

X

Open Space and Recreation

Introduction

Halifax has approximately 1360 acres of acres of open space held by the Town, the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement and the Audubon Society. This includes Conservation land, park land, open portions of Water Department land, and land related to schools and other public facilities. There are also approximately 300 acres of town-owned undeveloped land, much of it acquired through tax foreclosure. This could be sold or converted to another use but for the moment it provides extensive de facto open space. In addition there are 209.9 acres of privately held open space, primarily the County Club and 47 acres around the Brockton water treatment plant..

In contrast to these extensive holdings, the town has relatively few small, neighborhood-serving permanent open spaces or facilities, and few of the major holdings are connected in an open space system. Much of the rural feeling of some new neighborhoods reflects nearby undeveloped private land, in some cases due to wetlands or septic limitations, or continuing agricultural uses.

Given continuing market pressures, the ability to serve difficult areas with innovative/alternative disposal systems, and the pressures on cranberry growers, some of this open space may soon disappear. Valuable upland may be developed and residents of recently built houses will find themselves surrounded by further new subdivisions or endless Form A lots, rather than by the woods, fields and bogs that were there when they moved in. Accordingly it is important to design an open space and recreation system which protects the most intrinsically valuable areas and resources; gives an open space setting to most neighborhoods, and provides a range of recreation opportunities. The following chapter seeks to complement the lands which may remain open due to wetlands and soil conditions with a few major acquisitions, some selective local acquisitions; and some actions to connect existing holdings / resources, and to protect / enhance scenic landscapes.



The Winnetuxet River below Thompson St. Bridge Looking towards Cornfields Formerly Proposed for Cranberry Bogs.

A. Landscape/ Scenic Character

As the 1998 Open Space Plan notes, “Halifax’s most noticeable landscape character is its flatness.” Another significant feature is the town’s wetness, particularly the interweaving streams, floodplains, and low-lying wooded wetlands in the southern end of the town along the Winnetuxet River and other streams; and the cranberry bog and their reservoirs and channels.

In the Northwest section of the town the flat terrain has supported extensive cranberry bogs. The bogs and their reservoirs offer “impressive outlooks” where they are accessible to the public. The town has extensive open areas of wet meadow and cornfields south of Wood St. on the Middleboro line, and west of Rte. 58 at the Plympton line. These offer major open views usually seen only in the mid-west or west.

The southern part of the town also has a very appealing rural pattern with scattered houses and outbuildings or small groups of houses set between farmland, wetlands and woods. This reflects early patterns where people built on relatively good land while the intervening land was farmed or left natural. This gentle pattern abruptly ends where recent suburban development in the Summit St./ Thompson St. presents uniformly spaced houses along existing streets and subdivision roads. The present varied pattern may last where septicily-limited soils preclude uniform development or where small farms, particularly the new horse farms, are viable enough to remain and continue the rural life style.



Rare Open Vista of Cornfields and Wetlands Looking South of Wood St. toward Middleboro

Other scenic resources include the varied views across the Monponsett Ponds and the potential view from the top of the closed BFI landfill on the Bridgewater line.

The view which many visitors see is the varied residential and commercial pattern along Rte. 06. As the 1998 Open Space Plan notes “The ride through Halifax on Route 106 is an interesting one as one encounters both a feeling for rural New England, and then for present day suburban New England. The Town should examine opportunities to protect its scenic and historical heritage along Route 106 (since its distance from major commuting routes has thus far left some scenic parcels out of the (present) surge of development.”



Open Rolling Fields and Wet Meadow on the Halifax / Plympton Line; Chapter 61a Land Viewed from Franklin St. Looking towards Monponsett St.



Horse Farm and Pasture seen from Hayward Street in South Halifax.

Access to Water Bodies

Great Ponds

As is noted in the 1998 Open Space Plan, lakes and ponds of 10 acres or more are “Great Ponds” under MGL Ch.91, S.35. The land underlying them is controlled by the Commonwealth unless specifically granted to a private party. Since the Colony Ordinance of 1641-1647 it has been “free for any man to fish and

fowl there, and may pass and repass on foot through any man's property to that end, so they trespass not on any man's corn or meadow." The Supreme Judicial Court summarized these rights to include "fishing, fowling, boating, bathing, skating or riding upon the ice, taking water for domestic or agricultural use or for in the arts, and the cutting and taking of ice..." if possible without trespass. However a statute in 1869 limited the right of access for fishing in Great Ponds of under 20 acres if the entire shore was privately owned. In contrast, in 1892 the Court decided that a pond enlarged beyond 20 acres by a dam was to be treated as a natural Great Pond of that size.

Thus citizens have legal access to Silver Lake, Burrage Pond (202 acres), and the Monponsett Ponds (528 acres) for all the stated uses and to Crystal Lake / Muddy Pond (15 acres) for some uses. However it is simpler to avoid questions of trespass on "corn and meadow" by providing public access points.

As listed below, East Monponsett Pond has two sets of beaches and boat ramps open to the general public, one very steep primitive ramp off Rte. 58, and at least two private beaches. The Halifax portion of West Monponsett Pond has one boat ramp for the general public and one for Town residents next to the beach, along with a ramp at the Hanson end of the pond. Neither Burrage Pond, Muddy Pond, nor the extensive bog reservoir east of Elm St. and north of Rte. 106 ("Plymouth St. Pond" or "Stella's Pond") are known to have any public access except for an unimproved Wildlands Trust of SE Mass. holding off of Elm St. However the northern end of the Halifax Industrial Park essentially borders that reservoir and could offer a potential access for kayaks and canoes.

At the same time recreation use of Silver Lake is limited for water supply protection reasons. Some such limitations could theoretically apply to the Monponsett Ponds since they are seasonally diverted to Silver Lake, but they are now available for swimming, boating and fishing.

Rivers and Streams

All of the Taunton River bordering the town to the southwest and much of the Winnetuxet River running east-west from Plympton to the Taunton River is canoeable, as is the Stump Brook from West Monponsett Pond to a point below the Brockton dam, or all the way to Robbins Pond in E. Bridgewater, depending on the season. The Monponsett Ponds and Stump Brook are part of the Wompanoag Canoe Passage linking the North River with Narragansett Bay.

There are few designated putting-in spots but informal access is sometimes possible at bridge crossings, and official access may be possible at the new Striar Sanctuary and the Randall-Hilliard Preserve holdings on the lower Winnetuxet, as well as from of a town parcel (TOS-4) slightly upstream on River St.

Habitat

Halifax's mix of woods, fields, rivers and wetlands supports diverse wildlife including some Species of Special Concern listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program. Some major wetlands are impounded and used as cranberry bog reservoirs. Streamside lands often form a wildlife corridor. .

Species found locally include raccoons, muskrats, otters, skunks, probable coyotes, and deer, along with many species of ducks, hawks and occasional swans and eagles. The ponds hold Large Mouth Bass, Pickerel, White and Red Perch, Sunfish, Eels, and Horn Pout and are spawning grounds for Alewives.

Species of Special Concern listed as found on the Winnetuxet River Flood Plain include the Plymouth Gentian (*Sabatia Kennedyana*) and the Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys Gutatta*).



Swans, Ducks and Geese Sharing a Feeding and Nesting Area in the Plymouth St. Pond Bog Reservoir



Rich Wetland Habitat – The Shallow Emergent end of the Plymouth St. Pond Reservoir between Elm St. and the Industrial Park, Controlled by Weir at Rte. 106. and Serving Bogs South of Rte. 106

B. Inventory of Protected Open Space and Recreation Facilities

1. Open Space Resources

All known holdings are listed below under Open Space Resources. Those with recreation facilities or recreation potential are also listed under Recreation Resources and are keyed on the Fig. X-1 with both numbers.

(Map X-1 is p.6 in report)

Open Space Resources (In Circles)

State holdings

1. S-1 Peterson's Swamp
2. S-2 Monponsett Isthmus Boat Ramp

Town Conservation Holdings

3. C-1 Randall/Hilliard Reserve .
4. C-2 Peterson Swamp Land.
- 4a. C-3 Indian Path Conservation Land
1. C-4 Kumpenen Bog Land
2. C-5 Elm St./ Stump Brook Land

Town Water Land

3. W-1 YMCA Camp Water Land
8. W-2 Stump Brook Well Site
- 9 W-3 Richmond Park Water Land

Town Park Land

10. P-1 Matt Whitcomb Park
11. P-2 Richmond Park
12. P-3 Wood St. Park
13. P-4 Frank Lyon Park
14. P-5 Urann Park

Land Related to Public Facilitie

15. PF-1 Aldena Road Dog Pound
16. PF-2 Town Center Land
17. PF-3 Elementary School Environs
18. PF-4 East Cemetery
19. PF-5 Hemlock Lane Cemetery
20. PF-6 Thompson St. Cemetery
21. PF-7 Summit St. Farmland
22. PF-8 East Monponsett Pond Boat Launching Area and Beach
23. PF-9 Lingam St./ West Monponsett Pond Lands
24. PF-10 Brockton Water Treatment Plant and Environs

Other Town Land – De Facto or Potential Open Space.

