TOWN OF DARTMOUTH, MA
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2015

Prepared by the Open Space and Recreation Committee
December 2014
TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
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2015 - 2022

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SECTION 1 PLAN SUMMARY

The 2015 Dartmouth Open Space and Recreation Plan is an update of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Plan is intended to act as a blueprint for the future expansion of Dartmouth's parks and recreational areas, while also recommending strategies for the preservation of Dartmouth's agricultural lands as well as its natural, cultural, and historical assets and resources.

Dartmouth's Open Space and Recreation Plan has been developed in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS). The Commonwealth requires that all municipalities file an open space and recreation plan every five or seven years as a means of satisfying eligibility requirements for state and federal grant aid offered through the EEA.

The first step of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update was the creation of the Open Space and Recreation Committee. The Committee was organized under the auspices of the town's Office of Community Development in conjunction with the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation. The Committee actively solicited participation from a number of town departments, community organizations, non-profits, and special interest groups. The response to the invitation to participate on the Committee was tremendous, and a tribute to the commitment of those involved and the departments, boards, commissions, organizations, committees, councils and other groups that they represented. The Open Space and Recreation Committee totaled twenty, in all, with others volunteering their time as available.

The next step involved each Committee member reading the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, concentrating particularly on the sections or items involving their interests and areas of expertise, and documenting changes and progress made over the last four plus years. The Committee then reconvened in order to develop a survey in order to gather input from Dartmouth residents. After two working meetings, a representative survey was developed and distributed to all of the Committee members for distribution through their organizations as well as being made available at numerous locations in the town, including Town Hall, on the town website, through the Council on Aging, and other venues. The survey was publicized on the town website, in the local newspaper, on local cable television, and at Selectman, Conservation, Parks and Recreation, and other town board and commission meetings. Throughout this process, and the subsequent development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, all meetings were posted and open to the public.

The Survey was conducted between the third week in October and third week in November of
Space and Recreation Plan, all meetings were posted and open to the public. The Survey was conducted between the third week in October and third week in November of 2013. The results were tabulated and analysis completed by the first week of December 2013. Based on the survey results, the open space inventory, and needs of special interest groups, the Committee determined that the following open space and recreation needs were critical within the town:

- Need to permanently protect and expand unique environments
- Need to protect farmland resources
- Need to improve protection of the quality and quantity of Dartmouth’s water resources
- Need to preserve open space within Dartmouth’s aquifer protection districts
- Need for sustainable development
- Need to protect Dartmouth’s Cultural and Historical Heritage
- Need to Build a Healthy Community with Alternative Transportation Modes
- Need for expanded recreational opportunities for all ages, including playfields, bike paths, picnic, and waterfront access areas
SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

This Open Space and Recreation Plan is intended to present and discuss a coordinated set of measures that will help the Town of Dartmouth protect, preserve and increase its open space and recreation assets and resources. The purpose of the plan is to provide the citizens of Dartmouth with a document that is comprehensive, readable, and easily understood in its presentation of the future policies and actions necessary to meet the needs of the town’s changing physical, cultural, and social needs.

An important part of updating the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan was to understand and document the steps taken and progress made by the Town in addressing the plan’s goals, objectives, and recommended actions over the last five years. Dartmouth has continued to make gains in preserving open space, largely through its strong and ongoing partnerships with local and regional non-profit conservation and natural resource based organizations. The Town, due to the fiscal issues that have similarly plagued almost every community in the Commonwealth (and the nation) over the past five years, has had to be resourceful in order to maintain the level of quality recreational opportunities available to both residents and visitors.

The following list of actions, initiatives, and partnership efforts were undertaken by the Town of Dartmouth, non-profit groups, and federal and state agencies in an effort to complete specific tasks laid out in the goals and objectives of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan.
• Signs continue to be installed throughout town noting bike routes, town boundaries, historic villages, commitment to the practice of agriculture, town parks and beaches.
• In 2010 the Conservation Commission was awarded $1.2 million for the purposes of restoring the Round Hill Salt Marsh. Additional funds are required to complete the project and are expected to be received in 2014.
• From 2009 through 2013, the Conservation Commission acquired 49 acres for permanent open space protection.
• From 2009 through 2013, the Conservation Commission protected 17 acres through Conservation Restrictions.
• In 2008 the Conservation Commission, using Community Preservation Act funds acquired property adjacent to the Paskamansett River for the purposes of developing a park and canoe/kayak launch ramp. Throughout 2009 and 2010 the park features were developed. In 2013 an adjacent 3 acre river frontage parcel was acquired using CPC funds to enlarge the park to further protect the Paskamansett River, and install roadway water quality structures.
• In 2011 the Conservation Commission reviewed each deed for property acquired for the purposes of open space protection since the Commissions inception in 1961 to assure that the wording in each deed was proper to ensure permanent protection as open space under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. The Conservation Commission protects 174 separate parcels totaling 2167 acres throughout Dartmouth. Of the 174 Conservation Commission parcels, 113 contain the proper language and were adequately protected. The remaining deeds were amended and recorded at the Registry of Deeds to ensure permanent open space protection.
• The Historical Commission, through a grant from Walmart, has been able to install signs at 18 cemeteries in Dartmouth.
• The Historical Commission, through CPA funding, has had 120 new and revised Form B's (historical building descriptions) completed by Richard M. Casella of Historic Documentation Co., Inc.
• 360 new and revised Form B's have been done by ttl architects through CPA funding.
• The Historical Commission has revised and updated the Demolition Delay by-law/Demolition Permit Application.
• The Historical Commission reviewed CPA applications from Mass Audubon (Stone Farm Barn) and the Dartmouth YMCA (refurbishing the exterior of historic Gulf Hill Dairy Barn on Gulf Road).
• Historic plaques, markers, and signs erected throughout the town to recognize historic sites, has been revived by the Historical Commission.
• In 2009 and 2010, the Historical Commission sponsored Celebrate Dartmouth Day.
• The Historical Commission has posted Form B's on its portion of the town's website.
• The Gulf Hill Barn Preservation Restriction (held by the Dartmouth Historical Preservation Trust) was completed, signed and filed in June, 2012.
• The Dartmouth Arts and Historical Society was formed in 2011. The Society's
programs include a living history program for third grade students in Dartmouth. The Society also leases the Russells Mills School from the Town. (see www.DartmouthHAS.org).

- In 2009, adopted revised flood hazard maps for the entire town.
- In 2012, revised the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit solar farms in residential districts.
- In 2012, revised the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit wind turbines in all districts except industrial districts.
- In 2013, adopted revised sign definition.
- The Parks and Recreation Department updated all playground surfacing to meet ADA and safety standards.
- The Dartmouth Community Park, Dartmouth Street, was completed in 2012 with PARC Grant funds, CPC funds, and community donations. The park includes a sculpture designed by UMass Dartmouth students.
- The Dartmouth Pathways Committee was created by the Board of Selectmen in 2010, and a Bikeway Committee was appointed in 2012.
- Bike lanes, including striping and signage, have been completed on Old Westport Road by the Department of Public Works.
- In 2014, Town Meeting approved an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to incorporate bicycle parking standards.
- The American Farmland Trust completed the “Economic and Fiscal Contribution of Farm and open Land in Dartmouth, Massachusetts” in 2009, sponsored by the Dartmouth Agricultural Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.
- Since 2009, the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) has added 108 acres to its holdings.
- Since 2009, the DNRT has added 367 acres in Conservation Restrictions (CRs) to its inventory (several of these CRs are held jointly with the Buzzards Bay Coalition or Trustees of Reservations).
- Nonquitt Marsh, an 85 acre restoration project, was completed in 2013 with funding from the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council.
- The Parks and Recreation Department now provides year-round activities for all Dartmouth residents.
- The Park and Recreation web page has been completed and is located on the town website.
- In 2013, the Town amended its Aquifer Protection District Map to add protective zones to the new State Road wells.
- The Planning Board supports the use of the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) Bylaw as a primary option for new subdivision proposals and report that most new subdivisions follow this approach (i.e.- Riverside Woods development provided access to the Paskamansett River and adjacent conservation lands as well as a parking area).
- In 2013, an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) was placed on the Schofield Farm and the Dominican Sisters property.
- The DPW modified lane widths from the UMass Dartmouth entrance to Chase Road.
in order to accommodate bicycle traffic.

- The Susan Lagasse Farm on Hixville Road was sold by the town to be kept in active agriculture.
- The ramps at the Dias Landing were rebuilt by the DF&G Fishing and Boating Access Office through the management agreement with the Town of Dartmouth.
- The Park and Recreation Department completed a repurposing of the fields at Jones Park from a singular use, softball, into much needed multi-purpose fields.
- The town re-gridded the northern part of the harbor in order to create more boating opportunities.
- In June, 2014, Town Meeting approved a Planning Board measure to stop allowing use variances in single family residential districts (a measure that could positively impact land use in approximately 75% of the town).
- The town awarded an aquaculture lease and is awaiting a state decision on several others.
- Turn-the-Tide, a multi-year water quality assessment project of Slocums River, Apponagansett Bay, and Little River was completed. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for nitrogen is nearly finalized, which provide a basis for regulatory standards for discharges to the Bay.
- In 2011 the Conservation Commission procured $31,000 in grant funds to design a water quality structure for the end of Rogers Street in order to improve stormwater discharges to Clarks Cove.
- The Conservation Commission continues to partner with DNRT in land protection and trail development issues; the DNRT now has over thirty (30) miles of trails available.

As documented above, many of the actions prescribed in the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan have been addressed or completed. This list of accomplishments also demonstrates the Town’s willingness to meet the challenges laid out in the planning process through its strong and enduring partnerships, both external and within Town Hall.
B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The process of the creation of a long-range plan is almost more important than the document itself. The process allows public participation and general education on issues, and a consensus by residents and the Town’s various departments and elected officials.

With the knowledge of the importance of process in plan development, the Open Space and Recreation Committee was established in August of 2013 to undertake the update of the 2009 Plan. Members of this Committee include Deborah Melino-Wender, Jim Vieira, Stuart McGregor, David Cressman, Tim Lancaster, Beverly King, Sue Guiducci, Debra-Ann Raymond, Haven Roosevelt, David Hickox, Michael O’Reilly, Donald Perry, Kyle Ross, Mark Nunes, Wendy Henderson, Stanley Mickelson, Gregory Jones, Susan Mandra Thompson, Leslie McKinley, and Steve Melo. The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, SRPDED, was hired by the Town to coordinate the drafting of this Plan.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee, or its sub-committees, conducted seven (7) meetings between August of 2013 and October of 2014. These meetings were used to update members on work that had been completed, on formulating new tasks, and on critiquing what had been accomplished to date. The meetings were significant because the individuals on the Committee represent a diverse group of people from different constituencies and bring many perspectives to the table. This is essential in ensuring that all opinions and values are incorporated.

The Committee’s first task was to develop an “Open Space and Recreation Survey” consisting of sixteen questions centered on conservation, open space, and recreation. The survey was published in the local paper “The Chronicle” and was distributed through the Dartmouth Senior Citizen Center, the Public Library, the Town Hall, posted on the Town Hall website, and made available through Survey Monkey (with a link to the Town Hall website). The Committee received 387 survey responses, up from the 215 received during the 2009 update. The responses were varied by Precinct and demographics and gave a good representation of the town.
The product of these techniques, be they surveys, meetings, or interviews, combined with vital information on public perceptions, demands and expectations constitute the foundation of this plan.

C. Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

To ensure meaningful involvement in the planning process, special attention was given to reach all neighborhoods, especially in the environmental justice (EJ) neighborhoods located in South Dartmouth near the City of New Bedford. One EJ neighborhood (Block Group 6533.011) households earn 65% or less of the state median income. In the second EJ neighborhood (Block Groups 6532.012 and 013), has a demographic profile in which 25% or more households have a population that is foreign born. The majority of foreign born are from Portuguese or Latin American decent. Methods of enhanced outreach included press releases, postings on the town website, and local cable access listings of public meetings as well as posting of the survey itself. Meeting notices and distribution of the survey also occurred at the Southworth Public Library and the Dartmouth Senior Center, in proximity to, and serving both of the environmental justice neighborhoods. Translation services were made available for all events and services associated with the development of the Open Space Plan update.
SECTION 3 COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Town of Dartmouth is located in southeastern Massachusetts midway between Providence and Cape Cod with a 47-mile irregular coastline on the north shore of Buzzards Bay. Dartmouth shares Buzzards Bay on its eastern border with the City of New Bedford. On the western side, the town’s significant agricultural land abuts a more rural Westport, while the less dense northern part blends into the expansive wooded areas of the City of Fall River and the Town of Freetown.

Buzzards Bay. Buzzards Bay is 28 miles long and has 280 miles of shoreline, including 11 miles of public beaches. The Bay had a significant impact on the Town and the region’s early growth by spurring the development of whaling and fishing communities in many of its harbors. In the mid-nineteenth century, Apponagansett Bay was part of the whaling industry in the area, as evidenced by a whaleship yard where Concordia is currently situated. Dartmouth’s Apponagansett Bay is ideal for recreational boating along with the harbors in Mattapoisett and Marion. Padanaram Harbor is one of thirty major harbors and coves in the Bay. However, Dartmouth’s harbor was and is neither deep enough nor large enough for it to support the type of commercial and industrial activities that define ports like those in New Bedford and Fall River. This is considered a critical factor in why the Town never developed into a city.

Buzzards Bay is a shared resource among the coastal communities for boating, fishing, and shellfishing. Hence preservation of its water quality is a vital issue for all the residents of these communities around its rim. The Buzzards Bay watershed is 432 square miles in size, or twice the size of the Bay itself. Through the non-profit, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, Dartmouth has been cooperating with the other coastal communities in the area to address pollution issues as they affect the Bay.

Most of the communities on the northern shore of Buzzards Bay (that is, those communities exclusive of the Elizabeth Islands) generally constitute the watershed limits of the Bay and therefore tend to control the freshwater resources that feed the area’s rivers and aquifers. This rather limited nature of the Buzzards Bay watershed underlines the importance of water supply in the region’s growth and development.
Historically, Dartmouth depended on New Bedford for a part of its water supply, and New Bedford has even expanded its water rights into the Narragansett Bay Watershed recently. On the other hand, Dartmouth supplies the City of Fall River with some of its water via the Copicut Reservoir, located in the northern portion of the town. As a region, the cities and towns of the Buzzards Bay area are interdependent upon one another for freshwater resources.

**B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY**

The settlement of the Town of Dartmouth does not follow the traditional pattern of land use and settlement common in New England. Most New England communities, especially those governed by the Plymouth Colony, started as planned and controlled communities. Land was purchased by and for the settlers who built their houses close together around village greens and meeting houses. Dartmouth’s land use patterns were very different.

Prior to Dartmouth’s purchase from the Wampanoags in 1652, there was a long rich Native American presence in the area. Each of the original thirty-four European proprietors had a share of land that consisted of at least 2,000 acres, although they did not reside in the area. Only about one-third of the purchasers actually settled on their newly acquired land. Those who did move to Old Dartmouth settled in widely scattered areas along the coast or along the rivers. The first of these settlers came to the region around 1660.

As proprietors sold off land for profit, a number of religious dissidents—Baptists and Quakers—were attracted to settle in Old Dartmouth, an undeveloped region where they could practice their religious beliefs more easily and freely since there was no strong church control in the community. Despite the attractions of the region to some groups, by 1675, the time of King Philip’s war, only thirty-seven dwellings were left in Old Dartmouth.

After King Philip’s War, the regional government at Plymouth recommended to the residents of Old Dartmouth to rebuild closer to each other so that they could defend themselves more effectively in case of trouble. However, the residents, who were mostly farmers, ignored this recommendation. Instead small, scattered settlements such as Russells Mills, Smith Mills, Fairhaven and Bedford Village (later New Bedford) developed. By 1700, the area’s agricultural economy was supplemented by sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills and an ironworks, using wind as the power source. Most small industries were located along the Paskamansett and Slocum Rivers. Padanaram and Russells Mills were involved in shipbuilding and maritime trades.

Inhabitants in the surrounding communities also harvested salt as well as fish from the sea, thereby establishing the salt industry in the area by 1720. Salter’s Point, Ricketson’s Point and Apponegansett were sites of saltworks at various times.

As of 1787, Dartmouth was part of a much larger area referred to as Old Dartmouth. The modern communities of Westport, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet and Dartmouth were once all part of Old Dartmouth which extended to over 100 square miles. The topography of the land contributed to the diffusion of people around rivers and inlets along Buzzards Bay thereby
hindering any town center with a village green, church or townhouse to build up. The growing
whaling industry was centered in the small village along the Acushnet River known as Bedford
Village. Many Dartmouth residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth century played a
significant role in the history of American Whaling. In the north end of Dartmouth, the
community of Hixville began to grow around the Church founded by the Reverend Daniel Hix
and later this village became a stage stop on the route from New Bedford to Fall River.

By 1900, Dartmouth felt the impact of industrialization in New Bedford. The agricultural
economic base of the town gave way to summer residential places for people who lived in New Bedford. The “summer resident” phenomenon began with the establishment of summer communities such as Nonquitt, Bayview, Salter’s Point and Mishan. About this time, many Portuguese immigrants began to buy the established farms. At the beginning of the twentieth century people were moving to Dartmouth in order to farm and because it was a “nice place to live.”

Following World War II, Dartmouth entered into its greatest period of change and growth whereby it evolved into a “bedroom” community for New Bedford. It was during this period that old family farms became housing developments while rising land values and decreasing farm prices put pressure on farmers and encouraged them to sell their land. While vestiges remain of the early villages such as Hixville, Russells Mills and Padanaram, residential structures have been swallowed up by commercial development in other villages like Smith Mills and Bliss Corner. The areas between the villages became more densely settled along winding country roads that followed Native American trails. The paths that once saw little traffic gave way to wider roads for automobiles and traffic lights marking the town of Dartmouth’s change to a suburban community.

As Dartmouth moves into the twenty-first century, many town residents are beginning to realize the value of preserving the fast disappearing open space that was once taken for granted.

C. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The seeds of Dartmouth’s transformation from a rural community to a suburb can be traced to the end of World War II when President Eisenhower, a former general, instituted the interstate highway system to connect cities to one another to aid in the movement of troops and people should America be attacked by other countries.

An unanticipated consequence of the establishment of highways is the overwhelming movement of people out of cities and into suburbs, supported by the GI Bill which assisted returning GIs in the purchase of new houses through mortgages, car travel over public transit, electricity, and other new infrastructure. Furthermore, the reliance by local government on the property tax as its major source of revenue had prompted city residents to seek good schools, security, a pastoral setting, and a smaller, more responsive government. The move to Dartmouth from New Bedford was, for many people, an embodiment of the American Dream.
Population Growth

As a consequence of people migrating from city to suburb, Dartmouth’s population rose while New Bedford’s population decreased between 1960 and 2010. The populations of the towns in the region also increased, as residents from other parts of the state were drawn to a healthy economy, a high quality of life, and growing university in the area, which contrasted to the high costs of living and working in the metropolitan area of Boston.

Table 1 shows the rise of Dartmouth population and its surrounding rural communities since 1960.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>14,607</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>23,966</td>
<td>27,244</td>
<td>30,666</td>
<td>34,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acushnet</td>
<td>5,755</td>
<td>7,767</td>
<td>8,704</td>
<td>9,554</td>
<td>10,161</td>
<td>10,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>99,942</td>
<td>96,898</td>
<td>92,574</td>
<td>92,703</td>
<td>91,938</td>
<td>88,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freetown</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>4,270</td>
<td>7,058</td>
<td>8,522</td>
<td>8,472</td>
<td>8,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>2,88</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>3,932</td>
<td>4,496</td>
<td>5,123</td>
<td>4,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattapoisett</td>
<td>3,117</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>5,597</td>
<td>5,850</td>
<td>6,268</td>
<td>6,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>102,477</td>
<td>101,777</td>
<td>98,478</td>
<td>99,922</td>
<td>93,768</td>
<td>95,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>6,641</td>
<td>9,791</td>
<td>13,763</td>
<td>13,852</td>
<td>14,183</td>
<td>15,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRPEDD Region</td>
<td>426,461</td>
<td>478,728</td>
<td>524,389</td>
<td>563,130</td>
<td>597,294</td>
<td>616,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

It is clear from Table 1 that while Dartmouth’s population experienced a steady increase from 1960 to 2010, some neighboring communities did not share this pattern of growth. For instance, the big cities lost residents while in the earlier decades, while other towns experience only moderate increases in population over time. Table 1 also demonstrates that the regional population had increased by over 190,000 people between 1960 and 2010, or roughly 38,000 people for each decade (from 426,461 to 616,670).

The rapid rise of population in the region also brought about swift land development in places with some unforeseen possibilities. More land had been used up in the region in the last 50 years than had been used 350 years ago when the Pilgrims came to settle in Plymouth.

A closer look at Dartmouth’s rate of increase in population can be seen in Table 2 during the decades 1960 to 2010.
Table 2. Population Growth Rate: Dartmouth, 1960-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Numerical Increase</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>14,607</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>4,193</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>23,966</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>27.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>27,244</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>13.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>30,666</td>
<td>3,422</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>34,032</td>
<td>3,366</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2 gives evidence that Dartmouth’s total population more than doubled from 1960 to 2010. However, the town’s most dramatic population increase occurred between 1960 and 1980, then slowed soon after. The double-digit growth rates are projected to decrease gradually in the coming decades.

Meanwhile, it is unclear whether the various communities surrounding Dartmouth will undergo similar population growth as the town, or take a different path. Table 3 shows these communities’ projected trajectories.

Table 3. Population Projections to 2030 in Dartmouth’s Neighboring Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2020*</th>
<th>2030*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>34,032</td>
<td>36,999</td>
<td>40,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acushnet</td>
<td>10,303</td>
<td>11,015</td>
<td>11,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>88,857</td>
<td>94,032</td>
<td>99,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freetown</td>
<td>8,870</td>
<td>9,729</td>
<td>9,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>4,907</td>
<td>5,502</td>
<td>5,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattapoisett</td>
<td>6,045</td>
<td>6,921</td>
<td>7,329</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>95,072</td>
<td>96,671</td>
<td>101,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>15,532</td>
<td>16,554</td>
<td>19,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *SRPEDD

Using the projected population numbers prepared by the Transportation Department of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Development District, Table 3 reveals that if everything remains stable, Dartmouth is poised to continue getting about 3,000 more residents every ten years until 2030. Nearby towns and cities have no similar population forecast.
Population Structure

Fig. 1 is a portrayal of Dartmouth’s population composition by age and sex for 1990 to 2010. These population pyramids are good representation of whether any age and sex groups have changed drastically over the decades.

**Fig. 1. Population Age and Sex Distribution, 1990-2010**

It is noticeable from Fig. 1 that over all, the town of Dartmouth maintained a stable population structure in over two decades. There seems to be a prevailing deficit of small children and college-age youth, and a rising number of females at the oldest age group within the 20-year period.

Fig. 2 offers a closer look at the town’s significant age groups: the youth (under 25 years old) currently within the town’s school system and neighboring colleges, the working-age population responsible for supporting the town’s economy, and the older adults and retirees who have their own special needs.
Indeed, the data suggest that the current robust and active labor force (25 to 64 years old), will be supporting both those at the lower age group (under age 24 years) and higher segment of the population (65+ years) as the baby boomers retire in the years ahead (Fig. 2). Given the varying needs and requirements of these different population age groups, significant demands from the town’s resources will have to be met and planned for. This is true and most urgent with the issue of open space.

