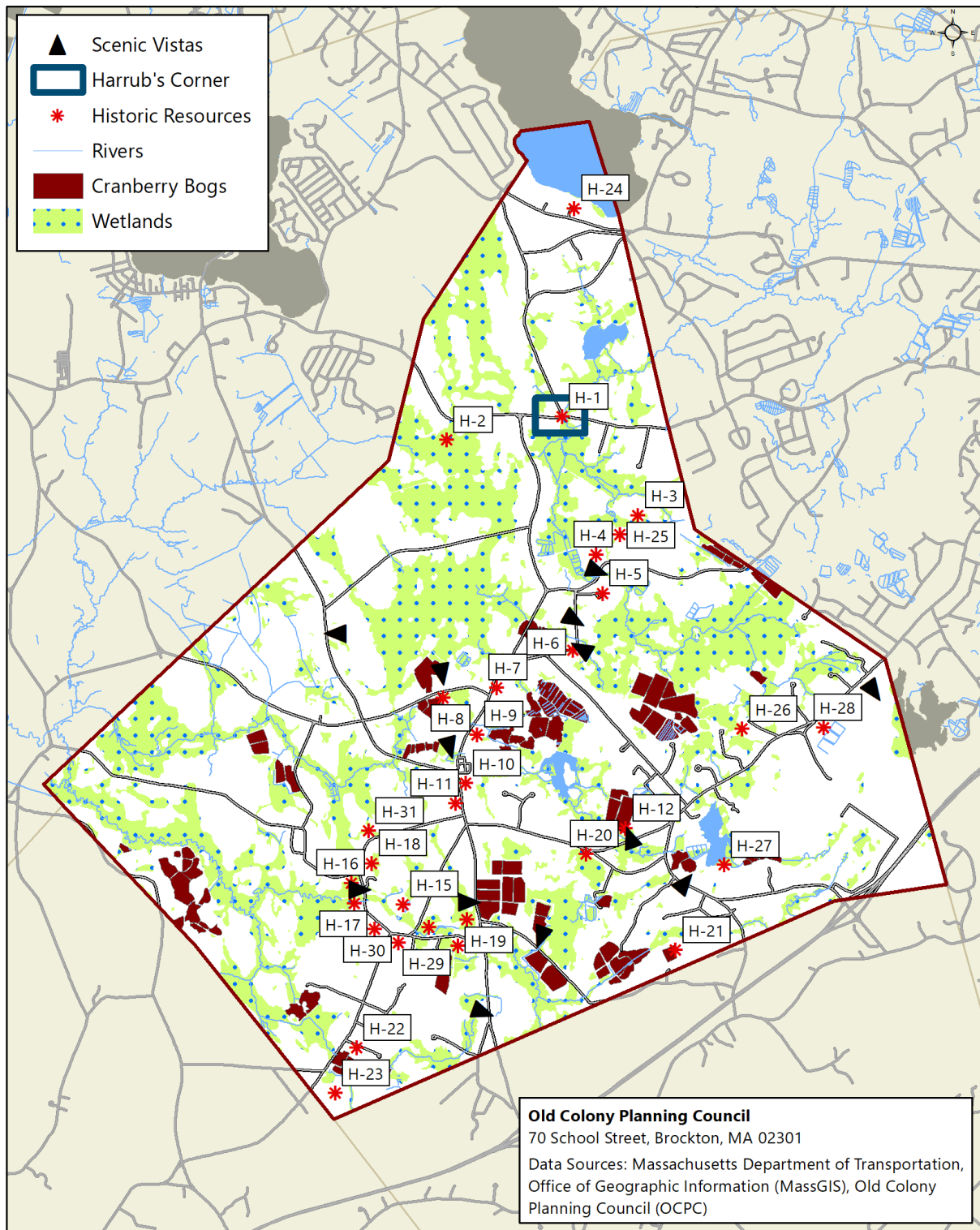
4.6 Flood Zones



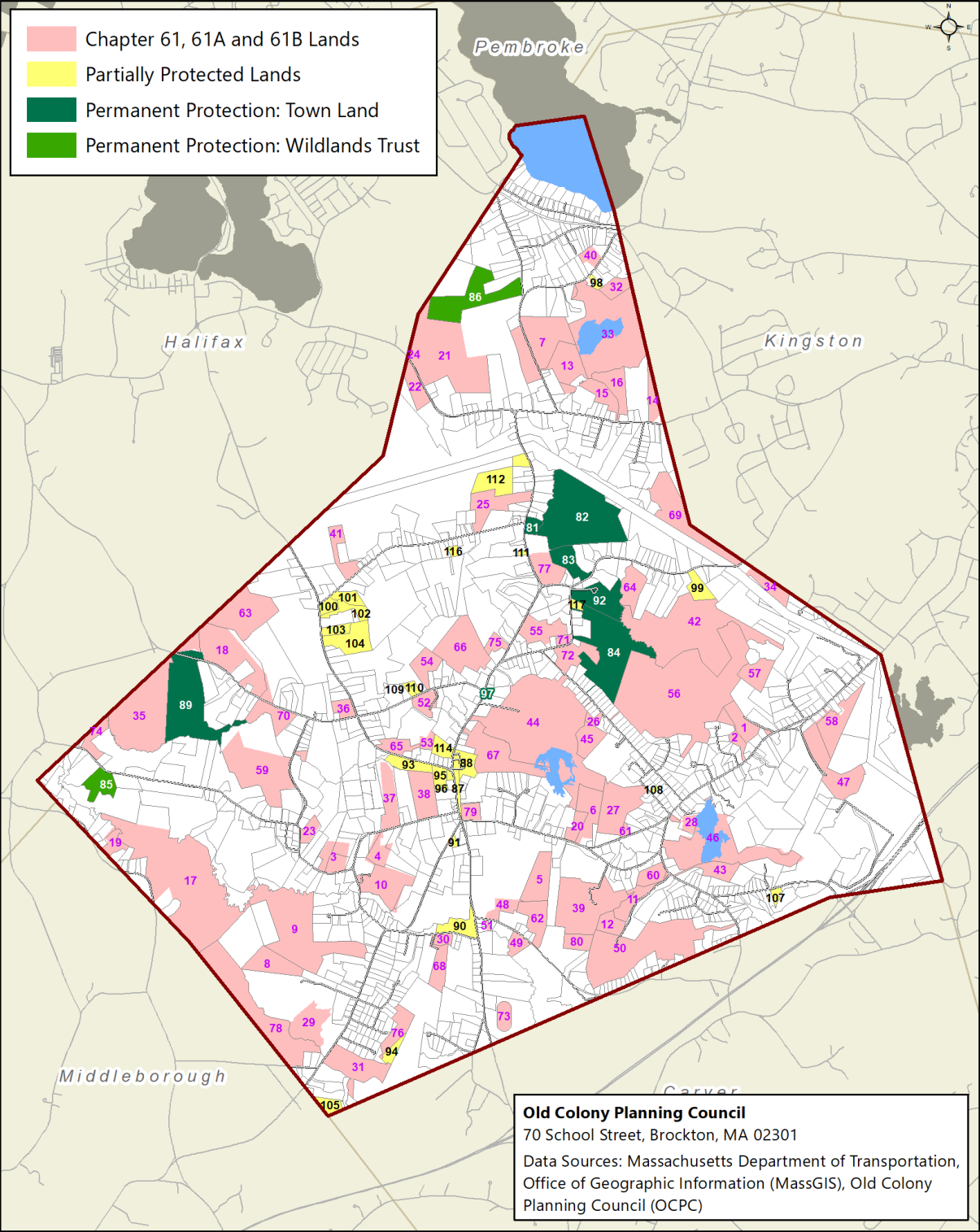
Map 4.7: BioMap2 and NHESP Priority Habitat



