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CHAPTER 8

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

Dartmouth's open space and recreation lands are highly valued as exceptional landscape characteristics that lend charm and character to the town.

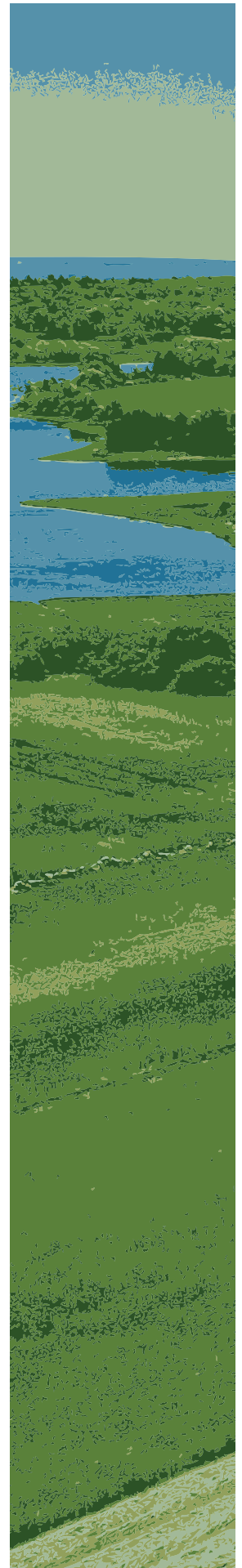
Dartmouth enjoys a rich diversity of landscape elements that are not often all found within a single town's borders, nor of such striking quality. Dartmouth's farmlands, wooded areas, and its proximity to the ocean represent perhaps the three most notable features that make Dartmouth so aesthetically pleasing. Open fields, stonewalls, gentle valleys, dense woodlands, delicate marshlands, expansive beaches, and wetlands also combine to give Dartmouth its unique identity. With the added grace of the Buzzards Bay coastline, Dartmouth contains suburban, rural, and maritime character.

From the New Bedford urban fringe in the east, the rural farmlands bordering Westport in the west, the saltwater coastline in the south and the rural forested highland bordering Freetown in the north, Dartmouth is anchored in each of these contexts by the open space lands that preserve its stellar natural features and recreational lands that enable people to appreciate time outdoors in proximity to nature.

This Open Space and Recreation Chapter of the Master Plan is one opportunity to carefully craft priorities for managing Dartmouth's landscape in the face of development. Dartmouth residents must collectively understand that many undeveloped, unprotected lands can be developed, changing their role in the town's landscape. Preserving those open space and recreation features most vital to maintaining community character is paramount, as is ensuring the quality of life and public health benefits that come with having an abundance of recreational offerings for town residents of all ages and abilities.

The town's state-certified Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is another powerful tool for accomplishing improvements and additions. The town OSRP is distinct from the Master Plan chapter. These documents have different time horizons, (ten years for the Master Plan, versus a maximum of 7 for the OSRP). The distinctive OSRP is certified by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS). This certification opens the door and makes the town eligible for PARC and LAND grants, geared toward recreational space improvement and open space acquisition, respectively.

Dartmouth is in a unique position in that this Master Plan and the most recent 2023 iteration of the town OSRP were conducted concurrently. Public engagement around open space and recreation occurred as part of the Master Plan process first. A second round of public engagement, building on these initial outcomes, was undertaken as part of OSRP development, resulting in a well-rounded and detailed picture of the most





pressing open space and recreation issues, and community preferences for addressing them. The sections below mirror and summarize the more detailed content that can be found in the OSRP. The goals and strategies align with, but are not an exact replica, of the OSRP goals, objectives, and action items.

KEY OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLANNING DATA

Types of Open Space and Recreation Areas

As this Master Plan chapter proceeds, it is helpful to have a reference for the types of lands that are analyzed and described herein.

Recreation areas are lands or waters upon which people can pursue recreational activities. These activities fall along a spectrum of physicality and exertion, and many generally occur outdoors. These recreational activities are sorted into the categories of active and passive recreation, defined below. Some recreational activities occur on publicly accessible land, while others occur on private or membership-only properties. Some recreation activities occur on land that is permanently protected from a change of use, while others are currently permitted on land that does not have permanent conservation status. This chapter explores recreation that occurs across these differentiated types of recreational spaces.

By **open space areas**, this chapter means land and waterbodies that are preserved for their own sake, without expectation or primary consideration for recreational use or human pursuits of any kind, aside from targeted environmental management. Open space areas are generally preserved for the function that they perform in the landscape, such as preserving important priority habitats, wetlands, sensitive environmental areas, or ecosystems that maintain air and water quality. Some open space areas do have a secondary passive recreational component that relies on the greater naturalized context of the open space tract, such as hiking trails or hunting.

This chapter uses the word **parkland** to refer to the combination of Dartmouth's open space and recreation lands in total, especially used when the distinction between these two types of land is not essential in context.

Generally, recreational activities are sorted into two categories – active recreation and passive recreation.

Active recreation is, as defined by DCS (per 301 CMR 5.02), recreation that requires significant alteration of the natural landscape to provide playground or sports facilities such as tennis, basketball or other sport courts, ball fields, swimming pools or spray pads, paved bike or walking trails, golf courses, marinas, enclosed dog parks, boat rentals, concession stands, community gardens, skating rinks, bathroom buildings, bleachers or stands or other developed facilities needed for active outdoor recreation. Active recreational pursuits often fulfil an interest in participating as part of a team, or in strengthening personal fitness or public health. In addition to including activities that occur on one parcel of land, another constantly developing focus of active recreation efforts is to plan and construct additional interconnected bike lanes and trails within town and connected to larger regional trail systems.

Passive recreation is, as defined by DCS (per 301 CMR 5.00), any outdoor activity that occurs in a natural setting with minimum disturbance of natural and cultural resources, and that is consistent with quiet enjoyment of the land including, but not limited to,

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hiking, nature study, outdoor education, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, trail bicycling, hunting, fishing, picnicking, canoeing, ice-skating, community gardening in existing fields, swimming in a natural water body with minimal site development, or informal sports activities on an open natural field.

Facilities necessary to support passive recreation with minimal disturbance to a site’s natural and cultural resources, such as natural surface trails, wood roads, or appropriately scaled parking areas, bathrooms, and nature centers, are considered consistent with passive outdoor recreation. Passive outdoor recreation areas may also be managed for sustainable forestry and farming, including community farms and forests.

Park features like benches, open lawns, shaded areas, and pathways provide places for passive enjoyment; to take in scenic views, relax with friends, take a walk, or spend a quiet moment alone. Many of Dartmouth’s parks incorporate passive enjoyment opportunities into their design, both as the sole recreational feature of the site and alongside active recreational uses.

Figure 8.1: Acreages of Recreation and Open Space Land by Primary Purpose

Primary Purpose	# Acres	% Total
Recreation	606	5.3%
Recreation & Conservation	1,302	11.3%
Conservation	7,959	69.4%
Nature Study	55	0.5%
Water Supply Protection	294	2.6%
Agriculture	1,179	10.3%
Historical/Cultural	< 1	<1%
Unknown	79	0.7%
TOTAL	11,475	100%

Source: MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020 and Town of Dartmouth “Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection” Map dated April 16, 2019.

Land-Based Recreational Opportunities

Dartmouth’s recreation programs are made possible by both public facilities, the town’s Recreation and Parks Departments, several town committees, and several private recreation groups. Each entity contributes to Dartmouth’s overall recreation portfolio. These groups and individuals include the following:

Town of Dartmouth

1. Pathways Committee

The mission of the Dartmouth Pathways Committee is to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Dartmouth through advocacy and education, while supporting coordinated regional efforts to link existing and future pathways throughout the Southcoast, improving recreational opportunities and fostering a healthier community for residents and visitors. As of this plan writing, the Pathways Committee is active and recruiting members. The committee’s goals include:



- Developing a long-term plan for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for the Town and seeking long term outside funding for these plans.
- Developing affordable short-term improvements for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the Town that can be completed with local funds.
- Working with surrounding towns and regional organizations to develop a Southcoast pathway from Providence to Provincetown.
- Making the Dartmouth Pathway Committee part of the public hearing process so that improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will be a consistent consideration in all development proposals and road improvements.

The Pathways Committee is currently working in conjunction with the South Coast Bikeway Alliance towards a 50-mile continuous system of bike paths (or multi-use paths) and bike lanes that will connect Rhode Island to Cape Cod. The Massachusetts communities included in the planned route are Swansea, Somerset, Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, and Wareham. The South Coast Bikeway Alliance is conducting a feasibility study with SRPEDD to close the gap between Fall River and New Bedford through Westport and Dartmouth, and has gathered public input on the best, most favorable route through town. Final study outcomes are described in the town's 2023 OSRP.

2. Dartmouth Board of Parks and Recreation and Parks and Recreation Departments

The Board of Parks and Recreation was formed to be a centralized group considering the needs of parks and recreation in Dartmouth.

Dartmouth Parks & Recreation (DPR) offers seasonal programs throughout the year for residents of every age. In addition to outdoor recreational opportunities available at Dartmouth's park and beach facilities, youth and adult "how to classes" and other programming are offered year-round at the Smith Neck Road Recreation Center. Weekend and evening classes are offered during the school year, while full day youth programs are offered at town playground and swim facilities during the summer. There are also several youth sports leagues throughout the year. Participation fees for programs allow DPR to provide these programs at no cost to the town.

Summer has the greatest offering of seasonal activities in Dartmouth. In addition to summer youth programs and beach access, residents can attend weekly concerts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and occasional Friday evenings at Apponagansett Park. Residents can purchase a seasonal sticker to access the town's beach and park facilities. Continued increases in annual sales of these stickers demonstrates the growing popularity of Dartmouth's outdoor recreational facilities and the need for additional resources to meet summer recreation demands. Ongoing improvements to ADA accessibility at outdoor parks and beaches are making these spaces more accessible for all, and the town is undertaking a needs study for a multigenerational community facility to continue to meet the growing demand for Dartmouth's recreational resources.

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Figure 8.2: Seasonal Offerings provided by Dartmouth Parks and Recreation

Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater classes • Art and dance classes
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater classes • Art and dance classes • Youth Sports leagues
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town beaches • Apponagansett Playground/Swim Center • School playground centers • Sports lessons (golf, tennis, paddle sports) • Theater classes • Art and dance classes • Weekly Summer Concert Series at Apponagansett Park (Wednesday and select Friday evenings) • Weekly Community Band performances at Apponagansett Park (Tuesday evenings)
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater classes • Art and dance classes • Youth Sports leagues

Dartmouth School System

The public school system provides a mixture of outdoor and indoor active recreation facilities for all children in Dartmouth. While each school-age child utilizes the recreation facilities in traditional physical education classes, students also have the option to participate in school-sponsored sports programs outside of the traditional curriculum. A large participation rate leads to situations where the existing fields are over-used and oftentimes over-scheduled.

School system properties contain fields and facilities for basketball, tennis, track, soccer, field hockey, football, softball, and baseball. In addition to these facilities, the school department maintains ownership of two additional acres of land associated with its administration building and the alternative school both of which are in the southern portion of Dartmouth and include a small softball diamond and basketball court. The school facility details are as follows:

- **Andrew B. Cushman School** (elementary) includes 3.5 acres of land with an on-site parking lot. There are two open field areas, a full-size softball field that is used by the Dartmouth Girls Little League, a basketball court and a timberline playground set.
- **Joseph DeMello School** (elementary) includes 49 acres of total land, much of which is densely wooded. The property abuts the western boundary of Jones



Park and has potential for connection with that facility and the adjoining Council on Aging center. DeMello also includes open field area and a softball area.