25. TOS-1 Holmes St. Lots
26. TOS-2 Hemlock Lane Land
27. TOS-3 Monponsett St./ Turkey Swamp Holdings
28. TOS-4 River St. /Lucas Brook
29. TOS-5 Monponsett/ Palmer Mill Brook Property
30. TOS-6 Wood St./Winnetuxet River Land
31. TOS-7 First House Site/ Orchard Circle Land
32. TOS-8.Pond St. Swamp Land
33. TOS-9 Winnetuxet River Land
34. TOS-10 Upper Monponsett St. Holdings
35. TOS-11 Crystal Lake Holdings
36. TOS-12 Annawon Drive Area

Non-Profit Holdings

37. NP-1 Audubon Society's Stump Brook Sanctuary
38. NP-2 Elm Street Wildlands Preserve
39. NP-3 Striar Conservancy

Commercial Open Space

40. COS-1 Halifax Country Club

Non-Profit Private Open Space

41. POS-1 Annawon Drive Private Beach

Recreation Resources

State Facilities

42. SR-1 Monponsett St. Isthmus State (Public Access Board) Boat Ramp. (S-2 above.)

Town Facilities

43. R-1 Richmond Park (See P-2 above)
44. R-2 Matt Whitcomb Park, Holmes St., (12.84 acres) (See P- 1)
45. R-3 Halifax Beach Lingam St./ W. Monponsett Pond (5.23 acres) (See PF-9)
46. R-4 Halifax Beach Boat Ramp (See TF-9)
47. R-5 Holmes St / E. Monponsett Pond Boat Launching Area / Beach (TF-8)

48. R-6 Route 58, (Monponsett St.) Bridge / Culvert
49. R-7 Wheels Park Behind New Police Station

Non-Profit Private Facilities

50. R-1 Annawon Drive Private Beach (POS-1)

Commercial Recreation

51. CR-1 Halifax Country Club (COS-1)
52. CR-2 Fieldstone Horse Farm

Unprotected Resources/ Opportunities

53. UPO-1 Brandeis Circle Drainage Area
54. UPO-2. Bosworth Circle Drainage Area
55. UPO-3 Furnace Pond
56. UPO-4 Closed BFI Landfill
Land Near Potential Development
57. UPO-5a Pond, Elm and Hudson Sts.
58. UPO-5b River and South Sts.
59. UPO-5b Monponsett St., so. of Palmer Mill Brook
Land under Chapters 61, 61A and 61B
60. 6a-Tilled Land
61. 6b Wet Meadows and Hayfields
62. 6c Land with Water-Related Scenic / Habitat Value.
63. 6d Cranberry Bog Upland
64. 6e Land with Surface Water Management Structures
65. 6f Land with Joint Development Potential
66. UPO-7 Streamside Lands
67. UPO-8 The Wood Street Wet Meadows
68. UPO-9 Open Fields and Wet Meadows on Plympton Line
69. UPO-10 Burrage Pond
Land Connecting Major Resources
70. 11a –Town Hall to Robbins Pond
71. 11b– Wood St. to Turkey Swamp
72. 11c– East-West (Winnetuxet) Corridor
73. 11d–Stiar/ & Randall/Hilliard lands to Taunton River Corridor
74. UPO-12 Halifax Gardens Area

Major Recommendations

1. (Acq. 8) Protection/Acquisition of Wood St. Wet Meadows on Middleboro line
2. (Acq. 8) Protection/Acquisition of Wet Meadows on Plympton line
3. (Acq. 5) Expansion of Wildland's Trust Elm St. Land to Pine Woods Sloping to Reservoir Shore
4. (Acq. 2) Acquisition./ Creation of Lake St./Stetson Brook Park/Conservation Area e connected to restored Northeast Monponsett Trail
5. Acq.13) Acquire / Manage Furnace Pond and Land on its North Shore
6. (Acq.10) Acquire Halifax Garden Co. Land not needed by MBTA for habitat protection Local Open Space and Community Gardens
7. (Acq. 14) Acquire land or ROW between River and Powerline for East-West Winnetuxet Corridor
8. (Tr. 4) Get rights to traverse Dike Road, Indian Crossway etc.into Hanson to Bay Circuit Trail
9. (Tr.7) Make Varied Connections needed for Town Hall to Robbins Pond Greenway
10. (Tr.8) Create trail along Stump Brook Canal through Audubon land and edge of Morse Bros. Land to West Monponsett Pond
11. (Tr. 11,12) Explore and implement WinnetuxetRiver / Palmer Mill Brook streamside Wood St.Turkey Swamp Trail.
12. (Mgmt. 6) Work with land owners to open up scenic vistas, e.g., east of Elm St.
13. (Mgt.9) Develop strategy reflecting function / values / prospects of Reservoir north of Rte. 106
14. (Tr.3, Rec.6,7) Define and develop compatible trails, docks for boating and other water-supply compatible use of YMCA Well land
15. (Rec.10.) Work with BFI, Bridgewater and E. Bridgewater on varied, compatible recreation of closed landfill
16. (Rec.11) Increase headroom and depth of Rte. 58 culvert between the 2 ponds.
17. (Rec. 13) Work with Audubont to find acceptable access and low impact uses of Sanctuary
18. (Rec. 16) Explore playground potenial of 10 town- owned lots on Annawon Drive
19. (Reg.8) Enact Long Proposed Town Hall / Plymouth St. Historic District
20. (Reg. 13) Pursue Burrage Pond / Stump Brook / Monponsett Corridor /Great Cedar Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation

a. State Holdings

(S-1) Peterson's Swamp

Map/Parcels: 33/5, 43/7B, 43/8B, 43/12B, 44/1, 54/9, 65/1 and 66/16
Owner: Mass. Dept. of Environmental Management / Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Managed by: DEM/DFWL
Address: Aldana Rd./Holmes St.
Access: Frontage on Aldana Rd. and Holmes St. near Brockton's water diversion facility, the "pumping station." Crossed by several cart paths one of which is mapped as emerging on Alden Rd. near the Town's Peterson Swamp land discussed below. A narrow right-of-way to Plymouth St. across from the Mobile Home Park is visible as wild land between two houses, but is not signed or cleared for useful access.

Zoning: Conservancy
Acreage: 247.84 acres in a long figure 8-shaped configuration
Terrain/Vegetation: Low wooded-swamp .
Use: Wildlife Preserve
Comment: This large, irregularly-shaped holding has a very narrow waist and is separated from another 18.5 acres of DEM land fronting on Holmes St. by about 50' of private land. However, the two holdings are connected by several acres of town-owned land.

(S-2) Monponsett Isthmus Boat Ramp

Map/ Parcel 31/1597
Owner: Department of Environmental Management
Managed by: Public Access Board
Address: 500 Monponsett St.
Access: Frontage on Monponsett St.
Zoning: AR
Acreage 4.5
Terrain/Vegetation: Partially scrubby/wooded, partially open land, sloping to shore.
Use: A paved boat ramp, and dirt parking area with woods to north..
Comments: A strategic site giving Pond access to all (but prohibiting swimming) and preserving the view from the road. See discussion under Recreation Resources.

b. Town Holdings

Conservation Land

(C-1) Randall/Hilliard Reserve

Maps/Parcels: 108/ 6, 108/8, 108/9 109/7, 109/8, 117/2 with a long-term conservation restriction held by the Wildlands Trust of SE Mass.
Managed By: WTSEM
Address: River St. and Pratt St. along the Winnetuxet River
Access: Being developed on Pratt St. parcels 108/8 and 108/9
Zoning AR, with Conservancy District along River
Acreage 68 (est.)
Terrain/Vegetation: Low wooded upland, wooded swamp, vernal pools, cranberry bogs, pine groves and stream bank. This site and land to south,

west and much of the Striar property to the north are identified on the Mass. Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFW) map of (wetland-related) Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Certified Vernal Pools (the “DFW Habitat Map”) shown in Chapter III. The combined Randall/Hilliard and Striar properties (described below) include some of the richest wildlife habitat in the Taunton River system including four state-listed rare species (the Bridle Shiner, the Cooper’s Hawk, the Mystic Valley Amphipod and the Spotted Turtle).

Use: Wildlife Preserve – nature study, hiking, potentially canoeing and kayaking

Comment: This key resource was acquired with assistance from the town, the Massachusetts Self-Help program, the Sheehan Family Foundation, and other private donors, and with the vision and cooperation of the Randall and Hilliard families



View up the Winnetuxet River from Thompson St towards the Striar and Randall/Hilliard Lands

(C-2) Peterson Swamp Land

Maps/ Parcels	34/10A, 34/10B
Owner:	Town
Managed by:	DEM/DFW
Address	Aldena Rd.
Access:	Frontage on Aldena Rd.
Zoning:	Conservancy
Acreage:	14.99
Terrain/Vegetation:	Wooded swamp
Use:	Abuts and extends State’s Peterson Swamp Wildlife area
Comments:	Appears to be part of State holdings, but is Town-owned.

Looks close to N-S cart path shown on USGS Topographic map.

(C-3) Indian Path Conservation Land

Map/ Parcel: 62/35
Management: Conservation Commission
Owner: Conservation Commission
Address: Indian Path Rd. (Between Indian Path neighborhood and extensive Morse Bros Cranberry lands under Ch. 61a.)
Access: Landlocked, possibly reached from a mapped cart path off of Indian Path Rd. running south towards Rte. 106 and the mapped "Old Rd.." as well as from adjacent houses on the west side of Indian Path Rd. The northern end of site ends at rear lot line of the house (51/229) at corner of Pemmican Way and 11th St.
Zoning: Conservancy
Acreage: 8.8
Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded swamp to south, rising slightly to wooded upland to the north.
Use: Informal open space
Comments: This offers a wooded backdrop to the Indian Path Rd. neighborhood. An easement along the edge of the adjacent cranberry land and south through private land to the Old Road could allow an alternative walk from the neighborhoods to the Fitness Center and other destinations on Rte. 106.

(C-4) Kumpenen Bog Land

Maps/parcels: 121/3, 121/13
Management: Town
Owner: Town
Address: South of Hayward St.
Access: Via narrow parcel #13 from Hayward St. and a mapped easement continuing to Parcel 3. This runs along the edge of a private yard and looks like part of the yard. Though residents welcome its use, a low fence between the yard and the accessway would make it more clearly public.
Acreage: 21.19 (inc .4.11 acres of inactive cranberry bog)
Terrain/Vegetation: Low-lying open land to north, cranberry bog, small pond and some wooded swamp, bordered on west and south by Monponsett and Colchester Brooks
Use: Habitat, stream protection
Comments: Varied potential for stream access and protection
If restorable, consider leasing bog to an organic grower if/when conditions improve.



Dug Ditch and Seasonally Flooded Area in the Kumpenen Bog land

(C-5) Elm St./ Stump Brook Land

Map/Parcel: 48/9
 Management: Conservation Commission
 Owner: Conservation Commission
 Zoning: AR (Not Conservancy despite being agricultural)
 Address: East of Elm St. between Furnace and Plymouth Sts.
 Access: Elm St. frontage
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 15.08
 Terrain/Vegetation: Level, wooded, then dropping to the lower Stump Pond, much of which is included.
 Use: Stream protection and portion of potential Stump Brook Trail
 Comments: A valuable new property. It suggests making a connection with the Stump Brook Water lands and on to the Audubon Stump Brook Sanctuary by acquiring ownership or a trail easement along the southern portion of Map 2 , lot 1.

The elevation of this portion of Stump Pond appears to be controlled by an inverted wier at Elm St. This is a solid wall coming down from the bridge so that the water flows under it. This allows considerable elevation and flood storage during a storm while maintaining flow during low water. It also traps much scum and floating debris above the weir. There is also provision for conventional control boards immediately upstream of the weir, but none are in place. According to the Highway Department, the structure may

belong the town as part of the roadway (rather than to Northland Cranberries from whom the upstream land was purchased), but it is not actively managed by anyone.

