



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

City of Newburyport
Community Preservation Committee

Applications for funding are due by **Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** with the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Office of Planning and Development, City Hall, 60 Pleasant St., Newburyport MA 01950.

Application Instructions:

- Applicants should file ten (10) paper copies and one electronic copy of the completed application and all accompanying documents.
- Applications should be stapled or clipped. Bound applications are not required.
- Please be mindful of extraneous paper – double sided copies are acceptable.

PROJECT NAME: Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land Conservation Project

PROJECT ADDRESS: Middle Street, West Newbury, MA

MAP/LOT: R27-28; R27-28A; R27-29

APPLICANT NAME: Newburyport Planning Office (Group or Committee Affiliation)

CONTACT PERSON: Geordie Vining, Senior Project Manager

TELEPHONE/FAX NO.: (978) 465-4400

ADDRESS: City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA, 01950

EMAIL: gvining@cityofnewburyport.com

AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING REQUESTED: \$225,000

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CATEGORY: *(Please check all that apply)*

Open Space **Historic Resource †** **Affordable Housing *** **Recreation**

† Applicants seeking Historic Preservation funds for the preservation, restoration or renovation of historic structures must, as a condition of funding award, record a perpetual Preservation Restriction (PR) on the subject structure(s) prior to any distribution of funds. Applications should attend a meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) as early as possible to discuss and confirm the nature and scope of the required Preservation Restriction. The NHC's advisory opinion will be incorporated as appropriate into any Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommendation, City Council appropriation, and/or grant award letters or agreements thereunder. *Please Note: The Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) is an official City board and should not be confused with the local Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT), a non-profit advocacy group.*

* Applicants seeking Affordable Housing funds must attend a Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust meeting to review and discuss their application. This review must occur prior to the Community Preservation Committee deliberations.

PROJECT SUMMARY: Provide a description of the Project, including the property involved and its proposed use.

The Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land Conservation project will protect 38 acres of pristine woodland adjacent to Newburyport's Artichoke Reservoir drinking water supply. Conservation of the property will ensure that the land is forever managed and protected for drinking water, climate change resiliency, wildlife habitat, intact forests, scenic landscapes, and outdoor public passive recreation. The Artichoke Reservoir is part of the interconnected surface water reservoirs that provide 86% of Newburyport's drinking water. Over 1,000 feet of this property is adjacent to the Artichoke Reservoir, and the property is 100% within MassDEP's Surface Water Supply Protection Zones of both Zone A and Zone B. The property is close to the intake that pumps all the water from the interconnected surface reservoirs to the City's Water Treatment Plant. This CPA grant application is to support purchase of a Conservation Restriction.

Over a century ago, the Commonwealth approved "An Act Relative to the Water Supply of the City of Newburyport (Acts of 1908, Chapter 403)" which authorized the City of Newburyport to establish the system of reservoirs in West Newbury which the community depends upon today, and to acquire land and easements for the purposes of "preserving the water and securing the purity thereof" in West Newbury. The City owns adjacent watershed land in West Newbury (parcel R27-31). The subject property is entirely forested with mature hardwoods and occasional stands of white pines, and it is widely acknowledged that protecting intact forests is the most effective way to protect drinking water. Protecting this property from residential development provides valuable benefits to the public water supply by averting the threats inherent in septic systems, household hazardous waste, and pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers associated with lawns. Maintaining watershed land as forests reduces stormwater runoff and prevents flood risks, lowers summer air and water temperatures, and cuts streambank erosion and resulting sediment and nutrient contamination, all of which lessen the need for upgrading costly water treatment facilities and infrastructure. This project complements the City's current resource planning and management, as the City is increasing its focus on protecting existing public water supply sources since multiple testing initiatives indicate that new sources are not likely to be viable or feasible, and is renewing its efforts to prevent negative impacts in Zone A watershed land.

A portion of the subject property is Natural Heritage Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape for wetlands that feed into the Artichoke River and Reservoir. In addition to playing a significant role in cleaning waters flowing to the Reservoir, these wetlands provide important habitat for native flora and fauna, including rare species. The same benefits that protect drinking water also confer resiliency to the adverse impacts of climate change: forests reduce air and water temperatures, flooding risk, and offer important refuges for wildlife. The Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land is mapped as nearly all Prime I Forest Lands, a DEP designation for the most productive forests in the state. Further, much of the property is considered within the top 50% of lands in the Commonwealth with the highest ecological integrity according to the UMass CAPS project. The property is adjacent to existing watershed land conserved by the City of Newburyport as well as other protected and undeveloped property.

The subject property is threatened by development. Appraisers have determined that the 38-acre property is developable with a 1,600-foot long subdivision road and 10-13 houses. The land has been in the landowners' family for several generations, and they are motivated to see it preserved. However, if the land cannot be acquired for conservation, they will have sell it for development. It is virtually certain that if we are unable to preserve the property it will be drastically altered by development and associated land uses and impermeable surfaces, which will provide a vector for potential household hazardous waste, motor oil, gasoline, road salt, lawn chemicals, failing septic systems, etc., all of which will threaten the City's ability to maintain a clean, reliable public water supply.

This watershed land conservation project is a partnership of the City of Newburyport, the Essex County Greenbelt Association, the Town of West Newbury, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Agreement has been reached with the landowners for the partnership to acquire the 38-acre property for a total of \$985,000. (The full fair market value of the property was recently appraised by LandVest at \$1,240,000.) The City of Newburyport has submitted an EOEEA Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant application for \$300,000 in support of this project. The West Newbury Community Preservation Committee recently approved an application for \$175,000 and recommended it to the spring 2020 West Newbury Town Meeting. State land acquisition staff have requested \$175,000 from DCR, and Greenbelt has committed to providing the balance in addition to transaction costs (\$145,071). The property will be preserved in perpetuity with a Conservation Restriction co-held by the City of Newburyport, the Town of West Newbury, and DCR, and the restricted fee simple interest will be owned by Greenbelt. In addition to protecting the watershed land, the Conservation Restriction will permit the creation and maintenance of unpaved trails and a modest unpaved parking area off of Middle Street. Greenbelt will be responsible for monitoring and land management, as well as construction and maintenance of the trails, parking, and signage.

PUBLIC BENEFIT*: Describe in detail the benefits Newburyport will receive from the Project and how the Project fulfills the Community Preservation Committee's Project Evaluation Criteria.