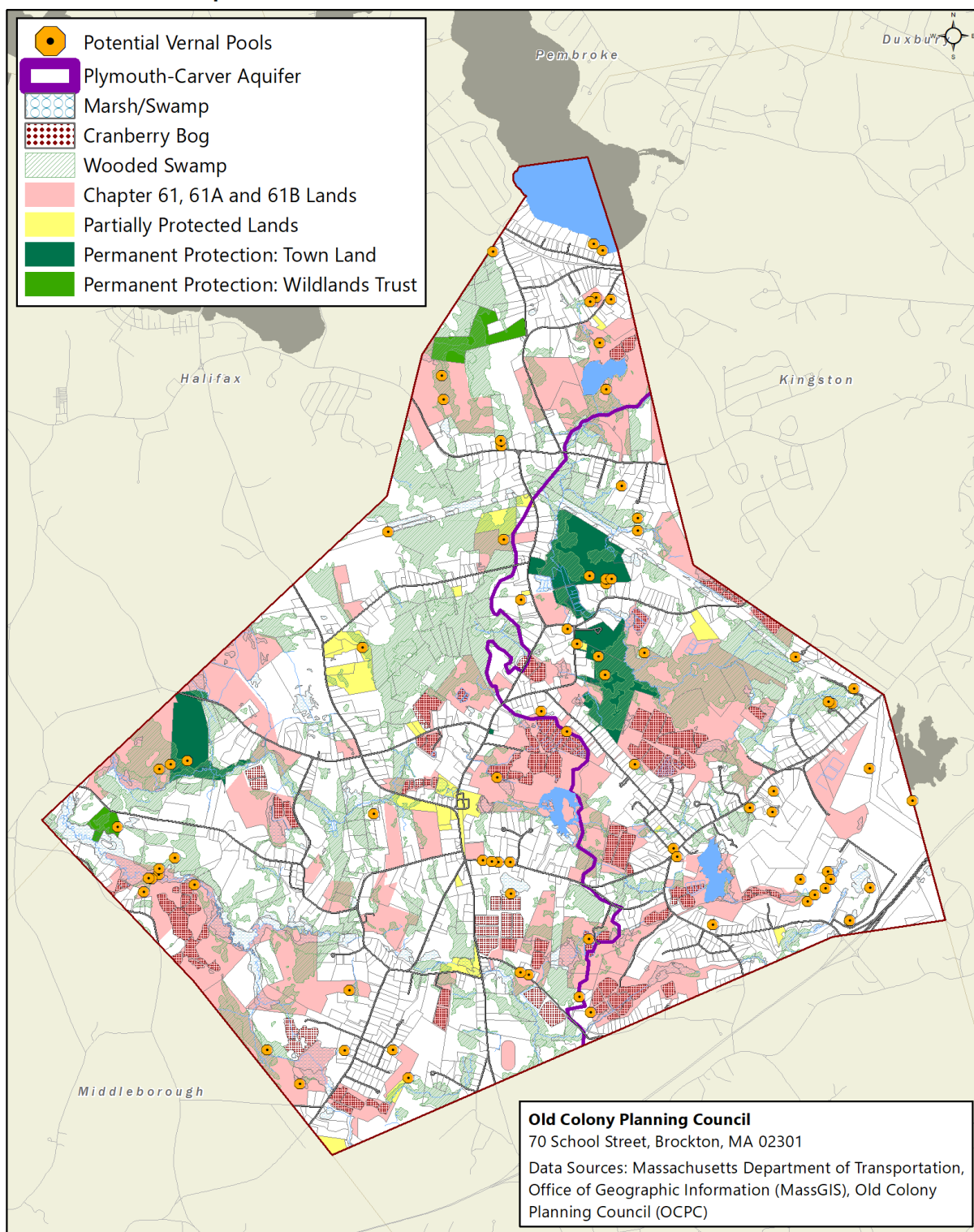
4.8 Scenic Resources and Unique Environments



