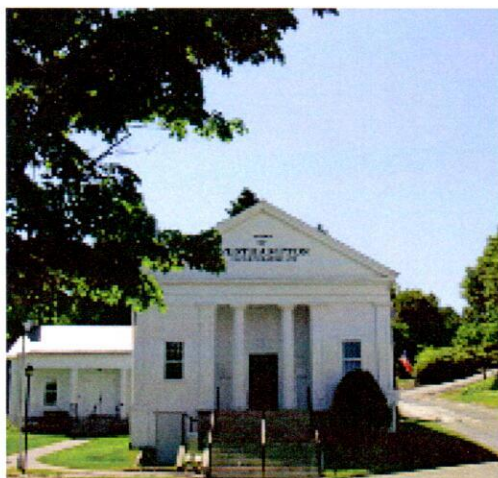


# Town of Westhampton, Massachusetts



## Seven Year Plan to Protect, Preserve, and Enhance Our Open Space

2010 - 2017





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## **Section 1 - Plan Summary**

The Westhampton Open Space and Recreation Plan has been undertaken with the objective of preserving the natural beauty of this small rural town and educating the residents about the natural resources available for their use and enjoyment. It will be used as a planning and educational tool for identifying and promoting natural resources and open space.

With this objective in mind, along with an awareness of the limited resources available in town, we have striven to identify regional and state resources available to support the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The following areas are covered in this plan:

- A description of the character of the town including a history of its development and its present status
- A summary of its natural environmental features including landscape, soil, water resources, vegetation and wildlife
- A summary of its scenic resources and unique environments
- Goals and objectives related to preserving the open space and natural beauty of the town
- A seven-year action plan with specific areas of concern and preservation recommendations

## **Section 2 - Introduction**

### **A. Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to present a coordinated set of actions to protect and preserve the resources that create this precious environment, and to maintain the rural quality of the town. Considering the current rate of development in Massachusetts and particularly in Westhampton, the committee hopes the Open Space and Recreation Plan will enable the town to control growth locally and preserve the undeveloped land that makes Westhampton unique to its residents.

The first open space plan for Westhampton was prepared in 1987-1989. Many of the recommendations have been implemented, but we have also seen some lost opportunities. The committee was reactivated in 1995, but did not complete the plan. An updated plan was completed in 2002, again with some carryover of objectives from the initial plan. Many action items in the 2002 plan were implemented related to the protection of land and promotion of agriculture and the environment.

In the last several years rapid development in our neighboring towns has made us aware of the unique rural character of Westhampton. With this in mind, this report is an attempt to build on the accomplishments of the previous plan, use the unrealized recommendations as a starting point for future recommendations, and complete the present plan with new recommendations from the town survey and the resources currently available to us. Completion of an Open Space and Recreation Plan will allow Westhampton to develop local greenways and participate in regional greenway development. It will also be a guide to use in the fulfillment of community goals and allow the town to qualify for funds and grants provided by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services.



## **B. Planning Process and Public Participation**

The Westhampton Open Space Committee, consisting of Rick Tracy, David Majercik, Kate Parsons and Ellen Bartos, has updated the Westhampton Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan incorporates and builds on the original work done by a committee of residents with varying levels of expertise in conservation, forestry, geology, and land development.

Open meetings were held in the library, and are now held in the same location, now termed the "Town Hall Annex". Meetings are publicized in the local newspaper and with the Town Clerk as required by the Open Meeting Law. Comments from the community are encouraged but rarely does anyone other than committee members attend these meetings.

A public survey was developed by the committee and was conducted by several volunteers at the town transfer station and the library. The results are included in the report and were very helpful in giving the committee direction in formulating the Seven-Year Action Plan. There was also a Public meeting held immediately following a regular Town Meeting in order to give residents an opportunity to become informed, provide feedback and engage in discussion. A summary of this meeting is included as Appendix B.

Several members of the committee were instrumental in typing the many drafts of the plan and in preparing and compiling the maps included in the plan. We also had assistance with the maps from the Board of Assessors and The Nature Conservancy.

Favorable letters of review were obtained from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

## **Section 3 - Community Setting**

### **A. Regional Context**

The Town of Westhampton is located in Hampshire County, about 100 miles west of Boston and 20 miles north of Springfield. It is bordered on the north by the towns of Chesterfield and Williamsburg, on the south by Southampton, on the east by Easthampton and Northampton, and on the west by Huntington. Refer to the Community Setting Map. Westhampton, a rural, residential community with some farming, forestry, recreational and commercial activity, consists of 17,523 acres, or 27.38 square miles. The town has a population of 1,607 people (2010). The topography and lack of major waterways have made it impossible to provide municipal water and sewage services to residents.

Land use in surrounding communities (Northampton, Easthampton and Southampton) has escalated, with many housing developments and industrial buildings and renovations. The rising cost and diminishing availability of building lots in these communities have resulted in growing interest in Westhampton.

Except for some moderate terrain in the southeast section of the town, the remaining topography (roughly two-thirds) is of irregular landscape, with many prominent hills. The elevation ranges from 340 to 1,543 feet with normal drainage running to the southeast and the Manhan River. The Roberts Meadow Brook flows southeast and supplies Northampton's Roberts Meadow Reservoir. The North Branch of the Manhan River also flows southeast and helps form the Manhan River as it flows through Easthampton into the Connecticut River. The South Branch of the Manhan River flows south into Southampton's Tighe



Carmody Reservoir. Pine Island Lake is the largest body of water in town and is privately owned and governed by its occupants.

Westhampton has seen a decline in dairy farming over recent years and only one productive farm is still in operation. Other farming operations include fruits and vegetables, beef cattle, horses and maple sugaring. The majority of the residents find employment in the surrounding cities and towns.

Many scenic areas make Westhampton suitable for outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing and camping. The town's roads provide for public biking and many trails in the hills provide areas for mountain biking, as well as snowmobile trails in the winter months.

Westhampton residents take advantage of many recreational resources in surrounding communities such as the Connecticut River, the Westfield River, bike paths in Northampton and Amherst, and ski areas to the north. The youth of Westhampton participate in seasonal sports leagues in Southampton. The main recreational activities within town revolve around the town's natural resources (streams, hills, etc.), school playgrounds and school athletic fields.

## **B. History of the Community**

Originally part of the "West" or "Long" division of Northampton, Westhampton was first settled in 1762 and was incorporated in 1778, with about 300 residents. The settlement did not grow up around a "center"; instead, the population was scattered throughout the town, as evidenced by the existence of several school districts and between five and ten schools in the early days.

The town's hilly and rocky geography, Manhan River, and streams and brooks, together with its hard climate and hard-to-cultivate land, shaped its early industries, which included charcoal making, maple syrup production, lumbering, sheep raising, blacksmithing, tanning, cider making and saw mills. In the southern portion of town, where the land is relatively flat, farms were established. However, farming has declined through the years, for several reasons. Difficulty in finding affordable labor is cited as a major factor. In addition, Westhampton's land is difficult to farm - the fields are small and the soil is rocky - and as land values increased it has become more lucrative for the farmer to sell the land for development. While the land is well suited to dairy farming, economic conditions have made it less appealing. In 1937 there were eleven dairy farms in town; in 2000 that number had dwindled to two. However, lumbering, maple sugaring, agriculture and dairy farming remain part of the economy, helping the town to retain its rural character.

## **C. Population Characteristics**

Although formerly a town of industry and farms, Westhampton has evolved into a mainly residential community of relatively affluent families who want to escape the nearby urban and academic areas where most of them are employed. The Westhampton business community has continued or increased mostly by out-of-home or other small operations.

Examples are:

- a. Six maple producers
- b. A part-time restaurant
- c. Several horse farms
- d. Used auto dealer
- e. Pottery studios
- f. Expanded auto repair and sales
- g. Archery
- h. Small equipment repair
- i. Well equipment maintenance
- j. Hair dresser
- k. Stone decorative accessories
- l. Dog training
- m. Dog kennel
- n. Dog grooming
- o. Lawn maintenance
- p. Biological supplies
- q. Two sand and gravel contractors
- r. KOA campground
- s. Art classes
- t. Landscaping and arborist services and sales
- u. Beef cattle
- v. Organic produce
- w. Financial services
- x. Home builders/Handyman Services
- y. Jewelry holders (wood)
- z. Travel agency
- aa. Six real estate brokers
- bb. Recording studio
- cc. Creative writing studio
- dd. Seasonal pancake restaurant
- ee. Expanded farm stand and restaurant
- ff. Auto parts
- gg. Fitness trainer
- hh. Blueberry Hill Estates (under development)
- ii. Senior retirement facility (maintenance)



The following chart shows population trends through the years.

These figures show the population of Westhampton to be steadily growing. Given the desirability of the town's rural character and easy commuting distances to

Year	Population	Density (Pop per sq mile)
1780	300	11
1800	756	27.6
1850	602	22
1900	469	17.1
1950	452	16.5
1960	583	22.3
1970	793	29
1980	1137	41.6
1990	1327	48.5
1995	1410	51.6
2000	1535	56.1
2005	1723	63.8
2008	1576	58.3
2009	1776	65.7
2010	1607	59.5

employment centers such as Amherst, Northampton and the Springfield area, it is likely that, without efforts to slow growth, the town's population can be expected to grow steadily. The total population is growing at the approximate rate of 200 per decade and statistics indicate that the population is aging. The median age of Westhampton residents is 40.2 years old.

The Division of Employment Training for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lists the average annual per capita wage for residents of Westhampton as \$20,749 in 1990 with a labor force of 786, and \$27,779 in 2000 with a labor force of 1,074. 2010 figures state per capita wages as \$33,970, with a median household income of \$83,075.

The Westhampton Board of Assessors lists the median home value for property tax as \$149,900 in the year 2000. This figure includes the land value. In 2008 the median home value was \$311,013. This reflects a spike in property values in the mid 2000's and a subsequent slide concurrent with the economic crisis.

## **D. Growth and Development Patterns**

### **1. Patterns and Trends**

Westhampton has always been a rural community of small farms and single residences with some commercial activity.

Over the past 30 years, there has been growth of new homes.

The following chart shows the number of building permits issued annually for new homes since 1988.



Year	Number of permits
1988	17
1989	4
1990	4
1991	3
1992	6
1993	8
1994	25
1995	8
1996	11
1997	8
1998	5
1999	15
2000	11
2001	9
2002	No data
2003	17
2004	11
2005	13
2006	7
2007	7
2008	6
2009	1
2010 TO DATE	0
TOTAL	196

## 2. Infrastructure

### *Transportation System*

No public transportation system is available in Westhampton. Most residents work outside of town and use private vehicles to commute to work destinations. Route 66 is the major thoroughfare, being a main route from Northampton to Westhampton and the outlying hill towns. Southampton Road is another heavily used road, as it is the way to get to the Mass. Turnpike via Westfield. Hampshire Regional High School generates heavy traffic on many of the town roads during school-bus hours. North Rd., Montague Rd. and Chesterfield Road are all used as alternate routes to Northampton. Beyond these few well-traveled roads, Westhampton's road structure could be defined as rural and quiet. Some of the more remote roads are gravel. Farmers driving tractors share the roads during farming season.

### *Water Supply System*

Residential water needs in Westhampton are now met through private wells. However it wasn't always this way. Back around 1860, the Westhampton Water Company was formed when a group of people dammed a small river above Tob Road. It provided water to 56 homes and public buildings around the center of town until about 1990 when it went out of business. The owners of the Water Company gave their approximately 200 acres to the town.

There are also seven wells in Westhampton that fall into the state classification of public water supplies. Each well is marked as an interim wellhead protection area. These

include the elementary school, three at Windy Acres campground, Outlook Farm, the StrawBale Café at the Aloisi farm and Hampshire Regional High School.

The largest of these is the new well at the Hampshire Regional High School, which supplies approximately 57 gallons per minute to the school as well as the town hall, town hall annex, library, public safety facility and the local church. The water is distributed to the various buildings through the pipeline that was laid by the former Westhampton Water Company. A new water line was installed to connect the Hampshire Regional High School system to the existing water lines. The old well at the high school yields approximately 100 gallons per minute and is now primarily used for irrigating the athletic fields.

There is no identified aquifer in Westhampton, thus no recorded aquifer recharge area. The nearest aquifer is in Southampton, and Westhampton's possible recharge regions can only be speculated at this time. The most likely recharge area is south of Tob Hill Road and Spruce Hill Road.

#### *Sewer Service*

At present all structures in town have on-site septic systems and sewage disposal is through leach fields or pits. Tank sludge is typically removed by private firms to treatment plants in Westfield and Northampton.

#### *Housing*

Westhampton Woods is the senior housing complex on Main Road. There are eight units, one of which is reserved as a community center. Its first residents arrived in January of 2006. A second complex of eight units – all spoken for at this writing – has been fully planned and designed. The developer awaits funding to begin construction.

### **3. Long-Term Development Patterns**

Westhampton has one zoning district, Agricultural-Residential, as displayed on the Zoning Map. There is also a Floodplain Overlay District. Town bylaws identify definition of a Water Protection District but the status has not been established. No commercial areas are designated but some commercial use is allowed by special permit.

Building lots require 250 feet of frontage on a public road and 50,000 square feet of land (slightly more than 1 acre).

Zoning restrictions for subdivisions or cluster development are stringent. To date one such development has been approved on Blueberry Hill, also known as Fisher Hill. The road was constructed and some lots cleared but houses have not been built yet due to the slow economy.

There is land under full protection in Westhampton. Increased development in Westhampton could have several consequences. As the population continues to grow from new housing, the need for schools will also continue to grow. New roads, or increased maintenance of existing roads, will be necessary.

New housing near Westhampton's water resources - three rivers, two major brooks and several smaller tributaries - could affect water quality due to septic systems and lawn-care practices.

Westhampton provides habitat for a large variety of wildlife, which further development could displace.



Recreational activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, nature study, horseback riding and snowmobiling are important to residents. Increased development would lessen the amount of land available for these activities.

The impact on open space, town services, water supplies, wildlife and recreation will depend on the rate and extent of development.

## **Section 4 - Environmental Inventory and Analysis**

### **A. Geology, Soils, Topography**

Westhampton lies on the eastern edge of the Connecticut Valley Synclorium (a series of folds depressed downward). The bedrock of the area consists of a complex schist (Waits River and Goshen formations, Lower Devonian in age, 300 to 400 million years old) which is covered with various soils (Pleistocene, 18,000-12,000 years old to recent in age, and usually in glacial till).

Also present are deltas formed by sediment carried by streams initiated by melting glaciers.

The soils of Westhampton are the product of glaciation and subsequent weathering. As shown on the general map ("Soil Survey of Hampden and Hampshire Counties," 1995), the majority of these soils are represented by three main types:

A. Ashfield-Shelburne: Very deep loamy soils formed in glacial till; found on higher hilltops and hillsides

B. Montauk-Paxton-Scituate: Very deep loamy soils formed in glacial till; found on hilltops and hillsides

C. Merrimac-Hinckley: Very deep loamy soils formed in glacial outwash; found mainly in valleys.

A more detailed description of these soils can be found on pp. 11-14 of the "Soil Survey of Hampden and Hampshire Counties," 1995).

The topography of the town is fairly rugged except for some moderate terrain in the southeast section. The remaining portion of town (roughly two-thirds) consists of a more irregular landscape, with many prominent hills. Some of these include Fisher Hill, Cub Hill, Spruce Hill, Tob Hill and Dry Hill. The elevation ranges from approximately 340 feet at the lowest point in the Loudville area to 1,543 feet at the highest, at Mount Pisgah. The drainage runs generally to the southeast with the Manhan River.

The presence of shallow bedrock, ledge outcroppings and rocky, compact, and impermeable soils (known in the vernacular as "hardpan") may create difficult conditions for development in certain areas. A legal percolation test may be unobtainable. Well construction, cellar holes and septic systems may be difficult or costly to construct.

The western topography of the town, because of its relief and erosion by streams, provides excellent areas for hiking, fishing, skiing, hunting, and horseback riding. The eastern topography is relatively flat, low-lying flood plains which lend themselves to some agriculture and dairy farming.

Material from glacial outwash during the last glaciation period formed deltas, and these structures are now a source of revenue in the form of gravel pits. Due to the high terrain and active stream action in the western portion of the town, erosional material is now being moved to the southeast.

Maintaining the current abundance of high-quality surface and subsurface water supplies in Westhampton depends on the continuation of a low-density human



population. Extensive housing development can be expected to degrade the water resources as increasing sewage from leach fields overtakes the natural cleansing capacity of the ground and surface waters.

## **B. Landscape Character**

Westhampton's viewsapes are one of its most valuable assets. The mix of farmlands, woodlands, deeply forested areas, marshes, small streams and brooks, as well as a lake, add to the uniqueness and richness of Westhampton's character. The spectacular views from and of the many hillsides and rolling farmland add to the town's aesthetic qualities.

## **C. Water Resources**

Three rivers and two major brooks flow in Westhampton: the Dead Branch of the Westfield River, the North and South Branches of the Manhan River, Sodom Brook and Roberts Meadow Brook. In addition to these, there are numerous smaller tributaries, some of which are seasonal in nature.

Pine Island Lake is the only large body of water in Westhampton, and Hanging Mountain Pond is a small natural pond near the intersection of North and Montague Roads. Refer to the Water Resources Map.