*** Deed Restrictions:** The City may require, as a condition for funding, that the applicant grant to the City or other authorized grantee certain restrictions, including: Preservation Restrictions on rehabilitated or acquired historic resources, Conservation Restrictions on preserved or acquired lands, and Affordability Restrictions on affordable housing projects. The restriction shall be recorded at the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds.

Protection of this property will provide multiple benefits to the public, including protection of critical watershed land and the City's public drinking water supply, critical wildlife habitat, enhancement of outdoor public recreation, scenic landscapes, and community character. The project meets a large number of the Community Preservation Committee's general and category-specific criteria, including the following:

- * Eligible for CPA funding;
- * Consistent with local and state plans, including the 2017 Newburyport Master Plan, the 2012 Newburyport Open Space Plan (*Goal 1: Protect lands of public conservation and recreational interest including the City's defining scenic heritage landscapes and areas that support essential wildlife habitat and ecosystems, water protection, flood management, and a variety of recreational activities*), as well as the MA Commonwealth Connections plan, the MA Scenic Landscape Inventory, and others;
- * Preserves and enhances the essential character of the City, as the project will help preserve and enhance the Artichoke River and its watershed lands shape the landscape character of the western edge of the community;
- * Protects resources that would otherwise be threatened, through permanent protection of watershed land from residential development and protection of the City's public water supply;
- * Serves more than one CPA purpose, as the project directly supports both Open Space and Recreation purposes;
- * Demonstrates practicality and feasibility, as the project is based on willing sellers, multiple partners, and experienced project managers;
- * Produces an advantageous cost/benefit value, as the project leverages substantial investment from other sources, has negotiated a discounted sale price, and prevents costly future expenditures to address contamination from development;

- * Leverages additional public and private funds, including a state grant, state agency investment, funding from West Newbury, and funding from Essex County Greenbelt Association and associated donations;
- * Preserves and improves the utility of currently owned City assets, particularly the Artichoke Reservoir public water supply and the associated City-owned watershed land;
- * Received endorsement by other municipal boards and departments, including the Water Division and Engineering Division of the Newburyport Department of Public Services, the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and strong support from the Mayor;

- * Permanently protects important wildlife habitat, including land designated by the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape;
- * Provides opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education, through the existing and anticipated expanded trail system;
- * Protects wildlife corridors, promotes connectivity of habitat, and prevents fragmentation of habitats;
- * Provides connections with existing trails, protected open space, and potential trail linkages;
- * Preserves scenic views;
- * Borders a designated Scenic Road (Middle Road);
- * Protects drinking water quality;
- * Provides flood control storage;
- * Preserves and protects important surface water bodies, including the Artichoke Reservoir, streams, wetlands, riparian zones, etc.;
- * Buffers protected open space;

- * Supports multiple recreational uses, including hiking, running, nature study, cross-country skiing, etc.;
- * Serves a significant number of residents;
- * Expands the range of recreational opportunities available to City residents of all ages;
- * Jointly benefits Conservation Commission and Parks Commission initiatives by promoting recreation such as hiking and cross-country skiing;
- * Maximizes the utility of land already owned by the City, including adjacent watershed land already owned by the City.

CONTROL OF SITE: Indicate whether the applicant owns or has a purchase agreement for the Project site. If the property is under agreement, include a description of the agreement and the timing and conditions. If the applicant does not have site control, explain.

The Essex County Greenbelt Association has negotiated a purchase and sale agreement with the landowners on behalf of the City of Newburyport and the other partners to acquire the property for \$985,000 (Conservation Restriction and restricted fee simple interest) through December 18, 2020. The P&S is contingent on securing the full funding of \$985,000, including this CPA request.

FEASIBILITY: List all steps that may be required for completion of the Project, such as environmental assessment, zoning or other approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation restrictions, and any other known issues. For projects that may impact abutters or the neighborhood, describe support or objections from those affected.

The steps to complete the project include securing funding from the Newburyport Community Preservation Committee and City Council this spring/summer, as well as through the state DWSP grant program, the West Newbury Town Meeting, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and then a Greenbelt fund-raising campaign. Other steps include negotiating the language of the Conservation Restriction among the partners, conducting a survey of the property, a title examination and certification, closing on the acquisition and recording at the registry, and developing a baseline & management plan.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Describe the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the Project. Demonstrate whether the Project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year.

- January/February 2020: Funding requests submitted – EOEEA Drinking Water Supply Protection grant application, CPA application to Newburyport Community Preservation Committee, CPA application to and approval from the West Newbury Community Preservation Committee, West Newbury Select Board approval of the warrant article for the April 2020 Town Meeting, presentation to DCR Land Committee, Greenbelt Board approval to enter into P&S;
- April/May/June 2020: Secure funding – DWSP grant announcements, West Newbury Town Meeting vote, Newburyport CPC and City Council votes, Greenbelt fund-raising campaign;
- July/August/September: Negotiate language of Conservation Restriction amongst partners and co-holders.
- December 2020: Project closing.

FUNDING:

A. **Project cost estimates:** Provide recent cost estimates for the proposed project, dated within the past six (6) months, detailing the scope of work and associated costs for each task.

B. **Amount of Newburyport Community Preservation Funding Requested:**

\$225,000 Please note that the City proposes using available resources in Newburyport’s CPA Open Space Reserve Fund to support this project. The Open Space Reserve has \$729,965 available. Approval of this project will avoid competition with other projects for annual funding, and over \$500,000 will remain available for other potential open space protection projects in the future.

C. **Other Sources of Funding Available:** If funding from other sources may be available for the Project, please complete the following table:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS (COMMITTED Y/N IF NOT-WHEN)	CONTINGENT ON CP FUNDS (Y/N)
EOEEA Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program	\$300,000	No – April/May 2020	Yes
Town of West Newbury CPA funding	\$175,000	No – April 2020	Yes

DCR & Essex County Greenbelt Association	\$175,000 & \$145,071	No – May/June 2020	Yes
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ATTACHMENTS:

Include the following with ALL copies of the application:

- Assessor’s map showing location of the Project
- Photographs
- Recent written estimates of cost with detailed scope of work
- Proposed oversight and management plan for the Project
- If the project involves public property, provide verification that the applicable public agency or department supports the project as presented and will oversee the project if funded.
- Historic resources include buildings, structures, vessel real properties, documents or artifacts that are listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic place or determined to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city by the local historic preservation commission. If the project involves a historic resource, please provide evidence (date of listing on the state register or a letter from the Newburyport Historical Commission confirming its determination of significance) with the application that it meets these criteria

Include the following, if applicable and available:

- Architectural plans and specifications, for new construction or rehabilitation
- Maps, renderings, site plans
- Historic structures report, existing conditions report
- Names and addresses of project architects, contractors and consultants
- Budgets
- Letters of Support

Attach additional sheets as necessary to answer all questions.

