Town of

Wenham, MA

Open Space and Recreation Plan

April 2019

The Ciccolo Group, LLC

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Essex County Trail Association
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April 2019

Cover Photos
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I. PLAN SUMMARY

This Open Space and Recreation Plan is the first update since the Town's 2001 Plan. However, the *Recreation Master Plan Report, Towns of Hamilton and Wenham, MA*, prepared by Gale Associates, Inc. in 2012 (herein called the *2012 Gale Report*), provides more recent information on recreational needs and recommendations.

The Town's overall vision is an open space and recreation system that provides and maintains open space and recreational facilities that:

- *meet the needs of its residents for both active and passive uses;*
- *protects its environmental and historic resources;*
- *and maintains the Town's rural character.*

This vision, the goals and objectives, and action plan were developed based on community input from two public forums, a community-wide survey, Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) meetings at strategic points in the process, and an OSRC charrette.

The goals to achieve the overall vision are:

- **Goal 1** - *To protect the Town's natural resources and open space areas that contribute to passive recreational enjoyment (i.e. walking/hiking, scenic views, picnicking, wildlife observation, etc.), drinking water supply, high value core wildlife and plant habitat, agricultural and forestry use, and rural and historical character.*
- **Goal 2** - *To improve trail networks, cycling paths/lanes, and sidewalks to provide recreational opportunities for activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling, and wildlife observation.*
- **Goal 3** - *To provide and maintain facilities and resources for active recreation and opportunities for all residents.*
- **Goal 4** - *To sustain the Town's commitment to carrying out this plan.*

The Plan updates demographics, current land use, proposed developments, environmental inventory, and inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest to reflect any changes since 2001; and documents the Town's open space and recreation needs. The seven-year action plan is an overall program to address these needs and achieve the established goals.

While there are many important actions identified, four priority recommendations are highlighted:

1. **Evaluate the parcels of land classified under the Chapter 61 program for potential future acquisition**. *[Chapter 61 is a State law that allows privately–owned properties used for recreation, agriculture, or forestry to receive reduced tax assessments from the municipality. In exchange, this classification gives the Town the right of first refusal if the property is being sold for a different use.] In order to evaluate and prioritize these Chapter 61 parcels, the Ciccolo Group developed an evaluation system for Wenham in the form of an interactive excel spreadsheet, now located within the Planning Department. The purpose of the evaluation system is to help the Town make informed, timely decisions, such as whether to accept or decline the purchase of Chapter 61 land, based on thorough, objective criteria and community values.*
2. **Develop a right-of-first-refusal policy and procedure** *for the Town to be poised to act quickly on Chapter 61 parcels as part of an acquisition strategy.*
3. **Consider the establishment of a funding source for land acquisition** *to enable the Town to purchase land in a timely manner when it becomes available, especially in regard to Chapter Land parcels.*
4. **Coordinate with Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust, and Essex County Trail Association** *on open space protection strategies and trail management respectively.*

II. INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide a document that will guide the Town on policy and decisions involving open space and recreation. The Plan is a critical tool for creating an inventory of a community's protected land and water areas and for identifying undeveloped parcels. It is a blueprint for progress; it establishes priorities and identifies actions over a seven-year period. Further, as the Town looks toward achieving Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program community designation this coming year, it is important to note the direct relationship of preservation of open space and the mitigation of climate impacts.

The most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan was approved in 2001 by the Division of Conservation Services in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. It was prepared by an appointed Open Space Committee under the aegis of the Conservation Commission. There was an update initiative in 2013 that made progress but did not result in a completed plan. The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department engaged Gale Associates to assist the joint Department with the development of a recreation facilities needs assessment and master plan. The *Gale Report* was completed in 2012 and provides background and guidance for this Plan.

The Town does have a history of open space planning. The Wenham Conservation Commission first published open space and conservation goals in the form of a multi-page brochure in 1973. This was followed by the "Open Space Study" in 1977 and an "Open Space and Recreation Plan" in 1986, both of which were approved by the Division of Conservation Services in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. In 1989, the ad hoc Open Space and Housing Study Committee published *Guiding Growth for Tomorrow* in two volumes: "Wenham's Landscape" and "Final Report and Recommendations".

Planning Process and Public Participation

The planning process began with the approval of funding at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. The Planning Coordinator worked with the 6-member Open Space and Recreation Committee, which consists of representatives from the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Water

Commission, and Community Preservation Committee to move this plan forward. Following an RFP process and interviews, the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) selected The Ciccolo Group, LLC as their consultant. The kickoff meeting with the OSRC and the Economic Development Committee (EDC) was held in September 2017 and was attended by members of the Board of Selectmen. A member of both the EDC and Recreation Commission volunteered to serve as liaison to the OSRC. Margaret Hoffman, Planning Coordinator, staffed the OSRC.

Members of the OSRC included:

- Chris Gajeski, Chair *(resigned May, 2018)*
- Asma Syed, Vice Chair *(Conservation Commission)*
- Bill Wilson
- Ann Weeks *(Planning Board)*
- Ernest Ashley *(Water Commission)*
- Tom Starr *(Community Preservation Committee)*
- Len Dolan – *Recreation Commission Liaison*
- Norman Tarr – *Economic Development Committee Liaison*

The outreach and public participation included:

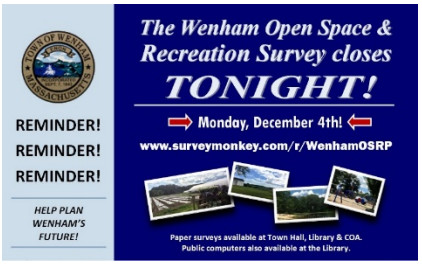
- An Op-Ed prepared by the OSRC and the consultant was published in both the Salem News and the Hamilton Wenham Chronicle with the goal of launching the community outreach process. (See **Appendix A**.)
- A community-wide Forum was held in early November after being advertised through an extensive email distribution list prepared by the Planning Coordinator, including all boards and commissions, and local organizations, including Library Trustees, Council on Aging, First Church, Mother's Club, Rotary, League of Women Voters, Hamilton-Wenham Youth Soccer Association, Hamilton-Wenham Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Wenham Village Improvement Society, Garden Club, Community House, Friends of Buker, Pingree Park Playground Committee, Friends of the Arts, Wenham Museum, and Wenham Tea House.

- Flyers were placed at Town Hall, the Library, the Council on Aging, and local businesses, and sent to The Salem News, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, and the North Shore section of the Sunday Boston Globe. The Forum was well-attended with lively discussions on needs and opportunities, priorities, how to increase connectivity of resources, and how to increase use of existing resources. A reporter from the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle attended the event and an article about the Forum appeared in the next edition.

- A community-wide online and paper survey was launched on November 2, 2017. (See **Appendix B** for results.) It was marketed through the same extensive email distribution lists as the Forum, the local paper, and social media, and its availability was announced at the Forum. The Superintendent of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District also sent an email to all Wenham parents in the School District's database regarding the survey in an effort to expand outreach.

- The OSRC meetings were held at strategic points in the process and were open to the public. A hands-on working meeting was held in the form of a charrette to brainstorm with the Committee.

- The Ciccolo Group (TCG) posted the survey link and color image of the survey flyer to their Facebook page and tagged the following FB pages/groups in order to encourage cross pollination with their followers: Wenham Town Clerk, Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department, Town of Wenham, Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, Hamilton-Wenham Public Library Children's Room, Hamilton-Wenham Public Library Young Adult, The Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Wenham Museum, Wenham Tea House, Wenham Fire Department, Wenham Police Department, Wenham Country Club, Wenham Lake, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, Hamilton-Wenham Patch, League of Women Voters of Hamilton-Wenham, MA, North Shore Patch, Wicked Local North of Boston, The Salem News, Essex County Trail Association (ECTA),



Essex National Heritage Area, and HWLL - Hamilton Wenham Little League South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

- A second community-wide Forum in May 2018 was extensively advertised in the same manner as the first Forum. The purpose was to share information and provide an opportunity for additional input. The consultant updated the community on what was learned during the course of the project, including the results of the community survey, proposed goals and objectives, how they reflect the values of the community, and the plan recommendations. The maps showing regional context, zoning, soils and geological features, water resources, open space inventory, and unique features were displayed for public viewing and referenced during the presentation. (See **Appendix A** for media coverage.)

- The Committee also posted the draft narrative on the Town's website for additional public review and comment.

III. COMMUNITY SETTING

Regional Context

Wenham is situated inland twenty-one miles north-northeast of Boston. The Town is long and narrow, measuring nearly six miles from east to west and ranging from three-quarters to two-and-a-half miles wide north to south. Wenham is bordered by Beverly to the south, Danvers and Topsfield to the west, Hamilton to the north, and Beverly and Manchester-by-the-Sea to the east. (See **Map 1 - Regional Context**.) The MBTA commuter rail line, Interstate Route 128, and Routes 1, 1A, 97, and 22 link Wenham to Boston and other cities and towns within the region.

Wenham is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) region, the regional planning agency serving 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. The Town is also a member of the North Shore Task Force Subregion (NSTF), which consists of Wenham and 15 other cities and towns. Member communities focus on a broad range of issues that affect the North Shore, including sustainable development, equitable housing, clean energy, climate change and transportation. NSTF is guided by the principles found in the MetroFuture Plan, MAPC's regional development blueprint for the Boston Metropolitan area.

The location of the Town near Boston and the coast, its rail and roadway commuter links, its well-regarded school system, and its small town, rural character make Wenham a highly desirable residential community. In recent decades, Wenham has gradually changed from a community of local business people, town employees, estate owners and their employees, to one of professionals who, for the most part, commute to workplaces outside of town. With this shift, the community has experienced increased demand for high-quality public education and recreational facilities. The Town has generally managed to grow at a comfortable pace and still contains a significant amount of undeveloped land. The growth rate has been moderated by the abundance of wetlands and ledge outcroppings, continued family ownership of large estates, acquisition of land for water supply protection and conservation, the absence of a public sewage disposal system, and the Zoning Bylaw.

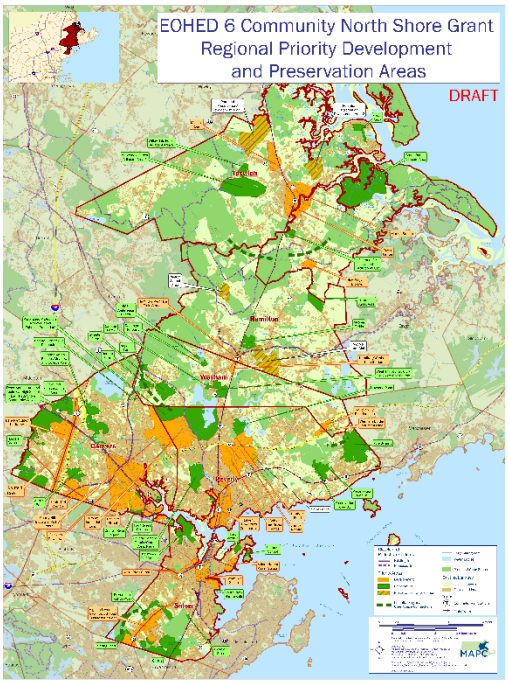
Wenham is located within the Ipswich River Watershed and plays a significant role within the region in terms of watershed and aquifer protection. Nearly 40% of Wenham is comprised of water bodies and wetlands, including the Ipswich River, Miles River, Wenham Lake, Longham Reservoir, Coy Pond, Pleasant Pond and the Salem-Beverly Waterway Canal, which is fed by the Ipswich River. The most significant wetland is the Great Wenham Swamp adjacent to the Ipswich River in the northwest corner of town because it serves as the primary recharge source for the water supply wells in Wenham and Hamilton. Longham Reservoir, Wenham Lake, and the Canal are used by the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board (SBWSB) to provide drinking water to Salem and Beverly. The City of Beverly provides water to Gordon College and some houses in eastern Wenham. The watershed for the water supply for the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea includes the entire Coy Pond watershed in the eastern end of town. This watershed also feeds Round Pond, Chebacco Lake, Alewife Brook, and the Essex River, which are all important water resources in Hamilton and Essex.

Several major conservation areas, including Long Hill, J.C. Phillips Nature Preserve, and the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary straddle Town boundaries with Beverly and Topsfield. The Wenham Rail Trail completed 2010-2011 off Route 97 connects Wenham to the Danvers Rail Trail and the Topsfield Linear Common Trail. The trail is part of a regional effort known as Border to Boston (BtoB) trail involving 8 towns presently but is also part of the East Coast Greenway whose goal is to link communities along the entire East coast. Stretching from Florida to Maine, the trail, when completed, will be mostly off-road. The Rail Trail Committee, appointed by the Selectmen, worked for several years with the Town of Danvers and Topsfield to complete the portion of the trail located in Wenham. The pathway along the Salem-Beverly Canal also connects at its northern end to the Topsfield Linear Common Trail and connects to Cherry Street in Wenham at its southern end.

Wenham is linked with neighboring communities in a number of other ways. The Town shares a joint school system, a joint recreation department and facilities, a public swimming beach, youth recreational leagues, and a library with the Town of Hamilton. Equestrian trail networks

link many of the larger estates in Wenham with each other and with trails in abutting towns, including the Myopia Hunt Club in Hamilton. Beverly Municipal Airport covers land within Wenham, Beverly, and Danvers, and includes undeveloped land around its perimeter. Public access is barred for safety reasons, but the land does provide wildlife habitat. Several farms, including Angelini, Streeter, Burnett, and Tendercrop Farm, remain in Wenham and provide food for the region. The Wenham Country Club Golf Course also serves the region. The Gordon College campus, the Ledyard Farm Equestrian Center, and several tenants at the Town's Iron Rail property are private organizations that provide open space and recreational opportunities. There are significant open space resources in neighboring communities used by Wenham residents, including trails at Myopia Schooling Fields, Chebacco Woods, and Appleton Farms in Hamilton; cross country skiing, walking, and mountain biking trails at Bradley Palmer State Park, Willowdale State Forest, and Willowdale Mill Reservation in Hamilton and Topsfield; and trails for hiking and wildlife observation at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Wenham and Ipswich.

In 2010, MAPC worked with Wenham, Hamilton, Ipswich, Beverly, Danvers, and Salem to identify regional priority areas for development and open space protection. The Regional Priority Development and Preservation Areas Map is the result of this planning project and shows the consistency of existing and proposed land use at Wenham's borders with its neighboring communities. (See **Map 2 - Regional Priority Development and Preservation Areas**.) Land adjacent to Route 128 (Route 128 Boulder Lane and Wenham Border Industrial Land) is proposed for development and is adjacent to land identified as a development area in Beverly. The other shared development area identified is on the border with Hamilton and is the area by the Commuter Rail Station. The parking lot is partially located within Wenham. The areas identified for preservation are substantially consistent with the recommendations of this plan, including the following Chapter 61 parcels: Canaan Farm (now Tendercrop Farm), Angelini Farm, Streeter Farm, Burnett Farm, Wenham Country Club and Golf Course, and the Lakeview Golf Course. However, since the 2010 project, a flexible development subdivision, known as Wenham Pines, was approved for the Lakeview Golf Course, and the parcel was sold. As part of the approval, a conservation restriction was placed on approximately 26 acres of the total 29.82-acre parcel,



thereby achieving many of the goals of this plan. Two additional parcels were recommended for preservation: (1) the parcel adjacent to Pleasant Pond, which is still owned by the non-profit, Foundation for Continuing Education, and (2) the parcel formerly known as the "Remington parcel" located near Pleasant Pond. Both of these parcels are identified as parcels of conservation interest in this plan.

History of the Community

The first European settlement took place in the Wenham Lake area around 1635. Originally part of Salem Plantation, the Town was incorporated in 1643 with its first meetinghouse by 1641. The principal transportation routes of Bay Road (Route 1A) and Topsfield Road were in place by the mid-1600s. From early colonial times through the 1800s, Wenham was primarily an agricultural community. Economic mainstays were agriculture and husbandry.

A period of growth began in the early 1800s. The community core at Cherry Street and Larch Row attracted limited institutional building and modest residential construction. Drastic change accompanied the mid-1800s arrival of the eastern railroad. The leather industry was established, a period of major institutional building began in the center and Route 1A vicinity, and commercial activities began to cluster along the 1A corridor. In the mid-1800s, an ice industry developed on the shore of Wenham Lake. Ice from this crystal-clear lake was prized throughout the country, as well as in Europe. Agriculture remained the Town's most important economic mainstay, supplemented by shoe manufacturing and the ice industry.

With the opening of streetcar connections to Hamilton in the north and Beverly to the south in the late 1880s, Wenham's commercial and manufacturing sectors faded as they were unable to compete with those in the adjacent towns. Wenham began to evolve into a primarily residential community. Shoe manufacturing moved to Lynn and other communities, the ice business declined with the advent of modern refrigeration, commerce declined, and agriculture changed from being focused on grains and meats, to dairy products and vegetables that were

needed in the adjacent urban communities. Today's commuting patterns began at this time with increasing numbers of Wenham residents traveling to adjacent towns for employment opportunities. Residential construction increased along the prestigious Route 1A corridor with scattered and more modest building along the Town's rural roads.

At the same time, wealthy families discovered the beauty of Wenham and its proximity to Boston. Many large agricultural properties were converted to country estates and linked with carriage roads and equestrian trails. From 1850 to 1900 the population actually declined from 977 persons to 847, but then increased to 1,090 by 1920. The impending construction of Route 128 in the 1940s spurred residential building. Modest dwellings encircled the historic core at Cherry Street near 1A and throughout the rural community, occupying much of the earlier agricultural land.

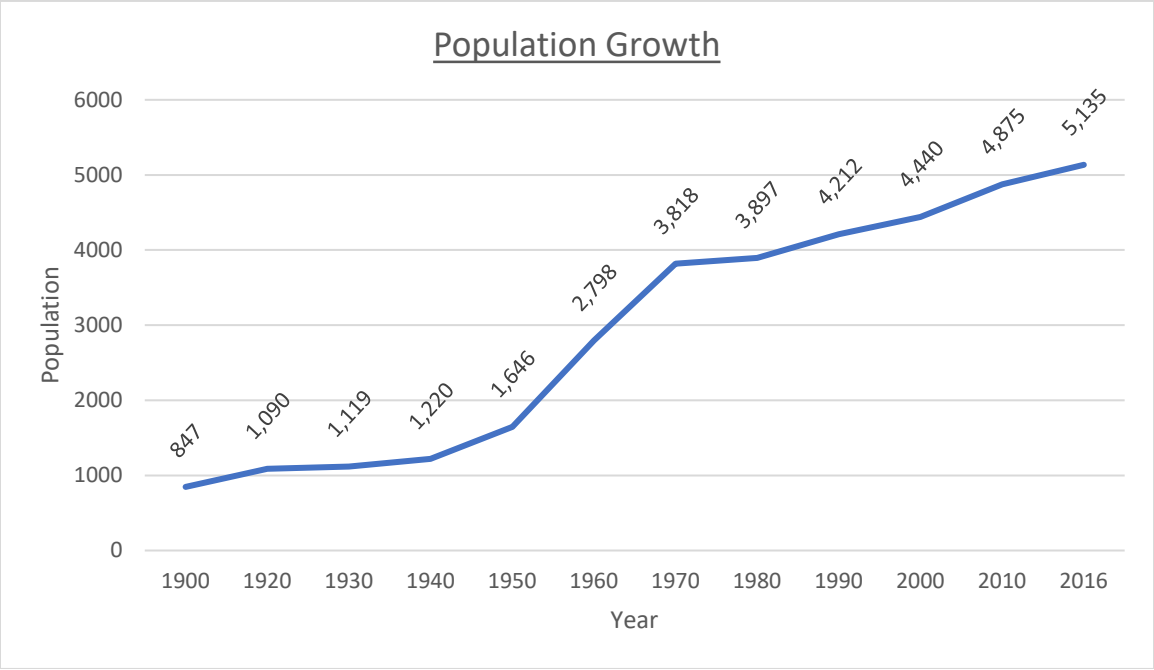


Figure 3.1.

**Source: 2001 Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan; U.S. Census; American Community Survey (ACS), December 2017 (most recent data)*

Table 3.1

Population Growth		
Year	Total	Percentage Growth
1900	847	-
1920	1090	28.7% (over 20 years)
1930	1119	2.6%
1940	1220	9.0%
1950	1646	34.9%
1960	2798	70.0%
1970	3818	26.7%
1980	3897	2.1%
1990	4212	8.1%
2000	4440	5.4%
2010	4875	9.8%
2016	5135	5.3% (over 6 years)

**Source: 2001 Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan; U.S. Census; American Community Survey (ACS), December 2017 (most recent data)*

Population Characteristics

Trends

Like many rural communities, Wenham' s population grew slowly during the first half of the twentieth century, and then experienced rapid growth during the "baby boom" of the 1950s through 1960s, and even into the 1970s. During this period, the Town became more suburban as fields and forests were subdivided for residential use. During the 1980/90s, the Town experienced a "baby boomlet", which led to construction of a new middle school, new playing fields, and other facilities for children. Between 1990 and 2000, the Town grew at a more modest rate of 5.4%, but the population continues to grow, increasing by almost 10% from 2000 to 2010. See **Figure 3.1** and **Table 3.1** above.

As shown in **Table 3.2** and **Figure 3.2** below, while the percentage of very young children is smaller, the percentage of the population aged 5-19 years continues to grow as the Town remains a highly desirable community for families with school-aged children due to the school system's excellent reputation. This results in a high demand for recreational facilities. This age group also reflects students living at Gordon College and other group quarters, which totaled 1,253 persons in 2010. It is also worth noting that the percentage of the population

aged 65+ is increasing, which leads to a demand for more passive recreation, such as trails and walking paths. From 2000 to 2010 this can be attributed to some degree to the 24 units of 55+ housing at The Boulders, which was completed in 2007.

Table 3.2

Age of Population 1990-2016								
Age	**1990**		**2000**		**2010**		**2016**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
0-4	(0-5) 231	5.5	231	5.2	142	2.9	136	2.6
5-19	(5-18) 658	15.6	1243	28.0	1450	29.7	1652	32.2
20-64	(18-65) 2783	66.1	2342	52.8	2634	54.0	2557	49.8
65+	540	12.8	624	14.1	649	13.3	790	15.4
Total	**4,212**		**4,440**		**4,875**		**5,135**	

**Source: U.S. Census; ACS 2017*

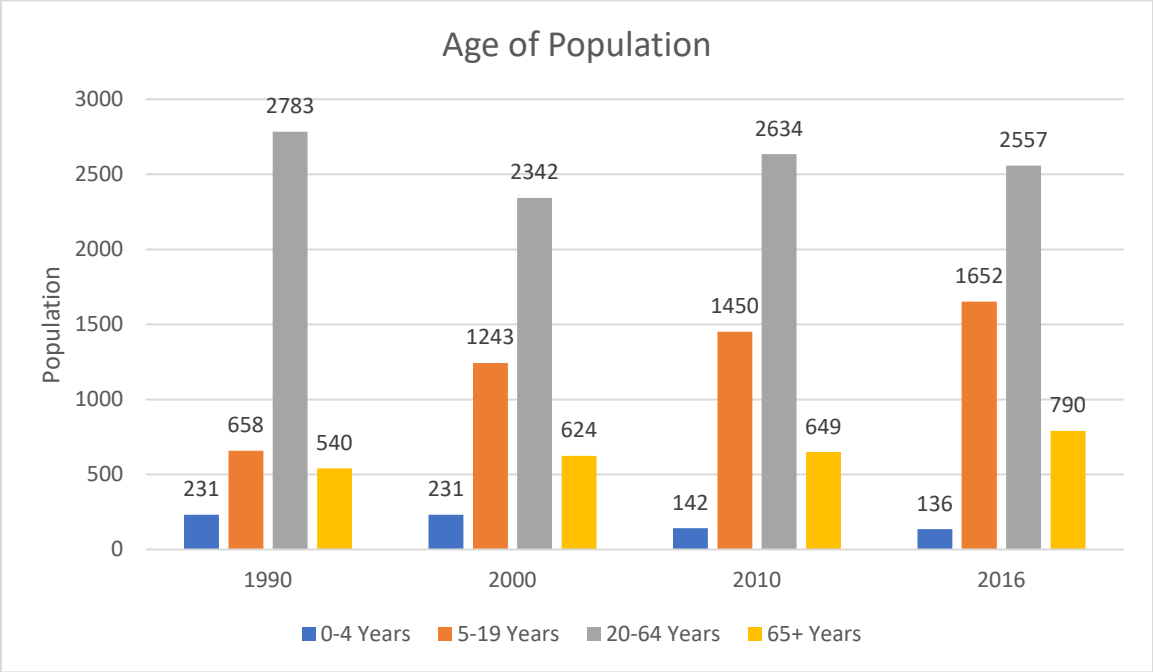


Figure 3.2

**Source: U.S. Census; ACS 2017*

MAPC projected population growth for its 101 cities and towns in January 2014 based upon two different scenarios – "status quo" and "stronger region". Each scenario reflects different assumptions about key trends. The "Status Quo" scenario is based on the continuation of existing rates of births, deaths, migration, and housing occupancy. Alternatively, the "Stronger Region" scenario explores how changing trends could result in higher population growth, greater housing demand, and a substantially larger workforce. However, as you can see by **Table 3.3** below, that Wenham's population was estimated to decrease under both scenarios, while, in actuality, it has increased since 2010. (See **Table 3.2** above.)

