

Grafton, Massachusetts Open Space & Recreation Plan 2007

August 2007

Prepared by the Grafton Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee
Technical Assistance Provided by:
The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

DEDICATION

The members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee wish to dedicate this Plan to the memory of our late fellow member, Roger D. Hohman. He will be remembered for his dedication to the civic life of our town, and his tireless championing of open space preservation and environmental conservation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This plan was approved by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Conservation Services, on July 19, 2007. The approved plan allows Grafton to participate in DCS grant rounds through June 2012.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1:	PLAN SUMMARY	1
SECTION 2:	INTRODUCTION	3
SECTION 3:	COMMUNITY SETTING	4
SECTION 4:	ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	20
SECTION 5:	INVENTORY OF PROTECTED LANDS	46
SECTION 6:	COMMUNITY GOALS	58
SECTION 7:	ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	66
SECTION 8:	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	70
SECTION 9:	ACTION PLAN	72
SECTION 10:	REFERENCES	84
SECTION 11:	COMMENTS	85
<u>MAPS</u>		
	ZONING MAP	16
	SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES MAP	22
	WATER RESOURCE MAP	26
	UNIQUE FEATURES AND SCENIC RESOURCES MAP	30
	OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INVENTORY MAP	56
	ACTION PLAN MAP	78
	OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PRIORITIES MAP	82
<u>APPENDICES</u>		
Appendix A:	SURVEY SUMMARY	93
Appendix B:	SECTION 504 – ADA SELF-EVALUATION	106

Section 1: PLAN SUMMARY

Open space, recreation, and the preservation of the natural features of the Town are of paramount concern to Grafton citizens. Not only do the rivers and rolling hills contribute to the beauty of the Town, they have helped to form the Town's development patterns. Major features of Grafton's landscape are the two north-to-south waterways composed of streams and rivers connecting natural and man made ponds, which in turn established the mill areas of Town. The rolling hills and valleys have contributed to the Town's character, the location of farms and open space, the Town and village centers, and to the non-residential development pattern.

Open spaces provide peaceful areas, pleasant vistas, sites for wildlife and fauna, active and passive recreational opportunities, safety from flooding and groundwater contamination, and they contribute to clean air. Municipal action is required to protect these features and benefits, which are threatened by development activity. Grafton citizens and interest groups have already begun to work together to proactively and innovatively preserve open space; however, the work needs to continue as development pressures mount. The visibility of new growth contributes to the sense of suburbanization without regard to vistas, coordination or neighborhood character. Without continued and intensified action by the Town to remove fragile land from potential development, Grafton will likely lose much of its scenic and environmental resources.

Grafton is situated along the Massachusetts Turnpike, and in the line of westward development from Interstate 495, southerly development from Worcester and, to a lesser extent, northerly development from Rhode Island. Development activity is rapidly depleting open space and imperiling resources. The loss of the open land to development can lead to increases in surface water runoff and negative impacts on groundwater resources.

This Open Space Plan emphasizes open space connections, open space corridors, and a combination of full range outdoor recreation.

Grafton planners used two methods to develop the goals and objectives of this Open Space & Recreation Plan. The first method was to conduct a citizen survey of Grafton households in an effort to discern their preferences regarding conservation and recreation. Conducted in May 2006, each household in Grafton received a survey containing eight questions dealing with open space and recreation. The survey response rate was 12.2%. The second method involved holding a public forum for the same purpose. Held on May 3, 2006, the goals and objectives from the Town's previous Open Space & Recreation Plan were reviewed with members of the public to see if they were still valid or warranted modification. Town planners made use of the public's input from the survey and forum to develop the following open space and recreation goals for Grafton:

- Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources
- Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources
- Preserve Grafton's Town Character
- Provide Grafton with Varied and Geographically Well-Balanced Recreational Facilities and Opportunities
- Enhance Utilization of Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources

The Draft Plan was reviewed at a second public forum held in January 2007.

As stated above, Grafton previously addressed open space and recreation issues with a comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan¹, prepared in 1999. The 1999 Plan is still valid in many respects; however, there have been changes in Town and there is an even greater sense of urgency to preserving Grafton's resources. Changes and additions to the 1999 Plan primarily relate to updated data, establishment of open space corridors, and programs and regulations to protect the character of the Town.

¹ The 1999 Plan has provided the basis for this update. Much of the text is from that plan with additions and changes made for time adjustment and changes in and around Grafton.

Section 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

The 2006 update of the Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan is part of a Town-wide effort to manage growth and protect the natural and built resources that Grafton has to offer. The Town has worked aggressively in these arenas, but should benefit from an updated plan to refer to for direction and coordination.

The 1990's saw continued growth and land consumption. The 1999 Plan identified many tracts of land to be protected, most of which remain important today. The plan also identified goals and objectives relevant to open space and recreation in Grafton. In addition, the Plan developed a five-year action plan in accordance with its goals and objectives. While efforts have been made to achieve the goals of the 1999 Plan, much of the action plan has not been realized. The 2006 update is a current action plan that builds on the 1999 Plan, and is adjusted to reflect changes in and around Grafton that have occurred over the past seven years. The primary purpose of this plan is to realize the Town's vision where open space preservation is integral to the Town's character, where pastoral landscapes are valued and where natural and historical resources are protected and retained.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In an attempt to determine citizen preferences in regards to open space and recreation, the Open Space and Recreation Committee utilized two methods: a town-wide citizen survey and two public forums.

The survey was conducted in May 2006 with each household in Grafton receiving a survey containing eight questions dealing with open space and recreation. With 871 returned surveys, the response rate was 12.2%.

The first public forum was held the evening of May 3, 2006 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn. At this forum, citizens were briefed on the Town's open space and recreation resources, and the goals and objectives from the Town's previous Open Space & Recreation Plan were reviewed to see if they were still valid or warranted modification.

The second public forum was held the evening of January 30, 2007 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn. At this forum, citizens reviewed the draft 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

In addition to the survey and forums, the Committee met monthly throughout the duration of this project starting in February 2006. All Committee meetings were open to the public.

Section 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

The Blackstone River Valley: Grafton is located in the northern end of the Blackstone River. From pre-Columbian times until the post-World War II decline of its mills, Grafton's history and land development were influenced by its location at the confluence of the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers. Native Nipmuc Indians considered it a place of great Manitou, or spiritual power, because of its many waterways, along which they developed overland trails that later became regional transportation routes.

Hilltop Farms: The hills of central Massachusetts, often too steep for easy development, are, in many cases, mantled with soils that make prime pasturelands. The rich loams found in the river valley are well suited for crops. Even before the Blackstone's waterpower was harnessed for industry, success with farming and animal husbandry fostered a rural economy in Grafton, which remained significant in the region as late as 1940. The Town was long known for its dairy production and was famous for its fruit orchards. Although Grafton and Worcester County have lost farmland to urbanization over the last three decades, the Town still retains much of its rural character.

The Blackstone River: The 438-foot drop in run of the Blackstone River produced the power that launched the Industrial Revolution in America. As in other towns and cities within the Blackstone River Valley, the industrial enterprises growing up along the river and its tributaries influenced Grafton's land use and settlement patterns until well into the twentieth century.

The Canal and the Railroads: The Blackstone Canal and, shortly after, the railways linked Grafton to Worcester, Providence, and Boston, providing access to much larger markets and allowing the Town to flourish as an independent commercial center, a status it held until the post-war period.

Proximity to Worcester: After the war, Grafton's proximity to Worcester influenced North Grafton's development as a suburban location for Worcester's metal industry, bringing a concomitant burst of residential growth, typified by one-half acre lot subdivisions, in that section of Town. The industrial expansion bolstered the Town's economy at a time when its basis in the textile industry was becoming obsolete, allowing Grafton to thrive in a way not typical of more southerly towns in the Blackstone Valley.

Proximity to the Interstate Highway System: Grafton's proximity to the Massachusetts Turnpike has helped it attract regional commercial activity; however, many townspeople view Grafton as a bedroom community. The subsequent development of Interstate 495 further increased residential development pressures in Grafton. Since 1970, the Town has experienced a substantial increase in its housing stock, much of it occurring in the previously open and rural midsection. Between 1980 and 2000, the entire Blackstone Valley saw substantial growth in its population, rising from 72,414 residents in 1980 to 95,674 residents in 2000 – an increase of 32.1%. Today, Grafton still remains under considerable development pressure.

Changes in Highway Infrastructure and Future Regional Growth: Since the 1999 update, development pressures have increased due in large part to the opening of the Route 146 Connector to the Massachusetts Turnpike, the construction of an MBTA Commuter Rail Station with daily trains into Boston, and an improved local and regional economy. There is no indication at this time that this pressure will decrease in the immediate future.

B. History of the Community

History of Settlement

Grafton, with its lush meadows, good farmlands, and abundant waterways, has been historically a site of settlement. Originally called Hassanamesit, it became the third of Reverend John Elliot's "praying Indian" towns and served as a center for missionary activities in Central Massachusetts until the outbreak of King Philip's War. As the remnant Indians' fortunes continued to dwindle in the war's aftermath, white settlers purchased half of the land from the Hassanamisco band of the Nipmuc tribe and incorporated Grafton as a Town on April 18, 1735. Only a three-acre tract, the Hassanamisco Reservation on Brigham Hill Road, remains in Indian ownership.

Early colonists farmed, but with increasing use of the Blackstone River's water power for manufacturing the Town developed as an industrial center, numbering a cotton mill, grist mill, wheelwright shop, blacksmith shop, and linen mill among its early enterprises. Ethan Allen began the manufacturing of firearms, pocket cutlery, and the "pepperbox" revolver in 1832. Grafton was the site of the first shoe factory in the United States. The Forbush-Brown J.D. Nelson and Son shoe factory located in North Grafton in the 1840s in what was known as the Hancock Building just off the Grafton Common. Employing as many as 200 people at the height of its operation, the operation was taken over by Forbush-Anderson after the death of Charles Nelson. Willard Clocks was another notable manufacturing operation to locate in Grafton and its site is still preserved as the Willard Clock Museum.

Many of the mills thrived during the nineteenth century and first decades of the twentieth, but few were able to make a comeback once stricken by the Great Depression. By 1960, there were only 17 manufacturing firms in the Town, compared to 72 in 1922. Even with such reduced numbers, the remaining companies accounted for 80 percent of local jobs. Manufacturing, now mostly in machine tools and castings, still provides more of Grafton's jobs (36.4 percent as of 1997) than any other sector of the economy, but the great majority of these come from a single firm, Wyman-Gordon, in North Grafton. Grafton today is a suburban community with almost one-third of its resident labor force working in the city of Worcester and close to 40 percent commuting east to the I-495 area or to Boston.

Land Use Patterns: The distinct stages of Grafton's history, described below, had an impact on the Town's land use patterns, which are evident in the Town's landscape.

Native American Settlement: The Nipmuc Indians developed trails along the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers, and along the Miscoe Brook, which drains into the West River. Portions of the trails developed into the two regional stagecoach routes that crisscrossed in Grafton. The Boston-to-Hartford Post Road incorporated the old "Connecticut Trail", generally known as the

"Thomas Hooker Trail", which ran over Keith Hill, across the Blackstone and into Sutton. This was the path along which the renegade Puritan preacher Thomas Hooker led his dissenting flock out of Massachusetts into Connecticut. The Worcester to Providence Road, included Worcester and Oak and South Streets, and Old Upton Road and Leland Street as it ran through Grafton into Upton. Other Indian routes included one starting below Flint Pond, running along what is now Creeper Hill Road and Westborough Road, which became an east-west road to Worcester, and the long distance Nipmuc Trail, which traversed Grafton into Worcester via Brigham Hill.

Colonial Settlement: Land bought by the Massachusetts General Court from the Indians was apportioned to each English settler-farmer in 40-acre lots. These lots, some of whose stone wall boundaries yet exist, formed the basis for the dispersed pattern of settlement seen amidst the hills. In following years, the Center, where the stagecoach routes crossed, became the focal point of Town. Rapid residential growth took place along the Town's radial routes, such as Brigham Hill, Estabrook, Fay Mountain, and Soap Hill Roads, all of which were developed as upland connectors.

The Mill Era: Clustered Settlements Amidst Open Space: Mills that took advantage of the Town's waterways appeared along river and stream banks. The advent of canal and rail transportation through Town insured that the mills would prosper and spurred development along transport routes. Notable mill villages developed in North Grafton (New England Village) and South Grafton (Farnumsville, Fisherville and Saundersville) in addition to the settlement in Grafton's center. The farm economy also benefited from the railroads and Grafton became famous for its fruit orchards. There was little loss of farmland to residential growth throughout the 19th century. As late as 1960, 80 percent of the Town was undeveloped land, with agricultural activity occurring on 3,447 acres, or 23.6 percent of the total land area. Grafton was also home to an airport in the late 1920s and 1930s. The Grafton Airport was located in North Grafton near what is known as Airport Road. South Grafton was the site and headquarters of Tupperware Inc. before they relocated out of Massachusetts.

Post-War Suburbanization: As Grafton's mill-based economic fortunes declined after the war, it increasingly became a bedroom suburb dependent on Worcester's economy. From 1950 to 1960, during the height of the baby boom, the Town's population grew by 37 percent, the largest increase over a decade in the last 50 years. In spite of the high birth rate, in-migration from the city of Worcester accounted for 62 percent of the increase. Much of the residential growth occurred in North Grafton, on lots zoned for 10,000 to 20,000 square feet. The commercial growth supporting the new population occurred as strip development along Route 122 leading from Millbury into Grafton. South Grafton did not grow at the same rate, which kept the old 19th century mill village-based spatial pattern of its landscape intact and visible.

Modern Day Suburbanization: The most recent spurt of growth occurred in response to the development of Interstate 495. Long distance commuters engaged in professional, managerial, technical, and sales positions comprise an increasing percentage of the resident labor force. In 1980, the mean travel time to work for Grafton's labor force was 20.3 minutes. By 2000, with the new MBTA station in place, the mean travel time to work had increased to 28.2 minutes.

Use of land for recreation expanded significantly in the 1950s when a group of South Grafton men established the Town's first Little League program. At the time, there were only three suitable locations to play: Fisherville Park, Norcross Park and Nelson Park. Grafton's recreational resources and facilities have continued to develop as the Town's population continues to grow.

Historical and Archeological Resources: A complete listing of Grafton's archeological resources and historical buildings and landscapes can be found in A Survey of Historic and Cultural Resources of the Town of Grafton, by Anne Forbes, on file with the Grafton Planning Board and Grafton Historical Commission and is included here by reference.



C. Population Characteristics

Between 1930 and 2000 Grafton saw its population more than double in size, as did many communities in the Blackstone Valley. The highest rate of growth took place between 1940 and 1960, leveling off somewhat between 1960 and 1980, and then went back to double digit increases for every decade since then. CMRPC recently prepared population projections for all of the 40 communities in its jurisdiction and estimate that Grafton's population will increase to approximately 18,000 residents by the year 2010 and 20,100 residents by the year 2020.

**Table 1
Grafton Population Growth**

<u>Year</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1930	7,030	----	-----
1940	7,457	427	6.1%
1950	8,281	824	11.1%
1960	10,627	2,346	28.3%
1970	11,659	1,032	9.7%
1980	11,238	-421	-0.4%
1990	13,035	1,797	16.0%
2000	14,894	1,859	14.3%
2006*	16,866	1,972	13.2%
2010**	18,000	1,134	6.7%
2020**	20,100	2,100	11.7%

Sources: US Census Bureau; * = 2006 estimate provided by the Grafton Town Clerks Office. ** = Forecasts for 2010 and 2020 provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission – Transportation Department.

Grafton’s population growth has resulted in an increase in population density. Comprised of 14,528 acres of land (or 22.7 square miles), Grafton’s average of persons per square mile grew from 310 in 1930 to 656 by the year 2000. The only other Blackstone Valley communities with a higher number of persons per square miles are Northbridge (767), tiny Blackstone (807) and Millbury (812).

**Table 2
Grafton Age Characteristics**

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total Population</u>
Under 5 Years of Age	1,086	7.3%
5 – 19	3,098	20.8%
20-44	5,714	38.4%
45-64	3,325	22.3%
65 Years of Age and Over	<u>1,671</u>	<u>11.2%</u>
Total:	14,894	100%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Table 2 indicates that roughly 28% of Grafton’s population consists of school-aged children or soon to be school-aged children. This represents an increase from the 1990 Census when roughly 24% of the Town’s population consisted of school-aged or soon to be school-aged children. The 45-64 age group (or the soon to be seniors) saw a similar increase, rising from 18.1% of the Town’s total population in 1990 to 22.3% by 2000. The most significant decline since the 1990 Census has been in the 20-44 age group, which saw a decline from 41.2% in 1990 to 38.4% in 2000. Grafton’s senior population declined slightly from 1990 to 2000.

**Table 3
Grafton Housing Unit Growth**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Housing Units</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1960	2,605	----	----
1970	3,097	492	18.9%
1980	3,863	766	24.7%
1990	4,799	936	24.2%
2000	5,694	895	18.6%
2006*	6,723	1,029	18.1%

Sources: = US Census, except for 2006* = Grafton Assessor's Office.

A comparison of the previous two tables indicates that Grafton's housing stock has and continues to grow at a faster rate than its population. This is not surprising when one considers the national trend towards smaller household sizes. Couples are having fewer children today and many households are of the single parent variety. Grafton's US Census data confirms this trend. In 1960, the typical Grafton household contained 4.08 people. By 1980, the persons per household figure had declined to 2.91 and by 2000, to 2.62 persons per household.

Another factor contributing to smaller household sizes is "the graying of America", that is, our nation's elderly population is expanding. The Census data clearly demonstrates that this national trend is taking place in Grafton. In 1970, the median age of Grafton's population was 32.5 years of age. By 2000 the median age had increased to 35.9 years of age.

**Table 4
Households by Type**

<u>Type of Household</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>	<u>Percentage of Households</u>
Family Households:	3,952	69.4%
Non-Family Household	1,742	30.6%

Source: 2000 US Census.

Table 4 indicates that more than two thirds of Grafton households consist of married couple families, of which half of them have children under 18 living at home. This has implications for Town and its efforts to provide recreational facilities and programs for its citizens. Families with children often expect to find a diverse selection of recreational opportunities (both passive and active) in their communities, whether provided by the municipality, schools in the community or by private entities.

Table 5
Median Household Income Comparison

Grafton Median Household Income: \$66,396
State Median Household Income: \$50,502
Percent of State Average: 131.5%
Worcester County Median Household Income: \$47,874
Percent of Worcester County Average: 138.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Grafton's median household income is significantly higher than the average for Worcester County and the State as a whole. This is an indicator of an affluent community that should be able to afford the cost of providing a diverse selection of recreational opportunities and open space amenities for its citizens, including the long-term maintenance of these resources.

Table 6
Per Capita Income Comparison

Grafton Per Capita Income: \$26,952
State Per Capita Income: \$25,952
Percent of State Average: 103.8%
Worcester County Per Capita Income: \$22,983
Percent of Worcester County Average: 117.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Grafton's per capita income is slightly higher than the average for Worcester County and significantly higher than the State as a whole. A breakdown of Grafton's income categories is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7
Grafton Household Income Distribution

Grafton Income Distribution

Less than \$10,000:	48 households
\$10,000 - \$24,999:	381 households
\$25,000 - \$34,999:	284 households
\$35,000 - \$49,999:	527 households
\$50,000 - \$74,999:	943 households
\$75,000 - \$99,999:	772 households
\$100,000 - \$149,999:	653 households
\$150,000 and over:	337 households

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

The 2000 US Census data further indicate that the majority of housing units are owner-occupied, another indicator of prosperity for Grafton residents. Of the 5,694 occupied housing units existing in Grafton as of 2000, 72.3% were owner-occupied housing units while the remainder (27.7%) consisted of rental units.

Additional Demographics

Jobs in Grafton: According to the most recent statistics of the Massachusetts Division of Unemployment Assistance, there were 363 business establishments in Grafton as of 2005, employing an average monthly total of 4,356 people. The service industry had the highest number of the jobs in Grafton (3,137) followed by manufacturing (835).

Employed Grafton Residents: The Division of Unemployment Assistance statistics further indicate that Grafton had a labor force of 8,928 workers as of 2005, with an unemployment rate of 4.2%, significantly lower than the State average of 5.4% and the Worcester County average of 5.7%. Grafton’s unemployment rate has fluctuated wildly during the past fifteen years, with a low of 2.5% in 2000 and a high of 10.1% in 1991.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends: The University of Massachusetts-Amherst has been tracking statewide land use data for the better part of the previous century. The University uses aerial photographs and interprets them (now using GIS) based on land use categories. Table 8 below outlines Grafton’s land use totals for the last three Statewide land use mapping efforts.

**Table 8
Grafton Land Use Changes Over the Years**

<u>1971</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1999</u>
2,186 developed acres	2,919 developed acres	3,667 developed acres
(2,048 residential)	(2,583 residential)	(3,291 residential)
(29 industrial)	(181 industrial)	(194 industrial)
(109 commercial)	(155 commercial)	(182 commercial)
(8,420 forestland)	(8,113 forestland)	(7,677 forestland)
(2,189 farmland)	(2,057 farmland)	(1,707 farmland)

Source: UMass-Amherst land use data for 1971, 1985 and 1999.

The amount of developed land in Grafton has increased by 67.7% between 1971 and 1999. In terms of sheer acreage, the residential sector has grown the most, adding 1,243 new acres of development between 1971 and 1999. Conversely, Grafton’s farmland has declined by roughly 22% and forestland by 8.8% during the same time period. With only 3,667 developed acres out of a total land area of 14,528 acres (or 25.2% of the total), Grafton is still very much a rural small town despite the increase in development documented above.

Infrastructure

Transportation Network

The public roads and highways are in good condition and meet the requirements of a modern roadway network. Immediate access to the interstate highway system is available via Exit 11 of the Massachusetts Turnpike in Millbury, just a few hundred feet from the Town line in North Grafton. A second interchange, connecting the Turnpike with Route 146 has recently opened, making the valley more accessible and, therefore, more attractive to commercial firms.

In addition to roadways, Grafton also is accessible by rail and bus service. MBTA commuter rail service was introduced to Grafton in 2000, with a station located at Route 30 and Pine Street. Intercity bus and rail service is available in adjacent Worcester at Union Station with connections to Amtrak and Peter Pan and Greyhound bus lines.

Other than the Massachusetts Turnpike, east-west travel is limited to local roadways, except for short sections of Routes 122A, 122, and 30. Route 122A enters the Saundersville section of Grafton at the Sutton town line and joins Route 122 in the Farnumsville section. Route 30 in North Grafton provides east-west travel to the major high tech employers in Westborough and along Interstate 495.

Two major north-south highways are present in Grafton. Route 122 is the principal connection to Worcester and Route 140 provides access to U.S. Route 20 and State Route 9 in Shrewsbury. Portions of Routes 140 and 122 are state-administered highways, while Routes 30 and 122A and the Town maintains the rest of Routes 122 and 140.

Roadway Mileage in Grafton

The table below indicates the amount of mileage in Grafton for each category of roadway in Grafton:

Mass DPW (now EOT/MassHighway) Inventory of Mileage, 1991

Administration	Number of Miles
State	10.01
Town	84
Mass. Turnpike Authority	4.43
Unaccepted	2.57
Within Grafton State Hospital	2.90
Total Mileage	96.07

Blackstone River Bikeway

Another important transportation element that is currently in the planning/design stages is the Blackstone River Bikeway. The Bikeway will ultimately extend forty-eight miles from Worcester, MA to Providence, RI passing through Grafton. Currently, various sections of the Bikeway are open to the public in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. When completed, the

Bikeway will provide a mostly off-road non-motorized transportation corridor through the historic John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Corridor Commission has been instrumental in the formation of the Bikeway, working with Federal, State, Regional and local agencies to create an important recreational and cultural link within the Blackstone River Valley. The Blackstone Valley Bikeway will serve as an alternative mode of transportation for commuters as well as the region's premiere multi-use recreational facility. This bi-state linear State Park along the Blackstone River will connect New England's second and third largest cities serving a population of more than 1 million. The bikeway will link many of the Valley's significant natural and historic features.

The 3 mile stretch of the bikeway in Grafton will pass through the historic mill village communities of Farnumsville, Fisherville and Saundersville, further described in Section 4 of this document (Scenic Resources).

Freight and Air Transport

The Grafton & Upton, Providence & Worcester and CSX railroads pass through Grafton, providing freight rail service. Flex-van and Piggyback service are also available with connections from Worcester.

Worcester Municipal Airport is the closest air terminal. The airport has paved runways 7000, 5498, and 3900 feet long. The Worcester Airport witnessed extensive growth in passenger service in the late 1980's and early 1990's. However, there have been ground access problems and competition from Providence's T.F. Green Airport and, as of May 2007, there are no commercial flights in operation to the Airport. Opponents to further expansion of Boston's Logan Airport have suggested channeling some of the air traffic into Worcester.

In 1998, Worcester Airport provided service to 76,000 passengers, a 78% decline from its peak of 340,000 passengers in 1989. In 1993, \$25 million was spent to improve the runway and build a new terminal. In 1996, \$8 million was spent for new equipment.

Municipal Water System

All property within the bounds of Grafton is served by the Grafton Water District (GWD) or the South Grafton Water District (SGWD), these utilities are both separate from the Town of Grafton government.

The GWD is the larger of the two districts, serving 3825 connections with water mains located in the northern and central sections of Grafton. Its wells have a combined safe yield capacity of 3.4 million gallons per day (MGD). The principal assets of the system are four wells located in the areas of Follette Street, Worcester Street and East Street. The Town leases the Follette Street Well area to the District, all of the other well sites are owned by the District. The District has a water treatment facility on East Street, which treats those two wells for the removal of iron and manganese. The District has two standpipes that store water for fire emergencies and create pressure for the system when the pumps are off. These two standpipes are located on Pigeon Hill and Brigham Hill. The District is presently cooperatively working with the Grafton School Department for the use of a well site located behind the High School on Providence Road. This

well will supply water for the future growth of the community. The Districts headquarters are located at 44 Millbury Street in Grafton.

The SGWD with 1,068 customers is the smaller of the two districts serving Grafton. All 798 connections are metered and the system is able to supply a safe-yield of 300,000 gallons per day.

The water district pumps its water from three state-approved wells (two at Ferry Street and one at Providence Road). Two standpipes are used to develop water pressure (Leland Hill and Keith Hill), and distribution is effected via water mains located within the public ways. The water quality is reported as suitable.

Municipal Sewer System

The Town sewer system serves 2,500 customers in 1999 compared to 1,800 customers in 1991. The collection system and treatment plants are divided into three separate systems: 1) interceptor sewers; 2) pump stations, and 3) treatment plant.

Interceptor sewers are the main sewer lines that receive flows from lateral sewers and convey the flow directly to the pump station or treatment plant. They have been designed to carry peak flows (those which exceed the high flow for a 24 hour period) up to the year 2020, estimated on the basis of the total developed and developable acreage in their collection basins. The extension of the collection system is an on-going process by both the Town and developers. Contract No.9, which sewered a major portion of South Grafton, is now completed. Contract No. 10 has been designed and is being completed at this time. The industrial park being developed on the grounds of the old Grafton State Hospital and adjacent Tufts Veterinary School land is already served by the public sewer system.