YOU MAY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

For questions contact: Office of Planning and Development
Newburyport City Hall
cpc@cityofnewburyport.com
(978) 465-4400

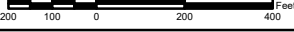


Ridgeway Cir Units:
R-26-35-40 through R-26-56-40

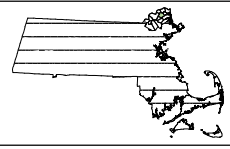
Moody Lane Units:
R-26-1-40 through R-26-34-40

Town of West Newbury Property Parcel Map Map R27

1:5,225 1 inch = 435 feet



Merrimack Valley Planning Commission does not make any warranty, approval or opinion, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data or any other data provided herein. The GIS Data is provided for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose. The data does not take the place of a professional survey and has no legal bearing on the true shape, size, location, or extension of a geographic feature, property line, or political jurisdiction. Merrimack Valley Planning Commission requests that any use of this information be accompanied by a reference to its source and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's disclaimer. It makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy of use of information. Any use of this information is at the user's discretion.

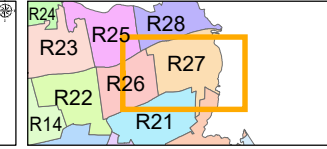


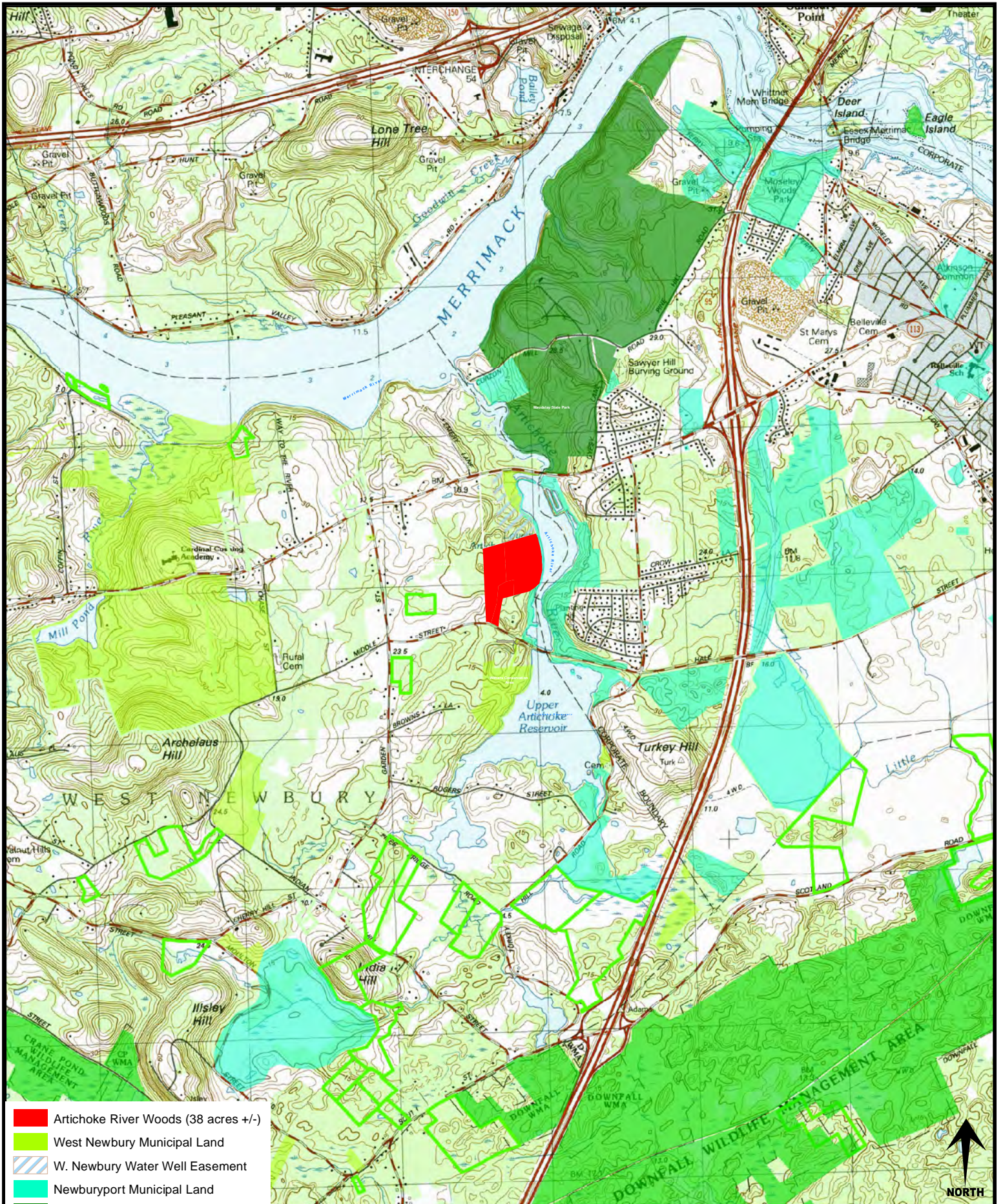
Map Revision Date: January 1, 2019
Revised 10/11/2019 MM



FY 2020

Legend	
	Town Boundaries
	Property Parcels
	Building Footprints
	Easements
	Roads
	Private Roads
	Hydrographic Features
	Wetlands
	Map Areas
	Exempt Lands
	Federal
	State
	Municipal
	Green County Greenbelt Assoc.
	Conservation Restriction






