

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



TOWN OF MEDWAY

September 2010

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

FOR

MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Open Space Committee

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Preface

The Town of Medway has experienced dramatic growth in recent years. Its population increased by 25% during the 1990's, ranking it third (behind Hopkinton and Franklin) in percentage growth among the 11-town Southwest Area Planning (SWAP) subregion of the Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Council. This has placed significant stress on the Town's resources and ability to maintain services to support this growth.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for Medway was completed in 1996 and a Master Plan in 1999. A draft OSRP update was completed in 2004 as a component of the Town's Community Development Plan (along with sections on housing and economic development). A Master Plan update is also underway and a survey of residents done for that effort included questions pertaining to open space and recreation.

The Town used a grant several years ago to purchase Idylbrook Farm, on which it built playing fields on about 10 acres while about 29 acres is preserved as open space. The Town has adopted an open space subdivision bylaw as well as a bylaw providing for age-restricted development that requires an open space component. Two open space subdivisions have been approved in recent years and are now under construction. An age-restricted development that will result in open space along the Charles River was also approved, but has not gone forward due to market conditions.

The Town also adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2001 providing a means of funding initiatives in open space, recreation, housing and historic preservation. This OSRP update is intended to provide guidance for continued efforts in protecting open space and expanding recreation opportunities during the next five years and beyond.

Section 1: Plan Summary

This 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan for Medway was prepared as the town continues to face population growth as well as commercial and industrial development. This development adds stress on the region's natural resources as well as the character of the Town. This Plan contains the following major elements:

- A description of the public input utilized in developing the Plan;
- A demographic profile of the Town;
- A summary of recent growth trends;
- An environmental portrait of Medway
- An inventory of existing protected open space and recreation lands in Town;
- An analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- A statement of goals and objectives; and
- An action plan with recommendations through 2017.

Table 4 of the report presents land use changes from 1971 to 1999. From that table, it can be derived that Medway's 1970 population of 7,938 occupied 1,478 acres in 1971, or about .19 acres per person. In order to add 4,510 people by 2000, an additional 1,518 acres was required! This is .34 acres per person, almost 2 times the average in 1971.

Among the recommended actions are the identification and ranking of key parcels to protect resources, acquiring additional parcels, increase public awareness of open space and recreation needs, encouraging donations of lands and/or easements or development rights with tax benefits establishing greenbelts along the Charles River, Chicken Brook and other water bodies and to support and encourage compact development.

Section 2: Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the open space and recreation resources of Medway are protected as the Town continues to face rapid development pressures as well as the impacts of sprawl. A previous open space plan was completed in 1996. Some of the recommendations from that plan have been implemented, but much remains to be done. While Medway has experienced substantial development since the 1996 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was completed, significant areas of open space, rural character, relatively compact development (at least in the older developed areas), that are either vital or have much potential for enhancement still exist. Without thoughtful planning and a vision to guide development, these desirable features could be lost, as they have been in many other towns.

A common vision facilitates decision-making for everyone -- Town and State officials as well as developers and private landowners. This plan is intended to help provide that vision. It should also be noted that while this plan addresses the needs of Medway, natural and recreational resources do not end at Town boundaries. Efforts to coordinate open space and recreation planning with other towns in the region are also strongly encouraged. Coordination and cooperation in planning may lead to improved resource management and enhancement of recreational opportunities.

Prior Open Space and Recreation Planning Efforts

As noted above, the Town completed an Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1996. The 1999 Master Plan included the elements of Open Space and Recreation and Cultural and Natural Resources. A survey of residents was conducted for both those efforts.

In addition, sections of the 1996 plan were updated periodically, and a complete draft update was prepared in 2004 but never formally adopted. Also, the Open Space Committee drafted a Land Evaluation Matrix Worksheet and a process for responding to the Town's right of first refusal under Chapter 61, 61A and 61B.

Planning Process and Public Participation

This update utilized the public input from the survey of residents conducted in 2008 as part of the Master Plan update process. Some of the questions were also applicable to this OSRP update. The survey was sent to residents with the annual Town Census. A total of 1890 questionnaires were returned out of 4900 mailed for a response rate of 39%. A copy of the complete survey results is in the Appendix.

The questionnaire asked respondents to rate separately from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) their opinion of both the importance of various issues and their satisfaction with that item. The items with the greatest relevance to the OSRP update are discussed below.

Nearly 65% of respondents ranked passive recreation facilities as a 4 or 5 in importance, while only 22.4% assigned it this rank on the satisfaction scale. Similarly, 68.6% ranked protected open space as a 4 or 5 in importance while only 26.9% were satisfied with the current status of protected open

space. About 77% believe that the overall aesthetic appeal of the community is important, while only 27.9% are satisfied with it at present.

The status of active recreation facilities fares somewhat better. While 64.6% believe active recreation facilities and fields are important (rated 4 or 5), 47.9% are relatively satisfied with their current state. Regarding community sports programs, 54.5% rated them as important, but only 44.0% are satisfied with them.

Choate Park is the primary park in Medway and the survey indicates it is considered important overall, but less than a third (31.5%) are satisfied with it. Choate Pond is also rated as very important as a facility for swimming, recreational uses such as fishing and skating and as a natural feature. However, the satisfaction level was only 7.8% for swimming, 16.7% for recreational uses and 27.2% as a natural feature.

A strong majority of 72.3% places high importance on preserving the character of neighborhoods, while 29.9% are currently satisfied with that issue. Not only did 83.1% rate preserving the natural environment as a 4 or 5 in importance, but 48.6% rated this issue as a 5 in importance, the highest 5 rating of any of the questions related to the OSRP update. Only 25.9% were satisfied with efforts on this issue. Preserving agricultural land was also highly important at 62.7%, while just 22.5% were satisfied with the current state of this issue.

In addition, a public hearing was conducted on March 3, 2009 for this update. A draft version of the plan was posted on the Town's web site in advance of that hearing. The hearing was also posted at Town Hall and the notice appeared in Globe West. In addition, presentations on the draft plan were made to the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Economic Development Board at meetings which were televised on a cable access channel. Written comments were received from the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Economic Development Board, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Copies are included in the Appendix.

Section 3: Community Setting

Regional Context

Medway is located along the I-495 corridor, approximately 30 miles southwest of Boston. It is also within the Charles River watershed, and the Charles River forms the boundary between Medway and Franklin. Two state highways traverse the town. Route 109 is a major east-west commuter route, linking Medway with Milford and I-495 to the west, and Millis, Medfield and beyond into Route 128 and Boston to the east. Route 126 is a major north-south route providing access to Bellingham and Woonsocket, RI to the south and Holliston, Ashland and Framingham to the north. Medway is served by commuter rail by three stations located in the abutting towns of Franklin and Norfolk.

As discussed in more detail below in the Population Characteristics section, Medway has the second highest median family income and second-lowest poverty rate among its abutting towns. Medway also has a younger population than the state as a whole.

Medway is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and its Southwest Area Planning (SWAP) subregion. Medway is also a member of the I-495/Metrowest Partnership (also known as the Arc of Innovation). Through its participation in these organizations, Medway has participated in regional efforts addressing water resources, traffic problems, open space issues, economic development, Town Center development, and other issues.

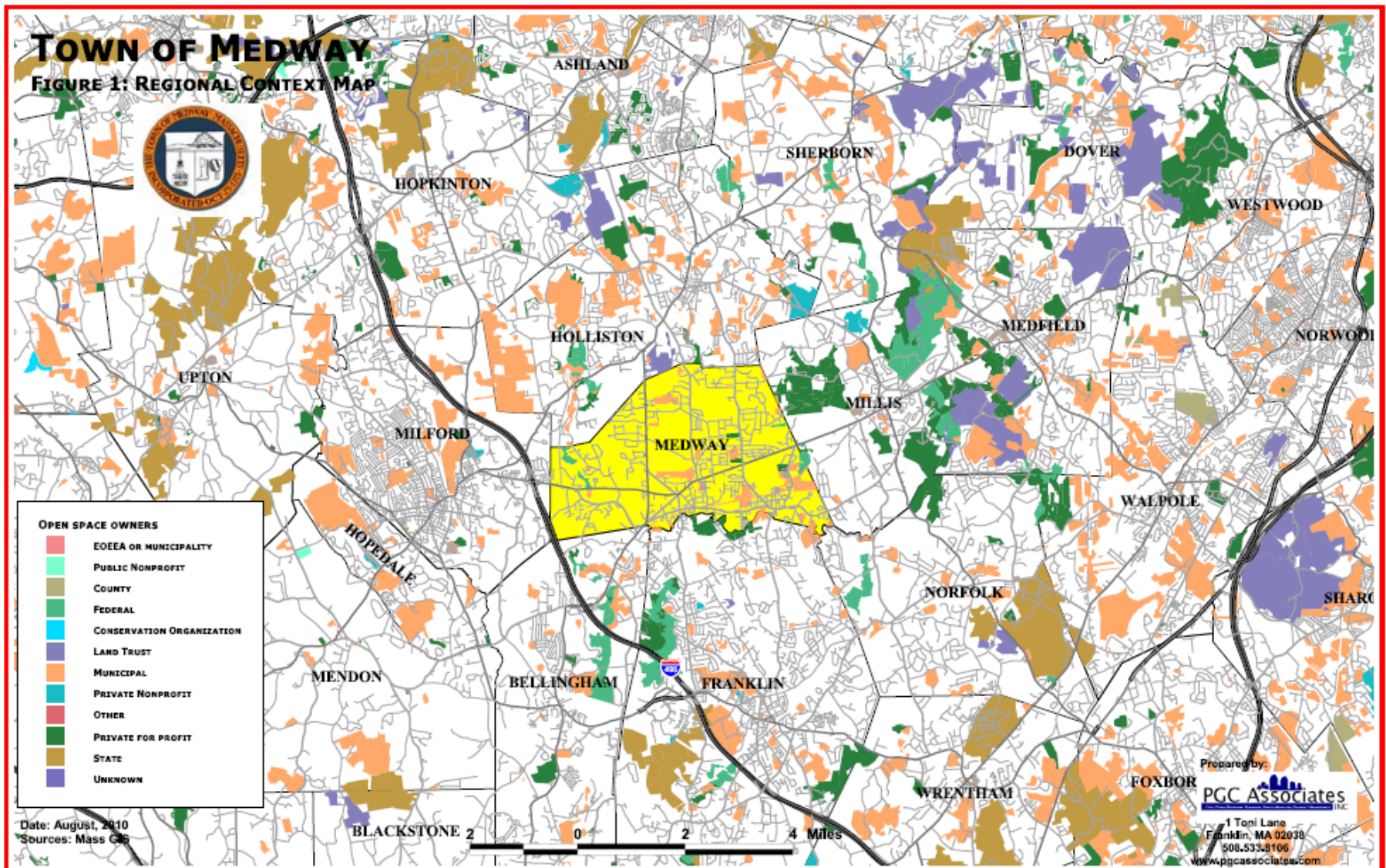
Medway shares a major aquifer with the Towns of Franklin and Norfolk near Populatic Pond. All three towns either have or are planning wells in the vicinity. . Medway hosts a Zone II area for Bellingham wells in its southwest corner. The Town has adopted Groundwater Protection Overlay Districts to protect these shared water resources. Medway also shares a regional wastewater treatment plant with Franklin, Bellingham and Millis. The plant is located in Medway and discharges into the Charles River.

Medway participated in MAPC's production of "MetroFuture," the official regional plan for Greater Boston. This Open Space and Recreation Plan is consistent with that plan, especially in its acknowledgment of regional natural and recreational resources, and in its recommendation for communicating with neighboring Towns to identify potential trails which could cross town borders.

The State Division of Conservation Services has a statewide open space and recreation plan called Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Some of the findings of that plan for the region that includes Medway are discussed in Section 7, Analysis of Needs.

Among abutting Towns, as of February 2010, Bellingham, Franklin and Holliston have current Open Space and Recreation Plans. Millis, Norfolk and Milford all have expired plans.

Figure 1 illustrates the regional context.



History

The area that became the Town of Medway was once home to the Mucksquit Indians of the Nipmuck tribe. Unlike some of the nomadic tribes, the Mucksquit were farmers, growing pumpkins, squash, corn and beans in addition to fishing in Medway's waterways.

The land containing what is now Medway was acquired by Medfield in 1659 through a "New Grant". In 1713, the Town of Medway was incorporated as a separate town (it had been part of Medfield), and began its life as a small farming community with a population of less than 50.

Located along the Charles River and harnessing the Chicken Brook and Hopping Brook, Medway was the perfect location for mills of all kinds. Medway's bountiful water power provided the basis for large-scale industrial development beginning as early as 1809, when the Medway Cotton Manufacturing Co. (the first of its kind in the country) was established on the Charles River. The first carpet mill in New England would be built on Chicken Brook in 1826 and Medway would become nationally known for its Bell Foundry and Canning industry.

Hat factories, boot manufacturers and other mills sprang up throughout the 1800's, and some remained in operation well into the 20th century. These were served by canals initially, and then a charter for a railroad was granted by the state legislature in 1847 and served all the towns in the area, extending as far as Blackstone. As the railroad developed, additional mills were attracted to the town. Population increased, roads were built, facilities such as schools and churches were established, and villages developed at what are now known as Medway Village and West Medway.

By 1900, Massachusetts' industry was concentrating in Lowell, Lawrence and New Bedford. This contributed to the residential transformation of Medway, which, along with the additions of major highways in the vicinity, has resulted in Medway becoming a community that is predominantly residential.

Like many suburban towns, Medway experienced significant growth following the end of World War II. This growth began to accelerate during the 1960's following the construction of I-495 when the growth rate exceeded that of the state's as a whole and reached 7938. During this time, a new suburban-style strip commercial center developed along Main Street (Route 109). Growth slowed somewhat during the 1970's before accelerating again during the 1980's (17.57%) and 1990's (25.34%).

During the 1990's, the Town began a series of infrastructure improvements to attract industry to the Medway Business Park at 495. The park currently hosts the world headquarters of a major manufacturer of physical fitness equipment, a bowling ball manufacturer, and several other businesses.

Population Characteristics

Population Growth

As Table 1 indicates, Medway experienced slow growth in the 1970's, rapid growth in the 1980's, and even more rapid growth in the 1990's. Medway's 25.3% growth rate during the 1990's greatly exceeded the statewide rate of 5.5%.

TABLE 1
POPULATION GROWTH, 1970-2000

Year	Population	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
1970	7,938	NA	NA
1980	8,447	464	5.8%
1990	9,931	1,484	17.6%
2000	12,448	2,517	25.3%
2008	12,785	337	2.7%

Source: 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 U. S. Censuses and estimate for 2008

According to the Town Census, the 2008 population was 13,669. The Town Census uses a different methodology than the U.S. Census so the figures are not strictly comparable. Among the differences are that the local census counts college students at their permanent (Town) residence while the U.S. Census counts them at their school residence. Thus, while the Town Census generally results in a higher total than the U.S. Census, the figures indicates that Medway is continuing to grow, albeit at a slower pace than in the 1990's.

Density

As Table 2 indicates, the average density in Medway increased from 684 persons per square mile in 1970 to 1,073 per square mile in 2000. This is higher than the average statewide density of 810 persons per square mile.

TABLE 2
POPULATION DENSITY 1980-2000
(persons per square mile)

Year	Medway	Massachusetts
1970	684	726
1980	728	732
1990	856	767
2000	1073	810
2008	1102	823

Source: Computed by authors

It is important to note that average density is not necessarily an indicator of either the existence or quality of open space. Two towns with the same average density can have vastly different development patterns. One town could be developed into concentrated centers or villages surrounded by vast areas of open space, while the other could be characterized by low-density sprawl spread throughout its land area. This concept is further illustrated by the reduction in the population of Boston from 1950 to 2000 while the suburbs grew substantially. The City of Boston reached its highest population in 1950 at 801,444. This population was accommodated on about 46 square miles (about 4 times greater than the land area of Medway). In 2000, Boston's population was 26% less at 589,141. If the 212,303 people who left Boston were resettled in the suburbs at a density of 1000 per square mile (almost equal to the current density of Medway), it would take 212 square miles, an area about eighteen times larger than Medway, to accommodate them. Clearly, concentrating development in city, town and village centers is a key component of protecting and preserving open space.

Age

Table 3 presents the age breakdown for Medway and Massachusetts for the year 2000, as well as the projected breakdown for 2010 and 2020. It indicates that the Town of Medway's residents tend to be younger than the residents of the state as a whole. In 2000, the percentage of residents who were ages of 5 through 19 in Medway was 24.69%, while the State percentage was only 20.14%. Medway's percentage in this age group is projected to decrease by 2010 and again by 2020. This projection is borne out by actual school enrollment numbers that indicate a decline in 2008-2009 from the 2007-2008 school year. This decline is projected to continue through at least the 2012-2013 school year.

At the other end of the scale, Medway had a lower percentage of its population age 65 years and older than the state, 9.13% vs. 13.56% in 2000. Both the Town and State indicate a significant increase in the 65+ age group by 2020.

TABLE 3
AGE 2000-2020
(By percent)

	2000		2010		2020	
	Medway	MA	Medway	MA	Medway	MA
0-4	8.57%	6.26%	7.39%	5.89%	7.57%	5.73%
5-19	24.69%	20.14%	23.43%	19.42%	21.53%	18.00%
20-64	51.18%	60.01%	59.15%	60.92%	57.15%	58.85%
65+	9.13%	13.56%	10.03%	13.77%	13.75%	17.42%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Sources: 2000 U. S. Census

MISER, 2003 (http://www.umass.edu/miser/population/Documents/age_sex_mcd_county_state.xls)

Note: 2000 percentages are from U.S. Census. 2010 and 2020 percentages are projections by MAPC from 2006 for Medway and from the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research from December 2003 for the State.

Income

Medway's median family income in 1999 (latest figures available from U.S. Census) was \$85,627. This is well above the U.S. figure of \$50,046, and the state median family income of \$77,409.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has estimated that median family income in the Boston, MA-NH Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area increased by a factor of 1.32 between 1999 and 2009 to \$90,200. Using this rate to project median family income for Medway and its abutting towns indicates that Medway has the second highest median family income (\$113,028) to Norfolk (\$121,441)... The figures for Bellingham (\$95,138), Franklin (108,010), Holliston (\$112,039) Millis (\$95,266) and Milford (\$80,558), are lower.

The number of families below the poverty level in 1999 was 1.8%. This is the second lowest level among the abutting towns which range from 1.6 % (Bellingham) to 6.6% (Milford). It is significantly lower than the Massachusetts (7.2%) and U.S. (9.2%) levels.

Ethnicity

The 2000 U.S. Census indicated that Medway's population was 97.5% white. Other races included Blacks or African-Americans, .6%; American Indian and Alaska Native, .1%; Asian, 1.0%; Two or more races, .7%; and Other.2%. Latinos of any race constituted 0.8%

Employment Trends

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the labor force in Medway has grown slightly from 7022 in 2000 to a peak of 7250 in 2002 and then dropping to 7169 in 2008. The number of employed remained relatively steady ranging from a low of 6842 in 2007 and 2008 to 6938 in 2002 before dipping to 6614 in February 2009. The unemployment rate rose from 2.0% in 2000 to a year-long average of 4.6% in 2008. In 2009, it stood at 6.5% in January, and has risen to 7.3% in June...

The largest industry in Medway in 2007 was Manufacturing, with 579 employees and 16 establishments. This was followed by Administrative and Waste Services with 464 employees and 27 establishments, and Retail Trade with 460 employees and 46 establishments. Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance had 336 and 322 employees respectively. The highest average weekly wage was in the Information sector at \$1772. This was followed by Wholesale Trade at \$1504 and Professional and Technical Services at \$1385. The average weekly wage for all industries was \$768.

Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

As discussed in the history section above, Medway began as an agrarian community. Its water power led to the development of mills during the industrial revolution. People settled into villages at Medway Village and West Medway. Much of the remainder of town was agricultural.

Recent land use trends are illustrated in Table 4 and its accompanying graph. The table indicates the acreage devoted to various land use categories as interrelated from aerial photographs by the Resource Mapping Project at the University of Massachusetts. The land use data is presented for 1971, 1985, and 1999. The table includes the absolute and percentage change between 1971 and 1985, 1985 and 1999 and the entire period between 1971 and 1999.