Table 3.3

MAPC Projections					
	2010 Census	2020 (est.) Status Quo	2020 (est.) Stronger Region	2030 (est.) Status Quo	2030 (est.) Stronger region
Total Population	4,875	4,552	4,633	4,336	4,446
Households	3,622	3,302	3,383	3,087	3,196
Group Quarters	1,253	1,250	1,250	1,249	1,249

Population Density

The Town still retains its rural character, with active farms, wood lots, equestrian centers, protected open space, and large private estates located in all parts of town. Population density is low; in 2016 it was 628 persons per square mile compared with a population density in Essex County of 929 persons per square mile and 814 persons per square mile in Massachusetts. See **Table 3.4** below.

TABLE 3.4

Population Density			
	Population	Land Area (sq. mi.)	Density (per sq. mi.)
Wenham	5,135	8.18	628
Essex County	769,362	828	929
Massachusetts	6,742,143	8,284	814

**Source: ACS 2017*

Family Income

Wenham has a higher median household income, significantly smaller percentage of households living below the poverty level, lower unemployment rate, and higher educational attainment in comparison with Essex County and Massachusetts as a whole. See **Figures 3.3 and 3.4**, and **Table 3.5** below.

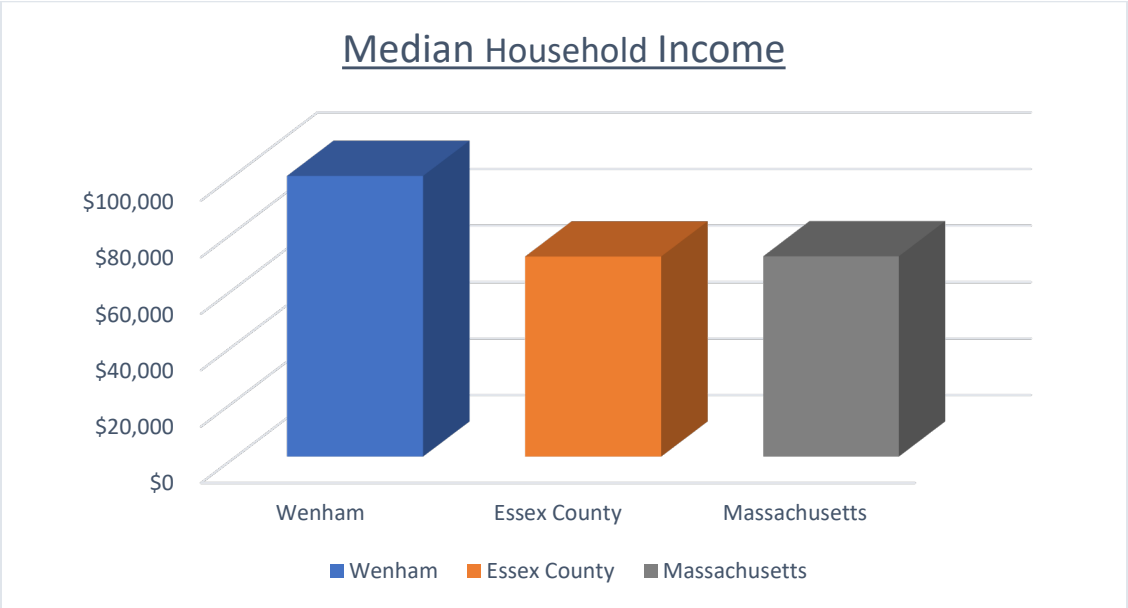


Figure 3.3

**Source: ACS 2017*

Table 3.5

Demographics			
	Wenham	Essex County	Massachusetts
Median Household Income	$99,375	$70,886	$70,954
HHs Living Below Poverty	1.6%	8.4%	8.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	7.0%	6.8%
High School Graduate	99.2%	89.3%	90.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	67.2%	38.0%	41.2%

**Source: ACS 2017*

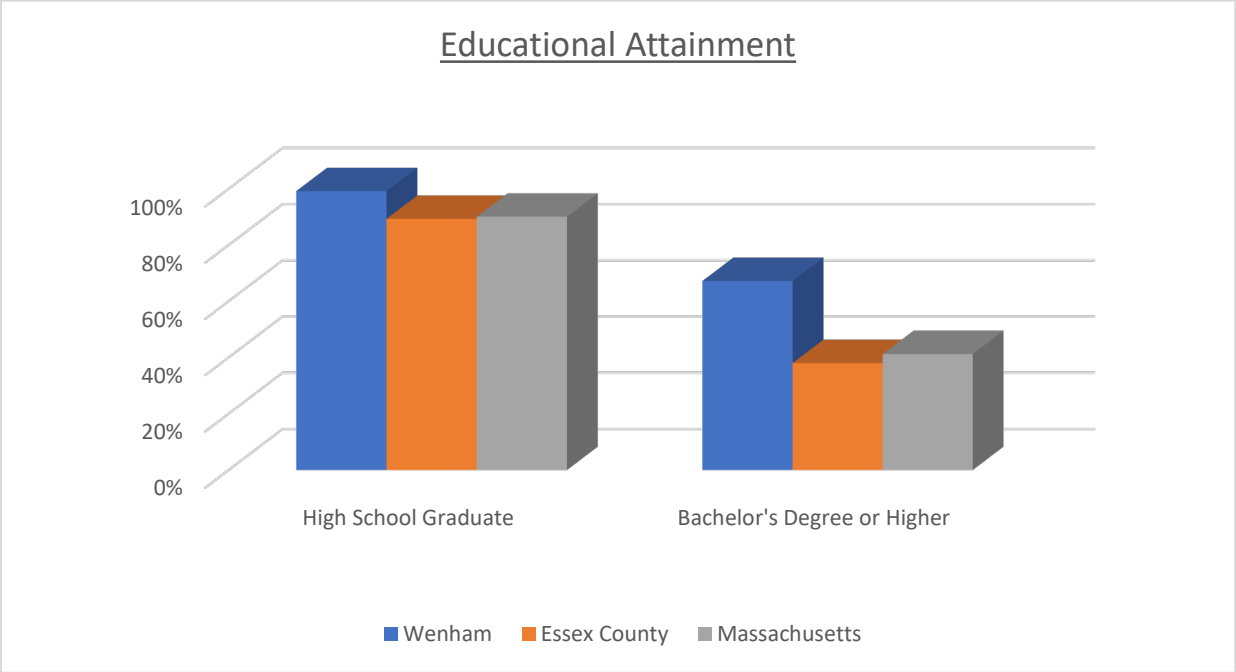


Figure 3.4

**Source: ACS 2017*

Improved Recreational Facilities

The *Gale Report* was completed in 2012. Based on recommendations in that report, recreational facilities were significantly improved through the joint efforts of the Town of Wenham and the Town of Hamilton, which share a Recreation Department and recreational facilities. The Hamilton-Wenham pool received a major upgrade, including ADA accessibility, and just reopened in the summer 2017. Improvements were made to Patton Park, including improved courts, new playground structures, and new dugouts. (Both the pool and the park are located in Hamilton.) A new playground has recently been installed in Pingree Park and the bathrooms have been upgraded, including ADA accessibility. Major improvements to the Regional High School athletic facilities have been designed and permitted by both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission in Hamilton where the facility is located. The project includes replacement of the existing football field and surrounding track, turf for one of the back baseball and soccer fields, and lighting for fields, but is not yet funded. These improvements are considered the first phase of a larger project, which would include new bleachers and a concession stand among other features. Facilities used significantly more often than others are the Pool, Patton Park, and the High School.

Wenham Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

Beginning in 1997 and continuing through 2014, the Wenham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, completed construction of sidewalks/walking paths on 8 major roadways in Wenham. These included Larch Row, Walnut Road, Topsfield Road, Cedar Street, Maple Street, Cherry Street, Grapevine Road, and Pleasant Street. The committee consisted of many concerned citizens as well as Selectmen and staff from the Department of Public Works and Police Department. The work was accomplished in accordance with a Town-funded Master Plan that had been completed and approved in 1999. The committee raised approximately $300,000 through private fundraising to finance the majority of the projects.

Employment

There are no major employers located in Town. A former advertising agency with a significant number of employees left Wenham to relocate in Boston. The site is now the home of The Academy at Penguin Hall, an all-girls preparatory high school. It is unlikely that any new industries will move into Town given its zoning, lack of suitable land, lack of sewer, and limited highway access. According to the U.S. Census, there were 74 business establishments in Wenham with 1,300 paid employees in 2010. MAPC produced employment projections for its long-range transportation plan in 2015. Those projections indicate estimated growth of only 132 jobs in Wenham between 2010 and 2040. However, according to the U.S. Census, there were 77 business establishments in 2015 with 1,829 paid employees, indicating that there has been an increase of 529 employees since 2010, exceeding MAPC projections. According to the American Community Survey, in 2016 there were 87 business establishments with 1,733 full and part-time employees. Although this represents an increase of 10 businesses since 2015, it shows a 5% decline in the number of employees.

As of the most recent data from 2017, the Town's unemployment rate is 2.6%, which is the lowest since 2009, when the rate was also 2.6%. The rate peaked in 2012 at 8.3%. See **Table 3.6** below.

Table 3.6

Unemployment Rates	
2017	2.6%
2016	3.9%
2015	6.6%
2014	7.0%
2013	8.0%
2012	8.3%
2011	7.8%
2010	3.6%
2009	2.6%

**Source: U.S. Census; ACS 2017*

Agriculture

Agriculture still plays an important role in the Town and the continued use of land for this purpose is strongly supported by the community as evidenced by the lease of Town-owned land to the Food Project, a non-profit agency.

Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

As described above, the Town has grown from its agricultural roots through a period of turn-of-the-century estates into the more rapid residential subdivision growth of recent decades. This is largely due to improved commuter transportation facilities, as Wenham residents have easy access to Boston via the commuter rail shared with the adjacent Town of Hamilton.

Wenham remains a predominantly residential community with limited commercial enterprise, and one small industry, a specialty machine shop. There are small professional offices and a few stores clustered around the town center, two retail shops in the western section of Wenham, and another small commercial center with a variety of businesses at the north end of Route 1A adjacent to the larger commercial district in the center of Hamilton. The only filling station in town is on the Hamilton border, and there is no grocery store, bank, or dry cleaner. Wenham residents rely heavily on neighboring communities for goods and services.

Many of the country estates have evolved into residential and educational use, including Gordon College, the Academy at Penguin Hall, Ledyard Farm, the Iron Rail, and a number of residential subdivisions. Some remain as private estates. Among these, several are protected with conservation restrictions, or have agricultural or forestry tax classifications. A few have been acquired by private land trusts for public conservation land, including Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Sanctuary, Long Hill, the Mass Audubon Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Mass Audubon Endicott Regional Center.

Despite these changes in land use, Wenham's rural heritage has remained visible in its stone walls, open meadows, farmhouses and outbuildings, and tree-lined streets.

However, growth pressures for additional residential units could impact open space and recreation, as well as Town character.

Infrastructure

Transportation system

The primary mode of transportation in Wenham is by automobile. There is no bus service within or through the town. The MBTA station on the Hamilton-Wenham border on Route 1A provides commuter rail service from Boston to Newburyport and points in between with 194 associated parking spaces.

Beverly Municipal Airport provides aerial access to Beverly and the North Shore region for private, business, and corporate aircraft.

Major roadways include Route 1A (Main Street), Route 97 (Topsfield Road), Route 22 (Essex Street/Rubbly Road), and Interstate Route 128. Routes 1 and I-95 are a short distance from Route 97 beyond the western end of Town. Routes 1A and 97 run north and south. Route 1A is the more heavily travelled as it provides a major connection from Route 128 through North Beverly into Wenham, Hamilton, Ipswich, and points north. Route 1A carries a heavy flow of commuter and business traffic, but is still relatively scenic in Wenham, where it is bordered by Wenham Lake, a golf course, the Town cemetery, a farm, and the Town's Historic District. Route 97 connects Wenham with Beverly, Topsfield, Danvers, and points beyond, and is primarily residential and agricultural in character. Route 22 also runs north-south and is less heavily travelled than Routes 97 and 1A. While Route 128 is a major 4-lane highway, its direct impact in Wenham is less than in some towns because it is less than a mile in length. However, it does bring

increasing traffic onto local streets such as Grapevine Road, Larch Row, Cedar Street, and Dodges Row as commuters look for convenient alternatives to the congestion on Route 1A.

Beginning in 1997 and continuing through 2014, the Wenham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, completed construction of sidewalks/walking paths on 8 major roadways in Wenham, including Larch Row, Walnut Road, Topsfield Road, Cedar Street, Maple Street, Cherry Street, Grapevine Road, and Pleasant Street. There are also sidewalks along most of Route 1A, in the neighborhood around Buker School, and connecting Enon Village (senior/handicapped housing) to Main Street and to the commercial area in South Hamilton. All streets were considered in the *Wenham Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan,* but some could not be accommodated at that time for a variety of reasons.

Water Supply

The Town's water supply system is managed by the Wenham Water Department, which is governed by an elected Board of Water Commissioners and managed by a superintendent. The water comes from two deep wells, approximately 50 feet deep, located off Pleasant Street. These wells draw from beneath the Great Wenham Swamp (backwaters to the Ipswich River), which provides a natural filter. The water is pumped to the 750,000-gallon storage tank on Lord's Hill and the 600,000-gallon storage tank at the Iron Rail property and then through over 27 miles of water mains to Town users. The aquifer lies within the Ipswich River Watershed, a highly stressed water resource for many neighboring municipalities. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has authority under the 1986 Water Management Act to allocate water to cities and towns through a permitting process.

The Town has recently opted not to renew its water withdrawal permit, but retains its water registration with DEP, which is capped at the same 0.39 MGD as the expiring permit. This allocation is sufficient to meet Town needs and has been since the late 1990s. It is sufficient

to meet future growth provided the Town can get the highest offenders of outdoor watering to comply with the water ban.[1] The Water Department has been successful in getting residents to reduce their per capita use through increased prices, consumer education, and water restrictions on outside use during the critical summer months, but the few higher residential users skew the overall number.

The Town wells will safely yield more than the present allocation. However, the Ipswich River was classified as one of the "Most Threatened Rivers in North America" in 1997 by American Rivers, a national organization dedicated to river protection. It was also classified as "impaired" by federal and state environmental officials as recently as 2014, a classification which requires the state to develop a management plan to bring the river back into compliance with federal law.

Gordon College and some residences in the eastern end of town are served by the City of Beverly. A few houses are served by private wells.

Sewer Service

Most of Wenham relies on on-site septic systems for sewage disposal. The Gordon College campus is served by the South Essex Sewerage District. Parson's Hill, a 65-unit housing development, is also served by the District. The general absence of public sewers has limited and will continue to limit the siting of development in town. The Town has no plans to provide sewer service.

Long-Term Development Patterns

As described above, most of Wenham is zoned for single-family residential use, with two small business districts. (See **Map 3 – Zoning.**) The rest of the Town is zoned for single-family residential development on 40,000 square-foot lots.

[1] *Wenham Water Superintendent*

The most recent buildout analysis was done in 2000 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) for every municipality. Taking into consideration undeveloped land and zoning requirements, the analysis estimated an additional 2,713 residents at buildout and an additional 1,056 households/dwelling units. Using the 1998 figures available at the time, this would mean a population of 7,041 and 2,298 households/dwelling units at buildout. *[Note: These buildout numbers do not take into consideration any additional land that may have been protected since 2000. This information differs from the 2014 MAPC population projections, which are lower and based on demographic trends rather than specific parcel analysis. See earlier discussion and* ***Table 3.3****.]*

In response to a concern about development and loss of open space, the Town adopted the Residential Open Space Community (ROSC) amendment to the Zoning Bylaw. The ROSC bylaw permitted smaller lot sizes and reduced frontage in exchange for the preservation of separate open space lots within the subdivision, as well as a density bonus for affordable units. This density bonus could increase the ultimate full build-out population of Wenham, but would be tempered by the ongoing need to provide on-site sewage disposal.

Three ROSC subdivisions, with a total of 71 new lots and approximately 65 acres of open space, were approved: the Beals Estate on Walnut Road, the Williams property on Hull Street, and Parson's Hill on Grapevine Road. Other than these three developments, most development was on smaller parcels resulting in one to three housing units.

In the late 1980s, the Town also amended the Zoning Bylaw to permit multifamily housing for the elderly under certain conditions.
In 2009, the Town adopted a Flexible Development Bylaw, which effectively replaced the Residential Open Space Community provision. **The purpose, as stated in the Zoning Bylaw, is to:**

- *Encourage the preservation of open land for its scenic beauty and to enhance agricultural, open space, forestry, and recreational use;*
- *Preserve historical and archeological resources; to protect the natural environment, including the Town's varied landscapes and water resources;*
- *Protect the value of real property;*

- *Promote more sensitive siting of buildings and better overall site planning; Perpetuate the appearance of the Town's traditional New England landscape;*
- *Facilitate the construction and maintenance of streets, utilities, and public services in a more economical and efficient manner;*
- *Offer an alternative to standard subdivision development; and/or*
- *Promote the development of housing that is affordable to low, moderate, and median income families.*

Wenham Pines, a 23-unit development on Main Street, is being developed under the Flexible Development Bylaw. A Conservation Restriction on 26.1 acres has recently been granted to the Wenham Conservation Commission.

Thus, while residential growth will continue, it will continue to be more closely coupled with open space protection than under the traditional 40,000 square-foot lot zoning. See **Table 3.7** below.

Table 3.7

Developments Since the 2001 Plan				
Name	**Map and Parcel**	**Year completed or planned**	**Total Housing Units**	**Educational S.F.**
Dearborn Farms	35-064A, 064B	2002	2	
Smith	37-006, 006A, 006B, 006C	2007	4	
Clough	31-004, 005, 005A	2006	2	
Weaver	18-052A	2020 (permitted, not developed)	1	
Settlers Lane	8-015 thru 015E	2015 (all but one developed)	6	
Miles River Estates	41-004, 41-012	2018	2	

The Boulders (senior housing)	13-138	2007	24	
Penny Lane	48-012A, 012B	2012	2	
The Academy at Penguin Hall		2016	0	105,000
Spring Hill Farm	39-008, 008A, 008B, 008D	2018 (permitted, not developed)	18	
Maple Woods (40B)	23-016	2020 (under appeal)	60	
Wenham Pines (Flexible Development)	27-036, 27-044	2020 (under construction)	23	

**Source: Wenham Planning Department*

Given the attractiveness of the Town's landscape, location, schools, and other amenities, Wenham can expect continued demand for additional housing and recreational services in the future. Areas that are vulnerable to development include remaining large estates that do not have conservation restrictions and land that is only temporarily protected under Chapter 61. The Town needs to continue initiatives to preserve its rural landscape, forests, and water resources for the purposes set forth in **Section VI** of this plan.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY

Geology, Soils, and Topography

Wenham's topography is gently rolling with elevations ranging from 35 to 173 feet above mean sea level at Lord's Hill. As with most of New England, the landscape has been strongly influenced by the work of Pleistocene glaciers over older geological formations. Lord's Hill, Long Hill, and the hill at the western end of Route 97 (Angelini's farm) are all drumlins. The eastern end of town has a number of rocky knobs with bedrock outcrops and thin till soils. Much of the town is characterized by glaciofluvial or moraine deposits of till, sand and gravel. Some of the latter deposits have been mined for construction. Some of the lower land in Wenham is covered with late-glacial or post-glacial marine clay deposits from a period when the oceans were higher. Wetlands and water bodies cover about 46 percent of the town. The wetlands contain extensive recent deposits of peat and muck. Common landscape features include freshwater marshes, shrubby and wooded swamps, agricultural fields, forests, meadows, streams and ponds.

Soils represent a mixture of types formed through glacial outwash, organic deposits, alluvial and urban development. Prime farmland soils total approximately 925 acres, 18% of the land area, according to MassGIS and the Town of Wenham GIS. (See **Map 4 - Soils and Geologic Features**.) However, much of this land has been developed, primarily for residential and some commercial use, as evidenced by the lot lines shown on the map. Prime farmland soil has the fewest limitations for development because of its characteristics. The dry, well-drained, and loamy soil has rapid permeability and supports septic systems well. In addition to agriculture and development, the soil supports woodlands and recreational uses. Currently, there are 306 acres of agriculture and forestry land under the temporary protection of Chapter 61. The Town needs to plan for protection of its remaining prime farmland and agricultural resources given the soil suitability for other competing uses.

Shallow bedrock covers approximately 573 acres, representing approximately 11% of the land area, located primarily in the eastern part of town. This soil is severely limited for development in terms of septic systems because of the shallow bedrock. However, land can be developed for residential and other uses if sewer service is provided. The Gordon College campus and Parson's Hill, a 65-unit housing development, are both served by the South Essex Sewerage District. The general absence of public sewers has limited and will continue to limit the siting of development in town, especially in this type of soil.

Approximately 42%, 2,168 acres, of Wenham comprises wetlands. These very poorly drained and mucky soils have severe limitations for development because of wetness and inability to support heavy loads, but do support wildlife.

Thick till and moraine encompass approximately 215 acres (4%) located primarily in the western part of town. Bedrock outcrops and thin till are found throughout town.

Landscape Character

Wenham is a town of winding roads lined with sugar maples, hemlock, larch, white pine, oak, and other mature trees. Stone walls, open meadows, fields of corn and strawberries, and old barns reflect the Town's agricultural heritage. Marshes, red maple swamps, streams, and ponds are visible reminders of Wenham's rich water resources. It is not uncommon to see deer, coyotes, wild turkeys, herons, egrets or other wildlife. Steep bedrock outcrops give the landscape a rugged feeling in the eastern end of town.

The open top of the drumlin at the western end of Topsfield Road provides a spectacular view of the Great Wenham Swamp and the hills beyond. Walnut Road, Larch Row, Cherry Street and Cedar Street have been designated "Scenic Roads" under MGL Ch. 40, sec. 15C, and the Town placed a scenic easement on Town lands which abut Route 128 to preserve the view of forested land from Route 128.

The Main Street Historic District displays the best concentration of historic architecture and civic buildings, although antique houses are found throughout town.

Most of the undeveloped private land in town is either difficult to build on for environmental reasons or still held in large estates and farms. However, with its strong reputation for a quality educational system and its rural character, the demand for additional housing continues. To the extent that this land does become available for sale, Wenham risks losing its scenic vistas, rural character, wildlife habitat, clean water, and trail networks. Developers are increasingly willing to bear the extra costs of blasting bedrock, importing earth materials, extending water and (Beverly) sewer lines, and replicating wetlands to build upon marginal lands.

Water Resources

Both surface water and groundwater resources in Wenham are critical resources for water supply for Wenham and neighboring municipalities. The interplay between Wenham's natural resources and the use of these resources by the neighboring communities of Beverly and Salem for water supply is a highly unusual, if not unique, situation. (See **Map 6 – Water Resources**.)

Watersheds

Wenham is located within the Ipswich River Watershed and plays a significant role within the region in terms of watershed and aquifer protection. Most of Wenham falls within watershed or aquifer recharge areas.

The easternmost part of town falls within the watershed of the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea's public drinking water supply. It includes the entire Coy Pond watershed. This watershed also feeds Round Pond, Chebacco Lake, Alewife Brook, and the Essex River, which are all important water resources in Hamilton and Essex. The western end of town is the watershed for Wenham Lake.

Surface water and surface water supplies to water supply reservoirs

Approximately 46% of Wenham is comprised of water bodies and wetlands, including the Ipswich River, Miles River, Wenham Lake, Langham Reservoir, Coy Pond, Pleasant Pond and the Salem-Beverly Waterway Canal, which is fed by the Ipswich River. Nearly 5% of the total area, 247 acres, is open water. Longham Reservoir, Wenham Lake, and the Canal are used by the SBWSB to provide drinking water to Salem and Beverly.

Longham Reservoir is a 40-acre man-made reservoir created by impounding the Longham Brook, while the remaining 200+ acres are natural, including Wenham Lake, the other public drinking water supply reservoir in Wenham. Most of Wenham is, however, supplied with water from municipal wells.

The SBWSB treatment plant draws from the southern end of Wenham Lake in Beverly. The entire Ipswich River watershed west of Wenham is also tributary to Wenham Lake via the SBWSB Canal. SBWSB pumps water through a pipeline from the canal into the lake during the high-flow season.

In the east end of town, surface runoff from the surrounding watershed flows into Longham Reservoir. SBWSB transfers water as needed from Longham Reservoir into Wenham Lake. The overflow of Longham Reservoir at its southern point, flows northward through Hamilton, and discharges to the Miles River and eventually into the Ipswich River. The natural outflow from Wenham Lake also flows into the Miles River below Longham Reservoir.

Most of the town falls within water supply protection areas. Water supply protection will continue to be an important priority for Wenham.

In addition to serving as a public water supply, Wenham Lake provides beautiful views from Route 1A and from Cedar Street. The Miles River is the largest watercourse through Town. It is generally too small or too marshy for recreational use, but it provides valuable wildlife habitat.

Several ponds, including Pleasant Pond, Muddy Pond, Cedar Pond, Gull Pond and Coy Pond, are scattered across the Wenham landscape, providing additional scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and sites for recreation. Pleasant Pond provides the best recreational access, including swimming at the town beach, boat access, and fishing for trout stocked by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. A short stretch of the Ipswich River passes along the Town boundary at the northwest corner of Wenham and provides opportunities for boating and fishing. There is boat access where Route 97 crosses the Ipswich River in

Topsfield. Muddy Pond is on private land and is not accessible to the public. Cedar Pond lies within a Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary where a trail network provides hiking and cross-country skiing. Gull Pond and Coy Pond are located on the Gordon College campus. There is a swimming beach at Gull Pond, and boating and fishing at Coy Pond. A trail network serves both ponds and adjacent forests and wetlands, which is open to public access.

