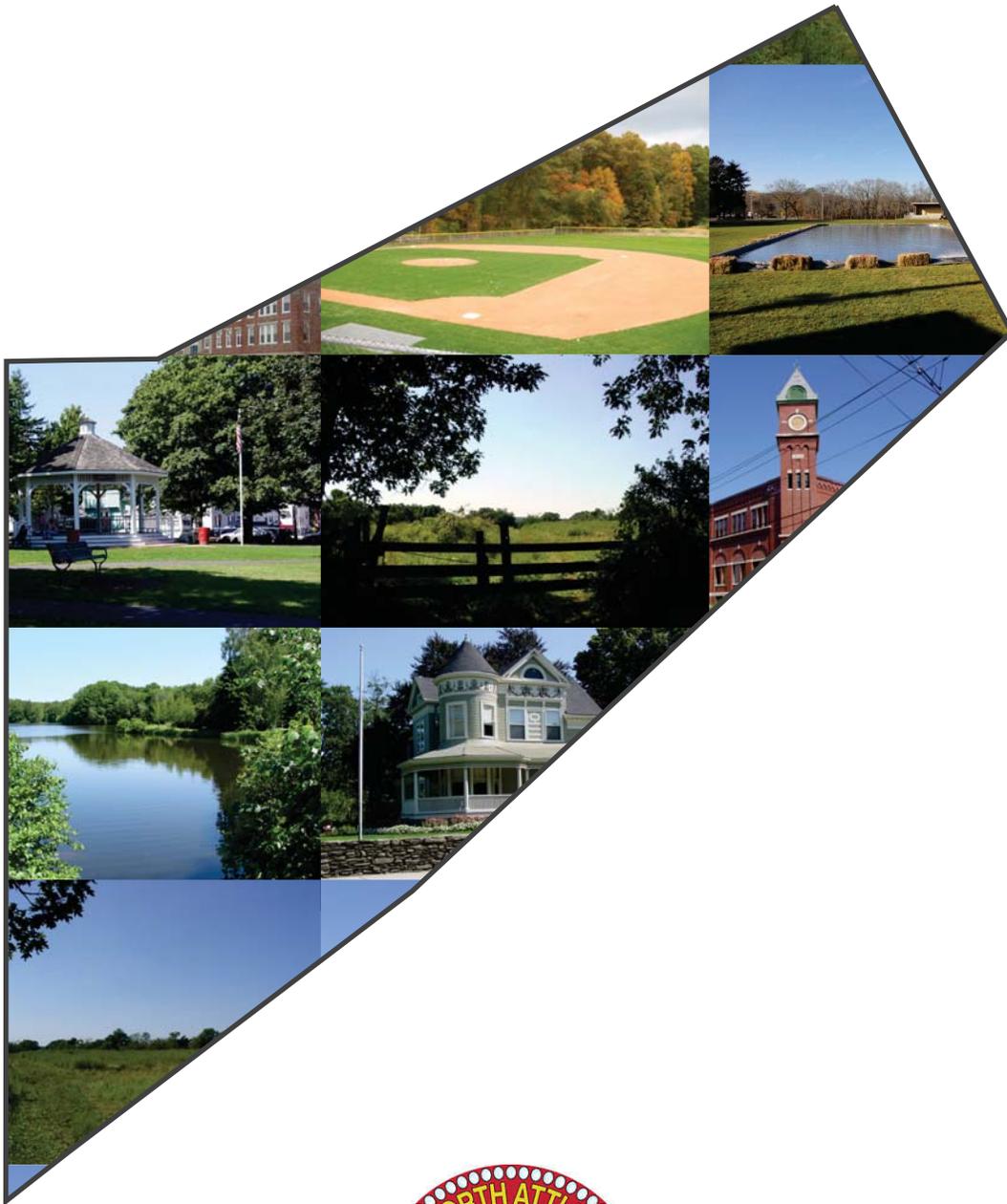


TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2013 - 2020



NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH
CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
2013

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I. PLAN SUMMARY

The 2013 Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan update reflects the physical, social and economic changes that have occurred during the past decade, not only in North Attleborough, but in Massachusetts as well. Once again, it was the desire of the Open Space Committee to create a plan with utility, but more focused and prioritized on real needs while remaining conscious of the resources available to help meet the town's goals and objectives. This plan was updated in a manner in which the town can most efficiently continue to integrate its conservation, recreation and open space needs into a responsible growth management strategy.

The work, analysis, and vision that has helped to produce this plan has resulted in an action plan which, in accordance with the public survey results and public meeting input, addresses such items as: the need to continue to look at North Attleborough in a regional context (working with our neighbors to achieve mutually beneficial resource protection goals); the need to prioritize areas of town for conservation, preservation (both natural and historical resources), recreation and development needs; the need to plan for the responsible management of our watersheds and water resources (this was the number one item in both survey and public meeting response, and is a major quality of life issue in a growing community); the need to integrate natural resource management and growth management planning as standard practice (look at our policies, bylaws, management practices and allocation of town resources); seek out and develop partnerships with local, state, regional and federal agencies and non-profits in order to maximize the town's ability to realize its conservation, recreation, and open space goals; the need to continue to improve the management of our community assets in order to work more efficiently with the public to implement the goals and objectives of public plans, and; consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in order to help preserve open space, enhance recreational opportunities, document and preserve the historic assets of the town, and help to meet the housing needs of a growing population.

Since the completion of the previous Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan, the town has addressed some of the goals laid out in that Plan that are so important to current and future planning efforts, including:

- ✓ The town, in cooperation with the Town of Plainville and the City of Attleboro, has developed a flood response plan for the Ten Mile River and tributary system;
- ✓ The Town hired a full-time Conservation Agent;
- ✓ The town has created a Stormwater Committee to deal with urgent stormwater management issues throughout town, particularly in the Route 1, Ten Mile River area;
- ✓ The town has developed its Geographic Information System (GIS);
- ✓ The Historical Commission worked with the Public Works Department to design, fabricate and install historic signs to replace some of the deteriorated or missing signs at significant sights in town. Additional signs were installed to mark the boundaries of the Old Town Historic District on Old Post Road and the Coddling Farm on High Street;

- ✓ During the fall of 2011, the Conservation Commission worked with a local Boy Scout Troop to develop and permit a trail system for the Chorney Property;
- ✓ The town acquired the Barrows Building (clocktower), retaining the exterior architectural integrity while affecting the reuse as the municipal police headquarters;
- ✓ The Conservation Commission acquired the Graham property;
- ✓ Park & Recreation is developing multi-purpose fields on the Lestage property;
- ✓ The Selectmen appointed a Ten Mile River Study Committee to address flood related issues in the Ten Mile River Watershed. The town hired Beta Engineering to work with this committee;
- ✓ The town allocated \$42, 000 from the CIP to make facilities at Barbara Road Beach and Boat Ramp more user friendly (grading, parking), ADA compliant, and less susceptible to erosion.

Finally, the 2013 Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan was created not only as a “stand alone” document, but with the town’s upcoming Master Plan update in mind. The Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan is one of the key elements of a comprehensive Master Plan, and as such, functions in a complementary fashion in several areas of community planning. The Open Space Plan can help to promote the community character and quality of life elements of the town so necessary to the “planning for growth” measures prescribed in the Master Plan.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this open space plan is to provide a blueprint for local, state and federal officials, organizations, agencies and private citizens to address the conservation and recreation needs of the Town of North Attleborough over the next seven years. The Open Space Committee also hopes that in reading this plan, the public will become acquainted, or reacquainted, with the unique natural features and resources that are so important a part of North Attleborough.

B. THE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In the spring of 2011, the North Attleborough Conservation Commission and the Planning Department began meeting to address the rewriting of the 2000 Open Space Plan. In the winter of 2012, the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) was asked to provide technical assistance to the Open Space Committee in order to complete an update of the 2000 plan.

SRPEDD secured funding to provide technical assistance to the Open Space Committee. During this time, with input from the Open Space Committee, SRPEDD drafted an open space survey. The Open Space Survey was made available to the public online through Survey Monkey, with a link provided on the town's website as well as the Park & Recreation Commission's website. The Conservation Commission also did a random mailing of 450 surveys (50 per each of the nine town Precincts), as well as making hard copy surveys available at Town Hall. The survey's availability was advertised on local cable, in the local press, and at open/televised meetings of the Conservation Commission.

C. ENHANCED OUTREACH

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) delegates from each of the town's nine Precincts were asked to advertise the survey at regularly scheduled Precinct meetings. RTM delegates were also asked to encourage people of all ages to participate in the planning process, including Council on Aging representatives. The Open Space Committee determined that the Town Hall would provide the best pick-up and drop-off point for paper copies of the survey. This decision was made in consideration of the needs of the Environmental Justice (EJ), elderly, and ADA populations. The town's EJ population is located largely in the downtown area, and in close proximity to the Town Hall. The Town Hall location also provided public access by sidewalk, and public transportation (including all day service from the Council on Aging and the Community Shelter), and is completely ADA compatible.

The choice of venue for the final public planning meetings, the North Attleborough Police Building, is located in the immediate vicinity of the Town Hall. The Police Building is a state-of-the-art facility with a large community meeting room and addressed all of the location, transportation, and accessibility concerns discussed above.

The information obtained in the 287 total responses was used as one of the primary means of gauging the public's needs and concerns. In addition to the surveys, all Open Space planning meetings were posted and open to the public. The Open Space Committee also held issue-

specific meetings in the spring and summer of 2012 for the purpose of formulating the “Goals and Objectives” and “Action Plan” sections of the draft open space plan. A final public meeting to review the plan and prioritize the “Action Plan” was held in December of 2012.

III. COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

North Attleborough is situated in southeastern Massachusetts and is abutted by Mansfield, Foxboro, Attleboro, Plainville and Cumberland, RI (Figure 1). Located in Bristol County, North Attleborough is part of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). SRPEDD is the regional planning agency that provides the Town with planning support as well as 27 other communities in the area. Due to its location, the town has several inter-municipal and regional relationships. The Town is part of the Providence-Pawtucket-Warwick Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) which is defined as “an area with a substantial population center, and adjacent area having a high degree of economic homogeneity, where economic integration is usually measured by commuting patterns. To assist in commuting efforts, the Town utilizes the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) which has stops throughout the town and neighboring areas. The bus also stops at both commuter rails in Attleboro and South Attleboro providing transport to Boston and Providence. Conveniently, routes 95, 495 and 295 are accessible within the North Attleborough. By car, Boston is approximately 45 minutes and Providence is roughly 15 minutes away.

The regional location of North Attleborough attracts people and is a contributing factor to the economic growth of the Town. As the implementation of the South Coast Rail which will add commuter stops in Fall River and New Bedford, the Town may see an influx in residential growth. At the current time, most of the jobs created in the Town are filled by employees outside of North Attleborough. Hopefully, with the installation of more transit opportunities, North Attleborough will become closer to being self-sustaining by its residents working and living in the same Town.

B. HISTORY

The history of the Town of North Attleborough begins with the settlement of the Town of Attleboro, which consisted of the present day North Attleborough and City of Attleboro.

In 1661, Captain Thomas Willett purchased the territory which was to become the Town of Attleboro from the Indian leader Wamsutta. In 1666, the area was settled and called the Town Rehoboth Purchase. Three years later, the area was renamed Attleboro, after a town in England. The Town of Attleboro was incorporated in 1694.

Most of the early settlers of the town gathered in the vicinity of what is known as Oldtown, along Old Post Road, which was then known as Old Bay Path. This area was located just to the north of the present Attleboro city line. The First Congregational Church was built in this area in 1710, and the town grew around it. Oldtown remained the center of Attleboro throughout the 18th century, as the town’s settlers began to spread out into other areas and the community began to assume its various village centers. Land was cleared and farms were established. As early as 1677, a corn mill was established in Attleboro Falls. Agriculture occupied at least 50 percent of the town’s land areas in the early 1800’s.

Industry gradually began to move into town. In the 18th century iron works were established in the region. It was in 1780 that the person known to history only as “the Frenchman” established the first jewelry manufacturing business in America in what is now North Attleborough, near the present day junction of Chestnut and South Washington Streets. To this day the Attleboros are known for their prominence in jewelry manufacturing. Other industries established in the 18th and 19th centuries included cotton mills, button manufacturing and leather goods. Manufacturing expansion was the primary cause of North Attleborough’s prosperity and growth in the period of the Civil War and following years. New development clustered around streams and ponds, where water power and supply were vital to early industry. Numerous factory buildings and Victorian homes from this period are concentrated in the Downtown area and Attleboro Falls. Railroads passed near what are now the downtowns of North Attleborough and Attleboro.

In the mid 1800’s the Town of Attleboro began to develop two distinct village centers, North Attleborough and East Attleborough. A division of the town into two communities was formally discussed as early as 1855. Oldtown was no longer the population center. The town was the second largest township in Massachusetts (next to Pittsfield). The town had grown to 5,400 in population by 1855; 2,800 in the north village and 2,600 in the east village. By the 1880’s the population was in excess of 11,000, and it had become very difficult to continue as a self-governing community. In 1886, the issue of division came to a vote and the decision was 665 to 642 in favor of division. The Town of Attleboro was divided into the present day communities of North Attleborough, centered on what was then the village of North Attleborough, and Attleboro, centered on what was then the village of East Attleborough. The present day boundary line has not changed.

As a separate town, North Attleborough quickly organized its own town governmental structure and assumed its own separate social and economic identity. The first town meeting was held in 1887. The town’s growth moderated; population increased by only 3,250 from 1886 to 1940, at which time the population was 10,359. Many of the buildings which dominate the downtown area, including the telephone building, post office, police station, library and the Hotel Hixon (now Madonna Manor) were built in the early 20th century. The construction of East Washington Street, the section of Route 1 from Route 120 to Park Street was completed in 1931. This eventually altered the town’s commercial character, shifting retail trade somewhat from the old downtown area to other parts of town. The population centers and villages throughout this period remained somewhat the same as they had been throughout the 18th century.

The Post World War II years saw a new period of expansion for the town. Previously a large percentage of the townspeople had lived adjacent to the downtown, with small population centers in Attleboro Falls, Adamsdale and Oldtown. The addition of public water to Kelley Boulevard began to open up in that area of town to development. However, the most significant factor in changing the character of North Attleborough’s land use appears to have been the construction of I-95 in the early 1960’s. The accessibility offered by I-95 has caused the town to take on a more suburban character.

Once a relatively independent agricultural and manufacturing community, North Attleborough has become an interdependent element in a much wider metropolitan region. Transportation systems, primarily widespread auto and truck use, and massive investments in new highways have greatly improved regional accessibility. Population has more than doubled since 1940, from 10,359 to 23,743 in 1988. In the 1950’s and 1960’s population growth was at a rate of

more than 20 percent per decade. The 1970's and 1980's saw a somewhat slower growth rate of only 13 percent. A sewer moratorium which was in effect from 1973 to 1981 caused an increase in the number of single family homes being built on septic systems, while multi-family development during this period was virtually at a standstill.

The growth of the past four decades has had a major impact on the physical layout of the town. Earlier industrial and residential development tended to be clustered and compact. More recent development has dramatically altered the face of the town within suburban subdivision tracts, industrial parks, highway strip development and shopping centers. The recent completion of Landry Avenue, linking the eastern and western sections of town, which has previously been divided by I-95, can be expected to further alter land use patterns.

Historically, North Attleborough has been a sound, stable social and economic community. It retains a good portion of its open space and of agricultural land, as it has over two centuries of industrial and manufacturing activity. As in its past, the current and future challenges to North Attleborough are to ensure that growth and change enhances the prosperity and well-being of its inhabitants, while retaining the benefits of its natural resources and existing conflicts, congestion and pollution from growth and change.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of North Attleborough has experienced a declining growth pattern since 1990. This pattern has seen a peak of 15.7% in population growth to a declining percentage of 7.75% in 2000 and 5.46% in 2010 as illustrated in Figure 2 and 3.

Figure 1. Percent Population Growth Change

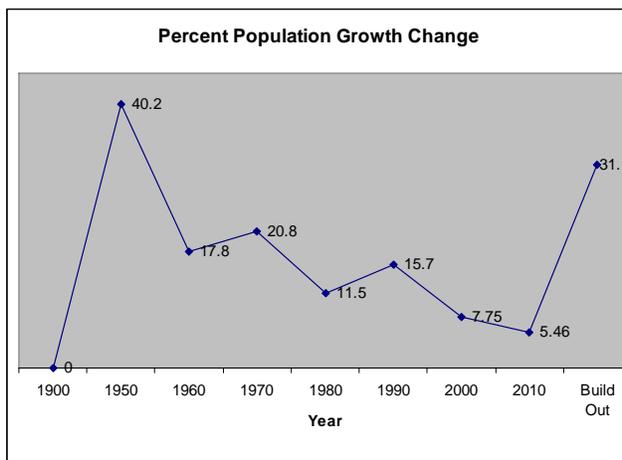
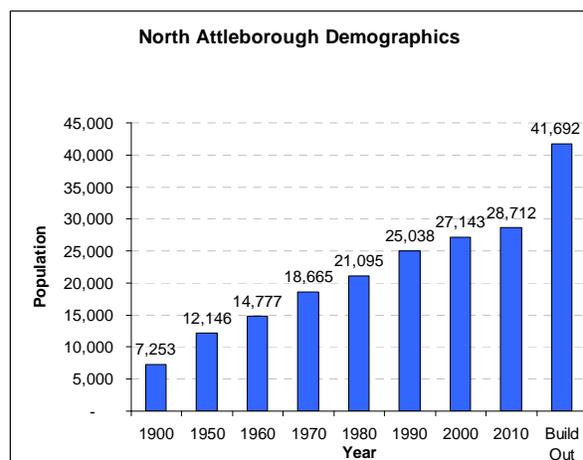


Figure 2: NA Demographics



The above figures also illustrate the build-out percent (31.1% population growth) and final population. A build-out analysis is a planning tool used to estimate the cumulative growth impacts on an area once all land has been developed under the current land use regulations.

Although the population growth is slowly declining, the population density is growing ever so slightly. Population density is calculated by dividing the population by the size of the area in

square miles. In 1990, the density was 1,343 people per square mile gradually moving to 1,456 in 2000 and 1,506 in 2010. According to the build-out population, the population density will ultimately be 2,187 people per square mile under the current regulations. This rate can be significantly changed by employee sustainable and smart growth techniques to preserve undeveloped land. The number of households in town has grown from 9,235 in 1990 to 10,943 in 2010, a net increase of 1,708 households in twenty years. While the number of households grew over the last twenty years, the number of people per household decreased from 2.69 in 1990 to 2.61 in 2010. This illustrates the current trend that number of occupants per household is shrinking, while the number of single and two person households has been on the rise.

Growth patterns can also illustrate the state of economic growth in an area or overall economic situation of the state or country. Since approximately 2007 to the present, the economy has been in a recession. As expected, a recession creates a stagnant population and growth pattern. The town issued approximately 1,000 building permits for new homes between 2000 and 2008 which is directly reflected in the population growth. Alternatively, a recession allows for a town to take stock in its housing, commercial and industrial development, and offers an opportunity to plan for the future.