In 1971, the “developed” land in Medway (including recreation, residential, commercial, industrial, mining, urban open land, transportation, and waste disposal) totaled 1,732 acres or 23.2% of the total land area in Medway. The “undeveloped” area (including crop land, pasture, forestland, wetland, open land, water and woody perennial) totaled 5,682 acres, or 76.1% of the total. By 1985, the developed land had increased to 2,445 acres, a change of 712 acres. By 1999, the developed land increased further to 3,381 acres – more than 45% of the Town's land area. Thus, developed land almost doubled (an increase of 95%) from 1971 to 1999. Meanwhile, population increased by only 63% (from 7,938 to 12,448) between 1970 and 2000.

Acreage devoted to commercial and industrial uses only increased by 98 acres during this period. Residential land area, however, increased by 1,518 acres, accounting for 92% of the increased developed land. Almost two-thirds of this increase in residential land (986 of the 1,518 acres) was in the category of low density residential (lots larger than ½ acre).

Thus, the 1970 population of 7,938 occupied a total of 1,478 acres in 1971, or about .19 acres per person. The 2000 population of 12,448 occupied 2,996 acres in 1999. This is .24 acres per person. Another way of looking at it is that Medway was able to accommodate 7,938 people in 1971 on 1,478 residential acres. In order to add 4,510 people by 2000, it required an additional 1,518 acres of residential land! This is .34 acres per person, almost twice the amount of land per person used in 1971.

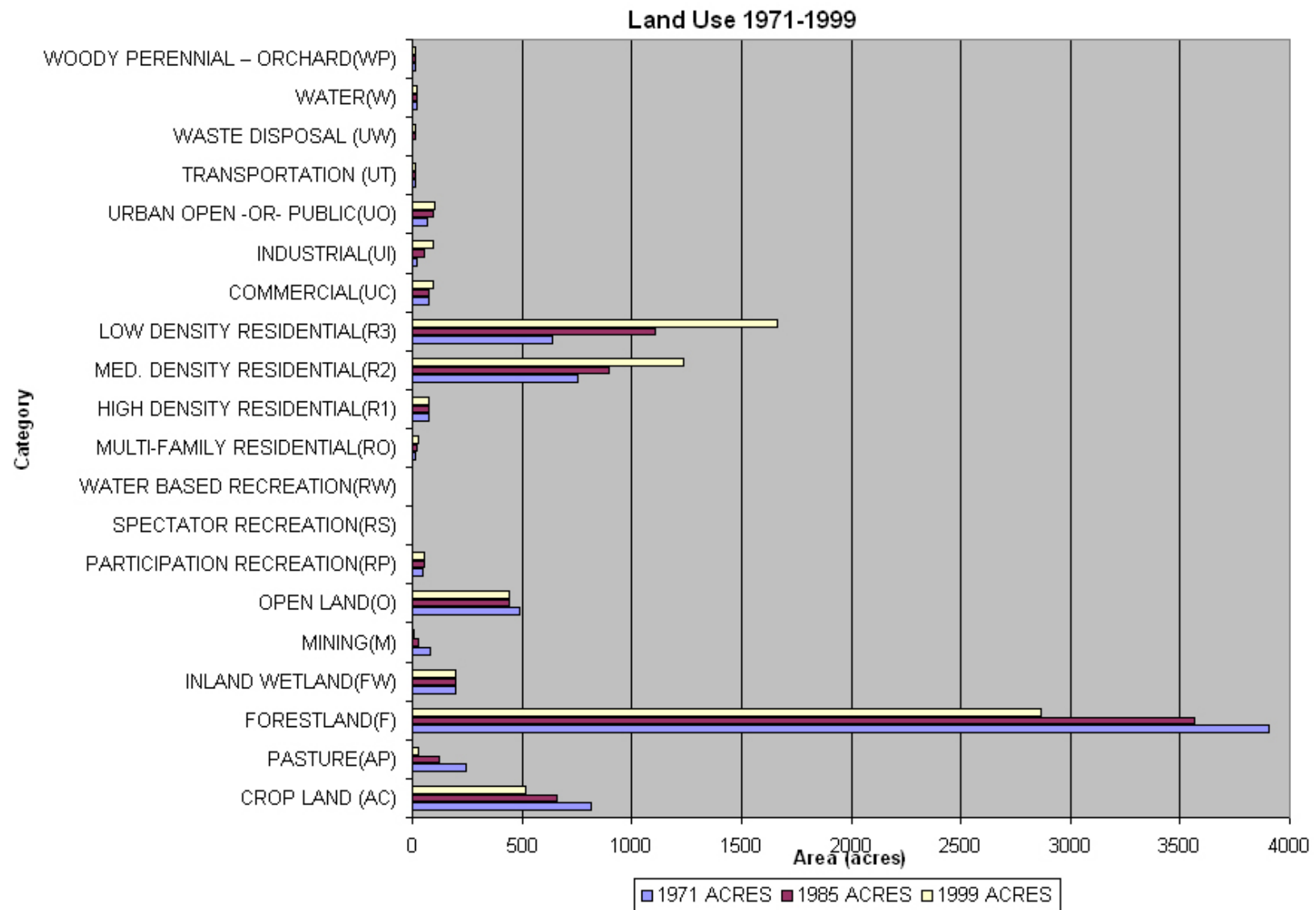
The biggest loss of undeveloped land was in the category of forestland, which decreased by 1,040 acres between 1971 and 1999. Pasture land was almost completely eliminated during this period (from 246 acres to 30) and crop land was reduced by 298 acres.

TABLE 4
LAND USE CHANGES, 1971-1999

LAND USE TYPE	1971	1985	CHANGE 1971-1985		1999	CHANGE 1985-1999		CHANGE 1971-1999	
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	PERCENT
CROP LAND (AC)	812.42	656.16	-156.26	-19.23%	513.97	-142.19	-21.70%	-298.45	-36.74%
PASTURE (AP)	246.14	121.42	-124.72	-50.70%	30.06	-91.36	-75.24%	-216.08	-87.79%
FORESTLAND (F)	3903.44	3568.40	-335.04	-8.60%	2862.70	-705.70	-19.78%	-1040.74	-26.66%
INLAND WETLAND (FW)	196.81	196.81	0.00	0.00%	196.81	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
MINING (M)	82.41	29.10	-53.31	-64.70%	9.84	-19.26	-66.20%	-72.57	-88.06%
OPEN LAND (O)	489.74	443.61	-46.13	-9.42%	444.82	1.21	0.27%	-44.92	-9.17%
PARTICIPATION RECREATION (RP)	50.51	53.80	3.29	6.51%	56.95	3.15	5.86%	6.44	12.75%
SPECTATOR RECREATION (RS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
WATER BASED RECREATION (RW)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RO)	14.24	23.05	8.81	61.87%	25.92	2.87	12.45%	11.68	82.02%
HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R1) ¹	73.19	73.19	0.00	0.00%	73.78	0.59	0.81%	0.59	0.81%
MED. DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R2) ²	752.71	899.68	146.97	19.92%	1236.15	336.47	37.40%	483.44	64.23%
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R3) ³	637.52	1108.66	471.14	73.90%	1660.45	551.79	49.80%	986.93	146.53%
COMMERCIAL (UC)	73.73	77.93	4.20	5.70%	94.38	16.45	21.11%	20.65	28.01%
INDUSTRIAL (UI)	17.74	52.17	34.43	194.08%	95.80	43.63	83.63%	78.06	440.02%
URBAN OPEN -OR- PUBLIC (UO)	67.26	97.66	30.40	45.20%	98.60	0.94	0.96%	31.34	46.60%
TRANSPORTATION (UT)	13.02	13.02	0.00	0.00%	13.02	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
WASTE DISPOSAL (UW)	0.00	16.26	16.26	0.00%	16.26	0.00	0.00%	16.26	n/a
WATER (W)	18.40	18.40	0.00	0.00%	19.84	1.44	7.83%	1.44	7.83%
WOODY PERENNIAL – ORCHARD (WP)	14.74	14.74	0.00	0.00%	14.74	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
	7464.02	7464.06			7464.09				

Source: University of Massachusetts Resource Mapping Project

¹Lots of less than ¼ acre. ²Lot sizes of ¼ to ½ acre. ³Lot sizes of more than ½ acre.



Infrastructure

The three most significant infrastructure elements in Medway are its transportation network, water service and sewer service. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Medway is home to between 80 and 90 miles of public roads including access to two major roadways, Route 109 and Route 126. Route 109 runs east-west through the center of town and divides Medway in half. With Routes 128 and 495 at either end of it, Route 109 becomes a very convenient way to reach many destinations. Route 126 is a north-south roadway and is heavily trafficked for its access to Bellingham, Holliston and Route 495. These thoroughfares are supported by smaller roads such as Village Street, which runs parallel to Route 109 until it joins Route 109 in Millis. It also provides convenient access into Bellingham and Route 495. There are also several private roads and unaccepted streets.

Medway has convenient access to commuter rail stations in Franklin and Norfolk. Bus service from several locations in Medway to the Norfolk rail station was initiated in 2008 and has been very successful.

Medway's water system exists primarily through the Town's three wells and private wells. According to the recent buildout analysis performed by MAPC, the current water use averages 1,148,397 gallons per day. Medway barely has enough water pumping capacity for the projected demand at buildout. In the 1999 master plan update, it was estimated that the three wells could produce 1.7 million gallons per day. A fourth well is being developed and should be operational in 2009.

Medway also has sewer service, which serves 60% of the population with a "gravity" only system and has no plans for "lift stations". The capacity of the Charles River Treatment plant is 4.54 million gallons per day (almost at capacity now) while current use by Medway is 748,000 gallons per day, 16.5% of the facility's capacity. A major extension of the sewer system to the Medway Business Park at I-495 was recently completed. Limits on the sewer treatment facility could limit growth of the town in the future.

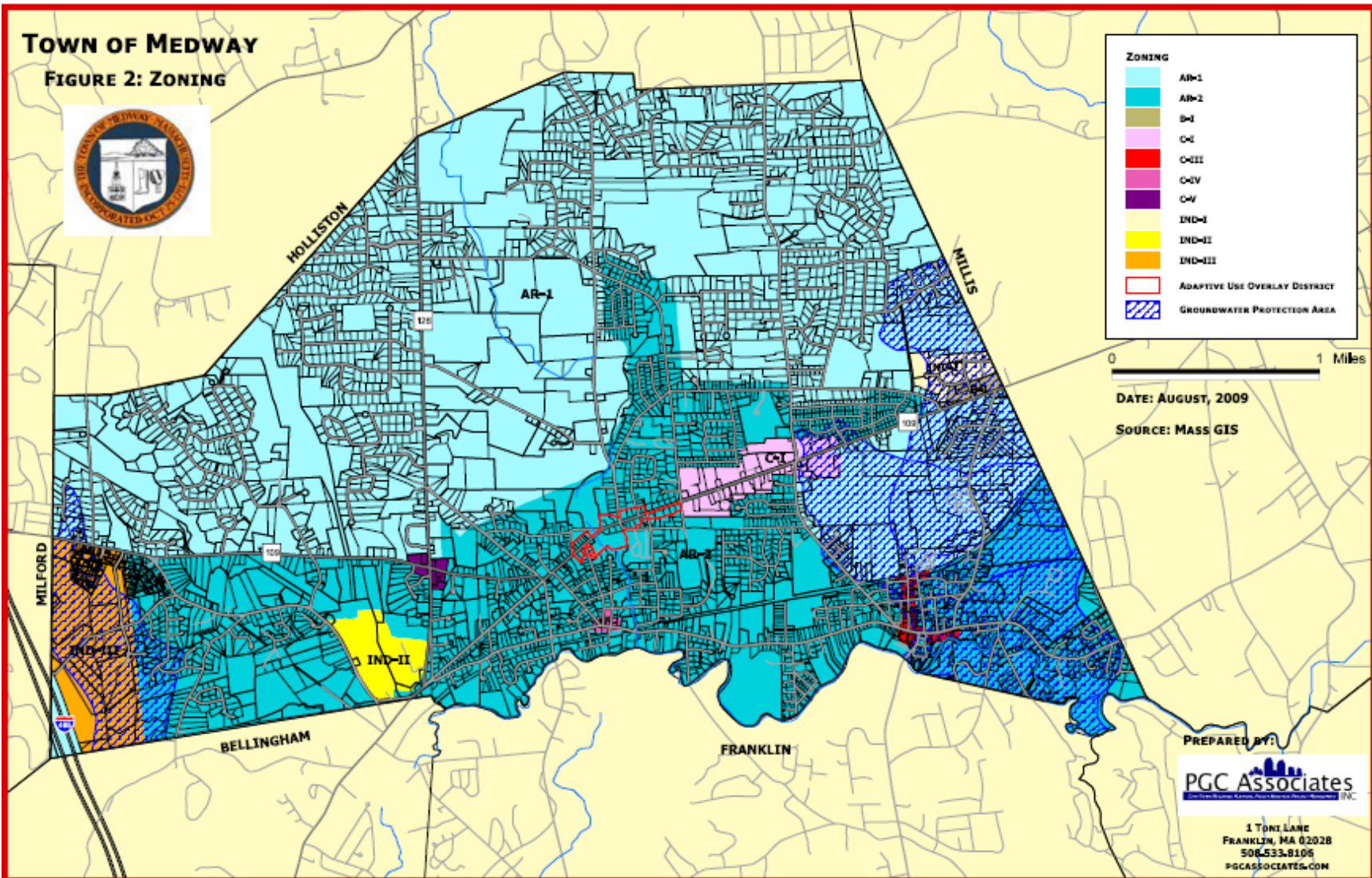
Long-Term Development

Figure 2 illustrates Medway's zoning districts. The current Zoning Bylaw provides for 2 agricultural-residential districts. Zone AR-I requires minimum lot sizes of 44,000 ft² and 180 ft. of continuous frontage. Zone AR-II requires minimum lot sizes of 22,500 ft² and 150 ft. if frontage.

There are 4 designated commercial districts and 3 industrial districts. A major increase in development has occurred since 1991. Most of Medway's development is in the form of residential subdivisions.

TOWN OF MEDWAY

FIGURE 2: ZONING



The buildout analysis completed in 2000 by the MAPC projected that there are an additional 2,617 developable acres in Medway. This translates into 2,057 additional residential units, 5,658 additional residents (for a total buildout population of 18,106), more than 4.1 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, about 1234 additional school children (for a buildout total of 3,829), an additional demand for water of 735,033 gallons per day (for a buildout total of 1.9 million gallons per day), and an additional 39 miles of roadway.

Both MAPC and the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) have projected population growth for Medway in 2010 and 2020. The projections are as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
MAPC	13,781	14,491
MISER	13,829	15,080

As can be seen, these projections are relatively close to one another. They are also relatively modest. After growing by 25% during the 1990's, the 2010 projections represent growth of 10.7% (MAPC) to 11% (MISER) between 2000 and 2010, and then 5.2% (MAPC) to 9% (MISER) between 2010 and 2020.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils and Topography

Medway's geology is largely a result of glacial activity that occurred most recently about 20,000 years ago. The terrain ranges in elevation from 135 to 370 feet above mean sea level.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the bedrock lithology and soils of Medway. Most of the soils are fine sandy loams (Canton, Merrimack, Paxton, Ridgebury, Scituate, Woodbridge) category. These soils are nearly level to steep, very deep, well drained and located on glaciated uplands. The soils are generally covered with and are well suited to trees. They are suited to cultivated crops and to hay and pasture. Erosion on slopes is a hazard. They are also well suited to most nonfarm uses, though the slopes can limit their use (U.S.D.A., undated).

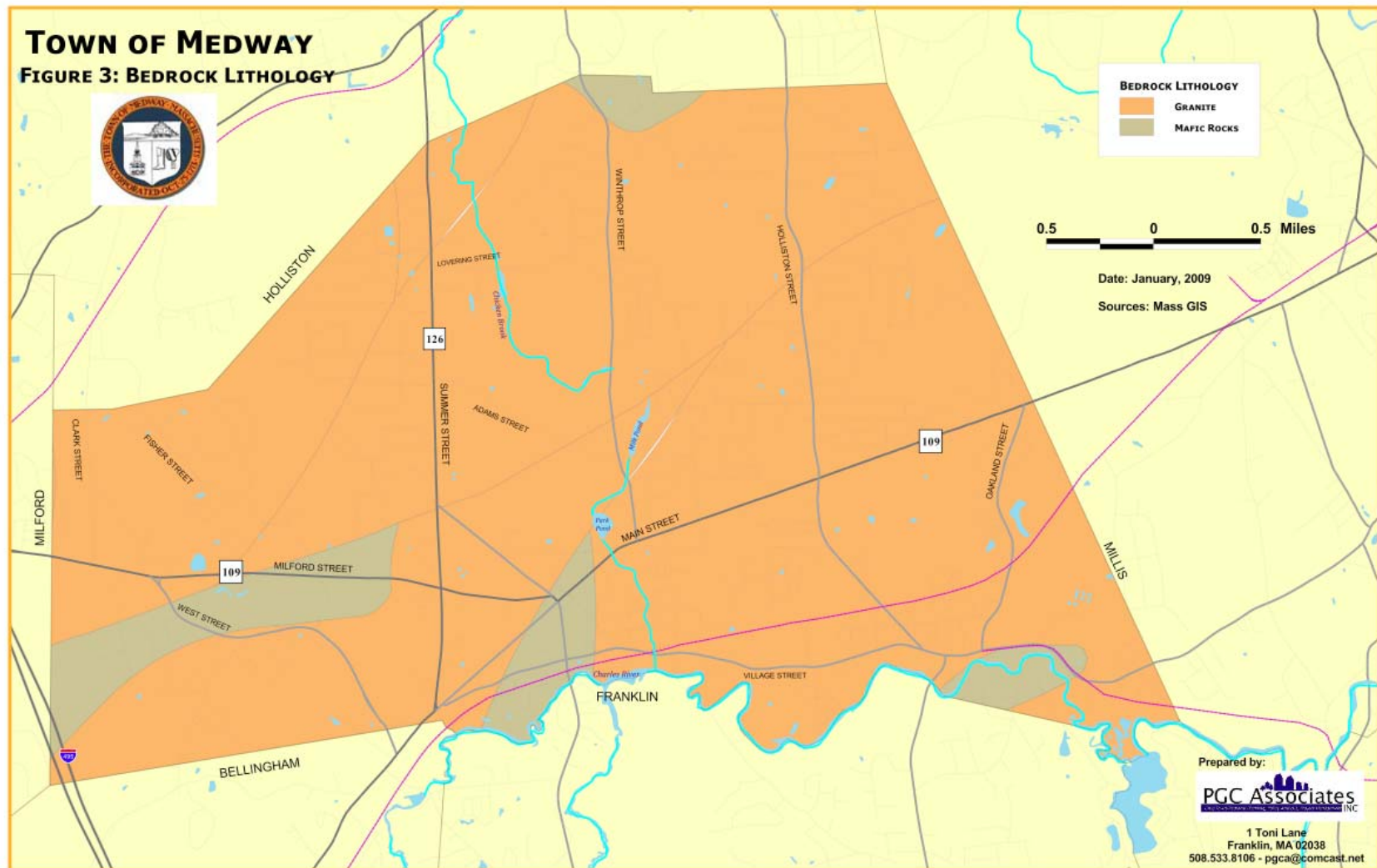
There are also pockets of sandy loam (Hinckley); loamy sand (Deerfield) and silt loam (Rippowam, Raynham) running through the town. Hinckley is suited well for crops, lawns, and pasture and is sometimes found to be wooded. Because of its high permeability there is a danger of septic tank effluent polluting groundwater. They are most often found wooded, though sometimes are open or home to grasses (U.S.D.A., undated).