The water in Wenham's streams and ponds is generally high quality. The SBWSB owns much of the undeveloped land adjacent to Wenham Lake, Longham Reservoir, and the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Canal, helping to protect water quality and wildlife habitat. Although public use is not encouraged, the Canal is a favorite walking spot, providing access to the heart of the Great Wenham Swamp. To allow for continuing operations, all of the SBWSB lands are crisscrossed with fire and access roads where people enjoy walking. All public access is prohibited surrounding Longham Reservoir and Wenham Lake properties consistent with MassDEP guidelines.

Aquifer recharge areas - Zones of contribution to public supply wells

An aquifer is a layer of underground rock or sand which stores and carries water, and from which groundwater can be extracted using a well. A recharge area is the place where water is able to seep into the ground and refill an aquifer. Recharge areas are necessary for a healthy aquifer.

Wenham's two municipal wells are located just south of Pleasant Pond. The Great Wenham Swamp is the primary recharge source for the Town water supply. The land around public water supply wells is delineated by either "Zone I" – land within 400 feet of a well, or "Zone II" – the area which contributes water to the wells.

Haley and Aldrich completed a hydrogeological study and mapped the aquifer boundaries in 1987. Based on this map, the Town amended the Zoning Bylaw in 1990 to include an Aquifer Protection District designed to minimize the impacts of development on the water

supply. The aquifer extends into Hamilton and also supplies their wells located near Idlewild Brook. After the Haley and Aldrich study, the Town of Hamilton had Camp, Dresser, and McKee map their aquifers, including the shared aquifer for the wells near Pleasant Pond. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection accepted the Camp, Dresser, and McKee study and the wellhead protection areas for Wenham's wells are based on this mapping.

Flood Hazard Areas

Map 6 - the Water Resources Map identifies Wenham's Floodplain Zones, an approximation of the flood hazard areas in town based on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Flood zones fall primarily around The Great Wenham Swamp, the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Canal, the Miles River, and the several ponds and reservoirs in town.

Wetlands

Wetlands and water bodies cover approximately 46% of Wenham's total land area and are spread throughout the town. Wenham's most significant wetlands occur along the flood plains of the Ipswich and Miles Rivers and their tributaries, in the Great Wenham Swamp, between Beverly Airport and Maple Street, and around Coy Pond. The most significant wetland is the Great Wenham Swamp adjacent to the Ipswich River in the northwest corner of town because it serves as the primary recharge source for the town water supply wells in Wenham and Hamilton. The Great Wenham Swamp comprises 2,000 acres, which contribute exceptional scenic and natural value to the region. The wetlands add significantly to the beauty of Wenham and also provide excellent wildlife habitat for nesting, food, and protective cover.

Wenham's wetlands are protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wenham Water Resources Protection Bylaw, which was passed in 1988 and amended in 2010. It regulates local protection of wetlands and adjacent areas above and beyond the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Vegetation

Wenham lies within the Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills Ecoregion, an area comprised of plains with a few low hills. Forests are mainly central hardwoods with some transition hardwoods and some elm-ash-red maple and red and white pine.

More specifically, the rocky, often steep-sided landscape in eastern Wenham is generally covered with eastern hemlock, American beech, white pine, and birch trees, a combination more common in northern New England. Trails in this cool, moist, shaded community offer glimpses of stone walls built during an agricultural past, as well as stark bedrock outcrops exposed by glacial activity. Due to the density of the tree canopy, understory growth is sparse.

Other types of forests are part of the J. C. Phillips Nature Preserve along the southern shore of Wenham Lake. A mixture of upland and wetland vegetation provides a diverse variety of vegetation types for hikers and wildlife. The thick understory contains witch hazel, blueberry, viburnum, and other native species, and hickory, oak, maple, and white pine provide the canopy. On the lake shore, there are groupings of flood plain community trees such as tupelo and river birch, species common locally, but rare in the rest of southern New England.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and the Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts program developed *BioMap2 Wenham* in 2012 to protect the State's biodiversity in the context of climate change. (See **Appendix D**, and **Scenic Resources and Unique Environments** section.)

According to *BioMap2*, there is one type of Priority Natural Community found in Wenham, the Level Bog. (See **Appendix C - NHESP Fact Sheet**.) The Level Bog is found in the Massachusetts Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. Peatlands, commonly called "bogs" or "fens," are wetland communities with accumulations of incompletely decomposed organic material, or peat. Level Bog communities receive little or no streamflow and they are isolated from the water table, making them the most acidic and nutrient-poor of peatland communities. The pH

of Level Bogs is in the range of 3 to 4. Level bogs develop along pond margins, at the headwaters of streams, or in isolated valley bottoms without inlet or outlet streams. The Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is also the site of an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp, a rare ecosystem in this part of New England.

The Great Wenham Swamp is the most extensive tract of undeveloped land in town, extending into Topsfield and Danvers, and containing forest, wetland, and a small area of aquatic core habitats according to *BioMap2*. The river bulrush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*), which grows in the Great Wenham Swamp, is a Species of Conservation Concern. It used to be listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), but was delisted about 2011 because new surveys showed it to be more abundant than previously thought. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has documented the vegetation in the portions of the swamp associated with its Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as its Cedar Pond Sanctuary and Endicott Regional Center in Wenham. See **Table 4.1** below for a listing of vegetation that is endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

Table 4.1

Endangered, threatened, and species of special concern; vegetation and wildlife					
Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation**	County
Amphibian	Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	2007	Essex
Reptile	Glyptemys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC	Historic	Essex
Vascular Plant	Goodyera repens	Dwarf Rattlesnake-plantain	E	Historic	Essex
Mussel	Ligumia nasuta	Eastern Pondmussel	SC	Historic	Essex
Vascular Plant	Platanthera flava var.herbiola	Pale Green Orchid	T	1887	Essex
Vascular Plant	Potamogeton vaseyi	Vasey's Pondweed	E	1878	Essex
Vascular Plant	Scheuchzeria palustris	Pod-grass	E	Historic	Essex
Reptile	Terrapene carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2004	Essex

Status*

- **E** = Endangered
- **T** = Threatened
- **SC** = Special Concern

Most Recent Observation**

This field represents the most recent observation of that species in a town. However, because they are rare, many MESA-listed species are difficult to detect even when they are present. Natural Heritage does not have the resources to be able to conduct methodical species surveys in each town on a regular basis. Therefore, the fact that the 'Most Recent Observation' recorded for a species may be several years old should not be interpreted as meaning that the species no longer occurs in a town. However, Natural Heritage regards records older than twenty-five years as *historic*.

There are approximately 306 acres of agricultural and forest land under the temporary protection of Chapter 61 and 61A.

Wenham's streets have been planted with shade trees such as sugar maples, white pines, larches, and oaks, which lend beauty to the landscape.

With its variety of vegetational communities, Wenham is rich in wildlife habitat, scenic views, recreational areas, and agricultural uses, which need to be carefully considered when land use decisions are made.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Inventory

All the areas noted above offer good wildlife habitat, but there are also relatively rare open meadow communities. While many abandoned fields have either succeeded to mature forest or have been converted to lawns, playing fields, or golf courses, the early successional meadow with its dependent wildlife is found in a number of places in Wenham, including some of the large estates with their equestrian trails, several farms, and land adjacent to Beverly Airport. With managed maintenance and infrequent mowing, carefully timed to avoid disrupting the lifecycle of grassland plants and animals, these meadows can be maintained in healthy condition. With their adjacent hedgerows and stone walls, they contribute greatly to the rural atmosphere of the Town.

Although there is not a thorough inventory of animal species in Town, common wildlife species include deer, fox, skunk, raccoon, rabbit, coyote, wild turkey, snapping turtles, garter snake, spring peeper, mink, fisher cat, and river otter. Less common species include mole salamander, gray tree frog, northern water snake, and wood frog. Numerous animal species found in the Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary include: great horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, ovenbirds, wood thrushes, broad-winged hawks, white-tailed deer, and gray foxes, as documented by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Bald eagles were observed feeding at Wenham Lake very recently. The Great Wenham Swamp has red maple and shrub swamps, cattail marshes, and floodplain ecosystems which are home to a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. Along the Salem/Beverly Water Supply Canal within the Swamp, seasonal concentrations of butterflies have been noted in the un-mowed meadow habitat which permits them to complete their reproductive cycles. The open fields and white pine forests of the Cabot Farm on Larch Row support white-tailed deer, coyotes, and other large species. Much of this land is protected by a Conservation Restriction. Pleasant Pond on the southeastern edge of the Great Swamp is a popular fishing area stocked annually with rainbow and brown trout by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

On the south side of Grapevine Road, a series of large estates along the upper Miles River provides additional wildlife habitat. However, this area has become increasingly developed in recent years.

Vernal Pools

There are currently eight (8) certified vernal pools and 50 potential vernal pools documented in Wenham. (See **Appendix D - NHESP letter**.) Five vernal pools have been certified within the Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and three certified vernal pools are located in the area on the south side of Grapevine Road. Most of the potential vernal pools are likely to be certified. Vernal pools are essential to the life cycle of several mole salamanders, one of which is a species of special concern, as noted below. (See **Map 5 - Unique Features** for certified and potential vernal pools.)

Rare species

According to the NHESP database, the Town of Wenham currently has habitat for the following rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA):

- Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) - (See **Appendix D - NHESP letter** and **Appendix C - NHESP Fact Sheet**.)
- Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*) - not listed in MESA, but is still a Species of Conservation Concern for *BioMap2*. (See **Appendix C - NHESP Fact Sheet.**)

Northern Leopard Frog, Great Wenham Swamp

The Blue-spotted Salamander and Northern Leopard Frog have both been identified in the Great Wenham Swamp and the Blue-spotted Salamander has also been identified in a Core Habitat near, but not adjacent to, Coy Pond. See **Table 4.1 on page 36** for additional wildlife that is endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

Corridors for wildlife migration

Large intact landscapes provide diverse habitats at a scale necessary to sustain healthy populations of wide-ranging species. There are two portions of larger landscape blocks within Wenham, including the Great Wenham Swamp and land adjacent to Coy Pond. The Great Wenham Swamp has red maple and shrub swamps, cattail marshes, and floodplain ecosystems which are home to a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. Most of the Swamp is owned by Mass Audubon or the SBWSB and is, therefore, protected from development.

There are a number of corridors of species-rich habitats from the northwestern corner of Wenham to the southeastern corner. The SBWSB canal corridor links the Great Wenham Swamp to the Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, although a road crossing is required. South of the Sanctuary is Wenham Lake, which is surrounded by the J.C. Phillips Nature Preserve, large tracts of private and SBWSB forests, farms, and limited residential development. Several large farms and undeveloped forested areas connect the west side of Wenham Lake to the Danvers boundary and Leaches Swamp.

Across the Miles River, Cabot Farm abuts the Longham Reservoir, from which the upper Miles River corridor leads to the Town's Iron Rail property. An alternate wildlife corridor runs from the Reynolds and Proctor parcels across land under Conservation Restriction on Ledyard Farm, the Beals estate, and the Phippen Estate, to connect with the Myopia Hunt Club in Hamilton.

In eastern Wenham there are several hundred acres of undeveloped land which stretch from the Iron Rail property to Route 128. Most of this acreage is owned by Gordon College, and abuts extensive undeveloped College land in Hamilton and Manchester-by-the-Sea. Much of the abutting land, known as “Chebacco Woods", is owned by the Towns of Hamilton and Manchester-by-the-Sea and protected in perpetuity. The Town of Wenham owns both unprotected and protected parcels between Route 128 and Hull Street. On the south side of Grapevine Road, a series of large estates along the upper Miles River provides additional wildlife habitat. However, this area has become increasingly developed in recent years.

East of Route 128, there are over 40 acres under a conservation restriction at the Parson’s Hill subdivision and Mass Audubon's Endicott Regional Center provides protected wildlife habitat. Corridors continue into Beverly and Manchester-by-the-Sea from this eastern end of Town.

Where roads must be crossed within these wildlife corridors, increasing vehicular traffic has unfortunately taken its toll. Smaller species such as river otters, minks, raccoons, foxes, turtles, frogs, and skunks may take advantage of culverts under roads, where available. While there are a few culverts under Route 128, it presents a more substantial barrier to wildlife migration than most local streets.

Wenham has already protected a variety of wildlife habitats. However, consideration should be given to further protection of undeveloped open space to protect existing biodiversity and ecosystems, including both municipal and private properties. Public education, continuing wildlife documentation, evaluation of wildlife protection priorities,

and cooperation among individuals and organizations in Wenham and neighboring towns will be key to the protection of Wenham's wildlife.

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

#1 Scenic Landscapes

There is a significant area in town that is identified as "Scenic Landscape" by the State Division of Conservation Services as shown on MassGIS. (See **Map 5 - Unique Features**.) This landscape includes the area from the railroad tracks eastward to Dodges Row from the southern town boundary with Beverly to the northern town boundary with Hamilton, and the area from Grapevine Road northerly to the boundary with Hamilton.

Scenic Roads

Wenham' s narrow, meandering tree-lined roads were mentioned by many residents as scenic and historic assets that contribute significantly to the character of the community. Cedar Street, Cherry Street, Larch Row and Walnut Road have been designated as scenic roads in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40 -15C in order to protect their scenic quality. After a road has been designated as a scenic road, any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work cannot include the cutting or removal of trees, or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls, except with the prior written consent of the Planning Board after a public hearing. Mature trees along these designated roads, some of which were originally part of estate plantings, contribute significantly to the character of the roads. Stone walls are considered particularly important to the Town, especially the Burnham wall along Topsfield Road built ca. 1912 as part of a former estate and the double stone wall on Larch Row. Topsfield Road (Route 97) is scenic, but cannot be designated a scenic road under Chapter 40-15C as it is a numbered route.

Scenic Views

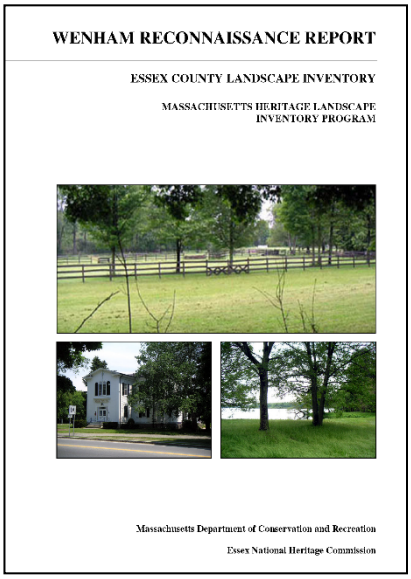
As noted previously, there is a panoramic scenic view of the Great Wenham Swamp from the hill on which Angelini Farm is situated on Route 97. The Town has a scenic easement on Town-owned land that abuts the west side of Route 128. Undeveloped land is also preserved along the eastern side of Route 128 under conservation restrictions associated with the Parson's Hill subdivision and a smaller subdivision at 338 Grapevine Road. Other scenic views include views of Longham Reservoir from Dodges Row (winter), views of Wenham Lake from Main Street, and the view from the bluffs on the north side of Coy Pond into the Gordon College campus and the surrounding forests and wetlands.

#2 Unusual Geologic Features

There are rocky outcrops and cliffs scattered throughout the east part of Wenham as shown by the Shallow Bedrock category on **Map 4 – Soils and Geologic Features**. These add to the scenic landscape and character of this part of Town. Vernal pools are a resource for potential exploration and protection. There are currently eight (8) certified vernal pools and 50 potential vernal pools documented in Wenham. (See **Appendix D - NHESP letter**.) Most of the potential vernal pools are likely to be certified. Vernal pools are essential to the life cycle of several mole salamanders, one of which is a species of special concern, as previously noted elsewhere in this section, under **Fisheries and Wildlife**. (**See Map 5 – Unique Features** for certified and potential vernal pools.) The Level Bog in the Cedar Pond Massachusetts Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary is currently protected.

#3 Cultural, Archeological & Historic Areas

The following priority heritage landscapes are identified in the *Wenham Reconnaissance Report*, which was completed as part of the Essex County Landscape Inventory Program in 2005.


WENHAM RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

ESSEX COUNTY LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Essex National Heritage Commission

Angelini Farm

The Angelini Farm, located on Topsfield Road (Route 97) in the western part of Wenham, is prominently sited on a hill overlooking the Great Wenham Swamp. The farm is 18.6 acres, 12 of which are in agricultural use (Ch. 61A). The property includes a farmhouse and adjacent barn complex. The Angelinis grow primarily raspberries, corn and

tomatoes, which are mostly sold to specialty markets in Boston. The farm is one of the few in Wenham that remains in active agricultural use. It is prominently sited on a major road and has panoramic scenic views, especially in the autumn when the red maples in the Great Wenham Swamp turn color. In addition, it lies adjacent to a major wetland and conservation area.

Boyden Estate

The Boyden Estate on Cherry Street is a lakefront property with extensive frontage on the north shore of Wenham Lake. The estate landscape includes open lawns with mature specimen trees, rhododendrons, forested areas, carriage drives and farm fields. There is an early 20th century Georgian brick house at the end of a tree-lined drive. The property also includes 12.7 acres that are under a conservation restriction held by Essex County Greenbelt Association. The Boyden estate is significant to the community as one of the few remaining estates in Wenham. It is an area with extensive lake frontage and is a key property near the center of town.

Tendercrop Farm (formerly Canaan Farm)

Tendercrop Farm is an active farm with fields and greenhouses that sells fresh produce, baked goods, plants and flowers, and meat and poultry. The main location of Tendercrop Farm is located in Newbury. It includes 12.7 acres of leased fields that were formerly part of the Boyden Estate and are now under a conservation restriction. Buildings associated with Tendercrop Farm include a late 19th century house, a large barn and several greenhouses. Located in the Wenham Historic District, Tendercrop Farm is highly valued because it is the most visible and active farm in Wenham, prominently located on Main Street just south of the Town center.

Fairfield Cemetery, Slave Burying Grounds, Wenham Cemetery

Wenham' s burial grounds are all considered priority heritage landscapes. The oldest is Wenham Cemetery on Main Street, which was established in 1681 and remains the

community's primary burying ground today. The burial monuments found here reflect over 300 years of local history. Wenham Cemetery is listed on the National Register as part of the Wenham Historic District. The Fairfield Cemetery on William Fairfield Drive was established in 1691. It is a one-acre Town-owned burial ground surrounded by private property. The site is wooded and receives limited maintenance. There are also two slave burial sites in Wenham. One is reportedly located on Dodges Row. The other is reportedly at the end of Boulder Lane near Gordon College where graves were moved in the 1920s. The Town burial agent knows the exact locations.

Haley Horse Farm

The Haley Horse Farm is located on Main Street (Route 1A) at the northern end of town opposite Pingree Field. It includes a seven-horse barn and scenic, highly visible fields with stone walls, post and rail fences and horse jumps. It is an important component of the equestrian activities centered in Wenham and adjacent Hamilton. It also functions as the northern anchor of the Wenham Historic District, but is zoned commercial and lies adjacent to the Hamilton business district.

Larch Farm

Larch Farm at 33 Larch Row was the home of Colonel Timothy Pickering during the Colonial period. It includes a First Period dwelling listed on the National Register, as well as other residential and agricultural buildings that contribute to the overall character of the property. There are also significant landscape features that include wetlands, moraine, farm fields, hedge rows, a stone wall along Larch Row, and a distinctive planting of larch trees that commemorate the 13 colonies (11 of the 13 trees remain today). The property still clearly reflects its long history as a farm and rural retreat. Portions have been given to the Town as conservation land.

Village Center, Wenham Historic District & Wenham Lake

Wenham' s Village Center extends along Main Street (Route 1A) from Cherry Street on the south to the Hamilton line on the north. Key features of the village center include Town Hall, the Wenham Museum, the Common with Civil War monument, the Wenham Congregational Church, residences along Main Street, and Pingree Field and Haley Horse Farm at the northern end. The Village Center is included in the Wenham Historic District, a local and National Register District that also extends south along Route 1A to the Beverly line, incorporating the Wenham Country Club Golf Course, Wenham Cemetery, Tendercrop Farm, Wenham Lake, and additional residential properties.

There are also remnants of several of the old ice houses on Wenham Lake that are historically significant to Wenham. For over 100 years, Wenham Lake's claim to fame was its ice, which had unmatched purity and clarity. The water was so pure from salts and air bubbles that it could withstand higher temperature than regular ice before melting, and supposedly one could even read the newspaper through the ice block. Wenham Lake Ice was awarded a royal warrant from Queen Victoria, to supply goods or services to the royal court.[2]

Ice houses on Northwest corner of Wenham Lake.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum.

#4 Unique Environments & Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

While there are no identified Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in Wenham, there are areas that contain a combination of critical resources.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and the Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts program developed *BioMap2 Wenham* in 2012 to protect the State's biodiversity in the context of climate change. (See **Appendix D**.) NHESP identified 799 acres of Core Habitat and 906 acres of Critical Natural Landscape in Wenham, representing a significant percentage (33%) of the total land area of 5,210 acres.

[2] Hauck, Jack. "Treasures of Wenham History: Wenham Lake", www.hwlibrary.org/treasures_of_wenham_history/

According to *BioMap2*:

- **Open space protected in perpetuity*:***
  - ***1,546 acres, 29.7% of total area of 5,210 acres***
- **Core Habitat: 799 acres**
  - *Core Habitat Protected: 681 acres (85.2%)*
- **Critical Natural Landscape: 906 acres**
  - *Critical Natural Landscape Protected: 711 acres (78.5%).*

Six areas within Wenham are BioMap2 Core Habitat. They include one Aquatic Core, one Forest Core, one Priority Natural Community Core, three Wetland Cores, and areas for three Species of Conservation Concern. Adjacent to and overlapping some of these Core Habitats are two areas of BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape, including one Aquatic Core, two landscape Blocks, and three Wetland Buffers.

There is one Priority Natural Community found in Wenham, which is the Level Bog found in the Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Great Wenham Swamp, the Massachusetts Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, and an area by Coy Pond are identified as Critical Natural Landscapes. The Great Wenham Swamp and Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary contain forest, wetland, and aquatic core habitat communities. (See **Map 5 - Unique Features**.)

A core habitat is a habitat (forest, wetland, or aquatic) that is the least disturbed in the state with intact buffers and little fragmentation or other stressors associated with development. Core wetland communities support critical wetland functions (i.e., natural hydrologic conditions, diverse plant and animal habitats, etc.) and are most likely to maintain these functions into the future. Forest Cores are the best examples of large, intact forests that are least impacted by roads and development. Forest Cores support many bird species sensitive to the impacts of roads and development and help maintain ecological processes found only in unfragmented forest patches. Aquatic Cores are intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur. They delineate

integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.

Protection and stewardship of core habitat and critical natural landscapes are essential to safeguard the diversity of species and their habitats, intact ecosystems, and resilient natural landscapes across Massachusetts.

Environmental Challenges

Environmental challenges have been evaluated in term of how they influence open space and recreation planning, including hazardous waste sites, landfills, erosion, chronic flooding, sedimentation, new development, ground and surface water pollution, and impaired water bodies. Because land use in Wenham has been primarily residential and agricultural, rather than industrial, environmental problems are fewer than in more urban municipalities. New development is a challenge that is being addressed through a flexible zoning approach, discussed in more detail below.

Hazardous Waste Sites

There are no active 21E sites in Wenham identified on DEP's website.

The Town passed an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Bylaw in the mid-2000s that required tanks to be identified and registered. Both auto garages, the Sunoco station (formerly Mobil) on Main Street and Burnett's Garage on Maple Street, have indoor, above-ground tanks for used motor oil and other hazardous wastes.

There were a number of hazardous waste sites in Beverly between Beverly Municipal Airport and Route 97. MassDEP was involved in evaluating and cleaning up these sites. Airport Brook runs through these sites and flows under Route 97 into Wenham Lake in Wenham. Upstream of the discharge to Wenham Lake was a coal ash landfill. Because of this situation, several Town boards played an active role in encouraging Beverly's efforts to address the problems in this area. As part of the remediation of the area, impacted sediments in Airport Brook were removed and the landfill capped. Soccer and other playing fields were constructed on the site.

Landfills

There are two closed landfills on Woodside Road off Pleasant Street. Both were covered and have not been used for many years.

Erosion

Natural erosion has not generally been a problem in Wenham. Erosion from construction sites is closely monitored by the Conservation Commission when they have jurisdiction under state and local wetlands laws.

Chronic Flooding

Flooding was the most prevalent serious natural hazard identified during the planning process for the 2012 "Hazard Mitigation Plan," particularly as it relates to the ongoing issues of flooding and stormwater within the Ipswich River and Miles River watershed where Wenham is located.

Localized flooding has occurred throughout the watershed, particularly around undersized culverts. Beaver activity in the channel of the Miles River also raises water levels and may exacerbate flooding. Invasive vegetation, including purple loosestrife, is a concern. Vegetation clogs the river channel, due in part to low flow velocities and siltation, which alter the natural hydrology.

The Town replaced and enlarged three culverts at Grapevine Road East, Walnut Road, and Larch Row that were damaged during the Mother's Day storm of 2006. The Essex Street culvert was recently replaced. With climate change, the Town will face changes in precipitation with heavier rainstorms in shorter timeframes, which will likely lead to increased flooding in the future and more extreme events, such as the flooding from the 2006 Mother's Day storm.

Sedimentation

Sedimentation is a long-standing problem in the Miles River. Approximately eight years ago the Miles River Task Force tried unsuccessfully to have the Army Corps of Engineers start a dredging schedule.

Making improvements to the Miles River has continued to be a priority of the Town as stated in the "Hazard Mitigation Plan" completed in 2012 by MAPC. The Town is currently trying to secure a commitment from the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study regarding improvements to the Miles River, which flows from Beverly through extensive wetlands before reaching the Ipswich River in Ipswich. It provides excellent riparian and wetlands habitat, but faces problems including low flow velocity, nutrient inputs, and barriers to flow. The four watershed communities of Hamilton, Beverly, Ipswich, and Wenham have formed the Miles River Collaborative to work together to solve these problems.