The pump stations are presently operating at 15- 25 percent of the capacity during dry weather days and 30-50 percent during wet weather days (approximately 62 days per year). The only design problem appears that the flow velocity in the discharge pipe may exceed the acceptable limit during peak flows (defined as a flow that exceeds high flow for a 24 hour period). This is not an immediate problem and it will be addressed when the pump stations approach capacity.

The treatment plant has a design capacity of 1.6 million gallons per day (MGD) when all tanks are in use. This is based on a conservative overflow rate of 600 gallons per day/sq.ft. (600GPD/SF). When designing treatment plants, the overflow rates can range from 300 to 1300 GPD/SF. Operating data show that the plant can handle a higher flow than design capacity. The Grafton Waste Water Treatment Plant has treated 1.6 MGD for a period of several days using one-half of the tanks, but this may be too high a volume for the plant to handle on a constant basis. The plant can reportedly treat on a constant basis 2.4 MGD without violating any Discharge Permit conditions. The 1996 daily flow was 1.4 MGD, up from 1.0 MGD in 1991.

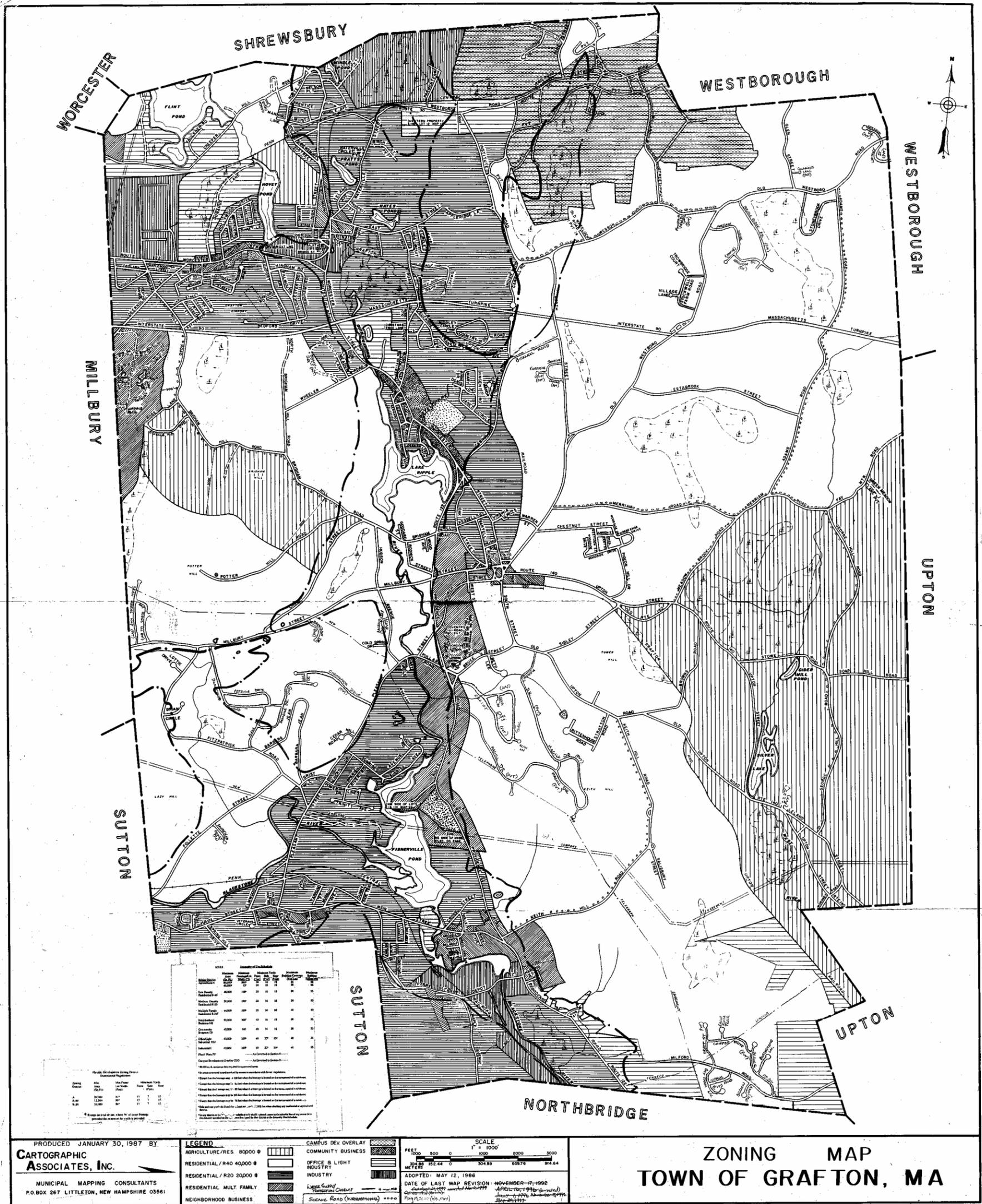
Long-Term Development Patterns: Grafton's zoning scheme allows for commercial and industrial development along its major State roads (Route 30, Route 122, Route 122A, and Route 140), while the remainder of the Town is zoned for low to medium density residential development. The minimum lot sizes for residential development range from 20,000 square feet

(medium density) to 80,000 square feet (low density). A graphic depiction of Grafton's zoning scheme can be found on the accompanying Zoning Map.

In 1999 the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) initiated an effort to prepare a buildout analysis for each community in the State. A buildout analysis attempts to determine what the town would look like at full buildout, that is, if the town were completely developed under the standards of current zoning. Existing developed lands, protected lands and land with environmental constraints was taken out of the equation, and the remaining developable land was divided by the dimensional standards (minimum lot size, frontage, setbacks, etc.) as set forth in the Town's Zoning Bylaw.

ZONING MAP

Next page.



It should be noted that a buildout analysis does not attempt to determine *when* a community will reach full buildout; rather, it is simply an attempt to determine what a community would look like if its remaining vacant land were developed according to the town’s current zoning standards. The town could alter its buildout results by making changes to dimensional requirements for new lots (lot size, frontage) or by permanently protecting more land in town. Thus a buildout analysis is fluid and represents but a snapshot in time.

The regional planning commissions were contracted to perform buildout studies for each community in their respective regions. In Grafton’s case, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) completed a buildout analysis for the Town in July 2000. A summary of Grafton’s buildout analysis is presented below.

**Table 9
Build-Out Projections**

	Residential Districts	Commercial & Industrial Districts	Totals
Net Buildable Area (Acres)	4,496	----	4,496
Buildable Lots	5,483	----	5,483
Buildable Square Feet	----	5,116,640	5,116,640
Water Use (GPD)	2,412,389	383,748	2,796,137
New Students	2,498	----	2,498
New Population	14,380	----	14,380

Source: CMRPC buildout analysis for Grafton, Massachusetts,

The buildout analysis indicates that Grafton is more than two thirds fully built out based on the current standards of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw. With a total land area of 14,528 acres, of which 10,032 acres are either developed, permanently protected or can’t be built on because of environmental constraints, this leaves 4,496 acres of vacant developable land in Town (or 69% of the Town’s land area). Looking towards the future, Grafton will most likely retain its present land use pattern of suburban residential development with its major State roads supporting the majority of the Town’s commercial and industrial uses.

The amount of new commercial/industrial floor space that could be created under the above buildout scenario is misleading. Although Grafton *may* have enough vacant developable land to accommodate as much as 5,116,640 square feet of new commercial/industrial floor space, much of the land in Grafton’s commercial and industrial districts is inaccessible and not easily developed.

CMRPC worked with the Town’s Economic Development Committee in 2004 to take a closer look at the buildout numbers and evaluate the true development potential of Grafton’s commercial and industrial zoning districts. According to this analysis, the amount of new commercial floor space that could be created in Grafton’s commercial and industrial zoning districts has been revised downward to a total of 2,465,478 square feet (2,340,068 square feet in the industrial districts and 125,410 square feet in the commercial districts). Grafton’s residential

buildout numbers can also be revised downward as the Town has protected several large tracts of land since the buildout analysis was performed in 2000. The buildout analysis results should be considered as a snapshot in time that will change as the Town's landscape changes. Build-out reflects current zoning, but zoning can be changed to encourage a different kind of future for the town.

Section 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Topography, Geology and Soils

Grafton is situated in the northern portion of the Blackstone River Valley. The landscape exhibits the geo-morphological results that are typically associated with glaciated landscapes in central New England. The terrain is hilly with generally north to south oriented ridgelines that are interspersed with extensive wetland systems in areas of lower relief. Large areas of the Town are overlain with thick deposits of glacial till. Two of south central Massachusetts' most important rivers, the north-to-south flowing Quinsigamond River and the west-to-southeast flowing Blackstone River, intersect in south Grafton. Elevations range from 640 feet above sea level at Pigeon Hill to 280 feet above sea level at the villages in South Grafton. Other significant hills in Grafton include Keith Hill (600 feet), Potter Hill (600 feet), Brigham Hill (580 feet), Tower Hill (580 feet) and Lazy Hill (540 feet). Most of the landscape ranges in elevation from 350 feet to 500 feet above sea level.

Grafton is located on the central plateau of Worcester County. The plateau, as a whole, is so thoroughly dissected that large areas of smooth plateau surface do not exist within the county – and certainly not within Grafton. The surface of the plateau is interrupted in many places by hills rising higher than the general plateau elevation, which averages 800 to 900 feet in the southern portions of the county. These hills are predominately small in area and consist largely of elongated, rounded hills with the longer axes generally oriented north-to-south. Some of the hills are piles of unconsolidated clay, gravel and sand, called “drumlins” by geologists. These drumlins are the result of past glacial activity. The most recent glacier is estimated to have retreated some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. As the glacier melted and retreated, it dumped along the receding face the load of boulders, stones and soils it gathered while moving southward. The material left by the glacier is called glacial “till” and, with drumlins, constitute most of the land surface area of Worcester County. Many of the hills within the central plateau consist of rock hills with a thin layer of unconsolidated material covering them.

Much of the most easily developed land has been developed; road frontage lots without development constraints such as wetland, ledge and unsuitable percolation tests for septic systems are increasingly hard to find. The result has been the creation of large interior tracts of land as yet inaccessible by road systems and still economically unattractive because of site development costs. At some point, the cost of development will be exceeded by the return on the development. This will make these large tracts vulnerable to development pressures.

According to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service report of 1998, Soil Survey of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Southern Part, Grafton can be divided into three major soils categories. A graphic depiction of the Town's soils can be seen on the following page as Map 2 (Soils Map).

- Paxton-Woodbridge-Ridgebury Soils: Nearly level to steep, very deep, well drained to poorly drained soils on glaciated uplands. This soil type consists of soils on upland hills and ridges dissected by many small drainage ways. Stones cover more than 3% of the surface in most areas. The soils were formed in glacial till derived from schist, gneiss,

and granite. This is the predominant soil type found in Grafton, covering most of the Town except along either side of the Quinsigamond River, Blackstone River and Miscoe Brook. This soil type is well suited to trees, cultivated crops, and hay and pasture. The slope, stoniness, hazard of erosion and the seasonal high water table are the limiting factors for farming.

- Merrimac-Hinckley-Windsor Soils: Nearly level to steep, very deep, excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on outwash plains. This soil type consists of soils located on broad, flat plains and in rolling to steep areas throughout the southern portion of Central Massachusetts. The soils were formed in water-sorted deposits of glacial outwash. In Grafton, this soil category appears on either side of the Quinsigamond River, Blackstone River and Miscoe Brook This soil type is suited to trees, cultivated crops, hay and pasture. Slope, droughtiness, and low nutrient content are the limiting factors for farming.
- Canton-Montauk-Scituate Soils: Nearly level to steep, very deep, well-drained soils on glaciated uplands. This soil type consists of soils located on upland hills and rolling glacial till flats. It is dissected by broad drainage-ways that flatten out on the lower slopes. Stones cover more than 3% of the surface in most areas. The soils were formed in friable glacial till. In Grafton, this soil category covers the southwest corner of Town, south and west of the Blackstone River. This soil type is well suited to trees, cultivated crops, and hay and pasture. The slope, stoniness, hazard of erosion and wetness are the limiting factors for farming.

B. Landscape Character

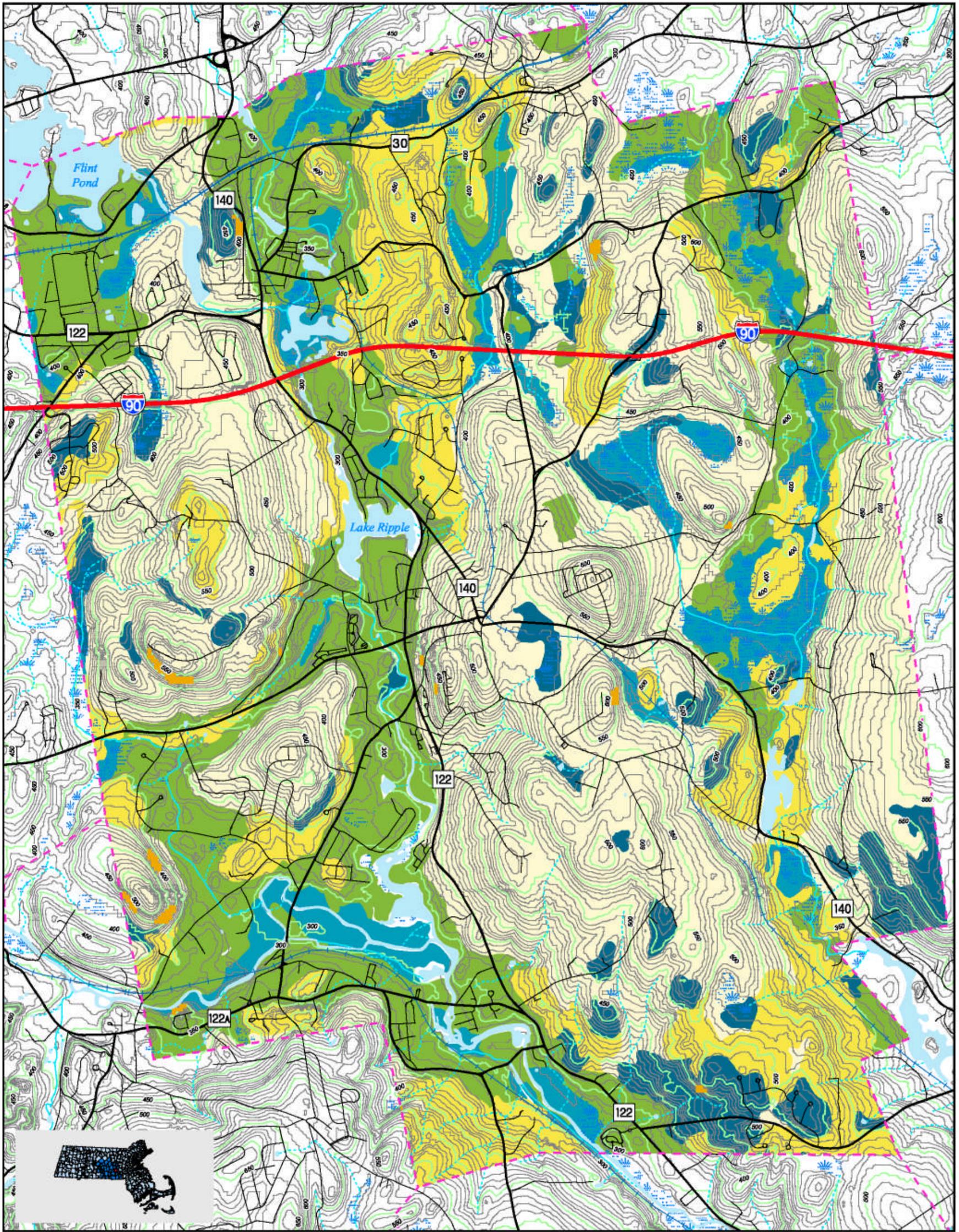
Traveling west on Route 30, Grafton's rural character is clearly evident upon crossing the Westborough/Grafton line. The broad open vistas on one hand, and the concentrated development in the villages on the other, bespeak the Town's economic history, first based on dairy farms and then on textile mills. Sections of North Grafton, close to Millbury and Worcester, display a suburban character, with numerous residential subdivisions and strip commercial development along the most heavily traveled thoroughfares.



Grafton has several prominent hills, including Brigham, George, Keith, Potter, Tower and Lazy Hill. Many lower hills and ridges add to the general ruggedness of the terrain, while the waterways running along the bottomlands add to the visual variety. The Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers, and their bordering wetlands, are most visible heading south on Route 122 towards the villages of South Grafton. Flint Pond, Lake Ripple and Silver Lake are the Town's most prominent waterbodies.

SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES MAP

Next page



Town of Grafton Soils & Geologic Features Map



Source data:
Various data layers supplied by MassGIS, CMRPC and the Town of Grafton.

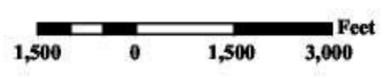
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Produced by the GIS Center at
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission,
35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801
phone: 508.756.7717 • <http://www.cmrpc.org>

Map produced April 2006.



- Legend**
- Municipal Boundary
 - Interstate Hwy
 - Arterial Road
 - Local Road
 - Active Rail
 - Abandoned Rail
 - Stream
 - Intermittent Stream
 - Water Body
 - Marsh or Swamp
 - Slope > 25%
 - 50 Ft Contour
 - 10 Ft Contour
- General Soil Units**
- PAXTON-WOODBRIDGE-RIDGEBURY
 - CANTON-MONTAUK-SCITUATE
 - BROOKFIELD-BRIMFIELD
 - CHATFIELD-HOLLIS
 - MERRIMAC-HINKLEY-WINDSOR
 - FREETOWN-SWANSEA-SACO



The Miscoe Brook, with its wet meadows and extraordinary vegetation, the expanses of the Fisherville Marshes and the many ponds formed by the damming of rivers for waterpower, all contribute to the visual appeal of Grafton's landscape and are highly regarded by citizens and visitors alike. The unspoiled views from the hills of west Grafton are also prized landscapes. The Town Common provides an excellent visualization of the traditional New England town center.



C. Water Resources

A graphic depiction of the Town's water resources can be found in this section titled Water Resources Map.

Watersheds: Grafton's land area is split between two major drainage basins: the Blackstone River Drainage Basin and the Sudbury/Assabet/Concord (SuAsCo) River Drainage Basin. In Grafton, these basins can be divided into four major watersheds (three in the Blackstone River Drainage Basin and one in the SuAsCo River Drainage Basin), with several smaller drainage areas contributing to each. The general locations of Grafton's watersheds, along with their sub-watersheds and drainage patterns, are presented below.

- The Quinsigamond Watershed covers the largest swath of land in Grafton, from its western boundary through the center of town. Within Grafton, the Quinsigamond Watershed is comprised of two sub-watersheds: the Lake Quinsigamond Sub-Watershed that drains Lake Quinsigamond and Flint Pond and the Quinsigamond River Watershed that drains the River through the center of Grafton.
- The Blackstone River Watershed covers the majority of South Grafton, including the villages of Saundersville, Farnumsville and Fisherville. This watershed drains south into Northbridge and beyond, and the Cronin Brook Sub-Watershed that drains a small area of west Grafton.
- The West River Watershed covers a large section of East Grafton. The Miscoe Brook forms the headwaters of the West River and flows through Cider Mill Pond and Silver Lake before crossing the town line into Upton. The West River drains in a southerly direction before eventually joining with the Blackstone River in Uxbridge.
- The Assabet River Watershed is Grafton's only watershed that falls within the SuAsCo River Drainage Basin, covering a small area of Grafton's northeastern

corner. This land area drains north into the SuAsCo Reservoir in Westborough, before continuing north into the Assabet River at the Westborough/Northborough town line.



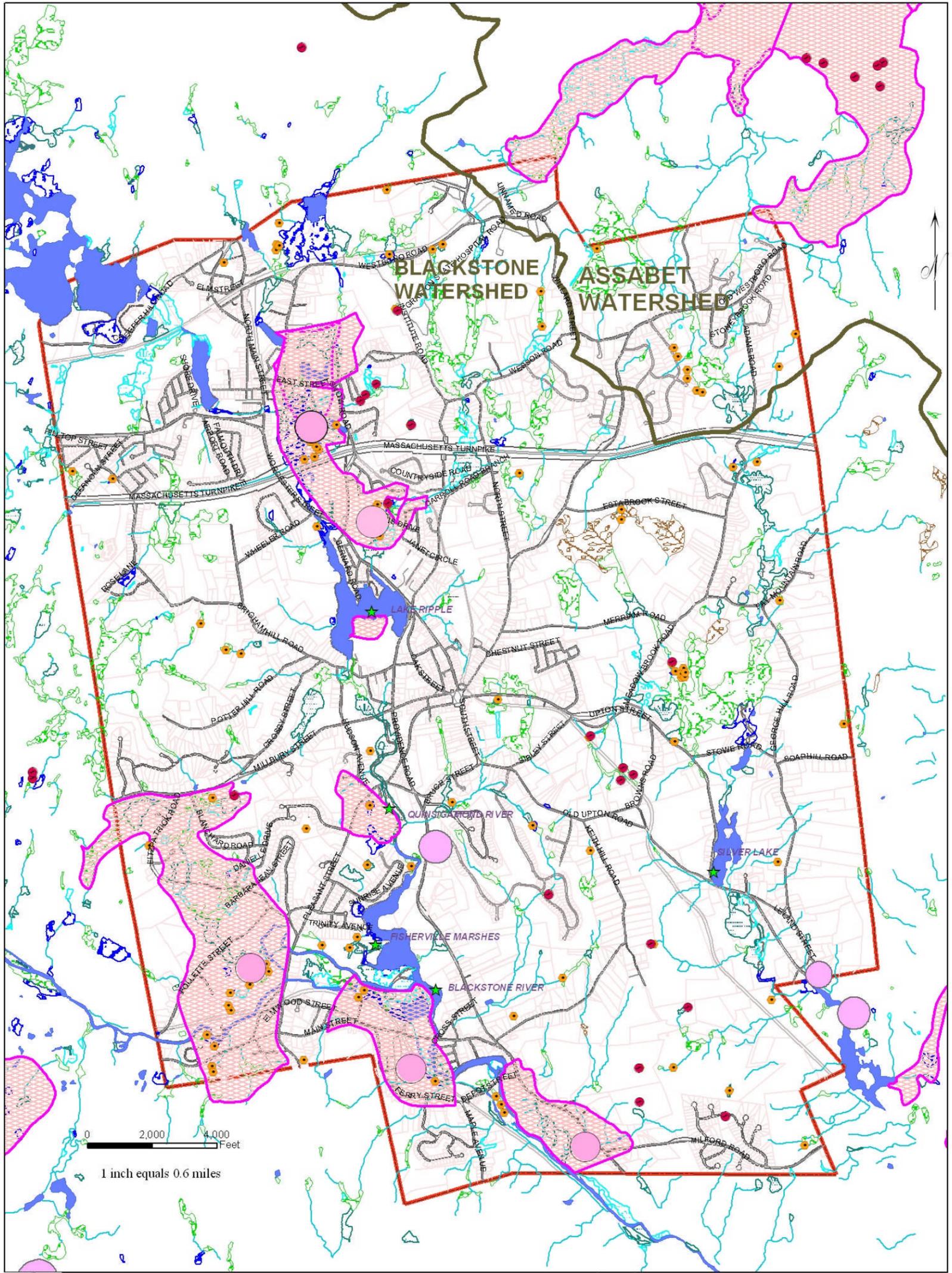
Surface Waters: Grafton is home to two lakes (Lake Ripple and Silver Lake) and three large ponds (Flint Pond, Hovey Pond and Fisherville Pond). Grafton also contains extensive amounts of frontage along the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers. Lake Ripple has two points of access for the public: Ekblaw Landing located off of Worcester Road (Route 140) provides canoe access, and there is a boat launch off of Brigham Hill Road that also provides access to southern shoreline of Lake Ripple. Silver Lake has a small public beach but no boat launch facilities. Fisherville Pond has a small boat launch behind the Riverview Apartments. The State maintains a boat launch for Flint Pond, located on the Shrewsbury side of Route 20.

Aquifers: Grafton has a very large ground water aquifer (2,062-acres in size) that extends through Town in a north-to-south direction, located on either side of the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers. The aquifer underlies both Lake Ripple and Fisherville Pond. The aquifer boundaries were delineated by IEP Inc. in its 1988 Aquifer Study prepared for the Town.

There are two private water districts that provide drinking water to the majority of Grafton residents and both entities have their wells located above the aquifer. The Grafton Water District is a public municipality separate from the Town of Grafton government. The GWD is the larger of the two districts, serving 3825 connections with water mains located in the northern and central sections of Grafton. Its wells have a combined safe yield capacity of 3.4 million gallons per day (MGD). The principal assets of the system are four wells located in the areas of Follette Street, Worcester Street and East Street. The Town leases the Follette Street Well area to the District, all of the other well sites are owned by the District. The District has a water treatment facility on East Street, which treats those two wells for the removal of iron and manganese. The District has two standpipes that store water for fire emergencies and create pressure for the system when pumps are off. These two standpipes are located on Pigeon Hill and Brigham Hill. The District is presently cooperatively working with the Grafton School Department for the use of a well site located behind the High School on Providence Road. This well will supply water for the future growth of the community. The District headquarters are located at 44 Millbury Street in Grafton.

WATER RESOURCE MAP

Next page.



Town of Grafton WATER RESOURCES MAP

Source Data:
Various data layers supplied by MassGIS
and the Town of Grafton

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Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

January 19, 2007

Legend

- DEEP MARSH
- OPEN WATER
- SHALLOW MARSH MEADOW OR FEN
- SHRUB SWAMP
- WOODED SWAMP CONIFEROUS
- WOODED SWAMP DECIDUOUS
- WOODED SWAMP MIXED TREES
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- Potential Vernal Pools
- DEP Approved Zone II's
- Zone I Wellhead
- Major Basins

The South Grafton Water District serves 798 connections, mostly within the villages of South Grafton. The District makes use of three gravel-packed wells, two located off Ferry Street and one located off Providence Road (Route 122). The District owns roughly 75% of the land under its Zone I contribution areas, however, most of the land under its Zone II contribution areas are under private ownership and the District relies on provisions of the Town's Water Supply Protection Overlay District to protect these areas. The District does not have any current plans to drill new wells.

As mentioned previously, Grafton's Zoning Bylaw contains a Water Supply Protection Overlay District, which limits and regulates development within those land areas that contribute to Grafton's public water wells. These regulations, in addition to the Rivers Protection and Wetland Protection Acts, make developers give serious consideration to the Town's wetland resources.

Floodplains: Grafton's floodplains are located along either side of the Town's major waterways, primarily the Quinsigamond River, Blackstone River, Cronin Brook and Miscoe Brook. The floodplains are also located around the shorelines of Grafton's larger waterbodies, including Flint Pond, Lake Ripple and Silver Lake. All told, Grafton has **1,423 acres** of land falling within the 100-year flood hazard areas. Grafton has adopted a Floodplain Protection Overlay District, which regulates development within the Town's flood hazard areas as identified on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated September 30, 1992.

