

# OPEN SPACE &

# RECREATION PLAN

# UPDATE

# 2021-2028

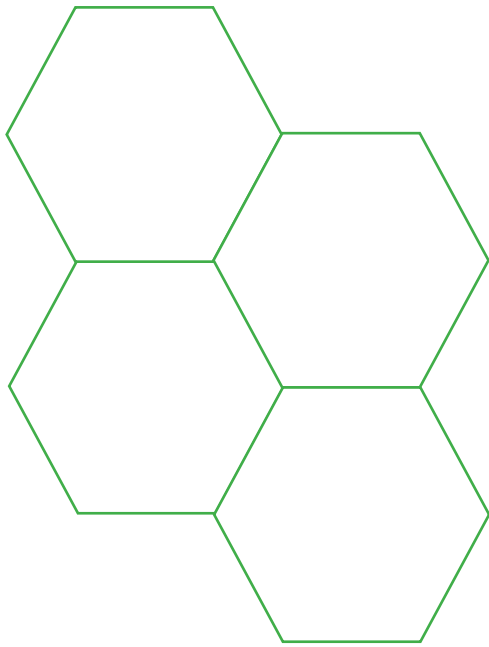


APPROVALS

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS - JUNE 2021

Town of  
Swampscott





**Submitted on:** 05/27/2021  
**Submitted to:** Division of Conservation Services  
**Submitted by:** Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee

**Written by:** Molly O'Connell, Senior Planner

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# I. PLAN SUMMARY

This Plan Update represents Swampscott's desire to provide, maintain, enhance and protect its open spaces and recreational facilities. The Plan Update builds upon the previous plan by reaffirming the main goals and developing new objectives to guide the proposed actions over a seven-year period, so that Swampscott's open spaces can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors.

The Town of Swampscott is a small, densely populated seaside community whose scenic resources and unique environments are linked to historic settlement patterns, which were largely influenced and defined by the ocean. The Town is largely built out and current projects generally take the form of redevelopment, which makes competition for obtaining and preserving space critical.

Swampscott's beaches are the most visited areas in Town and the most visible. There is a great desire for additional amenities in these areas. However, with increasing effects of climate change and sea level rise, amenities should be resilient in design and considerate of any long-term affects.

Parks are used for both passive and active recreation, with many located as companions/access to beaches, such as Johnson Park and New Ocean House Beach. There are also small neighborhood parks which are less visible, but no less important. Maintenance continues to be a critical piece of the puzzle, and this Plan Update recognizes that constraints in Town staffing and unforeseen financial challenges, such as the COVID-19 crisis, need to be considered and addressed.

The Town also has significant conservation land available for hiking, such as Harold King Forest and Ewing Woods. Continued trail maintenance and promotion of these assets is needed, so new residents are aware and take advantage of these areas.

This Plan Update reaffirms the main goals developed in the 2013 Open Space Plan:

1. Maintain Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities
2. Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town
3. Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities to Meet Needs
4. Strengthen Environmental Protection
5. Improve Public Access & Awareness
6. Establish a Green Corridor Network

Additionally, this Plan Update establishes the following objectives:

- Commit unbuildable and suitable property to open space uses
- Improve upon regular maintenance activities and add capacity/resources
- Increase access to and availability of print and online materials which provide information for and promote open spaces
- Ensure that all amenities planned for Town open space align and comply with standards of the approved OSRP
- Prioritize redevelopment over greenfield development

- Continue to improve accessibility for all residents at Town-owned open space and recreational facilities
- Ensure all ages open space and recreation options exist throughout Town
- Connect Green Corridor areas with future streetscape projects to improve multi-modal access to open space
- Commit all park and open space upgrades to be sustainable and responsive to the effects of climate change
- Ensure appropriate protections are in place for existing open space areas

This Plan Update presents a new Seven-Year Action Plan for the Town of Swampscott, continuing the Town's commitment to improve our valuable open space resources and to provide multi-functional and accessible places to be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.





## II. INTRODUCTION

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

As stewards of the Town of Swampscott's Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) aims to identify, inventory, and prioritize Swampscott's open spaces and recreation facilities, and to propose recommendations for their maintenance, preservation, and expansion.

In recent months, the COVID-19 crisis has emphasized the importance of open spaces and recreational areas in the community. These assets provide safe places for outdoor activity, promoting not only physical well-being but mental health as well. Recreation Director Danielle Strauss noted that many open space areas of Town, Linscott Park for example, saw a dramatic increase in usage during the Summer of 2020. In light of this crisis, and in recognition that the Town continues to experience growth within the constraints of its boundaries, this Plan Update is committed to protecting these open spaces and ensuring that they are multi-functional to address community needs.

### PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Swampscott's Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee is tasked with the development, organization, and implementation of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen in 2012 to provide a new plan, as the previous plan was from 1983 and had not been updated. After the plan's adoption, the committee implemented, monitored, and completed many of the action items called identified. The Committee meets on a monthly basis, and has also generated smaller task forces as off-shoots of certain focus areas, including the Tree Advisory Task Force and the Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force.

The Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) members are:

- » Tania Lillak, Chair
- » Angela Ippolito - also serves as Chair of the Planning Board
- » Tonia Bandrowicz - also serves as Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission
- » Richard Smith - also serves as a member of the Historical Commission and Vice-Chair of the Historic District Commission
- » Sarah Koch - also serves on the Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force (moved out of Town in early 2021, but participated through draft for public comment)
- » Verena Karsten - also serves on the Tree Advisory Task Force
- » Sierra Munoz - also a member of the Swampscott Conservancy
- » Sarah Hepburn - also a member of the Tree Advisory Task Force (who moved out of Town in early 2020, but participated in the beginning stages of the process)

The Committee was also supported by Town staff:

- » Marzie Galazka, Director of Community& Economic Development
- » Molly O'Connell, Senior Planner
- » Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director and ex-officio member

The Committee meets on a monthly basis and began discussions about

the Plan Update in September 2019. Utilizing the Plan Update Matrix provided in the "Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook," the Committee agreed on a schedule and strategy to approach the update.

Since the initial plan, OSRPC has kept track of all action items through the use of an online project management software called Airtable. At each meeting during the Fall of 2019, the OSRPC dedicated time to review all action items to ensure that all items were up-to-date in terms of progress tracking and any items that were completed were marked appropriately. The OSRPC also took this time to assess whether or not certain actions not accomplished or still in progress could be combined for the new plan.

The OSRPC and staff also reviewed other plans and studies that related to the community's open space and recreation facilities, including:

- » Swampscott Harbor and Waterfront Plan (2020)
- » Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (2018)
- » Reimagining Johnson Park: A Design Proposal for Swampscott (2016)
- » Coastal Climate Change Study (produced by Kleinfelder, 2016)
- » Swampscott 2025 Master Plan (which was developed subsequent to the previous Open Space Plan and primarily derives its open space section from that planning process)

In late 2019, the Town was awarded funding to develop an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan. The plan is currently in draft form and has not yet been approved by the Select Board, and so the OSRPC has recommended a specific action item to review and incorporate those plan elements as they relate to open space once the plan is approved.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was planned to begin in March of 2020. However, COVID-19 restrictions and temporary shut-downs prevented the initial launch of this process and prevented in-person gatherings.

The OSRPC continued to meet monthly by Zoom, with agendas and links to access the meeting posted in accordance with the Governor's emergency order regarding Open Meeting Laws.

Since the OSRPC could not host an in-person open house, the 2020 Community Survey became an important tool for information gathers. As described in Section VI, the OSRPC decided to promote the survey primarily online through various Town and Committee media over the course of several months, in addition to direct outreach by committee members. The OSRPC and staff also promoted the survey at the Swampscott Farmer's Market in August 2020.

Public presentations of the survey results were made to the Planning Board and Select Board at their scheduled online meetings in September and October 2020 respectively, and the draft Plan Update was made available both online and in-print for further public comment (note: Town Hall was open to the public from July - November 2020). The OSRPC also held a virtual open house during their regularly scheduled public meeting on October 27, 2020. There were no comments received at the open house.

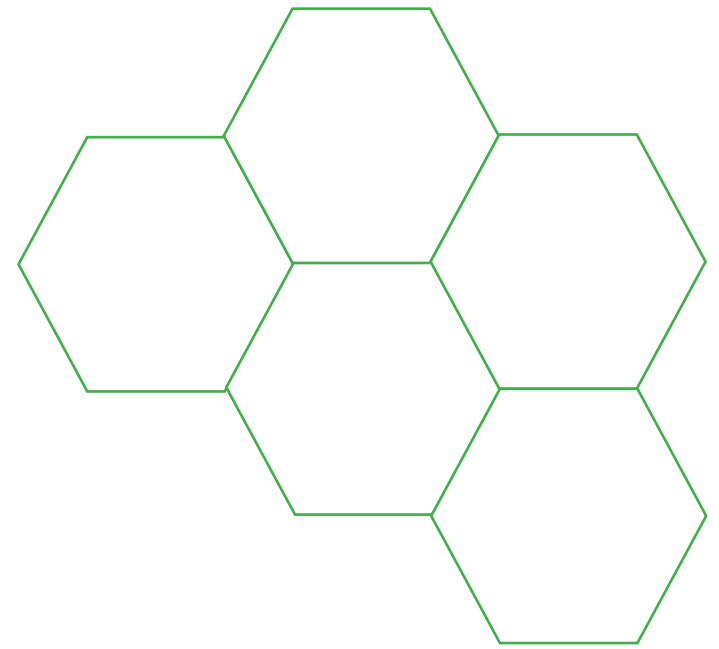
Additionally, the draft Plan Update was sent to the following Town departments and boards/committees, who are also identified as Project Partners in the Action Plan:

- » Board of Health
- » Commission on Disability
- » Conservation Commission
- » Department of Public Works
- » Harbor and Waterfront Advisory Committee
- » Historical Commission
- » Historic District Commission
- » Planning Board

- » Recreation Department

- » Swampscott For All Ages Committee

The Planning Board reviewed and voted to provide a letter of support for the Plan Update on February 8th, 2021. A final presentation was made to the Select Board on February 24th, 2021.



# III. COMMUNITY SETTING

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

Swampscott is located 13 miles northeast of Boston and is situated in Essex County. It is bordered by Lynn on the west, Salem and Marblehead on the north and east, and the Massachusetts Bay to the south. The town's land area is 3.05 square miles, with a tidal shoreline of 4.3 miles.

The town is part of the North Coastal Watershed; it is drained to the ocean by local brooks and streams, many of which are largely in underground conduits. This is further described in the "Water Resources" section of the "IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis" chapter.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) North Shore commuter rail line provides Swampscott with regular passenger service to Boston and to communities to the north. The MBTA also provides regular bus service in the town that connects with its regional network.

There are two major thoroughfares through Swampscott: Paradise Road (Route 1A), which is a state road, and Humphrey Street (Route 129). Both roads connect Swampscott to neighboring communities and are heavily used commuter routes for those traveling to Boston. Route 129 was designated in 2011 as part of the Essex County Scenic Byway, a series of roads that connect the scenic and historic resources of Essex County. It promotes access to the area's scenic beauty and historic heritage.

Swampscott is a part of the Essex National Heritage Area, a federally-designated heritage region comprised of 34 historically and naturally rich communities in northeastern Massachusetts. It contains natural and historic resources that have received national or regional designations or protections. Swampscott is one of 14 communities

contributing to the Essex County Scenic Byway, which connects these resources with a cohesive route. It traces historic settlement patterns and provides access to the defining historic and natural features. The Byway's resources attract visitors from outside the region, creating an opportunity to use the byway program to reinforce and grow heritage tourism and recreation-based businesses.

## METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

Swampscott is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) as well as the North Shore Task Force (NSTF). NSTF is one of eight subregions of MAPC which meets regularly to discuss issues of common interest related to open space and other regional initiatives.

MAPC has devised a comprehensive, regional and long-range plan called MetroFuture to help the Greater Boston Region capitalize on its most important assets: its diverse people and landscape, a history of innovation, and a commitment to education and civic engagement. Swampscott's Open Space and Recreation Plan are consistent with many implementation strategies of MetroFuture, most notably: To protect natural landscapes, conserve natural resources, and to support healthy families. Swampscott's plan addresses the implementation strategies noted by promoting healthy living and recreation through open space preservation, expansion and maintenance, as well as through community engagement. Additionally, Swampscott has promoted regionalization through the plan by our consideration of the open space plans of surrounding communities, as well as possible regional open space resources that relate to climate change.

## CLIMATE

The Town of Swampscott experiences seasonal extremes in temperature due to its coastal location, and experiences impacts related to the increase in storm surge and rising sea levels. Normal





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 1 - REGIONAL CONTEXT



temperature ranges in January are 20-35 °F, normal temperatures in July are 63-85 °F, and normal annual precipitation is 47.91 inches. A 2016 EPA report<sup>90</sup> states that the temperature of the Commonwealth has warmed by more than 2 °F in the last century, which consequently can produce an increase in violent storms and coastal flooding.

## HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY<sup>91</sup>

The coastline of Swampscott, along Nahant Bay and Massachusetts Bay, were areas used by Native Americans known as Naumkeags, a subgroup of the Pawtucket tribe. It was the practice of the Colonial settlers to locate and bound their towns on the basis of the domain of Indian Chieftains. The area of Swampscott, in pre-Colonial times, was the domain of Sachem Poquannum and included about 1,400 acres extending along the shore from the outlet of Stacey Brook<sup>92</sup>, just west of Black Will's Cliff, to Beaver Brook now Hawthorne Brook at the Marblehead line and inland to Essex Street. The village of Sachem Poquannum, who was sometimes referred to in early records as Black Will and Duke William, is approximately the area of the grant of land voted by the General Court in 1632, and confirmed in 1638, to John Humphrey. This area became known as the **Humphrey Grant**. John Humphrey was the first Deputy Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony and one of the most active members of the Dorchester Company, one of the six patentees of the Bay Colony.

Two important Indian trails pass through town. They are Essex Street, or Marblehead Lane of Colonial days, laid out as a highway in 1673, and Humphrey Street, which extended along the shore to Marblehead and Salem. The latter was extensively used by the Indians and the settlers, and on July 5, 1659 was officially laid out, as a public highway, probably the first in the Colonies.

The first English settlers were William Witter, Samuel Smith and Francis Ingalls, who in 1629, had received permission from Governor Endicott to settle where they wished but without grant or title of land. The original settlement of Swampscott lay within a radius of a few hundred

yards from Lady Moody's beach, now King's Beach<sup>93</sup>, at Monument Square and adjacent to the traditional site of Poquannum's hut or dwelling on Black Will's Cliff. Thus for more than 300 years this area has been the historic and civic center of the town.<sup>94</sup>

Swampscott was originally a district of Lynn. When the Town of Swampscott was incorporated (May 21, 1852), the Humphrey Grant was increased by 653 acres taken from the City of Lynn. In 1867 a small strip of land, of approximately 68 acres, was taken, by an act of the General Court, from the City of Salem and added to Swampscott at the northern boundary. This brought the total area of the town to the present 1,951 acres.<sup>95</sup>

Swampscott remained a quiet village for a number of years following incorporation. Fishing was the major economic engine with dories and "jiggers" as the main fishing fleet until the turn of the 19th century when schooners were first used. Fishing for lobster began in 1808. By 1826 the Swampscott fleet had six Chebacco boats (27-40 tons), which were used to fish for cod, haddock, pollock, hake and mackerel. By 1855 there were 39 schooners. Shoe manufacturing was a close second to the fishing economy followed by agriculture with 29 farms by 1865. Other modest mid-19th century manufacturing included the production of tinware, boat-building, basket making and three house building firms. Cod and mackerel were the principle catches of the day. Boat building was also an important part of Swampscott life, and the Swampscott dory, now enshrined on the Town Seal, was a famous design for fishermen.<sup>96</sup>

The advent of rail service in the mid-1800's, both by steam locomotive and streetcar, was a pivotal event in the transformation of Swampscott from quaint fishing village to elite summer resort. The Swampscott Depot, constructed in 1872, is the last surviving train depot in town. It is a remnant of the Eastern Railroad, one of the nation's earliest rail lines. In 1838, the Eastern introduced steam rail transportation between Swampscott and Boston.

90 "What Climate Change Means for Massachusetts" (EPA - August 2016)

91 This summary is excerpted from "Swampscott: The Town Beautiful" and other sources.

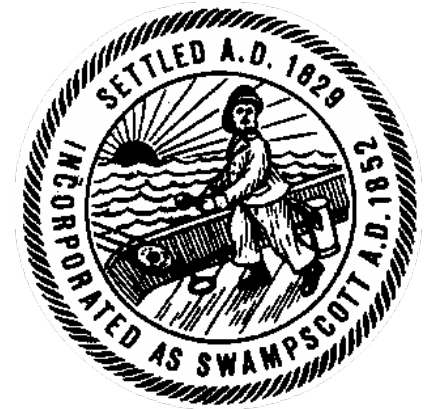
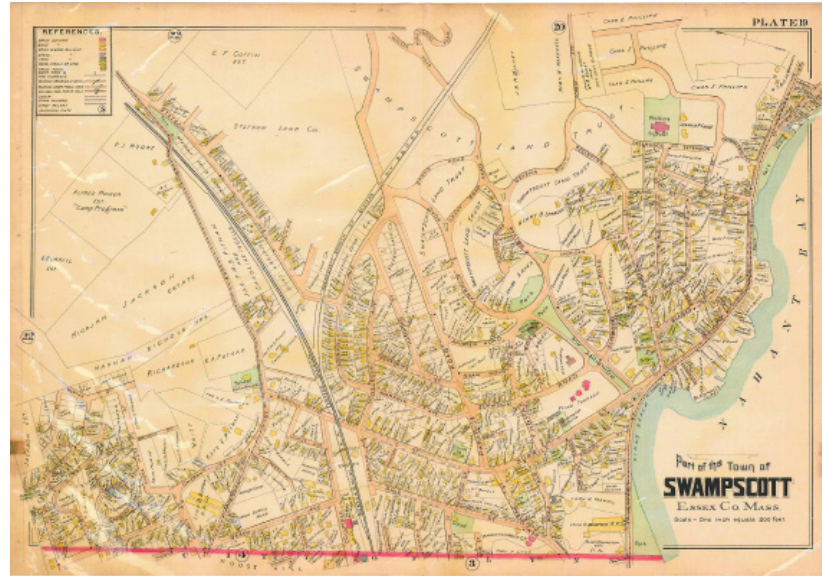
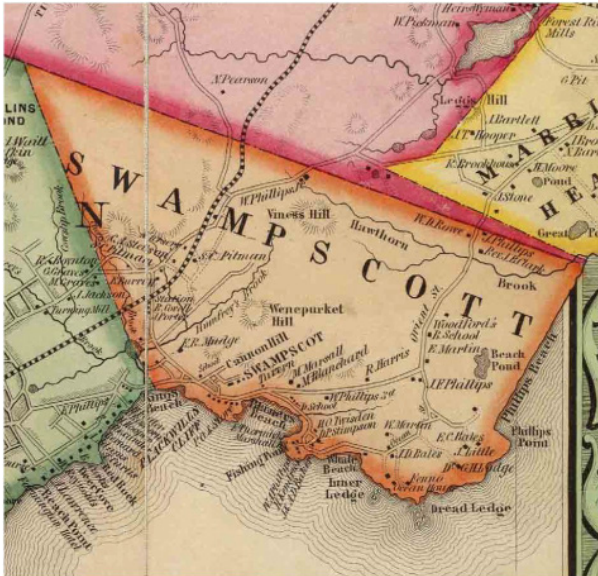
92 Also commonly spelled "Stacy Brook," "Stacey's Brook," and "Stacy's Brook." For the purpose of this Plan, it will be referred to as "Stacey Brook."

93 Also commonly spelled "Kings Beach." For the purpose of this Plan, it will be referred to as "King's Beach."

94 1983 "Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Master Plan" (OSRMP 1983)

95 OSRMP 1983

96 OSRMP 1983



IMAGES (left to right)  
 1. 1852 Map of Swampscott  
 2. 1897 Map of Swampscott  
 3. Town of Swampscott Official Seal

The expansion of the railroad and the trolley car system triggered an unparalleled building boom along the shoreline, "from Fishing Point in Swampscott to Peach's Point in Marblehead."<sup>97</sup> Savvy landowners petitioned the railroad to extend the line from Swampscott's main depot to remote beachfront areas, investing huge sums to construct small train depots that would cater to the wealthy vacationers. Easy access by train or trolley made Swampscott even more desirable as a resort.

By the late 19th century, Swampscott's renown as a seaside resort was widely recognized and the town became an increasingly attractive area for building. The grand resort hotels for which the town became known were built. These included the Taft, once located on Galloupes Point; the Hotel Preston, at the Marblehead line on Phillips Beach; the Lincoln House, on Lincoln House Point; the Hotel Bellevue, near Bellevue Road; and the Ocean House and its successor, the sprawling New Ocean House, on Whale's Beach<sup>98</sup> .<sup>99</sup>

The eastern portion of the Swampscott shoreline was subdivided to

<sup>97</sup> "Swampscott, Massachusetts: Celebrating 150 Years 1852-2002"

<sup>98</sup> Also commonly spelled "Whale Beach" and "Whales Beach." For the purpose of this Plan, it will be referred to as "Whale's Beach."

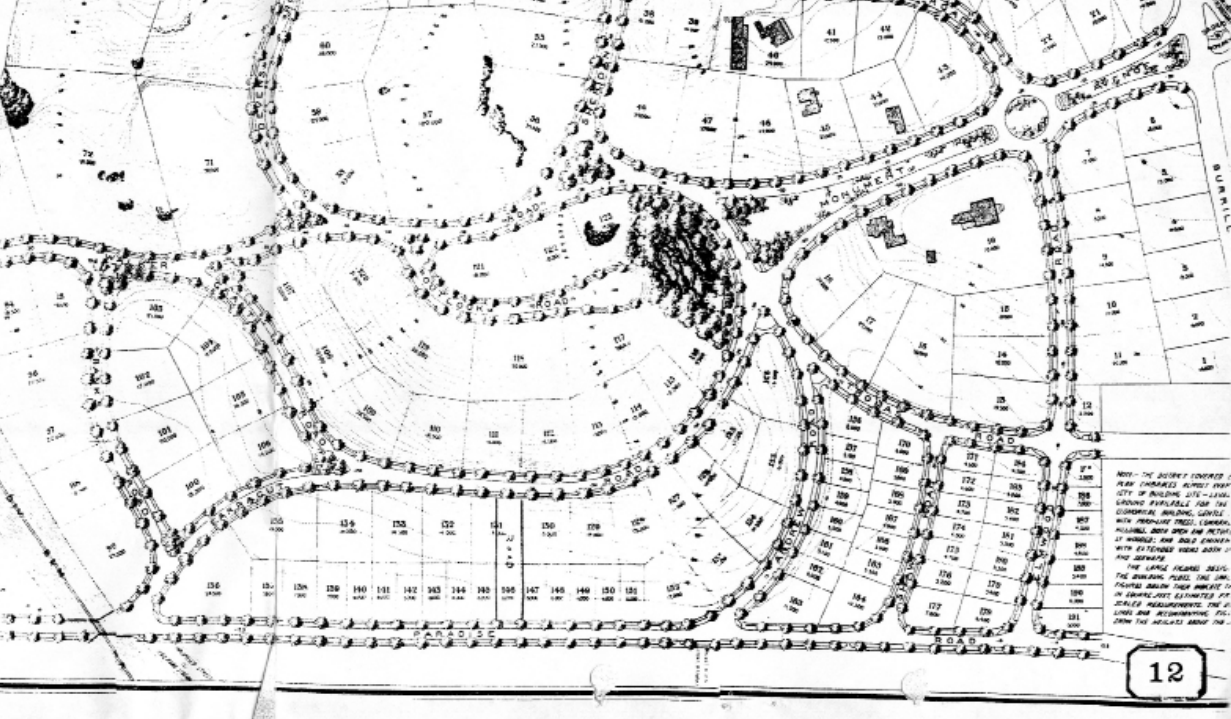
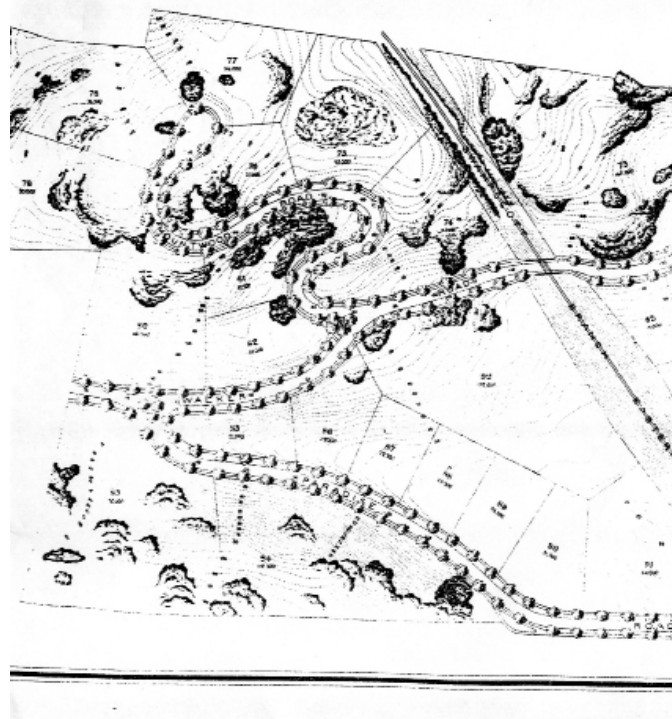
<sup>99</sup> OSRMP 1983

form seaside estates where wealthy members of Boston society would spend their summers. From the 1870's to the end of the 1920's, the "summer people" were a mainstay of the local economy, and many townspeople worked on the estates. Among the houses built in this era were many key examples of what Vincent Scully called the Shingle Style, a romanticized revival of early American architecture perfectly suited to summer life along the sea. Atlantic Avenue came into being in this period as an elegant carriage drive from Swampscott to Marblehead.<sup>100</sup>

It is of historical interest to note that several of Swampscott's residential areas were developed on a number of large seaside estates constructed in the mid to late 19th century. These estates were modeled after the houses of the English countryside with expansive lawns and carefully selected shrubs and trees as a bucolic, gracious summertime escape from the industrial city. Sixty-four summer estates were identified in Dorothy M. Anderson's book The Era of the Summer Estates: Swampscott 1870/1940. A few of these 150-year-old estates and their grounds, such as Blythswood, still survive today as reminders of past grandeur.

<sup>100</sup> "The Shingle Style and the Stick Style (revised edition)" pp. 104-105, "The Era of the Summer Estates" and "The North Shore" chapter two





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The end of the 19th century saw the town becoming a commuter suburb. With good rail service to Boston and booming industry in Lynn, Swampscott became a favored year-round residential community. The Humphrey Street area continued to be the center of business activity, with a downtown and civic hub that extended along Burrill Street to the train station. As the 20th century advanced and economic fortunes changed, most of the old summer estates were demolished, and the land redeveloped as year-round residential neighborhoods. A small number of great houses from this era remain to this day.

One of Swampscott's greatest legacies from the late 19th century is Monument Avenue and the surrounding residential area, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the renowned landscape architect. The **Olmsted Historic District**<sup>101</sup> was developed on the former estate of Enoch Redington Mudge. It was later enhanced by the addition of the Town Hall (formerly the Elihu Thomson House) with its broad lawn and Linscott Park, which flank Monument Avenue. This graceful gateway into the town serves as an excellent example of the virtues of thoughtful environmental planning.

In the mid-20th century, further inland areas of town were developed as residential subdivisions, and an automobile-era commercial zone developed along Paradise Road near the Salem town line. One large area of open space became the Tedesco Country Club and golf course. As the summer hotels along the coast burned or were demolished, they were replaced by further residential development, and Swampscott assumed the character it retains today.

Train service to Marblehead was discontinued in 1959, and the two small depots serving this line, Phillips Beach Depot and Beach Bluff Station, were demolished in 1962 and 1960, respectively. The right-of-way for the branch line remains as a utility corridor by National Grid, crossing Swampscott from the still-operative MBTA line in the western side of the town to the Marblehead border. Though inactive, the right-of-way remains a landscape feature in the town, with the potential to become a greenbelt and non-automotive access path through the middle of town.

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101 Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The Fisherman's Beach<sup>102</sup> area remains a primary focus of maritime activities. It is dominated by recreational boaters, but a number of fishermen and lobstermen work out of the historic Fish House.

In December 2010, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources designated Swampscott as a "Green Community." This designation indicates that Swampscott has made a commitment to reducing our fossil fuel dependence and negative impact on the environment. A requirement for achieving this designation was the development of a five-year energy reduction plan where the town would achieve a 20% reduction in energy use using 2009 as the baseline. This energy reduction plan was approved by Town Meeting and as of the end of fiscal year 2012 and the reduction goal impacts energy use at all municipal and school properties. The Department of Facilities Management will continue to address energy efficiency at all Town and School properties.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS<sup>103</sup>

The population of the town has increased from the 1980 population of 13,837 to a 2000 population of 14,412, and then dropped to a 2010 population of 13,787 (4,447/sq. mi). This population drop was due principally to smaller households, the lack of available buildable land and little new construction. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)<sup>104</sup> projects that the 2030 population will be between 15,529 and 15,735. According to the most recent 5-year American Community Survey Data (2018), the estimated total population in Swampscott is 14,755. The population is 95% white, 0.9% black, 0.7% Asian, and 3.3% Hispanic. Homeownership is equal to 78.9% of households; the median value is \$455,400.

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

The age distribution of Swampscott residents shows that approximately 50% of the community is 45 years or older. In keeping with the national trend in declining birth rates, Swampscott's median age is steadily increasing. In 2010, it had reached 45.3, or 5.3 years

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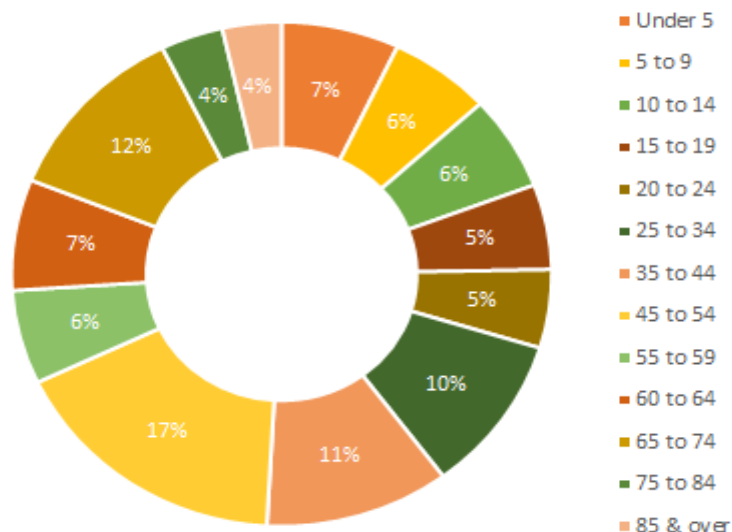
102 Also commonly referred to as "Blaney Beach." For the purpose of this Plan, the beach itself will be referred to as "Fisherman's Beach."

103 US Census (2010), except where noted.

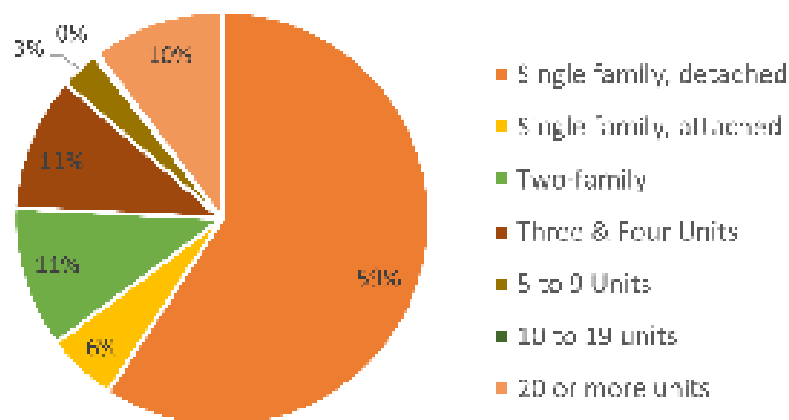
104 Regional planning agency for Swampscott



Age Distribution (2018)



Housing Type (2018)



older than the median age for the Boston Metropolitan Area as a whole. This suggests that Swampscott's older residents should be given special consideration when planning for the open space and recreational needs of the town.

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT<sup>105</sup>

When looking at the educational attainment of residents over 25 years old, Swampscott residents rates are higher than the state average. While over 95% of residents have at least a high school diploma compared to the Massachusetts rate of 88.9%, the most notable attainment rate differences occur in the Bachelor and Graduate degree levels. Nearly 32% of Swampscott residents have attained a Bachelor's degree compared to the state rate of 24.4%. Likewise, 26% of residents have received a Graduate degree where the Massachusetts rate is 20.1%.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Not surprisingly, average income levels for Swampscott families are considerably higher than the metropolitan average, reflecting the employment of many heads of households as highly salaried professionals and managers. The current median household income is \$113,422, while the Boston metro area income is \$88,711. Income averages, however, should not conceal the fact that a considerable number of Swampscott residents are not in higher income brackets.

### INDUSTRIES

Historically, the main industry within the town was tourism, as several resorts operated along the coastline and inland during much of the beginning of the 20th century. Currently, local businesses in the form of retail stores, dental services, real estate services, and other professional businesses dominate the landscape. Additionally, Aggregate Industries US operates a rock quarry within the borders, but generally, there is a lack of industry due to the high number of residential dwellings located within Swampscott.

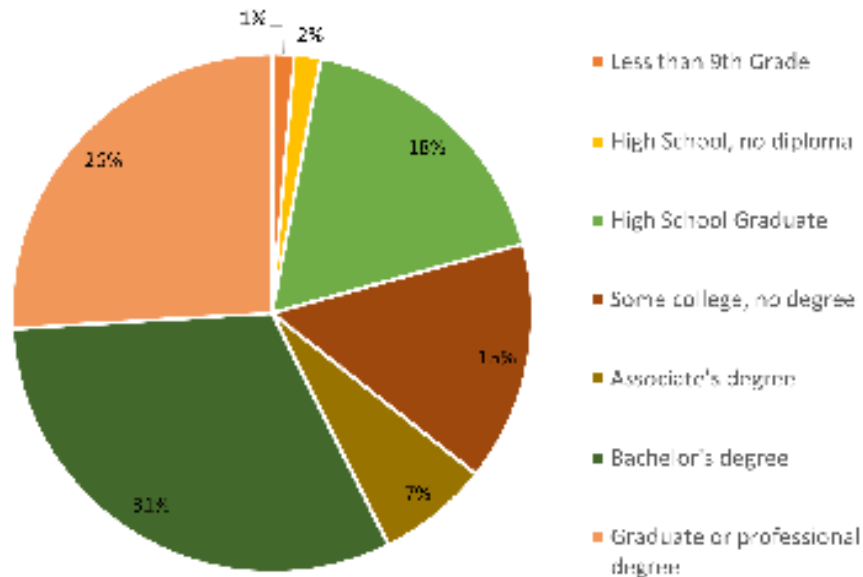
### OCCUPATIONS<sup>106</sup>

Swampscott residents are employed in many different occupations. The most notable occupation category for community members is the

<sup>105</sup> 5-year American Community Survey (2018), population 25 years and older.

<sup>106</sup> 5-year American Community Survey (2018)

Educational Attainment (2018)



"educational, health care, and social services" segment which 27% of residents work in, followed by "professional, scientific, and technical services" (19%)<sup>107</sup>.

## HOUSING

The housing stock in Swampscott includes 5,853 units as of 2010. Housing in the community is predominantly single-family detached houses (59%). The third largest housing type in the community however are multi-family structures that include 10 or more housing units (10%).

The community is best defined by its single and two-family housing options, which in total make up about 75% of all housing units. MAPC projects that the number of housing units will increase to 6,586-6,672 units.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS

The U.S. as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been focused on protecting citizens from environmental pollution and ensuring that they can live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment. This was further emphasized with President William Clinton's issuance in 1994 of Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."

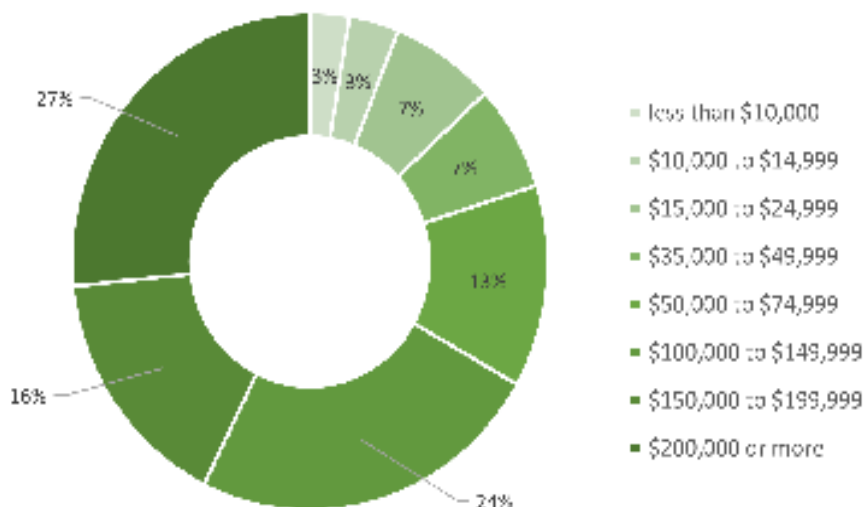
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) created the Environmental Justice Policy. It helps to address the disproportionate share of environmental burdens experienced by lower-income people and communities of color who, at the same time, often lack environmental assets in their neighborhoods.<sup>108</sup>

As demonstrated in "Map 2 - Environmental Justice Populations," there are no such neighborhoods identified in Swampscott. However, this does not preclude adjacent neighborhoods from visiting and making use of the Town's open space and recreational resources.

<sup>107</sup> Graph located in Appendix.

<sup>108</sup> EOE's "Environmental Justice Policy"

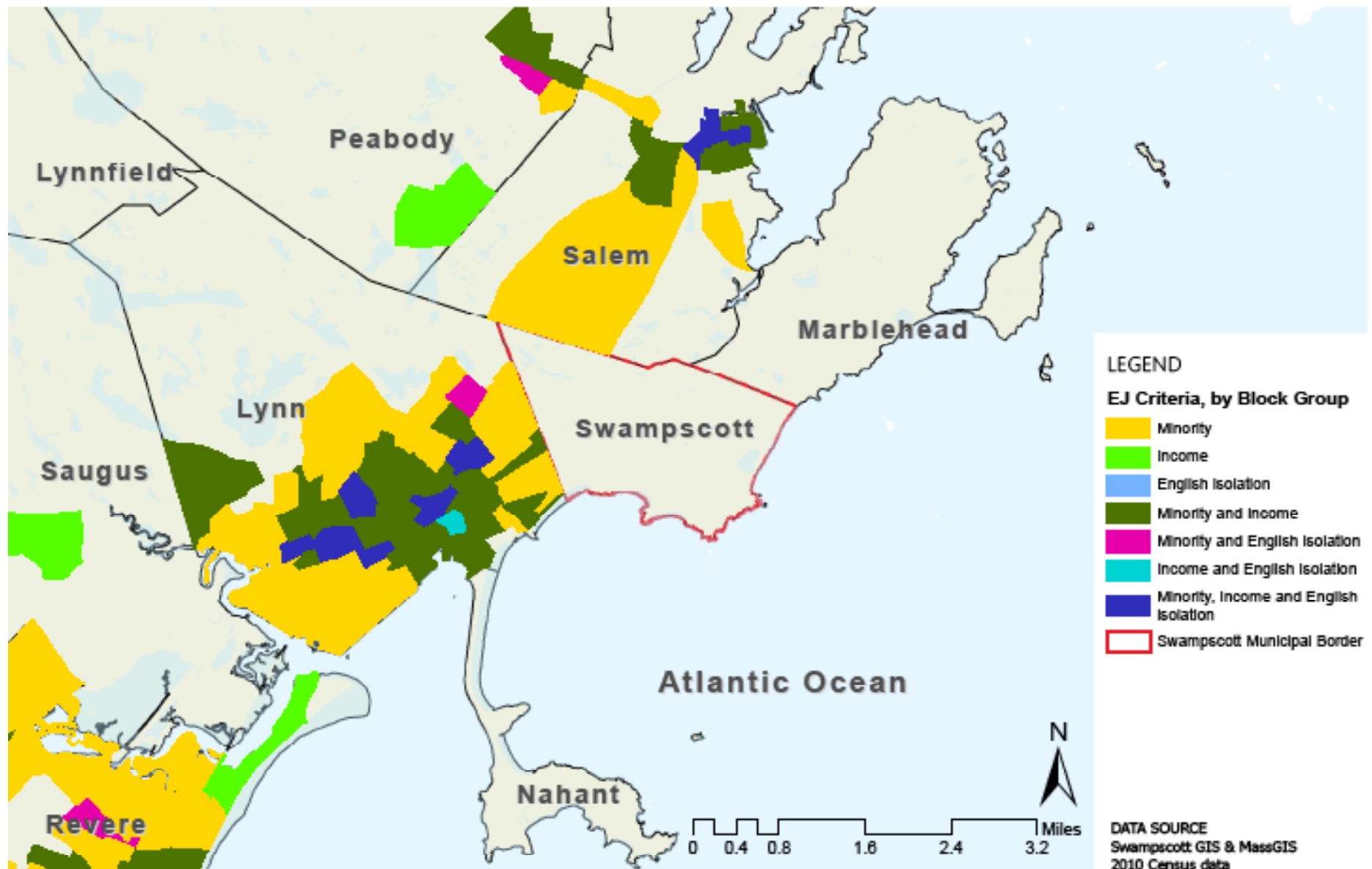
Household Income (2018)





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS



## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### PATTERNS AND TRENDS

The early development of Swampscott followed the historic path along the coastline, with the nucleus of the settlement in the area of King's Beach and Fisherman's Beach. Fishing and small-scale craft manufacturing were the characteristic activities. Houses were concentrated along Humphrey Street and the hill above. The beaches were the major public areas, dominated by fishing and boat building. As the shoe industry developed in Lynn, small workshops for shoe-making appeared in this same area. Inland areas were used for farming.<sup>109</sup>

The 19th century summer hotel boom began to change the perception and uses of the coastline and beaches, and recreational use of them became more important. The beaches, formerly the arena of marine activities, became scenic and aesthetic resources, and the Fish House of 1896 was built to house fishermen's gear and facilitate the cleaning up of Fisherman's Beach.

Maritime activities in Swampscott Harbor also began to swing from small scale fishing and lobstering to recreational boating. The Fish House remains as a National Register historic property, and Chaisson Park occupies land formerly used for fishing shacks. In the 20th century the creation of Lynn Shore Drive cemented the role of King's Beach as a public open space for Swampscott and Lynn, with its seaside promenade as an important public amenity.

In 1886 the heirs of the Mudge Estate formed the Swampscott Land Trust and hired the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted to design a subdivision of the land. This was by far the pinnacle for land planning in Swampscott. Olmsted's thoughtful exploitation of the character of the hilly site created a rich environment for its residents, and the graceful Monument Avenue axis provides a focal point for the neighborhood and a connection to Nahant Bay. The axis terminates at a steep hill that was once a quarry. As originally designed by Olmsted, a public overlook at the top of Outlook Road would have provided a grand view down the avenue to the sea. The later acquisition by the Town of the Thomson Estate (now Town Hall) and the Chick Estate (now Linscott Park) on either side of Monument Avenue created a

broad sweep of green lawn with views of Nahant Bay and King's Beach. This area has become in effect the Town Green and the setting of numerous community events every year.

Other residential areas were developed in a piecemeal, organic fashion with less provision for public space. They are primarily single-family houses, with larger lots on the old estates along the coast and smaller lots in the older southwest side of town. The latter has some two- and three-family housing as well. Open space in these areas has either been associated with schools or created from terrain unsuitable for development. Phillips Park, for example, occupies an area that the 1903 USGS map of the area indicates was swampland, and the early roads around it hug the bottom of a cliff or swing out along the back of the beach.

The loss of the old resort hotels resulted in mostly single-family residential development, but some of the beachfront controlled by the hotels became public property. When New Ocean House burned in 1969, its beach frontage on Puritan Road (now Johnson and Polisson Parks) was acquired by the Town as a primary public access to New Ocean House Beach and Whale's Beach. Part of the former Hotel Preston beach frontage survives as Preston Beach. Public access is through Beach Bluff Park, which was donated to the Clifton Improvement Association by the Blodgett family in 1999.

The inland areas of Swampscott have seen development throughout the 20th century. This has been primarily single-family residential, but there are large-scale townhouse and apartment developments around the Vinnin Square shopping district. The major open space in this area includes the following (a more detailed description of the open space in this area is found in the "V. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest" chapter):

- » The Tedesco Country Club, incorporated in 1903, a private club built on former farmland and wetlands along the Swampscott-Marblehead town line.
- » Jackson Park, built on steep terrain formerly occupied by the Jackson Bros. sawmill. The park was created for passive recreation, but part was taken in 2003 as a site for the new

<sup>109</sup> Swampscott Historical Society website

High School and playing fields.

- » The right-of-way of the former Marblehead Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad runs for about two miles from the Marblehead line and the Marblehead Rail Trail to the Swampscott train station.
- » Two forest preserves, Charles M. Ewing Woods near the Stanley School and the Harold A. King Forest in the extreme northwest corner of the town, were acquired by the Town in 1971 and 1972.
- » Some forested land remains around the quarry on Danvers Road, buffering its activities from the residential areas beyond.
- » Foster Pond and the related wetlands.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### TRANSPORTATION

#### NETWORK

Six roads including Route 1A (Paradise Road) provide access in and out of Swampscott from and to Lynn, Marblehead and Salem:

- » Lynn: Lynn Shore Drive; Route 1A; Essex Street
- » Marblehead: Tedesco Road; Atlantic Avenue; Route 129 (Humphrey Street)
- » Salem: Route 1A

Considering the town occupies a land area of only 3.05 square miles with a population of approximately 14,700 and 50 miles of roadways, the wear and tear on the roads by residents, visitors and those traveling to the surrounding towns is quite intensive. Of note is that road access to Marblehead is either through Salem or Swampscott.

Swampscott is 13 miles from the city of Boston and 10 miles from Logan International Airport. Again, local road surface wear is increased by the number of vehicles traveling from or through

Swampscott to these very popular destinations. Routes 128 and 1, Interstates 93 and 95, and the Massachusetts Turnpike are accessed via Lynn, Peabody via Salem, and Boston.

Although there are six beaches in Swampscott – King’s, Fisherman’s, Whale’s, Eiseman’s and New Ocean House<sup>110</sup>, Phillips and Preston (from west to east) – the summer traffic does not increase substantially from that during the rest of the year. This may be due to the fact that Swampscott has limited public parking as most roads adjacent to the beaches require a resident or recreation sticker thus discouraging out-of-town visitors from frequenting the Town’s beaches. Although the installation of parking meters has been raised occasionally, most recently at a September 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting, the general interest to do so has been low.

All the roads in Swampscott, including the two major through roads of Route 1A and Humphrey Street, are double-laned or one-way. There are no multi-lane roadways in town as there is no need for providing passing lanes, nor would there be adequate road width to do so.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Swampscott is served by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Public transportation options provided by the MBTA are the commuter rail, buses, and “The Ride.”

The commuter rail runs seven days a week between Newburyport/Rockport and Boston’s North Station. There are 26 weekday inbound & outbound trains; service runs outbound from 7:00 a.m. to 12:40 a.m. and inbound from 5:45 a.m. to 11:20 p.m. Weekend schedules outbound run from 8:54 a.m. to 11:34 p.m. and inbound from 7:49 a.m. to 10:49 p.m.

The bus lines run from Swampscott to/from Salem, Marblehead and Lynn with service to the commuter line and other buses in Lynn, Wonderland Blue Line and Revere, which then connect to Boston.

There is no bus service within Swampscott to the commuter rail station

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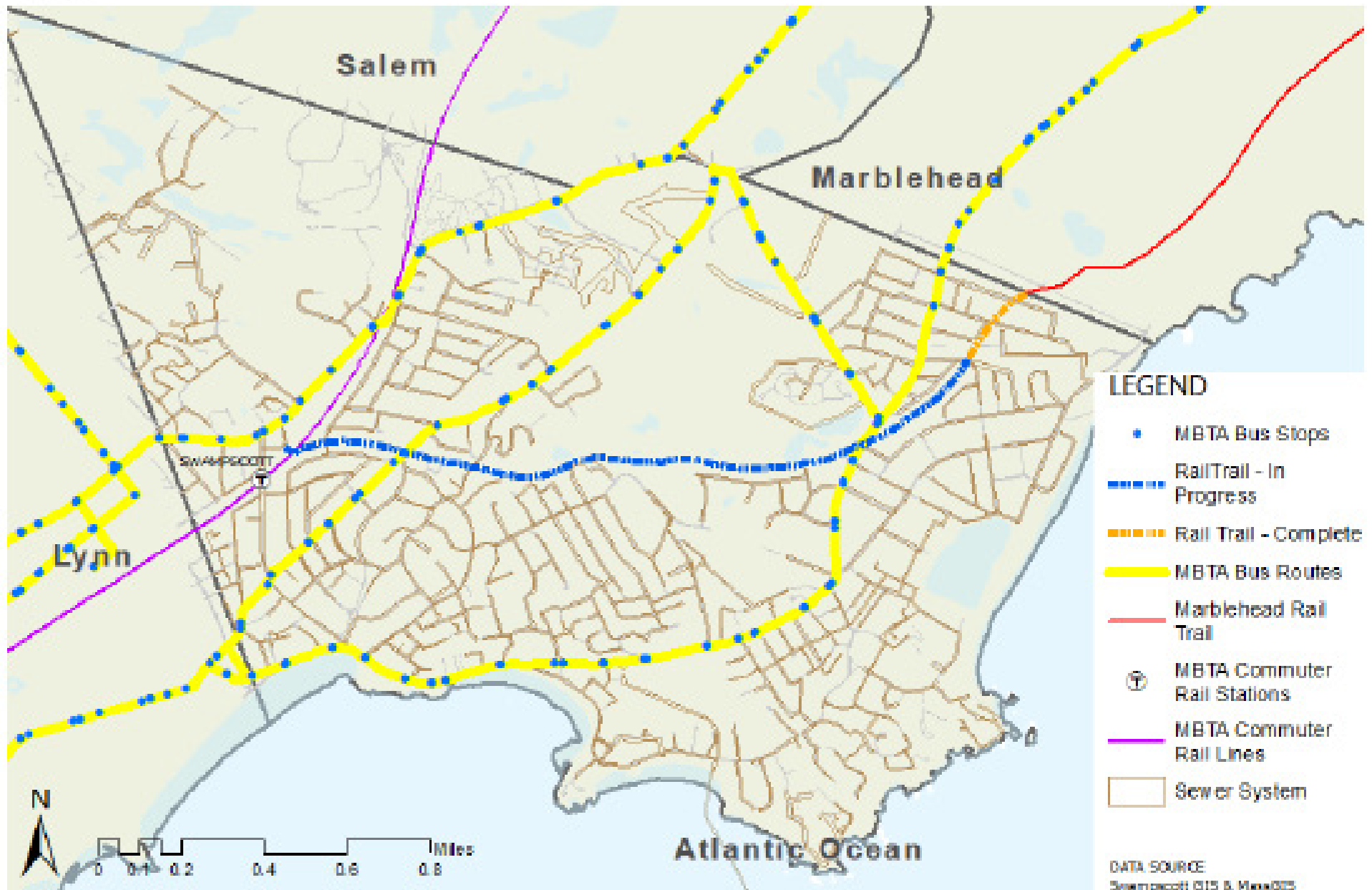
<sup>110</sup> Also commonly spelled “Eisman Beach,” “Eismans Beach,” “Eisman’s Beach,” “Eiseman Beach,” and “Eisemans Beach.” The portion in front of Johnson Park was recently renamed to “New Ocean House Beach.”





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 3 - EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE



as buses are not allowed to travel on Burrill Street, the access road to the commuter rail station. This is primarily due to the low clearance commuter rail bridge located on that street. However, there are bus stops on either end of Burrill Street as well as its intersection with Paradise Road, a walk of five minutes to the commuter rail station.

“The Ride” provides door-to-door service to eligible people who cannot use general public transportation because of a physical, cognitive or mental disability. The area covered by “The Ride” is generally the same as that provided by public transportation. This service runs daily from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) also covers Swampscott.

Swampscott does not have nor are there plans to have a commuter boat service. The closest commuter boat service into Boston is in Salem at 10 Blaney Street. There is also a commuter boat in Winthrop. Proposed development of a commuter boat in Lynn on Blossom Street off of the Lynnway is ongoing.

#### INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL MODES

The Swampscott Harbor at Fisherman’s Beach is extremely busy during the summer months. Boaters and kayakers alike share the open waters whether staying within the harbor, venturing out to other harbors, fishing, or just enjoying the serenity and solitude that is so plentiful.

Swampscott provides many bikers, walkers and runners with beautiful ocean views along Humphrey Street. In the summer of 2020, the Town of Swampscott constructed the very first segment of the Swampscott Rail Trail. This segment connects to the Marblehead and Salem Rail Trail systems and is part of the East Coast Greenway bike trail system that stretches 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida, connecting our nation’s most populated corridor. Swampscott continues to work on the design and implementation of the remainder of the trail that will connect our neighborhoods and will offer a safe place for bicyclists, walkers, runners, and more — of all ages and abilities — to commute and exercise. The desire for the rail trail has been supported by a number of Town Meeting votes as early as the 1970’s. More information on the status of this project can be found later in the plan.

The 2012 community survey determined that, of the eight most resident-visited open space areas, the majority are accessed via walking. The 2020 community survey showed an increased desire for pedestrian improvements in general, including sidewalk upgrades. Public transportation is not widely used within the town, but to travel outside of Swampscott.

Due to Swampscott’s size of 3.05 square miles and its triangular dimensions of approximately 1.5 miles by 2.33 miles by 2.75 miles, walking and biking within Swampscott is not out of the ordinary.

#### WATER SUPPLY

All water for Swampscott comes from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) via the Quabbin Reservoir, which is located in Western Massachusetts, after being treated at a plant in Marlboro. It travels through an 18” wide pipe to Weston where it branches off into a 10” wide pipe eventually reaching Swampscott via a 16” water main on New Ocean Street.

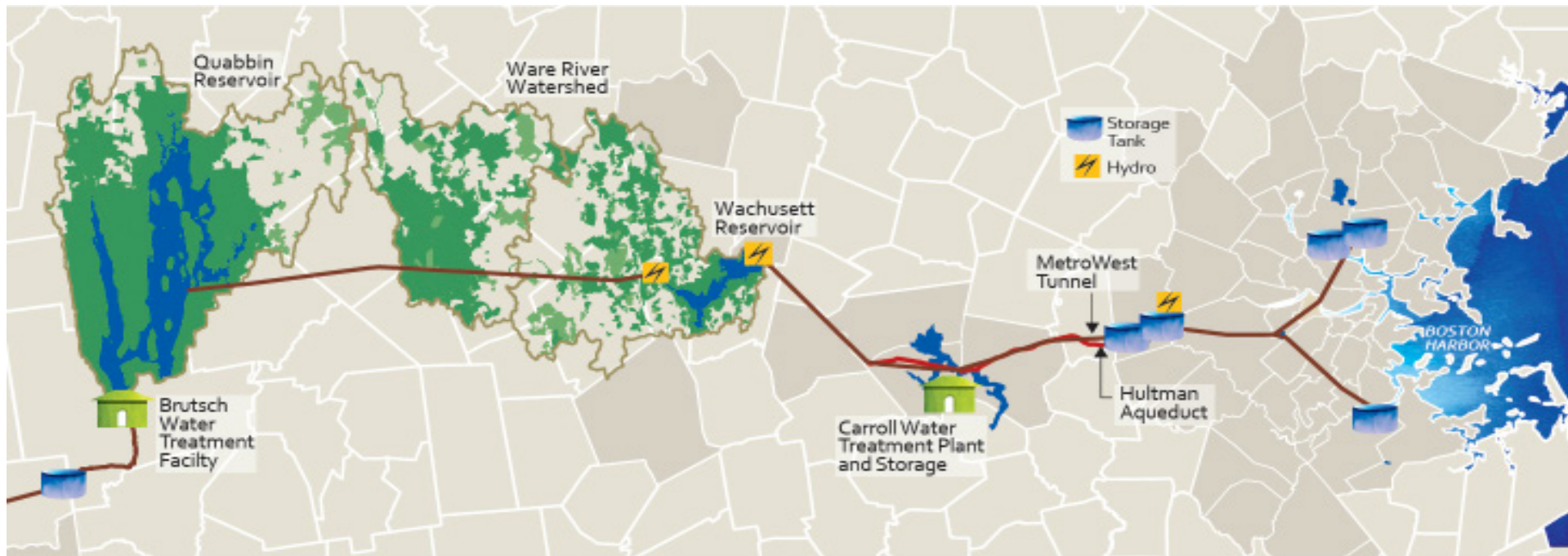
The Town continues to make internal improvements along with taking steps necessary by MWRA to protect the water quality. In 2009 improvements included a town-wide leak detection survey resulting in locating 10 leaks which contributed to an approximate leakage of 160,000 gallons per day. These repairs yielded a reduction of water that the Town purchased.