New Development

In 2009 the Town adopted a Flexible Development Bylaw, which effectively replaced the Residential Open Space Community provision. **The purpose, as stated in the Zoning Bylaw, is to:**

- *Encourage the preservation of open land for its scenic beauty and to enhance agricultural, open space, forestry, and recreational use;*
- *Preserve historical and archeological resources; to protect the natural environment, including the Town's varied landscapes and water resources;*
- *Protect the value of real property;*
- *Promote more sensitive siting of buildings and better overall site planning; Perpetuate the appearance of the Town's traditional New England landscape;*

- *Facilitate the construction and maintenance of streets, utilities, and public services in a more economical and efficient manner;*
- *Offer an alternative to standard subdivision development; and/or*
- *Promote the development of housing that is affordable to low, moderate, and median income families.*

Thus, while residential growth will continue, it will continue to be more closely coupled with open space protection than under the traditional 40,000 square-foot lot zoning.

Ground and Surface Water Pollution: Point and Non-point Sources

Impervious cover and resulting polluted runoff is the biggest source of pollution on water resources. Flexible development offers an alternative to standard subdivisions by grouping housing units, preserving open space, reducing impervious area, and reducing overall and peak stormwater runoff which contribute to flooding and polluted runoff.

Sources of water pollution in Wenham are typical of those in many small towns: road salt, fertilizer, street runoff, failing septic systems, underground heating oil tanks, agricultural and equestrian sources, pet wastes, wildlife wastes, and pesticides. Recent subdivisions are providing storm water management systems which detain and filter runoff, but many older roadways rely on catch basins and pipes, which convey runoff directly into the nearest wetland. Older septic systems and cesspools often do not provide adequate treatment for sewer effluent. The old summer colony around Pleasant Pond is of particular concern to the Board of Health, with its small lots, substandard systems, and fast-percolating soils adjacent to the town beach. The swimming beach is occasionally closed due to high bacteria counts, but Pleasant Pond does not have a direct influence on the Town's wells.

The Town also passed an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Bylaw in the mid-2000s that required tanks to be identified and registered.

Impaired Water Bodies

The Miles River is impaired for a variety of issues, including dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform and macroinvertebrates[3]. Longham Reservoir and Wenham Lake are listed as unassessed for water quality in the same document.

Impervious cover with resulting polluted runoff is the biggest source of pollution on water resources.

Making improvements to the Miles River is a priority of the Town as stated in the *2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan*. The Town is currently trying to secure a commitment from the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study regarding improvements to the Miles River, which flows from Beverly through extensive wetlands before reaching the Ipswich River in Ipswich. It provides excellent riparian and wetlands habitat, but faces problems including low flow velocity, nutrient inputs, and barriers to flow. The four watershed communities of Hamilton, Beverly, Ipswich, and Wenham have formed the Miles River Collaborative to work together to solve these problems.

Under the recently-awarded $20,000 grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program, the Town will work with a consultant to update the 2012 "Hazard Mitigation Plan."

While the Town has sufficient capacity with its wells to meet its water supply needs, the Ipswich River Basin is stressed as a whole. The Town has been working with several neighboring communities in the Ipswich River Basin over the past two years to examine long-term regional solutions to address shared water needs and infrastructure. The first phase of the project was completed in June 2017, with Kleinfelder providing technical and engineering consulting support. This second phase of the project builds upon the results of the first phase to further explore options for both in-basin water management and potential water

[3] 2014 Final Integrated List of Waters

importation into the basin. The *Ipswich Basin Water Management Act Planning Grant FY18* report was just released in June 2018.

Climate Resiliency

Climate resiliency is an important environmental challenge facing the Town, as well as the state as a whole, and a brief discussion has been added to this section on environmental challenges. It is directly relevant to this Plan as preservation of open space can help mitigate climate impacts, whether through acquisition, regulation (such as reduction of impervious surface through the Flexible Development Bylaw), or engineering (use of green infrastructure.) For example, flexible development offers an alternative to standard subdivisions by grouping housing units, preserving open space, reducing impervious area, and reducing overall and peak stormwater runoff which contribute to flooding.

Current climate science says that this region will be facing rising temperatures and longer dry spells, changes in precipitation, more extreme weather, and impacts on wildlife and natural communities.

The Town of Wenham will be working on achieving Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) community designation over the next year through the MVP grant program. The contract with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) will support the municipality in completing a comprehensive, baseline climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment, development of prioritized actions for dealing with priority hazards using the Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop guide, and beginning broader community outreach. Through the program, EEA will provide the municipality access to newly developed, locally-based, climate change projections available on their website (www.resilientMA.org), which must be incorporated into the planning process.

Specifically, the scope of work includes:

➢ Understand connections between ongoing community issues, climate change and natural hazards, and local planning and actions in the municipality;
➢ Understand how climate change will exacerbate or lead to new community issues, hazards and other challenges the municipality faces;
➢ Identify and map vulnerabilities and strengths to develop infrastructure, societal, and natural resource risk profiles for the municipality;
➢ Explore nature-based solutions to build resiliency in the municipality;
➢ Develop and prioritize actions and clearly delineated next steps for the municipality, local organizations, businesses, private citizens, neighborhoods, and community groups; and,
➢ Identify opportunities to advance actions that further reduce the impact of climate change and natural hazards and increase resilience across and within municipalities.

Environmental Equity

While there are no environmental justice areas identified within Wenham, the distribution of open space and recreation amenities in town was reviewed and evaluated.

Open Space

There is open space with public access and trails in both the eastern and western parts of Wenham owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Greenbelt, Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust, and the City of Beverly, as well as open space owned by the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board and Cordon College. However, it is noted that the land owned by Gordon College adjacent to Coy Pond in eastern Wenham is not permanently protected.

Recreational Amenities

This evaluation takes into account the fact that the Town of Wenham shares a Recreation Department with the Town of Hamilton. Pingree Park in Wenham and Patton Park and the swimming pool in Hamilton are centrally located. In West Wenham there are playgrounds at Buker School and the Wenham Village Improvement Society Tea House property. There is

also a basketball court and tennis courts at the West Wenham Field, but this facility has fallen into disrepair due to lack of use. The Iron Rail fields in the eastern part of Wenham provide active recreational use. While there are no tot lots in the eastern part of town, the low population density of 628 persons per square mile does not warrant additional playgrounds given the small size of the town and the availability of centrally-located facilities that provide this recreational resource.

This evaluation is supported by the Open Space and Recreation Community Survey results. Of the households with children under 18 years of age, 77% responded that there are sufficient recreational opportunities for children 1 - 3 years of age; and 75% responded that there are sufficient recreational opportunities for children 4 - 12 years of age.

V. INVENTORY OF LANDS: CONSERVATION & RECREATION INTEREST

Overview

Open space and recreational opportunities have a positive impact on the quality of life in a community for its residents from enjoyment of active, outdoor sports to appreciation of the rural character of the community. Protecting open space is critical in terms of our natural resources - drinking water, high value wildlife and plant habitat, farmland, forests, wetlands, floodplains, vernal pools, and scenic beauty.

For a small community of 8.1 square miles (5,210 acres), Wenham has significant acreage of land with conservation and recreational value, of which a large percentage is protected in perpetuity.[4] (See **Appendix D** for NHESP letter regarding lands of conservation interest.)

- **Open space protected in perpetuity*: 1,546 acres, 29.7% of total area of 5,210 acres***
- **Core Habitat: 799 acres**
  - *Core Habitat Protected: 681 acres (85.2%)*
- **Critical Natural Landscape: 906 acres**
  - *Critical Natural Landscape Protected: 711 acres (78.5%).*

While the Iron Rail fields also contain a short trail, the majority of passive recreation opportunities in Wenham is either owned, facilitated, and/or maintained by private groups and associations including Essex County Trail Association (ECTA), the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Gordon College, Greenbelt, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the City of Beverly.

[4] Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), BioMap2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World, 2012. See **Appendix E**.

Definition

Protected parcels are lands that cannot be developed. Protected areas can refer to a very wide range of land types and uses that have some value for habitat, natural resource and/or landscape conservation. Protected areas are essential for biodiversity conservation, often providing habitat and protection for threatened and endangered species, both flora and fauna.

Land within a community is protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the local Conservation Commission, a state conservation agency, a nonprofit land trust or if the City received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Any land that is dedicated to park and recreation purposes is protected under Article 97. However, in Wenham the land used for park and recreation purposes is ***not*** specifically dedicated for that use and is not protected under Article 97.

Private property can also be permanently protected if there is a deed restriction, if the land is listed as having an Agricultural Preservation Restriction or if the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed a restriction on the property for wetland conservation. Typically, land owned by other agencies like the Park and Recreation Commission and the local school system may not be presumed to be permanently protected. Wenham currently has no Agricultural Preservation Restrictions.

Wenham uses several mechanisms to protect parcels:

- **Fee simple ownership** - This category includes parcels owned by the Wenham and Beverly Conservation Commissions, Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board, State agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
- **Conservation Restriction (CR)** - A CR restricts future development of the site, and when granted in accordance with State general laws, is considered a permanent protection as it can only be removed with a two-thirds vote of the State Legislature.
- **Deed Restrictions** - Portions of parcels are protected from further development through the use of permanent deed restrictions.
- **Chapter 61A & 61B Lands** - The use of MGL Chapter 61 for private land in agricultural or recreational use provides temporary protection. While the land can be converted with due diligence in the future, the Town has the right of first refusal, should it determine that permanent protection is warranted.

Two of the non-profit organizations are specific to Essex County:

- As Essex County's Land Trust, Greenbelt works with landowners and the thirty-four cities and towns of Essex County to conserve open space, farmland, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes. Their work helps protect native plants, animals and natural corridors, ensures a healthy food supply by supporting and encouraging the use of land for farming, maintains clean water, and creates free and accessible places for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of nature. (See **Appendix E**.)

- The Essex County Trail Association exists to protect access to the trails and open lands throughout Hamilton, Wenham, Ipswich, Topsfield, Essex and West Newbury. ECTA partners with both public and private landowners to ensure that the experience of open trails is positive for them as well as the trail users. The Association undertakes trail maintenance, trail repair and construction, trail management plans, trail assessments, and trail protection by working with private owners to grant permanent trail easements to ECTA.

Lands of conservation and recreation interest include[5]:

- 585 acres of permanently protected conservation land publicly owned by the Wenham Conservation Commission, Beverly Conservation Commission, Wenham Water Department, Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management;
- 639 acres of permanently protected conservation land privately owned by The Trustees of Reservations, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Greenbelt, and the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust;

[5] 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan; 2018 Wenham Assessor records; Wenham Planning Department

- 466 acres of land under permanent conservation restriction on seven estates and one subdivision;
- 306 acres of agricultural and forestry land under the temporary protection of Chapter 61/61A tax classification;
- 65 acres of recreational land under the temporary protection of Chapter 61B tax classification (not including 29.82 acres of Chapter 61B land under agreement to be sold);
- 24 acres of two Town-owned playgrounds and one privately-owned (but open to the public) playground;
- A 7-acre school site with athletic fields and playground;
- 80 acres of unprotected Town-owned land, known as the Iron Rail property, including three soccer fields, the highway department garage, a gymnasium, a Boy Scout barn, a ropes course, and undeveloped forests and wetlands. There is no restriction on future development;
- 56 acres of undeveloped Town-owned land with no protection from development; however, some of the parcels are very small and/or contain wetlands;
- A 7-acre cemetery and 0.5-acre historic cemetery; a 24-acre senior housing site, a 31-acre airport site owned by the City of Beverly, which remains largely undeveloped, and a 318-acre college campus;
- In addition, there are six private properties with 20 or more acres, 18 private properties with 10-20 acres, and a number of smaller private parcels which may have open space or recreational value.

Land of conservation and recreation interest are broken out by the following tables:

- **Table 5.1** - Protected parcels, including permanently protected open space and recreational parcels owned by the Town, Conservation Commission, Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board, nonprofit organizations, the State, and other municipalities. It also includes private parcels that are permanently protected through conservation restrictions. A conservation restriction restricts future development of the site, and when granted in accordance with State general laws, is considered a permanent protection as it can only be removed with a two-thirds vote of the State Legislature.

- **Table 5.2** - Unprotected parcels, including Chapter 61 parcels (temporary protection), publicly-owned parcels, and privately-owned parcels. Privately owned parcels include those owned by institutions and organizations, as well as residential parcels, ranging in size from approximately 3 ½ acres to 50 acres. Residential parcels generally include a single-family house and associated accessory uses but also have undeveloped land.

Abbreviations used in the Tables 5.1 and 5.2 are as follows:

Ch. 61	Property tax classification for land in forestry production
Ch. 61	Property tax classification for land in forestry production
Ch. 61A	Property tax classification for land in agricultural production
CH. 61B	Property tax classification for land in recreational use
Con Com	Wenham Conservation Commission
CR	Conservation Restriction
DPW	Wenham Department of Public Works
ECTA	Essex County Trail Association

FCE	Foundation for Continuing Education
HA	Wenham Housing Authority
HWOLT	Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust
HWRSD	Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District
HWYSA	Hamilton-Wenham Youth Soccer Association
IRGA	Iron Rail Gymnastics Academy
MA DEM	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management
MBTA	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority
ROSC	Residential Open Space Community
Self Help	Massachusetts Self-Help Program Grant
SBWSB	Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board
TTOR	The Trustees of Reservations
WVIS	Wenham Village Improvement Society

Table 5.1 – Protected Parcels

(Updated as part of development of the Plan. ***Note:*** *Many of the Greenbelt parcels are relatively new acquisitions either fee simple ownership or a CR, as well as the Wenham Pines CR.)*

Name of Parcel	Owner	Map – Lot	Manager	Use	Condition	Public Access	Grant Rec'd	Degree of Protection	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
Reynolds Farm	Con Com	20-1	The Food Project	agriculture	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	24.88	trail, canoe launch
Proctor Woodland	Con Com	20-11	Con Com	agriculture	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	8.98	trail, canoe launch
Williams ROSC	Con Com	44-18 44-21	Con Com	forest and wetland	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	8.70 2.71	trail, water supply protection
Pleasant Pond Beach	Con Com	7-58	Rec. Dept.	swimming, boating, fishing	some problems w/ pond weeds	yes	Self Help	perpetuity	residential	2.31	trail connections to Hamilton
Canal	SBWSB	5-1	SBWSB	water supply trails	good	Discouraged	none	perpetuity	residential	232	trails
Cedar Street to Cherry Street	SBWSB	18-1 18-3F	SBWSB	water supply pipeline	good	Discouraged	none	perpetuity	residential	6.8 1.60	trail
Wenham Lake and shore	SBWSB	36-2	SBWSB	water supply	good	Prohibited	none	perpetuity	residential	48	trails
Longham Reservoir and area	SBWSB	30-3 30-17 39-2	SBWSB	water supply	good	Prohibited	none	perpetuity	residential	18.5 6.5 173.75	trails
Pleasant Pond right-of-way	MA DEM	7-6B 7-7A	MA DEM	forest	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	1.5 0.77	trails, link to Hamilton
J.C. Phillip's Nature Reserve	Beverly Con Com	36-1	Beverly Con Com	wildlife sanctuary	good	yes	Self Help	perpetuity	residential	29.61 in Wenham	trails, link to Beverly
Pine and Hemlock Knoll	TTOR	7-7	TTOR	wildlife sanctuary	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	15.2	trails, link to Hamilton
Long Hill Estate	TTOR	40-4	TTOR	wildlife sanctuary, formal gardens	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	24.8 in Wenham	trails, link to Beverly
Mass Audubon Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary	Mass Audubon	2-1 4-2	Mass Audubon	wildlife sanctuary, canoeing, trails	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	322.5 19.9	water supply protection, wildlife habitat, trails

Name of Parcel	Owner	Map – Lot	Manager	Use	Condition	Public Access	Grant Rec'd	Degree of Protection	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary	Mass Audubon	17-13 17-14	Mass Audubon	wildlife sanctuary, trails	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	129.83 33.65	trails, wildlife habitat
Mass Audubon Endicott Regional Center	Mass Audubon	48-2 48-15 48-3C	Mass Audubon	wildlife sanctuary, trails, offices	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	14.36 6.56 5.36	trails
Leaches Swamp	Greenbelt	9-1 9-2 15-3	Greenbelt	wetland	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	0.91 0.22 24.5	existing Rail Trail link to Danvers and Topsfield
Birch Road	Greenbelt donated in 2000	23-2	Greenbelt	wetland	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	13.3	existing Rail Trail link to Danvers; wildlife habitat
Woodside Lane	Greenbelt	11-18	Greenbelt	wetland	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	3.12	
Burley Road	Greenbelt	23-28	Greenbelt	wetland	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	3.13	
Adjacent to Rail Trail	Greenbelt	23-2	Greenbelt	Scenic landscape	good	yes	none	perpetuity	residential	13.29	
25 Rubbly Road	private	31-6	Greenbelt holds CR	floodplain		no	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	4.47	
110 Larch Row	private	28-5	Greenbelt holds CR	Scenic landscape; wildlife habitat		no	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	7.51	
Wenham Lake Shore	HWOLT	26-14	HWOLT; Greenbelt holds CR	water supply protection, view	good	yes	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	11.13	trail, picnic area
72-74 Cherry Street	private	18-64	HWOLT holds CR	wildlife habitat; scenic/aesthetic value; farmland preservation	good	no	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	24.51	
William Fairfield Lots	private	16-100 16-112 16-113 16-114	private	residential open space	good	no	none	deed restriction within 150 to 200 feet of roadways	residential	5	scenic view
Zernik Trust, William Fairfield Drive	private	16-110 16-11	Private	meadow, tree farm	good	no	none	deed restriction in perpetuity	residential	2.41 2.66	scenic view

Name of Parcel	Owner	Map – Lot	Manager	Use	Condition	Public Access	Grant Rec'd	Degree of Protection	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
Boyden Farm, Cherry Street	private	18-5	Greenbelt holds CR	water supply protection; agriculture	good	no	none	CR on 11.51 acres; perpetuity	residential	12.75	trails, agriculture
Choate Farm, Maple Street	The Village of Choate Farm Home-owners Assoc.	23-11	CR - The Village of Choate Farm Home-owners Assoc.	wetlands	good	yes	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	6.18	adjacent to Rail Trail and land owned by Greenbelt, wildlife habitat
Cabot Farm, Larch Row	private	28-5B	Greenbelt holds CR	agriculture, equestrian trails, forest	good	ECTA members	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	76.85	trails, agriculture
Beals, Larch Row	private	21-6 21-21 21-22	Greenbelt holds CR; ECTA maintains trails	equestrian trails	good	ECTA members	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	16.34 12.59 4.3	trails, link to Hamilton
Phippen Estate, Larch Row	private	22-3 22-5 22-6	Greenbelt holds CR	equestrian trails	good	ECTA members	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	7.11 19.45	Trails, link to Hamilton
Steward Estate, Grapevine Road	private	31-5 41-7	Greenbelt holds CR	forest, Miles River access	good	no	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	4.9 .46	trails
Ledyard Farm, Walnut Road	private	21-1A 21-6 21-12A 21-17 21-17A	Con Com holds CR	equestrian trails, events, training	good	ECTA members	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	22.9 36.2 29.0 9.4 .96	trails
Ayer Estate, Walnut Road	private	21-3	Greenbelt holds CR	forest, wetlands, meadow	good	yes	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	15.35 under CR	trails, Miles River access, wildlife habitat
Parson's Hill Subdivision (adjacent to Rte. 128)	Parson's Hill Association	45-3 45-50 45-49	Con Com holds CR	pond, upland forest, wetlands	good	yes	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	44 under CR	trails, wildlife habitat, link to Manchester-by-the-Sea
Wenham Pines 60 Main Street	private	27-36	Con Com holds CR	wildlife habitat, scenic/aesthetic value, wetlands protection; walking trails	good	yes	none	CR in perpetuity	residential	26.1 under CR	passive recreation, hiking, sledding, x-country skiing, bird watching

Table 5.2 – Unprotected Parcels

(Updated as part of development of the Plan. ***Note:*** *Any land that is dedicated to park and recreation purposes is protected under Article 97. However, in Wenham, the land used for park and recreation purposes is not specifically dedicated for that use and is not protected under Article 97.)*

Chapter 61A and 61B Land											
Name of Parcel	**Owner**	**Map – Lot**	**Manager**	**Use**	**Condition**	**Public Access**	**Grant Rec'd**	**Degree of Protection**	**Zoning**	**Acres**	**Open Space and Recreation Potential**
212 Topsfield Road	private	9-4	private	agriculture	good	no	none	12.0 acres in Ch.61A	residential	18	agriculture, views, trails
69 Cherry Street	Private	18-2	private	agriculture, residential	good	no	none	12.7 acres in Ch.61A	residential	14.7	agriculture
72-74 Cherry Street	private	18-64	private	agriculture, forestry	good	no	none	22 acres in Ch.61A	residential	39.0	agriculture
62 Maple Street	private	23-16	private	agriculture, forestry; Harborlight 40B pending on a small portion of the site	good	no	none	24.63 acres in Ch.61A	residential	24.63	agriculture,
62 Maple Street	Private	24-3	private	agriculture, residential	good	no	none	28 acres in Ch.61A	residential	29	agriculture
51 Maple Street	Private	24-8A	private	agriculture	good	no	none	18.3 acres in Ch. 61A	residential	18.3	agriculture, trails
9 Maple Street	private	24-9	private	agriculture	good	no	none	101.43 Acres in Ch.61A	residential	121.25	agriculture, trails
87 Main Street	private	26-13	private	agriculture; residential	good	no	none	12.0 acres in Ch.61A	residential	18	agriculture, views, trails
94 Main Street	private	27-33	private	golf course	good	yes	none	10.48 acres in Ch.61A	residential	12	agriculture, scenic landscape
96 Larch Row	private	28-5C	private	agriculture	good	no	none	65 acres in Ch.61B recreation	residential	66	recreation – golf course
Dodges Row	private	39-1	private	agriculture	good	no	none	13.69 acres in Ch.61A	residential	14.6	agriculture
57 Dodges Row	Private	39-7	private	agriculture	good	no	none	12 acres in Ch.61A	residential	12	agriculture
136 Grapevine Road	private	41-10	private	agriculture, residential	good	no	none	20 acres in Ch.61A	residential	23.9	agriculture

Municipal Land											
Name of Parcel	**Owner**	**Map – Lot**	**Manager**	**Use**	**Condition**	**Public Access**	**Grant Rec'd**	**Degree of Protection**	**Zoning**	**Acres**	**Open Space and Recreation Potential**
Leaches Swamp	Town	23-12	Town	wetlands; on Rail Trail	good	yes	none	none	residential	5.7	scenic view, wildlife habitat
Beverly Municipal Airport	City of Beverly	33-22 34-1	Airport Commission	airport	good	no	none	none	residential	0.5 30.22	wildlife habitat
Buker School 11 School Street	Town	13-44	HWRSD	Elementary school; playground; athletic fields	good	Yes	none	none	residential	7.13	school; playground; athletic fields
Pingree Park	Town	14-5	Recreation Department	athletic fields, playground	good	yes	none	none	residential	14.56	fully developed
Mayflower Drive	Town	15-2	Town	wetland; on Rail Trail	good	yes	none	none	residential	15.1	wetland; scenic view; wildlife habitat
West Wenham Field (Higginson Field)	Town	25-28	Recreation Department	tennis court, basketball court, field	poor	yes	none	terms of will	residential	3.16	limited by lack of parking; accessibility issues
Miles River Lot	Town	37-22	Town	wetland	good	yes	none	none	residential	5.3	wildlife habitat; potential access to Miles River
Iron Rail Property 91 Grapevine Road	Town	31-1	Iron Rail Commission	soccer fields, trails, DPW garage, gymnasium leased for gymnastics, future cemetery	good	yes	none	None	residential	79.53	undeveloped portion mostly wetland and wildlife habitat
Grapevine Road	Town	48-7	Town	wetlands	good	yes	none	none	residential	2.0	wildlife habitat; adjacent to Endicott Regional Center
Essex Street	Town	41-11	Town	wetlands on Miles River	good	yes	none	none	residential	2.6	water supply protection, wildlife habitat
21 Hull Street	Town	44-18	Town	wetlands	good	yes	none	none	residential	2.71	wildlife habitat

Publicly Owned (non-municipal)											
Name of Parcel	Owner	Map – Lot	Manager	Use	Condition	Public Access	Grant Rec'd	Degree of protection	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
Enon Village, Larch Lane	Housing Authority	20-7	Wenham Housing Authority	senior housing	good	yes	none	none	residential	24.6	trails, Miles River frontage
MBTA Lot	MBTA	37-7; no property card	MBTA	former rail spur to ice house		no	none	none	residential	4.2	adjacent to Wenham Pines development

Owned by Institutions and Organizations											
Name of Parcel	Owner	Map – Lot	Manager	Use	Condition	Public Access	Grant Rec'd	Degree of Protection	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
Gordon College	Gordon College	43-1, 42-5, 44-4, 44-4A, 44-4D 44-5 44-15 44-16 45-1 45-4	Gordon College	College campus, playing fields, ponds, forest, wetlands, 200-foot scenic easement on Route 128	good	limited	none	none	residential	238 29.7 12.29 13.41 4.65 1.15 3.12 0.92 10.3 4.94	trails, boating, skating, watershed protection, wildlife habitat
The Academy at Penguin Hall, formerly Mullen Advertising	same	40-3	same	private school forest – undeveloped portion	good	no	none	none	residential	49.64	wildlife habitat, trails, watershed protection
Foundation for Continuing Education	FCE	12-12	FCE	adult education	good	no	none	none	residential	8.07	on Pleasant Pond; swimming, picnics, camping, playground
Boston Prov. Sisters of Notre Dame	Boston Prov. Sisters of Notre Dame	30-20	Boston Prov. Sisters of Notre Dame	Private school	good	no	none	none	residential	1.95	Link between Iron Rail and The Academy properties;
Wenham Tea House	WVIS	19-16	WVIS	Restaurant, playground, tennis courts	good	yes	none	none	residential	6.3	Continue same uses; restore skating pond