Wetlands: Grafton's Conservation Commission regulates development within wetlands based on the standards found within the Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Article 25 of the Town's General Bylaws). The Conservation Commission has adopted a set of regulations for the bylaw's administration. The Commission is also the local administrator of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and associated regulations (Chapter 310, CMR 10.00). The Army Corps of Engineers, under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, also regulates the filling of wetlands. As mapped by the DEP Wetlands Conservancy Program, Grafton contains **1,317 acres** of wetlands. There are three significant wetland areas of note:

- **Great Meadows**: Located within the Miscoe Brook drainage sub-watershed, this wetland area contains a mixture of deep and shallow freshwater marshes, shrub marshes and wooded swamps. This wetland area acts as a natural sponge, providing flood storage during heavy rainfall, which in turn minimizes downstream damage from floodwaters. The wetland also serves as a pollution filter that protects the waters of Silver Lake.
- **Fisherville Marshes**: Located at the confluence of the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers, this marshland contains a mixture of plant communities and provides critical waterfowl habitat for migratory birds. The marshes are in danger of succeeding to a drier type of habitat (having been drained extensively because of a nearby broken dam), and are in need of restoration.

- North Grafton Wildlife Management Area: The area is comprised of 59 acres of shrub swamps and shallow freshwater marshes that serve as a habitat for wood duck breeding. Purchased in the early 1990s by Ducks Unlimited, the land was donated to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1991 and is now fully protected under Article 97, Section 2 of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts entitled, “Rights of Environmental and Natural Resources”.

Vernal Pools: The Division of Fish and Wildlife has certified 18 vernal pools in Grafton as of January 19, 2007; however, local conservationists believe there are many more scattered throughout the community; in fact, there are around 100 sites in Town that the State considers “potential” vernal pools. Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumn pools and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising groundwater and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations.

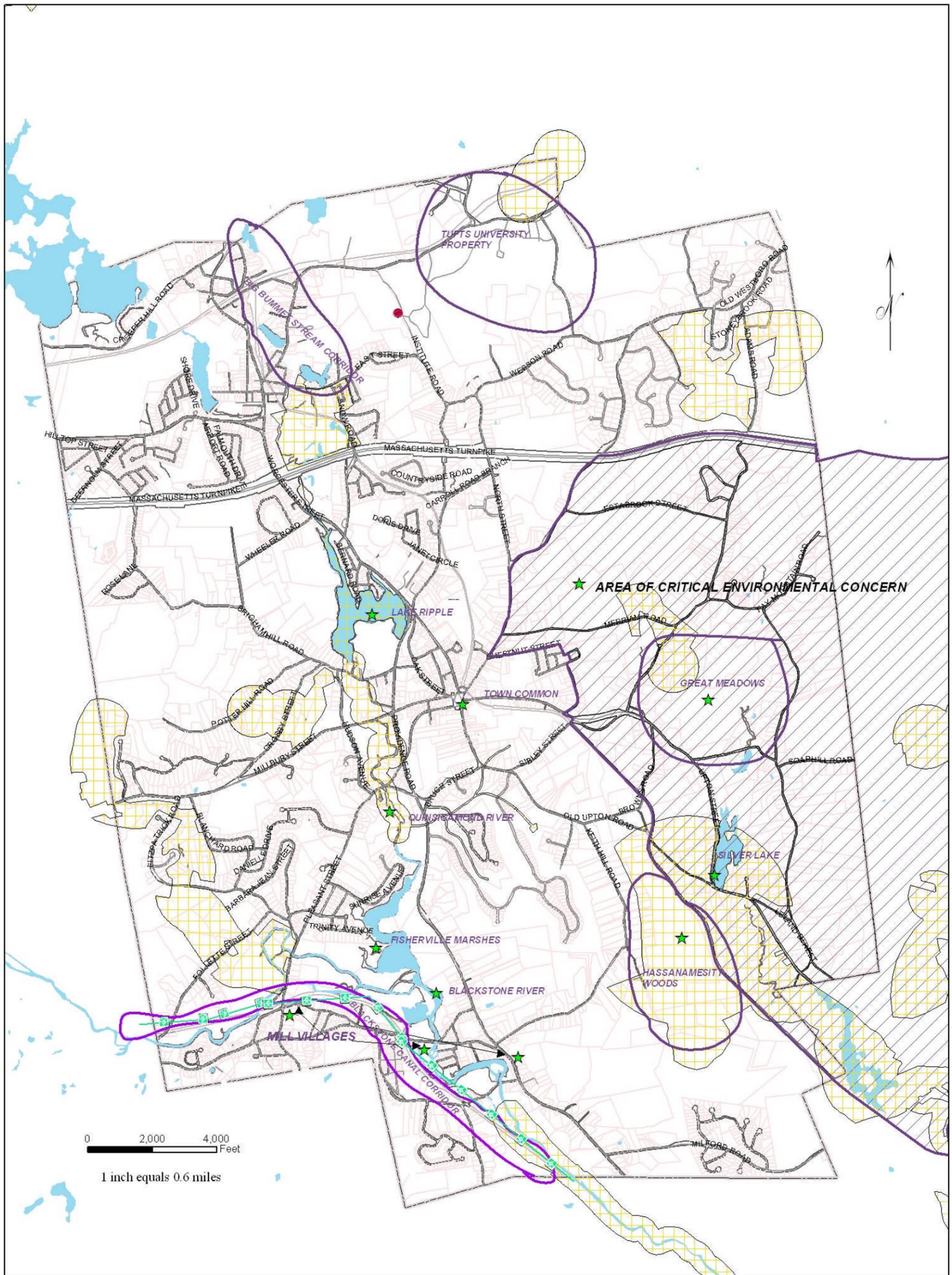


Many amphibian and invertebrate species rely on a breeding habitat that is free of fish predators. Some vernal pools are protected in Massachusetts under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations as well as several other federal and state regulations. The Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) serves the important role of officially “certifying” vernal pools that are documented locally.

Core Habitats and Living Waters: In addition to the scenic and unique environments identified by the residents as part of the planning process for this document, it should be noted that Grafton contains a large swath of land that has been identified by the NHESP as “Core Habitats” for aquatic, plant and wildlife species. In 2001, with funding from the EOEA, the NHESP developed a BioMap for the entire Commonwealth in order to identify the areas most in need of protection to ensure native biodiversity. The BioMap identified Core Habitat areas based on verified data that corresponds to actual locations on the ground. The areas mapped were determined by biologists to be those most suitable to support viable plant and wildlife species. In Grafton, there is a Core Habitat area located in the vicinity of George Hill and a large area surrounding this site has been identified as a “Supporting Natural Landscape”, meaning that the surrounding natural area contributes to the health and well being of the identified Core Habitat. The vast majority of the Core Habitat site (and its Supporting Natural Landscape) falls within the boundaries of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designated for the Miscoe, Warren and Whitehall Watersheds (more on this ACEC follows).

UNIQUE FEATURES AND SCENIC RESOURCES MAP

Next page.



Town of Grafton

UNIQUE FEATURES & SCENIC RESOURCES

Source Data:
 Various data layers supplied by MassGIS
 and the Town of Grafton

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 Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

May 31, 2007



Legend

-  Estimated Habitat *NHESP Priority Habitat*
-  ACEC
-  Blackstone River Bikeway (proposed)

The NHESP's Living Waters Project attempted to identify and map the State's most critical sites for maintaining freshwater aquatic biodiversity. These Core Habitat sites represent where the State will focus its conservation priorities. In Grafton, a Core Habitat has been identified along a small stretch of the Quinsigamond River between Lake Ripple and Fisherville Pond. This section of the river is surrounded by a "Critical Supporting Watershed" that appears in the center of Town as a large swath.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): In July of 2000, a large portion of east Grafton was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as part of the larger Miscoe-Warren-Whitehall Watersheds ACEC. The entire ACEC covers approximately 8,700 acres of land within three communities: Grafton (3,010 acres), Upton (5,230 acres) and Hopkinton (460 acres). The resources of the ACEC fall within portions of five sub-watersheds: Miscoe Brook, Center and Warren Brook (both of which drain south to the West River and Blackstone River), and two sub-watersheds that flow north into the Whitehall Reservoir and eventually the Sudbury River.

The distinguishing characteristics of these sub-watersheds are that they are located at the headwaters of their respective watersheds; provide crucial inputs of high quality surface water to downstream communities and their public drinking water supplies; share a large expanse of unfragmented and diverse wildlife habitat; and are under intensive development pressure from the growing Blackstone Valley. The ACEC covers land that contributes to the public drinking water supplies of Upton, Westborough, Hopkinton, and the well that serves the Touchstone Community School in Grafton. Rare species habitats cover approximately 19% of the ACEC lands. The vast majority of the ACEC lands (89%) are comprised of forests, wetlands, open lands and farmlands. Approximately 28% of the ACEC lands are considered permanently protected (State, local and non-profit lands), and another 17% of the ACEC lands are considered as having limited protection (Chapter 61, 61-A and 61-B lands). The Miscoe-Warren-Whitehall Watersheds ACEC designation has helped the three home communities focus their stewardship priorities and work together to protect this environmentally sensitive area.

D. Vegetation

Grafton's forests are typically composed of southern New England hardwoods, dominated by oaks and hickories in the uplands. Additionally, there are large stands of white pine and red maple that grow in both Grafton's uplands and wetlands. Another species common to the forestlands is birch, reflecting the Town's location not far from the northern Worcester county transition zone where this species is prevalent. As is typical in southern New England, hemlock and beech trees, two species common farther north, are generally restricted in Grafton to the cool, moist, shadier north facing slopes. Of particular note is the red maple swamp located off of Glen Street and several stands of red spruce, which are most unusual to find this far south, again reflecting Grafton's location at the northern end of the southern hardwood forest range.

Grafton's wetland vegetation takes the form of both shallow and deep fresh water marshes, shrub swamps, wet meadows, and wet woods. These plant communities provide valuable habitat, protect the quality of surface and ground waters nearby, contribute to the diversity of wildlife found in Grafton, and provide flood storage that protects downstream areas. There are

populations of insectivorous pitcher plant (*Scarracenia purpurea*) and the Purple Fringed Orchid (*Habenaria* spp.), both of which are characteristic of the bog community and unusual for this area of Massachusetts. The plants' presence may be due to the mixture of plant communities occurring in close proximity. Where there is a mosaic pattern of different types of vegetation, as in the Great Meadows, the composite wetlands support a greater variety of wildlife than would otherwise be the case.

While the Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*) has been removed from the official State rare plant species list, it is still of local biological importance. Historical plants are not covered by the State's rare species list because none of the species listed are known to have a current population in Massachusetts. The Painted Cup (*Castilleja coccinea*) was last observed in Grafton in 1909. Were it to reoccur, it would be recommended to the official list of rare species.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program does not currently list any endangered plant species in Grafton according to its most recent inventory (1/13/2006).

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Habitats: The interspersed of open fields, woodlands, lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, and wetlands found in Grafton creates a diversity of habitats for wildlife. As a consequence, Grafton currently supports virtually every species that is common in Massachusetts as well as several species that are uncommon. The diversity and abundance of wildlife in Grafton is remarkable considering the Town is located only some forty miles from Boston and adjacent to the State's second largest city, Worcester.

Each species of wildlife has its own set of habitat preferences. These habitat preferences ensure that food, cover, and breeding requirements are met, thus maximizing the likelihood of species survival and successful reproduction.

Wetland Habitats: Fully or partially within Grafton's boundaries are nine named ponds and lakes (Flint Pond, Hovey Pond, Fisherville Pond, Windle Pond, Pratt's Pond, Hayes Pond, Lake Ripple, Cider Mill Pond and Silver Lake), four perennial brooks (Axtell, Big Bummet, Cronin, and Miscoe), two rivers (Blackstone and Quinsigamond), and adjacent wetlands, all of which provide habitat for a variety of reptiles, amphibians, fur bearers, water fowl and other water birds. The wetlands bordering Flint Pond and Hovey Pond, Miscoe Brook and Big Bummet Brook, the wetlands bordering the Quinsigamond River adjacent to East Street, and bordering Fisherville Pond (the Fisherville Marshes), provide substantial habitat for waterfowl and fur-bearers.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife rate the Fisherville Marshes as the second most important waterfowl marsh in the Blackstone Valley. They straddle the confluence of the Blackstone and Quinsigamond Rivers and support and attract substantial numbers of wood duck, mallard and black duck in the late summer and early fall. Water birds such as the great blue heron, piedbill grebe, sora rail, and Virginia rail regularly feed or roost in the marsh. The North Grafton Wildlife Management Area and the marshes of the Great Meadows also support a wide variety of wildlife.

Grafton is one of the few Towns in the state in which the occurrence of juvenile moorehens has been documented. The moorehen is an uncommon bird in Massachusetts and there are less than 25 known nesting birds in the entire state. Muskrat occur in all waterbodies in Grafton. After an absence of more than 200 years, beaver reappeared in Grafton in the late 1970s. Mink, otter, weasel, and raccoon are found along the edges, or in the adjacent woodlands of Grafton's streams and rivers. The waters of both Cronin Brook and Miscoe Brook are of relatively high quality and support native brook trout populations. The Town's wetlands, ponds and streams also support or provide breeding habitat for snapping turtles, sun turtles, bullfrogs, green frogs, woodland frogs, spring peepers, toads and several species of salamander.

Upland Habitats: Grafton's undeveloped uplands are an interspersed of agricultural fields, pasture, brush, and woodland. Wildlife species commonly occurring in these areas include white-tail deer, red and gray fox, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, woodcock, red and gray squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, striped skunk, opossum, several species of owl and hawk, and virtually all song birds common to Massachusetts. Deer are most abundant in the eastern half of Grafton, especially the wooded areas of George Hill, Keith Hill and the Miscoe Brook drainage area. A small population of pheasant exists in Grafton. Their maintenance in the Town is dependent on the continued fall stocking of pheasants by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The continuation of the stocking program is dependent on the willingness of landowners to allow the public to hunt on their properties.

Rare and Endangered Species: The most recent listing of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program shows the following species existing in Grafton:

Town	Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Federal Rank	Most Recent Observation
GRAFTON	Amphibian	Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC		2006
GRAFTON	Amphibian	Hemidactylium scutatum	Four-toed Salamander	SC		2006
GRAFTON	Fish	Notropis bifrenatus	Bridle Shiner	SC		1981
GRAFTON	Mussel	Alasmidonta undulata	Triangle Floater	SC		1999
GRAFTON	Reptile	Clemmys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC		2003
GRAFTON	Reptile	Terrapene carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	SC		2000

SC=Special Concern at State Level

Source: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species program.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The resources discussed in this chapter include portions of those areas designated "Distinctive" or "Noteworthy" in the DEM Scenic Landscape Inventory, and those areas that are considered special places, landscapes, and views in Grafton. A graphic depiction of the Town's unique features and scenic resources can be found on the Unique Features and Scenic Resources Map in this section.

The Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers: Among Grafton's abundant waterbodies, Silver Lake, the Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers and their confluence at the Fisherville Marshes, and Lake Ripple are important areas. The two rivers, the Town's most important natural resources, drain 93% of the Town's land area. They were the lifeblood of its early agricultural and industrial settlement and are today its most unique scenic and recreational resources. Many residents indicate a desire for a trail system that follows along the banks and shores of these waters. The preservation and development of the Quinsigamond and Blackstone trail systems should take a high priority in the Town's recreation and conservation plan.

Lake Ripple: Once called the Town's most "glamorous lake, attractive for ice skating, fishing, boating", Lake Ripple remains a favorite scenic spot but at present is not living up to its potential. Sediment deposition and weed growth have been longstanding problems for the Lake.

Silver Lake: Approximately 26-acres in size, Silver Lake is an artificial impoundment on Miscoe Brook. It has a beautiful natural setting, with little development except at its southeastern end. Swimming and limited boating take place here

Great Meadows: The waters of Silver Lake are protected by the Great Meadows, which include all the wetlands within the Miscoe Brook drainage of the West River watershed.



Other Scenic Water Resources: An area that is not often mentioned, but which is worthy of restoration, is the Big Bummet stream corridor, including Windle, Pratt and Hayes Ponds. Long-time residents speak of the days before the pond shores were built up and decry the present fouling of the stream ecosystem, a result of effluent leaking from septic tanks near by and from a landfill beyond Grafton's borders.

Distinctive Landscapes: Surveys have revealed that the community esteems both the view of, and the view from Keith Hill and Old Upton Road, which intersects it. The area includes a varied terrain, open fields and forest, as well as significant wetlands at the base of the forested side of Tower Hill. While the western viewshed for Keith Hill is not protected, the Grafton Land Trust owns some property along the southern base of the Hill, as does the Town of Grafton (Hassanamesit Woods) and these properties are considered permanently protected.

Noteworthy Landscapes: As can be seen on the Unique Features And Scenic Resources Map in this section, much of the undeveloped eastern portion of Grafton has been designated as noteworthy. Noteworthy areas are extensive and, as with Keith Hill, coincide with many favored vistas, views and farms along Adams Road, Fay Mountain Road, portions of Merriam and Meadowbrook Roads and Estabrook Street. Significant portions of the Great Meadow and the Tufts land are also included in the category. These areas include a mixture of forest and open farmland, varying elevations, wetlands and streams that are unspoiled by extensive contemporary development.

Agricultural Landscapes and Rural Views: Consistently mentioned in the list of special places are the Knowlton and Adams farms, the Tufts land, the views from Brigham and Potter Hills, the aforementioned Keith Hill and the views across the Fisherville Marshes to Lazy Hill. Much of the land in these areas has temporary Chapter 61 protection, which provides the Town with an option to purchase the land should it become available for development.

Miscoe-Warren-Whitehall Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): The entire 8,700 acres of this ACEC, including the 3,010 acres in Grafton, can be considered as a unique environment.

Scenic Roads: In a further effort to protect Grafton's scenic resources, the Town has compiled a list of scenic roads for protection under its local Scenic Road Bylaw:

- Adams Road
- Brigham Hill Road (between Potter Hill Road and Deernholm Street)
- George Hill Road
- Keith Hill Road
- Meadowbrook Road
- Merriam Road
- Wesson Road
- Willard Road

Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas: The most frequently mentioned "special place" is the Grafton Common. The Common is a designated Historic District, which protects the outside appearances of its structures and grounds. The Willard Clock Museum, the Mill villages (Fisherville, Saundersville, Farnumsville) in South Grafton, New England Village in North Grafton, where the Washington Mills complex is located), the Indian Reservation (Hassanameisit Plantation), the Indian burying Ground and the Ethan Allen Gun Factory are other favored historic areas.

The Blackstone Canal located in South Grafton can also be considered a resource of historic significance. The Canal was created in the 1800s as a means to better transport goods between the cities of Worcester and Providence. Several federal entities have recognized the Canal's historic importance. The Blackstone Canal Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission has been spearheading plans to protect the resources along the Blackstone River by developing the Blackstone River Canal and Heritage State Park, with an interpretive site in

South Grafton at Leland's Landing. This effort is still in the planning stages and will be enhanced by the construction of the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Blackstone River Bikeway

Again, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission has been at the forefront of leading the vision and planning to create the Blackstone River Bikeway, which will be a significant future resource along the Blackstone River in Grafton. The Corridor Commission has been instrumental in plans to preserve and highlight the regions national significance, and the bikeway will bring many people to the area, contributing to a revitalization of the region.

The planned bikeway, parts of which are already open, will stretch from Worcester to Providence and will pass through a section of Grafton (labeled on the *Scenic Resources* map). The proposed three mile stretch in Grafton passing through the historic mill village communities of Farnumsville, Fisherville and Saundersville will also include interpretative areas. Further information about the bikeway can be found at www.blackstoneriverbikeway.com.

Hassanamesit Woods

The Hassanamesit Woods is a site of regional and national historic significance that was acquired by the Town in 2004. This 200-acre parcel is located on the southeastern slope of Keith Hill between Old Upton Road and Salisbury Street. Research by the UMASS Center for Cultural and Environmental History in the spring of 2003 strongly suggests that the property is the site of Rev. John Elliot's 17th century Indian Praying Village, Hassanamesit. Only 14 of these villages were originally founded, and of those fourteen, only two, Natick and Grafton, ever achieved church status, making the site incredibly important from a research, educational and historic perspective. Archaeological investigations are continuing and a Preservation Master Plan is under development for this site.

G. Environmental Challenges

Surface Water Pollution:

Grafton's primary environmental challenge is improving the water quality of its lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Development has resulted in a host of negative impacts to Grafton's water resources, including weed growth, poorly planned shoreline development, poor erosion control, and/or non-point pollution such as washed away salt from roadway maintenance efforts, fertilizers from lawn maintenance, or pesticide applications.

Grafton's efforts to manage stormwater runoff are also contributing factors to the quality of the Town's various water resources. Water from storm events flows across impervious surfaces (pavement, rooftops, and other surfaces that prevent water from sinking into the ground) and is collected in various stormwater management devices (pipes, detention ponds, etc.) before being channeled into a wetland, waterbody, stream or river. Many Massachusetts communities are investigating the use of Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management techniques as a method to reduce negative stormwater impacts. The State is going so far as to encourage LID

bylaws as one of the tools in its Smart Growth Toolbox. LID techniques are low-cost methods that use better site design practices and natural systems to reduce stormwater impacts. Otherwise known as “country drainage”, LID techniques use grassy swales and vegetated buffers to absorb and filter stormwater. LID methods can replace the more expensive “pipe and pond” practices that gather stormwater in large collection systems (i.e., detention ponds).

The Department Environmental Protection (DEP) designates six classes of water quality, based largely on the standards of the Federal Clean Water Act. In Massachusetts, Class A refers to those surface water resources that are used as water supply sources. Class B waters are considered safe for fishing, swimming and boating. The remaining four water quality categories cover those surface water resources with lesser water quality. The majority of the surface water resources in Grafton meet the Class B water quality standards. There are, however, several ponds and river segments that do not meet the Class B standards.

Under the regulations of the Federal Clean Water Act, states are required to file a report every two years that identifies those surface waters that are not expected to meet the Act’s surface water quality standards (Class A, Class B, etc.). This report, known as the Massachusetts Section 303(d) Integrated Lists of Waters, was last prepared in 2004 through a joint effort of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The following surface waters currently do not meet the water quality standards of the Federal Clean Water Act but could eventually if all required federal, state and local pollution control measures continue to be enforced.

<u>Surface Water Resource</u>	<u>Watershed</u>	<u>Pollutants/Stressors</u>
Flint Pond	Quinsigamond River	turbidity, noxious aquatic plants
Hovey Pond	Quinsigamond River	exotic species
Silver Lake	West River	flow alteration

It should be noted that the 2004 water quality report did not assess Fisherville Pond or Pratts Pond.

The 2004 report also listed several waterbodies and river segments in Grafton as requiring Total Maximum Daily Load investigations, or more commonly known as TMDL studies. A TMDL study is essentially a “pollution budget” designed to restore the health of the impaired waterbody or river segment. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that states must develop a TMDL plan for each waterbody identified as being impaired. Components of a TMDL plan include identifying the source(s) of the pollutant from direct discharges (point pollution sources) and indirect discharges (non-point pollution sources), determining the maximum amount of the pollutant that can be discharged into a specific waterbody to meet water quality standards and developing a plan to meet that goal.

In Grafton, the waterbodies and river segments listed on the following page have been identified as needing TMDL studies:

Water Resource	Location	Pollutant Needing TMDL
Blackstone River	From confluence of Middle River and Mill Brook to Fisherville Dam	priority organics, unknown toxicity, metals, ammonia, chlorine, nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, flow alteration, pathogens, suspended solids, turbidity, objectionable deposits
Blackstone River	From Fisherville Dam to Rice City Pond in Uxbridge	priority organics, unknown toxicity, metals, nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, flow alteration, pathogens, suspended solids, turbidity, taste, odor and color
West River	From the outlet of Silver Lake to the Upton Wastewater Treatment Plant	pH, low dissolved oxygen, pathogens
Hayes Pond	Grafton	noxious aquatic weeds, exotic species
Lake Ripple	Grafton	noxious aquatic weeds, exotic species

The EOE and DEP have issued draft TMDL plans for phosphorus in Lake Quinsigamond and Flint Pond (2001) and for pathogens in the Blackstone River Watershed (2004). For Flint Pond where the sources of phosphorus are largely unknown, the 2001 study recommended the following strategies:

- Conduct a field study to identify non-point sources of phosphorus.
- Develop methodology to calculate phosphorus loadings from highways.
- Identify remediation measures.
- Fund remediation measures.
- Implement remediation measures.
- Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion during construction, stormwater runoff, turf management, septic systems, use of fertilizers and the use of phosphorus cleaning agents for industries.
- Conduct follow-up water quality monitoring.

For the Blackstone River Watershed, the 2004 study recommended the following strategies:

- Develop comprehensive stormwater management plans for each community in the Blackstone River Basin.
- Have each community implement an illicit discharge detection and elimination program.
- Have each community fix leaking sewer pipes and sanitary sewer overflows through a combined sewer overflow management plan.
- Have the State work with stakeholders and local officials to identify remedial measures.
- Fund remediation measures.
- Implement remediation measures.
- Conduct follow-up water quality monitoring.

In 2001 the DEP and the EOEA released a study entitled, Blackstone River Basin 1998 Water Quality Assessment Report. Conducted as a basin-specific follow-up to the 1998 version of the Massachusetts Section 303(d) Integrated Lists of Waters, this study evaluated the water quality for all of the basin's major rivers and lakes. In Grafton, the report evaluated Cider Millpond, Flint Pond, Hayes Pond, Hovey Pond, Pratts Pond, Lake Ripple, Silver Lake, two segments of the Blackstone River, one segment of the Quinsigamond River and one segment of the West River.

For lakes in the Blackstone River Basin, the report suggests the following recommendations:

- Conduct monitoring for fecal coliform bacteria and Secchi disk depth to assess the Primary Contact Recreational Use (i.e., use of the lakes for swimming and recreation).
- Conduct monitoring for water chemistry data including dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles, total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a to assess the Aquatic Life Use.
- Monitor/control the spread and growth of non-native aquatic and wetland vegetation.
- Implement recommendations identified in the TMDL and Lake Diagnostic/Feasibility Studies, including lake watershed surveys to identify sources of impairment.
- Review the DEP Drinking Water Program evaluations upon completion and develop and implement recommendations for the protection of Class-A lakes in the Blackstone River Basin.

For rivers in the Blackstone River Basin, the report suggests the following recommendations:

- Implement and track the progress of combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatement activities, identify other sources of bacteria and stormwater contaminants (e.g., illicit sewer connections) and remediate problems.
- Reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff in the Blackstone River Basin by evaluating stormwater management practices and pollution prevention plans, enforcing compliance with applicable stormwater regulations.
- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the local level (such as restoration of riparian vegetative buffers), and controlling erosion, with ensured operation and maintenance plans.
- Conduct public outreach activities aimed at educating the public about what they can do to improve water quality within the Basin.
- Conduct bacterial monitoring using the indicator organisms specified in the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards to assess the effectiveness of the CSO and stormwater remediation projects as well as to assess the status of the Primary and Secondary Contact Recreational Uses.
- Conduct periodic stream cleanups and encourage/strengthen local resource stewardship.
- Review the DEP Drinking Water Program evaluations upon completion and develop and implement recommendations to protect the Class-A rivers in the Blackstone River Basin.
- Continue to evaluate compliance with the Water Management Act registration and permit limits.
- Optimize water withdrawal and reservoir management practices to maintain minimum streamflow, and to the extent possible, natural flow regimes in the rivers.