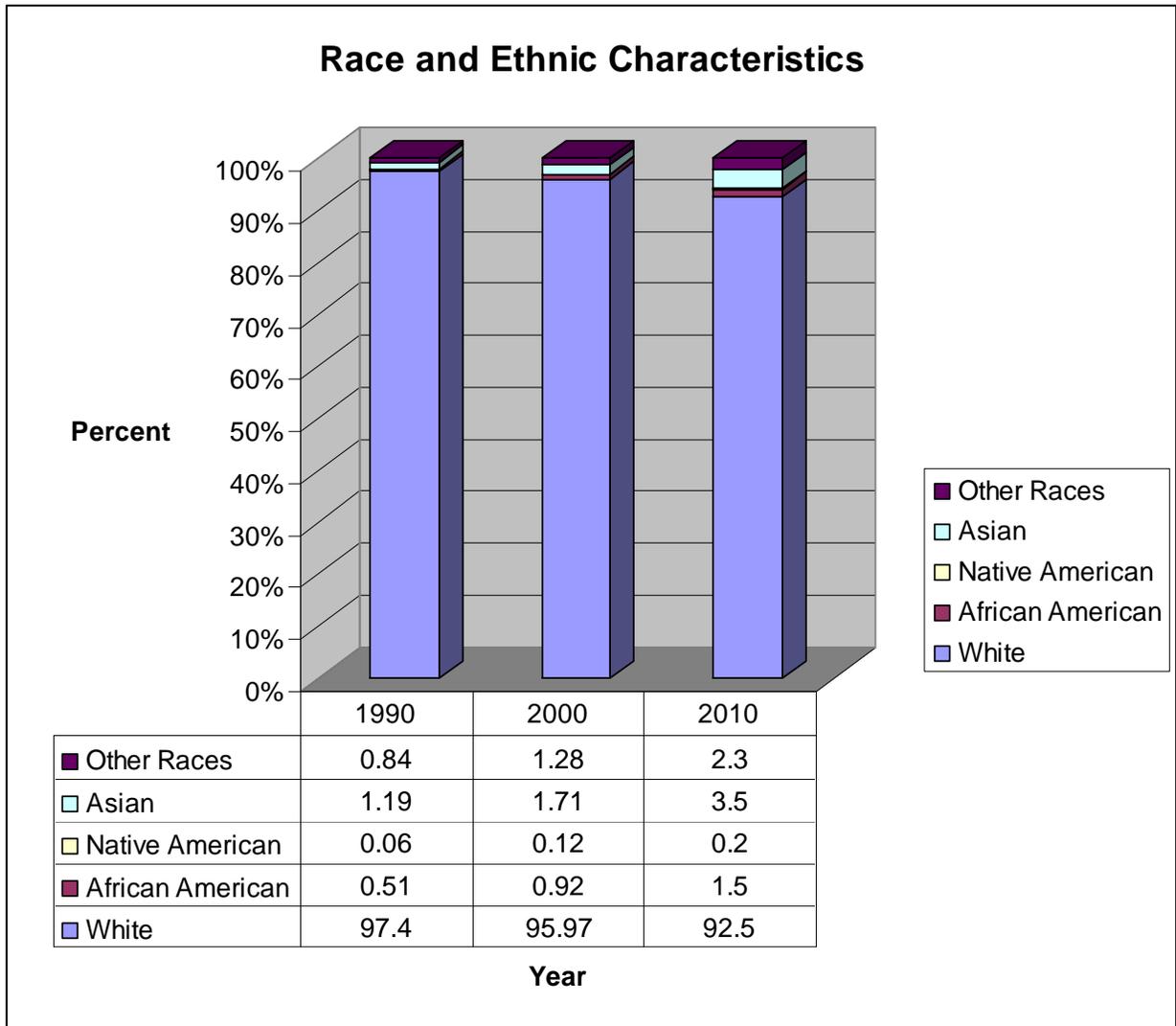
Age Characteristics

The age of the population is very important to the economic stability of a town. Without a population of working age, the town risks becoming a bedroom community and can suffer a loss of local economic growth. Using a comparison from 2000 through 2010, the average age has risen from 36 to 39. In 2000, the largest age bracket in town was the 25-44year old population at 34.4 %. In 2010 the figure for that age group decreased to 28.1%. Over the last decade, the town has seen a shift where now the largest segment of the population is aged 35-54years (33.8%). This reflects a trend occurring in other communities in the southeastern Massachusetts region, an aging population living longer, working longer, and remaining in their respective communities. During this ten year period, the average age in North Attleborough increased from 36 years to 39 years. The latest available state figures show the average age of a Massachusetts resident to be 36.5 yrs.

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics

The racial and ethnic composition of North Attleborough has largely remained the same in the past two decades with slight growth in Asian and African American populations (see chart below).

Figure 3. Racial and Ethnic Characteristics



Environmental Justice Populations

A major change in the demographic profile of North Attleborough was represented in the 2010 U.S. Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data for the town. The combined data showed an income level-based Environmental Justice (EJ) population emerging in the immediate downtown area, extending slightly to the southeast (see the Environmental Justice Area Map). This population is of mixed age and representative of the demographic of the town.

Because the EJ area is located in the downtown, the affected population is in very close proximity to major recreational facilities adjacent to the Town Hall, including school facilities, all of which are also ADA accessible. The downtown area is also served by public transportation, the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Authority (GATRA), with fixed route service to outlying areas, including shopping centers and commercial and service areas. GATRA also provides Dial-a-Ride, curb to curb service for senior citizens and transportation for individuals with disabilities.

The town would also like to develop pedestrian friendly multimodal trails (biking and walking) linking areas in the downtown with areas on the outskirts. These trails would benefit those living in the downtown by improving access and safety for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Historical Commission would also like to link trail development to the town's many historical resources in, and immediately around, the downtown area. The goal of the Commission is to allow greater access to, and increase awareness of, the town's cultural and historical assets.

D. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Overall, from 1998-2008 North Attleboro's unemployment rate of 4.7 percent was slightly lower than the state average of 5.0 percent. North Attleborough's unemployment rate also compared favorably to surrounding communities, which averaged a rate of 5.1 percent.

According to statistics compiled by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), employment in North Attleboro is characterized by four primary sectors: trade and service; manufacturing; construction, and; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE). The trade and service industries dominate, followed by manufacturing. Together both trade and service account for 78 percent of all jobs in the town. The manufacturing sector ranks third at 13.5 percent, while construction and FIRE, at 2.9 percent each, contribute nearly 6.0 percent of North Attleborough's total employment. The remaining sectors combined are slightly below construction and FIRE making up the final 2.5 percent.

Some of these employment sectors contain breakdowns and classifications of specific sub-categories. The trade sector includes retail trade and wholesale trade, while service sector contains several industrial categories. Under trade, representing 45.7 percent of the total employment, retail is identified as a sub-category accounting for 93.3 percent and wholesale accounting for 6.6 percent of the total. The service sector, which represents 32.4 percent of total employment, contains several sub-categories including: accommodation and food services (29.5%), health care (19.5%), professional and technical services (9.1%), and administrative and waste services (5.7%). During the period from 2001-2007, the health care and professional and technical sectors experienced over 55 percent growth and potentially may offer opportunities as emerging industry sectors. In 2007 these sectors accounted for nearly 30 percent of the total employment for the service sector.

Figure 4. Employment by Industry: North Attleborough, 2007

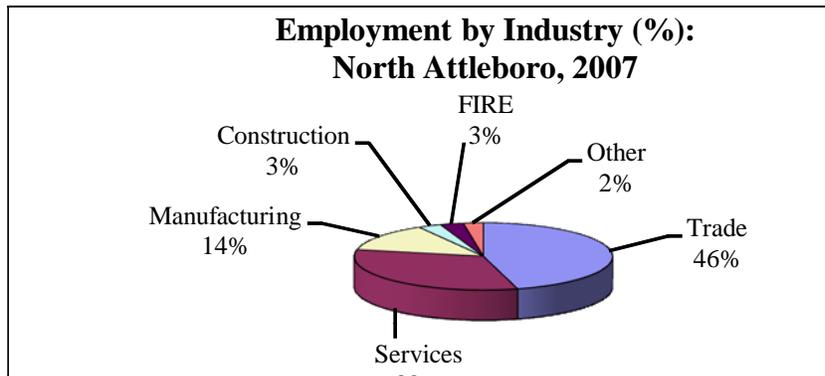


Figure 5. Selected Industry Sectors: North Attleborough, 2007

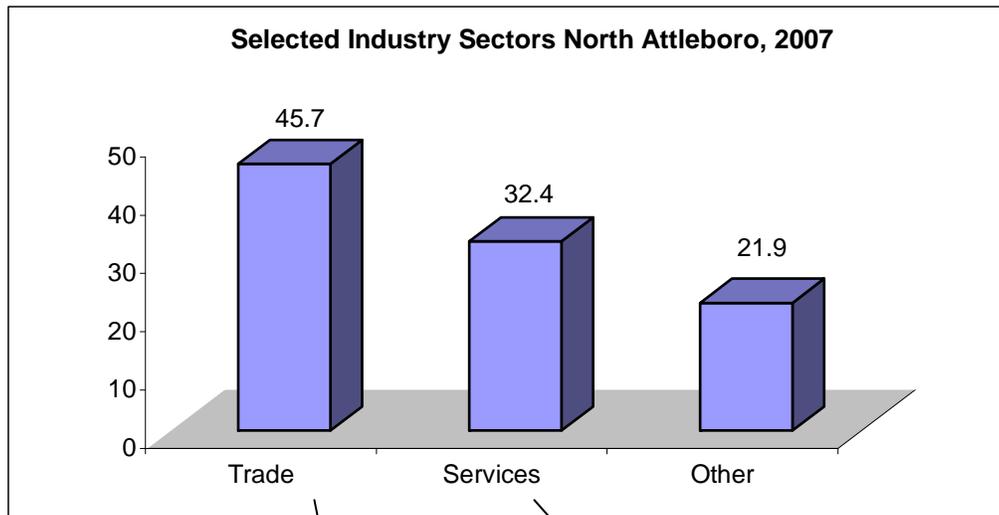


Figure 5A

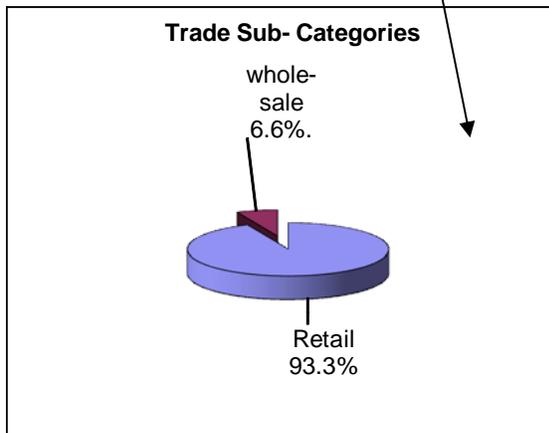
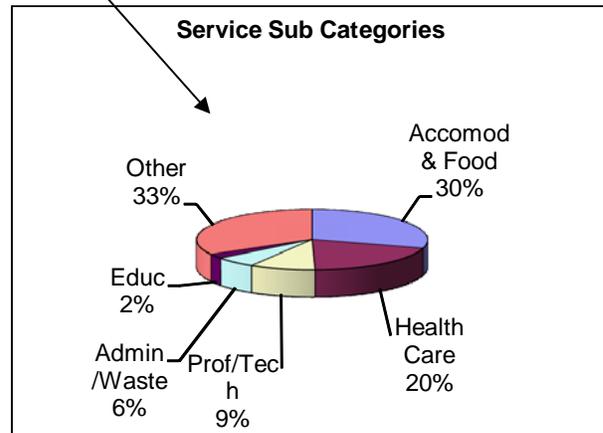


Figure 5B



Source: MA EOLWD

Table 1
Average Wage by Industry in North Attleboro, 2007

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Average Annual Wage</u>
Trade	5,013	\$60,912 – \$19,872*
Services	3,556	\$43,872 - \$13,152**
Manufacturing	1,482	\$38,976
Construction	313	\$41,856
FIRE	314	\$43,488 - \$29,184
Other	274	\$35,328 - \$15,936

* Retail and Wholesale
** All Service Categories

Source: MA EOLWD

Table 2
Employment by Industrial in North Attleboro, 2001 – 2007

	<u>Trade</u>							<u>Service</u>					
	Total Establish Ments	Avg. Wage	Retail	Whole sale	Accom/ Food	Health Care	Profess/ Technical	Adm. Waste	Other Services	Manu facturing	Const	FIRE	Other
2001	798	\$24,576	4,480	543	853	499	283	441	779	2,177	300	226	436
2002	862	\$24,288	4,682	554	1,034	487	297	413	969	2,066	315	330	291
2003	891	\$24,432	4,712	453	1,120	498	295	403	1,028	1,841	247	340	319
2004	906	\$25,584	4,723	444	1,104	533	318	380	1,086	1,900	278	328	355
2005	908	\$25,728	4,862	424	1,148	541	328	347	1,122	1,665	310	385	342
2006	900	\$26,544	4,729	352	1,029	721	335	225	1,166	1,609	311	322	392
2007	902	\$26,736	4,679	334	1,052	710	326	205	1,152	1,482	313	314	274
% Change	13.0%	8.8%	4.4%	(38.5%)	23.3%	42.3%	15.2%	(53.5)	47.9%	(31.9%)	4.3%	38.9%	(37.1%)

Source: MA EOLWD

E. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

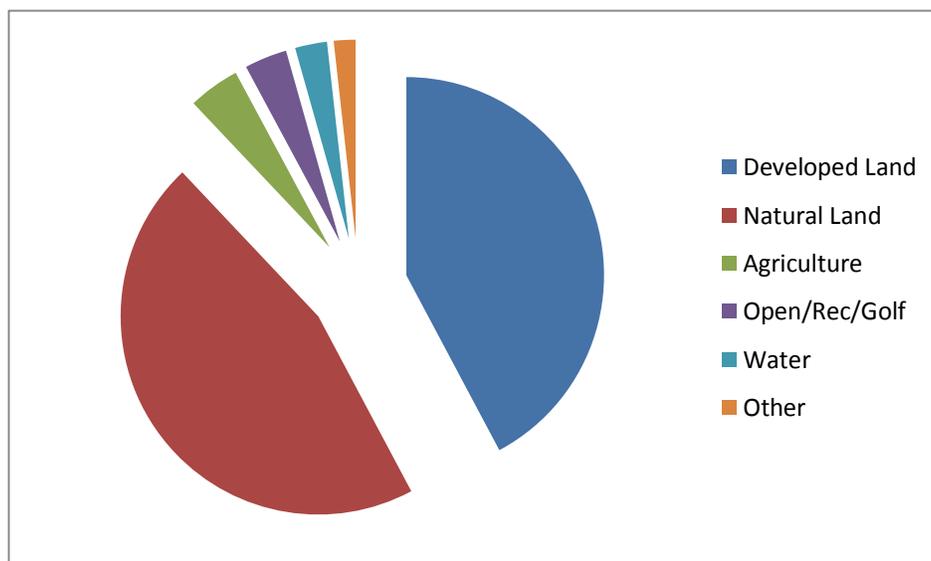
Patterns and Trends

Over the past several decades, land use trends in North Attleborough have shown a constant shift from forested and open land to urban land. From 1951 to 2005, the amount of forest land in town decreased by 24%, while the amount of urban land increased by approximately 120%. Active agricultural land (land in agricultural use), which occupied over 16% of the land in 1951, occupies only about 3.4% of North Attleborough's landscape today.

The trend towards increasing urbanization is continuing, even in the harsher economic times of recent years (North Attleborough was one of the few communities in all of southeastern Massachusetts to experience a slow and steady growth). Since 1985, several major development projects have resulted in the consumption of several hundred acres of open and forested land. This period of steady growth did, however, yield 60 acres of open land now classified as "urban" open space because it attached to various residential cluster developments (a very slight offset to the rate of consumption of land).

Historically, growth patterns generally follow zoning and if zoning regulations are not updated, land goes unprotected and at risk to development. According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society in their Losing Ground report (2009), North Attleborough was ranked number one in the state for acres developed per square mile from 1999-2005 at 17 acres per square mile (between 2000 and 2008, the town issued approximately 1,000 building permits for new homes). As of 2005, 42.2% of the land in North Attleborough had been developed for residential, commercial or industrial purposes. Once known for its rural and agricultural areas, only 3.7% of the land area, or 459 acres, is currently in agricultural use, a significant decrease over the last forty years. The following chart illustrates the current land uses.

Figure 6. North Attleborough Land Uses



Source: McConnell Land Use Data, 1951, 1971, 1985, UMass; Mass Audubon Society, Losing Ground, 2009; Mass GIS.

Infrastructure

Transportation

Several important transportation routes and systems either traverse or skirt North Attleborough. State Routes 1, 1A, 152 (running north-south) and 120 (running east-west) are major bisectors of the town. Interstates 95 (running north-south) and 295 (running east-west) also pass through the town with interchanges in the northeast and south-central portions of town, respectively. The town is also in proximity to the Interstate Route 495 corridor, to the north, in neighboring Plainville. Residents of North Attleborough also have access to an MBTA commuter train that runs between Attleboro, Back Bay Station and South Station in Boston. The MBTA rail stations are located in the downtown areas of Attleboro (to the south) and Mansfield (to the east) of North Attleborough.

The Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Authority, GATRA, provides bus service to North Attleborough, including Dial-a-Ride, curb-to-curb service for senior citizens and transportation for disabled individuals.

The Mansfield Municipal Airport provides access to small, private planes. This General Aviation facility is located a few miles to the east of North Attleborough.

Sewer and Water

North Attleborough maintains a system of eight municipal wells with a combined pumping capacity of approximately 5.58 million gallons per day. Town wells, through approximately 146 miles of 6", 8" and 12" water main, supplied approximately 954,656,263 gallons of high quality drinking water (2.6 million gallons per day) to the residents of North Attleborough in 2010.

The town operates a treatment plant, McKeon, on Kennedy Drive, and in conjunction with the Town of Plainville, operates a treatment plant at the Whiting Street pump station. The Water Division supplies over 8,700 residential and commercial services in the town.

The town, which had the southeast region's first DEP approved Zone II wellhead protection area back in 1988 (Abbot Run), has approved Zone II delineations for all of its municipal wells. The town also has an Aquifer Protection Bylaw, developed in conjunction with the Planning Board.

North Attleboro has continued to work on implementing its "Facility Plan for Wastewater Collection System and Treatment Facilities". The problems associated with growth and capacity has presented the staff at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) with challenges over the years, including exceeding discharge limits and odor problems. But the town and WWTF staff has worked hard to successfully deal with these and other issues over the last twenty years. Other recent improvements, such as the \$38 million appropriation in 2010 for nutrient removal and laboratory equipment upgrades at the WWTF, reflect the town's commitment to improved water quality and a clean environment.

In 2010, the WWTF treated 1,505,530,000 gallons of wastewater and received 1,109,500 gallons of septage to be treated.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Zoning

The Planning Board, through site plan review and subdivision control, has slowly been applying Low Impact Development techniques to help with water and drainage issues. Although it has been a slow transition, the board has looked at other zoning alternatives. In January of 2012, the Representative Town Meeting accepted the Transit Oriented Development Overlay District. This is a 14 acre area in the main downtown area. The intent of this district is to: increase ridership for the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Authority (GATRA); reduce the use/need for vehicle travel, and; support high density mixed-use in the downtown area. Besides this district, the Planning Board is looking for acceptance of the modified Site Plan Review Bylaw and new, Environmentally Friendly, Open Space Design Bylaw. The changes to the Site Plan Review bylaw include compliance with the DEP Stormwater Regulations, even if there are no

triggering components to the plan. The proposed Environmentally Friendly Open Space Design Bylaw embraces Low Impact Design standards as well as preserving open space in the Residential-20,000 sq. ft. and Residential 40,000 sq. ft. Zoning Districts. This bylaw targets those areas of land that have more than six acres, but inadequate frontage. The bylaw also provides a shared driveway for no more than five dwelling units, with a minimum of 30,000 sq. ft. parcels, with the remaining land to be preserved as open space. Also, the design requirements promote opportunities to decrease impervious surface and to increase the use of alternative drainage strategy. Moving forward, the Planning Board hopes to increase the opportunity for open space through the use of the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Plan and the Master Plan.