- **George H. Potter School** (elementary) includes 11.5 acres of land with parking. Potter School, like the other elementary schools, maintains a playground facility, open fields and a baseball field.
- **James M. Quinn School and the adjoining Dartmouth Middle School** contain 63 acres of land. This figure includes the stadium, a number of practice fields for athletic teams and the High School Band, a full-size outdoor track, six tennis courts, 3 multi-use fields, a full-size baseball diamond and two softball diamonds.
- **Dartmouth High School** is adjacent to the Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association fields. Recreational facilities at the high school consist of gymnasium with indoor track and outdoor football and baseball fields (practice only). The Dartmouth High School Athletic Program offers 25 sports, with additional intramural offerings.

Private / Non-Profit Entities

1. Dartmouth Youth Athletic Association

The Dartmouth Youth Athletic Association (DYAA) was formed and incorporated in 1955 when a group of individuals decided to form a Youth Baseball League. Over time, it was expanded to also include basketball. The DYAA sees itself as an organization that provides opportunities for the youth of Dartmouth to be involved with athletics. Every youth who signs up is placed on a team and plays every game. The Association teaches sportsmanship, leadership, and valuable cooperation skills. The Crapo Fields on Slocum/Russells Mills Road is the only property currently held by the DYAA. The fields at Gidley, Potter and DeMello schools are also used by the DYAA but are considered inadequate. Arrangements for field use are made through verbal commitments on an as needed basis and the DYAA cooperates with other groups interested in using these fields while retaining first rights to use them.

In the 2007 Master Plan, a growth of participants prompted a recommendation for additional fields. DYAA estimated that it needed 5 new little league fields and 2 new pony league fields to adequately run its programs. DYAA has been interested in linking town owned land with Crapo field by acquiring an abutting farm. A re-evaluation of this continued need and a strategy for addressing it continues to be recommended in this Master Plan.

2. Dartmouth Girls Athletic League

The Dartmouth Girls Athletic League (DGAL) is a non-profit organization intended for the enjoyment and participation of young women who are residents of Dartmouth and are in the grade levels of kindergarten through twelfth grade. Depending on availability, DGAL welcomes young women from the surrounding towns to participate in their softball, basketball, and field hockey programs. DGAL's mission is to promote women's sports in town by developing good players, promoting fun and team spirit, and advocating and teaching good sportsmanship to all players, coaches, parents, and fans. DGAL primarily uses fields at the elementary schools, Bush Street, Cushman, DeMello, Dartmouth Friends Academy, Dartmouth Middle School, and Memorial Stadium.

3. Burgo Basketball Association / Joseph Burgo Memorial Basketball Complex.

In 2002, The Burgo Basketball Association built a new indoor basketball facility on Slocum Road. The facility provides basketball activities to area youth aged 8 and older.

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The Complex is a regional facility and serves the entire Southcoast, attracting players from New Bedford, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Wareham, Freetown, Rhode Island and as far away as Connecticut.

4. Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association

The Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association (DYSA) was formed as a way of bringing together the youth of Dartmouth for organized team soccer play in a schedule that is broken-up into a spring and fall program and a summer camp. This is one of the most active youth-based recreation programs in Dartmouth primarily based at the fields on Russells Mills Road and at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The Russells Mills fields are on a 40-acre site owned by the Parks Department with a lease to DYSA. The fields abut the Dartmouth High School. DYSA maintains the fields at a high level.

5. Dartmouth Youth Football – Cheer League

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

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

6. The Dartmouth Youth Lacrosse

The Dartmouth Youth Lacrosse Association (DLAX)'s mission is to provide a fun, educational, and safe environment for girls and boys in Dartmouth grades 3 through 8 to learn the sport of lacrosse. DLAX does not keep standings, has no league championship or playoffs, and plays all children as equally as possible. All practices and games are at Friends Academy on Tucker Road and at Jones Park. Their needs are to have permanent fields to practice and hold games.

7. University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

According to Chancellor Jean McCormack, "the University continues to see itself as a public university and institution; to that end it wishes to continue offering its campus as a resource" to Dartmouth residents "for both educational and athletic programs." The campus continues its tradition of welcoming residents who have used its "ring road" for jogging, walking, rollerblading, and the like. These activities, along with the public use of its tennis courts, are encouraged to the extent that they do not interfere with the organized University programs.

8. Dartmouth YMCA

The YMCA Dartmouth, a satellite location of the YMCA of Greater New Bedford, opened in 2000 and is housed on the site of the former Children's Museum on Gulf Road. The facility includes an outdoor pool, a summer camp called "Camp Metacomet" and environmental education and recreational classes. The site offers walking and hiking trails. The YMCA also advances public health and well-being through other programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, YMCA Southcoast partnered



with Greater Boston Food Bank to launch the Full Plate Project at five participating Y branches, including Dartmouth, to address the growing lack of access to healthy, affordable food during economic struggles. The project distributed one million pounds of food in 2021.

Water-Based Recreational Opportunities

Dartmouth's location on the Buzzards Bay coastline affords many opportunities for boating, waterfront views, fishing, and swimming. Less well-known but also engaging are inland opportunities for water-based recreation in Dartmouth's rivers, lakes, and ponds.

Beaches and Launches

Many would agree that Dartmouth's long and varied shoreline is its most prominent feature. Dartmouth has an unusual combination of shoreline contexts, from the bustle of Padanaram Village to rural and well-preserved natural shoreline ecosystems in the south of the town. These shore areas lend themselves to creating especially scenic settings. The waterfront offers many opportunities for boating and swimming.

Dartmouth's shoreline is divided into three distinct areas: Apponagansett Bay, Clarks Cove, and Buzzards Bay. There are presently three town-owned beaches: Jones Park on Clarks Cove, Apponagansett Park on Apponagansett Bay, and Round Hill Beach on Buzzards Bay. All Town beaches have improvements, are open year-round, and are staffed during summer months. More details on each are provided below.

1. Apponagansett Bay

Apponagansett Bay serves as the town's harbor for commercial and recreational boating. The New Bedford Yacht Club and several boating services are located here, and the harbor is widely known as a center for yachting. Although there are several private docks and landings along the bay (including private residential facilities at Ricketson's Point and Bay View), two public town landings open onto the bay and offer excellent potential for expansion.

One of the landings, located at Apponagansett Park, has a boat ramp, parking lot and drainage system. Apponagansett Park is adjacent to the Alfred F. Dias Town landing, which includes a small town beach, playground, bandstand area, volleyball court and two basketball courts. This park is a key component in Dartmouth's recreation system, particularly insofar as it serves areas with higher population densities. As of 2023, the town and stakeholders are pursuing improvements at the Dias Town landing to expand boat mooring and docking capacity.

2. Clarks Cove

Dartmouth has one improved public beach at Jones Park. Another beach further south, Anthony's Beach, remains private. Like Apponagansett Park, Jones Park is situated amid a high-density area and serves a large number of people through its beach, open space and softball field. Jones Park has a great deal of available land area remaining for future park development and expansion. Such available land even provides the possibility of a greenway recreation link connecting the park and the DeMello School and the Dartmouth Council on Aging building. This link would provide an exciting opportunity to integrate youth and senior populations into the town's recreation resources.

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3. Buzzards Bay

Buzzards Bay is a moderately large estuary located in Southeastern Massachusetts between the western most portions of Cape Cod and Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island. The bay was named after a large bird, identified as a “buzzard,” which the early colonists saw frequenting the shoreline. In actuality, the “buzzard” was really an Osprey. Buzzards Bay was designated an “estuary of national significance” in 1988.

There are many beaches along Buzzards Bay, three of which are located in Dartmouth and are open to the public: Round Hill Town Beach, Little Beach, and Demarest Lloyd State Park Beach. Round Hill Town Beach, opened in the 1970's on a portion of Hetty Green's former estate, has undergone very little change over the past two decades primarily because of the character of the landscape and the sites own limitations. Little Beach, owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society is on the Bay. There are also private beaches, including Nonquitt, Mishaum, Salters, and Barney's Joy, among others, which can be used below the high tide mark for fishing and fowling.

Rivers

Three river systems that flow through Dartmouth provide excellent opportunities for water-based recreation like canoeing, fishing, and sightseeing.

1. The Paskamansett River- Slocums River System

Beginning at Turner's Pond, adjacent to the state-owned Acushnet Cedar Swamp in New Bedford, “The Paski,” as it is known, flows south until it becomes the tidally influenced Slocums River.

In 2001, the Town purchased a three-quarter acre parcel in the heart of the Rt. 6 / Faunce Corner Road area for parkland along the Paskamansett River. Called The Paskamansett Landing, the park provides a green haven in the commercial heart of Dartmouth and access to the river and waterfall. The park was developed with funding from DCS, the Town, and private donations, and with efforts from the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

Other recreational amenities along the Paskamansett include a canoe put-in along Russells Mills Road and a public town boat landing at the small park further south on Russells Mills Road. As a river for canoeing, the Paskamansett is beautiful, but has its challenges. Paddlers to not have clear passage along its entire route, it does not provide accessible banks for stopping en route, and it does not have any upstream public put-in locations.

The Slocums River estuary flows nearly three miles through sparsely developed farm and woodlands until it joins with the Little River and enters Buzzards Bay. The Slocum's River Conservation Project secured permanent protection of approximately 1,078 acres of land through cooperative projects with the Town of Dartmouth, DNRT, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the state's Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, and The Trustees of Reservations. Large-scale preservation efforts along its tributary, Destruction Brook, have also taken place. Cumulative preservation efforts have left the incredible view of the Slocums River from Horseneck Road intact, and there are exceptional public recreation opportunities at several key parklands along the river, including Demarest Lloyd State Park (hiking, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, swimming, boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms, scenic viewing area, ADA accessible beach wheelchairs available), the Slocums River Reservation (walking trails), and the Lloyd Center for the Environment (walking trails, guided kayak tours, education and nature study).



2. The Shingle Island – Copicut River System

The Copicut River flows south from Copicut Swamp and Reservoir in Fall River to Cornell Pond on Old Fall River Road in Dartmouth, then merges with the Shingle Island River, which flows from the Freetown line south to Lake Noquochoke. The whole system is very valuable to Dartmouth's recreational needs. Several publicly accessible parklands run along the Copicut and Shingle Island Rivers. From north to south, they are the Noquochoke Wildlife Management Area, Town Forest, and Dartmouth Regional Park.

3. Buttonwood Brook

Finally, there is the Buttonwood Brook stream system, which drains the most intensively developed area of Dartmouth between New Bedford's Buttonwood Park and Apponagansett Bay. Portions of Buttonwood Brook has been extensively dredged, altered, filled and it is badly polluted. Other sections of the brook are very scenic, but the river is not currently suitable for boating or swimming. Because it progresses through a number of dense established neighborhoods, it could serve as the focus for a series of small neighborhood parks.

Lakes and Ponds

Some of Dartmouth's lakes and ponds are developed with shorefront residential communities, without existing public access for recreation. The lakes and ponds below are those that do allow for, or have been known to host, public recreational activities.

1. Lake Noquochoke

Lake Noquochoke is the largest freshwater pond in town, encompassing 165 acres. The lake is intensively developed with cottages along its eastern shore. Several small private beaches exist along the lake's edge, but there are no town facilities. Fall River owns the lake along with a one-foot strip of land along the lake's perimeter. Because the lake is part of the Fall River water supply system, some limitations exist on its use, though people are regularly seen fishing along Reed Road into the lake and homeowners surrounding the lake use it for private recreation.

Many residents do not know that since the 1940s (with an act of the state legislature) Fall River has owned the surface waterways within Dartmouth associated with the Shingle Island and Copicut areas. This fact impacts the surrounding land uses and the amount of flexibility Dartmouth maintains over these systems.

2. Cornell Pond

Cornell Pond is a freshwater manmade pond on the Copicut River located north of Old Fall River Road near Hixville Village, surrounded by woods and hills. It has excellent potential for recreation. The pond is stocked for fishing (though eating fish is currently not advised), and there is a small park with a picnic table and a barbecue. Additionally, there is a small canoe/boat launching area along the pond's banks. Recent efforts to improve Cornell Pond trail facilities are described in the Natural and Cultural Resources section.