A related issue is the responsibility for operation of the weirs (concrete structures with boards) controlling the elevation of Furnace Pond downstream and of Stump Brook.

Water Land

(W-1) YMCA Camp Water Land

Map/ Parcel: 41/1
Owner: Town
Managed By: Water Commission.
Address: End of Lingan St.
Access: Cart path in from Lingan St.
Zoning: Conservancy
Acreage: 39.98
Terrain/Vegetation: Irregular wooded upland, sloping to W. Monponsett Pond to the East, and to cranberry bogs to the West. The shoreline here and the shore to the north are on the DFW Habitat map.
Use: Water supply protection (town has two well fields on the site) and probable informal recreation
Comments: As the largest public holding on the Ponds and a very attractive stretch of shoreline, this former Y camp may have much potential for camping or other compatible natural recreation, given appropriate water supply protection regulations.

(W-2) Stump Brook Well Site

Maps/Parcels: 49/1A, 49/1B, 49/10A
Owner: Town
Management: Water Commission
Address: Rear of Cranberry Drive
Access: Only through house lots at curve of Cranberry Drive
Zoning: AR and Conservancy
Acreage: 15.06 acres
Terrain/Vegetation: Upland sloping to wooded swamp and shrub swamp. The eastern portion of this and the land to the northeast is on the DFW Habitat map.
Use: Vacant land originally proposed for a town well .
Comments: The NE corner of this land is within 50' of the Audubon Society Sanctuary. Possibly it could provide an access with an easement between the 2 adjacent houses on Stoney Weir Road and another one going from this holding to the Sanctuary.

(W-3) Richmond Park Water Land

Map/ Parcel: 64/14
Management: Water Commission
Owner: Town

Address: Plymouth St., South of Richmond Park
 Access: Through Richmond Park or through abutting town land off of Sycamore Drive in Mobile Home Park
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 14.7
 Terrain/Vegetation: Irregular wooded upland sloping toward wooded swamp to south. The southern portion of this is on the DFW Habitat map.
 Use: Water supply protection, site of Town's Richmond Park wells.
 Comments: This provides a wooded backdrop to surrounding housing on Pine Brook Drive. It abuts much more extensive town swamp holdings to the south. Consider potential for appropriate non-contaminating recreational use in conjunction with the Park itself. Examine any opportunity for a pedestrian trail from the Mobile Home Park through the water land to Richmond Park, or to Pine Brook Drive and on along Rte. 106 to the Commercial Center.

Park Land

(P-1) Matt Whitcomb Park

Maps/Parcels: 43/5B, 43/6B, 43/10B, 43/11B
 Owner: Town
 Management: Youth and Recreation Commission (Maintained by Highway Dept.)
 Address: Holmes St.
 Access: Frontage on Holmes St.
 Zoning: AR to 400'-depth, then Conservancy
 Acreage: 12.84
 Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded swamp with enough upland to accommodate a basketball court, swings and a climbing structure
 Use: Basketball and Playground activities and possible informal outdoor activities
 Comments: Potential connection between State's Peterson's Swamp and adjacent DEM land to the north. Though site abuts the Swamp, there are no apparent trails into it at this point.

(P-2) Richmond Park

Maps/ Parcels: 64/5, 64/6
 Management: Water Commission.
 Owner: Town
 Address: 172 Plymouth St.
 Access: From Plymouth St.
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 2.02 (Abuts 17.7 acres of protected water land described above.)
 Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded upland, level south of Plymouth St., sloping sharply to East Monponsett Pond, north of Plymouth St. The northern portion of this and the other land around the Monponsett Ponds is on the DFW Habitat map.
 Use: Public Park, no developed facilities.
 Comments: Park is on both sides of Plymouth St. South side is on East Monponsett Pond

but the slope is too steep for easy access. Consider a wooden stairway to the shore? Park is one lot removed from the East Cemetery and could be integrated with it as discussed below.

(P-3) Wood St. Park

Map/parcel: 131/6
 Management: Highway Dept.
 Owner: Town
 Address: An island surrounded by Wood and Fuller Sts.
 Access: Street frontage
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 1.5
 Terrain/Vegetation: Level, largely wooded
 Use: Local Park
 Comments: A small retreat space surrounded by roads
 Like Lyon Park below, it would be more highly valued
 in a more developed, higher density neighborhood.

(P-4) Frank Lyon Park

Map/Parcel: 72/12
 Management: Highway Dept.
 Owner: Town
 Address: Plymouth St. across from Fire Station
 Access: Frontage on Plymouth St.
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: .93
 Terrain/Vegetation: Level, wooded, including a small stream and pond.
 Use: Local park
 Comments: A small attractive site which would be used more in a more
 densely developed neighborhood. As it is, without a sign it
 looks more like the front yard of the house abutting it to the
 rear on the remainder of the truncated " Old Road." It
 would benefit from screening along Rte.106 and perhaps along
 the edge of the Old Road to distinguish it from the large house
 to the rear, and from add the adjacent parcel 72/11.

(P-5) Urann Park

Map/ Parcel: 71/2
 Management: Park Commission
 Owner: Town
 Address: Off of Plymouth St.
 Access: From Plymouth St. or from adjacent town land described under Town
 Hall/ Hemlock Lane land below.
 Zoning: AR to south and east; Conservancy in interior
 Acreage: 4.13
 Terrain/Vegetation: Rolling, wooded
 Use: Passive Open space
 Comments: Though nominally a park and under the Park Commission, this is

undeveloped woodland abutting the extensive Town Hall / Hemlock Lane Town holdings. Recent relocation of the historic store from next door to town land across the street may improve access to this site.

Land Related to Public Facilities

(PF-1) Aldena Road Dog Pound

Maps / Parcels: 45/2, 45/4, 45/5 (The intervening lot 45/6 is private)
Management: Town, Police, Animal Control Officer
Owner: Town
Zoning: Conservancy
Acreage: 13.33
Terrain/Vegetation: Open land around Pound, then wooded upland sloping to wooded swamp.
Use: Dog Pound with a sizable parking area plus possible informal wildlife/open space use of rear land
Comments: Site is separated from Peterson Swamp land by two houses and vacant land. Examine any potential trail behind the adjacent houses to allow use of Pond's parking for access to the Swamp.

(PF-2) Town Center Land

Map/ Parcel: 71/14 , 71/18
Management: Town
Owner: Town
Address: 540 Plymouth St., 490 South St.
Access: Behind new police station and from South St. frontage
Zoning: AR
Acreage 9.8 acres minus an estimated 1.5 acres for the new police Station
Terrain/Vegetation: Level, partly open, partly wooded.
Use: Town land behind new police station and surrounding former library and church near corner of South St. and Plymouth Sts.
Comments: Potentially valuable property for new public facilities and related open space

(PF-3) Elementary School Environs

Maps/ Parcels: 72/8, 72/9, 72/13, 72/18, 82/1A
Management: Highway Dept./Youth and Recreation Commission
Owner: School Dept.
Address: 470-480 Plymouth St.
Access: Street Frontage
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 84.9 minus school site
Terrain/ Vegetation: Sloping south from school site, much open land in the north, wooded upland in the south, wooded wetlands to east and west
Use: Elementary School and attached library on 5-6 acres along Rte. 106, the former Police Station and the Popes Tavern/COA building on 1.5 acres, and 9-10.5 acres of athletic fields.

Facilities include 2 large and 2 small baseball fields, one soccer field, 2 tennis courts, 5 basketball hoops, an extensive creative playground, a smaller fully accessible play area, and a popular sledding slope.

Comments: Much rear land appears available for other purposes, potentially allowing Sports field expansion / relocation and a 2-level school expansion.

(PF-4) East Cemetery

Map/Parcel: 53/50

Management: Highway Dept.

Owner: Town

Address: Plymouth St.

Access: From Plymouth St.

Zoning: AR

Acreage: 1.07

Terrain/Vegetation: Largely open cemetery, level but with a dramatic drop to East Monponsett Pond on surrounding, visually-connected private land to rear. This land and the other land around the Monponsett Ponds are on the DFW Habitat map.

Use: Cemetery, informal outdoor use, Pond viewing.

Comments: Land is one vacant lot removed from Richmond Park. The dirt road encircling the Cemetery is mapped as a private land, as are several residentially-used lots below the Cemetery and between the road and the Pond. (See Assessors' map extract below.) Consider acquiring lots 64/4 and 3/46, as well as the mapped vacant lot 53/47 in order to integrate the shoreline portion of Richmond Park and the Cemetery, to protect use of road, to allow limited cemetery expansion if needed, and to incorporate the vacant shore lot in the site.

Map of site

(PF-5) Hemlock Lane Cemetery

Map/ Parcel: 62/2
Management: Highway Dept.
Owner: Town
Address: Hemlock Lane
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 3.79
Terrain/Vegetation: Largely open cemetery
Use: Cemetery, informal open space
Comments: An amenity for the immediate neighborhood, set back from road and seen only from Hemlock Way and the Town Hall area.

(PF- 6) Thompson St. Cemetery

Map/ Parcel: 70/4
Management: Highway Dept.
Owner: Town
Address: Thompson St.
Access: Thompson St.
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 3.2
Terrain/Vegetation: Level, partially-wooded cemetery
Use: Cemetery
Comments: Abuts vacant land and cranberry bogs; faces town land earlier proposed for affordable family housing.

(PF-7) Summit St. Farmland

Map/parcel: 8/6A
Management: Youth and Recreation Commission
Owner: Town
Address: Summit St.
Access: Frontage on Summit St.
Zoning: AR to south, Conservancy to north
Acreage: 11.0
Terrain/Vegetation: Open upland tilled fields to the north, sloping slightly to lightly wooded wetlands to the south
Use: Present / former farmland being largely developed into two town soccer fields
Comment: Investigate any potential to lease any remaining upland to a farmer or to use it for community gardens.

(PF-8) East Monponsett Pond Boat Launching Area and Beach

Map/ Parcel: 54/1
Owner: Town
Management: Park Commission, maintained by Highway Dept.
Address: 40 Holmes St.
Access: On Holmes St.; Informal parking at Brockton Water Diversion facility diagonally across street.
Zoning: AR

Acreage 022 (960 sq. ft.) Only this tiny parcel is listed, but the facility also uses adjacent land in the Holmes St. right-of-way next to the Pond for the ramp, while the beach is to the south.

Terrain/Vegetation: Open, sandy slope to water. This land and the rest of the land around the Monponsett Ponds is on the DFW Habitat map.

