TOWN OF WEBSTER

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

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The Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared for the Town of Webster under the direction of the Town Manager, with coordination provided by on-call Town Engineering and Planning firm CME Associates, and extensive input from Town officials including representatives of Planning, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, the Webster Lake Association, stakeholder groups, and input from the general public. Care has been taken to see that this Plan is consistent with the Town's previous planning efforts and its current policies regarding future growth and development. The Plan is a continuation and expansion of the goals and objectives outlined in Webster's previous Open Space and Recreation Plan (2009) and is consistent with the Town of Webster Master Plan (2014). Mapping support for this Plan was also derived from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CRMPC).

The purposes of the Plan are to set forth a comprehensive strategy for protecting Webster's natural, scenic and historic resources; guide public land acquisition; identify and plan for new recreation facilities; increase recreation opportunities; and provide natural open spaces for the enjoyment of Webster's citizens, thus improving their quality of life.

Towards these ends, the Plan's action strategies are centered on the following goals:

- Protect large areas of undeveloped space in the Town of Webster.
- Preserve Webster's natural resources, especially its remaining open space, wetland and wildlife communities and scenic views.
- Preserve the quality and character of Webster Lake for all residents, current and future, to enjoy.
- Improve and expand the Town's open space and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of all residents of Webster.
- Link active and passive recreation areas.
- Preserve and enhance the historic character of downtown Webster.

The goals of this Plan will serve as a guide for Webster in its future efforts to protect open space and provide recreation resources for its citizens. The goals are broad, ambitious, and ongoing in nature. Delivery upon these goals will require cooperation and organization among Town officials, boards and committees, extensive participation from residents and stakeholders, and contribution and support from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and the State of Massachusetts.

A. Statement of Purpose

The 2018 update of the Webster Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is part of a town-wide effort to manage growth and protect the natural, cultural and historic resources that Webster residents currently enjoy. While the Town has worked aggressively in these areas, it should benefit from an updated plan of direction.

Webster's previous OSRP was completed in 2009 and identified many important tracts of land in need of permanent protection. The 2009 Plan also identified goals and objectives relevant to the provision of recreation facilities and programs in Webster. The 2014 Town of Webster Master Plan forwarded and expanded upon these goals. The 2009 OSRP concluded with a five-year action plan aimed at achieving these goals and objectives, although not all of the action plan items have been implemented to date.

This 2018 updated Open Space and Recreation Plan is an attempt to build upon the previous efforts, incorporating consideration of the changes that have occurred in Webster during the past decade. The primary purpose of this Plan is to realize the Town's vision where open space preservation is integral to the Town's character, where natural landscapes and historic resources are valued and protected, and to ensure that Webster residents have a wide variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the needs of all age groups and populations.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

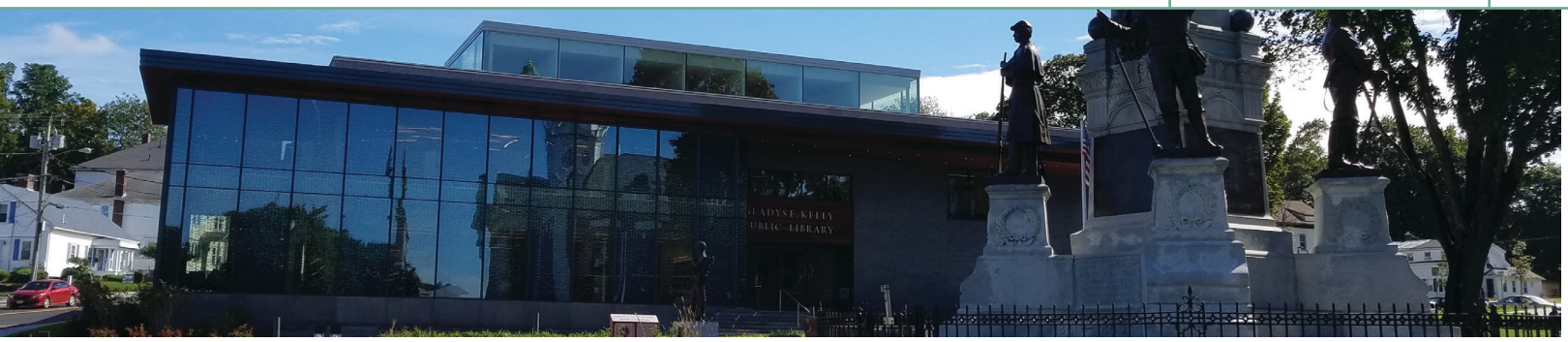
The planning process and public outreach approach to this OSRP reflects two fundamental factors. First, this Plan represents a strong collaborative effort among the various stakeholders in the community OSRP to identify needs, set goals and develop a strategy to meet future open space, conservation, recreation and historic preservation needs. Much of that collaboration took place during the development of the 2009 OSRP and the 2014 Master Plan. The second factor is a recognition, through these outreach processes, of the fundamental sense that the overall goals and mission of the 2009 OSRP are still valid.

The public outreach strategy of the 2009 and 2014 major planning efforts included stakeholder meetings, survey-based community engagement, and public forum events that solidified the goal directions. Details of those approaches are found these respective documents. For the 2018 update to the OSRP, the Town undertook a series of regular meetings and distributed responsibility for update to the objective details on an administrative level. In addition, an updated public opinion survey was developed and distributed on-line, both on the Town website and through extensive social media and several newspaper notifications. Finally, a public forum was held on July 30 at Webster Town Hall to review the draft goals and priorities of the Plan to solicit input and influence priorities and identify previously overlooked issues.

According to Mass GIS, a small segment of Webster meets one of the environmental justice income criteria (Households earn 65% or less of the statewide median household income.) Since Webster's environmental justice population is income based and not language based, public notices in two local papers and extensive use of social media seemed sufficient to fairly reach this community.

The survey and the public forum were useful in identifying the needs and concerns of Webster residents regarding open space and recreation priorities. The results of the survey were used to develop goals, strategies and the associated Five-Year Action Plan contained herein. The Action Plan was also informed by input solicited from the Office of Community Development, Planning Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, the Town Engineer, the Assessor, and by review comments obtained from other boards.

The final Plan presented herein represents a culmination of town-wide efforts to bring stakeholders having a vested interest in the Town's future into the planning process. The resulting document provides a framework for the citizens of Webster to guide the destiny of the Town through future open space and recreation acquisition, projects, initiatives and plans.



A. Regional Context

Webster is located in southwestern Worcester County along the Connecticut state line, approximately 56 miles southwest of Boston and 18 miles south of Worcester. The Town has a total size of 9,332 acres: 8,000 acres of land and 1,332 acres of water, mostly from Webster Lake, the Town's largest waterbody and most distinctive landscape feature. The Town is bordered on the east by the town of Douglas, to the north by the town of Oxford, to the west by the town of Dudley and to the south by Thompson, Connecticut. Webster is part of the 40-town planning area covered by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and is considered part of CMRPC's Western Subregion, which also includes the towns of Oxford, Auburn, Dudley, Charlton, Southbridge and Sturbridge. Webster's steeply to moderately sloped terrain is consistent with that of the surrounding southern Worcester County area and contributes to the scenic hillsides found along either side of Interstate 395 from Oxford to the Connecticut border.

The historic town center and hub of commercial activity is located along the banks of the French River, slightly west of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchaugagoggchaubunagungamaugg (Webster Lake), which is located in the middle of Town. Webster's eastern half is much more rural and undeveloped. The Town's circulation system provides easy access to the region's major employment, shopping and service centers. Route 12 extends south into town before continuing in a westerly direction through the town center, essentially functioning as the Town's Main Street. Route 193 extends through the town in a southerly direction, closely paralleling the shoreline of Webster Lake. Route 16 extends in an easterly direction into neighboring Douglas. Taken together, Routes 12 and 16 form a segment of the Maine-to-Virginia Bike Route.

Interstate-395 (part of the interstate highway system) extends through Town in a north-to-south direction. Webster's three exits along I-395 generate two forms of traffic circulation: commute trips in and around Worcester and the lower portion of the County, and vehicles using the highway as a shortcut when local roads are heavily congested. I-395 provides an artificial delineation of Webster's land use pattern, for the area west of the highway is far more densely populated than the portion of the Town located east of the highway. This development pattern means that the Town's open space and recreational needs will vary greatly depending on which geographic half of Webster is being considered.

Webster contains seven historic villages: East Village located northeast of the Lake, South Village, which covers the downtown area, and five villages along the Lake's shoreline: La Vue Du Lac, Wawela Park, Lakeside, Colonial Park and Bates Grove.

As with other New England towns located on major rivers, Webster experienced heavy industrial development during the 1800s. This development was centered along the shoreline of the French River, which was used to supply power to the industries. As the Industrial Revolution slowed towards the end of the 1800s, the Town was left with a number of mill buildings. Since then, many of the mill buildings have been adapted and reused for other industries. The town center has increased its presence as a commercial hub while adding population to become a mini-urban center. During the past century, much of Webster Lake's shoreline has been developed as seasonal cottages and high-end residences. The eastern part of town remains largely undeveloped and rural.

B. History of the Community[1]

Webster, a town of approximately 17,000 residents, is located in south central Massachusetts, on Connecticut's northeast border. The community's most distinctive geographic feature is a beautiful glacial lake created thousands of years ago during the Ice Age. A significant Native American population inhabited the area, primarily the Nipmuc tribe. The lake's long and unusual name, Lake Chargoggagoggmanchaugagoggchaubunagungamaugg, which evolved during colonial times, probably means something like "English knifemen and Nipmuc Indians at the neutral fishing place." [2]

[1] Most of this section is taken directly from Manzi, Carla; Manzi James J.; and Mrazik, John J. Images of America, Webster Arcadia Publishing 2005.
[2] Early History of Webster, Dudley, and Oxford", Paul J Macek and James R Morrison, copyright 2000, 2001.

The formation of the town was a direct result of the influence of Samuel Slater. Slater is known as "the Father of American Manufacturers," a title given him by President Andrew Jackson, who understood the significance of Slater's contributions to establishing a modern textile process in America. After leaving England with an understanding of the highly protected English textile manufacturing process, Slater set up mills in the 1790s in Rhode Island, and in 1812, he established a mill in what would become East Webster. Slater was attracted to the area by the water power potential of the lake, and the Maanexit, or French River to power his mills, and the potential workers available on local farms. Slater would later establish mills in what would become known as North and South Villages, expanding to both cotton and woolen products in addition to the cambric products being produced in East Village. The Slater mills occupied part of the towns of Oxford and Dudley, and in 1832, Slater petitioned the legislature to create a new town, Webster. Both Oxford and Dudley opposed the action, but Slater prevailed, and the new town was named for statesman Daniel Webster, whom Slater admired. The Slater organization would go on to dominate the town politically, socially, and economically for close to 100 years.

Webster soon outdistanced Oxford and Dudley by a considerable margin in terms of population and economic activity. In 1840, the Norwich and Worcester Railroad entered Webster, providing the town with an excellent transportation source to carry passengers and to ship goods to Worcester, Boston, and New York via the water connection at Norwich, Connecticut. The establishment of the railroad resulted in a major change in the location of the commercial district of the town. Prior to the coming of the railroad, most of the town's activities centered on the East Main Street area, but a shift to the area of today's Main Street occurred as the railroad's importance increased. Two other railroads entered Webster, the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad in the 1860s, and the Providence, Webster and Springfield Railroad in the 1880s. In 1912, a fourth railroad, the Southern New England Railroad, or Grand Trunk, was 80 percent completed before construction was halted, in part due to the death of the railroad's president, Charles Hays, on the Titanic. Today, the Providence and Worcester railroad runs in a northsouth direction through Webster and neighboring Dudley near the French River. The industrial base of the community continued to expand in the 19th century as other industrialists established operations in the area. Especially noteworthy was the growth of the shoe industry. Immigrants from many nations flocked to Webster looking for opportunities to work in the busy mills. With the growing population, the Main Street business and retail district continued to expand. People from surrounding communities traveled to Webster to avail themselves of its many products and services.

