

# Town of Mansfield

## Open Space and Recreation Plan



2025- 2035

A Ten-Year plan to maintain and protect Mansfield's natural resources and provide recreational opportunities for its residents.



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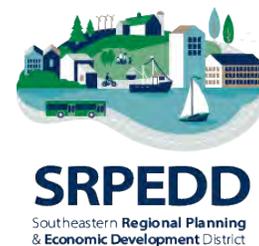
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*Special thanks to the many individuals, organizations, and agencies who gave their time and shared their knowledge of the community and its surroundings.*

*Cover photography: Kingman Pond (SRPEDD 2023)*

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## DEDICATION

### **Lou Andrews:** Champion of Conservation and Community in Mansfield

A beloved figure in the Mansfield community, Lou Andrews has been a driving force in the preservation of the town's open spaces for more than five decades. A passionate conservationist and historian, Lou co-founded the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield (NRT) in 1971 and has since led countless efforts to protect and steward hundreds of acres of conservation land.

Lou's commitment to historic preservation is equally impactful. He played a central role in the restoration of the Fisher-Richardson House and curated the treasured This Old Town book series, ensuring that Mansfield's rich cultural heritage is preserved for generations to come.

Originally from Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts, Lou is a U.S. Air Force veteran who made Mansfield his home in 1968. As a skilled electrical engineer, he had a distinguished career with major technology firms such as Northrop Corporation and Analog Devices before founding Andrews Computer Systems right here in Mansfield.

Lou's contributions extend far beyond environmental and historical preservation. He has held leadership roles in the Mansfield Jaycees, Lions Club, and Democratic Town Committee, and served on numerous town boards and commissions, including the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and Airport Commission. He was a driving force behind the development of the Mansfield Animal Shelter and played a key role in making the local airport a successful and sustainable operation.

For many years, Lou has worked closely with the Conservation Department, fostering collaboration between the Town and the NRT to enhance the accessibility and safety of Mansfield's conservation areas. Together with the NRT team, he has restored countless bridges, walls, and trails, created trail maps, organized community clean-up days, and promoted the public use and appreciation of these invaluable lands.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ACEC:** Area of Critical Environmental Concern  
**ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act  
**APR:** Agricultural Preservation Restriction  
**CR:** Conservation Restriction  
**CRACC:** Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee  
**DPW:** Department of Public Works  
**EJ:** Environmental Justice  
**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency  
**FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**GATRA:** Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transportation Area  
**GHG:** Greenhouse Gas  
**GIN:** Green Infrastructure Network  
**HR:** Historic Restriction  
**LID:** Low Impact Development  
**MassDCS / DCS:** Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services  
**MassDEP / DEP:** Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
**MassEEA / EEA:** Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
**MassEOEEA / EOEEA:** Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
**MBTA:** Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
**MEPA:** Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act  
**MHC:** Massachusetts Historical Commission  
**NHESP:** Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
**NRCS:** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**NRT:** Natural Resources Trust (of Mansfield)  
**OSRC:** Open Space and Recreation Committee  
**OSRP:** Open Space and Recreation Plan  
**PDA:** Priority Development Area  
**PPA:** Priority Protection Area  
**PR:** Preservation Restriction  
**RTP:** Regional Transportation Plan  
**SCORP:** Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
**SRPEDD:** Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District  
**TNC:** The Nature Conservancy  
**TRSC:** Taunton River Stewardship Council  
**WR:** Wetlands Restriction

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) has been developed in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services. The Commonwealth requires that all municipalities file an open space and recreation plan update every ten (10) years as a means of satisfying eligibility requirements for state and federal grants offered through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Having a current OSRP may also offer a competitive edge in other state grant programs.

This 2025 Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan is an update of the Mansfield 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan and is intended to act as a blueprint for the future expansion of Mansfield's parks and recreational areas, while also recommending strategies for the preservation of Mansfield's open spaces and natural resources. The 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan has evolved from Mansfield's previous Open Space and Recreation plans dating from 1988, 1996, 2003, 2008, and 2016, and as such, has been redesigned to reflect the current opinions of Mansfield's residents as well as the changing characteristics of the community from 2025 to 2035.

To identify the current opinions of Mansfield's residents, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, along with their consultant, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, developed a public online survey, attended public events, and hosted public workshops. More details about the public engagement process can be found in Section II. INTRODUCTION, subsection B. Planning Process and Public Participation. Based on the survey results, information obtained and exchanged at public events and public workshops, the open space and recreation inventory, and the needs of special interest groups, the Open Space and Recreation Committee evaluated, updated, and expanded the goals of the 2025 Plan to fit the current needs of the Town.

The following Goals, listed in priority order, reflect the Town's open space and recreation priorities for the 2025 - 2035 Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan. The individual action items associated with each goal can be found in section VIII. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

**GOAL 1:** Establish a robust maintenance plan and reasonable budget for the management and implementation of the Open Space portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**GOAL 2:** Expand, diversify, and improve existing open spaces and recreational areas.

**GOAL 3:** Promote the use of trail systems within Open Spaces with use of social media, websites, wayfinding signs, and community outreach programs.

**GOAL 4:** Develop and implement a comprehensive climate change resiliency program for the Town of Mansfield.

**GOAL 5:** Preserve Mansfield’s Natural Resources, wildlife habitats, and remaining agricultural lands.

## II. INTRODUCTION

### A. Statement of Purpose

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The purpose of this Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide a guide for officials, local organizations and residents to use to address the conservation and recreation needs of the Town of Mansfield over the next ten years. The OSRP should be referenced, alongside the community’s Master Plan, which sets forth a more comprehensive strategy for managing and planning for community growth and change, when making local planning decisions regarding land use, land protection and the development of community amenities. In addition, this plan will highlight the many recreational opportunities available to the residents of Mansfield, as well as those areas the Town has identified for conservation.

Past planning documents, such as the 2016 OSRP, are a perfect example of why having these plans in place help to guide the growth of the Town, with several major accomplishments occurring over the past several years including:

- **Creating an Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC)** in 2017 that has since met monthly to make recommendations to the Conservation Department, Commission and DPW to keep Mansfield’s Open Spaces safe and protected. The OSRC has also helped to facilitate this 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.
- **Mansfield’s 2020 Masterplan 2020 included a section on Accessible, Connected, and Well-Publicized Green Spaces**, highlighting the communities interest in land preservation and management.
- **The DPW assisted with extensive Trail Restoration.**
- **\$25,000 was allocated by Town Meeting in 2020 to address safety concerns in trails**, including tree removal and trail widening, primarily at Marie Strese and Great Woods.
- **Various Trail Work**, including:
  - All trails walked and cleared
  - Marie Strese parking area, landscaped and mulched
  - Great Woods hazardous tree removal

- Corporal Hardy installation of a new paved parking area
- Non-profit Gift Fund for the installation of Conservation Area Trailhead maps at each of the seven conservation areas
- **Trail Walks 2021 and 2022.** During the COVID pandemic, residents began exploring the Town’s trail systems as a safe way to stay active while practicing social distancing. The Open Space and Recreation Committee also hosted several guided nature walks on Town-owned trails within Conservation Areas.
- **Aroma Joe’s Corporate Group came from Maine.** Aroma Joe’s Café opened its Mansfield location in 2021. As part of the company’s commitment to community service, the CEO reached out to the Town to volunteer on a local project. More than 30 employees from Aroma Joe’s corporate office traveled to Mansfield to work with the Conservation Department at the Marie Strese Conservation Area. Volunteers helped clear trails, remove fire hazards, rake the parking area, and spread mulch. The Town was deeply appreciative of their efforts and community spirit.
- **Produced new trail maps with the Town’s GIS Coordinator.**
- **New Open Space Property Acquired by the Conservation Commission,** totaling 112.8 acres. Details about these properties can be seen below:

*Table 1. Mansfield Open Space Acquisitions since 2017*

Location	Date Donated	Parcel ID	Acres
Willow St Rear	09/27/2017	028_150	10
Willow St Rear	05/25/2017	028_152	4
Willow St Rear	05/25/2017	028_143	2
Willow St	05/25/2017	012_035	2
Basin St Rear	05/25/2017	028_009	16
Gilbert St Rear	05/23/2017	004_018	11.4
Wayside Dr	07/05/2019	003_019	29
Jennifer Dr	07/26/2019	039_002	30
Ware St. Rear	05/07/2019	032-012	7.4
625 South Main Street	05/07/2019	014-020	1
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>			<b>112.8</b>

Source: Town of Mansfield

- **Climate Resiliency Planning** efforts, including:
  - MS4 -Stormwater Management/Regulations improvements
  - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant
  - Organizational Capacity Assessment
  - Canoe River Aquifer Resiliency Pilot Program launched
  - Knotweed Municipal Management Plan Pilot Project with Brian Colleran, Ecological Land Management
- **Eagle Scout Projects**, including:
  - Oak Street Garden
  - Mill Pond sitting area
  - Corporal Hardy benches
  - Waypoint system in Marie Strese
  - Sweets Pond trail signage and maintenance
  - Taylor Hill expansion
  - Guided walk with Agent with troop of Mansfield
- **Conservation Planner transition to Department Head** in 2022 including revised job description:
  - Assists the Conservation Commission and Open Space & Recreation Committee in land management activities of Town Conservation Land working with volunteers, other Town departments, Town, state or federal agencies, local, regional and state nonprofits.
  - Pursues the Town’s and Conservation Commission’s goal of open space acquisition, looking for viable opportunities for use of the Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Fund. This includes creating and maintaining relationships with private landowners, local land trusts, and private and state organizations with similar interests.
  - Oversees management of conservation land under the Conservation Commission’s control, including documentation related to the creation and annual monitoring of Conservation Restrictions in coordination with the NRT.
- **Routine meetings of the Mansfield Land use Team** including the Conservation Planner, Director of DPW, Director of Highway Department and Town Engineer to discuss ongoing open space issues, invasive species removal and stormwater concerns.
- **The Taunton River Watershed Alliance donated \$20,000 to Mansfield’s Conservation Department** to assist with invasive species management throughout Town, including Town-owned open spaces. The Town has since hired a Knotweed Specialist to assist with the drafting of a Municipal Knotweed Management Plan.

## B. Planning Process and Public Participation

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The process of creating a long-range plan is almost more important than the document itself. The process allows for public participation and general education on issues and a means for all involved to reach a consensus on these issues.

With the knowledge of the importance of process in plan development, the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) was established in 2017 and guided the 2025 project to update the OSRP. These members include: Rebecca Foster, Sharon Friedman, Sally Fehervari, Kristen Whittle, and Kellie Ansermoz.

Additional members were temporarily added to the Open Space and Recreation Committee for the purposes of aiding in the Open Space and Recreation Plan update, including: Tod Snyder from the Mansfield Natural Resources Trust, Sarah Raposa the Director of Planning & Development, and Ed Westhaver / Patrick Latchaw from the Mansfield Recreation Commission.

The OSRC conducted six meetings between June 2023 and July 2024. These meetings were used to update attendees on the work that had been completed to date, make decisions on how to proceed with work tasks, scrutinize draft work, and to formulate new tasks moving forward. OSRC meetings were held as needed, in alignment with key project needs or junctures. All meetings were posted and open to the public. The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) was hired to facilitate planning activities and coordinate the drafting of the OSRP document.

Throughout the Plan update process, the OSRC was instrumental in assisting the completion of the following tasks:

- Reviewing goals, objectives, and action items from the 2016 and noting progress or continued relevance;
- Reviewing Mansfield's 2020 Master Plan and other recent community planning documents for previously identified goals and strategies relevant to open space planning;
- Updating the OSRP Lands Inventory with accurate GIS data;
- Designing the online public OSRP survey questionnaire;
- Developing the public prioritization workshop format;
- Advertising and attending public events;
- Reviewing OSRP Plan drafts; and
- Updating goals, objectives, and action items after review and synthesis of public engagement outcomes.

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SURVEY AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

To ensure that public participation in Plan development was widespread and available beyond attendance at in-person meetings, the project team launched an online survey that respondents could take at their convenience. Survey questions were meant

to gauge the public's satisfaction with the current state of conservation, open space, and recreation lands, facilities, programs and policies within the Town, as well as to help chart a course for future improvements.

The survey was posted on the SRPEDD website and was available from July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 through October 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. The survey link was shared on social media pages for SRPEDD, the Town, and on local community groups, as well as in the Mansfield Town Newsletter. The exact number of survey responses is difficult to gauge precisely, as it was possible for participants to skip individual questions. However, a total of 934 respondents engaged with the survey and a core group of about 760 respondents completed the survey fully, skipping few, if any, questions.

Alongside the public survey, an interactive in-person mapping activity was prepared to solicit feedback on existing open spaces and recreational facilities as well as additional needs. A map of Mansfield displaying existing open space and recreational parcels, color-coded by level of protection (limited, none, in perpetuity, term limited, or unknown) was provided on a 30" by 43" poster board. Individuals were provided 8 different types of stickers, which represented the following comment need categories: new recreation amenity, maintenance/beautification, recreational programming, pathway – bicycle, pathway – pedestrian, ADA access, open space/resource conservation, and cultural/historic resource.

Participants were instructed to place these stickers in locations on the map where that type of need or suggestion was desired, and then to write a unique number on that sticker and the corresponding explanation or comment with the same number next to the map. Participants were also invited to share general comments that did not have a specific location associated with them by either writing that comment with no number associated with it or by placing their sticker on a location on the map outside of the Town boundary.

One map was displayed on a table hosted by SRPEDD at the Mansfield Family Fun Night on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 6:00–9:00pm. SRPEDD staff were present at the table for the duration of this event and engaged attendees in discussion about open space and recreational needs and invited comments.

A second and third identical map was displayed at the first public workshop in the Mansfield Public Safety Building on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 PM. SRPEDD, alongside the Mansfield Open Space Steering Committee, were present for the duration of the meeting and engaged attendees in discussion about open space and recreational needs in Mansfield.

A fourth identical map was display at Mansfield 101 night, which was hosted at the Mansfield Public Library, on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 6:00-8:00pm. SRPEDD

staff engaged with new residents in Mansfield as to their open space and recreational needs for the duration of the event.

The most popular needs expressed across all the map activities included additional pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout town, as well as a few new recreational amenities, including either a splash pad or town pool, a dog park, and a new playground.

The second Public Meeting was on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Mansfield Public Library from 5:30-7:00 PM. SRPEDD, alongside the Mansfield Open Space Steering Committee, were present for the duration of the meeting and engaged attendees in discussion around the draft actions of the open space and recreation plan. A survey was also launched to gain feedback from the community on these draft actions, which was available from May 20<sup>th</sup> until June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### ENHANCED OUTREACH

To ensure meaningful involvement in the planning process, special attention was given to reach all neighborhoods in Mansfield, especially in Environmental Justice (EJ) Population areas. Mansfield has two designated minority-based Environmental Justice populations in the north-east section of Town, near Route 106. Methods of enhanced outreach included paper flyers advertising meeting information, which were made available at the Town Hall, the Mansfield Public Library, and the Train Station, as well as paper copies of the Mansfield Open Space Survey 2023, which were distributed at the Mansfield Public Library and the Town Hall. The public workshops were also held within Mansfield's Environmental Justice Neighborhoods, with the first public workshop being held at the Mansfield Public Safety Building, and the second being held at the Mansfield Public Library.

### RELEASE OF DRAFT PLAN TO THE PUBLIC

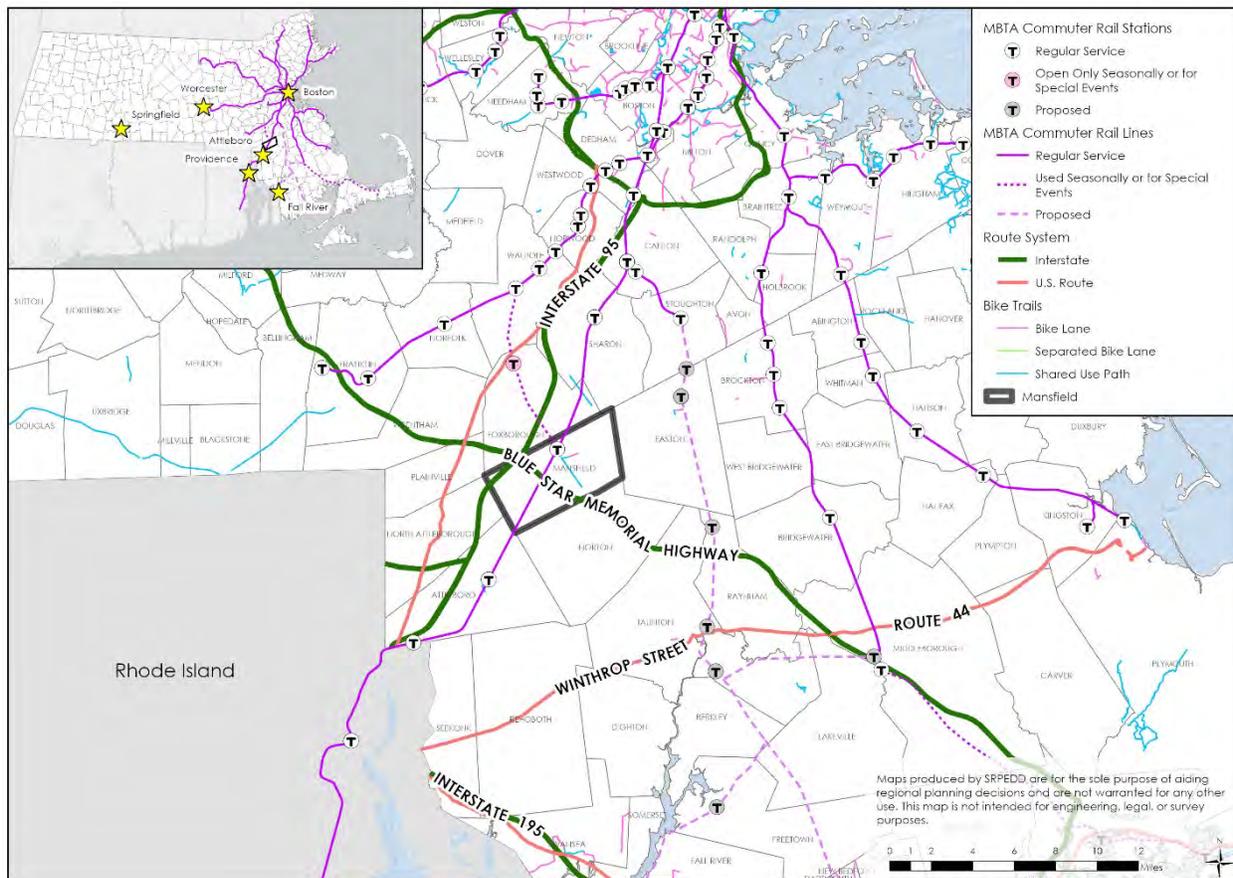
The draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was released to the public and Town boards on **DATE**. The final draft, reflective of comments from the final public open house meeting, was released to the public and Town boards on **DATE**.

## III. COMMUNITY SETTING

### A. Regional Context

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Map 1. Mansfield Open Space Regional Context



The Town of Mansfield is located Southeastern Massachusetts within Bristol County, approximately 28 miles from Boston, 14 miles from Brockton and 19 miles from Providence, Rhode Island. It is bordered by Easton on the east, Sharon on the northeast, Foxborough on the north, North Attleboro on the west, Attleboro on the southwest and Norton on the south (see Map 1. Mansfield Open Space Regional Context).

The character of Mansfield has changed from a small Town with a rural flavor to a suburban bedroom community for cities and economic centers throughout the region. One of New England's largest industrial parks (the Cabot Business Park) is located in Mansfield. The development of the park began in the early 1970s. The spillover economic effects of the business park (eating establishments, hotels, startups of small businesses) have spread throughout Town.

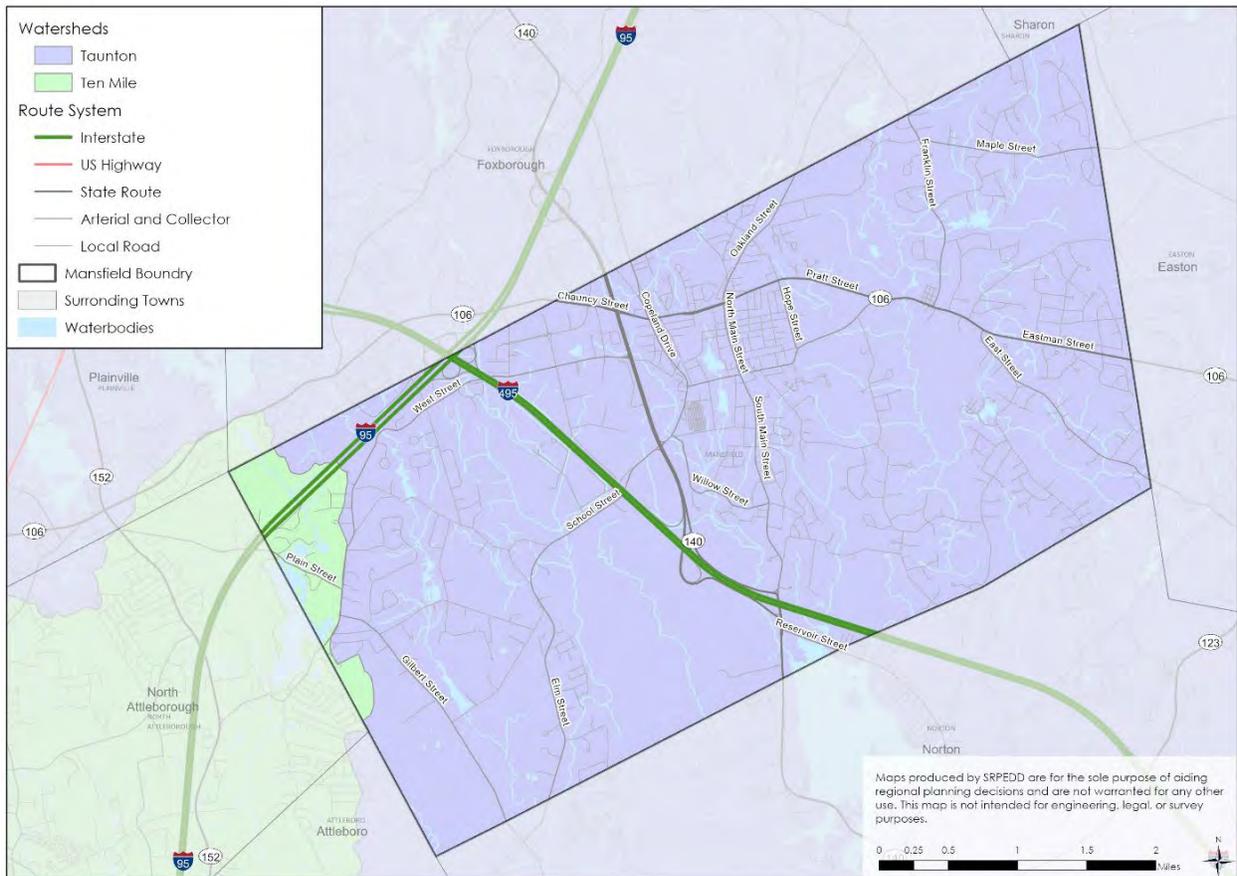
Additionally, the Great Woods is an unbroken 3,000-acre tract of woodland and swamp covering portions of southern Mansfield and northern Norton, it remains an important resource to both towns as it has a diversity of habitat serving an abundance of plant and animal life. Balancing the preservation of this area with development, especially any spillover effects from the nearby Xfinity Center, a regionally significant performing art/cultural arena, can be a challenge. Xfinity is active during the summer months with

outdoor concerts, and its impacts on the Town and adjacent communities require some regional preservation efforts.

Mansfield residents also have the opportunity to enjoy open spaces in neighboring towns, including Borderland State Park in Easton, Foxborough State Forest and various Audubon sanctuaries.

## MAJOR WATERSHED ADDRESS

Map 2. Mansfield Open Space Regional Watersheds



The Town of Mansfield is located principally within the Taunton River watershed, with only a small section of the north-west portion within the Ten Mile River (see Map 2. Mansfield Open Space Regional Watersheds). The Taunton River is one of 228 rivers in the United States that have been designated “Wild and Scenic”, a designation that is only given to rivers with exceptional natural, cultural, and/or recreational value.

The topography within Town further divides the watershed into four sub-watersheds and four drainage basins (see section 4C Water Resources for more information on the sub-watersheds within Mansfield). From west to east the drainage basins are the Bungay River basin, the Wading River/Hodges Brook basin, the Rumford River basin, and the

Canoe River. The Bungay basin flows west towards North Attleboro and Attleboro, whereas the remaining basins flow south towards Norton.

As the Rumford River flows south towards Norton, it becomes the Norton Reservoir. This impoundment of the Rumford River spans 589 acres, with approximately 25 acres along the northern edge, between Route 140 and Reservoir Street, within the Town of Mansfield. This reservoir provides recreational amenities and habitat for both plant and animal species, as well as contributes to the local scenery.

Regional collaboration has historically occurred around the management of the Canoe River basin. Water is a precious regional resource, and vital to Mansfield's relationship with surrounding communities. A prominent example of regional water-related involvement is the Town's participation in the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee (CRACC), along with the Towns of Sharon, Foxborough, Easton and Norton. Since the Canoe River flows north to south through the five communities, land use adjacent to the river in any one Town can impact water quality downstream. Cooperative open space and recreation planning for the Town and its environs is vital to regional efforts to conserve this resource.

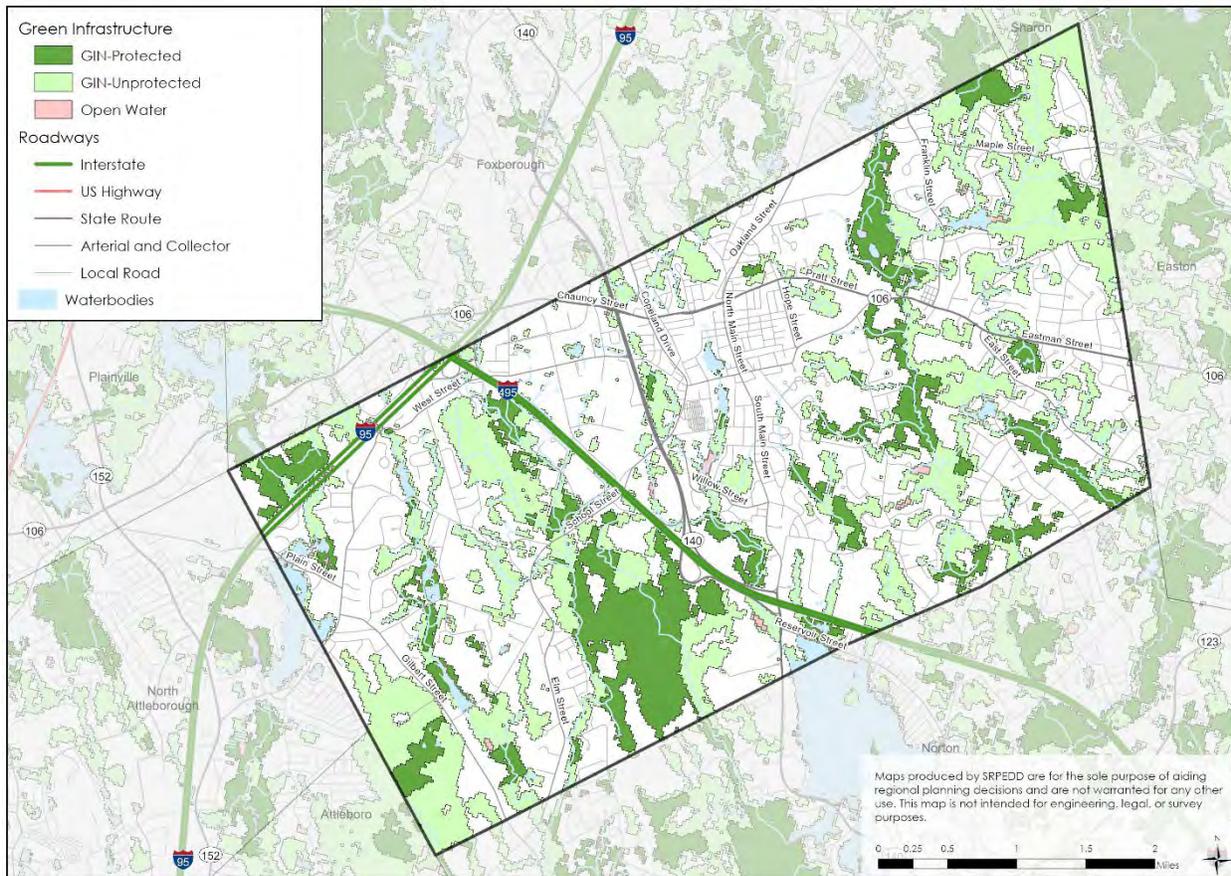
### REGIONAL SERVICE INTERDEPENDENCIES

Mansfield enjoys a strategic regional location with easy access to transportation networks. Town residents and those who live in the surrounding communities are within easy commute to the big cities like New York, Boston, and Providence, or to the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, by rail and major interstate highways. They benefit from being able to work in the major economic centers around the metro areas of Boston, Worcester and Providence. This ease of access requires Mansfield to plan for increased traffic with people driving to and through Mansfield, as well as an increased housing need for people who are looking to live near the robust public transportation network.

A portion of Mansfield residents receive water from the City of Attleboro and the Towns of Norton and Foxboro. The Town also has an interconnection agreement during water supply emergencies with the Towns of Easton, Norton and Foxboro.

### REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RESOURCES

Map 3. Mansfield Open Space Green Infrastructure Network (GIN)



Mansfield’s open space and recreation lands are situated within a greater regional context of open space and recreation facilities. More broadly, beyond what has already been developed for recreation or preserved for conservation, Mansfield lands are part of the larger interconnected regional Green Infrastructure Network. In this context, the Conservation Fund’s definition of **Green Infrastructure** is:

*“A strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements, and working lands with conservation value that supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to the health and quality of life for America’s communities and people.”<sup>1</sup>*

The “Green Infrastructure” approach emphasizes the benefits that a community draws from its natural and semi-natural spaces and supports action to protect and enhance the ability of natural systems to function. Ecosystem services - the benefits and services

<sup>1</sup> Mark Benedict and Ed McMahon (2006), Conservation Fund, as quoted by David C. Rouse and Ignacio F. Bunster-Ossa (2013), Green Infrastructure: A Landscape Approach, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 571, p. 10.

that natural processes provide to people - are a related concept. Ecosystem services can be divided into four categories:

1. *Regulating Services* - filtering air and water, sequestering carbon, absorbing floodwaters, moderating micro-climates, aquifer recharge.
2. *Provisioning Services* - food and fiber production, drinking water.
3. *Supporting Services* - sheltering and allowing for the movement of wildlife, nutrient cycling, crop pollination.
4. *Cultural Services* - physical activity and recreation, mobility, cultural identity, spiritual inspiration, community cohesion.<sup>2</sup>

Consider a stream corridor, for example. Protecting and restoring forested areas along the stream provides habitat for both fish and wildlife and accommodates their movement through the landscape (ecological resilience), while also reducing flood risks to downstream communities (community resilience). Consistently improving and strengthening local open space in concert with adjacent communities and the regional Green Infrastructure Network is one way to protect a functioning landscape that promotes the health and well-being of people and ecosystems at all scales. An open space plan that takes a regional Green Infrastructure approach emphasizes the environmental, economic, and social benefits provided by a town's open space and recreational resource network.

Massachusetts cities and towns are fortunate to have tools that enable communities to incorporate the Green Infrastructure approach into open space preservation. The Manomet and Mass Audubon Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) Map identifies lands that provide climate change resilience, serve a critical landscape function, and/or are vulnerable to current or future flooding and sea level rise<sup>3</sup>. Communities can reference the GIN Map to identify significant Green Infrastructure land assets that are still unprotected, undeveloped, or both.

Additionally, the Canoe River Wilderness area spans both Foxborough and Mansfield. This conservation and recreation area is both publicly accessible and permanently conserved and has several trails to explore.

The **Xfinity Center** (in Mansfield, Massachusetts) is an outdoor entertainment venue that can hold a capacity of nearly 20,000 spectators. Previously known as the Great Woods Center for the Performing arts, then the Tweeter Center, and finally the Xfinity Center,

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<sup>2</sup> David C. Rouse and Ignacio F. Bunster-Ossa (2013), *Green Infrastructure: A Landscape Approach*, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 571, p.12.

<sup>3</sup> The Green Infrastructure Network originates from Manomet's *Green Infrastructure Analysis for the Taunton River Watershed, Massachusetts*: [https://www.manomet.org/wp-content/uploads/old-files/Manomet\\_GreenInfrastructure\\_Analysis\\_for-TauntonWatershed\\_July2017.pdf](https://www.manomet.org/wp-content/uploads/old-files/Manomet_GreenInfrastructure_Analysis_for-TauntonWatershed_July2017.pdf). Mass Audubon applied this approach statewide in their 2020 *Losing Ground: Nature's Value in a Changing Climate*: <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/policy-advocacy/local-climate-resilient-communities/losing-ground>.

the location has been a center for major music, graduation, and arts performances since the mid 1980's. As an outdoor venue, the event season generally runs from May-September, taking advantage of the region's summer tourism economy. The location makes it regionally accessible to Cape Cod, Boston, and Providence regions, bringing in many globally renowned artists and out-of-town ticket sales to Mansfield's economy. Locally, the event center provides a space for the Mansfield High School graduation.

The **World War II Veterans Memorial Bike Path** is a recreation amenity that connects Mansfield's downtown to the Natural Resource Trail just West of Mansfield Airport and South of the Marie Streesse Conservation Area. The trail maps over a previous railroad track used by the Old Colony Railroad to transport soldiers from Taunton Camp Myles Standish, abandoned, and turned into a trail in 2004. The trail provides natural landscapes surrounding a mostly paved road into Downtown Mansfield, which can allow for alternate form of transit for those living along the trail route, but mostly provides recreation for local residents with cultural markers of buildings used in the WWII era.

The **Great Woods Conservation Area** is a 650-acre piece of wooded forest that is south of 495, east of Hodges Brook, and northwest of the Town of Norton. It is the largest area of conservation in Mansfield and a well-known natural resource for the town. It has a handful of trails along old farm routes for local and regional users that enjoy family trails, birdwatching, hunting, dog walking,

## REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXT

While many land use decisions are made on a local or site-by-site basis, most natural processes, climate conditions, and movements of plants and animals transcend jurisdictions over large contiguous areas shaped by topography and geology. Environmental issues such as pollution, changes in groundwater tables, and rising temperatures require a regional - even national and global - response, with every local municipality acknowledging the role that their lands and policies play in the larger climate context.

Climate change is a complex topic. We encourage anyone unfamiliar with the basics or with curiosity about the evidence that shows human-induced climate change is occurring, how serious it is for the southeast region, and how the ultimate outcome is dependent on choices we make today to see **Appendix C: Climate Change Regional Overview**.

Our modern civilization developed during a time of relative stability in earth's geological history. This stability enabled us to design buildings, communities, infrastructure – all the cornerstones of modern life – with confidence that in planning these structures, we knew what to expect. The ability to draw on prior conditions to inform what we anticipate future conditions to be is called a 'stationarity.' For example, engineers could design a road to withstand a weather event called a "1% annual

chance” or “hundred-year” storm, which represented the intense weather conditions that would be expected to occur just once in a one-hundred-year period. Stationarity allowing us to prepare for the future with the knowledge of prior conditions and static probabilities.

Climate change however is shifting what is typical of our region’s temperature and precipitation beyond the boundaries of predictability. Presently occurring climate shifts and the anticipated new conditions toward which we are moving with additional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions will continue to move the needle, representing a paradigm shift into ‘non-stationarity;’ a condition in which we can no longer rely on historical records to precisely predict future outcomes. We are planning for our communities today against a future that is a moving target. What was previously classified as the 100-year storm event may become a more likely and frequent occurrence; it may become the twenty- or ten-year storm event. Everything from emergency response plans to siting community facilities, to designing roadways, to determining flood insurance rates will likely have to evolve continually and quickly.

The uncertainty associated with non-stationarity means that communities must take the long view and build some of this uncertainty into their decision-making structures with strategies that are flexible and nimble, that can **adapt** to and **mitigate** the effects of climate change. **Mitigation** refers to reducing the overall amount of climate change caused by human released GHG, requiring a reduction in the amount of GHG an individual, municipality, or country emits, or the establishment of ways to draw GHG out of the atmosphere. By mitigating GHG emissions, we can help slow down the rates of human-caused climate change, lengthen stationarity, and reduce the uncertainty caused by climate change. **Adaptation** refers to implementing changes in our built or natural environment to reduce our societal and individual vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. Adaptation strategies can cut across all sectors of life, including our behaviors, building techniques, and where we live.

Open space planning can assist with both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Mitigation in an open space planning context can involve preserving open spaces, trees, and wetlands as carbon dioxide sinks (areas that draw GHG out of the atmosphere). In fact, wetlands are even more productive carbon sinks than forests.<sup>4</sup> Open space and recreation planning that protects these areas is a component of local climate change mitigation.

Examples of adaptation can include preserving critical areas like floodplains and aquifers, so that they are able to absorb rainfall and storm water runoff, thereby minimizing the impact of extreme storm events on our neighborhoods, downtowns and greater built environment. Adaptation could also refer to planting more trees so that they cool down neighborhoods and protect people from rising temperatures. We can

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<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan public workshop materials.

expand our traditional definition of open space, to also include small but key patches of Green Infrastructure that perform critical functions, such as roadside bioswales that collect stormwater runoff. We can expand recreation offerings to activities that provide educational programming on household resilience and connect residents with the landscape to further a community stewardship ethic.

Adaptation efforts are flexible and can incorporate changes in both our environment and our behavior; using conservation subdivisions in combination with planned migration away from the coasts provides the dual benefits of protecting open space while minimizing community vulnerability to extreme storms. Protecting our open space now allows us to hedge against an uncertain future and tap into the multitude of benefits of adaptation and mitigation. In many scenarios, preserving Mansfield's open space and recreation lands overlaps with protecting Mansfield's Green Infrastructure Network, further overlapping climate resilience goals, preserving nature's ability to provide these mitigation and adaptation services.

In the Narragansett Bay Watershed, Resilient MA's regional climate outlook predicts an increase in average annual temperature by 3.6 degrees when compared to the historic average (1950 – 2013) by 2030. By 2050, the sea surface temperature is estimated to rise 3.1 degrees, reducing marine fish catch and increasing risk of harmful bacterial infections. Looking forward to 2070, the 10% annual chance of daily rainfall events can potentially occur as much as five times more frequently. By the end of the century, the frequency of tropical cyclones may increase by nearly 50%, resulting in damage from storm surge, heavy rains, and strong winds.

These changes in climate are expected to have impacts on all sectors: infrastructure, environment, government, economy, and society. Among these sectors, the most urgent impacts are likely to be seen in: increases in vector borne diseases, damage to electric transmissions and utility distribution infrastructure, reductions in clean water supply, marine ecosystem and coastal wetland degradation alongside coastal erosion, an increase in demands for state and municipal government services with a reduction in revenues, as well as a reduction in the availability of affordable housing, and a decrease in marine fisheries and aquaculture productivity. The 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment grouped regions by common areas of concern. Mansfield is part of the Eastern Inland Region, where the two most significant unique impacts of climate change are expected to be **reduction in food safety and security** and an **increase in vector borne diseases incidence and bacterial infections** (see Figure 1. Excerpt from the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment - Unique Impacts of Concern by Region).

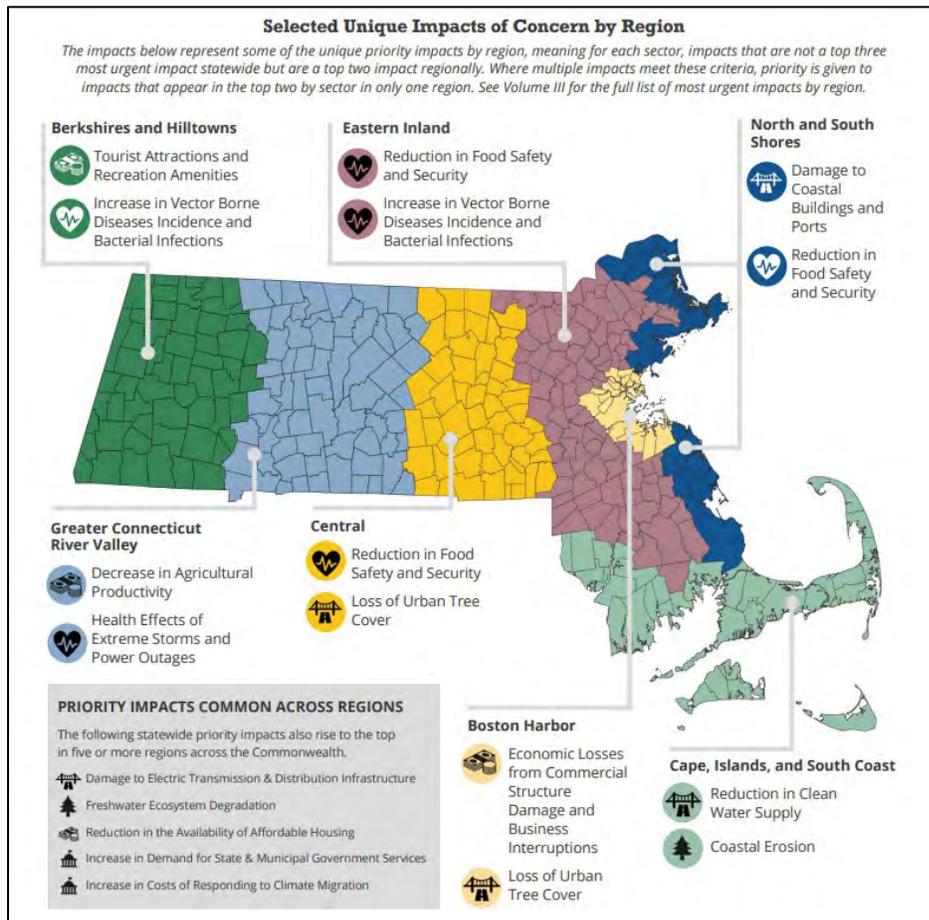
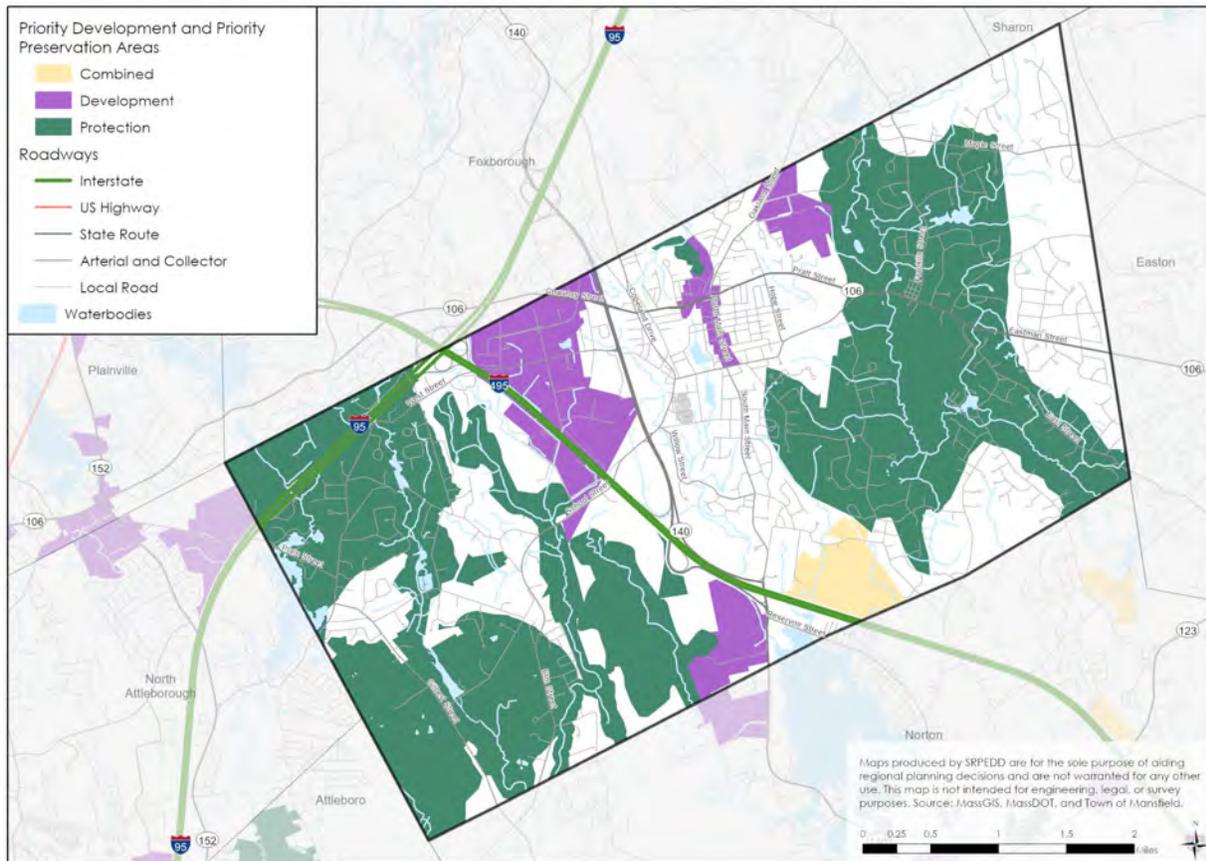


Figure 1. Excerpt from the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment - Unique Impacts of Concern by Region

## PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS AND PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Map 4. Mansfield Open Space Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas



Tied to local zoning and planning protocol, Priority Development Areas (PDA) and Priority Protection Areas (PPA) have been designated and mapped across the region. This community driven planning exercise was originally conducted in 2008 by the three regional planning agencies serving the thirty-one communities addressed in the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan. In 2013, the regional planning agencies, including SRPEDD, revisited the original process and choices as part of a five-year update. Recently, SRPEDD updated PPA and PDA designations for the region and released the final report in 2024.

PDA are areas that are appropriate for increased development or redevelopment due to several factors, including good transportation access; available infrastructure (primarily sewer and water); an absence of environmental constraints; and local support. PDAs can range from a single parcel to many acres, and can include small scale infill, commercial, industrial, mixed-use, transit facilities, or other such projects.

PPAs are areas that are important to protect due to the presence of significant natural or cultural resources, including, but not limited to rare and endangered species habitats; areas critical to water supply; historic areas; scenic vistas; and agricultural areas. PPAs can also vary greatly in size, from small species-dependent areas to large

expanses of intact habitat. These sites may be candidates for protection through acquisition, conservation restriction, or other means.

A community’s Priority Area designations can guide municipal decisions about zoning revisions, infrastructure investments, and conservation efforts. In addition, these Community Priority Area designations are used as the foundation for developing Regional and State Priority Area designations. They are also considered in some state grant programs.

In Mansfield, five areas have been identified as PPA’s, six areas have been identified as PDA’s, and one area has been identified as combined PPA and PDA. These areas can be seen in Map 4. Mansfield Open Space Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas, with further details in Table 2. Mansfield Open Space Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas.

Table 2. Mansfield Open Space Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas

Site Name	Type	Acres	Priority Area ID
Airport Development District	Combined	226.26	167-12
Station Revitalization District (TOD)	Development	45.19	167-03
Downtown Revitalization District	Development	47.24	167-04
Cabot Business Park	Development	644.26	167-01
Xfinity Center	Development	177.22	167-06
Ryan Elliott Industrial Park	Development	132.49	167-05
New PDA	Development	24.21	167-02
Hodges Brook	Protection	911.26	167-10
Canoe River Greenway	Protection	615.65	167-08
Canoe River Zone II Aquifer	Protection	2153.39	167-09
Wading River	Protection	2427.29	167-11
Station Recreation Areas	Protection	25.38	167-07

## B. History of the Community

Mansfield was incorporated as a town in 1775 by a General Act of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. It received its name in honor of William Murray, Earl of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England. Fishing, hunting and limited grazing of animals were the primary land uses of the area.

As residents arrived and settlements sprung up, agriculture became a key industry. The rivers flowing through Town brought early gristmills, followed by cotton mills, tack factories and machine foundries. Ironworks became a major industry inasmuch as there was a source of bog iron in several locations around the Town. The manufacturing of straw hats was also an important industry in Mansfield and the region.

With the establishment of the railroad, Mansfield's became a prominent location for the transfer of materials and refueling. Other industries maintained the rural nature of much of the Town. In East Mansfield, the Austin family operated a goose farm that was known locally as the "Largest Goose Farm in the World." In 1867, a record total of 25,000 geese, 12,000 ducks, 14,000 turkeys and 100,000 chickens were processed.

Through the late 19th and into the 20th centuries, there was a substantial amount of agriculture in the Town. Acres of greenhouses dotted the landscape, and sent loads of tomatoes, cucumbers and other produce into the markets of Boston. Mansfield was once known as the gladioli capital, as many farms and experimental plots were devoted to this flower.

The Town keeps the history of the community alive through its management and oversight of a few historic sites. The Fisher-Richardson House on Willow Street is considered to be the oldest house in Mansfield. The house, with some surrounding property, was deeded to the Town in 1929. The Historical Society of Mansfield runs tours of the house and conducts special events. The land is maintained by the Department of Public Works, with programs supervised by the Parks and Recreation Department. Additionally, Parks and Recreation maintains several cemeteries, some of which have burial dates from the 1700s.

Inevitably, Mansfield's central and strategic location in southeastern Massachusetts changed the Town's character from a small, rural area to a suburban bedroom community serving cities and towns throughout the region. Over the years, changes to the transportation network, both in rail and highways, have reinforced Mansfield's suburban identity.

Currently, downtown Mansfield includes not only restaurants and retail, but financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies. Transportation and parking improvements have improved access to a revitalized downtown.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Town of Mansfield is situated on the unceded ancestral territories of multiple Indigenous Tribes and First People's Nations (see Figure 2. Algonkian Tribes of Massachusetts). In order to shape the future of this land, it is crucial that we reflect on its past. We cannot fulfill our responsibility as caretakers without acknowledging and drawing lessons from the generations of Indigenous stewards who have resided here for thousands of years. It is vital those who live in, work in and visit Mansfield today recognize the intricate history of colonialism and its detrimental consequences that have shaped our current way of life. By doing so, we can foster a deeper appreciation for the land and work towards a more inclusive and equitable future.

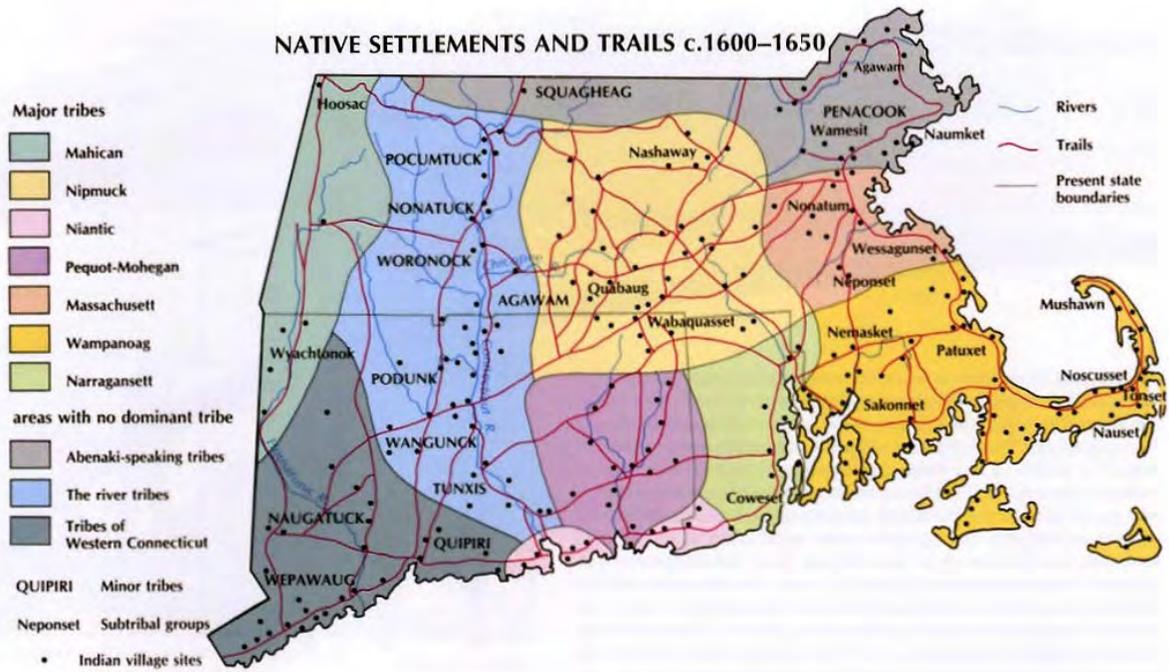


Figure 2. Algonkian Tribes of Massachusetts

## C. Population Characteristics

### POPULATION GROWTH AND CHANGE THROUGH TIME

The population of Mansfield in 2020 was 23,860 persons, an increase of 44.01% since 1990. Despite the dramatic increase, most of this growth in Mansfield happened between 1990 – 2000, with a more leveled growth, of approximately 3% per decade, occurring since. This steadier growth seen in Mansfield since 2000 has been occurring in both Bristol County and the State of Massachusetts for the past 30 years. If these steady increases in population continue, Mansfield will likely require more open spaces to accommodate the on-going growth (see Table 3. Area Population Growth, 1990 - 2020).

Table 3. Area Population Growth, 1990 - 2020

	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change (1990 - 2020)	Numerical Change (1990 – 2020)
<b>Mansfield</b>	16,568	22,414	23,184	23,860	44.01%	7,292
<b>Bristol County</b>	506,325	534,678	548,285	579,200	14.39%	72,875
<b>Massachusetts</b>	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,547,629	7,029,917	16.85%	1,013,492

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

However, even with the steady increases in population since 2000, Mansfield’s average household size has remained approximately the same, with a 0.11 decrease in persons per household (see Table 4. Average Household Size). These decreases in persons per

household despite a population increase is likely occurring due to an expansion of housing options to meet demand. These additional housing units often means a more build-out community, making the intentional dedication of open spaces throughout Town especially important.

Table 4. Average Household Size

	2000	2010	2020
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.81	2.77	2.70

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Census

### POPULATION STRUCTURE – RACE AND AGE

Mansfield’s median age is 42.1 as of the 2021 American Community Census. This is an increase of 8.1 years since 2000. As can be seen in Table 5. Population Age, 2000 - 2020, the Retirement Age population (60+) has grown substantially since 2000, while the Working Age population (20 – 59) has slightly declined, and the School Age population (under 20) has significantly declined. With an aging population Mansfield is likely to see an increased need for more accessible spaces throughout Town.

Table 5. Population Age, 2000 - 2020

	2000		2010		2020	
	Total Population	% of Population	Total Population	% of Population	Total Population	% of Population
<b>School Age (under 20)</b>	7,319	32.7	7,330	31.8	5,770	23.9
<b>Working Age (20 - 59)</b>	13,203	58.9	13,070	56.7	13,686	56.7
<b>Retirement Age (60+)</b>	1,892	8.4	2,651	11.5	4,689	19.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Census

The racial and ethnic composition of Mansfield's population from 2010 to 2020 is presented below in Table 6. Race and Ethnicity, 2010 - 2020. This data depicts a predominantly White population that is slowly becoming more racially and ethnically diverse over time. A more racially and ethnically diverse population will often require a larger variety of open space amenities.

Table 6. Race and Ethnicity, 2010 - 2020

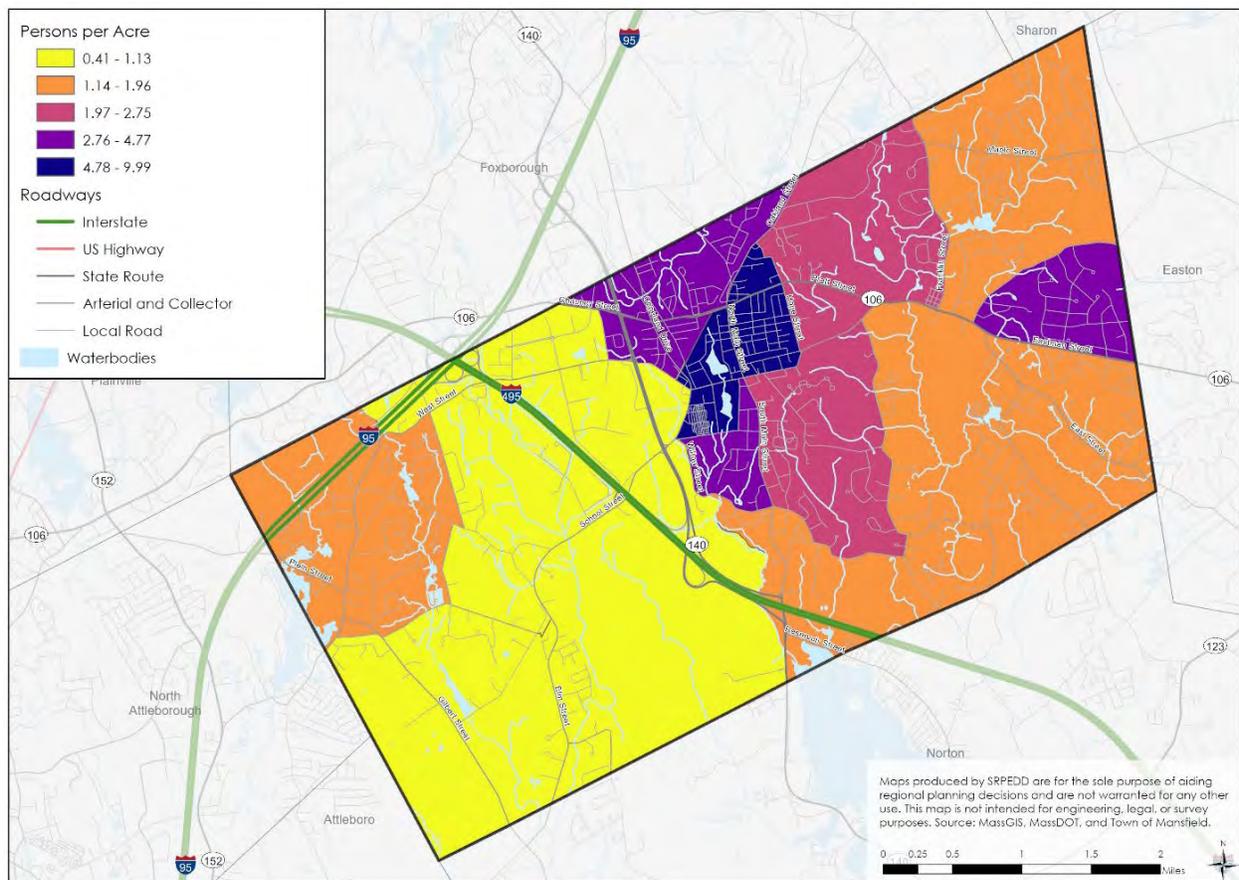
Race / Ethnicity	2010		2020	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
<b>White</b>	21,227	91.56%	19,948	83.60%

<b>Black or African American</b>	634	2.73%	991	4.15%
<b>American Indian and Alaskan Native</b>	59	0.25%	20	0.08%
<b>Asian</b>	793	3.42%	1,316	5.52%
<b>Hawaiian / Pacific Islander</b>	8	0.03%	5	0.02%
<b>Other</b>	141	0.61%	301	1.26%
<b>Two Races</b>	300	1.29%	1,205	5.05%
<b>Three Races</b>	20	0.09%	71	0.30%
<b>Four or More Races</b>	2	0.01%	3	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	23,184	100.00%	23,860	100.00%
<b>Hispanic</b>	531	2.29%	965	4.04%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Census

## POPULATION DENSITY

Map 5. Mansfield Population Density per Acre

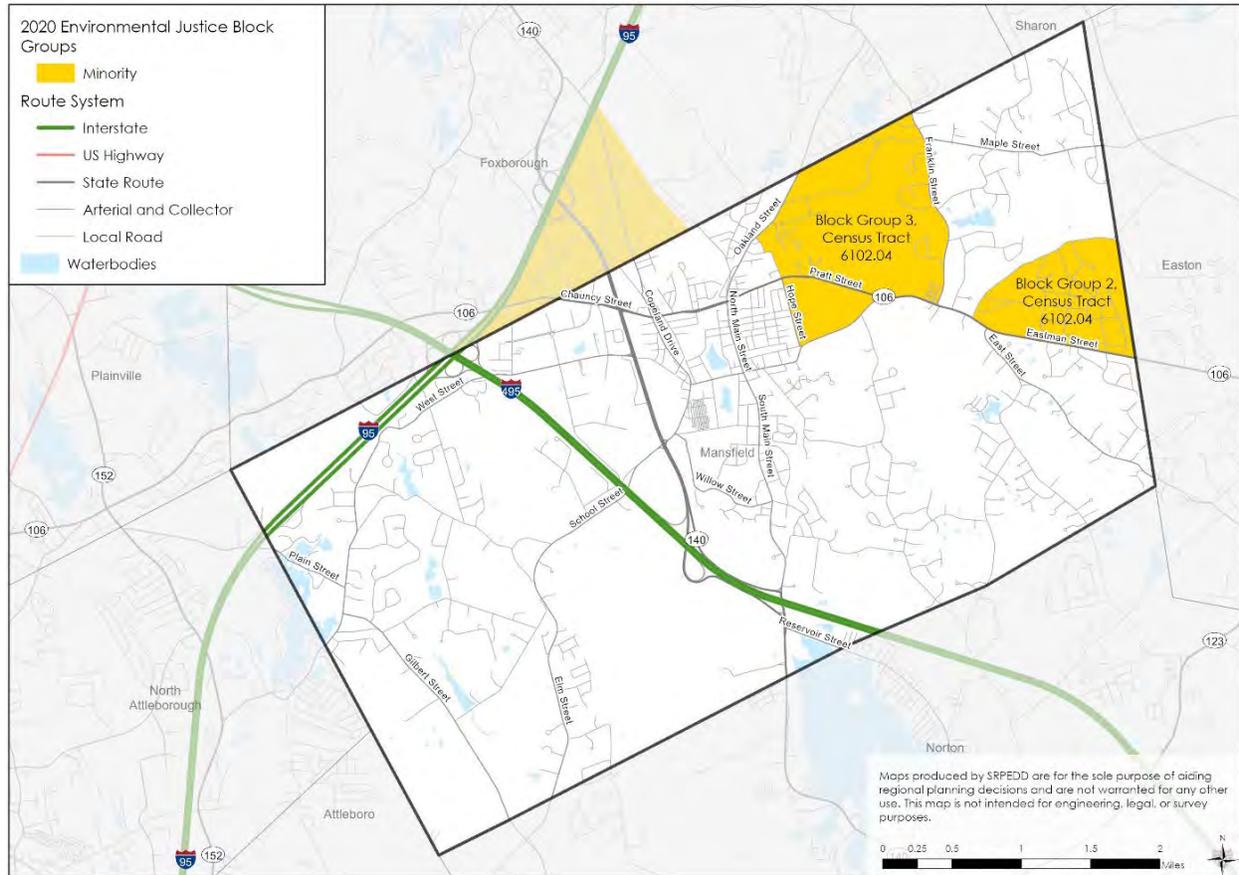


There are clear population density patterns in Mansfield (see Map 5. Mansfield Population Density per Acre). The majority of the population lives in the northern center

of Town known as “Mansfield Center”, between Ware St, Franklin St, Willow St, and Route 140. Portions of this area house as many as 10 persons per acre. However, large swaths of the western and eastern parts of Town are significantly less populated, with many areas having 2 or less persons per acre.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS

Map 6. Mansfield’s Environmental Justice Populations



In Massachusetts, Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhoods (delineated by census block groups) are defined as meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- The annual median household income is not more than 65% of the statewide annual median household income;
- Minorities comprise 40% or more of the population;
- 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
- Minorities comprise 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income

Per 2020 Census analysis and state definitions, 16.9%, or approximately 4,038 people, of

Mansfield’s population lived within two designated Environmental Justice (EJ) population areas within North East Mansfield. These portions of Town were designated due to minorities comprising 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income not exceeding 150% of the statewide annual median household income. These populations are primarily located between Route 106 and Stearns Ave, as well as between Route 106, Franklin Street, and Oakland Street (see Map 6. Mansfield’s Environmental Justice Populations). EJ communities are important to consider when planning for open spaces as they often have less access to green space amenities when compared to the majority of Town.

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Income

The median household income for Mansfield has increased by \$27,745 since 2010, with a current median household income of \$122,274 as of 2022 (see Table 7. Median Household Income, 2010 - 2021). This median household income is higher than Bristol County and Massachusetts.

Table 7. Median Household Income, 2010 - 2021

	Mansfield	Bristol County	Massachusetts
2010	\$94,529	\$54,955	\$64,509
2011	\$98,182	\$55,813	\$65,981
2012	\$94,512	\$55,995	\$66,658
2013	\$93,539	\$55,298	\$66,866
2014	\$93,082	\$55,957	\$67,846
2015	\$93,019	\$56,842	\$68,563
2016	\$102,090	\$59,343	\$70,954
2017	\$111,141	\$62,514	\$74,167
2018	\$114,720	\$66,157	\$77,378
2019	\$120,613	\$69,095	\$81,215
2020	\$120,694	\$71,450	\$84,385
2021	\$122,274	\$74,290	\$89,026

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Census

### Employment

The Employment by Industry table shows the leading sectors in Mansfield are: Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Professional & Technical Services (see Table 8. Employment by Industry). Many of these employers require a large area of space to operate, making the conservation of open space alongside these industries crucial.

Table 8. Employment by Industry

	2010 Jobs	2019 Jobs	2020 Jobs	2021 Jobs	% Change 2010 - 2021
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<b>Construction</b>	219	284	291	311	42.0%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,269	998	912	1,063	-16.2%
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	1,195	2,334	2,400	2,232	86.8%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	1,709	1,598	1,459	1,469	-14.0%
<b>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</b>	116	244	289	319	175.0%
<b>Information</b>	63	84	87	88	39.7%
<b>Finance &amp; Insurance</b>	299	245	239	211	-29.4%
<b>Real Estate &amp; Rental &amp; Leasing</b>	120	110	105	103	-14.2%
<b>Professional &amp; Technical Services</b>	556	1,111	1,123	1,023	84.0%
<b>Administrative &amp; Waste Services</b>	293	674	511	249	-15.0%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>	695	911	829	970	39.6%
<b>Arts, Entertainment &amp; Recreation</b>	170	212	67	112	-34.1%
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	869	1,118	798	935	7.6%
<b>Other Services, Except Public Administration</b>	391	310	229	261	-33.2%
<i>Total, All Industries</i>	<i>10,580</i>	<i>12,149</i>	<i>11,143</i>	<i>11,218</i>	<i>6.0%</i>

Source: MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

## D. Growth and Development Patterns

### PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Mansfield is a community which has evolved from a small New England Town with scattered centers of activity focused on several mill sites, to an agricultural Town with greenhouses and fields dotting the landscape, to a rural/suburban community. With a key location in the region, Mansfield is working hard to shape the best future for its residents while realizing more change is to come.

Mansfield saw a significant spike in population between 1990 – 2000, with slow but steady growth ever since. Table 3. Area Population Growth, 1990 - 2020 in section C shows the population change in each decade. With this population increase, there has been increased demand for recreation programs from new residents and shifts in age demographics. The impact of this growth on conservation and open space lands is hard to determine, as it is difficult to count the number of residents visiting specific parcels.

SRPEDD makes periodic population projections as part of its regular regional transportation planning cycles. The most recent Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was prepared in 2018-2019. Table 9. Population Projections to 2040 in Mansfield and

Neighboring Communities shows projected population changes in the region. The actual counts of the 2020 Decennial Census show the predictions undercounted values for 2020. Thus, while these figures represent the best population predictions available, we take them with a grain of salt knowing where we are in 2020 versus the 2020 predicted values.

The RTP projection shows Mansfield’s population as staying approximately the same through 2040. However, we caution again against taking these projections as fact.

Table 9. Population Projections to 2040 in Mansfield and Neighboring Communities

Community	2010 Actual Population	2020 Actual Population	2020 Predicted Population*	2030 Predicted Population*	2040 Predicted Population*
Attleboro	43,593	46,461	45,415	46,440	46,706
<b>Mansfield</b>	<b>23,184</b>	<b>23,860</b>	<b>23,199</b>	<b>23,927</b>	<b>23,912</b>
N. Attleborough	28,712	30,834	29,108	29,136	28,985
Norton	19,031	19,202	19,683	19,696	19,244
Plainville	8,264	9,945	9,145	9,886	10,391
<b>SRPEDD Region</b>	<b>616,670</b>	<b>652,375</b>	<b>637,719</b>	<b>650,104</b>	<b>653,966</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, \*SRPEDD

### Land use

Based on land use classifications recorded in property assessment categories, about 52% of Mansfield’s land area is in parcels that contain development and development-based uses (shown in blue on Table 10. Overall Amount of Land in Major Land Use Categories in Mansfield, 2020). About 33% of Mansfield’s land area is in parcels that are considered undeveloped, containing undisturbed natural areas, agricultural uses, or public conservation and recreation types of uses (shown in green on Table 10. Overall Amount of Land in Major Land Use Categories in Mansfield, 2020).

Table 10. Overall Amount of Land in Major Land Use Categories in Mansfield, 2020

Land Use Category	Total Acres	Percent
Residential	5,515	42.14%
<i>Residential, Single Family</i>	4,986	38.09%
<i>Residential, Multi-Family</i>	520	3.97%
<i>Residential, Other</i>	9.8	0.07%
Commercial	637	4.87%
Industrial	710	5.42%
Mixed Use, Residential / Other	4	0.03%
Agriculture	118	0.90%
Forest	63	0.48%
Open Land	3,963	30.28%

Recreation	115	0.88%
Right-of-way	1,233	9.42%
Tax Exempt	566	4.32%
Unknown	89	0.68%
Water	74	0.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,088</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MassGIS Level 3 Parcel Data for Mansfield

According to Mass Audubon’s *Losing Ground: Nature’s Value in a Changing Climate* Report (2020), Mansfield has 7,092 acres of natural land, which is 54% of the Town’s area, and 5,423 acres of developed land, approximately 41% of the Town’s area. Mass Audubon ranks Mansfield the 207<sup>th</sup> of the state’s 351 municipalities by relative natural land cover. In the context of the Mass Audubon report, natural land is defined as forest, wetland, and water. 17% of the land in Town is permanently protected from development under Chapter 61 (see section V. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST for more information on Chapter 61).

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Transportation*

Development and open spaces in Mansfield are, and will continue to be, partly driven by the combination of location of the Town and the transportation network within it which makes it so easy to get to Boston, Providence and other major destination points (see Map 1. Mansfield Open Space Regional Context in section III. COMMUNITY SETTING).

The MBTA commuter train that runs between Warwick, Rhode Island and Boston, which located in the northern downtown district, is well used on a daily basis. However, challenges will surface as local, and state officials deal with the increased traffic and necessary improvements to the commuter train station as time goes on.

Additionally, Mansfield has a regionally operated Dial-a Ride demand bus provides curb-to-curb service for senior citizens and handicapped individuals and creates a link to the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transportation Area (GATRA).

Mansfield also has significant pedestrian and cycling options, including the Rails-to-Trails bike path, which connects the commuter rail station on North Main Street to the Mansfield Municipal Airport on Fruit Street. The bike path is utilized extensively for biking, walking and jogging. It is also used for cross-country skiing during the winter months. The Town also continues to work with the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield (NRT) to create a more thorough trail system as part of the Canoe River greenbelt. Additionally, the Town of Norton has worked alongside Mansfield to connect Mansfield’s commuter rail station with the Myles Standish Industrial park on the Norton-Taunton line, with new paved trails going from Fruit Street in Mansfield to Crane Street in Norton.

*Water Supply*

Mansfield operates its own public municipal water supply system and has 10 active wells in three areas of Town. 9 of those wells are gravel-packed and there is one wellfield (see Table 11. Water Supply Wells in Mansfield). The Town has been upgrading their existing well sites to maintain flow and water quality.

*Table 11. Water Supply Wells in Mansfield*

<b>Well</b>	<b>Gallons per Minute (gpm) Capacity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Dustin Well 7	800 gmp	off East Street
Prescott Well 8	700 gmp	off East Street
Prescott Well 9	500 gmp	off East Street
Albertini Well 2	300 gmp	off West Street
Albertini Well 3	300 gmp	off West Street
Albertini Well 4	300 gmp	off West Street
Mahana Well 6	700 gmp	off Plain Street
Morrison Well 10	695 gmp	off Plain Street
Cat Springs Well 1	1,100 gmp	off Maple Street
Walsh Wellfield	1,042 gmp	off Gilbert Street

*Source: Mansfield DPW Water Division Annual Water Quality Report 2023*

As part of the Town’s Water Management Act Permit Renewal, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) projects that the Town’s water need through 2030 will be 2.56 mgd, with the projected maximum day demand estimated to be 4.6 mgd.

*Sewer Service*

The Town owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant known as MFN Regional Wasterwater District, which was built in 1985 and is located in the Town of Norton near the Taunton line. The plant is rated at 4.14 million gallons per day (mgd) and also serves part of Foxborough and Norton. Flow allocations are as follows:

- Mansfield (665,000 gpd)
- Foxborough (170,000 gpd)
- Norton (165,000 gpd)

As of 2024, Mansfield has 3,805 residential and 928 commercial sewer customers. Approximately half of the town is on private septic systems.

Chapter 101 of the Acts of 2010, an act establishing a regional wastewater district for the Towns of Mansfield, Foxborough, and Norton was approved on May 5, 2010. Two parcels of land in Norton have been acquired for effluent disposal and preliminary design work for the effluent infiltration basins started in July 2013. The Regional Wastewater District was established after completion of the “Agreement Establishing

the MFN Regional Wastewater District” and its subsequent approval by Annual Town Meeting in 2015.

### LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Mass Audubon’s *Losing Ground* report tracks development trends over time across the State of Massachusetts. Mass Audubon’s most recent report, released in 2020, measured rates of development by municipality between the years of 2012 and 2017. During that time, Mansfield ranked as the 127<sup>th</sup> in terms of overall area of natural land developed, at 74 total acres, approximately 0.5% of the Town. In the context of the Mass Audubon report, natural land is defined as forest, wetland, and water and developed land includes low density residential and commercial/industrial/high density residential development.

When normalized for the area of the community, Mansfield is ranked as the 123<sup>rd</sup> most rapidly developing community in the Commonwealth between 2012 and 2017, at a rate of 3.6 acres per square mile. This rate has slowed since Mass Audubon’s last *Losing Ground* report in 2014, which had Mansfield developing at a rate of 5.3 acres per square mile in 2015 – 2013. The newly calculated 2012 – 2017 rate is approximately in the middle of Mansfield’s neighboring communities, as can be seen in Table 12. Rates of Development in Mansfield and Neighboring Communities, 2005 - 2017.