Build-Out Scenario

Existing zoning and planning regulations, in combination with the town's current annual growth rate and amount of available land, could permit a considerable increase in the population of North Attleborough at full build-out.

SRPEDD, under the auspices of a contract with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, prepared an update build-out study for North Attleborough in January of 2000. The study showed that the northern and western areas of town were particularly susceptible to growth. Building constraints such as wetlands, slopes, soils and waterways will have an impact on growth in these areas, but most likely not enough of an impact to preserve the rural and agricultural landscapes intact. The retention of agriculturally viable and is a key to preserving the character of northern and western North Attleborough. Most of the agricultural lands in town are enrolled in MGL Chapter 61A tax reduction programs. This designation creates temporary land preservation in exchange for a lower tax rate on agricultural land (enrollment must be maintained in the various Chapter 61 Programs).

The potential build-out impacts for North Attleborough have been updated to account for 2010 data, and are summarized in Table D-2, below. It is important to note that the full build-out has no time frame associated with it, but reveals conditions when full build-out (consumption of all developable land) is finally achieved.

Table 3.

Current Demographics and Build-Out Projections

Population	2010	28,712
	Build-Out	41,692
Students	2010	4750
	Build-Out	7,418
Households	2010	10,943
	Build-Out	15,056
Water Use (gallons/day)	2010	3,100,000
	Build-Out	4,833,709

Summary of Build-Out Impacts:

Additional Developable Land Area (sq. ft.)	189,301,800
Additional Developable Area (acres)	4,346
Additional Residential Units	5,821
Additional Residents	15,719
Additional Commercial/Industrial Buildable Floor Area (sq. ft.)	12,091,394
Additional School Children at Build-Out	3,057
Additional Water Demand at Build-Out (gallons/day)	2,085,709
Additional Residential Water Demand at Build-Out	1,178,854
Additional Commercial and Industrial Water Demand at Build-Out	906,855
Additional Municipal Solid Waste (tons/year)	8,063
Additional Non-Recyclable Solid Waste (tons)	5,737
Additional Recyclable Solid Waste (tons)	2,326
Additional Roadway at Build-Outs (miles)	124

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The topography of North Attleborough is characterized by gently rolling countryside with elevations ranging from 96 to 385 feet above sea level. Although much of the town is relatively flat, there are some significant changes in elevation which provide needed visual relief and aesthetic variety. The high points in elevation are evident mostly in the northeast and northwest portions of the town. In fact, the highest point in Bristol County is located in North Attleborough in World War I Veteran's Memorial Park. This spot is dominated by a fire tower from which a panoramic view of the entire region is possible.

There are other sites in the town which, because of their geology and location, offer special views and vistas. These sites include: the drumlin on which Fales Road is located, and the formation known as Hoppin Hill. Extensive rock outcroppings, including the red felcite ledge of the "Red Rocks" area, are evidence both in Veteran's Park and the area crossed by Cumberland Avenue.

Climate

North Attleborough is considered to have a continental climate, feeling no significant influence from any large body of water. The town's normal average annual temperature is 28.6 degrees Fahrenheit in January and 71.5 degrees Fahrenheit in July. The diurnal fluctuation in temperature for the North Attleborough area ranges between 20-30 degrees. The growing season – the number of days between the last killing frost in the spring and the first killing frost in late summer or fall – has an average range of 160 to 180 days. In North Attleborough, the average annual precipitation is 45.54 inches (including both snow and rain).

Soils Profile

In general, the various soils in a community are found in naturally recurring groups. Soil groups, commonly referred to as general soil areas, are composed of identified soils occurring in similar patterns, varying in size of occurrence, throughout a given area.

Soils within a general soil group may possess some similarities or differ greatly in their properties. The deciding factors in their association are that they generally formed in similar materials, and the dominant soils within a general soil area are the largest in extent in that area. Suitability of a general soil area for a particular use is determined by the characteristics of the dominant soil therein. This type of information is contained within the scope of a soil survey. A soil survey can be used to point out various soil limitations for agricultural, septic systems, commercial or industrial development, or other like considerations. Factors considered in such a survey include soil behavior for selected uses, wetness, composition, stability, slope and friability. Accompanying maps delineate broad areas of soils, series, types and shapes of occurrence. (More detailed information on the soil types common to North Attleborough can be found in the 1978 Soil Survey of Bristol County, Massachusetts, Northern Part, by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.)

Also included in the soils profile, and of particular interest in terms of initial land use planning, is a discussion of soils limitation based on a breakdown of soils into map units. Each map unit consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils that occur in various patterns in the landscape. The map unit is named for the major soils (e.g. – Hinckley-Medisaprists-Windsor).

Some map units are made up of two or more dominant kinds of soil. These are called soil complexes. Soil complexes are so complexly mixed or so small in size that they are virtually inseparable on a soils map. Charlton-Rock outcrop-Paxton complex, 3 to 15% slopes is an example of such a soil complex (which does occur in northeastern, northwestern and southwestern portions of North Attleborough to varying degrees).

Narrative Soil Survey, North Attleboro

CpB – Charlton-Paxton very stony fine sandy loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes. Category consists of deep, nearly level and gently sloping well-drained soils on hills and ridges. These Charlton and Paxton soils are in such an intricate pattern that it is not practical to map them separately. These soils have fair potential for most urban use. Their limitations are: large stones on the surface and a seasonal high water table in the Paxton soil.

CpC – Charlton-Paxton very stony fine sandy loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes. Deep, sloping, well-drained soils on hills and ridges. These Charlton and Paxton soils are in such an intricate pattern that it is not practical to map them separately. These soils have fair potential for most urban uses.

CsB – Charlton-Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes. Same description as for CpB above, except potential for urban use is poor. Additional information: boulders on the surface.

CtC – Charlton-Paxton fine sandy loam, rocky, 8 to 15 percent slopes. Category consists of sloping, well-drained soils on hills and ridges. These soils have fair potential for most urban use. Their limitations are: outcrops of bedrock, large stones on the surface, and a seasonal high water table in the Paxton soil.

CuC – Charlton-Rock outcrop – Paxton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes. Category consists of gently sloping and sloping well-drained soils and rock outcrop on glacial hills and ridges. These soils have poor potential for urban use. Their limitations for urban use are: outcrops of bedrock, large stones on the surface, moderate to moderately rapid permeability in the Charlton soil, and a seasonal high water table in the Paxton soil.

CuE – Charlton-Rock outcrop – Paxton complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes. This area consists of moderately steep and steep well-drained soils and rock outcrop on glacial hills and ridges. Same limitations for urban use as major soil group above.

HfD – Hinckley sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes. This soil is deep, moderately steep or hilly, and excessively drained. The soil is limited for urban use because of slope.

MC – Medisaprists, deep. These soils are nearly level and very poorly drained. They consist of deposits of organic material in depressions, and extend to a depth of 60 inches. These soils have

poor potential for urban use. Limitations are: high water table, hazard of flooding, and low bearing strength.

MD – Medisaprists, shallow. These soils are nearly level and very poorly drained. They consist of deposits of organic material in depressions, and extend to a depth of 30 inches. The soils have poor potential for urban use. Same limitations as for MC above.

MeA – Merrimac fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level, and somewhat excessively drained. Soil has good potential for most urban use.

MeB – Merrimac fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, gently sloping, and somewhat excessively drained. Soil has good potential for most urban use.

PbB – Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level and gently sloping, and well-drained. It is generally on the tops and upper side slopes of drumlows. The soil has fair potential for most urban use. Its limitations are: moderately slow or slow permeability, large stones, and a brief seasonal high water table.

PcB – Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. Same general description and limitation as for PbB above, except that its potential for urban use is poor.

PcC – Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes. This soil is deep, moderately sloping, and well-drained. It is generally on side slopes of drumlows. This soil has poor potential for urban use. Large stones, moderately slow or slow permeability, and a brief seasonal high water table are limitations.

RdA – Ridgbury fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes. This soil is deep, nearly level, and poorly drained. It is in depressions and along drainage ways in the uplands. The soil has limitations for most urban development: high water table and slow permeability.

RdB – Ridgbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, gently sloping, and poorly drained. (Same limitations as above category).

ReB – Ridgbury extremely stony fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. (Same description as for Ridgbury soil above. Additional limitation: stones on the surface).

Sb – Scarboro mucky loamy fine sand. This soil is deep, level or nearly level, and very poorly drained. It is in pockets and depressions on outwash plains. The soil is limited for urban use by the high water table for long duration.

Wg – Whitman fine sandy loam. This soil is deep, nearly level, and very poorly drained. It is in depressions and low areas on uplands. The soil has limitations for urban use: high water table and moderately slow permeability in the substratum.

Wh – Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loam (same description as for Whitman above. Additional limitation: stones on the surface).

WrB – Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep gently sloping, and moderately well-drained. The soil has limitations for urban use because of the seasonal high water table and high potential frost action.

WsB – Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. (Same description as for Woodbridge above. Additional limitation: moderately slow or slow permeability).

Important Farmlands

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture maintains a nationwide farmland inventory which includes maps that show the location and extent of the best land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The NRCS maps designate areas as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance based on soil surveys and national and state criteria.

Prime Farmland is the land that has the best combination of soil properties for growing crops. National SCS criteria are used to assess these soil qualities and determine which areas qualify as prime farmland. Prime farmland soils retain and provide ample moisture for crops, have favorable temperatures, growing season, acceptable salt content and acidity, and have few or no surface stones. They are permeable to water and air, are not excessively erodible, are not saturated with water for long periods of time, and do not flood frequently.

Farmland of unique importance is land other than prime that is used for production of specific high-value crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture needed to produce high quality specialty crops.

Farmland of statewide importance is the land that is also important for growing crops but it has one or more soil properties which do not qualify for prime farmland. The soils of such land may be moderately erodible, may not provide ample moisture for crops, or may be less permeable to water and air. They also may have surface stones but are not numerous enough to preclude their removal for cultivation

In North Attleborough, prime farmland and unique farmland as designated by NRCS comprises a significant amount of land area. However as discussed in Section III, land in agriculture use over the last 40 years has dramatically decreased to currently only 3.7 percent of the total area. As demonstrated in the Open Space Survey, the loss of agricultural land is a significant concern to the residents of North Attleboro and over 50% of respondents felt preservation of farmland was important. Please refer to the Prime Farmland Soils Map (Map 7) for the location of important farmland soils in North Attleborough.

B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The gently rolling countryside, relatively flat topography and prominent river corridors of North Attleborough have given rise to its particular landscape, which plays a vital role in defining the character of the town. Elevations in town range from 96 to 385 feet above sea level with the highest elevation occurring in World War I Veterans' Memorial Park. The dense, urban area around the historic center is home to the remnant of the industry that grew up around the Ten Mile River. The Bungay River Watershed land to the east is still characterized by its natural land

riparian corridors located around and through the Federal Fish Hatchery lands. The meadow and forested land to the west and north, along the Seven Mile River, remains largely agricultural and undeveloped to this day. Much of this land is protected as open space or through agricultural restrictions however; development of the remaining unprotected lands in the western portion of town will significantly affect the aesthetic value and recreational opportunities in this area.

During the fall of 2011, the Conservation Commission worked with a local Boy Scout Troop to develop and permit a trail system for one of the largest pieces of conservation land in the west side, the Chorney Property. The Commission hopes to extend this walking trail system to adjacent parcels to promote passive recreation and enjoyment of open space areas by all town residents.

C. WATER RESOURCES

North Attleborough is broken into four major watersheds: The Bungay River; the Ten Mile River; the Seven Mile River; and Abbott Run. The Bungay River is also a major tributary of the Ten Mile River, with its confluence located in the City of Attleboro. The Bungay River in North Attleborough flows through Greenwood Lake, the North Attleborough National Fish Hatchery, and the upper reach of the Bungay Swamp. The Bungay River drainage area covers approximately 2,400 acres and is located in the eastern portion of the town.

The Ten Mile River has its headwaters in the Towns of Wrentham and Plainville. It flows in a southerly direction through a series of ponds in Plainville before entering North Attleborough along its northern corporate limit. The Ten Mile River in North Attleborough extends from Whiting Pond along parts of Routes 1 (Washington Street) and 1A (East Washington Street), to the Falls Pond and Attleboro Falls areas, and finally into Attleboro. The Ten Mile watershed drains two major areas – Scotts Brook and the Ten Mile itself – totaling roughly 4,300 acres. Scotts Brook originates in Plainville and flows south through the western part of the town to join the Ten Mile River north of Falls Pond.

The Seven Mile River is located in the western half of North Attleborough and flows in a southerly direction parallel to the Ten Mile River. It is the largest tributary to the Ten Mile River, with its confluence located further downstream in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The Seven Mile River watershed drains approximately 2,900 acres of North Attleborough while supplying water to both the Hoppin Hill and Luther Reservoirs. Its use as a water supply system mandates maintenance of pollution-control programs within the watershed. Under these circumstances, adjacent land use becomes an extremely critical parameter.

Abbott Run originates in Franklin and Wrentham, Massachusetts before flowing through a series of large reservoirs and ponds in Cumberland, Rhode Island. It then flows along the western boundary of North Attleborough in a southerly direction before entering the Blackstone River in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

The Abbott Run watershed is roughly 2,500 acres in size and lies in the western section of North Attleborough. It contributes water to the Millers River in Central Falls, Rhode Island and Robin Hollow Pond. Much of the drainage in the area consists of small streams arising in numerous swampy areas.

Within these watershed areas lay the town's three major aquifers: the Abbott Run Aquifer, the Ten Mile River Aquifer, and the Bungay Aquifer. And, while the capacity and condition of the water supply within these aquifers would seem sufficient for the town for years to come, these are the only major sources of water available to the town. In April 1998, the town adopted the Aquifer Protection District, as a zoning overlay district, to protect the quality of the public water supply wells and groundwater for the residents of North Attleborough. The district includes all land mapped as a designated Zone II area by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The largest river in North Attleborough, the Ten Mile, is not easily accessible for recreational opportunities throughout most of the town. However, the town has other surface waters that offer vast recreational uses, including kayaking, fishing, boating, and swimming. Falls Pond, comprised of upper and lower Falls, is accessed by two boat ramps (one State ramp) and a public beach area off of Barbara Road. Whiting's Pond is a smaller pond with a state boat ramp and (resident only) beach area off of Broadway Extension. The Department of Fish and Game stocks both ponds with trout in the spring and fall. Falls and Whiting's Ponds are managed by the Conservation Commission and are enjoyed by residents of all ages from April through November.

The Ten Mile River Watershed within Attleboro, North Attleborough, and to a lesser degree, Plainville, has experienced chronic flooding and flood related loss for decades. The flood of record in North Attleborough occurred on March 17th and 18th, 1968. Flood hazards along the Ten Mile River and its tributaries have resulted in large part from historical development patterns. The Ten Mile was primarily used as an industrial river whose floodplain and floodway were compromised by mills, factories, housing, and transportation growth. Current flooding problems have been linked to sedimentation resulting from stormwater input from the Route 1 corridor, as well as the industrial era remnant walls that channelize the river through the downtown.

D. VEGETATION

Forests

North Attleborough is vegetated with a variety of plant communities commonly found on well-drained upland soils throughout southeastern Massachusetts. The upland woodland community, predominantly naturally occurring pine-oak and oak-hickory forests, is the town's most abundant vegetative resource, covering about 36 percent of the total land area. However, the relative proportions of pine, hickory and oak varies throughout the area. In terms of percent crown cover; the oak species are by far the most predominant.

Several plantations of red pine and mixed red pine-white pine established during the 1930's are located throughout the town. The Martin Conservation Area and Town Forest provide examples of these types of pine stands. Perhaps, due to a lack of proper maintenance during their formative years, their location and stress associated with roadway activities, these stands are presently of moderate to low quality.

Public Shade Trees

Public shade trees, defined as trees within the public way or on the boundaries thereof (M.G.L. Ch.87, Section 1), have become an increasingly important component of North Attleborough's vegetative community, due to their aesthetic and functional values. Shade trees not only provide colorful leaf changes in spring and fall, they help save energy, slow winters winds, and prevent summer sun damage. The most commonly seen public shade trees in North Attleborough are: Oak, Maple, Elm, Ash, Pine and Chestnut. Other species found in the public way include Birch, Beech, Cedar, Spruce, Poplar, Hemlock, Hickory, Catalpa, and Sassafras. In an effort to further protect public shade trees, the Town of North Attleborough in October 2001, designated several roads as scenic roads pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 15c. As a result, any repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving work done on these scenic roads shall not include the cutting or removal of trees without written consent of the Planning Board after proper public notice, publicly marking the trees, and a public hearing before the Planning Board and Tree Warden, if required by Section 3 of Chapter 87.

Wetlands

North Attleborough also supports a substantial amount of wetland communities, areas where water is at or just below the surface of the ground such that they support a preponderance of wetland indicator plants. The wetland areas of North Attleborough are a mix of fresh scrub-shrub swamp areas, wet forested areas and areas of slow moving streams and adjacent floodplains. The scrub-shrub swamps are dominated by persistent emergent wetlands vegetation while the forested areas are predominately occupied by broad leaved deciduous vegetation. Significant wetland areas occur in the Seven Mile River Watershed in the central to southwestern portions of town and the Bungay River Watershed in proximity to the Federal Fish Hatchery lands in the eastern and southeastern sections of town. The quality of these wetlands varies according to their proximity to major roadways and surface water impoundments. River and stream flow is somewhat slow due to the relatively flat topography in corridors. Wetlands serve a number of important natural functions, including: protection of public and private water supply; protection of groundwater supply; flood control; storm damage prevention; prevention of pollution; protection of land containing shellfish; protection of fisheries and protection of wildlife habitat. The Conservation Commission administers and enforces the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, which protects wetlands and the public interests they provide.

For a list of indigenous and observed plant species found in North Attleboro, please refer to Appendix B.

E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

The diversity of habitat in the Ten Mile, Seven Mile, Abbott Run and Bungay River Watersheds provides good to excellent habitat opportunities for numerous wildlife species. Large undeveloped areas of swamp, forest, river corridor and agricultural land, attract a variety of wildlife species, indigenous and migratory, to these watersheds. These large tracts of undeveloped lands also provide opportunities for wildlife passage, particularly in the west side of town north of Route 120, where large blocks of contiguous open space exist, comprised of permanently protected conservation lands and Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) lands. There are also large tracts of privately held parcels immediately adjacent to and south of Route

120, some of which recently came out of restriction (Haseotes land), that contribute to the habitat connectivity in this area. As highlighted in the Seven Year Action Plan, a priority of the town is to acquire and/or preserve these unprotected parcels, thereby protecting expansive wildlife corridors reaching from the headwaters of the Seven Mile River, south to the Abbot Run Watershed.