Late in the 19th century, Webster Lake's recreational resources were parlayed into significant economic activity, especially after Edgar S. Hill took control of two lake resorts, Point Breeze and Beacon Park. Webster Lake became one of the top summer destinations in all of Worcester County, and the enterprising Hill built a trolley system to accommodate prospective lake goers. The 20th century saw continued expansion throughout the community in terms of population, town services, schools, churches, industry, recreation, and housing, but it also signaled the end of the Slater dominance, with the sale of their mill complexes in the 1920s and 1930s. The Depression of the 1930s was a major economic setback, but the rebound with the start of World War II was remarkable. In the country's wars, Webster has been noted for supplying not only the forces needed to wage battle, but also for the goods to conduct the wars successfully.

Significant flooding of the downtown area occurred in 1938 and again in 1955, leading to the construction of flood control dams upstream of town on the French and Little Rivers.

In the middle of the 20th century, a reduction in the bustling Main Street activity and a disappearance of industry began. Industrial activity began to shift to the southern United States and then overseas where costs were lower. Businesses began to locate in East Webster, where there was room for expansion and parking space that was not available downtown. Another factor leading to the deterioration of the Main Street business district was the advent of the out-of-town mall. Travel out of town was made easier by the construction of Interstate 395 in the late 1970's. While bisecting the town into eastern and western sections, the highway corridor provides a transportation resource attractive to industry. Nevertheless, the net loss of industry and industrial jobs has changed the complexion of the area from a blue-collar mill town to a more demographically diverse population. The largest employer today is MAPFRE Insurance, headquartered in town.

Prior to the late 1990's there has been relatively little attention given to environmental, conservation, and passive recreation issues in Webster. In the 1990's, the threat of a regional landfill in neighboring Douglas uphill from Webster Lake galvanized the community and the project was subsequently halted.

There are now four local and regional organizations working to address the area's environmental issues:

- The Webster Lake Association is working to remove invasive weeds and stop their proliferation; reduce sedimentation from adjacent roadways; and generally improve the Lake's water quality.
- The French River Connection is working to clean up, and monitor the river. As well as improve access through the creation of a network of trails along the riverbanks.
- The Dudley Conservation Land Trust operates in all of southern Worcester County to preserve open space.
- Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (QSRVNHC) was created in the early 1990s for the purposes of preserving historic resources, working landscapes, natural environments and expanding tourism within the region. The nine Massachusetts communities within the Quinebaug-Shetucket Watersheds joined in 2000.

C. Population Characteristics

The 2010 Census counted 16,767 residents in Webster, an increase of 352 persons from the 2000 Census count of 16,415 residents. With a total landmass that consists of 12.5 square miles, Webster has a population density of roughly 1,341 people per square mile. Of the 40 communities in the CMRPC planning region, only Shrewsbury and Worcester have higher population densities. Table 1 presents Webster's growth in population over the years, as well as the Town's projected population for the year 2020. Table 1 shows that Webster has experienced two substantial growth spurts: the 1960s when the Town added 1,237 new residents, and the 1980s when the Town added 1,716 new residents.

Table 1: Webster Population Growth

Year	# of People	Numerical Change	Change %
1930	12,992	---	---
1940	13,186	194	1.50%
1950	13,194	8	0.01%
1960	13,680	486	3.70%
1970	14,917	1,237	9.00%
1980	14,480	-437	2.90%
1990	16,196	1,716	11.95%
2000	16,415	219	1.35%
2010	16,767	352	2.14%
2020 Projection**	17,422	---	---

Sources: US Census. * 2006 population count is an estimate prepared by the US Census Bureau. **Forecast for 2020 provided by CMRPC Transportation Department.

Table 2 shows how Webster's year-round housing stock has grown over the last 40 years and allows for a comparison against the Town's population growth. Please note that Table 2 refers only to year-round housing units. The US Census also counted 210 seasonal housing units for Webster in 2000, but these units are not included in the Town's year-round housing tally. It should be noted that the US Census counted 313 seasonal homes in Webster in 1980; thus, the number of seasonal dwellings has been declining during the past few decades, with the majority of these units being converted to year-round housing units. Taken together, Tables 1 and 2 indicate that new home construction in Webster has been growing at a faster rate than the growth in population: between 1970 and 2000, Webster's population grew by 10% whereas its housing stock grew by 35% during the same time period.

That the rate of housing growth is higher than the rate of population growth is not surprising when one considers the national trend towards smaller household sizes. Couples are having fewer children today and there has been a substantial increase in single-parent households. Webster's US Census data confirms this trend. In 1970, the typical Webster household contained 2.87 people. By 2010, this figure had declined to 2.32 persons per household. Another factor contributing to smaller household sizes is "the graying of America", that is, our nation's elderly population is expanding. In 1980, the median age of Webster's population was 34.4 years of age. By 2010, the median age had increased to 40.9 years of age.

Table 2: Housing Unit Growth in Webster

Year	# of Occupied Housing Units	Numerical Change	% Change
1970	5,439	----	
1980	6,034	595	10.9%
1990	7,078	1,314	21.8%
2000	7,343	265	3.7%
2010	7088	-255	-3.5%

Source: US Census.

Table 3 displays the changes in age groups within the Town's population from 2000 to 2010. Most of Webster's age groups experienced modest declines between 2000 and 2010, with the largest declines being the 20-44 age group (a loss of 522 residents) and the 75+ age group (a loss of 153 residents). The fastest growing segment of Webster's population is the 45-64 age group, or the soon-to-be-seniors (adding 1137 residents). It is likely that this age group will show up as an increase in Webster's senior population when the next decennial census is taken in 2020.

Table 3: Population by Age Group

Year	Under 5	5 – 19	20 – 44	45 – 64	65 – 74	75 +
2000	1,081	3,037	5,920	3,643	1,160	1,574
2010	1,022	2,924	5,398	4,780	1,222	1,421
Change	-59	-113	-522	1137	62	-153
% Change	-5.5%	-3.7%	-8.8%	31.2%	5.3%	-9.7%

Source: 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census

Table 4 indicates that approximately 60% of Webster's households consist of families. This represents little change from the 2000 Census when family households accounted for 61.9% of all Webster households. The number of female-headed households increased to just over 950 between 2000 and 2010, as did the number of senior households, to just over 1819 households in Webster.

Table 4: Webster Households by Type (2010)

Household Type	# Households	Percentage
Family Household	4,313	60.8%
Non-Family Household	2775	39.2%

Source: 2010 US Census

Table 5: Type of Occupancy (Owner/Renter - 2000)

Type of Occupancy	Number of Units	Percentage
Owner Occupied Housing	3,950	56%
Renter Occupied Housing	3,138	44%

Source: 2010 US Census

According to the US Census, there were a total of 7,088 occupied housing units in 2010, with 56% being owner-occupied and 44% renter-occupied. These percentages are all relatively unchanged since the 2000 census. Numerically, Webster gained 222 owner-occupied units and lost 38 renter-occupied units between 2000 and 2010.

Table 6: Median Household Income Comparison

Webster Median Household Income	**$47,537**
State Median Household Income	$64,496
Webster as a Percent of State Average	73.7%
Worcester County Median Household Income	$45,599
Webster as a Percent of Worcester County Average	+4.25% above average

Source: 2010 US Census, CMRPC Community Snapshot

According to Table 6, Webster's median household income is substantially lower than both the State median figures. This is indicative of a community with many low-income households and a low-wage workforce. This has implications for the amount of tax dollars that can be raised from residential property taxes, the ability of Webster homeowners to afford them, and the amount of tax dollars that can be used for open space and recreation. The per capita income figures presented in Table 7 below help further illustrate Webster's situation.

Table 7: Per Capita Income Comparison

Webster Median Per Capita Income	**$29,209**
State Median Per Capita Income	$36,551
Webster as a Percent of State Average	79.9%
Worcester County Per Capita Income	$22,983
Webster as a Percent of Worcester County Average	+27.1% above average

Source: 2010 US Census

Table 8: Webster Household Income Distribution

Income Range	Number of Households	Percentage
Less than $10,000	382	5.7%
$10,000 - $24,999	1367	20.5%
$25,000 - $34,999	787	9.6%
$35,000 - $49,999	891	13.4%
$50,000 - $74,999	1309	19.6%
$75,000 - $99,999	642	9.6%
$100,000 - $149,999	796	8.5%
$150,000 and over	495	7.4%

Source: 2010 US Census

Table 8 indicates that approximately half (49.2%) of Webster's households earned less than the State's median family income figure of $64,496 in 2010. Furthermore, the 2010 Census identified 2580 individuals living at or below the poverty level, one of the highest rates in Worcester County and CMRPC's 40-town planning region.

According to Mass GIS, a small segment of Webster meets one of the environmental justice (EJ) income criteria – "Households earn 65% or less of the statewide median household income." Webster's environmental justice population is income based and not language based. The Environmental Justice Population in Webster is defined by two contiguous areas. The first is north of East Main Street, bordered by Stoughton St., Upland Street, North Main Street, the rail road tracks, and Mill Brook. The other section is generally south of East Main Street and extents a few blocks south to Negus St. and then a narrow swath along French River to Hill Street.

According to the 2010 census, 87.4% of Webster reports as White, 2.5 % as Black or African American, 6.8 % Hispanic Latino alone, 1.1% Asian alone, 1 % Hispanic Multiracial and the remaining other the remaining 1.4%. The median per capita income for much of this area is $27,679, while the median per capita income of all of Webster is $32,163.

Additional Demographics:

Jobs in Webster: According to the most recent statistics of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, there was a labor force of 8,556 workers. 430 business establishments in Webster's businesses employ 8,221 individuals as of 2017. Of the 430 businesses in Webster, 68 were of the retail trade variety, 48 were in the construction sector, 40 were in the accommodations/food services sector, 36 were in the health care/social service sector, 29 were in professional/ technical sector, 20 were in the manufacturing sector, and the remaining businesses in Webster were scattered among the other sectors of the economy.

Webster's Labor Force: Statistics from the Division of Unemployment Assistance indicate that as of August 2007, Webster had a labor force of 8,221 (Webster residents with jobs) and 335 Webster workers were unemployed. The Division's most recent unemployment data is also from 2017 and shows that Webster's unemployment rate was 6% for that month, a full point higher than the Worcester County rate (4.9%) and a point and a half higher than the State rate (4.5%). As with the income demographics, the Town's unemployment rate is indicative of a community that is struggling economically.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

D-1. Patterns and Trends

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst has been tracking statewide land use data for the better part of the last century. The University uses aerial photographs and interprets them (now using GIS) based on land use categories. Table 9 below outlines Webster's land use totals for the last three UMass-Amherst statewide mapping efforts.

Table 9: Webster Land Use Changes Over the Years (in acres)

(acres)	1971	1985	1999
Undeveloped Total	5,023	4,641	4,171
Undeveloped Forestland	4,855	4,509	4,116
Undeveloped Farmland	168	132	55
Developed Total	1,932	2,228	2,709
Developed Residential	1,691	1,948	2,347
Developed Commercial	170	187	218
Developed Industrial	71	93	144

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

Table 9 indicates that Webster's residential sector has added the most acreage (over 656 acres between 1971 & 1999). While of lesser acreage, Webster more than doubled its industrial land between 1971 (71 industrial acres) and 1999 (144 industrial acres). The Town also added a modest 48 acres of new commercial land during this timeframe. The biggest land use losses between 1971 and 1999 were forestland (a loss of 739 acres) and farmland (loss of 113 acres).

D-2. Infrastructure

2-a. Transportation Systems:

Webster's transportation network consists of approximately 85-miles of roadways, which provide easy access to the region's major employment, shopping and service centers. Route 12 extends south into town from Oxford until reaching the East Village where it then extends through Town in a southwesterly direction. Route 12 runs through the town center and serves as Webster's Main Street. Route 193 starts in the East Village and extends through the town in a southerly direction in close proximity to the shoreline of Webster Lake. Route 16 extends in an easterly direction into neighboring Douglas. Taken together, Routes 12 and 16 form a segment of the Maine-to-Virginia Bike Route.