Private						
Map	Lot	Owner	Use	Zoning	Acres	Open Space and Recreation Potential
7	6	private	residential	residential	10.55	wetlands, abuts Mass Audubon and TTOR parcels
10	32	private	residential	residential	89.45	wetlands, abuts Mass Audubon and SBWSB parcels
10	21	private	residential	residential	10.16	wetlands, abuts Mass Audubon and SBWSB parcels
10	11	private	undeveloped buildable*	residential	17.1	part wetlands; abuts SBWSB Canal
11	17	private	residential	residential	9.93	undeveloped portion is wetlands; abuts SBWSB land
12	16	private	residential	residential	19	abuts Town wellfields, open meadows
12	25	private	residential	residential	7.3	abuts Town wellfields
13	6	private	residential	residential	5.50	abuts Town wellfields
13	7	private	residential	residential	8.94	ponds, forest, abuts Town wellfields
14	19	private	residential, horses	partly zoned business & partly residential	13.33	Scenic; adjacent to commercial use and near South Hamilton Center; across from Pingree Park
19	56	private	residential	residential	50.78	meadows, forest, scenic view, wetlands
20	4	private	residential	residential	7.04	forest, wetlands, wildlife habitat
20	12	private	residential	residential	8.56	meadows, wildlife habitat, scenic view
21	2	private	residential	residential	9.9	meadows, forest, wildlife habitat
21	3	private	residential	residential	16	meadows, forest, scenic view, horse trails, adjacent to Miles River
22	10	private	residential	residential	5.89	ponds, wetland, wildlife habitat
23	10A	private	residential	residential	5.1	abuts parcel 23-2 owned by Greenbelt
25	17	private	residential	residential	5.7	abuts Mass Audubon
28	15	private	Undeveloped, 3-6 lots*	residential	26.6	trails
29	4	private	residential	residential	11.53	trails, equestrian center
29	4A	private	residential	residential	13.96	pond, meadows, horse trails, forest, wildlife habitat

29	9	private	residential	residential	6.08	forest, abuts SBWSB reservoir
29	10	private	residential	residential	9.65	forest, abuts SBWSB reservoir
30	1	private	residential	residential	10.43	abuts SBWSB land, horse trails
30	2	private	residential	residential	5.62	abuts SBWSB land, horse trails
30	18	private	residential	residential	13.38	water supply protection
32	4	private	residential	residential	17.67	wetlands, forest, abuts Gordon College land
34	4	private	residential	residential	25.3	wetlands, forest, abuts Streeter parcel and Beverly Airport
34	6	private	undeveloped	residential	14.5	wetlands, forest, abuts Streeter parcel and Beverly Airport
34	7	private	Undeveloped (back lot)	residential	4.5	wetlands, forest, abuts Beverly Airport
34	10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	private	undeveloped lots in subdivision	residential	18	mostly wetlands
37	21	private	residential	residential	29	abuts Miles River and Town conservation land
39	8	private	undeveloped	residential	15.50	forest; stream tributary to Longham Reservoir; abuts Long Hill
40	2	private	residential	residential	34.3	forest; stream tributary to Longham Reservoir; abuts Long Hill
41	5	private	undeveloped	residential	3.5	Miles River frontage; wetlands, forest
41	8	private	residential	residential	14.4	Miles River frontage; wetlands, forest
41	12	private	undeveloped	residential	8.97	Miles River frontage; wetlands, forest
42	14	private	residential	residential	8.1	Miles River frontage; wetlands, forest
42	15	private	residential	residential	18.4	Miles River frontage; wetlands, forest
42	16	private	residential	residential	10.99	forest
48 and 49	14, 14A, 14B, 2	private	residential	residential	11.4	meadows, trails, wetlands, abuts Parson's Hill open space, existing trails, links to Beverly

VI. COMMUNITY VISION

Description of Process

The planning process to determine open space and recreation goals was extensive. The public outreach component was launched with the publication of a Letter to the Editor from the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) in the two local newspapers, the Salem News and the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle. The OSRC met with its consultant to review the goals and objectives from the previous 2001 Plan, and determine what activities had been achieved or were no longer relevant.

A community-wide public forum was broadly advertised and held on November 2, 2017. It was well-attended and interactive, with residents weighing in on open space priorities, such as drinking water supply and wildlife habitat, passive recreation (trails), and active recreational priorities, such as athletic fields. The community survey on open space and recreation planning was released in early November and advertised through numerous outlets, including the Chronicle, email distribution lists, and social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. Paper copies were available at the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center. The Town received a total of 382 responses, representing 14% of registered voters and potentially 26% of households (some households may have had more than one respondent). The community survey results were very consistent with the needs, values, and goals expressed at the first public forum.

The Recreation Commission and Economic Development Commission were invited to serve on the OSRC as liaisons between the boards. The Recreation Department, Water Department, and Department of Public Works were contacted to provide their input on components of the plan. A second public forum was held in May 2018 and was again broadly advertised. The purpose was to update residents on what was learned over the course of the project, how that has shaped the recommendations for open space and recreation, and provide an additional opportunity for input. Following the successful forum, the draft plan was posted on the Town's website to provide an additional opportunity for input.

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town's overall vision is an open space and recreation system that provides and maintains open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of its residents for both active and passive uses; protects its environmental and historic resources; and maintains the Town's rural character.

To achieve this vision, the following goals have been established:

- **Goal 1** - *To protect the Town's natural resources and open space areas that contribute to passive recreational enjoyment (i.e. walking/hiking, scenic views, picnicking, wildlife observation, etc.), drinking water supply, high value core wildlife and plant habitat, agricultural and forestry use, and rural and historical character.*
- **Goal 2** - *To improve trail networks, cycling paths/lanes, and sidewalks to provide recreational opportunities for activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling, and wildlife observation.*
- **Goal 3** - *To provide and maintain facilities and resources for active recreation and opportunities for all residents.*
- **Goal 4** - *To sustain the Town's commitment to carrying out this plan.*

VII. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

Prior sections contain inventories of Wenham's recreational and natural resources and the community's open space and recreational resource goals. Section 7 describes the shortfall between what the community has today and what it would like in the future for both open space resources and recreational opportunities.

The analysis reflects comments during the two Public Forums, the Community Survey, the *2012 Gale Report* and input from Town Department Heads.

The 2017 *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) and *MetroFuture*, prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, were reviewed in order to look at open space and recreation from a regional perspective.

The community input regarding needs in Wenham is consistent with both these documents, specifically:

SCORP

The 2017 SCORP identified the following needs in terms of what types of projects people would like to see funded in the future using both an online survey and phone survey. The top responses fell into three categories: 1. trails (hiking, biking, paved walkways, trails with access for people with disabilities, and mountain biking), 2. playgrounds for ages 6 months to 12 years and designed for people with disabilities; and 3. water (swimming pool, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas).

When asked the same question specifically about municipal facilities, a slightly different response was received: 59% mention some type of water-based recreation (outdoor swimming pools or spray parks; beaches, fresh or saltwater swimming areas; canoeing/kayaking/rafting/tubing areas; fishing/ice fishing areas; and waterskiing/jet skiing areas), 52% request neighborhood park-type amenities (playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens) and 48.0% mention some type of trail (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails; off-road motorcycle or ATV trails; and snowmobiling trails).

Another need identified was the need to offer programming at facilities as a good way to get more people to use parks and open spaces. When asked how important it was for more programming to be available for senior citizens, 83.7% of respondents said that it was either a somewhat or very important priority; when asked about programming for teens, the response was even higher at 91.2%.

There was also a survey specifically geared towards middle and high school students. The goal was to identify any differences, or similarities, in outdoor recreation needs for Massachusetts' younger generation. A total of 215 students responded to the survey. The most popular outdoor activities for youth are team activities, such as soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby. Team sports are particularly of interest for boys and younger respondents. Girls also enjoy team sports, but like swimming pools in equal numbers. Teens between the ages of 15 and 18 are just as apt to mention swimming; hiking; and running, jogging, or walking as favorite activities. The three most common outdoor activities the respondents participated in during the past year were running, jogging, or walking; swimming (any type); and road biking.

The 2017 SCORP identified the following goals:

- **Goal 1: Access for Underserved Populations** - *Underserved populations include specific groups that are not generally considered when designing local parks and conservation areas. These populations include people with disabilities, teenagers, and senior citizens. Underserved can also refer to areas of a community that are lacking in outdoor recreation facilities*

- **Goal 2: Support the Statewide Trails Initiative** - *Trails are important for a number of different reasons. They connect communities. They provide a non-vehicular mode of transit. They improve public health by giving people an active way to get where they are going. They can increase the value of homes and businesses by making an area a more desirable to live or work.*

- **Goal 3: Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation** - *Protecting water resources serves multiple purposes. It provides people a place to recreate. It protects habitat for plant and animal species that depend on its water quality. It helps to protect our drinking water supplies. When asked what services our state and local parks and open spaces provide, other than outdoor recreation, the top three answers were: protecting wildlife, improving quality of life, and protecting drinking water supply.*

- **Goal 4: Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks** - *To ensure the future protection and maintenance of our parks and open spaces, residents must care about them. To get more people outside, facilities and amenities should be developed close to where people reside. This can be accomplished through the development of new, and the improvement of existing, neighborhood parks.*

All the goals are relevant for Wenham and are consistent with Wenham's open space and recreation goals and the needs discussed in this section.

MetroFuture

The Boston area's 30-year plan identifies the following 11 goals in respect to open space and recreation that are reflected in the Town's goals, objectives, and action plan:

1.	*Cities, towns, and neighborhoods will retain their sense of uniqueness and community character.*
2.	*Historic resources will be preserved and enhanced.*
3.	*Communities will work together to plan for growth and share resources.*
4.	*All neighborhoods will have access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth.*
5.	*The region's agricultural economy will grow through a focus on sustainable farming.*
6.	*Most people will choose to walk or bike for short trips.*

7.	*The average person will drive fewer miles every day.*
8.	*Water resources will be carefully budgeted ad sustainably managed so that clean water is available for appropriate uses and development.*
9.	*The ecological condition of wetlands will improve, and fewer wetlands will be lost to development.*
10.	*The region will retain its biodiversity and will have healthy populations of native plants and animals, and fewer invasive species.*
11.	*A robust network of protected open spaces, farms, parks, and greenways will provide wildlife habitat, ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.*

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

The natural resources discussed in this section include groundwater, surface water, wetlands, lakes, streams, floodplains, forests, farmland, scenic beauty, and high value core wildlife and plant habitat and corridors. Wenham is rich in natural resources, but many are privately owned and vulnerable to future development. From the OSRC's recent survey and public forums, it is clear that a high priority goal of the residents is to preserve and protect Wenham's natural resources.

Protecting Drinking Water Supply, Including Groundwater and Surface Water

Specific needs relating to the protection of the drinking water supply are being addressed by the Wenham Water Department. To provide for a continuing source of clean water, the Town

- Inappropriate activities conducted in the Zone I. The Town does not own or control all of Zone I;
- Underground storage tanks present in Zone II;
- Septic systems present in Zone II;
- Stormwater catch basins in Zone II.

of Wenham, through its Water Department and in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), completed a "Source Water Assessment Plan" in 2001. This effort assessed activities near the Town's wells that have the potential to threaten water quality. **The plan notes the following potential issues:**

The Wenham Water Department is addressing these issues by:

1.	*Working with property owners within Zone 1 on methods of safeguarding the groundwater;*
2.	*Working with the Fire Department to inventory and inspect underground storage tanks. A bylaw was enacted by the voters of Wenham to require testing of these tanks;*
3.	*Working with the Board of Health to educate residents concerning the proper care of their septic systems and compliance with Title 5 regulations;*
4.	*Working with the Conservation Commission to evaluate potential impacts to wetland and Town water quality;*
5.	*Working with the Department of Public Works to keep catch basins clean and in good repair; and,*
6.	*Coordinating wellhead protection plans with Danvers, Topsfield, Beverly and Hamilton to ensure out-of-town protection of our watershed.*

According to the Water Superintendent, additional parcels are not needed for additional wellhead protection at this time, and current regulations are sufficient for protection of Wenham's watershed and aquifers to protect drinking water supply.

The Town has a sufficient water allocation to meet the Town's current needs and it will be sufficient to meet future growth provided the Town can get the highest residential offenders of outdoor watering to comply with the water ban. The Town of Wenham bylaw prohibits watering in the middle of the day (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) from May 1st to September 30th, and rain sensors are required to be installed if a homeowner has an automatic irrigation system.

This bylaw also applies to private wells. In the *2016 Source Water Assessment Report*, the Town also identifies and encourages a number of indoor conservation measures.

Specific needs include:

- To continue to address water quality issues as noted above.
- To continue to work to enforce and encourage water conservation measures as noted above.
- To continue staying engaged with partners, such as the Greenscapes North Shore Coalition, which focus on outreach and education on water issues. The Town of Wenham is a member of Greenscapes.

Preserving Open Space for Passive Recreation and Enjoyment

Passive recreation refers to walking/hiking trails, scenic views, picnic areas, wildlife observation, etc. Trails are addressed as passive recreation needs under **Community Needs**. The following specific needs were identified in relation to open space as a scenic landscape natural resource.

Specific needs include:

- To preserve scenic vistas of lakes, ponds, stonewalls and fields, and for wildlife observation.
- To develop an acquisition and protection strategy, including fee simple acquisition, conservation restrictions, and scenic easements.

Maintaining the Town's Rural Character

Specific needs include:

- To preserve open space in visible locations along the Town's main road.
- To preserve views of farms, fields, lakes, ponds, and stonewalls.
- To develop an acquisition strategy.

Preserving Current Farmland - Encouraging Agriculture and Forestry Land Use

Specific needs include:

- To determine the long-range plans of owners of active farms.
- To prioritize agricultural lands currently under the temporary protection of Chapter 61 for potential acquisition in the future, should the current owners decide to sell for a purpose other than agriculture.
- To research innovative measures to preserve farming and to encourage the use of land for this purpose.
- To identify any parcels of prime farmland that are not developed for potential future farms.

Preserving Places of Historical Value

Specific needs include:

- To coordinate with other Town boards, such as the Historic District Commission, Historic Commission, and Community Preservation Committee, and non-profit groups, to understand on-going and proposed projects.
- To support the work of others.

Summary of Community's Needs

This section includes both active and passive recreational needs to achieve ***Goal 3,*** *"To provide and maintain facilities and resources for active and passive recreation and opportunities for all residents."*

The analysis is based on comments during the first Public Forum, the Community Survey, the *2012 Gale Report* and input from Town Department Heads.

Priority Passive Recreation Needs

1. Building more pedestrian and cycling paths, including better sidewalks, to increase connectivity so that people can access open space and recreational areas without driving. Several years ago, the Wenham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee worked closely with the Department of Public Works to create bicycle paths/sidewalks to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety as noted previously in Section 3. In addition to the accomplishments noted earlier, successes also included linking the sidewalk/bicycle path on Cedar Street to walking trails on property under the control of the Hamilton Wenham Open Land Trust, providing scenic areas and an opportunity for passive recreation overlooking Wenham Lake.

2.	In terms of trail networks and passive recreation opportunities, trail awareness is a top priority as users were somewhat unaware of what resources were available (*Gale Report*).
3.	Publication/better dissemination of information regarding public lands and existing trails, including better trail maps with information on location of trailheads, length, parking availability, restrictions, and allowed uses. A sizable number of survey respondents commented that they were not even aware of many of the resources and opportunities within Town. ECTA has completed and printed maps for Wenham and Hamilton, which are available for sale from its website. Trail maps include Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Gordon College, Iron Rail, J.C. Phillips Nature Reserve, Long Hill, and Manchester Watershed. However, it appears that the availability of these trail maps is not well-known.
4.	Trail information that specifically provides information on walking facilities that are adequate for senior citizens (i.e. length, difficulty, and amenities such as benches.)
5.	Better signage at the trailheads.
6.	Trail markers to designate the trails.
7.	Enhanced communication through a variety of means. Organized activities, such as walks, hikes, and annual cleanups, would help promote passive recreational opportunities.
8.	Insufficient parking can be a deterrent to potential users. If a formalized parking area at each location is unrealistic, there is at least a need for posted signage to indicate that parking is permitted for trail users.
9.	Access to water bodies and the potential for increased water-based recreation, such as a canoe or kayak launch.

Priority Active Recreation Needs

1.	The Towns of Hamilton and Wenham have determined that the redevelopment of the game field and track at the High School is the highest priority active recreational need. Other athletic field projects will be re-evaluated upon accomplishment of this project and/or as needed; i.e. lease with HWYSA for Iron Rail fields expires July 1, 2024. Funding is not yet secured. A two-town working group has been established to develop a strategy and secure funding for the project.
2.	There is a recent need identified to provide satisfactory tennis courts for the Town and the High School. The tennis courts at Pingree Park are in poor condition.

The *2012 Recreation Master Plan Report, Towns of Hamilton and Wenham* (also known as the *2012 Gale Report*) informed this Plan and identified the following recreational priority needs:

1.	The highest priority need was for an improved pool facility at Patton Park. *This facility was recently upgraded and reopened in the summer, 2017.*
2.	Additional athletic field space is one of the most compelling recreational facilities needs within the towns. According to the report, an aggressively maintained, irrigated field that is rested for about a third of the fall or spring growing season can sustain up to 200 - 250 team uses per year. The most heavily scheduled fields are the Patton Park fields, High School Field, Buker Elementary fields and Fairhaven Field, each nearing or exceeding about 400 annual uses. In summary, 14 of the 22 athletic fields maintained by the two towns are either broken down or heavily distressed.
3.	The report recommended that Phase 1 should include the redevelopment of the fields at the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School.

The *Recreation Master Plan Report for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School* was completed in January 2015 by Gale Associates to update cost estimates and further finalize plans.

The Joint Recreation Department has moved forward with the design and permitting of the redevelopment of the game field ("football field") and track at the High School and the project has received approval from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. The first phase of the project is $3.6 million. It includes an expanded track radius with a urethane pave mat surface and a full-width multi- purpose game field in its interior. The increase in track radius will result in an athletic field sized appropriately for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey uses. The multi-purpose field is proposed to be synthetic turf, to provide a durable, all-weather surface, maximizing the quantifiable amount of uses afforded by the field. The second phase of the redevelopment of the High School athletic fields includes additional multi-purpose fields for approximately $3.5 million.

According to the *2012 Gale Report*, the track and field redevelopment project accomplishes several goals and objectives. The transition from a natural grass playing field to a synthetic turf playing field will allow the High School to double or triple the amount of uses on the field, without affecting the field's quality. In order to gain full advantage of the field, an athletic lighting system is proposed. Athletic lighting extends the hours of play so that the high school can place more demand on the field. Conversion to the synthetic turf field, plus installation of athletic lighting, can presumably take demand off from the other natural grass athletic fields and allow them to have a rest period. The field will be capable of holding over 500 annual team uses without detriment to the quality of the field.

Needs of Specific Population Groups

Needs of Children

In terms of the needs of specific age groups, over 75% of the survey respondents with children under 18 years of age felt that there are sufficient recreational opportunities for toddlers aged 1-3 and children aged 4 – 12.

Needs of Teens

Only 42% of households with teens aged 13 – 18 felt that there were sufficient recreational opportunities for them. Needs that were identified by the Community Survey include spaces for indoor winter sports (i.e. soccer, flag football, ice hockey), more athletic playing fields, fields for pickup games, and a skateboarding park, although the prior survey by Gale Associates showed low support for a skate park.

There is a need to provide innovative ways/programs for this age group. Some ideas suggested include parks for teens not just younger children, incorporating the following: water features; interactive lights or sculptures; outdoor study space with shelter from rain, tables, and Wi-Fi; an outdoor central performance space that could be used to show movies; a place that teens and others could create art, such as a mural or "graffiti" wall, or inspirational chalkboard; ziplines or courses that provide some risk-taking and more active forms of play; and lighting and other safety features that would extend the use of the park.

Needs of Adults

Seventy percent (70%) of respondents felt that adults aged 19 – 60 had sufficient recreational opportunities. This is reflected in survey responses that focused on maintaining and improving existing facilities with the exception being to build more pedestrian and cycling paths and increase connectivity to existing open space and recreational areas noted above.

Needs of Seniors

Less than half of the respondents (44%) felt that there were sufficient recreational opportunities for adults 61 years of age and older. However, this could be related to the fact that many respondents were not aware of the passive recreational opportunities within the community or services that the Council on Aging offers.

In addition to the Community Survey undertaken as part of the development of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town of Wenham is undertaking an age-friendly initiative and completed the assessment *Wenham Connects: An Age and Dementia Friendly Needs Assessment* in October 2018. In the section on "Outdoor Spaces & Buildings," it notes that Wenham offers residents good proximity to beautiful trails and parks - positive features that promote quality of life.

Despite the aforementioned greenspace (e.g., trails and parks), participants in the age friendly survey made clear that there is very limited "walkability" in Town - few sidewalks in the downtown area and few destinations or amenities within walking distance. It was concluded that this lack of walkability presents a challenge to older adults who no longer drive or no longer wish to drive. In addition, participants identified some areas of Wenham, parks in particular, that were relatively unused and unknown to them. The assessment identifies the need for communication about greenspaces (e.g., maps, descriptions, signage and local promotional events), and also accessibility in terms of parking, benches, and access by those residents with disabilities (e.g., ramps, paved trails and trail widths that could accommodate wheelchairs or other assistive devices.)

Summary of needs and objectives identified by this assessment:

- Ensure that all parks and trails in Wenham are accessible to people with disabilities, including parking, benches and signage.
- Better promote the availability of local greenspace in Wenham.
- Create increased "connectivity" in Wenham via sidewalks, paths or bike routes.
- Develop more destinations within walking distance.

These identified needs are consistent with the needs previously identified during the development of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Needs of People with Disabilities

The ADA Self-Evaluation (**Appendix G**) determines how accessible a community's conservation and recreation programs and properties are to people with disabilities. It is a useful diagnostic tool for the community to recognize any shortcomings of the existing programs and develop a plan to remedy them. In addition to making sites accessible, these ADA improvements also result in more comfortable and safer parks, trails, and conservation and recreation programs. The Recreation Director noted that accessibility is provided when facilities are upgraded. The improvements to the Patton Park Pool resulted in a pool and associated bathrooms that are now accessible.

There is a need for improved handicapped accessibility for the Town's recreational facilities, including Pingree Park, Iron Rail fields, Buker School fields, Pleasant Pond Beach, and the Rail Trail. Generally, there is a need to provide parking spaces that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessible paths of travel from the parking lot to the facilities, accessible restrooms, and playground surface material that complies with ADA requirements. See **Appendix G – ADA Self-Evaluation** for specific transition plans for each facility.

Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Good stewardship of conservation and recreation areas involves proper management and on-going maintenance.

Upkeep and maintenance of recreational facilities is an ongoing issue, according to the Recreation Director, as in many communities. Fifty-six percent (56%) of the community survey respondents concurred, identifying the maintenance and the improvement of existing park and recreational areas as a high priority. This is consistent with the 2012 *Gale Report* which also identified the need for improved maintenance and upkeep of athletic fields and parks. The DPWs in both towns maintain their respective recreational facilities. According to

Gale Associates, the Wenham and Hamilton Departments of Public Works have an extremely low budget in comparison with the recommended budget for maintaining the quantity of fields under the responsibility of the Recreation Department, although it noted that the resources are used in the most effective way possible. Gale Associates also noted that it is nearly impossible to provide maintenance that will sustain the level of use currently placed on the athletic fields, as discussed above under **Community Needs**.

While a portion of passive recreation areas are owned by the Town at Iron Rail Fields, the majority of passive recreation opportunities in Wenham is either owned, facilitated, and/or maintained by private groups and associations, including Essex County Trail Association (ECTA), the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Gordon College, Greenbelt, Mass Audubon, and the City of Beverly.

ECTA has completed town-wide trail management plans (TMPs) for Ipswich, Hamilton, West Newbury, Essex and Topsfield. The intent of these innovative TMPs is to streamline trail management decisions for the town, and to help private and public landowners manage their trails quickly and professionally. ECTA is the only organization offering this valuable service to towns, landowners and public agencies. There is a need for a town-wide management plan for trails in Wenham.

There is a management need to identify the appropriate entity/entities to sustain the Town's commitment to carrying out this plan. Coordination among Town departments, as well as among non-profit institutions and associations, will be required.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has identified the need to consider the establishment of a funding source for land acquisition, so the Town has the ability to purchase land in a timely manner when it becomes available, especially in regard to Chapter Land parcels.

VIII. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **GOAL 1:** To protect the Town's natural resources and open space areas that contribute to passive recreational enjoyment (i.e. walking/hiking, scenic views, picnicking, wildlife observation, etc.), drinking water supply, high value core wildlife and plant habitat, agricultural and forestry use, and rural and historical character.

Objective 1	Identify priority parcels and develop a strategy for their protection, including potential partnerships and funding.
Objective 2	Protect priority parcels through acquisition, conservation restrictions, scenic easements, or other means, as opportunities arise.
Objective 3	Undertake other actions to protect natural resources; i.e. certification of vernal pools; support for existing farmers, etc.
Objective 4	Educate the public on the need for resource protection and how they can help.
Objective 5	Work with other Town departments to support their resource protection initiatives.