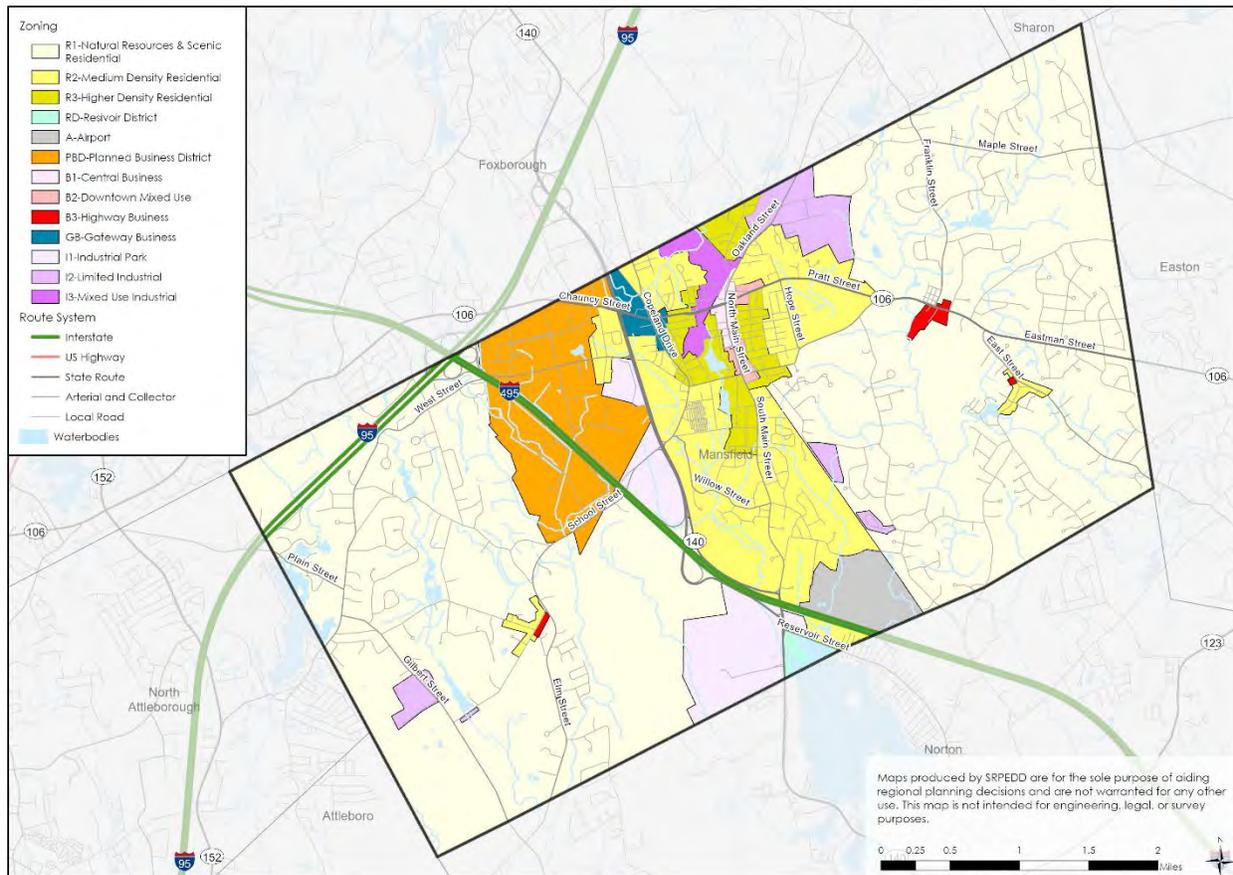
Table 12. Rates of Development in Mansfield and Neighboring Communities, 2005 - 2017

Community	Rate of Development, 2005 – 2013 (ac / sq mi)	Rate of Development, 2012 – 2017 (ac / sq mi)
Attleboro	3.4	4.4
Easton	3.8	2.1
Foxborough	7.0	4.4
Mansfield	5.3	3.6
North Attleborough	6.8	2.4
Norton	3.9	4.1
Plainville	10.7	7.5
Sharon	2.2	3.1

Source: Mass Audubon, 2020

### Zoning

Map 7. Mansfield Base Zoning Districts



Zoning plays a major role in how development trends play out. The long-term picture of Mansfield relative to an eventual build-out and its impact on the size and number of conservation holdings remains uncertain. One significant challenge is the financial ability of the Town, the Conservation Commission, and the local land trust to acquire vacant land.

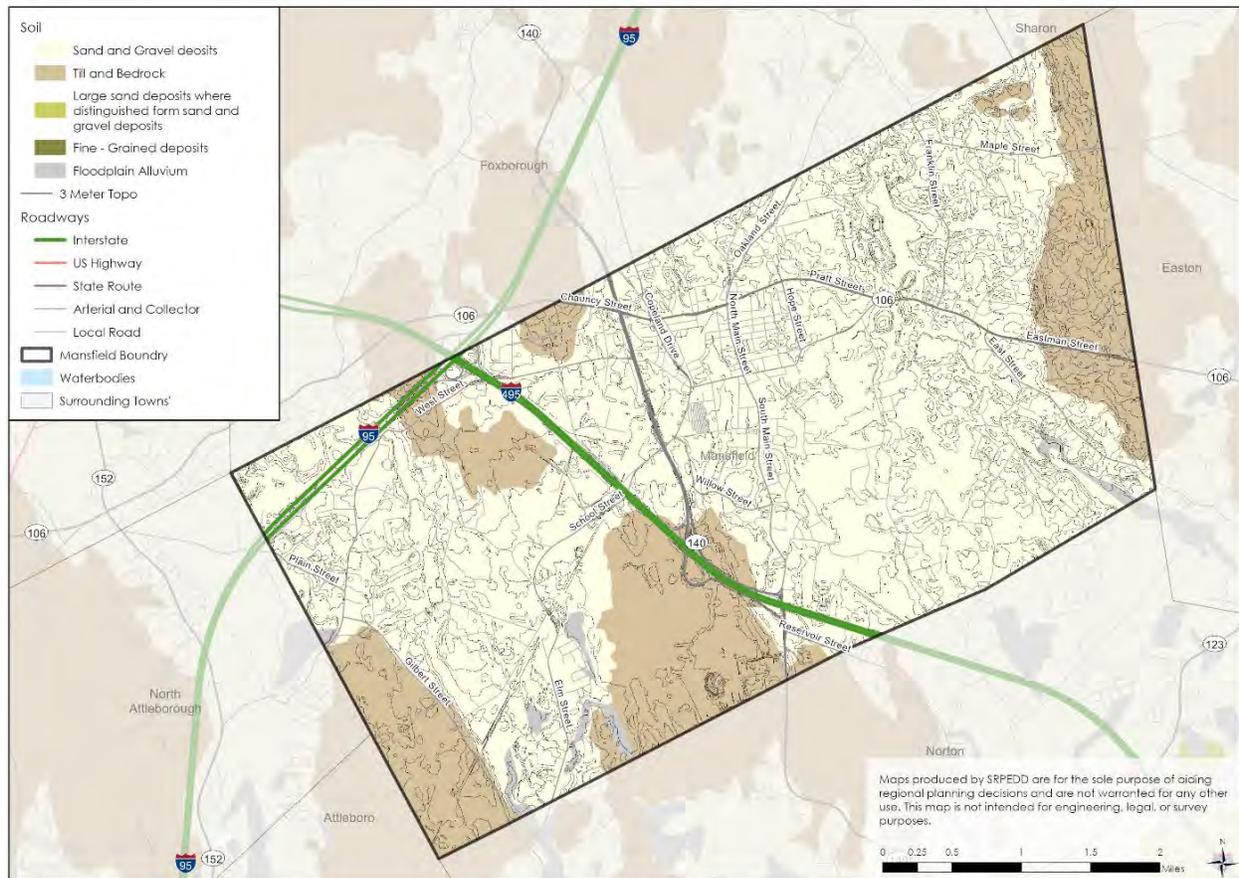
Within the current Zoning By-law there are 3 residential districts, 5 business districts, 1 mixed-use district, and 3 industrial districts. Most of the land in Mansfield – approximately 83% - is zoned for residential use (see Map 7. Mansfield Base Zoning Districts). There are also 5 overlay districts; the North Main Street Business Overlay District, Surface and Groundwater Resource Protection Overlay District, Train Station Revitalization Overlay District, Southwest PBD Cultivation Overlay District, and the Retail Marijuana Overlay District.

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### A. Geology, Soils and Topography

#### GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Map 8. Mansfield Open Space Surficial Geology and Topography



The Eastern New England landscape results from relatively recent glaciation and deposits that accumulated during several ice sheet recessions. Mansfield's surficial geology is generally unconsolidated, made up principally of till, gravels and sands. These deposits are underlain with parent bedrock at variable depths (see Map 8. Mansfield Open Space Surficial Geology and Topography).

## TOPOGRAPHY

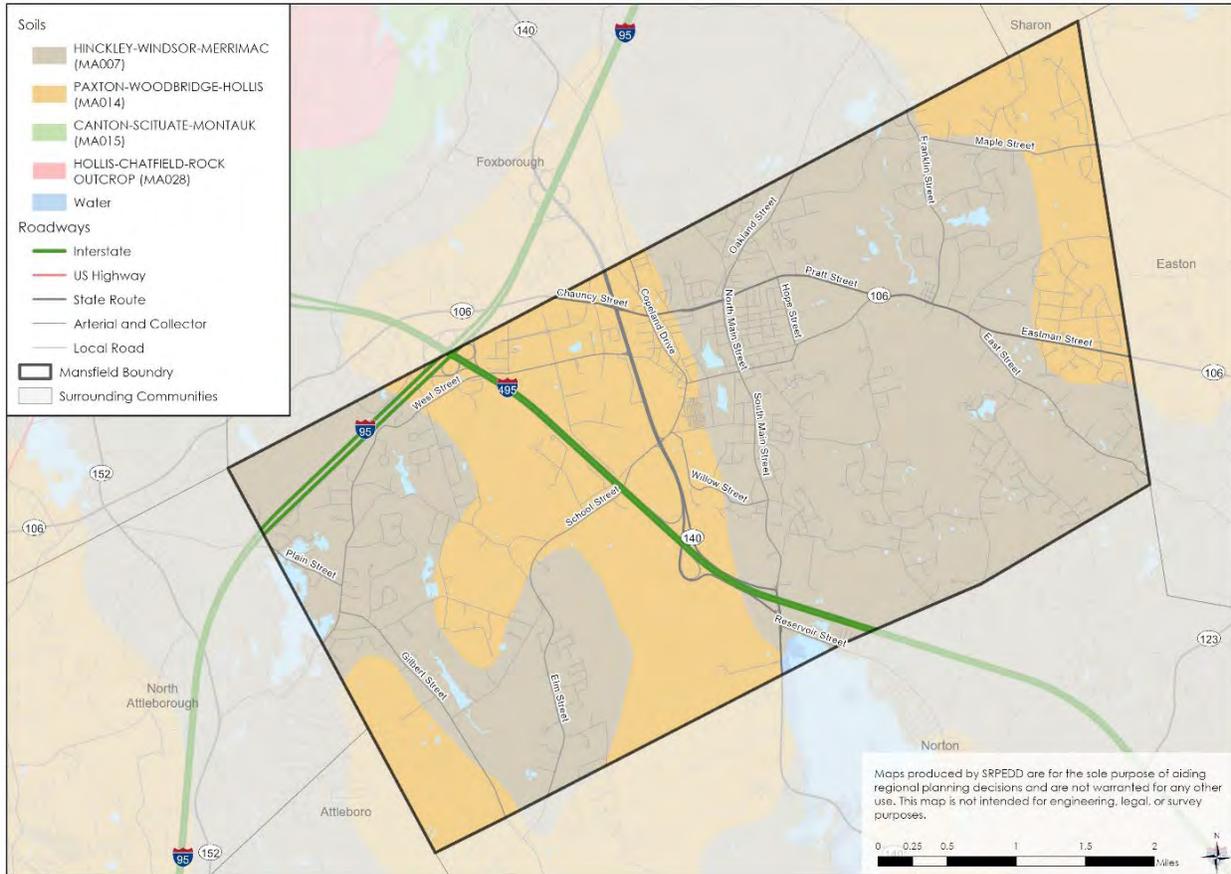
Mansfield's average topographical range is between 140 and 230 feet above mean sea level. The highest elevation, 250 feet, is in the northeast corner of Town; the lowest, 100 + feet, is in the southeast corner of Town.

Slope is extremely important in deciding what land uses should occur where. In certain circumstances disruption of sensitive sloping areas can lead to extensive erosion, subsequent flooding, and a possible disruption of the hydrological cycle. In combination with both surficial geology and soil knowledge, it is possible to assign specific developmental prohibitions to areas of excessive slope and easily erodible soils. It is also apparent that such areas have traditionally been the least available for development and have therefore sustained a fairly rich ecosystem in which a wide range of native plants and animals exists. As the availability of prime developable land

diminishes, however, Mansfield is likely to see an increase in development in such marginal areas.

## SOIL TYPES

Map 9. Mansfield Open Space General Soils



The product of thousands of years of slow degradation of parent rock, supplemented by glacial deposition, hydrologic conversion and deposition, and general weathering, have formed a comparatively thin layer of soil over the surficial geology. These soils have physical and chemical characteristics that can be translated into potentials for effective use. It is therefore critical to know the type and location of all soils within Mansfield, noting the characteristics and limitations of the different types of soils. Incorporating these factors into a proposed project or development will help to eliminate potential problems, i.e., flooded basements, failed septic systems or poorly draining recreational fields.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has compiled soil survey data in the national Soil Survey Geographic database (SSURGO). As with much of southeastern Massachusetts, the Town of Mansfield contains a range of soil types and geologic and topographic characteristics (see Mansfield Open Space General Soils map).

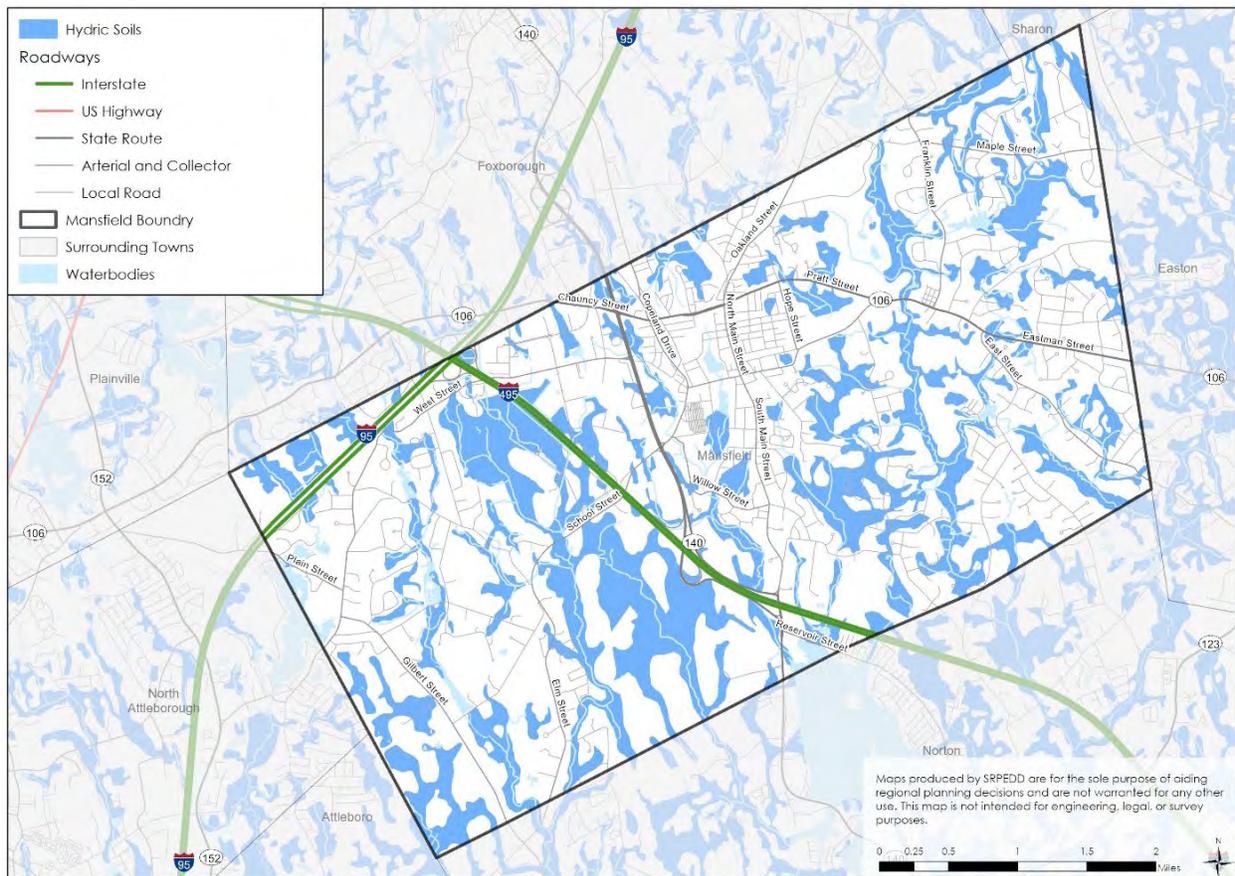
Generally speaking, the two major soil associations in Mansfield are Hinckley-Medisaprists-Windsor and Paxton-Woodbridge- Ridgebury (see Map 9. Mansfield Open Space General Soils). The former of which has nearly level to steep slopes, with excessively drained soils formed in glacial outwash and very poorly drained organic soils. Whereas the latter contains nearly level to moderately steep, well drained to poorly drained soils on glaciated uplands.

The Paxton-Woodbridge-Ridgebury soils contain various amounts of sand, silt, and clay in varying consistency with cobbles, stones and boulders as modifiers. These conditions tend to restrict water movement, resulting in use limitations.

The Hinckley and Windsor soils are excessively drained, made up of sand with gravel and cobbles as modifiers. The Medisaprists are low-lying organic soils with a water table at or near the surface for more than nine months out of the year, with surface ponding common. These areas are prime sites for both on-site wastewater disposal and aquifers, conflicting uses which can impact land use decisions.

### Soils and Development

Map 10. Mansfield Open Space Hydric Soils



The NRCS has established groupings of soils with potential for certain uses. Areas with potential for development can be estimated according to hydrologic soil groupings based upon runoff potential.

Four groupings distinguish soils as having;

- High infiltration rates (lowest runoff potential);
- Moderate infiltration rates;
- Slow infiltration rates; and
- Very slow infiltration rates (highest runoff potential)

Although based on a single characteristic, these groupings also capture other conditions that contribute to a soil's development capacity, for instance slope, water table, presence of large stones, and erosion. Generally, soils in group A have the best development potential, while soils in group B have some moderate limitations on development which may be overcome at a higher cost and/or with appropriate technology. Soils in groups C and D, often considered hydric or saturated soils, are least likely to be developed without prohibitive cost to remediate soil conditions and/or off-site wastewater treatment. Septic technology advancements are making these difficult soil types less prohibitive to development, though it is still more costly to build in these areas. In some cases, hydric soils may also be indicative of wetlands, however, rendering them undevelopable due to state and local wetland protections. Soils with the highest infiltration rates (group A), are also typically associated with aquifer recharge, and care should be taken to avoid contamination in these areas.

Map 10. Mansfield Open Space Hydric Soils shows hydric soil groups C and D. Based upon the classification, areas with the highest development potential are scattered throughout Town, with areas along West Steet in west and north Mansfield showing the largest potential.

### *Farmland Soils*

Map 11. Mansfield Open Space Prime Farm Land Soils



NRCS also characterizes soil types by their potential use for agriculture. Prime farmland soils are those that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing agricultural crops, based on soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply. Other important farmland soils that fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber or forage crops are designated as farmland of statewide importance, and lands that produce specific high value food and fiber crops are designated as farmland of unique importance.

Map 11. Mansfield Open Space Prime Farm Land Soils shows the location of these farm land soils. There are pockets of Prime Farmland soils scattered throughout the Town, with soils of Statewide Importance being more widespread, especially on the eastern portion of town past I-495.

## B. Landscape Character

According to Mass Audubon's 2020 *Losing Ground* analysis, Mansfield is 41% developed, the 75th most developed of Massachusetts' 351 municipalities. Much of this development is concentrated in North-Central Mansfield, with relatively large swaths of natural land remaining in the East, West, and Southern portions of Town.

In Northern Mansfield, along Route 140, Route 106, and I-495, is the Town's primary commercial and industrial corridors, with high and medium density residential development surrounding it. Larger parcels of natural open space exist within the Eastern, Western, and Southern portions of Town, primarily zoned for Natural Resources & Scenic Residential. Additionally, several rivers, streams and ponds mark the landscape, which is further discussed in section C. Water Resources below.

When entering Mansfield, one could see a variety of sights. Coming south from Norton along Route 140/South Main Street, one sees the Norton Reservoir. The trip from Attleboro into Mansfield along West Street reveals glimpses of Greenwood Lake lined with cottages, many of which are now year-round residences. Traveling along I-95, one sees the forest wetland expanse of Witch Pond, which is associated with the Wading River. Even along I-495, which is partially bordered by industrial uses, there are significant portions of the Great Woods. Many secondary roadways are also punctuated with smaller stream crossings, with bordering vegetated wetlands helping to create undisturbed natural beauty.

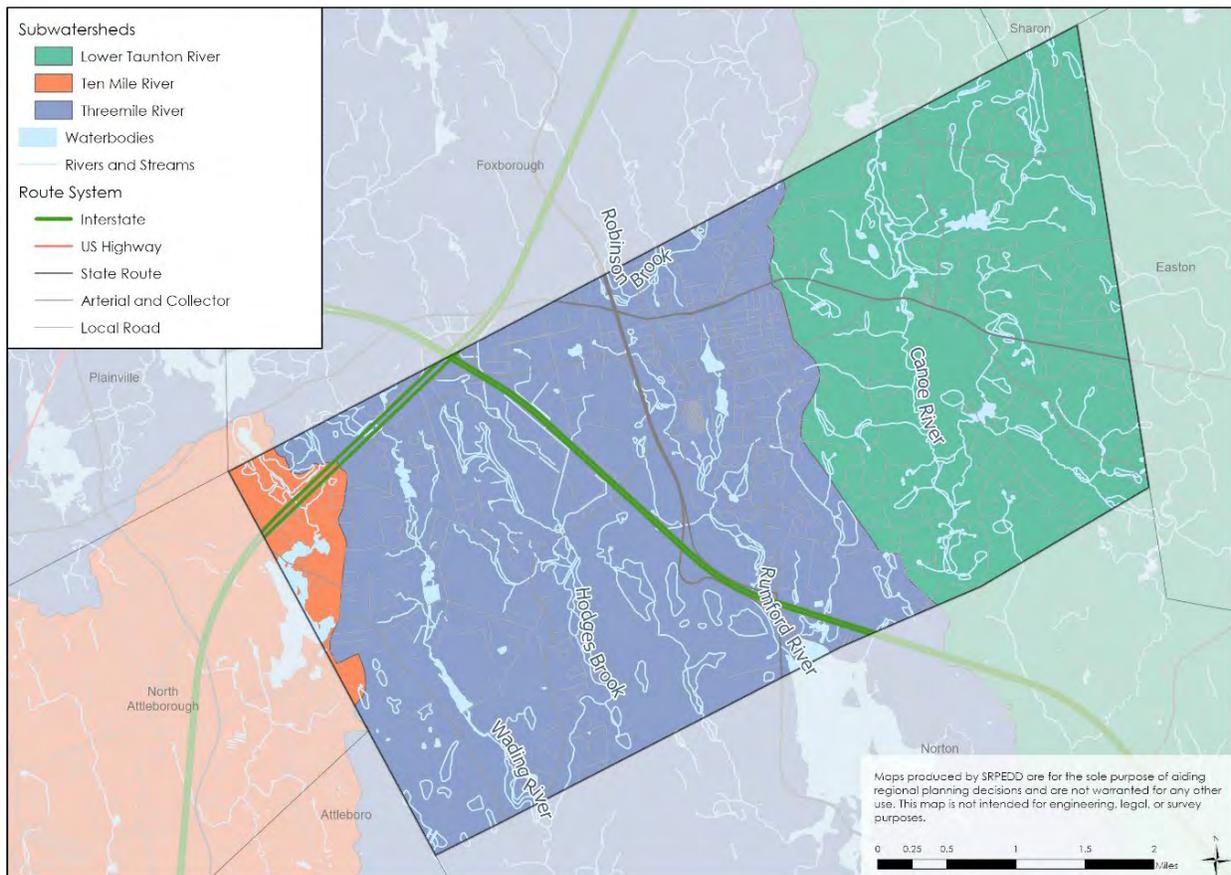
### C. Water Resources

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The actions of homeowners and businesses influence water resources, with potential consequences on public health, safety, and the physical environment. Flooding, pollution of drinking water supplies, and destruction of natural habitats, recreation areas, and water bodies can result from inappropriate development and use of the natural environment. It is therefore important to carefully assess these water resources and the role they play in maintaining a quality of life for the community of Mansfield as well as the surrounding watershed.

### WATERSHEDS

Map 12. Mansfield Sub-watersheds



A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common waterbody. Watershed extents, also referred to as basins, are defined by topography of the land that causes water to drain in a specific direction, from higher to lower elevations, toward a specific lake, river, and ultimately, ocean. Watersheds occur at different scales. A major watershed for a large waterbody, such as the Taunton River Watershed, which encompasses most of Mansfield, contains multiple sub-watersheds that drain to specific waterbodies within the major watershed. Watersheds connect the health of the land with the health of the water. Characteristics of the land in a watershed, including the degree of urbanization, affect many natural processes, such as the amount of rainfall that infiltrates into the land as groundwater, the amount that enters pipes and human-made pathways, and the amount that runs off over land as well as what is carried with it into waterbodies.

Within Mansfield, there are four major sub-watersheds: the Taunton River, the Ten Mile River, and the Three Mile River (see Map 12. Mansfield Sub-watersheds).

### Taunton River Watershed

The Taunton River sub-watershed is located on the eastern boundary of Town. There are two organizations working within this watershed, known as The Taunton River Watershed Alliance, and the Taunton River Stewardship Council.

### Ten Mile River Watershed

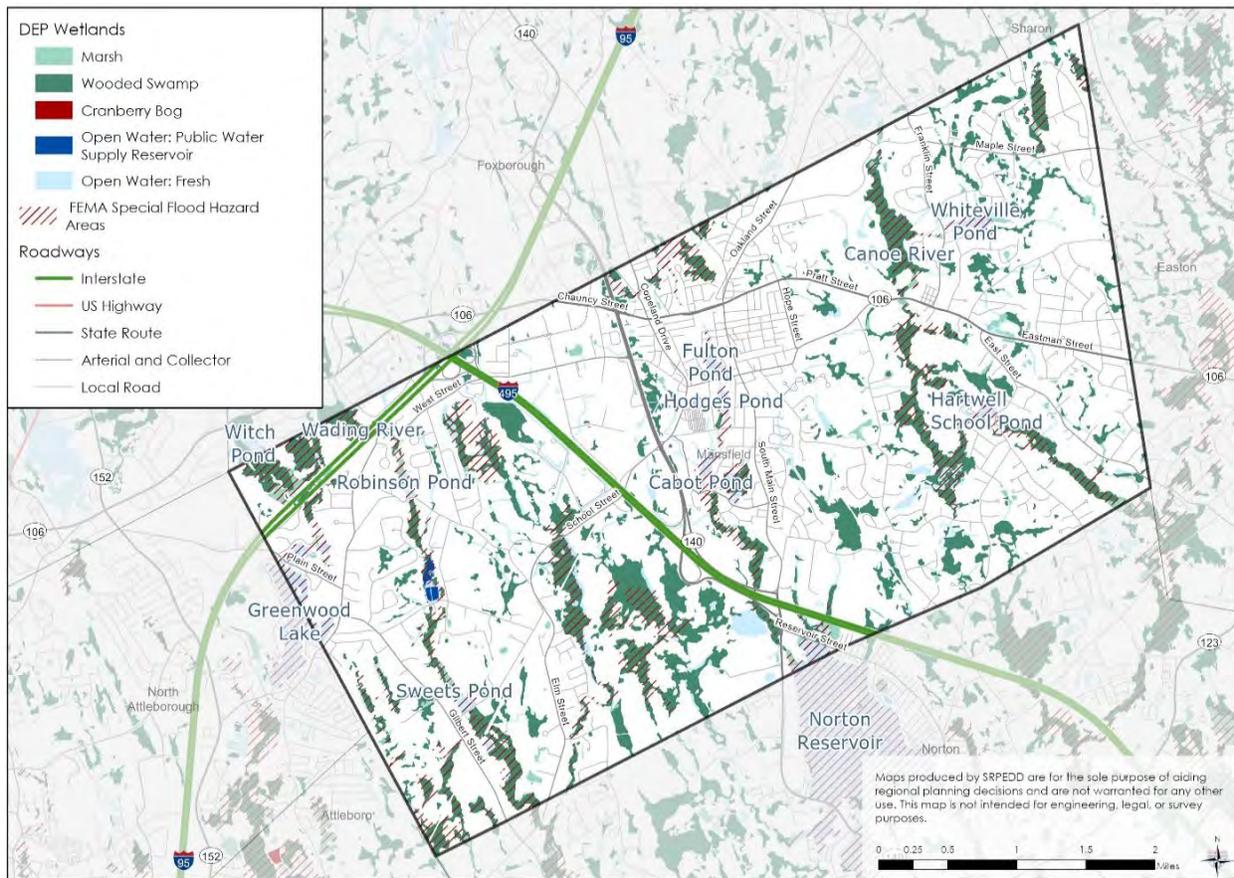
The Ten Mile River sub-watershed is located along a tiny portion of the north-western part of Town. There are two organizations working within this watershed, known as the Ten Mile River Watershed Council and the Friends of the Ten Mile River Watershed.

### Three Mile River Watershed

The Three Mile River sub-watershed is located in central Mansfield. The Three Mile River Watershed was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in August 2008.

## SURFACE WATERS

Map 13. Mansfield Open Space Surface Water and Wetland Resources



Surface waters include rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and coastal waters. The surface water resources in Town are displayed on Map 13. Mansfield Open Space Surface

Water and Wetland Resources. The various rivers, lakes, ponds that flow through Town are discussed below.

### **River Systems and their Impoundments**

#### *Wading River*

The Wading River is protected as an Outstanding Resource Water under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00 (WQS) as an Active Public Surface Water Supply Watershed. The Wading River has also been designated Class A (a source of public water supply and their tributaries) and Class B (habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth, and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation) per the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards. The Wading River has been dammed in three locations, forming Robinson Pond north of Williams Street, Blake's Pond west of Jewell Street and Sweet's Pond off Otis and Gilbert Streets.

#### *Bungay River (AKA Greenwood Lake)*

Bungay River is on the Town's westernmost boundary and extends into North Attleboro. The Bungay River has an active Lake Association, known as the Bungay Association, dedicated to understand, manage, and protect the Bungay Lake and its resources.

#### *Rumford River*

The Rumford River has been designated Class B (habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth, and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation) per the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards. The Rumford River flows into the Norton Reservoir, a small portion of which is located in south-central Mansfield on the Norton Town line. Additionally, the Rumford River has been dammed in three locations, forming Fulton's and Kingman's Ponds (both centrally located near downtown Mansfield) and Cabot's Pond off Willow Street.

#### *Canoe River*

The Canoe River has been designated Class B (habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth, and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation) per the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards. The Canoe River, dammed twice, has a small mill pond just north of East Street (Route 106) and a larger mill pond off Mill Street in East Mansfield.

### **Lakes and Ponds**

#### *Whitesville Pond*

The Whitesville Pond has been designated Class B (habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth, and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation) per the Massachusetts

Surface Water Quality Standards. Whitesville Pond is privately held by abutting property owners, located east of Franklin Street, and is within the Canoe River watershed.

#### *Witch Pond*

Witch Pond is part of the larger Wading River and is primarily made up of forest wetlands.

#### *Robinson Pond*

Robinson Pond can be found north of Williams Street and is surrounded by residential lots. Robinson Pond is an impoundment created by damming of the Wading River at William Street.

#### *Sweets Pond*

Sweets Pond can be found off Otis and Gilbert Streets at the rear of the Little League Playing Field Complex. Sweets Pond has trails along the water and can be used for fishing.

#### *Blake's Pond*

Blake's Pond can be found west of Jewell Street and is owned by the City of Attleboro Water Department.

#### *Cabot's Pond*

Cabot's Pond was created by the damming of the Rumford River and has been managed and maintained through dredging and excavation projects to increase depth, remove nuisance vegetation and increase flood storage.

#### *Kingman's Pond*

Kingman's Pond was created by the damming of the Rumford River and has been managed and maintained through dredging and excavation projects to increase depth, remove nuisance vegetation and increase flood storage.

#### *Fulton Pond*

Fulton's Pond was created by the damming of the Rumford River and has been managed and maintained through dredging and excavation projects to increase depth, remove nuisance vegetation and increase flood storage.

### **Reservoirs Supplying Public Water**

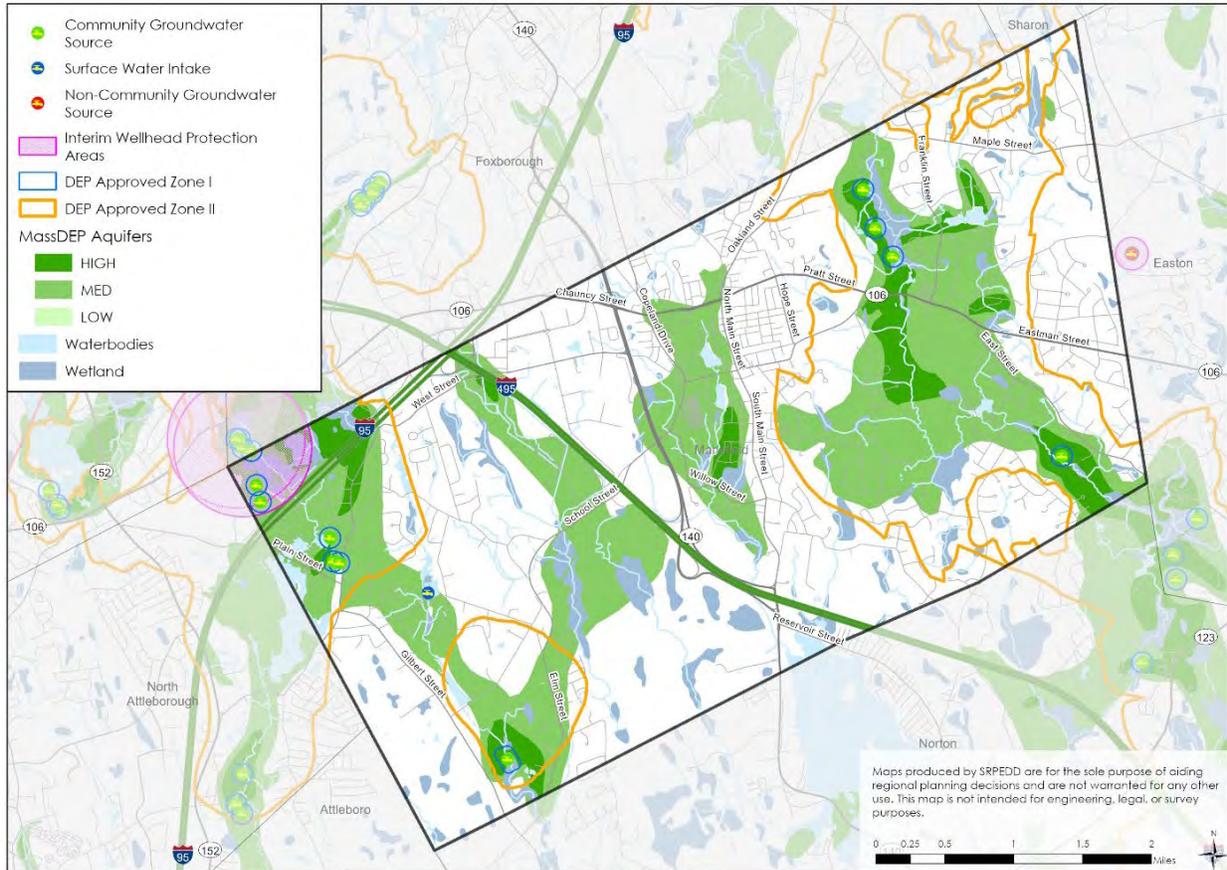
#### *Norton Reservoir*

The Norton Reservoir, fed into by the Rumford River, is primarily located in Norton; however, a small portion of this reservoir is located in south-center Mansfield along the Town line. The Norton Reservoir has also been designated Class B (habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth, and other

critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation) per the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards.

## AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

Map 14. Mansfield Open Space Drinking Water Resources



Groundwater is water that can be found underground in the soil. When rainwater falls on natural surfaces it soaks into the ground and flows downwards until it reaches an impermeable rock or soil layer. The groundwater deposits build up over time in a process known as recharging. Groundwater eventually discharges to swamps, rivers, and streams on the surface above, or may be pumped from an aquifer for water supply. Groundwater supports a healthy watershed by recharging surface waters during times of drought. Conversion of natural land to roadways, sidewalks and buildings creates impervious surfaces that disrupt groundwater recharge by creating a barrier that prevents rainfall from soaking into the ground.

Over the last few years, the Town of Mansfield has worked to develop a better picture of the important aquifer recharge land. Some of the incentive for this work has come through the Town's participation in the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee (CRACC). The representatives from this committee meet regularly to discuss common

interests and create forums (for example, workshops on land use or a conference on underground storage tanks) to educate people on why and how this important and critical resource needs to be preserved and protected.

In May 1991, the Canoe River aquifer and its watershed area was approved and designated by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs as a statewide Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The total size of the ACEC is 17,190 acres, with a little over 25% in Mansfield. This designation was a steppingstone to obtaining federal designation of the area as a Sole Source Aquifer in 1993. Both of these accomplishments highlight the regional significance of, and the dependence the residents of communities adjacent to the Canoe River have, on this water resource.

Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) designates Zone I and II Wellhead Protection Areas to identify aquifer areas that provide public drinking water and therefore should be protected. In addition to existing water supply areas, potential high and moderate yield aquifers are located in the areas of Town which have the most well-drained soils, particularly along the Canoe River, Whiteville Pond, parts of the Wading River. MassDEP also identifies Interim Wellhead Protection Areas that could potentially be used for potable water in the future, and therefore any remediation of environmental contamination within those areas must meet drinking water standards.

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The areas that border streams, rivers, lakes and other water bodies subject to flooding are designated as floodplains. Similar to wetlands, a natural flood plain plays an important role in protecting the public from flooding during periods of heavy rainfall or otherwise high flow in waterways. Mansfield's floodplains are located in low-lying lands adjacent to the waterways throughout Town.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) compiles flood risk data for floodplain management and planning, as well as flood insurance ratings. FEMA identifies and maps flood zones based on their probabilities of flooding during various rainfall events. For example, the 100- and 500-year flood zones are those land areas predicted to be inundated during a flood event that is likely to occur once every 100 or 500 years (this is a 1% or a 0.2% chance of flooding in any given year). FEMA regulates the 100-year floodplain, designated as the Special Flood Hazard Area, which is displayed in Map 13. Mansfield Open Space Surface Water and Wetland Resources in the WETLANDS section below. More information about these flood zones and associated hazards can be found in the CHRONIC FLOODING section.

Understanding where these floodplains exist throughout Town and recognizing that these areas may change over time are critical when planning for future development. In order to protect property owners, the Town, and the wildlife that utilize these habitat areas, construction should be managed within and surrounding the floodplain carefully

so as to minimize the impact on water flow and storage capacity and to ensure a more resilient future for Mansfield's waterways and the community.

## WETLANDS

Adjacent to all of the ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and brooks are bordering vegetated wetlands (see Map 13. Mansfield Open Space Surface Water and Wetland Resources in the SURFACE WATERS section above). The value of wetland areas is well documented: they are important for flood control, the protection of public and private groundwater supplies, preventing and controlling pollution and the protection of fisheries and wildlife habitat. As such, work activities within 100 feet of wetlands and within 200 feet of perennial rivers and streams are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The commission has adopted several regulations which provide additional protection to resource areas. To that end, the Conservation Commission has adopted a new set of regulations and amended the by-law to ensure both publicly and privately owned land is properly managed. Part of this new by-law allows for an Administrative Review procedure, which enables the Conservation and Environmental Planner to review applications for projects with little environmental impact. This process helps promote compliance with the regulations because it may avoid time-consuming and costly filings with the Commission. Other amendments to the by-law were adopted to simplify the process while providing protection to the Town's resources.

## D. Vegetation

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The diversity of plant life in Mansfield has been described in a 1970s publication, *The Great Woods*, which included almost 250 trees, shrubs, types of groundcover and flowers inhabiting Mansfield. Overall, there are three major community groupings in Mansfield including oaks and mixed hardwoods, as well as White Pines and Red Maples. Alongside two species other species, Philadelphia Panic Grass and the Yellow Water-Crowfoot, both of which are rare in Southeastern Massachusetts, but are found in Mansfield. Luckily, both have been identified in areas presently under the control of the Conservation Commission.

## FOREST LAND

According to MassGIS: Prime Forest Land, Mansfield has 9 different types of prime forestland, totaling approximately 5,217 acres. The types and approximate acreage amounts for Mansfield are summarized below;

1. **Prime 1:** 335 acres
2. **Prime 2:** 970 acres
3. **Prime 3:** 1,306 acres
4. **Prime 3 Wetland:** 273 acres
5. **Statewide Importance:** 318 acres
6. **Statewide Importance Wetland:** 57 acres

7. **Local Importance:** 1,073 acres
8. **Local Importance Wetland:** 854 acres
9. **Unique Wetland:** 31 acres

Mansfield recognizes the importance of forest land, both for wildlife habitat and corridors, as well as passive recreation, and has included a handful of goals in section IX. TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN around the acquisition and maintenance of this precious resource.

### PUBLIC SHADE TREES

Public shade trees include the trees within a public right of way or on the boundaries of the public way. A right-of-way may extend onto your property from the edge of the road or sidewalk and may contain public shade trees. These shade trees keep the road cool, making it more enjoyable to ride, walk or run. They also allow wildlife, such as turtles, frogs, toads and salamanders to cross from one side of the street to another without becoming dehydrated. An added benefit shade trees is protection of the road surface from scorching heat, cracking and cooling.

In Mansfield, under the Public Shade Trees and Street Trees Public Shade Tree Act (MGL Chapter 87), a tree warden can be hired by a town to care and have control over all public shade trees, shrubs and other vegetation, except those within the state highway, as well as the public shade trees, shrubs and other vegetation within public parks and open space areas under jurisdiction of the park commissioners. As such, the Town of Mansfield has designated a tree warden, the Mansfield DPW Director, who is charged with the preservation of trees, shrubs and other vegetation.

Public shade trees, shrubs and other vegetation cannot be cut, trimmed or removed without the obtaining permission of the tree warden and a permit after a public hearing. The tree warden shall also approve the proposed planting of all trees within the right of way. The tree warden may make regulations regarding the care and preservation of public shade trees.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mansfield has approximately 117 acres of agricultural land (0.9% of the Town), which is land that is being utilized as active farmland as of 2016. Additionally, there are 5 farmlands registered on the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources MassGrown website, these farms include:

- **Flannel Cow Creamery**
  - CSA Farm located at 88 Chilson Ave, serving homemade ice cream.
- **Mansfield Farmers Market**
  - Farmers Market located at 6 Park Row, open Saturdays from June 22 to September 28 from 9:00am – 1:00pm.
- **Guerrini Landscape, Inc**

- Greenhouse / Nursery located at 703 East Street.
- **Flint Farm**
  - Farm Stand located at 789 East Street, family owned and operated, offering a variety of foods and services from early spring to late fall.
- **Scott / Goyea Farm**
  - CSA Farm located 175 Oak Street, used for growing hay and bird fledgling. Open to the public for passive recreation and managed by the Mansfield NRT and Mansfield Conservation Commission.

### WETLAND VEGETATION

Mansfield has approximately 2,674 acres of Wetland Vegetation of which is comprised of 10 acres of Public Water Supply Reservoir, 138 acres of Marsh, 1,833 acres of Wooded Swamp, and 692 acres of Fresh Open Water. A map of where these wetlands can be found can be seen above on Map 13. Mansfield Open Space Surface Water and Wetland Resources.

### RARE PLANT SPECIES

MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), part of the State’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, maintains an inventory of documented observations of rare species that are listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. As such, one rare plant was known to be located in Mansfield but has not been recently confirmed to exist, the Philadelphia Panic-grass. This plant may have disappeared from Mansfield due to fragmentation and loss of habitat, and competition with invasive species. Table 13. NHESP List of Rare Vascular Plant Species Sighted in Mansfield for more information on this plant.

Table 13. NHESP List of Rare Vascular Plant Species Sighted in Mansfield

Common Plant Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Last Observed
Philadelphia Panic-grass	<i>Panicum philadelphicum ssp. Philadelphicum</i>	Special Concern	1999

Source: MassWildlife’s Rare Species Viewer

Key to Listing Status:

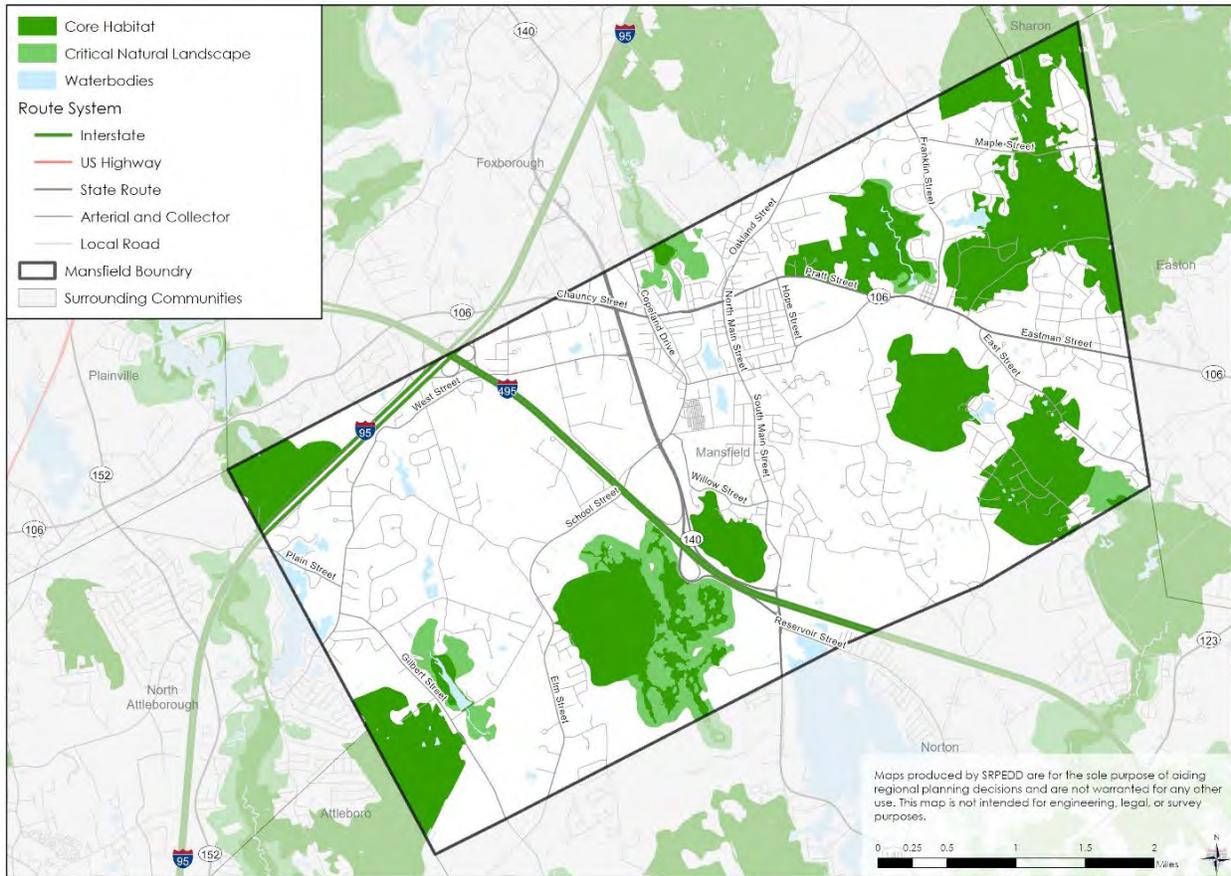
- E = Endangered. Any reproductively viable native species of wildlife or wild plant that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be in danger of extirpation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- T = Threatened. Any reproductively viable native species of wildlife or wild plant that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be rare or declining within the Commonwealth and that is likely to become endangered in the Commonwealth in the foreseeable future.
- SC = Special Concern. Any native wildlife or wild plant species that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be suffering a decline that could

threaten the species in the Commonwealth if allowed to continue unchecked, or that occurs in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that it could easily become threatened.

## E. Fisheries and Wildlife

### BIOMAP

Map 15. Mansfield Open Space BioMap: Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape



MassWildlife and The Nature Conservancy developed a comprehensive mapping tool, called BioMap, to guide habitat protection and stewardship by identifying key lands and waters that provide the most important habitats that support biodiversity. BioMap identifies Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes that are most important to protect across the state. Core Habitat includes rare species habitat, exemplary natural communities and resilient ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape includes large contiguous areas that are minimally impacted by development and buffer areas to core habitats that provide connectivity and resilience.

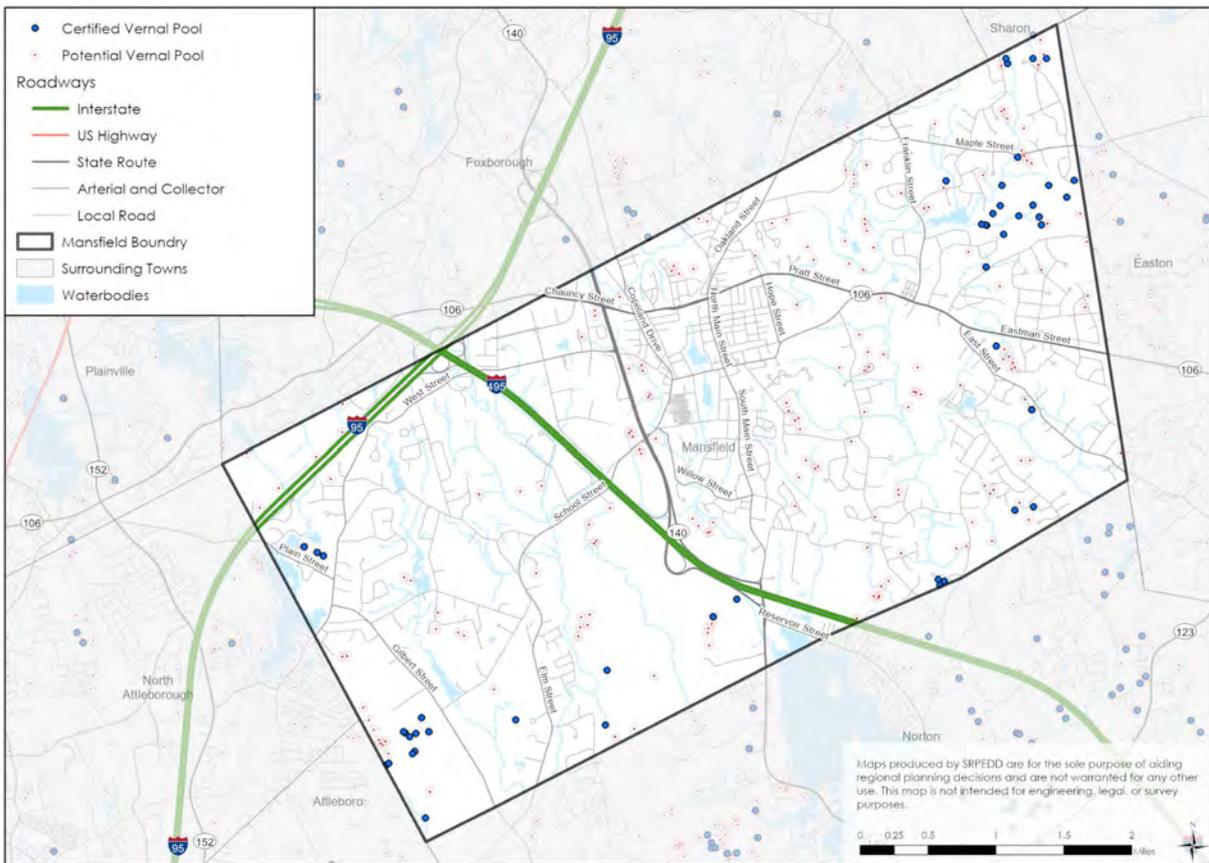
As shown in the Mansfield Open Space BioMap Maps, areas of "Core Habitat" have been identified in Mansfield, especially in the Canoe River Greenbelt conservation area, Corporal Robert Francis Hardy conservation area, between Stearns Avenue and

Maple Street on the Easton town line, the Great Woods conservation area, between Gilbert Street and the Attleboro town line, as well as the Witch Pond Swamp water supply land. This Core Habitat area is comprised of important rare species habitat, as well as core wetland and vernal pool habitat. There is additional core aquatic habitat located along Sweets Pond.

Critical Natural Landscape in Mansfield includes buffers to these core habitats and additional areas of unique significance and are primarily located around the Great Woods conservation area. These minimally fragmented natural areas provide important migration corridors and support more dynamic and resilient ecosystems.

## VERNAL POOLS

Map 16. Mansfield Open Space Certified and Potential Vernal Pools



Vernal pools are areas which are seasonally inundated with water. While vernal pools do not support fish, they do provide very important habitat for various species of frogs, turtles, and salamanders. Many of these species must return to these vernal pools to breed. Some of the species found in vernal pools include Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers, Spotted Salamanders, Spotted Turtles, and Wood Turtles. Vernal pools are often part of wildlife corridors, allowing for the movement of these species between wetland areas.

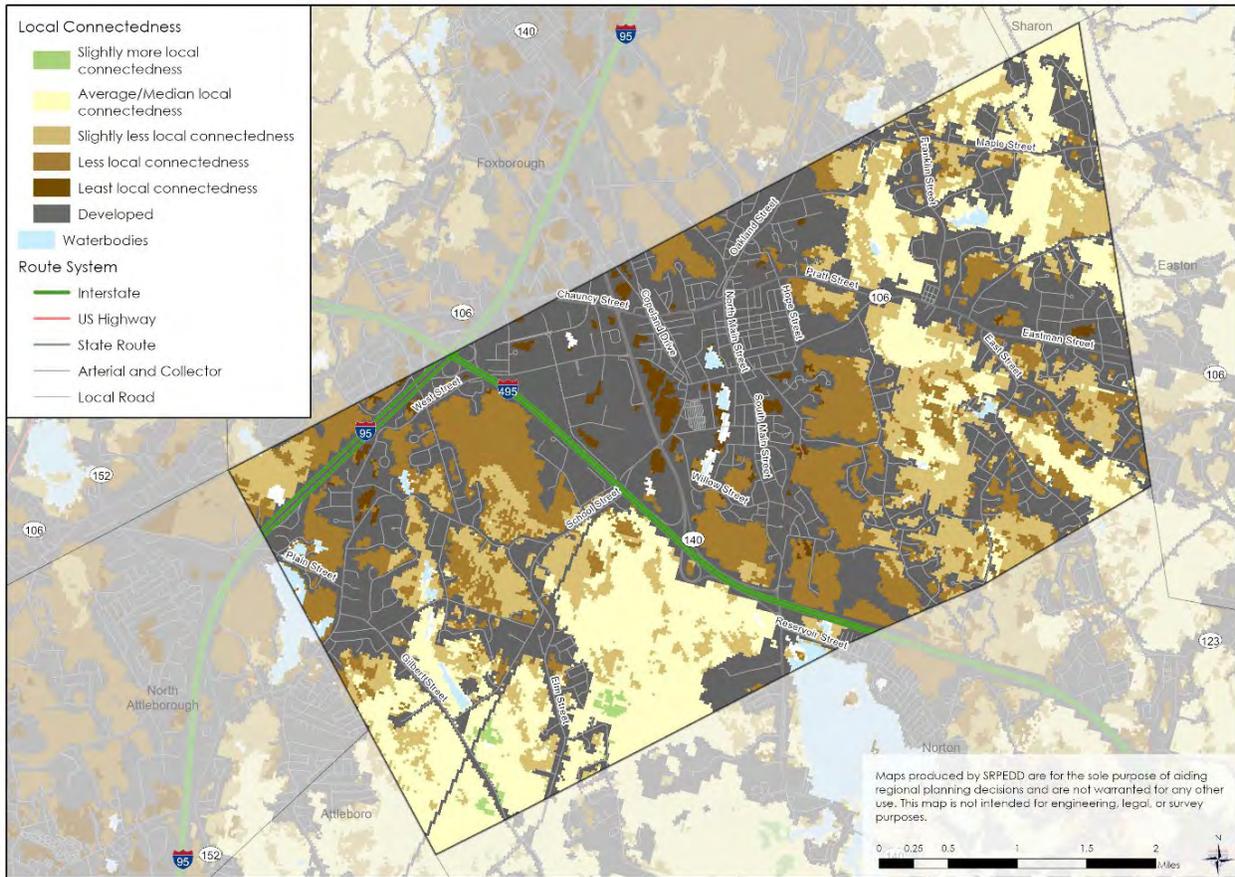
Certified vernal pools are protected under several state and federal laws, such as the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act; Title 5, Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act; and the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act. According to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) most recent data, Mansfield currently has 47 certified vernal pools, and 190 potential vernal pools located throughout the Town, as shown on the Mansfield Open Space Certified and Potential Vernal Pools Map. Potential vernal pools are identified using color infrared photos. NHESP relies on volunteer efforts to survey potential vernal pools and submit documentation for certification.

In Mansfield, there are two areas with clusters of certified vernal pools. One cluster can be found between Stearns Avenue, Franklin Street, and Maple Street in north-eastern Mansfield, and the other is between Gilbert Street and the Town line in south-western Mansfield. However, there are a good number of potential vernal pools that are spread throughout the Town along various waterbodies.

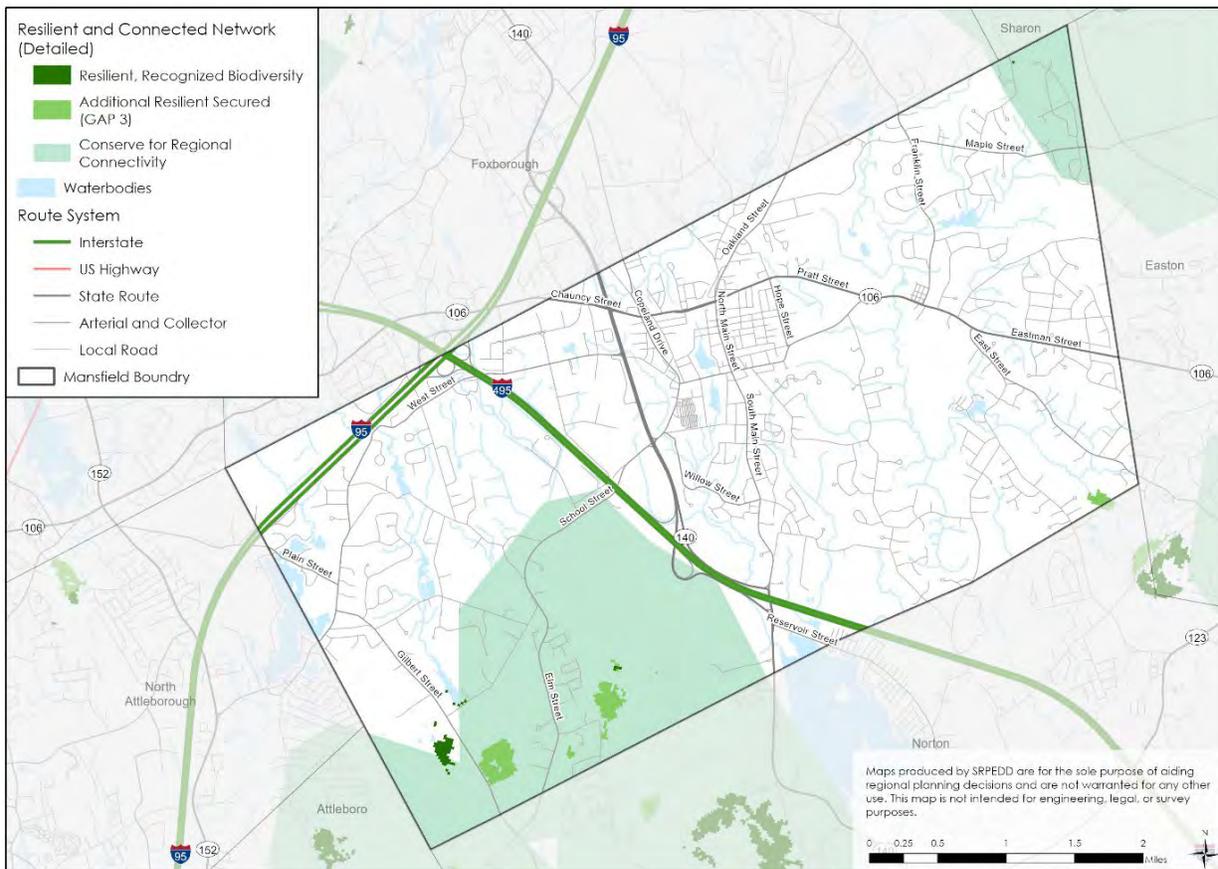
The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program has identified several rare species that use vernal pools in Mansfield: Marbled Salamanders (state threatened) and Blue-spotted Salamander (a Species of Special Concern) are vernal pool obligates, which breed only in vernal pools and live in nearby uplands the rest of the year. The Four-toed Salamander (removed from the state list) is a swamp/vernal pool breeding species that lives in the forest the rest of the year. Both the Blandings Turtle (threatened) and Spotted Turtle (delisted) use vernal pools for foraging and for keeping themselves wet. The delisted Mystic Valley Amphipod is found in many types of wetlands, including vernal pools.

## WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS

Map 17. Mansfield TNC Local Connectedness



Map 18. Mansfield TNC Resilient and Connected Network Detailed



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has analyzed local connectivity within Mansfield, with areas in the south-west and north-east acting as corridors for wildlife movement (see Map 17. Mansfield TNC Local Connectedness and Map 18. Mansfield TNC Resilient and Connected Network Detailed). The Resilient and Connected map integrates three nationwide assessment datasets:

- **Climate Resilient Sites:** Ecologically representative sites with a diversity of connected microclimates and low human modification.
- **Connectivity and Climate Flow:** Linkages that allow species to move across sites and climate gradients.
- **Recognized Biodiversity Value:** Places with intact habitats, rare species, or exemplary communities.

Focusing on the Connectivity and Climate Flow element, the categories in Resilient and Connected Network map classifies climate flow groups based on the amount and concentration of species flow. Importantly, each flow type suggests a different conservation strategy:

- **Diffuse flow:** areas that are extremely intact and consequently facilitate high levels of dispersed flow that spreads out to follow many different and alternative pathways. The conservation strategy here might be to keep these areas intact and prevent the flow from becoming concentrated.
- **Concentrated flow:** areas where large quantities of flow are concentrated through a narrow area. Because of their importance in maintaining flow across a larger network, these pinch points are good candidates for land conservation.

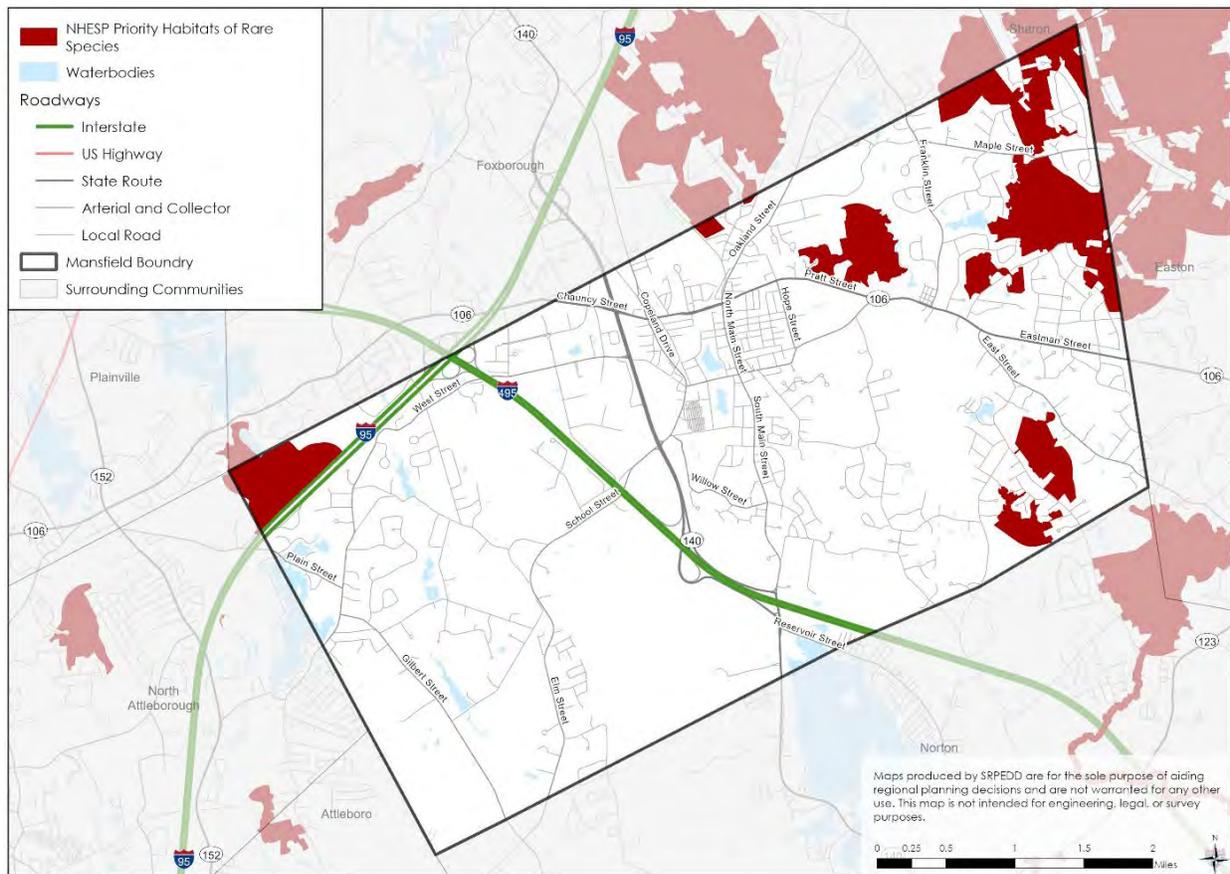
TNC further mapped areas that were identified as areas for potential Nature-Based Solutions to aid in Climate Resilience, but that also have Biodiversity Co-Benefit Opportunities. The layer Conserve for Regional Connectivity shows areas that have above average resilience landscape features, and that also preserve biodiversity, adding in consideration of Constrained Flow areas:

- **Constrained flow:** areas of low flow that are neither concentrated nor fully blocked but instead move across the landscape in a weak reticulated network. These areas present large conservation challenges. In some cases, restoring a riparian network might end up concentrating the flow and creating a linkage that will be easier to maintain over time.

As can be seen from the TNC maps, the primary wildlife corridor in Mansfield is on the south-western portion of the Town, west of I-495, with some slightly less connected areas in the north-east part of Town.

## RARE ANIMAL SPECIES

Map 19. Mansfield Open Space NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species



There are a few rare and endangered species that are known to occur in the Town of Mansfield, some of which are listed and protected by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MGL c. 131A). Two species which are listed as species of Special Concern are the Eastern Box Turtle and the Bridle Shine. The Eastern Box Turtle is a small turtle, and the only completely terrestrial turtle in Massachusetts. It's primary habitat consists of semi-open environments such as woodlands, fields, and wetland buffers. Whereas the Bridle Shiner is a small minnow whose primary habitat consists of streams and lakes.

Additionally, Mansfield has two species listed as Threatened, the Blue-spotted Salamander and the Marbled Salamander. Both the Marbled Salamander and the Blue-spotted Salamander are medium-sized salamanders whose primary habitats consists of Forested Uplands and Vernal Pools.

Protection of all four of these species requires a combined effort of habitat conservation and responsible land management of specific critical landscapes, including vernal pools and forested areas.

Table 14. NHESP List of Rare Animal and Insect Species Sighted in Mansfield

Common Animal Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Last Observed
Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale pop. 2</i>	Threatened	2020
Bridle Shiner	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Special Concern	1999
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Special Concern	2021
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Threatened	2021

Source: MassWildlife’s Rare Species Viewer

Key to Listing Status:

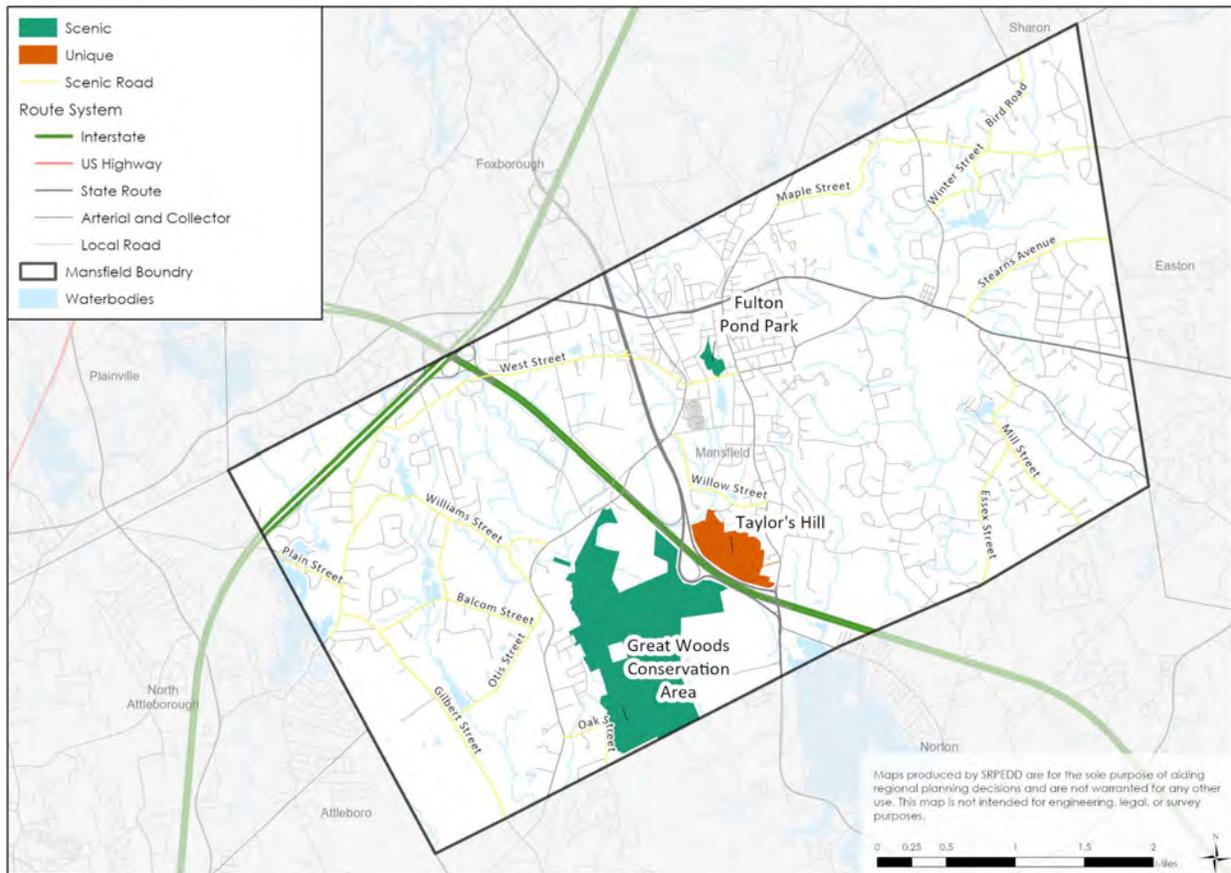
- E = Endangered. Any reproductively viable native species of wildlife or wild plant that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be in danger of extirpation from the Commonwealth.
- T = Threatened. Any reproductively viable native species of wildlife or wild plant that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be rare or declining within the Commonwealth and that is likely to become endangered in the Commonwealth in the foreseeable future.
- SC = Special Concern. Any native wildlife or wild plant species that has been documented by biological research and inventory to be suffering a decline that could threaten the species in the Commonwealth if allowed to continue unchecked, or that occurs in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that it could easily become threatened.

MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) designates Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species, which determine whether a proposed project must be reviewed for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and Wetlands Protection Act. These Priority Habitat areas are known habitat for protected state-listed rare plant and animal species. The most recent Priority Habitat map (the 15th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas, released in 2021), identifies six separate rare species Priority Habitat areas in Mansfield: one along I-95 in the north-western corner of Mansfield; one within the Maple Park Conservation Area along Route 106, one along the north-eastern Mansfield Town line, one along Stearns Avenue, one within the Canoe River Greenbelt, and one on the Mill Farm Estates Conservation Area (see Map 19. Mansfield Open Space NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species).

**F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments**

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Map 20. Mansfield Open Space Scenic and Unique Features



The Town of Mansfield has several designated scenic roads and lands, along with one unique feature. These areas have been highlighted on Map 20. Mansfield Open Space Scenic and Unique Features, with more detail on each location given in the sections below.

### SCENIC LANDSCAPES

Scenic landscapes in Mansfield include Fulton Pond and Great Woods. Fulton Pond, located off Rumford Ave in Mansfield Center, is a historic pond created in the early 1830s. Presently, this local gem has gravel walking paths along the water, a small strip of sand, several benches and picnic areas, fishing access, and a small waterfall. Great Woods, located near the Mansfield/Norton town line, is the largest parcel of conservation land in Mansfield and is owned by both the Town and the Mansfield Natural Resources Trust, it has several hiking trails to explore that vary in length and difficulty. These scenic landscapes have been highlighted in Green on Map 20. Mansfield Open Space Scenic and Unique Features.

### SCENIC ROADS

Massachusetts General Law Section 15C, Chapter 40 was created to protect the character, scenery, and history of roads by allowing towns to designate scenic roads.

Scenic Roads bylaws are an effective, although limited, method of maintaining the rural character of scenic roads. A Scenic Roads designation provides limited protection from actions resulting from the repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving of the road that would involve the cutting or removal of trees or tearing down, destruction or alteration of stonewalls, or portions of stonewalls, within the public right of way. On a Scenic Road, such actions are subject to a public hearing and approval by the Planning Board.

A town may designate any road as scenic other than a numbered route or state highway. A numbered route may be designated only if its entire length is contained within the town's boundaries and the Commonwealth maintains no part of the route. Recommendations for the designation of Scenic Roads may come from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, or Historical Commission. The process involves a petition to the Planning Board, coordination with the Highway Department, a public hearing, and placing of the bylaw on the Warrant for a Town Meeting to obtain voter approval.

Mansfield has a Scenic Road Bylaw, which grants designated roads with additional layers of zoning requirements meant to protect their rural character. The overall purpose of this bylaw is to:

- Preserve and enhance the natural beauty and historic character of Mansfield's scenic roads.
- Protect all trees and stone walls within the Town-owned right-of-way from illegal removal or cutting, injury or degradation.
- Provide a process by which application for removal of trees or stone walls along a scenic road may be evaluated while preserving the scenic, historic, and other community values which help define the character of the Town of Mansfield's landscape.

Mansfield currently has sixteen Town designated scenic roads, including:

- Balcom Street
- Bird Road
- Essex Street
- Gilbert Street
- Jewell Street
- Maple Street
- Mill Street
- Oak Street
- Old Elm Street
- Otis Street
- Plain Street
- Stearns Avenue
- West Street
- Williams Street
- Willow Street
- Winter Street

These scenic roads have been noted in yellow on Map 20. Mansfield Open Space Scenic and Unique Features.

## UNUSUAL GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Located at Taylor's Hill in South Mansfield is "Devil's Rock" along the Cobbler's Trail. This rock is said to have the devil's hoof print that visitors can seek to find. Taylor's Hill is highlighted in red on Map 20. Mansfield Open Space Scenic and Unique Features.

### CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL AREAS

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

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) keeps a statewide Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. Properties on the National Register of Historic Places (the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture) are all listed in the State Register of Historic Places. According to the MHC, Mansfield's inventory of historic resources documents 245 individual resources, including four (4) resources that are recognized by the National Register. A list of these State and National Register resources appears in Appendix B.

Also listed in the State Register are those properties protected by a Preservation Restriction (PR), per the requirements of MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A PR runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation tools available. Mansfield has one property that is protected by a PR, the Fisher-Richardson House, which is a seasonal museum and the oldest house in Town, is on Willow Street, at the northeastern edge of the Great Woods.

The following list of National Register Historic Districts, Properties, and Landmarks have been identified in Mansfield. Their preservation gives the Town a sense of identity and direction as it adjusts to the many challenges of accommodating new growth.

#### District:

- **Walter M. Lowney Chocolate Factory**

The Walter M. Lowney Chocolate Factory area contains seven buildings, and a reservoir at Oakland St and the Providence/Stoughton Line railroad tracks with construction dating to 1903. It was used until 2010 to manufacture and process chocolate products and stands as a symbol of Mansfield's labor history and Late Victorian architecture.

#### Landmarks or Individual Properties:

- **Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Memorial Park and Conservation Area**

Corporal Robert Francis Hardy grew up on Maple Street in Mansfield during the 1930s. He was the second of ten children and spent his summers playing in the wooded park next to his home, known then as “Maple Park.” Robert and his brother Warren often spent their days fishing and swimming in the nearby stream and pond.

In 1947, at just 17 years old, Robert enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Japan in 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea, and his unit was immediately deployed to active combat. Shortly after deployment, Corporal Hardy went missing in action. For three years, he was listed as MIA until his remains were recovered and returned home to his family on September 18, 1953.

Corporal Hardy was laid to rest at Springbrook Cemetery on October 25, 1953. He was the only Mansfield resident to lose his life in the Korean War.

In 2008, the Mansfield Select Board and Conservation Commission approved a proposal from the Mansfield Historical Society to rename “Maple Park” as the *Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Memorial Park and Conservation Area* in honor of his service and sacrifice for his town and country. Today, the park offers over two miles of scenic nature trails for residents to enjoy for generations to come.

- **Samuel Coddling and the Coddling Farm**

Samuel Coddling was born in Taunton in 1758. He married his wife, Sarah, in 1781 and later moved to Mansfield with their ten children, where they rented a large tract of land on Oak Street. In 1815, Samuel purchased this property, over 200 acres, from Joanna Barnes of Providence for nearly \$4,000, a considerable sum at the time. He cleared portions of the land, built a small house and two barns, dug a groundwater well, plowed and sowed the fields, and planted an apple orchard. Together with Sarah and their large family, who also included two adopted nephews, Samuel farmed the land for the next 34 years.