Further evidence of the town residents’ aging population vis-à-vis the state as a whole is found in Fig. 3.

As shown in Fig. 3, by 2010, Dartmouth’s median age had caught up with the state with only half a year’s difference. Inevitably, the town will need special insights when planning for the various age groups’ requirements such as those of the aging population’s choices of where to live, work or play after retirement.

Thus, regardless of the town’s population growth rate, or the age composition thereof, the need
for preserving limited open space remains a vital concern. Demand for recreational facilities may shift from active recreational facilities, such as soccer and baseball fields, to somewhat passive, more individualized activities such as nature hiking and fitness trails, and therefore will be part of the challenges in the town’s future planning activities.

Race and Ethnic Composition

The racial and ethnic composition of Dartmouth’s population from 1990 to 2010 is presented in Table 4. The data depict the town’s predominantly White population, [albeit mostly of Portuguese ancestry]. It is also clear from Table 4 that in a span of two decades, Dartmouth’s racial and ethnic profile had become considerably more interracial and multi-ethnic. There are more African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics in the area by 2010 than there were in 1990. Furthermore, it is also apparent that the biggest Hispanic group in the town consists of Puerto Ricans (Table 4).

Table 4. Race and Ethnicity: Dartmouth, 1990-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26,434</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>27,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black (African American)</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Eskimo</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27,244</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>30,666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hispanic                |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Mexican                 | 279   | 1.0   | 461   | 1.5   | 805   | 2.4   |
| Puerto Rican            | 65    |       | 213   |       | 320   |       |
| Cuban                   | 3     |       | 9     |       | 17    |       |
| Other                   | 195   |       | 192   |       | 386   |       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For planning purposes, the cultural needs of the growing multiracial and ethnic groups deserve as much attention as the White majority segment of the town’s population.

Households

In recent years, Dartmouth, like any other town in Southeastern Massachusetts, has its share of various modern group living arrangements, namely: family households and group quarters (college dormitories, residential treatment and nursing facilities, military barracks, etc.). Conversely, those in group quarters can either be institutionalized or not.

The town’s population is broken down by household structure from 1990 to 2010 in Table 5.
Table 5. Household Structure: Dartmouth, 1990-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Structure</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>27,244</td>
<td>30,666</td>
<td>34,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in Households</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>89.5</td>
<td>83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in Group Quarters</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Institutionalized Population</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(persons not part of the labor force)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As revealed in Table 5, Dartmouth residents living in households had gradually declined, while those living in group quarters have risen from 1990 to 2010. Although the institutionalized segment of the population remained a negligible group, nevertheless they deserve some consideration in the town’s planning for the future.

Household Composition/Types

Traditional household composition, i.e. nuclear and/or extended families living together in a household, have given way to multiple variations of residential arrangements in recent decades. The same is true with Dartmouth’s household population, as displayed in Table 6.

Table 6. Types of Household: Dartmouth, 1990-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Types</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>27,244</td>
<td>30,666</td>
<td>34,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Households (families):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Married-couple households</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>57.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Married-couple families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with Children under 18 years</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female-headed households</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female-headed households</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with Children under 18 years</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-family households:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Householder living alone</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Householder 65+ years old,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living alone</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The data (Table 6) attest to a trend of a gradual decrease in Dartmouth's number of married-couple families, with a lesser number of such type of households having children below 18 years old from 1960 to 2010. Meanwhile, there is a slow but steady increase in the number of female-headed households along with their dependent children in the town during these decades.

Everywhere in the country, non-family households have become common, and this is also true in Dartmouth. However, Table 6 also gives evidence that Dartmouth’s elderly population (65 years and over) who live alone has remained almost the same since 1990.

Interestingly, the data indicate a reduction in Dartmouth’s household sizes, from almost three members for every household in 1990, to only two and a half members in 2010.

D. Economic Characteristics

Planning for the future includes determining the populations’ preferences for living, working, and recreational conditions. The residents’ educational and income profiles are vital factors as they govern these tastes.

Education

Fig. 4 presents the educational level distribution of the population 25 years and over in Dartmouth in 1990, 2000, and in 2010.

![Fig. 4. Educational Attainment: Dartmouth Population 25+ Years Old](image-url)
It is most noticeable in Fig. 4 that Dartmouth’s adult population achieved some definite improvement in the town’s educational level over the two decades being examined. Most evident are those with less than 12 years of school which decreased dramatically from 1990 to 2010, while those with Associate, Bachelors and Graduate degrees increased considerably.

**Income**

Three relevant income measures are vital to any town’s future planning activities as these have significant impact on the residents’ taste and preferences for work, living and recreational arrangements. Table 7 shows a comparison of these [unadjusted for inflation] income measures between the town and the state from 1990 to 2011.

**Table 7. Income Levels: Dartmouth vs. Massachusetts 1990-2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income</td>
<td>$35,138</td>
<td>$36,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Family Income</td>
<td>$39,755</td>
<td>$44,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$15,389</td>
<td>$17,224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The evidence is clear in Table 7 that Dartmouth’s median household income was lower than the state in 1990 but soon after exceeded that of the state. This is also true in 2011 when the town’s median family income is higher than Massachusetts’. However, the town’s per capita income remained short of the state’s level since 1990.

**Environmental Justice Populations**

The common criteria for classifying population residential areas as Environmental Justice districts within a community include minority and foreign-born population composition, language isolation, and household income levels.

In 2011, data for the first two factors were not available at the block group level, but household income was. Table 8 displays the specific block groups that qualify for the Environmental Justice income criteria in Dartmouth.
Table 8. Block Groups Meeting Environmental Justice Criteria:
Dartmouth, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block Group</th>
<th>% Minority Pop</th>
<th>Median Household Income (% of State Median HH Income)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block Group 3, Census Tract 6531.01</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block Group 3, Census Tract 6532.03</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block Group 3, Census Tract 6533.01</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the town of Dartmouth, Block Group 3 in Census Tract 6531.01, Block Group 3, in Census Tract 6532.03, and Block Group 3 in Census Tract 6533.01 had met the designation of Environmental Justice areas. All of these three block groups had median household incomes which fell below 65% of the statewide median income in 2011 (Table 8).

Economy

Employment and unemployment conditions in Dartmouth in recent years had been closely linked with the region’s overall economic conditions. The total employment in Dartmouth from 2001 to 2012 is illustrated in Fig. 5.

![Fig. 5. Total Employment, 2001-2012](image_url)

As the data show, the trend in total employment in Dartmouth during the years 2001 to 2012 peaked in 2007, and fluctuated thereafter. As of 2012, there is some hint of an economic recovery with figures approaching the 2007 employment level.

A breakdown of employment by industry is shown in Table 9.
Table 9. Employment by Industry: Dartmouth, 2011
(Population 16+ years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting &amp; mining</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>1,855</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>2,329</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; warehousing</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; insurance, real estate, rental &amp; leasing</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services, scientific, management &amp; admin support &amp; waste management</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services &amp; health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>4,755</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment &amp; recreation &amp; accommodation &amp; food services</td>
<td>1,343</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,754</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Clearly, the data delineate the three leading industry sectors in Dartmouth as of 2012 which included: Retail Trade, Health care and Social Assistance, and Educational services. Accommodation and food services also have considerable employment during that year.

Unemployment

In Fig. 6, the trend in unemployment rates from 2000 to 2012 in Dartmouth is juxtaposed with those of the region, the state, and the nation.
As can be seen from Fig. 6, Dartmouth followed the economic flow in unemployment rates with its whole environment. The rates remained stable until the late 2000s when the economic downturn occurred, then soared high along with the region’s, the state’s, and U.S’ rates.

E. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

A town’s housing stock and supply is largely determined by the amount of space and land area the municipality has within its use. The area has the control of number of housing starts when space is limited. Fig. 7 shows the number of building permits for residential units in Dartmouth from 2000 to 2012.

![Fig. 7. Number of Building Permits Issued in Dartmouth, 2000-2012](image)

Source: Town Building Inspector’s Office

It is apparent from Fig. 10 that Dartmouth adjusted accordingly to the housing crisis that pervaded the country from the mid-2000s to date. Very few building permits have been issued since 2008, and of those that were, consisted mostly of single family residential units only.

Another determinant of a community’s attraction to residents from other municipalities is the cost of housing. Data on housing prices as of 2012 in Dartmouth and some of the surrounding municipalities are presented in Table 10.

**Table 10. Single Family Residential Housing Prices, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acushnet</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>$166,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freetown</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattapoisett</td>
<td>$333,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>$289,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Banker & Tradesman (Town Stats)
Compared to Dartmouth’s neighboring towns and cities, the town’s housing costs in 2012 fell in the mid-range, not too high nor too low. This is most evident in the cost of single family residential homes as shown in Table 10.

**Population Density**

Land in Southeastern Massachusetts is being consumed at a rate two and one half times the rate of the population increase, according to SRPEDD. Population has shifted from urban areas to rural areas with development consuming more open space, known today as sprawl. Dartmouth is one of the communities in the region experiencing sprawl development. Fig. 1 shows the number of persons per square mile in Dartmouth since 1990. It is clear from the data that the town is progressively getting more densely populated in the last two decades.

![Fig. 1. Population per Square Mile, 1990-2010](source: U.S. Census Bureau)

In Table 4, the population densities of Dartmouth and the communities nearby are compared. Much of the Town’s growth this decade has happened outside of the traditional village areas, changing the historical density patterns.

| Table 4. Comparing Population Density: Dartmouth vs. Neighboring Communities, 1990-2010 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dartmouth                                    | 1990            | 2000            | 2010            |
| Acushnet                                      | 447             | 489             | 543             |
| Freetown                                      | 518             | 552             | 559             |
| Westport                                      | 247             | 232             | 242             |
| New Bedford                                   | 278             | 275             | 301             |
| **Total**                                     | **4,996**       | **4,665**       | **4,730**       |
| Source: U. S. Census Bureau, *SRPEDD*         |                 |                 |                 |
Dartmouth stands out as the most rapidly occupied community in the area from 1990 to the present (Table 4). Although surrounding communities had lower population densities in 2000, the numbers for 2010 show that these shortfalls were soon recouped by 2010.

F. GROWTH and DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Patterns and Trends

According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience Report (2014) Dartmouth was ranked 14th in the state in acres of natural land, and 5th in terms of open land converted to development between 2005 and 2013, at a combined 250 acres. In the context of the Audubon report, natural land is defined as forest, wetland, and water; open land is defined as agricultural areas, bare soil, or low vegetation, and; developed land includes low density residential and commercial/industrial/high density residential development.

In general, Dartmouth suffered the same development impacts as many of its rural neighbors between 1960 and 2000. These four decades saw the loss of almost 40% of the town’s agricultural land and 13% of its forested land, while the amount of urbanized land increased by over 220%. Overall land use trends in Dartmouth have shown a gradual shift from forested, open, and agricultural land to more urban land over the past twenty-five years. This trend is coincident with the creation of the local Agricultural Commission, the growth of the Natural Resources Trust of Dartmouth (DNRT), and forging strong conservation partnerships with conservation groups like DNRT, Mass Audubon, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Trustees of Reservations.

Presently, about 23% of the land in Dartmouth (9,036 acres) has been developed for residential, commercial, industrial, or other purposes. Forests, wetlands, and open space presently account for about 77% of the land in Dartmouth (30,355 acres).

The trend towards increasing urbanization has been slowing in Dartmouth since the year 2000, when 150 building permits for single family residential homes were issued. In 2013, only 31 such permits were issued, and the average number of permits issued between 2005 and 2013 was 43 per year. This trend is also coincident with the state and nation’s economic downturn and slow recovery between 2007 and 2013. This national trend, coupled with the increased use of Dartmouth’s Open Space Residential Development Bylaw (OSRD), and the working partnerships with the above mentioned conservation organizations, enabled the protection of an additional 1,609 acres of land in Dartmouth between 2005 and 2013.