The quality of the water is tested bi-weekly and no health hazards have been found. Swampscott is concerned about lead and copper in tap water and tests 15 homes semi-annually. In 2009 the 90th percentile level was 3.56 bpb, well below the action level of 15 bpb. In 2010 the level dropped to 2.99 bpb and unaccounted-for-water dropped significantly to just over 5% versus the 2009 results of 10%.

Over the past ten years, the relaying and relining of pipes throughout the town has been occurring. The Town has completed relining the remainder of the 8” main on Humphrey Street and 12” main on Salem Street. Funding was provided by a 0%-interest MWRA loan.

#### SEWER

All of the town’s sewage is collected at the Humphrey Street pumping



The MWRA Water System (from MWRA website, updated 2019)

station. Four pumps then move the wastewater to Lynn for treatment where the process becomes screening, grit removal, pre-aeration, primary treatment, secondary treatment, disinfection, and effluent discharge.

### LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The Swampscott Zoning By-Law establishes residential, commercial and industrial zoning districts as well as the special Planned Development Districts (PDDs). The residential (A) and commercial (B) zones are broken down into four levels based on the type of use allowed as well as the potential density. The PDDs are residential zones created to provide a mix of housing options in Swampscott. There are no zoning districts specifically for open space protection; however, the Town recently passed a by-law update requiring additional considerations for any construction located in areas vulnerable to storm surge and flooding, called the Coastal Area Flood Overlay District<sup>111</sup>. This District corresponds to the most updated FEMA

floodplain maps.

The Subdivision Rules and Regulations for the town incorporate language to encourage open space creation along with connections to existing open space and recreation areas.

A majority of the land in Swampscott is already developed, indicating that the available land in town is currently built-out. There are however large undeveloped areas to note which fall into three categories:

1. Town-owned open space and forest land,
2. Quarry - mining site and buffer forested land (zoned as the I - Industrial district),
3. Tedesco Country Club - golf course.

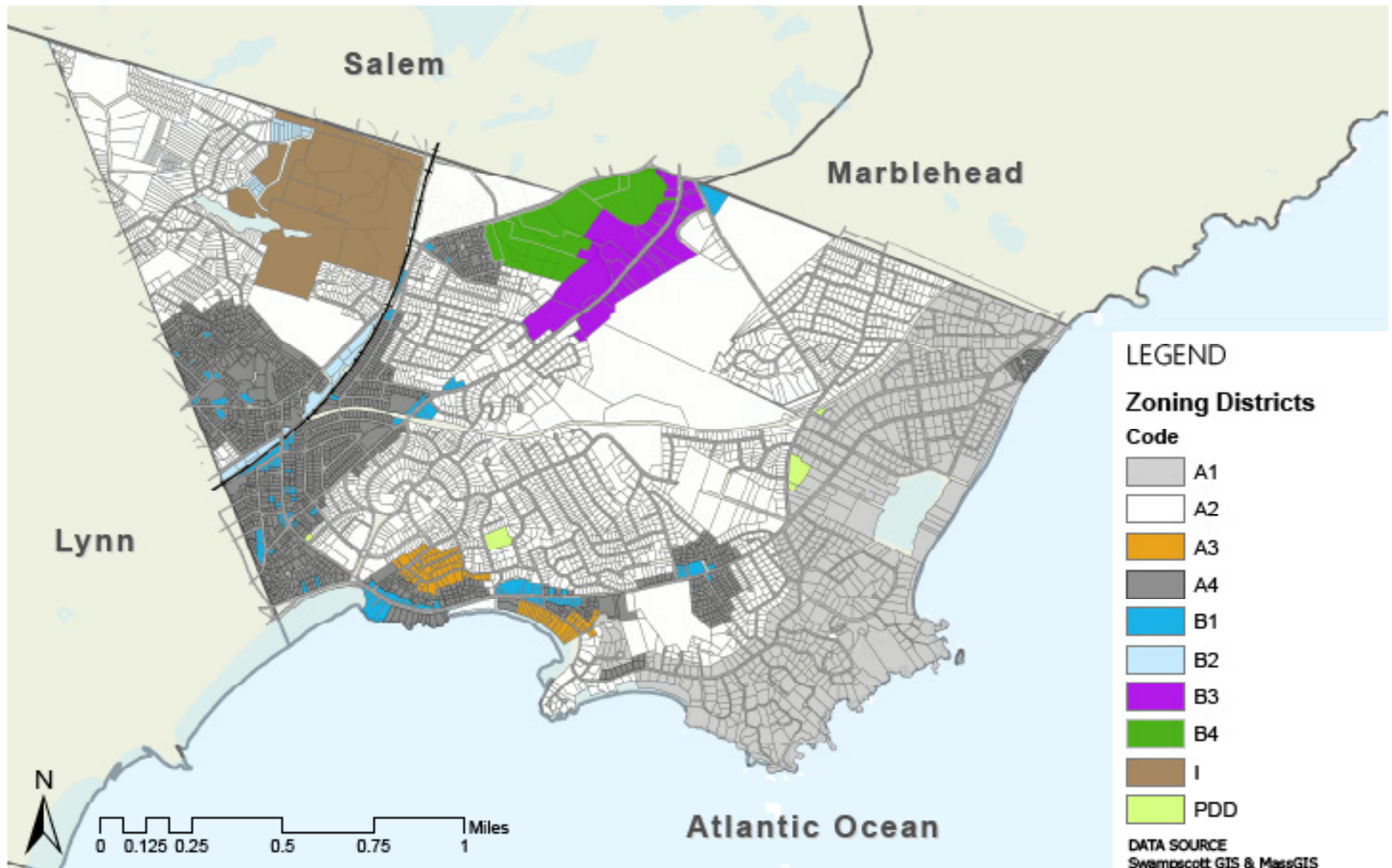
<sup>111</sup> Annual Town Meeting, May 2019.





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 4 - ZONING



The current trend in the community in recent years has been redevelopment of properties rather than development of virgin (undeveloped) land. Some of the recently completed or in-process redevelopment projects to note include:

1. White Court - 35 Littles Point Road  
Redevelopment of former Marion Court College with a three new buildings containing 20 luxury condominium units. The completion of the project will include a parallel easement along Blythswood property line that will be built out into a scenic overlook and will be available for the public to access.
2. Senior Residences at the Machon - 35 Burpee Road  
Redevelopment of the former Machon Elementary School into 38 affordable senior housing units. The project also preserves the original 1920 portion of the building. The developer maintained and improved an existing public pathway from the sidewalk into Jackson Woods, a Town-owned forested area.
3. Fisherman's Watch - 71 Greenwood Avenue  
Redevelopment of former high school with a new 28-unit condominium structure.

Based on the scarcity of undeveloped land and current development patterns, the community will experience more redevelopment than new development in the future.

# IV. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

## **GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY<sup>90</sup>**

### **GEOLOGY**

Swampscott's landscape is best understood by an analysis of its origins. The flow of watercourses, type of soils, direction and steepness of slopes, and even types of vegetation and wildlife have all been determined by the geologic history of the region.

The surficial geology of New England is the result of the advance and retreat of glacial ice sheets during the Pleistocene epoch, 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago. The preexisting mantle cover of soil and weathered rock was probably largely removed by the most recent glacial ice advance and the bedrock abraded and scoured. It's possible that some older glacial sedimentary deposits from earlier ice advances are preserved beneath younger sediments. As the glacial ice melted and retreated, it deposited this debris in new patterns: 1) poorly-sorted till deposits laid directly over bedrock; 2) more well-sorted sedimentary outwash deposits which were transported by glacial streams and/or which formed various terrace or delta formations on the edges of glacial lakes; and 3) finer sedimentary deposits which settled to form the flat bottoms of glacial lakes and ponds. Swampscott's geologic history includes variations of all three formations.

### GLACIAL TILL FORMATIONS

As shown on the map of surficial geology from the 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan<sup>91</sup>, glacial till over bedrock occurs most prominently as an irregular spine that bisects Swampscott in a northwest/southeast direction. These bedrock/glacial till formations constitute the southeastern tip of a massive formation that extends northwesterly into Salem, Peabody, Lynn and beyond. Glacial till

consists of unconsolidated (not in layers) sand, gravel, clay and silt deposits which were laid directly over bedrock by the receding glaciers. In Swampscott, this layer is very thin in most locations and exposed bedrock outcroppings are common.

In the Harold A. King Forest, there exists extensive evidence of a "terminal moraine," a mass of large boulders left standing as the ice sheet melted. These large boulders deposited directly by the glacier are known as "glacial erratics." The accompanying cross-sections illustrate current geological theory of how glacial till landscape – such as those found in the upland areas of Swampscott – were formed many thousands of years ago.

Because of the high silt and clay content of till and because bedrock is close to the surface in the till areas of Swampscott, the internal drainage of these soils is very poor. Surface runoff from these soils tends to be faster, as rain water is not as easily absorbed as it is in more permeable soils.

Due to serious flooding issues in Swampscott, it would be prudent to institute a program that would encourage the use of permeable soils wherever possible.

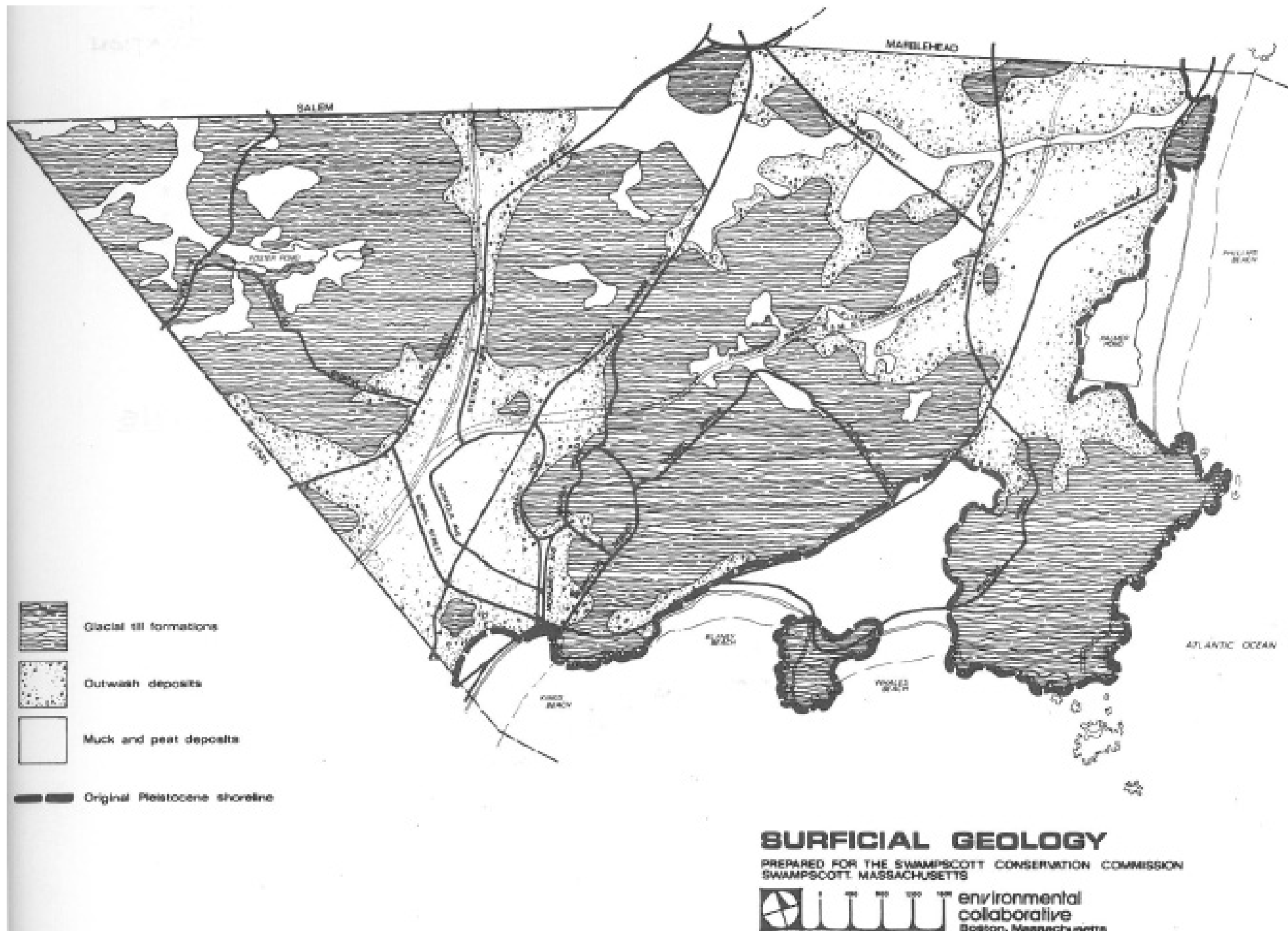
### OUTWASH DEPOSITS

Outwash deposits occur in Swampscott along the base of till deposits. They were formed by the depositions of glacial streams which carried sand and gravel from the glaciers and deposited them in graded layers in fan-shaped or delta formations at the base of these ice blocks.

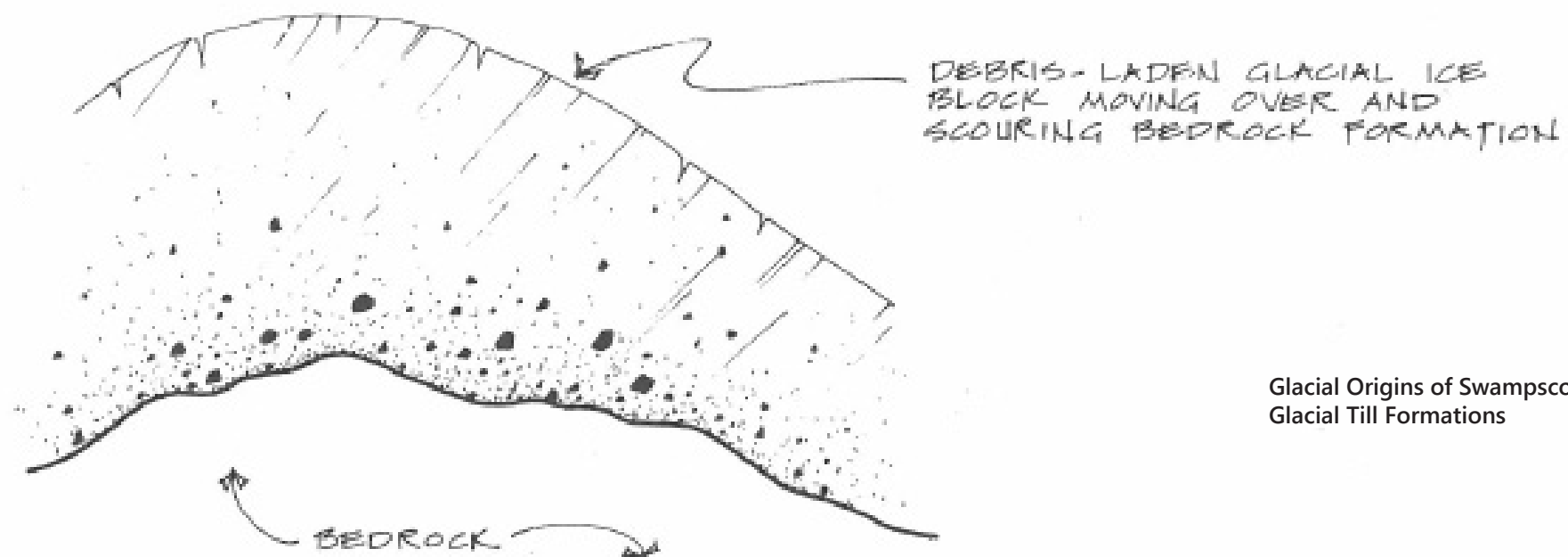
Because the washing action of streams has removed the silt and clay from outwash deposits, the remaining layered coarser material comprises the most permeable soils. These are the soils which are the most productive aquifers and have the highest ground water yields.

23 1983 OSRMP; with edits by Prof. Malcolm Hill, Northeastern University

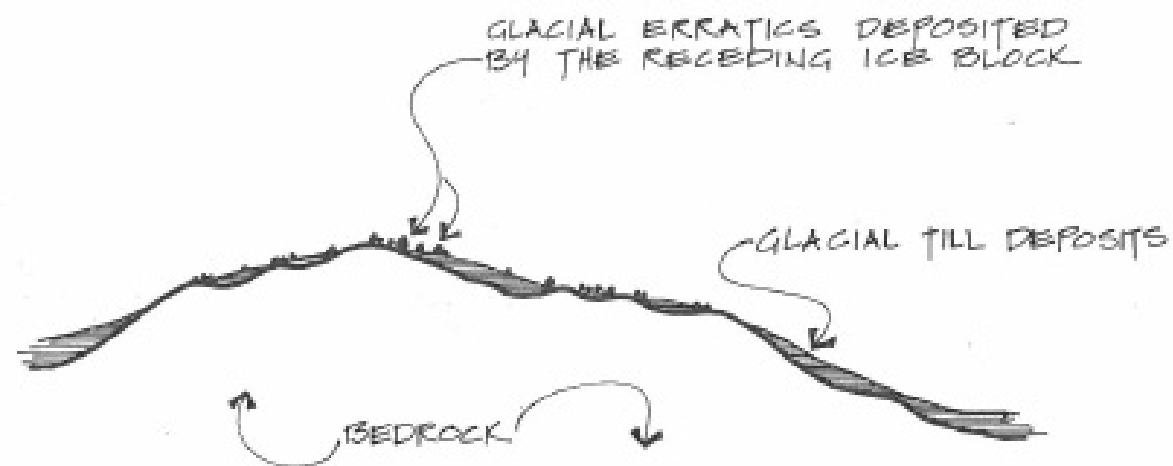
91 As of this Plan, updated geographic information system (GIS) data has not been developed by the U.S. Geological Survey for the Metro Boston quadrangle, which includes Swampscott.



Images on this and next two pages are sourced from the 1983 Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

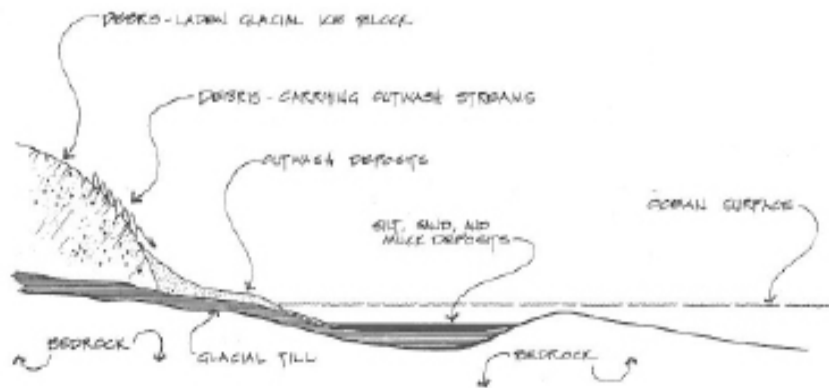


Glacial Origins of Swampscott's  
Glacial Till Formations

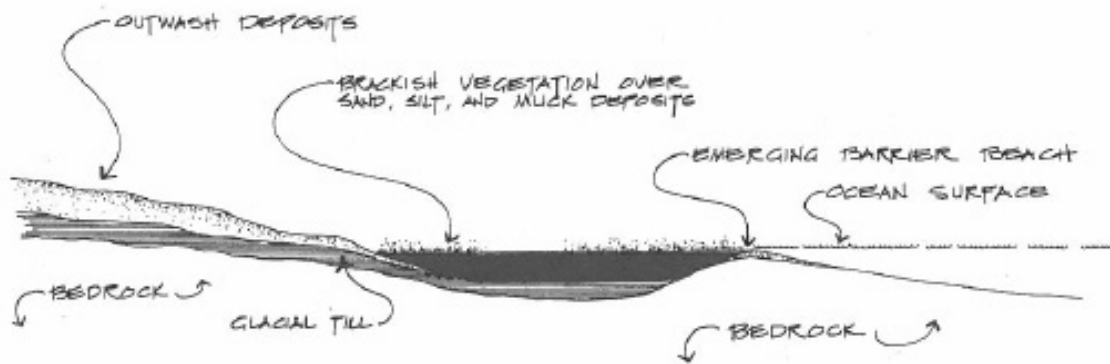


Post-Glacial Swampscott Till  
Formations

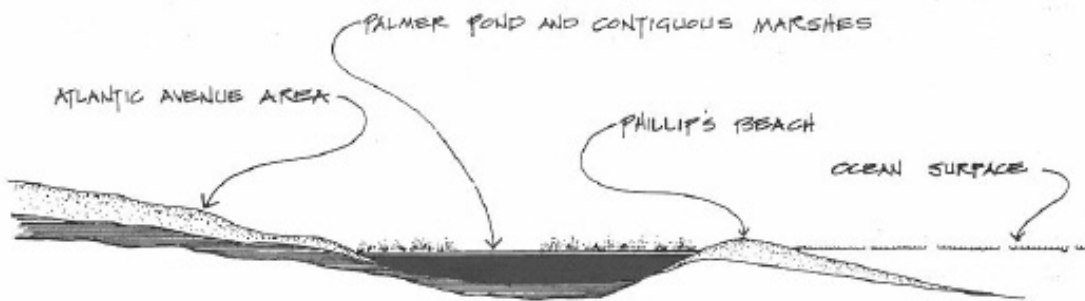




Glacial Origins of Swampscott's Coastal Marshes



The Emerging Coastal Marsh Landscape



Post-Glacial Swampscott Coastal Landscape

### MUCK AND PEAT DEPOSITS

These deposits are the result of the final stages of eutrophication of small glacial ponds in Swampscott. Today, these prehistoric ponds are the town's wetlands. Most of these are covered with standing water only during the wet spring months. The various types of Swampscott's wetlands are explained more fully in the section on wetlands.

### SURFICIAL GEOLOGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Because it provides an historical perspective of landscape, a study of surficial geology can assist in recognizing the interrelationship of environmental elements. The drainage characteristics of a landscape, for example, are not only apparent in the course of streams but are a function of soil permeability, slopes, vegetation cover, locations and types of wetlands. By recognizing the limits imposed by the dictates of natural forces, human kind's negative impact on the landscape can be minimized, with beneficial results to both people and the environment.

There are areas in Swampscott that should not be developed because of natural forces, waves from hurricanes and flooding.

### SOILS

Information on soils in Swampscott is best found in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Custom Soil Resource Report for Essex County, Massachusetts, Southern Part and from the Marblehead Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2012.

There are two general soil types in Swampscott: Chatfield-Hollis-Rock Outcrop association and Urban land-Udorthentis association. These general soil types match those found in the neighboring communities of Lynn, Marblehead, and Salem.<sup>92</sup>

The Marblehead Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2012 describes these two soil types very well.

The Chatfield-Hollis-Rock Outcrop association consists of loam and is moderately deep or shallow, gently sloping to steep grade and can be well drained or somewhat excessively drained. This soil forms low irregular hills, ridges and plains and often contains common bedrock exposures and

depressions of very poorly drained soils. In Swampscott, this soil type exists in woodlands but also in residential areas as well as swamps and marshes.

The other predominant type of soil is called Urban land-Udorthents association and describes areas where soils have been altered or obscured by urban works or structures; or where soil material has been excavated or deposited. Urban land consists of nearly level to moderately steep areas where buildings, industrial areas, paved areas and railroad yards cover 90% of the surface area. These areas are used primarily for commercial, industrial or residential purposes. Udorthents consists of areas from which soil has been removed and areas on which soil has been deposited. These areas can support vegetation and are used primarily as athletic fields, playgrounds, cemeteries or lawns as well as road building. Udorthents soils are water permeable with ranges from slow to very rapid and consistent of gravel, cobblestones, stones and boulders.

Soil patterns are complex. One area may contain more than one classification. In the USDA NRCS Custom Soil Resource Report, there are 21 soil classifications found in Swampscott. "The object of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landform segments that have similar use and management requirements."

### TOPOGRAPHY

As shown on the accompanying map of topography (Map 5 - Soils & Geologic Features), Swampscott's landforms below the 50 foot contour are relatively flat. This lower-lying area approximately defines the extent of outwash soil deposits in the town.

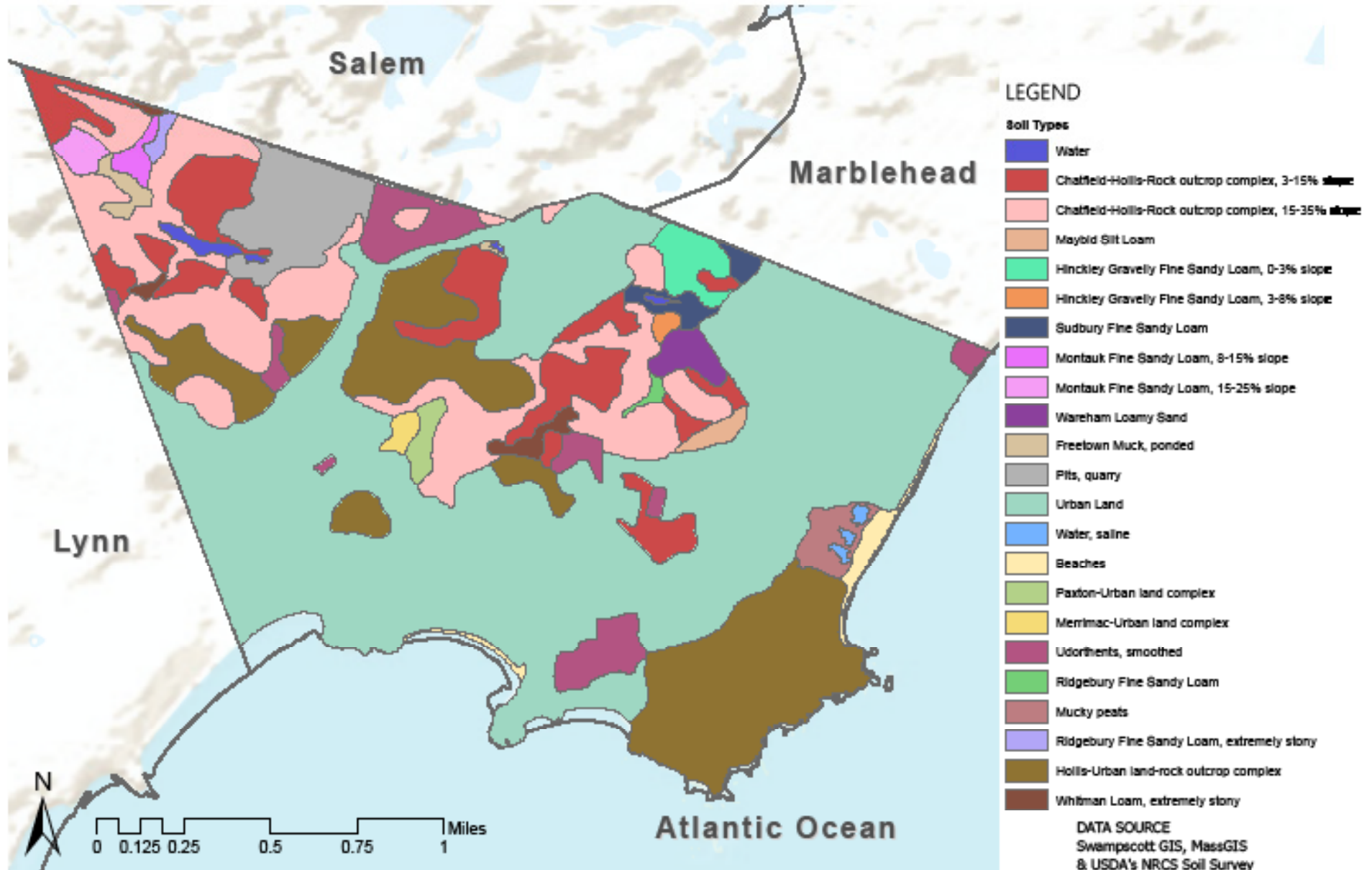
Above 50 feet in elevation, land forms become much more erratic and uneven, due to the underlying bedrock, thinly covered with till deposits. These bedrock formations also account for steep slopes that rise up above Humphrey Street, continuing in an irregular pattern to the west. Swampscott has a great variety of landscape which can be divided into three main categories based on the town's geologic history

<sup>92</sup> "Custom Soil Resource Report for Essex County, Massachusetts, Southern Part"



# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 5 - SOILS & GEOLOGIC FEATURES



as described in more detail in the next section: the upland rock area, the outwash area and the coastal area.

## **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

### **UPLAND ROCK**

The upland rocky till area, in comparison with the outwash and coastal areas has a smaller, more intimate scale due to its many hills and valleys. In the upland area west of the railroad, this quality is reinforced by the extensive woodland growth. Even the open expanse of Foster Pond, because of its high embankment, has a narrow, constricted appearance. The area generally has a feel of remoteness and the large wetland areas and glacial boulder fields add a distinctive quality to the landscape.

Most of the remaining upland area east of the railroad is built up but still retains a feeling of enclosure. On the hills nearest the shore, however, the landscape suddenly opens up to reveal the ocean below and a breathtaking view of Nahant Bay, Nahant, and beyond it the large sweep of Massachusetts Bay.

### **OUTWASH PLAIN**

The outwash plain area is relatively undifferentiated in comparison. In the Humphrey Street area the plain is walled in by the steep cliffs of bedrock on one side and the unseen ocean on the other. In fact the ocean is hardly visible within the greater part of the plain area, for small changes in elevation, vegetation and residences are enough to block it out; and only at the opening on Salem Street passing through the Tedesco Country Club does the gently rolling character of the plain become apparent and its particular virtues enjoyed. All other major areas of the plain in town have been built upon.

### **COASTAL**

The plains end abruptly at the beaches along the coast, or rather, the series of beaches, for each section of beach is framed by rock outcroppings at either end at intervals along the town's coastline.

Fisherman's Beach has a special character being used as the main boat harbor and site of the town's fishing pier. Due to its central location and the park above the seawall, it's perhaps the most accessible

beach, both for oceanfront activities and for visual enjoyment. The feeling of enclosure produced by the small scale and crescent shape of Fisherman's Beach is enhanced by the upland cliffs of ledge and till rising directly behind it. These qualities, combined with the bustle of fishing, commercial and pleasure boating activities, make it one of Swampscott's most attractive beaches for sitting and walking.

King's Beach to the west, presents a wide and open aspect, continuing for twice its Swampscott length into Lynn. Like Fisherman's Beach, it lies alongside the town's central artery and is easily accessible to both Swampscott residents and out of town bathers. Directly across the street is Linscott Park, with its spacious lawn in a grove of shade trees.

East of Fisherman's Beach, around Lincoln House Point, are Whale's, New Ocean House, and Eiseman's beaches. This shore area was the location of the New Ocean House, the famous resort hotel which burned down in 1969.

The extensive Phillips Point rock outcroppings occur east of Whale's Beach and are perhaps the main barrier to traversing the entire length of Swampscott's coastline. The walk across the rocks is hazardous.

Extending northeasterly from Phillips or Little's Point<sup>93</sup> is the mile long expanse of Phillips Beach. Except for Palmer Pond, the entire area is built up with larger single family homes.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

### **SURFACE WATER RESOURCES**

Swampscott is a roughly 3.05 square mile "pie slice" shaped piece of land that fits into the mainland wedged in between Lynn to the south and Salem and Marblehead to the north. The longer, or "crust" end of town borders Nahant Bay on the Lynn side and Massachusetts Bay on the Marblehead side. These waters of the Atlantic Ocean are Swampscott's greatest water resource.

Swampscott is within the North Coastal Watershed.<sup>94</sup> As pointed

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93 Also commonly spelled "Littles Point." For the purpose of this Plan, it will be referred to as "Little's Point."

94 "Massachusetts Coastal Watersheds Map"

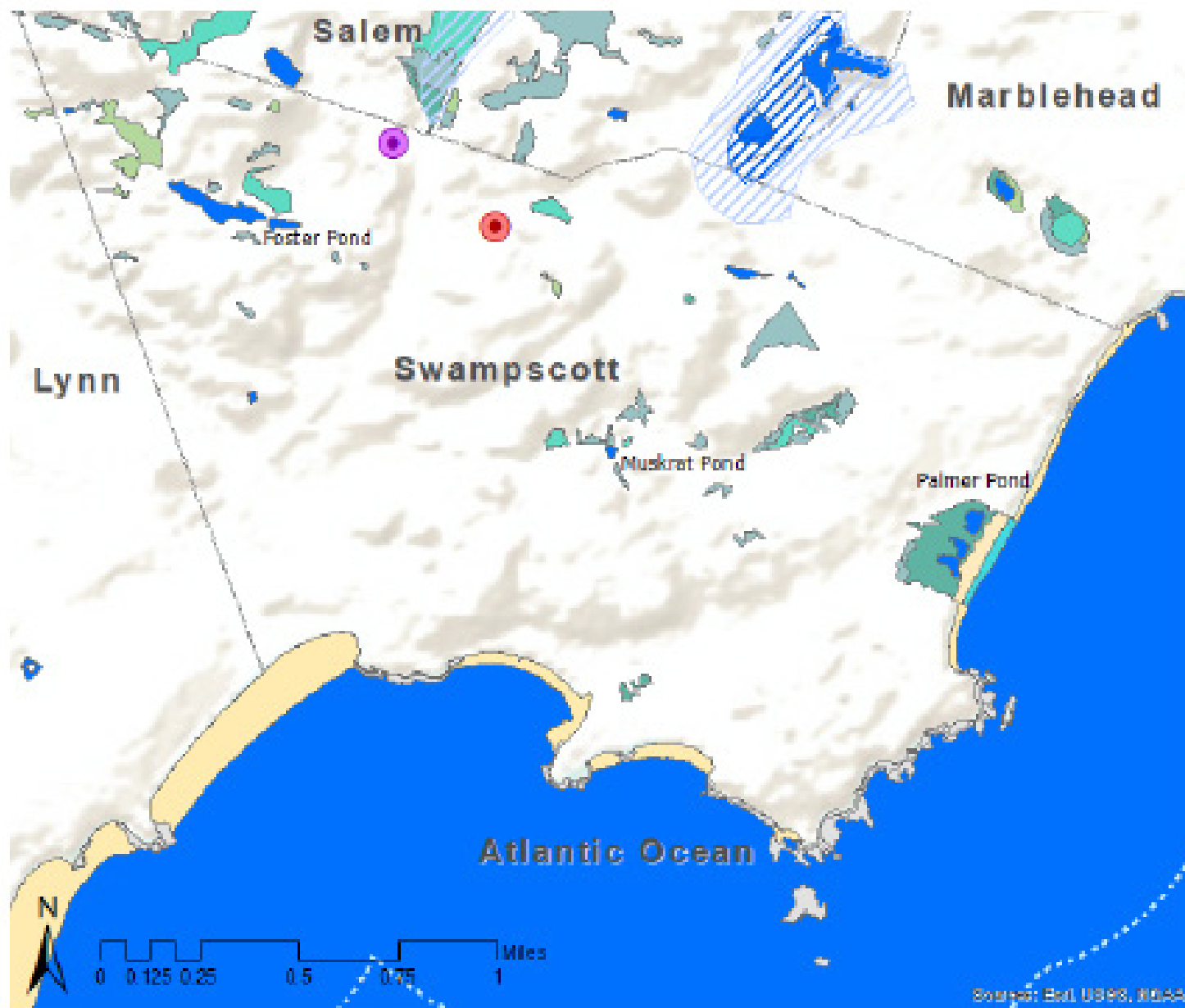


# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 6 - WATER RESOURCES

### LEGEND

- Non-Community Groundwater Source
- DEP - Type II Surfacewater Discharge Permit
- Watershed**
  - NORTH COAST
- Aquifers**
  - High Yield
  - Medium Yield
- Wetlands Typology**
  - Coastal Bank or Sea Cliff
  - Barrier Beach System
  - Coastal Beach
  - Bog
  - Coastal Dune
  - Deep Marsh
  - Shallow Marsh, Meadow or Fen
  - Open Water
  - Rocky Intertidal Shore
  - Salt Marsh
  - Shrub Swamp
  - Tidal Flat
  - Wooded Swamp Deciduous
  - Wooded Swamp Coniferous
  - Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees
  - Barrier Beach-Coastal Beach
  - Barrier Beach-Coastal Dune
  - Barrier Beach-Marsh
- DATA SOURCE**  
Swampscott GIS, MassGIS &  
Mass Dept. of Envir. Protection



Sources: ERI, USGS, NOAA



out by Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (OEEA),<sup>95</sup> “[t]he southern reaches of the watershed [where Swampscott is located] consist of an irregular coastline of rocky peninsulas, interspersed with embayments, pockets of salt marsh and vibrant estuaries.” In Swampscott, public access to the ocean is primarily achieved through several beaches.

#### BEACHES

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Essex National Heritage Commission’s Swampscott Reconnaissance Report<sup>96</sup> describes the string of beaches along the Swampscott coastline as follows:

Beginning at the Lynn-Swampscott line is **King’s Beach** which extends along the shore in Lynn to the gateway of Swampscott and forms a deep cove at the beginning of the commercial strip along Humphrey Street. A boulevard with new concrete walking surface, lighting and benches has been constructed along King’s Beach in Lynn... The only pedestrian area at the town line in Swampscott is Driscoll Park, adjacent to the beach... It has a brick terrace at the edge of the beach and includes the Thomas H. Driscoll Memorial Flagpole, benches and raised planters. [This beach has been a viewing spot for annual Fourth of July fireworks display.] King’s Beach terminates at Black Will’s Cliff. On the east side of the Cliff is a small park owned by St. John the Evangelist Church. This park extends from Humphrey Street to the coast and ends at a point high above the sea. Tall pines filter the view.

**Blaney Beach and Reservation** comprises public and private beach, including **Fisherman’s Beach**, the Fish House (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), Chaisson Park and the Fish House Pier also referred to as the Town Pier. Several important memorials are located in Chaisson Park at the western end of Fisherman’s Beach, including a War of 1812 cannon, an aviation sculpture and the Seaman’s Memorial, which is the anchor from the Tedesco, the ship that sank off

Galloupes Point in 1857. Fisherman’s Beach traditionally is known for its association with 19th century painters. Today, local fishermen and lobstermen still use the Fish House and the Swampscott Yacht Club meets on its second floor. The beach is enjoyed by beach goers and is the site for events such as the annual Swampscott Yacht Club’s Blessing of the Fleet and Duct Tape Regatta as well as the annual New Year’s Day Polar Beach plunge.

**Whale’s Beach** is a wide crescent shaped beach that extends from Lincoln House Point to Galloupes Point. Two parks are associated with this beach: Paul A. Polisson Park on the western side of the beach and Richard B. Johnson Park centered along the beach front. Plans are currently ongoing for design and renovation of Johnson Park. The parks and the beach are accessible from Puritan Road and local residents can park at Phillips Park on Humphrey Street when using the parks and Whale’s Beach. Polisson Park is named after a prominent resident, Paul A. Polisson. Johnson Park, named after another prominent Swampscott citizen, Richard B. Johnson, is land once owned by the New Ocean House, a large hotel that was a summer resort until it burned in 1969. The northeasterly end of this beach is called **Eiseman’s Beach or New Ocean House Beach**.

**Phillips Beach** extends from Little’s Point to the Marblehead line. A private beach club uses part of the beach north of the brackish Palmer Pond which lies between Atlantic Avenue and Phillips Beach. The northern most end of Phillips Beach is referred to as **Preston Beach** by local residents. The land for Beach Bluff Park was donated by the Blodgett family in memory of John and Ruth Blodgett in 1999. A public-private partnership was formed with a group of Marblehead and Swampscott residents, the Clifton Improvement Association, designing the park with a boardwalk, memorial benches, and landscaping with tall coastal grasses, thistle and beach roses.

#### PONDS

There are three ponds of note in Swampscott, as seen in “Map 6 - Water Resources.”

95 “North Coastal Watershed”

96 “Swampscott Reconnaissance Report: Essex County Landscape Inventory, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program” pp. 4-5

The first, located in the marshy area west of Phillips Beach, is **Palmer Pond**. This pond is part of "the 17.75-acre Palmer Pond Wildlife Conservation Area (once known as Cedar Swamp or Long Pond) which is managed by the Swampscott Conservation Commission. The area actually contains two ponds, separated by a raised strip of land that used to be a path. The pond was originally a coastal salt marsh, but drifting sand has created a barrier beach that isolates it from the ocean. However, there have been years when winter storms breached the sand barrier and flooded the pond with salt water. Occasional fires or storms disrupt the sand-covered surface of the land and reveal layers of peat, laid down when the area was a marsh."<sup>97</sup>

The DCR Essex National Heritage Commission's Swampscott Reconnaissance Report<sup>98</sup> further describes Palmer Pond:

This brackish pond is a wildlife sanctuary (red-winged blackbird often seen) with its cat-o-nine-tails, beach plums and rugosa rose along the edge. The overall area of 17.75 acres is picturesque and important for its wildlife as well as an environmental asset.

Unfortunately, a large part of the pond has been taken over by non-native *Phragmites* (or Common Reed), an invasive species.

The second pond, and the only other significant surface water in Swampscott, is **Foster Pond**, a 4.619 acre fresh pond, located up near the pointy end of the Swampscott "pie slice."<sup>99</sup> According to the 1983 Open Space Plan, Foster Pond is a "man-made pond in the northwest corner of town" and "is the largest body of open water in Swampscott." Although earlier Open Space plans indicated that the pond is privately owned, it is understood now that the abutters only own up to the shoreline. Further research is currently being conducted on the ownership of the pond. A portion of land abutting the pond is owned by Aggregate Industries which operates the nearby quarry, and local residents use this land to gain access to the pond.

The 1983 plan states that the pond's water level is managed by the

97 "Beach, Flora, Fauna, Geology"

98 "Swampscott Reconnaissance Report: Essex County Landscape Inventory, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program" p. 8

99 Refer to "Map 6 - Water Resources"

major abutter, Aggregate Industries, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) (p. 78). The pond is within the town's Flood Plain/Wetland Protection District and, while Aggregate Industries discharges into the pond, the discharge is covered by an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit.<sup>100</sup> The federal permit allows the company to discharge storm water, process water, and ground water through one outfall to Foster Pond, and through a second outfall to a wetlands system which includes Thompson's Meadow adjacent to Forest River in Salem, subject to certain pollutant limitations and prohibitions. A Town representative<sup>101</sup> indicated that the DPW manages the pond outlet in that it maintains the discharge spillway and keeps it clear of obstructions to ensure flow through the pond system and into the municipal drain. The pond suffers from excessive algae and pondweed growth during the summer months. This may be due to a combination of factors, including the relatively shallow depth of the pond (4 to 6 feet), the warm weather, and possible nutrients from fertilizer use by abutters. The Town is looking into the possibility of having an aerator installed to help alleviate the problem.

The 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan recommended the covering of the hill of cement at the eastern end with loam and plant with grass and shrubs (p. 78). Current DPW staff is unaware of the referenced "hill of cement" or whether any action was taken there.<sup>102</sup>

The third pond, **Muskrat Pond**, is located near the Middle School and is less than 0.5 acres in size. It's used by the school as an outdoors classroom. As noted, the proposed Rail Trail will go past the pond. Invasive species (such as Bittersweet, Knotweed, etc.) have taken over the area around the pond and the old rail bed.

## WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENTS OF SURFACE WATERS

### NAHANT BAY

Under the Massachusetts Water Quality Standards,<sup>103</sup> the

100 NPDES Permit No. MA0001830, dated May 1, 2008.

101 January 16, 2013 e-mail exchange with Victoria A. Masone, P.E., Town of Swampscott, Dept. of Public Works

102 January 16, 2013 e-mail exchange with Victoria A. Masone, P.E., Town of Swampscott, Dept. of Public Works

103 Under federal law, states are required to establish water quality standards for waterbodies located within the state. A water quality standard establishes

Massachusetts and Nahant Bays, are classified as "Class SA"<sup>104</sup> which means they are:

designated as an excellent habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife and for primary and secondary recreation. In approved areas they shall be suitable for shellfish harvesting without depuration<sup>105</sup> (Open Shellfish Areas). These waters shall have excellent aesthetic value (emphasis added). See 314 C.M.R. 4.00

To support these Class SA designated uses, the water quality standards set certain criteria that the water bodies in that classification must meet, for instance, and as relevant to Nahant Bay, criteria relating to the amount of fecal coliform bacteria that can be in the water.

According to the US EPA, the water quality of Nahant Bay (which is defined as waters landward of an imaginary line drawn between Galloupes Point, Swampscott, and East Point, Nahant) is labeled "Category 5" which means it is "impaired or threatened for one or more uses..."<sup>106</sup> Specifically the 2010 Waterbody Report for Nahant Bay<sup>107</sup> notes that the designated use of "shellfishing" is "impaired," and that the cause of the impairment is pathogens, in particular "fecal coliform."<sup>108</sup>

The report notes that probable sources of the bacteria contamination

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"designated uses" for each water body (e.g., recreation, water supply, aquatic life, shell fishing, agriculture) and the "water quality criteria" necessary to protect those uses (specific numeric pollutant concentrations and general narrative requirements).

104 The Massachusetts water quality classifications for coastal and marine waters, from highest to lowest designations, are: Classes SA, SB, and SC. Under state water quality standards certain waters can be designated as "Outstanding Resource Waters," however, none of Swampscott surface waters are so designated. See: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/images/itd/massgis/datalayers/orw.jpg>

105 Depuration is used to treat shellfish with low levels of contamination. It involves placing the harvested shellfish into tanks of high quality water so they will purge any contaminants stored in their gut.

106 "Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status Swampscott, MA" map

107 "Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters," "Summary of Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status in Massachusetts - Swampscott, MA," and "2010 Waterbody Report for Nahant Bay"

108 Fecal coliform bacteria are indicators of fecal contamination and of the potential presence of pathogens associated with wastewater or sewage sludge.

are: combined sewer overflows (called "CSOs"),<sup>109</sup> discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (called "MS4s"), marine and boating pumpout releases, marina and boating sanitary on-vessel discharges and unpermitted discharges of domestic waste.

**Contamination from CSOs:** There is a combined sewer overflow that discharges into Stacey Brook in Lynn. This culverted brook, in turn, ultimately discharges to King's Beach and Nahant Bay. The Lynn Water & Sewer Commission is proceeding with sewer separation work which will result in the elimination of the outfall.

**Contamination from Storm Sewers:** There is also bacterial contamination from storm drains owned by the town that get into Stacey Brook and ultimately King's Beach.<sup>110</sup>

A report submitted in July 2012 by the Town's consultant, Kleinfelder,<sup>111</sup> notes that the town:

owns and operates separate sewer, underdrain, and storm drain systems. It has been documented that the underdrain system is largely contaminated by the adjacent separate sewer system due to defects in both systems. In addition, portions of the drainage system which discharge into Stacey's Brook and ultimately King's Beach, are contaminated by the separate

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109 Combined sewer overflows, or CSOs, were built as part of sewer collection systems that were designed to carry both sewage and stormwater in the same pipe. When there is not a lot of stormwater, this mix is transported to a wastewater treatment plant where it is processed. However, after heavy rainfall or snowmelt, stormwater and sewage overload the system. Without CSOs, this mix would back up into homes, businesses, and public streets. Among other things, pathogens are in the CSO discharges.

110 The Town of Swampscott's storm sewers discharges are covered by a federal "general" permit (that is, a permit that covers more than one community). Specifically, on May 1, 2003, the U.S. EPA issued a Final General Permit for Stormwater Discharges From Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems ("MS4 General Permit"). Under the permit each regulated community is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program (called a SWMP) to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. While that permit expired, it continues in effect pending reissuance of a new permit (a process which is pending). See: [http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/draft\\_manc\\_sms4gp.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/draft_manc_sms4gp.html)

111 "Stacey's Brook Contamination Elimination for The Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts"



sewer system. The Town operates a chlorination station to disinfect the stormwater prior to discharge onto King's Beach.

According to the report, the most recent investigation work, completed in the spring of 2012, has identified several specific contamination sources to the drain in two locations: Essex Avenue and Banks Road areas. The report includes a conceptual design approach for mitigating the identified stormwater contamination sources from these areas, noting, however, that successful mitigating of contamination sources identified in these areas may not eliminate all sources of contamination. Further evaluation of water quality will be required after implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.<sup>112</sup>

The Department of Health samples drainage outfalls at King's Beach once a week from mid-June through Labor Day for fecal coliform. Results are submitted to DEP as part of the 2008 Consent Order.<sup>113</sup> These samples are representative of the water quality in Stacey's Brook and the associated drainage area. During the summer of 2020, no beaches needed to be closed<sup>114</sup>.

#### NO DISCHARGE AREA

Boat sewage can contain bacteria and viruses, nutrients, and chemicals that can be harmful to water quality and public health. No Discharge Areas (NDAs), are designated bodies of water where the discharge of all boat sewage, whether treated or not, is prohibited. The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) works with coastal communities to develop applications to the U.S. EPA for no discharge status, and supports efforts to increase boat pumpout facilities to make proper sewage disposal more convenient for boaters. Swampscott (along with Nahant, Lynn, Saugus, and Revere) waters were designated an NDA on March 18, 2009. There are no pump-out facilities in Swampscott; nearby facilities for recreational boats are located in Marblehead.

<sup>112</sup> Work pertaining to the town's sewer and storm drains is being done under several consent orders agreed to by the Town and Commonwealth: January 25, 2007 Administrative Consent Order (ACOP-NE-07-1N001); June 26, 2008 Administrative Consent Order (ACOP-NE-08-1N005); January 24, 2012 Administrative Consent Order (ACOP-NE-12-1N001); and June 7, 2012 Notice of Noncompliance.

<sup>113</sup> See Administrative Consent Order (ACOP-NE-1N005), par. 20, dated June 26, 2008.

<sup>114</sup> Conversation with Health Director, Jeff Vaughan, Aug. 2020.

#### A NOTE ON *PILAYELLA LITTORALIS* ALGAE IN NAHANT BAY

In addition to the impairment of water quality standards caused by fecal coliform, Nahant Bay is subject to:

nuisance conditions generated by [a brown] algae [that] inhibits use of the beaches to their full advantage. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") has been managing the algae, known as *Pilayella littoralis*, on the Lynn beaches for more than 40 years and has contributed over \$300,000 in research and studies ... More research must be done to help establish ways to efficiently control as well as how to handle, remove and dispose of this algae that has plagued our beaches...

The algal mass, which has been in Nahant Bay since at least 1902 and which is unique to the area, is not sewage, nor is it found in polluted areas of the coast, although, like any plant it may grow faster in response to excess nutrients. It is transported toward the shore and ultimately on the beach by prevailing winds, currents, tides, and waves. As the plant material decays on the beach and in the sand it produces an odor. The odor is a sulfide containing gas. There are no documented detrimental health effects from the beach generated odors. Because the application of herbicides to kill it may disrupt healthy marine ecosystems, they are not used to control the algae.<sup>115</sup>

While the DCR maintains the algae at Lynn Shore and Nahant Beach Reservation (DCR property), it does not address the algae problem on Swampscott beaches. The DPW rakes the beaches three times per week during the summer, which may help reduce the algae and bring it down to the outgoing tide.

#### NOTE ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Geographic Response Plans (GRP) are developed to help protect sensitive coastal environments and resources along the Massachusetts coastline in the event of an oil spill into marine waters. These response plans are map-based strategies that can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response. They show responders

<sup>115</sup> "The Brown Algae of Nahant Bay and Broad Sound: Q&A" brochure

where sensitive areas are located and where to place oil spill protection resources. Swampscott is included in the North Shore GRP Project.<sup>116</sup>

#### FOSTER POND

Foster Pond is designated as class B under the state water quality standards.<sup>117</sup> All freshwater ponds in Massachusetts that are not drinking water supply sources are classified as "Class B" waters under Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards regulations.<sup>118</sup> According to these regulations, Class B waters must have "consistently good aesthetic value" and have the following designated uses: "habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation."<sup>119</sup>

Foster Pond is also on the list Massachusetts impaired waters, cited as a "Category 5" and is impaired for Pesticides, in particular DDT.<sup>120</sup> The EPA 2010 Waterbody Report for Foster Pond<sup>121</sup> notes that the "fish consumption" designated use is "impaired" and that the cause of the impairment is "DDT," with the source being unknown.

Fish contaminant monitoring that was conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in October 2002<sup>122</sup> found that "concentrations [of the contaminants] do not appear to be indicative of an ongoing source of these contaminants, but it is feasible that these contaminants may have resulted from historic household use of pesticides in proximity to the pond or other potential pollution sources identified in the request for sampling... The original request for the fish toxics monitoring lists a number of potential sources of contamination including: the NPDES discharger (the quarry), a junkyard, and several Superfund sites" (p.102).

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116 "North Shore Geographic Response Plan - Swampscott Shoreline NS-28"

117 U.S. EPA NPDES Permit issued to Environmental Quality and Real Estate, Aggregate Industries.

118 314 C.M.R. 4

119 314 C.M.R. 4.05(3)(b)

120 "Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters," "Summary of Waterbody Assessment and TMDL Status in Massachusetts - Swampscott, MA," and "2010 Waterbody Report for Nahant Bay"

121 "2010 Water Body Report for Foster Pond"

122 "North Shore Coastal Watersheds 2002 Water Quality Assessment Report"

The report also notes that the "MA DPH reviewed these data and issued the following site-specific fish consumption advisory: "Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant should refrain from consuming any American eel from Foster Pond to prevent exposure of developing fetuses, nursing infants and young children to DDT" and "the general public should not consume any American eel caught from Foster Pond" (p. 102).

While the earlier 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan recommends that work be done to improve water quality (p. 78), it is understood that no action has been taken to address the DDT contamination. There is a sign posted warning about the dangers of fish consumption at Windsor Avenue at the pond outlet.<sup>123</sup>

Aside from the pesticide contamination, the 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan also notes (p. 78) that there is pollution from both nearby septic systems and the industrial activities at the eastern end of the pond. The earlier plan assumes that extension of the sewer system should clear up the former problem. A DPW representative indicated that the sewer was extended to include the entire Foster Pond neighborhood. The final phase of the sewer extension was installation of a force main on Nichols Street, which was completed in 2003. It is this representative's understanding that there are very few homes in the neighborhood that remain on septic systems.<sup>124</sup> As noted previously, the pond suffers from algae / pondweed growth during summer which may be due, in part, to excessive nutrients getting into the pond, likely from fertilizer use.

#### PALMER POND

Palmer Pond, the second largest pond in town and located landward of Phillips Beach, apparently has no water quality impairments.

#### MUSKRAT POND

Muskrat Pond is most likely negatively impacted by runoff from the parking lot and from Forest Avenue.

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123 January 16, 2013 e-mail exchange with Victoria A. Masone, P.E., Town of Swampscott, Dept. of Public Works

124 January 16, 2013 e-mail exchange with Victoria A. Masone, P.E., Town of Swampscott, Dept. of Public Works

## ACCESS TO SURFACE WATER

According to the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program's Swampscott Reconnaissance Report,<sup>125</sup> "there are five public ways to the water including Phillips, Preston, Little's Point, Martin Way and a right-of-way off Puritan Road. In spite of these public ways, access is limited in part due to the lack of parking near these ways and lack of knowledge and perception about the use of these ways. Public views of the waterfront are changing and there is the threat that those views will be compromised. Maintenance of the beaches and their adjoining parks requires investment on the part of the municipality.

Each of Swampscott's beaches and Palmer Pond has at least one publicly-accessible point to reach the waterfront. These access points have been outlined below<sup>126</sup>:

### **New Ocean House / Eiseman's Beach**

- » Pedestrian and vehicle access via curb-cut paved drive between #259 and #273 Puritan Road (DPW vehicles only).
- » Johnson Park, grassy park facing Eiseman's Beach, provides pedestrian access via 2 stairways to beach.\*
- » Beach is located along Puritan Road. There is no parking on Puritan Road. Residents can park behind Phillips Park and cut through right-of-way path to beach.

### **Fisherman's Beach**

- » Land access through boat ramp\* and water access via pier.
- » Additional pedestrian and vehicle access available through entrance between municipal parking lot and Chaisson Park (opposite Greenwood Avenue).
- » There is also access via stairs from Chaisson Park.\*

<sup>125</sup> "Swampscott Reconnaissance Report: Essex County Landscape Inventory, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program" p. 9

<sup>126</sup> Astericked items have also been identified in the "Massachusetts Coast Guide to Boston and the North Shore" by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

- » Public parking is available in the small municipal lot and on Humphrey Street.