Interstate-395 extends through town in a north-to-south direction before it enters Thompson Connecticut. Webster's three exits along I-395 generate two forms of traffic circulation: commute trips in and around Worcester and the lower portion of the County, and vehicles using the highway as a shortcut when local roads are heavily congested. I-395 provides an artificial delineation of Webster's land use pattern, for the area west of the highway is far more densely populated than the portion of the Town located east of the highway. In terms of public transportation, the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) provides bus service into downtown Webster five times a day during the weekdays.

2-b. Water Supply System:

<u>Water Division of the Public Works Department</u>

Organization: The Board of Selectman had historically served as the Board of Water Commissioners. However, the Town recently modified the Charter to create a Water & Sewer Commission, which has oversight of these utilities.

Staff: The Superintendent and Clerk are a full-time position. In addition, there is a full-time foreman and five full-time laborers that are available to help with the Sewer Division.

Budget: For the 2018 Fiscal Year, the Water Division had an operating budget of $2,386,153. As an enterprise system, the entirety of the Division's operating budget is derived entirely from user fees. The Division is on the verge of completing several major upgrades to the water system, and these have been long-term projects paid for through borrowing. Thus, close to 50% of the Division's operating budget is debt service: for FY 2008, the principal loan amount is $488,181 and the interest is $372,061. The Division has its own 5-year capital improvement plan and large-scale capital improvements are usually paid for through the Town Meeting warrant article process, whether through an upfront appropriation or borrowing.

Facilities: The Department does not have a centralized water treatment facility; rather, the water is treated directly at the Town's three well-fields located on Memorial Beach Drive, Bigelow Road and Thompson Road. There is a one million gallon standpipe located on Park Road and a 1.6 million gallon in-ground concrete storage tank on Rawson Road.

System Description: The system consists of three wellfields, over 600 hydrant locations, and approximately 62 miles of pipes (some of which are close to 100 years old). There are approximately 4,600 customers, including residences, businesses, industries and institutional uses (municipal buildings, schools, churches, etc.). All customers are metered and the Division uses a new radio-read system for reading the meters on a monthly basis. The system makes use of three groundwater wellfields for its water supply sources:

- Bigelow Road Wellfield: Consisting of one gravel-packed well, the Bigelow Road Wellfield has a State permitted yield of 2.16 million gallons per day (gpd), although on average it uses approximately 700,000 gpd. There is an emergency generator at this site to ensure an emergency water supply source.
- Thompson Road Wellfield: This wellfield has been offline since 2002 and is in the process of being rehabilitated. The Division received a low-interest loan from the MA Water Pollution Abatement Trust for this rehabilitation project. This was a tubular wellfield (numerous shallow wells) and will be replaced by five gravelpacked wells. The wellfield has a State permitted yield of 1.73 million gpd, but on average uses approximately 600,000 gpd.
- Memorial Beach Drive Wellfield: Consisting of a single gravel-packed well, this wellfield has a State permitted yield of 1.02 million gpd, but on average uses 300,000 gpd. There is an emergency generator at this site to ensure an emergency water supply source. This site, as of 2018, is receiving improvements.

The wellfields are operated one at a time as opposed to being used simultaneously. Each wellfield has its own treatment plant on-site providing disinfection and aeration. In total, Webster's water system has been permitted to pump as much as 4.91 million gpd, and currently uses an average of 1.3 million gpd, although this figure can increase to as much as two million gpd during the summer months.

The Division prepares an annual pipe replacement program based on a 1999 Water System Master Plan prepared by the engineering firm of Camp, Dresser and McKee. The Division makes use of its own leak detection program although it is about to solicit professional assistance to revise the program. The Division's unaccounted for water figure (water lost to leaks) currently stands at 7.5%, well below the State-mandated unaccounted for water standard of 15%.

2-c. Sewage Disposal System:

Sewer Division of the Public Works Department

Organization: The Board of Selectmen serves as the Board of Sewer Commissioners. The Town Administrator hires the Sewer Division Superintendent, who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the division.

Staff: In addition to the Superintendent, there are 11 full-time employees in the Sewer Division including a full-time administrative position. The Division also has a maintenance manager.

Budget: For the 2018 Fiscal Year, the Sewer Division had an operating budget of $4,015,873. The debt was incurred in order to make necessary improvements to the sewage treatment plant and associated infrastructure. As an enterprise system, the entirety of the Department's operating budget is derived entirely from user fees. Large-scale capital improvements are usually paid for through the Town Meeting warrant article process, whether through an upfront appropriation or borrowing.

Treatment Plant and Sewer System Details: Located on Hill Street along the French River, the treatment plant was initially built in 1950, with substantial upgrades occurring in 1973, 1984 and 1990. The last major improvement to the system was begun in 2009 and was completed in 2011. The treatment plant accepts wastewater from almost the entirety of Webster, the central area of Dudley and the IPG industrial park area of Oxford. All flow from the 3 communities is pumped to the

treatment facility on Hill Street where the wastewater is screened to remove large solids and grit, adjusted with lime and alum to respectively boost pH and reduce phosphorous, aerated to remove ammonia and BOD, clarified and effluent is discharged to the French River. In the warmer weather, the wastewater is also treated to remove additional phosphorous and chlorinated and dechlorinated before discharging to the French River. The bacterial life to achieve ammonia and BOD removal constantly grows and needs to be continuously removed, resulting in sludge production which is dewatered and shipped off-site for incineration.

The most recent improvements to the wastewater facility were the replacement of three outdated and worn plunger pumps used to pump scum with 2 new Penn-Valley diaphragm pumps. Demolition and installation except electrical work were done by plant staff. Upcoming improvements scheduled are the replacement of the #2 clarifier center column and the addition of new controls and a SCADA system to the town's 19 pump stations in the wastewater collection system.

The most recent upgrades to the treatment facility were phases I and II of the phosphorous removal work. Phase one included installation of the Actiflo phosphorous removal system, 2 aeration blowers replaced with energy efficient turbo blowers and new chemical storage tanks and pumping systems. Phase II included 2 replacement influent screening, cleaning and compaction systems, replacing two thickened sludge plunger pumps with Penn-Valley diaphragm pumps and replacing the 4 pump plant water skid system.

The plant is designed to treat as much as six million gallons per day (GDP) of wastewater, but typically treats an average of 3.6 million GDP or 60% of the plant's capacity, although this can increase to as much as 4.5 million GDP during the fall and winter months, or 75% of the plant's capacity.

The system serves approximately 4,200 customers in Webster and also serves a portion of Dudley that includes Nichols College. Dudley accounts for 20% to 30% of the system's daily demand. It should be noted that Webster and Douglas have begun preliminary discussions about extending a waterline into west Douglas in order to provide water service to an industrial park along Route 16. These discussions are in the nascent stage and, before a final agreement can be reached, Douglas needs to prepare a build-out analysis of its industrial park in order to determine the amount of water it will need from Webster.

The sewer system consists of approximately 72 linear miles of pipes. Some of the pipes are older than 100 years, but the majority of pipes are no older than 80 years of age. The system covers 80% - 90% of the Town's population with the remaining 10% served by on-site septic systems. There are 19 pump stations scattered throughout town, including the seasonal Memorial Beach station. The system has a moderate problem with inflow and infiltration. Inflow is caused by direct connections to the sewer system from roof drains, sump pumps and any other water source directly discharging into a sewer line without the Department's knowledge. Infiltration is essentially groundwater infiltrating into the sewer pipes. Many of the older pipes are broken, have tree roots growing through them, or have some other type of flow restriction. Excessive inflow/infiltration eats up the treatment plant's capacity and endangers the system's ability to service new connections.

D-3. Long-Term Development Patterns

Webster's zoning scheme allows for industrial development in several locations: an area north of town bounded by Oxford, Sutton Road and Cudworth Road; an area just north of Webster Lake between Route 12 and Cudworth Road; three distinct strips along the French River; and a block in the town center bounded by Elm Street, Park Street, Maple Street and Myrtle Avenue. Business zoning districts can be found along either side of Route 12 in the town center; along either side of Cudworth Road in the north of town; an area between Route 16 and the Lake in the vicinity of the La Vue Du Lac village; and along either side of Route 193 south of Birch Island Road. Multi-family residential zoning occurs in the town center; single-family zoning occurs north and south of the town center and two locations east of the Lake; the shoreline of the Lake is zoned Lake Residential, and; east of the Lake is zoned Agricultural/Single-Family Residential. There are also four conservation districts scattered throughout Town: the islands within Webster Lake; a large tract of land in the northeast corner; the area in the vicinity of Sucker Brook Swamp and an area in the vicinity of Freeman's Brook.

Webster's conservation districts limit the permitted land uses to those having low environmental impacts. Lastly, Webster has a Floodplain Protection overlay district covering the land within the 100-year floodplain.

All told, Webster has 62% of its land area zoned for residential purposes, 25% zoned for conservation (this includes Webster Lake), 5.5% zoned for industry, 7.5% zoned for commercial activity. A graphic depiction of Webster's zoning scheme can be found on the accompanying Zoning Map.

In 1999 the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) initiated an effort to prepare a buildout analysis for each community in the State. A buildout analysis attempts to determine what the town would look like at full buildout, that is, if the town were completely developed under the standards of current zoning. Existing developed lands, protected lands and land with environmental constraints were taken out of the equation, and the remaining developable land was divided by the standards of the local zoning bylaw.

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

The regional planning commissions were contracted to perform buildout studies for each community in their respective regions. In Webster's case, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) completed a buildout analysis for the Town in May 2000. A summary of Webster's buildout analysis is presented below. The first section details the amount of new development that Webster could accommodate if its remaining vacant developable land were fully built out, while the second section adds the buildout potential to Webster's current land use figures to estimate what Webster would look like upon full buildout.

Table 10: Webster Buildout Analysis

Remaining Acres of Vacant, Developable Land	**3,153**
Additional New Residential Housing Units	2,691
Additional New Population	5,919
Additional New School-Age Children	1,345
Total Housing Units at Full Buildout	10,408
Total Population at Full Buildout	22,334
Total School-Age Children at Full Buildout	3,838

Source: CMRPC Buildout Analysis for Webster, May 2000.

The buildout analysis indicates that Webster is approximately two thirds of the way towards full buildout based on the current standards of the Town's Zoning Bylaw. With a total land area of 9,332 acres, of which 6,179 acres are either developed, permanently protected or can't be built on because of environmental constraints, this leaves 3,153 acres of vacant developable land in Town (or 33.8% of the Town's land area). Looking towards the future, Webster will most likely retain its present land use pattern of a densely populated town center west of the lake and dispersed rural residential development east of the lake. It should be noted that in 2007 and 2008, the state purchased 444 acres in the area east of Highway 395, reducing the developable land in the buildout analysis by that amount. Although the housing and development market has undergone significant upheaval and slow recovery from the recession of 2008-2010, no updated buildout analysis has been completed for Webster since 2000.

A. Topography, Geology, and Soils

Webster is situated in the southern portion of the French River Valley. The landscape exhibits the geo-morphological results that are typically associated with glaciated landscapes in central New England. The terrain is hilly with generally north to south oriented ridgelines that are interspersed with extensive wetland systems in areas of lower relief. Elevations range from a high of 905 feet above sea level at Woods Hill to a low of 480 feet above sea level at Webster Lake. Other significant hills in Webster include Sugarloaf Hill (767 feet) and Emerson Hill (688 feet). Most of the landscape ranges in elevation from 500 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

Webster is located on the central plateau of Worcester County. The plateau, as a whole, is so thoroughly dissected that large areas of smooth plateau surface do not exist within the county – and certainly not within Webster. The surface of the plateau is interrupted in many places by hills rising higher than the general plateau elevation, which averages 800 to 900 feet in the southern portions of the county. These hills are predominately small in area and consist largely of elongated, rounded hills with the longer axes generally oriented north-to-south.