Transportation Infrastructure

Population growth is closely connected to economic development and transportation. Boston is the economic engine of New England and transportation improvements bring the region increasingly under its economic influence. In a sense Dartmouth and other towns in the South Coast are becoming suburbs, not only of New Bedford and Fall River, but also of
Boston and Providence. Improvements to Routes 3, 24, 140, 495 and 195 make it easier to live in Dartmouth and work in the Boston or Providence markets. Many people are willing to spend a long time commuting if they can combine a Boston income with a South Coast cost-of-living and quality of life. As the noted architectural critic, Robert Campbell, has said, “The faster you make it possible for people to drive, the longer it will take them to get to work.”

There are a number of transportation projects and other developments that promise continued growth in the region. First, of course, is the proposal to extend commuter rail to New Bedford and Fall River (South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, 2009). Commuter rail will amplify what the highway improvements have already started. The planned rail expansion will also offer people the choice of turning commuting time into a more productive and pleasant experience. There is no question that more people will decide to make that choice. We have already seen a doubling of building permits in Lakeville attributed to the extension of commuter rail to that community (largely associated with transit oriented development constructed adjacent to the Lakeville Commuter Rail Station). While the proposed commuter rail will bring the positive impacts of economic development to the area it will also increase the demand for new houses and infrastructure.

The recently completed expansion of the New Bedford Regional Airport could also increase economic activity and potentially spur secondary growth depending on the carriers who decide to use it. The rapid growth of Green Airport in Providence and Manchester Airport in New Hampshire show that traffic can be steered away from the congestion at Logan and can transform what used to be quiet little airports into thriving, growing facilities. The expansion of New Bedford airport includes several safety improvements making it more conducive to aviation growth. These improvements include new lighting, signage, improved drainage (lessening impacts to receiving waters that flow into Dartmouth), and an extension of Runway 5-23 to 5,400 feet. The airport also hosts the Bridgewater State University Aviation Program.

Dartmouth has become one of the leading communities in southeastern Massachusetts in promoting the planning and development of bike routes, paths, and related facilities. The Dartmouth Pathways Committee was created/appointed by the Select board in 2010 as part of a state and regional effort to work with local leaders and officials to build a network of bikeways around the South Coast region. Committee members have been active in the regional South Coast Bikeway Alliance since its inception and have contributed to the South Coast Bikeway Plan. Elements of the South Coast Bikeway Plan considers potential routes in and through Dartmouth, including: the Watuppa Secondary railroad bed; a northerly route connecting Dartmouth to the Fall River Bioreserve, and the City of New Bedford, via links from Old Fall River Road, and; a southerly route via Old Westport Road. The pathways Committee worked with the Dartmouth Public Works Department to assess road lane widths to accommodate on-road bike lanes. A first step in this process was the completion of a 4 to 6 foot wide bike lane from the Westport town line to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, as part of a road resurfacing project. The Pathways Committee, and the more recently formed Bike Committee, have worked with the regional planning agency and
municipal departments to: implement a bicycle rack installation program at parks, schools, and recreation areas; to help pass a Bicycle Parking amendment to the existing Zoning Bylaw at the fall 2014 Town Meeting, and; host meetings for the development of a Regional Bike Plan.

Water Supply System

The Dartmouth Water Division currently provides water service to approximately 70% of the population, with the remaining 30% served by private wells. Dartmouth’s municipal water supply system consists of fourteen (14) groundwater, gravel packed wells, or naturally developed wells, and one (1) pumping station. Dartmouth also purchases water from the City of New Bedford’s Quittacas Water Treatment Plant located on the Assawompset Ponds Complex (the largest natural reservoir in the Commonwealth) in Lakeville, Freetown, Rochester, and Middleboro. Dartmouth pumps the treated water to a facility on Faunce Corner Road.

Sewer Service

Approximately 50% of Dartmouth residents and all of the major commercial areas are served by the sewer system, with the remaining areas relying on Individual Septic Disposal Systems. The Dartmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located on Braga Memorial Drive, and is operated by the Dartmouth Water Pollution Control Division. The WWTP has a design flow of 4.2 million gallons per day (mgd) and discharges to Buzzards Bay (off of Mishawum Point). The WWTP also contains a testing laboratory, a composting site, a sludge facility, and twenty-one (21) sewerage pumping stations.

Long-Term Development Patterns

The Town of Dartmouth is zoned approximately 90% residential, with regulated dimensional requirements of 15,000 square feet, 40,000 square feet, or 80,000 square feet dependent upon the specific zoning district. The land along the Route 6 corridor is zoned commercial. Land to the north of Interstate Route 195 is zoned industrial, as is land in the northeast corner of Dartmouth.

The Town has passed the following zoning bylaws and amendments since 2009 in order to guide growth, protect resources, and promote appropriate land use options in specific areas.

- Adopted revised flood hazard maps for the entire town;
- Prohibited Commercial Wind Turbines in all zoning districts except Industrial Districts;
- Updated the Town’s existing Aquifer Protection Bylaw Map to include new wells.

The OSRD also continues to be an effective tool by which to preserve open space in conjunction with the development of single-family or condominium units.
Another effort undertaken by the Town, in conjunction with the South Coast Rail Project, and tied to local planning and zoning protocol, is the designation and mapping of Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) within the community. This community driven planning exercise was originally conducted in 2008 by the three regional planning agencies serving the thirty-one (31) communities addressed in the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan. In 2013, the three regional planning agencies, including SRPEDD (serving Dartmouth), revisited the original process and choices as part of a five year update of the 2008 project.

PDAs are the areas that are appropriate for increased development or redevelopment due to several factors, including: transportation access; available infrastructure (primarily sewer and water); an absence of environmental constraints, and; local support. PDAs can range from a single parcel to many acres, and can include small scale infill, commercial, industrial, mixed use, transit facilities, or other such projects.

PPAs are areas that are important to protect due to the presence of significant natural or cultural resources, including, but not limited to: rare and endangered species habitats; areas critical to water supply; historic areas; scenic vistas, and; agricultural areas. PPAs also vary greatly in size, from small species dependent areas, to large expanses of intact habitat. These sites may be candidates for protection through acquisition, conservation restriction, or other means.

A community’s Priority Area designations can guide municipal decisions about zoning revisions, infrastructure investments, and conservation efforts. In addition, these Community Priority Area designations are used as the foundation for developing Regional and State Priority Area designations. These Priority Area designations gained further importance when in the fall of 2010, the Patrick Administration issued Executive Order 525 (E.O. 525) providing for the implementation of the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan and Corridor Map (including PPAs and PDAs) through state agency actions and investments. These state actions have the potential to help leverage local and private investments in the Priority Areas. (See Dartmouth Community Priority Areas, Appendix A)
G. Local Recreation and Open Space Interests

Dartmouth’s recreation programs have been largely defined over the past decade by both the public school system’s facilities and a number of private recreation groups that provide organized active recreation activities for team competition for the people of Dartmouth. Similarly, there are a variety of non-profit organizations whose mission involves the protection and enhancement of Dartmouth’s open spaces. Each has uniquely contributed to Dartmouth’s overall recreation and open space portrait and each has its own needs that are addressed in this plan. These groups and individuals include the following:

1. Recreation Interests:

DARTMOUTH SCHOOL SYSTEM

The public school system provides a mixture of outdoor and indoor active recreation facilities for all children in Dartmouth. While each school-age child utilizes the recreation facilities in traditional physical education classes, it is estimated roughly 65% of the high school population additionally participate in school-sponsored sports programs outside of the traditional curriculum. All fields used for school sports are school owned, except for the use of the Allendale Country Club for the golf team, the New Bedford Yacht Club for the sailing team, and the New Bedford Ice Rink for hockey. The school department currently has no significant sports field issues other than having to transport some sports teams from the high school to the middle school for use of the fields at that site.

Within the school system maintains seven school properties which total over 135 acres of land with approximately half of that available for recreation uses including basketball and tennis courts, track, practice fields, soccer, field hockey, football, softball and baseball fields. In addition to these facilities the school department maintains ownership of two additional acres of land associated with its administration building and the alternative school both of which are in the southern portion of Dartmouth and include a small softball diamond and basketball court. The school facilities further breakdown as follows:

Andrew B. Cushman School (elementary) Includes 3.5 acres of land with an on-site parking lot. There are two open field areas, a full size softball field that is used by the Dartmouth Girls Little League, and a basketball court. In 2005, the school and PTO fundraised for the purchase and installation of a new playground structure. With the town’s budget crisis and failed override in 2007, the Cushman School was closed and all students were moved to the Quinn School. The
status of the school remains in question. The playground at the school is still used as a neighborhood playground, however, the play equipment may be moved to the Quinn School.

Joseph DeMello School (elementary) Includes 49 acres of total land, much of which is densely wooded. The property abuts the western boundary of Jones Park and has potential for connection with that facility and the adjoining Council on Aging center. A new ADA compliant playground structure was installed in 2004 through parent-group efforts and CPC funding. DeMello also includes open field area and a softball area.

Job S. Gidley School (elementary) Includes 8.67 acres of land including the parking area. The school has a baseball field that is used by both the Dartmouth Youth Athletic Association (DYAA) and the Dartmouth Girls Little League (DGLL) every day. Gidley also has a playground facility that was similarly developed through parent-group efforts. With the town’s budget crisis and failed override in 2007, the Gidley School was closed and all students were moved to the Quinn School. The status of the school remains in question. The playground at the school is still used as a neighborhood playground, however, the play equipment has been moved to the Quinn School.

George H. Potter School (elementary) Includes 11.5 acres of land with parking. Potter School, like the other elementary schools, maintains a playground facility, open fields and a baseball field.

Quinn School and the Dartmouth Middle School Because these two schools are adjoining, they total 63 acres of land. This figure includes the stadium, a number of practice fields for athletic teams and the High School Band, a full-size outdoor track, six tennis courts, three multi-use fields, a full-size baseball diamond and two softball diamonds. None of the fields at any of the Town’s schools are irrigated with the exception of the stadium. With the closing of Cushman and Gidley schools and the addition of students totaling over 1,000, the Quinn elementary school has added an additional playground that was moved from the Gidley School. The stadium and soccer field at the former High School will continue to be used for games.

Dartmouth High School. The new Dartmouth High School, which opened September 2002, is a 250,000 SF facility on Bakerville Road. The new state of the art high school is adjacent to the Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association fields. New recreational facilities at the high school consist of gymnasium with indoor track and outdoor football and baseball fields (practice only).

Dartmouth High School Athletic Program. The Dartmouth High School Athletic Program offered 24 different sports. Twenty-two of these sports had teams that competed at the
interscholastic level and two sports competed as independent sub-varsity or club teams. These programs were comprised of 43 teams and competed at the Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshmen levels. These athletic teams were made up of over 800 students and they participated in 740 athletic contests.

**LEAGUES, ASSOCIATIONS, and COMPLEXES**

**Dartmouth Youth Athletic Association:** The Dartmouth Youth Athletic Association (DYAA) was formed and incorporated in 1955 when a group of individuals decided to form a Youth Baseball League, which now also includes a Youth Basketball League. The DYAA sees itself as an organization that provides opportunities for the youth of Dartmouth to be involved with athletics and is unique in that every youth who signs up is placed on a team and plays every game. The Association teaches sportsmanship, leadership, and valuable cooperation skills. There are now approximately 800 members involved in baseball and 500 participants in the basketball program.

For the baseball program, DYAA currently practices at Crapo Field, Gidley School, DeMello and Potter and hold games at Crapo, Gidley and DeMello. The facilities are adequate, except Gidley and DeMello need maintenance to fix pot holes and fences.