- Collect additional data to determine the frequency, duration, and spatial extent of low-flow conditions and assess habitat quality as it relates to streamflow.
- The following wastewater treatment plants should collect river water upstream of their discharge locations to use as dilution water in their whole effluent toxicity tests: Grafton, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Upton, Hopedale and the New England Plating Company.
- Toxicity Identification Evaluations and Toxicity Reduction Evaluations should be conducted at those facilities that either frequently and/or severely violate their whole effluent toxicity permit limits.
- Reissue the remaining municipal and industrial National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits in the Basin with appropriate permit limits and monitoring requirements.
- Continue to implement remedial actions that will clean up contaminated groundwater, sediments and soil in the Basin.
- Designated various rivers as Cold Water Fisheries if supported by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Continue to support the US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Habitat Restoration Study ongoing in the Blackstone River Basin.

Identified Polluted Sites in Town: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a current inventory of 74 chemical spills at 54 locations throughout Grafton. The inventory covers a seventeen-year period (from 1989 through the present) and most of the spills are associated with oil or hazardous materials. These sites (known as 21E sites, or “brownfields”) are in various stages of remediation. A complete list of Grafton’s 21E sites can be found at the end of this section. Under the heading labeled “compliance status”, the reader will notice that most of the Grafton sites have the acronym RAO attached to them. RAO stands for Response Action Outcome. This term applies to those hazardous waste spills where immediate actions were taken that were sufficient to contain the spill to the point of posing no significant risk to the public.

Grafton does not have any active landfill facilities or a recycling center. The Town has contracted with Central Massachusetts Disposal Inc., which provides curbside rubbish and recycling pickup for all Grafton households and businesses. The waste is brought to the Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. incineration facility in Millbury.

Erosion, Chronic Flooding & Sedimentation:

Erosion & Sedimentation

Soil erosion and sedimentation are addressed through the subdivision approval process with the Planning Board and, for areas within its jurisdiction, by the Conservation Commission under the Wetland Protection Act and the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, as well as under the federally administered National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting. Regulations for the Wetlands Protection Bylaw were completed revised and updated in 2004 and 2005, tightening controls on stormwater management and erosion and sedimentation control during construction.

The DPW, Engineering, Planning and Conservation Departments are working on a draft Stormwater and Sedimentation Bylaw. The final version is expected to be ready for a Town Meeting vote by the fall of 2007.

Chronic Flooding

Grafton's Zoning Bylaw, Section 6, defines the floodplain, details the regulations concerning uses within it, the conditions for obtaining Special Permits and for applying for a Variance, and designated the name and duties of its administrative authorities.

The Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw of 1987 as amended, and Regulations for administration as amended in 2004 and 2005 supplements the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. 131) at the municipal level. Both are administered and enforced by the Grafton Conservation Commission. These laws further control flooding by strictly limiting filling of wetlands, areas vital for flood storage, and by requiring 1:1 compensatory storage for all work within any 100-year flood elevation

The Town of Grafton's Board of Health has and still is discussing issues relating to lawn and garden maintenance and road runoff. The Board of Health has not implemented a bylaw requiring routine maintenance relative to septic systems nor do they anticipate taking that route for a number of reasons.

21E sites in Grafton		5/16/2006					
Release Tracking Number (RTN)	Release Address	Site Name/Location Aid	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Phase	Chemical Type	
2-0016036	123 ADAMS RD	NORWOOD AUTO RECYCLING	12/15/2005	UNCLASSIFIED		Hazardous Material	
2-0015890	10 BERNARD ST	BUXTON RESIDENCE	9/10/2005	UNCLASSIFIED			
2-0015693	10 BRIDGE ST	C & J TRUCKING, INC	4/8/2005	RAO		Oil	
2-0014881	44 BRIGHAM HILL RD	BURGESS LEATHER CO	8/19/2003	RAO		Hazardous Material	
2-0014928	15 CENTENNIAL DR	VERILLON HYDROGEN TANK	9/24/2003	RAO		Hazardous Material	
2-0015605	15 CENTENNIAL DR	VERILLON	2/20/2005	RAO		Hazardous Material	
2-0011825	33 CENTRAL SQ	GRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	8/4/1997	RAO		Oil	
2-0015737	18 CREEPER HILL RD	CK SMITH	5/5/2005	RAO			
2-0011040	51 CREEPER HILL RD	AIR LIQUIDE	2/6/1996	RAO		Hazardous Material	
2-0015613	51 CREEPER HILL RD	FORMER AIR LIQUID FACILITY	2/25/2005	TIER 2	PHASE II	Oil and Hazardous Material	
2-0016086	70 CREEPER HILL RD	VALENTE CONSTRUCTION	1/24/2006	UNCLASSIFIED		Oil	
2-0012317	105 CREEPER HILL RD	C WHITE AND SON	7/28/1998	RAO		Oil	
2-0000564	9 DEPOT ST	WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	4/15/1989	DEPNFA			
2-0011056	134 FERRY ST	AREA A AND B	12/29/1995	RAO	PHASE III	Oil and Hazardous Material	
2-0011249	27 FOLLETTE ST	FOLLETTE ST GRAVEL PIT	5/23/1996	TIER 1B	PHASE III	Hazardous Material	
2-0012918	35 GRAFTON CMN	GRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	8/31/1999	RAO		Oil	
2-0012492	7 INDIAN PATH	RODS OIL SERVICE CO	11/11/1998	RAO		Oil	
2-0011993	INSTITUTE RD	GRAFTON ST HOSP	11/24/1997	RAO	PHASE II	Oil	
2-0015349	13 JANET CIR	CK SMITH COMPANY INC	8/3/2004	RAO		Oil	
2-0013958	MA TPKE EASTBOUND	MILE MARKER 100	8/17/2001	RAO			
2-0013880	MA TPKE	MM 99.8	6/26/2001	RAO		Oil	
2-0010926	3 MAIN ST	ACROSS FROM CUMBERLAND FARMS	9/20/1995	RAO		Oil	

Release Tracking Number (RTN)	Release Address	Site Name/Location Aid	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Phase	Chemical Type
2-0010861	14 MAIN ST	CUMBERLAND FARMS STATION 2062	7/24/1995	RAO		Oil
2-0011626	141 MAIN ST	DEORSEYS GARAGE	2/24/1997	DEF TIER 1B		Oil
2-0000206	60 MAIN ST (FORMERLY 120 MAIN	KALTSAS OMNI DURALITE	9/3/1986	TIER 1A		Oil
2-0014731	156 MAIN ST AND PLEASANT ST	MAIN ST ROADWAY RELEASE	4/15/2003	RAO		Oil
2-0011431	20 NORTH MAIN ST	PLANT 2	10/11/1996	RAO		
2-0012326	20 NORTH MAIN ST	WASHINGTON MILL	7/31/1998	RAO		
2-0014164	39 NORTH MAIN ST	ALS OIL SERVICE RESIDENTIAL RELEASE	1/19/2002	RAO		Oil
2-0015959	26 NORTH ST	TOSCANO RESIDENTIAL RELEASE	10/24/2005	RAO		
2-0012135	60 NORTH ST	GRAFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	3/9/1998	RAO		Oil
2-0012838	PLEASANT ST	PLEASANT ST AND CANAL ST	6/21/1999	DEF TIER 1B		Hazardous Material
2-0000349	174 PROVIDENCE RD	PROVIDENCE RD PROPERTY	1/15/1989	DEPNDS		
2-0014858	377 PROVIDENCE RD	GRAFTON FARM & GARDEN	7/31/2003	RAO		Hazardous Material
2-0015740	30 PROVIDENCE ST	TOWN OF GRAFTON	5/8/2005	RAO		Oil
2-0011083	ROSE LN	ROADWAY IN FRONT OF 10	1/26/1996	RAO		Oil
2-0014031	RTE 30-WESTBORO RD	ROADWAY RELEASE	10/10/2001	RAO		
2-0011698	16 UPTON ST	CUMBERLAND FARMS	4/21/1997	RAO	PHASE II	Oil
2-0010239	23 UPTON ST	POST OFFICE	3/28/1994	RAO		Oil
2-0010443	23 UPTON ST	FEDERAL POST OFFICE	8/25/1994	RAO		Oil
2-0011654	26 UPTON ST	GRAFTON HWY DEPT	3/21/1997	RAO	PHASE II	Oil
2-0012146	26 UPTON ST	HIGHWAY DEPT	3/18/1998	RAO		Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0016029	28 UPTON ST	OFF THE COMMON REALTY TRUST	12/7/2005	UNCLASSIFIED		Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0013568	86 WESTBOROUGH RD	SUTTLES TRUCKING CO	11/22/2000	RAO		
2-0013034	200 WESTBOROUGH RD	TUFTS UNIVERSITY VETERINARY SCHOOL	11/17/1999	RAO		Oil
2-0013216	200 WESTBOROUGH RD	AMELIA PEABODY PAVILION	3/29/2000	RAO		Hazardous Material
2-0011953	44 WORCESTER RD	MA ST POLICE BARRACKS	10/31/1997	RAO	PHASE III	Oil

Release Tracking Number (RTN)	Release Address	Site Name/Location Aid	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Phase	Chemical Type
2-0013980	116 WORCESTER RD	AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES	9/6/2001	RTN CLOSED		Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0014157	WORCESTER ST	NORTH GATE ESTATES	1/10/2002	RAO		Oil
2-0000226	72 WORCESTER ST	SHELL STATION	4/15/1989	RAO		Oil
2-0015152	81 WORCESTER ST	ROUTE 122 ROADWAY RELEASE	3/8/2004	RAO		
2-0000759	87 WORCESTER ST	XTRA MART	6/5/1990	REMOPS		Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0000980	90 WORCESTER ST	NORTH GRAFTON MOBIL	3/25/1993	REMOPS	PHASE V	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0000803	94 WORCESTER ST	CHARTER STATION	11/2/1990	RAO	PHASE V	Oil
2-0000884	116 WORCESTER ST	EL DAUPHINAIS INC	1/15/1993	RAO		Oil
2-0012393	165 WORCESTER ST	GRAFTON FOREIGN MOTORS	9/8/1998	DEF TIER 1B		Oil
2-0012437	165 WORCESTER ST	GRAFTON AUTO BODY INC FMR CENTER GARAGE	10/2/1998	DEF TIER 1B		Oil
2-0015196	181 WORCESTER ST	PETERSONS OIL SERVICE INC	4/8/2004	RAO		Oil
2-0000051	220 WORCESTER ST	SUNOCO STATION	12/9/1986	RAO	PHASE II	Oil
2-0000535	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON COMPANY	3/30/1989	TIER 1A	PHASE III	Hazardous Material
2-0011288	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	6/26/1996	RAO		Oil
2-0011382	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDAN MILLBURY PLANT	8/27/1996	RAO		Oil
2-0011625	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	2/21/1997	RAO		Hazardous Material
2-0011693	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	4/22/1997	RTN CLOSED		Oil
2-0011762	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	6/13/1997	RAO		
2-0011978	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	11/16/1997	RAO		Oil
2-0012208	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	5/4/1998	RAO		Oil
2-0012378	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON CORP	8/31/1998	RAO		
2-0012472	244 WORCESTER ST	GORDON PROPERTY	10/24/1998	RAO		Oil
2-0013061	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON	12/7/1999	RAO		
2-0013329	244 WORCESTER ST	WYMAN GORDON CORP	6/10/2000	RAO		

Section 5: INVENTORY OF PROTECTED LANDS

Article 97 of the State Constitution provides permanent protection for certain lands acquired for natural resources purposes, meaning “conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources.” Lands of this nature are often owned by the municipal conservation commission, recreation commission, water department, or by a state or federal conservation agency (i.e., the EOEA or the Division of Fish & Wildlife). Private, public and non-profit conservation and recreation lands are also protected under Article 97. Removing the permanent protection status of such lands is extremely difficult, as is evidenced by the following required steps:

- The municipal conservation commission or recreation commission must vote that the land in question is surplus to its needs;
- The removal of permanent protection status must be approved at a Town Meeting/City Council vote and pass by a 2/3 vote;
- The municipality must file an Environmental Notification Form with the EOEA’s Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA);
- The removal of permanent protection status must be approved by the State Legislature and pass by a 2/3 vote; and
- In the case of land either acquired or developed with grant assistance from the EOEA’s Division of Conservation Services, the converted land must be replaced with land of equal monetary value and recreational or conservation utility.

In other words, it is intentionally difficult to remove a property’s permanent protection status so that it may be developed. Private lands can also be protected in perpetuity through conservation easements. Municipal lands under active use (schools, town halls, highway department facilities, police/fire facilities, etc.) are *not* considered permanently protected, nor are private lands that are within the State’s special taxation programs (Chapter 61).

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INVENTORY (The Index number refers to parcels on the Inventory Map)

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
1	Nelson Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	6	Prentice St	11	14	10.1	903	
2	NG Elementary School	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	46	Waterville St	19	93	20.9	903	
3	Airport Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	8	Bedford Dr	35	178	5.6	903	Rec Com
4	Perry St Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	3	Perry St	27	42	0.6	903	Rec Com
5	Whitney Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	5	Mill St	27	165	1.2	903	Rec Com
6	Ekblaw Landing	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	111	Worcester St	46	21	1.0	903	Funding – Fish & Wildlife & BRVNHCC
7	High School-Municipal Center-Super Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	30	Providence Rd	64	12	46.5	903	Super Park - Rec
8	Norcross Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	18	North St	65	145	4.3	903	Rec Com
9	G Middle School	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	60	North St	57	18	15.7	903	
10	G Center Elementary School	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	105	Millbury St	81	19	55.8	903	
11	Silver Lake	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	245	Upton St	102	16	19.4	903	CC/Rec Com
12	Riverview Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	176	Providence Rd	98	6	6.2	903	
13	Dauphinais Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	21	Follette St	105	7	53.0	903	BoS/CC
14	SG Elementary School	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	90	Main St	114	48A	8.25	903	
15	Fisher Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	115	Ferry St	123	20	11.2	903	Rec Com
15	Fisher Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGAct	4	Old Ferry St	122	19	0.3	903	Rec Com
16	80 Creeper Hill Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	80	Creeper Hill Rd	18	1a	1.0	903	CC
17	63 Creeper Hill Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	63	Creeper Hill Rd	18	32	8.7	903	
18	Nelson Woods	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	38	Elm St	10	35	14.0	903	
19	Nelson Park	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	43	Shrewsbury St	10	9	5.0	903	Con Com
20	40 Deernolm St	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	40	Deernolm St	34	98	4.1	903	
21	Hennessey I	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	60	Adams Rd	50	4e	104.3	903	Con Com. Funding - DCS
22	Merriam Rd Conservation Area	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	99	Merriam Rd	58	2	52.4	903	Con Com. Funding – DCS (1989)
23	Town Forest	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	12	Chestnut St	66	52	26.2	903	
23	Town Forest	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	51	Upton St	75	1a	0.9	903	
24	The Great Meadow	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	155	Upton St	76	21	125.0	903	Con Com
25	Cider Mill Pond	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	30	Stowe Rd	86	12	6.4	903	CC
26	Silver Lake N Parcel	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	94	George Hill Rd	86	5a	24.9	903	CC
27	Silver Lake E Parcel	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	247	Upton St	94	100	20.8	903	CR to GLT

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
28	240 Upton St – Opposite Silver Lake	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	240	Upton St	102	8a	6.5	903	CC
29	Hassanamesit Woods	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	140	Old Upton Rd	93	19	10.0	905	CR to DCR/ Div of State Parks and Rec Hist Pres Restr to Mass Hist Com. Funding - DCS
29	Hassanamesit Woods	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	7	Salisbury St	117	1	12.5	905	CR to DCR/ Div of State Parks and Rec Hist Pres Restr to Mass Hist Com. Funding - DCS
30	Oakmont Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGOS	27	Milford Rd	126	150	73.1	903	Flexible SubDiv
31	55 Westboro Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	55	Westboro Rd	11	90	0.9	903	
32	81 Westboro Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	81	Westboro Rd	12	15a	22.0	903	Con Com
33	105 Westboro Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	105	Westboro Rd	4	1	0.9	903	
34	Sunset Lane - Hovey Pond Access	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	14	Sunset Lane	26	85	0.2	903	BoS
35	Waterville St Access to Webber Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	30	Waterville St	19	96	0.9	903	
36	Waterville St Access to Webber Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	30 Rear	Waterville St	19	96R	25.9	903	
37	Webber Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	81R	East St	20	23	10.5	903	Town
38	Webber Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	71R	East St	20	22	25.4	903	
39	Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	25	Willard St	22	21	17.5	903	
40	25 Willard St	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	223	Old Westboro Rd	16	1	10.1	903	Flexible SubDiv
41	4 Airport Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	4	Airport Rd	35	177	28.8	903	CC
42	Frontage for Ducks Unlimited	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	39	Snow Rd	37	101	1.4	903	
43	22 Greany Dr	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	22	Greany Dr	37	115a	1.3	903	Flexible SubDiv
43	23 Greany Dr	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	22	Greany Dr	37	118a	2.6	903	Flexible SubDiv
44	7 Institute Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	7	Institute Rd	28	100	15.0	903	
44	7 Institute Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	7	Institute Rd	29	16	10.3	903	
45	11 Suzanne Terrace	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	11	Suzanne Terrace	37	27	0.6	903	Flexible SubDiv
45	13 Suzanne Terrace	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	13	Suzanne Terrace	37	26	0.5	903	
46	62 Countryside Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	62	Countryside Rd	38	24	2.8	903	BoS
47	Abuts Water District	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	8	Doris Dr	46	50	10.0	903	CC
47	Abuts Water District	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	22	Vincent Rd	47	24a	1.2	903	
48	Hennessey II	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	48	Old Westboro Rd	48	12	50.0	903	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
49	Hennessey I	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	46	Adams Rd	50	43	1.9	903	Con Com. Funding - DCS
50	Norcross Annex	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	25	Worcester St	65	54	2.3	903	BoS
51	Frost/Blithewood Property	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	12	George Hill Rd	68	10e	45.0	903	BoS
52	53 George Hill Rd - Town of Upton	Town Of Upton	ToGMU	53	George Hill Rd	77	17	2.7	903	Access for #94
53	10 Christopher Dr	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	10	Christopher Dr	90	215	12.0	903	Flexible SubDiv
54	29 Pleasant St - Quinsigamond River Access	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	29	Pleasant St	82	51	1.2	903	
55	8 Joys Rd - Quinsigamond River Access	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	8	Joys Rd	90	19	9.4	903	CC
56	49R Sunrise Ave - Quinsigamond River Access	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	49R	Sunrise Ave	91	6	2.0	903	
57	43 Fitzpatrick Rd	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	43	Fitzpatrick Rd	97	7	7.2	903	Flexible SubDiv
58	71 Barbara Jean St	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	71	Barbara Jean St	97	71	2.4	903	CC
59	60 Barbara Jean St	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	60	Barbara Jean St	97	59a	3.5	903	CC
60	15 Powerline Dr - Fisherville Pond	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	15	Powerline Dr	98	122	4.0	903	BoS/Con Com
61	73 Sunrise Ave - Access to Fisherville Pond	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	73	Sunrise Ave	98	18	0.5	903	BoS property dispute
62	163 Pleasant St - Blackstone Canal	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	163	Pleasant St	105	20	16.5	903	
63	Kittery Point - Fisherville Pond	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	1	Kittery Point	106	10	2.5	903	CC
64	11 Belmont St - Blackstone River	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	11	Belmont St	115	102	0.4	903	
65	Keith Hill Forest	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	77	Keith Hill Rd	110	13	22.5	903	
66	Oakmont Open Space	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	27	Milford Rd	131	101	153.3	903	
66	Old Dump Access	Town Of Grafton	ToGMU	15	Milford Rd	131	17	2.9	903	
67	DF&W Wildlife Sanctuary	Commonwealth of Mass	DFW	41	Snow Rd	37	41	59.0	911	
68	DF&W Wildlife Sanctuary	Commonwealth of Mass	DFW	21R	Rose Ln	52	1	25.0	911	
69	Tufts University	Tufts University	NP	5	Wesson St	29	29	1.1	904	
69	Tufts University	Tufts University	NP	19	Wesson St	29	5	12.5	904	
70	GLT - Lambert Property	Grafton Land Trust	NP	29	Wesson St	22	14	24.0	905	
71	Willard House Clock Museum	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	11	Willard St	22	6	9.5	905	
71	Willard House Clock Museum	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	63	Wesson St	22	5	2.3	905	
71	Willard House Clock Museum	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	61	Wesson St	22	5b	8.1	905	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
72	Willard House Field	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	2	Willard St	22	22	0.5	905	
72	Willard House Field	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	4	Willard St	22	7	2.8	905	
72	Willard House Field	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	10	Willard St	22	20	2.6	905	
73	Willard House Field	Willard House Clock Museum	NP	62	Wesson St	22	12	17.7	905	
74	NE Forestry Foundation	New England Forestry Fdn	NP	266	Old Westboro Rd	16	2a	5.8	905	
75	GLT - Brigham Hill Wildlife Area	Grafton Land Trust	NP	42	N Brigham Hill Rd	45	5	46.4	905	
76	GLT - Williams Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	180	Brigham Hill Rd	44	28	26.8	905	
77	GLT - Gummere Woods	Grafton Land Trust	NP	11	Wheeler Rd	55	47	36.5	905	
77	GLT - Gummere Woods	Grafton Land Trust	NP	5	Wheeler Rd	46	22	0.5	905	
78	GLT - Marsters Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	116	Brigham Hill Rd	54	15a	48.3	905	
79	Lions Club	Lions Club Of Grafton	NP	68	Brigham Hill Rd	64	1	18.0	905	
80	GLT - Meranto Land	Grafton Land Trust	NP	10	Logan Rd	55	29	0.4	905	
81	GLT - Gebelein Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	54	Brigham Hill Rd	64	4	1.0	905	
82	GLT - Knowlton Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	90	Potter Hill Rd	71	13	59.6	905	
83	GLT - Potter Hill fields	Grafton Land Trust	NP	64	Potter Hill Rd	71	11	29.5	905	
83	GLT - Potter Hill fields	Grafton Land Trust	NP	62	Potter Hill Rd	71	10	2.2	905	
84	GLT - Forbush Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	38	North St	66	17	0.3	905	
84	GLT - Forbush Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	15	Chestnut St	66	25	10.0	905	
84	GLT - Forbush Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	20	Merriam Rd	66	13	8.0	905	
84	GLT - Forbush Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	38	Merriam Rd	66	26	7.3	905	
85	GLT - Hazzard/Pond Property	Grafton Land Trust	NP	89	Merriam Rd	58	3	3.0	905	
85	GLT - Hazzard/Pond Property	Grafton Land Trust	NP	93	Merriam Rd	58	3a	0.7	905	
86	GLT - Harris Property	Grafton Land Trust	NP	26	South St	74	1	1.0	905	
86	GLT - Harris Property	Grafton Land Trust	NP	30	South St	74	2	0.9	905	
87	GLT - Anderson-Crosier Wood/ Prescott Wildlife Sanctuary	Grafton Land Trust	NP	67	Old Upton Rd	84	18	15.7	905	
88	GLT - Fiske Land	Grafton Land Trust	NP	15	Stratton Rd	92	9	0.8	905	
89	GLT - Fletcher Reservation	Grafton Land Trust	NP	215	Upton St	94	6a	1.8	905	
89	GLT - Fletcher Reservation	Grafton Land Trust	NP	213	Upton St	94	6b	3.9	905	
90	GLT - Parker Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	16	Salisbury St	109	11	30.7	905	
91	GLT - Salisbury Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	47	Fargo St	117	149d	15.8	905	
91	GLT - Salisbury Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	47	Fargo St	117	149b	1.6	905	
92	GLT - Platt Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	79	Milford Rd	118	5	8.6	905	
92	GLT - Platt Preserve	Grafton Land Trust	NP	81	Milford Rd	118	6	8.8	905	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
93	GLT - Kotease Blackstone Canal	GLT Land Holdings	NP	35	Depot St	123	29	11.1	905	
94	Williams CR to GLT	Williams, Donna	PCR	50	North St	57	22	1.5	101	CR to GLT
95	English Trust CR to GLT	English Trust	PCR	9	Merriam Rd	66	10	2.6		CR to GLT
96	Pond Trust CR to GLT	Pond Trust	PCR	23	Merriam Rd	57	24	13.0		CR to GLT
97	Magnolia Farms	Magnolia Farms LLC	Dev	54	Magnolia Ln	30	45	2.7	132	
97	Magnolia Farms	Magnolia Farms LLC	Dev	55	Magnolia Ln	30	53	9.2	132	
98	Magnolia Farms	Magnolia Farms LLC	Dev	53	Magnolia Ln	30	52	0.8	132	
99	Huckins Farm	Huckins Farm Limited Partners	Dev	162	Old Westboro Rd	23	154	23.5	132	
100	Brendon Properties II	Carey Leslie S, Trustee	Dev	22	Robin Dr	24	221	2.8	132	
101	Magill Associates	Magill Associates	Dev	20	Wheeler Rd	45	70	11.2	132	
101	Magill Associates	Magill Associates	Dev	56	Meadow Ln	45	8B	1.4	132	
101	Magill Associates	Magill Associates	Dev	60	Meadow Ln	45	8C	1.5	132	
102	Kd Builders	Kd Builders Inc	Dev	1	Putnam Ln	59	50	17.7	132	
102	Kd Builders	Kd Builders Inc	Dev	2	Putnam Ln	59	65	0.7	132	
103	Art-Lot Acres	Art-Lot Acres	Dev	3	Sean Mikeal Wy	80	150	22.1	132	
104	Chris Gill	Grafton Hassanamesit Open Space	Dev	33	Bruce St	91	71	41.7	106	
105	Hill View Estates	Hill View Estates Inc	Dev	169	Providence Rd	99	4F	9.0	132	
106	Art-Lot Acres	Art-Lot Acres Development Cor	Dev	10	Southfield Ct	105	40A	15.3	132	
107	Art-Lot Acres	Art-Lot Acres Development Cor	Dev	1	Saunders Dr	112	121	6.3	132	
108	Pulte Home	Pulte Home Corporation	Dev	4	Poplar St	123	51	18.9	132	
108	Pulte Home	Pulte Home Corporation	Dev	1	Poplar St	123	71	6.6	132	
108	Pulte Home	Pulte Home Corp Of New England	Dev	1	Aspen Ave	129	50	3.4	132	
108	Pulte Home	Pulte Home Corporation	Dev	64	Aspen Ave	129	50A	0.8	132	
108	Pulte Home	Pulte Home Corp Of New England	Dev	2	Lilac Ln	129	92	5.1	132	
109	Brookmeadow Village	Brookmeadow Village	Dev			125	1			
110	Brookmeadow Village	Brookmeadow Village	Dev			125	2			
110	Brookmeadow Village	Brookmeadow Village	Dev			125	1A			
111	Raines Trust	John A Raines Trust The	C61B	104	Creeper Hill Rd	17	8A	15.2	801	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
112	Azuma Chieko	Azuma Chieko	C61B	19	Fay Mountain Rd	59	20	10.0	18	
113	Crispen Trustees	Crispen Janet Et Als, Trustees	C61B	97	Brigham Hill Rd	63	17	32.4	801	
114	Sjogren	Sjogren Robert M	C61B	26	George Hill Rd	68	9	11.4	803	
115	Lambert	Lambert Lillian F	C61B	39	George Hill Rd	69	2	21.3	801	
116	Hassinger	Hassinger Robert	C61B	48	George Hill Rd	77	3	6.5	18	
117	N G Fish, Game & Bird	N Grafton Fish, Game & Brd	C61B	1	Stowe Rd	77	1A	15.0	801	
118	Gregoire	Gregoire Ruth M	C61B	93	Fitzpatrick Rd	88	4	44.9	801	
119	Jones	Jones Daniel Jr	C61B	14	Follette St	97	3D	25.0	18	
120	Mason	Mason David	C61B	122	Keith Hill Rd	108	4	21.8	18	
121	Mahoney	Mahoney Patrick H	C61B	30	Milford Rd	131	22	23.7	801	
122	Dion	Dion Kenneth R	C61	196	Brigham Hill Rd	44	29c	6.9	601	
122	Dion	Dion Kenneth R	C61	196	Brigham Hill Rd	44	29d	9.5	601	
123	Creeper Hill Gardens	Creeper Hill Gardens Inc	C61A	18	Creeper Hill Rd	10	24	0.5	718	
123	Creeper Hill Gardens	Creeper Hill Gardens Inc	C61A	18	Creeper Hill Rd	10	24a	1.7	718	
123	Creeper Hill Gardens	Poulin Francis & Margaret Life	C61A	20	Creeper Hill Road	10	22	8.1	17	
124	Johnson	Johnson Raymond F Jr & Viola L	C61A	9	Shrewsbury St	19	8	32.0	718	
125	Brooks Family Trust	Brooks George C/Marjorie A, Tr	C61A	42	East Street	28	9	8.6	17	
126	Sims	Sims Robert P	C61A	23	Wesson St	29	5A	12.5	17	
127	Houlden	Houlden Howard F Trustee	C61A	95	Wesson St	23	5	49.6	713	
128	Grey	Grey Dennis	C61A	5	Glen St	15	4a	8.9	718	
128	Grey	Grey Dennis	C61A	5	Glen St	15	4	4.7	17	
129	Macdonald	Macdonald Barbara	C61A	11	Glen Street	15	27	9.4	17	
130	Nichols	Nichols Marion L	C61A	31	Glen St	15	1	30.1	718	
131	Cobb	Cobb Anderson Elizabeth M	C61A	24	Glen Street	15	3	10.2	17	
132	Alden Enterprises	Alden Enterprises Inc	C61A	223	Old Westboro Rd	16	1a	19.0	717	
133	Laflamme	Laflamme Jean Paul	C61A	217	Old Westboro Rd	16	9	2.9	713	
133	Laflamme	Laflamme Jean Paul	C61A	214	Old Westboro Rd	16	7	1.4	718	
133	Laflamme	Laflamme Jean Paul	C61A	216	Old Westboro Rd	16	8	2.4	713	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
134	Laflamme	Laflamme Jean Paul	C61A	109	Adams Road	32	5	24.3	17	
135	Laflamme	Laflamme Jean Paul	C61A	116	Adams Rd	24	13	29.7	720	
135	Laflamme	Laflamme Leo R	C61A	120	Adams Rd	24	13i	7.3	718	
136	White	White David H	C61A	33	N Brigham Hill Rd	44	29	46.0	718	
137	White	White David H	C61A	40	N Brigham Hill Road	45	6	11.4	17	
138	Crater-Ferraro Realty Llc	Crater-Ferraro Realty Llc	C61A	37	Wheeler Road	54	14	11.2	17	
139	Ashlawn Realty Trust	Adams Peter J, Trustee	C61A	94	Brigham Hill Rd	63	1	8.0	713	
140	Bicknell	Bicknell Roscoe G Iii	C61A	42	Carroll Rd	47	47	18.7	718	
141	Engvall	Engvall Richard E & Virginia A	C61A	93	North Street	47	49	23.0	17	
142	Knowlton Farms Trust	Knowlton Leeroy E, Trustee	C61A	59	Old Westboro Rd	39	4	37.2	718	
143	Knowlton Farms Trust	Knowlton Leeroy E, Trustee	C61A	43	Estabrook Avenue	49	1	54.5	17	
144	Knowlton Farms Trust	Knowlton Leeroy E, Trustee	C61A	44	Estabrook Ave	49	6	172.8	718	
145	Poler	Poler Henry S	C61A	55	Merriam Road	58	1	76.0	17	
146	Poler	Poler Henry S	C61A	52	Merriam Rd	67	7	17.6	713	
147	Martin	Martin John D Trustee	C61A	75	Merriam Rd	58	5	8.5	712	
147	Martin	Martin Rita	C61A	81	Merriam Road	67	1	10.0	17	
148	Martin	Martin John D Trustee	C61A	68	Merriam Rd	58	4	19.0	712	
149	Martin	Martin John D	C61A	34	Meadowbrook Rd	67	2	5.2	718	
150	Martin	Martin John D	C61A	48	Meadowbrook Rd	67	2b	5.0	718	
151	Nydam	Nydam Raymond G	C61A	108	Merriam Rd	59	26	5.7	718	
152	Nydam	Nydam Raymond G	C61A	40	Fay Mountain Rd	60	6	4.1	718	
153	Meichelbeck	Meichelbeck Joseph R	C61A	42	Fay Mountain Rd	51	3	7.6	717	
154	Pierie	Pierie Thomas W Jr	C61A	9	George Hill Road	59	22A	14.7	17	
155	Meadowbrook Land Trust	Nicholson, William & David, Tr	C61A	7	Meadowbrook Rd	76	12	30.0	718	
156	Meadowbrook Land Trust	Nicholson William, Trustee	C61A	6	Meadowbrook Rd	76	14c	8.4	713	

