



City of Newburyport Open Space and Recreation Plan

September 2012

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Section 1: Plan Summary

This Plan continues the ongoing efforts by the city of Newburyport to enhance and protect its natural areas and to provide and maintain accessible parks and recreational areas for the enjoyment of the City's residents, workforce, and visitors.

A plan's success is most effectively measured by how much of it is implemented. Since the city's last plan was completed in 2005, the city of Newburyport has completed the following actions to support protection and management of the city's open spaces and recreation areas:

- Protected Coffin's Island, Wet Meadows, Cooper North (Common Pasture)
- Negotiated with farmers to hay the fields at Cooper North and Wet Meadows and developed management plans to protect the conservation/agricultural values of these areas
- Protected property abutting Maudslay State Park along the Artichoke River
- Completed Clipper City Rail Trail (Phase 1) and section of Harborwalk through Cashman Park
- Purchased land from Guilford Transportation/B&M Railroad and secured several other easements to extend the Rail Trail / Harborwalk (Phase 2)
- Created Little River Nature Trail and worked with Parker River Clean Water Association to enhance the trail
- Established a part-time Parks Administrator position
- Started program for off-leash dog hours at select city parks
- Renovated and improved fields at Cashman Park, Pioneer League Park, Woodman Park and resurfaced courts at Cashman Park
- Added restroom at PI Beach
- Resurfaced playgrounds at Inn Street and Cashman and added amenities at Jason Sawyer Playground
- Renovated Brown Square and completed improvements to Bartlet Mall / Frog Pond
- Striped bike lanes on Plum Island Turnpike and refurbished bike lanes on High Street
- Renovated one grandstand at the High School stadium
- Collaborated with Amesbury and Salisbury to obtain a commitment from Mass DOT to include a multi-use path as part of the renovation of the I-95 Whittier Bridge

Building on these positive achievements, the 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan includes a revised Seven-Year Action Plan (Section 9). Significant contributions from the city's Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, and Office of Planning and Development have assisted the planning consultants to complete the updated demographics and community setting (Section 3) to provide a context for planning recommendations. A survey, two public meetings, focus group discussions, and stakeholder interviews have informed the development of the action plan and have

provided indispensable local knowledge for the updated inventories (Sections 4 and 5) and identification of issues and analysis of needs (Section 7).

The community vision (Section 6), goals and supporting objectives (Section 8) provide a framework for the action steps that will guide the city over the next 5 to 10 years.

- 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.
- Goal 2: Maintain a high quality of parks and recreation areas that are safe, attractive, and provide a range of active and passive (informal) recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.
- Goal 3: Improve awareness of public open space and recreation areas.

The Action Plan provides a work plan to guide those responsible for open space and recreation management and land acquisition in the city. The Plan identifies responsible parties and partners, potential funding sources (where applicable), and priority (high, medium, low).

- To focus land protection efforts, the plan identifies key remaining large, contiguous open space areas that represent heritage landscapes and critical wildlife habitat.
- To encourage wholesome and healthful recreational opportunities, the plan identifies opportunities for improving management of existing parks and recreation areas as well as expanding trail networks and increasing recreational program offerings.
- To support clean air, clean water, and improved quality of life now and in the future, the plan identifies opportunities for coordinating land and water supply protection efforts, strengthening land use regulations and guidelines, and support related private, regional, and state initiatives.

Section 2: Introduction

Statement of Purpose

This updated plan continues the ongoing work by the city's Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, and the Office of Planning and Development to guide open space protection and recreation area management. It builds on previous open space planning efforts completed in 1999 and 2005 and lays out a work plan for the next seven years.

The plan helps to ensure that the city remains eligible for state funding for open space preservation and park improvement projects including Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND), and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which are administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Planning Process and Public Participation

The city's previous open space and recreation plans have been produced through the hard work of volunteers on the Open Space Committee (OSC) and the Parks Commission (PC) as well as with assistance from city staff. In 2011, the Office of Planning and Development received funds from the Community Preservation Act to be used to support completion of the 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan update. The city hired Brown Walker Planners, a local community planning firm with extensive open space and recreation planning experience, to assist with the planning process. Members of the OSC, PC, and the Planning staff continued to play an integral role in the completion of this plan.

Public outreach efforts included feature articles in the Daily News, notices distributed to city board and committee e-mail lists, notices the Newburyport Mothers Club list serve, and flyers posted at the public library and City Hall. Examples of public outreach are included in the appendix.

A public meeting was held in February 2012, in which participants discussed both the strengths of the city's parks and recreational areas and programs as well as much needed improvements. Public ideas about parks and recreation facilities and programs were also collected through a community survey circulated during the month of April. Two focus group meetings were held with representatives from community groups and sports leagues involved in management and programming for the city's parks. Additional interviews were conducted with members of regional conservation and land protection groups. A final public meeting to review and prioritize action steps was held in May 2012. The city's departments and boards were invited to review and comment on the plan throughout the month of May and the draft plan was also posted for public review on the city's web page.

Section 3: Community Setting

Regional Context

Newburyport is one of the smallest cities in the state, located in Essex County on the North Shore of the Boston metropolitan area. Newburyport is located in the lower Merrimack Valley region, defined by the watershed of the Merrimack River, which forms the northern borders of the city of Newburyport.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Newburyport is one of fifteen cities and towns that are represented by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC).

MVPC has developed regional plans and processes to guide regional growth, development, and redevelopment in the Valley. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) provides an overview of existing conditions and projects and outlines goals, objectives, and tactics for the region. The Priority Growth Strategy (PGS) is a process to identify areas within each community suitable for development growth; for preservation of existing character and natural resources, and infrastructure requirements that would support each community's growth and preservation goals. The Regional Planning Framework Strategic Plan was developed to ensure MVPC communities' policies and regulations are: 1) up-to-date; 2) consistent with the PGS; 3) meet the Commonwealth's opt-in performance benchmarks from the Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership Act (CLURPA).

The update of the Newburyport Open Space and Recreation Plan supports the three goals of the Strategic Plan. Some of the goals and strategies identified in the PGS that are relevant to this Plan include:

- Continue construction of the next phase of rail-trail
- Consider public transit connections between the commuter rail station and other points in the city and surrounding communities
- Pursue redevelopment options in the city's Business Park rather than developing existing vacant land and continue to encourage Smart Growth development strategies for the Little River Transit Village area
- Preserve and protect municipal water supply sources
- Preserve prime agricultural land and working farms
- Protect and enhance critical upland, water resource, and wetland habitats to sustain biodiversity
- Protect and enhance inland, estuarine, and coastal water quality
- Preserve natural stream courses, floodplains, and flow regimes
- Manage future land development and redevelopment in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner
- Preserve the region's scenic landscapes and rural character
- Improve pedestrian safety and add sidewalks

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Open space planning does not stop at a community's boundaries. Continuing coordination with neighboring communities will be important for Newburyport to achieve some of its Open Space and Recreation goals and objectives. Amesbury has recently completed an OSRP update. Newbury and Merrimac's plans have been updated in the past 10 years. West Newbury's Plan was completed in 2009 and Salisbury's is set to expire this year.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Newburyport's character is shaped by its physical location along the south side of the Merrimack River, where its historic harbor reaches the Atlantic at the northern point of Plum Island. The Artichoke River, which flows north into the Merrimack River, forms part of the city's western boundary. To the south, historic pasture and hayfields stretch to West Newbury and Newbury, and the Little River and its tributaries flow southward into the Parker River and then into the Great Marsh.

Each of these waters – the Merrimack River, the Artichoke River, the Little River, the Parker River, and the Atlantic Ocean – played a role in shaping the city.



Newburyport waterfront on the Merrimack River

The Merrimack River

More than three centuries ago, Newburyport's harbor made it suitable for shipbuilding, which led to maritime commerce and wealth, and so in turn to the city's cherished Federal-era architecture and its continuing role as a regional commercial hub and destination for travelers. In later times, the Merrimack River supported small mills and other industrial efforts. The river today is a resource shared with many communities along its banks.

The lively harbor provides an open, scenic counterpoint to the dense heart of downtown, with its fine old commercial buildings and period homes, large trees, and narrow streets. The river in Newburyport supports commercial fishing, recreational boating, whale-watch and eco-tours.

The Artichoke River

Artichoke Reservoir at the western border of the city provides Newburyport a major drinking-water source (along with Indian Hill Reservoir in West Newbury, and a few other sources). The river also provides one border to Maudslay State Park. The Artichoke's forested and marshy banks offer valuable habitat. Some residents enjoy fishing off bridges across the Artichoke. The Artichoke watershed includes the City Forest and extends well into the southernmost sections of the city, in the western part of the Common Pasture. The historic Curzon Mill area – a heritage landscape -- is associated with the Artichoke.

The Little River

The headwaters of two tributaries of the Little River drain a section of the city edged by homes and shopping plazas. The tributaries flow both through undeveloped wooded and agricultural land and alongside the city's business park. The Little River watershed, as part of the Parker River system, influences the ecology of the Great Marsh, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. As the river flows into Newbury, it provides the easterly border for the historic farms and wet meadows of the Common Pasture. (The Common Pasture is a resource shared with Newbury and West Newbury.)

The Parker River

The Parker River (along with the Plum Island River) separates the mainland from Plum Island -- a barrier island with old cottages and larger new homes, as well as the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and the state Sandy Point Reservation, both outside Newburyport boundaries. River marshes are part of the Great Marsh ecosystem and support a wide range of local and migratory birds. Birding in this area—identified as an Important Bird Area by Mass Audubon--plays an important and growing role in the city's economy. These beaches and marshes also have historic importance for clamming, fishing, duck hunting, and salt-hay farming.

The Atlantic Ocean

Access to the Atlantic keeps city marinas and docks busy. Newburyport's section of Plum Island – the northernmost part – has a long and varied history. It is currently densely settled, with former summer cottages being turned into larger, year-round homes, and with beach-goers flocking to its Atlantic shores. Intense storms of recent years combine with dense settlement to create erosion emergencies and calls for beach nourishment and other mitigation measures.



View of Merrimack River from Newburyport Beach

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER

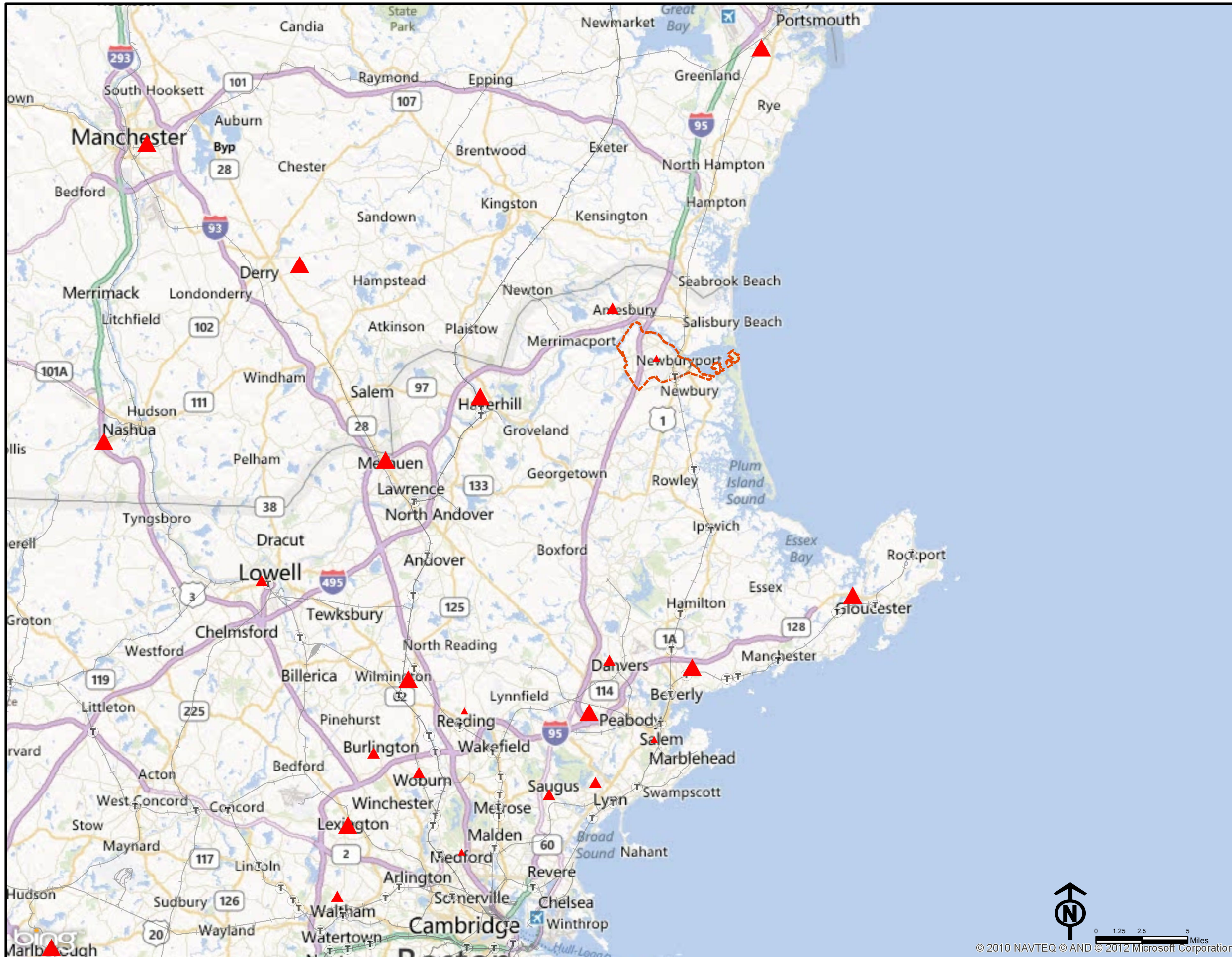
The Merrimack Valley sometimes is referred to as the “Crossroads of New England” due to the proximity to Interstates 93, 95, and 495 connecting to major population centers in New Hampshire and Maine, as well as Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Downtown Boston is just 30 to 40 minutes by car from any point in the Merrimack Valley.

The economy of the Merrimack Valley region is focused on healthcare, advanced manufacturing, creative economy, tourism and bio-tech business clusters.¹ Many of these industry sectors are represented in Newburyport, along with the emerging green technology / clean energy sector.

Newburyport is a regional hub for employment, as well as a regional destination for culture, entertainment, commerce, and recreation. The city also draws visitors from farther afield, providing opportunities for history and architecture buffs, birders, boaters, beach-goers, trail-users, and others who enjoy the attractive downtown’s festivals, shops, and restaurants.

¹ Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, 2008.

MAP 1: REGIONAL CONTEXT



Map 1 Regional Context

Legend

City Boundary

Municipal Area

SqMiles

- 8 to 10
- 10 to 15
- 15 or more

Rail

MBTA Stations



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

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Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport, Bing
Map is intended for City
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History of the Community

Newburyport's earliest habitation included summer encampments by Native Americans who came for clamming, fishing, and regional festivals along the banks of the Merrimack River. Newburyport's early permanent English settlements can be compared with those of such other historic seaports as Salem, Marblehead, or Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The city separated from the more agrarian Old Newbury in the year 1764 as its character came to be more defined by the needs and values of prosperous maritime traders.

Just as the city's social, political, and economic character were shaped by maritime trade in the last half of the 18th Century and the first half of the 19th Century, so were its architecture and land-use patterns. Those patterns largely persisted as the era of sailing ships and small harbors ended and Newburyport entered a long period of decline, which stretched through the Depression and into the 1960s.

Efforts began in the 1960s to restore the deteriorated downtown. Amendments to the urban renewal plan in the early 1970s jump-started the preservation of Federalist Era buildings. This trend-setting, restoration-oriented version of urban renewal nurtured Newburyport's current success as an attractive place to live. In the 1980s, a business park was created in the northeast sector of the Common Pasture. Recent decades have seen the spread of housing into the western sections of the city, as well as increasing housing density on Plum Island and in older city neighborhoods.

The community's treasured heritage landscapes include the city's historic Merrimack River harbor, identified for more than two centuries with shipbuilding; the city's extensive colonial and federal-era streetscapes (many part of a very large National Historic Register District); its timeless marshes and beaches; Maudslay State Park (the former Moseley estate); and the Common Pasture. Other cultural heritage sites include an early 19th century powder house, an 18th century grist mill operated on the Artichoke River, and a Merrimack ferry crossing. (George Washington crossed the river at the site.)

Later years in the city's history added mills and shoe factories – distinctive brick structures now converted into homes and offices – as well as rail lines, one segment of which has been converted into a rail trail, with work on the second trail section underway. Salt-hay heiress Anna Jaques made donations to fund a hospital (since relocated and rebuilt within the city). Historic lighthouses, specially aligned to assure safe navigation to and from the Atlantic, enrich the city's character and help convey its importance as the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard. Plum Island served as both a staging area for rescues of sailors and ships, and as a relatively sedate resort destination..



Interpretive panel along Clipper City Rail Trail

Many of the city's historic cemeteries date from the colonial and revolutionary eras, and several parks and schools date from the 19th century. A centrally located Frog Pond and its surroundings, used in colonial days for grazing, and later for training local militias, became the grand Victorian-era Bartlet Mall, with formal walkways and stately elms. Brown Square, dignified by a statue of Newburyport's famed abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, has long been a site of outdoor civic events.



Frog Pond at Bartlet Mall

Historic farms still operate in the Common Pasture, with haying and cattle grazing the most common uses in Newburyport. Arrowhead Farm, on Old Ferry Road, has been operated by family farmers since 1683.

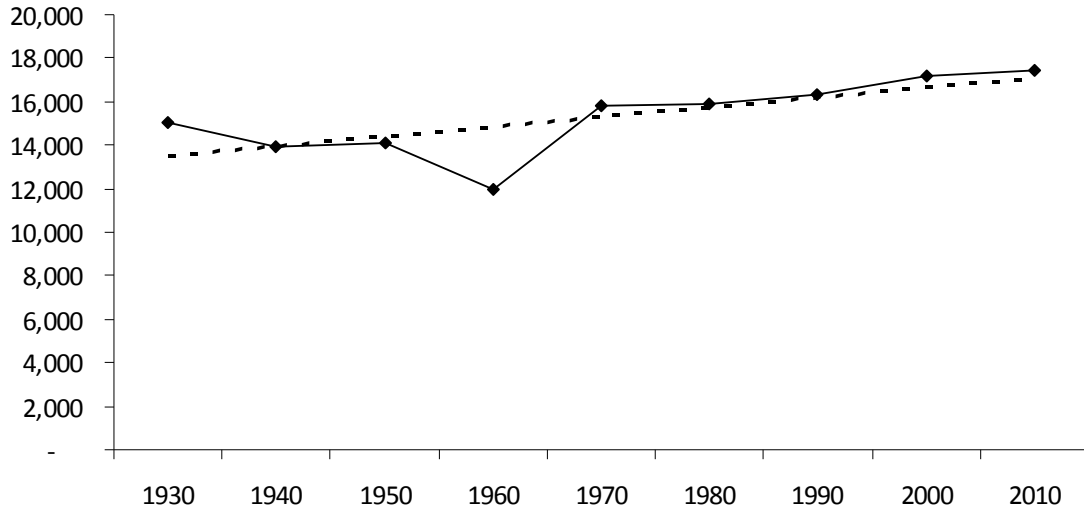
Newburyport was home to a small African-American community, including a few individuals prominent in sailing; a parish with French-Canadian heritage; mill workers of Irish and Polish descent; and other immigrants.

Population Characteristics

POPULATION TRENDS

Newburyport’s population increased by a little over 1% between the last two decennial censuses (from about 17,200 in 2000 to about 17,400 in 2010).²

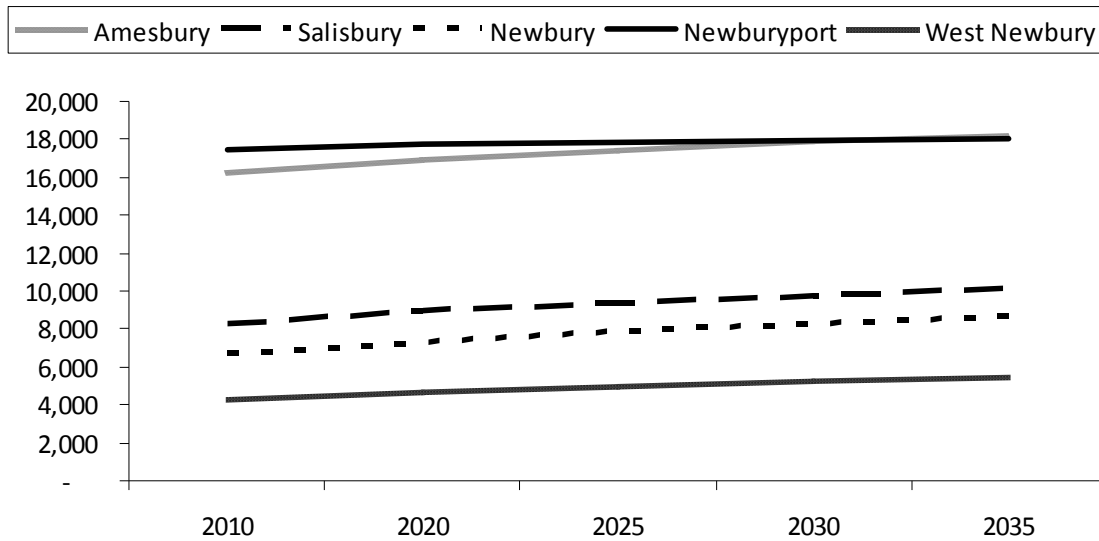
Figure 1: Newburyport Population Growth, 1930-2010



Population forecasts project very slow growth for Newburyport and the surrounding region over the next 20 years.

² US Census Bureau.

Figure 2: Population Projections to 2035³



POPULATION DENSITY

Population density influences demand for public outdoor parks and recreation spaces. In high density areas, residences may lack private yard space. Typically, these areas would benefit from neighborhood parks or playgrounds.

Newburyport ranks in the top 15% in the state for population density (52 communities are more densely settled, 298 are less densely settled). Communities with similar densities are listed in the figure below.

Figure 3: Population Density, 2010⁴

Community	Population Density (persons per square mile)
Somerset	2,240
Natick	2,189
Methuen	2,110
Whitman	2,082
NEWBURYPORT	2,078
Burlington	2,074
Milton	2,071
Danvers	1,995
Maynard	1,929
Milford	1,918

³ Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: 2011 Performance Report*.

⁴ MA Department of Revenue (uses total land area, excludes water areas)

Another way to gauge a community's development pattern is to compare the ratio of population to miles of road. A community that has a larger population in relation to miles of road is more compactly settled (like Newburyport). Newburyport ranks in the top 15% in the state for this comparison as well. Communities with similar ratios are listed below.

Figure 4: Population and Road Miles, 2010⁵

Community	Ratio of Population per Mile of Road
Haverhill	234.24
Marlborough	233.84
Wakefield	233.23
Winchester	231.75
Dedham	230.92
Leominster	230.08
NEWBURYPORT	229.13
Holyoke	228.89
Holbrook	227.99
Milford	227.65
Attleboro	223.76

The following table shows the distribution of population within the city's four census tracts and the map following shows the location of each census tract. The most densely populated areas are census tracts 2683 and 2684, which are also where many of the city's parks and active recreation areas are located.

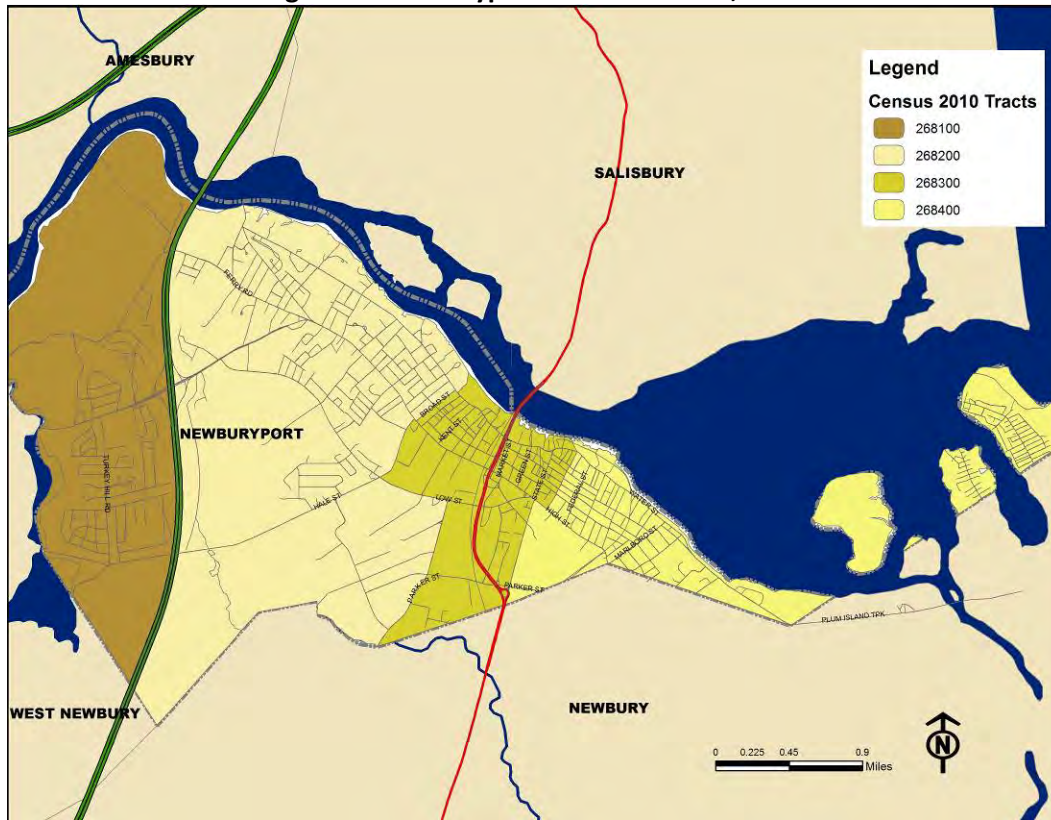
Figure 5: Population and Housing by Census Tract, 2010⁶

Census Tract	Size (Acres)	Population	Pop density	Housing units	Housing density
2681	1,528.6	2,668	1.7	877	0.6
2682	2,490.3	6,322	2.5	2,783	1.1
2683	621.1	4,126	6.6	2,291	3.7
2684	783.3	4,300	5.5	2,313	3.0

⁵ MA Department of Revenue

⁶ US Census Bureau

Figure 6: Newburyport’s Census Tracts, 2010



AGE OF RESIDENTS

Age of residents can affect the demand for specific types of outdoor recreation. While residents of all ages differ in their recreational needs based on individual interests, some assumptions can be made about the demand for facilities based on demographics. Families with young children tend to need neighborhood playgrounds. Teenagers and active adults need playfields for team sports, and increasingly, areas for healthful exercise such as walking, running and court sports. Elderly residents generally seek pleasant places to walk, sit outdoors, view wildlife, and gather with friends. A higher prevalence of retirees and empty-nesters may create a demand for a variety of adult recreation programs.

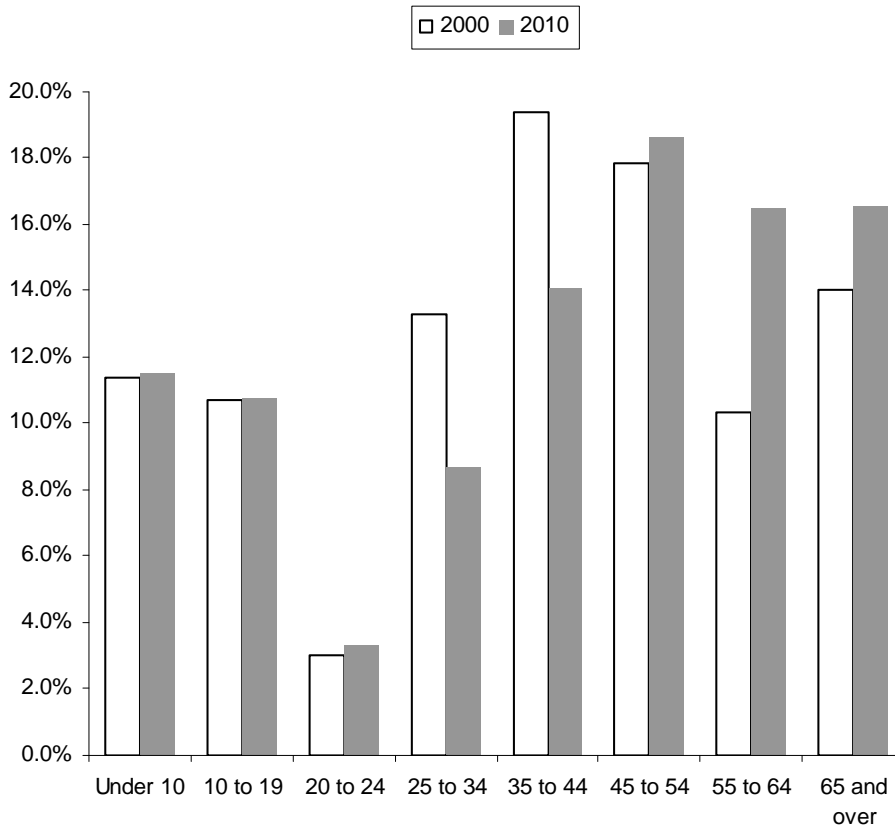


Bartlet Mall

As is the case in other communities in New England, the population of Newburyport is aging. The median age rose from around 41 in 2000 to just about 47 in 2010.⁷ In comparison, the median age in the 1980s was 32 and 37 in the 1990s. The biggest shifts among the age cohorts were a 6% increase in the 55 to 64 age group and a 5% decrease in the 35 to 44 age group.

⁷ US Census Bureau

Figure 7: Population Age Distribution, 2000 - 2010⁸



HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

Population characteristics can influence community preferences for open space and recreation. For example, single-parent households may increase the demand for public recreation programs that can serve as childcare during work hours. A large percentage of individuals living alone may increase interest in organized adult recreational programs as people seek out social interactions. A high number of families with children can influence demand for playgrounds and youth recreation programs.

The following figure provides a snapshot of family and household characteristics. Despite a small increase in the number of households, the average household size has remained steady at about 2.23 people. The household characteristics in Newburyport that influence open space and recreation needs are the increasing number of individuals living alone as well as couples without children, increasing number of households with seniors, and a consistent proportion of the number of families with children.

⁸ US Census Bureau

Figure 8: Household Composition, 2000-2010⁹

Household Type	2000	2010
Total Households	7,519	7,622
Households with individuals under 18 years	27.2%	26.6%
Households with individuals 65 years and over	21.5%	26.5%
Family Households¹⁰	58.9%	58.2%
Married couples with children	20.4%	19.9%
Single parents with children	5.5%	5.5%
Married couples without children	27.3%	27.4%
Single head of household without children	33.0%	5.5%
Nonfamily households	41.1%	41.8%
Persons living alone	33.1%	34.4%
Persons not living alone	8.0%	7.4%

HOUSING

A recently completed Housing Needs Assessment (2012) identified some key housing trends that are useful for guiding the city's housing policies. Some of these trends can also help gauge open space and recreation needs.

- High level of owner-occupancy and average home prices remain high (\$420,000 for median single family home);
- Widening income gap of owners versus renters and approximately one quarter of households are spending more than one third of their income on housing.
- The number of single-family detached homes comprises 50% of all units.¹¹

Type and location of housing may influence the demand for access and availability of recreation areas and programs. For example, those in dwelling units with no yards or with shared community spaces may seek out public parks and recreation areas more frequently.

Housing needs can occasionally conflict with open space and recreation needs particularly in communities where available land is scarce. The Housing Needs study has identified a few strategies that could require balancing between housing and open space goals:

- Develop city-owned land, including tax title property, for affordable housing
- Explore "friendly" 40B projects
- Consider zoning changes
 - Inclusionary zoning
 - Smart growth/40R districts
 - Revisit density increases and bonuses in OSRD¹²

⁹ US Census Bureau

¹⁰ As defined by the US Census, a family includes a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

¹¹ City of Newburyport, *Housing Needs Assessment*.

INCOME, EDUCATION, AND OCCUPATION

The median household and family incomes for Newburyport are higher than the county, state, and region. Although the city's population has relatively high income levels there are still a significant number of low-income households. More than 10% of families have incomes of less than \$35,000. Poverty rates for children under 5 (5.9%) and seniors 65 years and over (7.7%) exceed the city-wide rate. These are important considerations for providing recreational opportunities that are easy to access and affordable.¹³

Figure 9: Household and Family Income, 2010¹⁴

	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	% of People whose Income is below Poverty Level
Newburyport	\$76,300	\$111,836	5.8%
Essex County	\$61,789	\$78,577	10.3%
Boston Metro Area ¹⁵	\$68,020	\$85,825	10.3%
Massachusetts	\$62,072	\$78,653	11.4%

- 17.8% of adults (population over 25 years of age) have no degrees beyond high school, 52.4% have attained a college degree or higher.¹⁶
- The unemployment rate is 6.0% as of January 2012, lower than the county (8%) and the state (7.7%) and has remained lower than the state and regional rates for the past 3 years.¹⁷
- The largest portion of the labor force (25%) is employed in the educational services, health care and social assistance industry sector. The manufacturing, retail trade, and professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services sectors each carry about 11% of the labor force.¹⁸
- The mean commute-to-work time for people who live in Newburyport is about 30 minutes, meaning that though some work within the city limits or in nearby communities many travel longer distances.

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ American Community Survey.

¹⁴ American Community Survey (US Census estimates) 5-Year estimates for Newburyport, 1-year estimates for county, state, and statistical area.

¹⁵ Census statistical area includes communities in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex, and Plymouth Counties in Massachusetts and Rockingham County in New Hampshire.

¹⁶ American Community Survey (US Census estimates) 5-Year estimates

¹⁷ MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, *Labor Market Information: Labor and Unemployment Data*. Note: this doesn't necessarily account for those who are self-employed, which is thought to be a high percentage of the workforce in Newburyport.

¹⁸ MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, *Labor Market Information: Employment and Wages (ES-202)* (as reported for second quarter 2011).

Location and type of employment as well as education level can influence how and when people chose to recreate. It is important for the city to continue to provide a range of open space and recreation options to meet the needs of people with different lifestyles and abilities.

Employers and local businesses can also be an important potential partner in supporting the city's recreation facilities and programs.

Major Industries

Figure 10: Top Non-Public Employers in Newburyport, 2011¹⁹

Company	Location	# of Employees	Industry Code
Anna Jaques Hospital	Highland Ave	1,000-4,999	6221
Mersen USA	Merrimac St	250-499	3344
Valspar Corp	Hale St	250-499	4249
Alden Merrell Fine Desserts	Graf Rd	100-249	3118
Andrea Raymond Apparel	Merrimac St	100-249	4481
Arwood Machine Corp	Parker St	100-249	3327
Berkshire Manufactured Products	Parker St	100-249	3327
Country Rehab & Nursing Ctr	Low St	100-249	6231
GreenCore	Opportunity Way	100-249	3119
ITW Foils	Malcolm Hoyt Dr	100-249	3329
Market Basket	Storey Ave	100-249	4451
Opportunity Workshop	Opportunity Way	100-249	6241
Port Healthcare Ctr	Low St	100-249	6231
Shaw's Supermarket	Storey Ave	100-249	4451

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

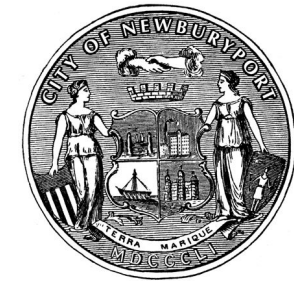
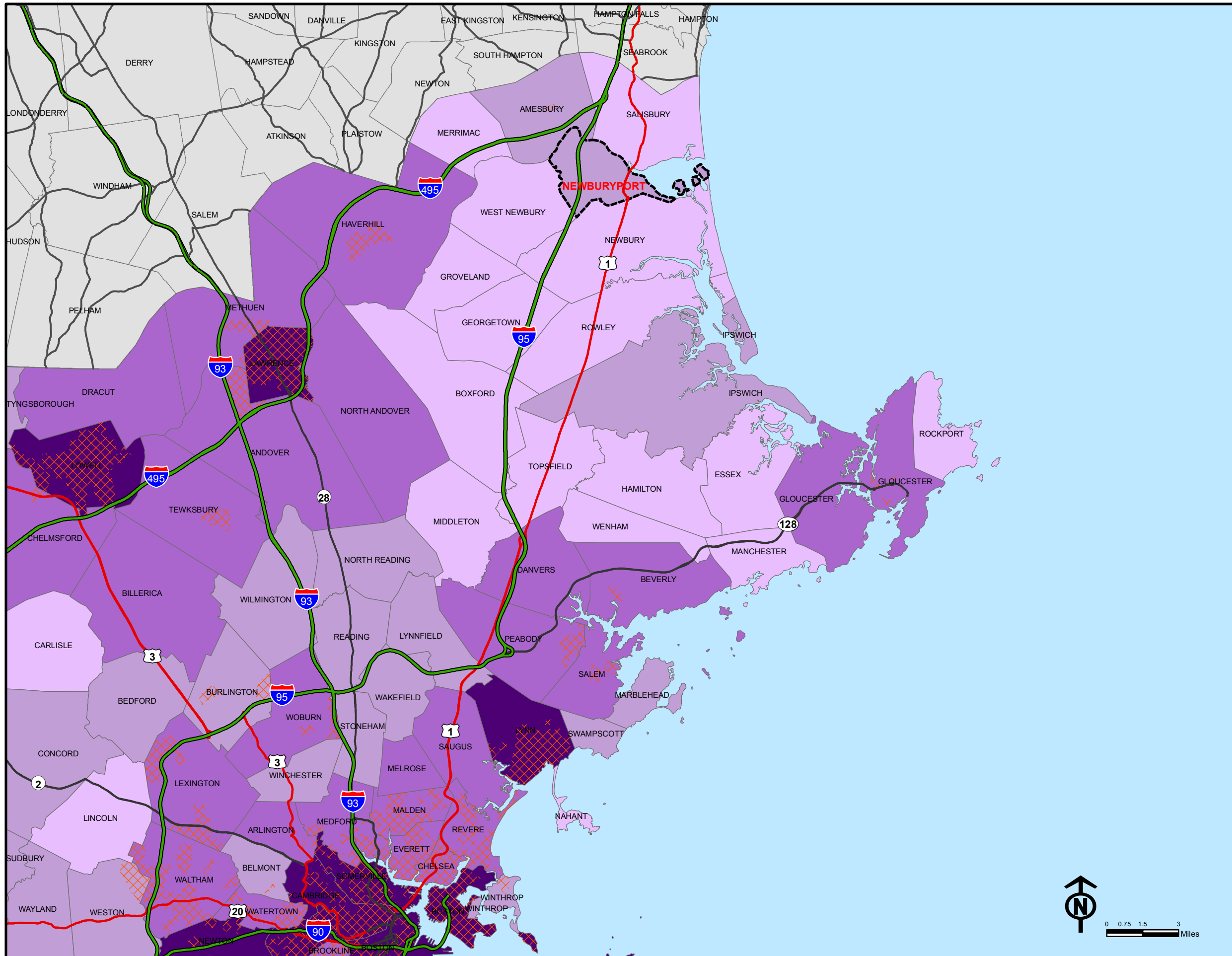
In 2002 the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) adopted an Environmental Justice Policy to provide equal protection and meaningful participation for all Massachusetts residents with respect to environmental regulations and policies. This policy also supports equitable access to environmental assets, which include parks, open space, and recreation areas.²⁰ The State has identified communities that contain Environmental Justice Populations (see Map 2) – those with high percentages of minority, non-English speaking, low-income, and foreign-born populations.

While Newburyport has a very small but growing minority population (628 or 3.6% of the total population as of the 2010 Census) and what appears to be a growing number of households at poverty level, it does not have any identified Environmental Justice communities (which would represent a combination of these characteristics). While Newburyport does not have any identified EJ populations, this plan considers ways to reduce any inequities in access to parks and recreation amenities.

¹⁹ MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, *Labor Market Information: Largest Employers by Area*.








²⁰ Full text of Environmental Justice Policy at <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ej/>.

MAP 2: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS



Map 2 Population

Legend

-  NH Cities / Towns
- MA Cities / Towns**
- 2010 Populaton**
-  < 2,500
-  2,500 to 9,999
-  10,000 to 24,999
-  25,000 to 64,999
-  > 65,000
-  Environmental Justice neighborhoods



Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport, Bing
Map is intended for City
of Newburyport planning
purposes only.

Growth and Development Patterns

PATTERNS AND TRENDS

The city's signature development identity is that of a historic seaport with barrier island, marshes, a large pastoral area, and forested river land. As mentioned, the 17th and 18th century dense seaport development pattern persists in much of Newburyport today, with the 19th century addition of mill buildings and some infill over time. From about the middle of the 19th century to the 1970s, the city's growth and development was limited by economic depression and decline.

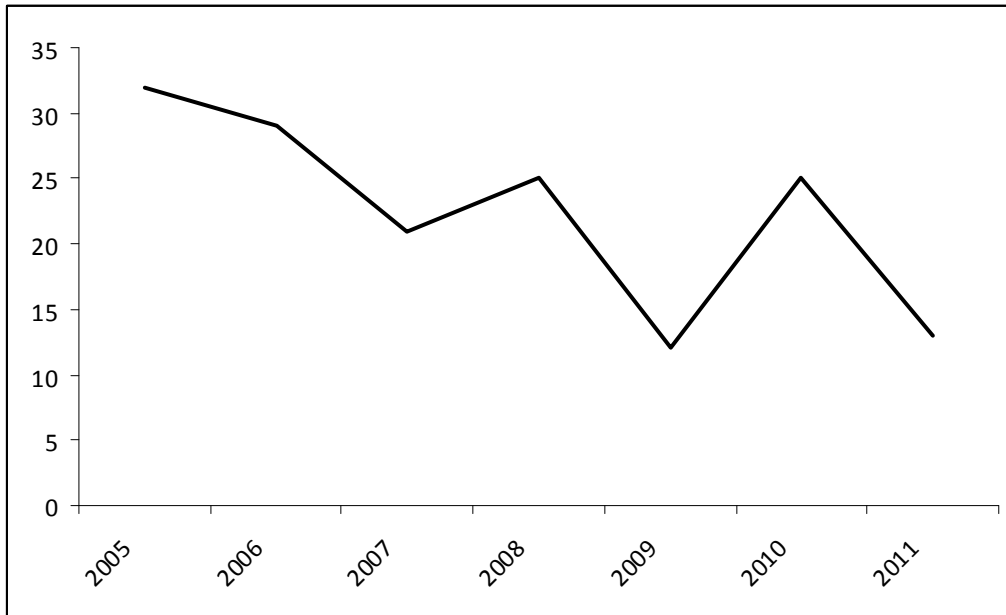
The latter part of the 20th century brought an innovative approach to urban renewal – clearing of central waterfront land and restoration of most of downtown -- plus the development of a business park and subdivisions spreading out into northerly parts of the Common Pasture and into the West End. The construction of Interstate 95 and nearby shopping plazas changed the character of the western part of the city.

Revitalization of downtown businesses in architecturally coherent buildings, together with cleanup of the Merrimack River, expansion of marinas, and improvement of waterfront parks transformed the downtown riverfront. Over the past century the community shifted from manufacturing and industry toward a service- and tourism-based economy.

Restoration of commuter train service to Boston in 1998 sparked more new development, primarily housing. More recently, city water and sewer service was extended to Plum Island, supporting an existing trend of conversion of summer cottages to year-round homes.

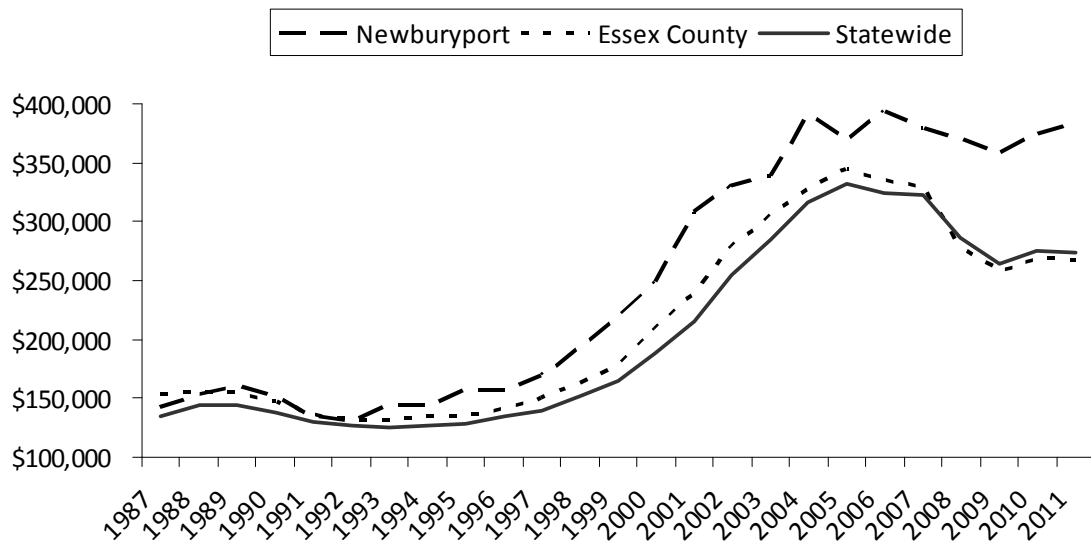
Development activity has continued, although the overall rate of growth has slowed.

Figure 11: Newburyport Building Permits for New Construction, 2005 - 2011²¹



In a community as built out as Newburyport, where housing costs remain high, demand for housing can sometimes present a challenge for open space protection efforts. Despite state and national trends to the contrary, Newburyport home sales prices have managed to stay relatively high through the recent economic downturn. While market demand may remain strong, land available for new housing development is scarce.

Figure 12: Median Home Sales Price (Calendar Year)²²



²¹ City of Newburyport Building Department, 2012.

²² The Warren Group, 2012

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation Systems

The city's location provides easy access to Route 95, Route 1, Route 1A, Route 113, and an MBTA commuter rail station, adding to its appeal to developers. The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority provides bus service to Haverhill, while C & J Trailways runs buses to Logan Airport and downtown Boston. The Council on Aging van meets certain local travel needs of seniors. Taxis and seasonal pedi-cabs serve residents and visitors. A pedestrian and bicycle trail links the train station with downtown and riverfront parks, and an envisioned second phase through the South End will provide a complete loop. Bicycle lanes run to Plum Island and along High Street. The small, historic Plum Island airfield provides the opportunity for a few residents to depart and arrive by small airplane. Active marinas and docks also allow boaters to use the Merrimack River as an access point to the city.

Parking

Parking has been an issue downtown and in nearby densely developed older neighborhoods, especially on "snow days" when street parking is not allowed, and during summer weekends and festivals. Providing adequate and convenient parking for shoppers is a key issue in future plans for the Central Waterfront as community members and planners weigh the appropriate balance between open space and new development. Many residents depend on open lots for off-street parking during snow emergencies, which can conflict with plans for re-use or re-design of some of the city's neighborhood parks.

In May 2011, the city instituted a paid parking program at public parking lots throughout downtown and on the waterfront to encourage more frequent turnover of parking spaces and increase opportunities for more short term parking. Current regulations are codified by two-year agreements between the city and the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority, and between the city and the Newburyport Waterfront Trust. Parking contracts will be reconsidered when the agreements are renewable in year 2013.

The city is exploring a partnership with Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority and a private landowner to construct a mixed-use downtown intermodal parking garage, however funding challenges have slowed progress on the initiative.

Transportation Improvement Needs / Projects

The city continues to consider some form of transit-oriented development in the area defined by the Route 1 traffic circle and the MBTA commuter rail station.

Several concepts currently being explored – including much denser development in the MBTA station/Route 1 traffic circle area and plans to stimulate the commercial/industrial sector in the business park -- may increase traffic in the Low Street/Graf Road area, a forecast consistent with earlier projections by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

The city also is moving forward with plans for a round-about at the intersection of Moseley Avenue, Spofford and Merrimac Streets. In addition, city officials are aware of traffic issues at Three Roads (High Street/Storey Avenue near Atkinson Common) and in areas near the Route 95 ramps.

The *High Street Master Plan* (2004) envisioned traffic-calming and other measures appropriate to the corridor's status as a state Scenic Byway, including tree planting, brick sidewalks, bike lanes and more. The city added bike lanes and "sharrows" (shared lane markings) to High Street in 2005.

The Essex National Heritage Commission recently led a regional planning effort to complete a corridor management plan for the *Essex Coastal Scenic Byway* which follows High Street, Green Street, State Street, and Water Street. With this complete, the Commission is pursuing designation of the byway as a National Scenic Byway, which would focus additional attention to management of and improvements to these streets.

The state is currently working on design details for the replacement of the Whittier Bridge, which allows Route 95 travelers to cross the Merrimack River. The existing six-lane bridge will be replaced with a new eight-lane structure matching the existing eight-lane roadway to the south. City officials, the non-profit Coastal Trails Coalition, and many individuals successfully advocated for multi-use cross-river corridor, serving bicycles and pedestrians, recently incorporated in the Mass DOT-approved replacement bridge. The new Whittier Bridge will include an improved river trail to be created under the bridge, cross-river connectors, and improved trails north of the bridge. The shared-used path across the bridge will connect Newburyport to the Amesbury and Salisbury rail trails.

Water Supply Systems

The city's drinking water comes from both surface water and groundwater supplies. The surface supplies, which make up eighty-percent of the water supply, are the Indian Hill Reservoir in West Newbury, the Artichoke Reservoir in both West Newbury and Newburyport, and the Bartlet Spring Pond in Newburyport. Surface water is treated at the water treatment plant on Spring Lane next to Interstate 95. Groundwater, which makes up twenty-percent of the city's drinking water, is supplied by two gravel packed wells (Well #1 and Well #2) located along Ferry Road in Newburyport.²³ The water supply system is currently undergoing a multi-phase \$18.75 million upgrade that includes regular maintenance as well as improvements to meet future water demand.

In addition, work was completed on the Plum Island water and sewer project, which now brings public water and sewer to the residents of Plum Island in Newbury and Newburyport.

In recent years, the Water Division looked at two sites off Hale Street as potential new ground water supplies: Cooper North Pasture and Newburyport's Wet Meadows property, both in the Common Pasture. Drilling and testing of both of these sites

²³ City of Newburyport Department of Public Services – Water Division.

indicated that further development of the sites for drinking water is not currently cost-effective.

In addition, the Water Division conducted a pump test on the Guilford rail trail site off Parker Street, land acquired in 2006 in part with a Community Preservation Act-backed bond issue. The test indicated that a potential yield of up to 250 gallons per minute may be possible. The city continues to evaluate this site.

The city is also working to increase protection around existing well sites: It recently acquired a conservation restriction on land near Well 1, and it is in the process of obtaining a conservation restriction on 99 Ferry Road, a parcel near Well 2.

The Newburyport Open Space Committee continues to work with the city's Water Division to protect other lands important to drinking water supply and quality, as is consistent with the 2002 Water Works Master Plan, which recommends that "the city should protect sensitive parcels of land through purchase, easement, conservation restrictions, and other protective mechanisms."

Sewer Service

Just as the city provides water service to virtually the entire city, so it provides sewer service. As mentioned above, the effort to bring city water and sewer service to Plum Island is now complete.

In June 2010, work began on substantial improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility at river's edge on Water Street. The two-year project has required the friendly taking of an abutting parcel, formerly a boat sales and storage site, for use as a staging area during construction and eventual use for a new operations, control, and laboratory building. The project includes some remediation/removal measures for petroleum-contaminated soils on the site. A Chapter 91 licensed pedestrian access was constructed in 2011-12 from Water and Lime Streets to a waterfront path near the American Yacht Club. Sections of a granite-capped wharf wall, part of the William Coombs Wharf, will be reinstalled at grade and interpreted by signage as part of the city's expanded Harborwalk.

In a 2008 study, Weston & Sampson Engineers estimated the future flows and pollutant loads to the wastewater treatment plant based on a 20-year planning period. The flow estimates included provisions for additional connections from Plum Island plus a population increase of eight percent and additional commercial/industrial development.²⁴ The engineers determined that the current design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant of 3.4 million gallons per day should be adequate to meet future flow and pollutant load demands in the 20-year period.

The city's sewer-use ordinance requires future developments to supply their own wastewater pumping and collection systems.

²⁴ City of Newburyport Department of Public Services – Water Division, Wastewater Treatment Facility Evaluation and Modification Study.

ZONING

The city of Newburyport first adopted zoning in 1941 and is currently divided into the following districts.

The Agricultural / Conservation district is intended to serve a dual purpose -- protection of existing agricultural land and restriction on development for lands with soils that have poor to moderate capabilities for supporting on site sewage systems. The Ag/C district has the lowest residential density requirement of all districts and is generally served by local streets only. Intensive land uses, uses that would detract from the desired agricultural/open nature of the district, and uses which would otherwise interfere with the intent of the district are prohibited.

The predominant land uses of the R-1 (single family) and R-2 (two-family) districts are intended to be single- and two-family homes. Minimum lot sizes are 20,000 s.f. in the R-1 and 10,000 to 15,000 s.f. in the R-2. These districts are primarily served by local roads.

Residential Three (R3) (multi-family) allows for single, two-family, and multifamily units at no greater than six (6) units per structure and generally fewer than ten (10) dwelling units per acre. This district, insofar as is possible, is located near or along major streets.

Business One (B-1) is intended to allow all types of customary business uses oriented toward either pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic. It also allows multifamily residential dwellings either alone or in combination with business uses. This district is primarily located along major streets.

Downtown Business (B2) includes retail, service, office and residential uses, at a scale intended to reinforce downtown's role as the focus of activity in Newburyport. Multi-use development is encouraged, such as the combining of residential and business uses. Activities are oriented to pedestrian traffic and to centralized parking. Businesses which consume large amounts of land and interrupt pedestrian circulation and shopping patterns, single- and two-family principal buildings or uses which would otherwise interfere with the intent of this ordinance are prohibited.

Neighborhood Business (B3) consists of neighborhood businesses and residential uses in proximity to residential uses and serves as a transitional zone between business and residential districts.

The Industrial District (I-1) allows uses requiring the manufacture, assembly, processing or handling of materials that, because of their operations would be disruptive to residential and other commercial uses. Commercial uses intended to service the industrial areas are also permitted.

The Industrial One District (I-1B) was created to allow the development of corporate office headquarters in the city. This zoning allows for a needed use/occupancy which the I-1 zoning district does not allow, specifically, corporate headquarters. The objective is to provide diversification in employment opportunities. Light manufacturing uses similar

to those allowed in the I-1 district are also allowed, but the corporate headquarters type uses are preferred.

The Industrial Two (I-2) District was created to legitimize existing older “pockets of industrial development” within the central city. The intent was to protect these uses allowed by right and not to place them in a non-conforming zoning status. The re-use of these pockets of industries is likely to occur over time and so non-industrial uses are allowed by special permit.

The General Acute Care Medical District (M-1) accommodates a general acute care hospital, a medical / dental professional building and associated and related uses.

The purpose of the Waterfront Marine Dependent district is to protect and enhance existing marine-dependent and marine-related uses along the waterfront. In addition, the expansion of existing marine uses, such as marinas, is encouraged, and the redevelopment of non-marine uses into marine-dependent/related uses is encouraged. Density bonuses may be allowed when public access is provided. Additional intents of this district include the protection and provision of public access and views. Finally, when a project involves residential development, the placement of residential units along the side streets in an overall development project is encouraged.

The purpose of the Waterfront Mixed Use district is to encourage the development of marine, civic, tourism and cultural land use activities which benefit from the location of the central waterfront and to enhance this area as the civic and cultural center of the city. Structures that are totally residential are not allowed in this district. Additional intents of this district include the protection and provision of access and views.

The Flood Plain District was established as a special district and includes all special flood hazard areas so designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program as of July 2012. The maps, as well as the accompanying city of Newburyport Flood Insurance Study, are incorporated in the zoning ordinance by reference.

The city has adopted an Open Space Residential Development ordinance, which provides density bonuses for developers in residential zones who set aside open-space areas according to specific criteria.

Plum Island Overlay District covers all properties on Plum Island. The purpose is to protect properties from flood waters and control intensity and density of use on Plum Island.

Three overlay districts have been adopted, which are applicable to projects applying for a special permit within specified geographic locations. The Federal Street Overlay District is intended to encourage adaptive reuse of historic properties and historically appropriate new development. The Waterfront West Overlay District was established due to the unique land use, historic, cultural and architectural resources of the properties located along the central waterfront and to encourage implementation of the recommendations of the 2001 Master Plan and 2003 Waterfront Strategic Plan. The

Towle Complex Residential Overlay District is intended to preserve and enhance the significant historic features and structures exhibited by the Towle Mill Building Complex.

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

Scheduled and Proposed New Development

Recently completed and pending projects are listed below. As stated above, while development in Newburyport has slowed, it has not come to a halt and developer interest continues to be active.

Figure 13: Projects Recently Completed or Under Construction²⁵

Project Name	Address	New Units & Brief Description
Avon/Low Street	2-8 Avon Street	3 (two-family and single-family)
Christian Science Church Property		3 (conversion of church to single-family and two additional single-families)
Oleo Woods OSRD Subdivision	Russell Terrace Extension	26 (24 single-family homes within subdivision, (1) two-family structure, and another single family on ANR lot fronting on new subdivision road)
Bracket Heel Building	84-86 State Street	3 (Conversion of vacant upper stories of former mill building)
Carr Island VI-C Development	386 Merrimac Street	1 (Condo unit added to second floor of commercial building)
	Total	36

Figure 14: Projects Approved but not yet Completed²⁶

Project Name	Address	New Units & Brief Description
Brown Street OSRD Subdivision	Brown Street Extension	4 single-family homes (roadway constructed; lots being marketed)
Hamilton Estates OSRD Subdivision	223 High Street	4 single-family homes (plans not yet endorsed; lots being marketed)
William Griffin Way	435 Merrimac Street	2 single-family homes
YWCA Market Street Housing Development	11 Market Street	5 new units (added to existing 5 unit building; project funded and should move to construction by late summer)
Parker Street VI-C Development	1-3 Parker Street	4 unit building
	Total	19

Potential Land Use Change (Buildout)

A buildout analysis is an estimate of the maximum amount of development that can theoretically occur under the existing zoning regulations. By itself, the buildout analysis

²⁵ City of Newburyport Office of Planning and Development.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

is not a prediction of the amount of development that will actually occur; but an estimate of the level and types of development that the city has stated, through its regulations, is acceptable. Maximum buildout projections under current zoning were included in the city's Master Plan and also undertaken by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC). Buildout projections in these sources vary based on whether environmental land constraints were included in the calculations, in addition to zoning restrictions.

Figure 15: Buildout Projections

	Total Dwelling Units projected at Buildout	Change from existing	Total Nonresidential Floor Area projected at Buildout	Change from existing ²⁷
Master Plan (2001)	9,968	1,704	11,196,362	4,358,878
MVPC (2000)	8,763	499	8,570,000	1,732,516

Most (86%) of the potential for non-residential growth is within the Business Park. The rest of the projected non-residential growth was largely concentrated within the High Street Corridor, which includes the Storey Ave commercial area. Most of the residential growth potential was projected for the High Street corridor and the North End.

The largest potential type of residential growth was forecasted to be through conversion of or additions to existing residential structures to add more units – also referred to as infill development.

Chapter 40B

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has established legislation for promoting affordable housing under the Massachusetts Comprehensive Permit Law (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B). This legislation allows developers to override local zoning if the project meets certain requirements, the municipality has less than 10% of its year-round housing stock defined as affordable in its Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI), or housing production goals are not met. Based on the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's most recent data on Newburyport's supply of affordable housing, the city had reached 7.8% of affordable units. Planned development should push Newburyport beyond 8%, but the city is still below the 10% threshold that would allow it to deny a comprehensive permit (40B) proposal.

Presently, the city is working on completing an affordable housing plan, which, once adopted, will enable the city to deny inappropriate comprehensive permit projects if it continues to meet housing unit production goals of at least .50% of its year-round housing stock in any one year. This provision applies for at least one year and for two years if 1.0% of its year-round housing stock is produced. Newburyport would have to

²⁷ Estimate of existing non-commercial gross floor area is 6,837,484 sq. ft. based on data from the City Assessors database as of January 2012.

produce at least 40 affordable units per year (80 units for a two-year period when 40B permits can be denied), a formidable challenge.²⁸

Land Use Plans

The negative impacts of new development can be profound if they are not guided with appropriate policies and land use regulations designed to protect natural resources, preserve historic features, and retain desired community character. The city has sought to guide future development and protect essential resources by undertaking different strategic planning efforts, and pursuing goals of the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan. These efforts recognize the need to adjust land use planning to direct growth to appropriate areas and to preserve the conservation values of critical open space areas.

The *Strategic Land Use Plan* (completed in 2004) recommends using a range of strategies to shift future development from a “green corridor” encompassing Newburyport’s Common Pasture and much of the Little River watershed area to a transit-oriented district centering on the MBTA station and the Route 1 traffic circle. A follow-up effort in 2005 (the *Little River Transit Village Study*) was undertaken jointly with the Town of Newbury and continued to explore adoption of zoning to encourage a transit-oriented mixed use development around the MBTA property.²⁹ Although the once-proposed transfer-of-development-rights strategy has been deemed too complicated to administer, discussion continues about this area.

A number of planning efforts over the years have considered desired scenarios for the central waterfront areas retained by the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority as well as portions of Waterfront Trust property.

The existing Waterfront Trust properties are dedicated under Article 97 of the Massachusetts state constitution; their uses may not be changed except by a Special Act with two thirds vote, the Governor’s approval, and showing of inability to fulfill existing Trust purposes. Only one part of the Waterfront Trust property, Riverside Park, could lawfully be changed to implement its primary purpose as a public park, where parking is also a permitted use.

Currently, the 3.75 acres of central waterfront lands under the jurisdiction of the Redevelopment Authority (excluding the Custom House lot) are primarily used for public parking. The key recommendations of the city’s *Waterfront Strategic Plan* (2003) included:

- protection of traditional marine-dependent uses, such as boatyards and marinas, from residential encroachment;
- establishment of a new framework of streets and paths to protect water views and extend access to the water's edge;
- creation of a vibrant mixed-use district on the water;

²⁸ City of Newburyport, *Housing Needs Assessment*.

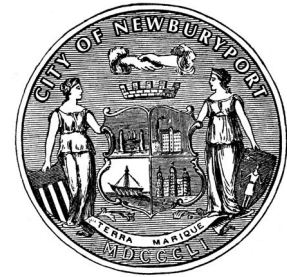
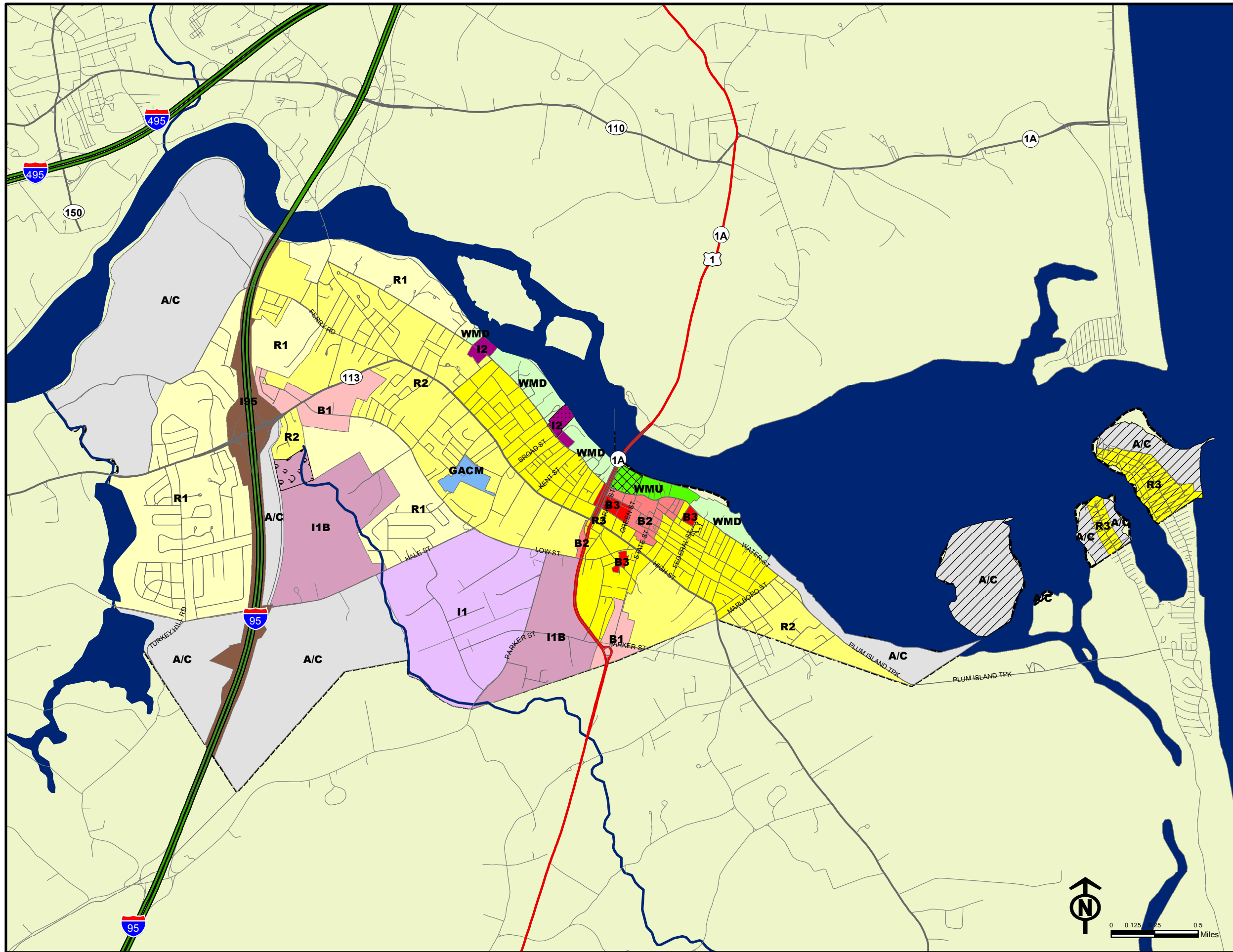
²⁹ City of Newburyport, 2004 and City of Newburyport and Town of Newbury, 2005.

- design guidelines and zoning amendments to ensure that new development reflects the city's historic character;
- extension of a two-mile Harbor Walk to link neighborhoods to waterfront parks and the downtown; and
- expansion and enhancement of an existing park to engage the water's edge.³⁰

The Newburyport Redevelopment Authority is currently working with Mass Development to pursue private development of limited portions of the waterfront parcels where gravel parking lots currently exist. The NRA's stated goal is to implement an economically sustainable redevelopment that results in an attractive, vibrant area including expanded public open space.

³⁰ City of Newburyport, 2003.

MAP 3: ZONING



Map 3 Zoning Legend

Zoning Districts

- A/C
- B1
- B2
- B3
- GACM
- I1
- I1B
- I2
- I95
- R1
- R2
- R3
- WMD
- WMU

Overlay Districts

- FSOD
- IB-ROD
- PIOD
- TCROD
- WWOD

Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport, Bing
Map is intended for City
of Newburyport planning
purposes only.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils, and Topography

TOPOGRAPHY

Newburyport's topography is generally typical of many coastal communities in northern Massachusetts. The topography is relatively flat with elevations varying from mean sea-level to 155 feet. Two USGS topographical maps cover Newburyport. They are Newburyport West, MA-NH 2009 and the Newburyport East, MA-NH 2009.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Because Newburyport is a coastal city located on lowlands, deposits of marine sand, silt, and clay abound. Soil ranges from low marsh deposits of mucky, fibrous peat to generally poorly drained deposits of non-stone, heavy clay, and silty material, for better drainage of glacial tills. Windblown and alluvial deposits of sand appear as dunes on Plum Island and occur in some areas bordering the Merrimack River. A ridge runs parallel to the Merrimack along much of High Street. Kettle holes occur at the Frog Pond at Bartlet Mall and in March's Hill Park. Rocky outcroppings can be seen in and around parts of Maudslay State Park. Large areas of the Common Pasture consist of wet meadows interspersed with upland areas. For the most part, soil areas best suited for development have already been developed, although certain areas of great conservation interest remain at risk.

More than 40 types of soil underlie Newburyport. Some types, such as "Whately," are found in a total of 2 acres (.05 percent). On the other hand, "scantic silts" are found in 784 acres (13 percent) in Newburyport. Each soil is categorized by characteristics such as kind, thickness, and arrangement of layers and horizons. These groupings, called soil series or associations, are named after the place where they were first found or studied. Newburyport is divided into six major soil associations.

Figure 16: General Soil Areas in Newburyport

	Acres	Percent
Merrimac-Agaway-Hinckley Association	2,200	39%
Scantic-Biddeford Association	1,400	25%
Paxton-Broadbrook-Woodbridge Association	700	12%
Tidal Marsh-Dune Sand-Made Land Association	612	11%
Hollis-Buxton Association	460	8%
Suffield-Buxton Association	308	5%
TOTAL	5,700	

Soil types in Newburyport occur in the following areas:³¹

³¹ USDA SCS, Soils and Their Interpretations for Various Land Uses: City of Newburyport, Massachusetts

Tidal Marsh-Dune Sand-Made Land Association comprises very poorly drained organic deposits and silts and clays subject to regular tidal flooding; drought, deep deposits or recently deposited sand, and areas filled by humans with stones, ashes, soil materials, and other refuse and debris. This general soil area occurs in the eastern end of the city in areas along the Merrimack River.

Dune Sand along the ocean shore is continually changed in shape and size by wind and wave action during extremely high storm tides. Some areas are partially stabilized by beach grass and other hardy shrubs while others are devoid of vegetation.

Merrimac Agaway Hinckley Association comprises well-drained and droughty soils formed in thick deposits of sand or sand and gravel. This soil occurs as one area reaching from the Merrimack in the northwestern part of the city to tidal marshes in the eastern part, including stream terraces, outwash plains, kames, and eskers.

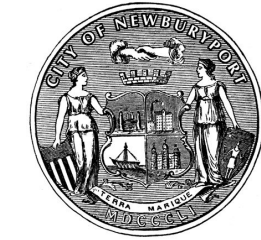
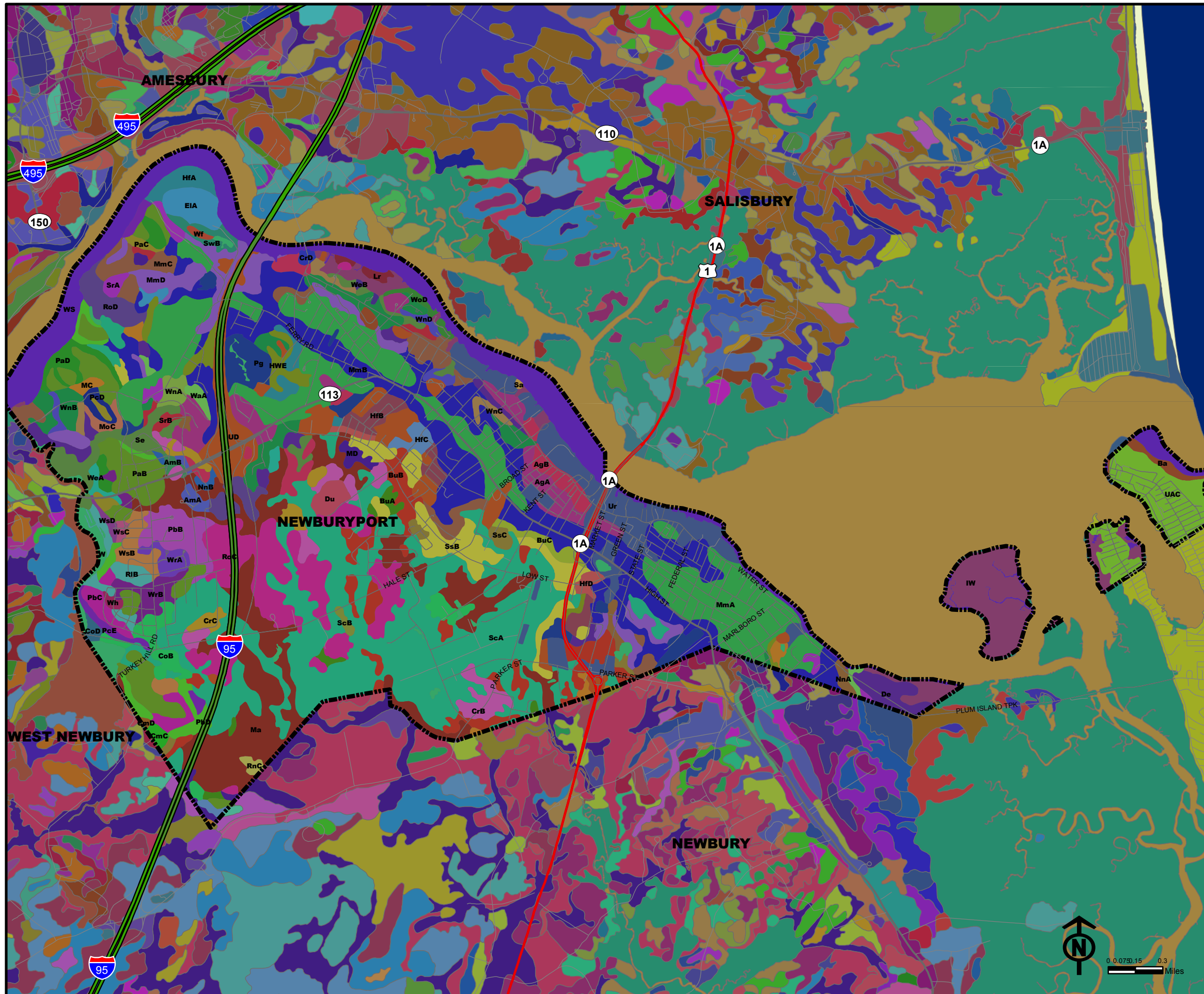
Scantic Biddeford Association comprises poorly drained and very poorly drained soils formed in silts and clays. This general soil occurs in the southwestern part of the city. Topography consists of old lake plains, old marine plains, and the intervals between areas of upland soils. Vegetation consists mostly of moisture-tolerant grasses. Most of the areas provide good wetland wildlife habitat or can be readily restored for this use.

Paxton-Broadbrook-Woodbridge Association comprises deep, well-drained, and moderately well-drained, stony soil formed in compact glacial till or in an Aeolian mantle underlain by compact glacial till. This general soil area occupies three areas in the western part of the city. The topography consists of rounded hills. The slowly permeable hardpan in these soils severely limits the downward movement of water and, at times, causes the upper soil layers to become saturated.

Hollis-Buxton Association comprises shallow to bedrock soils developed in a thin layer of glacial till with frequent bedrock outcroppings and moderately well-drained soils formed in thick deposits of silts and clays. This general soil area occurs as several small areas in the southwestern part of the city. The topography consists of small irregular hills or knolls.

Suffield-Buxton Association comprises well-drained and moderately well-drained soils formed in thick deposits of silts and clays. This general soil area occurs as a narrow band along the southwesterly side of the ridge on which the city is located.

MAP 4: SOILS



Map 4 Soils

Legend

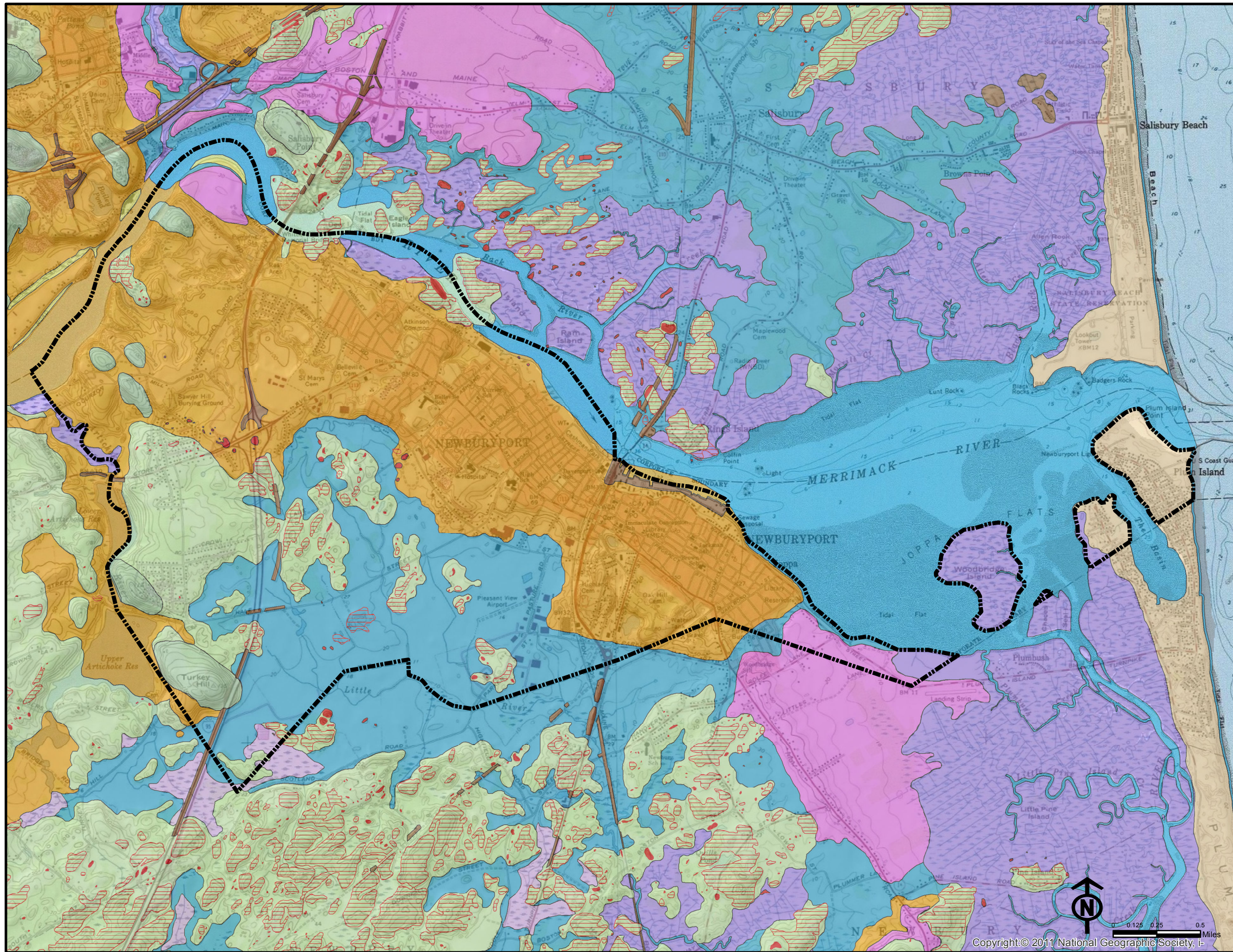
AgA	MD	SrA
AgB	Ma	SrB
AmA	MmA	SsB
AmB	MmB	SsC
Ba	MmC	SwB
BuA	MmD	UAC
BuB	MoC	UD
BuC	NnA	Ur
CmC	NnB	W
CmD	PaB	WS
CoB	PaC	WaA
CoD	PaD	WeA
CrB	PbB	WeB
CrC	PbC	Wf
CrD	PbD	Wh
De	PcD	WnA
Du	PcE	WnB
EIA	Pg	WnC
HWE	RIB	WnD
HfA	RnC	WoD
HfB	RoC	WrA
HfC	RoD	WrB
HfD	Sa	WsB
IW	ScA	WsC
Lr	ScB	WsD
MC	Se	

Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database was produced by the USDA, NRCS and cooperating agencies for the Soil Survey of Essex County North.