### **King's Beach**

- » Located along Humphrey Street near Lynn border.
- » Accessed by stairs off walkway along seawall.\*
- » Vehicular access (DPW only) via ramp at town line.
- » Public parking along Humphrey Street.\*

### **Palmer Pond & Phillips Beach**

- » Ocean Avenue extension: a sandy/rocky curb-cut entrance between the Swampscott Beach Club and Phillips Beach. Provides access onto Phillips Beach.\*
- » A footpath extends off the Ocean Avenue extension, providing access to Phillips Beach and Palmer Pond conservation area.
- » Parking on Ocean Avenue with resident permit.\*
- » Wooden walkway right-of-way to Phillips Beach (rocky end) located between #80 and #86 Phillips Beach Avenue. Pedestrian only.

### **Preston Beach**

- » Beach Bluff Park provides access steps to Preston Beach.\*
- » Beach Bluff Avenue extension: a sandy/rocky curb-cut entrance between Beach Bluff Park and #441 Atlantic Avenue providing access to Preston Beach.
- » Parking on street with resident permit.\*

### **Sandy Beach**

- » Pedestrian and vehicular access is via a small grassy park and via curb-cut drive (Martin Way). Provides pedestrian and vehicular beach access.\*

### Whale's Beach

- » Polisson Park, grassy park facing Whale's Beach, provides pedestrian and vehicular access to beach via abutting sandy/rocky curb-cut entrance (DPW vehicles only).\*
- » Beach is located along Puritan Road. There is no parking on Puritan Road. Residents can park behind Phillips Park and cut through right-of-way path to beach.

### WETLAND RESOURCES

As the earlier 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan noted, "[w]etlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface (Cowardin, December 1979)." They perform essential functions, such as buffers against erosion and sedimentation control, flood protection and abatement; water filtration and purification; fish and wildlife habitat; and providing recreational activities.

Under the Wetlands Protection Act (Massachusetts General Law 131, Section 40) (created in 1965), the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over all of the wetlands in Swampscott and all land within the 100-foot buffer zone adjacent to the waterways and wetlands. Under this law, the Conservation Commission is charged with protecting these natural resources to prevent pollution, protect drinking water, improve flood control, protect wildlife and protect fisheries.

To provide more effective protection of wetlands, at the 1976 annual Swampscott Town Meeting, the Town's zoning by-laws were amended to create a Flood Plain/Wetlands Protection District - "Article IV. Special Regulations, 4.1.0.0. Flood Plain/Wetland Protection Overlay District."

The 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan found that, "[f]or a community of such small geographic size, Swampscott has a wetlands

network with an interesting variety of geologic origins." These wetlands include:

- » Wetlands remaining following the draining and eutrophication of glacial ponds that became impounded in depressions. The largest wetland of this kind in town is within the Harold King Town Forest.
- » Wetlands formed by streams and their floodplains that occurred as a result of the draining of glacial ponds or upland ice formations. When the ice melted and the ponds drained out, these streams became seasonally intermittent, as they are now. An example of such a stream system is the one that extends easterly parallel to the railroad bed at Tedesco Country Club, and One Salem Street property.
- » Wetlands formed when coastal marshes became isolated from the sea through the accumulations of barrier beaches. Palmer Pond is a classic example of such a wetland. The low-lying area west of Phillips Park below Humphrey Street, once known as Cedar Swamp but gradually filled and developed is another example of a such a (former) wetland.

In addition, there are five certified vernal pools<sup>127</sup> in Swampscott.<sup>128</sup> The first four are numbered 2147 – 2150. The first of these four is located near the tennis courts by the Middle School on Forest Avenue, while the other three are clumped together near the east end of Tedesco Golf Course. The fifth certified vernal pool is numbered 2214 and it is located by the parking lot by the Middle School. According to the local Conservation Commission, these vernal pools were originally part of the Tedesco golf course but which Tedesco donated for the school's playing fields.<sup>129</sup> There are also a number of potential vernal pools. See "Map 9 - Plant & Wildlife Habitats" for location of certified

<sup>127</sup> Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rainfall and rising groundwater and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years.

<sup>128</sup> Phone conversation with Jacob Kubler at MA National Heritage and Endangered Species Office, January 18, 2013; see also MassDFW's "Vernal Pools"

<sup>129</sup> Interview with Swampscott Conservation Commission member Nelson Kessler, January 18, 2013.

and potential vernal pools.

According to the 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, “the Swampscott Conservation Commission, in 1972, was one of the first Conservation Commissions in the Commonwealth to undertake a scientific mapping of the town’s wetlands. The work was done by an experienced firm of environmental consultants, and the map has been a useful tool in planning, and in administering the Wetlands Protection Act.

In 1976, the Conservation Commission in conjunction with five other Town boards, finally succeeded, after five unsuccessful previous attempts, in persuading the Town to enact a wetland zoning by-law. The Flood Plain/Wetland Protection District, where recreational uses are encouraged and building is prohibited, was voted in unanimously by Town Meeting. Additional protections for two large wetland and open space areas on the One Salem Street property was secured in July, 1981 through a permanent conservation restriction granted to the Town by the developer of the property.

The Conservation Commission proposed, and in the 1974 Town Meeting adopted, an amendment to the Town’s zoning by-laws which require developers to submit an Environmental Impact Statement for Town boards’ and public inspection before subdivision or use permits are granted.

## DRINKING WATER

Swampscott’s drinking water is supplied by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and not groundwater (see the “Infrastructure: Water Supply” section within the “III. Community Setting” chapter). The closest aquifer is in Salem, a small part of which extends into the Swampscott boundary. See “Map 6 - Water Resources,” however, no zones of contribution have been delineated for the town.

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)<sup>130</sup> for Swampscott shows that there are principally

<sup>130</sup> Flood hazard areas identified on the FEMA FIRM are identified as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). SFHAs are defined as the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1% annual chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-

three flood hazard zones in the town. See “Map 7 - Flood Hazard Zones” for the locations of these flood hazard zones:

- » Zone VE described as “High Risk - Coast Areas” and “having a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.” Zone VE runs along the entire coastline of Swampscott.
- » Zone AO described as “High Risk Areas” and “river or stream flood hazard areas, and areas with a 1% or greater chance of shallow flooding each year, usually in the form of sheet flow, with an average depth ranging from one to three feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.” Zone AO runs along and just north of Puritan Road, and also in small areas by King’s Beach and Palmer Pond.
- » Zone AE described as “High Risk Areas” and as “base floodplain.” Zone AE is in small areas by the Phillips Beach and Preston Beach.

Swampscott’s coastline is vulnerable to sea-level rise and coastal flooding in certain areas, which may be exacerbated by climate change. It should be noted that according to the Union of Concerned Scientists,

Rising sea levels caused by global warming are projected to increase the frequency and severity of damaging storm surges and coastal flooding. What is now considered a once-in-a-century coastal flood in Boston is expected to occur, on average, as frequently as every two to three years by mid-century and once every other year by late-century - under either emissions scenario. Boston has a lengthy history of protecting itself against the sea, but the extra stresses created

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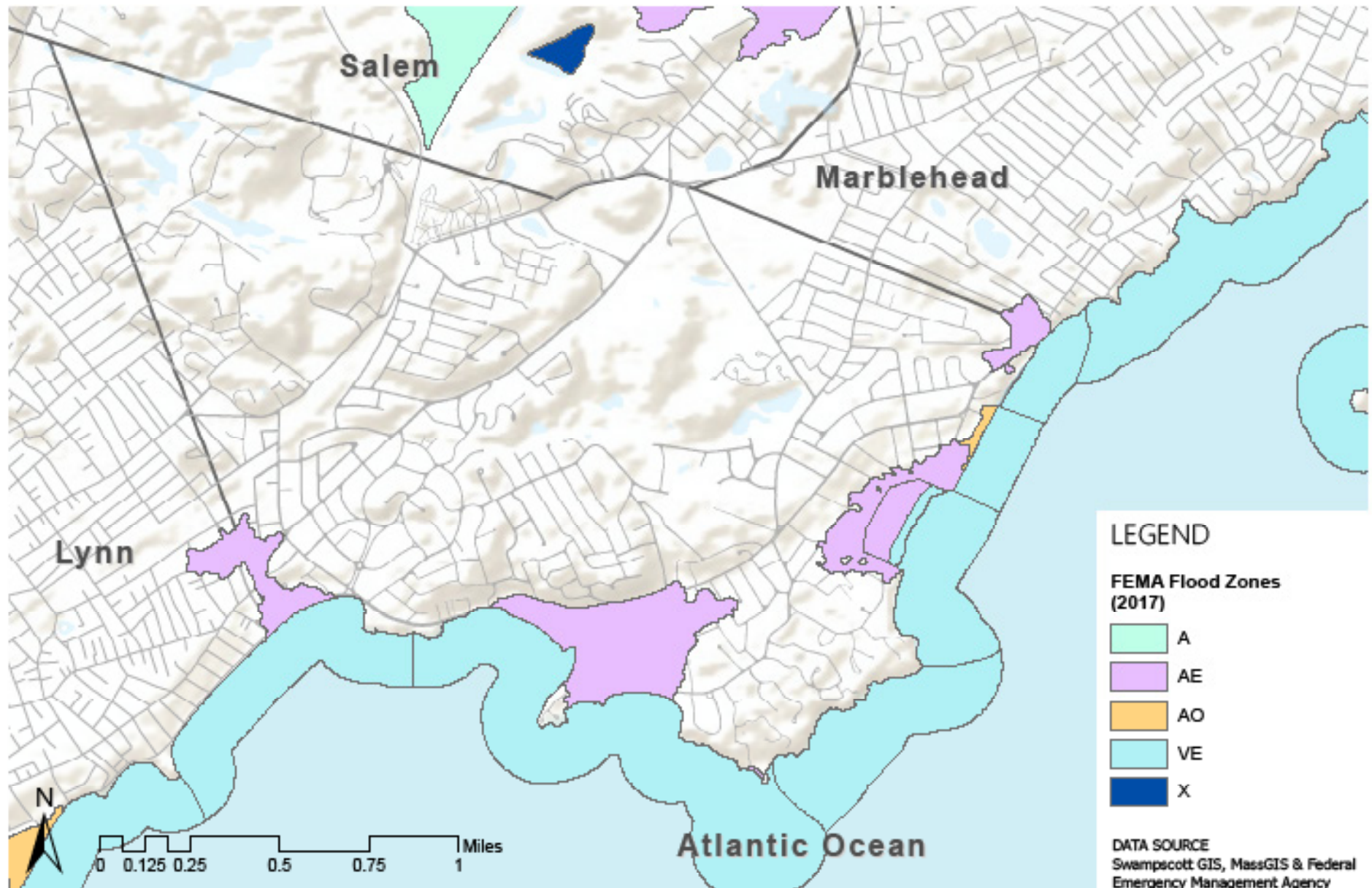
year flood. SFHAs are labeled as Zones A, AE, AH, A1-A30, AE, A99, AR, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/A1-A30, AR/A, V, VE, and V1-V30. Moderate flood hazard areas, labeled as Zone B or Zone X (shaded) are also shown on the FIRM, and are the areas between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2% annual chance (or 500-year) flood. The areas of minimal flood hazard, which are the areas outside SFHAs and higher than the elevation of the 0.2% annual chance flood, are labeled Zone C or Zone X (unshaded).





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 7 - FLOOD HAZARD ZONES



by sea-level rise and more frequent and extensive flooding can be expected to severely tax both new and aging infrastructure and threaten vulnerable neighborhoods in the city and in coastal communities across the state.<sup>131</sup>

On October 4, 2011, there was a strong storm that caused extreme flooding in Swampscott as well as some other North Shore communities. Swampscott police reported the flooding was impacting Paradise Road, Burrill Street, Puritan Road, Humphrey Street, and Atlantic Avenue.<sup>132</sup> In December 2012, Humphrey Street by the Lynn line and Puritan Road in Swampscott had to be closed when high tide brought coastal flooding and rocks and other debris into the street.<sup>133</sup>

Flooding has also impacted other areas of town, including Vinnin Square where the Conservation Commission approved two dredging projects at Tedesco Country Club. This flood-control work, conducted in the Spring of 2013, is intended to improve drainage and provide flood protection for Vinnin Square businesses and nearby residents. There are also stormwater flooding problems on Paradise Road.

In 2016, the Town conducted a Coastal Climate Change Study, produced by Kleinfelder, with the help of a grant from the State's Coastal Zone Management program. Based on the results of modeling sea level rise and increasing storm surge, the report identified four areas of Swampscott that are at risk of coastal flooding: Phillips Park, Phillips' Beach/Palmer Pond, Preston Beach, and Kings Beach. The report also set forth "engineering strategies and order-of-magnitude costs to reduce medium- and long-term coastal flood risks have been developed. Some of these alternatives are focused on preventing flooding of the larger areas that vulnerable assets are located in, and others are focused on adapting individual assets." Additionally, the report recommended changes to local regulations to advance the Town's goal of adapting to and reducing the effects of coastal climate change impacts. These changes include modifications to the Zoning By-laws and Subdivision regulations.

## AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

<sup>131</sup> "Massachusetts: Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast"

<sup>132</sup> "Storm Dumps 2.5 Inches on Lynn, 5.73 on Swampscott"

<sup>133</sup> "Flooding, Sea Debris Close Roads, But Local Officials Relieved"

No Zones of Contribution (ZOCs) to public supply wells are located in the town of Swampscott. There is only a small piece of an aquifer in Salem that extends into the Swampscott boundary. See "DRINKING WATER" section for further information.

## VEGETATION

### GENERAL INVENTORY

For a town only three-square miles in land area, Swampscott contains a range of habitats offering considerable vegetative diversity typical of northeastern Massachusetts. Swampscott's open space vegetation includes mixed forest growth of deciduous trees and conifers and understory species found in a few fragmented hilly areas largely in the northwestern part of the town above 120 feet in elevation. The western section of Swampscott also includes a freshwater wetland that is part of the Harold King Town Forest and six-acre Foster Pond, as well as several vernal pools.

Travelling south and east, the rocky uplands give way to significantly flatter outwash and coastal areas that are almost entirely developed. Most of this land is privately-owned and occupied by single family homes with landscaped yards and turf grass lawns. Prior to residential development, this area was open marshland prone to flooding and small farms. This region also contains the major town turf grass playing fields at Phillips Park utilized for active recreation. At the ocean's edge are six sand beaches facing Massachusetts Bay, the largest of which, Phillips Beach, is bordered on the land side by vegetation associated with strands, as well as brackish Palmer Pond separated from the ocean by a low vegetated dune.<sup>134</sup>

### FOREST LAND

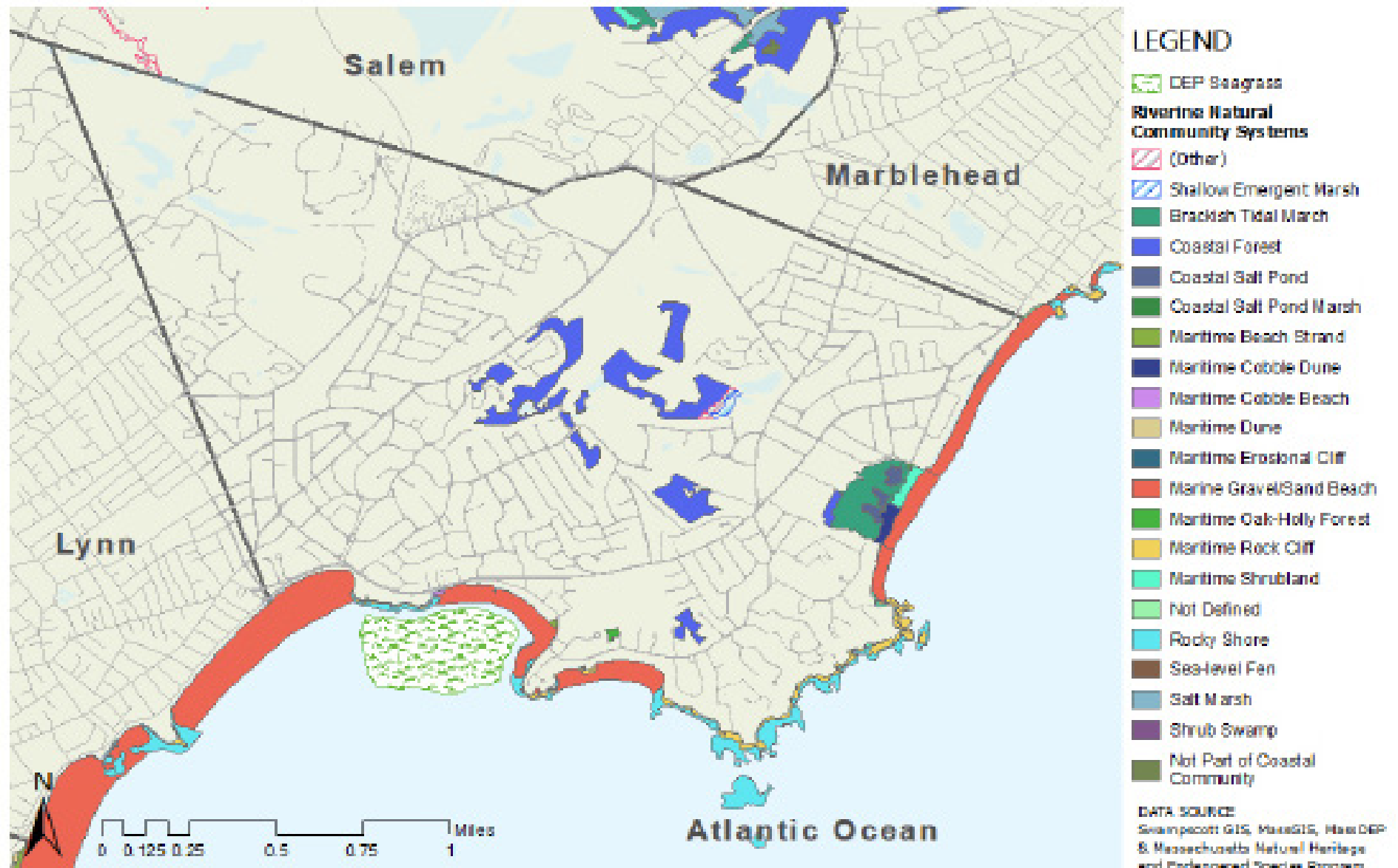
Swampscott's terrain, and indeed all of Essex County, has been settled for so long that there are no extensive forests, nor many very old trees, but it nonetheless contains several wooded areas with second, third and fourth growths. There are three primary forest tracts within Swampscott's borders: Harold King Town Forest, Charles Ewing Woods and Upper Jackson Park. These forested areas are comprised of mixed oak, beech, birch, some hickory and other hardwoods and evergreen stands of white pine, pitch pine and hemlock as well as red cedar.

<sup>134</sup> Interview with Swampscott Historical Commission associate member Louis Gallo, December 2012



# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 8 - VEGETATION



Ewing Woods particularly is threatened by a variety of invasive plants including oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, winged euonymus and barberry. Japanese Knotweed is present at Harold King Forest.

Swampscott's modest forested acreage does offer residents and visitors the potential for hiking, bird watching, dog walking, picnicking, nature study and other passive recreational activities.

#### PUBLIC SHADE TREES<sup>135</sup>

Swampscott has been recognized as a Tree City USA for many years. The town is fortunate to have many of its secondary roads lined with shade trees. Gino Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works, estimates over 1,000 street trees grow along Swampscott's 50 miles of paved roadways. The most common species are oaks (red, Eastern white, pin, chestnut), maples (sugar, red, silver) and Kwanzan flowering cherry. Others more sparsely planted are beech, linden, pear, and tree lilac. A large percentage of these trees were planted in the 1920's and 1930's and are reaching late middle age. Many are severely disfigured. An ongoing threat to the health of the town's street trees is salt used to de-ice winter roads. The Town's Tree Warden maintains a list of accepted replacements for Town-owned trees that require removal due to poor health or severe damage. The list was revised in 2011, and includes 13 species such as linden, honey locust, cherries and pears, Princeton American elm, zelkova and ginkgo. The Tree Advisory Task Force has been working with DPW recently on the list, and with new location coordinates the data can now be incorporated into the Town's GIS system.

Street trees and trees in parks and other public green spaces enhance residential real estate values, serve as habitat for wildlife, provide privacy buffers and improve neighborhood environmental quality and aesthetics. Trees also perform an essential function of reducing storm-water runoff. The parks themselves offer opportunities for active recreation of all sorts including softball and tennis, as well as school team and adult league sports, and passive recreation such as picnicking and sunbathing, as well as special community events, such as town movie night and antique car show at Linscott Park. An

attractive vegetative feature of the Monument Avenue park at the gateway to the Olmsted National Historic District is the Lady Deborah Moody Memorial Lilac Grove containing over 40 varieties of lilac trees planted in 2005.<sup>136</sup>

The Tree Advisory Task Force, who operates under the Open Space and Recreation Committee, works to advance the proliferation and protection of trees and tree canopy in Town. The Task Force is recently assisted the Town with the development and adoption of a Tree By-law, consistent with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Part I, Title XIV, Chap. 87, for the purpose of preserving and protecting public shade trees and for providing standards for the proper care of town trees. The bylaw defines public shade trees and town trees, provides for the appointment of a Tree Warden, prohibits certain activities adversely affecting town trees, requires written approval for pruning and other activities affecting town trees, establishes a procedure, including a public hearing, for removal of town trees, and sets forth enforcement provisions for violations of the bylaw. This by-law change was adopted in November 2020 by Town Meeting.

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND

Swampscott has no commercial farms or other land devoted to agricultural use at this time.

#### WETLAND VEGETATION

Wetlands are areas where a significant part of the vegetative community is made up of plants adapted to life in saturated soil. Swampscott's wetland open space includes a significant swamp area in the Harold A. King Forest (Town Forest) and marsh at Palmer Pond behind Phillips Beach. Vegetation growing within the Town Forest swamp includes cattail, common reed, sweet pepperbush, sheep laurel, sumac, highbush blueberry, yellow birch and duckweed. Palmer Pond exhibits less diversity and is being overwhelmed by common reed (phragmites), classified as invasive by the MA DFW. Additionally there are cattails, rose rugosa and alders growing around the perimeter of the pond, as well as duck weed and other hydrophilic grasses in the brackish water.

#### The Town Forest wetland and Palmer Pond offer recreational

<sup>136</sup> For lilac plantings: Swampscott Patch, November 2, 2005.

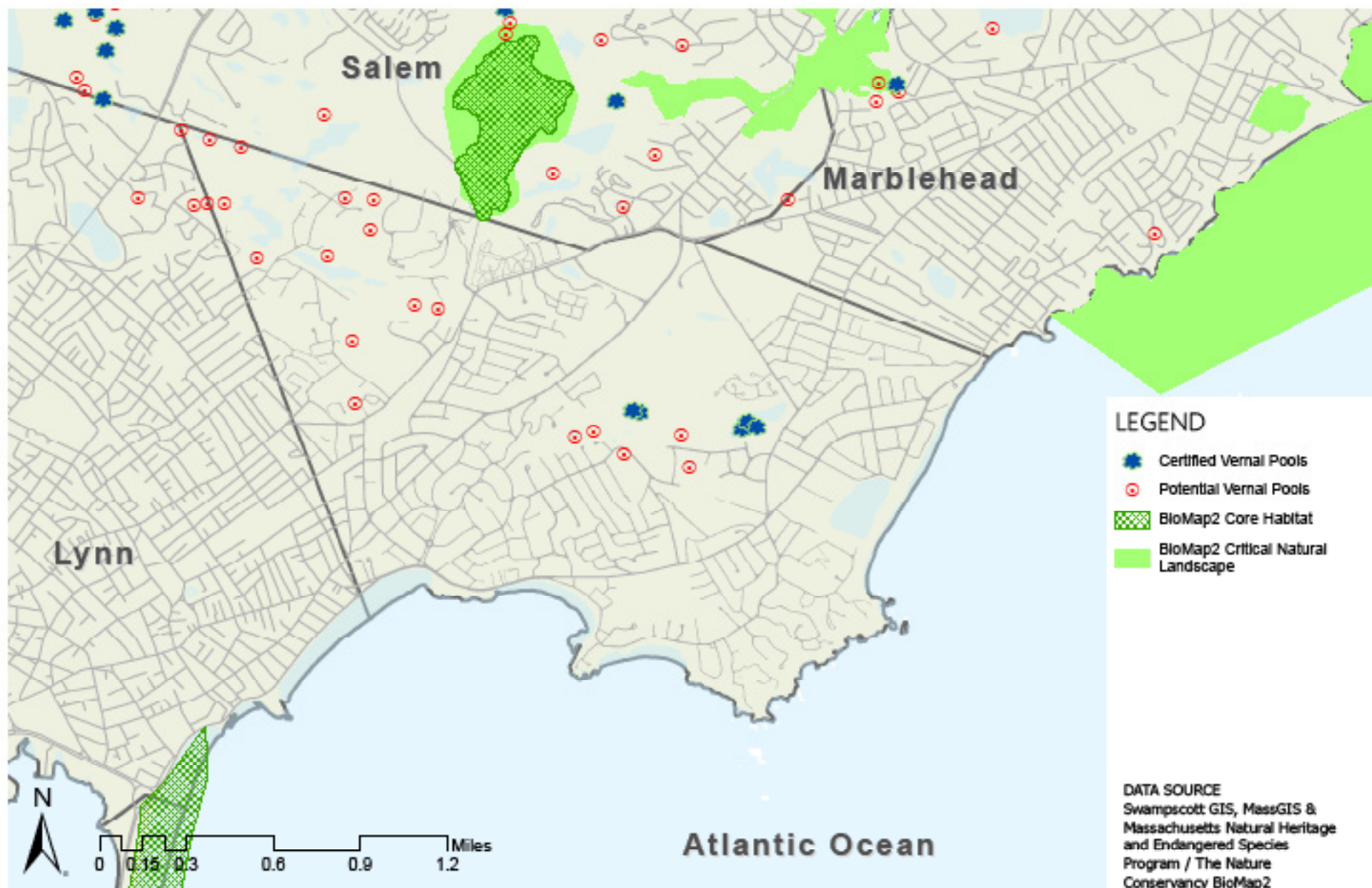
<sup>135</sup> "Swampscott Environment: Now or Never"; Interview with Gene Gardner, Tree Warden, Nov. 2012.; Personal communication from Susan Balleza, Certified Landscape Designer, January 2013.





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 9 - PLANT & WILDLIFE HABITATS





opportunities for fishing, bird watching, scenic viewing and nature study. Foster Pond offers an informal put-in for kayaks and canoes at its northwestern end. Additionally, these wetlands' vegetation contributes to water purification, flood protection, shoreline stabilization, groundwater recharge, and streamflow maintenance.

#### RARE SPECIES<sup>137</sup>

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program states that there are no state-listed rare plants in Swampscott. This evaluation is based on the information in the NHESP database as of September 2009.

#### UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES<sup>138</sup>

**Beaches:** An important Swampscott aquatic resource is the bed of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) at Fisherman's Beach. Eelgrass is a productive near shore marine habitat that supports diverse floral and faunal species, absorbs nutrients, stabilizes sediments and provides habitat and detrital biomass for a diversity of life. In a study taking samples in Nahant, Gloucester and Boston, 34 different species of fish were found to use eelgrass as either refuge, nursery, spawning or foraging habitat. Species identified in the study ranged from tiny fish, such as sticklebacks and bay pipefish up to apex predators like sand tiger sharks and striped bass.

A local Swampscott example of a species that relies on eelgrass is the black brant (*Branta bernicla*), a small goose, whose diet largely consists of eelgrass. A flock of up to 40 brant spend a portion of the winter at Fisherman's Beach dining on eelgrass. Sea lettuce and other marine vegetation is also found in shallows at other town beaches serving as food for seabirds and other marine wildlife.<sup>139</sup>

**Vernal Pools:** The town has five vernal pools that have been certified with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. These ephemeral springtime bodies of water serve as important breeding grounds for amphibians, invertebrates and turtles.<sup>140</sup>

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137 MassDFW's "Rare Species by Town"

138 "City of Gloucester Open Space and Recreation Plan 2010-2017" section 4 page 41

139 "NatureWorks: Brant - Branta Bernicla"

140 "Number of Certified Vernal Pools by Town"

## FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Swampscott's fishing heritage is well known among residents. This heritage includes the development of the first lobster pot in 1808, the design in 1840 of the Swampscott Dory fishing boat, and the Swampscott Fish House, built by the Town in 1896 -- it is the only municipal facility of its kind in the U.S. While commercial fishing in Swampscott is only a remnant of what it once was, Swampscott's waters still are populated by a wide variety of marine life. Data collected by Swampscott teacher William Andrade's 7th grade science classes from 2002 to 2006 provides a snapshot of what lives in the bay between Swampscott and Nahant. Working from a Northeastern University research vessel, students retrieved large numbers of skate, winter and windowpane flounder, lobster, jonah and rock crabs, and sand dollars. Additionally, smaller numbers of silver hake, squid, smelt, moonfish, hermit crabs and sea stars were counted.<sup>141</sup>

The Town of Swampscott has some of the typical suburban wildlife found in Massachusetts, including squirrels, skunks, chipmunks, raccoons, opossum, and nesting songbirds, gray fox, red fox, coyotes, wild turkey, fishercats and more. The railroad bed that once connected with the Town of Marblehead as well as Tedesco Golf Course and conservation areas are known to attract a variety of wildlife.

These animals are often attracted to human dominated landscapes because they are highly adaptable, opportunistic feeders that are energy efficient. They easily adjust to changes in their environment. Opportunistic feeders are animals that are generalists, eating a variety of plant and animal material including food often left out by people. These animals are energy efficient in that, when given the choice between a meal that has to be chased or one that is easily found in a backyard, they will always pick the easy meal.

The prior animal control officer had reported the following:<sup>142</sup>

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141 Data provided by William Andrade, 7th Grade Science Teacher, Swampscott Middle School.

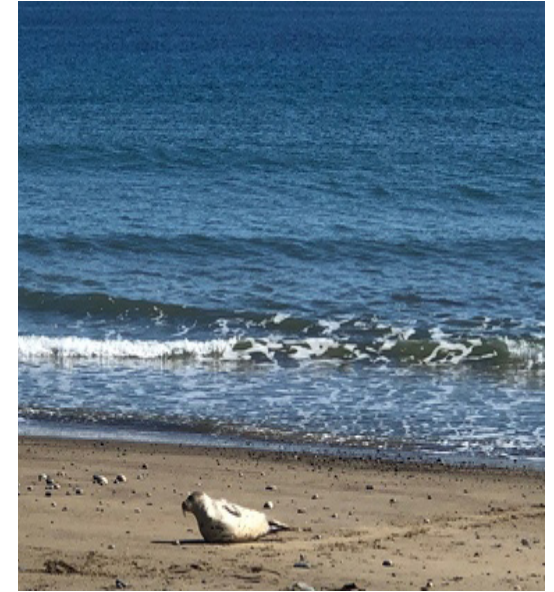
142 The Friends of Salem Woods, an organization dedicated to preserving the 160-acre woods of Highland Park, the Forest River estuary, Thompson's Meadow, and the abutting uplands, has a list of birds and wildlife on its website: <http://www.salemwoods.org/Documents.htm>. Since part of the Salem properties are very close to Harold King Forest in Swampscott, it is not unlikely that such wildlife may also be present in that property as well.



**Coyote (spotted May 5, 2020 on Banks Ct.)**  
Image by hitchkr, Source: iNaturalist



**Snowy Owl (spotted March 10, 2018 on Blodgett Ave)**  
Image by Neal Kaiser, Source: iNaturalist



**Harp Seal (spotted March 1, 2019)**  
Image by roxperdue, Source: iNaturalist

**Birds:** Seagull, Turkey, Hawk, Duck, Blue jay, Chicken, Blue Heron, Robin, Owl, Dove, Pigeon, Goose, Woodpecker

**Mammals:** Squirrel, Raccoon, Deer, Coyote, Bat, Woodchuck/ Groundhog, Rabbit, Skunk, Fishercat, Rat, Fox, Possum, Seal

**Reptiles:** Snake, Turtle, Lizard

**Domestic:** Dogs, Cats, Ferret

The Swampscott Police Department has logged the regular appearance of one or more coyotes on town streets and yards in recent years.

Swampscott currently has approximately 1,000 licensed dogs, with the potential of a couple hundred additional unlicensed domestic dogs. Many residents take their dogs to the town beaches and parks to allow them to run free. The Town restricts dog access to the beaches,

allowing them only between October 1st through May 20th.<sup>143</sup> The Town also has a policy of discouraging dog access on recreational areas out of concern for the health of those using the playing fields. In 2019, a group of residents, with the assistance of the DPW, installed a dog park on vacant land behind the Swampscott cemetery off of Essex Street.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program maintains a list of all documented MESA-listed species observations in the Commonwealth by town. One endangered species has been observed in Swampscott (as recent as 2010), the Peregrine Falcon (*Falcon peregrinus*).<sup>144</sup>

Additionally on September 28, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service released notice that the American eel was being reconsidered for listing as a threatened or

<sup>143</sup> Swampscott General By-Laws: Article V Section 15 Dogs

<sup>144</sup> MassDFW's "Rare Species by Town"

endangered species. The Service has begun a status review on new information that became available after 2007. The notice stated that “(t)he American eel, found in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats from Greenland to South America, has been extirpated from portions of its historical freshwater habitat during the last 100 years, mostly resulting from dams built through the 1960s. Habitat loss and degradation, harvest, and turbine mortality have also contributed to some local population declines.”

#### VERNAL POOLS

As noted earlier, there are five vernal pools in Swampscott. Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rainfall and rising groundwater and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations, which is critical to the reproductive success of many amphibian and invertebrate species that rely on breeding habitats free of fish predators. Some vernal pools are protected in Massachusetts under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations, as well as several other federal and state regulations, and local bylaws.

#### WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND FLYWAYS

Because the town is located along the Atlantic coast flyway for migratory birds, both local and transient waterfowl are plentiful. Birds arrive in the spring and can be found in residential areas. There they are threatened and can be stressed by predators, leaf blowers, and other human activities. In the fall, some species of birds fly directly through Massachusetts down to the Caribbean and South America. One species that does this is the Blackpoll Warbler, a state listed species. Much of the world’s population of this warbler flies south in the fall through Massachusetts, down the Atlantic coast and then across the Caribbean to South America. The warbler species that migrates to the tropics are declining in numbers likely due to many factors—breeding habitat fragmentation, disturbance/development on the wintering grounds in the tropics, and disappearance of key migration stopping points.

## SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

The Swampscott Reconnaissance Report & Heritage Landscape Inventory, published in May 2005, identifies a number of priority heritage landscapes recognized by Swampscott residents as contributing significantly to the character of their community. As described in this report, Swampscott’s distinctive coastal landscape features and its coastal and inland residential neighborhoods represent the history of the community from the earliest Native American use of the land to the present day suburb of Boston. Among these are open space areas that are germane to the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

#### SCENIC LANDSCAPE

The Town of Swampscott is part of the 85-mile Essex Coastal Scenic Byway, and its scenic resources and unique environments are linked to its historic settlement patterns which were shaped by the natural environment. The history of this region is defined by water, and the scenic view one has when approaching Swampscott from Lynn is the dramatic grand sweep of ocean from the Lynn Shore Reservation to the Swampscott Monument Mall area. Residents, visitors, and passers-by are encouraged to get out of the car and stroll the boardwalk, bike, jog, or relax on a park bench and take in the view.

Swampscott’s six sandy beaches highlight the town’s visual character, providing outstanding vistas of Massachusetts Bay. Rounded outcroppings of rocky headlands frame several of the beaches, particularly at Beach and at both the eastern and western ends of Phillips Beach and Preston Beach, where intertidal pools form that provide natural areas for children to play and explore. Off Fisherman’s Beach in Swampscott’s shallow harbor, a significant area of eelgrass offers habitat for juvenile fish and crustaceans. Palmer Pond, an unusual geologic feature, is separated from Phillips Beach by a low barrier dune, creates a scenic vista of a different sort – calm brackish water framed by wetland plants and beach rose in which redwing blackbirds, ducks, geese and wading birds shelter and feed. The beautiful landscape features invite residents and visitors to experience it actively and intimately through hiking, swimming, biking, paddling and boating.

#### UNUSUAL GEOLOGIC FEATURES

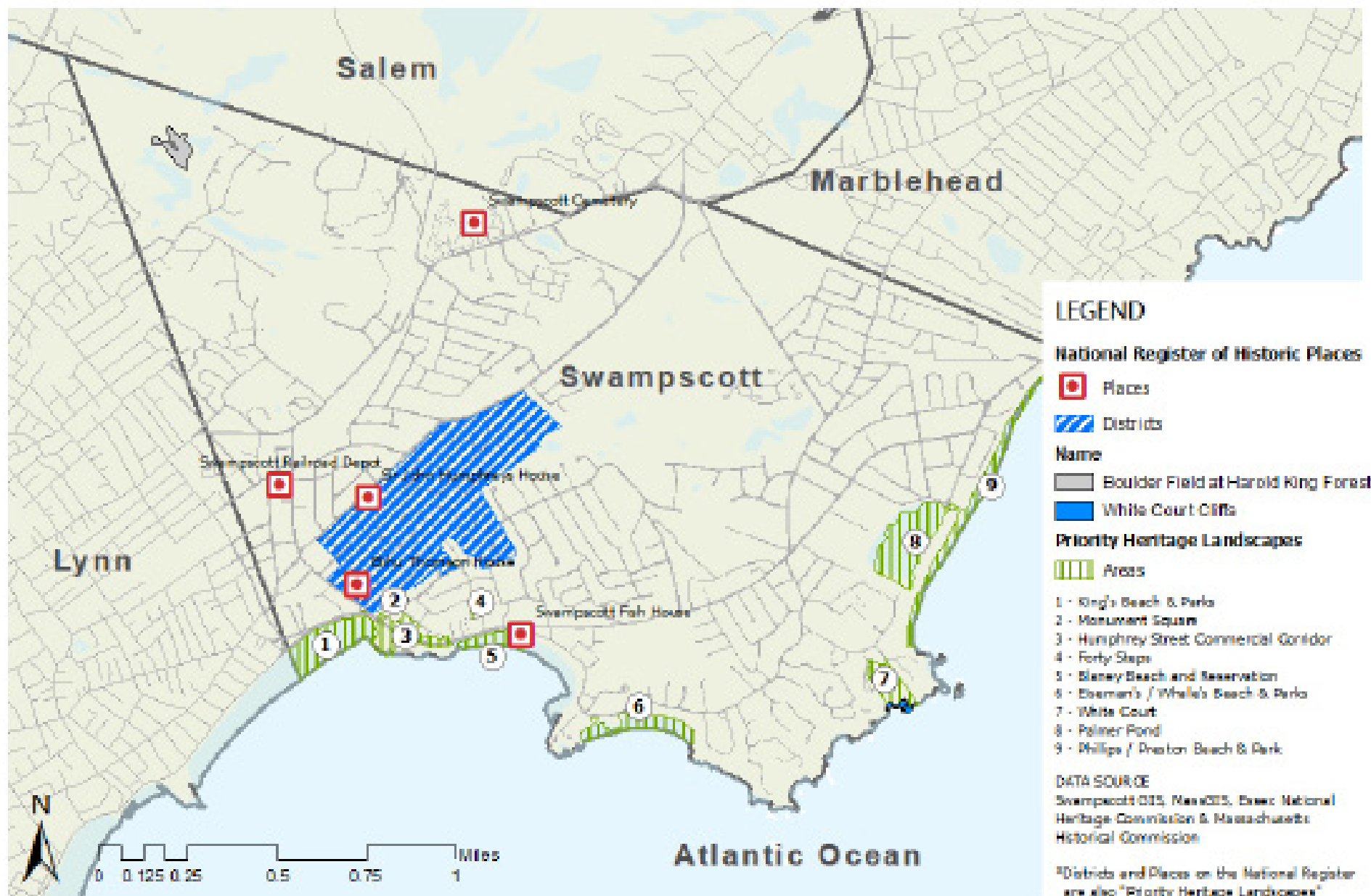
Swampscott’s landscape bears witness to the power of the ice age





# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 10 - UNIQUE FEATURES



glaciers that advanced and retreated across the region tens of thousands of years ago. The most unusual geologic feature in the town is probably also one of the least known among residents - the terminal glacial moraine in Harold King Town Forest. This field of large boulders, some as large as compact cars, deposited as the glaciers retreated north, are an impressive feature of the Forest that could be made more accessible by trail improvements and instructional signage. The Town recently completed a Forest Stewardship Plan for this area in partnership with DCR, which will support future funding requests for improvements.

Also worth special mention are the rocky headlands that face Massachusetts Bay at Black Will's cliff and White Court. These rock outcroppings offer fine vantage points to view the Bay, and are particularly impressive during eastern storms as wave action surges dramatically through wide chasm-like fissures in the rock faces. The possibility exists for preservation of this important geologic feature at Will's Cliff if the existing restaurant and abutting parking lot is offered for sale at a future date.

The development at White Court allowed the Town to expand upon the existing Blythswood easement, and the completed project will include an accessible path from the roadway to an overlook view of the ocean.

## CULTURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS

### HUMPHREY STREET COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR

The Humphrey Street Commercial Corridor is considered the town center and follows the ancient coastal pathway toward Marblehead. From the mid to late 19th century into the early 20th century, boarding houses and hotels built to accommodate summer residents lined this street. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow reportedly wrote his poem "The Cliff" from The Cliff House, which at one time stood along Humphrey Street overlooking the water. Beginning at Monument Avenue, this corridor is the setting for key public buildings and monuments including the Civil War Memorial, Town Hall, the Hadley School, St. John's Church, Chaisson Park and the Fish House, as well as downtown retail and office buildings. It provides broad vistas of Nahant Bay at King's Beach and Fisherman's Beach, and the views to the bay framed between the oceanside buildings enhance the town's connection to the sea.

### BLYTHSWOOD

Blythswood is the only summer estate in Swampscott that remains essentially intact and in its original use as a residence. A 2011 agreement between the owner and the Town provides for public access to the shoreline and views. As previously mentioned, the completion of White Court will expand this access easement.

### MONUMENT MALL AND TOWN HALL LAWN

Monument Mall, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as the centerpiece of what is now called the Olmsted Historic District, creates a dramatic entrance parkway to the heart of Swampscott. The formal green planted median of Monument Avenue is quintessential Olmsted – gracefully curved lines in the street layouts, generous spaces, and the absence of sharp corners. Sited here are memorials reminding visitors of the contributions the town has made over the centuries to the nation's armed conflicts. Flanking the Mall on one side is the Town Administration Building, located in the historic Elihu Thomson House, a Georgian Revival structure built in 1899. On the other side is Linscott Park, former site of the Chick Estate. Views out onto Nahant Bay are particularly enjoyable from the gazebo.

### OLMSTED HISTORIC DISTRICT

On the National Register of Historic Places, the Olmsted Historic District is a well-preserved residential area designed in 1888 by Frederick Law Olmsted, revered as the father of American landscape architecture. The subdivision was largely complete by 1917, a neighborhood of picturesque roadways winding through rolling hills set off by beautiful plantings. Throughout the intervening years, the neighborhood has remained strikingly true to Olmsted's vision of "happy tranquility."

### SWAMPSCOTT CEMETERY

The cemetery was consecrated September 16, 1854, as one of the first acts of the new community when it separated from the City of Lynn. The cemetery includes well-established trees and shrubs, flower gardens and paved lanes that wind through its 30 acres. Soldiers from American wars as far back as the Revolution have their final resting places there. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2013.



### ST. ANDREW'S CHAPEL

The chapel was designed by Charles V. Burgess and was built in 1923 in memory of Isaac H. Andrews through a bequest to the Board of Selectman from his wife Ellen E. Andrews<sup>145</sup>. The structure has recently been renovated by the Town's Chapel Restoration Committee. The self-guided facility is open to the public and in the future may be available for rentals.

### SWAMPSCOTT FISH HOUSE AND TOWN PIER

Evidence of the town's historic marine-based industry, the Fish House was built by the Town in 1896 and is the oldest, active municipal facility of its kind in the U.S. From its pier and adjacent Fisherman's Beach, one can enjoy panoramic views of Massachusetts Bay, the Nahant peninsula and causeway, the Boston skyline and Egg Rock. The Fish House serves a small number of commercial fishermen who still reach their work boats by launching prams from the beach in the tradition of those who have fished local waters continuously since colonial times. The Harbormaster's office is located here and the Swampscott Yacht Club is on the second floor.

### SWAMPSCOTT RAILROAD DEPOT

The advent of rail service between Boston and Swampscott in 1838 was a pivotal event in the transformation of Swampscott from quaint fishing village to elite summer resort. The Swampscott Depot, constructed in 1872, is the last surviving depot in town. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a priority site for preservation and restoration.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Swampscott does not have within its borders any state-recognized Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. However, the town does face a number of environmental challenges, including invasive species, flood control and pollution impact on near-shore water quality, littering and dumping, interface issues of abutting properties on public lands, etc. that are discussed elsewhere in this Plan.

The environmental challenges of utmost importance deal with aspects

<sup>145</sup> "Andrews Memorial Chapel, Swampscott, Mass.," Swampscott Public Library, Swampscott, Mass., accessed September 18, 2020, <https://digitalheritage.noblenet.org/swampscott/items/show/555>.

of the community which many people see and enjoy having as part of their recreational and viewing pleasures. Likewise, residents may not realize that open space and recreational areas in town not only require care and maintenance but also proactive steps to keep these natural aspects of the community free from harmful developments and environmental dangers.

Those challenges identified as the most compelling include:

- » stormwater and coastal drainage issues
- » encroachment of open space and recreation areas by abutters
- » danger to eelgrass and wildlife habitat within the harbor
- » coastal storm surges and flooding resulting from climate change

Flooding issues from both coastal and inland stormwater runoff is not a localized issue. Experienced across the region, and the world as a whole, flooding and the drainage required to mediate it must be planned out thoroughly. Open spaces and recreational areas can play a part in supporting the drainage system, but this may be done hand-in-hand. Any drainage work in Swampscott should also be developed so as to minimize negative drainage impacts on these open space areas.

The Town has in the past performed dredging of the harbor in order to provide better boat access. The harbor however is home to large areas of eelgrass which act as a wildlife habitat. Protection of the eelgrass and this habitat is important, requiring the balancing of the boat access need along with the open space and habitat need. The Harbor and Waterfront Committee's Harbor Plan has proposed an alternative to long-term dredging - the installation of living reefs to provide harbor and shoreline protection.

## **DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

There are a number of open space areas in the community that have or are experiencing some form of encroachment by abutting property owners. This ranges from minor ground cover clearing to installing fences and driveways within the open space lands. Minimizing and

reversing encroachment of these areas will help in the long-term protection of the community's open spaces. The Committee, in partnership with the Conservation Commission, continues to monitor and address cases of encroachment as they arrive.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

Currently, there are no Superfund sites under CERCLA located in Swampscott. However, based on a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Waste Site/Reportable Release search, there are 91 releases of oil or hazardous material. Nearly all of the releases were from gasoline stations. There are two Tier 2 sites, located at 197 and 357 Essex Street, and a Tier 1D at 201 Essex Street. All of the other outcomes have an RAO, RTN closed, DEP NFA status.

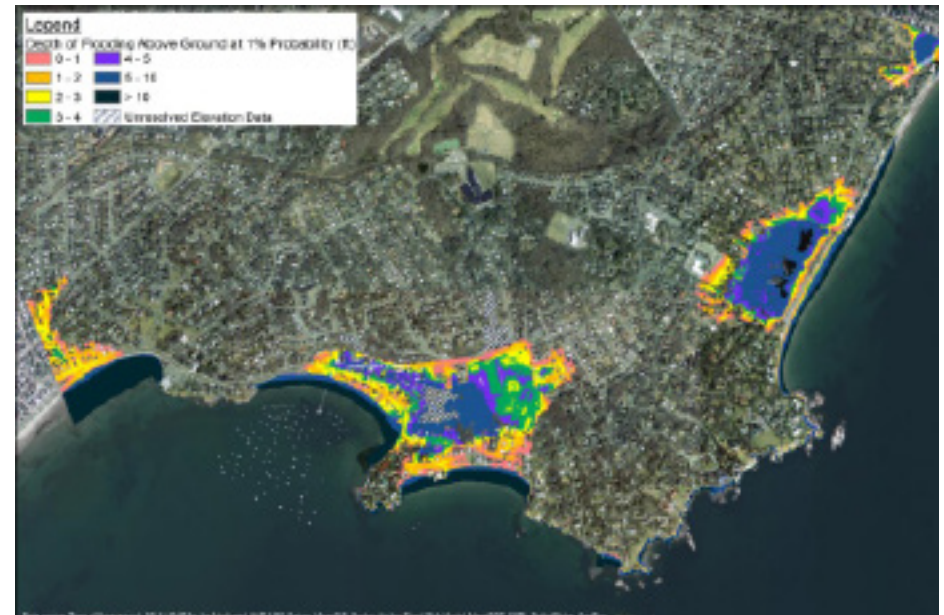
### GROUND AND SURFACE WATER

Swampscott has two major subsurface soil conditions which govern the extent of subsurface water: bedrock overlaid by glacial till deposits and outwash sedimentary deposits. Till deposits in this area are undifferentiated and have a high silt and clay content and generally serve as a poor aquifer. An aquifer is a permeable rock mass, usually sand or gravel, which can transmit water; the more permeable the material the better aquifer it is. Outwash sedimentary deposits, on the other hand, have excellent permeability and thus are good aquifers. In Swampscott, the Merrimack soils association consists of these sedimentary deposits. Most of the Merrimack soils have been built upon except in the area of Tedesco Country Club and Palmer Pond. Urbanization within town may lead to increased nutrient loads within groundwater. It is uncertain at the moment to what extent groundwater has been impacted by development activities. The groundwater quality should be assessed for water chemistry, pH, redox potential, and dissolved oxygen, even though groundwater is not the source of drinking water within town.

### CHRONIC FLOODING

Chronic Flooding is defined as flooding that occurs at least 26 times a year (on average, once every other week) and occurs simply with high tides instead of storm events. Swampscott regularly experiences flooding along coastal areas during storm events, and based on current research models there is the expectation that chronic flooding will become an even greater issue with sea level rise. The 2016 Climate

Change Study identified areas of critical concern based on future flooding models, and the Town has since taken steps recommended in the report to help mitigate this issue<sup>146</sup>.



Depth of Flooding with 1% Annual Probability in 2070 (2016 Kleinfelder)

### STORMWATER

Stormwater is a pollution concern as it carries heavy metals and other hazardous materials from roads into streams, and small water bodies in town and cause sedimentation. There is currently no data outlining the extent of sedimentation that has occurred in town.

### EROSION

Swampscott has a fairly rocky geology which prevents significant erosion from occurring. The construction of sea walls along the coast have also helped in this matter to an extent, however seawall maintenance and repair continue to be a priority issue in order to ensure vulnerable areas are protected as much as possible. The seawall along King's Beach was recently repaired in the fall of 2020, which was funded through FEMA as a result of the 2018 storm damage and disaster declaration.

<sup>146</sup> the Town's beach entrance improvement project is described later in this Plan.

## URBAN FORESTRY

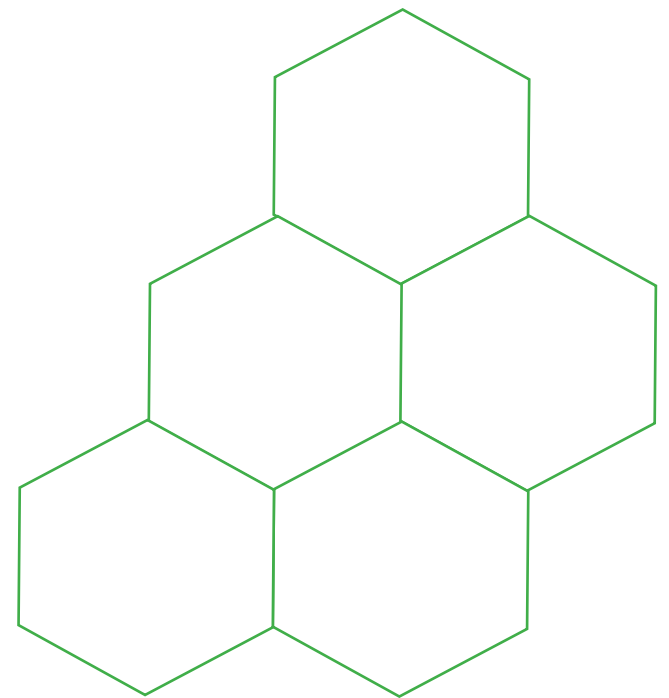
The streetscape of the town, especially in the Olmsted District, is defined by the roads and plantings that were created in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The street trees planted in that era have been in decline, and many must be removed on an annual basis. The Tree Advisory Task Force, which was generated out of the OSRPC, has been working on a General By-law to protect and require replacement of public shade trees in order to preserve and enhance the Town's tree canopy.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Based on Map 11-the Open Space Inventory, it is clear that the 28 open spaces within Swampscott are fairly evenly distributed throughout the town. The northeast portion of the town near the border with Marblehead could be considered the only area where more access to recreational opportunities is warranted. In 2020, the Town completed the first segment of the Swampscott Rail Trail from Beach Bluff Avenue to the Marblehead Town Line/Marblehead Rail Trail in this area.

## LANDFILLS

The Town of Swampscott does not have any landfills within its borders.



# V. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

Preservation of open space is an extremely important talking point within the town due to the higher than average density of housing stock and limited land resources. The protection of these and other natural resources is paramount for the health and well-being of the residents of Swampscott. Such lands provide places for recreation, valuable ecosystem services, and wildlife protection. "Protected" land is defined by the Division of Conservation Services if it is owned by the local Conservation Commission, a state conservation agency, a non-profit land trust, or if the municipality received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Private property can also be protected if there is a deed restriction, or if Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that a piece of land should be deemed a wetland conservation area. Like many other cities and towns in the Commonwealth, Swampscott's open spaces are defined as undeveloped and developed parcels of land that provide passive or active recreational opportunities. These parcels have been delineated as Publicly-Owned or Privately-Owned and then categorized as beaches, conservation areas, parks and recreation areas or rights of way. This inventory also includes Private Lands with Future Public Benefit which are privately-owned properties that do not currently have any form of open space protection nor public access but due to their relevance in the community could provide a future public benefit.

What separates this small, built-out suburban community from so many others in Massachusetts is the 6,190 feet of accessible, viewable, wide open oceanfront. The ocean adds another dimension to Swampscott's definition of open space: a true sense of vastness that meets residents at the edge of town. The ocean is part of Swampscott's identity, so much so that it is often taken for granted that the spectacular views and ease of stepping onto the sandy beaches will always be available.

It is perhaps this, and the constant prospect of redevelopment, that puts it so at risk. Add to this the fact that the town beaches are owned both privately and publicly, a situation not always well defined or understood. It should be noted, however, that while some of the community's beach land is privately-owned, the public is provided some access rights of the beach area between the high and low mean watermarks.

Over the years, Massachusetts courts have ruled that the scope of activities on private tidelands covered by the reserved public rights of fishing, fowling, and navigation is broad, and includes all of their "natural derivatives." For example:

- » The right to fish includes the right to seek or take any fish, shellfish, or floating marine plants, from a vessel or on foot;
- » The right to navigate includes the right to conduct any activity involving the movement of a boat, vessel, float, or other watercraft, as well as the transport of people and materials and related loading and unloading activity; and
- » The right to fowl includes the right to hunt birds for sport as well as sustenance. (The Massachusetts Attorney General takes the position that the right of fowling also includes other ways that birds can be "used," such as birdwatching, but also notes that this issue has not yet been addressed by the courts.)<sup>90\*</sup>

Situated next to the ocean, even tiny scraps of lands, small grassy parks, land belonging to old estates, incidental sandy, grassy lots abutting beaches with just a bench or two become grand vistas. The

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90 "Public Rights Along The Shoreline"



visual open space, or the sense of vastness that accompanies and enriches the town green and small parks that dot the shoreline, is as important to those spaces as the land itself. The oceanfront spaces are tied to the community's quality of life, and create economic opportunities as well. The beaches and abutting parcels are both public and private, with widespread public access, and rights of way along the coast. Preservation, maintenance, and in some cases, acquisition, are critical for these defining areas.

Open space lands also include parks, ballfields and tracks which are managed by the municipality. With scarce remaining open space in this small town, every effort should be made to protect recreational fields that are currently not protected. Underutilized park area should be recommissioned, using creative development strategies to ensure multi-functional spaces that can serve a wide variety of residents. A thriving park and playground system improves the quality of life for families and increases property values.