For a list of indigenous, observed and reported fish and wildlife species found in the watershed(s) communities please refer to Appendix B.

Rare Species and Significant Natural Communities

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, North Attleborough has 12 listed species ranging from endangered to species of special concern. (This list does not include data-sensitive material).

Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) Listed Species and Status

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>MESA Status</i>	<i>Most Recent Observation</i>
<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1994
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	T	1994
<i>Eubbranchipus intricatus</i>	Intricate Fairy Shrimp	SC	1994
<i>Lampetra appendix</i>	American Brook Lamprey	T	2001
<i>Alasmidonta undulate</i>	Triangle Floater	SC	1999
<i>Alasmidonta varicose</i>	Brook Floater	E	Historic
<i>Boechera missouriensis</i>	Green Rock-cress	T	1998
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>	Philadelphia Panic-grass	SC	1984
<i>Platanthera flava</i>	Pale Green Orchis	T	1984
<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	Threadfoot	SC	2002
<i>Ranunculus micranthus</i>	Tiny-flowered buttercup	E	2005
<i>Scleria triglomerata</i>	Tall Nut-sedge	E	2006

“Endangered” (E) species are native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory.

“Threatened” (T) species are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory.

"Special concern" (SC) species are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

Any native species listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also included on the state list. The rules and regulations and precise definitions relative to the establishment of the Commonwealth's list of endangered, threatened, and special concern species are set forth in 321CMR 10.00, et seq.

Vernal Pools

A vernal pool (sometimes referred to as a spring pool), is a shallow depression in the landscape that contains water for only a portion of the year. These pools may be only a few square feet in size or cover acres of land. Vernal pools also vary in appearance, as well as when and how long they are full, and their principal source of water.

While vernal pools do not support fish, they do provide very important habitat for various species of frogs, turtles and salamanders. Many of these species must return to these vernal pools in order to breed. Some of the species found in vernal pools include: Wood frogs, Spring peepers, Spotted salamanders, Spotted turtles, and Wood turtles. Vernal pools are also often part of wildlife corridors allowing the movement of these species between other wetland areas.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has published GIS maps of the Commonwealth showing potential and certified vernal pools. NH&ESP has a documentation and certification process for vernal pools available online or by contacting their offices. According to NHESP's 2010 data, North Attleborough currently has two (2) certified vernal pools; one is located in the northern part of town, east of Route 1 between Ryder Road and Ryder Circle, while the other is located in the western part of town, near the Rhode Island border, between Hawkins Road and Germaine Drive.

There are many more potential vernal pool sites in the town according to the NHESP database that should be documented as part of a community natural resource inventory and assessment.

F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

As previously discussed, the riparian corridors within the Bungay and Seven Mile watersheds and the agricultural landscapes in the western portion of North Attleborough are valuable scenic resources that contribute greatly to the character of the community. North Attleborough also has designated scenic roads which include: Mount Hope Street from Elmwood Street to Old Post Road; Fales Road from High Street to Route 120; Paine Road from Cumberland Town line to Allen Avenue; Holmes Road from Route 120 to Sheldonville Road; Millard Road from Holmes Road to Paine Road; Sheldonville Road from Holmes Road to Paine Road; and Old Post Road from South Washington to Attleboro city line.

One of the most recognized areas in the entire Ten Mile River Watershed is the "Red Rocks" area in North Attleborough. Named for its distinctive red felsite ledge, this particular land form represents a very limited occurrence in Massachusetts and neighboring Rhode Island. The surrounding area also supports several very uncommon and high priority natural communities,

including: Southern New England Rich Mesic Forest, which is characterized by its hardwoods on nutrient rich soil, a mature canopy (including sycamore and basswood) with hop hornbeam in the understory (this rare forest type is more common to Massachusetts' four western counties); outcrop community; talus slope; several rare plants and vernal pools. This is one of the most important and unique natural resources in the Ten Mile Watershed.

The Pitch Pine Scrub Oak Barrens in the North Attleborough Town Forest (equivalent to the more familiar Cape Cod Pine Barrens) is a globally rare and threatened habitat type. The best examples of Pine Barrens remaining in the world are New Jersey, Long Island, and Southeastern Massachusetts. The barrens in North Attleborough represent an isolated patch of this rare habitat, which persisted on the droughty soils probably due to periodic fires (every 5 to 20+ years). This habitat is threatened because of its vulnerability to residential development and also natural change resulting from fire suppression – the habitat requires fire to be sustained. Apparently much habitat may have been lost from the gravel mining in the surrounding area. Aside from being a rare vegetative community, there are several rare plants and animals which are found in Pine Barrens in Massachusetts, including over 12 rare moth species which feed primarily on the scrub oak. It is unclear how important a small (less than 100 acres) remnant may be, however, these smaller barrens may provide stepping stones to other barrens in Rhode Island and New York. The species of the larger barrens would become isolated without the smaller barrens in-between. Regardless, it represents a remarkable natural feature in the Town of North Attleborough.

The “Cascades,” as it is known locally, is a unique forested wetland area north of the Emerald Square Mall. Its name derives from its natural waterfall which occurs at a drop in the topography as the wetland emerges on the fringe of the more open and the developed land.

Cultural and Historical Areas

The history, culture, and character of an area are reflected in its buildings, structures and sites. These historic features provide a community with a continuing sense of its past and a tangible, visual example of its heritage. However, lack of foresight in planning as an area grows and develops often leads to significant historical resources being destroyed, changed beyond recognition or to the encroachment of structures that are incompatible and detract from the historic value of an area.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a means for communities to preserve their historic resources through the establishment of historic districts. As stated in the Massachusetts Historical Commissioners' “Guideline for Establishment of Historic Districts,” the purpose of the Historic District Act is to promote that public welfare through the preservation and protection of: a) the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant in the history of Massachusetts and its cities and towns, b) to maintain and improve the settings of buildings and places, and c) to encourage new designs that are compatible with the existing buildings in a district.

Archaeological Resources

In addition to the inventory of residential, manufacturing, and historical locations contained in this report, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) also recommends that special attention be given to potential sites of archaeological significance that exist within the town. According to the MHC reconnaissance survey report for North Attleborough, the likelihood of surviving early settlement artifacts, including Indian sites, (early contact period c. 1500-1620) is greatest in the relatively undeveloped northwestern section of town. Fragments of such early period sites may also remain along the southern portion of the Ten Mile River and around Falls Pond. It is expected that many more archaeological sites exist within the town.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's Inventory of Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth records 19 ancient Native American sites in North Attleborough. Sufficient information is available to indicate that 5 of the 19 recorded sites are significant. There is insufficient information on 7 sites; and the last 7 sites are limited deposits that are not significant. Only eight archaeological testing surveys have been conducted for development projects in the town, and the available inventory and survey data do not provide a representative inventory of the ancient and early historic period archaeological resource base.

A town-wide reconnaissance-level archaeological assessment to identify areas that are likely to have important archaeological sites is recommended to assist town planners and residents to make decisions when land development or acquisition proposals arise.

The archaeological resources in North Attleborough are expected to date to the earliest period of Native American exploration and settlement of New England about 13,000 years ago. A distinctive type of volcanic rock, called Attleboro Red Felsite, outcrops as exposed bedrock in the town. The rock outcrops, which often coincide with endangered plant and animal species, are highlighted in the regional open space and recreation plan as among the most important natural resource areas in the watersheds. Attleboro Red Felsite was highly favored by Native Americans to fashion stone tools. Artifacts made from this rock type appear at the region's earliest archaeological sites, and has been found as far away as the Connecticut River Valley and Maine. A highly significant Native American felsite quarry was discovered during archaeological survey for a proposed development project in North Attleborough. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has evaluated the quarry as among the most important sites in the state. The quarry is located on private land and remains threatened. The remaining undeveloped land of the project should be prioritized for acquisition for conservation and recreation.

Areas with well-drained soils and close to any water or wetlands were preferred by Native Americans for occupation. Land in the vicinity of Ten Mile River was probably an especially densely settled area, and the river was an important for travel between Narragansett and Massachusetts Bay. The town was located at a nexus of important local and regional Native American trails, one of which stretched to Narragansett Bay, later known as the Bay Path. Its probable location was Elmwood Street, Washington Street, and Old Post Road. Contact with European explorers commenced in the 16th century, when news of Verrazano's initial visits, and likely European-manufactured items, would have travelled up the Bay Path and Ten Mile River to resident Wampanoag. The Old Town area of North Attleborough is likely to have archaeological evidence of 17th-century colonial settlement.

To summarize, many ancient and historical period archaeological sites are expected to be present, but have not yet been identified and evaluated, making consideration and protection of these resources difficult. A town-wide reconnaissance-level archaeological survey is recommended to provide a map of archaeologically sensitive areas. Funding for a town-wide survey could be sought through matching state grants. The known important sites, and sensitive areas should be proposed for land acquisition for conservation with funding by private non-profit, state, and federal grants¹.

Inventory of Historical Sites

Since the formation of the North Attleborough Historical Commission (NAHC) in 1978, the town has made great strides to adequately inventory surviving structures of some historical significance. The diligence of the NAHC has resulted in nineteen individual and district designations on the list of the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places. Together, these designated sites contain some 386 properties.

The NAHC remains very active in the community. In the spring of 2000, the NAHC completed National Register nomination forms for the Barrows Building, located at the edge of the Town Center Historic District. The Barrows Building was eventually purchased by the Town, also in the spring of 2000, and became the new home of the Police Department while preserving the exterior architectural integrity of the building and its famous clock tower.

<i>Property/Location</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i># Props</i>
Angle Tree Stone High Street	NRIND	1/1/1976	1
Attleborough Falls Gasholder Building 380 Elm Street	NRIND	8/2/1996	1
Attleborough Falls Historic District Mt. Hope Street and Towne Street	NRDIS	1/6/2004	72
Barrows, H.F. Manufacturing Company Building 102 South Washington Street	NRIND	8/30/2001	2
Codding Farm 217 High Street	NRIND	4/22/2009	7
Commonwealth Avenue Historic District North side of Comm Ave. from Stanley St. to Robinson St.	NRDIS	12/12/2003	15
Cottage- Freeman Historic District Cottage and Freeman Sts. from Commonwealth Ave to Ten Mile River and Park Ln	NRDIS	12/12/2003	39

¹ Bell, Edward, L. Massachusetts Historical Commission, written correspondence dated October 4, 2011

Fire Barn (Fall Fire Station #2) Commonwealth Avenue	NRIND	1/28/1982	1
Grace Episcopal Church 104 North Washington St	NRDIS PR	12/20/1985 9/18/2002	1 1
High, Church and Gould Streets Historic District 28-122 High Street; 29-117 Church Street and 9-17 Gould Street	NRDIS	11/12/1999	98 additional documentation approved 12/9/11
Holmes School Historic District Hoppin Hill Ave at Holmes Rd	NRDIS	5/10/2001	2
North Attleborough Town Center Historic District Bank, Bruce and Church Streets, Grove and Mason Avenues and North and South Washington Streets	NRDIS	12/20/1985	52
Number 2 School Hoppin Hill Ave	NRDIS PR	5/10/2001 7/12/2002	1 1
Old Town Historic District* Southeast junction of I-295 and Washington St	NRDIS	5/30/1991	94
Richards Memorial Library 118 North Washington Street	NRDIS PR	12/20/1985 9/10/1997	1 1
South Washington Street Historic District 145-327 South Washington St and 1-6 Hunting St	NRDIS	10/12/1995	77
Towne Street Historic District Town St east of Jackson St	NRDIS	11/26/2003	9
Woodcock Garrison- Dagget, John House 362 North Washington Street	NRDIS PR	7/12/1990 5/27/1997	2 2
Woodcock-Hatch- Maxcy House Historic District 362 North Washington Street	NRDIS	7/12/1990	4

* Includes the state designated "scenic road," Old Post Road

KEY: PR = Preservation Restriction; NRDIS = National Register District; NRIND = National Register Individual
 SOURCES: North Attleborough Historical Society; North Attleboro's Assessor's Office; Massachusetts Historical
 Commission, 1999; State Register of Historic Places 2010, Massachusetts Historical Commission

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Hazardous Waste Sites

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) bureau of Waste Site Clean-Up lists 171 records of sites in the Town of North Attleborough. According to the most recent listing, 140 of these sites are classified as "closed" (having some resolution). The record for the town also includes eight (8) sites listed as "Open Sites" (awaiting resolution) and another twenty-three (23) sites listed as having "Activity & Use Limitations" (closed or resolved with restrictions for reuse).

Approximately one-half of these listed sites are a result of petroleum related contamination. The remaining sites involve contaminants related to the manufacturing processes employed by North Attleborough's more historic and traditional industries, such as foundries, jewelry, plating and metal finishing. These sites are, for the most part, confined to the industrial and urban downtown areas. Although there may be some concerns in terms of planning urban multi-use trail facilities, the principal, desired open space and recreation areas considered in this open space plan will not be affected by any of the listed sites.

Landfills

The North Attleborough Landfill is located off of Landry Avenue at 777 Mt. Hope Street. The capped and closed landfilled areas occupy approximately 25 acres and are surrounded by wetlands to the south, east and west. The Town has completed the construction of three phases of landfill capping under an Administrative Consent Order dated March 16, 1998. A gas vent flare was installed to mitigate landfill odors and control gas migration at the landfill site and has been in continuous operation since. A residential transfer station and recycling center currently operate on a portion of the land. The Town received its final approval of the capping and closure and an authorization to operate the transfer station from MADEP on January 14, 2009.

In June 2002, the Town requested proposals for a post-closure recreational use of a portion of the capped landfill. At the time it entertained leasing the property to a corporation intent on building and operating a golf course on the landfill acres as well as adjacent town and private properties. Discussions and negotiations continued into 2005; however an agreement was never finalized. Since then there have been discussions regarding the use of the property for a solar power plant.

In 2010, intermittent issues with the methane gas collection system have forestalled any post-closure recreational use discussions.

Erosion/Chronic Flooding/Sedimentation

The flood of record in North Attleborough occurred on March 17th and 18th, 1968. The Ten Mile River Basin in Attleboro, North Attleborough, and to a lesser degree, Plainville, has experienced chronic flooding and flood related problems. These problems have been due in large part to historical development patterns which have resulted in flood plain encroachment and diminished floodway capacity. These problems have been compounded siltation and blockages along the Ten Mile River and its tributaries, particularly along the Route 1 corridor.

The stretch of Route 1 along the Ten Mile River has been the focus of several flood control studies spanning decades and has involved at various times: the Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Public Works, SRPEDD (regional planning agency), the MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA, and others. The problem with silt, sand, and debris from roadway run-off has left many of the stormwater receiving areas (streams, wetlands, culverts) silted up. The amount of silt limits the ability of the man-made and natural systems to convey stormwater during periods of intense rain, causes detrimental stream and stream habitat impact, and causes public safety concerns due to flooding and overtopping of local roads.

Several roads in North Attleborough have chronic flooding problems during heavy rain events that impact the Ten Mile River, which in turn backs up the drainage system in the downtown area. Flooding is very problematic along Chestnut Street and East Street, particularly in that the Police Station is located at the corner of East and Chestnut. During heavy storm events vehicles are often required to be rerouted around this flooded area.

Another major flooding concern in the downtown area is the culvert where Route 1 crosses Elm Street. This is a very large culvert that has been silted up and causes safety issues at this major intersection in a high traffic area. Other major safety concerns due to chronic flooding exist on the following roads: Whiting Street at Broad Street; School Street at Broad Street; North Washington at Park Street; East Street at Holbrook Avenue; Chestnut Street at the Ten Mile River; Riley Court to the end; Dexter Street to the end.

The Town has recently created a Stormwater Committee and a Ten Mile River Committee to work towards stormwater management and flood mitigation strategies in the Ten Mile River Watershed and throughout the town.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Problems

The town has long been experiencing infiltration/inflow (I/I) problems at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Infiltration problems can be attributed to groundwater entering the system through aging, defective or, broken sewer pipes. Inflow problems are the result of stormwater entering the system through catch basins, roof drains, sump pumps or, defective manhole covers. The volume of water entering the sewer collection system through inflow and infiltration reduces the capacity of the system to transport wastewater.

The town has been working to remedy these problems by extending sewer service to those areas of town currently experiencing septic/on-site failures as well as replacing again sewer pipes responsible for the majority of I/I problems. This is part of a multi-year plan developed for the North Attleborough Board of Public Works (BPW) by Earth Tech, Inc., during 1999-2000. The project also involves the use of closed circuit camera surveys of the pipes throughout the system in order to develop a televised/video record of potential problem areas. These existing and potential I/I hot spots can be analyzed and given the appropriate repairs.

The BPW has also spent a considerable amount of time and effort to inspect and repair manhole covers.

Development Impacts

Between 1999 and 2005, North Attleborough experienced growth and land consumption at a rate that ranked first in the state for acres developed per square mile. Beside the demands made on standard municipal services by steady growth (police, fire, sewer, water, roads, schools), a Park & Recreation Department that has long provided numerous programs and opportunities, amenities, and quality of life options, has felt the strain fiscally (reduced budgets) and physically (less staff) as it attempts to meet the needs of a larger and more diverse population.

Since the 1980's, the town, through an aggressive land acquisition program and prudent use of the APR and enrollment in Chapter 61A programs, has been able to retain significant portions its rural landscape and areas of conservation interest, with little intrusion from development. In addition, the planning board has been able to employ its cluster development provisions with some excellent results, including the Ledges and Echo Village, where large tracts of land have been preserved and dedicated to conservation.

Unfortunately, enrollment in the Chapter 61A program provides only temporary protection, and the town may be faced with some major decisions should these land owners cease to remain enrolled.

The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission and other municipal boards and commissions, however, remain very concerned over the future of the western and northwestern portions of town within the Seven Mile River Watershed. This area is largely agricultural and open space land with some large lot and preexisting single family housing. Most of the town's Chapter 61 land and all of its APR parcels are found in this area. As the town continues its steady growth, this area of town will become more appealing to developers. Residents of the area, and other townspeople, as expressed in the Open Space Plan survey results and subsequent public meetings, value the rural character and pastoral beauty of this area of town.

Town Boards and Departments have begun to address their major land use planning documents in order to meet the needs of a growing community. In addition to updating its Conservation, Open Space & Recreation Plan, the town is also beginning an update of its Community Master Plan in order to address looming sustainable growth issues. The Historical Commission has also expressed interest in preparing a Historic Preservation Plan and developing an archaeological sensitivity map similar to the models created in Bolton and Medfield, MA.

Impaired Waters

Overall, the groundwater resources of the town have maintained their relative quality over the years. The town recognized early on the importance of the protection of groundwater for its drinking water supply. The town's Abbott Run Wellfield was the first Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE, now DEP) certified Zone II water supply protection area in the region. Surface water quality, particularly in the waterbodies of the Ten Mile River Watershed, however, has presented a constant challenge to the town.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MA DEP) Integrated List of Waters and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I (U.S. EPA

New England) Waterbody Assessment, several waterbodies within the Ten Mile River Watershed are listed as impaired for various reasons, and include: Portions of the Ten Mile River for noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, pathogens, and turbidity; portions of the Bungay River for pathogens; portions of Falls Pond for noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, and low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment; Scotts Brook for flow alteration. These issues arise due largely to the past land use and historic development patterns around the Ten Mile River (it is a former industrial river that runs through the downtown), the fact that the river is walled in areas, runs under buildings and roadways, and is subject to stormwater runoff from major highways and densely developed urban areas (and is subject to extreme sedimentation in its tributaries because of this).