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
157	Corey	Corey Garnet & Carlene & Surv	C61A	116	Upton Street	76	10	15.8	17	
158	Pease Trust	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	79	Old Upton Rd	85	3	5.0	718	
158	Pease Trust	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	79	Old Upton Rd	85	2	13.5	717	
158	Pease Trust	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	79	Old Upton Rd	85	2b	0.3	713	
158	Pease Trust	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	31	Browns Rd	85	2a	1.1	713	
158	Pease Trust	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	29	Browns Rd	85	2c	1.1	713	
159	Pease	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	79	Old Upton Road	85	2D	14.3	17	
160	Padula	Padula James W	C61A	9	Browns Rd	85	13	10.2	718	
161	Pease	Pease Benjamin F Jr & Marylois	C61A	34	Browns Rd	85	11	13.0	713	
162	Pease	Pease Benjamin F Jr	C61A	168	Upton St	85	14a	4.2	718	
163	Robinson	Robinson Roger	C61A	163	Upton St	86	9	12.0	718	
163	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	115	Old Upton Road	93	10	7.5	17	
163	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	183	Upton St	86	11	17.5	718	
164	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	100	Old Upton Rd	93	9	10.2	718	
165	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	133	Old Upton Rd	93	11	4.1	718	
166	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	140	Old Upton Rd	93	20	6.0	718	
167	Robinson	Robinson Roger W	C61A	155	Old Upton Road	93	14	20.0	17	
168	Pell	Pell Roger H	C61A	67	George Hill Rd	77	7	110.5	717	
169	Pell	Pell Roger	C61A	11	Soap Hill Rd	86	2	20.5	717	
170	Pell	Pell Roger H	C61A	8	Soap Hill Rd	87	14	22.2	717	
171	Forti	Forti Frank R	C61A	107	George Hill Road	86	4A	10.3	17	
172	Hillside Meadows	Hillside Meadows Realty Trust	C61A	111	George Hill Road	86	4	11.4	17	
172	Hillside Meadows	Hillside Meadows Realty Trust	C61A	117	George Hill Rd	95	4	16.8	718	
172	Hillside Meadows	Hillside Meadows Realty Trust	C61A	121	George Hill Rd	95	2	30.6	718	

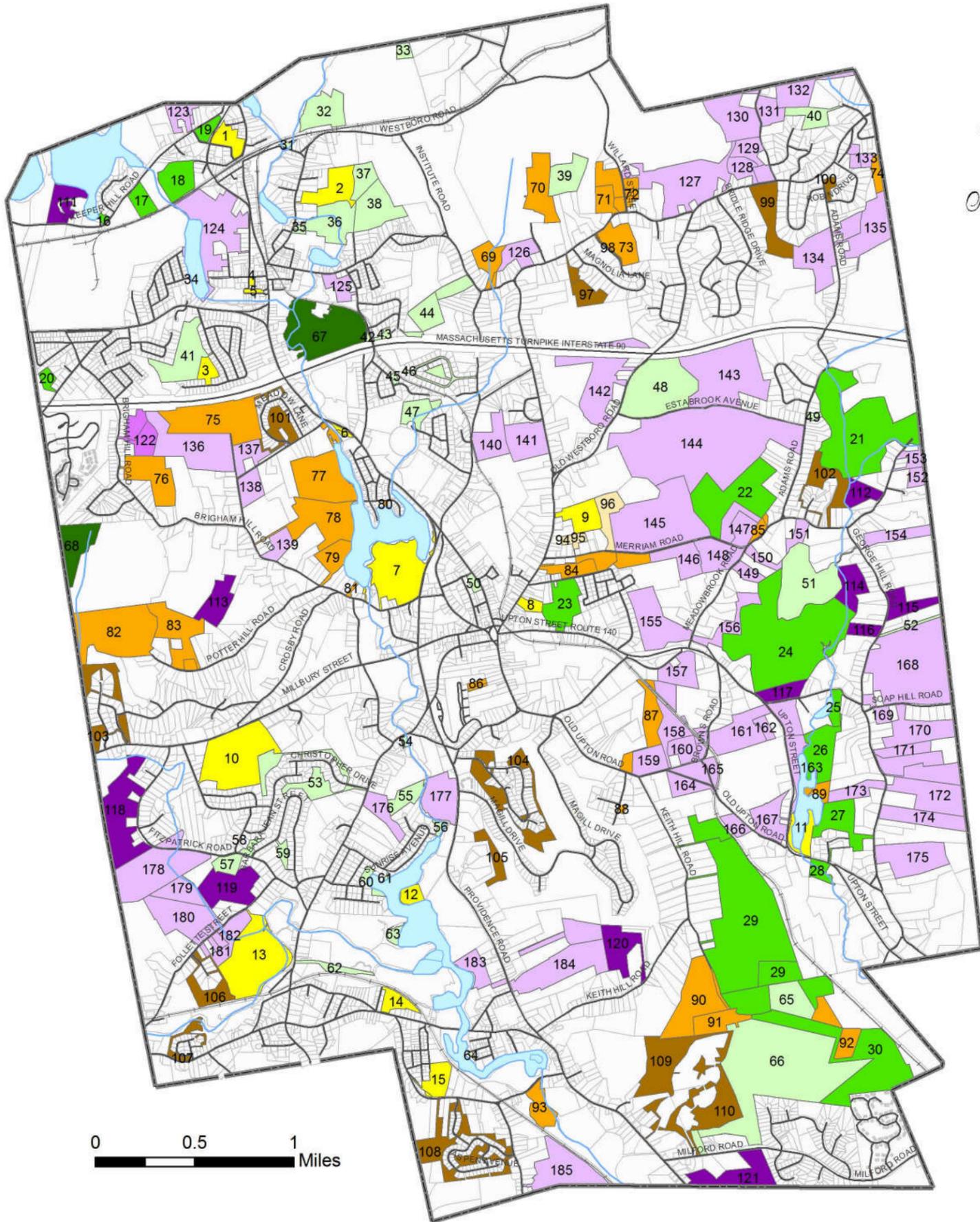
Index	Identifier	Owner Name	O S Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection & Funding
173	Preston Randall S	Preston	C61A	126	George Hill Road	94	6C	11.0	17	
174	Padula	Padula James W	C61A	133	George Hill Rd	94	15	24.4	713	
175	Padula	Padula James W	C61A	155	George Hill Rd	102	30	32.5	713	
176	Wasiuk	Wasiuk Walter	C61A	59	Pleasant St	90	11	12.4	718	
177	Magill Associates	Magill Associates, Inc.	C61A	138	Providence Rd	91	1	24.9	713	
178	Leclaire	Leclaire Jon R	C61A	75	Fitzpatrick Road	96	1	55.0	17	
179	Wray	Wray Mary S	C61A	75	Follette St	96	2	14.4	718	
180	Wray	Wray Mary S	C61A	42	Follette St	104	11	49.3	17	
181	Wray	Wray Mary S	C61A	42	Follette St	105	35	1.3	718	
181	Wray	Wray Mary S	C61A	49	Follette St	104	24	1.2	713	
181	Wray	Wray Adam S Jonathan W Mary	C61A	43	Follette St	105	2b	1.4	718	
181	Wray	Wray Adam S Jonathan W Mary	C61A	39	Follette St	105	2a	2.3	718	
182	Chambers	Chambers Lillian M	C61A	33	Follette Street	105	3	13.5	17	
183	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	C61A	250	Providence Rd	107	27	11.3	713	
183	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	C61A	250	Providence Rd	107	3	1.3	17	
184	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	C61A	253	Providence Rd	107	26	39.0	17	
184	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	C61A	233	Providence Rd	108	1	12.8	718	
184	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	Tomkiewicz Realty Trust	C61A	237	Providence Rd	107	20	5.1	713	
185	61 Maple Ave Realty Trust	Marando Arthur H, Trustee	C61A	61	Maple Ave	129	17	35.3	718	

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INVENTORY MAP

Next page.

DISCLAIMER:
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Map data from Town of Grafton
 GraftonParcels.mdb and
 GraftonCama Assessor.xls



Open Space Type

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Town-Owned Active Recreation Space |  Non-Profit Organization Open Space |
|  Town-Owned Undeveloped Space |  Private with Conservation Restriction |
|  Town-Owned Protected Open Space |  Chapter 61B Recreation |
|  Dept of Fish & Wildlife |  Chapter 61 Forest |
|  Developer-Owned Open Space |  Chapter 61A Agriculture |

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION INVENTORY
Grafton, Massachusetts

Feb 7, 2007

Section 6: COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of Process

In an attempt to determine citizen preferences in regards to open space and recreation, the Open Space and Recreation Committee utilized two methods: a town-wide citizen survey and a public forum.

The survey was conducted in May 2006 with each household in Grafton receiving a survey containing eight questions dealing with open space and recreation. With 871 returned surveys, the response rate was 12.2%. Each question provided space for respondents to list their comments. A summary of comments from the survey effort can be found in Appendix A.

The public forum was held the evening of May 3, 2006 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn. At this forum, citizens were briefed on the Town's open space and recreation resources, and the goals and objectives from the Town's previous Open Space & Recreation Plan were reviewed to see if they were still valid or warranted modification.

In addition to the survey and forum, the Committee met monthly throughout the duration of this project starting in February 2006. All Committee meetings were open to the public. The draft plan was presented at a 2nd public forum held on the evening January 30, 2007. The draft plan was available on the Town's website www.town.grafton.ma.us from January 30, 2007.

A closer look at the survey and public forum results is presented below.

Results of the 2006 Open Space and Recreation Survey:

Question #1: Citizens were asked to rate the importance of open space needs. All of the choices received a high percentage of "important" ratings:

- Open spaces for water protection:
85% rated as important
- Open spaces for conservation/passive recreation:
75% rated as important
- Historical buildings and places:
68% rated as important
- Farmland preservation:
67% rated as important
- Land/facilities for active recreation:
64% rated as important

None of the choices even came close to receiving a significant amount of "not important" responses.

Question #2: Citizens were asked which measures they would support in regard to open space and recreation. All of the choices received a high percentage of "yes" responses:

- Support a requirement that all new development include open space:
90% yes
- Vote for town-supported open space acquisition:
89% yes
- Support the concept of limited development:
89% yes
- Support increased density in some areas in exchange for open space in others:
65% yes
- Sell or contribute a conservation restriction:
63% yes

Question #3: Citizens were asked to rate their satisfaction with Grafton’s open space and recreation resources. For all of the choices in Question #3, the majority of responses were neutral in regards to satisfaction with existing recreation programs/facilities.

- The variety and/or amount of existing recreational programs:
241 – satisfied 488 – neutral 119 – dissatisfied
- The variety and/or amount of existing recreational facilities:
176 - satisfied 423 - neutral 249 - dissatisfied
- The maintenance or condition of existing active recreation facilities:
204 - satisfied 474 – neutral 166 - dissatisfied
- The maintenance or condition of existing passive recreation facilities:
191 – satisfied 487 – neutral 149 - dissatisfied

The only choice where the number of “dissatisfied” responses outnumbered the “satisfied” responses was the variety/amount of existing recreation facilities choice (249 dissatisfied versus 176 satisfied).

Question #4: Citizens were asked to check off their top five most desired recreation opportunities. The top five responses were:

- Bike trails (445 votes)
- Conservation areas (404 votes)
- Hiking/skiing trails (373 votes)
- Fields for active recreation (309 votes)
- Local neighborhood parks (283 votes)

Question #5: When asked to rate the Town’s active recreation facilities, Most of Grafton’s recreation parks received good marks, but some did better than others:

- Grafton Common: 85% excellent/good response rate
- Norcross/Miner Field: 73% excellent/good response rate

- Silver Lake Beach: 63% excellent/good response rate
- Super Park: 59% excellent/good response rate
- Neighborhood Parks: 50% excellent/good response rate

Question #6: Citizens were asked how the Town should prioritize its open space and recreation expenditures. Roughly three quarters of the respondents indicated a preference for taking care of existing facilities, rather than purchase new properties or build new facilities:

- Improve/maintain existing recreation facilities:
78% of respondents rated this as important/very important.
- Improve/maintain existing conservation lands for passive recreation uses:
74% of respondents rated this as important/very important.
- Acquire conservation lands for passive recreation:
65% of respondents rated this as important/very important.
- Acquire land for new active recreation facilities:
49% of respondents rated this as important/very important.

Question #7: Citizens were asked which open space and recreation initiatives they would be willing to support. Most people are willing to support Town Meeting open space initiatives, and a sizable minority (318 responders) is willing to volunteer time for developing/operating recreation facilities:

- Support zoning proposals that favor open space/recreation initiatives:
80% yes 19% no
- Support proposals for acquiring land for conservation/passive recreation:
77% yes 22% no
- Support proposals for building active recreation facilities:
67% yes 31% no
- Volunteer to assist with developing/operating recreation facilities:
40% yes 60% no

Question #8: The last survey question asked how long the respondent had been a Grafton resident. The respondents were almost evenly divided between newcomers (49% people here less than ten years) and old-timers (51% people here more than ten years). This is good as it means that the results were not skewed towards either category.

Results of the May 3rd, 2006 Public Forum:

There were roughly 40 people in attendance at the forum. After being briefed on the purpose of the forum and going through an inventory of Grafton's open space and recreation resources, the attendees were asked to provide feedback on the five primary goals of the 1999 Open Space and Recreation Plan. A summary of the public comments is presented on the following page.

Goal #1 - Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources

Goal #1 - Objectives

- 1) Protect water resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Secure additional protection for groundwater resources
- 3) Take measures to improve the quality of Grafton's surface waters
- 4) Support regional efforts to improve and maintain the quality of the Blackstone River in order to maximize its use
- 5) Protect significant wetland areas

Public Comments:

- Goal #1 is even more important now than it was six years ago.
- The Town should protect the aquifer that supplies water to the new municipal well at the High School site.
- The Town should join with neighboring communities to implement a watershed approach to protecting the Blackstone River.
- The dam at Fisherville Pond needs to be fixed, and open space should be preserved around the pond as a means to improving its water quality.
- The Town should endeavor to maintain the good water quality of Silver Lake.
- The Town should try to determine if it would have enough water to service the Town at full buildout.
- The Town should reevaluate the effectiveness of its Aquifer Protection Bylaw.
- Objective #5 should be modified to both protect and restore significant wetland areas.
- The Town should do more to emphasize the need for water conservation and educate the public on water conservation techniques.
- The Town should encourage the reuse of “gray” water for irrigation.

Goal #2 - Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources

Goal #2 - Objectives

- 1) Protect land resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Permanently protect those Town owned open space resources necessary for provision of recreation opportunities and/or preservation of natural/visual/cultural resources
- 3) Protect ecologically sensitive lands
- 4) Protect Grafton's farms through local actions
- 5) Provide education on the functions and requirements of land use regulations

Public Comments:

- Objective #2 should be modified to include historical resources.
- The Town needs to do a better job of identifying and marking those open space amenities available to its residents.
- The Town should review the open space lands created as part of the Flexible Development Bylaw and get them under municipal control.
- The Town should amend its Flexible Development Bylaw to make the open space lands created by this option available to all residents.

- The Flexible Development Bylaw should be amended to identify the resources that need to be protected as a first step in the process, rather than laying out the lots and interior roadways first.
- The Town should identify the land it wants to protect by establishing a set of criteria for new open space acquisitions, with assigned values for habitat, scenic resources, accessibility, potential for trails and other passive recreation use, and linkage to adjacent open spaces.
- The Town should build off of previous conservation efforts.
- The Town should educate citizens on the value of land conservation.
- The Town should look to assemble adjacent park and conservation areas.
- The Town needs to understand the legal restrictions on conservation lands, ensure that such restrictions are enforced, and that such restrictions are properly filed in the first place.
- The Town should have a standing Open Space & Recreation Committee.
- The Town should consolidate the various committees that deal with recreation, conservation, trails, etc., into one standing committee and annually fund this committee's work program.
- The Town needs to clearly differentiate between Town-owned land and conservation land.

Goal #3 - Preserve Grafton's Town Character

Goal #3 - Objectives

- 1) Encourage the continuation of Grafton's historic patterns of development where they are discernible
- 2) Address the preservation of Town character through comprehensive planning
- 3) Encourage the use of both Grafton's and the BRVNHC's design guidelines
- 4) Protect and preserve historic, cultural, and scenic landscape resources
- 5) Protect "special places" in town

Public Comments: No public comments were offered on this goal.

Goal #4 - Provide Grafton with Varied and Geographically Well-Balanced Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

Goal #4 - Objectives

- 1) Develop a system of Town-wide trails to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, jogging, skiing, biking, and horseback riding
- 2) Improve and expand swimming facilities and water-based recreation opportunities
- 3) Plan for the development of more winter activity areas
- 4) Pursue the development of recreation facilities in inadequately serviced neighborhoods, or in areas where development will require additional facilities
- 5) Maintain fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities

- 6) Support the BRVNHC and DEP's goals for the Blackstone River and Canal by facilitating the development of parklands and recreational opportunities in their vicinity
- 7) Encourage programs for all age groups and user groups within the population

Public Comments:

- The Town should find out the details regarding winter access for the golf course.
- The Town should educate citizens about Grafton's special places (brochure, website, etc.).
- Grafton needs a youth center.
- Grafton needs a dog park.
- The Town should work with the private sector to support the maintenance of recreation fields.
- The Town needs to have its recreation interests and conservation interests work together, especially for Dauphinais Park.
- The Town should improve boating access at Silver Lake.
- The Town should ensure that passive and active recreation areas are available within walking distance to all neighborhoods.
- Goal #4 should be revised to include opportunities for interaction with nature.
- The Town should promote year-round use of its recreation and conservation lands.
- The Town needs to have a full-time recreation director.

Goal #5 - Enhance Utilization of Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources

Goal #5 - Objectives

- 1) Prepare a recreational maintenance program that will improve the conditions of various fields
- 2) Expand use of facilities
- 3) Develop a funding program to finance better management of conservation and recreation lands

Public Comments:

- Objective #1 should be modified to include passive recreation areas, or simply call for a maintenance program for all recreation facilities and properties, both active and passive.
- The Town should expand the access and use of all recreation facilities and properties, both active and passive.
- The Town should encourage the creation of recreation-related businesses and partnerships.

The last agenda item for the public forum was to take suggestions from the attendees on which properties the Town should endeavor to protect and what recreation programs/facilities they would like to see in Grafton. Here are the public's suggestions (presented in no particular order):

Land Protection Suggestions

- Poler property
- Knowlton Farm
- Houlden Farm
- Land south of Hassanamesit Woods
- The Robinson & Pease properties west of Route 140 (opposite Silver Lake)
- The Robinson property on the east side of Route 140, bordering Silver Lake
- The Hughes-Cromwick property
- North of Milford Road
- The two Christmas tree farms
- Willard Clock Museum
- The land along the Grafton Trail Loop idea
- Grafton & Upton Railroad right-of-way

Recreation Facilities & Programs Suggestions

- Create the South Grafton Greenway as called for in the South Grafton Master Plan
- More open fields that aren't by "reservation only"
- A dog park near the Blackstone River
- Restore the water quality at Fisherville Pond
- The Riverview recreation plan should include both active and passive recreation opportunities and a nature study area
- Protect the wildlife at Dauphinais Park from Follette Street to the Blackstone River
- Identify and mark the Nipmuc Trail
- Rebuild and improve the Super Park
- Install a canoe launch at Silver Lake
- Improve canoe access to the Blackstone River and create a greenway along the river
- Reuse the Town's abandoned landfills for passive and active recreation
- The Town should marshal its resources to create an environmental education center
- The Town should adopt a Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management bylaw and modify its subdivision regulations accordingly

Results of the January 30th, 2007 Public Forum

There were roughly 60 people in attendance at the forum. The attendees were briefed on the draft Plan, specifically the Goals and Objectives and the Action Plan. A presentation was also given on the Open Space Priorities. Throughout the presentations there were comments from attendees, and these are listed below.

- Add New England Village in North Grafton to the action item relating to pursuing historic designation for the three South Grafton Villages
- Add improvements to Whitney Park and the Stone Arch Bridge to the Action Plan
- The need for sidewalks leading from the neighborhoods to recreation facilities
- The need for a trail from the Town Common to Silver Lake

- Restore and maintain the waterway signs at road crossings
- Protect the Tufts properties
- Protect the Grafton-Upton Railroad right of way
- Protect the watershed around Parcel #32 on the open space inventory map.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town's Open Space Committee used the results of the survey and public forum to formulate the following statement of open space and recreation goals:

- Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources
- Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources
- Preserve Grafton's Town Character
- Provide Grafton with Varied and Geographically Well-Balanced Recreational Facilities and Opportunities
- Enhance Utilization of Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources

While the new open space and recreation goals are very similar to the goals of the 1999 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the issues of land and water conservation, the preservation of rural character and the need for recreation facilities are perennial concerns for Grafton residents. The Committee will focus on developing a set of action items aimed at addressing the above goals (see the Action Plan presented in Section 9 of this document).

Section 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

The preservation of a community's open space and recreation areas serves many purposes. First, the conservation of valuable natural systems provides habitat to a vast array of wildlife and endangered species. Secondly, the hydrological networks associated with lakes, streams and underground aquifers provide storage capacity for floodwaters, natural purification for drinking water and a source of irrigation for farming. Preservation of aquifers provides protection of drinking water supply. As vital as these and other natural factors associated with open space preservation may be, it is equally important to recognize the many cultural factors associated with the preservation of important natural resources. A network of open spaces often serves as an identifying element, which provides a community's recognized rural character and historic integrity. The same open space networks provide valuable opportunities for recreation with town commons, public squares, parks, play fields, with walking paths serving as a linkages between larger tracts of permanently protected open space.

The following analysis is divided into both a summary of Grafton's Resource Protection Needs, Community Needs and Management Needs. Specific opportunities or actions associated with this needs analysis can be found in the sections that follow, specifically Section 8 (Goals and Objectives), and Section 9 (Five Year Action Plan).

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Resource protection is based upon the need to preserve existing natural and cultural resources that are finite in quantity and otherwise irreplaceable. Wetlands, rivers, streams, aquifers, historical resources and scenic views all encourage participation in recreation and outdoor activity. However, once these resources are destroyed they cannot be replaced. Through public hearings, committee meetings and workshops, the following resource protection needs have been identified.