Several members of the Coddling family are buried in the Coddling Farm Cemetery, located along the hayfield on Oak Street. Today, nearly all of the former farm is wooded conservation land owned and maintained by the Town of Mansfield or the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield. The remnants of the homestead, including the cellar holes of the house and barn, along with the shallow well, can still be seen in the dense woods on a rise east of the red trail in the Great Woods Conservation Area.

- **The Fisher-Richardson House**

The Fisher-Richardson House is a seasonal museum and the oldest house in Town, is on Willow Street, at the northeastern edge of the Great Woods.

- **Spring Brook Cemetery**

The Spring Brook Cemetery consecrated as a non-denominational cemetery in 1860 with gravestones dated from 1790. It is on four acres, located on Spring Street between School St. and Dean St.

- **Soldiers' Memorial Library**

The Soldier's Memorial Library now houses school administrative offices and an American Civil War library, built in 1899-1901 with Gothic Revival design. It is located at Park Row and Union St.

In addition to these properties, there is:

- **Cobbler's Corner**, located on existing conservation land is the site where Myles Standish and his men, while surveying a portion of Plymouth Colony around 1640, fixed, or "cobbled," their shoes.
- **School Street Site**, located on School St, was the first schoolhouse in Mansfield. It no longer exists, but the site itself is recognized for its importance.

## UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

Mansfield has a couple of unique environments within the Town. For starters, there is the Canoe River, which has been deemed an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and a federal Sole Source Aquifer. The Canoe River flows approximately 16 miles from its headwaters near Lake Massapoag in Sharon to Lake Winnecunnet in Norton. Its shores are predominantly wooded as it meanders through the towns of Sharon, Foxborough, Mansfield, Easton and Norton. Thus, it is important to protect and preserve specified parcels to ensure continued water quality for the region.

Additionally, there is the Cedar Swamps within Witch Pond Swamp (formerly known as Maple Park). Cedar Swamps, According to the 2012 BioMap2 survey conducted by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and the Nature Conservancy, has a 75-acre Alluvial Atlantic White-Cedar (AWC) swamp located within it.

Lastly, while the Great Woods area does not enjoy formal recognition, it has long been viewed as a significant natural resource. The generous wildlife habitat, the water quality benefits of swamps and marshes, the diversity of plant species and mix of forest and farm fields at the edge of the Woods help to create a unique environment.

## G. Environmental Challenges

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### HAZARDOUS WASTE AND BROWNFIELD SITES

MassDEP’s Bureau of Waste Site Clean-Up lists 158 records of sites/reportable releases in Mansfield. Most of these sites do not constitute serious hazards to public health, reflecting minimal leaks of fuel oil and gasoline, and many have had at least some degree of resolution.

Hazardous sites are Tier Classified using a Numerical Ranking System (NRS) that scores sites based on a variety of factors, including the site’s complexity, the type of contamination, and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the contamination. Tier 1 is DEP’s highest priority ranking. In some cases, sites are automatically classified as Tier 1 if they pose an imminent hazard or affect public water supplies.<sup>5</sup>

See status details for all documented clean-up sites in Mansfield in the Hazardous Release Sites Compliance Status table.

*Table 15. Mansfield Open Space Hazardous Release Sites Compliance Status*

Type	Count	Status Detail
Adequately Regulated	3	A release where response actions are being conducted following the rules of another state or federal regulatory program.
DEP Not a Disposal Site	0	(pre-1993) MassDEP determined that these locations did not need to be reported and are not considered waste disposal sites.
DEP No Further Action	6	(pre-1993) Response actions were conducted for the release and MassDEP determined that no further action was needed.
LSP No Further Action	1	(pre-1993) Means that response actions were conducted and an LSP has determined that no further action was needed for the site
Permanent Solution with No Conditions	32	(post-2014) A release where a Permanent Solution Statement was submitted indicating response actions achieved a level of No Significant Risk for all current and foreseeable future uses of the site.
Permanent Solution with Conditions	3	(post-2014) A site/release where a Permanent Solution Statement was submitted indicating that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of No Significant Risk for all current uses of the property, but that the conditions remaining at the site may limit how the property can be used without significant cleanup. Certain PSC closures require a deed notice or deed restriction denoted Activity and Use Limitation (AUL)
Response Action Outcome	96	(pre-2014) A release where a Permanent or Temporary Solution Statement was submitted, asserting that

<sup>5</sup> In 2014, the subcategory tiers 1A, 1B, and 1C were discontinued and collapsed under an overarching ‘Tier 1’ category.

		response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of No Significant Risk.
RTN Closed	9	Future response actions are being addressed under a new “primary” Release Tracking Number (RTN). This occurs when multiple releases at one site are combined under one primary RTN for simplification.
Tier 1D	1	Site where the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to DEP by a specified deadline (formerly Tier 1B).
Tier 2	0	Site has been classified as Tier 2. Any disposal site that is not Tier ID and does not meet the Tier I Criteria.
Waiver Completion Statement	0	(pre-1993) A Waiver Completion Statement has been submitted to DEP.
Utility-Related Abatement Measure	3	A release tracking number has been assigned to a release where an abatement measure (response action) is being or was performed in conjunction with utility-related work
Unclassified	2	A release that has not reached its Tier Classification deadline (once a year after reported), and where a Permanent or Temporary Solution Statement, DPS submittal, or Tier Classification Submittal has not yet been received by DEP
Unknown	0	Compliance status is blank in the Waste Site & Reportable Releases Data Portal, so current status is unknown.

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Waste Site & Reportable Releases Data Portal

Hazardous sites are Tier Classified using a Numerical Ranking System (NRS) that scores sites based on a variety of factors, including the site’s complexity, the type of contamination, and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the contamination. Tier 1 is DEP’s highest priority ranking. In some cases, sites are automatically classified as Tier 1 if they pose an imminent hazard or affect public water supplies. Mansfield has one Tier 1 site and one Tier 1D site (details about each, including Release Tracking Numbers, or RTNs, can be found in the Chapter 21E Tier Classified Hazardous Sites table).

Table 16. Mansfield Open Space Chapter 21E Tier Classified Hazardous Sites

Category	Sites	Location
Tier 1	Hatheway & Petterson	15 County Rd
Tier 1D	Hampshire St Industrial Park	31 Hampshire Rd
Tier 2	None	
Unclassified	Gasoline Service Station	189 Chauncy St
	Residential	332 Baum St
Tier Classification Received, Unconfirmed by DEP	None	

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Waste Site & Reportable Releases Data Portal

Thirteen sites in Mansfield are listed as having “Activity & Use Limitations.” Contamination on these sites has been closed or resolved to a point where they are suitable for some, but not all uses, with restrictions for reuse placed on the property. As shown in the Hazardous Waste Release Sites with Activity Use Limitations (AULs) Post-remediation image, these sites are mostly located along Chauncy Street near Center Mansfield.

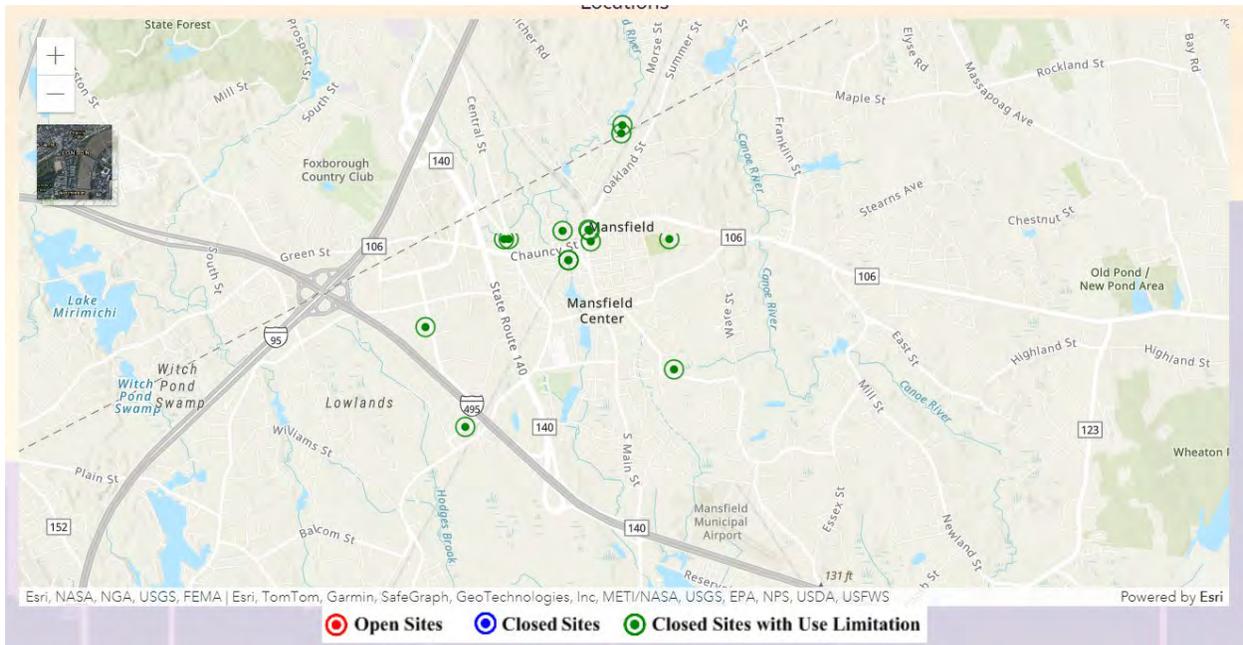


Figure 3. Hazardous Waste Release Sites with Activity Use Limitations (AULs) Post-remediation

Mansfield, in conjunction with federal, state, and local partners, has continued assessing, cleaning up, and promoting reuse opportunities on its contaminated sites. The EPA’s Cleanups In My Community database shows one site in Mansfield that EPA responded to for cleanup assistance, as shown in the EPA Cleanups in My Community Database Map figure below.

The site is the Hatheway and Patterson Clean-up site at 15 County Rd. This site was a former wood preserving facility with wood sheeting, planking, timber, piling, poles and other wood products. Facility operations led to soil, groundwater, and sediment contamination. Since the remediation plan started in 2005, approximately 44,000 tons of soil was excavated and removed, institutional controls were placed to prohibit site groundwater, remaining hazardous materials have been covered in asphalt and there continues to be monitoring of soil and groundwater.

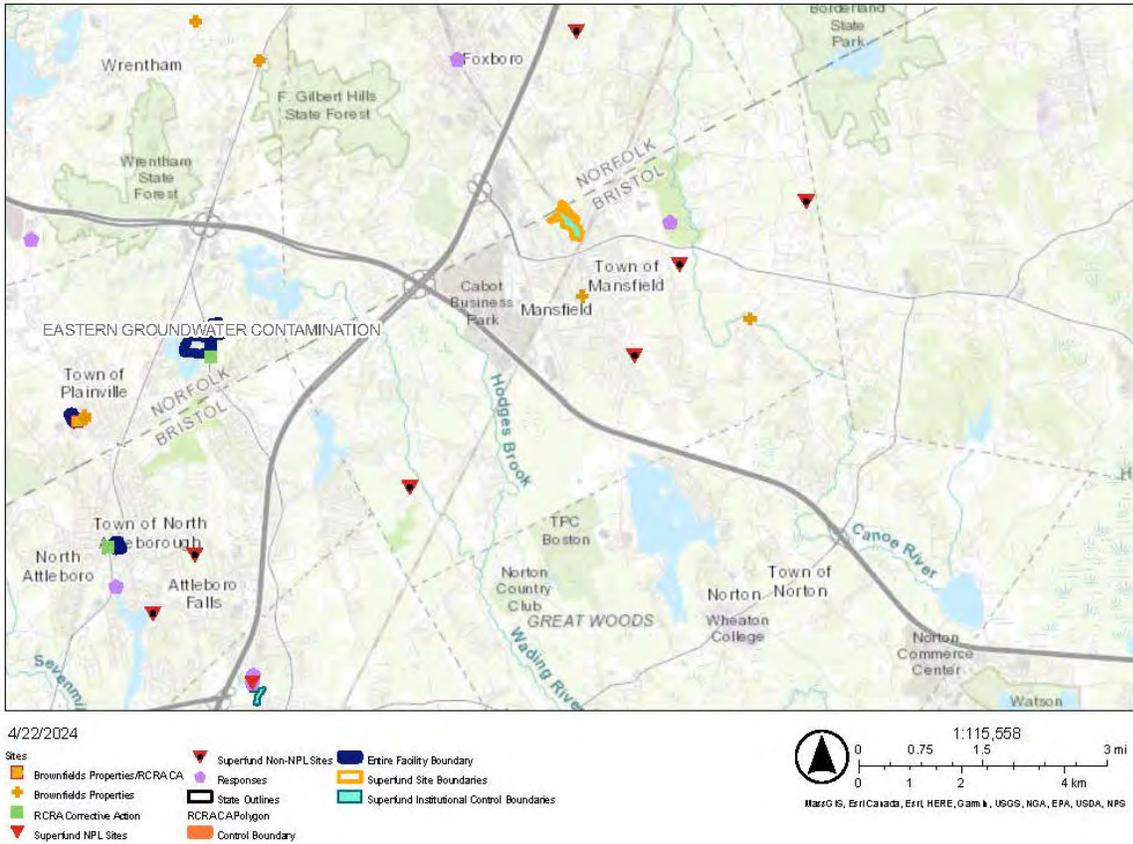


Figure 4. EPA Cleanups In My Community Database

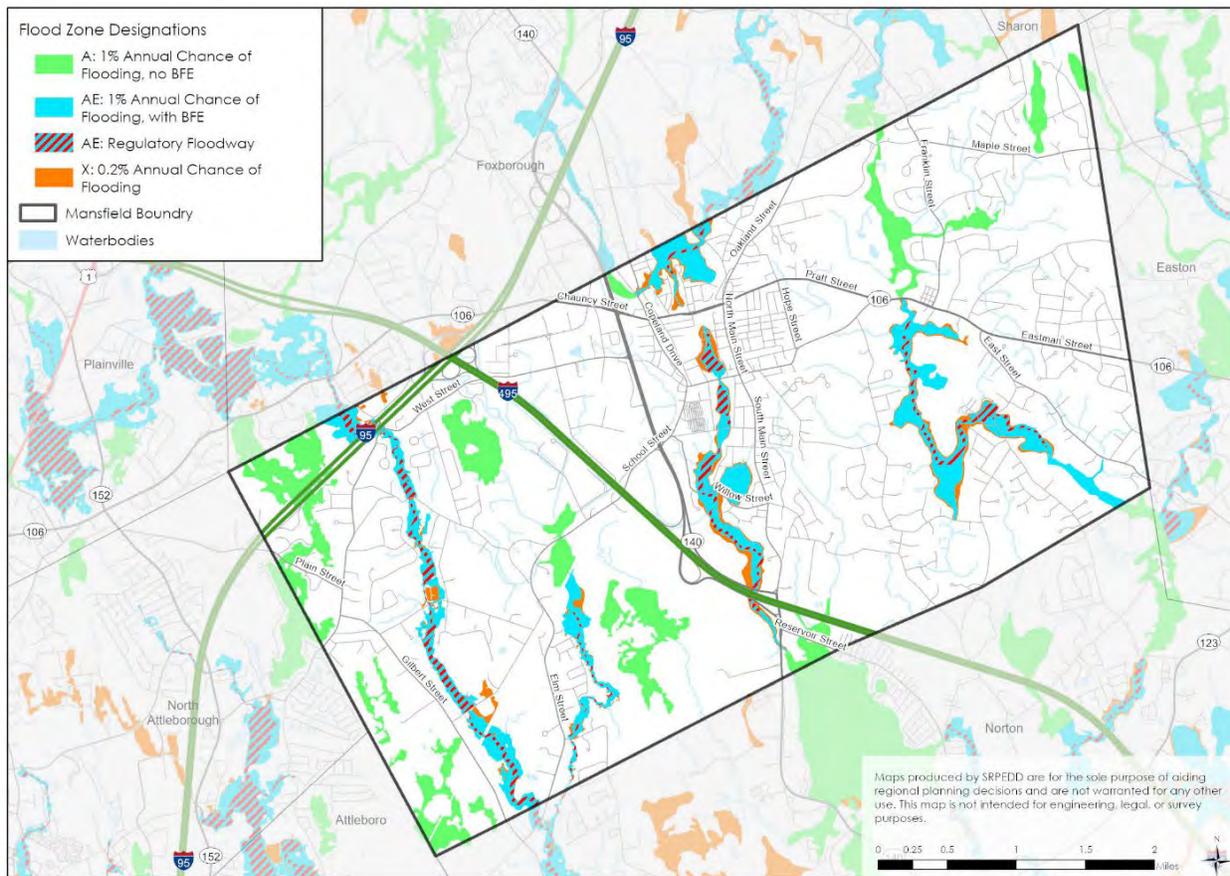
## LANDFILLS

There is one landfill in Mansfield, closed in 1994, and located at 50 West St. The site is no longer in use but is unlined and capped.

Additionally, there are 4 recycling centers within Mansfield: the Mansfield Recycling Park, Mansfield Redemption Center, Hanna Paper Recycling Inc, and Miller Recycling Corporation. The Mansfield Recycling Park is the only location municipally owned and operated, and sorts the materials for other recycling plants and landfills - located at the intersection of Route 106 and East St., at 499 East St.

## CHRONIC FLOODING

Map 21. Mansfield Open Space FEMA Flood Zone



Flood risk data is compiled for the community by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for use in both insurance rating and floodplain management. FEMA regulates land areas that are flooded by a 100-year flood event, or the flood event likely to occur once every hundred years (or 1% chance of occurring in any given year). This area is designated as the Special Flood Hazard Area, depicted as the zones beginning with "A" in the Mansfield Open Space FEMA Flood Zone Map. These areas include locations flooded during hurricanes.

The major areas impacted by flooding in Mansfield are located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated Flood zones and High Velocity flood zones, which are generally located along the major rivers and surrounding large water bodies and wetlands across Town.

To remain compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Town of Mansfield maintains a Floodplain District Zoning, which regulates and places some limitations on development within FEMA's designated flood zone area.

It is also possible for flooding to occur outside of these designated flood zones following heavy rainfall events, due to stormwater runoff. This may happen within a more

localized area surrounding a stormwater outfall location or culvert. Culverts convey water underneath a roadway, and many across Town were potentially installed many years ago. This means they were designed to convey volumes of water expected during historic rain events and were not necessarily built to handle the larger volumes of water we are seeing more often today. Older infrastructure may become clogged or fail during extreme rain events, which can cause localized flooding and/or roadway damage.

### Dams

These structures may be important for flood control. Issues of structural integrity, erosion and sedimentation, barriers to fish conveyance, unknown ownership and the related problems of liability need to be addressed. There are twelve dams in Mansfield registered with the state Office of Dam Safety (see Table 17. Registered Dams in Mansfield).

The Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety keeps records of all dams across the state and enforces maintenance and inspection of dams by their owners, dependent on their designated hazard potential level. The hazard potential indicates the severity of hazards that could impact communities if a dam were to fail, and the classes are categorized as follows:

- High Hazard: failure will likely cause loss of life and serious damage to home(s), industrial, commercial facilities, important public utilities, main highway(s) or Railroad(s)
- Significant Hazard: failure may cause loss of life and damage home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, secondary highway(s) or railroad(s) or cause interruption of use or service of relatively important facilities
- Low Hazard: failure may cause minimal property damage to others; loss of life is not expected
- N/A: no hazard code; non-jurisdictional dams do not have hazard codes except when owned and regulated by the Federal Government

Table 17. Registered Dams in Mansfield

Dam Name	Location (Crossroads)	Owner	Hazard Level
Sweets Pond Dam	Wading River Reservoir at Otis St.	Mansfield	Low
Whiteville Pond Dam	500 ft NE of Darby Dr. at Franklin St	Private	N/A
Maple Street Dam	Maple St. at Old Maple St.	Mansfield	Low
Canoe River Campground Dam	At Canoe River Campground on Mill St between Sandy Hill Rd and Ephraim Dr	Mansfield	Significant
Fulton Pond Dam	At Rumford Ave Park; on West St between Rumford Ave and Dean St.	Mansfield	High
Kingman Pond Dam	South end of Kingman Pond, 500 ft North of the Rumford River and Spring St.	Mansfield	Significant

Robinson Pond Dam	South end of Williams Pond; North of Williams St between Forest Heights Dr. and Pine St.	Mansfield	Significant
Blakes Pond Dam	South end of Robinson Pond; 800 ft North of Wading River and Balcom St.; 1,000 ft NW of Balcom St. at Jewell St./Justin Dr.	Mansfield	Low
Cabot Pond Dam	At Rumford River and Willow St, 300 ft East of Willow St. and Cobbler Rd.	Mansfield	Significant
Un-Named Pond Dam	North of West St between Forbes Blvd. and Statten Rd.; adjacent to 120 Forbes Blvd complex	Private	N/A
Mill Pond Dam	At East St. and Canoe River; East of Mansfield Fish and Game Building; West of St. Mary's Cemetery	Mansfield	Significant

Source: Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety

### EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Mansfield's primary concern when it comes to erosion and sedimentation stems from stormwater runoff during intense rain events. To minimize impacts from these events, the town has Stormwater Management bylaw, as well as Stormwater Management Plan that was published in 2019. Full details of The Stormwater Management Plan can be found on the town website here:

<https://www.mansfieldma.com/DocumentCenter/View/1311/Stormwater-Management-Plan-with-Certification-Page-PDF?bidId=>

### NEW DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

New development causes environmental impacts, even with the best implemented regulations. The impervious surfaces that development brings, such as roofs, roads, driveways, and other pavement interrupt the natural flow of water across the landscape. The removal of trees and habitat area is required to make space for houses and other development. One of the byproducts of development is an increase in the presence of nitrogen, found primarily in stormwater runoff and groundwater seepage from residential septic systems.

The regulatory community tries to manage and mitigate these impacts to balance development and environmental protection. Upgrading older commercial and residential developments with current stormwater practices will help to mitigate the problem, as would the adoption of so-called "Low Impact Development" or LID regulatory techniques, that seek to limit the amount of impervious surface, among other meaningful measures for mitigating the impact of development on natural systems.

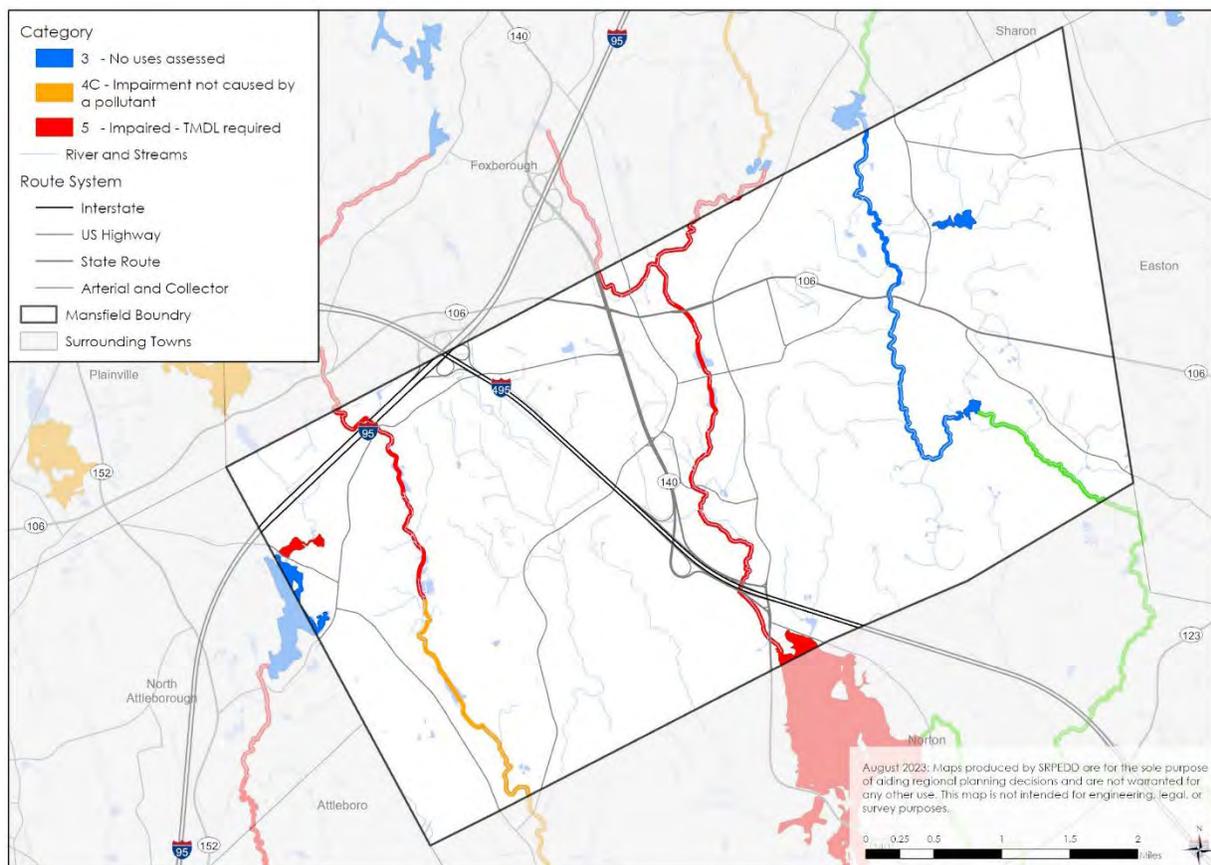
Mansfield has seen a moderate rate of development in recent years. 74 acres of natural land were converted for development between 2012 and 2017 (that is a rate of 3.6 acres per square mile, the 123<sup>rd</sup> highest rate among the 351 municipalities in Massachusetts). This loss of natural areas can fragment natural land and important

wildlife habitat corridors and decreases the capacity of the land to protect the community from extreme weather. Development also threatens important agricultural and cultural landscapes in Town, as well as prime agricultural soils that once lost, cannot be regained.

Proactive planning can reduce these negative consequences often associated with development. The Open Space Plan will, along with the preparation of the Master Plan, address these concerns.

## IMPAIRED WATER BODIES

Map 22. Mansfield Open Space Impaired Waters



The federal Clean Water Act was enacted to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters. As one step toward meeting this goal each state must administer a program to monitor and assess the quality of its surface waters and provide periodic status reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act codifies the process whereby waters are evaluated with respect to their capacity to support specific uses that are defined in the

Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards. These uses include aquatic life, fish consumption, drinking water, shellfish harvesting, primary (e.g., swimming) and secondary (e.g., boating) contact recreation, and aesthetics. The 305(b) process entails assessing each of these uses, where applicable, for rivers, lakes and coastal waters using all readily available data. Each evaluated waterbody or portion thereof on the list is referred to as an assessment unit (AU), and assigned to one of the following categories:

- **Category 1** = Unimpaired and not threatened for all designated uses.
- **Category 2** = Unimpaired for some uses and not assessed for others.
- **Category 3** = Insufficient information to make assessments for any uses.
- **Category 4A** = Impaired for one or more designated uses but does not require the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): TMDL has been completed.
- **Category 4B** = Impaired for one or more designated uses but does not require the development of a TMDL: Other pollution control requirements are reasonably expected to result in the attainment of designated uses.
- **Category 4C** = Impaired for one or more designated uses but does not require the development of a TMDL: Impairment is not caused by a pollutant.
- **Category 5** = Impaired for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL (impairment due to pollutant(s) such as nutrients, metals, pesticides, solids, and pathogens).

A Category 5 designation is given if available data indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened and a TMDL is needed. Waters listed in Category 5 constitute the "303(d)" list, the final version of which must be approved by the EPA. Once a water body is identified as impaired by a pollutant and added to the 303(d) list, MassDEP is required to develop a pollutant limit designed to restore the health of the impaired water body.

The process of developing the pollutant limit, generally referred to as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), includes identifying the cause (type of pollutant) and source (where the pollutant comes from), determining how much of the pollutant is from direct discharges (point sources) or indirect discharges (non-point sources), determining the maximum amount of the pollutant that can be discharged to a specific water body and still meet water quality standards, and developing a plan to meet that goal. The plan must identify the required activities to achieve the allowable load to meet the allowable loading target, the timeline for those activities to take place, and reasonable assurances that the actions will be taken.

According to MassDEP's 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters, a handful of river segments and ponds are impaired in Mansfield. All documented water quality impairments are listed in the table below and displayed in the Mansfield Open Space Impaired Waters Map.

*Table 18. Inventory of impaired waters in Mansfield (MassDEP 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters)*

Waterbody	Size	Documented impairments (MassDEP 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters)
<i>Category 2: Unimpaired for some uses and not assessed for others</i>		
Canoe River (From outlet of Hartwell School Pond, Mansfield to mouth at inlet Winnecunnet Pond, Norton)	6.90 miles	Use(s) Attained: Fish, other Aquatic Life and Wildlife
<i>Category 3: Insufficient information to make assessments for any uses</i>		
Canoe River (From outlet of Beaumont Pond, Foxborough to inlet of Hartwell School Pond, Mansfield)	3.80 miles	
Hartwell School Pond	8 acres	
Whiteville Pond	14 acres	
<i>Category 4C: Impairment not caused by a pollutant; TMDL not required</i>		
Wading River (From Balcolm Street, Mansfield to inlet Barrowsville Pond, Norton)	5.80 miles	Impairment(s): Non-Native Aquatic Plants
<i>Category 5: Impaired waters requiring a TMDL</i>		
Plain Street Pond	12 acres	Impairment(s): Non-Native Aquatic Plants; Algae
Robinson Brook	1.90 miles	Impairment(s): Physical substrate habitat alterations; Benthic Macroinvertebrates
Rumford River	5.10 miles	Impairment(s): Curly-leaf Pondweed; Benthic Macroinvertebrates; Dioxin (including 2,3,7,8-TCDD); Fish Bioassessments; Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
Wading River (Headwaters, outlet Furnace Lake, Foxborough to Balcolm Street, Mansfield)	5.00 miles	Impairment(s): Algae

**FORESTRY CHALLENGES**

Mansfield lost 74 acres of open space to development between 2012 and 2017 (according to Mass Audubon’s Losing Ground, 2020). The loss of forest land can result in habitat fragmentation that impacts human, fish, and wildlife populations. Planning for growth while keeping in mind the importance of the environmental services provided by forest land will result in less impactful development that maintains more of the diverse forest canopy, providing groundwater recharge, wind and weather breaks, and improved air quality through the filtering of airborne pollutants. Additionally, protecting forestland, and streamside buffers in particular, is also beneficial to river and stream habitat and water quality. Preserving forestland through less lot clearing results in more soil retention, decreasing erosion and sedimentation. Finally, life and movement of fish and wildlife populations can be protected by retaining more intact corridors and interior forest habitats.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) are known issues in Mansfield. Japanese Knotweed specifically is prevalent throughout town but is particularly well-established along the Rumford River. The Town's focus for addressing the Knotweed is by prioritizing river corridors and new construction sites to prevent further spread. The Town is also currently working on a grant from the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC) to develop a management plan for Knotweed. The Common Buckthorn, however, is most prevalent around Well #10 (off Plain Street) and has an ongoing management plan in the way of a big removal effort every 10 years.



Figure 5. Japanese Knotweed in Mansfield

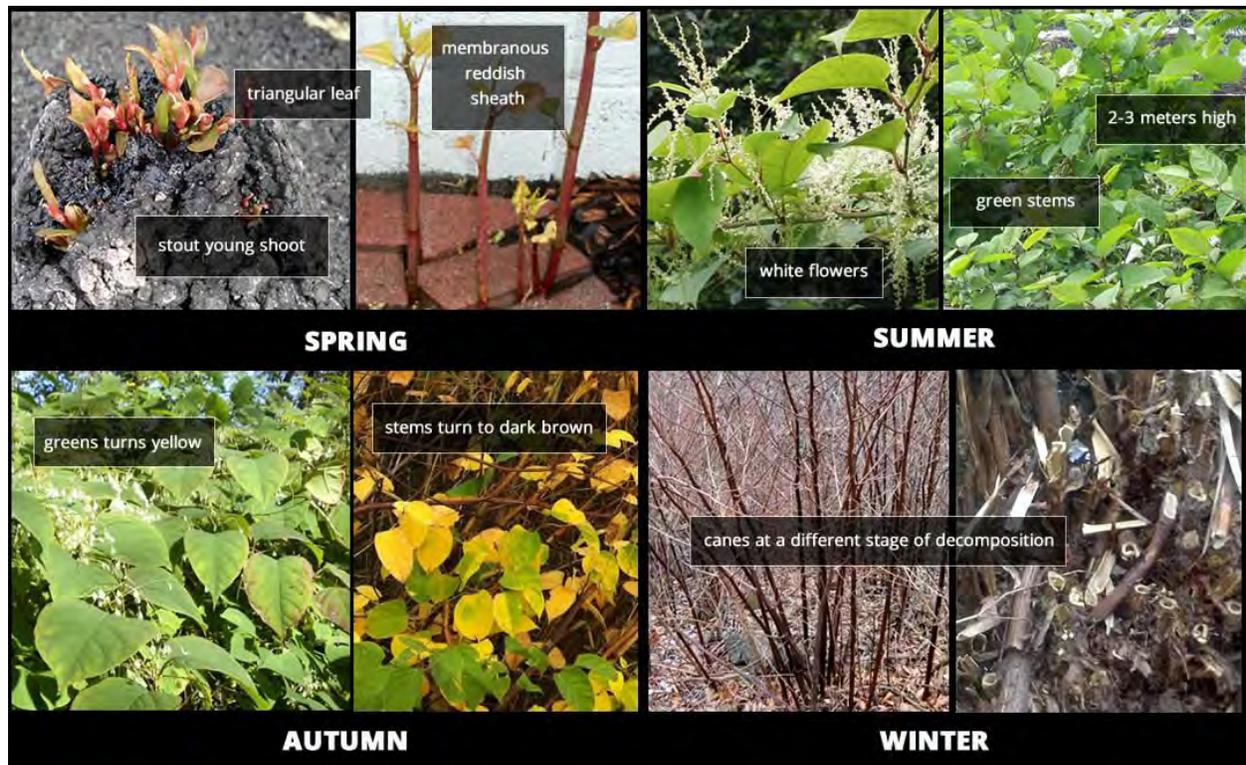


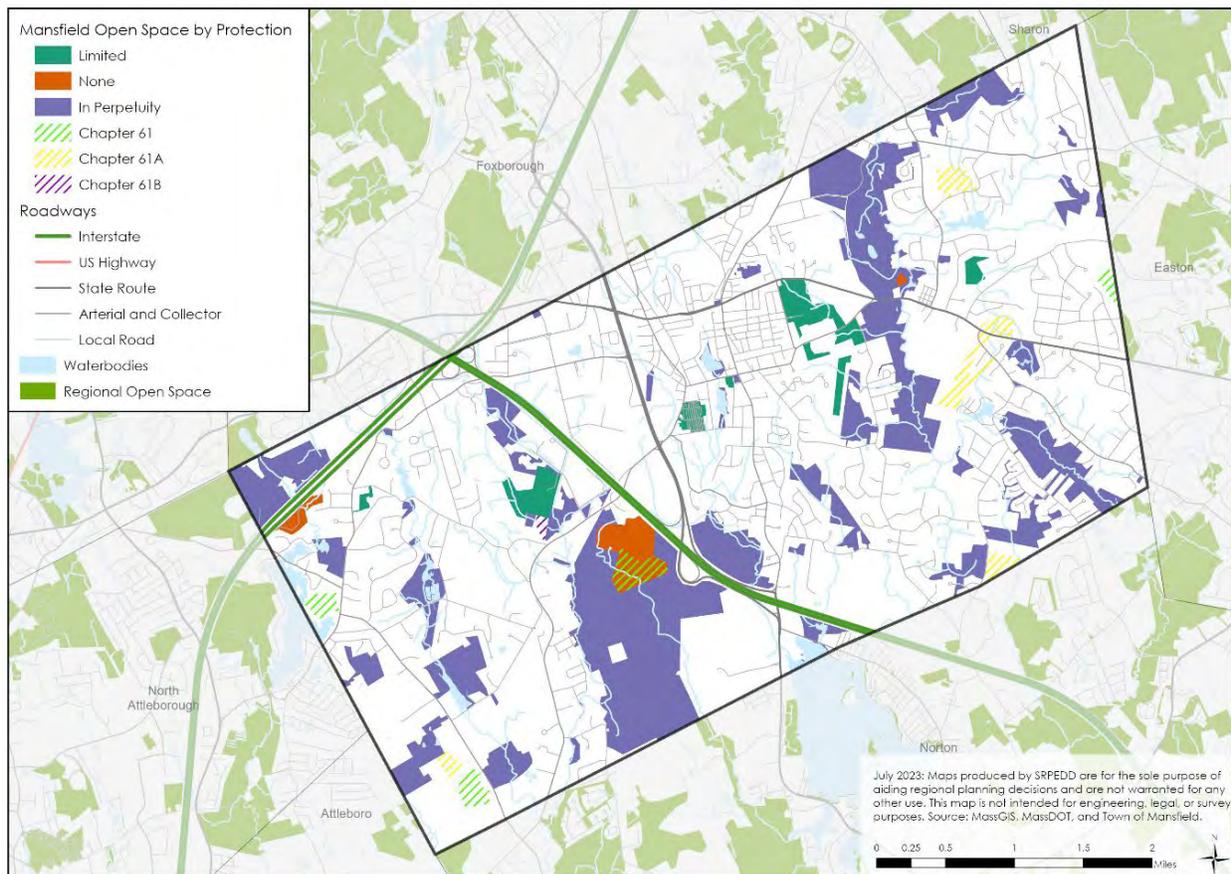
Figure 6. How to Identify Japanese Knotweed

## ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Mansfield enjoys open space and trails throughout the town. However, there is less open space in and around the center of Mansfield because of the denser development.

## V. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

Map 23. Mansfield Open Space by Level of Protection



The primary objective of this section is to consider all valuable open land and identify those parcels that are permanently protected open space, and those that are not protected and therefore vulnerable to adverse development. In order to set the stage for the inventory to come, it is important to establish a baseline definition of open space. Open space includes any land that is largely undeveloped and seen as a community asset because of its current natural or semi-natural state.

Relative to its surrounding context and particular characteristics, land in open space can serve one or more of several beneficial functions. Open space lands can provide flood control, community resilience, and habitats for diverse plant and wildlife species. Open space is valued for its aesthetics, natural resources, recreational opportunities, and even its economic contributions. Continued open space preservation is necessary in Mansfield not only to maintain the current character treasured by many residents, but also to protect farmland, drinking water supplies and habitat, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

Mansfield’s open space network consists of both *publicly owned* and *privately owned* lands. Examples of **publicly owned** land include Town conservation land and recreation

fields. Examples of **privately owned** lands include farmland and portions of large residential developments that are placed into a conservation restriction. The inventory presented in this Section of the OSRP will thus include publicly owned land, land held by nonprofit conservation-focused entities, and privately held properties that have a component of open space or recreation preservation, whether permanent or semi-permanent.

These open space properties can be *protected*, *unprotected* or somewhere in between. **Protected** properties are those which have been placed into a permanent state of preservation. There are several mechanisms by which permanent protection can be achieved for a piece of land. Permanent protection does not strip all uses from a particular property in every case. Agricultural land, for example, can be privately owned, but permanently protected for agricultural use through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program (more details on this program are included below). In addition to the Agricultural Preservation Restriction, private lands can also be permanently protected lands if the deed is restricted by a Conservation Restriction, Historic Restriction, or Wetlands Restriction. These categories of protection are explored further in the inventory below.

Parcels owned by the Town's Conservation Commission and/or obtained under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, section 8C, and committed to conservation purposes, have a special status, and are permanently protected under **Article 97** of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution. Article 97 protects certain lands acquired for natural resources purposes, meaning "conservation, development, and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air, and other natural resources." Furthermore, a 1973 opinion of the Attorney General stipulates that land acquired for these purposes cannot be converted to any other use without the following actions:

1. A unanimous vote of the local conservation commission that the land is surplus to its needs,
2. The Parks & Recreation Board must vote the same if it is parkland in question,
3. The matter must be taken up at Town Meeting or City Council and pass by a 2/3 vote,
4. The community must file an Environmental Notification Form with EOEEA's MEPA Unit, and
5. The matter must pass by a 2/3 vote of both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature.
6. Finally, if the property was either acquired or developed with grant assistance from EOEEA's Division of Conservation Services (i.e. Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, or Land and Water Conservation Fund), the converted land must be replaced with land of equal monetary value and recreational or conservation utility. While

conversions do occur, the process is purposefully onerous to protect these conservation and recreation lands in perpetuity.

Town owned park lands dedicated under MGL Chapter 45, Sections 3 or 14, are also protected under Article 97. Lands protected by Article 97 are often owned by the municipal conservation commission, recreation commission, water department, or by a state conservation agency (i.e., state EOEEA agencies). Other Town owned lands purchased for general municipal purposes, under the control of the Select Board, are afforded only temporary protection unless otherwise specified or provided for by legal agreement.

Properties may have **limited**, or temporary, protections dependent on their current use, which could change. School lands and cemeteries, for example, do not have any formal protections but their use as such (and unlikeliness that this will change) grant that land some level of protection from development. Another form of temporary protection is lands that are enrolled in Chapter 61 tax incentive programs, which offer a tax break to landowners who keep their land in forestry, agricultural or recreational use. Landowners may choose to withdraw from these programs however and the land loses that protection. More details on Chapter 61 programs are below.

It is important to note that some land that currently looks like open space, or that is experienced as open space by Mansfield community members may not, in fact, be permanently protected. These **unprotected** lands, valued for their open space qualities by the community at large, are vulnerable to development or change in use. Thus, some of the land in the inventory may already be protected open space dedicated to conservation or recreational use, while others are identified for future acquisition or other protection measures.

This section identifies and maps all protected and unprotected land of conservation and recreation interest. The inventory is divided into two subsections, the first on Private Lands and the second on Public and Nonprofit Lands. The Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map depicts all open space lands in Mansfield by level of protection, and includes lands temporarily preserved as Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties.

### **A. Private Parcels**

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Private lands are permanently protected lands if the deed is restricted by a **Conservation Restriction (CR)**, **Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)**, **Historic Restriction (HR)**, or **Wetlands Restriction (WR)**.

The APR program is a way for farmland to be protected in perpetuity from future development. The program pays farmers the difference between “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on

its agricultural viability. In Mansfield, there are approximately 122 acres of deed restricted land held in private ownership.

Additionally, private open space lands can fall under Chapter 61 designation, where property is assessed at a fraction of its market value for a fixed period of years, dependent on continuation of a designated use for the land, which restricts development. If the property is to be sold, the Town has a right of first refusal to purchase the land and potentially, depending upon the number of years it has been enrolled, the opportunity to recapture lost tax revenue. There are three types of Chapter 61 designations: Ch.61 is for lands dedicated to forestry use, Ch.61A is for agricultural/ horticultural use, and Ch.61B is for recreational use. All of the Town's existing farms (except for those which have permanent protection) operate under Ch.61A tax status. This strategy provides some support for its continued use but does not ensure any long-term land protection. In Mansfield, there are approximately 238 acres of Chapter 61 lands.

Lastly, there are 3 properties in Mansfield that are used for recreational purposes and held by private owners, with no protections. These properties account for approximately 133 acres of land in Mansfield.

See **Appendix A: Mansfield Land Inventory** for a full list of Private Parcels in Mansfield.

## **B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels**

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Public properties are all owned by the Town of Mansfield and are often managed by either the Conservation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the School Department, or the Water Department. There are approximately 1,695 acres of Town-owned public properties in Mansfield, with varying levels of protection.

There are also a few publicly owned, but deed restricted, properties in Mansfield. These properties account for approximately 263 acres in Mansfield.

Local land trusts and similar private nonprofit conservation organizations are considered public property as well. These properties are documented in the table below, with the vast majority owned by the Natural Resources Trust (NRT) of Mansfield. These properties amount to approximately 785 acres of land in Mansfield.

See **Appendix A: Mansfield Land Inventory** for a full list of Public and Nonprofit Parcels in Mansfield.

## **VI. COMMUNITY VISION**

### **A. Description of Process**

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In order to capture the community's vision and needs with regards to open space and recreation, the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) provided several

engagement opportunities throughout the planning process. Input was solicited both in person at several public events, as well as through an electronic survey advertised at in-person events, on social media, and on flyers posted the Town Hall, the Mansfield Public Library, and the Train Station.

An interactive in-person mapping activity was prepared to solicit feedback on existing open spaces and recreational facilities as well as additional needs. A map of Mansfield displaying existing open space and recreational parcels was provided with stickers for participants to place in areas of need on the map. The stickers represented eight different comment categories: new recreation amenity need, maintenance/beautification need, recreational programming need, pathway need – bicycle, pathway need – pedestrian, ADA access need, open space/resource conservation need, and cultural/historic resource need. Participants were instructed to place these stickers in locations on the map where that type of need or suggestion was desired and provide an explanation of the need. Participants were also invited to share general comments or Town-wide needs that did not have a specific location associated with them. Four identical maps were displayed at various public locations and events: one was presented on a table hosted by SRPEDD at the Mansfield Family Fun Night on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, from 6:00–9:00pm; A second and third identical map were displayed at the first public workshop in the Mansfield Public Safety Building on Monday, October 23rd, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 PM; and a fourth identical map was display at Mansfield 101 night, which was hosted at the Mansfield Public Library, on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, from 6:00-8:00pm, with posted instructions for visitors to participate in the activity.

To ensure that public participation in Plan development was widespread and available beyond attendance at in-person meetings, the committee also created an online survey that respondents could take at their convenience. Survey questions were designed to gauge the public’s satisfaction with the current state of conservation, open space, and recreation lands, facilities, programs and policies within the Town, as well as to identify areas for improvements.

The suggestions provided through all avenues of participation were synthesized in a public engagement report to compare themes across each, and the number of times various ideas arose were tracked in order to determine which improvements were most important to the community. By tracking repeat ideas, the Committee was able to prioritize the specific improvements and actions that were most in line with the community’s vision and goals for Mansfield.

## **B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals**

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The data gathering and public engagement process described above in VI. COMMUNITY VISION, section A. Description of Process, helped to solidify a community-based vision of an ideal open space and recreation system in Mansfield.

Overall, it was determined that Mansfield residents love the paved bike and pedestrian paths, as well as the hiking and walking trails found throughout town. Additionally, Mansfield residents want to preserve land that; protects drinking water supplies, provides open spaces for passive recreation, and protects existing forests and woodlands. Ideally, Mansfield residents want to preserve these lands by promoting the use of existing open spaces throughout town. With these community wants identified, the town can work toward the fulfillment of this vision.

## VII. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

### A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

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In order to preserve the quality of life in Mansfield, it is essential to pay special attention to the community's resource protection needs. As such, this section is intended to provide a guide for Mansfield's current and future conservation and recreation needs, based on the Town's priorities that were determined through a review of existing community planning documents, public meetings, the public survey results, and the community's input. Overall, it was determined that Mansfield residents are most concerned with preservation of land protecting drinking water supplies, lands for open spaces and passive recreation, and land protecting the existing forests and woodlands.

#### PRESERVE LANDS THAT PROTECT DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

The top priority for Mansfield residents when it comes to preservation needs was to protect land that provides drinking water supplies for the community, with over 90% of survey responses deeming it "very important". With increasing drought cycles and depleted aquifers, it is becoming more and more urgent to safeguard water supply systems. For the Town of Mansfield, that system is known as the Canoe River Aquifer.

Preserving land around the town's current and proposed future wellheads can protect the resilience of these resources, as well as conserving land buffering waterways to help maintain water quality, recharge ground water, and protect surrounding development from floods. The Town of Mansfield should continue to work with the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee to easily prioritize aquifer protection and ensure long-term quality of life benefits for the region.

#### PRESERVE LANDS THAT PROVIDE OPEN SPACES AND PASSIVE RECREATION

Feedback from Mansfield residents identified a need for the preservation of open spaces and passive recreation areas, with 80% of survey respondents identifying it as a top preservation need for the community. It was also found that while Mansfield has a number of open space areas, awareness of these amenities among the community is sometimes lacking, with several properties being identified in the survey results as a place the community was unaware of. Combining the communities desire to support the use of existing open space land, with promotion of the use of the towns lesser-known properties, can help to fulfill this need without further buildout in the community.

## PRESERVE LANDS THAT PROTECT EXISTING FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

Survey results and public meetings demonstrated that preserving land is essential to Mansfield residents, especially land that protects the existing Forests and Woodlands in the community, with over 80% of survey respondents agreeing it was a top preservation need in the town. Furthermore, several survey respondents noted that it is imperative to balance this preservation with the ongoing development of the community to ensure future resilience against climate change. One area in particular being the Great Woods Conservation Area, which accounts for over 400 acres of forestland owned by the town and is the largest conservation area in Mansfield. Additionally, there is the Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park) that accounts for approximately 280 acres, and the Canoe River Greenbelt, which accounts for approximately 215 acres. While all these lands are already designated as protected in perpetuity, expanding upon these areas, and others, to enhance wildlife habitat and corridors will provide beneficial to the community in the future.

## B. Summary of Community Needs

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### STATE SCORP

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), *Massachusetts Outdoor 2017*, is a five-year plan developed by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). The plan is required for state participation in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants programs and guides future outdoor recreation planning across the Commonwealth.

As determined through public input, the SCORP found that people participate in outdoor activities primarily for physical fitness, but also to be close to nature. However, despite having access to nearby facilities, the SCORP found that lack of time (55%) was the number one reason people gave for not using these facilities more often. SCORP participants also emphasized the need for more youth programs, with 88.2% stating that it was either somewhat or very important to have more programs for those aged 4 to 12 years, and 91.2% responded similarly regarding programs for teens.

The SCORP also revealed that water-based activities and trail-based recreation are the most popular recreational outlets for families in the region, with the types of projects that respondents would like to see funded in the future including trails, playgrounds, and water-based recreation such as swimming, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas. Survey data for the Mansfield OSRP was found to similar results, with a strong desire to have water-based recreation activities and expanded paved walking / biking paths. More information on the Mansfield OSRP survey data can be found in **Appendix D: Public Engagement – Surveys, Map Activity, and Results**.

Finally, it should also be noted that the SCORP called out the need to recognize and address the needs of underserved populations, such as citizens with disabilities, teens, and senior citizens when planning for and designing parks and conservation areas.

### *Needs of Special User Groups in Mansfield*

Mansfield's senior population participates in a number and a variety of special programs and provides a great deal of volunteer time to local causes and committees. Mansfield is similar to state and national trends in that its population is aging and remaining more active than in years past. Data supplied by the U.S. Census indicates that the percentage of Mansfield's population aged 60+ has increased by 11% since 2000. Furthermore, Mansfield's Median Age increased over 8 years, to 42.1, during this same period. These increases indicate an aging population that will likely need expanded access to accessible amenities and spaces throughout Town.

This senior population often relies on services provided by the Council on Aging and the Recreation Department. The Council on Aging works with municipal, state and non-profit organizations to provide community-based services including transportation, on-site and home-delivered meals, outreach services, health and wellness programs, education/art and social events and volunteering opportunities. Many people in this age group, both in survey responses and in community meetings, also felt the need for the Town to increase outdoor activities for seniors (walking, hiking, etc.). Moving forward, the Town has a plan to increase accessibility by widening walking paths and providing safe access to several existing trail systems.

Additionally, the Town has prepared a self-evaluation and transition plan for its recreational facilities as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure open spaces are accessible to those with disabilities in the community. These plans are carried out through a municipally appointed ADA Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for working to bring all municipal services, infrastructure, and buildings into compliance with the Act. The ADA Coordinator is not responsible for privately owned facilities.

The ADA Transition Plan, located in **Appendix E: ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan** of this document, contains an inventory of the public recreation facilities and conservation areas of the Town of Mansfield. The Transition Plan takes inventory of the improvements needed to bring an open space area and/or facility into ADA compliance. The Town has been attempting to address these needs as funding allows and has accomplished some of the necessary tasks. The most common need found among Open Space properties in Mansfield is designated and accessible parking spaces.

All future recreation facilities should be designed with the needs of citizens with disabilities in mind, in terms of site access, physical use and ability to view events and cultural/scenic landscapes.

### **C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use**

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There is a crucial need to provide ongoing management of both conservation and recreation areas in town. The goals set forth in this Open Space and Recreation Plan can easily be implemented in the beginning; however, ongoing maintenance can ensure long-term success of these goals. The Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) is in place to ensure the ongoing maintenance of parcels of open space land, recreation equipment, parking areas, trail signage and trail heads, and trash receptacles. The OSRC can also help the plan to evolve with Mansfield as the needs of the community changes over time.

Additionally, there was a lot of discussion within the survey responses from the community regarding the upkeep and promotion of existing Town-owned conservation areas. Many residents did not know of trail systems on some of the smaller parcel of open space land. The Town needs to have more focus on these parcels. The Open Space and Recreation Committee could organize clean-up days, nature walks, fundraisers, and even apply for appropriate state and local grants to help promote the use of these areas. Overall, improved community awareness will help to bring support for allocating further resources to the management and upgrading of these areas long-term.

## **VIII. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

As a result of the Open Space and Recreation Plan's inventory and analysis, public survey results, Committee deliberations, extensive review of the Master Plan, and public input received to date, the following goals and objectives have been developed as a basis for policy decisions moving forward. Specific strategies for achieving each are further outlined in section IX. TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN below.

**GOAL 1:** *Establish a robust maintenance plan and reasonable budget for the management and implementation of the Open Space portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.*

**Action 1:** Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.

**Action 1-A:** Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways / sidewalks / bike paths / parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail / tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.

**Action 1-B:** Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.

**Action 1-C:** Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.

**Action 2:** Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of Mansfield's Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.

**Action 3:** Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational maintenance.

**GOAL 2:** *Expand, diversify, and improve existing open spaces and recreational areas.*

**Action 1:** Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and / or maintain Open Spaces.

**Action 1-A:** Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restrictions, easements, etc.

**Action 1-B:** Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.

**Action 1-C:** Apply for grants to update existing playground equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.

**Action 2:** Communication to boards / Municipality.

**Action 2-A:** Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of key parcels as they become available.

**Action 2-B:** Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners.

**Action 2-C:** Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields / equipment, and playgrounds.

**Action 3:** Community improvement to amenities and public spaces.

**Action 3-A:** Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.

**Action 3-B:** Evaluate possible location(s) for an off-leash dog park.

**Action 3-C:** Create a new swimming and / or splash pad facility.

**Action 3-D:** Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement the Memorial Park Master Plan.

**Action 3-E:** Improve public bathroom facilities and access.

**Action 4:** Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Action 4-A:** Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.

**Action 4-B:** Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.

**Action 4-C:** Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.

**GOAL 3:** *Promote the use of trail systems within Open Spaces with use of social media, websites, wayfinding signs, and community outreach programs.*

**Action 1:** Expand the Town's recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.

**Action 1-A:** Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.

**Action 2:** Use GIS mapping to create accessible and accurate trail maps and to promote the use of trails.

**Action 3:** Install wayfinding and park entrance / trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.

**Action 4:** Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.

**GOAL 4:** *Develop and implement a comprehensive climate change resiliency program for the Town of Mansfield.*

**Action 1:** Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.

**Action 2:** Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through the FEMA Grant Program to include all of the Town's ongoing efforts of climate change preparedness planning.

**Action 3:** Continue to apply for grants, such as the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.

**Action 4:** Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on the town website.

**Action 5:** Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.

**GOAL 5:** *Preserve Mansfield's Natural Resources, wildlife habitats, and remaining agricultural lands.*

**Action 1:** Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.

**Action 2:** Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.

**Action 2-A:** Collaborate with surrounding communities on projects that share the same single source aquifer.

**Action 3:** Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.

**Action 3-A:** Increase public awareness and education of proper land use regarding drinking water.

**Action 4:** Continue to certify potential vernal pools on town-owned land to ensure their preservation.

## **IX. TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

The Ten-Year Action Plan creates a framework for proactive initiatives and efforts by the Town of Mansfield to ensure the needs, goals, objectives and desires of the residents are addressed. As shown throughout this plan, the Town of Mansfield has grown and there remain increasing demands on staff and increasing competition for funds.

The following Ten-Year Action Plan outlines how the five (5) identified goals, listed in priority order, will be executed and addressed, including responsible parties, sources of funding and a general timeline. It is hoped that this important guide brings clarity, meaning and direction to Mansfield's preservation and enhancement of existing and future recreation and open space resources.

Table 19. Mansfield's Ten-Year Action Plan

<b>Goal 1: Establish a robust maintenance plan and reasonable budget for the management and implementation of the Open Space portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.</b>					
<b>Action ID</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Implementation Timeline</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source(s)</b>
1	Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.	Conservation Department, Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
1-A	Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways / sidewalks / bike paths / parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail / tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.	Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Keep Mansfield Beautiful	Medium	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
1-B	Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.	Conservation Department, Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee	High	2026 - 2027	Municipal Budget
1-C	Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.	Conservation Department, Volunteers	High	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
2	Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of Mansfield's Open	Town Staff / Volunteers	Low	Ongoing	Municipal Budget

	Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.				
3	Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational maintenance.	Finance Committee, Conservation Department, Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget

**Goal 2: Expand, diversify, and improve existing open spaces and recreational areas.**

Action ID	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Priority	Implementation Timeline	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and / or maintain Open Spaces.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department	High	Ongoing	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant, MassTrails Grant, Municipal Budget
1-A	Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restrictions, easements, etc.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department	Medium	Ongoing	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant, Municipal Budget
1-B	Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Low	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
1-C	Apply for grants to update existing playground equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.	Parks & Recreation	Medium	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget

2	Communication to boards / Municipality.	All Town Staff	High	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
2-A	Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of key parcels as they become available.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
2-B	Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners.	Planning & Zoning	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
2-C	Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields / equipment, and playgrounds.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee	Medium	Ongoing	Capital Improvement Planning, Municipal Budget
3	Community improvement to amenities and public spaces.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department, Open Space & Recreation Committee	High	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
3-A	Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Medium	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
3-B	Evaluate possible location(s) for an off-leash dog park.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, Finance Committee, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Low	2025 - 2028	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget

3-C	Create a new swimming and / or splash pad facility.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, Finance Committee, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Low	2026 - 2027	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
3-D	Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement the Memorial Park Master Plan.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, Finance Committee, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Medium	2025 - 2026	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
3-E	Improve public bathroom facilities and access.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, DPW	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant, Municipal Budget
4	Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	Low	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
4-A	Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.	Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Public Works	Medium	2025 - 2026	MassTrails Grant, Municipal Budget

4-B	Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.	Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Mansfield Natural Resources Trust	Low	2025 - 2027	MassTrails Grant, Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant, Municipal Budget
4-C	Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.	Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	Low	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget

**Goal 3: Promote the use of trail systems within Open Spaces with use of social media, websites, wayfinding signs, and community outreach programs.**

Action ID	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Priority	Implementation Timeline	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	Expand the Town's recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.	Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Conservation Department, MIS Department	High	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
1-A	Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department	High	2025 - 2027	Municipal Budget

2	Use GIS mapping to create accessible and accurate trail maps and to promote the use of trails.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department, GIS Department	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
3	Install wayfinding and park entrance / trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation Department	Medium	Ongoing	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant, Municipal Budget
4	Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.	Conservation Department, Parks & Recreation, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Mansfield Natural Resources Trust, School Department, Volunteers	Medium	Ongoing	Volunteer Time

**Goal 4: Develop and implement a comprehensive climate change resiliency program for the Town of Mansfield.**

Action ID	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Priority	Implementation Timeline	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Open Space & Recreation Committee	Medium	Ongoing	SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant (SWIG), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funds, SNEP Network Technical Assistance, Municipal Budget
2	Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through the FEMA Grant Program to	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Open	Medium	2025	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

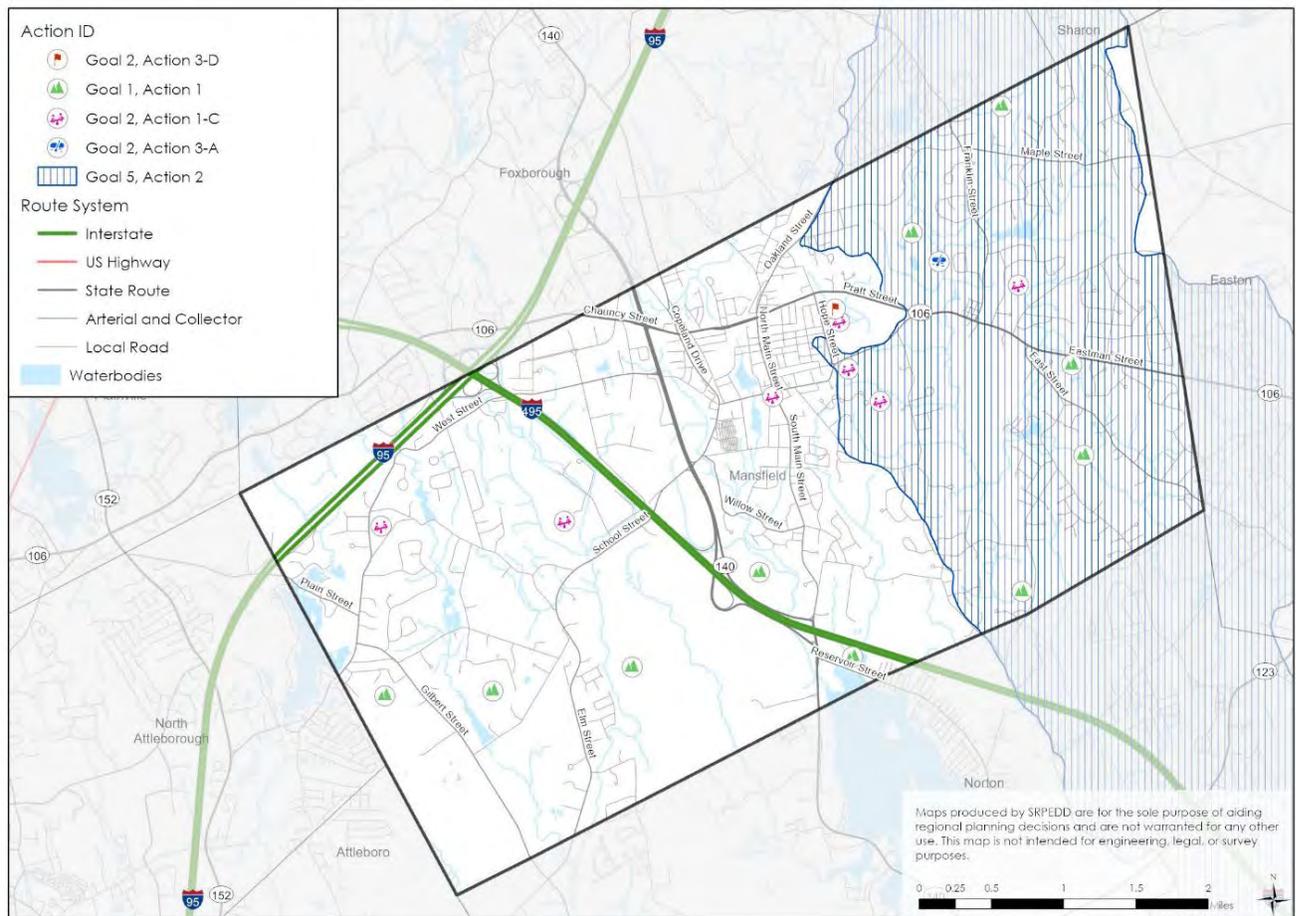
	include all of the Town's ongoing efforts of climate change preparedness planning.	Space & Recreation Committee			Funds, Technical Assistance Funds and services through SRPEDD or other consultant(s), Municipal Budget
3	Continue to apply for grants, such as the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department	Medium	2025	MVP Program (MVP 2.0, MVP Action Grant), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funds, Technical Assistance Funds and services through SRPEDD or other consultant(s), SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant (SWIG), Municipal Budget
4	Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on the town website.	Conservation Department	Low	2025 - 2028	Municipal Budget
5	Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.	Conservation Department	Low	Ongoing	Municipal Budget

**Goal 5: Preserve Mansfield's Natural Resources, wildlife habitats, and remaining agricultural lands.**

Action ID	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Priority	Implementation Timeline	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department	High	Ongoing	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant, Municipal Budget
2	Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Public Works	High	Ongoing	Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant, SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant (SWIG) Municipal Budget

2-A	Collaborate with surrounding communities on projects that share the same single source aquifer.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Public Works	High	Ongoing	Landscape Partnership Grant, Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant, Municipal Budget
3	Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.	Planning & Zoning, Conservation Department, Public Works, Selectboard	High	2026 - 2027	Municipal Budget
3-A	Increase public awareness and education of proper land use regarding drinking water.	Public Works, Conservation Department, Planning & Zoning, Selectboard	Medium	Ongoing	Municipal Budget
4	Continue to certify potential vernal pools on town-owned land to ensure their preservation.	Conservation Department	Medium	2025	Municipal Budget, Volunteer Time

Map 24. Mansfield Open Space Action Plan



## X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The draft Town of Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2025 - 2035 was released for public comment from **DATE** to **DATE**. During that time, the plan was distributed to Town departments and boards, and letters of support were received from **DEPARTMENTS**. These letters of support can be found in **Appendix F: Letters of Support**. This final draft submitted for certification reflects all comments and feedback received.

## APPENDICES

**Appendix A:** Mansfield Land Inventory

**Appendix B:** List of National and State Historic Registers in Mansfield

**Appendix C:** Climate Change Regional Overview

**Appendix D:** Public Engagement – Surveys, Map Activity, and Results

**Appendix E:** ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan

**Appendix F:** Letters of Support

Town of Mansfield  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2025 - 2035

## **Appendix A:**

### Mansfield Land Inventory

Town Owned

Site Name	Location	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
1401-1403 East St	Off East Street (near Easton town line)	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	wet lot: no recreation potential		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	0.83
Franklin Street	Off Franklin Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	2.78
35 Oxford Road	Off Oxford Road	Town of Mansfield Water Department	water protection land	Fair	fully built out		No	In Perpetuity	PBD	1.79
Maple Street Rear	Off Hartford Road	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	3.83
Traffic Island	Intersection of North Main and West Church Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Common Space	Fair	fully built out		Yes	Limited	B1	0.06
Village Rd Rear	Off Village Road	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	vacant, open space	Fair	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	0.70
Reservoir Street	Off Reservoir Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	wet lot: no recreation potential		Yes	In Perpetuity	I1	18.25
Albertine Well	Off West Street	Town of Mansfield Water Department	water protection land	Fair	passive recreation		No	In Perpetuity	R1	30.56
Ash Well Site	Off Gilbert Street	Town of Mansfield Water Department	water protection land	Fair	passive recreation		No	In Perpetuity	R1	47.47
Autumn Park Conservation Area	Off Shea Circle	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	14.88
Canoe River Greenbelt	Off Mill and East Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1, R2, B3	214.77
Canoe River Wilderness Area	Off Bird Road	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Vacant, open Space	Fair	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	80.78
Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park)	Off East and Maple Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation, Trails, Canoeing	Excellent	Existing Trails; passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1, R2, I2	279.54
East Common	Off East, Mill, and Cherry Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Recreation	Excellent	Common Green Space		Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	0.64

Town Owned

Site Name	Location	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Essex Street Conservation Area	Off Essex Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Community Garden	Excellent	Agriculture: passive recreation	State Self-help	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	21.94
	Off Pine Needle Lane	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	forested, open space		Landlock: no additional usage	Conservation	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	1.41
Fulton Pond Park	Off Rumford Avenue and West Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Fishing, Picnicking	Excellent	Community Space: passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R3	13.09
Great Woods Conservation Area	Off Oak Street and Route 495	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation, Trails	Excellent	Existing Trails; passive recreation	State Self-help	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	402.99
Kingman Pond	Off West Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Fishing	Excellent	Kayak: canoing: passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R2, R3	3.68
Magna Vista Recreation Area	Off Lawndale Road	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Recreation	Good	future recreation		Yes	Limited	R1	14.59
Mansfield High School	Off East Street	Town of Mansfield School Department	Schools	Excellent	Atheletic fields:fully built out		Limited	Limited	R2	21.51
Mansfield Schools	Off East Street	Town of Mansfield School Department	Schools	Excellent	Atheletic fields:fully built out		Limited	Limited	R1	37.03
Marie Streese Conservation Area	Off Ware Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation, Trails	Excellent	Existing Trails; passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	54.62

Town Owned

Site Name	Location	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Memorial Park	Off Hope Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Fully built out recreation area, including: football field, soccer field, baseball / softball field, multipurpose field, sand volleyball court, multi-age playground area, skate park, six tennis courts, three basketball courts, and picnic spaces and grills.	Excellent	recreation/future built out of fields and playground		Yes	Limited	R2	37.30
Mill Pond Viewing Area	Off Franklin and East Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Scenic Viewing Area, Canoe Launch	Excellent	passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	10.95
North Common	Off North Main Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Common Space	Excellent	Common Green Space:fully built out		Yes	In Perpetuity	B1	0.77
Old Town Cemetery	Off West and Union Street	Cemetery	Cemetery	Good	no recreational use		Yes	Limited	R3	2.48
Pine Street Recreational Area	Off Pine Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Decommissioned	Poor	recreation/potential future playground		Yes	Limited	R1	6.05
Plymouth Road Recreation Area	Off Plymouth Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Baseball Field, Tennis Court, Tot Lot, Trails	Excellent	recreation/ potential additional athelic fields		Yes	Limited	PBD	57.66
Roy Road Conservation Area	Off Eastman Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	4.80
South Common	Off South Main and West Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Common Space	Excellent	Common Green Space/fully build out		Yes	In Perpetuity	R3	1.20
Suzanne Estate Conservation Area	Off Eastman Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Fair	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	18.76
Sweet-Kalnins Conservation Area	Off Otis Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Baseball Fields, Trails	Good	Existing Trails; passive recreation	State Self-help	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1, I2	81.51
Taylor's Hill	Off South Main and Willow Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Trails	Excellent	Existing Trails; passive recreation	State Self-help	Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	2.71
Wading River/Forest Park Area	Off York and Williams Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested	Good	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	6.79

Town Owned

Site Name	Location	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Wayside Drive Conservation Area	Off Old Farm Road	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	29.02
West Common	Off Otis Street	Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department	Common Space	Good	Common Green Space: fully built out		Yes	Limited	B3	0.05
West Street Conservation Area -258 West St Rear	Off West Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	6.02
Witch Pond Swamp Water Supply Land	Off Interstate 95	Town of Mansfield Water Department	Conservation, Water Supply Protection	None, Water Supply Land	BioCORE habitat Atlantic Cedar Swamp; no recreation potential		No	In Perpetuity	R1	129.47
Zecher Lot	Off Otis Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	1.34
Essex Street Rear	Off Mill Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Unknown	In Perpetuity	R1	16.38
Essex Street	Off Mill Street	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, open space	Good	potential passive recreation		Unknown	In Perpetuity	R1	13.29

## Public Owned (Non-Town)

Site Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Attleboro Water Supply	Off Balcom Street	City of Attleboro	Conservation, Water Supply Protection	None, Water Supply Land		Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	64.29
Interstate 95 Rest Area	Off Interstate 95, North Attleboro Town Line	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Passive Recreation	Picnicking		Yes	None	R1	20.76
Norton Reservoir	Off South Main and Reservoir Street	Town of Norton	Conservation, Water Supply Protection	None, Water Supply Land	State Self-help	Yes	In Perpetuity	RD	18.02
Witch Pond Swamp Water Supply Land	Foxborough Town Line	Town of Foxborough	Conservation, Water Supply Protection	None, Water Supply Land		Unknown	In Perpetuity	R1	27.50

Non-Profit

Site Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Oak St Property	Off Oak Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Forested, open space	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	5.87
Branch Street Conservation Area (Dorothy L. York Conservation Area)	Off Branch Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	43.44
Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park)	Off Ridgeview Lane	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	6.79
Great Woods - South	Off Oak Street and Route 495	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Conservation, Trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	141.45
Hall Street Conservation Area	Off Hall Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Conservation, Trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	4.20
Mill Farm Estates Conservation Area	Off Millfarm Drive	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Conservation, Trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R1	23.34
Plymouth Street Conservation Area	Off Plymouth and School Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Athletic fields, Conservation Area	Yes	In Perpetuity	PBD	150.12
Unnamed Parcel	Off Oakland Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Forested, open space	Unknown	In Perpetuity	R2	0.26
Unnamed Parcel	Off Charles Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Forested, open space	Unknown	In Perpetuity	R2	7.00
Wading River Watershed	Off West Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Forested, open space	Unknown	In Perpetuity	R1	36.99
WWII Veterans Memorial Trail (Central Trail System)	Off Fruit Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Conservation, trails	Yes	In Perpetuity	R2	56.40
Gilbert Street Rear	Off Gilbert Street	Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield	Forested, open space	No	In Perpetuity	R1	30.60

Privately Owned

Site Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Recreation Potential	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Acres
Mansfield Fish And Game Club	Off East Street	Mansfield Fish And Game Club	Active Recreation, Hunting	Fully built out		Limited	None	R1	2.86
Spring Brook Cemetery	Off School and Spring Street	Spring Brook Cemetery Association	Cemetery	None		Unknown	Limited	R2	22.52
Tri-County Beagle Club	Off Sean Drive	Tri-County Beagle Club	Dog shows	None		Limited	None	R1	107.98

## Ch Lands

Owner's Name	Location	Protection	Current Use	Public Access	Zoning
CANOE RIVER FARMS LLC	224 FRANKLIN ST	61B	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
CLARK SHORES CONDOMINIUM	1783 WEST ST	61	residential	No	R1
FLINT FAMILY REALTY TRUST	EAST ST	61A	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
FLINT MARJORIE E TRS	ESSEX ST	61A	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
KEACH JOHN A JR & ARLENE	STEARNS AVE REAR	61	Town is acquiring	No	R1
MJK FARM LLC	GILBERT ST REAR	61A	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
SOUTHARD JOHN B	OLD ELM ST	61B	Agriculture/Forestry	No	PBD
THE WESTHAVER TRUST	60 WINTER ST	61A	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
TRI COUNTY BEAGLE CLUB	OAK ST REAR	61	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
TRI COUNTY BEAGLE CLUB	SCHOOL ST REAR	61	Agriculture/Forestry	No	R1
ZAREK JOAN M	GILBERT ST	61	removal from Ch. 61	No	R1

## Deed Restrictions

Site Name	Location	Owner	Management Agency / Restriction Holder	Current Use	Type of grant used to purchase and/or renovate the property	Public Access	Zoning	Acres
Baron Estates CR	Off Nicole Road	NB Realty Trust and Nye Realty Trust and Jess Development LLC	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Unknown	R1	17.82
Baron Estates CR	Sliver Parcel on Easton Town Line, Off Nicole Road	NB Realty Trust and Nye Realty Trust	Town of Mansfield Airport Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Unknown	R1	0.19
Baron Estates CR	Sliver Parcel on Easton Town Line, Off Nicole Road	NB Realty Trust and Nye Realty Trust	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Unknown	R1	22.42
Canoe River Greenbelt	Off Mill and East Street	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Yes	R1	47.05
Fruit Street CR	Off Fruit Street	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space		Yes	R2	2.82
Gilbert Park CR	Off Gilbert Street	Paglia Aldo Tr of Massapoag RT	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space		No	R1	60.21
Great Woods Conservation Area	Off Oak Street and Route 495	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation Area, trails		Yes	I1	1.39
Great Woods Conservation Area	Off Oak Street and Route 496	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation Area, trails		Yes	R1	95.13
Great Woods Conservation Area	Off Oak Street and Route 497	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Conservation Area, trails		Yes	R1	13.13
Noreen Road CR	Off Noreen Road	Folkman and Zola Builders Inc	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Unknown	R1	12.93
Taylor's Hill	Off South Main and Willow Street	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space	State Self-help	Yes	R2	85.79
Taylor's Hill	Off South Main and Willow Street	Town of Mansfield	Town of Mansfield Conservation Commission	Forested, Open Space		Yes	R2	17.89
Witch Pond Estates CR	Sliver Parcel on Foxborough Town Line	Zoppo Thomas B	Town of Mansfield Water Department	Water Protection Area		No	R1	8.22

Town of Mansfield  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
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## **Appendix B:**

List of National and State Historic Registers in  
Mansfield

## National Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Reference #	Property Name	Street & Number	Restricted Address	Listed Date	Area of Significance	Category of Property	Level of Significance - Local	Level of Significance - State	Level of Significance - National	Level of Significance - International	Level of Significance - Not Indicated	Other Names	External Link	Orig Ref#
98000096	Fisher-Richardson House	354 Willow St.	FALSE	2/11/1998	ARCHITECTURE; CONSERVATION; EDUCATION; SOCIAL HISTORY	BUILDING	True	False	False	False	False		<a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794496">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794496</a>	98000096
16000156	Lowney Chocolate Factory	150 Oakland St.	FALSE	4/12/2016	ARCHITECTURE; INDUSTRY	BUILDING	True	False	False	False	False			16000156
95000681	Soldiers' Memorial Library	Jct. of Park Row and Union St.	FALSE	6/2/1995	ARCHITECTURE; COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; SOCIAL HISTORY	BUILDING	True	False	False	False	False	Memorial Library Building	<a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794484">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794484</a>	95000681
07001240	Spring Brook Cemetery	Spring St	FALSE	12/6/2007	ART; COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; SOCIAL HISTORY	SITE	True	False	False	False	False		<a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794556">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63794556</a>	07001240