Artichoke River Woods

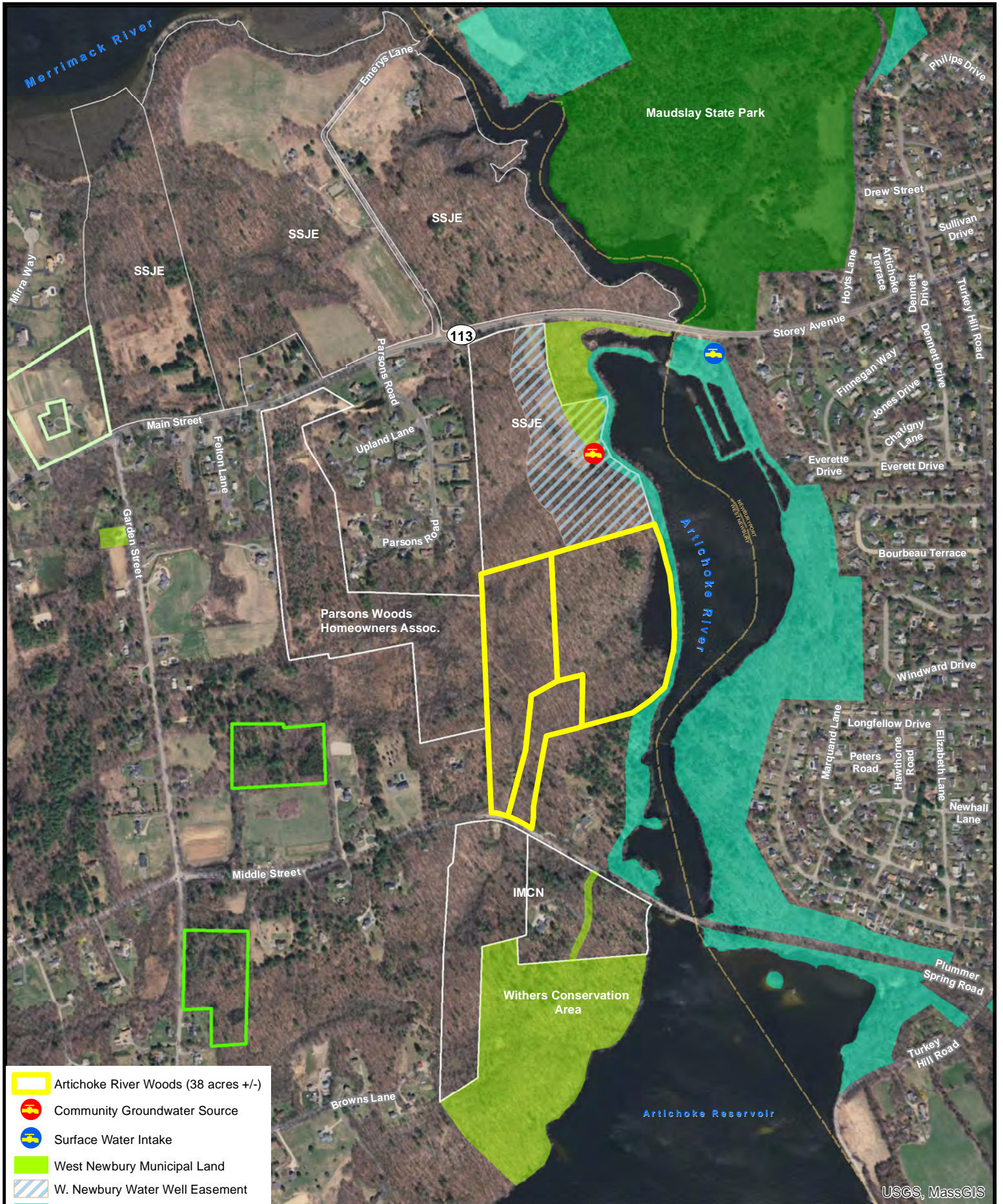
38 +/- acres

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Map for illustrative purposes only. Boundaries are approximate and based on most currently-available assessor's data. 2013 Orthophotos; 1:5,000. All data other than Greenbelt properties from MassGIS. Map by Greenbelt, dated 1-6-20



- Artichoke River Woods (38 acres +/-)
- West Newbury Municipal Land
- W. Newbury Water Well Easement
- Newburyport Municipal Land
- DCR-State Parks & Recreation
- Department of Fish & Game
- Greenbelt Property
- CR



- Artichoke River Woods (38 acres +/-)
- ⚡ Community Groundwater Source
- 💧 Surface Water Intake
- West Newbury Municipal Land
- W. Newbury Water Well Easement
- Newburyport Municipal Land
- DCR-State Parks & Recreation
- Greenbelt Property
- CR

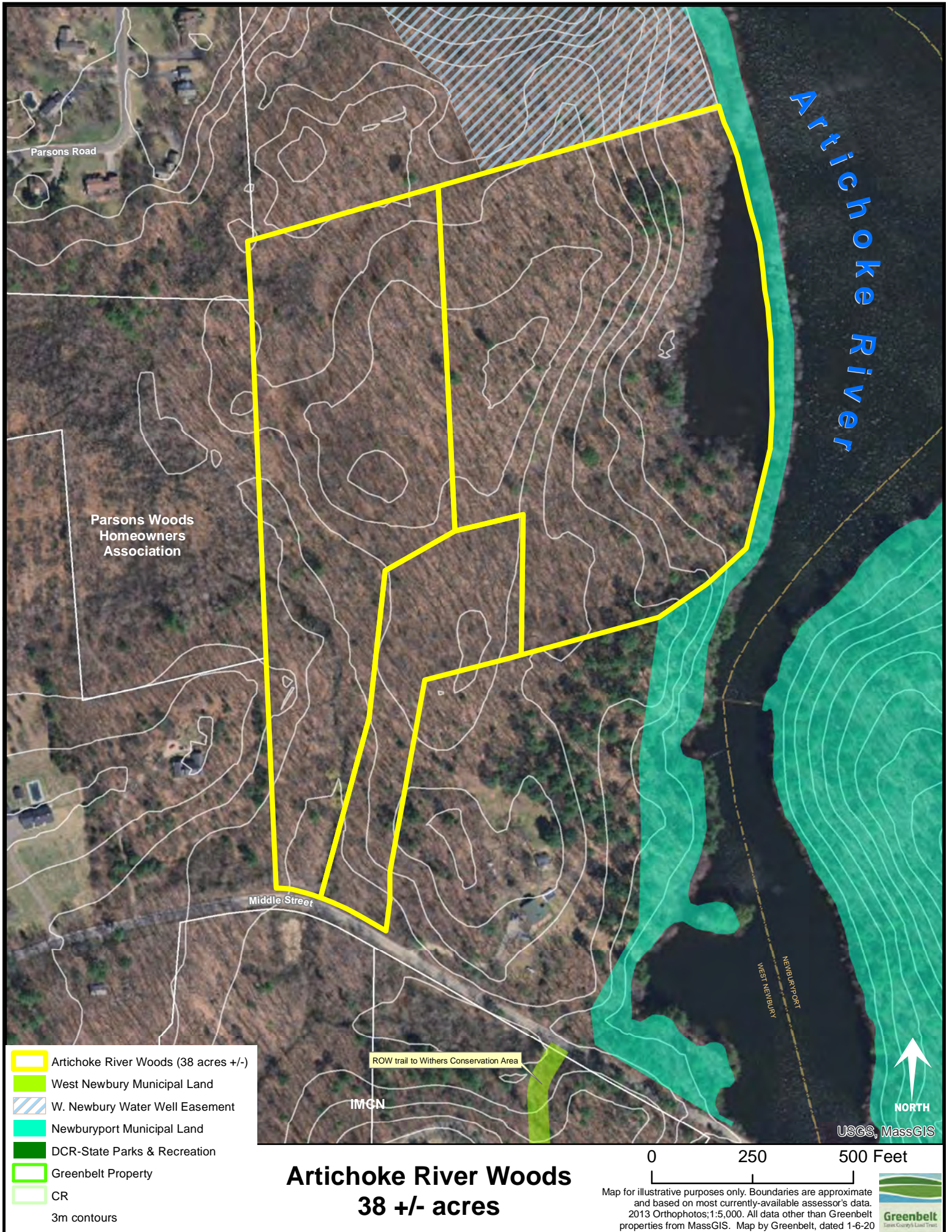
Artichoke River Woods
38 +/- acres
Open Space Context

