



Town of Lexington

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Update 2015





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Plan Summary

The Town of Lexington is a suburban community with an interesting array of open spaces and parks within its borders. The Town has addressed open space, natural resource, and recreation issues on a number of different fronts as described in this plan. The Town recognizes the need to improve and upgrade park facilities and efforts to preserve and protect existing open spaces are widely recognized and deeply felt by Lexington residents.

This document represents an update to the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Since the adoption of that plan, the Town has embarked on a number of initiatives that has resulted in implementation of a number of its recommendations. A list of Conservation and Recreation accomplishments is included in Section 9, Seven-Year Action Plan. This 2015 Plan includes an updated inventory of Lexington's open spaces, documents open space and recreation needs, establishes priorities for preservation of natural and historical resources, provides an update to its capital planning program, incorporates plans for new programs such as the Community Center and the ACROSS Lexington pathway system, and establishes an ambitious program to continue the expansion and modernization of its park and recreation system. Overall, this Plan reaffirms Lexington's desire to meet the following goals:

- Goal 1.** Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.
- Goal 2.** Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.
- Goal 3.** Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.
- Goal 4.** Provide a balance of recreational activities across all demographic groups of Lexington citizens.
- Goal 5.** Enhance access to and connectivity between open space and recreation areas.



- Goal 6.** Acquire and protect parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.
- Goal 7.** Protect and maintain Lexington's water resources.
- Goal 8.** Maintain and expand Lexington's open space and recreational infrastructure.
- Goal 9.** Expand upon and create new opportunities for bicycling and walking throughout Lexington.

Lexington's open space and park system is a precious and limited resource that has grown over the years to provide a wide variety of opportunities for local and area residents. This Plan presents open space goals, objectives, and actions that will guide the Town's open space and recreation philosophy, planning, and management through 2021.

2

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to provide both a targeted framework and strategy for future growth and management of Lexington's open space and recreation resources. It is an update of the *2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan* and comes at a time when the demand for open space and recreation has remained high. This updated plan will assist Lexington in making intelligent decisions about its future open space and recreation policies, particularly with respect to greenway connections and community agriculture, as well as maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities. The purpose of this plan is to make those decisions clear and prioritize them relative to the Town's needs. This document is dynamic and meant to effect change in the way that Lexington plans for and manages its open space and recreation resources.

Previous Open Space and Recreation Plans

1976 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Lexington's first comprehensive planning effort coincided with the establishment of the Conservation Commission in the mid-1960's.

Realizing that the recreation needs of the Town were not adequately addressed, a groundswell of citizens urged and supported *A Master Plan for Recreation and Open Space for Lexington, Massachusetts, Lexington Planning Board, November 1976*.



The 1976 Plan was initiated by a Town Meeting appropriation. A special advisory committee produced the plan after two years of work by professional consultants and the advisory group—made up of representatives of the Planning Board, Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, senior citizens, youth groups, athletic leagues, and the Athletic Director for Lexington Public Schools, among others.

Envisioned in that plan was the acquisition of 1,080 acres of open space land for possible recreation and preservation of critical wetlands. The initial acquisition planning was branched into recreation, land management, wetland, and a vast array of human and conservation needs.

1977 Conservation Master Plan

The 1977 *Conservation Master Plan*, supported by the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen and approved by Massachusetts' Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, was based upon the plan of 1976 and refined aspects of conservation planning, such as land acquisition and management, not detailed in the 1976 Plan.

Immediately after the submission of the 1977 Plan, enormous strides were made in bringing conservation and recreation concerns together. The Conservation Administrator became Director of Conservation and Recreation, and a full-time recreation coordinator was hired. Accomplishments included the building of the Center Pool Complex and creation of more diversified programming.

The arrival of Proposition 2 ½ in 1980 froze plan implementation and caused cutbacks in recreation programs and newly budgeted land management funds. Town staffs were not increased, though workloads did, and funding was a constant problem. These distractions delayed land acquisition and implementation of many programs recommended by the plan.

1984 Open Space and Recreation Plan

The 1976 Plan became the “base plan” for the 1984 *Open Space and Recreation Plan*. By 1984, Lexington owned 940 acres of protected open space, with another 60 acres under conservation restrictions.

The 1984 *Open Space and Recreation Plan* was prepared by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee, with considerable assistance from the Planning Board and Metropolitan Area Planning Council Representatives. The plan was supported by the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, and approved by Massachusetts' Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.



First attempts at this plan were initiated by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee in the summer of 1983, with a first draft attempted several months later. In January, the Conservation Commission realized that the plan needed more documentation and broader input from citizens. Fortunately, the plan's needs were supplied when Stewardship Committee members, recreation enthusiasts, and concerned citizens aided immensely with significant contributions.

The quality and quantity of response from a stewards meeting and two public hearings (one for conservation, one for recreation), attended by 40 citizens representing a broad range of interests (Town Meeting members, sports leagues, Garden Club, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, senior citizens, youth groups, Selectmen) was enormous, and the result of this effort and enthusiasm was the completion of the 1984 plan.

1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan

In 1990, an attempt was made to update the 1984 Plan, but new guidelines issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Department of Conservation Services forced facilitators of this plan to realize that "preparation of this plan involves more than the updating originally envisioned."

At the time, the Planning Department was in the process of preparing two significant reports—one on Land Use and the other on Population Characteristics— which would not be completed until 1993. A comprehensive study of the Town's brooks would also not be completed until 1993.

It became apparent that the writing of this plan should be delayed until these reports, which were to contain significant information concerning open space and recreational properties, were complete.

In 1994, the Report on Community Conversations held in 1993 was published. In 1995, the Commonwealth approved the Open Space Bond Bill, allowing towns and cities a chance to apply for Self-Help funding. Also in 1995 the Land Acquisition Planning Committee was formed to "carefully review all of the open space in Town, both private and publicly owned, that does not have permanent protection." Additionally, the *Historical Guide to Open Space in Lexington* by Thomas P. Sileo was published in 1995, and nearly 200 acres of open space was transferred to the Conservation Commission. It became clear that the time was right to complete a new open space plan. The result of this realization, *The 1997 Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan*, focused on three important elements of the Town:

- Water resources
- Existing open space properties



- Historic integrity

The 1997 Plan also recommended a broader approach to accomplishing these goals. It established a five-year action plan for accomplishing open space acquisition and stewardship, as well as expansion of the recreational programs and facilities available to Lexington residents. A number of the recommendations were accomplished, although some land targeted for future acquisition was lost to development.

2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Unlike the 1997 Plan, the 2009 Plan aimed to take a more specific approach to accomplishing its goals. The 1997 Plan's broad focus set policy goals that were generally maintained in the 2009 update. By providing specifically focused goals and action items, the 2009 Plan attempted to set the stage for more progressive open space and recreation planning in the future.

The 2009 Plan used the information from the 1997 Plan and substantially updated it in conformance with the *March 2008 Open Space Planners Workbook* revisions as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Although the 2009 Plan recommended specific actions, its flexibility accommodated a realistic and practical approach to preserving, enhancing, and expanding the Town's open space and recreational resources. Thus, the contents of the 2009 Plan included an updated and revised inventory of open space parcels, an open space and recreation strategy in the new five-year action plan, a program for administering and achieving the plan's goals and objectives, and a prioritization of those recommendations.

As part of the 2009 planning process, Richard Thuma, a member of the Recreation Committee, undertook an extensive survey for the Town to determine compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with respect to accessibility to Town-owned open spaces and recreational facilities.

The purpose of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan update was to:

- Utilize the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan from 1997 and update its information to create a document that outlines a five-year plan of action with the Town agencies and Lexington's community organizations for the protection, caretaking, and enhancement of its park facilities and open spaces.
- Make the Town eligible for Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and increase its Commonwealth Capital score.



- Increase awareness and knowledge among residents who live in Lexington and other nearby communities about the open space and recreation amenities and needs that exist in Town.
- Formulate a stronger community base that will assist with administering and implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan and sustain a commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Town's open space and recreation resources.

2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

The *2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update* is organized to provide an overall baseline of information regarding what physical resources exist in Lexington regarding properties, facilities, and infrastructure. The plan serves as an informational resource that inventories and describes resources, opportunities, and challenges. Lexington should consider this Open Space and Recreation Plan Update a blueprint to follow for the next seven years that will help the Town attain its goals and objectives regarding open space and natural resources.

Much was accomplished since the preparation of the 2009 Plan. A description of these accomplishments can be found in Section 9. This Plan builds on the goals of the 2009 Plan and its implementation program to expand upon the ongoing and planned programs for the next seven years. The Town has created new opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in open space and recreation activities through such programs as *ACROSS Lexington* and the soon-to-be-completed Community Center, and these are described in detail within the Plan. Additionally, the Town recently prepared its first Recreation Strategic Work Plan. The goals and objectives (see Section 8) have been revised to reflect Lexington's current needs, which are detailed in Section 7.

Planning Process and Public Participation

Planning Process

VHB, the consultant selected to prepare this plan, worked closely with the Lexington Recreation Department, Conservation Department, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, Greenways Corridor Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, and the broader Lexington community throughout the planning process. To ensure a solid line of communication between all the parties involved in preparation of the Plan, periodic coordination meetings were held both in the Lexington Town Office

Building and via teleconference calls. Geoffrey Morrison-Logan served as project manager for the Plan Update with Peter Coleman, Supervisor of Recreation and Community Programs; Karen Simmons, Director of Recreation and Community Programs; Karen Mullins, Director of Community Development/Conservation Administrator; Jordan McCarron, Conservation Stewardship Program Coordinator; and Aaron Henry, Assistant Planning Director, of the Town of Lexington providing direction and support.

A key step in the planning process was site visits to significant open space and recreation parcels in Lexington during the fall of 2014. The tour was guided by staff from the Recreation and Community Programs and Conservation Departments and provided a means of gaining insight into the condition, type, and quality of Lexington's open space and recreation resources.

After becoming acquainted with Lexington's resources, work began on formulating a draft of the Plan. The draft was heavily shaped by the public participation portion of the planning process, which will be detailed in the next section.

The update of the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan was a highly collaborative effort that focused heavily on how to best implement the Plan. Moving forward, residents and visitors will have numerous open space and recreation opportunities to look forward to as this Plan is implemented.

*Pine Meadows Golf Club
(left) and Idylwilde
Community Garden*

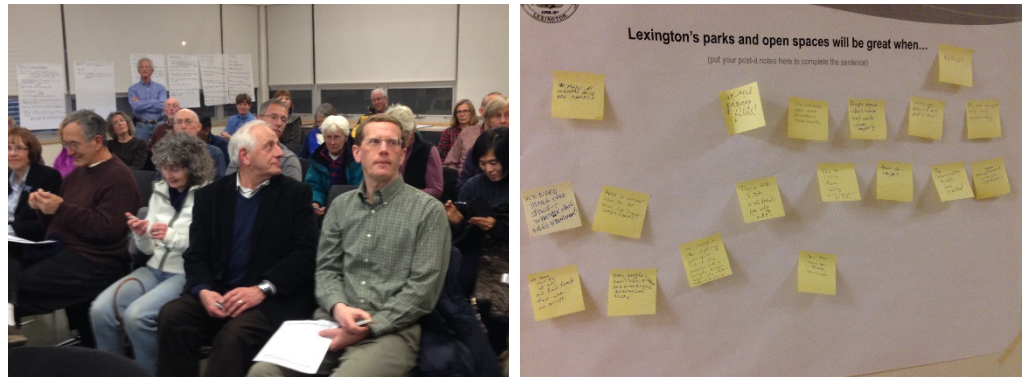


Public Participation

Public input was extensively sought during the planning process through various channels designed to reach the broadest possible audience. Two public forums were held in the process of updating the Plan. These events were advertised through online and print media in an effort to equally engage the entire Lexington population. Both of the forums were held at the Samuel Hadley Public Services Building with the first occurring in November 2014 and the second held in February 2015. The forums served to inform the public on open space and recreation planning in general, the progress of the Plan, as well as to seek input on how to shape the new Plan. The forums provided valuable insight into what the citizens of Lexington felt the most important areas of the Plan should be and how to successfully fulfill them. Two key exercises were performed at the first public forum to reach these conclusions:

- A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) exercise
- A voting exercise designed to validate and update the goals and objectives from the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Public participation at the November 2014 public forum



In addition to the two public forums held in the update process, there was also an open space and recreation survey distributed via the Town, both online and in print, to Lexington residents for the span of one month and half from the end of October to mid-December. The online survey was available to anyone with computer access and the paper version was made available at several Town office locations. The availability of the survey was advertised through various local media outlets as well as the Town website. The survey received a total of 838 responses. Printed surveys collected were manually input into the online survey system for easy data export and analysis. All of the survey results were then tallied and analyzed by VHB.

The 2015 Plan Update also employed the latest online public engagement tool called MindMixer. The Town of Lexington maintains a well-recognized MindMixer site named LexEngage where residents and visitors alike can share opinions and engage



in discussions. New topics featuring the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update were created to solicit public input through LexEngage.

The plan update was also discussed with the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Conservation Commission.

The survey results can be seen in Appendix A along with a voting dot and SWOT exercise summary from the first public forum and the summary report of the MindMixer topics.

Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

According to MassGIS and the 2010 U.S. Census data, half of all the census block groups in Lexington were identified as Environmental Justice populations as a result of either minority or foreign born populations exceeding 25 percent of the total block group population (see *Map 2, Environmental Justice Populations*). This is largely the result of an influx of immigrant families over the past decade pursuing good school systems and healthy living environments that the Town of Lexington offered (more details in *Section 3 Community Settings*). These populations resided throughout the community, including the EJ neighborhoods. The latest 2009-2013 American Community Survey estimated that 20 percent of Lexington residents were foreign born non-native English speakers, and a vast majority – 93 percent – of these people spoke English well, indicating that there is virtually no English language isolation in Lexington.

The Town has been dedicated to an inclusive and enhanced public outreach process to meaningfully engage all Lexington residents. The various public engagement strategies utilized throughout the planning process were designed to equally reach the broadest possible audience in Town. As part of the enhanced outreach effort, the Town has conducted major public outreach during the 2014-2015 Flu Clinics, including distribution and completion of the open space and recreation community survey as well as publication of the public meetings. Several of these health clinics were held in EJ neighborhoods and interpreter services were provided by the Town at these events (see Flu Clinics location and schedule below).

Table 2-1 Town of Lexington 2014-2015 Flu Clinic/Enhanced Outreach Schedule

Date	Location	Hours	Ages	Vaccine type offered at the free public flu clinics
September 24, 2014 (Wednesday)	St. Brigid's - Kielty Hall, 1997 Massachusetts Avenue	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Senior Clinic (60 years +)	Flu Shot vaccine Pneumonia Shot
October 25, 2014 (Saturday)	Clarke Middle School Gymnasium 17 Stedman Rd	9:00AM 12:00 PM	Public Clinic (Ages 3 and above)	Flu Shot vaccine "Flumist"
November 5, 2014 (Wednesday)	Diamond Middle School Library 99 Hancock Street	4:00PM 7:00PM	Public Clinic (Ages 3 and above)	Flu Shot vaccine "Flumist"
November 20, 2014 (Thursday) (Closed to Public)	St. Brigid's - Kielty Hall, 1997 Massachusetts Avenue	1:00 PM 4:00 PM	Closed to the Public (TOL+LPS employees)	Flu Shot vaccine
December 3, 2014 (Wednesday)	Lexington High School Media Room 251 Waltham Street	4:00PM 7:00PM	Public Clinic (Ages 3 and above)	Flu Shot vaccine "Flumist"
December 8, 2014 (Monday)	Katahdin Woods Apartment Complex Community Room, 1 Katahdin Drive	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Public Clinic (Ages 3 and above)	Flu Shot vaccine "Flumist"
January 7, 2015 (Wednesday)	Avalon at Lexington Hills Community Room 1000 Main Campus Drive	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Public Clinic (Ages 3 and above)	Flu Shot vaccine

The success of the enhanced public outreach process is evidenced by the historic record of survey responses and the well-attended public forums. In addition, it is important to note that Lexington's open space and recreation resources are well distributed throughout the Town, as seen in the Open Space and Recreation map (see *Map 9, Open Space and Recreation Inventory*). Each and every of the EJ census block has equal and adequate access to the Town's open space and recreation opportunities. Moving forward, the Town will work towards providing more translated material to ensure that the environmental justice populations are made aware of open space and recreational opportunities within close proximity to the homes. Additional enhanced outreach can occur within nearby religious institutions and through the civic groups that work with residents lacking English proficiency.



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Community Setting

Regional Context

Introduction

Lexington is located in eastern Massachusetts within Middlesex County. According to the U.S. Census data, the Town's population in 2010 was 31,394, representing a 3.4 percent increase or 1,039 additional people from year 2000. Its neighboring communities include: Winchester, Woburn, Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln, Arlington, Bedford, and Burlington (see *Map 1 Regional Context*).

Lexington's location provides easy access to both Boston and surrounding towns via two major roadways, Routes 95/128 and 2. Because of this, several of Lexington's roads are used as alternate routes home for those living in surrounding towns and cities. These roads include: Massachusetts Avenue, Bedford Street, Waltham Street, Woburn Street, Maple Street (Route 2A), and Lowell Street.

Physical Location and Characteristics

The Town of Lexington is located in the eastern plateau of Middlesex County at 42.26N Latitude, 71.13W Longitude and contains 10,650.42 acres or 16.64 square miles of land within its bounds. The character of Lexington is formed by its numerous smoothly rounded hills and broad, shallow stream valleys. Some points of topographical importance include: the Town's highest point at the summit of Whipple Hill, at 374 feet above sea level; the lowest point in Lexington, Tophet Swamp, at 110 feet above sea level; and in the center of Town, Lexington Battle Green, which lies 224 feet above sea level.

The hills and ridges of Lexington have no general pattern, and the valleys are drained by small, sluggish streams. One of these streams, Hobbs Brook, supplies a reservoir used by the City of Cambridge for public water supply. Approximately 60 percent of the Town's area is drained to the Shawsheen River, with the Charles and Mystic Rivers receiving the balance of annual runoff.

Climate

The climate of Lexington is marked by four distinct seasons: a long, cold winter; a wet, cool spring; a warm, humid summer; and a wet or dry fall. The warmest month is typically July, and the coolest month is typically January. The Town's precipitation averages 47 inches annually and is evenly distributed throughout the year, with the average wettest month being November.¹ Lexington is frost free for an average of five months and the mean annual temperature is 51.4 degrees F.



Lincoln Park aerial photo

Open Space Regional Context

Of the surrounding communities mentioned above, Arlington, Winchester, Lincoln, and Burlington have currently valid OSRP's.² As described elsewhere in this Plan, there are shared resources among these communities such as the Cambridge

¹ <http://www.weather.com>

² Division of Conservation Services, June 10, 2014 plan status. Arlington is updating its OSRP concurrently with Lexington.



Reservoir, a land-locked parcel in Burlington, the Minuteman National Historic Park, the Arlington Great Meadows, and the Busa Farm parcel, which are addressed in these plans. Since both the Arlington and Lexington planning efforts overlapped and were coordinated through the same consultant, common issues between the two towns were identified and reflected in subsequent recommendations.

Lexington is a member of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), which is one of eight subregions of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAGIC is a group of 13 communities that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest, thereby creating an excellent forum for discussing regional open space plan issues and opportunities. However, the surrounding communities comprise four different subregions of MAPC.

Updated in June 2009, *MetroFuture*³ is the official regional smart growth plan for the Greater Boston area. The plan includes goals and objectives, along with thirteen detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. Several examples of how this Plan is consistent with *MetroFuture* include:

- Implementation Strategy 3 – The adoption of the Community Preservation Act provides flexibility in local revenue generation to strengthen municipal finance.
- Implementation Strategy 6 – The Lexington OSRP strongly advocates for increased bicycle, pedestrian, and transit accessibility. Additionally, the overarching purpose of this Plan is to improve the Town's open spaces and parks through by coordinating park planning, land stewardship, leveraging funding for park maintenance, increasing and maintaining the tree canopy, and expanding community garden opportunities.
- Implementation Strategy 7 – As demonstrated in this Plan, the recommendations provide support for the preservation of agricultural resources and for the protection and preservation of natural resources. Additionally, this Plan includes discussion of land preservation and connectivity on a regional basis, particularly as it relates to the *ACROSS Lexington* program and the subsequent pedestrian and bicycle connections with adjacent communities. This is consistent with the *MetroFuture* goal of encouraging regional efforts to protect open space and natural resources – particularly ones that cross municipal borders.



³ <http://www.metrofuture.org/>

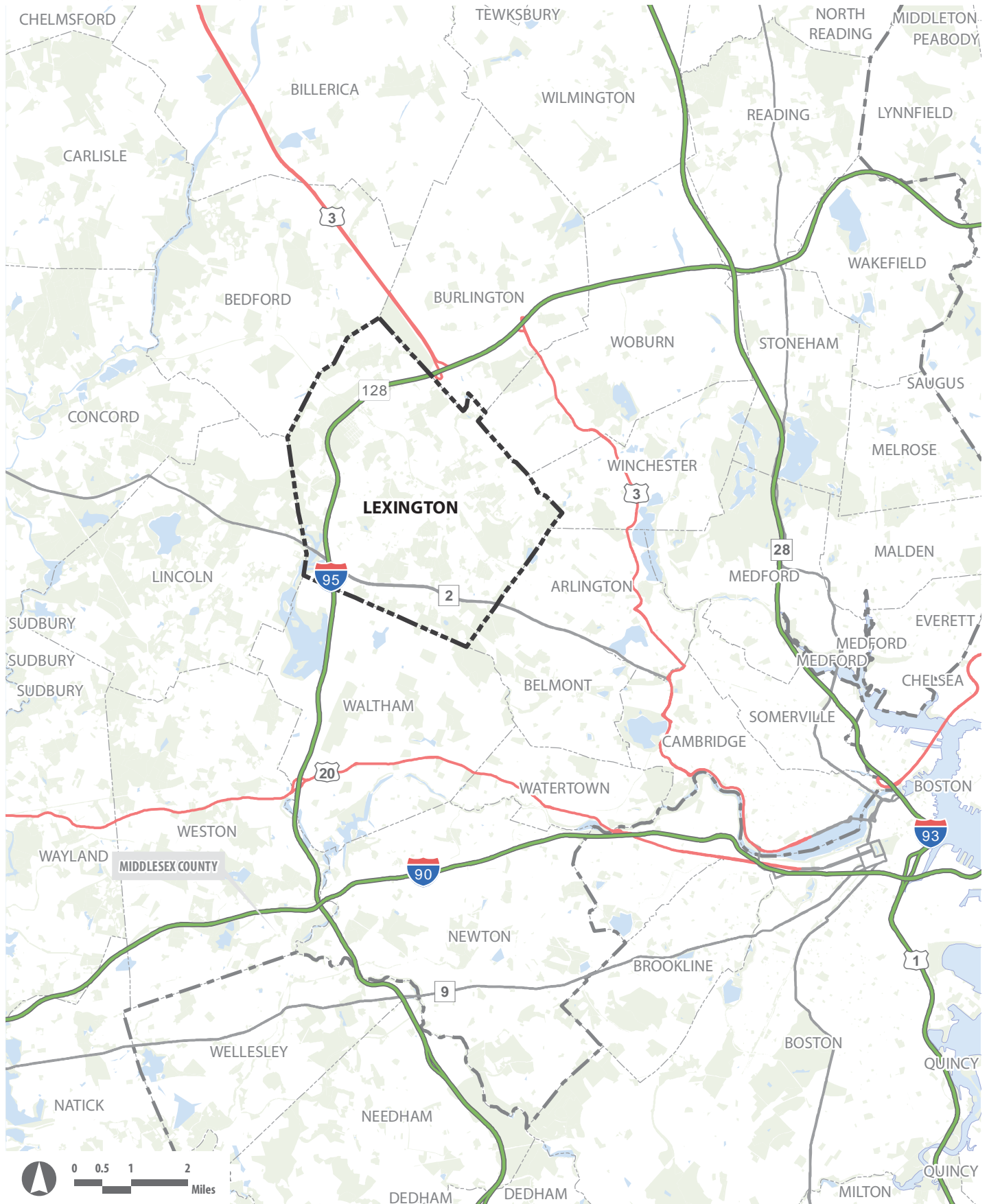
History of the Community

Overview

First settled in 1642 and known as Cambridge Farms, town land was used by early inhabitants for agriculture. Farmers were attracted by the availability of hay fields, farming acreage, and the possibilities of land speculation. Early settlers formed their own parish in 1691 to avoid traveling into Cambridge and incorporated Lexington in 1713. Their main emphasis was on clearing and draining the land in the tradition of their European forebears. In fact, they were so successful in execution of this pattern that in 1775 when King George III's troops were retreating from Concord, they used two field pieces arrayed east of Lexington Center as cover. Because the parcels were so bare with no tree cover at all, they provided a clear line of fire to the British soldiers.

The events of April 1775 inscribed Lexington forever in the pages of American history. Heralded by the midnight rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes, the Lexington Minutemen confronted the British Regulars in the early morning hours on what is now known as the Battle Green. The annual Patriot's Day celebration and preserved historic sites pay tribute to that fateful time.

Lexington remained a quiet farming community until 1846 when the extension of a railroad line from Boston made commuting possible. East Lexington in the mid-19th century had been the scene of debates on such issues as abolition and temperance. After the Civil War, professionals settled into newly built large Victorian homes on Merriam and Munroe Hills. Railroad access allowed Lexington to flourish as a summer resort, providing a healthy and invigorating atmosphere. Supported by a growing immigrant population, farming would continue to play an important role in the local economy well into the 20th century.



Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015





Agriculture is no longer the preeminent land use in Lexington, but it remained unsurpassed until the mid-20th century. Following the close of World War II, the increased demand for housing sites accelerated the decline of agriculture and loss of open land. The rising cost of land made farming and holding of large tracts of land increasingly costly and drove many farmers out of business. As a result of the Town's early zoning bylaws and the construction of Route 95/128, residential growth and the Town's population accelerated. In 1950, the Town down-zoned the residential districts into what they are today – well after the bulk of the land was subdivided.

Unlike many Massachusetts communities, Lexington experienced little industrial growth during the industrial revolution. The reason for this was the Town's lack of feasible sites for producing energy via water. So instead of industry springing up in Lexington, it became a vacation spot for well-off Bostonians. In the late 1800's, several country hotels opened in town to provide fresh air for Bostonians seeking an escape from the city.

Today, Lexington is home to over 31,000 inhabitants and has residential neighborhoods evenly distributed throughout. Commercial and industrial research facilities are located along the transportation corridors of Routes 2, 95/128, 225, and Hartwell Avenue. In over 350 years of settlement, the community has mirrored the political times and the changing technology of each era from subsistence farming to a theater for the opening event of the American Revolution; from wilderness to a vibrant community; and from rural to suburban community.⁴

Population Characteristics

Total Population

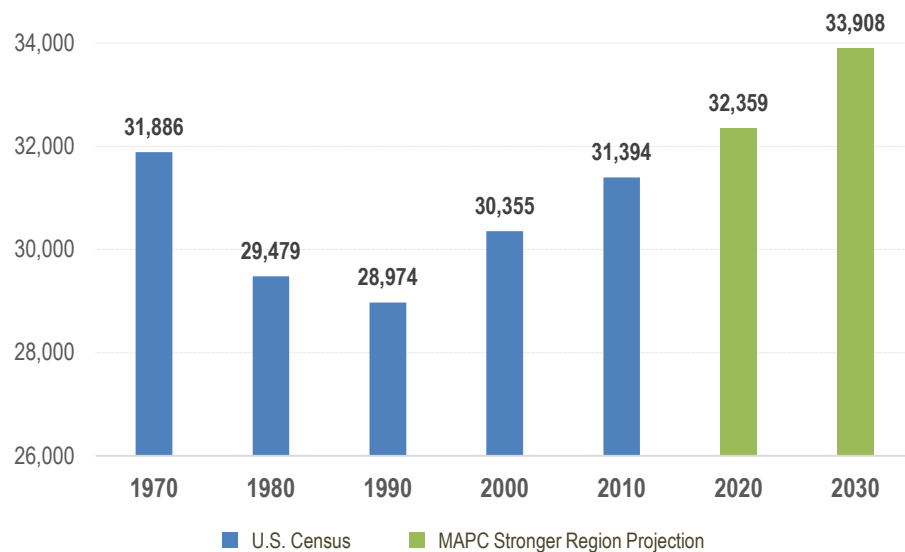
Population is an organic measurement that grows and shrinks with the times. It reacts primarily to transportation technology, the location of jobs, and housing opportunities. Lexington experienced its peak periods of growth in the decades following World War I and World War II during the economic prosperity of the 1920's and 1950's. The 1950's were also the apex for new home construction; 30 percent of the housing now in Lexington was built during those ten years. To create a context for Lexington, it will be judged against its neighbors of: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Burlington, Lincoln, Waltham, Winchester, Woburn, and Concord.

Lexington's total population has experienced some extreme changes. The years between 1950 and 1960 marked an increase of 10,356 people in Lexington (59 percent

▼
⁴ Portions of this section were excerpted from <http://www.libertyride.us/history.html>

at the time), which was the fourth highest numerical increase in total population by the ten communities in the study area between 1920 and 1990. In addition, Lexington's loss of 2,407 in population during the 1970's represented the fourth highest numerical decrease by communities in the study area over the same time period. Over the past forty years however, Lexington's population has remained steady. When Lexington's population peaked in 1970, there were 31,886 people living in town, and as of the 2010 Census, the population was down to 31,394. That is only a drop of 492 in the last 40 years. Lexington's past shows us that the Town is no stranger to abrupt population shifts, and according to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission's (MAPC) estimates, the Town might expect another shift over the next few decades (see *Figure 3-1, Population Change 1970–2030 projected*).

Figure 3-1 Population Change 1970 – 2030⁵ projected



Source: U.S. Census and MAPC projections

The MAPC predicts Lexington is set for an increase in population over the next 20 years. The difference between the 2010 U.S. Census and the MAPC's Stronger Region scenario 2030 forecast shows an increase of 2,514 or approximately 8 percent. Should this prediction come true, there could be increased pressure on unprotected and underdeveloped land zoned for residential uses, as well as an increase in demand for recreational resources.

⁵ 2020 and 2030 Stronger Region projection, http://www.mapc.org/data-services/available-data/projectionshttp://www.mapc.org/2006_projections.html

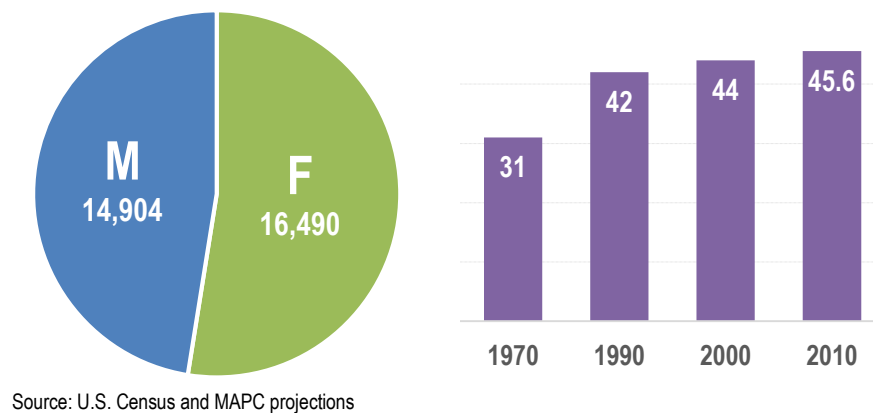
Population Distribution and Density

The population distribution in Lexington is generally most dense towards the center of town and disperses outward toward the edge of the community. Population density ranges from 500 people per square mile to 5,000 people per square mile per census block. The densest portions of town lie in the northwest along the Massachusetts Avenue and Bedford Street corridors starting at the Lexington Battle Green. The least dense part of town is along the western side adjacent to Route 95/128 and runs from the Tophet Swamp in the north down to Hobbs Brook in the south.

Sex and Age Composition

In 2010, Lexington's population had a small majority of females over males: 16,490 females to 14,904 males. The median age was 45.6, which was up from 44 in 2000 and more than 14 years older than the 1970 median age. Thus, as a result of the general trend that reflects an aging population, Lexington has transformed from a town where the majority of the population was under 30 years old to one where the majority is older than 30 (see *Figure 3-2, Male vs. Female Population in 2010 and Median Age Change*).

Figure 3-2 Male vs. Female Population in 2010 and Median Age Change

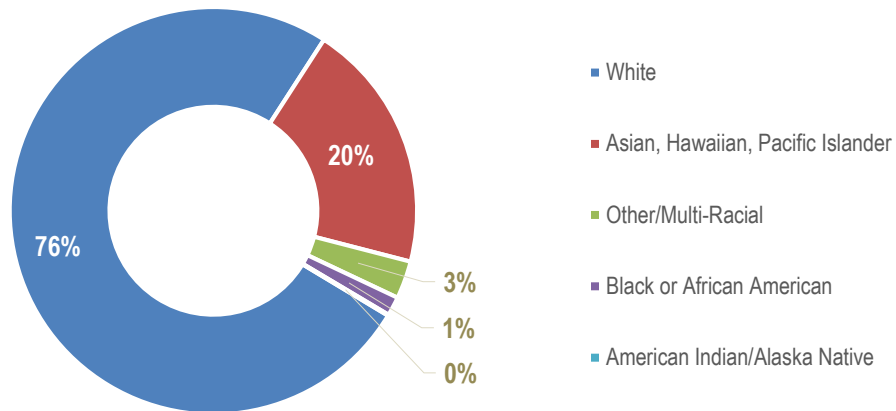


Race and Ethnic Composition

More than 75 percent of the town's population is white according to the 2010 U.S. Census and almost 20 percent describe themselves as being of Asian descent, with the remainder split between African-American, American Indian, and others.

For a more concise breakdown of Lexington's population derived from the 2010 Census please see *Figure 3-3, Race and Ethnic Composition in 2010*.

Figure 3-3 Race and Ethnic Composition in 2010

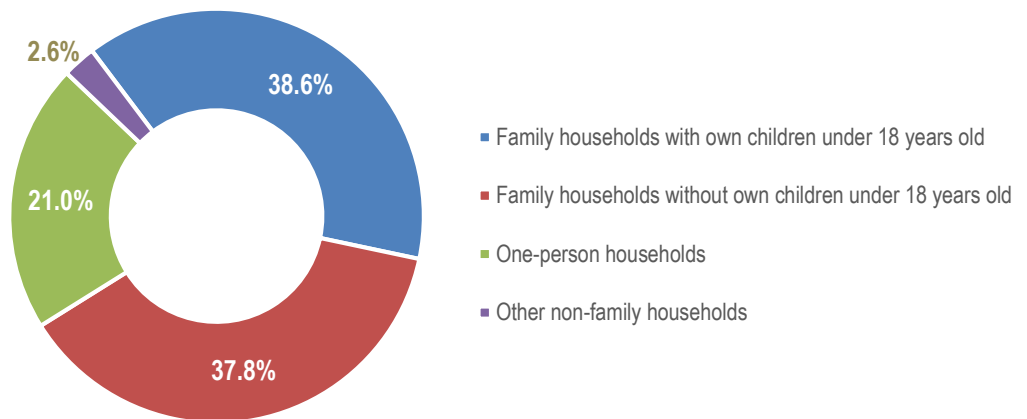


Source: U.S. Census 2010

Household Composition

As of the 2010 Census, Lexington contained 11,530 households with each household averaging 2.68 members. Approximately 76.4 percent of these households were family households. 33.7 percent of all the households contained a married couple with children under the age of 18, while 9.5 percent were single-parent households. The family households without children under 18 came in at 37.8 percent of the total. The nonfamily households accounted for 23.6 percent of all the households in Lexington, among which 12.1 percent were single-person households with householders 65 years and over. Consequently, Lexington's recreation facilities and open space resources must serve single people, families with children, empty nesters, and youth (see *Figure 3-4, Households in 2010*).

Figure 3-4 Households in 2010

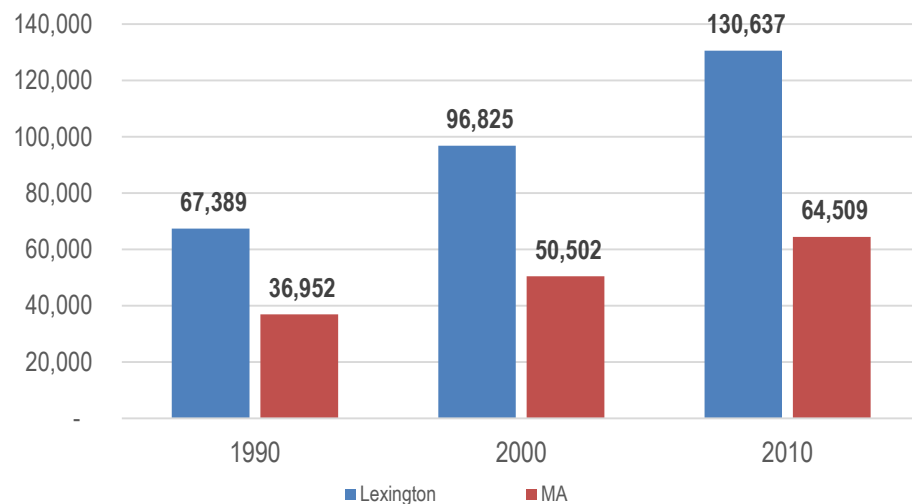


Source: U.S. Census 2010

Income Characteristics

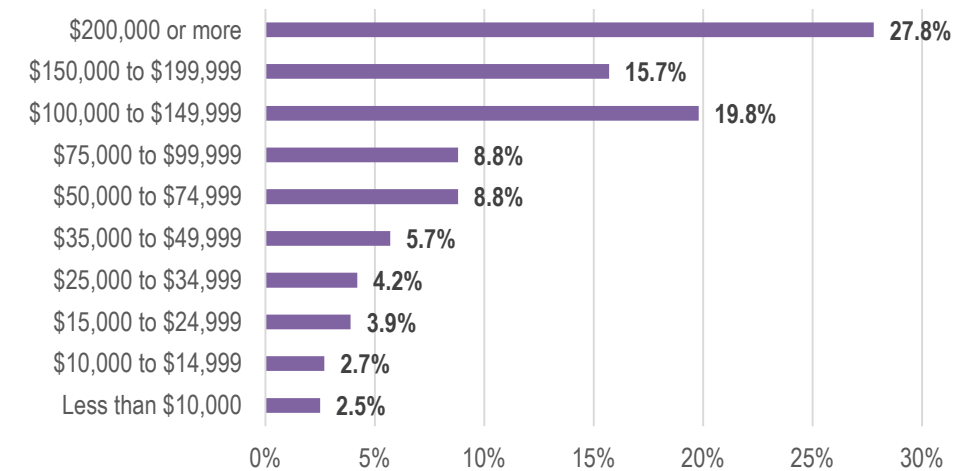
As of 2010, the median household income in Lexington was \$130,637, which was a 35 percent increase from the 2000's value of \$96,825. In 1990, approximately 66 percent of households earned more than \$50,000 and in 2000, that number increased by ten percent to equal 76 percent. In 2010, nearly 81 percent of households earned more than \$50,000. Additionally, the American Community Survey found that the median household income for the state in 2010 was \$64,509 and Lexington more than doubled the state average at \$130,637; see *Figure 3-5, Median Household Income* and *Figure 3-6, Household Income Distribution in 2010*.

Figure 3-5 Median Household Income



Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000 and 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 3-6 Household Income Distribution in 2010



Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment

According to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWB) Lexington has a labor force of 15,904 in 2013. Of these workers about 734—4.6 percent—were unemployed. The unemployment rate of the Town hovered around 3 to 4 percent between 2001 and 2008. The unemployment rate spiked to 5.8 in 2009 as a result of the recent economic downturn but has since been decreasing gradually.

The industry employing the most people in Lexington is that of *Professional and Technical Services* with 6,893 as the average employment. The industry which employs the second most is *Health Care and Social Assistance* with an average employment of 2,502. Please see the table on the following page for a complete breakdown of industries and their average employment in Lexington.



Table 3-1 Average Employment and Wages by Industry in Lexington, 2013

Average Employment and Wages by Industry in Lexington				
Industry	Establishments	Total Wages	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Professional and Technical Services	338	\$798,514,244	6,893	\$2,228
Health Care and Social Assistance	175	\$125,489,482	2,502	\$965
Manufacturing	22	\$384,059,638	2,237	\$3,302
Educational Services	36	\$99,678,623	1,899	\$1,009
Accommodation and Food Services	72	\$24,492,734	1,238	\$380
Information	42	\$111,802,748	1,002	\$2,146
Retail Trade	65	\$35,487,474	888	\$769
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	191	\$21,681,813	651	\$640
Management of Companies and Enterprises	15	\$112,866,315	647	\$3,355
Finance and Insurance	65	\$45,948,834	427	\$2,069
Administrative and Waste Services	56	\$16,336,589	321	\$979
Wholesale Trade	45	\$35,192,016	259	\$2,613
Construction	50	\$14,000,472	230	\$1,171
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	24	\$4,785,683	176	\$523
Transportation and Warehousing	9	\$7,027,387	137	\$986
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	34	\$8,457,717	112	\$1,452

Source: Commonwealth of MA, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development—http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp

Environmental Justice Population(s) Characteristics

...

Environmental justice populations are those segments of the population that include high percentages of minority and low-income people that may experience disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts.

...

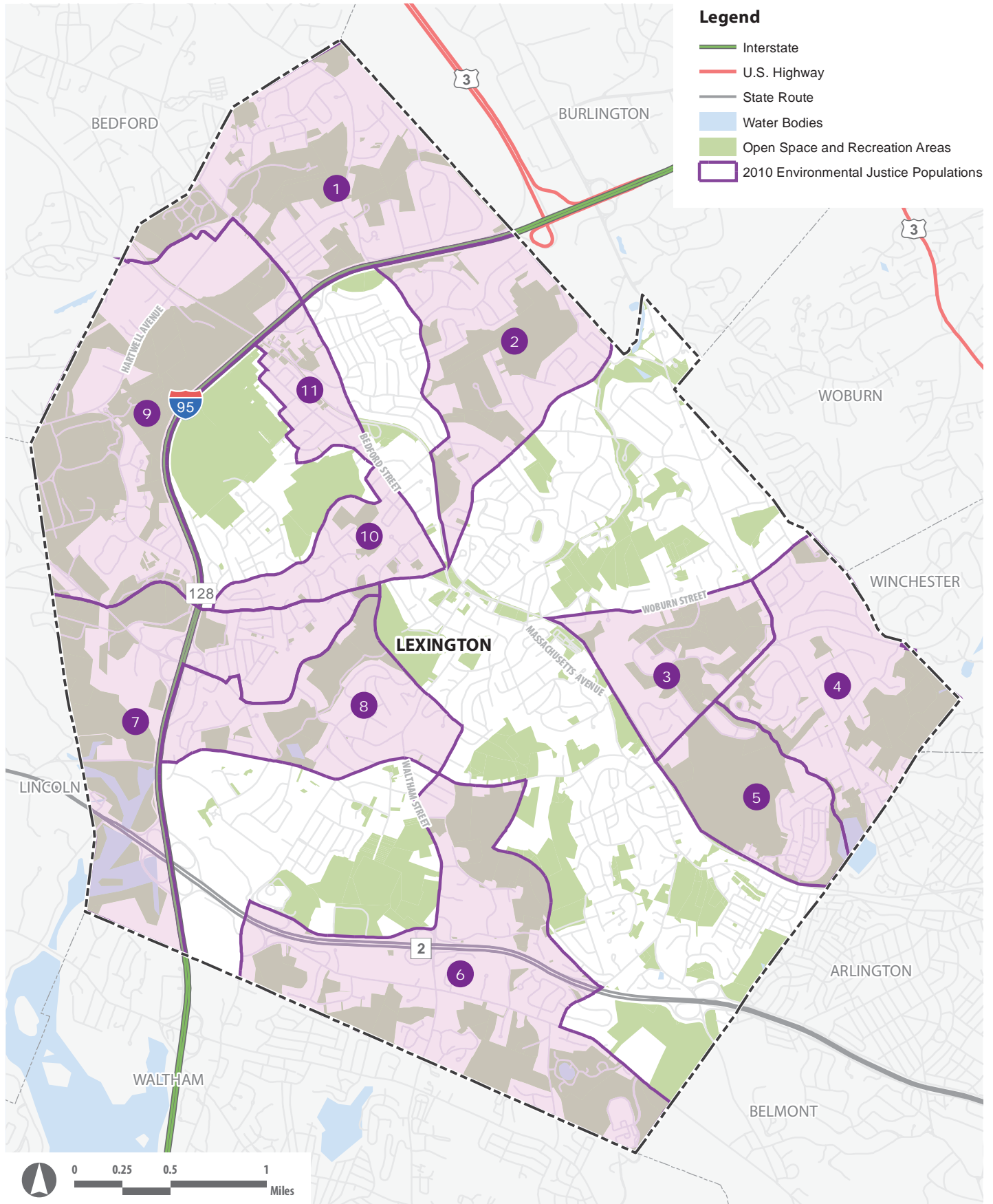
According to the 2010 Environmental Justice Population data provided by MassGIS, 11 census block groups out of a total of 22 census block groups in Lexington were identified as environmental justice (EJ) populations. These EJ populations are the result of either minority or foreign born populations exceeding 25 percent of the total block group population. These EJ populations were located throughout the town and accounted for 52.9 percent of the entire population in Lexington. The 2010 information represents a significant increase of minority EJ populations in Lexington from 2000 when there were only three block groups identified as minority EJ population. This indicates an influx of minority or foreign born immigrants to Lexington over the decade.

A breakdown of the demographics for each of these EJ populations is contained in the table below. The block groups have been assigned a number—starting at 1 in the northwest corner of Lexington and working clockwise. See *Map 2 Environmental Justice Populations*, for a visual explanation. As shown in the map, all of the environmental justice populations are well served by Lexington's extensive open space and recreation network.