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.A	East Mansfield Village		Mansfield		
MNF.B	North Reservoir Prehistoric District		Mansfield		NRDOE;
MNF.C	Spring Brook Cemetery		Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.D	Lowney Chocolate Factory		Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.910	School Street Site		Mansfield		NRDOE;
MNF.170	Mystic Club	Balcom St	Mansfield	C 1902	
MNF.30	Berry, John School	40 Balcom St	Mansfield	1915	
MNF.31	Packard, Martin House	180 Balcom St	Mansfield	R 1860	
MNF.169	Shaw, Marshall House	253 Branch St	Mansfield	C 1797	
MNF.26	Goward, Israel House	480 Branch St	Mansfield	1772	
MNF.168	Lane, Margaret House	38 Central St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.167	Cobb, Frank M. House	50 Central St	Mansfield	C 1894	
MNF.166	Babbitt, George - Cox, Alfred T. House	57 Central St	Mansfield	C 1870	
MNF.165	Codding, S. Chester House	71 Central St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.164	Greene, James House	90-92 Central St	Mansfield	C 1840	
MNF.163	Shepard, George - Grant, Ira L. House	108 Central St	Mansfield	C 1843	
MNF.162	Grover, Simeon House	176 Central St	Mansfield	C 1789	
MNF.192	Skinner, Charles - Billings, Willard House	Chauncy St	Mansfield	C 1810	
MNF.194	Cleveland Twist Drill Bay State Plant	75 Chauncy St	Mansfield	R 1905	
MNF.92	Paine, Nelson House	200 Chauncy St	Mansfield	1810	
MNF.85	Davis, William G. House	3 Cherry St	Mansfield	C 1800	
MNF.161	Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church	22 Church St	Mansfield	1914	
MNF.160	Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church Rectory	23 Church St	Mansfield	C 1895	
MNF.915	Spring Brook Cemetery - Coral Street Gate	Coral St	Mansfield	1964	NRIND;
MNF.159	Bessom, Betsey Cobb House	16 Coral St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.158	Bessom, Betsey Cobb House	18 Coral St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.157	Boston and Providence Railroad Freight Shed	County St	Mansfield	C 1883	
MNF.190	Mansfield Railroad Station	Crocker St	Mansfield	C 1910	
MNF.156	Spaulding School	58 Crocker St	Mansfield	C 1905	
MNF.155		24 Dean St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.154	Green, Roland Elemenatary School	31 Dean St	Mansfield	1924	
MNF.153	Perry, Dr. Frederick House	81 Dean St	Mansfield	C 1880	
MNF.800	Leonard, Ephraim Family Burial Ground	East St	Mansfield	1740	
MNF.10	Lovell, Samuel Crocker House	23 East St	Mansfield	1894	
MNF.8	Billings, Dr. Benjamin House	31 East St	Mansfield	1775	
MNF.28	Pratt, Amasa House	450 East St	Mansfield	1830	
MNF.84	Newland, Jacob House	575 East St	Mansfield	1762	
MNF.73	Keith, A. House	710 East St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.29	Clap, Maj. Elkanah House	754 East St	Mansfield	1770	

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.83	Flint, Benjamin K. House	801 East St	Mansfield	1870	
MNF.77	Burt, Frederick W. House	890 East St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.74	Snow, N. House	928 East St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.75	Burt, Frederick A. House	962 East St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.24	Day, Capt. Charles House	974 East St	Mansfield	1802	
MNF.82	East Mansfield Methodist Church	1001 East St	Mansfield	1842	
MNF.76	East Mansfield Methodist Church Parsonage	1012 East St	Mansfield	C 1842	
MNF.152		25 Eddy St	Mansfield	C 1914	
MNF.911	Elm Street Bridge over Amtrak	Elm St	Mansfield	1937	
MNF.32	Paul, Enoch House	131 Elm St	Mansfield	R 1855	
MNF.33	Skinner, Thomas House	517 Elm St	Mansfield	R 1750	
MNF.34	Grover, C. House	666 Elm St	Mansfield		
MNF.151	Wilbur, D. House	175 Essex St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.9	Chilson Iron Foundry	Foundry St	Mansfield	1855	
MNF.150	White, Hiram House	240 Franklin St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.149	White, Simeon House	263 Franklin St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.148	Dunham, William House	334 Franklin St	Mansfield	C 1784	
MNF.147	Fuller House	369 Franklin St	Mansfield	C 1871	
MNF.801	Mansfield Furnace Cemetery	440 Franklin St	Mansfield		
MNF.146	Sweeting - Copeland - Fuller House	440 Franklin St	Mansfield	C 1766	
MNF.145	White, Caroline House	200 Fruit St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.144	Dean, Darwin House	255 Fruit St	Mansfield	C 1825	
MNF.143	Wood, William House	358 Fruit St	Mansfield	C 1887	
MNF.142	Lovell House	432 Fruit St	Mansfield	C 1790	
MNF.72	Fuller, Jonathan House	986 Fuller St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.141		15 Fulton St	Mansfield	C 1896	
MNF.140	Fulton and Morin Knife Factory Boarding House	27 Fulton St	Mansfield	C 1844	
MNF.70	George, Thomas M. House	48 George St	Mansfield	1858	
MNF.906	Old Colony Railroad Bridge #119	Gilbert St	Mansfield	1892	
MNF.35	Balcom, Alonzo House	100 Gilbert St	Mansfield	C 1860	
MNF.17	Hodges, Elijah House	150 Gilbert St	Mansfield	R 1750	
MNF.36	Sweet, Otis Jr. House	270 Gilbert St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.22	Sweet, Benjamin House	330 Gilbert St	Mansfield	1811	
MNF.38	Pitman, James House	380 Gilbert St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.139	Hall, Charles - Elkanah House	50 Hall St	Mansfield	R 1850	
MNF.4	White, Nicholas III House	87 Hall St	Mansfield	R 1765	
MNF.903	High Street Bridge over Rumford River	High St	Mansfield	1932	
MNF.138	Babcock Shoe Shop	147 High St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.137		23 Horace St	Mansfield	C 1875	

Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.39	Williams, John House	5 Jewell St	Mansfield	C 1788	
MNF.40	Richardson, Eben House	97 Jewell St	Mansfield	C 1797	
MNF.136	Fisher, Daniel Jr. House	Judy's Ln	Mansfield	C 1820	
MNF.135	Rogers, Joanna E. House	3 Linden St	Mansfield	C 1897	
MNF.134	Mansfield Water Pumping Station	Maple St	Mansfield	1888	
MNF.133	Snow, J. C. House	7 Mill St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.132		21 Mill St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.131	Quigle, Elias House	29 Mill St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.130		44 Mill St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.129	Hartwell School	71 Mill St	Mansfield	1881	
MNF.12	Lovell's Hall	4 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1870	
MNF.78	Robinson, W. and W. L. Store	5 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1895	
MNF.128	Mansfield Baptist Church	50 North Main St	Mansfield	1838	
MNF.127	Harden, David E. House	55 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.95	Allen, Dr. William G. House	70 North Main St	Mansfield	1869	
MNF.191	U. S. Post Office - Mansfield Main Branch	140 North Main St	Mansfield	1937	
MNF.80		179 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1855	
MNF.71	Stearns, W. L. Store	262 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1871	
MNF.79	Mansfield Fire Station	291 North Main St	Mansfield	1930	
MNF.126	Macomber House	536 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1880	
MNF.125	Dunham, W. D. House	647 North Main St	Mansfield	C 1860	
MNF.802	Happy Hollow Cemetery	Oak St	Mansfield	1776	
MNF.124	Mansfield District #8 Schoolhouse	44 Oak St	Mansfield	C 1855	
MNF.41	Hodges, John House	49 Oak St	Mansfield	C 1780	
MNF.123	Shields, Patrick House	71 Oakland St	Mansfield	1885	
MNF.122	Shields, Caroline and Helen E. House	91 Oakland St	Mansfield		
MNF.121	Jackson, Lawrence House	97 Oakland St	Mansfield	C 1895	
MNF.2	O'Rourke, Patrick House	104 Oakland St	Mansfield	1846	
MNF.120	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory - Building 1	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1903	NRDIS;
MNF.197	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory - Building 2	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1910	NRDIS;
MNF.198	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory - Building 3	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1942	NRDIS;
MNF.199	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory - Building 4	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1983	NRDIS;
MNF.200	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory - Building 5	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1987	NRDIS;
MNF.201	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory Pump House	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	1995	NRDIS;
MNF.934	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory Reservoir	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	C 1975	NRDIS;
MNF.202	Lowney, Walter M. Chocolate Factory Sewage Test Hs	150 Oakland St	Mansfield	C 1970	NRDIS;
MNF.119	Kingman, Henry W. House	477 Oakland St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.45	Harden, Amasa House	15 Old Elm St	Mansfield	C 1835	
MNF.118	Grover, Jacob House	55 Old Elm St	Mansfield	C 1800	

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.46	Harden, Alfred House	95 Old Elm St	Mansfield	1835	
MNF.47	Grover, Hosea House	177 Old Elm St	Mansfield	1803	
MNF.48		191-193 Old Elm St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.117	Grover, Ephraim Jr. House	223 Old Elm St	Mansfield	C 1750	
MNF.19	Harding House	400 Old School St	Mansfield	C 1795	
MNF.116	West Mansfield First Christian Church	11 Otis St	Mansfield	C 1921	
MNF.42	Sweet, Benjamin F. House	263 Otis St	Mansfield	C 1872	
MNF.43	Richardson Shuttle Irons Shop	330 Otis St	Mansfield	1923	
MNF.44	Sweet, Henry E. House	355 Otis St	Mansfield	1862	
MNF.115	Mansfield High School	Park Row	Mansfield	C 1911	
MNF.1	Soldiers' Memorial Library Building	Park Row	Mansfield	C 1901	NRIND;
MNF.114	Hallett, Capt. Charles House	51 Park St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.907	Route 140 Bridge over Rumford River	Rt 140	Mansfield	1928	
MNF.7	Card, Simon W. Mill	Rumford Ave	Mansfield	1900	
MNF.86	Copeland, Jennie House	53 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1906	
MNF.113		69 Rumford Ave	Mansfield		
MNF.112	Dinsmore, Otis F. House	79 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	1890	
MNF.87	Fox, Thomas J. House	80 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1888	
MNF.111	Paine, Edward - Harrington, Lewis House	86 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.88	Mansfield Universalist Church	96 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1889	
MNF.89	Paine, Jahlin House	102 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1890	
MNF.90	Bragg, George House	111 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.91	Paine, Frederick House	122 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	1871	
MNF.110	Vernon, Joseph I. House	141 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1885	
MNF.109	Cobb, Stella House	151 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1910	
MNF.108	Smith, Jane M. House	157 Rumford Ave	Mansfield	C 1887	
MNF.905	Boston and Providence Railroad Bridge #25.09	Rumford River	Mansfield	1954	
MNF.15	Mackenzie and Winslow Grain Store	1 Samoset Ave	Mansfield	C 1918	
MNF.908	School Street Bridge over PC Railroad	School St	Mansfield	1936	
MNF.107	Sheperd, Capt. Schuyler House	229 School St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.49	Paine, Rufus Jinks House	243 School St	Mansfield	C 1878	
MNF.106	Bailey, George P. House	279 School St	Mansfield	C 1890	
MNF.105	Stearns - White House	280 School St	Mansfield	R 1750	
MNF.14	Skinner, Apollos House	430 School St	Mansfield	C 1803	
MNF.13	Glory Farm, Old	440 School St	Mansfield	C 1736	
MNF.901	Doughboy World War I Monument	5 South Main St	Mansfield	1937	
MNF.104		18-22 South Main St	Mansfield	C 1879	
MNF.11	Mansfield Temperance Hall	36 South Main St	Mansfield	1853	
MNF.94		39 South Main St	Mansfield	C 1895	

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.21	Allen, Micah House	395 South Main St	Mansfield	C 1790	
MNF.23	Allen, Micah Inn	396 South Main St	Mansfield	1800	
MNF.103	Hall, Herman House	600 South Main St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.102	Parker, Betsy House	605 South Main St	Mansfield	C 1851	
MNF.50	Brintnell, Samuel House	91 South St	Mansfield	C 1745	
MNF.803	Spring Brook Cemetery	Spring St	Mansfield	C 1790	NRIND;
MNF.916	Spring Brook Cemetery - Allen Mausoleum	Spring St	Mansfield	C 1912	NRIND;
MNF.919	Spring Brook Cemetery - Allen, Samuel Marker	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.928	Spring Brook Cemetery - Booth, Charles Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.929	Spring Brook Cemetery - Card Family Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.5	Spring Brook Cemetery - Card Memorial Chapel	Spring St	Mansfield	1898	NRIND;
MNF.924	Spring Brook Cemetery - Chilson, Gardner Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.930	Spring Brook Cemetery - Cobb, Anson Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.918	Spring Brook Cemetery - Dean Family Marker	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.931	Spring Brook Cemetery - Frost, Charles Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.917	Spring Brook Cemetery - Granite Sign	Spring St	Mansfield	1998	NRIND;
MNF.925	Spring Brook Cemetery - Harding, David Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.926	Spring Brook Cemetery - Hunnewell, Wm. Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.927	Spring Brook Cemetery - King, Andrew Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.933	Spring Brook Cemetery - Manuel Markers	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.921	Spring Brook Cemetery - Mowry, George Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.923	Spring Brook Cemetery - Rogers, John Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.920	Spring Brook Cemetery - Tolman, Betsy Marker	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.932	Spring Brook Cemetery - Unknown Soldiers Monument	Spring St	Mansfield	1913	NRIND;
MNF.922	Spring Brook Cemetery - Wilcox, George Monument	Spring St	Mansfield		NRIND;
MNF.913	Spring Brook Cemetery East Entrance and Gate	Spring St	Mansfield	C 1860	NRIND;
MNF.196	Spring Brook Cemetery Maintenance Garage - Office	Spring St	Mansfield	1988	NRIND;
MNF.195	Spring Brook Cemetery Receiving Vault	Spring St	Mansfield	1889	NRIND;
MNF.914	Spring Brook Cemetery Stone Wall	Spring St	Mansfield	C 1860	NRIND;
MNF.912	Spring Brook Cemetery West Entrance	Spring St	Mansfield	C 1860	NRIND;
MNF.101	Holmes, Rufus T. House	24 Spring St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.100		46 Spring St	Mansfield	1804	
MNF.99	Mansfield Cotton Manufacturing Company Worker Housing	56 Spring St	Mansfield	1811	
MNF.193	Kingman and Hodges Factory	68 Spring St	Mansfield	1896	
MNF.54	Kingman and Hodges Jewelry Factory	68 Spring St	Mansfield	1870	
MNF.55	Shepard, Seth C. House	207 Spring St	Mansfield		
MNF.27	Mud House	82 Stearns Ave	Mansfield	1855	
MNF.98	Stearns, Isaac House	98 Stearns Ave	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.18	Spaulding, Dolliver House	10 Thomas St	Mansfield	1880	

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.97	Billings Building	18 Thomas St	Mansfield	1921	
MNF.51	Mansfield House	23 Thomas St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.96	Grover, David B. House	31 Tremont St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.52	Skinner House	143 Tremont St	Mansfield	C 1801	
MNF.53	Mansfield District #6 Schoolhouse	151 Tremont St	Mansfield	1852	
MNF.16	Knap, Maj. Moses House	197 Tremont St	Mansfield	1763	
MNF.93		53-55 Union St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.189		53-55 Union St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.188	Cobb, Justin L. House	54 Union St	Mansfield	C 1898	
MNF.81	Sherman, Elbridge House	100 Union St	Mansfield	C 1900	
MNF.187	LeBarron, Phineas House	105 Union St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.186		110 Union St	Mansfield	C 1875	
MNF.185	Evans, Frank J. House	126 Union St	Mansfield	C 1885	
MNF.904	Boston and Providence Railroad Bridge #28.43	Wading River	Mansfield	C 1835	
MNF.25	Copeland, Moses House	2 Ware St	Mansfield	C 1775	
MNF.184	Belcher, Robert House	750 Ware St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.183	White, John House	776 Ware St	Mansfield	C 1800	
MNF.902	West Church Street Bridge over Rumford River	West Church St	Mansfield	C 1920	
MNF.182	Orthodox Congregational Church	17 West St	Mansfield	1838	
MNF.6	Thunder Castle	31 West St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.56	MacMoran, Robert House	37 West St	Mansfield	1851	
MNF.181	Perry, Dr. William F House	78 West St	Mansfield	C 1858	
MNF.57	Church of the New Jerusalem	98-100 West St	Mansfield	1871	
MNF.58	Gilbert, David House	131 West St	Mansfield	1818	
MNF.59	Briggs, Alson House	136 West St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.60	Widow Paine House	331 West St	Mansfield	1765	
MNF.20	White, Matthew House	971 West St	Mansfield	1710	
MNF.61	Grover, George House	1101 West St	Mansfield		
MNF.62		1381 West St	Mansfield		
MNF.63		1551 West St	Mansfield		
MNF.64	Wetherell, Benjamin House	1650 West St	Mansfield	C 1805	
MNF.65	Skinner, Joseph House	1766 West St	Mansfield		
MNF.66	Briggs, Solomon House	1818 West St	Mansfield	C 1872	
MNF.909	Williams Street Bridge over Wading River	Williams St	Mansfield	1930	
MNF.67	Grover, Thomas House	45 Williams St	Mansfield	R 1765	
MNF.68	Sawyer, Benjamin F. House	76 Williams St	Mansfield	C 1870	
MNF.69	Williams, Rufus House	340 Williams St	Mansfield	R 1840	
MNF.900	Cobbler's Corner Boundary Marker	Willow St	Mansfield	1640	
MNF.180	White, William House	52 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1854	

## Massachusetts Register of Historic Places - Mansfield, Massachusetts

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
MNF.179	Farrington, David R. House	92 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1887	
MNF.178	Skinner House	106 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1871	
MNF.177	Williams House	117 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1854	
MNF.176	Cobb, Terrill, House	216 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1820	
MNF.175	Cobb, James W. House	242 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1868	
MNF.174	Harris, J. House	269 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1831	
MNF.173		285 Willow St	Mansfield	C 1850	
MNF.3	Fisher - Richardson House	354 Willow St	Mansfield	1743	NRIND; PR;
MNF.172	Cobb, Salmon House	83 Winter St	Mansfield	C 1797	
MNF.171	Austin, George M. House	155 Winter St	Mansfield		

Town of Mansfield  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2025 - 2035

## **Appendix C:**

### Climate Change Regional Overview

# Planning for Climate Change in Mansfield, Massachusetts

## Introduction

Our modern human civilization developed during a time of relative stability in earth's geological history. This stability enabled us to design buildings, communities, infrastructure – all the cornerstones of modern life – with confidence that in planning these structures, we knew what to expect for the course of their lifetimes. The ability to draw on prior conditions to inform our predictions for what we can expect the future to hold is referred to as “stationarity.” For example, engineers could design a road to withstand a weather event called a “hundred-year storm,” which represented the intense weather conditions that would be expected to occur just once in a one-hundred-year period. Stationarity allowed us to prepare for the future with the knowledge of prior conditions.

According to past trends, Mansfield is considered to have a temperate humid continental climate. The Town's average annual temperature is 31.6 degrees *Fahrenheit* in the winter and 69.5 degrees *Fahrenheit* in the summer. Temperatures and weather are moderated by the Town's proximity to the coast and the Atlantic Gulf Stream. The growing season – the number of days between the last killing frost in the spring (early April) and the first killing frost in late summer or fall (mid-October) – has a historical average range of 160 to 180 days. Mansfield's average annual precipitation is, historically, 44.1 inches.

Climate change, however, is shifting what is typical of our region's temperature and precipitation beyond the boundaries of this predictability we have grown to expect. Presently occurring climate shifts and the anticipated new conditions toward which we are moving with additional greenhouse gas emissions will continue to move the needle, representing a paradigm shift into ‘non-stationarity;’ a condition in which we can no longer rely on historical records to precisely predict future outcomes. We are planning for our communities today against a future that is a moving target. What was previously classified as the 100-year storm event may become a more likely and frequent occurrence; it may become the twenty- or ten-year storm event. Everything from emergency response plans, to siting community facilities, to designing roadways to determining flood insurance rates may have to continually evolve on much quicker timelines going forward in this new reality.

## Climate Change Overview

Climate Change refers to a change in a region's climate conditions – particularly its temperature and precipitation levels – over a period of time. Climate change shifts have occurred naturally throughout earth's existence. Key elements of the climate change threat are communicated by the “**3S's**” of climate change:

Q1: How do we know climate change is occurring?

Answer: It's [simple](#).

Our human actions are forcing the earth's system to retain more heat. When thermal energy in the form of sunlight reaches earth, two things can happen to it; either it is absorbed into the Earth's atmospheric system, or it is reflected and able to emit back into space and dissipate. We can conceive of these phenomena as Earth's "energy budget." If the energy that is reflected and emitted back to space equals the energy that is absorbed into the Earth's system, the energy budget is in balance. If more energy is emitted than absorbed, the Earth's system cools. If more energy is absorbed than emitted, the Earth's system warms. Certain gases, known as Green House Gases (Carbon Dioxide/CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and others) naturally increase the trapping capacity of the atmosphere, causing thermal energy to remain in the system, which causes the world to warm. The changing concentrations of these gases are measurable over time, and climatologists worldwide examining all available data have concluded that the rate of warming we are experiencing today cannot be explained solely by natural causes – it is a human-made phenomenon.

In previous eons, warming and cooling cycles have occurred in periods of roughly 100,000 years due to shifts in the planet's tilt, rotation and shape of its orbit. However, since 1900 there has been a massive increase in the global concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), started by the Industrial Revolution and the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gasoline. The global release of CO<sub>2</sub> is occurring at rates nearly **nine times greater** than in the hottest period of the past 800,000 years and has created an environment fruitful for trapping thermal energy from sunlight within the earth's atmospheric system.

Q2: What harm will climate change cause?

Answer: It's [serious](#).

Since 1895, the global temperature has increased 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to global differences in topography, wind patterns, and ocean circulation, this temperature increase is not felt evenly; in Massachusetts, the temperature increase has been even greater and since 1895 has increased 2.9 degrees Fahrenheit. There is also a large difference between the warming felt on land and in water. In fact, an astounding 90% of the excess thermal energy that has entered the Earth's system has sunk into the deep ocean. While this has kept us cooler on land, it is extremely problematic for the ocean – higher sea surface temperatures mixed with excess carbon dioxide entering the water causes acidification, all with serious implications for aquatic species.

As temperature and precipitation change in the future, so too will the features of our natural and built environment that rely on them, such as forests and open space, agriculture, and disease/tick seasons, among others. In the northeastern United States, the increase in temperature will lead to less distinct seasons, with winter warming three times faster than summer, and earlier spring conditions. This change in turn will lead to a longer freeze-free period, and earlier leaf-out and bloom. Without a longer frost period to kill them off, more pests will survive season to season, and they will emerge earlier in the season as well. Changing temperatures will likely shift the habitable zone for plant,

insect, and animal species, prompting their migration. Iconic trees such as Red Maple and Oak have started to migrate north and west, seeking more suitable climates.

A secondary impact of increased temperatures is the melting of ice sheets and glaciers throughout the world. Melting, in conjunction with thermal expansion of the ocean whereby hotter water takes up a greater volume, is causing sea levels to rise. Sea level rise along coastal Massachusetts could reach 2.4 feet by 2050 under the high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5). Preparing for sea level rise requires re-evaluating the costs of developing parcels located in the floodplain or along coastal regions and the siting of community infrastructure.

Climate change is bringing about an era of extremes. Rain falls more intensely in fewer rain events. Droughts are longer. More extreme precipitation events combined with overall conditions will increase the likelihood and risk of erosive flooding. Extreme precipitation can contribute to soil and riverbank degradation as quick-moving waters strip sediment away, and the loss of topsoil and riverbanks can impact agricultural and riverine uses. Precipitation will also increase pre-existing issues with flooding and contribute to an overall environment where it is difficult and dangerous to move around Swansea during storm conditions. Increased rainfall also leads to increased stormwater runoff, which can be a serious issue for contaminated surfaces, or further contribute to the pollution of important waterbodies.

Q3: What can we do?

Answer: It's [solvable](#).

We are looking at an extremely different world by the end of this century if our high rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continues unabated. However, there is some possibility for humans to change this harsh trajectory. Future emissions upon which various climate change scenarios are based have not yet occurred and are not set in stone. Climate scientists use a range of greenhouse gas emissions scenarios - called Representative Concentration Pathways (or RCP's) - as a basis to predict how temperature and precipitation might change in the future based on different levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Under lower emissions scenarios called RCP 2.6 and RCP 4.5, humans would decrease our overall emissions to limit global temperature increases between 2 – 6 degrees Fahrenheit. This shift to meeting lower emissions scenarios, however, will take material changes to the way that we live, plan our communities, and consume. Under the medium emissions scenario (RCP 4.5) greenhouse gas emissions are assumed to peak by mid-century. Under the high scenario (RCP 8.5) emissions continue to rise based on the current trajectory.

Each scenario offers a range of potential future outcomes (predictions for the region are detailed further below). As such, the uncertainty associated with climate change means that communities must take the long view and build some of this uncertainty into their decision-making structures with strategies that are flexible and nimble, that can **adapt** to and **mitigate** the effects of climate change. **Mitigation** refers to reducing the overall amount of climate change caused by human released greenhouse gases (requiring a reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases an individual, city, or country emits in the first place, or the establishment of ways to draw carbon and other gases

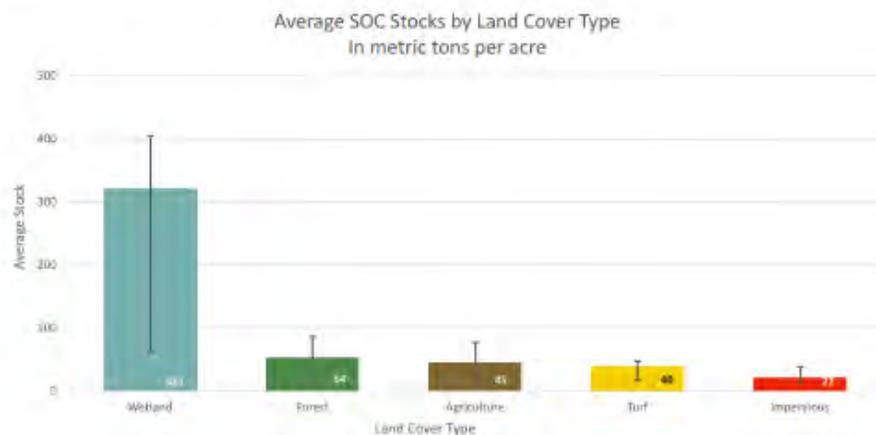
out of the atmosphere). By mitigating carbon emissions, we can help slow down the rates of human-caused climate change, lengthen stationarity, and reduce the uncertainty caused by climate change. **Adaptation** refers to implementing changes in our built or natural environment to reduce our societal and individual vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. Adaptation strategies can cut across all sectors of our life, including our behaviors, building techniques, and where we live.

At our current moment in earth's history, proactive open space planning and land preservation is tied to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Preserving open space tracts in particular locations or with specific features in Swansea is one action that the community can take as a means of local response to this global crisis. Mitigation, for example, in an open space planning context can refer to preserving open spaces, trees, and wetlands as these can absorb carbon dioxide. In fact, according to the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan, wetlands are actually even more productive carbon sinks than forests (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Average amount of Carbon stored in the soil below various land cover types

## Massachusetts Soil Organic Carbon Density

*Excluding carbon in biomass*



Examples of adaptation can include protecting critical areas like floodplains and aquifers as open space, so that they are able to absorb rainfall and storm water runoff, thereby minimizing the impact of extreme storm events on our downtowns and built environment. Adaptation could also refer to planting more trees so that they cool down neighborhoods and protect people from rising temperatures. We can expand our traditional definition of open space, to also include smaller but key patches of green space that perform critical functions, such as roadside bioswales that collect stormwater runoff. We can expand recreation offerings to activities that provide educational programming on household resilience and connect residents with the landscape to further a community stewardship ethic. Adaptation efforts are flexible and can incorporate changes in both our environment and our behavior. Using conservation- or open space-minded subdivisions in combination with planned

migration away from shorelines provides the dual benefits of protecting open space while minimizing people's vulnerabilities to extreme storms.

Protecting our open space now allows us to hedge against an uncertain future and tap into the multitude of benefits of adaptation and mitigation, while proving immediate improvements to local community wellbeing. Taking proactive adaptation and mitigation action now makes our communities more resilient. **Resilience** is commonly defined as the ability of social, environmental, and economic systems to return to their original form and integrity after enduring stress or disruption. Communities that exhibit high resilience will be able to withstand many impacts of climate change and return to their regular operations after a hazardous event (e.g., intense storm) or prolonged disruption (e.g., drought). Resilience could look like the ability to return people to work after a pandemic, the reconstruction of a flood-prone roadway to withstand more intense storms, or the preservation of environmental features that perform essential functions like absorbing and infiltrating floodwaters.

## Regional Climate Change Projections

Massachusetts climate scientists have projected future climate conditions under various Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios at the watershed level, the most localized predictive scale possible under current models, to predict some of the anticipated impacts<sup>1</sup>. Mansfield lies entirely within the Narragansett Bay Watershed. Modeled projections under a relatively high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5) in 2050 in the Narragansett Bay Watershed show average annual temperature increasing in the range of 3.6 to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit (Table 1). The expected number of days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (generally days similar to a heat wave) is expected to be between 11 to 31 days per year in 2050 (Table 2).

Precipitation patterns in the Narragansett Watershed are also expected to change drastically. Under a high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenario (RCP 8.5), by 2050, the watershed will see an 8.5% increase in total annual precipitation, and by 2090 a 12.6% increase in total annual precipitation (Table 3).

These ranges show us the importance of making choices to pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation now at the local level. The combination of increasing temperature, changing seasonal precipitation amounts, and increasing prevalence of heavy precipitation will likely increase drought impacts and increase flood risk, particularly in areas with impervious surfaces that are conducive to flash floods.

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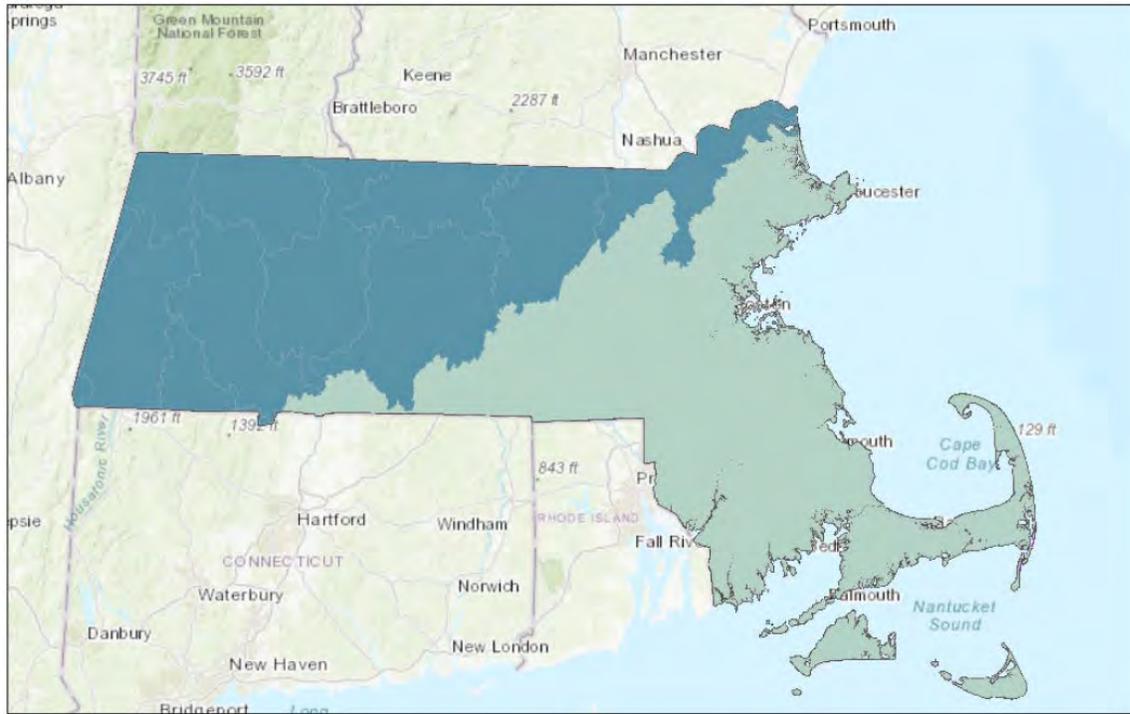
<sup>1</sup> Led by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Massachusetts Climate and Hydrologic Risk Project (Phase 1) has developed new climate change projections for the Commonwealth. These new temperature and precipitation projections are downscaled for Massachusetts at the HUC8 watershed scale using Global Climate Models and a Stochastic Weather Generator and reflect a warming scenario linked to the Representation Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5, a comparatively high greenhouse gas emissions scenario.  
<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/ResilientMAMapViewer/>

**Table 1:** Projected Changes, in Degrees Fahrenheit, to Average Annual and Seasonal Temperature (in Degrees Fahrenheit) for the Narragansett Bay Watershed

Season	Baseline	2030	2050	2070	2090
ANNUAL	50.8	3.6 (1.8-5.4)	5.4 (3.6-7.2)	8.1 (5.4-9.9)	9.9 (7.2-12.6)
SPRING	47.6	2.7 (1.8-5.4)	5.4 (2.7-8.1)	7.2 (4.5-10.8)	9.0 (6.3-11.7)
SUMMER	69.5	3.6 (1.8-4.5)	5.4 (3.6-7.2)	8.1 (5.4-9.9)	9.9 (7.2-12.6)
FALL	54.0	3.6 (2.7-5.4)	5.4 (3.6-7.2)	8.1 (6.3-9.9)	9.9 (7.2-NaN)
WINTER	31.6	3.6 (2.7-5.4)	5.4 (4.5-8.1)	8.1 (5.4-10.8)	9.9 (7.2-12.6)

Table shows the median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) value by future target decade and season as compared to baseline values. Lower and upper bounds (the 10<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile range) is presented in parenthesis. Projected decreases are denoted by a minus (-) sign. The value highlighted in dark green is the value corresponding to the season and decade currently selected within the legend controls. Values are presented as absolute change.

**Figure 2:** Projected Changes, in Degrees Fahrenheit, to Average Annual Temperature in 2050, by Watershed



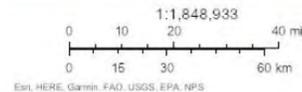
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Average Temperature (Change in degree Fahrenheit)  State boundary

5.4 - 5.4

> 5.4 - 6.3

Basin boundary

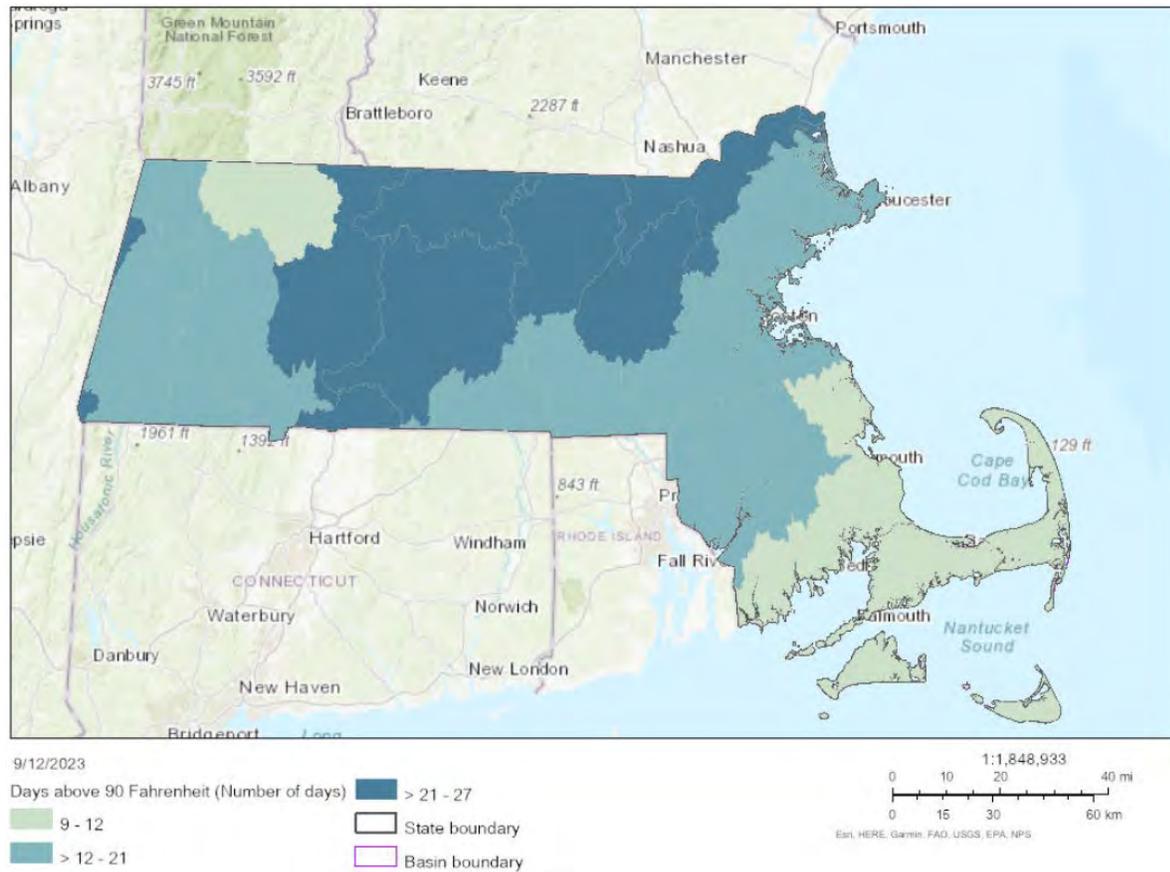


**Table 2:** Expected Number of Days Above 90 Degrees in the Narragansett Bay Watershed

Season	Baseline	2030	2050	2070	2090
ANNUAL	5	11 (4-20)	20 (11-31)	38 (20-52)	52 (31-75)
SPRING	0	0 (0-1)	1 (0-2)	2 (1-4)	3 (1-5)
SUMMER	5	9 (4-12)	17 (9-26)	31 (17-41)	41 (26-56)
FALL	0	1 (1-2)	2 (1-3)	5 (3-7)	7 (3-13)
WINTER	0	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)

Table shows the median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) value by future target decade and season as compared to baseline values. Lower and upper bounds (the 10<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile range) is presented in parenthesis. Projected decreases are denoted by a minus (-) sign. The value highlighted in dark green is the value corresponding to the season and decade currently selected within the legend controls. Values are presented as absolute change.

**Figure 3:** Projected Number of Days Above 90 Degrees Fahrenheit in 2050, by Watershed

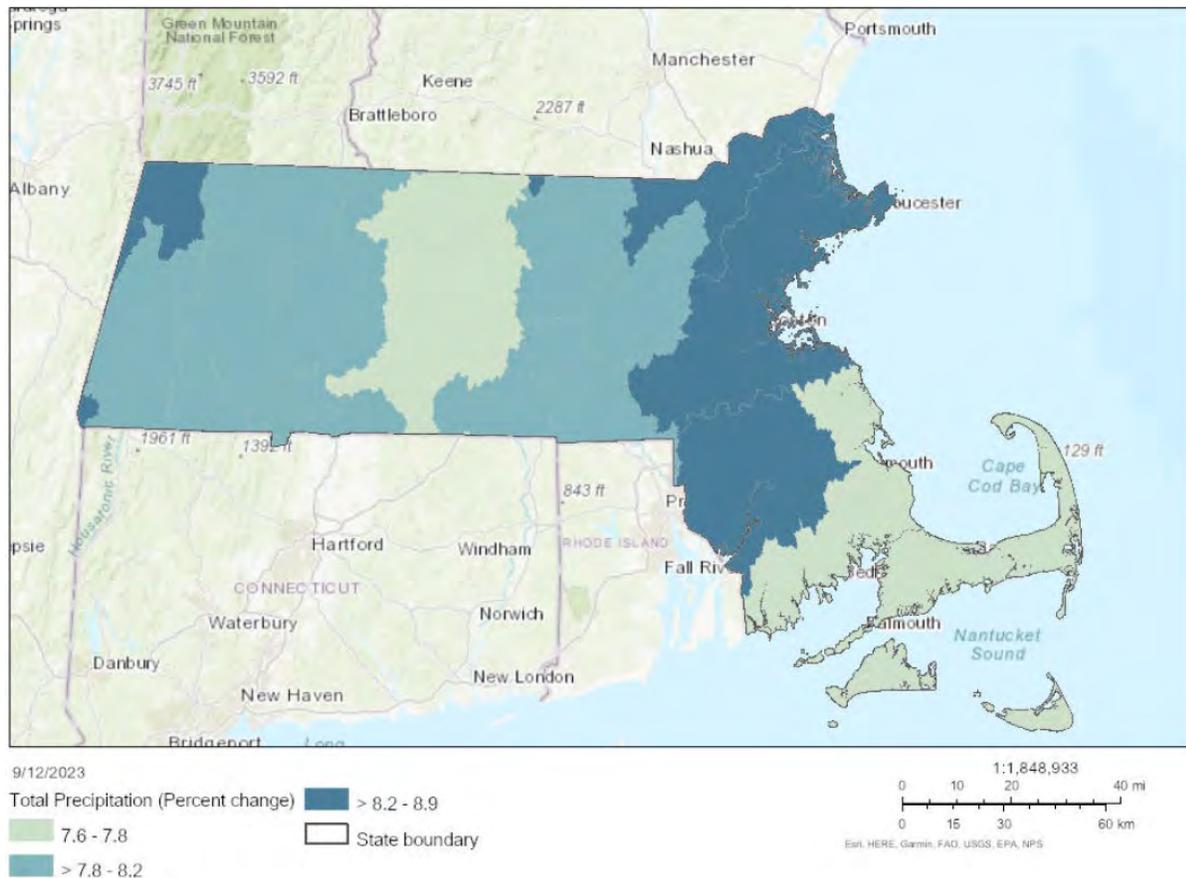


**Table 3:** Projected Percent Change to Total Annual and Seasonal Precipitation in the Narragansett Bay Watershed

Season	Baseline	2030	2050	2070	2090
ANNUAL	44.1	6.3 (-5.3-18.1)	8.5 (-4.3-21.5)	10.2 (-4.9-25.0)	12.6 (-3.2-29.4)
SPRING	11.4	8.7 (-1.0-17.4)	9.3 (-1.5-19.2)	13.8 (0.6-25.0)	15.5 (-0.1-26.5)
SUMMER	9.6	9.1 (-7.5-25.9)	6.8 (-8.7-24.4)	6.8 (-12.1-26.6)	8.5 (-10.1-29.1)
FALL	11.4	0.8 (-9.9-13.5)	4.8 (-9.8-17.7)	3.8 (-12.9-17.3)	4.8 (-9.3-20.9)
WINTER	11.7	7.1 (-3.1-16.8)	12.5 (2.0-25.1)	15.5 (3.3-31.2)	20.6 (5.3-40.6)

Table shows the median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) value by future target decade and season as compared to baseline values. Lower and upper bounds (the 10<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile range) is presented in parenthesis. Projected decreases are denoted by a minus (-) sign. The value highlighted in dark green is the value corresponding to the season and decade currently selected within the legend controls. Values are presented as percent (%) change.

**Figure 4:** Projected Percent Change to Total Annual Precipitation in 2050, by Watershed



Town of Mansfield  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2025 - 2035

## **Appendix D:**

Public Engagement –  
Surveys, Map Activity, and Results



## Mansfield Open Space Survey 2023

**The Town of Mansfield is in the process of updating its 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan.**

**It is important for residents to take part in planning for the protection of remaining open space, the preservation of our cultural and historical assets and the development of recreational opportunities. The updated Open Space and Recreation Plan will enable us to evaluate our progress since 2016 and develop new strategies to address the town's changing needs. Having an up-to-date plan also makes Mansfield eligible for state funding for land acquisition, preservation and recreation projects.**

**For the purposes of this survey, open space is defined as "public and privately owned undeveloped lands that are important for a variety of reasons, including recreation, agriculture, forestry, scenic qualities or other qualities that contribute to the overall character of the town."**

**Your input is extremely important to us as we plan to meet the town's needs. Please take a few minutes to answer the survey questions below. The deadline for completing the Open Space and Recreation Plan survey is September 30, 2023.**

**Paper copies of the survey are available at the Mansfield Town Hall welcome desk and at the Mansfield Public Library during regular business hours. Completed paper surveys may be dropped off at Town Hall or the Library, or mailed to Mansfield Town Hall, ATTN: Katelyn Gonyer (Conservation Dept), 6 Park Row, Mansfield, MA 02048.**

**If you have any questions or would like assistance completing the survey, you may reach out to Danica Belknap (SRPEDD) at [dbelknap@srpedd.org](mailto:dbelknap@srpedd.org) or 508-824-1367 (ext. 222).**

**Thank you for participating!**

**Katelyn Gonyer, Environmental and Conservation Planner  
Town of Mansfield**



Mansfield Open Space Survey  
2023

Open Space and Recreation Questionnaire

1. Are you completing this survey as an individual or on behalf of a family?

- Individual
- On behalf of my family

2. If answering on behalf of a family, are there children under 18 living in your household?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable - answering as an individual

3. Which, if any, of the following activities have you or your family members participated in during the past year?

	Participated in Mansfield	Participated out of Mansfield	Did not participate but would have liked to	Did not participate and not interested
Walking/hiking or trail running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking/running in neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife viewing/birdwatching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited a playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoe/kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sailing/boating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports leagues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adolescent/adult organized sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unorganized sports/athletic activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitness trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting/trapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth summer camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited historic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited farm, farmstand, or farmers market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What do you like best about Mansfield's open space? (select up to three)

- Baseball/soccer/multi-purpose fields
- Basketball/tennis courts
- Hiking/walking trails
- Paved bike/pedestrian paths
- Playgrounds
- Waterfront areas
- Conservation areas
- Other or none of the above

5. What do you think of access to the following types of recreational amenities in Mansfield?

	Mansfield has more than enough	Mansfield has enough	Mansfield needs more	Unsure
Baseball/softball Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer/football/lacrosse multipurpose fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoe/kayak/boat Ramps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
volleyball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discus golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equestrian Center/Riding Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Viewing/Birdwatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting/trapping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Walking Areas/parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Walking/Rec Facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River/waterfront Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Conservation Areas (i.e. protected wildlife habitat, waterfront buffers, areas of critical environmental concern, historical sites)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/hiking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paved Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ATV/off-road vehicle trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor event venues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. What other recreational facilities or types of activities would you like to see in Mansfield but are currently not available?

7. How often do you visit the following conservation/recreation areas?

	Often (once a month or more)	Sometimes (at least once a year)	Rarely (less than once a year, but I have visited before)	Never visited	Not aware of this location
Sweet and Kalins Conservation Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Great Woods Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taylor's Hill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Corporal Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marie Strese Memorial Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plymouth Street Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plymouth Street Recreation Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plymouth Street Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mill Pond Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fulton Pond Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kingman Pond Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
South Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
North Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
East Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
World War II Veterans Memorial Trail (bike path)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What existing conservation/recreation areas in Mansfield need improvement? (including maintenance, repair, or new amenity needs)

- Sweet and Kalins Conservation Areas
- Great Woods Conservation Area
- Taylor's Hill
- The Corporal Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park)
- Marie Strese Memorial Conservation Area
- Plymouth Street Conservation Area
- Plymouth Street Recreation Fields
- Plymouth Street Playground
- Mill Pond Conservation Area
- Fulton Pond Park
- Kingman Pond Area
- Memorial Park
- South Common
- North Common
- East Common
- World War II Veterans Memorial Trail (bike path)

9. What specific improvements are needed at these sites? (please specify which site(s) in your answer)

10. How important is it to you to preserve each of the following in Mansfield?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Land protecting drinking water supplies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historical Places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forests/Woodlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to the waterfront & water-based recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space for wildlife habitat & conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space for passive recreation (i.e. walking trails, nature viewing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space for scenic roads/views/vistas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land and facilities for active recreation (i.e. athletic fields, rec centers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Which of the following approaches to open space preservation do you most support?  
(select up to 3)

- Purchase new open space land with town/taxpayer funds
- Promote use of existing open space land
- Encourage donation of land and/or conservation restrictions by private landowners
- Mandate dedication of open space by developers
- Protect land through zoning
- Establish a local fund through adoption of the Community Preservation Act (tax surcharge plus matching state funds)
- Apply for grant funding on a case-by-case basis
- Encourage open space investments from private and non-profit organizations

12. Where do you go to find information about open space, recreational opportunities and community events in Mansfield?

- Town Website
- Patch (Mansfield local news)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Community bulletin boards
- Fellow community members/word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

13. What is your level of satisfaction with the recreational opportunities available to each age group in Mansfield?

	More than enough	Enough	Not enough	Unsure
1 to 4 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 to 9 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 to 12 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teenagers (13-19 years old)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults (20-64 years old)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seniors (65+ years)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. How accessible and useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are to those in the community with disabilities? (i.e. mobility, seeing, or hearing impairments)

- Very accessible and very useful
- Somewhat accessible and somewhat useful
- Not accessible and not useful
- Don't know what people with disabilities need

15. How accessible and useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are to senior populations? (65 and older)

- Very accessible and very useful
- Somewhat accessible and somewhat useful
- Not accessible and not useful
- Don't know what people with disabilities need

16. What can be done to provide more recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities and/or seniors? (for example, facilities improvements, public transit or other travel accommodations, recreational programming, etc.)

17. More generally, how accessible and welcoming do you feel Mansfield's open spaces and recreational programming are to all members of the community? (considering the cultural and racial composition of the community, as well as geographic distribution of parks and programs across town)

- Accessible and welcoming
- Accessible but not welcoming
- Welcoming but not accessible
- Not accessible or welcoming
- Unsure

18. Do you have any additional comments, concerns or suggestions about open space and recreation in Mansfield that you would like to share?



Mansfield Open Space Survey  
2023

Optional Demographic Info

19. How long have you lived in Mansfield?

- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

20. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-34
- 35-54
- 55-64
- 65+

21. What is your race/ethnicity? (select all that apply)

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Multiracial or Biracial
- Prefer not to answer

22. What is your email address?

**Email Address**

23. Would you like to receive email updates about Mansfield's OSRP and future opportunities to provide input?

Yes

No

24. Is it okay to contact you about your responses?

Yes

No

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Engagement Report



**Date:** December 8, 2023

**To:** Mansfield Open Space Committee

**From:** Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

**RE:** Public Engagement Report, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Winter 2023

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Committee Members,

Please find enclosed the outcomes, presented in graphics with supporting narratives of the public comment received to inform the 2024 Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

The goal of public engagement in preparing the OSRP was to understand resident usage and enjoyment of open space and recreation lands and facilities, and desired improvements for the future. To maximize participation, the Town of Mansfield and SRPEDD facilitated two kinds of engagement opportunities: an online survey and an interactive mapping exercise offered at one public workshop and two community events.

The report is divided into two sections. In Section One, we present the results of the community OSRP survey. In Section Two, we present the input provided through the interactive mapping exercise.

The next step for the Committee will be to ensure the goals and action items that go into the draft OSRP are reflective of local perspectives and points of view, which will be the topic of the February Open Space Committee meeting. SRPEDD will draft potential recommended actions for the draft goals and objectives previously provided by the Committee, that captures the public input received thus far and the Committee's responses to this feedback, as presented in our upcoming meeting on December 11, 2023, for discussion and feedback in February.

We appreciate and welcome your review and comment.

Thank you,

The SRPEDD Team

## **SECTION ONE: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

### **A. Survey Development and Deployment Process**

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To ensure that public participation in Plan development was widespread and available beyond attendance at in-person meetings, the project team launched an online survey that respondents could take at their convenience.

Mansfield's 2024 OSRP survey included 24 questions. 16 of those questions were designed to gauge the public's satisfaction with the current state of conservation, open space, and recreation lands, facilities, programs and policies within the town, as well as to help chart a course for future improvements. 8 additional questions capture the groups of people responding to the survey.

The link to the online survey was posted on the SRPEDD and Town of Mansfield websites, and was available from July 3, 2023 through October 29, 2023. The survey link was also shared on social media pages for SRPEDD, the Town and local community groups. The exact number of survey responses is difficult to gauge precisely, as it was possible for participants to skip individual questions. A total of 934 respondents engaged with the survey, 5 of which completed a physical paper survey, and the remaining 929 completed the survey via SurveyMonkey. A core group of about 760 respondents completed the survey fully, skipping few, if any, questions.

The summary that follows presents the results of all 24 survey questions.

## B. Summary of Survey Responses by Question

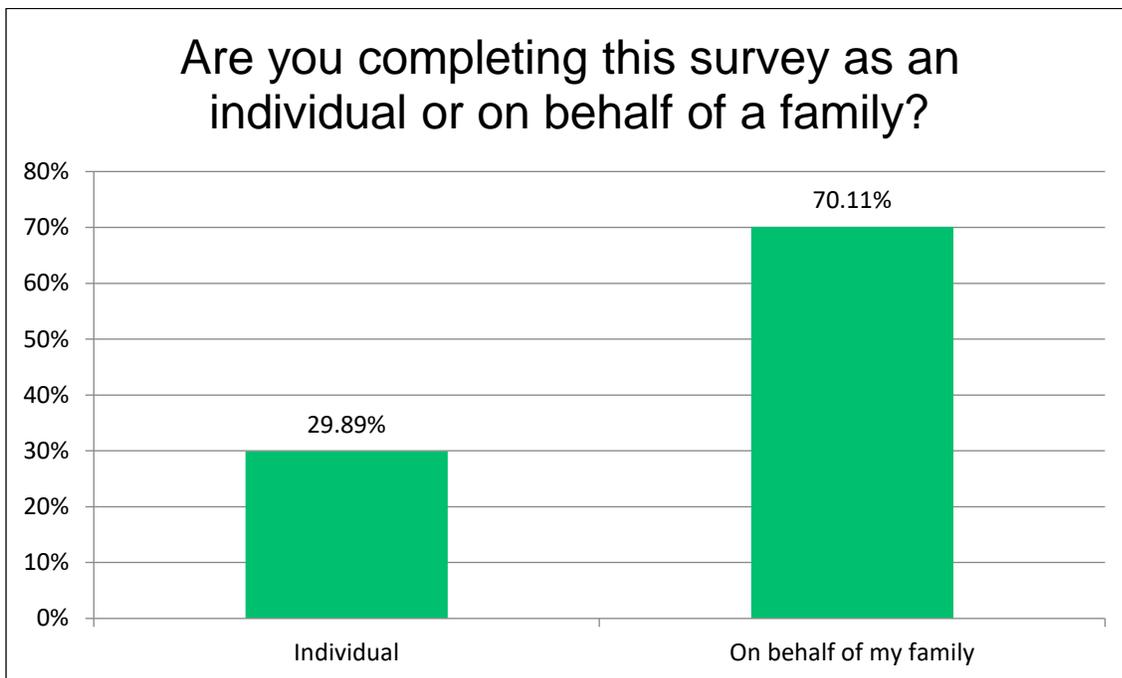
### Question 1: Are you completing this survey as an individual or on behalf of a family?

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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand who is taking the survey and if the views offered are representative of family units or individuals.

**Big Picture Results:** All survey respondents answered this question. The overwhelming majority (652, or 70.11%) completed this survey on behalf of their family, whereas fewer participants (278, or 29.89%) completed the survey as an individual.



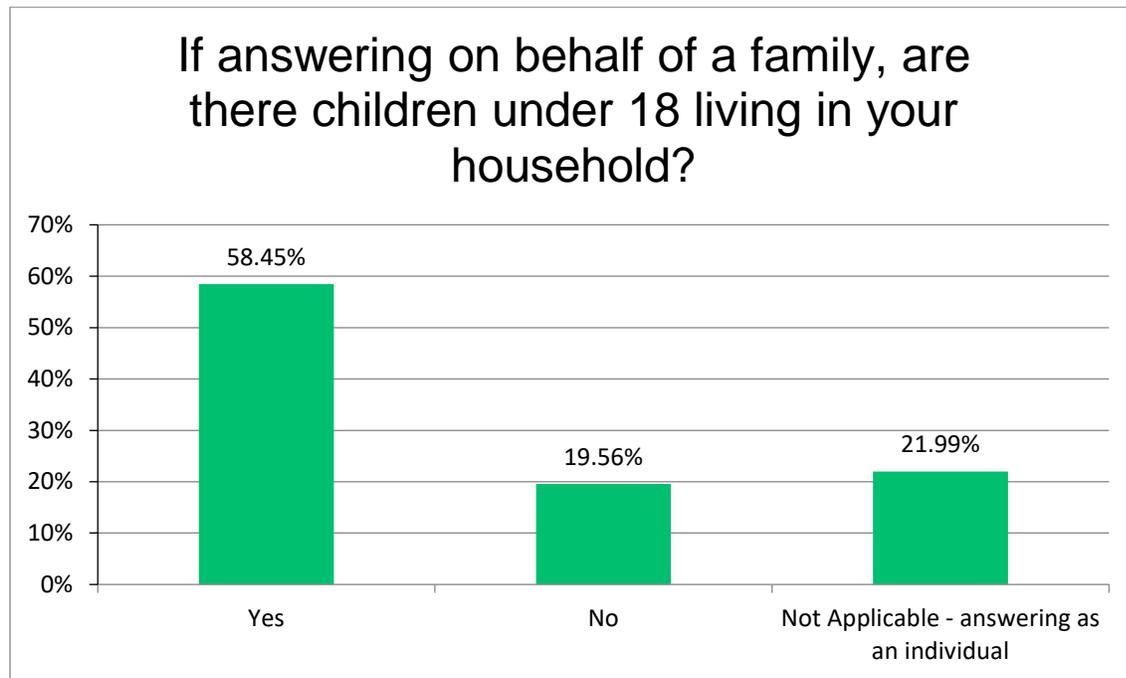
### Question 2: If answering on behalf of a family, are there children under 18 living in your household?

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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand if children under 18 are included in household responses, as younger-aged children have different needs from other age ranges.

**Big Picture Results:** 905 survey respondents answered this question and 29 skipped. Just over half of respondents (529 or 58.45%) said there are children under 18 living in their household, with approximately 1/5<sup>th</sup> of respondents (177 or 19.56%) stating there were no children under 18 living in their household. The remaining responses (199 or 21.99%) were answering as an individual.



**Question 3: Which, if any, of the following activities have you or your family members participated in during the past year?**

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**Type:** Rating Matrix

**Purpose:** To understand which recreational activities are most and least common with survey respondents.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of survey respondents stated that they participated in the following within the Town of Mansfield: walking/hiking or trail running, walking/running in neighborhood, dog walking, biking, visiting a playground, or participating in youth sports leagues. Other activities, like swimming, wildlife viewing/birdwatching, picnics, visiting historic sites, and visiting farms, farmstands or farmers markets were more likely to be participated in outside of Mansfield. Survey respondents also stated that they did not participate in but would have liked to participate in: canoe/kayaking, and fitness trails. Lastly, the majority of survey respondents did not participate in, and were not interested in; sailing/boating, fishing, soccer, adolescent/adult organized sports, unorganized sports/athletic activities, golf, hunting/trapping, horseback riding, camping, and youth summer camp.

**Detailed Results:** 932 respondents answered this question and 2 respondents skipped. However, a core group of approximately 875 respondents fully answered every aspect of this this question, skipping few, if any, categories.

- **Walking/hiking or trail running** had a large majority of respondents stating they participated in this activity both within (724 responses or 78.70%) and outside of Mansfield (645 or 70.11%).

- **Walking/running in neighborhood** was significantly more participated in within Mansfield (839 or 91.00%) but also had a group of participants who sought out this activity outside of town (384 or 41.65%).
- **Dog walking** was participated in within Mansfield by over half of respondents (485 or 56.00%), however, a large number of respondents also stated they did not participate and were not interested in participating (318 or 36.72%).
- **Swimming** was largely participated in outside of Mansfield (504 or 57.08%), with the other 3 categories having 25% or less of a response.
- **Biking** was selected as a common activity to be participated both within (498 or 56.08%) and outside of Mansfield (323 or 36.37%).
- **Wildlife viewing/birdwatching** was a split response between participating within Mansfield, participating outside of Mansfield, and not did not participate but not interested in - with each category netting between 286 – 329 responses or 33 – 37%.
- **Visiting a playground** was commonly participated in within Mansfield (562 or 63.00%) as well as outside of Mansfield (392 or 43.95%).
- **Canoe/kayaking** was selected as an activity that most respondents did not participate in but would've liked to participate in (365 or 41.24%), with a good number of respondents participating in this activity outside of Mansfield (343 or 38.76%).
- **Sailing/boating** was split with respondents, with approximately 257 – 319 responses or 30 – 37% of people selecting they either did not participate in but had no interest in, did not participate but would have liked to, or participating in outside of Mansfield.
- **Fishing** had a majority of respondents state they did not participate in and are not interested in participating (401 or 45.93), with a smaller group of respondents participating in the activity outside of Mansfield (258 or 29.55%).
- **Soccer** had a majority of respondents stating they did not participate in and were not interested in participating (473 or 54.43%) with a smaller group of respondents participating in the activity within Mansfield (319 or 36.71%).
- **Youth sports leagues** had just under half of respondents participating within Mansfield (412 or 47.19%) and a smaller subset of respondents who did not participate and are not interested in participating (342 or 39.18%).
- **Adolescent/adult organized sports** had the vast majority of respondents state they did not participate, however, the response was split on if the participant would like to participate in adolescent/adult organized sports in the future (261 or 30.24%) or not (327 or 37.89%).
- **Unorganized sports/athletic activities** had a majority response stating respondents did not participate and are not interested in participating (321 or 37.59), with approximately 20 - 30% each of responses in the remaining 3 categories.
- **Picnics** are a common activity participated in by respondents outside of town (307 or 35.49%) and an activity that was not participated in, but respondents would have liked to participant in (277 or 32.02%).
- **Fitness trail** was an activity that most respondents did not participate in but would have liked to (370 or 43.07%) with the remaining 3 categories netting approximately 20 – 27% each.
- **Golf** had a large majority responses stating they did not participate in this activity and were not interested in participating (415 or 47.43%) with a smaller group of respondents participating in this activity outside of Mansfield (295 or 33.71%).
- **Hunting/trapping** was primarily not participated in with respondents having no interest in participating in the future (769 or 90.05%).

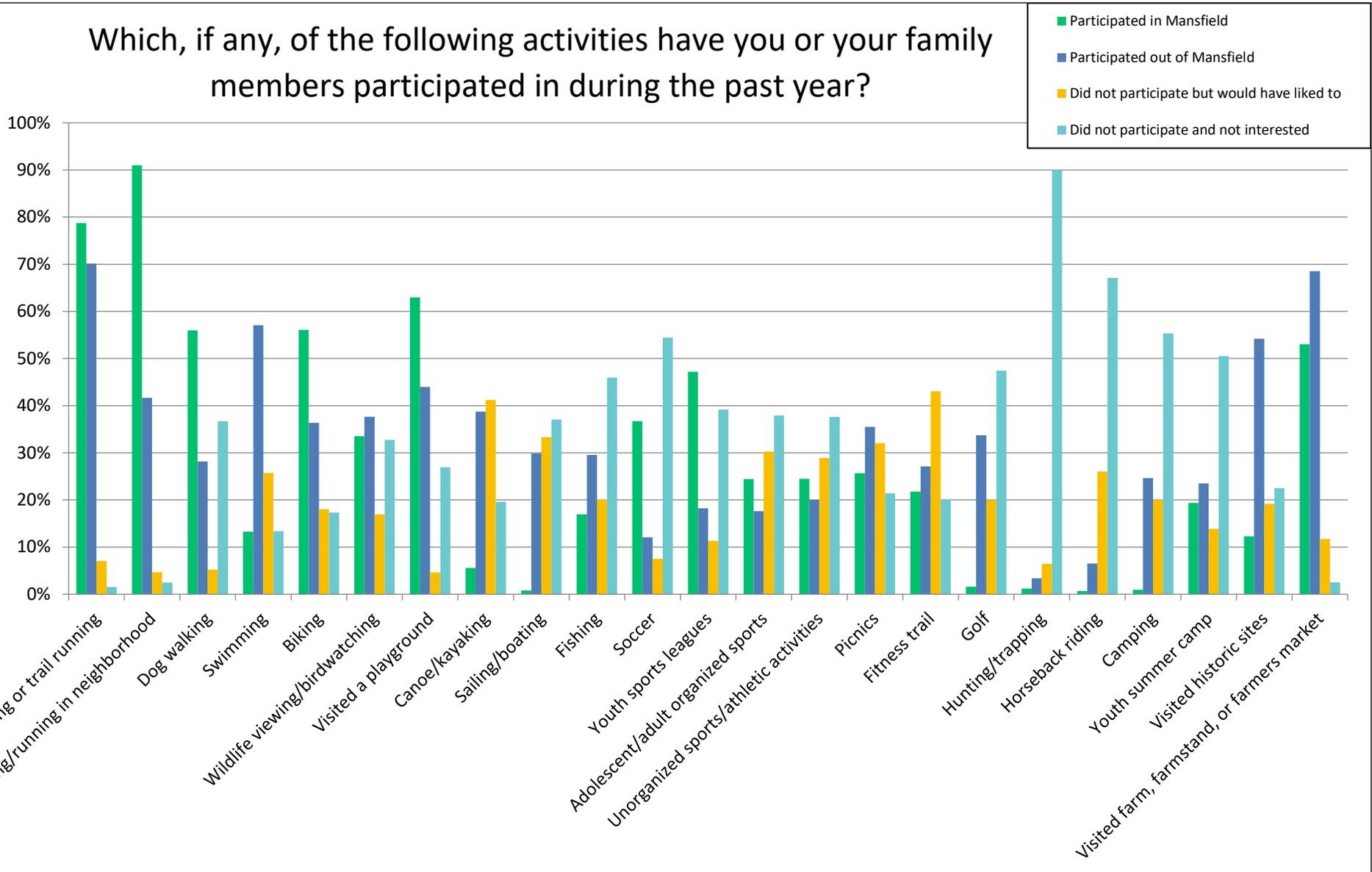
Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Engagement Report

- **Horseback riding** had a large majority of respondents stating they did not participate in and were not interested in participating (575 or 67.09%), with a smaller subset having not participated but would have liked to (223 or 26.02%).
- **Camping** had over half of respondents stating they did not participate in and were not interested (481 or 55.35%), however, approximately 20% each stated they either did not participate but were interested, or they participated outside of Mansfield.
- **Youth summer camp** had half of respondents stating they did not participate in and were not interested in (430 or 50.53%), with the other 3 categories netting approximately 14 – 23% of the response each.
- **Visiting historic sites** was mostly participated in outside of Mansfield (472 or 54.19%), with the remaining 3 categories netting approximately 12 – 22% of responses each.
- **Visiting farm, farmstand, or farmers market** was largely participated both in Mansfield (479 or 53.05) and outside of Mansfield (619 or 68.55%).

**Top-ranking recreational activities (by percentage of votes within that activity) by each participation type:**

Participated in Mansfield	Participated out of Mansfield	Did not participate but would have liked to	Did not participate and not interested
Walking/hiking or trail running (78.70%)	Swimming (57.08%)	Canoe/kayaking (41.24%)	Sailing/boating (37.05%)
Walking/running in neighborhood (91.00%)	Wildlife viewing/birdwatching (37.64%)	Fitness trail (43.07%)	Fishing (45.93%)
Dog walking (56.00%)	Picnics (35.49%)		Soccer (54.43%)
Biking (56.08%)	Visited historic sites (54.19%)		Adolescent/adult organized sports (37.89%)
Visited a playground (63.00%)	Visited farm, farmstand, or farmers market (68.55)		Unorganized sports/athletic activities (37.59%)
Youth sports leagues (47.19%)			Golf (47.43%)
			Hunting/trapping (90.05%)
			Horseback riding (67.09%)
			Camping (55.35%)
			Youth summer camp (50.53%)

## Which, if any, of the following activities have you or your family members participated in during the past year?



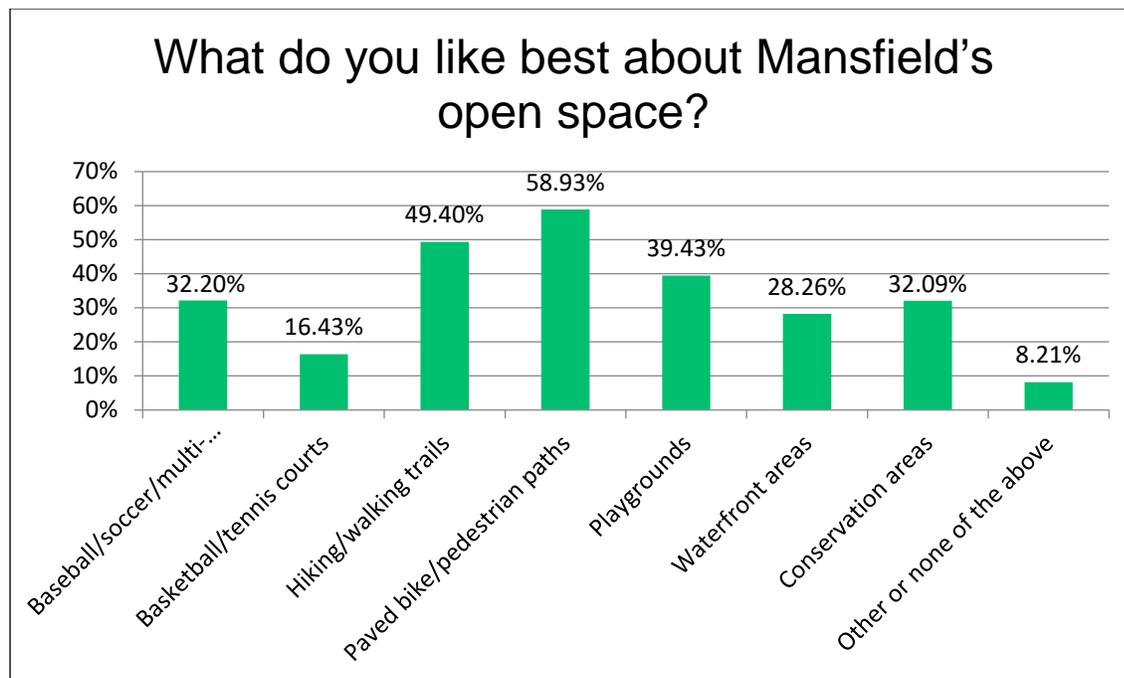
#### Question 4: What do you like best about Mansfield's open space? (select up to three)

**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand which open space amenity types in Mansfield are most valued.

**Big Picture Results:** Approximately half of survey respondents indicated that they like the paved bike/pedestrian paths (58.93%), and hiking/walking trails (49.40%) most when it comes to Mansfield's open spaces. Approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of respondents stated they also liked the playgrounds (39.43%), baseball/soccer/multi-purpose fields (32.20%), conservation areas (32.09%), and waterfront areas (28.26%).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 913 respondents answered this question, with 21 people skipping it. The majority of people liked the bike/pedestrian paths (538 or 58.93%), with the hiking/walking trails not far behind (451 or 49.40%). These areas are followed up by the playgrounds (360 or 39.43%), baseball/soccer/multi-purpose fields (293 or 32.20%), conservation areas (293 or 32.09%), and waterfront areas (258 or 28.26%). Lastly, the basketball/tennis courts were the least liked among open spaces in Mansfield (150 or 16.43%). Some respondents selected the other or none of the above option (75 or 8.21%)



#### Question 5: What do you think of access to the following types of recreational amenities in Mansfield?

**Type:** Rating Matrix

**Purpose:** To understand how satisfied the community is with the availability of recreational amenity types in Mansfield, and which types are needed in Town.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of respondents indicated that they were unsure about the access to most types of recreation in Mansfield. However, of the recreational amenities respondents did know about, it was indicated that there were enough of baseball/softball fields (44.35%), soccer/football/lacrosse multipurpose fields (43.76%), tennis courts (42.15%), and playgrounds (40.18%). Additionally, there were not enough of several recreational amenities and there was no top-ranking recreational amenity that respondents felt there were more than enough of.

**Detailed Results:** A total of 929 respondents answered this question and 5 people skipped it. However, a core group of approximately 898 respondents fully answered every aspect of this this question, skipping few, if any, categories.

- The majority of respondents feel that there are enough **Baseball/Softball Fields** in Mansfield (44.35% or 404), followed by being unsure (23.93% or 218), feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (17.67% or 161), and feeling that Mansfield needs more (14.05% or 128).
- The majority of respondents feel that there are enough **Soccer/Football/Lacrosse Multipurpose Fields** in Mansfield (43.76% or 396), followed by being unsure (20.99% or 190), feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (18.01% or 163), and feeling that Mansfield needs more (17.24% or 156).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about **Fishing Access** in Mansfield (49.17% or 445), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (28.95% or 262), feeling Mansfield has enough (19.67% or 178), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (2.21% or 20).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Canoe/Kayak/Boat Ramps** (49.06% or 443), followed by being unsure (43.41% or 392), feeling that Mansfield has enough (6.42% or 58), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (1.11% or 10).
- The majority of respondents feel that there are enough **Tennis Courts** in Mansfield (42.15% or 381), followed by being unsure (33.96% or 307), feeling that Mansfield needs more (15.93% or 144), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (7.96% or 72).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Pickleball Courts** in Mansfield (43.34% or 394), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (34.87% or 317), feeling Mansfield has enough (15.51% or 141), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (6.27% or 57).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Volleyball Courts** in Mansfield (64.32% or 575), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (20.81% or 186), feeling that Mansfield has enough (12.08% or 108), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (2.80% or 25).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Golf Courses** in Mansfield (47.05% or 422), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (42.59% or 382), feeling that Mansfield has enough (6.47% or 58), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (3.90% or 35).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Discus Golf Courses** in Mansfield (61.52% or 550), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (29.87% or 267), feeling Mansfield has enough (5.59% or 50), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (3.02% or 27).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Equestrian Center/Riding Trails** in Mansfield (71.41% or 637), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (17.15% or 153), feeling that Mansfield has enough (8.07% or 72), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (3.36% or 30).

- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Wildlife Viewing/Birdwatching** in Mansfield (46.88% or 420), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (34.26% or 307), feeling Mansfield has enough (14.73% or 132), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (4.13% or 37).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Campgrounds** in Mansfield (44.77% or 402), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (34.19% or 307), feeling Mansfield needs more (12.58% or 113), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (8.46% or 76).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Hunting/Trapping Areas** in Mansfield (59.89% or 530), followed by a tie between feeling Mansfield has enough (16.95% or 150) and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (16.84% or 149), with the remaining response feeling Mansfield needs more (6.33% or 56).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Dog Walking Areas/Parks** (51.27% or 464), followed by being unsure (24.64% or 223), feeling that Mansfield has enough (17.57% or 159), and feeling that Mansfield has more than enough (6.52% or 59).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Skate Parks** in Mansfield (40.09% or 360), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (30.96% or 278), feeling Mansfield needs more (19.93% or 179), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (9.02% or 81).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Indoor Walking/Rec Facilities** (68.04% or 611), followed by feeling unsure (24.39% or 219), feeling Mansfield has enough (5.23% or 47), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (2.34% or 21).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **River/Waterfront Access** (59.53% or 534), followed by feeling unsure (26.53% or 219), feeling Mansfield has enough (12.15% or 109), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (1.78% or 16).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Swimming Facilities** (77.14% or 695), followed by being unsure (18.87% or 170), feeling Mansfield has enough (2.66% or 24), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (1.33% or 12).
- The majority of respondents feel that there are enough **Playgrounds** in Mansfield (40.18% or 360), followed by feeling Mansfield needs more (37.61% or 337), feeling unsure (16.29% or 146), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (5.92% or 53).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Picnic Areas** (46.15% or 414), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (26.87% or 241), feeling unsure (23.30% or 209), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (3.68% or 33).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Conservation Areas** (i.e. protected wildlife habitat, waterfront buffers, areas of critical environmental concern, historical sites) in Mansfield (46.78% or 421), followed by feeling unsure (26.22% or 209), feeling Mansfield has enough (22.44% or 202), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (4.56% or 41).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Walking/Hiking Trails** (61.74% or 555), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (23.03% or 207), feeling unsure (11.79% or 106), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (3.45% or 31).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Paved Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths** (60.75% or 551), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (28.34% or 257), feeling unsure (7.39% or 67), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (3.53% or 32).
- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **ATV/Off-road Vehicle Trails** in Mansfield (57.22% or 511), followed by a split between feeling Mansfield needs more (15.12% or 135) and Mansfield has enough (15.01% or 134), with the remaining response feeling Mansfield has more than enough (12.65% or 113).