The depicted soil boundaries and interpretations derived from them do not eliminate the need for onsite sampling, testing, and detailed study of specific sites for intensive uses. This map and its interpretations are intended for planning purposes only.

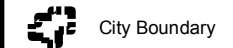
Prepared by Brown Walker Planners, Inc. September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS, City of Newburyport. Map is intended for City of Newburyport planning purposes only.

MAP 5: GEOLOGIC FEATURES



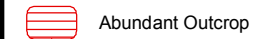
Map 5 Surficial Geology

Legend



City Boundary

Shallow Bedrock



Abundant Outcrop

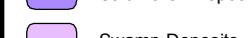
Postglacial Deposits



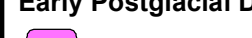
Artificial Fill



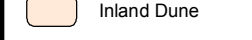
Beach and Dune Deposits



Floodplain Alluvium



Salt Marsh Deposits



Swamp Deposits

Early Postglacial Deposits

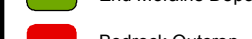


Marine Regressive

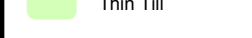


Inland Dune

Glacial Stratified Deposits



Coarse

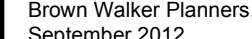


Glaciolacustrine Fine

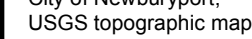


Glaciomarine Fine

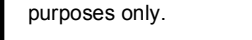
Till Bedrock



Thick Till



End Moraine Deposits



Bedrock Outcrop

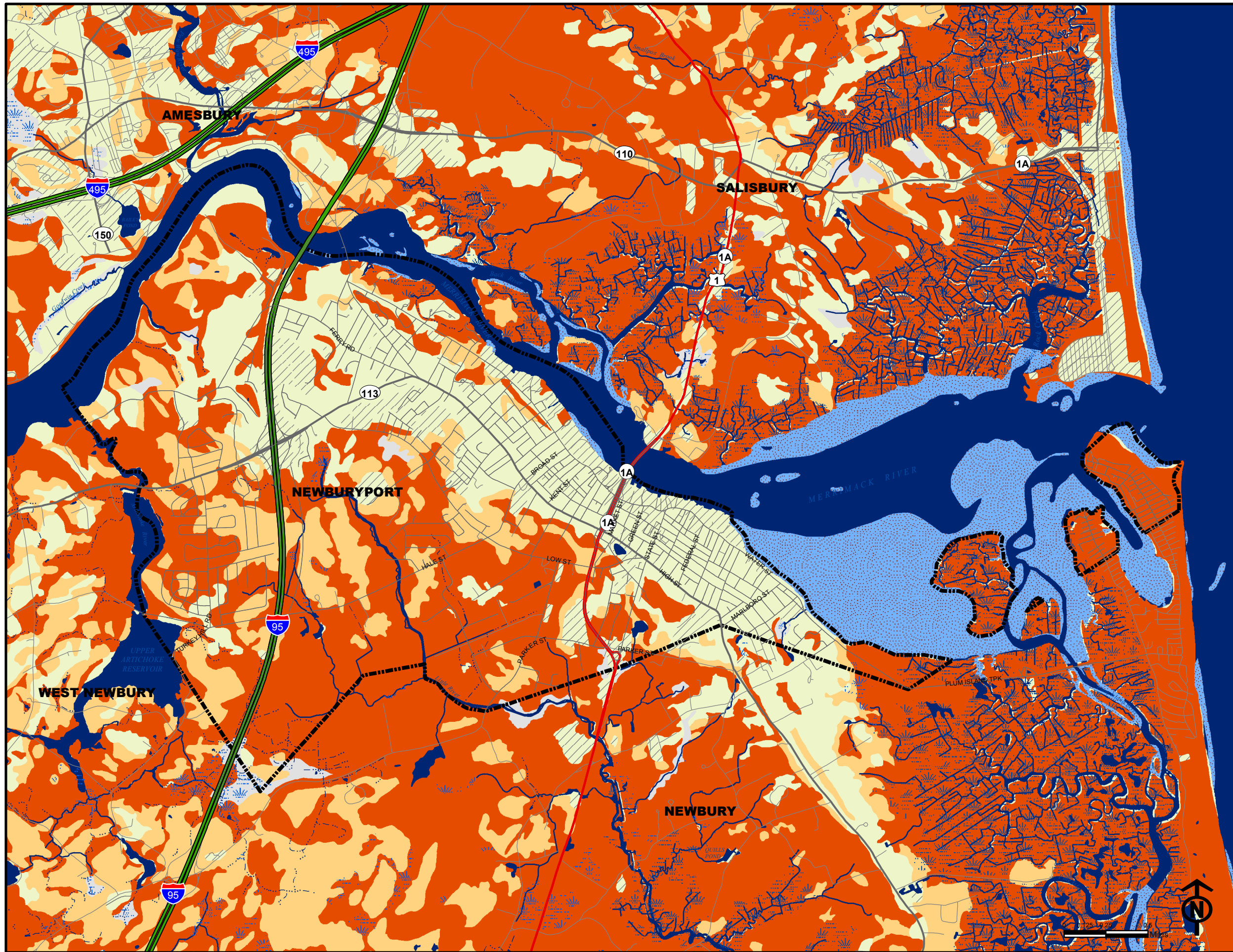


Thin Till

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Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012 Newburyport, MA

MAP 6: SOIL SUITABILITY



Map 6 Soil Suitability Legend

Water Bodies

- Pond, Lake, Ocean
- Wetland
- Tidal Flat

Soils

Building Limitations

- Moderate
- Severe
- Slight
- Unrated
- Urban Land

"Building Limitations" is based on soil suitability for a range of development types including housing with and without basements and small commercial buildings.

"Urban land" refers to areas where the original soil surface has been covered with impervious surfaces. It may also include areas where the underlying soil has been cut away or covered with another soil type or where the area has been disturbed significantly (including dumps and gravel pits).

Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database was produced by the USDA, NRCS and cooperating agencies for the Soil Survey of Essex County North.

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DISTINCTIVE LAND FORMS

Newburyport includes many distinctive landscapes -- beach and dunes, marsh, harbor, rivers, a substantial National Register Historic District, pastures and hayfields, forests, scenic byway, and more.

Newburyport's coastal zone consists largely of a barrier beach on the Atlantic Ocean and of the Merrimack River. This barrier beach, Plum Island, is separated from mainland Newburyport by the northern section of the Town of Newbury. Between the two fingers of land making up the Newburyport section of Plum Island is the Basin. Between Plum Island and downtown Newburyport one can see many beautiful salt marshes, including low-lying river islands and Joppa Flats. The terrain rises from the river at sea level through the densely developed and restored downtown to ridge along High Street, with a plateau where a city common, Bartlet Mall, is located. At the center of Bartlet Mall lies a kettle hole called the Frog Pond. (Another kettle hole occurs at March's Hill Park, also along the ridge.) Hills near Bartlet Mall have been used for centuries for cemeteries.



Path to Newburyport Beach

Moving upriver, the Belleville neighborhood, once called “the plains,” gives way to the forested Moseley Woods Park, city drinking-water well sites, and Maudslay State Park. Dramatic views of the Merrimack can be had from both Maudslay and Moseley Woods.

South of the High Street ridge, a large shallow “saucer” landform comprises much of the Common Pasture. A section of the Common Pasture has been developed as a business park, and farming still occurs in the fields, wet meadows, and pastures on the southerly and westerly sections. The Common Pasture viewed from Scotland Road in Newbury and Route 95 provides a signature pastoral landscape and entry to the community. This area is also well-known among birders for sightings of declining bird species.



Wet Meadow of Common Pasture

The Little River headwaters area between Low Street and Crow Lane (towards one section of the “rim” of the “saucer”) is rich with wildlife, including many larger mammals, blue-spotted salamanders, bobolinks, and meadowlarks.

Along with Maudslay State Park, mentioned above, the westernmost parts of the city include large tracts of single-family homes, plus historic Turkey Hill and the lovely Artichoke River and Reservoirs.

Water Resources

WATERSHEDS

Most water that falls on Newburyport land flows to either the Merrimack or Parker Rivers. From the ridge of High Street, the land slopes down on one side north to the Merrimack River and on the other side south to the Little River. To the west lies the Artichoke River watershed, which directs water to the north-flowing Artichoke and eventually into the Merrimack. Plum Island rainfall, of course, flows to the outer harbor or the Atlantic.

With headwaters emerging in the White Mountains, the Merrimack flows 115 miles before meeting the Atlantic Ocean in Newburyport. The entire Merrimack River watershed encompasses 5,010 square miles and is affected by 203 communities. Given this setting, water quality decreases downstream due to development, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, and impervious surfaces. Even so, efforts to clean up the river and identify sources of pollution have met with some success, as evidenced by the periodic reopening of the Joppa Flats clam flats for commercial clamming.

The Little River watershed has an entirely different character, with its saucer-like form defined on the northwest by High Street and Storey Avenue. The Little River drains much of the Common Pasture, a significant habitat of wet meadows. Beginning in the 1960s, parts of the Common Pasture and the Little River watershed were converted into a business park. The building of the Business Park required a network of drainage ditches to address frequent flooding. This watershed’s impervious surfaces now surpass

15 percent of the total area, which increases flooding, sedimentation transport, and non-point-source pollution.

SURFACE WATER

The Merrimack River, among the largest rivers in the Northeast, is the primary flowing body of water in Newburyport. It flows alongside the historic downtown area before it drains into the Atlantic Ocean. As the water approaches the western boundary of Newburyport, it is joined by the Artichoke River, which is dammed to create the Artichoke Reservoir, a public drinking water supply. The Artichoke water source is described more fully in the city's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report and in other recent studies.

The headwaters of the Little River originate on both sides of Route 95 north of Hale Street. The main branch meanders along the former Route 95 roadbed, near the Little River Nature Trail. One tributary starts behind the Storey Avenue shopping centers, another drains two small ponds. The Little River flows south through Newbury and enters the Parker River in the saltwater part of that river. The Parker, along with the Ipswich and Rowley Rivers, are the major sources of fresh water for Plum Island Sound, part of the Great Marsh ecosystem, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Several ponds are scattered across Newburyport. Bartlet Spring Pond, near Maudslay State Park, provides drinking water. The Frog Pond lies at the center of Bartlet Mall downtown. A pond in Oak Hill Cemetery drains to a stream that flows into Newbury. A small pond is located in the Business Park west of Graf Road. Several other small ponds occur in Maudslay State Park, on Water Division land, and in agricultural areas.

AQUIFERS AND AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

An aquifer is a groundwater supply capable of yielding a significant volume of water for a useful well. Aquifers of sufficient capacity to serve as a municipal water supply are scarce and found only in locations with certain geologic and hydrologic conditions. Most aquifers with such a volume were formed in valleys carved into bedrock millions of years ago by ancient rivers that drained the continent.

The city's Water Works operates wells on Ferry Road in Newburyport within two high-yield aquifers.

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

When a water body can no longer accommodate increased discharge from heavy rains or snow melt, the excess water flows onto the adjacent land. The land adjacent to streams, lakes or rivers that is likely to flood during a storm event is known as a floodplain. Floodplains are categorized according to the average frequency of flooding. Thus, the 100-year floodplain is the area likely to be flooded once every 100 years. In other words, there is a 1% chance that the land will be flooded in any given year.

Flood hazard areas present risks to people, wildlife and property that must be assessed and minimized. Unregulated development in a floodplain can increase the likelihood of flooding by adding impervious surfaces and increasing surface runoff into the stream

channel. In addition, water contamination from flood-damaged sewage or septic systems and debris swept downstream from flooded properties can result in unnecessary hazards to properties downstream.

Floodplains are delineated on the basis of topography, hydrology, and development characteristics of the area. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which were finalized in July of 2012. The revised maps reveal risk areas along the Merrimack, Artichoke, and Little River areas, as well as on Plum Island beaches. New maps indicate that flood zones in Newburyport have changed when compared with previously defined flood hazard areas. Newburyport has adopted a Floodplain Overlay District to regulate development in flood hazard areas as indicated on the FIRM.

Several floods in the Little River (1936, 1996, 2002, and some more recent) all surpassed the previous 100-year flood indication. Within the last few decades, developed areas near the Little River, including Scotland Road in Newbury, and Hale Street, have experienced significant flooding. Streets in the Quail Run neighborhood have been completely impassible on several occasions.

WETLANDS

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, and bogs and often lie within a floodplain. They serve not just as a sponge to soak up inundations, but also as protection for groundwater, to prevent aquifer pollution, and as habitat for wildlife. State laws support local protections of wetlands. The Massachusetts Inland Wetlands Protection Act provides the basic authority. Newburyport has adopted a wetlands ordinance that includes additional protections. Furthermore, certain wetlands have been designated as *restricted wetlands*, subject to additional regulation per state statute.

Eleven kinds of wetlands lie within Newburyport. Plum Island, Joppa Flats, and the Basin incorporate distinct wetland types, including Barrier Beach System, Barrier Beach Coastal Beach, Barrier Beach Coastal Dune Wetlands, Tidal Flat, and Salt Marshes. Along Water Street headed toward Plum Island, one encounters two areas of Shallow Marsh Meadow and a Coastal Bank Bluff, as well as a Deep Marsh wetland. The remaining wetlands in the city are mostly located along the Merrimack, Artichoke, and Little River (and its tributaries and headwaters), in the Common Pasture, and around small ponds. The wetland types in these areas are Shallow Marsh Meadows, Shrub Swamp, Wooded Swamp Deciduous, Deep Marsh, Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees, Coastal Bank Bluff, and Coastal Beach.

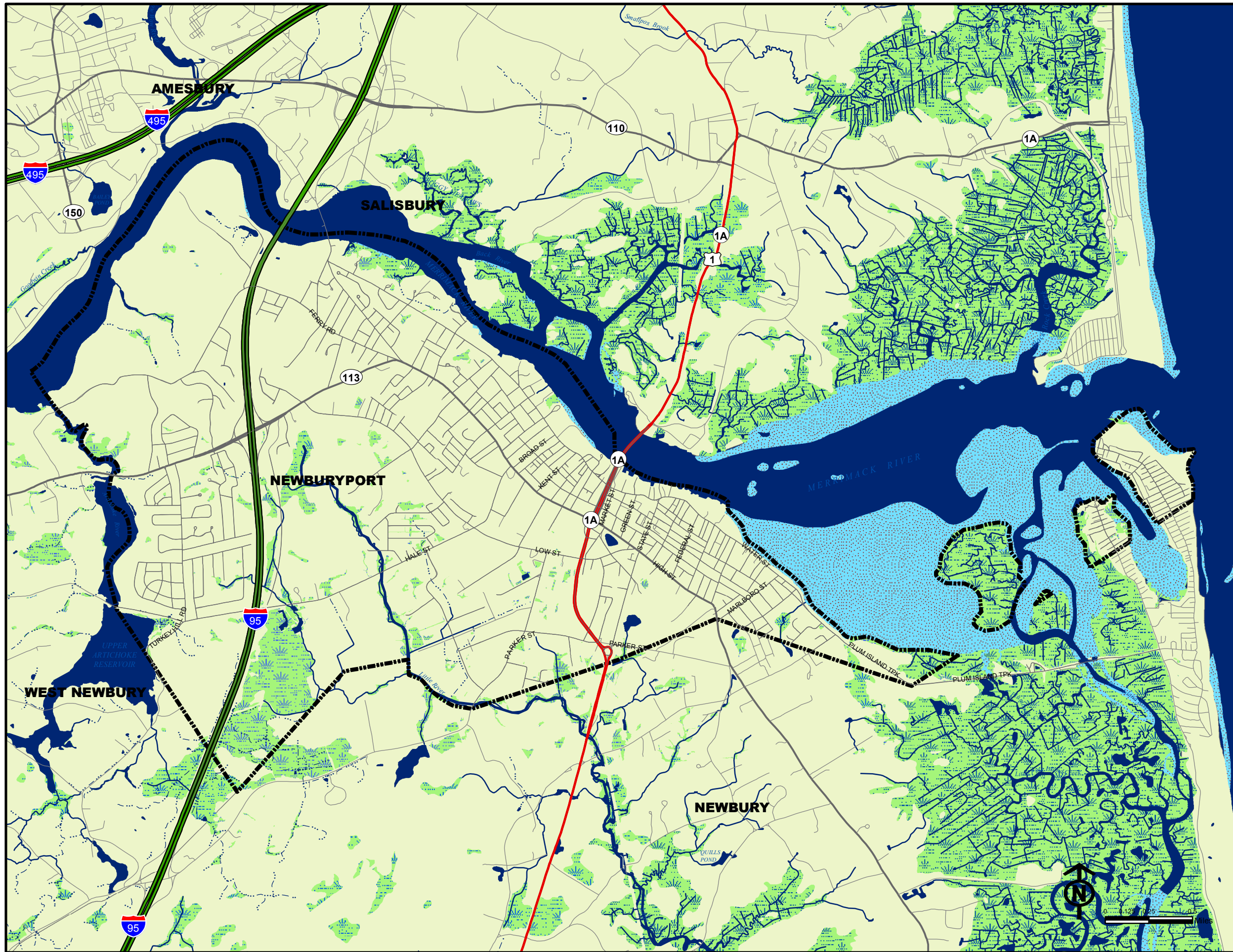
At least six vernal pools in the Little River watershed and the Common Pasture have been certified by the state Natural Heritage program.

Restricted wetlands

Parts of Joppa Flats, all of Woodbridge Island, and a small area near the Chain Bridge are Restricted Wetlands, on which permanent restriction orders have been placed under the Inland and Coastal Wetlands Restrictions Acts (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40A, and MGL Chapter 130, Section 105). The restriction orders provide added protection for

selected wetlands by prohibiting certain activities in advance of any work being proposed. The corresponding regulations can be found in 310 CMR 13.00 (inland) and 310 CMR 12.00 (coastal). The restriction orders have been recorded at the Registries of Deeds to inform future landowners of the restriction.

MAP 7: SURFACE WATER RESOURCES



Map 7 Surface Water Features

Legend

Water Bodies

- Pond, Lake, Ocean
- Wetland
- Tidal Flat
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream

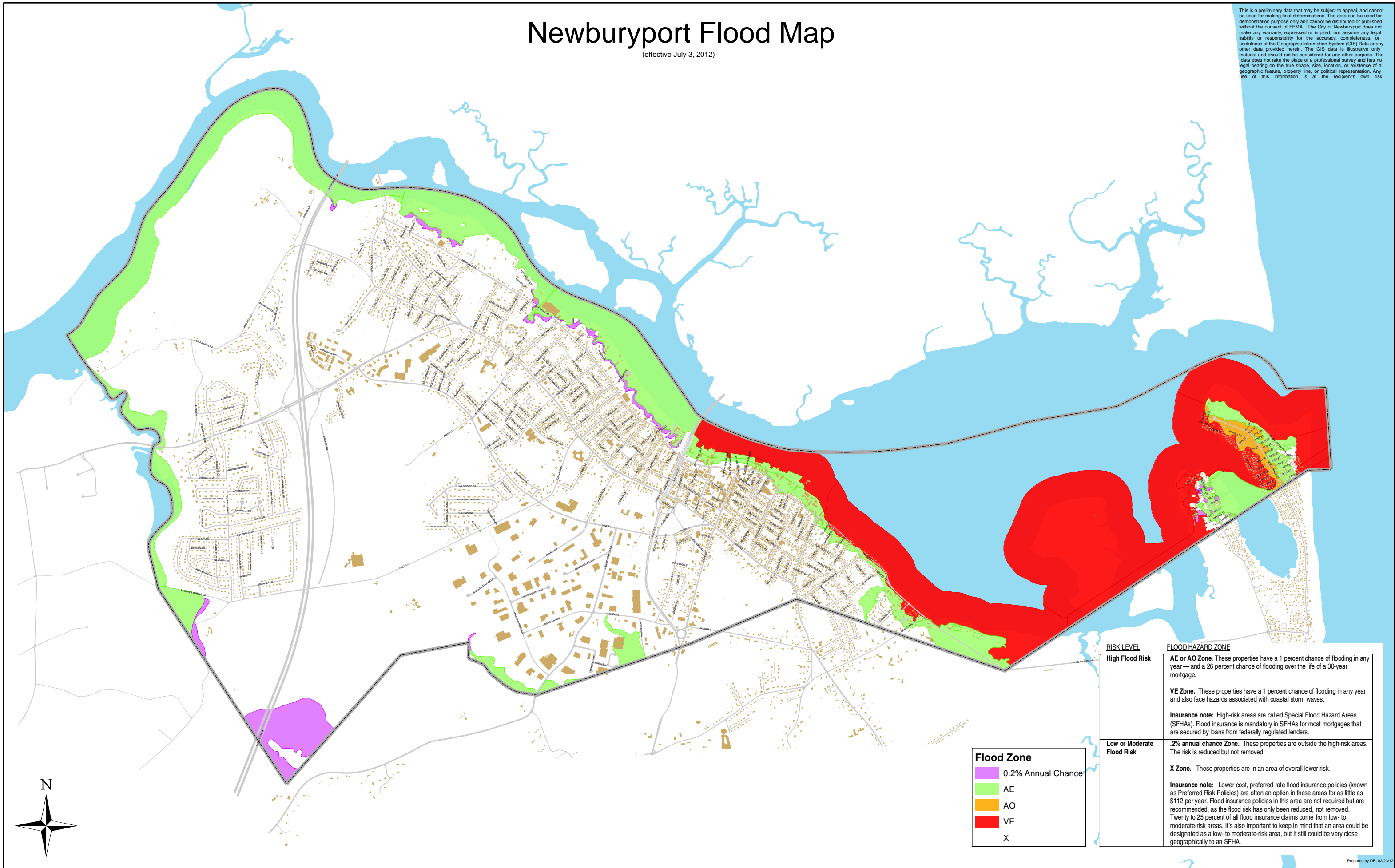
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MAP 8: FLOOD ZONES

Newburyport Flood Map

(effective July 3, 2012)

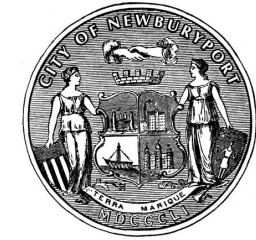
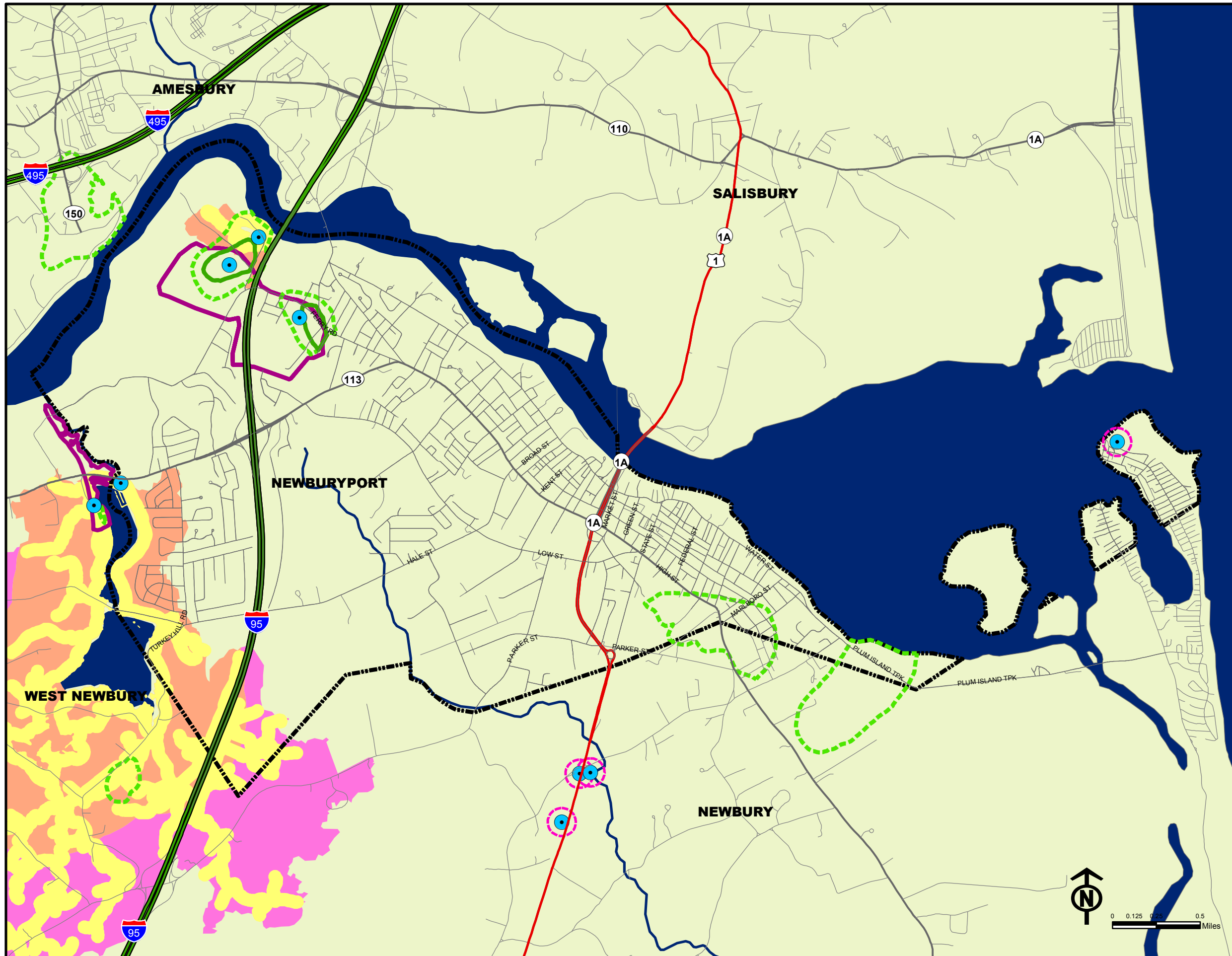
This is a preliminary data that may be subject to appeal, and cannot be used for making final determinations. The data can be used for demonstration purpose only and cannot be distributed or published without the consent of FEMA. The City of Newburyport does not make any warranty, expressed or implied, nor assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data or any other data provided herein. The GIS data is illustrative only material and should not be considered 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 existence of a geographic feature, property line, or political representation. Any use of this information is at the recipient's own risk.



Flood Zone	
■	0.2% Annual Chance
■	AE
■	AO
■	VE
■	X

RISK LEVEL	FLOOD HAZARD ZONE
High Flood Risk	<p>AE or AO Zone. These properties have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any year — and a 26 percent chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.</p> <p>VE Zone. These properties have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any year and also face hazards associated with coastal storm waves.</p> <p>Insurance note: High-risk areas are called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). Flood insurance is mandatory in SFHAs for most mortgages that are secured by loans from federally regulated lenders.</p>
Low or Moderate Flood Risk	<p>.2% annual chance Zone. These properties are outside the high-risk areas. The risk is reduced but not removed.</p> <p>X Zone. These properties are in an area of overall lower risk.</p> <p>Insurance note: Lower cost, preferred rate flood insurance policies (known as Preferred Risk Policies) are often an option in these areas for as little as \$112 per year. Flood insurance policies in this area are not required but are recommended, as the flood risk has only been reduced, not removed. Twenty to 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from low- to moderate-risk areas. It's also important to keep in mind that an area could be designated as a low- to moderate-risk area, but it still could be very close geographically to an SFHA.</p>

MAP 9: GROUNDWATER FEATURES



Map 8 Groundwater

Legend

Aquifers

- High Yield
- Medium Yield
- Public Water Supply

Wellhead Protection

- Zone 2
- Interim Protection

Water Protection Area

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C

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Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012 Newburyport, MA

Vegetation

Newburyport's urban landscape contains a wide range of native and cultivated species in gardens around the city including very large tree specimens. Various natural areas support a range of natural communities, and a few degraded landscapes host invasive species.

FORESTS AND TREES

The City Forest, Maudslay State Park, Moseley Woods, March's Hill, some of the Little River watershed area part of the Common Pasture, and private lands abutting these areas support stands of white pine, oak, maple, hickory, elm, and white birch. In addition, these areas include native flowering shrubs and wildflowers.



Moseley Woods

Public Shade Trees



Old Hill Burying Ground

Several cemeteries and city parks feature large historic trees, many having seen recent care by arborists, and many awaiting such attention. The Newburyport Tree Committee

is well into a multi-year effort to replace lost street trees in neighborhoods around the city.³²

The city has recently developed a city Tree Ordinance to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the regulation of trees, shrubs and other plants on public property and trees on private property that constitute a hazard to the public in a city right-of-way. The ordinance also extends to lawn trees that have been planted by the city or its representatives on private property with the permission of the property owner for the purpose of providing the benefits of public trees to the community. The ordinance highlights the value of public trees and sets standards and procedures for planting, maintenance and removal of trees, shrubs and other plants.

RIVER AND WETLAND VEGETATION

Newburyport contains several distinct marine wetland types, including Barrier Beach System, Barrier Beach Coastal Beach, Barrier Beach Coastal Dune Wetlands, Tidal Flat, Salt Marshes, Shallow Marsh Meadow, Coastal Bank Bluff, and Deep Marsh.

The Merrimack River itself contains a variety of plant life. Six species of green algae, two red algae, six brown algae, and twelve species of vascular plants have been cataloged in the river. The species of greatest importance in constraining is salt water cord grass (*spartina alterniflora*) that accumulates sediment deposits and over time changes a water environment to a terrestrial environment. A vast quantity of cord grass grows within the city's official boundaries, notably just east of the Chain Bridge and just east of the American Yacht Club. Thousands of acres of *spartina alterniflora* grow within the Merrimack and Parker River estuaries. Marshes restored by Massachusetts Audubon, as part of its development of the Joppa Flats Education Center, include several salt-water species. Each year, volunteers remove the invasive perennial pepperweed from certain coastal areas.

In addition to the marine vegetation described above, freshwater wetlands occur along the Artichoke and the Little River (and its tributaries and headwaters), and in the Common Pasture. The wetland types in these areas are Shallow Marsh Meadows, Shrub Swamp, Wooded Swamp Deciduous, Deep Marsh, Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees, Coastal Bank Bluff, and Coastal Beach. In addition, wetlands occur in many developed areas, including the Business Park, the "Kelleher Pines" neighborhood west of Route 95, Woodman Park, and in small cemetery ponds.

PASTURES AND AGRICULTURAL LAND

These areas include grasses and sedges, most notably a few occurrences of Long's bulrush (*Scirpus Longii*), a state-listed threatened species, as well as hemlock parsley (*Conioselinum chinense*), a state-listed species of special concern. The Business Park includes areas of invasive purple loosestrife, phragmites, and Japanese knotweed.

³² Newburyport Tree Committee, <http://www.newburyport-trees.com>.

Hayfields dominate fields in privately owned farms – Sweeney Farm and Turkey Hill Farm – in the Newburyport section of the Common Pasture. Arrowhead Farm near Maudslay State Park grows vegetables and some fruit (and also raises livestock).

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

The following figure lists the rare plants recorded in Newburyport by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.³³ However, many rare species are difficult to detect even though they are present. The Natural Heritage Program does not conduct methodical species surveys in each community on a consistent basis. Therefore, the fact that the “year last observed” has not been recorded should not lead to the interpretation that the species no longer occurs in a community. No federally-protected rare, threatened or endangered plants have been reported in Newburyport at this time.

Figure 17: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants³⁴

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Year Last Observed in Newburyport
<i>Aristida tuberculosa</i>	Seabeach Needlegrass	Threatened	2004
<i>Bidens eatonii</i>	Eaton's Beggar-ticks	Endangered	2001
<i>Bidens hyperborean</i>	Estuary Beggar-ticks	Endangered	1902
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	River Bulrush	Special Concern	1982
<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	Hemlock Parsley	Special Concern	2006
<i>Cyperus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge	Threatened	1981
<i>Elatine Americana</i>	American Waterwort	Endangered	2004
<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring-rush	Special Concern	1897
<i>Eriocaulon parkeri</i>	Parker's Pipewort	Endangered	1903
<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	New England Blazing Star	Special Concern	2000
<i>Rumex pallidus</i>	Seabeach Dock	Threatened	2006
<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Plymouth Gentian	Special Concern	1800s
<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i> <i>ssp. Spongiosa</i>	Estuary Arrowhead	Endangered	2004
<i>Scirpus longii</i>	Long's Bulrush	Threatened	2006
<i>Tillaea aquatica</i>	Pygmyweed	Threatened	1903

³³ Only rare species records that are fewer than 25 years old are used in Natural Heritage project review associated with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations (321 CMR 10.00).

³⁴ MA Divisions of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

Fisheries and Wildlife

MARINE HABITATS

The Merrimack River provides spawning and nursery habitat for anadromous fish species, including alewife, American shad, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon (endangered), blueback herring, rainbow smelt, sea lamprey, and white perch. Although two other anadromous species – shortnose sturgeon (endangered) and striped bass – are found in the Merrimack, evidence of their spawning has not been documented. American eels, a catadromous species, are abundant in the Merrimack Basin.

Annual anadromous fish runs in the Merrimack River occur primarily during the period from mid-March to the end of June. As a result, activities that generate excessive turbidity should be scheduled so as not to coincide with these fish runs.

Limited commercial clamming has been restored to Newburyport, in the Joppa Flats and Plum Island Basin areas.

The Merrimack River estuary is heavily used by many species of waterfowl. Some 7,000 to 8,000 ducks appear to feed on seed clams at peak periods in the fall and early winter. Birders frequently observe nesting and migratory waterfowl in the lowland fresh and salt-water marshes bordering on the rivers.

The designation of Important Bird Areas (IBA) by Mass Audubon is an indication of the number and importance of birds using these sites. An IBA is a site that provides essential habitat to one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. The Great Marsh has been identified as an IBA.

INLAND HABITATS

Forested areas and wooded riverbanks near Maudslay State Park support bald eagles, fishers, deer, opossum, and other species. Fireflies are abundant along the Artichoke River.

The Common Pasture and Little River watershed area contain some of the finest moist grassland remaining in Eastern Massachusetts. In early spring, the flooding of these grasslands provides outstanding habitat for a variety of waterfowl, most notably American widgeon, American black duck, mallard, northern pintail, and green-winged teal. In addition, according to biologist Wayne Peterson, under proper rainy conditions, large numbers of Wilson's snipe forage in the wet pastures, along with lesser numbers of greater yellowlegs and pectoral sandpipers. Though inconspicuous, the state-listed American bittern (threatened) may still nest, along with several other uncommon wetland species (such as Virginia rail). By early summer, bobolinks are regular nesters in the grassy portions of the sector, Peterson notes, and meadowlarks also nest in the areas.



Common Pasture

Other rare species, such as upland sandpiper, northern harrier, and barn owl, have been documented in the area. Vernal pools in the Little River watershed area provide a breeding area for wood frogs. This wet and forested area is also home to snakes, the spotted turtle, and the blue-spotted salamander.

In his *Nature of Massachusetts* (1996), Massachusetts naturalist Christopher Leahy specifically includes the Newburyport Common Pasture as a “place to visit” to see “one of the Commonwealth’s last remaining cultural grasslands.”

The few upland areas of the Common Pasture and Little River watershed area provide ideal upland habitat. Pheasant, rabbit, grouse, wild turkeys, red fox, gray fox, coyotes, and songbirds are fairly abundant in these areas.

Naturalist Bob Metcalf provided the following narrative about his visits to the Common Pasture:³⁵

I first visited the open space area bounded by Rt 95, Parker St and Storey Ave about six years ago. Since that time I have returned a dozen times or so each year either by myself or with groups of people on mammal tracking programs. In that time we have seen many animals there and have found tracks and sign of many others.

The area is especially interesting because of the abundance of small herbivores (Mice and Voles) and other prey species (squirrels, rabbits) which probably explains the high density of predator sign (Coyote, Fox, Fisher etc.) that we have found over the years. Also of interest is the possibility that this area is a major corridor for mammal movement.

[Animals identified in this area include] woodchuck, gray squirrel, red squirrel, Eastern cottontail, chipmunk, Northern flying squirrel, white-footed mouse, meadow vole, muskrat, coyote, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, fisher, ermine, mink, striped skunk, river otter, opossum, white-tailed deer, short-tailed shrew, short-tailed weasel, little brown bat, beaver.

CORRIDORS FOR WILDLIFE MIGRATION

Wildlife corridors are areas of contiguous tracts of land that provide habitat suitable to accommodate wildlife migration patterns. Major wildlife corridors in Newburyport follow the Little and Artichoke Rivers as well as undeveloped areas along the Merrimack (mostly northwest of Carr Island) and include their associated wetlands. In addition,

³⁵ Newburyport Open Space Committee

stream channels and wetland systems throughout the city also provide smaller pockets of wildlife habitat.

For a city as developed as Newburyport, the large tracts of forested land in the western part of the city are a significant asset and provide an important wildlife migration corridor. Interstate 95 is a barrier to this corridor and efforts to provide safe wildlife passage under this transportation corridor should be pursued.



VERNAL POOLS

Vernal pools are a rare ecosystem created by small depressions in the earth that temporarily collect seasonal precipitation. They are characterized by periods of dryness and a lack of fish, which allows for the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species. Vernal pool habitat is critical to a variety of wildlife species including some amphibians that breed exclusively in vernal pools, and other organisms such as fairy shrimp, which spend their entire life cycles confined to vernal pool habitat. Many additional wildlife species use vernal pools for breeding, feeding and other important functions. Vernal pool habitats occur in a wide variety of landscape settings, including forested swamps, bogs, and other wetlands. Many vernal pools have not been identified due to unfavorable conditions in landscape topography, pool physiography, and/or photograph quality.

Certified vernal pools are protected if they fall under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00). Certified vernal pools are also afforded protection under the State Water Quality Certification regulations (401 Program), the State Title 5 regulations, and the Forest Cutting Practices Act regulations. At this time, eight vernal pools have been certified in Newburyport (see Map 10).

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Two species, the Piping Plover and the Shortnose Sturgeon, sighted in Newburyport are on the Federal Endangered Species List. Many rare species are difficult to detect even though they are present, and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program does not conduct methodical species surveys in each community on a consistent basis.³⁶

³⁶ Only rare species records that are less than 25 years old are used in Natural Heritage project review associated with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations (321 CMR 10.00).

Figure 18: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Vertebrates and Invertebrates³⁷

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status	Year Last Observed in Newburyport
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow's Sparrow	Endangered		1974
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	Threatened		1978
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	Endangered		1990
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	Endangered		1984
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	Threatened	Threatened	2006
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	Threatened		1984
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	Endangered		1973
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	Threatened		1984
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	Special Concern		2007
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	Special Concern		1970s
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose Sturgeon	Endangered	Endangered	1990
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon	Endangered		1990

According to the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, important areas for endangered species include the Common Pasture, Joppa Flats, Plum Island, and wetland areas along the Merrimack River shoreline. These areas are considered to be both *priority sites of rare species habitat* and *estimated habitats of rare wildlife*. Priority sites are identified for the rarity of species occurring within the site, the number of co-occurring rare species populations, and the size and health of these populations. The areas of estimated habitats differ from the priority areas in that they are not sufficient for use with other types of regulatory review such as the filing of an Environmental Notification form under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.³⁸

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

BIOMAP2

BioMap 2 is a project developed by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and The Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program. The goal of the project was to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of projected effects of climate change.

³⁷ MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

³⁸ MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. *BioMap2*.

BioMap2 combines NHESP's data on rare species and natural communities with spatial data to identify critical wildlife species and habitat. BioMap2 also integrates The Nature Conservancy's assessment of large, well-connected, and intact ecosystems and landscapes across the Commonwealth, incorporating concepts of ecosystem resilience to address anticipated climate change impacts.³⁹

As shown on Map 10, BioMap 2 identified Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes. Core Habitat consists of areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems. It includes:

- Habitats for rare, vulnerable, or uncommon mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, invertebrate, and plant species;
- Priority natural communities (see below);
- High-quality wetland, vernal pool, aquatic, and coastal habitats; and
- Intact forest ecosystems.

Natural communities are defined as "interacting assemblages of plant and animal species that share a common environment and occur together repeatedly on the landscape."⁴⁰ NHESP currently defines 108 types of terrestrial (upland), palustrine (freshwater wetland), and estuarine (coastal salt-influenced wetland) community types across the Commonwealth. In the creation of BioMap2, conservation priority was given to types of natural communities with limited distribution — regionally or globally — and to the best examples documented of more common types, such as old-growth tracts of widespread forest types.

Critical Natural Landscapes consist of areas complementing Core Habitat including large natural landscape blocks that: provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes; maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience. Critical Natural Landscapes also include buffering uplands around coastal, wetland and aquatic Core Habitats to help ensure their long-term integrity.

Most of the privately owned land near the end of Curzon's Mill Road at the Artichoke River provides Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape. Large portions of the Common Pasture and Little River watershed area are also identified as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape.

UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Newburyport's geologic features range from the sand dunes on Plum Island and in some areas bordering the Merrimack River, the "Ridge", which runs parallel to High Street, and kettle holes at the Bartlet Mall and in March's Hill Park, and the wet meadows of the Common Pasture.

³⁹ MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

⁴⁰ MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, *BioMap2*.

SCENIC LANDSCAPES

Newburyport is rich in scenic resources and distinctive environments. In 1982, the Department of Environmental Management published a report entitled *Massachusetts Landscape Inventory - A Survey of the Commonwealth's Scenic Areas*.⁴¹ The purpose of This study devised a system for classifying landscapes worthy of protection and applied it throughout the Commonwealth. Much of the Common Pasture, as well as Joppa Flats, portions of the Merrimack River, and the Plum Island Turnpike were identified as Distinctive Landscapes.

Hilltops include March's Hill, Highland Cemetery, and Turkey Hill. Meadows occur around Curzon Mill Road, Hale Street, Low Street, and in Maudslay State Park. Coffin's Island, an upland at the southern edge of the Common Pasture, offers scenic views over the pastures and hayfields to the north.

Naturally scenic roads include Curzon Mill Road, Hoyt's Lane, Old Ferry Road, a section of Turkey Hill Road, and Plum Island Turnpike. Newburyport's densely built downtown core contains many scenic streets as well.

The 85-mile Essex Coastal Scenic Byway (ECSB) follows state and local roadways between Lynn in the south and Newburyport in the north curving along the coast and looping around Cape Ann. Recognized for defining qualities that make it distinctive and provide a unique (and appealing) travel experience, the ECSB has received state-level designation. In Newburyport the byway extends from Atkinson Common along High Street to Newbury. It also includes a loop down Green Street and up State Street as well as a spur along Water Street to the Plum Island Turnpike and out to Plum Island Point.

WATERFRONT LANDSCAPES

The shoreline of Newburyport changes dramatically throughout its length. Beginning at the Atlantic Ocean, the shoreline is characterized by Plum Island, a barrier land mass that contains extensive areas of sand dunes and beach grass. Sandy beaches line the Merrimack River near its mouth and are used for strolling, sunbathing, and surfcasting. The island forks at its northern boundary with "the Basin" separating its two points. Extensive marsh, tidal flats, and the Plum Island and Parker Rivers separate Plum Island from the mainland, with a series of small islands in between. The Donald Wilkinson Drawbridge, located on the Plum Island Turnpike, connects the island with the mainland.

⁴¹ MA Department of Environmental Management



A boardwalk across the sand dunes gives access to the beach

The area between Plum Island Point and the beginning of the federal (ship) turning basin near the American Yacht Club is known as Joppa Flats, the largest and most productive shellfish area in the harbor. The water's edge in this area is fairly natural, with the exception of the portion along Water Street.

The developed portion of the waterfront begins upriver of the American Yacht Club and sewer plant where the water's edge begins to exhibit structural alterations, including bulkheads, piers, boat ramps, and fill areas. This relatively densely developed urban edge of the Merrimack River extends from the American Yacht Club to just west of the Route 1 Gillis Bridge (connecting Newburyport to Salisbury). This area contains the downtown waterfront with various government, institutional, recreational, and commercial land uses.

Traveling upriver from the Route 1 bridge to the Chain Bridge (connecting Newburyport to Amesbury), development along the water's edge becomes less dense, although it is still characterized by structural alterations. This portion of the river's edge is dotted with scattered marinas, riprap slopes, and old wooden bulkheads. A boat launching ramp and pier are located at Cashman Park. Salt marsh areas begin to occur just west of Cashman Park. Beyond Jefferson Court heading upriver, the shoreline is principally in its natural state. Four of the river's islands are located along this segment, and waterfowl is abundant.

From the Chain Bridge, to the Whittier Bridge, to the West Newbury line, the riverfront contains a few large private lots, but is primarily local park, local water division, and state park land – the 480-acre Maudslay State Park. The shoreline in this segment of the waterfront is predominantly in its natural state.

The Merrimack River harbor area contains seven islands, most of which are located just outside city limits. Two of the larger islands, owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, offer no public facilities and experience minimal use. The remaining five islands are all privately owned. Of these five, only two are located within the city's corporate limits. Woodbridge Island and Chaces Island (privately

owned) support waterfowl hunting, due in part to their proximity to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.

CULTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC AREAS

Essex National Heritage Area

Newburyport is located within the Essex National Heritage Area (Essex Heritage), designated by the U.S. Congress in 1996 to recognize the quantity and quality of the region's historical, cultural and natural resources. These resources are categorized according to three nationally significant historical themes – Early Settlement (17th century), the Maritime Era (18th century), and the Industrial Revolution (19th century). Incorporating all of Essex County, the region contains 34 cities and towns and a resident population of 750,000.

Figure 19: Essex National Heritage Area⁴²



Local and National Historic Districts

Newburyport contains a National Register District, which includes over 2,500 properties and includes portions of the South End, Downtown, and North End. The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Administered by the Secretary of the Interior and maintained by the National Park Service through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the list includes individual buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that have been determined either to be locally, regionally, or nationally significant as they relate to American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.

⁴² Essex National Heritage Area.

Listing does not guarantee protection, which is the prerogative of the local community or property owner.

Established by a two-thirds majority city council or town meeting vote and administered by a local historic district commission, local historic districts are special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected.⁴³ Newburyport adopted one local historic district, the Fruit Street Historic District, in 2007 and is currently considering adoption of another local historic district that would include the downtown and the High Street corridor.

Heritage Landscapes

In 2005, the Common Pasture, the Curzon Mill area, the Old Ferry Road area, and the Joppa Flats/Plum Island Turnpike areas were among several areas identified as heritage landscapes by the state Heritage Landscape Inventory Program.⁴⁴

Historic Wharves

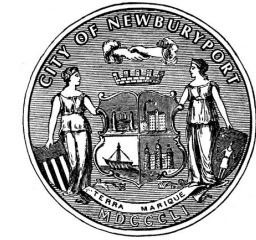
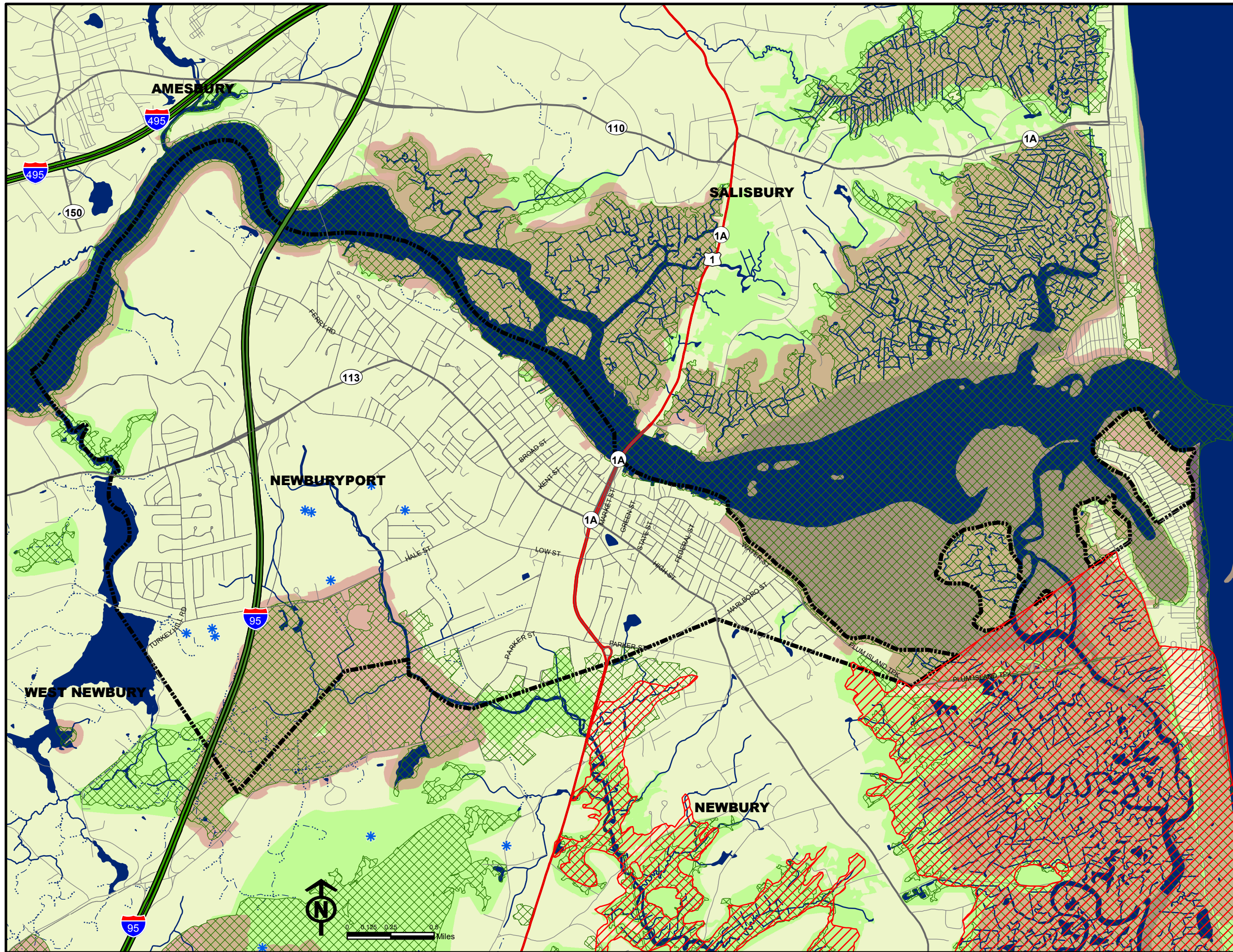
During the city's wastewater treatment plant upgrade in 2011, excavators uncovered evidence of Newburyport's historic Coombs and Bartlet wharves. Guided by an archaeologist from UMass, workers exposed timbers thought to be the bulkhead of a structure from the late 18th century known as Lower Bartlet Wharf. This discovery has prompted local efforts to preserve the remaining features of the wharf, map other historic wharfs, and provide interpretive displays along the future rail trail extension.⁴⁵

⁴³ The General Laws of Massachusetts (M.G.L. Chapter 40C - Historic Districts)

⁴⁴ MA Division of Conservation Services, 2005.

⁴⁵ Bill Harris (Newburyport Chapter 91 Committee) and Newburyport Preservation Trust

MAP 10: UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES



Map 11 Unique Natural Features

Legend

Certified Vernal Pools

Great Marsh ACEC

Critical Habitats



Estimated / Priority Habitats

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) identified habitats for rare wildlife and species



Core Habitat

Areas identified by NHESP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that support Species of Conservation Concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems

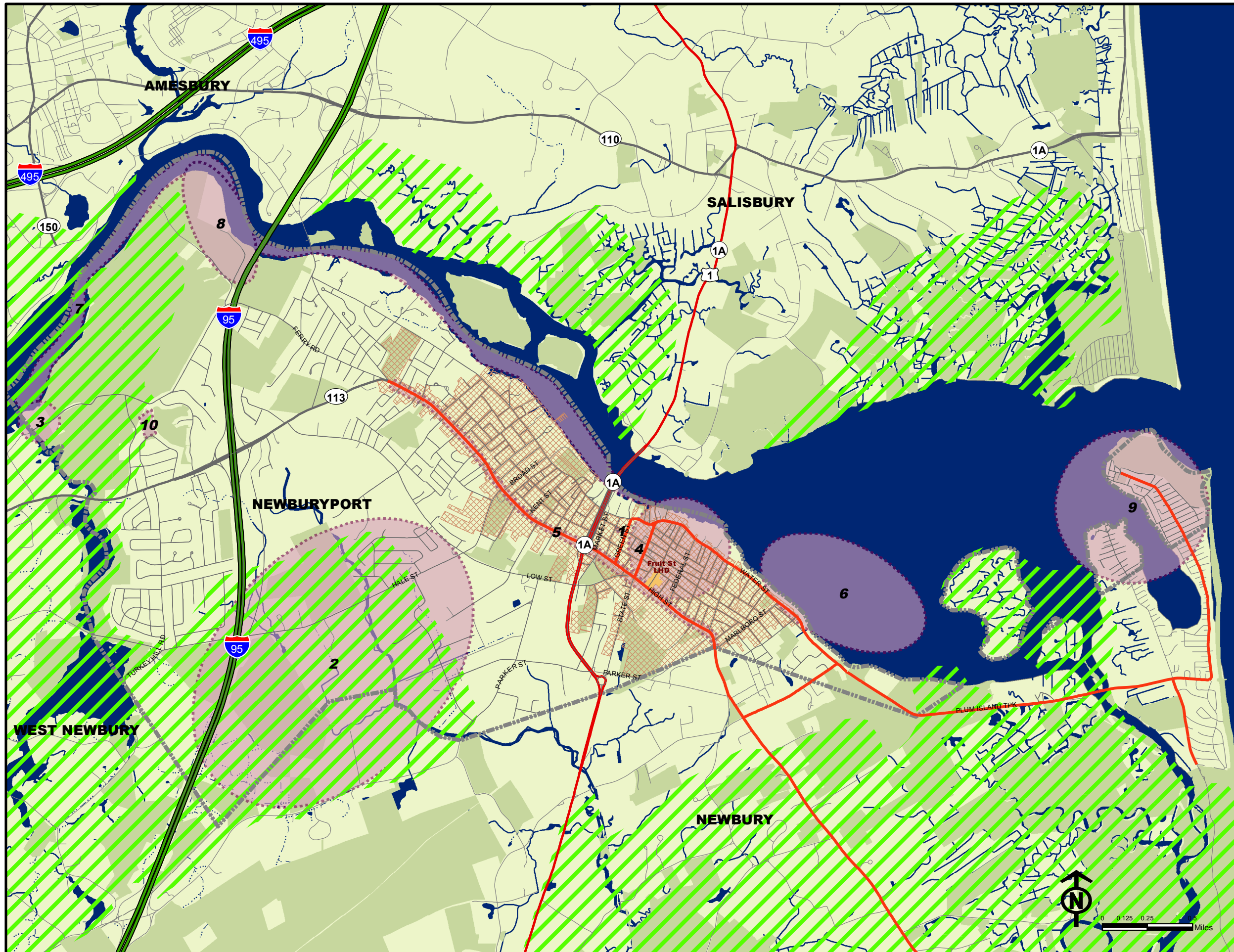


Critical Natural Landscape

Intact landscapes identified by NHESP/TNC that support ecological processes and disturbance regimes, and a wide array of species and habitats

Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport, Bing
Map is intended for City
of Newburyport planning
purposes only.

MAP 11: UNIQUE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES



Map 10 Unique Scenic and Historic Features Legend

Essex Coastal Byway

Historic Districts

- National Register
- Local

Scenic / Cultural Features

Distinctive / noteworthy landscape (MA Scenic Landscape Inventory 1982)



Heritage landscape / resource (MA Heritage Landscape Inventory 2005)



1. Brown Square
2. Common Pasture
3. Curzon Mill Area
4. Downtown / Waterfront
5. High Street
6. Joppa Flats
7. Merrimack River
8. Old Ferry Road Area
9. Plum Island
10. Sawyer Hill Cemetery

Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
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Data sources: MassGIS,
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Environmental Challenges

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND BROWNFIELD SITES

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Hazardous Waste, classifies oil or hazardous material disposal sites (or Chapter 21E sites) using a tier system. Tier 1 sites are considered to be high priority but vary in ranking from 1A to 1D. Tier 1A is assigned to those sites which pose the most serious environmental risk by impacting receptors such as air and water. These sites are closely monitored by DEP as they are the most environmentally critical. Newburyport does not currently have any Tier 1A sites. Tier 1B sites are also a concern to the DEP but do not require direct oversight by the DEP and are examined on a yearly basis. There is one Tier 1B site in Newburyport – the former Circle Finishing location at the Route 1 Traffic Circle. Tier 1C sites require an initial permit but ongoing response actions can be undertaken without DEP's oversight. Newburyport currently has one Tier 1C site – 260 Rear Merrimac Street. A site is classified Tier 1D if the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to DEP by a specified deadline. There is one Tier 1D site in Newburyport at 30 Carter Street.

Gasoline filling stations and other types of service or disposal uses which may pose environmental problems are primarily considered to be non-priority sites by the DEP, or Tier 2. This tier is the lowest priority with the DEP. While there is reason to be alert, the sites in this classification are generally disposal sites which have the least impact on the environment of all classified sites. DEP provides relatively little oversight in these cases, and the owner is responsible for cleanup and monitoring environmental hazards. There are four Tier 2 sites in Newburyport.

Other sites are classified as an RAO site. A RAO (Remedial Action Statement) asserts that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of no significant risk or at least ensure that all substantial hazards were eliminated for the current land use. There are a 115 RAO sites listed for Newburyport. Most of these sites are described as achieving a permanent solution to reach a level of no significant risk. For 10 of these sites (including the former Towle silver company site on Merrimack Street and the NRA parking lot on Water Street) the site has an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL). AULs are legal restrictions set by the MA DEP to limit future exposure to contaminants remaining at a site. Therefore, the cleanup requirements have been satisfied but would require additional efforts if the current use changed.

Another four of the RAO sites (including the National Grid site at 270 Water Street abutting Perkins Park) are described as a temporary cleanup. This means that although the site does not present a "substantial hazard", it has not reached a level of no significant risk. The site must be evaluated every five years.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ MA DEP, *Waste Site / Reportable Release Lookup*, 2012.

A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Brownfields designations resulted from the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund Act) of 1980. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (the Brownfields Law) amended CERCLA by providing funds to assess and clean up brownfields. The US EPA has identified five brownfields sites in Newburyport. Each of these is in various stages of assessment or cleanup. Sites are “assessed” for the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination, often referred to as “environmental due diligence” or environmental site assessment. Sites identified as “ready for reuse” been investigated and require no further action or have been cleaned up to meet site-specific cleanup goals.⁴⁷

Figure 20: Brownfield Sites in Newburyport

Former DPW YARD	129 Merrimac St	Assessed
FORMER B&M RAILROAD LINE	1.3 miles of rail corridor	Assessed
FULTON GRAVEL PIT	15 Hill St	Ready for Reuse
GREEN STREET PARKING LOT	Merrimac & Green Streets	Assessed
PERKINS POND	Beacon Ave and Union	Assessed

LANDFILL

A landfill adjacent to wetlands on Crow Lane, closed many years ago, is in the process of being capped, and many concerned officials and residents are monitoring the multi-year project. The site is in private ownership. (Today, refuse collected in the city is disposed of outside city limits.)

BEACH EROSION AND MANAGEMENT

Beach erosion along Plum Island is an on-going challenge for Newburyport and its coastal neighbors. Two stone jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River (north and south) help mitigate ocean currents and provide protection for the channel. They are also believed to help areas along the beach keep their sand in the general area. Newburyport, along with Newbury and Salisbury, has urged repairs to the jetties for several years, working through the Merrimack River Beach Alliance, which includes the three communities, area legislators, and local advocacy organizations. Recently \$3.5 million of federal emergency funding was earmarked for reconstruction of the south jetty. It is hoped that jetty repairs will allow sand to build up along the beach, providing a buffer to future wave actions.

The Newburyport Beach Management Plan establishes guidelines for appropriate beach management practices. The Plan establishes a framework in which the city can conduct sustainable recreation planning, facility improvements and maintenance activities within its coastal areas.

⁴⁷ US EPA, *Brownfields and Land Revitalization*, 2012.

CHRONIC FLOODING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The maps had not been previously updated since 1985. Neighborhoods across Newburyport are affected differently by these map changes. While some properties risk assessment has not changed, other properties are now mapped into a higher-risk area and/or show a new Base Flood Elevation and some properties are now identified in a lower-risk area than before.

The shoreline of Newburyport lies within flood hazard zones and much of it is subject to flooding during coastal storms. The shoreline from the Route 1 bridge past Plum Island to the Atlantic Ocean is subject to velocity wave action.

Stormwater runoff and flooding has caused significant damage to businesses in the lower Little River watershed. Recent work on culverts has helped reduce the impact of existing upstream development on flooding, but the conversion of more land to impervious surfaces is likely to exacerbate flood damage.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

Most new development has some impact on the environment, although many of these impacts can be minimized by strict enforcement of federal, state and local environmental regulations. Impacts occur during construction as vegetation is altered and topsoils are disrupted, allowing wind, rainfall and snowmelt to increase erosion and sedimentation. Ongoing major impacts are an increase in impervious areas, which can contribute to flooding, reduced groundwater recharge, and increased stormwater runoff; pollution potential from industrial processes; and loss of open space, tree canopy, and wetlands.

SEDIMENTATION

Sedimentation alters the physical features of a water body through modifications to the basin profile which affect water depth, surface area, circulation patterns, and flow rates. These physical challenges can have a significant effect on water quality due to the alteration of the natural self-purification process. Sedimentation can cause water quality impacts from an increase in suspended matter, high turbidity, nutrient enrichment, water temperature fluctuations and reduced concentrations of dissolved oxygen.

Sedimentation sometimes occurs as a result of construction activities. The Conservation Commission monitors construction activities and may require silt fences and hay bales where appropriate.

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION

Water pollution can generally be described as either nonpoint source pollution or point source pollution. Point source pollution refers to pollution attributable to a single identifiable, localized source, such as a discharge pipe. Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources and is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it accumulates natural and manmade

pollutants that are ultimately deposited into water bodies, such as wetlands, lakes, rivers and coastal waters, or find their way into underground water sources. Pollutants can include sediment from construction or other unprotected sites; fertilizers, oils, and other toxic chemicals; and bacteria and nutrients from pet and livestock waste; as well as failed septic systems.

Nonpoint source pollution is a major cause of water quality problems both in Massachusetts and nationwide. The most effective means of controlling nonpoint source pollution is thoughtful land management and includes tools such as Low Impact Development and Smart Growth strategies and bylaws, protective zoning, and best management practices for stormwater management, construction, septic operations and road maintenance.

More building in parts of the city is likely to increase non-point source pollution and sediment transport in the Little River, degrading its ability to serve wildlife needs and recharge aquifers. Water transported to Plum Island Sound is thought to be a source of pollution that regularly closes Plum Island clam flats. Improved retention areas are needed in both the upper and lower Little River watersheds. Recent runoff from the landfill, in the Little River watershed, is cause for concern. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has recommended continuous water monitoring to identify causes of pollution. Continued development based on existing zoning in this area invites the collapse of such ecosystem services as the reduction of flooding, water purification, ground water recharge, and wildlife support. Fragmentation of the Little River watershed is at a critical state.

As the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, the Merrimack River has come a long way from the days when industrial pollutants flowed regularly into the water. Nevertheless, much work is needed particularly as non-point source pollution, solid waste, and invasive species continue to impact water quality and ecosystem health of the Merrimack River watershed. A regional watershed planning initiative involving local and federal partners is working to guide investments in local environmental resources and infrastructure, with the goal of improving water quality and flow to support drinking water supply, recreation, fisheries, and aquatic life. Some of the recommendations include restoration of critical estuarine habitats, such as eelgrass and salt marsh, as well as restoration of soft-shell clam harvesting areas. Critical eel grass restoration areas include Joppa Flats. There are a number of shell fishing flats in Newburyport have been closed due to water pollution concerns.⁴⁸

Regional collaboration is also important as is evident from the March 2011 storm that resulted in an overflow of a sewer treatment plant in Hookset, NH. The overflow deposited millions of filter disks into the Merrimack that ended up on Newburyport's shoreline and marshlands and continue to be found today. Both the Town of Hookset and the State of New Hampshire cooperated in the mitigation of this particular hazard.

⁴⁸ US Army Corps of Engineers.

Sedimentation contributes to blocking the mouth of Newburyport Harbor. The Army Corps of Engineers dredged the mouth to maintain the federal navigation channel in 2011 and dredging is scheduled to continue on a more regular basis. The Newburyport Conservation Commission encourages grass swales to filter sedimentation out of storm water before discharging.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native invasive plants, those that grow rapidly and are difficult to remove or control once established, are often threats to forests and wetland areas, particularly in urban and suburban areas. When invasive species take over large areas of habitat, ecological processes are changed. Often invasives, force out the native species that provide food and habitat for local species. Plants identified as a threat to Massachusetts forests include Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).⁴⁹



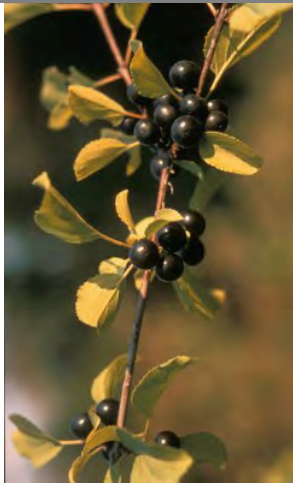
Japanese Knotweed along Little River Nature Trail

The following list includes species that pose the greatest threat to natural wetland, flood plain and stream bank communities in Massachusetts. Within wetlands invasive species include purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), phragmites or common reed (*Phragmites australis*), shining buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) and yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). Other invasive species threatening floodplains and stream banks include Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Japanese knotweed or bamboo (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), goutweed or Bishop's Weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).⁵⁰ Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) is a major agricultural nuisance in western states and is now threatening the ecological integrity of salt marshes throughout southern New England.

⁴⁹ Massachusetts Invasive Plant Working Group

⁵⁰ *Ibid*

Figure 21: Invasive Species Photo Gallery⁵¹



Common Buckthorn
(© Jean Baxter, NEWFS)



Goutweed or Bishop's Weed
(© Christopher Mattrick, NEWFS)



Shining Buckthorn
(© Christopher Mattrick, NEWFS)



Garlic Mustard (© Albert Bussewitz, NEWFS)









Purple Loosestrife (© NEWFS)



Japanese Knotweed (© John Lynch,

⁵¹ New England Wildflower Society.

	NEWFS)
 <p><i>Yellow Iris</i> (© Dorothy Long, NEWFS)</p>	 <p><i>Multiflora Rose</i> (© John Lynch, NEWFS)</p>
 <p><i>Phragmites</i> (© Jean Baxter, NEWFS)</p>	 <p><i>Morrow's Honeysuckle</i> (© Christopher Mattrick, NEWFS)</p>
 <p><i>Perennial Pepperweed</i> http://mvpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Perennial-Pepperweed-Handbook.pdf</p>	 <p><i>Japanese Barberry</i> (© Leslie Mehrhoff, NEWFS)</p>



Land trusts, land stewards, and land advocates including Mass Audubon, Eight Towns and the Bay, and the Parker River National Wildlife Reservation are currently teaming up on eradication efforts in Newburyport (plus Salisbury and Newbury) for both phragmites and pepperweed.

Phragmites and pepperweed, while different species, are often found in the same area and are similarly dangerous to area marshlands. Once established, pepperweed creates dense, single-species stands, excluding native species. These stands are able to secrete salts into the soils, raising the salinity to a point where most species are unable to grow. In addition, pepperweed creates poor habitat for native birds, insects and mammals. Once these native species are displaced, with no other suitable habitat, they can be lost forever. The reduction in habitat size results in a negative impact on local fish and waterfowl populations. In addition, pepperweed poses a risk to salt hay. Pepperweed is toxic to most livestock, and if it invades pasturelands, becomes a major agricultural and economic nuisance.

Similarly phragmites is also a highly competitive plant that grows rapidly, displaces native species, reduces biodiversity, offers little value for wildlife and chokes waterways. As phragmites spreads rapidly and fills in wetlands, water flow is reduced and the flood retention of the wetland is decreased. Phragmites stems can also trap sediments, causing the water body to become increasingly shallow.

FORESTRY ISSUES

Forests are important as they provide wildlife habitat and support biodiversity, help to regulate climate and assimilate pollution, protect water supply and quality, retain soil, and mitigate flooding. They also have important recreation and aesthetic value.

Winter moth infestations have occurred over the past few years and are expected to be particularly harsh whenever mild winters occur. Winter moths feed on many deciduous trees and shrubs found in Massachusetts, including oak, apple, elm, maple, ash,

crabapple, cherry, and blueberry. Unfortunately, effective biological control is many years away.⁵²

Other potential pests that could affect forested areas are listed below.⁵³

- Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)
- Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)
- European Woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*)
- Giant Woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)
- Mile-a-minute Weed (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Pine Shoot Beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*)
- Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*)

CHAPTER 91 AND WATERFRONT ACCESS

Newburyport, like many older Eastern seaports, has several historically filled tideland areas, and is former site of more than two dozen historic wharves. To accommodate the construction of wharves for shipping and shipbuilding activities, wooden crib bulkheads were constructed and filled. Major filling efforts occurred during the construction of the railroad spur on the waterfront in the 1870s, but additional discontinuances of public landings received state authorization in the year 1889. Although public landings were discontinued in the late 19th century, historic ways to the waterfront were generally extended to the new water's edge along the Merrimack River estuary.

The presence of filled tidelands is important in the context of MGL Chapter 91, which addresses waterways licensing and regulates coastal development. Chapter 91, administered by the state Department of Environmental Protection, protects the public's "common" rights in tidelands. Tidelands are defined as those lands found seaward of the original mean high tide line, including those that have been previously filled. They include land between high and low water lines known as private tidelands and the land seaward of the original low water line known as Commonwealth tidelands. The Commonwealth tidelands are public properties which are held in trust by the state for the use and benefit of all citizens.

Where filled tidelands are held by a political subdivision of the state – such as the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority – Chapter 91 regulations generally protect public rights in lands between the closest public street and highway and the tidal waters, hence between Merrimac Street or Water Street and the Merrimack River.

In administering these regulations, the state emphasizes public access and favors the development of water-dependent versus non-water-dependent uses on the tidelands. Market Landing Park and other lands owned by the Newburyport Waterfront Trust are located on commonwealth tidelands protectable under Chapter 91. This public space is used for concerts and other passive recreational activities. Historic "ways to the water"

⁵² UMass Extension Service.

⁵³ More information about these pests can be found at <http://massnrc.org/pests/factsheets.htm>.

and the waterfront boardwalk link the central waterfront site to the central downtown business area.

As part of the recent improvements to the city's waste water treatment facility, the city contracted with an archaeological specialist to align historic maps of Newburyport harbor and its wharves. The consultant recommended the city develop an historic wharves GIS database that could be utilized to mitigate future waterfront redevelopment projects within the city of Newburyport.⁵⁴

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent years, the city's leaders, business owners, and residents have expressed growing interest in becoming a more sustainable community. With growing global awareness about the likely impacts of climate change, sustainability initiatives are increasingly focusing on ways to reduce or offset contributing factors to global warming and to identify strategies for adaptation.

A number of groups in the city are working on sustainability measures. The Newburyport Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) studies, evaluates, and makes recommendations to the Mayor regarding energy conservation, energy efficiency, and/or conversion to greener energy sources. The EAC identifies policy implications and cost savings derived from potential energy conservation and investigates sustainable development measures and guidelines for local businesses and homeowners. With the EAC's endorsement, the city has supported the installation of more bike racks, purchase of greener vehicles for the city fleet, government building energy audits, mixed stream recycling, membership in ICLEI (International Cities for Climate Protection), and designation as a Green Community by the state. The EAC is currently completing a city benchmark of energy usage and emissions by sector and is working to become a "Net Zero" energy city by supporting a 5% per year reduction in emissions and consumption until 2028.⁵⁵

Newburyport is participating in Mass Clean Energy Center's Solarize Massachusetts program. The Solarize Massachusetts program provides an opportunity for homeowners and small businesses to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on their property at a lower cost than available elsewhere and a the choice to lease the system with low or no upfront costs.

Transitions Newburyport is part of a state-wide informal network across Massachusetts. Transition Newburyport is focused on reducing fossil-fuel dependence and creating a more fulfilling, socially connected, sustainable, resilient and self-reliant community. The group supports and promotes activities related to community education and skill building, local economy and food, resource conservation, and transportation.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Mullholland, 2011.

⁵⁵ Newburyport Energy Advisory Committee.

⁵⁶ Transition Newburyport.

The EcoCollaborative is a coalition of these two groups as well as other city commissions, volunteers, and business groups. It works to raise awareness, foster community participation, and contribute to the area's ability to differentiate itself as an eco-friendly, ecologically-minded region.⁵⁷

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Environmental equity as it relates to open space planning refers to the distribution of open spaces and the ease of access and quality of resources for different family types, income levels, and physical abilities. As discussed in Section 7, this plan considers ways to reduce any inequities in access to open space amenities.

⁵⁷ Greater Newburyport Ecocollaborative.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Why Open Space Planning is Important

In many cases, open space protection can be a reactive measure, mobilizing community funding to preserve the “last wetland” or “last farm.” This method can not only be costly, but can also result in disconnected fragments of conservation land. Establishing criteria for prioritizing open space parcels for protection allow the city and regional conservation partners to be strategic about which lands to acquire. Criteria focus on developing a network of large connected parcels of open space, which have higher ecological value. Because natural systems do not necessarily adhere to political boundaries, natural resource protection is often best achieved through regional collaboration. This approach emphasizes connections among natural habitat areas and corridors, plus collecting inventory information for sites of special importance, such as vernal pools and endangered or rare habitats and species. This work will often reach beyond municipal limits.

Newburyport possesses a wide array of public and private conservation and recreation lands. Property described in this inventory falls along a continuum, from land protected by rigorous legal means; to land that could be developed, although not readily; to land that has no protection but is of interest for conservation or recreation purposes. The degree of protection is noted on the matrix at the end of this section.

How Open Space is Protected

ACQUISITION

Public open space and park lands can be acquired by a number of means, including outright purchase and donation of land. Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected, provided they have been dedicated to such uses by deed. They may also be protected via a City Council vote to acquire them for conservation or recreation purposes and also if Community Preservation Act Funds are used in their acquisition, among other means.

Private, public, and non-profit lands that have been dedicated for conservation or recreation uses are protected under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution. In 1972, Massachusetts voters approved Article 97, which establishes that any state- or municipally-owned land taken or acquired for conservation or recreation purposes shall not be used for other purposes unless the Massachusetts legislature approves the change by a two thirds vote, among other requirements. Article 97 is intended to discourage lands acquired for these purposes from being converted to other inconsistent uses.

RESTRICTIONS

Conservation restrictions, known in most other states as conservation easements, are voluntary, yet binding, legal agreements between a landowner and a municipality or land trust. The landowner may be offered various incentives including direct payment, estate tax and federal income tax deductions, and property tax relief to keep parcels in an undeveloped state either in perpetuity or for a specified number of years. The owner keeps ownership of the land, while the holder of the restriction promises to enforce the terms of protection. The unique features of conservation restrictions are that they leave land on the tax rolls, preserve land without public ownership, and allow, in many instances, for public access. In Massachusetts, all conservation restrictions must be submitted according to the written procedures of and approved by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs.⁵⁸

Other restrictions governed by Massachusetts General Laws are historic preservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, and watershed preservation restrictions. Preservation restrictions are legal agreements to preserve a structure or site for historical significance and require approval by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. An agricultural preservation restriction (APR) applies to lands in active farming or forest use and must be approved by the Commissioner of Food and Agriculture. Watershed preservation restrictions protect public water supplies and are approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Newburyport was successful in protecting the Curzon Mill Road parcel next to Maudslay State Park; for example, in an arrangement including a conservation restriction held by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the use of Community Preservation Funds, which further protects the property. Similarly, three other successful campaigns to protect areas in the Common Pasture – Coffin’s Island, Cooper North Pasture, and Wet Meadows – all include multiple legal protections, as exemplified by those listed in the Coffin’s Island Management Plan. Essex County Greenbelt Association (a regional land trust) holds conservation restrictions on Cooper North Pasture and Wet Meadows. Other examples include the rail trail land, which was acquired with use of community preservation funds and other grants which specify the recreational intent of the acquisitions.

State Regulations

Portions of some parcels can be substantially protected by the state Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act. Land designated as Restricted Wetlands under the Coastal Wetlands Restriction Act (M.G.L. Ch.130, s.105) is also somewhat protected, assuming vigilance in monitoring. Similarly, the state’s Chapter 91 can help preserve access to historic tidelands.

⁵⁸ A conservation restriction, formerly known as a conservation easement, is authorized by Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For more information about conservation restriction approval in Massachusetts, refer to the Massachusetts Conservation Restrictions Handbook, MA Division of Conservation Services, 2008.

Moving farther along the continuum, lands under Chapter 61, while not protected, do offer the city the right of first refusal to meet a bona fide offer to buy the land or, in the case of conversion to a disqualifying use by the landowner, an option to purchase the land at full and fair market value to be determined by an impartial appraisal. Chapter 61, 61A and 61B of the General Laws of Massachusetts are tax laws that allow for significant reduction of property taxes for landowners willing to maintain their land as managed forest, agriculture, or outdoor recreation. If a landowner chooses to withdraw land from this classification, the owner must pay a penalty tax to the municipality equal to the number of years a reduced tax has been paid on the land. When the land is put up for sale, the municipality has a right of first refusal to consider whether or not to buy the land outright.

A detailed inventory of open space properties is included in the Appendix.

Private Parcels

Many significant privately owned open spaces add to the character of Newburyport. According to the city Assessor Database, 1,184 acres of privately owned (excluding non-profit) properties are vacant.