Athletics and availability of athletic fields has been and continues to be a priority for many parents and children in Swampscott. Since the last plan, major field upgrades have been made; for example, a new turf field with accompanying facilities and a playground were installed at Phillips Park. OSRPC believes that the health and safety of our athletes, both early youth and high school age, runs hand-in-hand with the quality of the fields as the quantity of fields. To that end, the Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force has and continues to advocate for a transition to pesticide-free care for all Town open spaces. The Select Board recently directed the Town Administration to look into the feasibility of implementing this change and report back. The Select Board also reinstated the Athletic Field Advisory Committee - which provides recommendations to the Select Board and the Town Administrator concerning the use, maintenance, and upkeep of the Town's athletic fields and facilities (excluding school-owned property). The Committee began meetings in January 2021.

Town-owned conservation land, which is protected as such, can suffer from lack of maintenance, poor access and/or public awareness, and risk of encroachment. These parcels include lovely, forested environments with vernal pools and walking paths, as well as a brackish salt marsh with a small pond. With proper maintenance

and improvements, they could be enjoyed as cool, quiet respites, areas of natural beauty perfect for walking and hiking, reflection and observation. Local organizations like the Swampscott Conservancy have taken the initiative to improve these areas through trail clean-up days and other events. Town-owned open space is protected from future development through deed restrictions, conservation restrictions, historic preservation restrictions, and Article 97 of Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution (which requires special, high-level consideration of any proposed disposition of or change in use of parklands).

Privately-owned open spaces must be protected because they contribute greatly to the town's assets for several reasons. Some offer potential town-wide recreational use, creating a very appealing town amenity. Others are private recreational areas that contribute to a visual, serene openness. Still others have historic value that should be preserved for future generations. The Town should encourage owners to pursue preservation, and, in some cases, through special taxation programs which may apply, offer the Town right of first refusal should these private lands become available. Currently, there are no parcels of open space that are managed by a land trust within town. The only realty trusts within Swampscott manage improved lots.

This chapter will provide descriptions of each parcel, with recommendations for maintenance and protection. The chapter concludes with the inventory of open space and recreation areas in a table format to provide quick and easy access to users of this Plan Update. All of the Publicly-Owned parcels in the inventory are categorized by type of land, name, ownership, managing entity, current use, status, whether a change or addition in use is anticipated, condition of public access including ADA compliance<sup>91</sup>, recreational potential, and protection status. All of the Privately-Owned parcels are similarly described, although include "recreation potential" instead of change in use to describe how these areas may provide additional amenities for the Town, should the option be available.

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91 Note: Full ADA compliance not guaranteed by this assessment. The Town has recently conducted and developed an ADA Transition Plan. The draft plan recommendations are in the appendix, and the OSRPC has included an action item to review and include relevant recommendations in future projects when the final plan is adopted.

## **PUBLICLY-OWNED AREAS**

### **Beaches**

- » Eiseman's Beach, New Ocean House and Whale's Beach
- » Fisherman's Beach
- » King's Beach
- » Preston Beach
- » Sandy Beach / Cassidy Park
- » Phillips Beach (partial)

### **Conservation Areas**

- » Charles M. Ewing Woods
- » Harold A. King Forest
- » Harry D. Linscott Park
- » Muskrat Pond
- » Palmer Pond

### **Parks & Other Open Space Areas**

- » Chaisson Park
- » Driscoll Park
- » Howland Park
- » Linscott Park
- » Metropolitan Park
- » Monument Mall & Square
- » Rail Trail
- » Richard B. Johnson Park & Paul A. Polisson Park
- » Swampscott Cemetery
- » SPOT Dog Park
- » Town Hall Lawn

### **Recreation Areas**

- » Abbott Park
- » Hadley School Recreation Area
- » Jackson Park (Upper/Lower)
- » Middle School Recreation Area
- » Phillips Park & Recreation Area
- » Stanley School Playground
- » Stanley School Recreation Area
- » Superior Street Playground
- » Windsor Park & Playground

### **Right-of-Ways and/or Easements**

- » Forty Steps
- » Cliffside Street
- » Little's Point Road to Phillips Beach
- » Martin Way
- » New Ocean House Footpath
- » White Court/Blythswood

### **State and Federal Lands**

- » N/A

### **Ch. 61A Lands**

- » N/A

## **PRIVATELY-OWNED AREAS**

### **Beaches**

- » Phillips Beach (partial)

### **Conservation Restrictions**

- » Blythswood

### **Parks & Other Open Space Areas**

- » Beach Bluff Park
- » Foster Pond
- » Palmer Pond

### **Recreation Areas/Ch. 61B Lands**

- » Tedesco Country Club

### **Private Lands with Future Public Benefits**

- » Sculpin Way Wetlands
- » Swampscott Quarry
- » Undeveloped Archer Street area

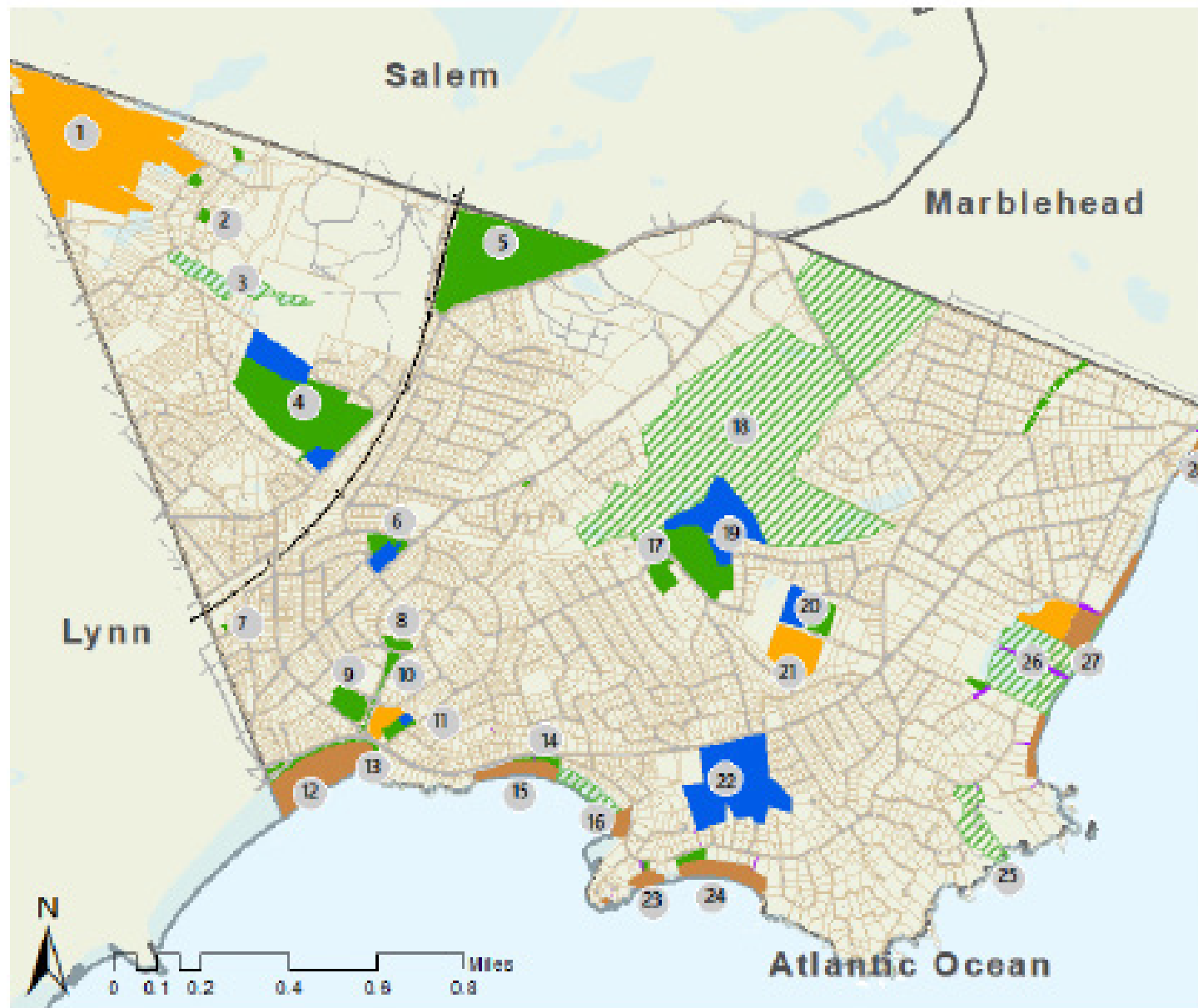
### **Land Trust Open Space Properties**

- » N/A



# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 11 - OPEN SPACE INVENTORY



### LEGEND

#### Open Space - Public

- Beach
- Conservation Area
- Park, Playground, Other
- School Rec Area
- Right-of-Way
- Rail Trail - Complete

#### Open Space - Private

##### Areas

- 1 - Harold A. King Forest
- 2 - Windsor Park & Playground
- 3 - Foster Pond
- 4 - Jackson Park (Upper/Lower)
- 5 - Swampscott Cemetery, Dog Park, Forest River Trail Connection
- 6 - Abbott Park
- 7 - Superior Street Playground
- 8 - Howland Park
- 9 - Town Hall Lawn
- 10 - Monument Square & Mall
- 11 - Linscott Park
- 12 - King's Beach & Metropolitan Park
- 13 - Driscoll Park
- 14 - Chaisson Park
- 15 - Fisherman's Beach
- 16 - Sandy Beach/Cassidy Park
- 17 - Muskrat Pond
- 18 - Tedesco Country Club
- 19 - Middle School Recreation
- 20 - Stanley School Recreation
- 21 - Charles M. Ewing Woods
- 22 - Phillips Park
- 23 - Polisson Park & Whale's Beach
- 24 - Johnson Park, New Ocean House & Eeeman's Beach
- 25 - Blythswood/White Court
- 26 - Palmer Pond
- 27 - Phillips Beach
- 28 - Beach Bluff Park & Preston Beach

DATA SOURCE:  
Swampscott GIS & MassGIS

## PUBLICLY OWNED AREAS BEACHES

KING'S BEACH = 900 FEET IN LENGTH, 3.049 ACRES

The string of beaches along the Swampscott coastline is divided into several named beaches, most with adjoining parks. Most parks are separated from the adjacent beach by seawalls or rocky points and promontories. Beginning at the Red Rock promontory in Lynn, crossing the Swampscott line to Driscoll Park, King's Beach is an open expanse of beach at Swampscott's gateway. The beach forms a deep cove at the beginning of the commercial strip along Humphrey Street. A boulevard with new concrete walking surface, lighting and benches has been constructed along King's Beach in Lynn by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which owns the beach in Lynn. Swampscott bought its section of the beach from the DCR years ago, and because of this the Swampscott portion was, unfortunately, not included in the improvements.

Public transportation and nearby eating establishments made this a once-popular swimming beach. Due to the increase in algae blooms (the brown algae *Pilayella littoralis*), the bacteria contamination from storm and combined sewer overflows in the area (see "Water Resources" section within "IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis" chapter), it is used less often for swimming on the Swampscott side. However, many Swampscott and Lynn residents walk the promenade, sunbathe, and take part in other beach activities, especially during low tide. The Swampscott portion of King's Beach is owned by the Town and managed by the DPW. In January 2013, the Select Board voted to begin the process of asking the state legislature to have the DCR take over maintenance of King's Beach. The OSRPC continues to pursue this item, although DCR has made it clear that significant work to the seawall is needed before they would consider taking over maintenance of Swampscott's section. In the fall of 2020, DPW received funding from FEMA and approval from the Conservation Commission to undertake initial repairs of the seawall.

EISEMAN'S, NEW OCEAN HOUSE AND WHALE'S BEACHES = 1,840 FEET IN LENGTH

This beautiful, wide crescent shaped beach, terminated by the rocky promontory of Lincoln House Point on the west and Galloupe's Point



Historic Postcard of Fisherman's Beach with Sandy Beach on left (UNDATED)

on the east, has long been considered Swampscott's "swimming beach". These beaches are Town-owned, managed by Recreation and maintained by the DPW. The entire beach is open to the public. Their condition is generally good, with a smooth flat sandy surface and relatively clean water and sandy bottom. Current use and recreation potential for Whale's and Eiseman's Beach is high with a variety of possible activities, including surfcasting, picnicking, swimming, sunbathing, children's sand play, dog walking between October and May, body surfing, and paddle boarding. This beach is staffed with lifeguards from Recreation during the summer hours. Recently, the Town utilized funding from the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program to improve beach access and resiliency, including regrading and planting of natural beach grasses.

FISHERMAN'S BEACH = 2,300 FEET IN LENGTH

Blaney Beach and Reservation comprises public and private beach, including Fisherman's Beach, the Fish House (a National Register property), Chaisson Park and the Fish Pier, often referred to as the Town Pier. The Fish House and Town Pier are a base for lobstermen and fishermen from the area, who moor their boats in the harbor.



With the adjoining upland area above the seawall, it is the center of Swampscott's coastal activity. From the Fish House and to the west (including the pier), the beach and the upland area are owned by the Town and managed by the DPW and Harbormaster. Improvements to the beach access adjacent to the Fish House parking lot were also completed under the MVP grant.

Sunbathing, swimming and recreation are allowed here. As of 2013, lifeguards are stationed at this beach. Many smaller craft such as small sailboats, dinghies and kayaks are stored along the beach. The Town holds events here, such as concerts, bonfires, barbecues, and other celebrations. The Town's summer sailing program is administered from the Fish House and this beach, and other recreational activities like paddleboarding and beach yoga have become popular programs. Most of the activity on this beach is commercial and recreational boating. Fisherman's Beach is traditionally associated with 19th Century painters.

In May 2020, the Select Board adopted the Swampscott Harbor and Waterfront Plan, which has been spearheaded by the Harbor and Waterfront and Advisory Committee. One of the plan's major focus is the protection and enhancement of the Harbor, the Pier, and Fisherman's beach.

Most of the eastern portion of the beach is privately owned by abutting property owners to the high water mark. The public is allowed to walk along this portion of the beach.

#### PRESTON BEACH = 900 FEET IN LENGTH

Preston Beach, a sandy beach armored by seawalls, spans the border between Marblehead and Swampscott. The Town's right of way to the beach exists between Beach Bluff Park and 441 Atlantic Avenue. This right of way is strewn with rocks and sand and is not ADA accessible. It consists of either a cobbled slope to the water or a cement stairway with railing descending sharply from Beach Bluff Park. Beach entrance improvements - including a new beach marker and plantings - were completed in 2019.

Beach Bluff Park abuts the beach and is accessible from the street via planked pathways for viewing, strolling, picnicking and sunbathing. As



Fisherman's Beach & Pier (Sept. 2020)

noted, there is also a stairway from the park to the beach. The park is owned and maintained by the Clifton Improvement Association. In the summer, parking is available on Atlantic Avenue with town recreation stickers or in a lot across the street from the park for a daily or seasonal fee.

Rocky headlands at the Marblehead end shelter tidal pools full of marine life, such as hermit crabs, anemones, sea urchins, and sea stars. Here, the beach is gently sloping and small sand-filled tidal pools often form at low tide. They provide a safe swimming area for young children. The gently sloping, smooth expanse of Preston Beach in summer turns into a much steeper, boulder-strewn beach in winter. Winter storm-generated wave action transports sand from the beach to a sandbar, where it remains until longer-cycled summer waves moves the sand back to the beach. Little sand is lost during this annual cycle, because the shore currents that run parallel to the beach are weak.

Preston Beach is in good condition, with daily high tides "sweeping" and smoothing the beach sand. However, much of the beach is covered at high tide, limiting its use for traditional recreational beach





Harold King Forest Entrance (Sept. 2020)

activities such as walking, jogging, sunbathing, children's play, etc., to times of day when the tide has ebbed.

#### CASSIDY PARK/SANDY BEACH = 250 FEET IN LENGTH

This is a small sandy strip of Town-owned beach at the far east end of Fisherman's Beach. The land, also known as Francis J. Cassidy Reservation, begins at the right-of-way between Puritan Road and Sculpin Way, and ending at Lincoln House Point. There is a flagpole, a memorial to Francis Cassidy (a former town selectman and sailing enthusiast), and two park benches in a sea grass covered dune. The beach is a perfect spot to watch the sunset, set out in a kayak or catch the fireworks on the 4th of July. The Conservation Commission approved a permit for beach access improvements to this entrance in the Fall of 2020, which include dune rehabilitation and regrading to respond to storm surge, and ADA access.

### CONSERVATION AREAS

#### CHARLES M. EWING WOODS = 7.3 ACRES

The Ewing Woods is a 7.3-acre natural area of forested land along the

southern boundary of the Stanley School and its athletic field. The Town purchased the land from the Swampscott Foundation in 1972, with 50% state funding obtained by the Conservation Commission. The Ewing Woods has been dedicated as public conservation land and is managed by the Conservation Commission. Limited access to the woods is from the school property or from the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn at the end of Forest Avenue or from the end of Forest Avenue extension. Ewing Woods contains wetlands (uncertified vernal pools), varied terrain, fine specimens of mature oak, and several intersecting paths. Access points have been threatened by encroachment from neighbors, which the OSRPC and Conservation Commission monitor and address as needed. The potential school demolition and new construction could also affect the woods, and the OSRPC has been an active participant in the School Building process to date in order to address any issues.

Current recreation use of Ewing Woods includes dog/trail walking and nature study. The OSRPC developed a management plan for the area in 2017, and the Swampscott Conservancy also assists in maintaining and promoting the trails.

#### HAROLD A. KING FOREST = 47 ACRES

Because thickly-wooded uplands, which serve as habitat for both birds and mammals, are rare in Swampscott, the Harold A. King Forest ("Town Forest") is a critical habitat. The 1983 Open Space Plan states that the Town Forest has been dedicated for conservation use only. The forest extends over 47 acres of wild and rugged area located in the northwest corner of Swampscott. From its highest point, the land slopes down to an extensive swamp with typical wetland plant life. The area's outstanding feature is a terminal moraine, a field of large boulders left behind when the glacial ice shield melted. These glacial erratics, coupled with a diverse growth of deciduous trees and shrubs, makes an ideal area for nature study.

Primary access to the forest is down an uneven slope from a small paved parking area at the end of Nichols Street. The condition of the forest is very good, with little litter or other signs of human impact. Invasive species of plants are minimally evident at this time, except bordering the parking area where Japanese knotweed and Norway maple abound. These should be controlled before they spread into

the forest. At present, there is a paint-blazed loop trail, maintained by volunteers like the Boy Scouts, which starts at the parking area and winds its way through the forest. An Eagle Scout also built an information kiosk installed at the Nichols Street entrance. The Town Forest has great recreational potential for hiking, nature study, bird watching, dog walking and general outdoor exploring particularly for children.

The Town recently completed a state Forest Stewardship Plan for this area, which provides some recommendations for vegetation management, wildlife protection, and additional trails and potential access areas. The plan is eligible for a period of 10 years, and allows the Town to apply for grant and cost-share funding from the Forestry Division to support its recommendations.

#### HARRY D. LINSCOTT PARK = 2 ACRES

Harry D. Linscott Park's two acres border Hadley Elementary School and Monument Avenue and offer views of the ocean, the town's first church and grand Victorian-style homes with turrets and full porches. The park includes a swing set, open green space, shade trees, benches and a white gazebo topped by a small cupola.

Linscott Park, opposite Swampscott's Town Hall, formerly had two large houses on the site which were to be sold to a developer who planned to develop the land for townhomes. Instead, the Swampscott Foundation purchased the land and developed it into the current park for the town.

Current recreational activities include picnicking, sunbathing, dog exercising, ball games, and general children's play. The Hadley School uses the park at times for outdoor recess activities. The Town's recreation department holds summer movie screenings, craft shows and other events at the park on a regular basis. Despite its modest size, Linscott Park is among the most visible and heavily used of Swampscott's open spaces.

#### MUSKRAT POND = 0.4 ACRES

A small pond covering 0.4 acres off of Forest Avenue, next to the Swampscott Middle School property, Muskrat Pond has long been used as an outdoor science laboratory for the adjacent school. It

constitutes a segment of a small but effective drainage system running through the school property under Forest Avenue and emptying into the larger drainage way along the old railroad bed. Muskrat Pond is owned by the Town and managed by the Conservation Commission.

Access is possible down a slope from the Middle School parking lot, where an overgrown trail leads to the pond. The pond's water quality is probably negatively impacted by runoff from the parking lot and from Forest Avenue. The pond itself is attractive to view and has potential as a location for nature study and ice skating.

#### PALMER POND = 17.75 ACRES

At the southern end of Phillips Beach lies 17.75-acre Palmer Pond, This area actually contains two brackish ponds, separated by a path. The pond was originally a coastal salt marsh, but drifting sand has created a barrier beach that isolates it from the ocean. There have been years when winter storms breached the sand barrier and flooded the pond with salt water. Occasional fires or storms disrupt the sand-covered surface of the land and reveal layers of peat, laid down when the area was a marsh. According to the 1983 Open Space Plan, Palmer Pond was considered a Great Pond of the Commonwealth. However, it does not appear on the revised 2011 Massachusetts Great Ponds List. The Massachusetts DEP's analysis shows that at some period of time in the past, this area was a small tidal embayment with its outlet to the ocean located at the existing beach or tennis club at Ocean Avenue. Therefore, the "pond area" is within Chapter 91 jurisdiction and any filling, dredging or structures constructed within the former tidal embayment would require authorization by the Program prior to these activities taking place.<sup>90</sup>

Vegetation includes extensive cattails, duck weed, common reed and beach rose. On the ocean side of Palmer Pond are sand dunes, the only ones in the area. In these dunes, can be found plants typical of those found in more developed dune systems which have the ability to resist desiccation and survive burial in sand.<sup>91</sup>

Access to Palmer Pond is limited to using informal sandy paths,

90 Email communication with David B. Slagle, Environmental Analyst, Waterways Regulation Program, MA DEP, January 25, 2013 & Acts 1966 Chap.542 <http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/actsResolves/1966/1966acts0543.pdf>

91 "Beach, Flora, Fauna, Geology"

beginning at the end of the boardwalk at Ocean Avenue. There previously was a partial footpath from Palmer Road, however that has long since overgrown. The condition of Palmer Pond is marred by the development of a monoculture of common reed, an aggressive invasive plant. However, the overall area is quite picturesque and important for its wildlife as well as an environmental asset. It is a favored spot for nature lovers, bird watchers and ice skaters, and the dunes and beach nearby offer opportunities for picnics and swimming.

## **PARKS & OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS**

### **CHAISSON PARK = 0.9 ACRES**

Chaisson Park, a small, grassy wedge of a park is located at the edge of Fisherman's Beach. Several park benches face the ocean, and several important memorials are located there, including a War of 1812 cannon, an aviation pioneer's memorial and the Seaman's Memorial, which is the anchor from the Tedesco, the ship that sank off Galloupes Point in 1857.

### **DRISCOLL PARK = 0.03 ACRES**

The King's Beach promenade from Lynn to Swampscott terminates at Driscoll Park, a small pedestrian area adjacent to the beach and the first commercial enterprise on the water side. It has a brick terrace at the edge of the beach and includes the Thomas H. Driscoll Memorial Flagpole, benches and raised planters. King's Beach terminates at Black Will's cliff. On the east side of the Cliff is a small park owned by St. John the Evangelist Church. This park extends from Humphrey Street and ends at a point high above the sea. Tall pines filter the view.<sup>92</sup>

### **HOWLAND PARK = 1 ACRE**

Designed as part of a chain of parks in the Olmsted Historic District, this small grassy and partially wooded park caps the Monument Avenue Mall at the inland end. It is somewhat crescent shaped and rises from street level to a steep pitch. The Olmsted plans show that this steep pitched area was originally designed as "Overlook Park," and would have had a commanding view of the ocean. This part of the design was never completed, but the street-level portion of the park is the site of some benches, flagpoles and a WWII monument.

<sup>92</sup> OSRMP 1983 and 2005 edits; "Swampscott Reconnaissance Report: Essex County Landscape Inventory, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program"

### **MACHON SCHOOL GROUNDS = 1 ACRE**

Decommissioned as a school building in 2012, the Machon School sits on 1.029 acres of land abutting the Swampscott High School and Jackson Park. In 2012, the Swampscott Town Meeting voted to maintain a public path access to Jackson Park Woods on the Machon School grounds.<sup>93</sup> The Machon School building itself is currently being repurposed into 38 affordable senior housing units by B'nai B'rith. As a part of the development agreement, the public path access to the woods will remain.

### **METROPOLITAN PARK = 0.75 ACRES**

Metropolitan Park is the long park that runs from the Lynn line to Driscoll Park above King's Beach. It also includes a small grassy triangle of land on the Lynn line. The triangular portion is bordered by Humphrey Street, Ocean Street, and Eastern Avenue. The long portion of the park runs along Humphrey Street and features a wide sidewalk, benches, and access to the beach. The triangular portion has five trees and each of its corners are bordered by shrubs and flowering plants. As the gateway to Swampscott from Lynn, Metropolitan Park provides a beautiful green space that is a favorite for dog walkers and provides a feeling of openness for which to enjoy the ocean views.

### **MONUMENT MALL & SQUARE = 1 ACRE**

This parkland was designed by the famed architect Frederick Law Olmsted and provides a handsome entranceway to the town. At the ocean end of the Mall is the 1883 obelisk of the Civil War Memorial. It is capped at the inland end by Howland Park, a landscaped sitting area. In addition to a tall flagpole in the center, this mall now houses several war memorials, including the WWI Memorial, WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, the Desert Storm War Memorial and the War on Terror Memorial. Several gardens adorn this area, including a memorial lilac garden on the Howland Park end, and seasonal flowers at the entrance of Memorial Avenue.

The Square is the entrance to the Olmsted Historic District and to the Elihu Thomson Administration Building campus. It links the Administration Building on one side of Monument Avenue to Linscott Park on the other, which contributes to the feeling of the entrance parkway. The result is a wide-open public space that is used regularly

<sup>93</sup> 2012 Swampscott Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article 5





Historic Postcard of Johnson Park on right and Eisman's Beach on left (UNDATED)

as a civic center where the community gathers frequently for parades, picnics, movies, town events and celebrations. Strolling, ball playing and socializing also take place here. It is critical to maintain the spaces along the mall and the openness that one senses from within and without. The views from Monument Avenue to King's Beach and the ocean beyond are essential to the character of this area. This area is part of the Olmsted Historic District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**RICHARD B. JOHNSON & PAUL A. POLISSON PARKS = 1 ACRE**  
 These two parks comprise an acre of grassy park area. Both parks abut beaches and provide areas of retreat at high tide and vistas of great scenic beauty at all times. Johnson Park, named after another prominent Swampscott citizen, Richard B. Johnson, is land once owned by the New Ocean House, a large hotel that was a summer resort until it burned in 1969. This park looks over New Ocean House/Eisman's Beach and also faces the ocean and its surface is a combination of concrete, paving stones and grass.

Today the beach front park has a crumbling sea wall, broken concrete

deck and exedra (half-moon bench) overlooking the water that was once part of the hotel amenities. The bench retains its egg and dart design and S-curved feet. At one time a huge salt-water swimming pool, built in 1961, took up much of this park – the outline of which is still visible. This park has great potential for passive recreation, and while it is accessible to people with disabilities, there are many improvements that could be made. The Town is currently undertaking a redesign process for Johnson Park, with the goal of funding and implementing the final design in the next seven years.

Polisson Park, the smaller of the two, was named after a prominent resident, Paul A. Polisson. It is a small grassy area with a memorial stone and a bench facing the ocean at Whale's Beach.

These beaches and parks are accessible from Puritan Road, with a right-of-way on the western end next to Polisson Park, access via stairs from Johnson Park, and access from a right-of-way on the eastern end between two private homes on Puritan Road, #259 and #273. Parking is not permitted on Puritan Road but residents can park at the rear of Phillips Park on Humphrey Street, an area referred to as the Beach Parking Lot, and cut through the right-of-way to Puritan Road when using the parks and the beach.

#### S.P.O.T. DOG PARK = 1,500 SQUARE FEET

This dog park was created by local group Swampscott Park for Off-Leash Time (SPOT), in partnership with DPW. The 1,500 square-foot area officially opened in 2019, and includes two areas: one for smaller breeds and older dogs, and one for larger, more active canines. SPOT funds paid for the clearing, grading, and fencing of the area; the group also provided for landscaping, trash cans, a clean-up bag holder, and signage. SPOT is responsible for day-to-day running of the park, while DPW oversees maintenance.

#### FOREST RIVER TRAIL CONNECTION

In October 2020, a new trail connection from Swampscott to the Forest River Conservation Area in Salem was completed and opened to the public. This trail connection is located at the rear of the dog park, and was made possible through the efforts of the Swampscott Conservancy, in partnership with the DPW, and the Swampscott and Salem Conservation Commission's. A local eagle scout, Aidan Pulaski,

organized 20 volunteers to help clear the trail, place trail markers, and build the kiosk at the trailhead<sup>94</sup>.

#### SWAMPSCOTT CEMETERY = 30 ACRES

The Swampscott Cemetery, currently encompassing 30 acres, started out as an 18th century burial ground and was consecrated in 1854. The cemetery is ADA compliant, with a gated entrance directly off Essex Street. The cemetery includes monuments and plots for soldiers killed in wars back as far as the American Revolution. It was recommended for the National Register of Historic Places along with the recently renovated Andrews Chapel, a small stone structure within the cemetery grounds, in December, 2012. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2013.

The grounds offer large established maples, oaks, pines and shrubs and well-maintained lawns. There are few, if any, benches for visitors to use. The cemetery's paths provide a quiet area removed from traffic for strolling among historic gravestones and monuments. Development of a preservation and management plan for the cemetery and removal of invasive plants are recommended by the 2005 Swampscott Reconnaissance Report.

#### TOWN HALL LAWN = 3.1 ACRES

The Elihu Thomson House, now the Thomson Administration Building or "Town Hall," was constructed in 1899 for the founder of Thomson Electric which later joined with Edison Electric to become General Electric. This building, purchased by the Town as a "partial gift" in 1945, is an elegant Georgian Revival brick structure with cast stone trim and fine Revival detail. At the rear there is an attached carriage house which serves as Town offices as well, and behind the building is the Public Library. These buildings sit on over three acres of land, open to the public and contributing to the openness and grandeur of the entrance of Town.

In 1976 the site was designated as an historic landmark. Seeking even stronger protection for the site, the Historical Commission was responsible for its National Register nomination in 2002 and its subsequent Preservation Restriction that same year, drawn up in

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94 "New Trailhead links to Forest River network" (Wicked Local, 10/5/2020)



Image via Swampscott Conservancy  
<http://box5733.temp.domains/~swampsc3/special-places/>



Swampscott Annual Classics by the Sea Car Show (image provided by Recreation Director)

accordance with MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A Preservation Restriction runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation strategies available. The grounds are ornamented with specimen trees, and as mentioned above, used regularly as a civic center where the community gathers frequently for parades and celebrations.

#### WINDSOR PARK = 0.3 ACRES

This pocket park, less than a half-acre on Windsor Avenue, north of Foster's Pond, is the only public children's playground in this area of Swampscott. Maintained by the DPW, Windsor Park contains a basketball court in poor condition and a tot lot with a swing set and some rusty equipment for younger-age children. A redesign process for the park has begun, and a neighborhood meeting at the park was held in Fall of 2019. Behind the park is an expanse of woods with some informal paths leading ultimately to the Aggregate Industries quarry property. The 1983 Open Space Plan proposed enlarging the Park through land acquisition and provided a possible site plan. This proposal was not pursued.

### RECREATION AREAS

#### ABBOTT PARK = 2.1 ACRES

This small park on Paradise Road, adjacent to the Clarke School,



serves all of the school's athletic needs, and provides limited recreational facilities for the public in this densely built-up section of Swampscott. Abbott Park is town-owned and is maintained by the DPW. This dedicated public park has two little league baseball fields, a basketball court, and a playground. It's also used for children's programs organized by Recreation in the summer. In the past, the Recreation Department has flooded the field, allowing it to freeze over for ice-skating. There were multiple mentions of this park in the 2020 Community Survey, and the OSRPC has identified it as a park in need of upgrades in the Action Plan.

#### HADLEY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA = 0.25 ACRES

The playground and ballfield adjacent to the Hadley School are Town-owned land used by the elementary school for children's outdoor activities. The playground faces Redington Street and is in good condition; the former ballfield, which sits behind the playground and abuts Linscott Park, has been allowed to grow grass and now serves as a multi-functional play area. The recreation area, managed by Recreation, is approximately one quarter acre in area located in a densely populated area, and is used by the public during off-school hours. There is a right-of-way in perpetuity from Redington Street through the playground into Linscott Park, ending on Elmwood Road. The site is ADA compliant.

While Hadley School had been one of the sites currently being considered for a new elementary school, in the Fall of 2020 the School Building chose to recommend the Stanley School site. Subsequently, Town Meeting approved the creation of a Hadley Elementary School Reuse Advisory Committee to evaluate the site's future use potential and make recommendations to the Select Board.

#### JACKSON PARK = 30 ACRES

This spacious park off Essex Street is home to Swampscott High School, opened in 2007. Adjacent to the former Machon School, it was the most varied and versatile in Swampscott's park system. Jackson Park is broken up into three portions: Lower Jackson Park, Jackson Park Woods, and Upper Jackson Park.

The newly developed land includes a practice field facing Essex Street used by several youth athletic programs (Lower Jackson Park). In

2015, after almost eight years of planning and fundraising, part of the park was renovated to include a half basketball court, walkways, a swing set, and Evos Systems play structures with nets, platforms, and bars for climbing as well as shade trees, and benches. The Jackson Park Community Playground Project, a citizen's group, were the main driving force behind the upgrades. The park is Town-owned, managed by Recreation and maintained by DPW, with the remaining open portion dedicated as a public park.

The slope beyond this field still includes a natural area of wooded hillside and a small pond (Jackson Park Woods). The Jackson Park Woods encompasses 12 acres and includes mature oaks and a lovely stand of white pines, planted as saplings by the Town in 1916. The woods are accessible by a right-of-way from Burpee Road through the old Machon School site as well as via the parking lot at Upper Jackson Park. The high school cross country team uses the path through the woods as part of their route. From the highest point, one can view Swampscott's waterfront and the bay.

A soccer field and running track were built on land (5.75 acres) owned by Aggregate Industries (Upper Jackson Park). The Town signed a permanent easement agreement in 2004 with Aggregate to allow for the installation of the field and use of the land for recreational purposes.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL RECREATION AREA = 12.1 ACRES

The Middle School is sited on Town-owned land off Forest Avenue that is managed by Recreation and maintained by DPW. The original "bowl" field behind the school building is typically used for physical education activities during the school year and features a small field and softball field. Between the school building and Muskrat Pond is expanded teacher parking, three Little League fields (built on easement land owned by the Tedesco Country Club) to replace those formerly located at Jackson Park, and tennis courts. This area is surrounded by wetlands and is transected by the former railroad right of way. Recreation Department programs take place here during the summer months, as do non-school related team sports such as baseball and softball. The tennis courts may be used by the public. The area is well maintained and is ADA compliant.



Phillips Park Playground & new bleachers (Sept. 2020)

#### PHILLIPS PARK = 21.3 ACRES

Phillips Park has been used over the years as the primary recreational area for Swampscott High and Middle School athletics and graduation ceremonies. The park is home to Blocksidge Field, the High School's official football field, which is encircled by a track and boasts a field house with locker rooms, restrooms, offices and ticket booths. Surrounding the football field are concession stands, bleachers, equipment storage facilities and a resident-only parking lot with access to Whale's, New Ocean House, and Eiseman's beaches. Also located on site are: 1 baseball diamond, 2 softball diamonds, another football field, 1 lighted basketball court, 1 tot playground, 2 tennis courts, and 1 soccer field.

Up through 2003, the primary football field, Blocksidge Field, was used for football games only; not for practice or any other team sport. Due to increasing demands of the growing athletic programs in Town, this began to change over the years. After conducting a study of the Town's athletic fields, particularly Blocksidge Field, the Athletic Field Study Committee found and recommended that a multi-sport,

artificial turf field located at Blocksidge Field as an urgent need of the town. The natural grass field and other fields in town were subject to tremendous overuse and deterioration, as they were not getting the rest they needed to survive.

The new turf field and other park amenities were celebrated in a dedication ceremony in September 2017, which was attended by local resident Governor Charlie Baker. The park continues to be a pivotal asset to recreational and sports programs in Town. Additionally, the rear parking area provides residents a place to park and walk to nearby Johnson Park and New Ocean House Beach.

Access from Humphrey Street is good and accessible to people with disabilities. During high-volume sporting events, parking along Humphrey Street can limit visibility entering and exiting the parking lot. Phillips Park is dedicated as a public park and is maintained by the DPW.

#### STANLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND = 0.5 ACRES

On the eastern side of Stanley School is a playground, swings and basketball hoop. School children use the playground for recess and physical activity during the school year. The playground is open to the public and used year round. It's also used for children's programs organized by Recreation in the summer. The playground is well maintained, although the grassy area is quite rocky and uneven. The ADA-compliant area is managed and maintained by the School District.

#### STANLEY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA = 3 ACRES

The Stanley School Recreation Area is on the western side of the school and includes two Little League/softball diamonds. School children use the fields for recess and physical activity during the school year. The fields are used for children's Recreation Department programs in the summer. The fields are well maintained and the site is accessible to people with disabilities. The site abuts the Charles Ewing Woods Conservation area on one side. The right-of-way that divides the school from the conservation area (i.e. Forest Avenue "paper street" which runs from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn to the end of Forest Avenue extension) is used as a cut-through and tends to get littered. The school children visit the Ewing Woods for exploration and Science-related activity. The site is accessible to





Forty Steps looking down toward Ingalls Terrace (Sept 11, 2011)

people with disabilities.

The Stanley School was selected by the School Building Committee as the site for a new elementary school building, so future layout and use of the site is likely to change, subject to the final development plans.

#### SUPERIOR STREET PLAYGROUND = 0.1 ACRES

At the corner of Duncan Terrace and Superior Street, this approximately 6,500-square-foot park is easily overlooked, surrounded as it is by multifamily housing. A few mature maples and conifers provide some shade on sunny days. The playground is strategically located next to Swampscott's Duncan Terrace affordable housing units

and provide a significant amenity for these low-income residents. The playground was renovated in 2016 to include new equipment.

## RIGHT-OF-WAYS

**FORTY STEPS - INGALLS TERRACE TO ROCKLAND STREET**  
Fifty-seven concrete steps with eight landings lead from Ingalls Terrace to Rockland Street. Originally constructed as a pedestrian right-of-way in the early 20th century, they were built to make it easier for commuters to cut through when walking to and from the trolley that ran along Humphrey Street. The first set of stairs was constructed in iron, and was replaced with concrete stairs in the mid 20th century. The right of way is Town-owned and, though not well maintained, it is still quite passable in either direction. This site is not ADA accessible.

#### CLIFFSIDE STREET

A public way exists on the Hawthorne by the Sea site, from the curb at 293 Humphrey Street seaward, where a small road used to exist (Cliffside Street). When the Hawthorne by the Sea restaurant was developed, this road was paved over as part of the parking lot, but is in fact still a Town right-of-way.

#### LITTLE'S POINT ROAD TO PHILLIPS BEACH

This right-of-way is between 80 and 86 Little's Point Road, a portion of which is used as a shared driveway. It is fairly difficult to discern from the street. Past the driveway, the right of way passes over wood duckboards, and then down a steep slope of loose stony shingle to the beach. This end of Phillips Beach is shingle and difficult to traverse, as is the bottom of the right of way.

#### MARTIN WAY BEFORE LINCOLN HOUSE POINT

This right-of-way is essentially an extension of the beach and the sandy public open space immediately to the east. An unpaved sandy area, it is occasionally used as parking for Fisherman's Beach and by DPW vehicles to reach the beach.

#### NEW OCEAN HOUSE FOOTPATH

A winding footpath through scrub vegetation on slightly undulating terrain makes up this right-of-way. The path runs from Puritan Road to Humphrey Street and was originally part of the New Ocean House

grounds. Largely hidden, it is a pedestrian cut through from the rear parking lot of Phillips Park to the beach.

## **PUBLIC & PRIVATE AREA(S)**

PHILLIPS BEACH & BOARDWALK = 1,300 FEET IN LENGTH  
Phillips Beach is located at the end of Ocean Avenue facing out into Massachusetts Bay. This ocean beach lies between two rocky outcrops, Little's Point at the southern end and Flirtation Rock at the Marblehead line. The northernmost end of Phillips Beach, from the Marblehead line to Ocean Avenue, is referred to as Preston Beach by local residents. The combined length of the Phillips Beach/Preston Beach shoreline is 5,260 feet. Phillips Beach is the Town's only barrier beach. It was mapped as a barrier beach in the state Barrier Beach Inventory Project conducted by the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management in 1982.<sup>95</sup>

The primary right-of-way to Phillips Beach is via a boardwalk at the end of Ocean Avenue. There is a seasonally-installed planked boardwalk that extends from the right-of-way on Ocean Avenue to the beach. Entrance improvements funded under the state's MVP grant program, including appropriate ADA access and bike amenities, are currently in the design/permitting stage with planned construction in mid 2021. On-street parking on Ocean Avenue is restricted to town residents with current recreation stickers between May 1 and October 1. There is one small pedestrian path Right of Way located between private homes, 80 and 86 Phillips Beach Avenue. It is unmarked and there is no parking on Phillips Beach Avenue.

Phillips Beach is partially public and privately-owned, however historically the entire beach is open to the public and is maintained by DPW. The Town purchased a portion of the beach directly adjacent to the entrance from a private landowner in 2014, which completed an action item in the previous Open Space plan. Moving forward, the OSRPC plans to work with landowners to ensure continued public access to the privately-owned portions of the beach.

Phillips Beach is considered one of the most popular beaches by Swampscott residents, as the condition of the beach area and water are excellent. When bonfires were previously allowed, debris and other

<sup>95</sup> "Beach Management Plan: Town of Swampscott's Beaches"



Foster's Pond, accessed from Carson Terrace (Sept. 2020)

refuse was an issue. The current policy is for beachgoers to carry in/carry out and utilize the trash bins located at the beach entrance on Ocean Avenue. The Friends of Phillips Beach carry out an annual beach cleanup in May that contributes to keeping the beach in good condition.

Current use and recreation potential for Phillips Beach is high with a variety of activities available, including surfcasting, picnicking, swimming, sunbathing, children's sand play, bird watching by the ponds behind low dunes, dog walking between October and May, body surfing, paddle boarding, and launching for small boats. There is also an area for beach volleyball between the dunes. This beach is staffed with lifeguards from Recreation during the summer hours.

## **LINEAR PARK/SWAMPSCOTT RAIL TRAIL**

The Swampscott Rail Trail will be a 2-mile linear park throughout the Town for every neighborhood, every resident, and every age. The Rail Trail provides new and better ways to connect neighborhoods and



Town residents to the natural environment. The Rail Trail will run in the center of the former railroad bed which is now a 30-115 ft. wide utility corridor starting at Stetson Avenue, east through the middle of the Town, to the Marblehead town line and will connect to the Marblehead and Salem Rail Trail.

In May 2017, Swampscott Town Meeting approved (by a vote of 210 to 56) a warrant article to move forward with the Rail Trail and to provide funding for the design and engineering of the trail as well as the costs for the acquisition of the easement rights. This warrant article was unanimously sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and supported by the Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, School Committee, Planning Board, Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee, and Conservation Commission.

In June 2017, a town-wide election was held to bring the question of the Rail Trail project to the entire community. Swampscott voters affirmed Town Meeting's approval by a margin of 12%.

A segment of the trail, from the Marblehead town line to Beach Bluff Avenue, was completed in the summer of 2020 and a subsequent section from Beach Bluff to Bradlee Ave was finished in the fall. When fully completed, the Rail Trail will provide the following benefits:

- » Creates additional recreational space in town (as a linear park)
- » Establishes an outdoor classroom
- » Provides alternate commuting to schools, parks, public transportation, retail and recreation
- » Offers the public access to observe nature (vistas, vegetation, and wildlife)
- » Replicates the original purpose of the right-of-way
- » Increases real estate values
- » Connects Swampscott to neighboring communities

- » Provides safe, family-friendly recreational opportunities to better attract and retain families

## **PRIVATELY-OWNED AREAS CONSERVATION AREAS**

BLYTHSWOOD = 6.02 ACRES

Blythswood, a summer estate built on a sizeable tract of land overlooking the ocean at Little's Point, was occupied by James A. Little of Boston in 1848. A conservation easement given to Swampscott by Frances Wilkinson in 2011 preserves the 6.5-acre property in perpetuity and ensures public access to 240 feet of frontage on Massachusetts Bay, and runs from Littles Point Road to the cliff overlooking the ocean. The conservation easement also gives the Town right of first refusal if the property goes on the market, and provides for public gatherings for up to 50 people on the property several times a year.<sup>96</sup> The developers of the adjacent property, White Court (formerly Marion Court College), have agreed to expand the easement onto their property, clean up the entire easement area, and construct a viewing area at its coastal nexus point. The estimated completion date for this project is summer of 2021.

## **PARKS & OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS**

BEACH BLUFF PARK = 0.47 ACRES

Beach Bluff Park, a small oceanfront park located at the Swampscott/Marblehead border, is owned and cared for by the Clifton Improvement Association. The park is open to the public and enjoyed in every season. In the summer, parking is available on Atlantic Avenue with Town recreation stickers or in a lot across the street from the park for a daily or seasonal fee.

The landscaped area between the sidewalk and beach invites visitors to stroll its winding paths and sit on benches which are sited among indigenous plants. Since December 1993, when the family of John and Ruth Blodgett donated the park land for public use and a conservation restriction was instituted, it has become a source of great pleasure for neighbors, local fishermen and passers-by. The park's focus is a Sun Circle sculpture designed to be attuned to the solar cycles. The installation consists of a ring or "henge" of seven-foot basalt columns

<sup>96</sup> "Swampscott Estate Owner Aims to Share Property's History with Town" article



from Washington State's Columbia River Basin.

The park is in good condition, but is subject to damage and erosion from major storms. The park offers recreational opportunities for people to come alone or gather in groups to enjoy the beauty of this site where land meets water and to take advantage of the spot for relaxation and meditation, photography, reading, family events, ceremonies and gatherings.

#### FOSTER POND<sup>97</sup>

Foster Pond (6.2 acres) is the Town's only body of fresh water and its current state is a result of the discharge from the nearby quarry, Aggregate Industries. If no quarry was in operation, then the pond would eventually dry up. Palmer Pond is located in the northwest corner of Swampscott, with rudimentary access on Windsor Avenue on the west end and from land on Carson Terrace. The land behind the north shore of the pond is attractively wooded with exposed ledges in some parts down to the water. This terrain was identified in the 1983 Open Space Plan as one of the three most important open spaces remaining in Swampscott. The opposite shore paralleling Carson Terrace is lined with homes set back from the pond. The actual ownership of Foster Pond is unclear, but it is not owned by the abutters or by Aggregate Industries. The DPW manages the dam at the Windsor Ave end of the pond.

The condition of Foster Pond appears superficially to be good. It is an attractive site with relatively clear water and healthy bordering vegetation. However, it is subject to eutrophication in the summer months when algae and pond weed cover the surface. This problem is exacerbated by the shallowness of the pond (generally 4 -5 feet deep). There are also litter issues, probably because the site is not maintained by the Town. Aggregates discharge of ground water seepage collected in the quarry's holding lagoon after settling is regulated by the U.S. EPA. Of greater concern is the fact that the pond has been identified by the State as being impaired by DDT contamination, likely a result of pesticide use in the mid-to-late 20th century. Warnings are posted against fish consumption<sup>98</sup>.

<sup>97</sup> "On The Brink: Sustaining Wetlands At The Edge Of A Quarry"

<sup>98</sup> (see also "Water Resources" section within "IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis" chapter)

Current use of Foster Pond is limited by the lack of access to the water and parking. There appears to be some fishing and boating taking place as well as ice skating during the winter months. According to the 1983 Open Space Plan, residents "have long sought to have the pond protected for neighborhood recreational and conservation use." Active and passive recreational opportunities such as fishing, ice skating, picnicking, swimming, and boating are potential uses of Foster Pond, depending on improving and sustaining good water quality and improving accessibility and availability of parking. However, the future of the pond is also dependent upon discharge from the quarry, which helps keep the pond waters level.

## RECREATION AREAS/61B LAND

### TEDESCO COUNTRY CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

This is a Chapter 61B Recreational restriction property. The Tedesco Country Club and Golf Course, a rolling and hilly area with woods, streams and ponds southeast of the Vinnin Square shopping center, is the largest parcel of open space land in Swampscott. It is privately owned by approximately 500 club members and managed under their direction. The 18-hole course with ancillary practice areas spans 152 acres, more than half of which are located in Swampscott and the remainder in Marblehead. Its \$11 million clubhouse, completed in 2011, is sited in Marblehead. The 1983 Open Space plan reports that there are wetlands and vernal pools in this area, which have been certified and are protected by the Wetlands Protection Act.

The country club is in excellent condition, as befits an exclusive, private golf course. The acreage offers a large manicured green space with some wooded areas for wildlife. The golf course is not open to the general public or members for winter sports activities, due to damage to the turf caused by these activities and possible legal problems. While unlikely given the recent expenditure on the new clubhouse, the potential for both active and passive recreation would be great if the property ever became available to the Town. Because of its special status under Chapter 61B, the Town has first refusal for any land that may become available.

## **PRIVATE LANDS WITH FUTURE PUBLIC BENEFITS**

### **SCULPIN WAY WETLANDS**

There is a large area of land, 3.5 acres (four parcels), of undeveloped land at the northeast corner of Sculpin Way. This large piece of land used to be part of the New Ocean House property on Puritan Road before it was destroyed by fire in the 1960s. This portion of the property has remained undeveloped though a subdivision of the land was approved a number of years ago for four lots.

Most of this land is wetlands and wooded. The potential for development is limited due to the location of the wetlands and limited access onto Sculpin Way. In the Spring of 2013, the land was purchased by an abutting property owner, who recorded a view easement restricting future development on the site and with the intention to keep the property in its natural state, with the exception of an allowance for a small gazebo<sup>99</sup>.

### **ARCHER STREET<sup>100</sup>**

An undeveloped parcel located off of Archer Street was recently listed for sale. The property, a little over 5 acres, is adjacent to Clark Street Playground in Lynn and contains a wetland area. The OSRPC has preliminarily explored available options to fund the purchase and use of the site as open space, although much is dependent on whether or not the property remains for sale.

### **QUARRY**

The quarry operated by Aggregate Industries is sited on 210 acres of land, 160 acres of which is currently being used in mining. The mine is 220 feet deep. The operation's crushed stone is used in asphalt and concrete. Very fine sand is made from stone dust, as well.

The quarry has been in operation for about 100 years, with approximately one half of the property lying in Salem. While there is no current or potential recreational use of the quarry in the near term, the town, along with Salem, could consider developing the site into a park once the mine is closed, along the lines of what was done with the historic granite quarries at Halibut Point in Rockport. The Quarry abuts Foster Pond and Harold King Forest, as well as conservation land

in Salem, which makes this plan particularly appropriate and mutually beneficial.

A closure plan is part of the Quarry's permitting requirements, and the Town Administration is particularly focused on the impacts and opportunities a future closure would bring. While it is still possibly 50 years away, it is never too early to start planning for how this would affect Swampscott.

Additionally, any planning to improve access to Foster Pond by obtaining lots on Carson Terrace require negotiation with Aggregate Industries.

## **ADA ACCESS**

ADA improvements are a need throughout Town. While many of the open spaces are partially handicap accessible, most require assistance and may not be up-to-date to the latest standards. Some of these partially accessible areas include:

Chaisson Park, Beach Bluff Park, Johnson Park, Polisson Park, Middle School sports fields, soccer field/track in upper Jackson Park, Phillips Park, Driscoll Park, Linscott Park, Elihu Thomson Administration Building grounds, Hadley School Playground, Stanley School Playground, and Abbott Park.

Although several parks abut the beach, in general sandy beaches have very limited handicap access. One of the action items in the Plan Update is to install ADA approved beach access mats as a solution to this issue.

The Town has recently completed an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan which identifies needs in Town buildings and certain open spaces; the plan is awaiting adoption by the Select Board and will allow staff to pursue state funding to help implement improvements.

In addition to the listing above, the accompanying chart LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST-MATRIX includes which locations are fully or partially ADA accessible. Also included in our Seven Year Action Plan is the objective that all actions will incorporate ADA accessibility where possible within the Town's means, the Project

<sup>99</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds. Book: 32496, Page: 531.

<sup>100</sup> This parcel is marked on Map 12 - Action Plan.

Partners include the Commission on Disability. As we move forward with this Plan Update, we will identify obstacles and determine how to make the Town's open spaces available to all members of our community. In the event a project may not be within the Town's means, additional funding that is specific to ADA compliance projects will be sought.

# LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - MATRIX

PART 1 - PUBLIC LANDS										
NAME	OWNER-SHIP	MGMT ENTITY	MGMT PLAN	CURRENT USE	RECREATION POTENTIAL	CONDITION	ACCESS	GRANT	ZONING	PROTECTION STATUS
<b>BEACHES</b>										
Eiseman's, New Ocean House & Whale's Beaches	Town (portion privately owned)	DPW, Recreation	No	Coastal recreation	swim, surf, picnic, sunbathe, etc	Good	Public, CAP, ADA*		n/a	Article 97
Fisherman's Beach	Town (portion privately owned)	DPW, Harbormaster, Recreation	No	Coastal recreation	swim, surf, picnic, sunbathe, etc.	Good	Public, CAP, ADA*		n/a	Article 97
Fish Pier	Town	DPW, Harbormaster	No	Coastal recreation	Sail (small craft)	Fair	Public, CAP	Seaport Advisory Council	n/a	Article 97
King's Beach	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	swim, surf, picnic, sunbathe, etc.	Good	Public, CAP, ADA		n/a	Article 97
Preston Beach	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	swim, surf, picnic, sunbathe, etc.	Good	Public, ADA*		n/a	Yes
Cassidy Park/ Sandy Beach	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	swim, surf, picnic, sunbathe, etc.	Good	Public, CAP, ADA*		n/a	Limited
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>										
Charles M Ewing Woods	Town	ConComm	Yes	Passive recreation	hike, nature studies	Good	Public		A2	Limited
Harold A King Forest	Town	ConComm	Yes	Passive recreation	hike, nature studies	Good	Public	DCR FSP	A2	In perpetuity

**KEY**

POOR

FAIR

GOOD

EXCELLENT

**ACCESS**

\* = Limited

ADA = Handicap Accessible

CAP = Coastal Access Point

## PART 1 - PUBLIC LANDS

NAME	OWNER-SHIP	MGMT ENTITY	MGMT PLAN	CURRENT USE	RECREATION POTENTIAL	CONDITION	ACCESS	GRANT	ZONING	PROTECTION STATUS
Harry D Linscott Park	Town	ConComm, Recreation	No	Recreation, Community events	picnic, sunbathe, children's play	Good	Public, ADA*		A2	Terms of will
Muskrat Pond	Town	ConComm	No	Passive recreation	nature studies, bird watch	Good	Public		A2	Limited
Palmer Pond	Town	ConComm	No	Passive recreation	nature studies, bird watch	Good	Public		n/a	Chapter 91

### PARKS & OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS

Chaisson Park	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	ocean view, open space	Good	Public, ADA		A2	Limited
Driscoll Park	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	ocean view, open space	Good	Public, ADA		B1	None / Unknown
Howland Park	Town	DPW	No	Passive recreation	ocean view, open space	Good	Public		A2	None / Unknown
Metropolitan Park	Town	DPW	No	Coastal recreation	ocean view, open space	Good	Public		A2	None / Unknown
Monument Mall & Square	Town	DPW	No	Recreation, Community events	ocean view, open space	Good	Public, ADA*		A2 & unzoned	National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
Paul A Polisson Park	Town	DPW, Recreation	No	Coastal Recreation	ocean view, open space	Fair	Public, CAP, ADA*		A2	In perpetuity
Richard B Johnson Park	Town	Recreation, DPW	No	Coastal recreation	ocean view, open space, passive recreation	Poor	Public, CAP, ADA*	PARC	A2	In perpetuity
SPOT Dog Park	Town	DPW, SPOT	No	Dog Park	dog exercise	Good	Public		A2	None
Swampscott Cemetery	Town	DPW	No	Cemetery	stroll, historic cemetery	Good	Public, ADA		A2	NRHP

## KEY

POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT



## ACCESS

\* = Limited / CAP = Coastal Access Point / ADA = Handicap Accessible



## PART 1 - PUBLIC LANDS

NAME	OWNER-SHIP	MGMT ENTITY	MGMT PLAN	CURRENT USE	RECREATION POTENTIAL	CONDITION	ACCESS	GRANT	ZONING	PROTECTION STATUS
Town Hall Lawn	Town	Recreation, DPW	No	Passive recreation	ocean view, open space, Community events	Good	Public, ADA		A2	NRHP
Windsor Park	Town	DPW	No	Recreation	playground, basketball court	Poor	Public	PARC	A2	Limited

### PLAYGROUNDS & RECREATION AREAS

Abbott Park	Town	Recreation	No	Recreation	playground, ball field	Fair	Public, ADA*		A3	Yes
Hadley School Recreation Area	Town	Recreation	No	Recreation	playground, ball field	Good	Public, ADA	PARC	A4	Yes
Jackson Park (Upper/Lower)	Town	Recreation	No	Recreation & School	Athletic fields / playground	Good	Public, ADA		A2 & I	Yes
Middle School Recreation Area	Town	Recreation	No	Recreation & School	Ball fields, tennis fields, stroll	Good	Public, ADA		A2	Limited
Phillips Park	Town	Recreation	No	Recreation & School	Athletic fields, Athletic courts playground	Excellent	Public, ADA*		A2	Yes
Stanley School Playground	Town	School	No	School	playground	Good	Public, ADA		A2	None / Unknown
Stanely School Recreation Area	Town	School	No	Recreation & School	practice fields, open area	Good	Public, ADA		A2	Yes
Superior Street Playground	Town	DPW	No	Recreation	playground	Good	Public, ADA	PARC	A3	None / Unknown

### RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Forty Steps	Town	DPW	No	Right-of-way	None	Fair	Public		n/a	ROW
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## KEY

POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT



## ACCESS

\* = Limited / CAP = Coastal Access Point / ADA = Handicap Accessible

## PART 1 - PUBLIC LANDS

NAME	OWNER-SHIP	MGMT ENTITY	MGMT PLAN	CURRENT USE	RECREATION POTENTIAL	CONDITION	ACCESS	GRANT	ZONING	PROTECTION STATUS
Cliffside Streetpath	Town	Anthony's Hawthorne	No	Parking lot	None	Fair	Public		n/a	ROW
Little's Point Road to Phillips Beach	Town	DPW	No	Shared driveway	None	Fair	Public*		n/a	ROW
Martin Way	Town	DPW	No	Beach access	None	Fair	Public, CAP		n/a	ROW
New Ocean House Footpath	Town	DPW	No	Footpath	None	Fair	Public		n/a	ROW
<b>FUTURE PUBLIC BENEFIT</b>										
Linear Park/Rail Trail	Town	DPW	N/A	Open Space	Walking, Biking	Fair	Public	MassTrails	n/a	ROW

## KEY

POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT



## ACCESS

\* = Limited / CAP = Coastal Access Point / ADA = Handicap Accessible

## PART 2 - PRIVATE LANDS

NAME	OWNERSHIP	MGMT ENTITY	CURRENT USE	CONDITION	ACCESS	RECREATION POTENTIAL	ZONING	PROTECTION STATUS
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### BEACHES

Phillips Beach	Multiple private owners	Owners	Beach	Good	Public, CAP, ADA	Coastal Recreation	A1 / N/A	Article 97
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### CONSERVATION AREAS / EASEMENTS

Blythswood	Wilkinson family	Owners & ConComm	Residence	Good	Public*	Passive recreation, views	A1	Conservation restriction
White Court	White Court Condo Association	Owners & ConComm	Footpath	Under Construction	Public*, ADA	Passive recreation, views	A1	Conservation easement

### PARKS & OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS

Beach Bluff Park	Clifton Improvement Association	Owners	Coastal recreation	Good	Public, CAP	Coastal recreation	A1	Article 97, Conservation restriction
Foster Pond	Abutting property owners	Aggregate Industries	Passive recreation	Fair	Private	Environmental resource	N/A	None / Unknown

### RECREATION AREAS

Tedesco Country Club	TedescoCC	Owners	Golf course	Excellent	Private, ADA	Active recreation	A2	Chapter 61B
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### FUTURE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Quarry (& Buffer Zone)	Aggregate Industries	Owners	Quarry	Fair	Private	Passive recreation	I	None / Unknown
Sculpin Way Wetlands	Mahoney family	Owners	Private property	Good	Private	Environmental resource	A1	Conservation Restriction

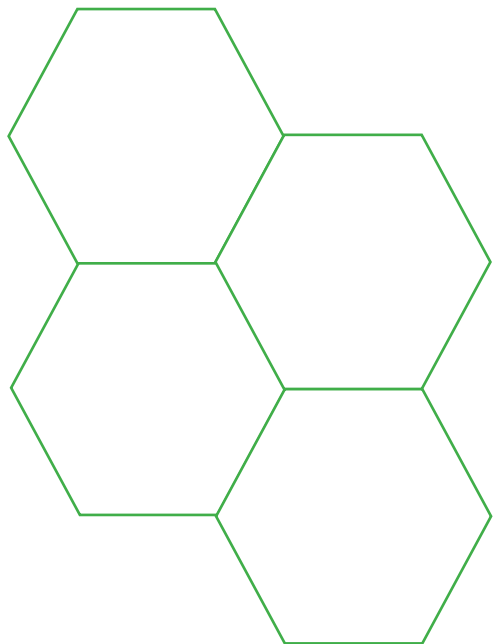
## KEY

POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT



## ACCESS

\* = Limited / CAP = Coastal Access Point / ADA = Handicap Accessible



# VI. COMMUNITY GOALS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The OSRPC members – some who were a part of the drafting of the 2013 plan and some of whom have joined since then – are a diverse and dynamic group of individuals. OSRPC members include individuals who also serve on the Historical Commission, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission, and non-profit groups like the Swampscott Conservancy. Additionally, there are members from two task forces associated with the Open Space Committee – the Tree Task Force and the Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force.

The goal for the Plan Update was not to reinvent the wheel, but rather evaluate what has been accomplished since the 2013 plan and obtain specific feedback from the community on what objectives and action items should be focused on over the next seven years.

The following steps were undertaken by Town staff and the OSRPC:

1. Review of Existing Plan: The existing plan was reviewed according to the State Open Space and Recreation Plan Update matrix. OSRPC members sent edits, questions, and comments to Town staff, who compiled them.
2. In-Depth Evaluation of Current Action Items: The OSRPC reviewed the action items from the 2013 plan, which have been catalogued and tracked using Airtable online software. Over multiple public meetings, the OSRPC went through each action item, reviewed its status, and determined if it: (a) had been completed, (b) needed to be revised or combined with another action item, or (c) should be carried over in the Plan Update as is. As this review progressed through late 2019 into early 2020, OSRPC members also suggested new action items.

3. Public Outreach: The Committee decided to focus outreach on a couple of factors: a) reaffirming that the six original goals of the Open Space & Recreation Plan still remain the major priorities of the community; b) evaluating the tasks and actions set forth in the original plan to determine what has been completed and what needs updating; and c) developing new tasks and actions based on feedback from the community regarding project and area priorities.

A community survey<sup>90</sup> was developed using survey monkey. There were 15 questions, both quantitative and qualitative in nature. The survey was live from March through August 14, 2020 and was promoted on the Town and OSRPC's websites, the Town's Facebook page, the OSRPC's Facebook page, and was sent by direct link to other Town boards and committees. Many of the OSRPC members also serve on other Town boards, committees and local non-profits, and were tasked with reaching out specifically to those groups.

Initially, the OSRPC had also planned on an interactive open house in late spring of 2020. However, COVID-19 and the resulting closures and social distancing requirements prevented this from happening. Instead, the Town Planner and a member of the OSRPC attended the Swampscott Farmer's Market in August to promote the survey and Plan Update. Residents at the Farmer's Market could also fill out a paper version; two additional responses were received in this manner.

Prior to the draft plan being publicized, staff presented survey results at remote public meetings of the Planning Board (Sept. 14th, 2020) and the Select Board (Sept. 16th, 2020).

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90 A copy of this survey and survey results is provided in the Appendix.



Additionally, the public at large had an opportunity to comment on the Plan Update through: 1) an online link from the Town website, or 2) a print version available at Town Hall, which fully opened to the public during regular operating hours from September - November 2020. The OSRPC also hosted a Virtual Open House using Zoom on October 13th, 2020, to answer questions about the draft Plan Update and gather any additional feedback.

4. Draft Plan: The draft Plan Update was submitted to the Select Board and Planning Board in October 2020, as well as other Town boards and committees identified as Project Partners. Those boards and committees were asked for general comments on the Plan Update, as well as for comments on the specific actions items for which they were listed as Project Partners.
5. Final Plan: The final Open Space & Recreation Plan Update will be sent to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services in March 2021.

## STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE & RECREATION GOALS

Swampscott's vision for open space and recreation, as reflected in a recent research and public survey, calls for parks and recreational facilities that are well-equipped and conscientiously-maintained, welcoming and accessible to all residents, and that complement and support the quality of the Town's natural environment. The Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee has set out six broad goals, based on analysis of community needs, that will foster this vision:

### MAINTAIN OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Maintenance and cleanliness were clearly identified as areas of improvements in the survey responses. Establishing site specific plans for maintenance, safety, and replacement of the Town's existing parks, playgrounds, fields, and other open space amenities has been and will continue to be a priority for the OSRPC. Continued communication



Open Space table at Farmer's Market (August 2020)

with Town staff – including the DPW, Recreation Department, and Community Development – is critical to achieving this goal.

### IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS AND AWARENESS

The open space and recreational facilities in Swampscott can meet their fullest potential if they are accessible and known to residents. While improvements have been made in this area, there is additional work to be done. The OSRPC has identified locations for physical signage and will work on providing informational materials in print media and online.

### EXPAND AND IMPROVE OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION FACILITIES

While there are a number of excellent open space and recreation areas available, there can always be improvements to them. The research during this planning process found that amenities were lacking at some

open space areas and/or there were inconsistencies among various open space areas. Likewise, some areas are very small or limited in the type of activity that can be enjoyed. Priorities include additional beach amenities and accessibility upgrades to parks and playground areas. Researching and identifying additional open space areas for the Town is also important, including acquiring vacant land for open space and recreational uses. Map 12 identifies certain vacant parcels that could be acquired for open space, however the OSRPC will continue to evaluate any and all opportunities as they arise.

#### PRESERVE THE SCENIC CHARACTER OF THE TOWN

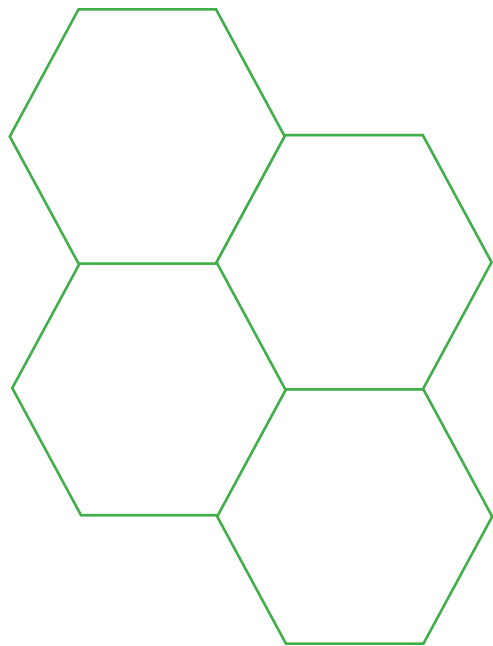
The majority of Swampscott residents value the small-scale seaside town atmosphere in which they live, and want to preserve the quality of life this atmosphere affords. Overall appearance and visual character of the Town will be improved through such things as public shade tree planting and other greenscape improvements. To further support this goal, open space and recreation needs will be incorporated into land use planning and zoning, and protections for historically-significant sites will be put in place. Steps must also be taken to ensure that public access to coastal areas is not further restricted by development.

#### STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As is true in most communities, Swampscott has experienced and continues to experience environmental problems both man-made and natural. The open space and recreational facilities need to take these elements into consideration and should provide for ways to minimize and eliminate these problems. As a coastal community, Swampscott is particularly vulnerable to the increasing effects of climate change. Coastal open space resources and amenities should take these effects into consideration and be designed to survive in the changing long-term conditions. Additionally, environmental protection will be critical as an increasing suburban population triggers an increase in development. One of the new objectives in this Plan Update is to ensure all of the Town's existing open spaces are protected from future reuse for anything other than open space or recreation purposes.

#### ESTABLISH A GREEN CORRIDOR NETWORK

The various open spaces and recreation fields are best served when they are easily connected. This goal envisions a green network so that recreational walkers and bicyclists, both townspeople and tourists, can enjoy green connectors to open spaces, recreation facilities, beaches and rail transit. Some segments of the network will also encourage wildlife passage through the region. This goal connects with the goal to improve public access/awareness as the OSRPC looks to improve connectivity between planned and existing open space/recreation amenities, and assists in strengthening environmental protection and preserving the scenic nature of the Town by clearly visualizing priority areas for preservation.



# VII. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

## **SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

The previous plan identified four main resource protection needs, which are continued in this Plan Update:

### **Coastal Protection**

- » Swampscott's coast is one of its greatest resources, and in the 2020 Community Survey beaches were overwhelming identified by residents as one of the top three open space areas they regularly visit. Moreover, the town's rocky shoreline and beaches act as a buffer against the high winds and waves that occur and are increasing due to climate change. There is a significant need to ensure the protection of this important resource. This includes addressing such things as the pollution affecting the quality of the water and construction and other activities affecting coastal erosion. As a start, in 2019, the Town adopted changes to the Zoning By-law creating a Coastal Flood Area Overlay District, which has additional requirements for any construction-related activities. Further actions should be taken, including, by example, adoption of a local wetlands protection bylaw to supplement the state Wetlands Protection Act.

### **Freshwater Resource Protection**

- » Swampscott is home to three ponds: Foster's, Muskrat and Palmer. Greater education of the public and oversight at these ponds will help to minimize the potential for contamination in those ponds. Swampscott also has five certified vernal pools. There are a number of additional vernal pools having the potential to be certified as well. These vernal pools play a key role in the local ecosystem and their certification can help to protect them in the years to come.

### **Fisheries and Wildlife Protection**

- » Although the small size and developed character of the community limits the variety and amount of wildlife within its borders, it is important to protect the existing habitat to encourage growth and protection of these animals and fish. This includes not only the forested lands, such as Harold A. King Forest and Charles M. Ewing Woods, but also the marine habitats such as the harbor eelgrass. Many species of pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, are in serious decline across. If unabated, this situation threatens agricultural production, maintenance of natural plant communities, and other important services. Protection of pollinators is therefore important, and can be accomplished through such things as creation of pollinator gardens, decreased use in pesticides, etc. As many of the open space areas that provide shelter and nesting for wildlife in Swampscott are spread far apart and not connected; developing a stronger "green" network between these areas will help to connect the habitat areas.

### **Vegetation Protection**

- » Proper maintenance of the open space and recreation areas in Swampscott also includes ensuring that the native vegetation is not taken over by invasive plant species. This requires oversight and thorough documentation as well as limiting and removing invasive species to strengthen the community's native plant life. The OSRPC and the Conservation Commission encourage all projects to utilize native plantings.

Based on feedback from the community survey, this Plan Update recommends an additional area of need:

## **Protection of Existing Amenities & Undeveloped Land**

- » In a Town of only three-square miles with multiple competing factions for resources, land currently devoted to open space/ recreation options is extremely valuable. These spaces are community assets, contributing to the character and quality of life that many long-time residents cherish and newer residents look for. As the Town looks to balance the needs of a growing population, protecting these areas from development and ensuring an equitable replacement for any displaced areas is critical.

## **SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

Since the last plan, the OSRPC and Town staff have worked to address a variety of community needs. Some of these include: establishing a successful Farmer's Market; developing space for a community garden; and rehabilitating Blocksidge Field, to name a few.

Certain community needs identified previously are still sources of concern for this Update, especially in a COVID-19 environment. COVID-19 has made apparent how important open space is in maintaining peoples' wellbeing by providing safe spaces for outdoor activity. Therefore, creating, enhancing, and maintaining open spaces continues to be a priority in this Update.

### **ACCESS FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES**

While Swampscott has expanded opportunities for Senior Citizens, there are still many areas in need of improvement. Additionally, providing ADA access continues to be a priority as upgrades are made. The Town recently completed an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Disability, which assists in prioritizing ADA improvements on Town property and will allow the Town to pursue funding to implement these recommendations. OSRPC intends to work more closely with the Commission on Disability and the Swampscott for All Ages Committee to identify and implement solutions for these needs as they relate to the Town's open spaces.

On the other end of the spectrum, the community also identified the need for a playground catering to very small children (i.e. "Tot Lot").

Windsor Park, which is slated for renovation, originally included a Tot Lot area and this Plan Update recognizes the need to include it in the updated design.

### **WALKING, BIKING, AND TRAILS**

Similar to the last plan, many community members expressed a desire for improvements to walking/biking trails and called for a focus on walkability in general. One of the objectives of this Plan Update is to better coordinate infrastructure projects - such as sidewalk improvements or bike lane installation - with improvement and access to open space resources. Opening up of new paths and trails, like the White Court/Blythswood Easement and the Forest River Conservation Area Connector, are also priority.

### **BEACH AMENITIES**

Swampscott's beaches are extremely important to the Town's past, its present, and its future. The Town has already taken steps to improve beach entrances aesthetically through the installation of granite beach markers. These improvements also include resiliency measures for flooding, such as dune nourishment and new plantings. Fisherman's Beach, King's Beach, and Eiseman's/New Ocean House Beach entrances were recently completed; plans are in process for Cassidy Park/Sandy Beach and Phillip's Beach.

The recent Harbor and Waterfront Plan, prepared by the Town's Harbor and Waterfront Advisory Committee, makes a number of recommendations for improvements along Town beaches including amenities like restrooms, foot washing stations, and food areas. These amenities were also identified as needs in the 2020 Open Space survey. The Harbor Plan also makes larger scale recommendations for improvements to the waterfront, such as the installation of living reefs to protect Swampscott Harbor. The OSRPC is sensitive to the amenity needs expressed by the community, but intends to ensure that any improvements to the coastline and beaches is protective of the resources, especially in light of the increasing effects of climate change and to this Plan Update's commitment to Coastal Protection.

All of the items above become entwined as Swampscott residents of all different ages and abilities visit the same parks, beaches and other outdoor venues. One objective of this Plan Update is to provide the



community with knowledge of all the open space, recreation areas, wildlife, plant life and ocean life that the Town has to offer.

Other community needs include protecting and identifying historical sites as they relate to community identity, encouraging continued use of Town gathering spots to encourage a sense of place and togetherness, and maintaining and updating parks with benches and other amenities.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH SCORP

Many of the goals in this Plan Update align with the goals outlined in the Massachusetts's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)<sup>90</sup>. SCORP Goal #1 is to provide Access for underserved populations, including seniors, teens, and those with disabilities. As previously identified, access and accommodations for seniors and community members with disabilities is a priority in this plan. By the year 2030, 35% of Swampscott's residents will be age 60 or older<sup>91</sup>, and therefore improving outdoor spaces and offering multiple types of programming will be important to serve this aspect of the population. This was also stated as an idea for Town improvements in a 2019 Community Needs Assessment, conducted on behalf of the Swampscott for All Ages committee.

In order to better serve community members with disabilities, the Town worked with a consultant to produce an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan to specifically identify areas of improvement in Town buildings, Phillips Park, and Linscott Park. Implementation of those recommendations are ongoing.

Since the previous plan, a vast number of improvements have been made to Town fields frequented by teenagers and school teams, including Phillips Park and Upper Jackson Park. The Office of Community & Economic Development is now focused on improving neighborhood parks that serve this age group and younger children, which fulfills SCORP Goal #4<sup>92</sup>.

90 <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>

91 Population projections are based on figures from the Donahue Institute. <http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/>

92 Goal #4 - support creation and renovation of neighborhood parks

## MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

### MANAGEMENT

Swampscott's open space and recreation assets are managed by various Town committees, and departments, which ultimately report to the Select Board. Where applicable, the responsible town entity schedules use of the space, advocates for capital improvements, and manages maintenance. The Conservation Commission oversees the White Court/Blythswood easement, Charles M. Ewing Woods, Harold A. King Forest, Linscott Park, Muskrat Pond, and Palmer Pond. The Recreation Department manages multiple levels of recreational programming at various locations and activities and events Town Hall lawn. The Harbor and Waterfront Advisory Committee is responsible for the oversight of all beaches and waterfront; however, the DPW is in charge of maintenance. The School Department and individual school administrations are responsible for the school buildings, their surrounding property, and the playing fields. The Town recently hired a new Facilities Director, who will oversee the management of all Town buildings, including some open space/recreation resources like the Fish House. Future open space improvements will hopefully bring new management organizations. OSRPC manages the implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and ultimately has a hand in assisting other boards, committees, and departments.

### MAINTENANCE

Swampscott's maintenance is performed by:

- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Third Party Contractors
- Volunteer Organizations
- Private Property Owner(s)

Swampscott's open space and recreation requirements include maintaining the following:

- Recreation Fields

- Parks
- Conservation Areas
- Vegetation (including trees)
- Beaches
- Ponds
- Buildings (non-school)
- Buildings (school including Field House)
- Sewer/storm drain system
- Streets/sidewalks
- Parking Lots
- Cemetery
- Trails and Other Access Routes

The DPW is the primary source of maintenance within the Town and is responsible for all of the: parks; playing fields; vegetation (including shade trees, shrubs, and flowers); beaches (including surface cleaning, trash pickup and facility maintenance); public buildings (including the Town Hall, Public Library, Fish House, etc. - although this responsibility is also shared by the new Facilities Director). The school buildings and their associated grounds are the responsibility of the School Department maintenance staff, with the exception of plowing/sanding in the winter months which is taken care of by DPW.

The DPW is also responsible for maintenance of the Town's 50 miles of streets and sidewalks and the Phillips Park parking lots. The DPW has dedicated staff for the maintenance of the sewer and storm drain system and Swampscott cemetery. The DPW contracts out for grass cutting, snow removal, capital improvements, road resurfacing, street line painting, electrical work, plumbing work, repair of large water

main breaks, and tree trimming.

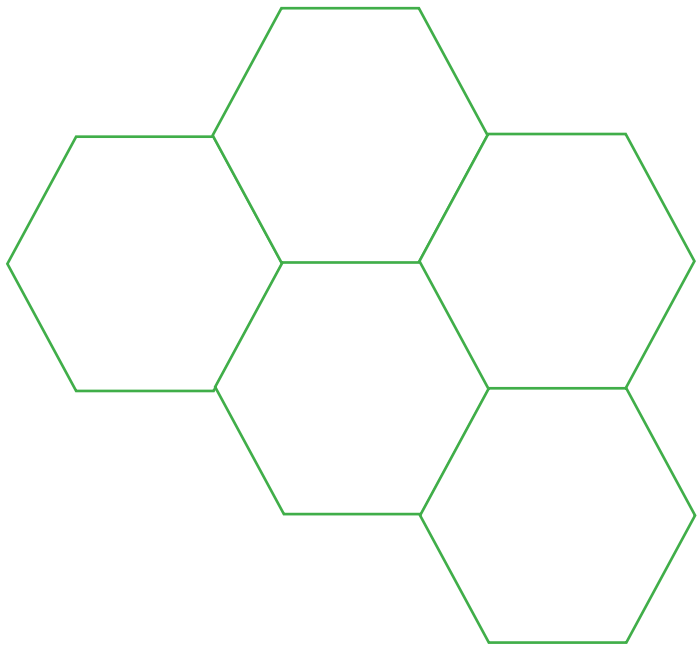
The DPW includes a Tree Warden who has responsibility for the care, control, protection, and maintenance of public shade trees and Town trees. Fall 2020 Town Meeting adopted a Tree Bylaw to supplement existing state regulations covering the public shade and town trees.

Of the three ponds in Town, Foster's Pond is the only one where the maintenance responsibility is unassigned. The Pond is not owned by either the abutters or Aggregate Industries, and therefore no one has responsibility for its maintenance, although DPW does maintain the dam at Windsor Ave. Palmer Pond and Muskrat Pond are Town-owned and require minimal maintenance by the DPW which includes clearing debris from the outlets.

The community has forested areas (including Charles M. Ewing Woods, Harold King Forest, and Upper Jackson Woods) which have been maintained over the last few years by volunteers. A recent forest stewardship plan done by the DCR evaluated Harold King Forest and made a number of recommendations for enhancing the forest, which are included as objectives in this Plan Update. As the Town develops the Rail Trail and other trails, maintenance will be a combination of DPW and volunteer organizations, such as the Swampscott Conservancy and the Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail.

Swampscott values its beaches greatly, so much so that volunteers have organized to clean them annually. There are also periodic beach clean-ups sponsored by organizations such as Salem Sound Coastwatch. DPW rakes the beaches three days a week during the summer months.

Maintenance continues to be a priority in this Update, especially as open space areas have become even more valuable during COVID - allowing community members to be outside and enjoy certain activities while social distancing. The OSRPC has developed management plans which include maintenance priorities for certain areas (e.g. Harold King Forest and Charles M. Ewing Woods), however there are still areas which need evaluation and assistance. One new action item in this Update is creating maintenance plans for parks, in collaboration with DPW and Recreation Departments.



# VIII. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This Plan Update utilizes the six core goals from the original plan, but the actions and objectives have been updated based on implementation progress since the original plan and changes in community priorities gleaned through the public input process.

The six goals established through the 2013 Plan and reiterated in this Update, in order of community importance, are:

- 1. Maintain Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities**
- 2. Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town**
- 3. Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities to Meet Needs**
- 4. Strengthen Environmental Protection**
- 5. Improve Public Access & Awareness**
- 6. Establish a Green Corridor Network**

As a result of the review of the community survey and the original plan, the OSRPC developed high-level objectives to guide the development of new action items. The original plan combined actions and objectives in one table. This Plan Update is separating out the objectives under this section for individual consideration. Initially, objectives were developed underneath each of the main goals; however, the process showed that many of the objectives could be achieved through actions under multiple goals.

The guiding Objectives of this Plan Update are:

## MAINTAIN OPEN SPACES & RECREATION FACILITIES

### **Improve upon regular maintenance activities and add capacity/resources**

As previously mentioned, maintenance is a critical piece to the success of the Town's open space and recreational facilities. While the Plan Update proposes many improvements, the OSRPC and the Town will need to ensure that these improvements can be maintained effectively. The OSRPC intends to work with and support the DPW, who performs primary maintenance on most public spaces, and coordinate with non-profit groups, such as the Swampscott Conservancy, who are focused on open space/recreation needs.

## PRESERVE THE SCENIC CHARACTER OF THE TOWN

### **Prioritize redevelopment over greenfield development**

Swampscott has limited space and fierce competition for resources. Infill (development of vacant parcels within previously built areas) and redevelopment policies, proposed and managed through the land-use boards, will help protect open areas from development. The OSRPC is focused on preserving undeveloped, green spaces for the public at large to enjoy, and therefore prioritizes new development in appropriate areas that does not remove open space from the community.

### **Commit unbuildable and suitable property to open space uses**

This plan encourages the Town Administration and the Select Board to consider all municipally-owned land as future options for open space

and recreation uses. Additionally, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee looks for and reviews any potential private acquisitions. The Action Plan (Map 12) indicates parcels that have been currently identified for potential acquisition; however the OSRPC will review all opportunities as they arise.

#### EXPAND & IMPROVE OPEN SPACES & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO MEET NEEDS

##### **Ensure that all amenities planned for Town open space align and comply with standards of the approved OSRP**

This objective requires the OSRPC to be diligent in the development, review, and implementation of the Plan Update and in coordinating with other boards, committees, and departments in Town as improvements and projects are carried out.

##### **Ensure open space and recreation options for all ages exist throughout Town**

From toddlers to retirees, residents of Swampscott value their outdoor options and rely on spaces to accommodate the needs of a variety of ages. The OSRPC will partner with the Swampscott For All Ages Committee and the Recreation Department to continue to identify all ages needs and develop solutions.

##### **Continue to improve accessibility for all residents at Town-owned open space and recreational facilities**

It is clear that accessibility issues remain at many open space and recreation areas. It is the objective of the OSRPC to work with Town Departments, Swampscott for All Ages, and the Commission on Disability to improve access to public spaces and programming.

#### STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

##### **Commit all park and open space upgrades to be sustainable and responsive to the effects of climate change**

The Town continues to experience increasing effects of sea level rise and storm surge which cause annual damage, especially along the coastline. Any amenities planned for environmentally sensitive areas

must be resilient and sustainable in order to be long-term investments that will benefit Town residents and weather the storms.

##### **Ensure appropriate protections are in place for existing open space areas**

In order to effectively preserve existing open space areas and expand access to new spaces, the OSRPC will pursue the appropriate protections, such as conservation restrictions, for all existing open spaces that do not have them and encourage the Town to consider other municipal properties for future open space needs.

#### IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS & AWARENESS

##### **Increase access to and availability of print and online materials which provide information on and promote use of open spaces**

The current COVID-19 crisis has revealed the importance of multi-functional communication materials. While the OSRPC had started creating some materials previously, the goal is to expand this effort and include relevant Town departments in their development and distribution.

#### ESTABLISH A GREEN CORRIDOR NETWORK

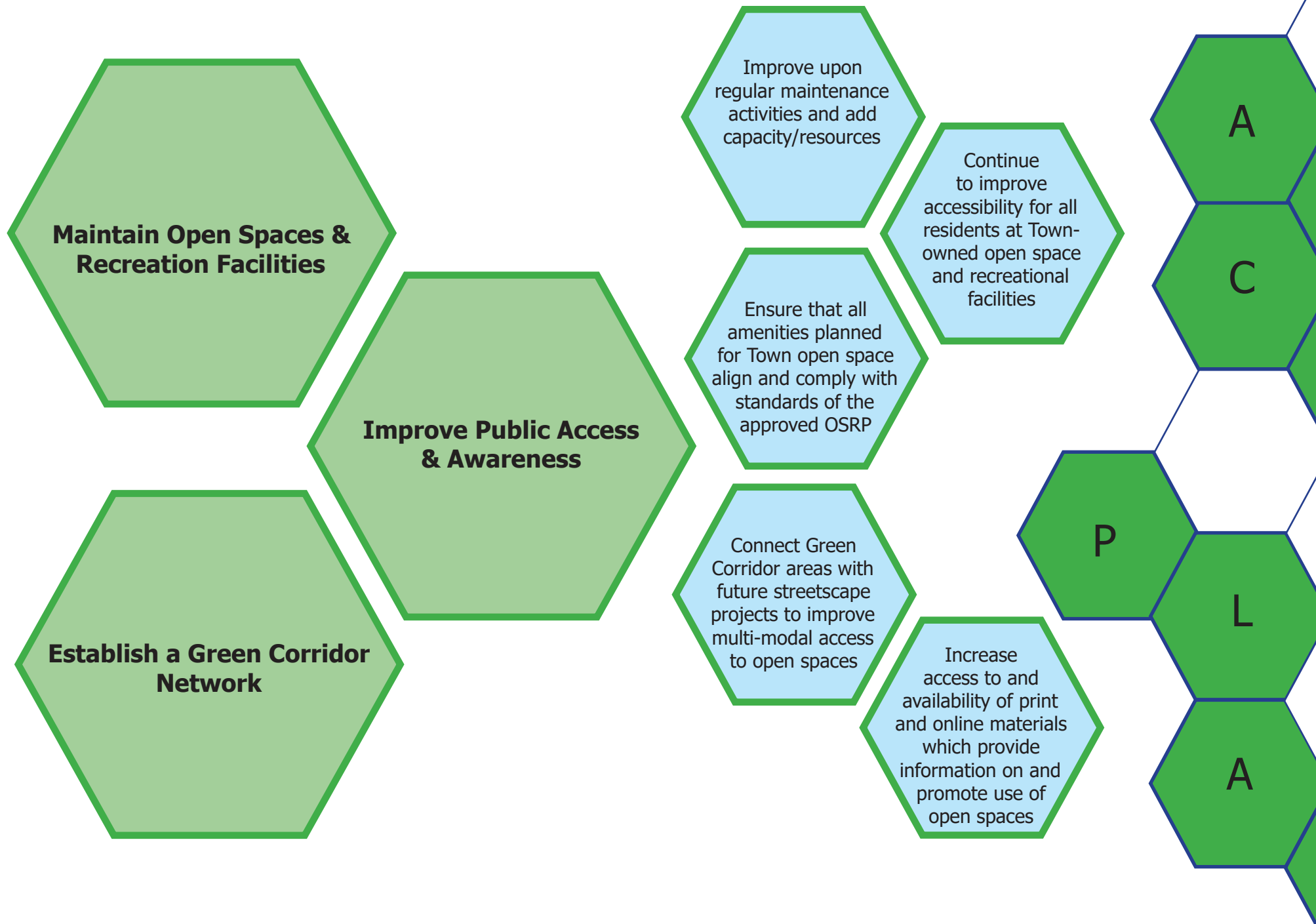
##### **Connect Green Corridor areas with future streetscape projects to improve multi-modal access to open space**

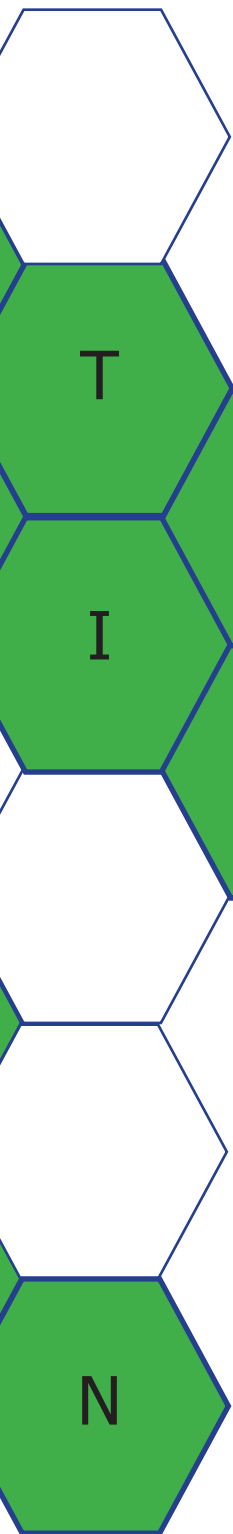
The 2020 Community Survey showed that residents value the ability to walk throughout Town and are eager for these type of infrastructure improvements. Prioritizing areas along the Green Corridor, and utilizing tools such as Complete Streets<sup>90</sup>, will ensure that walkability is a focal point.

The graphic on pages 94-95 shows how the goals and objectives work together to create the Action Plan, which will be discussed further in Chapter IX.

<sup>90</sup> The Complete Streets Concept promotes safe and equitable travel for all modes - walking, biking, transit, and driving. Swampscott adopted a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan in the fall of 2018.







Commit unbuildable and suitable property to open space, where appropriate

Prioritize redevelopment over greenfield development

Ensure appropriate protections are in place for existing open space areas

Ensure all ages open space and recreation options exist throughout Town

Commit all park and open space upgrades to be sustainable and responsive to the effects of climate change

**Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities to Meet Needs**

**Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town**

**Strengthen Environmental Protection**

# IX. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan contains six goals, ten objectives, and 77 actions. In developing these actions, the OSRPC considered the goals and objectives previously outlined in order to ensure that specific actions: 1) corresponded to at least one of the six goals; and 2) that at least one or more actions responded to a particular objective. The OSRPC also identified Project Partners for the various activities, including 14 Town boards and committees, as well as Town departments. Almost every board, committee, and department within the Town will play a role in following through with this Open Space & Recreation Plan Update.

Since the original plan, new timing categories have been established. Some actions are labeled as "ONGOING" if they are (a) long-term projects over multiple years, and/or (b) if they are currently in progress from the previous plan without an end date specified at this time. Some actions are labeled "MONITOR", meaning the OSRPC and any Project Partners are responsible to monitor and address situations which arise that would trigger the action. It is possible that actions could be accelerated or moved to a later time on the timeline, depending on the availability of grants or other funding to complete certain projects and any additional requirements, such as a Town Meeting vote, that may add to the timeline.

The DPW, the only Project Partner responsible for maintenance of all Town properties and public spaces, plays an enormous role in the completion of many of these actions. The Office of Community & Economic Development, which had a major role in organizing and drafting this Plan Update, also assists in its implementation by pursuing grant funding, providing staff resources, and coordinating with Town boards and committees as needed. In order to implement the Plan Update, the OSRPC intends to take a more active approach to annual budget requests and will work with the DPW and Community

Development to get plan priorities included. During the term of the Plan Update, the OSRPC intends to work with Project Partner's responsible for particular actions to develop project plans, obtain funding, and implement the recommended actions. To assist with implementation, the OSRPC will also reach out and work with local non-profit organizations.

Some items are carried over from the previous plan as they are either in progress or have not been fully completed. Many new items have been added as a result of the 2020 community survey, review of other planning documents, and OSRPC discussions throughout the Plan Update process.

The OSRPC intends to work closely with the Office of Community and Economic Development to pursue funding opportunities through Town, state, and federal sources as applicable, as well as private donations. Below is a table of potential grant funding opportunities available to support many of the actions in the Plan Update. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list, and the OSRPC and Town staff regularly work on identifying new sources of funding.

LOCAL	STATE	FEDERAL/OTHER
Essex County Heritage Partnership Program	Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (PARC)	AmericaWalks
Essex County Land and Environment Initiative	Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	
	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND)	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

The following chart outlines, year by year, the items that this seven-year Action Plan intends to carry out.

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Maintain Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities	Limit impact of school construction on conservation land or other existing open space	Charles M. Ewing Woods, Linscott Park, Phillips Park	ConComm, School Building Committee	N/A	High	1
	Repair seawall and stairway taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges (per Beach Management Plan)	King's Beach, Eiseman's Beach, Whale's Beach	DPW	FEMA	High	1-3
	Develop park landscaping utilizing beach-appropriate and environmentally-suitable species and material	Chaisson Park, Johnson Park	DPW, OCED	N/A	High	2
	Create site specific maintenance programs in collaboration with DPW and Recreation Dept's (including protection for unique flora/fauna)	ALL	DPW, Recreation	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Explore feasibility and grant opportunities for timber management and invasive species removal for Harold King Forest, as recommended by Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold King Forest	ConComm, OCED, Swampscott Conservancy	DCR Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)	Low	6
	Develop playground maintenance, equipment replacement, and safety program	ALL (School & Town Playgrounds)	DPW, Recreation, School Committee	N/A	Low	3
	Have Swampscott section incorporated into DCR's "Lynn Shore Reservation" (landscape, hardscape, railing, lighting, signage) and pursue effort to have DCR take over or share maintenance	King's Beach	DPW, DCR, Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee	N/A	Low	7
	Remove dead trees and ornamental shrubs; thin remaining trees to improve overall health	Howland Park	DPW	Town	Low	ALL
	Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program"	ALL	Board of Health, DPW, Select Board	N/A	Low	1
	Determine size, scale, and number of monuments along mall so it doesn't lose its "park" feel and maintains Olmsted's Monument Ave planting plan; identify appropriate areas for future memorials	Monument Mall	Historical Commission, Historic District Commission	N/A	Low	5

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Maintain Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities	Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District)	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, OCED	N/A	Low	4
	Investigate and address any open space/conservation encroachment by neighbors	ALL	DPW, ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space	ALL	ConComm, DPW, Tree Task Force, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	Low	1
	Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used	Hadley Elementary School	Select Board	Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (PARC)	Low	5
Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town	Dedicate all Town-owned open space areas to permanent open space/recreation/conservation through easements or other protective measures	ALL	Select Board, OCED	Town	High	ALL
	Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity	Jackson Woods	Select Board, ConComm	Town	High	2
	Incorporate open space and recreation goals into land use planning and zoning	General	Planning Board, OCED	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Identify and protect designated historical sites	TBD	Historical Commission, Historic District Commission	Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	Medium	ALL
	Encourage continued use and appreciation of Town Hall as town gathering spot.	Town Hall, Town Hall Lawn	Recreation, OCED	N/A	Low	ALL
	Address light pollution at night in open spaces	ALL	DPW, Planning Board	N/A	Low	ALL
	Develop a plan for Town dedications/memorials that encourages planting of trees with memorial plaque	General	DPW, Tree Task Force	N/A	Low	3



GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities to Meet Needs	Develop and Implement OSRPC Policy for Town Improvement projects, to incorporate the following priorities: ADA access, amenities for all ages, historically-appropriate landscaping, public art, sustainable design, and net-neutral energy consumption, natural resource protection	ALL	Commission on Disability, SFAA, Historical Commission, OCED, DPW, Recreation	N/A	High	1
	Improve Playground / Park facility and ensure there are features for small children (i.e. tot lot structures)	Windsor Park, Abbott Park	OCED, Recreation, DPW	PARC	High	1, 4
	Develop and implement public access/management plan, including installation of interpretive signage	Blythswood / White Court Easement	ConComm, DPW, HC, OCED	Town	High	1
	Install ADA beach access mats	Phillips Beach, Fisherman's Beach, Preston Beach	DPW, OCED, Commission on Disability	AARP Livable Communities, Mass Office of Disability (MOD) Project Grant	Medium	2
	Continue to support development and implementation of rail trail along the abandoned railroad line	Rail Trail	OCED, DPW, Select Board	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Review final ADA transition plan as it applies to Town open spaces and incorporate recommendations into ongoing and future OSRPC projects	ALL	OCED, Commission on Disability	N/A	Medium	2
	Identify areas for potential acquisition & Develop policies for Town acquisition of private land, placing priority on resource protection and with options for right of first refusal	ALL	Select Board	Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Medium	ALL
	Re-evaluate adoption of Community Preservation Act as a funding option	General	Select Board	N/A	Medium	2
	Work with Harbor and Waterfront Committee to promote sustainable and environmentally feasible improvements to Town beaches (restrooms, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, public showers)	Beaches	Harbor & Waterfront Committee	Town, Seaport Advisory Council	Medium	ALL

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities to Meet Needs	Work with Swampscott for All Ages during park updates to examine ways to include recreation needs for 60+ year old residents	General	SFAA	N/A	Low	ALL
	Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results	Beaches	Recreation, DPW	Town	Low	3
	Evaluate and promote opportunities to open public ways/ access points and improve walkability on public sidewalks through infrastructure upgrades	General	DPW, OCED	Town, Complete Streets	Low	ALL
	Explore feasibility of a splash pad and/or water feature for a new or existing park area. Include in future park upgrades as warranted.	General	OCED, DPW, Recreation	Town, PARC	Low	3
	Improve tennis and basketball courts; ensure any removal of courts can be replaced 1:1 in Town	Phillips Park, Middle School	Recreation, DPW	Town, PARC	Low	6
	Continue to pursue opportunities for public access to Aggregate-owned land, including access to Foster's Pond and land behind Windsor Park	Aggregate Industries/ Quarry, Foster Pond, Windsor Park	ConComm	N/A	Low	ALL
	Create a mechanism to finance the acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of land suitable for open space and public use.	General	Select Board, Finance Committee	Town, LWCF	Low	X
	Evaluate and promote opportunities to open public ways/ access points and improve walkability on public sidewalks through infrastructure upgrades	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Planning Board, OCED	N/A	Low	ALL
	Explore potential access points and creation of additional trails per recommendations in the Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	5
	Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage	Beaches	Harbor & Waterfront Committee, DPW	Town	Low	2
	Collaborate with Temple to improve access to/through Palmer Pond and determine feasibility of re-establishing original walking trail or installation of raised boardwalk	Palmer Pond	ConComm	Town	Low	6
	Expand and improve public sidewalks along popular walking routes, especially Humphrey Street	Streets (public ways)	DPW, OCED	Town, Complete Streets	Low	ALL

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Strengthen Environmental Protection	Reduce pesticide use or replace with organic options	General	DPW, Select Board, Board of Health, Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force	Town, Toxic Use Reduction Institute - Community Grants (TURI)	High	ALL
	Develop map highlighting areas where zoning regulations should be created to limit negative impact of land use development	General	OCED, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	5
	Develop local wetlands protection by-law that compliments the state Wetlands Protection Act	General	ConComm, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	3
	Take climate change, higher water levels, more intense storms, etc. into account in planning	General	ConComm, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Conduct assessment and develop control plan for invasive species, where occurring	General	ConComm, DPW	Town	Medium	ALL
	Establish tree inventory and management plan (focusing on native trees)	General	DPW, OCED, Tree Task Force	N/A	Medium	4
	Work with DPW to develop and implement green infrastructure policy	Town properties, Parking Lots, Streets (public ways)	DPW	Town	Low	6
	Develop native planting policy for municipal properties	Town properties	ConComm, DPW, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	Low	4

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Strengthen Environmental Protection	Develop plan for replacement of aged/ailing street trees	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Tree Task Force	N/A	Low	2
	Identify and certify potential vernal pools	General	ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Educate and work with coastal property owners to institute resiliency practices to address storm surge, flooding, and other effects of climate change.	Wetlands, Beaches	ConComm, Planning Board	Town	Low	ALL
	Implement recommendations to improve flora and fauna from Harold King Forest Stewardship Management Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm, OCED	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	5
	Install Bird Blinds and Artificial Nesting Boxes per recommendations from the Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	X
	Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space & natural resources (alternative to salt)	Streets (public ways)	DPW	Town	Low	3
	Limit impact of harbor dredging on eelgrass beds	Fisherman's Beach	Harbor & Waterfront Committee	N/A	Low	ALL
	Post "No Dumping" signs at strategic locations	Charles M. Ewing Woods, Harold A. King Forest, Phillip's Beach	DPW, Board of Health	Town	Low	1
	Ensure Town completes necessary storm drain work to eliminate source of bacteria	King's Beach	DPW	N/A	Low	1-3
	Reduce sprinkler use to once very three days; install moisture sensor	General	DPW	N/A	Low	2

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Improve Public Access & Awareness	Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads	ALL	DPW, OCED, Recreation		Medium	1-6
	Develop web-to-print trail maps for existing conservation areas with information on access and environmental protection	Harold A. King Forest, Charles M. Ewing Woods, Forest River Connector	OCED	Town	Low	3
	Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife	General	ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the importance of open space and Town resources	General	Swampscott Public Schools	N/A	Low	5
	Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year	General	Swampscott Public Schools	N/A	Low	2
	Work with Essex National Heritage Commission to create signage along Essex Heritage Scenic Byway indicating points of interest	Essex Highway Scenic Network	DPW, OCED	Essex Heritage Partnership Grant	Low	4
	Examine public access and programming potential	Foster Pond	ConComm, OCED	N/A	Low	X
	Extend National Register status from Lynn line to Red Rock	King's Beach	Historical Commission	N/A	Low	3
	Work with Disability Commission to examine ways to include ADA-accessible recreation needs	ALL	Commission on Disability, DPW, Recreation	N/A	Low	ALL
	Investigate feasibility of an ADA accessible path	Jackson Park (Lower)	DPW	Town, MOD Project Grant	Low	4



GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Establish a Green Corridor Network	Develop community engagement plan for promoting walking/recreation along Green Corridor areas, including Town-wide walking map	Green Corridor Network	OCED Recreation, SFAA	Town, AmericaWalks	<b>Medium</b>	<b>3</b>
	Install unified signage with historical elements at key spots along Green Corridor	Green Corridor Network	OCED, Historical Commission	Town, Essex Heritage Partnership Grant	<b>Low</b>	<b>4</b>
	Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed	General	ConComm	N/A	<b>Low</b>	<b>All</b>
	Explore options for additional trails in and connecting to Harold King Forest, and on Aggregate Industry-owned land	Aggregate Industries / Quarry, Harold King Forest	ConComm, OCED, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	<b>Low</b>	<b>5</b>
	Investigate feasibility of adding water bottle refill stations along Green Corridor	Green Corridor Network	OCED		<b>Low</b>	<b>3</b>
	Work with Salem Conservation Commission to maintain trail connection from Swampscott Cemetery to Forest River Conservation trail network	Swampscott Cemetery	Swampscott Conservancy	Town	<b>Low</b>	<b>All</b>
	Identify green corridor network system to connect open space & recreation facilities (streets and access easements)	Green Corridor Network	Recreation, DPW, OCED	N/A	<b>Low</b>	<b>All</b>

DPW: Department of Public Works  
 SFAA: Swampscott For All Ages  
 OCED: Office of Community & Economic Development  
 ConComm: Conservation Commission  
 HC: Historical Commission

The following page shows the a Map of the Action Plan, which identifies areas that should be considered for property acquisition, conservation restriction, and maps out the Green Corridor area.



# Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020

## MAP 12 - ACTION PLAN



# X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## **GENERAL PUBLIC REVIEW**

The public comment and review period began on September 14th, 2020, and ran through October 31st, 2020. A draft version of the plan was made available for download online on the Town website and a paper copy of the plan was available in the Office of Community & Economic Development (note: Town Hall was open to the public during this period). During this time, the OSRPC held a virtual Open House on October 27th, 2020 to answer questions and gather additional feedback.

General public feedback, primarily gathered through the community survey, was supportive of the Plan Update. A property owner adjacent to Palmer Pond pointed out discrepancies in the GIS mapping; staff has since worked to correct the parcel lines and research correct ownership.

## **LOCAL REVIEW**

Both the Select Board and the Planning Board received public presentations of the community survey results and the draft Plan Update Goals & Objectives. Two additional presentations on the draft Plan Update were made to the Select Board in October 2020 and February 2021.

A copy of the draft Plan Update was also sent to the following Swampscott boards and committees identified as Project Partners:

- » Board of Health
- » Commission on Disability
- » Conservation Commission

- » Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee
- » Historical Commission
- » Historic District Commission
- » Swampscott for All Ages Committee

The Office of Community & Economic Development, DPW, and the Recreation Department also reviewed and were involved in the drafting of the Plan Update.

## **STATE REVIEW**

A completed version of the Plan was submitted to the Division of Conservation Services on March 18th, 2021. DCS responded with a conditional approval and requested final edits on April 8th, 2021. Staff worked with the OSRPC to make the edits and resubmitted the final draft on May 27th, 2021.

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# XII. APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I: LOCAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT



### TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

#### OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

**MEMBERS**  
ANGELA IPPOLITO, CHAIR  
GEORGE POTTS, VICE CHAIR  
WILLIAM CUNN  
MICHAEL FRECHON  
DAVID ZUCKER

**STAFF**  
MARCE GRANZO, DIRECTOR  
MOLLY O'CONNELL, SENIOR PLANNER  
MAUREA MCANULTY, LAND USE  
COORDINATOR

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan Update 2021-2026

To Ms. Cryan,

The Swampscott Planning Board has reviewed the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update and voted unanimously at a public meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, to submit this letter of support.

The Planning Board strongly agrees with the recommendations from the Plan and is particularly excited about the focus on accessibility and sustainability. The past year has shown the need for accessible, safe, and multi-functional outdoor space that can serve community needs while being responsive to climate change and the environmental realities we face, especially at our shoreline.

We endorse the adoption and implementation of the Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan (2021-2026).

Thank you in advance for your review and approval of the plan.

Sincerely,

Angela Ippolito  
Planning Board Chair



### Town of Swampscott

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD  
Elihu Thomson Administration Building  
22 Monument Avenue  
Swampscott, MA 01907-1940

Peter A. Spellios, Chair  
Polly Titcomb, Vice Chair  
Neal Duffy  
David Grishman  
Donald M. Hause

Sean R. Fitzgerald  
Town Administrator  
Tel: (781) 596-8850  
Email: [sfitzgerald@swampscotma.gov](mailto:sfitzgerald@swampscotma.gov)

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan Update 2021-2026

To Ms. Cryan,

The Swampscott Select Board has reviewed the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update and voted unanimously at a public meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to support the submission of this draft plan to the Division of Conservation Services.

The Plan Update includes new action items for projects – such as trail development in Harold King Forest; calls for creative ways to integrate students into open space planning; and prioritizes addressing accessibility needs at our open spaces.

The Select Board endorses this draft plan wholeheartedly and will continue to support the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee's implementation efforts.

Thank you in advance for your review and approval of the plan.

Sincerely,

Peter Spellios  
Select Board Chair

Polly Titcomb  
Select Board Vice-Chair, Open Space Committee Liaison

May 17, 2021

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St. – Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Town of Swampscott's 2021-2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was recently submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans be reviewed by the applicable regional planning agency. 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 in 2008 in accordance 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](http://www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan). (We also note that MAPC and its member communities are now in the process of developing a new regional plan, which will look out to 2050, and is accordingly called *MetroCommon 2050*.)

The Town directly references consistency with *MetroFuture* and its role in focusing regional support for our local efforts. In particular, the OSRP highlights the Town's efforts to protect natural landscapes, conserve natural resources, and to support healthy families through implementation strategies that promote healthy living and recreation through open space preservation, expansion and maintenance. Additionally, the plan includes objectives specifically focused on accessibility and opportunities for residents of all ages, multi-modal access to open space, and upgrades to parks and open spaces that are sustainable and responsive to the effects of climate change.

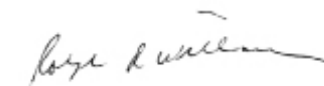
**Community Preservation Act** - Adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a key strategy recommended by *MetroFuture*. We note that Swampscott has not adopted the CPA, but we are encouraged to see that the Swampscott OSRP's recommended implementation actions include re-evaluation of the adoption of CPA.

Reforms to the program were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2012. These reforms include broadened eligibility of recreational facilities, the option to exempt up to the first \$100,000 of commercial property value from the CPA surcharge, and the ability to use additional municipal revenue to qualify for state matching funds. In December 2019, legislation was adopted to increase the contributions to the state CPA Trust Fund which provides additional state resources to municipalities that adopt CPA. These amendments should make CPA even more attractive to the Town and may encourage residents to support the proposal. More detailed information on the CPA can be found at <http://www.communitypreservation.org> or by contacting MAPC's Government Affairs staff.

The Swampscott 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,



Ralph Willmer, FAICP  
Technical Assistance Program Manager and Principal Planner

cc: Molly O'Connell, Community & Economic Development

## **APPENDIX II: COMMUNITY SURVEY**

PART A: SURVEY QUESTIONS

PART B: SURVEY RESPONSES

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee is undertaking the mandatory five-year update of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. This survey has been generated to provide insight to the Committee on Open Space and Recreation priorities, including Conservation Land. The results will provide the Committee feedback on community concerns, support, and needs. Additionally, keeping this plan up-to-date allows the Town to qualify for state and federal funding programs to support open space and recreation related efforts.

The current plan can be found here: <http://www.swampscottma.gov/community-development/pages/open-space-recreation-plan-2013-2020>

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and add any general comments.