Padanaram Harbor Management Plan

Many groups are invested in water-based recreation in Dartmouth. Most recently, the Padanaram Harbor Management Plan Advisory Committee was formed to develop the Padanaram Harbor Management Plan. Subsequent to town adoption of the Plan, the Harbor Management Plan Implementation Committee (HMPIC) was established by

the Select Board to implement plan goals and objectives. With the plan complete, the group is now pursuing implementation of plan goals and objectives, the following of which concern recreation around the Harbor:

Figure 8.3: Recommendations related to Recreation from the 2019 Padanaram Harbor Management Plan

Recreation Section
Determine the feasibility of creating additional boating facilities and secure in-water and landside storage options for watercraft and kayaks. Provide the structures and facilities as appropriate.
Enhance current launch access points for kayaks, paddleboards, and other watercraft, and identify additional potential access points including those with parking for small craft use.
Increase awareness of existing transient boater moorings in the northern portion of the Harbor.
Where feasible, encourage use of the harbor's shoreline in such a way to promote uses and activities, particularly in town-owned areas.
Install security cameras to monitor various areas within the Harbor, including the launch area and small boat storage at the Arthur Dias Town Landing.
Define and publicize recreational areas in the Harbor, and consider adopting a by-law that identifies areas for specific uses within the Harbor.
Develop and disseminate educational and outreach materials for recreational users of Padanaram Harbor.
Review existing regulations to ensure that definitions are clear and that commercial and recreational uses of the Harbor are balanced.
Public Access
Develop a descriptive inventory of existing public access points, ways, or sites.
Make the results of the descriptive inventory available to town officials and the public-at-large via the town website, brochures, or other outreach mechanisms and materials.
Develop and utilize, wherever possible, uniform signage indicating public access points and sites as well as any limitations as to hours, activities, etc.
Construct a sidewalk along the water-side of Smith Neck Road extending the existing sidewalk at the causeway to the curves at the entrance to Bayview.
Develop a plan for a public accessway along the Padanaram Village waterfront south from the causeway to the New Bedford Yacht Club and north from the causeway along Water Street utilizing both existing sidewalks and access granted through Public Waterfront Act (Chapter 91) licenses.
Identify and provide signage for other significant public access areas adjacent to the Harbor established through the provisions of Chapter 91.
Wherever feasible, incorporate options to provide access to people with disabilities into planning and construction near the Harbor. This should be mandatory for town-funded projects. Additionally, where appropriate, requests for such accessibility should be part of the Planning Board's comments on Chapter 91 licensing applications.
The Town should clarify its vision for the current nature and the future of Padanaram Village.
Inventory the existing parking spaces within the Village, both public and private.
Identify potential additional parking options and implement.
Identify significant scenic vistas within the Padanaram Harbor planning area.
Develop techniques for protection of the identified scenic locations and vistas.



Identify mechanisms to minimize blockage of views of the Harbor from public area.
Recreational Fishing
Enforce existing by-laws relative to fishing from the Padanaram Bridge and causeway.
Continue to pursue efforts to develop a fishing pier extending off the causeway.
Petition the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to conduct a full sanitation survey in the northern portion of Harbor for purposes of exploring whether or not new sections can be opened for recreational harvesting.

Open Space Tracts and Conservation

As noted above, over two-thirds of the open space and recreation lands in Dartmouth are held for the primary purpose of conservation outside of major alteration, planned use, or development. These open space lands are often the tracts that preserve Dartmouth’s scenic landscape, natural wildlife communities, and passive, low-impact recreation opportunities for getting out and being in nature.

Scenic Landscapes

In the southern part of Town, some of the best scenic landscapes include the views of:

- Allens Pond area from Horseneck Road near the Almy Farm;
- Buzzards Bay and Allens Pond at the Audubon Reserve;
- Slocums River from Horseneck Road at Russells Mills Town Landing;
- Barney’s Joy Road and Horseneck Road at the upper end;
- Buzzards Bay from Round Hill Beach, Apponagansett Park, conservation land along Smith Neck Road and from Little River Road at the bridge,
- Clarks Cove from Jones Park;
- Padanaram Harbor from Padanaram Village; and
- Rural farmland vistas.

In the northern part of Town, some of the best scenic landscapes include the views of:

- Shingle Island Valley from the top of Poole’s Hill on Old Fall River Road;
- Shingle Island River from Hixville Road;
- Ned Bedford from Faunce Corner Road;
- Cornell Pond on Old Fall River Road;
- Lake Noquochoke from its surrounding shorefront;
- The fields at the Noquochoke Wildlife Management Area; and
- Paskamansett River from Paskamansett Landing at Faunce Corner Road

Many of these sites were highlighted in the Massachusetts Scenic Landscape Inventory of 1982.

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Priority Landscapes

Every town has its own set of unique environments that become priorities for preservation. Often these unique environments overlap with open space or recreation areas. In Dartmouth, the town's farmland and coastal areas are priority landscapes.

Farmland

Overall, 4,284 acres in Dartmouth (11% of the town), are categorized as having some type of agricultural use. Currently, 1,075 acres of land in Dartmouth are part of the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, whereby lands have been set aside in perpetuity for agricultural use. Most of the agricultural lands in Dartmouth produce field or truck crops including hay, wheat, tillable forage, and vegetables. Other large-acreage product types include unspecified agricultural operations not in the Chapter 61 program, and pastureland, and mixed-use agricultural land.

Per zoning regulations, agricultural uses are permitted in all zoning districts except for Residence C, Village Business, Bliss Corner, Office Park, Marine Industrial, and General Industrial districts (overall, these districts occupy small portions of land area in Dartmouth). Rather than regulatory barriers, the continuation of active farmland in Dartmouth may face its biggest challenge from social and environmental pressures. Preserving the quality of prime agricultural soils into the future as climate change impacts bring more rain, erosion, summer drought, snap freezes, and pest pressures may require unconventional farming practices, such as no-till and similar operations, or the growth of different crops.

From a social and demographic perspective, the 2009 American Farmland Trust survey found that two-thirds of farmer respondents did not have a successor in line to continue the farming operation. Connecting young farmers with agricultural land may emerge as a key priority for maintaining Dartmouth's valued rural character.

The continuation of farming practices in Dartmouth is highly valued by the community. The 2021 Open Space and Recreation Survey posed three questions about "Activity related to Locally Grown Produce:" (1) Do you purchase locally grown produce; (2) Is the availability of locally grown produce important to you; and (3) Are you willing to pay more for locally grown produce. Ninety-three percent of respondents purchase locally grown produce. An even slightly larger percentage of respondents (95%) indicated that the availability of locally grown produce is important to them. Finally, 92% of respondents indicated that they are willing to pay more for locally grown produce.

Coastal Lands

As the survey demonstrates, Dartmouth residents are closely tied to their coastal location on Buzzards Bay. Dartmouth's scenery and recreational cultural are heavily identified with the bay and the town's waterfront. The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management identifies 30 public access points in Dartmouth, which are managed by either state, local or nonprofit entities. Located entirely within the Buzzards Bay Watershed, activity and land uses upland from the bay have significant consequences for the health of Dartmouth's waterways and Buzzards Bay.

While life on the water contributes a unique scenic beauty and maritime recreational opportunities, Dartmouth's coastal location also entails the possibility of severe flood and storm risks. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated Special Flood Hazard Area covers approximately 2,801 properties, in whole or in part. These properties contain about 1,614 structures located within the Special Flood Hazard



Area. The large number of properties and improvements located within this high-risk flood area make it essential for the town to maintain its standing and compliance with the rules and regulations of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, and to consider high risk flood areas carefully when making high-cost community facility and infrastructure investments.

Open Space Stakeholders and Interests

There are a variety of public and civic-minded non-profit organizations whose mission involves the protection and enhancement of Dartmouth's open space lands.

Town of Dartmouth

1. Dartmouth Conservation Commission

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

The Dartmouth Conservation Commission was one of the earliest Commissions in Massachusetts. From its inception in 1961 through 1972, the Commission's time was spent analyzing open space, prioritizing open space acquisition, coordinating open space activities with other governmental and non-governmental agencies and performing other tasks related to the protection and enjoyment of open space. In 1972 the Conservation Commission was also assigned the task of administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (G. L. Chapter 131 §40).

In 2011 and 2014 the Conservation Commission conducted a review of every deed for property thought to be in control of the Commission. Where necessary, a corrective deed was recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Efforts to ensure the proper legal permanent protection for all properties controlled by the Conservation Commission continue to this day.

2. Dartmouth Agricultural Commission

The Dartmouth Agricultural Commission was created in 1980 in response to the Town Growth Management Plan and the struggle to promote farm viability in a period of development pressure and high real estate values. The Agricultural Commission facilitates and encourages the pursuit of agriculture in Dartmouth and promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities in town. Their mission is to preserve, revitalize and sustain the Dartmouth Agricultural Industry and its lands; encourage the pursuit of agriculture in Dartmouth; and promote agricultural-based economic opportunities.

3. Dartmouth Agricultural Preservation Trust Council

The DAPTC was established in 1998 by a vote at the Fall Town Meeting. This action also carried an appropriation of \$2.75 million to establish a fund for the purpose of preserving existing productive agricultural lands and supporting and revitalizing the Dartmouth agricultural industry. The Council is made up of one representative from each of the following: the Agricultural Commission; Planning Board; Select Board; Conservation Commission; Finance Committee; Capital Improvement Committee; the Dartmouth Natural Resource Trust (DNRT); and two citizens-at-large. The DAPTC manages the fund and has preserved over 500 acres of farmland to date, but funds are running low. The town may be at a point of needing to replenish the trust.

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4. Harbor Management Plan Implementation Committee (HMPIC)

The 2019 Padanaram Harbor Management Plan (PHMP) was adopted after an extensive public process. The PHMP includes recommendations to address known issues and advance opportunities to improve the upper and lower harbor and its adjacent shores, making it an important and relevant document for town open space and recreation considerations. After plan adoption, the Harbor Management Plan Implementation Committee (HMPIC), was appointed by the Select Board in February 2021 to address and facilitate the implementation of the PHMP.

Without listing each recommendation contained in the PHMP, this Master Plan integrates the PHMP and the work of the HMPIC through general reference in the Master Plan strategy actions. For example, in the strategies for Open Space and Recreation, there is included strategy **OR-3M: Implement the Open Space and Recreation related recommendations developed in the Padanaram Harbor Management Plan**. In the PHMP, these include recommendations 4-1 through 4-14.

Private / Non-Profit Groups

1. Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) is a member-supported non-profit land trust founded in 1971 to preserve and protect wildlife habitats, farmlands, historic sites, and open spaces of Dartmouth through land acquisition, public awareness, and responsible land stewardship for present and future generations. Bolstered by extraordinary support from its 1,330 members, DNRT has protected over 5,500 acres in Dartmouth since its inception 50 years ago. By setting aside scenic lands, productive farms, natural woodlands, stream corridors, and coastal habitat, DNRT has worked hard to protect the natural beauty and productive lands that characterize Dartmouth.

DNRT has been able to advance its mission by forging partnerships with other conservation entities. Partnerships with organizations like The Nature Conservancy, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Buzzards Bay Project, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Department of Environmental Management, the Bay Lands Center and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs have helped to protect thousands of acres of open space.

The Slocums River Conservation Project was a prime example of how successful partnerships can effectively preserve open space. DNRT worked with The Trustees of Reservations, the MA Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Town of Dartmouth, and the Architectural Heritage Foundation to protect nearly 1,100 acres within the Slocums River watershed. The purchase of the 116-acre Island View Farm in January 1999, the 641-acre Dartmoor Farm in January 2000 and the 300-acre Destruction Brook Woods property in November 2000 were outstanding accomplishments for the effort to preserve open space in Dartmouth. From 1996 – 2001, DNRT was able to protect a total of 1,400 acres of permanently protected and sustainable farmland, woodlands complete with walking and equestrian trails, as well as vitally important river frontage on the Slocums, Shingle Island and Little Rivers. Today, DNRT owns 40 reserves with over 40 miles of trails.