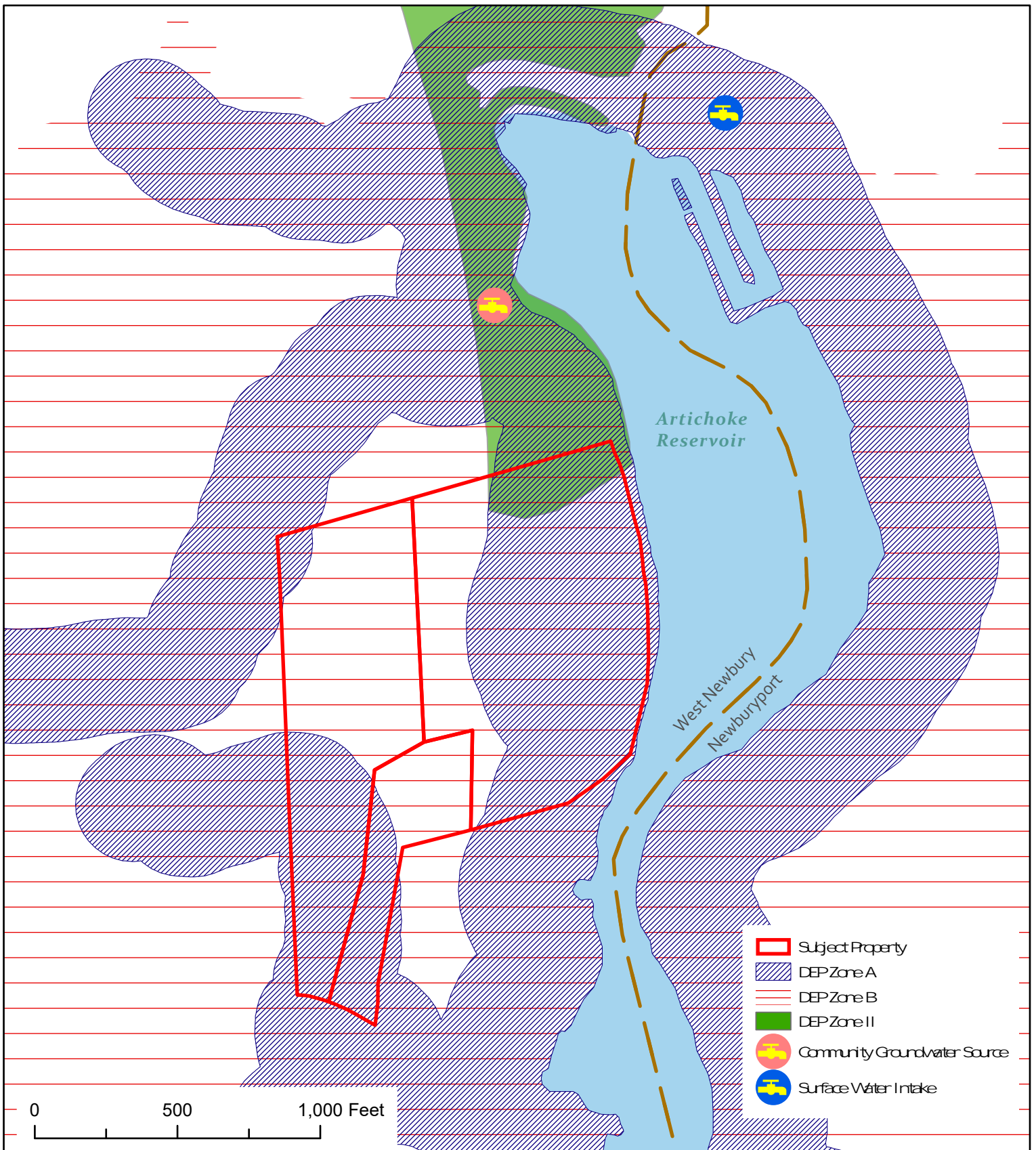
0 750 1,500 Feet

Map for illustrative purposes only. Boundaries are approximate and based on most currently-available assessor's data. 2013 Orthophotos; 1:5,000. All data other than Greenbelt properties from MassGIS. Map by Greenbelt, dated 1-6-20