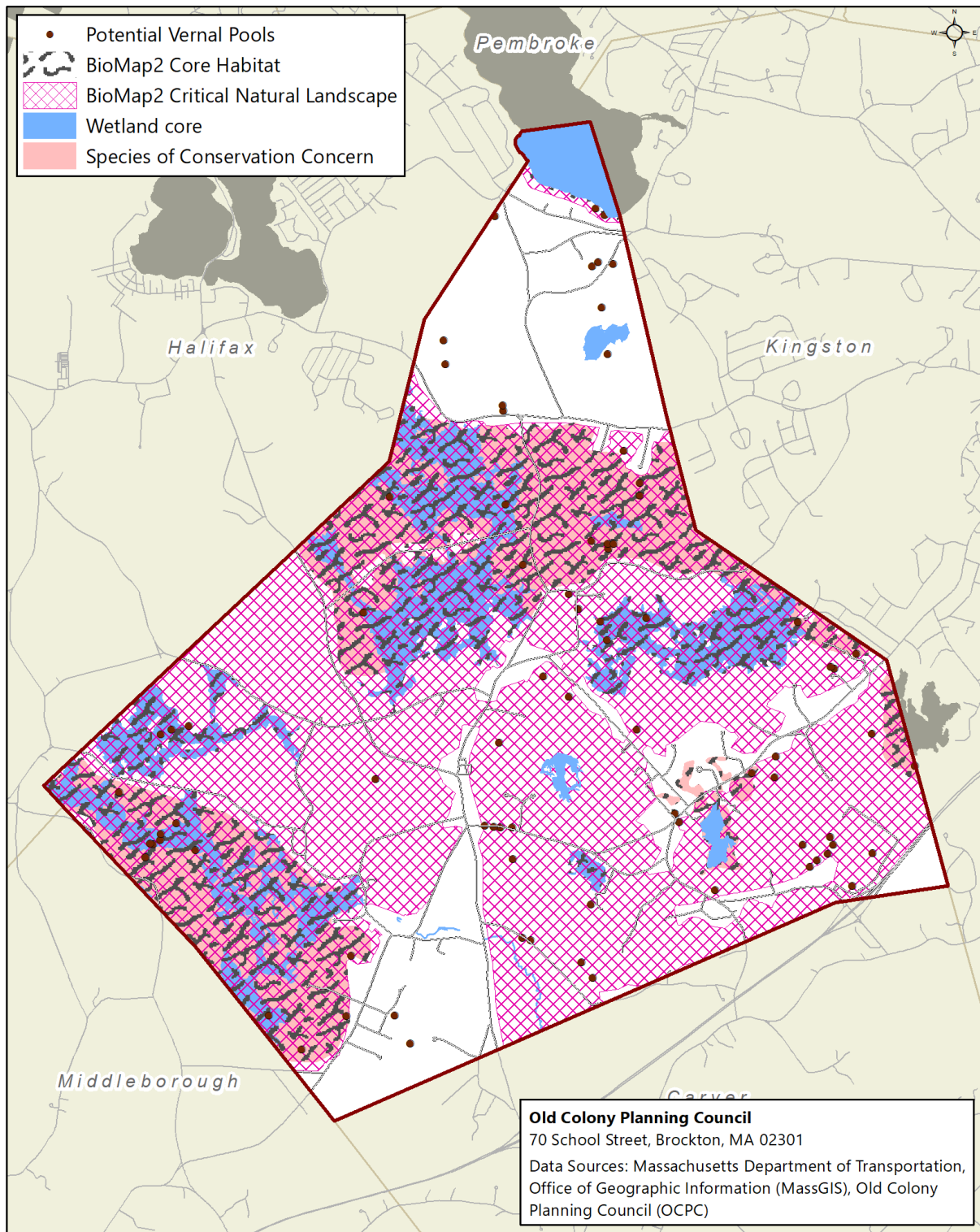
5.1 Inventory of Lands



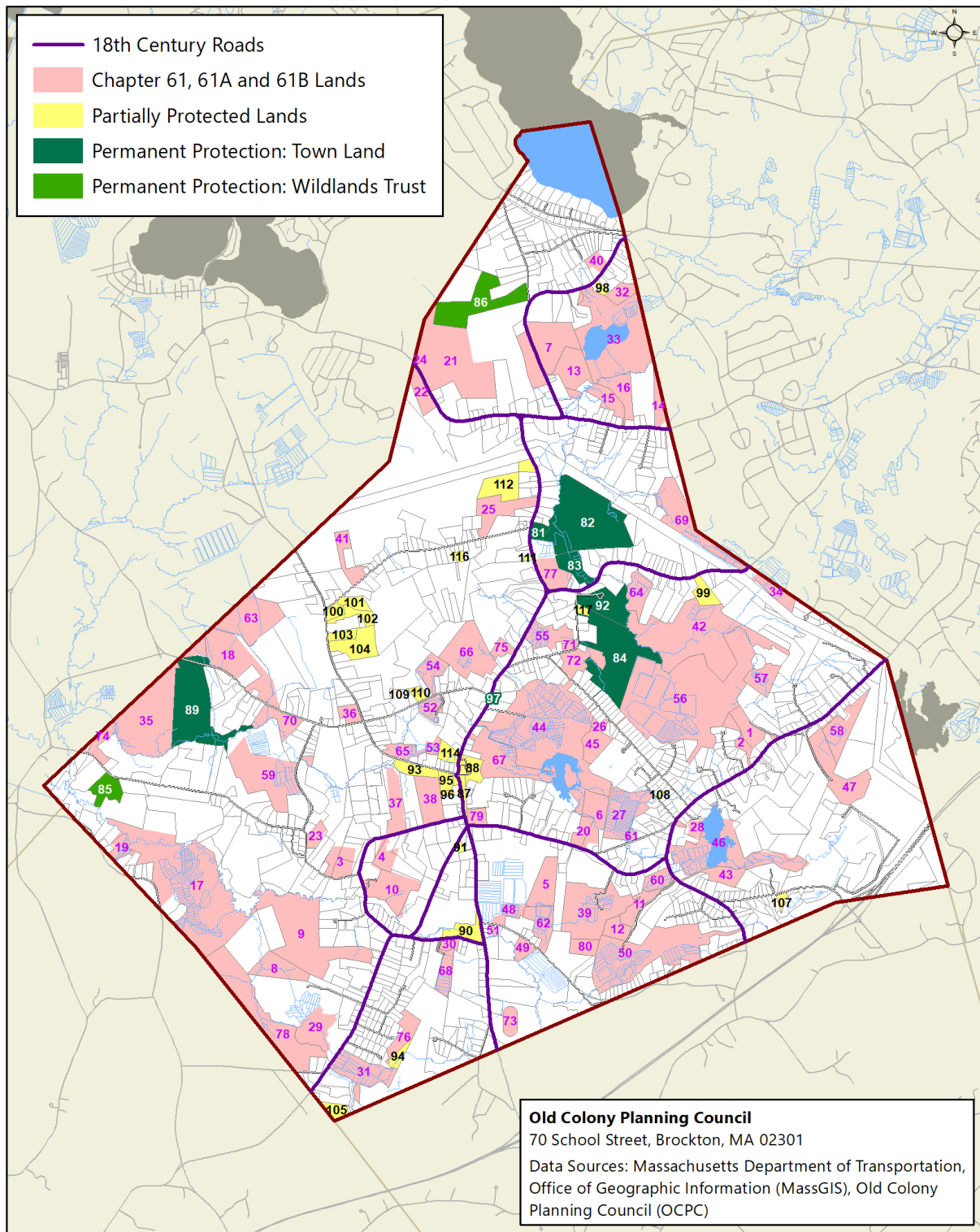
9.1 Action Map - Wetlands Resources



9.2 Action Map - Intact Wetlands and Species of Concern



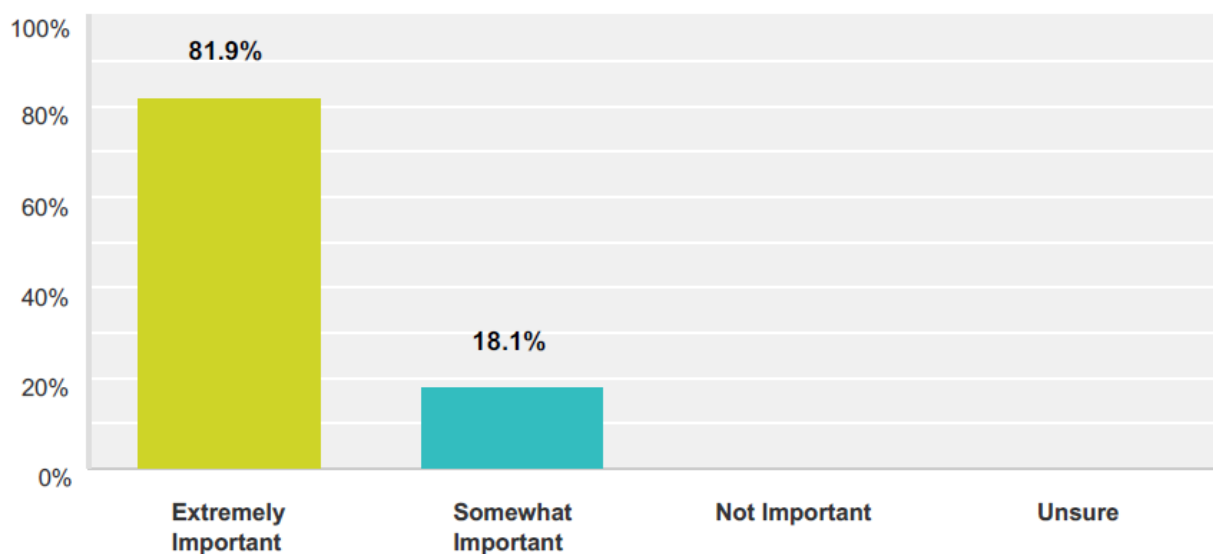
9.3 Action Map - Historic Scenic Roads



APPENDIX B - DETAILED SUMMARY OF SURVEY

Q1 How important is it to preserve the rural character of Plympton?

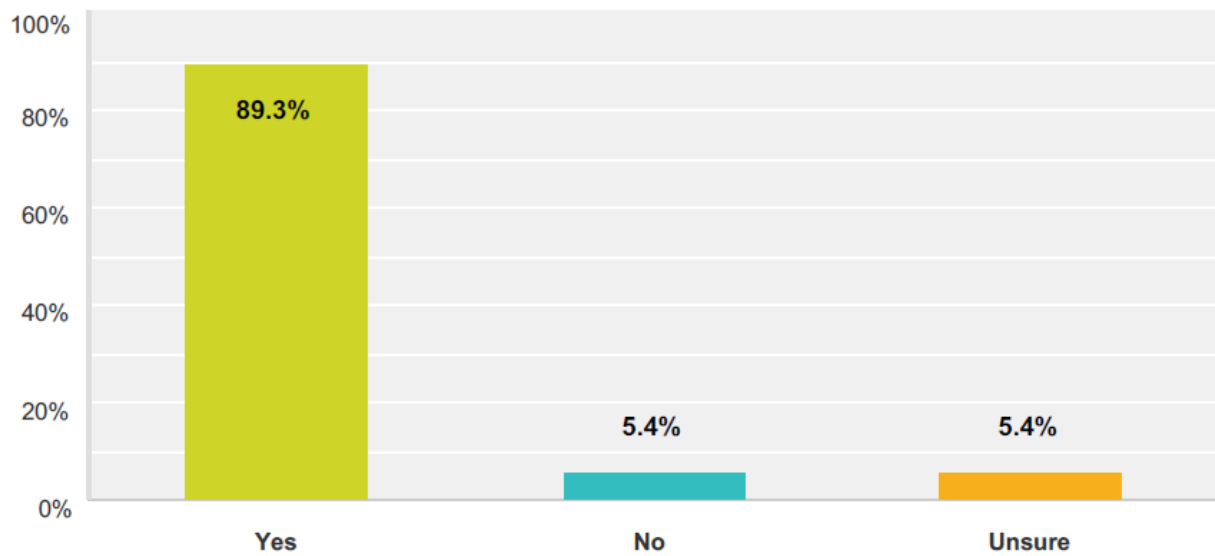
Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Extremely Important | 81.9% | 122 |
| Somewhat Important | 18.1% | 27 |
| Not Important | 0.0% | 0 |
| Unsure | 0.0% | 0 |
| Total | | 149 |

Q2 Should the town of Plympton set aside and protect land for conservation and open space purposes?

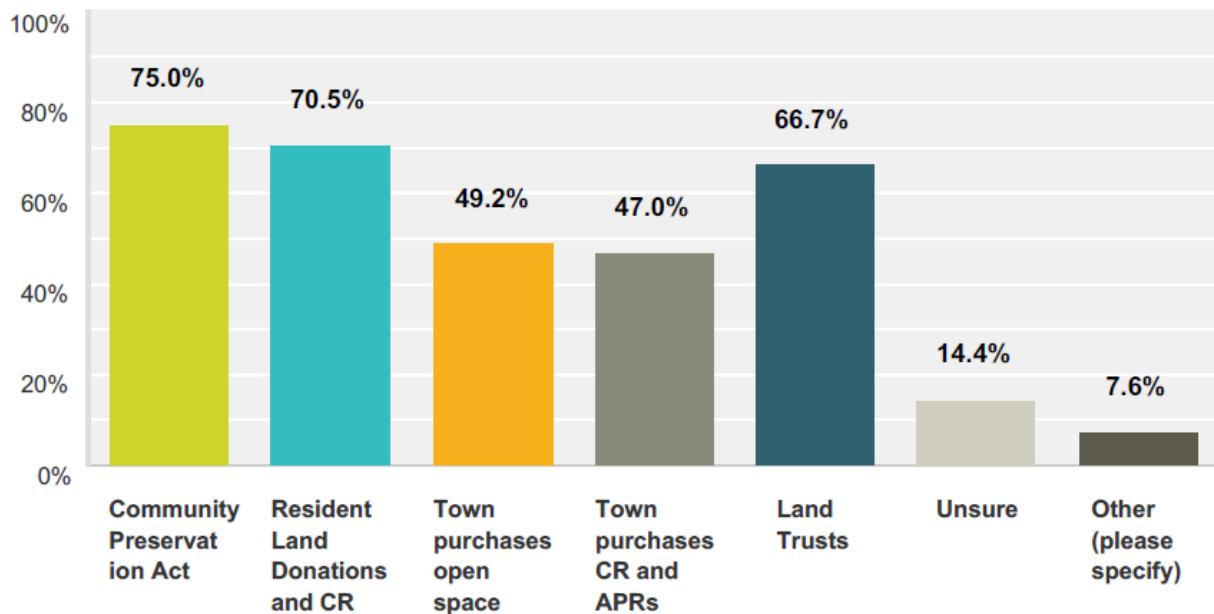
Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 89.3% | 133 |
| No | 5.4% | 8 |
| Unsure | 5.4% | 8 |
| Total | | 149 |

Q3 Please select your preferred methods for protecting land in Plympton. Choose all that apply:

Answered: 132 Skipped: 17



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Community Preservation Act | 75.0% | 99 |
| Resident Land Donations and CR | 70.5% | 93 |
| Town purchases open space | 49.2% | 65 |
| Town purchases CR and APRs | 47.0% | 62 |
| Land Trusts | 66.7% | 88 |
| Unsure | 14.4% | 19 |
| Other (please specify) | 7.6% | 10 |
| Total Respondents: 132 | | |

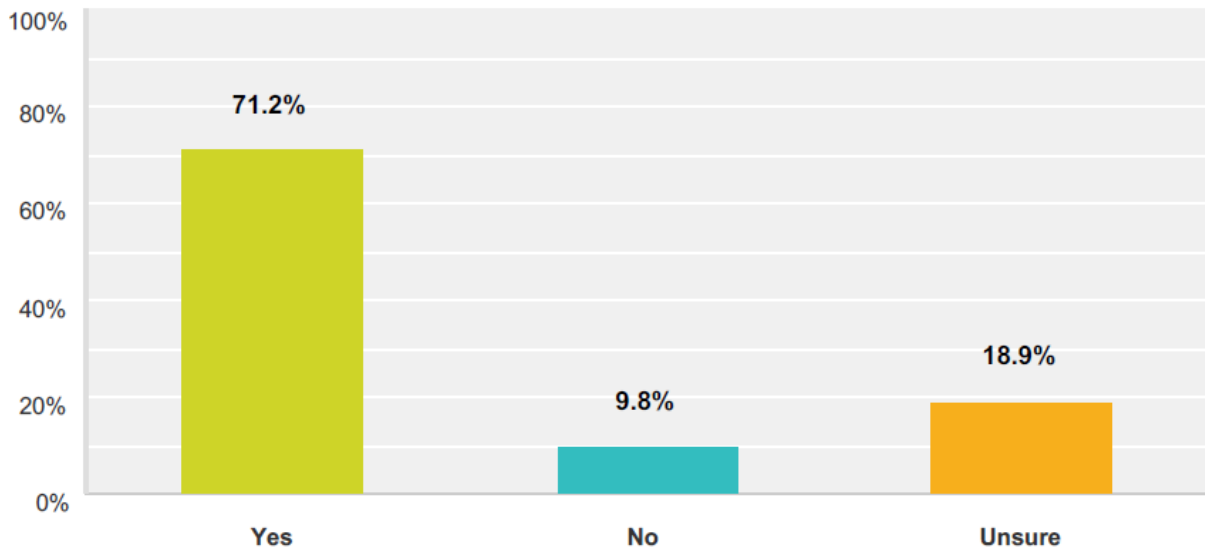
Question 3 (Other responses):