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS/PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

The Cherry Hill Homeowners' Association owns and manages 14 acres of open space along Daniel Lucy Way. This land is protected by a deed restriction.

The following developments have set aside protected open space as part of the city's Open Space Residential Development ordinance.

Figure 22: OSRD Properties

Development	Address	No. Building Lots	Protected Area
Oleo Woods	Russell Terrace Ext.	25	35.95 Acres
Brown Street	Brown Street/Wills Ln	4	2.439 Acres
Ferry Road	52 Ferry Road	2	26,988 SF
Hamilton Estates	223 High Street	5	1.4 Acres*

*31,728 square feet will remain primarily in its natural state. A 99-year exclusive use easement will be granted to the city for the remaining 30,768 square feet of open space adjacent to the Nock Middle School property for use as a playing field.

Approximately 28 acres of Arrowhead Farm has been protected since November 1993 by a conservation restriction held by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Essex County Greenbelt Association currently holds conservation restrictions on portions of the former Macomber property, at 97 High Street, and the former Wheelwright property (75 High Street).

The 25-acre Ferry Landing Farm on Old Ferry Road is under an APR with the state's Department of Agricultural Resources.

The city's Water Department holds a conservation restriction for the purpose of water protection on a 1.5 acre property on Ferry Road.

CHAPTER 61/61A/61B

Newburyport contains both Chapter 61A (agricultural/horticultural) and 61B (private recreation) properties, but no Chapter 61 parcels (forest).

Some 20 parcels (402 acres) are classified as Chapter 61A. Two-thirds of the qualifying land is tillable forage cropland. Other uses include pasture, truck crops, field crops, related lands and orchards.

Three parcels (10.5 acres) are classified as Chapter 61B. Most of this land is designated as a nature study area.

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Private marinas along the Merrimack River serve boaters in Newburyport. These include Yankee Landing Marina, Merri-Mar Yacht Basin, Newburyport Yacht Club, River's Edge Marina, Newburyport Harbor Marina, Windward Yacht Club, Hilton's Marina, and the Newburyport Boat Basin. Two private boat clubs, the North End Boat Club off Merrimac Street and the American Yacht Club off Water Street, also provide services.

Private recreation facilities include the Racquet Club, Hope Church (basketball court), the YWCA (pool and fitness center), Immaculate Conception (gymnasium), and a number of fitness centers that provide a variety of class-based and equipment-based indoor fitness. The Evergreen Golf Course, a public course on Boyd Drive and abutting I-95, is approximately 37 acres.

PRIVATE OPEN LANDS OF INTEREST FOR CONSERVATION OR RECREATION

Common Pasture

Significant progress has been made in protecting the Common Pasture, which extends into Newbury and West Newbury. The city's land-trust partners – including Essex County Greenbelt Association, the Trust for Public Land, The Trustees of Reservations, and Mass Audubon – as well as several grant-giving agencies and foundations, all recognize the conservation importance of the Common Pasture. Most of the parcels in this area are zoned agricultural/conservation.

The Open Space Committee has identified 16 parcels (337 acres) in Newburyport, south of Hale Street, of conservation interest within the Common Pasture. Eleven of these (313 acres) are classified as Chapter 61A lands (see above). The remaining five (24 acres) are either vacant or partly occupied by a single-family residence.

Little River Headwaters

The Open Space Committee has identified 13 properties (154 acres) of land near Crow Lane and Low Street that include the headwaters of the Little River. The land is bordered by developed areas and surrounds the city's compost/recycling area and the

landfill. While historically part of the Common Pasture, and while containing significant wetlands and habitat, this area is characterized by a mix of natural, agricultural, and developed spaces. Parcels fronting Low Street are currently used for a small farm that pastures horses and brokers hay, and by residences, schools, churches, and businesses.

Nine of these properties (88 acres) are classified as Chapter 61A lands. The remaining are vacant, although one lot (zoned industrial use) has been permitted for residential development under the city's Open Space Residential District, with the provision for a large open and wet area to be permanently protected.

Curzon Mill Area

Seven parcels, all zoned agricultural/conservation, make up this scenic, historic 20-acre wooded area surrounded by the Artichoke River and Maudslay State Park. The area, which includes wetlands and habitat, contains three historic houses and a historically significant mill, now used as a residence. Three parcels (10 acres) are under Chapter 61B.

Old Ferry Road Area

Five agricultural/conservation parcels in this part of the city total 77 acres near the Merrimack River, next to Maudslay State Park and city Water Department land. One of these is the historic Arrowhead Farm (28 acres), a portion of which has been protected since 1993 by a conservation restriction held by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. Another small property associated with Arrowhead is largely protected by a conservation restriction held by the city Water Department; much of that same parcel falls within Water Protection District Zones I or II.

Ferry Landing Farm (25 acres) is covered by an early version of an agricultural preservation restriction, held by the state Department of Agricultural Resources. The Open Space Committee is interested in strategies that would strengthen protections for this parcel.

The other properties, including a large historic estate on the Merrimack River, are of historic preservation interest as well as conservation interest.

Woodbridge Island

This 127-acre marshland on the Merrimack River, zoned for agricultural/conservation use, is divided into five lots held by two owners. An important part of the estuary, it sees some use for private "camps" for duck-hunting. It is a state Restricted Wetland. Although this island would seem to be little threatened, the Open Space Committee has identified it as a conservation property of interest to enhance monitoring of the Restricted Wetland designation.

Cherry Hill

In response to recreation goals of Newburyport's 2005-2010 Open Space & Recreation Plan and a request by then-Mayor John F. Moak to identify open-space areas for additional playing fields, the Newburyport Open Space Committee early in 2008

identified eight to nine acres of state-owned land between the existing Cherry Hill soccer fields and I-95.

The committees produced a Preliminary Proposal for Cherry Hill Park in 2009. Several public meetings were held throughout the process. Due to neighbors' concerns, the proposal did not go forward at that time. However, the need for additional recreational fields continues to be a priority and the current administration is working to reconfigure the fields adjacent to the Nock / Molin School for the creation of a new ball field.

Kelleher Pines

This property includes wetlands surrounded by houses, with likely access from Frances Drive. These 55 lots make up roughly 15 acres, zoned for residential use. As the character of this land includes wetlands, it should be considered only for sensitive passive use, such as boardwalk trails or other nature-related recreation.

Landfill

The state Department of Environmental Protection and a private owner are currently completing a multi-year task of capping the landfill off Crow Lane. In the long term, the landfill may present public use opportunities or options to install solar panels or other alternative energy.

Historic Gardens and Lawns of High Street

Extensive and historic gardens and backyards along the High Street ridge represent an important heritage landscape that reflects a significant period in Newburyport's history. Essex County Greenbelt holds conservation restrictions on a few of these properties.

Public and Nonprofit Parcels

MUNICIPAL LAND

Conservation Land

Name	Size (Acres)
City Forest	40.36
Little River Nature Trail	55.81
Common Pasture Coffin's Island	13.58
Common Pasture Cooper North	101.76
Common Pasture Wet Meadows	125.76
Curzon Mill Rd Conservation Land	5.85
TOTAL	343.12

Curzon Mill Conservation Land

The city in 2004 purchased a 5.85-acre parcel of forested land on the Artichoke River, abutting Maudslay State Park, formerly under Chapter 61B. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation holds a conservation restriction and manages the land. This property is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.

Common Pasture

These properties are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.

- Coffin’s Island is a wooded upland jointly owned with Newbury.
- Cooper North Pasture is a combination of woods and hayfields north of Hale Street. Essex County Greenbelt Association holds a conservation restriction. Portions of the property are licensed to farmers for late haying to maintain the grasslands habitat and historic use.
- Wet Meadows is a pasture south of Hale Street. Essex County Greenbelt Association holds a conservation restriction. Property is licensed to farmers for pasture to maintain the grasslands habitat and historic use.

Little River Nature Trail

This open space corridor, which provides a nature trail along the former I-95 route, is under the jurisdiction of the Newburyport Conservation Commission.



City Forest

This forested upland site off of Hale Street is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and includes some trails.

Water Department Water Resource Land

Name	Size (Acres)
Land along Artichoke River and Storey Ave	25.77
Ferry Road former well	16.30
March's Hill Water Tower	2.34
Ferry Road abutting Moseley Woods	34.80
Plummer Spring Road	28.28
Old Ferry Road	11.08
TOTAL	118.57

City Parks and Recreational Areas

Generally, the city’s parks and non-school athletic fields are under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission and maintenance is provided by the Department of Public Services. In some cases, a city-appointed commission oversees additional management for specific parks. Maintenance and upkeep are sometimes overseen and funded by private

organizations. More detailed descriptions are provided for most of the city's parks and recreation areas in the Appendix.

Name	Size (Acres)
Atkinson Common & Pioneer League Fields	21.14
Atwood Park	0.66
Bartlet Mall/Washington Park	7.27
Brown Square	0.59
Cashman Park	12.52
Cherry Hill Soccer Fields	9.50
Clipper City Rail Trail	5.00
Cushing Park / Ayer's Playground	1.80
Harborwalk	0.50 (miles)
Inn Street Mall	1.25
Future Rail Trail Extension (Phase 2)	7.65
Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground	0.25
Joppa Park	0.50
March's Hill	6.34
Market Square / Bullnose	0.20
Moseley Woods	13.00
Perkins Park	8.00
Tracy Place	0.15
Woodman Park	9.37
TOTAL	105.19

- Atkinson Common. Victorian-era formal park. Management and maintenance supported by the city-appointed Atkinson Common Commission with private funding from the Belleville Improvement Society.
- Pioneer League Fields. Part of Atkinson Common, baseball fields are located off Merrimac Street with a small tot lot. Management and maintenance supported by the Pioneer League.
- Atwood Park: Small neighborhood green space with tennis and basketball courts.
- Bartlet Mall/Washington Park. Colonial common/militia training field evolved into a formal Victorian-era designed landscape framing one end of downtown, with Frog Pond at center. Management and maintenance supported by the city-appointed Bartlet Mall Commission.
- Brown Square. Small historic downtown square in front of City Hall.
- Cashman Park. Regionally popular riverfront park with playground, tennis courts, playing fields, and a state public boat launch monitored by the Harbor Master.
- Cherry Hill Soccer Fields. The field was constructed by and is managed and maintained by the Newburyport Youth Soccer Association.
- Clipper City Rail Trail. This is a 1.1 mile multi-use pathway running between the MBTA commuter rail station and the waterfront at the Route 1 bridge over the Merrimack River. Future phases to extend the trail are in the planning and design phase.

- Cushing Park/Ayers Playground. Neighborhood park with playground, small area with trees and grass, basketball courts, and large parking area used for snow emergencies.
- Harborwalk. A recently completed section of the Harborwalk runs from the terminus of the Clipper City Rail Trail at the waterfront under the Route 1 bridge to connect with downtown, where pedestrians and bicyclists can pick up the Boardwalk at the Central Waterfront. The Harborwalk also extends along the riverfront at Cashman Park from the Route 1 bridge to the North End Yacht Club. Another short segment connects from Savory Lane to the Newburyport Yacht Club.
- Inn Street Mall. Downtown pedestrian corridor with fountain and play structures, surrounded by shops and restaurants.
- Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground. Playground at Plum Island Point. Nearby boardwalk provides universal access to beach. Site is on state land, but managed by the city.
- Joppa Park. Linear waterfront park along the seawall with public boat launch.
- March's Hill. Includes a low grassy area and forested uplands, with slopes popular for snow sledding. A future segment of the rail trail runs alongside.
- Market Square / Bullnose. A downtown brick plaza with trees and benches. Site of festival events.
- Moseley Woods. Woodland park with picnic areas, play structures, picnic shelter and woodland trails borders the Merrimack River. Abuts Water Department property. Management and maintenance is supported by the city-appointed Moseley Woods Commission.
- Perkins Playground. Neighborhood park with playground, tennis courts, and ballfield. Abuts National Grid passive park at 270 Water St.
- Tracy Place. A brick-paved downtown courtyard with trees and benches.
- Woodman Park. West End neighborhood park with a playground and playing fields.

School Properties

School properties are managed by the School Department and maintained by the city's Highway Department, school personnel, and through private contracts.

Name	Total Size (Acres)	Recreation / Field Size (Acres)
Bradley Fuller Athletic Field	10.40	10.00
Bresnahan School	17.53	5.25
Brown School	1.21	0.25
Newburyport High School	13.30	3.50
Nock / Molin School	19.60	6.75
TOTAL	62.04	25.75

- Newburyport High School. On High Street, includes playing fields and stadium along Toppans Lane.
- Nock Middle School and Molin Upper Elementary School: On Low Street, includes playing fields, the Newburyport Skate Park, a playground, and play yard.
- Bresnahan Elementary School: On High Street and accessed via North Atkinson, includes playing fields and a playground. Plans are underway to rebuild the school on the existing playing fields, reconfigure the playground, and add a Senior / Community Center at the front of the property.
- Brown Elementary School: On Milk Street, includes a play yard, basketball court, and playground. Current plans are underway to close this school and move classrooms to the new Bresnahan.
- Bradley Fuller Athletic Field: On Low Street, includes track and athletic fields.

Central Waterfront Lots

Name	Total Size (Acres)
Market Landing / Riverside Parks	4.12
Peter J. Matthews Boardwalk*	1.00
NRA Lots	5.10

* The Boardwalk is part of portions of Market Landing and Riverside Parks as well as the NRA lots.

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority-retained land on either side of Market Landing Park, now used primarily for parking, has been the focus of public debate since eminent domain takings in 1968. The Newburyport Redevelopment Authority currently manages 5 lots (5.1 acres) on the waterfront; four of these are primarily for parking, two within the West Lot and two within the East Lot. In addition, a portion of the Custom House lot, including the Robert Mills Custom House, is leased to the Newburyport Maritime Society. The Authority retains ownership of the Boardwalk in front of this lot and the Harbormaster facility.

For the purpose of improving navigability and dockage potential on the water side of the NRA property, the city and the Redevelopment Authority requested and obtained a Special Act (Acts 1967, ch. 702) that would transfer the private title interests in the submerged lands between the central waterfront bulkhead and the State Harbor Line of 1873. In 1969 the Redevelopment Authority obtained a certificate of title to these submerged lands.

In January 1991, the city and the state-chartered NRA implemented a court-agreed stipulation to re-establish five (5) historic “ways to the waterfront,” to rededicate Riverside Park (below Green Street) as a park, and to expand a Market Landing Park. The City Council and the Mayor approved the grant of *public trust* lands to be administered by the Newburyport Waterfront Trust as open space and parks and a waterside boardwalk in perpetuity.

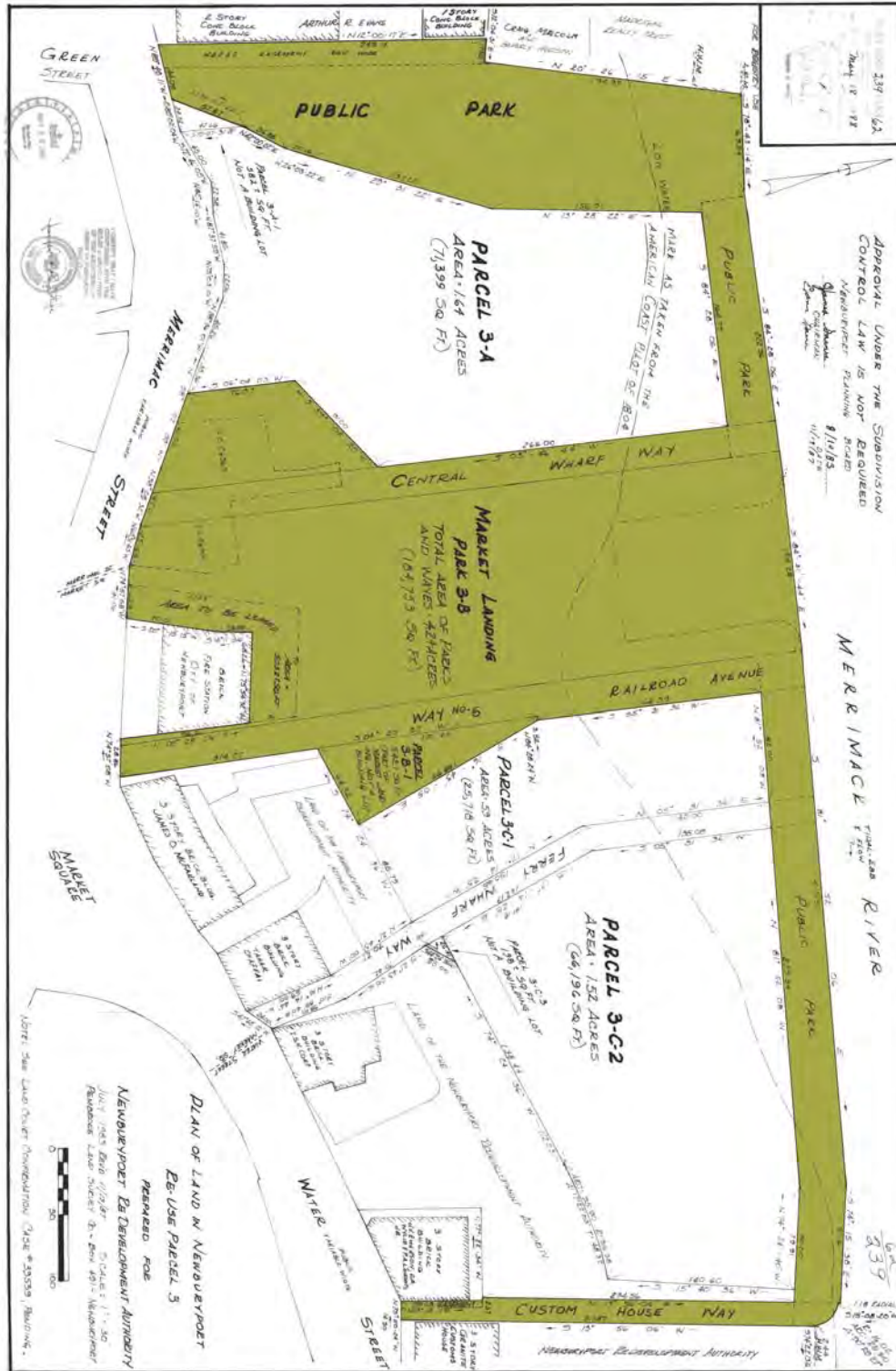
The Waterfront Trust serves as executive manager of certain central waterfront open space, parkland, and public ways for the city of Newburyport. The Trustees operate as a non-profit charitable organization. All Trustees are appointed by the Mayor following approval by the City Council. The city agreed in the 1991 Declaration of Public Trust to provide for maintenance of Waterfront Trust properties. The city also considers capital improvement projects of the Trustees.

The area of land owned by the Waterfront Trust is now 4.24 acres. A number of individual parks and ways make up the total Trust land -- Market Landing Park, Riverside Park/Somerby's Landing, five (5) Ways to the Water (Somerby's Way, Central Wharf Way, Railroad Avenue, Ferry Wharf Way, and Custom House Way.) Most of the boardwalk extending along the waterfront in front of Market Landing (Waterfront) Park and Newburyport Redevelopment Authority property is owned by the Waterfront Trust.

In addition, the NRA is obligated to convey to the Waterfront Trust Ferry Wharf Way (across the East Lot) from Water Street to the Trust's boardwalk and berm, about another 0.9 acres of land, if and when the adjacent land is conveyed for development.

The Trustees have multi-year leases at the westerly Transportation Dock for whale watching, eco-tours, and harbor cruises accessible to the general public.

Figure 23: Map of Waterfront Lots⁵⁹



⁵⁹ Map provided by the Newburyport Waterfront Trust, 2012.

Unused Roads

The Open Space Committee is interested in examining how rarely used, unpaved rights of way might serve conservation or recreation objectives. These rights of way include Old Ferry Road beyond Arrowhead Farm and Crow Lane between the city compost center and Route 95.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CEMETERIES

Ownership	Name	Size (Acres)
Private	Belleville Cemetery	13.00
Private	Oak Hill Cemetery	34.77
Private	Sawyer's Hill Burying Ground	3.55
Private	St. Mary's Cemetery	23.70
City	Highland Cemetery	12.63
City	Old Hill Cemetery	5.31
	TOTAL	92.96

STATE/FEDERAL LAND

Ownership	Name	Size (Acres)
MA DCR	Graf Skating Rink	6.90
MA DCR	Maudslay State Park	488.12
USFWS	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge	10.17
USCG	Plum Island Station	3.20
	TOTAL	508.39

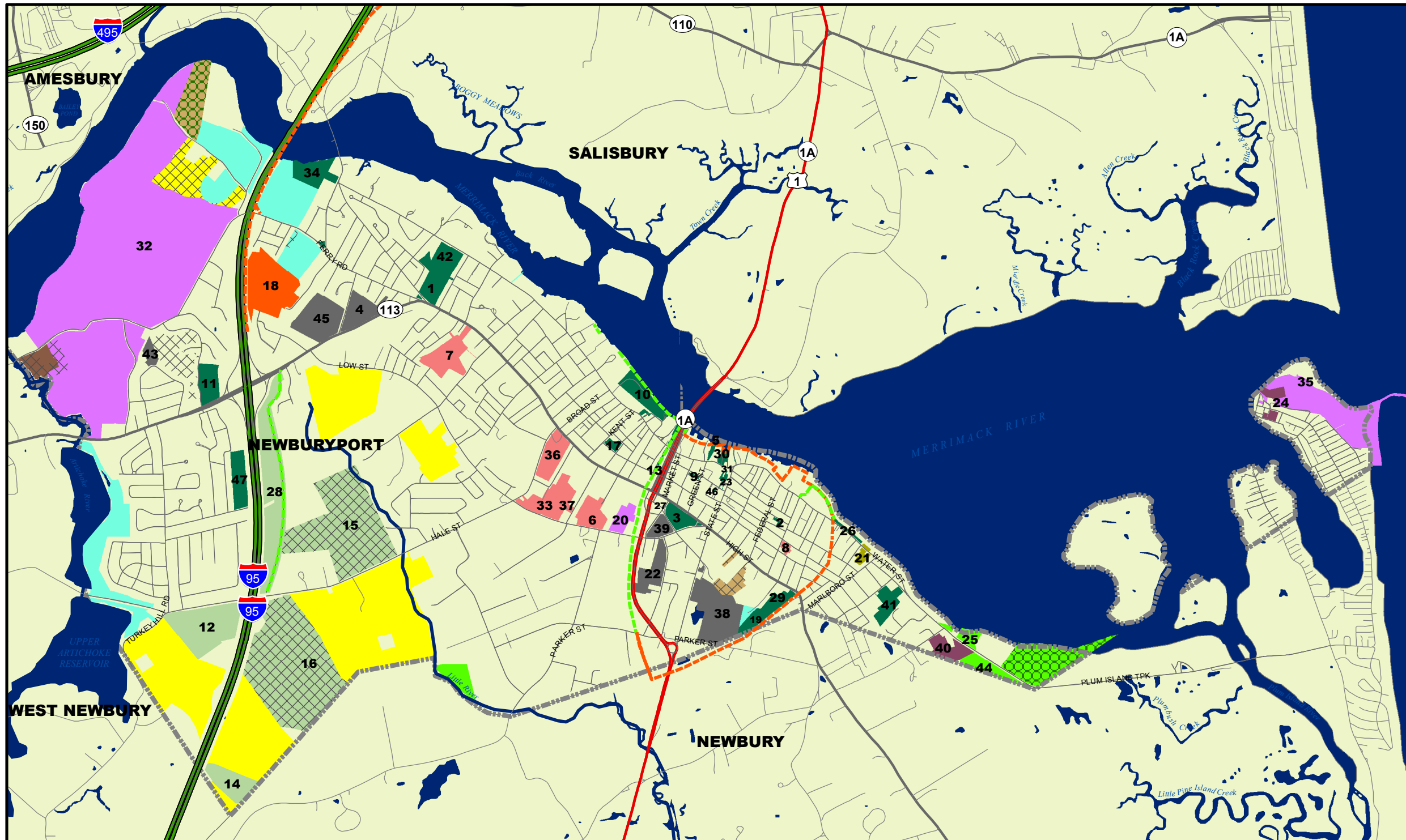
- Graf Skating Rink. Owned by the state and managed by North Shore Rink Management, the facility is located off of Low Street next to the Clipper City Rail Trail and is used for public skating as well as by local teams and leagues.
- Maudslay State Park. Regionally popular park along both the Merrimack and Artichoke Rivers managed by MA DCR. The park includes historic estate gardens, open and wooded areas, and recreational trails. Maudslay provides important bald eagle habitat. (Curzon Mill Road)
- Newburyport Beach. Beach extends around the point of Plum Island. Community Preservation funds made possible a universal-access boardwalk. Newburyport's harbor master manages the fee parking lot and staffs lifeguards. (Northern Boulevard)
- Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. This facility is located across from the Mass Audubon Joppa Flats Education Center and is the main visitor center for the Refuge, which is located on Plum Island. (Plum Island Turnpike)
- Coast Guard land. Land abuts Newburyport beach and parking area and includes one building. (Northern Boulevard)

NON-PROFIT LAND

Ownership	Name	Size (Acres)
Hale Park Trust	Hale Park	1.25
Mass Audubon	Joppa Flats Education Center	53.54
Historic New England	Plum Island Airfield	8.81
Historic New England	Plum Island Turnpike land	34.57
Essex County Greenbelt	Former Hiller Property	13.50
		111.67

- Hale Park. Small South End private park overlooking the Merrimack River.
- Joppa Flats Wildlife Center and Sanctuary. Marshland, upland, and visitor center on the Merrimack River.
- Plum Island Airfield. Owned by Historic New England, part of airfield which crosses into Newbury along Plum Island Turnpike and abuts Spencer-Peirce Little Farm.
- Plum Island Turnpike area. Across from PI Airfield along the Merrimack River. This is zoned for agricultural/conservation uses and owned by Historic New England. A portion of this parcel is a state Restricted Wetland and the land is also protected by an APR.

MAP 12: OPEN SPACE INVENTORY



Map 12 Open Space Inventory

- Future Shared Use Path
- Existing Shared Use Path

Management Type

- Cemetery
- City Conservation
- Federal
- Non-Profit
- City Park
- Private Conservation
- Private Park
- Private Recreation
- School
- State
- City Water Protection

Deed Restrictions

- APR
- CR

Property Tax Relief

- 61A (Agriculture)
- 61B (Forestry)

Note: CR / APR may not apply to entire property. For legal boundaries, contact Planning Office.

Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport
Map is intended for City
of Newburyport planning
purposes only.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5
Miles

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Atkinson Common | 13 Clipper City Rail Trail / Harborwalk | 25 Joppa Flats Education Center (Mass Audubon) | 37 Newburyport Skate Park |
| 2 Atwood Park | 14 Common Pasture -- Coffin's Island | 26 Joppa Park | 38 Oak Hill Cemetery |
| 3 Bartlet Mall / Washington Park | 15 Common Pasture -- Cooper North | 27 Kelley School Youth Services | 39 Old Hill Burial Ground |
| 4 Belleville Cemetery | 16 Common Pasture -- Wet Meadows | 28 Little River Nature Trail | 40 Parker River NWR Visitor Center (USFWS) |
| 5 Boardwalk (Peter J. Matthews) | 17 Cushing Park / Ayers Playground | 29 March's Hill | 41 Perkins Park and Playground |
| 6 Bradley Fuller Athletic Field | 18 Evergreen Golf Course | 30 Market Landing (Waterfront Park) | 42 Pioneer League Fields |
| 7 Bresnahan Elementary School | 19 Future Rail Trail Extension | 31 Market Square / Bullnose | 43 Sawyer Hill Cemetery |
| 8 Brown Elementary School | 20 Graf Skating Rink | 32 Maudslay State Park | 44 Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm (PI Airfield) |
| 9 Brown Square | 21 Hale Park | 33 Molin / Nock Schools | 45 St. Mary's Cemetery |
| 10 Cashman Park | 22 Highland Cemetery | 34 Moseley Woods | 46 Tracy Place |
| 11 Cherry Hill / NYSA Fields | 23 Inn Street Mall and Playground | 35 Newburyport Beach (Plum Island) | 47 Woodman Park |
| 12 City Forest | 24 Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground | 36 Newburyport High School | |

Section 6: Community Vision

Description of Process

Public outreach efforts included feature articles in the Daily News, notices distributed to city board and committee e-mail lists, notices the Newburyport Mothers Club list serve, and flyers posted at the public library and City Hall. Examples of public outreach are included in the Appendix.

A public meeting was held in February 2012 in which participants discussed both the strengths of the city's parks and recreational areas and programs as well as needed improvements. Public ideas about parks and recreation facilities and programs were also collected through a community survey circulated during April. Two focus group meetings were held with representatives from community groups and sports leagues involved in management and programming for the city's parks. Additional interviews were conducted with members of regional conservation and land protection groups. A final public meeting to review and prioritize action steps was held in May. Summaries of the public meetings and survey results are provided in the Appendix.



Vision Statement for Open Space and Recreation

Newburyport's vision for open space and recreation embraces four key concepts:

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

These historic, scenic places and spaces help define the character of the city. Heritage landscapes result from human interaction with the natural resources of an area, which influence the use and development of land. In Newburyport, such landscapes include beaches, marshes, farm fields and pastures, views of Merrimack River, a historic grist mill and its woodland surroundings, and other historic settings. Recreational heritage landscapes include Bartlet Mall, Brown Square, and Joppa Park. Preserving landscape character is important to preserving community character.

HABITAT

These open space areas support biodiversity, providing habitat for endangered, rare, and threatened species. In Newburyport, these areas often include rivers and/or wetlands. They also contribute to the regional coastal fisheries economy and to the growing importance of ecotourism to the local economy.

RECREATION

By providing land for trails, parks, and playing fields, and by taking steps that support interest in water-based recreation and birding, our vision responds to the recreational needs and interests of residents. Trails and parks encourage wholesome and healthful recreational activities. They also provide a pleasant and convenient venue for community interaction and promote a sense of neighborliness.



Cashman Park waterfront trail

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Protecting environmental resources by protecting open space serves Newburyport taxpayers by providing services for which they would otherwise have to pay—in taxes, in health, or in quality of life. Green infrastructure assists in the provision of clean air, clean water, stormwater dispersal, and noise attenuation. It provides a means of limiting the expensive growth of gray infrastructure – water and sewer systems, roads – plus schools and other city services. It helps keep traffic tolerable and otherwise limits congestion that diminishes the quality of life for residents.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

This section of the plan assesses what is needed to achieve the community's open space and recreation goals (as outlined in Section 6.) Building on the data and information that has been collected and summarized in the previous sections, this section examines any shortfall between what the community has today and what it would like to be in the future. Specifically, this section identifies needs not currently met and discusses how to meet those needs through particular policies, programs, or services.

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Resource protection addresses natural features (land, water, air, and climate) as well as natural communities (wildlife and vegetation) that not only define the city's character, but are integrally linked to the health and welfare of the community as a whole. Resource protection needs derive from the resource's significance and importance to the community and any perceived threats and hazards identified in the previous sections.

WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY

Development in Newburyport and watershed-wide will continue to place pressure on existing water resources. Newburyport has already established local ordinances to help protect important water resources and mitigate potential development impacts, including a wetlands protection ordinance, a stormwater management ordinance, and a water resource protection overlay zoning district. Newburyport has also adopted drainage and stormwater management performance standards for site plan review.

Efforts to continue to improve the city's water resource protection regulations will rely on collaboration between the Conservation Commission, the Department of Public Services Water and Highway Divisions, and the Planning Board. Ongoing communication between these entities will be necessary to ensure that all development regulations and processes are working to protect water resources.

Ongoing efforts of the city's Water Division to protect existing water supply source and locate future water supply sources should also be coordinated with land protection priorities of the Open Space Committee.

In addition, the city should continue to support efforts of regional and local watershed groups to protect and improve the watersheds of the Merrimack, Little, Artichoke, and Parker Rivers that continue to be impacted by non-point source pollution, invasive species, and sedimentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT

In addition to stormwater management ordinances, other land use regulations can help to adequately evaluate or mitigate potential environmental impacts of development. Ongoing major impacts are an increase in impervious areas, which can contribute to flooding, reduced groundwater recharge, and increased stormwater runoff; pollution potential from industrial processes; and loss of open space, tree canopy, and wetlands.

The city's Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission all have roles to play in off-setting the environmental impacts of development. The city's Planning Department should continue to work collaboratively with these entities to ensure the city's regulations support effective monitoring of these activities.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

While working toward becoming a more sustainable city extends far beyond the focus of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, preserving open space, protecting natural resources, and providing recreation options close to population centers are all goals that support sustainability. Parks and natural spaces help offset the heat retained by buildings and pavement – the “urban heat island effect.” The vegetation in green spaces filters air, improving air quality. Ability to access and connect to parks and recreation areas by foot or bicycle helps decrease fossil fuel consumption.

Despite efforts to become a more sustainable community, including reducing potential contributors to climate change, the city has not yet begun to comprehensively address the potential effects of climate change on its population and its physical infrastructure. While there are many uncertainties about the impacts of climate change, it is agreed that coastal communities like Newburyport are likely to be at higher risk due to the increased frequency and severity of weather events and to sea level rise. While it is important to continue the existing efforts, the city needs increased focus on climate *resilience* as opposed to climate change *prevention*.

On October 2011, the city's Office of Planning and Development collaborated with the MIT Science Impact Collaborative to host an event on adapting to climate change risks. While the workshop itself focused on decision-making processes related to responding to climate change impacts, follow-up interviews with participants also collected information on the city's preparedness for adapting to climate change. Those interviewed generally agreed that it is important for the city to begin planning for how to relocate people and protect sensitive habitat, particularly in more vulnerable areas such as Plum Island. They said such adaptation planning should be incorporated into the city's Master Plan, hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness plans, and regional planning initiatives. A summary of this exercise is provided in the Appendix.

IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Undeveloped land provides direct habitat for a great diversity of species in Newburyport. Habitats identified by local conservation organizations as critical for protection include the wetland areas in and around the Parker River Watershed including the Business Park, lands along the length of the Merrimack and the various other water courses including fresh and saltwater streams and estuaries and all lands of the salt marsh and barrier beach.

The wetland areas of the Parker River watershed are prime habitat area for species of concern, including turtles. The Parker River Clean Water Association is currently working with Mass DOT on a project called Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife to monitor roadkill on Scotland Road in Newbury and within the Newburyport Business Park to create a wildlife roadkill database that identifies turtle road-crossing

hotspots. This and other data collected should help prioritize transportation infrastructure improvements to implement wildlife crossings and focus on protection of prime habitat areas.⁶⁰

In the long term, the city should be alert to opportunities to provide or enhance wildlife crossings under Interstate 95 and Route 113, to improve the migration path between Martin Burns Management Area in Newbury, the Common Pasture, and Maudslay State Park.

Protecting the city's barrier beach and lands along the Merrimack River corridor includes the beaches, uplands, lowlands and marshes that are home to a great diversity of land and water species. As the total undeveloped area of these lands decrease through development and erosion, they dramatically increase in significance to the declining shorebird species.



Plum Island Beach

Habitat protection should further be incorporated into management strategies for the city's conservation properties. It is also important for those responsible for monitoring and managing the environmental health of these lands to have a strong initial baseline inventory of the environmental attributes of each of these properties. This has been started for some of the city's conservation lands in the Common Pasture, but should continue as a policy for all conservation properties.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Several open space areas are cherished by residents for their scenic and historic features, for how they help create a sense of place and community. These landscapes are among those identified as Heritage Landscapes in the findings of the Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Survey.⁶¹

⁶⁰ MA Department of Transportation.

⁶¹ MA Division of Conservation Services, 2005.

- The Common Pasture / Little River area
- Plum Island/Joppa Flats marshes
- Curzon Mill area on the Artichoke River
- Old Ferry Road area on the Merrimack River

Summary of Community's Needs

NATURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING AND INTERPRETATION

State, federal and local conservation agencies offer guided tours and educational programming on conservation lands within Newburyport. Birding is particularly strong with the presence of Mass Audubon and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.

The city should continue to develop partnerships that engage conservation agencies in enhancing the physical condition, and programs of its open space lands.

ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

Throughout the planning process, discussions clearly articulated community support to increase physical connections to and among existing open spaces, neighborhoods, and the downtown and the waterfront. The work on Phase 2 of the Clipper City Rail Trail, continuing to expand the Harborwalk upriver of Cashman Park and downriver of the Central Waterfront, and attention to increasing access to the shoreline are all important efforts for the city to continue to support. Similarly, providing safe and secure connections from neighborhoods to recreation areas should be explored in some of the areas of the city that are restricted by physical barriers such as Route 1 and I-95 and the Great Marsh.



Trail connecting Atkinson Common to neighborhood

Another opportunity is providing limited access and opportunities for wildlife viewing for conservation properties. There is interest and support for providing viewing opportunities of the Common Pasture such as a viewing platform on the south side of Hale Street across from the Little River Nature Trail. This platform would look over the beautiful diverse landscape of the Common Pasture.

WATERFRONT ACCESS AND WATER-BASED RECREATION

Newburyport's waterfront has played a significant role in the historical development of the city. It continues to be an important economic asset for the city in addition to the recreational opportunities it offers.

- Each year waterway permits are granted to thousands of boats of all sizes and shapes that have the city of Newburyport as their home port;
- Overnight docking facilities at the east end of the Central Waterfront are administered and supervised by the Harbormaster and allow thousands more visiting boaters to tie up for short periods at the Central Waterfront;
- The transportation dock at the west end of the Central Waterfront provides general public access to a combination of whale watching, harbor cruises, and catamaran sailing adventures;
- Numerous vessels cater to charter fishing;
- Recreational fishing is popular along the River (including shore fishing, small boat activity, and wading into the Joppa Flats.)

There are four small craft launching facilities within the city limits (at Cashman Park, Joppa Park, and the city-owned ramp next to the Black Cow Restaurant. At least three of these ramps are ideally-suited for small craft, canoes, and kayak launching. The Cashman Park launch is reportedly one of the most heavily used within the Commonwealth.

Ongoing improvements to and expansion of public waterfront access is critical for supporting this essential city asset.

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The figure below lists parks and recreation areas that are accessible to the public and not primarily for conservation purposes. Each park is also assigned a class, defined by size and use. Pocket parks are less than a ½ acre in size. Neighborhood parks generally serve residents in the immediate vicinity. School parks are those serving school groups as well as neighborhood residents. In Newburyport, these are also utilized by non-school athletic groups. Community parks are those that serve residents city-wide. Regional parks also serve people from the surrounding communities and the region.

Figure 24: Newburyport Parks and Recreation Areas

Facility Name	Class	Size (Acres) ⁶²
Tracy Place	Pocket	0.15
Atwood Park	Neighborhood	0.66
Cushing Park / Ayer's Playground	Neighborhood	1.80
Hale Park	Neighborhood	1.50
Perkins Park (and 270 Water St)	Neighborhood	9.06
Woodman Park	Neighborhood	9.37
Atkinson Common & Pioneer League Fields	Community	21.14
Bartlet Mall/Washington Park	Community	7.27
Brown Square	Community	0.59
Cherry Hill Soccer Fields	Community	9.50
Clipper City Rail Trail	Community	5.00
Joppa Park	Community	0.50
March's Hill	Community	14.00
Cashman Park	Regional	12.52
Graf Skating Rink	Regional	6.90
Inn Street Mall	Regional	1.14
Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground	Regional	0.09
Market Landing and Waterfront Park	Regional	4.12
Maudslay State Park	Regional	502.34
Moseley Woods (includes abutting Water Dept. land)	Regional	47.80
Newburyport Beach	Regional	52.50
Peter J. Matthews Boardwalk	Regional	1.00
Bradley Fuller Athletic Field	School	10.40
Bresnahan School*	School	5.25
Brown School*	School	0.25
Newburyport High School*	School	3.50
Nock / Molin School*	School	6.75
TOTAL		735.10

*Approximate size of athletic field portion.

Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) is a method developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to assist with park and recreation planning. LOS is a quantification of the park and recreation systems in a community and how effectively these meet community needs. In the past, the NRPA has provided a national standard that assigned specific space and facility needs based on population size. These standards were applied in communities as a way to determine the adequacy of park and recreation services -- for example, ten acres of park land for each 1,000 residents or one tennis court per 2,000 residents. However, because of the discrepancy between community resources and the variation in resident needs and preferences, the application of

⁶² For school properties size excludes buildings and paved areas.

universal standards is no longer encouraged. The revised approach is to assess the particular needs of recreational users and develop standards based on expected use.⁶³

In order to develop a LOS, a community first completes an inventory of the types of recreation facilities that are currently available. Then the community ascertains the types of activities or programs that its residents are interested in and what types of facilities are required to meet this demand. A community survey combined with observations of actual facility usage and program enrollments are good ways to assess residents' recreational interests. The final step is to determine the population that should be served by each facility or park. When that has occurred, the community can then compare the demand with the actual inventory of existing facilities to determine if needs are being met.



Cashman Park

Recreation Facility Inventory

Approximately 735 acres of the city's open space areas can be classified as parks that provide various levels of recreational services or activities. Five (5) school properties include athletic fields and playgrounds that serve community recreation needs on a limited basis. The remaining open spaces can be classified as cemeteries or natural resource areas where land has been set aside to preserve a significant natural resource, working landscape, or to provide a visual buffer. While these areas may accommodate limited public access, their primary purpose is resource protection rather than recreation. For this reason, LOS standards are not generally applicable for natural resource areas.

The preceding figure included the parks and recreation lands for which a LOS standard could be applied. The following figure provides an inventory of recreation facilities by park class for Newburyport. Including all of the public athletic areas listed, Newburyport has approximately 43 acres of park / recreation land per 1,000 residents.

⁶³ National Recreation and Park Association.

Figure 25: Location of City (Public) Recreation Facilities

Activity	Total Facilities	Locations
Baseball / softball	11	Bresnahan (2), Cashman (1), Molin/Nock (2), NHS (1), Perkins (1), Pioneer League (3), Woodman (1)
Football	1	NHS
Indoor basketball courts	4	Bresnahan (1), Brown (1), Molin/Nock (1), NHS (1)
Outdoor basketball courts	12	Atwood (.5), Bartlet Mall (1), Bresnahan (1), Brown (1), Cashman (2), Cushing/Ayers (1), March's Hill (1), Molin/Nock (2), Perkins (1), Woodman (1), Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground (.5)
Playground	12	Bartlet Mall, Bresnahan, Brown, Cashman, Ayers, Inn Street, Jason Sawyer, Molin/Nock, Moseley, Perkins, Pioneer, Woodman - 1 each
Soccer field	11	Bradley Fuller (2), Bresnahan (1), Cashman (3), Cherry Hill (2), Molin/Nock (2), Woodman (1)
Tennis courts (outdoor)	7	Atkinson (3), Cashman (1), Molin/Nock (2), Perkins (1)
Track	1	Bradley Fuller

According to the 2010 Census, about 13,602 residents between the ages of 5 and 65 live in Newburyport. Assuming that most active recreation users fall within this age bracket, less than one (1) public tennis court exists per 1,000 of the active resident population. About one (1) outdoor basketball court exists per 1,000 active residents in Newburyport.

Athletic fields provide facilities for organized sports such as baseball, softball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, and soccer. Currently, nine (9) city or school properties contain twenty-three (23) athletic fields or approximately 33.5 acres of active field space. This means that Newburyport offers about 2.5 acres of athletic fields per 1,000 residents in this age bracket.



Cherry Hill fields

Playgrounds generally serve the 10 and under age group and provide multi-purpose play areas, sandboxes, and swings. As of the 2010 Census, about 2,000 children under the age of ten (10) living in Newburyport. With twelve (12) playgrounds on city parks and school property, about six (6) playgrounds exist for every 1,000 kids in this age bracket.



Ayers Playground at Cushing Park

Newburyport has one public ice rink that is owned and managed by the state. It is open year-round.

In addition to public facilities, a number of private recreation facilities serve residents, including the Racquet Club, Hope Church (basketball court), the YWCA (pool and fitness center), and a number of fitness centers that provide a variety of class-based and equipment-based indoor fitness. Amesbury Sports Park in Amesbury has a turf field that is frequently used by Newburyport sports leagues. However, because these are fee and/or membership-based facilities, they help meet public demand only for those who can afford the services.

*Level of Use and Unmet Needs***Figure 1: Total Organized Sports Program Participants by Type of Facility⁶⁴**

Facilities	Quantity	Total # of program participants (annually)	Estimated # of users per facility	Extent of use (# of months)
Pool (YWCA)	1			12
Tennis Courts	7	198	28	8
Soccer/multi-use fields	11	2,994	175	7
Baseball (Full Size, Little League, Softball)	11	843	77	7
Basketball (indoor)	4	393	98	12
Basketball (outdoor)	12	unknown	unknown	8
Football	1	416	416	7
Track	1	69	69	7
Ice Rink (Hockey)	1	230	unknown	12

One way to estimate levels of use is to track the participation numbers in recreation programs and organized school sports activities. This information is summarized in the figure above, in which estimated participation numbers are listed by the type of facility. By comparing the total number of program participants with the total number of facilities, it is possible to estimate the demand carried by each individual facility.

Fields in Newburyport are in particularly high demand for a variety of reasons: 1) high enrollment in existing field-based sports programs; 2) programs that extend over multiple seasons; 3) density of population and lack of available open land; 4) emerging new sports that compete for the same space (such as Ultimate Frisbee and rugby).

Demand for tennis courts is also high due to the level of use for organized recreation programs and school sports. All of the indoor public basketball courts are located in the schools, limiting the availability of courts for adult leagues and after-school programs.

⁶⁴ From interviews with sports and athletic leagues and organizations, April – June 2012.

The highest organized sports priorities for Newburyport are baseball fields and multi-use fields that can accommodate soccer and football, as well as field hockey, lacrosse, and other field sports. The addition of field space helps alleviate the heavy levels of use carried by the existing fields and allows for certain fields to be dedicated to one type of activity. Limiting a facility's carrying capacity helps reduce wear and tear, lowering maintenance costs in the long term. Other needs include tennis courts and indoor basketball courts for general public use.



Cashman Park

Field Space Task Force

A Task Force, appointed by the Mayor and in collaboration with the Parks Commission and Parks Coordinator, has been reviewing the potential for athletic field expansion / creation. The group has been working to add one or two additional soccer fields and one or two additional baseball/softball fields with corresponding parking for users and restroom facilities. The recent approval to build a new Bresnahan school that would result in loss of baseball fields has increased the sense of urgency to identify additional field space. The Task Force's recommendations are included in the Appendix and include reconfiguration and/or expansion of existing fields at the Nock/Molin School and Fuller Field as well as potential sites for new fields.

Newburyport Memorial Stadium

The City of Newburyport engaged a consultant to assess options for renovation and repair of the Newburyport Memorial Stadium located at the Newburyport High School. The report was completed in February 2012. The original stadium was constructed in the late 1930's. The North and South Grandstands were last repaired in 1970 and, as part of the high school renovation project (in the early 2000's), the north grandstand was attached to the high school structure and the stadium lighting and sound system were integrated into the high school. The study provided estimate of costs for the stadium renovation and also recommended installing an artificial turf field to replace the natural grass field currently in place.⁶⁵

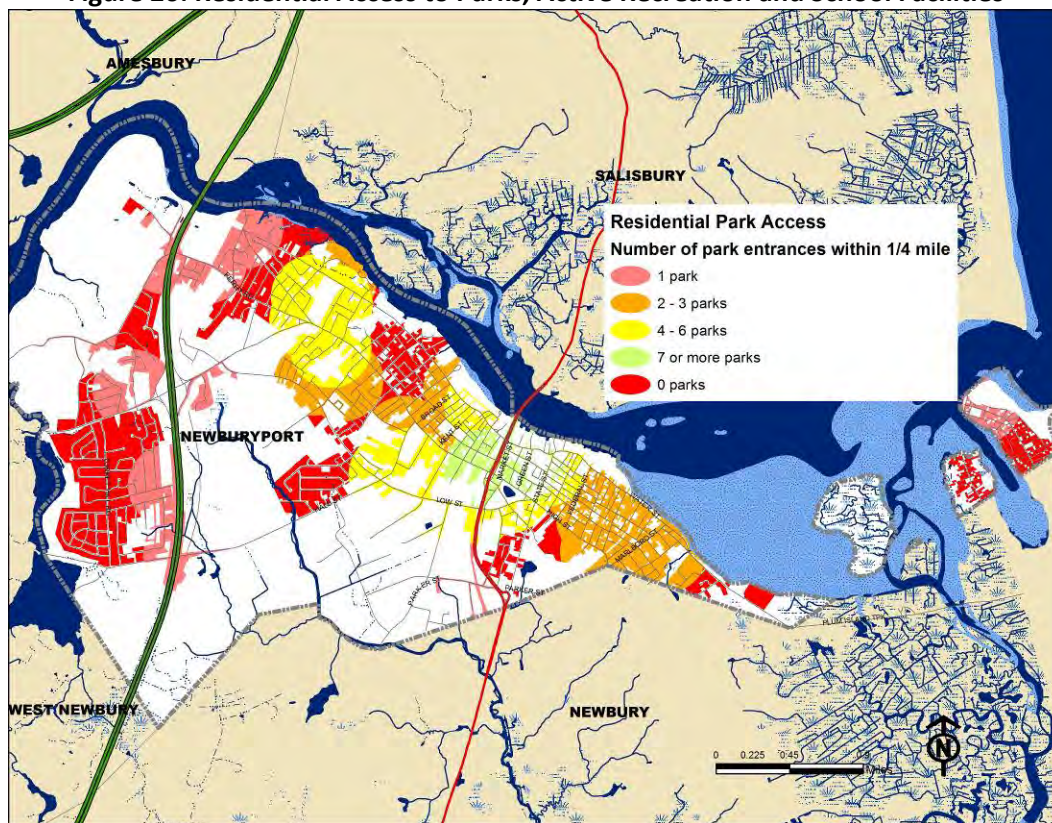
⁶⁵ *Newburyport Memorial Stadium Improvements* by Bargmann Hendrie & Archetype, Inc. and Stantec Sport, 2012.

Equitable Access

Assessment of population trends in Newburyport shows an increase in adult households without children and a growing percentage of seniors. However, children still account for almost 20% of the population. The city will need to continue to provide playgrounds and recreation programs and facilities for children, while also accommodating elder populations and single adults.

Newburyport is challenged to serve the recreation needs of households in areas where available land is scarce. It is important to continue to explore opportunities for providing new parks or expanding existing recreation areas for residential neighborhoods currently underserved. The map below identifies residential neighborhoods that are more than ¼ mile from existing parks, recreational trails, or school facilities. Even the addition of small pocket parks or playgrounds would benefit these areas. In addition, creating safe and convenient bicycle or pedestrian connections to existing parks would help improve service to some of these areas.

Figure 26: Residential Access to Parks, Active Recreation and School Facilities



Needs Identified by Stakeholder / User Groups

Focus group discussions and interviews with sports leagues, park volunteers, and recreation activity coordinators identified challenges for park use and management in Newburyport. A summary of the ideas shared is included in the Appendix. Based on the challenges identified, stakeholders helped to identify priority strategies that would help address some of the key areas of concern.

Though funding and fundraising for park and facility improvements continues to be a challenge for all organizations (public and private), stakeholders suggested it is important for the city to prioritize allocating adequate city funding dedicated to park and recreation maintenance to ensure that the existing facilities are usable and safe. They supported a re-organizing of the management structure of parks and recreation facilities under one city Parks and Recreation Department which included oversight of maintenance, scheduling, and programming.

Representatives from sports leagues supported a fair and consistent fee structure for use of city recreation facilities for all users, suggesting the city needs to develop a clear policy for both fees and scheduling.

Although all stakeholders recognize that this a challenging environment for funding of capital improvements, there was general support for investing in athletic field improvements that would significantly reduce maintenance costs in the future and also provide opportunities for revenue generation. Specifically, they noted redesign of existing fields at the Nock / Molin School, Bradley Fuller Field, and the Bresnahan would help maximize their potential. They also supported investment in an artificial turf field as part of the High School Stadium renovation (and/or other field improvement).



Newburyport High School World War Memorial Stadium

Central Waterfront

Water-based recreational opportunities might be improved if the Redevelopment Authority and the Waterfront Trust were to obtain a Section 10 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to improve navigability and potentially docking facilities above the submerged lands to the State Harbor Line of 1873 (Acts 1873, ch. 316) between the waterfront promenade and bulkhead and the federal navigation channel. The pros and cons of the provision of docking facilities would need to be weighed against the potential intrusion on scenic vistas. The city and the Waterfront Trust several years ago obtained a Section 10 Army Corps permit to improve navigability adjoining the city's Fishing Pier, just east of the central waterfront.

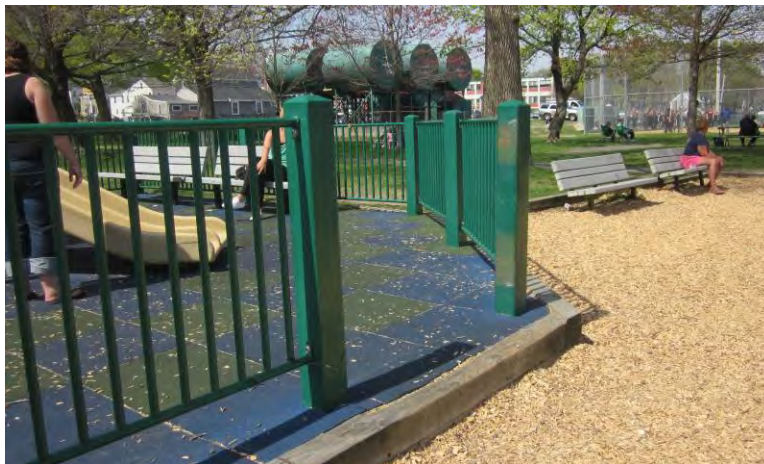
Because all available Transportation Dock space is presently leased by Waterfront Trustees to marine operators, the expansion of water-based recreational activities at the central waterfront depends upon improving navigability and access along the easterly bulkhead, between the Embayment and the Custom House Maritime Museum lot.

Accessibility Improvements for the Disabled

All new construction and renovation of public facilities since 1968 is required to be accessible to people with disabilities. Amendment Article 114 of the Massachusetts Constitution states:

No otherwise qualified handicapped individual shall solely, by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be the subject to discrimination under program or activity within the Commonwealth.

Newburyport has improved access for the disabled in recent years but additional improvements are necessary and efforts should be ongoing. The ADA Coordinator promotes the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities in all activities, services and employment opportunities of the community. The Coordinator advises and assists municipal officials in ensuring compliance with Federal and State disability laws and provides information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance in all matters pertaining to disability.



Toddler play area at Cashman Park has appropriate play surface, but requires stepping up to access

In an effort to better accommodate the needs of the disabled, the ADA Coordinator, Andrea Egmont, was asked to comment on the improvements necessary at each recreation facility as well as to identify needs for new or additional facilities, programs, or accommodations. The identified needs generally involve improving access to existing facilities through eliminating barriers at access points, improving parking arrangements, and making use of surfaces that can accommodate wheelchairs (see the Section 504 Self-Assessment for specific needs). In addition, Youth Services has identified a need for a staff person to run therapeutic recreation programs for people with cognitive and

emotional disabilities, for which a need has been identified in the community. The Department has acquired learning materials and equipment for therapeutic recreation, but needs a specialized staff dedicated to that specific task.

New Recreation Facilities

The community open space and recreation survey asked respondents to indicate priorities for adding to or expanding existing recreational facilities. The responses reflected the variety of recreational interests represented in the city and did not point to one overwhelming need, other than to maintain and improve what we already have. Recreation improvements that reflected some degree of community support or interest for pursuing included:

- adding on-road bike lanes
- providing more water-access points for canoes/kayaks
- adding trail signs
- adding hiking trails
- providing community gardens
- building an outdoor swimming pool

As noted in the survey, some of these projects would require a significant investment of public and private funds and would also be contingent on available space. However, the city recognizes community interest in these projects and encourages processes (whether led by city commissions or citizen groups) that assess their feasibility.

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, is a five-year plan which presents the available supply of open space and recreation in Massachusetts, examines demand for resources and recreation opportunities, provides a discussion of pertinent resource issues, assesses recreation needs throughout the State on a region by region basis, and issues policy recommendations.⁶⁶

Newburyport is part of the Northeastern region. The Northeastern Region has a higher density of activity per site, and higher utilization and visitation rates than other regions. Notably, it has a larger number of passive and trail-based activities than other regions.

The most popular activities for the region as reported by the plan were swimming, walking, sightseeing and tours, hiking and fishing. Significant activity rates were also reported in baseball, soccer, sunbathing, horseback riding, off-road vehicle driving, snowmobiling, motorized boating, tot lot activity, and pond hockey. Regarding facility use, the region recorded high rates of use in coastal beaches and shorelines, followed distantly by golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and tot lots, lakes and ponds, and historic and cultural sites.

⁶⁶ MA Division of Conservation Services (DCS), 2006..

The highest regional demand for new facilities included playgrounds, neighborhood parks, and golf courses, and better access to agricultural lands, lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, and coastal beaches. Need was nearly as strongly expressed for bikeways and trails or greenways.

In response to funding preferences, residents support improving access for people with disabilities more strongly than in any other region. Support for maintaining existing facilities ranks at the top of this region's priority list, as is also the case statewide. Adding park staff received the lowest priority ranking, but still exceeds a two-thirds majority.

Management Needs

It is important for an Open Space and Recreation Plan to outline specific recommendations that will help the city meet its open space and recreation goals in a strategic manner. Specifically, it is necessary for the city to have the tools and policies, staff capacity, and financial availability at hand to implement the recommendations of the plan.

Like many other Essex County communities, Newburyport faces imminent development pressure in many locations at once. Perhaps the greatest management challenge in meeting goals under these circumstances involves limits on resources – both financial limits and limits in the time city employees, officials, and volunteer board members can work on these goals. Finding opportunities to help various city boards and officials understand open space and recreation issues, methods, and priorities is a substantial challenge. Sketching out ways to find bridge financing, additional sources of local "match" money, and otherwise leveraging funds is also a challenge.

PARKS MANAGEMENT

The management and maintenance of parks within Newburyport are the responsibility of seven commissions. The Department of Public Services provides a basic level of maintenance support, including mowing and trash removal, at most parks. Atkinson Common is further supported by a dedicated non-profit organization that provides multiple services and generates income, and all parks and open spaces are eligible for financial support from the Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation for capital improvements. Playgrounds and fields on school properties are the responsibility of the schools.

Many of the city's parks, in particular those with athletic fields and facilities, are programmed with city school, Youth Services and sports league activities. In addition, a number of parks one-day events. Requests for use of the fields and facilities are the responsibility of the various commissions and in one case (Bartlet Mall) the City Council, but the actual programming of the events is the responsibility of more than ten leagues in addition to school teams, Newburyport Youth Services and single day users.

Parks Staff

Currently, the city employs a part-time Parks Coordinator which the Mayor has increased from 13 hours per week to 25 hours per week with the goal to increase to full-time by 2013. The Parks Commission, Office of Planning and Development, and stakeholder groups have all expressed support for expanding that position to full-time. Proposed responsibilities are outlined in the Appendix. While increasing the staff hours and responsibilities would not solve all of the park management and maintenance issues, it is an important first step toward: 1) improving customer service by ensuring Parks staff is available during regular City Hall hours; 2) improving coordination of maintenance and scheduling of city fields and facilities.

Maintenance Staff

Maintenance of the city's parks, playgrounds and school grounds is the responsibility of the Department of Public Services. The Parks Commission also shares responsibility for parks and playgrounds and, for some parks, the responsibility is also shared with a commission or trust (as outlined below). The Parks Commission and other city commissions and trusts do not have staff to perform park maintenance duties, but rather coordinate with DPS regarding issues beyond routine mowing and trash removal.

The Department of Public Services (DPS) currently employs 17 full time employees (down from more than 40 employees 30 years ago) and six part time seasonal (May through August) employees (down from eight in the recent past). The Department's other major duties include: storm drain maintenance, street and sidewalk maintenance, street line painting, street sweeping, snow and ice removal, city cemetery maintenance and burials, tree planting and trimming, beach raking, and city-wide trash clean up. The staff and time dedicated to routine maintenance of parks, playgrounds and school grounds is highly variable, as it is dependent on and often subsidiary to the city's other maintenance needs as well as the weather. While the Department attempts to follow a weekly schedule for mowing and trash removal, calls for additional services, such as tree pruning or removal, playground and court equipment maintenance, and general clean-up, are difficult for the Department to respond to.

Due to serious budget cuts for maintenance beginning in 2002, it has been increasingly challenging to continue a high level of maintenance for the city's recreational resources. Maintenance is further challenged by the need to coordinate with various responsible commissions and other organizations that request services to support recreational facilities and programs.

Commissions and Trusts

The Parks Commission, a five member appointed commission was established in 1994. It is responsible for all municipal parks in Newburyport that are not part of a school property or under control of the Waterfront Trust. Approximately 15 parks (102 acres) fall under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission and are maintained with the support of the city's Division of Public Services, the Board of Commissioners, and athletic leagues. Constraints of budget and staff capacity mean that regular maintenance provided by DPS is generally limited to lawn mowing and trash pick. An ongoing concern for the Parks Commission is lack of consistent funding or capacity to provide

regular maintenance and upkeep for landscaping, equipment maintenance and repair, and general site cleaning.

The city's school fields and playgrounds are managed by the schools. Fields are typically maintained through contracted services.

The Atkinson Common Board of Commissioners includes the mayor, the president of the city council, ex officio, and three (3) persons designated by the mayor. The board was established over one hundred years ago. . The Commission is supported by **the Belleville Improvement Society (BIS)**, established in 1893 solely to maintain, preserve and beautify Atkinson Common. Atkinson Common Commissioners have historically been members and officers of the BIS, providing a valuable connection between the two responsible entities. The BIS, a registered non-profit, takes primary responsibility for the Common and has been highly successful in raising funds, and in maintaining and improving the upper portion of the Common.

Maintenance, management and improvements of the lower portion of the Common are coordinated and controlled by the Pioneer League in consultation with the Belleville Improvement Society and the Parks Commission. The Pioneer League is a registered non-profit dedicated to the service of youth in Newburyport. The League has been involved in the upkeep and improvement of Atkinson Common fields for over five decades without any formal written agreement. The hierarchy of parties responsible for managing the Common is unclear as both the Parks Commission and the Atkinson Common Board of Commissioners are charged with management of the Park. In practice, both commissions generally leave day to day management responsibilities, as well as maintenance and capital improvement planning to the Belleville Improvement Society and the Pioneer League, neither of which have an ownership interest in the park.



Stone tower at Atkinson Common

The Moseley Woods Board of Commissioners was established in 2004, following a renovation of the park, to help the city maintain and manage the park. The seven-member Commission is responsible for promulgating rules for the park in consultation

with the Mayor and City Council. The Commission receives a small annual stipend from the city, funds from pavilion and field rentals, and limited donations. Unlike other parks, general maintenance is provided by a seasonal city employee dedicated to Moseley Woods for a few hours a week.

The Bartlet Mall Board of Commissioners was established following the completion of a capital improvement project in 2004 to help the city maintain and manage the newly refurbished park. The five-member Commission is charged with promulgating rules for park use in consultation with the Mayor and City Council. It has assumed responsibility for managing the Mall as its capacity allows which in the past included reviewing applications for event permits and managing maintenance contracts. These duties have been assumed by the Parks Administrator when the Commission lacks capacity. Maintenance and management of the Mall have been hampered by lack of funding. The Board of Commissioners receives a small appropriation from the city each year, and receives some funding from organizations donating for one-day events. Funds are not adequate to cover the on-going maintenance requirements beyond those met by the DPS, such as maintaining water quality in the pond, controlling weeds within the pathways, and pruning and mulching trees.

The Waterfront Trust is a five-member public non-profit organization established by grant by the city in 1991 to hold in trust city-owned lands on the waterfront, including Market Landing (Waterfront) Park, Riverside Park, ways to the waterfront, and much of the Peter J. Matthews Boardwalk. The Trust, unlike the Boards of Commissioners, has autonomy to manage the 4 acres of Trust property including, promulgating park rules, setting fees and schedules for events, maintaining and improving park lands and facilities, and contracting with third parties including vendors and service providers. In accordance with the Declaration of Trust (1991), five Trustees are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. Under this Declaration, the Trustees have control of the Trust property with the exception of restrictions placed on certain portions of the property, including the duty to keep the public ways and Boardwalk "open" for benefit of the general public. In agreeing to the Declaration, Newburyport accepted responsibilities for maintenance of the Trust lands, and agreed to indemnify the Trustees of liability associated with the ownership and management of the Trust lands. Any improvements by the Trust must be approved by the Mayor.

Over the years and using income from leases, rentals, use permits, and donor gifts, the Trust has assumed the primary responsibility for park maintenance and contracts this work to a commercial landscape company. The city's Department of Public Services provides valuable supplemental services for Trust properties, including trash removal, tree work, and the plowing of Riverside Park. The Trust employs a part-time Park Manager to coordinate these maintenance activities and provide liaison between the Trustees, park users, the DPS, the landscaping contractor, and various volunteer groups who help from time to time.

Budgets and Funding

The Parks and Recreation Commission faces significant financial restrictions. In the past, annual budgets have run from about \$3,000 to \$15,000 to maintain 15 parks. This level of funding allows for only minor purchases or repairs and no major capital upgrades.

Even so, city planners and Parks Commissioners have successfully sought state funds, private donations, Community Preservation Act funding, and city bonds to complete some major improvements.

The Parks Commission receives an annual appropriation for general upkeep of parks and dedicated funding for Bartlet Mall, Moseley Woods, Atkinson Common and the Rail Trail. In 2011, funding for the maintenance of all parks was less than \$25,000, providing an average of less than \$2,000 per year per park. Although funding continues to be inadequate, efforts to increase staffing, oversight, budgets, and recruitment of volunteers has slowly grown.

Funding for parks also comes from use donations, primarily from athletic leagues, but also occasionally from one-day events. Donations are determined by hours of use based on a formula developed by the Parks Commission in consultation with league participants a number of years ago. In some instances, leagues take responsibility for some facility maintenance in lieu of payment or as partial payment for field/diamond use. Fees from athletic leagues are used to maintain and upgrade the fields and facilities used.

The Parks Commission also looks to various state agencies and charitable organizations (including the Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation) for grants as well as to the city's Community Preservation Committee⁶⁷ for Community Preservation Act funding⁶⁸. Community Preservation Act funds can be used to acquire, create and preserve open space, historic resources and land for recreational use (as well as for development of community housing). Funds from any of these sources can not be used to finance on-going park maintenance.

City appropriations and any other money received for the accounts of the commissions, such as from donations and grants are kept in trust by the city treasurer/collector and expended by approval of the requesting Commission. The exception is the Waterfront Trust that is not guaranteed city funding and is responsible for collecting and expending its own funds. The Belleville Improvement Society, as a registered non-profit, collects and manages funds for Atkinson Common.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION

Criteria for Acquisition

The Open Space Committee has identified the following criteria for evaluation of land for conservation efforts:

⁶⁷ The CPC is charged with studying the City's needs, possibilities and resources relating to community preservation and making recommendations to the City Council with respect to the allocation and expenditure of CPA funds.

⁶⁸ Community Preservation Act funds are collected by the City from a surcharge of the tax levy against real property. Funds can be used for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation.

1. Public Benefit

- Protects scenic landscapes and views.
- Conserves riverbanks, shorelines, marshes, or other wetlands.
- Protects wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, or ecological communities, particularly for endangered, threatened, or rare species.
- Helps preserve quality or quantity of current or future water supplies.
- Protects productive agricultural land and working landscapes. Protects historic landscape or archaeological resources.
- Provides public access to natural and scenic areas, especially to waterfronts, or links open space areas.
- Provides acreage with potential for appropriate recreational use, particularly within growth areas, to keep pace with recreational demands.
- Strengthens open space conservation efforts, including by providing buffers.
- Links to existing open space, to recreation facilities, and to similar areas in adjacent communities.
- Is located in areas that do not have enough public open space or are threatened by continued development.

2. Factors of significance:

- Imminence of the threat of development and/or loss of valued resources.
- Degree of threat.
- Extent of natural, scenic, historical, or recreational value and significance.
- Size of property relative to its public benefit.

3. Feasibility

- Presence of a willing seller or restriction grantor.
- Public benefit value for the cost.
- Impact of development on adjacent parcels' public benefit values.
- Potential for partnerships with other entities.
- Legal and staff considerations.
- Extent of local support.
- Future management and monitoring needs, costs, and impacts on staff.
- Any costs associated with hazardous waste removal, building removal, and other site restoration or development.

Not all of these components should necessarily be ranked equally when considering the acquisition or preservation of particular parcels. Furthermore, it is important for these criteria to be continually updated and prioritized in cooperation with other city departments and committees.

Conservation Restrictions

In Massachusetts, a conservation restriction is a way to legally limit the use of private land in order to protect specified conservation values. All conservation restrictions must be approved by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. Types of conservation restrictions include:

- 1) A charitable deduction for federal income tax, gift and estate tax purposes;

- 2) A perpetual conservation restriction required by a government agency in the permitting process;
- 3) Development rights restrictions, which are purchased by a governmental agency or private, non-profit organization;
- 4) Other restrictions (such as for a term of years).⁶⁹

A conservation restriction is recorded in the chain of title of a property at the appropriate Registry of Deeds or Land Court so all present and future owners have notice that the property is subject to the conservation restriction and that they are required to comply with its terms. The landowner continues to own the property and has the ability to sell or convey the property subject to the terms and conditions of the conservation restriction. The organization or agency, as “holder” of the restriction, assumes the responsibility of periodically monitoring the property to safeguard the conservation values and enforce compliance with the terms of the conservation restriction.⁷⁰

FUNDING PROGRAMS

Community Preservation Act Fund

The city adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2002. This program creates a 2% surcharge on real estate taxes for all property owners, with exemptions for the first \$100,000 of residential property value and property owned by any person who qualifies for low income housing. The Commonwealth has typically provided a portion of matching funds for these funds.

In 2003, the City Council created the nine-member Newburyport Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC is charged with studying the city's needs, possibilities and resources with respect to community preservation and making recommendations to the City Council with respect to the allocation and expenditure of CPA funds. The CPC reviews project applications from residents, city departments, and community groups each spring and makes recommendations for funding to the City Council in June.

Since 2005, the Community Preservation Fund has appropriated \$7,454,180 in funds for community projects. Of these funds, \$574,674 has been allocated to historic park improvements, \$737,800 has been used for recreation, and \$2,257,714 has been allocated to the city's Open Space Fund. Open Space Fund expenditures include re-allocation of reimbursements from grants and acquisition of land for recreation (rail trail).

One of the limitations of this fund has been that it was historically more restrictive for recreation projects. By law, a community can only allocate funds to recreation project once it has expended or reserved at least 10% of its annual CPA revenues on each of the three of CPA project categories. It may then use all or a portion of its remaining CPA

⁶⁹MA Division of Conservation Services, *Massachusetts Conservation Restriction Handbook*. .

⁷⁰Mass Audubon.

funds (after appropriating up to 5% for the administrative expenses of its Community Preservation Committee) on land for recreational use. Historically, CPA funds also must be used to create *new* recreational opportunities, and therefore CPA funds could not be used on land that was already designated for recreational use. However, legislation was signed in July 2012 providing local Community Preservation Committees opportunities to fund capital improvements (e.g. play equipment) at existing playgrounds, parks, and athletic facilities.

City's Open Space Fund

The Community Preservation Committee has earmarked this fund for future open space projects. Its purpose is to make possible timely responses to opportunities requiring quick action and to work toward establishing a fund sufficient to undertake anticipated future projects, meet matching funds requirements, and attract funding partners. When a specific project comes together, the Open Space Committee seeks a specific allocation from the fund, with approval required from both the Community Preservation Committee and the City Council.

Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation

The Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation (Morrill Foundation) is a private foundation established in memory of the former Mayor of Newburyport. The foundation's assets come largely from the Morrill estate. The foundation benefits public spaces legally owned and/or controlled by Newburyport through fee ownership, easement, long-term lease, or long-term license. The Mayor's office submits a list of recommendations for the foundation's awards to the Trustees in the fall of each year. After the Trustees review the recommendations and the allocation of funds has been made, a formal response is sent back to the Mayor's office. The foundation issues funding awards, which the Mayor submits to the City Council for acceptance in December.

Massachusetts Funding for Conservation and Recreation

A list of some of the state grants available for open space acquisition or resource management are provided below, and more details on these programs is provided in Section 11.

Upon completion of this Open Space and Recreation Plan and subsequent approval by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment (EEA), the city would be eligible to apply for the *Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Grant (LAND)*, the *Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant (PARC)*, and the *Land and Water Conservation Fund*. The EEA also offers grants through the *Conservation Partnership Program*.

Other state grant programs administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) include the *Rivers and Harbors Grant Program*, *Recreational Trails Grants*, and *Urban and Community Forestry Challenger Grants*.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides grants through the *Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program*. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) administers grants through the *Landowner Incentive Program*.

Other state grants include the *Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)*, *Environmental Education Grants (EEG)*, *Massachusetts Environmental Trust General Grants*, and the *Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF)*.

In addition, funding for transportation projects is available through *Chapter 90 Local Aid Funding* and the *Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)*.

Case Studies / Models

POTENTIAL MODELS FOR PARK MANAGEMENT

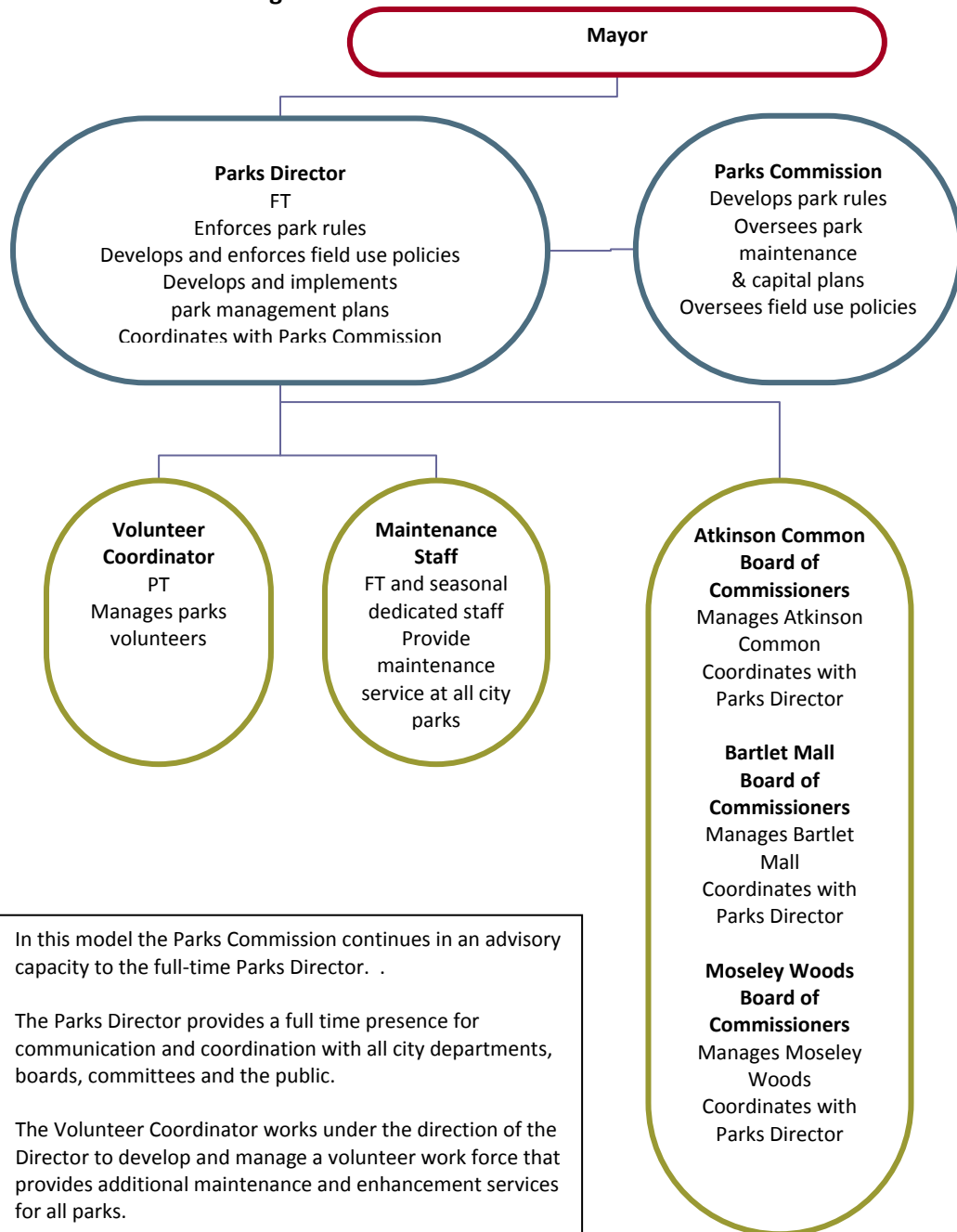
The following two models for a park management framework keep the general components of Newburyport's current framework and adjust with realignments and additions. In both instances, the Parks Commission has oversight responsibilities for the City's parks system and advises a Parks Director who is supported by staff capable of day-to-day management that will improve the condition of the system and lead to long-term sustainability.

The models also retain existing satellite park boards that have varying degrees of responsibility and capacity. Consideration should be given to eliminating boards whose responsibilities can be assumed by friends' groups and the Parks Commission. Eliminating redundancy within the management framework will create greater efficiency and less confusion.

The models assume that city funding will be appropriated to fund the expanded and new positions. However the models also create a framework that will increase the city's capacity to maintain and improve parks and increase resident and business involvement through the development of a volunteer work force.

Another model to consider, as recommended by this Plan, would be a Parks and Recreation Department with a paid director and other staff and with or without advisory boards (Parks, Atkinson Common, Moseley and Bartlet Mall).

Figure 27: Parks Framework Model A



In this model the Parks Commission continues in an advisory capacity to the full-time Parks Director. .