USGS, MassGIS





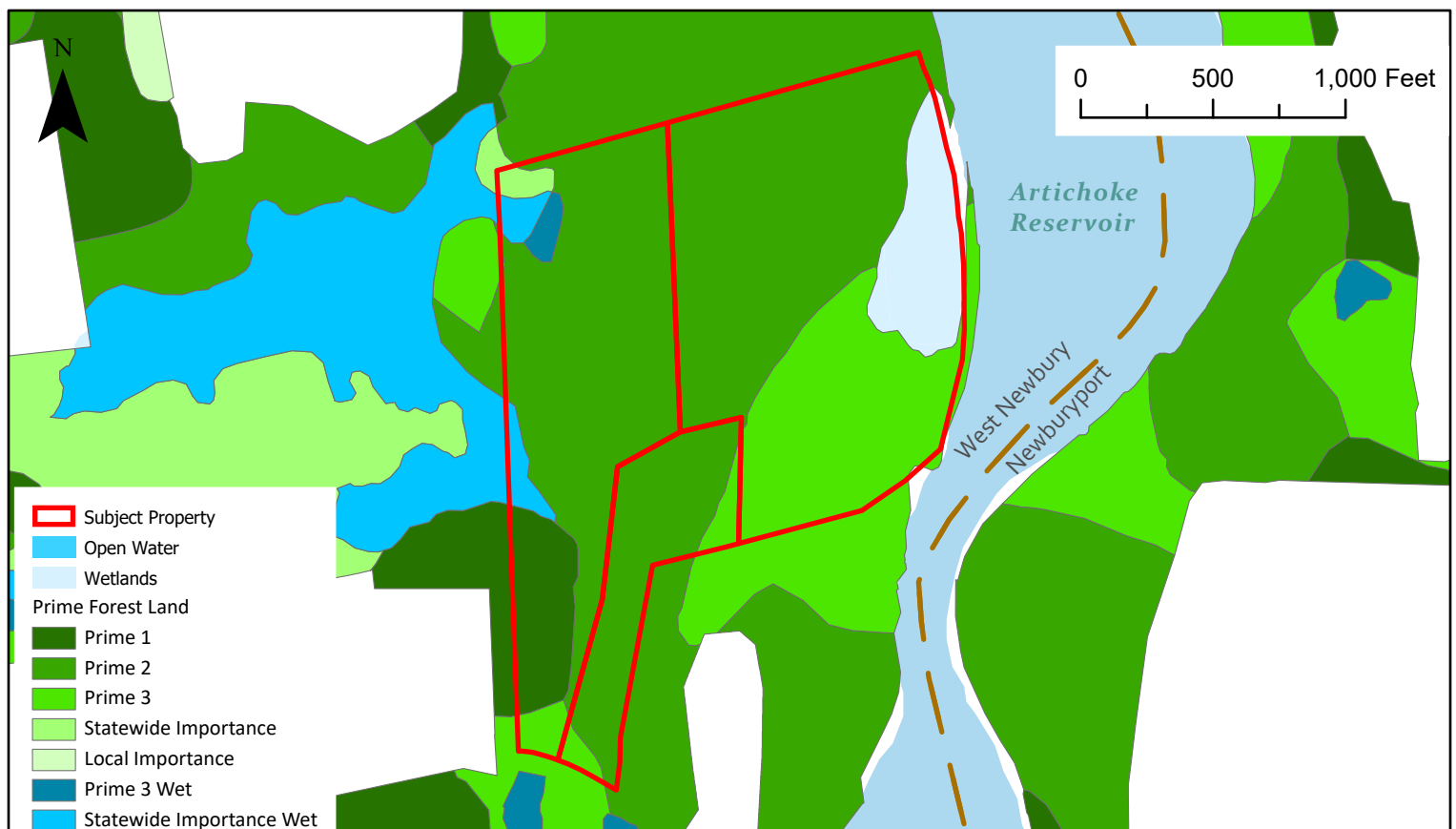
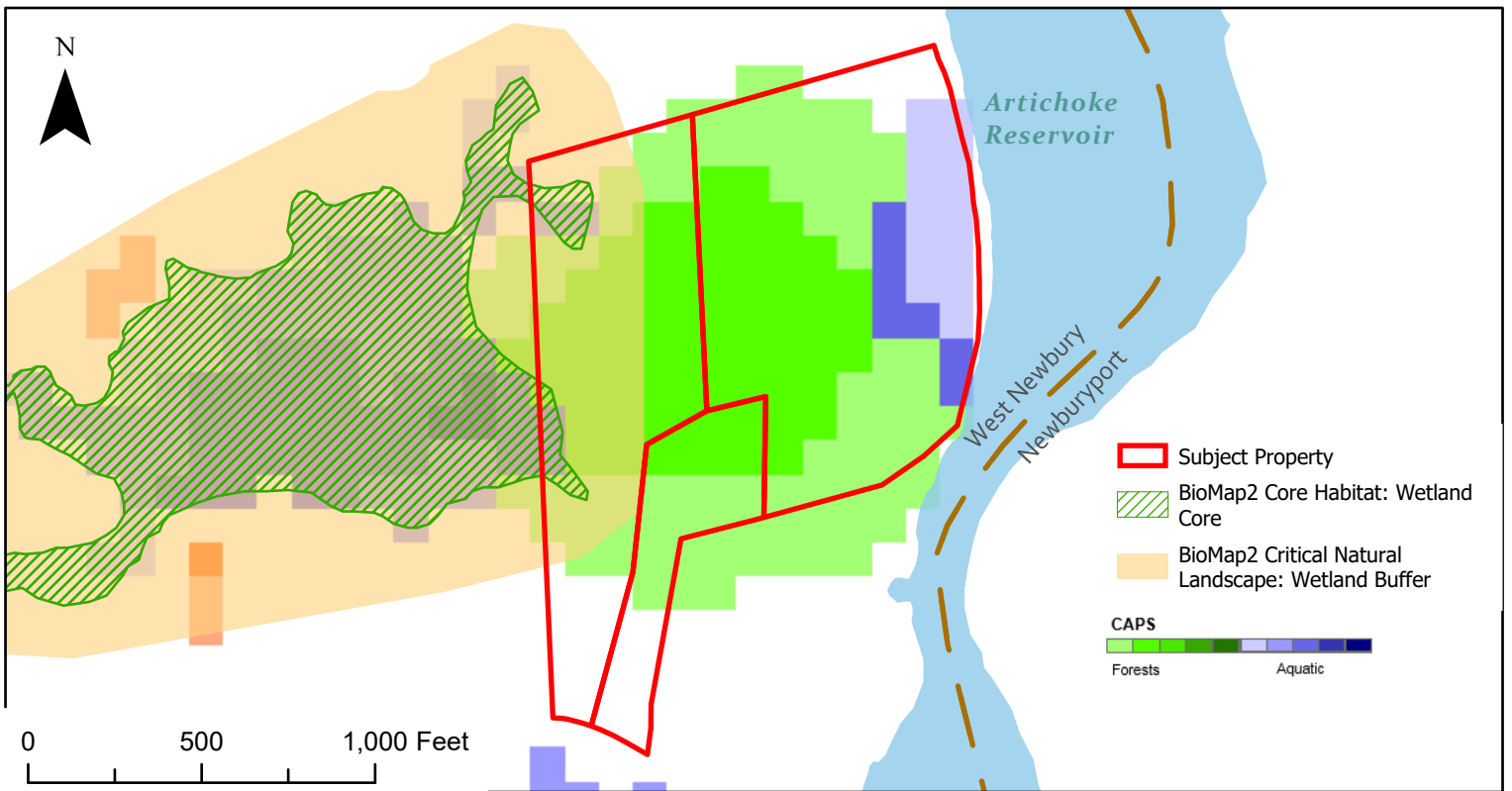
Map Produced 12/20/19 By:
Essex County Greenbelt