*The Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee is a Town Committee comprised of Swampscott residents. The OS&RPC works with the Town and in partnership with other Swampscott committees (most notably the Conservation Commission) to implement the Open Space & Recreation Plan. The Plan was borne out of Swampscott's long-term strategic Plan -- Swampscott 2025: The Master Plan.*



## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

### PART 1 - A little About You

#### 1. How long have you lived in Swampscott?

- ☐ Less than 3 Years
- ☐ 3-5 Years
- ☐ 5-10 Years
- ☐ More than 10 Years

#### 2. What precinct do you live in?

### Part 2 - Goals & Objectives

#### 3. Please rate the importance of these priority areas for the Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Plan:

	1 - Low Priority	2	3	4	5 - High Priority
Maintain Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve Public Access and Awareness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand and Improve Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen Environmental Protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish a Green Corridor Network	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### Glossary:

*Green Corridor - a system that connects open spaces, recreation areas, and wildlife habitats*

**4. What open space/recreation options are most important to you / your family?**

	Not Important	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Indoor Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic Fields / Running Tracks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protected Conservation Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Boat Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds / Picnic Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike Paths / Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalks / Walkable Streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**5. How do you feel about the following statement?**

Street trees / shade trees are important for our sidewalks and green spaces.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Not Sure/Don't Know

**6. How do you feel about the following statement?**

Organic Lawn care of municipal parks, play areas, and fields is an important health and safety issue.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not Sure/Don't Know

7. Please list the top 3 parks, playgrounds, or other open space properties that you visit in the Town.

8. How satisfied are you with the quality of your experience at Swampscott's parks and playgrounds?

- ☐ Very Satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Very Dissatisfied

9. Please explain your answer.

**Part 3 - Improvements**

**10. Please rank the top open space/recreational facilities you feel are needed or should be expanded in Town:**



Natural conservation areas



Children's play areas



Athletic fields & courts



Amenities (e.g. restrooms in parks and public beaches, bench seating)



Indoor recreation facilities



Walking paths



Biking paths / bike lanes

**11. Please choose the three (3) things that need the most improvement in the Town's park, recreation, and open space system.**

- ☐ No improvements needed
- ☐ Programming (e.g. concerts in the park, special events, etc.)
- ☐ Protecting open space from development
- ☐ Maintenance (e.g. maintenance of grounds, buildings, landscaping)
- ☐ Children's play equipment
- ☐ Picnic areas
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Open grass areas
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Trees/Shade
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Wayfinding signage
- ☐ Unsure/Don't Know
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**12. Have you found any obstacles that prevent you or a household member from accessing or using and enjoying any of Swampscott's beaches, playgrounds, fields, courts or other recreation and open space areas?**

**13. If you answered Yes to the above question, please identify the location and type of obstacle:**

**14. Are there any Open Space amenities or projects that haven't been mentioned that you feel would benefit Swampscott?**

**15. Please provide any additional comments.**



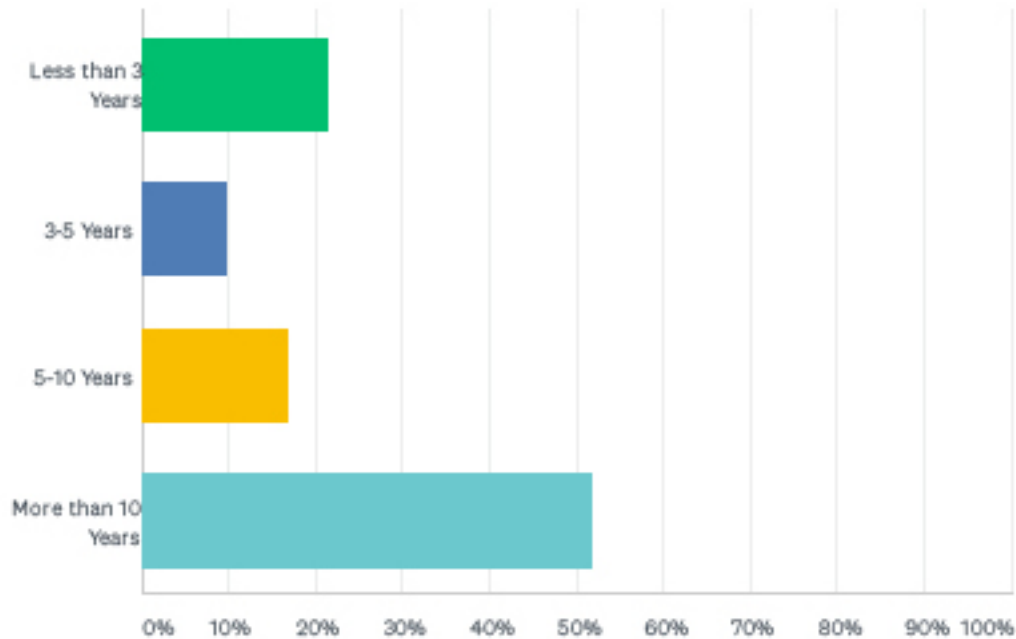
**16. (Optional): Please submit your email if you would like to be notified of future opportunities for public input about this plan.**

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

**THANK YOU!** Please continue to stay connected through this process - we want your input!

## Q1 How long have you lived in Swampscott?

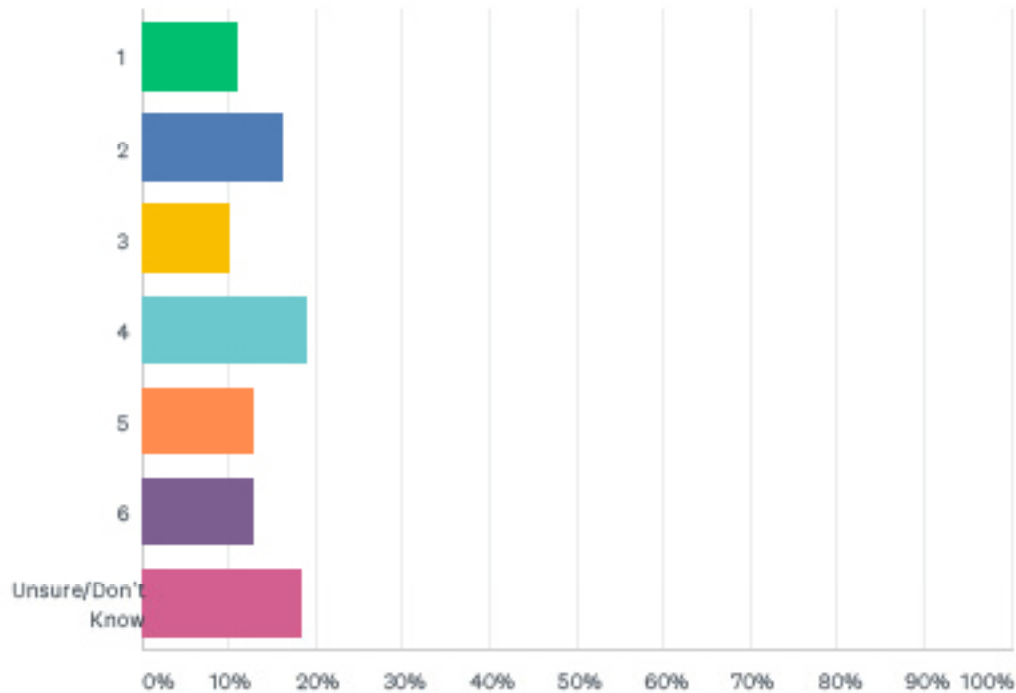
Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 3 Years	21.43%	24
3-5 Years	9.82%	11
5-10 Years	16.96%	19
More than 10 Years	51.79%	58
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>112</b>

## Q2 What precinct do you live in?

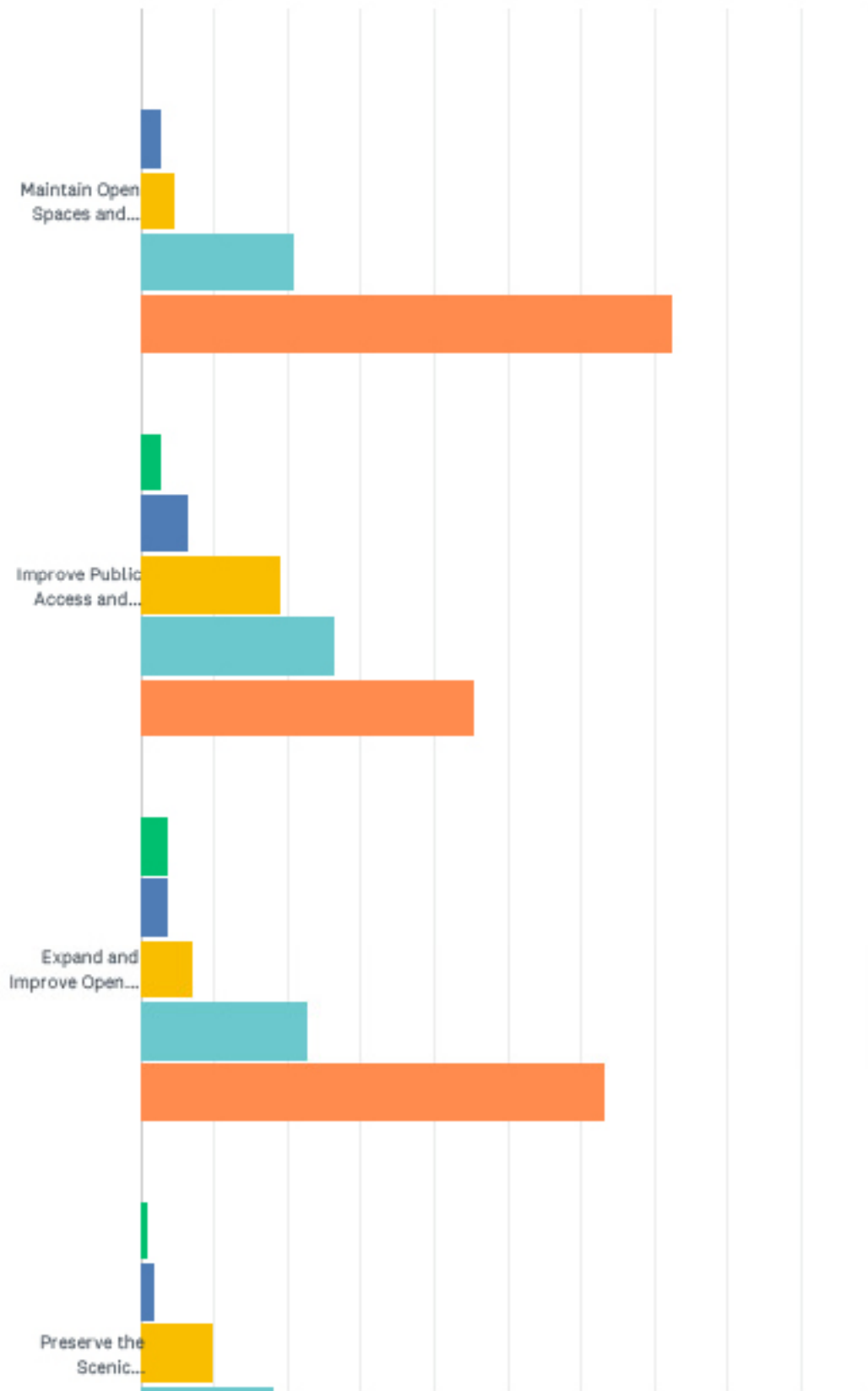
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	10.91%	12
2	16.36%	18
3	10.00%	11
4	19.09%	21
5	12.73%	14
6	12.73%	14
Unsure/Don't Know	18.18%	20
TOTAL		110

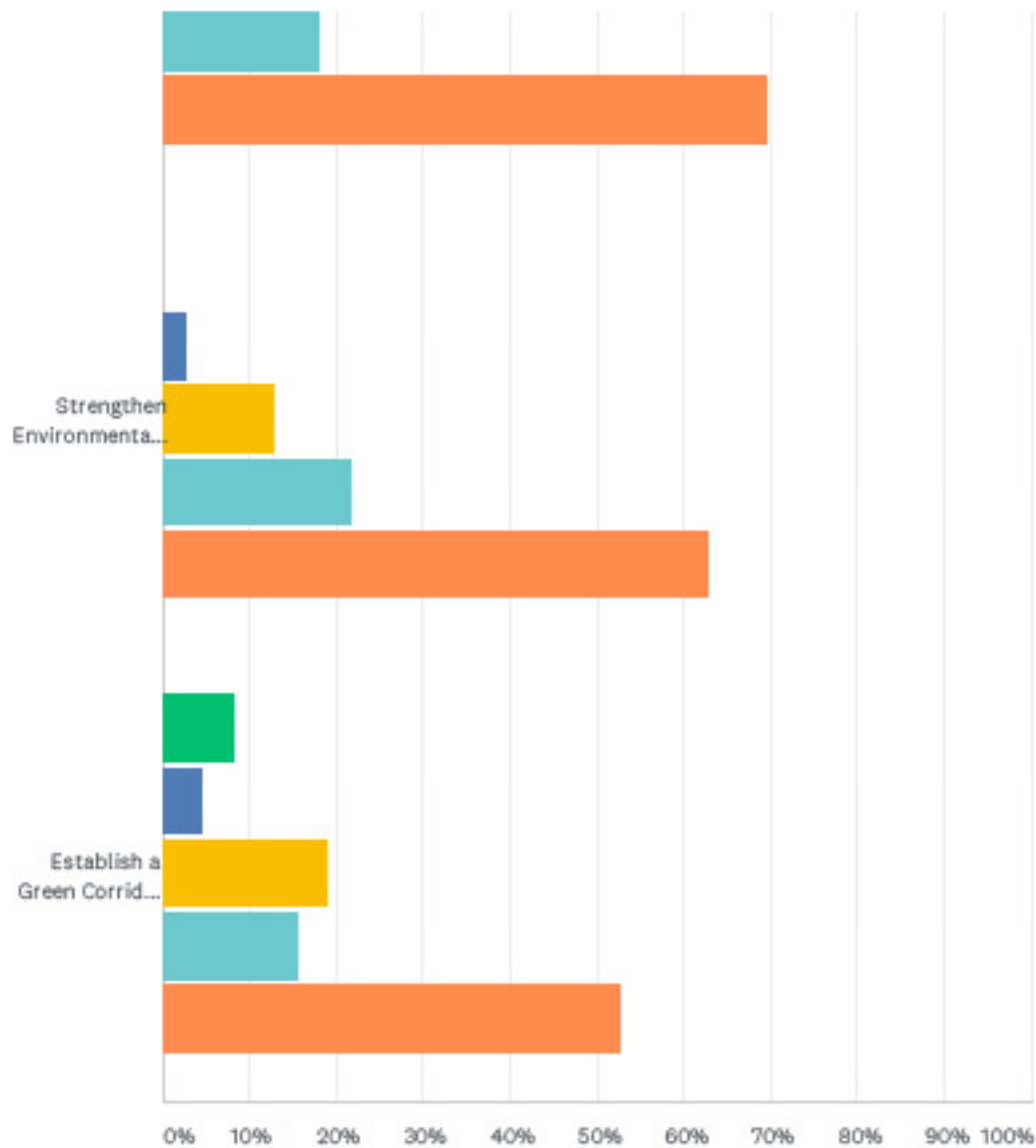
### Q3 Please rate the importance of these priority areas for the Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1





## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

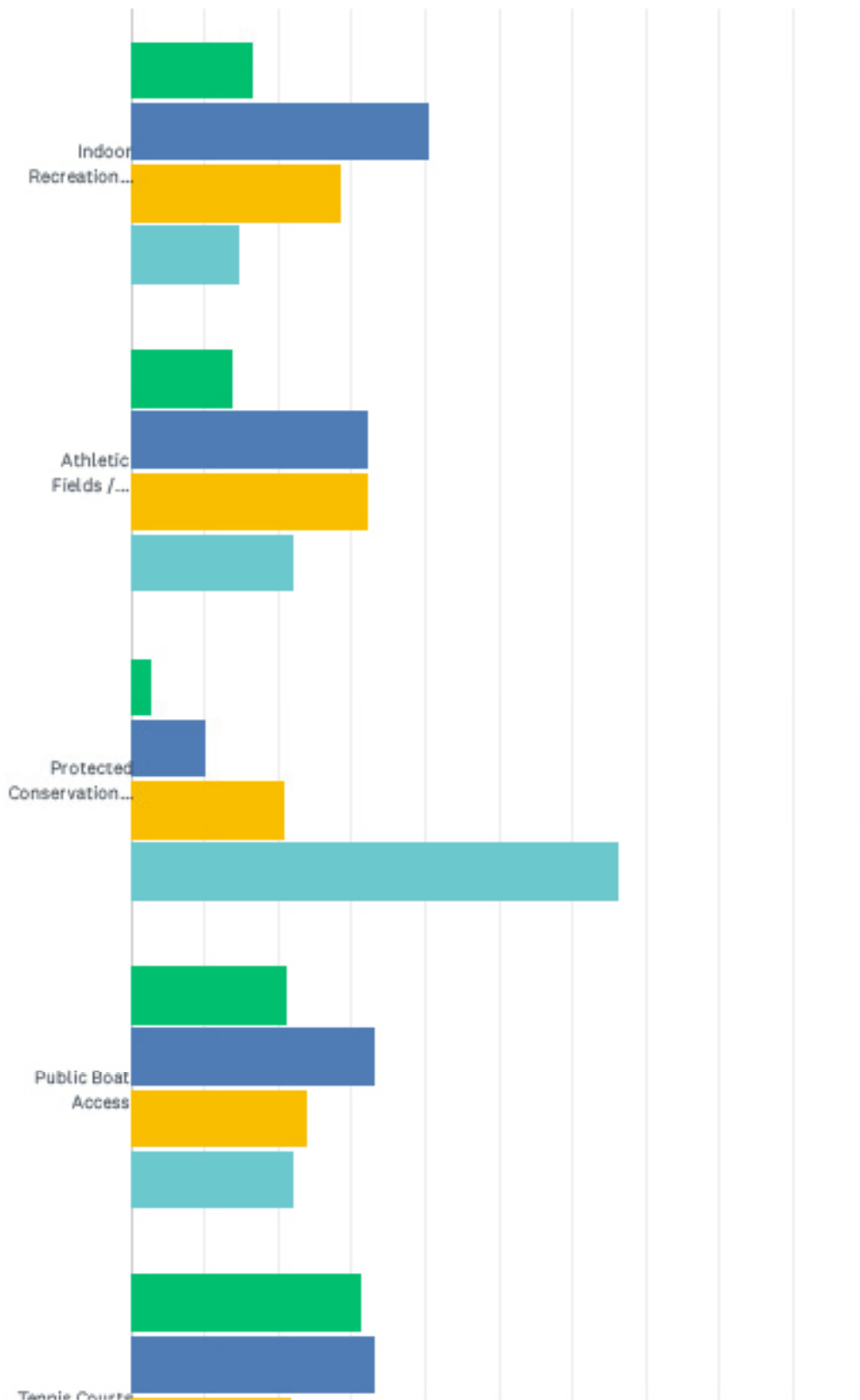


1 - Low Priority 2 3 4 5 - High Priority

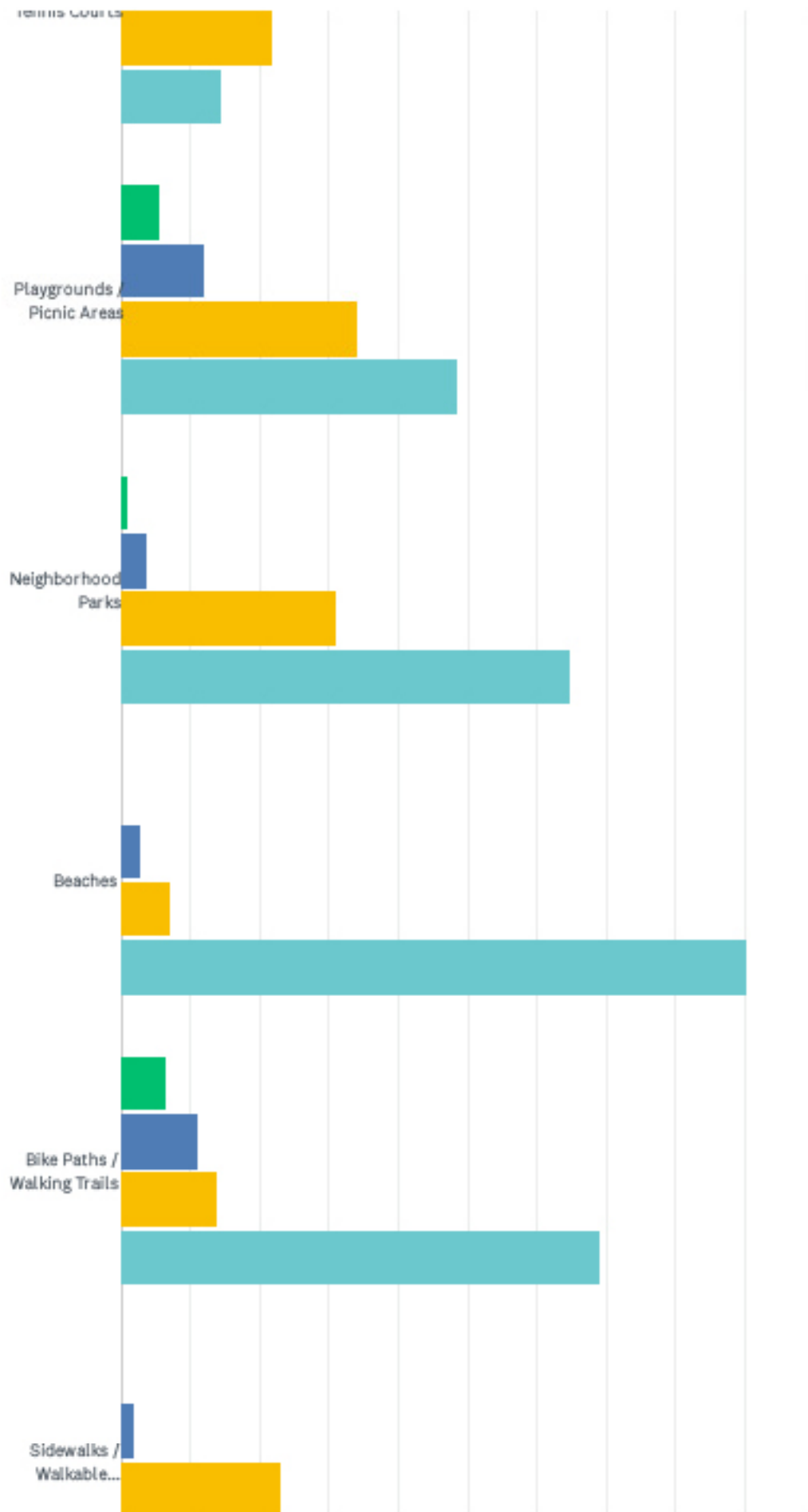
	1 - LOW PRIORITY	2	3	4	5 - HIGH PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Maintain Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities	0.00% 0	2.70% 3	4.50% 5	20.72% 23	72.07% 80	111	4.62
Improve Public Access and Awareness	2.73% 3	6.36% 7	19.09% 21	26.36% 29	45.45% 50	110	4.05
Expand and Improve Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities	3.60% 4	3.60% 4	7.21% 8	22.52% 25	63.06% 70	111	4.38
Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town	0.90% 1	1.80% 2	9.91% 11	18.02% 20	69.37% 77	111	4.53
Strengthen Environmental Protection	0.00% 0	2.73% 3	12.73% 14	21.82% 24	62.73% 69	110	4.45
Establish a Green Corridor Network	8.18% 9	4.55% 5	19.09% 21	15.45% 17	52.73% 58	110	4.00

## Q4 What open space/recreation options are most important to you / your family?

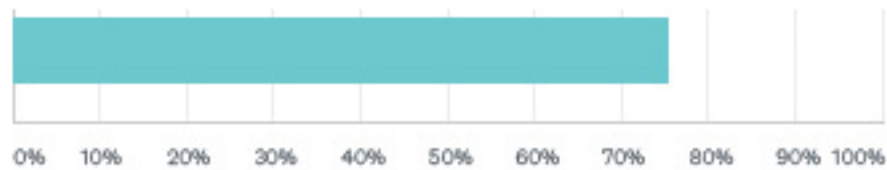
Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update



## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

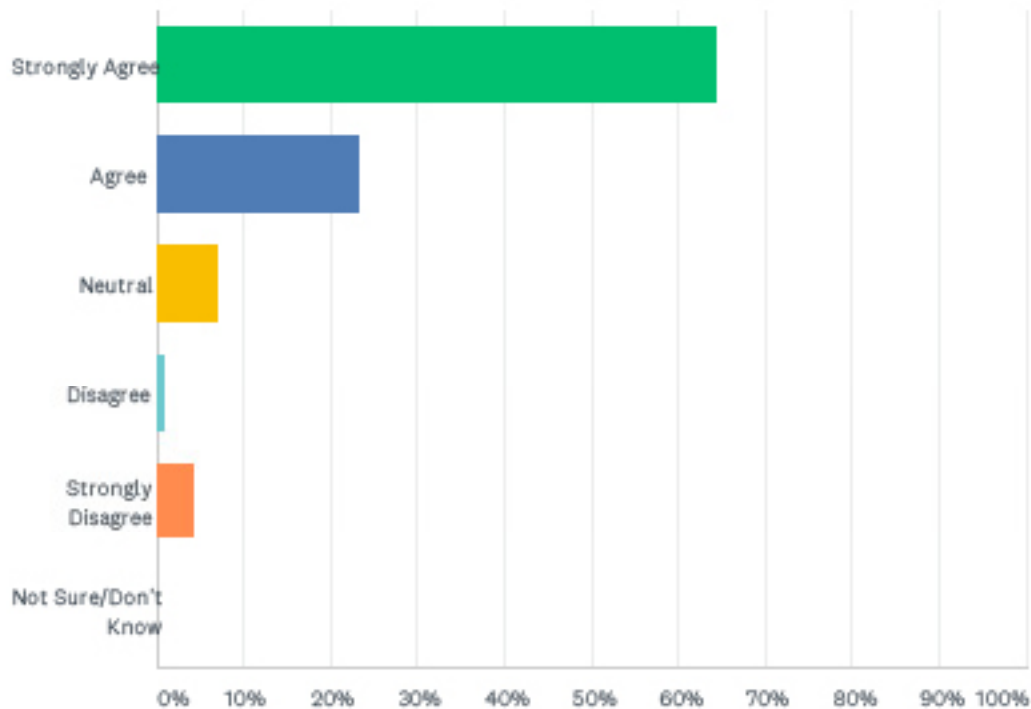


■ Not Important
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Somewhat Important
 ■ Very Important

	NOT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Indoor Recreation Facilities	16.51% 18	40.37% 44	28.44% 31	14.68% 16	109	2.41
Athletic Fields / Running Tracks	13.76% 15	32.11% 35	32.11% 35	22.02% 24	109	2.62
Protected Conservation Areas	2.73% 3	10.00% 11	20.91% 23	66.36% 73	110	3.51
Public Boat Access	21.10% 23	33.03% 36	23.85% 26	22.02% 24	109	2.47
Tennis Courts	31.13% 33	33.02% 35	21.70% 23	14.15% 15	106	2.19
Playgrounds / Picnic Areas	5.50% 6	11.93% 13	33.94% 37	48.62% 53	109	3.26
Neighborhood Parks	0.91% 1	3.64% 4	30.91% 34	64.55% 71	110	3.59
Beaches	0.00% 0	2.70% 3	7.21% 8	90.09% 100	111	3.87
Bike Paths / Walking Trails	6.36% 7	10.91% 12	13.64% 15	69.09% 76	110	3.45
Sidewalks / Walkable Streets	0.00% 0	1.82% 2	22.73% 25	75.45% 83	110	3.74

## Q5 How do you feel about the following statement? Street trees / shade trees are important for our sidewalks and green spaces.

Answered: 112 Skipped: 0

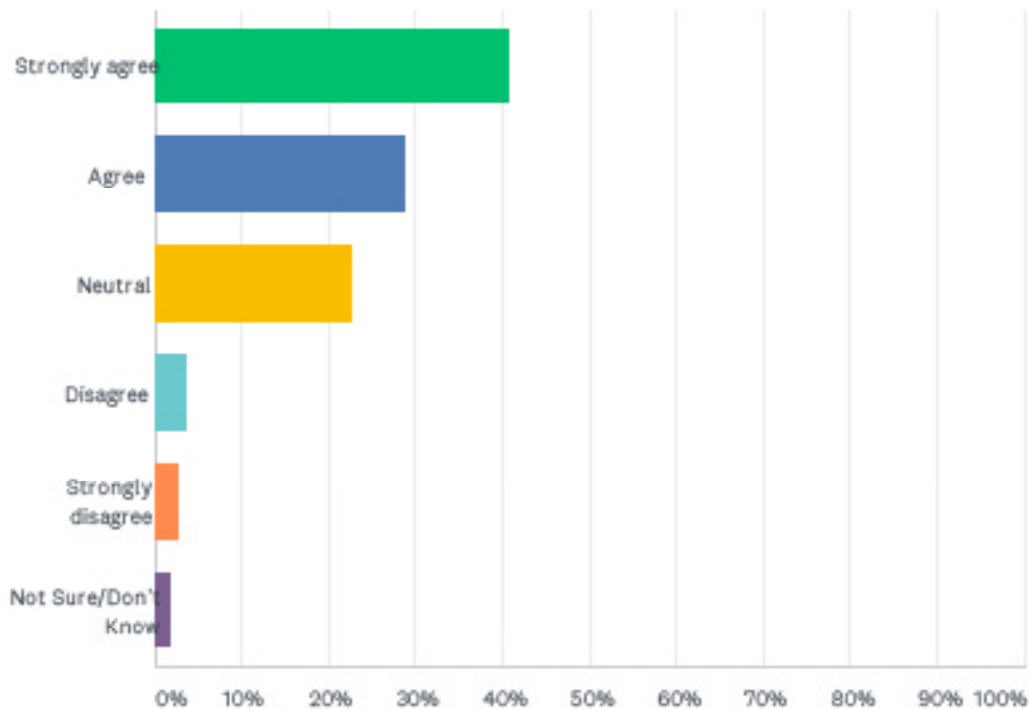


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Agree	64.29%	72
Agree	23.21%	26
Neutral	7.14%	8
Disagree	0.89%	1
Strongly Disagree	4.46%	5
Not Sure/Don't Know	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>112</b>



**Q6 How do you feel about the following statement? Organic Lawn care of municipal parks, play areas, and fields is an important health and safety issue.**

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	40.54%	45
Agree	28.83%	32
Neutral	22.52%	25
Disagree	3.60%	4
Strongly disagree	2.70%	3
Not Sure/Don't Know	1.80%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>111</b>

**Q7 Please list the top 3 parks, playgrounds, or other open space properties that you visit in the Town.**

Answered: 100   Skipped: 12

# Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Three of our beaches, in no particular order.	8/16/2020 8:03 AM
2	Phillips Beach, Fishermans' Beach, Eisman's Beach	8/10/2020 8:31 PM
3	Preston Beach Phillips Park Town Hall lawn	8/10/2020 11:52 AM
4	1. Linscott Park/Town Hall Lawn/Memorial Drive 2. Abbot Park 3. Harold King Town Forest	8/7/2020 1:05 PM
5	Eisman beach, Phillips beach, RAIL TRAIL if we had a longer one.	8/7/2020 10:43 AM
6	Beaches, Schools, Town area	8/6/2020 9:43 AM
7	Fisherman's Beach Eisman's Beach Sidewalks	8/6/2020 9:33 AM
8	Phillips Beach Rail Trail Phillips Park	8/5/2020 4:47 PM
9	Eisman's, fisherman's, Kong's beaches	8/5/2020 3:26 PM
10	Fishermans Beach, Eismans, rail trail	8/5/2020 10:26 AM
11	All beaches, Hadley playground, Linscott Park	8/5/2020 9:43 AM
12	Woods behind the Middle School & Nason Rd; Philips & Fishermans Beaches, Ewing Woods	8/5/2020 9:28 AM
13	Lilac garden, town hall/Olmsted greenway, high school playground	8/4/2020 9:43 PM
14	Kings Beach, Linscott Park , Pollinator Garden	8/3/2020 8:55 PM
15	Eisenman's beach, fisherman's beach, monument area and Lindscott park	8/3/2020 2:11 PM
16	Philips Park, Eisman's Beach, Stanley School Recreation Area	8/2/2020 2:31 PM
17	All beaches except King's, linscott park	8/2/2020 1:57 PM
18	All beaches, except Kings beach which needs to be cleaned up. Linscott park.	8/2/2020 1:56 PM
19	Monument Park, Hadley Park	8/2/2020 12:14 PM
20	Phillips Beach, Palmer Pond Eiseman Beach, Johnson Park Preston Beach, Beach Bluff Park	7/27/2020 8:23 PM
21	Phillips/Preston Beach Fisherman's Beach Lindscott Park	7/21/2020 10:36 AM
22	Harold King, Clarke, beach's	5/21/2020 11:48 PM
23	Fisherman's Beach, the woods behind the Stanley School, the playground next to the high school	5/21/2020 8:00 AM
24	Clark school Middle school tennis courts High school playground	5/20/2020 10:45 PM
25	Preston Beach Phillips Beach Walking on sidewalks throughout our neighborhood	5/20/2020 9:15 PM
26	I visit parts of the rail trail, all of the beaches.	5/20/2020 1:15 PM
27	Whales Beach, Fisherman's Beach, New Ocean House Beach.	5/20/2020 10:07 AM
28	Phillips Park Beaches - Phillips/Eismans Upper Jackson	5/20/2020 9:52 AM
29	Lower Jackson, Phillips, eismans	5/20/2020 7:54 AM
30	Phillips beach, Stanley field and surrounding woods, Philips fields	5/20/2020 7:49 AM
31	Eisemans beach Phillips park Harold a king forest	5/20/2020 6:26 AM
32	Phillips park and playground, Phillips beach & town hall lawn for farmers markets and events etc	5/19/2020 10:18 PM
33	Beaches, Lilac Garden, Gazebo lawn	5/19/2020 8:57 PM
34	Phillips Beach Eisman Beach Dog Park	5/19/2020 8:52 PM
35	Beach, linscott park, town hall	5/19/2020 6:13 PM
36	Beaches	5/19/2020 6:07 PM

# Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

37	Phillips Beach, Swampscott HS Track, Harold King Loop	5/19/2020 5:40 PM
38	Jackson park Clarke school Green space behind Hadley school, monument area	5/19/2020 5:13 PM
39	Lynn Shore Drive, Fisherman's Beach, Phillips Park	5/19/2020 5:13 PM
40	Turf field, Upper Jackson, SHS Gym	5/19/2020 5:12 PM
41	Philips Park Blocksidge Field Upper Jackson Park	5/19/2020 4:53 PM
42	Lincoln Park, Phillips Park and Phillips Beach	5/19/2020 4:45 PM
43	Linscott Park, Fisherman's Beach, Athletic Fields	5/19/2020 4:33 PM
44	Phillips beach, Phillips Park,	5/19/2020 4:33 PM
45	WINDSOR AVE, Phillips, Clarke,	5/19/2020 4:32 PM
46	Jackson woods, all beaches,	5/17/2020 11:45 AM
47	Fisherman's Beach, Whale's Beach, Phillip's Beach	5/14/2020 11:08 AM
48	Philips Beach Kings Beach Windsor Park	5/13/2020 9:19 AM
49	Ewing woods Phillips beach FisherMans beach	5/11/2020 9:20 PM
50	Fisherman's beach, Clarke school park, Phillips park playground	5/3/2020 12:16 PM
51	Linscott Park, Bike Path, Phillips Park	5/1/2020 12:28 PM
52	Phillip's Park playground bathroom Town beaches Monument park maintenance	4/30/2020 12:34 AM
53	Lilac garden on Monuments ave All beaches Forest river trail	4/29/2020 11:51 PM
54	Fisherman's, eismans, linscott	4/29/2020 9:28 PM
55	Eiseman's Beach, Phillips Beach, Harold King Forest	4/29/2020 7:20 PM
56	Beaches, will visit White Court pathway when it opens, rail trail	4/29/2020 4:25 PM
57	King Forest Phillips Beach Palmer pond	4/29/2020 3:54 PM
58	All the beaches Harold King Ewing Woods	4/29/2020 3:16 PM
59	ABBOTT/CLARKE PLAYGROUND, LINSKOTT PARK, EWING WOODS	4/29/2020 2:56 PM
60	Wales beach, SMS Conservation easement trails, Harold King	4/29/2020 2:29 PM
61	Linscott King's Beach promenade	4/29/2020 2:17 PM
62	Linscott park Park at highschool	4/29/2020 1:39 PM
63	Not very many because there no parks that allow dogs of leash	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
64	Jackson Park Lynch Park Kong's Beach	4/29/2020 6:29 AM
65	Ewing Woods, Whales Beach, Philips Beach	4/29/2020 6:18 AM
66	Kings beach Linscott park Fisherman's beach	4/29/2020 2:17 AM
67	Park off Windsor Park near old Michaux/ new high school Harold king forest	4/29/2020 12:21 AM
68	Town hall Philips park Stanley school	4/28/2020 8:18 PM
69	Jackson, linscott, Phillips	4/28/2020 8:13 PM
70	Linscott, the one by the high school, the one by the town hall	4/28/2020 7:53 PM
71	Monument area grounds and p playground, kings beach promenade, eismans	4/16/2020 7:49 AM
72	Phillips Beach, King's Beach, Linscott Park	4/11/2020 9:56 AM
73	Ewing Woods, Harold King Forest, Eisman's Beach	4/10/2020 2:31 PM
74	Kings Beach boardwalk, Hadley School playground, Clarke School playground	4/10/2020 1:56 PM

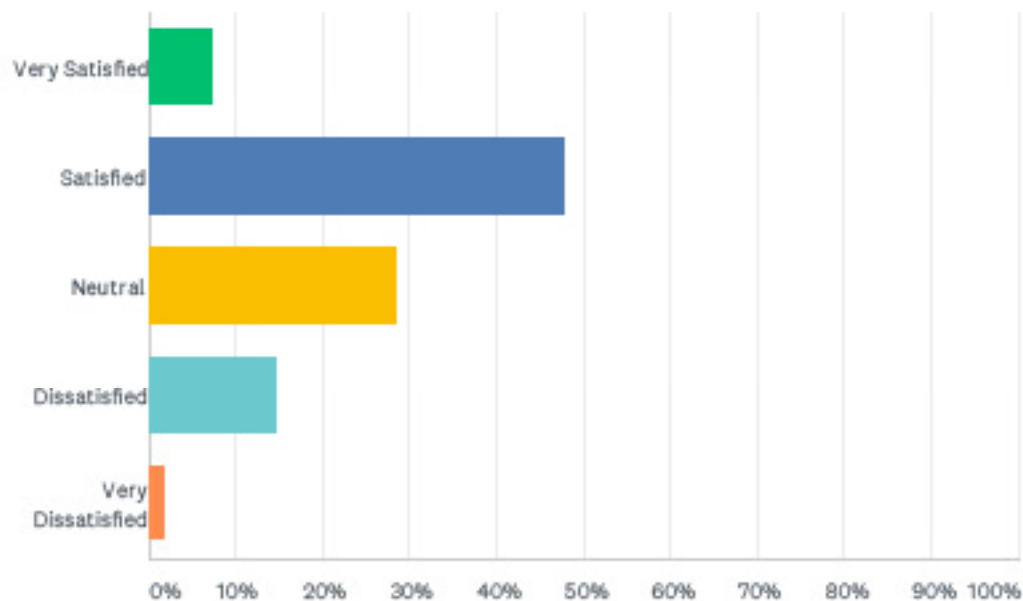
## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

75	Beaches, Linscott/Monument. We revisit what could be a great rail trail in our dreams all the time.	4/10/2020 11:50 AM
76	Harold King Forest, Kings Beach, Ewing Woods	4/10/2020 9:22 AM
77	Jackson Park, Harold King Park, the beaches	4/8/2020 9:56 AM
78	Harold King Town Forest King's Beach Monument Area Parks	4/8/2020 9:42 AM
79	Tennis courts, rail trail and beaches	4/2/2020 1:26 PM
80	Eismans Beach Phillips Park Phillips Beach	4/2/2020 8:03 AM
81	Clarke, Jackson park, Ewing woods	4/2/2020 6:36 AM
82	Beaches, community sidewalks, Tennis courts @ HS	4/2/2020 12:35 AM
83	Fishermans Beach, Phillips Park, Town Pier	4/1/2020 10:48 PM
84	Phillips Park, Linscott Park, Clark school (this does not include beaches, which would definitely be on the list)	3/14/2020 2:19 AM
85	Fisherman's Beach Area-Boating, etc King's Beach - running path toward Nahant Blocksidge Fields	3/13/2020 3:31 PM
86	fishermans beach philips park king beach	3/13/2020 2:30 PM
87	Eisman's Beach, Ewing Woods, and Monument Ave. Area (Boardwalk, Linscott and Town Hall Green)	3/13/2020 12:51 PM
88	Eisman's Beach, Philip's Beach, playground at Stanley School	3/13/2020 10:28 AM
89	Fisherman's Beach Phillips Park Upper Jackson Park	3/13/2020 7:26 AM
90	Bike path behind Tedesco, Philips Beach and the soccer / foot ball field	3/13/2020 1:16 AM
91	Phillips	3/12/2020 11:32 PM
92	Jackson Park, Fishermans Beach, the Town Common	3/12/2020 7:53 PM
93	Abbot Park and Lindcott Park	3/12/2020 7:49 PM
94	Rail Trail Beach Harbor	3/12/2020 6:23 PM
95	Park above Fisherman's Beach Town Hall area and parks Park by Eismans	3/12/2020 6:13 PM
96	Eiseman's Beach Harold King Forest Phillips Beach	3/12/2020 5:57 PM
97	Phillip's park,	3/12/2020 5:22 PM
98	All beaches, Jackson park, Jackson park trails	3/12/2020 5:18 PM
99	Phillips Park, Linscott Park , and Clarke field	3/12/2020 5:15 PM
100	Jackson park woods, town fields	3/12/2020 5:03 PM



## Q8 How satisfied are you with the quality of your experience at Swampscott's parks and playgrounds?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	7.34%	8
Satisfied	47.71%	52
Neutral	28.44%	31
Dissatisfied	14.68%	16
Very Dissatisfied	1.83%	2
TOTAL		109

## Q9 Please explain your answer.

Answered: 69   Skipped: 43

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'd like to have foot washes at the beaches. Also bigger trash barrels.	8/10/2020 8:31 PM
2	These are daily resources for my family. They are easy to access, well maintained and flexible in use.	8/10/2020 11:52 AM
3	Playgrounds and all recreational areas would benefit from more trees.	8/7/2020 10:43 AM
4	We are improving but we need to preserve wetlands and open space Preserve Olmsted area - no building	8/6/2020 9:43 AM
5	We could use more frequent upkeep - swing repair, weeding, trash removal	8/6/2020 9:33 AM
6	There could be more open wilderness.	8/5/2020 4:47 PM
7	there are no bathrooms at beaches, no rinse off showers. bare grass and old concrete at Eismans. old swings, broken half the time at linscott park.	8/5/2020 10:26 AM
8	They could be better maintained (trash pick, primarily) and better advertised to residents	8/5/2020 9:28 AM
9	Things are fairly well maintained but they could be better.	8/3/2020 8:55 PM
10	Insufficient Trash pickup. The trash cans at the parks are always overflowing	8/3/2020 2:11 PM
11	I wish there was a public boat ramp that also provided day parking for the trailer.	8/2/2020 2:31 PM
12	New to Swampscott. Most of my time has been during COVID. So I have stayed away for the most part	8/2/2020 1:57 PM
13	There should be more trash receptacles. The current ones are often overflowing .	8/2/2020 1:56 PM
14	Many needed improvements such as landscaping, seating, cleanliness	7/27/2020 8:23 PM
15	maintenance is uneven (some parks get lots of TLC, like the Veteran's Memorial, and others get none - the Lilac garden); lawn care practices are not modern or sustainable (lawns cut too short, inorganic fertilizer usage, watering between 9 AM - 5 PM).	7/21/2020 10:36 AM
16	Harold's need more improved wider paths, more options for those you can't climb on slippery rocks, need better visible markers.	5/21/2020 11:48 PM
17	Nothing wows me, and frequently there are too many dogs in these areas.	5/21/2020 8:00 AM
18	I am satisfied but there is also so much room for improvement increasing number of quality play grounds, parks, and improving beaches and public spaces further. Preston Beach really needs a ramp to make it ADA accessible, and I would love to see more playgrounds throughout neighborhoods. We also are so excited for the rail trail.	5/20/2020 9:15 PM
19	The beaches need more parking spaces especially Preston and Phillips and some restrooms.	5/20/2020 1:15 PM
20	Need more benches in the shade. Need more public bathrooms open year round.	5/20/2020 10:07 AM
21	They are well maintained. I'd like more conservation and hiking areas. That is really missing in our town.	5/20/2020 7:49 AM
22	I do not think the maintenance of these areas are taken care of very well. The sea walls are in bad shape, the field are looking unkept and the upkeep needs improvement of open areas in general	5/20/2020 6:26 AM
23	Sidewalks need improvement and updating and widening (way too many huge cracks, tree roots, bushes encroaching on sidewalks). Especially along Puritan road and Humphrey street.	5/19/2020 10:18 PM
24	I don't have kids.	5/19/2020 8:52 PM
25	I'm happy with what we have. We should maintain and work on what we currently have.	5/19/2020 5:13 PM
26	The management of the fields is inconsistent per sport. There's clearly a priority to the AD and not all sports are treated equally or fairly.	5/19/2020 5:12 PM
27	Maintaince is very good.Going organic would improve it	5/19/2020 4:53 PM
28	Football field not open to the public	5/19/2020 4:40 PM

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

29	Nice to see more maintenance of facilities, more trash pickup, grooming	5/19/2020 4:33 PM
30	Not all neighborhood parks have been updated. Windsor Ave in disrepair, was supposed to be updated this spring, hope plans still will follow thru	5/19/2020 4:32 PM
31	There's not many left! Every time we sell old property to developers we lose some. I just dont think the town really values open space/conservation. I think the priority is growth in the form of private apartments, condos, housing, housing. Less concern with mind, body, spirit, more with capital, endless growth, real estate, etc. Which is fine. Those in positions of power have different priorities. Just not the town I would want for my future.	5/17/2020 11:45 AM
32	I believe there is crumbling infrastructure at our beaches (stairs to Fisherman's beach either buried in sand, crumbling away and unusable, seawall in disrepair and looking terrible). Maintaining our beaches should be the top priority in town as it is one of our most unique features - and improving their accessibility and utility not only for residents, but as an opportunity to bring revenue from visitors as well (guest parking passes or paid street parking near beaches, snack hut revenue, etc).	5/14/2020 11:08 AM
33	Too much allocated to baseball fields to the detriment of all else	5/11/2020 9:20 PM
34	Poor drainage at Clark and outdated play structure for littles; Phillips playground has extremely high obstacles that littles want to climb on too and parents can't support them also poor planning of swing placement kids almost key kicked over all the time. Parents constantly must remain alert re this issue. Poor planning. It is nice when fisherman's beach is raked of excess seaweed in the summer months.	5/3/2020 12:16 PM
35	The pesticides make me concerned	5/1/2020 12:28 PM
36	We really need toilet facilities available somewhere near a park, beach or two in town. Also, please do not allow any commercial advertising as was temporarily allowed on the new lobster pot benches placed around town (which I don't love).	4/30/2020 12:34 AM
37	Nothing to add	4/29/2020 11:51 PM
38	No playground not on school property. Lack of any beach facilities	4/29/2020 9:28 PM
39	aside_ I feel it is wrong that the football field is now locked away-as a town meeting member, we voted for the field improvements but weren't told it would be locked up and not available to the public	4/29/2020 4:25 PM
40	The spaces are lovely and well maintained. The only challenges are humans not cleaning up after themselves.	4/29/2020 3:16 PM
41	RUN DOWN, TRASH, BROKEN EQUIPMENT, NOT ENOUGH MULCH UNDER PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, UNWELCOMING (LACK OF SIGNS/INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION), NOT SURE WHERE ITS OKAY TO PARK, LACK OF RESTROOMS (ESPECIALLY AT BEACHES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN), LACK OF STROLLER FRIENDLY WALKING IN NATURAL AREAS	4/29/2020 2:56 PM
42	More could be done to protect the wildlife in our natural areas including keep pets from these locations (e.g. cats indoors) and keeping dogs on leash (all year). Our habitats are highly fragmented and nesting birds and migrating birds already face numerous challenges without adding the additional burden of domestic cats free roaming and dogs unleashed. These activities have ecological costs even if they don't result in direct mortality.	4/29/2020 2:29 PM
43	I'm not very outdoorsy, but I appreciate the efforts made to have events in town. My two biggest concerns are pesticide use on public grounds and that a lack of enough open space is bad for wildlife and the environment. While I believe there are enough playgrounds, I wish they were more inclusive for kids with different disabilities, including physical, emotional, and intellectual.	4/29/2020 2:17 PM
44	I have kids and dogs and would like to see more places that allow both kids and dogs	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
45	I wish some of the playground were more gated so young toddlers could run around without the parents' fear of them running out. I chase my kids but they are fast!	4/29/2020 6:29 AM
46	I think some of the forested areas could be better maintained but appreciate that there are limited resources and this may not be the top priority	4/29/2020 6:18 AM
47	Some parks are nice while others could use updates.	4/29/2020 12:21 AM



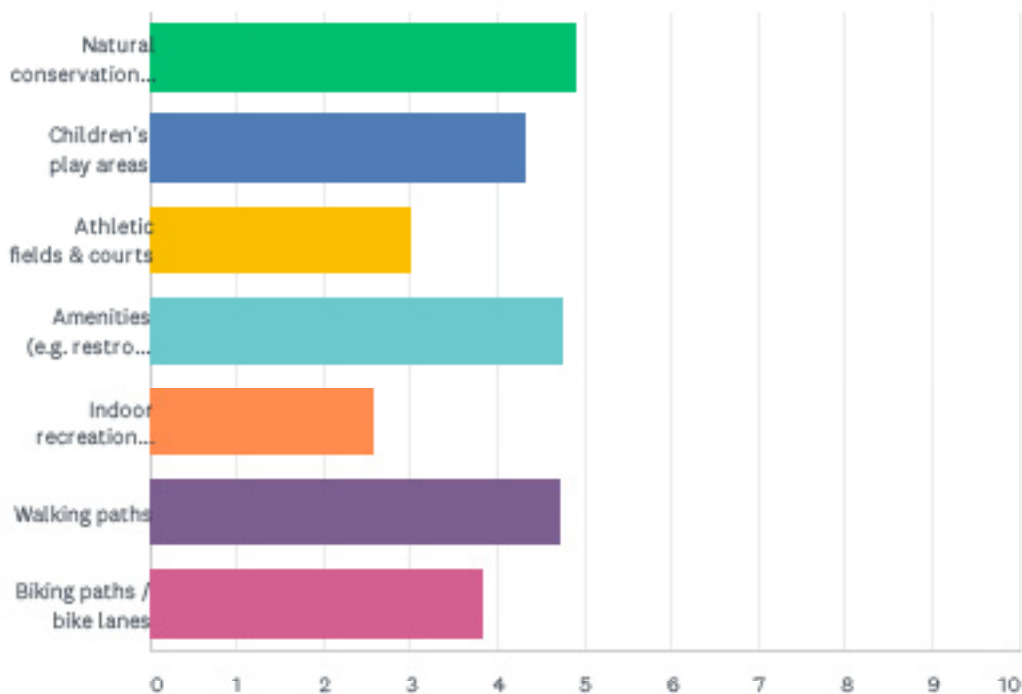
## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

48	The towns lawns are not maintained organically, and we don't know what has been sprayed on the public parks and sports fields.	4/28/2020 7:53 PM
49	They are clean and safe	4/11/2020 9:56 AM
50	Bring our grandchildren to the playgrounds. They are OK, but not great.	4/10/2020 2:31 PM
51	Infrastructure condition adequate but needs improvement, especially Kings Beach sidewalk.	4/10/2020 1:56 PM
52	There is much more potential than is being realized. The beach entrance plaza, designed for Phillips, was never implemented and what's there is a disgrace. Johnson Park is a missed opportunity. It would be nice to have picnic benches in more parks, bocce courts, fire pits or grills, things that suggest the parks are meant to be used. Why do most park benches face the street? This year, it might be smart for the town to turn over additional land for "victory gardens" so that more residents can grow their own veggies. And yes, can we talk about the trees? Until some of the power lines are buried (admittedly a huge job but one that might be covered in a grant based on historic district status), the tree canopy will be destroyed by the power company regardless of how many new trees are planted.	4/10/2020 11:50 AM
53	Our city is densely populated, but we could encourage pocket parks and utilizing private/abandoned land to be more eco-friendly.	4/8/2020 9:56 AM
54	Some of trees and shrubs need to be better maintained and plans for replacement of trees put in place. Some parks at the beaches (Johnson Park and Chaisson Park) need plantings to be more inviting.	4/8/2020 9:42 AM
55	Little to no shade at Phillips Park playground. Beaches are generally kept clean, but boardwalks, bath houses, improvements to the field by Eisman's, nearby coffee shop could all improve experience.	4/2/2020 8:03 AM
56	I don't like any of our play grounds other than Clarke. The others are all too small and or in need of updates. The swing area at Clarke is terribly maintained. I'm not a fan of the new playground at the football field.	4/2/2020 6:36 AM
57	They are not a resource my family uses.	4/2/2020 12:35 AM
58	Fish House needs repair, (not wasting money on shortsighted expenditures dictated by Historical Commission)	4/1/2020 10:48 PM
59	Phillips Park is not a good playground for kids under 5, the equipment is much too high. We need a high quality park in town for kids under 5.	3/14/2020 2:19 AM
60	Need to do a better job with upkeep before they start to deteriorate	3/13/2020 3:31 PM
61	more public restrooms would be nice	3/13/2020 2:30 PM
62	Could use some facilities	3/13/2020 12:51 PM
63	Everything is fairly clean and maintained, but could be better. The trash cans on the beaches are always overflowing, for example.	3/13/2020 10:28 AM
64	The town should trim back trees to make some of the bike path walkable. We paid for it.	3/13/2020 1:16 AM
65	DPW does what it can.	3/12/2020 11:32 PM
66	The parks and beaches are lovely but could use more investment (aka better trail markings, signage, benches, etc).	3/12/2020 7:53 PM
67	Lacking in children's play areas, or current equipment is small and out dated	3/12/2020 7:49 PM
68	They are fine but not always well maintained. Every bit of open space needs protected from development. The last 3-5 years have not been good for this. It's terrifying.	3/12/2020 5:18 PM
69	For the most part, we have a wonderful time. The dog poop situation casts a bit of a cloud at most open spaces in town. Also, Phillips Park drainage isn't great, so we are often leaving there with wet feet after soccer.	3/12/2020 5:15 PM



## Q10 Please rank the top open space/recreational facilities you feel are needed or should be expanded in Town:

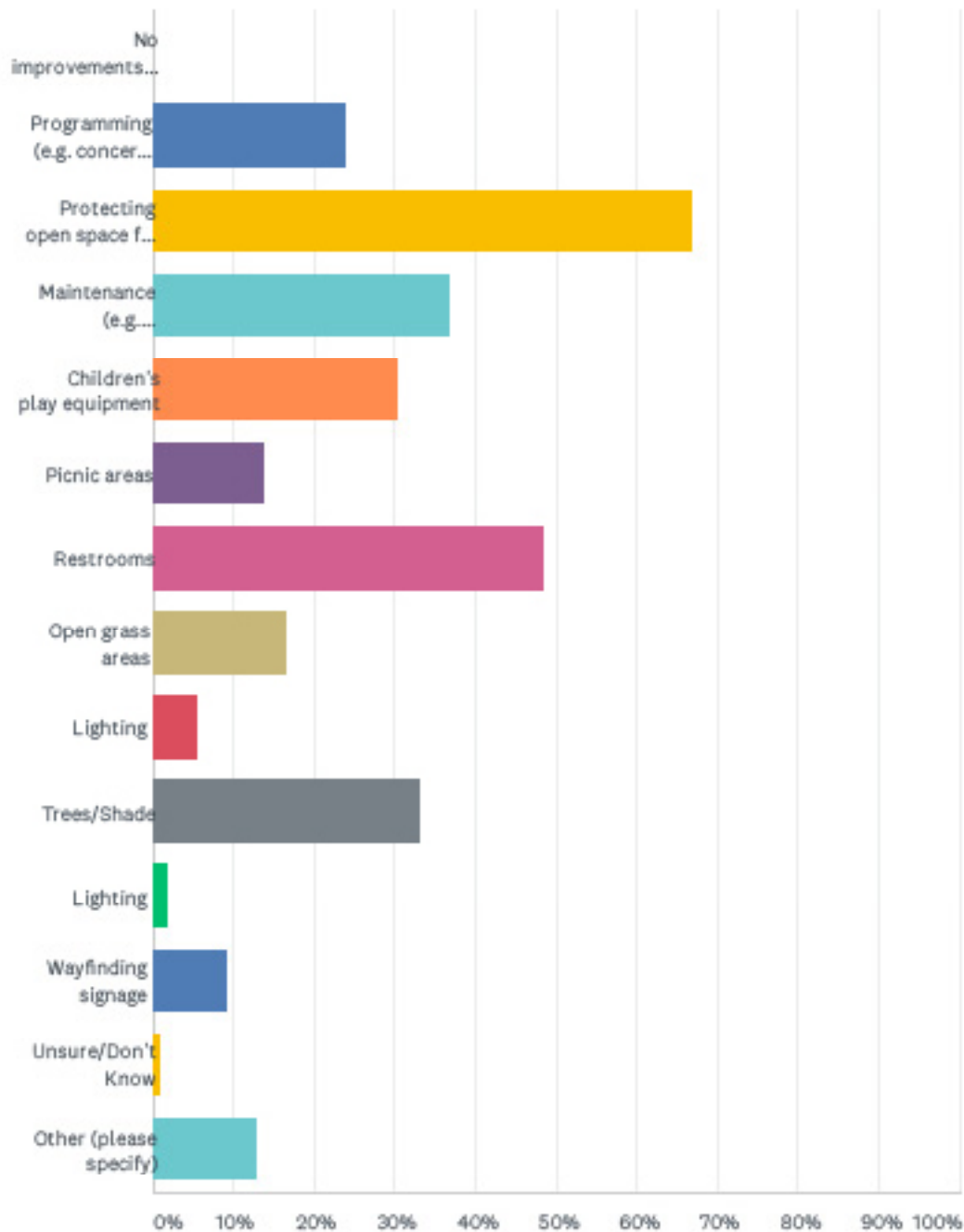
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Natural conservation areas	33.02% 35	12.26% 13	15.09% 16	12.26% 13	12.26% 13	11.32% 12	3.77% 4	106	4.92
Children's play areas	10.28% 11	18.69% 20	16.82% 18	21.50% 23	17.76% 19	9.35% 10	5.61% 6	107	4.32
Athletic fields & courts	7.69% 8	4.81% 5	10.58% 11	10.58% 11	11.54% 12	31.73% 33	23.08% 24	104	2.99
Amenities (e.g. restrooms in parks and public beaches, bench seating)	25.69% 28	15.60% 17	15.60% 17	18.35% 20	11.01% 12	3.67% 4	10.09% 11	109	4.75
Indoor recreation facilities	1.92% 2	5.77% 6	6.73% 7	10.58% 11	18.27% 19	22.12% 23	34.62% 36	104	2.58
Walking paths	12.96% 14	25.93% 28	22.22% 24	15.74% 17	8.33% 9	12.96% 14	1.85% 2	108	4.73
Biking paths / bike lanes	10.38% 11	17.92% 19	14.15% 15	9.43% 10	18.87% 20	8.49% 9	20.75% 22	106	3.83

# Q11 Please choose the three (3) things that need the most improvement in the Town's park, recreation, and open space system.