This analysis of natural resources targets those areas most in need of immediate protection, maintenance or development in order to best serve the present and future inhabitants of the Town of Grafton:

1. Encourage the protection of undeveloped open space through land acquisitions either through the State, Town, the Grafton Land Trust, other non-profit land trusts, through partnerships among such entities, and also by encouraging private landowners to place conservation restrictions on their property for permanent protection.
2. Protect the water resources of the Town, including new well locations and their underlying aquifers.
3. Protect the Town's surface waterbodies and improve their water quality.
4. Protect the Town's rivers, streams, wetlands and vernal pools and improve their water quality.
5. Encourage the continued use of farmland for agricultural purposes.
6. Prevent the ecological isolation of conservation lands.
7. Increase public awareness of the importance and value of wetlands.
8. Preserve parcels containing unique natural features and/or other areas of special interest.

9. Increase the level of protection afforded to critical parcels of open space.
10. Protect forested open land and habitat corridors.
11. Encourage the creation of trail systems that link existing open space parcels together for the recreational enjoyment of Grafton residents and visitors.

In coordination with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Grafton would like to purchase and protect relevant parcels that would assist in watershed and wildlife protection, and the creation of greenway links for hiking and cross country skiing.

B. Summary of Community Needs

In 2004 the Grafton Recreational Fields Committee engaged the services of Pare Engineering Corporation out of Lincoln, Rhode Island to prepare a Recreation Fields Master Plan for the Town. For this effort, Pare Engineering enlisted the partnership team of Gates, Leighton & Associates Inc., the Heritage Design Group Inc., and Shepherd Engineering Inc. Finalized in May of 2005, the Recreation Fields Master Plan evaluated existing conditions at four sites in Grafton that have the potential to accommodate new recreation facilities, reviewed the Town's recreation programs that would utilize these new facilities, and developed schematic designs for the construction of the new recreation facilities at these four sites. The four evaluated sites include:

- Airport Park – Bedford Drive
- Riverview – Providence Street
- Follette Street (Dauphinais Park) – Follette Street
- Hennessey II – Old Westboro Road

It should be noted that the 2005 Recreation Fields Master Plan builds from a previous report entitled, Town of Grafton Master Planning and Design of Recreational Facilities Report. Prepared by Weston & Sampson Engineering Inc. in 2003, this study utilized the Level-of-Service (or LOS) guidelines for planning new active recreation facilities, as recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. These two entities have jointly prepared a set of guidelines for the local provision of open space and recreation facilities that are based on an LOS analysis. The 2003 study utilized the LOS analysis method to determine the Town's recreation facility needs.

For the four sites listed above, the 2005 Recreation Fields Master Plan outlined the following recreation opportunities:

Airport Park: Consisting of three parcels under Town control totaling 34.75 acres, Airport Park can be accessed via Airport Road and Bedford Drive from Worcester Street. Existing facilities at this site include two baseball fields that double as soccer fields in the off-season, a children's play area, a basketball court and off-street parking. The Recreation Fields Master Plan identified the renovation and expansion of this park as its highest priority. The Plan recommends that the two existing ball fields be removed and subsurface drainage improvements be made prior to construction of regulation Little League and Senior League baseball fields. As is the case today, these fields could be utilized for soccer during baseball's off-season. The report also

recommends relocating the playground to a more convenient location closer to the parking lot. Expanding the parking lot to 66 spaces with a separate entrance and egress is also recommended. The cost of the above renovations is estimated at \$508,000.

Riverview: This 6.2-acre property is under Town control and is located on the shoreline of Fisherville Pond, a tributary of the Blackstone River. Access is provided by a 20-foot wide right-of-way through the adjacent Riverview Apartment complex. Gravel excavation at this site has left the Fisherville Pond peninsula as an unattractive haven for undesirable activities. The only “facility” located at this site is a gravel bank used as a boat ramp. This site is not maintained for public access and does not include any site improvements. The Recreation Fields Master Plan identified improving this facility as its second highest priority. The Recreational Fields Committee is considering two options to develop the site as a 360-foot by 220-foot recreation field, picnic area, playground, boat launch and gravel parking area for 56 cars. The cost of the above renovations is estimated at \$476,000.

Follette Street (Dauphinais Park): This 57-acre property is under Town control and is located at 21 Follette Street. A public trail located within an open space parcel in the adjacent Southfield Court subdivision provides pedestrian access to the site. The property contains over half a mile of frontage on the Blackstone River and abuts the future Blackstone Valley bike path along the Providence-Worcester Railroad. Facilities at this site include one of the Town’s water wells, a pump station and an unmarked trail system. The Recreation Fields Master Plan proposed the construction of two 200-foot by 140-foot multi-purpose recreation fields, a larger 350-foot by 220-foot multi-purpose recreation field, three Little League or Softball fields with a 200-foot by 140-foot multi-purpose field located in the outfields for Autumn use. The existing gravel parking area would be supplemented with grass overflow parking for an additional 117 vehicles. Access to an existing trail system would also be improved/expanded. The cost of the above renovations is estimated at \$2.5 million.

Hennessey II: This 47-acre property is under Town control and is located at the corner of Old Westboro Road and Estabrook Avenue. The property is located in a rural section of Town and is not within walking distance of any neighborhoods. This property is unimproved and contains no amenities. The Recreation Fields Master Plan considers improving this site to be a long-term project for the community. Proposed improvements include the construction of a 350-foot by 220-foot multi-purpose recreation field, three 200-foot by 140-foot multi-purpose recreation fields, a network of hiking trails, a playground, an upland area designated for passive recreation and a gravel drive with a parking area for 204 cars (including 63 overflow spaces on the grass). Site access would be via a gravel drive from Old Westboro Road, south of the Massachusetts Turnpike Bridge. The cost of the above renovations is estimated at \$1.22 million.

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The villages of South Grafton represent a significant redevelopment opportunity for the Town. In 2005, Grafton used funding provided by the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor to hire a team of consultants that included Dodson Associates Ltd., Mullin Associates Inc., and the Horsley Witten Group to investigate redevelopment options for the villages. In July 2006, the consultants released the South Grafton Villages Master Plan, which

put forth several planning ideas aimed at revitalizing the village areas. One idea called for the adoption of a Mill Village Overlay District for Fisherville and Farnumsville that would allow for a mixture of dense residential development along with commercial and retail uses within former mill structures and adjacent properties. Another idea called for creating a Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning District for the villages. The district would be in the form of an overlay zone and allow for high-density residential development. Per Chapter 40R, the district must provide a minimum allowable density of eight (8) units per acre for single-family homes, twelve (12) units per two and three-family homes, and twenty (20) for multi-family dwellings. Twenty percent (20%) of the units would need to be affordable to households earning 80% or less of the median area income and be deed restricted for at least 30 years. The Town is now considering which revitalization concept would best serve the South Grafton villages.

Identification of funding and staffing resources will be key elements of the Town's strategy for open space acquisition and upgrading recreation facilities. In regard to potential changes of use, several of the properties identified for protection on the Action Plan Map are in the State's Chapter program and their permanent protection would technically constitute a change of use. Changes to Chapter 61 were recently passed through the legislature and became effective March 2007. One such change exempts municipalities, state agencies and nonprofits from conveyance or rollback taxes for properties that have been acquired for natural resource purposes.

The Town needs to improve access to its passive and active recreation areas by providing a comprehensive network of sidewalks alongside major and significant roads.

One of the most significant management needs for the Town's active recreation areas is ensuring that all facilities are handicapped accessible. All of Grafton's recreation facilities have been evaluated for handicapped accessibility and the results of this evaluation can be found in Appendix B.

The Town will need to prioritize its open space and recreation needs on an on-going basis. Communities acquiring land for open space, recreation and conservation purposes frequently attempt to devise a method to compare or prioritize land for acquisition. These systems often list locations of threatened or endangered plant or animal species as among the highest priority land to buy or protect. Also, usually highly ranked is water supply protection land. Agricultural land, particularly productive land, ranks high as does keeping open land undeveloped in more densely settled areas without open space at present. Land that connects existing open space areas and/or creates buffers between sensitive natural resources may rank high as well. It is proposed that land for acquisition should either protect present or future water supplies, sensitive natural resource areas, provide public access to natural resources, connect existing open space land, or provide recreational facilities, particularly to those neighborhoods that do not have such facilities within walking distance. Land that achieves more than one of these objectives would be highly ranked.

Section 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section synthesizes and expands the community goals outlined in Section 6 and the analysis of needs data from Section 7 to create a comprehensive set of goals and objectives for Grafton's open space and recreation resources. Although Goals 1 and 2 are separately defined below, they are inherently linked by the connection between land use and water quality.

GOAL 1: Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources

Objectives

- 1) Protect water resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Secure additional protection for groundwater resources
- 3) Take measures to improve the quality of Grafton's surface waters
- 4) Support regional efforts to improve and maintain the quality of the Blackstone River and its watershed in order to maximize its use
- 5) Protect and restore significant wetland areas

GOAL 2: Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources

Objectives

- 1) Protect land resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Permanently protect those Town owned open space resources necessary for provision of recreation opportunities and/or preservation of natural/visual/cultural/historic resources
- 3) Protect ecologically sensitive lands
- 4) Protect Grafton's farms through local actions
- 5) Provide education on the functions and requirements of land use regulation

GOAL 3: Preserve Grafton's Town Character

Objectives

- 1) Encourage the continuation of Grafton's historic patterns of development where they are discernible
- 2) Address the preservation of Town character through comprehensive planning
- 3) Encourage the use of both Grafton's and the BRVNHC's design guidelines
- 4) Encourage a comprehensive approach to protecting and preserving Grafton's historic, cultural, and scenic landscape resources
- 5) Protect "special places" in town, i.e., the Town Common, Silver Lake, Hassanamesit Woods, and others

GOAL 4: Provide Grafton with Varied and Geographically Well-Balanced Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

Objectives

- 1) Develop a system of Town-wide trails to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, jogging, skiing, biking, and horseback riding
- 2) Improve and expand swimming facilities and water-based recreation opportunities
- 3) Plan for the development of more winter activity areas
- 4) Pursue the development of active and passive recreation facilities and opportunities within walking distance for all residents
- 5) Maintain fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities
- 6) Support the BRVNHC and DEM's goals for the Blackstone River and Canal by facilitating the development of park lands and recreational opportunities in their vicinity
- 7) Encourage programs for all age groups and user groups within the population

GOAL 5: Enhance Utilization of Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources

Objectives

- 1) Improve the maintenance of Grafton's active and passive recreation areas and facilities
- 2) Develop a funding program to finance better management of conservation and recreation lands
- 3) Provide citizens and visitors with information regarding Grafton's recreation/cultural/historic resources
- 4) Improve public access for Grafton's active and passive recreation areas and facilities

Section 9: ACTION PLAN								
GOAL ADDRESSED	ACTIVITY – ACQUISITIONS *	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goals #1 & #2	Secure a green belt along water bodies in Grafton	BRWA, BRVNHCC, Board of Selectmen (BOS), Conservation Comm., GLT	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #2	Establish Open Space Corridors	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, GLT	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goals #1 & #2	Secure a conservation easement for the Great Meadows Property	Conservation Commission		X				
Goal #4	Develop a parcel priority list to identify gaps that might be linked to extend existing trails	Trails Committee		X				
Goal #4	Layout preferred location of the Grafton Trail Loop and begin securing trail easements with affected property owners	Trails Committee		>	>	>	>	X
Goal #4	Cooperate with the development of the Worcester to Providence bikeway	Trails Committee, BOS	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #2	Secure the land necessary to provide access to Hassanamesit Woods, including the Grafton Railroad right-of-way and land south of the Woods	Conservation Commission, BOS, Hass. Management Committee	>	>	X			
Goals #1 & #2	Secure the land necessary to create a greenbelt along the Blackstone River and Canal, including the Hughes-Cromwick property	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #4	Secure the Grafton-Upton Railroad right of way from Snow Road intersection in the North to the Upton border in the South for a multi-use trail. The section South of the Town Common will be a key component of a walking path from the Common to Silver Lake.	Trails Committee, BOS	>	>	X			
Goal #1	Pursue grants and land purchases for constructed wetland project off Providence Road	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goals #1 & #2	Secure land along Silver Lake shoreline, including the Robinson property and the Robinson & Pease property	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X

Goal #2	Target Grafton's remaining agricultural sites for preservation (Poler property, Knowlton Farm, Houlden Farm, Creeper Hill Orchard, and the two Xmas tree farms)	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #2	Prioritize town-owned properties for the purpose of placing conservation restrictions (CRs) on those properties where permanent protection is appropriate	Conservation Commission	X					
Goal #2	Evaluate existing tax title properties and where appropriate, seek to place under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission, Assessors Office	X					
	* = Lands targeted for acquisition shall either be protected in perpetuity, partially protected through the limited development concept, used for new recreation fields, or a combination thereof.							
	ACTIVITY - REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS		07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goal #2	Amend subdivision regulations so that they require the retention of open space for wildlife corridors on all parcels located between or adjacent to open space	Planning Board	X					
Goal #3	Pursue historic designation for Farnumsville, Fishersville and Saundersville Villages and consider the designation for New England Village	Grafton Historical Commission, Grafton Common Historic District			X			
Goal #2	Evaluate Transfer of Development Rights for possible adoption	Planning Board, Town Meeting		X				
Goal #5	Amend the Flexible Development section of the Zoning Bylaw to require developers to clearly mark open spaces in subdivisions through the installation of signage	Planning Board	X					
Goal #1	Prepare and adopt a stormwater management bylaw	Planning Board, Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission		X				
Goal #1	Integrate Low Impact Development (LID) into the stormwater management provisions of the Subdivision Regulations	Planning Board		X				
Goal #1	Revise and update the regulations of the Grafton Wetland Protection By-law	Conservation Commission, Bylaw Review Committee			X			

ACTIVITY - INFORMATION PROGRAMS			07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goal #1	Concentrate educational efforts to address nonconforming uses within well recharge areas	Water Districts	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goals #3 & #5	Prepare a brochure and website listing of the town's recreation facilities, public open spaces, trail systems, and historic resources to publicize Grafton's special places to new residents and visitors	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Grafton Historical District, Trails Committee, GLT		X				
Goal #4	Develop an outreach program when planning the town-wide trails to secure cooperation of affected landowners	Trails Committee		X				
Goal #5	Promote annual Big Night vernal pool session by Mass Audubon	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #5	Organize Biodiversity Days nature walks	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goals #4 & #5	Work with relevant town and regional organizations to develop a map of existing trails and proposed routes and destinations	Trails Committee	X					
Goal #1	Restore and maintain the waterway signs at road crossings	Conservation Commission, D.P.W	X					
Goal #1	Conduct outreach efforts to homeowners and business owners regarding nonpoint source pollution reduction practices	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #1	Provide information to landowners regarding conservation restrictions to permanently protect open space parcels	Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
ACTIVITY - INFRASTRUCTURE			07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goal #1	Encourage monitoring and repair of individual septic systems by property owners through education actions	Board of Health	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #1	Encourage Package Treatment Plants for non-sewered Developed Areas	Planning Board, BOH, Sewer Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
ACTIVITY - RECREATION PROGRAMS			07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goals #4 & #5	Increase recreation opportunities for a variety of user groups and special populations including teenagers and handicapped persons	Recreation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X

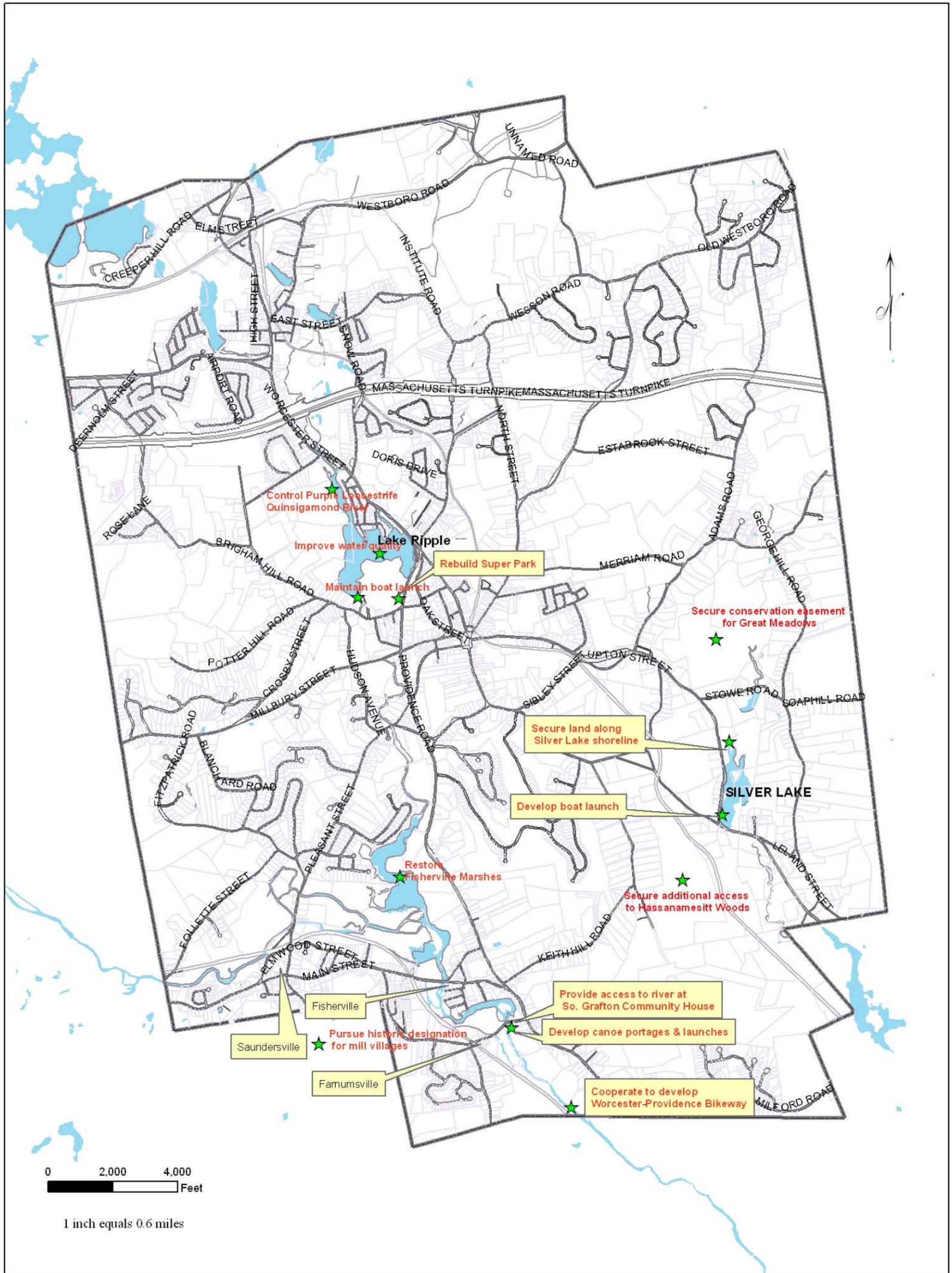
Goal #4	Improve stocking at Cronin and Miscoe Brooks in conjunction with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Conservation Commission	X						
	ACTIVITY - MANAGEMENT		07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING	
Goal #4	Reactivate and fund Trails Committee	Board of Selectmen	X						
Goals #1 & #2	Implement recommendations of the BRVNHCC's Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment	Planning Board, Conservation Commission					X		
Goal #1	Restore the Fisherville Marshes as part of the Fisherville redevelopment project	Planning Board, Conservation Commission					X		
Goal #4	Develop a 5 year Capital Improvements plan for all recreation facilities under the Recreation Commission's jurisdiction	Recreation Commission	>	>	>	>	>		X
Goal #1	Implement and maintain a program to improve the water quality of Lake Ripple	Lake Ripple Dredging Oversight Comm., BOS, Conservation Agent		>	>	>	>		X
Goal #5	Identify through signage the location/access points for all protected lands that are open to the public	Conservation Commission, GLT	>	>	>	>	>		X
Goal #2	Implement management plan for Hennessey Land	Conservation Commission, Hennessey Land Management Committee	>	>	>	>	>		X
Goals #1, #2 & #3	Maintain partnerships with key open space protection allies such as DCR, Trust for Public Lands and the BRVNHCC	GLT, BOS, Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>		X
Goal #1	Initiate project to control Purple Loosetrife in Quinsigamond River	Conservation Commission	X						
Goal #1	Update 5-year maintenance plan for Silver Lake	Conservation Commission	X						
Goal #1	Maintain benthic barrier for weed control at Silver Lake beach	Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission	>	>	>	>	>		X
Goals #1-5	Revise and/or update Open Space and Recreation Plan	BOS appoints ad hoc open space & recreation committee					X		

	ACTIVITY - SITE DEVELOPMENT		07	08	09	10	11	ONGOING
Goal #4	Continue work on the development of Dauphinais Park on Follette Street, taking into account the presence of rare and endangered species	Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Committee, Grafton Water District, Board of Selectmen	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goals #4 & #5	Develop canoe launches and portages along the Blackstone River (especially Depot Street) as proposed in the town study work with the BRVNHCC and the BRWA	BRVNHCC, Planning Board, Conservation Commission				X		
Goals #4 & #5	Develop a plan to expand the use of existing facilities that addresses improvement of access and installation of night lighting	Recreation Commission	>	>	>	>	X	
Goal #4	Encourage involvement of youth groups, clubs and sports organizations in development & maintenance of parks	Recreation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #4	Develop plans for recreational improvements at Fisher Park	Recreation Commission			X			
Goal #4	Develop a boat launch at Hovey Pond suitable for canoes and rooftop boats	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission					X	
Goals #4 & #5	Expand the use of Lake Ripple by completing the dredging project	Board of Selectmen, Lake Ripple Dredging Oversight Committee		X				
Goals #4 & #5	Upgrade access road leading to Lake Ripple	Public Works Department	X					
Goal #4	Maintain Lake Ripple boat launch site and stabilize the banks at the dam	Conservation Commission				X		
Goals #4 & #5	Construct stairway from edge of high school parking lot to Lake Ripple for improved fishing access	BOS, Conservation Commission, School Department		X				
Goal #4	Develop a boat launch at Silver Lake	Conservation Commission				X		

Goals #3, #4 & #5	Develop a greenway network of parks (the South Grafton Greenway) and trails by linking open space parcels, extending existing trail networks and installing interpretive signage	Trail Committee, GLT, Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal #4	Develop and improve trails on GLT and Town parcels	GLT, Trails Committee, Highway Department	>	X				
Goal #4	Plan and develop a linear riverine park encompassing as much of the Blackstone Riverfront as possible	BOS, Con. Com., Planning Board, GLT			X			
Goal #4	Rebuild and improve the Super Park	BOS, Recreation Commission	X					
Goal #3	Identify and mark the Nipmuc Trail	Trails Committee		X				
Goal #4	Provide access to Blackstone River at South Grafton Community House	DPW, South Grafton Community House Oversight Committee/Caretakers			X			
Goals #3 & #4	Implement consultant recommendations for Hassanamesit Woods regarding land management, parking, trail construction, preservation, education programs, etc.	Hassanamesit Woods Management Comm.	>	>	>	>	>	X
Goal#4	Pursue improvements to Whitney Park	Grafton Historical Commission	>	>	>	X		
Goal #4	Pursue the development of the pocket park and improvements at the Stone Arch Bridge	Grafton Historical Commission	>	>	>	X		

ACTION PLAN MAP

Next page.



Town of Grafton

ACTION PLAN MAP



Source Data:
Various data layers supplied by MassGIS and the Town of Grafton.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

January 19, 2007

Open Space Priorities

The Open Space Priorities Map identifies five open space corridors as Priority Areas. These are the largest contiguous areas of mostly-open space that still exist in Grafton. They are situated between the major roads and developed areas in the town and are valuable for passive recreational use, water quality protection, visual esthetics, and as habitat for wildlife. The intent of designating these corridors is to identify the areas in which the Town should especially consider any opportunities to purchase or obtain conservation restrictions on open space properties that come available.

The Open Space Priorities Map also identifies the approximate course of the proposed Grafton Loop Trail, described in the Blackstone Valley Subregion Inter-Community Trail Connection Feasibility Study of 2003. The trail, as depicted, is twenty-two miles long. The route follows existing trails in some places (particularly in the Western and Eastern Corridors) but would require considerable work to complete.

Finally, the Open Space Priorities Map identifies the Grafton and Upton Railroad corridor. A Northern Segment that runs from the DF&W's Wildlife Sanctuary on the Quinsigamond River on Snow Road just north of the Massachusetts Turnpike to the Grafton Common. The Southern Segment runs from the Grafton Common to a point where trails connect to Silver Lake, and further, past the Hassanamesit Woods to the Upton border. These railroad corridors could be protected and made into rail trails.

The Northern Corridor Priority Area

The Northern Corridor contains the headwaters of the Big Bummet and Bummet Brooks and the Tufts University open fields. The privately-owned parcels that surround the Town conservation parcel (32 on the Inventory map) are particularly important because they contain the water source for the Big Bummet and Bummet Brooks, which pass by the two Grafton Water District wells off East Street before feeding the Quinsigamond River and Lake Ripple. They are critical for water quality and wildlife habitat protection.

The Western Corridor Priority Area

The Western Corridor contains four large Grafton Land Trust parcels and a large Department of Fisheries and Wildlife parcel extending in from Millbury, separated by mostly forested land. The corridor includes the proposed Brigham Hill Estates flexible development which includes a large open space portion that, in the proposal, would be transferred to the Grafton Land Trust. Conservation restrictions should be sought for other parcels in the Western Corridor.

The Eastern Corridor Priority Area

The Eastern Corridor contains large tracts of wooded open space along the Miscoe Brook/Warren Brook/ West River watershed. It is anchored by the Hennessey I parcels in the north, the Great Meadows/ Blithewood parcels and Silver Lake in the center, and the Hassanamesit Woods, Grafton Land Trust, and the Town municipal and conservation parcels in the south. The open space in this corridor extends over one mile into the Town of Upton, including the adjacent Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area.

In the center, four contiguous, high priority parcels tie Silver Lake (26 and 27 on the Inventory map), the Great Meadows (24), and the Hassanamesit Woods (29) together. They are spanned by a network of multi-purpose trails that connect to the north, south, and west. These parcels are within both one of the NHESP's designated Core Habitat areas for aquatic, plant, and wildlife species and the 8,700 acre Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Refer back to Section 4c and 4e). The important, unprotected center parcels include the land along the western shore of Silver Lake, the forested open space land opposite Upton Road from Silver Lake, and the east side of Tower Hill. Purchase options or conservation restrictions should be actively pursued on these important parcels.

The southern section includes an expanse of almost 750 acres of wooded open space spanned by Grafton's largest and most extensive network of multi-use trails. 363 acres of this section is protected by conservation restriction (Hassanamesit Woods), ownership by the Grafton Land Trust, or control by the Conservation Commission. 156 acres, parcel 66 on the Inventory map, is owned by the Town but designated "for municipal use". Most of this parcel is part of the ACEC. 139 acres, parcels 109 and 110 on the Inventory map, are being developed as Brookmeadow Village a flexible subdivision with about 90 house lots but with considerable open space and new trails. On the southwestern side, three parcels totaling 87 acres, are owned by private parties. The Town should actively consider putting a conservation restriction on its parcel 66. The open space sections of Brookmeadow Village should be transferred to the Town and the Grafton Land Trust as per the conditions of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, and a conservation restriction placed on the Town portions. The town should seek to protect the open space nature of the southwestern parcels by purchase, or by conservation restriction, if either opportunity comes available, and to provide for public access.