Facilities/Use: Boat launching and small swimming area indicated by an adjacent “Boat Landing and Beach” sign, and apparently open to all, not just to Town residents. Cars park at Brockton Water Diversion facility across the street.

Comments: A former State ramp turned over to the Town, this is a very small, unimproved, but useful and popular facility. It is across from Peterson Swamp frontage on Holmes St. Traffic warning signs need to be sufficient for unfamiliar drivers. Swimming at the water supply intake may be less advised than at the Lingan St. Town Beach on the West Pond , but the water still has a long transport time through the aqueduct and the length of Silver Lake to the treatment plant.

(PF-9) Lingan St./ West Monponsett Pond Lands

Map/ Parcel: 52/183-276

Owner: Town

Management: Park Commission , Maintained by Highway Dept.

Address: Off LinganSt.

Access: From Lingan St.

Zoning AR

Acreage 5.23

Terrain/Vegetation: Low wooded vacant lots and cleared parking areas between developed lots on 4th and 6th Streets north and south of Lingan St. Like the other land around the Monponsett Ponds this is on the DFW Habitat map.

Use: Town beach, informal park next to a boat ramp – discussed under Recreation, below.

Comments: Includes Town beach and parking areas. This is probably the better side of the Pond for swimming since it is farther from the Silver Lake drinking water diversion intake off of Holmes St. Potentially a site for sailing lessons.

(PF-10) Brockton Water Treatment Plant and Environs

Maps./ Parcels: 4/1, 4/ 37, 5/-1 13/1 and many small 1200-1300 sq. ft .lots and related IX-16 paper streets on 4/ 1138 to1308 and 5/114 to 1280

Owner: City of Brockton

Management: Brockton Water Commission , Address: East of 34 Holmes St.

Access: Driveway from Holmes St.

Zoning AR

Acreage 47+

Terrain/Vegetation: Partially wooded, partially open upland sloping towards Silver Lake at Lorings’ Point. Site accommodates the water treatment plant, related lagoons and a cranberry bog.

Use: Water treatment and possible informal shoreline access.

Comments: Cooperate with City to examine potential for shoreline access and limited compatible recreation.

Other Town Land – De Facto or Potential Open Space.

(TOS-1) Holmes St. Lots.

Maps/ Parcels: 54/12, 54/15

Owner: Town

Management: Town

Address: Across from 34 Holmes St.

Access: Frontage on Holmes St.

Zoning: AR

Acreage: 4.46

Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded upland sloping toward wooded swamp plus an extensive cleared area along the edge of the road.

Use: Informal open space

Comments: This runs from Holmes St. to the Southwestern corner of of the State's Peterson Swamp.

(TOS-2) Hemlock Lane Land

Maps/ Parcels: 61/3A, 61/5, 62/5, 62/14, 71/4, 71.5, 72/2

Owner: Town

Management: Town

Address: Off Hemlock Lane and Plymouth St. (Abuts the nominal Urann Park listed at 71/3 on the town's tax exempt list)

Access: Off Hemlock Lane and Plymouth St.

Zoning: AR along frontages, Conservancy in interior.

Acreage: 44.07

Terrain/Vegetation: Open in front, largely wooded upland to rear

Use: Town Hall, Town Barn, water tower, and related facilities, and much informal open space.

Comments: Extensive unused area giving a wooded backdrop to the Bosworth Road / Deer Run neighborhood, but separated from it by portions of parcels 2/1 and 71/1. This suggests selective partial acquisitions.

(TOS-3) Monponsett St./ Turkey Swamp Holdings

Maps/ Parcels: 64/33, 64/12, 64/24, 64/32, 74/2, 74/4, 74.17, 75/1, 75/13, 75/14, 75/15, 75/11, 75/12, 75/6, 76/3, 76/6, 76/8, 84/9, 85/1, 85/2, 85/3, 85/4, 85/5, 85/6, 85/7, 85/8, 86/1, 86/2, 86/3.

Management: Town

Owner: Town

Address: East of Monponsett St., south of Richmond Park wells

Access: Via wellfield, from Sycamore Dr. in the Mobile Home Park, or informally, via roads serving bogs between this land and Monponsett St.

Zoning: Conservancy
 Acreage: 177.04 acres from lots listed above.
 Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded swamp with an acre or so of upland at Turkey Island on the Plympton town line. The northern portion of this, west of the Mobile Home Park, is on the DFW Habitat map, as is some private land essentially within the southeastern corner of the Park.
 Use: Wildlife, water supply protection
 Comments: Very extensive mapped town holdings, encompassing much of Turkey Swamp, most of it formerly held by the "Hitty Tom Spring Trust." This wraps around 2 sides of some cranberry bogs just east of Monponsett St. and extends from the water land south of Richmond Park to the Plympton line. Explore possible pedestrian use of carpath / road along northern edge of bogs from Mobile Home Park to Monponsett St.
 Consider the long-term purpose of these holdings and alternate management responsibilities, e.g., DFW&ELE

(TOS-4) River St. /Lucas Brook

Map/parcel: 101/15
 Management: Town
 Owner: Town
 Address: West of 360 River Sr.
 Access: Street frontage
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 1.12
 Terrain/Vegetation: Low wooded land and a stream sloping towards wooded wetlands along Lucas Brook flowing towards the Winnetuxet River.
 Use: Access to private land on the Brook.
 Comments: Examine potential acquisition of brookside land to the rear and creation of a path along the stream within the parcel.

(TOS-5) Monponsett/ Palmer Mill Brook Property

Map/parcel: 112/7
 Management: Town
 Address: West of Brook; North of powerline
 Access: From Franklin St. via Powerline
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: 8.28
 Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded Upland
 Use: Habitat protection
 Comments: A remote parcel giving access to Brook and to any potential trail.

(TOS-6) Wood St./Winnetuxet River Land

Map/parcel: 126/5
Management: Town
Owner: Town
Address: Within bend of Winnetuxet River, NE of Wood St.
Access: By foot about 50' from Wood St. over private land and across the River.
Zoning: AR (not Conservancy despite being wetlands)
Acreage: 20.48
Terrain/Vegetation: Gradually sloping north to south; with upland in north and wooded swamp in south. This land, like the most land along the Winnetuxet River, is on the DFW Habitat map.
Use: Wildlife habitat, stream protection, and access for any potential trail.
Comment: Land across River is under Ch. 61A suggesting a partial acquisition to protect both sides of stream and developing a trail in from Wood St.

(TOS-7) First House Site/Orchard Circle Land

Maps/parcels: 90/1, 90/8
Management: Town
Owner: Town
Address: Off Thompson St., at rear of Orchard Circle Development
Access: From Thompson St. frontage of Town's First House Site or from abutting house lots, or from adjacent powerline right-of-way.
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 26.5
Terrain/Vegetation: Some wooded upland off Thompson St., mostly wooded swamp
Use: Wildlife habitat, wooded backdrop for Orchard Circle neighborhood
Comments: Examine other potential uses in relation to adjacent Bog land

(TOS-8.) Pond St. Swampland

Map/ Parcel: 25/2A
Management: Town
Owner: Town
Address: Pond St. at E. Bridgewater line
Access: Street frontage
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 3.39 acres
Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded upland rising, then dropping to swamp and power line in E.B.
Use: Local wetlands habitat /informal open space, the adjacent land to the west is an E. Bridgewater well site.
Comments: A locally valuable bit of wild land

(TOS-9) Winnetuxet River Land

Map Parcel: 109/9
Management: Wildlands Trust of SE Mass.
Owner: Town

Address: South of Thompson St.
 Access: Through Striar Conservancy or Randall/Hilliard Preserve
 Zoning: Conservancy
 Acreage: 4.96
 Terrain/Vegetation: Wooded swamp on Winnetuxed River
 Use: Wildlife habitat, informal open space
 Comments: Town-owned land surrounded by the Striar Conservancy and most appropriately managed by its managers, the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts

(TOS-10) Upper Monponsett St. Holdings

Maps/ Parcels: 19/ 1,2,314,992,938,,1442,1447,1448; 20/991,1135, 135, 136, 260, 938, 939, 945-950, 960, 991, and 70
 Management: Town
 Owner: Town
 Address: Boston St., Bow St., Standish St., Monponsett St.
 Access: Street frontage
 Zoning: Mostly R, some CB along Monponsett St.
 Acreage: Small lots totaling about 1.5 acres
 Terrain/Vegetation: Low, level, at the edge of wooded swamp. The fringe of this land like the other land around the Monponsett Ponds is on the DFW Habitat map.
 Use: Potential additions to adjacent houses, local open space
 Comments: Examine lots 19/1,2 as a potential Pond access point.

(TOS-11) Crystal Lake Holdings

Maps/ Parcels: Too many to list; 89 parcels, 5 northeast of the Pond and 84 on paper streets to the west, plus 10/1769-1775,1782,1785, 1810-1812.
 Management: Town
 Owner: Town
 Address: Off of Oak St , on paper streets; Ramsel St., Morse St.,
 Zoning: AR
 Acreage: About 5.7 acres in lots and about 3.0 acres in abutting paper streets.
 Terrain/Vegetation: Irregular, rising to the edge of the pond and then dropping abruptly to the pond; wooded upland east of pond sloping to wooded swamp to the west.
 Use: Wildlife habitat and wooded backdrop for a few houses along Crescent Ave. and Thompson St. in Pembroke and across pond on Crystal Lake Road in Halifax.
 Comments: This is an area of isolated, generally contiguous small (2400 sq. ft.) lots once offered as campsites, generally on paper streets between the pond, the railroad, and the Pembroke line. The land could be left as wildland or be converted to a few house lots through re-parcelization and limited road construction.