### *Hydrology*

Westhampton is divided into three main watersheds: on the east, a small portion of the town drains into the Mill River watershed; the northwest corner drains into the Westfield River watershed; while the majority of the town flows into the Manhan River. All of these are watersheds to the Connecticut River: The Mill River enters the Connecticut in Northampton, the Manhan enters in Easthampton and the Westfield enters 25 miles south on the West Springfield/Agawam border. Refer to the Water Resources Map in the appendix for watershed delineations. The wetlands occur throughout town, and comprise approximately 6 percent of the town's land area. This is a lower percentage than in many other Massachusetts communities and reflects the town's rugged topography. Nevertheless, the wetlands provide several important functions: protection of public and private water supplies, protection of groundwater supplies, storm-damage control, flood prevention, pollution prevention, protection of fisheries, and protection of wildlife habitat. They are also areas that offer recreation opportunities (fishing, hunting, nature study, research) and aesthetic qualities.

### *Streams and Rivers*

Due to Westhampton's hilly topography, nearly all of its water resources are small streams and cold, rocky brooks. Seven of these are perennial: Brewer Brook and Roberts Meadow Brook (Mill River), the Dead Branch (Westfield River) and Turkey Brook, Sodom Brook, North Branch and South Branch of the Manhan River. No large ponds (greater than 5 acres) exist in town, except for Pine Island Lake, a privately held impoundment in the upper watershed of the North Branch of the Manhan River. The Dead Branch is an especially wild and scenic stretch and merges with the East Branch of the Westfield River, as it flows through more than 2,000 acres of Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control land. Of special note, the upper reaches of the Dead Branch

provide suitable habitat for two common species of freshwater mussel: the Eastern Papershell (*Pyganodon cataracta*) and the Eastern Elliptic (*Elliptio complanata*)

### *Flood Hazard Areas*

The Water Resources map depicts the 100-year (Zone A) and 500-year (Zone X-500) flood zones identified by FEMA flood maps. The 100-year flood zone represents the area that will be covered by water as a result of a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. These areas in Westhampton occur along the North Branch of the Manhan River crossing Northwest Road and from Perry Hill Road to the town line along Easthampton Road. Flooding at the Northwest Road intersection impacts the road, however this site is made worse by beaver activity. Other 100-year flood zones include a meadow along the Sodom Brook on Stage Road, Roberts Meadow Brook between North Road and Montague Road and the Former White Reservoir. The 500-year flood zone represents the area that will be covered by water as a result of a flood that has a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The two 500-year flood zones in Westhampton are Pine Island Lake and along the Sodom Brook at the intersection of Main Road and South Road.

Most of the floodplains are quite narrow except for a few wetlands. Most flooding occurs on forest land, agricultural fields and in a few cases, residents' yards. A limited number of houses along Easthampton Rd are impacted by 100-year flood events. The Floodplain Overlay District Bylaw, depicted on the Zoning Map, is designed to prevent activities and construction in floodplain areas which would worsen flood damage either upstream or downstream.

### *Aquifer Recharge Areas*

Westhampton residents draw their water from private wells. There is no identified, mapped aquifer in Westhampton, and thus no recorded aquifer recharge area. The nearest aquifer is in Southampton, and Westhampton's possible recharge regions can only be speculated at this time. The most likely recharge area is south of Tob Hill Road and Spruce Hill Road.

There are seven wells in Westhampton that are considered public water supplies. Each of these wells has an interim wellhead protection area, as depicted on the Water Resources Map. Certain land uses are prohibited or restricted in these areas according to DEP regulations in order to protect the recharge area.



## D. Vegetation

### *Natural Areas*

The land-use history of Westhampton is like that of much of Massachusetts. Within 150 years after the arrival of Europeans, 75-90 percent of the land had been cleared for timber, pasture and farming. In the 1850s the collapse of the sheep industry, opening of the West and rise of industries in the cities led to the abandonment of area farms. By the late 19th century, the former fields had reverted to woodlands, and since the early 20th century, these forests have undergone repeated harvests of varying magnitude. Today, timber harvesting remains a common element throughout Westhampton's extensive woodlands.

Westhampton is fortunate to have several large blocks of relatively unfragmented forest, a few more than a mile across. These areas of contiguous woodlands provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially for wide-ranging species such as bears and fishers, as well as neotropical migrants like black-throated blue warblers and wood thrushes. Many of these upland forests are characterized by dry, acid soils where oaks (red and chestnut especially) dominate the forest canopy. In moist but similarly acidic areas, large stands of hemlock are common. Other common species include white ash, black birch, yellow birch, sugar maple and red maple. Red maple, by virtue of its tolerance to a range of moisture levels and the effects of timber harvesting, is perhaps the most common component of every forest in town.

In addition to this more common mix of deciduous species, the town also includes a few unusual forest community types. In isolated areas where the bedrock includes intrusions of marble and lies close to or at the surface, the soils are neutral to calcareous. In these settings, the canopy is dominated by sugar maple, white ash and basswood, while the understory consists of a rich mix of herbs, including more than 20 species of ferns and a variety of spring wildflowers. Known as rich mesic woods, this plant community is tracked by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Westhampton is the habitat for two state-listed plant species.

Another unusual, more "southern" forest type is found near the eastern border of town. Characterized by bedrock balds, the understory is carpeted with swaths of Pennsylvania sedge, while the overstory is a mix of stunted hickories, hop hornbeam and red cedar. The small seeps found in this setting are botanically diverse. Although these areas include no state-listed species, they do provide habitat for several species that are "rare" in Westhampton.

In addition to its upland forests, the town includes a relatively small but diverse assemblage of wetland types. The two most common are red maple swamps and abandoned beaver marshes. Common species in both habitats include red maple, silky dogwood, speckled alder, winterberry, willows (five species), tussock sedge and a variety of herbs. The town's narrow, cold, rocky brooks are bordered by narrow floodplains with lush carpets of false hellebore in the understory and overstory canopies of yellow birch, red maple and hemlock. In addition, a large, perched wetland within the Marion Sherman Lynes Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society on Edwards Road includes an unusual mix of tupelo and yellow birch. This wetland contains lots of sphagnum moss and supports, among other plants, the town's only known location for the tiny green orchid known as early coralroot (*Corallorhiza trifida*). Ecologically, the most significant



wetland habitats in Westhampton are vernal pools and two small bogs. None of the vernal pools is currently certified. The bogs host a number of unusual plants (bog laurel, larch, black spruce, Virginia chain fern, cranberry and pitcher plants) for the town and support at least three state-listed animal species.

Of particular note is that Westhampton is, at present, free of some of the most troublesome invasive, non-native plants. Purple loosestrife and glossy buckthorn are currently absent and only three isolated patches of black swallowwort occur. Russian olive, Morrow's honeysuckle and common barberry are also relatively infrequent. Several wetlands contain stands of phragmites, but none of the wetlands is dominated by this species. Japanese knotweed is currently confined almost exclusively to roadside edges, although some clusters occur along a few of the larger brooks. The two most widespread of the aggressive, non-native species are Asiatic bittersweet and multiflora rose.

A preliminary checklist of the flora of Westhampton lists 625 species.

Aside from their value to wildlife, Westhampton's vast woodlands, wetlands and cold-water brooks provide residents with opportunities for hiking, hunting, nature study and research.

### *Managed Landscapes*

Although relatively few farms remain in Westhampton, croplands and pastures continue to be important elements of the town's rural character. The pastures support a variety of plant species, including many non-native forage grasses, and provide nesting habitat for bobolinks and, where nesting boxes have been installed, Eastern bluebirds.

Due to its glacial history, gravel pits are found scattered throughout the town. Some of these have been abandoned for several years and where groundwater is close to or at the surface, they support an unusual mixture of plants that are adapted to wet, nutrient-poor conditions. Among the most noteworthy are variegated horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*-special concern), bog clubmoss (*Lycopodium inundatum*), Smith's rush (*Scirpus smithii*) and Rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). These areas also provide habitat for several tiger beetles (*Cicindela repanda*, *punctulata*, *sexguttata*, and most interesting, *rufiventris*) as well as North America's smallest dragonfly, the little bluebell (*Nannothemis bella*), which is currently "watch-listed" in Massachusetts.

Finally, as in many rural communities, sugar maples and other deciduous trees line many of the roads. These trees contribute significantly to the appearance of the town. Many of the existing trees are old and in poor health, and the number of trees dying or being cut annually is not offset by adequate replanting. An expanded planting effort along the town's roads is needed to preserve this aspect of the community.

## **E. Fisheries and Wildlife**

A large portion of Westhampton is forested. These mature hardwood and hemlock forests provide habitats for a variety of game and non-game species. White-tail deer, black bear, wild turkey and moose can all be found in Westhampton. Hunters frequent the town in the fall searching for game. Species dependent on early successional stage forests are not abundant in Westhampton.

Fishing in town is mostly restricted to stream fishing for trout, although Pine Island Lake has largemouth bass and blue gill. Several streams have been stocked with salmon fry. Some of these species are now as large as the native trout.

Several species of songbirds are prevalent. Bluebirds are now common here as



well, and seem to be of special interest to bird watchers. A breeding bird list of Westhampton has been created by a local bird watcher.

Nine species that have been listed as endangered, threatened or placed on the watch list can be found in Westhampton. These include two species of salamander, two species of turtle, one bird species, and four insect species. Many other species can be found in vernal pools. Refer to the Fisheries and Wildlife Map.

Development adversely affects wildlife by fragmenting habitat. This may lead to a decline in both the number and diversity of animals and plants, some of which rely on large tracts of unfragmented land. Another possible result would be increased conflicts between wildlife and humans.

## **F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments**

Several areas have been identified by town residents as having noteworthy ecological or scenic value. Refer to the Unique Features Map in the appendix.

### *1. Hanging Mountain Pond and associated bog*

Located near the intersection of North Road and Montague Road, this is Westhampton's only natural pond. Its acidic waters are fish-free and provide breeding habitat for seven amphibians (wood frogs, gray tree frogs, spring peepers, pickerel frogs, green frogs, bullfrogs, spotted salamanders) and several unusual dragonflies. Purple finches are also known to nest in this small but important area. Botanically, the area includes several plants that are otherwise rare in Westhampton. This is one of the most ecologically important sites in Westhampton. It also played a role in town history and was used for years as a field-trip destination by the local elementary school.

### *2. Dead Branch of the Westfield River and the Bear's Den*

Located in the northwest corner of town, the Dead Branch is a cold, shady, rushing river with dramatic rock outcrops that flows into the Westfield River drainage. Bordered by hemlock and a mix of deciduous trees, the river provides habitat for native brook trout, Atlantic salmon and several other species of fish. It also supports one species of rare dragonfly and is the only location in town where freshwater mussels are known to occur. Along its marshy borders are a few plants that are unusual in town, including pickerelweed, sweet gale and in one small area, pitcher plants, leatherleaf, sundews and other species characteristic of bogs. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) developed the Westfield River Highlands Program in 2003 to join community efforts to protect and responsibly manage the watershed's forests and rivers. TNC is actively talking with Westhampton landowners in the Dead Branch watershed, and portions of the Connecticut River Watershed as well about protecting their land.

The Bear's Den is an unusual rock formation located on the boundary of Huntington and Westhampton. It also abuts approximately 2,300 acres of flood control land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

### *5. Manhan River Waterfalls*

Found on the branch of the Manhan River, these falls, plunge pools and rock outcroppings are among the most beautiful in the Connecticut Valley. They are located off Perry Hill Extension.



#### *4. Parsons' Flats*

Broad expanses of cropland, lush pasture, the cold, rocky branch of the Manhan River and surrounding forested hills characterize the land locally known as Parsons' Flats. Located off Easthampton Road, much of the acreage has been farmed by the Parsons family for nine generations. The Parsons continue to farm here, and maintain the town's last dairy operation.

The brook is a favorite with area fisherman. Both trout and Atlantic salmon are stocked here.

#### *5. Tipping Rock*

Located alongside a small woodland trail in the northwestern section of town, between Northwest and Tob Roads, Tipping Rock is a large glacial erratic that can actually be rocked back and forth. It was transported by the continental glacier during the last ice age. The rock can be accessed by a trail on Tipping Rock Road. As of now there is no public access to this natural feature.

#### *6. Hanging Mountain, Tob Hill, Cub Hill, Fisher Hill and scenic mountain ridgetops*

Like many communities, Westhampton includes many scenic hills. Among the most noteworthy are Hanging Mountain, Tob Hill and Cub Hill. In addition to their aesthetic value, all three also support trails used by hikers, snowmobilers and horseback riders. Near the base of these mountains are richer woods, and the hills and their surroundings provide habitat for several of our larger predators, including bobcat, fisher and coyotes as well as extensive denning areas for porcupines.

#### *7. Large blocks of contiguous forest: Cub Hill, Tob Hill, Holyoke Water Company Land, Pisgah Road, Reservoir Road*

These large blocks of forest are important for both people and wildlife, especially species sensitive to forest fragmentation. Wood roads, stone walls and old cellar holes are reminders of the land's past. These areas provide many recreational opportunities: horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling and nature study.

#### *8. Agricultural lands (wet meadow/pasture, prime agricultural soils)*

Although most of Westhampton features sandy or gravelly loams, a few areas of prime agricultural soils exist. These soils support row crops and a mix of agriculture. In pasture areas where groundwater is near the surface, the wet meadows support a mix of wildflowers and grasses.

In addition to the economic value that Westhampton's farms provide, these scenic landscapes, against the backdrop of forested hills, help define the community's rural character. The areas specifically mentioned in the latest survey include Bridgmont Farm, Parsons Farm, Murray's Meadow (the fields along Stage and Easthampton Roads) and the old chicken farm fields along North and Montague Roads.

#### *9. Vernal pools*

These special wetland types are not common in Westhampton and are widely scattered. Although none is presently certified, several are known to support healthy populations of spotted salamanders, wood frogs and fairy shrimp. A few are known to support Jefferson's salamanders.



#### *10. Rich, mesic -woods*

This unusual habitat type occurs in a few areas of town. Exemplary sites include the area near the base of Tob Hill, Hanging Mountain and portions of the Holyoke Water Company land. Although much of the town is characterized by acidic soils, these areas contain soils with neutral to calcareous soil conditions. As a result, several unusual plants occur in these settings, including two state-listed plant species.

#### *11. Mineral Hills/Turkey Hill*

This area, composed of hidden wetlands, steep cliffs, narrow ravines, and a wide variety of habitats, starts at the ends of Turkey Hill and Hooker Roads and heads east into Northampton. There are over 400 acres of contiguous, permanently-protected open space in Westhampton and Northampton. The hills provide beautiful views across the region and the shallow soils are home to a half dozen of the hardiest, most drought tolerant plants in our area. The area provides valuable habitat for an array of wildlife species, including bear, bobcat, fisher, mink, porcupine, coyote, turkey and a variety of other wetland and upland species. 87 acres in Westhampton have been permanently protected through joint projects with the City of Northampton since the last open space plan update.

### **G. Environmental Challenges**

#### 1. Hazardous waste and brownfield sites

There are no known hazardous waste sites in Westhampton. At this writing there is an ongoing enforcement dispute regarding a solid waste stump dump in the northwest section of town. Potential hazardous waste problems are most likely to arise from those sites where automotive repair or equipment maintenance is performed. But at this time commercial operations of this type are being responsible in their handling of these materials. Westhampton also has waste oil collection at the transfer station and participates in an annual regional household hazardous waste collection, and a regional electronics recycling program, which together, helps homeowners be responsible as well.

There is former junkyard/unlicensed used car business on Main Road with many vehicles still on site. It is not clear any state or local regulations govern its clean up, unless there is evidence of ground water contamination – which has not been the case.

#### 2. Landfills

There are two inactive landfills in town – we currently operate a waste transfer station. One of the landfills is capped, about 5 acres in size, and is town-owned. It is closely monitored twice yearly by a town paid certified environmental monitoring company. No known issues exist concerning down gradient water contamination.

There is an uncapped landfill on a 1-acre town-owned property on Southampton Road. It was in use in the late 1960's for one year only just prior to the use of the larger 5-acre landfill. It was tested most recently in 2009 and nothing of concern was found.

#### 3. Erosion

See section 5 on sedimentation.

#### 4. Chronic flooding

Chronic flooding is not a problem in Westhampton. The town's



Conservation Commission addresses wetland issues on a regular basis to ensure that this does not become a problem.

Westhampton does have several properties where gravel, sand and other fill is taken from the ground. Several of these gravel banks are inside the buffer strip of perennial streams or rivers. Flooding caused by beavers is a concern in some areas of town.

#### 5. Sedimentation

Many town roads are unpaved and thus subject to both sedimentation and erosion during significant rainfall events. There may be opportunities to identify and mitigate erosion and sedimentation events that affect vernal ponds, including those on Lyman and Northwest Roads.

#### 6. New Development

Westhampton is rural and still has a small town feel – but it is growing and there is significant development in some places in town. New housing starts in town have averaged only 2 per year from 2008 to 2011. In the decade prior there were about 15 new homes constructed per year. With fairly restrictive zoning bylaws new development is limited. The Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Zoning Boards actively monitor new construction and development for compliance with town and state regulations. All new housing must comply with Title 5.

In 2006, the town's first subdivision was permitted on Blueberry Hill. Due to the downturn in the economy, the property has been foreclosed upon and none of 8 lots have yet been developed.

#### 7. Ground and Surface Water

Westhampton residents use private septic systems. Title 5 requires that these systems are working properly when a house is sold. The town did have a small reservoir, which supplied drinking water for some of the houses in the center of town. In accordance with DEP drinking water regulations, this reservoir is no longer in use, and all town residents rely on private wells for drinking water.

Other possible sources of pollution include lawn chemicals, failing septic systems, eroding logging roads, and runoff from town roads and agricultural fields.

At Pine Island, which is a small manmade, privately maintained lake, there are still 5-10 seasonal cottages with non-upgraded septic systems. There is always concern that they could be affecting water quality of the lake. An association of private residences on the lake does pay for periodic water quality monitoring but the results are not public. As with all houses in Massachusetts, the town Board of Health ensures those around Pine Island conform to Title 5 when sold.