Environmental Justice Populations in Lexington, 2010

Block Group ID	Total Population	Total Households	Median Household Income	Percent of Minority Population
1	2,062	782	135,000	33.2
2	1,435	497	115,769	26.8
3	741	311	94,844	28.3
4	1,944	651	128,393	28.7
5	1,332	469	114,583	27.0
6	3,590	1,608	107,361	37.8
7	1,041	373	173,750	32.4
8	1,662	635	143,295	29.1
9	797	343	136,339	38.1
10	1,131	486	73,170	27.1
11	869	297	91,917	27.8

Source: MassGIS, note: EJ population shapes are based off of census block groups



Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015





Implications of Population Composition and Trends

To meet the needs of its population, Lexington must offer recreational amenities and open space resources for a mixed urban population: single persons as well as families, youth and the elderly, those with limited English ability and those well-informed residents, households with their own backyards and those that depend on public parks. Lexington's open space and recreation resources should remain varied and flexible in order to best serve the Town's population.

Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

A Brief History of Open Space in Lexington

1700's–1900's

Lexington's first "open space" property was the Lexington Common, 1.5 acres of land purchased in 1708 from Benjamin Muzzey (another acre of land was purchased in 1772). The Common, today known world-wide as the Lexington Battle Green, was used for ballgames, pasturing cows, cattle shows, picnics, and the like. This was typical of New England's rural/agricultural communities during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, where private property was not as strictly enforced as today. Lexington's landscape provided residents with spring and summer walks, winter snowshoe tramps, berry-picking, tobogganing, sled rides, and ice-skating, without much concern for whether or not a property was "public."

Perhaps the earliest effort to create an "open space" after the Common was purchased was in 1835 when Eli Robbins erected a three-story observatory on Mount Independence in East Lexington and built roads and walks intended to increase public access. About fifty years afterward in 1888, James Munroe began to improve his land east of Woburn Street and as a part of this project, built a pond intended for use by the Town's children for skating.

Through the late 1800's and into the early 1900's, Lexington continued to depend on private generosities. The following is just a sampling of some of these:

- James Munroe's land behind Munroe Tavern was utilized for tobogganing



- Each spring, Francis B. Hayes opened his 400 acre estate up to anyone wishing to see his rhododendrons and chrysanthemums
- The old Paint Mine woods in North Lexington, owned by the Simonds family became a popular woods for fox hunting
- In 1894, the Lexington Field and Garden Club purchased Hastings Park “for the use of the inhabitants of Lexington forever”
- During the early 1900’s, several parcels of land were given to the Town by residents for the purpose of establishing public parks
- In 1902, Joseph Van Ness bequeathed land at Pleasant and Watertown Streets (“Bowman Park”) to the Town
- In 1918, Depot Park (today known as Emery Park) was purchased partly through the generous donations of private residents
- In 1921, A. E. Scott gifted 40 acres of his land as an addition to the Parker Street playground
- In 1925, the Ryder family allowed the Town use of its land for the Lexington Pageant to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington
- In 1928, Ellen M. Tower gifted the Town Tower Park and a trust fund of \$10,000 for its care
- In 1938, J. Willard Hayden, Jr. gifted 25 acres on Lincoln Street to the Town

1900’s–Present

During the late 1800’s, Lexington’s officials saw the need to improve the Town’s utilities and school system in order to attract residents. Their desire was to keep pace with other towns throughout Massachusetts. These improvements and the rural beauty of the Town attracted many wealthy Boston businessmen who purchased land, established gentlemen farms, and built beautiful mansions. Most of these mansions have been taken down, but some are still standing, such as the Whiting House on Adams Street, the Scott House on Waltham Street, many of the homes on Meriam Hill, the Whipple House (formerly Fairlawn Nursing Home and now the Lexington Prep School), and the Tower House on Marrett Road (Headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry), which along with its almost 10 acres of property was purchased by the Town of Lexington and is being converted into a community center.



Lexington's population began to grow steadily during the early 1900's and with this growth came new streets and homes. Concerned about maintaining the residential quality of the Town while providing services, Lexington citizens established one of the country's first planning boards in 1918 and adopted its zoning by-laws in 1924. In addition, the first subdivision regulations were established in 1948.

From 1920 to 1940, the Town's population more than doubled from 6,350 to 13,113. The Town's most rapid development occurred between 1940 and 1960 when the population reached 28,000. By this time, private property rights were more vigorously enforced and residents depended on the Town to provide them with recreation land and to maintain existing public properties.

In 1947, the Town appointed a temporary Recreation Commission to develop the scope of and establish authority for a recreation program and make recommendations for the establishment of a permanent Recreation Commission. In 1948, the Town voted to appoint a Recreation Committee, and in 1956, the Town voted to establish the Recreation Committee as a by-law committee.

In 1955, the Planning Board proposed and Town Meeting accepted (in 1956) the establishment of a series of Historic Districts in order to preserve the historic aspect of the Town. In 1963, the Lexington Planning Board decided to "take stock" of the Town's growth. "Lexington is no exception to the dizzying pace at which suburban communities have grown throughout the nation," they wrote in their Phase I Summary Report. "The revolution of the cities has changed the entire fabric of American life – in a sense, it has changed Lexington too."

Up to this time, playgrounds and school lots were purchased by the Town one property at a time. Most of the "open land" parcels were taken as tax-title lots - Sutherland Heights, lots off Grove Street, and the Meagher land in North Lexington. In 1956, total Town-owned recreational acreage represented 1.7 percent of the land within Lexington and by 1962, it represented 5 percent. The Planning Board's goal was to increase that percentage to 13.7 percent. At this point in time, town-recreation land occupies approximately 9.5 percent of the total land area in Lexington, although private recreational land brings the total of recreation land to 11 percent.

At the time, the Town was just beginning to make a distinction between those properties designated as "Open Recreational Areas" and those designated as "Conservation Areas." The emphasis was still on recreational use: "The objective in preparing the overall park and recreation plan itself," the Planning Board wrote in its 1963 Summary Report, "has been and will continue to be that of obtaining sites which will ' . . . provide opportunities for all types of desired recreation within reasonable access of all age groups.' In addition to and in conjunction with some of the areas and activities previously mentioned, this objective means having a playground in each neighborhood, a play field in each section of Town, and pleasantly planted parks and



parkways; providing sites for swimming pools, skating ponds, coasting hills, and areas where our Boy and Girl Scouts can camp overnight; and selecting and developing areas where families can participate together in active sports, or enjoy the more passive pleasures of walks in the woods and enjoying views of the landscape.”

In November 1963, the Lexington Conservation Commission was formed by Town vote. The Lexington Conservation Commission brought a new perspective to the Town; the Commission members felt that to protect the health of the community, it was vital to protect its woods, brooks, ponds, and fields. “Many neighboring communities,” they wrote in the 1966 Town Annual Report, “show the effects of uncontrolled development. We now face the critical point at which decisions must be made concerning the kind of community we will have over the next 50 to 100 years.”

The Commission also attempted to define their idea of conservation: “Conservation is concerned, not only with the preservation of our natural resources, but also with their efficient use and management for the benefit of the Town’s citizens.” The members began to index all the open space available for acquisition. They prioritized each parcel of land and worked toward protecting them, utilizing eminent domain, restrictions, gifts, and purchases. Their primary goal was to protect environmentally important pieces of land, but they also had a secondary goal: to distribute evenly open space land throughout the Town so that each precinct would contain a significant parcel for passive recreation.

Their first purchase was Swenson’s Farm (now included in Dunback Meadow) in 1965. The State reimbursement they received for this purchase was the first to be awarded under the new “Self-Help Plan.” With 90 percent federal funding, this 58 acre parcel cost the Town only \$39,550. In 1971, the Commission managed 280 acres of land, while today it manages around 1,300 acres, with properties evenly distributed throughout the Town.

In February 2015, the Recreation Department was reorganized and renamed the Department of Recreation and Community Programs with three divisions: Recreation, Pine Meadows Golf Club, and the Community Center.

Today, the Conservation Department works closely with the Department of Recreation and Community Programs, although both departments have shifted focus from acquisition to maintenance of existing properties, largely because there is less land available for purchase than in the past.



Infrastructure

Transportation

Lexington is crossed by two major highways:

- Route 2, a major connection between Boston and/or the Alewife MBTA terminal/parking facility and western Massachusetts, has three exit/entry points within the Town.
- Route 95/128, the major circumferential highway in eastern Massachusetts since the 1950's, contains three complete cloverleaf intersections within Lexington; at Route 2, at Route 2A (Marrett Road), and at Routes 4/225 (Bedford Street). The latter ramps are particularly congested during peak commute hours, as they access major office/industrial complexes just outside the Route 95/128 ring as well as Hanscom Field.

The traffic problems associated with these intersection areas have long been recognized and discussed by several task forces including government, neighborhood groups, and area businesses. The Town has required traffic studies for projects where congestion may be a concern and obtained agreements with developers for staggered work schedules and financial contributions to highway improvements and alternate transportation.

The Town's Transportation Advisory Committee has repeatedly attempted to encourage public transportation for Hartwell Avenue, but temporary extensions of the local minibuses Lexpress and MBTA service along Hartwell Avenue in the early 1980's failed to gain sufficient support. When the Alewife Station in Cambridge opened and became the in-town terminus of two of Lexington's three then-existing MBTA routes, the Committee urged the addition of Hartwell Avenue to the Route 76 bus. This failed to materialize for lack of a satisfactory turnaround site. Most recently, the Town, along with the 128 Business Council, launched the REV shuttle. It is part of a larger trend that seeks to fill gaps in the public transit system. Shuttle buses such as the REV make mass transit commutes easier by connecting Hartwell to Alewife.

The crown jewel of the Transportation Advisory Committee is Lexpress, the six fixed-route minibus system that has operated six days a week since 1979 (cutback from eight routes beginning July 1, 1990, due to budget constraints). These mini-buses reach many neighborhoods hourly, generally from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lexpress is credited with saving many car trips to Lexington Center and giving students and senior citizens mobility. Lexpress depends upon Town appropriations and MBTA subsidies for over half its support, and the system's survival continues to be challenged.

However, Lexpress continues to provide services to an ever growing number of passengers. Lexpress provides nearly 72,000 rides each year. In 2013, 56 percent of riders were students, 22 percent were adults, 22 percent were seniors, and 1 percent were children under age six.⁶ Monthly ridership figures typically peaks during the months of May and October.

Minuteman Bikeway

The Minuteman Bikeway along the old Boston and Maine Railroad right of way from Bedford to Alewife Station was completed in 1993 and is 10.1 miles long. In addition to providing a bicycle commuter route to Cambridge and the Alewife T station, the bikeway provides opportunities for recreational bicycling, walking, jogging, rollerblading, and cross-country skiing, with access to many important areas of historical importance and natural beauty. In 2008, the Minuteman Bikeway was named as the fifth inductee into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The Minuteman Bikeway opens up access to existing conservation areas, such as Parker Meadow, Joyce Miller's Meadows, Arlington's Great Meadows, and Tophet Swamp, and provides an incentive to protect additional land adjacent to it. In



Minuteman Bikeway in the fall.



⁶ <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/humanservices/lexpress/about.cfm>



addition, the bikeway provides easy access to the Adams, Muzzey, Munroe, and Parker recreation facilities.

Water Supply and Sewer Service

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) supplies Lexington with its water and sewer services. Most of Lexington is serviced by a public sanitary sewer system and a public water distribution system. The developed portions of town are serviced by a separate stormwater system. For the most part, because nearly all of Lexington has sanitary services available, septic systems are not a major contributing factor in polluting the brooks or groundwater. However, older sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and water lines without modern seals are subject to infiltration/outflow problems.

In 1984, sanitary sewers were improved by the building of the “Millbrook Relief Sewer” along the old Boston and Maine R.R. right of way (Minuteman Bikeway). This link serves sewer needs of Bedford and Hanscom Field, relieving Lexington trunk lines of this burden.

A valuable tool in the management of surface water runoff is the Comprehensive Drainage Study, accomplished over the years 1976 through 1982, by consultants to the Town Engineering Department. More recently, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans were completed by consultants to the Town Engineering Department for each of the three watersheds: Charles, Shawsheen and Mystic, which identified priority projects involving infrastructure improvements and stream and wetland restoration activities. These studies, plus an infiltration/inflow study and program for the Town’s sewer system, has enabled the Town to manage sewers and drainage and to plan needed improvements with sensitivity to the total problem, as well as the possible impacts on wetlands. A new Stormwater Bylaw was adopted in the spring of 2008, as part of the Town's NPDES permit, which ensures that a wide array of development projects (both by right and by special permit) receive a complete review of their stormwater impacts.

Long-term Development Patterns

Infill vs. Vacant Land Development

Until the mid-1990’s, both commercial and residential development in Lexington centered on the use of vacant land. As the supply of vacant, developable land diminishes, new development has increasingly relied on the redevelopment of underdeveloped property, which is land that has not been developed to the maximum allowed by zoning. Since this time, the replacement of underutilized or



obsolescent uses by more intensive economic uses has been the predominant development scenario in Lexington, and is likely to remain that way from this point forward.

Lexington's location in the Boston metropolitan area dictates the process of succession. On the suburban fringe, in the towns near Route 495, development occurs almost exclusively on vacant land. In the substantially built-out central cities and first-tier suburbs of the metropolitan area (e.g., Boston, Cambridge, Arlington, etc.), development occurs almost exclusively through infill redevelopment. Over the last 10 to 15 years Lexington's development pattern has become more like that of the metropolitan core than the suburban fringe.

Land development and a strong program of land conservation have resulted in a striking reduction in the remaining building capacity of the Town. The Town has largely exhausted its vacant unprotected land supply, with only about 600 acres of the developable land still available in vacant parcels in residential zones, along with some underutilized land within "underdeveloped" areas. Less than 10 percent of these 600 acres is in commercial zones. Vacant land might accommodate an additional 900 dwelling units, and some of that potential capacity is likely to be put to other uses, including open space conservation. Between 2000 and 2012, the Town grew by 638 new dwelling units, the bulk of these (423) were permitted under MGL Ch. 40B. As these projects brought the town into compliance with that law's 10 percent standard, future growth of new units is expected to slow. In the years since achieving compliance, new residential growth has been less than 20 units per year.

Barring unforeseen regional changes, demand for housing in Lexington will likely grow while housing supply remains stable. Regional housing market forces are likely to continue price escalation, making existing modest homes targets for significant renovations or replacement. It is expected that the trend of land succession is likely to continue as land becomes an ever-growing proportion of the value of residential premises; existing buildings become dispensable to owners under many circumstances. There is much more home building in Lexington than there is net growth, with work supported by tear-down replacement and additions to existing homes, which often eclipse the existing units in size. Population change in Lexington now depends more on the changing demographics of household size and key characteristics such as the age of those who will occupy existing units rather than the small number of constructed new dwelling units.

The mansionization trend will have impacts on the Town's character, including the loss of relatively modest housing units. On many sites, lot area, frontage, and buildable land allow substantial expansion, even though on many of those sites some development already exists. The rate of building replacement housing is likely to increase. Mansionization is exacerbated by the trend toward a larger residential square footage per capita in the housing market.



Zoning Changes 2004–2014

The current zoning map for the Town of Lexington is shown on *Map 3 Zoning*. The Town has three principal residential districts (two single-family and one two-family), seven commercial districts, which include neighborhood business, retail, service, downtown, office and manufacturing; and planned commercial and residential districts.

The following describes zoning changes and definitive approval of major developments in the last ten years.

2004

Zoning Changes

- Zoning By-law: 12-18 Hartwell Avenue. Changed designation to CRO from CD-6
- Zoning By-law: 1010 Waltham Street. Amended RD Zoning Designation to permit expansion plans for Brookhaven.
- Zoning By-law: Designation for 125, 131, 141 Spring Street. Amended designation to CD from CRO and RO to allow for redevelopment of former Raytheon site.
- Amendments to Standards for RD Districts: permits substitution of dimensional standards for certain projects in large tracts of land.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

- 47 & 53 Pleasant Street: 7 lots definitive plan approved
- 14 Glen Road South, 3 units
- Hazel Road: 8 units
- Clelland Road, 2 lots, definitive plan approved

2005

Zoning Changes

- Zoning By-law: Battle Green Inn. Adopted November 7. Amended designation at 1720 Massachusetts Avenue to CD from CB.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

- Wisteria Lane, off Colony Road: 3 lot subdivision
- 31–35 Cary Avenue: definitive plan approved (5 units, one an accessory)



2006

Zoning Changes

- Amendment to bylaw that sets limits on the amount of impervious surface allowed for conventional and cluster subdivisions
- Parking in CB District: adjust parking regulations in CB districts.
- Zoning By-law: amend CD-7 to CD-13, 727 Marrett Road (Starwood Hotels and Resort)

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

- Pine Meadows Farm: 14 units off Cedar Street and Freemont Street, definitive plan approved
- Woodland Farm Circle: 169 North Street, seven lots in Burlington, Lexington and Woburn; one partial lot in Lexington; definitive plan approved

2007

Zoning Changes

- Amend Zoning By-law, Tree Management: regarding protection of trees in cases where Planning Board grants a special permit
- Amend Tree By-law: strengthen by-law managing mature trees in town
- Amend Demolition Delay By-law: regarding the timing of granting demolition permits for historical buildings.
- Rewrote residential development section of zoning bylaw, commonly known as cluster bylaw, which regulates percentage of open space in new cluster subdivisions
- Drafted stormwater bylaw that will meet requirements for federal NPDES permit

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

- 177 Grove Street, 3 lot cluster (on remand from courts)
- Lexington Hills (18 units off Walnut, part of former Middlesex Hospital). Definitive Plan approved
- 88, 92–110 Shade Street (Journey's end) Definitive plan approved for maximum of 26 units (25 percent left in open space)
- Doran Green: 9 units off East Street. Definitive Plan approved



2008

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

- Lexington Gardens—Lexington Gardens is a landscaping, plant and garden supply operation that was sold to a developer and will become a residential subdivision.
- 960–990 Waltham Street: Definitive Plan submitted for 13 units

2009

Zoning Changes

- Establishment of a Transportation Management Overlay District for the Hartwell Avenue area with an increased FAR for the CM zone, a traffic mitigation fund and a process for site plan review.
- Beal Company Ledgemont Center at Spring Street and Hayden Avenue – A request for CD rezoning was presented at the Annual Town Meeting 2009 and was approved.
- Lexington Technology Park at 125 Spring Street, 200, 300, 400 & 500 Patriot Way - An application to amend the existing CD-10 to allow an increase in the square footage of office/research spaces and structured parking was presented at Fall Special Town Meeting 2009 and was approved.
- Cubist at 45-65 Hayden Avenue- An application to amend the existing CD-9 to allow an increase in the square footage of office/research spaces and structured parking was presented at Fall Special Town Meeting 2009 and was approved.
- Zoning Amendments allowing additional uses in the Central Business District (CBD) and removing the requirement for a traffic study for uses in the CBD.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Special Permit Residential Developments

Site Sensitive Development

- Murray Hills- Blueberry Lane- Definitive SSD approved to subdivide the property into four parcels, two of which would be considered buildable.

Balanced Housing Development

- 341 Marrett Road – Definitive plan approved for 8 dwelling units in five structures. The existing single-family home would be preserved and the cottage house demolished.



2010

Zoning Changes

- Adopted Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and a Flood Insurance Study based on the federal government's updated flood plain maps
- Allowed large scale solar generation facilities as of right in the CM zone as part of the Green Communities effort
- Expanded the RD-5 district off Lowell Street to allow a single structure containing 51 rental apartment units in addition to the existing 51 units in the Countryside Manor development contained in eight multi family structures.
- Changed references within the Zoning Bylaw from "Traffic Management Overlay District" to "Transportation Management Overlay District".
- Updated food-related zoning definitions and uses across the Town and allowed food-related uses by-right for the uses that are already regulated by a variety of Boards and Commissions.
- In the Center Business District allowed projecting signs by-right and required a special permit for some bank and credit union uses.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Conventional Subdivisions

- 10 Stedman Road – Definitive Street Construction Plan approved

Site Sensitive Development

- 147 Shade Street Definitive Plan approved for two single-family units served by a shared drive.
- 91-93 Hancock Street Definitive Plan approved for twelve single-family house lots and one open space parcel.

2011

Zoning Changes

- Removed renovation as a trigger for a traffic study.
- Rezoned an isolated parcel on Hartwell Avenue from RO to CM.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Conventional Subdivisions

- Extension of Rockville Avenue – Definitive subdivision plan

Site Sensitive Development

- 1377 Massachusetts Avenue - Definitive plan approved for the creation of five lots, two to be occupied by the existing single-family house and the carriage house and two new single-family houses to be located on two other lots. The fifth parcel would be created as an open space parcel.

Public Benefit Development



- 71-79 East Street - Definitive plan approved for nine buildable lots with two existing units to remain. One unit to be affordable.

Site Plan Review

- 12-18 Hartwell Avenue – Major Site Plan Review- Construction of two new buildings to replace the existing building designed for retail and restaurant uses approved.

2012

Zoning Changes

- Center Zoning Changes - The Planning Board in collaboration with the Center Committee recommended three changes in the zoning for the Central Business (CB) District that would allow residential use above the ground floor and people in those residences to conduct home occupations, and would increase the maximums for height and floor area ratio (FAR). The residential use and the home occupations amendments passed while the increased height was sent back to the Planning Board for further study.
- CD zone for 2013 and 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, the former Dana Home - The CD zone provides for the preservation and redevelopment of the three existing structures on these parcels as an inn with 22 guest rooms and a public restaurant with seating for 54.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Site Sensitive Development

- 186-192 Woburn Street—Definitive Plan approved five (5) residential lots maintaining the existing dwelling at 192 Woburn Street, replacing 186 Woburn Street and the construction of three (3) additional residential unit.

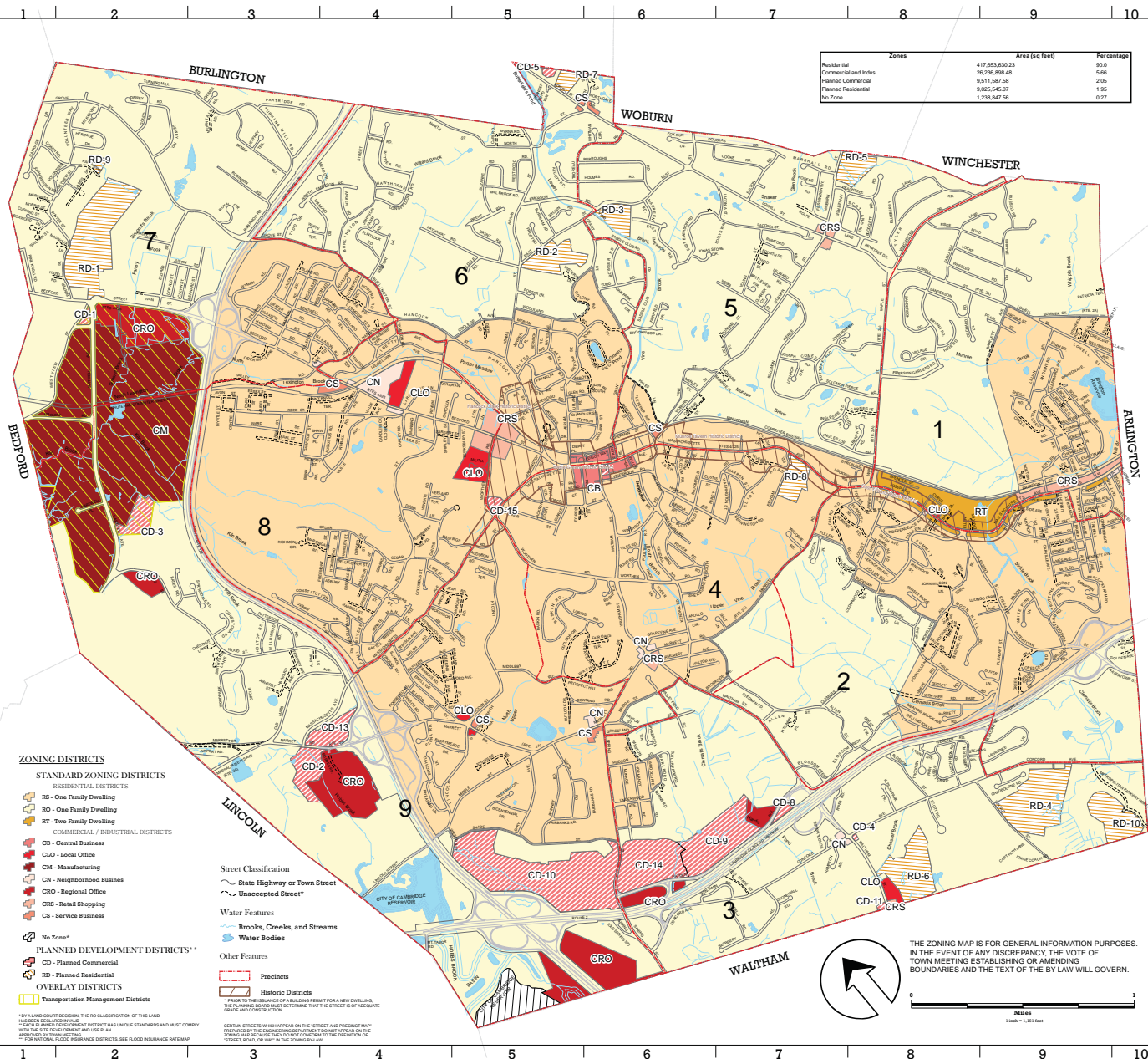
2013

Zoning Changes

- Zoning Bylaw amended in its entirety to meet three broad objectives: 1) resolve irregularities with state and case law; 2) address internal inconsistencies within the Zoning Bylaw; and 3) recodify and streamline the Zoning Bylaw to improve its readability.
- Abolished the RM district which had been a multi-family district in the past but now no longer allowed such a use
- Abolished the WPD district since its protections duplicated other laws
- Temporary moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, a.k.a. Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, to allow the Town time to assess the need for local regulations and fees as well as a complete discussion of appropriate location for such a facility.

1

Zones	Area (sq feet)	Percentage
Residential	417,653,630.23	90.0
Commercial and Indus	26,236,896.48	5.66
Planned Commercial	9,511,587.58	2.05
Planned Residential	9,025,545.07	1.95
No Zone	1,238,847.56	0.27



THE ZONING MAP IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PURPOSES
IN THE EVENT OF ANY DISCREPANCY, THE VOTE OF
TOWN MEETING ESTABLISHING OR AMENDING
BOUNDARIES AND THE TEXT OF THE BY-LAW WILL GOVERN.



Miles
1 inch = 161 feet

Map Produced by
The Lexington Planning Department
July 2013



Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Conventional Subdivision

- Rangeway Extension – Definitive subdivision plan creates a single lot and a turnaround at the end of Rangeway.

Balanced Housing Development

- 376 Lincoln Street/73 Middle Street - Definitive plan approved to demolish the structure on 73 Middle Street, the relocation of the structure at 376 Lincoln Street and its conversion into two units, and the construction of six new homes for an overall development of eight units all served by a proposed right of way off Middle Street.

2014

Zoning Changes

- Medical Marijuana Treatment Center - lifted the moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers, also known as Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs), and restricted them to the CM district.
- Site Plan Review - allowed development in the commercial districts to utilize site plan review without having to get a special permit as well.
- Schools - Permitted small for-profit schools in the CN and RT districts.
- Technical corrections -Non-substantive changes to the Zoning Bylaw to help clarify the bylaws such as changing the names of the types of accessory apartments.
- 430 Concord Avenue - created a CD district to allow a 72-unit assisted living facility for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia and memory loss disorders.

Development (subdivisions, special permits):

Conventional Subdivision

- 2 Edna Street Extension – Definitive subdivision plan to extend Edna Street to serve one additional lot.

Site Sensitive Development

- 28 -34 Robinson Road –Definitive plan approved to demolish the existing single-family structure and construct three new houses accessed by individual driveways.
- 137-139 Shade Street - Definitive plan approved to preserve the two existing dwellings and create two new structures. Construction of a common driveway will provide access off Shade Street.

Balanced Housing Development



- 4-6 Robinson Road – Definitive plan approved to replace both structures on site with 12 units in six structures.
- 495 Lowell Street- Definitive plan approved the demolition of the existing single-family structure and the construction of four new homes served by two common driveways.

Private Property and Vacant Land

There are some parcels deemed to be significant in terms of location or size, some of which are vacant and others underutilized, that are susceptible to new or more intense development. The Town has already begun to:

- Identify those privately owned parcels that remain vacant or underdeveloped
- Evaluate their potential for development and the likely impact of that development on public services and facilities
- Identify desirable future uses of the land in light of the Town's Comprehensive Plan (i.e. Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Open Space and Recreation)
- Identify the actions (i.e. changes to zoning regulations and appropriations needed to implement the policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan)

Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils and Topography

Geology¹

Lexington's surficial geology is dominated by very old gravel and sand deposits and glacial till laid down above bedrock during the last ice age. When the Pleistocene Glacier moved down from the north, rocks and soil were scoured from the earth's surface and mixed together as they were carried forward by the flow of ice. When the glacier retreated, this transported rock and soil was left behind in various types of deposits, such as moraines, eskers, kames, and glacial erratics.

Ground moraines are deposits of unsorted rock and soil that accumulate beneath a glacier or are deposited as the glacier retreats. Ground moraines form many of the low, rolling hills that are characteristic of Lexington. Eskers are narrow ridges of well-sorted sand and gravel that are most often deposited by flowing water within and below glaciers. Examples of eskers in Lexington can be found in the Great Meadow off Maple Street, behind Hancock Street, and beneath Ridge Road (the roadway is an esker top). Kames are irregular short mounds, hills, or ridges of poorly sorted sand and gravel deposited by melt water most often flowing or settling on top of glacial ice. A classic example of a kame is located behind the Adams School. In the past, much of this material was commercially removed, such as along the Lower Vine Brook and Hartwell Avenue. Glacial erratics are large boulders, typically of a different bedrock



¹ The following section was drafted upon, *The Last Billion Year of the Geological History of the Town of Lexington* by Robert Shrock, 1984, *Citizens for Lexington Conservation* publication # P-9, and *Lexington and the Ice Age: A Field Guide* by Arthur J Latham and Winston Yelland, date and publisher unknown (located in the Lexington Conservation division office).



type than the surrounding bedrock, which glaciers pick up and then drop elsewhere. Glacial erratics are common in Lexington; one example can be found at the corner of Wood Street and Hartwell Avenue.

In addition to depositing moraines, eskers, kames, and erratics throughout Lexington, glacial action also rounded the hilltops that are numerous in town (see *Topography* in this section for more information on Lexington's hills). One of the most unusual of these hilltops is that of Granny Hill (also called Merriam Hill), which has a pond on top of it that is thought to be a glacial feature.

Most of Lexington's bedrock is buried by glacial deposits, but there are a number of bedrock outcrops and exposures scattered throughout town. The town's bedrock is dominated by igneous rock—pink granite and darker plutonic and volcanic rock—as well as metamorphic gneisses, schists, and greenstones.

Soils

Twenty-nine different kinds of soil in Lexington occupy the landscape in five naturally recurring groups called soil associations, as shown on *Map 4 Soils and Geologic Features*. Depths of soil in town range from two to twenty feet and above. The soil associations are delineated as general soil areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as the following:

Hollis-Essex-Paxton-Scituate Association

This association contains shallow to bedrock soils and deep, very stony, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils with hardpans within two feet of the surface. It occupies about 50 percent of the Town. Topography of the area consists of prominent hills, low ridges, and narrow swampy intervals.

Hinckley-Windsor-Au Gres Association

These are droughty and poorly drained, sandy and gravelly soils. This association occupies about 18 percent of the Town. Its topography consists of nearly level to undulating plains with a few low hills. Mining of this association has been extensive in Lexington's history, with high water tables being the main limiting factor.

Charlton-Hollis-Gloucester Association

These are deep, very stony, well-drained soils with hardpans at depths of three to five feet and shallow to bedrock soils. About 14 percent of the Town is occupied by this

association, mostly in the northern section of Town, which is characterized by low hills and narrow intervals.

Muck-Freshwater Marsh Association

This association is made up of very poorly drained materials and occupies about 12 percent of the Town.

Deerfield-Muck-Au Gres-Hinkley Association

This association consists of droughty to poorly drained sandy and gravely soils and very poorly drained organic soils. It occupies about six percent of the Town, with nearly level soil area, a few low knolls and ridges with occasional depressions filled with organic matter.

Topography

●●●

Clearly a result of glacial action, the topography of Lexington today is one of mild reliefs and moderate valleys.

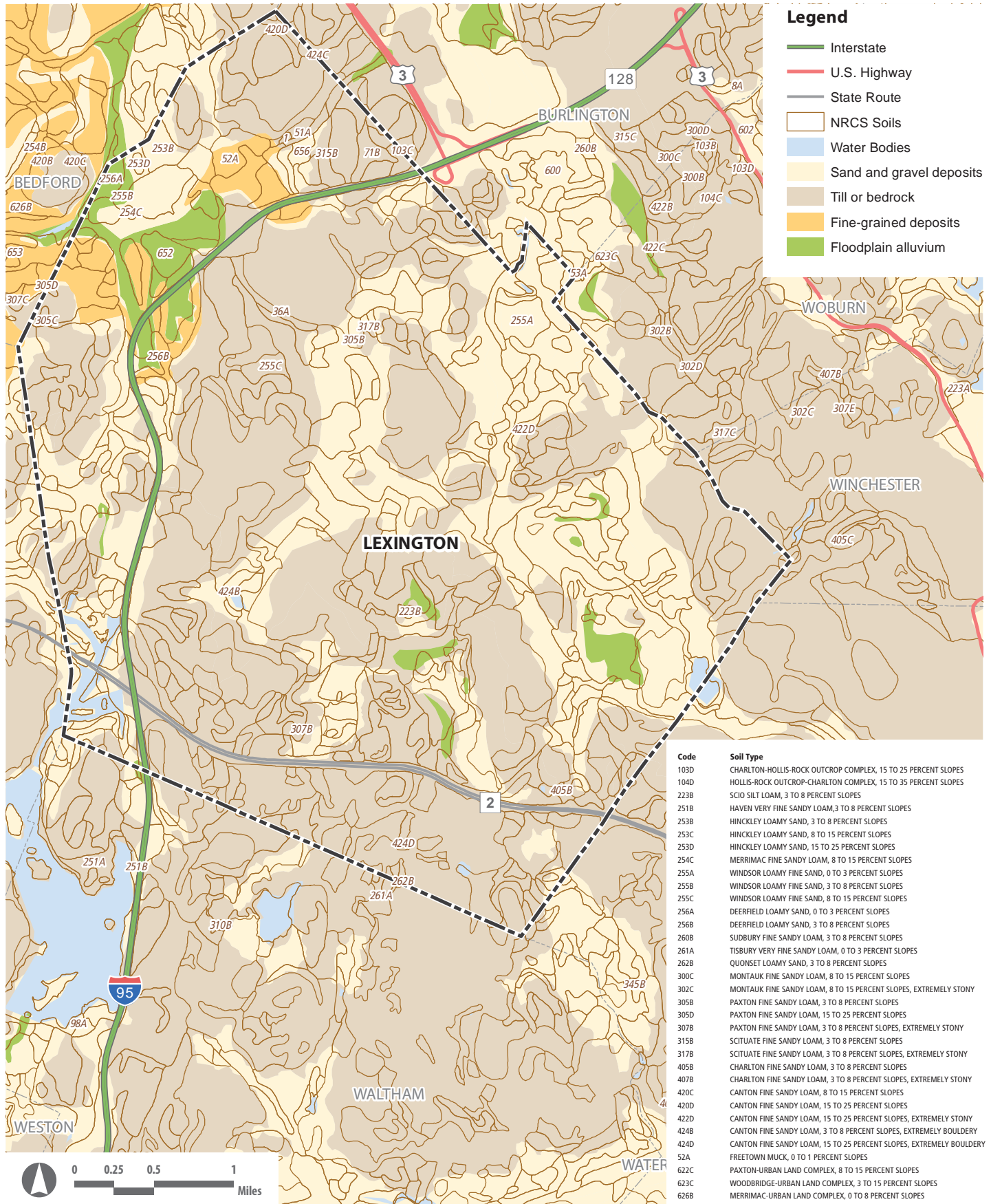
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The topography of Lexington bears distinct marks of the glacial period and is characterized by rounded rock hills with an average elevation of 350 feet and flat-bottomed valley segments, as illustrated in *Map 5 Topography*. The highest point in Lexington is Whipple Hill, in the northeast corner of town, which stands at 374 feet above sea level. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the lowest valley in Lexington (Tophet Swamp) is now filled with glacial deposits and is approximately 100 to 125 feet above mean sea level.

Besides Whipple Hill, other prominent hills in town include Brick Hill, Moon Hill, Follen Hill, Munroe Hill, Robinson Hill, Loring Hill, and Cranberry Hill.

Tophet Swamp is the lowest point in Lexington.

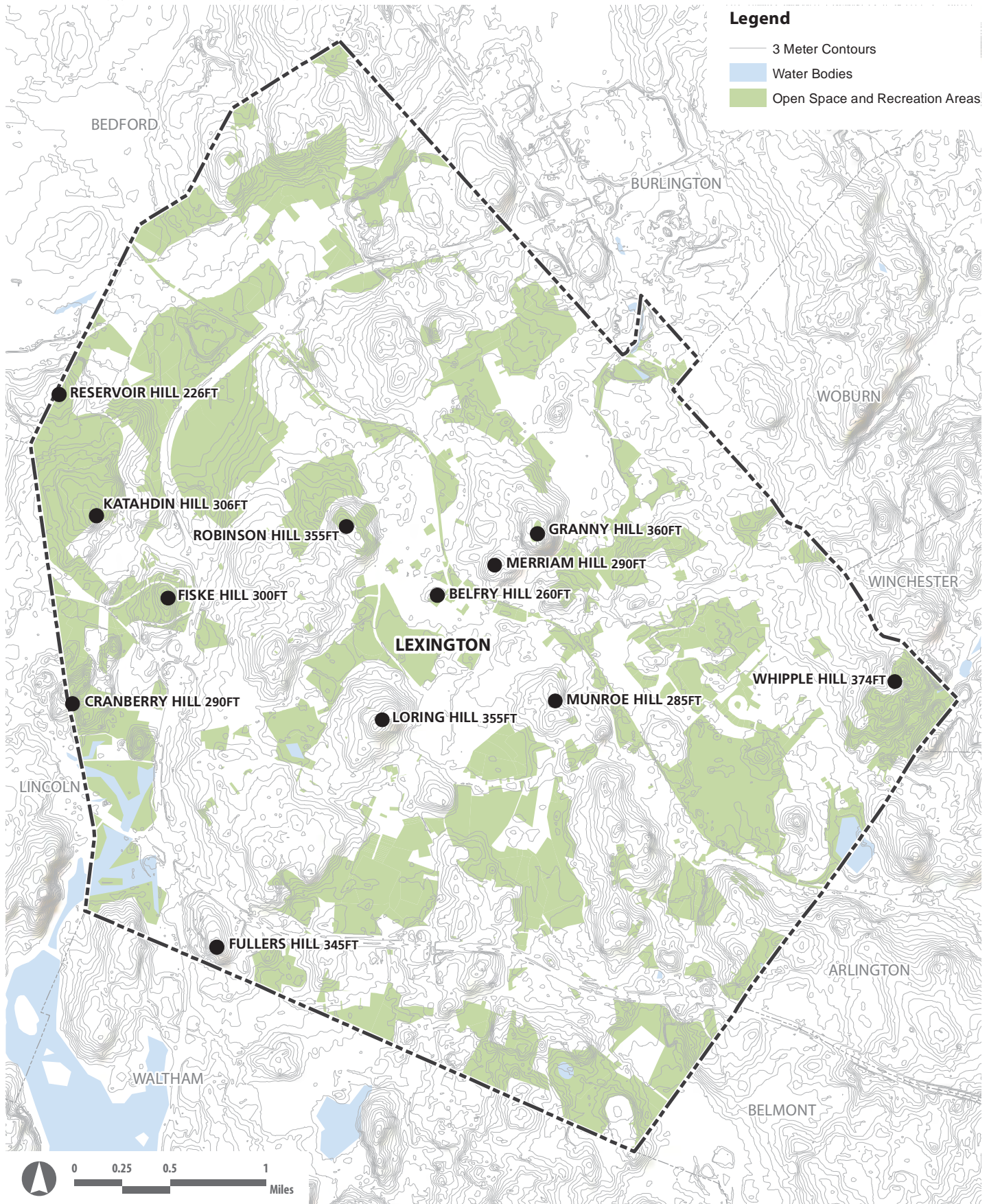




Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015





Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015



Map 5
Topography



Many of Lexington's valleys were also shaped by various types of glacial activity. Some once held stagnant glacial melt waters and have slowly been filling in since the glacier's retreat, so that they are now swamps or marshlands. Examples of these include Tophet Swamp and Arlington's Great Meadow. Others, particularly those sandwiched between the town's rocky hills, were carved by rushing glacial melt waters, and they now remain dry except for periods of excessive rainfalls. Many of the flattest areas of town are underlain by sand plains that were deposited by glacial melt water, and they have provided good building sites for the Town's schools, such as Lexington High school, Diamond Middle school, and Estabrook Elementary school.

Landscape Character

Introduction

The landscape of Lexington is one of immeasurable beauty, much of which has been retained even as the town has become more densely populated over time. The natural features and protected areas of Lexington's landscape provide its residents with scenic value, recreation opportunities, and valuable ecosystem services.

Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

Bloody Bluff Fault

The Bloody Bluff, located at the historic Fiske Hill site at the corner of Old Massachusetts Avenue and Marrett Road, is a part of the Minuteman National Historic Park. The Bloody Bluff reveals a section of granite bedrock exposed by the Bloody Bluff fault, which runs through Lexington as it travels approximately 80 miles from Newbury, MA to northern Connecticut.² The Bloody Bluff fault was first recognized in the early 1960's by Norm Cupples. This discovery was seen by geologists as an opportunity to examine the theory of plate tectonics, because the Bloody Bluff area hypothesized to be an area of contact between two major continental plates.



² http://www.geologicresources.com/bloody_bluff_fault.html and Roadside Geology of Massachusetts by Skehan.

Whipple Hill

At 374 feet, Whipple Hill is the highest point in Lexington. Its rounded summit rock and high exposed cliffs that form a shallow ravine are unusual geologic features in town. The top of Whipple Hill is home to plants not otherwise found widely in Lexington, including bear berry and scrub oak. The property features three potential vernal pools and one certified vernal pool. Nearby, a larger secluded woodland pond attracts a variety of wildlife, including American eel, painted turtles, orioles, migrating warblers, dragonflies, and muskrats. Rare wild flowers also grow on this property (see Natural Heritage Program list) as well as two rare plants identified by the New England Plant Conservation Program (see Unusual Vegetation, pg. 4-13). Whipple Hill is owned by the Town as a conservation area.

Areas of Archaeological Interest

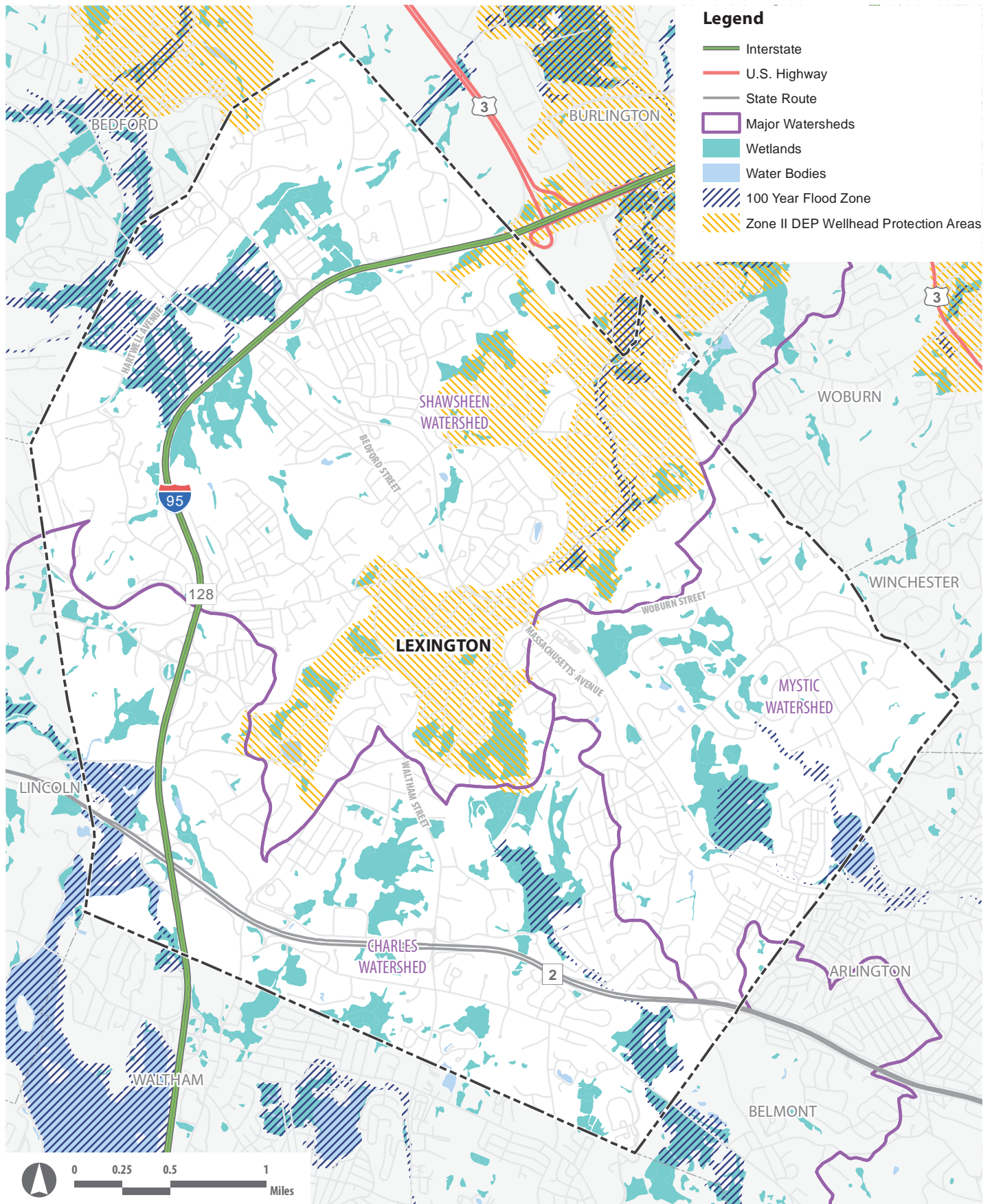
Poor Farm Conservation Area

In February of 1985, Boston University's Center for Archaeological Studies, along with several Lexington High School classes, carried out an archaeological dig at a site on the Poor Farm Conservation Area. They found several prehistoric artifacts, including a projectile point of the Late Archaic/Early Woodland smallstem tradition (1,000 B.C.) and a prehistoric stone tool. They also found many 18th and 19th century artifacts, including porcelain earthenware, edge-decorated pearlware, oyster shells, a metal pin button inscribed with "W. Kid McCoy", milk cans, indications of a small forge, mason jars, stone ware, two plain clay pipes, bowl fragments, two creamware fragments, and hand-wrought nails.

Water Resources

Watersheds

Lexington contains 21 sub-watersheds (also called drainage basins) that drain to three major watersheds, the Shawsheen River Watershed, the Mystic River Watershed, and the Charles River Watershed, which meet on Eliot Road near the new community center (see *Map 6 Water Resources*). Major storage basins exist at Tophet Swamp for the Shawsheen River Watershed, Dunback Meadow and the old Metropolitan State Hospital area (and to a lesser degree, parts of Hayden Woods) for the Charles River Watershed, and the Great Meadow and Munroe Meadows for the Mystic River Watershed.



Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

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SHAWSHEEN RIVER WATERSHED

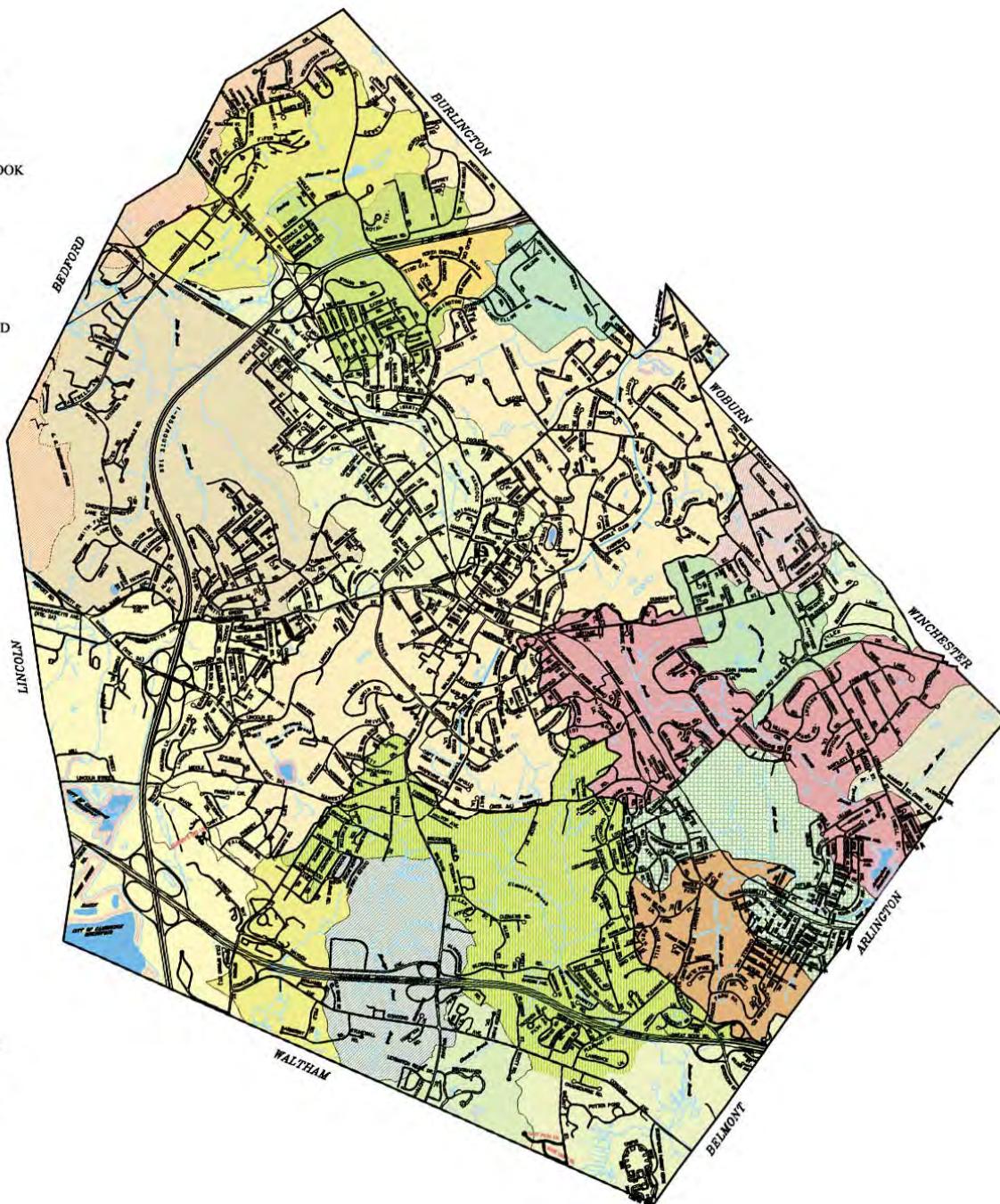
- FARLEY BROOK
- KILN BROOK
- NORTH LEXINGTON BROOK
- SIMONDS BROOK
- TURNING MILL BROOK
- VINE BROOK
- WILLARDS BROOK
- SHAWSHEEN RIVER SHED

CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED

- BEAVER BROOK
- CHESTER BROOK
- CLEMATIS BROOK
- HARDY'S POND BROOK
- HOBBS BROOK
- JUNIPER HILL BROOK

MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED

- FESSENDEN BROOK
- MILL BROOK
- MUNROE BROOK
- REEDS BROOK
- SICKLE BROOK
- SHAKER GLEN BROOK
- WINNING'S FARM BROOK



TOWN OF LEXINGTON STREAMS & DRAINAGE AREAS

PETER M. CHALPIN PE
TOWN ENGINEER

DRAWN BY: DAVID PAVLIK



SCALE: Not to Scale
MARCH 24, 2008

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014



Map 6a
Subwatersheds



Map 6A Subwatersheds depicts the Town's sub-watersheds and was prepared by David Pavlik of the Town's Engineering Division in March 2008. Note that the Shawsheen River Watershed is a drainage area without a major stream channel, which accounts for the difference between the Town's 20 brooks and 21 sub-watersheds. Lexington's sub-watersheds include:

- Draining to the Shawsheen River Watershed:
 - Farley Brook
 - Kiln Brook
 - North Lexington Brook
 - Simonds Brook
 - Turning Mill Brook
 - Vine Brook
 - Willards Brook
 - Shawsheen River Shed
- Draining to the Mystic River Watershed
 - Fessenden Brook
 - Mill Brook
 - Munroe Brook
 - Reeds Brook
 - Sickie Brook
 - Shaker Glen Brook
 - Winning's Farm Brook
 -
- Draining to the Charles River Watershed
 - Beaver Brook
 - Chester Brook
 - Clematis Brook
 - Hardy's Pond Brook
 - Hobbs Brook
 - Juniper Hill Brook

Surface Water

While Lexington does not have a major river running through its landscape, it does have 20 brooks that play important roles in the infrastructure and character of the town. All of Lexington's brooks originate within the town's boundaries and flow outward to other towns except for a small section of Reeds Brook, making Lexington a headwaters community. Over time, these brooks have been altered by human activity through changes such as channelization, the introduction of culverts, and sedimentation build-up from road sand and other run-off. Furthermore, impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and buildings have caused more stormwater



runoff to enter the brooks than would naturally. These impacts have resulted in flooding problems, degradation of water quality, and impacts to habitat in many areas.

Lexington's brooks flow directly into Arlington, Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln, Bedford, Burlington, and Woburn before traveling onward to discharge in the Atlantic Ocean near Boston and Newburyport. The Town's brooks contribute to water supplies in Burlington via the Vine Brook, Bedford via the Kiln Brook/Shawsheen River, and Woburn via Woburn's Horn Pond from Shaker Glen Brook, as well as Cambridge via Hobbs Brook and the Cambridge Reservoir. The other two reservoirs in town, the Arlington Reservoir and the Lexington Old Reservoir (or Old Res), are now used for swimming rather than water supply.

In 2007, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. completed a water quality study of the Old Res, which has had problems with high coliform counts after rainstorms. A deepwater well was added in 1982, which serves to maintain the water level but does not guarantee improved water quality. The results of the study show that the major source for bacteria entering the water body is stormwater discharged by the four outfalls along Marrett Road. In addition to providing a popular swimming area in Lexington, the water from the Old Res eventually flows to the Vine Brook and on to the Shawsheen River watershed, so improving water quality is also important to communities downstream. In 2009, Town Meeting appropriated Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to complete a stormwater management mitigation project at the Old Reservoir which was completed and implemented in 2013.

Other issues with brook health and function in Lexington are being addressed through a Watershed Stewardship Program that started in the fall of 2008. The program, initially coordinated by the Conservation Division, the Engineering Division, and citizen volunteers, including the Lexington Conservation Stewards and students from the Minuteman Career and Technical High School, conducted stream shoreline surveys to identify problems caused by stormwater run-off and impaired outfalls. The data collected in those surveys was processed into map format and used as a planning tool for remediation of identified stream problems. The program is now coordinated solely by the Engineering Division and engages students from the University of Massachusetts Lowell through an internship program.

Functions of Lexington's Brooks

Lexington's network of small brooks and the wetlands surrounding them serve as the backbone for the Town's hydrology. and provide the following functions:



Hydrologic

- Brooks provide avenues for stormwater to travel in, acting as efficient conduits for moving water and help to reduce flooding.
- Brooks help maintain a stable groundwater "budget" by transferring excess water during seasonally high groundwater periods, thereby reducing flooding
- Brooks act to recharge groundwater supplies through infiltration
- Brooks assist in the maintaining of static water levels in ponds and reservoirs

Ecologic

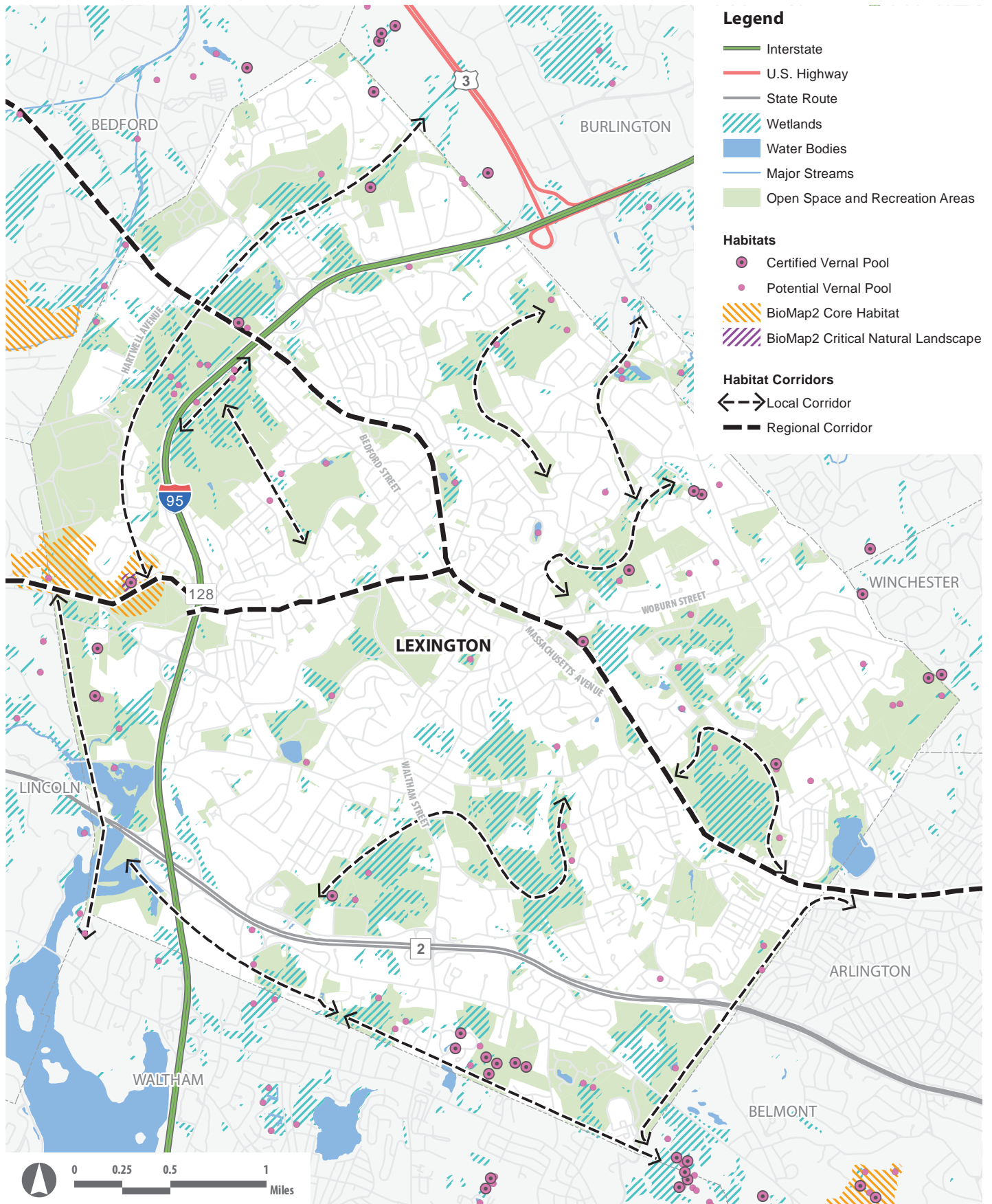
- Brooks assist in filtering out pollutants and sediment, especially by discharging water into surrounding wetlands with filtration capacities
- Brooks provide prime wildlife habitat, including habitat for several threatened and endangered species
- Brooks create ecological diversity by helping to maintain the hydric (wet) soil conditions that support important wetland plant communities
- Brooks provide aesthetic enjoyment for citizens and passive recreation for hikers, fishermen and women, bird watchers, and outdoor enthusiasts

Value of Brook Corridors to Wildlife

Brook corridors traverse a large number of Lexington's conservation areas. Prolific wetland systems surrounded by relatively large tracts of undisturbed land, as well as vegetated areas running along brook channels, provide essential components of wildlife habitat, including: food, cover, water, and nesting and breeding space. Some of the most important brook corridors that currently exist in Lexington include areas along Vine Brook, Simond's Brook, Munroe Brook, Beaver Brook, and Kiln Brook. Degradation to these natural brook corridors impacts species that travel in them, such as white-tailed deer, coyote, and fisher. For a further discussion of wildlife corridors in Lexington, see *Section 4.5, Fisheries and Wildlife*.

Certified Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are ephemeral bodies of water that do not support predatory fish and provide essential spring breeding habitat for various amphibian species, including wood frogs and blue-spotted salamanders. Vernal pools are protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, but must be certified as vernal pools before falling under this protection. Twenty certified vernal pools are located within the Town of Lexington (see *Map 7 Natural Habitats*).



Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Lexington

Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015



Flood Hazard Areas

The boundaries of the one hundred year floodplain are shown on *Map 6 Water Resources*. Floodplain areas in Lexington provide important temporary flood storage capacity when adjacent surface water bodies overflow. These areas frequently contain valuable wildlife habitat including a number of Lexington's certified vernal pools.



Kiln Brook photographed in the Meagherville Conservation Area.

Wetlands

The Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS) has mapped approximately 519 acres of open marshes/bogs and 750 acres of wooded marshes in Lexington, and more freshwater wetland exist that have not yet been mapped. These freshwater wetlands provide habitat, recharge groundwater, purify water, and store surface runoff, slowing the progress of flood waters. Many of the freshwater marshes in Lexington fall within open space areas, including Tophet Swamp, the Great Meadow, Willard's Woods, and Dunback Meadow. MassGIS's mapped wetlands are shown on *Map 6 Water Resources*.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

The high percentage of impermeable surface in Lexington, both natural and human-made, results in a high rate of precipitation runoff, which reduces the amount of water available for groundwater recharge. Groundwater recharge takes place in wetlands, such as those found in the Upper Vine Brook, Lower Vine Brook, Willard's Woods, and Dunback Meadow conservation areas. Lexington includes 3,256.7 acres of

Department of Environmental Protection Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II), which are important for protecting the recharge area around public water supply groundwater sources. Most of this acreage falls in the Vine Brook watershed, which provides drinking water for the town of Burlington. These Zone II areas are shown on *Map 6 Water Resources*.



A panorama of Willard's Woods.

Vegetation

Introduction

Before settlement, Lexington—like much of New England—was almost completely forested. As Lexington's early settlers cleared land for farming, the town's forests were transformed into grassland or cropland, and by the early 1900's, only 30 percent of the town was forested. More recently, as farming has given way to other land uses, many of the old fields that remain as open space have transitioned back to forest.

Using the Society of American Foresters' classification system, Lexington's forests generally fall under the Transition Hardwoods-White Pine-Hemlock and the Central Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine forest types.

Transition Hardwoods-White Pine-Hemlock

This zone, which covers much of Worcester and Franklin counties, as well as portions of Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Norfolk counties, is named because both northern hardwoods and central hardwoods such as oaks and hickories mix here. White pine is found on abandoned fields and sandy sites and hemlock/northern hardwood mixtures on lower slopes, with central hardwoods, white birch and white pine on the hilltops.

Central Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine

This zone covers much of eastern Massachusetts, except southern Plymouth County and Cape Cod, as well as lower elevations in southern Worcester and southern Hampden counties. Oaks and hickories dominate, with red maple, chestnut oak, black

birch and scarlet oak also common. Hemlock is the most common softwood but white pine predominates on sandy sites.³

It is important to remember that forests are dynamic, changing over time and with varying human and ecological influences, so that these classifications do not necessarily designate the type of forest found now, but rather the “type of forests that are likely to have existed prior to European settlement and would be likely to develop in the absence of radical human or natural disturbance.”⁴

Within these two types, Lexington’s forests vary widely, both due to natural and human influences. Examples of some of the less common forest communities include the patches of scrub oak and pitch pine found at the uplands of the Great Meadow and on top of Whipple Hill, the yellow birch and hemlock forest found at the Paint Mine conservation area, and the stands of American beech found at the Meagherville conservation area and Katahdin Woods.

The age of a forest also plays an important role in determining which plants dominate its canopy and understory. Agricultural land that was abandoned earlier, such as is found in the Sutherland Woods conservation area, supports a more mature forest than agricultural land that was abandoned later, such as is found in the Juniper Hill conservation area. In some places, old agricultural land that was previously drained has reverted back to forested wetland, such as in the lower areas of the Simond’s Brook and Dunback Meadow conservation areas.

The Meagherville Conservation Area provides a serene setting for enjoying a nature walk with a companion.



Both the older and the younger forests in Lexington provide a scenic quality to the town as well as passive recreation opportunities for walkers, runners, skiers, bird-watches, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Forested areas surrounding the town’s streams help to provide shade cover and soil stabilization to protect stream health. Forested wetlands and uplands provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and wildlife, contributing to the overall biodiversity of

the town. Forests also perform a number of other ecosystem services, such as filtering pollutants from air, reducing erosion, and absorbing stormwater runoff.

In addition to Lexington’s forests, open meadows maintained by annual mowing are located on a number of conservation areas (see below — Managed Properties). In other

▼
³ MA Landowners’ Forest Association website (<http://www.massforests.org/ma-forests/common-types.htm>)
⁴ *The Forest Use Manual* by University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System

cases, current agricultural activity keeps meadows open, including at Wilson Farms, Waltham Street Farm, and Hayden Woods conservation areas, and Busa Farm. These open meadows provide habitat variety in Lexington and are particularly important for certain butterfly, bird, and small mammal species, as well as hunting coyotes and foxes. Meadows also help to stabilize soil and filter air and water. Without annual mowing, these meadows would revert to forest through the process of succession.

Lexington currently has six flora species contained on the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program rare species list. The following table is based on information extracted from the NHESP database.

Table 4-1 Rare Flora Species in Lexington⁵

MESA Status Key: E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
1 Vascular Plant	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Leafy White Orchid	T	Historic
2 Vascular Plant	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty	E	1998
3 Vascular Plant	<i>Mimulus moschatus</i>	Muskflower	E	1913
4 Vascular Plant	<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>	Long-leaved Bluet	E	1897
5 Vascular Plant	<i>Doellingeria infirma</i>	Cornel-leaved Aster	E	1931
6 Vascular Plant	<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	New England Blazing Star	SC	1902

Unusual Vegetation Types

As mentioned above, while Lexington's forests fall into two broad types, on a finer scale, they vary across town depending on topography, age, human impacts, and soils. The town's meadows show variety as well. Some of the more unusual vegetation features in Lexington are described below.

Oak-pine-hickory forest at Whipple Hill Conservation Area

Whipple Hill is the largest tract of forest in Lexington, with roughly 120 acres of forest. The canopy is dominated by oak, pine, and hickory. The understory includes viburnum, sassafras, and spicebush, with sweet pepperbush growing along Whipple Brook. This woodland and the small pond located within it support abundant

▼
⁵ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>



wildlife. A small area surrounding the summit has been cleared routinely throughout its history, either from fire or by the ravages of gypsy and brown-tailed moths during the 1890's. Vegetation found on the top of Whipple Hill, such as scrub oak, pitch pine, and bear-berry, is rare otherwise in town. In 2007, the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP) conducted rare plant monitoring activities at Whipple Hill and identified 17 plants of *Polygonum tenue* (Slender Knotweed) and 30 patches of *Selaginella rupestris* (Rock Spikemoss).

Arlington's Great Meadow

The upland portion of Arlington's Great Meadow has been repeatedly burned, causing this area to resemble a scrub oak-pitch pine barrens, with lowbush blueberry growing in the poor soils. The wetter portions of Arlington's Great Meadow contain a wide variety of native wetland plant species, including buttonbush, highbush blueberry, and winterberry, although the invasive purple loosestrife is gaining ground in the wetlands. The vegetation in this area has made it a well-known spot for woodcock breeding.

White pine stand and meadows at Willard's Woods Conservation Area

The white pine grove at Willard's Woods is the largest of its kind in Lexington, with some red pines mixed in and young oaks and hickories beginning to fill in the understory. The adjacent meadows are dotted with red cedar and grow high with field annuals by the end of the summer.

Pine plantation and meadow at Dunback Meadow Conservation Area

Dunback Meadow conservation area includes a pine stand that was planted at the turn of the century as a timber source and then later abandoned. During the winter of 1980–1981, 21 long-eared owls roosted within this pine grove, and other owls have been spotted there since. The vegetation in the open meadow attracts a wide variety of bird species and makes Dunback Meadow one of the town's most popular birding areas.

Ravine community at Paint Mine Conservation Area

Within this conservation area is a deep ravine that supports trees that are more commonly found in northern New England, including dense hemlocks and yellow



birch. This is also one of the two locations in Lexington where American hop hornbeam is found.

American beech forest at Meagherville Conservation Area

The Meagherville conservation area contains Lexington's largest forested area dominated by American beech, a tree that is not common as a dominant species in this part of the state. Beech-drops, an uncommon saprophytic plant in Middlesex County, grows on the roots of these Meagherville beeches.

Managed Properties

Lexington manages all of its forested conservation areas for passive recreation and wildlife habitat. No forest in Lexington is currently managed for timber harvesting purposes, due in large part to the relatively small size of forest patches that exist, the lack of nearby sawmills, and the heavy recreational use on the town's forests.

The Town annually mows the vegetation at some areas of its conservation areas in order to maintain open meadows. Conservation Land with mown areas include Parker Meadow, Wright Farm, Juniper Hill, Cotton Farm/Upper Vine Brook, Paint Mine, Hennessey Field, Poor Farm, West Farm, Chiesa Farm, Daisy Wilson's Meadow, Idylwilde, Willard's Woods, and Shaker Glen. In addition, active agricultural practices keep other fields open, both on Town-owned land (Waltham Street Farm, Hayden Woods, and LexFarm/Busa Farm) and privately owned land (Meadow Mist, Wilson Farm). Finally, NSTAR periodically mows the vegetation in its utility easements in order to maintain access, which keeps shrubs, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers dominant in these areas.

The following list describes some of the more prominent open meadows in town.

Poor Farm Conservation Area

A mowed knoll at Poor Farm, bordered by apple and peach trees and with a bench set at the center, provides a lovely open vista from the entrance off Cedar and Hill Streets.

Willard's Woods Conservation Area

The mowed fields at Willard's Woods provide habitat for a wide variety of butterfly-attracting wild flowers, including milkweed, goldenrod, sarsaparilla, asters, and thistle, that Lexington schools use as part of their *Big Backyard* educational program. Several cedars that have grown up in the center of the fields provide cover for birds.

**West Farm Conservation Area**

The open hillside at West Farm provides what is considered by many to be the loveliest rural view in Lexington.

Daisy Wilson Meadow Conservation Area

The open field at Daisy Wilson Farm, bordered by stonewalls, gives the visitor to this property a sense of the original context for the farmhouse and barn that still stand adjacent to the property.

Idylwilde Conservation Area

The open field that occupies most of Idylwilde conservation area provides an area of open space in an otherwise densely populated neighborhood. Due to slope, position of trees, and rough, rocky landscape, this area is more suited for passive than active recreation. Currently this is the site of the Idylwilde Community Garden.

Chiesa Farm Conservation Area

The hay fields at Chiesa Farm are mowed each year by the owner of the adjacent farmhouse. This property, seen from Adams Street, competes with West Farm for Lexington's most attractive rural vista.

Dunback Meadow Conservation Area

Dunback Meadow is the largest conservation property (161 acres) in Lexington and includes an extensive wet meadow, a pine grove, a red maple swamp, Clematis Brook, and a community garden.

Wright Farm

The 12.6 acres Wright Farm was purchased by the Lexington Conservation Commission in 2013, with trail development and land management activities forthcoming. With sweeping historic farm fields and rich forested wetlands, Wright Farm provides key open space and habitat connectivity in the northwest corner of Lexington. The property adjoins the Burlington Landlocked Forest (LLF), a regionally popular 250-acre open space area with a well-developed trail network. Future trail development at Wright Farm will provide access to the Burlington Landlocked Forest.

Waltham Street Farm Conservation Area

The field at Waltham Street Farm is utilized for corn crops by the lessee, a long-time Lexington farming family. The field, backed by woods and distant hills, affords a lovely scenic vista during all seasons from Waltham Street.



Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Stewardship Program

The Town is looking into applying for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Forest Stewardship Program. This program provides means to protect woodlands in the Commonwealth through the creation of 10 year forest management plans. These plans are specific to each tract of woodland in an effort to protect soil and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, timber resources, and continued recreation opportunities.

Other uses

NSTAR Power Line Easement

NSTAR cuts the vegetation back every five years or so in order to keep the easement open for repair trucks and regular maintenance. NSTAR encourages use of their easements, believing that an actively used property is less prone to vandalism.

Public Shade Trees

The Town of Lexington approved a Tree Bylaw in April of 2001. This bylaw effectively increased the protection of Lexington's tree canopy. Shortly thereafter, in October of 2001, a Tree Committee was established for the continued protection, care, and planting of trees in Lexington. To that end, the Committee published a Tree Management Manual in 2009; last updated in 2012.

The Tree Management Manual is a practical guide to tree planting and care. It is directed toward Town employees, builders, contractors, developers, and private individuals. Topics in the Manual include:

- Tree Planting
- Planting Guidelines
- Maintenance Specifications for Pruning
- Tree Protection During Construction
- Invasive Species—Impact on Public Lands

One of the major goals of the Tree Committee is to replace trees lost during the preceding year on a one to one basis. This is accomplished through an ongoing inventory of trees kept by the Committee and a tree planting program designed to continually replenish the supply of shade trees and to maintain a healthy canopy. In addition to enhancing the aesthetic value of the Town's streets, schools, parks, open



spaces, and private residences, this practice contributes toward mitigating some of the adverse effects of climate change.

Forestry

The Town DPW in collaboration with the Tree Committee currently maintains a small tree farm for municipal tree planting within the Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Introduction

For many species of wildlife, Lexington represents the easternmost boundary of available habitat in the Greater Boston area. Lexington's wildlife provides ecological, recreational, educational, and aesthetic benefits to the citizens of an increasingly urbanized section of Massachusetts.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors connect two or more wildlife habitat areas, allowing animals to travel through otherwise developed areas or un-travelable areas. In densely populated communities such as Lexington, wildlife may use train tracks, rail trails, bike paths, or power lines as corridors as well as streams, rivers, undeveloped wetlands, riparian buffers, and backyards. Since there is no established database available for wildlife corridors in Massachusetts, a cartographic analysis of Lexington was conducted using GIS software and pertinent datalayers available through MassGIS.

The first step in this analysis was to establish conservation land boundaries within Lexington. Second, bike trails, rail lines, and the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) layers of BioMap Core Habitat and BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape were added to the map. Once all these layers were plotted on the map, a network started to emerge (see *Map 7 Natural Habitats*).

Significant Wildlife Corridors

The most significant wildlife corridors that pass through Lexington are:

Regional

The Minuteman Bikeway and Minuteman National Historic Park form the basis for Lexington's regional habitat links. These links provide access to the west and east toward Concord, Bedford, and Arlington.

Local

- The stretch of green space surrounding Munroe Brook, which connects Arlington's Great Meadow with Arlington Reservoir
- The stretch of green space from the Old Reservoir to the Lincoln Park wetlands
- The stretch along a significant portion of Vine Brook from Butterfield's Pond to Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area
- Along a significant portion of Simonds Brook and Kiln Brook (in the West Lexington Greenway region, including Meagherville Conservation area and the Pine Meadows Golf Course)
- A significant portion of Clematis Brook from Dunback Meadow Conservation Area to Beaver Brook in Belmont, including the surrounding Hayden Woods and Upper Vine Brook conservation areas

Potential Wildlife Corridors

Land acquisition and protection in strategic locations could create stronger wildlife corridors in certain areas of town, such as along some of Lexington's brooks, along the West Lexington Greenway project area, and between many conservation areas. For instance, Joyce Miller's Meadow conservation area, which borders the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and sits just south of Lower Vine Brook conservation area, was acquired in 1995, increasing the already significant amount of green space along the bikeway. During the 1970's and 1980's, Lexington protected land adjacent to powerline easement through its purchase of the Paint Mine, Simonds Brook, Tophet Swamp, Katahdin Woods, and Cranberry Hill conservation areas. Protecting other areas through similar strategies can build new wildlife corridors and strengthen existing ones. Efforts toward this end are underway as part of the West Lexington Greenway project, which will link the Minuteman Bikeway with the Battle Road, providing a travel corridor for people and wildlife alike. The addition of Wright Farm has strengthened connection from Burlington LLF.



Migratory “Stop-over” Habitats

Migration represents a critical time for the survival of many bird species that pass through Lexington annually. As much as 80-90% of annual mortality may occur during the migratory period. (Monitoring Animal Migration in the Greater Acadia Region, Olsen, McCabe et al, University of Maine, 2013). “Stop-over” habitats that provide species with food, rest, and a low risk of predation can lower the risk of migration and contribute to the long-term viability of migratory populations.

Inventory

Mammals

Lexington contains many mammal species that are common to semi-rural areas of eastern Massachusetts. While no formal inventory of mammals has been conducted in Lexington in the recent past, observations as well as information in MassWildlife’s State Mammals List indicate that the following mammals utilize habitat in Lexington: Eastern coyote, red fox, white-tailed deer, beaver, mink, otter, muskrat, ermine, long-tailed weasel, fisher, raccoon, skunk, Virginia opossum, gray squirrels, red squirrels, flying squirrels, Eastern chipmunk, woodchuck, Eastern cottontail rabbit, various bats, and various small mammals (shrews, moles, voles, mice, rats). Occasional visitors to Lexington may include porcupine, bobcat, and bear, although no recent sightings have been noted.⁶

Birds

In 1912, Dr. Winsor M. Tyler (contributor to Arthur C. Bent’s Life Histories) compiled a bird list for Lexington that was published as an appendix to Charles Hudson’s History of the Town of Lexington. Tyler’s list included 166 species, 87 of which were breeding in Lexington. A modern list compiled by John Andrews for the Citizens for Lexington Conservation lists 185 species, 69 of which are thought to breed in the Town (See “Checklist of Lexington Birds” by John Andrews). The increase in the total number of species is due primarily to the greater skill and resources of modern birders (armed with excellent field guides, optics, and automobiles) in ferreting out the more rare migrants. The decline in the number of breeding species is probably due to a variety of causes, chief among them being the destruction of wetlands, conversion of farmland to residential use, and the introduction of the European starling and English house sparrow. Lexington contains at least one birding site,



⁶ Based on observations and MassWildlife’s State Mammals List (<http://www.mass.gov/dfwle/dfw/dfwmam.htm>)

Dunback Meadow, that is of statewide significance. It was at this site in 1979 that the first state record of McGillivray's warbler occurred. Dunback Meadow is also a dependable site for wintering long-eared owls, a rare species in this part of the state. In the winter of 1980–81, a remarkable roost of 22 long-eared owls assembled at Dunback Meadow. Birding groups from three states visited the site to observe the birds and a behavioral study of roosting was conducted.

Dunback Meadow is also one of the best sites in the area for observing the courtship displays of the American woodcock, and birders from neighboring towns visit the site yearly to observe this spectacle. Dunback Meadow is the only site in Lexington where the following species are regularly observed: saw-whet owl, northern shrike, bobolink, and the grasshopper sparrow. Each year, several bird walks are held at Dunback Meadow by the Brookline Bird Club and by Citizens for Lexington Conservation. It is also censused yearly as part of the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Other sites of birding interest are Whipple Hill (spring migration, wood duck, broad-winged hawk), Willard's Woods (spring migration, breeding broad-winged hawk), Arlington Reservoir (waterfowl, shorebirds, osprey), Hobbs Brook Basin (fall shorebirds), and Arlington's Great Meadow (ruffed grouse, great horned owl).

Reptiles and Amphibians

While a formal inventory of reptiles and amphibians in Lexington has not been conducted in recent years, observations and MassWildlife's State Reptiles and Amphibians List indicate that the following species occur or are likely to occur in Lexington.⁷

Snakes: black racer, common garter, milk, brown, eastern hognose, ribbon, northern water, redbelly, ringneck, and smooth green.

Turtles: snapping, eastern musk, painted, spotted, and box (the last two listed as species of special concern)

Toads: American, Fowler's

Frogs: spring peeper, gray tree, bull, green, pickerel, leopard, and wood

Salamanders: spotted, northern dusky, eastern red-backed, northern two-lined, blue-spotted, four-toed, (both species of special concern), marbled (threatened species) and eastern newt

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⁷ MassWildlife's State Reptiles and Amphibians List, 4th edition, 2000, revised 2002 and 2006, James E. Cardoza & Peter G. Mirick, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, accessed at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwamph.htm>

Fish

The principal site in Lexington frequented by fishermen and women is the Old Reservoir. It is stocked with trout each spring by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Other sites where fishing has occurred, but is not permitted, are Hobbs Brook Basin (Cambridge Water Supply). Fishing at the North Street sand pits is discouraged due to dangerous depths.

Rare Species

The National Heritage and Endangered Species Program, part of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, lists observations of 8 endangered, threatened or special concern species in Lexington, as indicated in the table below. As noted in the above inventories, other species may be present but unobserved due to the low level of recent survey efforts.

Table 4-3 Rare Fauna Species in Lexington⁸

MESA Status Key: E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
1 Bird	Podilymbus podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe	E	1899
2 Bird	Ixobrychus exilis	Least Bittern	E	Historic
3 Bird	Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	T	1879
4 Bird	Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned Hawk	SC	1870
5 Bird	Tyto alba	Barn Owl	SC	1956
6 Amphibian	Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	2009
7 Reptile	Glyptemys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC	1994
8 Reptile	Terrapene carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	1992

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Introduction

The following list presents a brief description of a few of the additional unique landscape features that have not been described elsewhere in this chapter. For a presentation of where these features are in Town, please see *Map 8 Unique Features*.



⁸ http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_l.htm#lexington

Battle Green

The Lexington Battle Green is the center point of the town's historical interpretation efforts. Tourists come by the busload to visit this important historic location, and the nearby Visitors' Center averages approximately 100,000 visitors each year. Town-sponsored guides give talks on the Battle Green year-round. Guided tours are conducted from April through October by Lexington Historical Society guides at the nearby Buckman Tavern, Hancock-Clarke House (on Hancock Street, about one-third mile away), and at Munroe Tavern (on Massachusetts Avenue, about one mile to the east).

Belfry Hill

Belfry Hill is an approximately 3 acre site located across the street from Cary Memorial Library, near the Battle Green. During the warmer months, the site provides a venue for the Town Librarian's story hour, informal exploration, and a wonderful opportunity for employees who work in the Town Center to take a pleasant lunch outside. In winter, it is a popular sledding location and a destination for contemplative strolls. Tourists also ascend the hill throughout the year to see the historic belfry atop.

Tower Park

This Town-owned area is an open, landscaped park along Massachusetts Avenue just outside of the center of town and accessible from the Minuteman Bikeway. Tower Park offers benches, picnic tables, and a pathway for leisure walks, as well as shade trees, rolling lawn, and ornamental shrubs. On fair weather days, dozens of cars are often parked along Massachusetts Avenue along the park with their passengers lounging on the grass, picnicking, or playing informal games. In the winter, children sled from Massachusetts Avenue to the Minuteman Bikeway.

Minuteman National Historic Park

The Minuteman National Historic Park is owned by the United States and administered by the National Park Service. Most of this linear park, stretching along Route 2A from Lexington (west of Route 95/128) to Concord, lies in Lincoln and Concord, but a small portion of the western end of the park lies in Lexington. The Lexington portion of the park contains the Bloody Bluff, the Minute Man Visitor Center, and Fiske Hill. Visitors to this park usually also stop at the Lexington Battle Green and historic houses in Lexington to view the early American Revolutionary Scenes.

Paint Mine Conservation Area

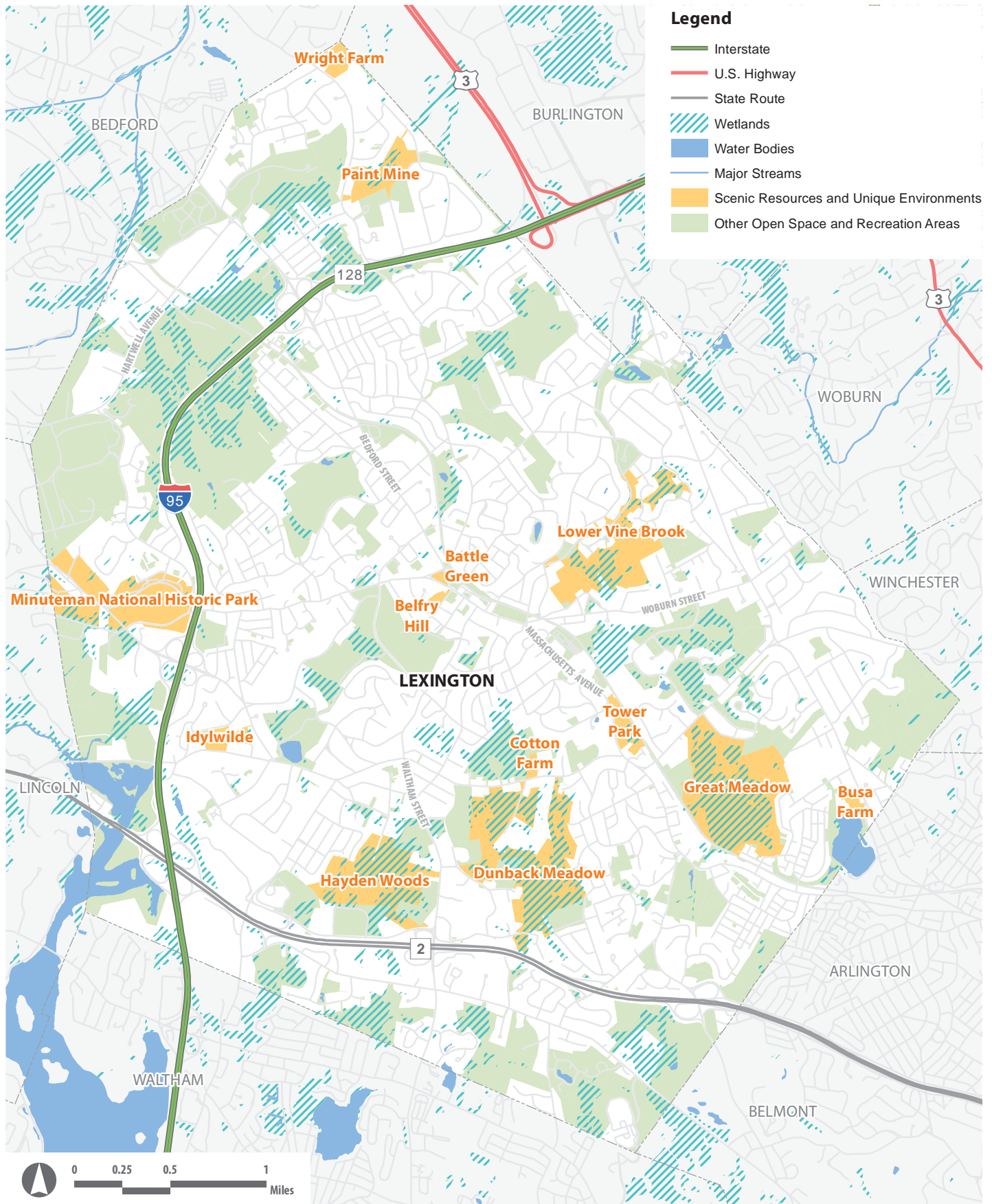
In addition to the unique hemlock ravine described in *Section 4.4, Vegetation*, the Paint Mine area also contains a wetland that was previously flooded to create muskrat breeding habitat and is now slowly reverting back to bog. An open power line easement, pine-oak woods, and adjacent Hennessey field add to the ecological diversity of this area. Since at least one plant growing in Paint Mine is considered “rare” in Middlesex County, this property is listed with the Natural Heritage Program as an “estimated habitat of rare wildlife.”

Great Meadow

Though owned by Arlington, the Great Meadow is located entirely within the bounds of Lexington. Consisting of dry upland areas, extensive wet meadows, and a registered vernal pond (certification #184), this 184-acre property makes up one of the largest contiguous open spaces in Lexington. During the late 1800’s, Arlington’s Great Meadow was visited by noted naturalists such as Frank Boles and William Brewster. In his 1893 journal, Brewster described a visit to Great Meadow during which he studied the pied-billed grebes that were common there. Almost 100 years later, pied-billed grebes were spotted at the nearby Arlington Reservoir (which is partly in Lexington). As far back as 1967, the Great Meadow was considered an important link in a greenbelt that connects it with the Mystic Lakes in Arlington. At the conference celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Park System, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council recommended that “trails could be developed from this center [Mystic Lakes area], around the lakes and along the greenbelt connections to the east of the Middlesex Fells and to the west to Great Meadow in Lexington.”

Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area

The Lower Vine Brook property, which contains a former sand pit, displays a dramatic landscape with greatly varied topography. The area includes an uncertified vernal pond where eastern newts, spotted salamanders, and northern leopard frogs have been known to breed. Vine Brook, which runs along the western side of this property, provides a significant forested wildlife corridors stretching from the Burlington line at Butterfield Pond through the Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area. Lower Vine Brook is also one of the closest conservation areas to the center of Lexington.



Hayden Woods Conservation Area

The 78.9 acre Hayden Woods Conservation Area features an old Lexington road that was laid out in 1660 and which was, according to local historians, a part of the so-called Virginia Path, which led Native Americans to the Shawsheen River where they traded goods with northern tribes.

Cotton Farm

Most of Cotton Farm/Upper Vine Brook is wetland, but the eastern side of the area is accessible by a trail running from Highland Avenue to a driveway that exits onto Marrett Road. The site has scenic frontage on Marrett Road and hosts a Town-owned apple orchard. There is a small picnic area near the pond at the Marrett Road entrance to Cotton Farm/Upper Vine Brook.



Picnic area at Cotton Farm

Wright Farm

The 12.6 acres Wright Farm, with its sweeping historic farm fields and rich forested wetlands, adds significant value to the Town's scenic landscape as well as a key wildlife and recreation connection with the Burlington Land Locked Forest.



Community Gardens

The community gardens at Idylwilde and Dunback Meadow, owned and managed by the Conservation Commission, are considered important resources to the Town; they are extremely popular and highly valued by residents.

Busa Farm

The Town acquisition of Busa Farm in 2009 allowed for the preservation of an important agricultural resource in Lexington. Currently the site of Lexington Community Farm, this is one of two Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs in Lexington (Wilson Farm also offers a CSA).

Unusual Geologic Features

Bloody Bluff Fault

The Bloody Bluff, which is located at the historic Fiske Hill site at the corner of Old Massachusetts Avenue and Marrett Road, is considered an unusual geological feature in Town. As described earlier in the landscape characters, it reveals a section of granite bedrock exposed by the Bloody Bluff fault running through Lexington as it travels approximately 80 miles from Newbury, MA to northern Connecticut.⁹ First discovered in the early 1960's, the Bloody Bluff fault was seen by geologists as an opportunity to examine the theory of plate tectonics, as hypothetically the Bloody Bluff area was an area of contact between two major continental plates.

Whipple Hill

The rounded summit rock and high exposed cliffs of Whipple Hill are also considered unusual geological features. As the highest point in Lexington at 374 feet, the top of Whipple Hill is home to plants not otherwise found widely in Lexington. Owned by the Town as a conservation area, Whipple Hill also hosts a variety of wildlife habitats and a diverse plant species.



⁹ http://www.geologicresources.com/bloody_bluff_fault.html and Roadside Geology of Massachusetts by Skehan.



Environmental Challenges

Hazardous Waste

As of the December 2, 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website listed 205 confirmed hazardous waste sites¹⁰ in Lexington. Lexington has no Federal Superfund sites. Most of the state-listed sites are relatively minor oil releases that have been or will soon be cleaned up. However, several other sites listed as reportable releases by DEP are currently listed as open sites at various phases of assessment and remediation.

Landfills

The Town of Lexington owns a 67-acre parcel situated between Hartwell Avenue and Route 128/95. Approximately one-third of this property previously served as the Town's landfill. A large portion of the remaining site area is wetlands. The landfill has been closed since 1980 and the Town has used the site for various activities since that time including leaf and yard waste composting, material storage for Department of Public Works (DPW) operations and a regional household hazardous waste collection facility. The site is commonly referred to as either the Hartwell Avenue Landfill or the Lexington Compost Facility (hereafter referred to in this report as the Hartwell Avenue Landfill Site or Landfill Site).

The 38.30 acre Lincoln Park, centrally located in the Town on Lincoln Street, is built on the site of a former landfill. The property was first obtained by the Town as part of the water supply works in the late 1800's. It was abandoned around 1905 when the Town joined the Metropolitan District Commission and in the 1930's became the town landfill. In 1963, the landfill was abandoned and subsequently capped. Between 1968 and 1989, various improvements had occurred on the capped landfill to create three natural grass multipurpose fields, a Little League field, and a softball field. The multipurpose fields were further upgraded with synthetic turf in 2003. Today, Lincoln Park consists of three multi-purpose synthetic turf fields, one Little League baseball field, one softball field, a playground, open space, and the Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path that are frequented by town residents and many other organized programs throughout the Town.



¹⁰ <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp>

Development Impacts

Lexington's land use pattern is basically established and land use issues mainly linger on uses involving redevelopment and intensification. Particularly in Lexington Center, intensification of existing uses is possible within the limits of zoning. A limited amount of further commercial development is possible in outlying commercial areas, with potentially more development upon alteration of dimensional rules. Future commercial development will likely bring with them environmental concerns such as trash, litter, and increased stormwater runoff. Additional efforts on managing stormwater runoff pollution, sedimentation, and erosion into surface waters are necessary, and the Town is taking a variety of steps to address this issue.

On the other hand, only a limited amount of undeveloped land remains in the Town where new development, especially residential, may occur in the future. This development trend could potentially threaten parcels the Town prefers to preserve for open space, but could also create new demand for recreation opportunities. While the Town strives to preserve as much of these undeveloped parcels as possible for open space protection, incentives to encourage appropriate developments that incorporate open space and recreational amenities should continue to be addressed in the project review process.

Water Management and Flood Control

Chronic Flooding

Over the years, Lexington has taken a proactive approach to alleviate flooding. Vine Brook was lowered during the 1950's, and other brooks were lowered during the 1970's including: Clematis Brook, Hardy's Pond Brook, and Willard's Brook.

Currently, trouble areas related to flooding include the stretch along Hartwell Avenue, where beavers have erected a dam in Tophet Swamp, the Sickie Brook area between the Adams School and the Minuteman Bikeway, the Swommon Land area off Barberry Road, and Kiln Brook at Pine Meadows Golf Club.

Sedimentation

Over the past thirty years, Lexington has been dealing with the build-up of sedimentation in its brooks, particularly where they pass beneath roads. In the 1970's, the Conservation Commission purchased the Parker Meadow Conservation Area and built a pond to slow down the waters of North Lexington Brook, which was causing problems where it passed beneath Route 128. Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans were completed by consultants to the Town Engineering Department, in collaboration with the Conservation Department, for each of the three



Pictured here is Parker Meadow's manmade pond, built by the Town in the 1970's.

watersheds: Charles, Shawsheen and Mystic with the goal of identifying land addressing sedimentation issues and improving the ecological integrity of the brooks.

Ground and Surface Water Pollution

In addition to sedimentation, most of the water bodies and brooks in Lexington face the threat of nonpoint pollution from roadway, house, business, and stormwater runoff, as mentioned in *Section 4.3, Water Resources*. Nonpoint pollution is not traceable to a specific structure, such as pollution that travels through runoff or sheets of rainwater across the land. There is no perceivable source of pollution to the groundwater. The Town's Watershed Stewardship program, coordinated by the Town's Engineering Department, aims to identify where these nonpoint pollution problems are occurring and plan for remediation efforts. *Section 4.3, Water Sources* discusses in more detail regarding the water resource protection needs in Lexington.

Invasive Species

A number of invasive species are widespread in Lexington. These include trees (Norway maple, tree of heaven), shrubs (burning bush, barberry species), vines that kill trees (oriental bittersweet, English ivy), and herbaceous species (purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, common reed). These invasive species can crowd out native plants, overgrow trails, trees, and utility lines, and impact ecosystem functions. A list of prevalent invasive species in Lexington is included below:

- *Acer platanoides* - Norway Maple
- *Acer pseudoplatanus* - Sycamore Maple
- *Ailanthus altissima* - Tree of Heaven
- *Alliaria petiolata* - Garlic Mustard
- *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* - Porcelainberry
- *Berberis thunbergii* - Japanese Barberry
- *Berberis vulgaris* - Common or European Barberry
- *Celastrus orbiculatus* - Oriental Bittersweet
- *Cynanchum louiseae* - Black Swallow-wort
- *Elaeagnus umbellata* - Autumn Olive
- *Euonymus alatus* - Burning Bush
- *Hedera helix** - English Ivy
- *Ligustrum obtusifolium* - Border Privet
- *Lonicera* sp. - All shrub species of Honeysuckles
- *Lythrum salicaria* - Purple Loosestrife
- *Phragmites australis* - Common Reed
- *Pyrus calleryana** - Callery or Bradford Pear
- *Fallopia japonica* or *Polygonum cuspidatum* - Japanese Knotweed
- *Rhamnus cathartica* - Common Buckthorn
- *Rhamnus frangula** - Glossy Buckthorn
- *Rosa multiflora* - Multiflora Rose
- *Vinca minor* - Dwarf Periwinkle

(Species noted with an * are not included on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List but are considered to be prevalent and of concern in Lexington.)

Many groups in Lexington have worked to address invasive species, including the Tree Committee, Lexington Conservation Commission, Lexington Conservation Stewards, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, and the Lincoln Park Sub-committee. Lexington Conservation Stewards serves as a volunteer organization of Lexington's Conservation Commission, working closely to plan and carry out stewardship activities on town-owned conservation land. The Stewards work to control invasive species by eliminating them where possible and limiting their expansion where elimination is impractical. In 2010, representatives of Citizens for Lexington Conservation, the Lexington Tree Committee, and the Lexington Conservation Commission published a comprehensive [Plant Materials Guide for Lexington MA](#).



This guide provides a list of native plant species predominantly native to Middlesex County suitable for landscaping purposes as well as a list of the most common invasive plant species found in the Lexington community. The guide can be downloaded from a link on the conservation web page or copies are available in the Conservation Office and the Cary Memorial Library. More coordinated, ongoing efforts and strategic planning are needed to best address this problem.

Climate Change

With climate change, new environmental challenges may arise or current challenges may be exacerbated. Scientists generally agree that climate change will tend to create more ice storms (which can cause severe damage to forests), wetter spring seasons (which can lead to increased flooding and erosion), and warmer temperatures overall (which can affect the survival capabilities of certain species) in New England¹¹.

Loss of Agricultural Land

Over the years, the Conservation Commission has acquired and protected a number of Lexington's agricultural properties, including Chiesa Farm, West Farm, Poor Farm, Hennessey Field, Cotton Farm, Wright Farm, and Waltham Street Farm. Some of these areas are now maintained as open meadows, while others are actively used for agricultural purposes. In addition, two community gardens currently sit on Town conservation land at Idylwilde and Dunback Meadow conservation areas. In the years since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed, however, Lexington has seen two of its few remaining agricultural properties—Doran's Farm and Lexington Gardens—converted to development.

The Town purchased Busa Farm, one of the last working farms in Lexington, on December 2, 2009. After lengthy public deliberation the Town has elected to lease the property to Lexington Community Farm, a local non-profit organization that has established a community based farm offering locally grown produce through Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) shares and an onsite farm stand, along with various educational programs for the community.

Erosion

As mentioned earlier, the Town has completed a stormwater management mitigation project at the Old Res, using CPA funding. Additionally, the Town has had watershed management plans for Lexington's three major watersheds completed since 2009. As a

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¹¹ Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/waste-mgmt-recycling/air-quality/green-house-gas-and-climate-change/climate-change-adaptation/climate-change-adaptation-report.html>



result of the watershed management planning, restoring the native buffer zone along the pond at Willard's Woods and daylighting Willard's Brook has been identified as a priority project due to severe erosion from collapsed infrastructure.

Environmental Equity

Equal distribution of Town services is vital to the success and health of the community. Ensuring equal access for all Town residents includes not only access to schools, health facilities, and safety services but also access to public lands and natural areas. Proximity to preserved natural spaces has been shown to increase physiological, psychological, and sociological well-being. These are benefits all Lexington residents should enjoy. Further, it is important to ensure that no part of the population is disproportionately exposed to environments with health hazards or concerns. The issue of environmental equity informs Lexington's decisions on open space planning as is evident by the well-distributed open space and recreation facilities throughout the Town (see Map 9 Open Space and Recreation Inventory).

Particular attention is paid to the Environmental Justice (EJ) populations, which throughout the Commonwealth are often identified to have suffered from environmental inequality. There are eleven environmental justice populations in Lexington as a result of either minority or foreign born populations exceeding 25 percent of the total block group population, as discussed in Sections 2.3 and 3.3. It is evident, as shown in Map 2 Environmental Justice Populations, that all of Lexington's EJ populations are well served by abundant of open space and recreation resources distributed evenly throughout the community and within these EJ neighborhoods. The Town will continue the enhanced outreach efforts in these EJ neighborhoods to encourage public involvement in open space planning and promote awareness of available open space and recreation opportunities.



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Open Space and Recreation Inventory

Introduction

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*According to the
Massachusetts'
Executive Office of
Energy and
Environmental
Affairs, open space is:*

*"conservation land,
recreation land,
agricultural land,
corridor parks and
amenities such as
small parks, green
buffers along
roadways or any open
area that is owned by
an agency or
organization dedicated
to conservation."*

This section details information about open space and recreational lands in the Town of Lexington. According to the Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, open space is: "conservation land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation." The inventory provided here includes conservation and recreation land owned by the Town of Lexington, large tracts of private land, land that falls under Chapter 61, large state-owned properties, and National Park Service land. Additionally, land owned by the Town of Arlington (the Great Meadow) and the City of Cambridge (Cambridge Reservoir) has also been included. Determinations of each site's condition, recreational potential, and public access were made based on observations by Town staff.

Preservation of open space is extremely important to the residents of Lexington, the region, and the Commonwealth from several different perspectives. Locally, Lexington places a great deal of value in its historic and cultural resources, particularly in regards to the town's significance in the American Revolution. A number of these historic and cultural sites also serve as important open spaces, including the Battle Green and the National Park Service's Minuteman National Historic Park.

Additional land is owned and protected in Lexington by abutting communities, including the Town of Arlington (Great Meadow), which was originally preserved as a reservoir site, and the City of Cambridge (Cambridge Reservoir), which owns hundreds of acres of land in Lexington, Lincoln, Waltham, and Weston.

Much of the land listed in this inventory provides extensive passive and active recreational opportunities. There are a number of existing open space and trail networks among the preserved parcels, and with careful planning and additional acquisition, these networks can be further enhanced. The primary goal of the West Lexington Greenway Project, funded by the Town's Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, is to plan for a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails, including universally accessible sections, linking all Lexington conservation areas on the west side of Route 95/128. Significant environmental challenges will need to be met in establishing portions of this trail network as portions of the area are subject to protection pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Lexington Wetlands Protection Code. Further, a majority of the area between Bedford Street and Wood Street falls within FEMA-mapped *Zone A* floodplain areas. Note that within this study area, the Town landfill is located between Tophet Swamp and Kathadin Woods. Although the landfill cannot be considered an open space at this point in time, it may play an important role in connecting these open spaces at some point in the future. Furthermore, the Town will continue its efforts to determine where conservation restrictions may be appropriate to further protect valued open spaces in the Greenway area.

The Open Space Matrix column headings are defined below.

- **Name/Location/Map/Lot** - Names the open space site and its street address, and identifies the map and lot numbers on the Town assessor's maps.
- **Acres** - Gives the site's acreage or an approximation in cases where specific information was not attainable. One acre is 43,560 square feet or 1/640 of a square mile.
- **Ownership/Management** - Indicates the owner of the property and the agency or department responsible for managing and maintaining the parcel. Usually the two are the same.
- **Current Use** - Details the main uses for the site.
- **Condition** - Identifies the site condition (excellent, good, fair or poor). *Town-owned open spaces and parks were surveyed to obtain a general sense of the condition of the property and any facilities located on it (parking, fields, playground equipment, etc.).*
- **Public Access** - Indicates if the public can access the site.
- **ADA Accessible** - Indicates if people with disabilities can access the site or its amenities.
- **Recreation Potential** - For land not used for recreational purposes, potential for recreational activities is identified. Conservation land is generally deemed to have limited recreation potential except for passive recreation such as hiking and walking. Cemeteries and other similar lands are presumed to have no recreational potential.
- **Zoning** - Identifies the zoning district in which the parcel is located.



- **Protection Status/Deed Restrictions** - Indicates if the site, either by virtue of its zoning, ownership, existence of deed restrictions, or by the fact that it has received state or federal funding, is protected against conversion to some other use (see below).
- **Grant Received** - Where applicable, identifies the source of funding for the acquisition of the parcel, including public grants, private donations, deed restrictions, etc.

The information contained in the inventory is based on information in the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, survey work of open spaces and recreational facilities by staff at the Recreation and Community Programs and Conservation Departments, and Assessor's data updated through fiscal year 2015.

Types of Open Space and Recreation Land Protection

Determining where the open space and recreation land is located in Lexington is the beginning stage of fully understanding what resources the Town has and where they are located. Once this land has been identified, it is important to ensure its protection and maintenance into the future to help guarantee that many more generations of residents can enjoy them. According to the Division of Conservation Services, land within a community is protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the local Conservation Commission, by Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) agencies, by a nonprofit land trust, or if the Town received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Private property can also be permanently protected if there is a deed restriction, if the land is listed as having an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or if the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed a restriction on the property for wetland conservation. Typically, land owned by other agencies like the Recreation Committee and the local school system should not be presumed to be permanently protected.

During the update process for this Plan, a GIS analysis was conducted to determine the amount of Lexington's open space that is protected in perpetuity. The data for this analysis was provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS). The analysis results show that approximately 20% of the total acreage in Lexington is protected in perpetuity as open space.

Listed below are details about different types of protection that either are or could be available to open space and recreation land in Lexington.

- **Massachusetts Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) program, Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program, and Massachusetts Land and Water Fund** Parcels purchased with funding from these three grants (all administered through the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), gain protection in perpetuity by automatically falling under Article 97 (see below).
- **Article 97 Protection** - Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects all publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. This amendment requires action by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission, a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting, as well as a roll-call 2/3 vote of the State House of Representatives and Senate, in order to sell, transfer, or convert Article 97 lands to a different use. Because the chance of this happening is so small, Article 97 lands are considered to be protected in perpetuity.
- **Protection through Ownership ("Fee")** - In some cases, the open space in question has been acquired in its entirety ("in fee") by a public or private conservation interest or a State or Federal agency (such as the National Park Service). In many cases, such ownership will trigger other forms of protection, such as Article 97. If the owner is a nonprofit organization (such as the Trustees of Reservations), the land could in theory be sold and/or developed, depending on its restriction status, but doing so could contradict the group's conservation purpose.
- **Protection through Conservation Restrictions, Easements, or other Deed Instruments** - Due to the high costs of acquiring land, it has become increasingly popular to acquire conservation restrictions limiting future development. Similarly, access easements can provide permanent public access to a property. In certain situations, deed restrictions or easements may be granted by a private party as part of a development approval process. As with any matters involving real property, care must be taken in the drafting of the restrictions to ensure that the rights and interests of all parties are represented and clearly documented. Conservation restrictions must be approved by the municipality and the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.
- **Chapter 61** - This program, through reduced property tax incentives, can help protect forest (Chapter 61), agricultural (Chapter 61A), and recreation (Chapter 61B) land in Massachusetts if the land is managed for those purposes. Should the owner wish to end the agreement, the municipality has the authority to recover tax benefits given and has first right of refusal on the purchase of the land if it is to be sold for non-Chapter 61 purposes. This right of first refusal was recently extended to one year by a 2007 amendment to the statute governing these programs.

Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources

The Lexington *Inventory of Public and Private Open Space* presented in Table 5-1 includes public and private recreation and conservation land. The inventory shows approximately 2,064 acres of Town-owned conservation and recreation land. About an additional 200 acres of recreational land is privately held, including the Hayden Recreation Centre, Lexington Christian Academy, Lexington Golf Club, and Stone Meadow Golf.

Additional properties of privately-owned open space represent approximately 204 acres. There are also two privately-owned properties that fall under Chapter 61A, totaling approximately 18 acres. In addition, there are six properties that fall under Chapter 61B recreational land, totaling approximately 188 acres.

All properties identified in the inventory are depicted in *Map 9 Open Space and Recreation Resources*.

Park and Open Space Equity

Map 2 depicts the Environmental Justice (EJ) populations found in Lexington based upon Mass GIS data. The map also shows the proximity of the Town's open space resources. The EJ populations are both located in areas of Lexington that seem well-served with access to a variety of open space resources. The western EJ population sector is located within the West Lexington Greenway project study area. One of the goals of the West Lexington Greenway Plan is to create a connected network of trails for walking and biking, which will further enhance connectivity to that area and other portions of the Town. As is the case with the Town as a whole, many of the major recreational facilities and opportunities are located closer to the center of Lexington, so in that respect, the EJ populations are not necessarily more disadvantaged than the population as a whole.

Given Lexington's growth pattern, it does not have vacant lots that can be easily transformed into parks or open spaces. Rather, the Town hopes to be able to purchase lands of significance as they become available and when the funding exists for such purchases. Criteria will be developed to help guide the acquisition strategy for the Town.

As described in *Section 4, Environmental Inventory and Analysis* there are no brownfield sites—most of the hazardous waste site issues in Lexington are from oil releases from gas stations or similar land uses.

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Public Lands										
Town Owned										
Adams Park 739 Massachusetts Ave Map: 22 Lot: 51A	9.92	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair, Tennis Courts- Very Good, Basketball Court- Very Good, Play Equipment- Fair	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Access to Minuteman Bikeway	RS	Protected	
Adams Street Lot Adams Street Map: 76 Lot: 43	0.50	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Adams Street Pump Station Adams Street Map: 69 Lot: 100B	0.31	Town of Lexington	Pump Station	Good	Yes		No		No	
Arcola Street Lot Arcola Street Map: 29 Lot: 59	0.09	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Avon Street Lot Avon Street Map: 79 Lot: 45A	1.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Banks Avenue Lot Banks Avenue Map: 13 Lot: 200	0.25	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Baskin Park Wyman Road Map: 83 Lots: 106, 107 (Recreation) and 106A (Conservation) Map: 78 Lot: 277 (Recreation)	12.28	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair, Basketball Court- Poor, Playground-Removed in 2003	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Playground, could be a Baseball/Softball or Soccer field	RS	Protected	
Bedford Street Lots Bedford Street Map: 83 Lot: 107 Map: 84 Lot: 106, 106A	0.26	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Bedford Street Strip Bedford Street Map: 78 Lot: 116	0.19	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Belfry Hill Clarke Street, Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lots: 164A, 165, 166	3.08	Town of Lexington	Historic Site, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
Bicentennial Drive Lots Bicentennial Drive Map: 34 Lots: 181, 189	0.20	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Blossom Park Blossom Street Map: 9 Lot: 143	3.37	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
Blossomcrest Road Lots Blossomcrest Road Map: 16 Lot: 36B, 62A Map: 9 Lot: 198	0.31	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Boston Edison ROW Turning Mill Road Map: 86 Lot: 23	6.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Bowman Park Watertown Street Map: 8 Lot: 67	3.91	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Conservation; Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Protected	
Bowman Park Pleasant Street Map: 8 Lot: 31B	1.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Bowman School Athletic Fields Philip Road Map: 15 Lot: 45B	15.43	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Ballfield-Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Playground, Softball	RS	No	
Brandon Street Strip Brandon Street Map: 21 Lot: 24A	0.002	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Bridge School Athletic Fields 55 Middleby Road Map: 33 Lot: 143	30.25	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, Ultimate Frisbee	RS	No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Bridge Street Lot Bridge Street Map: 24 Lot: 60	0.29	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Brook Street Lot Brook Street Map: 79 Lot: 26	0.01	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Brook Street Lot Brook Street Map: 79 Lot: 36	0.14	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Brookside Avenue Lots Brookside Avenue, Stedman Road Map: 24 Lot: 76, 77	3.99	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Brookhaven Waltham Street Map: 5 Lot: 18A	3.26	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Brown Homestead Howard Munroe Place Map: 47 Lots: 164J	6.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Buckman Tavern 1875 Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lot: 4A	2.50	Town of Lexington	Historic Site, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Burlington Strip Burlington Street Map: 82,86, 89, 91 Lots: multiple	9.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Busa Farm Lowell Street Map: 20 Lots: 38, 40A, 43	7.93	Town of Lexington	Agriculture	Good	Yes		No		No	
Butterfield Conservation Area Butterfield Road Map: 38 Lot: 137, 141	19.38	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Cambridge/Concord Cambridge/Concord Map: 10 Lot: 48	0.52	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Carmel Circle Lot Carmel Circle Map: 50 Lot: 240	0.37	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Cary Memorial Library Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lots: 71, 72, 77, 78	2.64	Town of Lexington	Public Library	Good	Yes		No		No	
Cataldo-Hartwell Hartwell Avenue Map: 80 Lot: 2	14.50	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		Trails		No	
Cemeteries East Lexington (Map: 21 Lot: 7), Old Burying Ground (Map: 57 Lot: 5), Westview (Map: 85 Lot: 9 and Map: 84 Lot: 82) Munroe Cemetery (Map: 48 Lot: 277)	58.77	Town of Lexington/DPW	Cemetery	Good	Yes	Yes	No		No	
Center Recreation Complex Worthen Road, Waltham Street Map: 49 Lot: 90	56.46	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Ballfields-Excellent, Basketball Courts-Excellent, Tennis Courts-Very Good, Playground- Very Good, Skate Park- Excellent, Town Pool-Good	Yes (Pool is Fee- based)	Yes	Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Playground, Skateboarding, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Walking, Running	RS	No	
Chiesa Farm Adams Street Map: 63, 70 Lots: multiple	25.09	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Horse Pasture	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Clarke Middle School Athletic Fields/Tennis Courts 17 Stedman Road Map: 32 Lot: 177C	20.00	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Ballfields-Fair/Good Tennis Courts-Fair	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee, Cricket	RO	No	
Comee Conservation Butterfield Road Map: 46 Lot: 136	10.29	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Concord Avenue (behind # 430) Concord Avenue Map: 6 Lot: 1	12.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Concord Avenue @ Met State Concord Avenue Maps: 1, 4, 10 Lots: 1B; 1A, 12; 26A	31.69	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO/ND	Perpetuity	
Cotton Farm Marrett Road Map: 31 Lot: 90D	4.20	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		Trails		Perpetuity	
Countryside Lowell and Woburn Street Map: 46 Lots: 28, 31	0.78	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RO	No	
Cranberry Hill off Marrett Rd., off Lincoln St. Map: 44 Lots: 3A, 4	23.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Daisy Wilson Meadowland Moreland Ave., Follen St. Map: 14 Lots: 111E	8.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Denver Street Lots Denver Street Map: 58 Lots: 187A, 187B	0.28	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Depot Parking Lot Meriam Street Map: 49 Lot: 5A	2.66	Town of Lexington	Parking	Good	Yes		No		No	
Diamond Middle School Athletic Fields Sedge Road Map: 71 Lot: 305A	34.57	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee	RO	No	
Downing Road Island Downing Road Map: 33 Lot: 150A	0.05	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Dunback Meadow Marrett Rd., Allen St. Map: 9, 15, 23, 31, 32 Lots: multiple	159.17	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Community Gardening	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help, DCR Recreational Trails Grant

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
East Lexington Fire House 998 Massachusetts Avenue Map: 30 Lot: 81	0.22	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
East Lexington Library 735 Massachusetts Avenue Map: 22 Lot: 52	0.38	Town of Lexington	Public Library	Good	Yes		No		No	
East Street Lot East Street Map: 62 Lot: 16	0.24	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Edison Way Lot Edison Way Map: 48 Lot: 103	0.78	Town of Lexington	Parking	Good	Yes		No		No	
Emery Park (Depot Square) Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lot: 11	0.37	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
Estabrook School Athletic Fields 117 Grove Street Map: 83 Lot: 130	7.50	School Dept./Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Soccer, Softball, T- Ball	RO	No	
Estabrook School Access Grove Street Map: 87 Lot: 18	0.19	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Fairfield Drive Circle Fairfield Drive Map: 55 Lot: 106	0.30	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Fairland Lot Fairland Street Map: 42 Lot: 199	0.11	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Fire Department HQ 45 Bedford Street Map: 57 Lot: 144	1.39	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
Fiske School Athletic Fields 34A Colony Road Map: 63 Lot: 139	10.61	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Softball	RO	No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Franklin Park 3 Stedman Road Map: 24 Lot: 83A	7.07	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfield-Good Playground-Fair (majority of equipment has been removed)	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Playground, Soccer, Softball	RO	Protected	
Frasca Land Waltham Street Map: 24 Lot: 75	0.81	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Freemont Street Play Site Freemont Street Map: 58 Lot: 262	12.50	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Protected	
Garfield Park Hickory Street Map: 65 Lots: 150-156 Map: 72 Lots: 57-62	1.24	Rec. & Community Programs	Active Recreation	Ballfield - Good Playground - Excellent	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Playground	RS	Protected	
Goodwin Parcel (Katahdin Woods) Hartwell Avenue Map: 73 Lots: 8	10.70	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Goodwin Parcel (Meagherville) Cedar Street Map: 73 Lots: 6a	9.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	CPA Funds
Grandview Avenue Lots Grandview Avenue Map: 51 Lots: 14A, 14B Map: 50 Lots: 92, 94	0.45	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Granger Pond Granger Pond West Map: 75 Lot: 6D	1.52	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Grant Place Lot Grant Place Map: 48 Lot: 106	0.05	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Grant Street Lot Grant Street Map: 55 Lot: 45B	0.38	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Grapevine Avenue Lot Grapevin Avenue Map: 32 Lot: 50	0.13	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Hammer Hill Hancock Street Map: 62 Lot: 127A	0.86	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Hancock-Clark House 36 Hancock Street Map: 56 Lot: 39B	0.72	Town of Lexington/Historical Society	Historic Site/Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Hanson Avenue Lot Hanson Avenue Map: 9 Lot: 92	0.11	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Harrington School Athletic Fields Lowell Street Map: 38 Lot: 21 Map: 46 Lot: 99	16.69	School Dept./Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee	RO	No	
Harrington School Woods Solomon Pierce, Maple Street Map: 46 Lots: 131, 113A	27.97	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Hartwell Avenue Lot Hartwell Avenue Map: 80 Lot: 3	4.10	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No	CM	Perpetuity	
Hastings Park Massachusetts Ave Map: 49 Lot: 182	3.77	Town of Lexington/Town Manager	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
Hastings Sanctuary Massachusetts Ave Map: 50 Lot: 214A	1.62	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Hastings School Athletic Fields 7 Crosby Road Map: 51 Lot: 45A	14.27	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Soccer, Softball	RS	No	
Hayden Woods Waltham St., Valleyfield St. Map: 16, 17, 24 Lots: multiple	101.88	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	Potential	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Hennessy Field Robinson Road Map: 86 Lot: 1	10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Hobbs Brook Cambridge Reservoir Map: 19 Lot: 2	1.40	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Idylwilde Lincoln St. & Middle St. Map: 34 Lots: 124A, 164	11.70	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Community Gardening	Good	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Ivan Street Lot Ivan Street Map: 84 Lot: 19A, 20	1.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	ND	Perpetuity	Self Help
Ivy Lane Lot Ivy Lane Map: 9 Lots: 86A, 87A	0.83	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
James Street Lot James Street Map: 88 Lot: 57	1.04	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Jerry Cataldo Reservation Bow St. Map: 13 Lots: 421A	5.36	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Joyce Miller's Meadow Minuteman Bikeway Map: 30 Lots: 83, 84, 104	9.98	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Juniper Hill Concord Ave., Barberry Rd. Map: 11 Lots: 96A, 98	26.84	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Justin Park Justin Street Map: 83 Lot: 99D	2.68	Conservation/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation and Conservation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-Good	Yes	Partial	No	RO	Protected	
Justin/Bernard Justin St. Map: 83 Lots: multiple	19.29	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Active & Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	Yes	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Katahdin Woods Wood St., Cedar St., Hartwell Ave., Bates rd. Map: 73, 66 Lots: multiple	46.30	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Kimball Road Lot Kimball Road Map: 65 Lot: 38	0.11	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Kinneens Park Burlington Street Map: 77 Lot: 46, 43A	6.25	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-Very Good	Yes	Partial	Playground, T-Ball	RO	Protected	
Laconia Street Laconia Street Map: 54 Lots: multiple	12.95	Town of Lexington/ School Department	School/Open Space	Good	No	No	No	RO	No	
Lexington Battle Green Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lots: 3	2.54	Town of Lexington/ Town Manager	Historic Site	Good	Yes	Yes	No	RS	Protected	
Lexington Community Center Marrett Road Map: 31 Lot: 63D	9.94	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Lexington Community Center (under construction)	Excellent	Yes	Yes	No		Perpetuity	
Lexington Old Reservoir Marrett Road Map: 33 Lots: 99 & 100	9.44	Town of Lexington/ Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Fair/Good	Fee-based	Partial	Fishing, Kayaking, Swimming, Walking	RS	Protected	
Liberty Heights Hillside Ave., Bowker St., Clelland Rd., Ann St. Map:13 Lots: multiple	5.64	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Lillian Road Lillian Road Map: 29 Lots: 1A, 8	1.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Lincoln Park Lincoln St., Middleby Rd. Map: 42 Lots: 1 & 16	39.80	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfields-Excellent Playground-Excellent Fitness Path-Excellent	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Playground, Soccer, Softball, Walking, Running	RS	Protected	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Lowell Street Lots Lowell Street Map: 75 Lot: 10 Map: 68 Lot: 44	3.36	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Lower Vine Brook Grant St., Webb St., East Emerson Rd., Vine St. Map: 47, 48, 55, 62 Lots: multiple	104.64	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help, DCR Recreational Trails Grant
Maple Street Maple Street Map: 38 Lots: 4A, 7A	0.98	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No	RO	Perpetuity	
Marrett Road Lots Marrett Road Map: 32 Lot: 60 Map: 33 Lot: 90	0.59	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Marvin Park Winter Street Map: 90 Lot: 32	8.00	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Good Playground-Fair Basketball Court-Fair	Yes	Partial	Playground, Baseball, Softball, or Soccer field	RO	Protected	
Marvin Street Marvin St., Carriage Dr. Map: 90 Lots: multiple	1.14	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Massachusetts Avenue Lot Massachusetts Ave. Map: 14 Lot: 46	0.24	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Meagherville Garfield St., Cedar St. Map: 65, 66, 72, 73, 79 Lots: multiple	70.18	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RS	Perpetuity	DCR Recreational Trails Grant
Meagherville Garfield St., Cedar St. Map: 65 Lots: multiple	1.10	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Minuteman to Monroe Connector Massachusetts Ave. Map: 39 Lot: 64B	0.06	Town of Lexington	Recreation and Conservation	Good			No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Municipal Parking Lot Massachusetts Ave. Map: 49 Lot: 183	1.19	Town of Lexington	Parking	Good	Yes					
Munroe Park 1403 Massachusetts Ave Map: 39 Lot: 62	1.58	Town of Lexington/Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-removed except for swing set	Yes	Partial	Playground, T-Ball	RS	Protected	
Muzzey Field Massachusetts Ave Map: 48 Lot: 276B	1.06	Town of Lexington/ Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Fair/Good	Yes	Partial	Soccer	RS	Protected	
Muzzey Street Lot Muzzey Street Map: 49 Lot: 55	0.24	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
North Street Sand Pits North St., Emerson Rd. Map: 68 Lot: 45 Map: 69 Lots: 24, 99 Map: 75 Lot: 31	27.48	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Off Spring Street Spring Street Map: 25 Lot: 166	0.31	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Orchard Lane Lot Orchard Lane Map: 29 Lot: 82	3.69	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Outlook Drive Lot Outlook Drive Map: 41 Lot: 46	0.10	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Oxbow Street Lot Oxbow Street Map: 59 Lot: 137B	0.19	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes	No	No	RS	Protected	
Oxford/Bow Street Park Bow Street Map: 13 Lots: 382 & 410	0.39	Town of Lexington/ Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	Swing Set, Picnic, Walking	RS	Protected	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Paint Mine Grove St., Robinson Rd., Turning Mill Rd. Map: 86, 87 Lots: multiple	35.49	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Parker Meadow Revere St. @ Minuteman Bikeway Map: 56, 64 Lots: multiple	17.66	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self help
Parker School Land/Valley Tennis Courts Valley Road Map 72, Lots 427, 429-433, 521 Map 78, Lots 118-124	5.15	Conservation Commission/Rec. & Community Programs	Conservation (1.93 acres), Recreation (3.22 acres)	Tennis Courts-Very Good	Yes	Partial	Tennis	RS	Perpetuity	
Partridge Road Lot Partridge Road Map: 82 Lot: 65B	0.20	Town of Lexington		Good			No		No	
Peacock Farm Road Lot Peacock Farm Road Map: 7 Lot: 77	0.14	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Pheasant Brook Pond/Open Space Howard Munroe Place, Woburn Street Map: 47 Lots: 164K, 175, 170	6.15	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Philbrook Terrace/Grassland Street Grassland Street Map: 25 Lot: 265 Map: 24 Lots: multiple	4.09	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Pine Meadows Golf Club 255 Cedar Street Map: 66 Lot: 63	87.88	Town of Lexington/ Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Excellent	Fee-based	Partial	Golf	RS	Protected	
Pleasant Street Lots Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge/Concord, Pleasant St. Map: 22 Lot: 64 Map: 8 Lots: 45, 47	0.44	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Poor Farm Hill St. @ Cedar St. Map: 58 Lots: 19A	11.60	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Poplar Street Highland St., Poplar St., Garfield St. Map: 72 Lots: 491, 492, 502, 503	1.87	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Prospect Hill Island Prospect Hill Rd Map: 33 Lot: 247	0.03	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Public Facilities Building 201 Bedford Street Map: 64 Lot: 69	9.60	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
Rangeway Lot 18 Rangeway Road Map: 90 Lot: 64	1.43	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Revere Street Lot Revere Street Map: 64 Lot: 102D	0.36	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Rindge Park Rindge Avenue Map: 20 Lot: 61-64	0.65	Town of Lexington/ Rec. & Community Programs	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair/Good Playground-Good Basketball Court-Fair	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Playground, T-Ball	RS	Protected	
Robinson Road Lots Robinson Road Map: 82 Lots: 9, 19, 20	0.55	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Rockville Avenue Lot Rockville Ave. Map: 15 Lot: 19	0.11	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Route 2 Ramp Off Hayden Map: 17 Lot: 5B	0.29	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Sanderson Road Open Space Sanderson Rd., Village Cir Map: 37 Lot: 172 Map: 38 Lots: multiple	10.45	Town of Lexington DPW	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Scott Road Lot Scott Road Map: 5 Lot: 39	3.79	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Scott Road Lot Scott Road Map: 5 Lot: 38	0.11	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Shaker Glen Rolfe Road Map: 54 Lots: 92C	16.79	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	Yes	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Sickle Brook Massachusetts Avenue Map: 21 Lot: 3A	1.05	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Sickle Brook Massachusetts Avenue Map: 21 Lot: 5B	1.10	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Simonds Brook Grove St. Map: 83, 87 Lots: multiple	58.51	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Strip new Hillcrest Winship Road Map: 21 Lot: 50	0.00	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Sutherland Park/Woods (4.0 acres - Active Recreation; 20.9 acres - Conservation) Sutherland Road Map: 13 Lot: 107	24.90	Conservation/Rec. & Community Programs	Passive and Active Recreation	Ballfield-Excellent, Playground- Good, Basketball Court-Poor	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Basketball, Playground, Softball	RS	Protected	
Sutherland Park/Woods Tarbell Ave. Map: 13 Lot: 139	0.13	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Taft Ave (Sylvia St.) Sylvia St. Map: 13 Lot: 23	0.03	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Tophet Swamp Minuteman Bikeway Map: 79 Lot: 49	25.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	CM	Perpetuity	
Tower Park Massachusetts Avenue Map: 39 Lot: 83, 82 Map: 30 Lot: 62	13.01	Town of Lexington/ Town Manager	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes		Passive Recreation	RO	No	
Tower Park Massachusetts Avenue Map: 30 Lot: 37A	2.30	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Town Compost Facility Hartwell Avenue Map: 79 Lot: 50	67.50	Town of Lexington	Landfill	Good	Yes		No	CM	No	
Town Offices Complex Massachusetts Avenue Map: 48 Lots: 169, 170A	5.22	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
Turning Mill Grove St. Map: 82, 83 Lots: multiple	9.65	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Upper Vine Brook Marrett Rd., Highland Ave. Map: 31, 32 Lots: multiple	48.68	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Valley Field Play Area Valleyfield St. Map: 24 Lot: 24	0.37	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Good	Yes		No		No	
Valley Road - Meagherville Valley Road Map: 78 Lot: 123	0.12	Conservation Commission	Conservation/Recreation	Very Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Valleyfield Street Valleyfield St. Map: 24 Lot: 52	0.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes		No		No	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Vine Brook Village Winthrop Street Map: 40 Lot: 232	6.80	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
Waltham Sreet Farm Waltham Street Map: 24 Lots: 68A, 69A, 132, 133	17.28	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Waltham Street Lot Waltham Street Map: 32 Lot: 12	0.20	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Water Tower 14 Morgan Road Map: 50 Lot: 20	0.92	Town of Lexington	Public Facility	Good	Yes		No		No	
West Farm Oak Street Map: 14 Lots: multiple	12.76	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	Yes	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
Whipple Hill Winchester Dr., Summer St. Map: 28, 36 Lots: multiple	120.48	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Willards Woods North St., Brent Rd., Map: 70, 76, 77 Lots: multiple	96.04	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	Potential	Potential	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
Winshipp Ave Zoar Ave Map: 20 Lot: 172	0.002	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Woburn Street Lot Woburn Street Map: 47 Lot: 13	0.58	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Wood Street Holton Road, Springdale Road, Conestoga Road Maps: 59, 67 Lots:multiple	16.93	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Wood Street Wood Street Map: 51 Lots: 82, 84	0.24	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes		No		No	
Wood Street - Fiske Hill Beaumont St. Map: 59 Lots: multiple	3.19	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Woodland Bird Sanctuary Colony Road Map: 63 Lot: 131	7.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No (due to deed restriction)	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Wright Farm Map: 91 Lot: 1A	12.6	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	No	No		Perpetuity	
Total Town Owned Public Lands:	2065.18									

State Owned

Beaver Brook North (Lot 1) Walnut Street Map: 2 Lot: 1A	47.50	MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Massachusetts National Guard 459 Bedford St. Map: 84 Lot: 1C	4.10	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Other		No					
Massport Hartwell Ave Map: 80 Lot: 9	2.90	MA Port Authority	Airfield		No					
Minuteman Commuter Bikeway Map: 48 Lot: 500		MBTA	Recreation		Yes					

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Minuteman Regional High School 758 Marrett Road Map: 52 Lots: 1B, 7B, 8B	19.95	State of Massachusetts/Minuteman Regional HS	School	Good				RO		
Various State Land	17.85	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Other		No					
Walnut Street Met State Concord Avenue Map: 1 Lot: 4	59.40	MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Total State Owned Public Lands:	100.09									
Federally Owned										
Hanscom Air Force Base Wood Street Maps: 67, 74 Lot: 29, 5	147.60	USA	Research Center		No		No	RO		
Minuteman National Historic Park Route 2A- 750 total acres	100.12	Federal Government, National Park Service	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Yes	No		Perpetuity	
US Postal Service Massachusetts Avenue Map: 48 Lot: 168A	0.45	Federal Government	Post Office		Yes		No			
Westview Street Lot Westveiw Street Map: 85 Lot: 7	0.53	Federal Government	Unknown		No		No			
Total Federally Owned Public Lands:	248.70									

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Owned by Other Towns and Cities										
Arlington Great Meadow Massachusetts Avenue Map: 30 Lot: 114	183.00	Town of Arlington	Conservation	Good	Yes	No		RO	Protected	
Arlington Reservoir Massachusetts Ave. Map: 20 Lot: 37	14.37	Town of Arlington	Conservation		Yes	No		RO	Protected	
Cambridge Reservoir Route 2 - 570 total acres Map: 26 Lot: 49 Map: 27 Lot: 1, 2 Map: 35 Lot: 1, 5 Map 43 Lot 8	151.24	City of Cambridge	Drinking water supply		Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
Cliffe Avenue Cliffe Avenue Map: 13 Lot: 383	2.36	Town of Arlington	Conservation	Good	Yes	No		RS		
Minuteman Bikeway	5 mile stretch in Lexington	MBTA/Towns of Arlington, Bedford, Cambridge, and Lexington	Recreation	Good	Yes	Yes	Bicycling, Cross-Country Skiing, In-Line Skating, Walking, Running			
Total Public Lands Owned by Other Towns and Cities:	350.97									
Total Public Open Space	2764.94	Acres								

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Private and Non-profit Lands										
Belmont Country Club 181 Winter Street Map: 1 Lot: 2A Map: 3 Lot: 2A	88.67	Belmont Country Club	Golf				Golf	RO	Chapter 61B	
Belmont Country Club Property Oxbow Rd. Map: 58 Lot: 50	0.41	Belmont Michael F &	Recreation						Chapter 61B	
Cary Ave Open Space Map: 34 Lot: 48C	0.55	Sheldon Corp.	Private Open Space							
Cider Mill Ln Open Space Map: 78 Lot: 114T	2.58	Gelormini Joseph M Trustee	Private Open Space							
Conservation Restriction (CR), various	268.53		Habitat							
Elks Lodge 959 Waltham St. Map: 5 Lot: 1	8.50	Lexington Lodge of Elks	Other							
Five Fields Concord Ave. Map: 10 Lot: 7	20.86	Rotberg Robert & Lapides Murray Trs	Private Open Space							
Five Fields Open Space 15 Barberry Road Map: 11 Lot: 76	5.10	Christopher Hess	Swimming	Good	No		Swimming	RO	Chapter 61B	
Granny Pond Oakmount Cir Map: 56 Lot: 182	2.75	Granny Pond Realty Trust	Private Open Space							
Grove Street OS Parcels Dewey Rd. Map: 87 Lots: 5D, 5E, 5F	0.85		Private Open Space							
Hayden Recreation Centre 24 Lincoln Street Map: 50 Lot: 1A	28.00	Estate of Josiah Willard Hayden	Recreation		Fee-Based		Basketball, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, Swimming, Weight Training	RS		

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Hayden Recreation Centre Lincoln Street Map: 50 Lot: 251A	0.69	Josiah Willard Hayden Rec Center Inc.	Recreation		Fee-Based					
Journey's End Open Space Shade St. Map: 26 Lot: 45E	3.34	110 Shade Street LLC	Private Open Space						Protected	
Justice Resource Institute 13 Pelham Road Map: 31 Lot: 94	1.17	Concord Assabet Family &	Other							
Lowell Street 178 Lowell Street Map: 37 Lot: 11A	8.19	178 Loweel Street LLC	Open Space						Protected	
Lex K of C 177 Bedford St. Map: 64 Lot: 75A	1.55	Lexington Council #94	Other							
Lexington Federal Credit Union 3 Fletcher Ave Map: 40 Lot: 200	0.13	Lexington Town Employees Federal Credit	Other							
Lexington Golf Club 47 Hill Street Map: 58 Lot: 27	66.50	Lexington Golf Club	Recreation		Fee-Based		Golf	RS	Chapter 61B	
Lexington Park Open Space Boxwood Ln., Sullivan St. Map: 90 Lot: 147I Map: 88 Lot: 471	3.44	Lexington Park Trust	Private Open Space							
Lexington VFW 2 Hayes Ln. Map: 48 Lot: 202	0.26	Lex. Veterans Of Foreigh Wars	Other							
Masonic Lodge 1 Bedford St. Map: 56 Lot: 16	0.39	Lexington Masonic Associates	Other							

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
MIT 238 Wood St. Map: 67 Lot: 28	42.50	MIT	School							
Moon Hill Open Space Moon Hill Rd Map: 14 Lots: 82, 87, 88	3.86	Six Moon Hill Inc.	Private Open Space							
Moon Hill Open Space Moon Hill Rd Map: 14 Lot: 150	0.36	Pleasant Brook Pool Corp	Private Open Space							
Old Smith Farm Open Space Map: 59 Lots: 58G, 60M	2.38	Old Smith Farm Condominium Association	Private Open Space							
Orchard Tennis Association Map: 14 Lot: 79A	1.18	Orchard Tennis Assoc Inc.	Tennis							
Peacock Farm Association Peacock Farm Road Map: 7 Lots: 90, 91B, 92A	6.93	Peacock Farm Association	Swimming				Swimming	RS	Chapter 61B	
Powerline (Katahdin Woods) Wood St. Map: 66 Lot: 67	4.00	Boston Edison	Unity							
Sellars Lot Concord Avenue Map: 10 Lot: 8	430	0.29	John Sellars	Agriculture		No		RO	Chapter 61A	
Stone Meadow Golf 675 Waltham Street Map: 16 Lot: 9	21.60	John Carroll	Recreation		Fee-Based		Golf	RO	Chapter 61B	

Table 5-1 Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
Sun Valley OS 14 Fairlawn Ln Map: 37 Lot: 92	5.00	Sun Valley Assoc Inc.	Recreation							
Wilson Farm Pleasant Street Map: 14 Lots: multiple Map: 21 Lot: 2 Map: 22 Lot: 55	34.80	Wilson Farm, Inc.	Agriculture	Good	No	No		RS		
Wood Street Map: 59 Lot: 66	4.5	Boston Edison	Unity		Limited			RO		
Total Privately Owned Lands:	639.83									
Total Private Open Space	639.83	Acres								

Important Open Space and Recreational Resources

This section provides narratives describing the most important open space and recreational resources located in Lexington. They are presented in no particular order.

ACROSS Lexington: The Rick Abrams Memorial Trail Network

ACROSS Lexington (Accessing Conservation land, Recreation areas, Open space, Schools and Streets) is a project to develop a 40+ mile network of marked routes throughout the town for the use of walkers, runners, and biking-trail users. Four routes totaling over 17 miles have been completed to date. (See *Map 9 Open Space and Recreation Inventory*). *ACROSS Lexington* routes use various existing public ways, including conservation land trails and sidewalks. Routes connect the center of town with various locations in the town including historic sites, schools and conservation areas. Routes are accessible by foot or bicycle. The route system is intended to encourage greater utilization of Lexington's open space resources for passive recreation. It will also connect Lexington with similar resources in adjacent towns.

Center Recreation Complex – 56.46 acres



The Center Recreation Complex is an active and viable part of the Town, centrally servicing the recreational needs of the community. The facility consists of two senior baseball fields (one field is lighted), one lighted softball field, one Little League baseball field, a football stadium, one multi-purpose field (used for soccer, field events during track & field meets, field hockey, and ultimate frisbee), a track, the Gallagher Tennis Courts (four of the ten courts are lighted, which are used for tennis and pickleball), three tennis practice boards, a playground, a skate park, the Irving H. Mabee Town Pool Complex, two lighted basketball courts, and a restroom facility. Lexington residents and Lexington High School (physical education classes and athletics games and practices) use the facility heavily. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs, as well as other town organizations, regularly





has scheduled games and practices on all fields throughout the year. These activities include baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, skateboarding, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, and ultimate frisbee. During the summer months, tennis and swimming lessons, sports clinics, and camps are held here from the middle of June through the end of August. All high school sports teams utilize this facility for both practices and games. Although many organized activities take place at the facility, much unorganized activity and play is often seen here. The facility is managed by the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and maintained by the Public Works Department.

In FY2010, a drainage study of the Center Recreation Complex was completed since the entire area had been seriously impacted by poor drainage conditions for years. The result was standing water, soft field areas, and reduced turf cover and quality which led to unsafe and unusable playing conditions. As a result of the study, a multi-phased capital improvement project, funded by the Community Preservation Act (CPA), was implemented to improve the playing conditions of the fields at the complex.

The two senior baseball fields are Center #1 and Center #3. Center #1 is the Lexington High School varsity baseball field and has a batting cage behind the field. An outfield fence separates this field from the Center #2 softball field during the spring and summer. The outfield of Center #3 overlaps the football field. Lights were installed at Center #1 in 1997 through private fundraising. In 1998, an irrigation system was built into the infield and new benches were installed at Center #1. That same year, a new computerized lighting system for Center #1 and the Center #2 softball field was installed. Dugouts were installed in 2002. Center #1 was reconstructed and a new drainage system was installed in 2011. Center #3 was reconstructed and a new drainage system was installed in 2013.

The softball field is Center #2. This field has a skinned dirt infield and is in good condition. Lighting was installed at Center #2 in 1985. A new backstop was installed in 2000 and dugouts were installed in 2004. Center #2 was reconstructed and a new drainage system was installed in 2011.

The Little League baseball field is called the William P. Fitzgerald Field (also known as Center #4). The field is in excellent condition. A new backstop was installed in 2000. The infield was reconstructed with a new drainage system and a new outfield fence was installed, which resulted in extending the length of the outfield, in 2014.

The Dr. Harold Crumb football stadium has two permanent yellow goal posts, one scoreboard, fully-accessible permanent bleachers with an announcer's box, and a concession stand. In 1991, it was regraded and set with new sod. The bleachers and press box were installed in 2001. The football field was completely reconstructed with



a new drainage system in 2013. The renovation of the Worthen Road practice field is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

The Center Track multi-purpose field is used for a variety of sports, including soccer, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, and field events during track & field meets. This field was completed in 1984. In 2013, the field was reconstructed, a new drainage system was installed, and the irrigation system was extended for additional grass coverage.

An all-weather 400-meter six-lane track was constructed in 1983 with funding that was appropriated at the 1982 Town Meeting. The track is made of an all-weather rubber surface and is blue with yellow writing. The track was resurfaced in 2003 and again in 2012. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs and Parks Department perform repair work on the track as part of its ongoing maintenance.

The Gallagher Tennis Courts consist of ten tennis courts. Courts #1 through #4 are lit. Funding for the lighting was appropriated in 1970. In 2001, the tennis courts were completely reconstructed and new fencing was installed. High school tennis matches and tournaments are held here, as well as tennis lessons for children and adults and pickleball programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Community Programs. The tennis courts can also be reserved through the Department of Recreation and Community Programs. A tennis practice board exists at the end of the courts and three new tennis practice boards were installed at the Park Drive end of the courts in 2007. The tennis courts are scheduled to be resurfaced in September 2015.

The Center Playground was initially built in 1989. The structure was made of wood. Over the years, it was exposed to the harsh elements of New England weather and the wood began to crack and splinter. Over this same period of time, there were numerous, significant changes and revisions to playground safety standards and guidelines. As a result, the wooden structure had several non-compliant components. A new structure for children ages 2-5 was installed in 2002 and the wooden playground was replaced with a fully-compliant play structure for children ages 5-12 in Fall 2006. Offering more activities than the wooden structure, the new structure offers areas for imaginative play both on and under the structure. The structure is accessible to children with mobility issues and provides activities for children who may have hearing or vision impairments. The structure also has a number of components designed to provide physical fitness activities, such as climbing walls and a rock climber, and open areas for free play within the safety-surfaced perimeter of the area. There are also three large swing sets, including a handicapped accessible swing, at the playground. The bathroom facility at the complex, located on Park Drive near the playground, was renovated in 2010.

The Skate Park was constructed in 2003. The initial funding for the Skate Park was a public/private partnership between the Town and a private skate park committee.



The park is a fenced-in area that contains several skateboarding apparatus (ramps, grind rails, grind wall) and since it was built, this facility has been used extensively by the youth in the community. Brand new equipment was installed as part of a capital improvement project at the Skate Park in 2014.

The Irving H. Mabee Town Pool Complex consists of four pools and a bathhouse. The four pools are: the Wading Pool, the Garrity Pool (instructional), the 25-meter Lap Pool, and a Diving Pool with two 1-meter diving boards and one 3-meter diving board. The bathhouse has men's and women's restrooms and locker rooms with showers, a staff room with first aid equipment, office, filter room, and Tennis Booth. The current pool complex was renovated with an addition from 1978-1980. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs offers many programs including American Red Cross swim lessons, public swim, aqua-aerobics, swim team, lifeguard training, and adult lap swim. Extensive work was done on the electrical and plumbing systems in the bathroom facilities and on the pool decking in 1994. In 1997, all four pools were re-marcited and dewatering wells were installed. In 2001, two shade structures were installed at the complex and in 2002, three new diving boards were purchased. These diving boards were refinished in 2009.

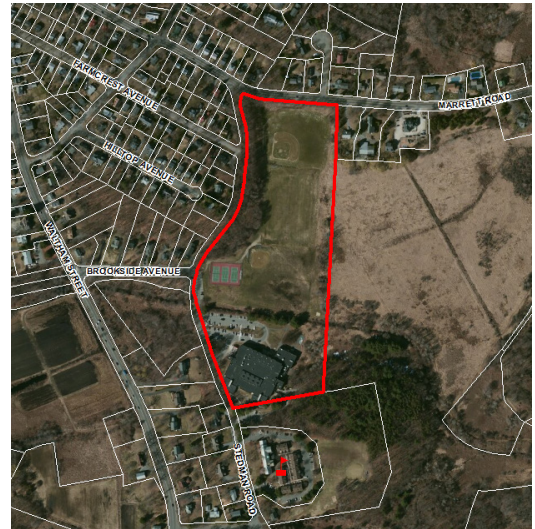
In 2007-2008, a pool facility audit was completed. The audit examined the bathhouse, each of the swimming pools, and the site amenities such as pool decks and fencing. Included in the report were several recommendations for the Department of Recreation and Community Programs to consider in an effort to maintain the safety of all patrons. Based on the findings of the audit, a multi-phased program of renovations to the Town Pool Complex was created. Phase 1 renovations included replacing the ventilation and exhaust system, replacing the skylights on the roof, and addressing ADA compliance and safety issues. This work was completed in 2011. Phase 2 renovations were completed in 2012. This included interior repairs and renovations to address and provide energy and environmental efficiencies to the complex, including replacement of the toilets, showers, and sinks in the men's and women's locker rooms with more efficient, water conservation systems. A new hot water heater was installed in 2013. Phase 3 of the project, which is scheduled for 2018, will include replacing the filtration systems, which are beyond their life expectancy, and will require a larger filter room.

The Center Basketball courts consist of two full courts and seven basketball hoops. The courts are lit and are well used by the community for countless pick-up games throughout the year. It is also the site of the Department of Recreation and Community Programs' youth basketball camps and clinics during the summer. In 1982, four new backboards and rims were installed. The courts were resurfaced in 1987 and they were completely reconstructed, including new basketball hoops and improved drainage, in 2010.

Clarke Middle School – 20.00 acres



The athletic facilities at the Clarke Middle School include one senior baseball field, one softball field, one full-size multi-purpose field (used for soccer, ultimate frisbee, and cricket), one $\frac{3}{4}$ -size multi-purpose field (used for field hockey, lacrosse, and ultimate frisbee), and three tennis courts. Lexington residents and Clarke Middle School (physical education classes and athletics games and practices) use the facility heavily. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs, as well as other town organizations, regularly has scheduled games and practices on all fields throughout the year. These activities include baseball, cricket, field hockey, soccer, softball, tennis, and ultimate frisbee. During the summer months, sports clinics are held here throughout the summer. The Clarke Middle School sports teams utilize this facility for both practices and games. The outdoor athletic facilities at the Clarke Middle School are managed by the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and maintained by the Public Works Department.



In 2002, a significant capital improvement project was completed at Clarke. The project included renovating the baseball and softball fields and replacing the backstop at each field, reconstructing the full-size multi-purpose field, which included the installation of perimeter drains and an irrigation system, and the reconstruction and reorientation of the three tennis courts. In 2012, the irrigation system was extended to include the outfield of the baseball and softball fields. The two capital improvement projects at Clarke that are scheduled to be completed in 2015 are the renovation of the full-size multi-purpose field and the resurfacing of the tennis courts.

Cotton Farm/Upper Vine Brook – 52.88 acres, 0.4 miles of trails



Most of Upper Vine Brook - Cotton Farm is wetland, but the eastern side of the area is accessible by a trail running from Highland Avenue to a driveway that exits onto Marrett Road. Across Marrett Road, a trail connection to Dunback Meadow picks up and ties into two additional miles of trail. There is a small picnic area near the pond at the Marrett Road entrance to Upper Vine Brook - Cotton



Farm. An apple orchard sits along the front of the property on Marrett Road. Because the eastern portion of this conservation area was just acquired in 2010, ongoing changes should be expected in the upcoming years as the Conservation Commission implements its land management plan for the property.

The wetlands to the west of the trail serve as headwaters for Vine Brook, Lexington's largest stream. In 1874, this wetland was slated to be drained, but the project fell through due to legal issues. Today, the wetlands provide important wildlife and plant habitat, storage for stormwater run-off, and natural water purification.

The eastern portion of the property, where the trail enters from Marrett Road, is known as Cotton Farm - an old family name rather than an indication of what was grown here. In 2010, the Conservation Commission acquired this 4.2 acre parcel from the Cataldo family through the Community Preservation Act. Much of the rest of Upper Vine Brook - Cotton Farm was protected as conservation land in the mid to late 1970's. A parcel near the Highland Avenue entry was considered as a school site but was transferred to the Conservation Commission in 2003.

Dunback Meadow – 159.17 acres



The largest of Lexington's conservation areas, Dunback Meadow also serves as one of the town's prime bird-watching locations. With a large, wet meadow dominating the site and an old red and white pine plantation on the southwestern corner, Dunback Meadow attracts warblers and grassland birds not found widely otherwise in Lexington, impressive woodcock displays in the spring, and a variety of owls and other raptors. A number of organizations from outside of Lexington lead bird walks at Dunback Meadow throughout the year. A trail that crosses the Dunback Meadow property links Clarke Middle School and Bowman Elementary School, providing students with a natural walkway to class, including a ¼ mile section of boardwalk. A new trail was recently constructed to connect Bowman Elementary School to the Blossomcrest Road neighborhood, offering students a naturally scenic 500 foot route to school in place of a 1.5 walk on the road or a 3.4 mile drive. The southwestern side of the property hosts a community garden that is coordinated by volunteers.



Hayden Woods – 101.88 acres



As the second largest conservation area in Lexington, Hayden Woods encompasses a significant swath of contiguous forest within the town. In the past, Hayden Woods was home to farmland, pasture, an orchard, a woodlot, a dairy, and a rifle range, and it was also the desired site for what is now the Burlington Mall. The Conservation Commission purchased Hayden Woods in



pieces from 1961 to 1981 in a deal that allowed for commercial development to take place on the south side of the property. Today, red maple swamps dominate the lower areas of Hayden Woods, with pines, oaks, and hickories dominating as the elevation rises. The western edge of the property is bordered by Old Shade Street, a historic cart path that was laid out in 1660 and today exists in the form of a wide, rocky path tucked into the forest. Old Shade Street and the other trails that run throughout Hayden Woods provide visitors with hiking, bicycling, and cross-country skiing opportunities. Neighbors in the abutting commercial parks often contribute funds and volunteer time towards land management projects in Hayden Woods.

Jack Eddison/Minuteman Bikeway – 5.5 miles in Lexington



The Minuteman Bikeway, a converted Boston and Maine Railroad corridor, was completed in 1992 after more than 20 years of planning and construction. The Minuteman Bikeway is 10.1 miles long, with the section in Lexington being 5.5 miles. The bikeway begins in Cambridge (at the Arlington border near the Alewife MBTA Station), passes through Arlington and Lexington, and ends in Bedford at the Bedford Depot. In 1992, the five-mile section that runs through Lexington was renamed the Jack Eddison/Minuteman Bikeway in recognition of the former selectman who served many years and worked to champion the bikeway project. In 2008, the Minuteman Bikeway was named as the fifth inductee into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. It is estimated that between cyclists, joggers, skateboarders, baby strollers, and dog walkers, the bikeway has hundreds of thousands of users each year.

The bikeway travels through commercial, industrial, and residential areas and open spaces. In addition to being a popular commuter bike route (with one endpoint near the Alewife MBTA Station in Cambridge), the bikeway is a linear park that connects significant historical sites and attractions as well as many conservation areas and park lands in Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford. The section of the bikeway in Lexington has been plowed since 2008 (Arlington and Bedford plow the path as well). The plowing of the bikeway is managed by the Bicycle Advisory Committee with the Friends of Lexington Bikeways raising the funding needed for the plowing. Over the past several years, the Department of Public Works has done considerable work on the bikeway to address drainage problems, fix root problems, and repaving major sections of the bikeway has begun.

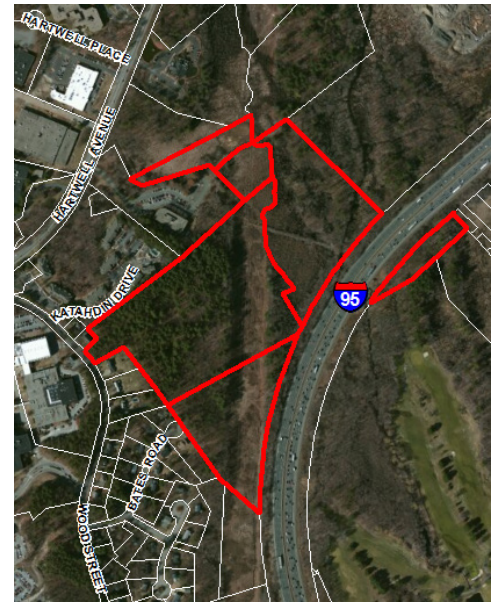
The bike committee in Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford wrote a grant to commission the work of a consultant to make preliminary recommendations for major wayfinding and amenity improvements to the bikeway. A concern that needs to be addressed is the continuing increase in the number of users. The bikeway is so popular that it runs the risk of being too popular, especially on the weekends. Based on the consultant's findings, one recommendation is to widen the bikeway, but that would be prohibitively expensive. One alternative worth considering would be to put

stone dust walking paths on both sides of the bikeway, where possible. Another issue with the bikeway that needs to be addressed is safety, particularly concerns about the intersection crossings and proper passing.

Katahdin Woods – 46.30 acres



Sitting just to the west of Route 95, Katahdin Woods is at the center of the West Lexington Greenway, a semi-contiguous corridor of open space approximately five miles in length, lying west of Route 128/Interstate 95, and extending from Lincoln Street and the City of Cambridge Reservoir in the southern part of town northward to Turning Mill Road at the Burlington line. The Town is currently working with consultants, NSTAR, and the community in the design phase of the West Lexington Greenway. Katahdin Woods also includes a number of other trails leading through a dry, beech-pine forest and along wetlands. The open power line area affords excellent raptor-watching opportunities for visitors.



Lexington Community Center – 9.94 acres



In 2013, the Town purchased the site that will become the Lexington Community Center. At Special Town Meeting on March 18, 2013, Town Meeting approved the purchase of the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry property at 39 Marrett Road. The Town completed the purchase of this property on December 5, 2013.



The community is eagerly awaiting the opening of the Lexington Community Center as it will be a multi-generational facility that is inclusive, welcoming, and have state-

of-the art, well-rounded programs, socialization opportunities, activities, and special events for residents of all ages and abilities.

The Lexington Community Center will serve as the home of the Human Services Department and the Department of Recreation and Community Programs. These departments are excited about the potential opportunities that the Lexington Community Center will have for the residents of Lexington and are looking forward to the new challenges, innovations, partnerships, and collaborations that will arise as the community moves towards creating this multi-generational, all-inclusive facility with program offerings for all residents once the facility is fully operational. The Lexington Community Center is scheduled to open in late Spring 2015.

Lexington Reservoir (“Old Res”) – 9.44 acres



This Town-owned pond is administered by the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and is maintained by the Public Works Department, with funding from the Recreation and Community Programs Enterprise Fund. One section of the Old Res is roped off for swimming purposes. This area is divided into two swimming areas; one is roped off for younger children and is located directly off the beach. The other is past the first rope and is for more proficient swimmers who can swim in deeper water. This swimming facility is staffed by the Recreation Division of the



Department of Recreation and Community Programs from early June through mid-August and contains a bathhouse with men’s and women’s bathrooms, showers, and first aid facilities. The water quality is tested in the swimming areas every week during the summer season to ensure safe swimming. The Town contracts with an aquatic management through the Health Department each year to treat the Old Res for nuisance vegetation.

Any Lexington resident or non-resident can use the Old Res if they purchase a swim tag or pay the daily fee. The area outside of the Old Res is a picnic area with picnic tables. Programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Community Programs in the summer, as well as other family and group outings (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts) from the spring through the fall, utilize this area. Nature trails also wrap around the perimeter of the Old Res. These trails are used extensively year-round by the community for walking. The water is stocked with fish in the late spring by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to allow for the community to fish. In the winter months, the community uses the facility for ice skating.

The Old Res was a water supply in the 19th century and the total water area is approximately four acres, with 700 linear feet of sandy beach, 50 to 70 feet wide. A gate was installed at the service entrance to the Old Res behind the Bridge School to curb vandalism and prevent vehicles from using the walking path. The Old Res was drained in the fall of 1982, the bottom was scraped, a deep well was dug, and new sand was added to the swimming and beach area. In 2000, a handicap ramp was installed to make the swimming area and bathhouse fully accessible from the outside gate. A shade structure was erected in 2003. In 2007, a water quality study of the Old Reservoir was completed. The study showed that the only major source for bacteria entering the Old Res is from stormwater runoff discharged by the four outfalls along Marrett Road. In 2008, the gatehouse outlet was renovated and the detention basin was dredged. In 2013, the Old Res stormwater mitigation project was completed. This project was partially funded under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Grant Program via the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP). The project addressed the four outfalls along Marrett Road that lead to the reservoir as well as the creation of a second detention basin and a reconstruction of the Marrett Road parking lot. As a result of this project, the water quality of the stormwater runoff that enters the reservoir has improved.

Lincoln Park – 39.80 acres



Lincoln Park consists of three multi-purpose synthetic turf fields, one Little League baseball field, one softball field, a playground, open space, and the Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path. A portion of the Town's 8.8 miles of bike path passes through Lincoln Park, connecting the High School on Worthen Road to Bridge School on Middleby Road. Lexington High School, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs, Lexington residents, and many other organized programs throughout the town frequently use Lincoln Park.



During school sports seasons, the high school regularly has games and practices at Lincoln Park and many organizations such as Lexington Little League, Lexington Youth Lacrosse, Lexington United Soccer Club, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs, and individual town leagues use the fields during the year for sports activities. The three multi-purpose fields have been used for soccer, lacrosse, flag football, and field hockey. It is not uncommon to see residents of the town utilizing the Fitness and Nature Path. This path has signs identifying wildlife and describing physical fitness activities. This facility is managed by the Department of



Recreation and Community Programs and maintained by the Town's Public Works Department and the Lincoln Park Sub-Committee.

Lincoln Park was obtained as public property when purchased as part of the water supply works for the Town of Lexington in the late 1800's. It was abandoned around 1905 when the Town joined the Metropolitan District Commission and in the 1930's became the town landfill. In 1963, the landfill was abandoned and the area was subsequently capped using dredge soil (silt and clay) from the Mystic River and blast rock from the Route 2 construction. Between 1968 and 1972, small capital appropriations were approved to create some playfields at the landfill. In 1974, Lincoln Park was turned over to the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and by 1985, plans were made to create a major recreation complex. Three natural grass multipurpose fields, a Little League field, and a softball field were built. In the 1989, the Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path and a boardwalk were constructed with private funds, and various town appropriations were used to upgrade the facility.

In 2002, a private citizen committee of over 24 individuals joined forces to address the deteriorating condition of the three multi-purpose playing fields. Simply stated, the fields were dangerous to play on. The drainage was poor and the subsurface fill did not permit grass to root deeply enough, leaving large sections of the fields either muddy in the spring or hard packed and bare in the summer and fall. Players were hurt on the uneven and unforgiving surface. In addition, rocks, glass, and other debris continuously percolated up from the old landfill. Field users from Lexington and neighboring communities continually voiced their concerns with the substandard field conditions. In addition to the safety issues at Lincoln, the Town needed to respond to the increased demand for athletic fields each year.

The Town, schools, youth leagues, adult leagues, and other users of the park came together and worked towards a solution. After careful research, a permanent solution was recommended and supported by the Recreation Committee and the Board of Selectmen. It was initially determined that it would cost \$2.3 million to properly rebuild the three fields with natural grass, including the required sub-surface drainage and irrigation. However, further study showed that the rebuilt grass fields would not provide a long-term solution since the unyielding usage would cause the fields to deteriorate quickly once again. For \$3.4 million, the Town of Lexington was able to build three infill synthetic turf fields, renovate the natural grass baseball and softball fields, improve the fitness path and replace the fitness equipment, relocate and expand the parking area, and build a playground for children ages 2-5 and 5-12. The synthetic turf looks and plays like natural grass, yet stands up to intense wear and tear with less maintenance. The fields can be used year-round in all weather conditions without damage to the synthetic turf.



Construction work on Lincoln Park began in January 2003. The three multi-purpose fields, parking area, and enclosed children's playground were in use by September 2003. The renovation of the softball field and Little League field and reconstruction of the fitness course was completed by Spring 2004.

Recent capital improvement projects have helped to maintain the condition of Lincoln Park. The synthetic turf fields had a life expectancy of 10 years. One of the synthetic turf fields (Lincoln #1) was replaced and a new synthetic turf field was installed in 2014. Replacement of Lincoln #2 is scheduled to be completed in 2015 and the turf replacement at Lincoln #3 is scheduled to be completed in a subsequent year. Additionally, in 2013, the rubber safety surface at the playground was resurfaced.

A campaign to have a permanent restroom facility at Lincoln Park came to fruition in 2013. This effort was led by the Lincoln Park Sub-Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee, and Lexington Lions Club. These groups received financial support and donations of in-kind services from several youth sports leagues, community and local organizations, residents, and private vendors. Through this private/public partnership, all of the funding for this project was raised privately and the restrooms were gifted to the Town of Lexington upon completion in Fall 2013. The restrooms are maintained by the Public Facilities Department.

The Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path is under the administration of the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and is maintained by the Department of Public Works and the Lincoln Park Sub-Committee, which also raises money for its continued maintenance and improvement in addition to the funds raised privately for the original construction. The Lincoln Park Sub-Committee continues to invest in extensive work in the meadow area and has overseen the addition of new walking trails, a marsh overlook, and park benches over the past five years. The fitness and nature path is 1.35 miles and wanders through delightful natural areas as well as around the playing fields at Lincoln Park. There are fifteen self-directed, accessible exercise stations for fitness and nature enthusiasts of all levels to enjoy. The boardwalk offers many residents a chance to experience a variety of habitats, which are typically inaccessible and at the same time maintain the habitat's vegetation for use by a variety of wildlife, including migrating birds. The attractiveness of the boardwalk makes it one of the most widely used properties in Lexington. The area provides a safe and relaxing nature walk during all seasons.

Lincoln Park has turned out to be a centerpiece that the Town of Lexington can be proud of.

Neighborhood Pocket Parks

One of the true assets that the Town of Lexington has is the collection of neighborhood "pocket" parks throughout the community. These sites offer a variety

of recreational opportunities to children and adults alike and generally consist of playfields, playground equipment, or a combination of both. All of these facilities are under the administration of the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and are maintained entirely by the Public Works Department, with funding from the Recreation and Community Programs Enterprise Fund.

The list of pocket parks in the community includes the following: Adams Park (on Massachusetts Avenue), Baskin Park (on Wyman Road), Franklin Park (on Stedman Road), Garfield Park (on Garfield Street), Justin Street Park, Kinneens Park (on Burlington Street), Marvin Park (on Morris Street), Munroe Park (on Massachusetts Avenue), Oxford/Bow Street Play Area, Rindge Park (on Rindge Avenue), and Sutherland Park (on Sutherland Road). Capital improvement projects are completed at the pocket parks to help maintain and improve the conditions of these play areas. A new play structure, new swing set, and new safety surfacing was installed at Adams Park in 2012 and at Garfield Park in 2014. The project at Adams Park was a public/private partnership between the Town and the Waldorf School where the Waldorf School donated funding to help enhance the size and quality of the play structure.

Paint Mine/Hennessey Field – 45.49 acres



Paint Mine is most famous in Lexington for its namesake feature, a natural ochre deposit that historically provided pigment for paint. This mine was tapped twice by entrepreneurs attempting to make a profit on the ochre, once in 1860's and again in the 1880's. Today, the old ochre mine is still visible on the property. Other prominent features of this landscape include the open area beneath the NSTAR power lines and a series of small ponds that were built during the 1930's to trap muskrats. After their abandonment in the 1950's, these ponds have slowly been reverting to the bog-like conditions that likely existed prior to the pond construction. In 1999, a 10-acre meadow adjacent to Paint Mine, called Hennessey's Field, was transferred to conservation status and is now considered part of the Paint Mine conservation area. Paint Mine is frequently used by students in the adjacent Estabrook Elementary School as part of the Big Backyard nature education program. The Simond's Brook



conservation area lies just across Grove Street from the Paint Mine area, extending the trail system.

Parker Meadow – 17.66 acres



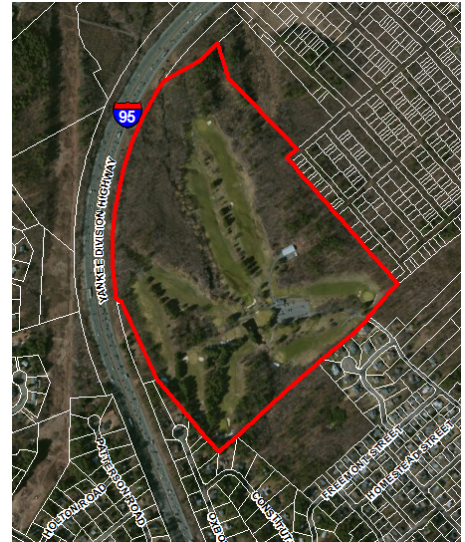
With access off of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, Parker Meadow offers a pleasant mixture of forest, field, and wetland to its visitors in a relatively small space. The property features a picturesque pond bordered by open meadow and woodland. After acquiring this land, the Conservation Commission constructed this pond to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Today, the pond provides a home for many amphibians, reptiles, and waterfowl, as well as occasional muskrats and beavers. In recent years, trails have been closed so that they do not completely encircle the pond, increasing the human-free upland area available to pond wildlife. Existing bridges over North Lexington Brook have been extended to allow visitors to cross with minimal impact to wetlands. Additionally, volunteer efforts have made significant headway in controlling invasive species in the meadow itself and along one of the primary paths into Parker Meadow. Further, in FY 2015, CPA funds were approved to develop Design and Engineering plans and 100% Bid Documents to construct a universally accessible trail system at this area.



Pine Meadows Golf Club – 87.88 acres



The Town of Lexington contracts with a professional golf management and maintenance company to oversee the day-to-day operations at the Pine Meadows Golf Club. The Director of Recreation and Community Programs administers the budget and management of the contract. The Director of Recreation and Community Programs works in partnership with the Superintendent of Public Grounds to facilitate the day-to-day operations and market the golf course. Pine Meadows is a 9-hole municipal course that is open to the public. The facility draws as many as 35,000 golfers from the greater Boston area each year. All revenues are included in the Recreation and Community Programs Enterprise Fund, where they are available for capital improvements and maintenance of the Town's recreational infrastructure after compensating the golf course management company. Golf carts are available upon request and a clubhouse is on site. The clubhouse features men's and women's restrooms, a small "lounge," and a concession stand which sells snacks, golf balls, and other golf necessities. Lexington residents frequently use this course during its functioning season from late March to early December. The Lexington High School golf team uses the course for practices and the Minuteman Technical High School golf team uses the course for practices and matches. The course is also used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

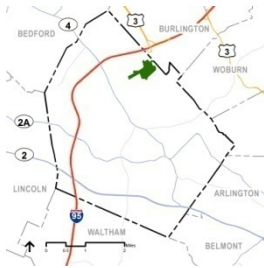


When the 1976 Master Plan was prepared, Lexington had three golf facilities – Pine Meadows, Lexington Golf Club (a private membership facility), and Powder Horn Country Club. The report recommended the Town step in and purchase one of these valuable resources, should it be threatened by development. Today, Powder Horn, a former par three, 48-acre course is Potter Pond Condominiums. The future of Pine Meadows looked shaky as a golf course when in 1984, Town Meeting voted down purchasing the golf course for \$1.85 million. However, in 1988, the Town purchased the course and abutting open space for \$11.3 million.

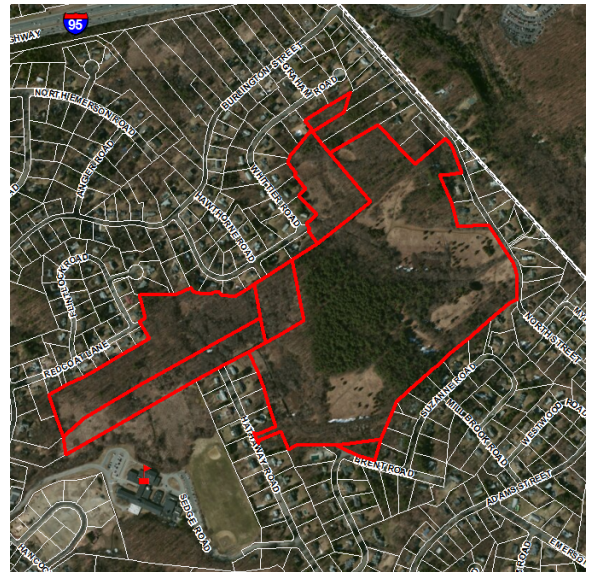
Over the past 15 years, several capital improvement projects have been completed at Pine Meadows to help improve the condition of the course. In 2001, the parking lot was expanded, the access road was widened, and an equipment storage building was built. In 2007, bunkers on the 1st, 5th, and 7th holes were rebuilt and irrigation was added. In 2009, a culvert replacement at the upper pond was completed on both sides of the pond. In 2010, bunkers on the 2nd and 6th holes were rebuilt. In 2013, the

bunker on the 3rd hole was rebuilt and the lower irrigation pond was dredged to remove sediment.

Willard's Woods – 96.04 acres



One of the most heavily used conservation areas in Lexington, Willard's Woods offers visitors the opportunity to wander through an old farm that appears much as it did more than 140 years ago. The property includes an old apple orchard, an old mill pond, open meadows, and a lovely white pine grove, as well as two brooks and extensive wetlands. The improved surface stone dust path connecting North Street to Hathaway Road through Willard's Woods is scheduled for resurfacing and re-

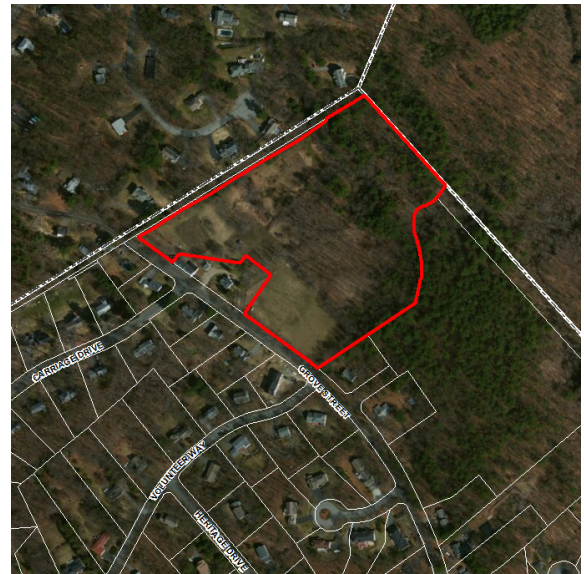


engineering of eroded areas. This is the only conservation area in Lexington that has a large dedicated parking lot and picnic area with fireplaces, where Scout troops have historically held annual camp-outs. The meadows contain a variety of wild flowers as well as domestic species that have persisted in the wild, including an occasional asparagus plant. Fox, raccoons, opossum, deer, eastern coyotes, and many bird species frequent Willard's Woods, taking advantage of the variety in habitat. Residential neighborhoods surround the property, and Diamond Middle School sits at the outlet of one of the main trails. Ongoing efforts have been underway to balance the popularity of Willard's Woods for dog walking with other uses.

Wright Farm – 12.6 acres



The 12.6 acres Wright Farm was purchased by the Lexington Conservation Commission in 2013, with trail development and land management activities forthcoming. With sweeping historic farm fields and rich forested wetlands, Wright Farm provides key open space and habitat connectivity in the northwest corner of Lexington. The property adjoins the Burlington Landlocked Forest, a regionally popular 250-acre open space area with a well-developed trail network. Future trail



development at Wright Farm will provide access to the Burlington Landlocked Forest. The farmhouse and barn were retained in private ownership when the remainder of the property was purchased by the Conservation Commission, with the Town maintaining an option to purchase, in 2012 through the Community Preservation Fund. The Town received notice of its option to purchase the residential lot and is pursuing Town Meeting approval at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting to purchase a portion of the lot with the barn for conservation purposes through community preservation funds.

6

Community Goals

Description of Process

The goals and objectives for this 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan update were derived from a series of meetings and opportunities for public input. The basis for this effort was the previous 2009 OSRP goals and objectives. During the drafting of this plan, a variety of methods, as described in *Section 2, Introduction*, were undertaken to gather information about the Town's Open Space and Recreation resources and goals the community has for maintaining and improving these areas.

Two public forums were held, one in November 2014 and the second in February 2015, to gather input from the community. Both were held at the Samuel Hadley Public Services Building at 201 Bedford Street. In attendance were all the parties involved in writing the plan: the Steering Committee, staff from the Lexington Recreation and Community Programs and Conservation Departments, members of the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission, key Town officials and staff, representatives of VHB, and interested citizens. During the first public forum in November, the 2009 OSRP goals were presented to citizens. A dialogue ensued where the participants at the forum provided their suggestions on amendments and additions to the goals and objectives as they were worded in the previous plan.

In addition to this, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise was conducted. Attendees were divided into three breakout groups for this discussion. The purpose of a SWOT is not to dictate what the public sees as important in the planning process, but rather to hear how participants valued Lexington's open space and recreational resources and develop an updated set of goals and objectives based upon their opinions. During the SWOT exercise held in November, the following views were expressed ("+" means that this was mentioned in more than one breakout group):



Strengths:

- Lots of open space
- Our volunteers; community support +
- Professional Town staff; Town is well run + +
- Sports league volunteers
- *ACROSS Lexington*
- Minuteman Bikeway +
- Recreation activities and programs
- Open space is more scenic
- Artificial turf at 3 fields
- Multi-use open spaces
- Variety of open space and recreation resources
- Number of active residents helping to maintain and improve facilities (many users, also a weakness)
- Connectivity of trails: they go places and are useful for commuting
- Open spaces are big!
- Guides and literature for navigating
- Stewardship program
- Recreation enterprise fund
- 4 pools
- Lots of conservation parcels: Town values conservation
- Parks and open space are accessible
- Affluent town

Weaknesses:

- No natural water bodies
- No town forest
- Amount of invasive species +++
- Inadequately maintained fields and recreation areas, etc.
- Fragmented/lack of connected open spaces, including access
- Unawareness of open spaces and their resources
- Money value of open space makes preservation/acquisition of existing open space difficult: loss of neighborhood character without open space
- Not enough money for maintenance
- Lack of access/parking at conservation areas
- Street connectivity to isolated parcels: lack of adequate street access to conservation areas
- Lack of crosswalks/sidewalks leading to conservation access points
- Lack of athletic fields and protected agricultural land
- Condition of current athletic fields
- Overlapping fields
- Lack of signage, including Minuteman Bikeway
- Minuteman Bikeway crowded, narrow, with concerns of safety at cross streets



- Too many good ideas: how do we implement? It takes time, a long process; so many committees
- Lack of bike parking

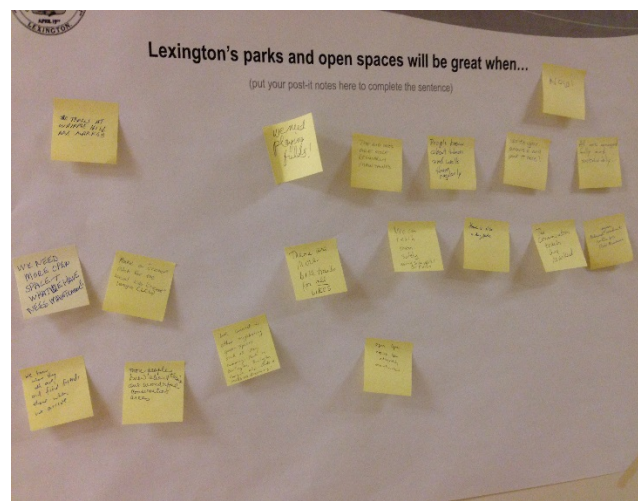
Opportunities:

- More sidewalks and paths and access
- Increase public transportation (weakness) to provide more access
- Acquire more land +
- Better use of active recreational space (e.g. Baskin playground, Rindge Park)
- More recreation (winter) sports
- New Community Center! +
- CPA is at 3%
- New recreational interests, e.g. cricket, Frisbee golf
- Conservation trail signage with distances and different routes
- Minuteman Bikeway great access, need to widen to accommodate traffic
- Economic development through recreational tourism
- Partnering with other communities for connections
- More bike lanes/complete streets/off-road bike opportunities
- Acquiring targeted additional open space
- Improvement of intersections and access to facilities
- Do more with monuments and space around them
- Historic resources: link with recreation
- Develop a N-S bikeway
- Outdoor recreation at Community Center such as picnic tables (should be throughout town) +
- More activities for teenagers and by teenagers
- Creative arts
- School recreation programs – big backyard program
- Indoor rock climbing
- Look for housing opportunities along with open space
- Emphasize connectivity and acquisition policies to include paths that connect properties (i.e. the Community Center) +
- Need to document conservation easements
- Rent watersports/boats
- Bike rental

Threats:

- Invasive species +
- Overuse of properties and facilities +
- Increasing property value
- Increased flooding events/storm damage; climate change/flood erosion/insects (ticks)
- Losing privately open land to development

- Competition between agricultural, recreation and conservation; competing user interest
- Increasing population of certain age/user groups
- Vandalism
- Unmaintained trails and infrastructure
- Inappropriate use of conservation and, e.g. parties, fires
- People leave town due to inadequate facilities and resources
- Development and its impact
- Loss of trees
- Reduced popularity of golf threatens funding for recreation programs
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Overpopulation



Scenes from the Public Forum



After the SWOT exercise, the participants had an opportunity to vote on which goals and objectives they found most important. This was accomplished through a straightforward process that used stickers and large print-outs of the goals from the 2009 plan, along with additional points made during the forum. Each participant was given three stickers and simply affixed them next to the goals that he or she valued most. The stickers were then tallied up and all the data gathered from the dialogue prior to this exercise was recorded and analyzed. Most of the input for this portion of the forum focused on some of the new suggestions to expand upon the current goals.

The following goals were selected as the highest priorities at the November 2014 public forum, which were expanded upon later in the planning process to reflect the goals listed in *Section 6.2* below.

- Enhance access to recreation areas and open spaces
- Provide more resources for maintenance
- Protect and maintain the tree canopy
- Enhance bicycling opportunities

Additionally, a survey was distributed throughout the Town and 838 responses were received. The following summarizes the top responses to each of the questions asked. The full survey and results can be found in *Appendix A*.

Nearly 57% of the survey participants are female. Over 58% of the participants are adults between 35 and 49 years, and 28% between the age of 50 and 64 years, with another 9% over the age of 65. About 94% of the participants said they have children in their households. More than half (52%) of the households have at least two children under 18. On the other hand, over 80% of the participants claim that there is no person over 65 in their households, while 9% have one elderly person over 65 and another 9% have two residents over 65 in their households.

The survey result shows that, among all of the open space and recreation resources in Lexington, the most popular ones are the Center Recreation Complex, Lincoln Park, the Minuteman Bikeway, and various neighborhood parks and playgrounds. In general, all of the Town's open space and recreation areas are well-frequented over the past two and six months, with Lincoln Park, the Minuteman Bikeway and the neighborhood parks and playgrounds most frequently visited over the past two months.

While only 42% of the respondents claimed that they are familiar with the *ACROSS Lexington* system, 76% said they have used some portion of the existing *ACROSS* paths. A majority (70%) of the respondents agreed that the amount of *ACROSS* signs are about right, while 26% thought there are too few signs and 4% thought there were too many. In general, people think that more paths in open space (56%), in residential



areas (42%), and on major streets in Town (34%) will further improve the ACROSS system.

People appreciate Lexington's open space and recreation resources for various reasons. The top reasons include: 1) natural, wooded open spaces, 2) community playgrounds and meeting spaces, 3) mixed use areas for walking and playing, and 4) peaceful, pleasant, and attractive areas. In terms of concerns and needs, more than half of the participants thought that recreation and athletic fields are insufficient in town. About 46% were concerned about loss of open space to development. More than 60% thought the Town should have more team playing fields, and 55% wanted to see more on-street bike lanes.

When asked whether the respondents favor purchasing available properties for conservation, 29% thought the town has adequate amount of conservation land, a third of them favor such action but without higher taxes, 37% favor such action even with higher taxes. When asked about recreational resources, a majority of the respondents favored purchasing available properties for recreational needs, among which 39% disfavored a tax increase to pay for it, and 44% favor the action even with higher taxes.

The participants had different opinions on important improvements the Town should pursue. The top three improvements include: 1) more playing fields for team sports, 2) connecting path between Minuteman Bikeway and Minuteman National Historical Park Trail, and 3) more activity areas for teens.

In addition, the survey shows that the primary sources of where residents get information on open space and recreation are the Town's website, Recreation and Community Programs brochure, and newspaper.

The second public forum was held on February 10, 2015 at which the major findings of the planning process were presented. The goals and objectives of the plan were further refined and the seven year action plan was discussed and reviewed. Participants prioritized the action items, which are reflected in the Seven Year Action Plan in *Section 9, Seven Year Action Plan*, of this Plan.

In summary, the highest ranked priority action items included the following:

- Identify parcels that meet the Town's criteria for potential acquisition (i.e. protection of natural resources, recreation potential, improved public access and connectivity, etc.)
- Continue to develop and implement land management plans
- Continue to develop and enhance the ACROSS Lexington system
- Encourage the involvement of youth groups and sports teams in maintaining playing fields



- Implement improvements to athletic fields
- Develop a townwide Complete Streets policy

Goals

The end product of this process was used as a baseline to formulate the new goals and objectives for the updated 2015 plan. The overarching vision of this Plan is as follows:

- Ensure long-term stewardship and protection of Lexington's open spaces, natural environment, and historic resources.
- Maintain the Town's open space and recreational facilities and promote their accessibility to all of Lexington's citizens.
- Expand recreational opportunities for all residents of Lexington.

The goals that establish the Town's policies for this plan are as follows:

1. Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.
2. Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.
3. Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.
4. Provide a balance of recreational activities across all demographic groups of Lexington citizens.
5. Enhance access to and connectivity between open space and recreation areas.
6. Acquire and protect parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.
7. Protect and maintain Lexington's water resources.
8. Maintain and expand Lexington's open space and recreational infrastructure.
9. Expand upon and create new opportunities for bicycling and walking throughout Lexington.

More details on the specific objectives under each goal can be found in *Section 8, Goals and Objectives*.

The Steering Committee took this input and weighed in on which goals they felt were feasible and of high priority. The Committee met regularly with VHB to discuss the policy and action plan imperatives. These discussions resulted in the final set of goals and objectives in *Section 8*.



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Analysis of Needs

This Analysis of Needs was created by reviewing the 2014 survey conducted by the Town as part of this planning process, assessing the input from the two public forums held in November 2014 and February 2015, evaluating the Recreation and Community Programs 5-Year Capital Plan, and other research into Lexington's resource, community, and management needs. This analysis summarizes the major open space issues and concerns facing the Town in 2015 and in the future.

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

The Town continues to address the following six general areas of concern as outlined in the 2009 Plan:

- General Open Space and Recreation Needs
- Regional Resource Protection Needs
- Historical Resource Protection Needs
- Water Resource Protection Needs
- Wildlife Resource Protection Needs
- Vegetation Resource Protection Needs

It is understood that these areas of need have broad overlap; however, the Town presents each specific resource protection need under the area of concern in which it best fits.

General Open Space and Recreation Needs

The diversity in age, ethnicity, and income in Lexington's population indicate a need to provide open space and recreation opportunities that appeal to a wide variety of potential users. The fact that Lexington's population is getting older, as noted in



Section 3.3, Population Characteristics, points toward a need for open space and recreation areas that allow access for elderly and disabled residents, entrances that permit access, and trails that are well marked and conducive to “easy” walks. In fact, walkable, accessible areas generally ranked very highly in the survey for what people liked about Lexington’s open spaces.

The Department of Recreation and Community Programs and Conservation Department have surveyed buildings and open spaces in Lexington to determine which ones meet current ADA guidelines and identified where improvements are needed.

The Town’s Conservation Stewards work to improve the quality of the Town’s conservation lands. In 2010, the Town updated the Stewardship Handbook, which covers general maintenance of the Town’s conservation lands. Further, the Lexington Conservation Commission, through its consultant Massachusetts Audubon, developed and approved in February 2015 an overarching Guiding Principles and Policies Plan for all its conservation areas to address standard management issues. building of trails and bridges, and the management of invasive species.

Regional Resource Protection Needs

Successful implementation of a good open space plan for Lexington requires cooperation with nearby communities and resource-oriented organizations in the region. The Town should continue and expand upon efforts to coordinate with neighboring communities regarding the protection and maintenance of open space areas that provide green corridors across town boundaries. Areas in Lexington that are particularly important to consider in the context of regional natural resource planning include Arlington’s Great Meadow (located off the Minuteman Bikeway), the Cambridge Reservoir area, the Beaver Brook North area (connecting with Waltham and Belmont via the Western Greenway), the Lexington-Burlington border along Burlington’s landlocked forest, and the area surrounding Minuteman National Historic Park (connecting with Lincoln and Concord). *ACROSS Lexington* will connect with trail networks in adjacent communities.

Additionally, many of the historical sites in Lexington (together with their associated open spaces) reveal their full significance only when presented in the context of their relationship to historical sites in other communities. Lexington could best present the significance of its Revolutionary War historical sites if all the communities along the Revolutionary War battle route from Boston to Concord coordinate their presentations of this historic story, which in part is done through the Minuteman National Historic Park.

Historical Resource Protection Needs

Historic preservation has always been a high priority for the Town of Lexington. In June 2006, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association prepared the Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory, called the *Lexington Reconnaissance Report*. The Freedom's Way Heritage Association includes 37 Massachusetts municipalities that "are linked by historic events that helped to shape America's democratic form of governance and the intellectual traditions that underpin American freedom, democracy, conservation and social justice".¹ Heritage landscapes are defined in the report as "special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past".²

The report identifies dozens of heritage landscapes that fall into a variety of different categories, including agriculture, burial grounds, village, industrial, institutional, military, open spaces and parks, residential, transportation, and water bodies. There were three main areas of concern raised by the report. First, landscape stewardship was cited, although there was a recognition that the Town and private entities have done a good job in developing management plans for many of the properties. However, the loss of some heritage landscapes was seen as a loss. Second, regional landscapes such as the Arlington Reservoir, Battle Road, Arlington's Great Meadow, and the Minuteman Bikeway were listed, and the report recommends that the Town continue to play a leadership role in communicating with neighboring communities. Third, the report mentioned the lack of a scenic roads bylaw and recommends that such a bylaw be adopted. These and other recommendations from this report are addressed in the seven-year action plan in *Section 9*.

Water Resource Protection Needs

The only large pond in Lexington is the Old Reservoir, which serves as the town's recreational swimming area with a beach and lifeguards. As mentioned in *Section 4*, a 2007 study identified bacteria contamination for stormwater outfalls along Marrett Road which has since improved through implementation of the stormwater mitigation project. Historically, Vine Brook, which runs through the center of Town, has offered trout fishing, but in recent years this brook runs too low during the summer months. However, fishing is offered at the Old Res and in some of the towns adjacent to Lexington.

Lexington has 20 brooks that all flow out of town, which means that they are of special concern for downstream communities in Arlington, Belmont, Waltham,

▼
¹ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Freedom's Way Heritage Association, *Lexington Reconnaissance Report*, June 2006, p. 1
² Ibid.



Lincoln, Bedford, Burlington, and Woburn. All of these brooks face challenges posed by non-point source pollution due to runoff from roadways, houses, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces, as well as from inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers. For instance, the Arlington Reservoir, which lies partially in Arlington and partially in Lexington, faces a major aquatic weed problem (water chestnut) due to nutrient overloading from lawn and farm run-off entering the reservoir via Lexington's Munroe Brook. More focused efforts are needed to address the degradation that stormwater run-off causes in the Town's brooks.

At the time of the 2009 update, Lexington's Conservation Department, Engineering Department, and a group of citizen volunteers worked together through the Watershed Stewardship Program to monitor and tend to the health of the streams. The program conducted observational stream surveys on all of Lexington's streams to develop a better understanding of the issues that affect their health and function.³ The program is now coordinated solely by the Engineering Department and engages students from the University of Massachusetts Lowell through an internship program.

Fisheries and Wildlife Protection Needs

Lexington's open spaces provide important habitat for wildlife in a densely human-populated area of the state. Additionally, a wide diversity of wildlife supports the ecological health of natural areas. Lexington should continue to identify and certify vernal ponds, undertake land management efforts that enhance wildlife habitat, and expand the network of wildlife corridors within town and connect with other towns.

Vegetation Protection Needs

The Conservation Commission should encourage vegetation surveys, particularly in wetland areas, identify threats to plant diversity, monitor invasive species, and ensure the protection of unique plant communities. In addition, there is a need to identify trails that are vulnerable to erosion and loss of vegetation and clearly mark and maintain trails to encourage hikers to stay on them rather than trample vegetation.



³ <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/conservation/watersheds.cfm>

Summary of Community Needs

Park and Recreation Needs

The survey conducted early in the planning process noted important needs and concerns about active outdoor recreational facilities, mostly dealing with the availability of playing fields and maintenance issues. This is an ongoing concern for communities across the Commonwealth, and the Town of Lexington has made significant upgrades to many of its facilities. However, facility maintenance and improvements are constantly on the Town's radar screen as evidenced by the Recreation and Community Programs Five-Year Capital Plan, the most current of which covers FY 2016 – FY 2020.



Boot Camp

A number of Lexington's playing fields are designated for multi-sport use. During the busy spring, summer, and fall sports seasons, most of these fields are in constant use by high school teams, organized youth and adult sports leagues, and the public. Sports participation has remained strong in recent years, which creates further field availability and maintenance challenges.

The Department of Recreation and Community Programs also runs extensive programs year-round for people of all ages and abilities. Lexington residents are given preference, but most programs are available to others. Although most programs are run from Lexington facilities, some are off-site, such as ski and snowboard programs at Nashoba Valley Ski Area. Brochures advertising the programs are mailed out to all Lexington households and posted on the Town's website.



*Gravity Pool at the
Irving H. Mabee
Town Pool Complex*

In 2013, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs, with the assistance of a consultant and the community, developed its first Strategic Plan. This plan was finalized in February 2014. The 2014-2016 Strategic Plan serves as a guide for providing recreation services to the community with the resources available, in the current environment, and in a manner consistent with the mission of the Department of Recreation and Community Programs. The comprehensive process of creating the plan included engaging members of the community and community leaders. In total, two workshops, nine focus groups, and a community meeting were held and the Community Interest Survey that was distributed received a total of 642 responses. Based on all of the feedback and input that was received, the four organizational priorities that were identified moving forward are 1) community engagement and outreach; 2) financial stability and resilience; 3) preservation, protection, and improvement of Lexington's recreational infrastructure; and 4) organizational excellence to exceed customer expectations. Under these four organizational priorities, there are 13 goals and 50 actions steps that the Department of Recreation and Community Programs will strive to achieve over the next three to five years, of which some will be incorporated into the Open Space and Recreation Plan.



Adams Playground

Recreation Land Acquisition

The Lexington Department of Recreation and Community Programs will continue to prioritize the preservation and protection of, and future improvements to the Town's existing recreational infrastructure. This will include dedication towards operational efforts and resources that will maintain (preventative, short-term, and long-term), improve, and enhance this critical infrastructure. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs is excited about the Town's acquisition of the Scottish Rite property (39 Marrett Road) and converting that site into the Lexington Community Center. Indoor program space has always been a challenge and the new Community Center will present the Department with an opportunity to provide an extensive, well-rounded assortment of programs and activities to all residents in the community.

While maintaining the current recreational infrastructure and the opening of the new Community Center are important, acquiring new parcels to be used for active recreational purposes remains a priority for the Department of Recreation and Community Programs as well. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs permits approximately 50,000 hours on the athletic fields each year. Participation in youth sports, including middle school and high school athletics, has increased significantly during the past two decades and as a result, demand for multi-use field time has grown steadily as the sports that utilize this type of field (soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate frisbee) have become more popular. In 2013, there were over 6,000 participants in the Lexington youth and school-based sports programs (Lexington Public Schools, Lexington United Soccer Club, Lexington Youth Lacrosse, Lexington Little League, Lexington Babe Ruth, and Lexington-Bedford-Hanscom Pop Warner Football).



Although participation in youth sports has been increasing, the inventory of Town-owned athletic fields has actually decreased during this same period of time. The last time a new recreation athletic field was built was during the 1970's. It should be noted that the renovation at Lincoln Park in 2003 was a reconstruction of three pre-existing multi-purpose fields, a Little League field, and a softball field. The project did not include the addition of new playing fields. In 1998, the Hennessy Field Ad Hoc Committee "unanimously concluded that current soccer program enrollments and the condition of existing fields warrant the immediate development of a new soccer (multi-purpose) field" and made the recommendation of "immediately building an additional field to address current soccer enrollments and allow field rotation for maintenance" (Report of the Hennessy Field Ad Hoc Committee, pages II-1 and II-4). In 2004, the Town lost two full-size multi-purpose fields and a ¾ size field when the new Harrington School was built. Additionally, when the new Fiske School was constructed, the size of the baseball fields was reduced. As a result, Lexington Little League now uses these fields for Minor league games as there is no longer enough room for two Major league games to take place simultaneously and adult softball games are no longer played on the Fiske fields.

In addition to the decreasing inventory, the overall field inventory is affected and reduced by several other factors. First, there are several overlapping athletic fields in Lexington, meaning that multiple fields cannot all be used at the same time. A second factor that limits playability is multiple field layouts on the same field. The condition of the existing athletic fields also limits playability. Many of Lexington's fields are located in low-lying wet areas that drain poorly and as a result, cannot support the same use as fields that are built and maintained under more ideal conditions. Routine field maintenance and major renovations to the fields also reduce their playability. These repairs are essential due to the amount of use that the fields receive. Lastly, the fifth factor that impacts playability is that the demand for field space is not evenly distributed throughout the year. The peak time when demand for the fields is highest is during the spring and fall seasons, specifically from 5:00 - 8:00 pm on weeknights and from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm on weekends. Further field shortages occur during the spring season when the Lexington United Soccer Club (LUSC) and Lexington Youth Lacrosse (LYL) offer programs. Both of these organizations request use of the same multi-purpose fields at Lincoln Park. This results in negotiating with both groups, coming up with compromises, and being creative with the field space that is permitted to each organization. Since Lexington High School has priority use, the issue is exacerbated further when a high school event (lacrosse games or track and field meets in the spring) is scheduled during a time when the field is normally permitted to either LUSC or LYL. Based on demand, the Town's field inventory is not currently meeting all of the needs of the community.

All of the factors discussed above contributed to approximately 2,800 hours of field use being denied, including approximately 1,400 hours that were requested by the Lexington-based youth sports organizations and Lexington Public Schools, in both



2013 and 2014. This data clearly demonstrates the need for additional athletic fields in Lexington.

Going forward, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs must consider methods to increase playability of the athletic fields. Options could include adding lights to an existing field(s) or converting the playing surface of a field from natural grass to synthetic turf. Another option is to acquire new parcels and construct new athletic fields on this land. As mentioned previously, the real demand is for additional full-size, multi-purpose athletic fields that could be used by multiple youth sports organizations. A full-size, multi-purpose field (along with adequate parking) requires approximately two acres of land and the Department of Recreation and Community Programs recommends that additional full-size, multi-purpose athletic fields to the Town's inventory should be a priority going forward.

Enterprise Fund

As noted on the Department of Recreation and Community Program's website:

The Lexington Department of Recreation and Community Programs has operated as an Enterprise Fund since 1991. Recreation programs are self-supported by setting user fees to cover expenses. The Director of Recreation and Community Programs, through the Recreation Committee, sets fees with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs operating budget supports staff that manages and delivers recreation programs along with the supplies needed to operate those programs. Surplus revenues generated through the Recreation and Community Programs Enterprise (Recreation and Pine Meadows Golf Club) helps fund Capital Improvement Projects and financially supports other Town Services including those provided by the Department of Public Works to the aquatic facilities, tennis courts, and golf course, and payment of \$100,000 per year towards the Lincoln Park debt, which is scheduled to expire in February 2018.⁴

This is somewhat unique in that most municipal recreation departments require operating funds from the tax levy.

Lexington Parks and Playing Fields

Lexington has numerous playing fields and courts, playgrounds and tot lots, swimming facilities, picnic areas, and recreation areas as listed below.



⁴ <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/recreationdepartment.cfm>.



Aquatics and Swimming Facilities:

- Irving H. Mabee Town Pool Complex, four pools, Worthen Rd.
- Old Reservoir, Marrett Rd.

Baseball Fields:

- Center #1, Worthen Rd.
- Center #3, Worthen Rd.
- Clarke #1, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd.
- Diamond #1, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St.



Center #1 aerial photo

Basketball Hoops/Courts:

- Adams Park, Mass Ave.
- Baskin Park, Wyman Rd.
- Bowman, Bowman School, Philip Rd.
- Bridge, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Center Recreation Complex, Worthen Rd.
- Clarke, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd.
- Estabrook, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Fiske, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Harrington, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Hastings, Hastings School, Crosby Rd.
- Kinneens Park, Hancock St.
- Marvin Park, Morris St.
- Rindge Park, Rindge Ave.
- Sutherland Park, Sutherland Rd.

Bicycle Routes:

- Bike routes throughout Lexington
- Jack Eddison Minuteman Bikeway

Community Center:

- Lexington Community Center, Marrett Rd.

Fitness Path:

- Teresa & Roberta Lee Fitness Path, Worthen Rd.

Football Field:

- Crumb High School Football Field, Park Dr.

Golf Course:

- Pine Meadows Golf Course, Cedar St.



Flag Football

Little League Fields:

- Bowman, Bowman School, Phillip Rd.
- Center #4, Fitzgerald Little League Field, Park Dr.
- Fiske #1, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Fiske #2, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Garfield Park, Garfield St.
- Harrington #1, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Hastings, Hastings School, Crosby Rd.
- Lincoln #1, Lincoln St.
- Sutherland Park, Sutherland Rd.

**Tee Ball Fields:**

- Bridge Triangle, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Estabrook Tee, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Kinneens Park, Hancock St.
- Munroe Park, Mass Ave.
- Rindge Park, Rindge Ave.

Picnic Areas:

- Center Recreation Complex, Park Dr.
- Cotton Farm, Marrett Rd.
- Lincoln Park, Lincoln St.
- Old Reservoir Picnic Area, Marrett Rd.
- Tower Park, Mass Ave.
- Willard's Woods, North St.

Recreation Playgrounds and Tot Lots:

- Adams Playground, Mass Ave. (Ages 5-12)
- Bow/Oxford Street Park, Bow St. (Swings)
- Center Playground, Park Dr. (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Franklin Park, Allen St. (Ages 5-12)
- Garfield Park, Garfield St. (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Justin Park, Justin St. (Ages 2-5)
- Kinneens Park, Burlington St. (Ages 5-12)
- Lincoln Park, Lincoln St. (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Marvin Park, Morris St. (Ages 2-5)
- Rindge Playground, Rindge Ave. (Ages 2-5)
- Sutherland Park, Sutherland St. (Ages 5-12)

Rest Rooms:

- Center Playground, Park Dr.
- Lincoln Park, Lincoln St.

Running Outdoor Track:

- Center Track, Worthen Rd.

Skate Park:

- Center Recreation Complex, Worthen Rd.

Softball Fields (Skinned dirt infield):

- Bridge #1, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Bridge #2, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Clarke #2, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd.
- Center #2, Worthen Rd. (field with lights for night play)



- Diamond #2, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St.
- Estabrook, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Franklin Park, Allen Rd.
- Harrington #2, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Lincoln #2, Lincoln St.

Multi-Purpose Fields (Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, and Cricket):

- Adams Park, Mass Ave. ($\frac{3}{4}$ size field)
- Center Track, Worthen Rd. (Full size field)
- Clarke, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd. (Full size field)
- Diamond, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St. (Full size field, overlaps with the baseball field)
- Harrington #1, Harrington School, Lowell St. (Full size field)
- Harrington #2, Harrington School, Lowell St. ($\frac{3}{4}$ size field, overlaps with the Little League and softball fields)
- Lincoln #1, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Lincoln #2, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Lincoln #3, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Muzzey, Mass Ave. ($\frac{3}{4}$ size field)
- Worthen Road Practice Field, Worthen Rd. ($\frac{3}{4}$ size field)

Tennis Courts:

- Adams Park Tennis Courts, Mass Ave. – 2 courts
- Clarke Tennis Courts, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd. – 3 courts
- Gallagher Tennis Courts, Worthen Rd. (lights for night play) – 10 courts
- Valley Tennis Courts, Valley Rd. – 2 courts

Five-Year Capital Plan

The FY 2016 – FY 2020 Capital Plan identifies a number of projects that the Department of Recreation and Community Programs deems necessary to maintain and upgrade facilities. Some of the projects involve more urgent repairs and are therefore higher on the priority list. Funding sources are identified and may include Community Preservation Act (CPA) money, Town funds, or other grant sources.

In 2012, legislation was signed into law that allows communities to rehabilitate existing parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields using CPA funds. Prior to 2012, CPA funds could only be used to rehabilitate recreational assets that were initially created or purchased with CPA funds. The 2012 amendment made it clear that with respect to land for recreational use, rehabilitation could include the replacement of playground equipment and other capital improvements to the land or facilities thereon to make them more functional for their intended recreational use. Since the



amendment passed in 2012, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs has requested and received CPA funds for rehabilitation projects to the Recreation infrastructure and will continue to submit projects going forward.

Among the more significant items in the Capital Plan are the following:

- Reconstruction of the track and multi-purpose athletic field at the Center Recreation Complex
- Replacement of the filtration system and facility improvements at the Irving H. Mabee Town Pool Complex
- Lighting upgrades at the Center #1 baseball field, Center #2 softball field, and the basketball courts and Gallagher Tennis Courts at the Center Recreation Complex
- Athletic field renovations at Adams, Harrington School, and Diamond Middle School
- Improvements to the playgrounds at Marvin, Sutherland, Rindge, Bow Street, and Franklin
- Hard court resurfacing projects at Sutherland, Marvin, Rindge, Kinneens, Adams, and the Valley Tennis Courts

ADA Issues

As part of the planning process for the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, staff from the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and Conservation Department conducted ADA assessments of each of the Town-owned recreational and conservation properties. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs will be hiring a consultant to complete an ADA study of the Town's recreation areas in FY 2016, pending funding approval at the 2015 Town Meeting. As a result of the study, a written Transition Plan will be completed and incorporated into future recreation capital plans. Additional upgrades will be required during the course of this plan, which will be addressed in the Seven-Year Action Plan.

The Conservation Department is working on an ADA Trail Project at Parker Meadow, which will connect the parking area on Revere St. with the Minuteman Bikeway and Parker Meadow Pond. It is scheduled to be in the design phase in 2015 and will be built during the 2016 construction season.

SCORP

In 2012, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs completed the Massachusetts' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to help guide the distribution of federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space,



renovation of parks, and development of new parks. The SCORP is a planning document that discusses the available recreational resources in a state, as well as its needs, and identified the gaps between the two.

Goals and action steps were developed after distilling all of the information gathered through the public participation process. These four goals include:

1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.
2. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.
3. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits.
4. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

These goals will meet the needs of Massachusetts residents, but also the goals of America's Great Outdoors (AGO) for investments in urban parks and community green spaces. Multiple SCORP goals also coalesce with the Commonwealth's desire to increase the share of cyclists and pedestrians among Massachusetts transportation choices.

Most importantly, the SCORP goals are consistent with the goals and objectives of this OSRP. The Town's recent initiatives such as *ACROSS Lexington* highlight the Town's efforts to enhance trails and networks within and outside the Town's boundaries. The Town has invested in outdoor water-based recreation including the Irving H. Mabee Town Pool Complex and the Old Reservoir. The Town's open space and recreation facilities are well-distributed around the Town so that they are relatively convenient to most residents and *ACROSS Lexington* increases that access. Finally, the Town has a robust and diverse recreation program that serves all its residents and this will be further improved once the Community Center opens in mid-2015.⁵



⁵ Massachusetts Outdoors 2012, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, 2012.

Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The main management needs Lexington faces today relate to how the Town manages its open spaces and recreational facilities. In particular, the Town needs to:

- Look for opportunities, where feasible, to add additional playing fields, particularly for soccer, lacrosse and multi-purpose fields
- Empower the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission to facilitate, help implement, update and advance the goals of this Open Space Plan

Lexington is fortunate regarding the funding of its park and recreation facilities and programs. The Department of Recreation and Community Programs operates as an Enterprise Fund and is self-supported through the user fees it charges for fields and activities. The maintenance of the athletic fields and facilities is done by the Department of Public Works and is supported with funding from the tax levy. The Public Facilities Department provides staff to assist with plumbing and electrical needs. Additionally, the Town has adopted the Community Preservation Act, which can provide funds to support park and open space acquisitions. That being said, like most communities, it is unlikely that the Town is in a position to purchase as many additional parcels for open space and recreation as it may wish. Moreover, as expenses and maintenance needs increase, the Department of Recreation and Community Programs may not be in a position where all short- and long-term needs can be met.

A high level of open space and recreational facility interest and commitment exists on behalf of the citizens by those who serve on the Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, Greenway Corridors Committee, Bikeway Advisory Committee, Lincoln Park Sub-Committee, conservation and watershed stewards, and many other neighborhood and Friends groups. This interest indicates the potential for expanded citizen support for park, playground, and other open space revitalization.

Need for Open Space and Recreation Facility Management Plans

Lexington would benefit from overall conservation and recreation facility management plans that would make use of existing Town management structures and resources. These management plans would provide roadmaps to implement many of the goals of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. They would also be a tool for increased public support in making the Town's parks and open spaces the best that they can be and ensuring that every part of the Town, and every major segment of the population, has access to the most up-to-date and suitable facilities possible.



In addition to an overarching conservation and recreation facility management plans, each major conservation and recreation site needs an individualized, more fine-scaled management plan. These management plans can help the Town to respond to long-term and short-term needs relating to conservation and recreation areas in an organized and systematic way. They can also serve as a tool for lobbying for Town resources and outside funds to implement improvements.

These management plans could help to:

- Evaluate the possible conflicting needs in land-use decisions
- Coordinate volunteer efforts on conservation and recreation land
- Facilitate interaction with other Town departments, such as Building, Health, and Public Works/Engineering, to follow through when collaborative action is needed
- Facilitate coordination efforts with the Conservation Commissions of neighboring towns

The land management plans should be reviewed every few years to keep them up-to-date with recent improvements and to document new problems. In January 2015, the Massachusetts Audubon Ecological Extension Service completed a master Principles & Policies for Management of Lexington Conservation Land planning document as well as two site-specific plans for Cotton Farm and Leary Farm.

The Lexington Conservation Commission has a strong working relationship with two active volunteer groups, the Lexington Conservation Stewards and the Citizens for Lexington Conservation, which are currently active in planning and undertaking many land management projects, such as maintaining/improving trails, controlling invasive species, monitoring conservation areas, and leading nature-related walks. Additionally, the Lincoln Park Sub-committee, which is a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee, is active in stewarding Lincoln Park. These organizations can be engaged in the land management planning process by contributing background and input for the plans.



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Goals and Objectives

Vision Statement and Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The natural landscape of Lexington includes densely vegetated forest lands, historic meadows, important wildlife corridors, land significant to water quality protection, and wetland resources. Lexington also has a rather extensive network of parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas that are fairly well distributed throughout the Town. In finalizing the list of goals for the 2015 OSRP, the Town of Lexington set out to continue the traditions of protecting and augmenting these open spaces and expanding recreational resources. With that in mind, the goals are focused on enhancements, maintenance, protection, acquisition, and stewardship. Refer to *Section 6, Community Goals* to understand the process of developing the goals and objectives for this Plan.

Goal 1: Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.

Objectives:

- Develop a formal framework for land management plans and conservation-oriented geodatabases that address town-wide and site-specific use, maintenance, and improvement of conservation land.
- Actively support the Lexington Conservation Stewards program that assists Town staff in monitoring and maintaining conservation land.
- Increase fundraising efforts that can be used to maintain, improve, and acquire conservation lands.



- Increase user compliance with conservation land regulations; educate users about the values and functions of conservation land, and leave-no-trace guidelines; and reduce user conflicts.
- Look for opportunities to expand programs to promote local agriculture and community gardens.

Goal 2: Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.

Objectives:

- Conserve and protect the water and wetland resources of Lexington.
- Reduce sources of air and water pollution within Lexington.
- Encourage neighboring municipalities to protect their bordering lands of conservation or wetland significance.
- Continue to implement integrated and science-based invasive species control program.
- Maintain the Town's tree canopy.

Goal 3: Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.

Objectives:

- Utilize various media outlets to promote the Town's conservation and recreation properties, programs and facilities.
- Provide increased access to programs and facilities for residents with disabilities in compliance with ADA standards.
- Increase education and information offerings through websites development, kiosks, and other outlets.
- Identify ways to increase the use of recreational facilities and programs.
- Identify locations for dog parks.



Goal 4: Provide a balance of recreational activities across all demographic groups of Lexington citizens.

Objectives:

- Maximize the use of current facilities.
- Establish programs for the Community Center that appeal to the diversity of Lexington's residents.
- Collaborate with other Town departments and private organizations to expand program offerings.
- Maintain and promote the use of Pine Meadows Golf Course.
- Provide for play areas within each neighborhood.
- Develop diverse programs for people of all ages and abilities.
- Increase year-round program offerings.

Goal 5: Enhance access to and connectivity between open space and recreation areas.

Objectives:

- Expand, publicize and maintain the *ACROSS Lexington* network of trails, walkways and bike paths.
- Improve wayfinding signage and access to conservation and recreation areas.

Goal 6: Acquire and protect parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.

Objectives:

- Identify and, when possible, acquire parcels of value that have one or more of the following attributes:
 - enhances Town character
 - provides wildlife habitat or connects isolated areas of habitat
 - protects water quality
 - contains important or unique natural features and resources
 - improves public access to open space
 - has historical or cultural value
 - preserves farmland



- provides recreational opportunities
- connects existing town open space parcels to facilitate non-motorized transportation and recreation routes
- Establish strategies for acquiring important properties that are threatened by development or that unexpectedly become available.
- Explore ways in which land can be acquired and protected without direct purchase by the Town.

Goal 7: Protect and maintain Lexington's water resources.

Objectives:

- Increase town-wide public outreach and educational offerings regarding the protection of water resource quality and function in town.
- Implement the priority projects identified in the three Watershed Management Plans.
- Work to minimize stormwater run-off pollution impacts, sedimentation, and erosion into surface waters.
- Work to minimize invasive species occurrences on lands bordering water resources.

Goal 8: Maintain and expand Lexington's open space and recreational infrastructure.

Objectives:

- Continue long-range planning for improvements to recreational facilities.
- Prioritize park maintenance and focus on facilities that experience the highest use.
- Organize maintenance activities for maximum efficiency and effectiveness.
- Look for opportunities to build new playing fields to meet the growing demand.

Goal 9: Expand upon and create new opportunities for bicycling and walking throughout Lexington.

Objectives:

- Encourage Lexington residents to participate in bicycling and walking activities.



- Create an effective wayfinding program for on- and off-road bicycling in Lexington and to adjacent towns.
- Create safe bicycle routes along the Town's streets.
- Maintain and improve upon Lexington's Bronze Level designation from the League of American Bicyclists.



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Seven Year Action Plan

Introduction

The Seven Year Action Plan is based on the goals and objectives of the previous section. To ensure the implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions, the Town of Lexington should clearly identify a committee comprised of representatives from Town staff and existing boards and commissions that will be in charge of ensuring this Plan is used and followed. The committee will be responsible not only for overall implementation of the plan, but would also work to ensure that public outreach and education is achieved.

The Seven Year Action Plan is often the most difficult component of an Open Space and Recreation Plan. Unlike the lofty goals and objectives of the previous sections, this is where the rubber meets the road, where the planning ideals are translated into concrete actions. An Action Plan can sometimes be difficult to commit to and be problematic to review over time. Items that have been accomplished fade from view, while the more intractable problems linger for years. Financial and political trends may change, advancing some items while leaving others untouched.

The following action plan intends to deliver on the promise of the goals and objectives expressed throughout this process, with a program of tangible steps for the Town to take over the next seven years. There is a high level of activity already underway on many of these steps, based upon the input received during the planning process.

These actions are targeted to address the physical as well as the organizational issues confronting the Town, as described and analyzed in *Section 7, Analysis of Needs*. The seven year action plan described below works to correct these “process” problems, while still maintaining a focus on the substantive issues of open space and recreation preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management, and maintenance. In addition to the more detailed plan below, some key items are displayed on *Map 10, Action Plan and Priorities*.



Some of these actions are already underway; many are ongoing but need additional support. And while all actions listed are recognized as important, three areas in particular rise to the top as being absolutely essential for any future progress towards meeting the goals of this Plan:

Obtaining support from Town staff, commissions, and boards that open space and recreation is a central and lasting priority for Lexington. While it is to be understood that there may be competing needs in the Town, all groups must abide by the central tenet that these issues are extremely important to the residents of Lexington. Essentially, this was the tone of the public comments and the significant number of survey responses, both of which reinforced the need for the Town to have and maintain high quality open space and recreational resources. Where open space and recreational resources are concerned, the goals and policies of this Plan must be consulted.

Creating some form of an oversight committee. If the ambitious goals and objectives of this Plan are to be achieved, there should be a single committee charged with overseeing progress and coordinating the actions and priorities of the various groups. Such a committee could be comprised of representatives of relevant departments, boards, committees and commissions and would meet as needed to address plan implementation. The committee would receive staff assistance from the Department of Recreation and Community Programs, Conservation Department, and Planning Department. It also could coordinate with committees of neighboring municipalities to the extent possible on issues of regional concern (such as the Minuteman Bikeway, *ACROSS Lexington*, and land surrounding the Cambridge Reservoir, for example).

Securing additional sources of funding, staffing, and other support for park facility maintenance and enhancement. One of the Town's main concerns is the need to maintain and enhance its existing parks and playing fields. Resources to achieve these goals can be scarce and the Town must be creative in how funds are raised. Several recommendations are made specifically to identify the means for spreading the responsibility specifically for parks maintenance, such as creating a park steward program similar to the one established by the Lexington's Conservation Stewards for the Town's conservation lands.

Accomplishments Since the 2009 Plan

The 2009 Plan was very ambitious in terms of the recommendations and specific actions found in its five year action plan. However, the Town has made great strides in implementing many of these actions, and a number of those recommendations are carried forward in this Plan as ongoing items.

The following is a summary of significant accomplishments since the 2009 Plan was adopted.

Goal 1: Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.

- *Develop a strategy for creating a conservation land management plan (LMP)* – Conservation Department contracted with Mass Audubon Society's Ecological Extension Service to prepare a town-wide Policies and Procedures for Management of Lexington Conservation Land as well as two site-specific LMPs for Cotton Farm (connected to Upper Vine Brook) and Leary Farm (part of Lower Vine Brook). They were completed in January 2015. The Conservation Department will continue developing site-specific LMPs on a schedule over a phased timeline.
- *Increase support to volunteer organizations that assist Town staff in monitoring and maintaining Town conservation lands* – Lexington Conservation Stewards have grown to a membership of approximately 150. Conservation Stewards Directors group, which numbers 15 currently, is very active and has planned and built a large number of boardwalks and bridges, maintained the Town's conservation trail infrastructure, received state conservation grants, and advised the Conservation Commission on a variety of land management projects.
 - Conservation Commission holds regular quarterly meetings with the Lexington Conservation Stewards Directors group to facilitate progress on volunteer-based stewardship activities.
 - The Conservation Stewards were awarded two DCR Recreational Trails Program grants for large scale trail improvements at Whipple Hill and Paint Mine Conservation Area over the past three years.
 - Hennessey Barn has been renovated to provide storage space for tools and equipment for land stewardship-related activities.

Goal 2: Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties:

- *Restore Upper Pond Dam at Pine Meadows to preserve ponds* – Completed in 2012.



- *Address stormwater management issues at Old Reservoir and improve gatehouse/outlet structure and dredge retention pond – Completed in 2013.*
- *Completion of Watershed Management Plans for the three Watersheds: Shawsheen, Charles, and Mystic.*

Goal 3: Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types:

- *Increase outreach efforts to local media sources regarding recreation and conservation resources and programs – Recreation and Community Programs submits press releases to the Lexington Minuteman, Colonial Times, and Lexington Patch and promotes programs through social media networks such as Facebook.*
- *Plan and construct improvements that will provide access to programs and facilities for residents with disabilities, using ADA standards – All recent playground improvements/replacements have been ADA accessible and renovations at the Town Pool in 2010 addressed any ADA issues that were present. A complete ADA study of the entire recreation infrastructure is scheduled for FY2016.*
- *Work with other Town departments and citizen groups to identify how to best increase the use of recreational facilities and programs – Department of Recreation and Community Programs completed its first Strategic Plan in 2013. The community was very involved in the process and included in the plan is an extensive section of comments and feedback given by the public.*

Goal 4: Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens:

- *Maximize use of current facilities, Increase efforts to promote the use of the Pine Meadows Golf Course, and Increase year-round program offerings – Ongoing. Loyalty programs and discounts are offered during non-peak hours.*
- *Explore and pursue options for increasing indoor recreation facility space – The Town purchased 39 Marrett Road (which was previously the Scottish Rite property) in 2013. The building is being converted into a Community Center that will house both the Department of Recreation and Community Programs and Human Services Department. The Community Center is scheduled to open in Spring 2015.*
- *Assess the distribution of play areas across town and create plans to install play areas in neighborhoods where they are not currently present – There are several neighborhood "pocket parks" scattered throughout the community. Department of Recreation and Community Programs attempted to install a pocket park on Blossom Street, but was met with strong opposition from the neighbors.*



- *Collaborate with other Town departments and citizens groups to explore options for expanding programs* – Representatives from the Department of Recreation and Community Programs are currently meeting with the ad hoc Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) and the CCAC Programming Subcommittee as plans for how the Community Center will operate are being determined.
- *Continue to be cognizant of the need to diversify recreational opportunities to reflect Lexington's demographics* – Department of Recreation and Community Programs' Strategic Plan helped to identify the ever-changing demographics within the community and how we, as a department, can meet the recreational needs of the citizens.

Goal 6: Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas:

- *Install standardized entryway signage and trail markers on open space areas* – Ongoing. This has been done for the ACROSS Lexington signs and has started to be implemented at select parks around town, such as the Pine Meadows Golf Course, the Center Track, and the Center Recreation Complex.

Goal 7: Acquire parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective:

- *Identify parcels that have one or more of the following attributes...* – Ongoing (39 Marrett Road – Community Center, and five conservation parcels acquired since 2009: Goodwing parcels, Leary, Cotton, Wright, and Busa Farm.

Goal 9: Preserve, protect, and improve Lexington's recreational infrastructure:

- *Renovate Center Complex restrooms* – Completed in 2011.
- *Implement improvements to athletic fields at Bridge School, Center Complex, Hastings, Garfield, and Adams*
 - Bridge – Completed in 2011.
 - Center Complex – The Town is about to complete a three-phase project that will improve the drainage of the athletic fields at the Center Recreation Complex. The project included improvements to the Center #1 baseball field, Center #2 softball field, Dr. Harold Crumb football field/Center #3 baseball field, Center Track multi-purpose field, Fitzgerald Little League field, and the Worthen Road practice field. The project began in 2011 and will be completed in 2015.
 - Hastings – Completed in 2010.
 - Garfield – A full irrigation system was installed in 2012 and a new playground was installed in 2014.
 - Adams – This field renovation is scheduled for FY2017.



- *Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, sports teams, and other user groups in maintaining playing fields* – The Youth Sports Advisory Council (YSAC) was formed in 2008 and its purpose is to maintain and improve the quality of youth sports that are being offered in the community, which includes providing safe playing conditions. The YSAC consists of representatives from all of the Lexington-based youth sports organizations and the Council meets on a quarterly basis throughout the year.
- *Replace lighting at the Center tennis and basketball courts* – Scheduled for FY2017.
- *Undertake Town Pool renovations* – Renovations to the men's and women's locker rooms were completed in 2012 and this project included the installation of new toilets, showers, and sinks in the locker rooms. A more extensive renovation project (installation of a new filtration system) is scheduled for FY2017.
- *Update and renovate playground structures at Munroe, Franklin, and Adams playgrounds to meet safety and ADA requirements fields*
 - Munroe – Equipment was removed due to underutilization and safety concerns.
 - Franklin – Completed in 2011.
 - Adams – Completed in 2012.
 - Garfield – Completed in 2014.
 - Additionally, the safety surface at the Lincoln Park playground was refurbished in 2013 and the Skate Park was renovated with all new equipment in 2014.
- *Resurface hard courts at Center basketball courts, outdoor track, tennis courts, and neighborhood basketball courts*
 - Center basketball courts – Completed in 2010.
 - Center Track – Completed in 2012.
 - Center and Clarke tennis courts – Scheduled for 2015.
 - Basketball court at Sutherland Park and Marvin Park – Scheduled for FY2016.
 - Basketball court at Rindge Park and Kinneens Park – Scheduled for FY2017.
 - Adams tennis courts and basketball court – Scheduled for FY2019.
 - Valley tennis courts – Scheduled for FY2020.
- *Continue to monitor and respond to maintenance issues at Town parks, playgrounds, and ball fields* – Ongoing.



Seven Year Action Plan

Implementing the recommendations included this Seven Year Action Plan will need to take into consideration the Town's annual budget, capital improvement projects, and the Town's capacity - in terms of the staff and volunteers - that are needed to move specific actions forward. As such, maintaining flexibility in the goals, objectives, and the implementation process and continuing to assess and set priorities will be based on an on-going collaboration and coordination between the Town Staff and Administration. In addition, these priorities will be coordinated in concert with the Town's robust list of volunteers and partners.

Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Goal 1: Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.							
Continue to develop and implement conservation land management plans that address both town-wide and site-specific issues, including invasive species (approximately two each year) ² Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town, CPA, volunteer hours	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to coordinate and build capacity for volunteer organizations that assist Town staff in monitoring and maintaining Town conservation lands Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increase funding to support conservation efforts and projects Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Citizen donations, CPA, Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



¹ Note that the years are calendar years; not fiscal years.

² Three have been completed as of January 2015 – Cotton Farm, Wright Farm and Leary Farm



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<p>Increase visibility of conservation area through standardized kiosks, entryways and wayfinding signage, and provide visitor amenities such as bike racks and parking. Include ACROSS Lexington as part of this effort.</p> <p>Responsible Party: Conservation</p> <p>Funding: Town, grants, volunteer hours</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>Create Governmental-Civic Use (GC) zoning district for federally, state, and municipally owned properties. Include open space, recreation, and conservation purposes as part of this effort.</p> <p>Responsible Party: Planning</p> <p>Funding: Town</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 2: Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.							
<p>Continue to identify, certify, and protect vernal pools in Lexington. Outreach to landowners regarding vernal pool identification and certification.</p> <p>Responsible Party: Conservation</p> <p>Funding: Town, grants</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>Reduce Lexington's carbon footprint and collaborate with Sustainable Lexington to conduct outreach campaigns</p> <p>Responsible Party: Sustainable Lexington</p> <p>Funding: Town, grants</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>Coordinate with neighboring municipalities to protect and maintain lands of conservation or wetland significance</p> <p>Responsible Party: Conservation</p> <p>Funding: Town, volunteer hours</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>Implement land management plans for strategically managing invasive plant and pest species in Lexington, working with the Tree Committee, volunteer citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and schools.</p> <p>Responsible Party: Conservation, Recreation, Lincoln Park Sub-committee, DPW, Tree Committee</p> <p>Funding: Town, grants, volunteer hours</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Improve management of conservation restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to gather baseline documentation on conservation restrictions held by the Town Establish a schedule for monitoring restricted parcels Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to update web-based resources to educate Lexington residents on conservation related information Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 3. Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.							
Increase outreach and education efforts to local and social media sources, and e-mail subscriber lists regarding recreation and conservation resources and programs and events, including new programs at the Community Center Responsible Party: Conservation, Recreation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Offer regular open space education activities throughout the year Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plan and construct improvements that will provide access to programs and facilities for residents with disabilities, using ADA and MA AAB standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update ADA Study Responsible Party: Recreation, Conservation Funding: Town; PARC, CPA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with other Town departments and citizen groups to identify how to best increase the use of recreational facilities and programs, including the feasibility for lighting athletic fields Responsible Party: Recreation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Goal 4. Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens.							
Continue to be cognizant of the need to diversify year-round recreational opportunities to reflect Lexington's demographics, including specialized events with local cultural organizations Responsible Party: Recreation, Council on Aging (programs to be coordinated through Recreation), Library Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establish programs for the new Community Center to meet the diverse needs of Lexington's citizens Responsible party: Recreation Funding: Town	✓						
Maximize use of current facilities, including the new Community Center and continue efforts to promote the use of the Pine Meadows Golf Course Responsible Party: Recreation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collaborate with other Town departments and citizens groups to explore options for expanding programs and additional facilities such as ballfields and dog parks Responsible Party: Recreation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 5. Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas.							
Continue to develop and enhance the ACROSS Lexington system Responsible Party: Conservation, Recreation, Greenway Corridors Committee Funding: Town, CPA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with neighboring communities and citizen groups to formalize trail connections between open space and recreation areas within and outside of Lexington Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town, grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Goal 6. Acquire and protect parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.							
Identify parcels that have one or more of the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhances Town character • provides wildlife habitat or connects isolated areas of habitat • protects water quality • contains important natural features and resources • improves public access to open space • has historical or cultural value • provides recreational opportunities • connects existing Town open space parcels to facilitate non-motorized transportation routes and recreation routes Responsible Party: Conservation, Recreation, Historical Commission Funding: LAND, CPA, Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compile a list of historic resources that require more documentation based upon priority heritage landscapes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document secondary features such as barns, stone walls, and landscape elements • Record historic resources including landscape features and industrial resources • Conduct community-wide archaeological survey. Responsible Party: Historical Commission Funding: Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (for preservation)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amend the Zoning Bylaw to include open space zoning that protects land that should not be developed Responsible Party: Planning Funding: n/a	✓	✓					



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Goal 7. Protect and maintain Lexington's water resources.							
Continue to collaborate with Engineering on NPDES MS4 permit to address stormwater run-off pollution and other issues affecting brook health and function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to schedule brook clean-up days to remove unnatural trash from brooks and to clear outfall blockages Continue to work with the Town's DPW department to address sedimentation and outfall issues identified through shoreline surveys Continue to install "Don't Dump—Drains to Brook" on storm drains in town Continue to conduct water quality testing at targeted areas to identify sources of water pollution Continue to conduct education and outreach to citizens regarding water quality and stormwater run-off pollution Continue to monitor and mitigate stormwater run-off at the Old Reservoir <p>Responsible Party: Conservation, Engineering, DPW, Recreation Funding: Town, grants</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 8: Maintain and expand Lexington's open space and recreational infrastructure.							
Renovate Center Track Complex Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Town, CPA					✓		
Implement improvements to athletic fields at Lincoln, Adams, Hastings, Bowman, Franklin, Harrington and Diamond Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Town, CPA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, sports teams, and other user groups in maintaining playing fields Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Implement the following improvements at the Center Recreation Complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace lighting at the Center 1 baseball field • Replace lighting at the Center 2 softball field • Undertake Town Pool filtration renovations Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Recreation, CPA				✓	✓		
Update and renovate playground facilities at Marvin, Sutherland, and Rindge Playgrounds to meet safety and ADA and MA AAB requirements Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Recreation, Town, CPA	✓	✓	✓				
Replace swings at Bow St., Franklin, and Munroe Playgrounds Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Recreation, Town, CPA				✓			
Resurface and tennis courts and neighborhood basketball courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarke tennis courts • Gallagher tennis courts at the Center Recreation Complex • Marvin and Sutherland basketball courts • Rindge and Kinneens basketball courts • Adams basketball and tennis courts • Valley tennis courts Responsible Party: Recreation, DPW Funding: Recreation, Town, CPA	✓						
	✓						
		✓					
			✓				
				✓			
					✓		
						✓	
Improvements at Pine Meadows Golf Course Responsible Party: Recreation Funding: Recreation, Town			✓	✓			
Upgrade Lower Vine Brook Path Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town		✓	✓				
Improve Parker Meadow accessible trails Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓					



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Implement the Conservation Meadow Preservation Program Responsible Party: Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respond to maintenance issues at Town parks, playgrounds, ball fields, trails, and the Minuteman Bikeway Responsible Party: DPW, Conservation, Greenway Corridors Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee Funding: Town (as needed)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install standardized signage at Lexington's open space, park and recreational facilities Responsible Party: Recreation, Conservation Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓				
Goal 9: Expand upon and create new opportunities for bicycling and walking throughout Lexington.³							
Establish ongoing bicycle safety and education programs for children and adults Responsible Party: Bicycle Advisory Committee, Police Funding: Town	✓	✓					
Install and upgrade bike racks in Lexington Center and at parks and open spaces Responsible Party: Bicycle Advisory Committee, DPW Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Develop a townwide Complete Streets policy Responsible Party: Planning, BOS, Bicycle Advisory Committee, DPW Funding: n/a	✓	✓					



³ See also Goal 5 – Action 1 (Continue to develop and enhance the *ACROSS Lexington* system).