The Ten Mile River Watershed is also in the 11% to 25% range of impervious cover. Streams in this range tend to show degradation due to urbanization, including altered stream geometry, declining physical stream habitat, water quality degradation and falling biodiversity. The town would like to continue to pursue a strategy of remediation of nonpoint sources of pollution (as they are identified) promotion of stewardship of rivers and streams, retain and develop greenway connections, protect remaining intact floodplain, and making improvements in the downtown area to alleviate pollutant loads and downstream flooding.

Environmental Equity

North Attleborough is committed to providing all residents with equal access to conservation, parks, and recreational opportunities. Environmental equity assures an unbiased distribution of environmental benefits, such as open space and recreation areas, to all neighborhoods and populations including the Environmental Justice (EJ) community. The recently designated EJ community in North Attleborough is situated in close proximity to conservation and park land as well as some of the town's primary recreational assets (including public pool and recreational fields, adjacent to both the Town Hall and School Department facilities, and the public beach at Falls Pond). School Department facilities are also located in close proximity, to both east and west of the EJ community. The North Attleborough Public Library is located close by in the downtown, and is accessible via public transportation and pedestrian links.

One of the top six action items as outlined in the 2013 Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is to delineate, plan, and construct new multimodal trails in and around the primary population areas to provide greater access to the town's conservation, recreation, cultural and historical assets. These trails would go directly through the EJ community.

V. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

A. INTRODUCTION

The value of open space to a community, particularly a growing community such as North Attleborough, cannot be overstated. Open space land can include a wide variety of locations and uses. In North Attleborough, open space includes forest land, former farm fields and meadows, multi-purpose areas/fields, beaches on pond and lakefronts, small urban pocket parks, scenic areas, cultural and historic areas, parks, and wildlife areas. Preservation of these open space areas is important not only for the recreation and relaxation of the citizens who use them, but for the town as a whole. Open space preservation can help to retain local character and help to avoid excessive or inappropriate development. Open space is also important for flood control, habitat area for flora and fauna, and as a buffer between various land uses.

Historically, North Attleborough has been one of the more efficient communities in southeastern Massachusetts in terms of acquisition and retention of open land. While most of this activity has been facilitated locally through direct “kitchen table talks” with landowners (which has led to direct acquisition by the town and/or landowner donation), the town has, on occasion, worked with the state’s Division of Conservation Services (DCS) and Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to secure properties.

Chapter Lands

The town has been particularly active in promoting the economic viability of open land through landowner enrollment in agricultural, forestry, and recreational property tax reduction programs (M.G.L. Ch. 61A and 61B respectively offered in the State Tax Code. While all three of these Chapter Programs result in a tax reduction for property owners, they also provide the town with a “right of first refusal” (for purchase) should the landowner intend to sell or convert the land to other uses (owners of land classified under the Chapter 61 Programs must notify the town Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Board of Assessors before selling or converting the land to another use). These purchase options may also be assigned to a qualified private non-profit organization. Although designed to provide an impetus for continued use of land for agricultural purposes, this is not a permanent preservation program or strategy. North Attleborough has fifteen (15) property owners and 865.9 acres of land enrolled in the various Chapter 61 programs. This acreage is predominantly agricultural land and is located entirely in the western and northwestern portions of the town.

APR Land

North Attleborough has also utilized the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Programs under which the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) compensates landowners for their willingness to place a permanent restriction on their land prohibiting all non-farm development and allowing only for agricultural uses. The landowner retains all rights of ownership including the rights to lease land, sell land, rights of privacy, and right to will it to heirs. Further, under this program a farmer may sell the development rights to the Commonwealth and the restricted farmland to another farmer. The use of these land retention programs along with the foresight and commitment of local landowners has enabled North Attleborough to maintain a good deal of its rural and agrarian landscapes. North Attleborough

presently has three farm owners participating in the APR program. The parcels under APR restriction currently account for over 300 acres of land.

Conservation Restrictions

One of the more traditional and commonly applied tools in open space protection is the “conservation easement” (also known as a conservation restriction or “CR”) established under M.G.L. Ch. 184 sections 31-33. The CR is a legal (deeded) agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits future development of the land in order to protect its conservation value (although in some cases, the deed may stipulate that the CR will only be in effect for a specific number of years, in which case the land is not permanently protected). Farmlands, wetlands, forests, and golf courses all qualify for conservation restrictions under the state regulations. Conservation restrictions as a means to protect environmentally sensitive lands benefit not only the land owners interested in holding on to and preserving their land, but also the community by eliminating the expense of purchase, insurance and maintenance of the land, or loss of tax revenue². Currently, the town of North Attleborough only holds one conservation restriction (37.34 acres) within the North Attleborough Preserve Subdivision off of High Street (Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 19278 page 249). When asked in the Open Space Survey, if it was important to preserve open space for conservation, 86% of respondents said yes. When asked what method was preferable for open space preservation, 50% of respondents answered “conservation easements”.

All of the land preservation practices described above are employed to preserve community character and assets, retain environmental integrity, and avoid fragmentation of important habitat. The town has been fortunate to retain large in-tact riparian corridors exist in the Seven Mile and Bungay River Watersheds. The northwest side of town, as stated above, has been the beneficiary of hundreds of acres of land protected through the APR Program. The town’s Conservation, Planning and Recreation offices are also acutely aware of the potential loss of open land in these relatively undeveloped and agricultural areas, particularly in regards to Ch. 61A enrolled lands. This has led the town to begin to develop a prioritization and ranking criteria for the protection of open land, as well as highlighting those areas best suited to accommodate development.

This strategy was taken to the planning and mapping level in 2007-2008 under the auspices of the South Coast Rail Corridor Study spearheaded by Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). In the course of the South Coast Rail study, SRPEDD worked with the twenty-seven cities and towns that make up the SRPEDD region to identify those areas that would be best suited for protection or development. It was important to identify these areas ahead of the rail project in order to help communities prepare for direct and secondary impacts of development associated with the improved transportation system. These areas were identified at local community meetings and identified as Priority Protection Areas (PPA’s) and Priority Development Area’s (PDA’s). PPA’s are those areas within municipal boundaries that deserve special protection due to the presence of significant environmental features such as endangered species habitat, areas critical to water supply, cultural/historical/archaeological resource areas, scenic landscapes, and others. PDA’s are areas

² Youngman, Joan. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, <http://www.mass.gov/dor/local-officials/dls-newsroom/ct/conservation-restrictions-and-real-property.html> (2/27/14)

within a municipality that have the capability or the carrying capacity to accommodate development or redevelopment. These areas are often characterized by good access to and from the transportation infrastructure, available infrastructure (utilities), lack of environmental constraints, and local support. All of these sites were placed on local maps and submitted to the state to be considered for inclusion on a state PPA/PDA map.

In 2009, Governor Patrick signed Executive Order 525, aligning state investments in infrastructure and land preservation with the PPA/PDA Map produced as part of the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan (2009). (See PPA/PDA Map for North Attleborough). This state investment strategy may afford the town the opportunity to address some of its long standing desires to create multimodal urban trails to improve access and connectivity between the urban core and recreation, conservation, and cultural/historical resource areas. This could also, as mentioned previously in the discussion of the Environmental Justice population, help to create greater equity, opportunity and access to public and available private conservation, recreation, and open space assets for those living in the downtown area.

B. INVENTORY

The following inventory lists all parcels held by the Town (Selectmen, Conservation, Park and Recreation, and Utilities) of conservation and recreation interest as well as those private parcels with significant conservation/preservation value.

TOWN FOREST AREA **142 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Selectmen		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The town forest is located in the northeast corner of the town, adjacent to a gravel operation, off of Plain Street. A naturally occurring pitch pine-scrub oak forest type covers over half of the property; scrub oak being the most dominant species. The remainder of the site is level and gently sloping in the western section and irregular in the northeastern portion. There are no ponds or streams on the property. Access to the forest is provided by a woods road off Plain Street, which runs around the perimeter of the property, and by several short connector roads. The area is currently used for limited walking. In 2000, the DPW was given 35 acres of this site for use as a compost area. Parks and Recreation controls 15 acres of the forest which was seriously considered for development of "Mini Fenway" however the plans fell through.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY **225 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Federal	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The National Fish Hatchery off of Bungay Road includes numerous fish hatching and breeding tanks, as well as a large wetland-type reservoir used primarily for supplying water to the fish hatchery. Forty-five acres are devoted to the hatchery and 180 are taken up by the reservoir and surrounding upland. The wetland area has a trail system for wildlife observation which is open to the public, as is the hatchery. Tourism, nature trails, wildlife viewing, and educational programs are all potential opportunities.

RIVER WELL FIELD **85 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	North Attleborough Water Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This area is the site of two gravel-packed wells used for town water supply. The area also functions as a flood storage area for the Bungay River and lies directly over a major aquifer. The site, including the industrial park stream, is mixed abandoned fields, wetlands and woodlands. Public access is restricted.

ANGLE TREE STONE ROD AND GUN CLUB

42 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	High (Members)
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The use of this area is restricted to members of the club and their guests. There is, however, a conservation easement to the Town of North Attleboro to the Bungay River. The area is mostly wooded with a small road system. There are also ponds and streams on this property. Facilities include a trap range, target range, picnic area and clubhouses. Activities available are hunting, nature appreciation, bird watching, trap shooting, target practice and archery. A one acre playfield is also available. This area is used year-round and the facilities are well maintained.

HOCKOMOCK YMCA CAMP

15 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	N/A
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This parcel includes 3 acres of camping area, 0.5 acres of picnic area, 0.5 acres of small play area, a one acre playground and a one acre ball field. Thirteen acres of land are available as a nature area. Use of this facility requires membership in the YMCA. Camping and picnicking areas are serviced by adequate access roads, yet the area is deficient in trails. Water supply and quality are adequate as are waste disposal methods. The same analysis applied to the 1.5 acres of playground and the one acre of playfield.

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PARK

184 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This park is the highest point in Bristol County and is equipped with numerous picnic areas, a petting zoo, playgrounds, ski slope, sledding hill, and playing fields (lacrosse), as well as 84.5 acres of wooded park area. The area is serviced by adequate access roads. Water supply and waste disposal are also adequate. A fire watch tower, which is open to the public, provides an attractive vista of North Attleborough and the surrounding area. In addition to the family oriented facilities on site, the property offers hiking, walking and bird watching opportunities. Plans for additional trails and a frisbee golf course are currently underway.

JOSEPH MARTIN SCHOOL/PLAYGROUND

11 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Fair
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	School Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The area around this elementary school contains 0.5 acres of playground and 2.5 acres of playing fields. A wooded area is adjacent to these grounds and a nature trail is available. The playground and the fields are used mostly by the school children. The quality of the facilities is fair; as is maintenance.

RILEY CONSERVATION AREA

60 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A-Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The land in this parcel is gently rolling with some swamp, perched water and rocky outcroppings. It is covered by second growth mixed hardwoods. There is a power line easement on a portion of the site. Hiking and wildlife observation are possible for the avid naturalist.

TOWN LANDFILL AREA

88 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	N/A
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	North Attleborough Highway Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This site has been devoted to town sanitary landfill operations. Presently, a site closure and restoration plan is being formulated. Recommended plans for future use of this area, when landfill operations are complete, will be included.

HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS

76 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	School Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

Most of the recreational acreage is devoted to playing fields, including: one football field and one practice field, two baseball fields, two softball fields, and four tennis courts. Quality of these facilities is very good. Most activity occurs during the academic year with some town use of the fields during the summer months. Water and sanitary facilities are available in the high school buildings.

TOWN LAND

42 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very Low
ZONING:	Industrial	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Selectmen		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This land off Cliff Drive includes wooded areas, an extensive wetland system, pond and stream. The land is located between the Riley Property and Kelley Boulevard and would make an excellent wetland wildlife habitat and could be incorporated into the town’s envisioned greenbelt system. The property has potential for wildlife viewing and passive recreation. There has been some disturbance as a result of all-terrain vehicles.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

17 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This area, while not a conservation or recreation area is part of the town greenbelt system. The site is well maintained and contains many large shade trees and decorative plantings. Some species of small wildlife frequent the area. Although the site is frequently used for walking it is not a recreational area.

MASON FIELD AND PLAYGROUND**9 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This area contains a Babe Ruth baseball diamond with lights, two little league diamonds, one basketball court, a gazebo, football field, a covered stage, concession stand, playground, many picnic tables, and a batting cage. One of the baseball fields has dugouts and is very well-maintained.

ST. MARK'S SITE**4 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Fair
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Limited	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Fall River donated the pond and adjacent wetland behind St. Mark's Church in 1979. The pond was created by the construction of a small earthen dam along Rattlesnake Brook. The pond is shallow with a muddy bottom surrounded by a swampy forest. Some wildlife species are present. Access is a problem and the property has little recreational potential.

LESTAGE PROPERTY**58 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Selectmen/Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This property is an old pasture and includes an historic farm house and the Coddling Skating Rink which is equipped with lights, 3 benches, and a walking trail. The Historical Commission is currently pursuing a restoration project for the farm house. The Historical Commission also implemented a community garden program in 2013 with cooperation from the BOS which has been very successful. In addition, the Park Department has recently started construction of several athletic fields on a portion of the property (7 acres) with the help of several donors. The fields are scheduled to be completed in 2014. The property has potential for additional hiking trails, picnicking, and active recreation.

WHITING POND AND BEACH**31 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

Whiting Pond beach area (the Dr. Robert Fitzgerald Conservation Area) is a public beach and a state boat ramp off of Broadway Extension and activities include swimming, boating, kayaking, fishing, picnicking, and ice skating in winter. The pond is stocked in the spring and fall by DCR making the area a very popular fishing location. The beach is for North Attleboro and Plainville residents only and is less utilized than the other town beach. Lifeguards are no longer staffed at the beach due to funding issues.

COLUMBIA FIELD**10 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Fair
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This area contains a practice football field and three baseball diamonds. This field was once the home of the early 20th century “Little World Series” played between Attleboro and North Attleboro (7 games were played between the years 1919 and 1923). Barnstorming major league baseball stars such as Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson, Rogers Hornsby and Grover Alexander appeared in these local contests. The Water Department has provided restrooms and some onsite parking.

WETLAND (North end between Route 1 and North Washington Street)**3 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Poor
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This wetland along the Ten Mile River is vital for storing floodwaters. It is also suitable for some wetland wildlife species. Siltation from flooding and road run-off has left the area predominantly a phragmites and cattail marsh. This area is currently being considered for rehabilitation and restoration to an open water body under the DEP Wetlands Protection Program.

WETLAND (Southern end between Route 1 and East Street)**6 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Commercial	CONDITION:	Poor
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

A vital role in flood control on the Ten Mile River is also played by the wetland. This site also affords opportunities for wetland wildlife observation. Siltation from flooding and road run-off has left the area predominantly phragmites and cattail marsh. This area is currently being considered for rehabilitation and restoration under the DEP Wetlands Restoration Program.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL POOL**0.46 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	N/A
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The community pool measures 150 by 75 feet and is equipped for swimmers of all ages. Located at the center of town, the fully staffed pool is easily accessible to most residents. Adequate parking is provided by the adjacent junior high school parking lot. This facility is open for use only during the summer months.

VETERAN'S PARK**2 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This small park is located in front of Town Hall in downtown area of North Attleborough. The park has benches, a WWI memorial, WWII memorial and WTC monuments. It also contains a gazebo/bandstand and many ornamental and shade trees, which, along with the lawn areas, are well-maintained.

COMMUNITY FIELD**8 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		

TYPE OF GRANT: N/A

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This field is located behind Town Hall and Community School and accessed through Barrows Street. The field area contains a Babe Ruth baseball diamond and a men's soccer field. Also a football field equipped with lights and bleachers. There is a playground, concession stand, and an unused stone field house which contains restroom facilities. The three acres of playing fields available at this site have been improved by re-sodding.

ROSE FIELD 2 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Fair
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Limited	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	School Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

Goalposts delineating a football/soccer field and the remnants of a running track are present here. The grass is in good condition and is well-maintained. There are no benches, restrooms, water fountains or trash containers. The area is accessible only by way of a dirt road adjacent to a private residence.

BARROWS FIELD 1.3 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Industrial and Commercial	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This park, located in the center of town adjacent to the Police Station, is planted with trees, flowers, and shrubs. Vietnam and Korean Monuments are displayed. The grass and trees are well-maintained. No recreational potential other than walking and observing the monuments.

ROOSEVELT AVENUE/AMVET BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	School Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

These two schools are located on adjacent properties separated by a thin strip of woodland.

HOPPIN HILL RESERVOIR**72 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	City of Attleboro Water Dept.	CURRENT USE:	Low-restricted
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Limited	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	City of Attleboro		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

Located off of Route 120 in the Town of North Attleboro, the Hoppin Hill reservoir is a drinking water supply for the City of Attleboro and is owned by the City Water Department. The Water Department discourages fishing in the reservoir however the upland areas are used for walking and hiking. No additional recreational uses are allowed.

UPPER FALLS POND/BARBARA RD BEACH**62 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential/Industrial	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

Upper Falls Pond is a 62 acre impoundment with a maximum depth of 30 feet. There is a public beach off of Barbara Road (the Joseph F. Zaino Memorial Conservation and Recreation Area) as well as a state boat ramp. The beach and boat ramp are heavily used in the summer months with full time beach staff managed by the Conservation Commission. Recently, the Commission completed a \$40,000 upgrade to the beach and parking lot, making the area ADA compliant. Other activities available are fishing, picnicking and ice skating in the winter. The town also owns small beach area (one acre site) on the western side off of Peck Road, accessed by a small path, which is used by locals in the area.

LOWER FALLS POND**60 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The southern basin is approximately 60 acres and has a maximum depth of 20 feet. There is a public boat ramp (the Rudolph Burthold Boat Landing) and very small parking area off of Metters Street suitable for canoes and car top boats. A small beach and picnic area are located in the Conservation owned Martin Area, abutting the pond; however this area is no longer open to the public (see below). The pond is stocked by DCR in the spring and fall making it a very popular fishing destination.

MARTIN CONSERVATION AREA**78 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A-Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This area includes the Martin, Morrell, Glenfield and Slaiger properties. The site is wooded and contains a stream and some wetland areas. Nature trails have been established throughout the area however maintenance is needed. There are beach and picnic areas along the lower Falls Pond shoreline however are no longer open to the public. The area is suitable for fishing, picnicking, hiking, walking, nature study, camping and group activities. There is also potential for an additional boat ramp.

STURDY POND AREA**26 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The pond was converted from a shallow, muddy mill pond to a beautiful recreation pond. The bottom was completely dredged, a small beach provided and several tree plantings added. Recreational activities include walking, fishing, ice skating and wildlife observation.

GRIMALDI LAND**8 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Very Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Limited	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This is a comparatively low-lying area with some swampy sections. It is covered with dense hardwoods (20 to 25 feet tall) and a thick understory. There are no recreational activities available here at present. The area seems to be serving primarily as a wildlife habitat. The only access to the property is by way of a narrow dirt road.

ABBOTT RUN VALLEY CLUB**73 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	High (Members)
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	None
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/ECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The club land, located mostly on a hilltop, is covered with dense hardwoods, forty to sixty feet tall. There is a large clearing where seven double tennis courts, an Olympic-size swimming pool and a clubhouse/locker room facility are located. The quality of these facilities is good. Use of the club's land and its facilities is restricted to its members. Use occurs primarily during the summer months.