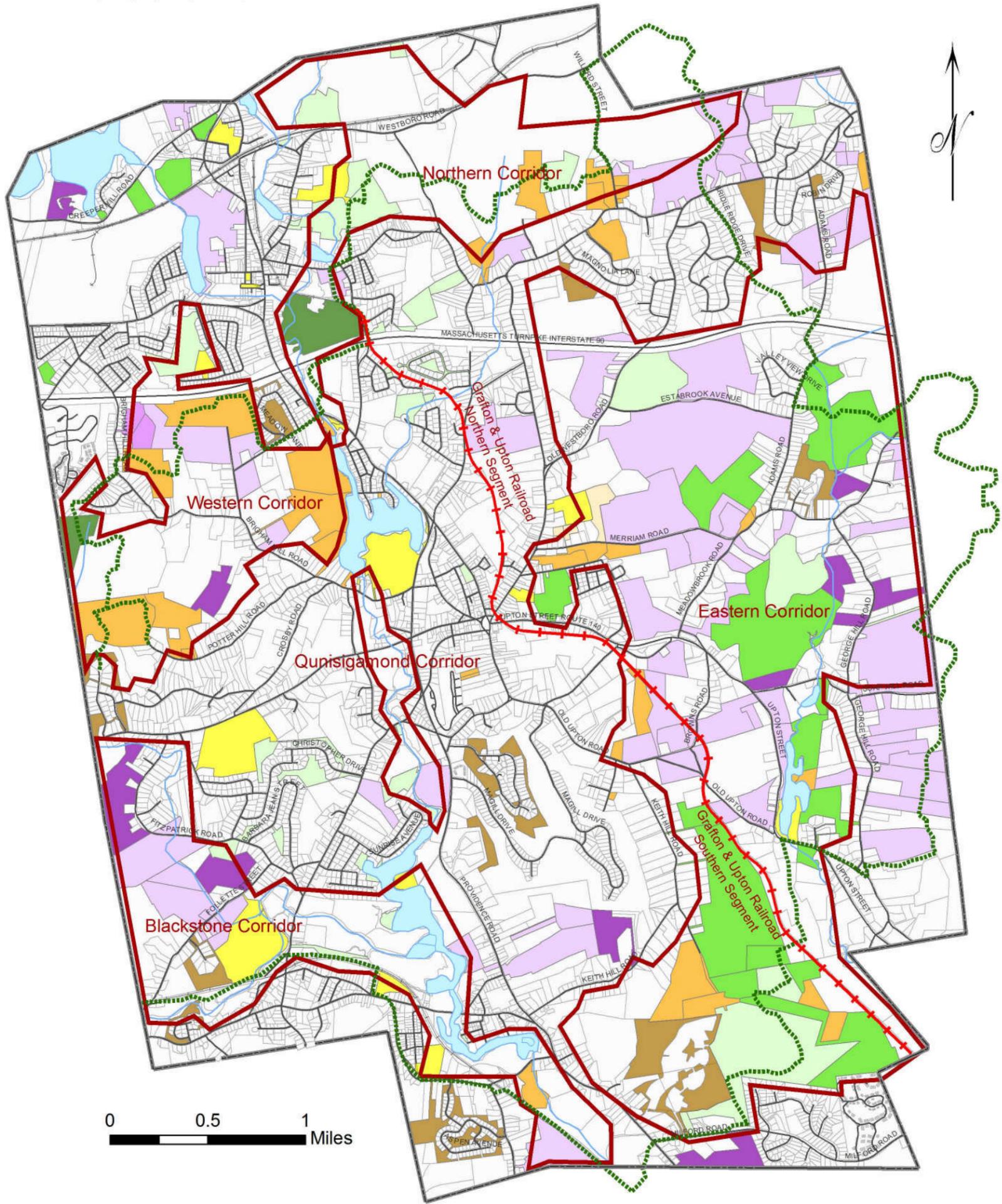
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PRIORITIES MAP

Next page.

DISCLAIMER:

The Town of Grafton makes no warranty, representation, or guarantee of any kind regarding this map, its sources, or other information provided herein including the implied validity of any uses of this map. The Town of Grafton assumes no liability either for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of the cause of such or for any decision made, action taken, or action not taken by the user in reliance upon any maps or information provided herein.

Map data from Town of Grafton
GraftonParcels.mdb and
GraftonCama Assessor.xls



Open Space Type

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Town-Owned Active Recreation Space |  Private with Conservation Restriction |
|  Town-Owned Undeveloped Space |  Chapter 61B Recreation |
|  Town-Owned Protected Open Space |  Chapter 61 Forest |
|  Dept of Fish & Wildlife |  Chapter 61A Agriculture |
|  Developer-Owned Open Space |  Open Space Priority Areas |
|  Non-Profit Organization Open Space |  Proposed Loop Trail (Approximate) |

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PRIORITIES

Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007-2012
Town of Grafton, Massachusetts

Aug 1, 2007

Section 10: REFERENCES

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- Pare Engineering Corporation: Town of Grafton Recreational Fields Master Plan 2005.
- Duerksen, Christopher J. et al. Habitat Protection Planning: Where the Wild Things Are. APA Planning Advisory Service Report #470/471, Chicago, IL, 1997.
- Anne Forbes: A Survey of Historic and Cultural Resources of the Town of Grafton.
- Charles J. Fausold and Robert J. Lillieholm, The Economic Value of Open Space: A Review and Synthesis, a Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Research Paper [Cambridge, MA], 1996.
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- EOEa Division of Conservation Services: The Open Space Planner's Workbook 2001.
- EOEa Division of Conservation Services: Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2004.
- State of Massachusetts Departmental Websites: EOEa, DCR, DEM, DEP, DFWLE and DFA.
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- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey of Worcester County, Massachusetts – Southern Part, 1998.
- Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Massachusetts Section 303(d) Lists of Waters, 2004.
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission: Buildout Analysis for Grafton, 2000.
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission: Blackstone Valley Intercommunity Trail Connection Feasibility Study 2003.
- Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA): Blackstone River Basin 1998 Water Quality Assessment Report.

Section 11: COMMENTS



TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519

Telephone: (508) 839-5335 - ext. 180
Fax: (508) 839-4602
TTY: (508) 839-1415

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 19, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007 - Letter of Support

Dear Ms Cryan:

At their meeting on March 20, 2007, the Grafton Board of Selectmen voted to express their full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton.

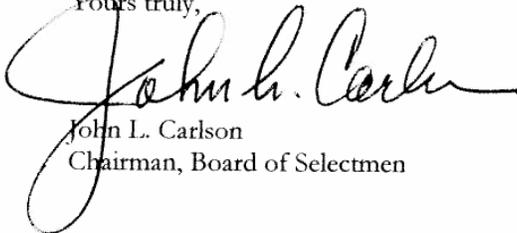
The previous plan was prepared in 1999 and this plan updates that information in accordance with the Division of Conservation Services Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements.

The plan embodies the principal aspirations of our town with respect to the conservation of our open space and the provision for active and passive recreational opportunities for our citizens, and we are confident that its fulfillment would contribute substantially to the quality of life we enjoy in Grafton.

The Board of Selectmen fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping support the many committees in the Town as they work towards turning many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours truly,



John L. Carlson
Chairman, Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519

Community Preservation Committee

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Grafton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) wishes to express its support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update being submitted to your office for review and approval.

A year ago, the CPC urged Town Meeting to support the use of Community Preservation funds to update the plan. Since then, planning staff, outside consultants and a committee of volunteers worked diligently to collect information on existing open space and recreational assets as well as input from residents on their recreational and open space interests.

The result is a plan with a range of important action items that will enhance the quality of life for Grafton residents for generations to come.

The CPC looks forward to the plan's approval and is eager to work with the appropriate town and state agencies to help make the plan a reality.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joyce Kelley, Chairman
Grafton Community Preservation Committee



Grafton Conservation Commission

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Grafton Conservation Commission is pleased to express our full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton. The update provides a thoughtful and comprehensive look at Grafton's open space and recreation goals and needs, as well as an agenda of action items to guide us toward achieving those goals over the next five years.

Grafton residents have repeatedly shown their commitment to open space and recreation by supporting related actions at Town Meeting. Some of the Town's accomplishments since the last Plan Update include the creation of the Miscoe, Warren, Whitehall Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, the purchase and active management of the Hassanamesit Woods property and the acquisition of the Great Meadow property.

We encourage you to approve the 2007 Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. The Commission fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping turn many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Vigeant, Co-Chair
Grafton Conservation Commission



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519
508-839-5335 ext 120 • FAX 508-839-4602

PLANNING BOARD

March 13, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007 - Letter of Support

Dear Ms Cryan:

At their meeting on Monday March 12, 2007, the Grafton Planning Board voted to express their full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton.

The plan embodies the principal aspirations of our town with respect to the conservation of our open space and the provision for active and passive recreational opportunities for our citizens, and we are confident that its fulfillment would contribute substantially to the quality of life we enjoy in Grafton.

The Planning Board fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping turn many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Keith Regan, Chairman
Grafton Planning Board

Grafton Historical Commission

Grafton Municipal Center
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519

February 22, 2007

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St.
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2007

Dear Ms. Cryan:

I am writing in support of the Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan (2007) which will soon be submitted to your office for review and approval.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee is submitting a document that will serve the Town of Grafton well in the next five years and beyond. The action items reflect the needs of the Town as expressed by its residents at open meetings and forums, through surveys and by research related to the continued trend of rapid growth of residential development in Grafton. The goals of the plan strive to meet the needs of the residents while at the same time preserving the important historical and rural character of Grafton.

The Historical Commission is pleased to support the plan and is eager to begin work on the action items it sponsored.

Thank you in advance for your support and approval of this plan.

Sincerely,



John R. Stephens
Chairman



Lawrence B. Adams Executive Director
 Carl E. Hellstrom Transportation Manager
 William V. Scanlan Community Dev. Manager
 Paul J. Samara GIS Coordinator
 John F. Knipe Commission Chairman

January 31, 2007

Melissa Cryan
 Division of Conservation Services
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 251 Causeway Street
 Boston, MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan:

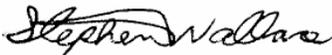
The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Grafton and its recently completed Open Space & Recreation Plan. Although CMRPC provided some technical assistance for this effort, the all-volunteer Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee deserves the bulk of the credit for putting this Plan together.

The Committee has done a very thorough job and the final document appears to fully comply with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. Grafton was an active participant in our 2003 trail investigation study entitled, Blackstone Valley Subregion Inter-Community Trail Connection Feasibility Study. Grafton's Open Space Plan will provide the Town with the opportunity to pursue some of the trail ideas contained in our study, as well as protect critical land areas from future development and/or over-development.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Grafton's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts.

The Town of Grafton will be well served by having a State-approved up-to-date Plan for the provision of recreation facilities and programs, as well as the preservation and protection of its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,


 Stephen Wallace
 CMRPC Land Use Planner

C: Samantha Hobbs, Assistant Planner - Grafton

35 Harvard Street - Second Floor
 Worcester, MA 01609-2801

www.cmrpc.org

508.756.7717 V
 508.792.6818 F



Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary
414 Massasoit Road • Worcester, Massachusetts 01604-3546
tel 508.753.6087 • fax 508.755.0148 • email bmbrook@massaudubon.org

March 22, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston, MA 02214

Re: Town of Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

Mass Audubon strongly endorses the Town of Grafton's Open Space and Recreation Plan as updated, and is very impressed with its thoroughness, technical expertise, and public outreach efforts. It reflects very well the priorities of the town and the actions that need to take place in order to achieve its very important goals.

Of particular interest to Mass Audubon is the plan's in-depth consideration and prioritization of water quality and open space protection. Mass Audubon is the lead partner in the Blackstone River Coalition's Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2105, and this plan embodies the goals and objectives of the Campaign. Staff here at Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester work closely with the Town of Grafton and the Grafton Land Trust on Campaign issues. In addition, the plan dovetails beautifully with E.O.E.A.'s Blackstone River Watershed Action Plan.

Our hats are off to the Town of Grafton for developing this excellent plan and roadmap for the town's future.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Williams, Conservation Advocacy Coordinator

Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts



Appendix A: SURVEY SUMMARY

Town of Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey 2006

As of June 16, 2006, we have 870 completed surveys for a total response rate of 12.2%. What follows below is a summary of the survey results. Please note that numerical counts appear (in brackets) next to the possible responses, followed by some analysis at the bottom of each question.

1.	How important is each of the following: <i>(please circle the number corresponding to your choice)</i>			3 – important 2 – neutral 1 - not important
	...buildings and places of historical interest or value	3 (579)	2 (231)	1 (41)
	...farmlands and agricultural lands	3 (571)	2 (229)	1 (53)
	...open spaces for water supply protection	3 (728)	2 (114)	1 (16)
	...open spaces for conservation and passive recreation (e.g., trails)	3 (616)	2 (159)	1 (42)
	...land and facilities for active recreation	3 (544)	2 (241)	1 (68)

All of the choices received a high percentage of “important” ratings:

- Open spaces for water protection: 85% of respondents rated as important.
- Open spaces for conservation/passive rec.: 75% of respondents rated as important.
- Historical buildings and places: 68% of respondents rated as important.
- Farmland preservation: 67% of respondents rated as important.
- Land/facilities for active recreation: 64% of respondents rated as important.

None of the choices even came close to receiving a significant amount of “not important” responses.

2.	To preserve open spaces in town, would you: <i>(please circle an answer for each)</i>	
	...sell or contribute a conservation restriction to protect your land from future development	yes (475) no (275)
	...vote for a town-supported acquisition of land and/or conservation restriction	yes (735) no (94)
	...favor zoning that provides for increases in density in existing developed areas in exchange for open space in existing less developed or environmentally sensitive areas	yes (520) no (274)
	...support the concept of Limited Development by the Town of Grafton (acquiring land and allowing enough development to off-set cost of acquisition and preserving remainder of land)	yes (731) no (92)
	...support a requirement for all new residential developments to include conservation/open space areas	yes (688) no (78)
	...other (specify).....	

All of the choices received a high percentage of “yes” responses:

- Support a requirement that all new development include open space: 90% yes.
- Vote for town-supported open space acquisition: 89% yes.

- Support the concept of limited development: 89% yes.
- Favor zoning that increases density in some areas in exchange for open space in others: 65% yes.
- Sell or contribute a conservation restriction: 63% yes.

3. How satisfied are you with: *(please circle an answer for each)*

		3 – satisfied	2 – neutral	1 – dissatisfied
...the variety and/or amount of existing recreational programs	3 (241)	2 (488)	1 (119)	
...the variety and/or amount of existing recreational facilities	3 (176)	2 (423)	1 (249)	
...the maintenance or condition of existing active recreational facilities	3 (204)	2 (474)	1 (166)	
...the maintenance or condition of existing passive recreational facilities (e.g., trails) or conservation land	3 (191)	2 (487)	1 (149)	
...do you have any suggestions?.....				

For all of the choices in Question #3, the majority of responses were neutral in regards to satisfaction with existing recreation programs/facilities. The only choice where the number of “dissatisfied” responses outnumbered the “satisfied” responses was the variety/amount of existing recreation facilities choice (249 dissatisfied versus 176 satisfied).

4. Please check off the top five recreational facilities you feel are needed.

(445) bike trails	(283) local neighborhood parks
(373) hiking and skiing trails	(104) dog park
(404) conservation areas	(88) outdoor amphitheater
(271) children’s play areas	(268) public access areas to water bodies for boating or fishing
(223) swimming pool	(173) recreation center building
(205) family picnic areas	(110) tennis courts
(309) fields for soccer, softball, baseball and football	(115) ice skating rink
(195) town common improvement	(226) large park with many facilities
(36) campground	(60) hunting
___ other (specify).....	

The top three responses were bike trails (445 votes), conservation areas (404 votes) and hiking/skiing trails (373 votes). This is indicative of a community preference for more conservation areas that are open to the public for passive recreation.

5. Please rate the following recreation facilities in Town *(please circle an answer for each)*

		4 excellent	3 good	2 fair	1 poor
Silver Lake Beach	4 (87)	3 (355)	2 (220)	1 (39)	
Super Park	4 (66)	3 (296)	2 (194)	1 (57)	
Norcross / Miner Field	4 (125)	3 (316)	2 (146)	1 (19)	
Grafton Common	4 (279)	3 (391)	2 (103)	1 (11)	
Neighborhood Parks	4 (38)	3 (287)	2 (267)	1 (59)	

Most of Grafton’s recreation parks received good marks, but some did better than others:

- Grafton Common: 85% excellent/good response rate

- Norcross/Miner Field: 73% excellent/good response rate
- Silver Lake Beach: 63% excellent/good response rate
- Super Park: 59% excellent/good response rate
- Neighborhood Parks: 50% excellent/good response rate

Roughly half of Grafton’s residents are not happy with the maintenance of neighborhood parks and the ratings for Super Park and Silver Lake should be higher. Ideally, a two-thirds excellent/good rating should be achieved for all parks under the Town’s jurisdiction.

6.

Please circle for each question
5 – very important
1 – not important

Should our Town’s priorities for expenditure be?	5	4	3	2	1
...improve/maintain existing active recreational facilities	5 (368)	4 (291)	3 (139)	2 (27)	1 (19)
...acquire land for and/or build new active recreational facilities	5 (214)	4 (200)	3 (259)	2 (81)	1 (91)
...acquire conservation lands for passive recreation use (e.g., trails)	5 (337)	4 (220)	3 (172)	2 (67)	1 (59)
...improve/maintain existing conservation lands for passive recreation use	5 (354)	4 (277)	3 (149)	2 (44)	1 (29)

For this question, we are looking for a majority of the responses to be on either side of the middle number (3). Three is the neutral number between very important on one side (5) and not important on the other side (1).

- Improve/maintain existing recreation facilities: 78% of respondents rated this 4 or 5.
- Improve/maintain existing conservation lands for passive recreation uses: 74% of respondents rated this 4 or 5.
- Acquire conservation lands for passive recreation: 65% of respondents rated this 4 or 5.
- Acquire land for new active recreation facilities: 49% of respondents rated this 4 or 5.

The results of this question seem to indicate that Grafton residents want to see the Town take care of existing facilities/properties rather than purchase new properties or build new facilities. The results of this question are consistent with the results of Question #5 where existing facilities were rated in terms of resident satisfaction.

7.

Would you be willing to:	<i>(please circle an answer for each)</i>	
...volunteer to assist with developing and/or operating recreational facilities	yes (318)	no (478)
...attend Town Meeting to support proposals for acquiring land for conservation and/or passive recreation	yes (630)	no (183)
...attend Town Meeting to support proposals for building active recreational facilities	yes (533)	no (261)
...attend Town Meeting to support zoning proposals or other legislative actions that favor open space and/or recreation initiatives	yes (641)	no (161)
If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Board of Selectmen - tel: 508 839 5335		

Most people are willing to support Town Meeting open space initiatives, and a sizable minority (318 responders) is willing to volunteer time for developing/operating recreation facilities:

- Support zoning proposals that favor open space/recreation initiatives: 80% yes
19% no
- Support proposals for acquiring land for conservation/passive recreation: 77% yes
22% no
- Support proposals for building active recreation facilities: 67% yes
31% no
- Volunteer to assist with developing/operating recreation facilities: 40% yes
60% no

To help us interpret the results, please answer this final question

8.

How long have you been a resident of Grafton? *(please check)*

- (231) less than 5 years
- (190) 5 – 10 years
- (151) 11 – 20 years
- (287) more than 20 years

The respondents were almost evenly divided between newcomers (49% people here less than ten years) and old-timers (51% people here more than ten years). This is good as it means that the results were not skewed towards either category.

Written Comments from Survey Forms

The additional comments are listed below.

2. To preserve open spaces in town, would you: Choice F: Other

- 1+ acre minimum lots
- 3 acre minimum for building, 1 house per 3 acres.
- affordable housing with every devt - this will protect us from 40b - which defeat all your questions above.
- Building Moratorium.
- developer must supply water and sewerage and repave all roadways affected by construction.
- do not support affordable housing by legislation.
- don't approve more res dev when there is already a school problem.
- encourage mixed use zoning
- enough construction - our road systems, water supply and resources cannot support what we have now.
- expand Blackstone River Valley trail with walkways, bike routes, dog walks etc.
- Growth tax on new devt or purchases
- I would contribute yearly donations towards operation and purchase of land for ORV use (dirtbikes/atv's)
- Immediately limit devt. Force all new devt to set aside low income units.
- implement 1 acre zoning per bldg lot - plan 40b's properly, not haphazard.
- increase community preservation assessments.
- increase lot size for housing devt
- increase minimum house lot from current requirement.
- Increase minimum lot size.
- increase minimum lot size.
- increase minimum lot sizes.
- Increased zoning to 3 acres minimum per house lot.
- increasing density does not solve the problem.
- large subdivisions on small lots is destroying the charm of our country town.
- less condo devt.
- less construction.
- Limit lot size two 2 acres
- limit number of building permits
- limit number of building permits for new res annually.
- limit number of building permits per year.
- limit res dev in favor of mixed use devt.
- limit taxes on land therefore people not forced to sell to developers.
- Maintenance & leasing of existing farm land/space. Limited new housing development
- make builders give back to the community with extra land, money, rec facilities.
- Moratorium on building
- moratorium on building subdivisions until town evaluates impact on town services and how to pay for them.
- Moratorium on devt.
- Moratorium on new house construction.
- more stringent laws on developing on wetlands & scenic roads.
- New devts should contribute to infrastructure burden eg schools.
- no more development!
- permit farmland to be grandfathered to allow continued farming by farmer owners tax free till farming discontinued and land transferred to Town of Grafton for recreation activities.
- referendum to cap devt.
- Require all new res developers to include playground or contribute to upgrading rec fields etc
- require one acre minimum lots

- stop all condos, too many.
- stop building
- stop building housing and put effort in the children
- stop building mini castles in well water areas
- stop giving permits for new homes.
- Stop overdeveloping condominiums
- Support minimum acreage and limitations of condo/townhome devt.
- support minimum lot size of 1 acre to minimize devt.
- support more/better parks & ball fields
- support requirement for new res dev for rec space.
- support zoning changes for larger lot sizes/support limiting number of building permits.
- too much building in our town!
- utmost importance: maintain farms and natural forests.

3. How satisfied are you with: Choice E. Do you have any suggestions?:

- a bike path on unused railroad tracks.
- a more dog friendly Grafton.
- athletic fields/pool, possibly at high school allowing the community to have use.
- area for legal atv use at least for kids.
- ban all atv and mtn bikes from trails.
- basic cleanup trash etc, organize committee/work groups to keep areas clean, maintained and free of trash.
- Better maps of what the town has. Highlight in paper every month.
- better town mgmt of existing parks.
- Buy railroad.
- clean up existing trail systems, post signs.
- Clean up Silver Lake parking lot.
- Clear High School in the winter for walking & jogging. Create jogging/walking trails (ie rail trails). Build a town pool.
- community health club/rec area.
- Complete and rename Miner Field
- create recreational programs for teens especially during summers.
- develop a youth program (community service) to maintain and develop trails.
- educate, advertise on existing rec facilities; small donation/fee to use existing rec facilities
- enough houses.
- follow up with trails, keep them marked and open.
- Fund new track at high school.
- get kids to work for the town to clean up.
- Get PA system at Ferry working.
- give children somewhere to go.
- give trails committee resources.
- Grafton needs more sidewalks!
- have a map of all facilities.
- Hold community days where families can volunteer, planting, raking, cleaning etc. Buy a brick program (ie Hopkinton's EMC park for family donations.
- hours for Silver Lake extended.
- improve lands so people can use.
- improve rec programs
- Improve Super Park, dirty, splinters.
- involve experts in trail maintenance design & building such as the New England Mountain Bike Assn www.nemba.org
- is the playspace near the municipal center ever inspected or maintained?
- lights on courts/fields.
- maintain tennis courts at GHS.
- make trails clearly marked & with parking.
- Map. Maintain more trails.

- More Bike Trails. Improve town common to give more side walk space and retail space around to walk and shop.
- more fields, especially soccer with toilet facilities.
- more investment or maintenance of existing facilities/play areas. Devt of new facilities on town owned land.
- more land open to hunting.
- more toddler offerings, more adult exercise offerings.
- need a fields coordinator.
- need for more senior programs and places. Have enough ballfields for young people. Senior rate for Grafton residents at the golf course.
- need more info on existing programs.
- need park or playgrounds in South Grafton.
- need restrooms at parks.
- need safe walking areas.
- Need space for O.R.V.
- new football field
- No Dog Parks!
- no orv on conservation land. More fines for those who violate trespassing laws.
- over more walks with rangers to see Grafton's historical and cons areas.
- park like EMC2, with water park.
- preserve space by making it into athletic fields.
- protect your conservation area by having designated O.R.V park and trail system.
- provide better parking for Nelson Park.
- publish map of facilities. Create town rec center for both teens and seniors, and a town swimming pool.
- rebuild superpark next to the police station.
- rec building for teens.
- recreation programs do not seem well marketed.
- reduce taxes
- Remove littler at playgrounds.
- repair basketball courts at Ferry St park.
- replace the super park with a newer model
- return Norcross Park to its original state so that everyone may use it.
- spend more resources on athletic facilities.
- Super park is embarrassment to town and a safety concern - rebuild.
- Super Park is outdated.
- Super park needs shade. Norcross play area too close to parking lot. Need sidewalk access from town center to Worcester St. Stores such as swirls & scoops. Currently no safe way to make this walk.
- Superpark needs to be updated, very dangerous.
- Teen Center
- tennis courts at high school are in poor condition.
- Thankyou Grafton Land Trust.
- The superpark is out of code and a liability to town. Should have been updated with the building of the new police station!
- The town playground adjacent to the police station is dangerous and outdated.
- town pool
- town pool
- town-wide participation in trail 'adopting' or scout troops effort?
- trail guide. Softball.

4. Please check off the top five recreational facilities you feel are needed:

Choice "other":

- a park like Dean Park in Shrewsbury on some of the already owned open space.
- Against Hunting.
- Allow dogs on all parks.
- ATV trails.
- atv/off road dirtbikes etc

- Bike trails due to lack of sidewalks. Skating - Lake Ripple not safe.
 - Community garden areas.
 - dirt bike trails.
 - Dog Officer should make people responsible for dog feces.
 - don't exclude dogs on the common.
 - fitness trail with workout fitness stations.
 - horse riding trails
 - Horse trails on unused train tracks.
 - Horseback riding trails
 - horseback riding trails.
 - horseback riding trails. Grafton is too congested for hunting dangerous.
 - hunting should be banned in Grafton - too many "near misses".
 - indoor pool for winter swimming
 - Large park like Dean Park in Shrewsbury
 - Leave the Common alone, other than maintenance and maybe making traffic 1-way around it.
 - leave town common as it is!
 - lights on football field.
 - love the walking trails on Milford Rd.
 - Maintain open space for wildlife diversity
 - more accessible horse riding trails.
 - more fields for soccer, softball, baseball, but include amenities - restrooms, concession stands, better parking, lights.
 - more sidewalks - link to existing neighborhoods to common/center of town ie: Brigham Hill, Pleasant St & Millbury St.
 - more sidewalks.
 - need to clean up our streams/rivers for canoeing.
 - New Playground.
 - No Hunting!
 - Nothing needed.
 - passive rec/open space for environmental study by schools, clubs etc
 - paved walking trail
 - ponds for feeding wildlife (ducks)
 - Really want Pool.
 - sailing/windsurfing with limited power boat (rescue only) access & a community club.
 - sidewalks for walking or jogging.
 - Sidewalks to facilitate safety in recreational walking
 - sidewalks to provide access to new/existing facilities.
 - skateboarding is excellent.
 - skateboard park for teenagers
 - Superpark should also be renovated as splinters are very common.
 - Teen Center
 - the libraries.
 - The renovations to Airport Field will be a big improvement to the rec fields available. I would like to see the new High School completed with a significant amount of open rec facilities for town use.
 - the town shouldn't be the first line of providing activities and facilities for every persons wish list.
 - trails to ride ATV and snowmobiles with all the construction and restrictions there are no trails left to utilize.
- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space and recreation planning in Grafton, as we plan for the future?:***
- 'Old' doesn't mean 'Historic'. Preserving everything that's older than 25 or 50 yrs just handicaps future generations.
 - 1) open drainage pits should be fenced off from young children. 2) large child play area such as Dean Park, Shrewsbury. 3) Swimming pool like at Davis

Farmland.