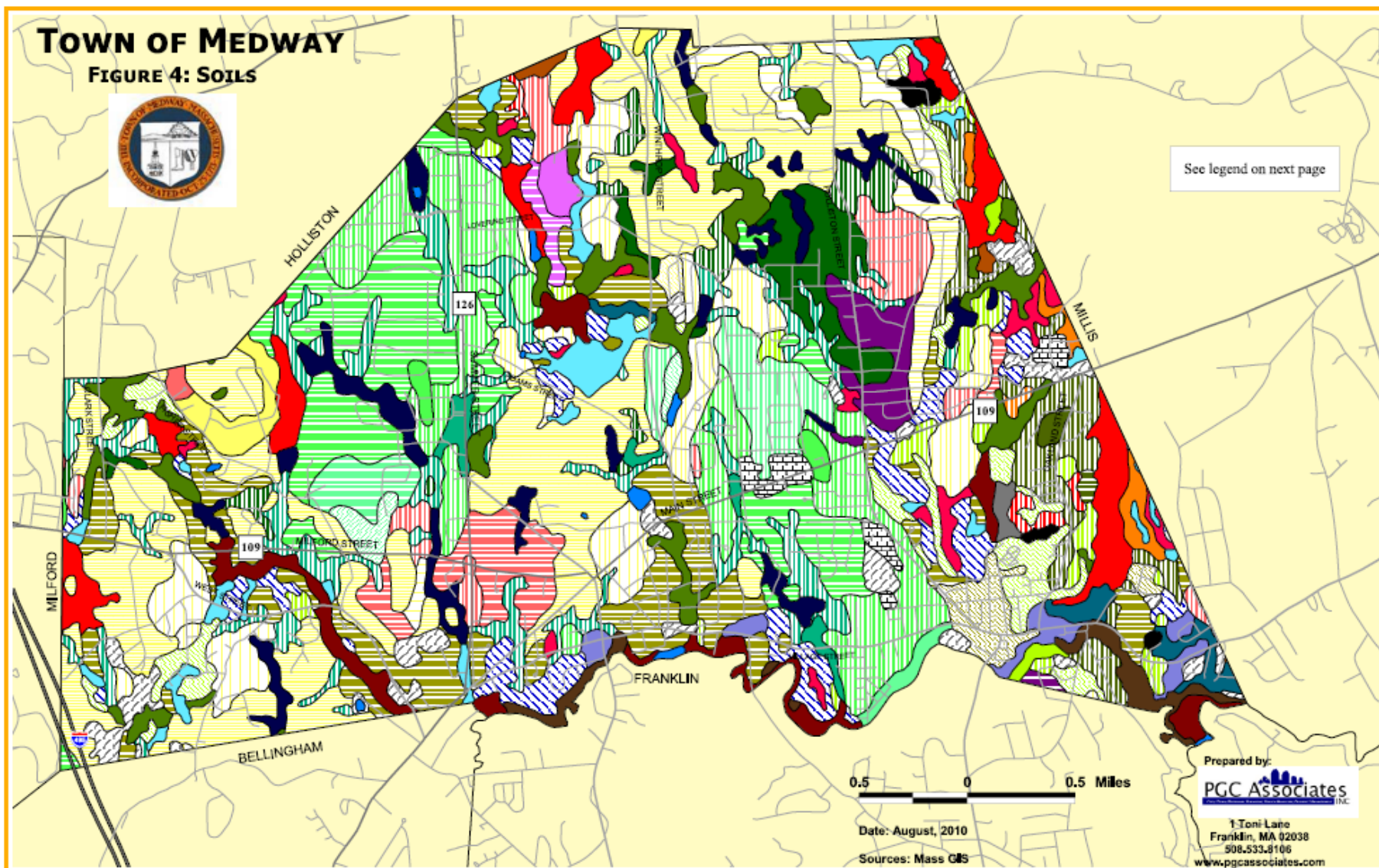
Landscape Character

Medway offers a diverse landscape character that includes urban, suburban, small town and rural/agricultural character. The town includes hills, forests, fields, stone walls, ponds, rivers, streams, marshes and swamps. These elements provide a pleasant and productive environment in which to live and work.

With its location along Route 109, and containing Choate Pond and the Charles River, Medway blends old and new into its existing rural character. By incorporating a public beach, playground and nature trails, Medway maintains its undeveloped feeling; a characteristic that could be lost in the future due to increasing traffic and loss of wildlife habitats.

The corridor between Summer and Winthrop Streets, through which Chicken Brook runs retains much rural character. Medway has historic villages in Medway Village and West Medway and an emerging modern village at the intersection of Routes 109 and 126. Village Street, which runs across the southern end of Town from Bellingham to Millis is a showcase of historic homes and along with the villages, represents a significant part of Medway's character.





SOILS

	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY BOULDERY
	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	CANTON-URBAN LAND COMPLEX, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	CHARLTON-HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
	CHARLTON-HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	CHARLTON-HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	DEERFIELD LOAMY SAND, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	DEERFIELD LOAMY SAND, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	FREETOWN MUCK, 0 TO 1 PERCENT SLOPES
	FREETOWN MUCK, PONDED, 0 TO 1 PERCENT SLOPES
	HAVEN SILT LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	HAVEN SILT LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	HINCKLEY LOAMY SAND, 15 TO 35 PERCENT SLOPES
	HINCKLEY SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	HINCKLEY SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP-CHARLTON COMPLEX, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	MERRIMAC-URBAN LAND COMPLEX, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	MONTAUK FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	MONTAUK FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	MONTAUK FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
	PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	PITS, SAND AND GRAVEL
	RAYNHAM SILT LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	RIDGEBURY FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES
	RIDGEBURY FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	RIPPOWAM SILT LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	SACO SILT LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	SCARBORO AND BIRDSALL SOILS, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	SCIO VERY FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES
	SCITUATE FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	SCITUATE FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	SUDBURY FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	SWANSEA MUCK, 0 TO 1 PERCENT SLOPES
	UDORTHERENTS, REFUSE SUBSTRATUM
	UDORTHERENTS, SANDY
	URBAN LAND, 0 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	WALPOLE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES
	WATER
	WHITMAN FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY
	WINDSOR LOAMY SAND, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	WINDSOR LOAMY SAND, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	WINDSOR LOAMY SAND, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
	WOODBIDGE FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
	WOODBIDGE FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
	WOODBIDGE FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES, EXTREMELY STONY

Route 109, also known as Main Street, runs through the middle of Medway in an east-west direction. It represents the commercial core of the Town. It also is the site of many historic homes. The commercial area is largely suburban in character, having been developed primarily from the 1960's to the present.

Water Resources

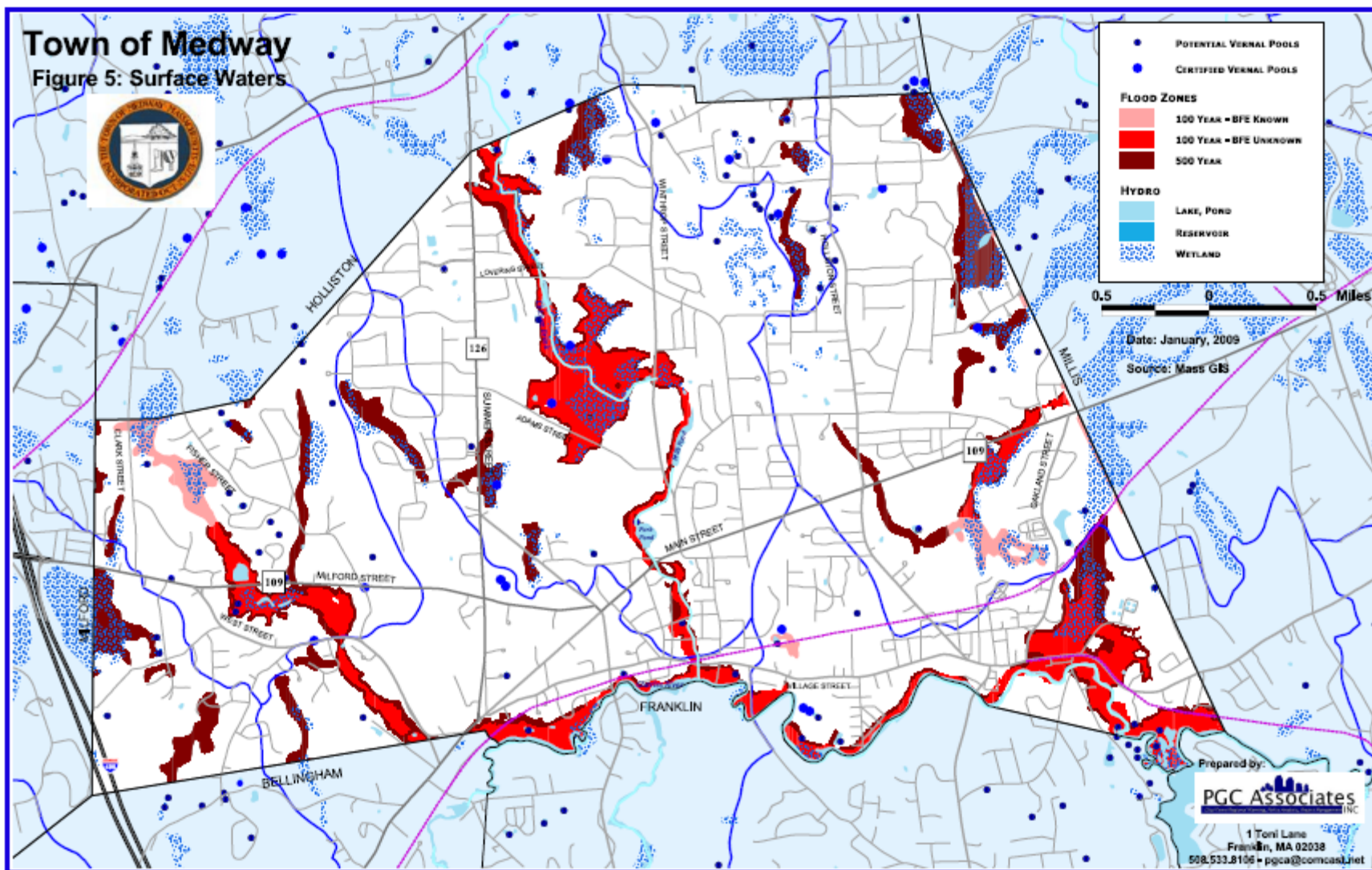
Medway lies entirely within the Charles River watershed. The Charles River is the most significant water body in town. It is an eighty-mile winding river that flows from Hopkinton to Boston Harbor. It also serves as the boundary with the abutting Town of Franklin. The watershed which includes thirty-five communities covers a drainage area of 308 square miles. During the Industrial Revolution, the Charles River was widely used as a power source for manufacturing mills, including in Medway. Discharging pollutants from these mills led to significant environmental damage to the river. The Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) was formed in 1965 in response to the conditions of the river. Ongoing efforts to clean the Charles River have resulted in ninety percent of it being currently swimmable, according to CRWA..

Figure 5 illustrates the water resources of Medway. Surface waters represent about .06 mi², or .5% percent, of Medway's area. As discussed above, the Charles River has had a major impact on the Town's development and history. Choate Pond, fed by the Chicken Brook, which in turn feeds into the Charles River, is the largest body of water in town. The pond can be used for fishing and swimming, but is often closed due to high bacteria counts. The 2004 Annual Town Meeting approved funding to clean up Choate Pond. Two of the three proposed tasks have been completed.

Figure 5 also illustrates the wetlands in Medway. As the map displays, wetlands are scattered throughout the Town, with heavier concentrations along the major waterways. Most of the wetlands are deciduous forested wetlands, usually red maple swamps. As reported in Table 4, there was no net loss of wetlands in Medway in the period from 1971 to 1999. The Black Swamp, which straddles the town line between Medway and Millis, is the most prominent wetland in Medway.

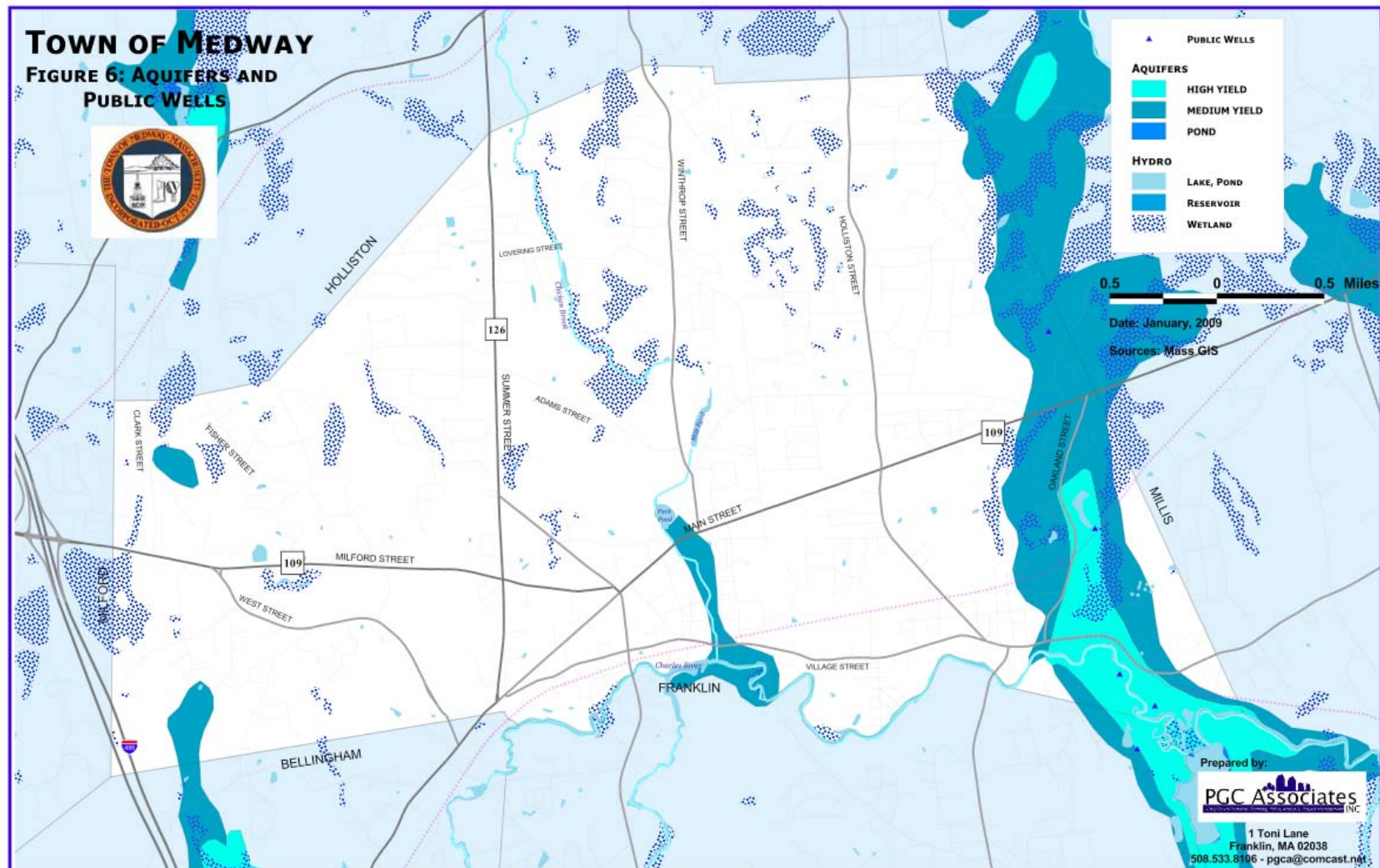
Many of the water resources in Medway are within flood hazard areas (See Figure 5). Three major types of flood hazard zones exist in Medway: A, AE and X500. Zone A is an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which no Base Flood Elevations have been determined. There are three small areas of Zone A in Medway as follows: (1) a small area between Village Street and Forest Road, along the abandoned railroad bed; (2) the northern part of Hopping Brook; and the area along the small brook near the intersection of Route 109 and Holliston Street.

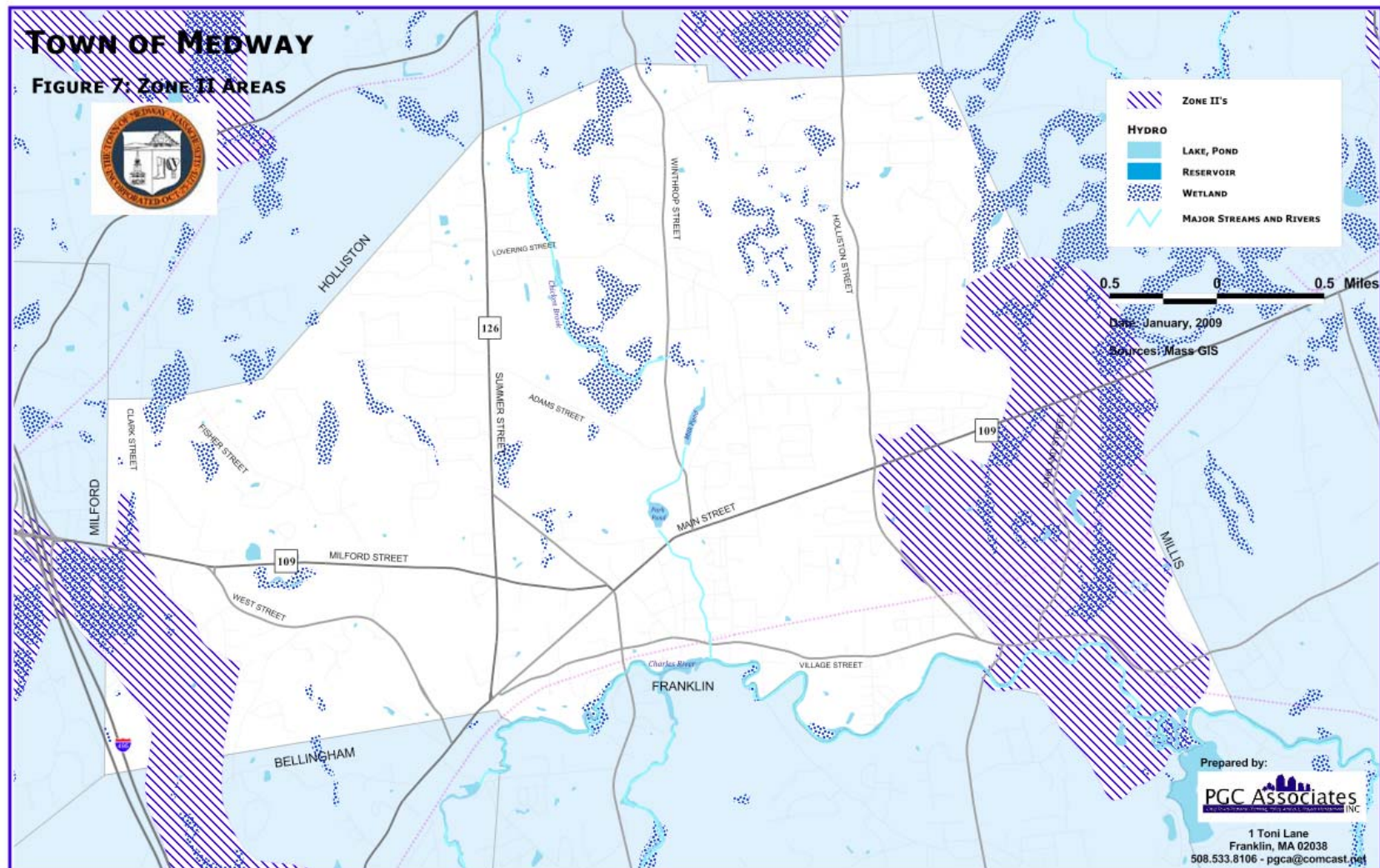
Zone AE is an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which Base Flood Elevations have been determined. This zone closely follows most of Hopping Brook, Chicken Brook the Charles River, and the small brook near the intersection of Route 109 and Holliston St.



Zone X500 is an area subject to inundation by a 500-year storm; an area inundated by 100-year flooding with average depths of less than one foot or with drainage areas less than one square mile; or an area protected by levees from 100-year flooding. It is the most common zone in Medway. X500 zones abut the AE zones along Hopping Brook, Chicken Brook, the Charles River and the small brook near the Route 109 and Holliston Street intersection. Additionally, there are several patches of wetlands in town that are within Zone X500, including a patch west of Clark St, two patches near stall brook at the Milford and Bellingham borders, the area around Summer Hill Road, the wetlands at the end of the brook near the Highland St and Park St intersection, four patches of wetlands in the Black Swamp, a patch of wetlands on Route 126 near Pheasant Run Road and two patches of wetlands along the brook that offshoots eastwardly from Milk Pond. There is another X500 zone lining the brook that offshoots northward from Hopping Brook around Route 109. Finally, an X500 zone surrounds the AE zone around both Park Pond and Milk Pond.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate the Town's wells and aquifers, and Zone II water supply protection areas. The most productive aquifer in Medway is associated with the Charles River near the borders with Franklin and Norfolk, and all three towns take advantage of the aquifers as a municipal water supply.