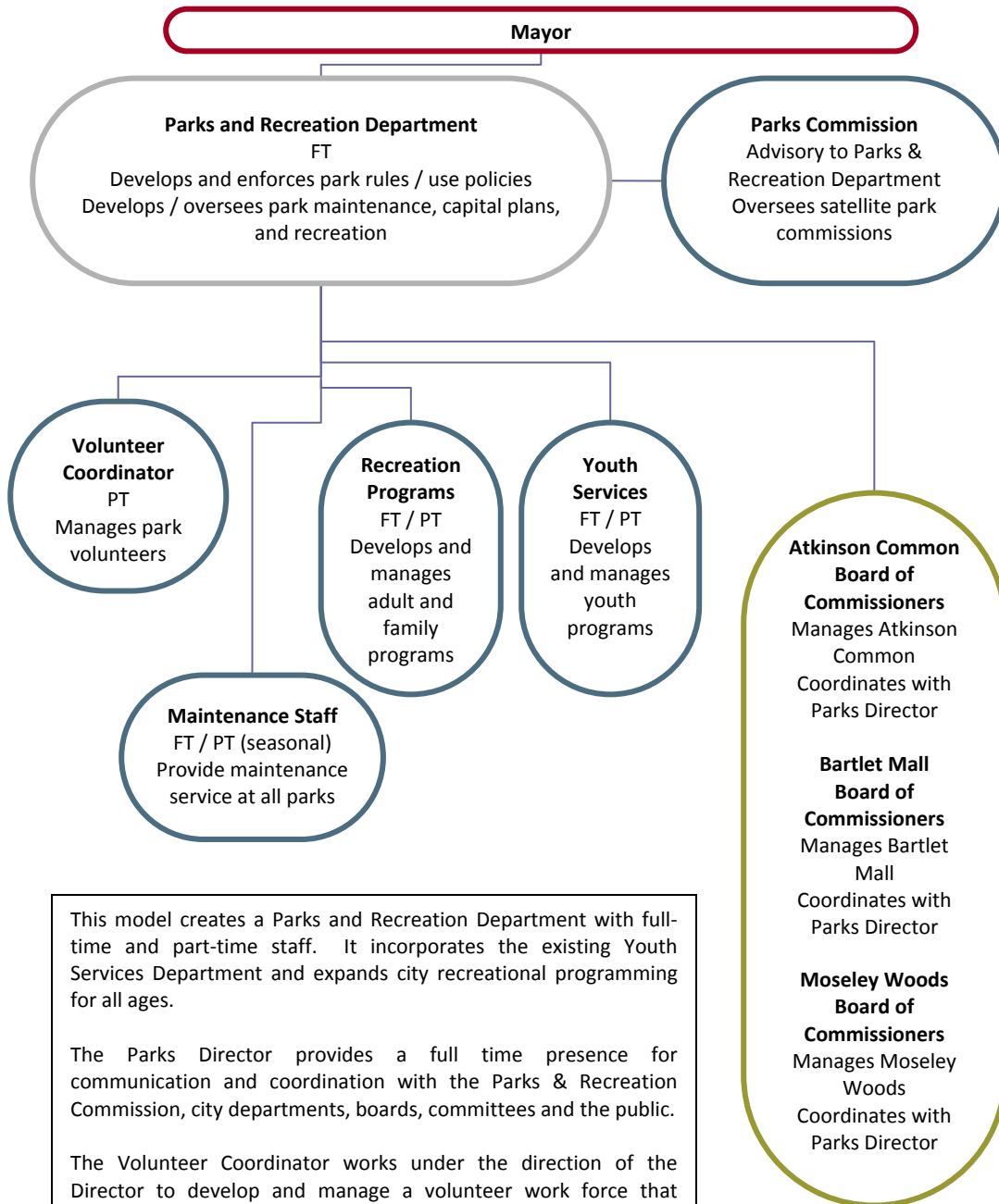
The Parks Director provides a full time presence for communication and coordination with all city departments, boards, committees and the public.

The Volunteer Coordinator works under the direction of the Director to develop and manage a volunteer work force that provides additional maintenance and enhancement services for all parks.

Maintenance staff dedicated to park maintenance and directed by the Director to perform routine maintenance as outlined in maintenance plans and to support volunteer efforts as feasible.

Parks boards retain existing responsibilities and report to and coordinate with the Parks Director.

Figure 28: Parks Framework Model B



This model creates a Parks and Recreation Department with full-time and part-time staff. It incorporates the existing Youth Services Department and expands city recreational programming for all ages.

The Parks Director provides a full time presence for communication and coordination with the Parks & Recreation Commission, city departments, boards, committees and the public.

The Volunteer Coordinator works under the direction of the Director to develop and manage a volunteer work force that provides additional maintenance and enhancement services for all parks.

Maintenance staff are dedicated to park maintenance and directed by the Director to perform routine maintenance as outlined in maintenance plans and to support volunteer efforts as feasible.

Parks & Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Parks Department. Park boards / commissions retain existing responsibilities and coordinate and communicate with Parks and Recreation Commission.

CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

It is a generally accepted best practice for owners of conservation land to develop a care and management plan for their properties. These plans generally include a comprehensive natural resource inventory for each property, site issues (e.g. pollution, invasive species, vandalism), goals for public use (if any) and natural resource protection, management strategies, and a schedule for maintenance and monitoring of the property. The Plan can guide resource management activities including forest management, farming and ranching, and other activities. Developing management plans helps to ensure that permitted activities are compatible with the conservation goals, stewardship principles and public benefit mission of the land owner. Management activities can also advance learning and public understanding of the lands conservation values. The city should consider developing a management plan for all city conservation properties. There are a variety of resources and organizations that can assist with this process which can be overseen by the city, but undertaken by partner organizations and volunteers.⁷¹

A strong land management program includes the following elements:

- preparation of Baseline Documentation Report,
- a regular monitoring program,
- cultivation of strong and ongoing relationships with landowners (where relevant),
- written policies for the enforcement and amendment of conservation restrictions, and
- a source of funds for carrying out the land management program.

PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CEMETERIES

State and federal agencies such as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation can provide guidance on developing preservation plans, including identification and evaluation of the resources as well as preservation strategies.⁷²

PARK VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer association can be a terrific asset in the management of city parks. The benefits include advocacy in support of parks, cost savings, regular maintenance, and regular monitoring (or eyes on the street). Effective volunteer organizations can also improve the city's responsiveness to user needs and concerns. Volunteers, however, are not cost-free. Nor can the consistency of workmanship or availability of labor be guaranteed. Volunteers must be recruited, trained, supervised, and outfitted with the proper tools. This calls for an investment in resources and staff to supervise. For the city to utilize park volunteers effectively, it should consider designating a staff role to

⁷¹ Brown and Pitz, 2008.

⁷² MA DCR, *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries*.

supervise the volunteer effort and provide a consistent point of contact between volunteers and the city. Such a program exists in Boston as the Boston Park Partners program (see Appendix).

LOW MAINTENANCE PARK MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

An effective way to help cut down on park maintenance costs without sacrificing quality is to incorporate “maintainable park design” when designing park improvements. Standards for maintainable park design have been developed to reduce ongoing maintenance requirements and improve water conservation for new park, open space and bikeway development projects. See Appendix for an example of low maintenance standards for park design.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

This section presents Open Space and Recreation goals and objectives for Newburyport and is based on the values and concerns expressed by residents through the community survey, at the public meeting, and in focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews. The *goals* are broad statements framed to indicate a desired future condition or achievement by the city. The *objectives* are more specific statements that outline measurable accomplishments that will help the city achieve these goals. These together guide the development of the Action Plan, which is outlined in the following section.

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.

Objectives

- Preserve the scenic vistas and working farms of the Common Pasture to support agricultural uses, conserve priority habitat for migrating and native species, and protect water systems of the Little and Parker River by working collaboratively with conservation partners and the communities of Newbury and West Newbury.
- Conserve the Little River Watershed area to protect certified vernal pools and priority habitat for endangered and threatened species, provide floodwater management, support the health of the Great Marsh ecosystem, and protect pastoral character.
- Protect marshland and other areas along the Merrimack River waterfront that offer scenic views and support a wide range of bird and marine/estuarine life.
- Protect the historically and environmentally important Curzon Mill/Artichoke River area.
- Preserve land along Old Ferry Road and the Merrimack River to protect public water supply, support a largely un-fragmented habitat corridor, including bald eagle habitat, and accommodate a scenic trail system overlooking the river.
- Preserve and enhance public access to and enjoyment of the Central Waterfront.
- Protect and enhance scenic byways / roadways.
- Protect and support working farms and farmland.
- Continue efforts to make and enhance connections in the city's trail network.
- Identify and act on opportunities for adding new neighborhood parks to provide access within walking distance of all residents.
- Identify and secure funding for land acquisition and protection.
- Encourage and support private land conservation measures.
- Incorporate provision of public open space and/or recreation areas in any major redevelopment projects, including the area around the MBTA station, the Storey Avenue commercial area, Route 1 traffic circle and the Central Waterfront.
- Explore options and coordinate with regional initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Encourage and support community gardening.

- Continue and expand stewardship to protect conservation features of protected lands.

Goal 2: Maintain a high quality of parks and recreation areas that are safe, attractive, and provide a range of active and passive (informal) recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.

Objectives

- Provide dedicated park staff and expand budget capacity for parks management.
- Provide consistent park maintenance for park facilities.
- Provide current assessments of park conditions to identify, budget for, and address maintenance issues.
- Improve field conditions and maintenance practices on recreational fields.
- Improve surface conditions on recreational courts.
- Improve playground equipment and replace deteriorated equipment.
- Continue to plan for, budget for, and execute renovations to existing parks and facilities to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable parks and facilities.
- Promote neighborhood involvement in and “ownership” of parks.
- Identify ways to expand capacity of existing athletic field space.
- Regularly assess recreation needs / interests of residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities and adapt recreational and cultural activity offerings to address evolving needs.
- Implement improvements at city parks and recreation areas to ensure accessibility to people with a variety of levels of mobility, sense awareness, and mental capacity.
- Construct trail connections, help promote their use, and develop long-term trail maintenance strategies.
- Implement recommendations of the Strategic Waterfront Plan to establish a continuous harborwalk along the shoreline of the Merrimack River.
- Support passive (informal) recreational activities, such as birding, on conservation lands.
- Evaluate opportunities for creation of new recreation facilities to support community interest / demand.
- Identify and secure funding for recreational improvements.
- Contain and eliminate invasive plant species.

Goal 3: Improve access to, connections between, and awareness of public open space and recreation areas.

Objectives

- Organize events to bring greater awareness to neighborhood parks and city open spaces.
- Provide natural educational programs at city conservation lands.
- Provide on-site informational displays at city conservation lands.
- Improve public access to open space areas for passive (informal) recreation where appropriate, including pathways, overlooks / vistas, bike racks, and parking.

- Improve and increase on-line information and learning opportunities about the city's open space and recreation areas.
- Continue and increase collaborative opportunities with state, federal, and not-for-profit land managers and conservation organizations.
- Create safe pedestrian and bike connections from neighborhoods to existing parks.
- Support initiatives to increase public awareness of potential climate change impacts and responses.

Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan

An action plan is a compilation of recommended strategies prioritized and organized into a framework that includes a desired time frame and identifies responsible parties. In this section, recommendations are organized in a matrix that can be easily referenced, reviewed and monitored. The first part of this section also highlights priority projects and identifies potential project funding sources.

Priority Projects

The planning process has identified five categories of priority projects that should be considered for immediate implementation (for which work can begin within the next year). These priorities are not listed in any particular order. The matrix in the next section also identifies a list of actions by high, medium, or low priority.

PRIORITY: RECREATION MANAGEMENT

- Expand Park Administrator position to full time.
- Evaluate existing framework for management and oversight of city's parks and make changes to improve coordination between different management entities and to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Explore appointment of city volunteer coordinator role and establish park volunteer program.
- Explore the potential benefits / costs and options for creation of a city Parks Department.

PRIORITY : PARKS MAINTENANCE

- Develop capital improvement and maintenance plan for each park.
- Develop a multi-year budget for capital and maintenance projects and allocate city funds appropriately.
- Undertake priority park improvements as determined by park maintenance / capital improvement plans.

PRIORITY : ATHLETIC FIELD CAPACITY

- Implement the recommendations of the Field Study Committee to increase field capacity through the creation of additional field space, development of artificial turf field(s), and improved maintenance.
- Provide policy/guidelines for field user fee or donation program on city's web page and reinstitute annual athletic field use meeting to review user policies and assign field permits.

PRIORITY : OPEN SPACE

- Protect priority conservation and agricultural lands.
- Encourage preservation and enhancement of open space and waterfront access in the redevelopment of the Central Waterfront.

- Develop or enhance land management and stewardship plans for city conservation properties.
- Incorporate provision of public open space and/or recreation areas in any major commercial / mixed use development projects.

PRIORITY : MULTI-USE PATHS AND CONNECTIONS

- Continue extension of Clipper City Rail Trail.
- Complete Whittier Bridge Trail construction and develop a maintenance plan.
- Schedule and fund annual re-striping of Plum Island Turnpike Bike Lanes and High Street Bike Lanes
- Improve bike and pedestrian safety along Hale Street, including vegetative management to improve sight lines and regular street cleaning to clear obstructions.

Action Plan Matrix

The Analysis of Needs Section provided a broader discussion of the general findings upon which the recommended action steps are based. Each of the action steps indicates responsible parties, with the lead entity identified in **bold**. A high, medium, or low priority level is assigned to each in consideration of immediacy of the need, resources and funding available, and impact on the city parks and open space areas as a whole. Time frame for completion of High Priority items is (by 2015), Medium Priority (by 2017 and/or as opportunities become available) and Low (by 2019 years and/or as opportunities become available). Finally, where available, a list of potential funding sources is included.

Abbreviations

AL – Sports leagues and athletic groups (e.g. Pioneer League, Newburyport Youth Soccer Association, etc.)	DWS – Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program	NRA – Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
AC – Atkinson Common Commission	EEG – Environmental Education Grants	OS – Newburyport Open Space Committee
AEEP – Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program	FG – Friends of parks groups / neighborhood park associations (e.g. Belleville Improvement Society, etc.)	OSF – Newburyport Open Space Fund
BC – Chamber of Commerce / Businesses	HC – Newburyport Historical Commission	PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grants
BT – Bartlet Mall Commission	HM – Newburyport Harbor Master and Harbor Commission	PC – Newburyport Parks Commission / Parks Administrator
C90 – Chapter 90 Local Aid	LAND – Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity grants	PD – Newburyport Office of Planning and Development / Planning Board
CC – City Council	LIP – Landowner Incentive Program grants	PR – Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
CN – Conservation / Natural Resource Advocacy Groups (e.g. Parker River Clean Water Association, Mass Audubon, etc.)	LT -- Land Trusts and Land Conservation Organizations (e.g. Essex County Greenbelt Association, Trust for Public Lands, Trustees of Reservations, etc.)	PS – Newburyport Public Schools
Con – Conservation Commission	LWF – Land and Water Conservation Fund	RH – Rivers and Harbors Grant Program
CPA – Community Preservation Act	M - Mayor’s Office	RT -- Recreational trail groups (e.g. Coastal Trails Coalition, etc.)
CPP – Conservation Partnership Program	MET – Massachusetts Environmental Trust General Grants	RTG – Recreational Trails Grants
CZM – Mass Office of Coastal Zone Management	MF – Morrill Foundation	SD – Newburyport Sewer Department
DC – Commission on Disabilities, ADA Coordinator	MHC – Mass Historic Commission	TC – Newburyport Tree Committee
DCR – Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation	MPF – Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	TEP – Transportation Enhancement Program
DOT – Massachusetts Highway Department	MW – Moseley Woods Commission	TW – Newburyport Tree Warden
DPS – Newburyport Department of Public Services		UCF – Urban and Community Forestry Challenger Grants
		WD – Newburyport Water Department
		WT – Newburyport Waterfront Trust
		YS – Newburyport Youth Services

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.

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Completion Year	Potential Funding Sources
1.1	Maintain and update list of lands of recreation / conservation interest on a periodic basis.	OS, PD, PC, Con, WD	2015	
1.2	Implement city's Field Study Committee recommendations for creation of additional field space through land acquisition or other means.	PC, PD, OS, M	2015	CPA, PARC, MF, LWF
1.3	Encourage preservation and enhancement of public open space and waterfront access in redevelopment of the <u>Central Waterfront area</u> .	PD, PB, PC, M, OS, WT, NRA	2015	
1.5	Consider coordination of a periodic review of city-owned land to identify potential changes of management / use.	M, PD, PC, Con, WD, SD, DPS	2015	
1.6	Continue collaborative efforts to work with private owners and other interested parties to protect (through acquisition or other means) remaining land parcels in private ownership within the <u>Common Pasture</u> .	OS, PD, Con, Town of Newbury Town of West Newbury, LT, CN	2017	LAND, OSF, CPA, LWF, CPP, PF
1.7	Continue collaborative efforts to work with private owners and other interested parties to protect (through acquisition or other means) parcels or portions of parcels of conservation / agricultural interest in the <u>Little River Watershed area</u> between Crow Lane and Low Street.	OS, PD, Con, LT, CN	2017	LAND, OSF, CPA, LWF, CPP
1.8	Work with landowners and other interested parties to protect (through acquisition or other means) privately owned properties in the <u>Curzon Mill/Artichoke River</u> area that have been identified for conservation / historical interest.	OS, PD, Con, LT, CN, HC, MHC	2017	LAND, OSF, CPA, LWF, CPP
1.9	Work with private landowners and other interested parties to protect (through acquisition or other means) land along <u>Old Ferry Road</u> and the Merrimack River that has been identified for conservation / historical interest.	OS, PD, Con, LT, CN, HC, MHC	2017	LAND, OSF, CPA, LWF, CPP
1.10	Support collaboration with Mass DOT on Linking Landscapes project to identify critical wildlife crossings across roadways and work with partners to implement appropriate mitigation measures.	OS, Con, CN, DOT, DPS, PR	2017	C90, LIP

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Completion Year	Potential Funding Sources
1.11	Work with private landowners and other interested parties to protect <u>Woodbridge Island</u> and <u>Joppa Flats</u> marshes including verifying restricted wetland status and protections	OS, Con, CN, DCR, PR, CZM	2019	LIP, CPA
1.12	Work with private landowners and other interested parties to protect other open space properties in the city	OS, PD, LT	2019	CPA, OSF, CPP, LWF, LAND
1.13	Evaluate active and/or passive recreational use potential for Crow Lane areas associated with landfill and former compost facility	PD, PC, Con	2019	CPA, PARC
1.14	Work with private landowners and other interested parties to preserve (through preservation restrictions or other means) historic gardens and lawns along <u>High Street</u> .	HC, MHC, PD, OS, LT, CN	2019	MPF, CPA
1.15	Explore the potential benefits of creating a Scenic Road ordinance and designating a network of Scenic Roads in the city as allowed by State legislation.	PD, HC	2019	
1.16	Consider scenic overlay district to protect scenic views.	PD	2019	
1.17	Advocate and/or require provision of public open space and/or recreation areas in redevelopment of the <u>MBTA station and Route 1</u> traffic circle area.	PD, M, OS, PC	2019	
1.18	Advocate and / or require provision of public open space and/or recreation areas in redevelopment of <u>Storey Ave</u> commercial area.	PD, M, OS, PC	2017	
1.19	Continue to protect current and future water supply watersheds, including land acquisition / conservation, best management practices, and coordination between different management entities.	WD, OS, Con, PC, communities that impact city water supply watershed	2019	DWS, MET
1.20	Develop or enhance land management and stewardship plans for city conservation properties.	OS, Con, PD, LT, CN	2017	CPA

Goal 2: Maintain a high quality of parks, recreation areas, and other open spaces that are safe, attractive, preserve historic resources, and provide a range of active and passive (informal) recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
2.1	Evaluate existing framework for management and oversight of city's parks and make changes to improve coordination between different management entities and clarify roles and responsibilities.	PC, M, CC, PD, AC, MW, BT, WT	2015	
2.2	Develop a multi-year budget for park capital improvements / maintenance and allocate or increase city funds appropriately.	PC, M, CC	2015	
2.3	Explore appointment of city volunteer coordinator role, establish park volunteer program.	PC, M	2015	
2.4	Implement city's Field Study Committee recommendations for field maintenance and improving efficiency of use of public athletic fields.	PC, M, PD	2015	CPA, PARC, LWF, CPP, MF
2.5	Reinstitute annual athletic field use meeting to review user policies and assign field permits.	PC, AL	2015	
2.6	Provide policy / guidelines for existing athletic field user donation program that supports athletic field maintenance and improvements.	PC, M, CC	2015	
2.7	Create city policy to guide design and use of signs to recognize private sponsorship of park improvements.	PC, PD, M, FG	2015	
2.8	Develop capital improvement and maintenance plan for all city parks and recreation areas that requires annual assessment of park conditions, identifies needed improvements and funding, and lists annual priorities.	PC, PS, WD	2015	
2.9	Continue off-leash dog program at designated parks and address maintenance and management issues including addressing carrying capacity at Cashman Park lawn and updating of signs.	PC, FG	2015	
2.10	Explore neighborhood-based approaches for oversight and maintenance of city parks including formation of neighborhood "friends of park" groups where none currently exist to work in coordination with Parks Commission to provide support and monitoring of neighborhood parks	PC, FG	2015	
2.11	Implement Section 504 recommendations (see Section 504 Chapter).	PC, DC, DPS	2015	CPA, PARC, LWF, MF

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
2.12	Continue implementation of maintenance and capital improvements plan for <u>Cushing Park</u> / <u>Ayers Playground</u> , <u>Perkins Park</u> , <u>Joppa Park</u> , <u>Cashman Park</u> , <u>Moseley Woods</u> , <u>Inn Street Mall</u> , <u>Brown Square</u> , <u>March's Hill</u> , <u>Atkinson Common</u> , <u>Pioneer League Field</u> , <u>Bartlett Mall</u> , <u>Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground</u> , <u>Tracy Park</u> , <u>Woodman Park</u> , <u>Atwood Park</u> (see Appendix).	PC, FG, DPS	2015	CPA, PARC, LWF, MF
2.13	Complete a natural resource inventory of the City Forest.	Con, OS, CN	2017	CPA, UCF
2.14	Create an access and maintenance plan for <u>City Forest</u> to increase informal (passive) recreation opportunities including trails.	Con, OS, YS, PC	2017	CPA, UCF
2.15	Create management and maintenance plan for <u>Little River Nature Trail</u> including consideration of ways to reduce pollution and misuse.	Con, OS, FG, CN	2019	CPA, UCF
2.16	Expand current part-time Parks Administrator position to full-time.	M, PC	2015	
2.17	Explore the potential benefits / costs and suitable framework for creation of a city Parks Department.	M, PC, CC, PD, DPS, YS	2015	
2.18	Develop and communicate procedures for reporting vandalism / safety / maintenance issues to city staff and establish a procedure to responding to high urgency issues	M, PC, DPS, PD	2017	
2.19	Re-designate <u>Cushing Park</u> as a city park.	M, CC, PD, PC	2015	
2.20	Explore addition of seasonal staff to include a dedicated park maintenance division.	DPS, M, PC	2017	
2.21	Incorporate space for indoor / outdoor recreation activities in any new community / senior center project	PD, M, PC	2015	
2.22	Develop a maintenance and capital improvements plan for <u>Market Square</u> .	PD, PC, DPS	2017	
2.23	Continue extension of <u>Clipper City Rail Trail</u> and develop a maintenance plan.	PD, PC, FG	2015	CPA, RTG, MF, PARC, LWF
2.24	Complete capital improvements for <u>270 Water Street</u> and develop a maintenance plan	PD, PC, Nat'l Grid, FG	2015	
2.25	Continue extension of <u>Harborwalk</u> as recommended in the Strategic Waterfront Plan and the Merrimack River Trail Reconnaissance Study.	PD, PC, OS, HM, WD, Con	2017	CPA, RTG, MF, PARC, LWF, CPP
2.26	Complete <u>Whittier Trail</u> construction and develop a maintenance plan.	PD, RT, DPS, DOT	2017	

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
2.27	Adopt tree ordinance to provide for protection and appropriate replacement of trees and shrubs in the public properties and rights of way as well as trees and shrubs on private property that impact public areas	PD, TC	2015	
2.28	Continue capital improvements to <u>NHS</u> stadium and fields and develop maintenance plan.	PS, PD, FG, PC, AL	2015	BC
2.29	Develop a capital improvement and maintenance plan for <u>Brown School</u> play yard, courts, and playground.	PD, PS, PC	2017	
2.30	Develop a maintenance plan for <u>Bresnahan</u> playground and field space.	PS, PC	2017	
2.31	Develop a capital improvement and maintenance plan for <u>Nock / Molin</u> recreation areas and skate park including potential re-design of athletic fields to increase capacity, replacement of playground equipment, and resurfacing of courts.	PS, PC, AL, FG	2015	
2.32	Identify needs for expanded (seasonal or permanent) Youth Services staff to serve youth recreational needs including staff position for therapeutic recreation	YS, M	2017	
2.33	Develop a maintenance and capital improvements plan for <u>Market Landing / Waterfront Park</u>	WT, PC, PD, DPS	2017	
2.34	Develop maintenance and capital improvements plan for <u>Newburyport (Plum Island) Beach</u>	HM, DCR, PC, FG	2017	
2.35	Collaborate on design and construction of a wildlife viewing platform at the <u>Common Pasture</u> along Hale Street.	Con, OS, CN	2019	CPA, LWF
2.36	Support efforts to contain and eliminate invasive plant species on public properties and replace with native plantings.	Con, PD, OS, PC, DPS, CN	2017	
2.37	Update and publicize access and maintenance plan for <u>Common Pasture – Coffin’s Island, Cooper North, Wet Meadows</u> to increase informal recreation opportunities.	Con, OS, Town of Newbury, CN, LT	2017	
2.38	Create an anti-vandalism ordinance for cemeteries and parks	HC, PC, PD, CC	2017	
2.39	Consider creating a city staff position for a Tree Arborist responsible for protecting, maintaining, and succession planning for trees and shrubs on public properties and coordinating with the city’s Tree Committee	M, PD, TC	2017	
2.40	Develop maintenance guide on best management practices for city athletic field and park maintenance to be used by city staff and volunteers and provide training opportunities as needed.	PC, DPS	2017	

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
2.41	Evaluate the need for shade trees and shade structures at parks throughout the city and incorporate in park design and capital improvement plans	PC, DPS, FG	2017	
2.42	Explore pros and cons of creation of a Friends of City Parks non-profit group to fundraise in support of park improvements city-wide	PC, FG	2017	
2.43	Evaluate feasibility of adding restrooms (seasonal or permanent, composting or conventional) at public parks and recreation sites	PC, FG, AL, DPS	2017	
2.44	Explore opportunities for creating informal outdoor meeting spaces with amenities such as benches, sitting areas, viewpoints, shade structures and incorporate in park design and capital improvement plans	PC, FG, DPS	2017	
2.45	Explore opportunities for providing and expanding adult recreation fee-based programs / activities to serve a variety of adult populations and abilities.	PC, M	2017	
2.46	Explore potential for use of city parks for private events and consider developing a user fee donation structure similar to athletic field program.	PC, M, CC, FG	2017	
2.47	Explore pros and cons for expansion of off-leash dog program to other locations including potential for access for swimming.	PC, M, CC, FG	2017	
2.48	Explore options for creation of an artificial turf field (including NHS stadium).	PC, PD, PS, AL	2017	
2.49	Identify opportunities for adding and improving drinking fountains at parks	PC, WD, YS	2017	
2.50	Continue to plan for protection and replacement of native and historic trees on public and private properties	TC	2017	
2.51	Explore potential for allocating a portion of funding generated from Youth Services programs toward park improvements and maintenance.	YS, PC, M	2017	
2.52	Assist with formation of a community-based community garden program and identify and evaluate locations for community gardens including school properties	PD, PS	2019	
2.53	Improve management of roadside plantings and vegetation management along Water Street and Plum Island Turnpike to retain scenic water views.	DPS	2019	
2.54	Create a preservation management plan for burial grounds and cemeteries.	HC, PD, cemetery commissions	2019	CPA
2.55	Maintain the use of agricultural licenses on publicly owned farm land.	OS, PD, Con, LT	2019	
2.56	Survey recreation and park users on a regular basis to assess recreation needs / interests	PC	2019	

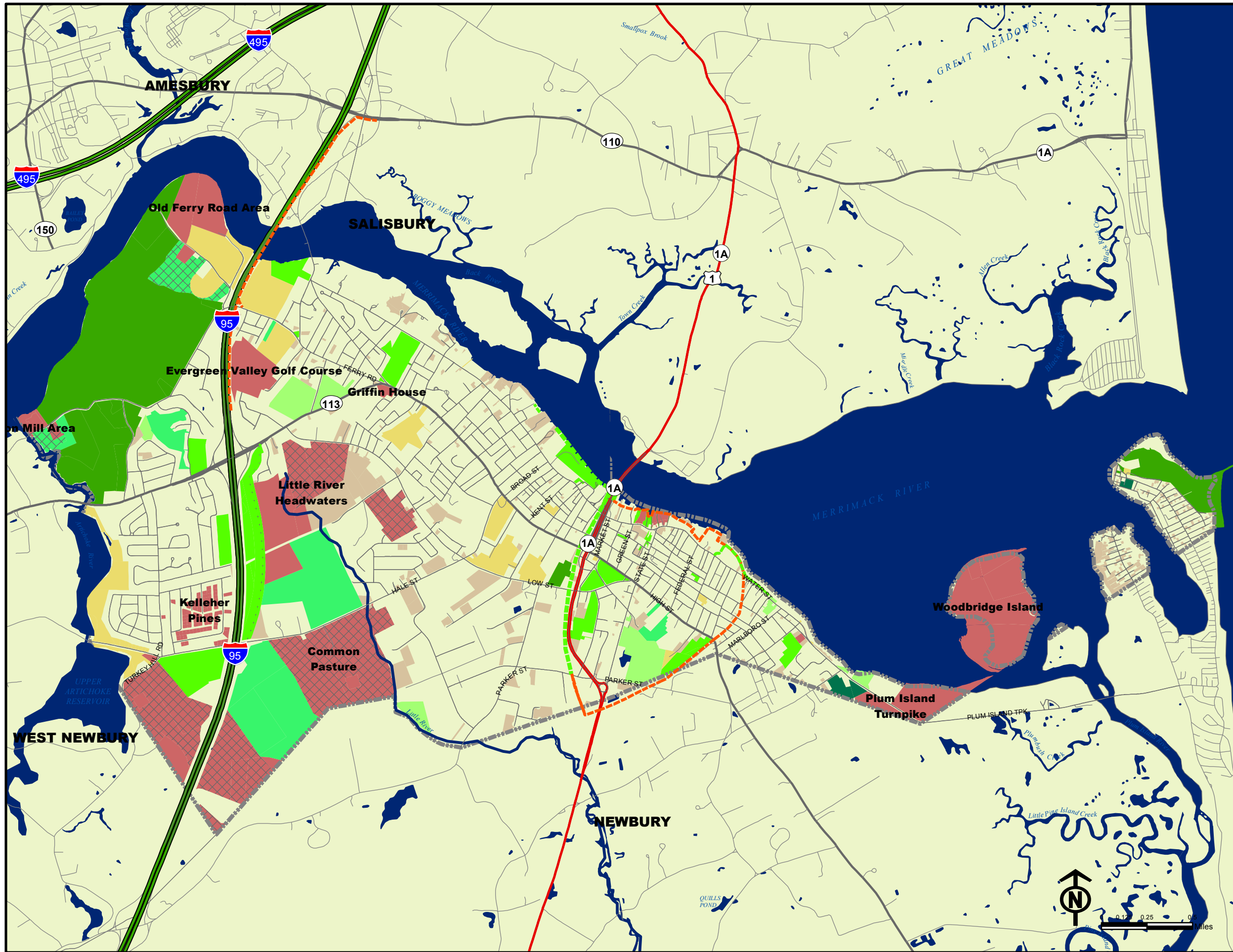
ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
2.57	Explore the establishment of a public rowing and sailing program and associated boat storage facilities based in Cashman Park or in a location where public safety can be assured.	PC, HM, YS	2019	
2.58	Consider opportunities for allowing vendors in public park and recreation areas to provide amenities for park users and potential revenue for park maintenance and improvements.	PC, M, CC, FG	2019	
2.59	Explore options for providing public indoor or outdoor community pool and/or water play structure.	PC, PD, YWCA	2019	
2.60	Consider / evaluate potential public uses and/or wildlife habitat opportunities for the privately-owned former landfill.	PD, PC, CN, Con	2019	
2.61	Identify water access locations suitable for canoe / kayak entry and instruction	YS, PC, WD, HM, Con	2019	

Goal 3: Improve access to, connections between, and awareness of public open space and recreation areas.












Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
3.1 Improve bike and pedestrian safety along Hale Street including vegetative management to improve sight lines and undertake regular street cleaning to clear obstructions.	DPS, PD, Con	2015	C90
3.2 Schedule and fund annual re-striping of Plum Island Turnpike Bike Lanes and High Street Bike Lanes	M, DPS	2015	C90, TEP
3.3 Work with landowners in Business Park to incorporate habitat management / protection measures	Con, OS, PD	2017	LIP, MET
3.4 Collaborate with conservation and education organizations to provide natural history and educational programming at city open space properties.	OS, CN, Con, LT, Town of Newbury, PR	2017	EEG
3.5 Work with conservation partners to increase public awareness of Little River Watershed and importance of watershed protection efforts	OS, CN, Con, LT, WD, CZM	2019	EEG
3.6 Work with conservation partners to educate local landowners about reducing and eliminating invasive plant species and incorporating native plant species.	Con, CN, PR, DCR, CZM	2019	EEG, LIP

ID	Actions	Responsible Parties	Priority	Potential Funding Sources
3.7	Increase public awareness of recommendations of the Heritage Landscape Inventory report	OS, DCR	2017	
3.8	Expand city web site to provide more complete and efficient access to information on parks, fields, programming open spaces and conservation lands.	PC, OS	2017	
3.9	Continue to explore trail extension from Maudslay State Park to Moseley Pines via trail route beneath I-95 Whittier Bridge.	PD, RT, WD	2017	CPA, RTG
3.10	Create a guide with profiles of the historic farms of Newburyport.	OS, HC, CN, DCR, MHC	2019	MPF
3.11	Explore opportunities to utilize unpaved public rights of way for habitat sensitive recreational trails including Old Ferry Road beyond Arrowhead Farm and Crow Lane between the city compost center and Route 95.	PC, M, OS, DPS	2019	
3.12	Explore additional locations for interpretive panels and other signage at historic and natural sites in public open space and recreation areas.	PC, OS, Con, HC, CN	2019	CPA
3.13	Improve bike and pedestrian access and safety across Route 1 traffic rotary.	PD, DOT	2019	C90, TEP
3.14	Improve bike and pedestrian access and safety to travel along (east to west) and across (north to south) Storey Ave with particular focus at high traffic locations between Belleville Cemetery and Daniel Lucy Way.	PD, DOT, DPS	2019	C90, TEP
3.15	Identify additional locations for adding “ways to the water” markers as recommend in the Strategic Waterfront Plan.	PD, NRA, WT, HM, PC, FG	2019	
3.16	Support implementation / completion of Merrimack River Trail	PD, PC, RT	2019	

MAP 13: SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

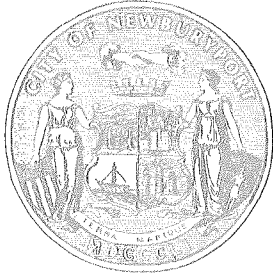


Map 13 Action Plan

-  Future Shared Use Path
-  Existing Shared Use Path
- Permanent Protection**
-  Conservation Restriction
-  Federal
-  State
-  Municipal
-  Private
- Temporary Protection**
-  Municipal
- Priority Areas**
-  Properties of Interest
-  Chapter 61 (Tax Relief)
- Other Open Space**
-  Unprotected

Prepared by
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.
September 2012
Data sources: MassGIS,
City of Newburyport, Bing
Map is intended for City
of Newburyport planning
purposes only.

Section 10: Public Comments



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DONNA D. HOLADAY, MAYOR
60 PLEASANT STREET - P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
978-465-4413 PHONE
978-465-4402 FAX

October 22, 2012

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Newburyport 2012 Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

Dear Ms. Cryan:

This letter is written in support of the final Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Newburyport being submitted on behalf of the City by Brown Walker Planners, Inc.

Juliet Walker and Sue Brown at Brown Walker Planners, Inc., have worked with our Office of Planning and Development, Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, and many other officials to develop this comprehensive plan update. The process has been thoughtful, thorough and inclusive. We have reviewed the existing 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan, updated its contents, maps, and goals, and worked on a strategic plan for the next seven years. A number of public forums have been conducted, along with an online survey, and much input has been received from Newburyport's citizens.

The most important part of our plan will be implementation. Brown Walker Planners, Inc. has helped us list and prioritize action items which we are committed to working on. We hope to make substantial progress on this in the next few years. As you can tell from our plan, the City of Newburyport has a history of continued support for public parks and open space preservation.

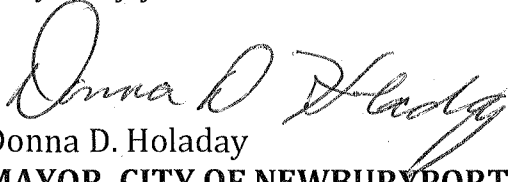
We have been very pleased with the work done on our Open Space and Recreation Plan, and are proud of the results. We have found the process extremely valuable to the City. This plan was created with administrative funds from the Newburyport Community Preservation Committee so that expenditures on future open space acquisitions and parks projects will be based on a full analysis of the needs, resources, and priorities of the City. The plan is very informative, well organized, and clear in stating the goals for the City of Newburyport.

Newburyport 2012 Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update
October 22, 2012

I trust that the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) will look favorably upon the City's request for final plan approval and future funding for implementation.

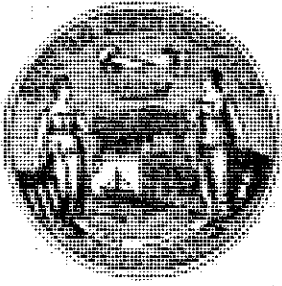
If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Director of Planning and Development, Andrew R. Port at (978) 465-4400 x 1223. Thank you in advance for your review and approval of our OSRP Update.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna D. Holaday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Donna D. Holaday
MAYOR, CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

CC: *Juliet T. H. Walker, President*
Brown Walker Planners, Inc.



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
PLANNING BOARD

60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
(978) 465-4400 • (978) 465-4452 (FAX)

November 7, 2012

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Newburyport Planning Board has reviewed the recently updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Our Board agrees in general with the Open Space and Recreation Plan's recommendations and particularly applaud the inclusion of action items to improve and maintain our City parks and recreation areas. We intend to work cooperatively with other City's departments, boards, committees, and residents to help implement the Plan's recommendations. We support adoption and implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by the City of Newburyport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Bowie", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Bowie, Chair
Newburyport Planning Board

ConCom

Open Space and Recreation



Newburyport
Parks

Newburyport City Hall
60 Pleasant Street, PO Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950
978.465.4462
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parks@cityofnewburyport.com

19 July 2012

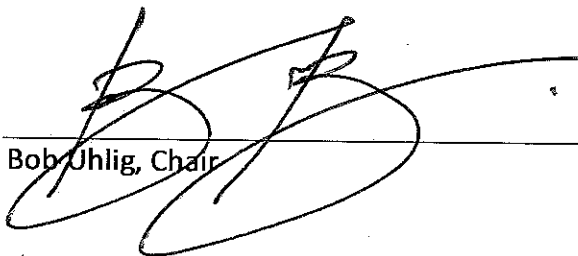
Andrew R. Port, AICP
Director of Planning & Development
Office of Planning & Development
City of Newburyport
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Port:

The Newburyport Parks Commission has reviewed the recently updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Newburyport Parks Commission agrees in general with the Open Space and Recreation Plan's recommendations. In addition, the Newburyport Parks Commission will work cooperatively with other City's departments, boards, committees, and residents to help implement the Plan's recommendations. The Newburyport Parks Commission supports adoption and implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by the City of Newburyport.

Sincerely,



Bob Jhlig, Chair



Merrimack Valley
Planning Commission
*plan * develop * promote*

August 28, 2012

Mary Harbaugh
Chair, Newburyport Open Space Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Regional Review of Draft Newburyport Open Space & Recreation Plan 2012-2019

Dear Ms. Harbaugh:

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has reviewed Newburyport's Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012-2019 and commends the Open Space Committee, the Parks Commission, the City planning staff, and Brown Walker Planners, Inc., for a job exceptionally well done. Having worked closely with the City on a number of related community and regional planning efforts, including the "Merrimack Valley Priority Growth Strategy", we are well aware of the countless hours the Committee members devoted to this plan.

This comprehensive open space plan update provides a wealth of important new information on the City's open space and recreation facilities and needs, natural resources, community character, socioeconomic conditions, land use, and public infrastructure. Used in conjunction with Newburyport's Master Plan, Strategic Land Use Plan, and Waterfront Strategic Plan, this updated open space and recreation plan will be a valuable municipal tool for guiding future growth and preserving the City's outstanding scenic, open space, and natural resources.

We are pleased to note the plan's strong commitment to preserving Newburyport's remaining rural and agricultural heritage, including the Curzon Mill/Artichoke River area, the upper Little River watershed, land along Old Ferry Road and the Merrimack River, and the "Common Pasture". This latter area, consisting of a mosaic of scenic open fields, wetlands, and forest, has both regional and statewide significance as a **heritage landscape**. Since Colonial times, Newburyport and Newbury farmers have shared the use of this broad, common pastureland as a grazing ground for livestock and for growing hay. A key gateway into the two communities, the Common Pasture is one of the "signature landscapes" of the Merrimack Valley planning region, combining working farms with unspoiled open vistas, rare plant and wildlife habitat, and critical water recharge areas for the highly stressed Parker River. We commend the City for focusing attention on this special area, and working in partnership with the Town of Newbury, the Essex County Greenbelt Association, and other interest groups to permanently preserve it from development.

Serving the communities of:

Amesbury Andover Boxford Georgetown Groveland Haverhill Lawrence Merrimac Methuen
Newbury Newburyport North Andover Rowley Salisbury West Newbury

We are also pleased to note the City's vision and continued commitment to provide a wide range of multi-use recreational trail opportunities to all age groups, including the extension of the popular Clipper City Rail Trail, completion of the Whittier Bridge Trail and associated trail maintenance plan, annual maintenance and safety improvements to the High Street and Plum Island Turnpike bike lanes, and implementation of the regional Merrimack River Trail.

We also commend the City for its noteworthy efforts to expand and improve the Harborwalk and Central Waterfront open space along the lower Merrimack River in Newburyport Harbor. The downtown Central Waterfront and expanded Harborwalk area – connecting Cashman Park to Joppa Park – are key components of the City's National Register Historic District and support a wide variety of recreational and cultural pursuits (festivals and concerts, exhibits, boating, sightseeing, walks along the boardwalk) that are treasured by Newburyport residents and visitors alike.

We applaud the open, public process the Committee followed in preparing the plan. The participation of multiple City boards and committees, as well as of the general public through focus group meetings and a community survey, demonstrates a broad base of local stakeholder investment in and support for the plan. This support should prove helpful in the months and years ahead as the Open Space Committee and City personnel work to implement the plan's action recommendations.

We commend the Committee also for its recognition of the *intemunicipal* aspects of open space planning and natural resources protection, and of the value in exploring joint open space and recreation opportunities with neighboring communities, local watershed groups and land trusts, and other Merrimack Valley and Parker River Basin entities such as the Eight Towns and the Great Marsh organization and the Great Marsh Coalition. Working together, the City and its partner organizations are making important strides in open space preservation and habitat restoration and monitoring.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your updated plan. Your planning team, some of whom were unpaid volunteers who gave so generously of their time, have done a truly fine job and merit the appreciation of the entire Newburyport community.

If the MVPC planning staff can be of assistance to the Open Space Committee, the Parks Commission, the City Planning Office, and other municipal boards in implementing elements of the 7-Year Action Plan, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,



Alan Macintosh
Assistant Director/Environmental Program Manager

Cc: Bob Uhlig, Chair, Newburyport Parks Commission
Andrew Port, Director, Newburyport Office of Planning and Development
Ed Ramsdell, Newburyport MVPC Commissioner

Disabilities Commission

Section 11: References and Resources

References

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Related Planning Initiatives

Essex Coastal Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

The 85-mile Essex Coastal Scenic Byway follows state and local roadways between Lynn in the south and Newburyport in the north curving along the coast and looping around Cape Ann. A scenic byway is a road recognized for having special qualities that its local communities wish to preserve and promote. Scenic byways are designated (at both the state and national level) for the defining qualities that make them distinctive and provide a unique (and appealing) travel experience. The ECSB has received state-level designation. In Newburyport the byway extends from Atkinson Common along High Street to Newbury. It also includes a loop down Green Street and up State Street as well as a spur along Water Street to the Plum Island Turnpike and out to Plum Island Point.

In 2010, the Essex National Heritage Commission completed a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for the byway that is comprised of a series of individual reports -- a compilation of research, inventories, guidelines, and recommendations to guide creation of a successful and sustainable byway program. The CMP provides an important resource document for Newburyport's Open Space and Recreation Plan for initiatives related to protection of scenic landscapes, access to recreation, preservation of natural areas, and regional collaboration opportunities.⁷³

Heritage Landscape Inventory

In 2005 Newburyport took part in the Heritage Landscape Inventory program offered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation (DCR) and the Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage). The resulting documentation -- local reconnaissance reports -- identifies significant unprotected landscape resources, discuss associated planning issues and offer survey and planning recommendations.⁷⁴ Many of the lands of conservation interest included in the Open Space and Recreation Plan are also identified in the state report.

Newburyport's Strategic Land Use Plan

From 2003 to 2004, the city engaged in a strategic planning process for a 1,500-acre area stretching from I-95 to Route 1 that includes the Business Park, farmland,

⁷³ Essex National Heritage Commission.

⁷⁴ MA Division of Conservation Services, Heritage Landscape Program.

residential neighborhoods, and undeveloped areas along the Little River corridor. The project arose as a recommendation from the 2001 Master Plan and was designed to try to resolve competing interests related to protection of environmental resources and economic development. After a public process, the plan set forth a strategy for redirecting future development within the study area to support employment opportunities and continued economic development in the Business Park, pursue transit-oriented mix of residential and commercial land uses, and protect natural resources. The Plan recommendations are compatible with the goals, objectives, and actions included in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.⁷⁵

Newburyport's Waterfront Strategic Plan

Newburyport undertook a strategic planning effort for Newburyport Waterfront in the spring of 2003. This work was directed by the Office of Planning and Development and supported by the Newburyport Harbor Commission for water-related issues. This final report summarizing the findings and recommendations of that effort will help guide city policy regarding waterfront access and development - both landside and waterside. The Plan builds on the Harbor Management Plan and on the 2001 Newburyport Master Plan, and is targeted to produce specific near term results to increase harbor side public access, which will link improved waterfront parks. Some of the Plan's key recommendations related to waterfront access, Harborwalk extension, and water-based activities are included in this Open Space and Recreation Plan.⁷⁶

Merrimack River Trail

The Essex National Heritage Commission has been partnering with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) on a regional planning initiative focused on developing the Merrimack River Trail, a long envisioned 50-mile multimodal recreational trail along the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. The project entails the engagement of trail advocates and municipal officials in the 17 Massachusetts communities that border the Merrimack River. An early stage reconnaissance planning study was completed in December 2011 with the support of a Recreational Trails Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. In Newburyport, portions of the existing and proposed Harborwalk, Rail Trail, and coastal trails in Moseley Woods and Maudslay State Park are part of the Merrimack River Trail.⁷⁷

Funding Programs

Upon completion of this Open Space and Recreation Plan and subsequent approval by EEA, the city would be eligible to apply for the following grants:

- *Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND)*: Grants to city and town conservation commissions for the acquisition of open space for conservation and informal recreation purposes (formerly the Self-Help Program).

⁷⁵ City of Newburyport, 2004.

⁷⁶ City of Newburyport, 2003.

⁷⁷ Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, 2011.

- *Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)*: Funds for acquiring and/or developing park and recreation land (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program).
- *Land and Water Conservation Fund*: Federal funds (administered by EEA) for up to 50% of the costs of acquiring, developing or renovating park, recreation, or conservation land.

The *Rivers and Harbors Grant Program* is a statewide program of matching grants from DCR to municipalities for design and construction to address problems on coastal and inland waterways, lakes, and great ponds. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) provides grants to public agencies and non-profits through its *Riverways Program* to help to restore the ecological integrity of rivers and streams.

DCR's *Recreational Trails Grants* fund 80% of the project costs for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects.

DCR's *Urban and Community Forestry Challenger Grants* assist in building support for the long term protection and management of community trees and forests. Municipalities and non-profits are eligible to apply.

The Executive Office of Energy and the Environment (EEA) offers grants through the *Conservation Partnership Program* to non-public, non-profits for acquiring land and interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides grants through the *Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program* to assist in acquiring land to protect the quality of public drinking water supplies.

The *Landowner Incentive Program* through the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) provides grants to private landowners, sportsmen's clubs, land trusts, and non-profit groups to restore or create wildlife habitats for the benefit of species-at-risk.

The *Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program* (AEEP) provides funding to agricultural operations in Massachusetts for the mitigation and/or prevention of impacts on natural resources that may result from agricultural practices. While primarily a water quality program, AEEP will also fund practices that promote water conservation and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The *Environmental Education Grants* (EEG) program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.

The *Massachusetts Environmental Trust General Grants* support nonprofit organizations and municipalities in efforts to restore, protect, and improve water and water-related resources of the Commonwealth.

The *Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund* (MPPF) is a grant program established to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites (cultural resources) listed

in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or nonprofit organization.

Chapter 90 Local Aid Funding

The Massachusetts Chapter 90 Program was enacted on 1973 to entitle municipalities to reimbursement of documented expenditures for approved roadway reconstruction and improvements projects. Chapter 90 is a 100% reimbursable program and eligible projects include resurfacing, preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, shoulders, side road approaches, landscaping and tree planting, roadside drainage, structures (including bridges), sidewalks, traffic control and service facilities, street lighting, and other projects approved by the state highway department. Chapter 90 funds are apportioned to all cities and towns in the Commonwealth based on a formula that includes total population, road miles, and employment.

Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)

The TEP is a federal transportation program that funds community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience. Projects can include creation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streetscape improvements, refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, and other investments that enhance communities, access, and the environment. Mass DOT manages the TE program in Massachusetts.

Section 504 Self-Assessment

Part 1: Administrative Requirements

DESIGNATION OF ADA COORDINATOR

See Appendix

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

See Appendix

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

See Appendix

PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE DISABLED COMMUNITY

Andrea Egmont, ADA Coordinator for Newburyport, has contributed to the review of sites and has also facilitated review by the Commission on Disabilities.

Part 2: Program Accessibility

FACILITY INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Atkinson Common

Description

Atkinson Common is made up of two distinct parks separated by a forested buffer but with access from one section to the other by a walking path and emergency vehicle road. The upper section of the park fronting on Moseley Avenue and High Street is modeled after a turn of the century English countryside park. Elements of the park include lawns, planting beds, specimen trees, memorials, monuments and a stone tower. An arched bridge spans a reflecting pool and signs outlining the history of the park mark the common on High Street and Moseley Avenue. Three tennis courts and a small stone utility building with a restroom are at the back end of the upper section. A larger utility building is along the access road between the upper and lower level. Parking is available on-street and in a parking lot off Plummer Avenue.

The lower section of the park, the Pioneer League Field, is described below.

Accessibility Comments

The upper passive area of the common is well maintained and in good condition with no accessibility issues noted for circulation. There are steps in several areas, but alternative routes provide access. The stone tower is currently closed due to its deteriorated condition. The restrooms are available only to tennis league and team participants during practices and events. No accessibility improvements are recommended at this time.

*Atwood Park***Description**

Atwood Park is a neighborhood green space which lies between two residential streets. The park contains land previously used as a tennis court, a half-court basketball court and multi-use open space with shade and ornamental trees and planting beds. Parking is available on both School and Atwood Streets, though it is not dedicated to park use and is often occupied by residents.

Accessibility Comments

The city is evaluating uses for the former tennis court area. The drinking fountain is not functioning or accessible. There is not an accessible curb ramp from School Street. Install ADA compliant curb cuts on School Street. Install accessible fountain.

*Bartlet Mall / Washington Park***Description**

This historic pastoral park is defined by the Essex Superior Courthouse building that fronts High Street and the kettle hole "Frog Pond" at the park's center. Park elements include pedestrian paths, benches and a few tables, as well as a pedestrian promenade and playground. Washington Park, an extension of Bartlet Mall, is separated from the larger site by Eppa Way.

The Bartlet Mall was substantially renovated in 2005/2006, bringing it into compliance to the extent feasible. While a number of stairs exist to provide quick access to the lower levels of the site in various areas, a moderately sloped access road/path provides an alternative route. The surface of the High Street promenade and the access road/path is difficult for wheeled vehicles to maneuver on. A four foot asphalt walking path provides access along the roadways of Pond and Greenleaf.

The playground includes a climbing and sliding structure, a swing set and a basketball court. The playground surface consisting primarily of wood chips and poorly maintained asphalt includes timber dividers that provide impediments to wheelchairs, walkers and strollers.

Accessibility Comments

Improve the playground surface to eliminate elevation changes between use areas, and level chip and asphalt surfaces. Consider providing a swing for special needs children.

*Peter J. Matthews Boardwalk***Description**

The Boardwalk is a prominent open space in the city providing river views and access to commercial and private boats. Benches stretch the length of the boardwalk. The boardwalk is integrated with Waterfront Park discussed below.

Accessibility Comments

The boardwalk is ADA compliant along its length. No improvements are recommended at this time.

*Bradley Fuller Athletic Field***Description**

This site includes a quarter mile surfaced track, a multi-purpose field, and a building with two bathrooms and a storage area. The open field space within the track and adjacent fields accommodate field events. Stadium seating is provided adjacent to one end of the track. A small parking area is available for handicapped parking only. Other parking is provided a short walk away at the Nock/Molin School.

Accessibility Comments

The site does not provide any paved access paths but it is generally level and bathroom facilities are ADA compliant. No improvements are recommended at this time.

*Bresnahan Elementary School***Description**

Facilities at the Bresnahan Elementary School include a playground with various play structures and swings, and a paved but undefined play area (formerly tennis courts) in the area of the entrance drive. There are two basketball courts, a baseball and softball diamond, and an open space used for various field sports in the lower field area. Limited seating for team participants is provided adjacent to the baseball backstop. Parking is available adjacent to both areas.

Accessibility Comments

The playground is enclosed almost entirely by a timber frame that creates a six to twelve inch threshold. The woodchip surface is uneven and not level with the top of the framing. The school and grounds are currently being considered for redevelopment. The playground should be redeveloped to provide universal access. If the playground will not be redeveloped in the short term, consider providing a swing for special needs children, and level chip surface even with timber retaining structure.

*Brown Elementary School***Description**

The Brown School provides paved areas for basketball and free play along with a raised playground. The playground equipment includes climbing structures, slides and swing, none of which offer components of universal design. Parking is available on street. Most users arrive by foot or bicycle.

Accessibility Comments

The playground design, equipment and surface are outdated and non ADA compliant. The gated entrance from Milk Street offers insufficient clearance for wheelchairs. The school and site are being evaluated for future use options. If the site offers a playground with its new use, the playground should be totally redeveloped for universal access.

*Brown Square***Description**

Located in front of City Hall this is a passive park dedicated to memorials and interpretive panels with limited open space for small gatherings. It is primarily a grassy

site with some interior paved paths and benches. The park is surrounded by streets that provide parking.

Accessibility Comments

Brown Square was redesigned in 2011 and is ADA compliant. No improvements recommended at this time.

Cashman Park

Description

Cashman Park is a regionally popular riverfront park with multi-age playground, tennis and basketball courts, playing fields, and public boat launch. An open area of the park is also used as an off-leash dog park during limited hours. Ample parking is provided in the area adjacent to the playing fields. Limited parking is provided adjacent to the playground and courts.

Accessibility Comments

Paved surfaces provide ADA access throughout the park. Timber dividers around much of the playground provide up to a four inch elevation change in numerous areas. The parking area near the playground is not striped. Resurface playground on a regular basis to maintain stable and even surface. Remove timber retaining wall to allow wheelchair access. Stripe and sign parking area near playground. Include a marked drop-off area compliant with ADA regulations.

Cherry Hill/NYSA Fields

Description

This open field area accommodates several soccer fields for youth leagues. There is a structured gravel parking area adjacent to the fields with a signed accessible space, and an overflow parking area somewhat removed. A seasonal, portable bathroom is on site during spring and fall league play.

Accessibility Comments

There is no seating provided. The portable bathroom is not accessible. Consider providing an accessible portable bathroom.

City Forest

Description

The City Forest is primarily a conservation area that features wetlands and large outcrops of bedrock among rolling forested hills.

Accessibility Comments

Presently the site has limited recreational value. Existing paths are not well defined or marked. Some areas become muddy or flooded during wet periods. The site has limited accessibility due to a thicket, ditch and guardrail along Hale Street and no off street parking. No improvements recommended at this time.

*Clipper City Rail Trail***Description**

The 1.1 mile multi-use ten-foot-wide paved pathway runs from the MBTA rail station to the river near downtown Newburyport. An eight-foot-wide pile-supported boardwalk connects the Rail Trail to Cashman Park along the river. A number of stairways and ramps connect the trail to nearby streets. Art and seating are provided at various locations along the trail.

Accessibility Comments

The Rail Trail is universally accessible where possible. A grade that exceeds ADA standards occurs as the trail nears the river's edge; however, an alternative route is available via sidewalks and crosswalks. No recommended improvements at this time

*Common Pasture – Coffin's Island***Description**

A wooded upland that extends into and is jointly owned with Newbury.

Accessibility Comments

The primary use for this open space is conservation of natural resources. Public Access is not encouraged. No improvements recommended at this time.

*Common Pasture – Cooper North***Description**

A combination of woods and hayfields. Property is licensed to farmers for late haying to maintain the grasslands habitat.

Accessibility Comments

The primary use for this open space is conservation of natural resources. Public Access is not encouraged. No improvements recommended at this time.

*Common Pasture – Wet Meadows***Description**

Primarily a wet meadow hayfield. Property is licenses to farmers for late haying to maintain the grasslands habitat.

Accessibility Comments

The primary use for this open space is conservation of natural resources. Public Access is not encouraged. No improvements recommended at this time.

*Cushing Park / Ayers Playground***Description**

Cushing Park and Ayers Playground is a North End neighborhood park with playground, swings, grassy area with trees, and a large paved area that accommodates basketball courts and parking. The paved area is often used as a children's play space for bikes and scooters as well as free play.

Accessibility Comments

The playground equipment at Cushing Park is largely outdated and has a timber retaining wall around it that creates a three inch drop from edge to chip surface. Other

site amenities including benches, fountain, turf and vegetation are in poor condition. This park and playground should be redeveloped to provide universal access. An accessible water fountain should be installed. Accessible curb ramps should be installed at all crosswalks and park corners. In the short term, chips should be added to level playground surface and eliminate some elevation changes from edge to surface.

Inn Street Mall & Playground

Description

This downtown pedestrian corridor runs between Pleasant and Water streets. It includes a tots playground, a fountain area with granite seating/play stones and several seating areas.

Accessibility Comments

The mall and playground provide a high level of access. Steps restrict access through the midblock alleys to the sidewalks along State Street. Access to stores and restaurants is also limited by thresholds. Consider adding signs at alleys to indicate an alternative accessible way.

Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground

Description

The Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground located at Plum Island Point adjacent to the beach parking lot includes playground structures, swing, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables and seating. Nearby a boardwalk provides universal access to the Beach. A changing and restroom facility was recently renovated.

Accessibility Comments

The playground surface is primarily beach sand. A boardwalk leads part way through the play area providing access to an accessible picnic table. No recommended improvements at this time.

Joppa Park

Description

Joppa Park is a narrow green space along Water Street that provides open water views. The park includes a five-foot walkway along both the seawall and the street and a planting bed along the park's centerline. A boat ramp for small boats abuts the green space and parking for eight to ten cars is available adjacent to the ramp.

Accessibility Comments

Accessible curb ramps provide access to the site. Parking is not striped or signed. The park is currently being considered for improvements that include ramp and park design enhancements. Mark and sign an ADA compliant parking space. Provide tactile warnings between parking area and Water Street. Consider installing an accessible drinking fountain. Improve walkway by seawall to improve surface. Consider providing accessible benches.

*Little River Nature Trail***Description**

The Little River Nature Trail runs approximately one mile along the former right-of-way of Interstate 95 between Storey Avenue and Hale Street. The balance of the site is wooded and includes tributaries of the Parker River. Signs mark both ends of the trail. Parking is available for a small number of cars in a field area off Route 133 and in a small pull-off area on Hale Street.

Accessibility Comments

The nature trail provides access to level to rolling terrain over turf and partially paved surfaces (previous road bed). No recommended improvements at this time.

*March's Hill***Description**

This South End park is used extensively for sliding in the winter but is otherwise a passive green space that provides access to the proposed rail trail extension. It hosts a basketball court and during morning and evening hours is an off-leash dog park. Concrete stairs lead into the park from High Street.

Accessibility Comments

The site is a natural bowl with steep sides, making universal access difficult. Universal access should be a priority when this park is redeveloped to include formal access to the rail trail. Rebuild staircase with appropriate tread depth and handrails.

*Market Landing (Waterfront) Park, Somersby Landing, and Riverside Park***Description**

The Central Waterfront Parks together create a prominent open space in the city providing river views and access to commercial and private boats, passive recreation and performance space. Park amenities include open lawn areas, perimeter gardens, shade and ornamental trees, a central stage, and benches and sitting walls throughout the park, as well as interpretive elements.

Accessibility Comments

The Central Waterfront Parks are generally ADA compliant and include ramps to address grade changes, signed ADA parking in lots abutting the park and boardwalk, seating with arm rests and compliant restroom facilities. The water fountain in the park is not ADA compliant. A compliant water fountain should be installed in addition to the existing fountain to both increase locations for water and to provide an accessible water source.

*Market Square Bullnose***Description**

Brick plaza at the confluence of Water and State Street is Newburyport's central downtown gathering space. Design elements include shade trees, benches and terraced steps, lighting, wayfinding signs and trash and recycling receptacles.

Accessibility Comments

Market Square offers universal access through the site and to adjacent sidewalks and streets. No recommended improvements at this time.

*Molin/Nock Schools***Description**

This school site includes a playground, two outside basketball courts, two outside tennis courts, multi-purpose field space to accommodate two soccer/lacrosse fields, and two baseball/softball diamonds. Ample parking is provided. The Newburyport Skate Park is also on site. It offers three bowls and a variety of elements for balancing, jumping and grinding. It is fenced and has limited hours due to its location at the school. The park can be viewed from outside its fence.

Accessibility Comments

One of the multi-purpose fields and one of the ball diamonds are on raised terraces. There is no spectator seating at any of the fields. Provide appropriate grade access route to field and diamond on raised terraces.

*Moseley Woods***Description**

Moseley is a regional park on the bank of the Merrimack River. It offers picnic areas with tables, a playground that includes swings, faux rock climbing structures, and a zip line as well as a multi-age play station, an open field, and a wooded area with hiking trails. It also includes a pavilion, a composting bathroom facility and parking areas.

Accessibility Comments

Hard packed trails of installed materials and over natural surfaces provide generally good access to most active play areas, though the natural terrain has various slopes so strict compliance with slope requirements are not met in some places. No recommended improvements at this time.

*Newburyport High School***Description**

Recreational facilities at the High School site include a football stadium and baseball diamond.

Accessibility Comments

One side of the High School stadium grandstand has recently been upgraded to meet safety and compliance standards. A funding effort is underway to cover the cost of upgrading the remaining grandstands. Continue to upgrade remaining grandstands to meet ADA standards.

*Perkins Park & Playground***Description**

This South End neighborhood park has a playground, a tennis court, basketball court and baseball diamond. The baseball diamond is used for league play. There are benches for seating within the playground and adjacent to the courts. There is limited street parking. Temporary restrooms are installed during the spring and summer, though are not always open.

Accessibility Comments

The playground has a number of outdated and out of code elements including the sand box, entry canopy and the playground surface that includes woodchips and elevated wood dividers. The playground area should be redesigned to provide universal access to all elements. When redesigned consider including accommodations for some parking and an ADA compliant drop-off area.

*Pioneer League Fields***Description**

The lower section of Atkinson Common is commonly referred to as Pioneer Park. Generally accessed via Merrimack Street the park is dedicated to athletic fields, a concession/bath house and a small playground. Three diamonds are maintained and permitted by the Pioneer Baseball and Softball League. Recent improvements include new fields, fences, lighting and dugouts. Angle parking is accommodated along Merrimack Street but is inadequate for number of users.

Accessibility Comments

The playground abutting the playing fields on the lower area does not meet current safety or accessibility standards. Planned redevelopment of the park includes a new field house with bathrooms, a new playground and an off street parking area. Replace existing playground with facilities that provide universal access. Construct an accessible Pioneer League Field House to include bathrooms. Improve parking. Provide accessible drinking fountains on accessible routes.

*Tracy Place***Description**

This small brick paved courtyard between commercial buildings on Pleasant Street includes shade trees, small planting areas and benches. Tracy Place is accessed via Pleasant Street and the Prince Place parking lot.

Accessibility Comments

No recommended improvements at this time.

*Woodman Park***Description**

This West End neighborhood park off Crow Lane features a playground, baseball diamond and multi-purpose field, as well as a parking area. The field and diamond are used for league play.

Accessibility Comments

The playground area at this park is raised along most of its perimeter. The parking area is unstructured and separated from the site by a timber fence in very poor condition. Parts of the park are under construction to better accommodate league sports. Improve the parking lot and sign a space for ADA access. As the playground is redeveloped, look to improve universal accessibility. Install an accessible drinking fountain.

Part 3: Employment Practices

See Appendix



City of Newburyport Open Space and Recreation Plan

Appendices

September 2012

Appendix 1: Matrix of Open Space and Recreation Lands

Private Lands

CHAPTER 61, 61A, 61B PROPERTIES

Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Current Use	Zoning
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE,	29 HALE ST	84-1	10.22	61A Agriculture	I1
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE TRUSTEE, NINETY NINE REALTY TRUST	HALE ST	85-1-A	81.00	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE TRS, HALE STREET REALTY TRUST	99 HALE ST REAR	86-1	58.90	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE TRUSTEE, HALE ONE HUNDRED THREE REALTY TRUST	103 HALE ST	86-3	6.70	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MASKIEWICZ JENNIE M, STANLEY A HELEN S BENJAMIN A J/T	TURKEY HILL RD	89-2	5.00	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MASKIEWICZ JENNIE M, STANLEY A HELEN S BENJAMIN A J/T	TURKEY HILL RD	89-4	15.50	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE,	HALE ST	89-5	12.20	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MASKIEWICZ JENNIE M, STANLEY A HELEN S BENJAMIN A J/T	TURKEY HILL RD REAR	89-7	45.06	61A Agriculture	AC

CHAPTER 61, 61A, 61B PROPERTIES

Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Current Use	Zoning
Common Pasture	MASKIEWICZ JENNIE M, STANLEY A HELEN S BENJAMIN A J/T	TURKEY HILL RD	90-2	2.80	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MYETTE JERE TRUSTEE, TURKEY HILL ONE REALTY TRUST	TURKEY HILL RD	91-2	37.34	61A Agriculture	AC
Common Pasture	MASKIEWICZ JENNIE M, STANLEY A HELEN S BENJAMIN A J/T	TURKEY HILL RD REAR	91-3-A	39.00	61A Agriculture	AC
Little River Headwaters	COLBY JACKMAN R-G.B.TRS., MALLOW REALTY TRUST	183 LOW ST	97-14	7.50	61A Agriculture	R1
Little River Headwaters	COLBY JACKMAN R.-G.B.TRS., MALLOW REALTY TRUST	CROW LN	97-16	1.00	61A Agriculture	R1
Little River Headwaters	COLBY JACKMAN R-G.B.TRS., MALLOW REALTY TRUST	13 CROW LN	97-17	5.10	61A Agriculture	R1
Little River Headwaters	WOODMAN ELEANOR J TRUSTEE, ELEANOR WOODMAN REALTY TRUST	79 STOREY AVE REAR	109-3-A	26.84	61A Agriculture	B1
Little River Headwaters	WOODMAN ELEANOR J IRVING M, TR ELEANOR WOODMAN RLTY TR	LOW ST	98-22	21.93	61A Agriculture	R1
Little River Headwaters	MILLEN DONNA M & KRISTEN N TRS, MILLEN FAMILY TRUST	251 LOW ST	98-23	9.49	61A Agriculture	B1
Little River Headwaters	NASON,E.A.- COOPER,A.R. CO-TRS, L & G REALTY TRUST	155 LOW ST REAR	97-10	11.53	61A Agriculture	R1
Little River Headwaters	NASON,E.A.- COOPER,A.R. CO-TRS, L & G REALTY TRUST	21 CROW LN	97-18	4.10	61A Agriculture	R1

CHAPTER 61, 61A, 61B PROPERTIES

Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Current Use	Zoning
Little River Headwaters	NASON,E.A.- COOPER,A.R. CO-TRS, L & G REALTY TRUST	159 LOW ST	97-22	0.78	61A Agriculture	R1
Curzon Mill Area	WELCH RICHARD E III & JUDITH B WELCH TRS, WELCH REALTY TRUST	CURZON MILL RD	105-7-B	5.00	61B Nature	AC
Curzon Mill Area	WELCH RICHARD E III & JUDITH B WELCH TRS, WELCH REALTY TRUST	101 CURZON MILL RD	105-8	0.32	61B Nature	AC
Curzon Mill Area	WELCH CHRISTINA MARQUAND, THE YELLOW HOUSE C/O MATTHEWS	99 CURZON MILL RD	105-7-A	5.22	61B Nature	AC
Arrowhead Farm	CHASE RICHARD M, PAULA A T/E	131 OLD FERRY RD REAR	115-2-B	19.47	61A Agriculture	AC
Arrowhead Farm	CHASE RICHARD M, PAULA A T/E	131 OLD FERRY RD	115-3-A	8.57	61A Agriculture	AC
TOTAL				440.57		

PRIVATE CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS

Type	Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
CR	Curzon Mill Area	WELCH CHRISTINA MARQUAND, THE YELLOW HOUSE C/O MATTHEWS	99 CURZON MILL RD	105-7-A	5.22		61B Nature	AC
APR	Ferry Landing Farm	CAPOLUPO WAYNE P TRUSTEE, FERRY LANDING FARM REALTY TRUST	130 OLD FERRY RD	114-2	25.10		Agriculture	AC
CR	Arrowhead Farm	CHASE RICHARD M, PAULA A T/E	131 OLD FERRY RD REAR	115-2-B	19.47	MA DCR	61A Agriculture	AC
CR	Arrowhead Farm	CHASE RICHARD M, PAULA A T/E	131 OLD FERRY RD	115-3-A	8.57	MA DCR	61A Agriculture	AC
CR	Ferry Road Conservation Land	ELLERT RICHARD S, CECILE T/E	99 FERRY RD	110-25	1.60	Water Dept.	Vacant Land	R2
CR	Cherry Hill Open Space	CHERRY HILL NEWBURYPORT, HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC	DANIEL LUCY WAY	107-1	14.08		Residential Open Space	R1
CR	Former Macomber property	HANLON DAVID J, AUDREY F T/E	67 HIGH ST	33-26	6.62	ECGB	Vacant Land	R2
TOTAL					80.66			

PRIVATE CEMETERIES

Name	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Zoning
Belleville Cemetery	BELLEVILLE CEMETERY,	26 STOREY AVE	70-3	13.00	R2
Oak Hill Cemetery	OAK HILL CEMETERY, C/O RICHARD MARCHAND	135 STATE ST	33-56	0.44	R3
Oak Hill Cemetery	OAK HILL CEMETERY, C/O RICHARD MARCHAND	BROWN ST	34-8	34.33	R2
Sawyer's Hill Burying Ground	SAWYER'S HILL BURYING GROUND, ASSOC INC	31-33 PHILIPS DR	106-31	3.55	R1
St. Mary's Cemetery	ST MARYS CEMETERY, C/O IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH	STOREY AVE	110-1	23.70	R2
TOTAL				75.02	

PRIVATE LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
CR	Arrowhead Farm		131 OLD FERRY RD REAR	115-2-B	19.47		61A Agriculture	AC
CR	Arrowhead Farm		131 OLD FERRY RD	115-3-A	8.57		61A Agriculture	AC
CR	Cherry Hill Open Space		DANIEL LUCY WAY	107-1	14.08		Commercial Open Space	R1
	Common Pasture		29 HALE ST	84-1	10.22		61A Agriculture	I1
	Common Pasture		99 HALE ST	85-1	3.00		Single Family	I1
	Common Pasture		HALE ST	85-1-A	81.00		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		99 HALE ST REAR	86-1	58.90		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		103 HALE ST	86-3	6.70		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		SCOTLAND RD MEADOW	88-3	4.00		Vacant	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD	89-2	5.00		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD	89-4	15.50		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		HALE ST	89-5	12.20		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD REAR	89-7	45.06		61A Agriculture	AC

PRIVATE LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
	Common Pasture		3 ARROWHEAD WAY	90-1	13.06		Single Family	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD	90-2	2.80		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD	91-2	37.34		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		101 TURKEY HILL RD	91-3	3		Single Family	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD REAR	91-3-A	39.00		61A Agriculture	AC
	Common Pasture		TURKEY HILL RD N W	91-6	0.80		Agriculture	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		84 CURZON MILL RD	105-1	0.07		Single Family	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		82 CURZON MILL RD	105-2	4.71		Single Family	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		80 CURZON MILL RD	105-4	2.48		Single Family	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		78 CURZON MILL RD	105-5	1.58		Single Family	AC
CR	Curzon Mill Area		99 CURZON MILL RD	105-7-A	5.22		61B Nature	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		CURZON MILL RD	105-7-B	5.00		61B Nature	AC
	Curzon Mill Area		101 CURZON MILL RD	105-8	0.32		61B Nature	AC
	Evergreen Valley Golf Course		18 BOYD DR	110-20	36.76		Golf Course	R1
CR	Ferry Road Conservation Land		99 FERRY RD	110-25	1.60	Water Dept.	Vacant Land	R2
CR	Former Macomber property		67 HIGH ST	33-26	6.62	ECGB	Vacant Land	R2
	Kelleher Pines		11 BRADBURY LN	93-107	0.47		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		13 BRADBURY LN	93-108	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		15 BRADBURY LN	93-109	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		17 BRADBURY LN	93-110	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		19 BRADBURY LN	93-111	0.28		Vacant	R1

PRIVATE LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
	Kelleher Pines		12 ANDERSON LN	93-112	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		14 ANDERSON LN	93-113	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		16 ANDERSON LN	93-114	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		18 ANDERSON LN	93-115	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		20 ANDERSON LN	93-116	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		13 ANDERSON LN	93-120	0.26		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		15 ANDERSON LN	93-121	0.25		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		17 ANDERSON LN	93-122	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		19 ANDERSON LN	93-123	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		21 ANDERSON LN	93-124	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		8 BERRY DR	93-125	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		16 BERRY DR	93-129	0.36		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		20 BERRY DR	93-131	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		5 BERRY DR	93-132	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		7 BERRY DR	93-133	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		9 BERRY DR	93-134	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		11 BERRY DR	93-135	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		13 BERRY DR	93-136	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		15 BERRY DR	93-137	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		17 BERRY DR	93-138	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		19 BERRY DR	93-139	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		21 BERRY DR	93-140	0.26		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		6 HYVIEW DR	93-141	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		8 HYVIEW DR	93-142	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		10 HYVIEW DR	93-143	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		12 HYVIEW DR	93-144	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		14 HYVIEW DR	93-145	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		16 HYVIEW DR	93-146	0.28		Vacant	R1

PRIVATE LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
	Kelleher Pines		18 HYVIEW DR	93-147	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		22 HYVIEW DR	93-149	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		5 HYVIEW DR	93-150	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		7 HYVIEW DR	93-151	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		9 HYVIEW DR	93-152	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		11 HYVIEW DR	93-153	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		13 HYVIEW DR	93-154	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		15 HYVIEW DR	93-155	0.27		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		17 HYVIEW DR	93-156	0.31		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		21 HYVIEW DR	93-158	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		25 HYVIEW DR	93-160	0.28		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		18 FRANCES DR	93-168	0.30		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		19 CROSS RD	93-175	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		15 CROSS RD	93-177	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		11 CROSS RD	93-179	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		7 CROSS RD	93-181	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		3 CROSS RD	93-183	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		50 FRANCES DR	93-186	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		48 FRANCES DR	93-187	0.29		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		51 FRANCES DR	93-198	0.26		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		49 FRANCES DR	93-199	0.32		Vacant	R1
	Kelleher Pines		29 FRANCES DR	94-27	0.58		Vacant	R1
	Little River Headwaters		79 STOREY AVE REAR	109-3-A	26.84		61A Agriculture	B1
	Little River Headwaters		25 CROW LN	94-2	16.74		Vacant	I1
	Little River Headwaters		155 LOW ST REAR	97-10	11.53		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		183 LOW ST	97-14	7.50		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		CROW LN	97-16	1.00		61A Agriculture	R1

PRIVATE LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
	Little River Headwaters		13 CROW LN	97-17	5.10		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		21 CROW LN	97-18	4.10		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		159 LOW ST	97-22	0.78		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		LOW ST	98-22	21.93		61A Agriculture	R1
	Little River Headwaters		251 LOW ST	98-23	9.49		61A Agriculture	B1
	Little River Headwaters		CROW LN	99-1	38.60		Vacant	I1
	Little River Headwaters		CROW LN REAR	99-2	3.90		Vacant	I1
	Little River Headwaters		CROW LN	99-3-C	6.80		Vacant	I1
	Odd Fellows (Griffin House)		363 HIGH ST	42-113	2.98		Age-restricted housing	R2
APR	Old Ferry Road -- Ferry Landing Farm		130 OLD FERRY RD	114-2	25.10		Vacant	AC
	Old Ferry Road Area		9 SPRING LN	114-1	21.20		Single Family	AC
	Old Ferry Road Area		135 FERRY RD	115-5	3.01		Single Family	AC
	Woodbridge Island		WOODBIDGE ISLAND	75-282	29.00		Vacant	AC
	Woodbridge Island		WOODBIDGE ISLAND	75-283	58.00		Vacant	AC
	Woodbridge Island		WOODBIDGE ISLAND	75-285	23.00		Vacant	AC
	Woodbridge Island		WOODBIDGE ISLAND	75-286	5.00		Vacant	AC
	Woodbridge Island		WOODBIDGE ISLAND	75-287	12.00		Vacant	AC
TOTAL					793.98			