(TOS-12) Annawon Drive Area

Maps/ Parcels: 32/111, 183-191, 203, 204, 240-245, 308, 312, 331, 332, 333, 356

Management:	Town
Owner:	Town
Address:	Scattered lots on Annawon Drive, Chestnut Road, Jordan Road,
Birch Road	Hemlock Road, Buttonwood Road, and Hickory Road
Management	Town.
Access:	Street frontage
Zoning	AR
Acreage	2.5
Terrain/Vegetation:	Level, slightly wooded
Use:	Vacant lots mixed with houses, informal open space
Comments:	Most of these might best be used to enlarge adjacent house lots, but 10 lots bordered by Annawon Drive, Hemlock Road and Buttonwood Road might have some potential for a neighborhood playground. A group of 4 lots and a drainage easement on Chestnut St. abutting the Twin Lakes development might provide an access point to Twin Lakes, allowing residents to walk /ride to the MBTA commuter rail station. However a path between houses on Chestnut St across from Hickory St. would be more direct.

c. Non- Profit Holdings

(NP-1) Audubon Society's Stump Brook Sanctuary

Map/Parcel:	17/2
Owner:	Mass .Audubon Society
Address:	Plymouth St./ Hemlock Lane
Access:	By private road north off a farm served by Hemlock Lane
Zoning:	AR
Acreage:	256
Terrain /Vegetation:	Low, wooded upland (Hemlock Island) surrounded by wooded swamp and cranberry bogs. Most of the southern end of this is on the DFW Habitat map.
Use:	Wildlife Preserve –Very limited public access; occasional guided walks.
Comment:	This extensive holding was given to the Audubon Society in a 1996 settlement between the EPA and Northland Cranberries inc. regarding extensive wetlands alterations creating agricultural land in Halifax and Hanson by a prior owner, Cumberland Farms. The Society minimizes public use except for monthly guided walks. The size of the site and its isolation by wooded swamp and cranberry bogs could make it a good local site for low-impact hike-in camping if access could be negotiated with the adjacent farm. The southwestern corner is within 50' of the unused water Stump Brook water land north of Stoney Wier Rd.

(NP-2) Elm Street Wildlands Preserve

Map/Parcel:	37/2
Owner:	Wildlands Trust of S.E. Mass.
Address:	Elm St., just north of the intersection with Furnace St.
Access:	Frontage on Elm St.
Zoning:	AR; Conservancy to the rear
Acreage	8.1 (Assessor's map says 7 Acres and 38,740 sq. ft.)
Terrain/Vegetation:	Two open fields, low, wooded upland, and wetlands backing onto open water.

Use: The reservoir land to the west is on the DFW Habitat map. Small meadow and wildlife preserve. A small area offering access to wetlands and water, and providing open space even if the street gets much Form A development.

Comment: The property marked by a WTSEM sign appears to include attractive open fields but the site's boundaries are not marked, and the fields may be connected to the house to the south. A point of included or adjacent higher, open pinewoods slopes almost to edge of the extensive marsh and open water north of Rte 106. If not part of the site, it would be a good addition, allowing access to water and other casual open space use. The open, sunny fields could offer good community garden space.

(NP-3) Striar Conservancy

Map/Parcel: 99/1, 99/5,108/4,108/7, 9/10a

Owner: Wildlands Trust of SE Mass.

Address: Thompson St.

Access: Frontage on Thompson St.; an ancient cart path, and new trails being developed by the Trust with a DEM Greenways grant.

Zoning AR, with Conservancy along the River

Acreage 153 according to the Trust

Terrain/Vegetation: Low wooded upland sloping to wooded swamp, marshes and seepage swamps along the Winnetuxet River with a small pond and old cranberry bogs. The southern portion along the river is on the DFW Habitat map.

Use: Wildlife Preserve, hiking, nature study, stream protection

Comment: This gift of the Striar family is just north of the Randall/ Hilliard property discussed above. It is being expanded and protected by Trust purchase of 18 frontage lots on Rte. 105 (Thompson St.) The combined holdings include some of the richest wildlife habitat in the Taunton River system including 4 state-listed rare species (the Bridle Shiner, the Cooper's Hawk, the Mystic Valley Amphipod, and the Spotted Turtle).

d. Commercial Open Space

(COS-1) Halifax Country Club

Maps/ Parcels: 73/5,73/5Z

Management: Halifax Country Club

Owner: Halifax Country Club

Address: 358 Plymouth St.

Access: From driveway off of Plymouth St.

Zoning: AR

Acreage 208.9

Terrain/Vegetation: Rolling, partially-wooded golf course. A small section in the South borders the Monponsett Brook..

Use: Golf and varied indoor events at the clubhouse.

Comments: Club is a asset to the town, and is partially protected against property tax pressure by Ch. 61b.

e. Non-Profit Private Facilities

(POS-1) Annawon Drive Private Beach

Map/parcels	31/2257-2284 (est.)
Owner:	Local Beach Assn.
Management:	Local Beach Assn.
Address:	Annawon Dr.
Zoning:	AR
Acreage:	1.0
Terrain/Vegetation:	Low, sandy beach with a few trees and shrubs.
Use:	Local private beach
Comments:	A small private beach and play area with “members only” sign. Do all neighbors have the right to join?

2. Recreation Resources

a. State Holdings

(SR-1) Monponsett St. Isthmus State (Public Access Board) Boat Ramp. (See S-2 above.)

Facility: This 4.5-acre site has a tight, steep entrance probably requiring cars with boat trailers to make a wide swing through the dirt parking area before backing down the ramp. It may be a better canoe/kayak putting-in spot than a ramp for larger boats. Though much larger than the Holmes St., ramp it has an awkward access to Rte.58., needing warning signs. Swimming is prohibited by the Public Access Board. The ramp is paved, but the lower section made of concrete strips is buckled, probably by ice.

Comments: A strategic site, giving West Pond access to the general public, not just local residents, and preserving the view from the road. It may need better signing to lessen traffic hazards from un-familiar drivers. The northern wooded portion beyond the parking lot may have potential for other shoreline recreation.

b. Town Facilities

(R-1) Richmond Park (See P-2 above)

Facilities: This 2.02 acre park on both sides of Plymouth St. abuts 17.7 acres of protected water land as described above. There are no apparent facilities except for a bench facing the East Pond on the Pond-side parcel (unless picnic tables etc. are put out for the summer).

Comments: This park is very limited, but has much potential if water land to the South may be used for appropriate activities. There are also possibilities for integration with the essentially adjacent East Cemetery (discussed above under the East Cemetery, TF-4).

(R-2) Matt Whitcomb Park, Holmes St., (12.84 acres) (See P- 1)

- Facilities: The front portion of this land accommodates a small recreation area, with a basketball court, a set of swings and a climbing structure. The basketball court is being repaved and the play equipment is being upgraded. There is no sand box to give kids other activities and there are no apparent seats or tables for accompanying adults. It is not clear that the entrance gate is wide enough for a wheelchair.
- Comments: Access is across busy Holmes St. from the Annawon Dr. and Cedar Lane neighborhoods. Possible access to Petersons Swamp land is not apparent on the ground. It may need appropriately placed traffic safety signs to indicate kids crossing. Consider adding a sand table to give kids more activities and one or two exercise stations and benches / tables for adults. Examine the potential for a trail into the upland edge of Petersons Swamp.

(R-3) Halifax Beach Lingan St./ West Monponsett Pond (5.23 acres)
(See Lingan St./West Monponsett Pond lands, TF-9 above)

- Facilities: Town beach, informal park next to a boat ramp with parking areas in clearings on either side of Lingan St. For Town residents only. No apparent picnic tables, bathrooms or other facilities.
- Comments: A boat ramp is at end of Fourth St., fenced off from beach and requiring careful operation given posted prohibition of boat operation within 200' of Beach. Presumably the key is no powered operation. As noted above, this may be the more appropriate side of the Pond for swimming since it is further from the Brockton's Silver Lake drinking water intake on Holmes St. Could this safe area also be site for sailing lessons?

(R-4) Halifax Beach Boat Ramp (See TF-9)

- Facilities: Driveway from end of Fourth St. turning area, and simple earth ramp into Pond. Signed "no parking " so cars and trailers must have to be moved to the adjacent beach parking areas. Residents only.
- Comment: This gives residents alternative, easier access to the West Pond than that at the Monponsett St. State ramp. Given the low culvert on Monponset St. only the smallest boats can cross between the ponds; all others must launch on one IX-25 one side or the other.

(R-5) Holmes St / East Monponsett Pond Boat Launching Area and Beach . (TF-8)

- Facility: Simple dirt boat launching area and a small beach right off of Rte 36. Apparently it is available to all since there are no restrictive signs.
- Comments: A former State ramp turned over to the Town, this is a very small, unimproved, but useful and popular facility. Informal parking is across the Street at Brockton Water Diversion facility. Are traffic warning signs sufficient for unfamiliar drivers? In addition there is a steep unimproved driveway to the East Pond at the southern end of the Rte. 58 Causeway.

(R-6) Route 58, (Monponsett St.) Bridge/ Culvert

- Facility: A box culvert under road connecting the two ponds and allowing limited boat passage. Low clearance requires even canoeists, kayakers and personal motorcraft users to crouch or lean back severely in order to pass through, and the shallow water excludes deeper draft vessels. See Page X-44.
- Comment: Replace the culvert under this Town-maintained road segment with a higher structure, such as a rounded, arched culvert with a higher center, or a real bridge.

(R-7) Wheels Park Behind New Police Station

- Facility: A new roller blade / skateboard use area to be built behind the new Police Station (being converted from the former Central School) on Plymouth St.
- Comment: An imaginative way to meet a growing need.

c. Non-Profit Private Facilities

(PR-1) Annawon Drive Private Beach (POS-1)

- Facility: A small private beach and play area with “members only” sign.
- Comments: A neighborhood resource for members. Is membership open to all who might want to use it? If not, consider public acquisition to ensure open access.

d. Commercial Recreation

(CR-1) Halifax Country Club (COS-1)

- Facilities: A nine-hole golf course and clubhouse.
- Comments: The Club is a major visual and functional asset to the town, and is partially protected against property tax pressure by Ch. 61b.

(CR-2.) Fieldstone Horse Farm Plymouth St. on Plympton Town Line

- Facilities: A 37-acre horse farm (maps/parcels: 66/1,55/1A) under Ch.61a raising and training horses and giving public riding lessons.
- Comment: A valuable resource allowing people to learn to ride

C. Inventory of Unprotected Resources/ Opportunities

The following lists selected individual resources and groups of related resources such as lands under Chs. 61, 61A and 61B. For more possibilities and greater detail, see the final Open Space Plan.

(UPO-1) Brandeis Circle Drainage Area

Map Parcel: 23/2, 23/145
Management: Highway Dept.
Owner: Town except for small easement on adjacent house lot
Address: Brandeis Circ., just south of Harvard St.
Access: Street frontage
Zoning: AR
Acreage: 1.08+ acres on parcel 23/2 alone.
Terrain/Vegetation: Sloping from road to Silver Lake, and wetlands drainage basin. This land and the other fringe of Silver Lake is in the DFW Habitat map.
Use: Drainage basin
Comments: Site includes a cart path from corner of Harvard St. and Brandeis Circle towards the Lake, potentially offering a neighborhood access point on the Lake. An alternative might be to seek access to the Lake through City of Brockton land at the Water treatment plant.