Artichoke River Woods 38± acres, West Newbury Drinking Water Resources Map

Source data obtained from survey plans, Mass GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
Orthophotos 2013 / 2014. Boundary lines are approximate and are to be used for
informational purposes only. Boundaries based on assessors data.



Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust



Map Produced 12/20/19 By:
Essex County Greenbelt

Artichoke River Woods - 38 ac Natural Resources

Source data obtained from survey plans, Mass GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
Orthophotos 2013 / 2014. Boundary lines are approximate and are to be used for
informational purposes only. Boundaries based on assessors data.



Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust

Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land

Photographs



Looking west at property from berm on Artichoke Reservoir



Development on the northeastern side of the Artichoke Reservoir

Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land

Photographs



Looking east from property down to the Artichoke Reservoir



Glacial erratic boulder on property near existing trail

Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land

Photographs



Looking north on the berm between pond on property (left) and Artichoke Reservoir (right)



Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land

Photographs



Stream on western side of property



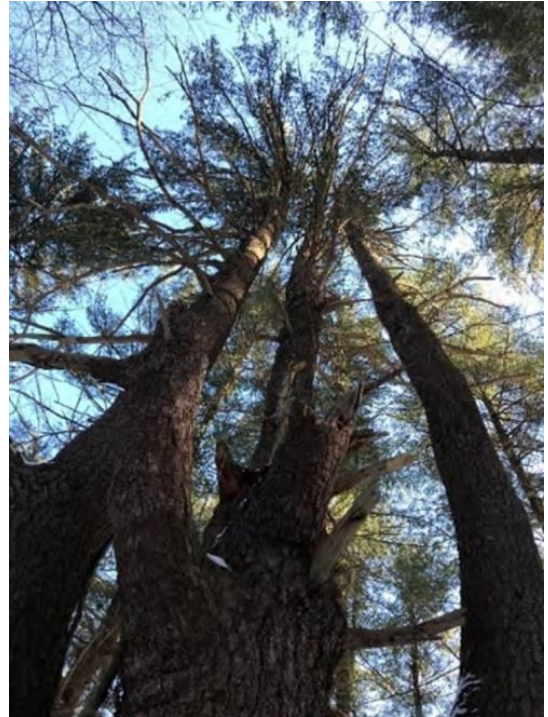
Woodland trails on property

Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land

Photographs



Substantial stone walls on property



Large oaks and towering white pines on property

Project Budget: Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land Conservation

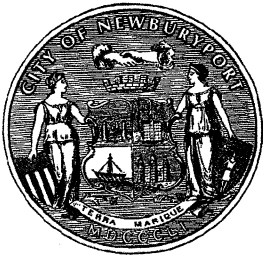
Project Expenses		
Total Acquisition Cost	\$985,000	
CR Purchase	\$885,000	
Restricted Fee Purchase	\$100,000	
Transaction Costs		
Appraisal		\$6,430
Environmental		\$2,291
Title Exam		\$1,500
Other Legal		\$5,000
CR Survey		\$7,000
Recording fees		\$350
Greenbelt Staff Time		\$5,000
Total Transaction Costs	\$27,571	
Parking & Signage	\$7,500	
Total Project Cost	\$1,020,071	
Funding Sources		Status
EOWEA Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant	\$300,000	pending
West Newbury CPA	\$175,000	pending
MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation	\$175,000	pending
Newburyport CPA	\$225,000	pending
Greenbelt (private fundraising campaign)	\$110,000	pending
Greenbelt (transaction + infrastructure costs)	\$35,071	approved
Total Project Cost	\$1,020,071	

Timeline: Close by December 2020

Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land Conservation Project

Project oversight and management plan

The Artichoke River Woods Conservation Restriction project will be managed by Senior Project Manager Geordie Vining of the Newburyport Planning Office, working with colleagues in the Department of Public Services as well as representatives Essex County Greenbelt Association (Greenbelt), DCR, and the Town of West Newbury. Vanessa Johnson-Hall of Greenbelt will act as the primary liaison with the current landowners/sellers and other project partners, and will facilitate the overall project through to completion. Upon completion, Newburyport's Water Division will monitor the property, and Greenbelt will also be responsible monitoring, management, and construction and maintenance of public access parking, trails, and signage.



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

16A PERRY WAY
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950

ANTHONY J. FURNARI, DIRECTOR
JAMIE TUCCOLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

PHONE: 978-465-4463 EXT. 1701
FAX: 978-465-1623

January 15, 2020

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Community Preservation Act Grant Application February 2020
Rogers Property Purchase to Protect Lower Artichoke Reservoir

Dear CPA Committee,

I am writing to express my overwhelming support for your application of a CPA grant to help fund the purchase of the Rogers properties along the Lower Artichoke Reservoir. The purchase of these properties is precisely what we need to protect our communities' vulnerable water supply.

These land parcels are of particular concern because they border our reservoir. Their proximity poses the greatest threat and it is critical that we prevent development in this area. It is common knowledge that stormwater runoff from developed areas greatly impacts the quality of surface water supplies. The topography of these properties is very steep – approximately a 70-foot differential with a 2:1 slope – which will only exacerbate the migration of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and the multitude of other pollutants and algae-loving nutrients that developments produce. These parcels are best suited to remain untouched.