#### 8. Impaired Water Bodies

Westhampton is part of the Connecticut Basin Lakes watershed. In a 2001 state report, of the six lakes that are being monitored for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), all are on the east side of the Connecticut River – Westhampton on the west side. In a 2010 report, the local Manhan River is listed as an impaired water body for E. Coli, but not until it leaves Westhampton and flows through neighboring towns. Therefore, Westhampton has no known impaired water bodies.



## 9. Invasive Species

A growing threat to Westhampton's forest land is the approach of invasive insects and pathogens, including Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer. Hemlock Woolly Adelgids have been present for more than 12 years and have impacted some localized areas of Hemlock, but they are spreading. In 2012, the Emerald Ash Borer was detected to our west in Dalton, while the Asian Longhorned Beetle has had a large impact in the Worcester area. The future impact of these pests remains to be seen.

In terms of invasive plants, at present Westhampton is not as affected as many other nearby communities. Purple loosestrife, black swallowwort and glossy buckthorn are still fairly uncommon, but on the increase Russian olive, Morrow's honeysuckle and common barberry are also relatively infrequent. Several wetlands contain stands of phragmites, but none of the wetlands are dominated by this species. Japanese knotweed is currently confined almost exclusively to roadside edges, although some clusters occur along a few of the larger brooks. The two most widespread of the aggressive, non-native species are Asiatic bittersweet and multi-flora rose. In 2012, the highly invasive grass known as stilt grass was found in Westhampton, where it occurs along the road side edge. Subsequent survey work turned up more stilt grass in Easthampton, Southampton and all along the edge of the Manhan River to the Oxbow. A work party to remove the grass was conducted in neighboring Southampton, but with the discovery that it is widespread, it is unclear if additional control efforts will occur. In Westhampton, it is possible that the highway department could assist with mowing and herbiciding to help keep this unwanted species confined or, at least, discourage its spread.

## 10. Environmental Equity

*"The equal distribution of environmental risk among population groups regardless of race, income, gender, or age"* – Encarta, 2009

Westhampton is a small town without a central population center. We are spread out evenly based on any population group one might try to parse. We also have few hazards and environmental risks - there are no known environmental equity issues that can be applied.

From an access standpoint, town buildings are at, or are being brought into compliance with ADA. The school playground is accessible but there are no developed areas, public or private, where a person of limited mobility could easily get out into the woods or fields unless they could ride of some type of ATV.

## **Section 5 - Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest** (53.3% of 17,478 total acres)

As urban and suburban development continued to alter the landscape across Massachusetts, the tangible and intangible benefits derived from open space continue to be ever more important.

The intangible benefits can be hard to define but include aesthetics and beauty, quality of life and places where urban dwellers can reconnect with the natural world.

The tangible benefits of open space include such basics as clean water, aquifer protection, wildlife habitat and rare species protection, forest products including carbon sequestration and agriculture. Another benefit of open space is recreation, whether it be organized sports or hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Protection is important to



keep all these values, benefits and resources. They can be lost when economic needs or pressures, or a change in ownership results in a change in land use. Real protection by means of a deed restriction or conservation restriction or some other legal means prevents open space parcels from being developed or used in a way that damages or destroys the benefits or resources available on those parcels. Perpetual restriction is the only definition of true land protection.

Although Westhampton is privileged to have a high percentage of its land in various states of land conservation, most of it is Chapter 61, 61A or 61B land, which by design is only an impediment to development, not a restriction. In fact, the town has very little land in perpetual restriction. Most of this is watershed lands, which would require state legislative action to allow development. However, there are 573 acres of non-watershed land with permanent development restrictions in town (3.3%). Refer to the following maps: Fisheries and Wildlife; Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest; Protected Lands; Unique Features; and Water Resources.

#### **A. Private Parcels: Significant Private Holdings (50.3% of all land)**

##### **(1) Agricultural Lands - Chapter 61A, Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), Farm Viability**

There are 1,960 acres of Chapter 61A lands covering 61 parcels for an average parcel size of just over 37 acres. Twenty-six landowners participate. There is no land enrolled in the APR program.

Intervale Farm has about 200 acres and Runnymede has about 295 acres in the Massachusetts Farm Viability Program, administered by the Department Agricultural Resources. This program restricts the development of land for a set period of time, either five or ten years in exchange for a monetary grant given to the recipients for use on the farm to improve farm viability. Intervale Farm's development restriction expires in 2014, while Runnymede's expires in 2015. Both farms are also in Chapter 61A designation.

##### **(2) Forest Lands - Chapter 61**

There are 3,045 acres of Chapter 61 lands covering 47 parcels for an average parcel size of nearly 52 acres. Thirty-seven landowners participate.

Cowls Lumber of North Amherst holds the largest amount of Chapter 61 lands, 721 acres on 14 parcels located at the end of Burt Road and within the boundaries of Rhodes, Spruce Hill and Tob Roads. Cowls allows the public to hike, bike, snowmobile, ride ATVs and horses, hunt, fish, and short-term camp on Cowls land, as long as these recreationists respect others' rights to peacefully enjoy the same.

The Easthampton Beagle Club has about 34 acres, while the Northampton-Russell Beagle Club has 220 acres. There are also two trusts totaling about 188 acres.

##### **(3) Areas significant for water resource protection- high yield aquifers, lake shoreline or river corridors**

There are a significant number of private parcels that abut streams (see various maps depicting streams), almost all of which are not protected. Pine Island Lake also has very little protected land in its watershed.

##### **(4) Priority Areas for protection of rare species and biodiversity- Biomap2, etc.**

There is significant acreage mapped as Core habitat under the



BioMap2 project and over half of the town's area is mapped as Critical Natural Landscapes (refer to the Fisheries and Wildlife Map and Action Plan Map— Conservation Priorities to see overlay with private parcels). The large blocks of Core habitat are located in the northwest (Dead Branch of the Westfield River), northeast and southwest corners of the town with smaller polygons located along streams and unique waterbodies throughout town.

The Nature Conservancy is already working with private landowners to protect parcels in their Westfield River Project Area (see Action Plan Map— Conservation Priorities for boundary), which includes land in both the Westfield River and the Connecticut River watersheds with a focus on large forest cores.

**(5) Less-Than-Fee Interests - APRs, conservation restrictions, wetland restrictions, watershed restrictions (Ch. 184), etc, (13.2% of all land)**

The City of Holyoke Water Department owns 1847 acres of land that is held for permanent, watershed protection. This land provides excellent wildlife habitat value and recreation potential, however the land is not open to the public. The City of Northampton has 96 acres of limited-protection watershed land.

Private parcels with conservation restrictions include Jedoron Realty (28.7 acres) and the Eric Property (12.5 acres). Non-profit parcels with conservation restrictions include the Hilltown Land Trust (274 acres) and the Kestrel Trust (57 acres), and New England Forestry Foundation (5.6 acres) all explained in more detail below.

**(6) Private Recreation Lands - Chapter 61B (12.3% of all land)**

There are 2,144 acres of Chapter 61B lands covering 86 parcels for an average parcel size of over 33 acres. Fifty-eight landowners participate. The Pine Island Lake Association and Pine Island Lake Recreation Corporation have a total of 115 acres, including 60 acres of the actual lake, serving the needs of private landowners of Pine Island Lake. Public access is not allowed at Pine Island Lake. Although, they are in Chapter 61, the two Beagle Clubs fall under this category.

There are miles of trails on non-posted, private property that are regularly used by people who live in the area. Almost none of these trails, with the exception of a few snowmobile trails are marked. One other exception is the Tob Hill Trail, located off of Perry Hill Road on two privately-owned parcels. The interpretive trail, created and marked by the 2002 Westhampton Elementary School sixth-grade class, features signs identifying various trees along the path and facts about each species. The trail, open to the public, is 1 mile round trip and climbs about 300 feet in elevation to an overlook with a nice view.

**(7) Estates**

None

**(8) Major Institutional Holdings (colleges, hospitals, etc)**

None

**(9) Other Resources, Corporate Holdings, etc. (0.1% of all land)**

The New England Forestry Foundation is a private nonprofit institution holding about 20 acres with 4.2 acres in permanent protection.

**B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels (3.4% of all land)**



**(1) Public Conservation and Recreation Resources (1.9% of all land)**

**Town of Westhampton Properties** – The Town owns approximately 284 acres as described below. None of them are official recreational facilities that are managed specifically for recreation. The evaluations for accessibility to disabled individuals are in the Appendix.

**Former Water Company Land-** This forest land, formerly owned by the Westhampton Water Company, includes 215 acres over three separate parcels on Tob and Spruce Hill Roads. These parcels are part of a large, intact block of forest land that includes the Cows Lumber and City of Holyoke Watershed lands. The property, not protected, has great potential for recreation and possibly for forest products as well. The land is open for public recreation.

**Westhampton Elementary School grounds-** The Westhampton Elementary school, located off Kings Highway sits on a 16 acre site and offers a baseball/softball diamond, soccer field, open field space and scattered playground equipment. The gymnasium is available for basketball, volleyball or other indoor activities upon request. The soccer field is used by the local youth soccer team. The facilities are open to the public.

**Westhampton Public Library grounds-** The Westhampton Library, located in the center of town, sits on a 2.87 acre parcel of land that is actively used for community gatherings, such as live musical acts during the summer and the annual Fall Festival. When the Friends of The Library purchased the parsonage in 2009 for the new library, they kept the approximately 2.4 acre meadow with it to be permanently protected open space for the community to enjoy. This parcel will have a conservation restriction placed on it in 2011. Besides the organized events, the grounds could be used for picnicking, badminton, volleyball, Frisbee, kite-flying and a whole suite of other recreational activities. There is also a **Liberty Tree Memorial** marked with a disease-resistant elm tree planted in 2010, a stone with a descriptive plaque and a bench in the northeast corner of the meadow.

**Veterans Memorial, Town Common, Town Hall-** The Veterans Memorial, situated on the town common at the top of Stage Road, contains a flag pole and monuments with the names of the Town's Veterans from World War I to the War on Terrorism. There is also a water fountain and several shade trees on this small parcel which provide a relaxing place for a picnic or quiet reflection. The lawn behind the town hall annex was formerly used for concerts and now could be used for picnicking.

The Town Hall gymnasium is available for public use upon request. The Town Hall includes a basketball court and theater stage. A group of elderly folks use the gym weekly during the winter for their morning exercise group. Aerobics classes have also been offered in the gym by local instructors for a fee.

**Other parcels-** The other Town-owned parcels include an 8 acre cemetery on Cemetery Road and a 35 acre capped landfill and recycling depot on Hathaway



Road.

### **State Lands**

**Dead Branch State Forest** - The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) holds 48 acres of permanently-protected forest land off of Northwest Road on the northern border with Chesterfield. The parcel, open for public recreation, is accessed through the Chesterfield portion of the property on South Street.

#### **(2) No n-profit lands (1.1% of all land): features, usage and potential**

**Marion Sherman Lynes Wildlife Sanctuary-** The Massachusetts Audubon Society owns and manages this 197 acre wildlife sanctuary on Edwards Road. The permanently-protected property, managed locally by the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, includes mesic forest, shrubby fields, wetlands, old stone walls and Lyman Brook. The sanctuary is near the large, forested tracts owned by the Holyoke Water Works and is habitat for many animals—large and small. A path leads from the parking area to a one-mile loop trail. The sanctuary is open free to Mass Audubon members and Westhampton residents. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

**Stevens Property-** The Hilltown Land Trust (HLT) owns and manages the 274 acre property formerly owned by Frank Stevens. This permanently-protected forested property, located off Rhodes and Spruce Hill Roads, also includes 105 acres in Huntington. The property is open to the public for non-motorized recreation. The HLT maintains a 1.2-mile walking trail that is accessed from the Huntington side off Pisgah Road.

**Westhampton Mineral Hills Conservation Area-** The Kestrel Trust purchased and permanently protected 57 acres of forest land off of Hooker Road in 2011, thanks to generous private and non-profit donations and a State Partnership Grant. The parcel includes a portion of Turkey Brook and a wooded ridge with nice views. The land purchase, which also included 30 acres across the town line in Northampton, created a continuous block of nearly 400 acres of conservation land in this pristine area. The property is open to the public for non-motorized recreation. There is a network of trails in the area. The best public access at this time is off Turkey Hill Road in Northampton.

**Hartnett-Manhan Memorial Forest** – The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) owns and manages this 148 acre property located primarily in Easthampton off Loudville and Mine Roads. The property, which contains an abandoned lead mine that may have provided bullets for the Revolutionary War, includes two non-contiguous parcels totaling 19.9 acres that are located off Mine Road in Westhampton. One parcel, 5.6 acres in size has a permanent conservation restriction. The property is open to the public for a wide range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

### **(3) Other Public, Unprotected Lands (0.4% of all land)**

**Hampshire Regional High School** - The Hampshire Regional High School, located on Stage Road, sits on 69 acres and offers two baseball and two softball diamonds, four soccer fields, a track and woodland trails. The facilities are open to the public when not in use by the school. The soccer fields are actively used by local club soccer teams.

A small brook that flows alongside the athletic fields provides trout fishing opportunities. The brushy and forested land on the opposite side of this small brook contains a few short trails that are appropriate for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, bird-watching and science classes. The trails are also part of the school's cross country team's competition course. This is also the site of the school's well, so caution needs to be exercised with the use of this area.

The following table lists all town-owned and other conservation and recreation land and the ownership, management agency, current use, condition, recreation potential, public access, type of public grant accepted, zoning and degree of protection.



## Conservation and Recreation Lands

Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
<b><u>TOWN-OWNED</u></b>										
Former Westhampton Water Company Land (18-6, 22-4, 22-6)	Town of Westhampton	Select Board	Woodland	Wooded	215	Hiking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching, ATV trails	Donated	Open	Ag/Res	None
Westhampton Elementary School (19-52)	Town of Westhampton	School Committee	Educational	School, playground, athletic fields	15.6	Soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, playground, picnics, etc...		Open	Ag/Res	Limited
Westhampton Public Library Grounds (23C-11)	Town of Westhampton	Library Board of Trustees, Select Board	Library, Community gatherings	Library, open meadow	2.87	Relaxation, picnics, frisbee, concerts, open park, playground, tennis court, volleyball, winter sliding	State library funds	Open	Ag/Res	Planned conservation restriction (2011)

Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
War Memorial, Town Common, Town Hall (23C-13)	Town of Westhampton	Select Board	Monument, Town Common, Town Hall	Monument, Lawn, Town Hall	0.6	Relaxation, picnicking, frisbee; Hall-basketball, aerobics, square dances, parties, etc...		Open		None
Transfer Station/Landfill (19-8)	Town of Westhampton	Board of Health, Select Board	Transfer station, capped landfill	Paved work area, grassed capped landfill mound	33	None currently, however winter sliding and other possibilities to be explored		Open	Ag/Res	Limited to current use, Regulations for capped landfill
<b>Other Municipalities / State</b>										



Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Hampshire Regional High School (HRHS)	HRHS	School Committee	Educational	School, athletic fields	68.8	Soccer, baseball, softball, track, hiking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching		Open	Ag/Res	Limited
Holyoke Water Works (Various parcels)	City of Holyoke	Holyoke Water Works	Watershed land	Wooded	1847	None- currently no public access permitted		No	Ag/Res, State Regs for Watershed land	Permanent (per MassGIS); State Regs on Municipal watershed
Northampton Department of Public Works -Water (12-29)	City of Northampton	DPW Water Dept	Watershed land	Wooded	96	None- currently no public access permitted		No	Ag/Res, State Regs for Watershed land	Limited; State Regs on Municipal watershed

Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Dead Branch State Forest (1-1)	Commonwealth of MA	Department of Conservation & Recreation	State Forest - Managed Woodlot	Wooded	48.3	Hiking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching, ATV trails		Open	Ag/Res	Permanent
<b><u>Non-Profit Lands</u></b>										
Westhampton Mineral Hills Conservation Area (20-3)	Kestrel Trust	Kestrel Trust	Woodland	Wooded	57	Hiking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching	State Partnership, HCI	Open	Ag/Res	Conservation Restriction
Stevens Property (13-2)	Hilltown Land Trust	Hilltown Land Trust	Woodland	Wooded	274	Hiking, snowshoeing, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching		Open	Ag/Res	Conservation Restriction



Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Marion Sherman Lynes Wildlife Sanctuary (31-20)	MA Audobon Society	MA Audobon Society	Wildlife refuge	Wooded	197	Hiking, snowshoeing, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching		Open	Ag/Res	Permanent
New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) (36-36, 32-24)	NEFF	NEFF	Managed Woodlot	Wooded	19.9	Hiking, X-C skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, picnics		Open	Ag/Res	32-24 (5.6 ac)- Conservation Restriction; 36-36- No protection
Westhampton Woods (28-30, 28-31)	Westhampton Senior Housing, Inc	Westhampton Senior Housing, Inc	Elderly housing	Housing, lawns, wetland	3.8	Relaxation, picnicking, Gardening, wildlife viewing, bird watching		Open to residents	Ag/Res	Conservation Restriction on wetlands (approx 1.3 acres)
<b>Private Parcels</b>										

Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
WD Cowls forest land (14 parcels)	WD Cowls	WD Cowls	Managed Woodlot	Wooded	721	Hiking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, picnics, wildlife viewing, bird-watching, ATV trails		Open	Ag/Res	Ch 61
Jedoron Realty Property (20-1)	Jedoron Realty	Jedoron Realty	Woodland	Wooded, Wetlands	29.3	None- Private	HCI	No	Ag/Res	Conservation Restriction
Nancy Eric Property (13-8)	Nancy Eric	Nancy Eric	Woodland	Wooded	12.5	None- Private		No	Ag/Res	Conservation Restriction



Property (Parcel #)	Owner	Managed By	Current Use	Condition	Ac	Recreation Potential	Grant Used to Purchase	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Easthampton Beagle Club (27-25, 32-3)	Easthampton Beagle Club	Easthampton Beagle Club	Fenced dog trail, Club use	Wooded, Managed for small game	58.4	Private hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing		Private; Public Events	Ag/Res	Ch 61
Northampton/Russell Beagle Club (36-24)	Northampton/Russell Beagle Club	Northampton/Russell Beagle Club	Fenced dog trail, Club use	Wooded, Managed for small game	220	Private hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing		Private; Public Events	Ag/Res	Ch 61
Pine Island Lake & Forest land (11A-2, 11D-28, 11B-3)	Private Pine Island Lake Association	Private Pine Island Lake Association	Private, summer and year-round cottages	Man-made lake with cottages; Wooded	55.2 (land) 60.0 (lake)	For residents- swimming, boating, fishing; Woods- hiking, etc...		No	Ag/Res	Ch 61 (two parcels)
Windy Acres KOA Campground (31-5)	Windy Acres	Windy Acres	Campground	RV Camping	19.6	For guests- Camping, swimming, hiking, etc...		For guests	Ag/Res	None

## **Section 6 - Community Goals**

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

In summer of 2010, the Westhampton Open Space Committee conducted a survey to ascertain Westhampton residents' opinions and concerns regarding the town's future ambiance, protection/preservation of land/farmland, and creation of recreational facilities. About 200 surveys were handed out, with 65 surveys being completed and returned. The majority of which were given to residents at the town's transfer station. A copy of the survey, with a summary of responses, is included in Appendix A.