(UPO-2.) Bosworth Circle Drainage Area

Map Parcel: 50/16R
Management: Highway Dept.
Owner: Town
Address: Bosworth Circle across from # 90.
Access: Street frontage
Zoning: Conservancy
Acreage: 1.08+ acres on parcel 23/2 alone.
Terrain/Vegetation: Sloping from road towards backland, wooded at edges, diked-off wetlands detention area in center
Use: Drainage basin
Comments: Walkable top of dike may offer access to private woodlands and Audubon land to northeast

(UPO-3) Furnace Pond

Map/ Parcel: 48/8, 48/6
Management: Northland Cranberries (As of 2001)
Owner: Northland Cranberries (As of 2001)
Address: Surrounded by Furnace, Elm and Old Plymouth Sts.
Access: From Furnace St. between two outlet streams
Zoning: AR on Pond and land to north; CB land to south
Acreage: 12.51 in pond; 5.25 on vacant private land on north side of Pond at junction of Elm and Furnace Sts.
Terrain/Vegetation: An impoundment surrounded by wooded land and a few houses. Vacant land is relatively high and wooded in center pointing into pond and low and partly wooded at edges.
Use: An impounded pond with habitat and scenic value, possibly holding water for bogs south of Laurel St. Two concrete control structures on Furnace St. appear un-maintained and un-managed. Deteriorated boards hold pond and upstream Stump Brook about two feet above stream bottom and

Comments: with provision for 6' +/- more elevation..
A valuable spot in a scenic neighborhood. Examine potential walkway, possibly along rear yards on north side of pond

(UPO-4) Closed BFI Landfill

Map/ Parcel: 78/1

Management: BFI (Browning Ferris Industries)

Owner: BFI

Address: Laurel St.

Access: Laurel St.

Zoning: I-2

Acreage: 35.9

Terrain/Vegetation: Sloping grassland on an angular man-made drumlin. The surface has a ring of relatively flat surfaces for drainage and is penetrated by occasional small vent pipes or related structures.

Use: A closed and capped landfill now generating electricity from captured methane, and with potential for skiing, sledding, hiking ... given



Halifax's Largest Hill - The Closed BFI Landfill

Comments: adequate protective treatment of the surface and the piping.
As the highest hill in town with views of surrounding bogs and wetlands, this has a potential for active use. Contact BFI to learn if / when settling and gas collection will allow alteration and use of the surface, and to explore possible arrangements.

(UPO-5) Land Near Probable Development

Various properties on or near developable land offer opportunities to ensure that the new neighborhoods retain a varied open space setting. The idea would be to acquire or otherwise protect such land prior to nearby development, so that new subdivisions are divided by significant open spaces, which in turn connect to other open space resources. Such potentially developable land includes sandy uplands surrounding cranberry bogs, undeveloped upland along existing roads, varied sites that are out of the designated floodplain or protected wetlands which are excluded under Halifax's zoning. While this land may be septicallly limited, much of it could be usable with the innovative/alternative systems allowable under the new Title V, or with local sewerage.

Possible opportunities include:

- (a.) The potentially developable ring of upland bounded by Pond, Elm and Hudson Streets. A fringe of upland between any potential housing and the swamp in the center of this area could be configured to extend between any future cul de sacs. It could give residents wooded all-year hiking trails around the swamp.
- (b.) The septicallly- limited, but potentially buildable land between River and South Sts. and the Winnetuxet River, and bracketing the powerline could use a similar approach. Acquiring some upland along the edge of the River, under the powerline, and along the edge of the swamp near South St. could give residents of subsequent development on the remaining land access to varied nearby open spaces and wildlands. Most of this is shown on the DFW Habitat map.
- (c.) Acquisition of a wide swath along Palmer Mill Brook from Franklin St. and extending to Monponsett St. could give permanent natural relief to any future residents of the barren agricultural Ch.61A land south of the Brook. It would also complement the proposed East–West natural corridor.

(UPO- 6) Selected Land under Chapters. 61, 61A and 61B

The town's approximately 3827.26 acres under Chs. 61 (forest- 88.08 acres), 61A (farming – 3525.16 acres), and 61B (recreation – 213.7 acres) total 32.42% of the town's land and are a much higher portion of its undeveloped land. These resources require close examination to determine when and how to exercise the town's right to match a developer's price when it is proposed for conversion to other uses. Recommended factors and examples are:

- (a.) Potentially rentable farm land such as the corn fields south of Walnut St. and the extensively tilled land on the southern part of Hemlock Island
- (b.) Scenically valuable open land such as the wet meadows and hayfields between Franklin and Monponsett Streets along the Plympton line. See page X-40.
- (c.) Land (much of it on the DFWG Habitat map) of scenic, habitat, and open space value such as the reservoir with many emergent plants and pine uplands just north of the Wildlands Trust of SE Mass. holdings on Elm St. (NP-20)

- (d.) Potentially developable upland around recently expanded cranberry bogs such as those just north of Orchard Circle or that just south of Spencer Drive.



Cranberry Bog Reservoir and Bog, with Potentially Buildable Sandy Upland to Rear

- (e) Bogs, streams and control structures with the potential for managing surface water flows. For example, the bog system at the western end of the Stump Brook can allow water to flow east through the intervening bog reservoir and on to Robbins Pond, or can divert it south under Rte. 106, past or through the bogs east of the landfill to the Winnetuxet River, and on to the Taunton River. The water remains in the Taunton Basin but bypasses the lower portion of the Robbins Pond sub-watershed.
See the Old Colony Planning Council's 2002 DEP-funded "Robbins Pond Outlet Sub-Watershed Source Water Protection Plan."
- (f.) Any extensive, potentially developable land suitable for joint development / preservation on the Town's own terms (e.g.. specified needed housing combined with selective open space protection), such as the open land south of Palmer Mill Brook.

(UPO-7) Streamside Lands

The Town's many other streams (outside of Chs.61, 61A and 61B land) are assets, particularly as wildlife habitat and areas for safe flood storage. They offer much to see, but are very often too low and wet to allow much opportunity for trails without circuitous routes or the use of boardwalks. A systematic inventory and analysis of the town's streams is need to better use and protect them, and to check the feasibility of proposed stream- side trails. See recommendations.



Ch.61a Cranberry Bog Reservoir Land and Pine Uplands Sloping from the Wildlands Trust of S.E. Mass Elm Street Preserve to (Site NP-2), to the Edge of Open Water

(UPO 8) The Wood Street Wet Meadows

Map/ Parcel:	117/1
Management:	Owners
Owner:	Cumberland Farms
Address:	South of Wood St. on Middleboro Line
Access:	Extensive frontage on Wood and River Sts.
Zoning:	Industrial
Acreage:	532+/- in Halifax and a comparable amount in Middleboro
Terrain/Vegetation:	Low, rolling grasslands and cornfields,(largely on the DFW Habitat map.) Very wet with extensive drainage ditches in the center
Use:	Former munitions testing area, small ancient cemetery, cornfields along higher perimeter, wildlife habit in wetter low areas, plus a model airplane club.
Comments:	Extensive wetlands habitat and dramatic open landscape. Though wet and partly agricultural, they are zoned Industrial, not Conservancy. The site deserves protection and management by an appropriate agency, perhaps the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

(UPO-9) Open Fields and Wet Meadows on Plympton Line

These lands are similar in character, habitat and scenic value to the Wood Street Meadows and are discussed under UPO-7, Ch. 61 lands.

Facing Page: Aerial view of Wood St Wet Meadows with Wood St. on top, River St. to the left; cornfields on higher ground along Wood .and River Sts., and extensive drainage ditches and ponds from past alterations. Solid line is Halifax / Middleboro boundary.



Bleak but Beautiful – The Wood St. Cornfields and Wet Meadows, and an Ancient Cemetery

(UPO-10) Burrage Pond

Map/ Parcel:	2/1
Management:	Owner
Owner:	Northland Cranberries [Since acquired by Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.]
Address:	East of Elm St., along Hanson Town Line
Access:	From bog road off of Elm St. across from Pond St. and from Indian Crossway and bog roads in Hanson
Acreage:	An estimated 202 acres (partly in Hanson), largely in a 792 +/- tract in Halifax .
Terrain/Vegetation:	Pond with open water and some emergent plants divided by a peninsula from the north and blending into wooded swamp in Hanson.
Use:	This is a cranberry reservoir with gates to supply adjacent bogs, but it also provides the “open bog landscape, scenic vistas and undeveloped habitat” noted in the Open Space Plan.
Comments:	<p>Long-term future depends on the amount of continued cranberry growing on the state-purchased land (versus reversion to wildlands or other uses, according to the Management Plan being prepared in cooperation with the towns.</p> <p>The varied, complex pattern of water bodies, bogs, excavated sand hills, and other land forms offers much to see. The proximity to the Indian Crossway segment of the Bay Circuit Trail to the north, and to Wayne Barnes’ unique dike crossing the upper Plymouth St. Pond to the southeast suggests integrating these lands with the Bay Circuit Trail.</p>

(UPO-11) Land Connecting Major Open Areas and Resource Areas

This category includes:

- (a.) Properties and rights needed to complete the Town Hall to Robbins Pond / Stump Brook Corridor Greenway
- (b) Land and rights needed to complete the Wood St. to Turkey Swamp Trail discussed above.
- (c.) The banks of the Winnetuxed River from River St. to the town holdings at (TOS-4) and along the adjacent Ch.61 properties to the east. These would complete much the South Halifax East-West Natural Corridor proposed in the 1998 Open Space Plan.
- (d.) Limited Winnetuxet River frontage from the 61A lands west of Thompson Street to the nearby Striar Conservancy and Randall /Hilliard Reserve.
- (e.) UPO-12 Halifax Garden Company Site

Map Parcel:	21/ 1
Management:	Private Owners .
Owner:	Private Owners
Address	Garden Road , west of Holmes St.
Access:	Garden Road and a dirt road running into the site
Zoning:	Industrial
Acreage:	Estimated at 32 to 48.1+/- 1
Terrain/Vegetation:	Low, sloping from road and railroad tracks on north towards a central fresh marsh. Open land interspersed with wetlands trees and shrubs.
Use:	Former greenhouse sites, fields, woods and marsh, next to MBTA rail station, serving as wildlife habitat and informal open space
Comments:	Area contains and surrounds a small residential cul de sac, and is bordered by low-lying lots along Holmes St. The site's location and conditions limit industrial potential. It is more suitable for potential MBTA parking expansion, limited station -oriented retail or housing , local open space/wildlife habitat and possible community gardens.

Other

Crystal Lake Road in Halifax.