DNRT has five full time staff and additional interns, working hard to protect even more open space and make DNRT Open Space Reserves more accessible to the public. The land trust has been headquartered at the DNRT Center at Helfand Farm, located at 318 Chase Road, since 2016. DNRT has been a leader of environmental and open space protection in the Town of Dartmouth for many years and will continue its mission for years to come.



2. Massachusetts Audubon Society

Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) is the largest conservation organization in New England, concentrating its efforts on protecting the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. The Society protects over 29,000 acres of conservation land, conducts nature education programs for 200,000 children annually, and advocates for sound environmental policies. Across the state, MAS operates 41 wildlife sanctuaries that are open to the public and serve as a base for conservation, education, and advocacy efforts. MAS has been diligently working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and DNRT in an ongoing effort to protect as much of the Allen's Pond watershed as possible. MAS consistently applies for and receives grant funding to improve the Allen's Pond sanctuary.

3. The Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees was founded in 1891 by a small group of open space visionaries led by landscape architect Charles Eliot, a protégé of Frederick Law Olmsted. Witnessing the dramatic loss to development of large amounts of open space in the Boston metropolitan area, this group successfully campaigned for the establishment of what became the first private, statewide conservation and preservation organization in the nation. The Trustees is a nonprofit, 501C3 organization formed to preserve land for scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts and to protect special places across the state. The Trustees owns and cares for 120 reservations totaling more than 47,000 acres of land, was instrumental preserving 1,100 acres within the Slocums River watershed, and joint manages the Slocums River Reserve and the Cornell Farm site with DNRT.

4. The Katharine Nordell Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies

The Lloyd Center is a not-for-profit education and research organization located in South Dartmouth whose mission is to help create the next generation of environmental stewards through education and research. The Center provides educational programs to students and their parents about our unique and fragile coastal environments and our special responsibility to them. The Center also promotes and conducts research on rare and endangered species and habitats, biodiversity issues, and estuarine environments in Southeastern New England. The Center and its work commenced in 1978 when Karen Lloyd donated the original building and 55 shorefront acres as a living memorial to her mother for whom the Center is named.

5. The Buzzards Bay Coalition

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

Founded in 1987, The Coalition is supported by more than 10,000 members. Active programs at BBC include BayWatchers, a Citizen's water quality monitoring program; pursuing water quality protection from nitrogen pollution, oil spills, toxic pollution, and bacterial contamination; and pursuing land-based watershed protection through land conservation, rivers and streams restoration, and nitrogen-minimizing cranberry production practices.

Parkland Protection Status

Parkland Ownership

Open space and recreation lands in Dartmouth are owned by a range of entities. The Town of Dartmouth holds the most land (28.8%), followed by environmental non-profits (DNRT, MAS, The Trustees; 22.2%), and the State of Massachusetts (12.3%). The top ten individual open space and recreation landowners are listed in the table below.

Figure 8.4: Top Ten Parkland Owners by Total Acreage of Holdings in Dartmouth

Owner	Total Acres	Percent of All Parkland in Dartmouth
Town of Dartmouth	3,305.5	28.8%
Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust	1,670.1	14.6%
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	1,406.8	12.3%
Mass Audubon	616.0	5.4%
City of New Bedford	341.5	3.0%
Private #1	251.4	2.2%
The Trustees of Reservations	238.2	2.1%
Private #2	198.5	1.7%
Private #3	150.9	1.3%
Private #4	137.1	1.2%
All other holdings	3,158.7	27.5%

Source: MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020 and Town of Dartmouth "Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection" Map dated April 16, 2019.

Parkland Protection Status

The open space and recreation database includes parcels of various levels of protection. The Open Space by Level of Protection Map categorizes parcels into five levels of protection. Lands that are protected **in perpetuity** from a change of use make up 81.3% of total parkland in Dartmouth. Land is considered protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the town's Conservation Commission or, sometimes, by the Water Department; if a town has a conservation restriction on the property in perpetuity; if it is owned by one of the state's conservation agencies (thereby covered by article 97); if it is owned by a non-profit land trust; or if the town received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agriculture Preservation Restriction has been placed on it, or a Conservation Restriction has been placed on it.

Tracts with **limited** protection are protected by legal mechanisms other than those above or protected through functional or traditional use. These lands might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for any change in status. This designation also includes lands that are likely to remain open space for other reasons



(e.g. cemeteries and municipal golf courses). Parklands with limited protections make up 0.6% percent of total parkland in Dartmouth.

Tracts with **temporary** protection are legally protected for less than perpetuity (e.g. short term conservation restriction), or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. These lands could be developed for other uses at the end of their temporary protection or when their functional use is no longer necessary. These lands will revert to unprotected status at a given date unless protection status is extended. Parklands with temporary protections make up 1.1% percent of total parkland in Dartmouth.

Tracts listed as having a protection level of **none** are totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use (e.g. scout camps, private golf course, and private woodland). Parklands with no protections or unknown protection status make up a combined 18% percent of total parkland in Dartmouth.

Figure 8.5: Open Space and Recreation in Dartmouth Land by Level of Protection Status

Level of Protection	Total Acres	Percent of All Parkland in Dartmouth
In Perpetuity	9,330	81.3%
Limited	73	0.6%
Temporary	6	1.1%
None	105	0.9%
Unknown	1,960	17.1%

Source: MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020 and Town of Dartmouth "Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection" Map dated April 16, 2019.

ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

Community Goals and Objectives for Open Space and Recreation in Dartmouth

To this point, this chapter has described an inventory of existing conditions for a wide variety of attributes relating to open space and recreation in Dartmouth. To develop plan goals and strategies, this information is coupled with essential community feedback summarized below.

Alongside the Master Plan process, the town's state-certified Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is another powerful tool for accomplishing improvements and additions. The town OSRP is distinct from the Master Plan chapter. These documents have different time horizons, (ten years for the Master Plan, versus a maximum of 7 for the OSRP). The distinctive OSRP is certified by DCS. This certification opens the door and makes the town eligible for PARC and LAND grants, geared toward recreational space improvement and open space acquisition, respectively.

Dartmouth is in a unique position in that this Master Plan and the most recent 2023

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iteration of the town OSRP were conducted concurrently. Public engagement around open space and recreation occurred as part of the Master Plan process first. A second round of public engagement, building on these initial outcomes, was undertaken as part of OSRP development, resulting in a well-rounded and detailed picture of the most pressing open space and recreation issues, and community preferences for addressing them. The sections below mirror and summarize the more detailed content that can be found in the OSRP. The goals and strategies align with, but are not an exact replica, of the OSRP goals, objectives, and action items.

Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting

Open Space and Recreation goals were central to the theme of the third Master Plan public workshop, which took place at the Dartmouth Town Hall on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. The objective was to gather input on recreation and open space needs through an interactive mapper engagement activity. Approximately 60 participants signed in, but with the volume of the crowd it is possible that another 20 individuals were also in attendance. These participants shared their thoughts about Dartmouth's current and future Open Space, Recreation, and Natural and Cultural Resource protection objectives and issues.

The workshop began with an introductory presentation to set the context for the remainder of the meeting. The SRPEDD Project Manager presented slides describing existing demographic information, open space acreages, environmental justice areas, specialized natural communities in Dartmouth, and needs and goals summarized in the town's 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The main purpose of the presentation was to establish existing conditions, and then to describe the mapper activity as it included multiple layers of data that participants could draw from given their particular interests.

Following the presentation, participants worked in groups to complete the mapper exercise. In general, the goal was to use a series of stickers on the map to identify key areas or locations in town that had natural & cultural and/or open space & recreation significance, to discuss current issues or thoughts, and to provide new ideas and input for recreation and open space facilities. Groups focused on identifying locations on a town map with a coded sticker representing:

- New Recreation / Open Space Facilities or Amenities;
- Maintenance / Beautification Need;
- Recreational Programming Need;
- Pathway Need - Bicycle;
- Pathway Need - Pedestrian;
- ADA Access Need; and
- Natural / Cultural / Historic Resource Need.

SRPEDD and Town Staff facilitators helped guide the discussion and answered questions, as well as transcribed the specific location and supporting information related to each activity suggestion on a large note pad.



Workshop Outcomes and Community Supported Policies

A total of 101 ideas for parks, recreation and open space improvements were identified during the table-top mapping exercise component of the workshop. Some of the comments concerned open space and recreation areas townwide, while others contained more specific locational information for future action. The maps on the following page, displays all the locations identified by the workshop participants.

Maintenance / Beautification Needs

A total of 20 ideas related to needs for facility maintenance and beautification were recorded. The middle-numbered columns in this table and the ones that follow represent the workshop(s) at which the idea was discussed. Ideas that came up in multiple workshops are highlighted in light blue. Those that apply townwide are indicated with a dash (-) in the Map Code column.

Maintenance and Beautification Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Dartmouth Regional Park and Rec area multi use facility improvements - currently under-utilized space	x	x		MB1
Cornell Pond maintenance	x			MB2
Dredging in Padanaram Harbor	x			MB3
Water quality in Padanaram Harbor	x	x		MB4
Increased public access to the landing and maintenance / beautification	x			MB5
Culvert Assessment – Buttonwood Brook	x			MB6
Culvert assessment – Faunce Corner Road	x			MB7
Future potential use of the landfill	x			MB8
Culvert assessment at Bliss Corner	x			MB9
Maintenance for the area around the transfer station	x			MB10
Improve the trails at the interchurch council land - maintenance needed	x		x	MB11
Water treatment plant – keep it well maintained and the land around it	x			MB12
Wayfinding signs throughout town	x	x		-
More parking / access to Round Hill Beach and restroom upgrades		x		MB13
Repave Round Hill Beach Rd		x		MB14
Sanitation facilities along harbor		x		MB15
Improve Paskamansett Park and Boat launch		x		MB16
Russels Mills Land Inc maintenance			x	MB17
Dartmouth Playground maintenance			x	MB18
Townwide safety and maintenance at school playgrounds – fall zones			x	-

New Recreation and Open Space Facility or Amenity Needs

A total of 25 ideas related to needs for new facilities and amenities were recorded.

New Facility Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Lake Nocquochoke – increase access	x			NF1
Multi-generational recreation facility to serve people of all ages and abilities	x			NF2
Acquire parcel between Collins land, Copicut Reservoir, and the Dutch Belt Farm/Rod and Gun Club lands to create a continuous block of protected land (Auber Farm)	x	x	x	NF3
New indoor recreation facility (location unspecified)		x		-
Indoor tennis facility - opportunity as this facility transitions		x	x	NF4
Find new locations for soccer fields		x		-
Canoe Trail on Paskamansett River		x		NF5
Access at new police station to Paskamansett River		x		NF6
Access at Friends Academy to Paskamansett River		x		NF7
Potential future ball field at Allendale Country Club		x		NF8
Acquire / permanently protect Chapter 61 parcel along North Hixville Road - prime wildlife habitat – high priority for protection		x	x	NF9
Acquire / permanently protect land along the east-west rail line		x		NF10
Ensure Country Club of New Bedford Properties remain preserved in perpetuity		x		NF11
Protect chapter forest land from development between south of Old Fall River Road, Hixville Road, Faunce Corner Road, and the powerline right of way		x		NF12
Advertise boat ramps / waterfront access – wayfinding with consistent signage		x		NF13
Dog park in south Dartmouth		x		NF14
Look at imbalance between recreation and open space between north and south Dartmouth – more recreation and open space facilities are needed in the north		x		-
Ex pound recreation (Baseball field)			x	NF15
New rec facility behind town hall			x	NF16
Potential Dog park site			x	NF17
Need rec center (youth indoor)			x	-
Skate park – find a location			x	-
ATV park somewhere – maybe a converted brownfield or industrial property			x	-
Open access to certain wellhead protection areas			x	-
Expand access to small watercraft (ex Russells Mills Road) - example Paskamansett park			x	-



Recreational Programming Needs

A total of 8 ideas related to needs for new recreational programming were recorded.