Answered: 109 Skipped: 3



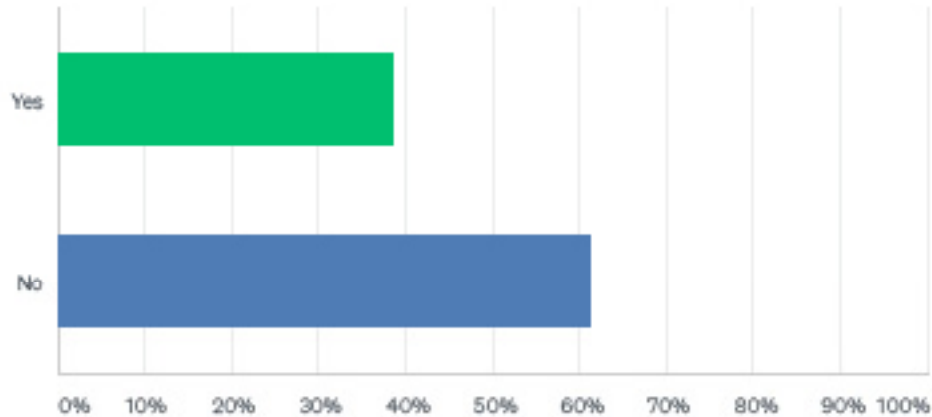
## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No improvements needed	0.00% 0
Programming (e.g. concerts in the park, special events, etc.)	23.85% 26
Protecting open space from development	66.97% 73
Maintenance (e.g. maintenance of grounds, buildings, landscaping)	36.70% 40
Children's play equipment	30.28% 33
Picnic areas	13.76% 15
Restrooms	48.62% 53
Open grass areas	16.51% 18
Lighting	5.50% 6
Trees/Shade	33.03% 36
Lighting	1.83% 2
Wayfinding signage	9.17% 10
Unsure/Don't Know	0.92% 1
Other (please specify)	12.84% 14
Total Respondents: 109	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We need to take responsibility for the maintenance and development of our beach parks	8/16/2020 8:03 AM
2	Keeping dogs off of the green spaces because their owners aren't responsible enough to clean up after them.	5/21/2020 8:00 AM
3	trails	5/20/2020 7:49 AM
4	Sidewalks and walking paths updated and widened	5/19/2020 10:18 PM
5	Sidewalks	5/19/2020 6:13 PM
6	access to the turf field for the players, scheduling, Turf field has lights, use them	5/19/2020 5:12 PM
7	By lighting do you mean increase or decreasing. I believe decreased lighting is needed to minimize impacts.	4/29/2020 2:29 PM
8	More dog friendly areas with actual grass	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
9	Beaches	4/10/2020 1:56 PM
10	Keeping open space as natural as possible, e.g. native plants and trees, no structures on open space	4/10/2020 9:22 AM
11	Green maintenance interventions/permaculture, encouragement of community gardens	4/8/2020 9:56 AM
12	prohibiting overnight parking at Fishhouse parking lot.	4/1/2020 10:48 PM
13	Walkability	3/14/2020 2:19 AM
14	More seating	3/12/2020 6:13 PM

**Q12 Have you found any obstacles that prevent you or a household member from accessing or using and enjoying any of Swampscott's beaches, playgrounds, fields, courts or other recreation and open space areas?**

Answered: 106 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		38.68%	41
No		61.32%	65
TOTAL			106

**Q13 If you answered Yes to the above question, please identify the location and type of obstacle:**

Answered: 42   Skipped: 70



## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A preference among the well-connected to limit use of our beaches.	8/16/2020 8:03 AM
2	Trash spilling out of barrels at the beaches. Especially Fisherman's.	8/7/2020 1:05 PM
3	The locked entrances to both the turf field (for walking laps) at Phillips park and the soccer field (for walking) on The Greenway.	8/7/2020 10:43 AM
4	Running track, tennis courts closed	8/6/2020 9:43 AM
5	Restrooms would help!	8/6/2020 9:33 AM
6	Eisman's and whales beaches should have a restroom nearby	8/5/2020 3:26 PM
7	Wheelchair access to Eismans beach	8/5/2020 9:43 AM
8	The path to Fishermans Beach is too narrow. If people loiter at either end, or have set up on the beach right there, someone who can't use stairs has difficulty getting to the sand.	8/5/2020 9:28 AM
9	Covid	8/2/2020 1:57 PM
10	I would like to see more stroller access points to the beaches	8/2/2020 1:56 PM
11	Preston beach needs a ramp really badly. It is the closest beach to our house so we use it frequently however there is no safe way to get a stroller/wagon/wheelchair down to the beach area.	5/20/2020 9:15 PM
12	There is NO shade for the playground at Kids Cove. My grandchildren loved the playground equipment but none of us could stand the heat.	5/20/2020 1:15 PM
13	No restroom	5/20/2020 6:26 AM
14	Covid	5/20/2020 4:33 AM
15	Corona!	5/19/2020 10:18 PM
16	Would love dog friendly beaches year round	5/19/2020 8:57 PM
17	H King Forest	5/19/2020 6:07 PM
18	Sometimes it is hard to find easy access for edarly	5/19/2020 5:13 PM
19	Turf field... football players have access, the police (who are also their coaches) don't remove them.	5/19/2020 5:12 PM
20	Basketball court on Windsor Ave attracts older youths, young men, and not from town. Swearing, Public urinating ,	5/19/2020 4:32 PM
21	See above. There's just not much left.	5/17/2020 11:45 AM
22	Crumbling infrastructure (stairs at fishermans and king's beaches) make beach access more difficult. Parking can make access difficult as well due to limited parking at many town beaches (fisherman's being an exception due to the public lot at the Fishhouse0.	5/14/2020 11:08 AM
23	Sidewalks are mostly unnavigable for anyone with mobility issues	5/11/2020 9:20 PM
24	Unable to access forest conservation since there is such little info about it or maps provided would love to see this outdoor space more Accessible.	5/3/2020 12:16 PM
25	Access to Forest River trail from Swampscott	4/29/2020 11:51 PM
26	Restroom facilities	4/29/2020 9:28 PM
27	Need a parking sticker to park at Phillips Beach, however there are not bathrooms during the entire time the sticker is required. If need a sticker May 1-October 1 bathroom needs to be there.	4/29/2020 7:20 PM
28	parking spaces	4/29/2020 4:25 PM
29	Trash and dogs	4/29/2020 3:54 PM
30	LACK OF RESTROOMS, PARKING, AND STROLLER-FRIENDLINESS	4/29/2020 2:56 PM

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

31	Lack of bathrooms for children	4/29/2020 1:39 PM
32	Dogs are allowed anywhere in this town. Why not? They are park of the family too	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
33	No accessing but Park on Windsor is completely unusable- broken equipment. Sad unused playground. Definitely needs an update	4/29/2020 12:21 AM
34	Parking & restrooms	4/28/2020 8:18 PM
35	Bathroom	4/16/2020 7:49 AM
36	This is not what you meant by your question, but the regular polluting of King's Beach is one of the biggest obstacles to enjoying our most obvious public space.	4/10/2020 11:50 AM
37	Access to Forest River Conservation Area/Salem Woods from Swampscott not possible. Signage and a clear path are needed.	4/8/2020 9:42 AM
38	Beaches when people have dogs off leash which is with frequency.	4/2/2020 12:35 AM
39	parking at peak times and not easily accessible by public transprtation.	3/13/2020 2:30 PM
40	Access, in the case of Jackson park, could be improved with a sidewalk connection from the high school. And better signage and path entrances to the woods. Bike racks at all park entrances around town. A network of bike lanes and sidewalks with street trees will make it safer and more pleasant to get around town not by car.	3/12/2020 7:53 PM
41	Lack of bathrooms and parking. Without bathrooms, our beaches cannot be used during shoulder seasons. If we are paying for a beach sticker for use between 5/1 and 10/1, we should have bathrooms available during those dates.	3/12/2020 5:57 PM
42	Police do not enforce parking regs on monument av	3/12/2020 5:22 PM

**Q14 Are there any Open Space amenities or projects that haven't been mentioned that you feel would benefit Swampscott?**

Answered: 52   Skipped: 60

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A park in the wetlands near Stop and Shop	8/10/2020 8:31 PM
2	The pier? Safety. Access for walkers and non-boaters. MORE TREES on main roads.	8/7/2020 1:05 PM
3	Keep access to our shore line and ocean views open to the public. Anthony's Hawthorne cannot become giant condos that close off the access/view of the ocean. We lost Captain Jacks, Whitecourt and Greenwood Ave school opportunities for gorgeous PUBLIC spaces. Please lets not lose more.	8/7/2020 10:43 AM
4	Trails near King Forest and the Quarry.	8/5/2020 4:47 PM
5	Would be nice to have an area set up with beach games like volleyball, corn hole, etc. Maybe a skateboard area somewhere for older kids. SUP and kayak rentals at Fishermans beach. a "neck run cafe" type place either near fishermans or eismans.	8/5/2020 10:26 AM
6	Outdoor hockey rink in the winter	8/5/2020 9:43 AM
7	Replace the rusting, unsafe railing along the Swampscott portion of the Lynn Shore walk all along Humphrey St. it's embarrassingly derict.	8/5/2020 9:28 AM
8	Map identifying all open spaces, parks and playgrounds	8/3/2020 8:55 PM
9	Massive improvement to basketball court and hoops at Philips Park. Recommendation is to have two full courts surrounded by high fence to provide for multiple levels of outside basketball development. Have lights that stay on for night games as well during summer months. This is an enormous amenity needed to improve boys and girls athletics and encourage youth to stay involved in athletics. These courts are above and beyond worth the money to build up.	8/2/2020 2:31 PM
10	Benches or a playground on the grass in front of Eisemann's beach.	8/2/2020 12:14 PM
11	More focus on the ability of town residents to access temporary/seasonal small boat and kayak storage unrelated to yacht club membership.	7/27/2020 8:23 PM
12	Volunteer-provided maintenance	7/21/2020 10:36 AM
13	I really want the rail trail!	5/21/2020 8:00 AM
14	Increasing public art. For example incorporating murals throughout the town.	5/20/2020 9:15 PM
15	Trail system on conserved land.	5/20/2020 7:49 AM
16	A splash pad or playground with water feature. The rail trail!	5/19/2020 10:18 PM
17	Would love to see improvement in the ugly beach wall along kings	5/19/2020 6:13 PM
18	H King Forest	5/19/2020 6:07 PM
19	Trash pick up along town streets and adding recycling bins next to trash bins.	5/13/2020 9:19 AM
20	Conservation area	5/3/2020 12:16 PM
21	Another beer garden!	4/30/2020 12:34 AM
22	Area around restaurants especially to the left from Mission on the Bay.	4/29/2020 11:51 PM
23	Need permanent bathroom infrastructure at all beaches, including Eiseman's, Phillips Beach, and improvements to the bathroom at Fisherman's Beach.	4/29/2020 7:20 PM
24	White court pathway	4/29/2020 4:25 PM
25	Leave some spaces wild	4/29/2020 3:54 PM
26	Addressing invasive species in open spaces.	4/29/2020 3:16 PM
27	FENCE-ENCLOSED SPRAY PARKS/SPLASH PADS	4/29/2020 2:56 PM
28	Just re-building playgrounds to be inclusive	4/29/2020 2:17 PM
29	Dog parks	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
30	School playgrounds like Hadley & Stanley need updating/maintenance	4/28/2020 8:18 PM



## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

31	Rail trail	4/28/2020 7:53 PM
32	Rail Trail for both enjoyment and to lower car traffic for eg commuting	4/16/2020 7:49 AM
33	Rail Trail !	4/11/2020 9:56 AM
34	Find a way for the town residents to have some access to Tedesco Golf Course.	4/10/2020 2:31 PM
35	Add white sand back to Kings Beach, as it always was up until it was washed away by blizzard in February 1978.	4/10/2020 1:56 PM
36	It would be nice if public art was considered an important part of these spaces. I'm reminded of the initiatives at the Forest Hill Cemetery, as an example. Could we instigate a sidewalk poetry program or similar projects?	4/10/2020 11:50 AM
37	Reducing the effects of light pollution in town	4/10/2020 9:22 AM
38	Pocket parks. More space given to pedestrians and bicyclists over cars. More opportunities for green spaces that are NOT just lawns. Accessibility of city owned space (like the park behind the cemetery/dog park) FOCUS on planting native trees and shrubs over invasives to support wildlife. Encouragement of planting native pollinators in small spaces that are underutilized, like medians and traffic islands.	4/8/2020 9:56 AM
39	Access to Forest River Conservation Area/Salem Woods from the cemetery.	4/8/2020 9:42 AM
40	I enjoy the friendliness of Beverly's public way signs. While there are public ways in Swampscott, a lot of people don't know where they are and may be intimidated from using them as nearby homeowners aren't interested in promoting the fact that they are public ways.	4/2/2020 8:03 AM
41	Need to do something with the space in front of Eisman's. Maybe picnic tables or a kids splash pad	4/2/2020 6:36 AM
42	More concerts, possibly with admission charge on Town Hall lawn	4/1/2020 10:48 PM
43	Improved Wharf area on Fisherman's. Get the Rail Trail done	3/13/2020 3:31 PM
44	public seating areas blue light call boxes	3/13/2020 2:30 PM
45	No	3/13/2020 12:51 PM
46	No	3/13/2020 10:28 AM
47	We need to more public access to our beaches for summer camps and for picnics/family outings. It is our shoreline.	3/13/2020 1:16 AM
48	Acquisition of open space, where possible.	3/12/2020 7:53 PM
49	Rail Trail	3/12/2020 6:23 PM
50	Making sure that people with mobility issues have access and a place to rest	3/12/2020 6:13 PM
51	Want to have a permanent performance stage added to lawn at Town Hall for music. Existing stage is dangerous and a liability to the town.	3/12/2020 5:57 PM
52	More interactive playgrounds, with moving parts, discovery zones.	3/12/2020 5:15 PM



**Q15 Please provide any additional comments.**

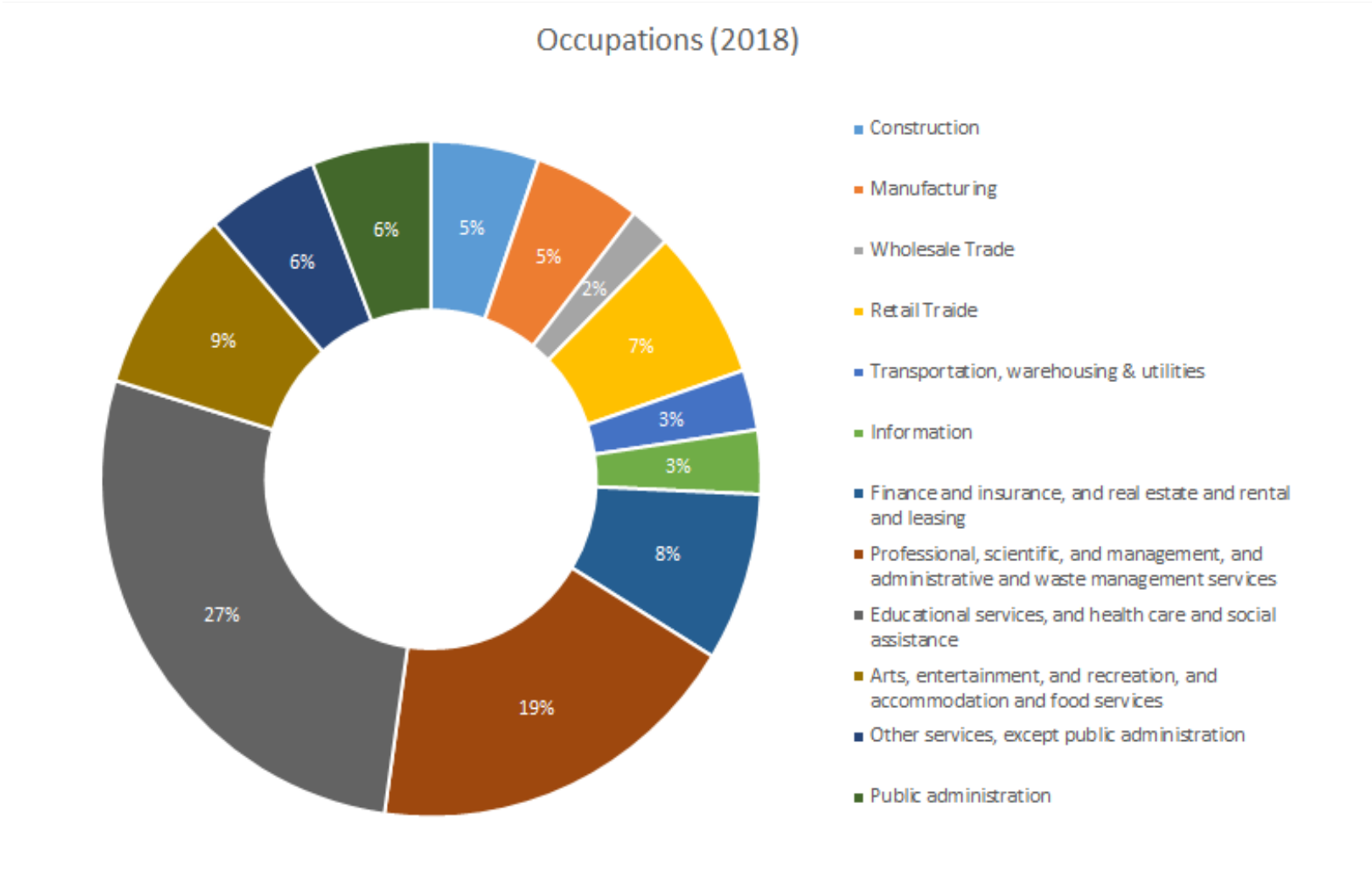
Answered: 20   Skipped: 92

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	If (or hopefully when) Anthony's Pier 4 is closed, I hope that Swampscott will acquire that land and develop it in to a park/ocean walk area. The town should grab it for an open space opportunity before the condo developers scoop it up!	8/7/2020 4:10 PM
2	For the 43 years I have lived here, Swampscott has been dominated by those favoring development over preserving and improving open space. Development is good for the town tax base at the expense of preserving the town's character and charm. Improving public spaces also means improving what little we have of a "downtown." I'd like to see the Jersey barriers kept so that restaurants can continue to offer streetside dining. Not just for protection against the virus, but because it enlivens public spaces in town.	8/7/2020 1:05 PM
3	Please keep development under control. We have lost so many opportunities, it saddens me. I believe the people of Swampscott would financially support maintaining open spaces.	8/7/2020 10:43 AM
4	More running, walking tracks	8/6/2020 9:43 AM
5	Thanks for fixing up the trees near Fisherman's	8/6/2020 9:33 AM
6	there is no taking advantage of beautifying our scenic beach town. our small "downtown" street is very lackluster. planters, hanging baskets, public art, benches, outdoor dining, bike racks. small improvements would do a lot to bring some vibrancy to the area.	8/5/2020 10:26 AM
7	Get volunteers to help build up the basketball courts.	8/2/2020 2:31 PM
8	before we hope to implement unvetted plans for beach bath houses and snack bars, we MUST find the solution to keeping the beaches and parks CLEAN, landscaping maintained, trash picked up so that it is not overflowing on a regular basis, seawalls and stairways to the ocean and railings in good repair at all times. Once these essential elements are addressed/solved, we can talk about other amenities	7/27/2020 8:23 PM
9	I love Swampscott!! I have loved getting to witness positive changes to the outdoor mindedness, access, and aesthetic of the town and love that the initiative is continuing. Thank you!	5/20/2020 9:15 PM
10	I really appreciate that the Swampscott Yacht Club bathrooms are open on summer evenings. We like to sit on Fisherman's Beach in the evenings and bathrooms help.	5/20/2020 1:15 PM
11	The rails for trails is not an appropriate investment for this town	5/11/2020 9:20 PM
12	The baby swings at the Phillips Park playground are poorly placed in the very middle of the play area, leading to near injuries on nearly every visit. Their placement should be swapped with the placement of the toddler structure. Also, tweens and teenagers throw their belongings in a big messy pile and then make the playground their own, when they are likely over the age limit and should instead utilize the open areas. On one visit they were sitting all over the Toddler structure so my son couldn't play. We cannot bring our small children to play in the Phillips Park fields due to residents with unleashed large dogs. My child was already knocked down by unleashed dog at Eismen's beach. The Seaside Garden is amazing!	4/30/2020 12:34 AM
13	Stop building things	4/29/2020 9:10 AM
14	Happy to help in any sort of community engagement needed to update said parks/ neighborhood	4/29/2020 12:21 AM
15	Clean up all the downed trees in upper Jackson.	4/28/2020 8:13 PM
16	Thank you for volunteering to provide citizens opportunity for this input.	4/10/2020 1:56 PM
17	Thanks for your ongoing work. Of course there is always room for improvement, but your efforts are sincerely appreciated.	4/10/2020 11:50 AM
18	Keep up the good work! Focus on the pedestrian experience and greenspace connections!	3/12/2020 7:53 PM
19	Just please save us from Spelliots and BOS and real estate.	3/12/2020 5:18 PM
20	I'm concerned about Phillips being viewed as a new school site - I'd hate to lose it from a recreation standpoint!	3/12/2020 5:15 PM



APPENDIX III: GRAPHIC - OCCUPATIONS



## **APPENDIX V: ADA**

PART A: ADA COORDINATOR

PART B: DRAFT ADA TRANSITION PLAN (SECTIONS RELEVANT TO  
OPEN SPACE/REC AREAS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED)

PART C: ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS





**Town of Swampscott**  
Office of the  
**Town Administrator**  
Elihu Thomson Administrative Building  
22 Monument Avenue  
Swampscott, MA 01907  
e-mail: [afitzgerald@swampscottma.gov](mailto:afitzgerald@swampscottma.gov)



*Sean Fitzgerald*  
*Town Administrator*

*Telephone (781) 596-8850*  
*Fax (781) 596-8851*

#### ADA Coordinator Designation Form

ADA Coordinator Name: Ricardo Flores

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Town of Swampscott

Job Title: Human Resources Director

E-Mail: [rflores@swampscottma.gov](mailto:rflores@swampscottma.gov)

Phone: 781-596-8859

Address: 22 Monument Ave, Swampscott, MA

Date Appointed:

Is This Appointment: **Permanent** OR Acting

Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? **Yes** OR No

Are the ADA Coordinator Duties **Full-Time** OR Part-Time

Direct Supervisor: Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator

Appointing Authority Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ADA Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send copy of completed form to:*  
*The Massachusetts Office On Disability, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1305 or email*  
*to [mod-info@state.ma.us](mailto:mod-info@state.ma.us), or fax to 617 727-8965*



## Town of Swampscott

Elihu Thomson Administration Building  
22 Monument Avenue  
Swampscott, MA 01907-1940

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). This may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Swampscott.

The Town of Swampscott's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Ricardo Flores, Human Resources Director/ADA Coordinator

22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907

or by email to [rflores@town.swampscott.ma.us](mailto:rflores@town.swampscott.ma.us)

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the Human Resources Director or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the Human Resources Director or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the Human Resources Director or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Administrator or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the Human Resources Director or his/her designee, appeals to the Town Administrator or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town for at least three years.

## Andrews Memorial Chapel and Swampscott Cemetery



### Town of Swampscott ADA Transition Plan

July 2020



Institute for Human Centered Design

840 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114  
[www.IHCDesign.org](http://www.IHCDesign.org) - [info@IHCDesign.org](mailto:info@IHCDesign.org)  
617-640-1235-voice or

#### Background

Year Built: 1988

Year Renovated: 2015, 2019

Andrews Memorial Chapel and Swampscott Cemetery are located at 408 West Street. The Chapel has one (1) main entrance and one (1) accessible egress.

The Chapel sits 40 people and there is no audio amplification system installed.

A parking lot is not provided at the site.

#### Key Accessibility Issues

##### Exterior Slopes

Exterior slopes on the east and west sides of the cemetery and along the side of the chapel have changes in level greater than 1/4 inch, excessive cross slopes and lack a firm, stable and slip resistant surface. An accessible route is not provided to a water spigot on the east side of the cemetery.

##### Entrance and Exit Signs

The accessible Chapel entrance lacks signage with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). The accessible exit lacks an illuminated sign with the ISA and an egress sign with raised characters and braille. The inaccessible exit lacks directional signage to the nearest accessible exit and an egress sign with raised characters and braille.

##### Stairs

All the main entrance and to the west of the main entrance to the Chapel, handrails removed six months ago lack 12-inch long extensions at the bottom.


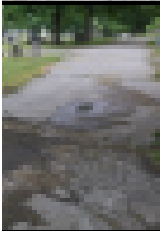

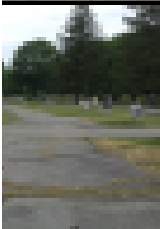

##### Doors

The door to the main Chapel entrance has a threshold that is higher than the required 1/4-inch maximum. Two (2) doors in the sanctuary lack compliant hardware.

#### **Andrew Memorial Chapel and Inmanwood Cemetery**

- **Recommend providing directional signage at the main entrance directing people to the ramp that leads to the accessible chapel entrance to the site.**
- **Recommend providing directional signage at the Inmanwood exit directing people to the ramp that leads to the main entrance. It is recommended to locate signs to minimize backtracking.**
- **Recommend providing handrails at the step that is west of the main entrance.**



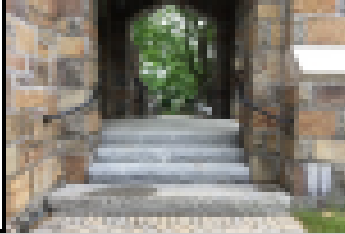
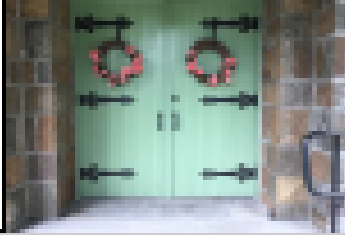

**Town of Swasey**  
**Andrew Memorial Chapel and Swaseyville Cemetery**

ID	Issues	Current Measure	Recommendation
	<p>Gravel slope = 40% (CL-100)</p> <p>Level change = 4"</p> <p>Gravel level stable, low, well-drained</p> <p>Overall good condition of water</p>	<p>40%</p> <p>2"</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Regrade area.</p> <p>Regrade area slope to CL-100.</p> <p>Level change in gravel (Pool estimate is probably more appropriate.)</p>
	<p>Level change = 4"</p> <p>Gravel level stable, low, well-drained</p> <p>Overall good condition of water</p>	<p>4"</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Level change in gravel</p> <p>Regrade area.</p> <p>(Pool estimate is probably more appropriate.)</p>
	<p>Level change = 4"</p> <p>Gravel level stable, low, well-drained</p> <p>Overall good condition of water</p>	<p>2"</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Level change in gravel</p> <p>Regrade area.</p> <p>(Pool estimate is probably more appropriate.)</p>
	<p>Level change = 4"</p> <p>Overall good condition of water</p> <p>Regrade area in gravel</p>	<p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Regrade area in gravel</p> <p>Regrade area in gravel</p> <p>(Pool estimate is probably more appropriate.)</p>
	<p>Gravel level stable, low, well-drained</p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Regrade area.</p> <p>(Pool estimate is probably more appropriate.)</p>




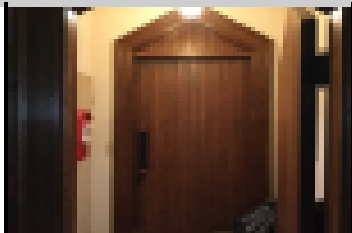
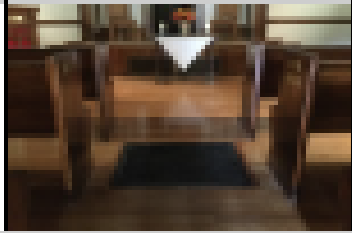
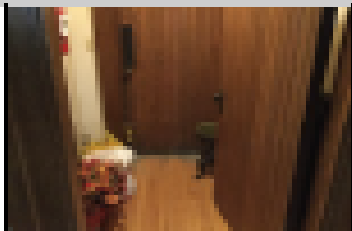


**Town of Georgetown**  
**Andrew Memorial Chapel and Georgetown Cemetery**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	Recommendations
D	Cemetery East-504	Ext.		Exterior Jury Box	Exterior		Assembly area not provided	-	Review on-site waste management plan (e.g., trash can, recycling bin, etc.)
Exterior Stair									
F	Male Restroom	Ext.		Exterior Stair	Ext.		Handrails do not extend 8" from stair	-	Review/Review Hand Railing Handrails/Handrails (e.g., upward and downward) Handrail
D	Female Rest Room	Ext.		Exterior Stair	Ext.		Handrails do not extend 8" from stair Stairs 7" high	- 7"	Review/Review Hand Railing Handrails/Handrails (e.g., upward and downward) Handrail Review/Review/Review Handrail/Handrail
Entrance									
D	Male Restroom	Ext.		Restroom	Male Restroom		Handrails do not extend 8" from stair	-	Review/Review Hand Railing Handrails/Handrails (e.g., upward and downward) Handrail
Emergency Exit									
H	Signage	1		Emergency Exit	Ext.		Handrails do not extend 8" from stair Handrails/Handrails (e.g., upward and downward) Handrail	- -	Review/Review Hand Railing Handrails/Handrails (e.g., upward and downward) Handrail Review/Review/Review Handrail/Handrail

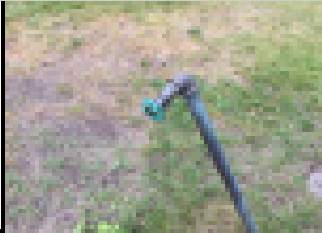
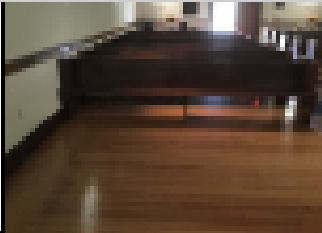
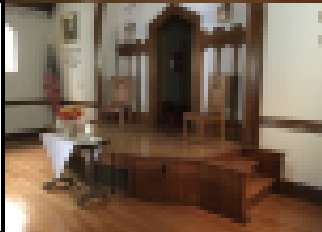
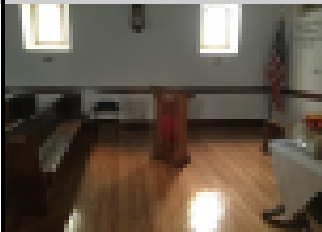


**Town of Ennis**  
**Andrew Memorial Chapel and Ennisville Cemetery**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	Recommendation
11	Side Entrance	1		Entrance Mat	PM		Matting available, but not slip-resistant Revised: 10/14/16	- +	Revised: 10/14/16 Revised: 10/14/16
Access to Goods and Services									
Means of Egress									
12	Front Entrance	1		Front Door	PM		Door is self-closing Transom window is self-closing	- -	Front door is self-closing Transom window is self-closing Revised: 10/14/16
Interior Access Route									
13	Chapel Area	1		Chapel Door	PM		Door is self-closing	+	Front door is self-closing Revised: 10/14/16
Doors, Doorways, & Gates									
14	Front Entrance	1		Front Door	PM		Door is self-closing	-	Front door is self-closing Revised: 10/14/16




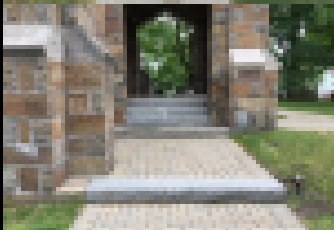

**Town of Springfield**  
**Andrew Memorial Chapel and Springfield Cemetery**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	Recommendations
<b>Operable Parts</b>									
16	Cemetery	Ext.		Gravestone	Object		Not specifically noted	-	Provide information on specific site use and interpretive program, planting, walking-off site and off-site viewing.
<b>Assembly Area</b>									
14	End of Chapel	1		Assembly Area	Room		End of chapel Wooden structure Congregational area	14	Review for structural safety inspection of the end of the chapel. Inspect the wooden structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor.
17	Chapel Area	1		Assembly Area	Room		Assembly area Wooden structure	-	Consider the safety of the structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor.
<b>Inclusive Design</b>									
18	Chapel Area	1						-	Consider the safety of the structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor. Consider the safety of the structure and the floor.
<b>Best Practice</b>									





**Town of Swasee  
Andrew Memorial Chapel and Burial Ground Cemetery**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	Recommendations
14	Side Entrance	1st							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend providing overhead lighting for the entrance to the chapel.</li> </ul>
15	Entrance Walk Way	1st							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend providing overhead lighting for the entrance walkway.</li> </ul>
16	Front Walk	1st							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend providing overhead lighting for the front walkway to the chapel.</li> </ul>

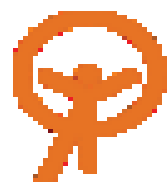


## Garden at Lincoln Park



## Town of Swampscott ADA Transition Plan

May 2020



Institute for Human-Centered Design

840 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114  
www.IHCDesign.org - info@IHCDesign.org  
617-445-6239 voice/tty

### Background

Lincoln Park, located at 188 Humphrey Street, contains a garden, seating areas and a playground. The space is used to host festivals, concerts, movie nights and gatherings.

There are two main entrances to the park one on South Street and the other on Monument Avenue.

Only on-street parking is provided near the site.

Key Accessibility Issues

#### Public Access Route

Accessibility issues include a level change that is greater than 1:41 at the entrance to the garden and along the bike pathway. Sidewalks along Monument Avenue have level changes greater than 1:41 max and are not maintained in operable-working condition.

#### Curb Ramp

The curb ramp at the entrance on South Street and Monument Avenue lacks a landing and has an excessive cross slope.

#### Play Area

An accessible route is not provided to the playground and around the playground and an accessible surface is not provided at the playground. See maps below showing a proposed route.



### Address

- 188 Humphrey Street
- 188 Humphrey Street

### Directions

- From Downtown Crossing
- From Downtown Crossing
- From Downtown Crossing
- From Downtown Crossing
- From Downtown Crossing
- From Downtown Crossing

### Ticketing

### Event




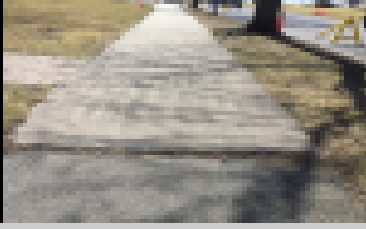

Event information and ticketing information

- For more information
- Contact the event organizer
- For more information
- Contact the event organizer
- For more information
- Contact the event organizer

Note: This is a preliminary plan and subject to change.



**Town of Swampscott  
Division of Landscaping**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	Notes
<b>Approach and Entrance</b>									
<b>Exterior Access Route</b>									
1	Circle	Ext.		Entry Paving Pole	Water		Level-slopes = 4.5°	4.5°	Level-slopes = 4.5° In 2017 High
2	Walking Paved Pole Walk	Ext.		Entry Paving Pole	Water		Level-slopes = 4.5°	3.0°	Level-slopes = 4.5° In 2017 High
3	Walking Paved Pole Walk	Ext.		Entry Paving Pole	Water		Level-slopes = 4.5° Paved-slopes = 4.5° Paved-slopes = 4.5°	3.0°	Level-slopes = 4.5° In 2017 High
4	Walking Paved Pole Walk	Ext.		Entry Paving Pole	Water		Paved-slopes = 4.5° Paved-slopes = 4.5°	-	Level-slopes = 4.5° In 2017 High
<b>Curb Ramp</b>									
5	Overhead Paved Pole Walk	Ext.		Curb Ramp	Water		Level-slopes = 4.5° Paved-slopes = 4.5° Paved-slopes = 4.5°	-	Level-slopes = 4.5° In 2017 High





**Town of Grafton  
Inventory of Lincoln Park**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	
<b>Access to Goods and Services</b>									
<b>Benches</b>									
6	Benches East of Playground Area	W.C.		Benches	PA		No current issues in view	-	PA
7	Benches by Playground Area	W.C.		Benches	PA		No current issues in view	-	PA
8	Benches East of Playground Area	W.C.		Benches	PA		No current issues in view	-	PA
<b>Trash / Recycling</b>									
9	Trash Can East of Playground Area	W.C.		Trash / Recycling	PA		No current issues in view	-	PA
<b>Play and Sport Areas</b>									



**Town of Amherst**  
**Conservation and Unincorporated Parks**

[illegible]



## Phillips Park and Fieldhouse



### Town of Swampscott ADA Transition Plan

April 2020



Institute for Human-Centered Design

100 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02214  
www.IHCDesign.org • info@IHCDesign.org  
617-552-1222 ext. 101

#### Background

Phillips Park and Fieldhouse is located at approximately 541 Humphrey Street. There are ramped accessible entrances on the north or Humphrey Street side and on the south side of the fieldhouse. The fieldhouse also has a ramp leading to accessible entrances to men's and women's multi-user toilet rooms by the football field's north end zone.

Amenities at the fieldhouse include a men's locker room with football team lockers and two toilet rooms. There is also a women's locker room with lockers, toilets and showers including an accessible transfer shower. The southeast end of the fieldhouse by the north end zone of the football field has ramps leading to the aforementioned men's and women's multi-user toilet rooms.

Other amenities at Phillips Park include a football field with bleachers and a press box. The home team fan bleachers on the west side of the football field can be accessed by a ramp and include accessible seating. The press box can be accessed by a lift. The press box is accessible and has accessible work surfaces. Additional amenities include a parking lot along the west side of the football field with accessible parking at two locations; a children's playground; a practice football field; a soccer field that can also be used for lacrosse, field hockey and other field sports; three baseball fields; a basketball court; a concession stand; picnic tables and benches.

#### Key Accessibility Issues

##### Accessible Routes

Accessibility issues include the lack of an accessible route to Phillips Park amenities including the soccer field, the practice football field, baseball fields, the concession stand food concession area, and spectator seating at the baseball field and at the away team fan bleachers on the eastside of the football field.

Locker  
Access  
men's  
men's  
space  
within  
the op  
clean  
men's  
rooms  
and h  
show  
tooth  
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paper

#### Additional

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## **Philip Park and Pathways**

### **Order of Magnitude Cost Estimates**

- Remove and provide accessible routes to park amenities: \$41,340
- Remove toilet room: \$5,100
- Miscellaneous concrete actions (signs, plastic table, door hardware, accessible lockers, etc.): \$8,250

**Total: \$54,690**

### **Best Practices and Inclusive Design**

Best practice and inclusive design recommendations include elements that are not required in the standards but may create enhanced experiences for all users.





- Recommended providing a 30' x 40' clear floor space at the end of all benches at the seating area in the northwest end of the park positioned to allow for shoulder alignment between someone using a wheeled mobility device and someone seated on the bench.

**Note:** The following image uses yellow lines to show the approximate suggested location of accessible routes that need to be provided to amenities in Philip Park.





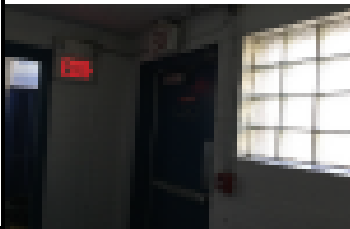
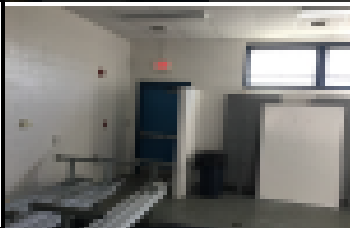



**Town of Oswego  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measures	Re
<b>Approach and Entrance</b>									
<b>Exterior Access Route</b>									
1	Front Entrance	Ext.		Minor Fence Gate	Minor		Level-coverage = 0%	0	Level-coverage = 0% (Current 0%)
<b>Off-Street Parking Lot or Garage</b>									
2	Asphalt Parking Lot No Signage	Ext.		Off-Street Parking in Garage	PS		Partial-designated accessible parking spaces Partial-designated accessible spaces Sign not provided Sign does not meet the Guidelines "Yes Available"	1 1 1 1	Partial-designated accessible parking spaces Partial-designated accessible spaces Sign not provided Sign does not meet the Guidelines "Yes Available"
3	Asphalt Parking Lot No Signage	Ext.		Off-Street Parking in Garage	PS		Sign does not meet the Guidelines "Yes Available" Partial-designated accessible parking spaces Partial-designated accessible parking spaces	1 1 1 1	Sign does not meet the Guidelines "Yes Available" Partial-designated accessible parking spaces Partial-designated accessible parking spaces
<b>Access to Goods and Services</b>									
<b>Doors, Doorways, &amp; Gates</b>									
4	Back Entrance No Signage	1		Door Way No Signage	Minor		Minorway (ramp) not provided	0	Minorway (ramp) not provided



**Town of Wapagosa  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measures	Recommendations
8	Male Public Locker Room	1		Over- Storage B-Bank	PR		Overhead = 4'8" High	2"	Monitor Overhead
9	Overhead Bank	1st		Over- Storage B-Bank	Other		Overhead = 4'8" High	-	Monitor Overhead
<b>Signage</b>									
10	Female Locker Room B-Bank	1		Signage	Signage		Overhead = 4'8" High Overhead = 4'8" High	-	Monitor Overhead
11	Female Locker Room B-Bank	1		Signage	Signage		Overhead = 4'8" High Overhead = 4'8" High	-	Monitor Overhead
<b>Service Counter</b>									
12	Overhead Bank	1st		Over- Storage B-Bank	PR		Overhead = 4'8" High	4"	Monitor Overhead






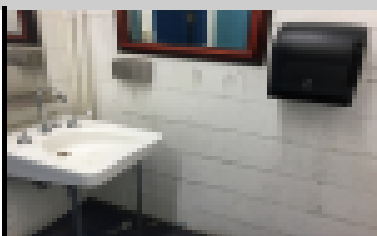
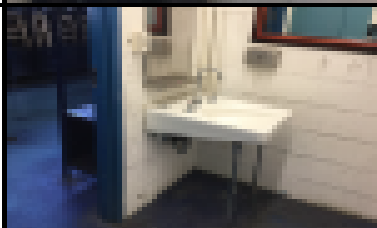


**Town of Georgetown  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measures	
10	Phillips Park Restroom	1st		Restroom	ADA		Restroom is not accessible Restroom is not accessible	ADA	Restroom is not accessible (Restroom is not accessible)
Operable Parts									
11	Phillips Park Locker Room	1		Locker Room	ADA		Locker room is not accessible	ADA	Locker room is not accessible
Picnic Tables									
12	Phillips Park Picnic Table	1st		Picnic Table	ADA		Picnic table is not accessible	-	Picnic table is not accessible
Locker Room									
13	Phillips Park Locker Room	1		Locker Room	ADA		Locker room is not accessible	-	Picnic table is not accessible
14	Phillips Park Locker Room	1		Locker Room	ADA		Locker room is not accessible	-	Picnic table is not accessible



**Town of Gungahlin  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measures	
Toilet & Bathing Rooms									
Overall Access									
11	Male Visitor Entry Toilets	1st		Overall Toilet	Toilets		Physical dimensions not provided Visual not provided Acoustical Spectral not provided Sign not provided	-	Provide physical visual acoustical signage to door
12	Women's Visitor Entry Toilets	1st		Overall Toilet	Toilets		Physical dimensions not provided Visual not provided Acoustical Spectral not provided Sign not provided	-	Provide physical visual acoustical signage to door
13	Male Public Locker Room Toilets	1		Overall Toilet	Toilets		Sign not provided Acoustical Spectral not provided	-	Provide physical visual acoustical signage to door
Lockers									
14	Male Public Locker Room Toilets	1		Locker			Clear floor space not provided	1/2	Provide clear floor space to door
15	Male Public Locker Room Toilets	1		Locker			Signage not provided	-	Provide signage to door



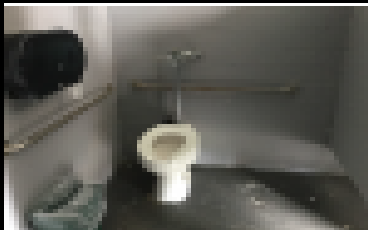
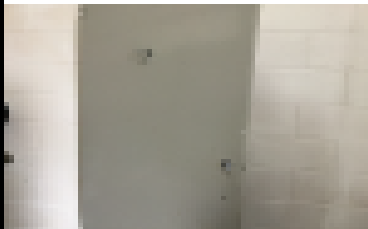
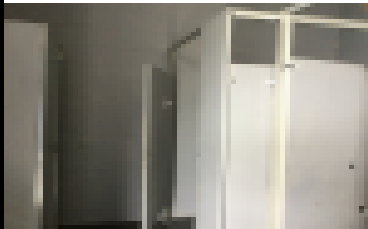


**Form of Complaint**  
**Police Park and Recreation**

[illegible]





**Town of Swasey  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse**

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measure	
22	Women's Locker Room	1		Toilet Occupancy	Assessable Occupancy		Flashed water upon use Not supplied with paper towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Provide the ADA compliant paper towels in the locker room stalls.
23	Men's Locker Room	1		Toilet Occupancy	Assessable Occupancy		Outlets - 40"	40"	Lowest 40"
24	Women's Locker Room	1		Toilet Occupancy	Assessable Occupancy		Outlets - 40"	40"	Lowest 40"
Play and Sport Areas									
Field									
25	Football Field	Ext.		Field	Field		Assessable space provided - stadium seating	-	Provide stadium seating (Call for quote)
26	Baseball Field	Ext.		Field	Baseball		Assessable space provided - stadium seating	-	Provide stadium seating. No stadium seating. (Call for quote)



Town of Amherst  
Phillips Park and Fieldhouse

ID	Location	Floor	Room	Element	Type	Photo	Issues	Current Measures	Recommendations
M	Baseball Field	Ext.		Field	Cover		Not covered by a retractable roof	-	Provide a retractable roof. Check retractable roof system. Make sure it works.
Best Practice									
Bench									
M	Baseball Field	Ext.		Bench	MB				Provide a bench for spectators. Provide a bench for players. Provide a bench for coaches.



<b>EISEMAN'S &amp; WHALE'S BEACHES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

EISEMAN'S & WHALE'S BEACHES	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS			
DOORS			
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>FISHERMAN'S BEACH</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			



FISHERMAN'S BEACH	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS	X		ADA restrooms in progress
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>KING'S BEACH</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
Slope maximum 1:12		X	
Minimum width 4 ft between railings	X		
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		X	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		X	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		X	
Handgrip oval or round		X	
Handgrip smooth surface		X	
Handgrip diameter between 1-1/4" and 2"		X	
Clearance of 1-1/2" between wall and wall rail		X	
Non-slip surface		X	
Level platform (4 ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	

<b>KING'S BEACH</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>STAIRS</b>		X	
<b>DOORS</b>		X	
<b>RESTROOMS</b>		X	
<b>FLOORS</b>		X	
<b>DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>		X	
<b>TELEPHONES</b>		X	
<b>SWITCHES/CONTROLS</b>		X	
<b>SIGNS</b>		X	
<b>PICNICKING</b>		X	



<b>PRESTON BEACH</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
Slope maximum 1:12		X	
Minimum width 4 ft between railings	X		
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		X	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		X	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		X	
Handgrip oval or round		X	
Handgrip smooth surface		X	
Handgrip diameter between 1-1/4" and 2"		X	
Clearance of 1-1/2" between wall and wall rail		X	
Non-slip surface		X	
Level platform (4 ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	

<b>PRESTON BEACH</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>STAIRS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>RESTROOMS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SIGNS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>PICNICKING</b>		<b>X</b>	

<b>SANDY BEACH/CASSIDY PARK</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			ADA Improvements planned as a part of beach entrance project
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
Slope maximum 1:12		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width 4 ft between railings		<b>X</b>	
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		<b>X</b>	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		<b>X</b>	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		<b>X</b>	
Handgrip oval or round		<b>X</b>	
Handgrip smooth surface		<b>X</b>	
Handgrip diameter between 1-1/4" and 2"		<b>X</b>	
Clearance of 1-1/2" between wall and wall rail		<b>X</b>	
Non-slip surface		<b>X</b>	
Level platform (4 ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	



<b>SANDY BEACH/CASSIDY PARK</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>STAIRS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SIGNS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>PICNICKING</b>		<b>X</b>	

HARRY D. LINSOTT PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			Current parking on-street or located by Town Hall
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

HARRY D. LINSOTT PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

CHAISSON PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

CHAISSON PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>DRISCOLL PARK</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

DRISCOLL PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	



HOWLAND PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			Only current parking on-street
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

HOWLAND PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>METROPOLITAN PARK</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

METROPOLITAN PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS			
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>MONUMENT MALL &amp; SQUARE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

MONUMENT MALL & SQUARE	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
SIGNS			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Letters and numbers at least 1-1/4" high	X		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		X	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		
PICNICKING		X	

JOHNSON & POLISSON PARKS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			



JOHNSON & POLISSON PARKS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>SWAMPSCOTT CEMETERY, ANDREW'S CHAPEL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	<b>X</b>		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	<b>X</b>		
No ponding of water	<b>X</b>		
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	<b>X</b>		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

SWAMPSCOTT CEMETERY, ANDREW’S CHAPEL	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Primary public entrance accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior			
Minimum 32” clear width opening (i.e. 36” door with standard hinge)			
At least 18” clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48” and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2” thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2” thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2” maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	Not ADA accessible
FLOORS			
Non-slip surface		X	
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4” into the path of travel from a height of 27” to 80” above the floor		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES			

SWAMPSCOTT CEMETERY, ANDREW'S CHAPEL	YES	NO	COMMENTS
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Letters and numbers at least 1-1/4" high	X		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		X	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		
PICNICKING		X	

<b>TOWN HALL LAWN</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	<b>X</b>		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	<b>X</b>		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	<b>X</b>		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	<b>X</b>		
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

TOWN HALL LAWN		YES	NO	COMMENTS
Primary public entrance accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance				
STAIRS			X	
DOORS			X	
RESTROOMS			X	
FLOORS			X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS			X	
TELEPHONES			X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS			X	
SIGNS				
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign		X		
Letters and numbers at least 1-1/4" high		X		
Letters and numbers raised .03"			X	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color		X		
PICNICKING			X	

WINDSOR PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			ADA upgrades planned as a part of park improvement project
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			



WINDSOR PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Primary public entrance accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
<b>STAIRS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>RESTROOMS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>FLOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>TELEPHONES</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SWITCHES/CONTROLS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SIGNS</b>		<b>X</b>	

<b>ABBOTT PARK</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

**ABBOTT PARK**

**SIGNS**

YES

NO

COMMENTS

**X**

**PICNICKING**

**X**

<b>HADLEY RECREATION AREA</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	<b>X</b>		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	<b>X</b>		
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

**HADLEY RECREATION AREA**

YES

NO

COMMENTS

**SIGNS**

**X**

**PICNICKING**

**X**

<b>JACKSON PARK (UPPER)</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	<b>X</b>		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	<b>X</b>		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	<b>X</b>		
No ponding of water	<b>X</b>		
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	<b>X</b>		
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

**JACKSON PARK (UPPER)**

**SIGNS**

**PICNICKING**

YES	NO	COMMENTS
	X	
	X	



MIDDLE SCHOOL RECREATION AREA	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RECREATION AREA**

YES

NO

COMMENTS

**SIGNS**

**X**

**PICNICKING**

**X**

PHILLIPS PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

PHILLIPS PARK	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Primary public entrance accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
<b>STAIRS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>FLOORS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>TELEPHONES</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SWITCHES/CONTROLS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SIGNS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>PICNICKING</b>		<b>X</b>	

<b>STANLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	<b>X</b>		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

STANLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND	YES	NO	COMMENTS
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

STANLEY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			



**STANLEY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA**

YES

NO

COMMENTS

**SIGNS**

**PICNICKING**

**X**

<b>SUPERIOR STREET PLAYGROUND</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			street parking only
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

**SUPERIOR STREET PLAYGROUND**

YES

NO

COMMENTS

**SIGNS**

**PICNICKING**

**X**

CHARLES M. EWING WOODS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Curbside on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

CHARLES M. EWING WOODS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

HAROLD A. KING FOREST	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Curbside on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

HAROLD A. KING FOREST	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Letters and numbers at least 1-1/4" high	X		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		X	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		
PICNICKING		X	

<b>MUSKRAT POND</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<b>X</b>	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<b>X</b>	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		<b>X</b>	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		<b>X</b>	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		<b>X</b>	
No ponding of water		<b>X</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	<b>X</b>		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		<b>X</b>	
3 ft wide minimum	<b>X</b>		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		<b>X</b>	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		<b>X</b>	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	<b>X</b>		



MUSKRAT POND	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

<b>PALMER POND</b>	YES	NO	COMMENTS
<b>PARKING</b>			
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>		X	
<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			

PALMER POND	YES	NO	COMMENTS
STAIRS		X	
DOORS		X	
RESTROOMS		X	
FLOORS		X	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS		X	
TELEPHONES		X	
SWITCHES/CONTROLS		X	
SIGNS		X	
PICNICKING		X	

**APPENDIX IV: HAROLD KING FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN**  
(BEGINNING ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

dcr



# Woodland Enhancement Plan

*DCR Working Forest Initiative*

*Bird Habitat Assessment Plan*

*Harold A. King Town Forest*



For property belonging to:

Town of Swampscott  
Conservation Commission  
The Harold A. King Town Forest

Prepared by:

Gary H. Gouldrup  
New England Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
30 Jewell Hill Road  
Ashburnham, MA 01430



New England  
Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
[www.neforesters.com](http://www.neforesters.com)



**RECORDS** (continued)

Assessor's Map No.	Lot/Parcel No.	Deed Book	Deed Page	Total Acres	Ch61/61A 61B Excluded Acres	Ch61/61A 61B Certified Acres	Stewshp Excluded Acres	Stewshp Acres
8	2			14.24	NA	NA	0.00	14.24
8	26			0.15	NA	NA	0.00	0.15
8	27			1.15	NA	NA	0.00	1.15
8	5			1.71	NA	NA	0.00	1.71
8	6			10.58	NA	NA	0.00	10.58
8	11			2.08	NA	NA	0.00	2.08
8	12			3.18	NA	NA	0.00	3.18
8	101			8.09	NA	NA	0.00	8.09
8	134			0.66	NA	NA	0.00	0.66
8	157			0.23	NA	NA	0.00	0.23
10	1			0.50	NA	NA	0.00	0.50
10	3			0.59	NA	NA	0.00	0.59
11	414			0.57	NA	NA	0.00	0.57
11	415			1.61	NA	NA	0.00	1.61
11	418			0.61	NA	NA	0.00	0.61
11	421			0.64	NA	NA	0.00	0.64
11	765			0.35	NA	NA	0.00	0.35
TOTALS				46.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.94

**EXCLUDED AREA DESCRIPTION** (continued):

There are no excluded areas.

**HISTORY** (continued):

Stand #	Acres	Management Practices	Yield	Value	Year
NA	46.96	1 <sup>st</sup> Forest Stewardship Plan	NA	NA	2020

Owner(s): Town of Swampscott- Conservation Commission Town(s): Swampscott



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## Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

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### Property Description:

The 46.94-acre Harold A. King Town Forest (A.K.A. Oscar Short Conservation Land) property is located in the north-western corner of Swampscott bordered by the towns of Salem to the north and Lynn to the west. The property is an oasis of trees nestled within highly populated residential neighborhoods. The property is primarily a mixed oak forest on upland with pockets of red maple swamps and open wetlands. The upland forest is approximately 86% of the terrain. Wetland resource areas consist of red maple swamps, open shrub wetlands, and vernal pools with intermittent streams. Forest fires have been a part of the history of this forest in the past. Fire scarred and internally rotted trees are numerous throughout the forest. It appears that the most recent fire occurred on the property approximately 30+ years ago. Access to the property is currently gained from a small parking area at the end of Nichols Road located on the east side of the property. Another unique characteristic of the land is the glacial deposits of rock and boulders on the southeast side of the property.