For the basketball program, DYAA currently practices and holds games at DeMello, Potter and Quinn. Most of the courts are not large enough and scheduling space for both practices and games has been a problem.

The Crapo Fields on Slocum/Russells Mills Road is the only property currently held by the DYAA. In the last five years, DYAA has made improvements to Crapo including a new dining pavilion, new storage and new restrooms.

The main need reported by DYAA is that they need more fields for baseball and an indoor facility for basketball because scheduling games and practices at school facilities is difficult and the maintenance is expensive and not in their control. They would like to plan for a centralized facility in Dartmouth that could accommodate basketball and baseball in the winter. Their needs at a centralized facility would be 10 fields and 5 courts, one wood court for tournaments that they can not hold at present.

**Dartmouth Girls Athletic League:** The Dartmouth Girls Athletic League (DGAL) has 380 softball members and 250 basketball members. DGAL rents gym time for basketball practice from the school department. For softball, DGAL practices and holds games at fields at Quinn, Cushman, and Bush Street Admin. Building, however, games must be scheduled around school functions and activities.
The DGAL has improved fields at the Quinn School including fencing in one field, putting protective warning piping on the fence, building an announcers’ booth and erecting lights and a scoreboard. DGAL pays for maintenance of the school gyms as part of the rental fee and they maintain the fields they use. They need more fields to play on, a new concession facility, upgraded equipment, better parking, and improved bathroom facilities.

They would like to plan for having playing space that they have priority use over. For a centralized facility, they would need approximately four basketball courts and seven softball fields. They would also like to start a volleyball program again, which would require two or three volleyball courts.

*Joseph Burgo Memorial Basketball Complex:* The Burgo Basketball Association is a non-profit youth organization with a facility in New Bedford and a multi-court facility on Slocum Road. This complex contains five outdoor basketball courts and two tennis courts.

There is also a sand volleyball court, walking track and a children's playground. In the future, the plan is for the construction of 3-4 indoor basketball courts, a weight training center and computer room (more modest immediate plans call for the completion of one indoor court for the 2015/16 basketball season that will be used as the home court for Bristol Community College). The complex serves youth in the southeast region as well as Dartmouth.

*Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association:* The Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association [DYSA] was formed as a way of bringing together the youth of Dartmouth for organized team soccer play. At present there are over 1000 children in this program. The program includes spring and fall sessions as well as a summer camp. This is one of the most active youth-based recreation programs in Dartmouth. The program is based primarily at the fields on Russells Mills Road, but also holds practices at the University of Massachusetts and the Dartmouth Middle School. The Russells Mills fields are on a 40-acre site owned by the Park Department with a lease to DYSA. The fields abut the new Dartmouth High School. DYSA improved their Russells Mill Road facility with an addition to their building and general grounds improvement.

DYSA’s current property does not have enough field space and they also need an all-weather synthetic playing surface.
In planning for a centralized athletic facility, DYSA would require 15-18 acres for proper field rotation and fields with synthetic turf.

**Dartmouth Youth Football League:** The Dartmouth Youth Football League (DYFL) was formed in 2005 and has over 350 participants. The League currently practices on the Dartmouth Middle School fields and the cheerleaders use the DMS gym every October. The League uses Memorial Stadium for all home games. DYFL has been doing maintenance work to improve their borrowed facilities including: maintaining the concession stand and stadium stands, fertilizing, watering, and lining the fields, and other general improvements.

There are issues with their current locations including no bathrooms at practice, insufficient lighting outdoors at practice, cost to use the DMS gym for cheerleading, and storage issues. DYFL would like to pursue their own facility because of issues with using the school’s properties. Needs for DYFL in a centralized athletic complex would be to have a football game field, practice fields, a large indoor space for the cheerleaders and a storage space for equipment.

**The Dartmouth Youth Lacrosse:** The Dartmouth Youth Lacrosse Association (DLAX)’s mission is to provide a fun, educational and safe environment for girls and boys in Dartmouth grades 3 through 8, to learn the sport of lacrosse. DLAX has no standings kept, no league championship or playoffs and plays all children as equally as possible. All practices and games are at Friends Academy on Tucker Road. DLAX has ten (10) girls and boys teams and over 200 players. Their needs are to have permanent fields to practice and hold games.

**Recreation Committee:** The recreation committee was formed to establish the need for a centralized athletic facility for the town. The Committee has representatives from the Dartmouth youth athletic groups and from the Park and Recreation Department.

**UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS, DARTMOUTH**

The campus continues its tradition of welcoming residents who have used its “ring road” for jogging, walking, biking, rollerblading and the like. These activities, along with the public use of its tennis courts, are encouraged to the extent that they do not interfere with the organized University programs. Additionally, hundreds of Dartmouth youth annually use and enjoy the track, soccer, and athletic fields.
The university’s SMAST continues its work with state and federal partners under the Massachusetts Estuaries Project, which is devoted to protecting and restoring water quality in the state’s coastal and marine environment.

DARTMOUTH YMCA

The YMCA Dartmouth, a satellite location of the YMCA of Greater New Bedford, opened in 2000 and is housed on the site of the former Children’s Museum on Gulf Road. The facility includes an outdoor pool, a summer camp called “Camp Metacomet” and environmental education and recreational classes. The site offers walking and hiking trails and is the home of the Sharing the Harvest Community Farm.

2. Open Space and Natural Resource Interests:

Dartmouth Conservation Commission

In Massachusetts a Conservation Commission is the primary governmental agency whose purpose it is to acquire and protect open space. Massachusetts General Law (G. L. Chapter 40 §8C) and Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution gives Conservation Commissions the ability to purchase properties or receive properties as gifts to be placed in permanent protection as passive recreational open space.

The Dartmouth Conservation Commission was one of the earliest Commissions in Massachusetts holding its first meeting in 1961. From 1961 through 1972 the Commission’s time was spent analyzing open space, prioritizing open space acquisition, coordinating open space activities with other governmental and non-governmental agencies and performing other tasks related to the protection and enjoyment of open space.

It was in 1972 when Conservation Commission were assigned the task of administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (G. L. Chapter 131 §40). It is this regulatory function that Conservation Commissions are currently most identified with by both the general public and other municipal agencies. However, the Commission has continued its original mandate to preserve and protect open space. Dartmouth the Conservation Commission currently protects 174 separate parcels totaling 2167 acres.

Conservation Commission Lands & Deeds Project:

Throughout Massachusetts, many properties previously thought of as being in the control of a Conservation Commission, and therefore permanently protected open space, may not have adequate legal protection due to improper wording in their deeds. For a parcel to be fully protected in perpetuity through Article 97 the deed for the property must state that a property is owned by the municipality and controlled by the Conservation Commission (or similar wording relating to open space or recreational protection). Given that many properties were donated to Conservation
Commissions many years (or even decades) ago improper wording within the deeds that do not provide for permanent protection are common.

In 2011 the Conservation Commission conducted a review of each and every deed for property thought to be in control of the Commission. Where necessary, a corrective deed was recorded at the Registry of Deeds. With that action, all properties that are in control of the Conservation Commission now have the proper legal protection as permanently protected open space.

In addition the Conservation Commission regularly partners with other governmental and non-governmental agencies for the purposes of open space protection. This partnership continues to grow with the development of hiking trails and the coordination of Conservation Restrictions. In 2011 the Conservation Commission acquired a Conservation Restriction on the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) Jonny Point property. This 16 acre property forms a critical link to 498 acres of permanently protected open space and recreational land owned by both the Dartmouth Conservation Commission and the DNRT, and a link trail was completed by DNRT in 2013.

**Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT)**

DNRT’s mission is to preserve and protect Dartmouth’s incredible scenic, historic, agricultural, and natural resources. Their land conservation program focuses on three general techniques to acquire and protect land that has significant conservation value:

1. Work with landowners to acquire—either through donation or purchase—critical conservation lands to create land reserves;
2. Work with landowners to encourage them to donate conservation restrictions to DNRT to help guide them through the process;
3. Collaborate with other conservation organizations, state and Federal agencies, and the Town of Dartmouth to preserve land that may ultimately be owned or protected by one of these groups instead of DNRT.

DNRT owns 1,486 acres, and holds Conservation Restrictions and Conservation Covenants on another 907 acres. DNRT has also had a role in protecting approximately 2,000 other acres in Town (owned or protected by other organizations).

In response to the growing need to protect Dartmouth’s valuable farmland, DNRT has established a permanent Farmland Protection Fund. The fund will allow DNRT to react more rapidly to sudden opportunities to protect farmland, whether by acquiring new land, helping the town execute a right of first refusal on farmland under MA General Laws Chapter 61A, or assisting the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources with the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR).
DNRT currently has about 800 members (individuals, families and businesses). The Town could assist DNRT by more actively promoting—to businesses, residents and the press—the benefits of Dartmouth’s natural lands and rural character as well as DNRT’s important role in the protection of these resources.

In terms of environmental education, DNRT does not have a specific education program (they do not provide a curriculum); rather their focus is on providing access to natural lands that they hope schools will use for educational purposes. DNRT’s Reserves can be used to help teach geology, archeology, ecology, art and history. DNRT could use help in spreading the word to educators that DNRT has wonderful natural and historical resources on our Reserves, which are available for them to explore.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds (as made available through the Community Preservation Act, or CPA) have been a very important element of the success of DNRT’s land acquisition program in recent years. DNRT has used CPC funds to match private donations for the acquisition of land for Reserves and the acquisition of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions. This ability to create public-private partnerships for open space protection will continue to be very important.

DNRT recognizes the interest in creating more opportunities for public access to waterways. DNRT and The Trustees of Reservations created kayak access (by foot and water only) at the Slocum’s River Reserve in 2006. They would welcome a discussion with the Waterways Commission.

DNRT’s priorities for open space acquisition over the next five years are to include land adjacent to currently protected land, land along rivers and bays, agricultural land and other land with special wildlife habitat or natural features. Partnerships are essential for successful land conservation projects.

The Town and other non-profits can help to: identify opportunities for conservation (such as important parcels, willing donors/sellers, land coming out of Chapter 61); contribute funding or assist with fundraising; educate the public about the important benefits of land conservation; and, if appropriate, collaborate on management of protected lands.

In terms of coordination and funding of DNRT’s mission with the Town, there should be annual or biannual meetings between appropriate Town officials and DNRT and other local conservation organizations (The Trustees of Reservations, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay and Mass Audubon). The Town can advise DNRT about state (or other) grant opportunities that may be of interest to DNRT. Also, the Town can help identify opportunities for land conservation.
The Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon)

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. They are the largest conservation organization in New England with a statewide network of 45 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. They have protected the 593 acre Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary with a half-mile beach and trail systems open to the public.

Mass Audubon's open space and resource protection goals for the next five years are to protect the extraordinary resources of Allens Pond ecosystem through a) permanent protection of high priority unprotected lands near the pond through acquisition of land and conservation restrictions, in partnership with the Town, DNRT, and other open space partners; and b) promoting adoption of best management practices in the Allens Pond watershed to protect and improve water quality in the pond.

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) was founded in 1891 by a small group of open space visionaries led by landscape architect Charles Eliot, a protégé of Frederick Law Olmsted. Witnessing the dramatic loss to development of large amounts of open space in the Boston metropolitan area, this group successfully campaigned for the establishment of what became the first private, statewide conservation and preservation organization in the nation. The TTOR is a nonprofit, 501C3 organization formed for charitable purposes to preserve, for scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts and to protect special places across the state. The Trustees own and care for over 90 reservations totaling more than 22,000 acres of land. The TTOR was instrumental in the preservation of the 1,100 acres within the Slocum's River watershed and joint manages the Slocums River Reserve with DNRT. TTOR will continue to partner with DNRT on land preservation in Dartmouth and supports DNRT's goals and priorities for conservation.

The Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies

The Katherine Nordell Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies, Inc. "The Lloyd Center" is a not-for-profit education and research organization located in South Dartmouth whose mission is to help create the next generation of environmental stewards through education and research.