- **GOAL 2:** To improve trail networks, cycling paths/lanes, and sidewalks to provide recreational opportunities for activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling, and wildlife observation.

Objective 1	Build more trails and pedestrian and cycling paths, including better sidewalks, to increase connectivity so that people can access open space and recreational areas without driving.
Objective 2	Enhance existing recreational trail networks.
Objective 3	Increase public awareness regarding open space resources and existing trails.

- **GOAL 3:** To provide and maintain facilities and resources for active recreation and opportunities for all residents.

Objective 1	Improve and maintain existing parks and playgrounds to provide a mix of uses for a broad range of needs and interests, including all age groups and people with disabilities.
Objective 2	Redevelop and improve existing field facilities to meet high demand for athletic fields, including consideration of turf and lighting to extend their use.

- **GOAL 4:** To sustain the Town's commitment to carrying out this plan.

Objective	Develop and put in place the necessary administrative structures and policies.

IX. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan is organized by goals and objectives in the tables below, all listed in order of priority. (See **Map 8 – Action Plan.**)

GOAL 1: To protect the Town's natural resources and open space areas that contribute to passive recreational enjoyment (i.e. walking/hiking, scenic views, picnicking, wildlife observation, etc.), drinking water supply, high value core wildlife and plant habitat, agricultural and forestry use, and rural and historical character.

*Objective 1- Identify priority parcels for protection through acquisition, conservation restrictions, scenic easements, or other means, and develop a strategy for their protection, including potential partnerships and funding. (See **Appendix F – Parcel Ranking Matrix Instructions**.) **Note:** The actual Parcel Ranking Matrix is in the form of an Excel spreadsheet and is located in the Planning Department.*

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Utilize the Parcel Ranking Matrix, an evaluation system developed in FY18, to rank open space parcels for potential acquisition. Complete the Matrix for all Chapter 61 parcels to identify priority parcels for long-term preservation. (See Appendix F, Parcel Ranking Matrix Instructions).	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen; OSRC	FY19	N/A
2. Consider whether the Town could purchase and lease Ch. 61A land for agricultural use when it becomes available for sale; work with non-profit partners, including Greenbelt and Land for Good to develop a strategy.	Reynolds Farm is an example.	OSRC	FY19	N/A
3. Develop a right-of-first-refusal policy and procedure for the Town to be poised to act quickly on Chapter 61 parcels as part of an acquisition strategy.	Ongoing	OSRC; Board of Selectmen	FY19	N/A
4. Undertake public outreach and education to increase awareness about different options for protecting open space, such as Chapter 61, conservation restrictions, leasing Town-owned land for agriculture, mandatory dedication of open space by developers, etc.	Many survey respondents were not familiar with these programs.	OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A
5. Consider establishing a reliable funding source and mechanism, such as a bonding program, to fund the acquisition of Chapter 61 and other parcels where there is a need to act in a timely manner; meet with representatives from the Town of Ipswich to learn about their program. Note: 53% of community survey respondents supported creation of a bond to move quickly to acquire high priority parcels.		OSRC; Board of Selectmen; Finance and Advisory Committee	FY19	N/A

6. Review Town-owned parcels with significant wetlands for potential protection through transfer to the Con Com. Consider parcels 15-2, 23-12, 37-22, 41-11, 48-7.	Ongoing	OSRC working with Con Com	FY19	N/A
7. Identify any gaps or interruptions in wildlife corridors and target these open space parcels for acquisition or conservation restriction to create a connected system of wildlife corridors.		OSRC	FY20	N/A
8. Explore the possibility for a fish ladder associated with Wenham Lake and the Miles River.		OSRC	FY23	N/A
9. Coordinate with other organizations that are involved with land acquisition and protection. Specifically, work with Greenbelt to develop an acquisition strategy; include regular 6-month updates at an OSRC meeting as part of this strategy.		OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A
10. Communicate with the Miles River Collaborative to stay informed as to the status of the feasibility study relating to improvements to the Miles River to address low flow velocity, nutrient inputs, and barriers to flow.	Town is currently trying to secure a commitment from the Army Corps of Engineers for a feasibility study.	OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A

Objective 2 - Protect high priority parcels through acquisition, conservation restrictions, or scenic easements, as opportunities arise.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Evaluate and potentially acquire high priority Ch. 61 parcels as they become available; or protect through other means.		Board of Selectmen	FY19 - 25	Town; CPA; State; non-profit partners
2. Concentrate on adding to already protected lands, as well as conserving wetlands, and protect these targeted parcels: **a. In the northwestern corner of Wenham, Mass Audubon and the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board protect much of the Great Wenham Swamp. Protect the few unprotected parcels adjacent to the protected land.** **b. Along Miles Brook at the Beverly line, the ConCom and Greenbelt own conservation restrictions. Protect unprotected, undeveloped parcels adjacent to these conserved parcels.** **c. Gordon College owns a large parcel surrounding Coy Pond, with the campus on the south side of the pond. Much of the undeveloped part of this parcel is wetlands, including areas adjacent to the pond that are BioMap2 Core Habitat for a Wetlands Core. Protect these wetlands and adjacent uplands.** **d. At the north end of Beverly Airport, there is a large area of undeveloped land that is mostly wetlands. While this is not habitat for rare species, conserving these wetlands and their adjacent, buffering uplands will help conserve biodiversity in general.**		OSRC; ConCom; Board of Selectmen	FY19 - 25	Town; CPA; State; non-profit partners
3. Contact Gordon College and owners of large, undeveloped estates to discuss the possibility of placing conservation restrictions on their properties (i.e. Parcel 019-0056 adjacent to Reynolds Farm); does Gordon College have an institutional master plan for their property? Proceed as appropriate.		Board of Selectman; OSRC	FY21	N/A

Objective 3 – Undertake other actions to protect natural resources.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Certify vernal pools on Town-owned property and require developers to certify pools on any property requiring permits from the Town. Specifically look at the Grapevine Road Right-of-Way and other street rights-of-way. Amend ConCom Bylaw, if necessary, to require developer certification of vernal pools.		OSRC; ConCom	FY20 - 21	N/A
2. Support continued farming and encouraging use of land for agriculture and forestry through use of Chapter 61.	Ongoing	OSRC; Assessor	FY19 - 25	N/A
3. Coordinate with other organizations that are involved with land protection and farming, such as Greenbelt and Land for Good, a non-profit that provides support and expert guidance to help farmers, landowners and communities navigate the complex challenges of land access, tenure and transfer.		OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A
4. Determine the long-range plans of owners of active farms; introduce them to available technical resources, such as Land for Good.		OSRC	FY21	N/A
5. Identify any parcels of prime farmland that are not developed for potential future farms.		OSRC	FY21	N/A
6. Implement opportunities identified in the Municipal Vulnerability preparedness (MVP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan to advance actions that further reduce the impact of climate change and natural hazards and increase resilience across and within municipalities.	MVP Study and Hazard Mitigation Plan to be completed FY19.	Town Administrator; Board of Selectman	FY20 - 25	TBD
7. Habitat Management: Assess conservation and water supply areas for the presence of invasive species. If invasives are present in substantial numbers or areas, consider removing them.		ConCom; OSRC	FY21	The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has offered grants in the past and might in the future.

8. Regulation: While ConCom is charged to enforce the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, there is no local board or official charged with enforcing the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Consider having ConCom and the Building Inspector notify development applicants of the presence/absence of Priority Habitat of Rare Species on the applicant's property.		ConCom; Building Inspector; OSRC	FY21	N/A
9. Support the use of the Flexible Development Bylaw to preserve open space, reduce impervious area and reduce overall and peak stormwater runoff to minimize pollution of water resources.	Ongoing	Planning Board; OSRC;	FY19 - 25	N/A
10. Assess historic resources and prioritize improvements to protect those resources that are most endangered.	Ongoing. CPA funding is being used for the Fairfield Cemetery Restoration Project	Historic Commission; Historic District Commission; Cemetery Commission	FY19 - 25	Town; CPA
11. Continue to inventory and inspect underground storage tanks to protect water resources.	Ongoing	Fire Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A
12. Continue evaluating proposed development for potential impacts to wetland and Town water quality;	Ongoing	ConCom; Water Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A
13. Continue keeping catch basins clean and in good repair.	Ongoing	DPW	FY19 – 25	N/A
14. Continue coordinating wellhead protection plans with Danvers, Topsfield, Beverly and Hamilton to ensure out-of-town protection of the Town's watershed.	Ongoing	Water Dept.; Planning Dept.	FY19 – 25	N/A

Objective 4 - Educate the public on the need for resource protection and how they can help.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Undertake low-cost ways to build support for conservation of biodiversity, such as: **a. Offer field trips on Town or non-profit conservation areas** **b. Write articles on conservation for local websites and newspapers** **c. Encourage local high school or college students to conduct biological surveys and observations on conservation areas.**		ConCom; OSRC	FY19 - 25	Town
2. Support workshops, house tours, signs, and other educational activities concerning the history of Wenham's landscapes and structures, and also methods to preserve and renovate such structures.	Ongoing	Historic Commission; Historic District Com	FY19 - 25	N/A
3. Educate the public about the Town's watersheds and aquifers and how to help protect them. Work with partners, such as Greenscapes North Shore Coalition, on water issues such as proper disposal of dog waste on open space properties and best landscape practices to conserve water use.	Ongoing	Water Dept.; OSRC working with partners	FY19 - 25	N/A
4. Continue enforcing and encouraging the water conservation measures that are in place.	Ongoing	Water Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A
5. Continue working with property owners within Zone 1 on methods of safeguarding the groundwater.	Ongoing	Water Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A
6. Continue educating residents concerning the proper care of their septic systems and compliance with Title 5 regulations.	Ongoing	Board of Health; Water Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A

GOAL 2: To improve trail networks, cycling paths/lanes, and sidewalks to provide recreational opportunities for activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling, and wildlife observation.

Objective 1 - Build more trails and pedestrian and cycling paths, including better sidewalks, to increase connectivity so that people can access open space and recreational areas without driving.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Identify gaps in existing trail system through available maps and site visits, as necessary; identify ways to increase access to existing trails and create shorter loops for children and seniors.		OSRC	FY19 - 20	N/A
2. Identify Town-owned parcels that could address these deficiencies or add to the existing trail system. Review the existing trail system at the Iron Rail property for possible improvements to the trails, including rebuilding boardwalks. Iron Rail connects to Chebacco Woods in Hamilton, which connects to open space at Gordon College, creating a large open space system.		OSRC; Iron Rail Commission; Rec. Dept; ConCom	FY19 - 20	N/A
3. Construct new trails on Town-owned land, as applicable.		OSRC; DPW	FY20 - 21	Town; CPA
4. Work with owners of publicly-accessible open space parcels to construct trail extensions, as applicable.		OSRC	FY20 - 22	Town; CPA
5. Explore the Muddy Pond area to determine if there is a way to provide public access to the pond.		OSRC	FY22	N/A
6. Explore the possibility of obtaining the necessary authorizations to get access to "Fowler's Island" in the Great Wenham Swamp for specific, limited activities.		OSRC	FY22	N/A
7. Explore whether there is any way to provide access to land adjacent to Turtle Pond without jeopardizing water quality.		OSRC	FY22	N/A
8. Reconstitute the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee as "Walk Wenham" to work closely with the Department of Public Works to take on the task of identifying specific sidewalk improvements, securing funding, and constructing. Review the 1999 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for accomplishments and remaining actions as a starting point.		Board of Selectmen; DPW; OSRC	FY20 - 25	Town
9. Work with cycling organizations to identify how to improve cycling facilities. Consider cycling paths and bike lanes, including the creation of a bike path along Walnut Road and other key roads to the Commuter Rail Station. Construct additional facilities. (See #5 above.)		OSRC; DPW	FY20 - 25	Town

Objective 2: Enhance existing recreational trail networks.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Communicate and coordinate with private groups and associations, including Essex County Trail Association (ECTA), the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Gordon College, Greenbelt, Mass Audubon, and the City of Beverly on trail management, maintenance, and improvements, as most trails in Wenham are on land that is privately-owned or maintained.	ECTA – maintenance is ongoing	OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A
2. Install identification signage at trailheads.				
a. Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary	This past year there was an A-frame sign posted at the entrance, which did temporarily increase visibility from the road.	OSRC working with Mass Audubon	FY20	Town; partners
b. JC Phillips Nature Preserve	There is a trailhead marker and map at the start of the trail, but it is not visible from the road.	OSRC working with City of Beverly	FY20	
c. Wenham Rail Trail	There is existing signage at the parking entrance to the Rail Trail by Border to Boston, but none on the other side of the road.	OSRC working with Border to Boston Trail	FY20	
3. Improve parking areas at Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and J.C. Phillips, if feasible. Otherwise, post signage at trailheads indicating that parking is permitted for trail users.		OSRC working with Mass Audubon and City of Beverly.	FY21	Town; partners
a. Post signage for parking at Gordon Woods/ Coy Pond for users of the trail.		OSRC working with Gordon College		

4. Provide a van-accessible parking space at the Wenham Rail Trail with appropriate surfacing.		DPW with Board of Selectmen and Border to Boston Trail	FY20	Town; partners
5. Install trail markers to designate the trails at Mass Audubon Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.		OSRC working with Mass Audubon	FY20	Town; Mass Audubon
6. Identify appropriate locations and work with others to install benches along trails.		OSRC; COA; non-profit organizations	FY20- 21	Town; non-profit partners
7. Continue to work with ECTA on trail maintenance.	Ongoing	ECTA, ConCom	FY19 - 25	ECTA

Objective 3 – Increase education and public awareness regarding open space resources and existing trails.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Review existing information on open space resources and trail maps. Determine any informational gaps, such as location of trailheads, length, parking availability, restrictions, and allowed uses.		OSRC	FY19	N/A
2. Identify walking facilities that are adequate for senior citizens, including length, surface condition, difficulty, and amenities, such as benches.		OSRC; COA	FY20	N/A
3. Coordinate with private groups and associations, including Essex County Trail Association (ECTA), the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Gordon College, Greenbelt, Mass Audubon, and the City of Beverly to update existing information on open space resources and trail information.		OSRC	FY19 - 20	Town; partners
4. Communicate/disseminate information on open space resources and trail maps through a variety of means, including posting on the Town's website, linking to other websites, printing hard copies for distribution at highly visible locations. (One resident suggested development of an app that would include information on the history and environment of a place, providing an opportunity for organizations across the community to collaborate.)		OSRC working with partners	FY19 - 25	Town; partners
5. Promote passive recreational opportunities through organized activities, such as walks, hikes, and annual cleanups, including walks specifically oriented toward seniors.		OSRC; Rec. Dept.; COA	FY20 - 25	N/A
6. Pursue a partnership with ECTA and the Conservation Commission to promote trail awareness and incorporate trail-related programming into the Recreation Department offerings.		OSRC; ConCom, Rec Dept.; ECTA	FY20 - 25	N/A
7. Contact Gordon College to determine what recreational opportunities are available for Wenham residents and how to promote them.		OSRC; Rec. Dept.	FY21	N/A

GOAL 3 - To provide and maintain facilities and resources for active recreation and opportunities for all residents.

Objective 1 - Improve and maintain existing parks and playgrounds to provide a mix of uses for a broad range of needs and interests, including all age groups and people with disabilities.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Address deficiencies in accessibility for children and adults with disabilities. Improve facilities at Pingree Park, Iron Rail fields, Buker School fields, and Pleasant Pond Beach in accordance with the Transition Plans in Appendix G.		Rec. Dept., HWRSD	FY20 - 21	Town, HWRSD
2. Evaluate options for tennis court repairs and determine preferred scope of work based on needs of school and town		Rec. Dept., HWRSD, Board of Selectmen	FY19	Town
3. Identify locations and install additional amenities at parks, including bicycle amenities (racks, air pumps, fixit stations), picnic areas, landscaping, benches, and public art.		Rec. Dept.	FY23 - 25	Town
4. Increase funding for park maintenance, as feasible.		Board of Selectmen	FY20 - 25	Town
5. Discuss the possibility of restoring the ice skating pond on the property owned by the Wenham Village Improvement Society (WVIS) at 4 Monument Street and implement, as feasible.		OSRC; Rec. Dept.; WVIS	FY24 - 25	Town
6. Determine the best use for the neglected facilities at West Wenham Field, secure funding, and construct. Or, consider for passive open space and additional access to Cedar Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. Research any deed restrictions.		OSRC; Rec. Dept.	FY24 - 25	Town
7. Encourage special events and expand programming of organized activities at recreational facilities.	Ongoing	Rec. Dept.	FY19 - 25	Town
8. Publicize events and activities beforehand and highlight their successes.	Ongoing	Rec. Dept.	FY19 - 25	N/A

Objective 2 - Redevelop and improve existing field facilities to meet high demand for athletic fields, including consideration of turf and lighting to extend their use.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Prioritize improvements to the existing field facilities.	The redevelopment of the game field and track at the High School has been identified as the highest priority need.	Rec. Dept.; Joint Recreation Board; Board of Selectmen	FY18 - 19	N/A
2. Develop a funding strategy and secure funding for this project.	A two-town working group has been established to develop a funding strategy.	Two-Town Working Group	FY19 - 20	TBD
3. Construct high school athletic field improvements		Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District	FY20 – FY21	TBD
4. Re-evaluate and prioritize other athletic field projects upon accomplishment of the game field and track at the High School, and/or as needed; i.e. lease with HWYSA for Iron Rail fields expires July 1, 2024.		Rec. Dept.; Joint Recreation Board; Iron Rail Commission; Board of Selectmen	FY22 - 25	N/A
5. Consider preservation of open space for future development for athletic fields only if the need still remains upon completion of redevelopment of existing facilities.		Rec. Dept.; Joint Recreation Board; Board of Selectmen	FY24-25	N/A

GOAL 4: To sustain the Town's commitment to carrying out this plan.

Objective – Develop and put in place the necessary administrative structures and policies.

ACTIONS – (in order of priority)	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ACTION YEAR	POTENTIAL FUNDING
1. Establish an entity to oversee management and implementation of the Plan, which will involve communication, coordination, and implementation Could be continued charge of OSRC. Consider expanding membership of OSRC to include at least one representative from the Joint Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Committee.		Board of Selectmen; Town Administrator	FY19	N/A
2. Present a bi-annual (2x/year) progress report to the Board of Selectmen in order to know what has been done and what remains to be addressed in terms of current action items.		OSRC	FY19-25	N/A
3. Solicit input from and communicate with all relevant Town boards and committees by appointing liaisons from the OSRC to share information and coordinate interrelated activities/projects.		OSRC	FY19 - 25	N/A
4. Continue to consult the Plan and update as necessary informally.		OSRC	FY19 -24	N/A
5. Update the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* in seven (7) years, or as required, and resubmit to the State.		OSRC	FY25	Town; CPA

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Review Letters
    a. Board of Selectmen *(all comments incorporated into Plan)*
    b. Planning Board
    c. Conservation Commission
    d. Board of Health
    e. Metropolitan Area Planning Council

2. Forum #1 – *November 2, 2017*
    a. Public Comments
    b. Photos

3. Forum #2 – *May 22, 2018*
    a. Public Comments
    b. Photos

Town of Wenham

Town Hall
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

Selectmen / Town Administrator
TEL 978-468-5520 FAX 978-468-8014

August 21, 2018

Mellissa Cryan
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Town of Wenham Board of Selectmen has reviewed the draft Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan 2018 update and we strongly support the application for approval to the State's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. We believe it is a thoughtful, comprehensive, and well-written report that accurately reflects the Town's core values.

As part of our annual goal setting process two years ago, the Board identified completing an update to this important land use planning document as a priority goal. Since then, we have reconstituted the committee and have strived to support their collective efforts to move forward with this initiative, including securing funding to hire a consultant to assist in shepherding this project through to completion. The Open Space and Recreation Committee has kept the Board apprised of their progress throughout and has done an outstanding job of soliciting resident input.

As part of our formal review of the final version of the document, we provide the following general commentary:

- Continued "check-ins" with the public are necessary to test the validity of the assumptions made based on the feedback that was collected in developing this update to the plan.
- Any action that has a policy component must include the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen and/or Town Administrator should lead interactions with property owners regarding acquisition of private land. The Board of Selectmen also needs to be involved in determining the priority Chapter 61 parcels.
- Coordination between various boards and committees is an important component in the success of this plan's implementation. Particularly in the absence of a Master Plan, it will be the responsibility of the OSRC to ensure that all relevant groups are kept apprised of the proposed actions. Accordingly, OSRC membership should always include a liaison to critical boards and committees.

Specifically, we offer the following recommended changes and additions:

- Insert the following language in Section 3 related to *Improved Recreational Facilities*: "Wenham Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan: Beginning in 1997 and

continuing through 2014, the Wenham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, appointed by the Wenham Board of Selectmen, completed construction of sidewalks/walking paths on 8 major roadways in Wenham. These included Larch Row, Walnut Road, Topsfield Road, Cedar Street, Maple Street, Cherry Street, Grapevine Road, and Pleasant Street. The committee consisted of many concerned citizens as well as Selectmen and staff from the Department of Public Works and Police Department. The work was accomplished in accordance with a Town-funded Master Plan that had been completed and approved in 1999. The committee raised approximately $300,000 through private fundraising to finance the majority of the projects."

- The final paragraph of Section 2a Infrastructure - Transportation System should be rewritten to reference the work of the Bicycle Committee. The comment that "Many streets in Wenham do not have sidewalks" is misleading and out of context. All streets were considered in the Bicycle Plan but could not be accommodated at that time for a variety of reasons.

- Insert the following language in Section 3a, Regional Context, regarding the Wenham Rail Trail: "The trail is part of a regional effort know as Border to Boston (BtoB) trail involving 8 towns presently but is also part of the East Coast Greenway. Stretching from Florida to Maine, the trail, when completed, will be mostly off-road. The Rail Trail Committee, appointed by the Selectmen, worked for several years with the Towns of Danvers and Topsfield to complete the portion of the trail located in Wenham."

- Section 7, Analysis of Needs, should be revised to reference the extensive work of the Bicycle Committee and any reference to the Walk Wenham Committee should be deleted (including references to such in Section 9, Seven-Year Action Plan).

- The following boards, committees, or officials should be added or removed as responsible parties in Section 9, Seven-Year Action Plan:

    - Add Board of Selectmen to Goal 1; Objective 1; Action 2
    - Add Finance and Advisory Committee to Goal 1; Objective 1; Action 6 (replacing the Economic Development Committee)
    - Remove Open Space and Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission from Goal 1; Objective 2; Action 1 and amend that action item to read as follows: "Evaluate and potentially acquire high priority Chapter 61 parcels as they become available; or protect through other means"
    - Add Board of Selectmen to Goal 1; Objective 2; Action 3 (replacing the Conservation Commission)
    - Add Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen to Goal 1; Objective 3; Action 6
    - Add DPW to Goal 2; Objective 2; Action 4 (replacing OSRC)
    - Add Joint Recreation Board to Goal 3; Objective 2; Actions 1, 4, and 5
    - Add Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District to Goal 3; Objective 2; Action 3 (replacing Recreation Department)
    - Add Board of Selectmen to Goal 3; Objective 2; Actions 4 and 5

- Amend Goal 4; Action 2 to read as follows: "Present a bi-annual (2x/year) progress report to the Board of Selectmen in order to know what has been done and what remains to be addressed in terms of current action items."
- Add Action #3 to Goal 4 to read as follows: "Solicit input from and communicate with all relevant Town boards and committees by appointing liaisons from the OSRC to share information and coordinate interrelated activities/projects."

These comments are meant in no way to take away from the excellent work that the Committee has done in assembling the update and integrating input from a wide variety of stakeholders.

The Board fully recognizes the need for preservation of our open spaces and for the creation and preservation of recreation opportunities throughout our community. The updated Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an effective tool for furthering Wenham's efforts to protect its natural assets and retain its rural character, and will provide Town leadership with concrete steps to take in order to make progress in a number of key policy areas. The parcel ranking matrix and right of first refusal policy in particular will position the Selectmen to make informed and timely decisions about the acquisition of Chapter 61 properties that may become available.

We applaud the OSRC's efforts during this process and will fully support them in their efforts as the plan is implemented in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Catherine Harrison

Catherine Harrison
Chair, Wenham Board of Selectmen

Cc: Wenham Open Space and Recreation Committee

Town of Wenham

Town Hall
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

PLANNING BOARD
TEL 978-468-5520 Ext 8 FAX 978-468-8014

August 7, 2018

Asma Syed, Chairman
Wenham Open Space and Recreation Committee
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

Dear Ms. Syed,

The Wenham Planning Board has reviewed the draft Wenham Open Space and Recreation Committee's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan being submitted to the State's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

We recognize the need for preservation of our open spaces and for the creation and preservation of recreation opportunities throughout our community. However, our Board has some reservations about the desire to create new recreation fields at the High School due to the additional costs to taxpayers. Our Board realizes that the residents of Wenham are overburdened by the costs associated with current community updates. We do understand that any action items that would involve any additional tax burden would need to be voted on and approved by our Town Meeting.

The Planning Board was impressed with the level of outreach that was achieved during the plan update process and commends the Open Space and Recreation Committee on your efforts. But we do caution the Committee on making any commitments that would burden the residents of Wenham any further.

The Planning Board is prepared to assist the OSRC in any way after the Plan is approved and the Committee begins the work of preserving and protecting our open spaces. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan.