In response to two questions, residents named specific sites "worthwhile for the town to preserve, protect and/or manage," and listed recreational facilities they would like the town to establish or expand. This gave the committee a more precise picture of people's priorities.

A public meeting was held in June to allow residents further opportunity to provide input and opinions. The report on this meeting is included as Appendix B.

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

The Town of Westhampton is a rural sanctuary, replete with forests, streams, ponds, bogs, rivers, waterfalls, farmland, wetlands, hilltops, scenic mountain ridgetops, vernal pools, huge boulders, cliffs, dramatic rock outcrops, pasture, meadows and varied and abundant flora and fauna. Together, these outstanding natural resources provide the town's citizens with aesthetic and recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, clean water, pure air, flood protection, and an exceptionally high quality of life in an environment that affords a natural refuge from nearby dense population centers and suburban sprawl

The goal of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to present a coordinated set of actions to protect and preserve the resources that create this precious environment, and to maintain the rural quality of the town, cherished by an overwhelming majority of residents who responded to the 2010 survey. The land within the boundaries of Westhampton includes many undeveloped areas that provide opportunities for outdoor recreational activities as well as scenic vistas. Fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding can all be experienced in an informal setting. However, most of these activities involve the public use of private land, which brings up liability concerns. In addition, the majority of these lands has no permanent conservation restrictions and could be turned over to developers, who might disrupt the natural beauty of the landscape and restrict access.

The vision of the community includes the following general goals: Maintain and improve the quality of water resources, protect open space, scenic landscapes and important wildlife habitat, including rare or endangered species, protect farmland from development, protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities and protect historic and cultural resources.



## **Section 7 - Analysis of Needs**

### **A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs**

#### **Farmland Preservation**

Over 92 percent of survey respondents would like to see Westhampton devise a plan to protect farmland. Currently all major tracts of farmland in town are under Chapter 61 A. This provides those tracts with a limited amount of protection from development because the owner has less financial incentive to develop the land due to the decreased tax burden, and the town has the right of first refusal to purchase the property if it is put up for sale.

Currently no farmland in Westhampton is enrolled in the state's Agricultural Preservation and Restriction Program.

#### **Water Resources**

Water resources in Westhampton have limited protection, courtesy of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act. Additionally, the Board of Health enforces septic tank regulations in order to protect groundwater. Other forms of runoff are monitored by the Conservation Commission to further protect rivers and streams. Westhampton does not have any local bylaws to restrict development along rivers, streams or ponds.

#### **Hills and Hilltops**

Hills and hilltops make up most of the land residents would like to see protected. Currently Cub Hill is the only major hilltop that has much protection from development. The peak and most of the western slope are owned by the City of Holyoke and serve as watershed land. All other hilltops in town are owned by individuals. Many of these parcels of land are classified under Chapter 61, which gives the town the right of first refusal in the event of their sale. As mentioned earlier, Fisher Hill was lost to the town's first approved subdivision, although the homes have not been constructed yet.

#### **Greenbelts and Linkages to Resources in Other Communities**

Several large tracts of undeveloped land in Westhampton continue into adjoining towns. One such parcel off Chesterfield Road connects to watershed land in both Williamsburg and Northampton. Another tract contains property belonging to the City of Holyoke's water department. These watershed lands have a reasonable level of protection.

As discussed above, 86 acres have been protected in the Mineral Hills area along the Northampton line since 2007. Also, one privately owned parcel in the Town of Huntington has a permanent conservation restriction. A small amount of this land crosses the town line into Westhampton.

Several trails used by all-terrain vehicles as well as skiers, bikers and hikers connect Westhampton to abutting communities. These trails, however, have no official status. Other large parcels of land which cross town lines have only a minimal level of protection provided by Chapter 61. Development of these parcels could affect Westhampton's natural resources. These properties could be protected by the purchase of conservation restrictions, or by the town exercising its right of first refusal allowed by

Chapter 61 to purchase them.

### **Wildlife Corridors**

Wildlife corridors are not protected or otherwise designated as areas of special concern in Westhampton at this time. Wildlife generally can move freely from one tract of land to the next

## **B. Summary of Community Needs**

### Survey Results

Residents who responded to the Open Space Survey expressed an overwhelming desire to:

- Preserve the rural character and scenic beauty of the town.
- Protect farmland.
- Protect wildlife habitat.
- Develop a program to buy land with federal or state money in order to meet future needs and to preserve open space.

Residents recognize that accomplishing these goals will require some investment out of their own pockets. 53 percent of respondents said they would support the Community Preservation Act (CPA), while 20 percent were not sure.

The following survey results on questions related to zoning and development further support the residents' desire and need to preserve the scenic beauty and quality of life provided in our rural community:

- 51 percent of the respondents favor the current zoning law requiring a minimum of 50,000 square feet for a building lot; of the remaining 49 percent, the vast majority (42 percent) favor larger building lots
- 44 percent agree that single-family housing is the most important type of housing in Westhampton, while housing for the elderly was called for by 21 percent and two-family housing by 20 percent.
- 43 percent of respondents prefer residential growth to be regulated and only in existing developed areas.
- A nearly equal number of people preferred that no further business or industrial growth occur (47 percent) and that business and industrial growth be regulated and only occur in existing developed areas (48 percent).

### Recreation Needs

The land within the boundaries of Westhampton includes many undeveloped areas that provide opportunities for outdoor recreational activities as well as scenic vistas. Fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding can all be experienced in an informal setting. However, most of these activities involve the public use of private land, which brings up liability concerns. In addition, the majority of these lands has no permanent conservation restrictions and could be turned over to developers,



who might disrupt the natural beauty of the landscape and restrict access. The elderly and handicapped also face a relative shortage of recreational facilities.

Residents who responded to the survey expressed a desire for the following:

- marked trails for multipurpose activities (hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horse-back riding and off road vehicles)
- park area for picnicking, walking and leisure activities
- swimming pool, lake access, tennis and basketball courts

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), also known as *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006* was reviewed to determine the recreational needs of the people in the Connecticut River Valley Region. This region extends from the eastern edge of the Berkshires to the eastern edge of the Quabbin Reservoir. The SCORP indicates that most of the protected open space in the region is owned or protected for water supply purposes and for that reason is managed to exclude all human or at least all recreational activities. This is true for the large percentage of the protected open space in Westhampton since public access is restricted on the Holyoke Water Supply lands.

When asked what new facilities would most benefit them, respondents to the SCORP survey in the Connecticut River Valley Region showed the highest interest in facilities for road biking (14.5%), walking (13.9%), swimming (13.8%), playground activity (11.3%), hiking (10.0%), and mountain biking (10.3%). This data somewhat mirrors the results of Westhampton's open space survey with the requests for additional hiking, mountain biking and swimming opportunities. The quiet roadways in town provide excellent bicycling and walking, however.

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

Implementation of an Open Space and Recreation Plan will require participation by the numerous boards, commissions and committees in Westhampton.

Since most citizens who completed the survey want to preserve the country-town rural atmosphere of Westhampton, the Zoning Board and the Planning Board should examine the building codes and propose needed changes.

The Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee, Historical Commission, local School Committee and Selectboard must all address the community's open-space planning. These groups perform their missions independently. However, there is no effective mechanism in place which enables them to communicate with each other except an occasional all-boards meeting. The town should establish a more formal framework for conveying information and promoting cooperation among boards.

Residents need to be informed about the necessity of having a plan to insure that Westhampton remains a desirable place to live. They should be informed of federal and state programs available for land purchase and preservation, and they should be encouraged to consider donating land for such purposes. Liability issues surrounding public use of private land also needs to be clarified.

Westhampton currently does not have a funding mechanism to help protect land from development. This will preclude the town from exercising the option to buy Chapter lands that are placed on the real estate market for development purposes. The town

should consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to raise funds for protecting important parcels in town. The CPA funds will also help meet the town's needs of affordable housing for the elderly and others and the acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes. Massachusetts has a grant program, called LAND (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) that assists towns to acquire land or a conservation easement for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Westhampton applied to the program in 2010 to help fund the Mineral Hills- Skibiski parcel purchase. The application was very competitive since Northampton was funded for their application on the Northampton Skibiski land--- however it did not rank high enough due to a low Commonwealth Capital Score. The town should analyze the Commonwealth Capital criteria to investigate ways that the town could score better and gain access to a valuable land protection funding source.

Westhampton is in a unique position relative to surrounding towns, since it has large undeveloped areas. Ways to preserve these large tracts of land while improving their access should be investigated. The recently closed and capped landfill near the center of town offers opportunities for public recreation that should be evaluated carefully. Public access to Pine Island Lake should be looked into with the cooperation of the Pine Island Lake residents' association. Providing recreational opportunities to the elderly and handicapped should also be pursued.

There should be an annual report of the Open Space Committee to Town Meeting to review progress and ensure timely implementation of the plan goals.

Finally, since there will be financial costs in carrying out the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the annual town budget should include an item for this purpose.



## **Section 8 - Goals and Objectives**

### **1. Maintain and improve the quality of water resources**

- A. Maintain forest corridors and natural greenways along brooks and wetlands.
- B. Raise awareness about point source and nonpoint source nutrient and sediment runoff.
- C. Protect drinking water supplies.
- D. Protect isolated wetlands.

### **2. Protect open space, scenic landscapes and important wildlife habitat, including rare or endangered species.**

- A. Prioritize land that becomes part of a large protected ecosystem, even if the overall protected area is outside of town.
- B. Implement a land protection plan that protects large blocks of land as well as, scattered parcels to which the townspeople have attached importance.
- C. Coordinate Town government efforts for effective natural resource acquisition, conservation and improvement.
- D. Raise citizen awareness about existing natural resources and the benefits of their conservation.
- E. Build collaborations with other communities and land trusts
- F. Improve publicity of the Open Space Plan
- G. Improve funding opportunities that will allow the town to protect land

### **3. Protect farmland from development**

- A. Promote farmland protection opportunities for all landowners.
- B. Promote the town's agricultural economy.

### **4. Protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities**

- A. Inventory recreational need.
- B. Expand recreational opportunities in town.
- C. Expand availability and awareness of trails in town
- D. Acquire land for recreational use (park, ball field, pavilion, etc).

### **5. Protect Historic and Cultural Resources**

- A. Preserve historic sites and structures, and archaeological resources.
- B. Encourage the Westhampton Historical Commission and Historical Society to raise public awareness about the Town's special historic areas.

## **Section 9 – Seven Year Action Plan**



Goal Objective	Action	Schedule	Funding	Responsible Parties
<b>A. Maintain and improve the quality of water resources</b>	1. Maintain forest corridors and natural greenways along brooks and wetlands	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
	2. Raise awareness about point source and nonpoint source nutrient and sediment runoff	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
		2015	Volunteer	OSRC, Cons Com
	3. Protect drinking water supplies.	2015	Volunteer	OSRC
		2013	Volunteer	OSRC
		2014	Volunteer	OSRC
		2013	Volunteer	OSRC, Cons Com
		2013-2017	Volunteer	OSRC, Cons Com
		2013	Volunteer	OSRC, Cons Com
<b>B. Protect open space, scenic landscapes and important wildlife habitat, including rare or endangered species</b>	1. Prioritize land that becomes part of a large protected ecosystem, even if the the overall protected area is outside of town.	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
		2011	Volunteer	OSRC
		2011	Volunteer	OSRC

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
	2. Implement a land protection plan that protects large blocks of land and parcels that are important to the community vision.	1. Utilize the Biomap2 to identify high priority areas that possess ecologically sensitive natural resources, scenic landscapes, wildlife corridors, and large blocks of unfragmented forest. 2. Identify small and large landowners who may consider protecting or even donating land in the focal areas. 3. Educate these and all landowners about alternatives to selling land for development. 4. Work with local land trusts to facilitate purchase of land for conservation or conservation restrictions.	2012		OSRC
			2013		OSRC
			2013-2017		OSRC
			2011-2017		OSRC
	3. Coordinate Town government efforts for effective natural resource acquisition, conservation and improvement.	1. Review existing zoning bylaws and consult with other town boards about taking advantage of zoning bylaws that would protect the community's rural character. 2. Investigate the possibility of implementing a bylaw limiting ridgetop development. 3. Review and enhance the roles and responsibilities of existing Town boards and commissions to include natural resource conservation, improvement and utilization. 4. Develop a forest stewardship plan for the Town-owned, former Water Company land. 6. Encourage the tree planting program by the Tree Warden to enhance roadside beauty.	2012		OSRC, Planning Board, Select Board
			2012		OSRC, Planning Board, Select Board
			2013		OSRC, Select Board
			2013		Cons Com
			2012		OSRC
	4. Raise citizen awareness about existing natural resources and the benefits of their conservation.	1. Offer guided community walks to unique Town natural resources four times yearly. 2. Describe threats/opportunities for natural resource conservation using town communication outlets such as the church newsletter. 3. Develop a written guide and map to the Town's scenic, historic and natural resources and post at the library and on the Town's website.	2011-2017		OSRC
			2013		OSRC
			2014		OSRC



Goal	Objective	Action	Schedule	Funding	Responsible Parties
		4. Explore the possibility of Town participation in the MA Scenic Roads Program.	2012		OSRC
	4. Build collaborations with other communities and land trusts.	1. Contact all of the neighboring communities to inquire about high priority projects along the town lines. 2. Identify local organizations that accept conservation lands and easements.	2011	Volunteer	OSRC
		3. Partner with the Hilltown Land Trust, Valley Land Fund, Kestrel Trust and others on land preservation projects.	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
		4. Support the efforts of The Nature Conservancy in protecting parcels in their Westfield River Project Area, per the Action Plan Map.	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
	5. Improve publicity of the Open Space Plan	1. The OSP will be reviewed during the first quarter of each year by the Open Space Committee and explored with the Select Board.	2011-2018	Volunteer	OSRC
		2. The OSP will be presented annually at the Town Meeting.	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC
		3. The OSP will be posted online.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
	6. Improve funding opportunities that will allow the town to protect land.		2011	Volunteer	OSRC
		1. Establish a committee to pursue adoption of the CPA.	2011	Volunteer	Select Board
		2. Identify ways to improve our Commonwealth Capital score for the LAND grants.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
		3. Identify other grants available for land protection			
<b>C. Protect farmland from development</b>	1. Promote farmland protection opportunities for all landowners.	1. Inform farmers and agricultural landowners about financial options for enhancing farm viability and conservation (MA APR program, MA Farm Viability program, NRCS programs, undivided partial interests bequests, etc.)	2011-2017	Volunteer	OSRC, Ag Com
		2. Identify high value parcels at risk for development	2011	Volunteer	OSRC, Ag Com
		3. Acquire/protect high value parcels at risk for development	2012	APR, Self-Help LAND grant	Open Space
	2. Promote the town's agricultural economy.	1. Conduct spring sugar house tour to highlight maple sugar operation.	2012	Volunteer	Ag Com

Goal	Objective	Action	Schedule	Funding	Responsible Parties
		2. Produce a brochure on agricultural products available in town.	2013	Volunteer	Ag Com
		3. Allow development of alternative energy sources to produce energy for the farm to reduce operation costs	2012	Volunteer	Planning Board, Select Board, Ag Com
		4. Perform outreach to forestland property owners about the Forest Stewardship Program, sustainable forestry practices and the potential for carbon credits.	2012-2017	DCR Stewardship Program	OSRC, Ag Com
<b>D. Protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities</b>		1. Catalog existing recreational opportunities in town and post at the library and on the website.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
		2. Coordinate work by the Recreation Committee, School Committee, Council on Aging, and other relevant groups to identify the Town's unmet recreational needs (i.e. ball fields, bicycle, and hiking trails, skating rink) and potential resources for meeting them.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
	2. Expand recreational opportunities in town.	1. Establish a dialogue between the Hampshire Regional High School District and Westhampton Elementary School regarding possible recreational use of their facilities by the Town.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
		2. Explore the possibility of creating marked parks or picnic areas at Library or the former Water Company land.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC, Cons Com
		3. Inquire about uses of non-excluded land at the Town's transfer station.	2014	Volunteer	OSRC
		4. Identify uses for the town land at the library.	2011	Volunteer	OSRC
		5. Contact the Pine Island Lake Association to inquire about the possibility of gaining public access for swimming and other water recreational activities.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC
		6. Investigate opportunities for the elderly and disabled.	2013	Volunteer	OSRC