Vegetation

Figure 8 illustrates Medway's vegetation. Medway's vegetation is dominated by upland forests in areas previously cleared for pastures and farmland. These forests are filled with a mix of species including Red and White Oak, Sugar and Red Maples, Hickories, White Pine and Beech trees. The older forests in town are home to Oak, Hickory and Beech with the occasional Canadian Hemlock and Norway Spruce also found.

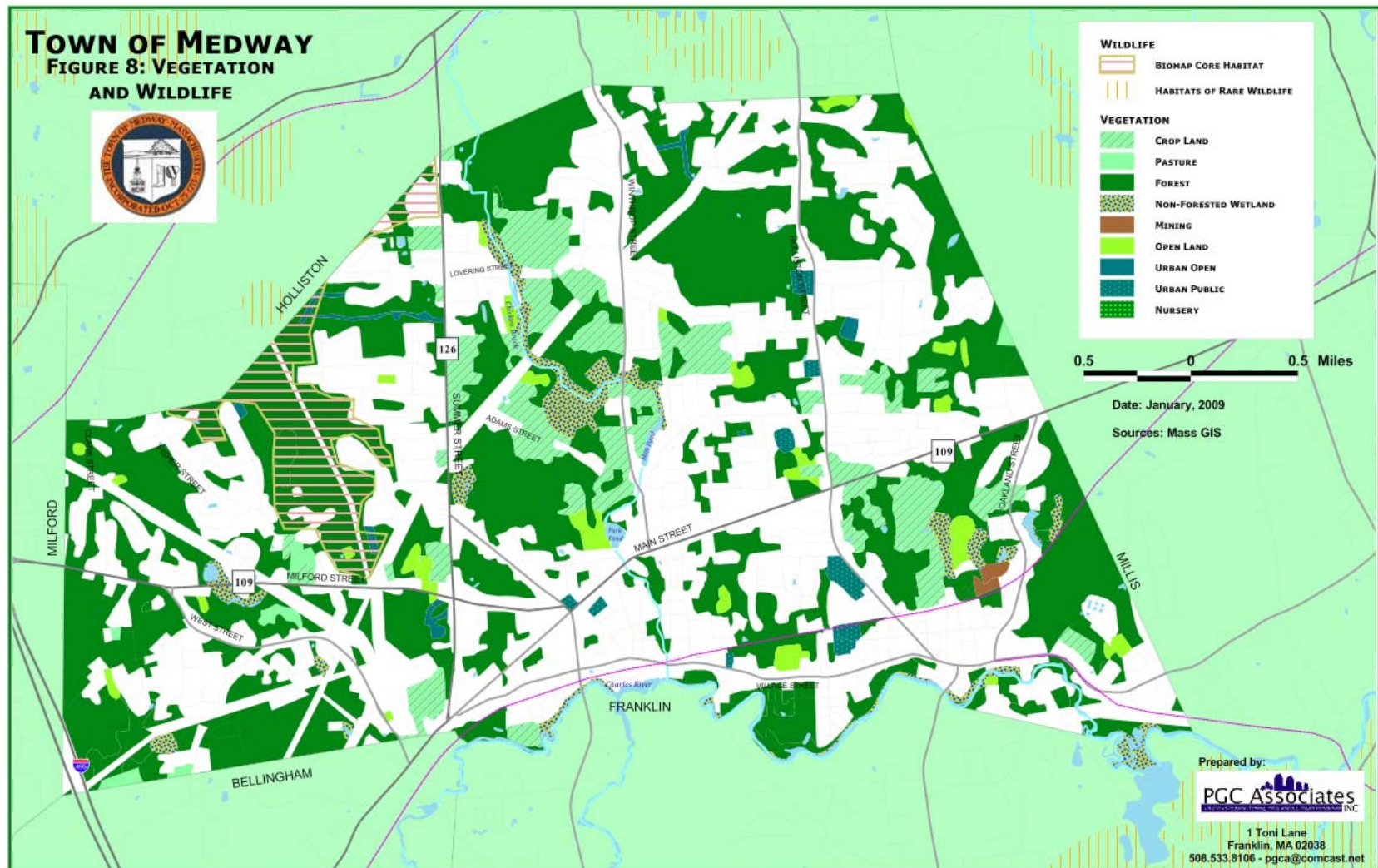
As the trees differ in the types of forest so does the underbrush. In the moist upland forests are found Highbush Blueberries, Sweet Pepperbush, Witch Hazel and Hazelnut while in the drier forests Lowbush blueberries, Sheep Laurel and Huckleberry dominate. Spotted Wintergreen, Wintergreen and Partridgeberry are also common, as well as Lady's Slippers, Canada Mayflower, Trillium and False Solomon's Seal. Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, Buckthorn, and Oriental Bittersweet are common invasive species.

Medway's Northern swamp forests are a mix of the hardwoods Maple, Oak and Ash and evergreens such as White Pine in sandy soil and White Cedar in clay rich soils. These forests are also home to Highbush Blueberries and Swamp Azaleas that are found in the upland forests.

Forest land in Medway declined by more than 26% between 1971 and 1999. More than 1000 acres were converted to other uses.

Meadows are another common type of growth in Medway. Wildflowers such as Queen Anne's Lace, Golden Rod, Wild Asters, Milkweed and Joe Pye Weed are prevalent in the drier areas while in the wetland meadows Bulrush, Jewelweed and red Cardinal flowers are more common. Meadows declined significantly between 1971 and 1999, dropping from 246 acres to just 30. Like much of Medway's cleared land, forests are returning to the meadows, gradually being built with Birch, Cedar, Poplar and White Pine.

Medway's public shade trees are managed by its Tree Warden, who works under the Department of Public Services and makes the determination of whether trees in public areas should be taken down or should remain as public shade trees. Additionally, he helps enforce rules and regulations associated with trees along scenic roads. Twenty-five roadways in Medway currently have this status. Any cutting or removal of trees in the right of way of a scenic road requires an application for the Planning Board for a Scenic Road Work Permit.



Wildlife and Fisheries

Medway has a declining fish and wildlife population but biodiversity is stable with at least twenty-one species of mammals. Since wildlife is dependent on natural habitats for food, water, shelter and reproduction and these resources have been fragmented due to the encroaching development, it can be expected that biodiversity will suffer unless these natural habitats are protected. This diversity becomes even more important when engendered species reside in the town such as the Eastern Box Turtle. Their habitats' survival is critical for their continued existence.

Figure 9 presents the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's BioMap Core Habitat and Supporting Natural Landscape (SNL). The BioMap is a project of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program to identify the areas of Massachusetts most in need of protection in order to protect and promote biodiversity. Core Habitats are the most viable habitat for rare plants and/or animals or exemplary natural communities. Supporting Natural Landscape areas are buffer areas around Core Habitats, large undeveloped patches of vegetation, large "roadless" areas and/or undeveloped watersheds (<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhbiofind.htm>).

Medway's Core Habitat and SNL habitats are located in the northwest corner of town between Routes 109 and 126. The BioCore Habitat extends into Holliston and is adjacent to a SNL habitat connecting it to BioCorp habitats in Holliston and Milford.

The primary wildlife corridors in Medway are generally along the major waterways, including the Charles River, Chicken Brook and Hopping Brook. Both Chicken Brook and Hopping Brook flow into the Charles. Hopping Brook provides a link to Cedar Swamp in Holliston and Chicken Brook flows into the Charles nearly opposite the point where Mine Brook from Franklin flows into it, thus forming a link to Franklin.

In addition, electrical transmission rights-of-way also serve as corridors. They provide links between Hopping Brook and Chicken Brook and also link those corridors with Lake Winthrop in Holliston and Dopping Brook in Holliston and Sherborn.

Rare and Endangered Species

Table 5 lists the rare and endangered species in Medway as listed by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), and Figure 10 illustrates Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. The table shows that the Rigid Flax is threatened. Two other species are listed as of "Special Concern." This category means that these are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts. Previously, another species, the Saline Sedge, a vascular plant, was listed as endangered. However, that species is no longer on the list.

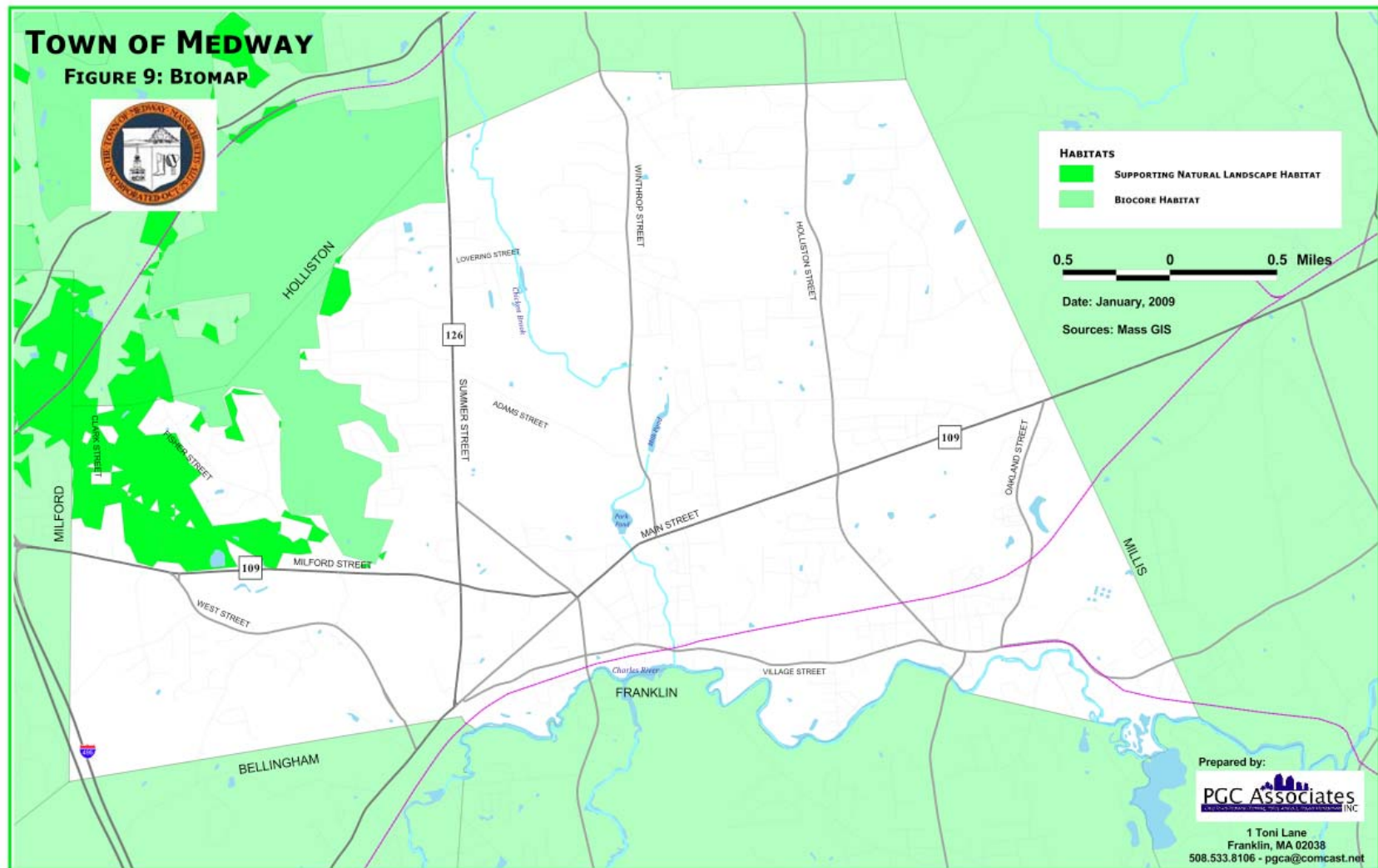


TABLE 5**RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

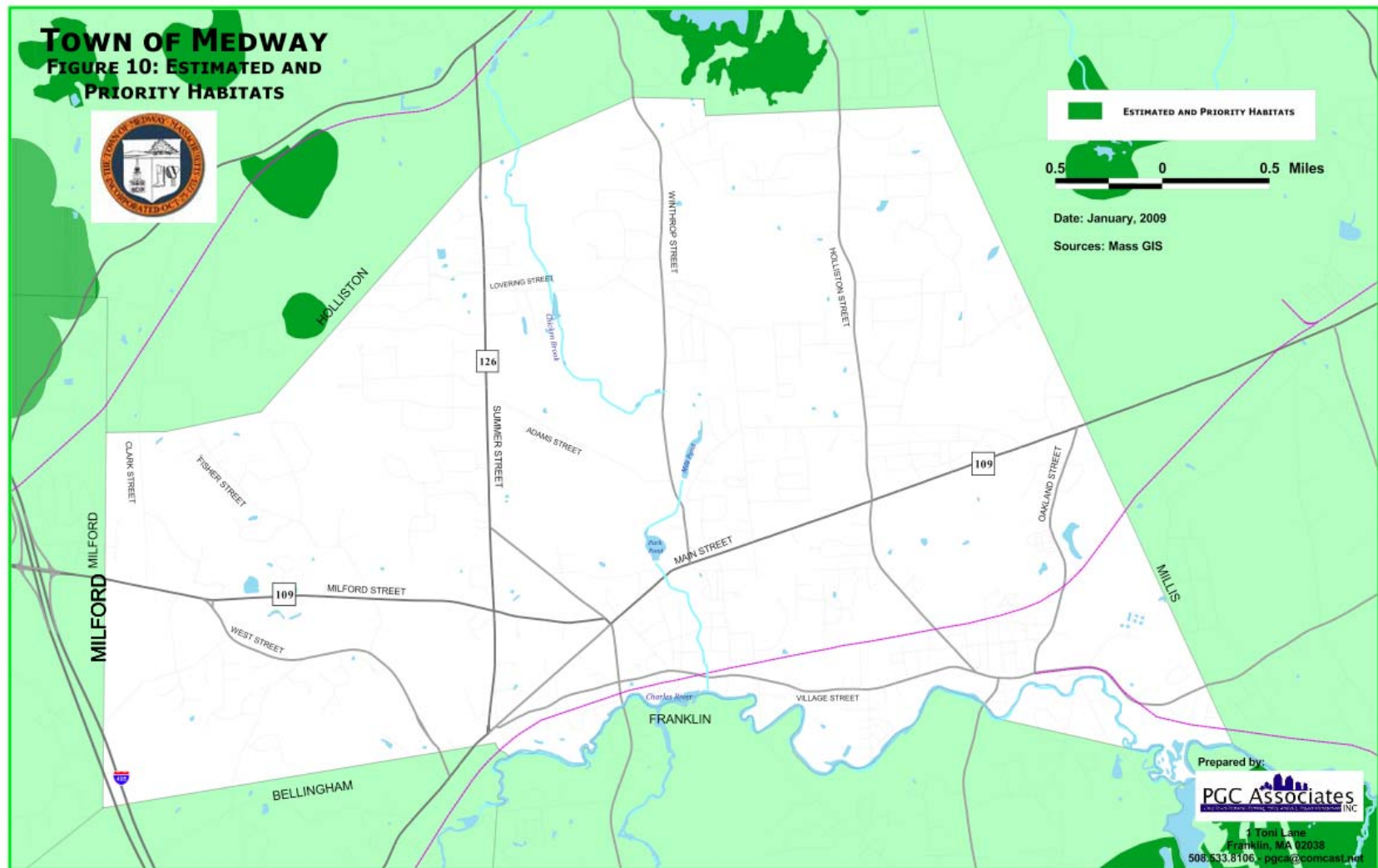
SCIENTIFIC NAME.....	COMMON NAME.....	TAXONOMIC CLASS.....	STATE RANK	MOST RECENT OBSERVATION
NOTROPIS BIFRENATUS	BRIDLE SHINER	Fish	SC	1969
TERRAPENE CAROLINA	EASTERN BOX TURTLE	Reptile	SC	HISTORIC
LINUM MEDIUM VAR TEXANUM	RIGID FLAX	Vascular Plant	T	1902

Source: [Http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_m.htm#medway](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_m.htm#medway)

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

E = Endangered



As Figure 10 illustrates, there are currently no Priority or Estimated Habitat areas in Medway, but there are such areas just outside its borders in Holliston... These are habitats that may be home to some of the rare and endangered species and thus are worthy of protection.

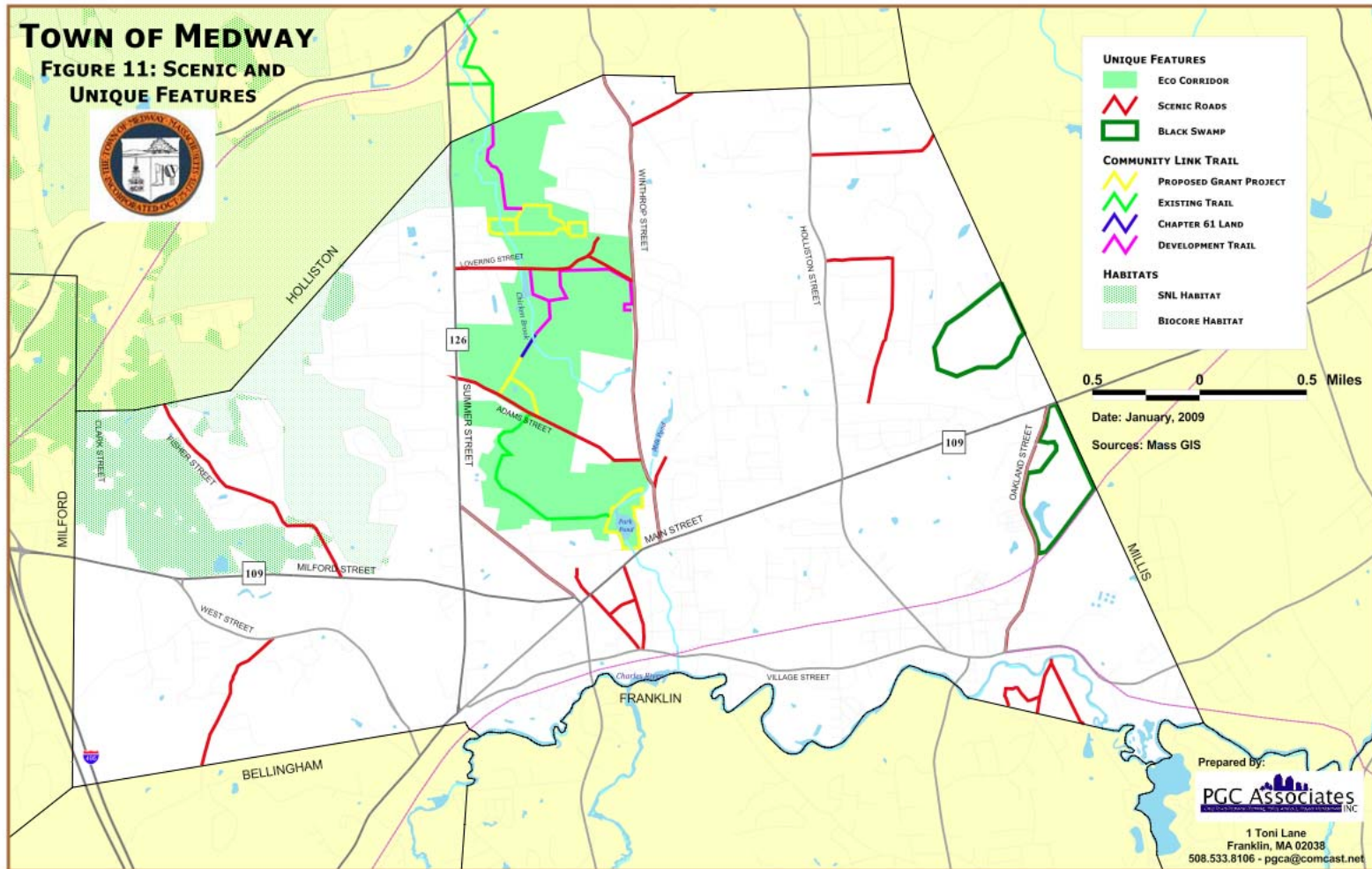
Scenic and Unique Environments

Figure 11 presents Medway's scenic and unique features. Medway's character owes its attractiveness to historical structures surrounded by fields and forests. In 1988, Rabbit Hill in West Medway was officially registered as a National Historical District because of its historic homes and structures. More recently, Medway Village was also added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Medway is home to many "scenic" roads, roads that have been maintained for 50+ years and have homes that reflect that heritage and have trees and/or stone walls intact. They are protected from unnecessary changes and allow people to continue enjoying the town as it was in an earlier time.