Sincerely,

Ann B. Weeks
Chairman

Town of Wenham

Town Hall
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TEL 978-468-5520 x 8 FAX 978-468-8014

August 14, 2018

Mellissa Cryan
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Town of Wenham Conservation Commission has reviewed the draft Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan 2018 update and we strongly support the application for approval to the State's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has kept our Commission up to date on their progress throughout and we have been involved in the public outreach process. Several of our members have been in attendance at the public forums and have sat on the OSRC. We feel we have been well represented. Our comments have been taken into consideration by the OSRC and have been incorporated in the plan.

Our Commission fully recognizes the need for preservation of our open spaces and for the creation and preservation of recreation opportunities throughout our community. We are excited to be a part of the implementation of the action items and will fully support the OSRC in their efforts as the plan is implemented.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an effective tool for furthering Wenham's efforts to protect its natural assets and retain its rural character. We applaud the OSRC's efforts during this process and look forward to assisting them in the implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Philip Colarusso

Philip Colarusso
Chairman

Cc: Wenham Open Space and Recreation Committee

Town of Wenham

Town Hall
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

BOARD OF HEALTH

TEL 978-468-5520 Ext. 4 FAX 978-468-8014

July 25, 2018

To whom it may concern,

We write in strong support of the Town of Wenham's Open Space and Recreation 2018 Plan.

This is the first update since 2001 of the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan. It outlines the Town's overall vision for systems that provide and maintain open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of our residents. The plan also provides mechanisms to protect the Town's environmental and historic resources as well as maintain the Town's rural character.

This is a comprehensive plan that identifies numerous action items for the improvement and preservation of wildlife areas, drinking water supply, agricultural and forestry use, amongst others. An action item included in the plan, for this Board, is to increase public awareness of Title V regulations as well as provide information to residents about how best to care for their septic system. Aware of all the goals to preserve open space, public health, and improve citizen awareness of conservation efforts, we recognize the responsibility we have to complete this action item and we look forward to working with the Open Space Committee to see these goals to fruition.

We respectfully ask for your consideration of the Town of Wenham's Open Space and Recreation 2018 Plan in future decisions regarding Town funding.

Sincerely,

Wenham Board of Health

Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair

Regina Baker, RN

Gerald Donnellan

January 9, 2019

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Thank you for submitting the "Town of Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan" (OSRP) to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

As you know, the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While your office reviews open space plans for compliance with your guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

Consistency with MetroFuture - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes 65 goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities within the MAPC region to become familiar with the plan by visiting www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan.

We are pleased to see that the Wenham OSRP will actually help to advance several *MetroFuture* goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, trails, water supply protection and the environment generally. The OSRP lists the *MetroFuture* goals, which are then reflected in the Town's goals, objectives and action plan. In fact, this plan identifies many positive connections with *MetroFuture*, including planning with neighboring communities around shared resources, particularly protection of the Ipswich River watershed.

Surrounding communities - The plan acknowledges the Town's commitment to coordinate with other regional planning efforts including MAPC's 2010 work relating to the identification of Priority Development Areas and Priority Protection areas in the North Shore. The Town shares a number of significant regional resources including the Ipswich River Watershed ecosystem, the Great Wenham Swamp and other water resource areas used by Salem, Hamilton, Essex and Manchester-by-the-Sea. The plan's recommendations encourage Wenham to work with neighboring communities to explore ways to protect and enhance these resources.

Keith Bergman, President | **Erin Wortman**, Vice President | **Taber Keally**, Treasurer | **Sandra Hackman**, Secretary | **Marc Draisen**, Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council | 60 Temple Place | Boston, Massachusetts 02111 | 617–933–0700 | 617–482–7185 fax | **mapc.org**

The Wenham Open Space and Recreation Plan should serve the Town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

cc: Kerin Shea, Senior Consultant, The Ciccolo Group

PUBLIC FORUM #1
November 2, 2017

Synthesis of Comments

The Forum was well-attended and we had lively discussions at all four World Cafes (i.e. tables). The specific comments are shown in the tables following this summary. The first three are grouped according to general categories, and the fourth table on Goals is a quantitative summary.

In terms of categories, anything general about easements, public use, etc. was categorized as "Access". Anything that mentioned a specific place/resource fell under "Rec – Facility" (Recreational Facility). Anything that pertained to information distribution of any kind was categorized as "Wayfinding". The Rec – Facility category could be further classified into sub-categories (amenities, maintenance, parking, etc.) as we think about recommendations in the future.

Many common threads emerged during the course of the evening. There was definitely a focus on improving/increasing pedestrian and bicycle access; wayfinding; and the need for more information about existing trails, public lands, and access. These priorities were underscored in the exercise on goals where *enhancing existing trail networks, publishing information about existing trails, and building more pedestrian and cycling paths* received the highest number of votes in the recreational category. There was a general preference to maintain and enhance existing athletic fields and parks, rather than creating new facilities. In the open space category, *preservation of open space for passive recreation and aesthetics (i.e. walking/hiking trails, scenic views, picnic areas, wildlife observation, etc.) and maintaining the Town's rural character* were identified as priorities. *Protecting high value core wildlife and plant habitat and preserving current farmland and encouraging the use of land for agriculture and forestry* also "scored" high.

There were many specific recommendations for future consideration as we move forward.

Once we have the survey results, we will tabulate them and synthesize all the input received to date for discussion at your January meeting.

Table Comments: Needs & Opportunities

Category	Comments
Access	What formal agreements are in place for public access over private land?
Access	Remove Salem Water properties from map if not accessible to public.
Access	Can connections be developed through the parcels surrounding Penguin Hall, Notre Dame, Long Hill area, etc.?
Bike/Ped	Need more bike/ped links. Connect Cedar Pond to Wenham Lake.
Bike/Ped	More ped mobility downtown – better sidewalks, maintenance & crosswalks.
Bike/Ped	Larch to Grapevine Rd – very narrow & windy. Makes biking/walking difficult.
Bike/Ped	Need sidewalk map. Where are there gaps?
Bike/Ped	Need more ped crosswalks along Maple Street.
Bike/Ped	Need crosswalk at exit from pool to Winthrop School.
Bike/Ped	At Pingree – many car/ped conflict points. Narrow road, cars driving/parking with kids/families walking up….
Bike/Ped	Need better ped crosswalks at Tea House/Wenham Museum vicinity. Need ped respite area?
Open Space	More open space preservation. Not open to public, not used as recreation. No parking.
Rec - Facility	West Wenham needs to be developed more.
Rec - Facility	Not enough parking at West Wenham to host Little League games, but can Town develop practice field there? Less parking demand for practice.
Rec - Facility	Iron Rail has flooding issues.
Rec - Facility	Patton – floods under zipline.
Rec - Facility	Need More parking at Pleasant Pond.
Rec - Facility	More parking at Coy Pond
Rec - Facility	Need better maintenance at Tea House Tennis Courts. Nets down often…
Rec - Facility	Rehab West Wenham. Basketball court has no nets, etc.
Rec - Facility	Make West Wenham a dog park.
Rec - Facility	Need trash cans at all rec areas.

Category	Comments
Rec - Facility	More parking at West Wenham
Rec - General	Need more passive rec, not active rec.
Rec - General	Create trail from Wenham Canal area into Topsfield
Rec - General	More parking along 97.
Rec - General	Promote fishing as recreation - signage, identify where stocked, where allowed…
Wayfinding	Where is there public recreation? What is open to public? Can we create map?
Wayfinding	Need something to hand out to new residents RE: available rec resources.
Wayfinding	More signage at Wenham Canal.
Wayfinding	Better signage at Coy Pond
Wayfinding	Identify which trails and rec areas are wheelchair/stroller accessible.
Wayfinding	Better wayfinding @ West Wenham
Wayfinding	Identify what ponds allow boating & fishing.
Wayfinding	Need a trail map for only Wenham, not regional.
Wayfinding	Identify pet-friendly trails & recreation areas.
Wayfinding	Identify what parcels are owned by Town.
Wayfinding	Better signage at Audubon Endicott Sanctuary
Wayfinding	Better signage at Wenham Canal
Wayfinding	Identify wetland areas on a map. What areas of public land are not accessible?
Wayfinding	Better signage at Coy Pond. Trails not well marked.
?	Update - J.C. Philips (C. Gajeski note written on map)

Table Comments: Better Connections

Category	Comments
Access	Hemlock Grove – need private access easement.
Access	Determine legal access to private lands.
Bike/Ped	Need sidewalk on Grapevine to get to Audubon Endicott Sanctuary from Parsons Hill
Bike/Ped	More bike lanes and walk ways
Bike/Ped	Need sidewalk map to identify gaps.
Bike/Ped	Need traffic calming.
Rec – Facility	Connect Rail Trail through town to Gordon.
Rec – Facility	Improve parking at Coy Pond. Need more dedicated parking.
Rec – General	Build boardwalks to access uplands.
Rec – General	Update zoning to require trails inside new developments.
Open Space	Need non-accessible open space protection for wildlife/core habitats
Open Space	Update zoning bylaws to require further set-backs to preserve woods along frontage.
Wayfinding	Need signage through campus to get to Coy Pond
Wayfinding	Education and enforcement around dog access.
Wayfinding	Identify points of interest, signage.
Wayfinding	Use symbols to identify key areas.
Wayfinding	Mark access points.
Wayfinding	Develop map with allowable public and private uses.
Wayfinding	Show all Town-owned properties on map.

Table Comments: How can we increase the use of our resources?

Category	Comments
Access	Formalize easements on private land for trails.
Access	Determine what properties owned by the Salem Beverly Water Board are usable by the public and put signs there.
Education	Involve the schools – field trips to open space parcels, trails, etc.
Rec - Facility	Build a bridge over the canal to create a loop for walking.
Rec - Facility	Clean up the Iron Rail property in the back to allow better access.
Rec - Facility	Provide more parking at Gordon College and Rail Trail areas.
Rec - Facility	Create some different uses such as picnic area at Pingree or at the rear of the Iron Rail property.
Rec - General	Define some areas for bike paths.
Open Space	Designate some land off limits (non-accessible) for use of any kind to preserve wildlife habitats, air quality, land preservation, etc.
Wayfinding	Better signage at all resource areas to identify where residents can access, park, walk, and bike
Wayfinding	Define the rules on particular parcels – dogs, no dogs, etc.
Wayfinding	Create a map showing all recreation areas and list what is and is not allowed.
Wayfinding	Make all information available on the website.
Wayfinding	Create a pamphlet or booklet that shows all recreation areas and what is allowed and when, and distribute with a welcome package to new residents.

Table Comments: Goals

Participants used dots to identify high and medium priorities. Not everyone chose to use all of their dots (i.e. votes).

Recreational Priorities	High	Medium
Enhance existing recreational trail networks	7	1
Publish information about existing trails *(i.e. locations, trailheads, lengths, uses, restrictions, etc.)*	11	1
Build more pedestrian and cycling paths and increase connectivity to existing open space and recreational areas	7	7
Build more trails for walking and running	2	4
Create new playgrounds	1	4
Maintain and improve existing park and recreational areas	4	1
Create additional athletic fields	1	2
Provide field lighting at existing fields to extend their use, instead of creating new athletic fields	2	3
Redevelop existing fields using synthetic turf to extend their use, instead of creating new athletic fields	6	3
Create a dog park *(West Wenham Field suggested)*	0	2
Build an ice skating rink *(suggested at Forum)*	0	1

Open Space Priorities	**High**	**Medium**
Preserve open space for passive recreation and aesthetics *(i.e. walking/hiking trails, scenic views, picnic areas, wildlife observation, etc.)*	12	4
Protect high value core wildlife and plant habitat, and maintain buffers and corridors	6	6
Preserve open space for future development for active recreational uses *(i.e. sports fields, tennis/basketball courts, playgrounds, etc.)*	4	1
Maintain the Town's rural character	10	0
Preserve current farmland and encourage the use of land for agriculture and forestry	6	6
Protect drinking water supply *(people noted at two different discussions that this was a high priority, but was governed by its own set of regulations)*	0	0
Preserve places of historical value	3	7
Suggested at Forum		
Improve pedestrian/bike access	5	1
Increase connectivity	1	0
Provide access to Miles River course	0	2
Maintain what we have	1	0
Increase education	0	0

Public Forum #1 – 11/2/17

PUBLIC FORUM #2
May 22, 2018

Synthesis of Comments

The Forum was well-attended and included not only residents, Town staff and consultants, but OSRP Committee members, a Selectman as well as representatives from Greenbelt and the Essex County Trail Commission.

The format was primarily informational utilizing a traditional presentation, with two opportunities for questions/comment. Eight maps from the Open Space & Recreation Plan were set up on easels around the room for the public to review before the presentation began. The agenda topics for the evening included:

- Overview of purpose of the Plan and the process thus far
- Highlights of Community Survey results
- Review of key maps - Soils (farmland), Water Resources, Unique Features, Open Space Inventory
- Goals and Objectives and how they reflect public comments from the first Forum and Survey
- Action Plan - highlights using Action Plan Map
- Open Space Evaluation Matrix
- Schedule for submittal to the State

During the Q&A portions, the following comments/questions were raised:

1.	If a bond is in use, who will manage that process?
2.	Who decides which parcels to go after?
3.	We need more information for projects, such as associated costs for artificial turf & lighting.
4.	What happens after the report is submitted to the State?
5.	Are costs/pricing for projects included in the Plan?
6.	Parcel acquisition depends on 3 things: planning, pricing and opportunity.
7.	Are land owners aware that their parcels are considered prioritized parcels for protection or acquisition?
8.	Are land owners aware that their land has Ch 61 designation?
9.	How are goals in the Plan evaluated equally?

10.	How is the order of items in the Action Plan determined, especially if no costs are associated?
11.	What is our readiness for projects or parcel acquisition?
12.	Who is responsible for contacting the landowners?
13.	The Town needs to build relationships with land owners.
14.	Is it possible for the Town to form a Land Trust, similar to the Housing Trust, to be able to act quickly?
15.	The OSRP Committee should present a report to the CPC in the fall, to form a stronger working relationship.
16.	The Town should look to Ipswich as a model & for examples.
17.	Timing is key – whether for Town Meeting approval to acquire property, appropriate funds/bonding, or for CPC applications. Town Meeting approval is also needed to appropriate CPC funds.
18.	Can CPC applications be taken off-cycle? Can there be rolling applications?
19.	Can the Town approach abutters for funding?
20.	What about the tennis courts?
21.	Why was there interest in Muddy Pond?
22.	West Wenham remains a concern.

Public Forum #2 – 5/22/18

XI. REFERENCES

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- Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, https://www.mass.gov/orgs/masswildlifes-natural-heritage-endangered-species-program

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- Recreation Master Plan Report for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, Gale Associates, 2015.

- Recreation Master Plan Report, Towns of Hamilton and Wenham, MA, Gale Associates, 2012. https://hwrecreation.com/forms/6014_master_plan.pdf

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- U.S. Census; American Community Survey (ACS), December, 2017. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#

- Wenham Reconnaissance Report, Essex County Landscape Inventory Program, 2005. https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/pw/wenham-with-map.pdf

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- Steve Ozahowski, Wenham Principal Assessor
- James Reynolds, Wenham ADA Coordinator
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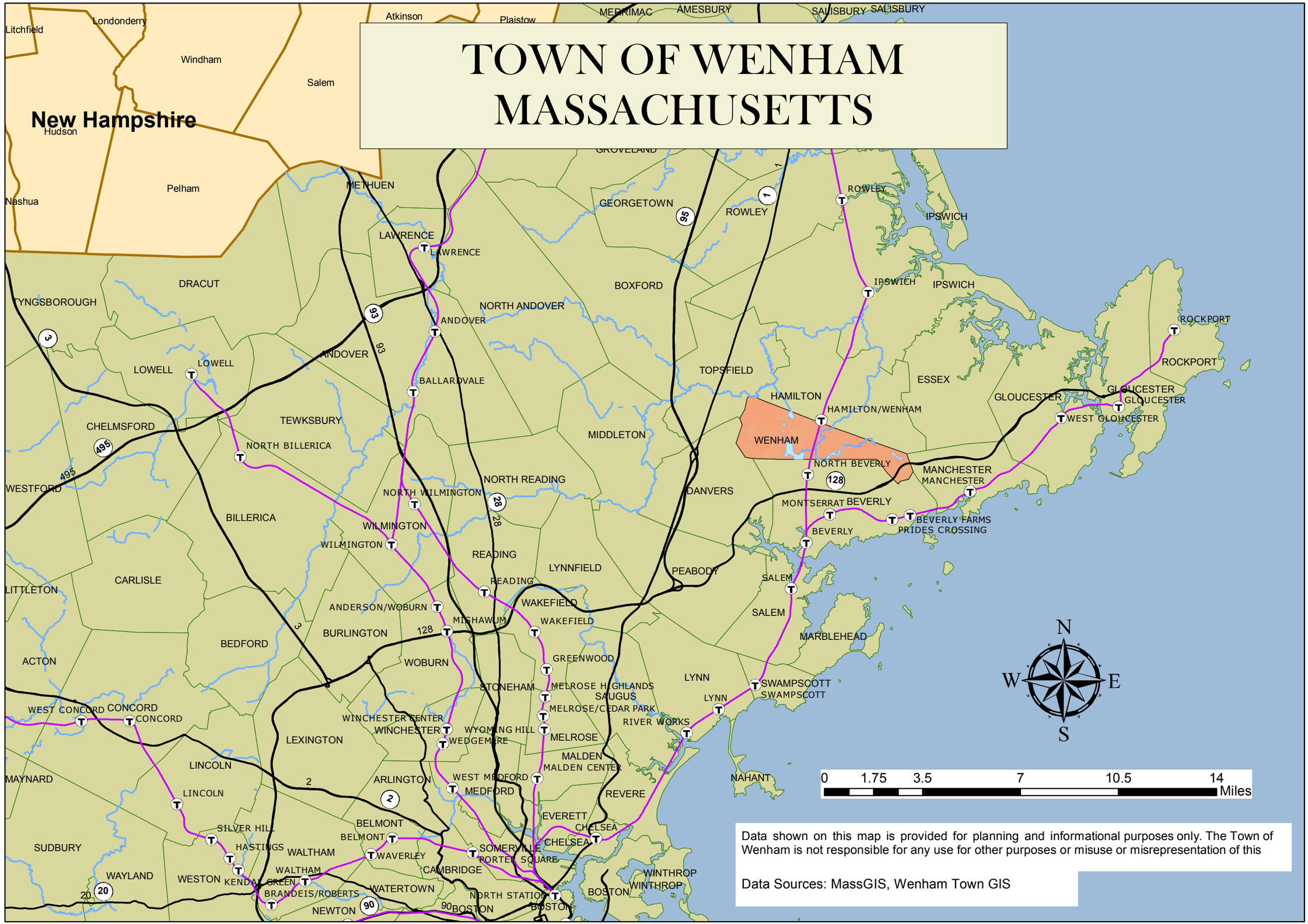
- Christopher LaPointe, Director of Land Conservation, Greenbelt
- David Santomenna, The Trustees of Reservations
- Bradley Perrone, Assistant Supervisor of Operations, SBWSB
- Kristen C. Grubbs, Environmental Planner, Ipswich River Watershed Association

XII. MAPS

1. Regional Context Map
2. Regional Priority Development & Preservation Area Map
3. Zoning Map
4. Soils & Geologic Features Map
5. Unique Features Map
6. Water Resources Map
7. Open Space Inventory Map
8. Action Plan Map

TOWN OF WENHAM MASSACHUSETTS



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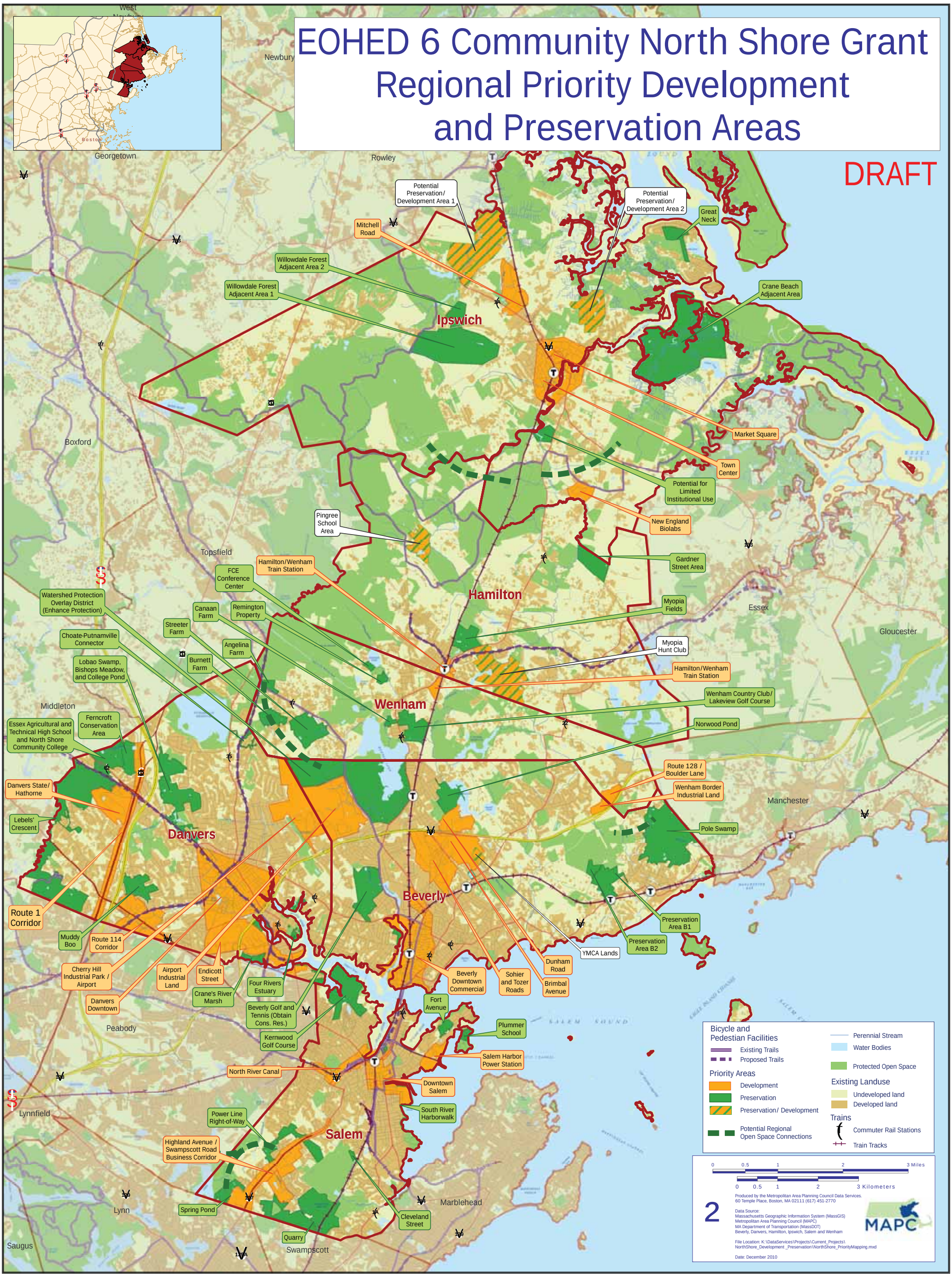
Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