Goal	Objective	Action	Schedule	Funding	Responsible Parties
	3. Expand availability and awareness of trails in town.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate the efforts of the local snowmobile club, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers, and leisure walkers to identify and preserve key trails, especially those that may be threatened by development.</li> <li>2. Implement a method for indemnifying landowners that let the Town's people use their land for recreation.</li> <li>3. Develop a map of these trails on public and private land where permission has been granted for public use for passive recreation; post at the library and on the website.</li> <li>4. Investigate the potential for creating a nature trail on the old Water Company land. Work with an elementary class to implement it.</li> <li>5. Hold a workday to perform maintenance on the Tob Hill Trail off of Perry Hill Rd.</li> <li>6. Install trail markers to link this hiking trail to those behind the Church.</li> </ol>	2012  2012  2012 2013 2012 2014	Volunteer  Volunteer  Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	OSRC  OSRC  OSRC OSRC OSRC OSRC
<b>E. Protect Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	4. Acquire land for recreational use (park, ball field, pavilion, etc.)	1. Create an organizational structure for acquiring, maintaining, and improving natural resources for recreation, especially land.	2015	Volunteer	OSRC
	1. Preserve historic sites and structures, and archaeological resources.	1. Identify potential sources for grants that could fund historic preservation efforts (MA Historical Society, MA Cultural Commission, private and Federal foundation)	2012	Volunteer	Hist Comm
	2. Encourage the Westhampton Historical Commission and Historical Society to raise public awareness about the Town's special historic areas.	1. Identify the steps necessary to designate the Town's center a Historic District 2. Coordinate work between the Historical Commission and Conservation to establish an index of historic, scenic and natural features in Westhampton.	2013 2013	Volunteer Volunteer	Hist Comm OSRC, Hist Comm
		3. Initiate annual photographic exhibits of the Town's historic, scenic, and natural features in Westhampton.	2013	Volunteer	Hist Comm
		4. Initiate a Westhampton Pride Day to encourage cleanup of natural resources.	2012	Volunteer	OSRC

Goal	Objective	Action	Schedule	Funding	Responsible Parties
		5. Seek historic resource preservation through revision of bylaws and building codes as necessary.	2013	Volunteer	OSRC, Hist Comm, Planning Board
		6. Encourage the Historical Commission to identify with signage the Town's historic resources, landmarks and archaeological sites.	2013	Volunteer	OSRC



## **Section 10 -- Public Comments**

In addition to the survey results which are included in Appendix A, public comments were received on the final draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The draft was available in the town library and copies were given to the Select Board, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Commission. We are grateful for the comments and suggestions from the citizens of Westhampton. We have incorporated them, where appropriate, into the final document.

## **Section 11 - References**

The Town of Westhampton Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2000

Soil Survey of Hampden and Hampshire Counties, Western Part, Massachusetts -1995

MassGIS Datalayers, including the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's Biomap2 and Priority Habitat layers.

The Nature Conservancy

Westhampton Board of Assessors

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission



SELECTBOARD  
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON  
TOWN HALL  
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

January 5, 2012

Richard I. Tracy  
Open Space Committee  
3 South Road  
Westhampton MA 01027

Dear Rick:

The Selectboard wishes to congratulate you and your committee for the outstanding work that you have done to update Westhampton's Open Space Plan. The document is very impressive and extremely useful as we plan for our community's future.

This Board is in full agreement with the intent of the Open Space Plan and recommends its submittal as presented.

Thanks to you all for the time, talent, and energy that you gave to this important undertaking. You should be very proud of the result.

Yours truly,

James Huston, Chair

jh:m



WESTHAMPTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
WESTHAMPTON TOWN HALL  
WESTHAMPTON, MA. 01027

Rick Tracy, Chairperson  
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee  
Town Hall  
1 South Street  
Westhampton, MA. 01027-9600

February 25, 2012

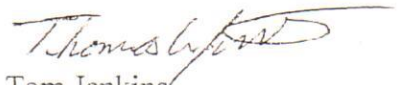
Dear Rick:

The Westhampton Conservation Commission has reviewed the up-dated version of our Open Space and Recreation Plan and commends you and your group on the work you have done. This new plan is well-written, effectively organized and comprehensive.

The section on Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (Section 4F) and the section on Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreational Interest (Section 5A-B) are particularly well done and informative.

We're pleased to see the recommendation that Westhampton should consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as a valuable funding mechanism to help protect important parcels in town.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Jenkins  
Chairperson

Planning Board  
Town of Westhampton  
Town Hall, Westhampton, MA 01027

April 16, 2012

To: Open Space Committee

The Planning Board has reviewed the "Seven Year Plan to Protect, Preserve, and Enhance Our Open Space" plan submitted to it by the Open Space Committee. While the Planning Board has no objection to protecting open space, the Planning Board feels that it must remain neutral on the issues and concerns it raises. A small group of residents and/or the Selectboard may initiate bylaw changes or additions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark T. Schwallie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Schwallie" being clearly legible.

Mark T. Schwallie, Chairman





Catalyst for Regional Progress

**PVPC**

Timothy W. Brennan Executive Director

January 6, 2012

Rick Tracy, Chair  
Open Space and Recreation Committee  
Town of Westhampton  
Town Hall Annex  
3 South Road  
Westhampton, MA 01027

Reference: Draft Seven-Year Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Tracy:

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is pleased to submit this letter of endorsement for Westhampton's *2012-2018 Seven Year Plan to Protect, Preserve and Enhance Our Open Space*. The goals, objectives and action plan are consistent with the regional land use plan *Valley Vision*.

As noted in your plan, strategies for protecting important open space and farmland will take the participation of multiple town boards, commissions and committees. Developing strategies for better communication between town boards will not only benefit Westhampton's natural resources but offer more efficient and effective local government on many issues.

The plan also includes strategies for expanding opportunities for a range of outdoor recreation. This too requires a multi-tasked approach involving private-public partnerships in many cases. The plan recognizes this and seeks to build effective partnerships and expand awareness within the community of recreational resources.

The PVPC is available to assist the Town on many of the strategies identified in the Action Plan. We look forward to working with you in the future on protecting our region's important natural resources and expanding public awareness of the many incredibly scenic, historic, and recreationally challenging places in our region.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

cc: James Huston, Chair, Board of Selectmen

## APPENDIX A

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION TWO OF OUR MOST CHERISHED POSSESSIONS

June, 2010

Dear Westhampton property owner or resident,

The state-required update to Westhampton's Open Space Plan is being worked on. A current Open Space plan is required in order to receive State funds or Grants. Part of this process involves public input, and to this end we are again distributing a survey for you to fill out.

From this information we hope to get a feel for the townspeople's and landowner's concerns and opinions about future land use and protection in Westhampton. Since the last survey was done, your thoughts about this subject may have changed, you may be a new resident with new opinions, or you may feel as you did in 2000. Either way we need your input to guide us as we work to update Westhampton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Please return it to us as soon as possible. You may mail it to OPEN SPACE, WESTHAMPTON TOWN HALL, or you may leave it at the library or at Outlook Farm. Thank you very much.

- Open Space and Recreation Committee

FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, PLEASE CIRCLE THE LETTER THAT MOST CLOSELY REFLECTS YOUR OPINION.

1. Which statement is closest to your feeling about our town?

- |     |    |    |   |
|-----|----|----|---|
| 89% | 57 | A. | I would regret Westhampton losing its rural, country town atmosphere.                           |
| 11% | 7  | B. | I like the rural atmosphere, but it wouldn't bother me if the town grew & became more suburban. |
|     |    | C. | I'd prefer that Westhampton become larger and more urban.                                       |

2. What RESIDENTIAL GROWTH policy would you prefer?

- |     |    |    |  |
|-----|----|----|--|
| 34% | 22 | A. | No further growth                                    |
| 23% | 15 | B. | Growth that's evenly spaced throughout town          |
| 43% | 28 | C. | Regulated growth only in existing developed areas    |
|     |    | D. | Regulated growth only in existing undeveloped areas. |

3. What BUSINESS or INDUSTRIAL growth would you prefer?

- |     |    |    |  |
|-----|----|----|--|
| 47% | 27 | A. | No further growth                              |
| 5%  | 3  | B. | Growth that's evenly spaced throughout town    |
| 48% | 28 | C. | Regulated growth in existing developed areas   |
|     |    | D. | Regulated growth in existing undeveloped areas |



4. Would you be in favor of establishing a long-range planning committee, made up of residents who would plan for our town's development?

81%	47	A. Yes
14%	8	B. No
5%	3	C. Not sure

5. Do you think Westhampton should adopt a plan to protect its farmland?

92%	55	A. Yes
8%	5	B. No
2%	1	C. Not sure

6. Would you support a property tax to provide money for the town to purchase land to preserve undeveloped space?

53%	32	A. Yes
27%	16	B. No
20%	12	C. Not sure

7. Should Westhampton develop a program of buying land with federal or state money in order to meet future needs and to preserve open space?

89%	57	A. Yes
6%	4	B. No
5%	3	C. Not sure

8. Would you consider giving or bequeathing land to the town for conservation purposes?

38%	21	A. Yes
34%	19	B. No
28%	16	C. Not sure (many respondents said they had none to give)

9. Do you feel that the current minimum one acre building lot with 250 feet of road frontage is a desirable size?

51%	28	A. Yes (or 300' would be good, 1 response)
42%	23	B. No, it's too small
2%	1	C. No, it's too large
5%	3	D. Not sure

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, PLEASE CIRCLE AS MANY ANSWERS AS YOU WISH.

11. What type(s) of housing do you feel should be allowed?

44%	61	A. Single family
20%	28	B. Two family
7%	10	C. Multi family
8%	11	D. Condominiums
21%	29	E. Elderly

PLEASE WRITE IN YOUR ANSWERS FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS,

12. What type of recreational facilities or conservation areas would you like to see expanded or started?

Town green  
 Park/picnic 5  
 Swimming pool 6  
 Lake access 1  
 Hiking trails 15  
 Mtn bike trails 3  
 X-C ski trails  
 Tennis courts 3  
 Basketball  
 Equestrian trails  
 Animal sanctuary/wildlife corridors& habitat 6  
 Lakes & waterways 3  
 Agricultural/farm conservation 3  
 Off road vehicle trails  
 Stratified drift aquifers  
 All hilltops, vistas, skylines, ridgetops 5  
 Woods 1

13. Please mention any particular sites that you feel would be worthwhile for the town to preserve, protect, or manage.

Tob Hill x8  
 Manhan River  
 Blacksmith Shop  
 Bridgemont farm  
 Town Center x2  
 Chesterfield Road  
 Hanging Mountain  
 White Reservoir x3  
 Mineral Hills  
 Upper Roberts Reservoir

Lyman Rd.—David Lyman's 76 acres, land between Edwards & Lyman Rd. x3  
 Parsons & surrounding land x 2  
 Turkey Hill  
 Fisher hill  
 Rhodes Road  
 Montague Rd...corner of North rd, all land between Montague rd & Sylvester Rd.  
 Pine Island Lake  
 Pomeroy Mountain x2  
 Borders / Southampton, Huntington  
 Old chicken farm x 2  
 HRHS lands  
 Blueberry Hill top  
 Sodom Brook  
 Mt. Pisgah  
 All undeveloped land



Anything they can get!

Just don't make it look like King St. in Northampton!

Fields at corner of Stage Rd. & E'tn Rd.

## **Appendix B- Public Meeting Summary**

Public meeting June 21, 2010

Just after the regular town meeting, a special town meeting was held to discuss the results of the Open Space Survey with interested townspeople, to raise awareness of the committees activity and objectives, and to get feedback from residents. Present were Rick Tracy, Kate Parsons and David Majercik. Attendance was somewhat sparse.

An overview was presented, and then the following specific topics were discussed:

1. Possibility of winter sports on Town Transfer Station property.  
And/or room for recreation near Highway Dept. facility.
2. The acquisition of the Skibiski parcel, which is the main project the committee is working on at present.
3. CPA was the topic most residents were interested in learning more about. It appeared to be a priority in terms of both education and implementation of land conservation.
4. Also discussed was the matter of getting more people interested in the purpose and commitment of open Space, with possibilities discussed including meetings in people's homes, recruitment of more volunteers, and the possibility of undertaking a breeding bird survey. Residents mentioned in connection with these possibilities included Kate O'Connor, Chuck Horn, and Laurie Sanders



## Appendix C Maps

MAP 1: Regional Context : This map shows the location of Westhampton in the context of major routes and neighboring towns.

MAP 2: Zoning: The Town of Westhampton has three zoning districts: Residential Agricultural (RA), Floodplain District, and Water Supply Protection. The Floodplain and Water Supply Protection districts are overlay districts. This map shows the single zone Residential Agricultural with the Floodplain Overlay District. The status of the Water Supply Protection District has not yet been established. See Map 9, Water Resources, for other water protection areas.

MAP 3: GENERAL SOIL MAP : This map and legend are included to give an indication of the limits to development in Westhampton and the problems developers face.

### Area 3 - WESTMINSTER-MILLSITE

Gently sloping to very steep soils are found on hilltops and hillsides. Rock outcrops are prominent landscape features. These soils formed in deposits of glacial till. Many stones and boulders are on the surface. Because of the stones on the surface and the areas of exposed bedrock, the major soils are poorly suited to cultivated crops, hay, and pasture. The slopes, the shallowness to bedrock, and the stoniness are the main limitations affecting building site development and sanitary facilities.

### Area 4 - ASHFIELD-SHELBURKE

Gently sloping to very steep soils are found on hilltops and hillsides. These soils formed in deposits of glacial till. Many stones and boulders are on the surface. Because of the rocks on the surface and the slope, the soils are poorly suited to cultivated crops, hay, and pasture. The slope and the stoniness are the main limitations affecting building site development and sanitary facilities.

### AREA 6 - MONTAUK-PAXTON-SCITUATE

This soil type also consists of gently sloping to very steep soils on hilltops

and hillsides. Many stones and boulders are also on the surface here. The soils are formed in deposits of glacial till. Because of the stones on the surface and the slope, these soils are poorly suited for cultivated crops, hay, and pasture. The slope and the stoniness are the main limitations affecting building site development and sanitary facilities. AREA 7 - MERRIMAC-HINCKLEY

This area consists of nearly level to steep soils on gravelly outwash plains and terraces. These soils are well suited to row crops, grains, hay, and pasture. Erosion is a hazard on the steeper slopes. In most areas these soils are well suited to building site development and sanitary facilities. The main limitation is a poor filtering capacity caused by rapid to very rapid permeability. The slope is a limitation in steeper areas. On sites for septic tank absorption

fields, installing the distribution lines in a mound of suitable fill material helps to overcome the poor filtering capacity.

MAP 4-: Fisheries & Wildlife: This map shows BioMap 2 Core habitat areas, BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape Areas, certified and potential vernal pools, Priority Habitat, and Westhampton roads and perennial streams.

MAP 6 - Water Resources: Westhampton has two watersheds that contribute to the water supplies of nearby municipalities, Holyoke and Northampton. These are the broad blue areas in the northeast and southwest. They are truncated by the natural topography of the surrounding hills. In red-checks are the public drinking supply zones, or Interim Wellhead Protection Areas, the largest of which is centered around Hampshire Regional High School. The Westhampton Elementary School well is located on adjacent private property. Other IWPA's are described in the watershed section of this report.

MAP 7: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest: This map shows the parcels of land in Westhampton identified as to the categories of protection and use to which they are currently subject.

MAP 8: Protected Lands: This map shows the parcels of Westhampton which are currently under permanent, limited, or Farm Viability protection.

MAP 9: Unique Features Map: This map shows locations of various features of particular interest in Westhampton, including scenic views, priority habitat, sugar houses, streams and potential vernal pools, and also classifies the farmland soils.