Some of Webster's hills are piles of unconsolidated clay, grave, and sand, called "drumlins" by geologists. These drumlins are the result of past glacial activity. The most recent glacier is estimated to have retreated some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. As the glacier melted and retreated, it dumped along the receding face the load of boulders, stones and soils it gathered while moving southward. The material left by the glacier is called glacial "till" and, with drumlins, constitute most of the land surface area of Worcester County. Many of the hills within the central plateau consist of rock hills with a thin layer of unconsolidated material covering them. Large areas of the Town are overlain with thick deposits of glacial till. Materials moved by glaciers and subsequently sorted and deposited by streams flowing from melting ice are called Glaciofluvials. Webster has several examples of these types of stratified drift deposits including eskers, kames, and kettle holes.

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

- Merrimac-Hinckley-Windsor Soils: Nearly level to steep, very deep, excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on outwash plains. This soil type consists of soils located on broad, flat plains and in rolling to steep areas throughout the southern portion of Central Massachusetts. The soils were formed in water-sorted deposits of glacial outwash. In Webster, this soil category appears along the banks of the French River, Mine Brook and all along the shoreline of Webster Lake. This soil type is suited to trees, cultivated crops, hay, and pasture. Slope, droughtiness and low nutrient content are the limiting factors for farming.

- Canton-Montauk-Scituate Soils: Nearly level to steep, very deep, well-drained soils on glaciated uplands. This soil type consists of soils located on upland hills and rolling glacial till flats. It is dissected by broad drainage-ways that flatten out on the lower slopes. Stones cover more than 3% of the surface in most areas. The soils were formed in friable glacial till. In Webster, this soil category covers a portion of land south of Klebart Avenue/Lake Parkway, between the French River and Webster Lake. This soil category also covers the majority of the eastern half of the Town, excluding Webster Lake.

- Chatfield-Hollis Soils: Gently sloping to steep, moderately deep and shallow, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on glaciated uplands. This soil type consists of soils on hills and ridges that have bedrock exposures throughout. Stones cover more than 3% of the surface in most areas. The soils were formed in glacial till. In Webster, this soil category appears as a small area along either side of Route 16 in the eastern portion of Town.

B. Landscape Character

Predominantly a small residential community, Webster's urban core developed along the French River during the 19th century when textile mills were a landscape fixture along riverbanks throughout New England. Industrial development created a host of environmental problems that the State and the Town (along with many community organizations and private citizens) have been slowly but steadily addressing. Upgrades to wastewater treatment plants have resulted in significant water quality improvements for the river. Nevertheless, there are still lingering concerns regarding the river's water quality and thus the river is not being used to its full potential for public recreation.

Webster Lake remains the Town's most significant landscape feature. Various Indian trails that converged on the Lake's western shore, including one that served as the major pathway by which settlers from Boston moved westward to Connecticut and beyond, served to influence current and prior settlement patterns of the community.

The area east of Webster Lake includes most of the Town's forestlands, rolling hills, and ledge. The relatively undeveloped landscape includes Wood Hill, which abuts the Douglas State Forest. There are still portions of this area that are served by on-site wells and septic systems. This portion of Webster contains the majority of the Town's vacant developable land, and currently faces development pressure.

C. Water Resources

A graphic depiction of the Town's water resources can be found on the following page as Map 3 (Water Resources Map).

Watersheds:

The vast majority (96%) of Webster's land area falls within the French River Watershed, although 87 acres of the Blackstone River Watershed do extend into Webster at three locations along the Town's eastern boundary line, and a small portion (260 acres) of the Town's southeast corner falls within the Quinebaug River Watershed. The French River Watershed ranges from Leicester, Massachusetts in the north and extends south to Killingly, Connecticut. The Massachusetts portion of the French River Watershed constitutes roughly 60,595 acres and is shared by the Towns of Dudley, Webster, Oxford, Charlton, Spencer and Leicester (the headwaters community). The Town adopted a Lake Watershed Protection District that covers the eastern half of the Town, including the entirety of Webster Lake. The district prohibits several potentially hazardous land uses and requires the use of Best Management Practices for others.

In 1999, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst prepared a study entitled, French Quinebaug Watershed Plan for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's French-Quinebaug Watershed Basin Team. This document provided an analysis of the drainage patterns found in the two watersheds. The French River Watershed has what is known as a "dendritic" drainage pattern, that is, uniformly resistant crystalline rocks with a gentle regional slope. Generally speaking, the French River has a lower energy system than the river segments with higher elevations located north of Webster. From the River's headwaters, there is a 400-foot drop in elevation over a 12-mile span. From Clara Barton Pond in Oxford, the River's elevation drops by 150 feet over a 20-mile span until its confluence with the Quinebaug River in Connecticut.

Surface Waters:

Webster is home to the 1278-acre Webster Lake located in the center of Town. Besides the Lake, there are only two other named water bodies in Webster: Club Pond, which is hydrologically connected to Webster Lake but is located on the north side of Route 16, and Nipmuck Pond (20 acres in size) located in the northeast corner of Town just south of Sutton Road. There are a handful of small un-named ponds scattered throughout Webster.

The French River is Webster's most significant watercourse and the river forms the Town's western boundary line (approximately 3.5 miles in length). The river is the most prominent natural feature in the downtown area. Other significant watercourses in Town include Mill Brook (starts in the northwest corner and drains into the French River), Sucker Brook (starts in the north and drains into Webster Lake), Mine Brook (starts in the east and

drains into Webster Lake), Brown's Brook (starts in the east and drains into Webster Lake), and Freeman's Brook (starts in the southwestern corner of Town and flows south before joining the French River in Connecticut). It should be noted that the Massachusetts River Protection Act establishes a 200-foot buffer zone on either side of all perennial watercourses, with the first 100-feet being a 'no build' zone while the second 100-feet allowing for limited development (10% of the affected land area). In Webster, a total of approximately 506 acres fall under the River Protection Act's jurisdiction (256 acres in the primary 100-foot 'no build' zone and 250 acres in the secondary 100-foot limited development area).

Three public access points to the French River have been constructed in Webster in the past ten years allowing this resource to be utilized for recreational purposes. The issue was addressed in the French River Blueway Study of 2007, completed by the University of Massachusetts for the Town of Oxford Open Space Committee and the French River Connection, under a grant from the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor. The study examined ten potential sites for car-top access, with four of these sites being in Webster: Collins Cove, downtown Webster, the access road for the wastewater treatment plant, and Perryville. One other point on Chase Avenue, owned by the Town, was subsequently identified as a potential point of river access. Town-owned lands are particularly appropriate for this purpose, as the State Board of Fishing & Boating Access will install car-top access points under a land management agreement with the Town at its own expense. Since the publication of that study, car-top access points have been developed at Chase Avenue, Perryville, and at the French River Park in downtown Webster. Regarding Webster Lake, there are two points of public access. The first is the Town beach and boat launch
at the end of Memorial Beach Drive, and the second is a State boat launch at the end of Lakeside Avenue.

Floodplains:

Webster's floodplains are located near its major surface water resources, such as Webster Lake, Club Pond, the French River, Freeman's Brook, Mine Brook, Mill Brook and Sucker Brook. All told, Webster has 1,572 acres of land falling within its 100year flood zones, or 16.8% of the Town's total land area. Webster has adopted a Floodplain Protection Overlay District, which regulates development within the Town's flood hazard areas as identified on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated June 16, 1993.

Wetlands:

Webster's wetlands include three major swamp areas: Sucker Brook Swamp in the north, Cedar Swamp in the southeast, and Cranberry Meadows Swamp in the southeast. Wetlands form an intricate link to the health of the natural environment and play many roles. They recharge groundwater, act as a spongy pollution filter, control floodwater by absorbing and storing water while gradually releasing it, are invaluable as a habitat for wildlife, support fisheries, and support rare plant and animal species.

Webster's Conservation Commission regulates development within wetlands and acts as the local administrator of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and associated regulations (Chapter 310, CMR 10.00). The Army Corps of Engineers, under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, also regulates the filling of wetlands. As mapped by the DEP Wetlands Conservancy Program, Webster contains 544 acres of wetlands, or close to 6% of the Town's total land area.

Aquifers:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has identified seven stratified drift aquifers within Webster's boundaries: six bordering the shoreline of Webster Lake and one in the northwest corner of Town bordering the French River (see the Water Resource Map for exact locations). At 254 acres in size, the aquifer bordering the French River is the largest aquifer in Town and the Water Department's Bigelow Road wellfield is located above. The Water Department's wellfields on Thompson Road and Memorial Beach Drive are located above a 67-acre stratified drift aquifer. The other aquifers abutting the Lake include an 84-acre aquifer in the vicinity of Sucker Brook, a 122-acre aquifer is located directly underneath Killdeer Island, a 26-acre aquifer in the vicinity of Wawela Park, a 25-acre aquifer in the vicinity of Winter Cove and an 82-acre aquifer located in the very southern end of Town, in the vicinity of Bates Grove and Colonial Park.

It should also be noted that the Town of Dudley currently maintains two municipal water wells above an aquifer located on the west side of the French River. While the hydrological connections between Webster's aquifers and the surface water resources of Webster Lake and the French River have never been studied in great detail, they are generally acknowledged as being connected and influential of each other.

Vernal Pools:

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) serves the important state role of officially "certifying" vernal pools. Twenty-five vernal pools have been certified in Webster as of January 2008; however, local conservationists believe there are many more scattered throughout the community; in fact, there are 51 sites in Town that the State considers "potential" vernal pools. Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumn pools and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising groundwater and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations. Many rare amphibian and invertebrate species rely on a breeding habitat that is free of fish predators. Vernal pools are protected in Massachusetts under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations as well as several other federal and state regulations.

Bio-Map and Living Waters:

In addition to the scenic and unique environments identified by the residents as part of the planning process for this document, it should be noted that Webster contains a large swath of land that has been identified by the NHESP as "Core Habitats" for aquatic, plant and wildlife species. In 2001, with funding from the EOEEA, the NHESP developed a BioMap for the entire Commonwealth in order to identify and delineate the areas most in need of protection to ensure long-term viability of terrestrial and wetland elements of native biodiversity. The BioMap delineates Core Habitat that identifies the most critical sties for biodiversity conservation across the state. The areas mapped were determined by biologists to be those most suitable to support viable plant and wildlife species. In Webster, there is a large swath of Core Habitat area located east of I-395 and Webster Lake, and adjacent areas have been identified as Supporting Natural Landscape providing buffers around Core Habitats, connectivity between Core Habitats, sufficient space for ecosystems to function, and contiguous undeveloped habitat for common species. It should be noted that Webster's Core Habitat areas contain many of Webster's wetlands.

The NHESP's Living Waters Project attempted to identify and map the State's most critical sites for maintaining freshwater aquatic biodiversity. These Core Habitat sites represent where the State will focus its conservation priorities. In Webster, a section of the French River has been designated as a Living Waters Core Habitat, starting at the South Dam and extending south to the Connecticut state line. The BioMap and Living Waters projects were created to help towns prioritize their land protection efforts.

D. Vegetation

Webster's forests are typically composed of southern New England hardwoods, dominated by oaks and hickories in the uplands. Additionally, there are large stands of white pine and red maple that grow in both Webster's uplands and wetlands. Another species common to the forestlands is birch, reflecting the Town's location not far from the northern Worcester county transition zone where this species is prevalent. As is typical in southern New England, hemlock and beech trees, two species common farther north, are generally restricted in Webster to the cool, moist, shadier north facing slopes. Webster's vegetation can be divided into three categories: upland forests, wetlands and grasslands.

Oaks, maples and eastern white pines can be observed in Webster's upland areas on the Webster Lake side of Wood Hill and the Douglas Road side of Sugarloaf Hill. Maples, birch, beech, white and red pine, and hemlock trees are visible on north-facing slopes and other areas where increased exposure to cold winds creates a more northern climate. This type of forest is common in the Nipmuck Pond and Sutton Road areas. Hardwood trees dominate Webster's eastern half that abuts the Douglas State Forest.

Webster's wetland vegetation takes the form of both shallow and deep fresh water marshes, cranberry bogs, shrub swamps, wet meadows and wet woods. These plant communities provide valuable habitat, protect the quality of surface and ground waters nearby, contribute to the diversity of wildlife found in Webster and provide flood storage that protects downstream areas. The majority of Webster's wetlands contains water lilies, duckweed, pondweed and forested red maple swamp. Northern white cedars and pitcher plants are also fairly common in Sucker Brook Swamp and lower Cedar Swamp.