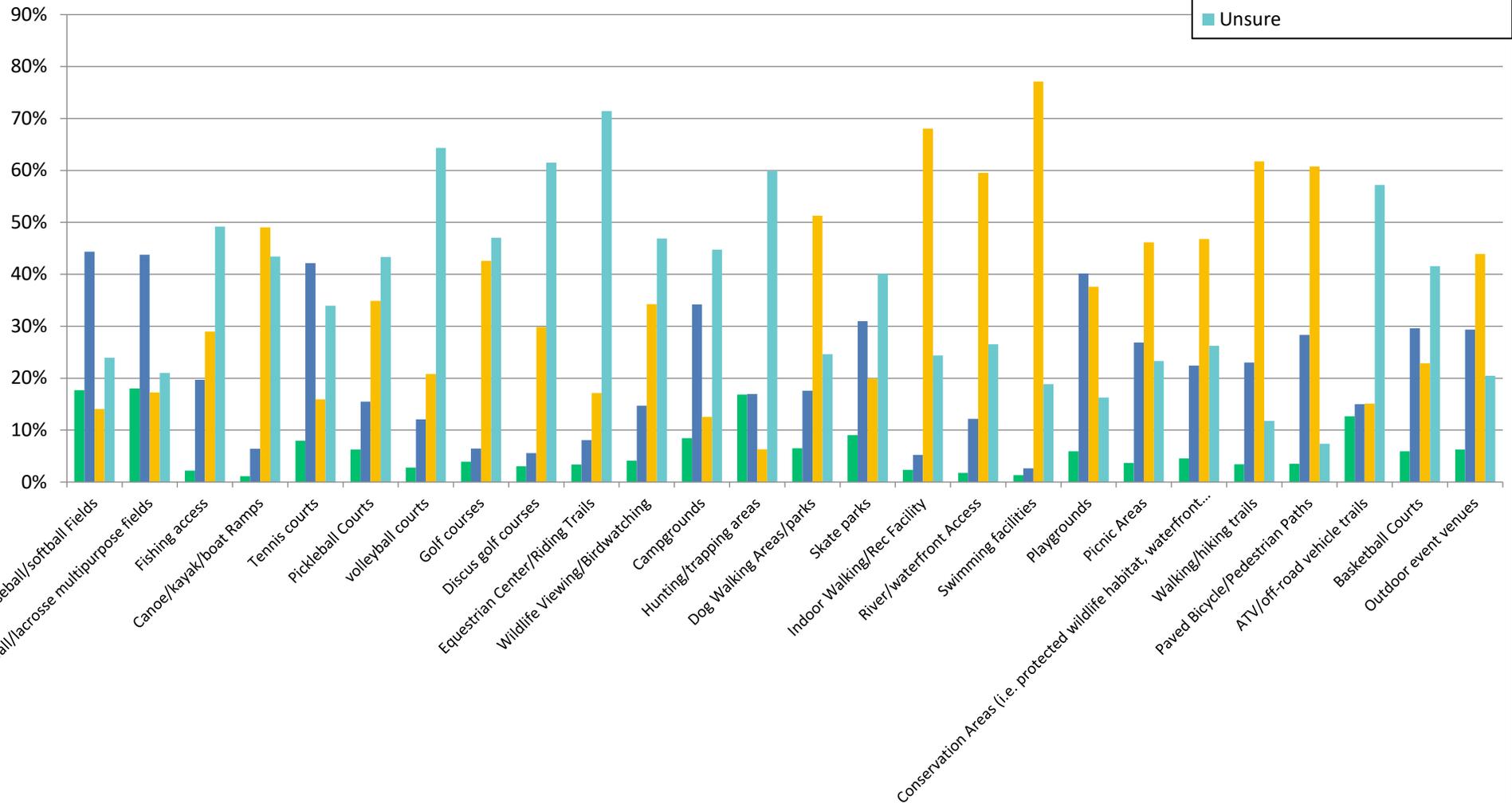
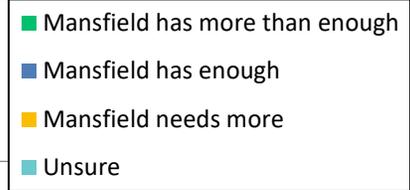
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- The majority of respondents feel unsure about access to **Basketball Courts** in Mansfield (41.59% or 371), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (29.60% or 264), feeling Mansfield needs more (22.87% or 204), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (5.94% or 53).
- The majority of respondents feel that Mansfield needs more **Outdoor Event Venues** (43.90% or 392), followed by feeling Mansfield has enough (29.34% or 262), feeling unsure (20.49% or 183), and feeling Mansfield has more than enough (6.27% or 56).

**Top-ranking amenities (by percentage of votes within that category) for each satisfaction rating:**

More Than Enough	Enough	Not Enough	Unsure
	Baseball/softball fields (44.35%)	Canoe/kayak/boat ramps (49.06%)	Fishing access (49.17%)
	Soccer/football/lacrosse multipurpose fields (43.76%)	Dog walking areas/parks (51.27%)	Pickleball courts (43.34%)
	Tennis courts (42.15%)	Indoor walking/rec facility (68.04%)	Volleyball courts (64.32%)
	Playgrounds (40.18%)	River/waterfront access (59.53%)	Golf courses (47.05%)
		Swimming facilities (77.14%)	Discus golf courses (61.52%)
		Picnic areas (46.15%)	Equestrian center/riding trails (71.41%)
		Conservation areas (46.78%)	Wildlife viewing/birdwatching (46.88%)
		Walking/hiking trails (61.74%)	Campgrounds (44.77%)
		Paved bicycle/pedestrian paths (60.75%)	Hunting/trapping areas (59.89%)
		Outdoor event venues (43.90%)	Skate parks (40.09%)
			ATV/off-road vehicle trails (57.22%)
			Basketball courts (41.59%)

## What do you think of access to the following types of recreational amenities in Mansfield?



## Question 6: What other recreational facilities or types of activities would you like to see in Mansfield but are currently not available?

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**Type:** Open Ended

**Purpose:** To understand what recreational amenities are needed in Mansfield that may not have been captured by other survey questions.

**Big Picture Results:** A total of 458 respondents answered this question and 476 people skipped it. The top five most requested amenities included Swimming Facilities in the way of either a Town Pool or Splash Pad (mentioned approximately 219 times), improved or expanded upon Walking and Biking Paths (mentioned approximately 108 times), additional Sports Fields in the way of either Pickleball Courts, Tennis Courts, or Multipurpose Fields (mentioned approximately 87 times), Dog Parks (mentioned approximately 52 times), as well as new Community Events (mentioned approximately 23 times).

Illustrative response quotes include:

“Splash pad, pool, dog park, more playgrounds, more walking trails.”

“Designated pickleball courts. Continued extension of bike path. More adult education opportunities for the community including educational offerings.”

“More farmers markets throughout the year, craft fair events throughout the year, food vendor events, more activities for kids and families. We need a nice dog park/ walking area for people who just want to walk and ride their bikes away from heavy traffic. Indoor track field that people can walk especially during winter months and extreme hot/rainy weather, bowling alleys, indoor swimming pools.”

## Question 7: How often do you visit the following conservation/recreation areas?

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**Type:** Rating Matrix

**Purpose:** To understand which conservation areas are being utilized or underutilized in town.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of responses stated they either were unfamiliar with, or often (once a month or more) visited most of the conservation/recreation areas in Mansfield. Plymouth Street Conservation Area and East Common received the most never visited responses, whereas a few properties, including the Great Woods Conservation Area, South Common, and North Common, were most likely visited sometimes (at least once a year).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 919 respondents answered this question and 15 people skipped it. However, a core group of approximately 895 respondents fully answered every aspect of this this question, skipping few, if any, categories.

- **Sweet and Kalins Conservation Areas** is mostly underutilized by respondents, with 42.27% or 380 people stating they were not aware of this location, and an additional 26.03% or 234 people stating they have never visited. Of the respondents who have visited this property before,

11.12% or 100 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 13.01% or 117 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 7.56% or 68 people visit often (once a month or more).

- **Great Woods Conservation Area** is utilized by some, with 31.31% or 284 people stating they visit sometimes (at least once a year), and an additional 26.35% or 239 people stating they visit rarely (less than once a year). A smaller group of 7.28% or 66 people visit this property often (once a month or more). Of the remaining response, 23.15% or 210 people had never visited this property, and 11.91% or 108 people had never heard of this location.
- **Taylor's Hill** is unknown by the majority of respondents, with 53.53% or 478 people stating they were unaware of this location, and an additional 31.13% or 278 people stating that they had never visited this property before. Of the respondents who had visited before, 6.94% or 62 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 6.05% or 54 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 2.35% or 21 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **The Corporal Francis Hardy Conservation Area (AKA Maple Park)** is mostly underutilized by respondents, with 33.59% or 302 people stating they are not aware of this location, and an additional 25.47% or 229 people stating they had never visited before. Of the responses who had visited before, 13.13% or 118 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 19.24% or 173 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 8.57% or 77 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **Marie Strese Memorial Conservation Area** is unknown by the majority of respondents, with 45.74% or 408 people stating they were unaware of this location, and an additional 27.80% or 248 people stating they had never visited this property before. Of the people who have visited, 11.32% or 101 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 11.10% or 99 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 4.04% or 36 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **Plymouth Street Conservation Area** is utilized by some, with 23.09% or 206 people stating they visit sometimes (at least once a year), and an additional 19.39% or 173 people stating they visit rarely (less than once a year). A smaller group of 14.01% or 125 people visit this property often (once a month or more). Of the remaining response, 23.43% or 209 people had never visited this property, and 20.07% or 179 people had never heard of this location.
- **Plymouth Street Recreation Fields** is utilized regularly by respondents, with 38.62% or 348 people visiting often (once a month or more), 20.87% or 188 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 23.42% or 211 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). The remaining responses stated 10.32% or 93 people having never visited, and an additional 6.77% or 61 people having never heard of this location before.
- **Plymouth Street Playground** is utilized regularly by respondents, with 32.07% or 287 people visiting often (once a month or more), 20.56% or 184 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 23.02% or 206 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). The remaining responses stated 18.44% or 165 people having never visited, and an additional 5.92% or 53 people having never heard of this location before.
- **Mill Pond Conservation Area** is unknown by the majority of respondents, with 33.94% or 300 people stating they were unaware of this location, and an additional 33.14% or 293 people stating they had never visited this property before. Of the people who have visited, 15.95% or 141 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 13.35% or 118 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 3.62% or 32 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **Fulton Pond Park** is well utilized by respondents, with 41.55% or 376 people stating they visit often (once a month or more), 39.56% or 358 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 15.47% or 140 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). Of the remaining respondents,

2.65% or 24 people had never visited this property before, and 0.77% or 7 people were unaware of this location.

- **Kingman Pond Area** is unknown by the majority of respondents, with 36.70% or 323 people stating they were unaware of this location, and an additional 31.93% or 281 people stating they had never visited this property before. Of the people who have visited, 15.23% or 134 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 12.16% or 107 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 3.98% or 35 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **Memorial Park** is well utilized by respondents, with 46.76% or 419 people stating they visit often (once a month or more), 30.02% or 269 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 16.85% or 151 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). Of the remaining respondents, 2.90% or 26 people had never visited this property before, and 3.46% or 31 people were unaware of this location.
- **South Common** is well utilized by respondents, with 40.40% or 364 people stating they visit often (once a month or more), 40.95% or 369 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 14.21% or 128 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). Of the remaining respondents, 3.11% or 28 people had never visited this property before, and 1.33% or 12 people were unaware of this location.
- **North Common** is utilized by some, with 36.19% or 325 people stating they visit sometimes (at least once a year), and an additional 28.62% or 257 people stating they visit rarely (less than once a year). A smaller group of 21.83% or 196 people visit this property often (once a month or more). Of the remaining response, 10.24% or 92 people had never visited this property, and 3.12% or 28 people had never heard of this location.
- **East Common** is mostly underutilized by respondents, with 17.53% or 155 people stating they are not aware of this location, and an additional 30.66% or 271 people stating they had never visited before. Of the responses who had visited before, 26.02% or 230 people visit rarely (less than once a year), 16.40% or 145 people visit sometimes (at least once a year), and 9.39% or 83 people visit often (once a month or more).
- **World War II Veterans Memorial Trail (bike path)** is well utilized by respondents, with 46.15% or 413 people stating they visit often (once a month or more), 30.06% or 269 people visiting sometimes (at least once a year), and 13.63% or 122 people visiting rarely (less than once a year). Of the remaining respondents, 7.26% or 65 people had never visited this property before, and 2.91% or 26 people were unaware of this location.

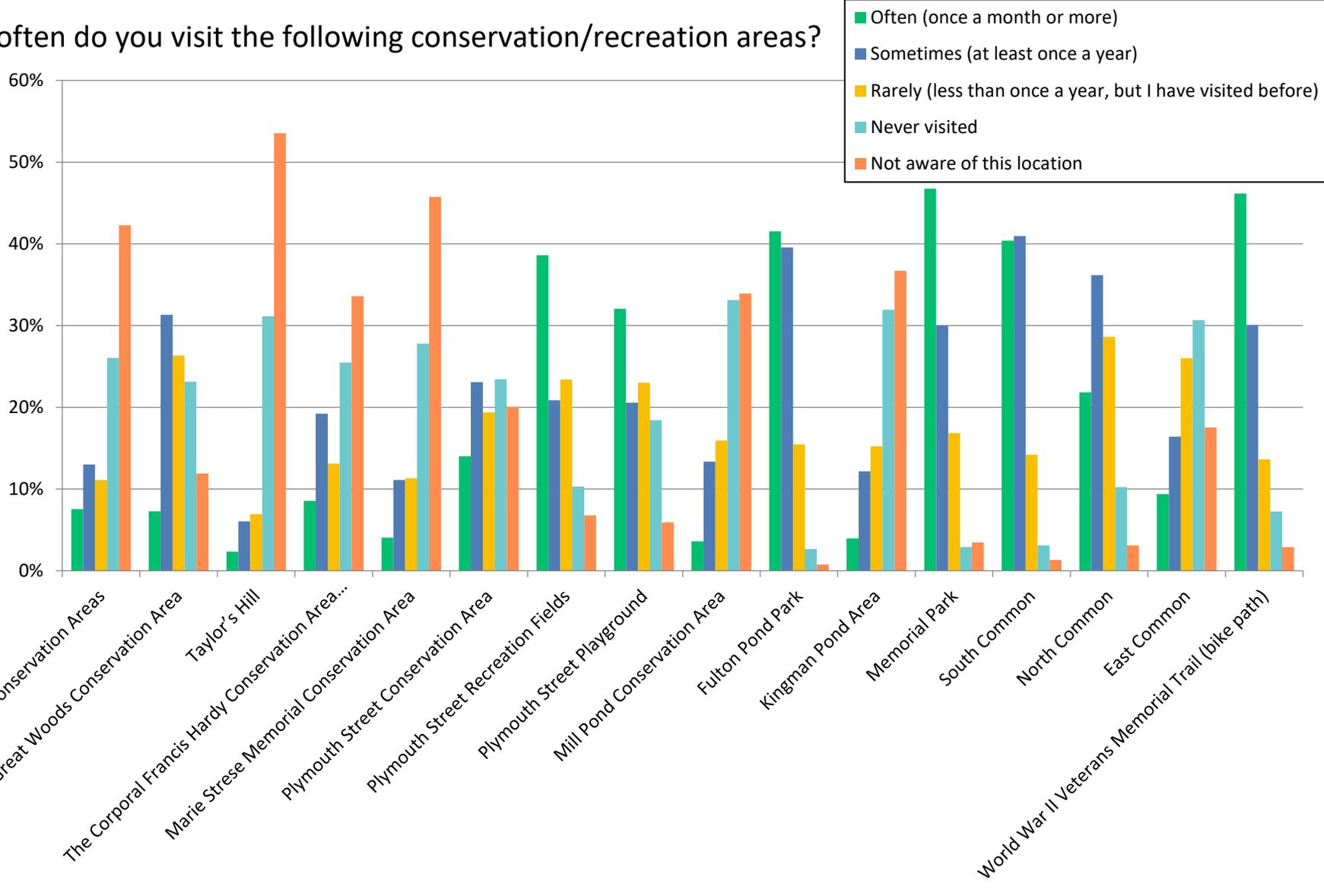
**Top-ranking conservation areas (by percentage of votes within that category) for each visitation rating:**

Often (once a month or more)	Sometimes (at least once a year)	Rarely (less than once a year, but I have visited before)	Never visited	Not aware of this location
Plymouth Street recreation fields (38.62%)	Great Woods Conservation area (31.31%)		Plymouth Street conservation area (23.43%)	Sweet and Kalins conservation area (42.27%)
Plymouth Street playground	South Common (40.95%)		East Common (30.66%)	Taylor’s Hill (53.53%)

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
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(32.07%)				
Fulton Pond park (41.55%)	North Common (36.19%)			The Corporal Fancis Hardy conservation area, AKA Maple Park (33.59%)
Memorial Park (46.76%)				Marie Strese Memorial conservation area (45.74%)
World War II Veterans Memorial Trail, AKA Bike Path (46.15%)				Mill Pond conservation area (33.94%)
				Kingman Pond area (36.70%)

### How often do you visit the following conservation/recreation areas?



### Question 8: What existing conservation/recreation areas in Mansfield need improvement? (including maintenance, repair, or new amenity needs)

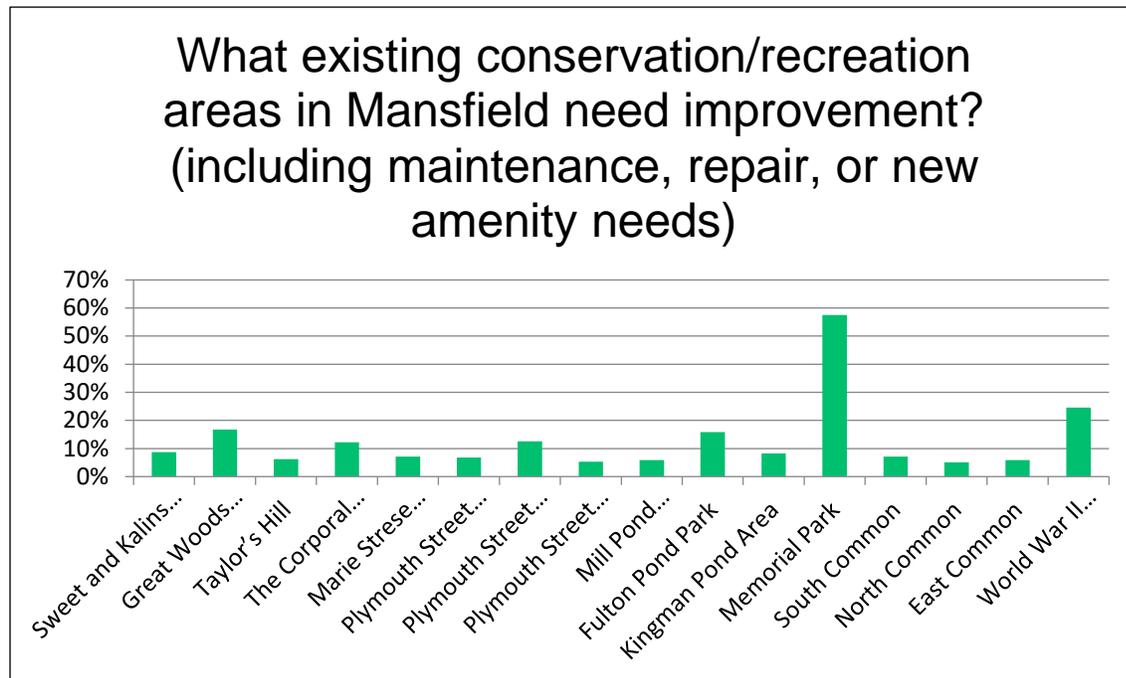
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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand which existing open spaces in Mansfield need upkeep or new amenities.

**Big Picture Results:** Over half of respondents (57.56%) stated that Memorial Park needs improvement, with the World War II Veterans Memorial Trail (bike path) also needing some improvement according to just under a quarter of respondents (24.59%).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 549 respondents answered this question and 385 people skipped. All conservation/recreation properties in Mansfield were identified as needing some level of improvement, with the vast majority of properties likely only needing minor improvement, netting anywhere between 28 (5.10%) to 92 (16.76%) responses. The two properties that need the most improvement were identified as Memorial Park (316 or 57.56%) and the World War II Veterans Memorial Trail AKA the bike path (135 or 24.59%).



### Question 9: What specific improvements are needed at these sites? (please specify which site(s) in your answer)

---

**Type:** Open Ended

**Purpose:** To understand what type of improvements are needed at the sites identified in question #8.

**Big Picture Results:** A total of 418 respondents answered this question and 516 people skipped it. The top five locations that were recommended for improvements included Memorial Park (mentioned approximately 115 times), Plymouth Street Recreation Area (mentioned approximately 30 times), Great Woods Conservation Area (mentioned approximately 15 times), Maple Park (mentioned approximately 8 times), and Marie Strese Conservation Area (mentioned approximately 6 times). The most desired improvements at these sites included General Maintenance and Upkeep, Infrastructure Improvements such as better parking and wayfinding, Facilities Improvements such as lighting, water fountains, trash/recycling bins, and bathrooms, as well as general Safety and Accessibility.

Illustrative response quotes include:

“Memorial Park - looks rundown, scoreboard doesn’t work, permanent bathrooms are always dirty, porta-potty is sometimes tipped over, fields are infested with bees, press box area above bleachers appears condemned.”

“There needs to be a bike/walking path from the bike path to the Great Woods walking trails. Plymouth Street recreation fields need lights and the concession stand needs to be updated.”

“Marie Strese needs a trail clean up; path is quite overgrown. Memorial Park tennis courts practice wall needs some wood replaced; it is starting to splinter. Tennis courts/pickleball hybrid courts at Plymouth Street Complex need the court crackers filled.”

**Summary of the types of improvements desired at each facility:**

Memorial Park improvements requested (115 mentions)	Plymouth Street Recreation Area improvements requested (30 mentions)	Great Woods Conservation Area improvements requested (15 mentions)	Maple Park improvements requested (8 mentions)	Marie Strese Conservation Area improvements requested (6 mentions)
General upkeep, cleaning (including graffiti) and renovation	Improving parking (including paving the parking area)	Trail improvements (particularly regular maintenance and clearing, and installing boardwalks in muddy areas)	Trail improvements (particularly regular maintenance and clearing)	Trail improvements (particularly regular maintenance and clearing, and installing boardwalks in muddy areas)
Facility and Equipment Upgrades (particularly playground and sports facilities)	Tennis court maintenance and repairs	Cleanups (both fallen trees and trash)	Signage and trail markers to aid in navigation	Clear overgrown areas to help reduce tick prevalence
Restroom accessibility and	Facility and Equipment	Signage and trail markers to aid in	Little cleanups (particularly	Safety improvements,

maintenance	Upgrades (particularly improving field drainage, nighttime lighting and playground improvements)	navigation	around the pond area) and trash cans	such as parking lot lighting and a gate
Safety and Accessibility (including better lighting and the removal of hornets nests and dangerous structures)	New amenities, such as a walking/biking path	Accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges and general safety	Accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges and general safety	Signage and trail markers to aid in navigation
New amenities, such as a dog park, splash pad, shaded areas and picnic spots			More parking access	Provide restrooms and other facilities

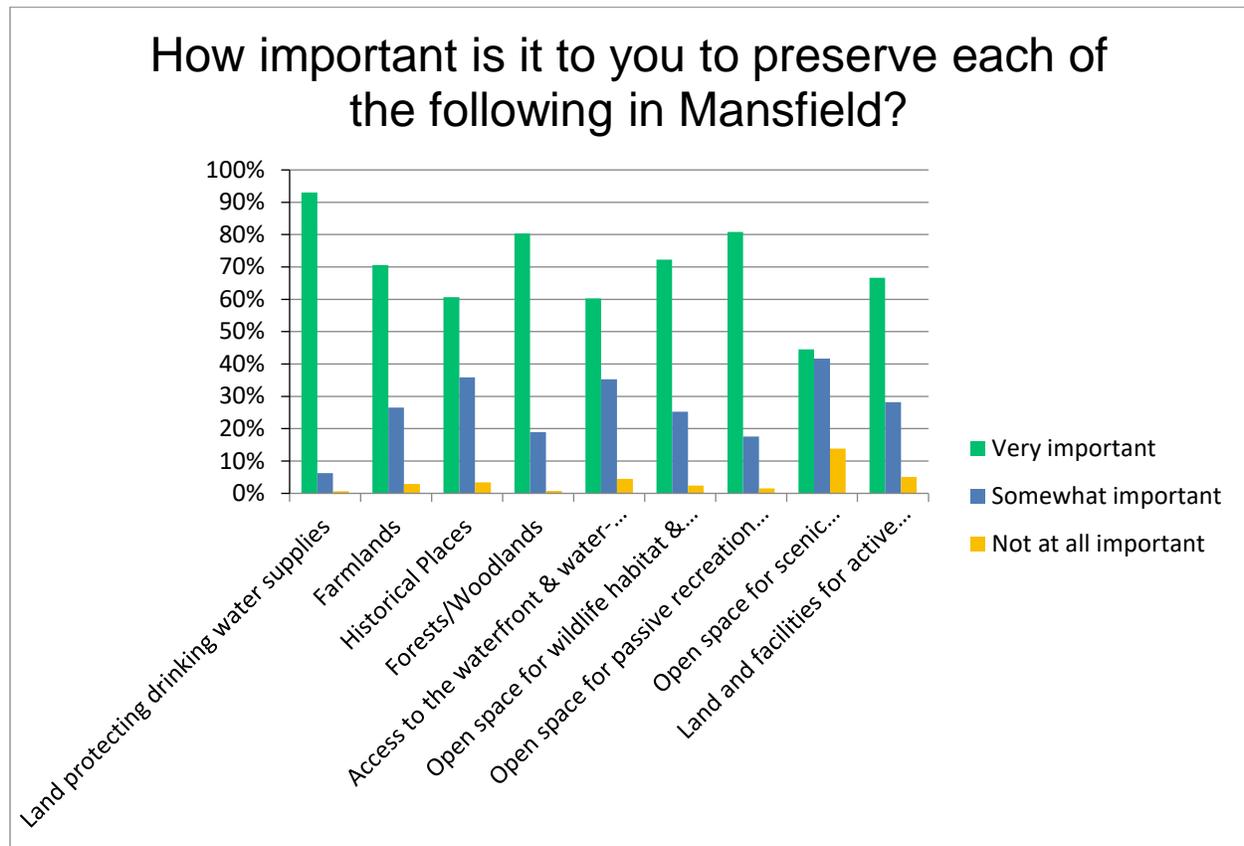
**Question 10: How important is it to you to preserve each of the following in Mansfield?**

**Type:** Rating Matrix

**Purpose:** To understand respondents’ priorities for preservation needs in town.

**Big Picture Results:** All preservation measures were identified as very important, with the top three measures determined to be land protecting drinking water supplies (93.05%), open space for passive recreation (80.87%), and forests/woodlands (80.29%).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 912 respondents answered this question and 22 people skipped. Approximately 898 people answered this question fully, skipping few, if any, sections. All preservation measures were identified as top priorities, with only open space for scenic roads/views/vistas netting less than half “very important” responses (396 or 44.49%). The remaining measures in priority order were identified to be land protecting drinking water supplies (844 or 93.05%), open space for passive recreation (727 or 80.87%), forests/woodlands (721 or 80.29%), open space for wildlife habitat & conservation (646 or 72.26%), farmlands (635 or 70.56%), land and facilities for active recreation (599 or 66.70%), historical places (545 or 60.69%), and access to the waterfront & water-based recreation (542 or 60.29%).



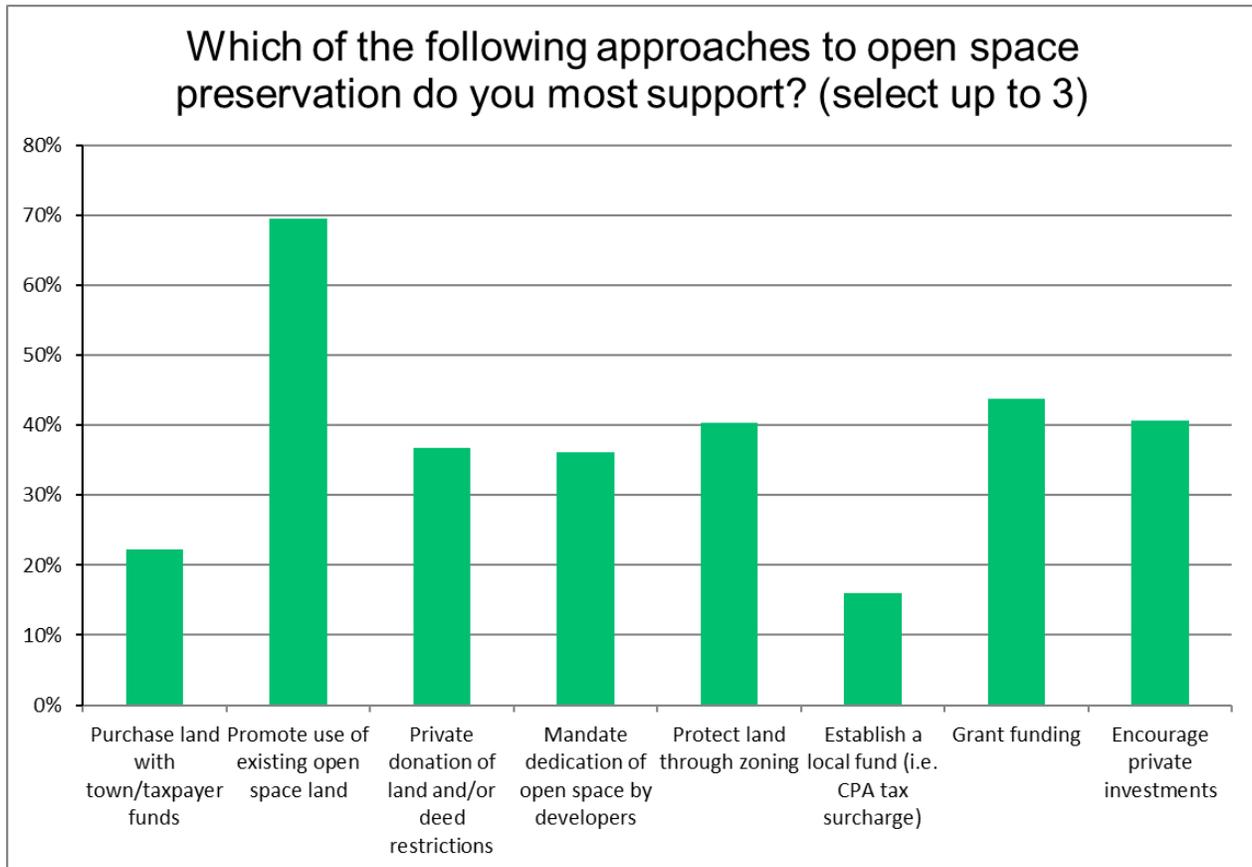
**Question 11: Which of the following approaches to open space preservation do you most support? (select up to 3)**

**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand respondents’ preferences for how Mansfield should go about the preservation priorities identified in question #10.

**Big Picture Results:** The open space approach that was most supported by respondents was promoting the use of existing open space land (69.44%), with the remaining approaches netting anywhere between 15.96% - 43.79% of the responses.

**Detailed Results:** A total of 877 respondents answered this question and 57 skipped. The open space preservation approaches were supported in the following order; promoting the use of existing open space land (609 or 69.44%), apply for grant funding on a case-by-case basis (384 or 43.79%), encourage open space investments from private and non-profit organizations (357 or 40.71%), protect land through zoning (354 or 40.36%), encourage donation of land and/or conservation restrictions by private landowners (322 or 36.72%), mandate dedication of open space by developers (317 or 36.15%), purchase new open space land with town/taxpayer funds (195 or 22.23%), and establish a local fund through adoption of the Community Preservation Act (140 or 15.96%).



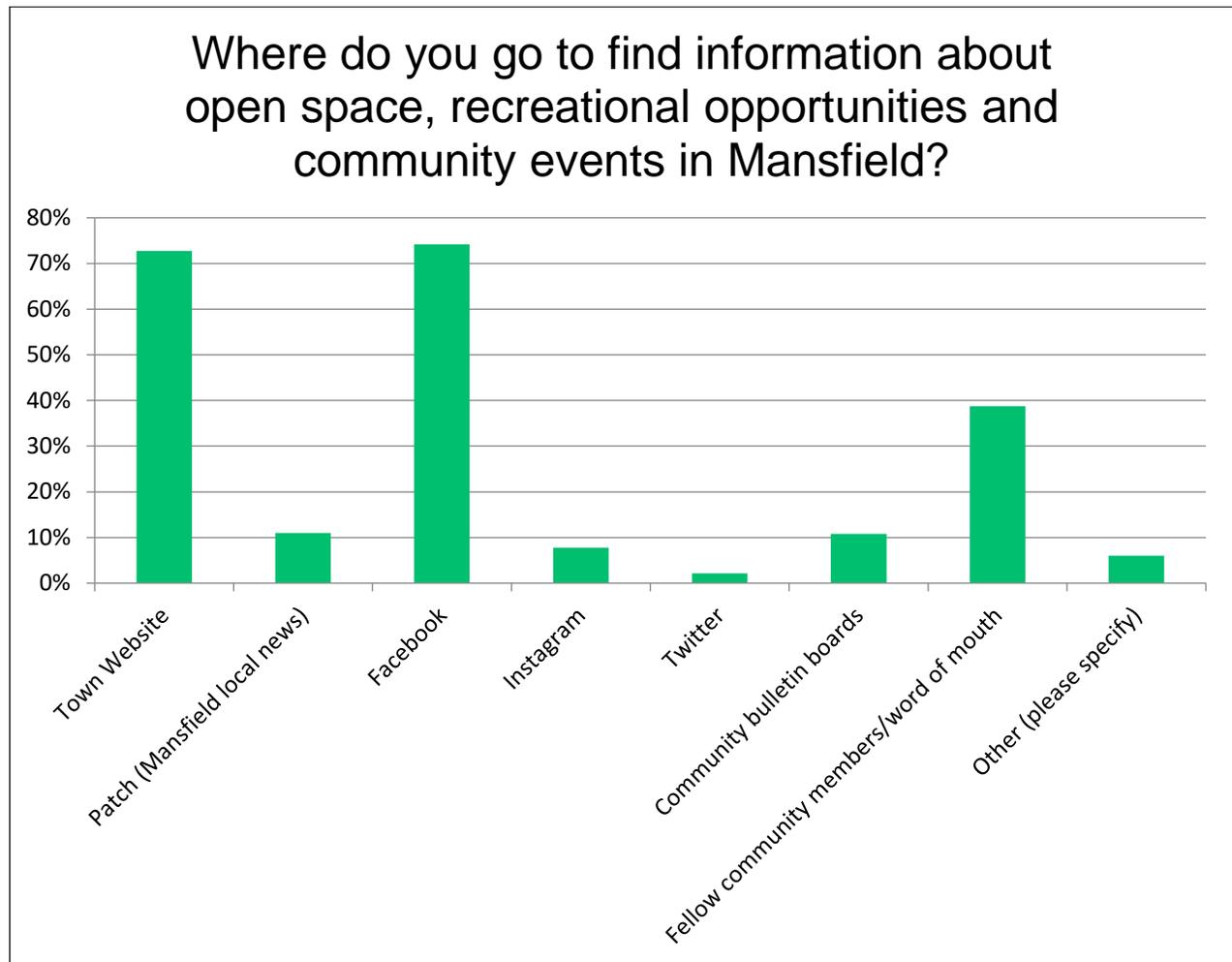
**Question 12: Where do you go to find information about open space, recreational opportunities and community events in Mansfield?**

**Type:** Multiple Choice with an “Other” fill-in-the-blank option

**Purpose:** To understand where respondents are getting information about ongoing in town.

**Big Picture Results:** The top 3 places respondents go to find information about open space, recreational opportunities and community events in Mansfield are Facebook (74.20%), the town website (72.73%) and fellow community members/word of mouth (38.75%).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 880 respondents answered this question and 54 skipped. The majority of respondents went to either Facebook (653 or 74.20%) or the town website (640 or 72.73%) to find information, with some respondents getting information through their fellow community members/word of mouth (341 or 38.75%). The remaining methods of obtaining information were significantly less utilized by respondents, gaining 19 – 97 or 2.16 – 11.02% of the responses. The identified “other” responses included outlets such as Google (9), the Natural Resources Trust (7), physical banners/flyers throughout town (3), the Council on Aging Center (3), the Sun Chronicle (2), community kangaroo (2), and the Library (2).



### Question 13: What is your level of satisfaction with the recreational opportunities available to each age group in Mansfield?

**Type:** Rating Matrix

**Purpose:** To understand which age groups are either satisfied or unsatisfied with the current recreational opportunities offered by the town.

**Big Picture Results:** Teenagers (13 – 19) and adults (20 – 64) are the least satisfied age groups when it comes to recreational opportunities in Mansfield, with the most frequently selected response being “not enough” (42.63% for teenagers and 53.81% for adults). “Enough” recreational opportunities were selected for the age group of 5 – 9. Most respondents were unsure about the recreational opportunities available for ages 1 – 4, 10 – 12, and seniors (65+).

**Detailed Results:** A total of 903 respondents answered this question and 31 skipped, however a core group of approximately 880 answered this question fully, skipping few, if any, sections. No age range selected having “more than enough” recreational opportunities as the top response.

For **age range 1 – 4**, approximately 30% of responses each were in the enough (29.19% or 258), not enough (31.33% or 277), and unsure (33.14% or 293) categories, with the remaining responses stating there was more than enough (6.33% or 56).

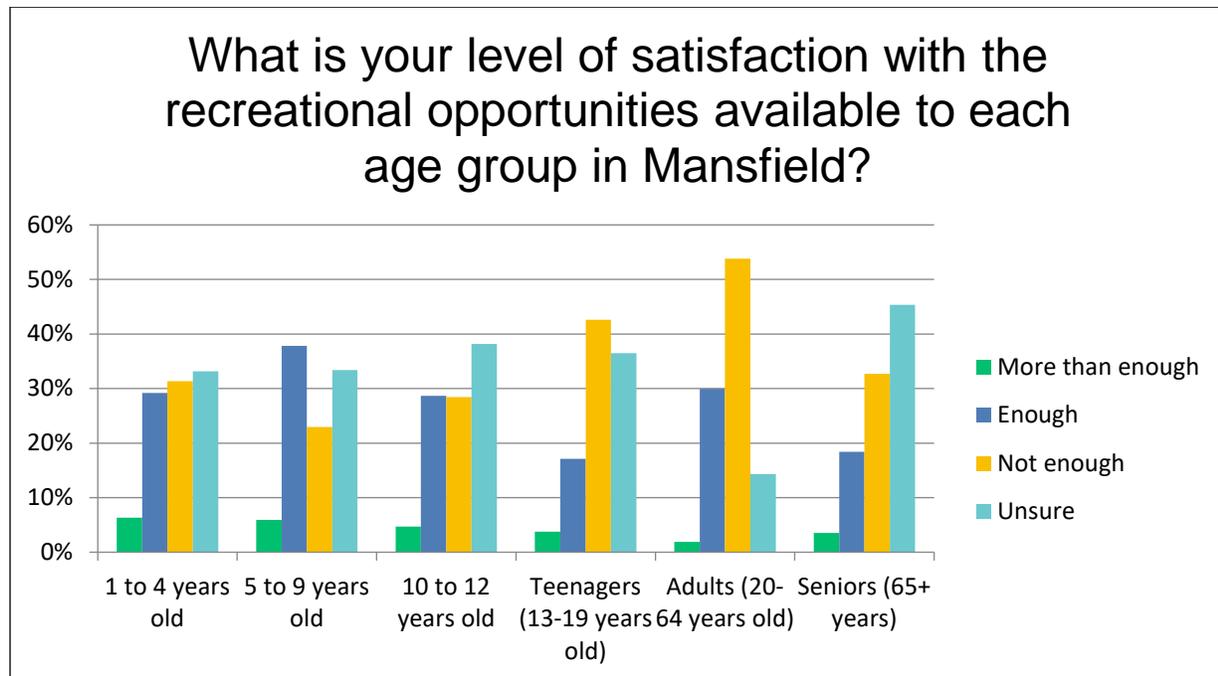
For **age range 5 – 9**, the majority of responses felt there was enough (37.80% or 333), followed by people who were unsure (33.37% or 394), with the remaining responses stating there was not enough (22.93% or 202), and some stating there was more than enough (5.90% or 52).

For **age range 10 – 12**, the majority of responses were unsure (38.19% or 333), followed by a tie between enough (28.67% or 250) and not enough (28.44% or 248), with the remaining response stating there was more than enough (4.70% or 41).

For **Teenagers (13 – 19 years old)**, the largest response was there was not enough (42.63% or 373), followed by unsure (36.46% or 319), enough (17.14% or 150), and more than enough (3.77% or 33).

For **Adults (20 – 64 years old)**, the largest response was there was not enough (53.81% or 480), followed by enough (29.93% or 267), unsure (14.35% or 128), and more than enough (1.91% or 17).

Lastly, for **Seniors (65+)**, the largest response was unsure (45.37% or 397), followed by not enough (32.69% or 286), enough (18.40% or 161), and more than enough (3.54% or 31).



**Questions 14: How accessible and useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in**

### Mansfield are to those in the community with disabilities? (i.e. mobility, seeing, or hearing impairments)

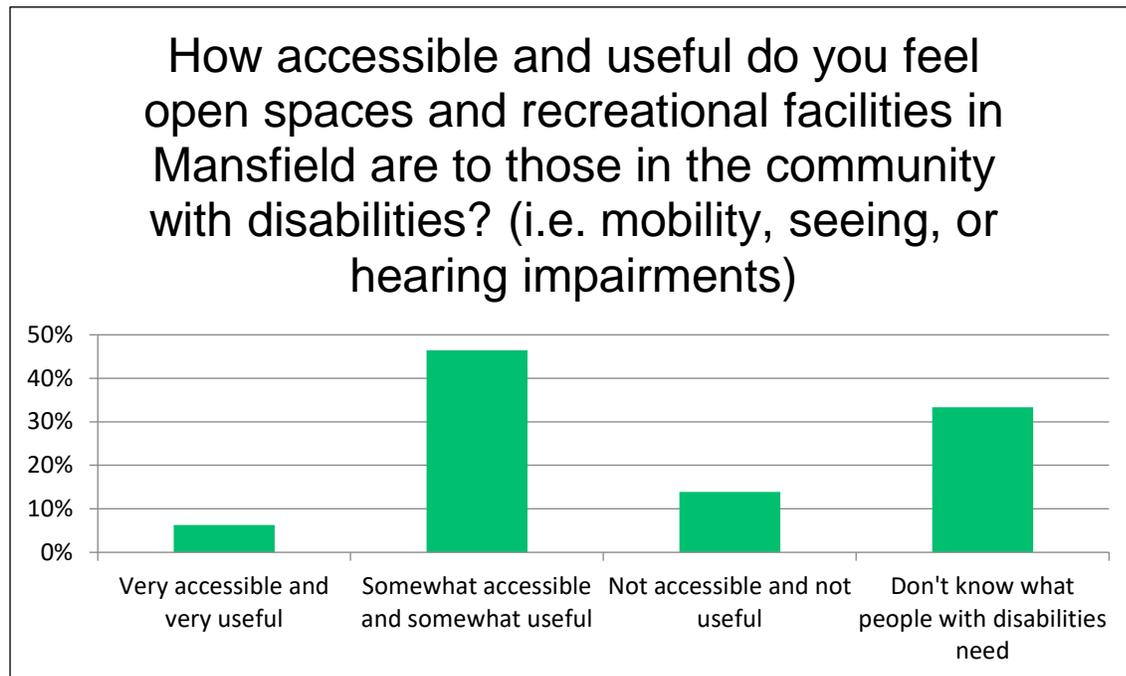
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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand if the current open spaces in Mansfield are accessible to those with disabilities.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of responses felt that the open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are somewhat accessible and useful to those with disabilities.

**Detailed Results:** A total of 887 respondents answered this question and 47 skipped. The majority of responses felt that open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are somewhat accessible and useful to those with disabilities (46.45% or 412), followed by the next largest response stating they were unsure what people with disabilities need (33.37% or 296). The remaining responses felt that the open spaces and recreational facilities were not accessible or useful (13.87% or 123) or were very accessible and useful (6.31% or 56).



### Question 15: How accessible and useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are to senior populations? (65 and older)

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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand if the current open spaces in Mansfield are accessible to older adults.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of responses felt that the open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are somewhat accessible and useful to senior populations.

**Detailed Results:** A total of 880 respondents answered this question and 54 skipped. The majority of responses felt that open spaces and recreational facilities in Mansfield are somewhat accessible and useful to senior populations (49.66% or 437), followed by the next largest response stating they were unsure what senior populations need (31.02% or 273). The remaining responses felt that the open spaces and recreational facilities were not accessible or useful (11.59% or 102) or were very accessible and useful (7.73% or 68).



**Question 16: What can be done to provide more recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities and/or seniors? (for example, facilities improvements, public transit or other travel accommodations, recreational programming, etc.)**

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**Type:** Open Ended

**Purpose:** To understand what improvements can be made to make open spaces in Mansfield more accessible for all users.

**Big Picture Results:** A total of 199 respondents answered this question and 735 people skipped it. The most commonly suggested improvements included improved pathways and sidewalks (mentioned approximately 71 times), enhanced public transit (mentioned approximately 45 times), organized recreational programming for those with disabilities and/or seniors (mentioned approximately 25 times), facility improvements, including an indoor swimming pool or accessible bathrooms (mentioned approximately 11 times), and better communication to increase awareness about existing opportunities (mentioned approximately 6 times).

Illustrative response quotes include:

“Better public transit, more sidewalks (such as Branch St to the bike path), use surfaces on playgrounds that can accommodate walkers and wheelchairs, include play structures that children with mobility challenges can access.”

“First let them know if/what are the opportunities because I am not aware of any. Then let them know you can help get them there, such as advertising GATRA which most residents don't even know about. Look to surrounding towns to see what has worked.”

“Public transit. More places to sit and rest. Cleaned up trails, as sometimes it's easy to trip on unseen things under the brush. More public bathrooms in well used spaces, like Fulton pond.”

**Question 17: More generally, how accessible and welcoming do you feel Mansfield's open spaces and recreational programming are to all members of the community? (considering the cultural and racial composition of the community, as well as geographic distribution of parks and programs across town)**

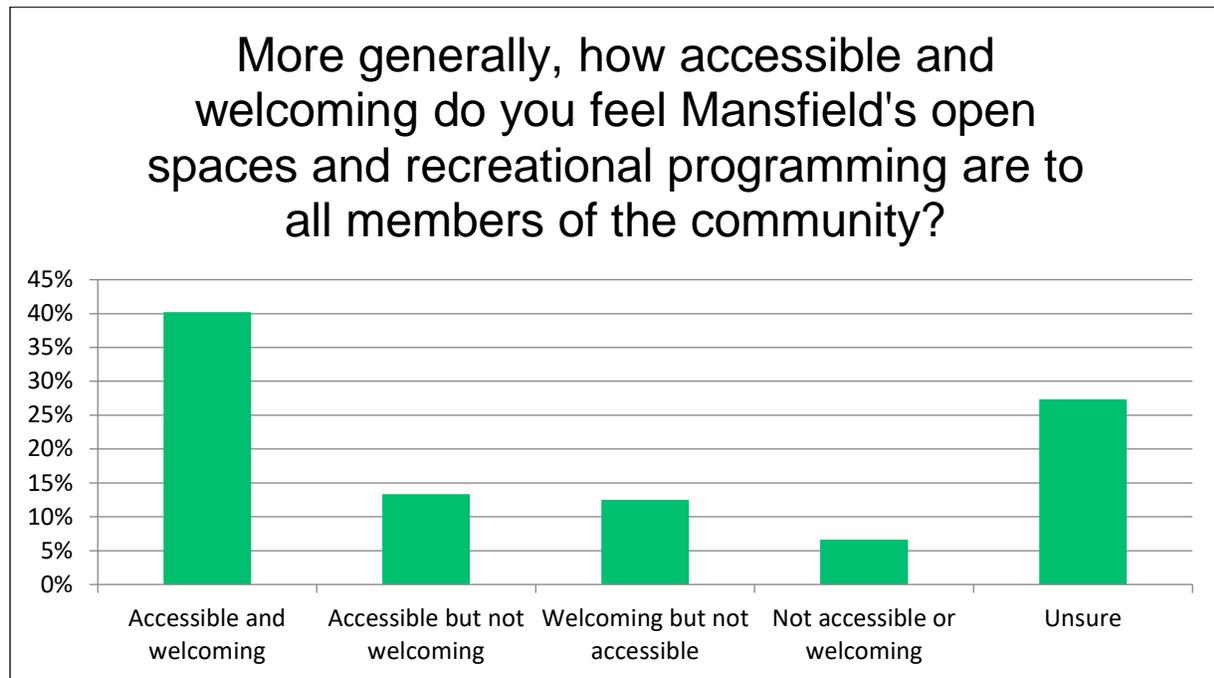
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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand how accessible open spaces are in Mansfield in terms of locations and general feel.

**Big Picture Results:** The majority of responses felt that Mansfield’s open spaces and recreational programming was accessible and welcoming.

**Detailed Results:** 848 respondents answered this question and 86 skipped. The majority of people felt that Mansfield’s open spaces and recreational programming are accessible and welcoming (40.21% or 341), followed by the next largest response of people being unsure about the welcomeness or accessibility (27.36% or 232). The remaining responses felt that these areas were accessible but not welcoming (13.33% or 113), welcoming but not accessible (12.50% or 106), or not accessible or welcoming (6.60% or 56).



**Question 18: Do you have any additional comments, concerns or suggestions about open space and recreation in Mansfield that you would like to share?**

**Type:** Open Ended

**Purpose:** To understand and identify any additional needs that were not captured by previous questions in the survey.

**Big Picture Results:** A total of 198 respondents answered this question and 747 people skipped it. The five most popular categories of responses indicated the need for improved safety and accessibility in public spaces (mentioned approximately 37 times), enhancements to existing recreational facilities and registration systems (mentioned approximately 24 times), preservation of forests and other natural areas (mentioned approximately 7 times), more promotion of and resources about open spaces (mentioned approximately 4 times), and to keep climate change in mind for community planning (mentioned approximately 3 times).

Illustrative response quotes include:

“Pedestrian access should be a higher priority in consideration of town open spaces. It would be great to see an initiative to link together all of the various green/activity spaces in town by a network of safe and walkable sidewalks / paths. For example, adding sidewalks on Branch from Jake's Way to Ware St, Ware from Tracy to Short, all of Short, and Fruit from Short to Hall would provide linked walking / running / stroller / wagon access to the bike path, the South Common, Memorial Park and the school playgrounds, Maple Park, and the York and Strese areas from the majority of East Mansfield. We shouldn't be making people drive to enjoy the open/green space in town!”

“Considering climate change + so much development in our area, Mansfield should work to preserve as much existing forest/wildlife habitat as possible!”

“Mansfield has a lot of great spaces today and lots of potential! In terms of getting people to utilize current spaces more, the big factors are; 1. better accessibility/parking, 2. bathrooms & 3. communication/signage. My last thought is that Mansfield improve their programming communication a bit. There are a lot of different activities happening in Mansfield, but it is challenging to find it. All the youth sports have separate websites. The individual websites should at least be listed on the Parks & Rec website. All the playgrounds/recreation spaces, parking options, family events (Family Fun Night) and parades should be listed on the website too. It was so difficult to find information on them even when I was aware they were happening.”

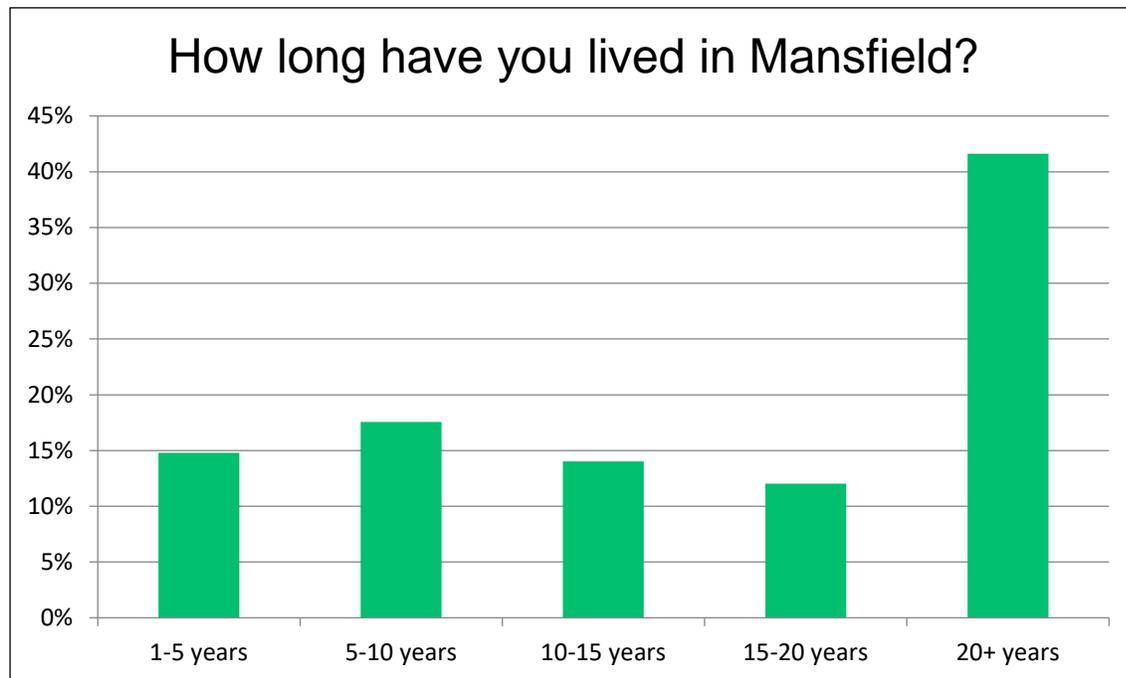
### Question 19: How long have you lived in Mansfield?

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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand how long respondents have lived in town.

**Big Picture Results:** 906 respondents answered this question, 28 skipped. Of those who responded, the majority have lived in Mansfield for 20+ years (377 or 41.61%), with the remaining categories being split between 109 – 134 or 12.03 – 14.79% of responses.



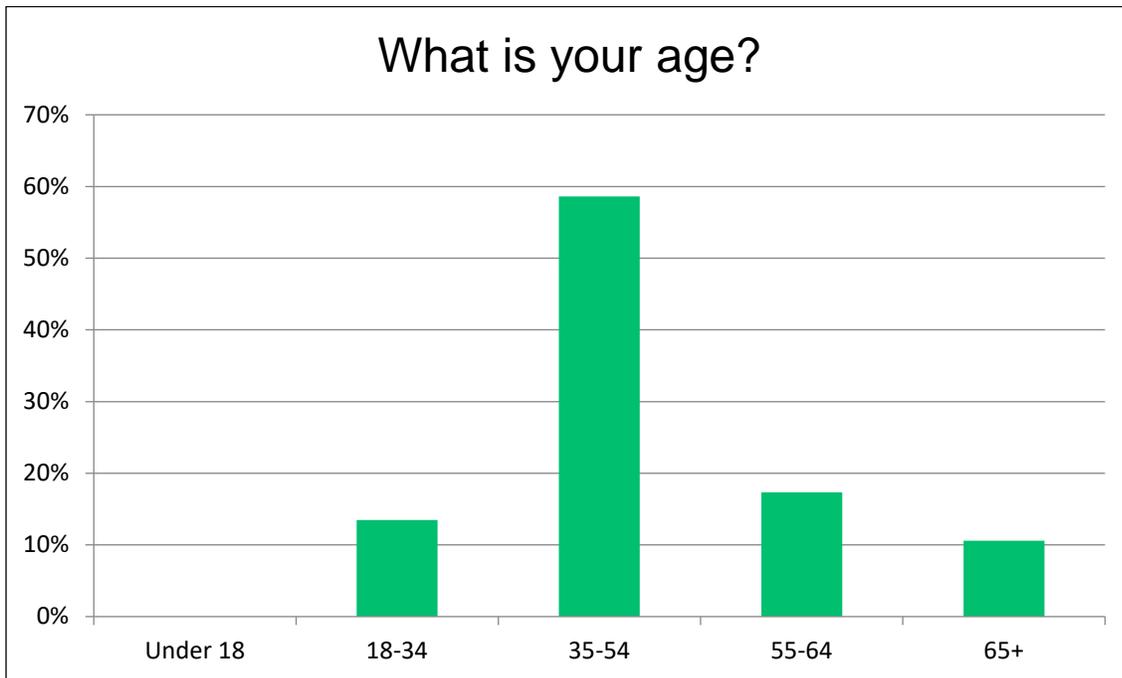
### Question 20: What is your age?

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**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand the age brackets responding to the survey.

**Big Picture Results:** 906 respondents answered this question, 28 skipped. Of the people who answered, the vast majority were between the ages of 35 – 54 (531 or 58.61%), and none were under the age of 18.



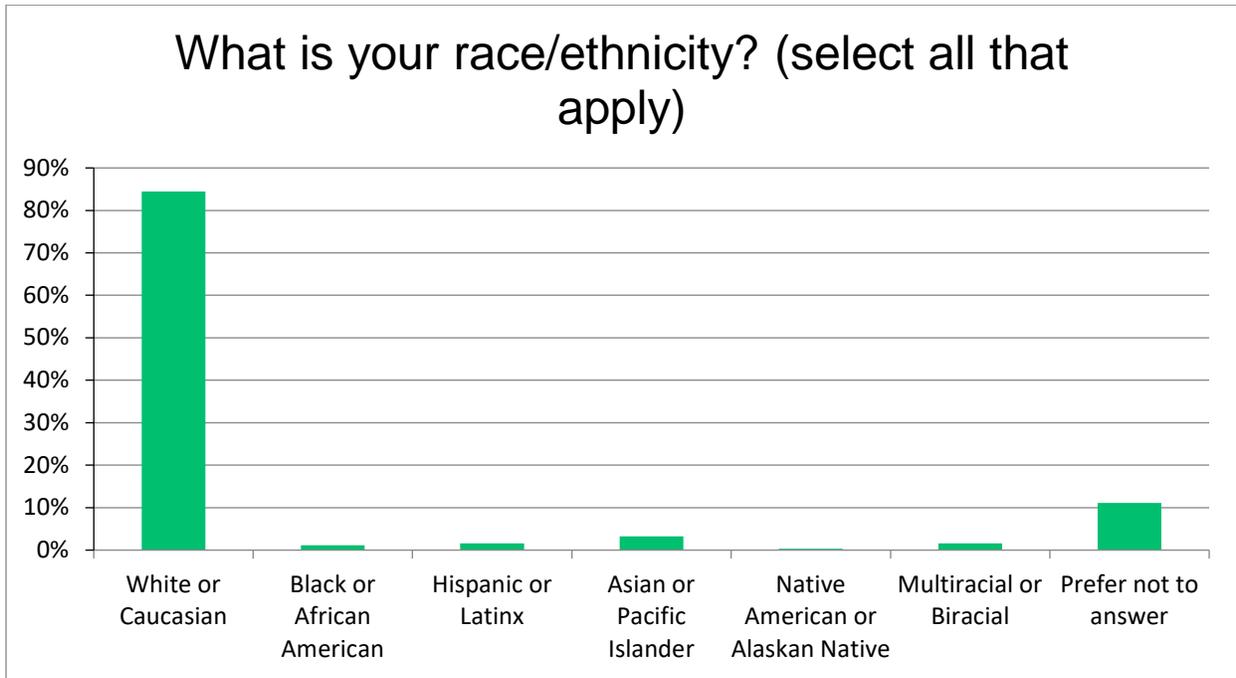
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**Question 21: What is your race/ethnicity? (select all that apply)?**

**Type:** Multiple Choice

**Purpose:** To understand the race and ethnicity of respondents taking the survey.

**Big Picture Results:** 900 respondents answered this question, 34 skipped. Of the people who responded, the vast majority identified as white or Caucasian (760 or 84.44%).



#### Question 22: What is your email address?

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**Type:** Open Ended

**Purpose:** To collect survey respondents email addresses to keep informed of OSRP updates as the plan progresses.

**Big Picture Results:** 481 respondents provided their email address.

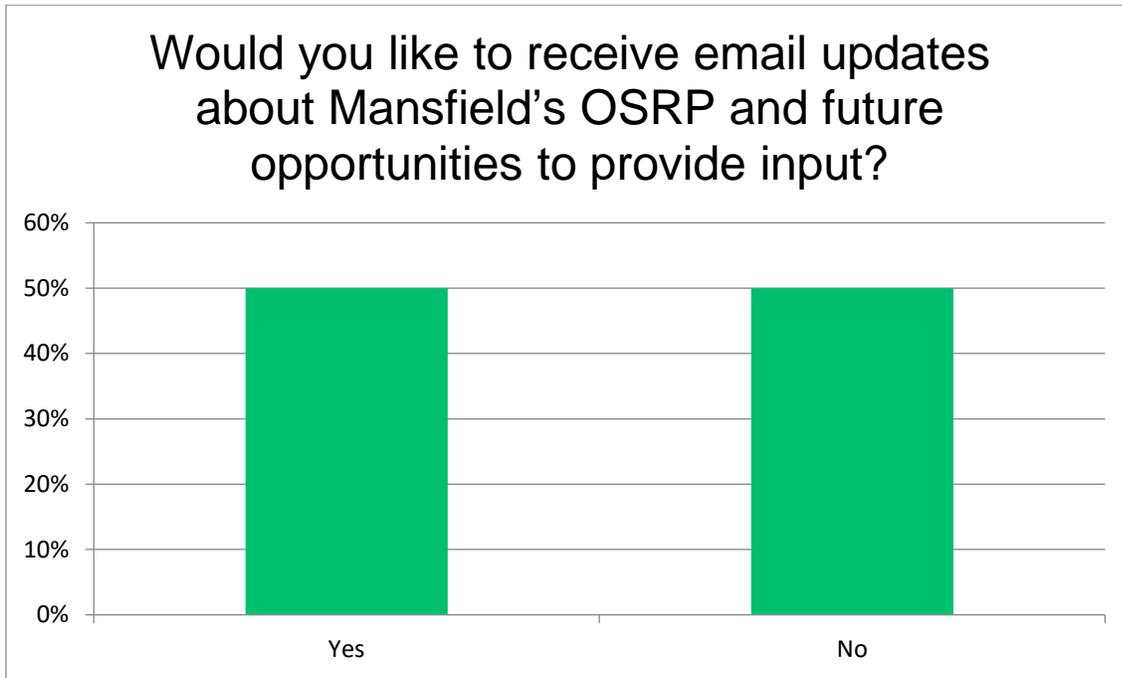
#### Question 23: Would you like to receive email updates about Mansfield’s OSRP and future opportunities to provide input?

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**Type:** Yes/No

**Purpose:** To determine if email addresses given in question #22 want to be informed of OSRP updates as they progress.

**Big Picture Results:** 822 respondents answered this question, 112 skipped. Of the responses, exactly 50% answered yes and 50% answered no (411 responses each).



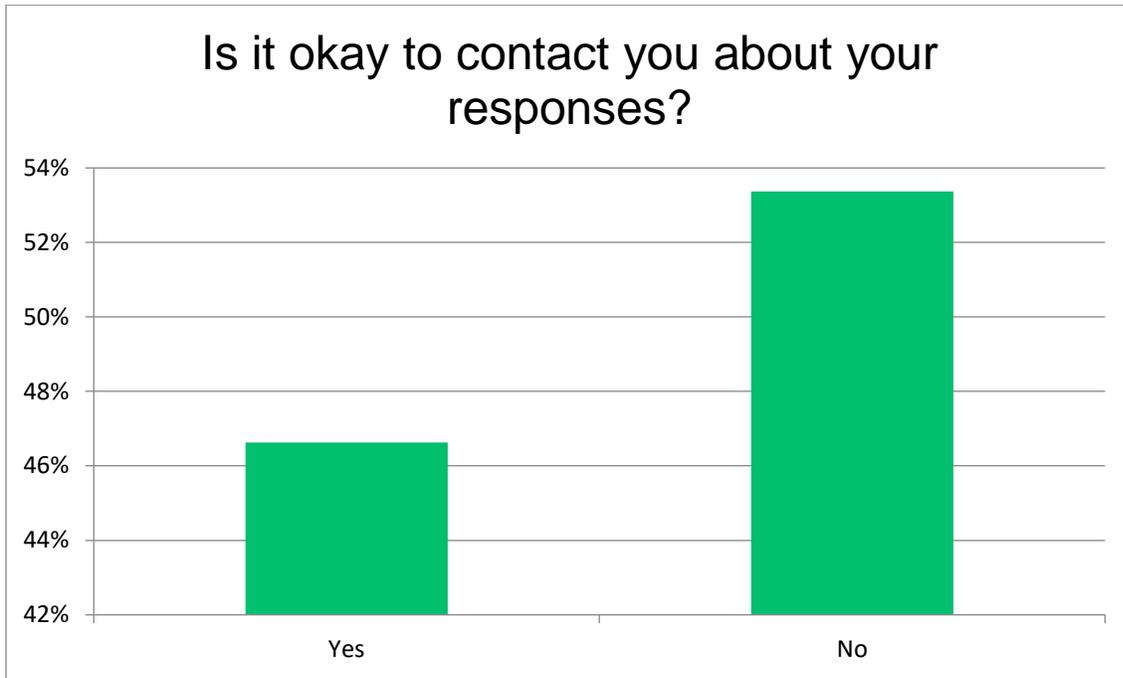
**Question 24: Is it okay to contact you about your responses?**

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**Type:** Yes/No

**Purpose:** To determine if respondents who provided their email address would be okay with being contacted for more information should we request it.

**Big Picture Results:** 832 respondents answered this question, 102 skipped. Of those that responded, the majority do not want to be contacted about their responses (444 or 53.37%), while some are okay with being contacted (388 or 46.63%).



## SECTION TWO: INTERACTIVE MAPPING EXERCISE

### A. Logistics and Overview

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An interactive in-person mapping activity was prepared to solicit feedback on existing open spaces and recreational facilities as well as additional needs. Maps of Mansfield were created displaying existing open space and recreational parcels, color-coded by level of protection (limited, none, in perpetuity, term limited, or unknown), or color-coded by ownership (Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield, Town of Mansfield, non-profit, other municipal, private for-profit, or state), was provided on a 32" by 40" poster board. Individuals were provided 8 different types of stickers, which represented the following comment categories: new recreation amenity need, maintenance/beautification need, recreational programming need, pathway need – bicycle, pathway need – pedestrian, ADA access need, open space/resource conservation need, and cultural/historic resource need. Participants were instructed to place these stickers in locations on the map where that type of need or suggestion was desired, and then to write a unique number on that sticker and the corresponding explanation or comment with the same number next to the map. Participants were also invited to share general comments that did not have a specific location associated with them by either writing that comment with no number associated with it or placing their sticker on a location on the map outside of the town boundary.

One map was displayed on a table hosted by SRPEDD at the Mansfield Family Fun Night on July 11, 2023, from 5:00-9:00 PM. SRPEDD staff were present at the table for the duration of this event and engaged attendees in discussion about open space and recreational needs and invited comments.

A second and third identical map was displayed at the first Mansfield OSRP public workshop in the Mansfield Public Safety Community Room on October 23, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 PM. This public workshop sought to inform residents about what an Open Space and Recreation Plan is, inform the public about current open space and recreational offerings in town, and gain feedback from the public using the map activity.

A fourth identical map was also displayed on a table hosted by SRPEDD at the Mansfield 101 Night at the Mansfield Public Library on October 25, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 PM. SRPEDD staff were present at the table for the duration of this event and engaged attendees in discussion about open space and recreational needs and invited comments.

### B. Public Input Results

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**Big Picture Results:** The most popular needs expressed across all four (4) map activities were the need for more Pedestrian and Bicycle pathways in town (18 mentions at several potential locations), as well as new Recreation Amenities in the way of a new Splash Pad or Pool (7 mentions), a Dog Park (3 mentions), or a New Playground (3 mentions).

# Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Engagement Report

**Detailed Results:** The map used at the Mansfield Family Fun Night received 11 comments:

### Mansfield Open Space & Recreation Map

**Legend**

Open Space by Level of Protection

- Limited
- None
- In Perpetuity
- Unknown

Waterbodies

- Wetlands
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Route
- Arterial and Collector
- Local Road
- Mansfield Boundary

**Sticker Key**

- 🌳 New Recreation Amenity Need
- 🔧 Maintenance / Beautification Need
- 🎪 Recreational Programming Need
- 🚲 Pathway Need - Bicycle
- 🚶 Pathway Need - Pedestrian
- ♿ ADA Access Need
- 🌿 Open Space / Resource Conservation Need
- 🏛️ Cultural / Historic Resource Need

**Town of Mansfield  
2023 Open Space and Recreation  
Plan Update Public Participation  
Mapping Exercise**

Where would you like to see better public space maintenance? Where should the Town put a new park? A new bike trail?

The choice is in your hands!

Use the stickers to indicate open space and recreation issues and opportunities on the map (see the sticker key to the left to identify which sticker category to use).

Number your sticker and write your comment below with the corresponding number.

1. Splash pad ✓
2. extend bike path
3. Pedestrian foot bridge across 495 to Great Woods
4. Extend sidewalk
5. need shade for new playground
6. Add cricket pitch
7. Protect the Town Forest
8. playground
9. World like a labyrinth LABYRINTH both indoors + out doors! (can't be sure where to put it maybe near community garden Essex St.)
9. Rumbold river access from train station / TED district, connect to bike path
- trash + recycling bins throughout town

Learn more about Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and sign up for meeting notices and updates by visiting the project website.

# Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Engagement Report

The first map used at the public workshop received 19 comments:

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: 2023 Mansfield Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

**Legend**

- Mansfield Open Space by Ownership
  - Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield
  - Town of Mansfield
  - Non-Profit
  - Other Municipal
  - Private, For-Profit
  - State
- Properties with public trail networks
  - Regional Open Space
  - Waterbodies
- Roadways
  - Interstate
  - State Route
  - Arterial and Collector
  - Local Road

**Sticker Key**

- New Recreation Amenity Need
- Maintenance / Beautification Need
- Recreational Programming Need
- Pathway Need - Bicycle
- Pathway Need - Pedestrian
- ADA Access Need
- Open Space / Resource Conservation Need
- Cultural / Historic Resource Need

**Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Participation Map**

Where would you like to see better public space maintenance? Where should the Town put a new park? A new bike trail?

The choice is in your hands!

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Pick a sticker (check the sticker key to the left for categories).
2. Place the sticker on the map in the location you'd like to see an improvement.
3. Number your sticker and write the corresponding number in the space here along with your comment.

1. outdoor gymnastic area
2. more bike lanes
3. splash pad
4. dog park area
5. more snowblows, more tree watering
6. more accessibility
7. collecting bikes
8. sidewalk / bike way
9. dog park areas and change
10. ~~more~~ Canoe River having to be better maintained / looking for boat rentals
11. more snowblows / looking for boat rentals
12. more snowblows / looking for boat rentals
13. More Bike Lanes on bike Paths - W. Mansfield
14. Accessibility / Accessibility Databases
15. Trails - To Connect Conservation Spaces
16. Street lighting / conservation & maintenance
17. needs real improvements
18. Walking - throughout Town
19. Walking Trails - More fields on a regular basis How frequently?

Learn more about Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and sign up for meeting notices and updates by visiting the project website

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# Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Engagement Report

The second map used at the public workshop received 19 comments:

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: 2023 Mansfield Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

**Legend**

- Mansfield Open Space by Ownership
  - Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield
  - Town of Mansfield
  - Non-Profit
  - Other Municipal
  - Private, For-Profit
  - State
- Properties with public trail networks
- Regional Open Space
- Waterbodies
- Roadways
  - Interstate
  - State Route
  - Arterial and Collector
  - Local Road

**Sticker Key**

- New Recreation Amenity Need
- Maintenance / Beautification Need
- Recreational Programming Need
- Pathway Need - Bicycle
- Pathway Need - Pedestrian
- ADA Access Need
- Open Space / Resource Conservation Need
- Cultural / Historic Resource Need

**Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Participation Map**

Where would you like to see better public space maintenance? Where should the Town put a new park? A new bike trail?

The choice is in your hands!

**DIRECTIONS**

- Pick a sticker (check the sticker key to the left for categories).
- Place the sticker on the map in the location you'd like to see an improvement.
- Number your sticker and write the corresponding number in the space here along with your comment.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 1. New trail system to the north  
 2. Good maintenance of the park  
 3. New playground equipment

*Handwritten comments:*

- 1 Disc Golf
- 2 Disc Golf
- 3 Disc Golf
- 4 Disc Golf
- 5 Disc Golf
- 6 Disc Golf
- 7 Disc Golf
- 8 Disc Golf
- 9 Disc Golf
- 10 Disc Golf
- 11 Disc Golf
- 12 Disc Golf
- 13 Disc Golf
- 14 Disc Golf
- 15 Disc Golf
- 16 Disc Golf
- 17 Disc Golf
- 18 Disc Golf
- 19 Disc Golf

Learn more about Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and sign up for meeting notices and updates by visiting the project website

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Engagement Report

The fourth map used at Mansfield 101 received 11 comments:

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: 2023 Mansfield Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

**Legend**

Mansfield Open Space by Ownership

- Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield
- Town of Mansfield
- Non-Profit
- Other Municipal
- Private, For-Profit
- State

★ Properties with public trail networks

Regional Open Space

- Waterbodies

Roadways

- Interstate
- State Route
- Arterial and Collector
- Local Road

**Sticker Key**

- New Recreation Amenity Need
- Maintenance / Beautification Need
- Recreational Programming Need
- Pathway Need - Bicycle
- Pathway Need - Pedestrian
- ADA Access Need
- Open Space / Resource Conservation Need
- Cultural / Historic Resource Need

**Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Participation Map**

Where would you like to see better public space maintenance? Where should the Town put a new park? A new bike trail?

The choice is in your hands!

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Pick a sticker (check the sticker key to the left for categories).
2. Place the sticker on the map in the location you'd like to see an improvement.
3. Number your sticker and write the corresponding number in the space here along with your comment.

*1. Park & trail network*  
*2. Mill St needs sidewalk*  
**3. Bike Lanes needed around East Common area. New Curbing makes it very narrow.**  
*4. Sidewalks - Mill Street SE - Terminal St*  
*5. Dog park*  
*6. bike beam Main St connecting w/ bike path*  
*7. Z (P) / A -*  
*8. Brook Council*  
*9. Trail path*  
*10. street park playground*  
*11. Rehabilitation safety spring w/ bike path, by Colton - School for recreation park don't use cons work. Special situations have happened*

Learn more about Mansfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and sign up for meeting notices and updates by visiting the project website

The following is a breakdown of all comments received on all 4 maps, by sticker category. Some comments received additional agreement from other participants and therefore the # of mentions may not add up to the total number of comments above:

**ADA Access Needs**

Comment	# of Mentions
Memorial Park	1
Downtown / North Main Street	1

**Cultural/Historical Resource Needs**

Comment	# of Mentions
n/a	-

**Maintenance/Beautification Needs**

Comment	# of Mentions
Memorial Park – Shade for playground, Bathrooms; Water Fountain; Expanded Picnic Benches; Volleyball Sandpit	3
Great Woods Conservation Area – Trail Maintenance; Mow Fields	2
Trash and Recycling Bins needed throughout Town	1
Maple Park Conservation Area / Kingman Pond – Better wayfinding / labeling for boat access	1
Cabot Forbs Parcels – Needs real bathrooms	1

**New Recreation Amenity**

Comment	# of Mentions
Town Pool / Splash Pad - where possible; Memorial Park (5); Mansfield Schools	7
Dog Park - Where Possible; The Green; West Street	3
New Playground - Ware Street; Downtown; Fulton Pond	3
Cricket Pitch at Memorial Park	1
Labyrinth - Where Possible	1
Rumford River Access	1

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Engagement Report

Zip Line at Fulton Pond	1
Boat Launch at Fulton Pond	1
Storage Facility for Paddleboats at Fulton Pond	1
Disc Golf - Where Possible	1
Softball Complex at Memorial Park or School Grounds	1
Hockey Rink / Ice Skating – Where Possible	1
Designated fishing areas / boat launches - Where Possible	1
Outdoor stage - Where Possible	1
Outdoor Gymnastics Area at Mansfield Schools	1
“Sport Court” at Memorial Park	1
Wayfinding throughout Town	1

**Open Space/Resource Conservation Needs**

Comment	# of Mentions
Maple Park Conservation Area – Protect the Town forest	1

**Pathway Needs – Bicycle**

Comment	# of Mentions
Where possible – Extend the bike path	1
East Common – new curbing makes it very narrow	1
Main Street – Connection to bike path needed	1
Route 106 – more bike lanes	1
West Mansfield / School Street – more bike lanes	1

**Pathway Needs – Pedestrian**

Comment	# of Mentions
Everywhere / where possible – Extend the Rail Trail to Norton; create a Master Plan for pedestrian and bike paths; Connect conservation areas through trail network	3
Maple Street – Sidewalks and Biking paths needed	2
Oakland Street / Foxborough border – extend sidewalks	1

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Engagement Report

495 / Great Woods – Pedestrian footbridge across 495 to Great Woods	1
Mill Street – sidewalks needed	1
William Street / Tremont Street – Sidewalks needed	1
South Common – Sidewalks needed	1
Rumford River area – Hiking trails with elevated boardwalk over wetland areas	1
Borderland Ave area – Sidewalks needed	1
Canoe River – Canoe River Heritage Trail needed	1

**Recreational Programming Need**

Comment	# of Mentions
Fireworks	1
Winter Festival – ice skating, fire pits, hot chocolate	1
More participants needed in parades	1
Baseball opening day ceremony	1
Event hosting / Concessions / Restrooms at Memorial Park	1

**The Town of Mansfield is in the process of updating its 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Presently, we have put together the following draft Goals and their associated Action Items for inclusion in the plan. Your input is extremely important to us as we finalize the town's needs. Please take a few minutes to answer the survey questions below. The deadline for completing this survey is June 3rd.**

**If you have any questions or would like assistance completing the survey, you may reach out to Danica Belknap (SRPEDD) at [dbelknap@srpedd.org](mailto:dbelknap@srpedd.org) or 508-824-1367 (ext. 222).**

**Thank you for participating!**

**Katelyn Gonyer, Environmental and Conservation Planner  
Town of Mansfield**

Do you agree with the following proposed action plan? Did we miss anything?