The Center provides educational programs to students and their parents about our unique and fragile coastal environments and our special responsibility to them. The Center also promotes and conducts research on rare and endangered species and habitats, biodiversity issues, and estuarine environments in Southeastern New England.
The Center and its work commenced in 1978 when Karen Lloyd donated the original building and 55 shorefront acres as a living memorial to her mother for whom the Center is named. Currently, the Lloyd Center is working to certify vernal pools in Dartmouth as a measure to preserve them.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC)

The BBC is a membership-supported non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

The BBC’s vision is:

- A Bay shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds, and stretches of scenic open spaces for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish, and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threats of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges, and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, inland forests, and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.

The BBC wants to continue to work with DNRT, Mass Audubon, TTOR, and the town on land preservation projects that benefit water quality, whether it’s drinking water supplies or coastal wetland habitat, because it all impacts the water quality of Buzzards Bay. Their planning is focused on areas where multiple attributes overlap. They are looking at such attributes as DEP Zone II (drinking water aquifer protection), BioMap II Core and Supporting Habitat, and DEP Core Wetlands and rivers. In Dartmouth, the initial results of this work yielded three primary focus areas: along the Paskamansett River from North Dartmouth to South Dartmouth; west of Apponagansett Bay (Slocums and Little River watersheds), and; south of the Padanaram Bridge, and to a lesser extent (due to the already extensive work done) the area around Allens Pond.

Working to protect land in these three priority areas will reduce the impacts on wetlands, coastal habitats, shellfish beds, and marshland and will prevent the further degradation of the Bay’s water quality.

The BBC wants to continue to partner and collaborate with the Town and other groups as land preservation projects present themselves. The BBC can provide advice on conservation and protection strategies, provide technical assistance in report and grant preparation, and, help develop project strategies and secure funding assistance. The BBC operates a revolving fund that loans funds to partner land trusts and/or towns to help with acquisition projects (fee or
Conservation Restriction). They can also assist towns in the watershed with grant applications to capture public funding for projects.

For almost twenty years, the BBC has been active in open space projects in Dartmouth. Through the *Saving Buzzards Bay Lands Campaign* launched in 2001, the BBC focused attention on the preservation of the coastal farms, salt marshes and woodlands that define the scenic beauty of Dartmouth and sustain some of Buzzards Bay's most important estuaries. Land Campaign Projects have included King Farm, Dike Creek, Little River Reserve, Ridge Hill Reserve and Hixville Reserve. In addition, last year they accepted, along with DNRT, a CR on the Garfield Tract and they are currently working with DNRT to preserve some waterfront acreage on the Slocums River and off Faunce Corner Road in the Shingle Island River drainage basin.

More than a decade ago, on April 27, 2003, the Bouchard Transportation 120 oil barge ran aground in Buzzards Bay spilling nearly 100,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil – the second largest spill in the Bay’s history. The oil contaminated 93 miles of shoreline, killed hundreds of birds, and closed thousands of acres of shellfish beds. The beaches and coastline of Dartmouth were impacted from the spill.

The BBC was central to the massive cleanup from the oil spill as well as fighting to strengthen oil spill prevention rules to protect the Bay from future spill disasters. The BBC also initiated the oil spill penalty funds of $7 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program to underwrite land acquisitions and marsh restoration projects throughout the Bay watershed.

**Dartmouth Agricultural Commission**

The Dartmouth Agricultural Commission was created in 1999 to serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Dartmouth, and to promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in the Town. Their mission is to preserve, revitalize and sustain the Dartmouth Agricultural Industry and its lands: encourage the pursuit of agriculture in Dartmouth, promote agricultural-based economic opportunities, and to protect farmland. See the Analysis of Needs section for goals of the Agricultural Commission in the next five years.

**Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust**

Formed in 2007, the mission and purpose of the Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust is to protect and preserve architecturally and historically significant structures and sites located in the town of Dartmouth and surrounding communities through: the acquisition of such structures and sites, and easement interests therein; providing financial and technical assistance in
order to facilitate the preservation and restoration of such structures and sites, and; through advocacy and education.

DHPT was formed with a volunteer board of 16 to fill a need in the community’s preservation work. They have developed guidelines and procedures for Historic Preservation Restrictions under the auspices of their Preservation Restriction Program Committee. They are also working on continued preservation of the historic Akin house and its use as a historic learning center.

**Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society**

The Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society (DHAS) was formed in 2011. Its mission is to support, promote, preserve, and disseminate the historic and cultural diversity of Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The DHAS will seek to collect significant objects and artifacts that document the material culture of Dartmouth. DHAS will also nurture and sponsor visual, literary, and performance art in the community.

The DHAS currently leases the 1871 Schoolhouse (the former Russells Mills Library) in the Russells Mills Historic District, and therein presents programming that includes, but is not limited to the following: conserving, documenting, and teaching the history of Dartmouth; providing living history programs for children and adults about the 1871 Schoolhouse and Russells Mills Village; promoting exhibitions of art and history; sponsoring and hosting meetings and programs in the visual and performing arts, and; hosting activities involving various interest groups from the community.

In the spring of 2013, the DHAS hosted a living history pilot project for the third grade classes of the DeMello Elementary School. Due to its success, the DHAS welcomed the third grade classes from the Potter and Quinn Elementary Schools to the Russells Mills Schoolhouse for a similar program in the spring of 2014. This particular third grade program is conducted in collaboration with students from the Dartmouth High School’s Early Childhood Education Program and Unified Arts Department.
SECTION 6 COMMUNITY VISION

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The Open Space Committee sought input for the updated Open Space Plan from the citizens of Dartmouth through the distribution of an Open Space and Recreation Survey during the fall of 2013 (the process is described in Section 2 of this plan). The survey was available on Survey Monkey via a link on the Town website, and in hard copy at Town Hall, through the Park & Recreation Department, at the Dartmouth Public Library, through the DNRT, and through the Council on Aging. The information obtained in the responses to the survey was used as one of the means of gauging the public’s needs and concerns.

In addition to the survey, SRPEDD, on behalf of the Open Space Committee, participated with the Committee in a number of public meetings and conducted in-person and telephone interviews as a means to collect public opinion and supplemental data. These activities included: open working meetings; community goals, objectives, and action plan meetings hosted by municipal, local, non-profit, and regional groups, and; conversations with municipal staff and others directly associated with the major issues raised by the public through the survey and public meetings.

B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

In 2014, the stewardship of existing assets, coupled with the challenges of developing new opportunities for the public, makes establishing sound conservation planning strategies a municipal priority. With a growing population, fewer financial resources with which to operate, and more competition for those remaining financial resources (competitive grants, etc.), the town and its citizens need to be organized, creative, and resourceful in maximizing partnership opportunities, pursuing new sources of revenue and in-kind services, and developing prioritization criteria for addressing the town’s future open space, conservation and recreation needs.

Below is a broad brush list of Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Goals based upon the results of the process described in Section 6A above.

Goal 1: To provide effective policies and tools to decision makers in order to protect and enhance those qualities that support open space and recreational activities within the town.

Goal 2: To preserve and protect the scenic qualities and rural character of the town.

Goal 3: To preserve, protect, and maintain the quality of the town's natural resources.

Goal 4: To provide a range of active and passive recreational facilities and programs that address the changing population and population density characteristics of the town.

Goal 5: To protect open space and promote recreational opportunities at the regional level.

Goal 6: To manage and channel growth in a manner that retains the character of the town and its natural, cultural, and historical assets.
SECTION 7 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

Over the past several years, the Conservation Commission has been working to address some of the primary goals and objectives presented in previous Open Space and Recreation Plans. The Commission has been exemplary in meeting its responsibilities under the Wetlands Protection Act while also working with other municipal boards, commissions, departments, and committees to address the need for passive recreational opportunities in the town. These efforts also involve outside partnering organizations and include pursuing long-range greenway, public access, watershed protection, and ecological restoration plans. The Commission is also committed to addressing flood management projects in areas such as Buttonwood Brook, and mitigating the impacts of silt and sediment in these and other critical sub-watershed areas. This will complement and support the work currently being done by CEI (consultant) on the update of the Dartmouth Hazard Mitigation (HM) Plan (2014). The updated HM Plan is a conduit to Massachusetts Emergency Management (MEMA) and Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) funding for hazard mitigation projects and activities.

The Commission also remains directly involved in nutrient management issues in the Slocums River Watershed and Apponagansett Bay. These efforts continue to be carried out in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Buzzards Bay Project and involve work initiated by researchers at UMass - Dartmouth. Once final limits for nutrient loading have been established for critical receiving waters emptying into the bay, the Commission should work with the Selectmen to establish a Nitrogen Management Committee in order to properly monitor nutrient management plans. The final limits will be established in the form of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in a forthcoming report reviewed and approved by the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Commission has worked with, and should continue to work with, its partners at the Buzzards Bay Coalition to restore critical coastal marsh habitat. Several sites have been worked on to date, and the Round Hill site should be completed in the coming year (2015). The ability of the Coalition to secure funding from various sources (including Bouchard settlement funds through the New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council and the NOAA Office of Restoration) has been critical to the restoration of some of Dartmouth’s most valuable coastal assets. These marsh areas not only provide important habitat and buffering functions, but also provide unique public access and passive recreational opportunities as well.

In an effort to protect the quality and quantity of Dartmouth’s water resources, the Conservation Commission should continue to secure open space that not only meets conservation and recreation needs, but also provides river and stream buffers, and protects recharge areas near existing and future potential water supply sites. This approach can complement regulatory measures being currently utilized or proposed by the Planning Board (Zoning measures, rules and regulations), and should be employed as part of a comprehensive municipal water resources protection strategy.

Conservation and preservation opportunities exist in the Allens Pond and Destruction Brook Watershed areas of Dartmouth. Here, the opportunity for the Conservation, Agricultural, and Historical Commissions to work together to address conservation, preservation, and cultural
goals and objectives is tremendous. There are a number of agricultural and historical assets/interests, several of which were identified in the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan, that are not only culturally and economically significant, but also important to maintaining the ecological integrity of the watersheds as well. The acquisition and protection of these lands could help to preserve the history and character of these areas and promote the continued practice of agriculture through a lease or purchase program. The various Commissions can also work in conjunction with partners from Mass Audubon and the Dartmouth Natural Resource Trust in order to realize conservation and preservation goals in this area. The Allens Pond Watershed should perhaps be considered for an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) feasibility study due to its significance and cultural and natural resource assets (work in this watershed would also supplement the existing Inlet Management Plan for the area).

B. PARKS & RECREATION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Massachusetts Outdoor 2012, is a five-year plan developed by the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The plan is required for state participation in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants programs. The SCORP also provides an overview of the recreational preferences of the citizens of each geographic region of the Commonwealth as determined through a public participation and outreach process. The profile of recreational use afforded by the SCORP also provides municipalities with a planning tool for addressing the future needs and uses of our outdoor recreational resources.

The SCORP summary of the Commonwealth’s Eastern and Southern Regions, which includes Dartmouth, indicates that water based activities and playgrounds provide the most popular recreational outlets for families in the regions. The SCORP also revealed that the most popular facilities for adults and seniors are hiking and walking trails, adolescents find athletic fields and skate parks most popular, for children playgrounds and athletic fields, and for preschoolers are playgrounds and water facilities. The SCORP also indicated that trails are the type of facility that has increased the most in popularity over the past five years, as well as the activity that people believe will increase the most in popularity over the next five years. And, while biking (a very popular activity by survey and participation in Dartmouth) didn’t enjoy the participation rate of some of the aforementioned activities, the number of facilities/miles developed in the region may be a limiting factor (many southeastern regional communities have local bike/trail committees that have been working for years to develop trails; progress has been slow in coming but has increased considerably within the past five years). Dartmouth, through its strong local partnership with the DNRT and TTOR, offers a sizeable trail network to its residents and visitors to the town. DNRT and TTOR continue to add to and enhance their trail offerings, such as the bridge and boardwalk connecting the TTOR Cornell property to the DNRT Frank Knowles/Little River Reserve between Potomska and Smith Neck Roads. Officially opened in March of 2014, this link creates a 650 acre swath of protected land encompassing the two reserves.