Public and Non-Profit Lands

NON-PROFIT LANDS

Protection Type	Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Current Use	Zoning
APR	Plum Island Turnpike land	Historic England New	PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE	32-11	34.57	Agricultural / Conservation	AC
Historic Preservation	Plum Island Airfield	Historic England New	PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE	32-1	8.61	Airfield	R2
	Joppa Flats Education Center & Sanctuary	MA Audubon	WATER ST RIVER LOT	31-7-B	48.00	Conservation / Education	AC
	Joppa Flats Education Center & Sanctuary	MA Audubon	PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE	32-3	2.82	Conservation / Education	AC
	Joppa Flats Education Center & Sanctuary	MA Audubon	1 PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE	32-4	2.72	Conservation / Education	AC
	Hale Park	Hale Park Trust	224 WATER ST	27-14	1.5	Passive Recreation	R3
	270 Water St	National Grid	270 WATER ST	31-29	1.05	Passive Recreation	R2
TOTAL						98.22	

PUBLIC CEMETERIES

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Current Use	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Highland Cemetery	City	HILL ST	35-105	12.40	Cemetery		R3
Highland Cemetery	City	10 HILL ST	36-18-A	0.23	Cemetery		R3
Old Hill Cemetery	City	POND ST	35-143	5.31	Mortuary/Cemetery		R3
TOTAL					17.94		

CITY CONSERVATION PROPERTIES

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
City Forest	City	HALE ST	87-3	40.36	ConCom	Passive Recreation and Conservation	Fair	Passive		AC
Little River Nature Trail	City	95 STOREY AVE	94-3	55.81	ConCom	Passive recreation	Fair	Active / passive		I1
Common Pasture Coffin's Island	City	NEWBURY LINE SCOTLAND RD	89-3	13.58	w/ Newbury OSC, PD, Con	Conservation	Good	Passive	LAND	AC
Common Pasture Cooper North	City	CROW LN	95-1	101.76	Con, OSC, PD, ECGB	Conservation, periodic haying	Good	Passive	NOAA, DWS	I1
Common Pasture Wet Meadows	City	HALE ST	87-1	24.18	Con, OSC, PD, ECGB	Conservation, periodic haying	Good	Passive	LAND	AC
Common Pasture Wet Meadows	City	HALE ST REAR	88-1	44.08	Con, OSC, PD, ECGB	Conservation, periodic haying	Good	Passive	LAND	AC
Common Pasture Wet Meadows	City	HALE ST REAR	88-2	57.50	Con, OSC, PD, ECGB	Conservation, periodic haying	Good	Passive	LAND	AC
Curzon Mill Rd Conservation Land	City	97 CURZON MILL RD	105-7	5.85	MA DCR	Conservation	Good	Passive	MA DCR	AC
TOTAL				343.12						

NEWBURYPORT REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LAND

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning	
Custom House	NRA	25 WATER ST	12-10	0.36	Newburyport Maritime Society	Museum	Good			WMU	
	NRA	24 MERRIMAC ST	11-1-A	1.65	NRA	Parking Lot	Fair	Passive		WMU	
	NRA	FERRY WHARF	11-1-C	0.72	NRA	Parking Lot	Fair	Passive		WMU	
	NRA	FERRY WHARF	11-1-D	1.53	NRA	Parking Lot	Fair	Passive		WMU	
	NRA	4-13R MARKET SQ	11-1-E	0.25	NRA	Parking Lot	Fair	Passive		WMU	
	NRA	1-23 WATER ST REAR	11-1-F	0.64	NRA	Parking Lot	Fair	Passive		WMU	
TOTAL				5.15							

CITY PARKS

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Atkinson Common & Pioneer League Fields	City	388 HIGH ST	69-28	21.14	Atkinson Common Commission / Pioneer League	Active and passive recreation	Good	Active / Passive		R2

CITY PARKS

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/ Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Atwood Park	City	12 SCHOOL ST	19-30	0.66	Parks Commission	Active and passive recreation	Fair	Active / Passive		R3
Bartlet Mall / Washington Park	City	149 HIGH ST	35-160	7.27	Bartlet Mall Commission	Playground and passive recreation	Good	Active / Passive	HLP ('01), PARC ('05)	R3
Brown Square	City	BROWN SQ	47-4	0.59	Parks Commission	Passive Recreation	Excellent	Passive	PARC ('09)	B3
Cashman Park	City	190 MERRIMAC ST	52-68	0.65	Parks Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Active / Passive		WMD
Cashman Park	City	244 MERRIMAC ST	52-83	11.87	Parks Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Active / Passive		WMD
Cherry Hill Soccer Fields	City	DANIEL LUCY WAY	107-1-A	9.50	Parks Commission , NYSA	Active Recreation	Good	Active		R1
Clipper City Rail Trail	B & M		37-ROW	2.30	Parks Commission	Multi-use Recreation Path	Excellent	Active	CMAQ, RT, SAC	
Clipper City Rail Trail	B & M		49-ROW	0.43	Parks Commission	Multi-use Recreation Path	Excellent	Active	CMAQ, RT, SAC	
Clipper City Rail Trail	MBTA	WASHINGTON ST	50-3	0.80	Parks Commission	Multi-use Recreation Path	Excellent	Active	CMAQ, RT, SAC	
Cushing Park / Ayer's Playground	City	41 KENT ST	51-42	1.80	Parks Commission	Active Recreation	Fair	Active / Passive		R3

CITY PARKS

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/ Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Ferry Road Pocket Park	City	2 FERRY RD	70-86	0.22	DPS	Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		R2
Joppa Park	City	WATER ST	??	0.50	Parks Commission	Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		
March's Hill	City	MARCHS HILL	33-6	1.31	Parks Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		R2
March's Hill	City	33 HIGH ST	33-7	5.04	Parks Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		R2
March's Hill	City	MARCHS HILL	34-20	7.65	Parks Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		R2
Market Landing / Waterfront Park	City	22 MERRIMAC ST	11-1-B	4.12	Waterfront Trust	Passive Recreation	Excellent	Passive		WMU
Moseley Woods	City	14 SPOFFORD ST	72-14	13.00	Moseley Woods Commission	Active and Passive Recreation	Good	Active / Passive	PARC ('04)	R1
Moulton Square Pocket Park	City	MOULTON SQ	71-23	0.50	DPS	Passive Recreation	Good	Passive		R2
Newburyport Beach and Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground	State	NORTH RESERVATION TERR	77-125	52.50	MA DCR / City	Passive Recreation and playground	Good	Active / Passive		R2
Perkins Park	City	PERKINS PARK	31-30	8.00	Parks Commission	Active Recreation	Fair	Active		R2

CITY PARKS

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Tracy Place	City	27-29 PLEASANT ST	1-22	0.15	Parks Commission	Plaza	Good	Passive		B2
Woodman Park	City	132 CROW LN	100-1	9.37	Parks Commission	Active Recreation	Good	Active		R1
Inn Street Mall	City	25 INN ST	4-2	0.09	Parks Commission	Playground and Plaza	Good	Passive		B2
Inn Street Mall	City	INN ST MALL	4-30	1.05	Parks Commission	Playground and Plaza	Good	Passive		B2
TOTAL				160.01						

SCHOOL PROPERTIES										
Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Bradley Fuller Athletic Field	City	40 LOW ST	37-1	10.40	School	Active Recreation	Good	Active		R2
Bresnahan School	City	331 HIGH ST	42-54	17.53	Schools	Active Recreation	Fair	Active		R2
Brown School	City	42 MILK ST	21-26	1.10	Schools	Active Recreation	Fair	Active		R3
Brown School	City	99-101 PROSPECT ST	21-3	0.11	Schools	Vacant Lot	Poor	Active		R3
Newburyport High School	City	241 HIGH ST	38-76	13.30	Schools	Active Recreation	Fair	Active		R2
Nock / Molin School	City	74 LOW ST	38-1	19.60	Schools	Active Recreation	Fair	Active		R2
TOTAL				62.04						

WATER DEPARTMENT OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
	City	127 OLD FERRY RD	115-2-A	11.08	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		AC
	City	PARKER ST	36-36-A	0.17	Water Dept.	Pump Station	Good			B1
	City	378 MERRIMAC ST	68-26	0.18	Water Dept.	City Drain	Good			I2
Artichoke River	City	ARTICHOKE RIVER	102-2	13.58	Water Dept.	Vacant Land	Good	Passive		R1
Artichoke River	City	ARTICHOKE RIVER	102-3	4.59	Water Dept.	Vacant Land	Good	Passive		R1
Artichoke River	City	239 STOREY AVE	103-85	3.40	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Artichoke River	City	ARTICHOKE RIVER	91-4	3.50	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		AC
Artichoke River	City	ARTICHOKE RIVER ISL	91-8	0.70	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		AC
Former Well	City	FERRY RD	110-24	16.30	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
March's Hill Water Tower	City	HIGH ST	34-19	2.34	Water Dept.	Water Tower	Fair	Passive		R3
March's Hill Water Tower	City	HIGH ST B & M	33-15	2.06	Water Dept.	Water Tower access	Good	Passive		R2
Moseley Woods	City	FERRY RD	112-3	34.80	Water Dept.	Passive recreation	GoodForested	Passive		R2
Spring Lane Pump Station	City	7 SPRING LN	113-1	-	Water Dept.	Pump Station	Good			AC
Spring Lane Pump Station	City	SPRING LN	113-1-A	-	Water Dept.	Pump Station	Good			

WATER DEPARTMENT OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	PLUMMER SPRING RD	91-7	6.63		Water Protection	Good	Passive		AC
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-1	2.60	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	10 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-10	0.23	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	8 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-11	0.24	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-2	16.13	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	24 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-3	0.52	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	22 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-4	0.52	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	20 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-5	0.33	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	18 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-6	0.30	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	16 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-7	0.28	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	14 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-8	0.26	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
Turkey Hill Water Protection	City	12 PLUMMER SPRING RD	92-9	0.24	Water Dept.	Water Protection	Good	Passive		R1
TOTAL				118.92						

OTHER MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
Compost Facility	City	1 CROW LN	96-1	33.90	DPS	Compost Facility	Fair			I1
Fulton Gravel Pit	City	15 HILL ST	35-79	2.73		Vacant	Fair	Passive		R3
Kelley Center	City	151 HIGH ST	35-161	0.35	Youth Services	Youth Programs	Fair			R3
Lighthouse Lot	City	263 NORTHERN BLVD	77-25-A	0.30		Parking	Fair			
Simmons Beach	City	267 WATER ST	30-9	0.06		Vacant	Fair	Passive		AC
Water St. Landing	City	WATER ST	31-1	0.15		Vacant	Fair	Passive		AC
	City	13-15 PRINCE PL	1-11	0.32		Parking Lot	Fair			B2
	City	HALES CT	1-26	0.08		Parking Lot	Fair			B2
	City	GREEN ST PARKING LOT	3-28	2.20		Parking Lot	Fair			B2
	City	HOYTS LN	106-3	2.00		Vacant Lot	Fair			R1
	City	98 STATE ST	13-4	0.38		Parking Lot	Fair			B2
	City	17 BECK ST	19-57	0.09		Parking	Fair			R3
	City	175 WATER ST REAR	23-22-C	0.06			Fair			WMD
Future Rail Trail Extension	City	WATER ST REAR	23-23	0.13		Passive Recreation	Fair	Passive	Yes	WMD
	City	HARRISON	26-35	0.03			Fair			R3
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-10	0.00			Fair			AC
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-11	0.01			Fair			AC

OTHER MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-12	0.00			Fair			AC
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-13	0.03			Fair			AC
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-14	0.00			Fair			AC
	City	269 WATER ST	30-15	0.02			Fair			AC
	City	WATER ST RIVER FRONT	30-17	0.02			Fair			AC
	City	303 WATER ST RIVER FRONT	31-2	0.05		Vacant Lot	Fair			AC
	City	WATER ST SEWER PMP	31-7	0.04	Sewer Dept.		Fair			AC
	City	2 CHERRY ST	36-34	0.72		Parking Lot	Fair			R3
	City	HIGH ST	37-1-C	0.50			Fair			
	City	FERRY RD & STOREY AVE	70-12	0.23		Vacant Lot	Fair			R2
	City	OLD POINT RD	75-173	0.13			Fair			R3
	City	OLD POINT RD	75-174	0.09			Fair			R3
	City	OLD POINT RD	75-175	0.13			Fair			R3
	City	QUEEN ST	75-177	0.13			Fair			R3
	City	MARTHA ST	75-195	0.09		Vacant	Fair			R3
	City	IRIS ST	75-237	0.11		Vacant	Fair			AC
	City	15 I ST	75-52	0.11		Vacant	Fair			AC
	City	NORTHERN BLVD	77-125-A	0.92		Beach Parking	Fair			R3
	City	31 HALE ST	84-1-A	0.23			Fair			I1

OTHER MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Grant Used	Zoning	
	City	73 TURKEY HILL RD	93-46	0.26		Vacant Lot	Fair			R1	
	City	CROW LN	94-4	0.31			Fair			R1	
	City	11 WILDWOOD DR	97-111	0.46		Tax Taking	Fair			R1	
	City	13 WILDWOOD DR	97-112	0.58		Tax Taking	Fair			R1	
TOTAL				7.42							

STATE OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
Graf Skating Rink	State	28 LOW ST	37-1-A	6.90	MA DCR	Skating Arena	R2
Maudslay State Park	State	HOYTS LN	104-1	8.56	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	93 CURZON MILL RD	104-3	57.46	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	91 CURZON MILL RD	104-4-A	9.44	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	89 CURZON MILL RD	104-5	3.26	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	95 CURZON MILL RD	105-6	23.00	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	87 CURZON MILL RD	106-2	7.10	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	R1
Maudslay State Park	State	OLD FERRY RD N W SIDE	114-3	15.80	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	CURZON MILL RD	115-1	342.02	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	PINE HILL RD	115-1-A	2.99	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC

STATE OPEN SPACE

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
Maudslay State Park	State	PINE HILL RD	115-1-B	2.99	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
Maudslay State Park	State	OLD FERRY RD S W SIDE	115-4	15.50	MA DCR	Passive Recreation	AC
	MA Dept. of Fish and Game	84 82ND ST	77-84	0.22	Div. Marine Fisheries	Passive Recreation	R3
TOTAL				509.24			

FEDERAL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION AREAS

Name / Location	Ownership	Address	Map/Lot	Size (Acres)	Management	Current Use	Zoning
Parker River NWR	USFWS	5-11 OCEAN AVE	31-11	6.60		Wildlife sanctuary	R2
Parker River NWR	USFWS	4 PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE	32-2	3.57		Wildlife sanctuary	R2
	US Coast Guard	NORTH RESERVATION TERR	77-125-B	3.20			R3
	USFWS	261 NORTHERN BLVD	77-25	1.83			R3
TOTAL				15.20			

Appendix 2: Maintenance / Capital Improvement Plans

ATKINSON COMMON (INCLUDING PIONEER LEAGUE FIELDS)



Site Location:	Intersection of Moseley Avenue & High Street
Ward:	Six
Acreage:	21 Acres
Site Type:	Passive park and playing fields
Owner:	City of Newburyport (Atkinson Common Commission manages)
Zoning:	Res II

Site Description and Assessment

History⁷⁸

Mrs. Eunice Atkinson Currier, in her will, dated March 23, 1867, and proved June 17, 1873, gave to Newburyport several acres of land on High Street near the junction of Moseley Avenue, Storey Avenue and Ferry Road “to be known forever as Atkinson Common.”

On September 1, 1873 an ordinance providing for the appointment of a board of commissioners, to take charge of and superintend the laying out of the common, was passed by the city council. No attempt, however, was made to improve the property and it remained an uncultivated field until September 4, 1893, when the Belleville Improvement Society was organized and begun the work that has transformed the neglected field into a beautiful park, by grading the land, deepening the soil, laying out walks and planting trees and shrubs.

In 1895, the society became interested in a plan to erect a monument, on Atkinson Common, to the soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War. At the suggestion of Mr. Walter B. Hopkinson a monument association was organized January 18, 1896, consisting of representatives from A.W. Bartlett post, No. 49, of the Grand Army of the Republic, Belleville Improvement Society, City Improvement Society and Woman’s Relief Corps. The money needed to carry the plan into effect was contributed by the several societies named above and by a few friends interested in the work of the association. Mr. William H. Swasey was the largest individual contributor.

The statue of a soldier returning from the war, designed and modeled by Mrs. Theo Alice (Ruggles) Kitson, wife of Henry Hudson Kitson, of Boston, was selected as an artistic and appropriate design for the monument. It was subsequently cast in bronze and placed on a rough boulder near the entrance to Atkinson Common. It was presented, with imposing ceremonies, to Newburyport July 4, 1902, by Walter B. Hopkinson, president of the monument association, and accepted by Hon. Moses Brown, Mayor.

The Pioneer League was founded c.1959 to replace the Newburyport Little League so that no children would be turned away from playing baseball. The League constructed the park’s first field in a formerly forested area. Over the years the league has grown and so have the number of fields; there are now four. Improvements now include a parking area, playground, and concession stand.

⁷⁸ John J. Currier. The History of Newburyport, Massachusetts 1764-1905.

Site Description

Atkinson Common is in reality two, distinct, yet complimentary parks. The sections are separated from each other by a wide band of forest. This separation is only visual, as easy access from one section to the other exists. The upper section of the park is modeled after a turn of the century English countryside park. This park is spacious and is mainly historical, containing memorials, monuments and a stone look out tower. An arched bridge spans a reflecting pool. Signs outlining the history of the park mark the common on High Street and Moseley Avenue. The lower section is located off Merrimack Street and is dedicated to athletic fields and facilities and a playground. The Atkinson Common Commissioners and the Belleville Improvement Society hire a landscape contractor, an arborist and a flower bed / shrub groomer to maintain the park's grounds. The park is used regularly for wedding party and prom photos. Many residents come to Atkinson Common as part of their walking route along High Street.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

Tennis courts in poor condition. Dumping is a problem along Chase Street entry area and behind Plummer Ave where residences are encroaching on park. Trees need maintenance program to keep them healthy and to avoid safety hazards related to untended deadwood.

Atkinson Common has limited off-street parking. There are also problems with parking safety and congestion at the Pioneer League Field.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Implement regular field grass aeration		
Re-surface / repair tennis courts		
Prune trees to improve health and remove untended		
Address encroachment / illegal dumping by nearby residences		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Restore the stone tower, including masonry and the staircase.		
Complete Diamond of Dreams plan for Pioneer League Fields improvements		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Encourage users to enter the park through the side entrance off Plummer Street during peak periods.		

ATWOOD PARK



Site Location: Between Atwood and School Streets
 Ward: Two
 Acreage: 0.7 Acres
 Site Type: Playground
 Owner: Newburyport
 Zoning: Res III

Site Description and Assessment

History

Atwood Park was constructed in 1976 on the site of the former Jackman School. In 1995, the Atwood Park Neighborhood Association cleaned up the park and initiated planting of ornamental trees and shrubs on the central grass mound. Neighborhood residents have recently reorganized as Friends of Atwood Park and are seeking to be partners with the city in improving and programming the park.

Site Description

Atwood Park is a neighborhood green space which lies between two residential streets. The park contains a tennis court area, a half-court basketball court and passive open space. Existing tree plantings at the edge of the park provide screening between the park and neighboring residences. The park's location provides high visibility from adjacent residences. There parking spaces on both School and Atwood Street though these are generally used by neighborhood residents.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

Chain link fence broken and rusted. Ditch and cracks in tennis court area and tennis posts, net and fencing removed. The drinking fountain is inoperable and outdated. Basketball court has cracks, no net and graffiti on backboard. Brick seating and retaining wall are broken and need re-pointing. . Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Regular park upkeep and landscape maintenance.		
Remove graffiti on backboard and replace basketball net.		
Complete basketball court resurfacing		
Fix and re-point brick wall.		
Replace broken or missing bricks in bench.		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace fountain with ADA compliant fixture.		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Consider pros and cons of adding lighting in the park for security and to discourage vandalism.		
Evaluate whether to restore tennis courts or convert to new use including consideration of a half tennis court with a backboard		

BARTLET MALL / WASHINGTON PARK



Site Location: Greenleaf, High and Pond Streets
Ward: Three
Acreage: 7.3 Acres
Site Type: Passive Park with Playground in one corner
Owner: Newburyport
Zoning: Res III

Site Description and Assessment

History

The Bartlet Mall/Frog Pond is the most historically significant and visually prominent of the city's parks. It is located a short walk from the city's downtown. The site was used in the 1600s for watering livestock. In the 1700s and 1800s, numerous structures existed on the site including, but not limited to: a rope walk, a windmill, a potash house, a powder house which is currently located on the Armory site off Low Street, hay scales, two brick school houses and a stone jail. The Essex Superior Courthouse building located on the site is a historically significant structure designed by Charles Bulfinch in 1805 and remodeled in 1853. In 1800, Edmund Bartlet paid for the construction of the promenade known as the Bartlet Mall. The statue of George Washington was sculpted by John Q. A. Ward in 1879. The ornamental iron fountain was donated by Edward Moseley in 1891. In 1888, the Mall Improvement Society of Newburyport set about cleaning up and re-landscaping the Frog Pond area and having accomplished much dissolved in 1890. In 1890, the City Improvement Society (CIS) of Newburyport came into existence, its purpose being to assist in caring for the area around the Frog Pond. The CIS continues to contribute to many projects about the Mall/Frog Pond. In 1984, wood and concrete benches with identification signs were installed. The Department of Environmental Management awarded the city a Historic Landscape Preservation Grant in 1997 for the development of a historic preservation plan, construction documents and specifications.

Site Description

The park consists of: the Essex Superior Courthouse building located on High Street; the Frog Pond--a "kettlehole" occupying the center of the site as a body of water which contains an ornamental cast iron fountain with a white swan sculpture in the center; the Bartlet Mall--a pedestrian promenade parallel to High Street in front of the courthouse; Washington Park--a traffic island with a sculpture of George Washington surrounded by flowering ornamental trees; open space consisting of lawn and trees on the perimeters of the park along Pond and Greenleaf Streets; and a playground consisting of two play structures and a full basketball court at the corner of High and Greenleaf Streets.

The Youth Services Department is located in the former Kelly School building on an adjacent site and uses the playground as a recreation area. The site contains several plaques: one provides the history of the site and another in memory of Eben Bradbury who was killed during World War I at Belleau Wood, France. The site serves a major role during the city's annual summer Yankee Homecoming Festival and Winter Carnival.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

Essex County has jurisdiction over the courthouse property bordered by High Street to the east, the Frog Pond to the west, the granite stairs to the south and the granite stairs to the north. The area around the courthouse is used for parking court house related

vehicles. An irrigation system has a controller in the basement of the courthouse and irrigates the trees along the Bartlet Mall. Some trees along High Street are showing signs of distress. Soils are severely compacted, along roadside path along Pond Street. There are numerous dead and distressed branches within many of the older trees. Weeds within walkways are a perennial challenge to suppress. Seasonal algae blooms turn water green and often lead to fish kill.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Remove graffiti on climbing structure		
Implement regular field grass aeration		
Anchor and stabilize and repair dock		
Replace bulbs / repair street lights		
Fix stair railing from Auburn Street to pond		
Replace / fix basketball nets		
Schedule regular weeding around play area and bike racks		
Implement weed suppression along High Street promenade		
Re-coat or replace swing chains		
Remove dead limbs on trees and remove / replace diseased trees		
Paint picnic tables, stair railings, and fence along High St		
Clean tack ride on playground to remove mildew		
Treat pond to control algae		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Repair drinking water fountain, if replacement is required replace with an ADA compliant fixture		
Improve the playground surface to eliminate elevation changes between use areas and level chip and asphalt surfaces		
Replace swing mats		
Repair / restore historic fountain in pond		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Consider providing an adaptive swing seat		
Implement and update existing Bartlet Mall master plan		
Develop a Sustainable Pond Management Plan		

BROWN SQUARE



Site Location: Intersection Green and Pleasant Streets in front of City Hall
 Ward: Three
 Acreage: 0.6
 Site Type: Passive Park
 Owner: Newburyport
 Zoning: Res II

Site Description and Assessment

History

Brown Square was given to the city by Mr. Moses Brown, builder of the federalist style, Garrison Inn in 1801.

Site Description

The square is bounded by Green, Pleasant and Titcomb Streets. The site includes a bronze statue with a granite base of "Garrison the Liberator" presented by William H Swasey in 1893 a memorial dated 1945 given by the citizens to Newburyport men who fought in the War with Spain, the Philippines Insurrection and the China Relief Expedition from 1898-1902 a large granite memorial given by the city in 1979 to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam, three granite memorials (Legionaries, DAVS Chapter 40 and Bradbury Doyle Post 1745) to the veterans of all wars and bronze marker installed in a granite boulder that signifies improvements by the Turning Point youth. The site serves as an important symbol for the city, as "a city common" in front of City Hall and also serves as the site of Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

In 2010, the city completed a \$373,000 renovation of the park. The bronze statue of William Lloyd Garrison was restored and a wide brick plaza with granite curbing and new benches were installed. The city also created historic interpretive panels, installed a new veterans plaza to host a number of monuments, installed brick sidewalks and lighting, and planted new elm trees along the perimeter.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Fix peeling paint on sign posts		
Implement turf grass aeration		
Improve lawn and remove crabgrass		
Fix peeling coating of interpretive sign panels		

CASHMAN PARK



Site Location:	On the Merrimac River at the Intersection of Kent and Merrimac
Streets	Streets
Ward:	Three
Acreage:	12.4
Site Type:	Active Park with Playground/Recreational Facilities /Boat Ramp
Owner:	Newburyport
Zoning:	Res III and Bus II

Site Description and Assessment

History

This former landfill was taken by eminent domain and established as Central Park in 1922 by then Mayor Michael Cashman. In 1965, the park was re-named Cashman Park in honor of the Mayor. Recreational areas including a tennis court, two basketball courts, and a tot lot were constructed in 1982. A paved area adjacent to the field was formerly used for a skate park. In 1994, a new boat ramp, parking facility and a sewage pumping station off White's Court and Pop Crowley Way were constructed with State funds.

Site Description

Cashman Park consists of: parking lots and two state boat ramps on the west end of the site; one harbormaster structure; one dingy dock; two athletic fields (one baseball/softball and one multi-use); a recreational area including one tennis court, two full basketball courts and a tot lot at center to the east end of the site; an open field space that is used for the city's off-leash dog program; a sewage pumping station east of the recreational area; and the paved Harborwalk along the rip-rap bank of the river's edge.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

The park is one of the largest city parks and is an integral part of the linkage between the water and downtown. The park serves boater's needs for trailer parking and water access. Heavy use contributes to on-going maintenance needs, particularly of playground equipment and the lawn area used by the off-leash program.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Continue regular turf aeration and re-seeding as needed of all field and lawn areas		
Replace playground slide		
Repair / stabilize granite benches		
Replenish wood chip surface in playground area		
Replace / repair bench by tennis court		
Fix peeling paint on playground structures		
Fix cracks on basketball court		
Fix track ride at playground		
Fix / replace basketball nets		

Capital Improvement Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Add lights to soccer fields		
Resurface walkway from Merrimack St. between playground and baseball field		
Add rubber pads under swings		
Replace landscaping ties in playground border		
Replant / landscape circular garden at intersection of playground walkway and Harborwalk		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Evaluate options for location of a permanent restroom facility		
Identify appropriate location for relocation of Towle historic building to be used for equipment storage and recreation programs		
Redesign paved area between soccer field and parking to reduce pavement and increase field space		
Design informal buffer (plantings and/or benches) between off-leash area and walkways and basketball courts		
Stripe and sign parking area near playground and include a marked drop-off area compliant with ADA regulations		

CUSHING PARK / AYER'S PLAYGROUND



Site Location:	Intersection of Kent and Washington Streets
Ward:	Three
Acreage:	2.0 Acres
Site Type:	Cushing Park - Former Passive Park converted to a Parking Lot Ayer Park - Playground
Owner:	Newburyport
Zoning:	Res III

Site Description and Assessment

History

Cushing Park - In 1899, the Kent Street Common was renamed Cushing Park. In 1906, the Bartlet memorial fountain was dedicated in Cushing Park. The park was a large tree-lined, grassy area that included the Davenport School and a small fire station. The Davenport School has been converted into residences and the fire station was removed. In 1954, an adjacent industry converted the park into a parking lot. Since that time, the industry has left the area and the parking lot still remains. The parking lot is nearly empty for the majority of the year and is used heavily only during winter snow emergencies. In 1988, the Cushing Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) submitted to the city recommendations for improvements and three possible park designs, which looked to establish an equitable balance between parking space and usable park area. In 1994, the CPNA again focused its efforts on improving Cushing Park to more equitably serve the community as both a park (as originally intended) and a parking lot. In 1995, the city's Department of Public Works removed a portion of the bituminous concrete parking lot pavement to make way for a tree planting buffer strip to separate the parking lot into separate recreation and parking areas. In 1996, the city installed trees to separate the parking lot and recreation areas. In 1996, CPNA raised \$6,000 for a full basketball court. The basketball goals and swings were installed with city and volunteer assistance.

Ayer Park - The flagpole in Ayer Park was dedicated in 1941 to the men who "gave their lives in World War II." In 1972, Ayer Park was dedicated to Pauline Ayer for her "love of the children." In 1995, CPNA raised \$40,000 for new play equipment and wood fiber surfacing and with the help of the city Department of Public Works and neighborhood volunteers removed the old play equipment and installed new equipment.

Site Description

Cushing Park currently consists of parking and recreation areas separated with a tree planted buffer. The recreation area consists of a full basketball court and open paved area for free play. A sidewalk and planting buffer exists at the parking lot perimeters along Kent, Washington and Buck Streets. Ayer Park includes a play structure, spring animals, swings, benches, a memorial plaque, a historic sign, a drinking fountain and a flagpole. Buffer planting exists between the playground and Buck and Congress Streets. A wooden fence, trees, shrubs and an earth mound separate the park from the Davenport School condominiums.

Condition Assessment

Cushing Park - The parking lot pavement is cracked and not regularly used to full capacity. Curbing is cracked or does not exist along the perimeter. The parking lot is not

lit. The grass is in poor condition in many areas, worn with desire lines and compacted and dog feces are an ongoing problem particularly in the winter.

Ayer Park - Shrubs planted to both sides of the memorial plaque are overgrown and hamper visibility of the plaque. The grass is in poor condition in many areas, worn with desire lines and compacted and dog feces are an ongoing problem particularly in the winter.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replenish add wood chip safety surfacing to raise grade for safety and handicap access		
Remove graffiti on play equipment		
Re-paint handrails and worn areas on play structure		
Fix track ride		
Repair / replace basketball net		
Repair / replace decals on alphabet toy		
Re-stain / re-paint benches		
Re-paint sign posts		
Schedule regular weeding around play area and pathways, trim or re-landscape around memorial plaque		

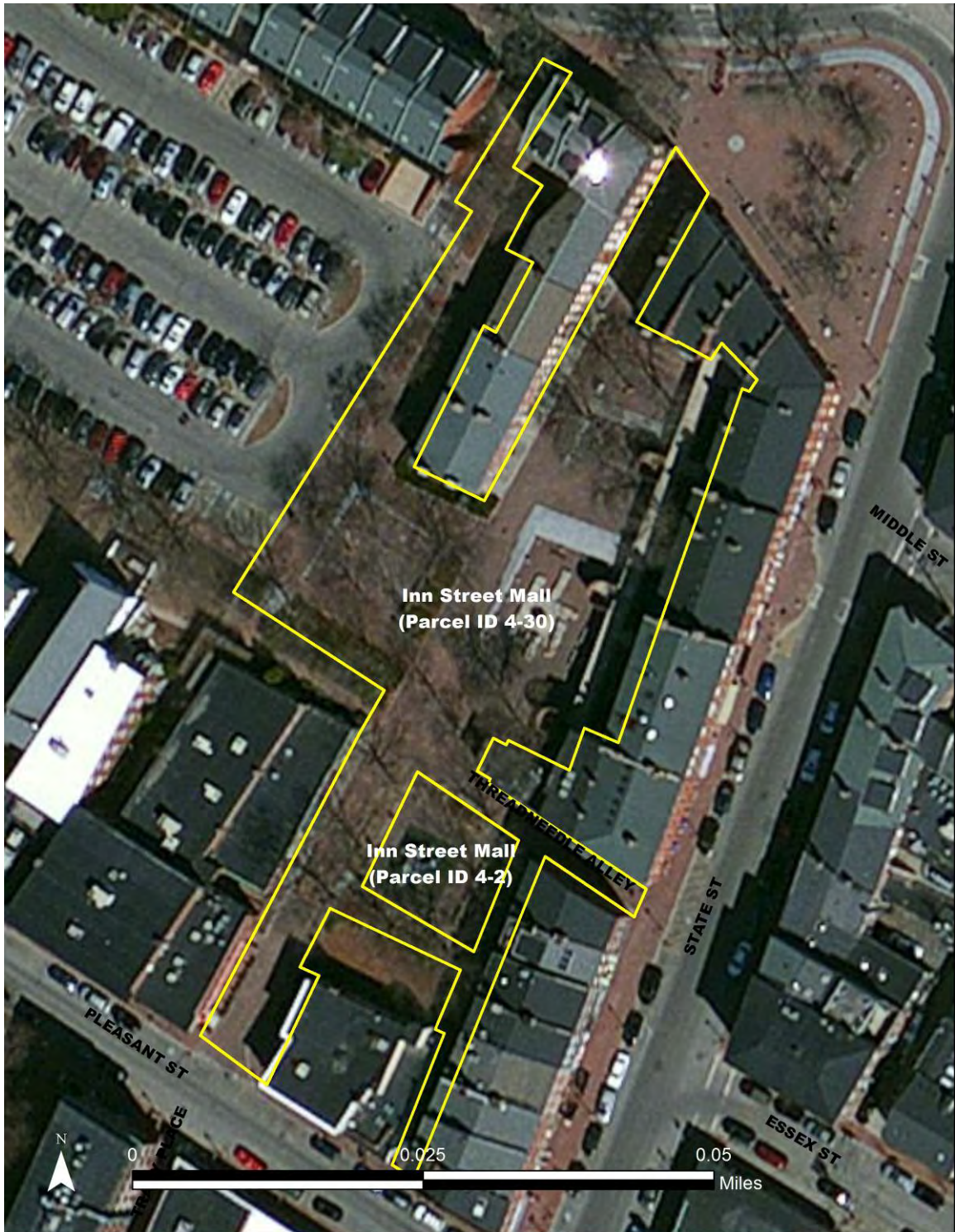
Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace spring-mounted play equipment		
Re-surface basketball court		
Replace landscape ties along edge of playground		
Continue to supplement plantings around the park and parking lot to provide a buffer and year round aesthetic appeal.		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Explore potential for re-purposing parking area to improve park design and enhance activity areas		
Explore installation of lighting in the park and parking lot to discourage loitering and prevent vandalism		

INN STREET MALL



Site Location: Between Pleasant and Merrimac Streets
 Ward: Two
 Acreage: 0.5 Acres
 Site Type: Pedestrian mall
 Owner: Newburyport
 Zoning: Bus II

Site Description and Assessment

History

Inn Street was a fully functioning city street open to vehicular traffic prior to the advent of urban renewal in the downtown area. In 1975, the street was closed to traffic, landscaped and programmed to be pedestrian friendly as a joint project of the city and the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority. A sculptured water feature by Stuart Dawson of Sasaki and a playground were installed. Anderson Nutter was the architect and Sasaki served as the landscape architect.

Site Description

Inn Street runs parallel to State Street between Merrimac and Pleasant Streets. Access from State Street is made through a narrow arched passageway and an alley. The city's Green Street parking lot is immediately adjacent to the west of the pedestrian area. Paving consists mainly of brick, however granite curbing separates sidewalk areas immediately in front of storefronts. Paving behind the curb consists of cobblestones and bluestone pavers. The bluestone is used to accentuate entrances. Granite bollards are used to prevent vehicles from entering the area. A small playground a water feature, and terraced seating/steps are the primary site amenities.

Condition Assessment and Site Issues

The Inn Street Mall is heavily used by pedestrian traffic in the downtown area. Many people park in the Green Street lot and cut across Inn Street on their way to State Street or Market Square. The fountain has been inoperable for some years and is in need of renovation to bring it up to health code and improve design. The city is currently working to implement a renovation of the Mall area, including increasing the number of lighting installations, providing tree lighting and focusing on down-sizing and improving the brick turrets.

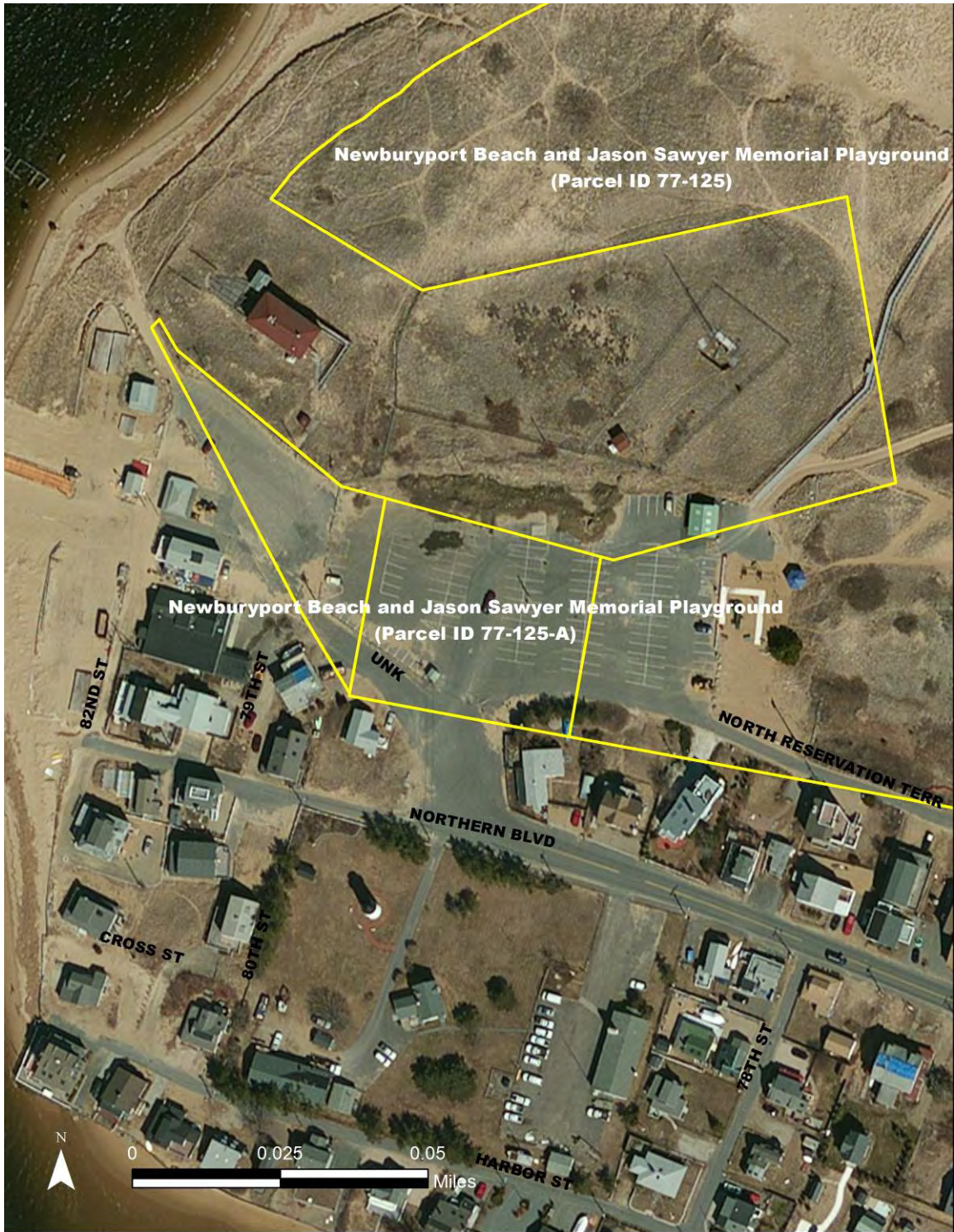
Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace missing steering wheel on play structure		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Renovate fountain		
Plant trees at edge of playground		

JASON SAWYER MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND



Site Location: Plum Island Point
 Ward: One, Precinct A
 Acreage: 0.25 Acres
 Site Type: Playground
 Owner: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management
 (Equipment owned and managed by the Newburyport)
 Zoning: Res III

Site Description and Assessment

History

Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground is a community-built playground located at the southern tip of the Plum Island parking lot. This playground was constructed as a CETA project in 1979.

Site Description

Located at Plum Island Point the playground is adjacent to the beach parking lot and includes playground structures, a swing, a sand volleyball court, a basketball hoop, picnic tables and seating. Nearby a boardwalk provides access to the beach. A changing and restroom facility was recently renovated.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Fix / secure matt near entrance		
Replenish sand under swings		
Touch up paint on play structure		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace chain ladder from central climber		
Replace game table		
Remove and replace rusting pavilion posts and corroded support beams		
Replace basketball backboard		
Add swing mats		
Add a snow fence behind climbing net		

JOPPA PARK



Site Location: Water Street
 Ward: One
 Acreage: .5 Acres
 Site Type: Passive Park and Boat /Windsurfer Ramp
 Owner: Newburyport
 Zoning: Res III

Site Description and Assessment

History

The Seawall was constructed in 1971. In 1996, concrete planters were installed along the seawall to visually break up the length of the park and provide seasonal color and interest.

Site Description

Joppa Park is a passive park located on Water Street from Madison Street to approximately 150' east of Bromfield Street. The park consists of a concrete seawall which runs the length of the park, with a bronze plaque at the east end of the wall, two parallel bituminous concrete paths (one at the street edge and one at the base of the seawall), a grass area between the two paths, and a boat ramp with a few parking spaces. The park is often used by bird watchers to observe marine bird species. The park provides unobstructed views of the river, Joppa Flats, Plum Island and Salisbury.

Condition Assessment

Bituminous concrete paths are cracking and eroding in places. The grass area is in poor condition and highly compacted. Plantings are sparse and do not compliment the site nor relate to the wetlands. The boat ramp is under engineered for boats besides kayaks and windsurfers. The site planting should better relate to the wetlands environment in which it is located. The site will become a significant location along the future bikeway (Phase 2) which is planned to run from the central waterfront to the train station.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Implement regular turf grass aeration		

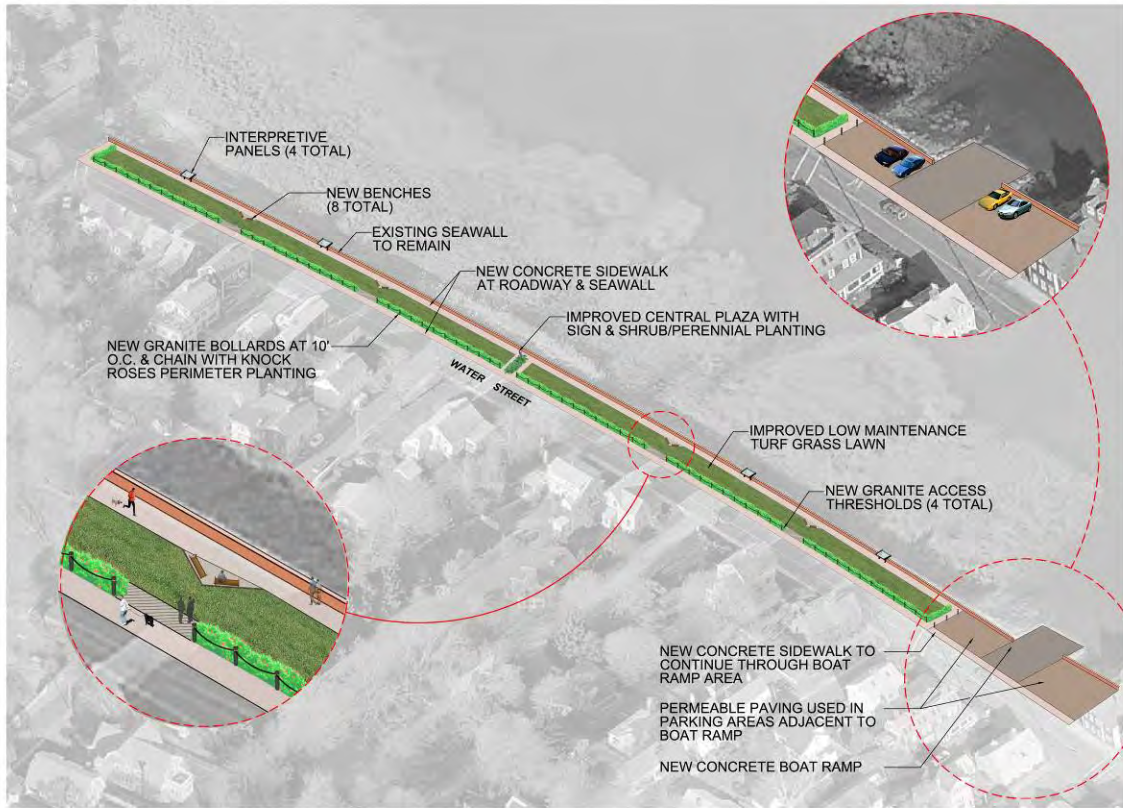
Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Work with State Dept of Fish and Game to replace boat ramp		\$0
Install bollards, roses and cobblestone entries along grass edge and sidewalk		
Install interpretive panels		
Replace benches		
Repair walkways		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Coordinate site improvements with Clipper City Rail Trail extension (phase 2)		

Conceptual Design of Proposed Joppa Park Improvements⁷⁹



JOPPA PARK, NEWBURYPORT, MA
SITE IMPROVEMENT DIAGRAM

HALVORSON DESIGN PARTNERSHIP
AUG./03/2010

⁷⁹ Halvorson Design Partnership, 2011

MARCH'S HILL



Site Location: Intersection of Marlboro and High Streets
 Ward: Two
 Acreage: 17.5
 Site Type: Passive Park with Playground in one corner
 Owner: Newburyport
 Zoning: Res II

SITE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

History

March’s Hill has long been used as a play and sledding area for the city’s children. In May 1954, Clara Dewindt conveyed 4.23 acres on High Street abutting the Newburyport City Railroad and existing city property to the city with the condition that the premises be maintained and used for a public playground for children for 99 years.

Site Description

Located in South end neighborhood, the site is adjacent to the former Newburyport City Railroad right-of-way. Amenities include a full basketball court and a lower field area. A cement staircase provides access. The remainder of the park is wooded, hilly and rises as it moves away from High Street. Hills Hill sides throughout the park are popular during winter months for sledding. The back of the site houses the Water Department’s water tower and gravel vehicle access road. There is a significant grade separation from the railroad right-of-way in this part of the site. There are excellent views from the base of water tower looking out over Newbury. The park is currently part of the city’s off-leash dog program.

Condition Assessment

The field is in the lowest part of the site and floods frequently. The basketball court surface is cracked. There is no ADA accessible route into the site. Terrain limits visual surveillance from High Street. Areas at the back of the site are also difficult to observe due to woods, rough terrain and inaccessibility. This site will become more significant with the development of the future bikeway (Phase 2) from the central waterfront to the train station.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Re-secure and fix off-leash dog hours sign posts		
Remove invasive vegetation along eastern border		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Develop site design to address stormwater runoff at western edge of property		
Re-design park entrance off of High Street to serve as an access point for the future Clipper City Rail Trail extension (Phase 2)		
Evaluate pros and cons for use of trails for mountain biking		

MARKET LANDING PARK AND RIVERSIDE PARK

Site Location:	Merrimack Street along Merrimack River
Ward:	
Acreage:	4.4
Site Type:	waterfront passive park
Owner:	City (managed by Newburyport Waterfront Trust)
Zoning:	

Site Description and Assessment

History

The following is excerpted from the Newburyport Waterfront Trust Annual report for 2011.⁸⁰

The area comprising Market Landing Park and the Waterfront/Boardwalk Promenade and adjacent public and private acreage was taken by eminent domain by the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority (NRA) as part of an urban renewal project in 1968. The site was first developed into a park over a several year period, beginning in the early 1970's. In January 1991, the Newburyport Waterfront Trust (the Trust) was established to hold, manage, maintain, conserve, and utilize these lands for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Newburyport, Newbury, and West Newbury.

The granted lands consist of Market Landing Park, Riverside Park, approximately 1,100 feet of riverfront boardwalk, Somerby's Landing, and the five (5) Ways to the Water (Somersby Landing Way within Riverside Park, Central Wharf Way, Railroad Avenue east of the Firehouse, Ferry Wharf Way [administered by the NRA but obligated for transfer to the Waterfront Trust], and Custom House Way). These lands were granted to the Trust to be held in perpetuity allowing the public free access forever.

Site Description

The following is excerpted from the Newburyport Waterfront Trust Annual report for 2011.⁸¹

Market Landing Park is located between Merrimac Street and the water near Market Square. The Firehouse Center is located at the Southeast corner of the Park. Park circulation is paved with brick and lined with granite curbing. Lush green space is plentiful and flowerbeds abound. A black cast iron fence separates the street sidewalk and the Park. Earth mounds provide a buffer zone between the Park and adjacent parking lots. A granite railing and performance stage separate Market Landing Park from the Waterfront/Boardwalk Promenade.

The Promenade is a wooden wharf supported by steel caissons. The entire Promenade was re-built and completed in June, 2003 using robust Ipe decking. Railings on the waterside of the Promenade also serve as benches. Sturdy steel and wood benches line

⁸⁰ Newburyport Waterfront Trust, 2011.

⁸¹ Ibid.

the landside of the wharf. The Promenade is straight, paralleling the river with the exception of an embayment that aligns with Market Landing Park.

Riverside Park is the western-most portion of the Trust's properties. It was originally dedicated in 1889 as city park land consisting of a ball field and recreational space, but in 1948 the city turned it into a parking lot to accommodate downtown parking needs. It was rededicated as a park when the Waterfront Trust was created in 1991 with parking allowed as a "permitted use." Today it's primarily a paved parking lot providing 64 spaces with some trees and greenery. It also serves as an optional entrance to two abutting parking lots and further entrance to the nearby boat yards and marine facilities. Since the 1990's the Trustees have articulated the goal of giving Riverside Park a more park-like appearance, but have also wanted to maximize waterfront parking. Plantings along Somerby Landing Way were added in 2003 with additional plantings and improved signage for the Park currently under consideration.

In the summer, the Trust allows the Harbormaster Department to place floating docks along the east end face of the Waterfront/Boardwalk Promenade for public docking. Additional floating docking and a public dingy dock are seasonally located in the embayment.

The Trust hosts public charter boats along the Promenade to the west of the embayment, informally known as a Transportation Docking area.

Condition Assessment

The following is excerpted from the Newburyport Waterfront Trust Annual report for 2011.⁸²

The Park and the Promenade are well maintained and provide an attractive draw to Newburyport's waterfront and nearby downtown area. A well-managed program of tree maintenance and pruning keeps the Park attractive and visible while providing shade. The Waterfront Promenade experiences heavy tourist traffic in the summer months. Market Landing Park is used as an access way to the Promenade and is also home to summer concerts and special events. It is also frequently used as a wedding venue.

Site Improvements / Planning

The following is excerpted from the Newburyport Waterfront Trust Annual report for 2011.⁸³

Routine

- Increasing the sophistication of gardens and intense landscaping in keeping with the Trust's financial resources.
- Developing a tree replacement program to replace lost trees due to damage or disease, and implementing fertilizer and pruning programs.
- Balancing the merits of a vibrant vs. a more passive setting.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

- Increasing the Trust's financial resources by competing for grants and encouraging private and commercial donations.

Long-term

- Continue to work with other entities to manage the hazards and opportunities associated with the commercial development of neighboring parcels.
- Complete the process with the NRA and the city to locate, mark, and transfer to the Waterfront Trust, the two final Rights of Ways to the Waterfront, specifically Ferry Wharf Way and Central Wharf Way.
- Work cooperatively with the Newburyport Maritime Society Board, the city of Newburyport, Newburyport Harbor Commission and the NRA with a shared interest to improve waterfront docking that will enable routine visits by historic ships and ship replicas for the purpose of providing ship-based educational programs and to encourage a broader range of visitors.
- Work with the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority (NRA) to assist in the conversion of portions of the gravel parking lots into park and other higher-use activities.
- Integrate, as appropriate, additional NRA park land with the Waterfront Trust Park to create a seamless park, both in appearance and management.
- Plan and construct a bikeway to accommodate rail-trail traffic across the park.
- Work with charter boat operators to establish a permanent location for the ticket kiosk.
- Improve the appearance of Riverside Park through the addition of trees and other plantings. Ultimately, reestablish Riverside Park as a formal park.
- Increase the vitality and the range of visitor offerings by a measured enhancement of attractions and partnerships with commercial ventures.
- Provide additional public boating opportunities along unused portions of the Promenade west of the embayment.
- Collaborate with the city to raise funds to support substantial projected expenses related to the predictable deterioration of the bulkhead caissons, pilings, and Boardwalk support structure.
- Consider including sculpture and additional forms of art to areas of Trust property in addition to the existing sculpture park.
- Add additional benches where needed and of a design that is consistent with the existing area.
- Engage professional landscape architects and enhance Waterfront Park with additional and appropriate plantings.

MOSELEY WOODS



Site Location:	Spofford Street
Ward:	Six
Acreage:	18 Acres
Site Type:	waterfront forest and recreation area
Owner:	City of Newburyport and Moseley Trust
Zoning:	Res I

Site Description and Assessment

History

A bronze plaque on the stone wall at the entry to Moseley Woods states “Charles Moseley (1847-1920) one of his many benefactors for the health and happiness of the people of his native city.” Mr. Moseley left the former Jackman Pines and adjacent land to the city of Newburyport in his will. The land is to be held by the city as a public park as long as the city shall appropriate a minimum amount towards policing and repair of the park. Should the city fail to make the required appropriation two years in a row, the park would revert to the Moseley trustees. Mr. Moseley left \$15,000 to supplement the city’s annual expenditure on the property. Today the fund has grown to \$40,000 and the city is required to contribute \$4,000 - \$5,000 per year.

In 2003, a major renovation occurred which included the removal of the tennis courts, realigned roadway and clearly identifiable parking areas, renovated pavilion, renovated playground areas, renovated stone wall and entry gates, new site improvements, new restroom facilities, renovated overlook and plantings and relocated maintenance shed.

The city is currently working with Mass DOT on the design of the reconstruction of the Whittier Bridge and associated with that effort is the inclusion of a multi-modal pedestrian/ bicycle path parallel to I-95. The city intends to seek to make connections between Moseley Woods and this multi-modal trail system.

Site Description

Moseley Woods has frontage on Spofford Street, Interstate 95 and the Merrimack River. A stone masonry wall with an identifying plaque separates the park from street traffic. Immediately behind the wall is a small field for active recreation. A long narrow drive brings visitors into the wooded picnic area. A maintenance shed is nestled in the trees near a playground area. The playground / picnic area is nicely shaded by tall trees and consists of the pavilion, restroom structure, play structures, swings, zip line, climbing structures, picnic tables and other site improvements. There is no formal access to the river, however vistas are plentiful. Both Interstate 95 and Chain Bridge are highly visible along the water. Paths extend beyond the playground/ picnic area into the rear of the site which abuts Interstate 95 and includes a reservoir which is full of debris and whose granite edging is in deteriorated condition. The back of the site also slopes up hill and is heavily wooded and subdivided by walking trails which connect to Curzon Mill Road and Maudslay State Park beyond.

Condition Assessment

The front of the park along Spofford Street including the lawn and picnic / playground areas is in good condition. The rear of the park is in need of improvements which were not addressed in the recent renovation project. This park has been well maintained for

a significant period of time. Park receives heavy use from local and regional park visitors, therefore ongoing maintenance is of paramount importance.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Cost Estimate
Renew safety surfacing beneath play equipment to ensure playground meets current safety and accessibility standards		
Implement a trail maintenance program		
Repair stone wall		

Capital Improvements / Site Redesign Needs

	Fiscal Year	Cost Estimate
Establish trail markers		
Address erosions issues along waterfront paths		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Cost Estimate
Plan for pedestrian and bicycle connections between Moseley Woods and the various other greenway systems along I-95, Curzon Mill Road, and Maudslay State Park		

PERKINS PLAYGROUND



Site Location: Beacon Avenue
Ward: One
Acreage: 10.1 Acres
Site Type: playground, court and ball field
Owner: City
Zoning: Res II

Site Description and Assessment

History

In March 1948, the City Council requested that the Mayor acquire the then South End Playgrounds from Haverhill Electric Company. The budget for that year listed a line item of \$1000 for the Edward G. Perkins Playgrounds. Mr. Perkins was President of the City Council. From 1994 to 1996, a neighborhood group organized by Harvey Beit restored the playground. The group envisioned an old fashioned playground, unlike many of the new play structures emerging around the city. They built a board and batten clam shack, a wooden ship and a fire engine. A new sign was placed at the entrance in memory of Stanley Tucker's wife. The entrance also included mahogany benches professionally built by Kiva Willard. The basketball and tennis courts were renovated and the playground was fenced in.

Description

Perkins Park is surrounded by a quiet residential neighborhood. Older children and adults utilize the basketball court, tennis court and baseball field, and the playground serves youth of all ages. A decorative archway identifies the park and serves as the playground entrance. The playground is fenced off from the street and a tennis and basketball court. The recently renovated baseball diamond is in the lower field, accessible by stairs and ramps. A maintenance access road connects Beacon Street and the field. The south arm of the property is wetlands. Makeshift paths in the woods behind the baseball field lead to the Shandel Drive area. The site also includes a picnic table, two water fountains and an open ended shelter that houses a portable toilet spring through fall. The park now connects to a newly created passive park at 270 Water Street (owned by National Grid). The addition of this park has opened up views to the water from Perkins Park.

Condition Assessment

There has been some decline in the playground equipment and there are safety concerns stemming from lack of general upkeep and maintenance. The athletic fields are maintained by the sports leagues, but the remainder of the property does not receive routine landscaping maintenance. The ball field slope is in need of lawn renovation. There is inadequate parking, particularly for league games.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Playground grass areas need replacement, fertilizing and maintenance		
Replace / repair basketball net		
Replace / replenish playground sand		
Repair ball field grass slope		
Implement regular turf grass aeration		
Replace / replenish wood chip playground surfacing		

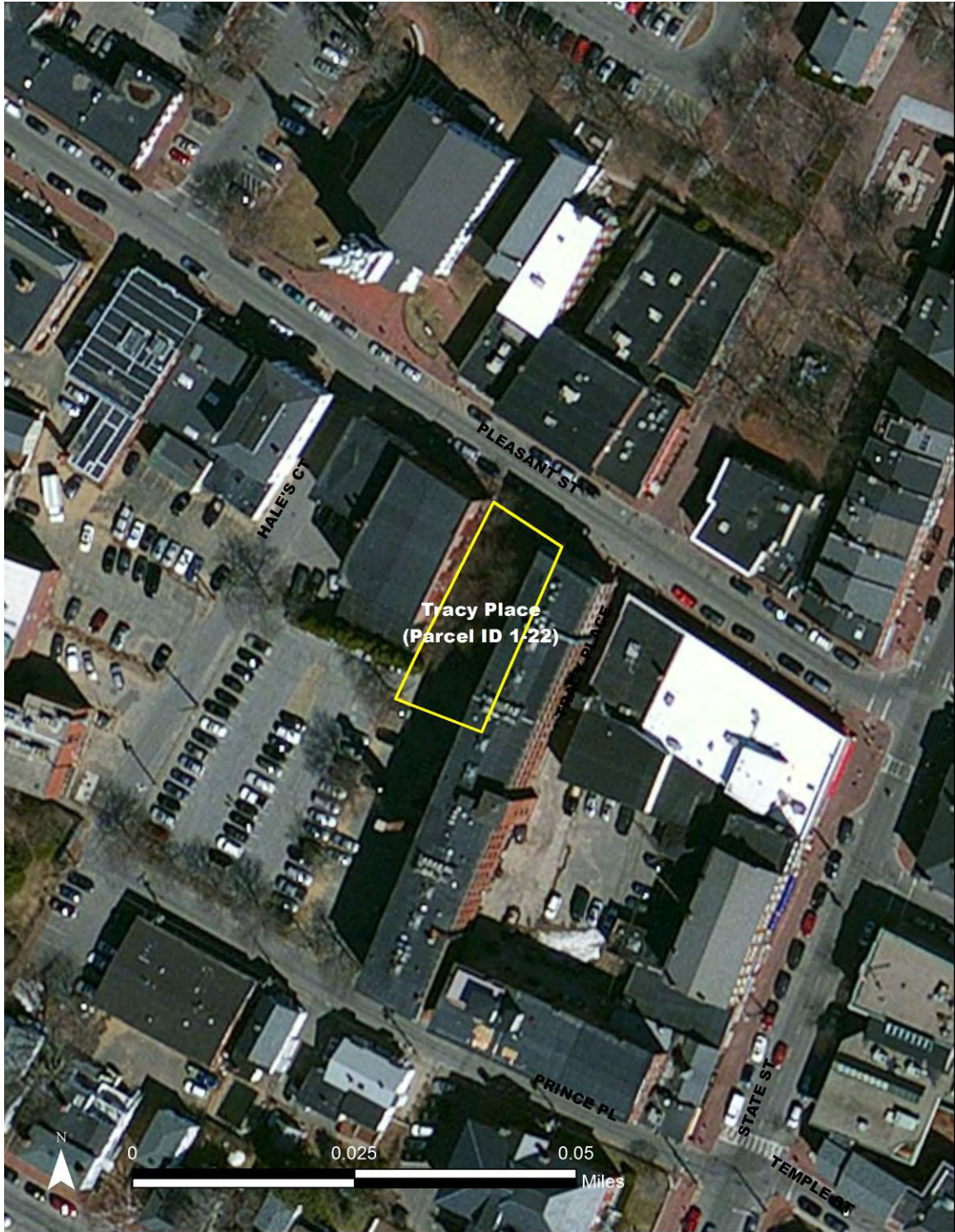
Capital Improvements / Site Redesign Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace playground equipment - - spring toys, ship, spiral slide, fire truck		
Install safety mats under swings		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Evaluate if sandbox should be repaired, removed, and/or replaced		
Develop a park improvement plan that considers parking		

TRACY PARK



Site Location: Pleasant Street
 Ward: Three
 Acreage: 0.15 Acres
 Site Type: urban square
 Owner: City
 Zoning: Bus II

Site Description and Assessment

History

In 1981, the city of Newburyport acquired a building on Pleasant Street to be torn down and create an access way from the downtown to a proposed parking lot off Prince Place. The parking lot was completed and Tracy Park was opened to the public on the site of the former building in 1983. A bronze plaque at the entrance to the park pays tribute to Patrick Tracy. "Dedicated to Patrick Tracy (1711-1789) in recognition of his economic and social contributions to the welfare of Newburyport." Immigrating to Newburyport from his native Kilcarbeey Hill, County Wexford Ireland in 1745, he became a successful and wealthy owner of 54 privateers that sailed out of port during the American Revolution and built a mansion for his eldest son, Nathaniel, in 1771, which is now the Newburyport Public Library.

Description

The urban square is brick paved, with benches and shade trees. The area serves as an attractive alcove between the buildings of downtown and connects parking and local shops. Generally the square is quiet and peaceful, with less traffic than Inn Street.

Condition Assessment

Tracy Place is in fair shape and requires minimal maintenance. Cigarette butts and weeds detract from the parks overall appearance. Some tree collars and grates are loose. Game/lunch tables could help activate the park.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Weed beds, tree grates and patio areas.		
Secure loose tree collars.		
Paint tree collars.		
Relay loose bricks in rear of park.		
Secure loose tree grates.		

Capital Improvement / Site Design Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Replace declining shrubs.		
Provide a location for cigarette disposal.		

Design / Planning Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Consider adding game/dining tables with seating		

WOODMAN PARK



Site Location:	East end of Crow Lane on the west side of Interstate 95
Ward:	Five
Acreage:	10.4 Acres
Site Type:	Ballfields, Playground and Woodlands
Owner:	City of Newburyport
Zoning:	Res I

Site Description and Assessment

History

This land was donated to the city by the members of the Woodman family in remembrance of their father, John Woodman, a lifetime farmer of the Newburyport soil. The Woodman Park Master Plan, as described in the 1981 Open Space and Recreation Plan, included the following: parking lot, an emergency access path/road, pathways from Goldsmith Land to Woodman Park, a tot lot at Crow Lane, a basketball court, a tennis court, a sledding hill, a skating pond, an open field and a second tot lot at the Storeybrook Road pedestrian entrance. The parking lot, tot lot on Crow Lane, basketball court, softball field and the pathway to Goldsmith Lane are those elements of the Master Plan which have been constructed to date.

Description

This is the only active park in the city's west end neighborhood, but its location is not highly visible at the end of Crow Lane. The south end of the park has been developed. The north end of the park remains wooded, with a footpath between the softball field and neighbors yards to the north; the neighborhood currently uses this wooded area for compost disposal. The south end of the park consists of: a gravel parking lot bordered by a telephone pole timber rail and stone wall, a playground, a basketball court, a softball field and a multi-use field. The playground includes separate play structures for tots and youth. Benches are located alongside the field. The only light near the park is a street light at the east end of Crow Lane.

Condition Assessment

Trees near the playground and throughout the site require pruning for deadwood and selective removal where trees are dead or in a state of decline. The park has limited visibility and community awareness due to its isolated location. The parking lot improvements should include signed space for ADA access.

Maintenance Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Schedule tree maintenance and pruning around playground and as needed throughout site		
Fix kiddies swing and tighten handles on play structure		
Replenish wood chips under swings		
Touch up paint on climbing structures		
Remove mildew on climbing structures, benches, and tables		
Implement scheduled field turf aeration		
Schedule regular weeding of infield		



Capital Improvement / Site Redesign Needs

	Fiscal Year	Estimated Cost
Install an accessible drinking fountain.		
Playground equipment upgrades should include ADA accessible equipment		
Replace basketball nets and rim		
Resurface basketball court		
Add swing safety mats		
Replace trash receptacles		

Appendix 3: Annual Park Inspections Report

Newburyport Park Inspections

Revised 30 April 2012

ATKINSON COMMON		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis courts in poor condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dumping a problem along Chase Street entry area & behind Plummer Ave residences encroaching on park Trees need maintenance program to keep them healthy and to avoid safety hazards related to untended deadwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with Planning Director to deal with encroachment on park by neighbors. Acquired 30% funding of tennis court repair from US Tennis Assoc; sending job out to bid this spring
ATWOOD PARK		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chain link fence broken & rusted Ditch & cracks in tennis court area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis net missing & posts broken Cracks in asphalt of basketball court Brick wall broken in three places; brick needs re-pointing Needs new basketball net Brick bench broken, needs 6 new bricks Graffiti on basketball backboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating sponsorship program with Opportunity Works to maintain the park weekly. Purchased basketball nets for DPS install
<p>Improvements Needed at Atwood Park</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Left: Remaining chain link fence at Atwood Park is rusted. Former tennis court is now a vacant lot.</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Above: Brick bench at Atwood needs repair as does an adjacent brick planter.</i></p> </div> </div>		

AYERS PLAYGROUND		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring-mounted horse and motorcycle have broken seats creating sharp edges; need replacements, broken clamp on motorcycle. Needs wood fiber safety surfacing to raise grade for safety and handicap access & around play structure for safety surfacing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graffiti on slides Handrail needs painting; Basketball court needs repaving Track ride handle missing One basketball net needs replacement Decals peeling off of alphabet toy Needs 50 feet new landscape ties Paint needs touching up on hand rails and throughout (light beige) Walkway, cobble plaza and play area weedy 2 wooden benches need staining Signpost needs painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread new wood fiber safety surfacing Seeking volunteers to address graffiti, paint touch up, and bench maintenance Purchased basketball nets for DPS install

Improvements Needed at Ayers Playground



Spring horse and motorcycle have sharp edges & need replacing.



Approximately a dozen landscape ties need replacing.



Basketball court and hopscotch play surface is in disrepair.

BARTLET MALL/FROG POND PLAYGROUND		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dock steps broken Several street lights are out Stair railing from Auburn Street to pond broken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball area needs re-paving Need new basketball nets Play lot weedy Coating on the swing chains is cracked and chains are beginning to rust Dead limbs in trees; diseased maple on lower promenade near Greenleaf St Graffiti on climbing structure Stone promenade around pond overgrown, needs weed control Picnic tables need paint touch up (black) Stair railings need paint touch up Weedy around bike racks Small water fountain broken Fence along High Street could use painting Need new swing mats Track ride has mildew, needs cleaning Fountain does not work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced broken swing chains & seat Fountain restoration fundraising meeting scheduled for May 10 Expecting fountain repair proposal to determine cost, May Contacted D. Zinck to repair lights Replaced worst set of swing chains Donation by Valley Tree will address critical tree maintenance issues Bartlet Mall Commission re-established Consulting with Harbormaster about repair of dock DPS plans to remove broken stair railing

BROWN SQUARE		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint on sign post peeling Lawn patchy with crabgrass Coating of interpretive sign panels are peeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning office is working with sign company to replace signs that are peeling Arranged with J Gill Landscaping to provide landscape maintenance as part of Sponsor-A-Spot program

CASHMAN PARK		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granite benches unstable due to erosion Walkway from Merrimack St. to river badly cracked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cashman lawn sparse, needs re-seeding Bench by tennis court damaged Need rubber pads under swings (qty 4) Need new landscaping ties in playground border, 100 linear feet Needs mulch Blue coating peeling in several places: top of post on ship; ring chains near fire pole Cracks & puddling on basketball court Track ride broken Circular garden planter an eyesore Needs two basketball nets Spiral slide needs replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courtside benches scheduled for replacement in cooperation with donation by Eagle Scout Lucas Kaplan Spiral slide removed by DPS Coordinating with Lucas Kaplan to renovate Cashman Circular Garden Coordinating with Pioneer League to replace rail protectors on outfield fence to prevent ripping of netting. Seeking volunteer to touchup paint on play equipment and other structures Approached off-leash group to fund re-seeding of off-leash area Purchased basketball nets for DPS install

Improvements needed at Cashman Park



A lack of wood fiber play surfacing is evident at the base of this slide. Wood fiber has been replenished as budget allows, but all playgrounds require more for adequate safety and accessibility.



Cashman basketball court is cracked.



Missing landscape ties compromise the integrity of the asphalt walkway.

CLIPPER CITY RAIL TRAIL		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parker Street gateway garden needs weeding • Dog waste left on trail edges is a common problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall volunteer cleanup cleared away many fallen leaves & brush along walkway • DPS repaired bollards broken by snow plows; filled sinkhole near waterfront • Coordinated ongoing volunteer work on berry labyrinth, geometric gardens and Washington Street gateway gardens. • Repaired dog walker & bicycle sculptures. • Spring volunteer cleanup spreading woodchips, clearing deadwood in locomotive area

INN STREET PLAYGROUND		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing steering wheel on play structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New landscaping mulch purchased and installed by volunteers

JASON SAWYER PLAYGROUND		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber mat near entrance turned up; tripping hazard • Need more sand under swings • Chain ladder missing from central climber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken game table • Pavilion posts rusting, support beams corroded, need to replace or remove • Basketball backboard needs replacing • Needs new basketball net • Needs 2 swing mats • Paint needs touching up: track ride, hand rails, green bar over slide • Need snow fence behind climbing net 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking assistance from Plum Island Mother's Club to replace chain ladder

Improvements Needed at Jason Sawyer Playground



Top Left: Pavilion supports are badly rusted.
 Middle: Climbing ladder missing from central climbing structure
 Top Right: Basketball backboard needs replacement.

JOPPA PARK		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several sink holes in walkway by seawall, walkway needs to be replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park looks unkempt Benches need replacement Grass overrun by weeds and bare spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulted city engineer about sidewalk repair Working with State Dept of Fish and Game to replace boat ramp; they will reimburse 100%; Dept of Fish and Game made temp safety repairs to boat ramp Contracted with Hennessey Landscape to have bollards, roses and cobblestone entries installed. Funding approved by CPC for creation of interpretive panels

Improvements Needed at Joppa Park



Sinkholes and deterioration of walkway pose safety hazards at Joppa Park; benches need replacement; lawn needs replacement.

MARCH'S HILL		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stair landings falling apart; stairs a hazard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball court cracked Needs two new basketball rims & one net Signpost needs painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting with Planning Office about reconfiguration of park entrance in conjunction with Rail Trail extension project
<p>Improvements Needed at March's Hill</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><i>Stairs need repair; handrail runs only half the length of the stairs. Basketball Court is in disrepair.</i></p>		

MOSELEY WOODS		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs mulch around play structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering wheel needs tightening Stone wall damaged Erosion problems along waterfront walkways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking fountain fixed Purchased some mulch, but needs additional to meet safety requirements

PERKINS PARK		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbox: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parts of wood base are falling off around cement sandbox supports ○ Post supports are falling off footings; entire structure is out of rack; shifting off footings ○ Roof needs shingling to forestall further material damage ○ Wood is old and splintering • Playground needs additional mulch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment replacements needed: two spring toys; ship; spiral slide; fire truck • Playground grass areas need replacement, fertilizing and maintenance • Needs 4 swing mats • Needs one basketball net • Needs new sand • Ball field grass slope needs repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden ramp removed by DPS • Broken spiral slide removed by DPS • Broken double slide repaired • Old spring toy foundations removed • Removed old water fountain which presented eye socket hazard • Installed 60 yards of mulch • Filled sandbox with new sand • Coordinating with Youth Services to fund swing mats

Improvements Needed at Perkins Park



The playground area and the ball field slope are both in need of lawn renovation. The playground has lost several of its play structures and needs replacements. National Grid attempted to repair only a small portion of the slope.

Wooden sandbox structure needs repair with decking lifting up and a wooden ramp falling off.

WOODMAN PARK		
Safety Issues	Other repairs and/or cosmetics	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiddie swing not secure, should be cemented in place • Brick walkway falling apart; tripping hazard • Used backstop fencing piled up near play area. • Handles on play structure need tightening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs 2 basketball nets & one new rim • Basketball court cracked • Needs mulch and swing mats under swings to preserve mulch base • Climbing structures need touch up (red & tan, steering wheels, handrails, steps) • Smaller climbing structure and picnic tables mildewed • Trash cans look dilapidated • Infield very weedy • Nu-oak benches need cleaning • Mulch needs spreading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields renovated in cooperation with NYSA & Pioneer League • Exposed rebar removed • Basketball lines painted • Brick walkway repaired through partnership with NYSA • Mulch spread by NYSA • Asked Pioneer League to remove old fencing

Appendix 4: Proposed Full-Time City Parks Administrator Roles / Responsibilities

Public Liaison/ Point Person

- Answer incoming calls/correspondence from the public.
- Coordinate with city departments and staff
- Daily presence in City Hall facilitating public access and awareness of parks.
- Coordinate with Parks Groups: Atkinson Common Commission, Bartlet Mall Commission, Moseley Commission, and Waterfront Trust and other Friends of Parks Groups
- Coordinate with Youth Leagues (including NYSA, Pioneer League, Adult Softball and Youth Football)
- Coordinate with School Athletic Department
- Coordinate with Open Space Committee, Youth Commission, and Council on Aging.
- Manage and update Parks Commission web site and on-line permitting documents.

Parks Commission Coordination

- Prepare monthly meeting agenda, minutes and budget updates
- Coordinate public involvement in Parks Commission Meetings
- Correspond with Commission to keep members current
- Coordinate Parks Commission component of Open Space and Recreation Plan and Seven-Year Priority Action Items

Maintenance Coordination

- Undertake quarterly inspection of existing facilities and equipment and prepare and present report at meetings.
- Coordinate purchase and installation of new materials as part of parks repair and maintenance
- Coordinate with youth leagues on Athletic Field Licensing Agreements
- Coordinate annual maintenance:
 - Maintenance subcontract agreements for athletic fields.
 - Annual blowing out of irrigation lines and spring start-up of irrigation systems.
 - Installation of seasonal equipment - tennis nets, basketball nets
 - Coordination with the Department of Public Services and Essex Co Sheriffs Office to support weekly park maintenance.

Event Coordinator

- Organize "Operation Clean Sweep" in the spring
- Organize the annual Winter Carnival
- Organize new parks events and fund-raising events TBD in years to come
- Prepare for and facilitate the annual Spring Field Usage and Scheduling Meeting

- Organize volunteers and coordinate with city departments and Essex County Sheriffs Office

Budget and Finance

- Administer park user donations
- Prepare and submit vouchers for payment by Auditor's Office
- Prepare Annual Budget
- Manage and collect donations for field usage and other donor programs
- Prepare and present short and long term capital improvements plan and budget
- Pursues grant funding for parks improvements in coordination with city grant writer

Scheduling and Permitting

- Maintain current parks usage schedule and calendar on website

Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation Coordination

- Prepare Parks Commission recommendations to Foundation for consideration
- Prepare quarterly reports for projects receiving Foundation funding
- Coordination with Mayor regarding Foundation correspondence
- Coordinate and prepare presentation at annual Foundation meeting

Clipper City Rail Trail Coordination

- Manage on-going trail maintenance with subcontractors
- Coordinate with Friends of Trails Groups and Planning Office on on-going parks improvements
- Coordinate with Planning Office on future rail trail expansion and integration with existing city parks

Appendix 5: Field Space Task Force Recommendations

Potential Space for Recreational Field Development

Updated May 31, 2012

MOST PREFERRED

RECONFIGURATION AND/OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING FIELDS

Nock School Fields (38-1)

Owner: City of Newburyport

Pros

- Might be able to fit a 60' baseball diamond
- Excavated gravel could be an asset

Cons

- Requires grading
- Construction cost
- Too small for 90' diamond

Fuller Field & Abutting Land (37-1 & 37-11)

Owner: City of Newburyport

& Julia Farwell-Clay

Pros

- Potential to expand back field to fit smaller soccer field, baseball diamond, lacrosse
- Use of back area could be maximized simply by more frequent mowing

Cons

- Requires land acquisition

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Bresnahan Property(42-54)

Owner: City of Newburyport

Viability TBD

159 Low Street (97-22)

Owner: Allen R. Cooper, 462-8371

Pros

- Large space
- Potential for field lighting
- Easy access and construction

Cons

- Requires land acquisition

Myette Land off of Hale Street (86-1 or 85-1-A)

Owner: Jere H. Myette, 99 Hale Street

Pros

- Large space
- Easy access

Cons

- Requires land acquisition

101 Turkey Hill Road (91-3)

Owner: JENNIE M MASKIEWICZ, (978) 462-2918

Pros

- Potential for field lighting
- Large space
- Potential connectivity with City Forest

Cons

- Requires land acquisition

LEAST PREFERRED

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Arrowhead Farm, 131 Old Ferry Road (115-3-A)

Owner: Richard M. and Paula Chase

Farm Operated by the Moulton Family

Realty agent: Ed Maccaro, emaccaro@gmail.com,

978.375.6775

Pros

- Large Space
- Potential for field lighting

Cons

- Conservation restriction
- Requires land acquisition
- Old Ferry Road is narrow
- Remote; poor location for bike & pedestrian access

130 Old Ferry Road (114-2)

Owner: Wayne P. Capolupo, 978-462-6543 (?)