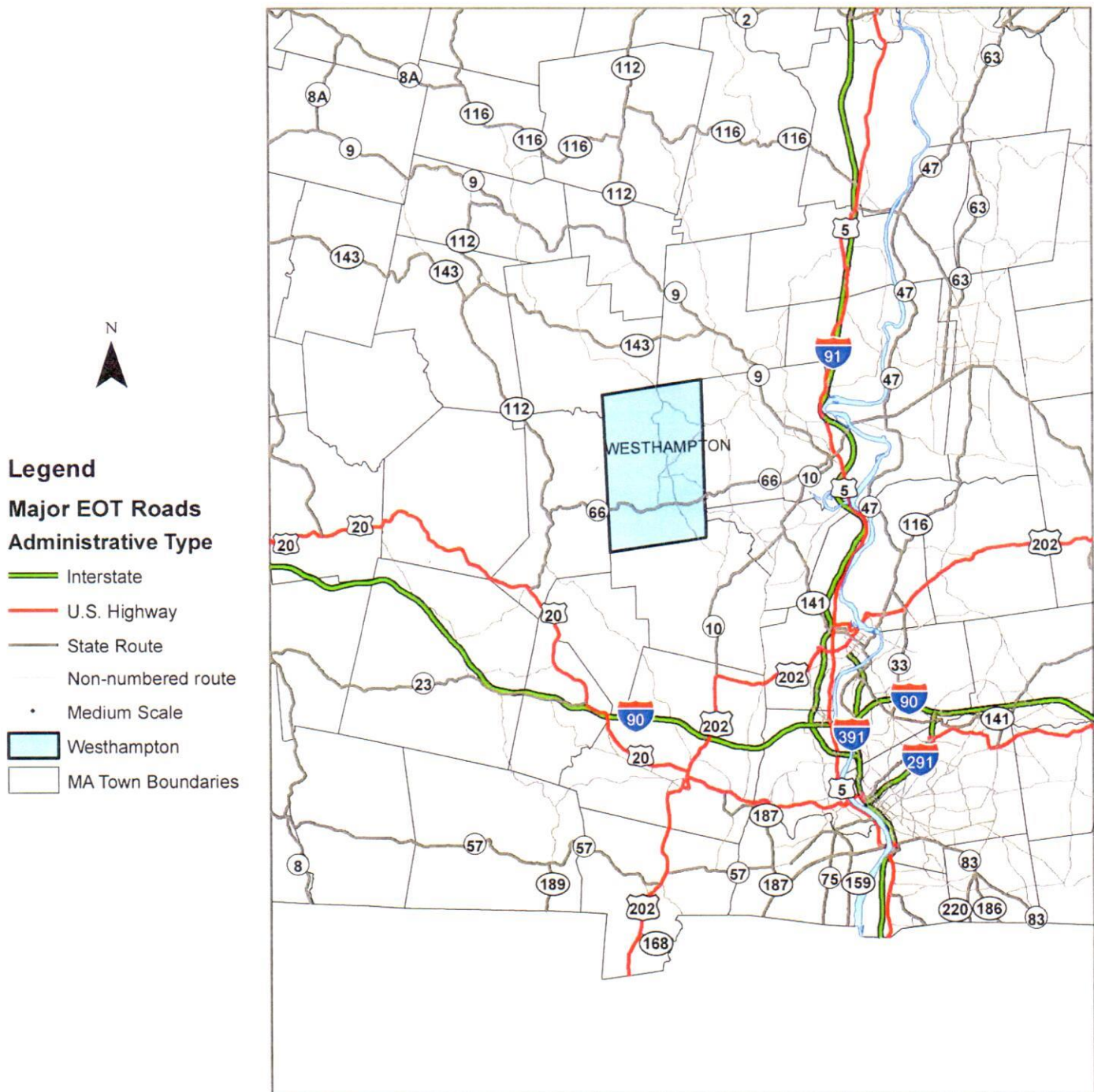
MAP 9: Action Plan Map---Conservation Priorities: This map combines many of the other map features to summarize the areas in Westhampton that Open Space Committee considers to be priorities. The Open Space Plan implements many of these areas in its 7-Year Plan of action.

MAP 10: Action Plan Map---Activities: This map illustrates many of the areas of Westhampton that are mentioned in the Seven-Year Action Plan, and the Scenic Resources and Unique Environments section. It will be used to carry out many of the items covered in Goals and Objectives. Although we have not identified any specific parcels of land for acquisition we believe that we have established broad objectives to guide the future Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee.



## Map 1 Regional Setting

## Open Space & Recreation Plan



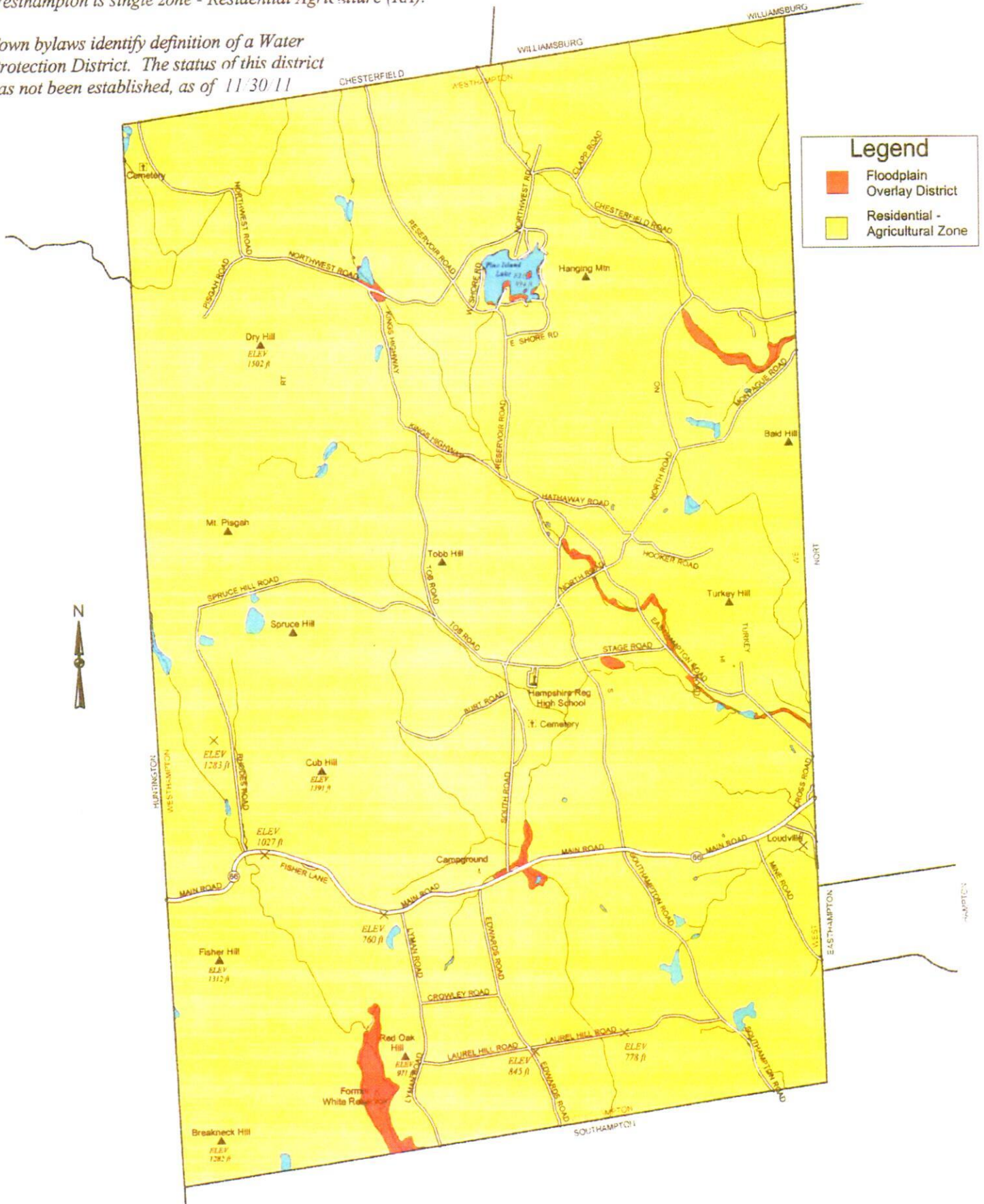
# Westhampton, Massachusetts

## Map 2 Zoning Map

*\*Note:*

*Westhampton is single zone - Residential Agriculture (RA).*

*Town bylaws identify definition of a Water Protection District. The status of this district has not been established, as of 11/30/11*



Map provided by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
Updated 2011 Westhampton Open Space Committee

1 0 1 Miles



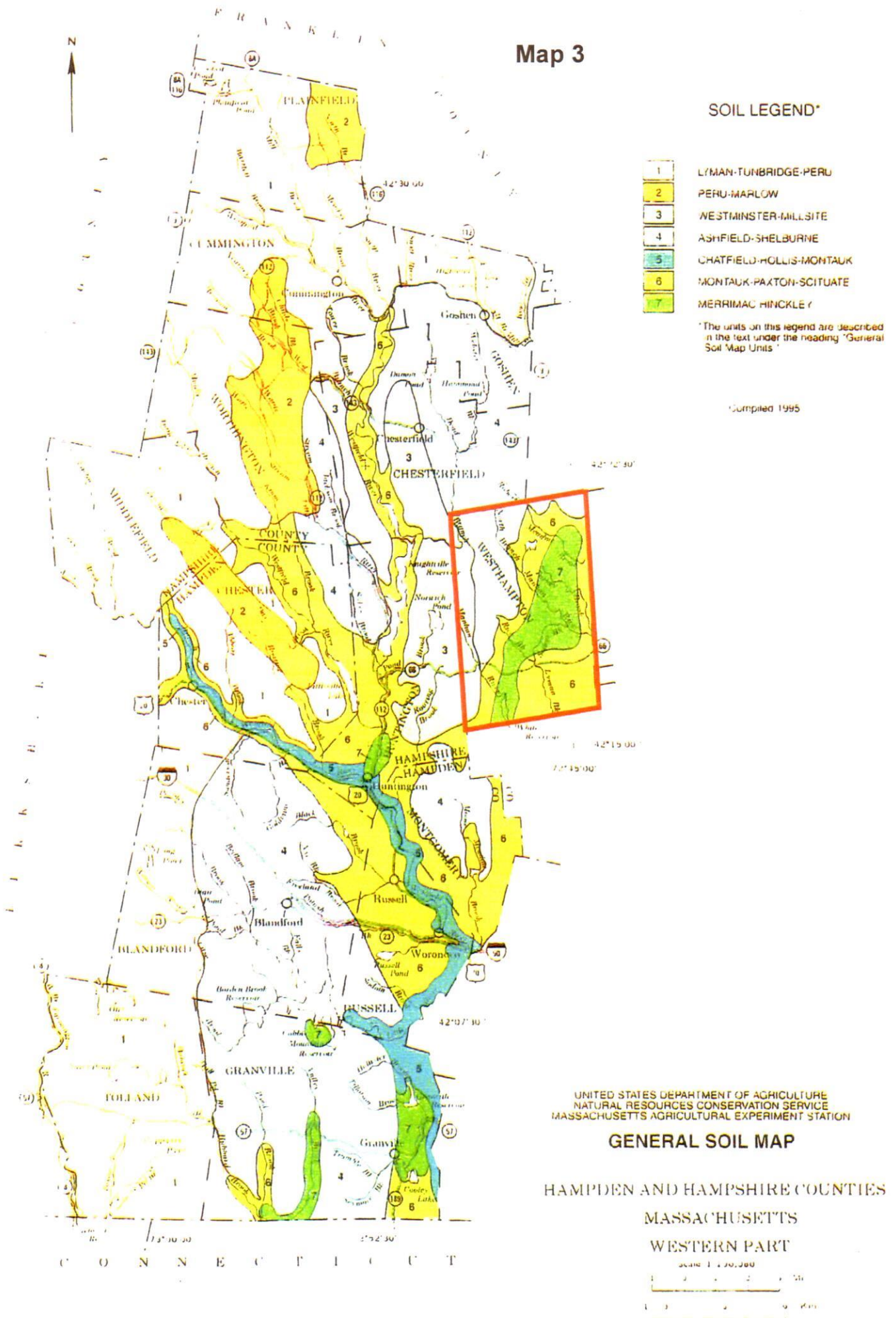
Map 3

SOIL LEGEND\*

1	LYMAN-TUNBRIDGE-PERU
2	PERU-MARLOW
3	WESTMINSTER-MILLSITE
4	ASHFIELD-SHELBURNE
5	CHATFIELD-ROLLIS-MONTAUK
6	MONTAUK-PAXTON-SCITUATE
7	MERRIMAC-HINCKLEY

\*The units on this legend are described in the text under the heading "General Soil Map Units"

Compiled 1995

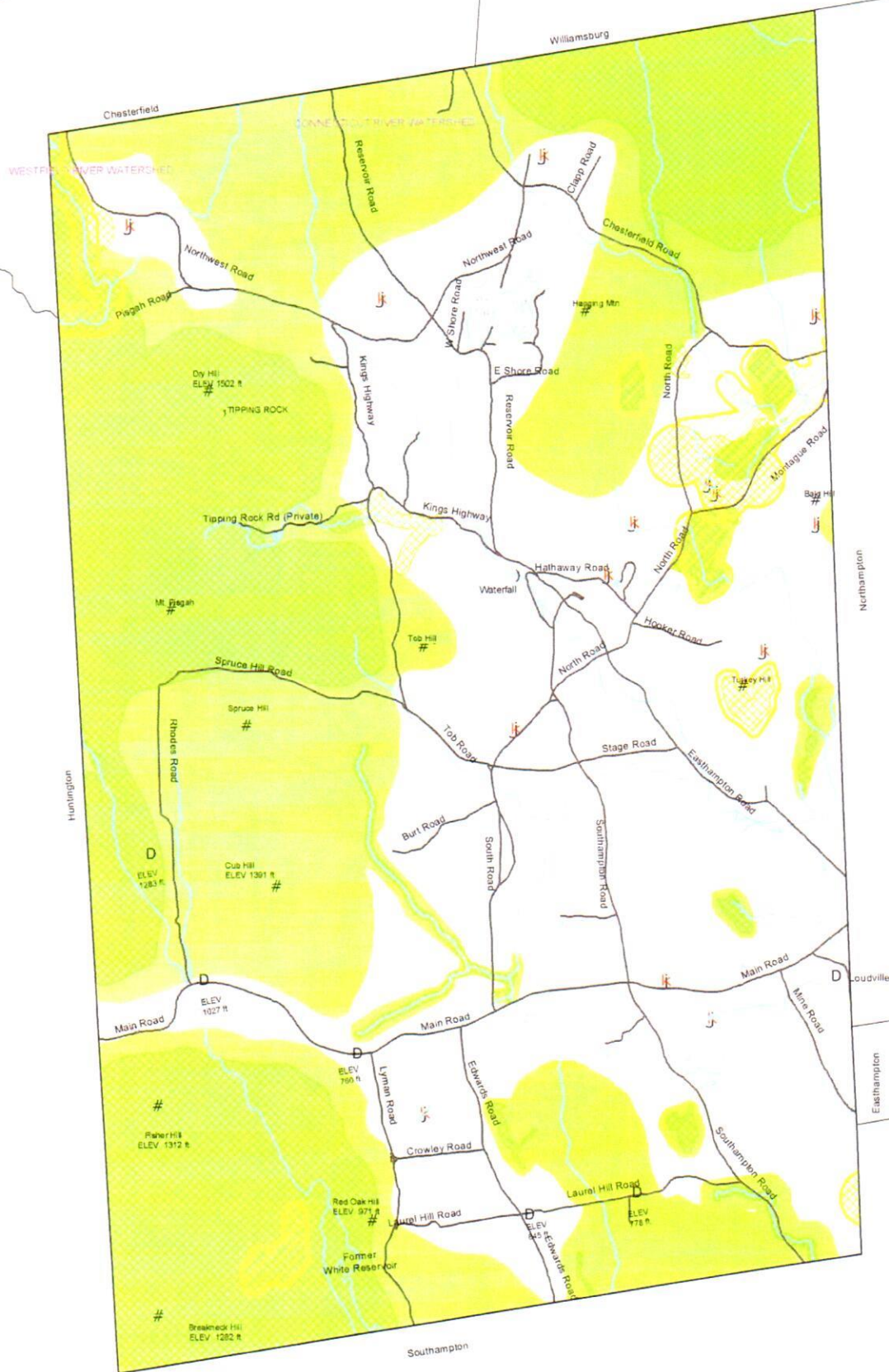
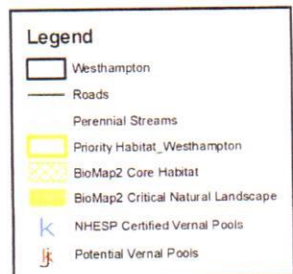