Our city has been working on a Climate Change Resiliency Plan and from the multitude of public hearings and internal assessments, our water supply remains our most vulnerable asset. Our greatest threats are algae blooms – which are on the rise and will be even more prevalent with higher atmospheric and water temperatures. Developed land within watersheds will increase the likelihood of these threats and potentially reduce our yield significantly.

Thank you for providing this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jon-Eric White, PE
Newburyport City Engineer

C: Mayor Holaday
Anthony Furnari, DPS Director



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
60 PLEASANT STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
978-465-4400

January 14, 2020

Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

On behalf of the Newburyport Conservation Commission, I am writing to express the Commission's strong support for the City's application to the EEA Drinking Water Supply Grant Program for funds to help permanently preserve 38 acres of pristine woodlands on the Artichoke Reservoir in West Newbury.

The vast majority of the City of Newburyport's drinking water supply is provided by the Artichoke Reservoir, much of which lies within the town of West Newbury. The 38 acre parcel of land which we hope to protect lies immediately adjacent to the western edge of the Reservoir and consists entirely of Zone A and Zone B undeveloped woodlands. It is a rare opportunity to protect the future of our water supply.

This forested area helps reduce and treat stormwater runoff and attenuate flooding. It helps to lower summer air and water temperatures, and it stabilizes streambanks, reducing erosion and sedimentation impacts downstream, all of which lessen the need for additional costly water treatment systems. Further, not only does this property serve to protect the city's drinking water supply and quality, but it also provides important habitat value in an area that has been rapidly developing over the past several decades. This woodland, if protected, will therefore also help to buffer many of the adverse effects of climate change as we move into the future.

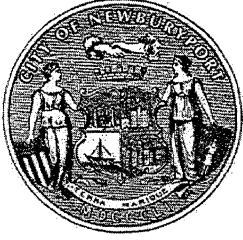
Opportunities to permanently protect significant parcels of Zone A and B watershed land arise very rarely. This conservation project represents a historic partnership between the town of West Newbury and Newburyport, with additional project support from the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Essex County Greenbelt Association. All partners share the primary goal of preserving this critical drinking water supply, while allowing for compatible passive public recreation and habitat preservation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,

Joe Teixeira
Chair, Newburyport Conservation Commission

Cc: Mayor Donna D. Holaday, Mayor, City of Newburyport



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
DONNA D. HOLADAY, MAYOR
60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950

January 24, 2020

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Community Preservation Act Funding – Artichoke River Woods Watershed Land Conservation Project

Dear CPC Committee:

On behalf of the City of Newburyport's Open Space Committee ("OSC"), I am writing to express the OSC's support for the City of Newburyport's application to the Community Preservation Committee for funds to help permanently preserve 38 acres of pristine woodlands on the Artichoke Reservoir.

Over 1,000 feet of the Artichoke River Woods property boundary is separated from the Artichoke River by just a thin, man-made berm owned by the City of Newburyport DPS Water Division. The City's residents are dependent upon the drinking water supplied by the Artichoke Reservoir.

It is widely acknowledged that protecting intact forests is the least expensive way to protect drinking water. Forests reduce stormwater runoff and prevent flood risks, lower summer air and water temperatures, and cut streambank erosion and resulting sediment and nutrient contamination, all of which lessen the need for costly water treatment facilities and infrastructure. Protecting our drinking water supply and our natural areas is one of the surest ways to protect our community from the adverse effects of climate change.

This conservation project is championed by a partnership among the City, West Newbury, the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and Essex County Greenbelt Association. All partners share the primary goal of preserving water supply, while allowing for compatible passive public recreation to occur on this land. The OSC supports this goal.

The OSC has reviewed the project and the opportunity it presents. We have voted unanimously to support the project and to advocate to the City's Community Preservation Committee that the

project be recommended to our City Council for appropriation of CPA monies to fund the City's allocable share of the balance of the project costs.

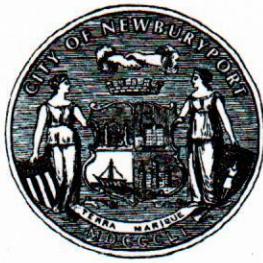
We thank you, in advance, for your favorable consideration of the City of Newburyport's application.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Dissette, Chair
Newburyport Open Space Committee

cc: Mayor Donna D. Holaday, Mayor, City of Newburyport



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
WATER DIVISION
16A PERRY WAY
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
TEL: 978-465-4463 EXT. 1701

ANTHONY J. FURNARI, DIRECTOR
JAMIE TUCCOLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Thomas D Cusick Jr.
Superintendent, WTO

TEL. (978 465-4466)
FAX (978-463-5684)

January 15, 2020

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

R.E. EEA DWSP Grant, FY20, Artichoke River Woods, Middle Street, West Newbury

To whom it my concern,

On behalf of the Newburyport DPS Water Division, I'm writing to express full support for the City's filing of a DWSP Grant application, by Senior Project Manager Geordie Vining. This type of effort is exactly what the Citizens of Newburyport, and the Town's people of Newbury and West Newbury need. Newburyport has a long history of suppling water to these neighboring Towns.

Securing land to curve development and ensure a safe buffer zone is a major component of the City's Source Water Protection Plan. About 80% of the Source Water for the City lies in West Newbury, this can be a bit of a challenge when trying to monitor actions within the Zone A and B areas.

The Roger's property and the potential housing development lie primarily in Zone A of the Artichoke River. Most recent water quality testing results from September of 2019, shows a slight rise in the nutrient loading on the reservoir system. Any opportunity to secure and maintain a natural buffer zone around the reservoir to help mitigate surface water runoff is a priority!

Once land is sold and out of the control of the Municipality or Land Trust entity, the future can be uncertain. The City is in full swing of reevaluating water resource management to include resiliency. With this effort, it has become evident that climate change is becoming a factor now. Some opportunities only come once, securing land in a Zone A area is one of those opportunities that should be capitalized on.

I would like to thank you in advance for this consideration and if any additional information is need please do not hesitate to call on me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Cusick Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Thomas D Cusick Jr.
Superintendent Newburyport Water Treatment Plant

Cc:

Mayor Donna D. Holaday, City of Newburyport
Anthony J. Furnari, DPS Director City of Newburyport
David W. Archibald, Chairman Town of West Newbury
Leslie A. Haley, Clerk Town of Newbury