CEO SPS New England

Pros

- Large Space
- Potential for field lighting

Cons

- Requires land acquisition

Rock Ledge Property

Owner: Norbert Carey

Pros

- Large Space, might fit 3 larger soccer fields & one baseball diamond
- Ample parking space
- Potential for field lighting

Cons

- No access
- Extremely high construction cost, utilities
- Use change may be prohibitive
- Requires land acquisition

32 Toppans Lane (39-39-A)

Owner: Doris Rindler c/o Bruce Rindler

Pros

- Large space
- Possible shared parking
- Easily accessible by students on foot, bike

Cons

- Requires land acquisition
- Property in demand
- Neighbors may resist added traffic load
- Construction cost

Appendix 6: Public Outreach

Meeting to address open space in Newburyport

Salem Gazette

Posted Feb 07, 2012 @ 06:49 PM

Salem —

Newburyport's Office of Planning and Development, Parks Commission, and Open Space Committee are inviting public input to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan, once complete, will give the city a chance at state funding for open space preservation and park improvement projects.

The open space and recreation plan will lay out a road map for the next seven years to help identify open space parcels to protect, playground upgrades, sites for new athletic fields, and even recommendations on staffing and managing parks and recreation programs and facilities.

The city has completed Open Space and Recreation Plans in the past, the most recent extended through 2010. In the past, the plan has been produced through the work of volunteers on the Open Space Committee and the Parks Commission, as well as assistance from city staff.

In 2011, the Office of Planning and Development received funds from the Community Preservation Act to be used to support completion of the 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan update. The city hired Brown Walker Planners, Inc., a local community planning firm with extensive open space and recreation planning experience, to assist with the planning process.

One of Brown Walker's early tasks is facilitating a community forum to invite ideas and suggestions from the public at large. The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Newburyport Public Library.

Public opinions are also being sought in the form of a survey available on-line at surveymonkey.com/s/NewburyportOSRP2012.

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WEATHER

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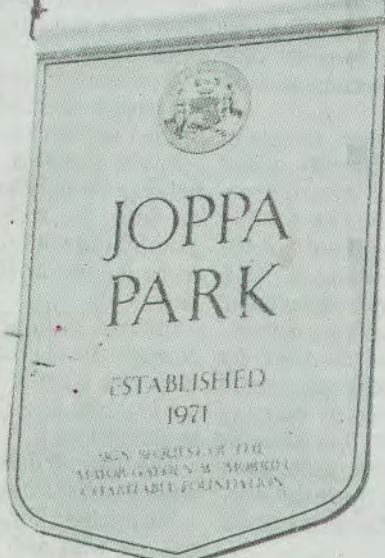
Tonight:
Low of 23.

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The DAILY NEWBURYPORT



NEWBURYPORT
Massachusetts
Published since 1851



"I've only seen the outline of a plan, but it looks like these are improvements that will beautify the park. That's a great part of the city."

Joe Teixeira, chairman of the Conservation Commission

REJUVENATING JOPPA

A new day in offing for riverfront park

BY DYKE HENDRICKSON
STAFF WRITER

These are good days for Water Street: A new park at 270 Water St. will soon open, the grounds at Hale Park are about to again majestically greet the spring, and the odors from the wastewater treatment plant are (for now) in remission.

And if the proper permits are obtained, parts of Joppa Park on Water Street along the Merrimack River will be embellished this spring

by colorful roses, improved walkways and historical granite bollards, which are short, thick posts.

Members of the Park Commission are scheduled to appear before the city's Conservation Commission Tuesday night to outline their plans for improvements.

"The park has been getting tired in recent years, and we want to move forward with a Phase I approach to improving it," Parks Commission Chairman Bob Uhlig said.

"We plan to add roses and
JOPPA, Page 8



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BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

elementary schools.

Under the spending plan, the average elementary class size next school year is expected to increase from 20.46 to 22.13 in Groveland, 19.93 to 21.62 in Merrimac and 19.56 to 21.99 in West Newbury. The biggest bumps are kindergarten and grade 1, where sizes grow from 17.50 to 23.33 in Groveland, 17.75 to 23.67 in Merrimac and 17 to 25.50 in West Newbury.

"I'm not a teacher, but 25 kids at that level doesn't seem very manageable," Pentucket School Committee member Chris Wile said. Wile suggested voting a higher budget in order to give taxpayers the option to support a funding level that keeps class sizes smaller. If a couple families with young children moved into town,

board decided that a more balanced approach would be to adopt the following "not-to-exceed" allocations: \$500,000 to repair or replace the outdoor track, \$100,000 to repair or replace the tennis courts, \$100,000 to replace or repair the exterior bleachers, and \$100,000 to upgrade or replace high school theater rigging and lighting, choral risers and platforms, instrument storage and any other safety-related items.

If approved by voters, funding payments for the project would begin after the district retires a \$750,000 bond in fiscal year 2015 for the middle school roof. The bond for the safety repairs would be issued in fiscal year 2013, but because under state law, the district can make interest-only payments for the first two years, the first principal and interest payment won't be due until after the roofing bond has been retired.

"This is a way to use dollars available to you to make

JOPPA

Continued from Page 1

improve the path. That is it for this year; when we have the money, we will consider other improvements."

Bollards were historically posts used on a ship, principally for mooring. Today, the word also describes a variety of structures to control road traffic, such as posts arranged to obstruct the intrusion of motor vehicles.

This walkway-greenbelt at Joppa Park hosts scores of walkers, runners and dog lovers each day, and its elevated perch along the tidal harbor makes it one of the most beloved thoroughfares on the South End.

Joe Teixeira, chairman of the Conservation

Commission, said, "I've only seen the outline of a plan, but it looks like these are improvements that will beautify the park. That's a great part of the city."

The Conservation Commission is reviewing the plans because the property is in an area subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and the City of Newburyport Wetlands Ordinance.

City officials say that improvements would coincide with their expansion into Phase II of the Rail Trail.

Plans to embellish Joppa Park, created by city officials including parks director Lise Reid, arrive at a time when several of the city's open-space initiatives are coming to fruition.

The lot at 270 Water St.

— known as the Molin property and abutting Perkins Playground — has been cleansed and will open to the public this spring. What was once a brownfield will be used as greenbelt that will attract walkers, runners and those who like to sit and appreciate the water views, city officials say.

Hale Park, which also fronts Water Street, has emerged as one of the city's most-beloved retreats for a quiet walk or contemplation.

As evidence of their commitment to the outdoors, the city's Parks Commission, Open Space Committee and Office of Planning and Development are updating Newburyport's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

In mid-February,

members held a forum to obtain ideas on how the city's assets can be made more accessible and/or more enjoyable.

The boards are hosting an online survey as another means to obtain input. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/newburyportOSRP2012. The deadline for input is March 5.

City parks include the following, according to the municipal website: Atkinson Common, Atwood Park, Ayers Playground, Bartlet Mall, Brown Square, Cashman Park, City Forest,

Cushing Park, Frog Pond Playground, Inn Street Playground, Jason Sawyer Playground, Joppa Park, March's Hill, Moseley Woods, Perkins Playground and Woodman Park.

DRUGS

Continued from Page 1

long time."

Egmont cited the state Legislature's 2009 decision to relax marijuana possession

2011/2012 EXPULSION HEARINGS

One student expelled for one year for possession of marijuana

City looks to revamp parks plan

BY DYKE HENDRICKSON
STAFF WRITER

NEWBURYPORT — More than a dozen handsome parks adorn this city, yet more may be added in the future as municipal leaders have launched an initiative to update the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Brown Walker Planners, Inc. of Newburyport has been hired to elicit responses from residents and stakeholders on what additions and enhancements are desired in coming years.

In addition to trying to develop a boffo parks department, city officials are required to update the plan so it will be eligible for state and federal grants relating to the outdoors.

Several weeks ago, Brown Walker hosted a



JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photo

The promenade along the north side of the Bartlet Mall.

"brainstorming" session at the library to hear residents' ideas about possible improvements.

The open space and recreation plan will lay out a

road map for the next seven years to help identify open-space parcels that should be protected. It will also make recommendations on playground updates and possible

sites for new athletic fields.

The plan could also make recommendations on staffing and managing parks and recreation programs.

The city has produced such plans in the past, the most recent of which extended through 2010. This will be the first time the city has made use of a professional consultant to complete the study.

"We had a good response to our feedback meetings at the library," said Juliet Walker, who heads the consulting firm. "One preference seems to be expanding recreational options for adults.

"Parks that people mention (with particular fondness) seem to be Atkinson, Bartlet Mall and Maudslay Park."

The latter isn't a city facility, but Walker said people

PARKS, Page 6

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BY WILL COU
CORRESPOND

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Waterfront diner closes its doors

BY DAVE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — For more than 40 years, those looking for a hearty breakfast with majestic views of the Merrimack River flocked to the Fishtale Diner tucked behind the Bridge Marina along the river.

But the future of the enormously popular diner is very much in question after its most recent owners closed its doors yesterday roughly 15 years after Michelle Freeman and her family opened for business.

Freeman, who lives in

"There wasn't a day here that the food wasn't awesome."

Nicole Freeman

Newburyport, said factors including the economy, taking a little more time off and health concerns played into her family's decision to close up. Freeman said she is unsure whether the diner will reopen under new management or whether the building will remain vacant for a while.

Freeman ran the diner with her three sisters, her two sons and her daughter, Nicole, making it a family-oriented business.

"The customers were just like family too," Freeman said. "They watched us grow here."

The diner car itself is connected to one of the most famous diners in the region, the Agawam Diner in Rowley.

The diner, according to the restaurant's website, was built in 1940 for the Galanis family by the Worcester Lunch Car

DINER, Page 6



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THIS

On this day in most famous s
Boat of the Atla
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"There wasn't a day here

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to get involved in," he sa

PARKS

Continued from Page 1

reference it as part of what the city has to offer.

Following the session at the library, consultants conducted an online survey of residents. About 456

responses were received, and data derived will drive future discussions.

A second meeting to acquire resident feedback will be held in early May (date to be announced), and at that time a final report will be generated.

The feedback indicates

that one challenge is scheduling warm-weather parks and ball fields for all the organizations that are interested in participating.

This situation is made more awkward by the fact that much scheduling is done by volunteers. The city's parks administrator, Lise Reid, is

a part-time employee, and many involved with playing fields are just helping out.

In addition, without full-time parks employees, it is sometimes difficult to manage the maintenance of fields and parks.

Walker said recommendations could address the possible need for more staffing of such activity.

The city's Parks Commission was established in 1996 under Mayor Lisa Mead. Commissioners are as follows: Robert Uhlig, chair, Sean Harrington, Sean Perkins, Sean Reardon and Mark Bailey.

Parks under the guidance of the Parks Commission include the following: Atkinson Common, Atwood Park, Ayers Playground, Bartlet Mall, Brown Square, Cashman Park, City Forest, Cushing Park, Frog Pond Playground, Inn Street Playground, Jason Sawyer Playground, Joppa Park, March's Hill, Moseley Woods, Perkins Playground and Woodman Park.

"Because I do think it's s a good program, and it's sorely needed — more to than it was even back 40 years ago."

Named after a once-wealthy Texan who relocated to Newburyport and died here after losing everything, the Link House has been the project of many others in the community who have believed in its program. Well-known philanthropist Frank Forest Morrill summed up importance of Link House mission in a speech to the Fortnightly Club in 1982 which he recited the far work of Joaquin Miller — a means of imploring others to forgive the failing mankind and help them their way back.

"In men whom men condemn as ill

I find so much of good still

In men whom men pronounce divine

I find so much of sin blot

I hesitate to draw the

Between the two, what God has not."

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"You can celebrate if your ducks are in a row."

NewburyportNews.com, Newburyport, MA

May 2, 2012

Recreation, open space action plan up for review

By Dyke Hendrickson

Staff Writer

NEWBURYPORT — City officials, citizen volunteers and open space consultants are currently developing a plan to protect natural areas and to provide parks and playgrounds for recreation here. Organizers say the last recreation blueprint was completed in 2005.

A draft of a proposed plan is entering its final stages, and an information session is scheduled for Monday.

A work plan to implement desired changes will also be discussed at that meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium.

Much of the feedback incorporated into a draft of an action plan came from response to a questionnaire and also from resident reaction at meeting in February.

"Response to the questionnaire was good," said Juliette Walker, president of the Newburyport consulting firm of Brown Walker Planners, Inc., which has been instrumental in developing the study and tentative draft. "We are looking to hearing more at the upcoming meeting, and perhaps we will get more young people with children who can talk about their interests for their youngsters."

A major goal of a proposed action plan is "the protection of lands of public conservation and recreational interest including the city's defining scenic heritage landscapes that support essential wildlife habitat and ecosystems, water protection, flood management, and a variety of recreational activities."

Organizers say key objectives of a new plan include:

Preserving the scenic vistas and working farms of the Common Pasture to support agricultural uses, and to protect water systems of the Little and Parker River by working with conservation partners and the communities of Newbury and West Newbury.

Preserving the Little River Watershed area protect certified vernal pools and priority habitat for endangered and threatened species, and support the health of the Great Marsh ecosystem.

Protecting marshland and other areas along the Merrimack River waterfront that offer scenic views and support a wide range of bird and marine/estuarine life.

Protecting the environmentally important Curzon Mill/Artichoke River area.

Preserving land along Old Ferry Road and the Merrimack River to protect public water supply.

Preserving the generally open character of the Central Waterfront.

Protecting scenic byways and roadways.

Supporting working farms and farmland.

Identifying lands of conservation interest.

Identifying lands of recreational interest especially for providing athletic field space and expanding and connecting the city's trail network.

Identify opportunities for adding parks west of I-95 and south of Route 113.

Identifying funding for land acquisition and protection.

Encouraging private land conservation measures.

Incorporate provision of public open space and/or recreation areas in redevelopment projects including the area around the MBTA station and Route 1 traffic circle and the central waterfront area.

Organizers say another goal is to retain a high quality of parks and recreation areas that are "safe, attractive, and provide a range of active and passive recreational opportunities for all residents."

Objectives in this area include:

Increasing park staff and expand budget capacity for parks management.

Providing consistent park maintenance for all parks and facilities.

Improving field conditions and maintenance practices on recreational fields.

Improve surface conditions on recreational courts.

Identifying ways to expand capacity of existing athletic field space.

Construct trail connections, help promote their use, and develop long-term trail maintenance strategies.

Share Report Abuse Next Blog»

Ed Cameron, Newburyport City Council

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Rezoning: CVS Storey Continued

Rumor has it that Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards cannot be killed by conventional weapons. Seemingly possessed of a similar immortality, this rezoning ordinance was reintroduced last night by Councillors Connell and Derrivan. The fresh start was because the Council did not pass the ordinance within the prescribed time limit. The proponents want to give it another try. A change in zoning requires 8 votes of the 11 members.

I've gotten more constituent feedback on this than the meals tax, paid parking, wind turbine, and dogs combined. Overwhelmingly that feedback is opposed to this change in zoning. Some of that feedback, I think, is misguided; for instance, I don't think it's up to the City as to what business goes in there. But I do think the City ought to have a say in what 'type' of business could be in there.

I spoke last night with a list of reasons why I am against the rezoning. There are good reasons to support the change particularly as it relates to open space. I've been open to new information. It might be good for open space, the current property owners and the developer, but I still feel as I did on November 14th that the traffic of an intense use on Storey Ave with an in-out on Storey only will be dangerous. The proposed usage including a drive-thru pharmacy for the rezoned lots is too intensive for an already chaotic intersection. The developer's ideas on traffic mitigation, essentially a suicide lane in the middle of Storey Ave., don't go far enough as far as I'm concerned. As one constituent told me, this proposal turns purgatory into a full-fledged hell. Turn into the Atria at 5:30pm, and pull out and take a left--this will be what like pulling out of a CVS...multiplied by many more cars.

And like Councillor Cronin, I feel that we need to take a longer harder look at the whole area. I'd be open to something like a zoning overlay which I think would be a good tool for an area which has many contrasting uses.

I don't have a problem with more discussion so I voted for the matter to be referred to committee. Tropic Star has a track history of getting CVS projects approved in places like Amesbury, Salisbury, and Concord, New Hampshire. I'm sure they can do better than this.

The original Council vote of Nov 14 is here. Discussion on Storey Ave starts at 22:30ish.

The Daily News article from the beginning of the saga is here.
<http://www.newburyportnews.com/local/x811213367/Council-blocks-rezoning>

Posted by ECC at Tuesday, February 14, 2012 5 comments

Thursday, February 9, 2012

City of Newburyport Public Meeting: Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012

- Do you have ideas about how to improve parks and playgrounds?**
- Are you interested in protecting scenic areas?**
- Do you want more recreational activities offered for adults or kids?**
- Do you know where to find information about parks?**
- Do you know where to find walking trails on City lands?**
- Do we need more athletic fields?**
- Are you a rail trail enthusiast?**
- Do you use the dog parks?**
- Is there a particular property you'd like protected?**

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City of Newburyport Informa

Ed Cameron's Website can be
www.edcameronNBPT.com
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**Come to the public meeting to find out more!City of Newburyport Public Meeting
Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012
Thursday, February 16, 2012
6:30-8pm
Newburyport Public Library**

If you answered yes to any of the questions above or have other ideas you'd like to share please come to the Public Meeting.

Please be sure to complete our survey...
www.surveymonkey.com/NewburyportOSRP2012

We are looking for your ideas on how we can make Newburyport's open spaces and recreation areas great for all to enjoy.

Newburyport Office of Planning and Development (978) 465-4400

Posted by [ECC](#) at [Thursday, February 08, 2012](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Volunteer Opportunity: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Did you know that there are approximately 250,000 annual visitors to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge? The success of this unique area depends on volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed in two areas. Please consider having fun in a relaxing environment while donating some time to one of the following:

- Gift Shop at the Refuge main office, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport
- Visitor Information Center at Lot #1

For information about these and other time-flexible opportunities, please contact:

Jean Adams, Volunteer Coordinator
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
6 Plum Island Turnpike
Newburyport, MA 01950

Phone: 978-465-5752 X 208

Email: jean_adams@fws.gov

Website: www.parkerriver.org

Posted by [ECC](#) at [Wednesday, February 08, 2012](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Bringing Craziiness to the Local Level

I preface this post by stating "I am not an agent of the United Nations nor any other anti-American conspiracy nor am I a social engineer."

There are lots of valid reasons to favor or oppose concepts like sustainable development, stretch building codes, and local historic districts, but labeling proponents as representing "the coordination of local governments by global entities and the U.N. with social engineering as a true objective" seems a bit of a stretch.

From the NY Times, February 3, 2012

Activists Fight Green Projects, Seeing U.N. Plot

Across the country, activists with ties to the [Tea Party](#) are railing against all sorts of local and state efforts to control sprawl and conserve energy. They brand government action for things like expanding public transportation routes and preserving open space as part of a [United Nations](#)-led conspiracy to deny property rights and herd citizens toward cities.

They are showing up at planning meetings to denounce bike lanes on public streets and smart meters on home appliances — efforts they equate to a big-government blueprint against individual rights.

"Down the road, this data will be used against you," warned one speaker at a recent Roanoke County, Va., Board of Supervisors meeting who turned out with dozens of people opposed to the county's paying \$1,200 in dues to a nonprofit that consults on sustainability issues.

Local officials say they would dismiss such notions except that the growing and often heated protests are having an effect.

In Maine, the Tea Party-backed Republican governor canceled a project to ease congestion along the Route 1 corridor after protesters complained it was part of the United Nations plot. Similar opposition helped doom a [high-speed train](#) line in Florida. And more than a dozen cities, towns and counties, under new pressure, have cut off financing for a program that offers expertise on how to measure and cut carbon emissions.

"It sounds a little on the weird side, but we've found we ignore it at our own peril," said George Homewood, a vice president of the American Planning Association's chapter in Virginia.

The protests date to 1992 when the United Nations passed a sweeping, but nonbinding, 100-plus-page resolution called Agenda 21 that was designed to encourage nations to use fewer resources and conserve open land by steering development to already dense areas. They have gained momentum in the past two years because of the emergence of the Tea Party movement, harnessing its suspicion about government

Labels

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Links to Candidates, Causes

[Ed Cameron's Website](#)
[Charter Yes](#)
[Save Newburyport](#)
[Civil Streets](#)
[Street Films](#)

About Ed Cameron

Ed, Susanne, daughters Anna and Lucy, dog Sunny, and cat Theo live at 17 Oakland Street.

Ed was elected to the Newburyport City Council in 2007. Currently he serves as chair of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee and as a member of the Neighborhood and City Services Committee.

Contact Ed via edcameronNBPT@gmail.com or cell phone at 978-518-0786.

Blog Archive

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[Bringing](#)

NewburyportNews.com, Newburyport, MA

May 14, 2012

Forum on school projects held this week

City Hall Notebook

Dyke Hendrickson

—

Mayor Donna Holaday is scheduled to outline plans and answer questions at the mayor's public meeting on city building projects Tuesday evening at 7 in the City Hall Auditorium.

She will explain why it is important to construct (and pay for) three municipal buildings: a new Bresnahan Elementary School, a renovated Nock/Molin School and a senior community center.

One wonders whether she will be tempted to hang a huge banner behind her that declares "50 Percent Discount!"

City officials have received assurances that state financing will pay about 50 percent of costs of the Bresnahan and Nock projects.

Without the "discounts," the numbers are a little scary. The Bresnahan is projected at \$38 million, but the city only will pay a little more than half.

And the Nock! After numerous early (inaccurate) estimates, the "final" figure has come in at \$27 million.

Your Scribe has skulked about in recent weeks and has detected much chagrin about the cost of "refurbishing" the Nock/Molin.

By listening around corners and through hedges, I have learned local folk were absolutely startled by the \$27 million, especially since this is a "fix-up" not a new building.

But factoring in the state's participation, the figure is about \$14 million.

Parents of youngsters are campaigning for passage, but the swing votes are likely older citizens. And a recent census found that close to 4,000 of the city's 17,000 residents are over 60.

It is unlikely that an octogenarian would stand up at a whist party and declare, "Since my kids left the school system, I couldn't give a flying fig about education."

More likely, a senior would phrase it, "Evander and I are on a fixed income; we can't pay more taxes."

Still, the mayor is energized in part because she and other municipal leaders have put the city in position to qualify for generous financial support from the state.

"I don't want to leave money on the table," she has declared frequently.

The vote is June 5, and those who favor passage are accelerating their efforts to convince the unconvinced.

Stating that the city can take advantage of a "half-off sale" might be a good way to start a persuasion process.

• • •

On the subject of finance, hearings on the annual city budget begin this week.

The budget document reportedly is about 280 pages, and the bottom line is that the total figure is \$49,973,153.

That represents an increase of 1.5 percent.

City Hall officials say it is too early to think about a tax increase, since the three construction votes in June will have a manifest effect on how much taxpayers will have to contribute.

In addition, local officials have not heard how much state aid will be coming to the community.

Holiday said that this is the first financial blueprint in many years that has not relied on reserve funds to balance the budget.

• • •

Municipal planning officials last week orchestrated a public meeting to discuss open space and recreation.

The project to ascertain residents' priorities has been funded by the Community Preservation Committee.

Planning Director Andy Port, senior planner Geordie Vining and consultant Juliet Walker moderated a session at which they listened to a wide variety of suggestions on how to enhance opportunities here.

Those in the audience offered ideas ranging from planting more shade trees to insistence on better maintenance of kids' play parks, and the three professionals indicated that all would be considered.

Indeed, if someone had suggested a performance center for clog-dancing in the middle of Interstate 95, the idea likely would have drawn a cheerful nod.

But when one audience member recommended turning the New Ventures landfill into a recreation area, this amenable trio went silent.

If there is one project that community leaders want to finish and walk away from, it is the unintended, inconvenient mountain on Crow Lane.

• • •

Meetings this week

Today

Public Safety Committee, 7:15 p.m., City Council Chambers

City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

Tomorrow

Conservation Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

Wednesday

Board of Water Commissioners, 5:30 p.m., 16A Perry Way

Planning Board, 7 p.m., City Council Chambers

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority, 7 p.m., library

Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., police conference room, 4 Green St.

River Valley Charter School, 7 p.m., 2 Perry Way

Local Historic District Study Committee, 7:30 p.m., TBA

Thursday

Beach Management Committee, 2 p.m., City Council Chambers

Budget Workshop Committee of the Whole, 6:15 p.m., City Hall

School Committee, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

Highland Cemetery Committee, 7 p.m., library

Parks Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall Auditorium

Friday

Affordable Housing Trust, 8:30 a.m., City Hall

• • •

Dyke Hendrickson covers Newburyport for The Daily News. He can be reached at 978-462-6666, ext. 3226, or at dhendrickson@newburyportnews.com.

NewburyportNews.com, Newburyport, MA

March 2, 2012

Open space survey needs your opinion

—

To the editor:

Think ahead seven years or beyond: What sorts of recreation options will be needed in Newburyport? Will more residents be walking to their destinations and want paved paths and safe sidewalks, with street trees and benches and other amenities? Will residents seek more safe and scenic shortcuts, as one resident recently proposed, to walk to shopping at Storey Avenue? Will demand for public playgrounds, athletic fields and courts and other traditional park facilities increase or decrease? Will demand vary by neighborhood?

Will more residents be interested in, say, nature walks? Or tai chi or bocce ball programs or chess tables or community sailing at waterfront parks? Or more indoor options in winter? Will interest in community gardening grow?

Now's the time to share your insights! If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to complete a survey that will help inform an update to the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan. You can find it online at www.surveymonkey.com/newburyportosrp2012 or pick up a paper copy at City Hall in the Office of Planning and Development.

Mary Harbaugh

Newburyport

Juliet Walker

From: Juliet and Tyler Walker [jtw51802@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 1:09 PM
To: juliet@brownwalkerplanners.com
Subject: FW: Open Space and Recreation Plan-Nbpt.

From: #QHZ EXU\SRUW#GIVWUFW#R IILFH#p dbr-hp dlc eolfnerduyfrqghfwfrp `#
Sent: #P rggd|/#Heuxdu|#6/#5345#;=64#DP
To: #wz 84;35C ynul}rq1qhw
Subject: #R shq#Vsdfh#dqg#Uhfudwlrq#SdqQeswl



File attachments:

[IqhubThe491sqi](#)

Please mark your calendars for an upcoming meeting on the Open Space and Recreation Plan update for Newburyport. Participation is welcomed from residents and those from the neighboring areas who are regular users of the City's parks and recreation areas and programs. A flyer is attached. Also, check out the on-line survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/NewburyportOSRP2012

Public Meeting

**Thursday, February 16, 2012
6:30-8pm**

Newburyport Public Library

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p d| #e#h#h#h#ly#l#j#k l#hOp dL#dq#dgg#wlrq#z#d#s#k#r#q#h#e#d#e#z l#k#k#h#v#d#p h#p hvvd#j#h#l#i#| rx#z l#k#z#y#l#frq#w#x#h#k l#v#h#u#y#l#h#
s#d#v#h#l#q#r#p #QHZ EXU\SRUW#GIVWUFW#R IILFH#Q #SHUVR.Q/#e | #K V#P D LO/#c#u#e | #W#H#O#H#S#K#R#Q#H#d#w#< ; ; #798077891#



Newburyport working on plan to connect green spaces

Newburyport wants more connection between its nearly 50 open space areas and more time for its city parks coordinator to provide upkeep of its parks.

That's part of the goal of the city's drafted 2012 "Open Space and Recreation Plan," the state-required, seven-year vision of how the city uses and maintains its designated open space areas.

"We want more of a network for our parks," Andrew Port, director of the city's Office of Planning and Development, told the Newburyport Current. "We don't want it to be so isolated with individual parks. We want to have connections for biking and have more trail connections. That's a significant area of improvement for us in the coming year."

The plan is in the public input stage. Residents met Feb. 16 to discuss ideas regarding the city's open space areas, which account for approximately 50 percent of the city's land, a higher-than-average number, Port said. In addition to protecting parks and open spaces, some residents discussed concerns with maintaining the city's streetscape.

A state project on the Whittier Bridge calls for trail improvement itself.

The state's project to replace the 60-year-old John Greenleaf Whittier Bridge on Route 95 in Amesbury and Newburyport over the Merrimack River involves creating a four-lane highway and the state's first shared-use path along one of its interstates. It should begin in the spring of 2013, according to state highway officials.

The bridge project — one of the largest of the state highway department of transportation (MassDOT) under its \$3 billion Accelerated Bridge Program — includes the Whittier Trail, allowing bikers and walkers to cross the bridge safely in their own lane, and a breakdown lane and wider shoulder.

The project also includes the replacement or reconstruction of four bridges along I-95 in Newburyport and Amesbury and widening Route 95 between Exit 57 in Newburyport and Exit 60 in Salisbury. The state said the Whittier Bridge project will improve safety, provide for bridge crossing meeting current standards, improve traffic flow, improve air quality by reducing congestion on Route 95 and support alternative (or non-motorized) modes of transportation.

Amesbury resident Deborah Carey, a member of the Coastal Trails Coalition, said getting this shared-use path across the Merrimack River is "a great boon for our trail system."

Full-time oversight

Outside of trail improvements, Port said the plan will call for more time for the city's parks coordinator to oversee and maintain parks.

Right now, Lise Reid oversees the 47 Newburyport open space areas and parks with a part-time schedule, working with city public works employees, trash vendors and others to help maintain city parks.

"We would increase hours with the goal to make that more of a full-time position," Port said.

The city is working with Brown Walker Planners, Inc. to craft its final plan for the next seven years. The state increased the number of years in city and town plans from five to seven.

"The investment of volunteer time and expertise in open space and parks in this city is impressive and indispensable," Port said in a press release. "Planning experts like Brown Walker can contribute knowledge about innovative approaches to open space and park planning, help develop consensus around shared goals, and offer practical solutions that have had success in other communities. By working with professional planners we can allow volunteers to focus on tasks and activities that match their individual skills, interests, and available time."

The open space and recreation plan will lay out a road map for the next seven years to:

- Help identify open space parcels to protect;
- Provide playground upgrades;
- Create sites for new athletic fields;
- Make recommendations on staffing and managing parks and recreation programs and facilities.

The state needs to approve the plan along with the city, and once that happens, Newburyport will be eligible for grants from state funds reserved for park improvements and land preservation, including:

- Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC);
- Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND);
- The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

"Completion of this plan opens the door and allows us to apply for different funding for projects as they're developed," Port said.

Newburyport is also considering public input through a survey residents can take online at surveymonkey.com/s/NewburyportOSRP2012 or through the city's home page at cityofnewburyport.com.

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Comments (0)

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I agree to the terms of use

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Appendix 7: Community Survey Summary

Newburyport Open Space & Recreation Plan

Community Survey

Summary Report

March 2012

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<i>Question 9</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Question 11.....</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Question 12.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Question 13.....</i>	<i>51</i>

Total Responses – 452 on-line, 4 written = **456**

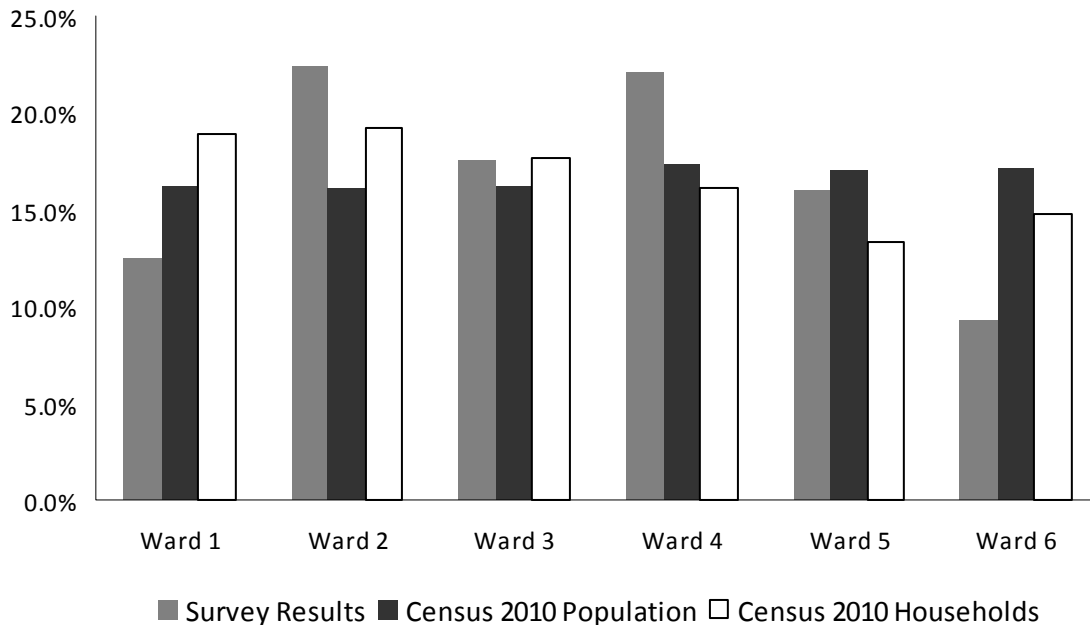
This represents 6.0% of households, 3.5% of registered voters, and 2.6% of the total population.

Survey Respondent Demographics

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

(82.2% answered question)

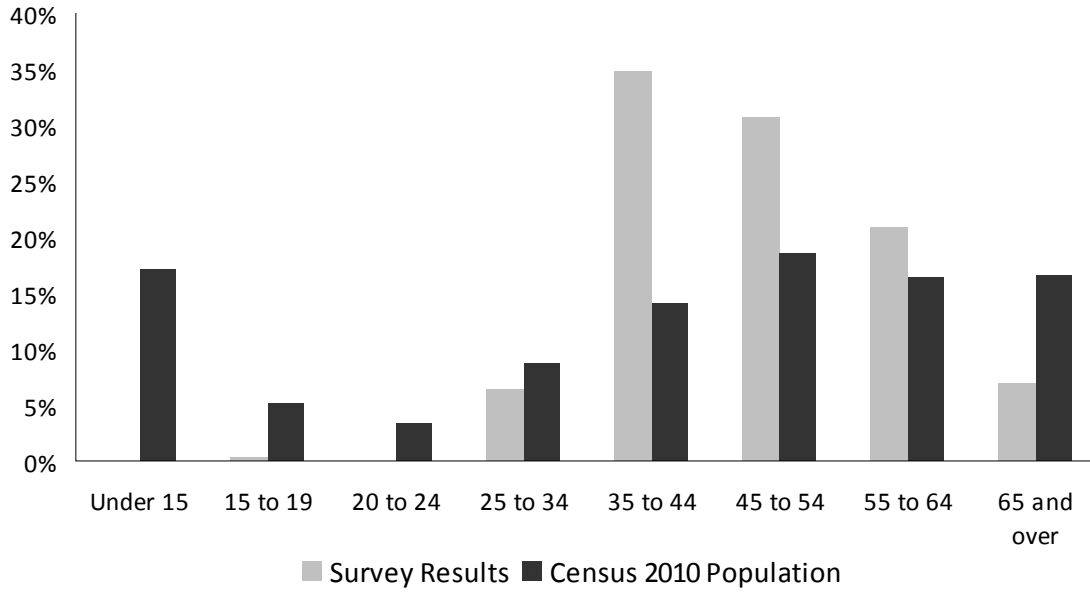
The geographic distribution of survey respondents approximately reflects the population distribution and household distribution city-wide. There was slightly larger representation from Wards 2 and 4 and less representation from Wards 1 and 6 as compared to the share of the city's population in those wards.



AGE DISTRIBUTION

(82.0% answered question)

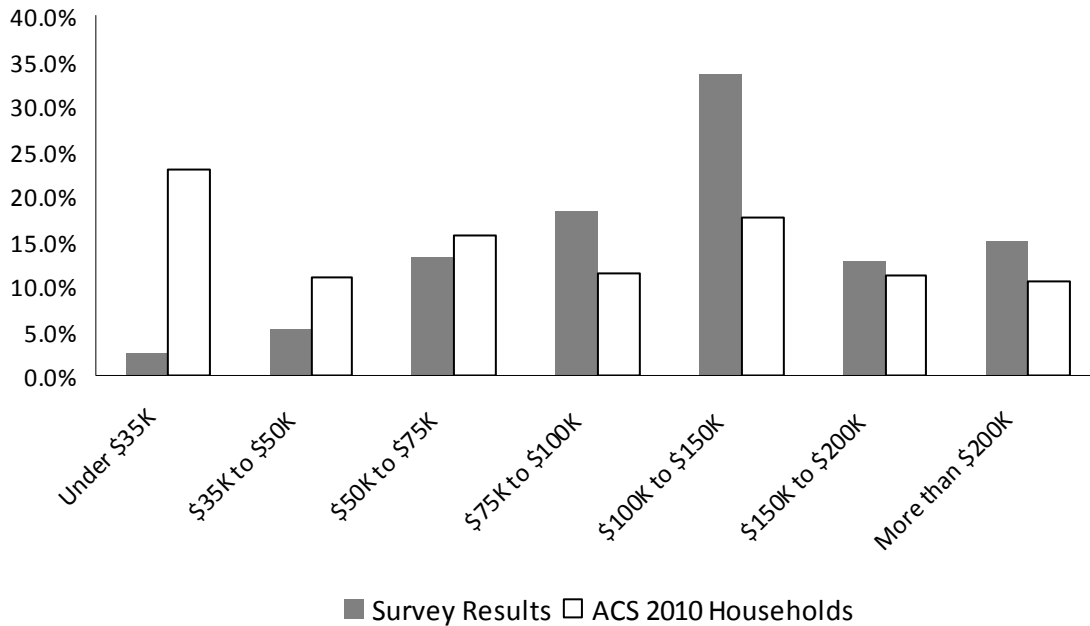
The survey responses included a larger segment of the 35 to 54 age group and a smaller portion of those under 25 and over 65 than the city population at large.



INCOME DISTRIBUTION

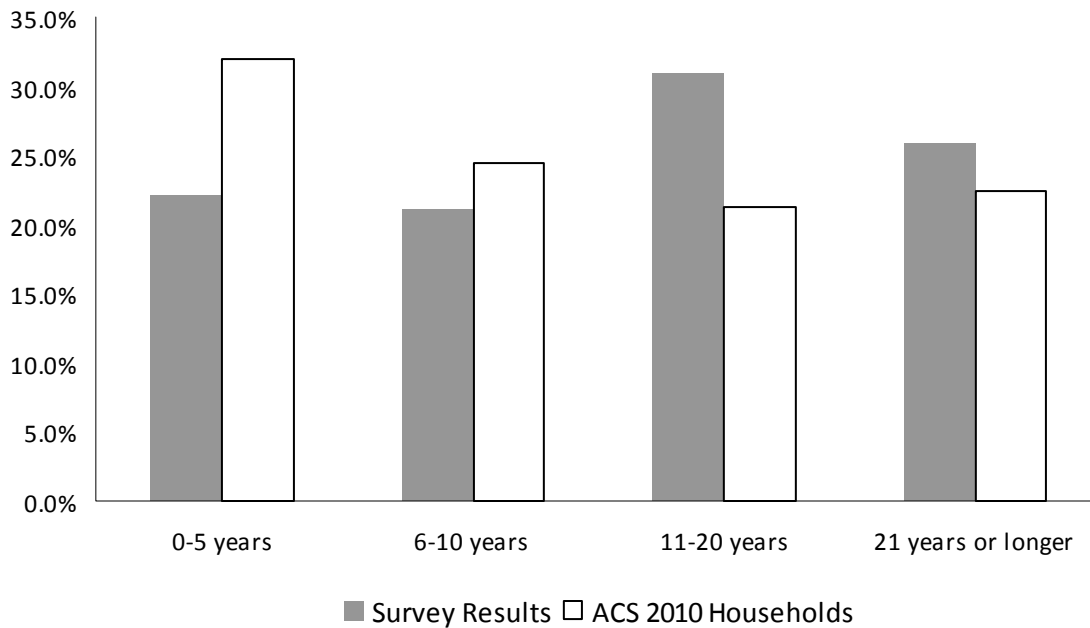
(71.3% answered question)

A larger proportion of households in the \$100K to \$150K annual income range and a smaller proportion of households in the \$35K range were represented in the survey responses than is reported for the city population at large. Household income for the city at large is based on the American Community Survey (ACS) Census 5-year estimates.



HOW LONG RESIDING IN NEWBURYPORT?

(83.1% answered question)



CHILDREN AND SENIORS

(83.3% answered questions)

As reported by the 2010 Census, 26.6% of Newburyport households include children under the age of 18. Twenty-nine percent (29.0%) of survey respondents indicated they had children under the age of 18 living with them. Of these, 41.3% had children under the age of 10 and 34.8% had children between 10 and 18.

The 2010 Census reported that 26.5% of Newburyport households include seniors over the age of 65. Eleven percent (11.1%) of survey respondents indicated they had seniors (including themselves) living with them.

Open Space and Recreation Goals

QUESTION 1

Consider the essential natural, scenic, recreational, and social features that make Newburyport special. Please indicate how important each of the following goals is to protecting these essential characteristics of the city.

(99.6% answered question)

	Strongly / Mostly Agree
Preserving environmentally sensitive, water-quality, and flood management areas	91.8%
Protecting natural places	89.6%
Protecting scenic views and historic, heritage landscapes	89.4%
Protecting priority open spaces, including working farms and farmland, from development	88.3%
Protecting and enhancing scenic byways / roadways	82.4%
Creating or enhancing public gathering places	74.0%
Offering additional recreational opportunities for children and youth	71.1%
Providing recreational opportunities and neighborhood gathering places within walking distance of most residents	67.8%
Offering additional recreational opportunities for adults	58.6%

QUESTION 2

Please indicate how well Newburyport's recreational sites and programs serve your needs in the following areas.

(99.6% answered question)

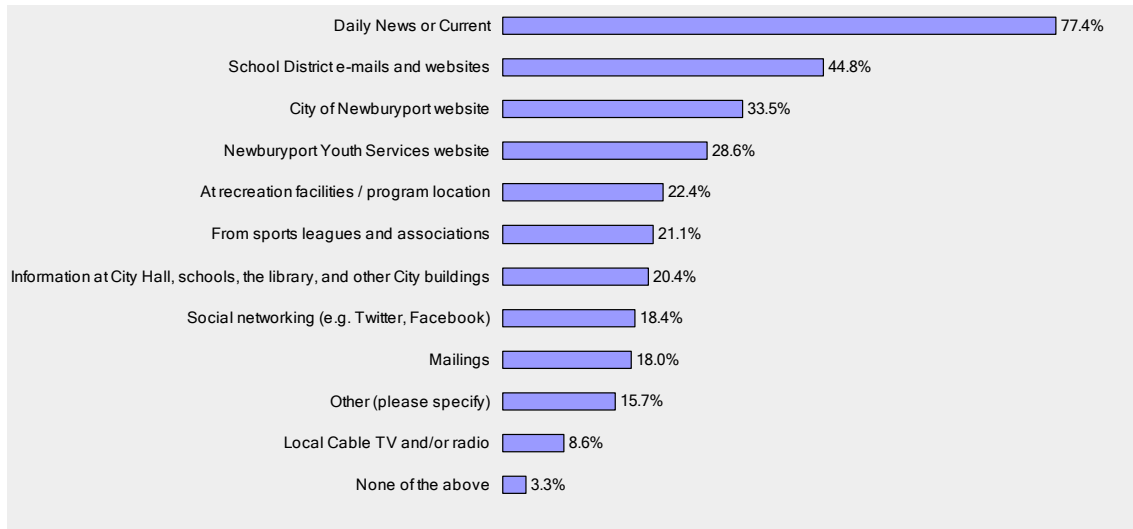
	Very Well / Moderately Well
Parks and playgrounds	78.6%
Wildlife educational and appreciation opportunities	71.9%
Walking trails	71.1%
Historic and cultural educational and appreciation opportunities	67.4%
Bicycle paths and bike lanes	61.4%
Access to water for recreational purposes	54.1%
Active youth recreation programs and facilities, including play structures and court-based and field sports	50.3%
Passive recreation programs, including guided walks of farms and conservation areas and river/coastal explorations	46.3%
Opportunities for off-leash dog exercise	33.9%
Outdoor or indoor health and exercise programs	33.8%
Active adult recreation programs and facilities	29.2%

Communications

QUESTION 3

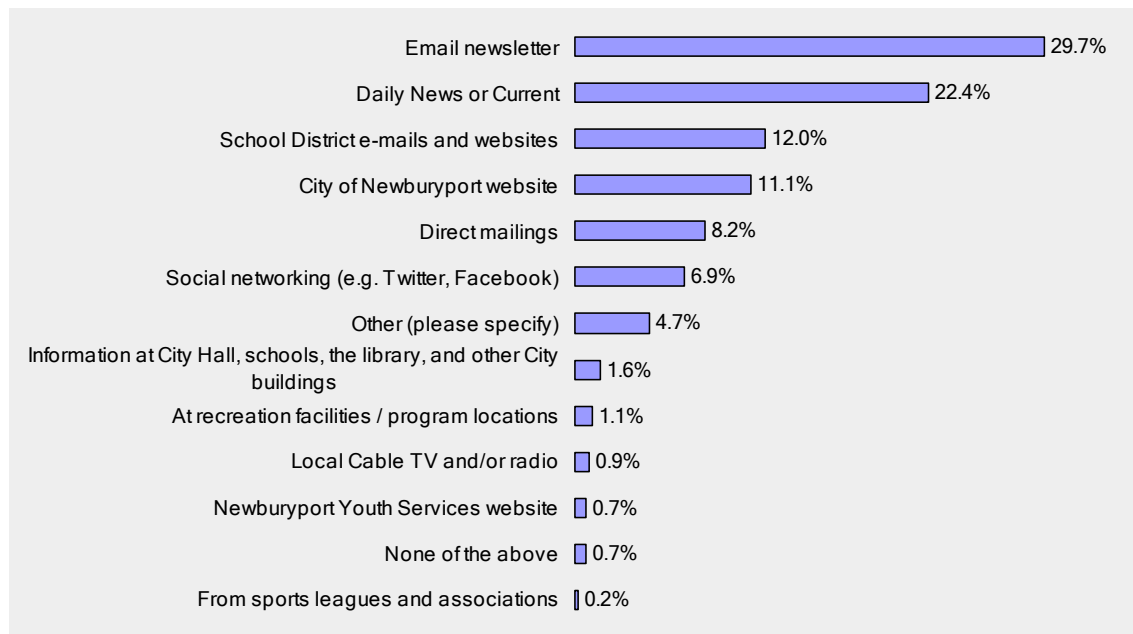
How do you currently obtain information about Newburyport parks and recreational programs and facilities (whether City-owned or not)?

(98.9% answered question)



QUESTION 4

How can we best communicate with you about parks and recreational programs and facilities? (98.9% answered question)



Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

QUESTION 5

Please indicate how often you visit the recreational areas listed below.

(90.4% answered question)

City Parks / Playgrounds

	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never or less than yearly	Highest Use by Ward
Atkinson Common	4.3%	9.9%	69.4%	16.5%	3,4,6
Atwood Park	3.8%	3.3%	21.0%	71.9%	2
Bartlet Mall / Washington Park	12.0%	22.5%	60.3%	5.3%	1,2,4
Brown Square	7.9%	17.7%	43.9%	30.4%	1,2,4
Clipper City Rail Trail	30.9%	37.2%	25.8%	6.1%	2,4,5
Cushing Park / Ayer's Playground	8.5%	9.4%	28.7%	53.4%	4
Inn Street Mall / Playground	22.6%	29.9%	29.4%	18.1%	3,6
Jason Sawyer Playground	0.6%	1.1%	14.2%	84.1%	4
Joppa Park	10.9%	18.7%	38.1%	32.3%	1,2
Little River Nature Trail	1.4%	4.2%	25.8%	68.5%	1,5
March's Hill	5.7%	7.9%	43.1%	43.4%	1,2
Market Landing (Waterfront Park)	34.6%	43.7%	18.3%	3.4%	All
Market Square (Bullnose)	41.3%	39.5%	13.9%	5.3%	All
Moseley Woods	11.0%	20.0%	56.9%	12.1%	3,6

City Athletic Fields / Recreation Areas

	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never or less than yearly	Highest Use by Ward
Bradley Fuller Field	2.8%	11.2%	12.4%	73.6%	3,5,6
Cashman Park	23.4%	37.0%	32.6%	6.9%	4,5
Cherry Hill NYSA Fields	4.4%	16.2%	16.2%	63.3%	3,6
Newburyport Skate Park	1.4%	3.0%	9.4%	86.2%	5
Perkins Park/ Playground	3.3%	11.7%	38.2%	46.9%	1
Pioneer League Field / Playground	4.1%	8.2%	19.1%	68.6%	3,6
Woodman Park	1.4%	5.3%	19.5%	73.8%	5

School Fields / Playgrounds

	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never or less than yearly	Highest Use by Ward
Bresnahan School Fields / Playground	8.6%	12.4%	19.9%	59.1%	3,5,6
Brown School Playground	6.1%	8.0%	16.9%	69.1%	2
Molin / Nock School Fields	6.3%	10.7%	21.2%	61.8%	5
Newburyport High School Stadium / Fields	1.4%	9.3%	35.6%	53.7%	3,5,6

State, Federal, or Private Parks

	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never or less than yearly	Highest Use by Ward
Graf Skating Rink	3.5%	10.1%	34.8%	51.6%	3,6
Hale Park	1.7%	5.5%	27.4%	65.4%	1
Maudslay Park	16.0%	33.4%	47.6%	3.0%	3,5,6
Newburyport Beach (Plum Island)	15.4%	35.1%	43.2%	6.3%	1,2

Please rate how satisfied you are with the site overall. In rating your level of satisfaction, consider whether each site is adequate for the intended uses, as well as the general appearance and upkeep, and the overall quality of your experience.

	High / Medium High Quality
Clipper City Rail Trail	94.0%
Maudslay Park	90.9%
Market Landing (Waterfront Park)	89.0%
Atkinson Common	84.5%
Moseley Woods	80.8%
Market Square (Bullnose)	79.6%
Cashman Park	72.2%
Bartlet Mall / Washington Park	71.0%
Newburyport Beach (Plum Island)	66.6%
Hale Park	61.5%
Cherry Hill NYSA Fields	57.8%
Brown Square	57.8%
Inn Street Mall / Playground	53.7%
Pioneer League Field / Playground	46.1%
Perkins Park/ Playground	45.9%
Joppa Park	45.6%
Graf Skating Rink	35.6%
Newburyport Skate Park	35.0%
Little River Nature Trail	34.0%
March's Hill	32.5%
Cushing Park / Ayer's Playground	31.7%
Jason Sawyer Playground	31.1%
Bradley Fuller Field	28.7%
Bresnahan School Fields / Playground	28.0%
Woodman Park	27.8%
Atwood Park	26.9%
Molin / Nock School Fields	25.0%
Brown School Playground	24.1%
Newburyport High School Stadium / Fields	19.2%

QUESTION 6

For those sites on the list above that you use infrequently or gave a low satisfaction rating what are some reasons you don't use them or are not satisfied with the experience?

(87.9% answered question)

Needs are met by other locations	52.4%
Sites are not located in walking distance of my home	48.1%
Poor condition or maintenance	41.1%
Lack of facilities and amenities that fit my recreational interests / needs	36.9%
Don't know where that particular site is located	28.7%
Lack of restrooms	26.9%
Other (please specify, or describe desired amenities)	22.7%
There isn't enough parking available at the site	16.0%
Site doesn't allow dogs off leash	15.0%
Safety concerns	10.2%
Sites are not easily accessible by bicycle from my home	9.7%
Size of park / amount of space available	5.2%
Crowding / too many people	4.2%
Lack of accommodation / accessibility for disabilities	2.0%

QUESTION 7

Over the next 5 to 10 years, what is most important for improving the City’s parks and recreational areas or facilities? As you answer these questions, please keep in mind that while grants, donations, user fees, and partnerships can offset costs , it is likely additional City funds would be required.

(97.7% answered question)

	Very / Moderately Important
Focus on improving / maintaining existing recreational areas and facilities	96.1%
Extend off-road (paved) biking / shared use trails	68.0%
Increase access to water views, waterfront areas	63.6%
Add informational signs (about history, natural environment)	52.1%
Add site enhancements (plantings, benches)	51.9%
Add on-road bike lanes	49.9%
Provide more water-access points for canoes/kayaks	49.2%
Add trail signs	44.8%
Add hiking trails	44.5%
Provide community gardens	44.3%
Build an outdoor swimming pool	43.2%
Improve access / amenities for disabled persons	35.0%
Provide facility for community boat rentals / storage	34.4%
Provide more indoor multi-purpose locations for community and continuing education programs	34.3%
Add more picnic areas	34.1%
Provide more informal outdoor gathering areas	33.1%
Add more locations for dogs off-leash	31.6%
Provide more bird-watching and wildlife-viewing areas	29.3%
Add tennis courts (indoor / outdoor)	29.2%
Add soccer, lacrosse, football, and field hockey fields	23.4%
Add basketball courts (indoor / outdoor)	22.6%
Add playgrounds or play structures	22.2%
Provide more places to fish from the shore	21.9%
Provide an indoor track	20.4%
Add mountain biking trails	17.1%
Add baseball/softball fields	14.9%
Add volleyball courts (indoor / outdoor)	9.2%
Provide BMX biking trails or park	5.8%

QUESTION 8

Over the next 5 to 10 years, what is most important for improving the City’s recreational programs and activities? As you answer these questions, please keep in mind that while grants, donations, user fees, and partnerships can offset costs, it is likely additional City funds would be required in many cases for staffing, coordination, and equipment.

(85.3% answered question)

Very / Moderately

	Important
Focus on improving and strengthening existing recreation programs	74.5%
Increase opportunities to introduce youth to the outdoors	61.1%
Expand recreational programs / activities for youth	59.7%
Provide community boating program (rentals / lessons)	54.0%
Expand summer programs / activities	48.9%
Expand indoor / outdoor fitness and wellness programs	45.2%
Expand after-school programs / activities	45.0%
Expand environmental education programming	43.8%
Expand recreational programs / activities for adults	40.1%
Provide web-based learning opportunities about city's wildlife and natural areas	39.1%
Expand recreational programs / activities for seniors	38.8%
Expand family programs / activities	38.1%
Expand winter programs / activities	37.9%
Offer guided naturalist tours of City conservation lands	34.7%
Expand spring and fall programs / activities	33.9%
Expand active recreation (organized sports) programs	30.5%

Access and Users

QUESTION 9

See the map above to view how parks, playgrounds, and other recreational lands are distributed throughout the City. Consider how parks, playgrounds, and other recreational lands are distributed throughout the City. In your opinion, do any areas of the City need more parks / recreational areas?

Refer to open-ended responses.

QUESTION 10

In your opinion, how well is Newburyport serving the recreational needs of the following age groups?
(84.6% answered question)

	Very / Moderately Well
Elementary age children (5 to 10)	59.8%
Young children (ages 1-4)	56.3%
Adults (36 to 54)	44.9%
Middle schoolers (11 to 13)	40.3%
Adults (55 to 65)	37.6%
High schoolers (14 to 18)	28.5%
Young adults (19 to 35)	26.5%
Elders (over 65)	23.1%

Funding and Management

QUESTION 11

What City actions do you favor to support ACTIVE public recreation?

(84.4% answered question)

Create a "Friends of City Parks" organization to accept donations and work for park improvements and expanded recreational programming	71.2%
Dedicate more City funds for maintenance and improvement of existing parks and expanded recreational programs in existing parks and public spaces	63.9%
Explore more opportunities for public/private partnerships to fund park improvements and expanded recreational programming	63.9%
Create neighborhood based "Friends of Neighborhood Park" organizations to accept donations and work for park improvements and expanded recreational programming	49.4%
Permit commercial vendors (e.g. food carts) on public parks for a fee	40.0%
Add fee-based recreational programs for all ages	38.2%
Create a full-time staff position dedicated to overseeing management of parks and expanded recreational offerings	34.0%
Other (please specify)	10.6%
None of the above	2.3%

General Community Planning

QUESTION 12

Over the next 5 to 10 years, how important is it for the City to take action on the following initiatives?
(83.9% answered)

	Very / Moderately Important
Improve City streets to provide safe and pleasant walking / biking accommodations	89.3%
Provide safe walking routes to school	89.1%

Open Ended Responses

QUESTION 1

Other goals to protect the essential characteristics of the city.

Maintenance

- Maintain the areas
- Making use of what we already have and maintaining it.
- MAINTAINING AND UPGRADING WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE!
- maintaining what we have is critical before adding anything new. our parks are not well maintained and are in a often in an embarrassing state. often DPW is REACTIVE and not addressing parks until they receive complaints rather than proactively caring for them.

City Improvements

- Improve and protect visually and the safety of the most heavily crowded and trafficked intersections where pedestrians stop, chat and exchange reciprocal gestures. This INCLUDES hideous Storey Avenue which is the single most pedestrian and bike unfriendly place in the city, yet the most heavily crowded and trafficked. Please do not omit or be dismissive of this area - look where that's got us today.
- Preserving our high quality of life attracts new businesses and residents. The natural, scenic, recreational and social features that make Newburyport special should be preserved AND promoted to potential businesses. Relocating here will help their businesses grow...bringing new revenues to our city while enhancing the quality of life of their employees.

Waterfront

- Maximize use of waterfront area / replacing parking with useful open space
- Preserving open space along the downtown waterfront is extremely important.

Dogs

- Creating a multiple acre designated dog park
- Offer place for dogs to run
- Fenced in dog park
- An enclosed (fenced) dog park would be excellent!!
- Areas for pets/animals
- Newburyport is on of the most "doggy" towns I know - and yet we have no dog park and Plum Island is off limits most of the year. It would really be a great thing for animals and owners to have access to a "dog park".
- The signage for dog rules and paid parking rules, etc, seem overly large, numerous, and are a blight on the gorgeous geography of the town.
- Providing places for responsible dog owners to exercise with their dogs.

- A fenced in dog park, and beach access for people and their pets. Dog Parks
- Off leash dog walking areas are of high importance to me.
- fenced in dog park
-

Protecting Open Spaces

- The more protection and access there is to open and natural spaces, the more the lives of the citizens and the quality of the city is enhanced.
- Habitat for diverse & healthy birdlife
- Protecting lands that serves as buffers from development, pollution, and landfill
- We have more recreational open space than we need. We do need to preserve farm land.
- The town needs to focus on preserving open spaces in their natural state, not developing them or paving them over for bike roads ("paths"), or posting large garish signage in wooded or seaside areas.
- I think the last one [goal] is especially important. There is a section of town, from Kent St to Bresnahan, that is visibly lacking in public space.
- We have a very limited amount of undeveloped woods and fields in this town. Our responsibility should be to preserve what natural space we have left, not turning the town into someone's vision of a country club or even Disneyland.
- Applying principles of sustainability and widest possible useages for all citizens
- Cleaning up the messy area by Pentucket medical due to a bad development start.
-

Trails/Connectors

- Connect the rail trail to the West End somehow.
- Creating a pathway or sidewalk on Hale Street from Turkey Hill Rd. all the way to Low Street
- We certainly do not need a 8 million walkway running parallel to Route 95... Not necessary.. Money could be spent in other areas of more importance like the schools maybe?
- Making a bike path that goes down Hale Street from Turkey Hill area. Then kids and adults could bike safely into town or to school.
- Sidewalk improvement
- Why is the town trying to install paved roads (bike paths) through quiet forested areas of town?

Activities

- Ultimate frisbee!
- Please focus on teenagers
- Adult recreation (tennis, walking, biking, boating)
- Some adult education classes held outdoors over the summer (maybe co-ordinated with the already existing NAA, in areas where there is already shelter if bad weather. Perhaps some readings of local authors and poets past and present to highlight the beauty of our area.

- Improving the recreational value of our parks, especially waterfront park and atkinson common, through multiple diverse uses that cross ages, interests, seasons and hours of the day.
- Creating ways for high school students to get to natural places from the high school (they are not allowed to drive their own cars on field trips). This could take the form of having enough adults who have been "Cori'd" (background check) along to go in each car. This would be 5 additional adults per class. (bikes have not been successful because high school students do not seem to own bikes and/or helmets). If someone could donate a classroom set?....mrs king, a.p. env sci teacher.
- Looking for more activities in existing parks within walking distance of my home OUTSIDE of downtown. skating, picnicking, biking, birthday party destinations...

Facilities / Amenities

- Bocce courts please
- Public outdoor swimming pool
- Check out the "Simond's Park" area in Burlington, MA - they did a really nice job developing an open space into a great variety of recreational parks, with lots of very functional, well-maintained facilities for kids as well as adults. I think we have a decent similar thing going on with the park down by the river, but i can see much better use of that space, with better facilities (bathrooms, possibly concessions and gathering places, expansion of tennis/basketball courts with better surfaces, scoreboards for the baseball diamonds and stadium seating, etc...
- Walking distance is nice, but I think variety is more important even if it means I have to drive to some
- Offering structure that provides simple seating like rocks/ slabs/ natural creations
- Tennis courts for the high school to use
- Recreational opportunities & neighborhood gathering places within walking/biking distance of most residents
- How about a 2nd tennis court at Cashman Park, a bowling park or the like
- Resident parking for Plum Island beach access
- Preserving and increasing playgrounds where young children can safely play
- Creating accessible opportunities for the disabled.

Athletic Fields

- More and better quality fields for kids to play youth sports
- Bresnahan playground provides opportunity for winter and summer sports. In addition, natural surroundings are integrated into student scientific exploration and library research. Provides inspiration for writing exercises. All are important to boys and girls, especially important to the male learning brain. PE classes... if this is built over, this resource is lost to all, especially the kids, forever.....

QUESTION 2

Comments about how well Newburyport's recreational sites and programs serve your needs.

Parks and playgrounds

- We also need a town pool. People are willing to pay; we just don't want to drive to other clubs which are farther away.
- A freshwater pool or beach would be a dream come true
- My opinions in these areas will change if Bresnahan playground is lost.
- My family loves all of the playgrounds that we have available. They are really wonderful. However, many could use rest facilities! The Kent Street tot lot and Cashman in particular would benefit greatly from restrooms.
- Space underutilized or only utilized by toddlers
- tennis courts are in bad shape and need to be taken care of.
- Field-space for soccer, baseball, lacrosse, softball, football, etc... is SUCH a limited commodity. The city is blessed to have good rapport with all of the youth sports leagues....who foot the majority of the bills to maintain these fields. We need more field space and more gym space. Physical activity for players of ALL levels helps these kids active, healthy and promotes healthy life choices. Look at the stats- we've got the lowest BMI (school-aged children) in this area. We are an active city and anything the city can do to provide more space would be so well received by the community. Fields can be used by everyone...not just the youth sports.
- The city is greatly lacking in terms of 1.) walkable, neighborhood parks and 2.) open-ended play areas. The city has such a great asset with the Merrimac River, but so much of this prime real estate is taken up for utility use (such a waste).
- We have a local park with a dilapidated tennis/basketball court in need of help.
- We live near Atwood park and it is often littered in dog waste. As a result, our children cannot play there safely.

Walking trails

- Things have improved by having the new bike and walking paths - eager to see these extended as they are well used by people of all ages.
- The west end needs to be connected to the community and rail trail via an oversized sidewalk or bike trail. The city should seek CPA federal or other funds to connect the Hale St sidewalks using the cities right away along Hale St. The city should lay drain pipe, fill in and pave a path. The sidewalk with the green fence should also be widened to allow for bikes. This the main connector from the west end to school and town and is very dangerous for bikes, joggers and walkers. Safe passageways along this road would greatly increase recreational usage between the west end and the rest of Newburyport.
- I look forward to the plans for more public walking and riding trails. Maybe maps of Maudsley trails available at library.

Historic and cultural educational and appreciation opportunities

- more interpretive signage or audio links would be great, rail trail is a good model of such, use of QR codes for smart phone users, etc.
- We need to be careful and not over do the historic signs. We are on the edge of being cluttered

Bicycle paths and bike lanes

- Bike Trail on Hale Street to go safely to/from schools if live in the West End

- Connecting the West end to the rail trail....
- we DO NOT NEED MORE BIKE AND WALKING PATHS... WE HAVE ENOUGH PARKS, BUT THEY ARE NOT WELL MAINTAINED. WHY BUILT ANYTHING NEW???
- We would love the bike lanes and trails be more accessible and longer.
- There has been talk of adding to existing bike paths and one current option is to change the curvature of Ferry Road, where we live. I would be extremely upset to have to undergo construction, eminent domain or any other hardship so that a bike path can be connected or expanded. I think there are plenty of existing safe places to ride.
- I would love to see have a better bike access from the Newburyport Rail Trail across the river to the Salisbury Rail Trail.
- a 5 for the North end rail-trail which meets a # of these needs...each of these categories would go up to a 5 once the South end of the rail-trail is improved.
- Why di the city allow a "pinch point "at the clam shack with those pilings? It is more dangerous for pedestrians and bycyclists.
- The Rail Trail is the absolute best thing that happened to Newburyport in the past 20 years.
- The bike trails so far are super, but we need more.

Access to water for recreational purposes

- Public transit to beach, Maudslay, etc.
- We need a SAFE bike path to Plum Island. It is such a wonderful resource however parking is very limited and there is no railguarded bike path to the island.
- I would love to see resident beach parking passes for Newburyport residents.
- I think the Plover program is too restrictive and unnecessary.
- It's a shame residents have so little beach access on plum island without having to pay to park.

Active youth recreation programs and facilities, including play structures and court-based and field sports

- We needs more playing fields for the children.
- Indoor recreation facility for kids in winter
- The high school needs FIVE tennis courts.
- After school recreational / childcare especially for Kindergarten age
- It would be nice to have a swimming beach or outdoor pool somewhere, though I know there are limited bodies of water, and that a pool would be expensive.

Opportunities for off-leash dog exercise

- I'm not a dog owner, but feel the new park access for off leash dogs is a good idea; seems to be working.
- Policy regarding off leash dogs WAAAAAY to liberal
- Doggy parks - simple low fenced area with sawdust on the ground - would be very nice, for dogs to do their business, and a specified doggy runs (Marches Hill?) would help keep the peoples' parks clean.

- Hours for off-leash dog park at Cashman Park should be extended. Morning hours are too short, and afternoon hours in the winter are non-existent, as it is too dark to see after 4:00pm to keep an eye on your dog without lighting.
- Dogs should be behind a fence. Dogs are constantly approaching me near their area by Cashman, even when I'm not in the area.
- Unfortunately people are taking advantage of the off-leash dog exercise opportunities and are taking it to mean that dogs can be off leash anywhere. This needs to be made more clear with perhaps more fines and consequences for offenders as it is becoming a problem.
- FENCED IN DOG PARK
- No dog parks! Year round ban on dogs on the beach!
- Opportunities for off-leash dog exercise does not meet my needs because this area should NOT exist at Cashman Park. I am both a dog owner and a parent. The dogs in the off leash area do not remain in the off leash area and are a hazard and nuisance. There are plenty of places in Newburyport available for and better suited to off-leash dogs.
- Dogs belong on leashes
- Would be nice if some off leash areas did not have hours and could be off leash whenever you are there
- An enclosed dog park for off leash activities, for dogs who aren't good off leash on paths.
- We would love to see no dogs on play grounds.
- Children's play areas are often either polluted with animal waste that has not been collected and properly disposed of. Animals are often off-leash in areas where small children are present and feel threatened. Need space for both, but it can't be the same space.
- I wish there was a dog park that was fenced in to protect dogs and enhance the safety of the park in general.
- Do not agree with dogs off of leash. we no longer use the parks when the dogs are there
- too many off-leash areas! (or not adequately monitored.) off-leash dogs and their waste is everywhere!!!
- Off leash dog hours until 10 a.m.
- The new off-leash areas are a good start but town seems overly hostile to dog owners. People walking dogs that do not create a problem - nuisance - to anyone should be left alone, period.
- Although the city has provided 2 areas where dogs can play off leash, the time regulations are not flexible enough. There should be a dog park that you can go any time of day.
- Off Leash dog exercise = free range dog play restricts use by non dog people and cleanup will be an issue (Dog Owner)
- I wish there was a bigger and better fenced in off leash area for the dogs. The area near Cashman is not fenced in that well - the dogs can run right into the street and get hit by a car. There should be a dedicated dog park away from children.
- Need true fenced dog parks.
- There should be a fenced dog park. Too often we walk cashman and dogs jump on our baby carriage. Very unsettling.
- need fenced in area for dogs
- Off leash dog exercise places and times are ridiculously limited. I still consider Newburyport to be highly dog-unfriendly, but I am glad we are at least trying to make change that with a small step in the right direction.

- I use the off leash dog sites, but due to my work schedule I often miss the "off leash" times. I wish they were more open... if it were available at all hours between sunrise and sunset I think it would be best.
- I would like more off leash opportunities for dogs and dog owners
- "Woof...Woof, I love to run free with my buddies in Moseley Woods!" said Duffy.
- off leash program seems to be working, need to address people taking dogs off leash in non-designated areas with signage and education.

Outdoor or indoor health and exercise programs

- Need more opportunities for teenagers to help them make healthy choices for themselves
- I answered these questions based on what the City provides there are other opportunities provided by private and non-profit groups. But I think the City rec program doesn't exist, except for the opportunities that Youth Services provides for our kids. Youth Services does a fantastic job and I would love to see the City have a rec department that offered some of the same opportunities for adults.
- It's available, but tends to be too expensive when it is a paid program.

Active adult recreation programs and facilities

- We need more tennis courts that are usable.
- community pool!!
- Again, 2nd tennis court at Cashman, bowling pk., outdoor swimming pool
- An outdoor public pool would enhance recreation activities in the summer for people of all ages. Great health benefits!
- There should be fields for senior league baseball and adult baseball programs. it lacks greatly in this city. Cashman Park once had a senior baseball field until it deteriorated over the years, and now the soccer league has taken over nearly every playground and park in the city. They were "handed" property in Cherry Hill that was bought by the city and I thought a new elementary school was going to be built in the location. What happened?
- Could use more and better maintained tennis courts.

Access

- As someone without a car, I cannot easily access many of our open spaces that I would otherwise enjoy, such as Maudslay and Parker River. While this is not your direct concern, it is something to consider, especially for the young and the old. Summertime shuttles to the outer parks would enhance their value to a broader range of residents. I am not eager to see significant expansion of off-leash opportunities, as I am reluctant to use the parks during those hours.
- Programs for the disabled are very limited to non existent.

QUESTION 3

Other ways you currently obtain information about Newburyport parks and recreational programs and facilities (whether City-owned or not)?

- Websites including State Parks, Coastal Trails Coalition., Joppa Flat MassAudubon, PITA, Essex County Greenbelt, Newburyport Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Newburyport Mothers Club
- Audubon news, Essex County Greenbelt news , SPNEA and Trustees
- Word of mouth
- Newburyport blogs
- Youth Services
- The signs on Low St. are the most effective of all!
- Friends of Atwood Park email group
- Newburyport Today
- Rotary Club lunches
- Coastal Trails Coalition

QUESTION 4

Other suggestions for how we can best communicate with you about parks and recreational programs and facilities?

- A collaborative approach - perhaps support the Eco Collaborative's idea to be a clearing house
- Websites
- Emails
- Newspapers
- Signs on Low St. on the fence at the athletic fields
- Social networking
- send out emails to those who sign up via the City website to receive them
- Newburyport Mother's Club
- Distribute maps in public locations all over the city in protected plastic cases like Greenbelt and TTOR use.

QUESTION 6

For those sites that you use infrequently or gave a low satisfaction rating what are some reasons you don't use them or are not satisfied with the experience?

Safety

- More bike lanes please. Runners, walkers & bikers use these especially in the winter. You really need to keep cars from parking on them ie ticket and tow.
- Concerns about biking or walking to Plum Island.
- No bicycle rules or etiquette in place for walkers!

- No walking sidewalks for walkers
 - I'd like more safe places in town for dogs to be off leash. I'd especially like an enclosed area for dogs!
 - dogs are allowed off leash and uncontrolled. not everyone likes dogs! or dog waste
 - not safe - dogs run free
 - loose dogs, dog mess
 - Dogs off leash and increased traffic at higher rates of speed
 - Ticks at Maudslay and Moseley
 - Not well light (specifically Cashman Park)
 - Need to spray for Mosquitoes ... some of the parks are not enjoyable because of the swarms and it is a health concern. Please spray heavily.... Thank you
 - Little River Trail, too many ticks.
 - Lack of safe lighting
 - there are dogs jumping on us or leaving droppings behind.
 - too many off leash dogs
- Access
- Don't know how to get to a particular site.
 - Children and handicapped on two sides of mall someone in a wheelchair or cane cannot walk comfortably around the circumference of Mall
 - Parking fee at Newburyport Beach is too high. Waterfront park parking sticker should be good there, too.
 - Please open Moseley Woods in the winter!!
 - WE NEED A BIKE PATH ON HALE STREET!!
 - Lack of knowledge about trails on conservations lands
 - never heard of some of the locations, nor what they offer.
 - nbpt/plum island has very little parking. i am a beach bum, but i always go to salisbury or hampton. i go to the beach clean up, that's it because plum island is not user friendly at all.
 - Trails at Maudslay Park would benefit from much more signage. Easy to get lost before one is accustomed to it.
 - I have found Maudslay very frustrating because I have a lot of trouble finding the areas (e.g. gardens) identified on the map. The map is very nice, but the trails don't seem to be well-marked, or consistent with the map. I'd probably figure it out if I went back a few times, but that's how I felt last time I was there.
 - The ban on off-leash dogs at Maudslay does not work. Responsible people who have trained their dogs stay away, while people that flaunt rules or are ignorant of them go anyway. I recall that 1 or 2 years ago someone's off-leash dog bit a runner in the park. Great example of how banning off-leash dogs does not work. The laws did nothing to prevent this incident, and yet many responsible visitors are kept away.

- In a forested park of 500+ acres with hiking trails there is zero reason that responsible dog owners can't be allowed in. Nuisance dogs are the problem, not ALL off-leash dogs. Many women use dogs for security in parks like this.
- parking too far from the ocean on the Newburyport end of Plum Island.
- Swimming area of beach has NO parking.
- not aware of some of them. Maybe raising awareness of all we have would be first step???
- Please leave gate at Mosely open year round. It is very dangerous to park along the street at that particular intersection if you want to use the park when the gate is locked.
- Number one need is for transportation to/from the remote areas, such as Plum Island and Maudsley. My interests are primarily in walking and communing with nature, with a secondary interest in sitting and reading or people-watching (e.g., boating, beach). During those activities, which require a certain serenity, I prefer not to be distracted by other more boisterous activities (loud music, sports, off-leash dog activities); both types of activity are important, but should be separated in place and/or time. Some places (e.g., Joppa Park) have insufficient interest/comfort to spend much time. If I did spend more time in some facilities (e.g., Atkinson Commons), lack of restrooms could become an issue.
- I resent the fact that I have to pay to park during the summer (as a Newburyport resident we should get free parking or at least a discount), so I prefer the refuge beaches
- Parking at the beach is a real issue also. Should be a resident rate.
- I would love a copy of this map of Newburyport with the parks on it!

User Preference

- no kids so I do not go to school facilities or ball game sites or sking rinks others are not in my neighborhood. I go to things within walking distance or go downtown - which is also within walking distance or go to places with special interests - birding, walking (like Maudsley).
- No children living at home
- Are oriented to children, which we don't have.
- Don't have children or dogs
- There are many music and art activities for teenagers in this city, not much for physical activities if you are not in an organized sport, I know so many teens who would LOVE a BMX bike park
- looking for places to walk my dog. have two teenage girls at home so no further need for playgrounds.
- I am not a proponent of more off-leash dog areas. One need only go to Maudsley Park to see how poorly dog owners are at picking up their dog's feces. They just leave it for the park maintenance people. I'm against dogs "off leash" They bother people; barking, rushing up to people etc. I don't think Newburyport needs more areas for dogs to run off-leash.
- When I am outdoors and want to enjoy nature and being outdoors, I do not want to be on pavement. The Clipper City Rail Trail, while useful and lovely for some, is not an enjoyable outdoor nature experience for me. It serves another purpose. I will abandon my weekly use of March's Hill when the Coastal Trails Coalition ruins the path I use by paving it. Currently, I enjoy the wildflowers and walking on the sandy soil mix, even when I have to wear boots because of mud. Once it's paved, it will no longer meet my needs. March's Hill is the

only natural wooded space I can walk to from my house so I am very, very sad. Daily, hour to hour and a half long walks on pavement ruins shoes and hurts feet, legs and back. Dirt, sand and grass work just fine for long walk. Please do not pave over all the natural trails in the city - it destroys the natural spaces and makes them ugly. The Clipper City Rail Trail is not a pretty or a natural place - I agree it serves a purpose, but it looks like a parking lot without the cars.

Maintenance

- Too many dogs!!! Everywhere and dog [waste] and nobody monitoring that
- Not enough attention given to Bartlett Mall!
- Trash and people not picking up after their dogs!
- For small, pocket parks: Is there a way to keep dogs off Joppa Park grass and have the grass watered and weeded, like Hale Park? Maybe establish a neighborhood doggy area and run? I love our city parks!
- Not enough maintenance of the beach on Plum island or access to it. I do not have children and play grounds don't interest me
- Find that some parks are not kept up, especially those that have or had tennis courts - grass let to grown in cracks which made the courts unusable.
- Wish there were restrooms at Ayers & Cashman parks. Brown playground is in disrepair.
- woodman park needs some fixing. The bricks on the walkway are all popping up and that could create hazard for people. They could trip very easily on the bricks.
- Need bathrooms at Cashman park. Parking is a big issue at Plum Island. Beach always seems to be littered.
- The Joppa Park is filthy with animal waste. The Brown School play structure is falling apart and dogs are often off leash. Some kids are fine with dogs off leash, but other kids are terrified. People still run their dogs on the asphalt pavement even though it it clearly posted as not permitted. Cashman does a very good job of splitting up the play structures and animals.
- Cushing Park/Ayers Playground is literally a minefield of dog poop. You can't let your kids run on the grass because people use it as their dogs personal litter box. I have NEVER seen or heard of anyone being ticketed for this. I have NEVER seen animal control driving by- I even tried calling animal control once from the park as I watched a dog without a leash doing a big poop right amongst all the children and 411 didn't even have a phone number listed for animal control in Newburyport, or anything even like that. In additions to the massive piles of dog poop, the wood part of the play structure is splintered and falling apart. And the water fountain doesn't drain properly and never has drained properly in the 8 years that I've been going there.
- Garbage on the beach and around the entrance near bathrooms
- I love Atwood park but it is unfortunately being used as a dog toilet/exercise area on the grass so my children run the risk of stepping in poop or being chased. And the tennis court is in dire need of repair. A refurbished tennis court would be an amazing addition to this little park!
- These sites are in great disrepair and need attention. If city owned the city should find the funds to repair and maintain all of these areas. Those I did not list should also be repaired and maintained. It is SHAMEFUL that the city has allowed this to happen over the years.