Webster's grasslands, located east of Webster Lake, were once cleared by early settlers for agricultural use, but have been absorbed by much of the Town's urban core. As a result, Webster has very few undeveloped grasslands. Several unusual plant species can be found within Webster's grassland habitats, including the Spiked Rush, the Bog Sedge and the Bog Aster.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program currently lists only one threatened plant species in Webster according to its most recent inventory, and that is the Potamogeton confervoides, a vascular plant species that appears as an algae-like pondweed. In addition, one plant species of special concern is listed, Ranunculus pensylvanicus, common name Bristly Buttercup.

Some public shade trees can be found at the town hall, schools, and the local cemeteries among other locations. The Town received a tree planting grant from DCR in 2004. There has been no other tree planting or replacement program since then. Monitoring or maintenance of public shade trees in conducted by the Department of Public Works throughout the year.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Habitats:

The interspersion of open fields, woodlands, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands found in Webster creates a diversity of habitats for wildlife including insects, spiders, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. As a result, Webster currently supports virtually every species that is common in Massachusetts as well as several species that are less common. Wildlife corridors exist in the vicinity of Webster Lake and Lower Cedar Swamp, continuing east to the Douglas State Forest; along the French River; and along either side of I-395. These corridors are not protected and could potentially be developed in the future.

Mammals observed in Webster include opossum, short-tailed shrew, little brown bat, Eastern cottontail, white-footed mice, gray squirrel, chipmunk, woodchuck, beaver, muskrat, coyote, red and gray fox, raccoon, fisher, weasel, river otter, striped skunk, bobcat, white-tailed deer and many more.

Birds observed in Webster include the common loon, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, green heron, Canada goose, mute swan, wood duck, mallard, black duck, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, common, hooded, and red-breasted merganser, osprey, bald eagle, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, ruffed grouse, turkey, herring gull, rock pigeon, mourning dove, screech owl, barred owl, great horned owl, saw-whet owl, chimney swifts, ruby-throated hummingbird, belted kingfisher, downy, hairy, pileated, and red-bellied woodpecker,

kingbird, blue jay, crow, tree and barn swallow, blackcapped chickadee, tufted titmouse, red and white breasted nuthatch, house and winter wren, bluebird, robin, gray catbird, mockingbird, starling, towhee, cardinal, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, oriole, and numerous species of warblers, finches, sparrows, and shorebirds.

Reptiles and amphibians observed in Webster include the garter, ring-necked, milk, brown, and Northern water snake, black racer, box, painted, snapping, wood, spotted, and musk turtle, American toad, wood, bull, and green frog, spring peeper, gray tree-frog, red-spotted newt, spotted, red-backed and marbled salamander, and many more.

Webster Lake is recognized as providing important recreational fishing opportunities for warm water and stocked fish species. The State Department of Fish and Game stock Webster Lake with brook, brown, and rainbow trout, and brood stock salmon. In addition, Webster Lake is home to other varieties of fish including bass, pickerel and panfish. The French River is home to perch, shiners, bullheads, trout, bass, rock bass, bluegill, white suckers, northern pike, fallfish, and American eel.

The Town has created four Conservation Districts: the islands within Webster Lake; a large tract of land in the northeast corner; the area in the vicinity of Sucker Brook Swamp and an area in the vicinity of Freeman's Brook. It should be noted that designating these areas as Conservation Districts does not mean that the land is permanently protected. Rather, Webster's Zoning Bylaw sets forth a limited number of uses that can be conducted within these areas. Land uses permitted By Right within Webster's four Conservation Districts include: municipal uses, windmills, forestry and wildlife management, private sportsman's clubs, unpaved trails and paths, public and private water supplies, and assorted recreation uses. Uses permitted by Special Permit in Webster's Conservation Districts include: campgrounds, golf courses, and structures that are associated with outdoor recreation activities. Thus, while Webster does not allow residential, commercial or industrial development within its Conservation Districts, land uses associated with conservation and recreation are allowed.

Rare and Endangered Species:

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

Table 11: Rare Species in Webster

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Most Recent Observation
Bird	Caprimulgus vociferus	Eastern Whip-poor-will	SC	2016
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	T	2016
Amphibian	Ambystoma opacum	Marbled Salamander	T	2014
Butterfly/Moth	Pyrrhia aurantiago	Orange Swallow Moth	SC	2009
Vascular Plant	Ranunculus pensylvanicus	Bristly Buttercup	SC	2006
Vascular Plant	Potamogeton confervoides	Algae-like Pondweed	T	2004
Mussel	Strophitus undulatus	Creeper	SC	2002
Reptile	Terrapene carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	1994
Reptile	Glyptemys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC	1993

SC = Special Concern at State Level; T = Threatened at State Level.
Source: MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

In 1982, the MA Department of Environmental Management prepared the State's first and only Scenic Landscape Inventory, where scenic landscapes were designated as either "Distinctive" or "Noteworthy". While none of the Town's landscapes received such designations, there are many locations in Webster that its citizens consider to be special, unique and scenic.

Map #	Site	Significance
1	Top of Sugarloaf Hill	Scenic overlook: great views of Webster Lake.
2	Top of Blueberry Hill	Scenic overlook: views of three states at once: MA, CT and RI.
3	Upper Gore Road	Scenic view of Webster Lake.
4	Cranberry Bog - east	Rare freshwater cranberry bog.
5	Land bound by Lake Parkway, I395, CT border, and brook	Last undeveloped lowland in this vicinity, containing a rare freshwater cranberry bog, heron rookery and wildlife habitat.
6	Memorial Beach Drive	Town beach, recreation area, natural area with pine forest, scenic views of Webster Lake and Sugarloaf Mountain, and site of the Old North Village Bridge.
7	Webster Pump Station	Historic building (1893).
8	Slater Mansion, at Slater Street/North Main Street	Historic building.
9	Market Street/Mill Street	Historic mill housing.
10	Pond Court	Historic mill housing and stone building.
11	Little Red School House	Historic building – current home of the Historical Society.
12	Slater Mills	Historic industrial mill buildings and mill housing.
13	South Dam	Scenic river view and significant engineering achievement.
14	Lakeside Cemetery	Historic cemetery.
15	Collins Cove	Old railroad engine turnaround and scenic riverside meadow.
16	Cranston Clock Tower	Only remaining element of historic mill building.
17	Slater Memorial	Historic memorial.
18	Town Hall/Court of Honor	Site of Webster Town Hall, historic watering trough and several war memorials.
19	Train Museum	Trail-related exhibits and artifacts.
20	Perryville Dam	Historic dam and scenic views of the French River.
21	Fenner Street Woods	Wooded area near the downtown.
22	Robinson Burial Plot	Historic gravesite.
23	Praying Indian Historic Marker	Historic marker.
24	Mama's Kitchen (formally Nap's Diner)	Historic diner.
25	Railroad Trestle	Scenic overlook along the French River.
26	Main Street Historic District	National Register of Historic Places; Registered District.
27	State-owned boat launch	Boat launch site along the shoreline of Webster Lake.
28	Upper Gore Road, Lower Gore Road, Gore Road, Point Breeze Road, Sutton Road, Rawson Road, Memorial Beach Drive, Mine Brook Road, Pinewood Drive and Kingsbury Road.	Locally designated Scenic Roads.

G. Environmental Challenges

Surface Water Pollution:

It is well known that the French River was the source of power for the textile mills that flourished in the later part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th. In fact, there are still active mills located along the French. The river was also a major transportation corridor for shipping goods, materials and finished products. The industrial use of the river has resulted in serious water quality problems that will take a long time to rectify. A 1974 report by the Massachusetts Water Resource Commission (MWRC) noted that the French River in the Dudley/Webster area had the "general appearance… of pea soup, although the color may vary from blue to green to rouge."

Discharges from industrial uses created sludge and sedimentation particularly in the ponds and impoundments behind dams. Nutrient and coliform levels were through the roof. The 1974 report noted that the impoundment behind the Perryville dam (no longer active) was known to have a "sludge deposit [that] had accumulated on the bottom, pieces of which occasionally came loose and floated to the top" and "coliform bacteria counts skyrocketed up to the million level count." Most of the mills along the French River have shut down and the ones that remain follow strict NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements.

Municipal wastewater treatment plants have historically been a substantial source of pollution for the French River. A 1990 report by the MWRC identified the Oxford-Rochdale treatment plant along the French River as significant contributor of high nutrients and organic loads. The area's treatment plants have all received significant upgrades during the 1980's, with the Webster plant being upgraded in 1990. These upgrades have resulted in a substantial reduction of pollutants in the rivers. The most recent addition to the Webster plant was the addition of a phosphorus removal system.

The municipal treatment plants and the industries discharging into the River are known as "point" pollution sources, that is, a pollution source that can be traced back to a single location. Abandoned landfills and auto salvage yards are also considered "point" pollution sources because of their potential to leach hazardous chemicals into nearby water resources. The past few decades have seen a marked reduction in the amount of pollutants entering the River from point pollution sources. Although the water quality of the River has improved dramatically, much remains to be done.

Today, the primary pollution problems for Webster's surface waters are "non-point" pollution sources, that is, pollution sources that are diffuse in nature and discharge pollutants over a broad area. Typical non-point pollution sources include: stormwater runoff, lawn fertilizers, manure leachate, septic systems, pesticides, road salt, erosion, etc. It is these non-point pollution sources that the watershed communities will need to address in order to further improve the water quality of Webster's surface waters.

Water Quality – State Monitoring Efforts:

The State has conducted numerous scientific studies of Webster's water resources over the years, primarily under the auspices of the MA Department of Environmental Protection and its predecessor. This section summarizes the results of the more recent studies that have evaluated the quality of Webster's water resources, including:

- French-Quinebaug Watershed Plan, 1999, prepared by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's French-Quinebaug Watershed Basin Team.
- Massachusetts Section 303(d) Integrated Lists of Waters, 2016. Prepared by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and the MA Department of Environmental Protection.
- French & Quinebaug River Watersheds 2004-2008 Water Quality Assessment Report, prepared by the MA Department of Environmental Protection.

- Nonpoint Pollution Source Action Strategies for the French and Quinebaug Basins, 2003, prepared by the MA Department of Environmental Protection.
- Watershed-Based Plan for the French Basin, 2006, prepared by the MA Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (Connecticut) undertook a Watershed-Based Plan for the French River in 2017.

1999 French-Quinebaug Watershed Plan (summary):

This UMass report contains an extensive summary of water quality testing in the French-Quinebaug basins, going back to the State's earliest monitoring efforts. The report also presents a detailed summary of the hydrological systems, their various components (wetlands, floodplains, etc.), as well as the impact of human activities on these resources. The report concludes with a set of recommendations aimed at improving water quality within the two basins and encouraging the appropriate public use of the two rivers.

Chief among the recommendations were:

- Extend the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor from Connecticut to Massachusetts. Note: this was accomplished in 2000 and now the corridor includes both the Connecticut communities and the nine Massachusetts communities.
- Develop tourism opportunities in an effort to expose the greater public to the area's natural resources and enhance the local economy.
- Develop sections of the Grand Trunk, Southbridge Spur and other rail trails for recreational purposes. Note: The State has purchased the railroad right-of-way for the 11-mile Southbridge Spur and has obligated funds for an engineering study, although these funds have yet to be spent. When completed, the Southbridge Spur will create a trail that starts in the Southbridge downtown area, dips south into Thompson Connecticut before branching north into downtown Webster.
- Develop river awareness and other educational programs. Note: the non-profit French River Connection has taken on this task. The Connection has sponsored several riverbank clean-up efforts, mapped existing trails along the French, planned for new trails and conducts outreach to engage the public in its activities.
- Encourage adaptive reuse. This recommendation is aimed at ensuring that historic mill buildings are rehabilitated and reused for new purposes rather than being torn down. The mills represent a link to the area's industrial past.