Dartmouth has also been a leader amongst South Coast communities in promoting on-road bike lanes and working with Mass DOT and the regional planning agency (SRPEDD) to implement a bicycle parking program. State grants through the aforementioned agencies have allowed the local bike committee to install bicycle parking structures at the elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as at the library. Next, the Town would like to work with UMass - Dartmouth to install bicycle parking structures on campus. All of these activities complement the recent
amendment (October 2014) to the Dartmouth Parking By-law, incorporating bicycle parking provisions and standards.

Finally, it should also be noted that the SCORP indicated that citizens in this region favored restoring/reinvesting in and maintaining existing recreational facilities. This also is consistent with the Town’s approach to restoring/repurposing/enhancing existing facilities in order to bring them up-to-date, maximize their potential, and increase choices and opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities (as reflected in the Seven Year Action Plan).

The SCORP summary for the Southern and Eastern Regions largely reflects the Town’s recreation preferences and goals. The program philosophy of the Parks & Recreation Department has always centered on: the promotion of activities that contribute to personal health, wellness, and a sense of community; and investment in parks and open space to enhance the environmental health, opportunity, and quality of life in the community.

In promoting this philosophy, the Parks & Recreation Department has worked with municipal offices, various youth leagues and programs, and the schools in addressing the community’s recreational needs over the years. The programs offered by the Parks & Recreation Department provide quality of life enhancements that help attract people to the town. The continued growth of Dartmouth will provide challenges to Parks & Recreation to maintain the current facilities and programs as well as to offer new opportunities to a diverse and expanding population. Fiscal challenges, in the form of an adequate Capital Improvements Program and municipal investment, must also be met in order to maintain the quality of life opportunities that so many residents depend upon (particularly, the ability to stay local and have number of choices despite age or ability).

Based upon the year-round public use of its recreational facilities, and use limitations related to access issues at certain holdings, the Parks & Recreation Department should continue their strong effort to address compliance issues at their facilities (as assessed in the current ADA Transition Plans included in Open Space and Recreation Plan). Addressing compliance issues will allow for the maximum and efficient use of several of the more popular and developed Parks & Recreation holdings. Currently, ADA resurfacing work has been completed at all municipal playgrounds and accessibility work has been completed at Dartmouth Stadium, Jones Park, and Round Hill. The Dog Park, which is currently in design, will be ADA accessible when completed (projected to be sometime in 2015).

The creation of a bike system, repurposing of several former schools, existing park and field areas, completion of improvements to the regional park, development of the Dog Park, and restoration of coastal and waterfront areas, will also help to address the Environmental Equity issues raised in the previous Open Space Plan. Greater access to the community’s recreational and open space assets through improved multimodal (biking and walking) connections will afford citizens more opportunity to enjoy these sites.

In the previous Open Space Plan, there was public interest (over 40% of public survey respondents) in developing a major indoor multi-purpose recreational/educational facility. While this issue didn’t carry the same weight in public opinion in the 2013 Open Space Survey, it could remain part of a long-term study to be taken up by the Town.
Dartmouth’s coastline is one of its most important recreational, ecological, and scenic assets, and continues to be viewed as such by the public. Improvements to the Rogers Street boat ramp (as part of a management agreement with the MA Department of Fish & Game, Office of fishing and Boating Access), Dias Landing, and the work being undertaken at Round Hill, will all improve water access opportunities for residents of the community and of the region as well. These areas complement the improvements made on inland water access features at Paskamansett landing and park since 2010.

Padanaram Harbor provides not only a scenic coastal destination for local and regional residents, but also a harbor that is enjoyed by local and regional boating and fishing enthusiasts. Over the years, increased demand for docking space and fishing opportunities led the Selectmen’s Office and Harbormaster to undertake the re-gridding of the northern part of Padanaram Harbor. The steady demand for increased boating/docking opportunities may necessitate a similar undertaking in the southern part of the harbor sometime within the next few years.

However Dartmouth chooses to proceed with its recreational plans in the coming years, the following quote from the Subdivision and Site Plan Handbook (1989) is an important reminder to any community assessing the adequacy of its recreational facilities:

“The uniqueness of every community, due to differing geographical, cultural, climatic and socioeconomic characteristics, makes it imperative that every community develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space.” (taking into account such factors as population density, average age and income, average land values, etc.)

C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

The management of the town’s conservation, open space and recreation areas is primarily undertaken by the Conservation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Department. The Conservation Commission and Parks & Recreation Department continue to work in a cooperative and complementary fashion with community sports and recreation organizations; local and regional land and water conservation organizations, and; federal, state, and local agencies in order to meet the community’s needs. These strong partnerships help with the physical management and development of properties and facilities, as well as the acquisition, preservation, and rehabilitation of important natural resource areas. The continued repurposing, reuse, and reactivation/improvement of existing recreational facilities will allow for greater utility and maximize potential use.

Beyond the management needs of the physical conservation and recreation assets of the town, the Committee saw the need to manage the flow of information/education regarding the Open Space Plan as a major priority. In terms of promoting the plan and increasing public awareness and involvement, the following items were suggested at Open Space Committee meetings:

a. The implementation and ongoing review of the Open Space and Recreation Plan should be monitored on at least an annual basis by the Development Services Review Committee (DSRC), inclusive of the Parks Superintendent. The DSRC meets regularly and can serve as an umbrella under which the Plan’s action items and milestones are reviewed and reported out to the Select Board and others as necessary and appropriate.
b. The Open Space and Recreation Plan should be placed on the Town website in an easily accessible location and include accomplishments/updates as they occur. One of the issues brought up during Open Space and Recreation Committee meetings was the fact that the public doesn’t get a “real time” reporting of how/when the Open Space and Recreation Plan Action items are being addressed. The posting of completed actions, as they occur, in the online version of the plan will make the process more organic, keep the plan up-to-date during the planning cycle, and will make the planning process more open and accessible to the general public and partnering organizations (particularly potential new partners looking for areas of involvement). This will also make updating the plan easier as the end of the planning cycle approaches.

c. There is a need to place important Historical Commission information on the Town website and in the Geographic Information System. The Historical Commission has been extremely active in documenting and identifying significant cultural and historic properties for many years. One of the current priorities of the Historical Commission is to increase public access to the inventory of historic resources in order to promote community awareness of and support for the preservation and rehabilitation of these resources.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee also identified the need for a Formal Acquisition Strategy for open space parcels. The goal here would be to promote a more unified and purposeful approach to land acquisition by the town that would focus on: keeping significant natural corridors intact; retaining the integrity of significant blocks of watershed and agricultural land; looking at land function as well as features in a complementary context, and; promoting a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to how and why land is acquired.

The Conservation Commission and Planning Board should work together more closely in order to get more Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) development set-asides transferred to the Conservation Commission. This would not only afford the property a higher level of protection, but the more permanent buffer would enhance the property/value and help to avoid user conflict.

There is a need to develop an Erosion and Sedimentation Control By-law. This will be a critical piece in an overall water quality and flood management strategy.

There is a need to request the re-delineation of some of the existing floodplain and inland floodplain boundaries where necessary. There are areas of contention, particularly the inland area below Lake Noquachok. These measures would be necessary should the Town choose to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Special User Group Needs**

*Seniors*

Dartmouth is similar to state and national trends in that its population is aging and remaining more active than in years past. Data presented in Section 3 of this plan shows that Dartmouth’s population aged 55 and over continues to increase and the Town continues to exceed the state Median Age (Section 3, Figure 3). Many people in the 55 and older age group were looking for the Town to provide increased indoor and outdoor activities for seniors.
Citizens with Disabilities

The Town has prepared a self-evaluation and transition plan for its recreational facilities as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These plans are carried out through a municipally appointed ADA Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for working to bring all municipal services, infrastructure, and buildings into compliance with the Act. The ADA Coordinator is not responsible for privately owned facilities.

The ADA Transition Plan (Section 11 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan) contains an inventory of the public recreation facilities of the Town of Dartmouth (exclusive of School Department facilities; The School Department must conduct their own assessment and prepare a Transition Plan for their facilities). The Transition Plan takes inventory of the improvements needed to bring a facility into ADA compliance. The Town has made significant progress in addressing their public recreational facilities needs since the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed.

All future recreation facilities should be designed with the needs of citizens with disabilities in mind and in conjunction with the ADA Coordinator and Disability and Accessibility Commission. Particular attention should be paid to site access, physical use, and ability to view/experience events and cultural/scenic landscapes.
SECTION 8 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As a result of the Open Space and Recreation Plan’s inventory and analysis, survey results, Committee deliberations and public forums, the following goals, objectives and strategies have been developed as a basis for policy decisions.

GOAL 1: To provide effective policies and tools to decision makers in order to protect and enhance those qualities that support open space and recreational activities within the Town.

OBJECTIVES:

   a. Promote conservation, open space, cultural, historic, and recreation planning priorities in Town decisions, actions, and plans where and when appropriate and practical.

   b. Continue to make the Open Space and Recreation planning process open and accessible to the public and insure that regular updates are provided on the implementation of the plan.

   c. Increase community awareness of and appreciation for the Town's cultural, historic, and natural resource assets.

   d. Take the actions needed and pursue the means necessary (administrative, fiscal, regulatory, partnerships, etc.), as feasible and practical, in order to accomplish the goals of this Plan.

GOAL 2: To conserve and protect the scenic qualities and rural character of the Town.

OBJECTIVES:

   a. Protect, preserve, and conserve the scenic, forestland, farmland, historic, and cultural assets of the Town.

GOAL 3: To preserve, protect, and maintain the quality of the Town's natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

   a. Protect the quality and quantity of Town’s water supply, surface water, and groundwater resources.

   b. Provide extra protection to the Town's most fragile and vulnerable natural resources.

   c. Plan for and undertake the necessary physical/structural improvements to infrastructure and facilities that impact the quality of the Town’s natural resources.

GOAL 4: To provide a range of active and passive recreational facilities and programs that address the changing population and population density characteristics within the Town.

OBJECTIVES:
a. Increase and improve access to open space holdings and water resources for active use and passive enjoyment.
b. Provide recreational programming that promotes opportunity for lifelong involvement and activity for people of all ages and abilities.
c. Develop new facilities and upgrade or repurpose existing facilities in order to enhance recreational use and opportunity.

**GOAL 5:** To protect open space and promote recreational opportunities at the regional level.

**OBJECTIVES:**

a. Promote the preservation, retention, and quality of regionally significant natural resources.
b. Continue to work with municipal and regional partners to develop a local and regional bikeway system.

**GOAL 6:** To manage and channel growth in a manner that retains the character of the Town and its natural, cultural, and historical assets.