# Town of Westhampton, MA

## Map 4

## Fisheries & Wildlife Map

### Open Space & Recreation Plan



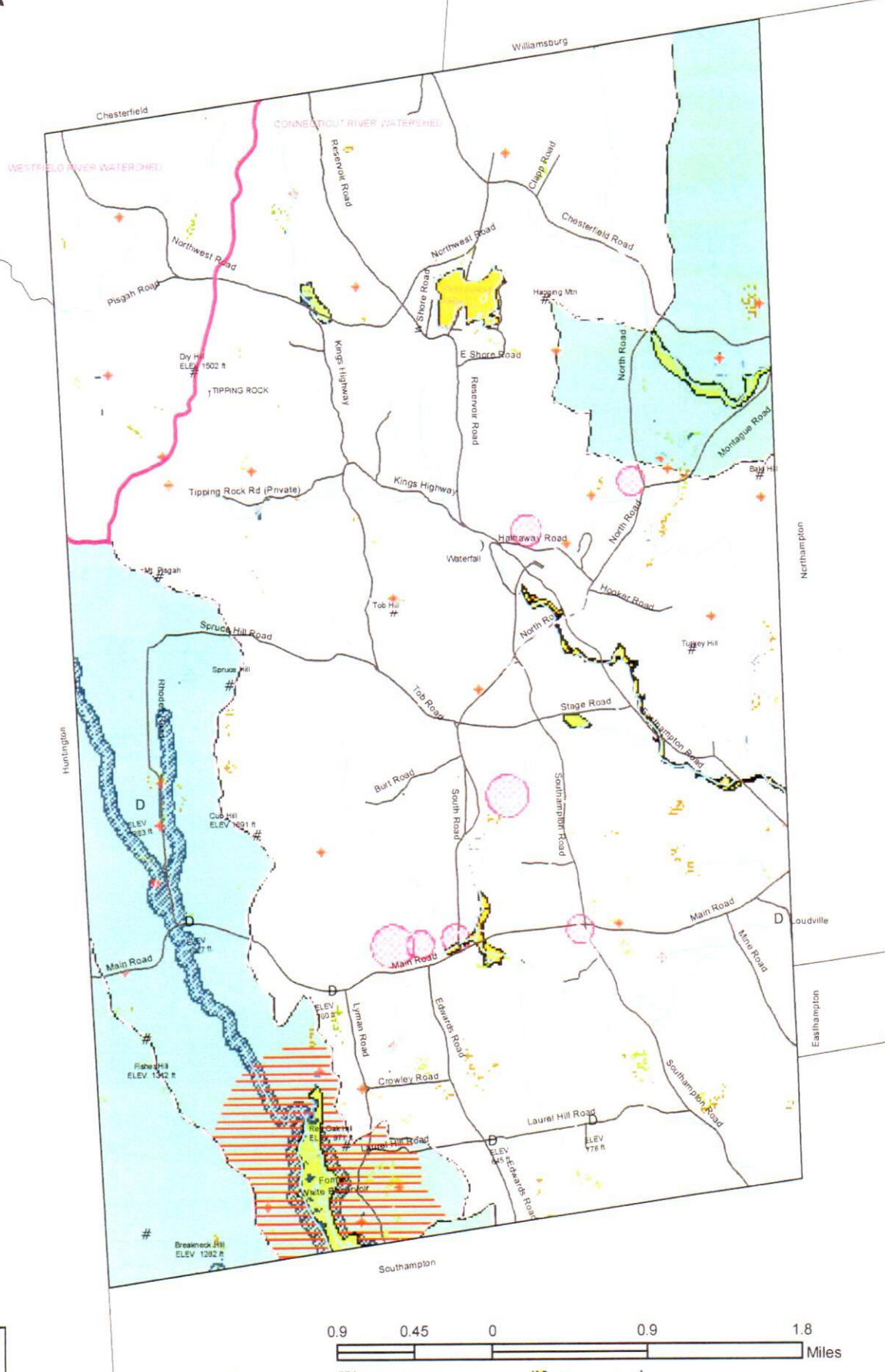
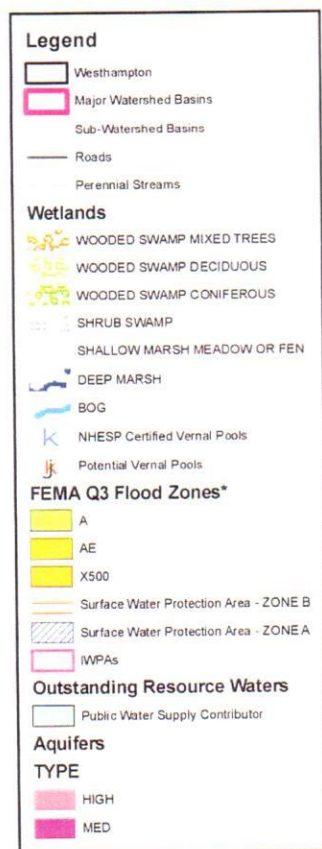


# Town of Westhampton, MA

## Map 5

## Water Resources Map

### Open Space & Recreation Plan



Map prepared by Westhampton Open Space Committee, October 2011



\* See attached for definitions of FEMA flood zones.

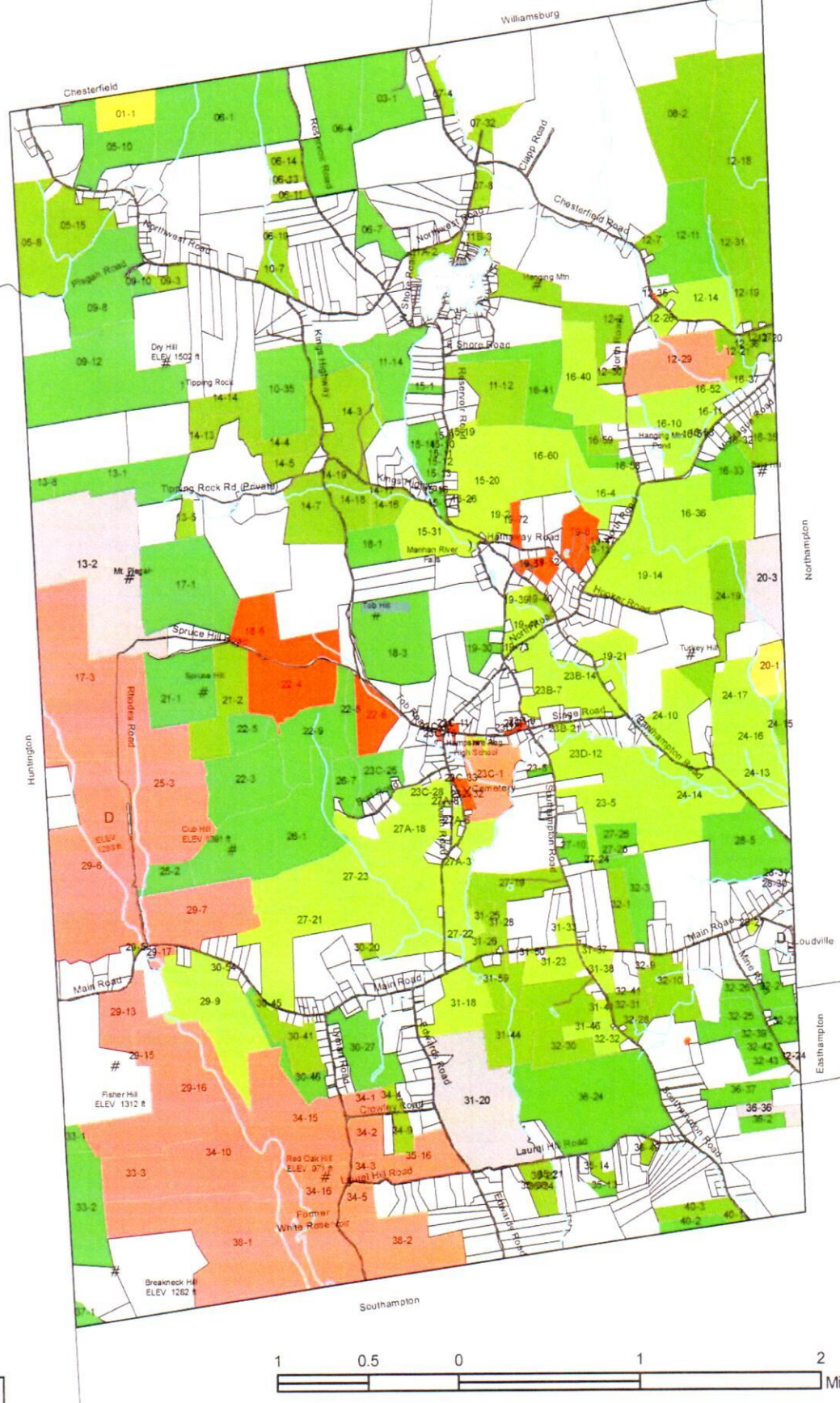
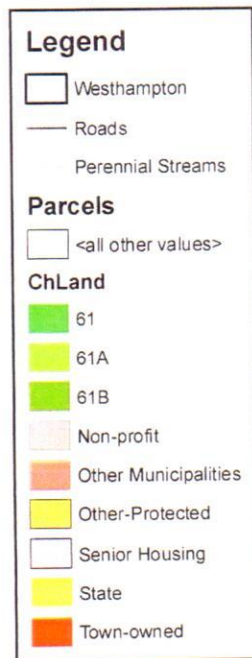


**Town of  
Westhampton, MA**

**Open Space &  
Recreation Plan**

**Map 6**

**Inventory of Lands of Conservation  
& Recreation Interest**





# Town of Westhampton, MA

## Map 7

## Protected Lands

### Open Space & Recreation Plan

**Legend**

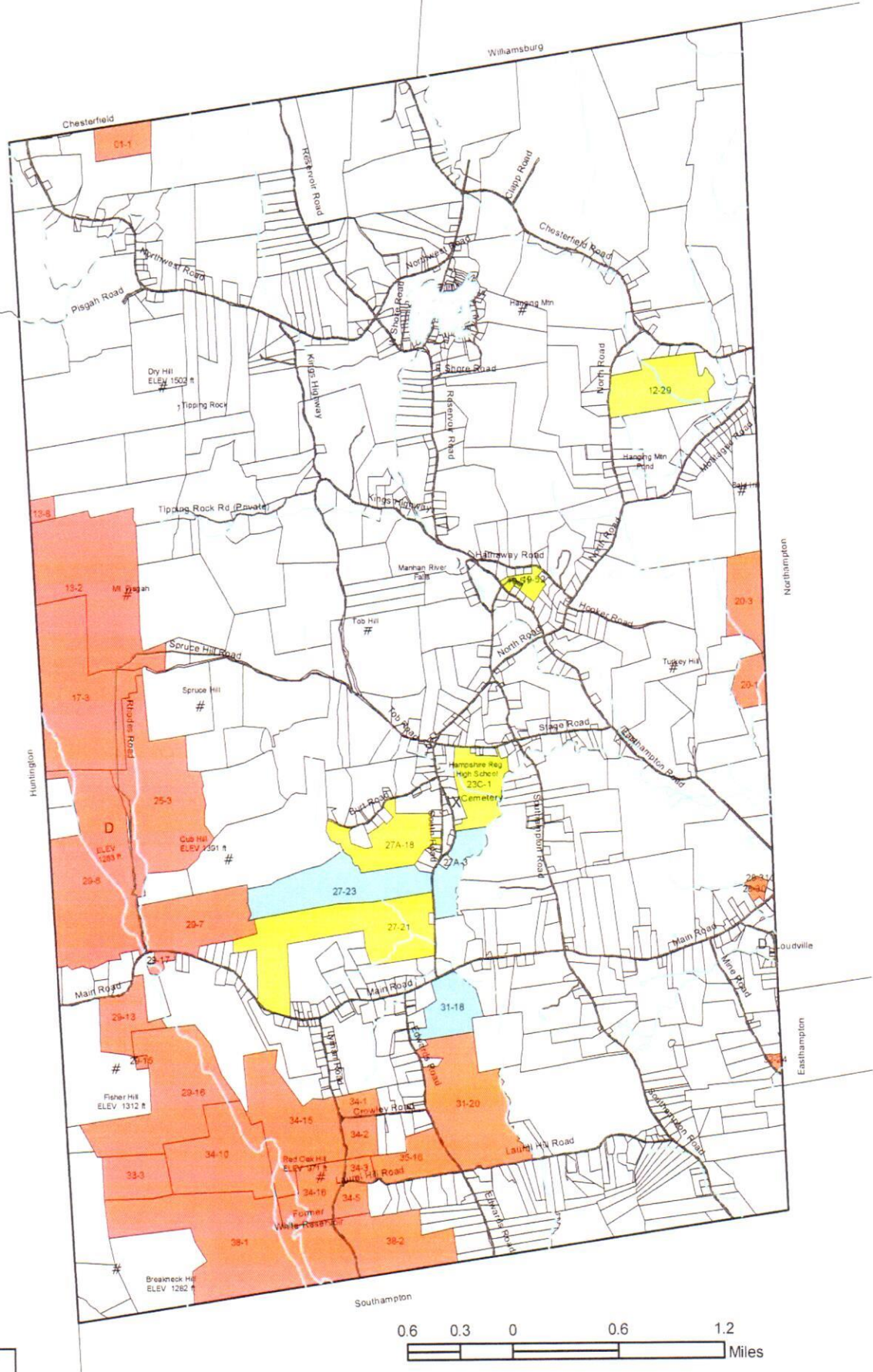
- Roads
- Perennial Streams
- Westhampton

**Level of Protection**

- <all other values>

**Protection**

- Farm Viability - 2014
- Farm Viability - 2015
- Limited
- Permanent



# Town of Westhampton, MA

## Open Space & Recreation Plan

### Map 8

### Unique Features Map

**Legend**

- ➔ Scenic View
- 8 Sugar Houses
- Priority Habitat
- Contours- 30 ft interval
- Westhampton
- Roads
- Perennial Streams
- Potential Vernal Pools

**Farmland Soils Classification**

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of unique importance



Map prepared by Westhampton Open  
Space Committee, October 2011

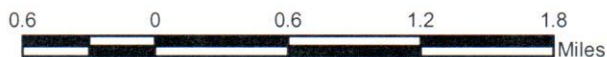
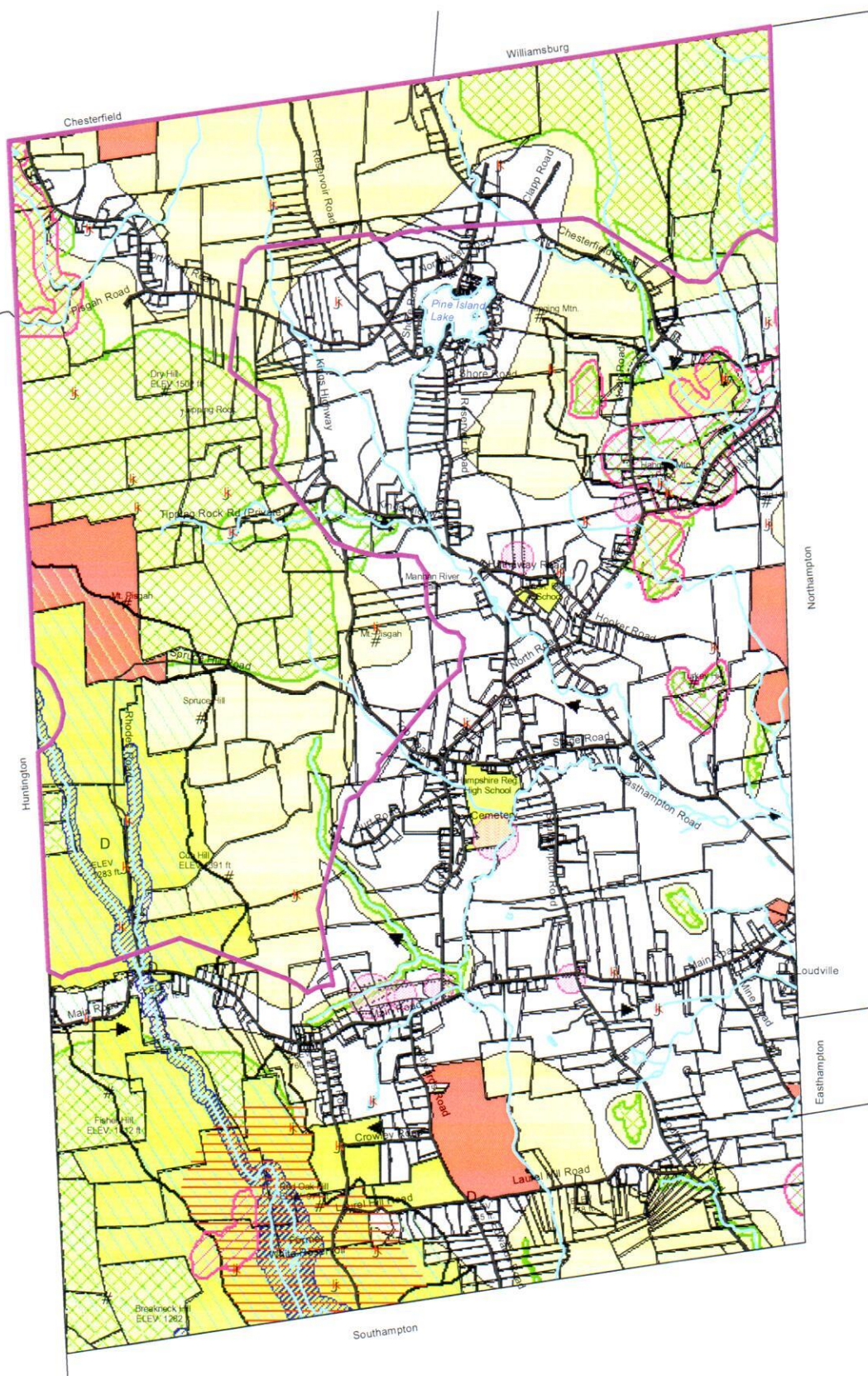
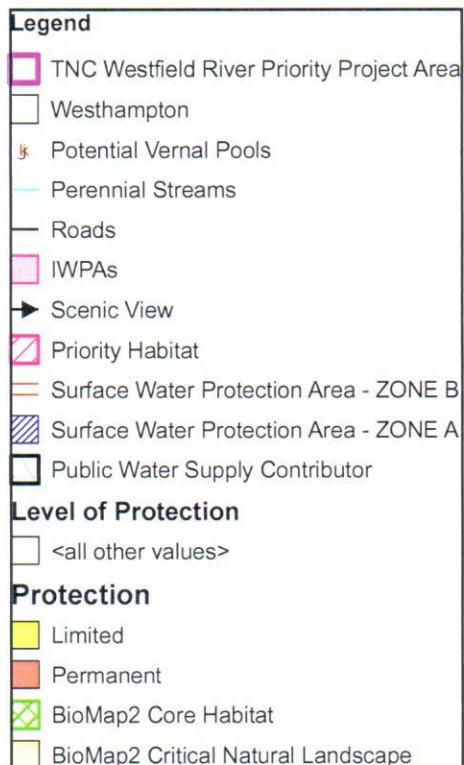




# Town of Westhampton, MA

## Open Space & Recreation Plan

## Map 10 Action Plan Map- Conservation Priorities





## Appendix D – Glossary of Terms

**AGRICULTURAL OVERLAY ZONE** - An area thus designated by the town to help promote agricultural land use, protect farmland, and keep non-farm use from breaking up large agricultural parcels

**BEDROCK** - The solid, deep rock beneath soil or gravel

**BEDROCK BALD** - An area of bedrock with little or no topsoil.

**BOG** - A wet, marshy area covered mostly by decomposing vegetation. Moss and cranberries are found in bogs.

**CALCAREOUS** - Soil containing calcium carbonate, or limestone. This is good for grass and other non-acid-loving plants.

**CHAPTER 61, 61-A, 61-B** - A provision in the law that encourages an owner of 10 or more acres of land to agree to preserve it as forest, agricultural, or recreational use for 10 or more years. In exchange, the land owner receives a very favorable tax rate. A great many Westhampton land owners have taken advantage of this opportunity.