Massachusetts Section 303(d) – The Department of Environmental Protection: Integrated Lists of Waters (summary):

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) designates six classes of water quality, based largely on the standards of the Federal Clean Water Act. In Massachusetts, Class A refers to those surface water resources that are used as water supply sources. Class B waters are considered safe for fishing, swimming and boating. The remaining four water quality categories cover those surface water resources with lesser water quality. The DEP has designated Webster's water resources as Class B, although there are several surface water resources that are impaired for designated Class B uses (more on this below).

Under the regulations of the Federal Clean Water Act, states are required to file a report every two years that identifies those surface waters that are not expected to meet the Act's surface water quality standards (Class A, Class B, etc.). This report, known as the Massachusetts Section 303(d) Integrated Lists of Waters, was last prepared in 2016 through a joint effort of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The following surface waters in Webster listed in Table 12 do not meet the quality standards of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Table 12: Surface waters in Webster that do not meet the quality standards of the Federal Clean Water Act

Surface Water Resource	Watershed	Pollutant/Stressor
Webster Lake	French River	Non-Native Aquatic Plants Non-Native Fish, Shellfish, or Zooplankton Dissolved Oxygen
French River (from Oxford town line to Webster WWTP – 2.4 miles)	French River	Other Flow Regime Alterations Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments
French River (from Webster WWTP to CT state line – 0.9 miles)	French River	Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments Sediment Screening Value (exceedance)
Sucker Brook	French River	Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments Escherichia coli

The 2001 French & Quinebaug River Watersheds Water Quality Assessment Report presents a summary of water quality data that is used to determine whether a stream, river or water body meets the State's surface water quality standards for particular uses (ability to support aquatic life, water supply, fish consumption, recreational use and aesthetics). The main findings of this report for Webster waterbodies are as follows:

- Webster Lake is considered impaired in its ability to support aquatic life due to introduction of non-native organisms. Sucker Brook and the French River are also impaired in ability to support aquatic life.
- The northernmost portion of the French River in Webster is noted as impaired for fish consumption due to mercury in fish tissue. The remainder of the French River in Webster, as well as Webster Lake, were not assessed for this impairment.
- A portion of the French River is considered impaired for recreational use and aesthetics. The impairment is a result of debris/floatables/trash due to illegal dumping and inappropriate waste disposal.

The Assessment Report provides recommendations for each river segment aimed at improving water quality within the French and Quinebaug Basins. Some of the recommendations for waterbodies in Webster include:

- Conduct water quality sampling and macroinvertebrate sampling and deploy multiprobes to assess the Aquatic Life Use and water quality
- Maintain minimum flows from North Village Hydropower to protect aquatic life
- Conduct bacteria sampling at storm drains
- Support monitoring and cleanup efforts of French River Connection

2003 Nonpoint Pollution Source Action Strategies for the French and Quinebaug Basins (summary):

This report evaluated the water quality of several surface water resources within the French and Quinebaug River Basins along with the results of previous remediation efforts in an effort to develop strategies for addressing nonpoint pollution within the Basins. The report recommends the following actions for Webster's surface water resources:

- *French River (from North Oxford Dam to North Village in Webster)*
  - Conduct additional monitoring.
  - Review 1999 Habitat Survey and Benthic Macrophyte monitoring data.
  - Minimize the rapid flow flux at the North Village Hydropower facility.

- *French River (from North Village to the Webster Wastewater Treatment Plant)*
  - Review 1999 Habitat Survey and Benthic Macrophyte monitoring data.
  - Minimize the rapid flow flux at the North Village Hydropower facility.
  - Consider remediation at Shield Packaging site.
  - Conduct a TMDL study and implement corrective actions.
  - Continue monitoring this reach of the French River.

- *French River (from Webster Wastewater Treatment Plant to Connecticut state line)*
  - Compare MA monitoring data with CT monitoring data.
  - Work towards nutrient reductions through intra-state collaboration.
  - Promote inter-state cleanup of river with the CT DEP.
  - Conduct a TMDL study and implement corrective actions.

- *Mill Brook (from its Webster Lake outlet to the French River)*
  - Conduct additional monitoring.

- *Webster Lake*
  - Conduct macrophyte survey to determine extent of noxious aquatic plant infestation and spot treat problem locations.
  - Establish a management program to prevent further infestation.
  - Improve drainage and catchment near I-395 and Union Point.
    Note: this was completed in 2004.
  - Mitigate sedimentation at Point Breeze and Route 16 near Sucker Brook.
  - Prepare contingency plans for fuel spills.

- *Nipmuck Pond*
  - Conduct macrophyte survey to determine extent of noxious aquatic plant infestation and spot treat problem locations.
  - Establish a management program to prevent further infestation.
  - Conduct a TMDL study and implement corrective actions.

2006 Watershed-Based Plan for the French River Basin (summary):

In an effort to address previously identified water quality problems in the French River Basin, this DEP report recommends several corrective actions for particular urban and agricultural land uses. Mass DEP expects to spend the next five years working with communities and private landowners to implement the following list of best management practices.

Urban Land Uses	Urban Land Uses
Non-Structural Best Management Practices	Structural Best Management Practices
Street Sweeping Road Salt Management Catch Basin Management Lawn Care Education Septic System Management	Erosion Control Subsurface Recharge Vegetated Swales Filter Systems Infiltration Recharge Basins Constructed Wetlands Deep Sump Catch Basins Extended Detention Basins Permeable Paving
Agricultural Land Uses	Agricultural Land Uses
Non-Structural Best Management Practices	Structural Best Management Practices
Nutrient/Fertilizer Management Conservation Tillage Cover Crops Contour Farming Pesticide Management	Conservation Buffers Sediment Basins Animal Waste Disposal Systems

Water Quality – Local Monitoring Efforts:

It should be noted that the Webster Lake Association has been monitoring the Lake's water quality since 2004, and the French River Connection has been monitoring the River's water quality since 2005.

The French River Connection has been monitoring the French River and its tributaries since 2005. The monitoring is completed under a QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) developed by the Last Green Valley organization which owns the monitoring equipment. In 2017, fifteen sites (see Water Resource Map for locations) were monitored monthly in June, July, and August. Parameters monitored include dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, conductivity, and turbidity. Aesthetic qualities such as water appearance, odor, and accumulations of trash are observed during the monitoring.

The Webster Lake Association (WLA) has been monitoring water quality in Webster Lake in the deepest spot of each of the three ponds, North Pond, South Pond, and Middle Pond, since 2004. In addition, the WLA has been monitoring the water quality in four stream locations since 2006, these include Mine Brook, Sucker Brook, and two locations in Brown's Brook which all flow to Webster Lake. Currently, volunteers collect data at all of the locations three times per year. Data collection includes water conditions, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, conductivity, and turbidity. The monitoring is completed under a QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) developed by the Last Green Valley organization which owns the monitoring equipment.

Local Environmental Initiatives and Remediation Efforts:

- Lake Watershed Protection District: The Town adopted a Lake Watershed Protection District that covers the eastern half of the Town, including the entirety of Webster Lake. The district prohibits several potentially hazardous land uses and requires the use of Best Management Practices for others.
- Floodplain Protection Overlay District: Webster adopted a Floodplain Protection Overlay District, which regulates development within the Town's flood hazard areas as identified on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated June 16, 1993.

- Conservation Districts: The Town has created four Conservation Districts: the islands within Webster Lake; a large tract of land in the northeast corner; the area in the vicinity of Sucker Brook Swamp and an area in the vicinity of Freeman's Brook. This designation limits the uses allowed in these areas but does not permanently protect the land.
- Webster Lake Weed Eradication Efforts: In 2006 the Webster Lake Association contracted with GeoSyntec to assess nuisance aquatic vegetation in the Lake. Since that time, Aquatic Control Tech Inc. has been hired annually to control both milfoil and fanwort via targeted herbicide applications.

Identified Polluted Sites in Town:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a current inventory of 126 chemical spills at over 100 locations throughout Webster. The inventory covers a thirty-year period (from 1987 through the present) and most of the spills are associated with oil or hazardous materials. These sites are in various stages of remediation. Under the heading labeled "compliance status", the reader will notice that most of the Webster sites have the acronym RAO attached to them. RAO stands for Response Action Outcome. This term applies to those hazardous waste spills where immediate actions were taken that were sufficient to contain the spill to the point of posing no significant risk to the public.

Table 13 – Department of Environmental Protection Site Inventory for Webster

RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notifica-tion Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0020385	80 Main St	Hilo Gas Station	Two Hr	12/4/2017	UNCLASSI-FIED	12/4/2017			
2-0020302	2 Worcester Road	Hydraulic Oil Release	Two Hr	9/1/2017	PSNC	10/30/2017			
2-0019996	22 Humes Street	Shackett Residence	Two Hr	9/29/2016	TIER1D	10/6/2017			
2-0000650	3 Old Worcester Rd	Cams Oil Service	None	7/15/1989	REMOPS	9/29/2017	PHASE V		Oil
2-0020299	37 Point Pleasant Road	Fuel Oil Release	Two Hr	8/30/2017	UNCLASSI-FIED	8/30/2017			
2-0010868	35 Mechanic St	Residence	Two Hr	7/31/1995	PSNC	8/28/2017			Oil
2-0019925	3 Wall	Residence	Two Hr	7/16/2016	PSNC	3/17/2017			
2-0020121	15 Emerald Ave	Pole #4	Two Hr	3/2/2017	UNCLASSI-FIED	3/2/2017			
2-0020003	183 Main St	Commercial Building	Two Hr	10/3/2016	PSNC	1/31/2017			
2-0019724	20 Westwind Drive	Estate Of Armand Remie	Two Hr	12/9/2015	TIER1D	12/16/2016			
2-0014650	72 East Main St	Xtra Mart Webster	72 Hr	1/31/2003	TMPS	8/8/2016			Oil
2-0014784	72 East Main St	Xtra Mart Webster	120 Dy	6/4/2003	TMPS	8/8/2016			Oil
2-0019638	88 East Main Street	Bp Branded Gas Station	72 Hr	9/10/2015	RTN CLOSED	6/2/2016			
2-0019314	16 Colonial Rd	Transformer Release	Two Hr	9/22/2014	PSNC	11/17/2014			
2-0019210	18 Negus St	Former Sitkowski School	120 Dy	5/15/2014	PSNC	8/28/2014			Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0018936	1 West Point Rd	Residence	Two Hr	7/13/2013	PSNC	6/17/2014			Oil
2-0019149	72 East Main St	Sunoco Station	72 Hr	3/28/2014	RTN CLOSED	5/22/2014			Oil
2-0019131	638 South Main Street	Roadway Release	Two Hr	3/7/2014	RAO	4/1/2014		A1	Oil

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RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0012063	Arkwright Rd	Leo Construction	120 Dy	1/12/1998	RAO	1/30/2014	PHASE IV	A2	Hazardous Material
2-0019036	371 School St	Multifamily Property	72 Hr	11/5/2013	RAO	1/3/2014		A2	Oil
2-0018610	19 Joyce Street	Residential Fuel Oil Release	Two Hr	6/22/2012	TIER1D	7/1/2013			Oil
2-0018800	118 East Main St	Price Chopper Parking Lot	Two Hr	1/29/2013	RAO	3/20/2013		A1	Oil
2-0017842	385 Main St	Condemned Multifamily	Two Hr	4/7/2010	RAO	11/30/2012	PHASE II	A2	
2-0018604	88 East Main St	Bp Station 30458	72 Hr	6/15/2012	RTN CLOSED	10/16/2012			Oil
2-0018228	88 East Main St	Bp Station 30458	72 Hr	6/9/2011	TIER 2	10/5/2012	PHASE V		Oil
2-0013398	137 East Main St	Tosco Corp	120 Dy	8/1/2000	RAO	8/3/2012		A2	Oil
2-0018510	30 Point Pleasant Road	Fuel Oil Release Webster Lake	Two Hr	3/6/2012	RAO	7/11/2012		A2	Oil
2-0018355	8 Davis St	Roadway Release	Two Hr	9/28/2011	RAO	11/22/2011		A1	
2-0018287	20 Cardin Drive	Modf-Pcb Release	Two Hr	8/10/2011	RAO	10/6/2011		A2	
2-0017971	59 East Main St	Former Gas Station	72 Hr	8/19/2010	RAO	8/11/2011		A2	Oil
2-0017635	88 Lake St	Residence	Two Hr	9/2/2009	RAO	12/28/2010	PHASE II	A2	Oil
2-0017909	30 Hill Street	Mroczka Property	120 Dy	6/17/2010	RAO	7/23/2010		B1	Hazardous Material
2-0017883	112 Main St	Transformer Release	Two Hr	5/25/2010	RAO	7/22/2010		A2	
2-0017872	72 East Main St	Sunoco - Xtra Mart	72 Hr	5/6/2010	RTN CLOSED	7/8/2010			Oil
2-0011863	30 Hill St	Healy Trucking	Two Hr	8/22/1997	RAO	6/10/2010		A2	Oil
2-0017849	137 East Main St	Cumberland Farms Station	Two Hr	4/13/2010	RAO	6/7/2010		A1	Oil