- Private land funding groups. Town could participate in state or federal funding initiatives which would require coordination by the Conservation and Agricultural Commissions! Before appointments to Town Boards, Selectmen should be sure candidates are sensitive (and enthusiastic) toward a balanced approach to land preservation and development. As a recent member of the Assessors and Agricultural Commission, I encouraged chapter land designations and participated in the Ag Commission study and then became a member. I was pleased to contribute to the "Right to Farm" initiative and resulting designation.
- Town purchase only if necessary-- to connect other properties, etc

- Town provides a way to put into protection land that is taken in payment of back taxes, rather than having to sell it.
- Change 1.5 acre min. building lot to 2 acre or more parcels!
- win state grants to help with acquisitions
- The
- I don't understand "Town purchases conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions"
- All of the above
- Probably all of the above following study.
- Enforce existing regulations, such as wetlands and Board of Health regulations, which have the effect of preserving open space without burdening the taxpayer.

Q4 Do you think town bylaws should be drafted to encourage more open space in new residential and commercial developments?

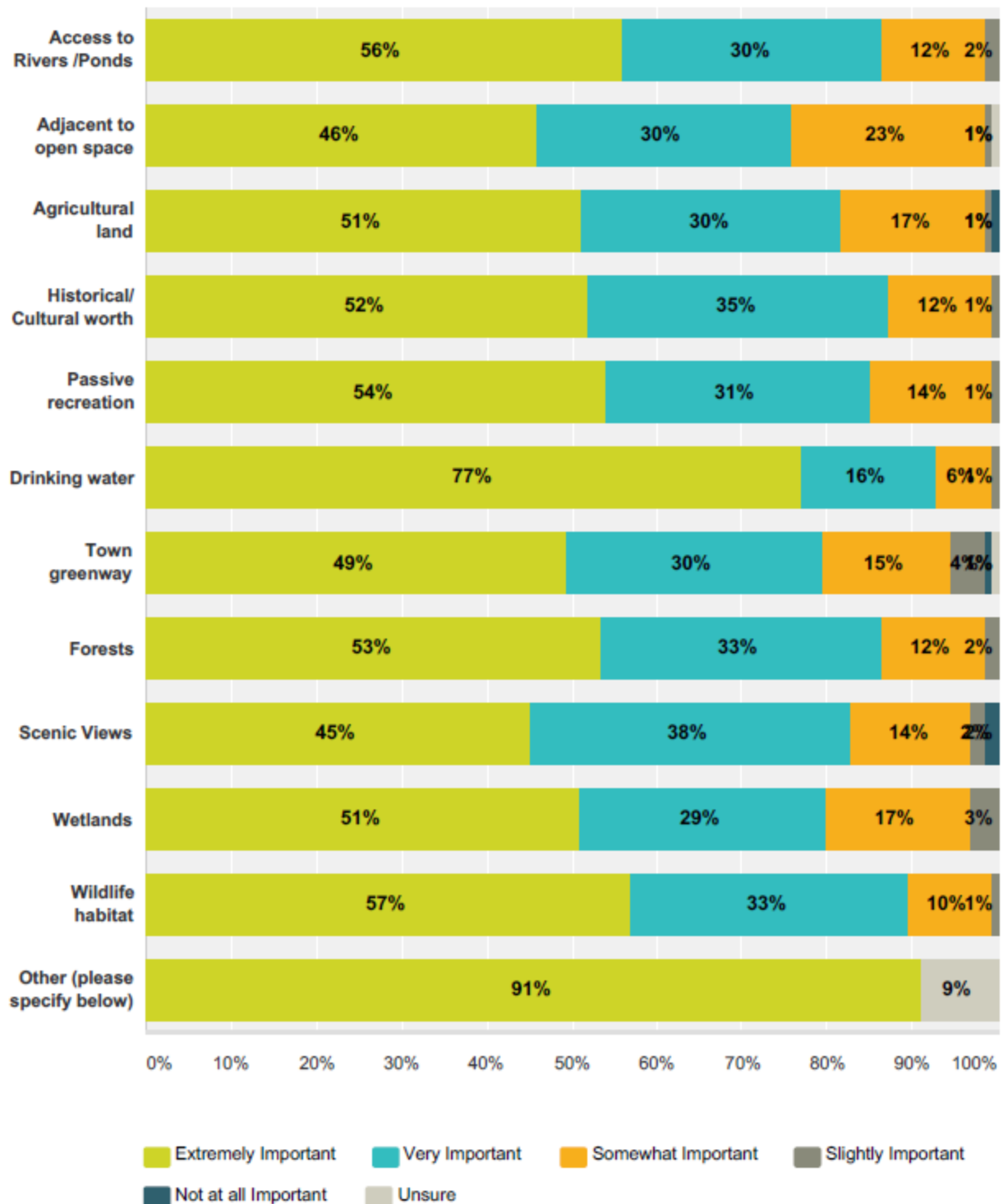
Answered: 132 Skipped: 17



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 71.2% | 94 |
| No | 9.8% | 13 |
| Unsure | 18.9% | 25 |
| Total | | 132 |

Q5 How important is it to protect the following types of open space within Plympton?

Answered: 126 Skipped: 23



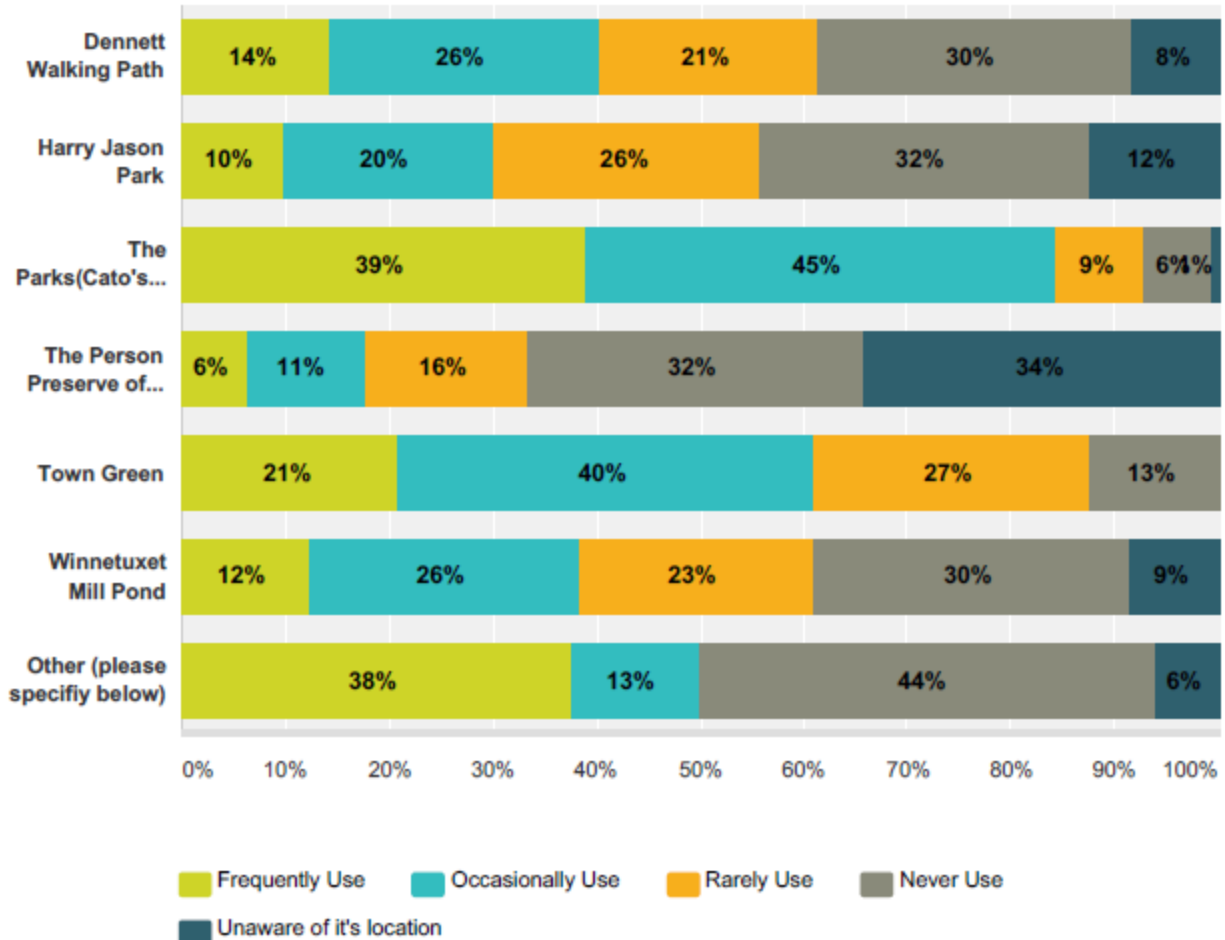
| | Extremely Important | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Slightly Important | Not at all Important | Unsure | Total | Weighted Average |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|-------|------------------|
| Access to Rivers /Ponds | 56% 70 | 30% 38 | 12% 15 | 2% 2 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 125 | 3.41 |
| Adjacent to open space | 46% 57 | 30% 37 | 23% 28 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 1% 1 | 124 | 3.22 |
| Agricultural land | 51% 64 | 30% 38 | 17% 21 | 1% 1 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 125 | 3.30 |
| Historical/ Cultural worth | 52% 65 | 35% 44 | 12% 15 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 125 | 3.38 |
| Passive recreation | 54% 68 | 31% 39 | 14% 18 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 126 | 3.38 |
| Drinking water | 77% 97 | 16% 20 | 6% 8 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 126 | 3.69 |
| Town greenway | 49% 62 | 30% 38 | 15% 19 | 4% 5 | 1% 1 | 1% 1 | 126 | 3.24 |
| Forests | 53% 66 | 33% 41 | 12% 15 | 2% 2 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 124 | 3.38 |
| Scenic Views | 45% 55 | 38% 46 | 14% 17 | 2% 2 | 2% 2 | 0% 0 | 122 | 3.23 |
| Wetlands | 51% 63 | 29% 36 | 17% 21 | 3% 4 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 124 | 3.27 |
| Wildlife habitat | 57% 70 | 33% 40 | 10% 12 | 1% 1 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 123 | 3.46 |
| Other (please specify below) | 91% 10 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 9% 1 | 11 | 4.00 |