- Specifically with Cushing Park - love it because it is within walking distance, but also frustrated by the disrepair: graffiti on slide, railroad ties falling apart, dog poop all over where little children run.
- Cash man park has had dangerous slide and swing conditions for months that have gone unaddressed. Starting to feel run down and neglected. People that work for park dept need to do more inspections to ensure safety and good conditions. In Fall, leaves at Inn St made it very unsafe and I witnessed several kids slip and fall. Parks feel neglected. Also, trash situation at most parks we visit is disgusting. Overflowing and smelly, and the wind blows litter around.
- Newburyport Beach is dirty and the bathrooms are always closed (off season).
- the only "accessible" paved walkway at the Mall is in deplorable condition, with cracks and ruts, and low lying branches. It makes it impossible to comfortably walk, let alone use a wheelchair!!!!
- Other fields are not maintained, grass not cut, and have bad mosquitoes or no-see-ums.
- Funny thing is we pay the city to use Fuller Fields and the Nock/Molin fields. Sad thing is they are always in really bad condition. Even just keeping the grass mowed seems to be a serious challenge. When visiting teams come to those two particular fields you definitely hear the complaints.
- Overall our parks in general need to be kept up with maintenance. If a Park looks like it is not being taken care of then citizens and kids don't take pride and they won't take treat the park with respect.
- too much garbage
- would like to volunteer to maintain and enhance horticultural amenities in various parks
- Updated park equipment. Newer benches to sit - more artwork included, as in the Rail Trail experiences, safer playground equipment
- atwood park - poor grass condition, too much dog waste, dogs off leash, poorly maintained overall
- brown school - is fun for the kids but aging, safety becoming a concern. some broken items (ropes and structurally)
- little river nature trail - frequently has broken bottles, graffiti, kids on mini bikes make it dangerous for my young kids on their bicycles
- I'd love to see both site work and much programming at Cushing Park, my neighborhood park, including amenities designed to encourage neighbors to gather, and activities that take advantage of the hardscape. Atkinson Common caretakers should stop using herbicides and pesticides. Cashman needs shaded seating with a good view of the river and the low-tide riverbanks, plus more naturalistic plantings.

QUESTION 7

Comments for improving the City's parks and recreational areas or facilities over the next 5 to 10 years.

City Improvements

- improve sidewalks for tourists who walk High St

Trails/Connections

- Would LOVE more bike paths, bike lanes
- Connect West End
- BIKE PATH ON HALE STREET

- Provide access from the West End to downtown for bikers/walkers
- Add safer walking for our kids in the west end to get to the schools. sidewalks on hale street and through turkey hill road. Add cross walks
- add a sidewalk to Hale Street and connect the West End with the rest of the town
- Improve safety of bike lanes to Plum Island. More trail signs in Maudsley would be great.
- Maudsley Park trail signs
- Don't pave every path!!! The rail trail beside March's Hill should not be paved!! Stay away carriages, give nature a break!!
- When putting bike lanes on the streets, please measure the lanes from the sidewalk out not the center lane in. You are placing the bikers against a the most dangerous location on the street. In many cases the bike lane could be a greater distance from the center line and closer to the sidewalk or parked cars. (You have several existing areas where from the bike lane to the sidewalk, you could park two cars side-by-side.) Bike lanes should always be as far away from the running traffic as possible.

Facilities / Amenities

- PUBLIC POOL
- ultimate Frisbee fields or use of existing fields for it
- We need community indoor activity centers for winter/summer year round use. Optimal word here is, "WINTER" use for locals. We need an indoor/outdoor pool. North End and South End pools with walk/bike access. Suggest located one next to Ice Rink Center directly off rail trail!
- Community swimming/water park is definately missing from this area. This is something we would frequently use and are willing to pay for.
- The playgrounds seem to be geared toward the very young. It would be nice to see some structures added for middle school kids. I also think we could use an amphitheater for concerts on the waterfront.
- Build a birding -viewing platform by the pond at perkins playground....it is a site for various herons, ducks , turtles, frogs a wonderful assett to be protected and shared for all ages.
- we seem to have alot of this available within our schools already which are not accessible to everyone
- restrooms at more of the parks - Perkins, Bartlett Mall, etc
- Better Lighting in Market Square and downtown and do before the season starts 2012
- Multi purpose Turf fields would be a huge plus. Town could offset costs by renting fields up other teams/towns and tournaments. With year round playability
- Need more baseball fields.
- Senior Center
- more benches at Ayers playground, a bathroom facility at Cashman Park, and doing something about people letting their dogs poop all over the place at Ayers playground. If there is anyone who actually reads these surveys, why don't you get in your car and take a drive down to Ayers playground and see the big mounds of dog poop yourself?

- I also think an outdoor skating rink would be a great addition.
- SEPARATE DOG ONLY DOG PARK - KEEP DOGS OUT OF PUBLIC AREAS
- more dog-FREE areas, better control of dogs and their owners who do not pick up dog feces
- Free public transportation from town center to beaches.
- OUTDOOR POOL AND TENNIS COURTS WOULD BE FABULOUS!
- add more bike racks, esp. downtown
- Favor "free" open space where users can initiate their own activities so that perhaps a picnic, a touch football game and a frisbee throw could be all going on. Specialization/structured spaces can lead under utilization of "open space"
- Our family LOVES the historical signs on the rail trail - we can't go on it without the boys wanting to hear the story about the big train wreck in Newburyport. We live in such a great historical area - bringing these stories and facts to the public would be great to continue.
- Open up the beach and Maudslay to dogs a few hours or a few days or a few portions of each place
- Community garden please!!!!
- get 2nd rail-trail project going!
- Outdoor splash park
- Add space for open-ended play (e.g., loose parts playground) rather than simple, unimaginative play structures.
- Winter skating? Stocked fishing? Access from new RT 95 path?
- add a fenced play area to one of the existing off leash sites
- merry-go-round!
- I also find it irksome that I (as a non-resident) am not allowed to use kayak/canoe put-in on the Merrimack River in Amesbury. Perhaps our various towns/city should make reciprocal agreements.

Maintenance

- We are often tempted to fill up a space (signage, benches, picnic tables) rather than keep it open. Lets concentrate on maintaining our parks best features. Making them more attractive would be to build their infrastructures stronger and properly for future wear and tear, and adding fewer "improvements". For example, lets not litter our common areas with ugly stuff like sewer pipes (Joppa Park) but deal with the erosion at the seawall. Or, lets improve some trails (Marches Hill, the railroad bed, behind the sewage treatment plant, with shredded wood/mulch that is environmentally green, attractive, and soft under foot, rather than pave trails. Even stone dust would be better than a completely non-porous substance. I understand that budgeting is always an issue, and I love the fact that we have as much access to water and fishing and boating as we have. An indoor-outdoor pool would be wonderful to have, especially a warm one, but would it be cost-effective?
- The city has plenty of playgrounds, we need to improve the ones we have, make them safer, keep them maintained and provided restrooms at these location.
- If putting money into new planting in these areas it also must have fund for upkeep. This needs to be kept in mind when making plans for the future.

- Fix up Joppa Park trail behind sewer treatment plant. Overrun since dogs kicked off PI. Provide plastic bags & empty barrels more often. High St bike path is unrealistic & dangerous- should be one side/one way with no parking on that side- loop around the downtown instead. Shared bike/hike trails become dangerous for walkers.
- bathroom facilities
- Develop water based play facility in central location. Splash court.
- improve downtown parking situation. Add waterfront boutique hotel.
- Again, I'm rooting for the teens to get their BMX bike park
- Fenced off-leash area for dogs
- I think all these things would be great bonuses to add to a wonderful city and make it that much more enjoyable to live. I also think we need more things for our children to do. The kids today have no place to hang out for fun and I think a BMX bike trail and park would be fantastic.
- ENCLOSED off leash dog park
- Maybe not more basketball courts but please maintain the ones we have!
- Repair High School Stadium - Football/Lacrosse and Baseball Fields and amenities. Upgrade Graf Rink; We have State Champion Baseball and Hockey Teams and shabby facilities
- hit local resources to 'sponsor' sites for beautification eg garden clubs, scouts, schools etc. pair with educational/service requirements where possible.
- all play areas and courts should be fenced to keep dogs off and out. the push for dog friendly environments really discriminate against people who do not want interaction with dogs. people are not always responsible for dog waste. we no longer walk the cashman park walk by the river because of this. people let dogs go on the tennis courts and playgrounds and do not clean up properly.
- In terms of playgrounds, I believe the key is to maintain what we have and perhaps add additional play structures to the areas as space allows.
- I live near Joppa Park and am there all the time with my dog. I would love to see that park spruced up a bit.
- We need to keep an open water front . I do support building on the streetscape to help pay for construction and maintenance and some parking. However, most of the waterfront should be open. We need to concentrate on maintaining and beautifying what we have rather than adding more open space for recreation.
- Existing playgrounds and hiking trails at places like Moseley are falling into disrepair, the town should not be expanding park infrastructure with things like new bike roads, trails, playgrounds, etc. Especially with CSA money - we are currently using CSA grants to build new physical infrastructure like bike roads, with no corresponding long-term money for maintenance. This is crazy.
- Signage should blend in as much as possible. Maintaining undeveloped ambience in some areas very important
- Repair and maintain what we already have and get the state and federal governments to kick in some money to help to make this happen. Grants are available to make this happen.
- don't think the city should build anymore facilities that it needs to take care of unless it is privately owned.

- Deal with trash and safety/condition of existing parks!!!
- replace waterfront parking and integrate with existing park with well-designed park amenities (outdoor art exhibit, nature garden, skateboard park, ice skating pond, outdoor amphitheater, picnic area, seasonal market, etc.) Plant more trees along rail trail, other open spaces. Consider raising funds by making limited licenses available for summertime food kiosks along trail (don't overwhelm) or near park entrances (e.g., Moseley)
- does anyone know how blessed we are with so many parks in NBPT? Lets just maintain them
- Make access for the disabled a higher priority than access for dogs.
- We need to focus on supporting and maintaining/ upgrading what we have before spending resources on new things that we cant maintain.
- Fix up pond in Mosley Woods so it is a nice destination vs. a toxic waste dump with creepy feeling of something bad having happened there.
- [Current maintenance] at Mosley Pines is horrible compared to the quality of maintenance performed [in the past]. 2) For every foot of trail you pave, you should create new unpaved hiking trails in the same area to offset the loss of natural spaces. 3) Informal outdoor gather places naturally occur in heavily crowded and trafficked area - leverage that FACT (do the research) rather than create something where there is currently no heavy crowd or traffic, 4) There could be smallish, easily managed, community gardens all over the city, if one large area is not available. A natural place for community gardens is the city's compost facility. If soil quality is an issue because of the history of the place, there is nothing wrong with raised beds. Every city park could have a small space for a community garden for people who require food assistance. The food pantry goods are all processed food - there is never any fresh produce. 5) I am not aware that there needs to be an improvement in access/amenities for disabled persons. Wait until a disabled person makes a request before it goes on the list. The way the ADA-compliant law is used is often wasteful overkill, especially when ramps and elevators are put in and never used because they have not been requested by disabled persons. Wait until there is a need to address an issue.
- We don't need more structures - we need to enhance the ones we have and the ability to walk and bike to & through them - Thanks for asking!
- I would gladly pay 5 - 10% more in annual City taxes if they were to go specifically to improve parks and schools.
- please focus on maintaining/improving what exists
- item #1 covers it, improve and maintain what we already have before adding new stuff.

Activities

- Don't necessarily need more places for dogs off-leash, but more hours.
- Focus on neighborhood-centered rec services that people can walk to.
- adopt smart phone QR type audio/video apps
- It would be nice to see indoor rec areas for the winter months, maybe including exercise equipment, etc.
- No mountain biking on city wilderness/farm trails, please.

QUESTION 8

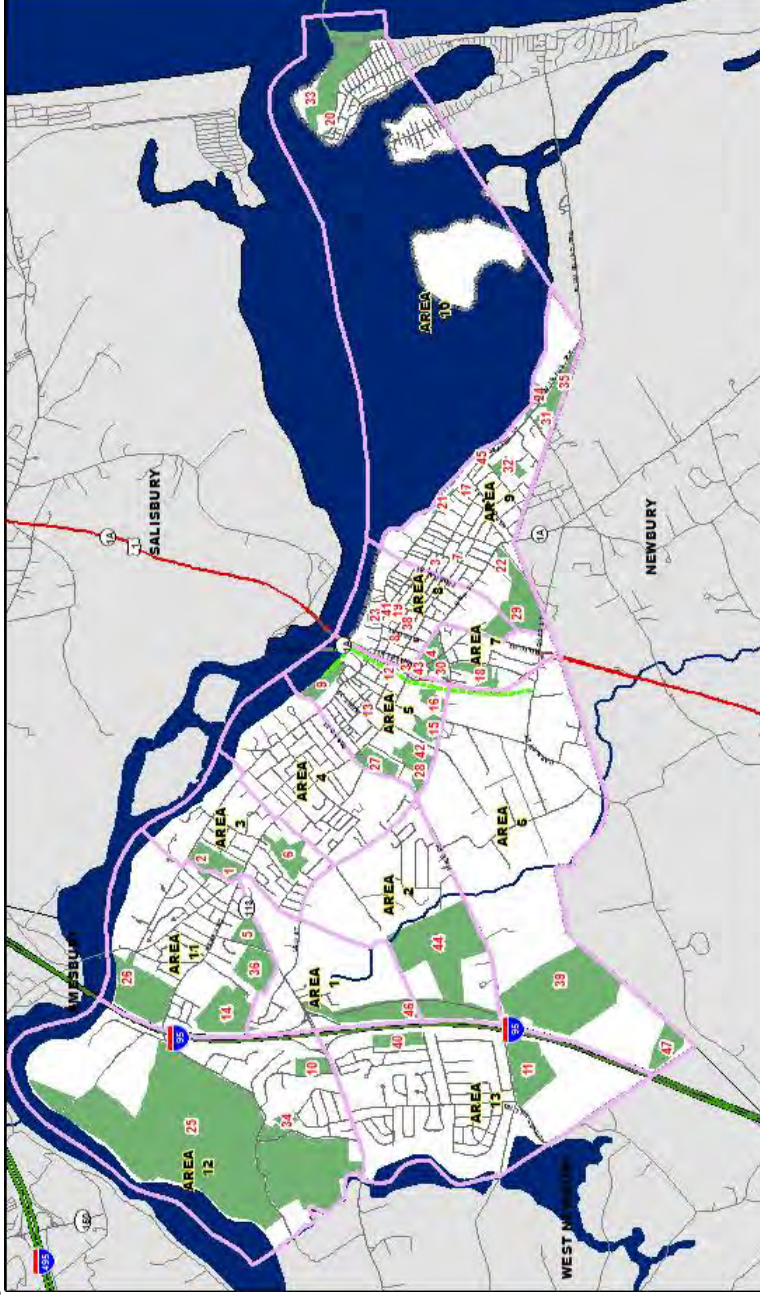
Comments about improving the City's recreational programs and activities over the next 5 to 10 years.

- The City should not pay for something that already is available.
- I think I would try to think in terms of smaller community groupings to save energy on having people drive places and have all ages based programs rather than separate ones for seniors and youth. Let the seniors and youth get together to learn from each other. We are already too segregated by age. Be creative!
- Except for access to community boating and pools the Nbpt community does a great job of offering programs to children.
- Transform waterfront to include public gardens, amphitheatre, art walk, transit hub (near Chamber, e.g. pedicab, bus, etc.), farmers market, skating pond, picnic area, etc. -- also pedestrian pier.
- I don't really think it is necessary for the city to provide web-based learning when we already have Audubon here. Plus, couldn't students post educational information about this area as they learn it. The High School could start to build a technology center that works with Cable TV and other community resources to build an educational forum.
- Any activity that fosters children independent learning and play time is a plus for the community.
- After school and summer youth programs do not take into account working parents schedules, and are therefore underutilized. Would love for our child to be more involved, but the hours prohibit this. Would like to see hours expanded to accommodate working parents, especially those that commute.
- I think children should be outdoors more often. They don't do enough of it these days.
- The Audubon and Parker River already provide bird watching, wildlife tours and educational programs.
- Open newburyport beaches to dogs year round - mornings only in summer, say until 9 am
- Some kind of summer camp (like Camp Kent in Amesbury) with swimming, kayaking, etc would be great.
- Offer overnight camping in maudslay/moseley!. offer solstice camping in the pastures. some of this stuff just needs to be offered.
- Your most important goal should be community gardens and a teaching program that is related to it.
- Making a bike path that goes down Hale Street from Turkey Hill area. Then kids and adults could bike safely into town or to school.
- Build tennis courts for the high school and the community
- We need to expand our affordable housing rather than add more open space willy nilly. I say this keeping in mind that there may be some critical areas that may need to be saved.
- Most of these ideas seem inappropriate and wasteful of limited town resources. Local aid has decreased in recent years, we should be focuses on maintaining education and physical infrastructure like roads, not looking to start new programs, hire new staff, etc.
- I think the web based learning is extremely important to using what we have and should be one of the more inexpensive fixes
- Preserve more open space
- provide web-based learning opps about city's history and architecture
- There should also be a focus on volunteerism. Why does everything always have to cost a fee to participate? Why not encourage youth and adults to volunteer? Community Service.

- provide maps to current open space and keep it clean and user friendly with rest rooms, dog and handicap access., Stop infill.
- Keeping activities/programs affordable!
- Encourage the private sector to take a lead on this. Don't think the city should be spending more money on this than it already does.
- Balance activities across time and place for all ages and interests.
- Increase opportunities for high school aged boys and girls to play on sports teams outside of the high school.
- Myself and others do not understand why the ice at Bartlett Pond is not routinely maintained. Once Graf Rink was built, Bartlett Pond, the great crowd attractor for families and people of all ages for weekend ice-skating, became neglected and stopped being a gathering spot for everyone in the city. Learn to work with what you have rather than build new informal places to gather. 2) Before considering expanding youth programs, take a look at how staff is managed. Who does Andy Egmont report to? How well is she managed? To me, someone who cuts direly needed program funding to give herself a raise, however well deserved, and then allows the resulting problems to simply manifest without any heads up, who always submits time sheets for youth employees late, and makes remarkably inappropriate statements to her youth employees, needs more oversight.
- teach children to play. there are so many places to do so. Adults? Come on if you cant find a place in Majestic NBPT to play you have a problem.
- Focus and expand while providing meaningful participation for the disabled.
- Use Disney's approach Activities that can be enjoyed by all ages together or seperatly. Stay away from giving equipment to pdestrians. You don't know if they are qualified to use them and to costly to police this issue.
- Can you expand active recreational programs for adults? There seems to be enough youth-oriented sports activities; but other than a summer adult soccer program, what else is there that's organized?
- None of this is going to work without added revenue. There currently exists plenty of open space in Newburyport and open space does not add revenue to the tax base.
- more and/or expand after-school educational programs
- Expand leisure-oriented offerings in neighborhood parks, including chess tables, farmers' markets, daily morning tai chi, puppy training sessions, and charitable activities (bake sales, etc.)

QUESTION 9

Consider how parks, playgrounds, and other recreational lands are distributed throughout the City. In your opinion, do any areas of the City need more parks / recreational areas?



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Atkinson Common | 13 Cushing Park / Ayers Playground | 25 Maudslayi State Park | 37 St. Paul's Church Yard |
| 2 Pioneer League Fields | 14 Evergreen Golf Course | 26 Moseley Woods | 38 Tracy Place / Park |
| 3 Atwood Park | 15 Bradley Fuller Athletic Field | 27 Newburyport High School | 39 Common Pasture - Wet Meadows |
| 4 Bartlett Mill / Wasington Park | 16 Graf Skating Rink | 28 Mollin / Nook Schools | 40 Woodman Park |
| 5 Belleville Cemetery | 17 Hale Park | 29 Oak Hill Cemetery | 41 Market Square / Bullnose |
| 6 Bressanahan Elementary School | 18 Highland Cemetery | 30 Old Hill Burial Ground | 42 Newburyport Skate Park |
| 7 Brown Elementary School | 19 Inn Street Mall & Playground | 31 Parker River NWR Visitor Center (USFWS) | 43 Kelley School |
| 8 Brown Square | 20 Jason Sawyer Memorial Playground | 32 Parkers Beach & Playground | 44 Common Pasture - Cooper North |
| 9 Cashman Park | 21 Joppa Park | 33 Newburyport Beach (Plum Island) | 45 Simmon's Beach |
| 10 Chery Hill / NYSA Fields | 22 March's Hill | 34 Sawyer Hill Cemetery | 46 Little River Nature Trail |
| 11 City Forest | 23 Market Landing (Waterfront Park) | 35 Spencer-Palce-Little Farm (Plum Island) | 47 Common Pasture - Coffin's Island |
| 12 Clipper City Rail Trail | 24 Joppa Flats Education Center (Mass Audubon) | 36 St. Mary's Cemetery | |

Area 1

- There should be a master plan to link the waterfront and other state/city owned park by common foot/bike paths.
- Work with the developers to take the 19 open acres from the Woodman farm, and keep that land OPEN! Bonus points for making it accessible for recreation.
- Connecting trails
- They need more informal parks, playgrounds and trails.
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- There are few places within walking distance of these areas to utilize or at least they're not well marked/promoted
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Better tennis
- Congested areas, but could use basketball courts, tennis courts, bocce, etc.
- Areas 1&2 could use new soccer type fields, with some open time for pickup games
- This area should be aggressively kept open to prevent flooding downstream, preserve our watershed and water supply and to keep as a wildlife area.

Area 2

- There should be a master plan to link the waterfront and other state/city owned park by common foot/bike paths.
- They need more informal parks, playgrounds and trails.
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- Trails in the conservation land
- There are few places within walking distance of these areas to utilize or at least they're not well marked/promoted
- Where you have high residential areas there are no neighborhood parks to walk to.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Activities for seniors and kids/families
- Congested areas, but could use basketball courts, tennis courts, bocce, etc..
- Areas 1&2 could use new soccer type fields, with some open time for pickup games"
- Access to rail trail, indoor or outdoor recreation
- Can the industrial park owners/tenants agree to share construction/maintenance of a walking trail? It doesn't need to be paved.

Area 3

- More access to natural areas and trails.
- More natural coastline access/trails to the river more trails through all wooded areas of city

- More river access. More pros on the river. More beach access and parking.
- Utilize the proximity to the water better.
- Access to more active rec areas, natural areas etc
- More playgrounds
- Bike path / walking path connecting MoseleyWoods with Cashman park and downtown NBPT
- Waterfront park & recreation - extension to clipper city rail trail
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Area 3 needs more grassy areas to sit and hang out and have lunch.
- More public recreational access to waterfront
- More access to waterfront, especially on Plum Island, which means more street parking near the beach, other than the large lot at the end of the beach.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Extend the river walk from Cashman to Waterfront. Move waterfront parking elsewhere and make more waterfront open space
- Natural areas and informal parks
- Atkinson Park should offer limited off-leash program as do many of the other parks so that neighborhood residents won't have to drive to access those areas.
- Need more river access
- An indoor/outdoor pool (with an retractable roof) Would be a very valuable asset to the entire Newburyport community. Perhaps it would work in the area near the new community center at the Bresnahan? Or in the Industrial area? or Perkins Park?
- Need playground/structures around the Cherry Hill section, Atkinson Park (High Street) area.....

Area 4

- There are no parks or recreation areas in area 4
- Just looking at the map. That area has none!
- Water access and activities for Areas 4, 8 and 9.
- More access to natural areas and trails.
- More parks, rec areas, playgrounds, trails...
• more natural coastline access/trails to the river more trails through all wooded areas of city
- More river access. More pros on the river.
- connecting trails
- Utilize the proximity to the water better.

- Informal parks and green space
- Need to walk/bike quite a distance from area 4 to get to anything. Best resource is Bresnahan fields, however what will happen to those fields when the new Bresnahan is built??
- Bike path / walking path connecting MoseleyWoods with Cashman park and downtown NBPT
- Low St. needs a bike lane, and the the entrance to the boke trail from Low St. needs a ramp over the curve. It's a dangerous place to get on and off the trail with cars coming down from route 1, so a bike lane and signage would really help. But a ramp over the curb would help most of all, because then bikers don' need to stop on Low St. in traffic to lift bikes up over the curb to get to the trail.
- Increased green space, off leash areas for dogs
- They need more informal parks, playgrounds and trails.
- It would be nice to have a neighborhood park & playground within walking distance.
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Area 4 needs a much better playground
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- Need more natural areas.
- More public recreational access to waterfront
- Area 4 is a densely populated area with zero public recreational land. It is needed!
- There was supposedly a Harborwalk trail that went beyond the North End Boat Club, but over the past summer it was pretty much inaccessible. It would be nice to expand the harborwalk further into the North End of the City or at least maintain the existing one.
- Access to water, access to trails, more natural areas
- Playgrounds
- Some may already have parks that need to be maintained and repaired.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Nothing in that area like parks.
- Activities for seniors and kids/families
- Informal parks, playgrounds, trails and natural areas
- More hiking trails
- Small neighborhood park improvements
- More bike paths
- More access to the waterfront; river trail that extends the riverfront
- Natural areas and informal parks
- There are none on map

- Congested areas, but could use basketball courts, tennis courts, bocce, etc..
- Waterfront access trail from marinas to Cashman Park
- Rail trail along power line Train Station to Joppa Flats
- More playgrounds
- Playgrounds, informal parks
- Nothing there
- More natural areas in area 4, such as the farmland near the Medical Building.
- Need more river access
- Waterfront of Area 4 is under-developed and under-used and doesn't look good (semi-built houses and parking lots for hospital).
- Lots of positive recent private property renovation and development investment along High Street Area 4. Would be good if the city could add brick paving and/or other public space investment along this stretch of High Street to match and leverage private investment.
- Waterfront in town areas should have more natural recreational spaces - there is so much concrete at our waterfront that blocks views and prevents more interaction between residents, visitors, the city, and our natural waterfront scenery.

Area 5

- Just a comment: The waterfront used to be more accessible, City land is still being usurped by private owners. There is a right of way to the river that has been overtaken at the bottom of Marlboro St., for example, and the "clam shack" now a "house" keeps expanding its clamshell paving to include more city land along the road. These would both be perfect viewing sites (and were, for birders) or accesses to the river or gathering spots for people. We are loosing some beautiful city space by intrusion. Please be wary of "improvements" that deny all other citizens the riverbank. A little beach near the bottom of Beacon St. is also cut off by a fence, insinuating that it belongs to a private owner. I used to be able to take my toddlers there to picnic. I suppose this is a lament for the land that has been taken and a strong appeal to either take it back and use it, or provide something better. Thanks for listening.
- Has room for Indoor/Outdoor Activity Center central for a majority of people who are more likely to walk to and from a center given the opportunity. Central to rail trail and schools. Children can walk directly from schools to activity center with least amount of environmental impact.
- More river access. More pros on the river.
- Area 5--If Ayers Park stays a park for young children,it would be nice to have more equipment. If not, would a bike park fit there? Also,I wish skate park had guards/guides there again
- Access to more active rec areas, natural areas etc
- More playgrounds
- Bike path / walking path connecting MoseleyWoods with Cashman park and downtown NBPT
- Keep the downtown waterfront open to the public- do not sell out to developers, do not seek grants to create structures

- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- More public recreational access to waterfront
- Some may already have parks that need to be maintained and repaired.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Activities for seniors and kids/families

Area 6

- More access to natural areas and trails
- More natural coastline access/trails to the river more trails through all wooded areas of city
- Walking trail through natural area
- In the case of area 6, it could simply benefit from any sort of recreation area--this is the industrial park though. Perhaps extra signage or bike lanes for weekend use, when most of the businesses there are closed. I know there are signs indicating that, but maybe more or mile markers or something.
- Increased green space, off leash areas for dogs
- They need more informal parks, playgrounds and trails.
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Most successful business parks have outdoor amenities to unite the park and provide areas for employees to enjoy during lunch and breaks, even hold outdoor meetings, team building, etc. This might make the park more attractive to both existing and new businesses.
- More hiking trails
- Small neighborhood park improvements
- More bike paths
- Natural areas and informal parks
- Access to rail trail, indoor or outdoor recreation
- Think a public swimming pool in Area 6 would be a huge asset to the community at large
- It would be nice to have a park in the industrial park, maybe for employees to use during lunch hour, or for bikers as they pass through the area.
- Can the industrial park owners/tenants agree to share construction/maintenance of a walking trail? It doesn't need to be paved.

Area 7

- Just want to reiterate how important the Brown School playground is for the South End -- given changes coming in the school system, want to make sure that the public play space is preserved regardless.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested

Area 8

- It would be nice to have water access for kayaks/small boats in the downtown south-end area and a park with picnic tables, etc. for community gathering.
- Water access and activities for Areas 4, 8 and 9.
- Just a comment: The waterfront used to be more accessible, City land is still being usurped by private owners. There is a right of way to the river that has been overtaken at the bottom of Marlboro St., for example, and the "clam shack" now a "house" keeps expanding its clamshell paving to include more city land along the road. These would both be perfect viewing sites (and were, for birders) or accesses to the river or gathering spots for people. We are loosing some beautiful city space by intrusion. Please be wary of "improvements" that deny all other citizens the riverbank. A little beach near the bottom of Beacon St. is also cut off by a fence, insinuating that it belongs to a private owner. I used to be able to take my toddlers there to picnic. I suppose this is a lament for the land that has been taken and a strong appeal to either take it back and use it, or provide something better. Thanks for listening.
- Water front
- More parks, rec areas, playgrounds, trails...
- More natural coastline access/trails to the river more trails through all wooded areas of city
- Lacking in lighting and police partol
- Area 8--Atwood Park seems unused, could that be a BMX bike park?
- Access to more activer rec areas, natural areas etc
- I really am only qualified to advocate for the South End. There is limited open space given the population density, and if the Brown School is sold as is currently being discussed, there will be no play structures or sports courts between the Inn Street / Kelly School Playgrounds and the Perkins Playground.
- Increased green space, off leash areas for dogs
- Keep the downtown waterfront open to the public- do not sell out to developers, do not seek Grants to create structures
- Waterfront access, mixed-use development of waterfront parking lots to include more parks, gathering spaces, etc.
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Need more access to and expansion of shared use trails
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome

- Need more natural areas.
- A larger downtown waterfront park for community events; a launching point for canoe and kayak access to Joppa Flats with more parking than presently available at the seawall
- More public recreational access to waterfront
- More playgrounds (i.e. Atwood park would be great location for a playstructure.)
- Expand off-leash areas to be fenced in.
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- Access to water, access to trails, more natural areas
- River front walking area to expand the waterfront park boardwalk east towards PJ
- Playgrounds
- Some may already have parks that need to be maintained and repaired.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Informal parks, playgrounds, trails and natural areas
- More hiking trails
- Small neighborhood park improvements
- More bike paths
- More playground and rec areas
- More access to the waterfront; river trail that extends the riverfront
- Natural areas and informal parks
- Congested areas, but could use basketball courts, tennis courts, bocce, etc..
- Rail trail along power line Train Station to Joppa Flats
- Playgrounds, trails
- extension of the existing rail trail to and through this area (I would use it 100x more if it were a loop); 2.) parks and playgrounds within easy walking distance, especially since many of the homes in this densely populated area of Newburyport do not have large private yards.
- Playgrounds, informal parks
- Preserve open waterfront!
- More access & playgrounds - we need to encourage use of our water views and downtown.
- Trails
- Need more river access
- Waterfront in town areas should have more natural recreational spaces - there is so much Concrete at our waterfront that blocks views and prevents more interaction between residents, Visitors, the city, and our natural waterfront scenery.
- It would be great if there were more options but land is scarce, so what we have there should be well maintained and improved upon

Area 9

- Water access and activities for Areas 4, 8 and 9.
- Water access
- More parks, rec areas, playgrounds, trails...
- Would love to see expanded bike trails, especially along the waterfront. Anything along the waterfront would enhance what the city has to offer for recreation!
- Area 9s recreational area seems to be at the southeast end, maybe something closer to area 8 so they can share.
- Keep the downtown waterfront open to the public- do not sell out to developers, do not seek grants to create structures
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Need more access to and expansion of shared use trails
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- A larger downtown waterfront park for community events; a launching point for canoe and kayak access to Joppa Flats with more parking than presently available at the seawall
- More public recreational access to waterfront
- More playgrounds (i.e. Atwood park would be great location for a playstructure.) Expand off-leash areas to be fenced in.
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- Access to water, access to trails, more natural areas
- River front walking area to expand the waterfront park boardwalk east towards PI
- More access to waterfront, especially on Plum Island, which means more street parking near the beach, other than the large lot at the end of the beach.
- Playgrounds
- Some may already have parks that need to be maintained and repaired.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Make Simmonds beach more user friendly
- Activities for seniors and kids/families
- More access to the waterfront; river trail that extends the riverfront
- Natural areas and informal parks
- Congested areas, but could use basketball courts, tennis courts, bocce, etc..
- More access & playgrounds - we need to encourage use of our water views and downtown.
- Trails
- Need more river access

- Need to install Rail Trail in South End with associated waterfront access

Area 10

- More river access. More pros on the river. More beach access and parking.
- Area 10--Plum Island near the lighthouse and playground/beach is a filthy mess, buildings run down, trash everywhere, wish it could be spruced up somehow.
- Would love to see expanded bike trails, especially along the waterfront. Anything along the waterfront would enhance what the city has to offer for recreation!
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- Natural areas especially, but all welcome
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- More hiking trails
- Small neighborhood park improvements
- More bike paths
- Better off street parking for soccer field, add baseball field and basketball courts, tennis courts
- More access & playgrounds - we need to encourage use of our water views and downtown.

Area 11

- More access to natural areas and trails.
- There should be a master plan to link the waterfront and other state/city owned park by common foot/bike paths.
- More natural coastline access/trails to the river more trails through all wooded areas of city
- Utilize the proximity to the water better.
- More playgrounds
- There aren't many playgrounds-- primarily trails.
- Bike path / walking path connecting MoseleyWoods with Cashman park and downtown NBPT
- Sea Levels are rising, it is a well established fact. Now would be the time to begin utilizing the shoreline along the Merrimac and other vulnerable places for recreational uses at minimum cost that will be more resilient to flooding. Begin moving development away from these low lying and vulnerable areas.
- More public recreational access to waterfront

- More access to waterfront, especially on Plum Island, which means more street parking near the beach, other than the large lot at the end of the beach.
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Clean up Mosley woods and make more destinations useful within the park. Improve connectivity of Mosley to Maudslay and Little River Nature Trail
- Need more river access

Area 12

- There should be a master plan to link the waterfront and other state/city owned park by common foot/bike paths.
- BIKE PATH ON HALE ST
- Connecting trails
- Please save any open space we now have! We are getting way too congested
- Although we have Maudsley State Park, there are no playground facilities nearby for the children.
- Need playground/structures around the Cherry Hill section

Area 13

- Nature, passive recreation.
- Turkey Hill area. No sidewalk, safe walking route or bike lanes on 113 or Hale Street. Many kids bike or walk along Hale to get to the Molin / Nock.
- This is where so many families and neighborhoods exist and it would be wonderful to have better access to recreational lands here for the children.
- The west end needs access to the rest of the city walking trails. for safty.
- West End needs better biking/walking access to downtown.
- There are many families in these areas without any community space for kids to simply play.
- Has a lot of residents, needs a park or recreational area.
- Is so lacking. The tiny, underdeveloped Woodman Park is all that is there, in a residential area.
- NEEDS BIKE TRAIL GOING DOWN HALE STREET FROM TURKEY HILL AREA. THEN ALL THE FAMILIES COULD RIDE SAFELY TO SCHOOL AND TOWN.
- It is my understanding that, to the west of Frances Drive, there was once a plan to add some park/playing field space.
- They don't seem to have parks and playgrounds (looking at the map).
- Trail access to downtown or connection to rail trail; improved playground
- Where you have high residential areas there are no neighborhood parks to walk to.
- Has Woodman Park, which could be expanded to be better.

- Although we have Maudslay State Park, there are no playground facilities nearby for the children.

QUESTION 11

Additional City actions to support ACTIVE public recreation.

- A full time parks administrator is very important!
- Improve the sidewalks, for those of us whose major recreation is walking, and for those who prefer to walk to various activities and shops.
- Take care of what we have! No need for more.
- I think the effort to get more people involved in parks and recreation in their neighborhoods is a worthy goal, but maybe you have to start with a city-wide organization first to get the players together and then divide.
- Hire, as needed, proper landscapers to attend to the city's most visible parks. Proper mowing is an art form, not an off-hand chore, for example. The city looks beautiful with well watered flowers, but will it water its grassy pocket parks enough for citizens to be drawn into them during the summer? I hope so. Please, some sprinklers? Plus, dog runs would help owners and pets alike. I am afraid of public/private funds because a company or individual could exert too much influence over "their" space and take it over, i.e. advertise their business in it. It depends on what kind of contract is drawn up, I suppose. Instead of hiring a new staff member, hire informed DPW workers and get them the proper equipment to do more subtle and more artful work in our public places. I know they are already strapped by time and budget, but lets fix the system, and then we can rely on our own staff to do the job that, hopefully, they would want to do. Please, no commercial vendors!!!!
- apply for CPA funding for specific projects and needs, don't set up a new funding source until its clear our public fundings are in balance for the long term, perhaps seek adoption some discrete revenue from trail side 'sponsored by' signs like say from Haley's, Black Cow
- If a FT staff member is brought on part of their job needs to be to bring in enough funds through grants and fundraising to cover the expense and benefit of their salary. In addition to facilitating the programs they need to be able to fundraiser for the Parks Dept.
- No fast food.
- GROUP FOR FENCED IN- FOR FEE DOG PARK
- Be sure that there is a plan to keep the parks clean and in shape. Have a youth corp help clean up the parks weekly - more involvement of the area youth will make them responsible adults where ever they live in the future.
- small rental fees to use city parks for private events in exchange for "reserved" space (instead of first come first serve such as for weddings at Atkinson)
- Absolutely DO NOT allow commercial vendors in parks other than for special events
- dedicate DPW staff to maintain City Parks, or create Parks department with dedicated maintenance staff
- The city has not extra money and no one can afford higher taxes or fees.
- I think we should be using our funds to clean up the town. The turnpike area could use an overhaul. That fence is terrible and could really use an uplift as well as the small bridge on washington st. Can't we get funding for the bridge through the state? I also think we should be fixing the bricks downtown that are popping up and we should be trying to beautify our great city. I also think we should be

adding more lights to our christmas tree at Christmas time and make downtown look very inviting and festive to our guest and make them want to come and spend money in our great city.

- I want to see the city purchase more open space. As much as possible.
- Dedicate more money to the recreation areas but a complete review of City Employees and their salaries is required to Free up the tax payers money; Do not raise taxes; Look for assistance from local businesses and citizens - money, volunteers, etc.
- only add to city budget or add a full time staff person AFTER starting a neighborhood/city parks organization that can do the work voluntarily.
- We do NOT need fee based recreational programs. That excludes some people. Nor do we need food vendors in public parks. Inn Street should continue to be the exception.
- as mentioned before, stop using CSA grants to expand physical infrastructure. Professional leadership is needed more than "Friends" organization that may or may not succeed, I don't see that much civic involvement in this town with parks.
- Create a part-time or 3/4 time position dedicated to overseeing management and recreational offerings. More free programs to promote wellness and exercise in all ages.
- vendors: only in certain locations, not citywide. Example: at the boardwalk location only.
- Don't expand properties and programs until you can maximize what you have.
- To add staff realistically !!! demonstrate the "market" for services to be offered
- if the city would coordinate with the schools and any other groups for volunteerism and community service a great deal of work could be done to build, repair and maintain our parks. The federal government introduced a program to build a new high school and football stadium back during the depression, why can't we do that now? Take that energy, determination, and pride to fix what we already have?
- I don't want recreational programming, I want preserved pleasant well maintained open areas with rest rooms where possible, free parking and dog access, for walking and bike riding, and getting to the beach
- We are part of a greater community. Take into full consideration the offerings that already occur at places like Maudslay, Audubon, Parker River Wildlife and Mill Pond, for example. Don't duplicate what's already available in the greater community unless demand exceeds available space.
- Seek out a volunteer to oversee the management of parks and recreation.
- just continue to maintain what we have. We have so much!
- I'd be careful of the commercial vendor, esp around trash issues.
- better collaborative efforts with existing facilities ie YWCA pool and fitness, NYS , etc.
- Why not permit vendors FROM the Parks Department on the public parks to MAKE the fees to pay for the needs?????
- Youth department is already doing an AMAZING job providing recreational opportunities for kids, it seems like you could expand that department and give them the resources to provide recreational opps for older age groups.
- Promote a non-profit parks foundation and business sponsorships of specific parks, intersections and other beautification initiatives.

- Having been involved with a "Friends of" group before, I have found that they are very good for a project based initiative, but less so for ongoing support. Support and interest wanes after the goal has been met, or kids grow up, etc.
- Can't have more public funds without the revenues.
- many 'friends of' groups already exist. it would be great if they were more recognized, formalized and promoted.
- Staff person could also coordinate the efforts of volunteers.

QUESTION 12

Comments about general City initiatives.

- Paving streets
- Enforce snow removal from sidewalks, including city and state properties
- The sidewalks (especially) and streets are a disgrace(!) for a city that claims to be a so-called 'Destination.'
- The brick sidewalks are a menace on snowy days with a thin layer of ice. They look nice, but better enforcement of snow shoveling is a BIG issue. Streets are fine it is the sidewalks that are a problem!
- fix the sidewalks!!!
- The first one will take care of the second one. But, it will always be impossible to bike safely on High St. Lets face it, even the bike lane is treacherous. I don't think the city needs to spend more money on providing more lanes. I used to ride my bike into town from the South End all the time, but traffic has increased significantly so that it is not a pleasant or safe ride. I am sorry for us bike riders, but New England main roads in a growing city are not conducive to riding. Therefore our multi-use paths and trails, or new roads to be built with bike riders in mind, are our only safe alternative for average recreational bike riders and families. Experienced riders and racers take their chances on back roads, but they are safer.
- Many sidewalks in the city are in a state of serious disrepair, and are dangerous for walking or pushing strollers.
- Provide more interconnection of open space, such that there is almost an overlay network of walkability between open spaces. Overall goal reduce need for auto trips and improve 'walkscore'
- The expansion of the Rail Trail is not so much a priority to me as getting SAFE access to PI
- Improve city sidewalks - among the worst - often see people pushing strollers/walking/running in the street because sidewalks are so poor.
- To keep in touch with the community with a brochure about the parks and all the activities which go on during the year. I am very aware that there is a lot going out electronically, but there needs to be a "take" along map and information which is NOT electronic.. More musical and theatre events in the parks. Educate the bike riders and walkers to wear bright colors and to ride and walk in the right way on the roadways in town.
- West end can not walk to school and be safe right now.
- The schools advocate for "walking Wednesdays" however, this is not possible from the west end. Hale Street needs bike access as well as walking access to the schools/city.
- West End needs both!!

- The West end needs to be connected safely to the city - Crow's lane needs a side walk to Woodman playground
- Sidewalk, sidewalk improvements and enforcement of sidewalk snow clearing
- Sidewalk/path is needed the entire length of Hale Street!
- Include plazas and other "non active" spaces in improvement plan
- Please stop paving sidewalks - it is hideous-looking
- Let's focus on the teens. As a mother of two boys, keeping them busy was fun and easy up until about age 12. The city is full of troubled teens, they need a place and something active to do.
- SIDEWALKS MUST BE IMPROVED
- We need more sidewalks especially HALE ST. and many of our sidewalks need to be fixed.
- We need well marked and lit crosswalks
- Sidewalks need help. Sprained my fingers last year while running and tripped on the sidewalk! Also, schools promote walking yet close off walking paths (at Bresnahan) and force walkers in with the cars.
- The City does good job of making routes to school accessible for students (with crosswalks and crossing guards), however property owners to not plow or trim their bushes to allow pedestrian access. I think the City should adopt a policy of reminding property owners of their responsibility to keep the sidewalks clear--actually I'm not sure if that is even an ordinance... I think it would be perfectly fine for the city to ticket property owners for not shoveling the sidewalks or to clear the sidewalk and bill the owner. I've seen students have to walk into High street to avoid slushy or very icy sidewalks because they are not clear and it is very scary.
- I think the bike lanes on High Street are just an accident waiting to happen.
- want to maintain brick sidewalks but wish for safe walking-a challenge. want tree lined streets but wish for smooth, unbuckled sidewalks.
- Making a bike path that goes down Hale Street from Turkey Hill area. Then kids and adults could bike safely into town or to school.
- spend the money or get neighborhoods to anti up..... stop replacing brick with poured cement.
- Enforce the need for shoveling is snowy in the winter on school walking routes, provide free busing to students at all the schools, provide a late bus so students can safely attend after school activities.
- SIDEWALKS! When my parents come visit my mother is afraid she's going to break her ankle walking down the street.
- It is very important to have safe walkways, especially for school kids
- FIX THE SIDEWALKS!
- Yes, pave the streets and sidewalks before spending another dollar to expand into new programs, that is my advice, thanks.
- Asphalt sidewalks are uneven, unsafe, unsightly, and DISGUSTING. Brick sidewalks, while visually pleasing, if not maintained become uneven and unsafe. Please use concrete in future sidewalk repair.
- With one elementary school, what's the point?
- Sidewalks are absolutely awful throughout the city. This is a key priority in my opinion.

- Most of the schools are located on the south side of High Street, with a dense population of families located on the North side of High Street. Most kids have to cross this very busy street at rush hour each day if they are to walk to school. It is extremely dangerous and discourages parents from allowing their kids to walk or ride bikes to school, even when they live very close. Crossing guards help but are only there for short windows of time. For various reasons, kids often arrive or leave school before or after the crossing guards have already left. It is extremely hazardous to cross high street, even for adults, at busy times of the day (which is most of the day). I would recommend considering the addition of pedestrian crossing traffic lights on High Street at the two main school locations (Bresnahan and High School). This would require two lights and would allow all the children who live on the opposite side of High Street to safely cross at any time of day. I believe it would result in a vastly greater number of children walking and riding bikes to school at all times of the year, which has been shown to improve test scores among other benefits.
- It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to make all of our streets, sidewalks safe. It is a liability for them to be in disrepair.
- Especially needed to Molin/Nock (sidewalks on Hale stop at Industrial park when you head west)
- Cars often speed on Federal Street and ignore children using crosswalks (don't stop). Cars park on either side of a crosswalk creating a dangerous situation for smaller children especially as regards drivers who don't stop for them even when they see them.
- Please do not omit providing safe walking routes to mass transit, to work and to shopping areas as well as to school. Storey Avenue is a perfect example of what happens when you look at only one aspect of safe walking route needs. One cannot even walk through the parking lots safely, let alone cross any roadways in that part of town.
- How about a side walk from Water at Goodwin to connect to Ralfs lane in Newbury
- Accessible sidewalks, bike paths (with signage) and routes to schools.
- More bike lanes! and sidewalks
- IMPROVE the Sidewalks and areas that have none - Pine Hill Road - and Spofford street area. SO Dangerous to walk/run right now.
- Sidewalk along Hale Street
- Fix the sidewalks!
- Repair brick sidewalks on State Street south of High Street. The repairs could use existing bricks with an improved base. These improvements will enhance the "gateway" to downtown and encourage more foot traffic. The specific area extends from IS to High Street on one side...and from the municipal parking lot on the other side.
- NO MORE BIKE LANES
- Fix the sidewalks, not just the ones to the schools.
- Brick sidewalks in historic neighborhoods! More crosswalks on busy streets, including High and Merrimac.
- The city is NOT pedestrian friendly. Drivers do not generally stop for pedestrians to cross at cross walks. Need better markings of cross walks, enforcement of laws by police, and public education. I think this is very important.

QUESTION 13

Any additional comments to share

- Where feasible, replace paved parking with pervious surface, e.g. geoblock lawn especially in areas less utilized (such as Cushing Park). Provide public transit options to access unique facilities, e.g. Plum Island, Audubon / Parker River, Maudslay, Moseley, Nbpt Forest, Little River.
- Make better use of open space at Moseley entrance.
- The Bartlett Mall deserves so much more attention for paved sidewalks -- a few more picnic tables -- trash barrels emptied -- snow shoveled
- Better town fields - needed for children/adult recreation - creates a safe, lighted atmosphere for outdoor activity, encourages physical activity and recreation.
- An outdoor town pool - would provide a new source of income for the city while creating a good summer-based activity for families, local summer jobs for teens, and place to teach kids how to swim.
- Bike trail - This has been such an asset to the town and gets used so widely. Would be great to expand this and have it run much farther than it does today. Where it ends currently at the train station is a bit inconvenient - if don't drive there, there are no sidewalks even in that general area to ride your bike or walk to. It's a bit unsafe (e.g. vs having trail expansion through the south end back to town)
- Water views - again, this brings so much to the town as this is what tourists principally focus on (incl. trails/beaches/downtown area). Great and important for residents too - the space we do have currently is so appreciated but could really use more.
- Relocate the sewage treatment plant - taking up so much key waterfront space and is such an eye/nose sore. Ditto for N-star.
- Coming from Australia we have many wonderful parks that cater for Adults-teens with a running track and obstacles/ exercise equipment. I really feel as we don't have enough to do in the summer here. The season is short because of the green heads and parking issues at the beach. A community outdoor pool is essential. If we took in to account the amount of people who belong to country clubs in town it is huge and we have nothing close.
- Thanks for the good survey and the mention in the newspaper from Bob Uhlig. Thanks for all that the Parks Commission and Parks Coordinator do to support the enormous variety of parks and recreational facilities in this city.
- It would be great to have some offerings for children and adults at the Newburyport beach part of Plum Island - most importantly, we should be able to buy a parking sticker for that parking lot so we aren't charged each time we go there (or better yet, our parking permit for the downtown lots should work there). We should expand picnic areas and boating opportunities along the river and ocean. A city pool would be awesome, and could be funded through user fees - we had a town pool in Hamilton where I grew up, and it was a wonderful resource. Kids could take swimming lessons and participate in swim team. Generally, we need to fix our disgusting sidewalks and make it safe for kids to walk to school. Existing sidewalks are horrible, and replacement efforts are not good - Prospect St is an example where it's a hodge-podge that they just did last summer. Concrete or brick should be standard. Thanks for asking!
- sell bricks with family names on it for donations (to be placed in walkways in parks, etc)
- sell trees with family names on it for donation money give big tax breaks to any large plot landowners that will give/sell cheaply their land to the city for park/recreational purposes
- Thank you for asking the previous questions

- Thanks for doing this. I really care about preserving land in the common pasture and working with the Essex Co. Greenbelt people to see it happen. As I do not have children here, I am not sure how well the needs of children are being met. I think getting them more out in nature and out of competitive sports is an area that every community needs to work on.
- sidewalks and bike lanes for safe commuting and A PUBLIC POOL!
- I think this is a great city to live in and raise a family in. There are so many wonderful natural assets to enjoy while living here, I am a grateful citizen. I love the waterfront in particular and the barrier island beach and all our surrounding marshes. Improvements to parks would include better parking areas (with a tree or two for shade, please) and more attractive access to the city and its gems; the parks, the water, and the trails. This might include things like traffic control, as well as practical matters like proper drainage, sprinkler systems, more safe walking trails, etc. I like the fact that the Mayor seeks to improve the entrance to NBPT from 95. What we need to do is keep the precious things we already have; historic architecture, access to the river and ocean, public spaces. Spend our money well from the ground up, not just beautify with pretty plants, but provide the long term structure for good things to develop upon, using the right people and equipment to do the right job. It may mean we get less done than we can immediately see, but it will mean we can spend our tax money in trust for continued access to attractively and intelligently preserved public areas. Thank you for your survey.
- Activity Center Indoor/Outdoor pools a must for this community. Consider building a senior center next to the Indoor/Outdoor Activity center as is done in Germany. Rather than isolate the elderly and rather than place an activity center that requires a car, consider encouraging good health for families that can walk to the Activity Center and the elderly that can be surrounded by activities- because it is situated near or off walking trail. It's a win win.
- It would be nice to see existing parks maintained. We use Perkins Park and it has damaged equipment that has never been repaired in the 4 years I have had children. Also, there is little/no sand in the sand box. Benches and picnic tables are very important. As a mother of small children, gates that actually stayed closed around all of our city parks would provide a safer environment. It would be wonderful to have a playground in the downtown that is larger than Inn St. More swings are always nice. My comments may be unrealistic but as a mother with small children the cities parks are my lifeline. If I can walk there, we go. Being able to get by without driving is part of the reason we moved to Newburyport. It would be really nice if there was some access to the water other than the overcrowded public boat ramp. Also, a safe bike lane out to Plum Island.
- I think the city should support bicycling for recreation, commuting, and running errands, by creating clear and safe bike lanes and trails and installing bike racks where commuters or shoppers could use them.
- I think Newburyport is doing a great job with recreation and parks. I think the project that I am most eager to see move forward and be completed is the second phase of the rail trail. I think this will be of great benefit to the city as a whole and will help to transform the city and increase visitors as well as improve navigation of the city by walking and biking. Second, I think our sidewalks need to be fixed throughout the city. I know there are currently initiatives doing this, and I support these. I think this will also make our city more walkable and more navigable using methods other than cars. I also think a couple of the parks like Joppa Park are getting a little run down and could use updating or just more upkeep. Joppa Park has such a great view and is used by many for bird watching, walking dogs, launching Kayaks/boats next to it at the boat launch, but the grass is in bad shape and I think the whole park could be improved with some inexpensive touches. I read recently that this is already being considered, and I would support this.

- Overall, the City is doing a fantastic job moving forward on many initiatives around Newburyport. My husband and I have been a resident for nearly 11 years and since our oldest started public school 4 years ago, I've seen great improvements for recreational and after-school opportunities for children. I'm still surprised that the after-school program through the Y has a waiting list?!? And I'm also surprised the NYS (which offers amazing programs - the new brochure is fantastic) still does not offer extended care for working families that need it. Again, everyone is doing a super job but there is still room for improvement. I'm so proud to live here!
- Focus on 'activation' especially in winter. Focus on informal community building via bocce, large scale chess sets, ring toss spots, mazes and labyrinths, invite yoga and tai chi teachers to use parks for their classes to give people something to look at and kibitz. Fix the tower at Atkinson to use as a viewing platform.
- Please make walking/riding to school a better experience for those in West End.
- City Pool 2) SAFE access to PI
- We have enough infrastructure. Enhance and maintain. If it's in your charter add historic signage to downtown.
- Amphitheater Inn Street Make Rail trail a loop."
- fix sidewalks, add outdoor swimming pool!
- We would love to see Newburyport implement a youth based wrestling program, particularly for middle and high school students.
- Build a viewing platform at the pond at Perkins Playground.....a wildlife hidden gem for all ages to enjoy. I know this isn't a new or radical statement but Newburyport is an unusual place ...it is a PLACE with a sense of place....a phenomena which is becoming more rare in our contemporary worlds....with access to amazing natural resources and a cultural history gems to be preserved, nurtured for our own well being, for generations to come.... and of course this is a marketable asset which can support our sustainability....Thank you for whatever you (reader) may dofor caring about our PLACE.....
- We need better fields for youth sports. It is an embarrassment to bring other towns in to play lacrosse or football at the Nock fields. They are poorly maintained with no bleachers and filthy restrooms. There should be a higher standard for Newburyport. There is much land off Hale street that should be converted to additional fields with proper drainage, perhaps lighting and bleachers.
- As to the Joppa Park area and its update. Be sure that there are open pathways along the way from the sidewalk to the water. Also when planting the rose bushes measure how wide they grown, set them back so they will not block the sidewalk - BE sure they are cut back and maintained. Usually these are planted and left and become overgrown and ugly. More community groups helping with areas of the rail trail. The areas now open are getting a lot of community support from those in the area. See if this can be done all along the rail trail. A few picnic tables at Joppa would also be nice to enjoy. It is a very busy area for walkers, birders, fishers and boaters. More parking in the area needs to be available, but where? Best wishes on the projects.
- BIKE PATHS PLEASE!!!!
- Please get access from the west end to the schools so that kids can be outdoors and walk or ride their bikes to other parts of town.
- The West End is disconnected from the rest of Nbpt. Hale Street should be widened or sidewalked to allow safer access for pedestrians, runners, bikers etc. My kids are 13 and 16, old enough to bike anywhere in the city. They have many friends in the West End that I will not allow them to bike to. They need rides. Parents in the West End feel the same about allowing their kids to bike into Nbpt as well.

- Also, the area of Storey, Low and 95 is treacherous for bikers, runners etc. I don't know the answer but again a disconnect for residents in the West End.
- Sidewalk maintenance is, above anything else, more important to me. If we can walk to the neighborhood park safely, then it seems a little ridiculous to put the money into the parks themselves. I often wonder how our older communities are able to simply walk down the street without have a fear of tripping due to the uneven or broken down sidewalks.
 - Opportunities for daily social interactions are key to sustaining a sense of community. Our shared community spaces should be seen as high priorities.
 - The off-leash hours at Cashman seem to be a permit for dog owners to allow their dogs on the soccer field and not clean up after the dogs. Off-leash hours should be revisited with community input.
 - We need to make our teens feel heard and important. It feels like all the talk is about grammar school age and down or about elderly. I work with elderly people, I enjoy them. But frankly, I don't really think they would use a facility as much as some think. Either they have built in activities where they live or are wealthy enough to do what they want. I am concerned about the teen population. My son is a good kid and has managed so far to stay out of trouble, but from what I hear from many parents and their teens, there are bad unhealthy choices being made, alarmingly so. Drugs, alcohol, sex, apathy, depression seems to be taking over in the High School. It's frightening. Not all kids like organized sports, or artsy stuff. They need help finding safe healthy choices so they can stay out of trouble. They need to feel valued, heard. The program at the old Kelly School is great and a step in the right direction, but it doesn't suit older kids or run on weekends. Thanks for the chance to have a say.
 - The Rail Trail is one of the things I enjoy most about living in Newburyport.
 - more water access/ water recreation options, affordable kayaking, boating, tours
 - We have a beautiful location, with many amazing natural features. Although we have a great park on the waterfront, I feel the waterfront (and water) are underutilized. This is definitely an area that could use more programs/parks/water activities. Whether it's to teach residents more about the amazing environmental wonders, or just to provide fun programs in a great setting, I feel the waterfront should be better utilized. The parks at Maudsley and Moseley, along with some in the city are fantastic, let's work on the waterfront.
 - I think we need to make this a place that everyone would want to live. We have everything here, but we need to give it a great uplift and add those other little details to make our city great.
 - Repairing sidewalks/streets should be a priority
 - Enjoy living here and think much has been done and consider myself fortunate to be a resident of Newburyport, Ma Keep what we have and maybe add few enhancements but not to burden the tax payers.
 - An enclosed dog park would be a huge benefit in such a pet friendly place. Though we have plenty of trails where dogs can go off leash, not all dogs are capable of being let off leash, and as a result, their exercise and play is limited. Also, more afterschool program/activities would be a huge benefit. Right now, the only option is the Y and they're full, leaving parents with VERY FEW after school options.
 - Community pool would be great. Living where we do it is especially important to learn to be strong swimmers. Y is not affordable or accessible to nonmembers. Please keep up the good work on the bike trails!!

- I do not feel safe biking on High street with children, Is there a way that bike route would go on less busy roads?
- I am hoping based on the tax bill that I pay (\$10,000+) per year can attain these goals. Increasing taxes is not a solution but a problem in trying to provide for everyone.
- Keeping the waterfront park available to all is a true gift that makes Newburyport exceptional.
- I want to see the current and any future open space along Hale and School st. preserved and protected
- Please figure out a way to stop people from letting their dogs use Ayers Playground as their personal litter box.
- Do not raise taxes Review city employees - roles, responsibilities and salaries to insure they are cost effective Eliminate unnecessary positions and associated costs
- Clipper City Rail trail is a great success - it should be expanded / connected to downtown areas 2. Off-leash program has been a great success - should consider expanding to other areas 3. Downtown waterfront should have parks and open spaces expanded (not be used for parking)
- Great to have area for food trucks to have presence in Newburyport for special events
- we walk every day... we feel that special interest groups, bicycling and off leash dog groups are taking over a lot of the public areas and eating up funds that could be better used for keeping parks in better condition for the enjoyment of everyone....especially walkers, runners, children
- I THINK THE RESIDENTS OF THE TURKEY HILL AREA REALLY NEED A SAFE ROUTE TO GET TO SCHOOL AND TOWN. Many residents would agree with me too. I THINK A BIKE PATH FROM TURKEYHILL DOWN HALE STREET WOULD BE A GREAT IDEA. Then kids and adults could bike safely into town or to school. We have so many children in this area and all 4 schools are so close to this area- Bres., Nock/Molin, Hightschool and the Charter. As well as the whole downtown. This would get more kids exercising and more cars off the road. As of today Hale street is much to dangerous for children to bike on, it is just to narrow to share the road with cars or the fast moving Newburyport school buses.
- Keep moving forward with helping NBPT by bike and pedestrian friendly. Should be more environmental - How about a ban of plastic bags?
- This community tends to have an prevailing negative attitude in general...please be observant of side conversations and lack of honesty in all conversations...we can't move forward without integrity of our whole community when being asked to come together and vote. This was an excellent survey
- Please publicize any plans for the extra land at the Cherry Hill site now that there are no longer plans to build a school there. Either build more playing fields there (to replace those slated to be lost at Bresnahan) or sell it and use the funds for community recreational needs!!
- A LARGE FENCED-IN leash-free area for dogs to run free is DESPARATELY NEEDED. This should be TOP PRIORITY. It's disgusting that dogs are walked on school grounds and the waste is left there for children to walk through, or worse. I HATE that dogs are allowed free at times at parks where children are playing. I also HATE all the dog dung left by irresponsible owners - it makes all the fine upstanding responsible Newburyport dog owners look bad. Not to mention the unsafe conditions for smaller dogs and all people. There needs to be better control over this growing problem. SHAME ON CITY GOVERNMENT to allow this public health hazard. Instead of protecting our

- city and citizens, they allow more freedom to dogs so that more droppings are left, more children are scared, and it is unsafe simply going for a walk or bike ride in our town. HORRIBLE!!!
- Increase need for children with disability, As a mother with a child in a wheelchair there is only one swing in the city that he can use. there needs to be a all disability playground in order for wheelchairs can go up the ramps and play like all of the typical kids.
 - #10. How well is Newburyport serving the recreational needs of the following age groups? I scored all the age categories highly because of the incredible wealth of natural resources and opportunities that are located in and around Newburyport. It is important that children, teens and adults learn to ""unplug"" and experience nature. Guided learning and organized recreation are springboards that can help us better interact physically with our environment, but the incredible ease of accessing the wealth of recreational resources and opportunities in and around the city constantly reminds me of what a beautiful area I live in.
 - we need a swimming pool...both an outdoor pool and an indoor pool. The ywca pool is expensive and not easily accessible to many residents. We resent their push to renovate their facility/build a new pool by soliciting money from the community and then making it too expensive for residents to use. Currently we travel to Ipswich to use their Y pool. Love, love, love the bike trail and would like to see it expand.
 - Repair and maintain sidewalks better. Maintain adequate street lighting! Do a better job of street sweeping. For heaven's sake, CLEAN UP AND MAINTAIN THE CLEANLINESS OF INN STREET MALL, STATE STREET, AND FRONT OF LIBRARY. The garbage and trash that abound in these areas is unconscionable! I can't believe the Mayor lets this go on and on.
 - Newburyport is fortunate to have an abundance of existing open space, parks, and recreational areas. Let's not be too ambitious in expanding upon what we have already, and focus on maintenance instead.
 - Parks have looked so much more cared for over the last few years, shrub pruning, weeding etc. Someone is doing a good job.
 - Very much appreciate the new dog waste bin at the bottom of the High St 'on ramp' to the Rail Trail. Need one at the Park St end. Much less dog waste around at all parks, but nasty little bags of dog waste still are to be seen left on the ground here and there. Need a pedestrian crossing on High St at that Rail Trail entrance. Thank you for the dog waste bags and whoever keeps them loaded.
 - As with any community, there are things that can be improved upon, but generally speaking I love Newburyport and love living here!
 - Open space and land preservation is more important than commercial development. I do support the work to develop the dirt waterfront lots into community oriented usable space.
 - love the area of Cashman park and the rail trail. more benches would be nice along the rail trail for elderly folks that need to rest occasionally...and at Cashman park, I think there's only one bench to sit and look @ the Merrimac. otherwise, the waterfront, the rail trail, cashman park, atkinson common and maudslay are part of the reason I love living here.
 - Rather than focus solely on open space, we should balance that need with the need for affordable housing.
 - The city's school grounds and outdoor courts serve the population very well - however, I feel they should be off-limits after hours. I live next to the Bresnahan, and in the summer the basketball court has been consistently used as a late night "party venue" for some very destructive youngsters. I am hoping that the new Model School will be better protected from vandalism.

- I would like to make Newburyport a safer walking and biking community. I also would like to see some local public transportation. Perhaps some of the traffic congestion on High Street could be lowered by a regularly scheduled shuttle bus to major shopping area near 95.
- Our family loves the natural, architectural, and historical features of our town. It is a wonderfully walkable town, and the parks are an important part of daily life, even if we just drive past them on the way to work and can use them only on the weekends. Thank you for all you have done to improve the parks by adding benches, play structures, walkways and trees.
- I feel lucky to live in Newburyport because there are so many parks and playgrounds and there is lots of natural beauty and history. I don't think we need to add any parks but focus on improving what we already have. In particular, the playgrounds at Cushing, Perkins, and Bartlett Mall need maintenance. Many (but not all) of the playground structures are in OK shape but railroad ties are disintegrating, landscaping is shabby, blacktop areas are cracked and rutted. The city does a good job of trash pick up and lawn mowing at these playgrounds but that seems to be the extent of the playground maintenance. We need the city to do annual visual inspections for safety and take action to fix what is damaged and make improvements when possible. These playgrounds show signs of neglect. We hardly ever use the beach at the northern tip of Plum Island. That is one ugly parking lot. And there is usually too much trash left behind by fisherman. Our family prefers to go to the beach within the Parker River Wildlife Refuge because it is cleaner and you can buy an annual parking pass instead of getting charged each time you go. Because my kids are early elementary school age, we use the playgrounds at Brown and Bresnahan regularly. The Brown School playground most definitely seems neglected. I suppose this is because the city is waiting to see what happens with the new school building project. The Bresnahan has a nice playground structure but the landscaping around the playground is awful, just scattered woodchips and mud. The most beautiful parks are Atkinson, Moseley and Hale but I believe these all have groups of private citizens who care for and maintain these parks. We are all fortunate for that. I'm not sure it is possible for every park/playground to have its own citizen-group. I think the city needs to take on more responsibility for playground maintenance and stop the pattern of neglect. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- Please look into the Inn Street/Montessori School use issue - I have spoken to many parents who are annoyed and alarmed (as their children are knocked down by Montessori kids running around) by how they use the playground. When we speak to the teachers, they don't apologize or make any efforts to change the situation. Also, some sort of playground or park in Area 4 would be so wonderful. The Rail Trail is such an amazing addition to our town, please continue upkeep, informing the public how to help with clean-ups. How about community gardens along the rail trail, down near the train station where the sun is good?
- Newburyport is a beautiful place to live!
- Maintain existing parks and recreational areas. We have enough rail trails. I people can't walk on an unimproved path they should stay on the sidewalk.
- I am not a senior citizen, but I think their needs are not being met. I never see seniors on the street (treacherous sidewalks, anyone?) or out and about in Newburyport. The only time I see them is sitting in front of the Sullivan building, doing nothing.
- Private land (and private land value) shouldn't be affected by any changes to public land.

- In all our city is wonderful however I feel that in the summer, trash takes over. Finding a better way to take care of trash during the tourist months would be beneficial. Also adding more recycling options and trash cans throughout the city including parks, trails etc would improve a lot as well.
- The next open space the city acquires must have recreational capacity. There has been way too much emphasis on buying conservation land with restrictions.
- We need town pools!!
- This city should not cost over 1 million \$ a week to run... There is NO ONE looking out for the seniors and people on fixed income, and we will be forced out with the new spending proposed for the building of a New School. I think that is what the city wants.
- I love Newburyport and what already exists here and admire those who have helped establish and maintain the facilities and appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey
- Cleaning up the Newburyport Beach and allowing off-leash dog walking during certain times would be ideal.
- I would like to see the city encourage the youth and the adults to volunteer their time to do what is needed to do to make our city beautiful, safe and a wonderful place to visit and to live. We can do this by rolling up our sleeves, grabbing a shovel, a trash bag, and getting down and getting the job done! picking up trash in a park, planting trees, cutting grass, helping out in anyway possible because one has pride in where they live. Nobody else is going to do this and no one is going to hand the city any money because there just "ain't" any. So, if we can somehow come up with a program to encourage community service I think the job will get done!
- open space is very important
- We need a community center (not just an elder center) with large indoor spaces for exercise, games, basketball and perhaps a community pool. We need organized youth (8-18) programs daily for our kids to engage in year round.
- Yoga and/or Taichi free classes in parks and beaches. Massage sessions for a fee on public spaces
- Keeping our city beautiful, clean and well maintained, with less infill, more bike and walking space, I hate all the development on Storey Ave. I hate that we have 4 dunkin donuts. There is very poor planning going on in this city. Let's not turn into rte 1 saugus!
- Hire a certified arborist to oversee a skilled work crew to care for Newburyport's trees.
- I think the idea of a bmx riding hill is easy to implement and would be great for young and older kids (Reading has one). Also, maintaining the parks is key. An outdoor swimming pool would be great!
- more interpretative panels about historical significance in the difference parks where appropriate 2. the opinion of some residents is that we have "enough" open space. All open space areas serve a particular interest group and population - eliminate any number of open areas and the City is saying that it is not important. This (enough open space) is also one rationale to build on the downtown waterfront. We have only one boardwalk and one waterfront. Not several. Cashman Park is similar but not the same. People do not come to the boardwalk to birdwatch, play tennis, hike trails, ride bikes, etc. The waterfront serves a particular interest group and fulfills certain needs that all the other open spaces can not.
- Make the Waterfront Open Space!

- Recreation and outdoor activities are very important to Newburyport but think private interepises such as PI Kayak, Fuel, etc do a good job. The city needs to make it a priority for the city but not necessary to run them. Need more walking trails and naturalists to explain natural areas.
- I think part of Cushing Parking Lot should be made into an field for informal use. Its current use as a parking lot is a waste of space.
- We have plenty of facilities, but many are starting to fall to the wayside. Improve what we have - the foundation is there. Make park facilities safe and clean. Revamp old playground equipment!
- Sorry to keep beating this drum, but improving access through public transportation options is the single most important action, from my perspective. Two years ago we helped fund a trolley, but that did not last. No assessment was made to understand why or how it could have been made more viable.
- Please please please organize a community garden in Newburyport! Our backyards are so small (here in the South End), and we have so many frustrated gardeners. Driving back and forth to Amesbury wastes gas! And if Amesbury can have one... why can't we? An outdoor public swimming pool would be lovely - the Y is too \$\$\$! Newburyport residents should NOT have to pay to park at the Newburyport public beach!
- I wish we could provide more incentive for people to pick up after their dogs. I am amazed and disgusted by all of the dog poop in this city. I'm particularly saddened to that people don't pick up after their dogs at playgrounds.
- I would like to see a safe area for dogs to go swimming without interfering with pedestrians maybe space behind sewer treatment oo,r improve west end of cashman ., Also wantt beach access for dogs some hours per day even if beefore and after lifeguards. Off leash si they can swim
- Need to provide for the upkeep and upgrade of our current parks and facilities Would be nice to have more tennis courts and other neighborhood athletic facilities
- I think Newburyport does a very good job and the more the city continues to involve citizens of all ages, the better it will do. This is a first class city. Thank you in City Hall for all your great work.
- Please create 2nd rail trail!
- Thank you for letting me share my opinions. They were quite pent up. I'm well read on the subject of how more and safer walkable and bike-able routes to school, mass transit, shopping and work, and more accessibility to a variety of recreation and education for all ages, and more and connected green spaces increase community livability, attracts young people and successful entrepreneurs, attracts retirees and their expendable income, reduces carbon emissions, making a community more sustainable, all works together to jump start economic growth. We could use more people in municipal positions who understand the new reality behind real and sustainable economic growth. The information cause and effects are very well documented. On another note, the high speed, four-lane section of Route One from the traffic circle to Railroad Avenue is a relic of 1930s highway planning that creates an enormous fissure in the city, cutting off one part of town from the other. Think about it. It should be redesigned as a low-speed, one-lane each way, parkway with a center median strip of green with trees (maintained by business and organization sponsors much like Interstates are), with bikes lanes going in both directions. That change will reduce noise, impermeable pavement, be more visually pleasing, permitting further development of a transit-oriented area, and create much much easier crossings up and down this section of road and be more

- consistent with the historic neighborhoods this section of Route One borders on it's north east side. There is absolutely no need to drive 45 miles an hour, passing each other at even higher speeds, through the center of Newburyport. This road way is a highway relic.
- In my opinion we should take care of and improve upon the sites we have. It only takes a drive around the city to see that we can't keep up with the sites we have now. With the staggering amount of wealth in the city seek out donations or benefactors for these programs. The use of grant funding is a great idea, but what grants are out there for projects such as these? The survey did not mention a specific grant/s.
 - We need to have more bike/walking trails and safe ways for people to walk downtown from the Turkey Hill, Hale Street end of town. We also need more street lighting in the Frances Drive part of town.
 - If people would look around this lovely city which can be walked from one end to the other easily. there are more places to play relax picnic, be social than most anywhere. Just a walk up High St. is a history lesson in itself. We are so privileged here, yet we are always seeking to do more more more (not needed) at extreme cost. Also the bike lanes on High street were, have been, and still are ridiculous. Lower taxes, enjoy what we have and stop complaining.
 - Most programs are very focused on youth ages 5-13. Would like to see other ages addressed.
 - Whats happening with Simmons beach seems to be a neglected Weed farm and an obsolete bus stop shelter.
 - Would like yearly parking pass, at least for area residents, for Plum Island.
 - I think it's shameful that this city holds the needs of dogs and their owners higher than the needs of its disabled residents.
 - The City truly needs to provide a safe way for kids on the West End to walk/bike to school. Hale Street is not safe... we've been told by many that it isn't possible to widen that street and do bike lanes. So... what are the other options? With the restructure of the city's schools, kids should be able to participate in Walking Wednesdays and Bike To School days & safely be able to take advantage of healthy programs. Also, if there was some way to add a path or trail through the Industrial Park (so kids can ride bikes to the Rail Trail without having to worry about cars)..that would be fantastic. When you build the new school...please please please don't forget that we need more field space.
 - We are very proud to live in Newburyport. Our parks and recreational areas enable a strong sense of community and continued investment is a necessity. It is important for our children and adults of all ages to have an active, healthy lifestyle, which Newburyport promotes. Thank you for calling attention to this important need.
 - I would like to stress the need for community gardens, ie allotments for gardening together. I have one crazy idea that shared worked in a community could become free food opportunities for our city's poor and homeless providing a safe place for various income levels to work together on a shared purpose.
 - Please provide more hours and places for off leash dog area.
 - The city has a good base to work from but they need to maintain what they have. It cost much more money to build something new rather than maintain what you have. With the Bresnahan school fields in question the city needs to find more field space ASAP. The best way to keep young kids off the streets and out of trouble is to keep them in sports, without fields - no sports. Sports also keeps kids healthy and helped with weight management.

- Invest in a multisport facility in the industrial park. Support the proposal to build a new soccer field at the Cherry Hill site. Get the stadium done, it is embarrassing!! Turf it and knock down the condemned side, it is ridiculous it is not done yet!
- Solicit volunteers to address the issues of highest importance with oversight by a city staff person. Solicit financial donations to fund highest priority improvements/solutions.
- Newburyport is very accommodating and has many great parks and programs. I would like to maintain these parks/programs as well as the existing infrastructure. Thanks for a great job.
- We have a great diversity of recreational opportunities in Newburyport. The City is doing a great job managing these resources; especially fond of the off-leash dog program at Mosely and Cashman parks
- Get tough on litter with aggressively enforced laws and fines. Mosley Woods seems like the most under utilized space - there is so much that can be done with the back woods there especially after the rout 95 trail and new bridge are in!
- Permit paying food and drink vendors at areas could not only help in funding needs, attract more participation of residents and visitors at these areas, as well as possible seasonal employment of youth.
- We have an amazing city that is "cut up" into zones. It would be amazing to connect the zones so all ages could walk, run, or bike to enjoy the entire city. Some areas area already prepared while others need help. We should be able to bike/walk/run from Maudsley to Plum Island without concern of dangerous traffic. Today I know of no reasonable route. I see we have made improvements and hope to see them continue.
- Make Newburyport a bike friendly and a bike safe city -- which it is not at this point -- by (a) separating bike and vehicle traffic where possible, (b) devising east-west routes through town that avoid High Street, (c) maintaining bike lanes, (d) initiating an ongoing driver-education program to make drivers more aware of and respectful of bicyclists, (e) asking business owners to provide bicycle racks (e.g., CVS on Pond Street), and (f) encouraging residents to bike rather than drive when possible (the more bikes on the road, the safer it is for biking).
- We have a dog and are very appreciative of city efforts to improve the quality of their, and our, lives. So many of us use the Plum Island beaches in off-season: Is there any way to designate a small area of beach for the same kind of limited hours off-leash during the warm months? That would be a bonus. I also think having a community swimming pool would be a wonderful thing for young and old in our city.
- I'd like to see better management of the Newburyport Skate Park. It is a popular and successful park that is often overlooked and under managed. Its also one of the only youth employment opportunities offered by the city.
- Finish South End Rail Trail. No need to make it as fancy as the existing rail trail. Rather have it done in my lifetime than fancy on paper.
- Multi-sport field complex off Hale Street or Low Street (Colby Farm)
- Business sponsorships for specific projects could be promoted much as sponsorships for ball-field scoreboards are. Recognition for sponsorships could be done via plaques for business offices, four annual full-page newspaper and social media statements of appreciation, 1% or more lower property tax bills to business sponsors of say, \$50,000 or more annual project donations (provided the donations are more than the 1%+ reduction in taxes) and small signs noting sponsorship of a site (like a cemetery, plantings at intersections or gardens).