**CONTINENTAL GLACIER** - An ice sheet that covers vast amounts of land. Historic glaciers covered much of the Northern Hemisphere. They were as much as a two miles thick and covered tens of thousands of square miles.

**CROPLAND** - Land suitable for farming.

**EARLY SUCCESSIONAL STAGE FOREST** - Those areas of scrubby trees and other plants that appear after cleared land has been left alone for some years.

**ECOLOGICAL** - This refers to the relationship between plants and animals and their environment.

**ENDANGERED** - Plant or animal species that are in danger of becoming extinct. There may be multiple reasons for this

**DELTA** - The mud and soil left by a river at its mouth. Normally triangle-shaped, a delta can be big (Mississippi) or very small.

**DECIDUOUS** - Trees that drop their leaves every year. Evergreens drop only their two-year old leaves (needles) each year, thus remaining green

**FAUNA**- Animals. (In Roman mythology, Fauna was the sister of Faunus, god of nature, farming, and fertility

**FLORA** - Plants, usually of a certain area. (Flora was the ancient Roman goddess of flowers.)

**FOREST CORRIDOR** - A stretch of forested land that is protected from excessive development, which may connect larger areas of forest.

**GLACIAL TILL** - Sand and gravel deposits left by glaciers as they melt and retreat. There's a lot of this in Westhampton.



**GLACIATION** - Covered by ice or a glacier when melted resulting in a changed landscape.

**GNEISS** - (pronounced *nice*) - Rock formed under great heat and pressure; light and dark minerals are banded through it. Compare with schist.

**GREENWAYS** - A stretch of undeveloped land close to an urban or suburban area that is kept for recreation.

**HARDPAN** - Dense, hard, mostly clay material that lies under top soils, sands, and gravels. Plant roots cannot penetrate hardpan.

**HYDROLOGY** - The scientific study of the distribution and use of water in all its forms, both on land and in the atmosphere.

**ICE AGE** - The time when vast sheets of ice covered much of the northern hemisphere. There have been several ice ages, the last was at a maximum about 20,000 years ago and ended about 10,000 years ago. Westhampton was under as much as a mile of solid ice!

A "Little Ice Age" occurred especially in Northern Europe during the early and mid-1800's. There was no ice sheet but it was unusually cold, thanks to an unusual sunspot cycle. England's Thames River froze and it was the time of *Hans Brinker* and *The Little Match Girl*.

**INTRUSION** - Molten rock that made its way into a different type of rock. Intrusions can often be seen where a highway has been cut through a hill.

**MEDIAN** - A type of average where all of the things being averaged (ages, for example) are listed in order from smallest to largest. The median is the number or value in the middle of the list. This is different from the MEAN, which is derived by adding all of the values and dividing by the number of values.

**MESIC** - Moderate amount of moisture.

**NATURAL GREENWAYS** - Land areas that run along either or both sides of a waterway and which help control flooding, erosion, and the like. These greenways may be used appropriately for recreation.

**OPEN SPACE** - Generally, the undeveloped areas of our town. These are not necessarily "wide open" spaces.

**OVERLAY DISTRICT** - An additional zoning requirement "on top of" an existing zone which goes further to protect the land from such activities as inappropriate development.

**PASTURE** - Land suitable for grazing

**PERCHED WETLAND** - A parcel of land away from a body of water, which is made wet by general drainage

**PHRAGMITES** - An unfriendly, grass-like plant that sometimes give off toxins that kill native wetland plants. Phragmites are very difficult to control.

**PRESERVATION** - Keeping the environment substantially as it is..

**RIDGELINE** - A long, narrow raised section of a hill or hills, usually in view from below.

**SCHIST** - A rock with a mineral structure that's aligned in one direction, due to stresses when it formed ,millions of years ago. This structure allows it to be split in parallel layers. Think Goshen stone. Compare with gneiss

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS** - Sections of a rural town which each built its own school house (typically one room for eight grades), with a teacher hired by the district.

**SEEP** - A place where water seeps out of the ground in a fairly continuous fashion.

**THREATENED** - Plant or animal species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or part of its range.

**TITLE 5** - Many laws are divided into sections called "titles." Title 5 requires an inspection of septic systems and prescribes needed upgrades before a property can be legally transferred.

**TOPOGRAPHY** - The natural features of an area of land. For example, hills, valleys, rock outcroppings, etc

**UNDEVELOPED** - Land that remains primarily in its natural state.

**UNFRAGMENTED LAND** - Land which has not been cut up by human development or natural causes, thus allowing certain species to have the space required for survival

**VERNAL POOL** - A small pond that dries up from time to time. Vernal pools are known for having certain species of frogs, toads, salamanders, and especially fairy shrimp. These pools get their name from the fact that they normally have most water in the spring.

**VIEWSCAPE** - A scene that can be viewed from a particular area.

**WATCH-LIST** - A list of plants or animals that may become at risk or endangered.

**WATERSHED** - The land area from which water drains into a lake or river.

**WETLAND** - A marshy or swampy area where the soil near the surface is continually saturated, especially on that serves as a habitat for wildlife.

**WILDLIFE CORRIDOR** - A pathway for animals to use where their environment has been interrupted by human development, especially roadways. It may take the form of a planted bridge or even a tunnel. This allows the animals to enjoy a larger range, which in turn reduces inbreeding and weakening of the species.



## **Appendix E**

### ***ADA SELF EVALUATION***

#### ***Part I: Administrative Requirements***

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator: The Town ADA coordinator is Margaret A. Parsons, (413) 203-3086 (town hall).

2. Grievance Procedures: The following grievance procedure has been in effect since January, 2008.

#### **Town of Westhampton: ADA Grievance Procedure**

This Grievance Procedure is established by the Town of Westhampton to meet the requirements of Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Disabled individuals or their authorized representatives who believe that they have been discriminated against on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits are encouraged to use the procedure to bring their complaints to the attention of the Town of Westhampton.

Complaints should be submitted in writing or on audio-tape to the ADA Coordinator named below. Each complaint should include a description of the alleged discriminatory incident or action, the place and date of its occurrence, the name of person or persons who witnessed or were adversely affected by the incident or action, and the name of any employee or representative of the Town of Westhampton involved. The complaint should also include the name, address, and phone number of the person bringing the complaint or their authorized representative.

Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or tape recording, will be arranged if needed on request. If assistance is needed to file or pursue the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will provide it. The complaint should be submitted to the ADA Coordinator or the Chair of the Selectboard as soon as possible but within 60 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory incident. The Selectboard will consider requests to hear complaints regarding incidents after more than 60 days have passed.

#### **ADA Coordinator:**

Margaret A. Parsons  
Administrative Assistant  
Town Hall  
Westhampton MA 01027  
413 203-3086

#### **Chair of the Selectboard:**

James Huston  
Town Hall  
Westhampton MA 01027  
413 527-0463

Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to clarify the facts of the incident and discuss possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator, will respond in writing, or if needed for effective communication, in an alternate format preferred by the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Westhampton and present options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the ADA Coordinator's response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant may appeal the Coordinator's decision within 15 calendar days of its receipt to the Selectboard. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the appeal, the Selectboard will meet with the complainant to further clarify the complaint and discuss possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting the Selectboard will respond in writing or alternate format with a final resolution of the complaint.

All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Selectboard, and responses from the ADA Coordinator or Selectboard, will be kept on file for at least three years.

### **UNDUE BURDEN, UNDUE HARDSHIP AND FUNDAMENTAL ALTERATION**

In any circumstance when a requested accommodation, modification or other action in fulfillment of the Town's obligation under Title II of the ADA, in the opinion of the ADA Coordinator, may involve an undue financial or administrative burden or hardship, or a fundamental alteration to a program, service or activity, the Coordinator will refer the request to the Selectboard for a final decision and will assist the Board in properly documenting the reason for acceptance or denial of any such request.

***Part II: program accessibility and facility inventories are as follows*** There are no formal conservation or recreation properties under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The town does not have a park commission.

### ***Part III: Employment Practices:***

The following Equal Employment Opportunity policy is posted at the Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Library, Highway Department and Police Department.

## **TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

It is the policy of the Town to comply with requirements of the regulations contained in the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This policy applies to all employees of the Town excluding those employees under the supervision and control of the School Committee.

The Town will not discriminate against people with disabilities in any employment practices or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment, including, but not limited to: application, testing, hiring, assignment, evaluation, disciplinary action, training, promotion, medical examination, layoff/recall, termination, compensation, leaves or benefits.

The Town has and will continue to establish occupational qualifications for each position, including the education, skills, and work experience required, and the physical, mental and environmental standards necessary for job performance, health, and safety. Such standards are job-related and consistent with business necessity.



The Town will provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified applicant or employee unless such accommodation will impose undue hardship on the Town. The Town will provide reasonable accommodation:

- To ensure equal employment opportunity in the application process
- To enable a qualified individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of the job
- To enable an employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment.
- The Town need not provide reasonable accommodation for an individual who is otherwise not qualified for a position.
- The duty to provide reasonable accommodation is on-going, and may arise any time an employee's job changes.
- It is the obligation of the individual with the disability to request the accommodation.
- If the cost of providing the accommodation is determined to meet the criteria of undue hardship on the Town, the Town will pay for the accommodation in such part that does not constitute an undue hardship and offer the individual requesting the accommodation the opportunity to pay for the balance directly or to seek other support (such as the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission)

No pre-employment inquiries may be made about an applicant's disability. This prohibition does not prevent an employer from obtaining necessary information regarding an applicant's qualifications, including medical information necessary to assess such qualifications and to ensure health and safety on the job. Before making a job offer, the Town may ask questions about an applicant's ability to perform specific job functions and may make a job offer that is conditioned on satisfactory results of a post-offer medical examination or inquiry. The Town may not make inquiries about specific disabilities.

Even if the applicant is qualified to perform the job, the Town may deny employment if such employment would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the individual or others, if such threat cannot be eliminated through reasonable accommodation. Such determination must be made by the Selectboard its designee after careful review of the circumstances.

Alcoholism is a disability under the definition of disability.. However, the Town may discipline, discharge or deny employment to any individual who uses alcohol during working hours or whose use of alcohol at any time adversely effects job performance or conduct to the extent that he or she is "not qualified" for the position.

Persons addicted to drugs, but who are no longer using drugs illegally and who are receiving treatment for drug addiction, or who have been rehabilitated successfully, are protected from discrimination by the ADA. However, the Town will discharge or deny employment to current illegal users of drugs, in accordance with policies established herein. The Town may ask questions regarding the use of alcohol or illegal use of drugs. However, the employer may not ask whether the applicant is a drug addict or alcoholic, or whether he/she has ever been in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.

Violation of this policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination from Town Service.

**Westhampton Elementary School Grounds – Kings Highway**

ACTIVITY EQUIP	MENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	N/A
	Grills	N/A
	Trash Cans	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	N/A
Trails		N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	N/A
	Beaches	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	N/A
	Access Routes	N/A
Game Areas: • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis	Access Routes	
	Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jungle gym</li> <li>• six swings- two are accessible</li> <li>• one basketball hoop</li> </ul>
Boat Docks	Access Routes	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Restrooms	Access Routes	N/A
Water Fountain	Access Routes	N/A
Parking		N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A

**PARKING**

<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			N/A
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every	X		



accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		N/A
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

**Notes:**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			N/A
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			N/A
No ponding of water			N/A
<b>Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			N/A
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			N/A
3 ft wide minimum			N/A
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			N/A
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			N/A
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			N/A
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A

Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A

**Notes:**

Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

**Notes:**

<b>STAIRS AND DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have			N/A



hardware that is knurled or roughened			
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**Notes:**

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			No restrooms available.
<b>At least one Sink:</b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<b>At least one Stall:</b>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
<b>Toilet</b>			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
<b>Grab Bars</b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
<b>Fixtures</b>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A

**Notes:**

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Floors</b>			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A

Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Switches, controls, and signs</b>			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
<b>Signs</b>			N/A
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

**Notes:**

<b>PICNICKING</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			No picnic spaces designated.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			N/A
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

**Notes:**

The Westhampton Elementary School was built in 1990 in compliance with the accessibility standards of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.



**Former Water Company Forest Land – Tob Road and Spruce Hill Road**

ACTIVITY EQUIP	MENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	N/A
	Grills	N/A
	Trash Cans	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	N/A
Trails		Trails have not been inventoried.
Swimming Facilities	Pools	N/A
	Beaches	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	N/A
	Access Routes	N/A
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballfield</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Tennis</li> </ul>	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Restrooms	Access Routes	N/A
Water Fountain	Access Routes	N/A
Parking		N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A

<b>PARKING</b>			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			No parking currently available
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every			

accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			No ramps
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**Notes:**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		x	No accessible path
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
<b>Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			No buildings on site
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			



Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			

**Notes:**

Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

**Notes:**

<b>STAIRS AND DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have			

hardware that is knurled or roughened			
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**Notes:**

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			No restrooms available
<b><i>At least one Sink:</i></b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
<b><i>At least one Stall:</i></b>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
<b><i>Grab Bars</i></b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

**Notes:**

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b><i>Floors</i></b>			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
<b><i>Drinking Fountains</i></b>			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			



Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Switches, controls, and signs</b>			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
<b>Signs</b>			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

**Notes:**

<b>PICNICKING</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			No picnic spaces designated.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

**Notes:**

**Westhampton Public Library Field (including Liberty Tree Memorial) – Stage and North Roads**

ACTIVITY EQUIP	MENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	N/A
	Grills	N/A
	Trash Cans	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	N/A
Trails		N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	N/A
	Beaches	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	N/A
	Access Routes	N/A
Game Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballfield</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Tennis</li> </ul>	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Restrooms	Access Routes	N/A
Water Fountain	Access Routes	N/A
Parking		N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A

**PARKING**

<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		



Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
<b>RAMPS</b>			N/A
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			No ramps
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**Notes:**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
<b>Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			N/A
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			Building not really used for recreation N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door,			

interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			

**Notes:**

Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

**Notes:**

<b>STAIRS AND DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			



Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
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**Notes:**

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			No restrooms available, unless the library happens to be open.
<b><i>At least one Sink:</i></b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
<b><i>At least one Stall:</i></b>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
<b><i>Grab Bars</i></b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

**Notes:**

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b><i>Floors</i></b>			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			

<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Switches, controls, and signs</b>			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
<b>Signs</b>			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

**Notes:**

<b>PICNICKING</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			No official picnic spaces designated (no picnic tables).
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

**Notes:** This checklist pertains to the grassy field associated with and adjacent to the new town library. The library building was completed in 2010 and is fully accessible and compliant with the ADA. The field is accessible from a firm, level grassed area that has space allowing for disembarking. The field itself is simply a grassed field which is sloping and uneven. Access to the library building from the field is via a stairway or



grassy slope and is somewhat limited without a short motorized loop.

**War Memorial, Town Common & Town Hall- Stage Road**

ACTIVITY EQUIP	MENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	N/A
	Grills	N/A
	Trash Cans	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	N/A
Trails		N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	N/A
	Beaches	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play equipment i.e. swings, slides	Basketball court and theater stage in the Town Hall.
	Access Routes	N/A
Game Areas: • Ballfield • Basketball • Tennis	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
Restrooms	Access Routes	N/A
Water Fountain	Access Routes	N/A
Parking		N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	N/A

**PARKING**

<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		



Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
<b>RAMPS</b>			N/A
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			No ramps
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**Notes:**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	N/A	X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
<b>Path of Travel – For Dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			N/A
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	X		Building not really used for recreation.
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door,	X		

interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	X		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	X		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist		X	
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space		N/A	
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	X		

**Notes:**

Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	X		
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	X		

**Notes:**

<b>STAIRS AND DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers	X		
Nosings not projecting		X	
Treads no less than 11" wide		X	
Handrails on both sides		X	
Handrails 34"-38" above tread	X		
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)		X	
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip has a smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"	X		
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening	X		
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	X		
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	X		
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	X		
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	X		
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)		X	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	X		
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door		X	
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A



Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
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**Notes:**

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		Restrooms only available when the Town Hall is open. Not accessible.
<b>At least one Sink:</b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
<b>At least one Stall:</b>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self closing	X		
Stall door has a pull latch	X		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		
<b>Toilet</b>	X		
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		
<b>Grab Bars</b>	X		
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1¼" diameter	X		
1½" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
<b>Fixtures</b>	X		
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		

**Notes:**

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Floors</b>			
Non-slip surface		X	
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	X		

<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
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<b>Switches, controls, and signs</b>			
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Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

**Notes:**

<b>PICNICKING</b>			
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For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			



**Notes:**

Excerpt from the Town of Westhampton – Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II, Self Evaluation and Transition Plan – Final Report, January 2008.

Town Hall is a two hundred year old building with a large main hall and stage for public meetings and events. The building has a small office and a second, larger, multi-purpose office in which meetings of many Town boards are conducted. Accessible parking is at the side of the building immediately adjacent to an on-grade accessible entrance to the main hall. From the entry level, a vertical lift provides access to the stage and the corridor on which the Town offices are located. The building has two small restrooms, one on the main hall level and one adjacent to the offices. Neither can be made functionally accessible because of space limitations. The construction of a fully accessible, unisex restroom on the main hall level has been identified as the best way of addressing this need. This document will be included in an application by the Town for funding of construction of the accessible rest room which has been identified as the Town's highest priority access improvement. As of 1/2012 the fully accessible unisex restroom on the main hall level has been completed.

This checklist uses handicap parking in the adjacent town parking lot for access to the Town Common. The common itself is mowed grass with no paths. There is low "Cape Cod" curbing around the Common but no curb cuts.