SHERMAN PARK**34 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private (In APR)	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The farm is slightly rolling to somewhat hilly land which abuts Earl Evans' property. It contains approximately 15 acres of cropland, 15 acres of pasture and 6 acres of woods and wetlands. The Seven Mile River runs across the western side. Many types of wildlife are present on this farm. No recreational potential for this agricultural land.

EARL EVANS FARM**136 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private (In APR)	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The farm is located in the northwest corner of town. Its topography is slightly rolling to somewhat hilly with several rock outcroppings and a large wetland in the eastern portion. Hay, vegetables and corn silage are the primary crops. Dairy cows are also supported. The area is abundant with wildlife. No recreational potential.

ALSON EVANS FARM**24 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private (In APR)	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This farm abuts Earl Evans’ in the southeast. There is a rolling to hilly topography which limits its use to hay or no-till crops. Cropland covers 16 acres with the remaining 6 acres being woods and wetland.

CHORNEY PROPERTY**86 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This farm extends from Fales Road to Ellis Road. It is slightly hilly land supporting mostly hay and woodland. The Seven Mile River traverses the property – providing opportunity for many indigenous and migratory species of wildlife. The Conservation Commission recently partnered with a Boy Scout troop to construct a foot bridge and internal trail segment on the site. A small parking area at the entrance was also constructed in partnership with the DPW. The site is used for walking, horseback riding, bird watching as well as limited hunting.

HUGH AND DOROTHEA DONNELLY CONSERVATION AREA**37 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The Arns Farm located off of Hickory Road was formally dedicated to Hugh “Bud” and Dorothea Donnelly by the Commission in 2011. The property is a combination of woodland, pasture and wetlands including a stream. The property directly abuts the Chorney Property creating a large expanse of open space on the west side of town. Together these properties could form the nucleus of a Seven Mile River Greenbelt area. Access off of Hickory Road is limited due to the wetlands and lack of parking. There is a small access path off of Ellis Road which is primarily used for tractor access to hay the fields. The property has the potential for some limited walking and hiking trails in the upland areas which could connect to the existing trails on the Chorney property.

DALE EVANS FARM**80 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private (In APR)	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Limited	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This property consists of cropland, pasture, woodland, support land, and 7 acres devoted to a barn, stable and riding arena which offers private instruction in horseback riding and hunting. Two parcels divide the farm. The east side is level to rolling relief. It is very productive due to drainage which separates two fields and eventually feeds into a pond. The west side is level to somewhat rolling fields and woodland with the Seven Mile River providing irrigation. At present, the land supports hay and corn silage which is used in part to raise dairy cows and horses. No recreational potential.

GIRL SCOUT WELL FIELD**15 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Limited
MANAGEMENT:	North Attleborough Water Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This well field located off of Hunts Bridge Road which is bordered by Abbott Run is hilly and covered by a thick forest stand. The area is located adjacent to the Ruth Rhind recreation Area and provides a large expanse of open space along the Abbott Run however access to the public is restricted providing no recreational potential.

CHEMAWA COUNTRY CLUB**83 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	Very High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	None
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The public nine-hole golf course is open to all upon payment of greens fees. It is used by residents of Rhode Island as well as by those of North Attleborough and other neighboring communities. An outdoor swimming pool is located next to the Pro Shop.

ALLEN AVENUE SITE**5 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Fair
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This tree covered site is located in the back of Allen Avenue School. It is rocky and a seasonally flowing stream runs through it. The area is currently suitable for nature walks but appears to be somewhat overgrown. A small number of ornamental species have been planted. A detailed site improvement plan has been prepared.

HIRSCH PROPERTY**41 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This land, bordered by Abbott Run River, is predominantly covered by fields and trees. It is located off of Depot Street and directly abuts the Adamsdale well field. There currently are no trails however the property has the potential for walking, hiking, and other passive recreation.

ADAMSDALE WELL FIELD**32 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	North Attleboro Water Department		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The well field lies in seclusion bordered by Abbott Run and near Robin Hollow Road. Wildlife is abundant on the property. Public access is restricted.

BLAIS FARM**115 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Private	CURRENT USE:	N/A
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	None
MANAGEMENT:	Private		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This large somewhat hilly farm supports some amounts of cropland, but most remains open and unused. There are also wetlands present as Abbott Run River runs through the eastern edge. This land is designated as a Priority Preservation Area for the town given its location and condition and could be utilized for walking, hiking, bird watching, and wildlife viewing.

RUTH RHIND RECREATION AREA

23 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	High
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The Ruth Rhind Recreation Area is located off of Hunts Bridge Road and has a little league baseball field, playground, bleachers and an open field. A majority of the acreage was previously known as the Shady Pines Girl Scout Camp and had a swimming pool, lodge house, and camping facilities. However they facilities were eliminated several years ago due to funding and maintenance issues. There is a potential for additional recreational fields.

HAROLD BURNS MEMORIAL WILDLIFE ARBORETUM

15 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Park Commission		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

This cemetery is located at the end of Mount Hope Street and has nature trails and unique bird watching opportunities.

GRAHAM PROPERTY

14 Acres

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Industrial	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes- restricted	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A-Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: This 14 acre property off of Towne Street, including a single family residential house, was donated to the Commission by Frederick and Virginia Graham to ensure their property remained undeveloped and utilized for conservation purposes. The property also includes a large barn and two small outbuildings. Mrs. Graham continues to reside in the house; therefore public access is currently restricted. In the future, the property has great potential for walking trails, bird watching, nature study and group activities. The barn could be converted into an educational center.

HAWKINS ROAD REAR**9 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	None
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A - Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: This property is immediately south of Interstate 295 is bordered by Abbott Run. The site supports wetlands and bordering land subject to flooding. There is no public access or recreational potential but the area provides important wildlife habitat. It is adjacent to the Howitt Land, see below.

HOWITT LAND**4 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	None
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A - Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: This land is bordered by the Abbott Run, contains wetlands and bordering land subject to flooding. The site is also mapped by the NHESP as estimated and priority habitat of rare wildlife. There is no public access or recreational potential.

QUINN STREET**9 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	No	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A - Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: The Seven Mile River traverses this heavily wooded site just west of Riverview Drive. The property is just south of the Hoppin Hill Reservoir and provides nice habitat connectivity however there is limited recreational potential.

WOODLAND PARK**16 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes-Limited	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A - Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

A cluster of parcels within the Woodland Park Subdivision. The area is primarily wetlands with a stream traversing the site. There is limited recreational opportunity however is used by the subdivision residents.

CHASTENET LAND **19 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Moderate
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation/City of Attleboro		
TYPE OF GRANT:	Self Help Grant Ch. 132A, Section 11		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:

The property is dominated by gently rolling hills, dissected by an unnamed stream and contains an outcropping of bedrock at the southeastern corner. The parcel was acquired by a grant in collaboration with the City of Attleboro to protect water resources in the watershed of the Seven Mile River. The intent of the acquisition was to leave the land in its natural state with limited passive recreation such as walking and hiking.

JACAP DRIVE **2 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Residential	CONDITION:	Very Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A-Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: This small parcel located at the end of Jacap Drive is predominantly wetlands and has limited recreational potential. However the property is adjacent to the Bungay River Protection Area and its protection provides a valuable buffer from the residential development as well as important wildlife habitat.

INDUSTRIAL PARK LAND/CONSERVATION AREA **20 Acres**

OWNERSHIP:	Town	CURRENT USE:	Low
ZONING:	Industrial	CONDITION:	Good
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes	PROTECTION:	Perpetuity
MANAGEMENT:	Conservation/Selectmen		
TYPE OF GRANT:	N/A-Donated		

COMMENTS/RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: Several parcels located within the North Attleboro Industrial Park. The conservation parcels are maintained by the North Attleborough Industrial Development Conservation Trust, established in 1986 for the purpose of improving and maintaining the conservation areas in the park. The parcels are dominated by wetlands and streams. No recreational potential.

VI. COMMUNITY VISION

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

On Thursday, December 6, 2012, the Open Space Committee hosted a public meeting specifically focused on defining the goals and objectives and action items of the Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This meeting involved citizen input in the general areas of greatest interest to the Open Space and Recreation planning effort – Environmental Concerns (Watershed/Water Quality Protection, Wetlands, Wildlife), Trails, Athletic Facilities, Parks, Scenic and Historic Sites, and Land Acquisition Strategies.

The Open Space Committee had previously sought input from town departments, neighborhood groups, and environmental groups through the distribution of an Open Space and Recreation Survey during the fall/winter of 2011. The survey was available on Survey Monkey via a link on the Town website, a link on the town's Park & Recreation Department website, 450 random mailings in each of the town's voting precincts, and in hard copy at Town Hall. The information obtained in the 287 total responses was used as one of the primary means of gauging the public's needs and concerns and provided a platform for the Community Goals meeting (survey and results are presented in the appendix of this document).

In addition to the survey the Open Space Committee utilized the following means to collecting data: open working meetings; community goals, objectives, and action plan meeting; and, major recommendations contained in previous North Attleborough planning documents, as they relate to open space and recreation goals and objectives.

Progress Report from the 2000 Open Space Plan

In the course of developing the Action Plan for the 2000 Open Space plan, there was a great deal of discussion and review undertaken by the Open Space Committee in order to assess the progress made in implementing the 2000 Open Space Plan's Action Plan. To its credit, the town, through its various departments and the efforts of several individuals, has been able to address and implement several of the Action Plan items:

- ✓ The town hired a full-time Conservation Agent;
- ✓ Town acquisition of the Barrows Building (clock tower), retaining the exterior architectural integrity while affecting the reuse as the municipal police headquarters;
- ✓ The Historical Commission worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to design, fabricate and install historic signs, both to replace and to recognize new sites, including: Woodcock Burial Ground, Paine Cemetery, Carpenter Cemetery, Powder House, Angle Tree Stone, Boundaries of the Old Town Historic District on Old Post Road, and the Coddling Farm on High Street;
- ✓ Created a Stormwater Committee to deal with stormwater management issues, primarily in the Route 1 corridor along the Ten Mile River corridor and tributaries;
- ✓ The town has developed its Geographic Information System;
- ✓ The town, in cooperation with the Town of Plainville and the City of Attleboro, has developed a flood response plan for the Ten Mile River and tributary system;
- ✓ In the fall of 2011, the Conservation Commission worked with a Boy Scout Troop to plan and develop recreational trails at the Chorney Farm;

- ✓ The Park & Recreation Department is currently in the process of developing multi-purpose fields at the Lestage property;
- ✓ The Conservation Commission acquired the twelve (12) acre Graham property in 2001;
- ✓ The Board of Selectmen, in 2012, appointed a Ten Mile River Study Committee to address flood issues on the river and its tributaries and contracted with Beta Engineering to work on this task;
- ✓ Invested \$42,000 from the CIP to make Barbara Road Beach and Boat Landing more user friendly, ADA compliant, and less susceptible to erosion;
- ✓ The Historical Commission has continued to pursue state and national register designation of historic districts and properties in town (most recently Codding Farm on 4/22/2009).

B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

North Attleborough is a town of contrasts. The dense development of the downtown area, historically growing around the Ten Mile River in order to accommodate business and industry, is not in evidence to the eastern, southern and western portions of the town. These areas are more rural, with large areas of passive and active open land. Agricultural parcels, located primarily in the northwestern portion of town, have been very important in the overall preservation of the more rural characteristics of the town, as have the unique landscapes (the famous “red rocks”) and wetland areas in the southern portion of town.

In 2013 with a growing population, fewer financial resources with which to operate, and more competition for those remaining financial resources, the town and its citizens remain committed to addressing the future open space, conservation and recreation needs listed below:

Goal 1: Protect the quality and quantity of the town’s ground and surface water resources

Goal 2: Prevent the loss of natural resources and habitat

Goal 3: Prevent the loss of the rural, cultural and historical qualities and assets of the Town

Goal 4: Develop a town-wide multi-use trail system including walking, hiking, biking, and possibly, canoeing where feasible

Goal 5: Promote coordinated, responsible land use management and planning

Goal 6: Expand and improve recreational opportunities for all residents

VII. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

Since 2000, the Conservation Commission has been working to address some of the primary goals and objectives presented in the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Commission is attempting to address the need for passive recreational opportunities in North Attleborough while still pursuing a long-range greenway plan for both the Seven Mile and Ten Mile River areas. The Commission is also still very concerned with addressing flood management problems in the Ten Mile River Watershed and the impacts of silt and sediment on several tributary streams in sub-watershed areas (the Conservation Agent serves on the recently created Stormwater and Ten Mile River Study Committees with other town staff and citizens working to address these issues).

Following up on an assessment and recommendation originally made by the Pilgrim RC&D Council's Environmental Review Team in 1999, the Commission worked with a Boy Scout Troop in 2011 to plan and develop a trail system at the Chorney Farm. They would like to pursue similar efforts on the adjacent Arns, Mullen and Chastenet properties in the near future. This effort would help to meet the passive recreation and trail needs of the community as well as form the core of a greenway along the Seven Mile River.

In order to meet the financial need associated with developing a greenway and trail system in the town, there has been preliminary discussion amongst town boards and commissions about adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA). This could be a means by which the town could directly fund, or provide match funding for grants or partnership efforts, to address conservation, historical preservation, community housing, and with the latest provision, recreational needs. Since 2008, the nearby towns of Rehoboth, Seekonk, Dighton, Somerset, Swansea, and the City of Fall River have all passed the CPA (information on the CPA and its local benefits appear in the Appendix of this document).

Because of its potential to address several areas of community need, an assessment of the future potential use of the High Street parcel (Lestage property) should be undertaken. This 58 acre parcel has been discussed in terms of hosting a multi-field sports complex, providing a link to a municipal trail system, passive recreation opportunities, and even community gardens/agriculture. There are also potential cultural and historic interests to be considered. An assessment of the Lestage property can help to guide the various town departments and commissions in planning for site appropriate uses based on the suitability and carrying capacity of the land.

The Martin Conservation Area also remains a point of interest in regard to present and future needs. The Martin area may be able to address multiple needs, specifically: access to water bodies; providing nature/education trails and a potential link in a local or neighborhood recreation trail system; and the potential to accommodate multipurpose fields. In addition, the Graham property could be developed as a passive recreation/nature observation property, for young and old alike, consistent with the wishes of Mrs. Graham.

The Commission also remains directly involved in flood control issues in the Ten Mile River Watershed, by virtue of controlling dams at Falls and Whiting's Ponds. The Commission

recently took measures to affect repairs to the armoring on the banks at Whiting's Pond. The Conservation Agent also serves on both the town's Stormwater Committee and the Ten Mile River Study Committee.

The Conservation Commission governs the town's two beach areas, Whiting's Pond and Barbara Road Beach and Boat Landing (at Falls Pond). These beaches are maintained through a partnership with the Park & Recreation Department. The town recently allocated \$42,000 from the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to make necessary improvements to Barbara Road Beach and Boat Ramp. The improvements specifically address making the facility more user friendly (improved grades, parking), ADA compliant, and less susceptible to erosion.

Lifeguards are assigned to the town beaches when the budget allows. When no lifeguards are on duty, swimming is at one's own risk. Motorized boats are prohibited from Whiting's Pond, which is reserved for sailing, canoeing, rowing and fishing craft. Presently, the oversight of seasonal staff at the beaches is handled by the Conservation Commission/Agent. This oversight should be transferred to the Park & Recreation Department, the office responsible for the hiring of seasonal staff for the beaches. Additionally, water quality testing at these sites should be conducted by the Board of Health.

Over the years, through the dedication and commitment of its members and staff, the Conservation Commission has been exemplary in meeting its responsibilities, preserving open land and enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act. However, with the rate of growth in the town over the past decade, and dwindling state resources and staff in the region, it has become increasingly apparent that the town needs to pass a local Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Passage of a local bylaw will better enable the Commission to conduct business more efficiently and meet the protection goals expressed by the public in the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Plan.

The protection of the town's wetlands also involves the special resource areas associated with them, such as vernal pools (see Section IV, E, of this plan). The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) recognizes vernal pools as important wildlife habitats and oversees a documentation and certification process for vernal pools. This certification is intended to provide an element of protection under the Wetlands Protection Act. Certified vernal pools are also protected from discharges of stormwater, fill, and other substances as provided under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards. A community's vernal potential and certified vernal pools are documented in the NHESP Atlas (distributed to Conservation Commissions) and online through MassGIS. Of the dozens of potential vernal pool sites listed for North Attleborough, only two (2) have been certified. The Conservation Commission can work with volunteers and other partners to improve this situation (the Town of Norton, for example, has 106 certified vernal pools as of this writing as part of a comprehensive conservation profile of the town's outstanding natural resource areas).

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

B. PARK & RECREATION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Massachusetts Outdoor 2006, is a five-year plan developed by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The plan is required for state participation in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants programs. The SCORP also provides an overview of the recreational preferences of the citizens of each geographic region of the Commonwealth as determined through a public participation and outreach process. The profile of recreational use afforded by the SCORP also provides municipalities with a planning tool for addressing the future needs and uses of our outdoor recreational resources.

The SCORP summary of the Commonwealth's Southeastern Region, which includes North Attleborough, indicates that water based activities are the most popular recreational pursuit. Neighborhood parks, tot lots, and playgrounds provide the second most popular recreational outlets for citizens in the Southeastern Region. The SCORP also revealed that one in four residents in this region visited greenways, trails, and wildlife conservation areas. And, while biking didn't enjoy the participation rate of some of the aforementioned activities, the number of facilities/miles developed in the region is a limiting factor (many southeastern regional communities have local bike/trail committees that have been working for years to develop trails; progress has been slow in coming but has increased considerably within the past five years).

Finally, it should also be noted that the SCORP indicated that citizens in this region favored restoring/reinvesting in and maintaining existing recreational facilities.

The SCORP summary for the Southeastern Region largely reflects the community's recreation preferences and desires in North Attleborough. The Program philosophy of the North Attleborough Park & Recreation Department is to: promote activities which contribute to personal health, wellness and a sense of community; and invest in parks and open space to enhance the environmental health, beauty and quality of life in the community.

In promoting this philosophy, the Park & Recreation Department has worked very well with the Conservation Commission in addressing the town's needs over the years. The programs offered by the Park & Recreation Department provide quality of life enhancements that help attract people to the town. The continued growth of North Attleborough will provide challenges to Park & Recreation to maintain the current facilities and programs as well as to offer new opportunities to a diverse and expanding population. Fiscal challenges, in the form of an adequate Capital Improvements Program, must also be met in order to maintain the quality of life opportunities that so many residents depend upon (the ability to stay local and have choices).

The Park & Recreation staff and board have been working on Capital Improvements Plans that take into account upkeep, maintenance, and needs assessments for all recreational holdings. Currently, most of the upgrades to sports fields/facilities are being made by user groups such as youth groups and sports associations, easing the burden on the town. This type of arrangement can work in a partnership effort in some specific cases, but it is not a sustainable systemic management strategy.

In addition to maintaining and expanding its present programs, Park & Recreation projects the need for three (3) ball fields and an additional two (2) multipurpose fields, over the next three to five years, in order to accommodate the growing population.