Recreational Programming Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Make the temporary Dog Park at the Dartmouth Regional Park and Rec area permanent	x			RP1
Designate areas for water skiing and tubing	x			RP2
Lake Nocquochoke pathway maintenance	x			RP3
Additional basketball facilities	x			RP4
Increase access at Rogers St Boat Ramp		x		RP5
More info about New Bedford Park (Woodcock Road Gun Range) / University Highlands Protected Areas - ensure they remain protected		x	x	RP6
Correct imbalance in funding for active/passive recreation – fund more active recreation		x		-
Strengthen relationship between rec leagues and the town Select Board / Departments		x		-

Pathway Needs - Pedestrian

A total of 10 ideas related to needs for pedestrian pathways were recorded.

Pedestrian Pathway Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Cornell Pond pathway improvements	x			PN1
Townwide pedestrian / biking shared use pathway	x			-
Additional sidewalks through the complete streets program	x			-
Improve pedestrian pathway connections in South Dartmouth	x			-
Continuation of pedestrian trails on Smith Neck Road		x		PN2
Pedestrian amenities and sidewalks along entire length of Route 6		x		PN3
Sidewalk on Russells Mills Road – kids run along road		x		PN4
Sidewalk on Slocum Rd		x		PN5
Town forest expansion – add trails			x	PN6
Complete pedestrian linkages near UMASS Campus			x	PN7

Natural / Cultural / Historic Needs

A total of 31 ideas related to needs for natural, cultural, and historic preservation were recorded (detailed further in the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan chapter).

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Pathway Needs - Bicycle

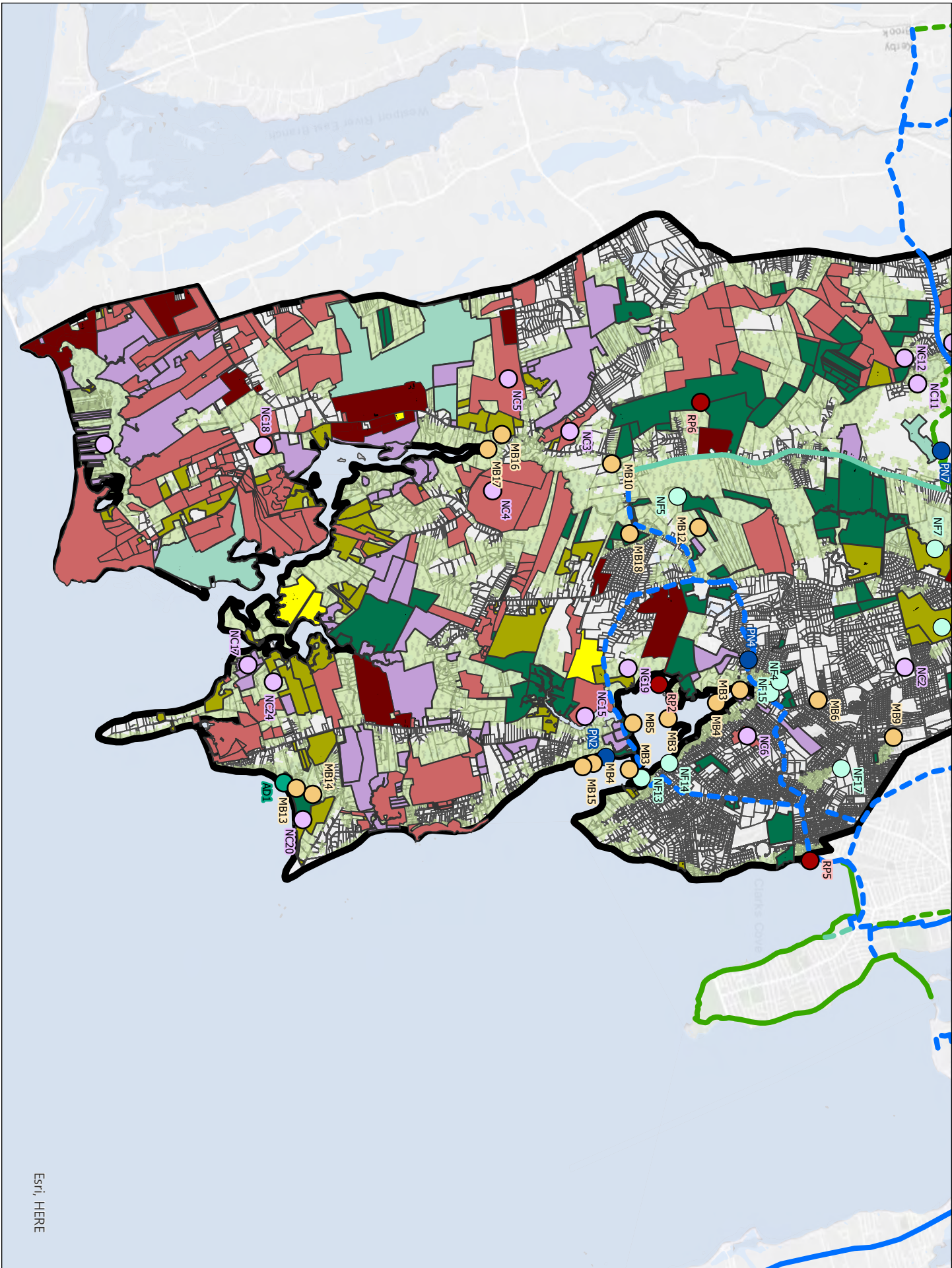
A total of 5 ideas related to needs for bicycle pathways were recorded.

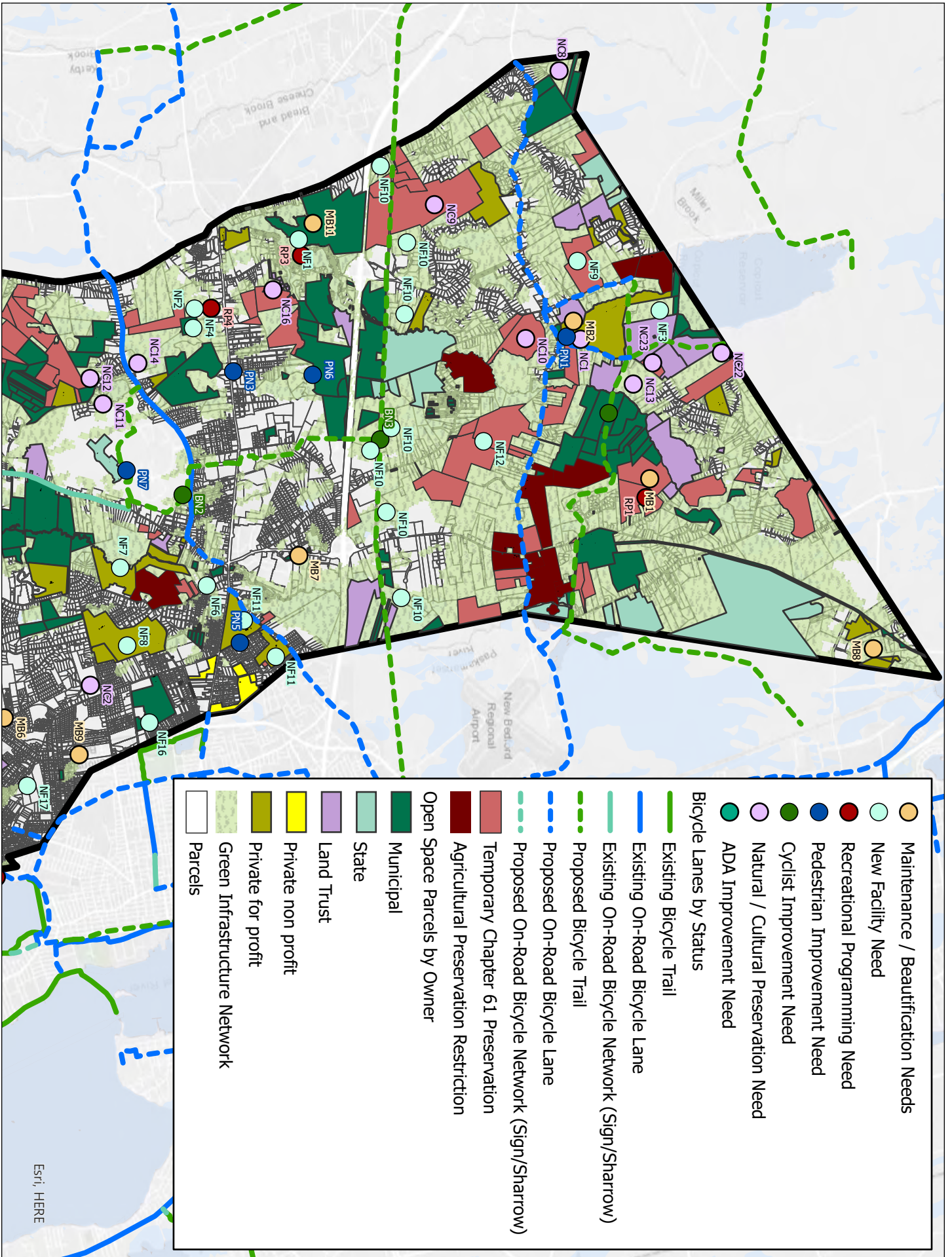
Bicycle Pathway Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Townwide pedestrian / biking shared use pathway (sup)	x			-
Improve bicycle pathway connections in South Dartmouth	x			-
East-west bike path from Fall River to New Bedford through the Acushnet Sawmill Wildlife Management Area		x		BN1
Bike connections to Umass-Dartmouth - complete bike-ped link		x	x	BN2
Bike path on railroad			x	BN3

ADA Access Needs

A total of 2 ideas related to needs for improved ADA access and mobility were recorded.

ADA Access Need Comments	1	2	3	Map Code
Round Hill Beach ADA improvements		x		AD1
Townwide ADA compliance at school playgrounds			x	AD2







Workshop High Frequency Comments

The table of discussion comments above shows that certain topics received attention in all or multiple groups, extracted and listed in figure 8.6.

Figure 8.6: Main Themes related to Open Space and Recreation from the Open Space, Recreation, and Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan Workshop

Recreation Section
Additional small craft (canoe and kayaking) opportunities, especially on the Paskamansett River.
Complete bike connections to UMass-Dartmouth - complete bike-ped link.
Cornell Pond - preserve the cultural aspects - ensure permanent protection of the New Bedford Rod and Gun Club.
Farmland preservation of specific tracts - John George Farm, Alderbrook Farm, Double S Farm, Vincent Farm, and Tavares Farm. Town entities including the Select Board, Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, and DNRT can work together to formulate a farmland preservation priority plan.
More info about New Bedford Park (Woodcock Road Gun Range) / University Highlands Protected Areas - ensure they remain protected.
Acquire / permanently protect Chapter 61 parcel along North Hixville Road - prime wildlife habitat - high priority for protection.
Need for a Dog Park, especially in South Dartmouth.
Indoor tennis facility - opportunity as this facility transitions.
Acquire parcel between Collins land, Copicut Reservoir, and the Dutch Belt Farm/Rod and Gun Club lands to create a continuous block of protected land (Auber Farm).
Improve the trails at the interchurch council land - maintenance needed.
Additional wayfinding signs throughout town.
Dartmouth Regional Park and Rec area multi use facility improvements - currently under-utilized space.

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Overarching Themes

The specific actions listed above, paired with the town's legacy of open space and recreation planning, identifies 10 overarching themes for a thriving open space and recreation network.