## **Goal 1: Establish a robust maintenance plan and reasonable budget for the management and implementation of the Open Space portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.**

**Action 1:** Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-A:** Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways and parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail/tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-B:** Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-C:** Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2:** Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of the Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3:** Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational improvements.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 1, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Do you agree with the following proposed action plan? Did we miss anything?

## **Goal 2: Expand, diversify, and improve existing open spaces and recreational areas.**

**Action 1:** Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and/or maintain Open Spaces.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-A:** Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restriction, easements, etc.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-B:** Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield’s open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-C:** Apply for grants to update existing equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2:** Communicate to boards / Municipality.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2-A:** Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of these key parcels as they become available.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2-B:** Communicate the Town’s priority acquisition areas to landowners.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2-C:** Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields/ equipment, and playgrounds.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3:** Community improvement to public spaces.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-A:** Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-B:** Evaluate possible location for an off-leash dog park.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-C:** Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-D:** Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement Memorial Park Master Plan.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-E:** Improve bathroom facilities and access.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4:** Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4-A:** Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4-B:** Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4-C:** Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 2, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Do you agree with the following proposed action plan? Did we miss anything?

## **Goal 3: Promote the use of trail systems within Open Spaces with use of social media, websites, wayfinding signs, and community outreach programs.**

**Action 1:** Expand the Town’s recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 1-A:** Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2:** Use GIS mapping to create accurate trail map and to promote use of trails.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3:** Install wayfinding and park entrance/trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4:** Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield’s conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 3, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Do you agree with the following proposed action plan? Did we miss anything?

## Goal 4: Develop and implement a comprehensive climate change resiliency program for the Town of Mansfield.

**Action 1:** Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2:** Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through FEMA Grant Program to include all of the Town's ongoing effort of climate change preparedness planning.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3:** Continue to apply for grants, such as Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4:** Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on town website.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 5:** Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 4, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Do you agree with the following proposed action plan? Did we miss anything?

## Goal 5: Preserve Mansfield's Natural Resources, wildlife habitats, and remaining agricultural lands.

**Action 1:** Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2:** Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 2-A:** Collaborate with surrounding communities on projects that share the same single source aquifer.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3:** Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 3-A:** Increase public awareness and education of proper land use regarding drinking water.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

**Action 4:** Continue to certify potential vernal pools on town-owned land to ensure their preservation.

- Agree with this action item
- Disagree or concerns with this action item

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 5, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Did we miss anything? Let us know!

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report



**Date:** July 3, 2024

**To:** Mansfield Open Space Committee

**From:** Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

**RE:** Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Summer 2024

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Committee Members,

Please find enclosed the outcomes from the public comment period on the Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) draft Action Plan to inform the 2024 Mansfield OSRP. To maximize participation, the Town of Mansfield and SRPEDD facilitated two kinds of engagement opportunities: an online survey and an interactive dot voting exercise offered at the second public workshop. As such, this report is divided into two sections. In Section One, we present the results of the survey. In Section Two, we present the input provided through the interactive dot voting exercise.

The next step for the Committee will be to ensure the final goals and action items which go into the final OSRP are reflective of local perspectives and points of view.

We appreciate and welcome your review and comment.

Thank you,

The SRPEDD Team

## SECTION ONE: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

### A. Survey Development and Deployment Process

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To ensure that public participation in Plan development was widespread, available beyond attendance at in-person meetings, and accessible, the project team launched an online survey that respondents could take at their convenience.

Mansfield's 2024 OSRP Draft Action Plan survey included 46 questions. 40 of those questions were simple multiple-choice (agree or disagree) designed to gauge the public's satisfaction with the current draft actions of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The remaining 6 questions were designed to capture further commentary should the respondent wish to explain why they may have disagreed with a potential action item.

The link to the online survey was posted on the SRPEDD and Town of Mansfield websites, and was available from May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The survey link was also shared on social media pages for SRPEDD, the Town and local community groups. The exact number of survey responses is difficult to gauge precisely, as it was possible for participants to skip individual questions. A total of 59 respondents engaged with the survey, with a core group of about 51 respondents completing the multiple-choice portion of the survey fully, skipping few, if any, questions.

### B. Public Input Results

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**Big Picture Results:** Most draft Action items received very positive feedback, with 80% of the responses agreeing with the action item or more. Only two draft Actions received less than 80%:

- Action 3-B: Evaluate possible locations for an off-leash dog park (72.55%)
- Action 3-C: Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility (71.15%)

The following is a breakdown of all comments received on each Goal, broken down by Action.

#### Goal 1:

Action(s)	Comment(s)
1-A: Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways and parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail/tree	- Should be amended to include maintenance/paving of bike paths and walkways, not just driveways.

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

<p>clearing, and maintaining existing structures.</p>	
<p>1-B: Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.</p>	<p>- Add “accessible” or “ADA compliant” to phrase “to keep all conservation areas safe and well maintained”.</p>
<p>2: Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of the Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.</p>	<p>- I would just want to make sure that the involvement of those Town departments was to preserve and obtain further Open Space; not identify, sell off, or develop that land.</p>
<p>General Comments (no specific action mentioned)</p>	<p>- I have a question about paving driveways and parking areas. Is there a land conservation purpose to this? We have too much paved parking already; I’m not sure this needs to be a goal if it doesn’t protect the land in any way. Related, the parking near Fulton pond encourages people to park with engines running. This is terrible for the environment.</p> <p>- Most areas are covered by existing depts and commissions. Don't need additional bureaucracies.</p> <p>- I hope to see land left in a natural state wherever possible. I don’t want to see misguided landscaping.</p> <p>- I thought there was already a group or staff members who took charge of the open space. Is it just volunteers?</p> <p>- Disagree with hiring dedicated personnel. Planning &amp; Decision making could be done by working group from various other departments. DPW should lead these work efforts.</p> <p>- How will it be determined who gets appointed to this team? What authority will this team have, if any.</p>
<p>General Comments (no specific action mentioned)</p>	<p><i>Concerns about funding and costs (mentioned 5 times)</i></p> <p>- Funding will be an issue.</p>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does this involve hiring for a new role? What budget will this come from?</li> <li>- I want to limit spending</li> <li>- I disagree with looking into financing for open space and recreation improvements, especially with the current cost of debt</li> <li>- These costs money what other fees are we going to see?</li> </ul>
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**Goal 2:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
1: Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and/or maintain Open Spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserve historic character of the town--i.e. the stone walls and fields etc. Tend to areas that are overgrown with invasive species. More access to view ponds and lacks. Some areas are so overgrown that you can't even see the water etc.</li> </ul>
1-A: Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restriction, easements, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If developers made meaningful Open Space contributions or set-asides, then would be fine with this; however, seems Town just says put in a park bench and we give you extra 10' on building height or no setback.</li> <li>- what would be plan to off set potential tax revenue loss to town for these land grants, etc?</li> </ul>
1-B: Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how will this be done? I am opposed if it is through eminent domain but if it is waiting for land to be put on sale and then purchasing then that seems reasonable.</li> <li>- Can't confirm that I approve of this because I don't know what this would be made a priority over. For example, if acquiring land would help mitigate climate change, or protect our conservation areas, I would see this as more important</li> </ul>
1-C: Apply for grants to update existing equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I agree with replacing equipment, but I also think we need to determine the wants and needs of citizens and what they want for additional recreational equipment such as a street hockey court. There is no acknowledgement of this sport at all in any of our recreation areas. We have more than enough tennis courts and not enough of facilities for some</li> </ul>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

	<p>of our other sports--basketball hoops, a street hockey court (the town of Franklin has a street hockey league and got some grant funds for a hockey court from the Bruins), gaga ball courts, bocce courts etc. We have a disproportionate amount of tennis courts in comparison to other sports. We also possibly need to dedicate a basketball area for younger kids. Most towns also have a swimming pool.</p> <p>- what do you mean by equipment? Do you mean things like mowers and backhoes and trucks used by paid staff to build or maintain areas. Do you mean playground or recreational equipment used by residents while participating in recreational activities/programs? All of the above? Something else?</p>
<p>2: Communicate to boards / Municipality.</p>	<p>- this action item seems vague and undefined, communicate what to what boards?</p>
<p>2-A: Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of these key parcels as they become available.</p>	<p>- I like the idea of grant funding however I don't like the idea of going through the town board because their solution is always to raise property taxes. Property taxes are already too high and I don't want increases for these purposes.</p> <p>- just acquisition. What about maintenance as well?</p>
<p>3: Community improvement to public spaces.</p>	<p>- what does "community improvement" mean? Do you mean community members/residents/volunteers will be doing the improvements? Or do you mean improvement to public community spaces?</p>
<p>3-A: Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.</p>	<p>- don't strike me as being hugely necessary. There's plenty of nearby waterways people can go to. Why use limited land space in Mansfield for something that benefits a select group of users?</p>
<p>3-B: Evaluate possible location for an off-leash dog park.</p>	<p>- the focus should be on allowing public access to the off leash dog park at the Chocolate Factory.</p> <p>- don't strike me as being hugely necessary. There's plenty of nearby dog parks people can go to. Why use limited land space in Mansfield for something that benefits a select group of users?</p> <p>- to have a safe, well maintained dog park more than the space needs to be evaluated, also impacts on public health, animal control added costs, management and safety of the space for dogs and people, added town insurance costs, etc. Enclosed Dog parks are not generally healthy spaces for safe dog behavior to be</p>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

	<p>practiced, there are increase in fights that animal control now has to deal with, increase of facilities management dealing with dog waste and noise complaints, more dogs practicing reactive, and other unsafe behaviors leading to higher risk of injury by dogs to people in those spaces, etc.</p>
<p>3-C: Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cost for a splash park lacks an ROI when Foxboro YMCA just opened one this year.</li> <li>- What happened to the plans to have a splash pad at Memorial Park?</li> <li>- there are a high number of swimming and splash pad spaces in neighboring towns, why does Mansfield also need one? Are the added costs of insurance, maintenance, liability etc really justified given how many of these are locally available via public transit and car?</li> </ul>
<p>3-E: Improve bathroom facilities and access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add word public, ie “improve public bathrooms”</li> </ul>
<p>4: Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not sure why Open Space needs to be or is even a DEI issue, and don't think it should be. That seems different from ADA accessibility issues. Feel that if really want to accomplish Open Space goals then should just stay in Open Space lane, obtaining and preserving Open Space.</li> </ul>
<p>General comment (no specific action)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No disagreements. Just an observation that this plan seems ambitious enough to likely not be fully doable given finite time/resources/capacity/etc. which begs the question of prioritization/sequencing between these actions items. If that's still a "to do" let me put in a plug for Memorial Park and DEI to be two items stop the priority list and/Phase I (depending on how you organize your plan)</li> <li>- developing trails and signage is a great idea. Also getting recognized in apps like ALL TRAILS could add value and increase traffic to sites and nearby businesses.</li> <li>- Money spent should be used to preserve existing facilities. DEI need not be part of open space costs</li> <li>- I would ask that you explore opening up the bathroom facilities at memorial park when there are planned activities with local sports.</li> </ul>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- I agreed with all these Goals, however, some seem far out of reach. I think the town needs a splash pad, and or pool for all residents.</li><li>- There are existing pools and swimmable ponds in the area. I'd prefer resources being used to increase access (eg needs-based subsidies, improving access to swimmable ponds) to these rather than building new facilities.</li><li>- Also, I would love to see improved access (e.g. sidewalks) for the Fruit St. end of the rail trail. The neighborhoods around Fruit/Hall/Angelina/Marshall streets are in easy walking or biking distance but the lack of sidewalks along with several blind corners and significant traffic make it pretty scary!</li><li>- All for preserving Open Space and whatever that entails; and against converting that open space to splash pads or other facilities. Let nature be natural.</li><li>- We need more nature, less human nonsense.</li><li>- Not concerned with access to Canoe River</li><li>- I am concerned that dog owners may not be responsible and keep constant watch on their dog while she/he is playing.</li><li>- Not sure what this meant: "Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners. "</li><li>- Would love more bathroom access and space for families to use.</li><li>- funds towards preserving the historical character of Memorial Park--cleaning and repairing the walls.</li><li>- A more dedicated area for the Summer Camp. Sometimes its hard to use the park when the campers are there. Thank you!</li><li>- Community swimming pool and making memorial park better with bathrooms would be top priorities!</li><li>- As long as the developers that are hired are not friends of Dumas who are given the job.</li><li>- The added expense associated with pools and "circuit training" facilities does not seem warranted. Focus on improving what we have.</li><li>- Don't like the idea of a swimming facility or splash pad. It would be too expensive to build and maintain</li></ul>
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Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

	<p>and there are much more pressing needs for our tax dollars (teachers, trash, etc). Don't see a need to connect trails to downtown/pedestrian corridor and bike path.</p> <p>- Costs are concern. Grants and donations make perfect sense, though</p>
--	---

**Goal 3:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
<p>2: Use GIS mapping to create accurate trail map and to promote use of trails.</p>	<p>- I wonder if resources already available- see prior comment re all trails might forgo need to expend \$ to gis mapping. My husband and i currently have a goal to walk/ride in all mass towns. We find trails via all trails and also search town sites for local resources. We love to then find local restaurants to stop for meals or coffee or ice cream. Businesses near bike paths are fantastic in nicer weather.</p> <p>- We need accurate trail maps and ways to find them. Cannot I see maps of our trails but I don't see where they are located and if there is any parking available, or maybe I'm just not looking in the right place? Thank you</p> <p>- Please make map accessible</p>
<p>4: Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.</p>	<p>- Especially agree with this one; much more so that any social media outreach or website.</p>
<p>General comments (no specific action mentioned)</p>	<p>- Concerned about wasting money on things that don't matter</p> <p>- Full endorsement here! The town has true "hidden gems" that are way too hidden. I also recommend leveraging the Sestercentennial celebrations to spotlight these spaces</p> <p>- Much of this should be covered by Park &amp; Rec Dept. Grants and other funds should be used to make this a reality.</p>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don't forget the plans that have been designed for the Black History Trail. This has been discussed for at least a decade</li> <li>- I would love to know where the open spaces are in Mansfield and have found it difficult to locate them online in the past.</li> </ul>
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**Goal 4:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
<p>General comments (no specific action mentioned)</p>	<p><i>Mainly comments agreeing with taking climate change action, and some concerns about funding / costs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YES!!!</li> <li>- Do not spend limited revenue with local 'climate change' projects. Much is already being spent at the state and federal levels</li> <li>- Resiliency is a great goal at the municipal level!</li> <li>- Climate change is a top priority, but again concerned about wasting money on things that don't matter/wont really help.</li> <li>- what does this have to do with recreation?</li> <li>- I don't disagree but my concerns in general are about Grants. Do we have a dedicated person to apply for all of these grants? It looks like a full time job. I hope we have enough resources to apply for all of these grants.</li> <li>I'm not in favor of raising taxes, but I would be if I knew they were going to go directly to these types of projects and that we were also getting matching funds as a result. I think its time to at least start educating people about the benefits of the Community Preservation Act. Many towns have really benefitted from it. I feel that if people are aware of it and have a lot of information and numbers to see how other towns have benefitted, that it may sway people to consider it.</li> <li>- Strongly disagree with this.</li> <li>- These questions are all so bizarre but I appreciate being asked.</li> </ul>

**Goal 5:**

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

Action(s)	Comment(s)
1: Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.	- Again is this through eminent domain or other avenues?
General comments (no specific action mentioned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3-A and 4 should be lower priorities and not active investments as not all planned actions will be possible.</li> <li>- To my previous comment, the wording and placement of prioritizing land acquisition for the greenway connection will likely get approval because it doesn't list other priorities such as: Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.</li> <li>- We have Health and Conservation Depts. Do not need duplicate, competing bureaucracies.</li> <li>- Not sure which goal this is related too, but would like the town to work with Softball association on creating a dedicated softball complex similar to otis field for baseball</li> <li>- Fix the drinking water!</li> <li>- Land &amp; water preservation should be a top priority!</li> <li>- State is involved in aquifers. Other items are not needed</li> </ul>

**Final General Comments:**

<p>Lights on the Plymouth St turf soccer field, partially funded through a well-managed program to lease days/times to teams/clubs/etc based in neighboring communities. Same for the soon to be renovated high school field. These are town assets that can be more thoughtfully leveraged (but in ways that don't comprise priority access for Mansfield residents). Also step up corporate sponsorship efforts for underwriting in both places, e.g., by companies in the Business Park</p>
<p>I would like to see attention to removal of invasive species and growing diverse native plants and supporting native wildlife in our conservation and land maintenance efforts. I would support education for residents on how to plant native on the resource pages mentioned in the survey, would like to see collaboration with Keep Mansfield Beautiful and Mansfield Garden Club to promote native plants and would like to see outreach to commercial property owners and businesses to promote native plants in their landscaping. Our downtown is sorely missing shade of any kind. Would love to see native trees planted and attempts to create more green space downtown and along 106 (not just lawn) to mitigate climate change, clean the air, and simply to give a more beautiful and welcoming appearance to our town.</p>
<p>I would like the town to work with the Mansfield Softball Association to create a softball complex similar to Ottis Field for baseball.</p>

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

All these Goals seem so great. Some seem out of reach, but I think if we could get grants and help from the government, it would be wonderful and help beautify Mansfield. Thank you for doing all of this.
I'm thrilled to see climate change addressed in this plan. I also would like accessibility to be an ongoing part of planning, so spaces can be used by everyone. We can remember that we will ALL become disabled, if we are luck enough to live long enough (i.e., no 100-yr-old is skipping around and running up and down steps , right?). Thank you!
Allow youth sports programs to help in field improvements.
Think focus should really be on obtaining and preserving Open Space; once the land is developed it is gone for all future generations.
Many of the other items on the survey are good, but seem to dilute and draw away from what really should be the central focus - preserving that Open Space in its natural state.
Thank you
Historic Preservation of the land and structures that we have in addition to proper maintenance-- historic stone walls, mitigate weeds and invasive species etc. Thank you
I would love to see the Memorial Park Master plan to include some pickleball courts
Many are great ideas but are not necessary if a prop 2 1/2 is needed to fund. Nice to have, but not needed.
Do something more fun/better than just grass in Harry B. Chase Jr. Place, the little patch behind Jimmy's on Old Colony. A little garden with some sun loving native plants or a few Sugar Maples that will get big and provide shade in the future. Maybe add a few accessible picnic tables.
Bike lanes and bike racks!
Not necessarily open spaces, but also thinking about the environment, would be amazing if town offered discounted or free composting bins, rain collectors, discounts on solar energy. I love that the schools at Norton have solar panels. Would be nice to have more sidewalks in town to allow for walking, I'd walk to more places, but live on Stearns which is dangerous at best.
Good luck getting any of this to become a reality based on our budget crisis. The override, COA, school improvements, etc are already going to form a logjam.

### **C. Survey Responses by Question**

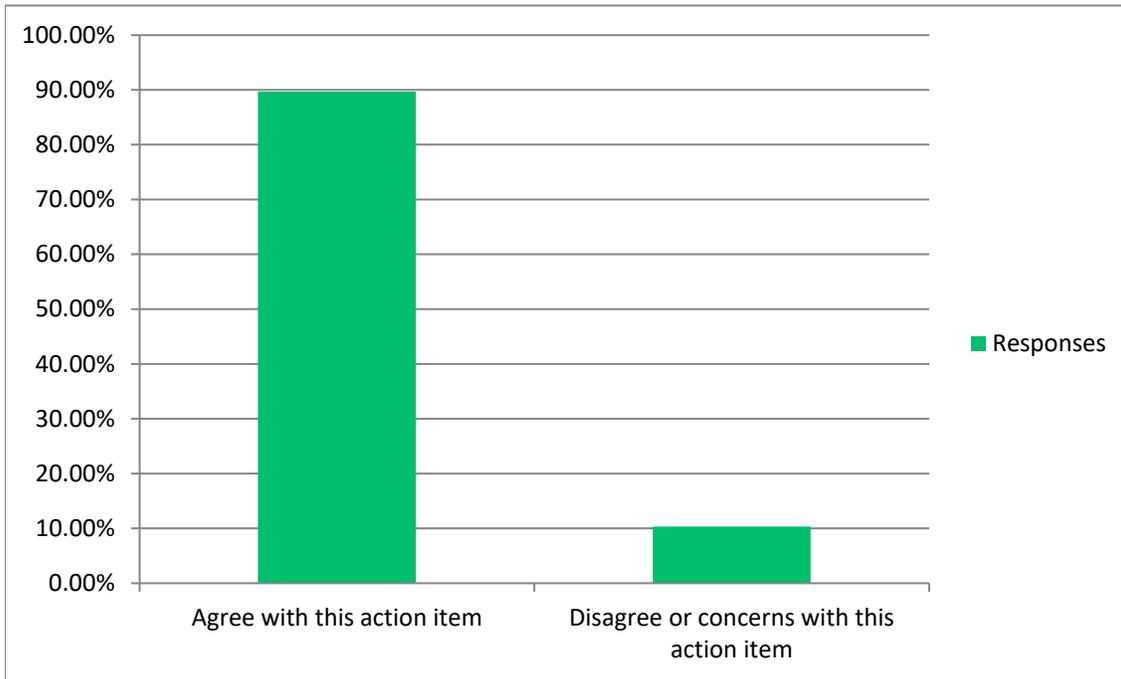
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The information that follows presents the results of all 46 individual survey questions.

# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 1: Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.

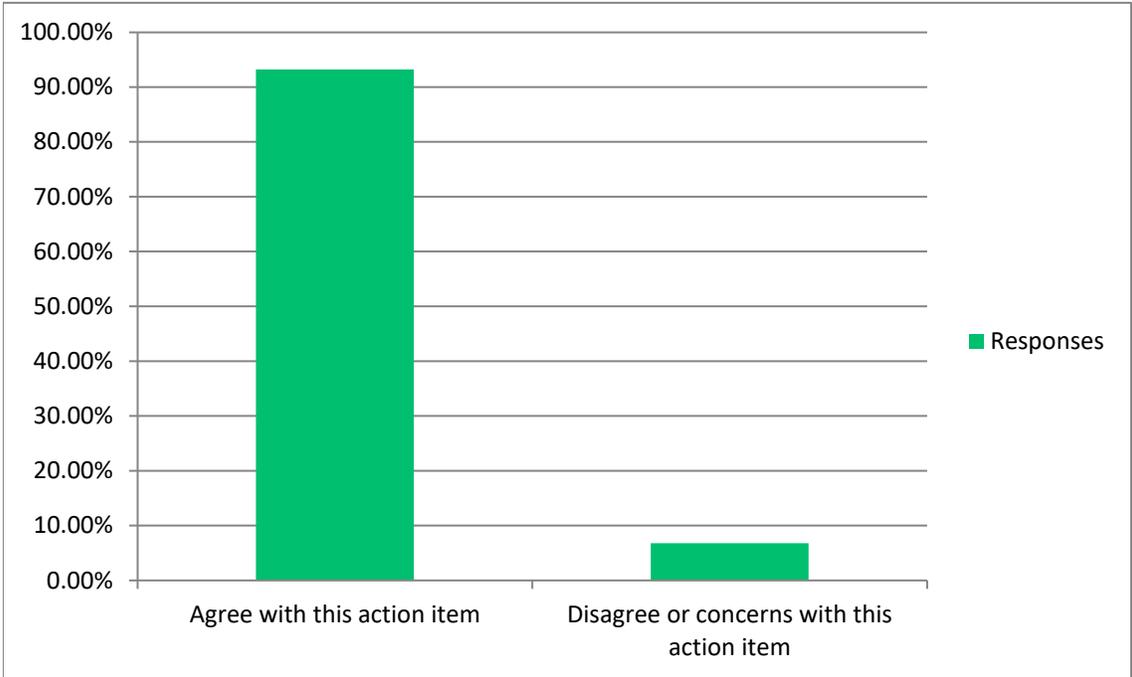
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	89.66%	52
Disagree or concerns with this action item	10.34%	6
<b>Answered</b>		<b>58</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>1</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

**Action 1-A: Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways and parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail/tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.**

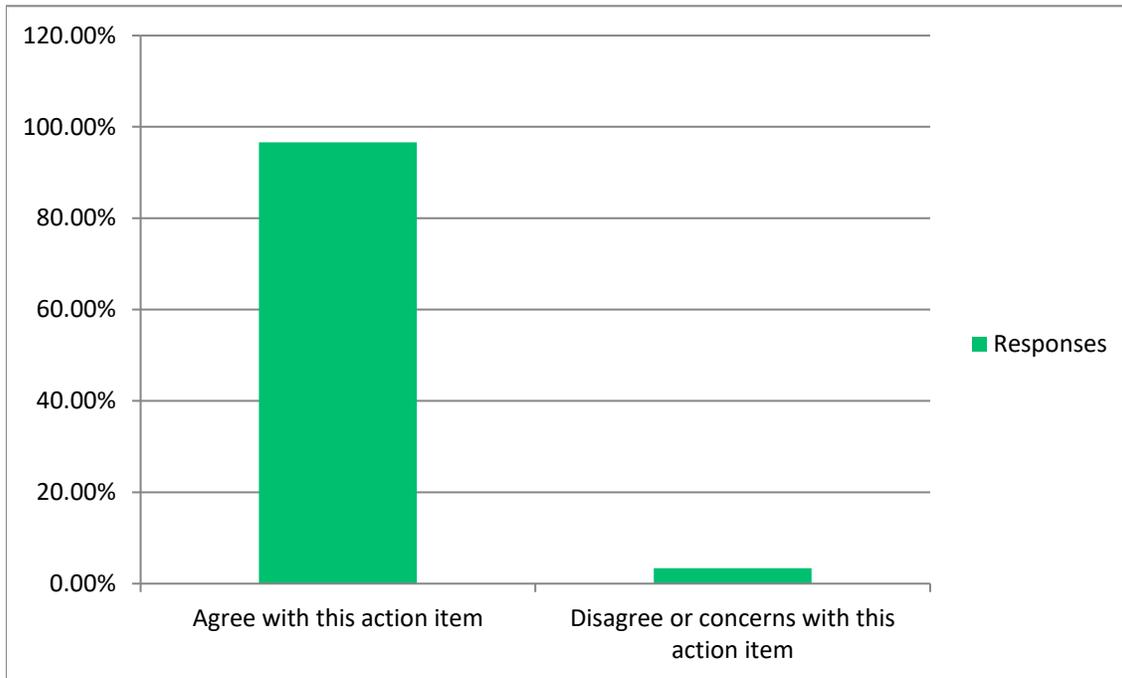
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	93.22%	55
Disagree or concerns with this action item	6.78%	4
<b>Answered</b>		<b>59</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>0</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

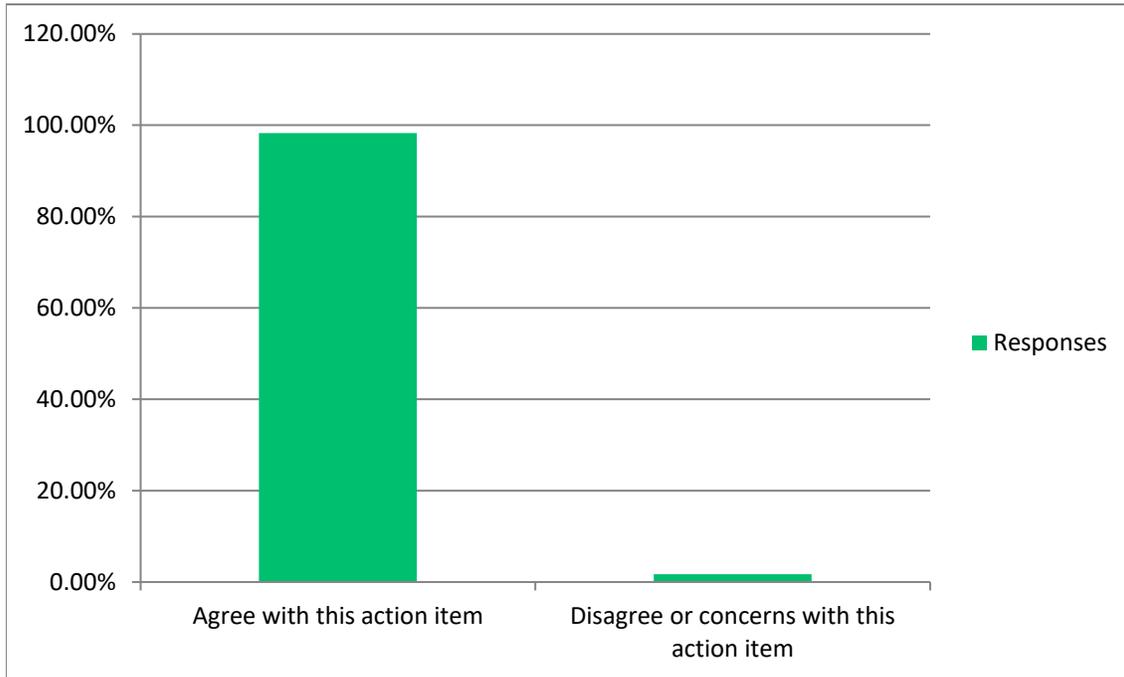
**Action 1-B: Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	96.61%	57
Disagree or concerns with this action item	3.39%	2
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 1-C: Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.**

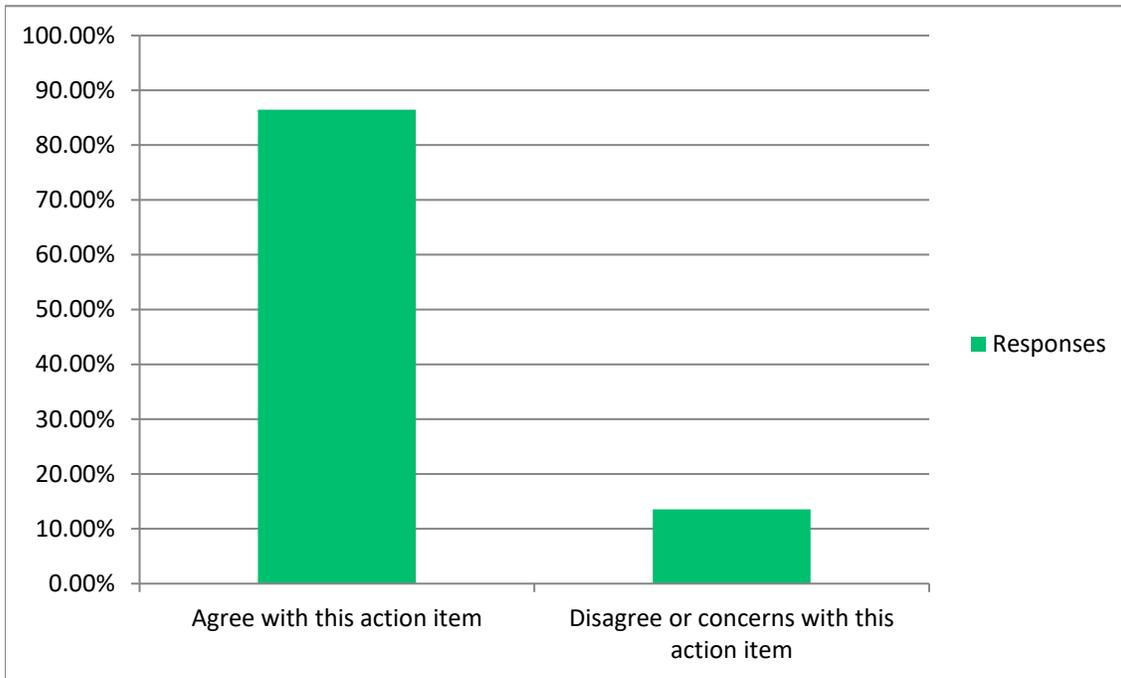
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	98.28%	57
Disagree or concerns with this action item	1.72%	1
<b>Answered</b>		<b>58</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>1</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

**Action 2: Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of the Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	86.44%	51
Disagree or concerns with this action item	13.56%	8
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

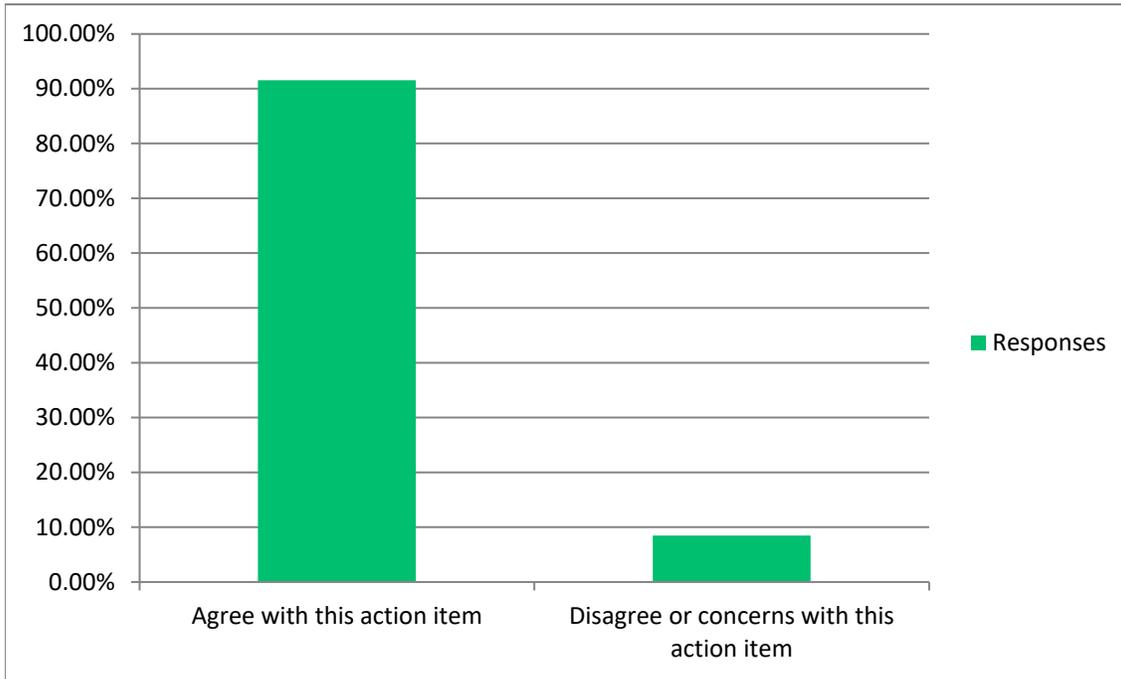


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3: Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational improvements.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	91.53%	54
Disagree or concerns with this action item	8.47%	5

**Answered 59**  
**Skipped 0**



## Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 1, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Answered 14

Skipped 45

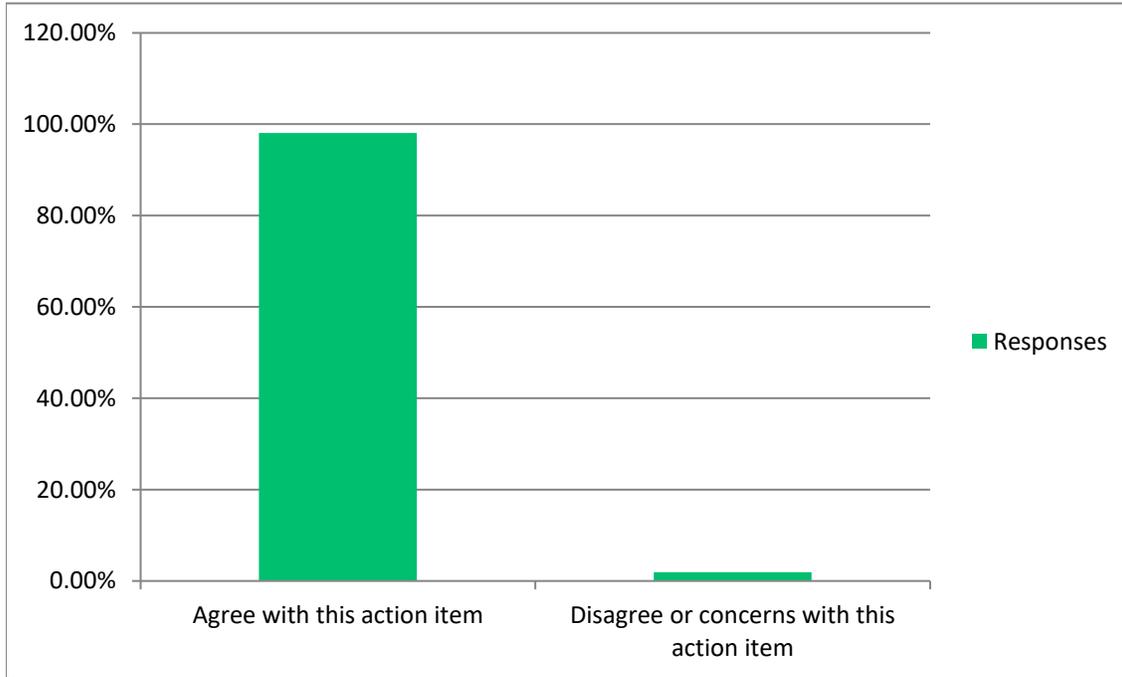
Response Date	Responses
May 31 2024 06:08 PM	Action 1-A should be amended to include maintenance/paving of bike paths and walkways, not just driveways.
May 31 2024 02:29 PM	Funding will be an issue.
May 31 2024 10:20 AM	I have questions about paving driveways and parking areas. Is there a land conservation purpose to this? We have so much paved parking already; I'm not sure this needs to be a goal if it doesn't protect the land in any way. Related, the parking near Fulton pond encourages people to park with engines running. This is terrible for the environment.
May 29 2024 08:01 AM	Most areas are covered by existing depts and commissions. Don't need additional bureaucracies.
May 24 2024 02:43 PM	Does this involve hiring for a new role? What budget will this come from?
May 22 2024 06:29 AM	I want to limit spending
May 21 2024 03:08 PM	I disagree with looking into financing for open space and recreation improvements, especially with the current cost of debt
May 21 2024 09:43 AM	For Action Plan 2, I would just want to make sure that the involvement of those Town departments was to preserve and obtain further Open Space; not identify, sell off, or develop that land.
May 21 2024 08:30 AM	I hope to see land left in a natural state wherever possible. I don't want to see misguided landscaping.
May 20 2024 09:01 PM	I thought there was already a group or staff members who took charge of the open space. Is it just volunteers?
May 20 2024 07:37 PM	Disagree with hiring dedicated personnel. Planning & Decision making could be done by working group from various other departments. DPW should lead these work efforts.
May 20 2024 04:44 PM	How will it be determined who gets appointed to this team? What authority will this team have, if any.
May 20 2024 04:00 PM	1-B, add "accessible" or "ADA compliant" to phrase "to keep all conservation areas safe and well maintained".
May 20 2024 03:56 PM	I am concerned with anything adding potential costs. I am very concerned by the unrelated item to add trash fee, if these costs money what other fees are we going to see?

# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 1: Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and/or maintain Open Spaces.

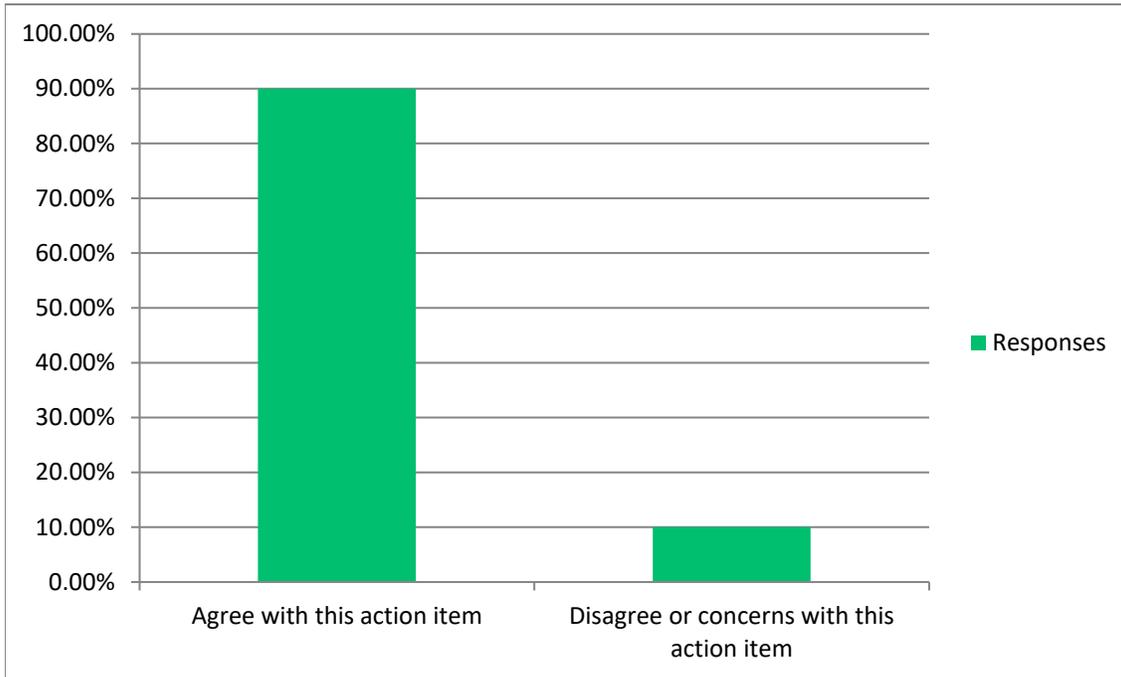
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	98.08%	51
Disagree or concerns with this action item	1.92%	1

**Answered 52**  
**Skipped 7**



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 1-A: Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restriction, easements, etc.**

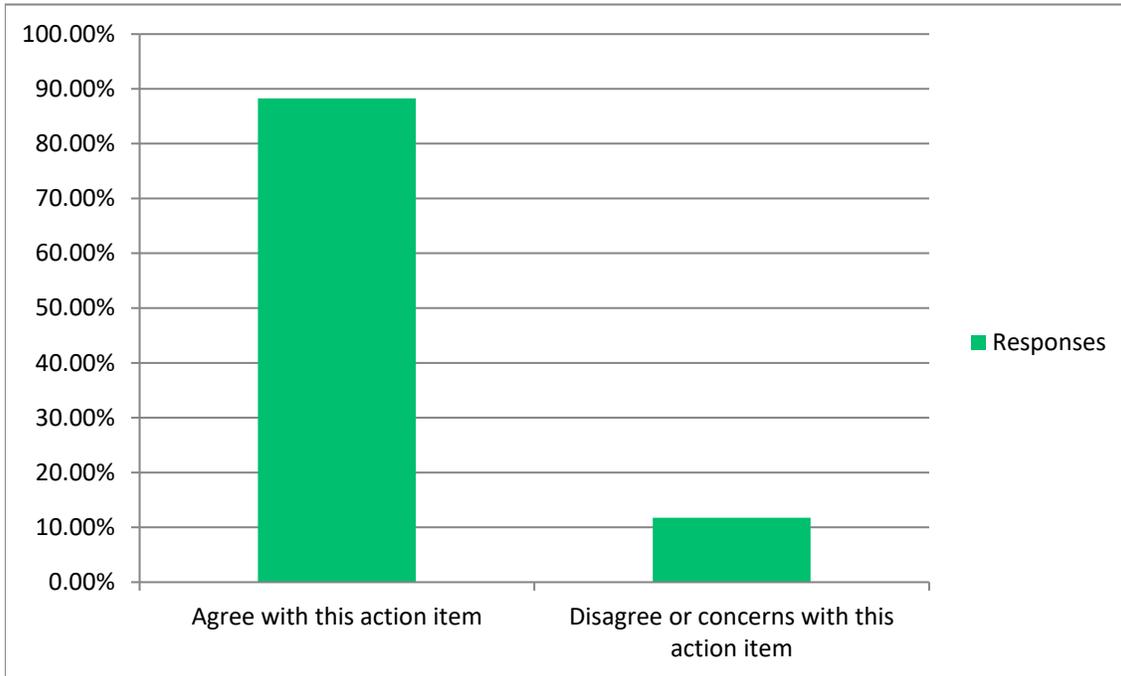
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	90.00%	45
Disagree or concerns with this action item	10.00%	5
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>50</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>9</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

**Action 1-B: Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield’s open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.**

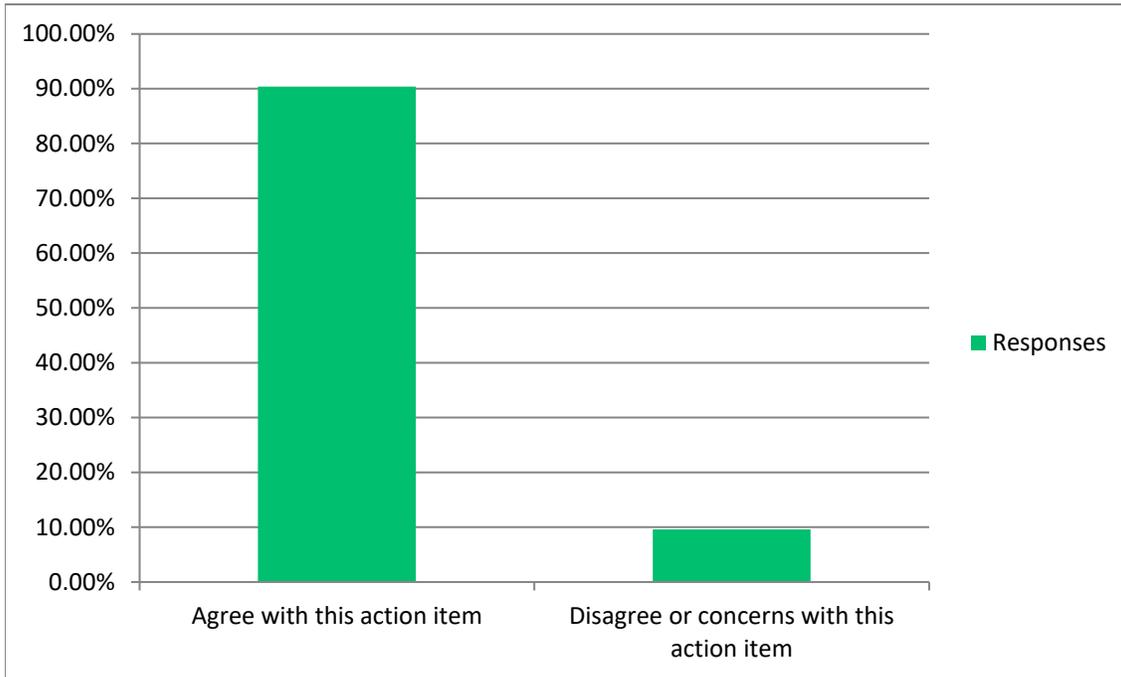
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	88.24%	45
Disagree or concerns with this action item	11.76%	6
<b>Answered</b>		<b>51</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>8</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 1-C: Apply for grants to update existing equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	90.38%	47
Disagree or concerns with this action item	9.62%	5
<b>Answered</b>		<b>52</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>7</b>

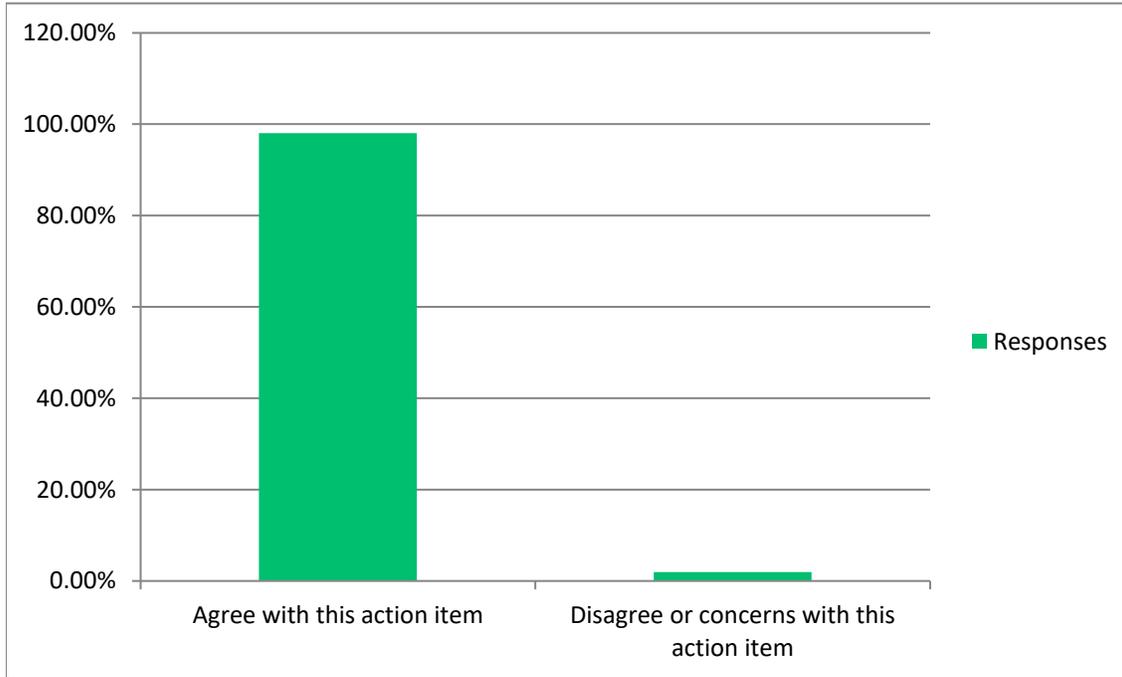


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 2: Communicate to boards / Municipality.

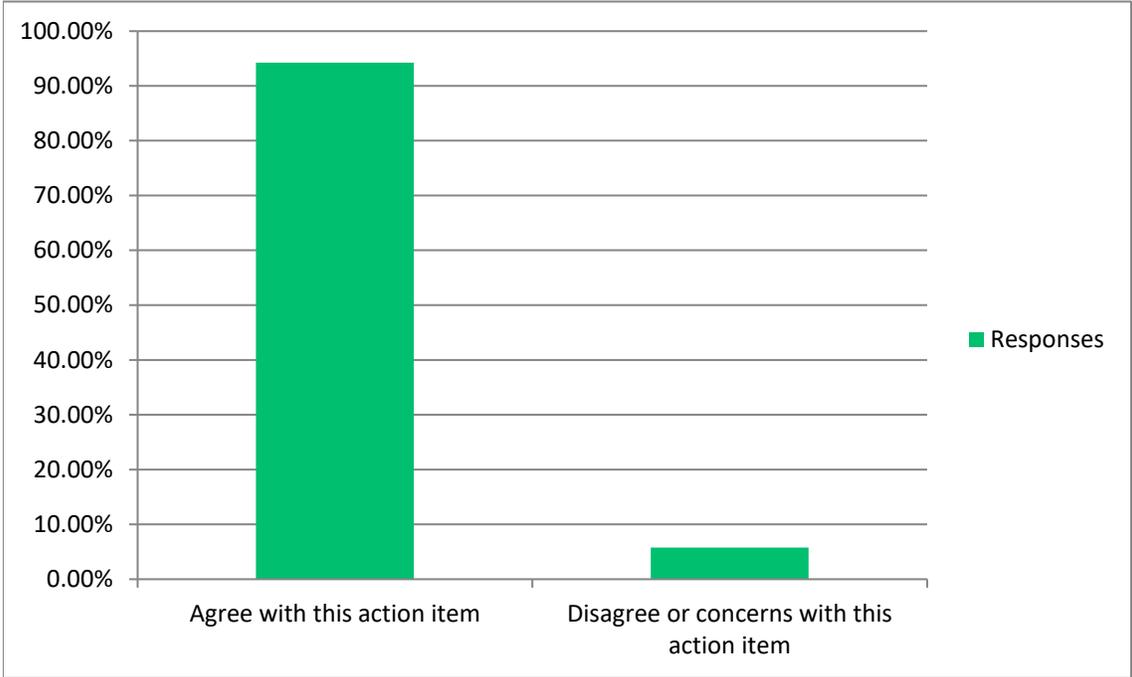
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	98.04%	50
Disagree or concerns with this action item	1.96%	1

**Answered 51**  
**Skipped 8**



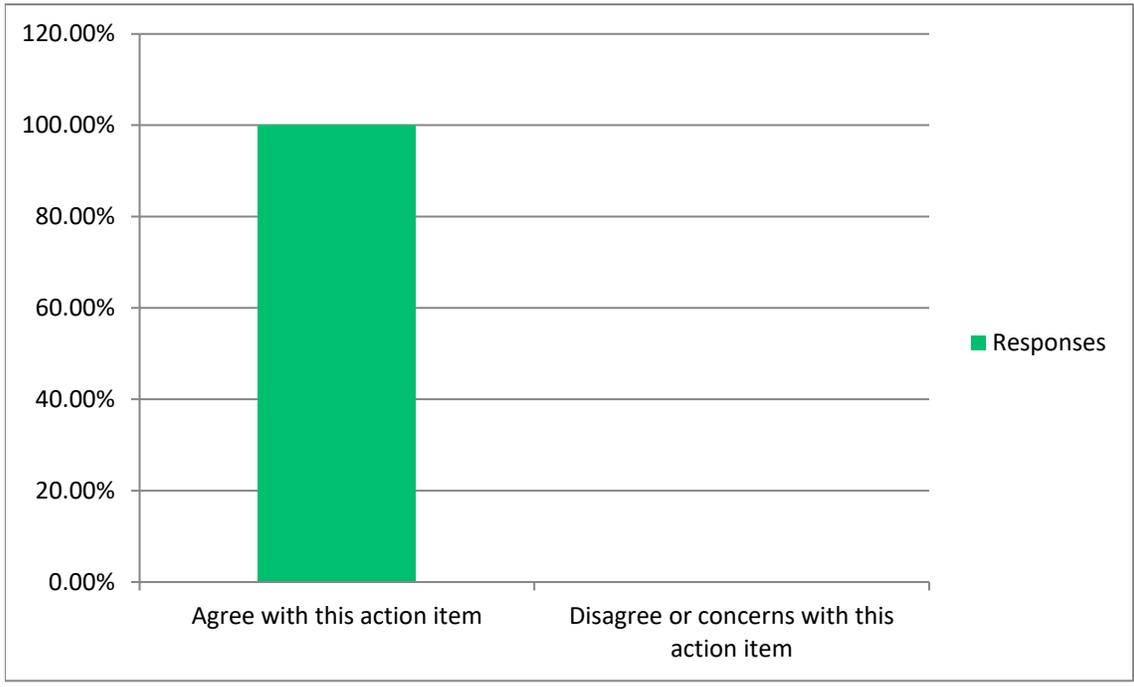
Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 2-A: Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of these key parcels as they become available.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	94.23%	49
Disagree or concerns with this action item	5.77%	3
<b>Answered</b>		<b>52</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>7</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 2-B: Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners.**

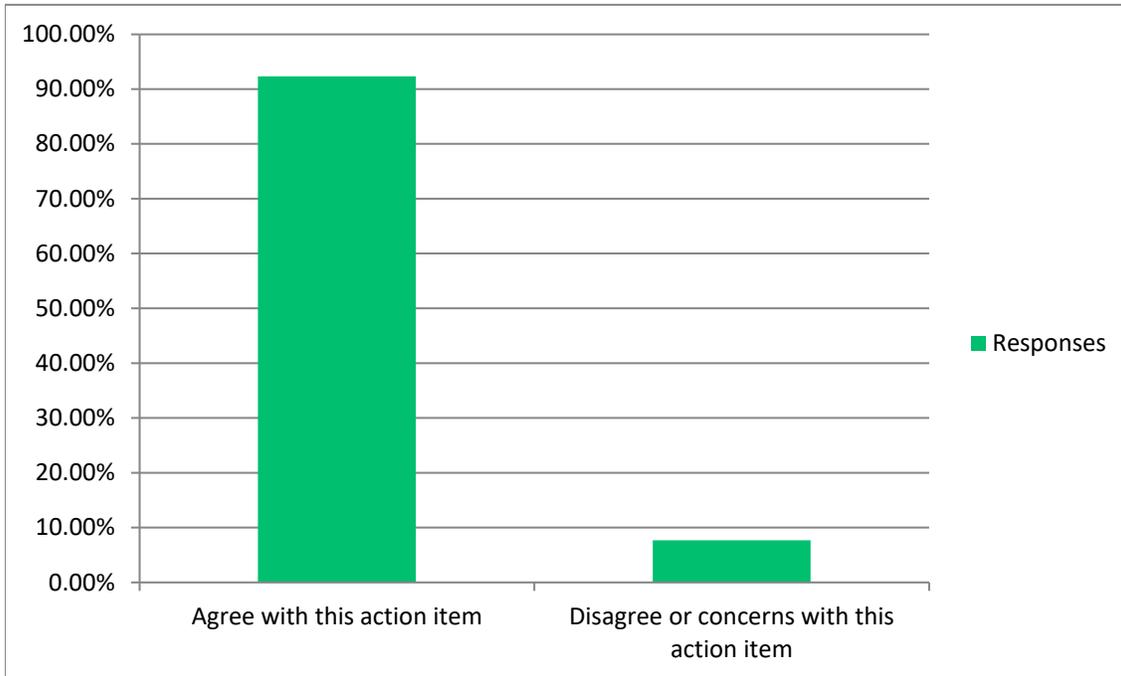
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	100.00%	52
Disagree or concerns with this action item	0.00%	0
<b>Answered</b>		<b>52</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>7</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

**Action 2-C: Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields/ equipment, and playgrounds.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	92.31%	48
Disagree or concerns with this action item	7.69%	4
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>7</b>

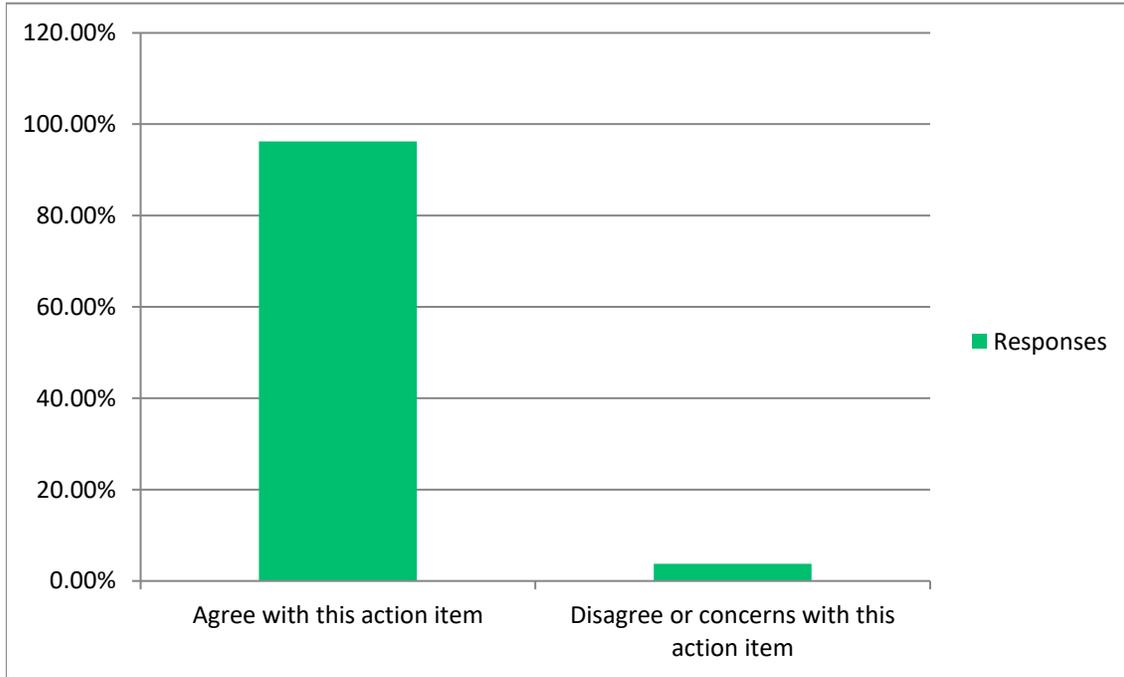


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3: Community improvement to public spaces.

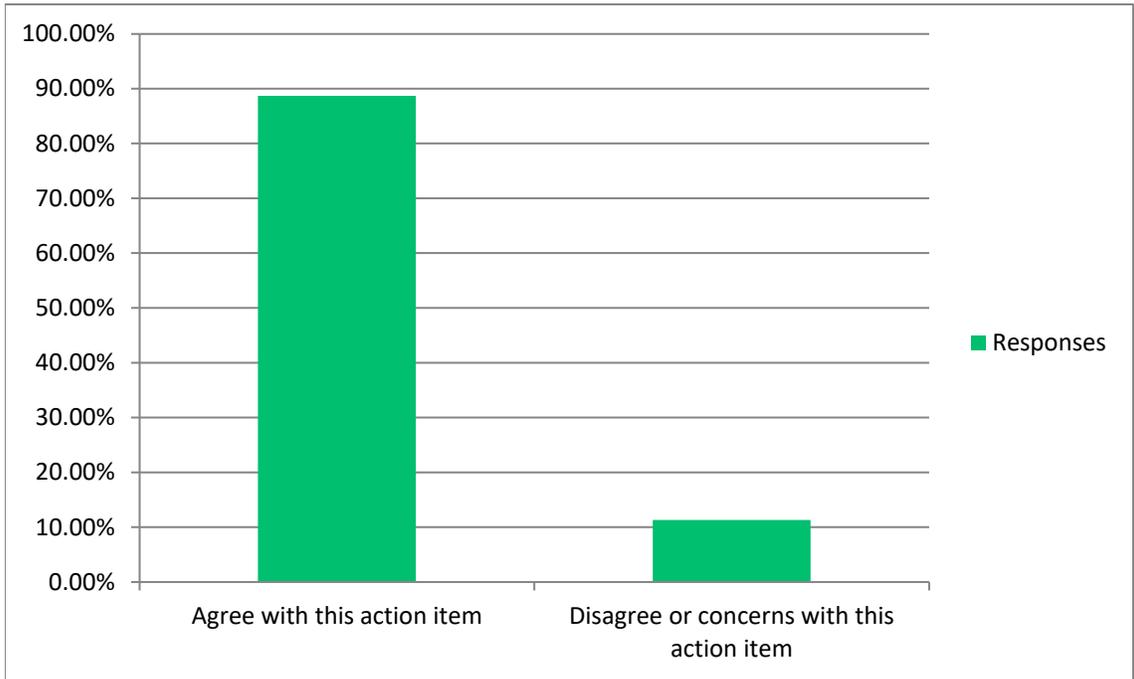
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	96.23%	51
Disagree or concerns with this action item	3.77%	2

**Answered 53**  
**Skipped 6**



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 3-A: Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	88.68%	47
Disagree or concerns with this action item	11.32%	6
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>53</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>6</b>

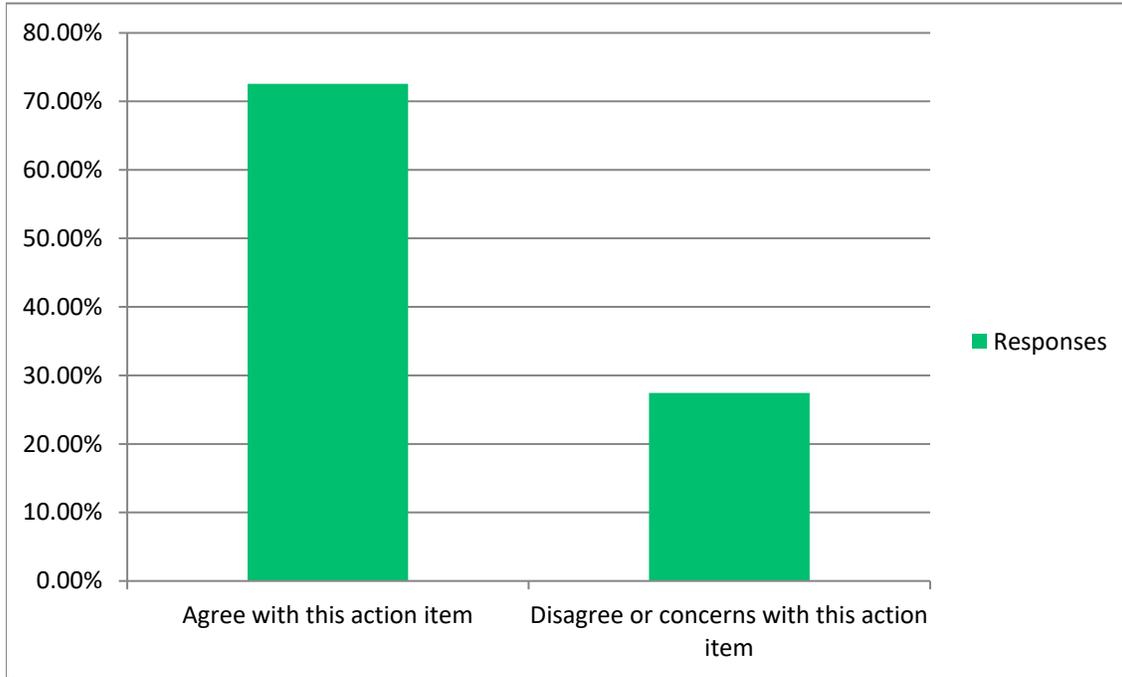


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3-B: Evaluate possible location for an off-leash dog park.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	72.55%	37
Disagree or concerns with this action item	27.45%	14

**Answered 51**  
**Skipped 8**

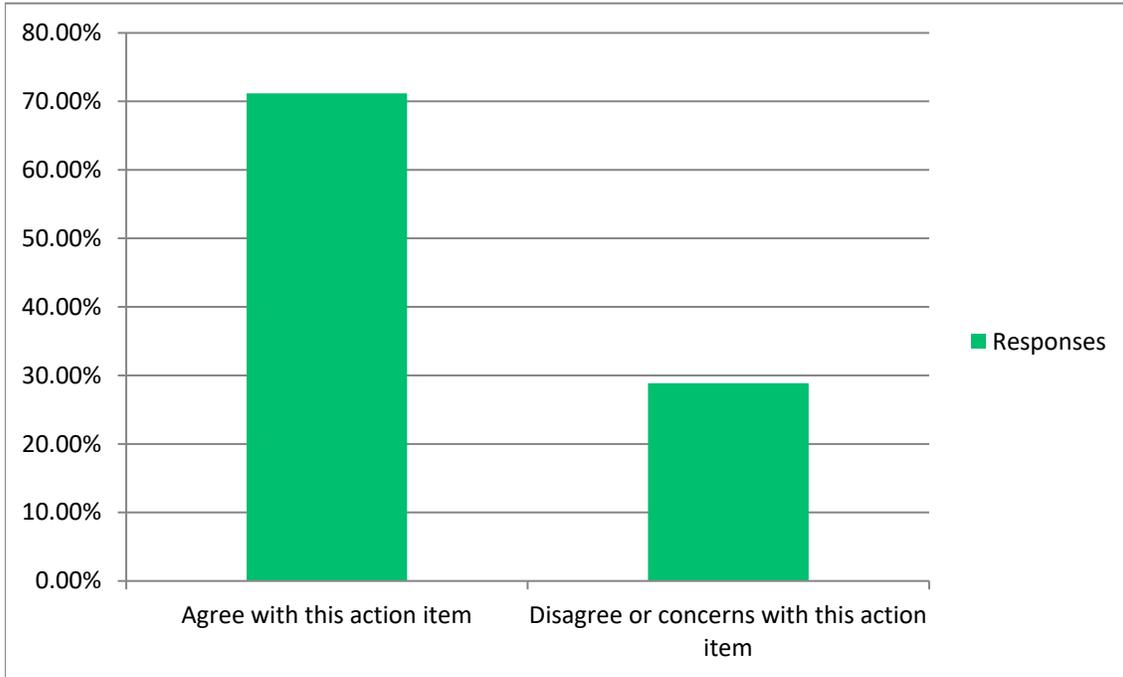


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3-C: Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	71.15%	37
Disagree or concerns with this action item	28.85%	15

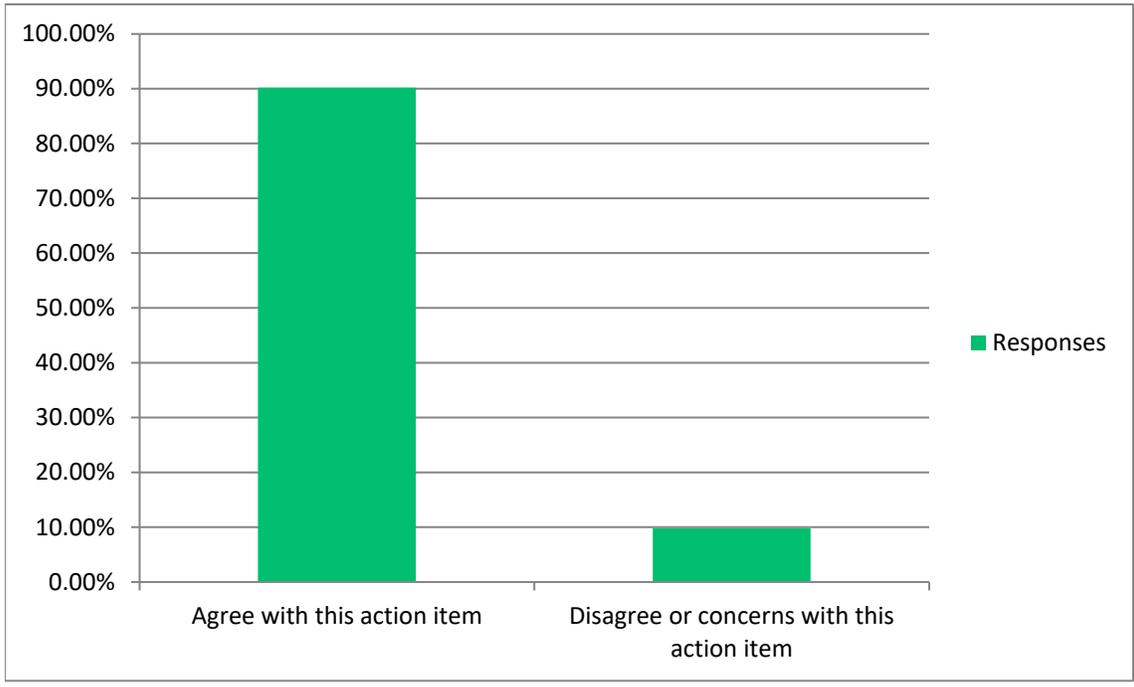
**Answered 52**  
**Skipped 7**



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 3-D: Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement Memorial Park Master Plan.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	90.20%	46
Disagree or concerns with this action item	9.80%	5

**Answered 51**  
**Skipped 8**

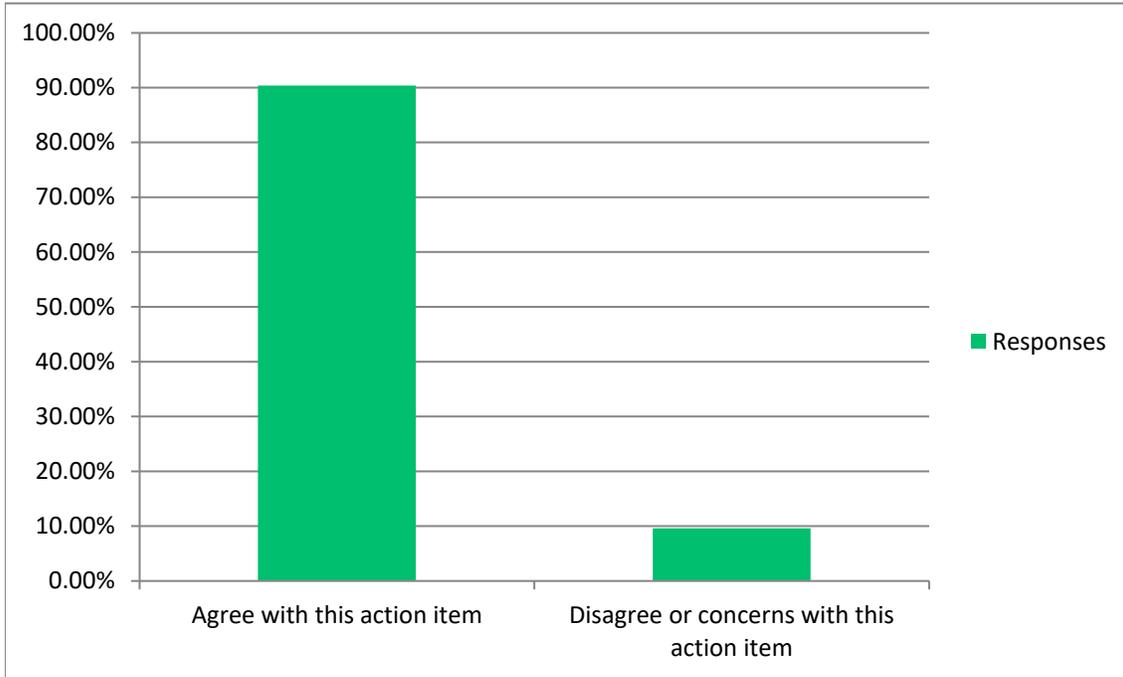


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3-E: Improve bathroom facilities and access.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	90.38%	47
Disagree or concerns with this action item	9.62%	5

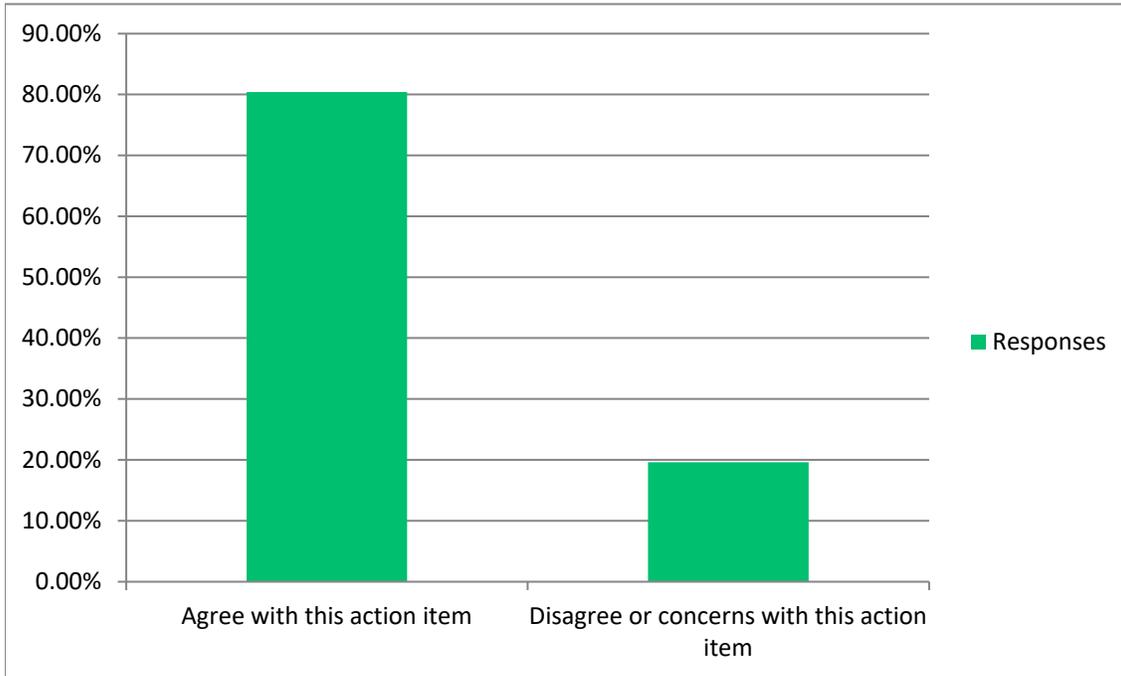
**Answered 52**  
**Skipped 7**



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 4: Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.