- The biggest issue for the parks and open space is the dedication of funds to maintain them.
- Please fix the sidewalks, and provide spaces for dogs to go off leash. Allow the dogs off leash on the beach. During beach season, offer limited hours for off leash. There should be a compromise.
- The city needs some aesthetic and visitor experience updates. Love preserving the history, but most important it needs to be functional and have an identity to matches that of the majority of its residents and visitors. Sustainability and aesthetics need to mingle in a more modern and updated way through landscaping, lighting, architecture, interiors and this will naturally create more of a community feel. We need to soften the look and feel - there is so much concrete and brick, bring more natural elements in.
- Getting too many people involved in too many things just adds to the time frame of collecting opinions and sorting them out. Have someone represent or have job of taking calls, emails, etc. that gather all of this. Don't mind meetings, but haven't a final plan been accepted for the waterfront or at least parking lots?! Don't mind this survey either.....attending evening mtgs. are difficult when I don't get Daily News till 5pm! Someone in charge of city e-newsletter is a great idea! Keep stores that reflect upon our cities history, culture and ideals (ie. Fowle's, previous maritime store).
- Protect the rest of the Common Pasture and lands near Maudslay!

Appendix 8: Focus Group / Stakeholder Discussion Summary

Parks and Recreation Stakeholder / User Groups

Focus Group Discussions and Interviews

April 2012

Two focus group discussions were held with representatives from most of the following organizations. These occurred on March 15 and March 20. Interviews were conducted in March and April with representatives from any groups that were unable to participate in the focus group discussions.

Interviews were also conducted with regional conservation organizations, state and federal park agencies, and land trusts. A separate summary of those will be prepared.

Stakeholder Groups

Atkinson Common Commission	Newburyport Boys Basketball Association
Bartlet Mall Commission	Newburyport Elementary School
Bellville Improvement Society	Newburyport Garden Club
Cape Ann Youth Basketball	Newburyport High School
Coastal Trails Coalition	Newburyport Youth Football League
Essex National Heritage Commission	Newburyport Youth Hockey League
Off Leash Dog Group Volunteers	Newburyport Youth Lacross League
Friends of Atwood Park	Newburyport Youth Services
Friends of Newburyport Skate Park	Newburyport Youth Soccer League
Frog Pond Skating Club	Pioneer League Baseball/Softball
Greater Newburyport YWCA	Salisbury Flag Football League
Moseley Woods Commission	Newburyport Adult Softball

What are the most pressing needs / challenges faced by your organization as related to the parks / recreation areas that you use or manage?

Maintenance

- Capital projects are great (a dedicated project manager ensures this), follow up and maintenance not so great
- Graffiti – how to address this, what is the city policy?
- Bartlet Mall general wear and tear
- Cashman overused, beatup, grass in poor condition
- Atwood – limited support from DPW for general maint.
- Maintenance is a real concern – once you create a “gem” there needs to be a long-term plan for maintenance
- There may be hesitancy on part of funders to give for parks if not confident they will be maintained

- Nock field – hills and poor drainage limit use of full potential
- Fuller Field – drainage is a real problem
- Tennis courts – poorly maintained
- Bartlet Mall fountain not operating
- Trash should be emptied more often and more consistently

Facility Needs

- Football fields are the “worst on the North Shore”
 - Fields in general are used for multiple sports, have poor maintenance, overuse, un-safe, and no grass
- Growing demand for field space
 - Sports are becoming multi-season
 - New user groups are emerging
- Identify an outdoor classroom site (City Forest would work if cleaned up)
- Provide boating access for instructional use (Merrimack too difficult), perhaps the Artichoke?
- Need BMX bike course
- Skate Park
 - some problems with management as it is on school property (need to go through School Committee for approvals of policies or improvements)
 - need to expand skate park or add new facility (e.g. for a “street course”)
- Off-leash dogs
 - Hoping to expand hours and locations
 - Looking for place to let dogs swim off-leash (e.g. Plum Island beach)
 - Some concerns about wear and tear (and mowing) of grass in the designated locations
- Lack of shade at parks for programs (e.g. seasonal structures)
- Potential loss of 90 foot diamond at Bresnahan School will add to demand on existing fields
- Shortage of indoor gym space
- Leagues are unable to serve all the youth who are seeking services due to lack of field space
- Fees for services are relatively high due to the leagues need to acquire field space from others (e.g. Amesbury Sports Park)
- There are not enough indoor basketball courts to meet the growing demand
- Restroom facilities are needed at fields

Users / Access

- Pedestrian / bike conflicts on the rail trail – need clearer rules of use and/or create walk and bike lanes

Staff / Management Structure

- Limited staff devoted to parks (mang’t and maint.)

- Point of contact for DPW is through Lise Reid, there is no direct way to log maintenance issues / needs
- Lack of staff
 - School has no dedicated field maintenance staff, relies on limited contract work
- Youth services lack equipment for certain programs
- Parks Commission has no plan for prioritization of use of field space (school prioritizes schools then non-school programs)
- School field / gym scheduling is not centralized (NHS, NMS handled together and Bresnahan is separate)
- Bartlet Mall permitting – problems with wear and tear after certain activities
- City's dependence on volunteers is a problem
- Fields should be under a central controller (Parks and Recreation Department)
- It is unclear how funds paid into the City are used for field and facility improvements – those who pay should have input into improvements
- It is unclear how fees are assessed
- There is not clear and consistent structure for scheduling fields from one season to the next
- City relies on the public to care for its fields, inconsistent and inadequate
- It is difficult to sustain volunteer enthusiasm and capacity
- City's needs a streamlined process for coordinating with volunteers and identify volunteer needs
- Leagues should have input on fee setting structure; should be transparent and evenly applied

Funding

- All organizations (and school) are tapping / accessing the same limited sources of funding
- Lack of funding
 - Not adequate
 - Too much dependence on fundraising
 - Sources are drying up

Can you identify some strategies / solutions that would help address these challenges / needs? Think about ways to improve or change park organization, staffing, and funding. Consider new policies or initiatives.

Planning / Scheduling

- Develop a city-wide prioritized schedule of park improvements
- Establish a schedule of regular park maintenance (e.g. trash pick-up, mowing, etc)
- Create a long-term facilities / fields maintenance plan
- Need a master (centralized) schedule for all fields

Staffing and Management Structure

- Adopt-a-Spot
 - organize volunteer maintenance and improvement projects
 - provide ability for sponsor organizations to advertise (needs to be small, non-intrusive, and standardized)
 - Provide detailed guide on maintenance requirements for all properties (to provide consistency when upkeep is done by volunteers or non-city staff)
- Create a new Volunteer Coordinator position for the city parks – to manage volunteers and/or fundraising activities
- Provide on-line list of volunteer opportunities
- Models of volunteer efforts
 - Consider Salisbury Rail Trail as a potential volunteer model to consider
 - City of Lynn, contracts with volunteers to manage park areas
- Provide training for city staff / volunteers on maintenance practices
- Reward / recognize volunteers
- Reorganize parks commission / individual parks oversight
 - have individual parks commissions report to Parks Commission (rather than to the City Council)
- Review City policies on park use
 - Consider revising / standardizing the fee structure
 - Involve stakeholder/user groups in developing a fair and open fee structure; share with all users
- Implement a city on-line reporting process to process citizen requests / inquiries and direct to the appropriate department
- Increase opportunities for coordination / dialogue between stakeholder / user groups to address shared challenges
- Institute program to engage youth in regular on-going community work in support of parks
- Look to Maudslay volunteer program as a model?

Funding

- Park improvement fundraising campaigns
 - community-wide outreach
 - consider asking for funding for specific park elements or for general maintenance
 - consider “donor bricks” – individuals are represented for their contributions (e.g. the YWCA pool)
- Allow private sponsorship (with ability to advertise with signs) – not consistent for all of the sports fields
- Expand adult / young adult programs as a revenue generator
- Allocate City funding for parks and recreation facilities and programs

- Explore ability to provide property tax rebate for seniors on fixed income to provide volunteer services – tie to Park needs
- Plan programs / events to generate revenue
 - Reinstigate the “Uncommon Dance” as a community builder and annual fund raiser
- Organizations would be willing to contribute funds to maintenance and capital improvements if the City had a Master Plan that it adhered to

Facility Maintenance / Improvements

- Plan regular park clean-up event for ongoing maintenance
- Don't expand waterfront to add more park space – City needs to take care of what it already has first
- Bradley Fuller field hours – remove restrictions on no organized sports on Sundays
- Consider options for sharing space in other communities
- Add lighting to expand hours of use at Cashman Park, Cherry Hill, and Bradley Fuller
- Explore use of Moseley Woods field at entrance
- Re-design Nock and Bres fields, with improvements these could be more efficiently used
- Increase water access for boaters to Artichoke River
- Explore options for expanding park space / fields in the Industrial Park (e.g. used to be a softball field on Malcom Hoyt Dr)
- Are there some existing protected open spaces that could also be used for sports fields?
- Convert HS stadium field to turf to allow for multi-use and reduce wear and tear on other fields
 - Potential for revenue from renting the field out to other communities, private rec groups
 - Potential for revenue from concessions
- Consider designs for park improvements that have low maintenance requirements

Considering what's been suggested /discussed, what would be your first three priorities for the City to start implementing?

- Increase funding to adequately maintain City facilities
- Invest in artificial turf fields to improve conditions, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce overall number of fields required to meet needs
- Create a centralized Parks and Recreation Department with responsibility for all fields and facilities
- Develop a Fee and Scheduling structure that is clear and fair

Appendix 9: Chapter 61 Conversion Steps

Chapter 61/61A/61B lands

If land classified under Chapter 61, 61A or 61B is sold for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, the community has the right of first refusal due to the legal interest in the property that grants the community the right to match a bona fide offer for conversion of the property from its forest, agricultural, or recreational use.

Six basic steps define exercising a Chapter 61 conversion option:

1. *Notification from Landowner.* A landowner who has property classified under one of the Chapter 61 laws must notify the community that all or a portion of the land is being withdrawn from this classification for development purposes. Subsequent to the notification, the city has 120 days to exercise the right of first refusal. Municipal counsel should review the offer to make sure that it is a bona fide offer. In addition, officials should not waive the right to an option without notifying the Open Space Committee and other boards and committees and initiating the evaluation process.
2. *Information Gathering.* As soon as the notice of intent is received from the landowner, a project coordinator (preferably the Open Space Committee) should oversee the review of the proposal. Background information about the landowner, abutters and the perspective buyer should already have been gathered by the Open Space Committee. Each of these parties may be able to provide valuable insight to the property or possibly assist in protecting the conservation value of the site.
3. *Municipal Board Coordination.* It is critical to coordinate activities of appropriate municipal boards involved in the decision making. Once again, the Open Space Committee can assist in facilitating this process. An important part of coordination is a public meeting to identify municipal support concerning the property.
4. *Conservation Planning & Project Funding.* The Open Space Committee / project manager should contact land trust partners to assist in formulating realistic project plans for the property. The project plans may include purchase of the entire property for conservation by a State or federal agency; purchase of the property by a conservation organization; limited development; community purchase; or a combination of any of the above.
5. *Option Acceptance or Assignment.* If the community decides to purchase the property, it must notify the seller of its intent and comply with the terms of the purchase and sale agreement within the 120 day option period. If a community is considering granting its option to a non-profit conservation organization, prompt cooperation is needed to develop a plan for the property. A public hearing is required with a 48-hour public notice period.
6. *Purchase.* Once the option has been assigned, the assignee must fulfill the terms of the original purchase and sale according to the schedule identified in that document.

Appendix 10: Low Maintenance Park Guidelines

MAINTAINABLE PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

Maintainable Park Design Guidelines have been developed to reduce ongoing maintenance requirements and improve water conservation for new park, open space and bikeway development projects. The Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to developing parks that are both maintainable and enjoyable to the community. The proposed guidelines are a revised approach to the design of City parkland. The Department anticipates ongoing savings in maintenance and utilities with the implementation of these guidelines.

The following are the goals of the Maintainable Park Design Guidelines:

- Design parks, open space and bikeways that are more efficient to maintain and include landscaping that requires less water;
- Design turf areas that can be easily maintained and have reduced mowing times;
- Reduce high maintenance and water demanding turf in non-recreational areas;
- Expand the City's Urban Forest;
- Provide increased opportunities for citizens to enjoy and bond with nature while not having to leave the city;
- Plant trees where they will increase the enjoyment of the park while not increasing maintenance requirements;
- Plant trees, shrubs and groundcover that are low maintenance and require less water;
- Standardize park furniture and play equipment that is durable, reduces needed repair and is less costly to maintain;
- Install standard irrigation equipment that is durable, and design irrigation systems that are more efficient and easier to maintain;
- Install computerized, centrally - controlled irrigation systems in all new parks that improves the efficiency of irrigation systems, reduces water usage and costs, alerts maintenance personnel of system malfunctions and weather patterns, automatically operates the irrigation system as programmed, and shuts down the system automatically as needed.

Maintainable Park Design Guidelines

City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation Park Planning, Design and Development

The following Maintainable Park Guidelines shall be used when designing all new park, bikeway and open space development projects, and shall also be used where possible and appropriate in renovation projects to reduce maintenance requirements and to improve water conservation. Also, see the Park Design Guidelines for additional park design requirements. These Maintainable Park Design Guidelines shall be shared with the public during the master plan process, to inform the public of our commitment to maintainable park design and water conservation.

Design:

- 0 Provide a ten-foot (10') wide concrete walkway through the park to all major use areas including the picnic area, playground, sport fields and sport courts for use by park maintenance and service vehicles. Provide a driveway cut at the entrance and exit of the walkway and a turn around if required to maneuver. All curves within this route shall contain curves no smaller than a ten feet (10') radius.
- 0 Concrete mowstrips nine inches (9") wide shall be placed between planter areas or decomposed granite and turf, and along the base of fences (each side) in turf areas.
- 0 Concrete mowstrips twelve inches (12") wide shall be constructed along all vertical elements such as light posts and utility equipment.
- 0 Concrete walkway or decomposed granite path shall be use as the separator between a turf area and a native grass area. If this is not practical then a recycled plastic header may be used to define the turf area from the native grass areas.
- 0 Recycled plastic header shall be used instead of redwood header in all applications (header board, baseball backstops, overthrow fences base boards, etc.)
- 0 Decomposed granite shall be installed in all separated sidewalk areas or narrow planting strips less than 10= wide.
- 0 Decomposed granite paving areas should be graded a 2% min., and large decomposed granite areas shall have an area drain.
- 0 Tables and benches shall be eight feet (8') wide. Tables, benches and trash receptacles shall be made of plastic coated metal in all new projects. Do not specify wood site furniture, except to match existing.
- 0 Trash receptacles shall be placed near all seating areas, picnic areas, play areas, sports fields and all other high use areas or at rest areas along bikeways and major walkways.
- 0 Play equipment shall be selected from the following three Parks approved play equipment companies: Landscape Structure, Little Tike and Miracle. Equipment deviations may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 0 At playgrounds, trees shall be planted in planters, tree wells, mulch area or decomposed granite paving immediately to the south and west side of a playground in sufficient quantity to shade 50% of the playground and sand area when the trees grow to full maturity.
- 0 Rubber mats shall be installed under all swings and tire swings.
- 0 Restrooms shall be designed with the following: automatic battery-operated door locks, stainless steel doors and fixtures, adequate ventilations, masonry walls, sheet steel roof, and sealed concrete floor with area drain.
- 0 Dog Parks shall be designed with the following: a large concrete area at the entry and drinking fountain area; a drinking fountain with jug filler and drain; a large decomposed granite paving area in addition to turf area; no turf mounds; a 6= high fence enclosing the dog park; a fenced entry vestibule; and a Parks standard dog waste bag dispenser with signage.

Landscaping:

- 0 New community or regional parks shall have 20% of site in low maintenance naturalized areas with either 4" layer of mulch, non-irrigated native grass, and/or decomposed granite paving areas planted with native tree groves wherever possible and appropriate. Design deviations may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 0 New neighborhood parks shall include a low maintenance naturalized area where possible and appropriate.
- 0 Naturalized areas shall be designed to include passive recreation such as: picnicking, nature trails with interpretive signage, bikeways, rest areas, horseshoe courts or similar activities.
- 0 Existing parks shall be redesigned to reduce or eliminate non-recreational turf areas outside of active sports fields or picnic areas in parks and replaced with non-irrigated native grasses, 4" layer of mulch, decomposed granite paving, or low-maintenance groundcover to limit mowing and irrigation.
- 0 Parkways, open-space and bikeways should be designed with the majority of the site in non-irrigated native grasses and trees, or mulch and trees and limited planter areas at entry points. Turf shall be limited to no more than 10% of site and planted to enhance active-use gathering areas, picnic areas, or to providing a recreational turf area. Design deviations may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 0 Natural landscape features are desirable in park designs, which include tree grooves, natural plantings, water features, dry streambeds, rock features, and earthforms to enhance the natural character of the site.
- 0 Plant material (trees, shrubs and groundcover) shall be low maintenance, drought-tolerant or native species.
- 0 Turf areas shall be graded no steeper than 5:1, as it cannot be easily mowed.
- 0 Turf types shall be selected that require less mowing and water.
- 0 Trees planted in turf areas shall be a minimum of twenty-foot (20') apart, or between trees and other vertical site improvements.
- 0 Trees planted in turf areas next to the street shall be set back fifteen feet (15=) from the front of the curb face.
- 0 Trees planted in native grass area, mulch, decomposed granite or planters shall be planted a minimum of twelve-foot (12') apart.
- 0 Trees planted in naturalized areas shall be drought-tolerant or native tree species only.
- 0 Trees with excessive fruit, branch or litter drop such as: Purple-leaf plum, Liquidambar, and Chinese Elm shall be avoided in parks.
- 0 Planter areas shall be limited to park entry points, focal points, gathering areas, and to screen irrigation equipment.
- 0 Planter areas shall be planted with low maintenance, dwarf, naturally compact, and hardy perennials, shrubs and low-growing groundcover that require no routine pruning or dead heading. Shrubs planted next to property line fences shall not grow over six feet (6=) high and shrubs planted elsewhere in the park shall not grow over four feet (4=) high.
- 0 Plants and trees shall be planted in mass groupings of similar plant types.

Irrigation:

- 0 Booster Pump System shall be installed in all parks as needed and shall meet the Park Standard Specifications.
- 0 Rainmaster Central Control System shall be installed in all parks as needed and shall meet the Park Standard Specifications.
- 0 Moisture sensors and flow sensors shall be used in all park projects.

- 0 Rotary sprinkler heads shall have a stainless steel riser.
- 0 Irrigation main lines or irrigation valves shall not be placed in sport fields or future paved areas.
- 0 Irrigation equipment and utility boxes shall be installed in a planter area, and shall be screened with plant material.
- 0 Irrigation valves shall be designed per function (i.e.: soccer field turf isolated separately from picnic area turf).
- 0 Trees planted in native grass areas, mulch, tree wells or decomposed granite paving shall be irrigated by a two-bubbler systems.
- 0 Comply with the City Water Conservation Ordinance.
- 0 Provide a complete watering schedule, outlining water needs per valve by month for a twelve-month period. Watering schedule shall be included on the project construction plans.

Appendix 11: Boston Parks Department Volunteer Program

BOSTON
PARKS &
RECREATION
...you...

Park Partnership
Opportunities



The Boston Parks & Recreation Department has a long history of working with Park Partners to enhance the City's open spaces. Individuals, companies and institutions have provided volunteer assistance, landscape services, and programming throughout the city. With an increasingly tight budget, we continue to look for your help!

Facts

The Boston Parks & Recreation Department oversees 2,200 acres of park land including over 215 parks and playgrounds, 65 squares and traffic islands, urban woodlands and street trees, three active cemeteries, 16 historic burial grounds and two golf courses.

We also provide a wide range of programming which includes community events, live entertainment, and arts throughout our parks.





Mission Statement

The Park Partners Program is a community-based initiative that strengthens, supports and helps to create neighborhood park groups while bringing these groups together to facilitate shared learning and form a unified constituency with common goals and deliverable outcomes.

Get Involved Today!

The Park Partners Program can help you get involved in the following ways:



Find or create a Friends Group to help maintain and improve your local park.



Coordinate volunteer activities in our parks with friends and family - we can provide tools and trash bags.



Sign up your office, school or organization for a clean-up project in a local neighborhood park.



Organize a special event or program in a park for the whole community to enjoy.



Donate a memorial tree or bench to help beautify the parks.



Sponsor a neighborhood park or planter in your community.



Donate to the Fund for Parks and Recreation.



Or any other suggestions, we love new ideas!



Join a Friends group or start your own to help care for your neighborhood park. Parks come in all shapes and sizes from traditional playgrounds and green spaces to urban wilds and traffic islands.

WE CAN HELP YOU GET STARTED

Clean up a park with your friends, family, classmates or work colleagues.

WE HAVE THE TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

Coordinate a special event or program in a park.

WE CAN HELP YOU PLAN IT

For more information call the Boston Parks & Recreation Department
at (617)-635-4505 ext. 3015 or email:
[*parkpartners@cityofboston.gov*](mailto:parkpartners@cityofboston.gov)



Appendix 12: MIT Climate Change Exercise Summary

Memorandum

To: Andy Port, Director of Planning and Development, City of Newburyport
Juliet Walker, President, Brown Walker Planners, Inc.

From: Dr. Lawrence Susskind, Melissa Higbee and Jenna Kay, MIT Science
Impact Collaborative

Re: Summary of Climate Change Event Findings

Date: February 29, 2012

On October 13, 2011, the City of Newburyport and the MIT Science Impact Collaborative hosted an event on adapting to climate change risks. At this event, 18 community leaders, activists and students participated in a multi-stakeholder negotiation exercise, or “game,” about increased flooding risks in a hypothetical town. Each participant was assigned a role as the representative of a stakeholder group, such as the town planner or a member of the residents’ association. While playing this role, the participants had one-hour to make a decision about how to handle a proposed mixed-use development project located in the town’s flood plain. The activity was followed by a brief discussion about how the exercise might inform how best to handle similar issues in Newburyport.

This memo provides findings from data collected using surveys conducted directly before-and-after the event, as well as interviews conducted several weeks after the event. This memo also includes charts that show the specific answers that participants provided to survey questions about climate change risk before and after playing the game.

Learning about Decision-Making Processes

When asked what they learned from the exercise, most participants explained that rather than gaining specific knowledge and facts about climate change impacts, they primarily learned about collaborative decision-making processes. This is likely due to the fact that many of the participants were already quite knowledgeable about climate change impacts. In terms of learning about decision-making, some participants mentioned that the exercise gave them additional practice and tools for having difficult conversations about climate change. One participant liked experiencing the process of people with divergent interests coming together as they sought consensus. Several participants learned how financial issues could be the most difficult obstacles to reaching agreement. For others, the opportunity to play a role very different from their usual one provided a learning experience.

Current Climate Change Action in Newburyport

The Science Impact Collaborative found that interviewees were aware of significant efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation) and enhance urban sustainability underway in Newburyport, such as efforts to encourage energy efficiency, urban farming, renewable energy, and recycling. Interviewees were proud that Newburyport is ahead of the curve in all these respects.

Most people did not know of any work going on regarding climate adaptation, or efforts to respond to climate change risks. As the City moves forward with any adaptation planning efforts, we recommend that it try to seek the same kind of public visibility that the City's mitigation work has had. Newburyport residents take pride in being trendsetters in the region.

Interviewees mentioned a number of local groups that are active on climate change issues, however there is no group completely devoted to climate adaptation. Many people mentioned Transition Newburyport, the Clean Tech Center at the industrial park, and the ecology club at the High School. Newburyport is fortunate to have such a rich constellation of community groups and should take advantage of this by bringing them into any future adaptation planning efforts.

Next Steps for Newburyport

Several interviewees mentioned Plum Island as one of the most immediate areas of concern regarding the impacts of climate change. They would like to see a planning effort for how to relocate people and protect sensitive habitat.

Interviewees also mentioned the need to incorporate adaptation planning into the city's Master Plan. Other comprehensive planning efforts that people mentioned were hazard mitigation, emergency plans, and coordinating with nearby communities. In essence, people want adaptation to be tied to other planning activities. Non-event participants we interviewed were particularly concerned about the need for risk assessment.

People were also concerned about the siting of buildings near the river or ocean. Several participants liked the collaborative approach used in the simulation as a way to develop projects sited in areas that are prone to flooding. They noted that the City must be careful to strike the balance between having the right people at the table and not having so many people involved that it becomes too difficult to reach informed agreements.

Lastly, interviewees mentioned the importance of enhanced education and communication efforts. They would like to see the City take a pro-active stance with regard to educating people about the risks of climate change.

Challenges

Interviewees identified two primary obstacles to moving ahead with the efforts outlined above: money and people.

Money as an obstacle: Interviewees recognized that the City cannot pay for everything on its own; rather, it will need state and federal assistance. Furthermore, when placing restrictions on development in risky locations, there are fiscal tradeoffs in the foregone economic development and property taxes.

People as an obstacle: Interviewees felt that some community members, including city officials, are not convinced that climate change risks are serious. Some attributed this view to the impact of conservative media. Another person mentioned that people do not want to take action if it means being inconvenienced. Several mentioned short-term interests being an obstacle to thinking climate change impacts, a long-term issue. Interviewees thought that most people are not going to get involved in reducing climate change risks until they feel the direct effects—until climate change impacts makes it into people's short-term interests and calculations. Lastly, the status-quo approach of people yelling at each other and publishing op-eds in the paper has not been constructive.

Several people mentioned global events, such as the climate negotiations in Durban, and macroeconomic trends, such as the industrialization of China and India, as obstacles to addressing climate change impacts. It seemed that some interviewees did not understand that there are things Newburyport can do to protect itself against climate change risks regardless of these trends. While climate change is indeed a global issue, there is room for protective action at the local level.

While these obstacles may not be surprising, those interviewed identified several low cost and inclusive ways to proceed with climate change efforts despite these challenges.

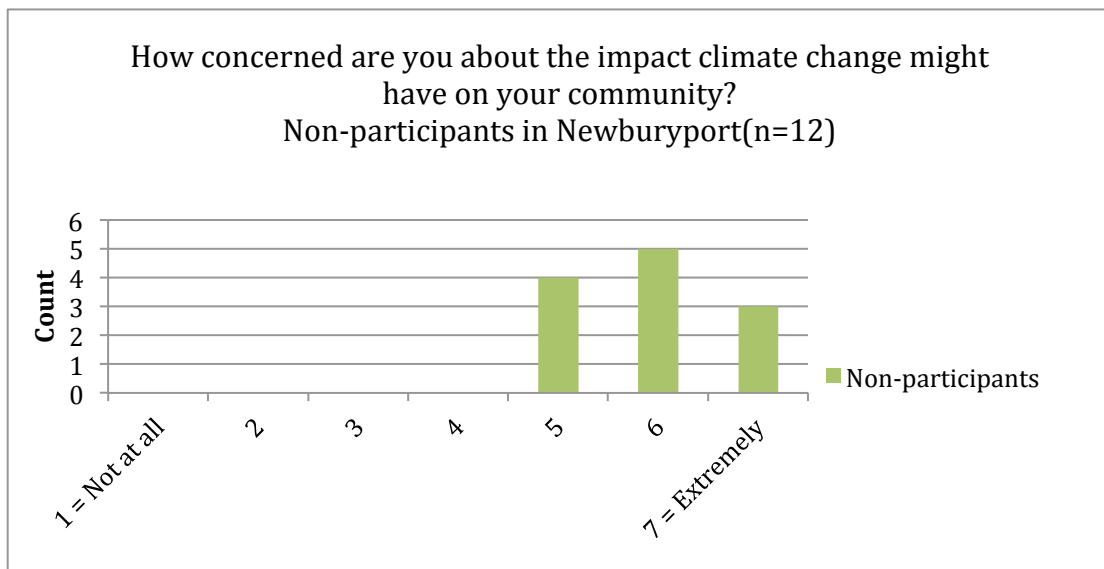
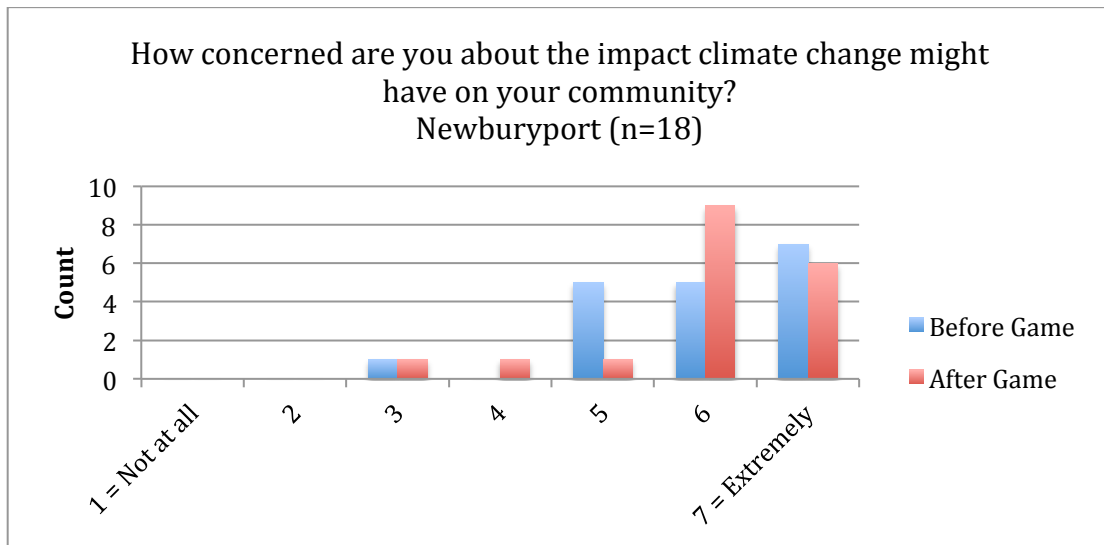
Summary of Recommendations

- Be proactive about the most urgent risks, such as erosion on Plum Island. Make your efforts visible so that residents can get involved and take pride in Newburyport's cutting-edge adaptation planning.
- Use existing planning tools, such as the Master Plan, to integrate climate adaptation into everyday decision-making.
- Try using a consensus building approach on an upcoming project, such as the siting of a new development project. People are ready to try something different and they have seen the value of alternative approaches to problem solving. Collaborative approaches could help expand the range of people involved in the conversation.

Appendix: Analysis of Newburyport Survey Data

Eighteen people participated in a simulated negotiation, or game, event in Newburyport, MA on October 13, 2011. These participants completed both a survey before participating in the game and afterwards. 12 people from Newburyport who did not participate in the game event also completed the survey. This is an analysis of the survey data.

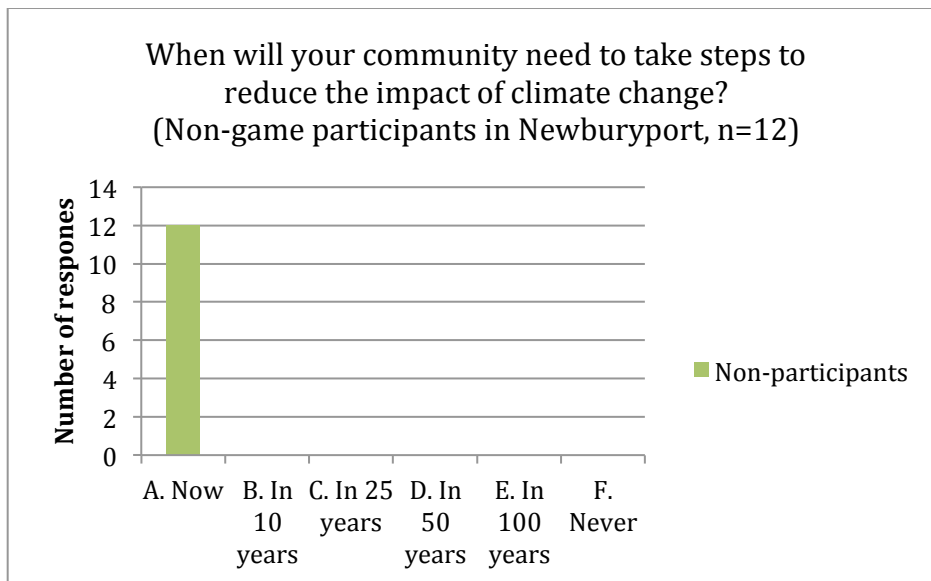
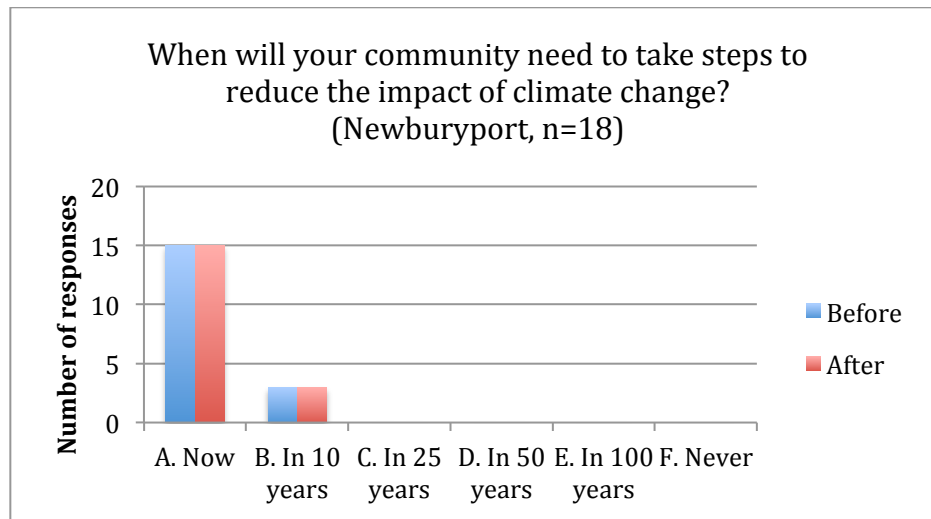
1. How concerned are you about the impact climate change might have on your community?



Overall, both game participants and non-participants were concerned about the impact climate change might have on their community.

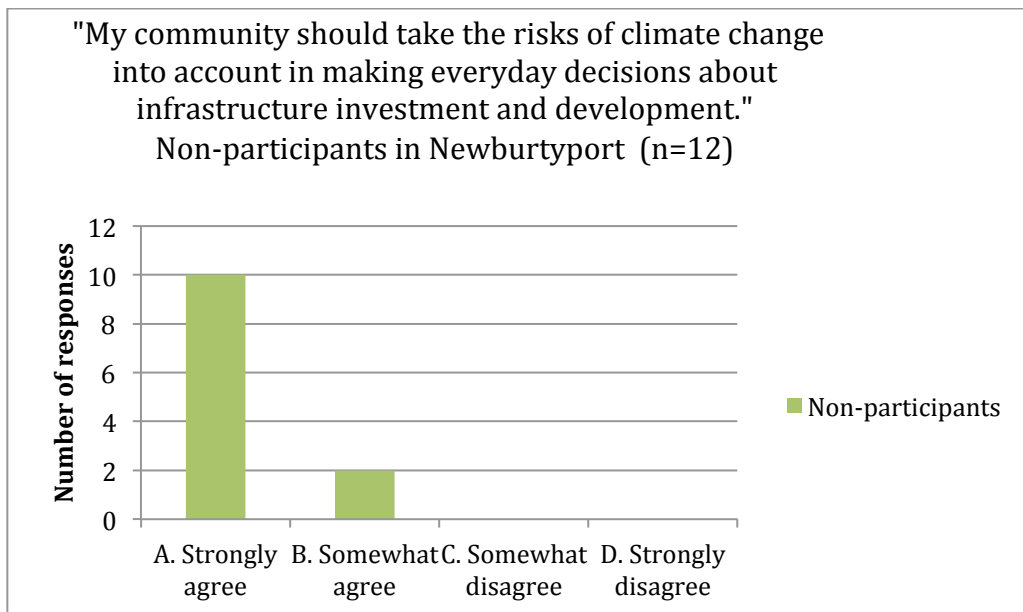
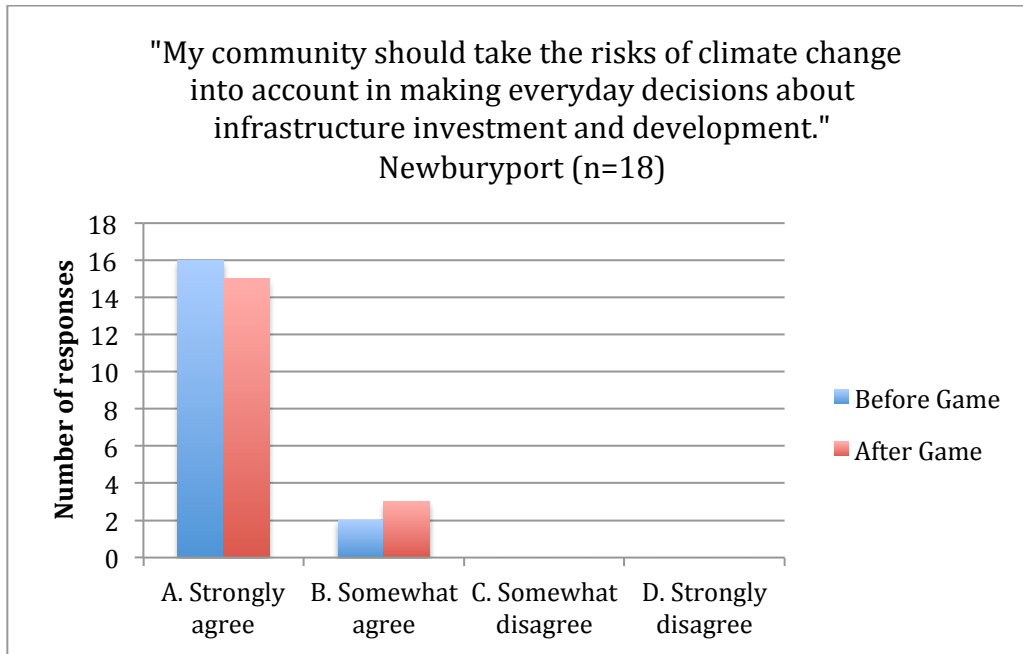
13 out of the 18 game participants gave the same response before and after playing the game. Two people were less concerned about the impact climate change might have on their community after playing the game. Three people were more concerned about the impact climate change might have on their community after playing the game.

2. When will your community need to take steps to reduce the impact of climate change?



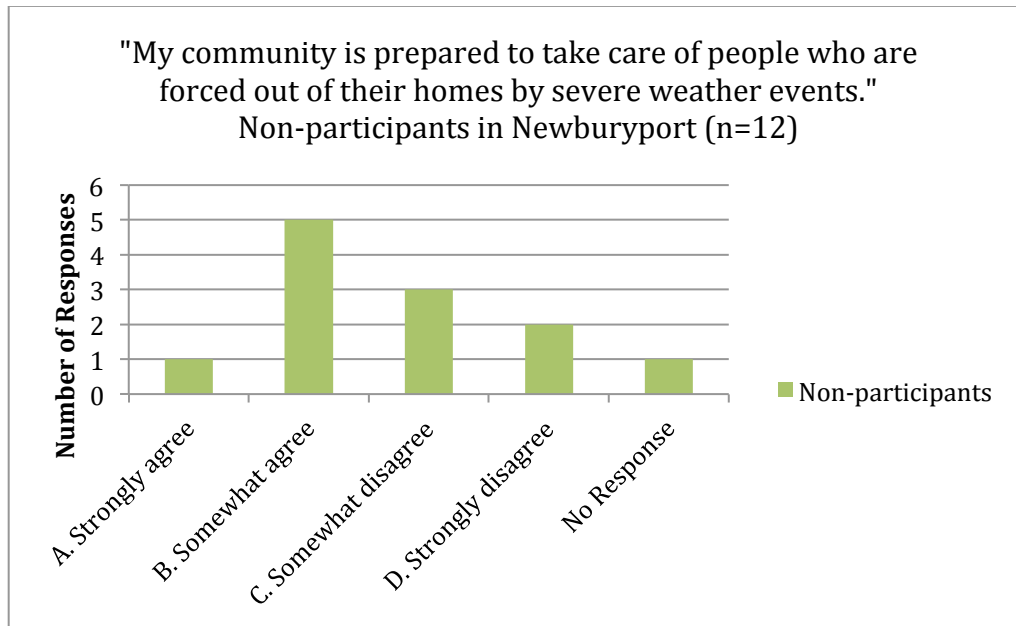
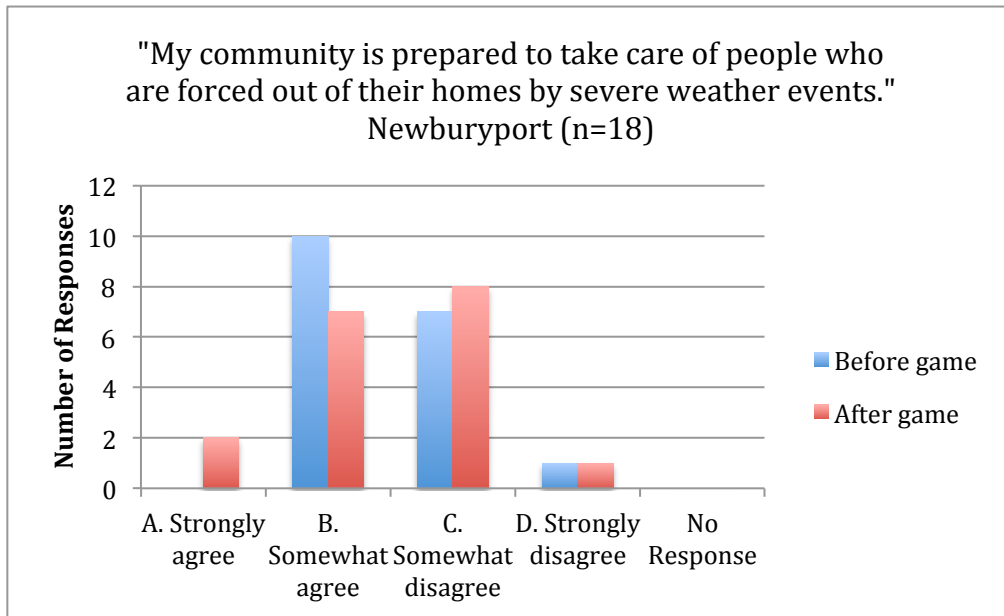
In general, all game participants thought their community needed to take steps to reduce the impact of climate change either now or in 10 years. All non-game participants thought their community needed to take action now. All game participants responded the same way before and after playing the game.

3. "My community should take the risks of climate change into account in making everyday decisions about infrastructure investment and development."



Overall, all game participants and non-participants either strongly agree or somewhat agree with this statement. One game participant strongly agreed with this statement before playing the game and afterwards only somewhat agreed with it.

4. "My community is prepared to take care of people who are forced out of their homes by severe weather events."

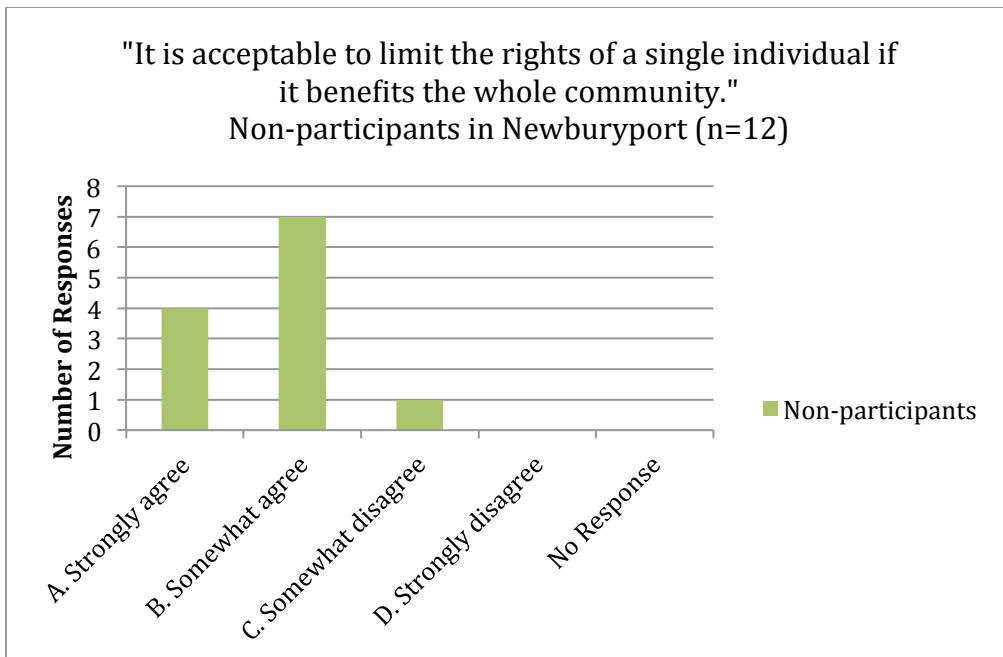
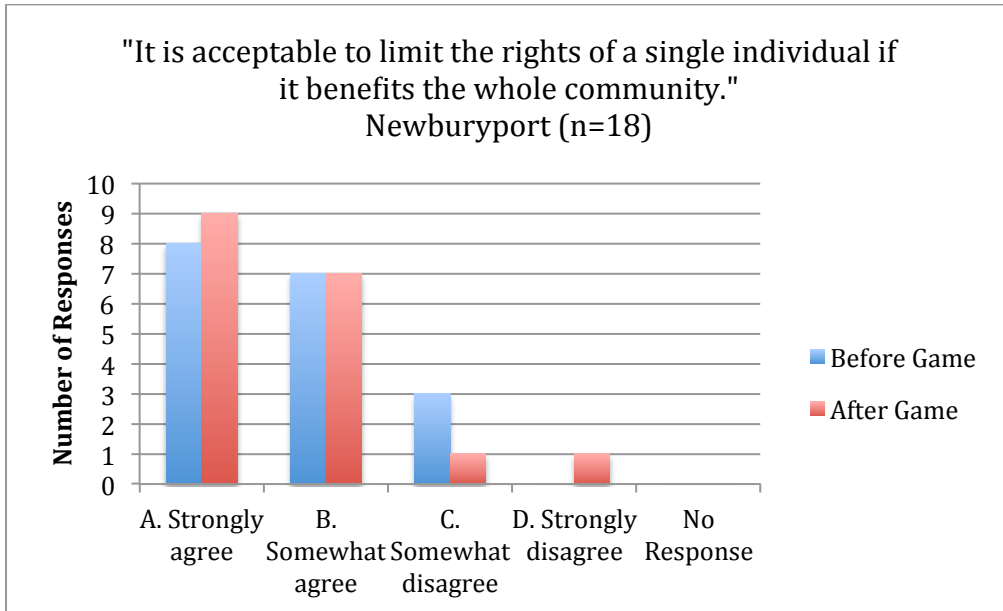


Overall, there was a distribution of responses to this question for both game participants and non-participants with most respondents either somewhat agreeing or somewhat disagreeing with the statement.

9 out of 18 game participants provided the same response before and after playing the game. After playing the game, 5 game participants agreed with the statement more than

they did before playing the game. 4 game participants agreed with the statement less after playing the game.

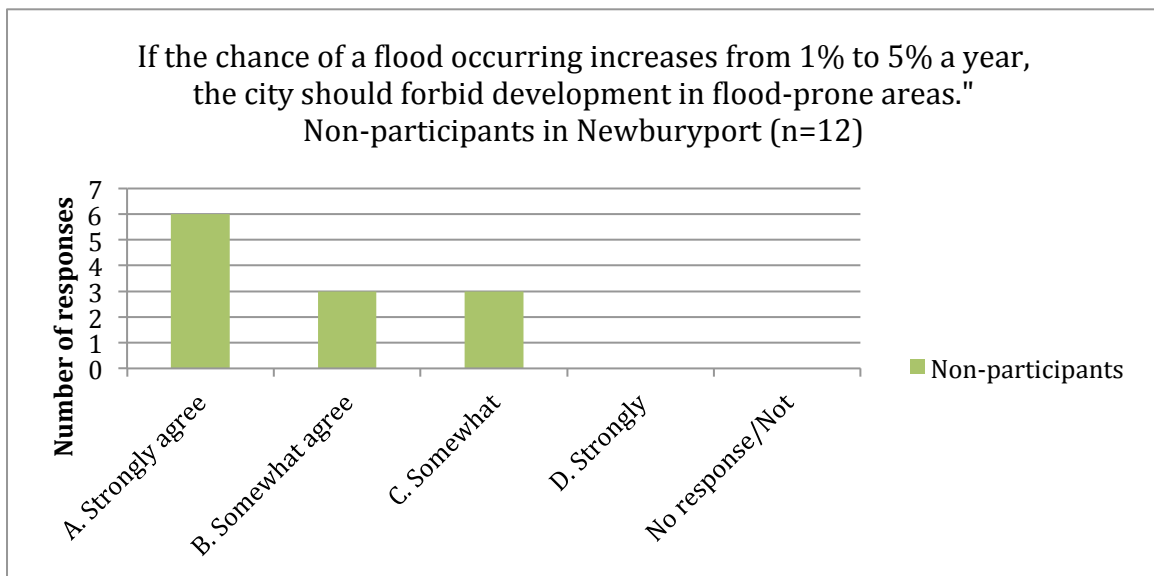
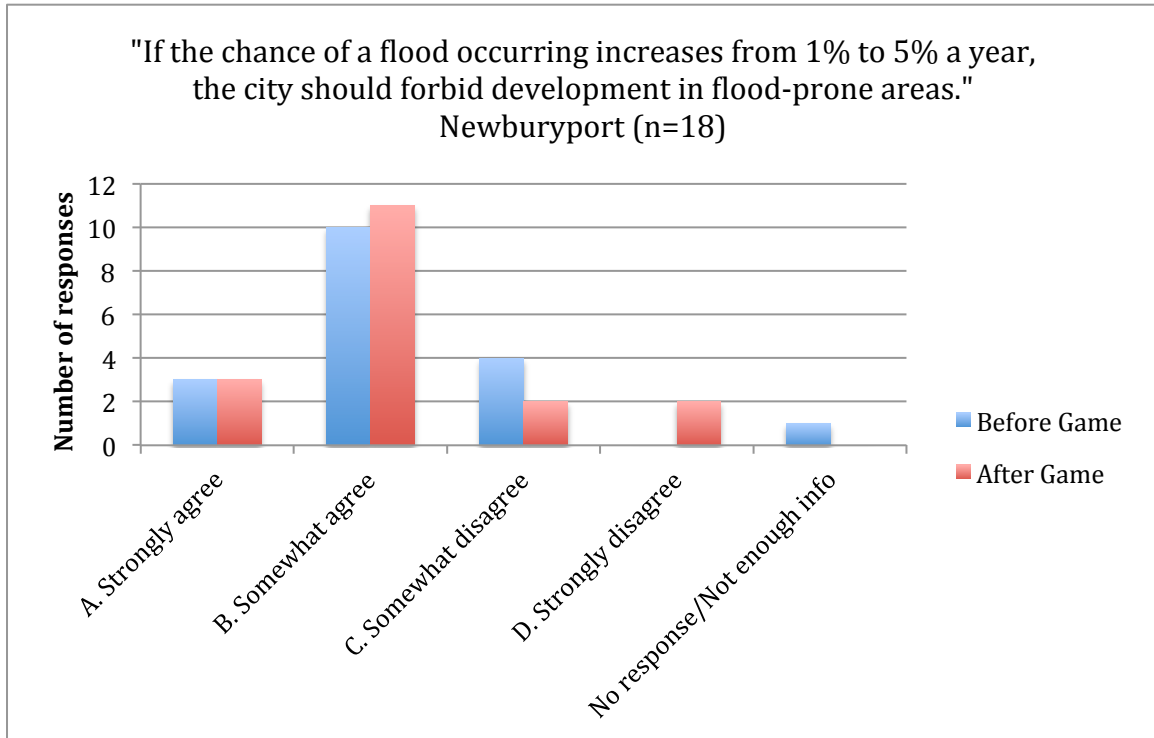
5. "It is acceptable to limit the rights of a single individual if it benefits the whole community."



Overall, most game participants and non-participants either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with this statement.

14 game participants provided the same response before and after playing the game. Two participants were more in agreement with this statement after playing the game. Two participants agreed with the statement less.

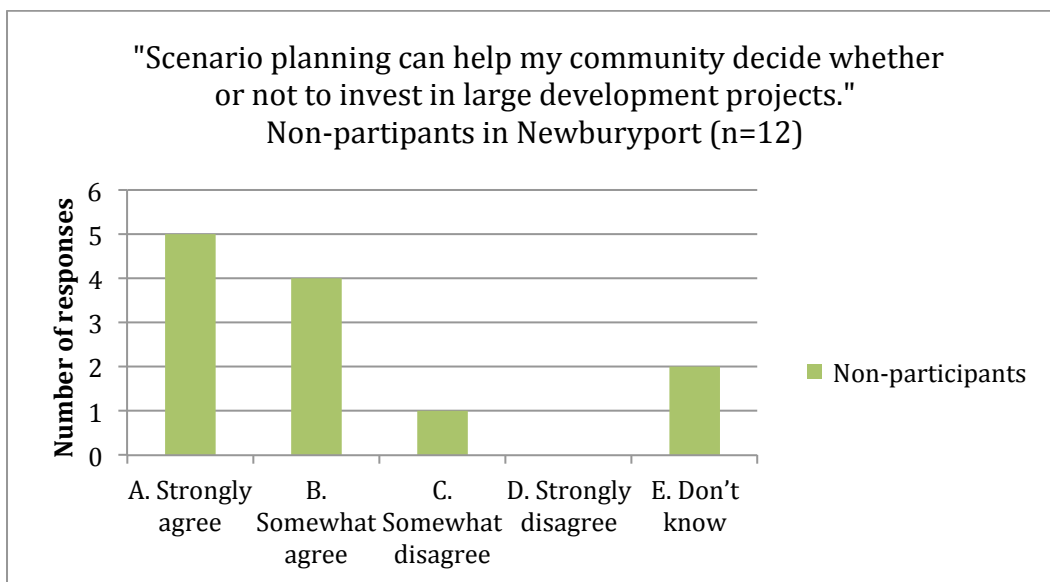
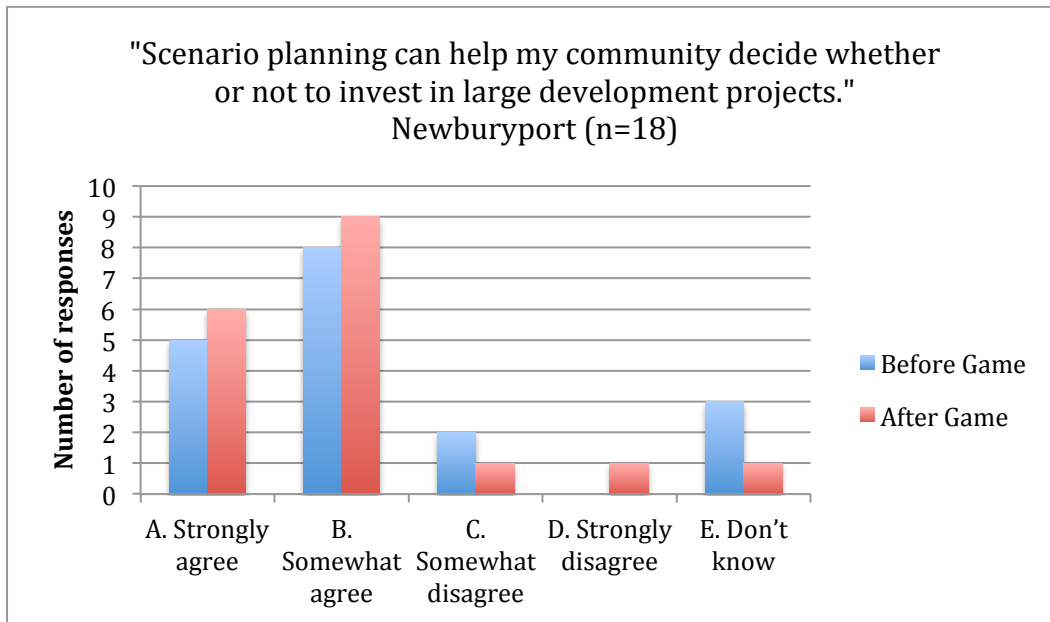
6. "If the chance of a flood occurring increases from 1% to 5% a year, the city should forbid development in flood-prone areas."



Somewhat agree was the most common response for game participants both before and after playing the game. Non-participants mostly strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement.

12 participants provided the same response before and after playing the game. Two participants were in more agreement with the statement after playing the game and three agreed with the statement less.

7. "Scenario planning can help my community decide whether or not to invest in large development projects."



Overall, most participants and non-participants strongly or somewhat agreed with this statement. Two out of 12 non-game participants responded “don’t know” to this question. Three out of 18 game participants responded “don’t know” before playing the game.

Eight game participants provided the same response before and after playing the game. Five participants agreed with the statement more after playing the game. One participant agreed less after playing the game. Two participants who responded “don’t know” before the game were in agreement with the statement after playing the game. One participant who responded “don’t know” before the game, disagreed with the statement after participation in the game. One person who agreed with the statement prior to playing the game responded “don’t know” after playing the game.

Appendix 13: Section 504 Documents

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN



updated July 2011

I. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

Introduction:

On July 26, 1992, President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides comprehensive Civil Rights protection to Individuals with Disabilities in the areas of Employment, State and Local Government Services, Public Accommodations, Public Transportation, and Telecommunications.

The American with Disabilities Act is comprised of five major sections or titles, they are as follows:

TITLE I	Employment
TITLE II	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities in State and Local Governments
TITLE III	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities
TITLE IV	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities in Public Transportation
TITLE V	Telecommunications

Title I, II, and Title III will be addressed in this plan.

Title I: Employment

Private employers, state, and local governments must comply with Title I regulation of the ADA. The ADA calls these "covered entities." Covered employers are those who have 15 or more employees. Employers must reasonably accommodate the disabilities of qualified applicants or employees, including modifying workstation and equipment, unless undue hardship would result.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) Title I regulations require that all municipalities with fifty (50) or more employees adopt and publish grievance procedures. The purpose is to encourage local resolution of complaints concerning employment, services or programs, and activities.

It is important to note that complainants are not required to exhaust the City of Newburyport (the City) procedures before filing a federal complaint or taking court action.

The regulations do not stipulate time frames or procedures for the grievance procedure, but the City believes the following to be fair and expedient.

1. A detailed description of the procedures for submitting a complaint is available to all employees and the public.
2. The grievance procedure is a review process that allows for appeals.
3. The grievance procedure includes reasonable time frames for review and resolution of the complaint.
4. The grievance procedure requires good record keeping for all complaints submitted and documentation of steps taken toward resolution.

It should also be noted that there does exist a grievance mechanism for those who are aggrieved by a public entity's non-compliance with the regulations of the ADA. An aggrieved individual may file a civil lawsuit in Federal Court, or complaints may be made directly to the U.S. Department of Justice. It is not mandatory to file a grievance using the City's Grievance Procedure.

Title II: State and Local Governments

Title II prohibits a public entity from discriminating against or excluding people from programs, services, or activities based on disability. Public entities covered by Title II include state or local

governments, including all departments, agencies, special purpose districts, or other municipalities, as well as certain commuter authorities.

Title II provisions fall into four broad areas: (1) general non-discrimination, (2) equally effective communication, (3) program accessibility, and (4) employment. Equal opportunity must be provided through reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures; effective communication must be ensured through the provision of auxiliary aids and services, programs must be made accessible through non-structural (programmatically) or architectural modifications; and nondiscriminatory employment practices are required, as presented in Title I of the ADA.

Under Title II, physical modifications are necessary only when there is no other way to make the program accessible.

Title II of the ADA applies the Title I regulations to most public entities.

Title III: Nondiscrimination on the basis of Disabilities by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities

Under Title III, all existing privately owned or leased facilities open to the public must make structural changes that are readily achievable, that is easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without significant difficulty or expense.

Definition of a Disability:

The term "Disability" means, with respect to an individual:

- (a) A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such an individual;
- (b) A record of such an impairment or;
- (c) Being regarded as having such impairment.

If an individual meets any one of these three tests, he or she is considered to an individual with a disability for purposes of protection under the Americans with Disability Act.

II. SUMMARY: PURPOSE OF THE SELF EVALUATION

The purpose of this self evaluation is to assist the City in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to develop a tool to assist the City in areas that non-compliance is found.

1. Compliance with ADA Regulations requires the City to complete a self-evaluation. This self-evaluation plan will be submitted and accepted by the City with a target date of October 2001.
2. Compliance with ADA Regulations requires that the City may not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities AND must reasonably accommodate the disabilities of a qualified applicant or employee.
3. Compliance with ADA Regulations requires the City to make structural changes to existing facilities only when the service, program, or activity is not feasible any other way.
4. Implementation of the recommendations in the transition plan will bring the City into compliance with all aspects of the ADA Regulations.
5. The City will work with the ADA Compliance Coordinator and the Commission on Disabilities to achieve accessibility within the City and the Commission will serve as a valuable resource for the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

6. The transition plan and self evaluation and all grievances shall be filed with the City Clerk and be readily available to the public upon request.

The transition plan outlined in this document will only be effective if monitored and fully implemented by the City. This transition plan identifies and describes the areas of non-compliance of the City's facilities as identified in the survey. The facilities inventories are included in Appendix A & B. The inventory provides a standard evaluation of the accessibility of each location.

The proposed structural changes for compliance with the ADA Regulations are scheduled over a twenty-year period, to be completed by a target date of July 2011. The Department of Public Services and/or the Custodian of City Hall will undertake small projects. Designers and outside contractors will be hired for larger projects. It should be noted that unlike existing facilities, any new construction shall be designed and built as fully accessible to all individual with disabilities.

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Title I Employment and Title II Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disabilities in State and Local Government

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

ADMINISTRATION –

Public Notice of ADA Compliance

Policy: The City posts a public notice of its support for and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This notice is provided in accordance with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Procedure: The following notice is posted in prominent locations within the City and in the local newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE: AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The City does not discriminate based on disability in admission to, access to, its business operations, services, programs, or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. Members of the public, employees, job applicants, board members, etc., are entitled to participate in and benefit from the City's business operations, services, programs, or activities and to serve without regard to disability.

Copies of this notice are available, upon request, in alternate formats. Our grievance procedure, self-evaluation, as well as ADA policies, practices, and procedures are available upon request. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication for business operations, services, programs, or activities of the City are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

The City has designated the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with the ADA. All inquiries, requests, and complaints should be directed to:

Andrea Egmont, ADA Compliance Coordinator
60 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950

The voice telephone number is (978)-465-4434, the fax number is (978) 465-4452. TTY users may dial 800-439-0183 to access MassRelay Service. The ADA Coordinator is available during regular

business hours: Mon.-Wed. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 12.noon.

Designation of ADA Compliance Coordinator

Policy: The City designates an ADA Compliance Coordinator to coordinate its efforts for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This designation is in accordance with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Procedure: The following notice is posted in prominent locations within the City.

The City has designated the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with the ADA. All inquiries, requests, and complaints should be directed to:

Andrea Egmont, ADA Compliance Coordinator
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Grievance Procedure

Policy: The City recognizes the rights of any individual to initiate a grievance when they feel that their rights have not been observed. It is City's hope that when such incidents occur they can be handled at the lowest possible level and in the most informal manner, and if mistakes have been made, they can be admitted promptly. When this is not possible, a formal grievance procedure is needed and has been established.

This grievance procedure is specifically addressed to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by any individual who wishes to file a grievance alleging discrimination based on disability in employment practices or the business operations, services, programs, or activities of the City.

Procedure: The complaint of discrimination should be submitted in writing, or in a format suitable to the petitioner, and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, telephone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem.

Alternative means of filing complaints, such as large print, Braille, personal interviews or a tape recording, or through a translator, etc., will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

The complainant should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged violation to the ADA Compliance Coordinator

1. The complaint should include a description of the alleged discriminatory incident, place, time, and date on which it occurred, and the name of any employee or representative of the City, which it involved.

2. The complaint should include name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner or their authorized representative. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will provide any assistance needed to file the complaint.

3. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will meet with the petitioner to discuss the complaint and options for substantive resolution of the complaint.
4. Within forty-five (45) calendar days of this meeting, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will respond in the appropriate format to the petitioner. This response will explain the position of the City and offer options for the substantive resolution.
5. If response of the ADA Compliance Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the petitioner and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Compliance Coordinator within forty-five (45) calendar days after the receipt of the response to the Mayor or his/her designee.
6. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after the receipt of the appeal, the Mayor or his/her designee will meet with the petitioner to discuss the complaint and possible resolution.
7. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after the meeting described in #6, the Mayor or his/her designee will respond in the appropriate format to the petitioner with a final resolution of the complaint.
8. All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to Mayor or his/her designee, and responses from the ADA Coordinator and Mayor or his/her designee shall be saved for at least four years.

EMPLOYMENT –

Employment Practices

Policy: The City does not discriminate in employment practices against qualified job applicants or employees on the basis of disability in areas hiring, promotion; demotion; transfer; recruitment; job advertisements; termination; post offer; and training, etc.

No qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the City's business operations, services, programs, or activities.

The City shall provide a program of information and awareness training about persons with disabilities to all supervisors and interviewers; review all job descriptions to ensure that they do not tend to screen out qualified individuals; and eliminate unnecessary non job-related mental and or physical requirements for entry into each job.

No qualified individual with a disability shall, solely because of his/her disability, be excluded from employment. Employment review and hiring will be based on the prospective employee's ability to perform what the City determines to be the essential functions of a job.

The City does not discriminate in employment practices against qualified job applicants or employees on the basis of disability in the areas of: hiring, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, job advertisements, termination, post job offer, and training, etc.

It is understood that the obligation to comply with this policy is not obviated or alleviated by a state or local law or other requirement that, based on disability, imposes inconsistent or contradictory prohibition.

Any prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to receive services or practice any occupation or profession are not allowed under this policy.

- Procedure:
1. The ADA Coordinator will review all job descriptions to ensure that they do not tend to screen out qualified individuals; and eliminate unnecessary non job-related mental and or physical requirements for entry into each job.
 2. When a vacancy occurs the ADA Coordinator will institute an internal search to determine if there is a qualified employee with a disability who could be promoted.
 3. The ADA Coordinator will provide alternative methods of informing employee of relevant information, such as informing blind individuals of announcements posted on bulletin boards.
 4. The ADA Coordinator will review employee performance appraisals to ensure that no discriminatory patterns or practices exist or are developed affecting employees with disabilities or applicants; and provide reasonable accommodation in all areas of accessibility.

Training Assurance

Employee training provided includes information about rights and obligations under Title I of the ADA. The information includes a full explanation of the City's ADA policies, procedures, and practices regarding employment.

All materials include information on reasonable accommodations, grievance procedures, essential v. nonessential job functions, and permissible and impermissible inquiries. Training will be conducted annually, and all new employees will be trained on all of the above requirements. The ADA Coordinator is the employee responsible for seeing this done.

Details of the disability are kept separate from other employment information. Employee rights to confidentiality (whenever confidential information regarding disability, etc., is divulged) will be assured.

Reasonable Accommodation

Policy: The City is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to qualified job applicants and employees with disabilities, and will make reasonable modifications to all policies, practices, and procedures in order to accommodate persons with disabilities. The only limiting condition upon such accommodation is when the resources needed to make such an accommodation would be so great as to cause undue financial or administrative hardship on the business operation of the City, or fundamentally alter the nature of the business operation

The ADA Coordinator will review all job descriptions to ensure that they do not tend to screen out qualified individuals; eliminate unnecessary, non job-related mental and/or physical requirements for entry into each job. In the area of promotion, when a vacancy occurs, the City will institute an internal search to determine if there is a qualified employee with a disability who could be promoted.

Reasonable accommodation means changing the way a job is done to accommodate a person with a disability. Persons requesting a particular modification may be asked to furnish documentation to support the need for the modification

The notice availability of reasonable accommodation for job applicants will be included in all postings and advertisements, and will be made available upon request to applicants with disabilities during the pre-employment process, to provide equal opportunity to secure employment with the City of Newburyport

The final decision concerning whether a request for a modification is reasonable (or is a fundamental alteration of the services of program) is made by the Mayor or his/her designee, in discussion with the ADA Coordinator.

- Procedure:
1. All prospective employees will be informed at the initial interview that the City does not discriminate on the basis of disability and that requests for reasonable accommodations should be made by prospective employees following receipt of a conditional offer of employment.
 2. Persons with disabilities employed by the City may request reasonable accommodations from their immediate supervisor, or from the ADA Compliance Coordinator, and such requests should be verbal as well as written.
 3. As needed, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will assist these persons in identifying or documenting the reasonable accommodations needed.
 4. Within forty-five (45) business days of the submission of the request, a decision regarding reasonable accommodation will be rendered.
 5. The effectiveness of the accommodation will be assessed and the accommodation may be altered during the first thirty (30) days of use of the accommodation.
 6. Aggrieved individuals have the right to appeal as per our written grievance procedure.

The ADA Coordinator will modify this policy when necessary.

Undue Hardship

- Policy: A requested accommodation may pose “undue hardship.” Undue hardship means that a requested accommodation requires significant difficulty or expense. While it is not possible to define in the abstract, undue hardship includes an examination of the following: the nature and cost of the accommodation, the overall financial resources of the City, and the impact of the accommodation on the City’s business operations.
- Procedure:
1. An accommodation that is perceived to produce undue hardship must be discussed with the Mayor and the ADA Compliance Coordinator.
 2. Any decision that results in a determination of undue hardship can be appealed by the petitioner through the ADA grievance procedure.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY OPERATIONS

Reasonable Modifications

- Policy: The City is committed to making reasonable modifications to all aspects of its business operations to afford persons with disabilities with access. Reasonable modifications refer to annual expenditures of City resources, which are within the range of regular line item budget items, unless the City can demonstrate that such modification would impose an undue burden or fundamentally alter the nature of our program or the services that the City offers.
- Persons requesting a particular modification may be asked to furnish documentation to support the need for the modification.
- The final decision concerning whether a request for a modification is reasonable (or is a fundamental alteration of the program) is made by the Mayor or his/her designee in discussion with the ADA Coordinator.
- Procedure:
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator is charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Mayor any reasonable modifications of policies, practices, procedures, business operations, services, programs, or activities.

2. The Mayor may approve items which are not financially extraordinary and respond to the request within forty-five (45) working days.

3. Items whose impact on the budget would be viewed as extraordinary will be referred to the Mayor for consideration, approval, and prioritization.

4. Individuals seeking to contest the denial of request for reasonable modification may use the grievance procedure.

Equal Opportunity

Policy: The City strives to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided maximum opportunity to participate in, and benefit from all business operations, services, programs, or activities of the City. Moreover, it is the City's goal that such participation will be in the same manner as those of non-disabled persons and in fully integrated settings.

The City similarly seeks qualified individuals with disabilities to participate on board or committees. No qualified individual with a disability shall solely by reason of his/her disability, shall be excluded from the participation in; be denied the benefits of; or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.

The City will not deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate as a member of any board, or commissions; or otherwise limit a qualified individual with a disability the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by other qualified individuals participating as a member of a board, or commissions of the City. The City shall provide a program of information and awareness training about persons with disabilities to all employees and volunteers.

It is understood that the obligation to comply with this policy is not obviated or alleviated by any state or local law or other requirement that, based on disability, imposes inconsistent or contradictory prohibition. Any prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to participate in, or receive services or practice any occupation or profession are not allowed under this policy.

Procedure:

1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will proactively examine the City's operations and facilities and report annually to the Mayor opportunities for more inclusive operations and facilities.
2. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will further seek opportunities to challenge and remove attitudinal barriers to any individuals with disabilities.

Eligibility Requirements Assurance

Policy: The City's eligibility requirements are designed to be as inclusive as possible. The City will review and continue to review annually its hiring criteria to ensure that it is inclusive as possible for all people with disabilities.

In addition, requirements designed to provide safety and security for individuals will be reviewed on an annual basis to be sure that they do not inadvertently screen out individuals with disabilities. Safety requirements of the City are based on actual risks. The determination of the presence of a direct threat must be based on objective factual evidence and not stereotypes or misconceptions about a person's disability. Any prohibitions or limits on the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to receive services or practice any occupation are not allowed under this policy.

If any new criteria are developed, the Mayor, and the ADA Coordinator will review their impact on persons with disabilities and all staff will be informed on all changes in eligibility requirements that may arise.

- Procedure:
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator annually reviews eligibility requirements and safety requirements to be sure that they do not screen out people with disabilities overtly or covertly.
 2. The ADA Compliance Coordinator, in addition, is attentive to the impact of any new eligibility criteria or safety requirements on the access of persons with disabilities to all business operations, services, programs, or activities of the City.

Assurance Regarding Surcharges

Policy: Surcharges are never charged to employees, participants, or any other interested person for reasonable accommodations under any circumstances. Such accommodations include, but are not limited to: American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, Computer Aided Real-time Translation (CART), architectural accessibility, computer accessibility hardware or software, Braille material, or any other costs related to the participation of a person with a disability.

- Procedure:
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will review all business operations, services, programs, or activity charges to assure that there are no surcharges or hidden surcharges.
 2. As part of his/her annual review, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will assure that surcharges have not been charged to persons with disabilities for the provision of reasonable accommodations, reasonable modifications to policies and procedures, auxiliary aids, business operations, services, programs or activities or any other costs related to the participation of a person with a disability.
 3. As appropriate, the ADA Compliance Coordinator and the Mayor will seek, where possible, additional funding to make any changes necessary to provide access.

Integrated Services Assurance

Policy: The City seeks to ensure that its business operations, services, programs, or activities, are provided in the most integrated setting possible. People with disabilities are never required to participate in separate programs. Business operations, services, programs, or activities will not be provided to any person with a disability in a manner or at a location different from that available to others.

In all cases, the person with a disability (family members and other representative only when appropriate) will be fully involved in the consideration and decisions.

The City recognizes that integration of people with disabilities is one of the major goals of the ADA.

- Procedure:
1. All modifications to business operations, services, programs, or activities and the development of new business operations, services, programs, or activities will be examined by the ADA Compliance Coordinator who will make recommendations to insure continued integration of people with disabilities.

Significant Assistance Assurance

Policy: It is the policy of the City that all business operations, services, programs, or activities that the City may provide support to, or contract with, may not discriminate against people with disabilities. All contracts and program sites are regularly assessed to ensure nondiscrimination against people with disabilities. The City will not contract with any entity that discriminates.

The City does not support services, programs, or activities, which discriminate against people with disabilities.

- Procedure:
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator annually reviews all contacts, services, programs, or activities regardless of the support provided, to assure the services, programs, or activities do not discriminate against people with disabilities.

2. When a supported or sponsored service, program, or activity is identified which discriminates against people with disabilities, the ADA Compliance Coordinator initiates remedial action.
3. If prompt remedial action is not taken, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will recommend termination of the relationship to the City.

Accessible Transportation

Policy: All transportation services provided by the City are accessible to everyone regardless of their disability.

When the City provides transportation, the City will seek to make a reasonable accommodation for an individual with a disability whose mobility/transport represents a barrier to participation in a City business operations, services, programs, or activities.

- Procedure:**
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will evaluate requests for accessible transportation.
 2. The ADA Compliance Coordinator maintains the list of names and numbers of accessible transportation providers which includes the following:

London Livery	(978) 462-4442
Patriot Ambulance:	(800) 491-1111
Salter Transportation:	(978) 462-6433
The RIDE	(888)-844-0355

Community Referral Assurance

Policy: The City conducts an annual survey of its primary referral agencies. This survey determines which of the agencies to which it regularly refers individuals are accessible to persons with disabilities and aware of their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City provides this information to individuals with disabilities who are in need of referral to such services.

Whenever the City is to participate in other programs and services, as a condition of that participation (e.g. Commonwealth programs) or refer to other programs, it is the City's policy that such programs and services must be accessible.

- Procedure:**
1. On an annual basis, the ADA Compliance Coordinator conducts a survey of referral agencies.
 2. The ADA Compliance Coordinator determines which referral agencies are accessible and knowledgeable of the ADA.
 3. If a category of referral does not include accessible services, programs, or activities, the ADA Compliance Coordinator will identify an appropriate service, program, or activity and establish an affiliation relationship.

Training Assurance

Policy: Employee training and other development activities provided by personnel and volunteers include information about ADA requirements. The City's business operations, services, programs, or activities will operate in such a manner that will not discriminate against people with disabilities.

The City will on a yearly basis, provide training for all employees on topics related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA Coordinator has the overall responsibility for ensuring that all employees are trained, including new employees.

Topics will include, but are not limited to the meaning and importance of public notification; the ADA grievance procedure; the concept of reasonable accommodation and its implication for the City; the issue of equal opportunity for persons with disabilities; the concept of reasonable modifications; a proactive perspective; the meaning of disability; alternative communication systems; and attitudinal barriers.

- Procedure:
1. The ADA Compliance Coordinator will conduct in service training for all employees on a yearly basis.
 2. The in service training will operate in such a manner that will not discriminate against people with disabilities and will be documented in the manner that all other City in services are documented.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Policy: The City recognizes the need to ensure that individuals with disabilities need to have communication access that is equally effective as that provided to people without disabilities. Further, the City recognizes that there are a variety of formats in which equally effective communication may occur including: large print, print scanners, Braille, recordings, ASCII disks, TTYs, interpreters, computers, etc., and in the future new and emerging technologies may offer other methods. Finally, the City wants to provide equally effective communication.

The City also desires to give the person with communications impairment the opportunity to request the auxiliary aid or service of his/her choice. Where possible, that choice will be honored unless it would fundamentally change programming or provide undue burden.

- Procedure:
1. Persons with communications disabilities may request communications aids or services from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.
 2. In determining the choice of auxiliary aid and/or service, the following factors will be considered by the ADA Compliance Coordinator: the duration and complexity of the communication, the context of the communication, the number of people involved in the communication, and the importance and potential impact of the communication.
 3. If an undue burden is claimed, the petitioner will be directed to the ADA grievance process.

Interpreter Services

Policy: Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request to any person needing interpreter services in order to participate in any meeting, service, program, or activity when communications are complex; the exchange is lengthy or the information being communicated is extremely important. Qualified interpreters are individuals who are able to interpret effectively, accurately and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary.

The City will ensure funds are available for interpreting services by including a line item for interpreter services in each operating budget.

- Procedure:
1. The person needing the interpreter services or his/her representative will so indicate to the ADA Compliance Coordinator by telephone or in writing at least thirty days (30) business days before the event, activity, or meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet requests made with less than 30 days notice.
 2. If an interpreter service cannot be obtained, the ADA Coordinator will offer the option of an alternative effective form of communication.
 3. When a request cannot be met, the petitioner will be informed at least two (2) days before the event or activity.