1. Protect open space that is coincident with community-valued farmland.

The community supports farmland preservation through programs such as APR and the promotion of working farms and agricultural businesses, not only for the benefit of open space, but also for its agricultural legacy and social and cultural tradition. The work of the Agricultural Commission, DNRT, and other organizations to monitor valuable farmland and open space resources before they go on the market is imperative. Smooth and regular information sharing is required between the town's Assessor, Finance Committee, and Agricultural Commission when farm owners do not reapply for 61A status, or when Chapter 61A properties come up for sale.

2. Protect open space that supports water quality enhancement.

Water quality problems in Dartmouth are associated with the restriction of water and flushing of the upper basin as well as watershed pollution from nitrogen loading. The Town, the Lloyd Center, the University of Massachusetts, and BBC, among others, have taken actions to improve water quality conditions of Dartmouth's water resources. A long term and coordinated effort of water monitoring, land use analysis and management, storm water management, and open space preservation to improve water quality must continue. It is also important to preserve open spaces in aquifer recharge areas to preserve water quality for water supply needs.

3. Expand access to the water.

Dartmouth residents desire more access to the town's waters, both inland and coastal. Water access can take many forms, from enjoying scenic views, to boating, to water contact, to fishing. There is a desire for more of all these activities in Dartmouth. Inland, the Paskamansett River may be a key area where expanded access for canoeing and kayaking would be enjoyed by residents.

4. Protect an open space buffer around the town's unique and sensitive environments.

As detailed in the Natural and Cultural Resources chapter, Dartmouth's landscape contains habitats that support locally, regionally, and even globally rare plant and animal species. These areas are priorities for open space protection.

5. Link major open space resource areas in greenways and wildlife corridors.

Opportunities for regional linkages such as the southcoast bikeway path system should be vigorously pursued by Dartmouth. As evidenced by the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve, additional opportunities for connections to abutting communities exist both in terms of walking/hiking trails, canoeing areas and open space greenways. There are also opportunities to connect existing open space and recreation lands into cohesive corridors within town in key areas, where the addition of one or two select parcels could fill existing greenway corridor gaps. These areas are especially concentrated along Destruction Brook, near Jones Park, and along the Shingle Island River.



6. Protect the town's Historical Resources.

The Dartmouth Historic Commission, working with the town's regulatory boards, can lead the way in crafting measures and priorities for historic preservation. Some of these measures could include a Scenic Vista Protection Bylaw, Transfer of Development Rights for Historic Properties, Archaeological Resource Preservation Overlays (PAL study "Sensitivity Areas"), Village Center Zoning or Neighborhood Conservation Districts (Padanaram, Russells Mills, Hixville, Smith Mills), and Local Option Property Tax Assessment (provides a tax savings to historic property owners that rehab according to historic standards). The Historic Commission can also keep a current list of ideas for potential uses of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and other available funding to preserve historical resources within town. These include grants, low interest loans and incentives for restoration and rehabilitation of old houses, old stone walls, old farmhouses and barns and historic façades and signage.

7. Promote public health.

Public health is supported through recreational offerings. Some key ways that Dartmouth's recreation and open space lands could support public health include: expand non-vehicular transportation systems into land use planning as a method for promoting physical activity; add neighborhood parks and playgrounds so that more residents in Dartmouth are within a "comfortable walking distance" (usually ½ mile) of recreation facilities; expand the menu of available recreational offerings, such as by providing a town-owned or cooperative access to an existing indoor swimming facility, recreation center, skate park, and public fishing areas; and by adding more playfields for sports leagues.

8. Respond to Special User Needs and Changes in Demographics.

Efforts to make all parks and beaches ADA accessible and to provide special play structure elements at town playgrounds and schools should proceed. Elderly Users should also be better accommodated as senior populations continue to expand relative to other age distributions. Those in this active, yet senior, age group maybe be most interested in individual activities such as nature hiking and fitness trails, as well as sports such as golf, tennis, and pickleball.

9. Expand community education and awareness.

There is a growing awareness about the role open space plays in ecological, aesthetic, and economic capacities. The town needs to continue and strengthen work with local non-profit organizations, such as the Lloyd Center, DNRT, and BBC to educate residents on the importance of protecting Dartmouth's unique ecological characteristics. Some educational topics that should be highlighted are the: water quality of estuaries such as Little River, Apponagansett Bay due to nitrogen over-loading; importance of farmland to the town and economy; importance of the preservation of Dartmouth's aquifer and watersheds.

Similarly, efforts to increase the public's knowledge of the availability of recreation opportunities in Dartmouth will help to ensure that recreation facilities are valued and not underutilized. In considering public outreach and education techniques that might be undertaken to satisfy the Town's need and desire for such information, the following

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may be actionable objectives: design and installation of uniform signage and design promotional leaflets, handouts, and media across print and digital platforms.

10. Adequately staff and fund parks and recreation.

Overall, parks and beaches are clean and well kept. Beyond the need to provide for daily operations, there is also the need to provide medium and long-term stewardship for each park and for each beach. These efforts include planning for the upgrade of existing playground equipment, facility design, and special user needs. To this end, there is a need to channel user fees for town beaches and parks back into their respective maintenance budgets.

Integration with the 2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dartmouth is in a unique position in that this Master Plan and the most recent 2023 iteration of the town OSRP were conducted concurrently. Public engagement around open space and recreation occurred as part of the Master Plan process first. A second round of public engagement, building on these initial outcomes, was undertaken as part of OSRP development, resulting in a well-rounded and detailed picture of the most pressing open space and recreation issues, and community preferences for addressing them. While every effort was made to coordinate between these two documents, the 2023 OSRP should be considered the most up-to-date document in terms of open space and recreation related data. The goals and strategies align with, but are not an exact replica, of the OSRP goals, objectives, and action items.

Open Space and Recreation Goals and Strategies

To address issues raised by community members and in adopted open space and recreation planning, this Master Plan establishes the following goals for open space and recreation policy development and implementation in Dartmouth.



Open Space and Recreation Goal 1:

Provide decision makers with effective policies and tools to protect and enhance those qualities that support open space and recreation within the town.

Why Dartmouth / Why Now?

A certified Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is essential for creating a detailed and coordinated roadmap for open space and recreation improvement in Dartmouth. A state-certified plan, in addition to being the bedrock of open space and recreation policy in town, enables Dartmouth to access certain pots of grant funding for open space and recreation facilities, such as the state’s LAND and PARC grants. Achieving all of the recommendations here and in the OSRP will require funding, including adequate set-asides in the municipal budget and active pursuit of grants.

Key Strategies for Action			
Strategy		Responsible Party	Time frame
OR-1A	Maintain a current and certified OSRP. Provide a copy to all town departments, boards, committees, and commissions.	Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee	1 Year
OR-1B	Review progress made on OSRP action items at an inter-department meeting at least once a year. Include progress updates in the town’s Annual Report, and note accomplishments in the town’s Public Engagement Portal as they are completed to keep the public partners informed.	Town Administrator and all town departments, DCTV, town website coordinator	on-going
OR-1C	Utilize the OSRP as the document in which to integrate the recreation and open space related objectives contained in various current planning documents.	OSRP Steering Committee, Town Admin., their consultants	on-going
OR-1D	As needed and feasible, hire additional support staff in key departments related to open space and recreation to ensure adequate staff capacity for management.	Town Admin., town finance committees, town meeting, and all town departments	on-going
OR-1E	Keep current with grants and programs that have a role in supporting Open Space and Recreation , such LAND, PARC, MDAR, MassTrails, Complete Streets, MVP grants, and CPC funds among others.	Conservation Commission, Economic Development and Planning, Recreation, and DPW, CPC	on-going
OR-1F	Partner with state and regional entities to advance specific action items where appropriate	Town Administrator and all town departments	on-going

Open Space and Recreation Goal 2:

Focus on public education.

Why Dartmouth / Why Now?

Dartmouth can maximize the use of its parklands by ensuring that residents know and appreciate the breadth of offerings available.

Key Strategies for Action			
Strategy		Responsible Party	Time frame
OR-2A	Publish a print map of the publicly accessible parklands in Dartmouth that can be available at parkland sites. The timing for developing such a resource will be particularly ripe with the update of the town's OSRP.	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Departments, town GIS staff, support from non-profits	2 Years
OR-2B	Publish a digital library of publicly-accessible parklands in Dartmouth. While some people continue to prefer paper resources, others have transitioned to looking for information online. Having an inventory of parklands and trails where people would most think to look, like the town website, would be helpful.	Conservation Commission, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Departments, town GIS staff, support from non-profits	3 Years
OR-2C	Improve wayfinding signage at recreation and open space areas with consistent, clear signs that indicate public access. Design a "brand" for open space and recreation properties that can be applied consistently throughout town, and that signify these lands, signal opportunity for recreation, and make preservation visible.	Town Administration, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Departments, Planning Department, town GIS staff, support from non-profits	3 Years
OR-2D	Keep department, committee, commission, and board websites up to date with resources and recent activities.	Town Administrator and all town departments, DCTV, town website coordinator	on-going



Open Space and Recreation Goal 3:

Conserve and protect the unique agricultural, coastal, rural and scenic qualities that give Dartmouth is characteristic identity.

Why Dartmouth / Why Now?

In public in-person engagement and surveys, respondents overwhelmingly singled out the town's rural, scenic, agricultural, and coastal qualities as their favorite things about living in town. Concerted effort is required to keep these prized attributes intact into the future.

Key Strategies for Action			
Strategy		Responsible Party	Time frame
OR-3A	Develop a list of Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) targets as a coordinated effort between the town and local preservation-oriented non-profits and reevaluate at least once annually.	Agricultural Commission, DNRT, Select Board, Conservation Commission, SEMAP, MDAR	on-going
OR-3B	Continue to promote opportunities for farmers, their CSAs, and their farmstands by helping them navigate through local regulations, including maintaining Chapter 61A status.	Agricultural Commission, SEMAP	on-going
OR-3C	Update the town's farm brochure listings at least every-other year.	Agricultural Commission, SEMAP, DCTV	on-going
OR-3D	Continue to collaborate and streamline the process of notifying all relevant town boards and committees when a Chapter 61A property comes up for sale.	Town Assessor, Economic Development Department, Agricultural Commission	on-going
OR-3E	Promote public access to the shoreline, preserve recreational use of the waterways, and regulate off-shore activities.	Planning Board, Planning Department, DPW, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Town Meeting	on-going



OR-3F	Look for opportunities to acquire parcels for preservation within the watershed area of Padanaram Harbor, both for recreational and water quality/community resilience purposes.	Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Padanaram Harbor Plan Implementation Committee, DNRT, BBC	on-going
OR-3G	Develop a Recreational Waters Access Plan to ensure both passive viewshed and active recreational access to Dartmouth's coastal (and inland) waters.	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, consultants	3 years
OR-3H	Expand recreational programming related to the water , such as hosting fishing events for teens that explore more advanced topics like how to fillet and shuck catches.	Recreation Department, Harbor Master, DCR, Police	on-going
OR-3I	Promote the retention of existing scenic roads, views, and vistas in development proposals.	Planning Board	on-going
OR-3J	Update and continue to enforce Dartmouth's Scenic Road Bylaw , especially as it relates to existing tree and stonewall protection.	Planning Board, Planning Department, DPW, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Town Meeting	on-going
OR-3K	Form a study committee to consider creating a Scenic Overlay District for the town's scenic landscape areas.	Select Board, Planning Board, Planning Department	3 years
OR-3L	Work with the Cultural Council, which has an annual wet paint event where artists get set up at scenic vistas, to identify special vistas that should be protected from future obstruction.	Cultural Council, Town Planning Department, Town Planning Board	1 year
OR-3M	Implement the Open Space and Recreation related recommendations developed in the Padanaram Harbor Management Plan.	HMPIC and others depending on the specific action	On-going



Open Space and Recreation Goal 4:

Provide a range of active and passive recreational facilities and programs that address the needs of all Dartmouth residents.