Comments:	This is an area of isolated, generally contiguous small (2400 sq. ft.) lots once offered as campsites. They are generally on paper streets between the pond, the railroad, and the Pembroke line. They land could be left as wild land or be converted to a few house lots through re-parcelization and limited road construction.
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D. Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The following draws on the Goals and Objectives and under-lying values of the 1987 Open Space / Bay Circuit Plan and the 1998 Halifax Open Space Plan, the findings of the community survey done for the second plan, and the present effort.

The Survey found that:

- Respondents saw Halifax it as a Rural Town (330), rather than as a suburb of Boston, Brockton, or Plymouth (155).
- Their favorite aspect of the town was its country setting (134), “small town” feel (93), and quiet (64).
- Their greatest dislikes were distance from retail services (78), and excess growth (46).

Observation: The present development pattern with large-lot subdivisions and frontage lots along existing roads and scattered as-of-right commercial growth along Plymouth St. is costing Halifax much of the desired “country setting” and “small town feel”. This makes protection of the remaining open space and scenic areas important even though that alone can not reverse these trends.

- Residents wanted any residential growth to be well-regulated and in already developed areas (120), rather than spread evenly (74), or regulated in undeveloped areas (37), and 81 respondents wanted no growth at all.
- To an even greater extent, residents wanted any business growth to be well-regulated and in already developed areas (227), rather than spread evenly (58), regulated in undeveloped areas (46), or unrestricted (1), and 62 respondents wanted no such growth at all.
- In terms of desired businesses residents wanted to see a grocery store (260), working farms (235), agri-business (235), home businesses (158) and recreation businesses (149).

Observation: The desire for more convenient retail services, the dislike of excess growth overall, and the preference for planned commercial development growth in an already developed area supports this Plan’s recommendation for discouraging visually-cluttered strip commercial development and concentrating needed business growth in the commercial center.

- Residents gave first priority to preserving open spaces for water and conservation needs (293), second priority to preserving places and buildings of historic value (188 and 186 respectively), and third priority to preserving open space for recreation.
- Regarding the relative importance of recreational open space vs. natural habitat, 143 preferred natural habitat, 20 preferred recreational open space, and 180 wanted a balance.
- Nearly all respondents favored preserving agricultural land (294 vs. 53 no or undecided).
- To preserve wetlands (and implicitly other less regulated open space), respondents favored using zoning (174), mandatory dedication by developers (152), town purchase (125), and conservation restrictions (91).

Observation: Wetlands already are protected by Halifax’s zoning provision excluding protected wetlands and flood plain from the minimum lot area, and by the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Bill, and therefore need less protection than potentially buildable open space. Mandatory dedication of subdivision land is prohibited in Massachusetts though Planning Boards may hold land for possible town purchase as discussed below. Open space dedication under zoning requires specific provisions, generally through a Special Permit, while voluntary dedications usually involve land of little value.

- On major overall issues, respondents wanted (unspecified) “Regulation of housing development” (277), “acquisition of town conservation land” (240), more industrial development (68), and extended water service (58).

The most desired recreational facilities were:

General conservation land	(191)
Bike trails	(180)
Hiking and skiing trails	(116)
Fields for team sports	(115)
A recreation building	(109)
Family picnic areas	(105)
Children’s play areas	(91)

In descending order respondents also wanted Town Common improvements (89), a large multi-purpose park (80), small local parks (78), more public access for boating (77), an ice skating rink (70), a swimming pool (62), an amphitheater (50), more tennis courts (34), and a golf course (31).

Observation: Many of the recreational responses were compatible with large-scale open space protection and creation of trails linking these holdings.

Goal 1. Preserve Valuable Land and other Resources through Acquisition and Regulation

Objectives/approaches

- a. Identify, purchase or otherwise protect land next to sensitive eco-systems
- b. Identify and protect land:
 - Next to existing protected open space to create larger, more diverse holdings
 - Allowing better access and connecting corridors for the public and wildlife.
- c. Adopt regulations enhancing open space within or next to new neighborhoods

Goal 2. Meet Shoreline Neighborhood Needs for Conservation Land, Public Lake Access, Recreation Space, and Lake-Protecting Septic System Compliance.

Objectives/Approaches

- a. Identify/purchase land in dense lakeshore neighborhoods for shared waste disposal facilities and recreation.
- b. Increase public access to Monponsett Pond
- c. Establish Lakeside trails for both human and wildlife use.

Goal 3. Provide Adjacent or Nearby Open Space Settings for both Existing and New Neighborhoods.

Objectives/Approaches

- a. Identify probable growth areas from soil maps, accessibility, recent trends etc.
- b. Identify nearby open space opportunities and areas of environmental, historic, scenic or water supply significance
- c. Review the potential of land in Chapters 61, 61A and 61B

- d. Prepare to act on the town's first refusal purchase rights under these provisions, possibly through a town-sponsored joint development approach. This could combine open space with selective needed housing, commercial or institutional uses.
- e. Acquire appropriate land in anticipation of development.
- f. If advance acquisition is not possible, encourage the Planning Board to hold key parcels for possible town acquisition through Section 81U of the Subdivision Control Law.

Goal 4. Develop / Promote Open Space Linkages with Adjacent Communities

Objectives/Approaches

- a. Work with the Bay Circuit Alliance and surrounding towns to complete or complement local portions of the Bay Circuit Trail
- b. Examine and pursue other opportunities for collaborative efforts, e.g.;
 - Explore such opportunities where the Monponsett St./ Turkey Swamp properties reach the Plympton town line
 - Develop common policies towards the Wood St. meadows and similar land on the Plympton line with Middleboro and Plympton
 - Work with Hanson and Northland Cranberries to connect the Burrage Pond area to the Indian Crossway segment of the Bay Circuit in Hanson
 - Sign and support use of the Wompanoag Canoe Passage.

Goal 5. Expand Recreational Opportunities for all Residents

Objectives/Approaches

- a. Explore opportunities for expanded recreation opportunities on present town lands
- b. Increase recreation opportunities for the handicapped, and provide access to all facilities
- c. Where possible, expand activities at larger, more accessible locations
- d. Identify and expand water-based opportunities such as community sailing, and windsurfing or scuba diving lessons

Goal 6. Protect Present and Potential Water Supplies and Recharge Areas

Objectives/ Approaches

- a. Review present Aquifer and Well Protection Zoning
- b. Propose expanded coverage of uses and mapping if needed
- c. Identify and propose any needed land acquisition
- d. Carefully administer the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Act.

Goal 7. Protect and Preserve the Town's Surface Waters; Ponds, Streams and Floodplains

Objectives/Approaches

- a. Pursuit of opportunities for combined flood control / recharge and open space
- b. Manage Stump Brook dam and others for flood control and agriculture in cooperation with owners and other interests

Goal 8. Protect and Preserve Halifax's Natural, Historic and Scenic Character

Approaches / Objectives

- a. Preserve Historic Properties and their settings
- b. Designate Scenic Roads requiring a Planning Board Hearing before any tree cutting or altering of stone
- c. Support the work of the Historic District Commission administering the new Historic District

Goal 9. Encourage Broader Citizen Participation in Planning, Conservation and Recreation Activities

Approaches / Objectives

- a. Revive the late 1980s multi-board Halifax Planning Council
- b. Hold joint information-gathering hearings when several boards are regulating one project

Goal 10. Clarify Authority and Responsibility for Programs and Maintenance at Various Town-Owned Properties

Approaches / Objectives

- a. Define the roles / responsibilities of the Conservation Commission, the Park Commission, the Youth and Recreation Commission, the Highway Department and the School Department in acquiring / maintaining land and facilities, and operating programs.

E. Funding Resources

Possible funding sources follow. For more detail see the Open Space Plan.

- 1. Town general funds
- 2. Town Community Preservation Act funds, if established
- 3. State matching funds for communities with local Community Preservation Funds.
- 4. The DEM Riverways Program, and its Greenways and Trail programs
- 5. State Self Help funds and state-administered U.S. Land and Water Conservation funds
- 6. State (DEM, DFW) funds for direct acquisition where appropriate
- 7. Resources of organizations such as the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, The Trust for Public Land and the Nature Conservancy
- 8. The value of tax-deductions for land donations.

F. Recommendations

These reflect the 1987 and 1998 Open Space Plans and the present effort. Those followed by “1987” or “1998” come from the respective Plan while those followed by “2001” are from this effort. Recommendations from 1987 are listed only when they have not yet been accomplished.

Acquisitions

- 1. Acquire parcels along the Stump Brook Flood Plain - 1998

2. Acquire land at the end of Lake St. for a local park/ conservation area at mouth of Stetson Brook and relate it to the reported past trail along the northeast edge of East Monponsett Pond - 1998
3. Seek conservation restrictions to protect land south of Elementary School grounds - 1998
4. Identify and acquire sites for combined local open space / recreation and shared sewage disposal fields in dense neighborhoods such as Lake St., Annawon Drive, Lingan St. and Ocean Ave. - 1998
5. Work with Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts to expand its Elm St. Property (NP- 2) to include the adjacent pine-covered Ch.61A uplands sloping to open water - 2001
6. Acquire lots 64/4, 53/46, and 53/47 in order to integrate the shoreline portion of Richmond Park and the East Cemetery, to protect use of road encircling the Cemetery, to allow limited cemetery expansion, and to incorporate a vacant shore lot in the site - 2001.
7. Develop a comprehensive open space acquisition program seeking sites that complement existing and expected residential development, and which combine a maximum of values for wildlife, historic significance, recreation potential, water supply protection, and scenery – 1987
8. Work with owners, state agencies (DEM, DFW), other communities, land trusts and other entities such as the Audubon Society to protect the unique open wet meadows landscape and habitat southwest of Wood St. on the Middleboro line, and west of Monponsett St. on the Plympton line, while keeping much of the cornfields and other tillable land available for agriculture, perhaps through lease to farmers - 2001
9. Seek riverfront land between town's River St. parcel (TOS-4; Map 101/Lot 15) and the Lucas Brook (flowing to the Winnetuxet River), and develop an access trail along the stream running through that parcel - 2001
10. Acquire the remaining Halifax Garden Company land around the MBTA rail station (which the MBTA does not expect to use for added parking) and plan its reuse for wetlands habitat protection, local open space and community gardens - 2001.
11. Identify land under Chs. 61, 61A and 61B with the potential to fill gaps in trails or to preserve significant resources, for example some of the fields and woods south of the country club - 2001
12. Acquire portions of maps/parcels 2/1 and 71/1 between the Town's Hemlock Lane land and the Bosworth Road / Deer Run neighborhood to give the residents a permanent open space setting - 2001.