Question 5 (Other responses):

- Think small-- increasing min lot size = Open Space
- Playground
- Town Green & Cemeteries
- Horseback riding trails
- Protect Athletic Fields and other sports/recreational property
- I don't want concerns to "box in" residents, for instance, interest in historical site make it impossible for someone to buy an old run-down property because it's "historically significant". Balance is key.
- I feel that we need to not only protect the open space, but we need to protect the wooded areas as well. It's important to keep Plympton a wooded, secluded, hidden gem. This is the reason we moved to Plympton. It closely resembles New Hampshire with its beauty.
- No trees should be cut for solar farms.
- Playing fields
- Need to preserve some open space that acts as undisturbed wildlife habitat.

Q6 Which town-owned open space or recreation lands do you and your family use?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 17



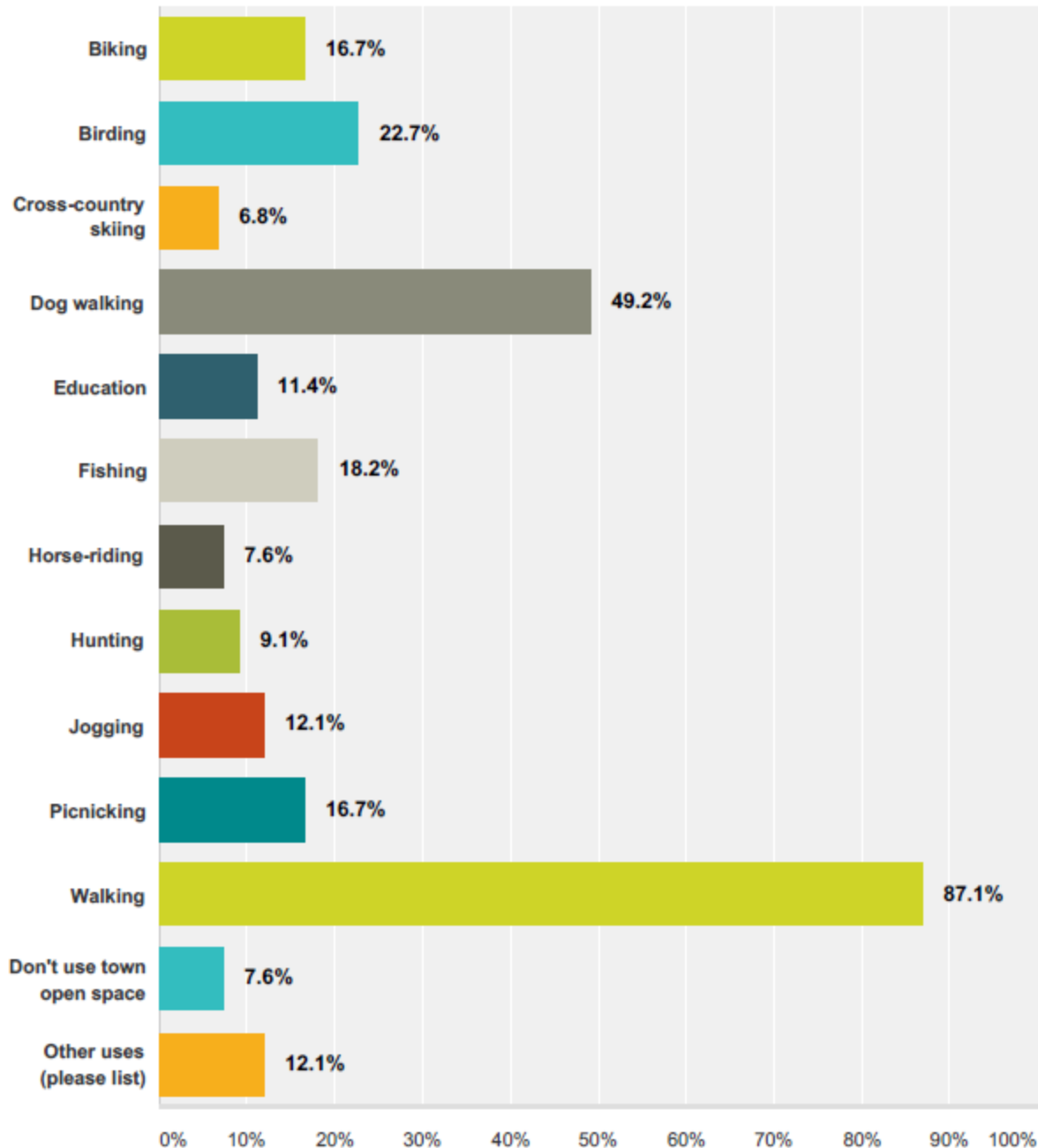
| | Frequently Use | Occasionally Use | Rarely Use | Never Use | Unaware of it's location | Total | Weighted Average |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Dennett Walking Path | 14% 17 | 26% 31 | 21% 25 | 30% 36 | 8% 10 | 119 | 1.27 |
| Harry Jason Park | 10% 11 | 20% 23 | 26% 29 | 32% 36 | 12% 14 | 113 | 1.09 |
| The Parks(Cato's Ridge, Churchill Park, and O'Neil Marsh) | 39% 49 | 45% 57 | 9% 11 | 6% 8 | 1% 1 | 126 | 2.18 |
| The Person Preserve of Wildlands Trust on Oak Street | 6% 7 | 11% 13 | 16% 18 | 32% 37 | 34% 39 | 114 | 0.87 |
| Town Green | 21% 25 | 40% 48 | 27% 32 | 13% 15 | 0% 0 | 120 | 1.69 |
| Winnetuxet Mill Pond | 12% 14 | 26% 30 | 23% 26 | 30% 35 | 9% 10 | 115 | 1.22 |
| Other (please specify below) | 38% 6 | 13% 2 | 0% 0 | 44% 7 | 6% 1 | 16 | 1.47 |

Question 6 (Other responses):

- Churchill park and most other sites not conducive to handicapped electric vehicles for riding so opportunities are limited.
- Unanswered question
- Athletic fields, Basketball court, PHS grounds, islands
- Bogs
- Ballfield at the Town House
- My husband and I own the upper Winnetuxet pond-- it is part of our residential property.
- Silver Lake
- basketball court, Parsonage Road
- The cranberry bog behind our house on Main street
- bonnys pond center st
- Bogs that are bounded by Upland Road and Main Street
- I'm sure many of these would be use if we were younger, and our children were still living at home.