Why Dartmouth / Why Now?

As the Master Plan demographic trend review indicates, the population of Dartmouth is aging. Seniors remain very active and enjoy recreational activities, though they may have clear preferences for certain types of recreation over others. In addition to seniors, the town should take stock of the facilities that it maintains for those people who utilize ADA equipment as part of their recreational experience. At the same time, additional facilities for active recreation and popular water-based activities should be pursued.

Key Strategies for Action			
Strategy		Responsible Party	Time frame
OR-4A	Prioritize the voice of the Council on Aging in developing new or improved open space and recreation facilities.	Board of Parks and Recreation, COA	on-going
OR-4B	Determine the feasibility of creating additional boating facilities and secure in-water and landside storage options for watercraft. Assist in the creation of such structures, if possible.	Parks & Rec, Waterways Management Commission, Planning Dept, DPW, Harbormaster	3-5 years
OR-4C	Improve the access road to Round Hill Beach , including stormwater improvements.	Parks & Rec, DPW	1-3 years
OR-4D	Clearly advertise public access points along Dartmouth's coastline and inland waters , including permitted activities in each area. Develop a descriptive inventory of existing public water-based recreation access points along the Bay and to inland rivers. Correct especially the lack of knowledge about recreational opportunities on the Paskamanset River. Ensure that this access information is coordinated across multiple platforms (print and digital media).	Parks & Rec, Waterways Management Commission, Conservation Commission, town GIS staff, consultant	1-2 years
OR-4E	Construct/create more places available for fishing & shellfishing, especially a solution that resolves user conflicts along the Causeway. Engage the fishing community in possible alternatives/solutions.	Parks & Rec, Waterways Commission, town fishing community	1-3 years

OR-4F	Identify and create more places available for canoe/kayak put-in, especially along the Paskamanset River and Little River. Expand access for canoeists and kayakers by developing more access points, but also more supportive infrastructure at access points and by maintaining passable river channels.	Parks & Recreation Departments, Waterways Commission	1-5 years
OR-4G	Study the shoaling issue that limits the use of the Rogers Street Boat Ramp . Implement best practices for alleviating the issue.	DPW, Waterways Commission, consultant	1-5 years
OR-4H	Negotiate greater public usage for town residents at the UMass Dartmouth swimming pool , building on the town and gown agreement and lifeguard training connections between the town and the university.	Town Administrator, UMass Dartmouth	1 year
OR-4I	Support efforts to enhance water quality in Dartmouth's waterbodies. Without healthy water, water-based recreation will be a lot less desirable. Work with New Bedford to address water quality issue notifications in the Clarks Cove area.	Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, BBC, New Bedford DPI	on-going
OR-4J	When planning recreational facilities near the water, consider climate change sea level rise and storm intensity projections and build these projections into project design.	Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Department, Conservation Commission	on-going
OR-4K	Complete ADA improvements as needed in the town's parks and recreation areas.	ADA Coordinator, Parks & Rec	on-going
OR-4L	Identify opportunities to accommodate more passive recreation activities at existing open spaces , including hiking trails, outdoor education and nature study areas, picnic areas, fitness trails.	Parks & Rec	1-3 years
OR-4M	Improve trails at the interchurch land. Maintenance is needed.	Conservation Commission, Volunteers	1-3 years
OR-4N	Continue to support DNRT, MassAudubon, BBC, and other non-profits in their development and maintenance of new and existing trails through open space areas.	Town Administration and related partner Boards, Committees and Commissions that lend support, grant approvals, arrange CR's, etc.	on-going
OR-4O	Provide multi-purpose sports fields at locations other than schools, so that they can be used by adults during the day.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years



OR-4P	Establish an indoor multi-purpose sports facility/community recreation center that can be used in the winter and by different types of users (adult sport leagues, youth sport leagues). Implement the next steps after the town's recent feasibility study for this type of facility.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years
OR-4Q	Provide more recreational opportunities for teens and young adults.	Parks & Rec	1-3 years
OR-4R	Complete the establishment of a permanent dog park in town.	Parks & Rec	1 year
OR-4S	Assess the current distribution of playgrounds throughout town and take steps to provide playgrounds within walking distance of more Dartmouth residents in Dartmouth's more suburban areas (perhaps within the town's Urbanized Area as defined by the Census Bureau), especially in North Dartmouth.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years
OR-4T	Explore the feasibility of obtaining more playground equipment for the Cornell Pond playground.	Parks & Rec	1 year
OR-4U	Complete needed improvements at existing sports facilities: address drainage issues at Quinn Field; install lighting at middle school; improve the High School baseball facility	Schools	3-5 years
OR-4V	Develop additional multi-purpose field space for sports currently lacking space in town, i.e. field hockey, lacrosse, and softball.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years
OR-4W	Coordinate the need for new athletic complexes and sports facilities with Dartmouth Schools and Youth Sports Leagues.	OSRP Steering Committee, their consultants	on-going
OR-4X	Provide more pickleball and tennis courts.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years
OR-4Y	Examine the feasibility of establishing a skate/bike park.	Parks & Rec	3-5 years
OR-4Z	Explore a partnership with UMass Dartmouth to identify a location for a new ice rink in town.	Parks & Rec	5-7 years

Open Space and Recreation Goal 5:

Manage and channel growth and infrastructure in a manner that retains the character of the town and its natural, cultural, and historic assets, and promotes recreation.

Why Dartmouth / Why Now?

When asked what makes Dartmouth unique, many people in the Master Planning workshops specifically cited its large coastline and situation as a waterfront community. Recent planning efforts suggest that there is a lack of clarity on some aspects of public access to the water.

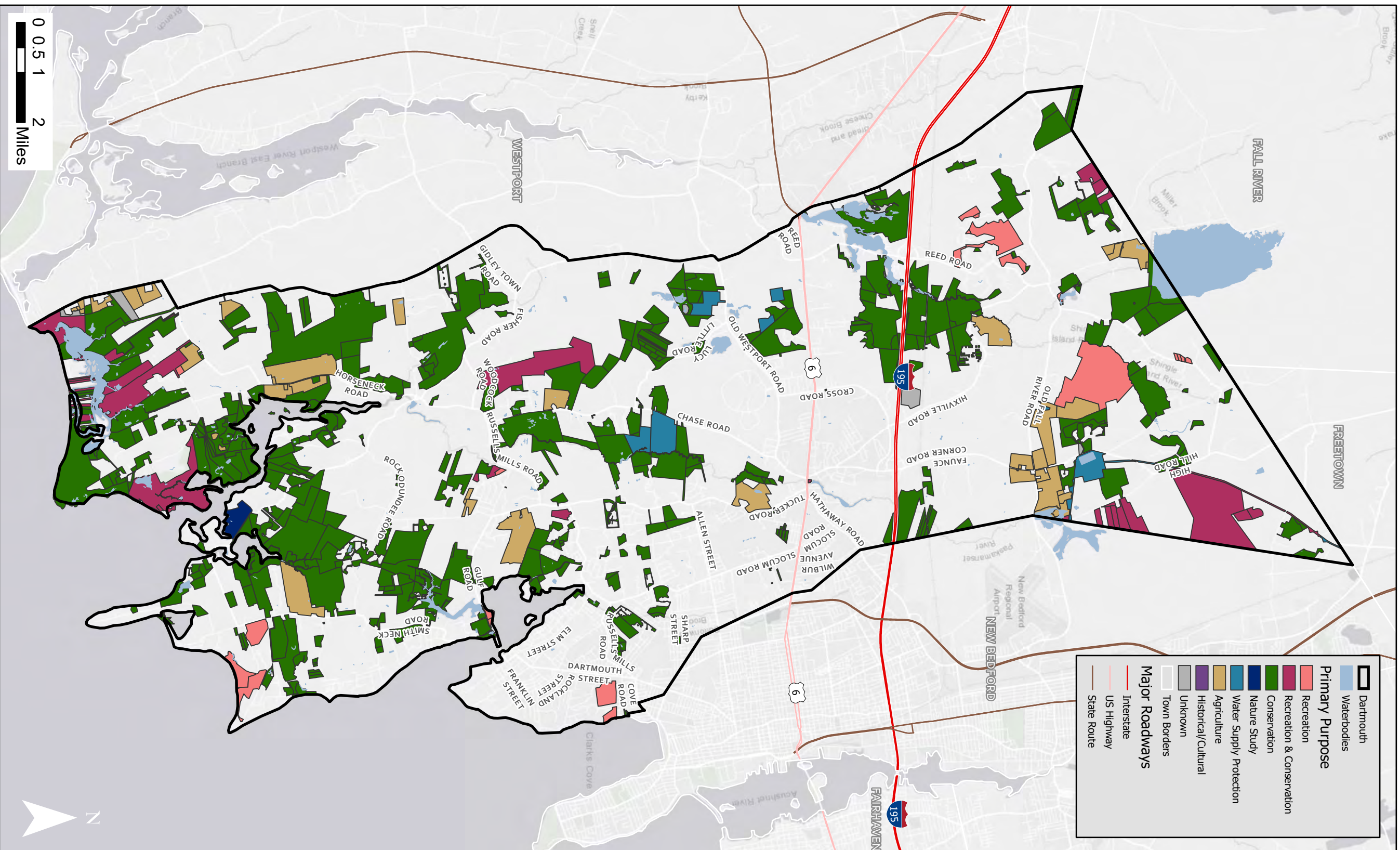
Key Strategies for Action			
Strategy		Responsible Party	Time frame
OR-5A	Consult the OSRP (especially the data and maps in Section 4 that show important habitat and unique environmental features) when formulating zoning changes, especially any zoning changes that come about as a result of South Coast Rail MBTA Communities Requirements.	Town Administrator, Town Planning Board and Planning Department, Select Board, Town Meeting	on-going
OR-5B	Ensure that Low Impact Development options are enshrined in the town's zoning bylaw. Perform audits that would help to discern where bylaws could better incorporate LID techniques.	Town Administrator, Town Planning Board and Planning Department, Select Board, Town Meeting	1-3 years
OR-5C	Pursue the extension of the Smith Neck Road sidewalk system north of Bayview Avenue to increase safe access along the waterway.	DPW	2-4 years
OR-5D	Construct sidewalks on roads where OSRP survey respondents supported additional sidewalks: Reed Road, Prospect Street, Rock O'Dundee Road, Cross Road, Alpha Street, Bush Street, Collins Corner Road, Connecticut Avenue, Lexington Avenue, and State Road.	DPW	on-going
OR-5E	Implement the town's Complete Streets Plan.	DPW	on-going



OR-5F	Develop a Town Bike Trail Plan to explore opportunities for both on- and off-road routes.	Pathways Committee, Planning Department, DPW,	1-3 years
OR-5G	Construct more paved dedicated bike lanes.	Pathways Committee, DPW	on-going
OR-5H	Continue to consider bicycle traffic accommodations, especially dedicated bike lanes, during ongoing road improvements	Pathways Committee, DPW	on-going
OR-5I	Continue to work with local and regional partners to develop and grow regional multi-modal trails and paved bike routes, establishing local connections to the South Coast Bikeway and other planned regional trails. Implement the preferred routing strategies came out of the 2021 Route Study.	Pathways Committee	on-going
OR-5J	Reactivate the town's Heritage Trail as a potential bikeway.	Pathways Committee	1-3 years
OR-5K	Map existing bicycle parking structures and identify potential needs for additional structures.	Pathways Committee, DPW, Town GIS Staff	1-3 years
OR-5L	Consider the idea of developing a pump track.	Pathways Committee, Recreation Department	1-3 years
OR-5M	Procure and implement a public bike share program.	Pathways Committee, Town Administrator	1-3 years