Wet Meadows under Ch. 61 East of Hayward St. near Plympton Line, and a New, Small Horse Farm

13. Acquire 12.5-acre Furnace Pond from Northland Cranberries and 5.25 shoreline acres of woods and open lands at the junction of Elm and Furnace Sts. from private owners to protect this scenic resource and ensure control of pond and stream levels - 2001.
14. Acquire selected parcels or rights-of-way in South Halifax (e.g., between the River and the power line) for the Bay Circuit Trail and / or the East-West Winnetuxet Corridor - 1998
15. Acquire easements where needed for stream side access, particularly along the Wampanoag Canoe Passage – 1987
16. Buy selected developable cranberry bog upland when offered for joint development or preservation.

Trail Development

1. Develop a town-wide trail system connecting public lands and using all appropriate interests; full ownership, easements, licenses to pass etc. Seek sufficient width and screening to avoid intrusion on adjacent private land and to maintain the natural character of the trail corridor. Include markers explaining natural and historic sites, and provide facilities for all users, handicapped and able-bodied. - 1987
2. Work with landowners to allow public use of the reported Northeast Monponsett trail and set up a trail maintenance group - 1998
4. Develop trails, water access opportunities and other water resource compatible facilities for the able-bodied and the handicapped at the YMCA well site - 1998
5. Work with the Town of Hanson, the Bay Circuit Alliance, and the owners to negotiate rights

to use the Cranberry Bog-owned Dike Road from Halifax into Hanson and to develop connections to and through portions of the Indian Crossway west of Burrage Pond, and through portions of the Great Cedar Swamp - 2001

6. Work with equestrians, trail bike riders, hikers and other potential users to identify needs and to ensure maximum feasible, compatible multi-use of trails
7. In areas with soil or water table limitations, make trails passable with boardwalks through wetlands or use of materials such as woodchips to make slippery clay soils like those in the Wood Street Wet Meadows safe for hikers and riders.- 2001
8. As suggested earlier by the Plymouth County Conservation District and by the 1987 Open Space Plan, link the Town Hall area to Robbin's Pond in East Bridgewater via the Audubon Sanctuary, present and prospective holdings and easements in the Stump Brook / Stump Pond / Furnace Pond corridor, and the intervening cranberry bog reservoir dike road which crosses the powerline r.o.w. at the town line - 1998
9. In the opposite direction, include the historic Stump Brook bypass canal in a trail segment going from the Town's Stump Brook water land through the Audubon Sanctuary and on towards the Morse Bros. cranberry bogs – 2001
10. Work with adjacent towns' Open Space Committees and other interests to complete the local portion of the Bay Circuit Trail (now routed through Hanson) or a potential alternate route, preferably through the proposed South Halifax East-West Corridor (the Winnetuxet / Monponsett Brook Trail) or the Wampanoag Canoe Passage – 1987 (very detailed recommendations) - 1998
11. Explore trails along the carpath / road at northern edge of intervening bogs to allow walking from the Mobile Home Park through the Monponsett St./Turkey Swamp land (TOS-3) and on to Monponsett St.; also seek a route from the Park through TOS-3, Water Land (W-3) and neighborhoods to the Commercial Center. - 2001
12. At the Wood St./ Winnetuxet River lot (TOS-6) investigate developing a stream-side trail from Wood St. through this holding, adjacent Ch. 61A land, and a small private holding to South St., then on between more 61A land and the Kumpenen Bog land to Hayward St., and possibly along the Palmer Mill Brook to the powerline and Palmer Mill Brook lot (TOS-5) (In some areas wetlands may make streamside passage impractical.) - 2001
13. Continue the above to Monponsett St - 2001
14. Explore the potential of 4 lots and a drainage easement on Chestnut St. abutting the Twin Lakes development to provide an access point to Twin Lakes, allowing residents to walk or peddle to the MBTA commuter rail station. However a path between houses on Chestnut St across from Hickory St. would be more direct.



View South from the Cranberry Reservoir Dike towards Rte .106

Management of Land, Water and Historic Resources

1. Work with South Halifax land-owners to identify and acquire rights-of-way for an East-West Winnetuxet Corridor for people and wildlife -1998
2. Acquire small parcels or easements to get easy access to landlocked public land like that west of Indian Path Road or the Stump Brook Well land north of Stony Weir Road and a few hundred feet west of the Audubon land - 2001
3. Work to create other hiking, boating and wildlife migration corridors through the town and into adjoining towns –1987, 1998
4. Include the Monponsett St./Turkey Swamp Area (TOS-3) in defined conservation lands and consider sale/transfer to the State or joint management with DEM/DFW.
5. Examine the possible eventual lease of the abandoned bogs on the Kumpenen Bog land (TC-4) south of Hayward St. to a grower, particularly to an organic grower - 2001
6. Work with private owners to open up scenic vistas through selective tree-cutting, for example, to expose the bogs and open water east of Elm St. - 1998
7. Continue systematically preserving individual historic sites and structures - 2001
8. Continue efforts to lessen nutrients, bacteria and other pollutants in the Monponsett Ponds with methods such as local sewerage, use of composting toilets, and control of

parking lot runoff, preferably in cooperation with the Town of Hanson – 2001

9. Investigate and determine the function, prospects and open space /habitat value of the extensive cranberry bog reservoir west of Elm St. and north of Rte. 106 - 2001
10. Examine the potential for public access to Crystal Lake/ Muddy Pond from Crescent Ave. or Thompson St. in Pembroke
11. Do a comprehensive stream study, inventorying the water quality, seasonal flows, adjacent land uses, existing / potential access points, flooding threats, walkability of the banks and flood plain, ownership, and opportunities for flood storage, recharge, and habitat / open space enhancement of Halifax's streams; and developing a comprehensive multi-use stream management plan - 2001
12. Define the roles / responsibilities of the Conservation Commission, the Park Commission, the Youth and Recreation Commission, the Highway Dept and the School Dept. in acquiring / maintaining land and facilities, and operating programs - 1998
13. Create and support neighborhood Open Space Improvement Associations to monitor conditions and advocate for local public areas - 1998

Recreation

1. Add new handicapped-accessible equipment at HOPS Playground and build a Wheels Park behind new Police station (both underway or committed) - 1998
2. Design and build park and new recreational fields and less-demanding facilities e.g. for picnicking, bocce ball, shuffleboard ...in several well-spaced parts of the town (e.g, at the Summit St. and Stump Brook holdings) where feasible - 1998
3. Design lighting for courts complex and play fields behind the Elementary School - 1998
4. Make all facilities and recreation sites ADA accessible – 1987, 1998.
5. Add play equipment, and adult benches, tables and exercise circuits at existing / new playgrounds in congested neighborhoods - 1998
6. Build a dock at the YMCA well land to allow access by boat and boating programs - 1998
7. Create a sailing program at a suitable, accessible site such as the YMCA land, or if that is infeasible, at a potentially available site and building on Wamssutta Ave. – 1998, 2001
8. Explore opportunities for other water-based sports such as kayaking, windsurfing and scuba diving lessons - 2001
9. Develop Community gardens on suitable land such as the open, sunny Land Trust of SE Mass land west of Elm St., the vacant Halifax Garden Co, land near MBTA Rail

station or recently acquired farm land.

10. Work with BFI and with representative of Bridgewater and East Bridgewater to explore multi-community, multi-purpose recreational uses (skiing, sledding, hiking...) of the closed BFI landfill; to identify needed modifications to the surface and related legal issues; and to explore possible funding through the Small Town portion of the state's Urban Self Help Program. This allows recreation and encourages multi-community efforts - 2001
11. Work with the Town Highway Department and other bodies to increase the head room and water depth at the Rte. 58 Monponsett Ponds culvert (below) so that boats larger than canoes, kayaks and personal watercraft may cross between the two ponds - 2001
12. Work with the Audubon Society to identify acceptable, low-impact recreation uses for the Audubon Sanctuary.
13. Add benches / tables for adult socializing and possibly an adult exercise circuit, and consider adding tennis courts at Matt Whitcomb Park - 1987, 2001
14. Examine Monponsett St. lots 19/ 1,2 as a potential West Pond access point - 2001
15. Explore the potential of ten lots bordered by Annawon Drive, Hemlock Road and Buttonwood Road for a neighborhood playground - 2001



Minimal Clearance under Rte. 58 Allowing only Smallest Craft to Pass between the East and West Ponds.

16. Explore creation of a "multi-recreational court" at either the Elementary School or at a major conservation / recreation holding.- 1987

Implementation Measures

Funding

1. Establish and fund a \$100,000/year Conservation Acquisitions Account - 1998
2. Adopt the Community Preservation Act allowing a slight property tax surcharge for local open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation purposes, and seek dedicated state matching funds for major acquisitions.
3. Pursue trail development assistance from sources such as the DEM Greenways and Trails Program - 2001
4. Establish policies, strategies (e.g., joint development or delegation of rights to a land trust) and funding mechanisms (e.g., use of Community Preservation Funds) in order to respond effectively when Ch.61, 61A and 61B lands come on the market.

Regulations

1. Adopt regulations (e.g., density bonuses) encouraging development in wooded areas rather than on open fields, and on back land rather on frontage (Form A) - 2001
2. Adopt development regulations and open space design guidelines allowing / encouraging preservation of usable open space within a development while maintaining overall density standards. - 1998
3. Develop a system of joint multi-board reviews of large, complex projects possibly building on the present successful site plan review process –1987, 1998.
4. Strengthen consideration of water quality issues in site plan reviews and Special Permit requests - 1987
5. Encourage owners of significant farmland to enter the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program - 1987
6. Support and advise the Planning Board in requiring developers to hold key open spaces for potential acquisition under MGL 41, Section 81-U of the Subdivision control law - 1987.
7. Protect larger-scale town character, streetscape and existing neighborhoods by amending the Zoning Bylaw to limit strip commercial development on Plymouth Street and to encourage concentrated, compact commercial development at the junction of Rtes 58 and 106 - 2001.
8. Review and strengthen the scope and extent of the Aquifer and Well Protection Bylaw - 2001
10. Vigorously enforce the streamside buffer provisions of the Rivers Bill.
11. Explore use of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) provisions allowing land owners to

forgo maximum allowed development in one area and transfer these rights to a less sensitive, more appropriate area - 2001

12. Pursue the previously proposed Burrage Pond / Stump Brook, Great Cedar Swamp / Monponsett Corridor Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) -1987