Q7 How do you use the town-owned open space lands listed in Question 6? Check all that apply:

Answered: 132 Skipped: 17



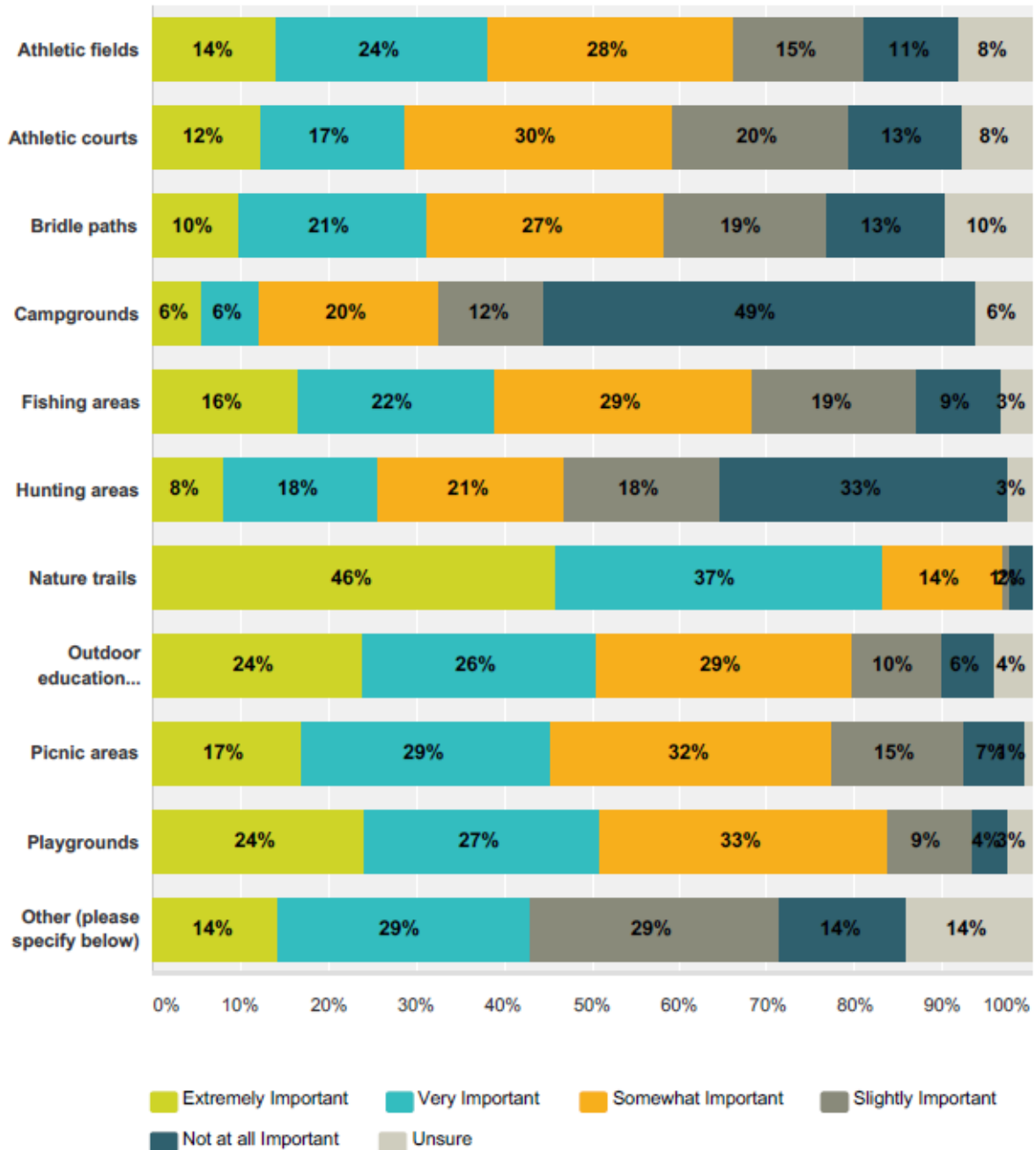
| Answer Choices ▾ | Responses ▾ | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| ▾ Biking | 16.7% | 22 |
| ▾ Birding | 22.7% | 30 |
| ▾ Cross-country skiing | 6.8% | 9 |
| ▾ Dog walking | 49.2% | 65 |
| ▾ Education | 11.4% | 15 |
| ▾ Fishing | 18.2% | 24 |
| ▾ Horse-riding | 7.6% | 10 |
| ▾ Hunting | 9.1% | 12 |
| ▾ Jogging | 12.1% | 16 |
| ▾ Picnicking | 16.7% | 22 |
| ▾ Walking | 87.1% | 115 |
| ▾ Don't use town open space | 7.6% | 10 |
| ▾ Other uses (please list) Responses | 12.1% | 16 |
| Total Respondents: 132 | | |

Question 7 (Other responses):

- At the ages of 77 and 76 with various physical walking impairments, it is difficult to access trails etc. My wife wears leg braces and my legs are not good. It is the vistas, trees, woods and ponds, the open fields, the animals, birds, (even the wild turkeys that are there) as we ride about Plympton that make this a special place to live! We do enjoy our 12.5 acres, our animals, my poultry, as well as our gardens.
- Not answered
- Unanswered question
- Snowshoe
- Sports: soccer, softball, kickball, frisbee
- Donation of time, labor, and materials
- Boy Scouts
- Botany, Mycology and other wildlife appreciation and learning
- Other town events
- boating
- playing basketball
- Harry Jason - Boy Scouts - Camping and special Events are hosted there. Hiking.
- Walking goats!
- I would like to learn about the places and use them in the spring.
- I would love an area where hunting is not permitted so I could take my kids and dogs without worry. I respect the need for hunters to have their space, but would appreciate having an area specifically designated for recreational use for families.
- Stargazing

Q8 Which of the following recreational facilities do we need more of in Plympton, and how important is it to you?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 18



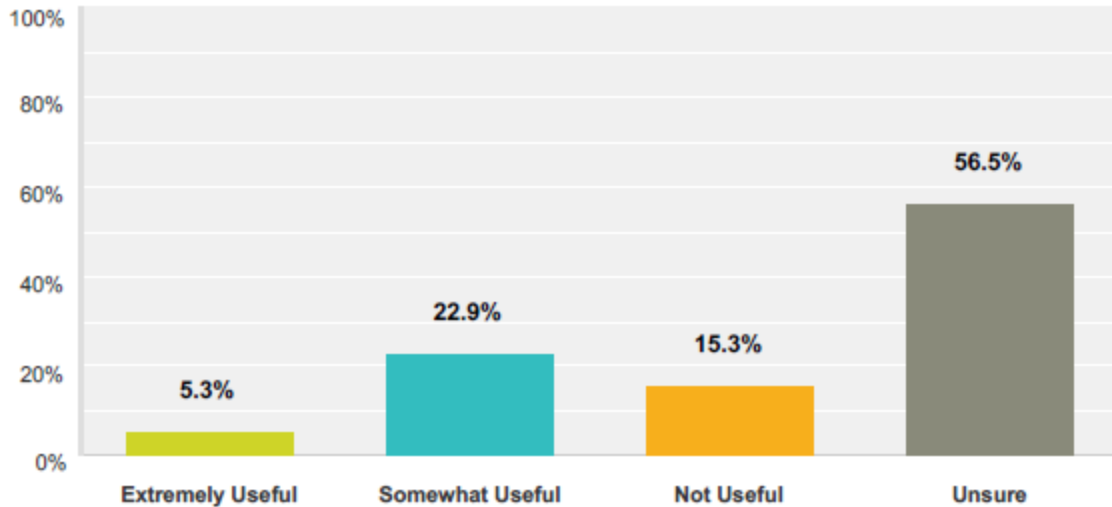
| | Extremely Important | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Slightly Important | Not at all Important | Unsure | Total | Weighted Average |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| ▼ Athletic fields | 14% 17 | 24% 29 | 28% 34 | 15% 18 | 11% 13 | 8% 10 | 121 | 2.17 |
| ▼ Athletic courts | 12% 14 | 17% 19 | 30% 35 | 20% 23 | 13% 15 | 8% 9 | 115 | 1.94 |
| ▼ Bridle paths | 10% 11 | 21% 24 | 27% 30 | 19% 21 | 13% 15 | 10% 11 | 112 | 1.95 |
| ▼ Campgrounds | 6% 6 | 6% 7 | 20% 22 | 12% 13 | 49% 53 | 6% 7 | 108 | 1.01 |
| ▼ Fishing areas | 16% 19 | 22% 26 | 29% 34 | 19% 22 | 9% 11 | 3% 4 | 116 | 2.18 |
| ▼ Hunting areas | 8% 9 | 18% 20 | 21% 24 | 18% 20 | 33% 37 | 3% 3 | 113 | 1.49 |
| ▼ Nature trails | 46% 57 | 37% 46 | 14% 17 | 1% 1 | 2% 3 | 0% 0 | 124 | 3.23 |
| ▼ Outdoor education facilities | 24% 28 | 26% 31 | 29% 34 | 10% 12 | 6% 7 | 4% 5 | 117 | 2.54 |
| ▼ Picnic areas | 17% 20 | 29% 34 | 32% 38 | 15% 18 | 7% 8 | 1% 1 | 119 | 2.34 |
| ▼ Playgrounds | 24% 28 | 27% 31 | 33% 38 | 9% 11 | 4% 5 | 3% 3 | 116 | 2.58 |
| ▼ Other (please specify below) | 14% 1 | 29% 2 | 0% 0 | 29% 2 | 14% 1 | 14% 1 | 7 | 2.00 |

Question 8 (Other responses):

- Unanswered question
- A free public venue to support large groups to gather for open air events (weddings, concerts, bonfires, holiday celebrations, family outings)
- I think these facilities are important but we don't need more.
- Connecting Trails as well as Horseback riding trails -
- Again, I'm speaking as a senior, and most of these don't apply personally but think they're important for the town.
- Agricultural land

**Q9 How useful do you find open spaces and recreational facilities in Plympton for those in the community with disabilities?
(Example: difficulty walking, seeing, hearing, etc)**