Table 13 – Department of Environmental Protection Site Inventory for Webster

RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0017728	72 East Main St	Sunoco Station	Two Hr	12/4/2009	RAO	4/7/2010		A1	Oil
2-0017777	57 Thompson Rd	Webster Police Station Parking Lot	Two Hr	1/25/2010	RAO	3/24/2010		A2	Oil
2-0017767	47 Morris St	Residential Building	Two Hr	1/14/2010	RAO	2/24/2010		A2	Oil
2-0017526	1 Boyden St	Residential Property	Two Hr	5/21/2009	RAO	12/15/2009		A2	Oil
2-0017673	47 Whitcomb St	St Joseph School Fuel Oil Release	Two Hr	10/5/2009	RAO	12/2/2009		A2	Oil
2-0017593	Boyden Street Ext	Pole 7 & 8	Two Hr	7/18/2009	RAO	9/15/2009		A2	
2-0017183	Rte 395 S	Multiple Vehicle Accident	Two Hr	7/27/2008	RAO	7/21/2009		A2	Oil
2-0015673	22 Negus St	Andrea Grecco	Two Hr	4/2/2005	RAO	12/23/2008	PHASE II	A2	
2-0017276	72 East Main St	Sunoco Station	72 Hr	9/25/2008	RTN CLOSED	12/1/2008			Oil
2-0017148	5 Goya Dr	Goya Foods	Two Hr	6/25/2008	RAO	8/1/2008			A1
2-0015428	6-8 River Ct	Fomer Empire Cleaners	120 Dy	10/13/2004	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Hazardous Material
2-0011002	30 Hill St	Healy Trucking	Two Hr	11/16/1995	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Oil
2-0015254	1052 School St	Richards Residence	Two Hr	5/17/2004	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Oil
2-0014494	91 Gore Rd	Webster Fish And Game	Two Hr	9/27/2002	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Oil
2-0011350	33 East Main St	Rte 16	Two Hr	8/13/1996	RAO	6/30/2008		A1	Oil
2-0013760	547-577 S outh Main St	Pruett Trucking	Two Hr	4/2/2001	RAO	6/25/2008		A2	Oil
2-0000410	8 Park Ave	Petersons Oil Service Inc	None	10/15/1988	RAO	6/23/2008		A2	Oil
2-0016981	188 Gore Rd	Honey Farms Mobil Station	Two Hr	2/21/2008	RAO	4/22/2008		A1	

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RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0014483	10 Golden Hts B12	Mass Electric Co Transformer Bldg 12	120 Dy	9/23/2002	RAO	2/12/2008		A2	Oil
2-0016615	123 East Main St	Shell Gasoline Station	72 Hr	3/8/2007	RAO	2/12/2008		A2	Oil
2-0016513	130 School St	Cams Oil Service Inc	Two Hr	12/26/2006	RAO	12/31/2007		A1	Oil
2-0014882	106 East Main St	J Roger Reisner	120 Dy	8/20/2003	RAO	12/31/2007	PHASE II	B1	Hazardous Material
2-0016678	72 East Main St	Extra Mart	72 Hr	5/4/2007	RTN CLOSED	8/31/2007			Oil
2-0016707	745 School St	Webster Manor	120 Dy	5/23/2007	RAO	7/30/2007		A2	Oil
2-0016606	123 East Main St	Former Shell Station	Two Hr	3/2/2007	RAO	5/1/2007		A1	
2-0016389	5 Pinewood Dr	Hibbard Residence	Two Hr	9/12/2006	RAO	1/17/2007		A2	Oil
2-0000382	7 Main St	Webster Fmr Mgp Site	None	7/15/1988	URAM	12/8/2006	PHASE IV		Oil
2-0016434	60 North Main St	Eds Oil Co Roadway Rel	Two Hr	10/24/2006	RAO	11/20/2006		A1	Oil
2-0016354	114 Point Breeze Rd	Point Breeze Marina	Two Hr	8/14/2006	RAO	10/13/2006		A1	Oil
2-0016173	72 East Main St	Xtra Mart	72 Hr	3/24/2006	RTN CLOSED	7/19/2006			Oil
2-0016214	80-90 Main St	Hi-Lo Gas Station	Two Hr	4/27/2006	RAO	6/30/2006		A2	Oil
2-0015851	72 East Main St	X-Tra Mart	72 Hr	8/3/2005	RTN CLOSED	12/28/2005			Oil
2-0012566	144 T hompson Rd	Citgo Station	72 Hr	12/22/1998	RAO	12/16/2005	PHASE III	A2	Oil
2-0015351	626 South Main St	Former J. G. Motors	72 Hr	8/3/2004	RAO	8/4/2005		A2	Oil
2-0015434	415-431 South Main St	Drake Petroleum Co Inc	Two Hr	10/12/2004	RAO	5/27/2005		A2	Oil
2-0015147	5 Goya Dr	Detention Pond	Two Hr	3/4/2004	RAO	3/11/2005		A2	Oil

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RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0015288	626 South Main St	Webster Main	72 Hr	6/9/2004	RAO	2/2/2005			
2-0015110	626 South Main St	Former J G Motors	120 Dy	2/3/2004	RAO	2/2/2005		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0015329	10 Goya Dr	A. Duie Pyle Trucking Company	Two Hr	7/12/2004	RAO	9/10/2004		A1	
2-0014891	100 East Main St	Former Kunkel Buick	120 Dy	9/3/2003	RAO	9/3/2004		A2	Oil
2-0014877	243 Thompson Rd	Webster Lake	Two Hr	8/18/2003	RAO	8/23/2004		A1	Oil
2-0015275	2-8 Main St	Vermark Realty Corporation	120 Dy	6/3/2004	RAO	6/3/2004	PHASE II	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0015039	3 Old Worcester Rd	Cams Oil Service	Two Hr	12/11/2003	RAO	2/13/2004		A1	Hazardous Material
2-0010591	2 Sutton Rd	Warehouse	120 Dy	11/30/1994	RAO	10/10/2003	PHASE II	A2	Oil
2-0012851	4 Old Douglas Rd	Rte 16 Auto Salvage	72 Hr	6/25/1999	RAO	7/28/2003	PHASE V	A2	Hazardous Material
2-0014013	661 South Main St	South Village Mills	Two Hr	9/28/2001	RAO	9/17/2002		A1	Oil
2-0014186	1 Goya Dr	Cappys Transport Roadway Release	Two Hr	2/11/2002	RAO	7/9/2002		A1	Oil
2-0013665	Main St And Union St	Meco Substation	72 Hr	1/26/2001	RTN CLOSED	2/4/2002			Hazardous Material
2-0011435	3 Old Worcester Rd	Cams Oil Service	120 Dy	10/9/1996	RTN CLOSED	1/31/2002	PHASE V		Hazardous Material
2-0000144	2 Worcester Rd	Cranston Print Works	None	1/15/1987	RAO	1/10/2002		A3	Hazardous Material
2-0014092	16 Sutton Rd	Commerce Insurance Co	120 Dy	11/19/2001	RTN CLOSED	11/19/2001			Hazardous Material
2-0013282	16 Sutton Rd	Buris Refrigerated Logistics	72 Hr	5/11/2000	RTN CLOSED	11/15/2001			Oil
2-0013546	Pearl St	Dudley Woolen Mill Fmr	120 Dy	10/30/2000	RAO	11/7/2001		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0013896	7 Main St	National Grid	72 Hr	6/26/2001	RTN CLOSED	9/4/2001			Hazardous Material

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2-0013895	10 Kingsbury Rd	Oleary Residence	Two Hr	7/9/2001	RAO	8/30/2001		A2	Oil
2-0013682	96 Chase Ave	Residence	Two Hr	2/7/2001	RAO	4/9/2001		A2	Oil
2-0000732	112 East Main St	Hess Station 21210	None	5/3/1990	RAO	1/8/2001	PHASE III	A2	Oil
2-0013093	Gore Rd	Rte 16 - Mv	Two Hr	12/24/1999	RAO	12/29/2000		A1	Oil
2-0000548	2 Old Worcester Rd	Zmetra Memorials	None	4/15/1989	RAO	9/21/2000	PHASE III	A2	
2-0013203	112 East Main St	Webster Hess	72 Hr	3/22/2000	RTN CLOSED	7/20/2000			Oil
2-0012927	Main St	Ma Electric	72 Hr	9/3/1999	RTN CLOSED	6/21/2000			
2-0012758	26 Poland St	Dugas Realty	72 Hr	4/21/1999	RAO	4/28/2000		A2	Oil
2-0012801	112 East Main St	Amerada Hess Sta 21210	120 Dy	5/20/1999	DPS	3/16/2000			
2-0012956	112 East Main St	Webster Hess Sta	Two Hr	9/29/1999	DPS	3/16/2000			Oil
2-0012953	20 Robinson St	Residence	Two Hr	9/25/1999	RAO	1/31/2000		A2	Oil
2-0013025	1 Union St	Former Cal Gasification Facility	72 Hr	11/12/1999	RTN CLOSED	1/25/2000			Hazardous Material
2-0000949	Negus St	Mass Electric	None	10/23/1992	RTN CLOSED	1/25/2000			Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0012500	7 Main St	Substation	72 Hr	11/18/1998	RTN CLOSED	1/24/2000			Oil
2-0012863	144 Thompson Rd	Rabicot Romanek Inc	120 Dy	6/8/1999	RTN CLOSED	12/23/1999			Hazardous Material
2-0012464	8A Wakefield St	Tremblay Oil Co Inc	72 Hr	10/22/1998	RAO	12/10/1998		A2	Oil
2-0012331	48 Negunis St	St Louis Church	120 Dy	8/4/1998	RAO	10/5/1998		A2	
2-0011802	67 East Main St	Hi Lo Gas	Two Hr	7/14/1997	RAO	7/12/1998		A1	Oil

Table 13 – Department of Environmental Protection Site Inventory for Webster

RTN	Release Address	Site Name/ Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notifica-tion Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0012130	Worcester Rd	East Webster Substation	Two Hr	3/4/1998	RAO	5/4/1998		A2	Oil
2-0012076	School St	Chem Waste Mgmt	Two Hr	1/26/1998	RAO	3/12/1998		A1	Oil
2-0011809	Rte 12	Kmart Plaza	Two Hr	7/16/1997	RAO	3/9/1998		A2	Oil
2-0012011	Rte 16	Near Rte 16 Auto	Two Hr	12/2/1997	RAO	1/30/1998		A2	Oil
2-0000391	Pt Breeze	Point Breeze Marina	None	10/15/1988	RAO	1/7/1998			
2-0011510	2 Worcester Rd	Cranston Print Works	Two Hr	12/5/1996	RAO	12/5/1997		A3	Oil
2-0011782	Davis St	French R	Two Hr	6/26/1997	RAO	10/30/1997		A1	Oil
2-0011829	2 Worcester Rd	Cranston Print Works	Two Hr	8/11/1997	RAO	10/14/1997		A1	Hazardous Material
2-0011694	1 Pearle St	Anglo Fabrics	Two Hr	4/22/1997	RAO	6/16/1997		A1	Oil
2-0010818	100 East Main St	Kunkel Buick	72 Hr	6/13/1995	RAO	4/4/1997	PHASE II	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0010466	10 12 Upland Ave	Salem Tomato Packing	72 Hr	9/6/1994	RAO	5/28/1996		A2	Oil
2-0010860	7 Indian Point Rd	Webster Lake	Two Hr	9/26/1995	RAO	9/26/1995		A1	Oil
2-0010622	12 Park St	Jeffco Fibers	Two Hr	1/13/1995	RAO	5/15/1995		A1	Oil
2-0010693	195 Lower Gore Rd	180 Lower Gore Rd	Two Hr	3/9/1995	RAO	5/4/1995		A1	Oil
2-0010387	3 East Main St	Tac Properties	Two Hr	7/16/1994	RAO	11/17/1994		A2	Oil
2-0010520	24 Granite St	East Main Intersection	Two Hr	10/21/1994	RAO	11/3/1994		A2	Oil
2-0000739	Gore Rd	Gore Rd Webster Lake	None	3/8/1990	RAO	9/6/1994		A2	Oil
2-0000681	421 Main St	Gibbs Station Fmr	None	1/15/1990	WCSPRM	9/20/1993			Oil

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The Town owns a former landfill at the site of its highway garage on Cudworth Road. Webster's Public Works Department monitors the landfill's effect on water quality through a series of monitoring wells along the property's boundaries. The Webster landfill has been closed for over 25 years. No serious water quality problems have been detected at the landfill to date.