### Regional Significance:

The importance of this forest for conservation value is extremely high due to the surrounding residential developments. This property provides passive recreation and solitude for the citizens of Swampscott and surrounding towns. The Salem Conservation Commission owns a 15-acre parcel of land just north of the King Town Forest. Although it does not directly abut the property, it is a nearby property with long term protection. The property provides recreational opportunities for the public, woodland and wetland habitat for song birds and wildlife, and educational opportunities for the Swampscott Conservation Commission.

### History:

The property was originally 22-acres prior to 1971. Additional land was acquired by the Town of Swampscott after 1971 increasing the ownership to 47-acres. No recent forest management activities have been conducted on the property. A forest fire, or series of fires, have scarred many of the trees on the property. The most recent fire is estimated to have occurred 30+/- years ago. An orange dot trail has been constructed and circles the property with the trail-head being located off of Nichols Road where there is a small parking area for vehicles. The Boy Scouts Troop 53 recently constructed the kiosk that now stands at the trail-head off of Nichols Road.

### Cultural Resources:

Stonewalls along the property boundary and within the forest interior are evidence of agricultural pursuits in the past. These features can be found on the Boundary & Stand Type Map and will be protected to preserve the property's historical value.

### Soils & Forest Health:

The upland forest soils on this property are productive and capable of growing high-quality timber resources. The upland soils are dominated by the well-drained rock outcrop (Chatfield-Hollis) and the well to moderately well-drained horizon (Montauk). There are areas of ledge and shallow soils in the highest elevations. Trees are generally shorter and the site index is lower in the highest elevations of the property. The wetland resource areas consist of poorly drained organic muck (Freetown Muck) and poorly drained fine sandy loams (Ridgebury-Whitman). Forest health issues of concern include fire scarred and decaying trees in the uplands and invasive plants.

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott

Town(s) Swampscott





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## Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

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### **Invasive Species:**

Invasive non-native vegetation is present but not prolific in most areas of this property. Japanese knotweed and buckthorn were observed in varying densities near development. The highest amount of invasive vegetation can be found near the parking area off of Nichols Road. Japanese knotweed is well established on the south side of the road and parking area. Management on the property will always consider the impacts of invasive species. Efforts to control and remove them will be done over the next ten years of management.

### **Wildlife Habitat:**

Mature mixed oak forest accounts for about 86% of the forested habitat. Size class and species composition varies slightly throughout these upland areas. The remaining 14% of the property contains red maple swamps, open shrub wetlands, vernal pools, and perennial streams. There is virtually no young forest or early successional forest habitat on the property. These young forests are an essential habitat component for particular birds with declining populations. Management on the Harold A. King Town Forest will help develop an unevenaged forest structure that will benefit many forms of local wildlife with an emphasis on song birds in particular.

### **Natural Heritage Endangered Species:**

The State's GIS OLIVER system indicates that there are no known rare or endangered species or their habitats on the property. Any management on the property will follow the NHESP recommendations if a rare species or its habitat is known to exist in the future and a Chapter 132 Cutting Plan will be submitted to NHESP and approved prior to any timber harvesting on the property.

### **Boundaries:**

Stonewalls along boundary lines occur in some areas on this property. These features can be seen on the Boundary & Stand Type Map. All of the boundary lines are in need of identification. Blazing and painting the property lines or placing signs along the property lines will be done in order to protect the property from encroachment and to assist with management activities. Some areas may need to be surveyed by a licensed surveyor. There are several potential access points to the property that may be needed to conduct the forest management recommended in this Plan. They are shown as "Potential Access Locations" on the Boundary & Stand Type Map.



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## Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

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### Forest Products:

Timber resources include mixed hardwood sawlogs of poor to good timber quality. Non-sawtimber products include firewood and wood chips. Firewood is available in the very poor-quality hardwood stems and tops. The Harold A. King Town Forest can be considered well to over-stocked with little desired forest regeneration in the understory. Generally, the trees are growing too close together, compromising development, and causing slow growth rates in the forest. Periodic thinning within the forest will promote an unevenaged forest structure and prepare the understory for new regeneration. Currently, tree regeneration is limited due to a dense overstory canopy and lack of sunlight reaching the forest floor. This forest will respond well to improvement thinning over the next ten years of management by removing the fire scarred trees and poor-quality timber resources.

### Management Summary:

Management will focus on promoting a healthy forest environment providing habitat for birds, other forms of native wildlife, clean water down stream of the property, and high-quality timber and non-timber resources.

The landowner would like to specifically accomplish the following on this property:

- Enhance Bird Habitat
- Improve Timber Resources
- Promote Biological Diversity
- Enhance Recreation and Aesthetics
- Enhance Other Native Wildlife Habitats
- Provide Educational Opportunities for the Public



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## Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

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### *Bird Habitat Assessment Component*

The surrounding 2,500-acre landscape for bird habitat is approximately a 1-mile radius from the property and consists of forest (10%), suburban and commercial development (80%), and wetlands/open water (10%). There is very little early successional habitat available for birds that depend upon these young forest conditions. The property is embedded in a larger landscape of high development, stressing the importance of this property to represent and maintain forest in this area.

In general, forest management for creating and maintaining bird habitat will focus on silviculture that will create openings in the forest that provide vigorous new growth in the understory for nesting, foraging and protection. Creating and maintaining a minimum of 4+/- acres of early successional forest habitat will help meet the goal of 10% of existing forest in early successional and young forest habitat for birds. Currently, there are NO areas of early successional habitat on the property.

Other habitat requirements that will be considered in the management of the property will include "snag trees" and "cavity trees". For snag trees it is recommended to retain 5 per acre greater than 10 inches in diameter. For cavity trees, it is recommended to retain 1-3 trees greater than 18 inches in diameter per acre, and 4 trees in the 12-18 diameter range. Leaving "coarse woody debris" on the forest floor after harvesting is recommended. Coarse woody debris is considered greater than 5 inches in diameter and greater than 5 feet long. The recommendation is to leave 2 cords per acre of coarse woody debris on the forest floor. "Fine woody debris" will also be scattered throughout the harvest areas and will consist of piles greater than 1 meter wide of tree tops and slash from timber harvesting operations. Birds prefer this material in the understory for cover and foraging. Avoiding harvests during the nesting season will also be observed. No harvesting will be conducted between May to mid-July.

Focus Birds that may benefit from this type of management include the following:

- 1) *Black-and-White Warbler* – Prefers partially open mature hardwood with 70% canopy cover with a dense understory (0-5' layer); also uses swampy forests.
- 2) *Brown Thrasher* – Maintain or create areas with 10-30% canopy cover with high density of woody stems in the understory.
- 3) *Eastern Wood-Pewee* - Requires hardwood forest with closed canopy cover near openings and edges.
- 4) *Northern Flicker* – Prefers forest edge and open woodlands with many snags; woodlots, suburbs, small towns or even cities.
- 5) *Veery* – Requires damp hardwood forest with intermediate 30-80% canopy cover.
- 6) *Wood Thrush* – Requires interior and edges of hardwood and mixed wood forest preferring stands with canopy greater than 50 feet in height. It requires a mid-story for nesting.
- 7) *Chestnut-sided Warbler* – Young hardwood forest <30% canopy cover, dense shrubs and saplings.
- 8) *Eastern Towhee* – Occupies early successional open or edge habitats with dense brushy understory with few standing trees. This species prefers greater than 5-acre patch cuts.
- 9) *Ruffed Grouse* – Maintain or create hardwood or mixedwood forest matrix with a mix of openings and young forest in early stages of regeneration. Dense understory (0-5'). Associated with quaking aspen.
- 10) *American Woodcock* – Maintain or create hardwood forest matrix with a mix of openings and young forest in early stages of regeneration, preferably near alder swale or shrub wetland.
- 11) *Black-throated Blue Warbler* – Large tracts of hardwood or mixedwood with 50-80% canopy cover and dense understory.

*The Harold A. King property provides the forest area and opportunities to manage for the enhancement of these bird species and many more.*

Goal	Importance to Me			
	High	Medium	Low	Don't Know
Enhance the Quality/Quantity of Timber Products*			X	
Generate Immediate Income			X	
Generate Long Term Income			X	
Produce Firewood			X	
Defer or Defray Taxes			X	
Promote Biological Diversity	X			
Enhance Habitat for Birds	X			
Enhance Habitat for Small Animals	X			
Enhance Habitat for Large Animals			X	
Improve Access for Walking/Skiing/Recreation	X			
Maintain or Enhance Privacy			X	
Improve Hunting			X	
Improve Fishing			X	
Preserve or Improve Scenic Beauty	X			
Protect Water Quality	X			
Protect Unique/Special/ Cultural Areas	X			
Other: Public Education & Outreach	X			

\* This goal must be checked "HIGH" if you are interested in classifying your land under Chapter 61/61A.

1. In your own words please describe your goals for the property:

*Harold King Forest is a unique but not well-known resource in the Town of Swampscott. With this Forest Stewardship Plan as a guide, the goals are: to increase public awareness and visibility of the area to our residents and visitors; to enhance habitats for small animals/birds; to prioritize projects to provide additional trails/trail amenities; and preserve the quality of the Forest as a whole.*

### Stewardship Purpose

By enrolling in the Forest Stewardship Program and following a Stewardship Plan, I understand that I will be joining with many other landowners across the state in a program that promotes ecologically responsible resource management through the following actions and values:

1. Managing for long-term forest health, productivity, diversity, and quality.
2. Conserving or enhancing water quality, wetlands, soil productivity, biodiversity, cultural, historical and aesthetic resources.
3. Following a strategy guided by well-founded silvicultural principles to improve timber quality and quantity when wood products are a goal.
4. Setting high standards for foresters, loggers and other operators as practices are implemented; and minimizing negative impacts.
5. Learning how woodlands benefit and affect surrounding communities, and cooperation with neighboring owners to accomplish mutual goals when practical.

Signature(s): X

Date: 6/26/

## Stewardship Issues

Massachusetts is a small state, but it contains a tremendous variety of ecosystems, plant and animal species, management challenges, and opportunities. This section of your plan will provide background information about the Massachusetts forest landscape as well as issues that might affect your land. **The Stand Descriptions and Management Practices sections of your plan will give more detailed property specific information** on these subjects tailored to your management goals.



**Biodiversity:** Biological diversity is, in part, a measure of the variety of plants and animals, the communities they form, and the ecological processes (such as water and nutrient cycling) that sustain them. With the recognition that each species has value, individually and as part of its natural community, maintaining biodiversity has become an important resource management goal.

While the biggest threat to biodiversity in Massachusetts is the loss of habitat to development, another threat is the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants. Non-native invasives like European Buckthorn, Asiatic Bittersweet, and Japanese Honeysuckle spread quickly, crowding out or smothering native species and upsetting and dramatically altering ecosystem structure and function. Once established, invasives are difficult to control and even harder to eradicate. Therefore, vigilance and early intervention are paramount.

Another factor influencing biodiversity in Massachusetts concerns the amount and distribution of forest growth stages. Wildlife biologists have recommended that, for optimal wildlife habitat on a landscape scale, 5-15% of the forest should be in the seedling stage (less than 1" in diameter). Yet we currently have no more than 2-3% early successional stage seedling forest across the state. There is also a shortage of forest with large diameter trees (greater than 20"). See more about how you can manage your land with biodiversity in mind in the "Wildlife" section below. (Also refer to *Managing Forests to Enhance Wildlife Diversity in Massachusetts* and *A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts* in the binder pockets.)



**Rare Species:** Rare species include those that are **threatened** (abundant in parts of its range but declining in total numbers, those of **special concern** (any species that has suffered a decline that could threaten the species if left unchecked), and **endangered** (at immediate risk of extinction and probably cannot survive without direct human intervention). Some species are threatened or endangered globally, while others are common globally but rare in Massachusetts.

Of the 2,040 plant and animal species (not including insects) in Massachusetts, 424 are considered rare. About 100 of these rare species are known to occur in woodlands. Most of these are found in wooded wetlands, especially vernal pools. These temporary shallow pools dry up by late summer, but provide crucial breeding habitat for rare salamanders and a host of other unusual forest dwelling invertebrates. Although many species in Massachusetts are adapted to and thrive in recently disturbed forests, rare species are often very sensitive to any changes in their habitat

Indispensable to rare species protection is a set of maps maintained by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) that show current and historic locations of rare species and their habitats. The maps of your property will be compared to these rare species maps and the result indicated on the upper right corner of the front page of the plan. Prior to any

regulated timber harvest, if an occurrence does show on the map, the NHESP will recommend protective measures. Possible measures include restricting logging operations to frozen periods of the year, or keeping logging equipment out of sensitive areas. You might also use information from NHESP to consider implementing management activities to improve the habitat for these special species.



**Riparian and Wetlands Areas:** Riparian and wetland areas are transition areas between open water features (lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers) and the drier terrestrial ecosystems. More specifically, a **wetland** is an area that has hydric (wet) soils and a unique community of plants that are adapted to live in these wet soils. Wetlands may be adjacent to streams or ponds, or a wetland may be found isolated in an otherwise drier landscape. A **riparian area** is the transition zone between an open water feature and the uplands (see Figure 1). A riparian zone may contain wetlands, but also includes areas with somewhat better drained soils. It is easiest to think of riparian areas as the places where land and water meet.

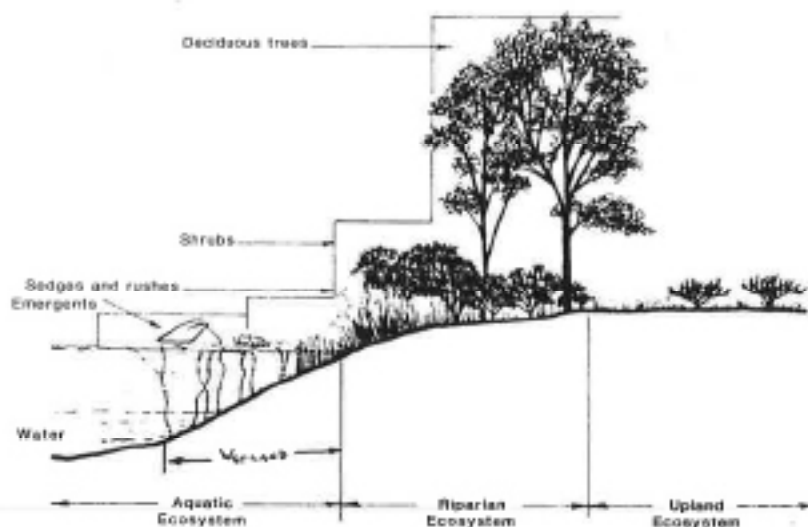


Figure 1: Example of a riparian zone.

The presence of water in riparian and wetland areas make these special places very important. Some of the functions and values that these areas provide are described below:

**Filtration:** Riparian zones capture and filter out sediment, chemicals and debris before they reach streams, rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. This helps to keep our drinking water cleaner, and saves communities money by making the need for costly filtration much less likely.

**Flood control:** By storing water after rainstorms, these areas reduce downstream flooding. Like a sponge, wetland and riparian areas absorb stormwater, then release it slowly over time instead of in one flush.

**Critical wildlife habitat:** Many birds and mammals need riparian and wetland areas for all or part of their life cycles. These areas provide food and water, cover, and travel corridors. They are often the most important habitat feature in Massachusetts' forests.



**Recreational opportunities:** Our lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds are often focal points for recreation. We enjoy them when we boat, fish, swim, or just sit and enjoy the view.

In order to protect wetlands and riparian areas and to prevent soil erosion during timber harvesting activities, Massachusetts promotes the use of "Best Management Practices" or BMPs. Maintaining or reestablishing the protective vegetative layer and protecting critical areas are the two rules that underlie these common sense measures. DEM's Massachusetts Forestry Best Practices Manual (included with this plan) details both the legally required and voluntary specifications for log landings, skid trails, water bars, buffer strips, filter strips, harvest timing, and much more.

The two Massachusetts laws that regulate timber harvesting in and around wetlands and riparian areas are the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (CH 131), and the Forest Cutting Practices Act (CH132). Among other things, CH132 requires the filing of a cutting plan and on-site inspection of a harvest operation by a DEM Service Forester to ensure that required BMPs are being followed when a commercial harvest exceeds 25,000 board feet or 50 cords (or combination thereof).



**Soil and Water Quality:** Forests provide a very effective natural buffer that holds soil in place and protects the purity of our water. The trees, understory vegetation, and the organic material on the forest floor reduce the impact of falling rain, and help to insure that soil will not be carried into our streams and waterways.

To maintain a supply of clean water, forests must be kept as healthy as possible. Forests with a diverse mixture of vigorous trees of different ages and species can better cope with periodic and unpredictable stress such as insect attacks or windstorms.

Timber harvesting must be conducted with the utmost care to ensure that erosion is minimized and that sediment does not enter streams or wetlands. Sediment causes turbidity which degrades water quality and can harm fish and other aquatic life. As long as Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented correctly, it is possible to undertake active forest management without harming water quality.



**Forest Health:** Like individual organisms, forests vary in their overall health. The health of a forest is affected by many factors including weather, soil, insects, diseases, air quality, and human activity. Forest owners do not usually focus on the health of a single tree, but are concerned about catastrophic events such as insect or disease outbreaks that affect so many individual trees that the whole forest community is impacted.

Like our own health, it is easier to prevent forest health problems than to cure them. This preventative approach usually involves two steps. First, it is desirable to maintain or encourage a wide diversity of tree species and age classes within the forest. This diversity makes a forest less susceptible to a single devastating health threat. Second, by thinning out weaker and less desirable trees, well-spaced healthy individual trees are assured enough water and light to thrive. These two steps will result in a forest of vigorously growing trees that is more resistant to environmental stress.



**Fire:** Most forests in Massachusetts are relatively resistant to catastrophic fire. Historically, Native Americans commonly burned certain forests to improve hunting grounds. In modern times, fires most often result from careless human actions. The risk of an unintentional and damaging fire in your woods could increase as a result of logging activity if the slash (tree tops, branches, and debris) is not treated correctly.

Adherence to the Massachusetts slash law minimizes this risk. Under the law, slash is to be removed from buffer areas near roads, boundaries, and critical areas and lopped close to the ground to speed decay. Well-maintained woods roads are always desirable to provide access should a fire occur.

Depending on the type of fire and the goals of the landowner, fire can also be considered as a management tool to favor certain species of plants and animals. Today the use of prescribed burning is largely restricted to the coast and islands, where it is used to maintain unique natural communities such as sandplain grasslands and pitch pine/scrub oak barrens. However, state land managers are also attempting to bring fire back to many of the fire-adapted communities found elsewhere around the state.



**Wildlife Management:** Enhancing the wildlife potential of a forested property is a common and important goal for many woodland owners. Sometimes actions can be taken to benefit a particular species of interest (e.g., put up Wood Duck nest boxes). In most cases, recommended management practices can benefit many species, and fall into

one of three broad strategies. These are **managing for diversity, protecting existing habitat, and enhancing existing habitat.**

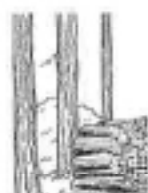
**Managing for Diversity** – Many species of wildlife need a variety of plant communities to meet their lifecycle requirements. In general, a property that contains a diversity of habitats will support a more varied wildlife population. A thick area of brush and young trees might provide food and cover for grouse and cedar waxwing; a mature stand of oaks provides acorns for foraging deer and turkey; while an open field provides the right food and cover for cottontail rabbits and red fox. It is often possible to create these different habitats on your property through active management. The appropriate mix of habitat types will primarily depend on the composition of the surrounding landscape and your objectives. It may be a good idea to create a brushy area where early successional habitats are rare, but the same practice may be inappropriate in the area's last block of mature forest.

**Protecting Existing Habitat** – This strategy is commonly associated with managing for rare species or those species that require unique habitat features. These habitat features include vernal pools, springs and seeps, forested wetlands, rock outcrops, snags, den trees, and large blocks of unbroken forest. Some of these features are rare, and they provide the right mix of food, water, and shelter for a particular species or specialized community of wildlife. It is important to recognize their value and protect their function. This usually means not altering the feature and buffering the resource area from potential impacts.

**Enhancing Existing Habitat** – This strategy falls somewhere between the previous two. One way the wildlife value of a forest can be enhanced is by modifying its structure (number of canopy layers, average tree size, density). Thinning out undesirable trees from around large crowned mast (nut and fruit) trees will allow these trees to grow faster and produce more food. The faster growth will also accelerate the development of a more mature forest structure, which is important for some species. Creating small gaps or forest openings generates groups of seedlings and saplings that provide an additional layer of cover, food, and perch sites.



Each of these three strategies can be applied on a single property. For example, a landowner might want to increase the habitat diversity by reclaiming an old abandoned field. Elsewhere on the property, a stand of young hardwoods might be thinned to reduce competition, while a “no cut” buffer is set up around a vernal pool or other habitat feature. The overview, stand description and management practice sections of this plan will help you understand your woodland within the context of the surrounding landscape and the potential to diversify, protect or enhance wildlife habitat.



**Wood Products:** If managed wisely, forests can produce a periodic flow of wood products on a sustained basis. Stewardship encompasses finding ways to meet your current needs while protecting the forest’s ecological integrity. In this way, you can harvest timber and generate income without compromising the opportunities of future generations.

Massachusetts forests grow many highly valued species (white pine, red oak, sugar maple, white ash, and black cherry) whose lumber is sold throughout the world. Other lower valued species (hemlock, birch, beech, red maple) are marketed locally or regionally, and become products like pallets, pulpwood, firewood, and lumber. These products and their associated value-added industries contribute between 200 and 300 million dollars annually to the Massachusetts economy.

By growing and selling wood products in a responsible way you are helping to our society’s demand for these goods. Harvesting from sustainably managed woodlands – rather than from unmanaged or poorly managed forest – benefits the public in a multitude of ways. The sale of timber, pulpwood, and firewood also provides periodic income that you can reinvest in the property, increasing its value and helping you meet your long-term goals. Producing wood products helps defray the costs of owning woodland, and helps private landowners keep their forestland undeveloped.



**Cultural Resources:** Cultural resources are the places containing evidence of people who once lived in the area. Whether a Native American village from 1,700 years ago, or the remains of a farmstead from the 1800’s, these features all tell important and interesting stories about the landscape, and should be protected from damage or loss.

Massachusetts has a long and diverse history of human habitation and use. Native American tribes first took advantage of the natural bounty of this area over 10,000 years ago. Many of these villages were located along the coasts and rivers of the state. The interior woodlands were also used for hunting, traveling, and temporary camps. Signs of these activities are difficult to find in today’s forests. They were obscured by the dramatic landscape impacts brought by European settlers as they swept over the area in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

By the middle 1800’s, more than 70% of the forests of Massachusetts had been cleared for crops and pastureland. Houses, barns, wells, fences, mills, and roads were all constructed as woodlands were converted for agricultural production. But when the Erie Canal connected the Midwest with the eastern cities, New England farms were abandoned for the more productive land in the Ohio River valley, and the landscape began to revert to forest. Many of the abandoned buildings were disassembled and moved, but the supporting stonework and other changes to the landscape can be easily seen today.

One particularly ubiquitous legacy of this period is stone walls. Most were constructed between 1810 and 1840 as stone fences (wooden fence rails had become scarce) to enclose sheep within pastures, or to

exclude them from croplands and hayfields. Clues to their purpose are found in their construction. Walls that surrounded pasture areas were comprised mostly of large stones, while walls abutting former cropland accumulated many small stones as farmers cleared rocks turned up by their plows. Other cultural features to look for include cellar holes, wells, old roads and even old trash dumps.



**Recreation and Aesthetic Considerations:** Recreational opportunities and aesthetic quality are the most important values for many forest landowners, and represent valid goals in and of themselves. Removing interfering vegetation can open a vista or highlight a beautiful tree, for example. When a landowner's goals include timber, thoughtful forest management can be used to accomplish silvicultural objectives while also reaching recreational and/or aesthetic objectives. For example, logging trails might be designed to provide a network of cross-country ski trails that lead through a variety of habitats and reveal points of interest.

If aesthetics is a concern and you are planning a timber harvest, obtain a copy of this excellent booklet: *A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters & Landowners*, by Geoffrey T. Jones, 1993. (Available from the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, (607) 255-7654, for \$7). Work closely with your consultant to make sure the aesthetic standards you want are included in the contract and that the logger selected to do the job executes it properly. The time you take to plan ahead of the job will reward you and your family many times over with a fuller enjoyment of your forest, now and well into the future.

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**This is your Stewardship Plan.** It is based on the goals that you have identified. The final success of your Stewardship Plan will be determined first, by how well you are able to identify and define your goals, and second, by the support you find and the resources you commit to implement each step.

It can be helpful and enjoyable to visit other properties to sample the range of management activities and see the accomplishments of others. This may help you visualize the outcome of alternative management decisions and can either stimulate new ideas or confirm your own personal philosophies. Don't hesitate to express your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Keep asking questions! Please be involved and enjoy the fact that you are the steward of a very special place.



## Forest Stands

For the purposes of this report a forest stand is an easily defined area that is relatively uniform in composition, and structure, *and supports a particular suite of birds.*

### Summary of the Forest Stands on your property

Stand	Forest/Habitat Type	Approx. Size (acres)	Notes
1	Red Maple Swamp/ Open Wetland Marsh	2.42	Understocked red maple swamp and open marsh wetland. Scattered red maple poles in northern sections of the stand with a fairly dense shrub layer of highbush blueberry, alder, sweet pepperbush, red osier dogwood and grasses. Southern areas typically open with scattered saplings, cattails and grasses.
2	Mixed Oaks	28.02	Well-stocked closed canopy of red and black oak with scattered white oak, hickory, sassafras, and yellow birch. Fire scarred and decaying trees present throughout the stand. Witch hazel and highbush blueberry in the midstory and lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and green briar in the understory.
3	Mixed Oaks	12.52	Well-stocked closed canopy of red and black oak with scattered white oak, hickory, sassafras, and yellow birch. Fire scarred and decaying trees present throughout the stand. Fire has affected most of the overstory in this stand. Witch hazel and highbush blueberry in the midstory and lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and green briar in the understory.
4	Red Maple Swamps	3.98	Red maple poles and saplings within wetland resource areas. Stocking and size classes vary throughout the areas. Occasional yellow birch and tupelo poles can also be found. Highbush blueberry, alder and sweet pepperbush in the midstory with grasses and ferns in the understory.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = stands classified under CH61/61A/61B STEW= stands not classified under CH61/61A/61B  
 STD= stand AC= acre MSD= mean stand diameter MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Town of Swampscott

Town(s) Swampscott

### STAND DESCRIPTIONS

OBJ	STDNO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	1	RM	2.42	4.7" MSD Sapling-Pole	5 sqft.	0.4 Cds.	50 (RM)

These wetland resource areas contain pockets of red maple saplings and small pole sized trees as well as wetland shrubs and plants which include highbush blueberry, alder, red osier dogwood, sweet pepperbush, green briar, spirea, cattails, ferns, and grasses. Standing water can be found most of the year. The soils are organic and very poorly drained (Freetown Muck-Whitman) and do not support the growth of trees other than red maple due to the high-water table. Management will focus on bird habitat enhancement through the installation of wood duck boxes. The desired future condition is an area that protects water quality and provides wetland wildlife habitat.

#### Current Habitat Conditions:

Stand One consists of scattered pockets of red maple saplings and small pole sized trees with open pockets of water. The overstory canopy ranges from 0-30% canopy. The midstory vegetation (5-30 feet in height) is approximately 0-50% cover and understory vegetation (0-5 feet in height) is approximately 5-75% cover. Open water, wetland shrubs and emergent vegetation provide habitat for nesting wood ducks.

#### Desired Stand Conditions

Condition	Action	Responsibility birds that may benefit
Open water, wetland shrubs, and emergent vegetation	Artificial Nesting Box Installation	Wood Duck
Current conditions.	No Management (Birds that may currently benefit from this habitat)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak Eastern Wood-pewee Red-eyed Vireo White-breasted Nuthatch Downey Woodpecker Veery Flycatcher(s)

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott

Town(s) Swampscott

**STAND DESCRIPTIONS**

OBJ	STDNO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	2	OM	28.02	11.8" MSD Sawtimber-Pole	120 sqft.	5,419 BF 22.2 Cds.	60 (OM)

Mixed oaks (red, black & white) dominate the overstory in this well-stocked, sawtimber and pole sized stand of poor to good quality trees. Many of the oak trees have been scarred by forest fires in the past. The fire scars are evident on the lower sections of the trees where decay is visible. The forest fires appear to have occurred over 30 years ago. Scattered hickory, red maple, beech, sassafras, and yellow birch poles and sawtimber sized stems of poor to good form and timber quality can also be found in the overstory. Forest regeneration consists of scattered white pine, beech, oak, hickory, birch, and other mixed hardwood seedlings and saplings. The mid-story consists of witch hazel and some highbush blueberry. The understory vegetation includes lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and green briar. Very few invasive plants were observed within the stand. Dead hardwood snags (14"+ DBH) can be found scattered throughout the stand and provide excellent wildlife habitat for cavity dwelling birds and small mammals. The terrain is flat to steeply sloped with areas of exposed ledge and boulders. A boulder field can be found in the southeast sections of this stand. The soils are primarily rock-outcrop and range from well to moderately drained (Chatfield-Hollis-Montauk) and are capable of producing high quality timber resources. Management will focus on harvesting that encourages diversity of forest age and size classes for the benefit of birds and other wildlife species. Recreation and public education are very important to the landowners as well. The desired future condition is a stand that is growing high quality timber resources in several size and age classes that provides habitat for native birds and wildlife while providing recreational and educational opportunities for the public.

**Current Habitat Conditions:**

Stand Two is dominated by a closed canopy of mixed oaks reaching 50-70 feet in height and the canopy is 95% closed. The midstory vegetation (5-30 feet in height) is approximately 35% cover and understory vegetation (0-5 feet in height) is approximately 15% cover. Non-native invasive species are not a concern in this stand at this time. Adequate levels of coarse woody debris are scattered and snag trees were observed. Leaf litter consists of deciduous leaves.

**Desired Stand Conditions**

Condition	Action	Responsibility birds that may benefit
Increased abundance of canopy gaps. Increased midstory and understory density.	Unevenaged Management Individual & Group Selection Harvest	Veery, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott

Towns(s) Swampscott

### STAND DESCRIPTIONS

OBJ	STDNO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	3	OM	12.52	11.8" MSD Sawtimber-Pole	60 sqft.	350 BF 12.8 Cds.	60 (OM)

Mixed oaks (red, black & white) dominate the overstory in this well-stocked, sawtimber and pole sized stand of mostly poor to fair quality trees. Most of the oak trees have been scarred by forest fires in the past. The fire scars are evident on the lower sections of the trees where decay is visible. The forest fires appear to have occurred over 30 years ago. Scattered hickory, red maple, beech, sassafras, and yellow birch pole sized stems of poor to good form and timber quality can also be found in the overstory. Forest regeneration consists of scattered white pine, beech, oak, hickory, birch, and other mixed hardwood seedlings and saplings. The mid-story consists of witch hazel. The understory vegetation includes lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and green briar. Very few invasive plants were observed within the stand. Dead hardwood snags (14"+ DBH) can be found scattered throughout the stand and provide excellent wildlife habitat for cavity dwelling birds and small mammals. The terrain is flat to gently sloped with areas of exposed ledge and boulders. The soils are primarily rock-outcrop and range from well to moderately drained (Chatfield-Hollis-Montauk) and are capable of producing high quality timber resources. Management will focus on harvesting that encourages diversity of forest age and size classes for the benefit of birds and other wildlife species. Recreation and public education are very important to the landowners as well. The desired future condition is a stand that is growing high quality timber resources in several size and age classes that provides habitat for native birds and wildlife while providing recreational and educational opportunities for the public.

#### Current Habitat Conditions:

Stand Three is dominated by a closed canopy of mixed oaks reaching 40-50 feet in height and the canopy is 85% closed. The midstory vegetation (5-30 feet in height) is approximately 35% cover and understory vegetation (0-5 feet in height) is approximately 15% cover. Non-native invasive species are not a concern in this stand at this time. Adequate levels of coarse woody debris are scattered and snag trees were observed. Leaf litter consists of deciduous leaves.

#### Desired Stand Conditions

Condition	Action	Responsibility birds that may benefit
Increased abundance of canopy gaps. Increased midstory and understory density.	Unevenaged Management Individual & Group Selection Harvest	Veery, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager
Dense understory and midstory density.	Patch Cut	Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Ruffed Grouse, Brown Thrasher

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STD= stand AC= acre MSD= mean stand diameter MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Town of Swampscott

Towns(s) Swampscott



### STAND DESCRIPTIONS

OBJ	STDNO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	4	RM	3.98	4.7" MSD Sapling-Pole	5 sqft.	0.4 Cds.	50 (RM)

These wetland resource areas contain pockets of red maple saplings and small pole sized trees as well as wetland shrubs and plants which include highbush blueberry, alder, red osier dogwood, sweet pepperbush, green briar, spirea, cattails, ferns, and grasses. Scattered tupelo and yellow birch pole sized trees can also be found. Standing water can be found most of the year. The soils are organic and very poorly drained (Freetown Muck) and do not support the growth of trees other than red maple and tupelo due to the high-water table. Management will focus on bird habitat enhancement through the installation of wood duck boxes. The desired future condition is an area that protects water quality and provides wetland wildlife habitat.

#### Current Habitat Conditions:

Stand Four consists of scattered pockets of red maple saplings and small pole sized trees with open pockets of water. The overstory canopy ranges from 0-70% canopy. The midstory vegetation (5-30 feet in height) is approximately 0-50% cover and understory vegetation (0-5 feet in height) is approximately 50% cover.

#### Desired Stand Conditions

Condition	Action	Responsibility birds that may benefit
Current conditions.	No Management (Birds that may currently benefit from this habitat)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak Eastern Wood-pewee Red-eyed Vireo White-breasted Nuthatch Downey Woodpecker Veery Flycatcher(s)

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott                      Town(s) Swampscott

## Management Recommendations

For the purposes of this report management practices with an object code of *CH61* are required to be accomplished as a commitment to the Massachusetts Current Use Program. Practices with object codes of *STEW* are voluntary and are provided as suggestions of activities that can help you achieve your woodland objectives.

### Summary of the Management Recommendations for your property

Stand	Object Code	Recommendation	Value/Cost/ Cost Sharing opportunities	Acres	Timing
1	STEW	Artificial Wood Duck Nesting Box	Cost	2.42	2020-2029
2	STEW	Improvement Thin	Cost Share Opportunity	14	2020-2029
3	STEW	Wildlife Patch Harvest Improvement Thin	Cost Share Opportunity	3 7	2020-2029
2 & 3	STEW	Control Invasive Species	Cost Share Opportunity	40	2020-2029
All	STEW	Trail Maintenance & Construction	Cost	40	2020-2029
All	STEW	Boundary Maintenance Access Surveying	Cost	47	2020-2029
ALL	STEW	Access Improvements	Cost	47	2020-2029
3	STEW	Scenic Vista Clearing	Cost	1+/-	2020-2029
3	STEW	Bird Blind Construction	Cost	NA	2020-2029

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 STD= stand    AC= acre    MSD= mean stand diameter    MBF= thousand board feet    BA= basal area    VOL= volume

Owner(s) Town of Swampscott      Town(s) Swampscott



**MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**  
**to be done within next 10 years**

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

***Timber Management***

***Creating Stages of Growth for Focal Bird Habitat***

STEW	2	OM	Improvement Thin By Selection Harvest	14+/-	35 sqft	11 MBF & 350 Tons	2020-2029
------	---	----	--	-------	---------	----------------------	-----------

Management will focus on improvement thinning by selection harvesting. The target is to harvest approximately 25-33% of the overstory volume. Management will focus on harvesting poorly formed and poor-quality timber resources of all sizes in order to improve spacing between trees and prepare the understory for new tree production. The fire-scarred trees will be the primary target for removal. Thinning around the best formed and healthiest trees within the stand will improve growth rates and establish a dense understory (0-5 feet) and mid-story (5-30 feet) for desired focal bird habitat. Existing low-bush blueberry, huckleberry, witch hazel and native tree seedlings and saplings will eventually provide the cover necessary for ideal focal bird habitat. Encouraging the development of existing white pine sapling growth is important for diversity. Mechanical harvesting that employs whole-tree chipping is the best harvesting system for good aesthetics, utilization, and forest fire protection.

STEW	3	OM	Improvement Thin By Selection Harvest	7+/-	20 sqft	175 Tons	2020-2029
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Management will focus on improvement thinning by selection harvesting. The target is to harvest approximately 25-33% of the overstory volume. Management will focus on harvesting poorly formed and poor-quality timber resources of all sizes in order to improve spacing between trees and prepare the understory for new tree production. The fire-scarred trees will be the primary target for removal. Thinning around the best formed and healthiest trees within the stand will improve growth rates and establish a dense understory (0-5 feet) and mid-story (5-30 feet) for desired focal bird habitat. Existing low-bush blueberry, huckleberry, witch hazel and native tree seedlings and saplings will eventually provide the cover necessary for ideal focal bird habitat. Encouraging the development of existing white pine sapling growth is important for diversity. Mechanical harvesting that employs whole-tree chipping is the best harvesting system for good aesthetics, utilization, and forest fire protection.

STEW	3	OM	Wildlife Patch Cut	3+/-	60 sqft	113 Tons	2020-2029
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Approximately 3-acres will be designated for the purpose of creating early successional young forest habitat for birds. This patch-cut will create a contiguous block of 3-acres necessary for bird species such as Chestnut-sided Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Ruffed Grouse, and Brown Thrasher. Five acres would be the preferred minimum acreage, but due to the intensity of harvesting it is recommended to only harvest three acres on this property. The patch cut will then be left to regenerate naturally with hardwood seedling and saplings and thick lowbush blueberry and huckleberry understory (0-5 foot) vegetation and witch hazel mid-story (5-30 foot) vegetation for nesting and protection of birds. Most of the trees in this stand have been fire-scarred. Mechanical harvesting that employs whole-tree chipping is the best harvesting system for good aesthetics, utilization, and forest fire protection.

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott      Town(s) Swampscott

**MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**  
**to be done within next 10 years**

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

***Recreation Enhancement***

STEW    2 & 3    OM    Trail Construction & Maintenance    40+/-    NA    NA    2020-2029

Existing trails at the Harold A. King Town Forest will be maintained for safety. New trails will be constructed into areas where there is currently no access to the forest. The Boundary & Stand Type Map shows "Potential Trail Locations" to the southern end of the forest and off of Coolidge Road to the northwest corner of the forest.

STEW    2 & 3    OM    Bird Blind(s)    NA    NA    NA    2020-2029

An opportunity exists for constructing bird blinds in two unique locations of the property. Both locations are shown on the Boundary & Stand Type Map and overlook open wetland resource areas. The bird blinds offer hikers a chance to rest and enjoy the scenery and song birds common in the area.

STEW    3    OM    Scenic Vista(s)    NA    NA    NA    2020-2029

Two locations are suggested for creating scenic vistas in Stand 3. These two locations are shown on the Boundary & Stand Type Map. These two areas could be opened during the harvesting for bird habitat as recommended on the previous page.

STEW    1-4    OM    Public Education    NA    NA    NA    2020-2029

Public outreach and education will be important of the management of this forest for giving residents, neighbors and the concerned public an opportunity to learn about the management practices outlined in this Plan. Workshops, media, and interpretive signs will all be considered as part of the public education process.

***Wildlife Habitat Management***

STEW    1 & 4    RM    Artificial Nesting Boxes  
Wood Ducks    6+/-    NA    NA    2020-2029

The open wetland resource areas provide habitat for wood ducks. The open water and emergent vegetation within these areas are important for the development of young wood ducks. The boxes should be set up approximately four feet above open water on cedar, or metal poles to protect the young and eggs from predators. The boxes should also be set up over water that is 1-4 feet deep. The boxes should be cleaned every year and new bedding placed on the bottom of the box. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife can provide further information about the box dimensions, installation, and maintenance. The recommendation is to install one or two boxes on an experimental basis in the open wetland areas.

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott    Town(s) Swampscott

**MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
to be done within next 10 years**

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

***Biological Diversity***

STEW	1-4	NA	Control of Invasive Vegetation	47	NA	NA	2020-2029
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The landowner will pursue the cutting and removal of non-native and invasive species on the property to encourage natural communities and improve the aesthetic appeal of the landscape. The Japanese Knotweed is the species of concern at this time. It's presence in the parking area along Nichols Road has the potential of spreading further into the forest. Licensed herbicide applicators may be necessary to reduce or eliminate its presence on the property.

Another biological diversity issue is the diversity of tree species, tree size classes, and forest structure layers on the property. Encouraging more softwood tree species like white pine will help reduce the current mixed oak canopy that currently exists. Timber harvesting will also help establish an unevenaged forest structure with multiple layers and age classes of trees within the forest. This will help diversify wildlife habitats and attract a broader community of wildlife species.

***Boundary Maintenance***

STEW	1-4	NA	Identify Property Lines Boundary Maintenance Boundary Signs	47	NA	NA	2020-2029
------	-----	----	---	----	----	----	-----------

Boundary lines on the property are in need of identification and maintenance. Most of the boundary lines have not been identified, blazed or painted. Physical evidence including stonewalls and fences were found during the inventory. Identifying the property lines by blazing and painting and with signs will help protect the property from encroachment and assist the land manager when conducting management on the property. Some of the boundary line identification may need to be identified by a licensed surveyor.

STEW	1-4	NA	Access Improvement For Management Purposes	47	NA	NA	2020-2029
------	-----	----	---	----	----	----	-----------

One of the most important factors to the success of the management on this property will be the ability to access the forest with equipment needed to conduct the recommended practices in this Plan. Several opportunities exist and are shown as "*Potential Access Points*" on the Boundary & Stand Type Map. Surveying will be needed to properly identify the property lines at these locations. Potential access points are located off of Coolidge Road, Manson Road, and Nichols Road. These improvements may involve the excavation and grading of soil and terrain.

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Owner(s) Town of Swampscott      Town(s) Swampscott

**Signature Page** Please check each box that applies.

☐ **CH. 61/61A Management Plan** I attest that I am familiar with and will be bound by all applicable Federal, State, and Local environmental laws and /or rules and regulations of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. I further understand that in the event that I convey all or any portion of this land during the period of classification, I am under obligation to notify the grantee(s) of all obligations of this plan which become his/hers to perform and will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation of said change of ownership.

☒ **Forest Stewardship Plan.** When undertaking management activities, I pledge to abide by the management provisions of this Stewardship Management Plan during the ten year period following approval. I understand that in the event that I convey all or a portion of the land described in this plan during the period of the plan, I will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation of this change in ownership.

☐ **Green Certification.** I pledge to abide by the FSC-US Forest Management Standard and MA Private Lands Group Certification for a period of five years. To be eligible for Green Certification you must also check the box below.

☐ **Tax considerations.** I attest that I am the registered owner of this property and have paid any and all applicable taxes, including outstanding balances, on this property.

Signed under the pains of perjury:

Owner(s) [Signature] Date 7/30/20  
 Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that I have prepared this plan in good faith to reflect the landowner's interest.

Plan Preparer [Signature] Date 2/28/2020

I attest that the plan satisfactorily meets the requirements of CH61/61A and/or the Forest Stewardship Program.

Approved, Service Forester \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved, Regional Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of a change of ownership of all or part of the property, the new owner must file an amended Ch. 61/61A plan within 90 days from the transfer of title to insure continuation of Ch. 61/61A classification.

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Town of Swampscott \_\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Swampscott \_\_\_\_\_

# BOUNDARY & STAND TYPE MAP

Land in Swampscott, MA  
Harold A. King Town Forest

Landowner:  
Town of Swampscott

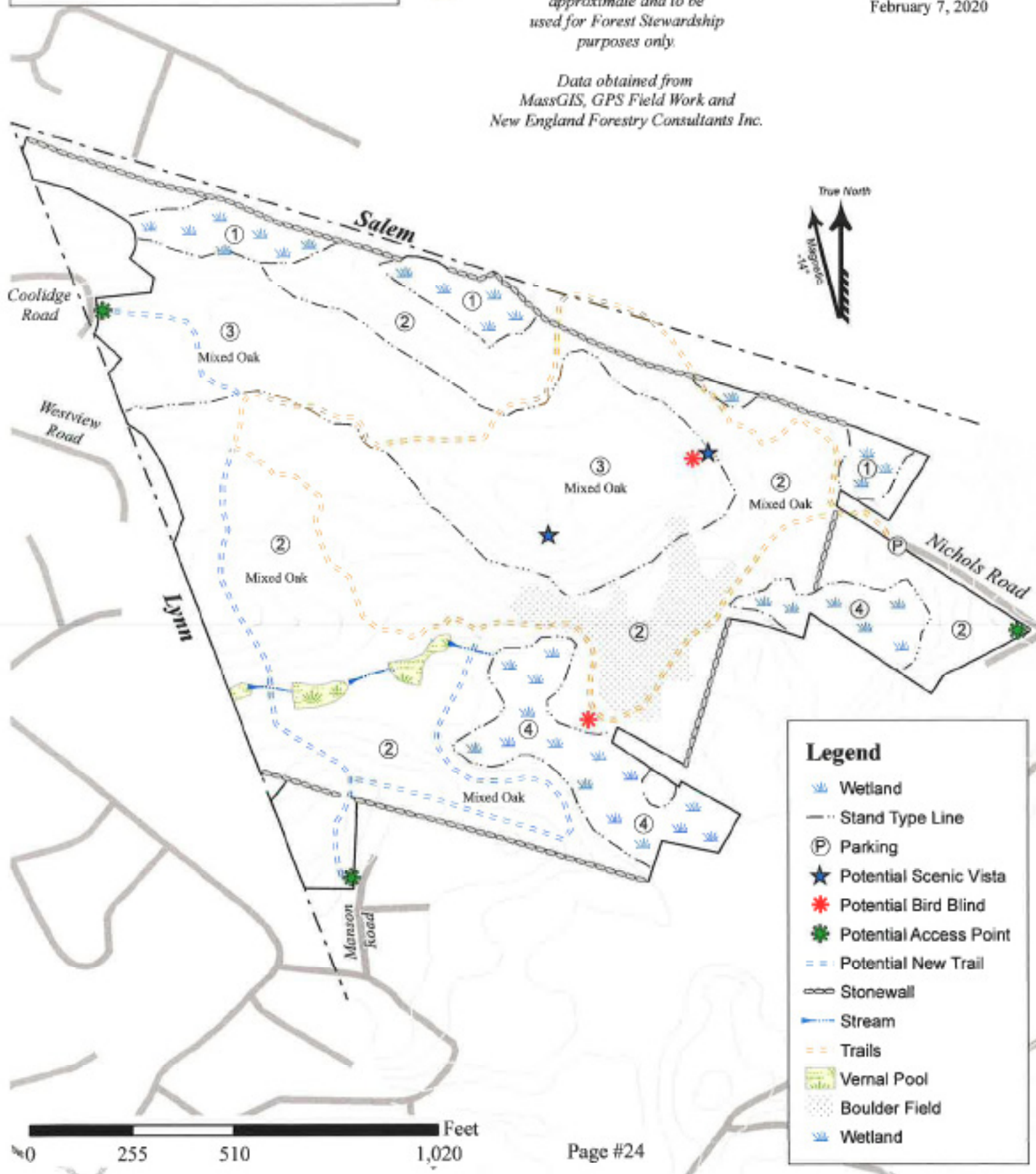


New England  
Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
[www.nefc.com](http://www.nefc.com)

Prepared by:  
Gary H. Gouldrup  
Consulting Forester  
Ashburnham, MA  
508-397-9206  
February 7, 2020

*NOT A LEGAL SURVEY*  
Metes and bounds are  
approximate and to be  
used for Forest Stewardship  
purposes only.

Data obtained from  
MassGIS, GPS Field Work and  
New England Forestry Consultants Inc.





# ORTHOGRAPHIC MAP



New England  
Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
[www.nefc.com](http://www.nefc.com)

Land in Swampscott, MA  
Harold A. King Town Forest

Landowner:  
Town of Swampscott



Data obtained from  
MassGIS, GPS field work and  
New England Forestry Consultants Inc.

Prepared by:  
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Consulting Forester  
MAFL #81  
Ashburnham, MA  
508-397-9206  
February 10, 2020

0 410 820 1,640 Feet

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# SOILS MAP

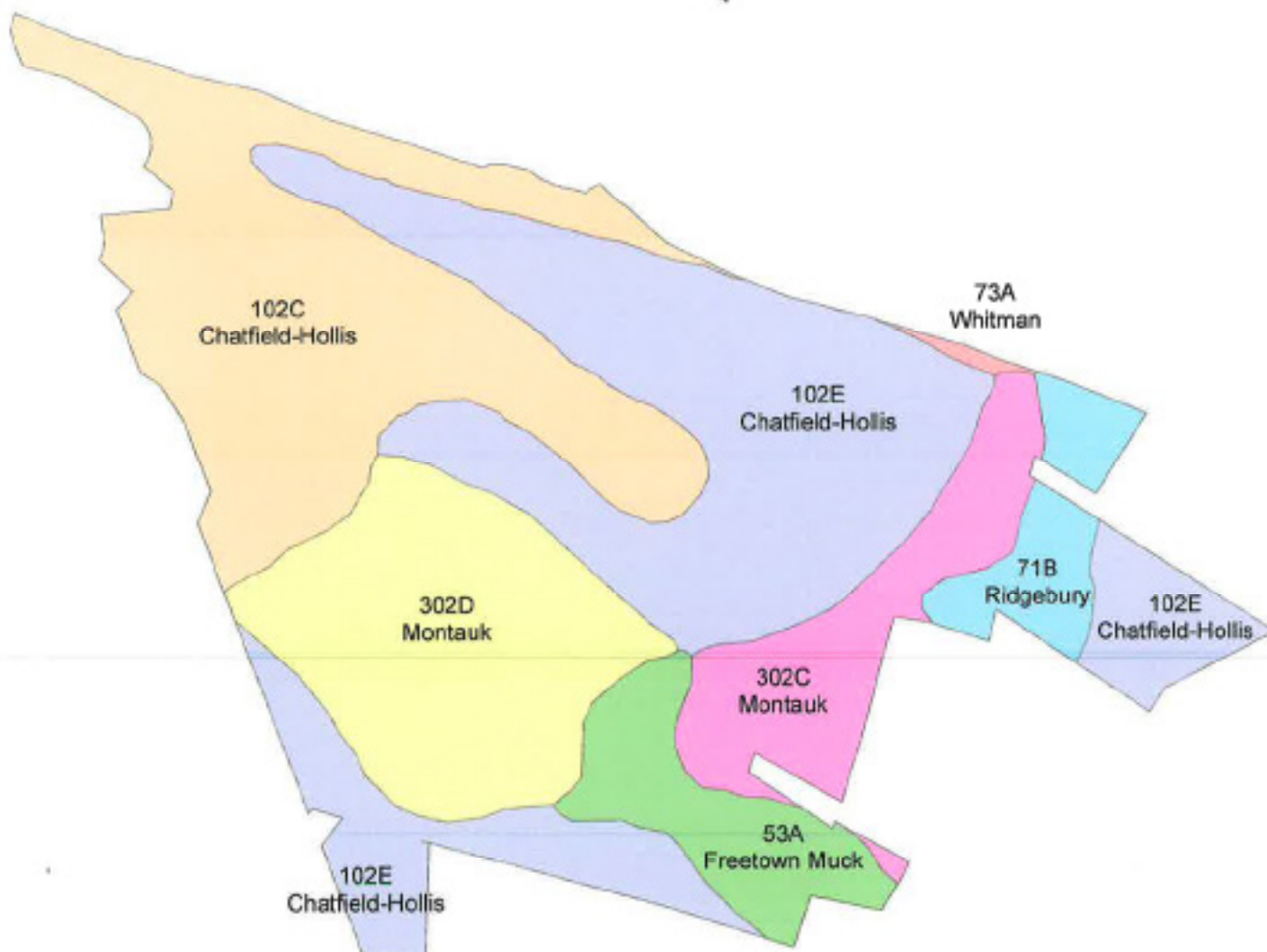
Land in Swampscott, MA  
Harold A. King Town Forest

Landowner:  
Town of Swampscott



New England  
Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
[www.nefc.com](http://www.nefc.com)

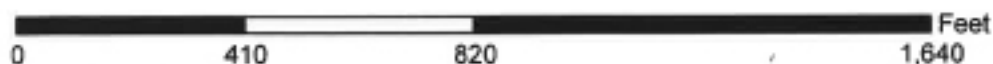
Prepared by:  
Gary H. Gouldrup  
Consulting Forester  
MAFL #81  
Ashburnham, MA  
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February 10, 2020



## LEGEND

102C, 102E - Chatfield Hollis Rock Outcrop  
302C, 302D - Montauk Fine Sandy Loam, Stony  
53A - Freetown Muck  
71B - Ridgebury Fine Sandy Loam  
73A - Whitman Fine Sandy Loam

Data obtained from  
MassGIS, GPS field work and  
New England Forestry Consultants Inc.





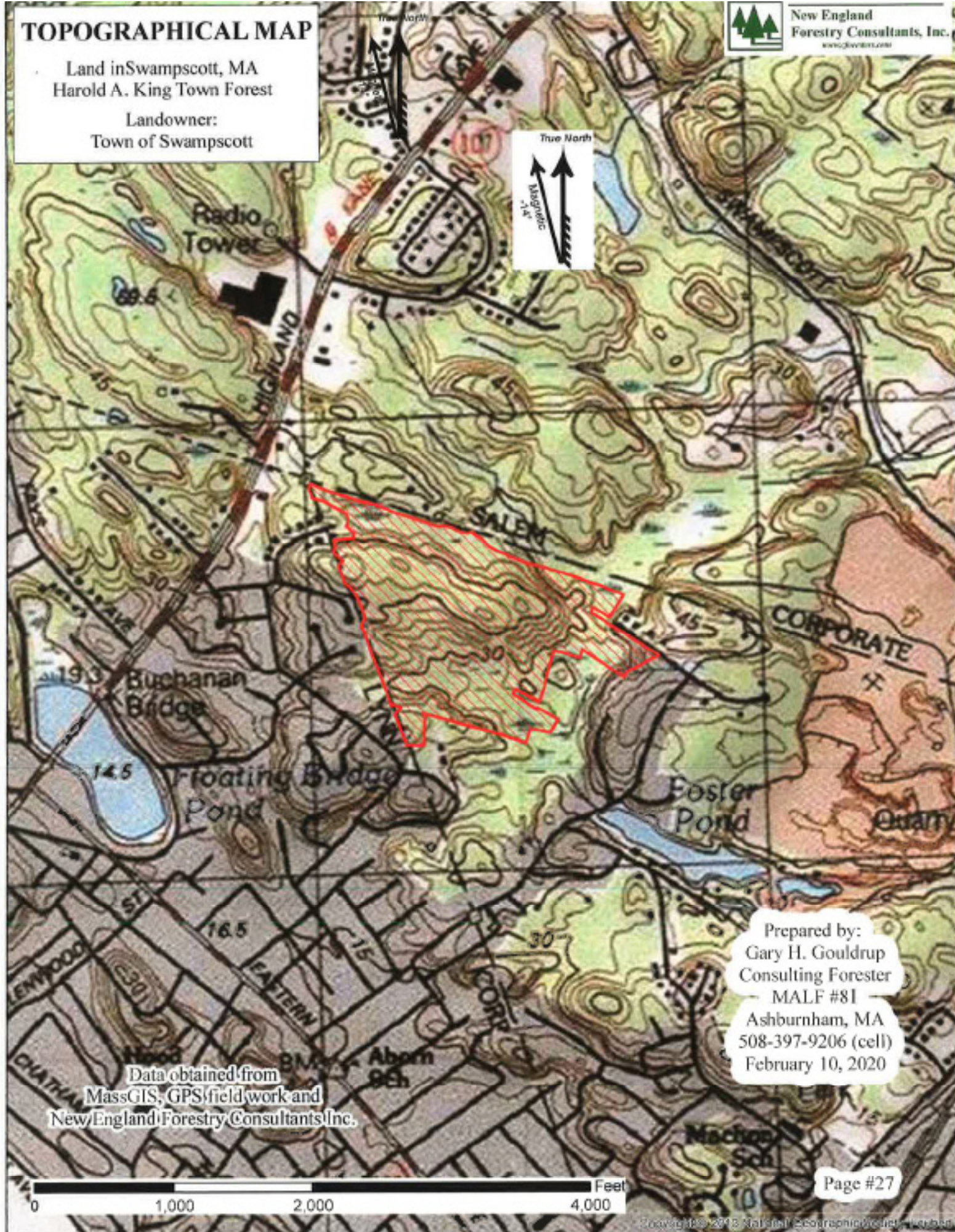
# TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

Land in Swampscott, MA  
Harold A. King Town Forest

Landowner:  
Town of Swampscott



New England  
Forestry Consultants, Inc.  
www.necf.com



Data obtained from  
MassGIS, GPS field work and  
New England Forestry Consultants Inc.

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