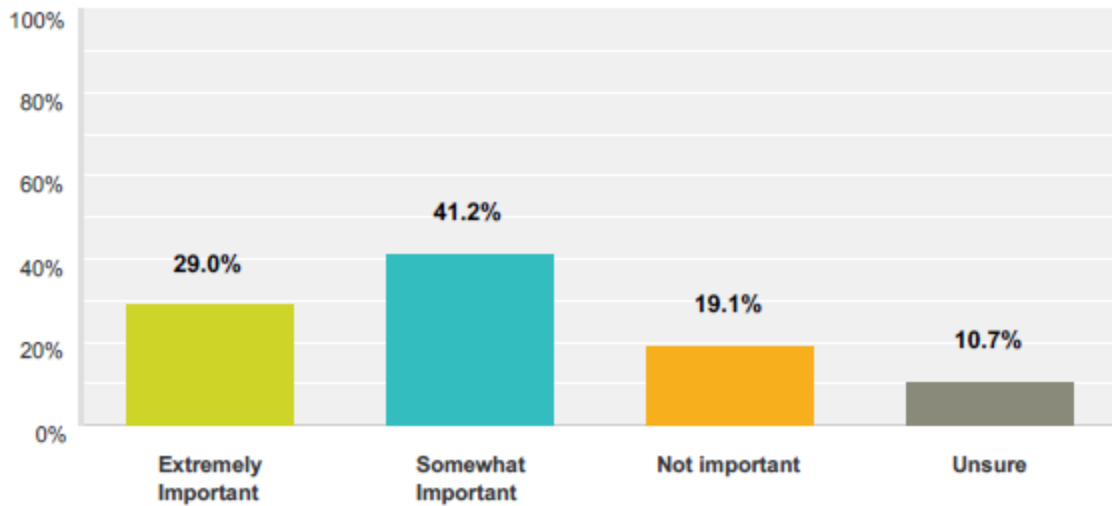
Answered: 131 Skipped: 18



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Extremely Useful | 5.3% | 7 |
| Somewhat Useful | 22.9% | 30 |
| Not Useful | 15.3% | 20 |
| Unsure | 56.5% | 74 |
| Total | | 131 |

Q10 How important is it to group businesses and services in Plympton in a compact, walk-able center?

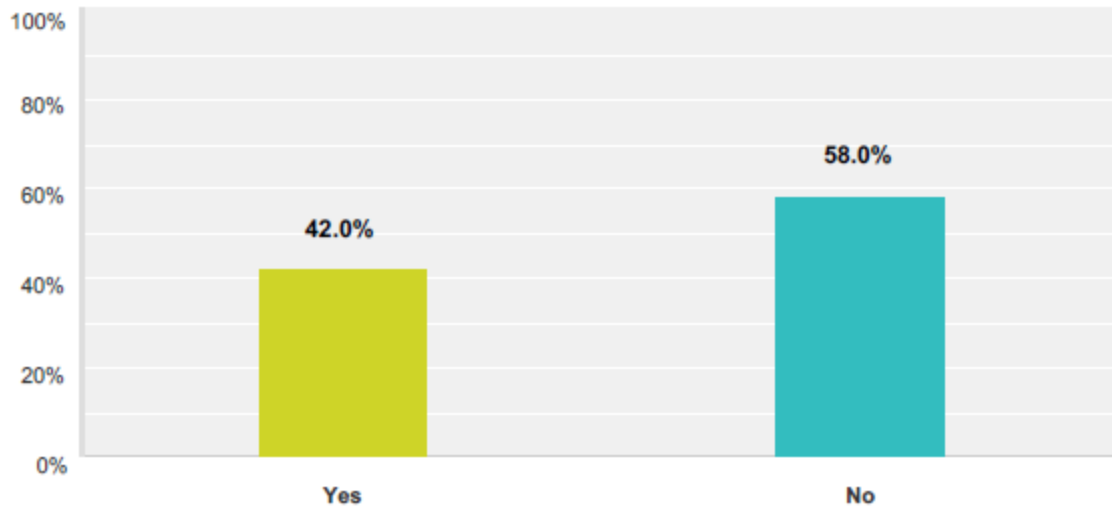
Answered: 131 Skipped: 18



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Extremely Important | 29.0% | 38 |
| Somewhat Important | 41.2% | 54 |
| Not important | 19.1% | 25 |
| Unsure | 10.7% | 14 |
| Total | | 131 |

Q11 Do you have children under 18?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 18



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 42.0% 55 |
| No | 58.0% 76 |
| Total | 131 |

Question # 12: What is your age?

Total Responses: 95 out of 149

Raw Data (ages):

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 14 | 35 | 40 | 43 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 64 | 70 | 76 |
| 19 | 36 | 40 | 43 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 64 | 70 | 76 |
| 19 | 36 | 40 | 43 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 76 |
| 29 | 37 | 41 | 45 | 49 | 55 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 76 |
| 29 | 37 | 41 | 45 | 50 | 56 | 60 | 66 | 71 | 77 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| 29 | 38 | 41 | 46 | 50 | 57 | 60 | 66 | 72 | |
| 32 | 38 | 42 | 47 | 50 | 57 | 62 | 67 | 73 | |
| 32 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 51 | 59 | 63 | 68 | 73 | |
| 33 | 39 | 43 | 48 | 52 | 59 | 63 | 68 | 75 | |
| 35 | 40 | 43 | 48 | 53 | 60 | 63 | 69 | 75 | |

Question # 13:
What's the best thing about living in Plympton?

Total Responses: 115 out of 149

Rural character/ Quietness / Small-town feel:

(66 Responses)

- Rural
- Rural
- Rural
- Rural
- Rural agricultural culture
- Rural and scenic
- Rural areas, People, Schools, community
- Rural beauty, historic buildings and sites, large land requirements for homes, relatively simple government
- Rural beauty, quiet, private
- Rural but still close to things
- Rural character
- Rural Character
- Rural character
- Rural character
- Rural character
- Rural character
- Rural character, access to open space. Sense of community
- Rural character, farming community
- Rural character, friendly people, safe
- Rural character, open space, small community

- Rural character, small town
- Rural character, small town feel, involved residents
- Rural community
- Rural community
- Rural small town America
- Rural, pretty, quiet.
- Ruralness
- Its rural character
- Its rural character
- It's rural feel - The School
- It's rural nature and tight knit community
- How small it is. The beautiful scenery.
- It is quiet, underdeveloped, has and has managed to maintain its rural character in an authentic way.
- It quiet country charm.
- It's quiet. I can ride my bike all over town with my young kids (sidewalks would improve that!). I can jog and feel safe also kids love the cranberry bogs and Cato's Ridge.
- It's quiet
- Its small town feel, but urban accessibility. The fact that it has a town center & a great group of diverse people living in it.
- Quiet - rural - private
- quiet , peaceful
- Quiet community
- Quiet private rural
- Quiet rural environment
- Quiet, close-knit, helpful people, great schools, close to other towns with shopping and activities
- Quietness
- Quite small community
- Quiet, rural country living. No business or hustle and bustle
- It's preserved land, beautiful scenery and the fact that it does not have typical businesses to clutter up the town. We like it quiet and country.
- Peace and quiet
- Small size
- Small town
- Small town
- Small town with tons of nature and habitat
- The peace and quiet.
- The peaceful rural/farming nature of the community
- Town is not a completely over developed mess.
- No built up

- Peaceful, beautiful land with a country like feel away from all the hustle
- Privacy
- The quiet and bucolic living and "out in the country atmosphere
- The quiet, the rural character, the characters who live here.
- The rural character of the town.
- The rural picturesque character
- The rural, "Mayberry" feeling
- The semi-rural lifestyle
- Small town, lots of agriculture
- The "smallness" of Plympton

Community:

(27 responses)

- Character
- Community
- Community
- Community and scenery
- Neighbors helping each other
- Community...rural...farm to table
- Friendly and helpful neighbors. Positive attitude about livestock and farming.
- Knowing your neighbors, seeing land put to agricultural use
- My friends
- Sense of community and great small school
- Sense of community
- Sense of community; caring for neighbors, rural character.
- Small community with many shared priority of keeping it that way.
- residents
- Small Community lots of woods and wildlife
- The people
- The people
- The people (!) and that it's rural. That it's a right to farm community.
- size, beauty and the feeling that people care
- The people, neighbors, clean, nature, safe, wildlife...
- The percentage of community minded residents
- The 'feel' of the town and its residents
- The + % of community caring people
- The sense of community. Rural Character. Farms. Outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The close knit community.
- The small town community aspect.
- Its people, trees, and natural beauty due to its landscape

Beauty/ Natural Features:

(4 Responses)

- Beauty of the land and the people. Dennett is awesome too.
- Natural beauty
- The beauty of Plympton from the historic homes to the woods and wildlife to be able to see the stars at night to the spring evenings with the peepers peeping and the tree frogs yelling out to other tree frogs to the horse farms and vegetable farms to waving to folks as one drives through town
- The local forests

Agriculture/ Right to Farm:

(4 Responses)

- Agricultural and rural character
- Farm land
- Right to Farm
- Right to farm

Businesses:

(6 Responses)

- Dennett Elementary
- The Village Cafe!
- History and farm town feel
- Land and school
- Schools, people, police and fire departments
- Dennett school

Open Space:

(2 Responses)

- Open space where wildlife is protected
- Public and private open space in a rural community

History:

(2 Responses)

- The historic, rural character within close proximity to the city.
- Historic area

Miscellaneous:

(4 Responses)

- Plympton
- Not the taxes
- Plympton!
- My home

Question # 14:
How has Plympton changed in the time that you've lived here?
Total Responses: 103 out of 149

Development:

(28 Responses)

- More houses, build on fields
- It's growing too much
- :)! Street light/ new homes/ industrial park
- Continual development
- I've lived on Winnetuxet Road my entire life (64 years). When I was a child it was rare to see a car travel by our home and now of course that is not the case. There's been a significant amount of land development, which is of course inevitable, but thankfully not as much as in most communities.
- More commercial/ residential development :(
- Yes more house being built
- More development
- Traffic light! Improved commercial development (i.e. Revenue)
- More traffic and new developments
- Fields filling up with houses
- More houses! people always speeding
- Development
- More cookie cutter homes built. Not a plus.
- Traffic light, industry
- More developed but character remains
- More residential development; less community spirit and volunteerism
- Loss of woods to development
- More and more development which reinforces the need to protect open space and agriculture
- Significant development of housing
- More housing development some too near wetlands
- Development in nicks and cuts
- More houses and business
- Sysco
- More new construction.
- People are working to save open space at about 1/2 the rate it is getting destroyed.