An ongoing issue (first brought up in the last Open Space and Recreation Plan) that still needs to be dealt with by the town is the threat of urban encroachment on the World War I Memorial Park and the Burns Wildlife Arboretum (and park land and open space in general). Potential development on both sides of the Park, which also houses a zoo and a multipurpose playing field, has created a concern for maintaining buffers and wildlife migratory corridors within and adjacent to Park boundaries. Solutions to the need for additional fields and the ability to maintain the integrity of the outer boundaries of the World War I Memorial Park may lie in the Lestage parcel assessment discussed in the “Conservation and Resource Needs” section of this plan.

Based upon the year-round public use of its recreational facilities, and use limitations related to access issues at certain holdings, the Park & Recreation Department must address lingering compliance issues at their facilities (as assessed in the current ADA Transition Plans included in Open Space and Recreation Plan). Addressing compliance issues will allow for the maximum and efficient use of several of the more developed Park & Recreation holdings. The alternative to improved facilities would be to put additional strain on regional and school related facilities on a year round basis.

The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Park & Recreation, have all expressed an interest in rekindling plans for an urban trail system linked to the downtown. The Historical Commission has also been working with Public Works to install signage along significant historical paths. Preliminary plans for a downtown multimodal trail were proposed and a draft completed by the former Town Planner in 1999. This new interest, along with the Conservation Commission’s desire to develop a trail system on its holdings on the northwest side of town (Chorney and adjacent properties), could significantly help meet the long-stated need for recreational trails (hiking, biking, walking) in town.

The following is a summary of some of the programs offered by Park & Recreation:

Summer Recreation Program- Nine-week camp program at three locations featuring daily events organized by experienced counselors complete with field trips throughout New England. Over 1,000 kids, grades 1-9 participated in 1997.

Summer Sports Camps- Eight one-week camps including boys and girls basketball, football, field hockey, gymnastics, cheerleading, baseball and softball. Instructed by NAHS varsity coaches. Quality camps with top-notch instruction at a fraction of the typical cost.

Summer Zoo Camp- A nine-week animal and environmental education program for boys and girls grades 3-8 held at our zoo. The program adopts a hands-on style and includes field trips of topical interest.

E.N.H.A.N.C.E.- Establishing New Horizons Achieving Notable Creative Enrichment. The program features enrichment classes in the areas of art, music, theater, dance, science, computers, video and other creative forms of expression for children grades K-12. Classes are held after school and there are four sessions a year including summer workshops. Instructors are

among the finest educators in the area. We are the only Recreation Department known that offers this type of programming.

Discovery Camp- Summer science and math classes with an emphasis on local topics and landmarks as well as an emphasis on fun! A total week of related field trips is also offered.

Youth Soccer- Developmental and recreation soccer for boys and girls grades K-8 held in the fall. Practices during the week with games on Sunday. Divisional breakdowns by age with an emphasis on instruction, sportsmanship, and fun! Program has grown to nearly 1,000 children.

Karate Club- Held throughout the year at our Mason Field House. Sessions are eight weeks in length and offer classes from beginners to advanced. Students are trained in the Tang Soo Do discipline that nurtures respect, responsibility, and dedication. Adults and children alike can learn to cope with our society in a more peaceful and confident manner.

Aerobics- Year round fitness classes that are held in seven week sessions featuring dance aerobics, modified aerobic movement and classes for senior citizens.

Pre-School- Activity classes for youngsters ages 3-5. Classes also available for toddlers with a parent. Arts and crafts classes are also scheduled throughout the year for pre-school children.

Youth Basketball- Developmental and instructional basketball for boys and girls grades 3-8. Children compete in six divisions with a practice during the week and games on Saturdays. Runs December through February and culminates in teams being selected for play in the Hockomock Tournament.

Youth Gymnastics- Eight week sessions are held in the spring and fall for youngsters grades K-8. Participants are divided by age and ability and are instructed on the beam, bars, vault and floor exercise. Toddler tumbling is featured for preschoolers.

Girls Softball- A ten week program each spring for girls grades 1-8 with an emphasis on development and instruction. Games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays and occasionally under the lights at Community Field. Program has now grown in three years to over 600 girls.

Senior Trips- For eleven months a year our department offers trips to museums, theater, concerts, historical sites, shopping venues, casinos, tourist attractions and much, much more throughout New England. Last year over 2,500 people traveled with us on trips that average 5-7 per month.

Ballroom Dancing- Multiple six week sessions are offered each year for beginners and advanced. Classes are held at our Mason Field House.

Summer Concert Series- Every summer eight outdoor concerts are held free of charge at the Amvets Bandstand in Veteran's Park. Concerts range from big band to jazz to blues to pop music to country and western. Something for everyone and a good time to be had by all.

Lighting the Town Christmas Tree- Held on the second Sunday of December and features a visit by Santa and caroling by the St. Mary's choir. Held at Town Hall with refreshments and good holiday cheer.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny- Held on the Saturday before Easter for children up to age 10. Easter eggs are plentiful.

Halloween Parade-Held every year on the closest Saturday to Halloween and features the N.A.H.S. marching band, treats for everyone and a costume judging contest. A highlight of the fall.

**Table 4.
Recreational Needs Analysis (Per NRPA Standards)
North Attleborough, population 28,712**

Facility	Recommended # of Units per Population	# of Community-Open Fee Accessible Facilities Currently in North Attleborough	Future Needs
Basketball	1 per 5,000	9	--
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0*	--
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	0**	--
Tennis	1 per 2,000	5	10
Volleyball	1 per 3,000	0***	--
Baseball	1 per 3,000	14	--
Softball	1 per 3,000	5	5
Football	1 per 20,000	2	--
1/4 Mile Track	1 per 20,000	0*	--
Soccer	1 per 10,000	6	--
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	2	--
Hiking Trails	1 mile per 2,500	2miles	10 miles
Golf Courses	18 holes per 25,000	1	--

* Regional facility is utilized

** Field hockey/multi-purpose fields along with a 1/4 mile track are located at North Attleborough High School

*** Town has 4 multi-purpose areas which can be utilized

The following quote from the Subdivision and Site Plan Handbook is an important reminder to any community assessing the adequacy of its recreational facilities:

Ideally, the national standards should stand the test in communities of all sizes. However, the reality often makes it difficult or inadvisable to apply national standards without question in specific locales. The uniqueness of every community, due to differing geographical, cultural, climatic and socioeconomic characteristics, makes it imperative that every community develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space taking into account such factors as population density, average age and income, average land values, etc. (Listoken and Walker, page 229-230)

C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

The management of the town's conservation, open space and recreation areas is primarily undertaken by the Conservation Commission and the Park & Recreation Department. The Conservation Commission and Park & Recreation Department do a fine job and have for many years, worked in a cooperative and complementary fashion in planning to meet the community's needs.

Beaches

In terms of specific management needs, there has been discussion of the need to formalize the arrangement for cooperative management of the town's beach areas. The Park & Recreation Department previously managed the beach program and provided seasonal staffing (lifeguards) at Falls Pond and Whiting's Pond, which offer fishing, picnicking and non-motorized boating as well as swimming. However over the last 10 years, the Conservation Commission assumed complete responsibility of the summer beach program which is currently managed by the Conservation Agent (including schedules, payroll and related issues). This should not be within the purview of the Conservation Agent whose principal duty is to enforce the Wetlands Protection Act and be the point of contact for the town on conservation and natural resource related issues. Supervision and management of the of the seasonal employees should be turned over to Park & Recreation in order to promote a smoother flow of management, more efficient use of town staff time, and overall improved departmental efficiency.

Landfill

In January of 2009, the DEP gave the town's landfill site its final approval for capping and closure as well as an authorization to operate a transfer station on a portion of the site. Unfortunately, issues with the onsite methane gas collection system have put any plans for reuse as a potential future passive recreation area on hold.

VIII. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In compiling the Open Space Surveys, and at the final public planning session on December 6, 2012, it was apparent that there was a slight shift in priorities from the prior plan. Natural resource and conservation carried a greater weight with the public while multi-use trails rose to prominence amongst recreation issues. The suggested means to by which to address the goals and objectives of this plan (“Local Lead/Partners”) left many options to consider and reflected an awareness of the more limited resources available and necessary to accomplish proposed tasks.

GOAL 1: PROTECT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE TOWN’S GROUND AND SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

Objective 1: Assess and eliminate possible pollution sources in important water resource areas in the most practical and efficient manner possible.

Objective 2: Support natural resource conservation and protection in important water resource, wetland and watershed areas.

GOAL 2: PREVENT THE LOSS THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND HABITAT

Objective 1: Work to document species habitat records for the town and the NHESP database in order to preserve our biodiversity, variety of habitat, and intact ecosystems.

GOAL 3: PREVENT THE LOSS OF THE RURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL QUALITIES AND ASSETS OF THE AREA

Objective 1: Support the preservation of open space through various traditional, innovative and creative means.

Objective 2: Promote cultural and historical preservation and renovation projects.

Objective 3: Identify and preserve significant archaeological resources.

GOAL 4: DEVELOP A TOWN-WIDE MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM INCLUDING WALKING, HIKING, BIKING, AND POSSIBLY CANOEING WHERE FEASIBLE

Objective 1: Work to develop a local multi-use trail system.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE COORDINATED, RESPONSIBLE LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Objective 1: Review the existing plans, management policies, and tools available to town departments, dealing with land use, acquisition, conservation, open space, and recreation to ensure compatibility and coordination of intent and effort.

GOAL 6: EXPAND AND IMPROVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS

Objective 1: Plan additional hiking and walking trails on conservation and park land.

Objective 2: Address the recreational needs of a growing and diverse population.

IX. SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

GOAL 1: PROTECT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE TOWN’S GROUND AND SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE 1: ASSESS AND ELIMINATE POTENTIAL POLLUTION SOURCES IN IMPORTANT WATER RESOURCE AREAS IN THE MOST PRACTICAL AND EFFICIENT MANNER POSSIBLE.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal funds; technical assistance funds and services through the regional planning agency, non-profits, state, and federal agencies.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Review the DEP 303d list, Narragansett Bay Comprehensive Management Plan (Narragansett Bay Program, RI), DCR Water Assets Study, and other recent environmental issue reports; prioritize the most sensitive, at-risk areas, and; seek mitigation or corrective action.	All municipal boards and departments dealing with land use issues, environmental issues, stormwater management, etc. Potential partners include the State DCR and DEP, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, SRPEDD, Save the Bay, Narragansett Bay Project.	Should begin immediately and be monitored for progress at regular intervals (quarterly, semi-annually or annually).
1b. Assess municipally-owned properties for potential environmental issues, particularly around water resource areas, drinking water supply areas, and recreation areas/facilities, and address concerns as required.	Water Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Public Works/ Highway Department, Recreation, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen.	Begin an immediate review of facilities and environmental challenges outlined in respective plans and explore effective and efficient ways to address these issues (through a timetable and prioritization approach).
1c. Review and improve, as necessary, the existing Water Resource Protection provisions of the Zoning Bylaws, as applicable.	Water Department, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, others as needed (SRPEDD, etc.).	2013 -2014

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION IN IMPORTANT WATER RESOURCE, WETLAND, AND WATERSHED AREAS.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: State, municipal, and non-profit funds for land and water conservation actions; MassDOT, DEP, Mass Environmental Trust, local, and federal Transportation Alternatives Program funds for flooding and stormwater related actions.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
2a. Secure open land adjacent to important water supply areas, conservation, recreation or water access holdings, using various tools (conservation restrictions, deeded easements, purchase, etc.).	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Water Department; potential partners could be local, regional, and state land trusts or conservation organizations.	Ongoing
2b. Promote public education on land and water related issues through outreach, media, printed materials, charettes, workshops, seminars.	Municipal departments and boards; local media and newspapers; federal, state and regional conservation partners, etc.	Ongoing
2c. Review municipal land holdings for conservation land value and status of protection.	Conservation Commissions, Open Space Committees, Assessors, local, regional, and state land agencies.	Ongoing
2d. Work to resolve the long-standing issues with sediment build-up and structural deterioration within the Ten Mile River and its tributaries, including: sediment and debris removal from the river bottom; removal of wall remnants from the river; assess and improve drainage systems in the Route 1 corridor; dredge and reclaim former flood storage areas (former ponds) along Route 1; address chronic sedimentation/ culvert problems at Elm Street.	Stormwater Committee, all applicable town department and commissions; MassDOT, DEP, Ten Mile River Study Committee, SRPEDD, others as needed.	Ongoing

GOAL 2: PREVENT THE LOSS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND HABITAT

OBJECTIVE 1: WORK TO DOCUMENT SPECIES HABITAT RECORDS FOR THE TOWN AND THE NHESP DATABASE IN ORDER TO HELP TO PRESERVE OUR BIODIVERSITY, VARIETY OF HABITAT, AND INTACT ECOSYSTEMS.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal funds; technical assistance services through state agencies, non-profits, regional planning agency, regional colleges and universities.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Begin a comprehensive survey and registration process of species, habitats, unique natural communities, rare, endangered or threatened communities, etc.; pay particular attention to those areas highlighted on EOEEA’s BioMap II area wide resource maps, TNC maps, etc.	Conservation Commission; NHESP staff, Environmental groups and organizations, colleges and universities, DCR, SRPEDD, Save the Bay, TNC, others as needed.	2013 and ongoing
1b. Work cooperatively to protect or preserve land that links existing protected areas and provides habitat connectivity and wildlife passages, without concern for municipal boundaries.	Appropriate municipal boards and commissions other parties as needed (state, local, regional, non-profit).	Ongoing
1c. Adopt a municipal Wetlands Protection Bylaw.	Conservation Commission, SRPEDD	2013 – 2014
1d. Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to help fund conservation and open space acquisition in priority areas.	Selectmen, Park & Recreation, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations	2013 - 2014

GOAL 3: PREVENT THE LOSS OF THE RURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL QUALITIES AND ASSETS OF THE AREA

OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE THROUGH VARIOUS TRADITIONAL, INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE MEANS

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds through the regional planning agency.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Establish a prioritization process and plan for acquisition of open space; acquisition/retention/enrollment of farmland into Ch. 61 and APR programs.	Conservation Commission, Assessors, Historical Commission, Parks & Recreation; Planning Board; Board of Selectmen.	2013 and ongoing
1b. Review existing land use and planning regulations in terms of exercising options such as limited development plans, transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation development, etc.	Planner, Planning Board in conjunction with appropriate city/town departments, boards, and committees; potential inclusion of SRPEDD.	2013 and ongoing

OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds through state, federal, non-profits, regional college and university programs.

ACTION

LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2a. The community should prepare and adopt a Historic Preservation Plan in order to determine new and update old priority projects.

Historical Commission and other related municipal departments as necessary; federal, state, and local partners (MHC, DCR, etc.)

2013 -2014

2c. Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act to fund potential historic restoration, acquisition, planning, preservation and related priority projects.

Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations

2013 - 2014

2d. Highlight the scenic, cultural and historical assets of the town as a true regional resource for social and cultural opportunities; look to restore and revitalize the historic and cultural core; continue the historic signage efforts to promote and link cultural and historical assets.

Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation, Historical Commission, Historical Society, Taunton Heritage River Program, DCR Heritage Landscape Program, others.

2013 and ongoing

2e. Assess the feasibility of projects that retain local historical landmarks, cultural links, and regional connections (kiosk to commemorate Columbia Field and the “Little World Series”; the relocation of Adamsdale Depot building to a transportation hub; creation of a regional “Powderhouse Trail” in the Greater Attleboro Area; revisit the idea of the “Gee Whiz” trail between the Attleboros; more markers for local historical sites that are not otherwise well known).

Historical Commission, Historical Society, Conservation, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, MHC, DCR, MassDOT, SRPEDD, GATRA, Planning Board, Selectmen, National Park Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program, City of Attleboro, Town of Plainville

2013 and ongoing

OBJECTIVE 3: IDENTIFY AND PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources in conjunction with technical assistance/services/resources from state agencies, non-profits, and the regional planning agency.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
3a. Adopt measures to protect areas of potential cultural and archaeological sensitivity (look at the Medfield Historical Commission Archaeological Advisory Committee’s guidebook	Appropriate municipal boards and commissions in conjunction with the Historical Commission, MHC, DCR, and others as appropriate and necessary.	2013 and ongoing

GOAL 4: DEVELOP A TOWN-WIDE MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM INCLUDING WALKING, HIKING, BIKING, AND POSSIBLY, CANOEING WHERE FEASIBLE

OBJECTIVE 1: WORK TO DEVELOP A LOCAL MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

POTENTIAL FUNDINGS SOURCES: state (DCR), regional planning agency, MassDOT, and federal resources for multi-modal recreational trail planning; state (Office of Boating and Fishing Access; MCZM), municipal funds and resources; non-profit technical assistance/services/funds.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Using existing on-road and off-road trails, and the ability to tie into other municipal and regional trails, develop a plan and timetable for the creation of additional local trails and links to existing trails; capitalize on the success of the 2011 Chorney trail effort.	Parks & Recreation, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Selectmen, DCR (Boating and Fishing Access), SRPEDD, Audubon, Scouts, and others as appropriate	2013 and ongoing
1b. Assess the ability of the town to link key open space parcels, town properties, schools, recreation facilities, etc. (“knit” together existing open space holdings).	Conservation Commission, Recreation, Planning, School Department, Selectmen, other city/town departments as applicable.	2013 and ongoing
	Conservation Commission, Selectmen,	2014 – 2016

1c. Secure funding sources for multi-purpose trail/facility planning and construction

others as appropriate, DCR Greenways and Trails Demonstration Grants Program, MCZM Coastal Access, DCR Boating and Fishing Access, SRPEDD, etc.

1d. Develop and publish a Town Trail Map/Brochure

Park & Recreation, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission

2014-2016; update as needed

GOAL 5: PROMOTE COORDINATED, RESPONSIBLE LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

OBJECTIVE 1: REVIEW THE EXISTING PLANS, MANAGEMENT POLICIES, AND TOOLS AVAILABLE TO TOWN DEPARTMENTS, DEALING WITH LAND USE, ACQUISITION, CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY AND COORDINATION OF INTENT AND EFFORT

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services from the regional planning agency

ACTION

LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

1a. Review and revise, as necessary, policies and procedures for inter-board communications, cooperative management of town assets, etc.

All town departments

2013 and ongoing

1b. Appoint a standing Open Space Committee in order to work internally and intra-municipally to plan, develop, and implement projects and update the Open Space Plan as changes occur and milestones are met.

Board of Selectmen

2013

1c. Develop a digitized Open Space and Recreation parcel database for the town so that all departments are working off of the same data when addressing acquisition, preservation, planning and remediation issues.

Planning, Assessor, all departments as necessary

2013 and ongoing

GOAL 6: EXPAND AND IMPROVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS

OBJECTIVE 1: PLAN ADDITIONAL HIKING AND WALKING TRAILS ON CONSERVATION AND PARK LAND

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds from state, regional, and non-profit agencies, organizations and programs.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
1a. Evaluate sites, plan, and develop passive recreation (hiking, walking, nature observation, etc.) and trail options for the nature observation, etc.) and trail options for the Conservation Commission lands (Arns, Mullen, Chastenet, and Graham properties) near the Seven Mile River; this would complement work already done on the adjacent Chorney property in 2011; these four properties could form the core of a greenbelt/trail system along the river corridor and the west side along the RI border.	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Scouts, DCR, SRPEDD, land trusts, non-profits and others as needed	2013 and ongoing
1b. Assess the potential for trails at Town Park and facilities and WWI Memorial Park	Park & Recreation, Board of Selectmen, Public Works, others as needed	2013 and ongoing

OBJECTIVE 2: ADDRESS THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF A GROWING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: Municipal resources; technical assistance/services/funds from federal, state, and non-profit agencies and programs.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LOCAL LEAD & PARTNERS</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</u>
2a. Undertake a comprehensive reuse study for the Lestage Property that includes the potential for necessary athletic and recreational facilities, community agriculture, cultural plots, recreational trails (and possible link to Angle Tree), and the retention of the integrity of the Historic Register properties on site.	Park & Recreation, Conservation, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Selectmen, USDA, NRCS, others as needed	2013 - 2014
2b. Develop a policy that no town park land will be encroached upon for non-recreational purposes.	Board of Selectmen	2013
2c. Adopt the Community Preservation Act and utilize the recreational provisions of the Act to help meet the local need	Park & Recreation, Selectmen, Conservation, Community Preservation Coalition, Trustees of Reservations	2013 - 2014
2d. Address the needs highlighted in the ADA Transition Plans for Park & Recreation and Conservation properties and facilities	Park & Recreation, Conservation, Selectmen, others as appropriate	2013 and ongoing

X. COMMENTS

XI. ADA COMPLIANCE AND TRANSITION PLAN

The following self-evaluation and transition plans were developed in accordance with the protocol presented in Appendix H of the state's Open Space and Recreation Planner's Handbook (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, rev. March 2008). A written summary of comments from the inventory sheets is contained in the Transition Plan for each site. Implementation of these Transition Plans is the responsibility of the controlling commission or department. In some instances, such as where the town has Management Agreements in place with the state, the planning, scheduling, and implementation will be conducted on a partnership basis.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION- APPLICABLE FACILITIES:

WHITING'S POND AND BOAT RAMP

Approximately 1-1/2 acres	Picnic Sites
Trees	Swimming Beach
Parking Facilities	Boat Landing

Whiting's Pond is one of two public swimming areas in North Attleborough as well as a place for boating. Residents from North Attleborough and Plainville only are allowed to use the facility. Motorized boats are prohibited from Whiting's Pond as it is reserved for sailing, canoeing, rowing and fishing boats. Gate attendants and lifeguards are assigned to Whiting's Pond when the budget allows. When no lifeguards are on duty swimming is at your own risk.

Transition Plan: Designated parking is assigned in the existing lot. Accessible port-a-johns are utilized on-site during the summer (heavy use) months (there are no permanent comfort facilities on site). The boat landing is at an accessible grade and is in the process of being refurbished (2012 start) by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (the town has a cooperative management agreement with Fish & Game for this facility).

BARBARA ROAD BEACH AND BOAT LANDING

Approximately 1-1/2 acres	Grass Area
Trees	Swimming Beach
Boat Landing	Picnic Sites
Parking Facilities	

Barbara Road beach and boat landing is governed and maintained by the Conservation Commission. Residents from Massachusetts and Rhode Island are permitted use of this facility, although North Attleborough residents are charged much lower parking fees. Public swimming and boating on Falls Pond is the main attraction at Barbara road. Motorized boats are allowed on the pond and are not restricted in size, just in speed. Water skiing is permitted but Jet skis are prohibited. The gate is attended during the summer and small fees are charged for parking. Lifeguards are assigned to Barbara Road when the budget allows. When no lifeguards are on duty swimming is at your own risk.

Transition Plan: Designated parking is assigned in the existing lot. Accessible port-a-johns are utilized on-site during the summer (heavy use) months; there are no permanent comfort facilities on site. The boat landing is at an accessible grade and motorized boats are permitted at

this facility. Refurbishing of the surface of the ramp is now necessary, and will be discussed with Fish & Game, and contingency funding will be requested in the next Capital Improvement Plan (Fiscal Year 2014).

CHORNEY PROPERTY

Approximately 85.7 acres
Trees/Edge Habitat
Meadow/Grass Area
Graded Parking

Blazed Trails
Accessible Bridge over on site stream and wetland
Passive Recreation/Nature Observation

Transition Plan: Until 2011, this site was used for walking, hiking and nature observation with no formal development or amenities. In the fall of 2011, the Conservation Commission worked with a local Boy Scout Troop to develop formal trails on site. The creation of trails also included the construction of an accessible bridge over an onsite stream and adjacent wetlands. The surface media in the parking area and trails will have to be upgraded in order to be fully accessible. There are no plans for permanent comfort stations or facilities on this site.

PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT-APPLICABLE FACILITIES:

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PARK

Approximately 184 acres
Ballfields/Parking Facilities
Ski Slope
Skating Pond
Playgrounds – 3
Natural Vista
Memorials

Animals – Petting Zoo
Picnic Areas
Fire Tower
Sledding Slope
Buildings
Trails
Flagpoles

Transition Plan: Presently, there is an exclusive ADA accessible area in the upper parking lot, close to the main building and facilities.

The second level of the main building will be made accessible by a ramp. Accessible port-a-john facilities are also employed on-site. The zoo building, maintenance building, and “Tippy’s” building all need improved door handles (and interior panic bars). Tippy’s building also needs compliant thresholds. The permanent restroom facilities at WWI Park also need rails for full ADA compliance. It had been recommended in a 1999 Pilgrim RC&D study that a kiosk delineating the recreation and trail areas with a color coding system, representing degree of difficulty, be constructed and placed in the parking lot. This idea will be revisited in the coming year.

COLUMBIA FIELD

Approximately 3 acres

Open Athletic Fields

Transition Plan: These are open, relatively flat athletic fields which employ on-street parking. The town should explore the need for designated parking spaces and cut curbing if/where necessary. While the number of active fields on this site will be cut back to one (1), the original Columbia Field (due to water treatment plant expansion), the Water Department has provided

ADA compatible restrooms and provide parking at the site. The restrooms need ADA compliant thresholds and the crushed stone walkway to the facility should be upgraded to MassDOT double crushed stone, at a minimum, in order to meet ADA standards.

WOODCOCK HISTORICAL CEMETERY

Approximately ½ acre	Grass area
Cemetery Headstones	Trees, Flowers and Shrubs
Flagpole	

Transition Plan: Not Applicable

BAPTIST COMMON

Approximately 1-1/2 acre	Grass Area
Trees, Flowers and Shrubs	Civil War Monument
Flagpole	

Transition Plan: Not Applicable

MASON FIELD AREA

Approximately 12 acres	3 Open Athletic Facilities
Grass Areas	Playground Equipment
Field Lights	Building
Picnic Sites	Volleyball Court
Parking Facilities	

Transition Plan: This field has no permanent comfort facilities but employs accessible port-a-johns. There is a need to add designated, accessible parking spaces in the existing parking area. The building onsite has no access, via ramp or elevator, to the second floor. The restrooms in the building are not ADA accessible or compliant (hardware, panic bars, thresholds, etc.).

SIMMONS PARK

Approximately ½ acre	Grass Area
Trees, Flowers and Shrubs	Monument
Flagpole	

Transition Plan: Not Applicable

BARROWS PARK

Approximately 1-1/2 acres	Exploring Pathway through Park for HC Access
Vietnam Memorial	Trees

Transition Plan: This treed urban park area is being considered for part of a multi-use urban trail in the downtown area. The former town planner and an engineering consultant had proposed a ramp and accessible path to connect two urban areas as part of the trail plan. This plan has still not been addressed.

COMMUNITY FIELD

Approximately 3-1/2 acres	2 Athletic Diamonds
Football Field	Field Lights
Basketball Court	Buildings
Parking Facilities	Playground
Picnic Sites	

Transition Plan: The Community Field complex is adjacent to the Town Hall and Town Hall parking lot. Because of its proximity to Town Hall, accessible parking and ADA compatible comfort facilities are available. Additional comfort facilities, in the form of accessible port-a-johns, are employed as needed. The concession stand and restrooms onsite have been remodeled and enlarged in compliance with ADA standards.

VETERAN'S PARK

Approximately 2 acres	Grass Areas
Park Benches	Trees, Flowers and Shrubs
WWII, Korean and WTCU Monuments	

Transition Plan: Veteran's Park is also adjacent to the Town Hall area. Accessible parking is available in the Town Hall parking lot as are ADA compatible comfort facilities. The town is exploring the feasibility of a ramp to allow access to the new gazebo onsite, donated by the local Amvets Post. (This is also the site of the annual lighting of the Town Christmas Tree).

TONER MEMORIAL

Approximately 1/8 acre	Grass Area
Trees, Flowers and Shrubs	Monument
Flagpole	

Transition Plan: Not Applicable

WEBSTER PARK

Approximately 1/2 acre	Grass Area
Trees, Flowers and Shrubs	Revolutionary War Memorial Flagpole

Transition Plan: No Applicable

HAROLD BURNS MEMORIAL WILDLIFE ARBORETUM

Approximately 16 acres	Trees, Flowers and Shrubs
------------------------	---------------------------

Transition Plan: See World War I Memorial Park. Tree removal (the result of blow down from Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy) is necessary in order to clear this area for general use once again. This should be addressed in the coming year.

RUTH RHIND RECREATION AREA

Approximately 3-1/2 acres

Nature Trails

Picnic Sites

Ball field Site

Transition Plan: The Ruth Rhind Recreation Area went through a significant transition concurrent with the phasing out of Columbia Field. Many of the former activities offered at this site are no longer available due to conversion, closure, and maintenance issues (there is no longer any camping, swimming pool, lodge and outhouses). Plans and improvements include compliance with ADA standards for access and parking.

JULIA'S GARDEN/ WORLD WAR I PARK

Approximately 7 acres

Playground

Flowers and shrubs

ADA accessible parking

Transition Plan: Not Applicable

WORLD WAR II POOLS

Two (2) pools

Restrooms

Transition Plan: Neither pool is accessible and need ramps into the pools. The onsite restrooms are not ADA compliant (however, panic hardware has been installed). A ramp or elevator needs to be installed in order to provide access to the second level of the pool facilities.

**Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Discrimination Complaint Form**

Instructions: Please fill out this form completely, in black ink or type. Sign and return to the address on page 3.

Complainant:

Address:

City, State and Zip

Code:

Telephone: Home:

Business:

Person Discriminated Against:

(if other than the
complainant)

Address:

City, State, and Zip

Code:

Telephone: Home:

Business:

Government, or organization, or institution which you believe has discriminated:

Name:

Address:

County:

City:

State and Zip

Code:

Telephone

Number:

When did the discrimination occur?

Date:

Describe the acts of discrimination providing the name(s) where possible of the individuals who discriminated (use space on page 3 if necessary):

Have efforts been made to resolve this complaint through the internal grievance procedure of the government, organization, or institution?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes: what is the status of the grievance?

Has the complaint been filed with another bureau of the Department of Justice or any other Federal, State, or local civil rights agency or court?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes:

Agency or Court: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date Filed: _____

Do you intend to file with another agency or court?

Yes _____ No _____

Agency or Court: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Additional space for answers:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Disability Rights - NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530

Last updated May 7, 2012



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Commission on Disability

Welcome to Commission on Disability Web Page

Residents who would like more information on the subject of enabling residents with disabilities, and on various commission initiatives, are welcome to attend the NA MCoD's monthly meetings, starting in January, usually the second Thursday of every month at 12:00 pm (noon) in the Lower Conference Room at the NA Town Hall at 43 South Washington St.

Function of Commission

- Advise and assist municipal officials in ensuring compliance with federal and state disability laws.
- Review policies and activities of municipal departments and boards as they affect persons with disabilities.
- Provide information, referral, advocacy and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability.
- Coordinate the activities of other local groups organized to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Board Members

Name	Title
Bruce Alexander	Chair
Carole Baker	Vice Chair
Katie Purvis	Secretary
Robert Giers	
JoAnn Cathcart	ADA Coord.
Trini Luckey	

Source URL: <http://www.nattleboro.com/commission-on-disability>

NORTH ATTLEBORO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

April 25, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

=====

Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop #23 from Grace Episcopal Church

Chairman Belham opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troup #23 from Grace Episcopal Church. All members were present

6:00 PM FY2012 Audit Presentation

The Town Accountant introduced Frank Biron, of Melhanson and Heath to review the FY12 Audit.

**6:20 P.M. DOES ANYONE WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD?
Limit of ten minutes for each speaker**

There was no one present to address the Board.

6:30 P.M. Presentation by Yes for North Committee

Members of the Yes for North Committee made a request of the Board to call a Special Election and place a \$3,190,000 Override question on the Ballot for the FY2014 town Budget.

Board members presented various questions.

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to ask the Elections Commission to schedule a Special Election and to include the following binding ballot question: Shall the Town of North Attleboro be allowed to assess an additional \$3,190,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the local schools, public safety, library, DPW, parks and recreation and general government expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

The motion was seconded by Mark Williamson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

The Election Commission recommended combining the Special Election with the State Senate Election on June 25th.

Vice-Chairman Joan Marchitto made a motion to hold a Special Election on June 25, 2013.

Mark Williamson seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

I. MINUTES

1. Vote to approve the minutes of April 18, 2013

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2013

The motion was seconded by John Rhyno

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

II. PERMITS AND LICENSES

- 1. Special License for the serving of wine to the Preservation Framer for an Art Reception to be held at 16 North Washington Street, on May 4, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM.**

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to issue a Special License for the serving of wine to the Preservation Framer for an Art Reception to be held at 16 North Washington Street, On May 4, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

The motion was seconded by John Rhyno

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

- 2. Permit for the Use of Town Highways for the Veterans' Services Department for the Annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 25, 2013, at 10:00 AM, commencing at the Baptist Common and proceeding to Barrows Park**

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to issue a permit for the Use of Town Highways to the Veterans' Department for the Annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 25, 2013, at 10:00 AM, commencing at the Baptist Common and proceeding to Barrows Park.

The motion was seconded by Mark Williamson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Appointments to JTPG, terms to expire May 31, 2014**
 - A. Delegate – Mark Hollowell**
 - B. Alternate – Mark C. Fisher**

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to appoint Mark Hollowell as the Town's Delegate to the Joint Transportation Group and Mark Fisher as the Alternate for terms to expire May 31, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Michael Thompson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

- 2. Miscellaneous Appointments**
 - A. ADA Coordinator, term to expire May 31, 2014 - JoAnn Cathcart**
 - B. Animal Control Officer, term to expire May 31, 2014 – Karen Lyn Fontneau**
 - C. Chief Procurement Officer, term to expire May 31, 2014, Mark C. Fisher**
 - D. Emergency Management Agency Director, term to expire May 31, 2014, Chief Michael Brousseau**
 - E. Assistant Emergency Management Agency Director, term to expire May 31, 2014, Chief John J. Reilly**
 - F. Fence Viewers, terms to expire May 31, 2014 – Rod Palmer; Sharon Fontaine**
 - G. Keeper of the Lock-Up - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Chief John J. Reilly**
 - H. Kennel Keeper - term to expire May 31, 2014 – David Guimond**

- I. Labor Counsel - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Attorney Paul V. Mulkern**
- J. Municipal Hearing Officer - term to expire May 31, 2014 –Mark C. Fisher**
- K. Parking Clerk - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Judith Chafetz-Sulfaro**
- L. Assistant Parking Clerk - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Gail Heidke**
- M. Right to Know Coordinator - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Chief Michael Brousseau**
- N. Southeastern Mass. Health Group Representative - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Mark C. Fisher**
- O. Southeastern Mass. Health Group Alternate Representative - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Catherine Calicchia**
- P. Town Counsel - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Atty. Roger Ferris**
- Q. Veterans' Grave Registrar - term to expire May 31, 2014 – James G. McCann**
- R. Whistle Blower Enforcer - term to expire May 31, 2014 – Mark C. Fisher**
- S. Wiring Inspector - term to expire May 31, 2014 –**

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to appoint the following staff to the following positions for terms to expire May 31, 2014:

JoAnn Cathcart as ADA Coordinator

Karen Fontneau as Animal Control Officer

Mark Fisher as Chief Procurement Officer, Municipal Hearing Officer, the Representative to the Southeastern Mass. Health Group and the Whistle Blower Enforcer

Michael Brousseau as Emergency Management Agency Director and Right To Know Coordinator

John Reilly as Assistant Emergency Management Agency Director and Keeper of the Lock-up

Rod Palmer as Fence Viewer

Sharon Fontaine as Fence Viewer

David Guimond as Kennel Keeper

Paul Mulkern as Labor Counsel

Judith Chafetz-Sulfaro as Parking Clerk

Gail Heidke as Assistant Parking Clerk

Catherine Calicchia as Alternate Representative to the Southeastern
Mass. Health Group

Roger Ferris as Town Counsel

James McCann as Veterans' Grave Registrar

Paul LaFratta as Wiring Inspector

The motion was seconded by Michael Thompson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

3. Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting on June 3, 2013

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to enter the following articles into the Warrant for the June 3, 2013 Special Town Meeting and to close the warrant. (Read from the Article List)

The motion was seconded by Michael Thompson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. BOS Liaison Assignments

Assignments were made.

2. Use of previous funds collected for the LeStage property

Vice-Chairman Marchitto made a motion to authorize the Historic Commission to spend the \$103.00 in donations previously collected for improvements to the Coddling Farm House. Collection of further funds is not authorized at this time.

The motion was seconded by Michael Thompson

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0

3. No Trespassing Signs at the LeStage property

V. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Is there any further information the Board requires?

The Board asked that the Fire Chief appear monthly.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Mark Williamson

- Nothing to report

Michael Thompson

- Reminded everyone to contribute to their charities.

- With spring here and getting dark later – watch out for the kids

John Rhyno

- Nothing to report

Joan Marhcitto

- Reminded everyone of the Falls Fire Barn Pasta fund raiser

Paul Belham

- Addressed letter to editor
- Gave condolences of local boy who lost his battle with cancer

At 7:11 PM, Chairman Belham entertained a motion and vote to adjourn the meeting.

XII. REFERENCES

Personal Meetings and Correspondence

1. Michele Bernier, North Attleborough Solid Waste Department, 2012
2. Alison Bowden, The Nature Conservancy, 2012.
3. Mary Burgess, North Attleborough Town Planner, 2012.
4. Rachel Calabro, Save the Bay, 2012.
5. Doug Cameron, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, Office of Fishing & Boating Access, 2012.
6. Steven Carvalho, Director, North Attleborough Park & Recreation Department, 2012
7. Ann Chapdelaine, Chair, North Attleborough Historical Commission, 2012.
8. Shannon Doyle, North Attleborough Conservation Agent, 2012.
9. Carlos Fragata, MA Department of Environmental Protection, Wetlands and Waterways Program, 2012.
10. Mark Hollowell, Director, North Attleborough Department of Public Works, 2011-2012.
11. Beth Lambert, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, 2012.
12. Al Lima, Greater Fall River Lands Conservancy, 2012.
13. Len Reno, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 2011-2012.
14. William McDowell, Project Manager, Department of Public Works, 2011
15. The North Attleborough Historical Commission, 2012-2013.
16. The North Attleborough Open Space Committee, 2012.
17. Kelley Whitmore, The Trustees of Reservations, 2012.
18. Irene Winkler, United States Department of Agriculture, Wetlands Reserve Program, 2012.
19. Richard Zingarelli, Manager, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Flood Hazard Management Program, 2012.

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22. United States Army Corps of Engineers. PAS Flood Study, Ten Mile River, Preliminary Report, 2003.
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24. United States Department of Agriculture. Important Farmland, Bristol County, 1981.
25. Youngman, Joan. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Conservation Restrictions and Real Property Taxation, MA DOR website, 2/27/14.