Open Space and Recreation Land by Primary Purpose

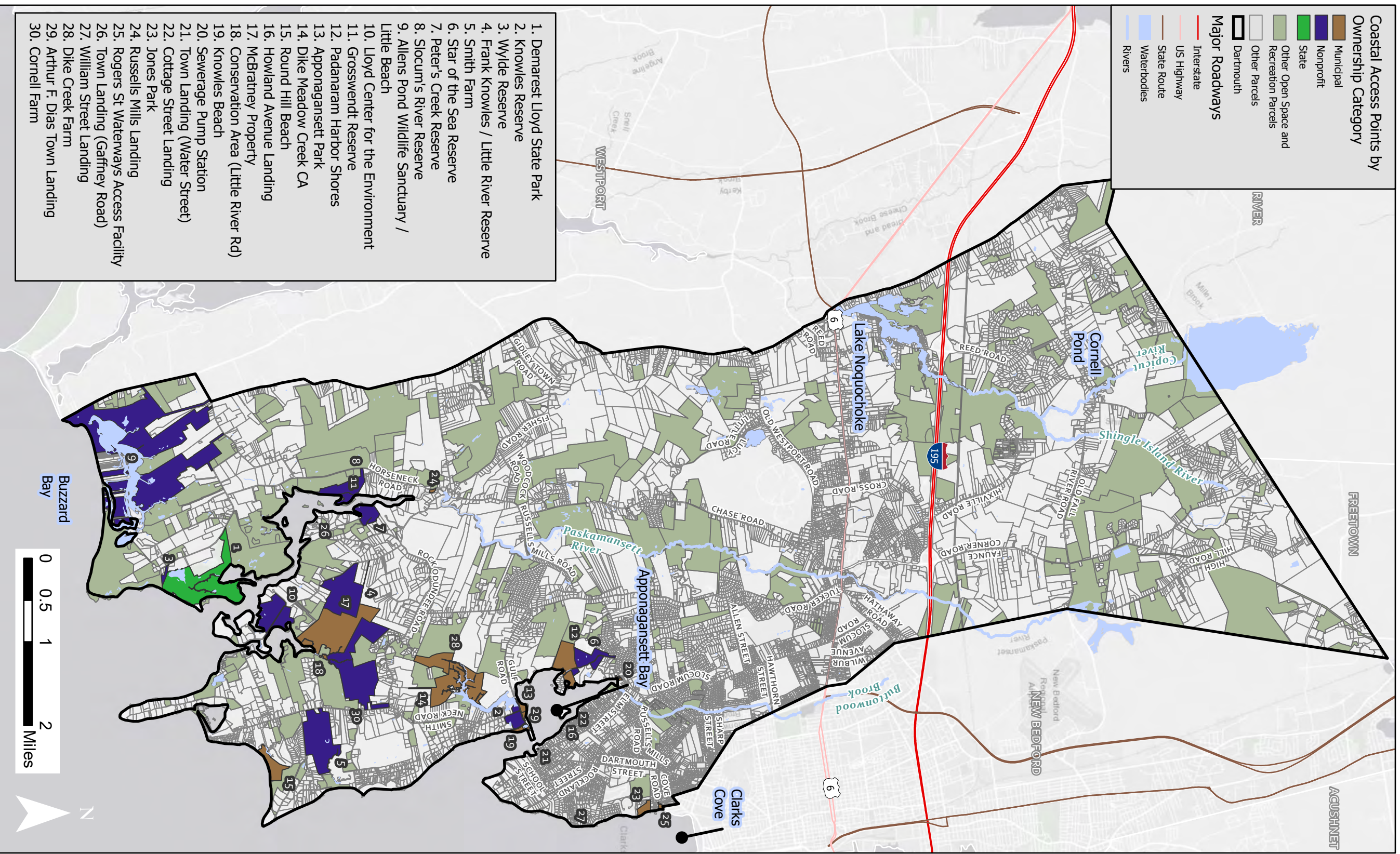
Source: MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020, Town of Dartmouth "Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection" Map dated April 16, 2019





Water Access Map

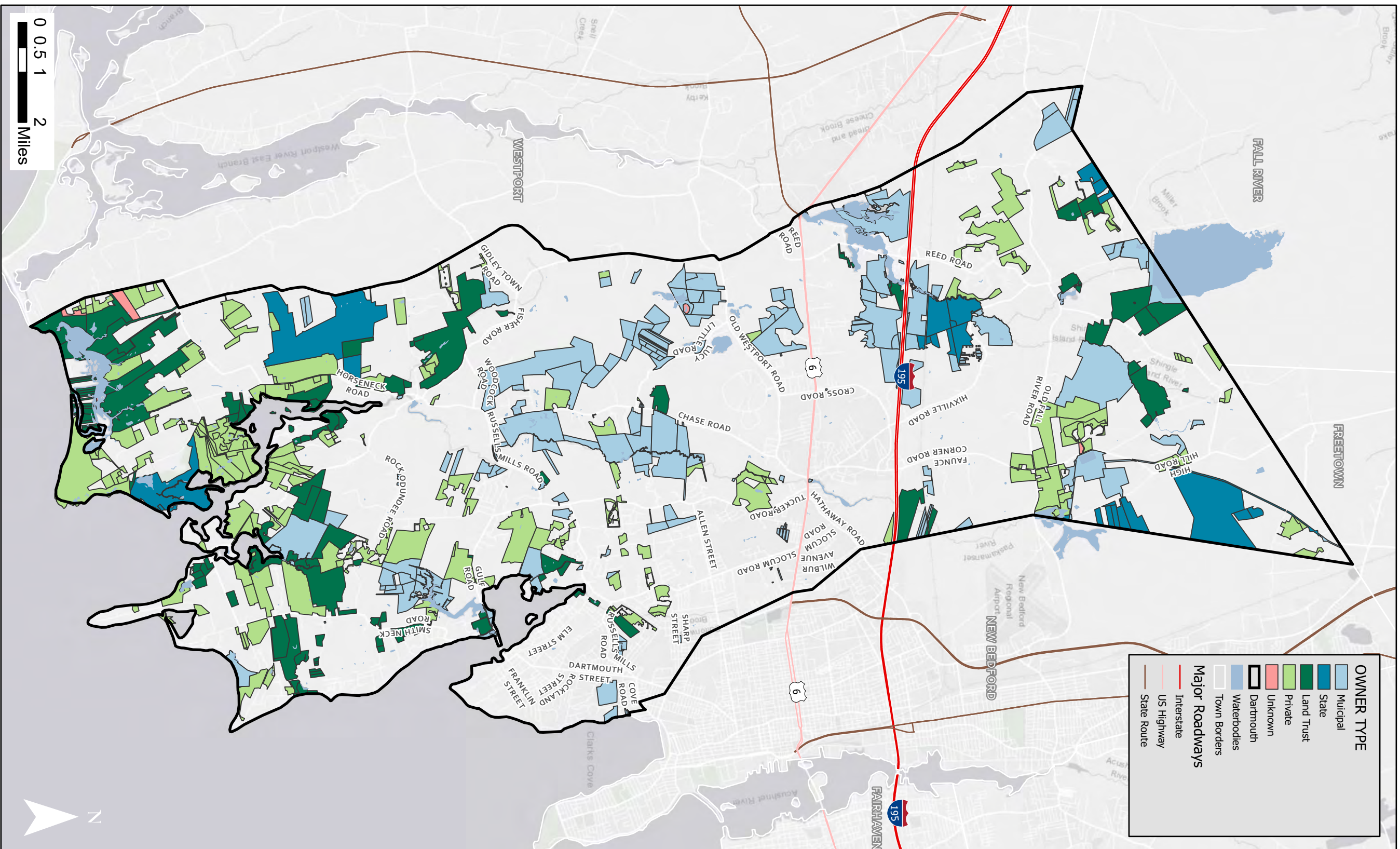
Source: MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, CZM Access Points layer





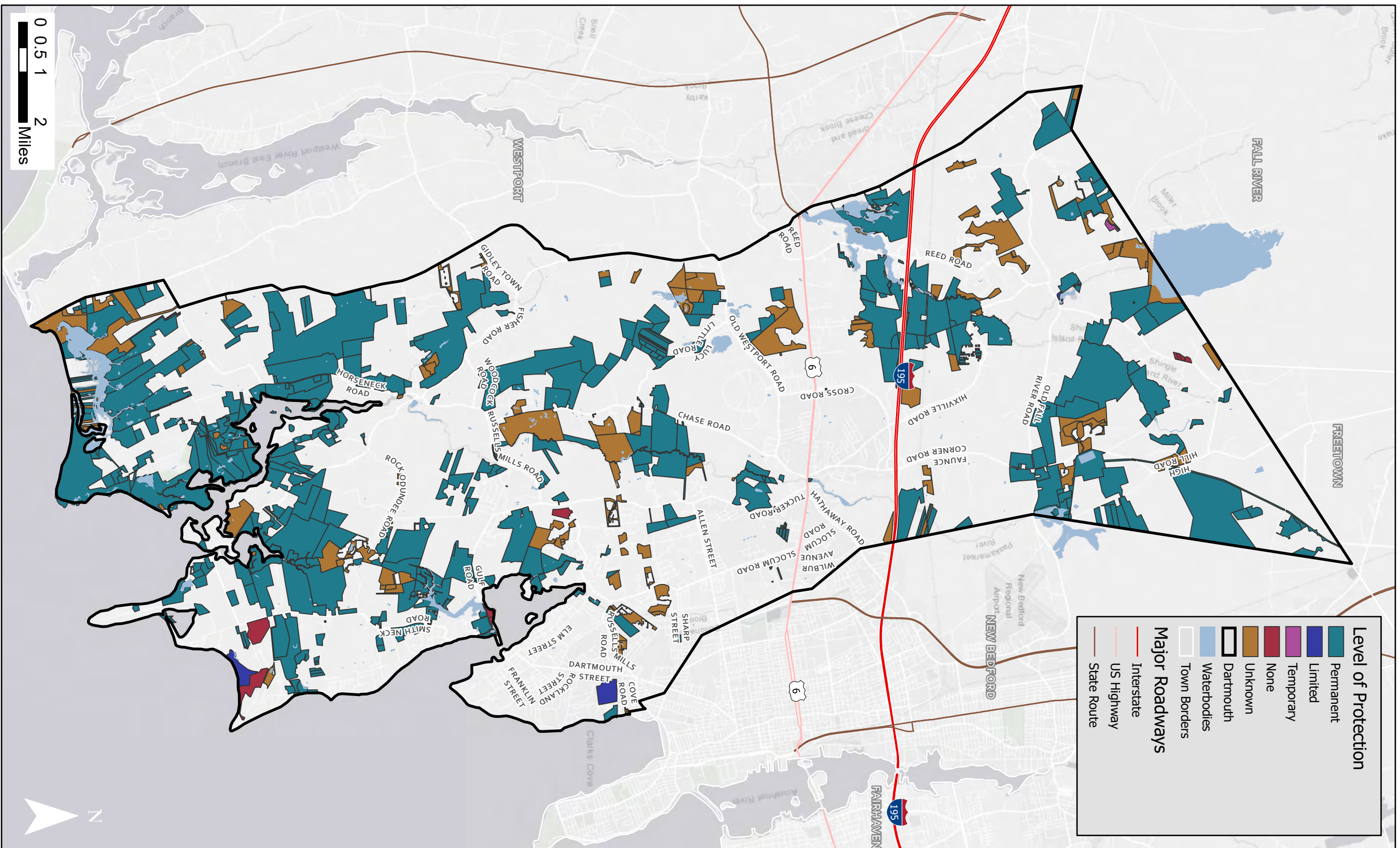
Open Space and Recreation Land by Ownership Type

Source: MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020, Town of Dartmouth "Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection" Map dated April 16, 2019





Open Space and Recreation Land by Level of Protection



Source: MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, MassGIS Open Space and Recreation Layer dated Feb 2020, Town of Dartmouth "Open Space and Protected Lands All Types of Protection" Map dated April 16, 2019