Scenic Roads in Medway

Street	From	To
Adams Street	Winthrop Street	Summer Street
Brigham Lane (now Country Lane)	Main Street	Village Street
Causeway Street	Holliston Street	Millis Town Line
Charles River Road	Village Street	Charles River
Ellis Street	Coffee Street	Holliston Street
Elm Street	Main Street	Evergreen Street
Evergreen Street	Main Street	Elm Street
Farm Street	Village Street	Millis Town Line
Fisher Street	West Street	Holliston Town Line
Franklin Street	Main Street	Village Street
Granite Street	West Street	End
Guernsey Street	Cottage Street	Lincoln Street
High Street	Main Street	Village Street
Highland Street	Main Street	Summer Street
Hill Street	Winthrop Street	Holliston Town Line
Lincoln Street	Main Street	Village Street
Lovering Street	Winthrop Street	Summer Street
Oakland Street	Main Street	Village Street
Partridge Street	Ward's Lane	Winthrop Street
Pearl Street	Walker Street	End
Populatic Street	Village Street	Franklin Town Line
Village Street	In its entirety	
Walker Street	Populatic Street	Franklin Town Line
Wellington Street	Cottage Street	High Street
Winthrop Street	Main Street	Holliston Town Line



The Black Swamp, located on the Millis Town line, is a scenic and unique environment worthy of protection. Other scenic and unique resources include the Chicken Brook corridor, which offers the potential to expand and connect some existing trails into a network with potential to connect with a trail in Holliston, and the Biomap areas of Medway in the northwestern corner near the borders with Holliston and Milford.

Environmental Challenges

One serious issue is the adequacy of the domestic water supply. Medway's recent population growth and other factors have resulted in the Town exceeding its permitted drawdown. However, a new well is being developed which will alleviate those problems to some degree, but conservation of water supplies and protection of water resources will remain a concern.

The Town has developed draft regulations pertaining to Low Impact Development stormwater management techniques. Implementing those regulations and encouraging their use will be a priority.

Flooding has been an issue in several areas of Town. Population growth and other development have increased the amount of impervious surface, thus producing more runoff than the drainage systems were designed for. Cleaning of the lines and drainage structures is essential to maintain capacity as high as possible.

A regional sewer treatment plant is located in Medway. It serves the Town's of Medway, Franklin, Millis and Bellingham. It currently discharges its treated effluent into the Charles River. A major challenge is to find ways to keep that water local by infiltrating it into the ground and/or using it as a source of irrigation.

The Town has two former landfills. One is located off Broad Street and the other off Highland Street. Neither is shown as capped on the State web site, though both are shown as inactive. The Town's Highway Garage is adjacent to the one off Broad Street.

Medway has lost more than 26% of its forest land between 1971 and 1999. However, it now has an Open Space Residential Design bylaw that provides for 50% of a parcel developed under it to remain as open space. This and the Adult Retirement Community Planned Unit Development bylaw, which also requires that open space be provided, will help to reduce such losses in the future.

Erosion and sedimentation are problems primarily from new construction. A wetlands bylaw, Planning Board Rules and Regulations, and a stormwater management bylaw have all worked to reduce this problem.

There are no environmental justice populations in Medway. Also, park and conservation resources are well distributed in the Town.

Under the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 21E sites are contaminated by oil or other hazardous material and are subject to special restrictions for redevelopment. Such sites are classified by tiers based on their level of contamination and their owner's compliance with regulations. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) has a searchable database (<http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/SearchResults.asp>) that lists 34 reportable spills of oil and/or hazardous materials in Medway from 1987 through January 2010. Most of those sites, including some former gas station sites, are classified in a status that poses no significant risk.

There are five Tier II and Tier 1D Chapter 21E sites in Medway as follows:

Site Name	Address	Zoning	Tier
Medway Mobil Station	107 Main Street	C-I	II
Aoude Gas Station	73 Main Street	C-I	II
Texaco Station	71 Main Street	C-I	II
Medway Oil Facility	37 Broad Street	C-III	1D
NA	8 Populatic Street	AR-II	1D

Source: MassGIS

Three gas stations on Main Street are classified as Tier II, meaning that permits from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) are not required and response action may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional, without prior Departmental approval. All three stations are in cleanup phase. All three are also located within the proposed Chapter 40R overlay district on Main Street. The district is currently being targeted for mixed-use redevelopment.

The Medway Oil Facility and 8 Populatic Street are located in the C-III and AR-II zoning districts respectively and are designated as Tier 1D sites. Tier 1D includes any site where the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to Mass DEP by a specified deadline. A site is categorically classified as Tier 1D on the date of its applicable transition deadline and is assessed annual compliance fees should the responsible party fail to submit certain paperwork to the department by the applicable deadline¹. Both Tier 1D sites are unlikely to be targeted for housing-related redevelopment in the foreseeable future.

It should be noted that the above list presents those sites on a list of sites with reported spills that has been prepared by DEP. It is not meant to suggest that these sites are undevelopable, nor it is intended here to imply that these are the only sites that may be hindered for development due to past spills. That judgment must necessarily be made on a site-by-site basis.

Section 5: Inventory Of Lands Of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Inventory of Protected Open Space

Protected open space serves several valuable functions. Depending on the type (e.g. forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland, etc.) open space can provide valuable habitat for both plant and wildlife, help replenish and protect aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, produce a sustainable source of a wide range of resources, and absorb and/or treat pollutants. Open space also offers numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and adds scenic views to the landscape.

Figure 12 illustrates the protected and recreational open space in Medway. Table 6 lists the protected open space. For this report, “protected open space” includes those lands under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, land around municipal wells, State land (of which there currently is none in Medway) within a state park, forest or other similar use, and flood control land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It should be noted that the parks and playgrounds listed in Table 7, other than those associated with schools and the Senior Center, are also protected open space under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. These protected parks and playgrounds total 68.15 acres.

As Table 6 indicates, the Town of Medway owns 39 open space parcels totaling 268.96 acres. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns an additional 52.38 acres. This land is primarily for flood control purposes but serves a conservation function as well. There are no state parks, forests, or other state land in Medway. There is land preserved by a private, non-profit organization in the form of a conservation restriction on about 14 acres on Winthrop Street, generously donated to the Upper Charles Land Trust in 2007. The total amount of protected open space in Medway is 403.43 acres (321.28 acres of Conservation Commission, water protection and flood protection land, 14 acres under conservation restriction, and 68.15 acres of parks and playgrounds). This is a very small number compared to other area towns. For example, Bellingham and Franklin each have about 1500 acres of protected open space. It should be noted that another 51 acres of open space have been approved as part of four Open Space Residential Design subdivisions, but have not yet been conveyed to the Town.

Public and Private Recreation Facilities

A variety of recreational opportunities exist in Medway. While conservation land is usually also available for some recreation activities (hiking, bird-watching, etc.), recreation land here is defined as areas devoted and used primarily for one or more specific recreation uses that require:

- A large portion of the site;
- Man-made facilities or significant alteration of the natural landscape; and
- Intensive maintenance.

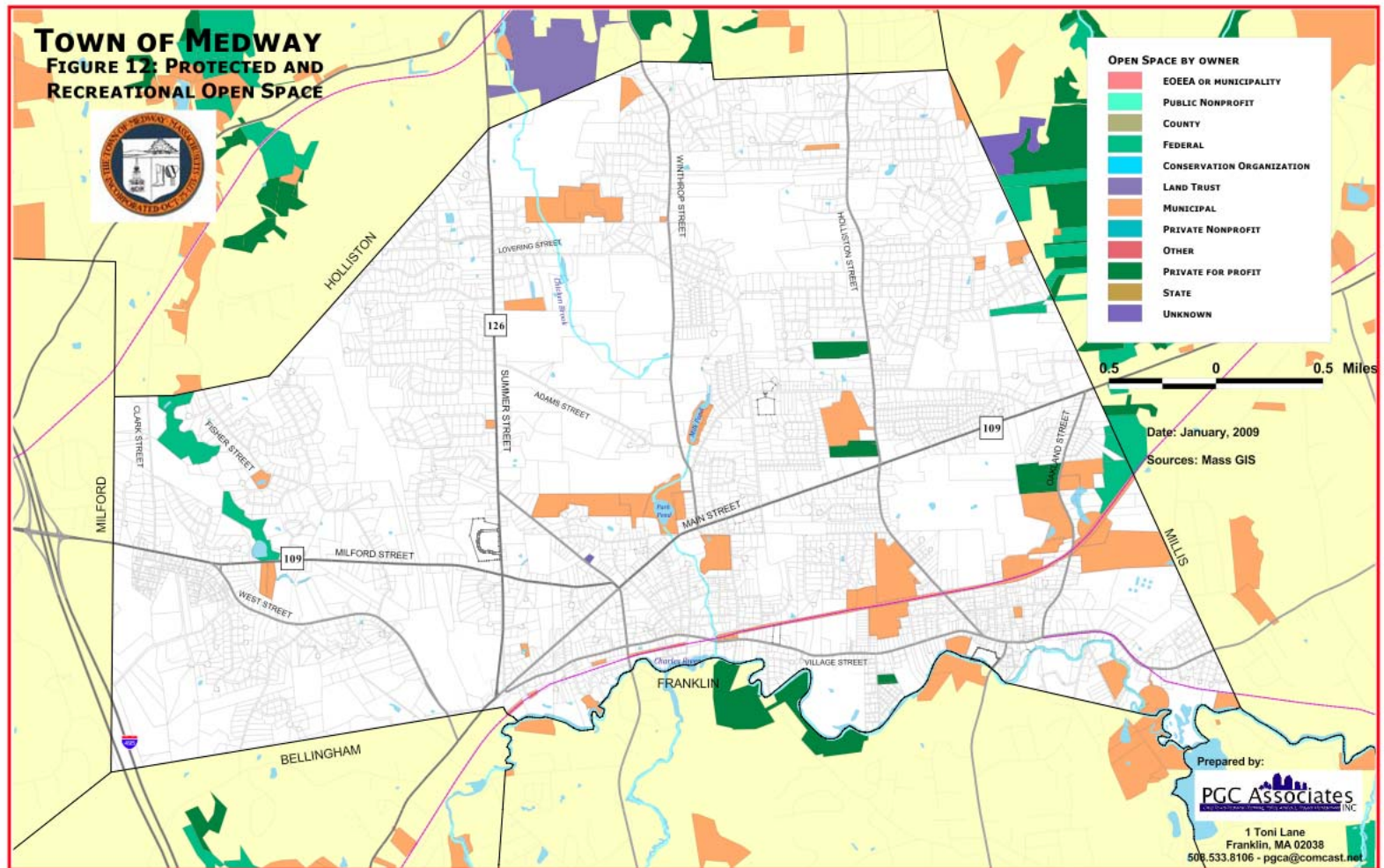


TABLE 6**PROTECTED OPEN SPACE**

SITE #	LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF MEDWAY								
1	Deerfield Rd.	4-39G-0	3.48	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
2	Milford St.	5-10-3-48	9.69	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
3	Azalea Dr.	5-17-01-33	1.01	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
4	Oakland St.	6-430B-48	13.5	AR-I	Water Dept./Good	DPS	Passive	Yes
5	Maple Leaf Ln.	6-600-4	4.86	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
6	Maple Leaf Ln.	6-601-4	1.01	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
7	Saddle Hill Rd.	6-620-0	1.03	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
8	Saddle Hill Rd.	6-621-0	1.07	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
9	Causeway St.	7-20-33	5.52	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
10	Holliston St.	7-8A-169	2.46	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
11	Alexandra Dr.	8-23-18	8.23	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
12	Wards Ln.	8-51A-8	19.42	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
13	Wards Ln.	8-51C-4	10.43	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
14	Village St.	1-1-2-57	0.88	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
15	Ryan Rd.	1-14B-0	4.40	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
16	Populatic St.	1-26-19	12.30	AR-II	Water Dept./Good	DPS	Passive	Yes
17	Village St.	1-5-66	43.00	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
18	Village St.	1B-109-2-203	4.40	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
19	Canal St.	1B-145-14	0.77	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
20	Oakland St.	1B-244B-44	19.99	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
21	Village St.	1B-89-193	0.13	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	No	Yes
22	Village St.	1C-117-0	21.80	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
23	Waterview Dr.	2-103-5-14	3.19	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes

Continued

AR-I = Agricultural Residential I AR-II = Agricultural Residential II
 ConCom = Conservation Commission DPS = Department of Public Services

TABLE 6
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE
(CONTINUED)

SITE #	LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
TOWN OF MEDWAY (Continued)								
24	Holbrook St.	2-5-A-5	0.69	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
25	Ardmore Cir.	2-75C-3	1.14	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
26	Haven St.	2A-217-5	0.25	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
27	Village St.	2A-223-1-313	1.01	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
28	Village St.	2A-223-AB-313	0.24	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	No	Yes
29	Highland St.	2B-47-14	0.80	AR-II	Water Dept./Good	DPS	Passive	Yes
30	Milford St.	3-9R093	1.81	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
31	Milford St.	3-9S-93	3.47	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
32	Lovering St.	5-200-1F-85	0.79	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
33	Lovering St.	5-200-1G-87	1.87	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
34	Oakland St.	6-440-1-0	3.22	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
35	Milford St.	4-1-137	4.00	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
36	Village St.	1-20B-41	9.20	AR-II	Water Dept./Good	DPS	Passive	Yes
37	Cynthia Circle	1-16-0-R	38.00	AR-II	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
38	Oakland Street	6-440A	4.4	AR-I	Water Dept./Good	DPS	Passive	Yes
39	Causeway Street	22-7	5.5	AR-I	Conservation/Good	ConCom	Passive	Yes
	SUB-TOTAL		268.96					

Continued

AR-I = Agricultural Residential I AR-II = Agricultural Residential II
ConCom = Conservation Commission DPS = Department of Public Services

TABLE 6
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE
(CONTINUED)

SITE #	LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES/ CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS
UNITED STATES (Army Corps of Engineers)								
40	Clark St.	4-23A-48	2.80	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
41	Milford St.	4-34B-96	10.70	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
42	Deerfield Rd.	4-34C-17	0.18	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
43	Deerfield Rd.	4-34D-17	0.28	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
44	Oakview Cir.	6-453A-0	2.40	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
45	Oakview Cir.	6-454A-0	1.47	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
46	Oakland St.	6-702-0	14.71	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
47	Oakland St.	6-920-0	5.05	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
48	Oakland St.	6-921-0	3.85	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
49	Green Valley Rd.	6-931-0	0.75	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
50	Green Valley Rd.	6-932-0	2.43	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
51	Oakland St.	6-943-0	0.45	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
52	Indian Creek Rd.	6-948-0	3.36	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
53	Indian Creek Rd.	6-949-0	2.03	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
54	Oakview Cir.	6-451A-0	0.83	AR-I	Conservation	ConCom	Passive	Yes
	SUB-TOTAL		52.32					
	GRAND TOTAL		321.28					

Source: Medway Assessors Data, 2008

AR-I = Agricultural Residential I AR-II = Agricultural Residential II
ConCom = Conservation Commission DPS = Department of Public Services

Examples of recreation facilities include parks and playgrounds, schoolyards, country clubs/golf courses, campgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, etc. Such facilities can be publicly or privately owned and accessible.

Table 7 lists the public and private recreation facilities in Medway. It should be noted that this list is derived primarily from the Assessors records. Also, the table does not include those properties listed as Chapter 61B lands in the next section. Some or all of those properties may more appropriately be listed as recreation facilities in this section.

TABLE 7**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES**

NAME	LOCATION	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS
PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							
Oakland Park	Oakland St.	11.10	AR-I	Fields/playground	DPS/Parks Commission	Good	Yes
Park (Senior Center)	Oakland St.	3.90	AR-I	Senior Center	Council on Aging	Excellent	Yes
Playground	Partridge St.	0.50	AR-I	Playground	DPS/Parks Commission	Fair	Yes
Park (Idylbrook ¹)	Wards Ln.	10.00	AR-I	Fields	DPS/Parks Commission	Good	Yes
Playground	North St.	1.19	AR-II	Playground	DPS/Parks Commission	Good	Yes
Medway Middle School	Holliston St.	39.20	AR-II	School grounds	School Committee	Good	Limited
Burke/Memor- ial School	Cassidy Ln.	11.20	AR-II	School grounds	School Committee	Good	Limited
School	Holliston St.	0.29	AR-II	School grounds	School Committee	Good	Limited
Park	Village St.	0.41	AR-II	Park	DPS/Parks Commission	Good	Yes
Park	Village St.	0.3	AR-II	Park	DPS/Parks Commission	Good	Yes
Cassidy Fields	Winthrop St.	4.40	AR-II	Baseball fields	DPS/Parks Commission	Excellent	Yes

Continued

AR-I = Agricultural Residential I

AR-II = Agricultural Residential II

DPS = Department of Public Services

¹Purchased with a Self-Help grant from Division of Conservation Services.

TABLE 7
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES
(Continued)

NAME	LOCATION	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION	PUBLIC ACCESS
PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS (Continued)							
Choate Park	Oak St.	9.15	AR-II	Park/fields	DPS/Parks Commission	Excellent	Yes
Choate Park	Oak St.	30.10	AR-II	Park/fields	DPS/Parks Commission	Excellent	Yes
McGovern School	Lovering St.	24.10	AR-II	Fields	School Committee	Good	Limited
Medway High School	Summer Street	36.06	AR-I	Fields	School Committee	Excellent	Limited
TOTAL PUBLIC RECREATION ACREAGE		181.90					
PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS							
Veterans Building Association	Holliston St	. 12.50	C-I	Baseball field	VFW	Good	No
TOTAL RECREATION ACREAGE		194.40					

Source: Medway Assessors Data, 2008

AR-I = Agricultural Residential I AR-II = Agricultural Residential II C-I = Commercial I
DPS = Department of Public Services

As the Table indicates, there are 181.90 acres of public recreation land. This figure exaggerates the actual amount of recreation space available because it includes the total area of school sites (including the building, driveways, parking, etc.). In addition to the public recreation land, the Veterans of Foreign Wars facility on Holliston includes a baseball field on its 12.5 acres. Thus, the total amount of recreation land is 194.40 acres.

Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Properties

In order to encourage the preservation of certain activities and land uses (namely forestry, agriculture, and recreation), the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allow a property tax break for these land uses. In return for this tax break, the property owners who take advantage of it must make the parcel available for purchase by the Town in which it is located before it may be sold on the open market or its use changed. Since towns often do not have the available funds to purchase these parcels, the law does not provide much protection. However, to the extent that the tax break may help keep the land use economically feasible, it does provide some incentive to continue the land use rather than make the land available for development. Named after the section of state law that allows this, Chapter 61 land is that which is used for forestry or woodlands, Chapter 61A land is used for agriculture, and Chapter 61B land is used for recreation.

Table 8 lists the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands in Medway. As the table shows, there are a total of 533.59 acres in these programs. Forestry land accounts for 17.63 acres. Agricultural land constitutes about 88% of the total at 470.37 acres. Land used for recreational purposes equals 45.6 acres.

Other Lands of Conservation or Recreation Interest

Currently, 321.28 acres are permanently protected, 194.4 acres are used for public or private recreation and 533.59 acres have minimal protection in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B, for a total of 1049.27 acres (14% of Medway's land area) are in open space or recreation use. Table 9 lists the some other public and private properties in Town that may have some value as conservation and/or recreation land due to their size and/or location, and should be considered for acquisition and/or protection. It is not meant to be a complete or exclusive list, but rather a starting point for consideration. Criteria such as the sensitivity of the environment, proximity to other important conservation or recreation lands, scenic views, habitat, etc. should be applied to focus and/or expand this list.