**OBJECTIVES:**

a. Promote the retention of existing scenic roads, views, and vistas in development proposals.
b. Promote the practice of farming and the retention of agricultural land and business as an important local and regional economic engine.
c. Promote a healthy and livable community that encourages multimodal, non-vehicular transportation.
SECTION 9  ACTION PLAN 2015 – 2022

Years 1-3

**ACTION:** Complete the Dog Park  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, Dartmouth Dog Advisory Work Group (DDAWG), Conservation Commission, Office of Development/Grants  
**Goals/ Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Private foundation funds and local funds

**ACTION:** Complete the Route 6 Corridor Aquifer/Land Use study  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Planning Board, Office of Development/Grants, and other town boards and commissions, SRPEDD  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objective a  
**Potential Funding Source:** SRPEDD Technical Assistance

**ACTION:** Complete the installation of bicycle parking structures  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Pathways Committee, Bike Committee, DPW, SRPEDD, Mass DOT, other town boards and commissions as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective b; Goal 6, Objective c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Mass DOT Bike Parking Program and local funds

**ACTION:** Complete ADA improvements to Round Hill and the Dog Park  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, ADA Coordinator, other town boards, commissions, and departments, as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives a, b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** State and Local funds

**ACTION:** Prepare a National Historic Register nomination for the Russell Garrison site  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Dartmouth Historical Commission, Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust, Massachusetts Historical Commission, other town boards, commissions, and departments, as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 1, Objectives a, c; Goal 2, Objective a

**ACTION:** Appoint a standing Open Space Committee to oversee the implementation, updating, and posting of progress made as the Action Plan items are addressed  
**Local Lead/Potential Partner:** Board of Selectmen, town boards, commissions, departments; DNRT, Mass Audubon, Lloyd Center, other non-profit partners; others as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 1, Objective d
**ACTION:** Put the Open Space Plan on the Town website, with Action Plan related tasks noted as they are completed, in order to keep the public and planning partners (and potential partners) better informed

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission,

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 1, Objectives a, b, c, d

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**ACTION:** Complete the Round Hill Salt Marsh restoration

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Conservation Commission, Buzzards Bay Coalition, other conservation partners and town offices, as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b

**Potential Funding Source:** Bouchard Funds

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**ACTION:** Initiate the process to repair the seawall at Dias Landing; the state has already rebuilt the ramps

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster, appropriate state and town offices

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objective c; Goal 4, Objective a

**Potential Funding Source:** State and Local funds

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**ACTION:** Complete the improvements to the Rogers Street Waterway Access facility boat ramps

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster, Buzzards Bay Coalition, other state and town offices, as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective a

**Potential Funding Source:** Bouchard Funds

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**ACTION:** Continue working on an APR for the Dutch Belt Farm; market the property to new farmer in order to continue the practice of agriculture on this property, in perpetuity

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Agricultural Preservation Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), other partners as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 6, Objective b; Goal 2, Objective a

**Potential Funding Source:** MDAR, Agricultural Preservation Restriction funds, local funds (CPA, Agricultural Preservation Trust, etc.)

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**ACTION:** Support the Marion Institute’s plan for reuse of the Round the Bend Farm as a community education, kitchen, and agricultural facility

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Agricultural Commission, Agricultural Preservation Trust, Board of Health, other state, local, and non-profit agencies and organizations

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 1, Objective c; Goal 2, Objective a; Goal 6, Objective b
**ACTION:** Explore and evaluate what is needed to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System (CRS)

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Building Department, Emergency Management Office, Harbormaster, Office of Development/Grants, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM), MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Buzzards Bay Project, other town offices, partners, and agencies as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b

**ACTION:** Appoint a Nitrogen Management Committee commensurate with the forthcoming TMDL report

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, DPW, Board of Health, other town offices as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b

**ACTION:** Replace the pavilion/stand and walkways at Apponagansett Park, which are in need of repair and currently non – ADA compliant, with ADA compliant structures and amenities

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, ADA Coordinator, other town offices as appropriate and necessary

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives a, b, c

**Potential Funding Source:** State (DCS PARC Grant) and local funds

**Years 3 – 5**

**ACTION:** Acquisition/protection of significant agricultural lands within the Allens Pond Watershed

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Conservation Commission, Agricultural Preservation Trust, Planning Board, DNRT, Mass Audubon, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Lloyd Center, Trustees of Reservations, other federal, state, local, and non-profit partners as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 2, Objective a; Goal 6, Objective b

**Potential Funding Source:** CPA, Agricultural Preservation Trust, federal, state, non-profit, local funds

**ACTION:** Acquisition/protection of significant agricultural lands in the Destruction Brook Watershed

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Conservation Commission, Planning Board, DNRT, Mass Audubon, Buzzards Bay Coalition, other federal, state, local, and non-profit partners as appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 2, Objective a; Goal 6, Objective b
**Potential Funding Source:** CPA, Agricultural Preservation Trust, federal, state, non-profit, local funds

**ACTION:** Complete the redesign of Padanaram Bridge to allow for adequate tidal flushing  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, DPW, Mass DOT, Harbormaster, Conservation Commission, MA Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP), MA CZM, Buzzards Bay Project, Buzzards Bay Coalition, other federal, state, and local offices as appropriate and necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objective a, b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** State and local funds

**ACTION:** Preserve the old Smith Mills Library  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Dartmouth Historical Commission, Board of Selectmen, Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust, other boards, commissions, and organizations as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 1, Objective a, c; Goal 2, Objective a  
**Potential Funding Source:** Community Preservation Funds, state/local Cultural Council funds

**ACTION:** Continue the renovation of Dartmouth Stadium by installing a turf field  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, other state, local, and non-profit partners as necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective c  
**Potential Funding Source:** State and local funds

**ACTION:** Replace the turf at the High School  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, other local and state partners as necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective c  
**Potential Funding Source:** State and local funds

**ACTION:** Repurpose the youth soccer parking lot at the High School to accommodate the relocation of the football practice field  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, other local and state partners as necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objective c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Local and state funds

**ACTION:** Repurpose the fields at Jones Park from single use (softball) to multi-purpose fields  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, other local organizations and state partners as necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Local and state funds
**ACTION:** Improve, repurpose and reuse Gidley School property  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, other town offices, state agencies, and local organizations as appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Local and state funds

**ACTION:** Re-establish shellfishing in the Slocums River  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Harbormaster, MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), DEP, Buzzards Bay Project, other federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies and organizations as appropriate and necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b; Goal 4, Objective a; Goal 5, Objective a  
**Potential Funding Source:** Federal, state, and local funds

**ACTION:** Develop additional field space for field hockey and lacrosse  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, other local, state, and non-profit offices, agencies, and local youth sports organizations as necessary and appropriate  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Local and state funds

**Years 5 – 7**

**ACTION:** Develop a hydrodynamic flushing plan for the Slocums River  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Conservation Commission, DEP, CZM, Buzzards Bay Project, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Board of Selectmen, other federal, state, and local offices as necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b, c; Goal 5, Objective a  
**Potential Funding Source:** Federal, state, local funds

**ACTION:** Install an additional culvert at the Padanaram causeway to improve tidal flushing of the upper Apponagansett  
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Conservation Commission, DPW, DEP, CZM, Buzzards Bay Project, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Board of Selectmen, other federal, state, and local offices as appropriate and necessary  
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b, c  
**Potential Funding Source:** Federal, state, local funds
**ACTION:** Complete the necessary work at the Regional Park
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, Office of Development/Grants, other town offices and local and regional non-profit partners as necessary and appropriate
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives a, b, c
**Potential Funding Source:** Federal, state, local funds

**ACTION:** Form a study committee to consider creating a Scenic Overlay District for the town’s scenic landscape areas
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, other town offices, boards, commissions, committees, and local partners; state, regional, and non-profit partners
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 2, Objective a; Goal 6, Objective a

**ACTION:** Form an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) study committee for the Allens Pond Watershed
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, DNRT, Mass Audubon, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Lloyd Center, other town offices and local partners as necessary
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 2, Objective a; Goal 3, Objective b; Goal 5, Objective a

**Ongoing (Years 1 – 7)**

**ACTION:** Continue to support the development of year-round, all ages, passive and active recreational opportunities
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, federal, state, local partners, non-profit partners, others as appropriate and necessary
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives b, c
**Potential Funding Source:** Federal, state, local, non-profit, foundation, and other sources of funding

**ACTION:** Continue to study practical options for a multi-purpose, indoor athletic complex
**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, other town offices as appropriate
**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 4, Objectives b, c

**ACTION:** Re-grid the southern part of the harbor to create more boating opportunities, fishing opportunities, and docking opportunities (the northern part was completed previously)
Local Lead/Potential Partners: Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster, other town, federal, state, and local offices, agencies, and partners as appropriate and necessary
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 4, Objectives a, c
Potential Funding Source: local, other as available and appropriate

ACTION: Evaluate road and street lane widths when they are repaired or redone, in order to consider bicycle traffic accommodations
Local Lead/Potential Partners: DPW, Board of Selectmen, Pathways Committee, Bikeway Committee, South Coast Bikeway, other partners as appropriate
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 5, Objective b; Goal 6, objective c
Potential Funding Source: Mass DOT, federal, state, local funds

ACTION: Continue to develop, install, and maintain a system of signs, plaques, and street furnishings to mark historic resources and village centers
Local Lead/Potential Partners: Dartmouth Historical Commission, others as necessary
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 1, Objective c; Goal 2, Objective a
Potential Funding Source: Community Preservation funds, Cultural Council, state grants

ACTION: Continue to mark cemeteries with identifying signs
Local Lead/Potential Partners: Dartmouth Historical Commission, others as necessary
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 1, Objective c; Goal 2, Objective a
Potential Funding Source: Community Preservation funds, Cultural Council, state grants

ACTION: Continue to prepare National Historic Register nominations
Local Lead/Potential Partners: Dartmouth Historical Commission, others as necessary
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 1, Objective c; Goal 2, Objective a

ACTION: Continue the Survey of Historic Properties in Dartmouth as recorded on Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B’s through 1900
Local Lead/Potential Partners: Dartmouth Historical Commission, others as necessary
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 1, Objective c; Goal 2, Objective a

ACTION: Continue to work on Buttonwood Brook flood issues
Local Lead/Potential Partners: DPW, Conservation Commission, Buzzards Bay Project, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Lloyd Center, City of New Bedford, SRPEDD, DEP, CZM, EPA, others as necessary and appropriate
Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed: Goal 3, Objectives a, b, c
Potential Funding Source: DEP, CZM, EPA, Buzzards Bay Project, non-profit organizations
**ACTION:** Work with the City of New Bedford on flood issues at Turner Pond/Old Fall River Road

**Local Lead/Potential Partners:** DPW, Conservation Commission, City of New Bedford, DEP, MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), DMF, SRPEDD, Mass DOT, others as necessary and appropriate

**Goals/Objectives/Needs addressed:** Goal 3, Objectives a, b, c

**Potential Funding Source:** DEP, DER, Mass DOT, local funds
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Department of Environmental Protection www.mass.gov/dep
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program www.nhesp.org
Buzzards Bay Project www.buzzardsbay.org
Buzzards Bay Coalition www.savebuzzardsbay.org
Lloyd Center for the Environment www.lloydcenter.org
Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust www.dnrt.org
Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society www.dartmouthhas.org
Trustees of Reservations www.ttor.org
Division of Ecological Restoration www.mass.gov/der
Department of Conservation and Recreation www.mass.gov/dcr
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MA Coastal Zone Management www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm
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Massachusetts Audubon Society www.massaudubon.org
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USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov
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Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences www.manomet.org
South Coast Bikeway Alliance www.southcoastbikeway.com
Items Addressed to Date From the Dartmouth ADA Transition Plan

Russells Mills Landing
#2 - Playground stone was removed and replaced with ADA compliant engineered wood fiber.

Apponagansett Park
#1 – Re-striped parking lot to meet ADA requirements.
#2 – Removed and relocated concession stand counter.
#4 – Playground stone was removed and replaced with ADA accessible engineered wood fiber.

Jones Park
#1 – Re-striped parking lot to meet ADA standards.
#3 - Playground stone was removed and replaced with ADA accessible engineered wood fiber.
#5 – The manhole cover/walkway area will be removed and repaired within the next six months.
#6 – Removed drinking fountain.

Dartmouth Regional Park & Trails
#2- Will be removing stone from playground and replacing with ADA accessible engineered wood fiber within next six months.

Round Hill Beach
#1 - Installed required number of ADA spaces.

Dartmouth Community Park
Built in 2012, is fully ADA accessible and has a fully ramped play structure.

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE AS OF 12/14. ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONS?