

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**  
**2005-2010**



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**ADOPTED BY THE RECREATION COMMISSION: November 08, 2005**  
**ADOPTED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: September 22, 2005**  
**ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD: September 29, 2005**  
**ENDORSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: December 15, 2005**  
**APPROVED DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES: \_\_\_\_\_ 2005**

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## **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN AND THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

The City of Northampton has updated the Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to provide an ongoing framework that outlines how the community can continue to work towards maintaining vibrant urban centers and obtaining the benefits of sustainable development without compromising the City's valued environmental resources.

The development of this plan is coupled with an exciting vision to create a "sustainable development initiative," as announced by Mayor Higgins in May 2005. As part of this process, teams of architects, planners, hydrologists, economic development specialists, and other related professionals will collaborate with the citizens of Northampton to create a comprehensive plan to ensure that our public policies and actions are sustainable long into the future.

Subsequently, over the next 18 months, as the sustainable development initiative progresses, the Open Space and Recreation Plan will likely be subject to change as we seek new and innovative ways to be ecologically sustainable and yet economically viable and socially responsible in our management of the City's open space and recreation areas.

For updated information on the evolution of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, or for information on the sustainable development initiative and how you can get involved, please visit the Office of Planning and Development's website at [www.northamptonma.gov/opd](http://www.northamptonma.gov/opd).

# **SECTION 1**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Open Space and Recreation Plan provides guidance on how the City of Northampton can best use limited resources to meet the City's open space, conservation, and recreation needs. Building on extensive participation of citizens and municipal boards, the Northampton Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and the Planning Board have identified critical steps the City should undertake to meet some of these needs. The City, in cooperation with state and federal funding sources, must:

1. Make capital improvements and improve maintenance of recreation facilities.
2. Manage conservation properties to preserve and restore plant and animal habitats.
3. Acquire land for future recreation needs.
4. Acquire land for conservation and open space needs, preservation of plant and animal habitat, protection of scenic vistas, for public enjoyment, and to enhance the character and sustainability of the community.
5. Take regulatory and non-regulatory measures to protect water supplies and sensitive environmental resources.
6. Preserve the environment and cultural and natural resources through land and easement acquisitions and regulation changes.
7. Inform citizens about public and private open space and recreation resources and potential land use options.
8. Identify and examine means for augmenting financial and other resources available for carrying out the goals and objectives laid out in this plan

## **SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The City of Northampton is blessed with an exceptional wealth of scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources. Public and private organizations, businesses, farmers, and individual citizens provide our residents with open space, conservation, and recreation areas, which contribute greatly to our high quality of life

The demand, however, for open space and recreation areas exceeds those currently protected and available for public use, public health and public appreciation. Rapid suburban development, escalating land values and limited financial resources have contributed to the loss or degradation of potential open space and recreation areas, and have foreclosed opportunities for their permanent protection and for public use.

This Plan provides an inventory of land of ecological, cultural and recreational importance to the City, including permanently protected, temporarily protected and unprotected parcels. It examines and catalogues unmet recreational and resource protection needs and provides guidance on how the city can utilize limited resources to meet Northampton's open space, conservation and recreation needs.

The plan attempts to be specific enough to guide decision-making and planning while allowing flexibility to respond to changing opportunities and constraints. It covers proposed acquisitions of land and easements and management of current holdings. The plan also touches on regulatory and infrastructure initiatives that can increase Northampton's effectiveness in resource protection without requiring additional funding.

Achievement of the goals outlined herein will require commitment by all parts of Northampton's government and the larger community. While recognizing that there are limits to currently available funds, the City commits to exercising creativity in identifying and obtaining resources from other potential sources, as well as utilizing avenues other than acquisition.

Through adoption of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, the City acknowledges that permanent protection and wise stewardship of its natural, cultural and recreational resources are not only intrinsically important, but are also essential to the community's quality of life, long-term economic health and sustainability.

This plan meets the Open Space and Recreation Plan requirements of the Self-Help Act and is an element of the Northampton Comprehensive Plan. The Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission and the Planning Board have adopted the plan. The Planning Board adopted the plan in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, §81D. The final report will be submitted to City Council for its endorsement.

## **PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

This plan builds on six earlier *Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Plans* (1975, 1980, 1985, 1989, 1994, and 2000) and on other planning, conservation and recreation documents, including *Northampton Vision 2020* (1999) and *Grow Smart Northampton: Community Development Plan* (2002). This plan was written under the direction of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board, with participation from an ad-hoc Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee.

The ad-hoc Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee met several times in an open meeting format during the planning process and the City held two public hearings to solicit public input on the plan. The Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board reviewed and approved the final document and submitted it to City Council.

## SECTION 3 COMMUNITY SETTING

### REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Northampton contains approximately 35.7 square miles and is mid-way between Connecticut to the south and Vermont to the north. The City is also mid-way between Albany, N.Y. to the west and Boston to the east.

Located on the west side of the Connecticut River, Northampton sits in the valley between that ancient waterway and the glacial formed hills to the west. The land nearest the Connecticut River has rich, fertile soils and a deep agricultural history. Adjacent to these fertile floodplains of the Connecticut River is the deep, flat glacial outwash, which underlies much of the historic residential, commercial and industrial development in downtown Florence and Northampton. Further to the west, where the elevation rises and the soil thins out, is the steeply sloping bedrock-dominated glacial till where the recent residential development is occurring.

While Northampton's natural neighbors are the Connecticut River and surrounding picturesque hills, its political neighbors are the towns of Westhampton, Williamsburg, Hatfield, Hadley, and the City of Easthampton.

The map of open space in a regional context shows the open space holdings within Northampton and the surrounding communities (Open space in surrounding communities is based on the MassGIS layer and has not been verified.) Riverfront, agricultural, wetland, and upland resources all extend from Northampton into all neighboring communities.

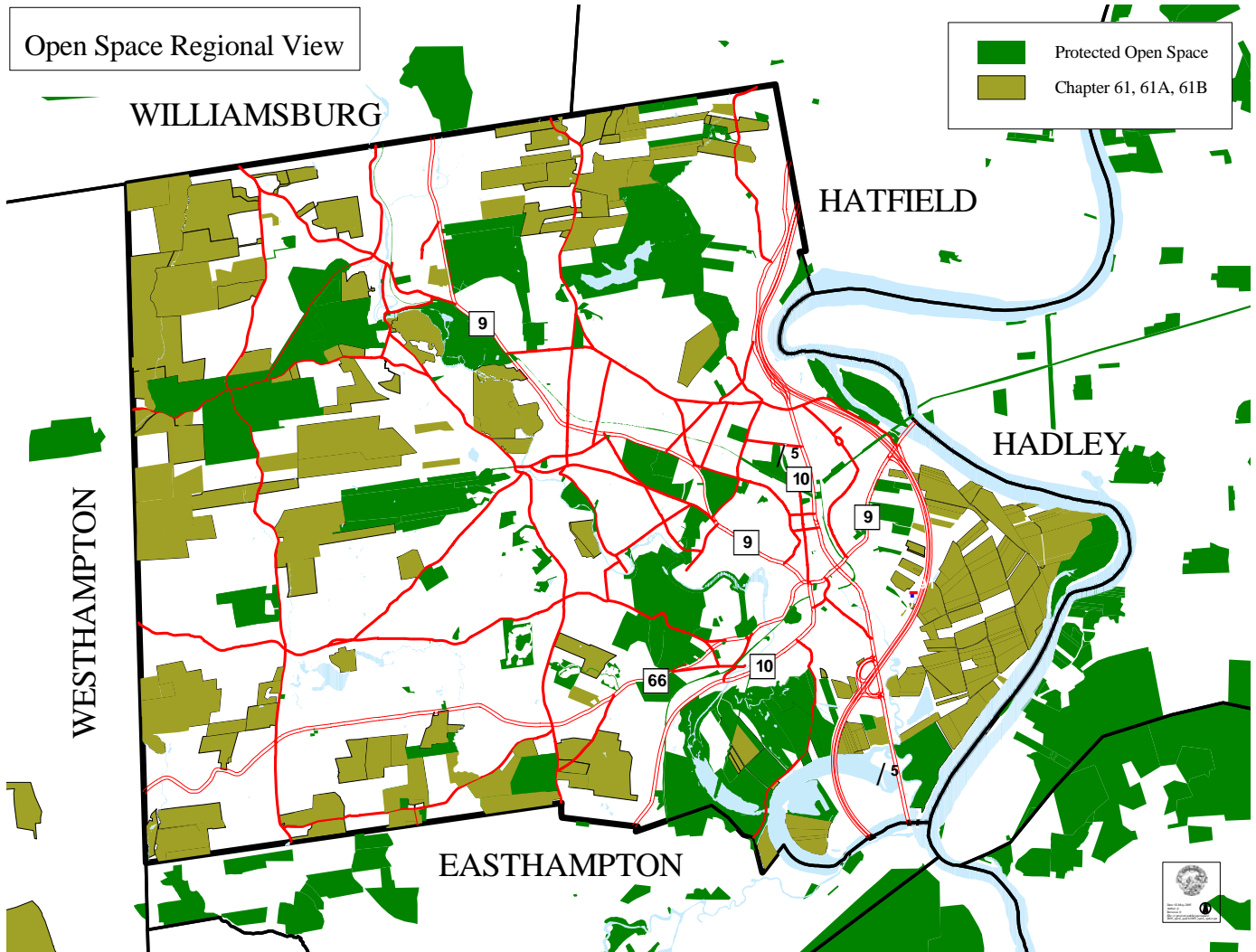
The city has worked with Easthampton on joint open space acquisitions in the past and has worked with the Department of Conservation Resources to coordinate projects involving Northampton and Hatfield. The Northampton Conservation Commission has identified additional opportunities for joint projects with Hatfield, Williamsburg, Westhampton, and Easthampton. Joint projects with Hadley are less likely to occur because the communities are separated by the Connecticut River, but Northampton and Hadley have worked together with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Valley Land Fund, Inc., on projects concerning the Connecticut River.

Northampton has also worked with its neighboring communities on a series of projects designed to extend a rail trail network from Northampton to the adjoining communities. Currently, the city is the coordinating agency on joint rail trail projects with Easthampton.

Northampton is also working with some of its neighboring communities on economic development efforts. Northampton prepared a joint economic development strategy with Easthampton and worked with Hatfield to develop a coordinated plan for development off Interstate 91-Exit 21, which is located on the town line.

Although Northampton gets approximately 2% of its drinking water supply from wells in the Florence section of Northampton, which could be increased to 15% on a sustainable basis or even higher on a short-term emergency basis, the primary water supply is from surface water supplies from reservoirs in the neighboring towns of Conway, Williamsburg, and Hatfield. The City has

and continues to work with all of these communities to acquire water supply lands and jointly preserve the watersheds. Additionally, much of Hatfield's drinking water aquifer is located in Northampton, and the City has aggressively regulated this area and acquired open space to protect Hatfield's water supply.



Note: There are no Conservation Restrictions on the Department of Public Works Watershed Land

**HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTON**

Native Americans camped and fished along the rich floodplains of the Connecticut River in what is now called the Pioneer Valley. The agricultural potential of these floodplain soils attracted European settlers and these settlers founded Northampton, first known as Nonotuck, in 1654. As Northampton developed, industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors surpassed agriculture in economic importance.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century diva, Jenny Lind, didn't call this city "paradise" for nothing. Jenny dubbed Northampton "paradise" after a long stay here, and ever since then, some residents, with little humility and a dash of booster enthusiasm, have decided to keep the moniker, calling the community "Paradise City."

For an artist, a gourmand, a bicyclist or a parent, the city just might be paradise. Authors of numerous magazine articles and books have named Northampton one of the best places in the country to raise children, ride bicycles, eat out in restaurants and make a life as an artist.

While residents of other communities across the nation might quibble with Northampton's self embrace of "the best place" in which to raise a child or "the best small arts town," no one can argue that Northampton is a dominant economic and cultural force in Hampshire County and the middle Pioneer Valley.

Northampton's economy has changed significantly since the end of World War II. The industrial component of the economy, once the linchpin, has receded. In its place, the commercial and service sectors of the economy have grown.

The city's economy used to be heavily dependent on two major institutions, the former Northampton State Hospital and the U.S. Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The Northampton State Hospital closed in 1994 and the Veterans Medical Center, until recently, had been shrinking over the past thirty years. Smith College, the other large private institution in the City, has remained stable in employment while its physical plant has grown. Nearby, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst has remained relatively stable for the past twenty years.

Although Northampton has changed in many ways, any light pointed at Northampton still inevitably shines on the downtown. The City's downtown central business district has succeeded where many of its size across the nation have failed. The downtown serves as the cultural and shopping hub of Hampshire County and attracts tourists, gourmands, and residents from the region. Main Street retail vacancy rates remain low and the upper floors of Main Street buildings are largely filled with offices and residences.

Around the country, downtowns in similarly sized communities suffer from inattention, competition, and high commercial vacancy rates. The result is decay. Even in communities with healthy downtowns, success often means a bustling downtown from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with little evening and weekend activity. Northampton's downtown is hopping day and night, weekdays and weekends.

Success has also meant expansion downtown. Commercial activity has spread out from the Main Street core. Over the past decade, because of the increasing scarcity of affordable downtown first-floor retail space and the shortage of high-quality office space with available parking, a new wave of redevelopment and revitalization has pushed onto nearby Pleasant Street, Pearl Street and other commercial areas near Main Street.

The lead role played by Northampton's downtown is not a new one. It has been the leading retail center for Hampshire County over the centuries. It has long served as a regional center and it has traditionally had the largest market share of retail spending. While downtown Northampton remains the most defined urban/retail center in the county, it has a smaller market share of total county retail spending now than in the past and a smaller market share of retail (non-restaurant)

spending than the malls in Hadley. Per capita retail and restaurants sales for Northampton are significantly above those sales for Hampshire County and for the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The city does pulse beyond Main Street. Vibrant service, commercial, and institutional sectors are found in the city's outlying villages of Florence, Leeds and Baystate.

Those looking can find a hearty commercial and residential pulse in Florence Center - the center of business and culture for many city residents and the surrounding hill towns. Florence's "village center," where homes, businesses and industry are all within walking distance of each other, is a highly praised feature of the village. This close physical proximity of homes and businesses produces a neighborliness that makes the village one of the most livable places in the Pioneer Valley.

Florence has a strong identity and character that set it apart from the rest of Northampton. Some would say the village has a healthy "sense of place."

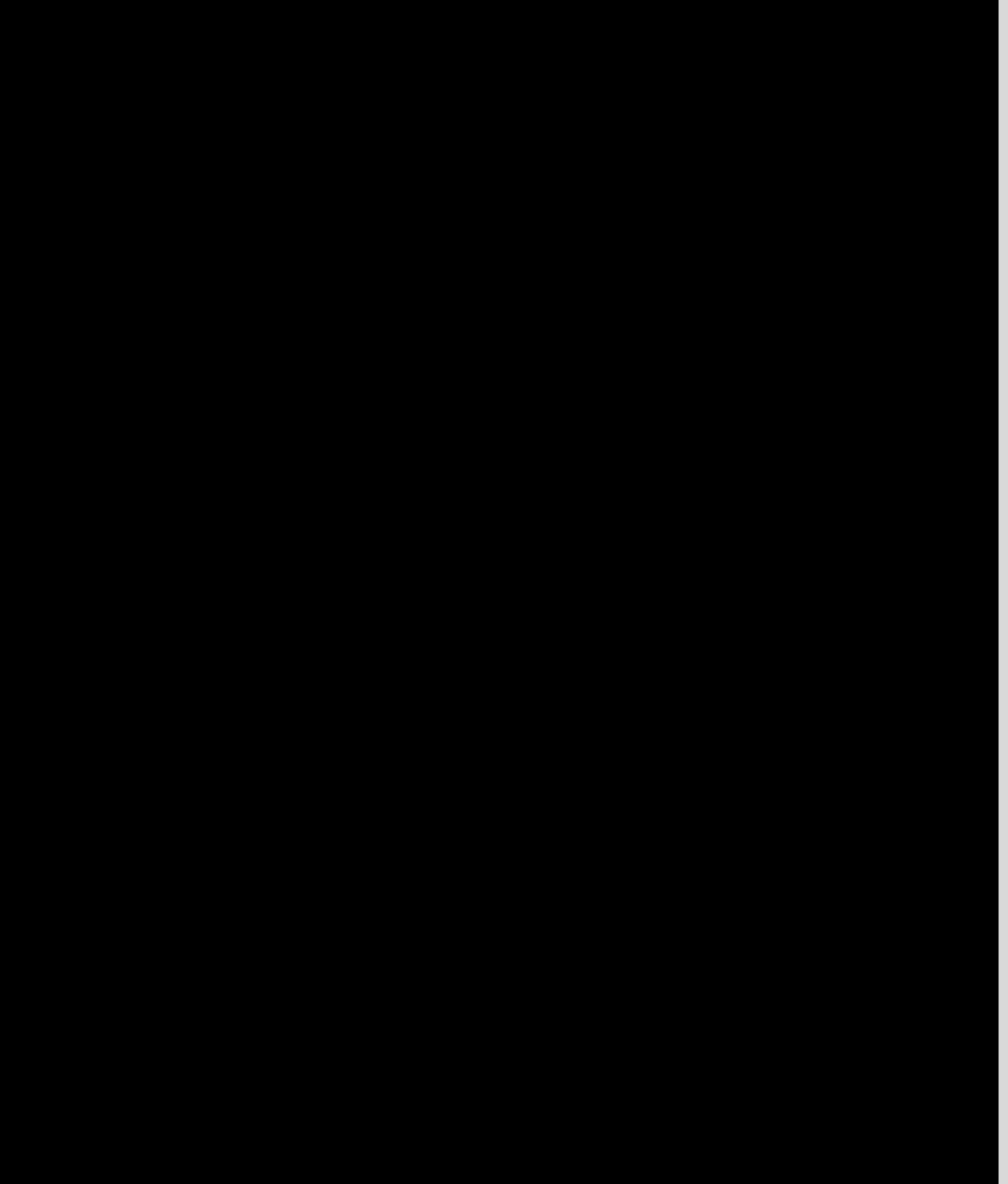
Most of Florence's Main Street retail businesses serve local needs, such as pizza and groceries. Many businesses, however, also serve clients throughout Northampton and the region. Florence's successful village center fills a critical economic and social niche not provided in downtown Northampton (where rents and density are too high) or on highway strip commercial areas. As in other village centers, Florence's businesses face stiff competition from regional commercial centers and strip commercial areas, such as King Street. Florence Center businesses have maintained a tradition of serving the commercial needs of local shoppers. That niche complements other commercial areas rather than competing with them.

That successful commercial strategy has been used since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The center of Florence has served as a commercial center for most of its history. In its earliest days, when Florence was less accessible from Northampton Center, (because of the slow speed of transportation and communication systems) it served local needs and those of travelers on the Boston-Albany Stagecoach Road. The decline of Massachusetts' industrial sector and the rise of competing automobile-oriented commercial areas, however, threatened Florence and caused significant declines for Florence businesses. Today, however, Florence business owners have identified how to serve their core local area market.

Florence Center and surrounding industrial areas host a variety of commercial and light industrial businesses, mostly in older mill buildings, as well as other medical facilities, including the Valley Medical Group. As a result, Florence Center has a much greater economic presence than is typical for a small "village center." This helps diversify the economy and culture of the entire city.

Florence's industrial areas are being challenged to face the dramatic change in industrial space demands. Located in multi-story traditional mill buildings, many industries have left for newer, more efficient industrial spaces. Because Florence and Northampton are such desirable places to live and work, each time an industry has left Florence creative entrepreneurs have redeveloped the buildings to serve new uses. Those old mill buildings, used in one instance today as studios for artists, used to be at the core of a mill town that produced, among other things, buttons and silk.

Highly desirable housing with a wide variety of price ranges surround the center of Florence. There are also a significant number of single room occupancy hotels (SROs) and dense housing



in Northampton (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Journey-to-Work statistics, prepared by PVPC).

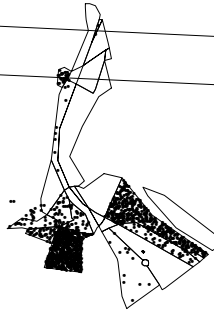
The number of people who live within walking distance of downtown is high for a city the size of Northampton. Approximately 39% of Northampton's population lives within one mile of the center of downtown.

**POPULATION 2000 (AS % OF CITY)**

AREA	POPULATION	% OF CITY POPULATION
City of Northampton	28,978	100%
Live within one mile of center of downtown	11,235	38.8%
Live within one-half mile of center of downtown	5,674	19.6%
Live in or abutting Central Business District	935	3.2%
Live within one mile of Florence Center (based on historic destination)	5,106	17.6%
Live within one-half mile of Florence Center	3,327	11.5%

(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Block Data)

This downtown population, especially with the wide variety of incomes that exist, may be the most important single factor in allowing for a healthy downtown. This population provides a base of customers for downtown businesses and helps provide the vibrancy that is critical to the health of downtown. It also generates a need for a variety of housing types and opportunities.



## **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

The terrain of Northampton ranges from the flat Mill River and Connecticut River floodplains to the moderately steep hills along its western and northern edges. The hills are often shallow to ledge with soils and topography poorly suited for development. Most development in Northampton has occurred in the areas bordering the floodplain and below the steeper hills. Although Northampton looks "built-out" from many of the roads, the majority of the city's land area has not been developed.

Most of the city's development occurred in a corridor along the Mill River and other level areas of the city northeast of the Mill River. Downtown Northampton, Bay State, Florence, and Leeds are all located within one mile of the historical Mill River (in 1939 the Mill River was diverted from downtown to control floods).

There are a wide variety of incomes and housing stock in the downtown and surrounding residential neighborhoods. Downtown also has a much higher proportion of rental units than the rest of Northampton.

**RENTAL HOUSING (AS % ALL UNITS)**

City of Northampton	46.5%
Within 1 mile of downtown	68.4%
Within 1/2 mile of downtown	80.8%

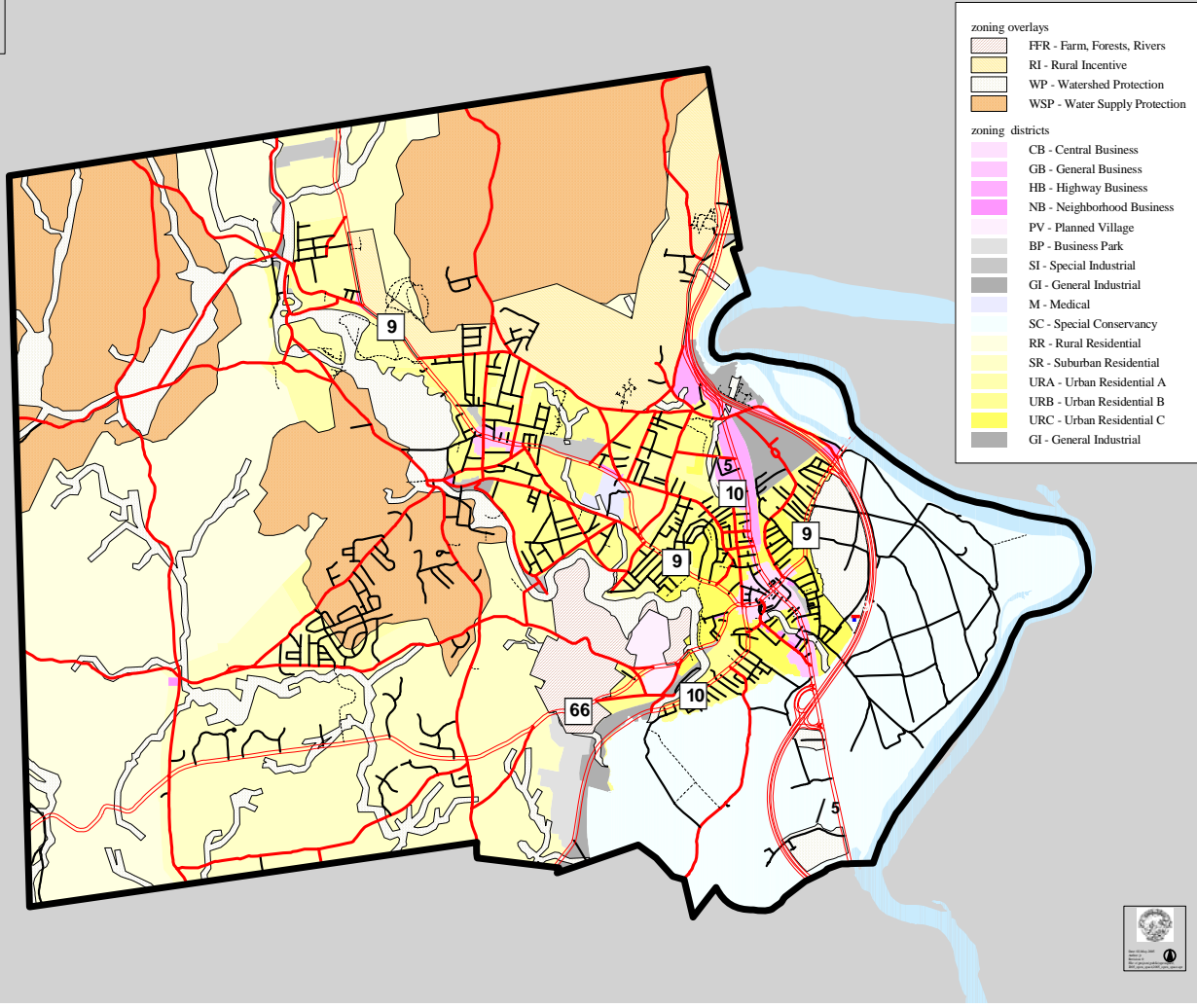
(Source: 1990 U.S. Census. The presence of Smith College does skew these figures. These figures include all non-dormitory Smith College housing.)

Most non-agricultural development avoided the Connecticut River floodplain because of the potential for flood damage. During the last two or three decades the agricultural economy of Massachusetts has declined, resulting in the loss of some marginal farms, both on and off the floodplain.

Today, the pattern of development along the Northampton-Florence-Leeds corridor and rural areas outside the corridor remains. Since World War II, however, much of the previously rural areas have been transformed to strip and suburban development. Commercial development has spread from the original Northampton-Florence corridor to include extensive strip and shopping plaza development on King Street, a former rail yard, and North King Street. Industrial uses in the Northampton-Florence-Leeds corridor, and especially along the Mill River, have shrunk. That industrial contraction has been offset, in part, by industrial development in the Northampton Industrial Park. Residential development has also changed, with suburban development transforming the Ryan Road, Burts Pit Road, Florence Road, Westhampton Road areas, the development of apartment complexes north of downtown, and scattered housing in every corner of Northampton.

Even with the changes, clear lines still exist between urban, "small town," suburban, and rural areas. Northampton remains a city with a strong sense of both community and place. The development pattern has in large and small ways been shaped by the strength of the urban centers of Northampton and Florence, the King Street shopping areas, the residential neighborhoods, and the existence of large tracts of public and quasi-public land, including the Northampton State Hospital, Smith College, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Smith Vocational and Agricultural School, Look Memorial Park, Northampton Reservoir watershed lands, and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

# Zoning



## SECTION 4

# ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

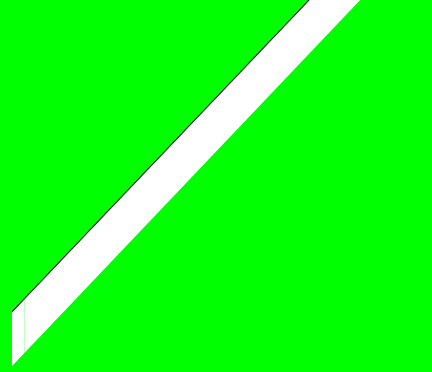
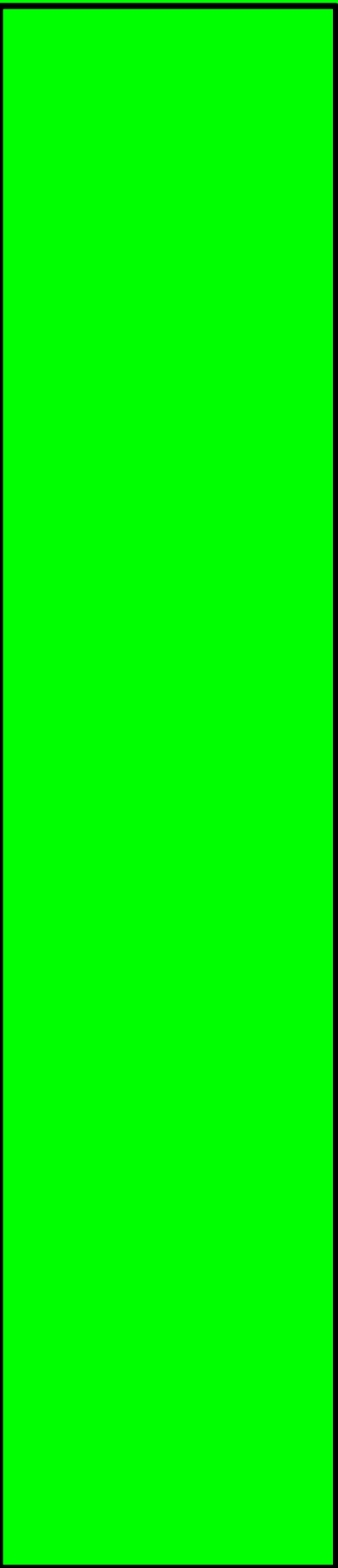
### GEOLOGY, SOILS, TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Northampton's land is a three-part geological story. There is the alluvial/ lacustrine floodplain, which includes approximately 3,000 acres of farmland and floodplain forest along the Connecticut River. There is the deep, flat glacial outwash, which underlies much of Baystate, downtown Florence and downtown Northampton. Finally, there is the rolling glacial till in Leeds and in the areas where most of the recent residential development has occurred and the steeply sloping bedrock-dominated glacial till in the hills on the north and western ends of town where development is much more limited. Elevations range from 99 feet mean sea level (MSL) on the Connecticut River to 890 feet MSL on the hills in the western side of town.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service lists three generalized soil types for Northampton:

1. Hadley-Winooski-Limerick Association: Deep, nearly level, well-drained, moderately well drained, and poorly drained, loamy soils formed in alluvial material; on floodplains. Includes the "meadows," the floodplain of the Connecticut River.
2. Hinckley-Merrimac-Windsor Association: Deep nearly level to steep, excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained, sandy and loamy soils formed in outwash deposits; on outwash plains. Includes most of Downtown Northampton and Florence.
3. Charlton-Paxton-Woodbridge Association: Deep, level to steep, well and moderately well drained, loamy soils formed in glacial till; on uplands. Includes much of the residential area of town, and most of the areas that may be developed in the next 20 years.

To the southeast of Northampton are the Mt. Tom and Mt. Holyoke mountain ranges, running in a unique east-west oriented boomerang shape. These mountains define the northerly limit of the Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke metropolitan area and help define the Northampton area and Hampshire County.



## **WATER RESOURCES**

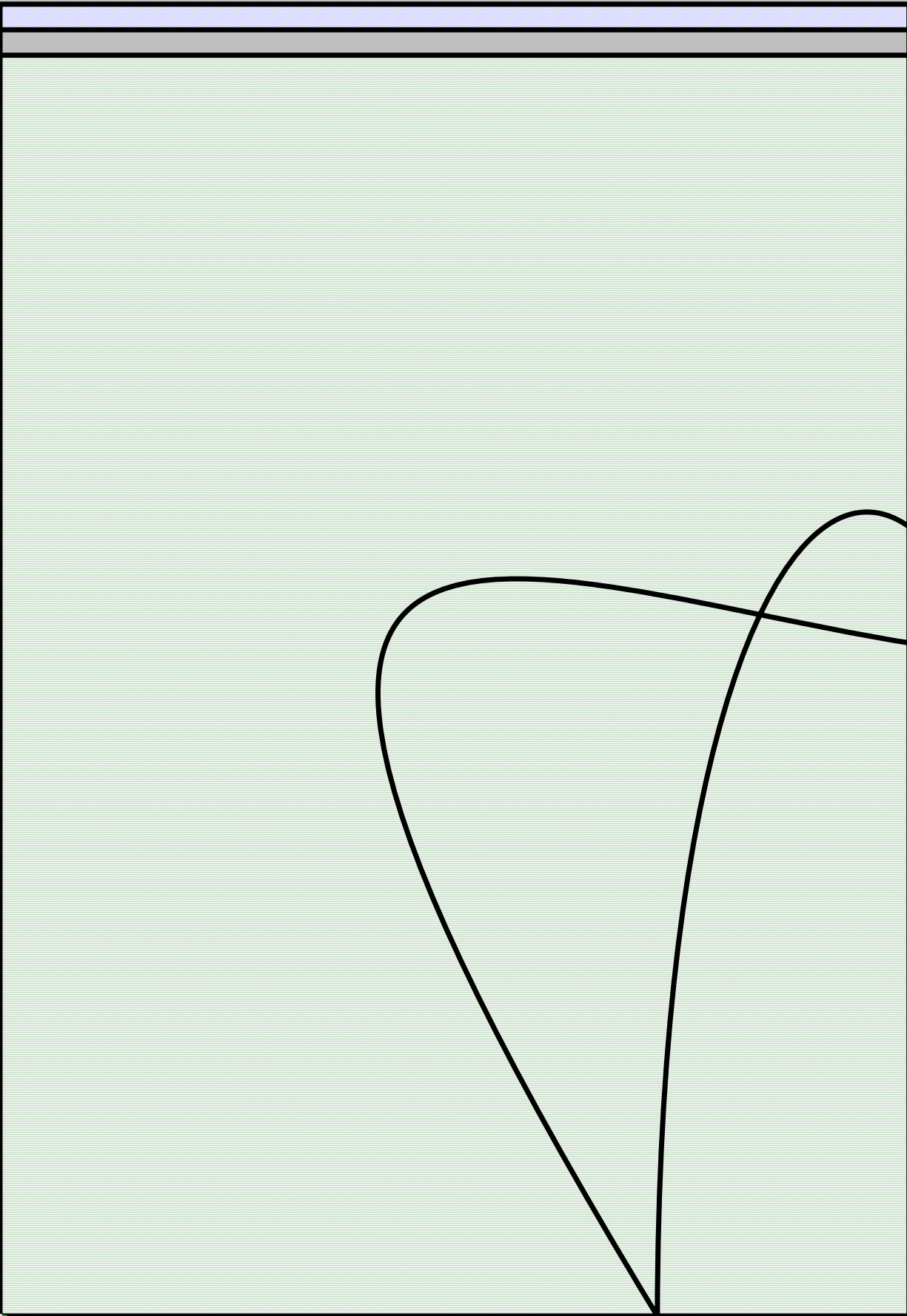
Northampton water resources include open water bodies, wetlands, floodplain, and drinking water supply and aquifers. These water resources are all sensitive ecological resources, but they also provide some of the best agricultural, forest, open space, scenic, recreation, and wildlife habitat resources for the city's residents.

### **WATER RESOURCE TYPE**

WATER BODIES (rivers, streams, ponds)	1,200 acres
FLOODPLAIN (100 year flood)	4,800 acres
WETLANDS (swamps, marshes)	~ 3,000 acres (2,000 acres mapped)
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS AND AQUIFERS IN NORTHAMPTON	5,000 acres (includes water and wetlands)

Note: Water supply land is not open for public recreation and some land may show up in more than one category in this table

Although never as polluted as the section of the river below the Holyoke Dam, the water quality in the Connecticut River in Northampton has improved since 1972, when the federal Clean Water Act was passed. Improved sewage treatment plants, expansion of areas served by sanitary sewers, and ending of combined sanitary and storm water sewers (CSOs), have combined to improve water quality in the Connecticut River and Mill River. Northampton's Hockanum Road wastewater treatment plant was upgraded to secondary treatment in the early 1980s and currently services approximately eighty-five percent of houses in Northampton. There have also been some improvements in pollution from stormwater runoff. That source, though, remains the most significant threat to water quality.



The various lakes, streams and rivers in Northampton provide environments for a variety of fish, such as trout, salmon, bass, pickerel, northern pike, shad and walleye. The Connecticut River, the Ox-Bow, and the Mill River in the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary are especially significant aquatic habitats.

Although Northampton has diverse plant and animal habitats, the habitat is not as productive as it once was. Like most areas in New England, wetlands were filled to allow development, prior to federal and state wetlands protection acts. Even with the passage of those acts, small amounts of wetlands, especially isolated wetlands, continue to be lost or degraded because of nearby development. As development extends up valley corridors and increasingly up hillsides, habitats are being fragmented. This fragmentation is degrading the range and productivity of the flora and fauna in those areas.

Non-native invasive plants are greatly threatening to these resources. These plants can take over part of the indigenous habitat and decrease the ecological value for native animals.

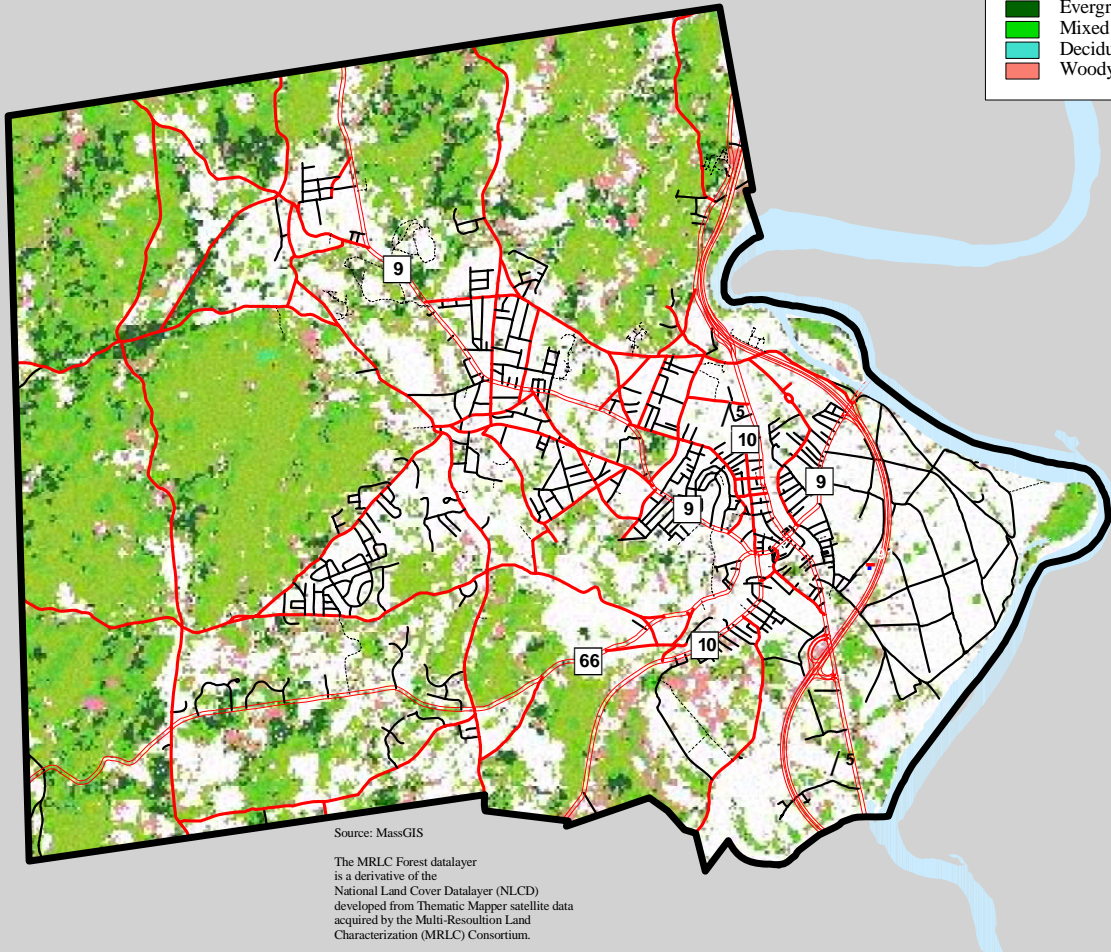
In 1993 the Conservation Commission hired a trained naturalist to do an ecological assessment of the Conservation Commission's properties, the lands abutting those properties, and several other sensitive sites in the city. This information, summarized in a report entitled, "*Rediscovering Northampton, The Natural History of City-Owned Conservation Areas*," was collected to provide greater data with which to make land management and land acquisition decisions. Major findings have been incorporated into this plan.

The City's Wildlife Committee (formed under the auspices of the Conservation Commission) is currently running transects and working to better define wildlife population and corridors. This data will inform this and future plans.

# MassGIS Tree Cover

MassGIS tree cover

- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Deciduous Shrubland
- Woody Wetlands

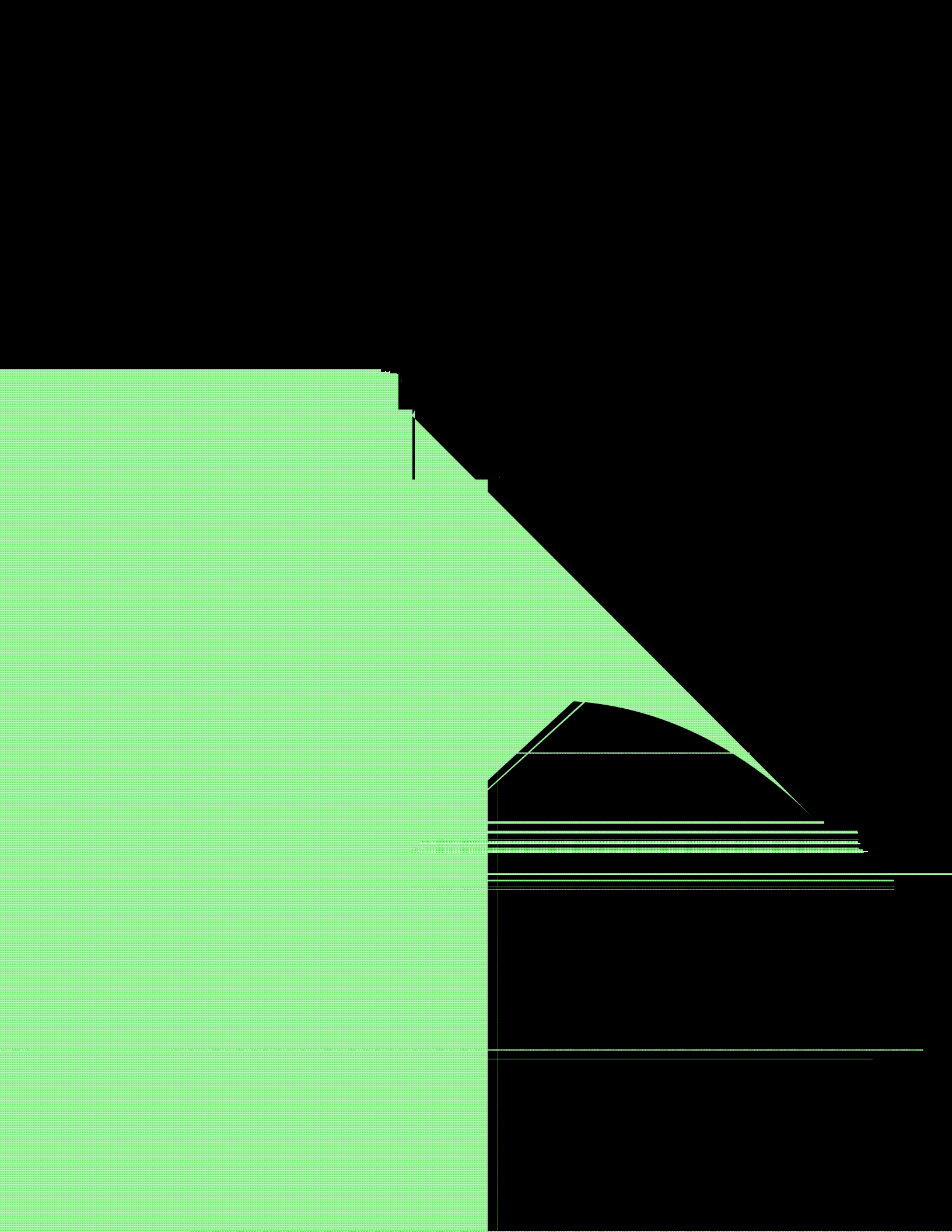


Source: MassGIS  
The MRLC Forest datalayer is a derivative of the National Land Cover Datalayer (NLCD) developed from Thematic Mapper satellite data acquired by the Multi-Resolution Land Characterization (MRLC) Consortium.



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development on natural and ecological resources. Air pollution continues to present a health hazard, especially during the summer months, to Northampton and the rest of the Pioneer Valley. During the summer, ozone pollution builds up and blows in from the south. The pollution levels far exceed federal ozone standards.

## SECTION 5

# CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INVENTORY

<b>PERMANENTLY PROTECTED CONSERVATION LAND – CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>
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All Conservation Commission owned properties are permanently protected. Any disposal of Conservation Commission land, including easements and less than fee interests, requires Conservation Commission and City Council approval and, in accordance with Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, requires a two-thirds roll call vote of the state legislature. These parcels include:

**AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA: BROOKWOOD MARSH - 20 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URA  
Location: Ellington Road, Crestview Drive, Sandy Hill Road, and Brookwood Drive  
References: Map ID: 29-484, 29-414 & 29-418  
Book 3536, Page 85 & 95 (for abatement of back taxes--1990)  
Waterline Easement-Book 3994, Page 162 (1992)  
Determination of Applicability and Fish & Wildlife permits (1992)  
Gutowski donation: Map ID: 30C-48; Book 4521, Page 248; Book 4521, Page 259; Book 4531, Page 302; Book 4539, Page 153 (7/25/1994)  
Partners: None

This parcel provides critical wetland habitat, filtration of pollutants, and protects the city's drinking water aquifer (Zone III). Beavers are very active in the area. The Gutowski's donated some of the richest wetlands in the area in 1994. This site contains the original "Burts Pit." The land was formerly owned by the Northampton State Hospital and used for mining peat and other non-decayed organic material for the Northampton State Hospital's gardens.

**AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA: INDIAN HILL - 7.065 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URA  
Location: Indian Hill, Florence Road  
References: Map ID: 29-550;  
Book 3535, Page 234  
Plan Book 141, Page 18  
Acquisition: Donation (cluster) (1990)  
Partners: None

This parcel contains an attractive stream and protects the city's drinking water aquifer Zone II and III.

**BARRETT STREET MARSH - 24.7 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission

Zoning: URA-Flood Zone  
 Location: Barrett Street, bicycle path  
 References: Map ID: 24B-42  
 Book 1939, Page 321 (transfer from City 1976)  
 Book 2075, Page 28 (private donations 1978)  
 Book 3518, Page 204 & 206 (land swap 1990)  
 Book 4420, Page 243 (donation in settlement of law suit off Carlon Drive 2/9/1994)  
 Plan Book 165, Page 70  
 Plan Book 176, Page 133,  
 Right-of-Way Easement from Carlon Drive--Book 5309, Page 206 (2/10/1998)  
 Walkway permits (wetlands and building) (1990/1991)  
 Wetlands 246-114 (Stop and Shop's responsibility to clean up trash)  
 Partners: Formerly Barrett Brook Advisory Committee, currently none.  
 Signage: A "Barrett Street Marsh Conservation Area" sign was installed along Barrett Street.

This meadow and wetland serve as an important stormwater detention and filtration facility and provides critical wildlife habitat. It is surrounded by heavily developed residential and commercial properties. The area provides opportunities for nature viewing and urban wildlife habitat studies. A city drainage easement runs through the site. The area includes a right-of-way from Carlon Drive.

A 600-foot (375' Trap Rock Gravel/stone dust & 220' wooden boardwalk completed in 1992) wheelchair accessible walkway extends from the bikeway into the marsh (boardwalk built by Commission, Smith Vocational School, and volunteers, materials donated by Jackson Street Parent Teacher Organization and Community Development Block Grant).

**MARY BROWN'S DINGLE - 1.56 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
 Zoning: URB  
 Location: Glendale Ave, between Franklin and Crescent Streets  
 References: Map ID: 24D-334  
 Book 2407, Page 270--Donation from Mary Brown (11/17/1983)  
 Partners: None

This area is comprised of small trees and shrubs, and serves as a natural open space and bird habitat in a residential neighborhood. A city storm sewer easement runs through the middle of this area. Over the years, fill from abutting properties has altered this area.

**JAMES H. ELWELL CONSERVATION AREA - 100 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
 Zoning: SC  
 Location: Damon Road, Connecticut River  
 References: Map ID: 19-1 and 19-10  
 Book 2220, Page 339  
 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (#25-00308), Self-help, city (4/30/1981)  
 License to Farmer to farm the farmland--expired 12/2004

Signage: An "in cooperation with..." sign, with the Land and Water Conservation Fund logo built by DCR was installed by the Commission on Damon Road in 1992.  
 Partners: Memorandum of Agreement with DCR for Joint Management

This area is comprised of the 60-acre Elwell Island and 40 acres of adjacent riverfront land. The island provides habitat for endangered floodplain plants and animals. The eastern edge of the island provides an excellent beach and is very heavily used (including unauthorized camping) by motor boaters. A local farmer, in accordance with a Farm Use License, utilizes approximately 15.5 acres of prime farmland on the mainland. In 2004 and 2005 the farmland was lying fallow to allow the conversion of traditional farming to organic farming in 2006. This property is managed in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in accordance with a joint management agreement and in conjunction with the adjacent Greenways State Park. The Environmental Police provide limited assistance in patrolling the area.

Elwell Island has been growing from river sedimentation (accretion) at a faster rate than it has been eroding for over a century. It is likely that the island is now larger than its official 60 acres. New layers of silt are added each year, creating an extremely lush interior, but one in which trees have a difficult time colonizing in.

**HISTORY OF ELWELL ISLAND**

1794 Map	Elwell Island did not exist
Early 1800s (7/24/1980 Daily Hampshire Gazette)	Allegedly, Levi Elwell, who owned the nearby shoreline, plants rocks and willow shoots on the sandbar, which begins island formation.
1831 Map	Elwell Island exists on map of Northampton
1904 (Daily Hampshire Gazette 7/24/1980)	Elwell Island has 25 acres, farmed by James Elwell, Levi Elwell's grandson.
1982 (Robert Pirani)	Using historic maps, the island grew from 9.7' to 18.2' per year from 1884 to 1939 (4 transects) and 12.3' per year from 1939 to 1977 (1 transect).

**FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA - 591 Acres:**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission (conservation restrictions are privately owned)  
 Zoning: RR & SR with WSP & WP overlays  
 Location: North Farms Road, Marian Street and Boggy Meadow Road  
 References:

- Abuza Section- 94 Acres, portion of map ID 7-35 (includes Swayze purchase):
  - Abuza: Book 4138, Page 271 (1/28/1993) Bargain sale by Richard Abuza (\$33,200 owner donation), Land and Water Conservation Fund (#25-00427 \$37,500) & city (\$5,000)
  - Swayze purchase: Book 5360, Page 15 (4/30/98) Broad Brook Coalition (\$2,000), Wharton Trust (\$6,000) & city (closing costs), approved City Council 2/5/1998; First American Title Insurance Company 20301162 on file with City Clerk.
  - New England Telephone release Book 4570, Pages 294, 298, 300 & 302. (Donation 10/13/1994)
- Broad Brook Section- 42.75 Acres (includes Hughes, Kabat, Stoddard, Morin, and Hughes CR)
  - Hughes: Book 4822, Page 184 and Plan Book 179, Page 98 (2/9/1996); donation from Nancy Hughes required by cluster special permit; Lawers Title

- Insurance Corp. title insurance policy 136-00- 110653 on file with City Clerk.
  - Hughes CR: Book 4880, Page 192 & 203 and Plan Book 179, Page 235 (5/9/96); donation required by cluster special permit
  - Kabat: Book 6090, Page 202 (12/19/00) Land donation from Helen Kabat
  - Morin purchase-5.75 Acres: Book 8013, Page 326 (10/5/2004)--BBC (\$3,560) City (\$1,040)
  - Stoddard: Book 6908, Page 173 (11/27/2002 Taking); Book 7097, Page 156 (3/17/2003 Confirmatory Deed) Land donation from Anita Stoddard Packar, Laurence Stoddard, George Barrett, Ruth B. Drury, Peter Hehey, Jason Charlton, and Monica Doyle Lynch; BBC (\$500)
- Burke Section- 4.72 Acres, Map ID 12C-93: Book 3344, Page 284; Land donation from Dorothy Burke (1984 & 3/13/1989)
- John A. Cimek Section- 38 Acre, portion of map ID 7-35: Book 4223, Page 145 (6/10/1993) city (\$25,000), Broad Brook Coalition (\$5,250) with Land and Water Conservation Fund covenants
- Cooke's Pasture- 179.1 Acres, portion of map ID 7-35 (includes pasture, Finn purchase and Paasch Flag Lot):
  - Cooke's Pasture: Book 4595, Page 134 (11/30/1994); City (\$39,540), Self-Help (\$112,200), Broad Brook Coalition (\$31,000, includes Wharton Trust \$5,000) & Sweet Water Trust (\$10,000) (11/30/1994); Commonwealth Land Title insurance policy on file with City Clerk.
  - Finn: Book 6100, Page 313 ("Friendly" Taking), Page 320 (Confirmatory Deed) (1/15/2001)--City (\$2,000), Broad Brook Coalition (\$10,000)
  - Paasch Flag Lot, Land Court, Book 18, Page 107 (Donation required by flag lot permit); permit recorded 1/22/01. Temporary right-of-way to Coles Meadow Road also provided.
- Fitzgerald Lake-172.5 Acres, portion of map 7-35 (includes Warburton and Vaughn purchase):
  - Fitzgerald Lake: Book 1951, Page 261--Self-Help (\$72,825) & city (\$72,826) (5/20/1977), Land and Water Conservation Fund covenants added in 1993.
  - ROW to dam: Book 1993, Page 11 (may no longer be valid ROW)
  - Warburton Purchase (5.5 acres: Book 4796, Page 38 (12/20/1995). CR to BBC Book 4826, Page 170 (2/20/1996); Commonwealth Land Title insurance policy 165-686836 on file with City Clerk
  - Vaughn (17 acres) "Friendly" Taking, Book 6250, Page 72 (6/19/01), BBC (\$15,000)
- Marian Street Section- 11.85 Acres, portion of map 7-35: Book 2521, Page 1; Self-help, with 34% match donations from neighbors (12/18/1984)
- Pines Edge Section- 15.89 Acres: Map ID 18-42; Book 3557, Page 148, Plan Book 166, Page 52; disclosure 1/1991.(Land donation required by Pines Edge comprehensive permit); Mortgage Release Land Court Book 17, Page 208; Land Court Book 18, Page 107
- Lathrop Conservation Restriction- 14 Acres (see separate entry under conservation restrictions)
- Anciporch USFS Forest Legacy conservation restriction
- Sabra ROW and Conservation Restriction- 3 Acres: Pedestrian Easement Book 7253, Page 94 (6/10/2003) and Conservation Restriction Book 7407, Page 172 and related mortgage subordination Book 7407, Page 201 (8/22/2003); all as condition of special permit/subdivision approval.
- Michalski/Stewart section-33.5 Acres, Decision Book 8181, Page 292; portion Book

- 205, Page 11; Eminent Domain Order of Taking Book 8265, Page 80 (05/18/2005); Confirmatory deed Book 8265, Page 91 (05/18/2005); purchase price \$17,000-\$15,000 from Broad Brook Coalition and entire amount went to pay off back taxes.
- Permits: Order of Conditions 246-224 (trails & dam-expired 4/1995); Certificate of Compliance 246-149 (road); Order of Conditions 246-322 (accessible trail & parking lot); Order of Conditions 246-325 (herbicide on dam); Order of Conditions--Cookes Pasture (expired 6/1997); DigSafe: July 6, 1993 #93274641 (no buried cables by dam or old telephone line)
- Trails: Lake Trail, Hillside Trail, Old Telephone Line Trail, Boggy Meadow Road, Cookes Pasture Trail, Marian Street Trail, Halfway Brook Trail
- Improvements: Parking lot and paved trail from parking lot to Broad Brook completed in 1996 for \$19,977 (\$3500 from Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Grant, \$16,477 from CDBG Handicap Access
- Dam Dam and access road to dam reconstructed in 1999 for \$305,967 (\$199,288 State Self Help Funds and \$136,000 City funds)

This is the largest city-owned conservation area in Northampton. At its core is the 40-acre Fitzgerald Lake, created by an earthen dam. The lake is surrounded by pine-hemlock-hardwood forest uplands, wooded wetlands and meadows. Its wet and rocky setting offers excellent hiking trails, nature study, fishing, canoeing and skating, and is presently used for these activities.

The Fitzgerald Lake, Cookes Pasture and the surrounding areas are one of the most diverse and richest ecological resources in Northampton. Fitzgerald Lake and Cookes Pasture contain rare plant and animal species.

Broad Brook flows through the Burke Section, the center of Fitzgerald Lake (created by damming the brook), Cookes Pasture (where it becomes a large beaver meadow) and the edge of the Abuza and the Cimek sections. Hunting is allowed only in the Abuza section, in the area north of the Hillside Trail and west of the Beaver Trail, and then not within 200 feet of a trail. Trapping is not allowed.

A wheelchair accessible path from the parking lot to Fitzgerald Lake (120 feet of asphalt path, 360 feet of boardwalk, 60 feet of gravel, and a boardwalk dock/platform) was installed in 1993.

Fitzgerald Lake dam, which is classified as a low hazard dam, is inspected periodically by the Dam Safety office of DCR, who then makes recommendations as to needed improvements (see action plan section of this plan). The City did a massive reconstruction of the dam in 1998.

The old telephone right-of-way on the property, which (long since discontinued and formally quitclaimed in 1994) has been blazed as a trail where it crosses the Abuza and John A. Cimek Sections of Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA).

Public Info: A Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area brochure describes the area. A Fitzgerald Lake Conservation sign and other information have been installed at North Farms Road and Cook Avenue. Self-guided nature trail brochures are available at the trail off of North Farms Road. Also, there is a small box for maps at the Marian Street entrance.

**Wildlife:** Otter and extensive numbers of turtles have been seen in the lake. There is a large amount of beaver activity in the northern and eastern sections of the conservation area. Great blue herons and winter wrens rely on the site for critical habitat, and several rare species have been identified in the wetlands bordering the lake and in Cookes Pasture. The Elderberry Longhorn, or Elder Borer (*Desmocerus palliatus*), a large, showy, black and yellow beetle, and a Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) are two of the state-listed species that have been identified at the FLCA. Several vernal pools exist in the conservation area.

**Partners:** Memorandum of Agreement with Broad Brook Coalition for joint management, last amended 04/01/2001. The Broad Brook Coalition conducts routine maintenance of the conservation area, including trash pickup, boardwalk maintenance, trail maintenance, and dam brush clearance.

**ICE POND CONSERVATION AREA – 22.2722 Acres**

**Ownership:** City/Conservation Commission  
**Zoning:** SR and FFR  
**Location:** Ice Pond Drive and Route 66  
**References:** Map ID  
Book 7534, Page 333 (9/298/2003)—deed  
Book 7535, Page 1 (10/9/2003)—mortgage release  
**Acquisition:** Donation, as a permit condition for a cluster subdivision.

This property abuts:  
The State Hospital agricultural lands (protected by a city-held APR); and  
The Ice Pond Conservation Area Conservation Restriction; and  
The Pathways Co-Housing bike path (city-held right-of-way).

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL BUFFER - 0.79 Acres**

**Ownership:** City/Conservation Commission  
**Zoning:** HB  
**Location:** Easthampton Road (Route 10)  
**References:** Map ID 44-39  
Book 5842, Page 281 (\$1,000 Eminent domain by City Council approval 11/18/1999)  
**Partners:** None

This land was purchased to possibly provide a small parking lot and access to the planned Manhan Rail Trail. The parcel contains remnants of the 18<sup>th</sup> century New Haven and Northampton Canal.

**MEADOWS/KOSSAKOWSKI – 3 Acres with Right of Way**

**Ownership:** City/Conservation Commission  
**Zoning:** URA/WP  
**Location:** Crosspath Road  
**References:** Survey Plan Book 188, Page 1  
Deed Book 6120, Page 19 (2/5/01)  
First American Title Insurance Policy 100367887 (on file with City Clerk)

**MEADOWS/ MONTVIEW MEADOWS – 3.246Acres**

Ownership: City/ Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URB  
Location: Montview Avenue  
References: Book 5905, Page 298 (3/24/00), Plan Book 186, Page 131  
Acquisition: Donation (3/24/2000)  
Misc: First American Title Insurance policy 20329816 (on file with City Clerk)  
Partners: Informal neighborhood group.

**MEADOWS-ARCADIA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY JOINT OWNERSHIP – 103 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
CR granted to Mass. Audubon Society on property  
Zoning: SC  
Location: Old Springfield Road  
References: Map ID  
Book 5115, Page 113 – Sparko—38 acres (City Council approval 4/3/1997)  
CR Book 5115, Page 127 – Sparko  
Ticor Title Insurance 22-2620-106-00000151 (on file with City Clerk) – Sparko.  
Sparko funding-- Self Help (\$84,480), Mass. Audubon Society (\$43,520)  
  
Taking, Book 6167, Page 282 – Burt—65 acres  
Confirmatory Deed, Book 6192, Page 112 – Burt  
CR Book 6192, page 112 - Burt

These 103 acres were purchased by the City to preserve grassland bird habitat. Massachusetts Audubon Society at Arcadia holds a Conservation Restriction and is responsible for day-to-day management of the property. Arcadia census data for the grassland nesting species shows an increase in numbers of Bobolinks and Savannah sparrows since the property was purchased. Peter Vickery, the Massachusetts Audubon ornithologist who manages its grassland bird project, reports that the Sparko piece provides good Meadowlark habitat. Mass. Audubon will be watching over the next several years to see if this or the other grassland species are able to establish themselves.

Arcadia is also conducting butterfly surveys. Butterflies appear to be less plentiful on these hayfields than expected. Arcadia is allowing their field on the north side and abutting the Sparko parcel to grow milkweed encourage butterflies.

While flood plain forests are rare, Arcadia will manage the hayfields (and eventually other Massachusetts Audubon fields in Northampton now under cultivation) for grassland species. While other areas of the sanctuary have been allowed to grow up in to brush, these fields are very wet and are better not cultivated and some “weedy” areas provide food and shelter for migrating species particularly in the fall. Arcadia’s ecological management goal is to encourage for native diversity.

While Mass. Audubon generally inventories land it acquires or manages, the hayfield is primarily non-native agricultural plants that have been cultivated for hay production. For that reason we do not anticipate conducting a botanical inventory on this site at this time.

The “fields” may not appear the way a skilled farmer would be accustomed to seeing them or the way our aesthetic sense might expect to see them. The land in the meadows, owned and/or managed by Audubon is increasingly being used by wildlife. Hay cutting is delayed until the birds complete their nesting cycle. The hay is not prime sweet crop. Some bird species require thinner grasses for nesting sites. Arcadia staff will not feed the land to produce a more abundant crop of hay. Bare spots are just fine. Plants going to seed may be great for migrating species.

Arcadia will be conducting educational programs and producing written materials to help people understand management practices for wildlife on land which was formerly devoted exclusively to agriculture. Arcadia’s regular bird walks will be visiting the meadows during nesting season in future years. And of course one of the best birding (and other wildlife observation opportunities) for those who have mobility problems is available from Old Springfield Road.

The City of Northampton reserves the right to treat this area for mosquitoes.

Partners: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: BAY STATE SECTION – 1.726 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URB  
Location: Riverside Drive, Bay State  
References: Deed--Book 5879, Page 156 (2/4/2000), Plan Book 185, Page 231  
Sewer easement on property—Book 2163, Page 236  
Acquisition: Donation from Cutlery Building Associates  
Partners: Informal with Baystate Village Association

Very thin but attractive parcel along the Mill River with trail along the river. Parcel extends north from the north side of the Mill raceway to Maines Field. It does not contain any portion of the old raceway (where some debris was dumped by the former cutlery and possibly other entities).

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: HISTORIC MILL RIVER – 1.039 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URC  
Location: Adjacent to Veterans’ Field, off West Street  
References: Map ID: NEW MAP ID  
Book 7729, Page 130 (3/16/2004), MLC Book 7729, Page 134 (donation from Steven Berlin-Chavez and Reginal Chavez-Berlin)

This small parcel would help allow an eventual restoration of the Historic Mill River in downtown and allow a trail access from pleasant Street to Veterans’ Field.

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: LEEDS – 0.1 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URB, WP  
Location: Off Mill River; by the monument to flood victims.  
References: Plan Book 186, Page 230, Book 6158, Page 41, (3/29/01), Mortgage Release Book 6158, Page 40

Acquisition: Myette Donation  
Partners: Informal—Leeds Civic Association

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: VISTRON SECTION -- .5 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: GI  
Location: Mill River, Leeds (east bank)  
References: Map ID: 23C-90  
Book 1837, Page 222  
Acquisition: Land donation from Vistron Corporation (6/19/1975)  
Partners: None

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: YANKEE HILL SECTION - 4.60 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Mill River, Bay State (west bank)  
References: Map ID: 30D-2  
Book 3407, Page 304--Donation from James Graham, Yankee Hill Machine Co. (1989)  
Plan Book 162, Page 67  
Signage: A "Mill River Greenway, Yankee Hill Section" sign was installed in 1989.  
Partners: None

Parcel has a steep hillside between the Mill River and former state hospital land, now owned by Department of Agricultural Resources.

**MINERAL HILLS CONSERVATION AREA - 85 Acres (LaPalme) + 1.1 Acres (Turkey Hill)**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: RR  
Location: West side Sylvester Road (85 Acres), North side Turkey Hill (1.1 acres)  
References: Map ID: 28-70  
Special Permit for reduction of frontage for building lots: Book 4570, Page 93  
Deed LaPalme Parcel: Book 4570, Page 97 (bargain sale, city & neighborhood donations 10/12/94)  
Sylvester Road Plan Book 177, Pages 164 & 167  
Sylvester Road Right-of-way to building lots: Book 4570, Page 102  
Sylvester Road driveway Wetlands Permit: Book 4570, Page 87  
Sylvester Road APR: Book 4607, Page 172 (12/27/94)  
Drainage and utility easements of record  
Turkey Hill Deed Book 7616, Page 95 (Permit exacted donation 12/11/03)  
Turkey Hill Plan Book 198, Page 23  
Disclosures filed DCPO, (Sylvester also recorded with deed.  
LaPalme Conservation Area title insurance policy (Commonwealth Land Title) on file with City Clerk, filed with 4/7/1994 City Council resolution)  
Commission voted to permanently name area Mineral Hills Conservation Area on 11/13/1995 (as requested by LaPalme).

This parcel has 7 acres of farmland along Sylvester Road, with the remainder of the property consisting of wooded uplands and wetlands. A network of trails runs through the property. The

one-acre parcel on Turkey Hill Road does not currently connect, but has the potential to do so in the future.

APR restrictions require that the City go to bid as needed to insure that the field remains in active agriculture and place restrictions on the location of future trails and parking lots.

Needed improvements:

A two-car parking lot is needed along the southern edge of the frontage on Sylvester Road. A trail, including a large wetland crossing, is needed from this parking lot to the network of trails farther back. The Sylvester Road neighborhood should build this trail, with the Commission providing materials.

Partners: None

**PARSON'S BROOK CONSERVATION AREA – 27.603 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SR  
Location: The Plantations subdivision  
References: Council Resolution 6/20/02  
Deed: Book 6703, Page 294 (Condition of Cluster Permit, 7/2/02)

Small conservation area with opportunity for walking trails and includes frontage on Parsons Brook.

**RAINBOW BEACH CONSERVATION AREA - 55 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SC  
Location: Rainbow Road, Connecticut River  
References: Map ID: 33-27 / Book 1966, Page 321  
Acquisition: Self-help, city (7/28/1977)

A conservation area covered with river bottomland hardwoods and a narrow beach area of river sediment deposits. This area is located along the Connecticut River and receives moderately heavy summer use (swimming and unauthorized camping) by motor boaters. This area is used for nature study and the floodplain forest and beach provide habitat for endangered plant and animal species.

This site is located between two riverfront parcels owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (20+ acre Rainbow Beach to the north and 15+ acre Shepard's Island to the south). To prevent illegal use, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife gated Young Rainbow Road (the Conservation Commission has a key) and the Environmental Police have been active in preventing vehicles from driving in the conservation area. The Division has placed and is maintaining no vehicle and no camping signs.

The City-owned Rainbow Beach is slowly growing from river deposition. Mean accretion (deposition minus erosion) is 15 to 18 square feet per year (Anderson, Anthony. 1973. Vegetation Patterns and Fluvial Processes on a Connecticut River point bar. B.A. Thesis, Amherst College; Doherty, Adrian, Jr., 1974. Stratigraphy and Geomorphology of the Rainbow

Beach Point Bar, BA Thesis, Amherst College). (Sheppards Island is also growing, but the state owned Rainbow Beach appears to have more erosion than deposition).

Partners: Management in cooperation with Memorandum of Agreement with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

**RIDGE CONSERVATION AREA – 36.50 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission

Zoning: RR

Location: Ridge View Road

References: Map ID:

Book 8281, Page 88 (5/31/2005) Transfer to City

Book 8550, Page 220 (12/9/2005) City Council resolution authorizing transfer

Plan Book 205, Page 75-77 (5/31/2005) Survey of conservation area

Acquisition: Donation as condition of The Ridge cluster subdivision approval

Conservation area includes walking trails that will eventually be linked to abutting property. Developer is responsible for building the trails with the City, through the Office of Planning and Development, retaining the right to extend the trail to the easterly property boundary.

**ROBERTS HILL CONSERVATION AREA - 104 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission

Zoning: RR

Location: Mill River, Old Shepherd Rd, South Main St, Dimock Rd, Chesterfield Rd, Reservoir Rd, Leeds

References: Map ID: 10D-1

Roberts Hill: Book 1840, Page 162; Book 1874, Page 21 (2/26/1976); Book 1939, Page 323 (3/15/1977);

Chesterfield Road land swap: Book 2265, Page 190 (excepting Book 2217, Page 99) (3/31/1982); Plan Book 171, Page 51;

Roberts Hill Overlook: Book 3821, Page 50; Plan Book 172, Page 32.

Trail to Reservoir Road: Book 3963, Page 250; & Plan Book 173, Page 119.

(Escrow for taking of Roberts Hill to be released 11/1994--Ledger Land Acquisition Account);

Acquisition: Roberts Hill: Self-Help, city (1976), Land swap (1981)

Roberts Hill Overlook: Eminent Domain (1991)

Trail to Reservoir Road: Bargain Sale Acquisition (5/29/1992)

This large wooded hill includes cliffs with spectacular views overlooking the Leeds Reservoir (Roberts Hill Overlook, purchased 1991), large amounts of upland forest, and frontage on the Mill River, Water Street, Main Street, Chesterfield Road, and Reservoir Road. It has two small ponds, a stream and a diverse forest. It provides a linkage between the Leeds Reservoir Watershed and swimming area and the Mill River and Look Memorial Park. In 1986, the area was selectively cut to promote and create preferred wildlife habitats. There are several foot trails on the property. The use of the area is moderate. Snowmobiles are permitted only on marked trails approved for use by the Conservation Commission. Trees on Roberts Hill were damaged by a fire (circa 1985) and are now providing wildlife habitat.

Howard's Ice Pond Dam (DCR No. 2-8-214-8) is classified by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety as a "low hazard" dam. The City completed a significant reconstruction of the dam and spillways in 1999, using both City funds and Department of Conservation and Recreation Lakes and Ponds funds. The Department of Conservation and Recreation awarded \$8000 in grant funds and the City of Northampton paid the remaining \$8,700. A total of \$13,500 was used for construction and the remaining \$3,200 was used for design, inspection and permits. On January 14, 2004 the Office of Dam Safety determined that the dam is no longer under DCR jurisdiction Under MGL C. 253 s 44-48, as amended in 2002, meaning that there are no on-going reporting requirements, as long as the dam continues to be properly maintained.

Signage: A "Roberts Hill Conservation Area, City of Northampton" installed Main St. (1990).  
Partners: Leeds Civic Association

**ROBERTS HILL WATERSHED CONSERVATION AREA – 12.553 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: RR  
Location: Kennedy Road, Leeds  
References: Map ID: 5-54  
Lot 2: Book 8068, Page 162 (11/19/2004)—City Council resolution 11/4/2004 (as a donation of land)  
Lot 4: Book 8062, Page 89 (11/12/2004)—City Council resolution 11/4/2004 (as a condition of a special permit)  
Plan Book 202, Page 24  
Signage: None currently  
Partners: Leeds Civic Association (informal arrangement)

This parcel includes uplands, wetlands, and a tributary of the Leeds Reservoir.

**SAW MILL HILLS CONSERVATION AREA – 382 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
Zoning: RR and URA/ WSP  
Location: Avis Circle, Ryan Road, Spring Street, Chesterfield Road  
References: Map ID: 22-7 (Avis Circle and Ryan Road)  
Avis Circle Book 4759, Page 148 (10/20/1995)- Towne donation with Avis Circle subdivision. Lawyers Title (owner's policy) #13600110645 (10/20/1995)—23.96 acres  
Off Chesterfield Rd. Book 5864, Page 246 (1/15/2000)-New Harmony Donation-28.079 acres  
Off Golden Dr.--Book\_\_\_\_, Page (12/2001)- Donovan Taking-13 Acres  
Off Golden Dr.--Book 6491, Page 334 (1/4/2002)-Fungaroli Taking-18.74 Acres  
Off Golden Dr.--Confirmatory Deed Book 6576, Page 83-Fungaroli – 18.74 acres  
Off Golden Dr.—Deed Book 8075, Page 165—Boyle Donation (11/23/2004)- 17 acres  
Avis Circle--Book\_\_\_\_, Page (12/2001) – Hawthorne Taking—55 acres  
Avis Circle Book 6641, Pages 1 and 11—Curran Taking and Confirmatory Deed (3/21/2002)

Off Chesterfield Rd. Land Court Book 18, Page 65 (8/1/2000)- New Harmony donation 3.93 acres  
 Avis Circle--Book 5899, Page 311 (3/13/2000)- First American Title (owner's Policy) #20325612 (3/13/00), Donation with Avis Circle subdivision--16.103 acres  
 Avis Circle--Order of Taking Book 5979, Page 75- Ryan Rd ROW and Sienkiewicz purchase/cluster (88 acres \$15,000 city + \$5,000 Wharton Trust Avis Circle-- Confirmatory Deed, Book 5984, Page 206- Sienkiewicz purchase 88 acres)  
 Ryan Road ROW--Confirmatory Deed Book 5984, Page 203  
 Avis Circle--Cluster Permit, Book 5945, Page 231 (Sienkiewicz 88 acres plus Right-of-Way)  
 Avis Circle--Towne purchase mortgage releases: Book 4781, Page 109 and Book 4822, Page 182.  
 Plan Book 178, Page 223  
 Plan Book 186, page 97  
 Plan Book 187, Page 25  
 Chesterfield Road Right-of-way Book 4851, page 252—(Donation in lieu of c. 61B right-of-first-refusal)

Partners: Informal "Friends of the Saw Mill Hills"

This area has wooded land within Zone II and III of the City's drinking water aquifer containing rich vernal pools (see Vernal Pools and Rediscovering Northampton). The conservation area includes a right-of-way to Avis Circle and provides access to an eventual trail system through the Saw Mill Hills, possibly as part of a significantly expanded Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area. The Right-of-way from Chesterfield Road provides access to a detached section of Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area. A Right-of-Way from Spring Street provides additional access. A Forest Stewardship Plan has been prepared for a portion of this area (see management section).

**WEST FARMS CONSERVATION AREA – 15.86 Acres**

Ownership: City/Conservation Commission  
 Zoning: SR  
 Location: Off Glendale Road and Westhampton Road (Route 66)  
 References: Map ID:  
 Book 7271 Page 216 (6/23/2003)- West Farms Transfer to the Conservation Commission  
 Book 6137, Page 317 (3/2/2001)West Farms initial taking  
 Book 6137, Page 327 (3/2/2001)West Farms initial confirmatory deed  
 Book 7231, Page 15 (6/2/2003) surplus parcel to Leona V. Pakutinski  
 Book 7241, Page 206 (5/23/2003) surplus parcel to Nancy L. Kingsley  
 Book 7231, Page 19 (6/2/2003) surplus parcel to Marisa and Peter Ludwig  
 Book 7231, Page 1 (6/2/2003) surplus parcel to Donald and Norma Sadusky  
 Book 7282, Page 237 (6/27/2003) surplus parcel to Darleen and Edward LaFond  
 Book 7347, Page 320 affordable housing to Habitat for Humanity with septic system easement  
 Book 8273, Page 166 (05/25/2005)Recreation parcel to Recreation Commission  
 Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_, market rate lot sold  
 (City still retains one building lot for future sale)

Plan Book 195, Page 98  
Book 7133, Page 23 (4/8/2003) Comprehensive Permit  
Acquisition: Taking Purchase as part of limited development/landfill buffer  
Paid by CDBG (affordable housing and cluster related open space) and  
Landfill enterprise (landfill buffer)

This is Conservation land with a simple trail from Glendale Road to the Recreation Area off  
Route 66.

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED NON-PROFIT LAND--OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**ARCADIA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY - 650+ Acres**

Ownership: Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Zoning: SC-Flood Zone  
Location: Connecticut River Ox-Bow  
References: Map ID: 38D-70; (Book 3114, Page 29 & Book 3316, Page 1)  
38D-73: (Book 1880, Page 241)  
38D-77; (Book 3114, Page 29)  
38D-75: (Book 1880, Page 241; Book 2091, P 126; Book 3199, P. 238)  
45-63; (Book 1772, P. 199)  
45-65; (bridle path)  
45-67; (Book 12 (doc 5238), Page 44)  
45-10 (including former 45-13; 45-54; (Book 3114, Page 29); 45-60; 52-01 (doc  
5238), Page 44 & Book 1538, Page 277; Book 1497, P 25; Book 1772, Page 199;  
Book 2260, P. 100))  
45-20 (including former 45-21)  
45-45 (including former 45-46, 45-47, 45-48, 45-49, 45-51, 45-65 (bridle path))  
45-1, 45-3, 45,4, 45-5, 45-6, 45-7, 45-8, 45-9, 45-10, 45-11, 45-12, 45-22, 45-55,  
45-56, 38C-68 (Book 7662, Page 85, 1/23/2004 from Mitchell G. Watras, Jr. for  
\$218,725)

Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary has varied habitats, wetlands, and the last mile of  
the Mill River before it connects with the Connecticut River. Arcadia offers nature study, courses  
and workshops, hiking (over five miles of trails), guided tours, slide presentations, a natural  
science library, vacation day camps, and a 100-seat auditorium with audiovisual equipment. It  
receives heavy regional use throughout the year. The former Easthampton Trolley Line donated  
from Smith College to Mass. Audubon and is now part of Arcadia (Conservation Restriction on  
trolley line merged with fee ownership). Conservation Restriction on Map ID 38D, Parcel 70  
held by Pascommuck Conservation Trust)

**CHILDS PARK - 30 Acres**

Ownership: Childs Park Foundation, Inc.  
Location: North Elm Street, Woodlawn Avenue and Prospect Street  
Zoning: URA  
References: Map ID: 24C-193  
Book 1103, Page 147 (1951)

This heavily used park is located close to the downtown and densely populated residential areas.  
It is beautifully landscaped (trees, shrubs, flowers, rose garden) and has a scenic drive winding  
through it. There are two large open spaces as well as a large wooded area. There are no picnic

or garbage facilities at the site. Except for running, most active sports are prohibited.

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED CONSERVATION OR AGRICULTURAL LAND-PRIVATE OWNERS (RESTRICTIONS, EASEMENTS & RIGHTS-OF-WAY)**

**ATWOOD DRIVE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION - 8.019 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: private (O&S Partnership) No public access  
CR: City of Northampton, through the Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SC  
Location: Off Atwood Drive  
References: Map ID: 46-012-001; Book 5796, Page 82  
Acquisition: CR retained by City when parcel sold as surplus unnecessary for city needs.

Property is in the ten-year flood plain of the Connecticut River and contains sensitive wetlands.

**BURT'S PIT ROAD CONSERVATION RESTRICTION - 2.16 Acres**

Ownership: Elaine Boetlcher  
CR: Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Off Woods Rd. and Burts Pit Rd.  
References: Book 5981, Page 388  
Acquisition: CR Retained by City when Parcel sold as surplus to City need (7/12/2000).

Land contains valuable wetlands.

**DUNPHY DRIVE/WHITE OAKS EASEMENT – 0.1 Acres**

Ownership: Private  
Easement: Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Between Dunphy Drive cul-de-sac and Westhampton Road/Route 66  
Reference: Book 7245, Page 275 (6/9/2003), Plan Book 196, Page 10  
Acquisition: Donated as a condition of a Special Permit (4/30/2003)

Easement is a short walking trail easement to connect these two streets.

**HISTORIC MILL RIVER GREENBELT CONSERVATION RESTRICTION AND ROW – .3 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: Private (Valley Community Development Corporation)  
CR & ROW: Conservation Commission  
Zoning: URC  
Location: Off Michelman Avenue on historic Mill River  
References: Map ID 32C-141; (foreclosed on: Plan Book 163, Page 48; Book 3541, Page 87)  
New: Plan Book 194, Page63; Book 6914, Pages 135 & 137.  
Acquisition: Donation (4/3/1990 and 12/3/2002)

A right-of-way and conservation restriction was granted for the Historic Mill River frontage adjoining Mill Bank II condominiums. Title to the original CR and easement were lost by foreclosure, but a new CR was granted in 2002.

**FITZGERALD LAKE--ANCIPORCH FOREST LEGACY TRACT- 36 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: Private (Anciporch)  
CR: United States Forest Service  
Zoning: RR & WP  
Location: Boggy Meadow Road  
References: Map ID 13-37; Book 4785, Page 150.  
Acquisition: USFS purchase (12/4/1995), local match from purchase of Cookes Pasture.

This has a conservation restriction on forest and wetland, with **no** public right-of-way. This parcel is key to the ecological protection of the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. Although in a different drainage basin than most of the conservation area, it contains the headwaters of a stream that has caused serious flooding in the past and contains a large productive wetland.

**FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA--LATHROP COMMUNITY  
CONSERVATION RESTRICTION - 14 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: Lathrop Community  
CR: City  
Zoning: RR  
Location: Boggy Meadow Road, Lathrop Community (abuts Pines Edge Conservation Area)  
References: CR: Book 3696, Page 9 (10/9/1989); Map ID: 18C-141  
Boundary Line Agreement: Book 8155, Page 50 (2/4/2005)  
Boundary Line Agreement Partial Bank Release Book 8155, Page 56  
Boundary Line Agreement Plan Book 152, Page 36  
Acquisition: Donation (cluster) (3/19/1991)

Land remains privately owned with no public access, but the conservation restriction prevents its development. The property protects sensitive stream and riparian environments from development. The Conservation Commission has right to enforce restriction.

**ICE POND CONSERVATION AREA CONSERVATION RESTRICTION- 3.2 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: Private (various lot owners)  
CR: City of Northampton, through its Conservation Commission  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Westhampton Road (Route 66) and Ice Pond Drive  
References: Book 7581, 183 (CR 11/3/2003) and Book 7581, Page 214 (mortgage subordination 10/9/2003).

Acquisition: Donation, as a condition of a cluster special permit and subdivision

Discontinuous holdings that fills some of the gaps in the abutting Ice Pond Conservation Area. Public has full rights to cross property and Conservation Commission has full rights to build trails without restriction.

**PARK HILL ROAD AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION:  
ADAMS FARM REALTY TRUST, GEORGE ADAMS - 72.25 acres**

Ownership: Fee Private--No Public Access  
APR: Department of Agricultural Resources  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Florence Road (adjacent to Park Hill Rd. APR)  
References: Map ID: 43-15, 44-50 & 44-54; Book 2400, Page 109

Acquisition: Department of Agricultural Resources APR Program

Land remains privately owned with no public access, but agricultural preservation restriction (APR) prevents its development. The Department of Agricultural Resources enforces the restriction.

**PARK HILL ROAD AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION: GRAY/ PEPPARD** -30 Acres (20 acres of woods plus 10 acres of fields)

Ownership: Gray/Peppard – City holds APR  
References: Plan Book 187, Page 253, Map ID: 61b  
Deed, Book 6093, Page 296  
Mortgage, Book 6093, Page 305  
APR & Deed to Gray/Peppard, Book 6093, Page 317  
Deed, Book 6093, Page 337 (Goulet to City)  
Deed Release, Book 6100, Page 298, Mortgage Release \$225,000  
Assignment of co-holding – Book 6119, Page 264 (2/1/01)  
Affidavit and appraisal – Book 6117, page 265 (2/1/01)  
DAR Assignment Book\_\_\_\_, Page\_\_\_\_

Acquisition: Donation from Gray/Peppard. (12/22/2000)

**PARK HILL ROAD AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION: KIDDER** - 47 Acres

Ownership: Fee: Private--No Public Access  
APR: City and Department of Agricultural Resources (jointly held)  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Park Hill Road (adjacent to Adams APR)  
References: Book 3535, Page 323, Book 2685, Page 193 & 196; Map ID: 43-119 or 44-51  
Acquisition: Department of Agricultural Resources APR program, city (1990)

Land remains privately owned with no public access, but agricultural preservation restriction (APR) prevents its development. Conservation Commission and Department of Agricultural Resources enforce the restriction.

**PARK HILL ROAD AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION: MICKA** – 57 Acres (38 acres are in Northampton, the remainder is located in Easthampton)

Ownership: Fee: Private--No Public Access  
APR: City and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Department of Agricultural Resources (jointly held)  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Park Hill Road (in Northampton and Easthampton)  
References: APR at Book 5449, Page 275 and Assignment VLF to OFA Book 5964, page 254  
Plan Book 184, Page 14  
Acquisition: Valley Land Fund and City (1999).  
State Food and Agricultural purchased Valley Land Funds interest. (6/22/2000)  
Abuts: Abuts Parsons Brook Conservation Restriction

**PARK HILL ROAD CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: GRAY/ PEPPARD et. al.** – 23.203 acres

Ownership: Fee: Private – No public access  
CR: City  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Between Park Hill Road and Westhampton Road  
References: Book 6472, Page 277; Plan Book 190, Page 114  
Acquisition: Donation  
Abuts: Park Hill Road APR: Micka

**PARK HILL RD. CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: LATHROP COMMUNITY—11.215 acres**

Ownership: Fee: Private – Public access allowed, but currently landlocked  
CR: City  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Between Park Hill Road and Florence Road  
References: Book 8155, Page 57; Plan Book 204, Page 22, 2004  
Acquisition: Non-financial consideration (boundary line agreement elsewhere)  
Abuts: Park Hill Road APR: Kidder

**ROCKY HILL COHOUSING CONSERVATION RESTRICTION –10.27 acres**

Ownership: Rocky Hill Cohousing (see separate trail easement)  
CR owned: City  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Off Florence Road  
References: Book 8082, Page 261 (11/29/2004), with subordination at Book 8082, Page 274  
Conservation deed restriction on lot 8, Book 8166, Page 227  
Acquisition: Donation as a condition of cluster subdivision approval  
Abuts: Pathways Cohousing trail easement

**STATE HOSPITAL AGRICULTURAL LAND-- DRUMLIN AND MILL RIVER - 273.9**

Acres (37 Acres with conservation restrictions and Right of Way)

Ownership: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Protection: Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on 273.9 Acres and Conservation

Restriction and ROW on 37 Acres: City (enforced by Conservation Commission) and DAR (joint ownership)

See full entry under "Permanently Protected Conservation, Park or Agricultural Land--State Agencies" for more information.

**STATE HOSPITAL/ HOSPITAL HILL- 20.1 Acres**

Ownership: Trustees of Smith College  
Protection: Open-space Restriction and Right-of-Way  
References: Book 5900, Page 23 and Plan Book 183, Page 1  
Location: Hospital Hill, West Street (Parcel K)

**STATE HOSPITAL/ MILL RIVER- 8.1 Acres**

Ownership: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dept. of Capital Asset Management

Protection: Conservation Restriction and Right-of-Way  
References: Book 5898, Page 39 and Plan Book 183, Page 1 (Conservation Restriction)  
Book 6925, Page 302 (Fee interest to Hospital Hill LLC)  
Location: Mill River, behind main State Hospital campus (abuts State Hospital agricultural land conservation restriction and Smith College open-space restriction) (area L-1 and L-2)

**NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT/SEVEN BRAVO TWO CONSERVATION RESTRICTION**

3.82 acres

Ownership: Seven Bravo Two, LLC

CR: City of Northampton Conservation Commission

Zoning: Special Conservancy

Location: Riverbank Road

References: Boundary Line Agreement Book 8332, Page 139 (7/5/2005); Conservation Restriction Book 832, Page 148 (7/5/2005); Subordination Agreement Book 8332, Page 162 (7/5/2005); Survey Plan Book 182, Page 29 and 204, Page 83

There is a Conservation Restriction on the parcel of land abutting the Connecticut River. Property owner retains the right to build a dock on the river.

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PARK AND RECREATION LAND-CITY OF NORTHAMPTON AGENCIES**

Properties acquired for park and recreation purposes are considered permanently protected properties, and can only be sold with City Council and, in accordance with Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, state legislature approval. Some of recreation areas listed below may have been purchased for non-recreation uses and then converted to recreation areas. These areas would not have the protection provided by Article 97 of the constitution

**AGNES FOX FIELD RECREATION AREA - 1.61 Acres**

Ownership: City

Location: State St. and Church St.

Zoning: URC

Management: Recreation Commission

Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division

References: Map ID: 24D-120; Book 1195, Page 85

Equipment: Grassed play area  
Basketball court  
Rest room building  
Playground equipment

The grassed play area covers a large part of the site. This area is heavily used by local residents.

**ARCANUM FIELD RECREATION AREA - 8.49 Acres**

Ownership: City

Location: Bridge Rd., N. Farms Rd. & Mountain St.

Zoning: URA  
Management: Recreation Commission  
Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division  
References: Map ID: 12C-19  
Book 1252, Page 404  
Urban-Self Help Project Agreement B 1997

Equipment: Two ball diamonds; Soccer field; Field house; All-purpose paved area used for basketball, street hockey and dances; Playground equipment  
Arcanum is a heavily used year-round recreational area.

**CHILDS CITY PARK**

Ownership: City of Northampton  
Location: Elm St. and North Elm St. (by Northampton High School)  
References: Will of Annie Childs, Article Fifth

Small island between High School and Elm Street. This is owned by the City and is separate from the privately owned Child's Park across Elm Street.

**COMMUNITY GARDENS, NORTHAMPTON STATE HOSPITAL- 8.086 Acres**

Ownership: City of Northampton (Acquired for Parks & Recreation, subject to Article 97)  
Location: Burts Pit Road  
Zoning: RR  
Management: Northampton Recreation Commission  
Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division  
References: Map ID: 30D-7  
Parcel G, Northampton State Hospital  
Chapters 86 & 307 the Acts of 1994  
Deed: Book 5558, Page 13, Plan Book 183, Plan 1

Heavily used community garden. Site does not have rich agricultural soils, but soils have been worked for gardens for many years (being part of the State Hospital operation prior to becoming a community garden) and provide excellent gardening space. Although most gardeners who request plots can be accommodated, the best plots go very quickly. An easement retained by the Commonwealth would allow the right of access across the community gardens, but only in a location approved by the city.

**GOTHIC STREET POCKET PARK - 0.15 Acres**

Ownership: Fee: Gothic Street Condominium Association  
Easement: Northampton Recreation Commission  
Zoning: URC  
Location: Gothic Street  
References: Part of Map ID: 31B-230  
Special Permit to Gothic Street Development Partnership  
Doc #93-02065

Recreation Easement allows public to pass and pass again, for passive recreation, during daylight hours. Recreation Commission has no responsibilities except enforcement.

**HALLIGAN-DALEY HISTORIC PARK, NORTHAMPTON STATE HOSPITAL- 0.5**

Acres

Ownership: City, under care and custody of Recreation Commission (Acquired for Parks & Recreation, subject to Article 97)  
Location: Prince Street, Route 66  
Zoning: URB/Planned Village  
Management: Recreation Commission and St. Patrick's Association  
Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division and St. Patrick's Association  
References: Acts of 1994  
1998 Deed

**LOOK PARK** - 157 Acres

Ownership: City of Northampton (Acquired for Parks & Recreation, subject to Article 97)  
Management: Trustees of Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park  
Location: Route 9, Mill River  
References: Map ID 16A-2 & 16B-41  
Original Grant: Map ID 16A-2; Book 846, Page 532 (6/4/28).  
RR Acquisition: Book 1745, Page 309 (11/20/1973)  
Funding: Core park donated with endowment; Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (#25-00188 Look Park Comfort Station, #25-00304 & 00326 Look Park Improvements Phase I & II); Property subject to Mass. Article 97 and Federal FLWCF Act 6(f)

A beautiful large park maintained under the guidance of trustees and funded by entrance fees and an endowment. There are numerous facilities, including: natural land and water areas, picnicking facilities, six tennis courts, many play fields for baseball, volleyball, football, softball, basketball and shuffleboard, train rides, food stands and marked trails. Other activities available are paddleboats, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, band concerts and theater productions. Some equipment may be rented at the site; lockers, drinking water and bike racks are available. This area receives very heavy recreational use (regional) throughout the year.

The Garden House at Look Park is the area's premier community and banquet facility, providing superior accommodations for public and private parties, meetings, and community events.

Located in one of New England's finest parks, the Garden House stands on the site of the former Look Park pool building, a nostalgic Northampton landmark built in 1930. The restoration of the building, now unsurpassed in comfort and convenience, keeps faith with the Mission style architecture of the earlier period.

**MAIN STREET STREETSCAPE PARK**- 2,328 square feet (First Churches) + (Fleet Bank)

Ownership: City  
Easement: First Church of Christ in Northampton (for area in front of church)  
Location: Main Street, Northampton, at intersection with Center Street  
Zoning: CBD  
Management: First Church for Easement I. City for Art Kiosk  
References: Book 7562, Page 117 (10/9/2003) First Church Boundary Line Agreement  
Plan Book 195, Page 26 (12/27/2002) Boundary Line Agreement Plan  
Book 7983, Page 205 (9/10/2004) First Church Boundary Line Agreement (II)  
Plan Book 202, Page 21 (9/10/2004) First Church Boundary Agreement Plan

This small but heavily used park includes the city's art kiosk installation, which is maintained by the City, and a lawn in front of First Churches, which is maintained by the Church but for which the public has the right to use.

**MAINE'S FIELD RECREATION AREA - 14.47 Acres (Maine Brother Recreation Grounds)**

Ownership: City  
Location: Riverside Drive, Bay State  
Zoning: URB  
Management: Recreation Commission  
Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division  
References: Map 23C, Parcel 31  
Book 778, Page 177

Equipment: Lighted ball diamond  
Two sand volleyball courts  
Rest room building  
Storage building  
Pavilion with tables  
Paved parking  
Playground equipment

This partially wooded recreation area borders the Mill River. It receives extremely heavy spring, summer and fall use by residents' citywide. This area is subject to heavy spring floods.

**DAVID B. MUSANTE, JR., BEACH - 7.46 Acres**

Ownership: City-DPW, Water Division  
Location: Reservoir Road  
References: Map ID: 10-6  
Funding: 1989-1991 capital improvements: City (\$62,200), CDBG for handicap accessibility (\$10,000), Massachusetts Urban Self Help Program (1989 award--\$152,800) and Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (1988 award—Project #25-00387 for beach, reservoir and dam improvements--\$200,000)  
Property subject to Federal FLWCF Act 6(f)

Lower Roberts Reservoir or Leeds Reservoir, serves as public swimming area. The former water supply reservoir was converted to a recreation area (1989-1991). The project consisted of converting the reservoir to a swimming area, adding a beach, a picnic area, a parking lot, and a facilities and restroom building. A trail into Roberts Hill Conservation Area starts from this recreation area.

**NAGLE DOWNTOWN WALKWAY - 2.5 Acres**

Ownership: Recreation Commission  
Zoning: CB, GB  
Location: Between Main Street and Old South Street parking lot  
References: Map ID 32C-333 & 32C-335;  
Entire Walkway: Plan Book 134, Page 96; Book 2582, Page 243 (6/28/1985)  
Project Agreements: Book 2634, Page 331 & Book 3752, Page 40 (funded Urban Self-help and city, 1985)  
Transfer to Recreation: Book 3752, Page 35;  
Maintenance & Easements: Plan Book 166, Page 89; Book 3561, Page 271

(5/15/1990-Hampton Housing Associates);  
Plan Book 167, Page 121-123 (& at DPW); Book 3561, Page 275, (5/15/1990-Gleasons);  
Book 3561, Page 279 (5/15/1990-Mass. Electric);  
Book 3834, Page 265 (Union Square Realty Trust--Depot)  
Plan Book 171, Page 36; Book 3752, Page 31 (Masters).

Signage: "A Cooperative Conservation Project Between the Northampton Recreation Commission and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" installed in 1991.

There is a handicap accessible walkway on an old railroad right-of-way, including a section along the Historic Mill River. A small park just east of Pleasant Street was built by and is maintained by the Gleasons, in return for a right-of-way across the park to their building. Hampton Court holds a right-of-way across the Hampden Avenue Parking Lot and in return maintains the walkway from Pleasant Street to the parking lot.

**PULASKI PARK (formally known as Main Street City Park) - 1 Acre**

Ownership: City of Northampton (Acquired for Parks & Recreation, subject to Article 97)  
Zoning: CB  
Location: Main Street and New South Street  
Maintenance: DPW  
References: Book 632: 333 - 335 and 429 (1908) Edward H.R. Lyman  
Book 457: 21 - 25 (1893) Edward H. R. Lyman with reversion clause  
Book 609, p. 319 (1906) J. B. O'Donnell  
Plan in 1905, Book 593, Page 51 (Plan)  
Book 663, Page 33(August 22, 1906)

A small rectangular park with memorials, benches, and paths for sitting and strolling, this site is located in the heart of downtown Northampton and helps define downtown. It receives extremely heavy citywide use throughout the year. Chronological history:

- 1904 - A Main Street City Park proposed.
- 1906 - Contributions of over \$27,000 to purchase Prindle and Holley properties for park.
- 1906- Aldermen authorized purchase of said Holley and Prindle properties for Park purposes forever. The Holley and Prindle parcels on Main Street ordered to be taken in fee by the City of Northampton for use as a public park.
- 1907 - April 15 - Plans for the City Park selected.
- 1907 - Transfer of funds (\$4,963), to Park Commissioners for development of Main Street Park.
- 1907 - Protest by owners of Holley and Prindle properties.
- 1907 - Architect Joseph Gabringer of New York selected.
- 1907 - Plan of the Park. There is an acre in the two parcels taken for the Park. The design is made so as to give it the appearance of being much larger, the perspective being so arranged, the walks laid out with that intention. At intervals, beside the curved walks, concrete seats will be placed in the shrubbery where persons can spend moments near others but practically shut off from them by dense shrubbery, hence undisturbed.
- 1907 - Work started. Prindle House moved.
- 1908 - Settlement of claims of the former owners of the Holley and Prindle sites.
- 1908 - Conditional Transfer of the land in the rear of the Academy of Music by the Executors of the estate of Edward H. R. Lyman, under the condition that it be devoted solely and exclusively for the purposes of a public park. That if used otherwise the property reverts

- to the heirs of Edward H. R. Lyman.
- 1911 - Purchase of the Prindle property from for use as a Public Park in conjunction with the Holley parcel.
- 1934 - Letter opposing taking the Main Street Public park for a high school site.
- 1954 - Opposition to taking any part of the Park for off-street parking.
- 1958 - Letters to the Editor of the Gazette opposing the plan of taking any part of the Main Street City Park for an off-street parking place for automobiles.
- 1958 - Plan of off-street parking withdrawn at City Council Meeting.
- 197 - Pulaski Park Renovation \$47,200. Huntley Associates did design, construction plans and construction documents.

**SHELDON FIELD RECREATION AREA- 12.848 Acres**

- Ownership: Northampton Recreation Commission (Subject to Article 97)
- Restrictions: Conservation Restrictions (two) held by the Broad Brook Coalition, Inc.
- Location: Bridge St. & Old Ferry Rd.
- Zoning: URA and Watershed Protection Overlay
- Management: Recreation Commission
- Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division
- References: Sheldon Conservation Restriction to BBC-Book 5738, page 221 9 (7/15/1999)  
Sheldon Deed-Book 5738, page 233 (7/15/1999)—10.16 Acres  
Kielec Conservation Restriction to BBC-Book 8042, Page 190 (Life Estate Release) and Page 191 (CR) (10/28/2004)  
Kielec Deed-Book 8042, Page 203 (Life Estate Release) and Page 204 (Deed) (10/28/2004)—2.688 Acres  
Map ID: 25C-84  
Book 601, Page 132  
Former Lease (interests merged with purchase): Book 1034, Page 521
- Equipment: Four ball diamonds  
Two basketball courts (and overflow parking lot)  
Storage building  
Rest room building  
Playground equipment  
Joint Recreation/Park-and-Ride Parking Lot with bicycle lockers (built 2002)

The fields and equipment cover most of this site. Larger grassed areas could be redesigned at different times of the year to support other field layouts. Residents' use this area heavily throughout the spring and summer and lightly in the fall.

**VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD RECREATION AREA - 7.84 Acres**

- Ownership: City
- Location: Off Clark Ave.
- Zoning: URB
- Management: Recreation Commission
- Maintenance: DPW, Recreation Division
- References: Map 31D, Parcel 171, License Agreement with Mass Electric for access from West Street (on file at Planning Dept. Recreation Dept., and DPW)
- Equipment: Baseball diamond  
All-purpose paved area for basketball and street hockey  
Soccer field  
Rest room building (rehabilitated in 1998)

Unpaved parking area  
Playground equipment

This recreation area is heavily used year-round by various leagues, and by residents citywide. The area is currently (2005) undergoing a major rehabilitation.

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED CONSERVATION, PARK OR AGRICULTURAL  
LAND-STATE AGENCIES**

**ELWELL STATE PARK - 3.2 Acres**

Ownership: Massachusetts Department of Conservation Resources  
Zoning: HB, GI, and URB  
Location: Damon Road, Bates Street, and Woodmont Road  
References: Map ID: 25A-14 (Book 2055, Page 145)--1.347 acres (former County) 9/18/1978  
25A-16 (Book 926, Page 285)--0.872 acres (former County) 8/30/37  
25A-17 (Book 3255, Page 311)--0 acres 2/6/1985  
25A-168 (Book 2546, Page 132)--0.055 acres 2/6/1985

Includes boathouse, and a wheelchair accessible dock on the Connecticut River, a parking lot, part of the Norwottuck Rail Trail, and access to the Trail's most spectacular feature, the bridge across the Connecticut River.

**NORWOTTUCK RAIL TRAIL - 6 Acres**

Ownership: Massachusetts Department of Conservation Resources  
Zoning: HB, GI, SC  
Location: Damon Road  
References: Map ID: 25A-166 (Book 2546, Page 132)--6.01 acres 2/6/1985  
25A-167 (Book 2546, Page 132)-0 acres 2/6/1985

The Norwottuck Rail Trail (total distance is approximately 10 miles) from Northampton to Amherst provides a major recreation and transportation route for non-motorized vehicles, including wheelchairs, and pedestrians. It links to the U. Mass bikeway in Amherst and will eventually link to the Northampton rail trail network. The trail will be extended west from Damon Road to Woodmont Road in 2005.

**RAINBOW BEACH - 30.87 Acres**

Ownership: Mass./Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Zoning: SC- flood zone  
Location: Connecticut River  
References: Map ID: 33-33; Book 3410, Page 194; Plan Book 159, Page 97

Just north of the city's Rainbow Beach Conservation Area, this site has valuable wildlife habitat and contains much of the heavily used beach.

**SHEPARD'S ISLAND - 15 Acres**

Ownership: Mass./ Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Zoning: SC-flood zone  
Location: Connecticut River

References: Map ID: 33-30; Book 1766, Page 44 (4/11/1974)

This area is dedicated for wildlife habitats. The site is a former island, now a peninsula that abuts the southerly end of the city's Rainbow Beach Conservation Area.

**STATE HOSPITAL AGRICULTURAL LAND--DRUMLIN AND MILL RIVER -- 273.9 Acres (37 with conservation restrictions and ROW)**

Ownership: Fee: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on 273.9 acres: City (enforced by Conservation Commission) and DAR (joint ownership)  
Conservation Restrictions on ROW on 37 acres: City/Conservation Commission Management; 25 Year lease, renewable 3 times to Smith Vocational School  
DAR oversees management

Location: Mill River and Burts Pit Road

Acquisition: Land in 1800's, transfer to DAR (1984), APR and CR restrictions donated by state (5/7/1990 & 5/23/1990)

Interests: Conservation restrictions, ROW, Agriculture Preservation Restriction

References: Part of Map ID: 30D-7; Map ID: 30D-13; Map ID: 37-56  
Plan Book 163, Page 46 and 47  
Chapter 568, Acts of 1983  
APR & ROW: Book 3561, Page 285  
CR & ROW: Book 3568, Page 153.

Entire property has agriculture preservation restriction (APR) with a conservation easement and public right-of-way within 100 feet of Mill River and south of Burts Pit Road on "drumlin" above 265' Mean Sea Level. Northampton holds and enforces these restrictions. A rich wetland complex exists near the Mill River. Ground-nesting birds, including Grasshopper Sparrow (listed as special concern), nest in the spring and summer on the drumlin. Massachusetts Audubon Society conducted a bird census to identify nesting birds in 1990. The fields/woods edge provides excellent blue bird habit. Arcadia placed one blue bird box on the drumlin, 1990, which may now be missing. The Conservation Commission placed ten more blue bird boxes in the woods in 1993.

**Archaeological Resources**

The Northampton State Hospital (NSH) and its burial ground are on the National Register of Historic Places. Independent listing of the hospital cemetery is currently being sought. The following description is from the Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries produced by the Department of Environmental Management Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative in May 2000.

At its opening in 1858 as the second state hospital, it was called the Northampton Lunatic Asylum. The institution was co-founded by Dorothea Dix, who led the reform movement to found asylums for the more humane treatment of the insane. In a field survey of conditions in Massachusetts she found the insane were chained or caged in basements or attics and often beaten or otherwise mistreated. She successfully campaigned for state asylums where the insane would be treated with more humane methods (Brown 1998).

The Northampton State Hospital burial ground was in use from the founding of the institution in

1858 until 1921. Patients who died and were not claimed by family or friends for burial elsewhere were buried there. The institution mortuary slip books contain several direct references to the “hospital cemetery” (12/25/1914; 6/11/1916), “hospital burial ground” (7/23/1915) or “hillside cemetery” (6/11/1916) in the section for the disposition of the body. Research by Elizabeth Kroon for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) in June 1997 confirmed the presence of 181 burials on the hospital grounds by cross-referencing death records in hospital casebooks with extant mortuary slips, death registers of the City of Northampton, and local cemetery records. She further found 413 burials with unlisted or unclear dispositions such as “Northampton”, which also could have been buried on the grounds of the State Hospital. In the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, between a half and a third of patients who died in the hospital were buried on the grounds (McCarthy 1974: 70). After 1921 patients not claimed for burial by family or friends were listed as “Chapter 113 of general law” or “Chapter 77 of regular law,” which were new state laws permitting citizens who die in state hospitals, asylums or prisons to be sent as cadavers to medical schools. These laws are still in effect.

The location of the Northampton State Hospital burial ground was primarily identified through a strong oral tradition among grounds-keepers at the institution. The primary keeper of the oral history is Bob Mielke, who currently works in the DMH business office and was a groundskeeper at the hospital for many years. He first heard that the site was a cemetery from groundskeepers in the 1950s, when he and friends played there as children. During his childhood, Mr. Mielke remembers, he and his friends found two rectangular stones that he believes were marker stones of some sort. He describes them as small squares with no legible inscriptions on them, but he is not sure. When Mr. Mielke was employed at NSH, he remembers that the plot was always referred to as a cemetery. He further remembers a room at the hospital with records of burials and the layout of the cemetery. These records have disappeared.

The cemetery’s location is verified by the one documentary reference to the burial ground found to date in the institution’s records. A November 1933 entry in the Superintendent’s Reports 1932-1936 described land that need draining as “land at the foot of what used to be the hospital cemetery which borders on Mill River and runs up towards the spring in the back of the barn.” (NSHHR 1993). This referenced piece of land is now called “the pumpkin patch,” and is still known for its poor drainage. The location of the hospital cemetery specified in the hospital record is congruent with the oral history of its location.

The burial ground is accessed by a series of dirt roads that start at Burts Pit Road and extend toward the Mill River. The burial ground is an open field surrounded by a dirt road except on the south side, where the field ends in a wood. In the field there are no gravestones, paths, entranceways or fences indicating the locations of graves or the boundaries of the cemetery. There is an unmarked gravestone in woods just across the dirt road to the north of the field. A cobblestone-covered north-south mound marks the grave with a small upright gravestone at the south end that is flat on the north side but is not engraved. Mr. Mielke stated that until recently an old woman had periodically visited and placed trinkets on the grave. A bit to the west there was another north-south cobblestone-covered mound that might also be a grave, although it lacked a gravestone.

Archaeological reconnaissance survey of the site confirmed the location of the burial ground that was previously identified through oral history. Squarish soil deflations were found extending in 2-3 fairly straight nearly north-south rows from the woods on the south edge of the field northerly along the top of the hill. Further, very distinctive squarish to rectangular patches of very green mound cover about 1 inch high were found where the taller straw-colored hay in the rest of the field did not grow. The long axis of the patches of low green vegetation extended roughly east to

west, which is the traditional direction for Christian burials. Further, the patches were roughly formed rows running north south as is typical in Christian cemeteries.

There is little indication of underground disturbance in the pattern of deflations and patches of low green vegetation, except that some vegetation patches were no longer or shorter than a typical adult burial would be. Historic tilling of the field may have caused some disturbance of the vegetation patches. A 1916 map labels the burial ground parcel as "Tillage" (Davis 1916). In addition, Alan Scott recently heard from groundskeeper Bud Warnock that he planted corn in the field c. 1943. Mr. Warnock had heard that the field was a cemetery from his father and uncle who were groundskeepers in the 1920's. Since the 1950's the parcel has changed hands between various state departments and at one point in the 1950's was used for instruction in haying by the University of Massachusetts agricultural department. The current proprietor of the parcel is the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), from whom the City of Northampton holds a 99-year lease. Northampton leases the property to the Smith Vocational School, which uses it for instruction in haying (above ground), which is beneficial for maintenance of the field.

A small cluster of overgrown bushes was prominently visible near the dirt road at the top of the hillside burial ground. Within the cluster of bushes were two large stones that could be mistaken for large gravestones, but were shown to be the remnants of a bench. Mr. Mielke recounted a story he heard about how the bench was built and the bushes planted as a result of research of the burial site by Bill Goggins, who became involved with the Northampton State Hospital Board of Directors in 1958. Using his political connections and influence, Mr. Goggins was able both to confirm a story that four veterans were buried in the hillside and to erect a monument at the top of the hill, including the bench and the bushes. Each Veteran's Day thereafter NSH employees planted a flag near the memorial, as noted in the 1967 NSH newsletter for the employees.

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON BIKE PATHS, RAIL TRAILS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL PARKING AREA, NSH PARCEL B4**

Ownership: City of Northampton  
References: 1998 Deed: Book 5558, Page 19, Parcel 3 (Earle Street),  
22,839 square feet for parking lot along future Manhan Trail.  
Reversion clause to Commonwealth if not used for parking or roads

Provides opportunity for parking lot to serve the Manhan Rail Trail at Earle Street.

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ACCESS TRAIL AND PARKING**

Ownership: Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
References: Book 5144, Page 152, 6/27/1997  
Acquisition: Land donation from Hampshire County  
Description: Provides right-of-way ramp to bike path

**NORTHAMPTON BIKE PATH - 32.49 acres**

Ownership: Fee: National Grid  
Right-of-Way: City of Northampton  
Location: North end of State Street to Look Park on old RR ROW  
References: Map ID: 16B-64, 17C-280, 17C-295, 17C-296, 17C-297, 23B-90, 23B-91, 24A  
236,  
24A-237; Book 2274, Page 282 (5/3/1982)

Two and a half mile long paved bicycle/rail trail maintained by the DPW. The path goes from downtown, through Florence to just east of Look Memorial Park. The bike path is heavily used throughout the year by bicyclists, skaters and walkers.

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL SPUR--PATHWAYS COHOUSING SECTION- 24,529 square feet**

Ownership: Fee: Pathways CoHousing Condominiums  
Right-of-Way: City of Northampton, through the Conservation Commission  
Location: Rocky Hill CoHousing to Ice Pond Subdivision  
References: Order of Taking--Book 7962, Page 177 (8/5/2004)  
Confirmatory Deed—Book 8023, Page 144 (10/14/2004)

0.2 mile long right of way for a bikepath connecting Florence Road, Rocky Hill CoHousing, Pathways CoHousing, Ice Pond Drive, and Route 66.

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL SPUR—ROCKY HILL COHOUSING SECTION- 24,000 square feet**

Ownership: Fee: Pathways CoHousing Condominiums  
Right-of-Way: City of Northampton, through the Conservation Commission  
Location: Rocky Hill CoHousing to Pathways CoHousing  
References: Book 8082, Page 258 (11/29/2004) with subordination Book 8082, Page 274

0.4 mile long right of way for a portion of bikepath connecting Florence Road, Rocky Hill CoHousing, Pathways CoHousing, Ice Pond Drive, and Route 66.

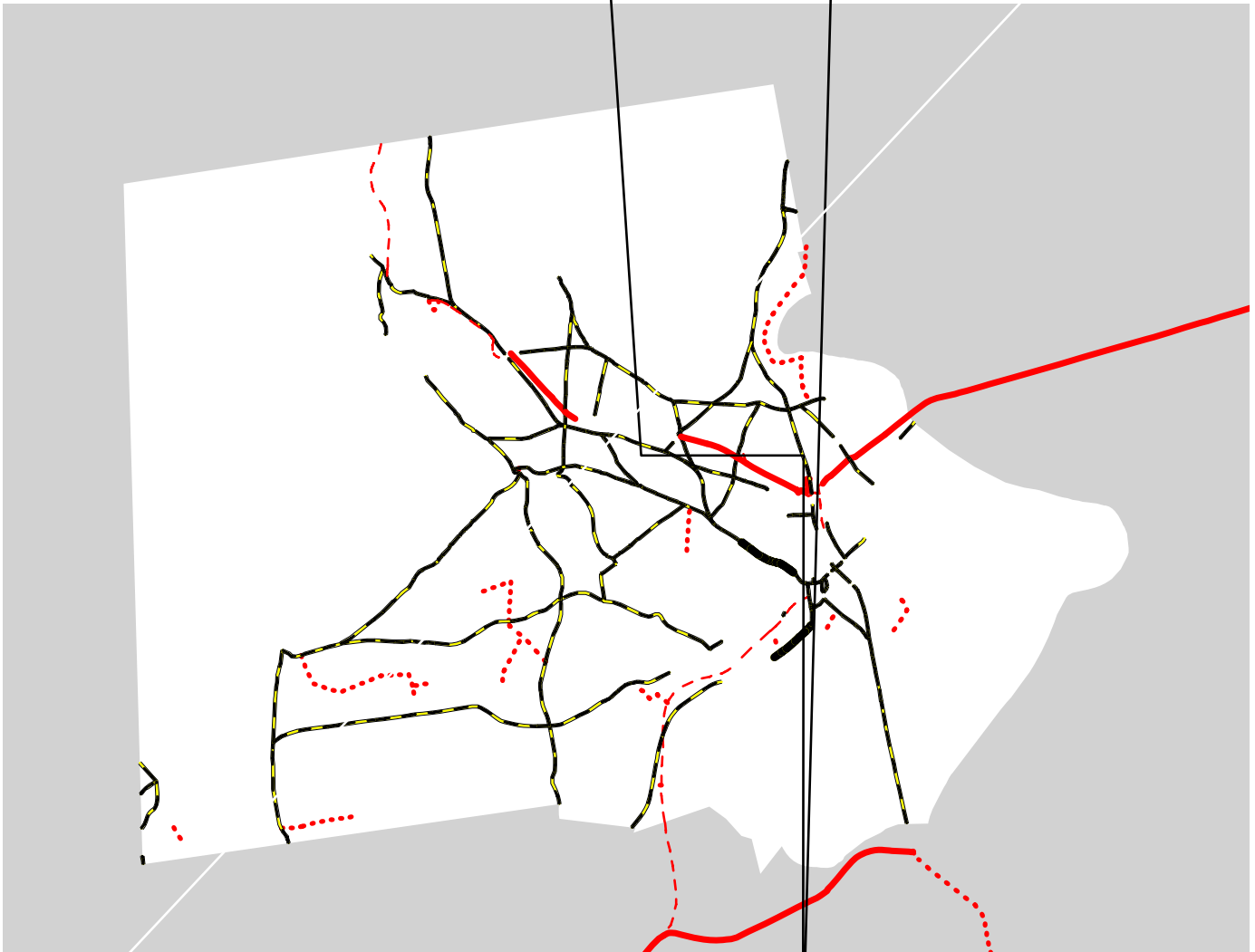
**NORWOTTUCK-NORTHAMPTON BIKE PATH KING STREET SPUR**

Ownership: Fee: Stop & Shop / WJG Realty Trust  
Right-of-Way: City of Northampton  
Location: North end of State Street to King Street signal  
References: Land Court certified of title 713, Land Court Book 7 Page 70

Spur trail through Stop & Shop to King Street

**LEEDS RAIL TRAIL SPUR**

Ownership: Fee: Mass Electric, City of Northampton and others  
Right-of-Way: City of Northampton  
Location: Along Route 9, North of Look Park  
References: Book 200, Page 27, 2004, Book 8314, Page 46 06/23/2005



**OTHER NON-PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PARK, RECREATION, FOREST LAND-CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

**BURTS PIT ROAD RECREATION AREA, PARCEL C - 15.49 Acres**

Ownership: City of Northampton (Acquired for general city use)  
References: 1998 Deed: Book 5558, Page 19/ Chapters 86 & 307 Acts of 1994

This is a former cornfield to be used as a recreation area with two softball fields and one soccer field. Land is being reserved by the city for a future elementary school site and future fire sub-station, if those are ever needed, to accommodate new growth in this area of town.

**SMITH SCHOOL V.A. PARCEL/ FORESTRY STUDIES - 182.1 Acres**

Ownership: City/Smith Vocational School  
Zoning: SR  
Location: Haydenville Road  
References: Map ID: 11-2; Book 1267, Page 217 and Book 2961, Page 193 (4/30/1987)

The Smith Vocational School for Forestry Studies uses this large wooded site. The site contains an informal trail that could be used to link to a proposed northern corridor trail and contains land that could allow an extension of that trail to Route 9. It has been suggested in the past that part of this property be used for a future high school site and that some of it be used for affordable housing. Others have indicated a desire to keep this as permanent open space for the use of the Smith School.

**SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL Farm and Recreation Areas**

Ownership: City/Smith Vocational School  
Zoning: UR  
Location: Locust Street  
References: Map ID: 11-2; Deed: Book 601, Page 287 (12/22/1905)  
Will of Oliver Smith: Box 249 #2, died 12/22/1845)

This site contains Smith Vocational School, the original core farm, tennis courts and recreation fields. Contains a public farm trail. There has been a suggestion of the need for a trail or road to improve the linkage between the vocational-agricultural school and the high school.

**TRINITY ROW - .5 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Location: Florence  
Maintenance: DPW

This is an ornamental open space street park containing a fountain and various memorials. This site receives light year-round local neighborhood use. Benches could increase its potential for use.

**LEEDS MEMORIAL - 1.6 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URA  
Location: Florence St., opposite the Leeds School.

Maintenance: DPW

A small grassed area; this site contains memorials and is used by Leeds residents. Benches would increase its potential for use.

**SOUTH MAIN STREET AND BERKSHIRE TERRACE**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URC  
Maintenance: DPW

A small grassed corner lot with no facilities.

**KOLODZINSKI PARK - .25 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Maintenance: DPW

A small ornamental open space located in the center of Florence. With a fountain and a memorial, this site is lightly used by residents city-wide. Park benches would enhance this street park.

**V.F.W. MEMORIAL**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: GB, URB

A small park located near the center of Florence, this site contains a fountain and a memorial and is lightly used by Florence residents.

**EDMOND J. LAMPRON MEMORIAL PARK**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Maintenance: DPW

A small ornamental triangle of about one-acre, this site is used for strolling and sitting and is located in front of the Bridge Street School. Benches are located on-site and this is a medium use park.

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON WATERSHED LAND**

Properties owned as watershed and aquifer land are protected so long as the water supplies they protect are in public use. If protected water supplies are discontinued, these properties could eventually be sold if there are no other restrictions (in some cases, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection may need to agree that the property is no longer used for water supply protection purposes). Selling any of these properties would require City Council approval, and practically would involve the public through the political process.

**CLARK STREET WELL/ AQUIFER AREA - 8.18 Acres**

Ownership: City/ Department of Public Works

References: Book 1079, Page 73 (9/27/1950); Book 1110, Page 303 (1/24/1952);  
Book 1118, Page 275 (5/28/1952)  
Acquisition: Purchase

Parcel includes the Clark Street wellhead and much of the Zone I buffer zone. Parcel- owned water supply protection purposes.

**ROBERTS RESERVOIR - 57+- Acres**

Ownership: City/Department of Public Works

Land includes two "emergency" supply reservoirs (Upper Leeds Reservoir and the Roberts Meadow Reservoir) not on line, and much of the watershed.

**SPRING STREET WELL/ AQUIFER AREA - 16 + 8.19 + 7.37 Acres**

Ownership: City/ Department of Public Works

References: Book 3667, Page 67 (12/31/1990) (and previous takings and purchases)  
Plan Book 40, Page 65; Plan Book 41, Page 55; Plan Book 168, Page 106;  
disclosure (1991)

Parcels include the Spring Street wellhead and much of the Department of Environmental Protection aquifer Zone I, and a small part of Zone II; Parcels for water supply protection purposes.

**RESERVOIR COMPLEX**

Ownership: City/Department of Public Works

Location: Various hill towns

Acquisition: Purchase

Parcels include the reservoirs and much of the watershed lands and a site for a future.

**OTHER RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Mill River--Bloomberg (Map 31C, Parcel 12) (ROW to Smith College and the public)  
Mill River--Futter (Map 31C, Parcel 11/Book 1855, Page 121) (ROW to the public)

**NON-PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PRIVATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FACILITIES AND LAND**

**CLEAR FALLS RECREATION CENTER - 73 Acres**

Ownership: Private (use by membership only)

Location: Drury Lane

Zoning: RR-Flood Zone

Located in the extreme southwest corner of Northampton, this recreation area offers swimming, picnicking, and nature trails for hiking; a field house, snack bar and picnicking shelters. With a moderate level of use, this area attracts residents from throughout the region. Property is currently (2005) on the market for sale.

**DRIVING RANGE**

Ownership: Private

Location: Haydenville Road  
Zoning: URA

A practice driving range for golf, this facility receives medium summer use by residents throughout the region. Snack bar. Commercial facility, fee required.

**HAMPSHIRE YMCA - 4.3 Acres**

Ownership: YMCA (Use by membership or fees)  
Location: Massasoit St.  
Zoning: URA, URB

This facility is utilized on a region-wide basis and offers racquetball, basketball, volleyball, swimming (two pools), sauna & steam room, and a fitness center. It is used heavily year-round.

**KEYES FIELD –**

Ownership: Florence Savings Bank  
Location: Keyes Street at the Northampton Bike Path  
References: Declaration of Open Space Restriction, Book 5906, Page 326

Field protected by covenants “as open space with reasonable access to the public for passive use and enjoyment under reasonable conditions.”

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB**

Ownership: Private  
Location: Main Street, Leeds  
Zoning: URA

This private golf club offers its members a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool, and a clubhouse. The establishment receives medium use during the golfing season by residents throughout the region.

**NORTHAMPTON REVOLVER CLUB - 34.3 Acres**

Ownership: Northampton Revolver Club, Inc.  
Location: Ryan Road  
Zoning: URA

Offers indoor and outdoor target shooting facilities to members from throughout the region.

**OXBOW MARINA - 56.1 Acres**

Ownership: Private  
Location: Island Road, Conn. River Oxbow  
Zoning: SC-Flood Zone

The Marina is a commercial facility offering boat rentals, storage and mooring facilities; tennis, swimming, horseshoes. Utilized on a region wide basis this facility receives heavy summer use. Fees charged. The Marina allows one of Northampton's soccer leagues to use their fields during the summer.

**PEOPLES INSTITUTE - 1.5 Acres**

Ownership: Peoples Institute

Location: Gothic Street  
Zoning: CB

This facility offers arts & crafts classes, educational programs, and summer day camps for elementary age children. The facility includes a dance floor and an outdoor pool. Fees charged.

**PINE GROVE GOLF COURSE - 132.3 Acres**

Ownership: Private  
Location: Old Wilson Road  
Zoning: SR

With an 18-hole golf course and field house, this facility is open to members as well as non-members for a fee. Level of use is medium to heavy throughout the golf season, with cross-country skiing in the winter. The facility has a regional user population.

**SMITH COLLEGE MILL RIVER, PARADISE POND, ARBORETUM, ATHLETIC FIELDS**

Ownership: Smith College  
Location: Smith College, Mill River, and West Street  
Zoning: URC

This recreational area is part of the Smith College Campus and receives heavy use by both students and area residents (with permission). Facilities include play fields, track & field, tennis courts, rowboats and ice-skating. It includes a very heavily used foot trail from Paradise Pond to northern edge of Smith College, along Mill River. The trail then continues to Ward Avenue and Federal Street.

**TRI-COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS - 42 Acres**

Ownership: Hampshire, Franklin, And Hampden Agricultural Society  
Location: Old Ferry Rd, Fair Rd, and Bridge St.  
Zoning: URA, URB, and Watershed Protection

Receives heavy regional use during the fair and racing season, this facility contains an exhibition area, race track (horse), baseball field, play fields, picnic area and a field house.

**SCHOOL SITES**

**LEEDS SCHOOL - 9.3 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Location: Florence Street, Leeds  
Zoning: URA  
Management: School Dept - Building use, Recreation Dept - Field use

This 9.3-acre site contains both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, and is used year-round by the school, the local neighborhood and residents citywide. Outdoors facilities include: playground equipment, a ball diamond, a skating area and a soccer field. Indoors facilities include: a gymnasium with two basketball hoops, two volleyball nets, pull-up bars, plus an auditorium. Parking, bike racks, supervision and first aid facilities are at site. This site is large enough to be redesigned to accommodate other types of field layouts, although some site work

would be necessary due to sloping terrain.

**ROBERT K. FINN RYAN ROAD SCHOOL - 18.2 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Location: Ryan Road  
Zoning: URA  
References: Map ID 29-104  
Management: School Dept - Building use  
Recreation Dept - Field use

Both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities are available on this 15-acre school site that receives medium-heavy year-round school, neighborhood and citywide use. Outdoors facilities include: playground equipment, five ball diamonds, one soccer field, and a skating area. Rear wooded area could be utilized for some form of outdoor recreation or nature education. Indoors facilities include: a gymnasium, six basketball hoops, four volleyball nets. Locker rooms with shower facilities are available, as well as bike racks, drinking water and first aid (during school year).

**FLORENCE COMMUNITY CENTER (Former FLORENCE GRAMMAR SCHOOL) - 2.5 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Management: School Dept, Leased to Property Committee

This former grammar school (closed 1992) is now a city alternative high school with some of the inside space serving as a community center. Outdoors facilities include limited playground equipment and a blacktop play area.

**JFK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 15 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URA  
Management: School Dept - Building use  
Recreation Dept - Field use

Heavily used primarily by the school, this site contains both indoor and outdoor facilities. Outdoor facilities include: two ball diamonds, three soccer fields and a football field. Indoors facilities include a gymnasium, six basketball hoops, and two volleyball nets, which are used heavily in the winter by school classes and by town residents and special groups. Bike racks, showers, drinking water, supervision and first aid are available at this site. Facilities are generally in good condition; however, recurring problems with neighbors have limited the use of this site.

**NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL - 23 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB-Flood Zone  
Management: School Dept - Building use  
Recreation Dept - Field use

This large school site offers both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and is used heavily by the school (physical education and interscholastic sports), and by residents citywide. Kearney

Field site offers outdoor recreational facilities including: playground equipment, two storage buildings, three ball diamonds, a soccer field, a field hockey field, a football field, two grassed gym fields, a track, a lacrosse field, bleachers, and a concession stand. These facilities are used very heavily in the spring, summer, and fall, depending upon the sport season. Indoors facilities used during the school year include: a gymnasium, a universal gym, bleachers, basketball hoops, and an auditorium. Ramps and special toilet facilities are available for the handicapped. A small triangular grassed area located directly across from the High School serves as an informal park, although there are no facilities.

**JACKSON STREET SCHOOL - 7.2 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Management: School Dept - Building use  
Recreation Dept - Field use

This elementary school site offers both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities that are heavily used by the school and the neighborhood. Outdoor facilities include extensive playground equipment, two ball diamonds, one soccer/football field, one touch football field, and two basketball courts. The site offers the city's first "adventure playground" (wooden play apparatus) constructed by volunteers. Indoors facilities include: a gymnasium with six basketball hoops, gymnastics equipment, and bleachers for 175 people (year-round). Parking, bike racks, showers, drinking water, supervision and first aid are available at this site. Provisions for the handicapped are also available. Wooded area on site could possible provide outdoor education/nature study activities.

**BRIDGE STREET SCHOOL**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URC  
Management: School Dept.

This elementary school site offers limited outdoor recreational facilities and used heavily throughout the school year by the school and neighborhood residents. Also offers full sized outdoor basketball court (blacktop) and some swings.

**NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER (Formerly SOUTH STREET SCHOOL)**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB  
Management: Northampton Community Music Center

A former elementary school now used by the music center for music education. Parcel includes a small tot lot and access from South Street to the adjoining Veterans Field Recreation Area.

**SMITH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LAND) - 78.9 Acres**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URA  
Location: Locust St., South Main St.-Florence, Elm St., and Hospital Rd.  
Management: Smith School Trustees- Building use

Recreation Dept- Tennis courts and field use

Used heavily by the school for physical education classes and interscholastic sports, and by residents citywide throughout the school year, this school site with a two-acre athletic field area and indoor facility offers both outdoor and indoor recreational activities. Outdoors facilities include: eight tennis courts and a soccer field. In addition, students are constructing two ball fields as time permits. Indoors facilities include: a gymnasium, a universal gym, and six basketball hoops. There are handicap accessible facilities. There is also a large wetland on the south side of the property. The land immediately west of the developed part of the Smith Vocational School campus is currently used for agriculture (primarily grazing land, with a farm trail constructed in 1993).

**FORMER VERNON STREET SCHOOL**

Ownership: City  
Zoning: URB

This is a former school that includes playground equipment used by the surrounding neighborhoods.

**NON-PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PRIVATE FOREST, AGRICULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LAND - CHAPTER 61 LAWS**

The Chapter 61 programs reduce property taxes on private land if the owner commits to keeping the land in forest (Chapter 61), agriculture (Chapter 61A) or recreation (Chapter 61B) uses for a given period of time. Land in Chapter 61 is **not** permanently protected and the owner may remove it from the program at any time. When land is removed from the programs, either to be sold or converted to other uses, the owner must pay a rollback on taxes saved **and** the municipality, or its assignees, has the right to purchase the land at market rates.

There are approximately 585 acres in the forest use chapter (61), 1672 acres in the agriculture use chapter (61A), and 1172 acres in the recreation use chapter (61B).

**PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL RESTRICTIONS**

Ownership: City of Northampton  
Restriction: Preservation Restriction Agreement  
Zoning: Central Business District  
Location: Main Street  
References: Map ID: Portion of 31D-166. Book 2826, Page 49 (10/10/1986)

**HATFIELD STREET SCHOOL**

Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Preservation Restriction Agreement (City has right to enforce)  
Zoning: URB  
Location: 52 Hatfield Street  
References: Map ID: 18C-140; Book 6843, Page 211 (10/22/02)

**THE MANSE**

Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Preservation Restriction Agreement—(Stewards of the Manse has right to

enforce)  
Zoning: UR-  
Location: 54 Prospect  
References: Map ID: \_\_\_\_\_; Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_ ( / / )

**MASONIC STREET FIRE STATION**

Ownership: Private (Media Education Foundation)  
Restriction: Preservation Restriction Agreement (City has right to enforce)  
Zoning: Central Business District  
Location: 60 Masonic Street  
References: Map ID: 31D-122; Book 276, Page 377 (6/13/2002)

**WEST FARMS CHAPEL**

Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Preservation Restriction Agreement (City has right to enforce)  
Zoning: Suburban Residential  
Location: West Farms Road  
References: Map ID: 35-15; Book 3007, Page 250-252 (6/29/1987)

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESTRICTIONS  
AND OPEN SPACE/HOUSING LIMITED DEVELOPMENTS**

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—RYAN ROAD LIMITED PROJECT**

# units: Two affordable units  
Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Affordability Deed restriction to 5/13/2054  
Enforcement: City of Northampton and Habitat for Humanity enforce the deed restriction  
Location: 109A and 109B Ryan Road  
References: Book 7801, Page 124 and 130 (5/13/2004)—109A Ryan Road  
Book 7801, Page 149 and 155 (5/13/2004)—109B Ryan Road

City initiated limited development project created two affordable units (built by Habitat for Humanity) and 80 acres of open space, now part of Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area).

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—WESTHAMPTON ROAD LIMITED PROJECT**

# of units: Six affordable units (one market rate single family lot sold by City)  
Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Affordability Deed restriction (homes under construction, restriction not yet closed)  
Enforcement: City of Northampton and Habitat for Humanity enforce the deed restriction  
Location: Westhampton Road  
References: Taking and Confirmatory Deed to City Book 6137, Page 317 and 327  
Deed, Book 7347, Page 320 and Corrective Deed Book 8118, Page 172  
(12/29/2004) Westhampton Road  
Plan Book 195, Page 98

City initiated limited development project creating six affordable units (built by Habitat for Humanity), one market rate lot sold to defray project costs, a landfill buffer, a future market rate building lot site, and 16 acres of open space, now part of West Farms Conservation Area).

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—GARFIELD AVENUE LIMITED PROJECT**

# of units: Six affordable units (one market rate single family lot sold by City)  
Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Affordability Deed restriction (homes under construction, restriction not yet closed)  
Enforcement: City of Northampton and Habitat for Humanity enforce the deed restriction  
Location: Westhampton Road

City initiated limited development project creating six affordable units (built by Habitat for Humanity), one market rate lot sold to defray project expenses, and a small Florence Conservation Area, which includes a former landfill under permanent activity and use limitations (AUL).

**PARADISE POND APARTMENTS**

# of units: Transitional affordable unit  
Ownership: HAP, Inc.  
Restriction: Affordability Deed restriction  
References: Access easement from Smith College  
Enforcement: City of Northampton and DHCD  
Location: West Street

**DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS**

**200-206 KING STREET**

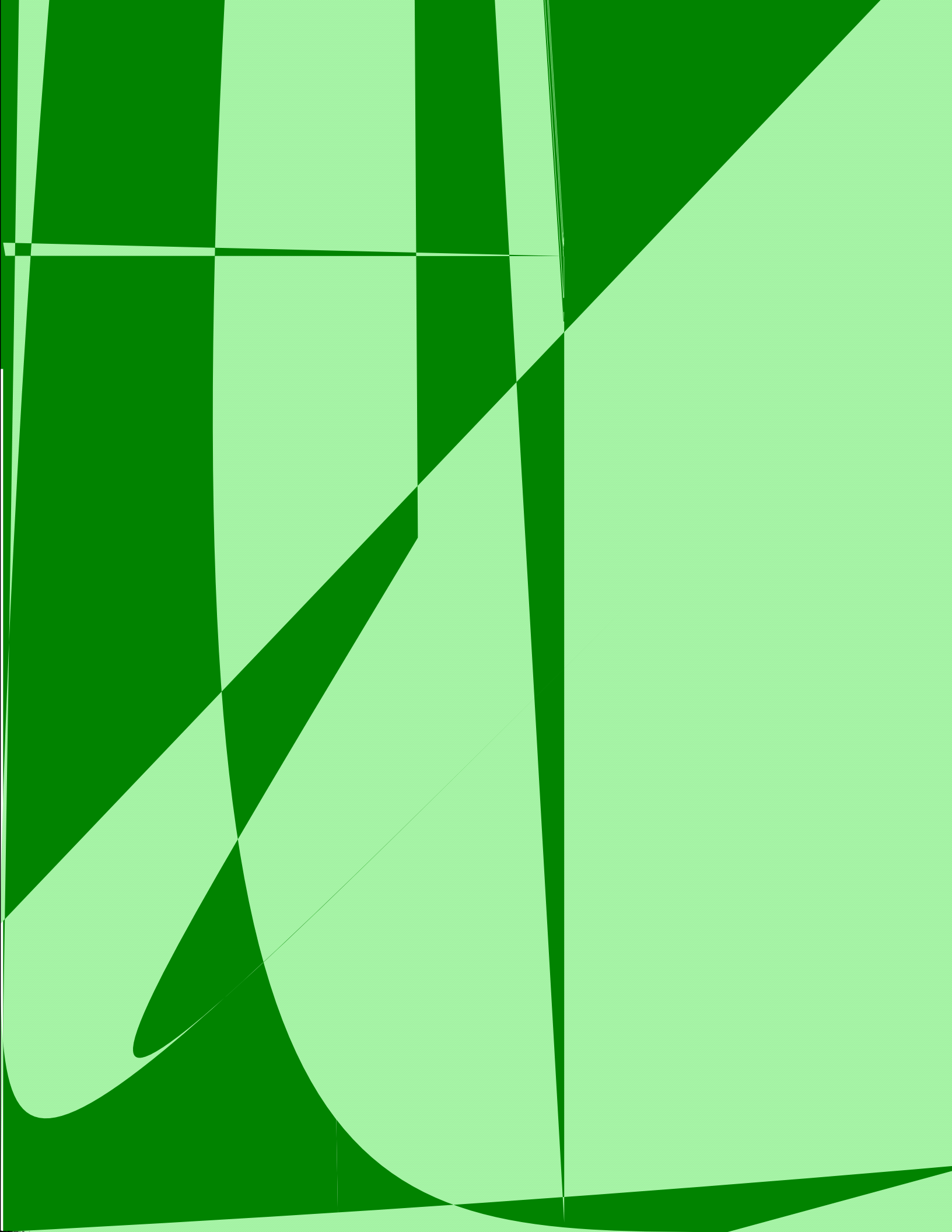
Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Permanent Development Agreement  
Enforcement: City of Northampton  
Location: 200-206 King Street  
References: Book 7982, Page 197 (9/9/2004)  
Zoning: Highway Business (HB)

Property owner agrees to limit uses to prevent those incompatible with a residential neighborhood, agrees that new buildings will be a minimum of two stories, and that upper floors will only be used for housing for so long as the City maintains the property as GB or HB.

**NORTH KING STREET**

Ownership: Private  
Restriction: Permanent Development Agreement  
Enforcement: City of Northampton  
Location: North King Street  
References: Deed Book 1337, Page 407, Development Agreement Book, 8180 Page 119(03/04/2005)  
Zoning: Highway Business (HB)

Property owner agrees to fund \$150,000 to allow the City to make certain transportation improvements if the City rezones the property to HB (City rezoned the property in March 2005)



## SECTION 6

# COMMUNITY GOALS

### DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

This plan builds on six earlier *Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Plans* (1975, 1980, 1985, 1989, 1994, and 2000) and on other planning, conservation and recreation documents, including *Northampton 2020 Vision* (1999). This plan was written under the direction of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board, with participation from an ad-hoc Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee.

To ensure that this Open Space and Recreation Plan truly reflects the current needs, desires and opinions of the citizens' of Northampton, the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission sought input from the public and from various municipal boards during two public hearings. The findings were consistent with the findings from a much more extensive 2000 outreach and participation conducted as part of the citywide *Northampton 2020 Vision*. The Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board reviewed and approved the final document and submitted it to City Council.

### STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

Northampton is endowed with a diverse natural and cultural environment, which provides scenic vistas, opportunity for passive and active recreation, and a wide variety of plant and animal habitats, including habitats for rare and endangered species. Northampton residents want to preserve and enhance these resources, but also acknowledge that the open space and recreation goals are sometimes in conflict with other community goals.

Major open space and recreation goals are to:

- Preserve and expand city holdings of open space, wild lands and small pieces of open land in developed areas.
- Use open space and recreation to ensure that the urban and village centers are attractive places to live, work and visit.
- Determine the need for and possibly provide additional sites for community gardens.
- Where consistent with protection of wildlife and plant habitat, make more natural areas available for public use.
- Provide recreation opportunities for individuals of all ages and physical abilities now and for future generations.
- Preserve the character and integrity of rural areas, farms, forests, and rivers.
- Maintain and restore healthy and sustainable natural ecosystems with diverse populations of indigenous flora and fauna.
- Develop partnerships with neighborhood groups and organizations to help maintain, protect and expand the existing open space and recreation areas.

## **SECTION 7 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS**

### **SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

Although Northampton's resources are less threatened than many urban communities, there are significant threats to natural resources, plant and animal habitat, and the general environmental health of the City. Through the open space and recreation planning process, we have identified the following as critical natural resource protection needs:

1. Permanent protection of large open space parcels, or linkage of open space parcels, to provide large natural habitat areas.
2. Permanent protection of critical and highly-productive habitat, including:
  - Wetlands
  - Rare or endangered species habitat
  - Wildlife corridors
  - Riparian corridors
3. Permanent protection of a range of natural habitat types, including:
  - Riparian (riverfront) habitat
  - Farmland and forest
  - Perennial and vernal pools
4. Permanent protection of Northampton's drinking water supply watershed and aquifer lands and of Hatfield's aquifer.
5. Limiting development that could be damaging to environmental resources, including:
  - Floodplains
  - Wetlands and buffer areas
  - All water courses and bodies
  - Prime and active agricultural land
  - Sensitive natural areas
  - Wildlife habitat and corridors
6. Ensuring protection of resources that cross political boundaries by working with neighboring communities, governments, state and regional agencies and nonprofit organizations.

### **SUMMARY OF NORTHAMPTON'S NEEDS**

The City has been acquiring and permanently protecting approximately 100 acres of open space, in fee or by easement, annually for the past decade. Still, as Northampton has developed in recent years, residents have recognized that the existing open space is being lost and that permanent protection of open space and recreation lands is needed more than ever.

During numerous public meetings and hearings and meetings with city boards and officials, the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Commission have consistently heard concerns that important open space and recreation needs are not being met.

The Conservation Commission and Planning Board, working through the public planning process, have identified the following, as Northampton's most pressing open space needs:

1. Passive recreation opportunities throughout the city.
2. Linkage and augmentation of open space parcels, to provide for passive recreation and wildlife movement between large natural habitat areas.
3. Protection of vistas and "viewsheds".
4. Acquisition for permanent protection of a range of critical and natural plant and animal habitats, including:
  - Wetlands
  - Rare or endangered species habitat
  - Riparian lands along the Connecticut, Mill, and Manhan and other rivers and major streams.
5. Preservation of open space parcels that help define Northampton's character, including parcels at the "entrances" to the city and parcels that limit the expansion of development into previously rural areas.
6. Protection of farmland, forestland and the rural character of outlying areas.
7. Protection of Northampton's drinking water supply watershed and aquifer lands and of Hatfield's aquifer.
8. Encouraging or requiring that development be sensitive to ecological resources, vistas, and open space.
9. Limited improvements, including improvements to make some conservation areas handicap accessible.
10. Fishing and informal swimming opportunities in conservation areas and throughout the city.
11. Permanent protection of Smith Vocational agricultural and forestry lands and of undeveloped lands at the Veterans Administration Hospital and the County Long Term Care Facility.
12. Protection of key parcels in the last remaining large undeveloped areas of town – Broad Brook Watershed, Marble Brook Watershed, Saw Mill Hills, Mineral Hills, and the Meadows.

The Recreation Commission and Planning Board, working through the public planning process, have identified the following as the (i)-s

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3. The city should continue to work with Look Park and cooperate with their efforts to meet Northampton's recreation needs.
4. The city should continue to cooperate with non-municipal recreation providers to coordinate on recreation facilities.

#### **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE**

Limited municipal resources also restrict the public's use of conservation areas, even though conservation areas require far less maintenance than recreation areas. Improving management of conservation properties is only possible if scarce municipal resources are provided:

1. To the extent resources allow, improved funding for other than ordinary maintenance of conservation areas.
2. To the extent resource allow, improved staffing to allow a summer staff for needed maintenance and improvements.
4. To the extent resources allow, continued cooperation with other government agencies, conservation agencies, and neighborhood groups that manage conservation land.

## SECTION 8 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are policies, objectives, and actions that were adopted by the Northampton Planning Board in the Vision and Consistency Analysis of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 1999. All of these goals have some impact on open-space and recreation. Some have more impact than others, and they are all repeated here for the sake of completion. Listed in no particular order:

### GOAL 1: EXPAND OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

- Preserve and expand city holdings of open space, wild lands, and small pieces of open land in developed areas.
- Use open space and recreation to ensure that the urban and village centers are attractive places to live, work, and visit.
- Make more natural areas available for public use.
- Provide recreation opportunities for individuals of all ages and physical abilities now and for future generations.
- Preserve the character of rural areas, farms, forests, and rivers.

Policies and objectives to meet goals	Partial list of actions for goals and objectives <input type="checkbox"/> To be done <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially completed, but can use improvement.
Ensure that all appropriate recreation areas are accessible to those with physical disabilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete handicap accessibility improvements at all feasible recreation areas.
Upgrade all parks in urban and developed areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add and maintain downtown and Florence pocket parks, green ways, rail trail (bike path) linkages and Mill River access.
Increase the number of ball fields by at least 10 to serve burgeoning recreation needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire land for ball fields at Northampton State Hospital and in western section of city.
Link all the city's conservation districts to each other with greenways so that hikers and walkers can traverse the city. Create a citywide trail system that is marked.	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore possibility of getting easements from private landowners, so hikers can cross to public lands.
Add to the city's conservation land holdings by acquiring small green areas downtown and in villages of Bay State, Leeds and Florence.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission must make it a priority.
Provide recreation, conservation, and open space opportunities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire parcels that are accessible to residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire parcels that help define neighborhoods and the community. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire restrictions to preserve farms, forests and rivers, and other resources. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire parcels for new recreation opportunities.
Acquire land with vistas and interesting landscapes, especially in western edge of city.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission charge.

Make sure that no city farm goes out of business. Farmland should not be lost to housing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Link city farmers with conservation groups and state agricultural protection restriction program. <input type="checkbox"/> Foster the current Northampton farmers' market.
Acquire land that serves as a gateway between urban, suburban, or rural landscapes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission charge.

**Significant inconsistencies between vision and current practices:**

- 1) New development is not contributing to the preservation of open space and is converting open space to housing much faster than open space is being preserved.
- 2) Municipal spending has not been allocated for open space acquisition.

**GOAL 2: PRESERVE TRADITIONAL LAND USE PATTERNS WITHOUT CREATING SPRAWL**

- Redevelop vacant land in built-up areas, guarding against sprawl.
- Promote new villages (commercial, residential areas) where feasible.
- Foster continued mixture of uses in villages: Florence, Leeds, and Bay State.
- Discourage development damaging village character of urban/residential neighborhoods.
- Ensure new downtown development meshes with architectural heritage.
- Maintain clear distinction between rural, suburban, and urban areas.
- Promote traditional neighborhood development patterns.
- Encourage and create incentives to develop in urban centers and zones identified for growth pursuant to the Sustainability Plan comprehensive planning process.

<b>Policies and objectives to meet goals</b>	<b>Partial list of actions for goals and objectives</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> To be done <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially completed, but can use improvement.
New development should be accompanied by open space preservation so that at least one acre of open space is preserved for each acre of land developed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire open space for conservation and recreation purposes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use zoning to ensure open space preservation.
Suburban style development should be matched by an equal or greater amount of compact development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend zoning and subdivision regulations. <input type="checkbox"/> Add adequate facilities/concurrency ordinance with no development until city services/water and sewer can accommodate it. <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt a best practices design manual.
Ensure that new housing development will not outstrip school, public works, public safety services, and ability of downtown roads to handle suburban traffic.	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider phased development ordinance. <input type="checkbox"/> Add adequate facilities/concurrency ordinance. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider impact fees or exactions where development pays for its own services. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider community preservation act, taxing real estate sales.
Undertake city-wide sustainability-focused comprehensive plan 2005-2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revise regulatory structure to move toward City land use plan.
Create land zoned for new economic development opportunities where it will not harm neighborhoods.	<input type="checkbox"/> Rezone to create new industrial and commercial areas (see land use map).
Encourage development patterns that contribute to, and do not sap, the strength of their neighborhoods.	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend zoning rules to encourage new development to be linked with existing

		neighborhoods.
Make sure that all existing buildings are reused and rehabilitated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some zoning has been changed to allow for easier reuse of old mill buildings.
Cluster all housing developments in rural areas, leaving more open land, with designs that still allow for housing choices.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Current zoning allows some advantages for developers who cluster houses. Revise subdivision rules and regulations
While showing a preference to village-type growth, do not preclude homeowners from choosing large lots in suburban areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current zoning allows for large lots in outlying areas.
Make certain the community groups have role in city planning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform neighborhood groups of planning issues as individual abutters are now notified.
Prevent any significant development from sensitive floodplain areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revise Special Conservancy zoning and Water Protection zoning to prevent development in floodplain areas.
Define that portion of Rural Residential zoning that should be rural and preserve the character of that area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopt zoning that preserves farms and forests, instead of simply calling for larger suburban lots and labeling it rural.
Reduce traffic impacts from new residential development and sprawl	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate impacts from current residential development patterns, especially development in the Ward 6/Route 66 sections of the city.
Address anomalies and inconsistent messages sent in the zoning. Especially coordinate city zoning at town boundaries with that of surrounding towns.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Rezone parcels on Hatfield town line or near town line that abuts commercial or industrial areas in Hatfield to match Hatfield zoning. Work with adjoining towns for coordinated zoning. Examine pre-existing non-conforming commercial and industrial areas and consider if some of these should be rezoned commercial or industrial.

**Significant inconsistencies between vision of traditional development patterns without sprawl and current practices:**

- 1) Land use guidance regulations allow but do not particularly encourage development patterns consistent with this vision.
- 2) There is not adequate control to ensure that new development only takes place when adequate facilities are in place neither to support that development nor to phase development to minimize adverse impacts.
- 3) Rural residential zoning does not preserve rural character of the city and special conservancy may not be much more effective at preserving floodplains.

**GOAL 3: PRESERVE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Protect important ecological resources, including surface and groundwater resources, plant communities, and wildlife habitat.
- City should take lead in protecting architectural and cultural history.
- Preserve ecological and wildlife linkages, especially water-based linkages.

Policies and objectives to meet goals	<b>Partial list of actions for goals and objectives</b> <input type="checkbox"/> To be done <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially completed, but can use improvement.
Improve quality of storm water discharges.	<input type="checkbox"/> Focus on low maintenance solutions such as stream daylighting and artificial wetland creation. <input type="checkbox"/> Use regulations to reduce non-point source pollution.
Discourage development in environmentally sensitive areas and encourage environmentally sound development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning and city infrastructure extension policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning, subdivision regulations, city investment, grant investment. <input type="checkbox"/> Review zoning restrictions that undermine energy efficient building.
Protect valuable ecological resources.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquire, in fee and by restriction, valuable ecological and open space linkages
Reuse brownfields sites.	<input type="checkbox"/> Use property tax and TIFs to encourage reuse of brownfields and previously developed properties.
Provide performance standards to preserve the environment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve performance standards in zoning.
Preserve cultural and architectural history.	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission should complete an inventory of historic properties. <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of historic properties should be available for review on the Internet and at local libraries. <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission should begin acquiring historic preservation restrictions on key buildings. <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission should examine new proposals for local historic districts and demolition delay ordinances. <input type="checkbox"/> The city should consider tax incentives to encourage historic preservation.
New acquisitions to city vehicle fleet should include alternative fuel vehicles, such as those run by natural gas, fuel cells, or electricity.	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Resources Commission/Central Services should work with School Department and DPW to implement.
Provide for quality street trees and streetscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider how to expand street tree program.
Provide parking spaces and refueling places for electric vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Resources Commission should work with the Parking Commission to implement.
Reduce city dependence on disposable items.	<input type="checkbox"/> City should purchase products from companies that promote recycling and waste reduction.



## **SECTION 9 FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Commission identified the

or conservation significance, and therefore are not identified in this plan, but which are a special place or a local treasure for that neighborhood and demanding of special attention.

9. Develop capacity to do limited developments or use other means, in cooperation with landowners and developers, to preserve large parcels of land that the city does not otherwise have the resources to preserve.
10. Conservation Commission should meet with Conservation Commissions and Open-Space Committees in neighboring towns to discuss possible joint projects.

#### **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER THAN LAND ACQUISITION)**

1. As part of a future Manhan rail trail linkage, the Conservation Commission, working with Smith Vocational School and the Department of Agricultural Resources should build a bridge across the Mill River, to connect the State Hospital parcel off Federal Street with the bulk of the State Hospital property. This would link two permanently protected open space parcels and would dramatically increase foot traffic to the State Hospital. Such an improvement would require the following:
  - a. DAR and possible legislative approval
  - b. Permits
  - c. A design for a bridge that spans the annual flood zone and ensures that the bridge could withstand any floodwater it might encounter
  - d. More neighborhood outreach needed before project proceeds. First neighborhood meeting held in 1996. (Preliminary plans for the bridge completed in 1996 by Tighe & Bond; estimated 1996 cost \$200,000)
2. The Recreation Commission and Department of Public Works should improve accessibility to Maines Field. Improvements should include those described in this plan, the 504 Handicap Accessibility Self-Evaluation, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan.
3. The Recreation Commission should do a total rehabilitation and new design for Veterans Field (to be done in 2005)
4. Rehabilitate and improve Sheldon Field and Maines Field.
5. The Recreation Commission should develop an exercise trail for one recreation or conservation area, but **only** if there is a commitment of municipal or private funds to build and maintain the facility and only if such facility is in keeping with the appearance and use of the area.
6. Build 10 miles of rail trails, as shown on the official rail trail map.

#### **Capital Expenditures Completed in past decade:**

1. Rehabilitation of the Fitzgerald Lake dam. Fitzgerald Lake is among Northampton's most important ecological and passive recreation resources.
2. New roadside parking lot at Fitzgerald Lake parking lot and closing of old lot 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile from the road.
3. Major improvements for Arcanum Field - improve accessibility and rehabilitate the recreation area.
4. Significant rehabilitation of Howard's Ice Pond dam.
5. Sheldon Field parking lot (dual recreation and park-and-ride use) and basketball courts.
6. EXPECTED 2005—Veterans Field reconstruction.
7. Bicycle trail extension at State Street and through Stop-and-Shop to King Street
8. EXPECTED 2005—Manhan Rail Trail from downtown to former Northampton State Hospital

9. 2004 and 2005—Manhan Rail Trail Spur from Route 66 at Ice Pond Drive to Florence Road.

## **LAND ACQUISITION--CONSERVATION AREAS**

The Conservation Commission has identified the following parcels for acquisition over the next five years. Without more funds for open space acquisition, the City's character will be adversely affected as development moves into previously undeveloped areas. Several key parcels of conservation land that should have been preserved have been developed because the city did not have the resources to preserve these parcels.

Purchases of property are contingent upon willing sellers, reasonable (and, usually, below market) prices and availability of funds, however; if possible, the Commission will attempt to purchase any property on this list available at a reasonable price. Additionally, the Conservation Commission will attempt to purchase other properties available at below market prices that meet the objectives identified in this report.

Although the Commission would like to acquire all these parcels, limited resources will allow only a limited number of these parcels to be purchased. For all properties that abut a conservation area, see the Management Plan below for details. These priorities are listed in no particular order. Priorities for acquisition should be based on a site to site analysis of the following factors: ecological value, linkages, connections to existing open space, neighborhood value, ability to help define the character of Northampton, and cost.

1. Remaining portion of the wetlands area abutting the Aquifer Protection Area-Brookwood Marsh. (5 acres acquired from Gutowski, 1994--the in-holding in the middle of city ownership is still a top priority for acquisition)
2. An agricultural preservation restriction on the Gateway Vistas and Hayfields parcel at the Northampton State Hospital (parcel D), with the land to be owned by the Department of Agricultural Resources. (See the Planning Board's 1993 Northampton State Hospital Plan.) (1994 legislation authorizes. Cons. Com. voted 9/12/94 to accept.) Transfer expected in late 2005.
3. Land between Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area and both Mary Jane Lane and Cooke Avenue.
4. The floodplain area between the Yankee Hill Conservation Area, the Northampton State Hospital Agricultural land APR and the Mill River.
5. An eventual 500+ acre conservation area covering much of the ridge line, highly productive small wetlands and vernal pools in the Saw Mill Hills and land for a trail system through the Saw Mill Hills. (24-acre parcel donated by Towne in 1995 and a 28-acre parcel donated by Jonathon Wright in 2000).
6. Woodland and wetlands abutting Pines Edge section of the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, on its north side. (USFS purchase of conservation restrictions from Anciporch protects parcel. Conservation Commission still interested in acquiring remainder interest or trail right-of-way.)
7. Open space related to the proposed Northampton Business Park (fifty percent of the site as required under current zoning) due to its rich wetlands and its use as a wildlife corridor between Massachusetts Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and the farmland at the Northampton State Hospital (in coordination with the Mayor and City Council).
8. An eventual 500 + acre Mineral Hills conservation area in Northampton and Westhampton including a trail system through Mineral Hills connecting Northampton

- with Westhampton. (The current 87-acre Mineral Hills Conservation Area provides a trailhead and the beginning of a trail system.)
9. A wide buffer of land along Marble Brook, in Leeds (coordinated with DPW).
  10. Any parcels along the historic Mill River, the Connecticut River, the Oxbow, and the current and historic confluences, especially highly productive wetlands and floodplains.
  11. Uplands and wetlands north and east of Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area along Broad Brook.
  12. The unused power line right-of-way at Roberts Hill Conservation Area should be acquired from Mass. Electric Company.
  13. Wooded land abutting Roberts Hill Conservation Area (on its north side).
  14. Conservation areas, conservation restrictions, and agricultural preservation restrictions in the meadows and in the Park Hill section of Northampton. This area contains some of the best non-floodplain farmland in Northampton and wonderful vistas. Much of it has already been preserved, but there are critical gaps, especially the gap between existing Park Hill Road APR and CR land and the existing West Farms Conservation Area on Route 66.
  15. Acquisition of conservation land in the area bounded by Rte. 66, Glendale Rd, and Loudville Rd.
  16. Viewshed along rail-trails and proposed rail trail and bike paths to ensure that rural or otherwise attractive areas remain attractive to users.
  17. Purchase land for an open space corridor from the West Farms Conservation Area to the existing Park Hill Road Conservation Restriction and Agriculture Preservation Restriction Cluster.
  18. Land in the Turkey Hill section of the City (between Route 66 and Turkey Hill Road) that can eventually link to the Mineral Hills Conservation Area

In addition, the Conservation Commission is interested in acquiring parcels, as yet unidentified, that meet some or all of the following objectives:

1. Protect important habitat areas. This includes habitat listed by the state natural heritage program as rare or special concern, but also includes vernal pools, ecological linkages, and other unique and rich resources.
2. Provide linkages or greenways between protected areas and along wildlife corridors, including areas on municipal boundaries in cooperation with those abutting communities.
3. Provide high quality passive recreation opportunities, especially in areas not otherwise served and in areas which link other passive recreation opportunities.
4. Identify parcels with multi-use potential including some of the following: Conservation, Recreation, affordable housing, economic development, and other city uses.
5. Protect vistas and scenic viewsheds. In particular, protect hilltops and ridgelines. Viewsheds from roads, conservation areas, and nearby state parks are especially valuable.
6. Protect farmland.
7. Make urban neighborhoods and densely zoned or developed areas more desirable, and thus cut down on suburban sprawl.



4. Rights-of-way for the entire 10-mile planned rail trail network in Northampton (see proposed rail trail network map).
5. Acquire undeveloped land abutting Sheldon Field to allow for additional recreation opportunities.

**See Management Plans section for approved Recreation Department Strategic Five-Year Plan**

### **COOPERATION WITH STATE AGENCIES**

State agencies provide significant resources for conservation and recreation opportunities. The city should continue to work with appropriate state agencies to encourage best management of their properties:

1. Continue to work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to extend the state Norwottuck Rail Trail to the west side of the Boston and Main (with a tunnel under the railroad) railroad, to eventually hook with the City bike path.
2. Work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to insure that the Norwottuck Rail Trail is eventually placed in a tunnel or bridge where it crosses Damon Road.
3. Work with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to restore wetlands and to implement best management practices for co-existing with beavers.

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN--CONSERVATION AREAS**

All conservation areas should be managed to protect the parcels in their natural state. Management actions are limited to those that restore parcels to their natural state, improve wildlife habitat, or provide for generally non-consumptive enjoyment of conservation areas.

Conservation Commission properties, easements and restrictions should be inspected at least yearly:

1. All property lines should be walked and inspected for encroachment and violations of the restrictions.
2. All trails inspected for trail maintenance needs and marked as needed.
3. All trash should be cleaned up.
4. All wooden and metal signs should be inspected and repaired or replaced as needed.
5. The Commission should avoid the burden of making brochures for each conservation area, and instead maintain all necessary information on the city's web site. A single map should be produced, containing pertinent information about all the conservation areas. If a volunteer group would like to create a brochure on their own the Commission should review it for accuracy, and if appropriate, endorse the brochure.
6. The Commission should continually update its ecological assessments of conservation areas and other properties of high conservation value. Properties should be evaluated for potential habitat improvement or restoration and vernal pools should be identified and State certified.
7. Signs with conservation area rules should be posted around the edge of properties.
8. Access should be improved to conservation areas whenever possible, especially at Roberts Hill and Mineral Hills conservation areas.

In addition, some conservation areas are in need of other improvements, land acquisitions, or on-going maintenance. Recommendations within each subcategory are given in order of priority in the following section.

### **AQUIFER AREA: BROOKWOOD MARSH**

#### **Improvements:**

1. The Commission should continue the beaver dam maintenance agreement on an annual basis to prevent failure of the culverts placed in the beaver dam.

Acquisition: The Commission should attempt to acquire the remainder of the wetlands immediately south of the Conservation Area as one of the Commission's top priorities for land acquisition. See Rediscovering Northampton. (Partially done 1994).

#### Completed Items

Beaver dams removed: Fall, 1990

Culvert in dam to lower water level: July, 1992

In 2001, the Commission completed its plans to restore previously filled wetlands with financial help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Natural Resources Conservation Services. The 1998 GROWetlands Grant Program out of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs funded the restoration of these wetlands. The restoration involved the removal of fill material and the relocation of a controversial beaver dam further away from the surrounding residential homes. The cost to the city was in-kind contributions (Office of Planning and Development, Smith Vocational School Forestry Department, and assistance from local volunteer groups).

Because the invasive non-native plant Purple loosestrife has been out-competing native plants of much higher wildlife value, the Commission applied for and received a WHIP Grant in 2004 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement a biological invasive control program for the eradication of the invasive. The Conservation Commission purchased 16,000 Galerucella beetles and released in the northern section of the marsh in June 2005. If successful, this type of biological control can be a highly cost effective, long term, nonpolluting, and a self-sustaining solution to the Purple loosestrife invasion. Furthermore, the wetland marsh has benefited from the native biota replaced from the work completed from the GROWetlands Grant Program, is persistent and self-sustaining. The Conservation Commission will monitor the site over the next five years.

### **AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA: INDIAN HILL**

#### **Improvements:**

Install an "Aquifer Area, Indian Hill" sign at the Indian Hill cul-de-sac.

### **BARRETT STREET MARSH**

#### **Improvements:**

1. The Conservation Commission shall continue to work jointly with the Department of Public Works regarding the review and implementation of the hydrology report prepared by Baystate Environmental Consultants ("The Functional Analysis of the Hydrology and Hydraulics of Barrett Street Marsh, April 2000).

Acquisition: Future acquisition of the woodland west of the conservation area, off of Jackson Street.

Maintenance:

1. Two coats of environmentally sensitive preservative (two to three gallons/coat) should be added to all of the boardwalk decking and to cracked support beams annually.

Completed items

Wheelchair accessible walkway built: 1992

PTO/Jackson Street School cleanups: November 1990; May 1992; May 1993

Preservative added and boardwalk repairs: 1992-2005(two coats)

39 tons (approximately 12 yards) of trap rock gravel purchased May, 1993. One half spread in May onto the wheelchair accessible path by Smith Vocational School and the remainder to be spread in the fall.

**FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA**

Asphalt and boardwalk wheelchair accessible path to Fitzgerald Lake installed: Summer 1993.  
BBC cut some of vegetation on dam: Fall 1989, Fall 1990, Fall 1991; Summer 1992; Summer 1993; Fall 1993. Yearly by contract 1994-2004. Yearly by BBC 2005-

Total Dam Restoration 1998

Property lines inspected, blazed as possible: Fall 1991

Parking lot and access road regraded (some new gravel & TRG): Spring 1992 (Smith Vocational), Fall 1993 (contractor)

Brush cut along access road: September 1993

Rocks placed along end of road to close old logging road: Spring 1992

Hiking trails blazed: Spring 2005

New color map/brochure developed: 2002, updated 2005

Wildlife blind constructed on marsh off of Marian Street Trail: 2000

Pilot Planting of shrub "island" in Cooke's Pasture: 2005

"Beaver Deceiver" installed at Fitzgerald Lake outflow pipe: 2005

Donation cylinders (aka "Iron Rangers") constructed for placement at North Farms Road and Cooke Avenue entrances: 2005

Parking lot curbing 2005

Completed Management Items:

1. Boggy Meadow Road should be improved going through the Cooke's Pasture wetland, in accordance with the trail maintenance plan prepared for the Conservation Commission and approved with Wetlands Order of Conditions 246-356. This includes:
  - a) Placing twin culverts under the road to replace old culverts, as shown on the plans (top priority). (Done 1998)
  - b) Relocating the trail out of the wetlands onto the adjoining upland areas, as shown on the plans (top priority). (Done 1998)
2. The White Oak Tree (52" diameter) at the intersection of Marian Street Trail and Boggy Meadow Road should receive the following treatment (based on the recommendations of David Cotton, Massachusetts Certified Arborist and President of Cotton Tree Service): pruned (class 1) of dead limbs and storm damage, liquid fertilizer, and flush cut of all small diameter underbrush and saplings beneath the white oak canopy. The leaning 20"

hickory tree that threatens the white oak should be removed and the other trees around the perimeter of the oak canopy should be trimmed. (Done 1999)

3. The apple orchard in Cooke's Pasture should be rehabilitated. Within a year in the Cooke's Pasture apple orchard north of the wetland, all non-fruit trees should be cut. The area should be brush hogged as in 1995 and thereafter should be brush-hogged every three to five years. In the apple orchard south of the wetlands, select trees competing with the apple trees should be cut, but no vegetation in the wetland should be cut. (Done; brush-hogged 2004)
4. Marian Street Trail should be extended to Marian Street, in the Marian Street Section. Extend existing pressure treated wood boardwalk for an additional 120 LF along Marian Street (Done 1999).
5. South Pasture should receive an herbicide application in spring 1998. (Done)
6. A new parking lot (approximately 5 cars should be installed just off North Farms Road. This parking lot should serve as an overflow parking lot during the summer, and the primary parking lot in the winter and spring. If Mr. Warburton sells his parcel to the city, the parking lot should be located on his property; otherwise it should be located at the beginning of the access roadway. (Con. Com. agreed to complete by 12/1/96 as a condition of their purchase of Warburton property.) (Done)
7. A gate should be placed on Boggy Meadow Road by the rock outcropping between Pines Edge Conservation Area and the Moose Lodge to close off private vehicle use of Boggy Meadow Road. Install a steel swing gate along Boggy Meadow Road at the beginning of City property (the private landowners were unwilling to locate a gate at the entrance to Boggy Meadow Road by the Road Moose Lodge). (Done 1998)
8. Improvements are needed on Boggy Meadow Road to allow access to maintain and repair the Fitzgerald Lake Dam (top priority). Specifically, a culvert should be replaced where Boggy Meadow Road crosses the first boggy meadow and a culvert should be installed on Fitzgerald Lake Trail approximately 100 yards north-west of Boggy Meadow Road, where the trail crosses a stream. Gravel is needed to fill low spots in the road within the conservation area. A wetlands permit is needed for some of this work. (Done 1998)
9. A map showing trails, section names and locations should be posed at the North Farm Road (by the road, not the parking lot because of vandalism problems) and the Cooke Avenue entrance, with Plexiglas installed over the map. (Done, map updated in 2005)

#### Completed Acquisitions:

1. The Cooke's Pasture to the east, which contains valuable plant and animal habitat, and especially the area from the wetlands south of Broad Brook north to the Abuza Section and an area to allow a trail linkage to Marian Street Conservation Area. (Top citywide priority for the Commission.) (Done 1994)
2. The Warburton in-holding, or at least the very small section where there may be an encroachment by the Fitzgerald Lake Access Road. (Done 1995)
3. The Swayze in-holding. (Done 1997)

4. The old telephone right-of-way (long since discontinued) held by A.T.T. (Done 1994)

**See Management Plan section for Broad Brook Coalition's Management Plan for Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area**

**JAMES H. ELWELL CONSERVATION AREA**

**Improvements:**

1. The Commission should ensure that the farmland does not grow into the abutting floodplain forest or vernal pool area.
2. Farm Licensees should repair the gate that blocks access to the field and the access roadway for farm equipment, as a condition of the license.
3. The Commission should request City Council approval for a five-year lease and lease through competitive bid for 2006-2011.
4. The Conservation Commission should explore methods for removing purple loosestrife. When the best method is established, this effort should be conducted through the help of volunteers.

Acquisition: The Commission should acquire some additional floodplain forest and riverfront buffer parcels north of Elwell Conservation Area. Eventually a greenway could be acquired up to the Hatfield town line.

Completed Items

Five-year farm license: 1989, 1992, 1997, 2006

Non-native plants (purple loostrife, Japanese Knotweed) removed from mainland and island, October 1994

**MARY BROWN'S DINGLE**

**Improvements:**

1. The Commission should work with and establish a relationship with the abutters of this area to help inspect the area for encroachment.
2. The Commission should attempt to educate the abutters about the history of this area and the impact of yard debris being discarded around the perimeter of this area.
3. The Commission should examine the potential for removing the storm sewer through center of property, if this can be done without flooding, to restore the wetlands for storm water treatment and storage functions.

Management Items:

1. Encroaching fill and garden area should be removed and the natural area restored on the southerly and westerly sides of the conservation area.
2. Send out an educational mailing to the abutters of this conservation area. Inform abutters of permit process for work in a buffer zone or resource area.

**MILL RIVER GREENWAY: LEEDS NORWOTTUCK TRAIL SECTION**

Acquisition: Expand area to buffer the bike path and Beaver Brook.

Two studies: *An Inventory of Mill River Corridor Discharge Sources*, by students of Elizabeth Farnsworth, Environmental Science Seminar, Smith College, April 1999 and the Mill River Revitalization Plan, Northampton, Massachusetts, by Landscape Planning Studio, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Fall 1999 are on file in the Office of Planning and Development. The Conservation Commission should

continue to work with the Planning Department and/or other entities to seek funding sources for some of the revitalization projects presented in these reports.

### **MILL RIVER GREENWAY: YANKEE HILL SECTION**

#### **Acquisition:**

1. The Commission should acquire the land between the Greenway, the State Hospital agricultural lands and the Mill River.
2. The Commission should attempt to obtain a pedestrian right-of-way or land along the Mill River to the north of this parcel.

#### Completed items

"Mill River Greenway, Yankee Hill Section" sign installed: Summer, 1989

### **MINERAL HILLS CONSERVATION AREA**

#### **Improvements:**

1. The Commission should continue to lease the 7 acres of farmland at the Mineral Hills Conservation Area, and seek approval from City Council to extend this lease from 3 years to 5 years. The 2002-2005 Mineral Hills lease agreement includes responsibility for the maintenance of the existing internal trail system. A Soil Conservation Plan prepared by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services is included in the license agreement. This plan should be amended, if desired, by the NRCS and the Conservation Commission to meet individual farmer's needs for a particular growing season.

## **ROBERTS HILL CONSERVATION AREA**

### **Maintenance:**

1. Howard's Ice Pond Dam (DCR No. 2-8-214-8) is classified by the DCR Dam Safety office as a "low hazard" dam and is not routinely inspected by DCR. The dam must be regularly inspected and maintained.
2. The driveway into Roberts Hill, which has not been maintained or used for many years, should not be repaired and Roberts Hill should remain closed to vehicles.
3. Maintain vista from high point on Roberts Hill overlook.

### **Acquisition:**

1. The Commission should attempt to acquire the small Massachusetts Electric parcels on the Mill River and South Main Street, Leeds and between the Mill River and Water Street.
2. The Commission should attempt to acquire the private land just north of Roberts Hill and the Roberts Hill overlook.

The Commission should attempt to acquire the unused Massachusetts Electric power line right-of-way that crosses Roberts Hill Conservation Area.

### **Management Items:**

1. Clearing of trees along the slope of the dam should be cut and prevented from rooting. (Trees cut by Smith Vocational Forestry Dept. Fall 1998)
2. The Conservation Commission should work with the neighbor abutting the property at the end of Water Street to prevent encroachment into the Roberts Hill entrance. (Neighbor moved all items stored at entry way, Fall 1998)
3. The dam is sound and stable, but requires repairs to the concrete wall on top of the dam, repairs to the concrete spillway walls, grading of the crest to protect the concrete wall, removal of all trees on the downstream slope and toe, and rip rap at the base of the spillway to protect the stream bed from erosion. Design by Tighe & Bond completed 1998; construction completed summer 1999.

### **Completed Items**

Minor concrete repairs to the dam spillway and apron (by abutter): 1990

Brush and trees on the dam removed: Fall 1990, 1991, 1992, Spring 1993

Trees cut on overlook to improve view: Fall 1991; Spring 1993

Major spillway restoration and rehabilitation 1999

"Roberts Hill Conservation Area, City of Northampton" sign installed at the end of Water Street and opposite the David B. Musante Beach (2001).

## **SAWMILL HILLS CONSERVATION AREA**

### **Improvements:**

1. Locate and mark boundaries, including right-of-way access. Since right-of-way access is tree-less, some sort of permanent stakes should be used as markers. This will help avoid future disputes and facilitate access maintenance and wildlife management activities.
2. A spring walk guided by one or more naturalists and aimed at the residents of Avis Circle would help promote familiarity with the parcel and increase their understanding/appreciation of the area. Special advise about co-existing with wildlife such as bears and coyotes may be provided. If the access is marked by then, residents could resolve this concern.

3. Cut (and leave) all stems (except shrubs) to maintain valuable early successional wildlife habitat (see Stand descriptions below). A small crew can complete this within 1 day with loppers, or a single person can complete this in 2 days with a chain saw. Basic knowledge of what to cut/leave is important, so that valuable wildlife plants are not inadvertently cut. This practice should be repeated every seven years or so.
4. The Conservation Commission should implement the 1998 Sawmill Hills Forest Stewardship Plan as outlined below:
  - A) Boundaries: The primary concern is to identify and mark the property boundaries. Good boundaries are an important starting point for good neighbor relations.
  - B) Recreation: Stand 1 - With its open understory, frequent rock outcrops and rolling terrain, the parcel is well suited to recreational activities such as hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Stand 2 - The view from atop the steep embankment is nice, and the likelihood of seeing wildlife is high, so a trail on the property should skirt along the edge. Stand 3 is the approximate route of the 20' wide right-of-way at the end of Avis Circle. Stand locations are shown on the map attached to the Forest Stewardship Plan in the Sawmill Hills file.
  - C) Wildlife: Stand 1 - The abundant acorn crop provided by this parcel is an important component of wildlife. Some thinning (i.e. culling) of suppressed trees would increase the acorn production and improve the long-term health of residual trees. However, the low value of the trees to be removed as firewood would probably preclude this type of work, unless it was incidental to projects on adjacent lands or if local landowners to supply their own cordwood carried out the work. Stand 2 - The natural and rapid regrowth of Southern New England forests on fertile sites works to quickly replace the early successional stage of forest growth, consisting of seedlings, sprouts and shrubs, with pole-sized trees. This is good for timber growing, but bad for species that depend on this type of ephemeral habitat. Revisiting this stand every 5 years to cut back all trees (shrubs can be left) is the best way to maintain a young forest habitat.
  - D) Forest Products: Stand 1 - The white pines in the midstory could be developed by thinning, as described above, but removing a greater number of trees. The same economic restrictions would likely apply. Ideally, the pine trees would be professionally pruned following the thinning to grow pine of the highest value. If the opportunity arises, it might be worth growing pine in this fashion on about 5 acres - more by way of demonstration than a serious timber growing operation. Stand 2 - Although the productive site is well suited to growing timber, the small size of Stand 2 makes this unfeasible. This area should be controlled for invasive exotic shrubs, especially while it is still relatively early. Successful control usually involves pulling (for smaller shrubs), or cutting and applying herbicide to the remains.
  - E) Fire: People cause most wildfires in Massachusetts, intentionally and unintentionally. Dry grassy habitats like this former gravel pit are very flammable. An effort should be made to reduce the likelihood of human-induced fires (such as posting the access "No Smoking") as well as the chance of a fire spreading into the residential area. It would be advisable to discuss fire prevention and fire fighting - including the possibility of prescribed burns to reduce fuel loads.

- F) Education: A spring wildflower walk, with conversations about birds, other wildlife, and possibly management, which would be open to the public - with a special effort to invite residents of Avis Circle - would help many recent arrivals to become familiar with this nearby conservation resource.
  - G) Though Stand 3 is not technically a “forest stand”, this 20-foot-wide, 0.73-acre right-of-way is a potentially important and controversial part of the town conservation land. This connector from Avis Circle to the conservation land crosses Lots 7 & 8 along their common boundary, then follows the southern and western boundary of the Stormwater Retention pit before heading off to the conservation land.
5. This area, an old gravel pit which is growing back into grasses, wildflowers and trees, will need to be mowed or partially cleared (ideally annually) to keep it from overgrowing with shrubs and trees.
  6. The broader implications of all management proposals, including a do-nothing policy on this property, should be considered.

Management Items:

1. Implement Sawmill Hills Conservation Area Landowner Outreach Project per contract agreement with the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Small Grants Program.

Acquisitions:

Build into a 500 + acre conservation area, preserving trails, ride lines, vernal pools and coyote dens.

**STATE HOSPITAL AGRICULTURAL LAND--DRUMLIN AND MILL RIVER**

Although managed by Smith Vocational Agricultural School, the Conservation Commission has contributed to conservation management because of its role holding an agricultural preservation restriction on the entire property and a conservation restriction and public right-of-way on the drumlin and the buffer along the Mill River.

**Improvements:**

1. If the opportunity exists, the Conservation Commission should sponsor controlled burns of the drumlin to restore Grasshopper Sparrow habitat (a state concern species) and remove multi-flora rose and woody vegetation. The members of the University of Massachusetts Forestry and Wildlife Program should do burning, with assistance from the Natural Heritage Program. (See Completed Management Items for burn dates.)  
After the burning, Smith Vocational should again clear brush from the top of the drumlin annually in the fall. All cutting on the drumlin should occur after mid-August to avoid disturbing spring and summer ground-nesting birds.

Over-grazing should be avoided in this area. Cattle or sheep should be rotated through this area or another area should be used during the nesting season. Bunch grasses should be maintained at 4”-12”.

Woody vegetation along the hillsides, particularly the multi-flora rose, should be repeatedly cut and removed from the site. Alternatively, Scottish Highland cattle have been shown to be

effective grazers on woody vegetation.

2. Post the Drumlin with signs informing the public that the drumlin is used as nesting habitat (similar to signs Arcadia is currently using) to keep people and pets off the area during nesting season, or mow trails along the borders for visitor use.
3. Work with adjacent landowners to improve grazing and mowing practices.
4. Smith Vocational will maintain a road used as a walkway within the 100-foot buffer from the river and most of the rest of buffer should be allowed to return to native vegetation. The Smith Vocational School will cut one part of a field in the buffer area, on the northern edge of the property, for hay.

## **Archeological Resources**

### **Evaluations and Recommendations**

The Northampton State Hospital burial ground is protected from development by a permanent agricultural-use restriction on the property held by the City of Northampton. However, if the location of the cemetery is forgotten it is possible that the Smith Vocational School or a subsequent renter or owner of the property might unwittingly use the field not only for instruction in haying but also for instruction in plowing and planting, which would also disturb the soil deflations and patches of low vegetation that are the only marks of the locations of the graves.

Erecting a memorial to the burial ground is recommended as a measure for preserving knowledge of the use of the site for the hospital cemetery. The memorial must not disturb subsurface burial remains, the location of which cannot be accurately determined by surface indications. Not all burials result in soil deflations or distinctions in vegetation.

Preservation and restoration is recommended for the 1958 bench and surrounding bushes that were the first memorial commemorating the field as a burial ground. The bench and bushes are an important part of the history of the cemetery. They are particularly important to preserve as the earliest precedent to the current effort to erect a memorial to those buried in the cemetery. Chapter 272, Section 73 of the enclosed Massachusetts Laws and Regulations Protecting Burial Grounds indicates that it is illegal to remove either the bench or the bushes because they were built as a memorial.

It is recommended that the bench built in 1958 be restored if possible without excavation or any other disturbance of the ground. If any excavation is required to restore the bench the restoration plan must be reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which will require that an archaeologist mitigate any impacts of excavation on the burial ground.

It is also recommended that the surrounding bushes be preserved and trimmed by hand above ground to create access to the bench while maintaining its location in the arbor created by the overgrown bushes, which are picturesque and create a useful protection against the wind.

It might be possible to mount commemorative plaques on the stone bench supports. A plaque could be mounted on one of the stone supports noting when the bench built as a memorial to the burial ground. This plaque would restore an important part of the history of the cemetery. A second plaque could be mounted on the other stone support for the modern commemoration of the cemetery. This plaque could include the dates of use of the burial ground (1858-1921), the

181 confirmed burials, the 413 potential burials, and a short commemorative statement or poem. It is recommended that this plaque also note the existence of at least 2 burials in the woods across the road to the north, and the fact that the boundaries of the cemetery have not been determined. It is important to preserve the present knowledge about the cemetery for future generations that may otherwise forget it.

If another memorial is erected it must avoid disturbing any graves in the cemetery. It is possible to erect a completely aboveground dry-laid stone monument such as a stone cairn that would not disturb the ground with a foundation. However, a memorial plaque could not be mounted on this unmortared monument. Because any mortared monument would require a foundation, its design would need to be reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which would require an archaeological survey and/ or excavation to mitigate the impact of the foundation excavation on the burial ground. If an archaeologist found evidence of a grave shaft in the planned location of the monument, it would have to be moved to another location until one was found where excavation would not disturb any burials. Erecting a sign would involve the least amount of excavation and archaeological investigation to prevent disturbance to burials. It is recommended that any memorial be placed near the road to minimize disturbance to burials.

The Northampton State Hospital Memorial Committee suggested the memorial could include material from old buildings at the Northampton State Hospital that are being torn down. The Community Builders, who are doing the demolition, have informed the NSH Memorial Committee that they could save some of the materials, including bricks and bars used on the caged porches. People in the community suggested a memorial to symbolically show that the people buried in the site had symbolically broken free of the institutional confines. One possible memorial would be an open brickwork tower with a barred window. The tower could be open at the top to symbolize the escape of the buried inmates to heaven. Flowering vines could grow on the open brickwork to symbolize how the living spirit triumphs over stone and bars that may hold a person's body. Rebecca Macauley suggested that stone birds might further symbolize the spirits of the inmates flying free of the hospital. This memorial would also evoke the demise of the hospital into a ruin and be a memorial to the demolition of some of the buildings.

If a plaque is not mounted on the reconstructed bench, it is recommended that a plaque be mounted on a sign or a memorial, including the dates of use of the burial ground (1858-1921), the 181 confirmed burials, the 413 potential burials and a short commemorative statement or poem. It is further recommended that this plaque also note the existence of at least two burials in the woods across the road to the north, and the fact that the boundaries have not been determined. Again, it is important to preserve for posterity the knowledge that has been recovered about the burial ground.

A few long depressions were found running south-north across the hill that appear to have been made by large tires of a tractor or other agricultural equipment running across the field when the soil was wet and soft, thus displacing soil down the hill. It is strongly recommended that haying be conducted only when the ground is completely dry. Barbara Hopson, the Local Land Use Administrator for the Department of Agricultural Resources, has agreed to draw up a regulation to this effect for the Smith Vocational School.

Further archaeological reconnaissance and subsurface testing such as resistivity testing are recommended to identify the boundaries of the cemetery and map the soil deflations and vegetation indicating burials. Further archaeological reconnaissance in the area might also locate small-unmarked gravestones of the types Mr. Mielke found on the burial ground in his childhood. Further documentary research is recommended to find the cemetery plot records and map that

Mr. Mielke saw years ago at the Northampton State Hospital.

See also the website of the Northampton State Hospital Burial Ground Project at <http://javanet.com/~tclement/NSH/Main.html>

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN--RECREATION COMMISSION AREAS**

All recreation areas should be managed to ensure long-term use for active recreation. Currently, the Department of Public Works Recreation Division does the maintenance in recreation areas and parks, while maintenance of schools sites, including those used for recreation is done by the School Department.

### **On-going maintenance activities for recreation areas include:**

1. Mowing grass
2. Turf management, including lime striping
3. Equipment maintenance
4. Buildings and restroom maintenance
5. Trash removal
6. Monitoring and enforcing agreements where second parties are responsible for maintenance of Recreation Commission properties (Nagle Downtown Walkway and the Gothic Street Pocket Park).
7. Inspecting all signs and repairing or replacing as needed.

The top management/capital improvements priority for the Recreation Commission is the rehabilitation of Veterans' Field. Outside of rehabilitation of existing recreation areas, expansion of the city and state bike paths are the top recreation priorities identified in this plan.

Within each of the recreation and park areas listed below, projects are listed in order of priority.

### **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The plots are located on the State Hospital property and contain 440 plots that are rented to the general public. The gardens are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission and are directly supervised by a volunteer committee made up of concerned gardeners. Each year the plots are completely sold out and waiting lists are formed to distribute any plots that are returned. The DPW Recreation Division assists the Department in maintaining the community garden site.

Also investigate other locations for satellite gardens sites at additional parks throughout the City.

### **NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Northampton High School Fields are heavily used for recreation on weeknights and weekends. Major renovations were included as part of the High School expansion (2000).

### **MAINES FIELD**

#### **Improvements:**

1. Design fences, roadways and fields to be able to prevent or minimize flood damage from the powerful flow of the river. There is no cost-effective way to prevent Maines Field from flooding periodically or even significantly slowing down the velocity of the floodwaters.

There are several issues outlined below:

- a) Maines Field was an island until one channel of the Mill River was filled in to create the recreation area. The flow patterns in the river that created the island and the channels still exist.
- b) It would be next to impossible to obtain environmental permits and would be very expensive to re-channel the flow.
- c) If flow patterns were changed, it is likely you would send the energy somewhere else nearby, and cause new flooding or erosion problems on someone else's property.

### **Mitigation Options:**

Breakaway fences – were installed and can be opened if flooding occurs.

Ensure vegetation coverage, especially grass, as much as feasible over the entire site.

Re-consider the need for the parking lot farthest from Riverside Drive or replace asphalt with permeable pavement that would allow grass to grow inside of the paved area (e.g. Grasspave or Turfstone).

Replace gravel road with the same permeable pavement as above.

Design fencing so that it doesn't channel water, especially in the dugout area.

### **Improvements continued:**

1. Install new lights on ballfield.
2. Renovate and improve picnic and play equipment facilities.
3. Mark handicap parking spaces.
4. Create an accessible (trap rock gravel or asphalt) trail in play and game areas
5. Repair or replace restrooms to make them accessible
6. Construct an accessible water fountain.
7. Continue to work with the Bocce Committee and the Council on Aging to maintain the two bocce courts.

## **SHELDON FIELD**

### **Improvements:**

1. Built a combined park-and-ride/recreation parking lot with handicap spaces and ramp up to Bridge Street. This State-funded lot was completed in 2001.
2. Re-design the existing parking area to include the installation of basketball facilities as well as 30-35 parking spaces. This was completed in the fall of 2004.
3. Install proper landing materials under play equipment to improve safety.
4. Replace restrooms to make them accessible and install these new restrooms out of the floodplain in a more centralized location
5. Create an accessible (trap rock gravel or asphalt) trail in play and game areas
6. Install all new play equipment that is handicapped accessible for all age groups
7. Repair all field fencing
8. Construct an accessible water fountain

Acquisitions: Acquired land abutting Sheldon Field to allow for future recreation expansion.

## **VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD**

### **Improvements:**

1. Total rehabilitation renovation is slated to begin in the summer of 2005. The baseball and soccer fields will be renovated. The City's first skate park and inline skate rink will be added.
2. Installed proper landing materials under play equipment to improve safety
3. Repair or replace restrooms to make them accessible – completed 1998
4. New field entrance/exit onto West Street was completed and is in full use.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN--OTHER PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **CHILD'S PARK**

Childs Park (private non-profit) is managed and maintained by independent boards of trustees. Because it is internally maintained without city funds, it is not discussed in this management plan.

### **LOOK PARK**

Although managed and maintained by an independent Board of Trustees, Look Park is owned by the city. It is the most heavily used recreation area in the city and serves regional needs. Improvements to obsolete infrastructure and improvements to its regional services are needed, in spite of major upgrades made in recent years with Look Park and state and federal funds.

The Garden House at Look Park is the area's premier community and banquet facility, providing superior accommodations for public and private parties, meetings, and community events.

Located in one of New England's finest parks, the Garden House stands on the site of the former Look Park pool building, a nostalgic Northampton landmark built in 1930. The restoration of the building, now unsurpassed in comfort and convenience, keeps faith with the Mission style architecture of the earlier period.

### **NORTHAMPTON WATERSHED AND AQUIFER LAND**

Management/restrictions: DPW should consider placing restrictions on property to insure it remains as forestry and open space.

### **NORTHAMPTON BIKE PATH**

#### **Improvements:**

Extending the Northampton Bike Path and linking it to other bike paths is a top recreation priority, and a top alternative transportation priority. The following actions have been identified:

### **PULASKI PARK**

Improvements were done in 1996.

## **SMITH VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL**

### **Management/restrictions:**

Place restrictions on agricultural property to insure it remains as forestry and open space.

## **SMITH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL V.A. PARCEL--FORESTRY STUDIES**

### **Improvements:**

Use the existing trail system to build a trail to link to J.F.K. Middle School and, eventually, to Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

Management/restrictions: Place restrictions on property to insure it remains as forestry and open space.

## **SOUTH STREET SCHOOL / COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER**

### **Management/restrictions:**

If the former school site is ever sold, a public right-of-way should be retained to allow pedestrian access from South Street to Veterans Field.

## **STATE HOSPITAL SOCCER FIELD**

The future school site parcel (parcel C) of the Northampton State Hospital was developed by the city for use as one multi-purpose field and two softball fields. It should also be considered as a possible future elementary school site. The opening of the fields has been delayed due to DPW budget cuts, but is expected to open in the fall of 2005. Continued maintenance of recreation fields by the DPW is dependent upon funding and adequate personnel

## **NAGLE DOWNTOWN WALKWAY**

A handicapped accessible walkway located on an old railroad right-of-way in the downtown area of the City. The DPW Recreation Division assists the Department with the maintenance of the walkway. Several abutters to the walkway have maintenance responsibilities along the walkway in return for easements granted by the City.

# **SECTION 10 MANAGEMENT PLANS**

## **BROAD BROOK COALITION'S MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA**

### **SUMMARY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **I. Maintain and Enhance the Diversity and Integrity of Habitats and Species in the FLCA**

- A. Control invasive species and replant cleared areas with native species
- B. Maintain and enhance the diversity and integrity of shrublands found at Cooke's Pasture and South Pasture
- C. Maintain and enhance the diversity and integrity of forested uplands
- D. Manage recreational use and minimize damage to sensitive sites
- E. Protect the water quality in Fitzgerald Lake, Broad Brook, and adjacent wetlands and promote aquatic biodiversity
- F. Promote ecological research
- G. Protect and expand FLCA

#### **II. Encourage Education and Outreach**

- A. Provide interpretive materials
- B. Maintain nature trails
- C. Promote "Walks and Talks"
- D. Continue collaboration with organized groups
- E. Maintain wildlife blind
- F. Publish newsletter

#### **III. Provide Access for Recreational Uses that are Compatible with the Above Goals**

- A. Promote allowed activities on less-sensitive sites
- B. Promote handicapped access where possible
- C. Discourage types of uses that are destructive
- D. Provide for better enforcement of conservation area rules
- E. Promote and maintain hiking trails

#### **IV. Ensure a Steady Stream of Funding to Meet the Above Goals and Objectives**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA), Northampton's largest conservation holding, contains a variety of habitats and, together with contiguous undeveloped land, supports a relatively wide diversity of wildlife species, including some species that are rare or endangered in the state. By

maintaining the quality of habitat, especially the wetlands, residents of Northampton are preserving a piece of the natural heritage of the area and helping to maintain the complexity of an ecosystem. FLCA also provides an outstanding resource for wildlife viewing, environmental education, and fostering an appreciation of nature.

Broad Brook Coalition (BBC), a nonprofit community organization, has a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Northampton by which BBC carries out day-to-day management of FLCA. Prior to 1996, BBC's activities were performed as needed in response to specific problems. In 1995, the first BBC Management Committee was formed to devise an ecological management plan. Their efforts resulted in the first FLCA Management Plan, 1996–1999. The FLCA Management Plan, 2000–2004, maintained the goals of the first Management Plan. This document, the FLCA Management Plan, 2005–2009, like previous plans, incorporates several earlier sections and modifies their objectives on the basis of accomplishments and new areas that need to be addressed.

As with the first Management Plan, we have relied on several other documents relating to FLCA, such as the City of Northampton's Open Space and Recreation Plan, 1994–1999, and *Rediscovering Northampton: the Natural History of City-Owned Conservation Areas* by Laurie Sanders (1993) which was revised in 1999. We have also incorporated information from the Forest Management Plan prepared by Karl Davies in 1997–1998.

## **RESOURCES**

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area consists of approximately 560 acres in the northeast corner of Northampton. The ecology of the area is richly diverse with uplands, various types of wetlands, old pasture, and the lake. The bedrock is classified as hornblende, quartz and monodiorite gneiss, while the soil types mostly result from the glacial and hydrological history of the area. Numerous rocks, boulders, and outcrops characterize the upland soils, on moderate slopes, and are thus unsuitable for most commercial uses<sup>1</sup> These soil types provide good potential for the growth of hardwood and coniferous trees, and a fair potential as habitat for woodland wildlife. Soils in drainage areas along streams, wetlands, and the lake are mostly silt loams. These generally have a good to fair potential as either forested or open wildlife habitat.

The resources of FLCA are as follows:

- I. Fitzgerald Lake
- II. The Dam
- III. Wetlands
- IV. Forested Uplands
- V. Old Pasture
- VI. Access and Trails
- VII. State Listed Species
- VIII. Surrounding Area

Each of these resources is described in detail in “Appendix B: Inventory of Resources.” Please refer to this appendix for descriptions.

## **PROBLEMS, CONCERNS AND THREATS: MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area comprises a number of different habitats, including the lake itself, varied wetland habitats along with associated streams and pools, forested uplands, and old pasture. Each habitat area needs to be protected, and some if not all need ongoing maintenance as well. In this section, we describe known and potential problems, concerns and threats to the resources of FLCA, and outline the corresponding management goals and objectives.

### **Goal I. Maintain and Enhance the Diversity and Integrity of Habitats and Species**

#### **A: Control Invasive Species and Replant Cleared Areas with Native Species.**

##### **Concern:**

Invasive species pose a threat to the lake, wetlands and upland areas because they outcompete and crowd out native species and reduce biodiversity. Certain invasive species can quickly take over native habitats, greatly decreasing the existing species diversity, sometimes altering the site to a nearly single-species condition. After loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat, invasive species are the second leading cause of biodiversity loss.

##### **Objectives:**

**1. BBC will maintain a detailed plan for the removal and/or containment of all invasive species in the conservation area.** We will also inform the general public of the dangers of invasive species, in particular those people living in the vicinity of the conservation area.

Invasive plant species of concern in FLCA are Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), exotic buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum nigrum*), exotic honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*) and Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

For most of the invasive species of concern, the preferred method of control is a combination of cutting and herbicide application. Control of these species without herbicide may be possible, but the amount of labor required may be prohibitive. BBC has coordinated numerous workdays for hand removal of invasive species, particularly the Multiflora Rose off of the North Farms Road paved trail and the Fishing Place trail.

Investigation into invasive control by the 1999 Board of Directors confirmed that hand control without herbicide might be effective in small stands of invasive plants, but for larger areas (such as the Multiflora Rose in South Pasture) hand control alone would not only require many volunteer hours, but also would likely be a losing effort given these species' rapid recovery and spread.

With the appropriate selection and application, herbicide may be used very safely and effectively. The herbicide recommended for control of Multiflora Rose, bittersweet, and buckthorn is glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup (for non-wetland use), and Rodeo (for wetland use).

Glyphosate is a nonspecific herbicide, which kills all photosynthetically active vegetation it contacts.

However, it is nonvolatile and has no soil activity, which means that it becomes so tightly bound to most soils that it cannot travel through them to reach the roots of other plants. Therefore, as long as care is taken to apply the Roundup only to the specific target plants, other plants will remain unaffected. However, according to The Nature Conservancy, the long-term effects of repeated glyphosate treatment on natural systems are not fully understood.

Modes of application such as spraying, in which aerial drift could occur, will be avoided. Instead, any foliar applications (to the leaves) should be done with a low-pressure hand sprayer such as those used for misting houseplants. Even better is to apply the Roundup to cut stems using a sponge applicator or hand sprayer. Applying the herbicide during the dormant season when most plants are not photosynthetically active can also minimize damage to other plant species. The herbicide should be used in the most dilute solution that is still effective. The toxicity of glyphosate to animals and its persistence in the environment are relatively low compared to other pesticides.

If cut stems are to be targeted, Roundup is most effective when applied immediately after cutting. Whether used on cut stems or as a foliar spray, the effect of the herbicide on the target plants will not be apparent until the following growing season.

Use of Roundup and Rodeo in a conservation area and in aquatic communities requires an individual who has been licensed in their use. BBC will research the cost and feasibility of hiring a licensed herbicide applicator for especially aggressive and intractable invasive species. Until that time, BBC will continue to deal with invasive species removal by hand pulling.

**2. BBC will work aggressively to prevent the establishment of invasive species not yet present.**

BBC will post notices near the boat launch at the end of the boardwalk to reduce the possibility of invasion by Zebra Mussels and Water Milfoil. These two species are most commonly carried to new areas on boats. Although motorboats are more likely than non-motorized boats to carry live individuals between water bodies, it would be worth the effort to take this precaution. Boaters should inspect their boat hulls carefully both before and after submersion; plants or mollusks clinging to the hulls should be removed somewhere far from the lake or streams leading to the lake.

Although Purple Loosestrife has not yet become established in the FLCA, we will conduct annual searches for this invasive around the perimeter of the lake and in the marshy areas of the conservation area, especially where formerly flooded areas have been drained. If any is found, it will be hand removed by pulling the plant with as much of the root as possible. The invasion sites should be monitored in subsequent years. It is our intent to avoid any artificial water drawdown in the lake as such a condition creates an opportunity for Purple Loosestrife to become established.

**B. Maintain and Enhance the Diversity and Integrity of Shrubland Found at Cooke's and South Pastures**

**Concern:**

Loss of early successional habitat, such as shrublands, represents a general trend in Massachusetts, resulting in a loss of species diversity. This habitat type will also disappear in FLCA unless action is taken.

## Objectives:

**1. BBC Will Maintain Cooke's Pasture as nonforested shrubland.** The old pasture at FLCA must be maintained by a regular mowing regime to prevent succession by woody plants. The rediscovery of Bush's Sedge (*Carex bushii*), a Massachusetts endangered species, in Cooke's Pasture in 1999 suggests that the initial mowing and clearing aided this plant's survival. With the re-establishment of this habitat type, several species of birds and other animals may return, although the requirements for different species vary depending on the mowing regime and the size of the shrubland patch. The restoration of the old Cooke's Pasture will also provide an aesthetic benefit for visitors.

A permanent mowing regime will be established. Sometime after August 31 and through the end of September, brush will be cut to a height of 6 to 10 inches with a brush cutter. At this time, not only have nestling birds already fledged but cutting is most effective because the plants' energy has not yet been stored in the roots. A given area should be mowed at the same time of year every 2 to 3 years. More frequent mowing will be detrimental to invertebrate populations. Currently, we recommend dividing Cooke's Pasture in half, with one half mowed the first year, one half the next year, and none mowed the third year. Other disturbances should be kept to a minimum.

The earthen dam that creates Fitzgerald Lake needs maintenance on an annual basis to prevent overgrowth by trees, in particular Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*), the roots of which could damage the dam's structure. The City has agreed to fund mowing as a maintenance measure as long as funds are available. BBC has agreed to arrange the maintenance and the dam will be mowed at least once a year and, if feasible, twice a year.

Cutting of trees and brush in shrubland areas should be carried out selectively. Some mast producing trees have been left in the pasture. John Scanlon, wildlife biologist for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, recommended leaving about 25% of the pasture area in tree/shrub islands, to provide wildlife food and shelter. Because the acreage of Cooke's Pasture is below or close to the minimum needed for several shrubland bird species to breed, only a few trees should be left uncut within it. Those left should be mostly apples and crabapples because they provide a food source for wildlife and are not found in the forested upland habitat at FLCA. They have aesthetic value as well. Apple and crabapple trees should be pruned back to a single trunk to maintain vigor. The best time of year for this is February or March, before sap flows in spring. These areas need to be reevaluated from time to time, and it may be desirable to cut some of the remaining trees to provide more open area.

In addition, the removal of selected species, especially invasive species, may be required. Some species may resprout so vigorously that herbicide may be necessary to kill them. For specific recommendations, see above section on controlling invasive exotics. Any brush cut by hand should be made into brush piles. Along the periphery or inside the old pasture, these will provide some wildlife cover. In each pile, the largest material should be placed on the ground first, with smaller material on top, to a height of about six feet. This will settle down to about three feet after one winter. Trees cut by machinery can be chipped and spread around.

Nesting boxes erected in Cooke's and South Pastures for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows will be repaired and maintained as necessary. As of 2004, seven bluebird houses have been erected in Cooke's Pasture and two in South Pasture. These will be cleaned and repaired on an annual basis, in the early spring (Feb., March) before the birds start looking for nest sites. If possible, volunteers will be enlisted to monitor nesting success and predation. The bat houses in Cooke's Pasture will also be repaired and maintained as necessary. If possible, these too should be monitored

to determine the number and type of species using them.

BBC will plant native fruit-bearing shrubs in Cooke's Pasture. In 2003, a grant application was submitted to the New England Natural Areas and Wildlife Grants Program of the Fund for the Environment to fund the planting of native species that are used by birds and other wildlife. Although evaluated positively, the grant was not funded. BBC will resubmit an application to this program to support the planting of native species. Whether or not the grant is funded we will initiate a planting program on a smaller scale.

**2. BBC Will Maintain South Pasture as nonforested shrubland.** Although 5 to 10 acres is considered the minimum needed to accommodate nesting birds, there may be value for wildlife in restoring South Pasture as shrubland habitat. There would definitely be aesthetic benefit, as Multiflora Rose now forms an impenetrable wall along some edges. Areas that have already grown back to forest (primarily second growth white pine) should be left as is for now. The pines provide habitat for nesting birds such as the green heron (active nest observed May 31, 1996).

In the fall or winter, BBC will cut buckthorn and/or apply Roundup to stumps. Cut material will be consolidated into brush piles to provide cover and to confine new buckthorn plants that may sprout from seed. Multiflora Rose should be treated with Roundup or pulled up by hand, and bittersweet treated in the spring. The bittersweet occurs primarily in the forest surrounding the open area. Bittersweet control is a lower priority than keeping the remaining pasture open. See Appendix C for details on invasives removal.

BBC will conduct a mowing regime like that for Cooke's Pasture with half of South Pasture mowed one year, half the second year, and none mowed the third year, whereupon the cycle will be repeated.

### **C. Maintain and Enhance the Diversity and Integrity of Forested Uplands**

#### **Concern:**

Forest fragmentation is a growing threat to several songbird species throughout New England. Certain species of birds either require or have better nesting success in forest interiors with unbroken canopy, uninterrupted by houses and roads, as in a significant portion of the FLCA.

#### **Objective:**

**Manage forested areas for species diversity, not for timber production or harvest.** In 1997 Broad Brook Coalition commissioned a Forest Inventory and Forest Management Plan. Although we believe this plan was prepared according to current best forestry practices, we were disturbed by the plan's emphasis on commercial timber production. It is not our goal to manage FLCA for resource extraction and we will not sell FLCA's timber resources.

Selective cutting of some forested areas and possibly planting native shrubs and trees to increase food supplies may be beneficial to wildlife diversity. Prescribed burning is another strategy that might be considered. At this point, BBC has no intent to perform any of these management techniques, and

construct any new trails unless there are major additions to the conservation area, and BBC will not maintain any trails added by any other entity. Only BBC will maintain those officially named trails on the current BBC map of the conservation area.

Conflicts between hunters and other users have not been a problem up to now, but may occur, especially because the boundaries of the area where hunting is allowed are only marked on the maps provided at the mapboards. Information will be posted at the kiosks alerting visitors that a portion of FLCA is open to hunting.

#### **D. Manage Recreational Use and Minimize Danger to Sensitive Sites.**

##### **Concern:**

An increased number of visitors to FLCA raises the question of construction of new trails or loop trails. However, increased trails and loops only fragment habitat further. If existing trails are not maintained, compaction and erosion can result, and hikers make new trails or widen old trails to avoid the wet areas. Horses, off road vehicles and mountain bikes may also cause significant trail damage and impact wildlife.

Uncontrolled dogs are a serious threat to wildlife, particularly to ground- and shrub-nesting birds and other animals. Many people have reported being threatened, frightened, or even bitten by unleashed dogs. Dogs are in danger of being injured by encounters with bear, moose, or other wildlife. Dog feces left on trails is another source of concern, particularly at the North Farms entrance along the handicapped access trail.

##### **Objective:**

**Trail maintenance, rather than trail construction, should be a priority.** Trails have been marked, but need to be blazed yearly. Increased maintenance may be required to cope with increased use by the public.

Increased interest in FLCA may also mean more misuse of the area by motorized vehicles such as ATVs, Off Road Vehicles, and dirt bikes (off-road motorcycles). These are illegal in FLCA. All trespassing violations by these vehicles will be reported to the police.

Horse traffic and mountain bicycles can damage trails through wet areas as well as other wet areas. Usage by these enthusiasts will be monitored and further use discouraged if environmental damage is observed.

Although Northampton City Ordinances require leashing of dogs and pick-up of dog droppings, these have often not been enforced. All violations will be reported to the City's animal control officer. BBC will continue to inform the public of the dangers unleashed pets pose to wildlife. We will also encourage owners to pick up after their pets and continue to provide Mutt-mitts at the main entrances for this purpose.

#### **E. Protect the Water Quality in Fitzgerald Lake, Broad Brook and Adjacent Wetlands and Promote Aquatic Diversity**

**Concern:**

The water quality of the lake, brook and adjacent wetlands is an obvious concern. Eutrophication of the lake could result from high nutrient levels and would result in overgrowth of duckweeds, algae, and other aquatic plants. There is potential for nonpoint-source pollution from a number of sources:

- 1) Stormwater from all surface roads, especially North Farms Road where it crosses Broad Brook.
- 2) Septic systems from the North Farms Road area.
- 3) Lawn and other residentially used chemicals from throughout the watershed.
- 4) Fertilizers from agricultural land along North Farms Road.
- 5) Fertilizers and pesticides used in the nearby cemeteries and recreational field.
- 6) Possible waste and hazardous dumping.
- 7) Road salt and heavy metals from road runoff.
- 8) Use of toxic materials such as cuprinol to preserve boardwalks

**Objective:****Protect the Integrity of Wetlands and Aquatic Habitat**

Use of toxic materials such as cuprinol to preserve boardwalks will not be allowed. Nontoxic alternatives are available.

We will continue to allow fishing and ice fishing and educate people who fish about litter and shoreline erosion. Fishing licenses are required, but enforcement is the responsibility of the Environmental Police.

In the past, the accumulation of water in the lake (shoreline where the farm) 7.e(a)

fully used by Wood Ducks and other cavity nesting species (e.g. Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)), four more were erected near the center of the lake. These boxes will be maintained and monitored by the state, but BBC will request that the monitoring records be supplied to us and try to ensure that the state is in fact maintaining the boxes in usable condition.

Water Quality tests will be performed at Fitzgerald Lake at least three times a year during spring, summer and fall. Tests will be conducted for phosphates, nitrates, dissolved oxygen, pH, hardness, alkalinity, carbon dioxide, chloride, and sulfate. An initial baseline study is currently being completed. In subsequent years, tests should be run near the same dates and times of day for meaningful comparisons. Water quality will be tested in vernal pools at least annually, particularly for salt in the pond near North Farms Road.

BBC will work to collect species and abundance data on benthic invertebrates as a baseline indicator of water quality. Organisms such as mussels and aquatic larvae are useful biological indicators of the health of an aquatic ecosystem.

BBC will educate residents within the watershed about nonpoint-source pollution through our newsletter and postings on the mapboard. Lawn chemicals, septic systems, and household toxic waste disposal all pose potential threats to water quality in FLCA.

Dumping of toxic materials is the most serious potential threat to water quality. An attempt will be made to identify any dumped trash and the information turned over to City police for enforcement of the litter laws.

Particularly sensitive sites at FLCA are wetlands, including the lake shore, that are especially susceptible to loss of vegetation by trampling and to disturbance of nesting birds; vernal pool basins, where breeding amphibians and invertebrates could be disturbed; and areas where rare species are present. To minimize disturbances, we will not construct any new trails for now. Labor and capital resources should be concentrated on existing trails. Even if these resources increase, we will only consider additional new trails if existing trails become overused, additional land acquisitions contain nonsensitive features that would enhance recreational use, or if an unofficial path becomes so well established that it is causing erosion or other damage.

If new trails are ever considered, the following principles will be observed.

- Trails will not be through wetlands, including vernal pools.
- No loop trail will be constructed around the south side of the lake. This is the one remaining section of lakeshore that is relatively undisturbed, and should be kept this way for the benefit of species that breed and forage here.
- No trails will be built near Great Blue Heron rookery at the northern end of the marsh. Great Blue Herons are especially sensitive to human disturbance. This site is not an active nesting site at present, but may again be used in the future.

## **F. Promote Ecological Research**

### **Concern:**

Lack of ecological research and inventory could lead to unwise or inappropriate management activities and decisions.

**Objective:**

**Conduct systematic inventories of wildlife and plant species throughout FLCA.** Inventories of mammals, breeding and visiting birds, amphibians and reptiles, fish, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and plants are necessary. It is important to collect these baseline data, determine if additional rare species are present, pinpoint the locations of individuals (plants) or populations (wildlife), and estimate population sizes. Inventories should be done or coordinated by individuals (interns or volunteers) who are knowledgeable about appropriate procedures.

**G. Protect and Expand FLCA**

**Concern:**

The importance of the surrounding area and natural features beyond the boundaries of the FLCA is described in detail in Appendix B, section VII. If current owners decide to sell their lands, there is danger that the surrounding areas will be developed in such a way as to make FLCA an island in a sea of housing developments.

**Objective:**

**Protection of undeveloped parcels surrounding FLCA, either by purchase or conservation restriction, should be a priority to ensure the maintenance of natural habitat beyond the boundaries of the current FLCA.** Large animals in particular depend on resources outside the current acreage. We will encourage the development of wildlife corridors throughout the area to facilitate the movements of these large animals.

BBC will continue to acquire and/or protect sensitive land abutting FLCA. BBC's Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee will continue to actively work with the City to identify and protect abutting land. Sites with particular ecological value are the peat wetland south of Fitzgerald Lake, the large vernal pool to the north of the lake, the large forested wetland between the northern section of FLCA and Coles Meadow Road, and the large vernal pool along the old telephone right of way north of FLCA. See Appendix B: Inventory of Resources, for a detailed description.

**Goal II. Increase Education and Outreach**

**Concern:**

Lack of education and outreach can result in the occurrence inappropriate and ecologically destructive activities at FLCA. In fact, FLCA is a unique resource that can serve the City well as an "outdoor classroom" for natural history instruction.

**Objectives:**

**1. Promote Interpretive Materials.** Map boards with maps/brochures are available at the North Farms Road and Boggy Meadow Road trailheads, and there is a map/brochure holder at the Marian Street trailhead. There are also plans for a map board to be installed at the Marian Street trailhead. A four-color version of map/brochure was prepared in 2002 and will be updated as new land is acquired for inclusion in the FLCA. In addition, a leaflet describing a number of points of interest along the Self-Guided Nature Trail constructed on the Fishing Place-Lake Trail loop (North Farms entrance) is available adjacent to the canoe launch. Concerns such as unleashed dogs, nonpoint-source pollution

or other conservation problems are communicated to FLCA users through posted notices or mailings.

**2. Promote and Maintain Nature Trails:** An update of the current Self-guided Nature Trail, which highlights some of the most interesting features of the FLCA, and of the accompanying leaflet, is planned. In addition, we will consider the installation of a second Self-Guided Nature Trail, encompassing portions of the Hillside Trail in collaboration with Ms. Emily Case and Prof. Lynn Margulis who have developed a prototype as part of the Environmental Evolution course program from the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts. An innovative aspect of this possible new Self-Guided Nature Trail will be a leaflet that poses a number of questions about notable features along the route, with answers provided at the conclusion.

**3. Promote “Walks and Talks”.** Throughout the year, a series of “Walks and Talks” is organized to acquaint the public with the natural history of the FLCA. These events, which have proved to be very popular, have included programs on 'Fall Birds', 'Winter Trees and Tracks' 'Vernal Pools', 'Avian Delights', 'Exploring Biodiversity', 'Aquatic Insects' and 'Dragonflies and Damselflies: Jewels of our Wetlands' over the past year. This series, along with the semiannual BBC Newsletter, is an important way to inform the public about recreational activities at the FLCA, to publicize fund drives for land acquisition, to involve the community in BBC management projects, to gain new members and to promote an interest in land preservation and conservation issues.

**4. Continue Collaboration with Organized Groups.** Groups such as the Moose Lodge, the Hampshire Educational Collaborative, Americorps and the Lathrop Community have provided invaluable assistance in numerous projects undertaken by the BBC in the FLCA. We intend to maintain these collaborations in the future as well as to encourage volunteer projects and educational programs to serve additional groups. BBC will participate in a survey of wildlife corridors in Northampton organized by the Wildlife Committee of the Northampton Conservation Commission. This project will help to establish the way in which wildlife uses the FLCA and how animals move from one area to another through a crescent of undeveloped land that surrounds the northern and western limits of the City. An effort will be made to have FLCA included in the new descriptive map of birding areas in the Massachusetts portion of the Connecticut River Birding Trail: Source to Sea under the auspices of the Berkshire Pioneer Resource Conservation and Development Council based in Amherst.

**5. Maintain the Wildlife Blind.** BBC will continue to maintain and keep in good repair the wildlife blind. A journal located in the wildlife blind will continue to provide visitors an opportunity to reflect on their experience as well as inform them about wildlife sightings in the adjacent forest and wetland.

**6. Publish the Newsletter.** The semiannual BBC Newsletter will continue to be published and provide BBC an opportunity to educate members and friends, solicit feedback, promote programs and solicit funds.

### **Goal III: Provide Access for Recreational Users That Are Compatible With the Above Goals**

#### **Concern:**

Certain recreational activities may become detrimental to wildlife or FLCA habitats.

## **Objectives:**

**1. Promote Allowed Activities on Less-Sensitive Sites.** Allowed activities, namely nature study, hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, wheelchair use, non-intrusive research and non-motorized boating, should be encouraged as long as users comply with FLCA rules and the activities do not become detrimental to wildlife or habitat. Promoting recreational use on less-sensitive sites will minimize pressure on sensitive sites while accommodating current and projected recreational use. We will continue to publicize and promote allowed activities on map boards and brochures.

**2. Promote Handicapped Access Where Available.** Handicapped access is available on a paved and boardwalked trail off of North Farms Road to the canoe launch. There is no paved access beyond the Bridge over the Brook (BOB) or on other trail areas.

**3. Discourage Types of Uses that are Destructive and Provide for Better Enforcement of Conservation Area Rules.** BBC will actively exclude ORVs, ATVs, dirt bikes, motorcycles, snowmobiles, and other unauthorized motorized vehicles from FLCA. ATVs in particular have the potential to cause major destruction of wetlands and non-forested areas. Such destruction has already occurred in the past in Cooke's Pasture. Snowmobiles are less destructive as long as there is adequate snow cover, but their noise still stresses wildlife as well as people. The use of gas-powered motorboats and watercraft has not been a problem at FLCA, but their prohibition should continue because of damage they can potentially cause by their wake and noise, and because of the potential for water pollution from gasoline engines.

BBC will maintain the integrity of the gate at Boggy Meadow Road, and the barricades to motor vehicles at other entrances. We will make sure signs stay in place indicating that motor vehicles are not allowed in FLCA.

Mountain bicycles and horses should be prohibited from certain trails. Mountain bikes cause some damage on all trails, especially when trails are muddy. Although it is probably unrealistic to prohibit them entirely from FLCA, they should be kept off trails that are frequently wet or prone to erosion, such as the Lake Trail beyond its junction with Hillside Trail or the Fishing Place Trail. Horses also cause damage to trails, particularly those through wet areas. We will monitor trails for signs of damage and, if necessary, post signs at both ends of wet trails stating that mountain bikes and horses are prohibited.

BBC strongly recommends that the city prohibit camping in FLCA except under special restrictive circumstances involving conservation work. We will continue the prohibition of campfires. Not only do the small fires pose the risk of larger forest fires, the campfire rings are long lasting and detract from the natural setting.

Dogs should be leashed. Dogs are notorious for harassing or killing wildlife. From an ecological standpoint, dogs should not be permitted in FLCA at all, but this is unrealistic. If dogs stay on trails, harassment will be minimal, and the many visitors who exercise their dogs at FLCA will continue to be able to do so. Signs have been posted at entrances advising dog owners that City Ordinances 5-18 and 5-22 require that owners clean up dog droppings and keep their dogs leashed. Mutt Mitt dispensers were placed at the three entrances in spring 2000 and were used by responsible dog owners. The plastic bags are biodegradable and can be discarded in household trash for eventual disposal in the landfill. As a result, littering has decreased. Nonetheless, dog wastes along the paved

trail for handicapped access (North Farms Road entrance) have continued to be a problem, especially in winter.

We will encourage users to carry out their litter. This message will be communicated on map boards and in our brochure. We will also incorporate litter pick-up into our trail and invasive species work days to clean up that which has not been properly disposed of.

**4. Promote and Maintain Hiking Trails.** A well-marked trail system encourages visitors to keep on designated trails. FLCA trails are color-coded by painted blazes, and signs at trail intersections correspond to names on the map/brochure. Trails are marked, cleared and repaired on workdays in the spring and fall with the participation of BBC members and community volunteers. Trail maintenance will be continued on a regular basis and the trails will be blazed annually. To encourage people to stay on marked trails, fallen trees and branches will be removed, wet areas will be provided with bog bridges or stepping stones, and new growth will be pruned back. The Canoe Launch Boardwalk should be kept clear for wheelchair access and people carrying canoes.

#### **Goal IV: Ensure a Steady Stream of Funding to Meet the Above Goals and Objectives**

##### **Concern:**

Broad Brook Coalition lacks a steady stream of funding to support all of its management activities. Membership dues provide enough for operating funds, but dues cannot cover the major projects. Although we apply for grants, as needed, they are not always awarded.

##### **Objective:**

**BBC needs to secure funding to help maintain and enhance management objectives.** Fundraising activities will continue to include the solicitation of paid BBC memberships as well as contributions to the General Fund and Land Acquisition Fund. We will also apply for specific governmental or foundation grants to support special projects or other specific needs.

## **APPENDIX A: CULTURAL AND LAND USE HISTORY**

The use and distribution of the lands purchased from the Nonotuck natives in 1654 were among the first concerns of the early Northampton settlers. Home lots were chosen freely to afford easy access to the principal attraction of the settlement: the fertile meadows along the Connecticut River. These were divided according to the size and wealth of the family. The uplands, including the Broad Brook watershed, apparently were undistributed and were known as “the commons,” whereby individuals had proprietary rights to use the land as they needed.

In 1684, thirty years after the founding, our town forebears began a wrangle over the distribution of the commons land that lasted half a century. The crisis resulted from a shortage of forest products (firewood, fence posts, boards (“sawen timber”), and turpentine) caused by demands of a rapidly increasing population and the deforestation for croplands. The unclaimed land was surveyed and divided into two major subdivisions, whereby Broad Brook became part of the northern boundary between the Inner Commons (used for crops and pasture) and the outlying upland Long Division (mostly woodlots). Over the years, as the fertility of the meadows deteriorated and a wheat rust reduced the grain yield, some upland holdings were awarded to Proprietors in lieu of lands in meadows, or to newcomers. The remaining undivided commons and the “pine lands” were either

pasture ground or restricted woodlots (after 1684 no trees smaller than nine inches could be felled).

Dissatisfaction with the original distribution of lands flared up from time to time, with the proprietors calling for legal help from Connecticut in 1715. The source of discontent was chiefly the inequality of land holdings and the fact that individual plots were scattered around town making for a more laborious and inefficient farming system. Gradually claims were consolidated and the town surrendered its rights to the lands to individual Proprietors.

By 1728, Colonel Timothy Dwight (whose grandson became the President of Yale University) had acquired most of the 350 acres of land north of Bridge Road that eventually became the Harold K. Fitzgerald farm. The dwellings were on Bridge Road and an 1831 map shows a saw mill on Broad Brook beyond Fortification Hill (now visible from Bridge Road by looking north across the Fitzgerald Fence field). The old Dwight farm remained in the family until 1846. The land continued to be farmed under different owners, and was known variously as the Herdsdale Farm and the Wallace Allen Farm. In 1935, Harold Fitzgerald acquired the farm; in 1965, preparatory to the development of a housing project, he constructed a dam on Broad Brook, creating the forty acre lake. Mr. Fitzgerald abandoned the project after Conservation Commission restrictions (related partly to stricter wetland regulations) proved too burdensome. He then bargain-sold the northerly 152 acres of his land, including the lake, to the City of Northampton in 1977.

The conservation area land known as Cooke's Pasture consists of parcels consolidated into a farm by Dr. Edward E. Denniston in 1859. He had attached to his medical practice a hydropathic institute on grounds now occupied by the Cooley Dickinson Hospital. To provide his patients with a good diet, he added to his kitchen garden the eight parcels of land he called "Broad Brook Pasture." Dr. Denniston cleared the land, built a causeway across Broad Brook and erected a barn to house chickens and turkeys. Part of the cellar wall of that barn still can be seen 450 feet north of the old bridge.

After 1885, the farm was owned and operated by Francis Cooke, and then his sons, Frederick and Howard—the latter lived at 920 Bridge Road, and called his farm, "Broad Brook Farm." When he sold it in 1927 to John Pollard, the deed map showed access to the property along Boggy Meadow Road, with a wooden bridge across Broad Brook, an old barn to the north of the bridge, and another road around Fortification Hill from Bridge Road to the 80-acre pasture. The Pollard dairy cows and barns were located on Jackson Street, and only beef cattle were kept out on Cooke's Pasture, with a cattle-holding pen just inside the gate on Boggy Meadow Road.

In the 1950s Cooke's Pasture is described as completely cleared, with Broad Brook having one main course with a few rills and wet fringes around the open field. At the edges were stands of white pine and red maple, and an abundance of wild flowers. After the late 1960's the cattle operations ceased and by 1984 the land was designated "forest land" by the Board of Assessors as a tax lien. Three years later the Pollard family sold the land to the Northampton Land Partnership who planned another housing development. However, in 1994 the Conservation Commission, with the help of funds raised by Broad Brook Coalition, purchased 147.5 acres of Cooke's Pasture for conservation land.

Through time, the land along Boggy Meadow Road has seen a variety of activities: during World War II, there were field maneuvers by National Guard units from Springfield on Cooke's Pasture and there are remains of old trenches; there was once a Boy Scout camping ground in a grassy area off Boggy Meadow Road. On the North Farms side, there was in the 1950's the Mondegas Park recreation hall established by the Corticelli Silk business for its workers on land near where a saw

mill had once operated.

Recently purchased additional parcels of old woodlots have brought the total acreage of the conservation area to almost 600 acres. Thus, Northampton's upland forest and marshland has been returned to a "commons" land as a natural preserve for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

## **APPENDIX B: INVENTORY OF RESOURCES (1996)**

[Note: No new inventory work has been done since 1996.]

The resources of FLCA are described below under the following headings:

- I. Fitzgerald Lake
- II. The Dam
- III. Wetlands
- IV. Forested Uplands
- V. Old Pasture
- VI. Access and Trails
- VII. State Listed Species
- VIII. Surrounding Area

I. **FITZGERALD LAKE** is a 40-acre mud-bottomed water body that is less than 10 feet deep for most of its area. The section near the outlet pipe may reach a depth of 15 feet. The lake is fed and drained by Broad Brook and other sources.

Cattails (*Typha latifolia*) dominate the inlet cove and several other coves. A variety of other aquatic plants ring the shoreline. There is currently at least one active Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) lodge on the lake. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) and River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*) have been sighted on the lake, and a variety of upland mammals visit the edge of the lake. Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) and Water Snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*) are two of the most common reptilian inhabitants of Fitzgerald Lake. Birds found at the lake are diverse, and include Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), many species of ducks, Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*) and Pumpkinseeds (*Lepomis gibbosus*) are some of the fish that are common in the lake.

The lake is used for fishing (from shore, non-motorized boats, and ice), canoes and other small boats, ice-skating and cross-country skiing, and general passive enjoyment.

II. **THE DAM** containing Fitzgerald Lake at its eastern end was built in the 1960's. Classified as a low hazard dam, it is an earth impoundment about one acre in size with a metal riser, pipe, and valve to control the water level which is kept constant. There is also a spillway on the north side. Annual brush cutting on the dam has been carried out to prevent tree roots from damaging the integrity of the structure. Periodically, members of the Dam Safety Office from the Department of Conservation and Recreation inspect the dam. The spillway was completely reconstructed in 1997.

III. A variety of **WETLANDS** are a prime resource of FLCA. Areas that are currently or periodically flooded by Beaver activity cover an extensive swath downstream of the lake. A large portion of this wetland is cattail marsh, with other large areas of Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*) along with Meadowsweet (*Spirea latifolia*) and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). Two pockets of Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*) have also become established along the edge of the cattail marsh. An area of

open water with the dead trunks of flooded trees makes up another portion of this wetland.

Near the northern end of FLCA where King's Brook joins Broad Brook from the west, is another wetland that was flooded by Beaver activity up until a few years ago. Currently a muddy flatland with little vegetation, it will become a vegetated wet meadow unless beaver return. A small Great Blue Heron rookery has existed at the eastern end of this section.

The area southwest of Fitzgerald Lake is a patchwork of old pasture, emergent wetland, and forested wetland. The emergent wetland, an acre or two in size, is predominantly Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis*) interspersed with Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), Willows (*Salix spp.*), Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium spp.*), and Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*). The forested wetland is dominated by Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa*), Poison Sumac (*Rhus vernix*), and Red Maple. Black Bear (*Ursus americana*) come to this area in early spring to feed on Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*).

In the vicinity of Boggy Meadow Road lie two separate small wetlands bordering seasonal streams. The Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylum scutatum*), a state-listed species of special concern, was found breeding here in sphagnum moss mounds.

Four vernal pools at FLCA have been certified through the Natural Heritage Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Certification provides a limited amount of protection to these important habitats. Three of the certified vernal pools lie in a cluster just north of the Fishing Place Trail, and the fourth lies southwest of the junction of the Lake Trail and the Narrows Trail. Breeding by Spotted Salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Jefferson/Blue Spotted Salamanders (*A. laterale*), Wood Frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), and Fairy Shrimp (order *Anostraca*) has been documented in these pools. Additional vernal pools in FLCA have yet to be certified: one along the now-closed entrance road from North Farms; a few in the Pine's Edge parcel; one about one hundred yards west of the old telephone line near the height of land; and possibly the pool in the center of Cooke's Pasture.

IV. The majority of land at FLCA is **FORESTED UPLANDS** that are all quite rocky. In the higher, drier sites the dominant species are mostly Red Oaks and White Oaks (*Quercus rubra*, *Q. alba*) and Hickories (*Carya spp.*), with an understory of Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and other shrubs. In moister sites maples (*Acer spp.*), Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) are common.

Most of this forest is between 65 and 125 years old, but there are two areas of notable exception. The parcel just north of the tributary of Broad Brook at the extreme northern end of FLCA was heavily logged in 1990. Sparse Red Maple and White Pine and a few white oaks remain in the canopy. In the undergrowth are sprouts of Black Birch (*Betula lenta*) and Mountain Laurel in a tangle of sun-loving, disturbance species including Fireweed (*Erechtites hieracifolia*) and Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*). Another section of forest was burned in the 1980s, and these 10+ acres are now resprouting with Mountain Laurel, Witch Hazel, oak, Red Maple, Highbush Blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), and Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*).

Although conservation areas in Northampton are generally closed to hunting, it is permitted in the Abuza section of FLCA. This parcel was acquired by the city under the condition that hunting be allowed there. As per state law, there still exists a 200-foot no-hunting zone along trails.

As is typical of oak forests in Massachusetts, there is evidence that Gypsy Moths (*Lymantria dispar*) are present in low numbers now. Periodic population explosions of this insect can be expected,

causing defoliation of trees for one or two years.

V. There are two areas of **OLD PASTURE** at FLCA. Abandoned as pasture about thirty years ago, woody vegetation has been returning to these areas. One of these, Cooke's Pasture, covers about 10 acres to the east of the lake. During the winter of 1996-97 cutting was begun to restore this to non-forested habitat. Some areas of 10–12" dbh white pines remain to be cut along the edges, but in most of Cooke's Pasture all woody vegetation has been cut with the exception of a few Apple (*Malus spp.*) and Crabapple (*Pyrus spp.*) trees, and other shrubs and trees that border wetlands.

South Pasture is the area of abandoned pasture that lies south of the lake. It was cleared in the past two to three years. The edges of South Pasture remain densely overgrown with Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), which could probably be eliminated and replaced with native food-producing shrubs. If the adjoining old pasture on the abutter's property to the south were included, the acreage of this section would be about doubled.

VI. **ACCESS** to a four mile network of maintained **TRAILS** is from three entrances: a city-maintained parking lot on North Farms Road, a right-of-way on Marian Street, and Boggy Meadow Road, which begins at the end of Cooke Avenue. The North Farms Road parking lot, with space for eight cars, including one space reserved for handicapped parking, is considered the primary entrance. A 1/4-mile paved, wheelchair-accessible path leads from the parking lot to a 500 foot boardwalk and canoe launch at the west end of the lake. With the exceptions of this path and Boggy Meadow Road, all of the trails have been designed to be used by pedestrians only. They are marked with paint blazes on trees. Many of the trails have wooden bog bridges and/or stepping-stones installed to prevent trampling of wet areas. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers, mountain bikers, and the occasional horseback riders, ATV user, and snowmobiler also use trails. Mountain bikes and horses have caused damage to some sections of trails, especially the Fitzgerald Lake Trail. Other than Boggy Meadow Road, motorized vehicles are illegal.

VII. There are some **STATE LISTED SPECIES** with current and/or historical records of occurrence at FLCA. There are historical records of two rare plants in Cooke's Pasture. Bush's Sedge (*Carex bushii*) is a plant of open, wet, meadows, and the Pendulous Bulrush (*Scirpus pendulous*) is usually found in calcareous fens, a wetland type that is not part of FLCA. Bruce Sorrie, a botanist with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program, found both plants in 1983. In 1994 another search was conducted for both species by the MNHP. This time, only the Pendulous Bulrush was found. A third search was conducted on June 26, 1996, by Dr. David Lovejoy, of the Department of Biology at Westfield State College, Leslie Duthie of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, and Bill Schafer and Monica Jakuc, BBC members. Neither plant was found on this search. It is possible that habitat changes in Cooke's Pasture created unfavorable conditions for these species.

[Note: In July of 1999, Savannah Cutter, Laurie Sanders, and Leslie Duthie rediscovered two clumps of Bush's Sedge in Cooke's Pasture. It appears that the clearing of Cooke's pasture allowed this species to reappear. Prior to the clearing, the plant was probably so shaded that it could not flower or fruit. This discovery underscores the importance of maintaining habitats.]

The MNHP has records of Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) at FLCA. This is ranked as a species of special concern. Also in the spring of 1996, BBC members Molly Hale and Sara Griesemer found breeding Four-toed Salamanders (*Hemidactylum scutatum*), another Species of Special Concern.

VIII. Ecologically, FLCA has numerous intricate ties to the **SURROUNDING AREA**. Surface and ground water flows across boundaries, and all the larger species of wildlife depend on resources

outside the conservation area. The value of the protected lands and waters within FLCA is affected by the relative uniqueness of these habitats elsewhere. The condition of THE SURROUNDING AREA has a fundamental influence on the quality of habitat and diversity of species that FLCA can support. FLCA is in the lightly developed northeast corner of Northampton. The predominantly oak forest type in FLCA continues several miles to the north, well into Hatfield, and also in a large area west of North Farms Road. This latter forested area is the source of Broad Brook, which flows across private and U. S. Veterans Administration Hospital land before crossing North Farms Road and entering Fitzgerald Lake. Except for the Pines Edge condominiums and the North Farms Road/Country Way neighborhood, there is currently an undeveloped buffer between the FLCA and developed sections of the city. However, about half of the watershed of Fitzgerald Lake and of the downstream reaches of

## **INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL (FROM BBC)**

Sources used in making these recommendations include articles from the Natural Areas Journal on guidelines for managing Multiflora Rose<sup>1,2</sup>, buckthorns<sup>3</sup>, and Bittersweet.<sup>4</sup> Reprints of these materials were provided by The Nature Conservancy as their recommendations for dealing with these species. John Scanlon, consulting forester and wildlife biologist for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, also provided recommendations similar to those in the above sources. Most sources recommend the use of glyphosate, a nonspecific herbicide, in the form of Roundup (non-wetland use) and Rodeo (wetland use).<sup>5</sup> This section has not been updated since the previous management plan.

### **1. Multiflora Rose**

Recommended method: Cut down clumps either by hand or with machinery such as the “hydro-axe” used by some tree service companies. The cutting should be done in July–September or in the dormant season (when the leaves of most deciduous plants have fallen and herbaceous plants have died). The dormant season is preferred for the application of Roundup because this season minimizes potential harm to non-target species. Immediately after cutting, a 10 to 20% solution of Roundup should be applied to the cut stems with either a sponge applicator such as a sponge “paint brush” or a low-pressure hand-held sprayer. This will kill the root system and prevent re-sprouting. New sprouts from seeds will still need to be controlled the following season, but these can probably be manageably cut by hand.

Alternative method: As an alternative to herbicide treatment, “three to six cuttings or mowings per growing season for more than one year can achieve high plant mortality. Such treatment may need to be repeated for two to four years. Repeated cutting is preferred over mowing, because repeated mowing will damage native vegetation as well as Multiflora Rose.”<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Exotic Buckthorns**

Recommended method: Cut stems or trunks and follow by an application of Roundup. Cutting should be done in the fall after other plants have lost their leaves but leaves are still on buckthorn. This timing minimizes impact on non-target species and also makes the buckthorns easier to locate. Immediately after cutting, a 50% solution of Roundup should be carefully applied to the cut surface with a sponge applicator or a hand sprayer as described for Multiflora Rose. This treatment will probably have to be repeated over several years as new sprouts grow from seeds. In wetland areas, Rodeo should be substituted for Roundup, again with a 50% solution.

Alternative method 1: Cut stems or trunks and clip re-sprouts as they occur. This will have to be done several times in a growing season, as new sprouts can develop quickly.

Alternative method 2: Burning is an effective method of controlling buckthorn. The earlier management plan did not recommend burning in the Fitzgerald Lake area for several reasons. First, this is not a fire-adapted ecological community. Second, much of the buckthorn is in areas that have developed into second-growth forest, which would be difficult to burn safely, and would be adversely affected by burning. Third, the proximity of the southern side of Fitzgerald Lake, where the most buckthorn exists, to a residential area, presents potential safety and public relations problems. However, controlled burning still remains a possible approach if it can be done in such a way as to avoid the problems above.

### **3. Purple Loosestrife**

Recommended method: Hand pulling of small infestations of one- to two-year-old plants before they set seed, and spot treatment of older plants with non-selective herbicide such as Rodeo for aquatic communities or Roundup on terrestrial sites. If herbicides are used, they are most effective when sprayed in the late summer or early fall, but repeated use is costly. Due to a strongly developed taproot, removal by digging is not recommended since the disturbance may encourage proliferation. Biological controls, such as a species of beetle that eats this plant, are also a possibility

### **4. Bittersweet**

Recommended method: Pull up by the roots. If this is impossible, cut stems and apply Roundup in a 100% solution to the cut stems using a sponge applicator or hand sprayer (see Multiflora Rose). This application should be done in spring after the last killing frost and before emergence of spring ephemeral plants, which may be killed by the poison.

### **5. Phragmites**

Recommended method: Hand cut the stems just after it goes to seed (August/September) when it's at its weakest. Carefully carry out all cuttings as the plants can easily re-establish themselves by cuttings or seeds. Just before frost, use a fine-nozzle squirt bottle with 10% by volume Rodeo to squirt some into the hollow stem. It will get carried down to the rhizome to kill the plant. Bacteria then degrade the Rodeo in a fairly short time so it is not residual, and it is very specific to the Phragmites.

### **6. Japanese Knotweed**

Recommended method: Treatment of Japanese Knotweed is a lower priority than the other invasive species because although this plant is extremely difficult to eradicate, it is not spreading very fast. However, treatment of this species could be easily included when other invasive species are being treated. Use treatment similar to that for Phragmites. The plants should be repeatedly cut during the growing season and then before frost, Roundup should be applied as described above.

Once an invasive has been removed from an area, reseeded with native species will help prevent the cleared area from merely growing back into another stand of invasive species or of opportunistic annual weeds. Reseeding with plants known to produce food for wildlife will also have a positive effect on species diversity.

### **References**

1. Szafoni, R. E. 1991. Vegetation management guideline: Multiflora rose: (*Rosa multiflora* Thunb.). *Natural Areas Journal* 11(4): 215-216.
2. Evans, J. E. 1983. A literature review of management practices for Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). *Natural Areas Journal* 3(1): 6-15.
3. Heidorn, R. 1991. Vegetation management guideline: exotic buckthorns: common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.), glossy buckthorn (*R. frangula* L.), and Dahurian buckthorn (*R. davurica* Pall.). *Natural Areas Journal* 11(4): 216-217.
4. Hutchison, M. 1992. Vegetation management guideline: round-leaved Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb.). *Natural Areas Journal* 12(3): 161.
5. Glyphosate is an organophosphate but unlike the other pesticides in this group, does not damage nerve function. Persistence in the environment: 1-18 months. Acute oral and dermal toxicity to mammals: moderate (1 oz. to 1 pint per 150 lb. human). Suspect carcinogen and suspect mutagen for

mammals. Low immediate toxicity to bees and birds. Low to medium toxicity to fish and crustaceans. Glyphosate is soluble in water, insoluble in oil, and non-volatile.

Source: Briggs, S. A. 1992. Basic Guide to Pesticides; their characteristics and hazards. Taylor and Francis, Washington, D.C.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF NESTING BOXES**

### **Wood Ducks:**

The Wood Duck nest box should be made from 1" pine and have the following dimensions: 10x10" for the bottom, 12x12" for the top, 12x16" for the sides (one of which opens by swinging on nails at the top), 10x16" for the front, and 10x20" for the back. The entrance hole should be 4" diameter, with the center placed 3-1/2" from the top of the front board. For ease of opening, the side that opens should be made 1/2" shorter than the other to leave a gap at the top for swinging, as well as for ventilation. The top should not be anchored into the side that opens. A predator guard should be made from two 4x9" and 2 6x9" boards and placed over the entrance hole.

The boxes should be cleaned out in late winter and filled with 4" of wood shavings (not saw dust) before the nesting season. At this time, the previous season's usage should be recorded.

Successful nests can be determined by the presence of egg membranes, which remain in the nest after hatching. The membranes should be counted to determine the number of fledglings.

Unsuccessful nests will have whole eggs or lack membranes.

### **Bluebirds:**

The box itself should be made from 1-inch thick rough pine. Measurements should be 5x5" for the bottom, 5x10" for the front (which opens by pivoting on nails), 5x15" for the back, and 7x10" for the top. The sides should be 7x12" at the back edge sloping to 7x10" at the front edge. The entrance hole should be an inch and a half diameter. A 3x3" predator guard with the same diameter opening should be placed over the entrance to discourage raccoons from reaching inside.

The boxes should be maintained by cleaning before and after the breeding season. The occupation and nesting success within each numbered box should be monitored and recorded.

### **Trail Improvements:**

1. Trails are named in accordance with the names on the attached map. All trails should be maintained to prevent erosion and to discourage side trails, using rocks and permanent materials whenever possible.
3. The Conservation Commission should work with the Broad Brook Coalition on a yearly basis to submit a Massachusetts Forests and Parks Americorps grant application for invasive species control in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

### **Improvements: Vegetative and Environmental**

1. Improve water quality of stormwater running off North Farms Road and draining into Broad Brook.

2. Cooke's Pasture and the dam were brush hogged in October of 2004 (work done by Richard Jaescke). The three-year plan is to mow South Pasture once every third year and to mow half of Cooke's Pasture in the first year, the other half of the pasture in the second year, and not to mow Cooke's Pasture in the third year.
3. Invasive species such as the oriental bittersweet vine, autumn olive, phragmites, buckthorn and multiflora rose should be eradicated in the South Pasture area.
4. Japanese knotweed and other non-native invasive species should be removed from the conservation area.
5. The White Oak Tree (~52" diameter) at the intersection of the Marion Street Trail and Boggy Meadow Road should be preserved. The Commission should encourage the survival and growth of this grand historic tree.
6. The Conservation Commission and Broad Brook Coalition have certified 3 vernal pools near Fitzgerald Lake. Additional work is needed to determine additional vernal pools and off-site habitat of Spotted turtles and other critical species.
7. The Conservation Commission should review the 1998 Forest Stewardship Management Plan for the Fitzgerald Lake area and consult with Broad Brook Coalition on which recommendations would be useful in managing the FLCA. The following are the general recommendations for all the stands (there are 13 stands total) identified in the stewardship plan:
  - A) Old growth and snags: Cavities in old trees provide nesting sites for a wide variety of birds and mammals. Cavities develop from wounds and dead branches in older trees. All cavity trees should be left standing. Snags or dead trees provide the same habitat, plus perches for raptors. Perches are particularly important along the edges of streams, marshes and lakes. In the absence of naturally occurring dead trees, girdling trees could create them.
  - B) Brush Piles and Logs: Brush piles provide cover for a variety of wildlife including mice, chipmunks, rabbits and bear (for winter hibernation). Dead logs are a source of food for insects, which are in turn eaten by birds and mammals; they also act as cover for snakes. Directional felling can create brush piles out of treetops. Some poor quality logs can be left in the woods. Burying brush at the log landings can create Snake hibernating mounds.
  - C) Shrub and Tree Planting: Food-producing shrubs and trees can be planted in existing open areas, or in areas that have been heavily thinned. In either case, planted shrubs and trees need to be heavily mulched and protected from deer browsing with plastic tree shelters. Catalogs from nurseries that specialize in such shrubs and trees should be consulted to determine which species are appropriate for particular soils and microclimates. A pilot plot of native shrubs was planted in Cooke's Pasture in the spring of 2005.
  - D) American Chestnut: This species was a very important part of upland forests until the blight killed them off in the 1920's. Hybrid Chinese-European chestnuts are currently available that are blight - resistant. The American Chestnut Foundation is working on an elaborate breeding project that will produce a tree that is entirely American Chestnut except for the blight - resistant gene from the

Chinese chestnut. These trees should be available for planting in a few years.

- E) Access Improvements: All roads accessing the property should be graded and have water diversion swales installed so that the property can be easily accessed in case of fire. Investments in access improvements should be protected by installation of gates and/or boulders to prevent access by four-wheel drive trucks, which could destroy the improvements.
  - F) Fire Suppression: This should only be necessary during very dry spring, summer or fall conditions when fire could destroy the organic soil layers and kill larger trees. With normally moist soil conditions in spring and fall, there is much less risk of damage to the organic soil layer and larger trees. As indicated in the descriptions and management practices for stands 3-om4a and 10-om4b, fire under such conditions can have beneficial effects for wildlife. The entire Forest Stewardship Plan is on file in the Office of Planning and Development.
8. The Mill River Stream Team has completed a draft Action Plan for the Mill River and its Tributaries (on file in the Planning Department). This plan mentions the Broad Brook confluence with Running Gutter to beaver ponds and states that controlling invasive species, protecting the habitat, and keeping any future trails away from development should be priorities
  9. A lake management plan is available for the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (on file in Planning Department). The plan includes sections on improving water quality where North Farms Road drains into Broad Brook.
  10. The Broad Brook Coalition Management Plan for Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area should continue to guide the Conservation Commission as they make land management decisions in this area (on file in the Planning Office –updated in 2005).

### **Improvements--Fitzgerald Lake Dam**

The Dam Safety Office of the DCR inspects the dam periodically.

The safety of a dam is highly dependent on the maintenance that is carried out and the periodic operation of any mechanical facilities that are integral to the dam and its outlet works.

The following are recommended operation and maintenance procedures that should be carried out as a minimum to insure the safety of the Fitzgerald Lake Dam and to prolong its useful life:

1. Annually, the low-level valve outlet should be operated by the Department of Public Works by opening the valve at least 12 turns (25%) to exercise the valve operating mechanism. After operation of the valve, full closure must be attained to prevent wear on the valve seat in the event of leakage. Full closure may require opening the valve to the 25% position and closing the valve a number of times to dislodge debris or silt from the seat.
2. The valve operator is located under the locked grating on the debris shield of the normal outlet. A typical water gate valve key with a two-inch square nut socket is required to open the low-level outlet valve.
3. A minimum of at least once a year after September 1st, Broad Brook Coalition should mow the vegetation on the dam upstream and downstream slopes and the emergency spillway to prevent trees

from rooting and to allow effective inspections to observe any changed conditions related to the dam. The mowing on the dam should extend to the water line on the upstream slope, to 20 feet from the toe of the downstream slope and at least 10 feet around the stilling basin at the discharge of the outlet pipe. The mowing at the emergency spillway should be carried out from the water line to the wooded area downstream and the slope at the dam to the base of the hill adjacent to the spillway.

4. Monthly, any debris that accumulates at the normal outlet debris shield should be removed and disposed of off site.
5. No motor vehicle should be allowed on the crest of the dam or on any slopes. In the event there are any ruts from foot traffic or vandals, ruts on the slopes should be filled with gravel and the crown in the road restored to allow adequate surface drainage.
6. The water level at the stilling basin should not be allowed to rise such that it will submerge the bottom of the outlet pipe more than a few inches. Obstructions, either man-made or by animals, causing the stream to back up, submerging the outlet pipe should not be allowed.
7. Annually, the dam should be inspected to observe any changed conditions or conditions that may be of concern. Written documentation and photographs of each inspection should be maintained in the City's files. In the event changed conditions are observed, City officials should notify Tighe & Bond, Inc. at 35 Southamptton Road, Westfield, Massachusetts (1-413-572-3235) to discuss the observations and if necessary schedule a site visit.
8. During major storm events the designated operator of the dam should visit the dam to observe the water levels and insure that the debris does not clog the normal outlet facility. If necessary, debris should be removed from the outlet area and if conditions are observed concerning the safety of the dam, Tighe & Bond should be notified to make an evaluation.
9. Maintain area immediately downstream of dam to prevent new hardwoods that may support recolonization of beavers in this area.

#### **Improvements--Access Roads and Parking**

Because of the need to provide easy access for those carrying boats, for visitors with disabilities, and for road access to the dam, Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area is the only conservation area with a parking lot.

The key to the Boggy Meadow Road gate is the same key used for the bike path gates located in the City. A sign has been placed at the entrance to Boggy Meadow Road, which states, "No Unauthorized Vehicles are Allowed by Order of the City of Northampton and the Northampton Conservation Commission." A replacement sign is stored at the DPW in the event that this one should get vandalized or removed.

#### **Maintenance:**

1. Cutting of the brush on the dam after September 1st by contractor.
2. Annual cutting and periodic trail maintenance and marking should be done by the BBC and other volunteers. (This is being done annually)
3. The parking lot should be regraded as needed.

Acquisitions: Land acquisitions are particularly important at Fitzgerald Lake to protect the wildlife that

uses the lake and Broad Brook, to improve the parcel's ability to serve its role as the second most heavily used city conservation area (after Elwell Island), and to provide a buffer to urban development. The Commission should acquire:

1. The Fitzgerald property to the south, especially those sections of the property within the Broad Brook watershed and including wetlands and a small peat pocket.
4. Area along Broad Brook just north of Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area<sup>4</sup>. Property on Morningside Drive should be acquired to allow access to and through the property, without needing to build a boardwalk across the large wetland fronting on North Farms Road. Private land along Boggy Meadow Road and along Middle Path Road.

## **NORTHAMPTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

### **Description of the Northampton Recreation Department**

The Northampton Recreation Department, with the establishment of the Recreation Commission by the Northampton City Charter in 1944, has provided for the leisure and recreational needs of Northampton's citizenry for over five decades. The city charter empowers the commission to "provide, conduct and supervise playgrounds, play fields, indoor recreation centers and other recreation areas and facilities owned or controlled by the city. It shall have the power to conduct any form of recreational activity that will employ the leisure time of the people in a constructive and wholesome manner. It may conduct such activities on properties under its control, on public properties with the consent of authorities thereof and on private properties with the consent of the owners (Rev. Ords. 1959, Ch. 46, Sec. 3.)"

### **Mission**

The mission of the Northampton Recreation Commission is to promote the health and general wellbeing of the individual and the community by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities to meet the leisure needs of the citizens of Northampton.

The Recreation Department carries out this mission through the development and management of a diversified program of recreational activities designed to serve the recreational needs and interests of the citizenry. The Department is responsible for the enhancement and management of recreational facilities owned by the city. The Department will also collaborate with other organizations both public and private for the purpose of advancing recreational opportunities and shall generate income, (through fees and fundraising events) to assist in the funding of the Department's operations through a set contribution to the City's General Fund.

### **The Northampton Recreation Department**

The Northampton Recreation Department is located on the campus of Smith vocational High School on

Locust Street. The Recreation Department office building consists of private offices, storage area and a conference room.

The Department, at present, employs a full-time Director, Assistant Director, Aquatics Director and two Recreation Supervisors. Support staff also includes a full-time bookkeeper and a clerk/typist. Approximately, one hundred seasonal staff are also employed.

The Department has an annual budget of \$161,000 and is responsible for underwriting its operations in part through a system of fees and charges for service. In FY2005 most of the operational costs of the department were moved to the revolving funds. An annual contribution to the City's General Fund is made. The Department is also required to make an annual contribution to the School Department out of the fees and charges generated through the Aquatics and Family Center at the JFK Middle School.

The Northampton Recreation Department provides a wide variety of recreational services and programs that may be categorized as athletics, education and wellness, leisure services and community service. The Department is also actively engaged in providing leadership and direction in the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.

The Department is committed to safe high quality programming that enhances the well-being and quality of life of the individual and the community. The Recreation Department has adopted a customer service model in which all stakeholders are valued and are encouraged to realize the benefits of recreation participation.

## **GOALS AND INITIATIVES**

The Department has set forth the following planning initiatives and goals for operations in seven target areas. The target areas include finance, facilities, technology, programming, community relations, human resources and the J.F.K. Aquatics and Family Center.

## **FINANCE**

### **1. Development of New Revenue Streams**

Identify and initiate new programs that will both meet the needs and interests of constituents and will generate new funding for the Department. Possibilities include the organization of age group in-line hockey leagues, over 55 programs, and adult education opportunities at the Aquatic and Family Center.

Identify and develop more fund raising strategies and activities in support of the Department's mission.

### **2. Review Fees and Charges Schedule**

Continue to annually examine program, league and activity fee schedule. Through break-even analysis and benchmarking against other local recreation providers, establish appropriate fees in concert with the Department's mission. Continue to closely monitor all department fees to ensure

consistency from program to program based on hours of programs, length of program and services offered. Presented proposals for fee adjustment to the Recreation Commission as appropriate.

**3. DPW Maintenance Budget - Secure Additional Funding to Support Maintenance of City Recreational Facilities**

Secure funding so the field use fee can be eliminated in the future. Coordinate budget requests with the DPW Recreation Division to reflect actual maintenance needs at the City's recreation fields. Assist in the presentation of these needs to the Mayor and City Council during the budget process. Develop strategies between the two departments to create a more effective lobbying effort for financial support for maintenance of City recreational facilities.

**4. On-site Cash Control**

Continue to work with the city's finance team to streamline City cash deposit process.

The use of credit cards to pay for programs has increased dramatically over the years and has proven to be beneficial to the Department.

**5. Secure Necessary Funding for Capital Projects**

Provide pertinent financial and planning information about capital improvement projects to City decision-makers. Work with City's Capital Improvements Committee to secure funding for approved capital projects.

**6. Funding for Human Resource Initiatives**

Work with Commission to develop strategies to secure necessary funding for human resource initiatives. Develop funding for professional staff development/advancement.

**FACILITIES**

**1. Improved Coordination with City DPW to Improve Maintenance Service and Delivery**

The current agreement with the DPW Parks and Cemetery Division has been effective. Develop policies, procedures and formal communication system with City volunteer league managers to improve reporting of maintenance problems.

**2. Usage of Parcel C at the former State Hospital**

Work with the DPW to open the fields in the Fall of 2005. Closely monitor use to ensure the field stays in good condition.

**3. New Facilities**

Continue to work with the City's Office of Planning and Development to identify sites for new recreation facilities in areas that currently do not have appropriate facilities to serve the neighborhood population.

**4. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance**

Continue to work with neighborhood groups on site improvements to address accessibility issues at playgrounds and fields throughout the City.

**5. Renovation of Veterans' Field**

Continue to work with the DPW to begin the renovation of the baseball and soccer fields, and add a skate park and an inline skate rink. Work to offer skate park and inline skating programs when the Veterans' Field Project is completed.

**6. Restroom Facilities**

Improve and construct restroom facilities at all City recreation areas and school athletic fields.

**7. Development of New Athletic Facilities**

Work with the City's Office of Planning and Development on the continuation of the bikeway and walkway system throughout the City.

Develop additional community garden space.

**8. Coordination of City Amenities**

Identify and work with the various City Departments and Boards (i.e. Planning and Development, Conservation Committee, etc.) to identify and list all City offerings such as fields, playgrounds, hiking & bike trails, etc. The public will then have access to a comprehensive list all in one place.

**TECHNOLOGY**

**1. Web-site Development**

Work to update the new City website to better serve the customers.

**2. Communication**

Work to provide an easier way to communicate cancellations to the public. The current answering machine gets too busy. Research and initiate a web based system.

**3. On-site Registration**

Evaluate benefits of utilizing participant self-registration through either home computer access or Department lobby kiosk.

**4. Aquatics and Family Center**

Expand computer use and purchase equipment to support off-site registration and information management at the Recreation Department office site at the AFC.

## **PROGRAMMING**

### **1. Continuous Improvement of Programs**

Continue to utilize program evaluation models. Engage in on-going discussions with participants and develop feedback mechanisms.

Annually evaluate fee structure, continue to create scholarship and discount programs to enhance participation.

Continue to identify national and local recreation interests and trends and provide programming and services in support of community interest.

### **2. Joint Alliances and Cooperative Programming Efforts**

Explore cooperative efforts with Council on Aging for the purpose of developing programming for the senior population and inter-generational programming.

Seek out recreational partnerships in support of Department's strategic planning initiatives.

### **3. Continuing Education for Adults**

Work with the School Department and other agencies on the development of a continuing adult education program at the AFC (and potentially, other sites). Such a program may include computer training, art, woodworking, cooking, etc.

### **4. Special Event Programming**

Expand Department's special event programming during holiday and school vacation periods.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **1. Relationships with Private Leagues**

Coordinate annual meeting with all City private volunteer recreation groups and leagues with the goal of discussing facility maintenance issues and needs for future improvements and/or development of new facilities.

### **2. Recreation Benefits Program**

Continue to utilize the National Park and Recreation public relations campaign to education program participants as well as all City residents and employees on the endless benefits of active participation in recreational activities. Work to implement the national "Step Up to Health" initiative with other City departments and groups.

### **3. Media Relations**

Develop new strategies to gain exposure for the Department's efforts through all available media sources.

**4. Youth Sports**

Work with the Pioneer Valley Recreation and Park Association to develop promotional materials and strategies to educate parents about the virtues of recreational vs. competitive activities.

**5. Joint Alliances and Partnerships**

Continue to create partnerships and alliances to generate support for expanded facility use, shared programming efforts, funding opportunities and specialized programming for certain age and/or socio-economic groups and/or special interest groups.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**1. Staff Job Descriptions**

Continue to monitor the Department's program offerings as they relate to the direct program responsibilities and make changes where applicable.

**2. CORI and SORI**

Continue to do background checks for department personnel and volunteers. Work with City's Human Resources Department to develop hiring/firing policies to address issues related to background checks.

**3. Professional Development**

Work with the staff on researching educational and professional seminar/conference opportunities throughout New England and the U.S.

**4. Personnel Policy Manual**

Review the Personnel Policy Manual on an annual basis to ensure that it addresses all issues related to employment of full-time, part-time and seasonal employees.

Develop a process for the distribution of this Manual to all employees as part of orientation and/or on-going employee training.

**AQUATIC AND FAMILY CENTER**

**1. Facility Use**

Continue to meet with the joint committee (School Committee/Recreation Commission) to maintain positive communication with the JFK Administration and School Committee. Develop strategies to effectively lobby these groups for support of recreational programming and facility use. Work with these groups to develop future plans and programs to meet community recreational needs.

**2. AFC Membership**

Lobby effectively on behalf of AFC members and represent their concerns and issues to City

administration.

#### Expanded Use of Facilities

Continue to work with the Recreation Commission, the JFK School Administration on the possible use of additional school facilities to support an adult education format for activities at the AFC. These new areas could encompass computer, art, cooking, and woodworking classes that would be supervised by private contractors. These activities would assist the Department greatly in generating revenue to offset the operational costs of the building.

# SECTION 11

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### **The Northampton Wildlife Committee:**

- That the City preserves contiguous land corridors for wildlife
- That the City improves human quality of life through air/water quality, walkways and bicycle trails
- That the City reinstates funding for open space acquisition
- That the City undertakes a review and revision of current “flag lot” zoning
- That the City implements a moratorium or other building cap on residential construction
- That the City ensures full public disclosure and review of the statutory “right of first refusal” to purchase and/or assign purchase rights to Tax Chapter 61 lands
- That the City endorses adoption of the Community Preservation Act
- That the City and its relevant boards reduce or eliminate the granting of waivers and special permits to projects that don’t meet existing regulations
- That the City and its relevant boards review current requirements for subdivision road connections that create new “ANR” development
- That the City utilizes, among its other tools, its existing Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) bylaw to shift residential development away from outlying areas and balance it against other development (such as the “Village at Hospital Hill”)

#### **The Chairman of the Community Preservation Act:**

- That the City commits to securing the widest range of funds available for the purpose of protecting open space, including state-matched funds through the Community Preservation Act.

#### **The Tree Stewards of Northampton:**

- That the City encourages stronger protection of open space and land within the City. In particular, open space translates to preservation of trees, which are important to our air, water, animals, etc.
- That the City identifies and implement an open space strategy that protects corridors of contiguous tree and forest canopy throughout the City

- That the City reinstates an annual budget line item for the purchase, planting and maintenance of City trees
- That the City undertakes an initiative to further protect forested watershed lands

### **Comments from the public**

That the City places less emphasis on development and more on preservation of open space

That the City focuses on development on existing disturbed areas and not new land that could endanger wildlife, wetlands, vernal pools, etc.

That the City conducts water supply calculations and predict how new development will affect the sustainability of the current supply

That the City publishes actions required to meet current open space and recreation needs

That the City allocates funds for open space acquisition

That the City publishes a recreation map on the website

That the City maintains green pockets in the downtown/urban areas and identify new potential urban greenspaces

That the City creates a collaborative approach to working with developers

That the City does not convert any parks or open space area to other uses

That the City develops of a list of areas of urban greenspace areas

That the City purchases more open space and green corridors

That the City educates landowners on land protection options

That the City helps create neighborhood organizations

That the City produces a framework for future acquisitions and funding sources

That the City explores a wide range of funding options for open space

That the City maintains existing open space and recreational areas

That the City investigates potential acquisitions of Veteran's hospital/Smith Vocational land

That the City creates a plan to curb development in the Park Hill Road area

That the City produces more traffic volume studies

### **Public Comments on types of maps that would be beneficial to the Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Bird Flyways/breeding areas

Northampton Tree cover

Build out analysis

Labeled conservation parcels

Wildlife committee maps

Trail and bike connections  
 Protected Open Space  
 Regional Open Space  
 Vernal Pools/Habitat NHESP

## SECTION 12 APPENDIX

### CONSERVATION AREAS ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ITEMS AND CHECK LIST

	Activities	05	06	07	08	09	2010
Brookwood Marsh	Renew the beaver dam maintenance contract <b>annually on July 9th.</b> Periodically inspect beaver dam pipes.						
Barrett Street Marsh	One-two coats of preservative (two to three gallons/coat) on boardwalk and support beams, annually.						
Fitzgerald Lake	Two coats of preservative on boardwalk (done by BBC), annually.						
	Maintain fence for Coles Meadow Road, annually.						
	Reconfirm license agreement w/ owners of 105 Marion Street for trail access						
	Exercise low-level valve outlet on the dam, annually.						
	Inspect dam to observe any changed conditions, annually. Inspect two beaver dam deceiver pipes.						
Fitzgerald Lake Dam, South Pasture and Cookes Pasture	Soil Amendment						
	Delayed Mowing (after August 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Twice annually.						
	Award a new 5-year farming lease on <b>December 31, 2006</b>						

James H. Elwell	Award a new 3-year farming lease on <b>December 31, 2006.</b> (or change to a five year lease)						
Mineral Hills	Inspect dam at Howard's Ice Pond (photograph), annually. Maintain Roberts Hill overlook vista every two years.						
Roberts Hill	If possible controlled burn - every two years.						
State Hospital Drumlin	Clear brush from top of drumlin (after August 1 <sup>st</sup> )						
	Inspect property boundaries, annually.						
All Conservation Areas	Inspect signs, annually.						

**NORTHAMPTON OPEN SPACE**

Type of Open Space	Areas 2000	Acres 2000	Areas 2005	Acres 2005
CHAPTER 61	28	951.81	16	585.4
CHAPTER 61A	171	2085.9	129	1672.4
CHAPTER 61B	55	1680.11	44	1172.6
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS	9	237.87	8	198.5
CONSERVATION AREAS	29	944.84	43	1528.2
CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	8	82.56	29	198.6
CITY PARKS	5	47.15	7	158.4
STATE PROTECTED BY DAR, DCR & DFW	14	363.6	14	373.3
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY	9	491.37	13	592.2
NORTHAMPTON WATER SUPPLY	N/A	N/A	11	515.8
RECREATION	N/A	N/A	14	67.7
SCHOOL	N/A	N/A	11	357.2

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED OPEN SPACE**

Type of Open Space	Acres 2005
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS	466.3
CONSERVATION AREAS	1528.2
CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	198.6
CITY PARKS	158.4
STATE PROTECTED BY DAR, DCR & DFW	373.3
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY	592.2
NORTHAMPTON WATER SUPPLY	515.8
RECREATION	67.7
<b>TOTAL PROTECTED OPEN SPACE</b>	<b>3632.7</b>

\*267.8 acres from the Northampton State Hospital Agricultural Preservation Restriction is used in both the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions category and the State Protected by DAR, DCR & DFW category

**NORTHAMPTON LAND USE**

<u>Land Use--1985</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Land Use--1999</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forest Land (other than protected land)	12,306	Forest Land (other than protected land)	11,607
Agricultural Land (other than protected land)	3,385	Agricultural Land (other than protected land)	3,176
Developed Land	1,264	Developed Land	1,177
Residential Land	3,414	Residential Land	4,236
Water/Recreational/Openland	2,478	Water/Recreational/Openland	2,652
Total	22,847	Total	22,848

\* MassGIS Data

**The following plans are attached by reference:**

“Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, City of Northampton,” 1992  
“Northampton State Hospital Plan, An Element of the Northampton General Plan,” Northampton Planning Board, 1993  
“Rediscovering Northampton, The Natural History of City-Owned Conservation Areas,” 1993  
“Section 504 Handicap Accessibility Self Evaluation, City of Northampton, Park, Recreation and Conservation Facilities,” 2000, 2005  
“Northampton Vision 2020 Vision and Consistency Analysis, A Blueprint for the Northampton Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan,” 1999