TABLE 8**CHAPTER 61, 61A, AND 61B LANDS**

LOCATION	ASSESSORS' MAP/ LOT #	ACRES
CHAPTER 61 (Forestry)		
Winthrop St.	8-7A-116	3.14
Winthrop St.	8-11	14.49
TOTAL CHAPTER 61		17.63
CHAPTER 61A (Agriculture)		
Pearl St.	1-46A-49 A	8.43
Waterview Dr.	2-110-0 R	8.00
Waterview Dr.	2-103-4-12	4.42
Winthrop St.	5-0-53 R	5.00
Milford Street	5-2-76	12.99
Lovering St.	5-284A-155	9.29
Lovering St.	5-284A2-157	8.99
Summer St.	5-29-116	48.99
Winthrop St.	5-339-25	47.00
Winthrop St.	5-39-33	8.00
Winthrop St.	5-32 & 35-38	32.00
Winthrop St.	5-42A-51	7.49
Lovering St.	5-201AA-74	0.68
Lovering St.	5-201-82	20.30
Priscilla Rd.	5-200-1C--17	5.67
Adams St.	5-34&34A-0	47.88
Holliston St.	6-315--86	5.00
Holliston St.	6-316-88--86	1.05
Holliston St.	6-357-64 R	29.00
Main St.	6-428-65	60.87
Green Valley Rd.	6-491-26 R	1.02
Jayar Rd.	6-493-23 R	11.41
Coffee St.	6-493-1-0 R	16.50
Coffee St.	6-497-35	4.78
Coffee St.	6-498-35 R	26.10
Hill St.	8-21-9	7.30
Lovering St.	8-52-148	9.68
Broad St.	1B-2-0 R	21.21
Broad St.	1B-4-41	0.16
Broad St.	1B-5-43	0.38
Broad St.	1B-6-45	0.77
TOTAL CHAPTER 61A		470.37

Continued

TABLE 8
CHAPTER 61, 61A, AND 61B LANDS
(Continued)

LOCATION	ASSESSORS' MAP/ LOT #	ACRES
CHAPTER 61B (Recreation)		
Fisher St.	5-8-28	11.64
Holliston St.	6-351-87	8.65
Holliston St.	6-350-89	0.25
Oakland Street	6-420-73	13.38
Summer Street	8-58-32-149	5.21
Claybrook Farm Rd.	8-58-D-0	4.50
Claybrook Farm Rd.	8-58-39-8	1.97
TOTAL CHAPTER 61B		45.60
TOTAL CHAPTER 61,61A and 61B		533.59

Source: Medway Assessor's Office, 2009

TABLE 9
OTHER LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION
INTEREST

ASSESSOR'S MAP/ LOT NO.	LAND USE CODE*	STREET	AREA (acres)
Town Properties			
5-17A-2B	903	Summer St.	5.69
5-17A-3A	903	Summer St.	6.33
5-17A-4	903	Summer St.	1.96
5-17B	903	Summer St.	15.00
5-31C	903	Adams St.	23.00
5-339A	903	Summer St.	3.00
5-359A-E	903	Highland St.	4.20
5-WHAL-0	903	Highland St.	13.87
7-23-0	903	Birch Bark Rd.	4.00
8-33-17	903	Colonial Rd.	9.80
5-WHA-0	903	Highland St.	7.07
6-704-0	903	Oakland St.	10.00
6-427	903	Broad St.	31.40
1C-117	903	Village St.	21.81
1-005	903	Village St.	43.00
Total Town Acreage of Interest			200.13
Private Properties			
4-060&61	130	Fisher	14.00
6-101-1	130	Holliston St.	20.09
5-045	130	Lovering St.	61.00
4-034	130	Milford	24.07
5-022	130	Summer St.	42.40
8-056	130	Summer St.	31.62
8-023A	130	Winthrop St.	21.08
1-006A	131	Village St.	19.00
Total Private Acreage of Interest			233.26
Private Tax Exempt Properties			
8-054		Summer St. (Marian)	109.150
Total Acreage of Interest			542.54

Source: Medway Assessor's Office, 2008

*Land Use Codes 130 = Developable
 131 = Potentially Developable
 903 + Municipal

Section 6: Community Vision

Description of Process

The Open Space and Recreation Goals listed below were established by the Medway Open Space Committee to further its mission, which is:

To preserve Medway's rural character through the permanent protection of undeveloped land, wetlands and surface water bodies, agricultural lands and uses, scenic viewscapes, historic sites and recreation land.

They are derived, in part, from the goals listed in a draft Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared in 2004, and refined based on a survey of residents conducted in 2008 as part of Master Plan update process. A public forum was held on March 3, 2009 to receive additional input on the goals and the draft OSRP update. A copy of the minutes of that forum is included in the Appendix.

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

1. Identify and protect undeveloped land that directly affects aquifers and groundwater, wildlife habitats, ponds and waterways.
2. Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation.
3. Promote the development and maintenance of trails and trail linkages.
4. Provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of the range of Medway's open space and recreational assets.
5. Develop and maintain an active community culture of open space acquisition and habitat preservation.
6. Encourage compact development to reduce sprawl.
7. Facilitate the stewardship of open spaces.

These goals are expanded with a set of objectives for each in the Goals and Objectives section below.

Section 7: Needs Analysis

This needs analysis section is a compilation of needs derived from several sources. It includes input from the 2008 survey of residents for the master plan update. It also takes into account previous Town studies (including the 2004 draft Open Space and Recreation Plan), and the data assembled in the Community Setting, Environmental Inventory and Analysis, and Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest sections of this report. The 2006 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (known as “Massachusetts Outdoors 2006!”) prepared by the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), was also considered.

Resource Protection Needs

As the Community Setting section made clear, growth is proceeding steadily in Medway. In addition to negative impacts on natural resources (wildlife habitat, water recharge areas, etc.), this development has impacted the character of the town by eliminating scenic views and transforming rural roadways into suburban collector roads. The need to conserve natural resources (especially water resources) and to preserve community character creates a need to acquire additional open space and to develop policies and regulatory measures that protect natural resources. Medway has one of the lowest levels of protected open space in the area.

The 2001 Buildout Analysis by EOEA estimated that Medway had 2617 additional developable acres. The residential and commercial development that could result would increase water demand from about 1,148,397 million gallons per day in 2000 to 1,883,430 gallons per day at buildout. Medway already sometimes exceeds its maximum permitted daily pumping rate. A new well is in the process of being constructed, which should help alleviate the situation to some degree. The existing and future well sites need to be a high priority for protection. Protection includes regulatory measures as well as acquisition.

In addition to the water demand, the Buildout Analysis estimates Medway’s population to increase by 50%. If the land use trends revealed in Table 4 and discussed in the “Growth and Development Patterns” subsection of the Community Setting section of this report is continued, ever increasing amounts of land will be needed to accommodate this additional population.

Figure 10 presents the Estimated and Priority Habitat areas of Medway, Figure 9 presents the Medway portion of the BioMap, and Figure 5 presents Water Resources. These areas are also in need of protection.

The 2008 master plan update survey indicated that 68.6% of respondents ranked protected open space/natural environments as important or very important (#4 and #5) as a community characteristic. Only 26.9% were satisfied or very satisfied with the current status of this item.

One method of conserving natural resources is to encourage compact development. Compact development results in more efficient use of land such that growth is accommodated while still preserving natural resources.

Community Needs (Recreation)

Among the goals and objectives of the 2009 Master Plan are the following:

- Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation.
- Provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of Medway's open space and recreational assets
- Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation
- Provide all neighborhoods with appropriate recreation, park and/or playground facilities, including incorporating recreation areas in new subdivisions
- Establish a cost-effective maintenance schedule for municipal recreation and conservation facilities
- Use reliable and durable. Equipment when developing or redeveloping parks and playgrounds

The demand for recreation facilities has grown significantly in the region. There is always a need for additional recreation facilities for youths, in particular, but for all ages generally. There is a need to acquire additional land for fields and other active recreation opportunities.

The 2006 SCORP ranks the ten most needed or desired facilities statewide as (1) swimming; (2) walking; (3) road biking; (4) playground activity; (5) tennis; (6) golf; (7) hiking; (8) mountain biking; (9) basketball; and (10) baseball. In the Southeastern region, of which Medway is a part, the highest-ranked needs were (1) road biking; (2) swimming; (3) walking; (4) golfing; (5) hiking and (6) playground activity.

As mentioned above, links among current and/or future open space and recreation facilities are needed both within the town and between the town and surrounding region. Such links promote wildlife migration (thus allowing greater biodiversity) as well as provide opportunities for passive recreation for humans.

It should be noted that recreation facilities in Town have expanded significantly in recent years. Idylbrook Farm was acquired in the 1990's and 10 of 40 acres were developed into active playing fields. A new high school with fields opened in Fall 2004.

Management Needs

As discussed above under Resource Protection Needs, compact development is a means of more efficiently using land to accommodate growth while protecting natural resources. Important steps to amend zoning bylaws and other measures have been taken in the town. The Zoning Bylaw was amended to provide for age-restricted housing, by special permit. The Zoning Bylaw also allows for Open Space Residential Developments (also by special permit). The bylaw was amended and multifamily housing is now allowed as part of an Open Space Residential Development. These provide for denser development on a portion of a parcel in order to preserve a portion of the parcel as open space. However, additional measures to encourage use of these mechanisms and other compact, sustainable development remain an important management need.

In addition, as growth continues, water resources are being strained. Growth results in more water use while also increasing the amount of impervious surface. Recent policy changes at the state level to encourage more recharge of stormwater into the ground and more decentralized (rather than centralized) wastewater treatment facilities will help improve the situation to some degree.

While the need to protect aquifer and recharge areas is important, educational and regulatory measures to encourage conservation and recharge of stormwater and wastewater are also major components. A public education campaign could include a web site, slide show, cable TV video, presentations to civic groups, etc. Information on existing open space and its functions as well as desired expansions of the system could be included.

Another need is public access to already-protected open space. Facilities such as parking, signs, and trails coupled with improved public awareness would result in greater use and appreciation of our natural resources. There is a need for awareness among the citizens of Medway where existing protected open space is located and what recreational opportunities are offered there. Second, there is a need for improved facilities (including features that permit usage by elderly and handicapped persons in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements) to allow for increased usage by the public. The town's Zoning Bylaw and General Bylaws should be reviewed to determine the degree of protection they provide for wetlands, floodplains, aquifers and other sensitive lands.

Maintenance is an ongoing issue that tends to strain Town resources. The Town needs to ensure that reliable and durable equipment is used in recreation facilities, and it must develop innovative and cost-effective maintenance procedures and protocols.

Finally, in all the issues discussed above, there is a need to increase community involvement in the formulation of solutions. Public education is a critical component of this. Outreach programs such as the web site and cable TV programs are among the means available to do this.

In addition to soliciting input into potential actions involving open space and recreation, another area where public information may be effective is in the benefits of donating land parcels and/or conservation easements to the Town or a land trust. Additional information about the options and benefits available need to be disseminated to Medway residents.

The benefits include the knowledge that one's property will be preserved indefinitely, as well as the satisfaction that results in providing a valuable recreation or environmental resource to the community. There are financial benefits as well. Each person's personal or family financial situation is different so benefits vary, but some of the financial benefits can include an income tax deduction, avoidance of estate and capital gains taxes, avoidance of future property taxes, and relief from liability and maintenance concerns for the property. A land donation can be structured to allow the donor to retain use of the property for the remainder of his/her life.

Similarly, donation of a conservation easement provides many of the same benefits but a somewhat lower level since the donor retains ownership of the land and can continue to use the land, but gives up development rights. Often, a large percentage of a land parcel's value is in the development rights.

Section 8: Open Space And Recreation Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives listed below represent an expansion of the goals listed in the Community Goals section. Some of the objectives may appear under more than one goal. They represent more specific, generally measurable, steps that can be taken to advance the goals.

GOAL 1: Identify and protect undeveloped land that directly affects aquifers and groundwater, wildlife habitats, ponds and waterways.

Objectives:

- Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting natural resources, including water resources and wildlife corridors
- Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting historic landscapes and/or community character
- Develop/implement a system of prioritizing parcels for potential acquisition
- Encourage/promote the incorporation of open space into new development plans (especially by the use of the open space residential subdivision (OSRD) and the Adult Retirement Community Planned Unit Development (ARCPUD) sections of the Zoning Bylaw), and use these tools to establish “eco-corridors” or greenbelts where appropriate
- Acquire additional conservation and open space lands. Encourage donations of open space by landowners.
- Support the Open Space Committee to coordinate among Town Boards and Commissions, and contact land owners
- Increase public awareness of the value of open space, and encourage citizen input.

GOAL 2: Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation.

Objectives:

- Identify key parcels of land that facilitate access to water resources for recreation and protection
- Acquire/protect additional water resources for recreation and protection of municipal water supply sources
- Help develop management plans for conservation lands in the town
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate
- Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate.
- Identify potential trail networks and pursue development of them

GOAL 3: Promote the development and maintenance of trails and trail linkages.

Objectives:

- Identify existing and potential trail networks and pursue development of them
- Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate.
- Maintain communication with neighboring towns to identify potential trails which could cross town borders
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage that reinforces public ownership.

GOAL 4: Provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of the range of Medway's open space and recreational assets.

Objectives:

- Increase public awareness of important habitat areas
- Expand environmental awareness programs in the schools
- Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands
- Use media such as a web site and/or cable access TV to increase public awareness of open space and recreation facilities, issues and potential actions.
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate
- Provide well-balanced recreation and conservation opportunities
- Use periodic surveys, public meetings and other means to encourage input from residents

GOAL 5: Develop and maintain an active community culture of open space acquisition and habitat preservation.

Objectives:

- Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands
- Increase public awareness of important habitat areas
- Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate
- Encourage donations of open space by landowners.
- Expand environmental awareness programs in the schools
- Increase public awareness re: use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals as well as water
- Review and strengthen, where necessary, protective measures for wetlands and floodplains and other water resources

GOAL 6: Encourage compact development to reduce sprawl

Objectives:

- Review land use controls to determine features that encourage sprawl
- Formulate and adopt revisions that encourage compact development
- Target infrastructure improvements to promote compact development
- Encourage/promote the incorporation of open space into new development plans (especially by the use of the open space residential subdivision (OSRD) and the Adult Retirement Community Planned Unit Development (ARCPUD) sections of the Zoning Bylaw), and use these tools to establish “eco-corridors” or greenbelts where appropriate

GOAL 7: Facilitate the stewardship of open spaces and recreation facilities

Objectives:

- Develop management plans for each conservation and recreation parcel
- Inventory and evaluate available conservation and recreation funding programs.
- Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation
- Provide all neighborhoods with appropriate recreation, park and/or playground facilities, including incorporating recreation areas in new subdivisions
- Establish a cost-effective maintenance schedule for municipal recreation and conservation facilities.
- Use reliable and durable equipment when developing or redeveloping parks and playgrounds.

Section 9: Action Plan

The following chart lists the Goals and Objectives from the preceding section in a format that identifies the recommended lead agency or organization for each objective, other organizations which may need to be involved, potential implementation mechanisms, and a general schedule during which each objective should be implemented or acted upon. Figure 13 presents, in a general manner, the action plan. It indicates those areas of town with the highest priority to be targeted for acquisition and/or protection based on environmental resources, or proximity to a major stream or currently protected open space, as well as other actions identified as priorities for implementation.

This section concludes by briefly discussing several potential mechanisms for implementing the recommendations of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

GOALS/OBJECTIVES	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GOAL 1: Identify and protect undeveloped land that directly affects aquifers and groundwater, wildlife habitats, ponds and waterways.					
Identify key parcels most important for protecting natural resources and wildlife corridors	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee	Appoint special committee; Develop ranking system	2010-2011	NA
Identify key parcels of land which are most important for protecting historic landscapes and/or community character	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen, Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee	Develop ranking system Flexible zoning	2010-2011	NA
Develop/implement a system of prioritizing parcels for potential acquisition/protection	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen,	Use models from other towns Use survey results, develop evaluation guidelines	2010-2011	NA
Encourage/promote the incorporation of open space into new development plans, especially by the use of OSRD and ARCPUD to establish eco-corridors or greenbelts	Open Space Committee	Planning Board	Flexibility in Rules and Regulations Consider density bonus	2010-2017	NA
Acquire additional conservation and open space lands. Encourage donations of open space by landowners	Open Space Committee	Community Preservation Committee	Provide information about tax benefits	2010-2017	CPA LAND

(Continued) NA= Not applicable CPA= Community Preservation Act LAND= Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (State grant)

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GOAL 1: Identify and protect undeveloped land that directly affects aquifers and groundwater, wildlife habitats, ponds and waterways. (Continued)					
Support Open Space Committee to coordinate among Town Boards and Commissions, and contact land owners	Selectmen	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee	Boards/Commissions Appoint Representatives	2010-2017	NA
Increase public awareness of the value of open space, and encourage citizen input	Open Space Committee		Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage, Special events	2010-2017	General Fund Cable Access
GOAL 2: Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation.					
Acquire/protect additional water resources for recreation and protection of municipal water supply sources	Open Space Committee	Community Preservation Committee Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Water/Sewer Commission, Parks Commissioners	Groundwater Protection Districts, Phase II Stormwater rules, Purchase, Open Space Subdivisions, Transfer of Development Rights	2010-2017	CPA LAND
Help develop management plans for each conservation and recreation parcel	Open Space Committee	Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission	Use models from elsewhere, Adopt guidelines/policies/bylaws as needed	2011	CPA Donations

(Continued) NA= Not applicable CPA= Community Preservation Act LAND= Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (State grant)

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GOAL 2: Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation. (Continued)					
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate	Open Space Committee	Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Parks Commissioners, Community Preservation Committee	Signage, parking	2010-2014	General Fund, Donations
Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate.	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board	Open Space Residential Development bylaw, ARCPUD	2011-2013	CPA
GOAL 3: Promote the development and maintenance of trails and trail linkages					
Identify potential trail networks and pursue development of them	Open Space Committee	Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee	Open Space Residential Development bylaw, Create Trail Committee	2010-2014	CPA
Establish/expand greenbelts along the Charles River and other water bodies as well as other corridors as appropriate	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee	Open Space Residential Development bylaw, ARCPUD	2011-2017	CPA

(Continued)

CPA= Community Preservation Act

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GOAL 3: Promote the development and maintenance of trails and trail linkages (Continued)					
Develop and maintain communication with neighboring towns to identify potential trails which could cross town borders	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen	Open Space Residential Development bylaw, ARCPUD,	2010-2013	CPA DCR Recreation Trail Grants
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate	Open Space Committee	Selectmen, Conservation Commission	Signage, other communication tools	2010-2012	General Fund, Donations
GOAL 4: Provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of the range of Medway's open space and recreational assets.					
Increase public awareness of important habitat areas	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2010-2017	Cable access, Donations
Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2010-2014	Cable access, Donations
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission	Signage for land identification and parking areas, web site information, other communication tools	2010-2014	General Fund, Donations
Develop a communications plan to increase public awareness of open space and recreation facilities, issues and potential actions	Open Space Committee	Recreation Commission Conservation Commission, Parks Commissioners	Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, newsletter	2010-2014	General Fund, Donations
Use surveys, public meetings and other means to encourage input from residents	Open Space Committee	Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage, Public Meetings	2010-2017	General Fund, Donations

(Continued) CPA= Community Preservation Act

DCR= Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GOAL 5: Develop and maintain an active community culture of open space acquisition and habitat preservation.					
Encourage environmental education for all ages on Town-owned lands	Open Space Committee		Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2010-2014	General Fund, Donations
Increase public awareness of important habitat areas	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission	Survey, Web site Slide show/video, Maps, Cable TV, Brochure, Signage	2010-2014	General Fund, Donations
Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission	General Fund, donations, other communications tools	2010-2012	General Fund, Donations
Encourage donations of open space by landowners	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board		2010-2014	Donations, Tax benefits
Encourage and strengthen, where necessary, protective measures for wetlands and floodplains and other water resources	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Planning Board	Low Impact Development Measures	2010-2011	General Fund

(Continued)