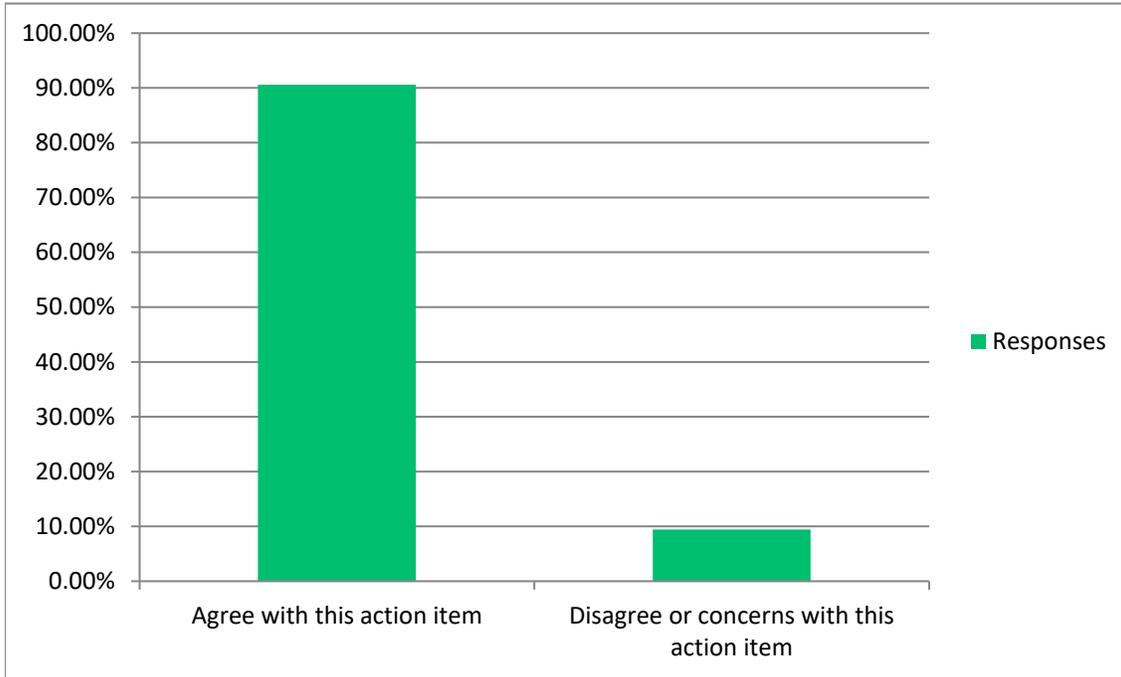
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	80.39%	41
Disagree or concerns with this action item	19.61%	10
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>51</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>8</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 4-A: Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.

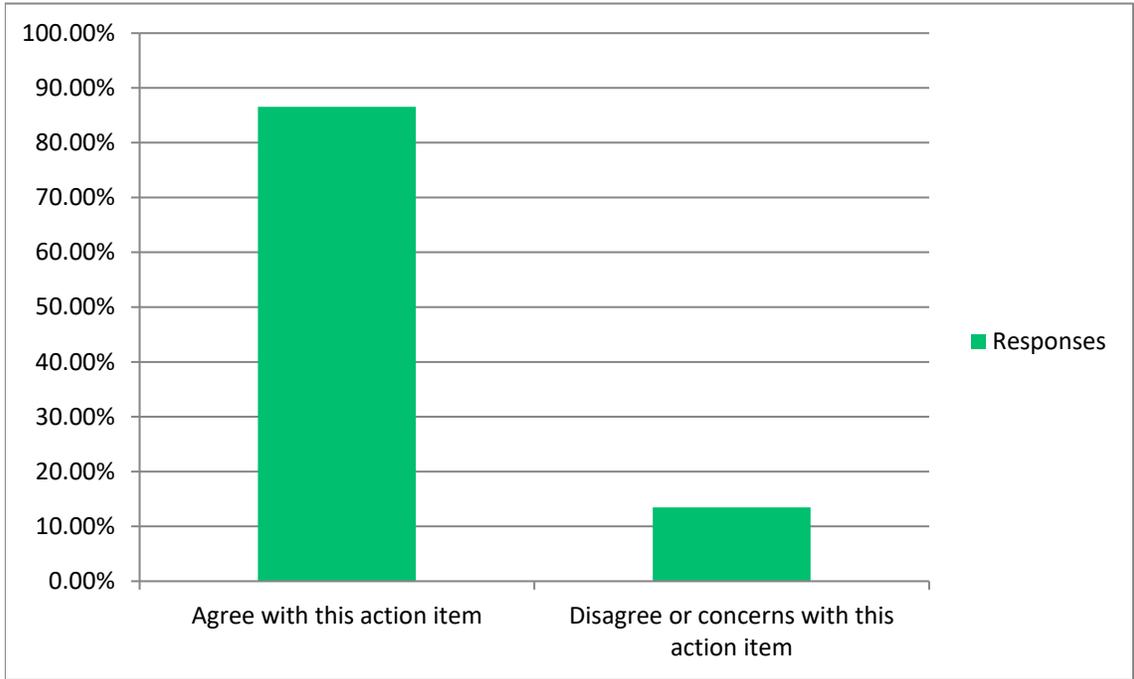
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	90.57%	48
Disagree or concerns with this action item	9.43%	5
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>53</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>6</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 4-B: Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.

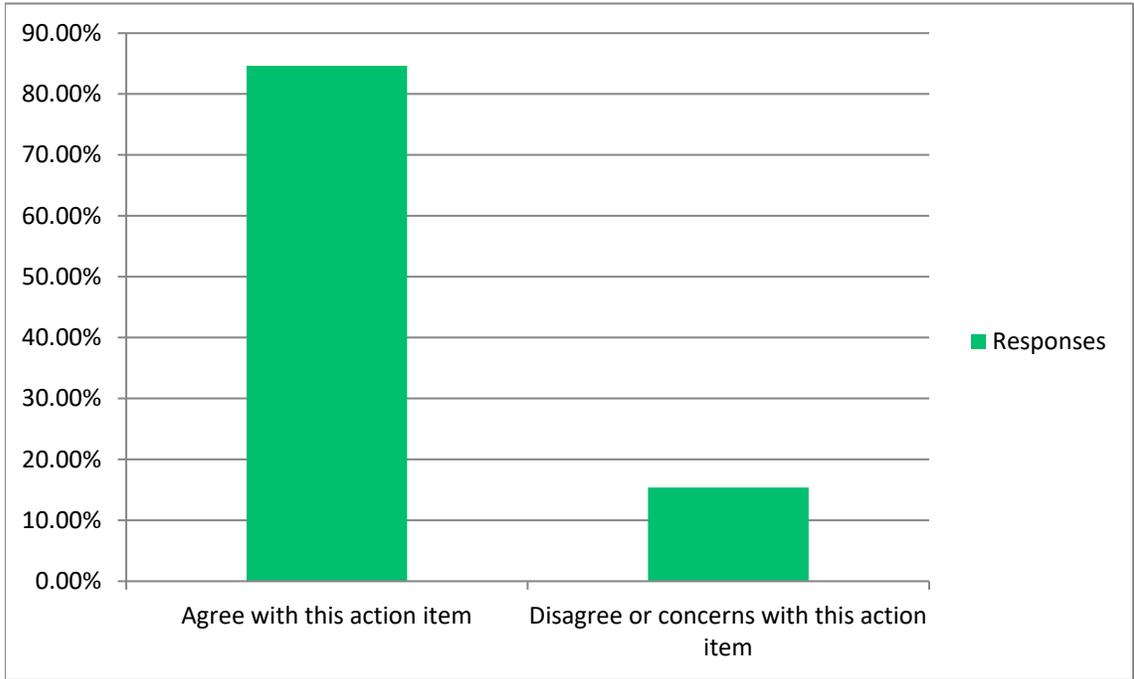
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	86.54%	45
Disagree or concerns with this action item	13.46%	7
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>7</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 4-C: Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	84.62%	44
Disagree or concerns with this action item	15.38%	8
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>7</b>



## Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 2, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Answered 22

Skipped 37

Response Date	Responses
Jun 01 2024 10:20 AM	No disagreements. Just an observation that this plan seems ambitious enough to likely not be fully doable given finite time/resources/capacity/etc. which begs the question of prioritization/sequencing between these actions items. If that's still a "to do" let me put in a plug for Memorial Park and DEI to be two items stop the priority list and/Phase I (depending on how you organize your plan)
Jun 01 2024 08:41 AM	developing trails and signage is a great idea. Also getting recognized in apps like ALL TRAILS could add value and increase traffic to sites and nearby businesses.
May 31 2024 06:13 PM	For 3-b the focus should be on allowing public access to the off leash dog park at the Chocolate Factory. For 3-c, cost for a splash park lacks an ROI when Foxboro YMCA just opened one this year.
May 31 2024 10:39 AM	Re: "Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels." Can't confirm that I approve of this because I don't know what this would be made a priority over. For example, if acquiring land would help mitigate climate change, or protect our conservation areas, I would see this as more important
May 29 2024 08:01 AM	Money spent should be used to preserve existing facilities. DEI need not be part of open space costs
May 28 2024 01:57 PM	I would ask that you explore opening up the bathroom facilities at memorial park when there are planned activities with local sports.
	Action 1-B - how will this be done? I am opposed if it is through eminent domain but if it is waiting for land to be put on sale and then purchasing then that seems reasonable.
	Action 2-A: I like the idea of grant funding however I don't like the idea of going through the town board because their solution is always to raise property taxes. Property taxes are already too high and I don't want increases for these purposes.
May 24 2024 02:49 PM	Action 3-A and 3-B: They just don't strike me as being hugely necessary. There's plenty of nearby waterways and dog parks people can go to. Why use limited land space in Mansfield for something that benefits a select group of users?
May 22 2024 06:55 PM	I agreed with all these Goals, however, some seem far out of reach. I think the town needs a splash pad, and or pool for all residents.
May 22 2024 06:26 AM	The added expense associated with pools and "circuit training " facilities does not seem warranted. Focus on improving what we have.
	There are existing pools and swimmable ponds in the area. I'd prefer resources being used to increase access (eg needs-based subsidies, improving access to swimmable ponds) to these rather than building new facilities.
May 21 2024 03:15 PM	Also, I would love to see improved access (e.g. sidewalks) for the Fruit St. end of the rail trail. The neighborhoods around Fruit/Hall/Angelina/Marshall streets are in easy walking or biking distance but the lack of sidewalks along with several blind corners and significant traffic make it pretty scary!
	Not sure what this meant: "Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners. "
May 21 2024 10:09 AM	3C - What happened to the plans to have a splash pad at Memorial Park? General comment: All for preserving Open Space and whatever that entails; and against converting that open space to splash pads or other facilities. Let nature be natural.
	#1-A - If developers made meaningful Open Space contributions or set-asides, then would be fine with this; however, seems Town just says put in a park bench and we give you extra 10' on building height or no setback.
May 21 2024 09:53 AM	#4 - Not sure why Open Space needs to be or is even a DEI issue, and don't think it should be. That seems different from ADA accessibility issues. Feel that if really want to accomplish Open Space goals then should just stay in Open Space lane, obtaining and preserving Open Space.
May 21 2024 08:33 AM	We need more nature, less human nonsense.
May 21 2024 08:22 AM	Not concerned with access to Canoe River
May 21 2024 05:54 AM	I am concerned that dog owners may not be responsible and keep constant watch on their dog while she/he is playing.

May 20 2024 09:04 PM Would love more bathroom access and space for families to use.  
Action 1: Preserve historic character of the town--i.e. the stone walls and fields etc. Tend to areas that are overgrown with invasive species. More access to view ponds and lakes. Some areas are so overgrown that you can't even see the water etc.

1-C I agree with replacing equipment, but I also think we need to determine the wants and needs of citizens and what they want for additional recreational equipment such as a street hockey court. There is no acknowledgement of this sport at all in any of our recreation areas. We have more than enough tennis courts and not enough of facilities for some of our other sports--basketball hoops, a street hockey court (the town of Franklin has a street hockey league and got some grant funds for a hockey court from the Bruins), gaga ball courts, bocce courts etc. We have a disproportionate amount of tennis courts in comparison to other sports. We also possibly need to dedicate a basketball area for younger kids. Most towns also have a swimming pool.  
Also, funds towards preserving the historical character of Memorial Park--cleaning and repairing the walls.  
A more dedicated area for the Summer Camp. Sometimes its hard to use the park when the campers are there. Thank you!

May 20 2024 08:51 PM Don't like the idea of a swimming facility or splash pad. It would be too expensive to build and maintain and there are much more pressing needs for our tax dollars (teachers, trash, etc). Don't see a need to connect trails to downtown/pedestrian corridor and bike path.

May 20 2024 04:48 PM Community swimming pool and making memorial park better with bathrooms would be top priorities!

May 20 2024 04:35 PM 1-A: what would be plan to offset potential tax revenue loss to town for these land grants, etc? ; 1-c what do you mean by equipment? Do you mean things like mowers and backhoes and trucks used by paid staff to build or maintain areas Do you mean playground or recreational equipment used by residents while participating in recreational activities/programs? All of the above? Something else?; 2 this action item seems vague and undefined, communists what to what boards?; 2-A just a question. What about maintenance as well?; 3 what does "community improvement" mean? Do you mean community members/residents/volunteers will be doing the improvements? Or do you mean improvement to public community spaces?; 3-B to have a safe, well maintained dog park more than the space needs to be evaluated, also impacts on public health, animal control added costs, management and safety of the space for dogs and people, added town insurance costs, etc. Enclosed Dog parks are not generally healthy spaces for safe dog behavior to be practiced, there are increase in fights that animal control now has to deal with, increase of facilities management dealing with dog waste and noise complaints, more dogs practicing reactive, and other unsafe behaviors leading to higher risk of injury by dogs to people in those spaces, etc; 3-c there are a high number of swimming and splash pad spaces in neighboring towns, why does Mansfield also need one? Are the added costs of insurance, maintenance, liability etc really justified given how many of these are locally available via public transit and car?; 3-E ad word public, ie "improve public bathrooms"

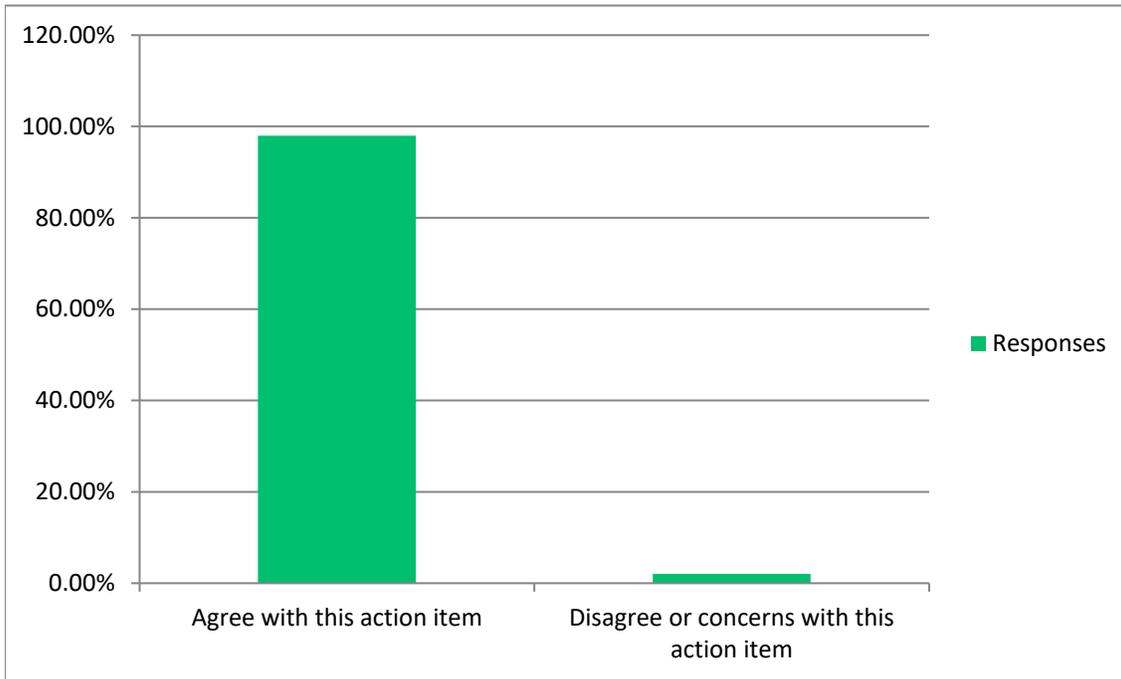
May 20 2024 04:16 PM As long as the developers that are hired are not friends of Dumas who are given the job.

May 20 2024 04:00 PM Costs are concern. Grants and donations make perfect sense, though

May 20 2024 03:57 PM

Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 1: Expand the Town's recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.**

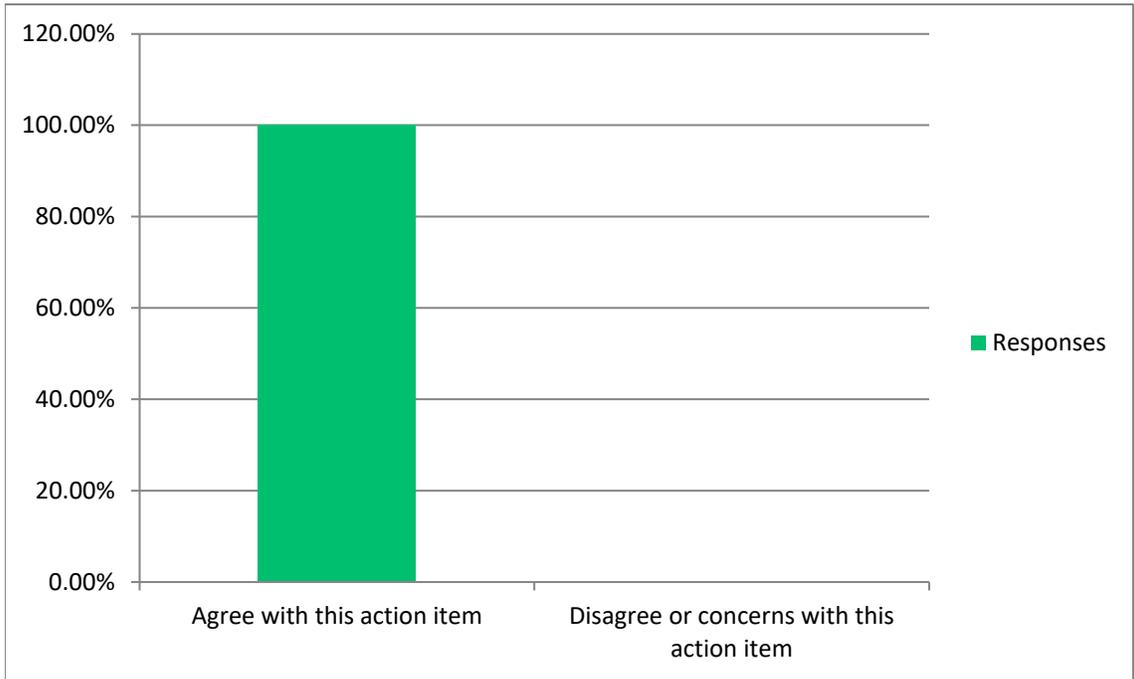
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	97.96%	48
Disagree or concerns with this action item	2.04%	1
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>49</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>10</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 1-A: Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.**

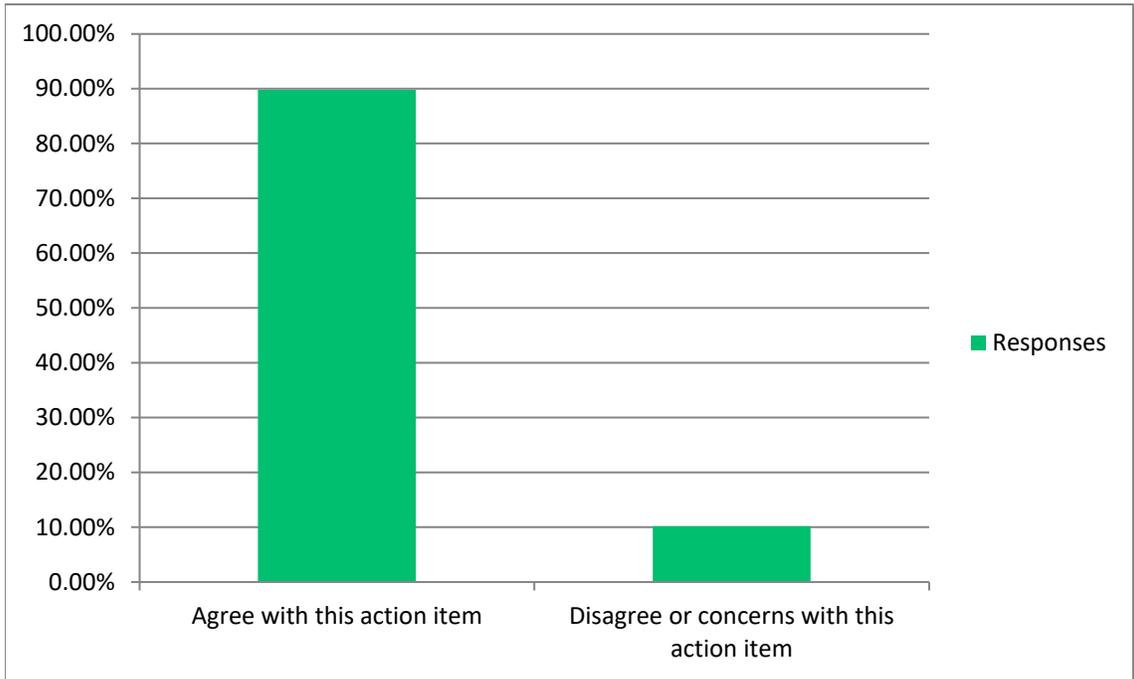
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	100.00%	48
Disagree or concerns with this action item	0.00%	0

**Answered 48**  
**Skipped 11**



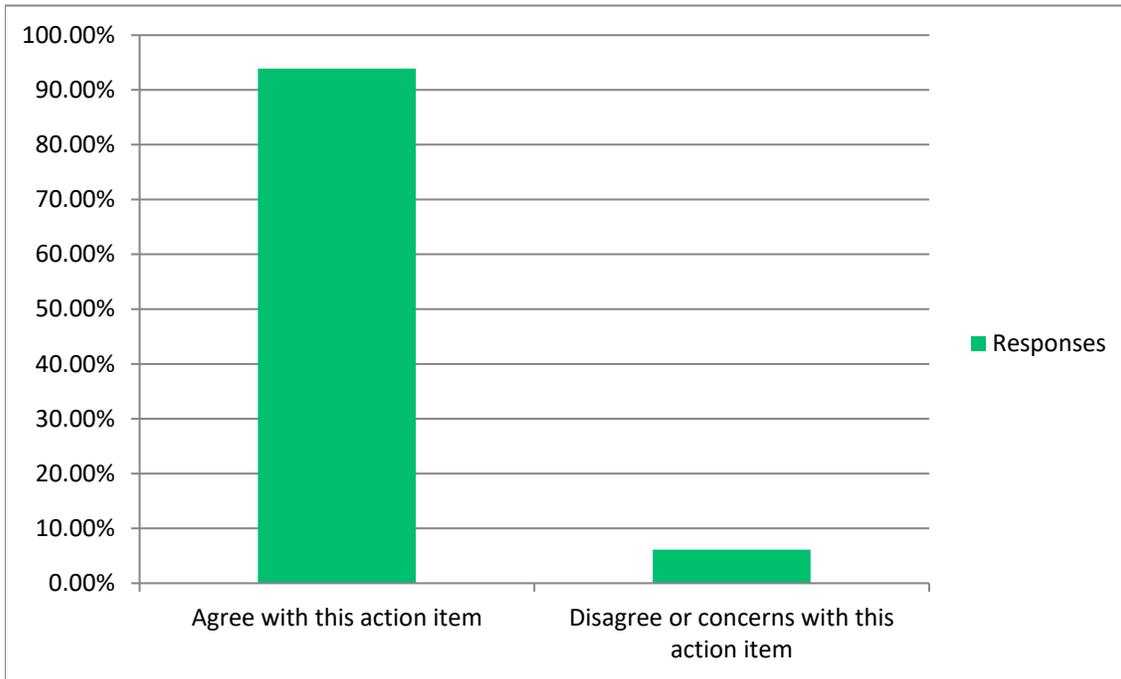
Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 2: Use GIS mapping to create accurate trail map and to promote use of trails.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	89.80%	44
Disagree or concerns with this action item	10.20%	5
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>49</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>10</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 3: Install wayfinding and park entrance/trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	93.88%	46
Disagree or concerns with this action item	6.12%	3
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>49</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>10</b>

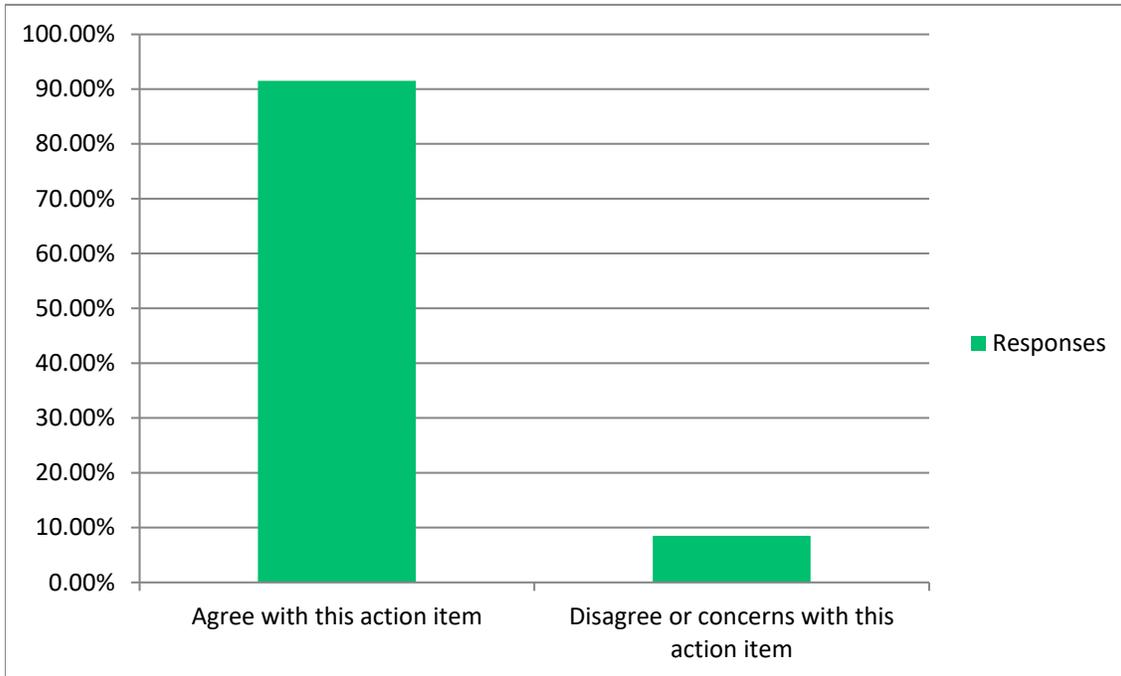


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

**Action 4: Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	91.49%	43
Disagree or concerns with this action item	8.51%	4

**Answered 47**  
**Skipped 12**



## Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 3, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

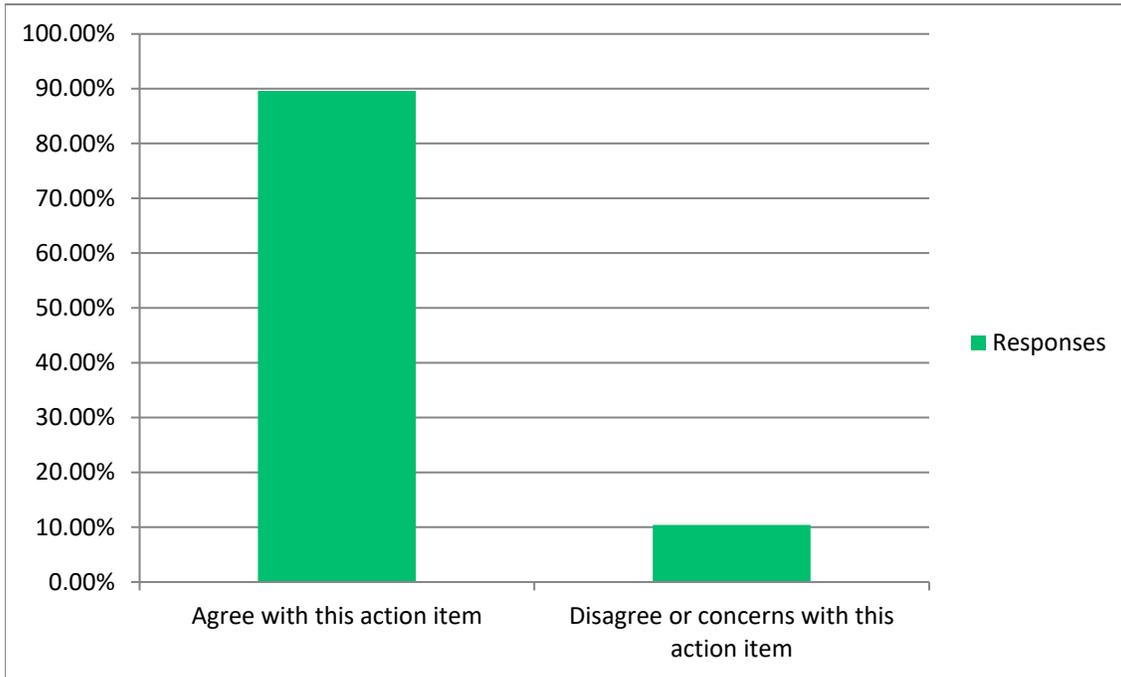
Answered 9  
 Skipped 50

Response Date	Responses
Jun 01 2024 10:22 AM	Full endorsement here! The town has true "hidden gems" that are way too hidden. I also recommend leveraging the Sestercentennial celebrations to spotlight these spaces
Jun 01 2024 08:46 AM	I wonder if resources already available- see prior comment re all trails might forgo need to expend \$ to gis mapping. My husband and i currently have a goal to walk/ride in all mass towns. We find trails via all trails and also search town sites for local resources. We love to then find local restaurants to stop for meals or coffee or ice cream. Businesses near bike paths are fantastic in nicer weather.
May 21 2024 09:54 AM	#4 - Especially agree wit this one; much more so that any social media outreach or website.
May 21 2024 08:35 AM	Concerned about wasting money on things that don't matter
May 20 2024 09:05 PM	I would love to know where the open spaces are in Mansfield and have found it difficult to locate them online in the past. We need accurate trail maps and ways to find them. Cannot I see maps of our trails but I don't see where they are
May 20 2024 08:53 PM	located and if there is any parking available, or maybe I'm just not looking in the right place? Thank you
May 20 2024 07:46 PM	Much of this should be covered by Park & Rec Dept.
May 20 2024 04:18 PM	2- please make map accessible
May 20 2024 04:01 PM	Don't forget the plans that have been designed for the Black History Trail. This has been discussed for at least a decade Grants and other funds should be used to make this a reality.

# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

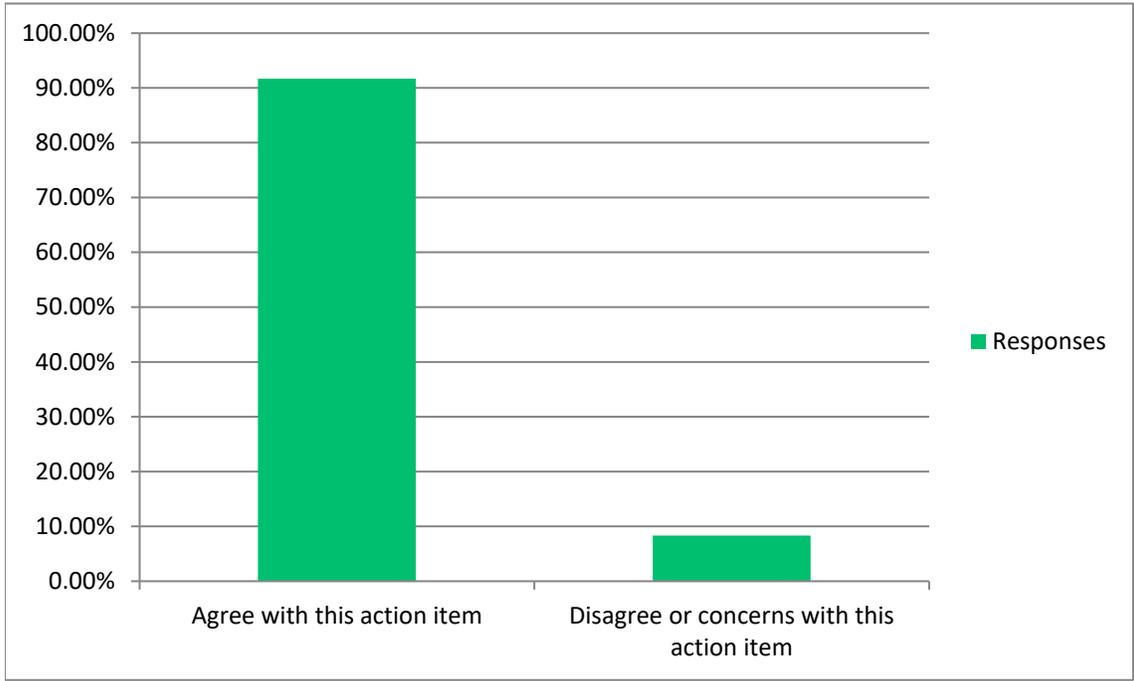
## Action 1: Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	89.58%	43
Disagree or concerns with this action item	10.42%	5
<b>Answered</b>		<b>48</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>11</b>



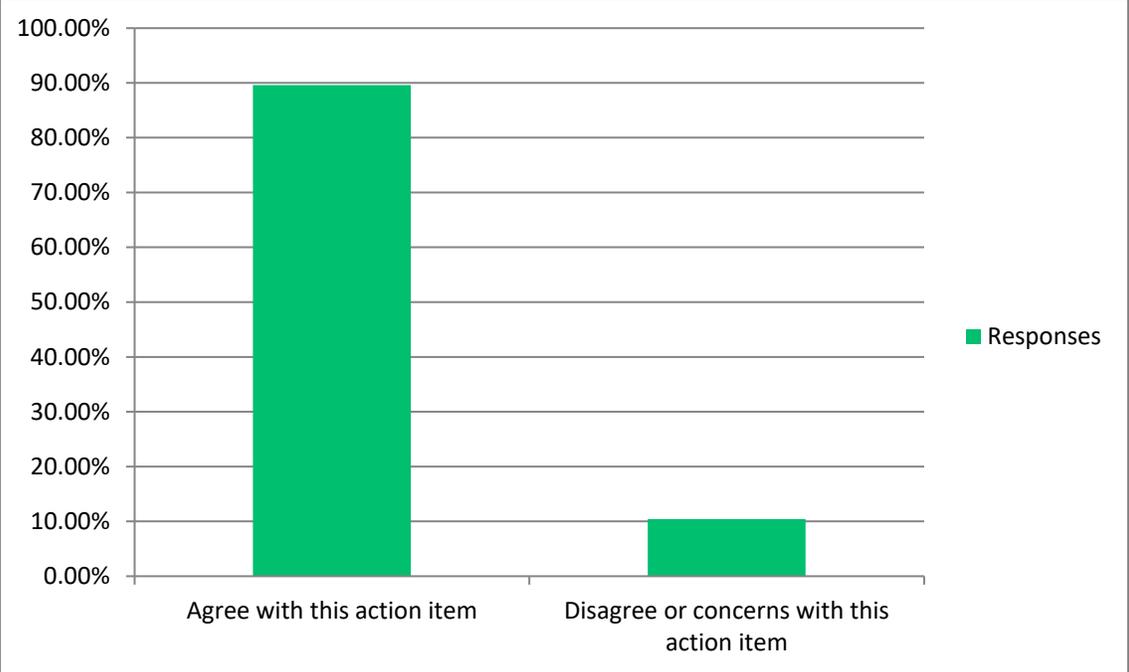
Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 2: Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through FEMA Grant Program to include all of the Town's ongoing effort of climate change preparedness planning.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	91.67%	44
Disagree or concerns with this action item	8.33%	4
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>11</b>



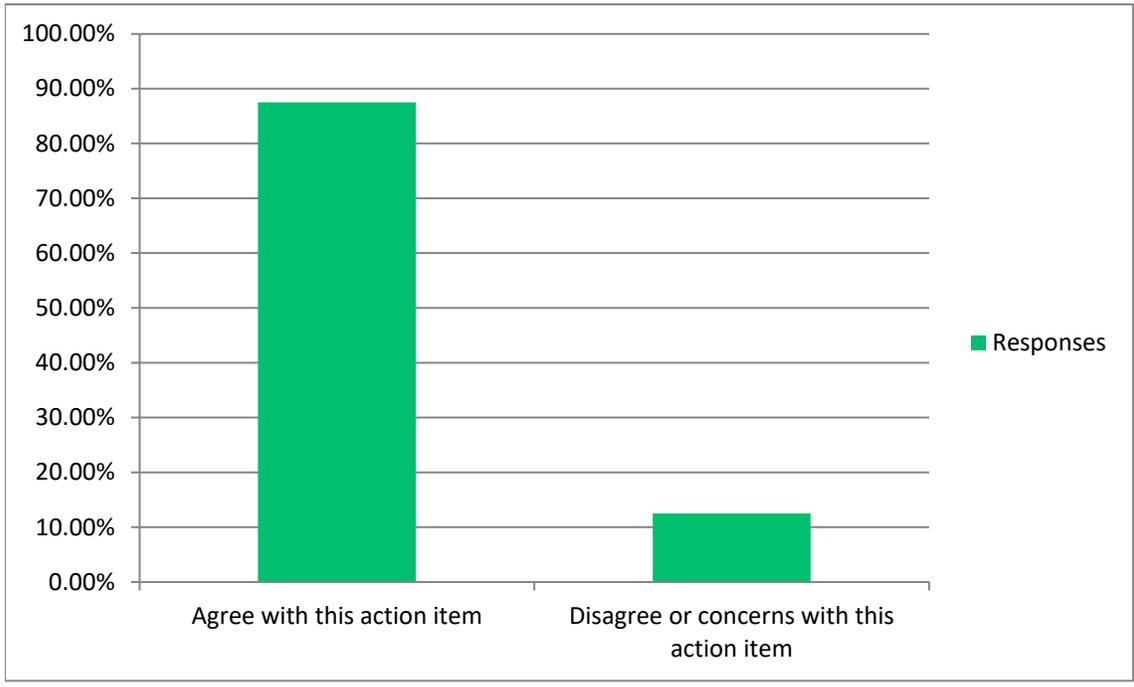
Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 3: Continue to apply for grants, such as Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	89.58%	43
Disagree or concerns with this action item	10.42%	5
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>11</b>



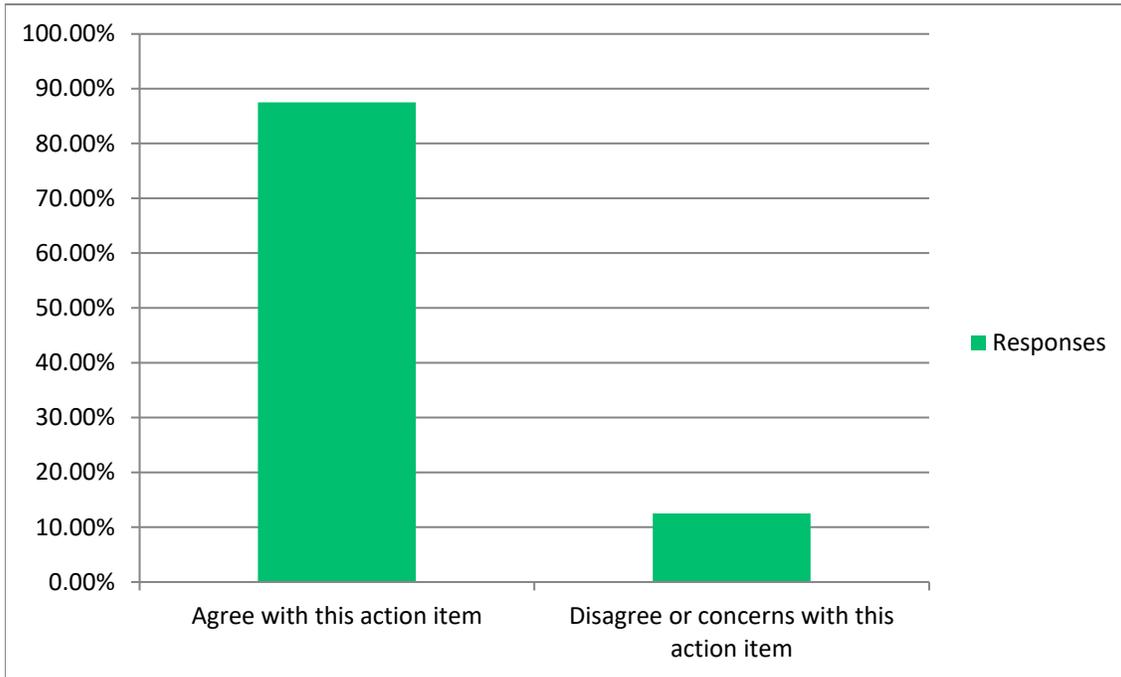
Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 4: Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on town website.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	87.50%	42
Disagree or concerns with this action item	12.50%	6
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>11</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 5: Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	87.50%	42
Disagree or concerns with this action item	12.50%	6
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>11</b>



## Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

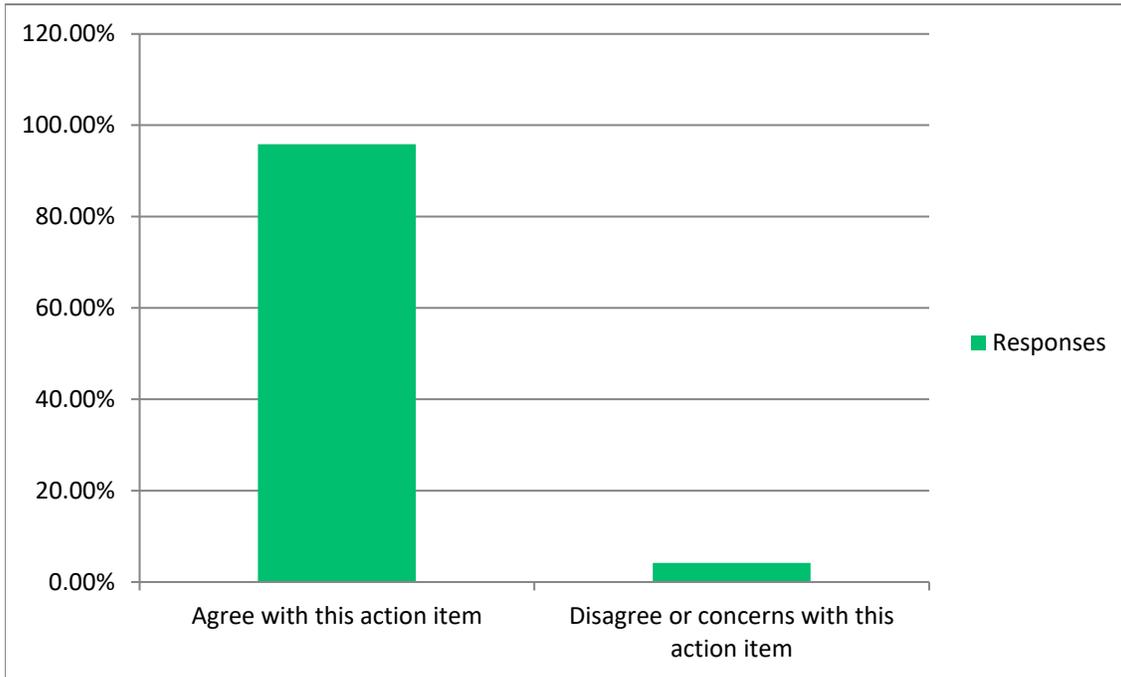
If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 4, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Answered 8  
Skipped 51

Response Date	Responses
Jun 01 2024 10:22 AM	YES!!!
May 29 2024 08:01 AM	Do not spend limited revenue with local 'climate change' projects. Much is already being spent at the state and federal levels
May 21 2024 03:16 PM	Resiliency is a great goal at the municipal level!
May 21 2024 08:36 AM	Climate change is a top priority, but again concerned about wasting money on things that don't matter/wont really help.
May 20 2024 10:13 PM	what does this have to do with recreation?  I don't disagree but my concerns in general are about Grants. Do we have a dedicated person to apply for all of these grants? It looks like a full time job. I hope we have enough resources to apply for all of these grants.
May 20 2024 09:09 PM	I'm not in favor of raising taxes, but I would be if I knew they were going to go directly to these types of projects and that we were also getting matching funds as a result. I think its time to at least start educating people about the benefits of the Community Preservation Act. Many towns have really benefitted from it. I feel that if people are aware of it and have a lot of information and numbers to see how other towns have benefitted, that it may sway people to consider it.
May 20 2024 07:47 PM	Strongly disagree with this.
May 20 2024 04:02 PM	These questions are all so bizarre but I appreciate being asked.

Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 1: Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.**

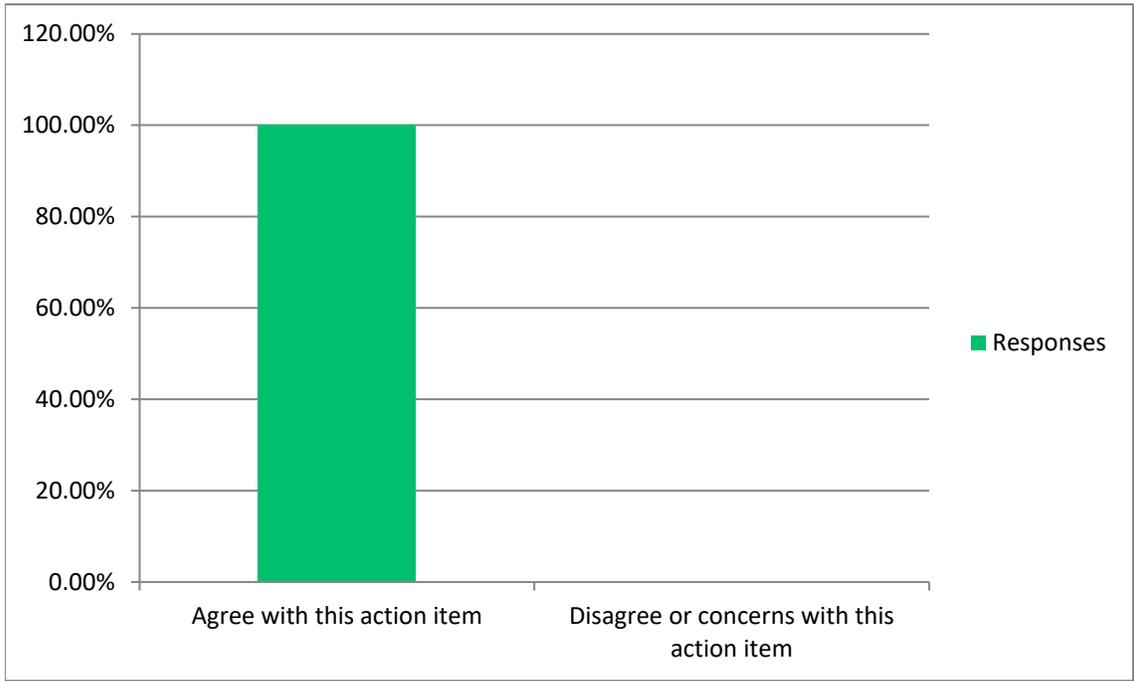
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	95.83%	46
Disagree or concerns with this action item	4.17%	2
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>11</b>



Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)  
**Action 2: Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	100.00%	47
Disagree or concerns with this action item	0.00%	0

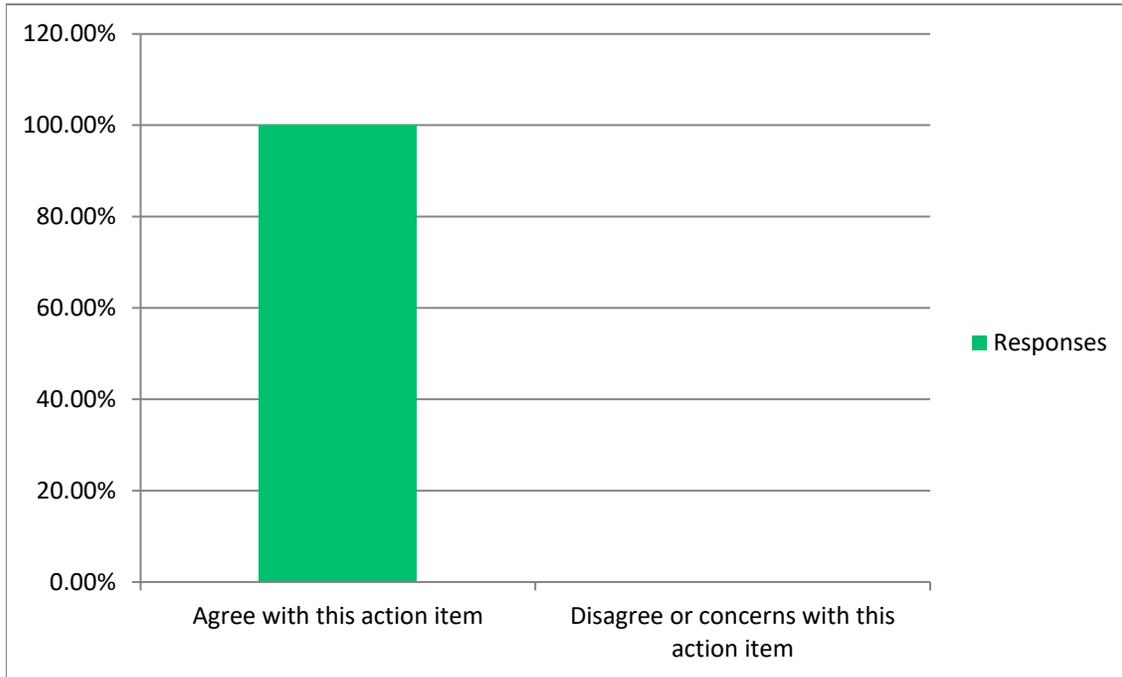
**Answered 47**  
**Skipped 12**



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 2-A: Collaborate with surrounding communities on projects that share the same single source aquifer.

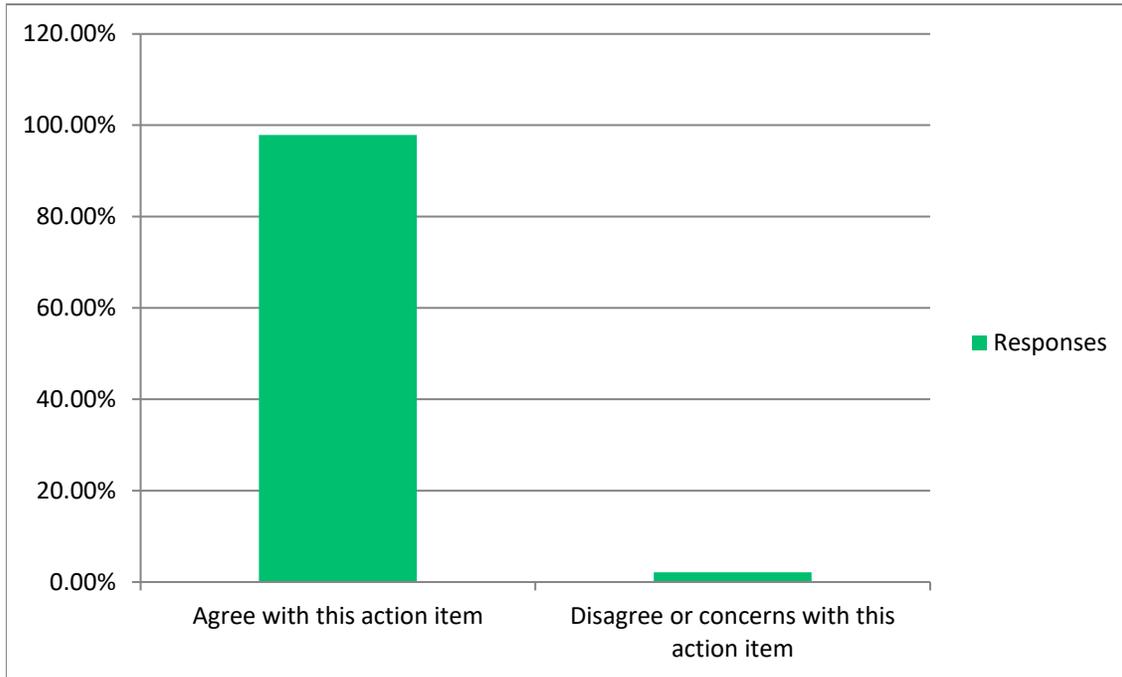
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	100.00%	47
Disagree or concerns with this action item	0.00%	0
<b>Answered</b>		<b>47</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>12</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3: Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.

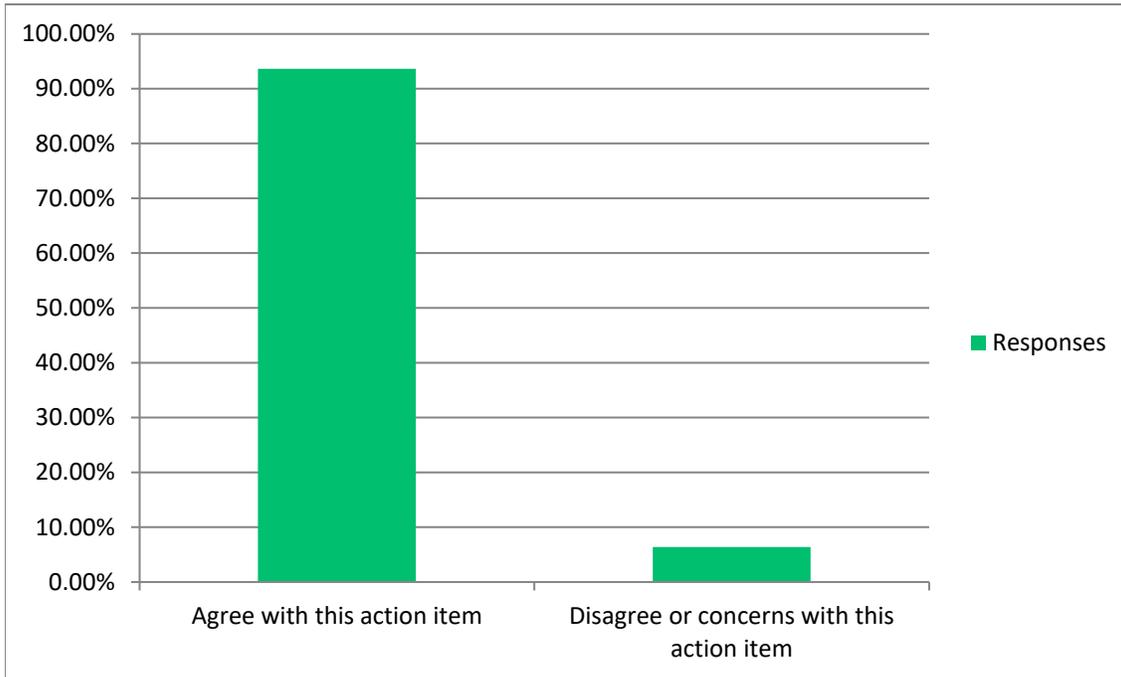
Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	97.87%	46
Disagree or concerns with this action item	2.13%	1
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>12</b>



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 3-A: Increase public awareness and education of proper land use regarding drinking water.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	93.62%	44
Disagree or concerns with this action item	6.38%	3
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>12</b>

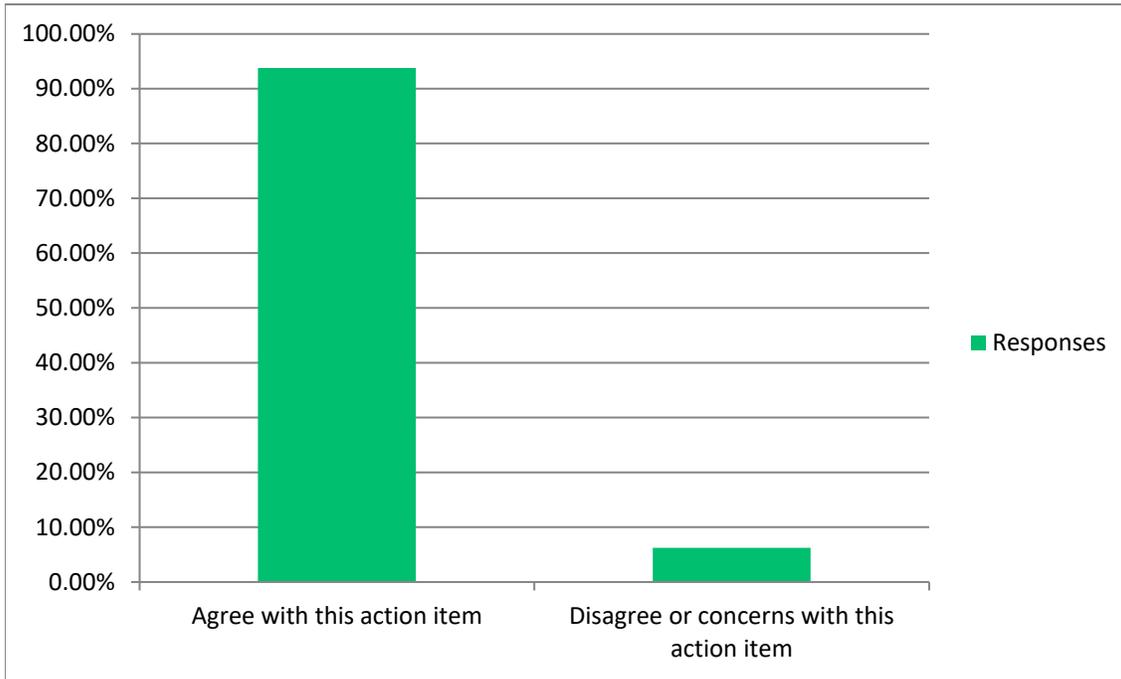


# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Action 4: Continue to certify potential vernal pools on town-owned land to ensure their preservation.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree with this action item	93.75%	45
Disagree or concerns with this action item	6.25%	3

**Answered 48**  
**Skipped 11**



## Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

If you disagree or had concerns with any of the Actions in Goal 5, why? Please specify which action(s) in your response.

Answered 8  
Skipped 51

Response Date	Responses
May 31 2024 06:15 PM	3-A and 4 should be lower priorities and not active investments as not all planned actions will be possible. To my previous comment, the wording and placement of prioritizing land acquisition for the greenway connection will likely get approval because it doesn't list other priorities such as: Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.
May 31 2024 10:42 AM	
May 29 2024 08:01 AM	We have Health and Conservation Depts. Do not need duplicate, competing bureaucracies. Not sure which goal this is related too, but would like the town to work with Softball association on creating a dedicated
May 28 2024 01:58 PM	softball complex similar to otis field for baseball
May 24 2024 02:51 PM	Action 1: Again is this through eminent domain or other avenues?
May 21 2024 10:11 AM	Fix the drinking water!
May 21 2024 08:37 AM	Land & water preservation should be a top priority!
May 20 2024 07:49 PM	State is involved in aquifers. Other items are not needed

# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan - Draft Goals and Action Items Survey (2024)

## Did we miss anything? Let us know!

Answered 15  
Skipped 44

Response Date	Responses
Jun 01 2024 10:27 AM	Lights on the Plymouth St turf soccer field, partially funded through a well-managed program to lease days/times to teams/clubs/etc based in neighboring communities. Same for the soon to be renovated high school field. These are town assets that can be more thoughtfully leveraged (but in ways that don't comprise priority access for Mansfield residents). Also step up corporate sponsorship efforts for underwriting in both places, e.g., by companies in the Business Park
May 31 2024 10:50 AM	I would like to see attention to removal of invasive species and growing diverse native plants and supporting native wildlife in our conservation and land maintenance efforts. I would support education for residents on how to plant native on the resource pages mentioned in the survey, would like to see collaboration with Keep Mansfield Beautiful and Mansfield Garden Club to promote native plants and would like to see outreach to commercial property owners and businesses to promote native plants in their landscaping. Our downtown is sorely missing shade of any kind. Would love to see native trees planted and attempts to create more green space downtown and along 106 (not just lawn) to mitigate climate change, clean the air, and simply to give a more beautiful and welcoming appearance to our town.
May 28 2024 01:59 PM	I would like the town to work with the Mansfield Softball Association to create a softball complex similar to Ottis Field for baseball.
May 22 2024 06:58 PM	All these Goals seem so great. Some seem out of reach, but I think if we could get grants and help from the government, it would be wonderful and help beautify Mansfield. Thank you for doing all of this.
May 21 2024 11:37 AM	I'm thrilled to see climate change addressed in this plan. I also would like accessibility to be an ongoing part of planning, so spaces can be used by everyone. We can remember that we will ALL become disabled, if we are luck enough to live long enough (i.e., no 100-yr-old is skipping around and running up and down steps, right?). Thank you!
May 21 2024 10:12 AM	Allow youth sports programs to help in field improvements.
May 21 2024 09:57 AM	Think focus should really be on obtaining and preserving Open Space; once the land is developed it is gone for all future generations.
May 21 2024 08:38 AM	Many of the other items on the survey are good, but seem to dilute and draw away from what really should be the central focus - preserving that Open Space in its natural state.
May 20 2024 09:12 PM	Thank you
May 20 2024 09:08 PM	Historic Preservation of the land and structures that we have in addition to proper maintenance-- historic stone walls, mitigate weeds and invasive species etc. Thank you
May 20 2024 07:51 PM	I would love to see the Memorial Park Master plan to include some pickleball courts
May 20 2024 06:38 PM	Many are great ideas but are not necessary if a prop 2 1/2 is needed to fund. Nice to have, but not needed.
May 20 2024 06:09 PM	Do something more fun/better than just grass in Harry B. Chase Jr. Place, the little patch behind Jimmy's on Old Colony. A little garden with some sun loving native plants or a few Sugar Maples that will get big and provide shade in the future. Maybe add a few accessible picnic tables.
May 20 2024 04:38 PM	Bike lanes and bike racks!
May 20 2024 04:03 PM	Not necessarily open spaces, but also thinking about the environment, would be amazing if town offered discounted or free composting bins, rain collectors, discounts on solar energy. I love that the schools at Norton have solar panels. Would be nice to have more sidewalks in town to allow for walking, I'd walk to more places, but live on Stearns which is dangerous at best.
	Good luck getting any of this to become a reality based on our budget crisis. The override, COA, school improvements, etc are already going to form a logjam.

## SECTION TWO: INTERACTIVE DOT EXERCISE

### A. Logistics and Overview

---

An interactive in-person dot activity was prepared to solicit feedback on the draft action plans during the second public workshop at the Mansfield Public Library on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 5:30 - 7:00pm. This interactive activity allowed participants to place green (“agree”) or red (“disagree”) dots based on their thoughts towards a specific action item, with additional space to provide feedback if warranted.

### B. Public Input Results

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**Big Picture Results:** Overall the feedback for the draft Goals and their associated Actions was extremely positive, receiving no red (“disagree”) dots on any draft Action item. There were a handful of comments added to select actions, which are detailed below.

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

MANSFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN			
#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 1. ESTABLISH A ROBUST MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REASONABLE BUDGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN SPACE PORTION OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN.</b>			
1	Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.		
1-A	Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways and parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail/tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.		
1-B	Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.		
1-C	Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.		
2	Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of the Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.		
3	Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational improvements.		

DISCLAIMER: These action items may be subject to revision prior to their inclusion in the finalized Open Space and Recreation Plan. Revisions may include, but are not limited to, the action item, responsible party, timeline for implementation, and funding source.

Agree with this action item  
 Disagree or concerns with this action item

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MANSFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN		Prioritization Votes	Comments
#	Action Items GOAL 2: EXPAND, DIVERSIFY, AND IMPROVE EXISTING OPEN SPACES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.		
1	Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and/or maintain Open Spaces.	●●●●●●●●	
1-A	Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restriction, easements, etc.	●●●●●●	
1-B	Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.	●●●●●●	
1-C	Apply for grants to update existing equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.	●●●●●●●●	
2	Communication to boards / Municipality.	●●●●	
2-A	Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of these key parcels as they become available.	●●	
2-B	Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners.		
2-C	Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields/ equipment, and playgrounds.	●●●●●●	Downtown looks like a parking lot would like to see some walking trails and greenway
3	Community improvement to public spaces.	●●●●	
3-A	Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.	●●●●	
3-B	Evaluate possible location for an off-leash dog park.	●●●●	
3-C	Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.	●●●●	This could be an existing area? Connect it to a small library playground needs bathrooms! More for Pines-Rice camp. Get rights, outdoor concerts, outdoor show hockey/tennis, etc. More community development/attractions for the future
3-D	Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement Memorial Park Master Plan.	●●●●●●	
3-E	Improve bathroom facilities and access.	●●●●	
4	Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.	●●●●●●	
4-A	Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.	●●●●●●	
4-B	Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.	●●●●●●	
4-C	Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.	●●●●●●	

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*potential for public use and as example of right-of-way? Look at Lowell Green!*

● Agree with this action item  
 ● Disagree or concerns with this action item

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MANSFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN			
#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
GOAL 3: PROMOTE THE USE OF TRAIL SYSTEMS WITHIN OPEN SPACES WITH USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITES, WAYFINDING SIGNS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS.			
1	Expand the Town's recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.		
1-A	Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.		
2	Use GIS mapping to create accurate trail map and to promote use of trails.		
3	Install wayfinding and park entrance/trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.		
4	Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.		

DISCLAIMER: These action items may be subject to revision prior to their inclusion in the finalized Open Space and Recreation Plan. Revisions may include, but are not limited to, the action item, responsible party, timeline for implementation, and funding source.

Agree with this action item  
 Disagree or concerns with this action item

Mansfield 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
 Draft Action Plan Public Engagement Report

MANSFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN		
#	Action Items	Comments
GOAL 4: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY PROGRAM FOR THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD.		
1	Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.	 <i>Also plan to have town to do Native Plants!!</i>
2	Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through FEMA Grant Program to include all of the Town's ongoing effort of climate change preparedness planning.	
3	Continue to apply for grants, such as Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.	
4	Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on town website.	 <i>I feel this is very important</i>
5	Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.	

DISCLAIMER: These action items may be subject to revision prior to their inclusion in the finalized Open Space and Recreation Plan. Revisions may include, but are not limited to, the action item, responsible party, timeline for implementation, and funding source.

Agree with this action item  
 Disagree or concerns with this action item



### C. Summary of Dot Activity Responses by Goal

---

The following is a breakdown of all comments received on each Goal, broken down by Action.

**Goal 1:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
N/A	No comments received

**Goal 2:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
3: Community improvement to public spaces.	Downtown looks like a parking lot, would love to see some native trees and greenery
3-C: Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.	😊
3-D: Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement Memorial Park Master Plan.	This could be an amazing area! Connect it all --> schools, library, playground. Needs bathrooms! More for Parks + Rec, camp kid events, outdoor concerts, outdoor floor hockey / temporary ice rink, sports games, community festival / fireworks for the 4 <sup>th</sup> , etc.
4-C: Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for all users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.	😊
General comment (no specific action)	Potential for public art on/at entrances of sights through cultural council grants

**Goal 3:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
N/A	No comments received

**Goal 4:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and	Trees, please! Down town - TOD

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implement climate change to resiliency projects.	
Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.	Native Plants!
Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on town website	I feel this is <u>VERY</u> important

**Goal 5:**

Action(s)	Comment(s)
1: Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.	Where is restoring native plant life & ecosy. part of this? I look around & see non-native dominating the landscape, including invasives.
2: Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.	Male sure people know not to put hoses into storm drains to remove water from their property. Also let folks know <u>who</u> to report violations to.
3: Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.	More public education re: household detergents and chemicals

Town of Mansfield  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2025 - 2035

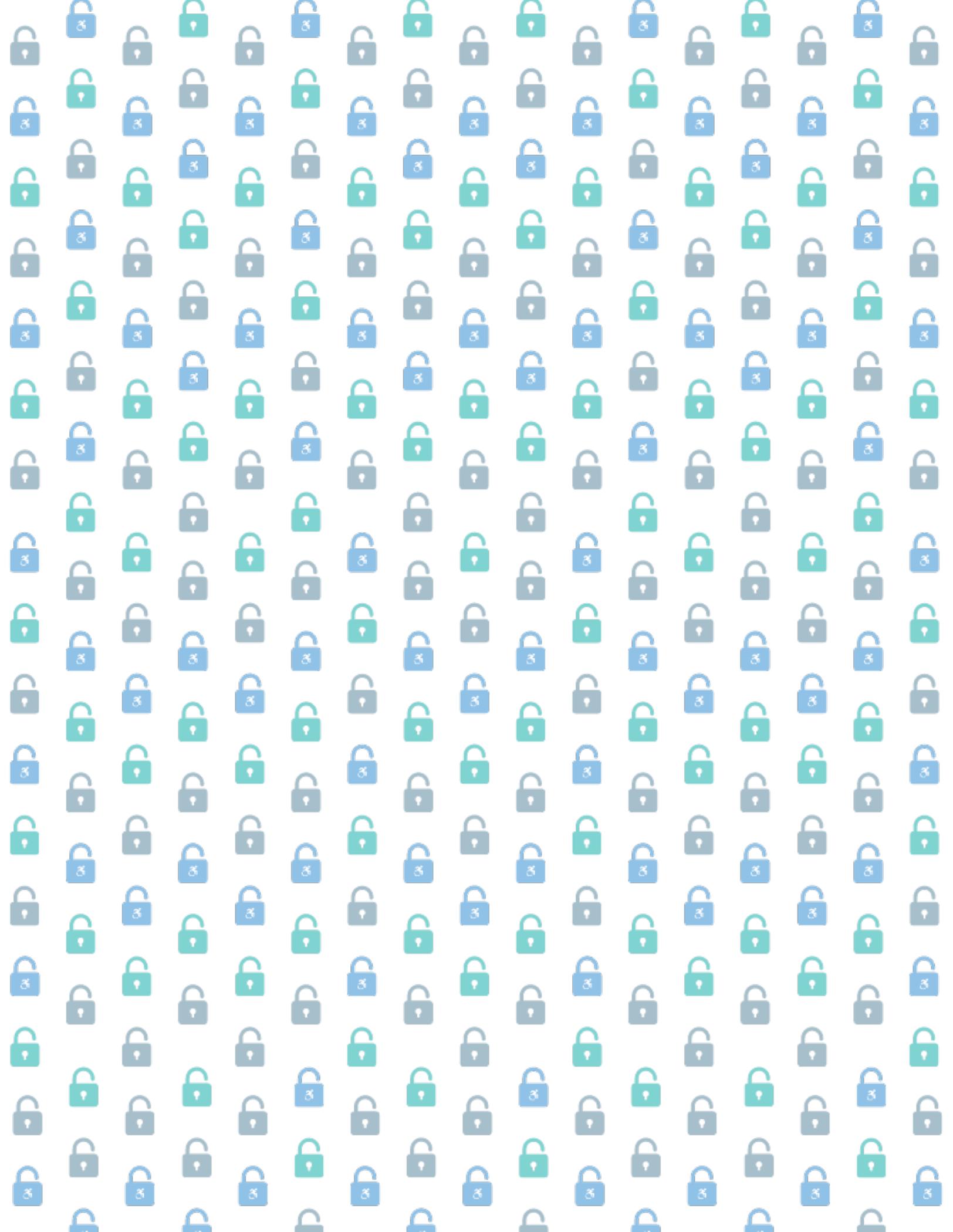
**Appendix E:**

ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan



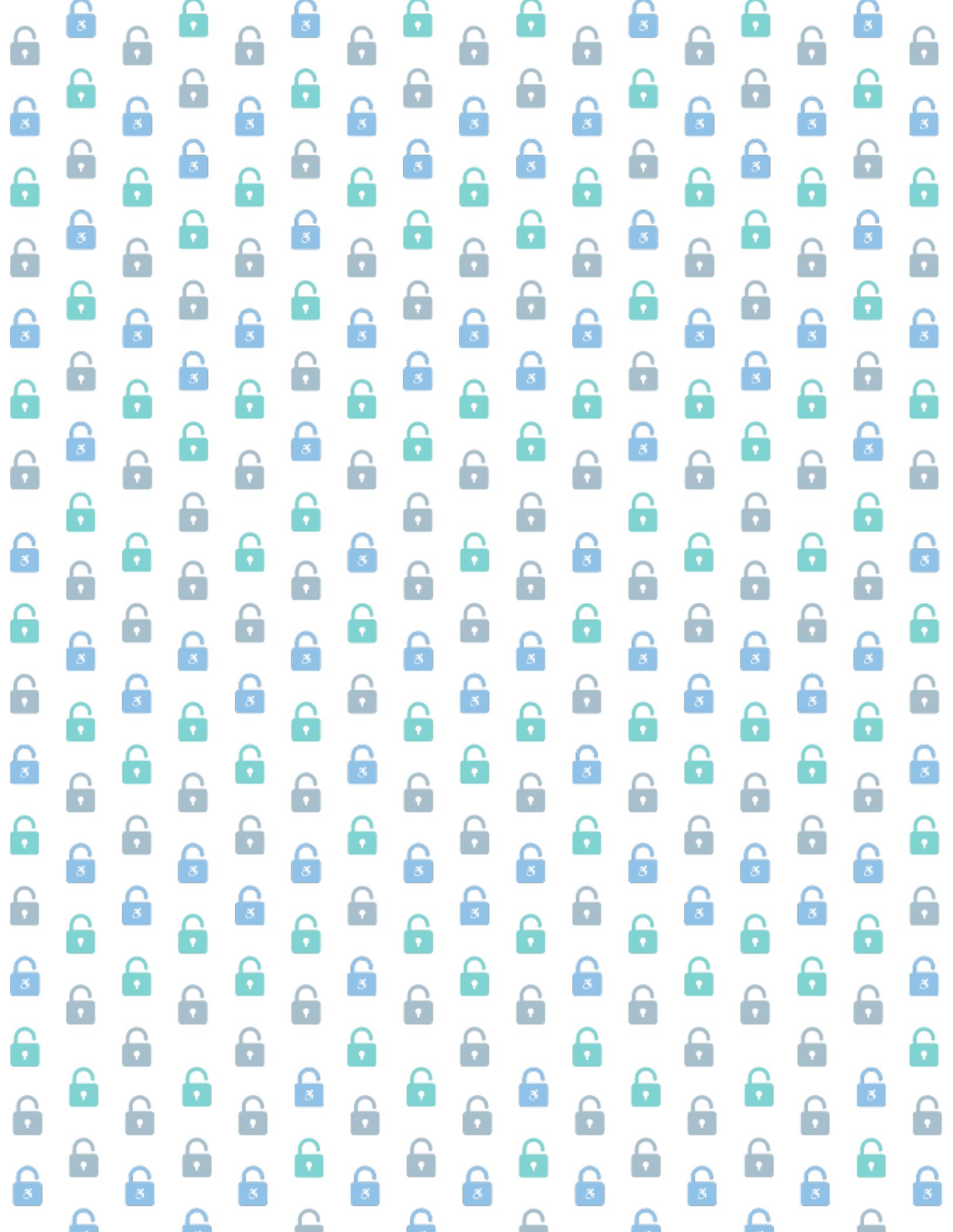
SELF-EVALUATION  
& TRANSITION PLAN

July  
2024



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# Introduction

The Town of Mansfield, located in Bristol County is home to more than 23,000 residents, almost 10% of whom identify as individuals with a disability. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This includes individuals who experience persistent impairment or individuals who may be regarded as having a disability. Knowing this, the Town of Mansfield decided to pursue the creation of a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan with the assistance of the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

In 2023, the Town of Mansfield successfully applied for a Municipal Americans with Disabilities Planning Grant. The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) awarded the Town \$40,000 to complete the Mansfield ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan. The Plan is a culmination of efforts to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities in programs and services provided by the town. This plan references relevant legislation used in guiding the

creation of this document, as well as the methods by which project staff assessed programmatic and physical barriers in Mansfield. In an effort to foster equity and justice in the community, the Town of Mansfield commits to the implementation schedule outlined in the transition plan given capacity and financial feasibility.



## Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The law ensures individuals with disabilities equal rights and opportunities. The ADA is divided into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life, including:

- Title I - Employment
- Title II - Public Services: State and Local Government
- Title III - Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities
- Title IV - Telecommunications
- Title V - Miscellaneous

Title II of the law directly applies to municipalities that have more than 50 employees and that receive federal funding. The ADA applies to all programs, services, and activities provided by the municipality. This portion of the law requires the creation of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure compliance with regards to program accessibility and effective communication

practices.