Seven Year Action Plan	2015 ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Consider options for widening the Minuteman Bikeway as recommended in the Toole Design report Responsible Party: Bicycle Advisory Committee, DPW Funding: Town, state or federal funds		✓	✓				
Examine and implement options for north-south bike routes Responsible Party: Bicycle Advisory Committee, DPW Funding: Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhance connectivity between Battle Rd., West Lexington Greenway, and the Minuteman Bikeway Responsible Party: Bicycle Advisory Committee, DPW Funding: Town		✓	✓				



Appendices

- A Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey and Results
- B Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Survey
- C Letters of Approval



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Appendix A

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey and Results



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Town of Lexington

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014

Community Survey

Lexington is preparing a seven-year plan to guide the Town in how it should protect existing open spaces, enhance its park and recreation resources, and set direction for future use, maintenance and improvements. The following questions are asked as part of the process to obtain community input for this plan.

Part I Demographic

This section helps the Town understand the population in Lexington responding to the survey and will help to shape additional public outreach to maximize participation by a wide audience.

1. What is your gender?

- Female ☐
- Male ☐

2. What is your age?

- Under 18 ☐
- 19-34 years ☐
- 35-49 years ☐
- 50-64 years ☐
- Age 65 or older ☐

3. How many people are in your household?

- 1 ☐ 5 ☐
- 2 ☐ 6 ☐
- 3 ☐ More than 6 ☐
- 4 ☐

4. How many people in your household are under 18?

- 1 ☐ 5 ☐
- 2 ☐ 6 ☐
- 3 ☐ More than 6 ☐
- 4 ☐

5. How many people in your household are over 65?

- 1 ☐ 3 ☐
- 2 ☐ More than 3 ☐

6. What is your ethnicity? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="radio"/> | Hispanic or Latino <input type="radio"/> |
| Asian or Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> | White/Caucasian <input type="radio"/> |
| Black or African American <input type="radio"/> | Prefer not to answer <input type="radio"/> |

7. What was your total household income before taxes during the past 12 months?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Less than \$25,000 <input type="radio"/> | \$50,000 to \$74,999 <input type="radio"/> | \$150,000 to \$199,999 <input type="radio"/> |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 <input type="radio"/> | \$75,000 to \$99,999 <input type="radio"/> | \$200,000 or more <input type="radio"/> |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 <input type="radio"/> | \$100,000 to \$149,999 <input type="radio"/> | Prefer not to answer <input type="radio"/> |

Part II Open Space and Recreation

- 1. What are your five favorite open space, passive parks, recreation areas or natural areas owned by Lexington? (check up to 5)**

Center Recreation Complex	<input type="radio"/>	Old Reservoir	<input type="radio"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	Paint Mine	<input type="radio"/>
Dunback Meadow	<input type="radio"/>	Parker Meadow	<input type="radio"/>
Hayden Woods	<input type="radio"/>	Pine Meadows Golf Club	<input type="radio"/>
Lex Farm	<input type="radio"/>	Public Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>
Lincoln Park	<input type="radio"/>	Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>
Lower Vine Brook	<input type="radio"/>	Tower Park	<input type="radio"/>
Meagherville	<input type="radio"/>	Whipple Hill	<input type="radio"/>
Minuteman Bikeway	<input type="radio"/>	Willard's Woods	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	Other _____ (fill in)	<input type="radio"/>

- 2. Which of the areas listed in question 1 have you visited or used in the past 2 months? 6 months? (check all that apply)**

	2 months	6 months		2 months	6 months
Center Recreation Complex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Old Reservoir	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Paint Mine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dunback Meadow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Parker Meadow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hayden Woods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Pine Meadows Golf Club	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lex Farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Public Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lincoln Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lower Vine Brook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Tower Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meagherville	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Whipple Hill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minuteman Bikeway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Willard's Woods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other _____ (fill in)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 3. Are you familiar with the ACROSS (Accessing Conservation land, Recreation areas, Open space, Schools, and Streets) system?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

- 4. If you answered Yes to Question 3:**

- Have you used any of the existing ACROSS paths?

Yes ☐
No ☐

- How do you find the amount of signs?

Too few ☐
About right ☐
Too many ☐

- In your opinion, which of the following features would improve the ACROSS system? (check all that apply)

Shorter paths	<input type="radio"/>	More paths in open space	<input type="radio"/>
Longer paths	<input type="radio"/>	More paths in residential areas	<input type="radio"/>
More paths on major streets in Town (e.g., Mass Ave., Bedford St., and Waltham St.)	<input type="radio"/>		

- As new ACROSS paths are added, are there specific locations or facilities in Town you would like to see incorporated?

Yes ☐ If yes, which location or facility? _____ (fill in)
 No ☐

5. What do you like about the Town's resources listed in Question 1 and 2? (check all that apply)

Natural, wooded open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	Bird/wildlife habitats	<input type="radio"/>
Community playgrounds/meeting space	<input type="radio"/>	Playing fields	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed use areas for walking & playing	<input type="radio"/>	Aesthetics/scenic vistas	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible multi-use paths, open to all	<input type="radio"/>	Agriculture/ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	<input type="radio"/>
Water views and/or access	<input type="radio"/>	Historical/open meadow landscape	<input type="radio"/>
Peaceful, pleasant, attractive areas	<input type="radio"/>	Other _____ (fill in)	<input type="radio"/>

6. What are your major concerns regarding the Town's recreational and natural open spaces? (check all that apply)

Lack of maintenance, including general tree removal, pruning, and mowing	<input type="radio"/>	Lack of proper wildlife management, including hunting	<input type="radio"/>
Invasive plants	<input type="radio"/>	Disturbance of wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>
Loss of open space to development	<input type="radio"/>	Dogs (cleanup, disturbance to others)	<input type="radio"/>
Limits on use	<input type="radio"/>	Missing game lines/field markings	<input type="radio"/>
Trash accumulation	<input type="radio"/>	Overall conditions of fields and equipment	<input type="radio"/>
Vandalism/graffiti	<input type="radio"/>	Lack of parking	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility for disabled	<input type="radio"/>	Inadequate trail signage	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient open space	<input type="radio"/>	Connectivity of open spaces/trails	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient recreation/athletic fields	<input type="radio"/>	Other _____ (fill in)	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of multi-use paths, ADA compliant	<input type="radio"/>		

7. Does the Town have an adequate amount of the following? (check all that apply)

	Y	N	No opinion		Y	N	No opinion
Children's playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Cross-country ski trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Ice skating venues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural areas/nature trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Team playing fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Unpaved off-street walking/biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Paved off-street walking/biking paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	On-street bike lanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playfields for unstructured sports such as Frisbee and badminton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Working farms/active agricultural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive signage on trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Canoeing/kayaking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other _____ (fill in)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Do you favor purchasing available properties (e.g., undeveloped spaces, farms) for conservation?

- No, the Town does not need additional conservation land ☐
- Yes, but not funded by higher taxes ☐
- Yes, even if funded with higher taxes ☐

9. Do you favor purchasing available properties (e.g., undeveloped spaces, farm) for recreational needs (e.g., sports fields)?

- No, the Town does not need additional recreational land ☐
- Yes, but not funded by higher taxes ☐
- Yes, even if funded with higher taxes ☐

10. Funding open space/recreation improvements: select up to five improvements from the following list that you consider important for the Town to pursue. (check up to 5)

- | | |
|--|---|
| More activity areas for teens <input type="radio"/> | Better playing field maintenance <input type="radio"/> |
| More children's playgrounds <input type="radio"/> | More public art displayed in parks <input type="radio"/> |
| More areas for adult sports <input type="radio"/> | More neighborhood parks <input type="radio"/> |
| More community gardens <input type="radio"/> | More small landscaped areas <input type="radio"/> |
| Better ice skating facilities <input type="radio"/> | More walking/nature trails <input type="radio"/> |
| More indoor sports/recreation facilities <input type="radio"/> | More trails for off-road biking or cross-country skiing <input type="radio"/> |
| Enhanced public swimming pool facilities <input type="radio"/> | Acquisition of open space land for conservation purposes <input type="radio"/> |
| Better park/playground maintenance <input type="radio"/> | More wooded natural areas <input type="radio"/> |
| More playing fields for team sports <input type="radio"/> | Acquisition of land for recreation <input type="radio"/> |
| Connecting path between Minuteman bikeway and Minuteman National Historical Park Trail <input type="radio"/> | Acquisition of open space land for agricultural purposes, such as community farming <input type="radio"/> |

11. How do you get information on open space and recreation, such as locations and/or activities, in Lexington? (check all that apply)

- LexMedia (cable) ☐
- Recreation brochure ☐
- Town website ☐
- LexEngage, the Town's MindMixer site ☐
- Community education brochure ☐
- Social media ☐
- Newspaper ☐
- Other _____ (fill in) ☐

Completed surveys can be dropped off at the Reference Department of the Cary Memorial Library or at the Conservation or Recreation Departments in Town Hall.

OR

Mailed directly to:

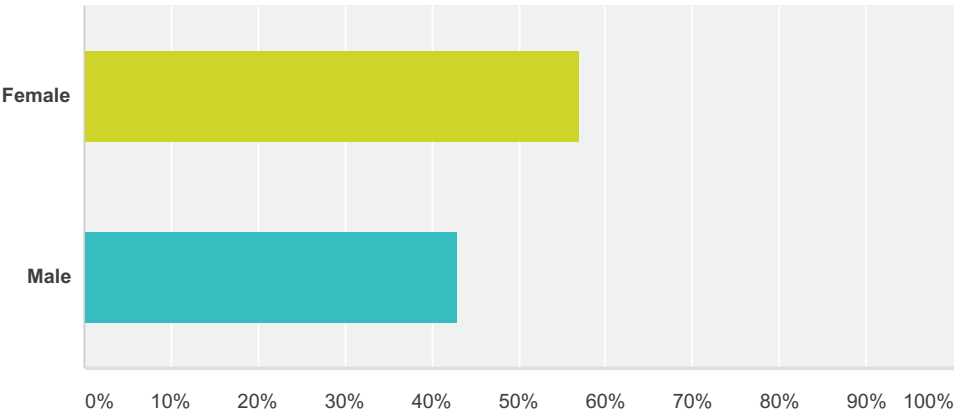
*Lexington Recreation
Town Hall
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420*

**Please return completed surveys by
December 15, 2014**

A link to an online version of this survey can be found on the Town's website at
www.lexingtonma.gov

Q1 What is your gender?

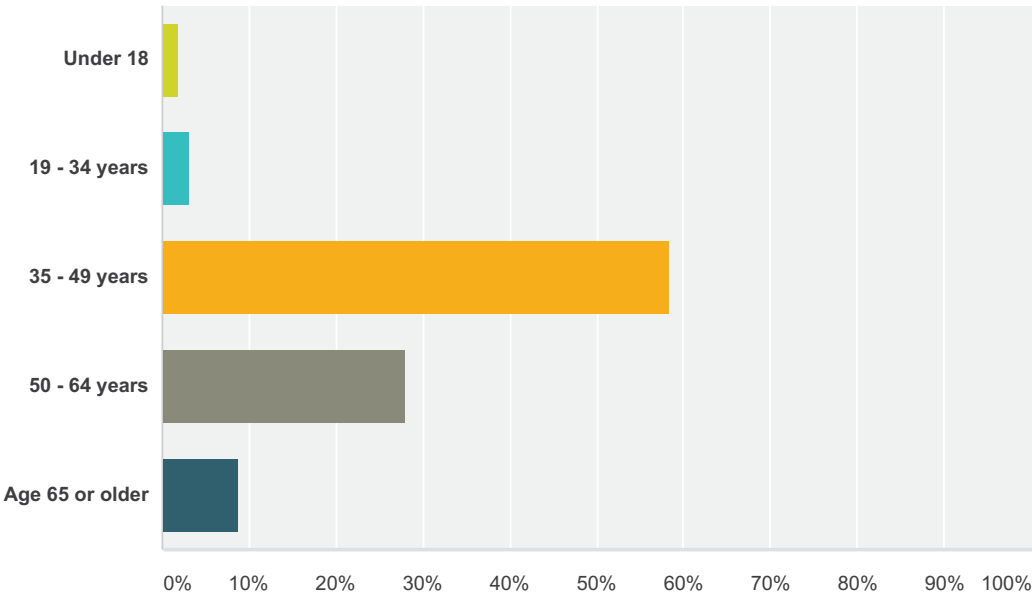
Answered: 834 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
Female	56.95%	475
Male	43.05%	359
Total		834

Q2 What is your age?

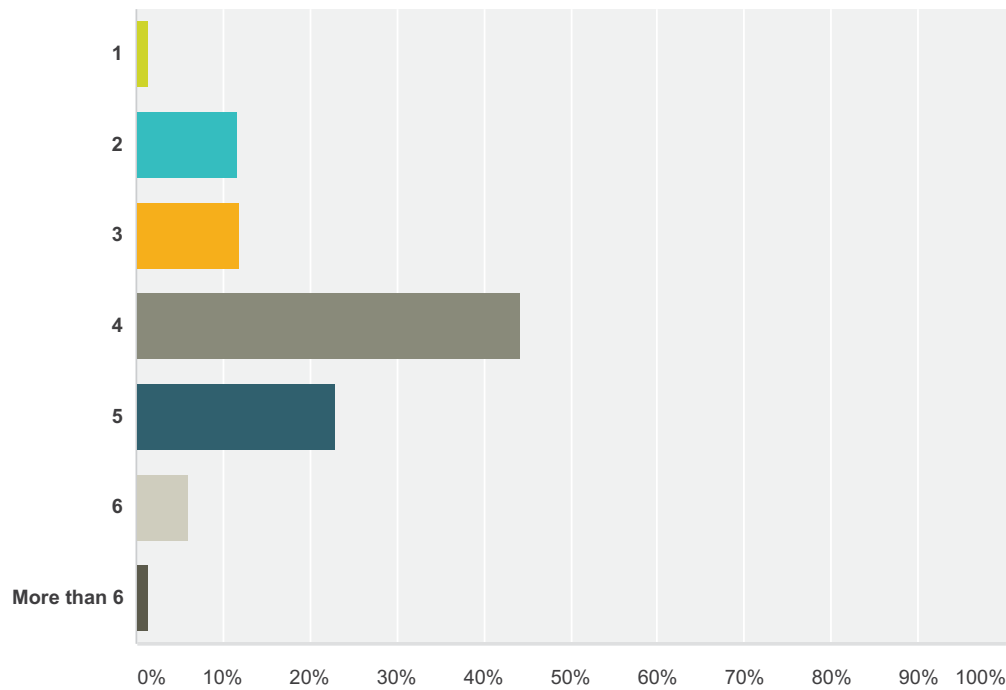
Answered: 835 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	1.80%	15
19 - 34 years	3.11%	26
35 - 49 years	58.44%	488
50 - 64 years	27.90%	233
Age 65 or older	8.74%	73
Total		835

Q3 How many people are in your household?

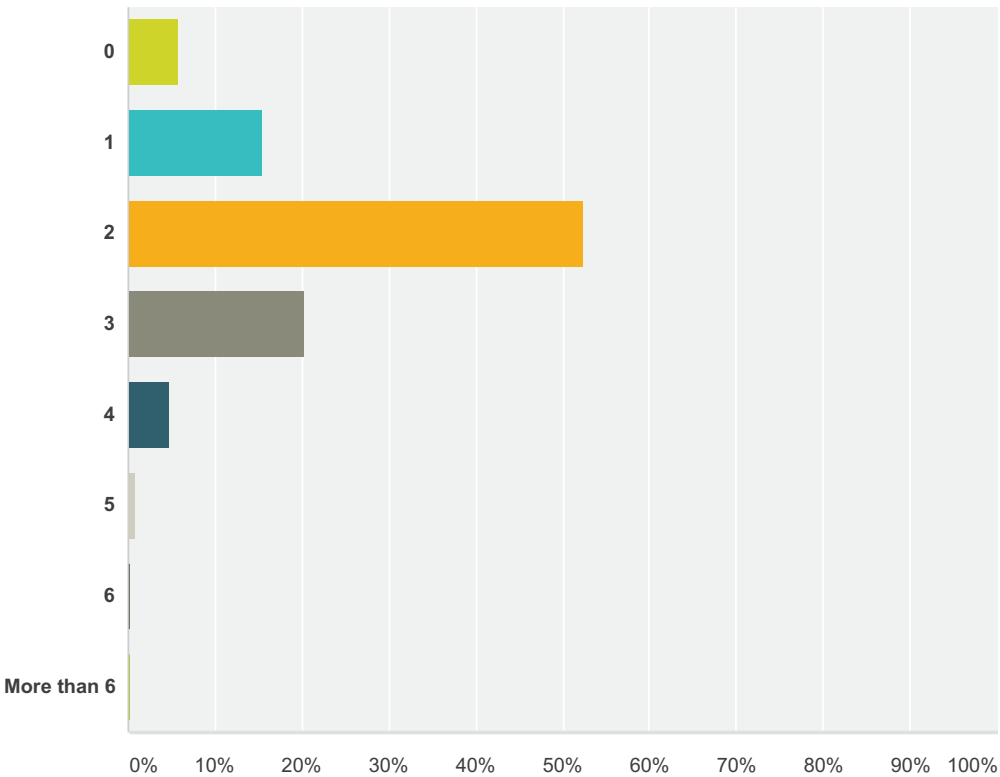
Answered: 834 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
1	1.56%	13
2	11.63%	97
3	11.87%	99
4	44.24%	369
5	23.02%	192
6	6.12%	51
More than 6	1.56%	13
Total		834

Q4 How many people in your household are under 18?

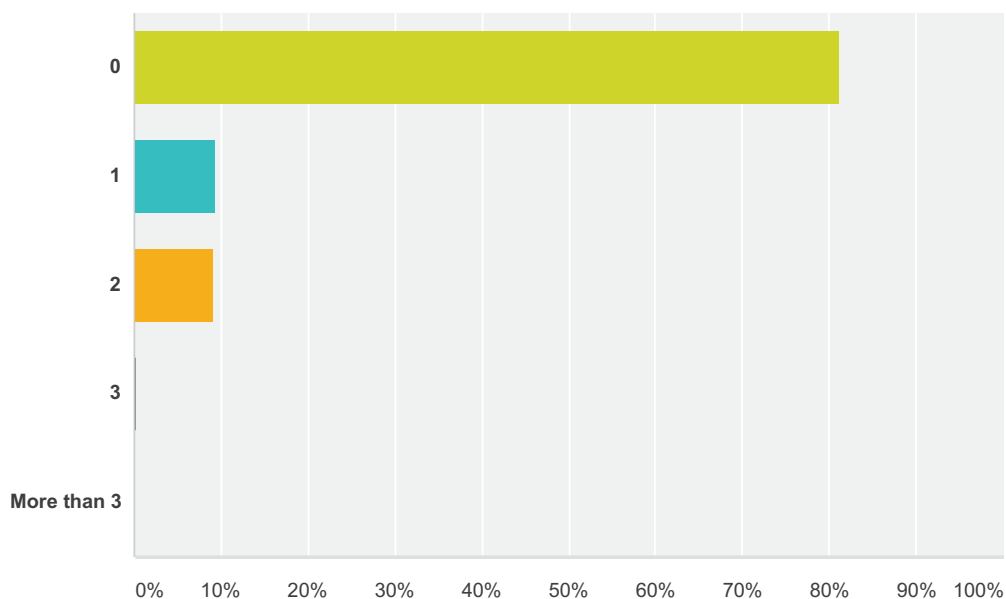
Answered: 724 Skipped: 114



Answer Choices	Responses	
0	5.80%	42
1	15.47%	112
2	52.35%	379
3	20.30%	147
4	4.83%	35
5	0.83%	6
6	0.14%	1
More than 6	0.28%	2
Total		724

Q5 How many people in your household are over 65?

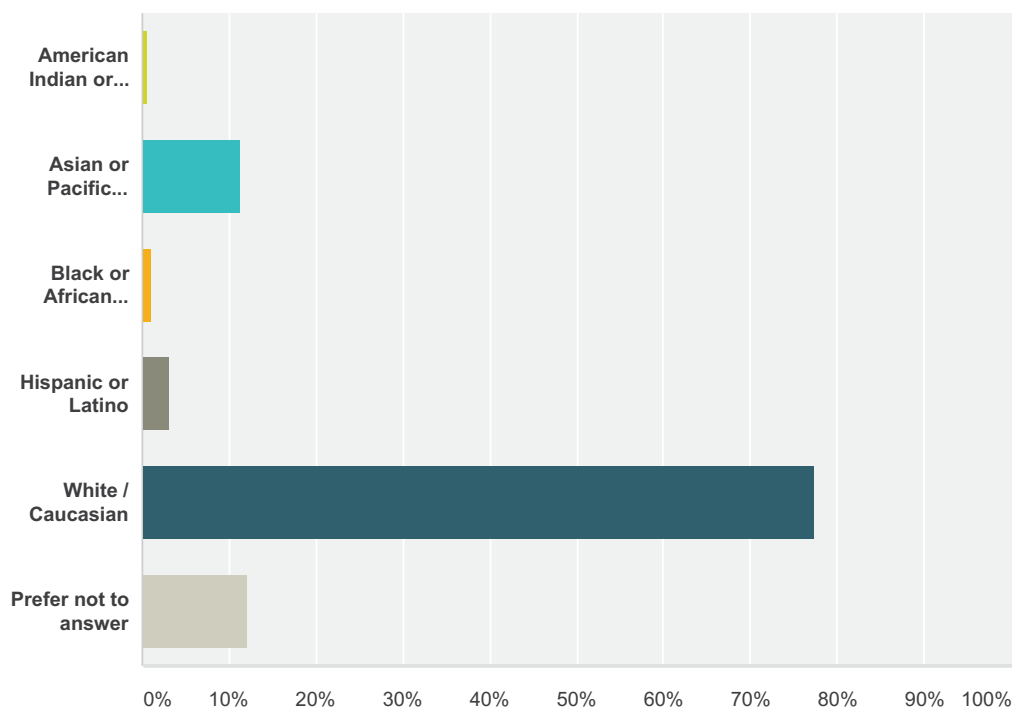
Answered: 604 Skipped: 234



Answer Choices	Responses
0	81.13% 490
1	9.44% 57
2	9.27% 56
3	0.17% 1
More than 3	0.00% 0
Total	604

Q6 What is your ethnicity? (check all that apply)

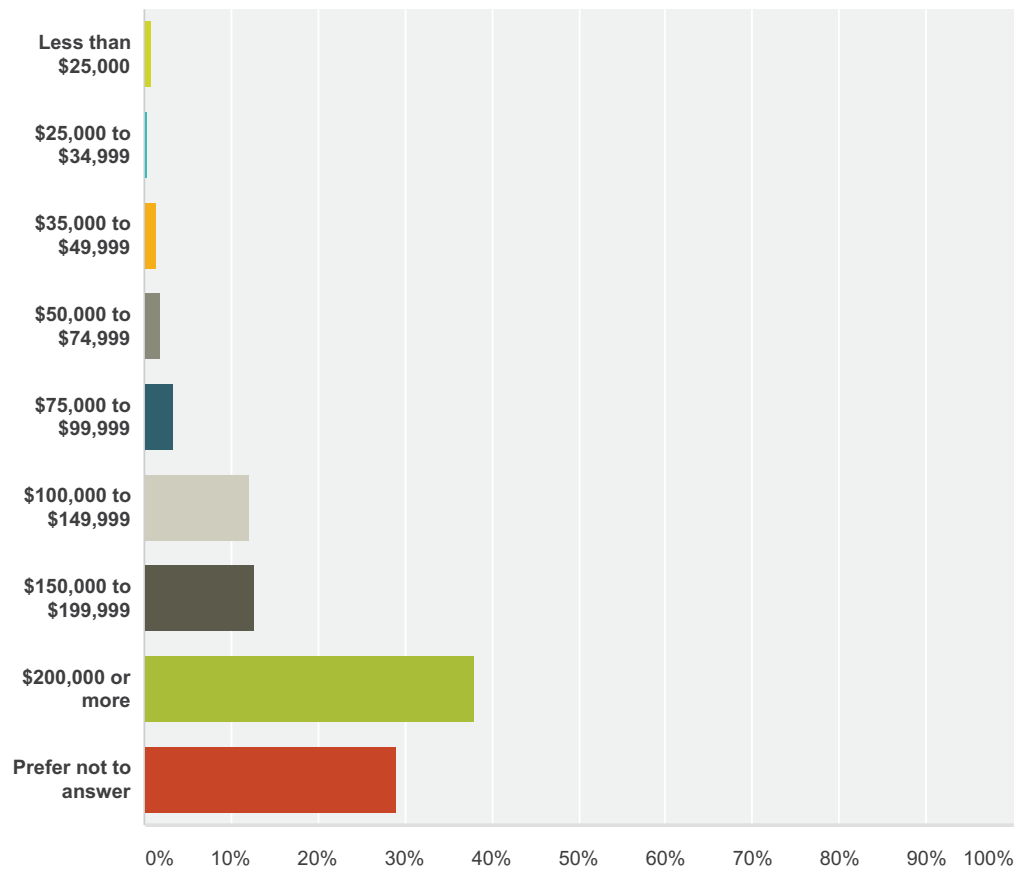
Answered: 829 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.60%	5
Asian or Pacific Islander	11.22%	93
Black or African American	1.09%	9
Hispanic or Latino	3.14%	26
White / Caucasian	77.44%	642
Prefer not to answer	12.18%	101
Total Respondents: 829		

Q7 What was your total household income before taxes during the past 12 months?

Answered: 822 Skipped: 16

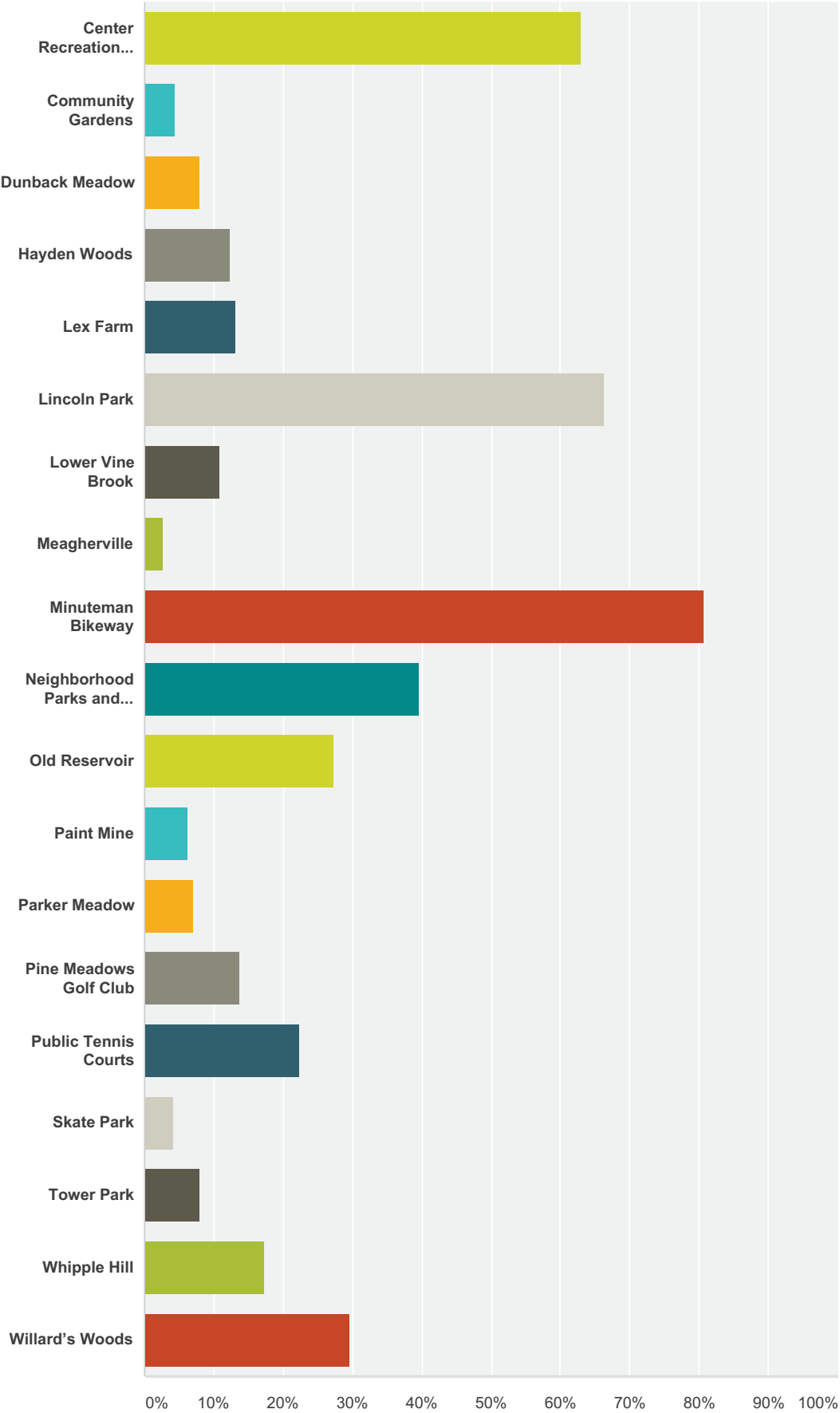


Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than \$25,000	0.85%	7
\$25,000 to \$34,999	0.49%	4
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1.46%	12
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1.95%	16
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3.28%	27
\$100,000 to \$149,999	12.17%	100
\$150,000 to \$199,999	12.77%	105
\$200,000 or more	37.96%	312
Prefer not to answer	29.08%	239
Total		822

Q8 What are your five favorite open space, passive parks, recreation areas or natural areas owned by Lexington? (check up to 5)

Answered: 787 Skipped: 51

Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

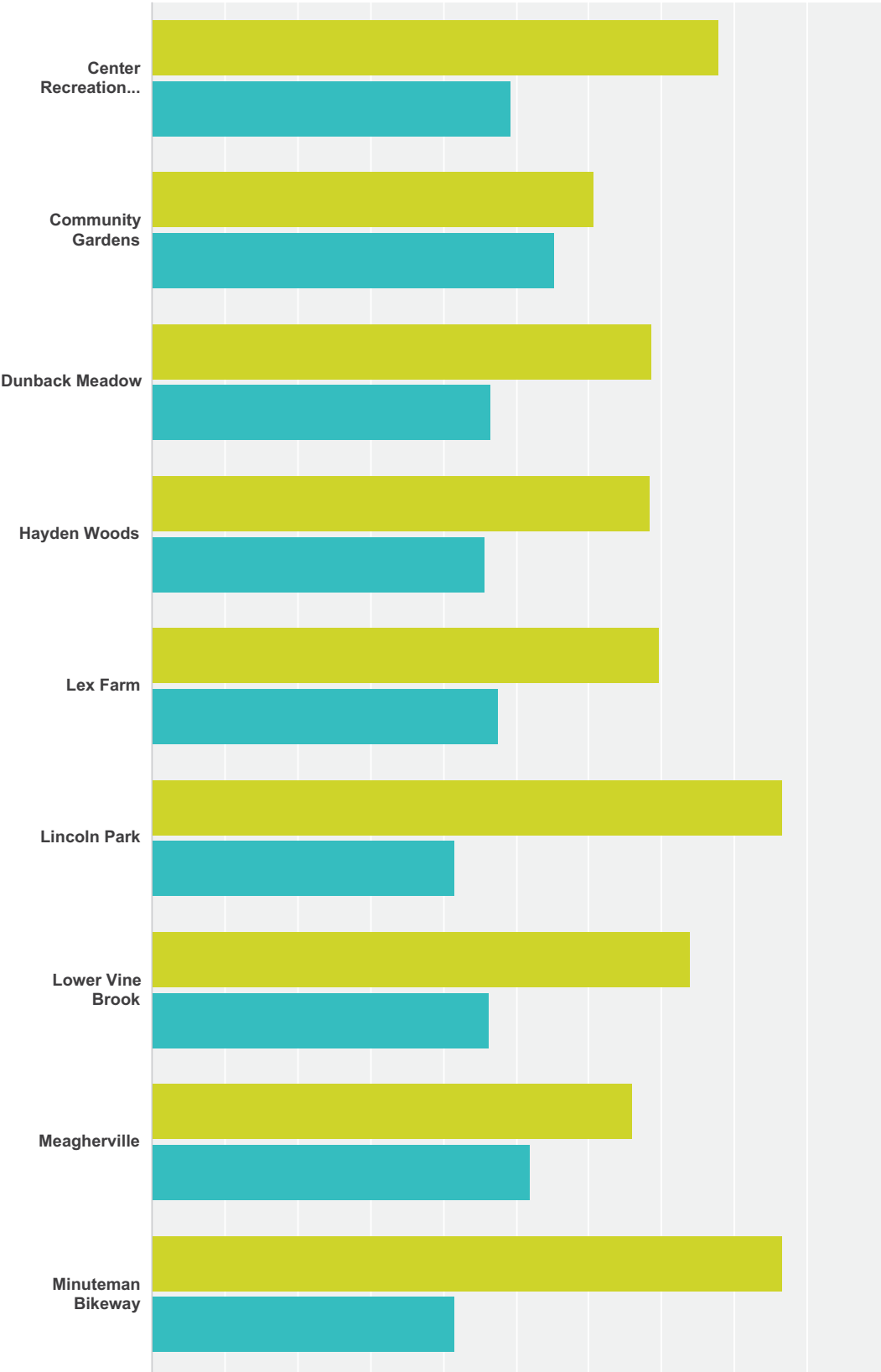


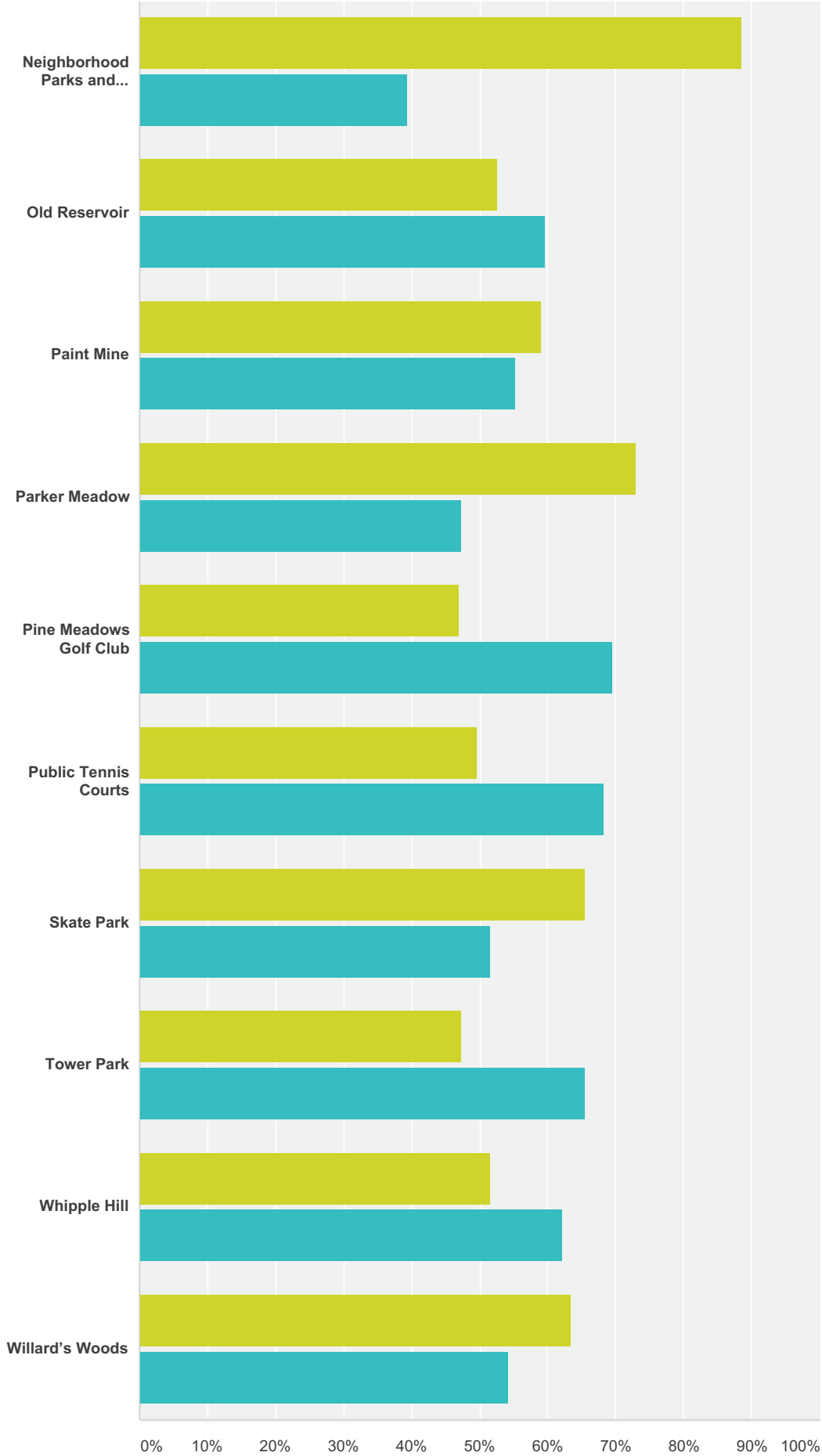
Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

Answer Choices	Responses	
Center Recreation Complex	63.02%	496
Community Gardens	4.32%	34
Dunback Meadow	8.01%	63
Hayden Woods	12.33%	97
Lex Farm	13.21%	104
Lincoln Park	66.45%	523
Lower Vine Brook	10.93%	86
Meagherville	2.80%	22
Minuteman Bikeway	80.81%	636
Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	39.64%	312
Old Reservoir	27.32%	215
Paint Mine	6.23%	49
Parker Meadow	7.12%	56
Pine Meadows Golf Club	13.72%	108
Public Tennis Courts	22.24%	175
Skate Park	4.19%	33
Tower Park	7.88%	62
Whipple Hill	17.41%	137
Willard's Woods	29.73%	234
Total Respondents: 787		

Q9 Which of the areas listed in question 1 have you visited or used in the past 2 months? 6 months? (check all that apply)

Answered: 780 Skipped: 58





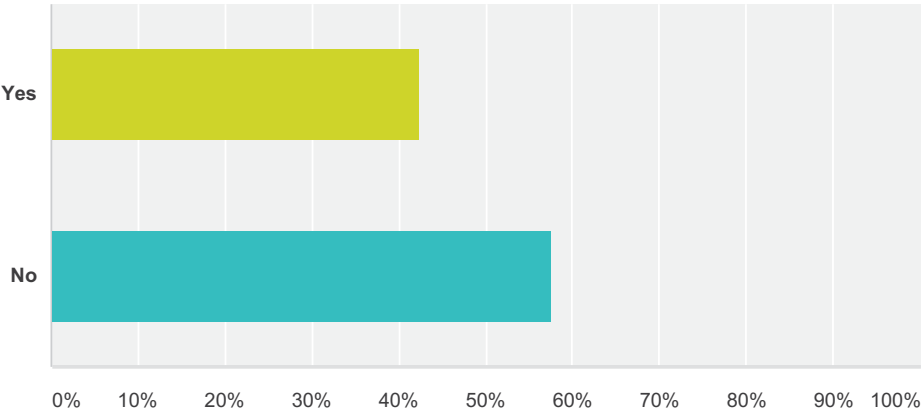
Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

2 months
 6 months

	2 months	6 months	Total Respondents
Center Recreation Complex	77.93% 452	49.31% 286	580
Community Gardens	60.71% 34	55.36% 31	56
Dunback Meadow	68.69% 68	46.46% 46	99
Hayden Woods	68.48% 126	45.65% 84	184
Lex Farm	69.80% 104	47.65% 71	149
Lincoln Park	86.61% 511	41.53% 245	590
Lower Vine Brook	73.86% 113	46.41% 71	153
Meagherville	66.00% 33	52.00% 26	50
Minuteman Bikeway	86.69% 573	41.60% 275	661
Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	88.51% 385	39.54% 172	435
Old Reservoir	52.67% 158	59.67% 179	300
Paint Mine	59.04% 49	55.42% 46	83
Parker Meadow	73.12% 68	47.31% 44	93
Pine Meadows Golf Club	46.88% 60	69.53% 89	128
Public Tennis Courts	49.76% 102	68.29% 140	205
Skate Park	65.63% 42	51.56% 33	64
Tower Park	47.47% 47	65.66% 65	99
Whipple Hill	51.67% 93	62.22% 112	180
Willard's Woods	63.37% 173	54.21% 148	273

**Q10 Are you familiar with the ACROSS
(Accessing Conservation land, Recreation
areas, Open space, Schools, and Streets)
system?**

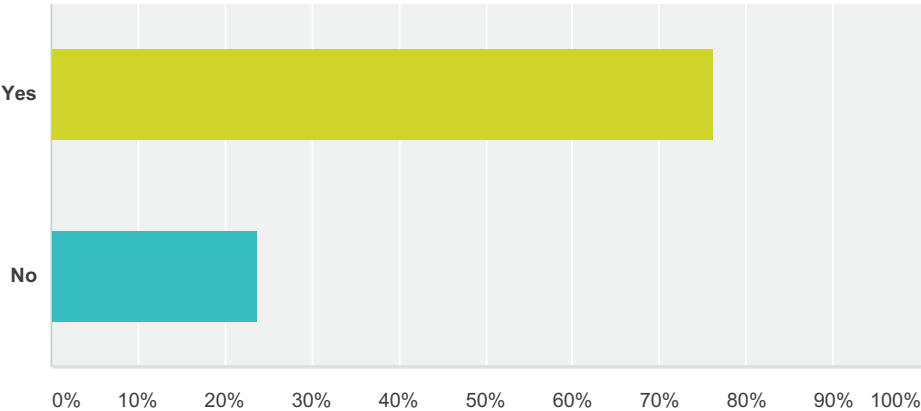
Answered: 780 Skipped: 58



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	42.31%	330
No	57.69%	450
Total		780

Q11 Have you used any of the existing
ACROSS paths?

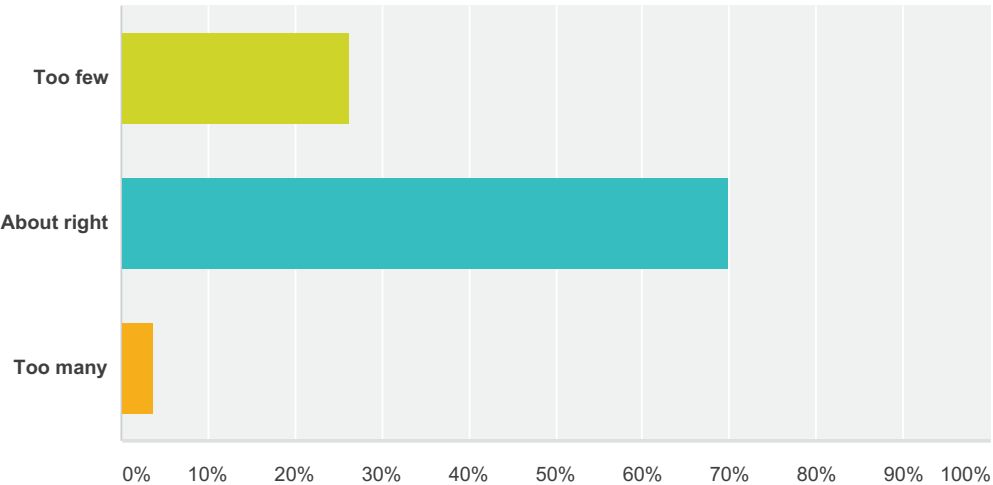
Answered: 365 Skipped: 473



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.16%	278
No	23.84%	87
Total		365

Q12 How do you find the amount of signs?

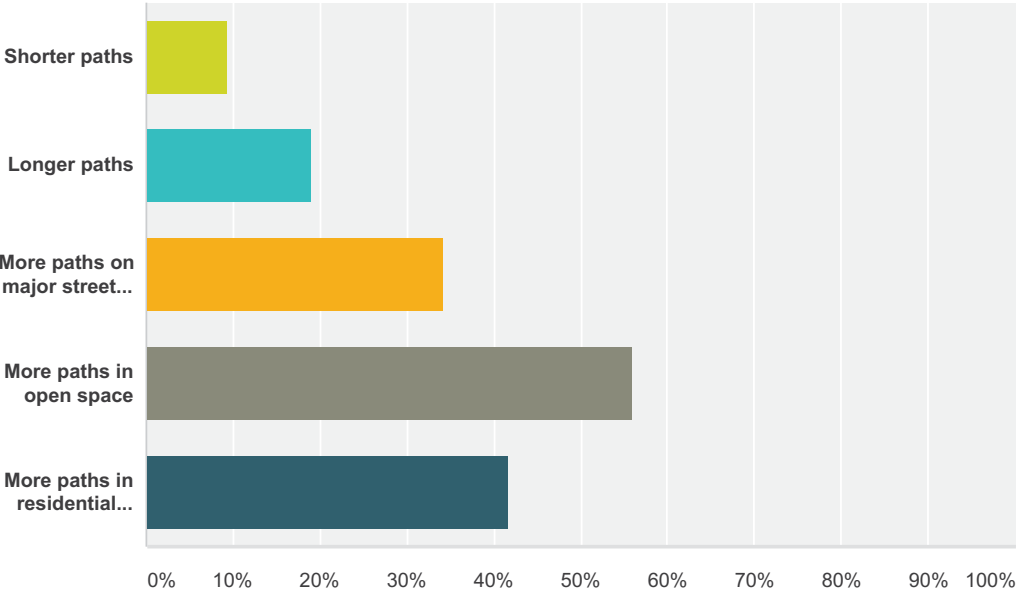
Answered: 323 Skipped: 515



Answer Choices	Responses	
Too few	26.32%	85
About right	69.97%	226
Too many	3.72%	12
Total		323

Q13 In your opinion, which of the following features would improve the ACROSS system? (check all that apply)

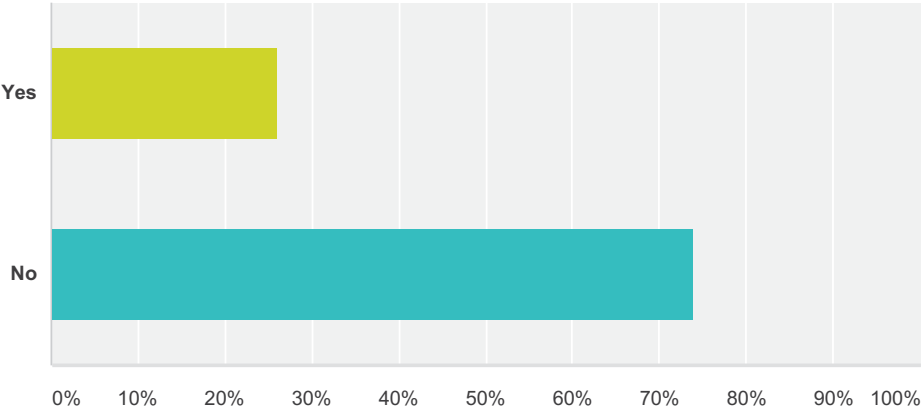
Answered: 268 Skipped: 570



Answer Choices	Responses	
Shorter paths	9.33%	25
Longer paths	19.03%	51
More paths on major streets in Town (e.g., Mass Ave., Bedford St., and Waltham St.)	34.33%	92
More paths in open space	55.97%	150
More paths in residential areas	41.79%	112
Total Respondents: 268		

Q14 As new ACROSS paths are added, are there specific locations or facilities in Town you would like to see incorporated?

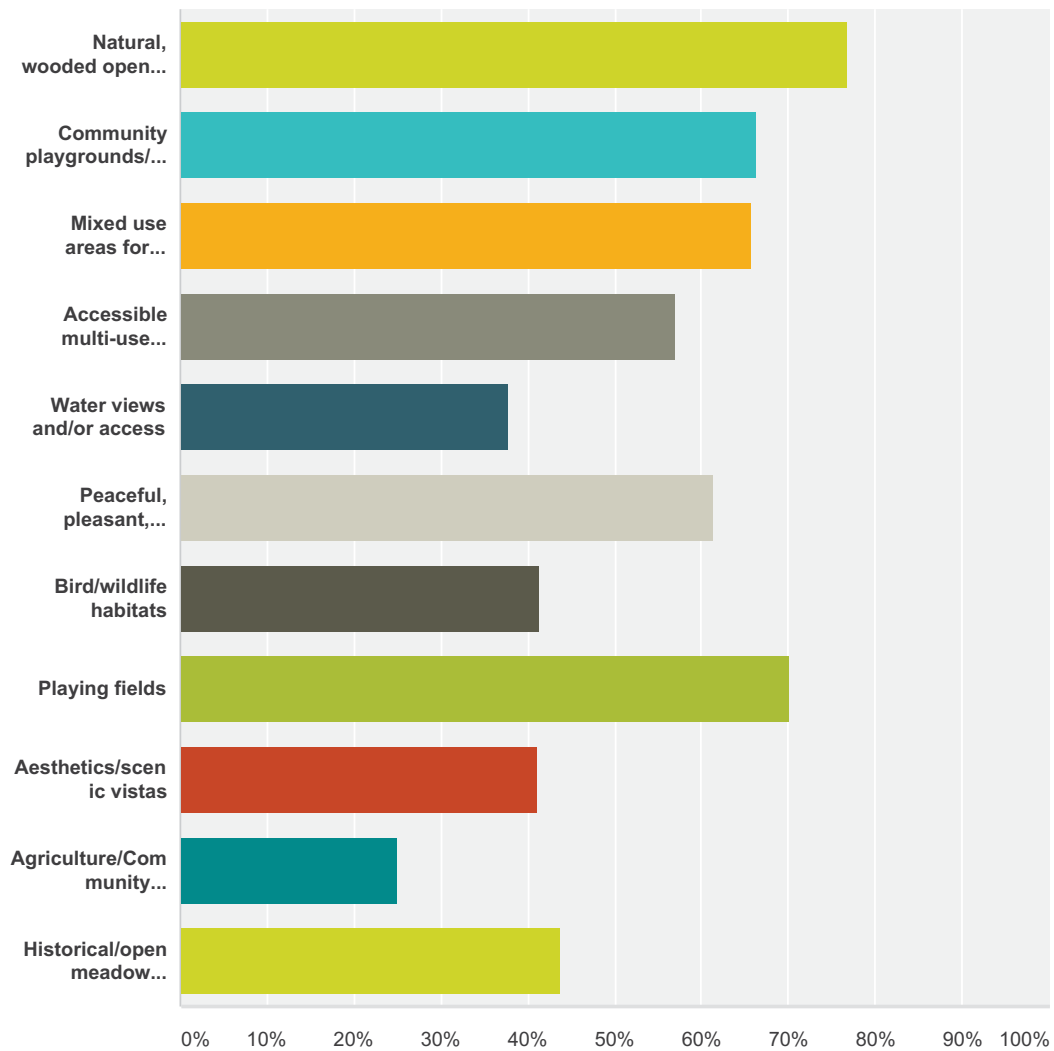
Answered: 233 Skipped: 605



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	26.18%	61
No	73.82%	172
Total		233

Q15 What do you like about the Town's open space and recreation resources mentioned in the previous pages? (check all that apply)

Answered: 708 Skipped: 130



Answer Choices	Responses	
Natural, wooded open spaces	76.84%	544
Community playgrounds/meeting space	66.38%	470
Mixed use areas for walking & playing	65.68%	465
Accessible multi-use paths, open to all	57.06%	404
Water views and/or access	37.71%	267
Peaceful, pleasant, attractive areas	61.30%	434

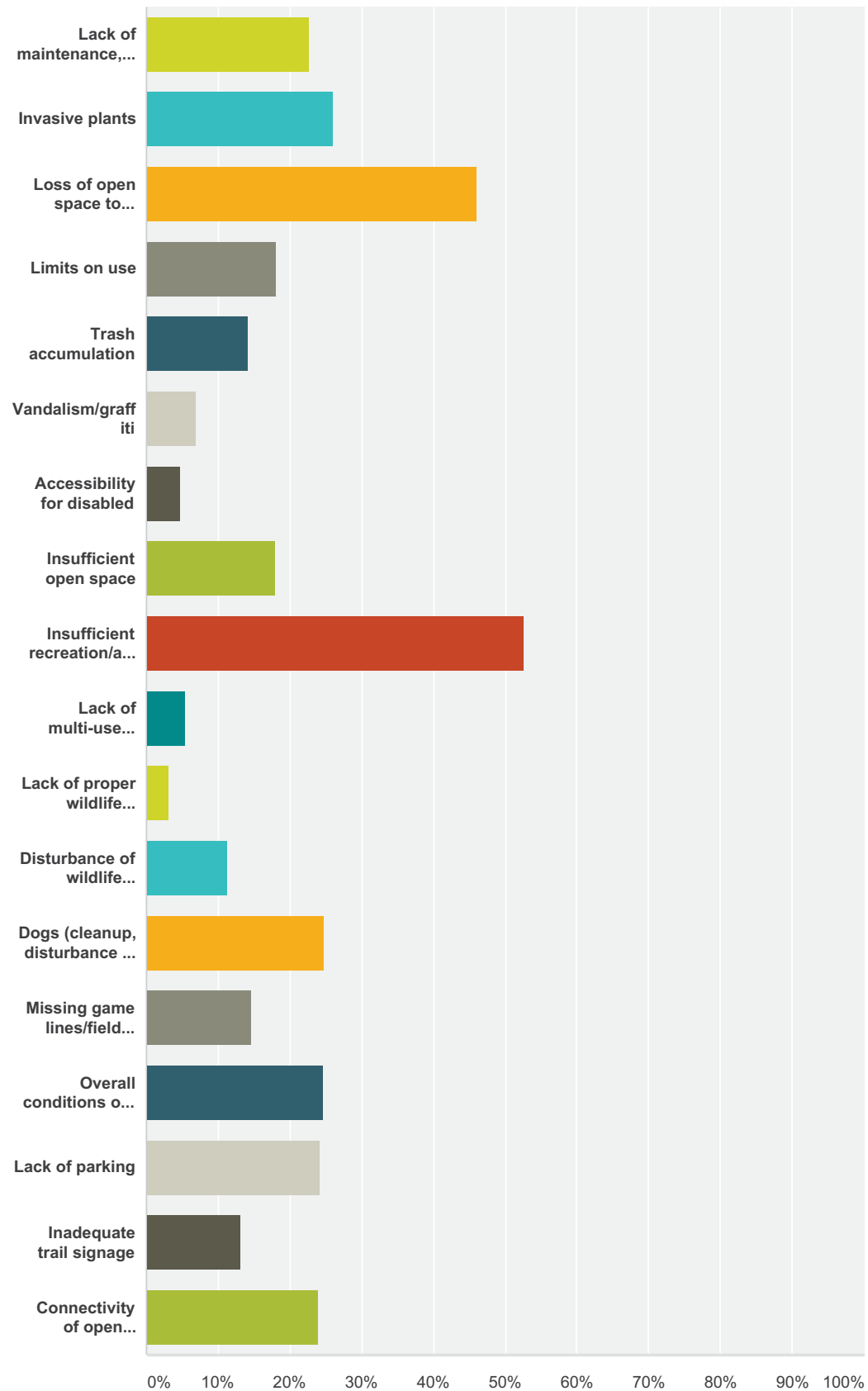
Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

Bird/wildlife habitats	41.24%	292
Playing fields	70.06%	496
Aesthetics/scenic vistas	41.10%	291
Agriculture/Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	25.00%	177
Historical/open meadow landscape	43.93%	311
Total Respondents: 708		

**Q16 What are your major concerns
regarding the Town's recreational and
natural open spaces? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 716 Skipped: 122

Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!



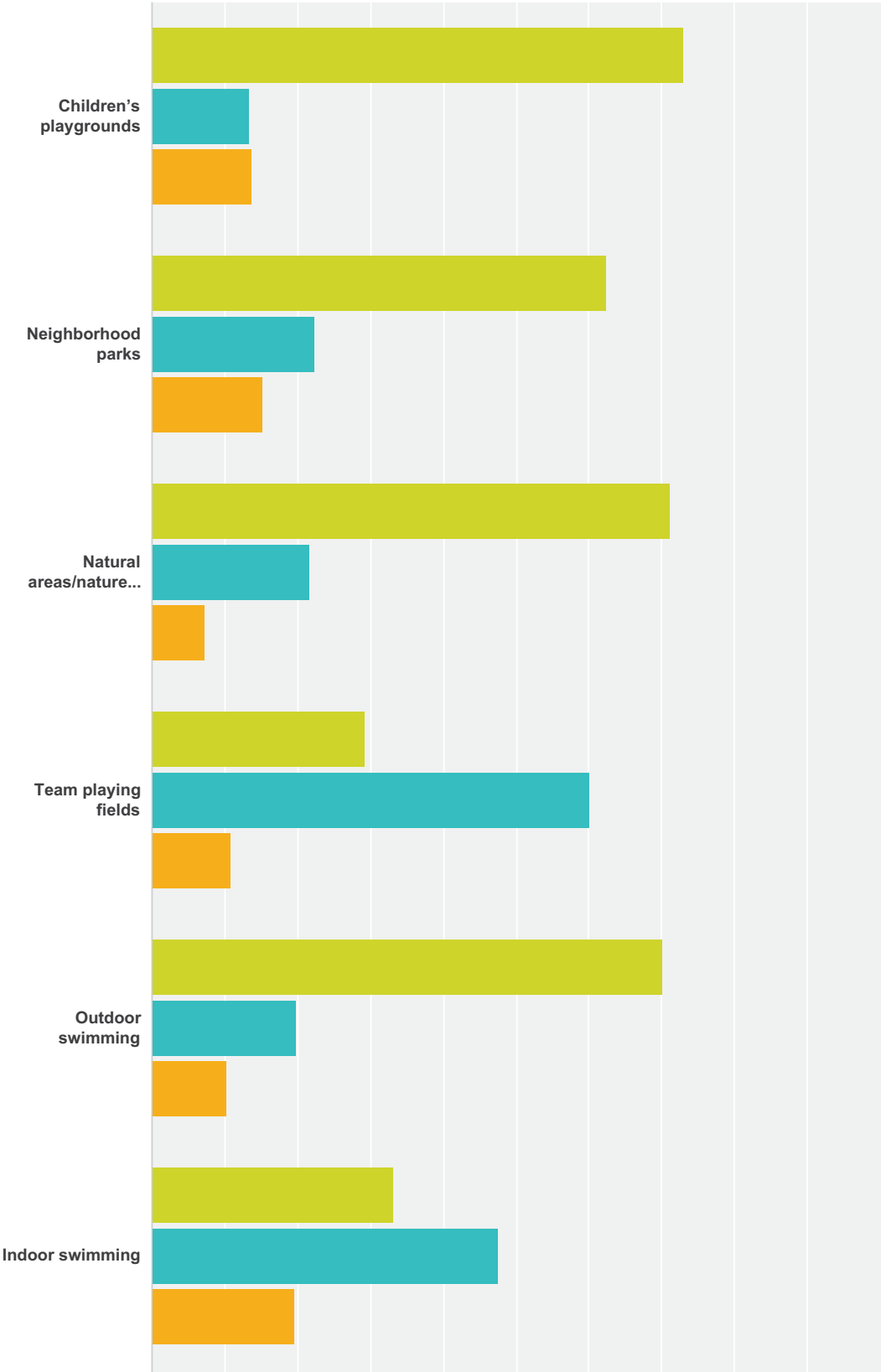
Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of maintenance, including general tree removal, pruning, and mowing	22.77%	163

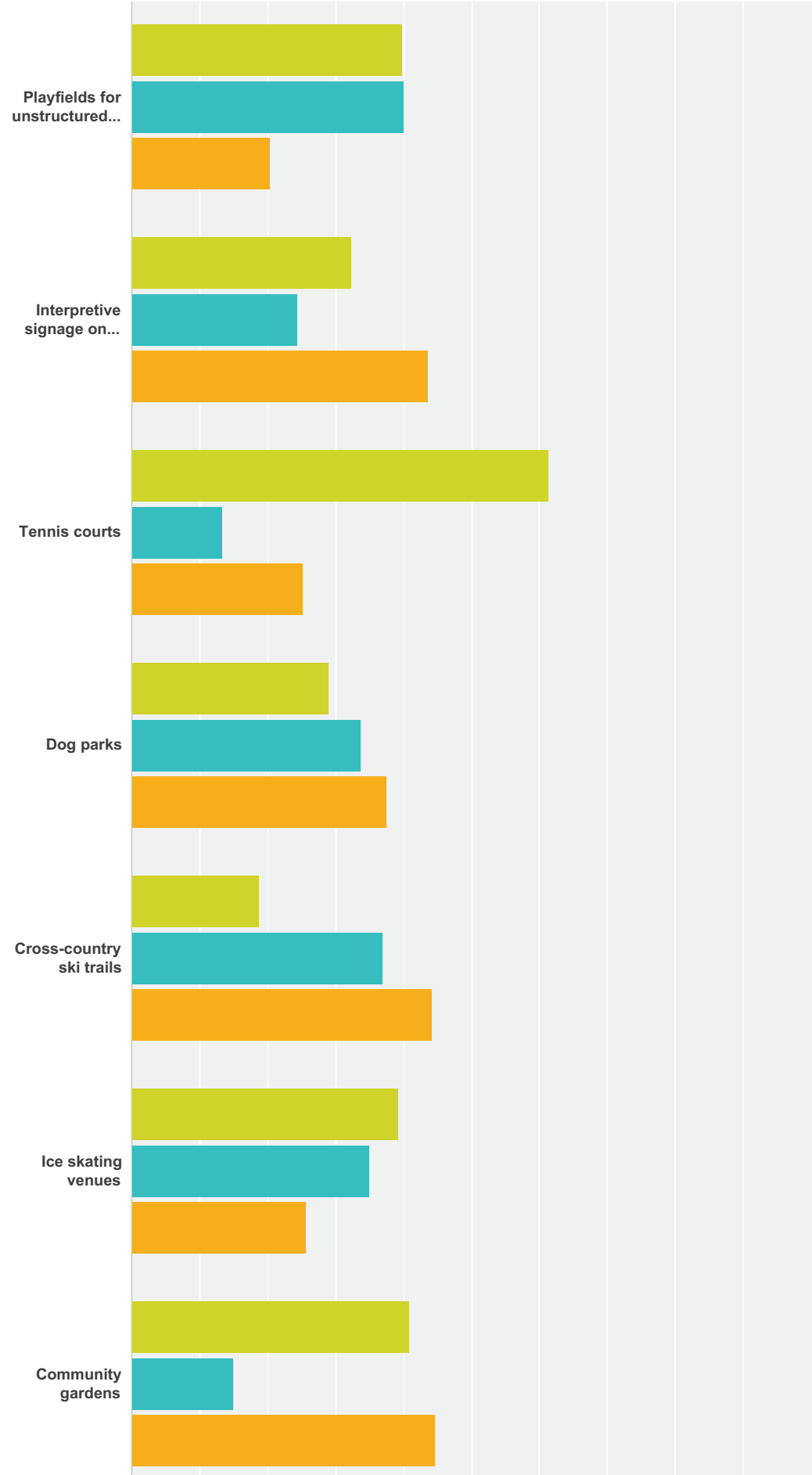
Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

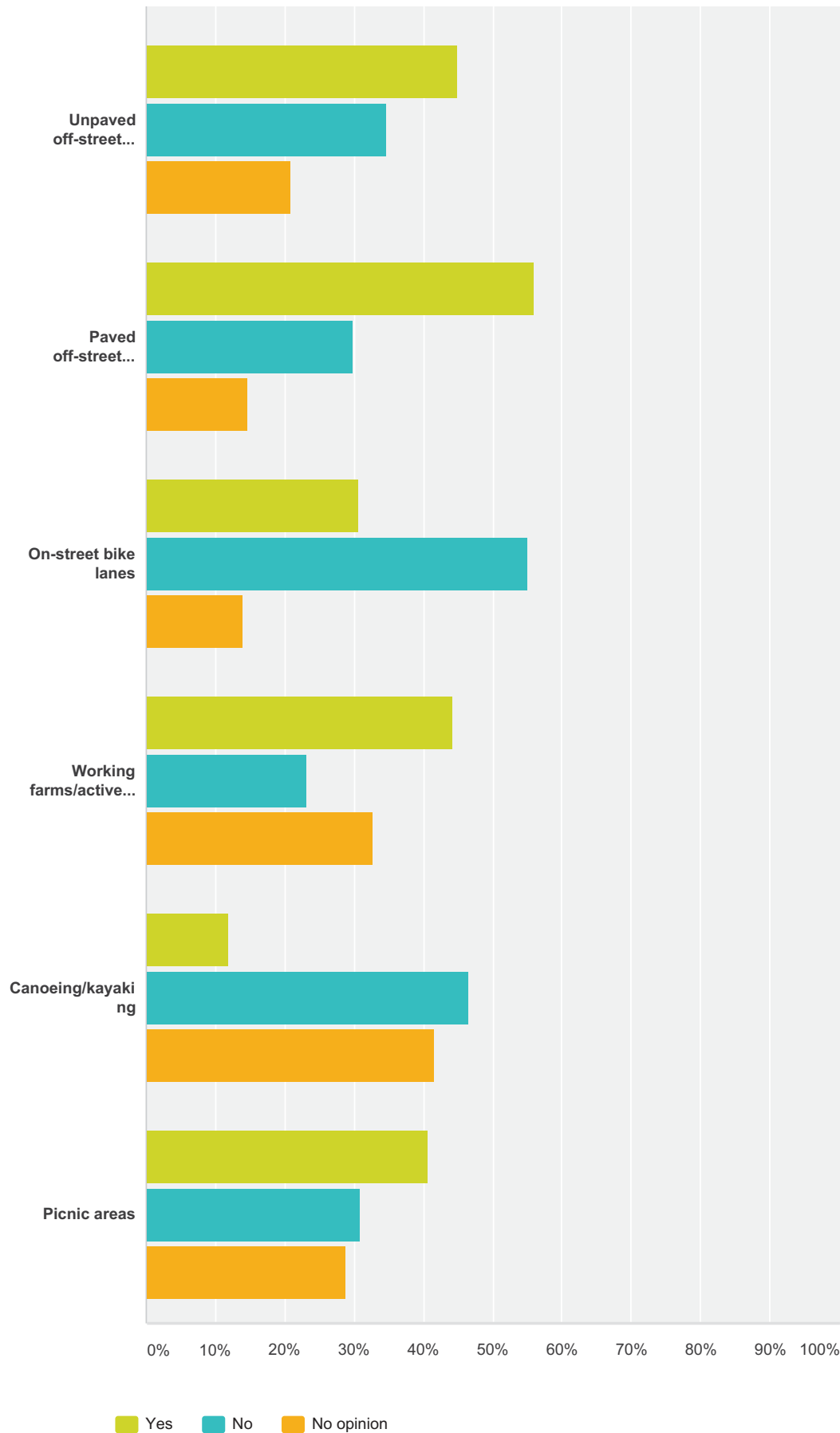
Invasive plants	26.12%	187
Loss of open space to development	46.09%	330
Limits on use	18.16%	130
Trash accumulation	14.11%	101
Vandalism/graffiti	6.98%	50
Accessibility for disabled	4.75%	34
Insufficient open space	18.02%	129
Insufficient recreation/athletic fields	52.51%	376
Lack of multi-use paths, ADA compliant	5.45%	39
Lack of proper wildlife management, including hunting	3.21%	23
Disturbance of wildlife habitat	11.17%	80
Dogs (cleanup, disturbance to others)	24.86%	178
Missing game lines/field markings	14.66%	105
Overall conditions of fields and equipment	24.72%	177
Lack of parking	24.16%	173
Inadequate trail signage	13.13%	94
Connectivity of open spaces/trails	24.02%	172
Total Respondents: 716		

Q17 Does the Town have an adequate amount of the following? (check all that apply)

Answered: 744 Skipped: 94





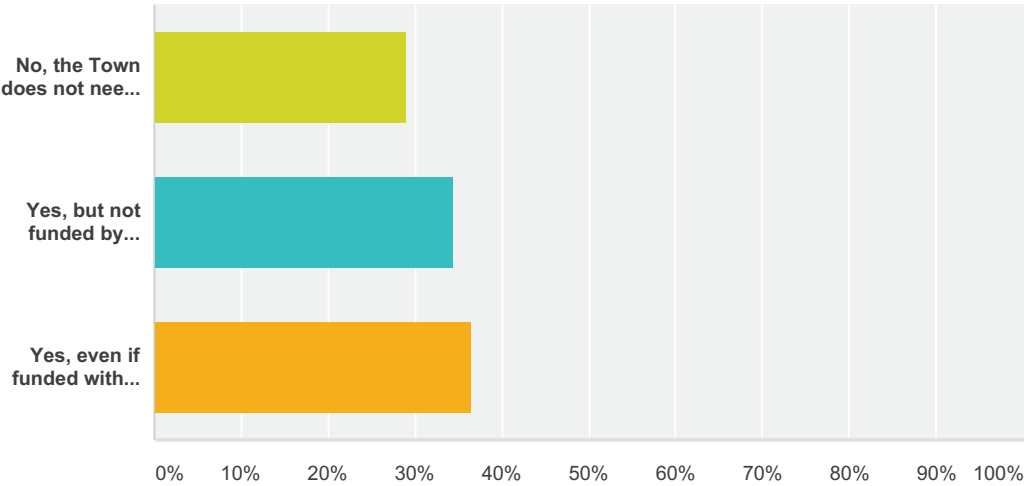


Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!

	Yes	No	No opinion	Total Respondents
Children's playgrounds	73.14% 520	13.36% 95	13.78% 98	711
Neighborhood parks	62.48% 433	22.37% 155	15.15% 105	693
Natural areas/nature trails	71.09% 477	21.76% 146	7.30% 49	671
Team playing fields	29.16% 205	60.17% 423	10.81% 76	703
Outdoor swimming	70.23% 486	19.80% 137	10.26% 71	692
Indoor swimming	33.28% 227	47.65% 325	19.65% 134	682
Playfields for unstructured sports such as Frisbee and badminton	39.85% 265	40.00% 266	20.45% 136	665
Interpretive signage on trails	32.27% 203	24.48% 154	43.56% 274	629
Tennis courts	61.36% 405	13.33% 88	25.30% 167	660
Dog parks	29.09% 192	33.79% 223	37.58% 248	660
Cross-country ski trails	18.75% 123	37.04% 243	44.36% 291	656
Ice skating venues	39.18% 259	35.10% 232	25.72% 170	661
Community gardens	40.92% 259	15.01% 95	44.71% 283	633
Unpaved off-street walking/biking trails	44.96% 290	34.57% 223	20.78% 134	645
Paved off-street walking/biking paths	55.85% 358	29.80% 191	14.66% 94	641
On-street bike lanes	30.78% 201	55.13% 360	14.09% 92	653
Working farms/active agricultural areas	44.29% 279	23.17% 146	32.70% 206	630
Canoeing/kayaking	11.95% 79	46.60% 308	41.60% 275	661
Picnic areas	40.69% 260	30.99% 198	28.79% 184	639

Q18 Do you favor purchasing available properties (e.g., undeveloped spaces, farms) for conservation?

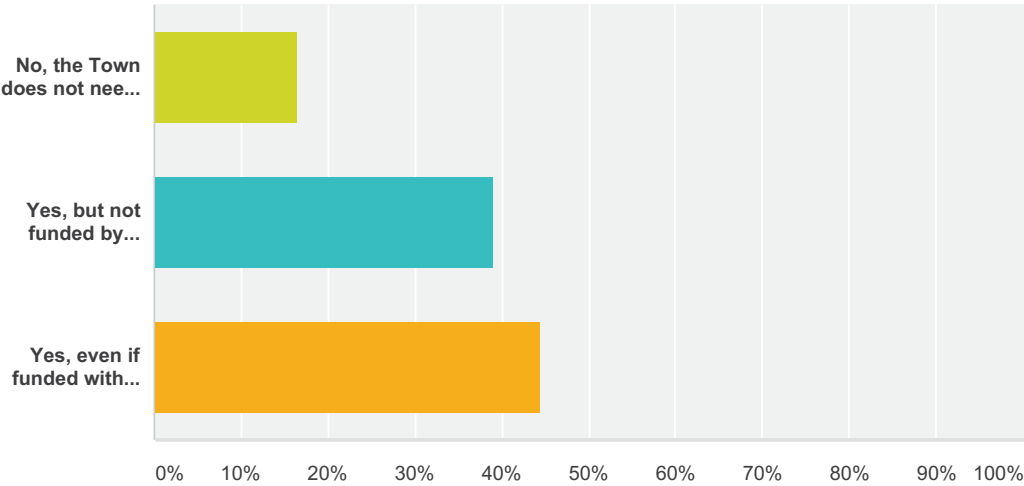
Answered: 725 Skipped: 113



Answer Choices	Responses	
No, the Town does not need additional conservation land	28.97%	210
Yes, but not funded by higher taxes	34.48%	250
Yes, even if funded with higher taxes	36.55%	265
Total		725

Q19 Do you favor purchasing available properties (e.g., undeveloped spaces, farm) for recreational needs (e.g., sports fields)?

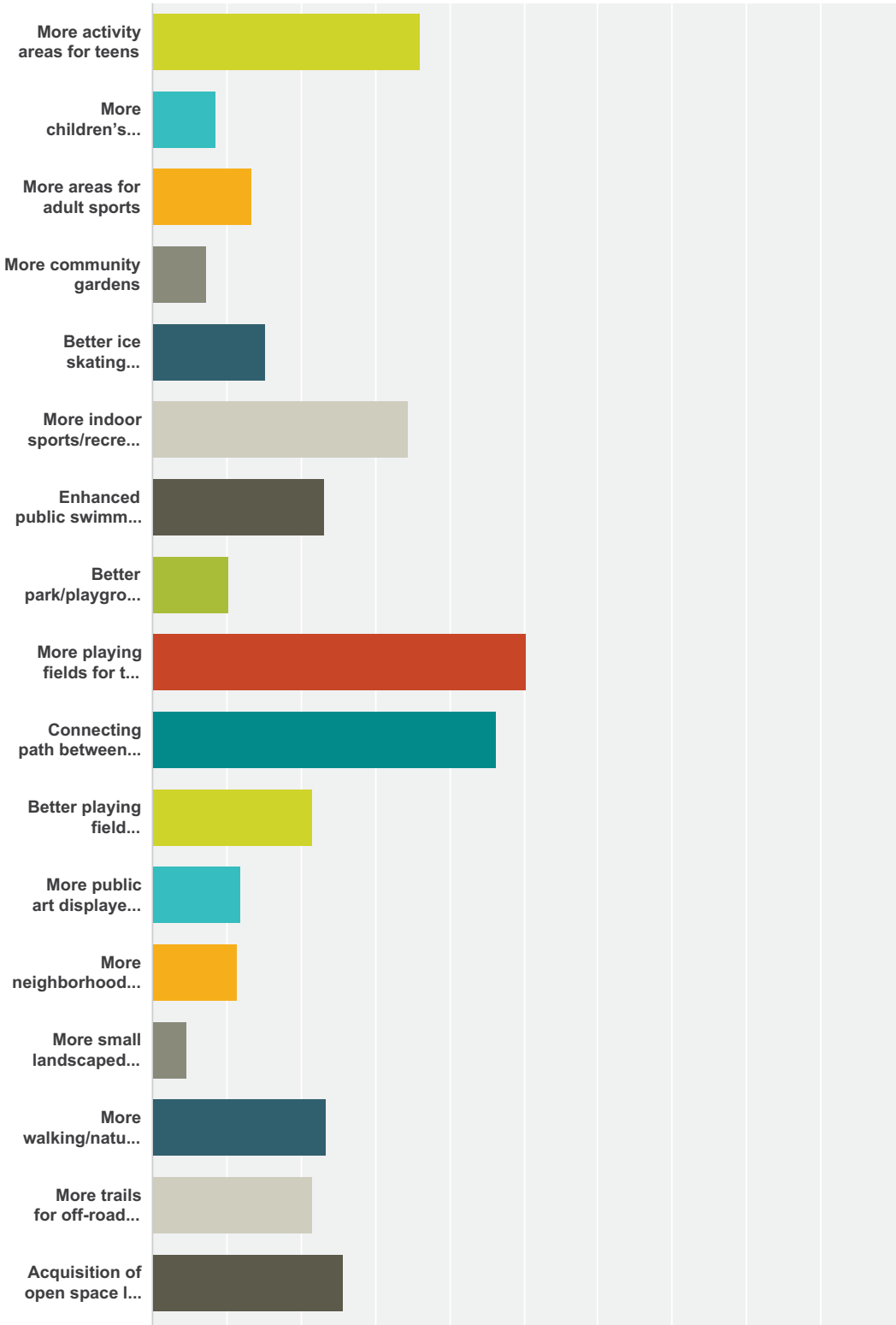
Answered: 724 Skipped: 114



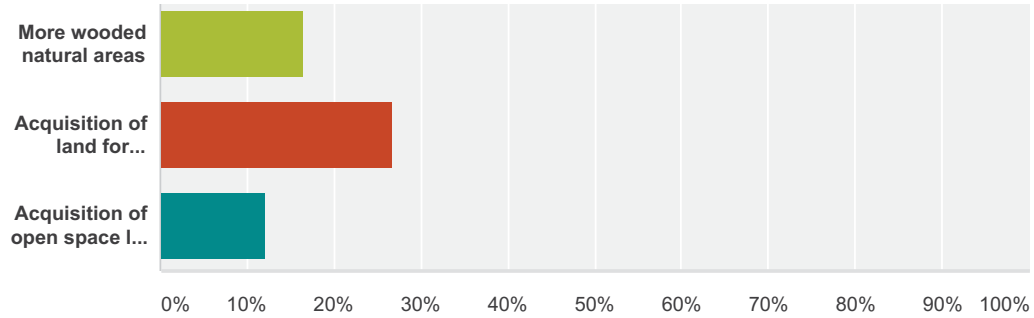
Answer Choices	Responses	
No, the Town does not need additional recreational land	16.44%	119
Yes, but not funded by higher taxes	39.09%	283
Yes, even if funded with higher taxes	44.48%	322
Total		724

Q20 Funding open space/recreation improvements: select up to five improvements from the following list that you consider important for the Town to pursue. (check up to 5)

Answered: 713 Skipped: 125



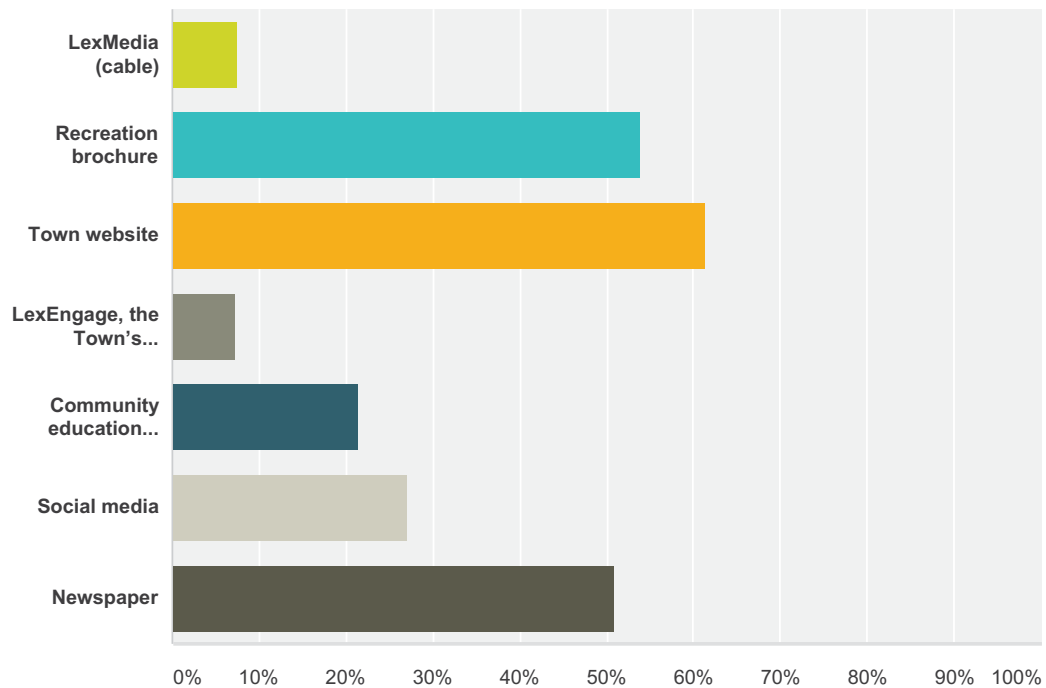
Welcome to the community survey for the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2014!



Answer Choices	Responses	
More activity areas for teens	36.04%	257
More children's playgrounds	8.56%	61
More areas for adult sports	13.32%	95
More community gardens	7.29%	52
Better ice skating facilities	15.29%	109
More indoor sports/recreation facilities	34.50%	246
Enhanced public swimming pool facilities	23.14%	165
Better park/playground maintenance	10.24%	73
More playing fields for team sports	50.35%	359
Connecting path between Minuteman bikeway and Minuteman National Historical Park Trail	46.42%	331
Better playing field maintenance	21.46%	153
More public art displayed in parks	11.92%	85
More neighborhood parks	11.50%	82
More small landscaped areas	4.63%	33
More walking/nature trails	23.28%	166
More trails for off-road biking or cross-country skiing	21.46%	153
Acquisition of open space land for conservation purposes	25.67%	183
More wooded natural areas	16.41%	117
Acquisition of land for recreation	26.65%	190
Acquisition of open space land for agricultural purposes, such as community farming	12.20%	87
Total Respondents: 713		

Q21 How do you get information on open space and recreation, such as locations and/or activities, in Lexington? (check all that apply)

Answered: 654 Skipped: 184



Answer Choices	Responses	
LexMedia (cable)	7.49%	49
Recreation brochure	53.82%	352
Town website	61.31%	401
LexEngage, the Town's MindMixer site	7.34%	48
Community education brochure	21.41%	140
Social media	27.06%	177
Newspaper	50.92%	333
Total Respondents: 654		



Appendix B

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Survey

Note: The ADA survey that contains the facility inventory forms is not included here due to its large size (352 pages). It is available separately upon request.



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Town of Lexington
Town Manager's Office

Carl F. Valente, Town Manager
Linda Crew Vine, Deputy Town Manager

Tel: (781) 698-4540
Fax: (781) 861-2921

March 3, 2015

Karen Mullins
Conservation Administrator/ Community Development Director

Karen Simmons
Recreation Director

Dear Karen & Karen:

This is to attest that the Town of Lexington's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

Linda Crew Vine
Deputy Town Manager
Municipal ADA Coordinator



Town of Lexington Administrative Directive # 11 Municipal Grievance Procedure American with Disabilities Act

Created: 3/2009

Effective: 4/1/09

Approved By:

Carl F. Valente, Town Manager

1.0 Purpose:

The following grievance procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs and benefits provided by the Town of Lexington.

2.0 Process:

The Complaint shall be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

3.0 Timeframe:

- 3.1 The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:
- 3.2 ADA Coordinator – Linda Crew Vine 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, Ma. 02420 or 781 862-0500, ext. 243, e-mail: lvine@ci.lexington.ma.us
- 3.3 The following timeline may be extended by mutual agreement of the grievant and the ADA Coordinator or Town Manager.
- 3.4 Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting the ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as audiotape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Lexington and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.
- 3.5 In the event the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and /or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Manager.

3.6 All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Town Manager and responses from the ADA Coordinator and Town Manager will be kept by the Town of Lexington for at least three years.

4.0 Distribution:

All Departments, Board, and Committees



TOWN OF LEXINGTON PUBLIC NOTICE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Town of Lexington advises applicants, participants, and the public that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services and activities.

The Town of Lexington has designated the following person to coordinate efforts to comply with these requirements. Inquiries and complaints should be directed to:

Linda Crew Vine, Deputy Town Manager
ADA Coordinator

Town Hall
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, Ma. 02420
(978) 862-0500, ext. 243
e-mail: lvine@ci.lexington.ma.us



Appendix C

Letters of Approval



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Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

JOSEPH N. PATO, CHAIRMAN
PETER C. J. KELLEY
NORMAN P. COHEN
MICHELLE L. CICCULO
SUZANNE E. BARRY

January 11, 2016

TEL: (781) 698-4580
FAX: (781) 863-9468

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02002

RE: Town of Lexington Open Space & Recreation Plan, Update 2015

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Lexington Board of Selectmen has reviewed the Town of Lexington Open Space & Recreation Plan, Update 2015. At its meeting of January 11th, 2016, the Board voted unanimously to support the plan and endorse its recommendations.

The Town of Lexington has a proud history of open space acquisition and preservation and continues to deliver outstanding recreational and community programming to its residents. The Open Space & Recreation Plan, Update 2015, provides important guidance to the Town as it works to improve and expand its conservation and recreation resources and facilities over the next seven years.

The Board extends its thanks and appreciation to residents who participated in the two public forums, the town-wide survey, and the LexEngage online forum, to citizen volunteers on other Town boards and commissions who reviewed drafts and offered editorial advice, and to Town staff.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Pato
Chairman

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Town of Lexington
PLANNING BOARD

Charles Hornig, Chair
Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, Vice Chair
Timothy Dunn, Clerk
Richard L. Canale
Ginna Johnson

1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
Tel (781) 862-0500 Ext. 84560
Facsimile (781) 861-2748
planning@lexingtonma.gov

April 6, 2015

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02002

Re: Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015.

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Planning Board has reviewed the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update and approved it at its March 18 meeting. Several members of the Board were actively involved in developing the plan and all provided input and editorial advice to the document as it evolved.

The Board appreciates the time and effort invested in the preparation of this update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Conservation Commission, town staff, and the residents who participated in the two public forums, the town-wide survey, and the LexEngage online forum.

Respectfully for the Board,

Charles Hornig, Chair

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Town of Lexington
Recreation Committee

Frederick DeAngelis, Chairman
Lisah Rhodes
Wendy Rudner
Sandra Shaw
Ruixi Yuan

Tel: (781) 698-4800
Fax: (781) 861-2747

March 25, 2015

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02002

Re: 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Recreation Committee was pleased to review the draft of the Town of Lexington's Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2015. The Committee has reviewed the goals and objectives and the 7-year action plan and would like to express its full support. At its March 25, 2015 meeting, the Recreation Committee voted unanimously to support the plan.

We look forward to a continued relationship of working to improve our open space, parks, and playgrounds and the new program opportunities that the Department of Recreation and Community Programs will be able to provide the community.

The Recreation Committee truly appreciates all of the time and effort that was invested in the Open Space and Recreation Plan update by residents who participated in the two public forums, the Town-wide survey, the LexEngage online forum, and by Town staff. The Recreation Committee will continue to partner with other Town departments and the community to implement the goals of the plan and recognize the plan as a vital planning tool for the future of Lexington.

Sincerely,


Frederick DeAngelis, Chairman
Recreation Committee

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Town of Lexington
Conservation Commission

Philip Hamilton, Chairman
Joyce Miller
Richard Wolk
Ralph Bitsko
David Langseth
Alexandra Dohan
Kevin Beuttell

Tel: 781-698-4531
Fax: 781-861-2780

March 16, 2015

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02002

Re: Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Conservation Commission has reviewed and approved the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update at its March 16th meeting. Members of the Commission were actively involved in developing the plan by providing important input and editorial advice regarding the current state of open space and natural resources in Lexington and by identifying key goals, objectives, and action items for the next seven years.

An important goal in the 2009 update was to establish and implement a land management program that would assure optimal use and maintenance of conservation lands over time. The Commission is pleased to report that in January 2015, it approved a town-wide guidance document for the management of its conservation land: *Principles and Policies for Management of Lexington Conservation Land*. The Commission worked closely with Mass Audubon Ecological Extension staff and conservation land stewards to prepare this document, along with two site-specific plans for conservation properties recently purchased with CPA funds. The Commission looks forward to implementing its new town-wide management strategy and will continue to develop site-specific management plans.

The Commission appreciates the time and effort invested in the preparation of this update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan by residents who participated in the two public forums, the town-wide survey, and the LexEngage online forum, by citizen volunteers on other Town boards and commissions who reviewed drafts and offered editorial advice, and by Town staff. We feel that this plan reflects the needs and wishes of the community and will serve as an important tool for preserving and enhancing our open space resources over the coming years.

Respectfully for the Conservation Commission,



Philip Hamilton, Chair

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SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

April 28, 2015

Renee Guo, AICP
Planner
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin
101 Walnut Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Ms. Guo:

Thank you for submitting the “Town of Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2015” to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

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

The plan is very comprehensive and represents a high level of detail. The plan is highly consistent with *MetroFuture* and it should serve the town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: Richard Canale, MAPC Representative, Town of Lexington
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources

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