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 6: Encourage compact development to reduce sprawl					
Review land use controls to identify and discourage sprawl	Planning Board	Open Space Committee,	Evaluate impacts of regulations	2010-2011	General Fund, State grants
Formulate and adopt revisions that encourage compact development	Planning Board		Zoning Bylaw amendments, Town Center and mixed use zoning, Transfer of development rights	2010-2013	General Fund, State grants
Target infrastructure improvements to promote compact development	Selectmen	Department of Public Services, Water/Sewer Commission, Planning Board	Establish evaluation criteria for capital projects that include sprawl impacts	2010-2014	Capital budget
Goal 7: Facilitate the stewardship of open spaces					
Develop management plans for conservation and recreation parcels	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission	Use models from elsewhere, Adopt guidelines/policies/bylaws as needed	2010-2011	General Fund, State grants
Inventory and evaluate available conservation and recreation funding programs and apply as appropriate	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission	State funding sources, especially LAND and PARK programs (formerly Self-help and Urban Self-help)	2010-2013	NA
Investigate further use of Town property for passive and/or active recreation	Open Space Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission		2009-2013	NA

(Continued) NA= Not applicable

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 7: Facilitate the stewardship of open spaces.					
Provide all neighborhoods with appropriate recreation, park and/or playground facilities, including incorporating recreation areas in new subdivisions	Park Commission	Planning Board	Community Preservation Funds	2010-2017	CPA PARC
Establish a cost-effective maintenance schedule for municipal recreation and conservation facilities	Park Commission	Department of Public Works	Annual budget and work plan	2010-2013	NA
Use reliable and durable equipment when developing or redeveloping parks and playgrounds.	Park Commission	Department of Public Works		2010-2017	Capital budget, CPA

NA= Not applicable CPA= Community Preservation Act PARC= Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (State)

TOWN OF MEDWAY

FIGURE 13: FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN



ESTABLISH A TRAIL COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL TRAIL NETWORKS AND PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF THEM

IDENTIFY KEY PARCELS MOST IMPORATANT FOR PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN, WHERE NECESSARY, PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS AND OTHER WATER RESOURCES

IDENTIFY KEY PARCELS OF LAND WHICH ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR PROTECTING HISTORIC LANDSCAPES AND/OR COMMUNITY CHARACTER

ESTABLISH/EXPAND GREENBELTS ALONG THE CHARLES RIVER AND OTHER WATER BODIES AS WELL AS OTHER CORRIDORS AS APPROPRIATE

Date: January, 2009

Sources: Mass GIS
Town of Medway

OPEN SPACE BY OWNER

- EOEAA OR MUNICIPALITY
- PUBLIC NONPROFIT
- COUNTY
- FEDERAL
- CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
- LAND TRUST
- MUNICIPAL
- PRIVATE NONPROFIT
- OTHER
- PRIVATE FOR PROFIT
- STATE
- UNKNOWN

HABITATS

- SUPPORTING NATURAL LANDSCAPE HABITAT
- BIOCORE HABITAT

UNIQUE FEATURES

- ECO CORRIDOR
- SCENIC ROADS
- BLACK SWAMP

COMMUNITY LINK TRAIL

- PROPOSED GRANT PROJECT
- EXISTING TRAIL
- CHAPTER 61 LAND
- DEVELOPMENT TRAIL

HYDRO

- LAKE, POND
- RESERVOIR
- WETLAND
- MAJOR STREAMS AND RIVERS

Prepared by:

PGC Associates
INC

1 Toni Lane
Franklin, MA 02038
508.533.8106 - pgca@comcast.net

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The ability to implement recommendations is the key to any plan. A combination of financial and regulatory measures is needed. Some of these potential measures that could be useful are discussed below:

Financial

Land is very expensive to acquire. It is very difficult for municipalities to raise the funds needed for fee simple purchase. It may be somewhat easier to raise the funds for necessary improvements when they are part of a coordinated plan with goals supported by the public.

Some possible financial mechanisms that can be used to finance the recommendations include:

Community Preservation Act – As discussed above, Medway has adopted the Community Preservation Act and has added a property tax surcharge of 3% for the purposes of open space, recreation, historic preservation and affordable housing. A minimum of 10% of the funds raised must be spent on each the areas of open space, historic preservation and affordable housing. The remaining 70% is available for any of the three as well as recreation. Thus, a dedicated source of funding is in place that can be used to address the open space, recreation and housing recommendations. It can be used in combination with some of the other mechanisms listed below. The CPA is probably the single most effective tool available to implement the recommendations of this Plan.

Bonding Capacity – As bonds for previously funded capital improvements (schools, police station, library, water/sewer projects, etc.) are paid off, some or all of that bonding capacity could be available for additional projects. For example, if \$100,000 per year of bonding capacity were to become available, it could finance (at 7% interest) a \$700,000 project over 10 years or a \$1.06 million project over 20 years. CPA funds can also be bonded for eligible projects.

Debt Exclusion – Similarly, without waiting for other bonds to be paid off, the Town could seek voter approval to create new bonding capacity by excluding a specified amount from the limits of Proposition 2 ½. For example, if the voters approved a debt exclusion of \$1,000,000 for a project, the specific amount needed to finance the purchase (including principal and interest) would be raised by increasing property taxes beyond the limit imposed by Proposition 2 ½. When the purchase was fully paid for, the authority to increase taxes would automatically expire and the property tax rate would revert to what it would have been had there not been a debt exclusion.

State/Federal Grants – State and federal grants are available for open space purchases, recreation projects, housing, and economic development. Among the programs available is the LAND (formerly called Self-help, now called Local Acquisitions for Natural

Diversity) Program of EOEEA's Division of Conservation Services (DCS). It will reimburse communities for up to 90% of the cost of acquiring conservation land. Another DCS program is PARC (formerly called Urban Self-Help, now called Parkland Acquisition and Renovation for Communities), which provides funds for recreation facilities. The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (administered by the Division of Conservation Services) will fund up to 50% of the cost of acquiring or developing recreation land. While this program has not been fully funded in recent years, there is renewed interest in this and more funds should be available in the future. The Department of Food and Agriculture administers the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, which purchases the development rights of farmland. The Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement administers the Non-Game Tax Fund, which uses voluntary contributions from a state income tax form checkoff to purchase the habitats of endangered species.

The federal Community Development Block Grant program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is a potential funding source. While not available for open space purchases, it can be used for infrastructure improvements that can facilitate park development.

And finally, the 2005 federal "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) encourages the development of alternative modes of transportation, especially bicycle paths through old railroad rights-of-way and other corridors. It also encourages enhancement of transportation corridors through the addition of decorative sidewalks, street lights, street furniture, etc.

Tax Benefits – As discussed in the Community Needs subsection of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, tax benefits can be used to encourage land owners to donate land or easements to the Town or to a land trust. Individual circumstances vary widely, but such donations can result in income tax deductions, reduction or avoidance of capital gains and/or estate taxes, and avoidance of future property taxes. In some cases the donations can be structured so as to not change the landowners current use of his land.

Regulatory -- Regulatory measures can complement financial mechanisms to enhance a Town's ability to acquire land and enhance community development and character. Some regulatory measures with potential to aid implementation of this Community Development Plan include the following:

Flexible Zoning/Transfer of Development Rights –Flexible zoning is essentially an overlay zoning district which, while maintaining the same density as the underlying zoning district, allows variations from the dimensional requirements (lot sizes, setbacks, frontages) in order to design a new development so that it minimizes environmental impact and/or results in protected open or recreation space for the general public. Medway's Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) and ARCPUD provisions are examples of flexible zoning. When combined with transferable development rights, it can be a powerful tool for protecting open space while achieving other goals such as providing affordable housing and enhancing community character.

The “community character” that people want to preserve is often based on development patterns that are presently no longer allowed according to current zoning by-laws. A flexible zoning by-law has the potential to preserve open space and natural resources, provide recreation lands, preserve and enhance community character, and reduce infrastructure and service maintenance costs. Furthermore, in a time of limited public resources, it utilizes private resources to achieve a public benefit.

A flexible zoning by-law that includes transfer of development rights would work in a manner similar to an open space development by-law but in an expanded capacity. Just as the open space development by-law allows higher density on one portion of a parcel in order to preserve open space on another portion of the parcel (but without changing the overall density allowed for that parcel by the underlying zoning district), a flexible zoning by-law would allow higher density on some parcels in return for the purchase of development rights from another (not necessarily adjacent) parcel.

Criteria would be established to determine whether a particular parcel qualifies to relinquish/receive development rights to/from another parcel. Potential criteria for a “donor” parcel would include current use in agriculture, proximity to existing open space, environmental sensitivity (containing or adjacent to important habitat, wetlands, waterways, floodplains, water resource district, etc.), serving as a scenic resource or located on a scenic roadway, lacking sewer service, etc.

Criteria for “recipient” parcels would include easy access to sewer and water service, proximity to roadways capable of handling the additional traffic, location outside a water resource district, location that allows a vehicular and pedestrian link between already developed areas, proximity to a “village center” or other area of commercial or institutional use, and a location that allows a development plan with a minimum environmental impact.

Village Center Zoning/Compact Development – Village center zoning is a broad term that has different implications for different people. As used here, it means encouraging development to concentrate around a few commercial/industrial/institutional centers and/or corridors rather than spreading throughout the town. It also means requiring all uses in the village center to relate to one another in terms of scale, design, setbacks, heights, etc., and to include pedestrian amenities to encourage walking and bicycling to and from as well as within the village center.

This tool addresses community character as well as open space issues. While this tool can stand alone as an effective regulatory measure, its efficacy can be improved if it is used in combination with a flexible zoning by-law as proposed above, with proximity to such a center or corridor qualifying a parcel as an eligible “recipient” of development rights. Infrastructure improvements should also be targeted to enhance the village center concept.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
Master Plan Survey Results
Minutes of Public Forum
Comment Letters

ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

Part 1: Administrative Requirements

Designation of an ADA Coordinator

The Town Administrator has designated Susan Ellis, Human Resources Director as the ADA Coordinator.

Grievance Policy

For the General Public. This policy applies to all programs sponsored or conducted by the Town of Medway.

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1:

The Town Administrator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours. When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc).

Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (i.e. park commission, conservation commission). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2:

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Administrator. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within ten working days by the Town Administrator in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

Public Notification

Notices in large print [**needs to be verified**] are posted in Town Hall indicating that the Town of Medway does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Town's standard employment application also includes a non-discrimination statement featured prominently at the top of the first page (see attached).

The employment application as well as a general notice of compliance with ADA are posted on the Town's web site.

Disability Commission

The Town's Disability Commission is not currently active. However, the former chairman of that committee has assisted in the preparation of this document. Furthermore, efforts are underway to recruit new members to re-establish the Commission.

Part 2: Program Accessibility

The following pages contain a discussion of each of the Town's recreation sites and any measures needed to bring them into compliance. Attached to this report is an inventory of facilities at each of these sites.

Oakland Park



Location: Oakland Street

Inventory:

Oakland Park is an 11 acre facility which includes a playground, a basketball court, one full sized soccer field, one small soccer field, and seven small multipurpose fields. There are eight picnic tables and four benches at the facility. There is also a concessions stand. The basketball court has benches and the full sized soccer field has two sets of bleachers. The asphalt parking lot includes 55 total parking spaces – two of which are handicapped accessible and one which is also van accessible.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, Oakland Park requires a handicapped-accessible pathway to access its facilities. The ground surface to the concession stand is uneven. The parking lot requires a drop-off area within 100 feet of this path. Additionally, tables and benches should be placed on an even, paved surface accessible by pathway to provide handicapped access. This path should also provide access to the concessions stand, to the recreational facilities. The slope towards the rear fields is currently too steep for handicapped access, and it would very difficult and costly to fix this.

North Street Playground



Location: North Street

Inventory:

North Street playground is a 1 acre facility including a basketball court and a playground. There are two picnic tables. The site is accessed by a row of undersized parking spaces along School Street.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, North Street playground must provide handicapped accessible parking spaces. All spaces on School Street are undersized. Additionally, it requires a pathway to its facilities. The picnic tables should have an even, paved surface below them and additional clearance space. The path should also provide access to this area. However, the amount of work required for such a small playground makes this a low priority project.

Choate Park



Location: Oak Street

Inventory:

Choate Park is a 40 acre facility including a beach at Park Pond, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a racquetball court and a playground. There is a walking path around the Pond that is lined with various fitness obstacles. There is a large concessions stand near the parking lot. There are 49 parking spaces at the facility, including two handicapped spaces, one of which is van accessible.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, Choate Park must provide a handicapped accessible pathway. The current pathway is unpaved except for a small area near the bridge, and has an unacceptable slope. It is also susceptible to ponding. The concessions area has five tables that are not accessible due to the grass surface on which they are placed. Additionally, several benches along the path are not accessible due to its lack of an even, paved surface. They are also located several feet away from the path, so they require additional access. The parking lot near the concessions area is fully handicapped accessible, but the parking area on the Oak Street side of the park is not. The handicapped spaces on both sides of the parking lot should be relocated to more level areas. A ramp may be needed near the facilities building. A handicapped space near the waterfall should also be added. Work to even the ground surface around the playground equipment could result in a second handicapped spot within the play structure.

Partridge Street Playground



Location: Partridge St

Inventory:

Partridge Street Playground is a ½ acre playground located at the corner of Partridge Street and Winthrop Street.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, Partridge Street Playground must provide handicapped accessible parking. If no parking is provided at all, it could be argued that it is a neighborhood playground and could simply be accessed by a handicapped-accessible pathway. However, there are no sidewalks providing access to the playground. There should be an evenly paved pathway providing access to the facilities and it should extend underneath the table and bench.

This is a minimal facility so major improvements are not warranted. However, one of the existing swings could be replaced with a handicapped swing.

Idylbrook Park



Location: Wards Lane

Inventory:

Idylbrook Park is a 10 acre facility of playing fields. It includes a full sized soccer field, a baseball field, and two full sized soccer fields. It is served by a parking lot off of Wards Lane and a parking lot at the end of Kimberly Drive.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, Idylbrook Park requires an evenly paved lot with handicapped spaces. The current lots are dirt and gravel, unmarked, subject to ponding, and provide no handicapped access. At least a portion of the lot could be paved to provide handicapped spaces. Additionally, the park requires an evenly paved path providing access to its facilities including the fields and the portable toilets. At least one unisex handicapped portable toilet should be added.

Cassidy Fields



Location: Winthrop Street

Inventory:

Cassidy Fields includes three baseball fields, batting cages, a concessions area and portable toilets. It is accessed by a parking lot off of Winthrop Street. There are 25-35 parking spaces including 2 handicapped spaces.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, Cassidy Park requires an upgrade of the left and right sides of its parking. The center part of the parking lot is evenly paved and includes a handicapped space in addition to a van-accessible handicapped space. However, both the left and right sides of the lot are unpaved, uneven and subject to ponding. Additionally, the facility requires a handicapped accessible path of travel between its fields and to its concessions area. The seven picnic tables and three benches are not placed on handicapped accessible surfaces. A particularly easy improvement would be to extend the existing paved path that runs along the first base side of the center-most field to the parking lot where there is a handicapped parking space. The path could easily be used to reach the picnic tables and concessions facilities as well as providing spectator access to the ball field. Ideally, the path should also be extended to serve the bleachers and other fields.

Alternatively, the handicapped spaces could be moved to the opposite end of the lot near the driveway to the gardens, and the bleachers could be moved from the first to the third base side. The driveway should also be kept in good repair.

Village St # 1



Location: Address: 304 Village Street
Parcel ID: 2A_254

Inventory:

This .30 acre park is a memorial located at the intersection of Village Street and Cottage Street, next to the old railroad bed. It is a grass park with stone benches.

Condition:

In order to meet ADA standards, the park should include an evenly paved pathway to the benches and the memorial with a similar surface underneath the benches. There is no parking at this site, but it is accessible via sidewalks. However, the sidewalks are in need of repair and the crosswalk ramp needs to be brought up to code.

Village St # 2



Location: Address: 302 Village Street
Parcel ID: 2A_253

Inventory:

This .41 acre park is an open grass area with two benches.

Condition:

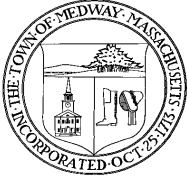
In order to meet ADA standards, the park should include an evenly paved pathway to the benches and a similar surface underneath. There is no parking at this site, but it is accessible via sidewalks, but the sidewalks need repair.

Part 3: Administrative Requirements

Attached to this report is a letter from the designated ADA Coordinator stating that Medway's employment practices are consistent with ADA requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Designation of ADA Coordinator/Letter from ADA Coordinator regarding employment practices
2. First Page of Employment Application
3. Inventory of Facilities at Town Recreation Sites



Town of Medway
Department of Human Resources
155 VILLAGE STREET
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS 02053

E. SUSAN ELLIS
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE (508) 533-3200 Ext. 43
FACSIMILE (508) -533-3287

DATE: April 12, 2010

TO: Gino Carlucci

RE: ADA Coordinator for the Town of Medway

Dear Gino,

Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy, has named me as the ADA Coordinator.

As the Town of Medway's ADA Coordinator, I hereby confirm that Medway's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questioners, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements, and wage and salary administration are consistent with ADA requirements.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

E. Susan Ellis,
Director of Human resources

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Position(s) Applied For		Date of Application
How Did You Learn About Us?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Inquiry
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Relative	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Address	Number	Street	City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number(s)			Social Security Number		

Best time to contact you at home is: _____ : _____		AM PM
If you are under 18 years of age, can you provide required proof of your eligibility to work?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you ever filed an application with us before?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, give date _____		
Have you ever been employed with us before?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, give date _____		
Do any of your friends or relatives, other than spouse, work here?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, state name, relationship and location _____		
Are you currently employed?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May we contact your present employer?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you prevented from lawfully becoming employed in this country because of Visa or Immigration Status?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>Proof of citizenship or immigration status will be required upon employment.</i>		
Date available for work _____ / _____ / _____	What is your desired salary range? _____	
Are you available to work:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time (Please indicate 1 2 3 shift)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Part Time (Please indicate Mornings Afternoon Evenings)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary (Please indicate dates available _____ / _____ - _____ / _____)		
Are you currently on "lay-off" status and subject to recall?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can you travel if a job requires it?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER		

Inventory of Facilities at Town Recreation Sites

Choate Park

	<i>Total Handicapped Spaces</i>	<i>Required Handicapped Spaces</i>
<i>Total Parking Spaces</i>		
59	2	3

<u>Specification for Accessible Spaces</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Comments</u>
---	-------------------	------------------	------------------------

Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance
Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle
Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces
Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.

x	x
x	
x	
x	
x	
x	
x	

Site Access

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance
Disembarking area at accessible entrance
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed
No ponding of water

x	x
x	
x	

Path of travel

Path does not require the use of stairs
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.
3 ft wide minimum
Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

x	x
x	
	x
	x

Picnicking

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

	x
x	
x	
	x

Picnic tables are placed on the grass

Partridge Street Playground

<i>Total Parking Spaces</i>	<i>Total Handicapped Spaces</i>	<i>Required Handicapped Spaces</i>
0	0	0

Specification for Accessible Spaces**Yes****No****Comments**

Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance

x

Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet

x

Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle

x

Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.

x

Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces

x

Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)

x

Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)

x

Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.

x

Site Access

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance

x

Disembarking area at accessible entrance

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed

No ponding of water

Path of travel

x

Path does not require the use of stairs

Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.

3 ft wide minimum

Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%

Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

Picnicking

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access.

x

For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.

Top of table no higher than 32" above ground

x

Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

x

Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter.

There are none.

Idylbrook Park

Total Parking Spaces

25-50

Total
Handicapped
Spaces

0

Required
Handicapped
Spaces

2-3

Specification for Accessible Spaces

Yes

No

Comments

Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance
Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet

x

x

Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle
Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible
space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all
accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.

x

x

Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or
pair of spaces

x

Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)

x

Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)

x

Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of
spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.

Site Access

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area
and parking area to accessible entrance

x

Disembarking area at accessible entrance

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed

x

No ponding of water

x

Path of travel

x

No path is present

Path does not require the use of stairs

Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.

3 ft wide minimum

Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%

Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than
1/2 inch.

Picnicking

No tables are present

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with
clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19"
deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the
ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear
space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space
under the table to provide access.

For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the
table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.

Top of table no higher than 32" above ground

Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table
must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with
a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground
space of at least 36" around the perimeter.

Cassidy Fields

		<i>Total Handicapped Spaces</i>	<i>Required Handicapped Spaces</i>
Total Parking Spaces	25-35	2	2

Specification for Accessible Spaces

Yes

No

Comments

Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance
Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet

x

Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle
Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible
space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all
accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.

x

x

Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or
pair of spaces

x

Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)

x

Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)

x

Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of
spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.