Though the ADA became federal law more than 30 years ago, achieving compliance is challenging. All local governmental entities were required to complete a self-evaluation of their facilities, programs, policies, and practices by January 26, 1993. However, a number of communities in the Southeastern region of Massachusetts find themselves in a state of non-compliance. This results in diminished equal access, participation, and self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan shows a good faith effort in providing equal access to programs and services. Despite capacity limitations and chronic funding constraints, achieving compliance with the ADA is feasible. This document is Mansfield's guide to achieving ADA compliance and improving access and services to all its residents.

## Alterations to Historic Properties

### ADA 2010 Standards

Achieving ADA compliance requires updating municipal facilities to make them more accessible. Exceptions for alterations to qualified historic buildings and facilities for accessible routes (206.2.1 Exception 1 and 206.2.3 Exception 7); entrances (206.4 Exception 2); and toilet facilities (213.2 Exception 2) exist within the ADA. In situations when compliance with the ADA would compromise the historic significance of a facility, municipalities and their historic organizations should consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Collaboratively, they may provide guidance and decide when modifications recommended through the ADA are exempt.

Though the ADA allows exemptions under specific areas of the law, public entities should prioritize alternative methods that provide physical access to individuals with disabilities (See 28 CFR 35.150). In the case of historic preservation programs, such as an historic house museum, alternative methods include using audio visual materials to depict portions of the house that cannot otherwise be made accessible. In the case

of other qualified historic properties, such as an historic government office building, alternative methods include relocating programs and services to accessible locations.

### Massachusetts 521 CMR

A historic building or facility that is listed or is eligible for listing in the National or State Register of Historic Places or is designated as historic under appropriate state or local laws may be granted a variance by the Architectural Access Board to allow alternate accessibility. If a variance is requested on the basis of historical significance, then consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission is required in order to determine whether a building or facility is eligible for listing or listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places. The Massachusetts Historical Commission may request a copy of the proposed variance request and supporting documentation to substantiate the variance request and its effect on historic resources. A written statement from the Massachusetts Historical Commission is required with the application for variance.



# ADA Self-Evaluation

*Mansfield's ADA Plan* outlines the Town's self-evaluation of its policies, practices, programs, and communication practices to determine compliance under the ADA. Municipalities are required to make reasonable modifications to these policies, programs, and services to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities. As a municipality that employs more than 50 individuals, the Town of Mansfield is required to demonstrate the following:

- a. Designate an employee responsible for carrying out compliance activities
- b. Provide notice to the public of its rights and protections under the ADA and how the entity complies with those obligations.
- c. Establish a grievance procedure
- d. Conduct a Self-Evaluation
- e. Develop an ADA Transition Plan

The Self-Evaluation identifies and corrects those policies and practices that are inconsistent with Title II's requirements.

Recommendations to bring Mansfield's programs, policies, and services into compliance with Title II include:

1. Structural changes to provide program access
2. Policy modifications to ensure nondiscrimination
3. Training of staff on issues of communication practices for individuals with disabilities
4. Auxiliary aids and services needed to provide effective communication

The extent of Mansfield's obligation to remediate certain violations does remain at the discretion of the Town Administrator. According to ADA Title II – 28 CFR 35.150(a), any remediation that results in a fundamental alteration to a program or service or creates undue administrative or financial burden is subject to review and alternative action that would ensure access to individuals with disabilities.

## Policies & Procedures

### ADA Coordinator

According to ADA Title II – 28 CFR Part 35.107(a), the Town of Mansfield is required to have an ADA Coordinator to carry out the following duties:

- Ensure compliance with the ADA
- Notification and outreach
- Address grievances under the town's Grievance Procedure
- Ensure timely implementation of the town's Transition Plan
- Continuous assessment of programs and services
- Technical advisor and resource on matters of accessibility

Mansfield's Human Resource Director is responsible for acting as the ADA Coordinator. Information regarding the town's ADA Coordinator can be found on the town website under Human Resources and the ADA Coordinator information page.

### Public Notice

According to ADA Title II - 35 CFR Part 35.106, the Town of Mansfield is required to notify members of the public and its employees of its non-discrimination policies.

The Town of Mansfield hosts a notice of non-discrimination on its website, under ADA Coordinator information page. The Town's general employment application provides specific language that relates to the Town's employment and non-discrimination practices. The statement on their website and employment application meets the requirements that demonstrate the Town does not discriminate on the basis of disability and provides the opportunity to request reasonable accommodations to perform any job.



## ADA Grievance Procedure

The Town of Mansfield is required to adopt and publish a grievance procedure that serves to encourage the town to address complaints regarding employment, services, and activities. ADA Title II - 35 CFR Part 35.107 (b) requires that the grievance procedure contains the following:

- A detailed description of the procedures for submitting a complaint
- A two-step review process and appeals
- Reasonable timeframes for review and resolution
- Proper record-keeping of all complaints and actions

The Town of Mansfield has an active and current Grievance Procedure that meets the outlined requirements. This policy is hosted under the ADA Coordinator information page of the Town website, where all ADA and non-discrimination policies are housed.



## Special Employment Notice

The Town of Mansfield does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to or operations of its programs, services or activities. The Town of Mansfield does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

Copies of the notice are available, upon request, in accessible formats (large print, audiotape, braille, etc.) Call the ADA Coordinator office at 508-261-7480 to request the notice.



## Effective Communication

Part of the Self-Evaluation considers the effective communication practices the Town employs and provides to members of the public and individuals with one or more disability. Consistent with ADA guidance, municipalities should provide reasonable accommodations for individuals who have hearing, vision, or speech impairments. Auxiliary aids include services or devices such as:

- Sign language interpreters
- Assistive listening devices
- Closed captioning
- Telecommunications devices for people who are deaf such as TDDs
- Emergency telephone interpreter service
- Readers
- Brailled materials
- Digital documents
- Audio recordings
- Large print materials

Many municipalities worry about the cost of maintaining auxiliary aids on hand, but it should be noted that ADA compliance

should not result in undue financial and administrative burdens. However, alternatives are available that do not result in financial burden to the town for public meetings or interrogations by local police officers. In other words, there are cost-effective means for not only achieving ADA compliance but also improving municipal services for Mansfield's disabled population.

Based on the Town's overall practices, the Town lacks familiarity with using and disseminating auxiliary devices. The Town is generally aware of how to provide documents in limited alternative formats. For example, some departments have tools to enhance size of documents, such as the building department and library.



## Website Assessment

Most residents interact with the Town via the website at one point or another. As such, website compliance with ADA standards is critical to ensuring effective communication practices.

In 2022, the Town redesigned their webpage to include updated accessibility features following guidelines within Section 508, WCAG 2.0, and AA website accessibility standards. Features such as adjustable brightness, contrast, and sizing enable a greater level of access.

In addition, the town page is navigable with a screen reader. While most images provide alternate text descriptions, there is inconsistent ARIA labeling throughout the website.

The Town partners with a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing accessible public access information media for civic engagement. This organization records and disseminates town meetings in an accessible format.

### Recommendation:

1. Staff responsible for maintaining the website should have guidance on the requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA and assess the website periodically for compliance.
2. Decorative features on the website, such as the transitioning images on the home page do not contain alternative text. Any image not critical to conveying information should state "null" as its alternative text, where possible.



# ADA Transition Plan

The Mansfield ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan captures the Town's current state of compliance with the ADA, but should be updated with progress or new findings. Additionally, the estimates provided through the Transition Plan are subject to change in future years, but provide a preliminary budgeting perspective for the Town as it plans for future improvements. The Transition Plan also provides a priority measure for those improvements with the greatest potential impact in improving accessibility to programs and facilities.



## Cost Estimates

The Transition Plan considers the cost of all improvements and modifications in the Town of Mansfield. The plan provides a set of estimates in the form of cost ranges. "Maintenance" refers to improvements and modifications that require little to no materials to achieve accessibility. Modifications listed under "Town Maintenance" are expected to be completed in house as part of regular facility maintenance. The following ranges provide a descriptive estimate for materials sourced from RS Means, current market pricing, and a literature review of comparable ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans. These estimates are subject to change given fluctuations in the economy and market, and should be verified by the Town's engineers and design professionals hired to complete recommended improvements.

Cost Estimate Schedule
Maintenance
\$0-99
\$100-499
\$500-999
\$1,000-4,999
\$5,000-10,000
\$10,000+
\$50,000+



## Priority Methods

ADA compliance provides numerous benefits to a community willing to implement the recommended modifications. For many cities and towns, tackling these modifications is best done via a project prioritization model. The methodology by which the Mansfield ADA Plan approaches their project prioritization considers the improvement's positive impact on accessibility as well as its cost.

The following table defines modifications from High to Low Priority and considers the type of improvement achieved. Proposed projects that improve Facility Access are considered a high priority; these improvements enable individuals with disabilities to access public facilities and the programs carried out within them.

Projects that improve Interior Navigation allow individuals to freely utilize public spaces and access counters for check-out in the library or information desk. Restroom Access is extremely important for individuals with a disability and compliance with ADA standards where restrooms are provided to the public are factored into improvements in Town.

Lastly, Access to Additional Amenities considered the accessibility of amenities that are not part of the primary program delivery, but are available to the public and should be equally available to individuals with disabilities. Those projects that are high priority provide the most programmatic and physical accessibility in Town, whereas lower priority projects provide marginal accessibility improvements. Prioritization of improvements assists the Town's approach to implementing the recommended improvements.

Prioritization Methodology		
High	Priority 1	Facility Access
	Priority 2	Interior Navigation
	Priority 3	Restroom Access
Low	Priority 4	Access to Additional Amenities

## Municipal Building Assessment

The Mansfield Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan entailed the assessment of a number of facilities in town. The project team conducted site visits and evaluated:

- 8 Town buildings
- 1 Municipal Airport
- 5 Public Schools
- 16 Recreation sites

This report summarizes findings from the site visit, identifying deficiencies. At the same time, recommendations guide the next steps for implementation and can direct capital improvement funding.



## Town Hall

The Mansfield Town Hall offers a historic façade with modern and accessible amenities. Given the services offered at Town Hall, the facility was most accessible with regards to restrooms and additional amenities. Mansfield Town Hall had minor

violations with counters where the public is served and parking accessibility. Town Hall is connected to the School Administration building via an elevator and attached hallway. These two facilities also share a parking lot.



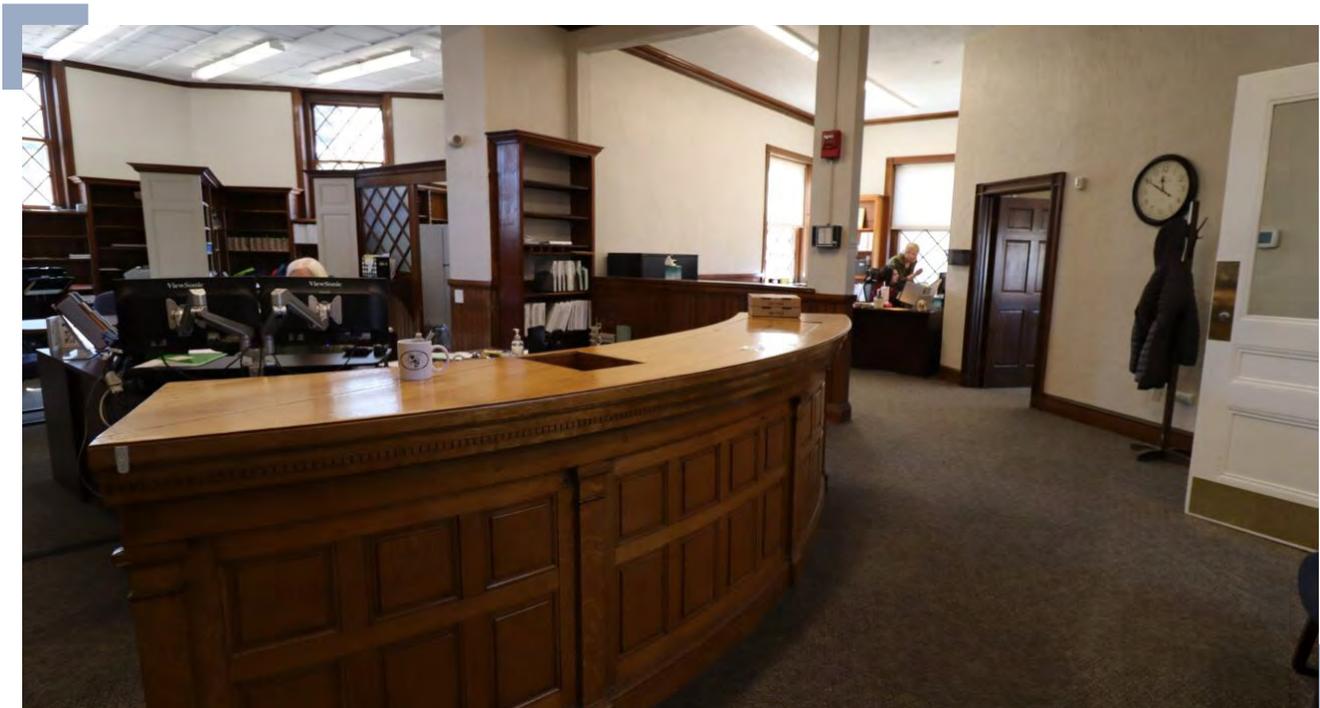
	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
1.1	No accessible or van accessible parking is provided	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground.	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1
1.2	Accessible portion of Town Treasurer counter does not extend the same depth as the counter tops	Alter accessible portion	\$1,000-4,999	2
1.3	Treasurer, Health Department, Building, and Planning Offices provide less than 17" of clear floor space under the accessible portion of window counters.	Reconfigure to provide knee clearance	\$1000-4,999	2
1.4	Second Floor Women's Restroom: a. Signage lacks proper placement and raised characters b. Operable parts of soap dispenser outside permitted range c. Clearance between grab bars and projecting objects is less than 1.5"	a. Relocate and install tactile signs b. Adjust dispensers or replace with accessible dispensers c. Relocate grab bar	a. \$0-99 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	3
1.5	Second Floor Men's Restroom: a. Signage lacks proper placement and raised characters b. Operable parts of soap dispenser outside permitted range c. Clearance between grab bars and projecting objects is less than 1.5"	a. Relocate and install tactile signs b. Adjust dispensers or replace with accessible dispensers c. Relocate grab bar	a. \$0-99 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	3



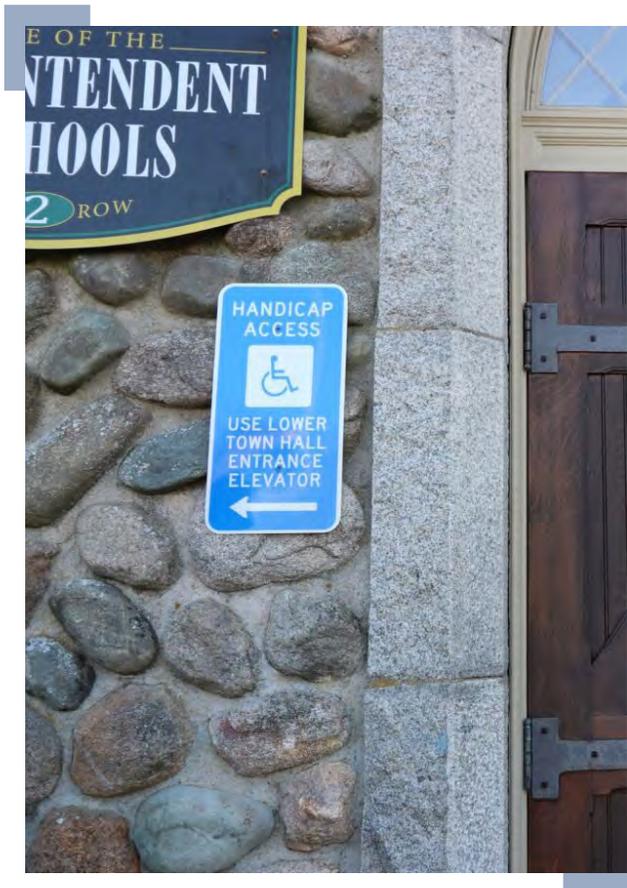
## School Administration Building

Like Town Hall, the School Administration is one of the oldest buildings in the inventory, however it offers less modifications and updates. By the standards of this assessment, the facility is not easily accessible, however the town implemented accommodations that enable greater access to this facility. For example, the School Administration building does not have a ramp to the main entrance or a marked accessible entrance. Instead, the Administration recommends that visitors

who require the use of an elevator enter through Town Hall and utilize the connecting hallways to access the building. This works most days of the week, except Fridays where Town Hall closes at noon and the School Administration operates until 4PM. To better implement this workaround, the School Administration building should provide signage or alternative directions at the main entrance to access the facility. All improvements associated with the parking lot are included within the Town Hall chapter.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
2.1	No direct access to the main floor when Town Hall closed	Provide notice to visitors at Main Entrance or provide remote/accessible doorbell	\$100-499	1
2.2	Lacks signage throughout the building	Install tactile signs, relocate signs	\$100-499	2



## Public Library

The Mansfield Public Library is located along Hope Street and shares a parking lot with the Council on Aging. All parking improvements are listed in the COA chapter.

Opened in 1989, the library offers a one-story layout. The Adult wing houses the adult and young adult collections. The Children's section is separated by the circulation desk. The Public Library has two public restrooms, one of which is designated as accessible.

There are specific children's restrooms, one of which is designated accessible but does not meet the necessary requirements. Though the Public Library was built just prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 it is required to make the appropriate changes and accommodations to ensure full accessibility for individuals with a disability. The building survey revealed that the Public Library should make some changes with regards to Interior Navigation and Restroom modifications.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
3.1	The front approach to the pull side of the front entrance door (D3) provides less than 18" of maneuvering clearance	Designate alternative door (D4) as accessible entrance door with signage	Maintenance	2
3.2	Threshold of interior door (D5) requires maintenance of screws to create a flush threshold	Repair the screw in the threshold or replace it completely	Maintenance \$0-99	2
3.3	Doors in the staff area are equipped with round knobs which are inoperable with one hand and require twisting of the wrist	Replace inaccessible knobs with lever, loop, or push hardware	\$100-499	2
3.4	Doors (6, 8, 9, 12) take less than 5 seconds to close	Adjust closer to allow door 5 seconds to close	Maintenance	2
3.5	Doors 2 and 3 in the vestibule at the main entrance do not provide enough space between the doors when swung open	Designate doors 1 and 4 as the accessible entrance doors	Maintenance	2
3.6	All mats and rugs in the library are unsecured	Secure carpets to the floor	Maintenance	2
3.7	Shelving designated for DVDs in the library are less than 36" wide	Widen shelving to allow for 36" of space	Maintenance	2
3.8	Adult restroom signs are greater than 60" from the floor	Lower signs to 60" from the center to the floor	Maintenance	2
3.9	Doors (D5,6 , 8, 9, 12) require greater than 5 lbs. of force to open	Adjust or replace closers to achieve maximum force of no more than 5 lbs.	Maintenance \$0-99	2
3.10	Tables in the Adult and Computer area provide less than 17" of knee clearance	Ensure that at least 5% of all seating in the library is accessible by providing 17" of knee clearance	\$500-999	2
3.11	Children's Restroom a. No grab bars b. less than 30x48 clearance c. Towel dispenser higher than standard	a. Install grab bars b. Reconfigure restroom c. Move towel dispenser to 14-19" from the ground	a. \$100-499 b. \$1,000-4,999 c. Maintenance	2



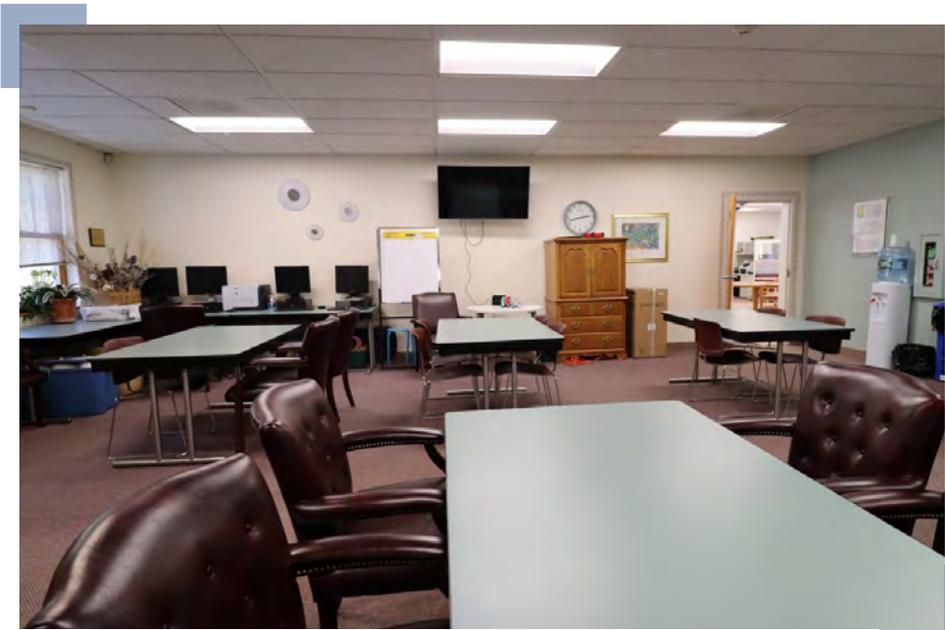
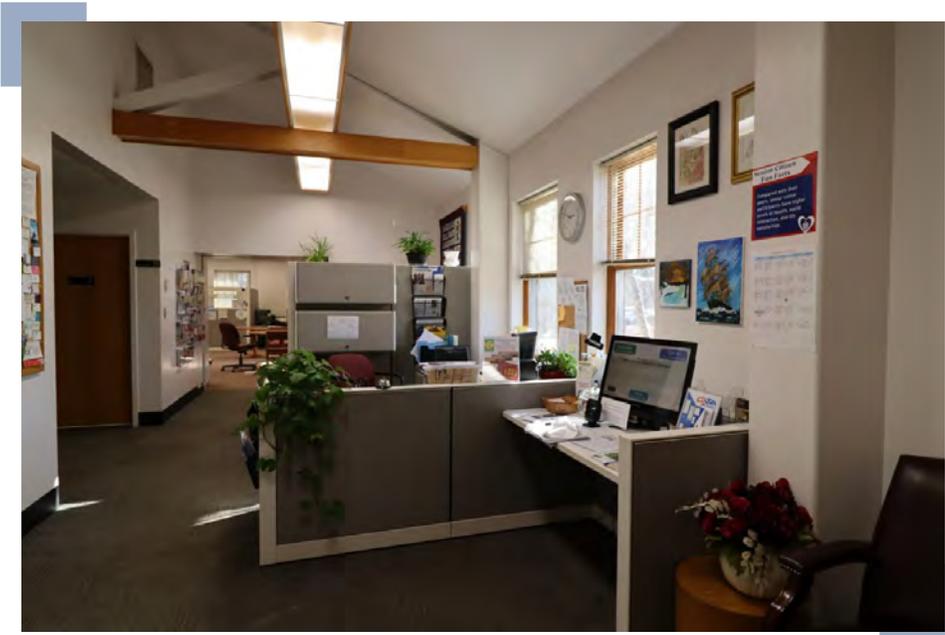
## Council on Aging

Attached to the Public Library, the Council on Aging is a resource to Mansfield's senior community. To their benefit, this facility is largely accessible with minor necessary improvements. The Council on Aging provides mobile friendly workshops, classes, and activities that are inclusive of all senior community members, conscious of their changing mobility with age. All parking lot improvements are listed in the Library chapter of this report.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
4.1	Lower level parking a. Accessible spaces lack access aisles b. Accessible spaces lack signage	a. Reconfigure lot and repaint to accommodate access aisle spaces b. Install signs and indicate "van accessible" where appropriate	a. \$500-999 b. \$100-499	1
4.2	Main Floor Entrance a. Aisle between accessible spaces slope slightly greater than 1:48 at 2.3% b. Accessible parking signs less than 60" above ground	a. Regrade surface b. Reposition signs and indicate "van accessible" where appropriate	a. \$5000-9,999 b. \$100-499	1
4.3	The curb ramp leading from the accessible parking on the side of the building have no flares	Add ramp flares	\$500-999	1
4.4	The entrance closest to the accessible parking on the ground floor does not indicate the location of the nearest accessible entrance to the main floor	Install sign	\$0-99	1
4.5	The edges of mats are not secured to minimize tripping hazards	Secure carpets to prevent hazards	Maintenance	2
4.6	Serving counter at the COA is greater than 36"	Lower counter or portion of the counter to 36"	\$100-499	2
4.7	All bathrooms on upper level lack directional signage	Install signs	\$0-99	3
4.8	Restroom lacks accessible signage	Replace signage that provides high contrast writing and braille. Place on the latch side of door.	\$0-99	3





	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
4.9	<p>Restroom B4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clearance below sink is obstructed by trashcan</li> <li>b. Clearance around toilet obstructed by objects</li> <li>c. Lacks soap dispenser</li> <li>d. Toilet paper dispenser located less than 7" from front of toilet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Remove trash can to allow clearance below sink</li> <li>b. Remove objects to allow clearance around toilet</li> <li>c. Install soap dispenser</li> <li>d. Move dispenser between 7"-9" from front of toilet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintenance</li> <li>b. Maintenance</li> <li>c. \$0-99</li> <li>d. Maintenance</li> </ul>	3
4.10	<p>Adult Restrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pipes below the sink are not insulated.</li> <li>b. Grab bar is less than 33" from the ground</li> <li>c. Grab bar is less than 54" in length from the wall</li> <li>d. Grab bar provides less than 12" clearance between protruding objects above</li> <li>e. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor</li> <li>f. Bottom of mirror is greater than 40" in from the floor</li> <li>g. Flush control located on closed side of water closet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Insulate pipes</li> <li>b. Raise grab bar to at least 33" from the ground</li> <li>c. Shift grab bar to sit 54" in length from the wall</li> <li>d. Raise grab bar to at least 12" for clearance in between protruding objects above</li> <li>e. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor</li> <li>f. Adjust height of mirror to less than 40" from the floor</li> <li>g. Move control to open side</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$0-99</li> <li>b. \$0-99</li> <li>c. \$0-99</li> <li>d. \$0-99</li> <li>e. Maintenance</li> <li>f. Maintenance</li> <li>g. Maintenance</li> </ul>	3

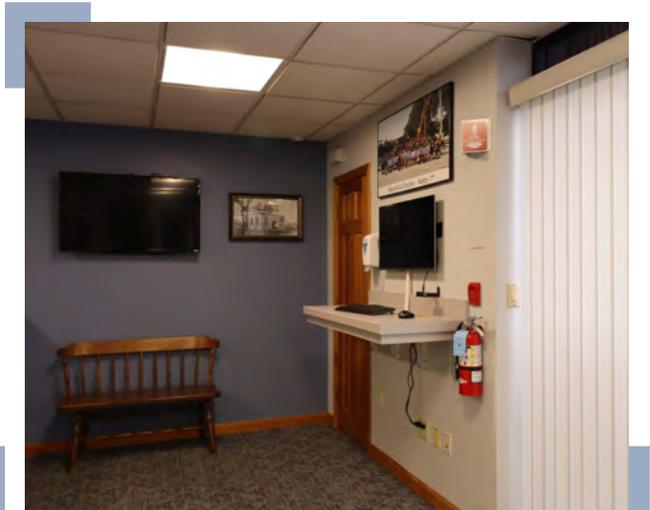


## Electrical Department

The Mansfield Municipal Electrical Department is in a commercial building with other businesses on High Street. The accessible parking is located on the far side of the building near the department entrance where there are two designated spots that need new signs and paint. The only part of the department open to the public is the lobby where the service counter is. There is a public computer where residents can log in to pay their bill. There are no public bathrooms.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
5.1	Accessible parking: a. Signage less than 60" b. Lacks access aisles d. Pavement by accessible lot is experiencing surface raveling	a. Raise sign to at least 60 inches. b. Reconfigure lot and repaint to accommodate access aisle spaces d. Patch raveling in accessible parking lot area	a. Maintenance b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499 d. \$500-999	1
5.2	Lacks accessible van space	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1
5.2	Carpet at the entrance of the building not secure to the floor	Secure carpet at entrance of the building	Maintenance	1
5.3	Counter secured to the wall for the public computer is above 36"	Lower counter to the public computer to 36"	Maintenance	2



## Airport

Originally opened in 1943, the Mansfield Municipal Airport was refurbished in 2016 with ADA accessibility standards. The building includes a full-service restaurant, a public meeting room available for town boards, and an office for a tenant of the airport. Across from

the restaurant are two fully accessible ADA complaint bathrooms. The building has automatic doors at all entrances and exits with two accessible parking spaces near the entrance, one large enough for a van.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
6.1	Accessible parking signage less than 60" above ground	Raise parking signs to 60"	\$0-99	1



## Municipal Complex

The Mansfield Municipal Complex is a multi-departmental compound housing Public Safety, Water, and Highway.

Police & Fire, as well as the Highway Department presented state-of-the-art facilities recently built in 2019 with careful considerations for ADA accessibility. The building was constructed on the existing DPW site to create a municipal complex with Police and Fire combined into one building.

There is a shared lobby and community room on the left of the building near the parking lot with accessible parking spots at the front entrance. Down the hall from the reception area are multiple fully ADA complaint bathrooms.

The Water and Highway Department offer few public areas, of which the Water Department had minor violations.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
7.1	Police & Fire: Middle stripe in-between accessible parking space less than five feet	Reconfigure lines by repainting	\$100-499	1
7.2	Water Department: a. Van accesible space less than standard dimensions b Doorbell to facility is greater than 48" above the ground. c. Door handles are not operable with one hand and require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist d. Service area lacks accessible counter space	a. Reconfigure lines by repainting b. Shift height of doorbell c. Add automatic door opener d. Reconfigure counters to provide a counter no greater than 36" high and of equal depth to standard counters.	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499 d. \$1000-4999	1 1 1 2

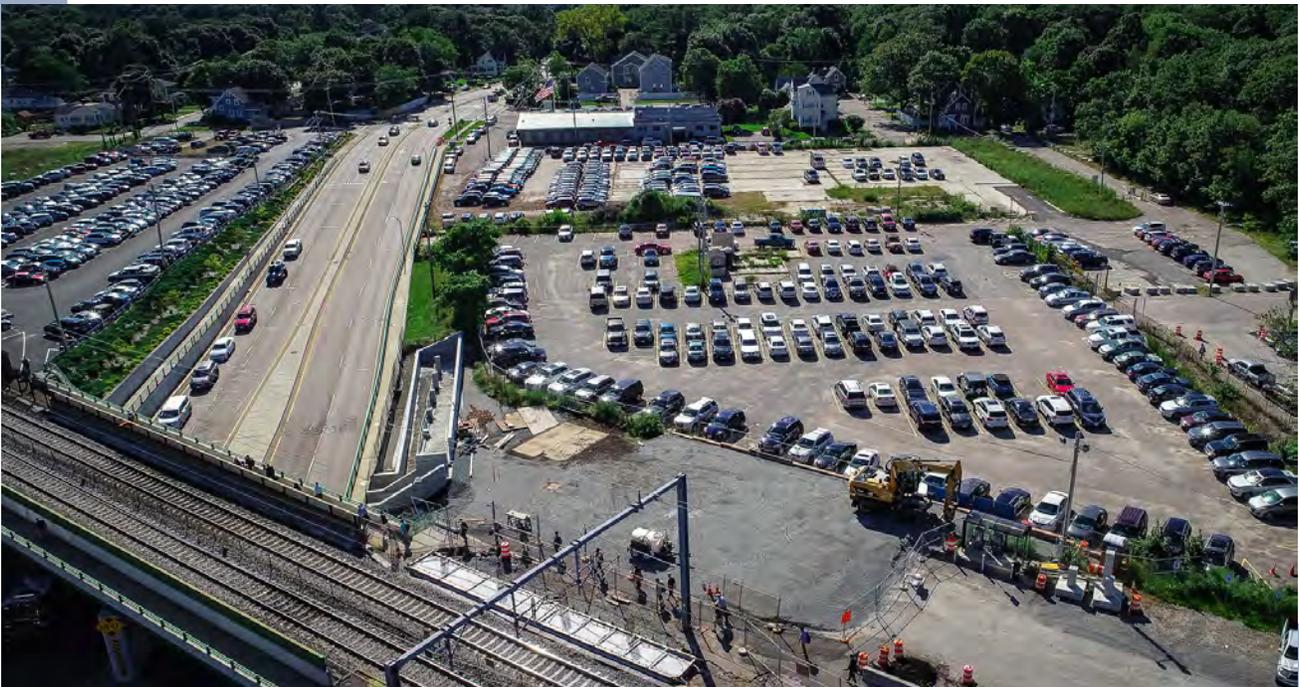


## Public Parking Facilities

The Town of Mansfield owns and operates 9 public parking lots. A number of these service the downtown area, while another subset provide parking to resident commuters near the MBTA station. Assessment of these lots considered the proportion of accessible parking spots, along with their dimensions.

Half of the parking lots in the downtown area provided accessible parking. Designated parking met the dimensional requirements, but often lacked signage.

Commuter parking by the MBTA Station lacks accessible parking altogether. Lots for local residents require passes. However, these lots do not provide a direct, accessible route to the MBTA platform. A number of lots owned by the MBTA offer accessible spots with direct access to the platform. Ideally, the Town and MBTA would coordinate to provide accessible parking based on their total combined spots. In this way, the spots closest to the station would be reserved for users with disabilities. However, in the absence of this collaboration, the town should provide an proportional number of accessible parking spots.

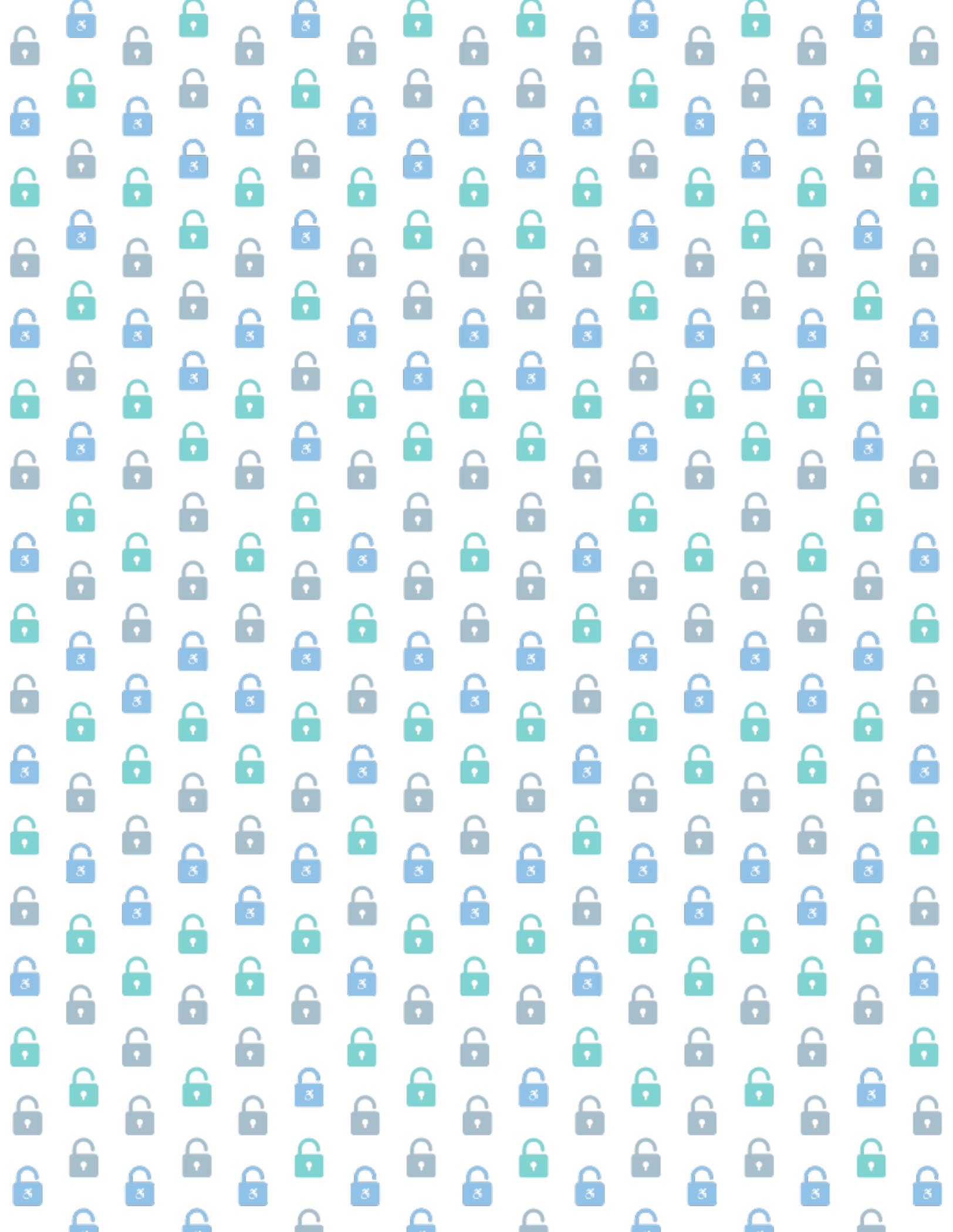


	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
8.1	Winthrop Lot lacks accessible and van accessible parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide porportional van-accessible spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$500-999</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$500-999</li> </ul>	1
8.2	River Street Lot lacks accessible and van accessible parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide porportional van-accessible spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$500-999</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$500-999</li> </ul>	1
8.3	Lot A lacks accessible and van accessible signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Add van-accessible signage at spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> </ul>	



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
8.4	Lot B lacks accessible and van accessible parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide porportional van-accessible spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-999</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$500-999</li> </ul>	1
8.5	Lot C lacks accessible and van accessible signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Add van-accessible signage at spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1
8.6	Station Square lacks accessible and van accessible parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide porportional van-accessible spaces that are at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-999</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$500-999</li> </ul>	1





# Mansfield Public Schools

Mansfield is responsible for the maintenance of:

- One Pre-school
- Two Elementary Schools
- One Middle School
- One Public High School

Like many schools, these were built before the ADA was legally passed in 1990. However, schools are one of the most important places in the community to ensure compliance with the ADA to ensure access o all students, regardless of ability.



## Roland Green Pre-School

The only pre-school in town, the Roland Green Pre-School was originally constructed in 1924. Built well before the passage of the ADA, the pre-school fails to meet various programmatic and physical ADA Standards. Over the years, the School Administration installed an elevator chair that can be independently operated. Violations present in the school focus on Approach & Entry as well as Restrooms.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
9.1	No accessible or van accessible parking is provided	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground.	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1
9.2	Main Entrance is not accessible	a. Designate an accessible entrance using exterior directional signage b. Install signs at inaccessible entrances to show nearest accessible entrance	\$100-499	1
9.3	Ramp at accessible entrance: a. Width is less than 36" b. Slope is greater than 8.3% c. Provides no handrails	Alter or purchase new ramp.	\$100-499	1
9.4	Carpets in most classrooms are not secured to the floor	Secure all carpets	Maintenance	2
9.5	Restrooms: a. Sink is obstructed by stools b. Pipes below the sink are not insulated c. Grab bar in accessible stall is less than 33" from the ground d. Grab bar in accessible stall is less than 54" in length from the wall	a. Remove stools b. Insulate pipes c. Raise grab bar to at least 33" from the ground d. Shift grab bar to sit 54" in length from the wall	a. Maintenance b. \$0-99 c. \$0-99 d. \$0-99	3



## Robinson Elementary School

The Robinson Elementary School was completed in 1965 and meets most ADA compliance standards. The school presented some deficiencies related to interior navigation and Restroom standards.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
10.1	Boy's Restroom (A127) a. Side grab bar below 54" from rear wall b. Door to stalls are not self-closing	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall b. Install closer	a. Maintenance \$0-99 b. \$0-99	3
10.2	Girls Restroom (A128) Girls a. Side grab bar less than 54" from rear wall	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance \$0-99	3
10.3	B116 Men a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance \$0-99	1
10.4	B115 Women a. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall b. The toilet paper dispenser is located more than 7" from the front of the toilet	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall b. Relocate dispenser to it is between 7-9" from the front of toilet	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance \$0-99	2
10.5	B215 Women a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48" d. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance \$0-99	3



### Assessment and Recommendations

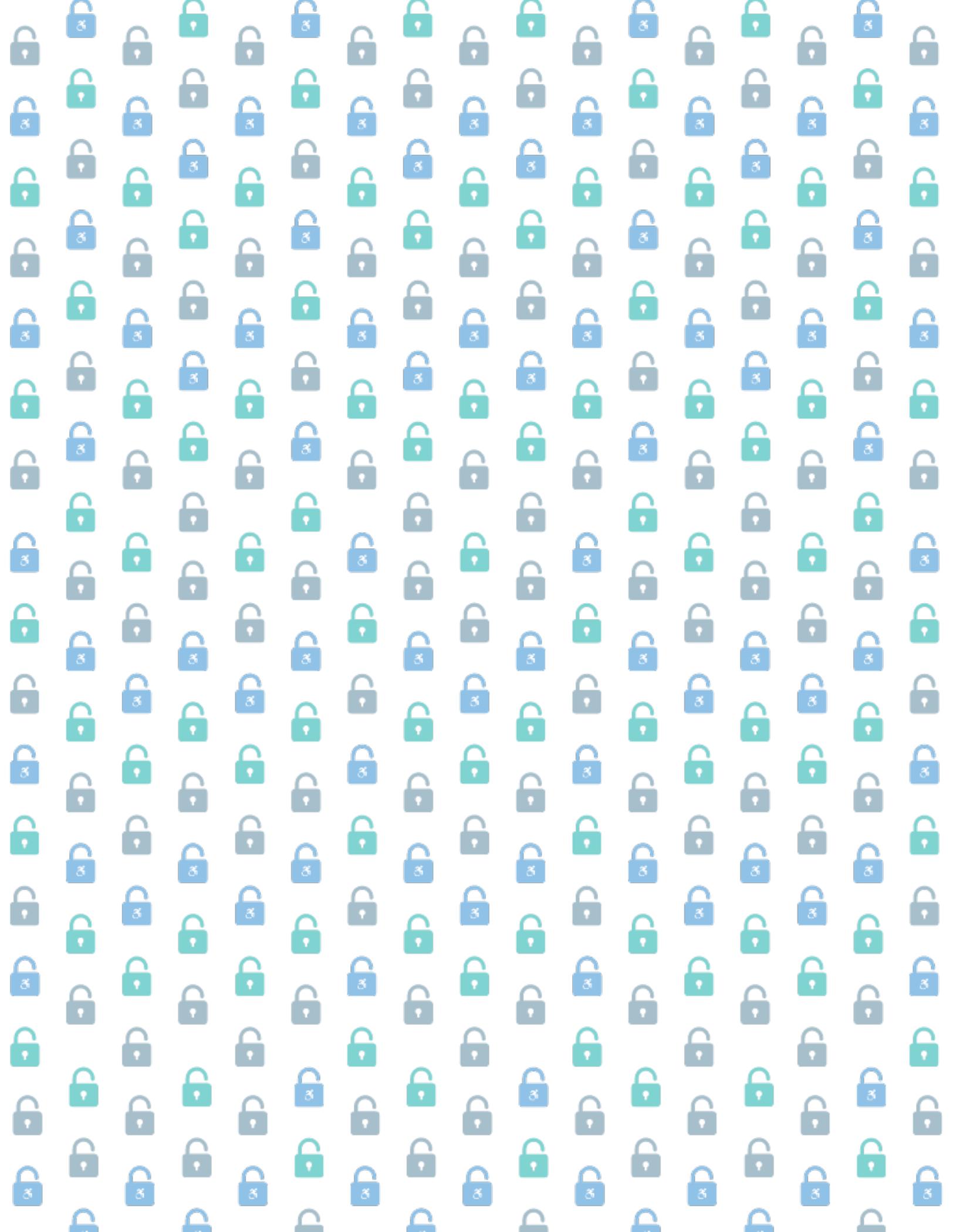
	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
10.6	B213 Men a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48" d. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance \$0-99	3
10.7	B210 Girls a. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall b. Rear grab bar behind toilet does not extend from centerline of toilet and along the open side	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall b. Relocate grab bar. This may require reconfiguration of toilet	a. Maintenance \$0-99 b. Maintenance	3
10.8	A123 Men a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Side wall grab bar is less than 54" from the rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance \$0-99	3
10.9	B215 Women a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48" d. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance \$0-99	3

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
10.10	A111T Restroom: a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall d. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48"	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall d. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance \$0-99 d. Maintenance	3
10.11	A115T Restroom a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Faucet requires grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist c. Toilet clearance is obstructed by table d. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor e. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48"	a. Adjust door-closer b. Replace faucet handles c. Remove objects around toilet d. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor e. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor	a. Maintenance b. \$0-99 c. Maintenance d. Maintenance e. Maintenance	3
10.12	B215 Women a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48" d. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance	3



### Assessment and Recommendations

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
10.13	<p>A122 Women</p> <p>a. Door to the bathroom requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open</p> <p>b. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall</p> <p>c. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor</p> <p>d. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48"</p> <p>e. Toilet clearance is obstructed by table</p>	<p>a. Adjust door-closer</p> <p>b. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall</p> <p>c. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor</p> <p>d. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor</p> <p>e. Remove objects around toilet</p>	<p>a. Maintenance</p> <p>b. Maintenance</p> <p>c. \$0-99</p> <p>d. Maintenance</p> <p>e. Maintenance</p>	3
10.14	<p>A220 Women</p> <p>a. Door to the bathroom closes too quickly</p> <p>b. Signage is not properly mounted</p> <p>c. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor</p> <p>d. Operable parts of the towel dispenser greater than 48" from floor</p> <p>e. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall</p>	<p>a. Adjust door-closer</p> <p>b. Relocate signage on latch side of door</p> <p>c. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor</p> <p>d. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor</p> <p>e. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wal</p>	<p>a. Maintenance</p> <p>b. Maintenance</p> <p>c. Maintenance</p> <p>d. Maintenance</p> <p>e. Maintenance \$0-99</p>	3
10.15	<p>A221 Men</p> <p>a. Door to the bathroom closes too quickly</p> <p>b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor</p> <p>c. Operable parts of the towel dispenser greater than 48" from floor</p> <p>d. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall</p>	<p>a. Adjust door-closer</p> <p>b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor</p> <p>c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor</p> <p>d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall</p>	<p>a. Maintenance</p> <p>b. Maintenance</p> <p>c. Maintenance</p> <p>d. Maintenance \$0-99</p>	3



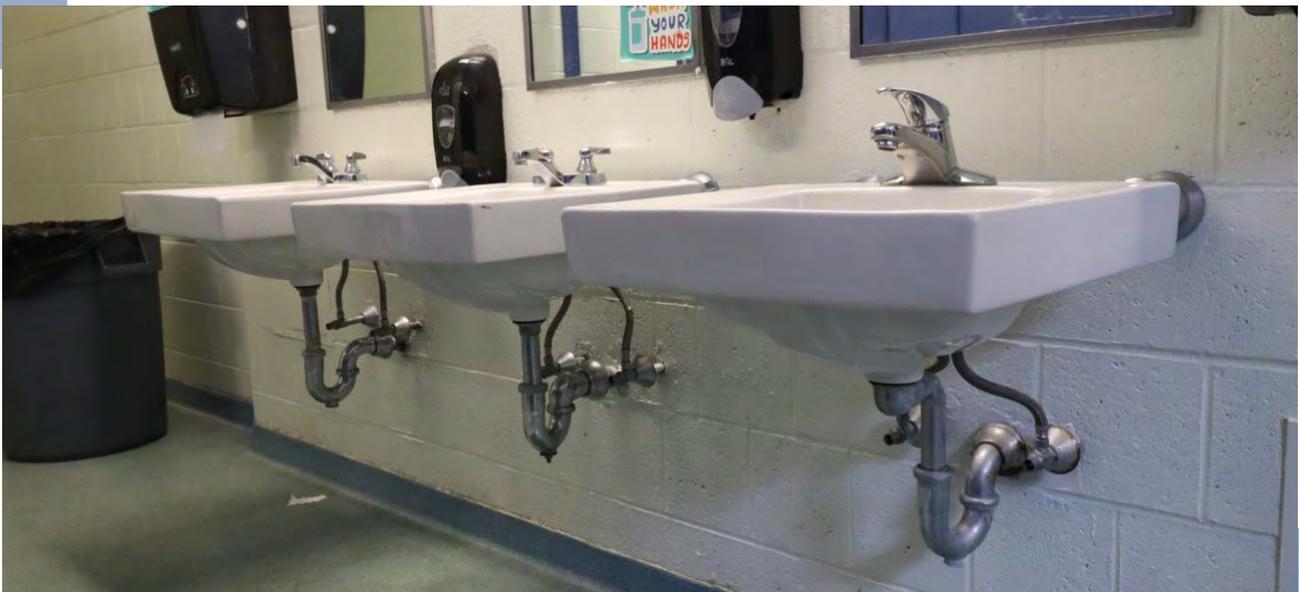
## Jordan-Jackson Elementary School

Jordan-Jackson Elementary School was built in 1990. The school demonstrated deficiencies in most common areas, navigating the building, and restrooms. For example, the reception area cannot accommodate a wheelchair due to their arrangement of furniture. Additionally, most doors require too much weight to open.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
11.1	Carpets in most classrooms are not secured to the floor	Secure carpets at all entrances	a. Maintenance	3
11.2	Girls Restroom (B103) Girls a. Side grab bar less than 54" from rear wall	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance \$0-99	3
11.3	B116 Men a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance \$0-99	1
11.4	B115 Women a. Grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall b. The toilet paper dispenser is located more than 7" from the front of the toilet	a. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall b. Relocate dispenser to it is between 7-9" from the front of toilet	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance \$0-99	2
11.5	B215 Women a. Door requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open and closes too quickly b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Operable part of the towel dispenser is greater than 48" d. Side grab bar extends less than 54" from rear wall	a. Adjust door-closer b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust height of towel dispenser to 48" from the floor d. Relocate grab bar to 54" from rear wall	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance \$0-99	3





	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
11.6	No accessible or van accessible parking is provided	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground.	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1
11.7	Main Entrance is not accessible	a. Designate an accessible entrance using exterior signage at the entrance b. Install signs at inaccessible entrances to show nearest accessible entrance	\$100-499	1
11.8	Ramp at accessible entrance: a. Width is less than 36" b. Slope is greater than 8.3% c. Provides no handrails	Alter or purchase new ramp.	\$100-499	1
11.9	Carpets in most classrooms are not secured to the floor	Secure all carpets	Maintenance	2
11.10	B103 girls bathroom: a. Sink is obstructed by stools. b. Pipes below the sink are not insulated. c. Grab bar in accessible stall is less than 33" from the ground d. Grab bar in accessible stall is less than 54" in length from the wall	a. Remove stools b. Insulate pipes c. Raise grab bar to at least 33" from the ground d. Shift grab bar to sit 54" in length from the wall	a. Maintenance b. \$0-99 c. \$0-99 d. \$0-99	3



## Qualters Middle School

Built in 1952 the Qualters Middle School is the only public middle school in the town, and because of the age of the building there are some deficiencies that need to be addressed with Approach and Entry. Most of the bathrooms that are generally ADA complaint are not labeled and have exposed piping under the sinks. The boys' and girls' locker rooms do not have a handicap accessible shower. The auditorium has only two accessible spaces and more need to be added.



	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
12.1	Rugs not secured at entrances	Secure rugs to floors at all entrances	Maintenance	1
12.2	Elevator button does lacks braille	Add accessible signage to elevator	\$100-499	2
12.3	Classroom signs improperly placed inside door	Move signs to outside wall of the hallway entrance to classrooms	Maintenance	2
12.4	Bathrooms: a. Accessible bathrooms lack signage b. Exposed piping under sinks c. Coat hooks on back of doors too high d. Doors to bathrooms not self-closing	a. Add accessible signage to bathrooms that are complaint. b. Insulate pipes c. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor d. Adjust closer to allow door 5 seconds to close	a.\$100-499 b.\$100-499 c. Maintenance d. Maintenance	3
12.5	Boys and girls locker room's did not have handicap accessible shower	Reconfigure at least one shower to be accessible	\$500-999	3
12.6	Reception counters are above 36"	Reconfigure counter to create a 36" wide drop in counter.	\$100-499	4
12.7	Classroom signs with braille on inside inlets of door entrance	Move classroom signage to outside wall of the hallway entrance to classrooms	Maintenance	4
12.8	Auditorium has less than required ratio of accessible spaces	Add two more handicap accessible spaces	\$100-499	4



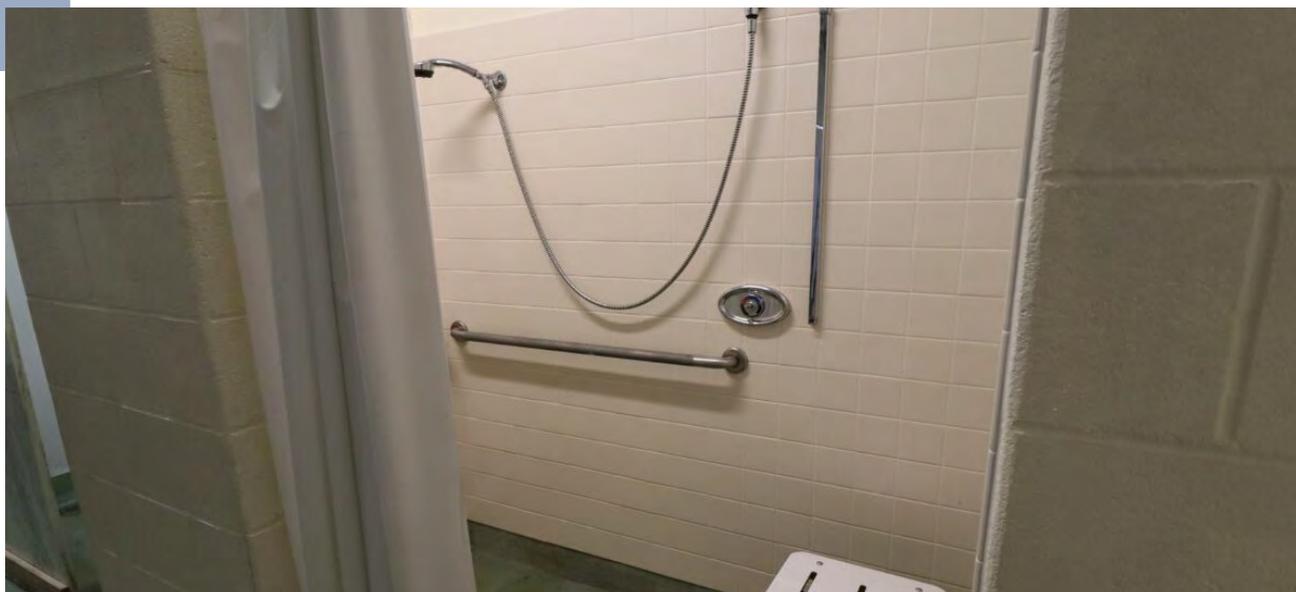
## Mansfield Public High School

Built in the early 1969, the high school is arguably one of the largest facilities within the town's responsibility. Though largely in compliance with ADA Standards, the school's weakest areas include restrooms facilities.



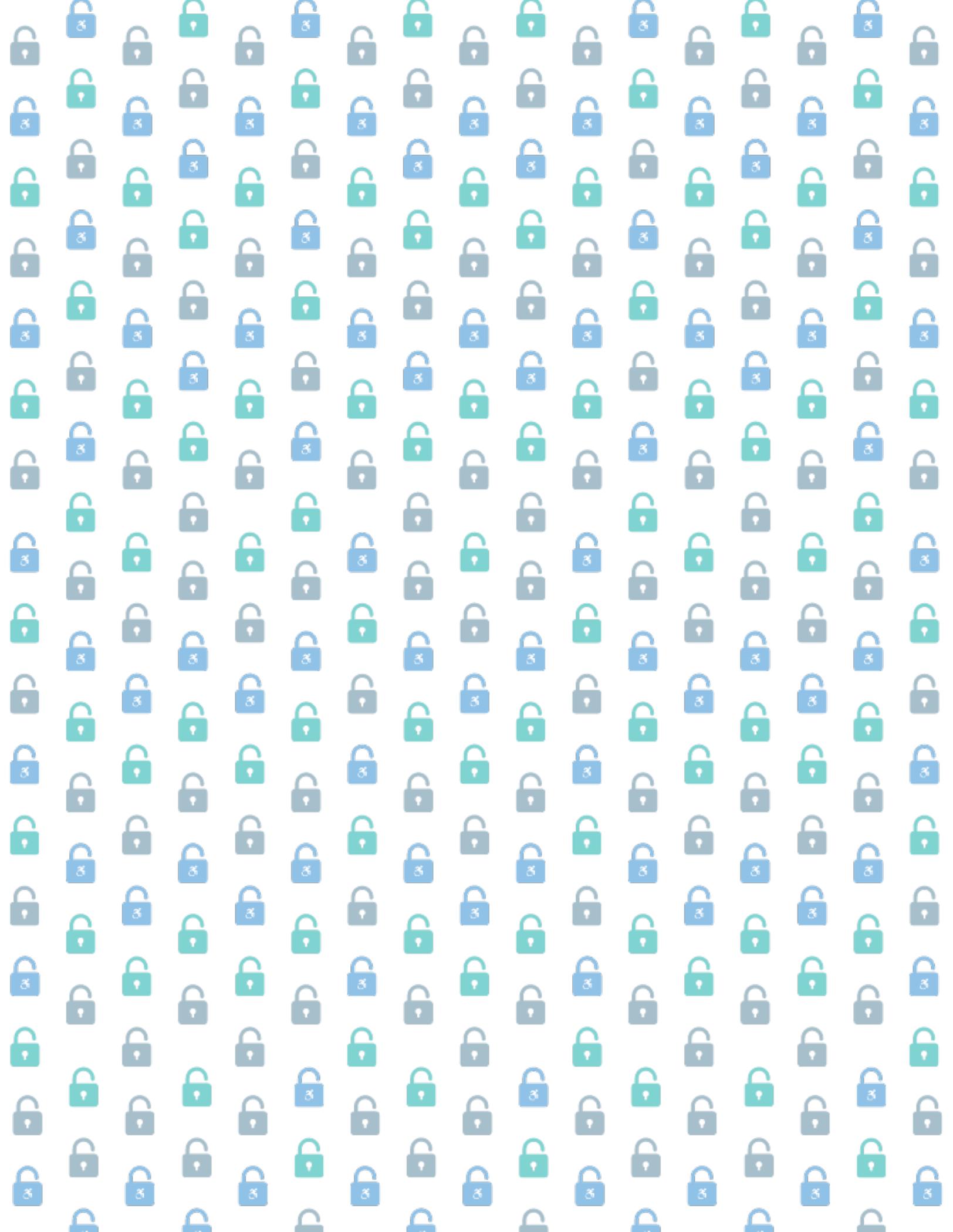
	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
13.1	Girls Locker Room a. Bench seats are less than 42" long b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor	a. Widen bench seat to at least 42" long and between 20"-24" deep b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor	a. \$100-499 b. Maintenance \$100-499	3
13.2	Boys Locker Room a. bench seats are less than 42" long b. Handicapped shower used for storage c. No handicapped stall	a. Widen bench seat to at least 42" long and between 20"-24" deep b. Reconfigure shower stall c. Reconfigure bathroom	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	3
13.3	Boys Bathroom (231) Missing mirror fixtures One soap dispenser Coat hook broken Only small handicapped stall	a. Add additional mirror fixtures b. Provide additional accessible soap dispensers c. Replace accessible coat hook d. Reconfigure bathroom	a. \$100-499 b. \$0-99 c. Maintenance d. \$100-499	3
13.4	Boys and Girls Bathroom (138) a. Pipes below the sink are not insulated. b. Coat hook is greater than 48"-54" in from the floor c. Doors to bathrooms not self-closing d. Toilet handles require greater than 5 lbs of force to flush	a. Insulate pipes  b. Adjust height of coat hook to 48" from the floor c. Adjust closer to allow door 5 seconds to close d. Adjust or replace flush control to achieve maximum force of no more than 5 lbs.	a.\$100-499 b. Maintenance c. Maintenance d. Maintenance	3
13.5	Casey Bathroom a. No handicapped Bathroom b. Pipes exposed	a. Reconfigure bathroom b. Insulate pipes	a. \$100-499 b. \$0-99	3
13.6	Girls Bathroom (130 ) a. Lacks self-close door b. Handle on wrong side of toilet c. Door hardware requires twisting of the wrist	a. Adjust closer to allow door 5 seconds to close b. Relocate hardware c. Replace hardware	a. Maintenance b. Maintenance c. \$0-99	4





	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
13.7	Auditorium: a. Lacks proper ratio of accessible seating b. Accessible seating concentrated in one area	a. Reconfigure to add wheelchair spaces b. Reconfigure to disperse wheelchair spaces	a.\$100-499 b. \$500-999	4
13.8	Directional signage throughout facility imounted greater than 60" from the centerline to the floor	Adjust signage height	Maintenance	2
13.9	First floor ramp greater than 5% slope	Regrade	\$100-499	2
13.10	Doors throughout the facility require more than 5 lbs. of force to open	Adjust or replace closures to achieve maximum force of no more than 5 lbs	Maintenance	2





## Recreational Facilities Assessment

Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not provide statutes that relate to outdoor recreation, unless on Federal lands, the Access Board Provides guidance for Outdoor Developed Areas. Complementary to the efforts of the ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan is the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) that requires an

assessment of accessible recreation facilities in town. Recently completed in 2024, the OSRP provides insight into the current state of recreational facilities in the town of Mansfield.



## Marie Strese Conservation Area

Acquired in 1974, this property provides just under 2 miles of trails close to the Canoe River. The Conservation area offers limited parking, none of which is accessible and is not a designated accessible trail. Transforming this trail system into an accessible network would require a significant investment

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
14.1	Lacks all parking amenities including accessible and van spaces	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1



## WWII Veterans Memorial Trail

Located along the abandoned corridor of the former Old Colony Railroad, this historic trail provides paved and unpaved recreational opportunities. The major portions of the regional rail trail are paved, however, a mile and a half nature trail is located among tree groves. Work is ongoing to parking areas off Fruit Street.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
15.1	Lacks all parking amenities including accessible and van spaces	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1



## North Common

Near the town’s Commuter Rail Station, North Common is frequented by nearby residents and commuters alike. North Common offers a variety of seating for resting, picnicking, and shade under the gazebo. The Common does not have dedicated parking, sharing a combination of street parking and paid commuter parking.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
16.1	Lacks all parking amenities including accessible and van spaces	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499	1
16.2	Lacks accessible picnic tables	Provide at least one accessible picnic table	\$100-499	4



## East Common

At the intersection of Mill, Cherry, and East Street, East Common provides an attractive node in the neighborhood for walking. Currently undergoing construction and improvements, East Common may see additional improvements beyond the listed recommendations.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
17.1	Lacks adjacent designated accessible or van parking spaces	a. Provide curb cuts along parking area b. Reconfigure by repainting lines. c. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground	a. \$1000-4999 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	1



## South Common

Adjacent to Town Hall and the School Administration Building, South Common shares parking with these facilities. South Common is a meeting area providing a walking path through town center with seating area that provides space for wheelchair users. South Common presents no violations, however for compliance concerns related to parking, please see Town Hall notes.



## West Common

At the intersection of Otis and Balcom Street, West Common is a small park with a number of decorative benches and a memorial. The site offers no dedicated parking to access it directly, however there is one curb cut to enable visitors arriving without a vehicle.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
18.1	Path of travel has cross slope greater than 2%	Regrade cross slope to less than 2%	\$500-999	1



## Memorial Park

In 2016, the Friends of Memorial Park hired a contractor to revitalize the Memorial Park. At the time, the town contributed \$130,000 through capital improvement funds. The Friends of Memorial Park raised the remaining \$60,000. Improvements included

new ADA Swings, climbing structures, and a fenced in play area. In addition the improved play area, Memorial Park provides baseball and soccer fields, picnicking areas, and public restrooms.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
19.1	Accessible parking lacks: a. Access aisle. b. Signage c. Van accessible spot	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	1
19.2	All accessible parking is not located along a clear path of travel	Provide level curb cut along accessible parking area.	\$500-999	1
19.3	Accessible picnic table is higher than 32" above the ground	Level area under the table	Maintenance	4
19.4	Pipes below the sink are not insulated.	Insulate pipes.	\$100-499	3
19.5	Accessible restroom signage does not provide raised text	Replace signage	\$100-499	3



## Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Conservation Area

Formerly known as the Maple Park Conservation Area, this recreational site is located on the northern portion of the Canoe River Greenbelt. Accessed via Maple Street, the Corporal Robert Francis Hardy Conservation Area provides parking for visitors to its over 2 miles of nature trails, none of which are designated accessible trails. Transforming this trail system into an accessible network would require a significant investment.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
20.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1



## Mill Pond Viewing Area

The Mill Pond, formed by a dam, has a canoe launch area with parking and benches.

The dam was replaced in 2010. Access for canoeing is on East Street, just past the entrance and over the Canoe River down the road from the DPW highway garage and the Mansfield Fish and Game Association.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
21.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1



## Fulton Pond

A man-made pond, Fulton Pond dates back to the 1830s when Elkanah Bates bought the land needed to create the pond and power local cotton factories. The Town acquired the Pond in 1946 and built a parking area with 2 accessible spaces for residents to access the recreational site.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
22.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1
22.2	Paths are uneven	Regrade so there are no changes in level greater than 1.5" and provide an evenly paved or hard-packed surface	\$1,000-4,999	1
22.3	Picnic tables not fully accessible	Provide picnic tables (5%) with 19" of toe and/or 24" of knee clearance	\$500-999	4



## Kingman Pond

Located within Mansfield Center, Kingman Pond offers a limited network of trails. The pond has a small dedicated parking area, which provides no accessible path to the trail. Furthermore, Kingman Pond lacks accessible trails. Like many other sites in town, transforming this to an accessible system would be costly.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
23.1	Provide an evenly paved parking lot with accessible spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repave area</li> <li>b. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>c. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>d. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$1000-4999</li> <li>b. 100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1



## Old Town Cemetery

Located by Town Hall at the intersection of Union and West Street, the Old Town Cemetery is a historic landmark in town. Old Town Cemetery only offers street parking, none of which are designated accessible.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
24.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	a. Reconfigure by repainting lines. b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)	a. \$100-499 b. \$100-499 c. \$100-499	1



## Sweet Kalnins Conservation Area

With a parking area behind the Little League Fields off Otis Street, the Sweet Kalnins Conservation Area offers just under a mile of walking trails. Transforming this trail system into an accessible network would require a significant investment.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
25.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> <li>d. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1



## Great Woods Conservation Area

The largest contiguous conservation land in Mansfield, Great Woods offers eight trails for walking and hiking. It was acquired by the town in 1996. Parking is located on Oak Street, however there are no delineations for accessible or non-accessible parking. This

trail network is not designated accessible; the terrain from the parking area and the trail itself presents challenges event for non-disabled visitors. Transforming Great Woods into an accessible network would require a significant investment.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
26.1	Lacks designated accessible or van parking spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reconfigure by repainting lines.</li> <li>b. Add signage that is at least 60" from the ground</li> <li>c. Provide a van-accessible space that is at least 132" wide with a marked access aisle that is at least 60" wide. Ensure the access aisle adjoins an accessible route.</li> <li>d. Ensure the slope at the parking space is no steeper than 1:50 (2.00%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$100-499</li> <li>b. \$100-499</li> <li>c. \$100-499</li> </ul>	1

## Taylor's Hill

Part of the Great Woods Conservation Area, Taylor's Hill is located along Judy's Lane. Taylor's Hill offers a mile and a half of trails, none of which are designated accessible. The site also lacks parking amenities, which if added should include a percentage of accessible parking areas. For compliance concerns related See Great Woods Conservation Area notes.

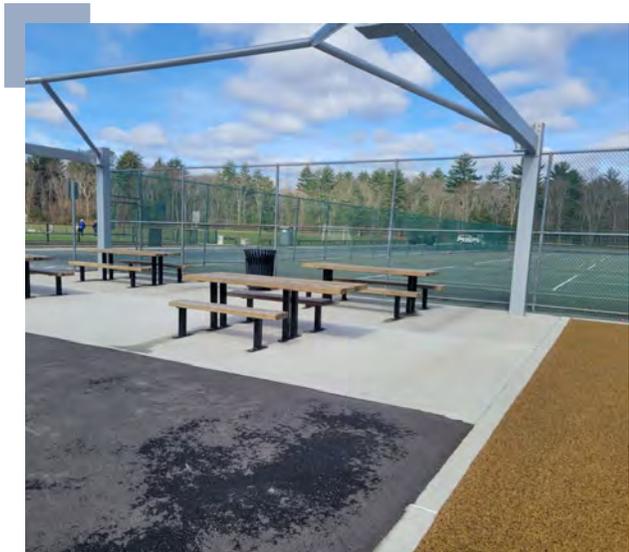


## Plymouth Street Recreation Area

Hosting a series of fields, playground, and trails, Plymouth Street Recreation Area offers several recreation opportunities. The site contains a total of 58 Acres. Though the nature trail is not accessible, Plymouth Street Recreation provides accessible parking and commendable playground facilities that incorporate all kinds of abilities

including a swing for disabled children and tactile games. Portable stalls are provided to visitors by private organizations that utilize the fields, however the food service counter if utilized would present accessibility concerns.

	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
271	Baseball field service counters do not provide an accessible service area.	Reconfigure counter to create a 36" wide drop in counter.	\$500-999	4



## Plymouth Street Conservation Area

Surrounding the Plymouth Street Recreation area is a 1.5 mile trail system. The 247 Acre site is jointly owned by the Town and the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield.

Parking is shared with the Recreation site, with a number of sites providing an adjacent and accessible path to the trail.

The trails along this route are inaccessible, showing signs of sloping and protruding objects. The town would need to make a significant investment in order to make this trail more accessible.



# Facilities Walkshed

As part of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, the Town pursued an assessment of the 1/4-mile walkshed to and from public facilities along locally owned and maintained roadways. The assessment highlights inaccessible routes, pavement condition, as well as the need for sidewalks, and crosswalks at specific junctions. The findings from the survey show that Mansfield requires modernization of their sidewalks including repaving, removal of barriers, as

well as additional tactile warning signs. Walkshed improvements build on existing ADA planning in town, that details many similar modifications based on ADA compliance. Mansfield's Complete Streets Project Prioritization Plan found Mansfield's sidewalk network has existing gaps, infrastructure is lacking or is in poor condition, and fails to meet ADA compliance in regards to clearance widths and slope.



## Facilities Walkshed

Street	Facility	Recommendation	Estimate
School Street Corridor - Intersection improvements	Spring Brook Cemetery Kingman Pond	Phase 1 of corridor project. Redesign School/Spring intersection as roundabout, add crosswalk and bicycle lanes on School Street, and add sidewalk connection to Willow Street.	\$850,000
Sidewalk Connection to Schools via East Street	Mansfield High School Qualters Middle School Robinson Elementary School Jordan Jackson Elementary School Memorial Park Mansfield Common Mansfield Town Hall Old Town Cemetery WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct new sidewalk along south side of East Street to provide a connection from schools to downtown.</li> <li>Reconstruct sidewalk on northern side of East Street to be ADA compliant.</li> </ul>	\$943,000
Pedestrian Crossing Warning System: East Street	Mansfield Town Hall Old Town Cemetery Fulton Pond WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	Add RRFB at rail trail crossing at East Street	\$37,000



### Facilities Walkshed

Street	Facility	Recommendation	Estimate
Sidewalk Connection East Street to Pratt Street (Route 106)	Mansfield High School Qualters Middle School Robinson Elementary School Jordan Jackson Elementary School Memorial Park Mansfield Public Works Department Mansfield Water Department Mansfield Public Safety	Construct new sidewalks north side of East Street from end of high school parking lot to Route 106 (Pratt Street).	\$225,000
Sidewalk: Park Street	Mansfield Town Hall Old Town Cemetery Fulton Pond Mansfield High School Qualters Middle School Robinson Elementary School Jordan Jackson Elementary School Memorial Park WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	Construct new sidewalks on south side of Park Street.	\$508,000
Sidewalks: Hope Street to Shields Street)	Mansfield Public Library Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct sidewalk west side of Hope Street (no reveal or curbing) to trail crossing.</li> <li>• Reconstruct sidewalk both sides of Shields Street beyond Swett Street.</li> </ul>	\$540,000

Facilities Walkshed

Street	Facility	Recommendation	Estimate
Sidewalk: Hope Street to Cottage Street	Mansfield High School Qualters Middle School Robinson Elementary School Jordan Jackson Elementary School Memorial Park Mansfield Public Library	Construct new sidewalk on west side of Hope Street	\$218,000
Accessible Ramps South Main Street	Mansfield Town Hall Mansfield Common Old Town Cemetery Kingman Pond Fulton Pond WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	Update all wheelchair ramps to ADA compliances.	\$100,000
Pedestrian Crossing Warning System: Park Street	Mansfield Town Hall Mansfield Common Old Town Cemetery Kingman Pond Fulton Pond WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	Add RRFB at bike route crossing at Park Street and at Court Street.	\$74,000
Sidewalk: Spring Street	Kingman Pond Spring Brook Cemetery	Construct new sidewalk on south side of Spring Street from School Street to Union Street.	\$407,000



### Facilities Walkshed

Street	Facility	Recommendation	Estimate
Fruit Street Sidewalk: Stillbrook Lane to Short Street	WWII Veterans Memorial Trail Mansfield Municipal Airport	Construct new sidewalks on Fruit Street from Stillbrook Lane to Short Street	\$499,000
Fruit Street Sidewalk: Hall Street to Stillbrook Lane	Mansfield Municipal Airport	Construct new sidewalks on Fruit Street from Hall Road to Stillbrook Lane	\$102,000
Sidewalks: Short Street/Ware Street	WWII Veterans Memorial Trail	Construct new sidewalks on Short Street and Ware Street to connect pedestrian access to parks.	\$524,000

Facilities Walkshed



# Conclusion

Mansfield Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan represents a commitment on behalf of the Town of Mansfield to ensure that all residents, regardless of their abilities, have equal access to the programs and facilities available to the public. The Town should continue to monitor for improvements as buildings age, but also consider expanding programs to be inclusive of individuals with

differing abilities. The Town can also consider the process of prioritization in tackling projects and pursuing grant and other funding for capital improvements. To address communication service deficiencies as well as potential training, the Town may explore available options listed in the resources section at the end of the plan.



## Resources

### Communication Services

#### **MassRelay Service**

MassRelay is the state's free and confidential communication relay service for those who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, or speech disabled. This service is provided 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A Relay Operator will complete your call, dialing the party you wish to contact and then stay on the line to relay messages electronically via a TTY or verbally to people who can hear.

For more information on specific services visit their website.

#### **Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) Statewide Interpreter/CART Referral Service**

The MCDHH provides statewide interpreter and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) referral services. It provides referral services for sign language, spoken English, oral, tactile and close vision interpreting for Deaf and Deaf-Blind individuals, as well as making referral to freelance CART providers for services. They also provide an After-hours Emergency

Interpreter Service, an Interpreter Screening service, Interpreter and CART provider trainings, case management, and technical assistance.

For more information on specific services visit their website.

### Training and Technical Assistance

#### **Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)**

MCDHH, through the Communication Access, Training, and Technology Services Department (CATTS) provides information and training to the public on issues of deafness and hearing loss. Free In-service or educational services/presentations can be provided for any organization or business seeking to improve their effectiveness in interacting with people who are deaf and hard of hearing. MCDHH also provides technical assistance on assistive technology to public and private agencies related to all aspects of technology for the deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

For more information visit their website.



### **Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)**

MCAD seeks to eliminate discrimination in the Commonwealth by offering training to help prevent discrimination from occurring. Training sessions range from two hours to four days in length, depending on the topics covered and include interactive quizzes, case scenarios, and videos to educate participants on their rights and teach employers their responsibilities under the Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws. They also offer Equal Employment Opportunity Certifications for individuals who currently provide, or seek to provide, employment discrimination prevention training, conduct internal discrimination complaint investigations and/or respond to accommodation requests.

For more information visit their website.

### **Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD)**

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) promotes access, inclusion, and equal opportunity for people with disabilities in Massachusetts, ensuring that people with disabilities can equally participate in all aspects of life. MOD serves as a

resource to state agencies, municipalities, and members of the general public by providing information, guidance and training on matters concerning disability-related civil rights, equal access, and opportunity. Through their trainings, MOD assists individuals and organizations understand how disability laws and regulations apply in their situation and explore solutions.

For more information visit their website.

### **New England ADA Center**

New England ADA Center provides information, guidance and training on ADA tailored to meet the needs of business, government and individuals at local, regional and national levels. Their website has a clearing house of ADA training topics that are no cost web-based courses in addition to publications and best practices resources. It is also a good source of language and examples of draft policies.

For more information on available trainings and policies visit their website.