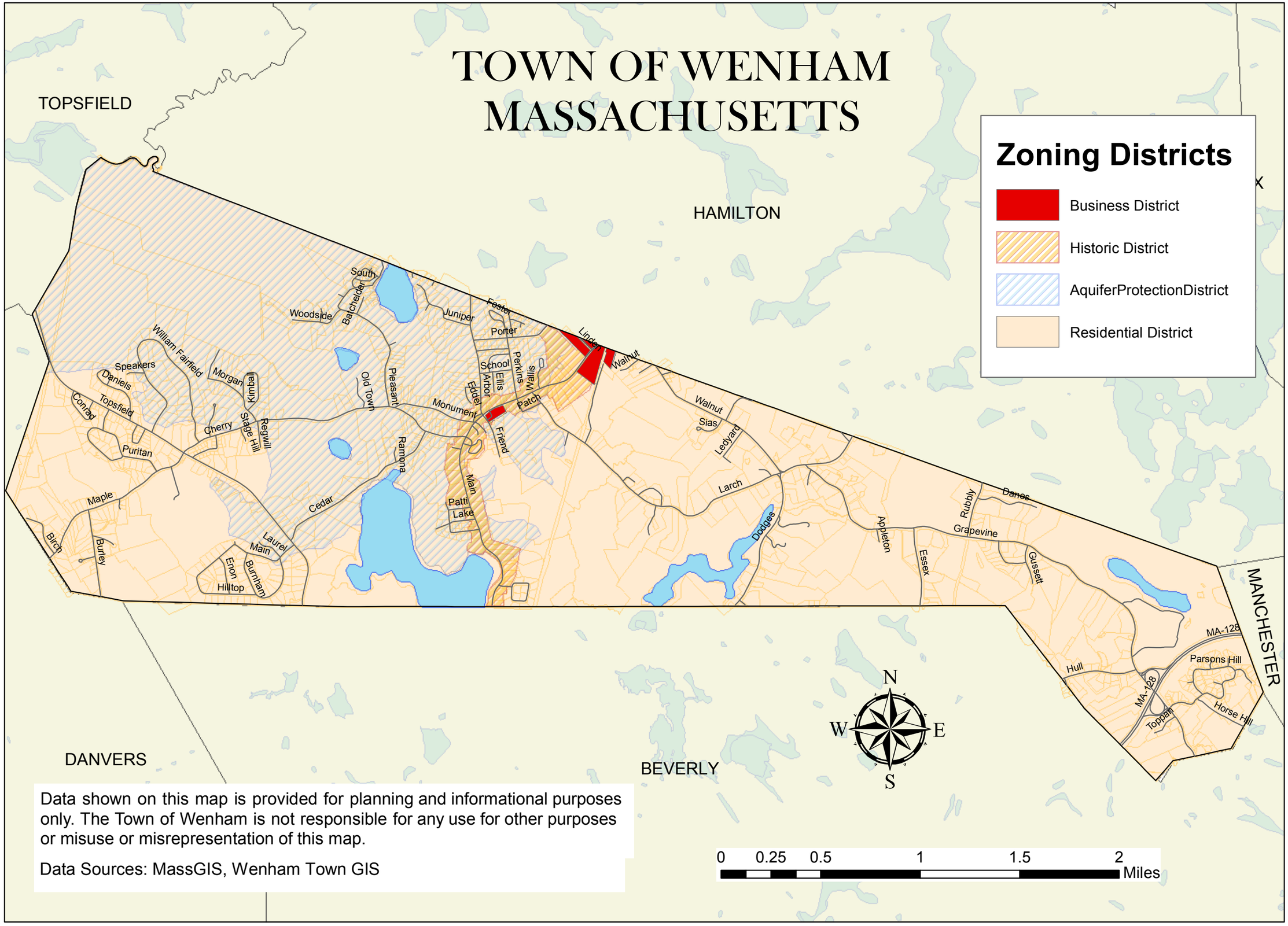
MAP 1
Regional Context

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018

Town of Wenham
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984


EOHED 6 Community North Shore Grant
Regional Priority Development
and Preservation Areas
DRAFT
Boston
Georgetown
Rowley
Newbury
Boxford
Topsfield
Middleton
Peabody
Lynnfield
Lynn
Saugus
Swampscott
Marblehead
Manchester
Essex
Gloucester
Ipswich
Hamilton
Wenham
Danvers
Beverly
Salem
Potential Preservation/ Development Area 1
Potential Preservation/ Development Area 2
Great Neck
Mitchell Road
Willowdale Forest Adjacent Area 2
Willowdale Forest Adjacent Area 1
Crane Beach Adjacent Area
Market Square
Town Center
Potential for Limited Institutional Use
New England Biolabs
Pingree School Area
Gardner Street Area
Hamilton/Wenham Train Station
FCE Conference Center
Watershed Protection Overlay District (Enhance Protection)
Canaan Farm
Remington Property
Streeter Farm
Angelina Farm
Burnett Farm
Choate-Putnamville Connector
Lobao Swamp, Bishops Meadow, and College Pond
Myopia Fields
Myopia Hunt Club
Hamilton/Wenham Train Station
Wenham Country Club/ Lakeview Golf Course
Norwood Pond
Essex Agricultural and Technical High School and North Shore Community College
Ferncroft Conservation Area
Route 128 / Boulder Lane
Wenham Border Industrial Land
Danvers State/ Hathorne
Lebels' Crescent
Pole Swamp
Route 1 Corridor
Muddy Boo
Route 114 Corridor
Preservation Area B1
Preservation Area B2
YMCA Lands
Cherry Hill Industrial Park / Airport
Airport Industrial Land
Endicott Street
Crane's River Marsh
Four Rivers Estuary
Danvers Downtown
Beverly Downtown Commercial
Sohier and Tozer Roads
Dunham Road
Brimbal Avenue
Beverly Golf and Tennis (Obtain Cons. Res.)
Fort Avenue
Kernwood Golf Course
Plummer School
Salem Harbor Power Station
North River Canal
Downtown Salem
South River Harborwalk
Power Line Right-of-Way
Highland Avenue / Swampscott Road Business Corridor
Spring Pond
Cleveland Street
Quarry
Bicycle and Pedestian Facilities
Existing Trails
Proposed Trails
Priority Areas
Development
Preservation
Preservation/ Development
Potential Regional Open Space Connections
Perennial Stream
Water Bodies
Protected Open Space
Existing Landuse
Undeveloped land
Developed land
Trains
Commuter Rail Stations
Train Tracks
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
0 0.5 1 2 3 Kilometers
2
Produced by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council Data Services.
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 451-2770
Data Source:
Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS)
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Beverly, Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, Salem and Wenham
File Location: K:\DataServices\Projects\Current_Projects\NorthShore_Development _Preservation\NorthShore_PriorityMapping.mxd
Date: December 2010
MAPC

TOWN OF WENHAM
MASSACHUSETTS



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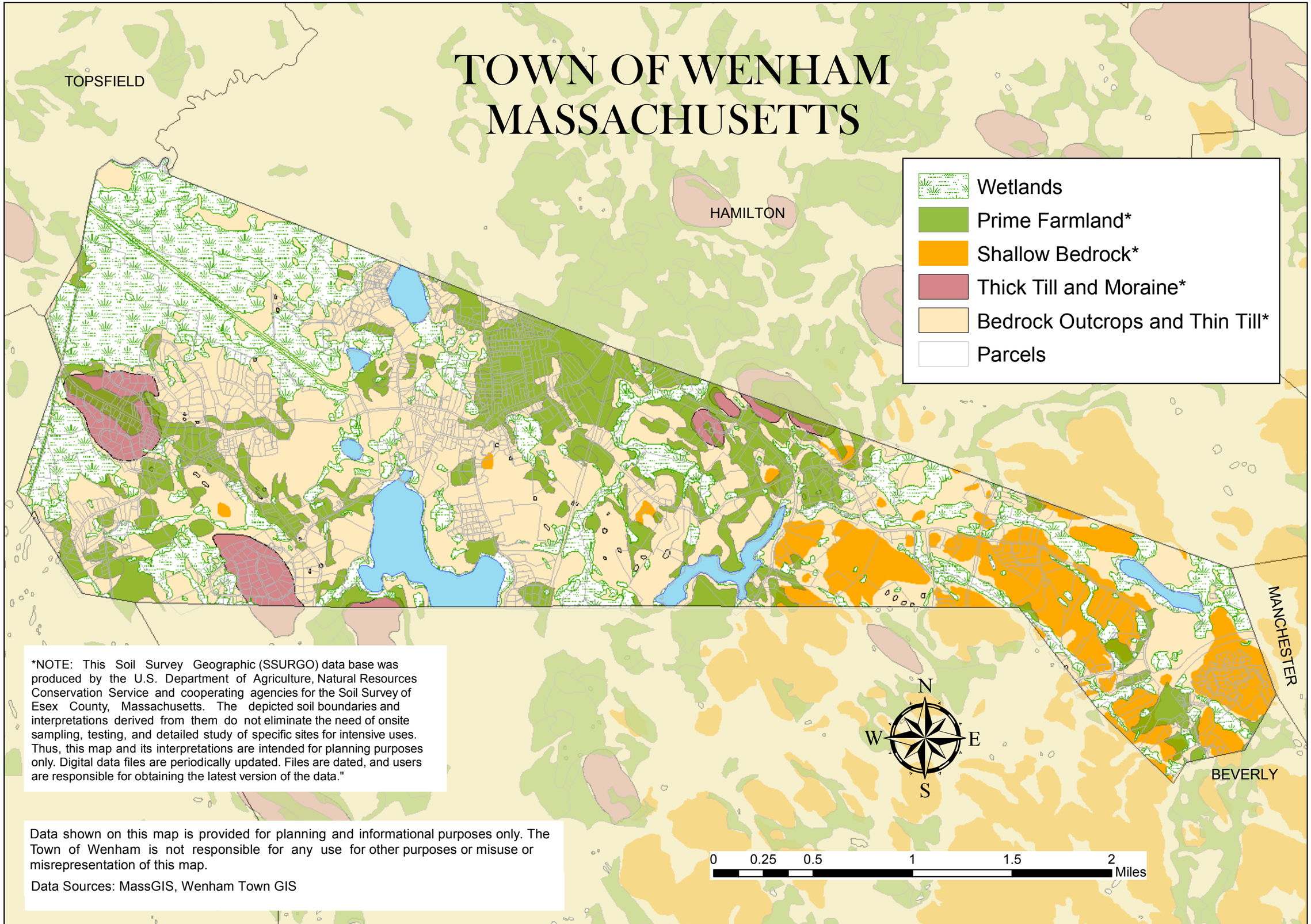
Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 3
Zoning

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018
Town of Wenham
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

TOWN OF WENHAM
MASSACHUSETTS



*NOTE: This Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) data base was produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and cooperating agencies for the Soil Survey of Esex County, Massachusetts. The depicted soil boundaries and interpretations derived from them do not eliminate the need of onsite sampling, testing, and detailed study of specific sites for intensive uses. Thus, this map and its interpretations are intended for planning purposes only. Digital data files are periodically updated. Files are dated, and users are responsible for obtaining the latest version of the data."

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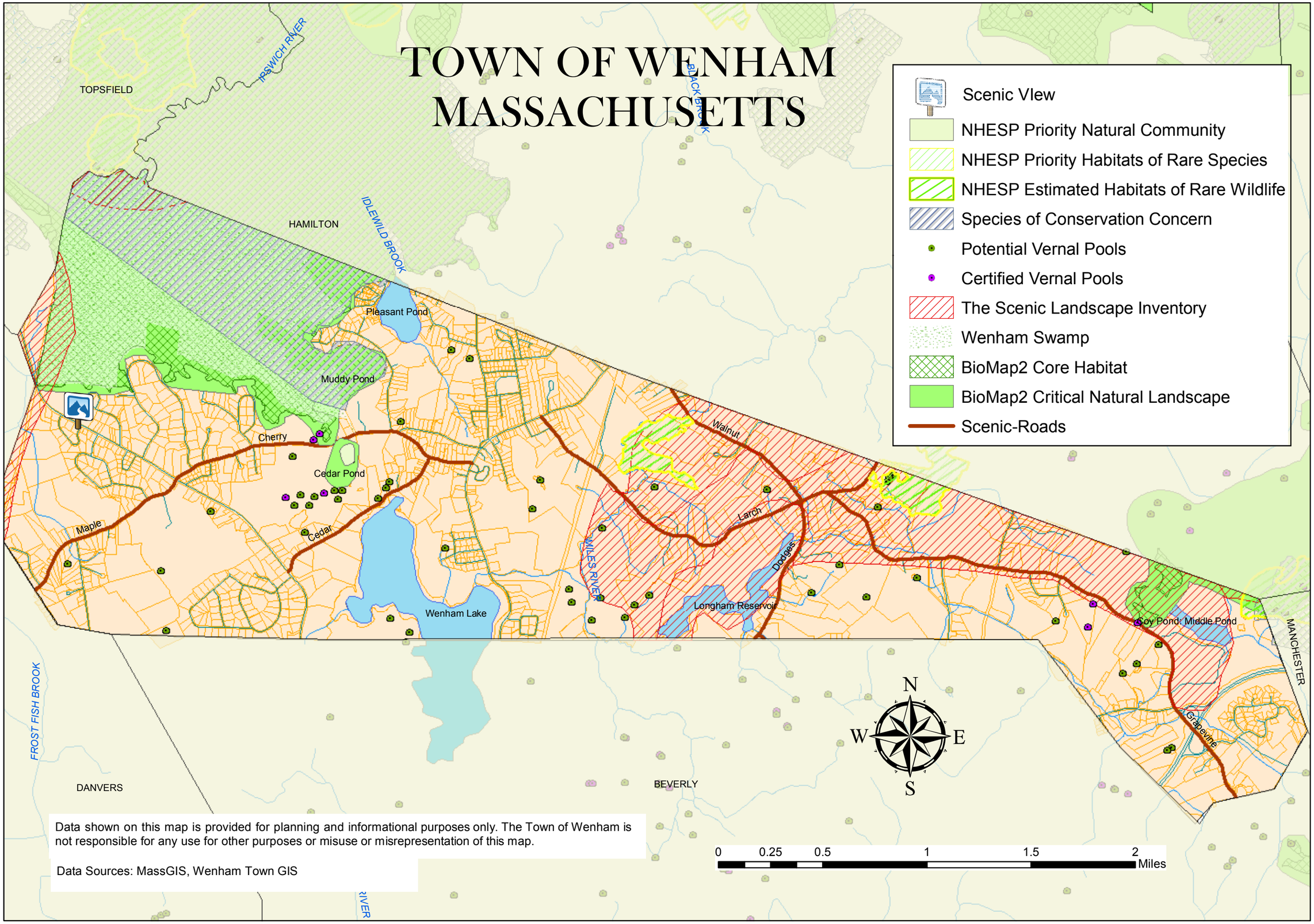
Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 4
Soils and Geological Features

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018

Town of Wenham
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

TOWN OF WENHAM MASSACHUSETTS



Scenic View
NHESP Priority Natural Community
NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
Species of Conservation Concern
Potential Vernal Pools
Certified Vernal Pools
The Scenic Landscape Inventory
Wenham Swamp
BioMap2 Core Habitat
BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape
Scenic-Roads

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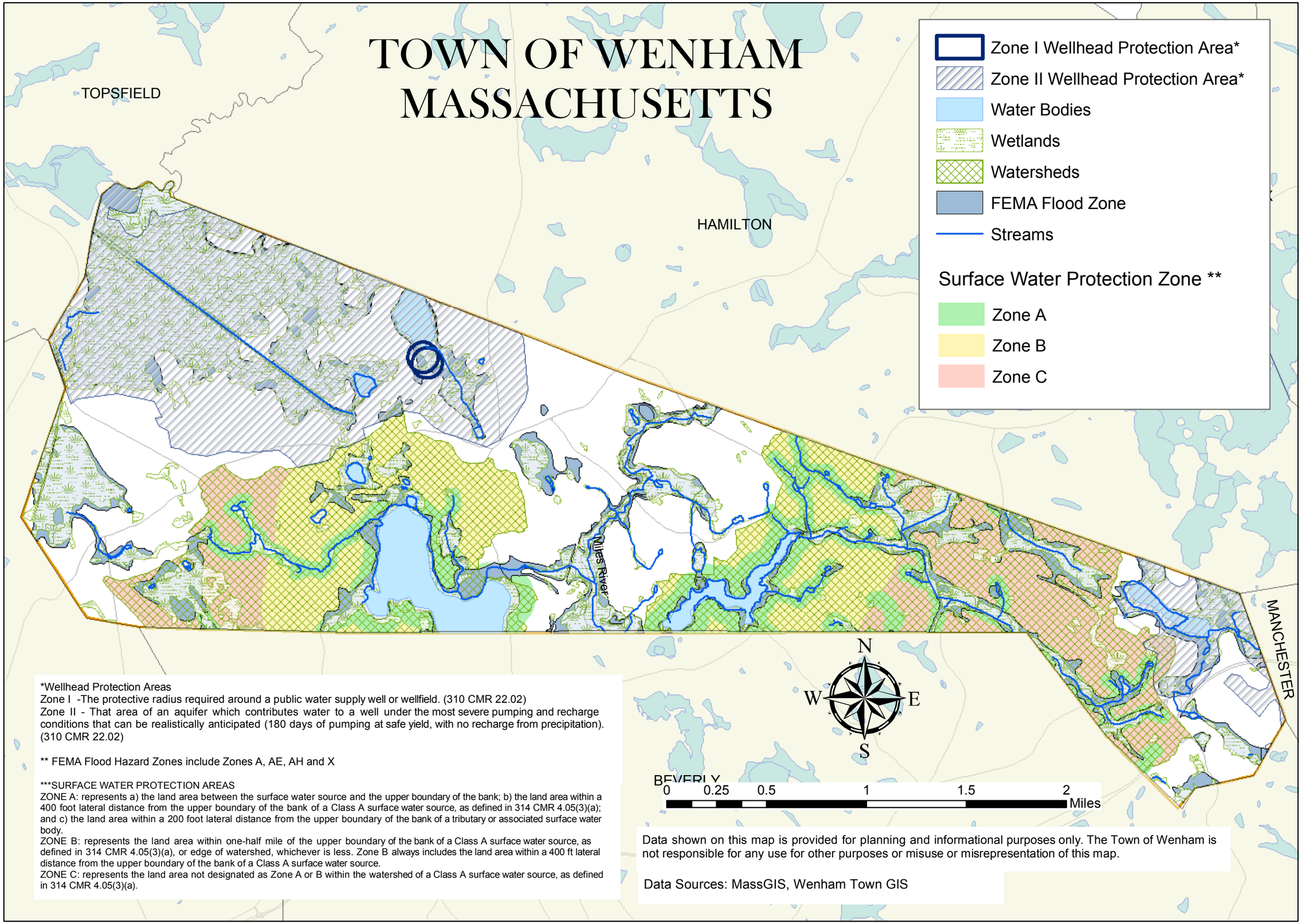
Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 5
Unique Features

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018
Town of Wenham
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

TOWN OF WENHAM
MASSACHUSETTS



*Wellhead Protection Areas
Zone I -The protective radius required around a public water supply well or wellfield. (310 CMR 22.02)
Zone II - That area of an aquifer which contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharge conditions that can be realistically anticipated (180 days of pumping at safe yield, with no recharge from precipitation). (310 CMR 22.02)

** FEMA Flood Hazard Zones include Zones A, AE, AH and X

***SURFACE WATER PROTECTION AREAS
ZONE A: represents a) the land area between the surface water source and the upper boundary of the bank; b) the land area within a 400 foot lateral distance from the upper boundary of the bank of a Class A surface water source, as defined in 314 CMR 4.05(3)(a); and c) the land area within a 200 foot lateral distance from the upper boundary of the bank of a tributary or associated surface water body.
ZONE B: represents the land area within one-half mile of the upper boundary of the bank of a Class A surface water source, as defined in 314 CMR 4.05(3)(a), or edge of watershed, whichever is less. Zone B always includes the land area within a 400 ft lateral distance from the upper boundary of the bank of a Class A surface water source.
ZONE C: represents the land area not designated as Zone A or B within the watershed of a Class A surface water source, as defined in 314 CMR 4.05(3)(a).

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Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 6
Water Resources

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018
Town of Wenham
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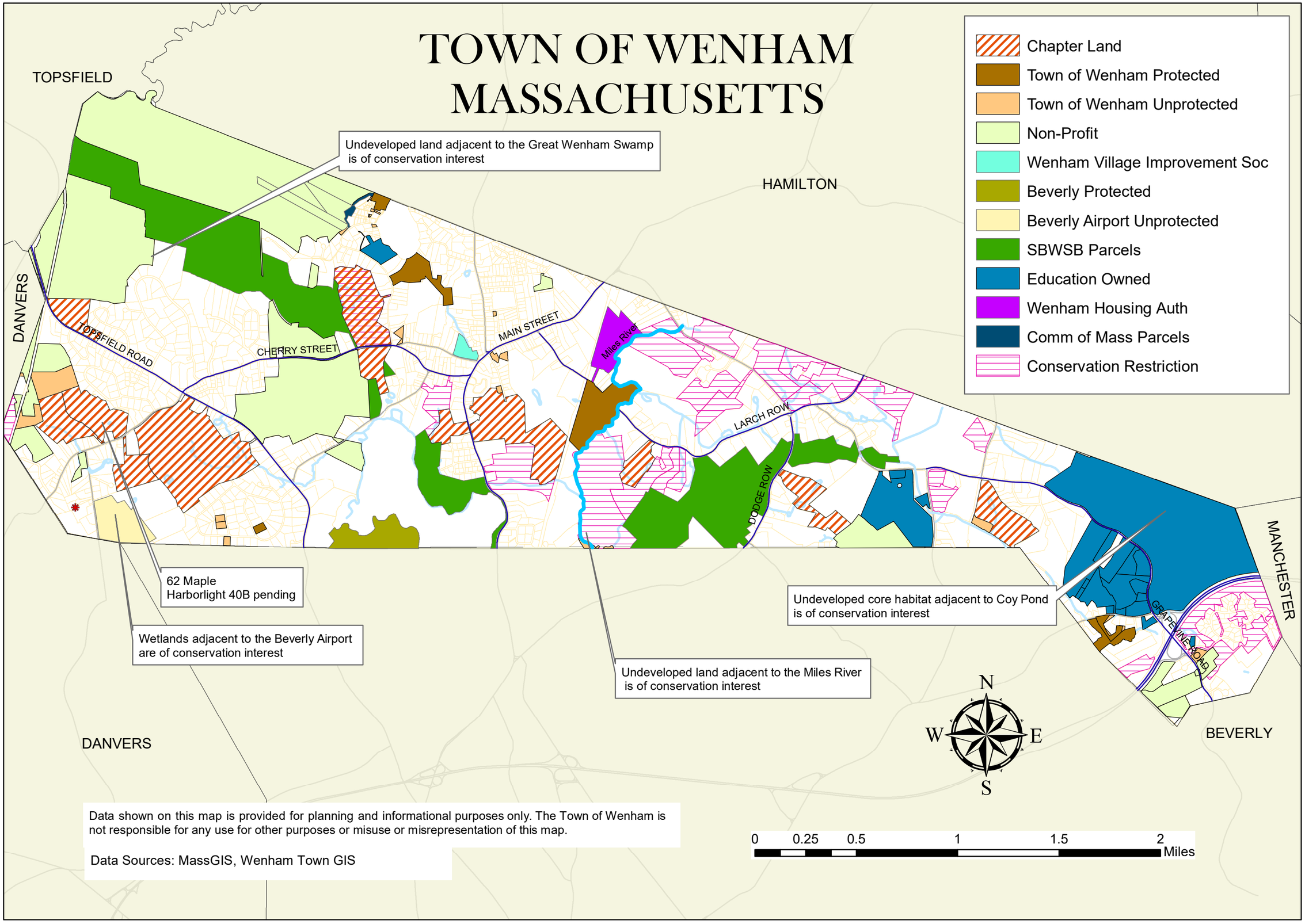
Wenham, MA 01984

TOWN OF WENHAM
MASSACHUSETTS



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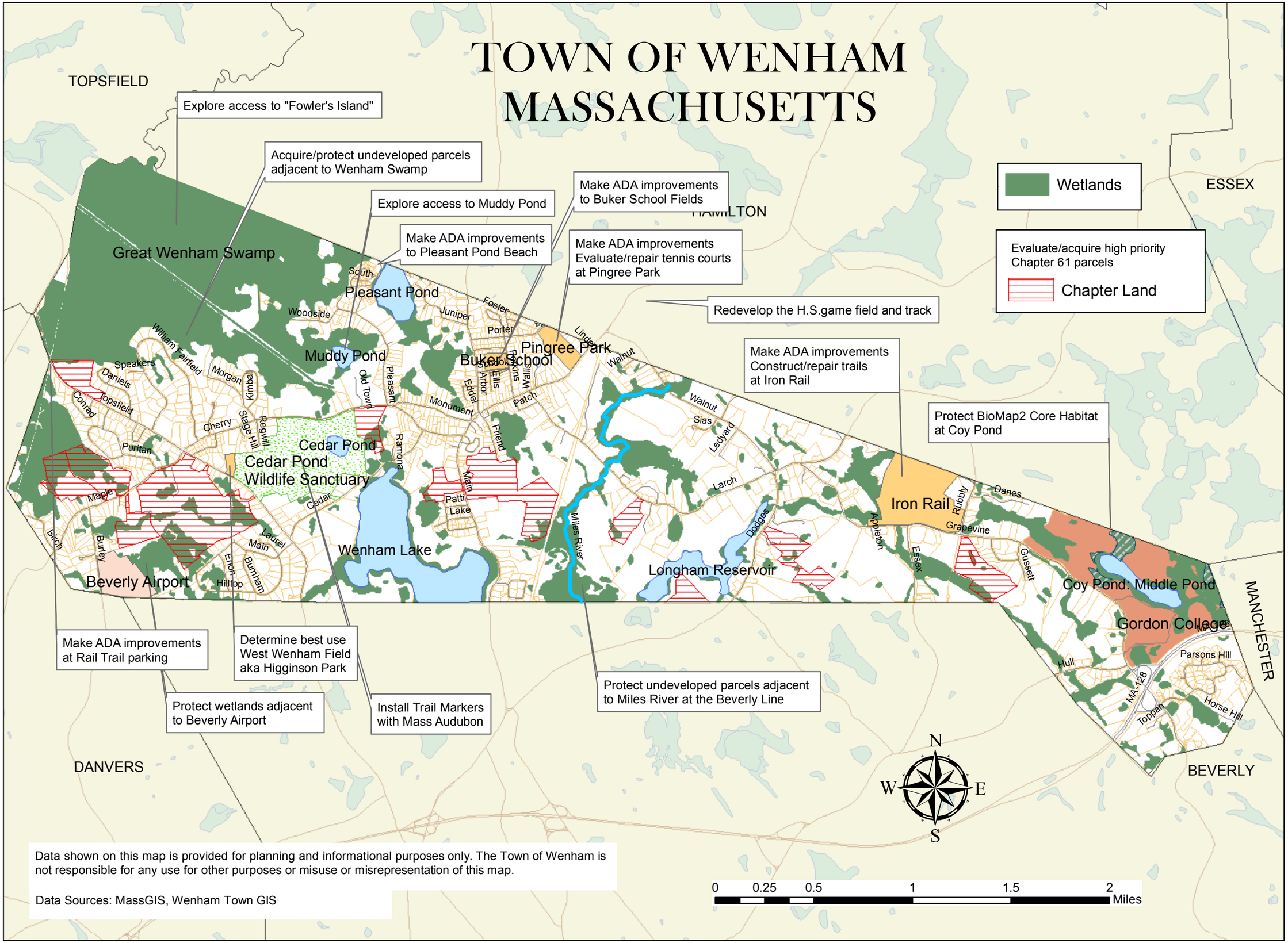
Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 7
Open Space Inventory

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018
Town of Wenham
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

TOWN OF WENHAM MASSACHUSETTS



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Data Sources: MassGIS, Wenham Town GIS

MAP 8 Action Plan

Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2018

Town of Wenham
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Wenham, MA 01984