No curb

Site Access

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area
and parking area to accessible entrance
Disembarking area at accessible entrance

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed

x

No ponding of water

x

The center section
is paved, but the 2
side lots are not and
subject to ponding
There is no path
of travel

Path of travel

Path does not require the use of stairs

Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.

3 ft wide minimum

Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%

Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than
1/2 inch.

Picnicking

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with
clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19"
deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the
ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear
space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space
under the table to provide access.

x

For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the
table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.

Top of table no higher than 32" above ground

x

Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table
must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with
a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

x

Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground
space of at least 36" around the perimeter.

x

The tables all
have toe clearance

Village Street #1

<i>Total Parking Spaces</i>	<i>Total Handicapped Spaces</i>	<i>Required Handicapped Spaces</i>	
0	0	0	
<u>Specification for Accessible Spaces</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance		NA	
Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet		NA	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle		NA	
Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		NA	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		NA	
Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.		NA	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	x		
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.			
Ramps			Not Applicable
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter 1.25 - 2"			
Non-slip surface			
Site Access			Not Applicable
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs			
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.			
Picnicking			Not Applicable

Village Street #2

<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Total Handicapped Spaces</i>	<i>Required Handicapped Spaces</i>
0	0	0

Specification for Accessible Spaces

Yes

No

Comments

Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance

x

Drop-off area is provided within 100 feet

x

Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8ft space plus 5ft access aisle

x

Van space - Minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.

x

Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces

x

Sign minimum 5 ft maximum 8 ft to top of sign.

x

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)

x

Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)

x

Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present.

Ramps

Not Applicable

Slope Maximum 1:12

Handrails at 34" and 19" from surface

Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom

Handgrip oval or round

Handgrip smooth surface

Handgrip diameter 1.25 - 2"

Non-slip surface

Site Access

Not Applicable

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance

Disembarking area at accessible entrance

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed

No ponding of water

Path of travel

Path does not require the use of stairs

Path is stable, firm and slip resistant.

3 ft wide minimum

Slope maximum 5% and maximum cross pitch is 2%

Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

Picnicking

Not Applicable

2009 Master Plan Survey Results

Appendix B Master Plan Mail-In Survey Results

2009 Medway Master Plan Survey Mail-in Data, Compiled 4/12/08														
The Master Plan Survey was sent out with the 2008 census mailing. This file presents the raw numbers compiled from scanning the returned mail-in surveys. The results will be used to help formulate an update to the Medway Master Plan. In addition to the mail-in survey there was an on-line supplement regarding Town priorities; the on-line results have not been tabulated yet. Approximately 1890 of 4900 mail-in surveys were returned representing a 39% response rate. Note that approximately 14% of the surveys returned could not be scanned due to sloppy data entry or damage. Note also that in order to make data entry easier the columns labeled Importance and Satisfaction have been reversed from the printed survey. The data compiled here represents a 99% confidence level +/-2%.														
I. Current Conditions														
On a scale of 1 being lowest/least and 5 being highest/most, please indicate the number that comes closest to your opinion on each of the following. Please indicate a number rating under Satisfaction and a number rating under Importance for each item listed.														
I - A Community Characteristics - How do you feel about living in Medway?														
	1 lowest						5-highest							
	Importance						Satisfaction							
	Blank	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Blank	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Buildings/places of historical/architectural character	108	102	153	470	440	324	1597	128	66	227	705	337	134	1597
Community pride & friendliness	93	27	44	206	584	643	1597	108	41	150	500	540	258	1597
Passive recreational facilities - walking/running trails, picnic areas	95	48	87	331	550	486	1597	133	139	375	592	261	97	1597
Pedestrian friendly development	109	57	87	309	516	510	1597	140	215	360	586	208	79	1597
Protected open space/natural environments (forests, habitats)	104	50	73	274	498	588	1597	141	105	289	631	320	111	1597
Reputation of public schools	92	48	29	97	276	1099	1597	118	83	204	517	503	174	1597
Small town/rural New England character	78	51	78	285	546	559	1597	113	80	226	603	416	159	1597
Access to the Charles River	99	387	310	423	223	155	1597	190	216	256	596	203	136	1597
Overall aesthetic appeal of community	93	24	32	215	606	625	1597	114	79	292	665	350	97	1597
I - B Public Facilities / Infrastructure - Rate the physical condition, access to the Town's public facilities and infrastructure?														
Active Recreational Facilities/Fields (Cassidy/Oakland, Idylbrook)	153	39	61	312	558	474	1597	184	33	106	507	543	222	1597
Choate Park	168	57	72	356	514	430	1597	214	89	249	541	370	134	1597
Choate Pond - for swimming	157	102	227	332	285	294	1597	237	651	291	293	69	56	1597
Choate Pond - as a natural feature	148	77	83	339	504	446	1597	185	140	263	575	207	137	1597
Choate Pond - for recreational uses (fishing, skating)	168	156	146	366	420	341	1597	229	256	315	530	176	91	1597
Fire Stations	118	29	16	131	382	921	1597	124	27	43	240	588	577	1597
Library	99	64	62	198	365	809	1597	134	362	353	387	198	163	1597
Police Station	113	27	29	132	405	889	1597	120	17	37	241	557	625	1597
Roads	98	28	21	116	468	886	1597	111	254	381	534	266	51	1597
School administration offices	205	105	104	423	398	362	1597	263	57	138	603	368	168	1597
School buildings	170	59	38	184	411	735	1597	200	86	193	518	418	182	1597
Senior center	168	148	138	362	374	409	1597	239	31	74	515	440	299	1597
Sewer system	174	92	49	205	348	729	1597	233	148	127	450	406	223	1597
Sidewalks - condition	104	48	39	198	469	739	1597	134	371	359	488	191	54	1597
Sidewalks - availability and connectivity	118	44	45	203	448	739	1597	140	345	374	491	188	59	1597
Stormwater drainage/flood control	145	43	46	280	464	619	1597	178	95	155	634	417	118	1597
Town Hall	123	51	68	480	492	383	1597	131	72	157	636	389	212	1597
I - C Public Services - How do you feel about the quality of these municipal services?														
Library hours	103	109	90	271	387	637	1597	145	585	336	344	115	73	1597
Quality of library service	136	87	66	215	458	635	1597	174	225	290	403	340	165	1597
Quality of education	159	36	14	76	203	1100	1597	200	57	156	475	528	181	1597
School electives and after school activities	234	76	44	187	331	725	1597	299	157	250	484	295	112	1597
Maintenance and landscaping of public areas	150	28	57	393	556	415	1597	166	94	190	659	378	112	1597
Residential recycling	144	42	29	143	412	827	1597	150	75	102	323	555	382	1597
Water System - Quality of drinking water	129	50	13	45	209	1191	1597	148	384	233	380	299	173	1597
Sewers	207	55	32	193	403	707	1597	248	112	95	409	450	223	1597
Snow plowing	93	17	15	156	473	843	1597	108	94	141	386	583	285	1597
Street lighting	120	34	60	357	470	556	1597	138	84	172	583	457	185	1597
Street repair	96	27	25	143	505	801	1597	112	288	390	522	238	57	1597
Street sweeping/cleaning	130	52	104	479	473	359	1597	152	83	189	633	396	144	1597
Trash collection	103	29	18	163	481	803	1597	107	87	121	313	527	442	1597
I - D Social & Community Services - How do you feel about the availability and quality of social and community services in Medway?														
Arts and cultural programs	274	117	139	474	391	202	1597	351	94	223	636	217	78	1597
Community sports programs and organizations	288	86	68	285	473	387	1597	341	22	91	440	455	248	1597
Services for children (0-12 years of age)	332	122	52	274	404	413	1597	420	34	115	544	357	127	1597
Services for youth (12-21 years of age)	335	118	50	272	400	422	1597	446	75	159	589	242	86	1597
Services for disabled persons	344	98	60	333	387	395	1597	487	42	93	656	235	84	1597
Services for economically disadvantaged residents	336	120	98	368	370	305	1597	502	52	120	622	207	94	1597
Services for senior citizens	268	88	49	273	423	498	1597	394	24	86	534	393	188	1597
Services for veterans	321	84	61	301	378	452	1597	494	36	94	634	236	103	1597

	1 lowest							Total	Blank	5 -highest							Total
	Importance									Satisfaction							
	Blank	1	2	3	4	5	Blank			1	2	3	4	5			
I - E Public Safety - How do you feel about the quality of these municipal services?																	
Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services	158	20	9	72	246	1002	1597	225	34	50	307	500	481	1597			
Animal Control Services	187	47	81	447	436	399	1597	267	50	91	523	409	257	1597			
Building Inspection	222	42	60	388	461	424	1597	309	60	112	562	375	179	1597			
Bylaw Enforcement (zoning, water bans)	217	41	75	382	442	440	1597	279	137	145	551	342	143	1597			
Fire Fighting Services	154	18	7	60	260	1098	1597	203	25	41	252	525	549	1597			
Police Protection - Law Enforcement	144	19	8	69	250	1107	1597	189	17	25	195	552	619	1597			
Police Protection - Crime Prevention	158	18	7	76	244	1094	1597	197	12	25	241	536	586	1597			
Police Protection - Traffic Enforcement	141	33	27	153	371	872	1597	171	46	99	317	520	444	1597			
I - F Traffic & Transportation - How do you feel about these traffic and transportation issues?																	
Ease of travel by Cars - Traffic Flow in Town	113	32	22	174	586	728	1655	117	142	278	565	421	132	1655			
Ease of travel by Bicycles	194	141	139	370	431	380	1655	252	238	328	584	170	83	1655			
Ease of travel by Pedestrians	161	53	51	250	511	629	1655	185	214	323	583	264	86	1655			
Access to Public Transportation	179	192	196	396	345	347	1655	276	384	302	453	174	66	1655			
Sidewalk access/availability	148	46	53	220	485	701	1655	187	276	368	528	227	69	1655			
Access to Route 109 & L-495	115	36	26	242	495	741	1655	137	37	65	319	582	515	1655			
I - G Planning & Development - How important are these planning and development issues? Are you satisfied that they being addressed?																	
Commercial Development	141	92	72	260	496	544	1605	256	196	334	580	219	90	1655			
Industrial Development	202	118	116	303	421	495	1655	263	218	352	531	209	82	1655			
Tax incentives to encourage Commercial/Industrial growth	216	119	120	304	418	478	1655	308	208	319	589	165	66	1655			
Land use planning	230	46	41	273	447	618	1655	307	147	283	610	244	64	1655			
Protecting character of neighborhoods	202	37	46	216	462	662	1655	263	86	211	617	372	106	1655			
Preserving historic buildings/resources	201	82	107	349	446	470	1655	264	76	144	685	360	126	1655			
Protecting agricultural land	187	61	92	313	445	567	1655	264	144	249	639	270	89	1655			
Protecting the natural environment	178	31	36	183	450	777	1655	265	127	217	633	324	89	1655			
Providing options for all types of housing development	228	162	189	474	356	266	1655	303	86	174	688	286	118	1655			
Area employment opportunities	222	76	79	338	475	465	1655	302	124	303	638	223	65	1655			
Availability of a variety of stores and businesses to meet consumer need	165	48	77	288	590	487	1655	213	74	198	477	450	243	1655			
Availability of varied types of housing	199	143	182	470	378	285	1655	276	57	173	695	313	141	1655			
Housing affordability	170	105	84	341	420	535	1655	243	174	281	618	242	97	1655			

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street,
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on March 3, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, Dawn Rice-Norton, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright; guests Gino Carlucci, PGC Associates; Paul Marble, Finance Committee; Jim Wieler, Master Plan Update Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by the Chairman. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to a Public Hearing for the proposed new Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Public comments were taken from those in attendance, and the comments that had been submitted by email were reviewed.

The entire OSRP was reviewed, and this discussion was led by Gino Carlucci. From the input from citizens and Committee members, additions were suggested, and these will be implemented by Gino Carlucci. An example of the discussed items was the need for protection of current open space parcels and how this might be accomplished.

The OSRP, in its draft but near-completion form, will be sent to the MAPC for review. After that review, the plan will be sent to the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in the Division of Conservation Services.

At 8:09pm, the public hearing was closed, and the regular session of the Committee continued as a public meeting. Items from that session follow.

1. The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2009 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Dawn Rice-Norton, seconded by Tina Wright and approved by all members.
2. Land Parcel Subcommittee ratings: Glenn Murphy led a discussion on devising a strategy to rate the large number of parcel with potential open space value. It was decided to try an approach where will gather information on several parcels adjacent to Choate Park. This information could then be used by the OSC to rate their value.
3. Annual report 2008. This was reviewed by the Committee. A motion to approve the report was made by Tina Wright, seconded by Dawn Rice-Norton and all members approved the motion.
4. Presentation to Community Preservation Committee. This was postponed to March 9, and the Chairman will report on this at the next meeting.
5. Chicken Run update. Tina Wright reported on the many developments of this event. It will involve many groups of young Medway citizens and run from 10:00am to noon on May 2. There will be no charge.
6. Chicken Brook corridor, map and ownership. Pat McHallam led a discussion of the best approach to developing this map. It was decided to go with Chapter 61 overlays, with no owners identified. Pat will bring his computer-based interactive map to next meeting to allow for ratings of parcel open space value.

7. Web site update. Pat McHallam described the possibility of adding trail information to the site. It was decided to walk a trail, in warmer weather, gather information and photos, and place this on the web site. The first trail will likely be the one that runs from Choate Park to the High School.

8. Massachusetts Land Conference. Several members will attend and report to the Committee.

9. 50 Winthrop Street developments. Glenn Murphy reported that representatives of the proposed organic farm met with the Conservation Commission. There was disagreement about the location of the farm and of animals. It is fully expected that agreement will be reached in subsequent meetings.

At 8:59pm, a motion was made by Tina Wright, seconded by Dawn Rice-Norton, with all members voting in favor, that the Committee would adjourn to executive session, and not to return to open session. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Jim Wickis
Clerk, Vice-Chair

Mr. John Schroeder
Chairman, Open Space Committee
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053

April 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Thank you for submitting your draft Open Space and Recreation Plan 2009 to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

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

Recommended revisions to the plan

The following are MAPC's recommendations for amendments to the Medway Open Space and Recreation Plan that will serve to bring a more regional perspective to the plan.

MetroFuture – The section on regional context should include information on *MetroFuture*. More information on *MetroFuture* is provided on page 2 of this letter.

Surrounding Communities - Within the discussion of the regional context, there should be mention made of the open space planning activities and open space plans of surrounding communities. Connections between those communities and the open space needs and objectives of Medway should be explored. We encourage all communities to consult with their neighbors concerning their open space plans and initiatives especially since open space parcels and similar resources often occur near municipal boundaries and can be influenced by the actions of neighbors. We would like to note that the regional context map which shows open space in the surrounding communities is a good starting point for this discussion.

Environmental Justice – We note that the plan does not address the issue of environmental justice as required by the new 2008 guidelines for preparing an open space plan. The environmental justice guidelines are spelled out in more detail in the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook.

In brief, the guidelines indicate two levels of addressing EJ. If a municipality includes EJ populations as defined by the state (for more information please see the list of communities at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/ej.htm>.) you must include the data/information specified in Section 2 (Introduction), Section 3 (Community Setting),

and Section 5 (Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest). If your city or town does not have identified EJ populations you are still required in the inventory section to consider and describe park and recreation inequities within the community as well as strategies to address those inequities. Although Medway does not include any EJ populations as defined by the state, it does need to address park and recreation inequities.

You should consult the workbook for more details on these requirements and discuss these new requirements with the staff at the Division of Conservation Services. The workbook is on-line at http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/pdf/osrp_workbook.pdf.

Section 504 Self-Evaluation ADA Compliance – The draft that we reviewed did not include a Section 504 Self-Evaluation. It is our understanding that an open space and recreation plan can only be given conditional approval in the absence of a completed Section 504 Self-Evaluation. The town should discuss this requirement with the staff at the DCS.

Consistency with MetroFuture

In 2008 MAPC adopted *MetroFuture* as the official regional plan for Greater Boston. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as 13 broad implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. Each strategy includes dozens of specific recommendations for actions that may be taken by the state, municipalities, businesses and institutions, or individual households. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan by visiting the web site at <http://www.metrofuture.org/>.

The following comments are provided to help your community understand how your plan fits within the *MetroFuture* framework and to give you ideas you may want to consider as you move forward with finalizing your plan and its implementation.

Bring Strategic and Regional Perspectives to Local Open Space Planning (Strategy 7A) - We commend the town for acknowledging that natural and recreational resources do not end at town boundaries (page 3). The plan further notes that Medway shares an aquifer with Franklin and Norfolk. We also note that the regional context map shows open space for all the surrounding communities. The Five Year Action Plan includes an item about maintaining communication with neighboring towns to identify potential trails which could cross town borders.

Community Preservation Act- Strategy 3E of *MetroFuture* calls for increased participation in the Community Preservation Act (CPA). You might also be interested in the fact that MAPC was instrumental in drafting legislation filed by Senator Cynthia Creem (D-Newton) and Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) to strengthen the financial position of the CPA Trust Fund that provides matching funds to participating cities and towns. A robust trust fund can help communities to pass CPA, since it would provide them with more state money once they adopt. Medway's support for this legislation would be most helpful.

The town did adopt the CPA in 2001 which is consistent with *MetroFuture*.

Overall, we congratulate you on a well prepared plan and hope that you will find these comments helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Mark Racicot
Manager, Land Use Division

Cc: Cranston Rogers, MAPC Representative, Town of Medway
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services
Gino Carlucci
Marc Draisen



Town of Medway

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

155 Village Street, Medway MA 02053

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January 19, 2010

John Schroeder, Chairman
Open Space Committee
Town of Medway
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053

Dear Mr. Schroeder,

The Board of Selectmen has reviewed the Open Space and Recreation Plan produced by the Open Space Committee. I am pleased to inform you that the Board commends you and your committee for producing a document that, in conjunction with the newly-adopted Master Plan, contains achievable goals and will help guide decisions about open space and recreation for the next several years.

We look forward to working with you on implementing the recommendations of the Plan.

Sincerely,

Andrew Espinosa
Chairman

AE/wah



TOWN OF MEDWAY
Planning & Economic Development Board
155 Village Street
Medway, Massachusetts 02053

Andy Rodenhiser, Chairman
Robert K. Tucker, Vice-Chairman
Crawston (Chas) Rogers, P.E., Clerk
Karyl Spiller Walsh
Thomas A. Gay
John W. Williams, Associate Member

June 4, 2009

Mr. Bob O'Connor, Director
Division of Conservation Services
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The Medway Planning and Economic Development Board is very pleased to be "on the record" with its enthusiastic support for the recently updated Medway Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan was produced by Gino Carlucci of PGC Associates, Inc. under the initiative and leadership of the Medway Open Space Committee, itself a newly reorganized group of highly committed Medway volunteers. Modest funding support for plan preparation was provided by Medway's Community Preservation Fund.

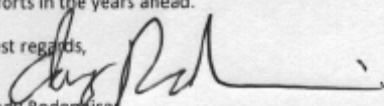
The process of updating Medway's Open Space and Recreation Plan occurred at the same time as the Town was undertaking a comprehensive update to the Medway Master Plan. This created an outstanding opportunity to build in consistency between the two plans to address the challenges and opportunities inherent in planning for open space conservation and recreation. The updated OSRP and the new Medway Master Plan reinforce and support each other very well.

Throughout the planning process, input was sought from the Planning and Economic Development Board and the Medway Board of Parks Commissioners. In addition, much of the direction for both plans evolved from the responses to a town wide resident opinion survey conducted in February 2008 in conjunction with the compilation of information for Medway's annual town census. The preservation of the rural elements of Medway's built and natural environment were determined to be highly important to the community at large.

At its May 26, 2009 meeting, the Planning and Economic Development Board voted to endorse the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan and pledged to work proactively toward its implementation. As a community, Medway is already "working the plan." We were delighted to learn that through the dedicated efforts of the Open Space Committee, the Trust for Public Lands will focus some attention and resources to support conservation opportunities in Medway's Chicken Brook corridor.

Our congratulations to the Medway Open Space Committee and to Gino Carlucci for a job well done. The Open Space and Recreation Plan will serve as an outstanding guide for the community's open space and recreation efforts in the years ahead.

Best regards,


Andy Rodenhiser
Chairman

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