- A central complex, one large park.
 - A list of all rec areas, for active & passive, walking areas, access to Blackstone River etc, would be helpful.
 - a professional recreation director could coordinate efforts, apply for grants etc.
 - Action should be taken to slow/limit traffic through the town common area.
- Current situation interferes with recreational use of the area.
- add bike lanes for safety. Improve sidewalks/shoulders in high traffic areas.
 - All existing and newly acquired land owned by the town of Grafton should be open for hunting to residents of Grafton.
 - another football field to play flag football. Multipurpose fields to accommodate all sports.
 - As a new resident I am very impressed with the conservation agenda of the town. The existing holdings are excellent. Preservation of the Common area should be a high priority - a New England gem.
 - As a tax payer we have spent enough on new purchase. Do something with what we have. Take care of the kids with creative things to do. Every kid should be taught to swim as part of the school system. Let the developers build cluster to be profitable and still be able to put rec in development B Ball courts etc.
 - atv use is a sport requiring conditioning and training. It is something kids love to do, should be encouraged.
 - Better Maintenance for Super Park. Some equipment is dangerous for young children.
 - better maintenance of park, trails, field.
 - boutique style' shops or dining. 'high-end' B&B or hotel for relatives. Women's groups & activities. Children's activities ie puppet shows, magic shows.
 - building a top notch rec center with pool would benefit the community greatly.
 - clean up the ponds and rivers in Grafton and enforce any and all laws about dumping trash in wooded areas and watershed areas.
 - Concerned about ATV use on trails and would like clarification of which trails are open to ATV's. Improving quality of Grafton's Open Space and Recreation facilities critically important.
 - conservation lands and recreational facilities can be one parcel versus separate purchases and maintenance.
 - Conserve open space and limit re/comm growth by requiring preservation of open space.
 - consolidate libraries.
 - Continue to acquire Open Space & expand Rec opportunities, both active & passive.
 - control real estate development and developers.
 - Developments should be condensed so as much forest and wild lands can be saved as possible. Trees and habitats destroyed by houses.
 - Disc Golf is an emerging new sport. We should put in a 9 hole golf course close to the business district in town. Investment is less than \$5k for materials.
 - divided walking/bike path.
 - Dog Park waste of space. Tufts has a lovely walking area for one.
 - dog park with water for dogs to swim in.
 - don't let Grafton get overcrowded.
 - don't require developers to provide open space ie. Hiking and riding trails if the town is not going to maintain and keep these areas accessible.
 - eliminate the cpa tax.
 - Emphasize importance of hiking, walking and biking trails.
 - far too much devt to date.
 - Farm preservation - right to farm/own livestock without \$250 plus engineering fee to own a chicken or goat.
 - First market and attract people to existing facilities before spending on new facilities.

- fix traffic situation on Grafton Town Common, it can be made a lot more attractive.
- Grafton has enough active rec areas, maintained well. Need natural environment to enjoy.
- Grafton is an expanding minor metropolis with many activities and a wonderful sense of being - a wonderful town.
- Grafton needs to stay affordable (tax rates)
- Halt excessive new housing - overcrowding. Maintain conservation land.
- have lots of walking trails.
- important for town to purchase land for cons purposes.
- Important to not have Grafton's beautiful land all developed!
- improve & maintain what we have.
- increase lot size; limit future res building to small, affordable housing; rec is not the towns responsibility, we have plenty of rec space that is available but seldom used ie little league fields - use for soccer fields.
- Increase responsibility regarding a decrease in condominium community development. Saturating south of 140!
- increase size of rec dept to maintain rec facilities.
- it is very important that open spaces are preserved.
- it takes too long to get anything done. Stop spending money on studies and build something!
- It will be nice to have a recreation center that includes soccer, baseball, tennis, basketball courts as well as jogging trails and swimming pool.
- keep low population & not too crowded.
- Keep open the space bounded by South St, Upton St, Sibley St. It would make a great "central park" for Grafton.
- lacrosse field is needed
- Lake Ripple should be expanded and made a focal point to Grafton.
- large park with swimming pool, tennis courts, sports fields, trails etc, charge fee.
- Let the Towns people know how many people use the existing facilities. People need affordable housing.
- Like Grafton's rural nature, horse farms and agriculture. Zoning is important to protect these areas and traditions, and to limit new housing development.
- limit building; minimum lot sizes; improve existing parks & facilities.
- limit large devt of homes.
- Local condo devts which include housing lotteries for lower income people. I love the town but it is becoming too expensive to live here.
- look into helping provide ORV trails so they have an alternative to riding on private/conservation land.
- maintain character of town by keeping open space and having natural areas available to Grafton residents and our pets.
- maintain and protect our clean water supply which means protecting watersheds, wetlands and enforcing conservation and zoning by-laws.
- maintain balance between open space/rec and construction of new housing
- Maintain fields for sports. Teen center, Scoreboards and bathrooms needed.
- maintain Grafton's New England charm.
- Maintain healthy balance of open space with devt. Concerned with excessive and rapid growth in Grafton.
- maintain the buildings we own, not buy more land.
- Maintain/clean existing children's facilities rather than expanding and creating more facilities. Super Park outdated. Town Common is maintained correctly. Bike area for children and ice skating outdoor facility for winter use vs. the lakes.
- Maintenance and irrigation of multi-sports fields. Build a facility which may be a consistent revenue stream and easily accessible by all parts of the state to potentially attract high school/regional championships (lighted soccer fields).
- more concerned about a new high school than new rec facilities.
- More facilities for civil activities such as common on July 4.

- more family activities would be beneficial. Also more children's programs starting later for private school and working parents.
- more interested in preserving open space not recreational facilities.
- more sidewalks on main roads.
- more summer programs for 2-4 yr children.
- Must be fiscally responsible - cannot add to increasing tax burden.
- Natural resources are the towns most valuable assets.
- Need a directory or maps of recreational areas in town, post on town website.
- need active rec area like EMC and Dean Park.
- need more rec facilities in South Grafton.
- New devts with 5+ homes should have so many undisturbed areas per acre.
- NO dog park!
- no downside to adding/improving recreational facilities - many would be willing to pay more taxes for such improvements to the town. A park like EMC2 park in Hopkinton would be great. Also a waterpark like Northboro etc.
- no more condos and Pulte 'ghettos'. Eyesores and water pollutants. We are overdeveloped. No drinking water. Stop e coli now!
- no more devts.
- Norcross/Miner Field really needs bathroom facilities, a concession stand, and a working scoreboard. The town needs an all-weather surface field which would be able to increase capacity for field use due to weather problems.
- Open Space is what separates Grafton from surrounding communities. Conserve open space.
- Open space should be acquired for conservation according to a master plan to avoid fragmentation of habitat. Hunting should be encouraged (or large predators introduced!) to reduce deer population. The Town Common is a jewel and should be preserved, maintained and its surroundings protected.
- open space should be designed to look like access for public.
- open space should be preserved.
- Overbuilt with condos. Save character.
- park at site of Fisherville Mill. Enough athletic fields. Make areas for walking, water, and bikes. Make Grafton part of Blackstone Valley Corridor Bike Way from Worc/Millbury.
- Parks & Recreation are important for a community. They give us a place to gather, exercise, cheer and to share with our neighbors.
- parks could be bigger with more equipment for kids. More bike trails and access to Lake Ripple for fishing/skating.
- parks in South Grafton are nearly nonexistent.
- places to legally ride atv's, most of the walking and bike trails were made from off road vehicles. We pay tons to register and legally ride.
- please investigate the Nantucket Plan. I would be interested in volunteering to work out the progressive new bedroom tax, which will fund future growth.
- Please involve Police Dept to plan for safety of residents at Riverview (planned rec area). Influx of speeding cars, illegal activity in open unsupervised area!
- please support a legal area to ride dirtbikes, atv's.
- pocket parks important. All developers should be required to provide one.
- Pool clubs with yearly membership fees.
- preserve as much open space as possible.
- Priorities 1) top learning facilities for children 2) adequate athletic fields 3) community rec areas.
- Prohibits dogs entirely from cemeteries. Signage at trails and public access points. - Frost property at George Hill Rd - no way to know that is a public trail; Silver Lake trails (beach entrance) when closed there is no parking allowed (wording on sign needs changing).
- Protect natural nature of our town.
- provide the equipment and volunteers will do maintenance labor.
- Purchase Open Space. Cheaper than paying for increased infrastructure, schools

water and waste.

- put trash barrels at trail heads.
- recreational planning should be made sure that it is active for all ages.
- reduce devt in the main sections of Grafton and try to keep it down. They are squeezing condo's and apartments in all empty spaces in town.
- Reduce devt. Make zoning more restrictive. Town owned gym with inexpensive daycare.
- Reduce number of building permits
- reduce taxes.
- reign in rapid rate of devt.
- Renovate Super Park.
- Set limit for population so that schools don't become overcrowded, charm & character lost.
- Sidewalk on Upton St, walk to library or school.
- Silver Lake Beach should be open access off season.
- Silver Lake has a lot of unused potential. Existing Hiking Trails would benefit from bridging some of the swampiest areas. Limited Devt/open space reqmts for devt work well.
- Small towns benefit young growing families . Too much development usually leads to more money and problems in the future - Upton's example.
- Stop 40B! Allow/follow local zoning.
- Stop building so many new houses and condo devts. Make your town a DCPC or other way to stop rampant building.
- stop future devt - increasing tax rate attributed to school enrollment.
- stop issuing building permits. Build sidewalks on all streets that access center.
- stop the building in Grafton.
- super park in poor repair.
- Super Park is dangerous and should be rebuilt.
- SuperPark needs makeover - dangerous. Build new large playground.
- Superpark needs updated play equipment, as well as some of the school and neighborhood parks.
- support connecting bike trails from Worcester to RI.
- support of the "Blackstone Valley Rail to Trail" program to convert the (now unused) rail line to an usable, dirt top bike trail & enforcement of "no atv/quad bike" policies would be fantastic. Also B.V River cycle path too.
- Swings at Nelson Park are too high for children to get on by themselves. Super Park facilities have splinters, broken chain covers.
- Teen Center to avoid vandalism.
- the BOS have no intention of complying with either OS plan or Master plan.
- Think long term. Act on all feasible deals.
- too many condos.
- Too many houses - need land minimums
- too much devt. Too busy and too much traffic.
- town has family feel and should continue to offer families in town facilities.
- Town is missing opportunity with developers. Builders should provide rec areas in each devt - not horse trails ultimately voted down by residents. EG Toll Brothers devt in Salem, NY, required a community pool and rec facility.
- Town needs to be more proactive in open space acquisitions. Need much creativity and many different tools, approaches.
- Town ruined with all building allowed.
- Update old Police Station to use as Teen Center
- Update Super Park. High walled structures not good design.
- upgrade and maintenance of existing facilities is critical. Surrounding towns provide more support of youth programs.
- Very concerned with devt with regard to water supply.
- Vital that Town Finance Committee support all efforts especially those that protect natural resources and endangered species.

- we love dean park. Convert old railroad beds to paved bike paths.
- we need guides to tell us about trails etc, where to access. Also if possible, there should be occasional water (drinking) stations and first aid call system.
- we need to act now on acquiring open space before devt goes to far.
- We should consider modifying our Flexible Devt by-law & incorporate Open Space Residential Design principles, and pass a stormwater by-law & reduce impacts on our streams, sewers, lakes and ponds.
- When building a new rec center, make it a rec/senior center. Would get more vote. Seniors and teens would benefit from each other.
- Who is paying for all these great things? Aren't our taxes high enough?
- Wish rec & athletic facilities were comparable to other local towns & towns in other states.
- would be interested in assisting with renovation/replacement of the 'SuperPark'.
- Youth Center and a municipal swimming pool.

Appendix B: SECTION 504 – ADA SELF-EVALUATION

Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Attached is the recommendation of Robert Berger, Building Inspector, as the Town of Grafton ADA Coordinator, and Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of Oct 2006 attest to the appointment.

Public Notification Requirements

Employees and the public are notified that the Town of Grafton does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Copies attached include:

- Job vacancy advertisement with AA/EEO employer clause
- Notice of Public Hearing from Conservation Commission with special accommodations paragraph
- Extract from Recreation program brochure with EOE clause
- Town of Grafton General Bylaws Section 4-24 – ADA clause and EOE clause

The Town has hearing impaired apparatus available for public hearings. TTY is available and has been used by the Recreation Department.



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519
TEL. (508) 839-5335 ext. 145 • FAX (508) 839-9648

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 11, 2006
TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Betty Wright, Chair of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

**RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan Update 2006 –
Designation of ADA Coordinator**

As part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update an evaluation for disabled persons use must be undertaken of all Town owned open space and recreation land. For this, an ADA coordinator should be identified. Due to the nature of the evaluation required, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has identified Robert Berger, Building Inspector as being a suitable choice for the ADA coordinator.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee would therefore respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen name Robert Berger, Building Inspector, as the Town of Grafton's ADA Coordinator.

Thank you

Betty Wright
Chair, Open Space and Recreation Committee



TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519

DEC 13 9 27 AM '03

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

POSITION VACANCY

SECRETARY TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Grafton is seeking a qualified individual to fill the vacancy of Secretary to the Town Administrator. The qualified person will be responsible for a full range of duties including but not limited to the payment of bills, payroll, word processing and spreadsheets. This is a 35 hour per week position with a starting salary of \$15.64 per hour. This person will also be responsible to act as recording secretary at evening Board of Selectmen meetings on occasion. This is a non-union, confidential position.

Applications will be received in the Office of the Town Administrator, 30 Providence Road, Grafton, MA 01519 until the close of business on January 16, 2004

The Town of Grafton is an AA/EEO employer.

Publish in the Grafton News
December 24, 2003
January 7 and 14, 2004

BILL APPLICANT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
GRAFTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c.131 s.40), and the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Grafton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, _____ at _____ p.m. in Conference Room B, 30 Providence Road, Grafton, MA to act upon a Notice of Intent and Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit filed by **APPLICANT, ADDRESS**

The applicant is proposing _____ on property located at _____ (Assessor's Map ____, Lot ____).

The applicant(s) and/or representative and any other persons interested in being heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

GRAFTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John S. Wilson, Co-Chairperson
Paul Vigeant, Co-Chairperson
Dan Kallin
Mary Wray
Kathleen Gagnon

Cc: Applicant and Representatives
Town Clerk
Town Departments

Publish in the
Grafton News
PUBLICATION DATE

***Please Note:** Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Conservation Commission Office at (508)839-5335, Ext.138, at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing date in order to facilitate your request. Thank you.

GRAFTON RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS 2007



Registration Hours

April 9 through June 1
Monday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesdays until 7:00 p.m.
Grafton Municipal Center
Recreation Office
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519
(508)839-5335, ext. 156
www.town.grafton.ma.us
email: recreationdept@town.grafton.ma.us

Mail-in registrations accepted

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1

GRAFTON RECREATION POLICY

- Programs are offered to Grafton residents first. Out-of-town residents may enroll if space is available with an additional \$10 fee.

- All programs are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. A waiting list will be formed or additional classes offered whenever possible. Classes may be cancelled and fees refunded due to low registration numbers or teacher availability.

- Refunds: Prior to the start of a program, a full refund will be given for verifiable medical emergencies only. Partial refunds (50%) may be applied for in all other emergency situations. **No refunds once a program begins.** All refunds must be requested in writing. Classes are non-transferrable.

- Registrants are asked to sign up their family members only. Deadline is June 1, 2007. All registrations must be returned to the Recreation Office. **ALL** fees are payable at the time of registration.

- Programs and services are open to all. We do not discriminate based on race, religion, color, nationality, origin, sexual orientation, or persons with disabilities.

- We reserve the right to cancel, change, or consolidate classes when necessary. The Recreation Commission reserves the right to correct mistakes in this brochure at time of print. Grafton Recreation is not responsible for any lost, misplaced, or stolen items.

- You will **NOT** receive confirmation of program selection unless a program needs to be changed or cancelled. Please keep this brochure handy for program dates and times.

- Late registrations will be accepted subject to available space. A late fee of \$25.00 will be charged after June 1.

- Additional waiver forms may be required for some programs, and are available in the Recreation Office.

- Each program has specific age/grade requirements (on or before September 1 unless otherwise noted) because of concern for the safety and well-being of all children. This will be **STRICTLY** enforced. Violators will be removed from the program with **NO REFUND**. Proof of age may be required if deemed necessary.

- No resident will be refused participation due to inability to pay. If a hardship exists, a scholarship may be requested. Forms are available in the Recreation Office. all requests will be evaluated based on financial and/or personal hardships. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

- Parents are responsible for signing in and signing out their child daily. A note from the parent is required if the child will be leaving any program without parental supervision (walking, riding bike home, or leaving with another adult).

- It is the parent's responsibility to drop off and pick up children on time from each program. The first infraction will result in a verbal warning. The second offense will result in the suspension of your child from the program for the following day with no refund. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This applies to both **EARLY DROP-OFF AND LATE PICK-UP.**

- Any staff may ask that your child be kept home or sent home if there are any behavioral issues which interfere with the rights and safety of others.

- Grafton Recreation staff **CANNOT** dispense medication. If a child requires medication, parents must make arrangements for someone to come and dispense the medication. A health form must be completed for all participants.

- Grafton Recreation and/or the press will take pictures and/or videos on occasion of participants for publicity purposes.

- Registration for all programs must be on an official registration form. We will not accept registrations by telephone. Incomplete or illegible registration forms will be returned to the sender. We are not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

GRAFTON RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

Bob Fitzpatrick • Gail McGrail • Marie Dow
Kristen Belanger • Heather Cargill

GRAFTON RECREATION STAFF

Betty Wright, Recreation Coordinator
Nancy Billings, Recreation Secretary

ARTICLE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

TITLE OF BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. The following provisions shall constitute the GENERAL BY-LAWS of the TOWN OF GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS, which shall be in lieu of all by-laws heretofore in force, except the Zoning By-Law accepted at a special town meeting, 25 April 1956 and which became effective, 31 May 1956.

Effect of Repeal

SECTION 2. The repeal of a by-law shall not thereby have the effect of reviving any by-laws theretofore repealed.

Effect of Change of Titles of Boards, Etc.

SECTION 3. Words and phrases specifying or naming any officer, board or committee of the town, shall be construed as including the lawful successor, or the person or persons having the powers and performing the duties of such officer, board or committee.

Power to License

SECTION 4. When in a by-law anything is prohibited from being done without the license or permission of a certain officer, board or committee, such officer, board or committee shall have the right to license or permit such thing to be done.

Manner of Repeal

SECTION 5. Any or all of these by-laws may be repealed or amended or other by-laws may be adopted at any town meeting by a majority vote of the voters present and voting, an article or articles for that purpose having been inserted in the warrant of such meeting by the Selectmen.

Penalty

SECTION 6A. Whoever violates any of the provisions of these by-laws, shall, unless other provision is expressly made herein or in the GENERAL LAWS, be subject to court procedure and costs including reasonable attorney fees, all expenses of prosecution and all court costs thereof, and shall forfeit and pay a fine fifty (\$50.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

SECTION 6B. All penalties for the violation of these By-Laws may be recovered by complaint before any court, or magistrate of the county, having jurisdiction of criminal offenses committed within the Town, and the penalties so recovered shall be paid into the treasury of the Town. But no prosecution shall be commenced after six (6) months from the time of such violation, unless otherwise provided by law.

Upon the death of any employee, the Town shall pay to the employee's beneficiary an amount equal to the employee's accrued vacation allowance, up to the date of his death.

Upon the written recommendation of the department head, the Town Administrator in his sole discretion may grant to a new employee, vacation allowance of up to three (3) weeks on his start date, in recognition of prior experience and length of professional service. This shall be subject to notification in writing to the Board of Selectmen.

This section shall not apply to seasonal or temporary employees who do not work at least six months in any one year.

SECTION 4-21. Call In Pay. All regular employees paid on an hourly basis subject to the provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), who are recalled to work for unscheduled hours, will be paid a guarantee of three (3) hours minimum, subject to Section 4-7(c).

SECTION 4-22. Performance Review. A written evaluation of each employee's performance shall be conducted annually by the department head on such form as the Town Administrator shall require. The purpose of the performance review is to provide a periodic, formal process to review the employee's performance matched against prior mutually-agreed upon goals and objectives. The written performance evaluation shall be reviewed with the employee and signed by both parties attesting to the review; however, the employee only attests to the review itself, not necessarily its contents.

Progression through the rate ranges is not automatic but based on merit and ability to meet agreed-upon goals. Any employee who has successfully completed his probationary period, shall be eligible for a step increase on July 1 of each year, subject to a satisfactory annual performance review by the department head, and subsequent review of the Town Administrator. However, any employee denied a step increase has the right of appeal to the Board of Selectmen, which shall confer with both the employee, the department head, and the Town Administrator.

SECTION 4-23. Longevity. Any regular employee who reaches the maximum of the rate range of their classification and is no longer eligible for progression step increases, and has reached 15 years of continuous service from his anniversary date, shall receive, in the following fiscal year and thereafter, a longevity payment equal to five (5) percent of their base pay.

SECTION 4-24. Miscellaneous Provisions

This By-Law shall be consistent at all times with the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 109 of the Acts of 1998, the so-called "Small Necessities Leave Act."

The Town of Grafton conforms to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In keeping with the recommendation of the Report of the House Committee on Education and Labor (Report No. 101-485), the Town shall take all action necessary to comply with the Act.

The Town of Grafton is an Equal Opportunity Employer; it pledges that all candidates for employment, and all officials and employees of the Town will be treated equally in all actions affecting them. It also means that the Town has a policy of nondiscrimination which guarantees that all applicants for employment and all employees will not be discriminated against because of race, color or national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, veteran status, or disability.

Facility Inventory

List of Town owned recreation and conservation areas evaluated for accessibility.

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	OS Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection
1	Nelson Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	6	Prentice St	11	14	10.1	903	Controlled by Nelson Park Trustees
2	NG Elementary School	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	46	Waterville St	19	93	20.9	903	Not Assessed - School
3	Airport Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	8	Bedford Dr	35	178	5.6	903	Rec Com
4	Perry St Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	3	Perry St	27	42	0.6	903	Rec Com
5	Whitney Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	5	Mill St	27	165	1.2	903	Rec Com
6	Ekblaw Landing	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	111	Worcester St	46	21	1.0	903	Ekblaw Landing
7	High School-Municipal Center-Super Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	30	Providence Rd	64	12	46.5	903	Super Park - Rec
8	Norcross Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	18	North St	65	145	4.3	903	Rec Com
9	G Middle School	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	60	North St	57	18	15.7	903	Not Assessed - School
10	G Center Elementary School	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	105	Millbury St	81	19	55.8	903	Not Assessed - School
11	Silver Lake	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	245	Upton St	102	16	19.4	903	Rec Com
12	Riverview Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	176	Providence Rd	98	6	6.2	903	Not yet developed.
13	Dauphinais Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	21	Follette St	105	7	53.0	903	BoS CC
14	SG Elementary School	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	90	Main St	114	48A	8.25	903	Not Assessed - School
15	Fisher Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	115	Ferry St	123	20	11.2	903	Rec Com
15	Fisher Park	Town of Grafton	ToGAct	4	Old Ferry St	122	19	0.3	903	Rec Com
16	80 Creeper Hill Rd	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	80	Creeper Hill Rd	18	1a	1.0	903	Con Com
17	63 Creeper Hill Rd	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	63	Creeper Hill Rd	18	32	8.7	903	Con Com
18	Nelson Woods	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	38	Elm St	10	35	14.0	903	Nelson Park Trustees
19	Nelson Park	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	43	Shrewsbury St	10	9	5.0	903	Con Com
20	40 Deernolm St	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	40	Deernolm St	34	98	4.1	903	Con Com
21	Hennessey I	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	60	Adams Rd	50	4e	104.3	903	Con Com
22	Grafton Conservation Area	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	99	Merriam Rd	58	2	52.4	903	Con Com
23	Town Forest	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	12	Chestnut St	66	52	26.2	903	DPW/Town Forest
23	Town Forest	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	51	Upton St	75	1a	0.9	903	DPW/Town Forest
24	The Great Meadow	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	155	Upton St	76	21	125.0	903	Con Com
25	Cider Mill Pond	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	30	Stowe Rd	86	12	6.4	903	Con Com
26	Silver Lake N Parcel	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	94	George Hill Rd	86	5a	24.9	903	Con Com
27	Silver Lake E Parcel	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	247	Upton St	94	100	20.8	903	CR to GLT
28	240 Upton St - Opp Silver Lake	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	240	Upton St	102	8a	6.5	903	Con Com

Index	Identifier	Owner Name	OS Code	St No	Address	Map	Lot	Acres	Use Code	Protection
29	Hassanamesit Woods	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	140	Old Upton Rd	93	19	10.0	905	CR to DCR/ Div of State Parks and Rec Hist Pres Restr to Mass Hist Com
29	Hassanamesit Woods	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	13	Salisbury St	109	9	179.0	905	CR to DCR/ Div of State Parks and Rec Hist Pres Restr to Mass Hist Com
29	Hassanamesit Woods	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	7	Salisbury St	117	1	12.5	905	CR to DCR/ Div of State Parks and Rec Hist Pres Restr to Mass Hist Com
30	Oakmont Open Space	Town of Grafton	ToGOS	27	Milford Rd	126	150	73.1	903	Con Com

Summary of improvements required at Town owned open space and recreation sites.

Index	Name	Improvements
1	Nelson Park	Access to play area and picnic tables.
4	Perry St Park	Sign pole could be removed to provide disabled access to the playground.
7	Super Park	Remove wooden border at entrance. Change gravel surface.
8	Norcross/Miner Park	Curb cut to playground entrance.
11	Silver Lake Beach	Plastic mat for access path to beach. Beach wheelchair.
15	Fisher Park	Level entrance to restrooms,

Many of Grafton's older recreation areas are lacking in disabled facilities. However, two newly renovated parks, Airport Park (Index 3) and Norcross/Minor Park (Index 8) have been built to ADA standards, and as areas are renovated Grafton will continue to improve recreational facilities for the disabled.

No improvements are proposed to the passive open space areas. Many areas are intended to be preserved open space with no trails. Where trails exist further improvements are not scheduled due to the need to protect wetland. Vehicle parking is limited at many of the open space areas. Hassanamesit Woods (Index 29) is one area which has a plan for parking and trails including an 'all person' loop trail.