- Lots of land for sale and an increase in development
- Many new houses built

Expenses:

(13 Responses)

- It's gotten very expensive to live here :(
- More expensive to live
- Slowly being gentrified, forcing older people out because of the high cost of living here
- Taxes have gone up significantly, more expensive to live in Plympton
- More parks and higher taxes
- Unaffordable and no commercial tax base
- Expensive to live here
- Police & Fire have expanded too much - costs
- Taxes have almost doubled
- Costs to live here. Taxes, etc. Police & fire expenses
- More homes, tax increases and for the most part positive.
- Higher taxes
- Not much, except taxes and walking trails

People:

(14 Responses)

- Plympton was relatively untouched when we moved into our self-built home, and has been quickly becoming a place of many aggressive, self-absorbed people who abuse the best qualities that attracted us. Many are not here for long and don't contribute. They erode the slower pace, peacefulness, self-sufficiency, respect, and independence that resided here. Thanks that there are some who really care to preserve and enjoy the Real Plympton!
- The people change too often
- Moved here with under 2000 residents in 1977.
- grown
- Tripled in population - there were 900 residents in 1972.
- Too many people have moved into town who don't care about the tax rate and only want what they want
- Population has about doubled.
- Yes, I don't know any of the new people
- An influx of new homes with many moving into Town not realizing that Plympton is Plympton. We have septic tanks, we have well water, we have hunters in the fall, we have coyotes and foxes and Fisher Cats to name a few. All are what makes Plympton Plympton.
- More houses, and a lot more property owners who have made their property private and enforce no trespassing

- Traffic and population have increased, demographics skewed younger
- It little more populated, towns people more involved.
- People are not as knowledgeable about life in a small community and do not respect the rights of others. There are fewer people volunteering for community events and committees. Everyone wants to preserve the image but doesn't want to do the work. There is no central gathering space for people to come together as a community unless you count the Facebook site which I think does more harm than good.
- The +% of community caring people

Not Much:

(15 Responses)

- I grew up here, so basically, the streets are busier, but it's still not a commercial town at all.
- Slightly
- Not much
- Not a real lot but it's grown.
- Been six years. I guess not much has changed
- Very little
- Not much. Sysco is barely noticeable.
- Not a lot
- It hasn't
- Not too much and I like that
- Not much, which is a good thing.
- Not much
- Not much
- It hasn't
- Not too much - though there has been more development.

Open Space/ Recreation:

(8 Responses)

- As younger families move to town, there is a more progressive attitude towards preserving open space and keeping the feel of a farming community.
- The town has created more open recreation spaces.
- New hiking trails
- There is more awareness for the need to protect, promote, and add open space
- For the better. Recreational opportunities have been improved. Cato's ridged. Basketball court, Swim hole...
- Loss of open space & fields.
- Town is more engaged in preserving the character of space.
- New parks!

Traffic:

(5 Responses)

- Traffic lights have tripled
- Traffic lights.
- Stop light, more traffic due to businesses.
- More traffic...faster traffic...truck traffic (especially on Spring Street) because of the Industrial Park
- More traffic

Miscellaneous:

(14 Responses)

- More speeders (even on West 58) harassing drivers. Community participation very lacking now! We used to even have fireworks!
- More of a commuter town
- More houses, fewer citizens willing to serve on Town Boards and committees, more widows
- The town has spent more on public safety and town services. Attitudes toward progressive changes has improved. Businesses have been developed, general farms and horse farms have increased in number as have conservation, recreation and sports opportunities.
- More industry and more conservation land
- More "eyesore" properties; less pride in homes
- Seeing more of a community spirit and more pride in homeownership
- Less power outages
- It seems like there is more community engagement.
- Seems to be more politics (or maybe I'm just aware of it more with the newspaper).
- more bickering and mistrust
- Politically divided, pot smokers more open about it, traffic
- The town has grown in the 45 years we've been here, but still retains that wonderful small town New England beauty.
- For the better.

Unsure:

(6 Responses)

- Just moved here
- Two years only
- N/a
- We have not lived here long enough.
- N/A
- I haven't been here long enough to comment

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Question # 15:
Additional Comments (Open ended-- no prompt)

Total Responses: 49 out of 149

Open Space & Recreation Comments:

(22 Responses)

- Our open space lands need to be protected and residents need more information on tax relief that will enable them to keep their land undeveloped.
- I think there is already very ample opportunity for hunting in town. I would like to see more protected areas for children, families and wildlife. I would also like to see more business encouraged, particularly in the town center. The potential to make the town center a walkable and enriching place is there. I think it should be strongly encouraged and incentivized.
- It is important to educate our children about the value of open space
- Let's try to avoid imposing our vanity on the open space we protect - too many planks and benches with nameplates in Cato's Ridge. Let's keep our open space natural and with as few signs as possible.
- More Open Space and Parks. We LOVE Cato's Ridge and the boardwalk!
- Please, let's try to keep this town the same. We don't need all the clutter of businesses like everywhere else. This is why we moved here. Please help preserve this small town.
- Preserving Plympton's agricultural, historical and rural character is paramount to preserve the things that make Plympton special. In 20 years - a focus on these items will turn out to have been one of the great things that will make future Plympton a great and enjoyable place to call home.
- Preserving Plympton's character benefits current and future residents and will raise property values
- The culture of the town needs to climb to a higher plane; it is becoming a less desirable place to live; community based projects like land conservation can help create a better town culture and thereby make it a better place to live.
- The more open space preserved, the better
- The Parks areas are expanding - exciting. I am not in favor of moving the ball field from town center. Keep up the communication about what is going on and how the community can help. Call to action - email works - but ask residents to help - we will.
- There are plenty of wetlands creating open space without the town taking taxpayer money to purchase it.
- If the area near me became too built up, I would move
- We really need a playground for young children

- Provide walking tours of those areas listed in Question #6 (what open spaces do you use) to broaden knowledge and use of them. Get the word out that dogs may accompany you. It seems most walking trails in SE Mass PROHIBIT dogs, so our town would be different. Also, in regards to #10 (How important is it to group business and services in a walk-able center?)-- Services: yes, Businesses: no. I don't want the center of town to be completely zoned for business.
- Survey did not include the value of agricultural land as open space. The town cannot buy all our open land. We should be supporting policies that keep land privately owned and on tax roles.
- I am grateful for the people affiliated with Plympton Parks for leading initiatives to maintain the rural and agricultural nature of Plympton. It is what makes our community uniquely different and more desirable than the typical suburb.
- Thank you for asking. Love Plympton and love the volunteers!
- Thank you Open Space People for all you do!
- Thank you.
- thanks for soliciting our opinions
- Two thumbs up for all you have done! Love it all! Keep up the good works.

Comments about Development:

(11 Responses)

- A Dunkin Donuts wouldn't be the worst idea in center of town, where it's a busy spot anyway :)
- More businesses would be nice to help offset taxes
- Marijuana growing facilities should be prohibited from residential areas to maintain the quality of life we all profess to cherish!
- Would like to see more industry in the park. We need the tax money
- While I love the country atmosphere, it all has to balance with appropriate business development and growth to support the town taxpayers.
- We need to have more businesses in our town
- Sometimes I feel that the town officials think we are bigger than we are and ask for items that are not really necessary for our community.
- We need more revenue bearing facilities, not open spaces.
- Would love some sidewalks...and a leash law...both of which would make walking around town safer. Plympton's awesome!
- Sidewalks throughout town would be an excellent addition, people are often jogging and biking on main roads and are likely to be killed, being able to walk everywhere in town would very much add to Plympton's historic feel
- We hope to spend our remaining days in Plympton. Its tranquility (most of the time), the caring and support given to both our children and seniors. Recreational sites should be more handicapped accessible. Municipal support buildings should be in the center of town. Perhaps I am too narrow in my thinking but I find growing pot in greenhouse morally offensive. Will only give our town a bad reputation! Dick Nordahl

Other Comments:

(16 Responses)

- The community is becoming unaffordable for folks of all ages. Prop 2.5 offers little protection.
- Unfunded mandates of school costs are an exorbitant tax burden on fixed income and low income residents
- I love that there is not a leash law for dogs!
- I want open space but I also don't want to be forced out of my community because of no commercial tax base
- The new age children do not fish or use town green as they did 10 years ago-- the new generation does not go out-- my age is the user of outdoors
- Great place to raise a family. Keep the people that want to grow and sell pot out! They can do that in Brockton!
- Taxes are too high for the services the town provides
- Our town is unique in this day and age. We are fortunate to have preserved our values-- however this has been at the expense of our taxpayers. As new people, new ideas are brought forward, we are causing increased taxes which long-time residents or young families cannot afford. We should balance our needs not our wants.
- It is difficult to wed the old and new, but we do keep trying... I think we need to identify who it is we want to be and work toward being the best of that.
- Look to Halifax to see how development should not proceed. Look to Kingston, Duxbury, and Plymouth for better examples of how to preserve and grow at the same time
- Lived her going on 17 years and love it!
- We love this town!
- Keep Plympton the way it is!
- It's hard to age in Plympton.
- Plympton is a gem
- Beautiful place to live!