Land acquisitions by the State and adoption of the Lake Watershed Protection Zoning District by the town have attempted to minimize negative environmental impacts by the future development.

The Town has privatized the operation of its transfer station. The operator of the Town transfer station is Pratt Trucking. However, most of the trash and recyclables in Webster are picked up by private haulers. There is currently no Town bylaw to encourage or mandate recycling.

Land clearing under the current forestry permitting process is not protective of the town's woodlands. Environmental organizations have noted that forestry operations, especially in the Webster Lake watershed area and even when conducted in compliance with a forestry permit, do not appear to adequately protect the watershed from erosion and siltation.

Erosion, Chronic Flooding & Sedimentation:

Catch basins have been identified as an environmental problem for Webster. There are currently five catch basins draining into the French River and as many as 50 catch basins draining into Webster Lake. While MassHighway has been proactive in addressing its catch basins along I-395, the Town could do more to address the catch basins under its own local jurisdiction. Sandbars have formed in the river and collected on banks due to road runoff, and snowplowing has pushed sand directly onto the banks and into the river.

Dams can have a long term effect on the retention of sediment and if not properly maintained can be the cause of highly damaging floods. There are a number of dams in Webster and some pose a greater hazard than others. The State defines the hazard of the dam not in terms of the condition but rather in terms of the impact should that dam give way. The State DCR identifies the following dams in Webster:

Table 14: Webster Dams

Dam Name	Owner	Owner's Address	DCR Hazard Code Description
Club Pond Dam	Webster Fish & Game Assoc.	91 Gore Road, Webster, MA 01570	Non Jurisdictional
Nipmuck Pond Dam	200 Sportsman Club, Inc.	184 Sutton Road, Webster, MA 01570	Non Jurisdictional
Storage Pond Dam	Webster Lake Preservation Trust	826 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501	Significant Hazard
Recreation Pond Dam	200 Sportsman Club	184 Sutton Road, Webster, MA 01570	Non Jurisdictional
Mill Brook Canal Dam	KLT Realty Trust	33 Boston Coast Road W Marlborough, MA 01752	Significant Hazard
Fish and Game Pond	Webster Fish & Game Assoc.	91 Gore Road, Webster, MA 01570	Non Jurisdictional
Webster Lake Dam	Webster Lake Preservation Trust	826 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501	Significant Hazard
Pool Dam	Webster Fish & Game Assoc.	91 Gore Road, Webster, MA 01570	Non Jurisdictional

Source: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

There are also three dams on the French River which are anchored on the east in Webster and on the west in Dudley. From north to south they are the North Webster Village Pond Dam (Significant Hazard, owned by FERC), which currently is used for electric power generation, South (sometimes called Middle) Dam (Low Hazard), and Perryville Pond Dam (Significant Hazard, owned by the Town of Dudley) at the Connecticut border. Sediment behind the latter has been studied extensively by USGS, and there are tens of thousands of yards of contaminated sediment. Many chemicals are present at levels that adversely affect benthic organisms. There is contaminated sediment behind the others as well.

Open space makes an important contribution to quality of life. Public recreation areas and open space provide a focus for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. Open space can also be an oasis for quiet reflection. In dense areas of urbanized areas like parts of Webster, parks and open space greatly enhance the connection to the natural world.

Open space also has economic benefits. It protects and enhances the property values of nearby land. Open space also attracts businesses, new residents, and public and private investment. Research on this topic suggests that the proximity to recreation and open space is THE most important factor in choosing the location of a small business, while quality of life ranks as the third most important factor in choosing location of a large business.

Additionally, conservation land serves environmental functions in a city, providing natural rainwater storage and corridors for wildlife. Even small pockets of green space may serve an important function for migratory birds and butterflies. Open space can also reduce runoff and diminish the frequency and severity of flooding. Wooded open space helps to cool the city and improves air quality.

A. Land Protection Summary

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

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

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

In terms of permanently protected land, the Town of Webster owns very little conservation land on its own (two parcels in the vicinity of Minebrook Road adjacent to the State's Wildlife Management Area, a 24 acre conservation area on School Street, and 27 acres in and around Memorial Beach); however, the State of Massachusetts owns approximately 950 acres of conservation land in Town.

The table in this section provides a matrix of all permanently protected open space in Town including such details as parcel ownership, management entity, current use, condition, recreation potential, grant used to purchase the property (if applicable), public access, and zoning category. Open lands under the jurisdiction of the Sewer and Water Departments are also included in the matrix, although this land is not considered permanently protected.

Many of the privately-owned parcels that have “limited protection” status fall under the Chapter 61 taxation program that offers a lower tax rate to property owners who keep their land in its natural forested state. The 200 Sportsman’s Club, a private hunting organization, is another significant owner of open land, although their properties are also considered being under limited protection.

Webster has approximately 1,250 acres of land under permanent protection (or 13% of the Town’s total land area), and 717 acres of land having limited protection status (or 7.7% of the Town’s total land area). All told, Webster has approximately 1,750 acres of land (or roughly 21% of the Town’s total land area) having some degree of protection. The tables following detail these lands.

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
1-L-1-0-E	350 Main Street	Town of Webster/ School Dept.	Town Hall and School	Town			Yes	3.3	B-4	Limited
2-K-13-0-E	451School Street	Town of Webster/ Historical Society	Museum	Town			Yes	0.14	MFR	Limited
4-A-1-0-E	38 Hill Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Treatment Plant	Town			No	11.35	IND	Limited
4-B-1-)-E	Westwood Road	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Berthold Field - soccer	Town	Good		Yes	5	SFR	Limited
5-A-1-0-E	School Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Treatment Plant	Town			No	9	IND	Limited
10-A-33-0-E	School Street	Town of Webster/ Conservation	Open Space	Town	Good		Yes	23.68	SFR	Perpetuity
12-B-29-0-E	George Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Soccer Field, playground	Town	Fair	Built Out	Yes	4.96	MFR	Limited
12-E-16-0-E	52 Lake Parkway	Town of Webster/ School Dept.	High School w/ playing fields	Town			Yes	60.14	SFR	Limited
12-E-16-10-E	Klebart Avenue	Town of Webster/ School Dept.	Pond	Town				0.79	SFR	Perpetuity

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
16-F-6-0-E	Slater Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Softball Fields	Town	Good	Adjacent wooded area has potential	Yes	12.7	SFR	Limited
18-A-1-0-E	29 Bigelow Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Pumping Station	Town			No	14	SFR	Limited
27-F-15-0-E	31 Ray Street	Town of Webster	Armory	Gift from National Guard	Building in poor shape	Building rehab is needed	Yes	2.5	SFR	Perpetuity
23-A-6-0-E	Worcester Road	Town of Webster	Mt. Zion Cemetery	Town		None	Yes	20.7	SFR	Perpetuity
27-F-16-0-E	Ray Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Part of Memorial athletic fields (Alexander Starzec field)	Town	Fair – Field house in poor shape	Built out	Yes	0.17	SFR	Limited
86-C-2-0-E	Minebrook Road	Town of Webster/ Conservation Comm.	Conservation District	Town	Good	Passive	Yes	5.32	CD	Perpetuity
86-C-3-0-E	Minebrook Road	Town of Webster/ Conservation Comm.	Conservation Area	Town	Good	Passive	Yes	12.64	ASFR	Perpetuity
29-H-30-0-E	Little League Lane	Webster Little League	Baseball Field	Town		None	Yes	0.18	MFR	Limited

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
56-B-63-2-E	Union Point Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town		None	No	0.06	LR	Limited
56-E-2-0-E	185 Thompson Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works Dept.	Pump House	Town		None	No	0.1	B-5	Limited
57-A-13-0-E	Birch Island Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works Dept.	Pumping Station	Town		None	No	0.13	LR	Limited
57-A-14-0-E	80 Birch Island Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works Dept.	Pumping Station	Town		None	No	0.11	LR	Limited
57-E-5-0-E	Birch Island Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works Dept.	Pumping Station	Town		None	No	0.16	LR	Limited
61-E-3-0-E	Lower Gore Road	Town of Webster	Lakeside Cemetery	Town		None	Yes	0.95	LR	Perpetuity
74-B-5-0-E	Rawson Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Underground storage reservoir	Town			No	4.85	ASFR	Limited
75-B-5-0-E	Gore Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town			No	41.49	LR	Limited

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
75-B-8-0-E	Gore Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town		None	No	0.25	LR	Limited
75-C-9-1-E	Gore Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town		None	No	0.18	LR	Limited
75-C-10-0-E	Gore Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town			No	3	LR	Limited
75-C-10-2-E	Gore Road	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town			No	1.9	LR	Limited
76-C-1-0-E	6 Memorial Beach Drive	Town of Webster/ Water Dept.	Wellfield	Town			No	39	LR	Limited
76-C-2-0-E	Memorial Beach Drive	Town of Webster/ Public Works Dept.	Memorial Beach	Town			No	14	LR	Perpetuity
78-A-1-0-E	Worcester Road	Town of Webster	St. Anthony Cemetery	Town			Yes	8.35	SFR	Perpetuity
78-B-1-1A-E	Sutton Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Pump Station	Town			No	0.69	BI	Limited

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
22-A-6-1-E	Bigelow Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Protected strip for well	Town			No	1.53	SFR	Limited
27-G-15-0-E	60 Park Avenue	Town of Wester/ School Dept.	Park Avenue Intermediate School w playing fields	Town	Good		Yes	10.2	SFR	Limited
29-H-10-0-E	Little League Lane	Town of Webster/ Webster Little League	Baseball Field	Town	Good		Yes	4.7	MFR	Limited
27-G-16-0-E	Ray Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Athletic Fields	Town	Good		Yes	9.76	SFR	Limited
27-F-17-0-E	Ray Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Part of Memorial athletic fields	Town	Good	Built out	Yes	0.17	SFR	Limited
27-F-16-0-E	Ray Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Alexander Starzec Softball fields and playground	Town	Good		Yes	8.28	SFR	Limited
27-G-16-0-E	Ray Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Cody Street 4 Tennis Courts	Town	Good		Yes	9.76	SFR	Limited

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condi-tion	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
13-B-18-0-E	11-15 May Street	Town of Webster/ Recreation	Basketball, skate park, playground, open field	Town	Good		Yes	1.94	MFR	Limited
28-D-3-0-E		Town of Webster/ Public Works	Water standpipe	Town	Good		No	8.32	SFR	Limited
77-A-22-1-E	Main Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Slater Memorial	Town	Good	Built out	Yes	0.75	B-4	Limited
88-C-2-0-E		Town of Webster/ Public Works	Old Town Dump	Town	Good		Yes	10.4	IND	Limited
1-S-6-0-E	116 School Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Senior Center Park	Town			Yes	0.8	MFR	Limited
76-B-1-0-E	Thompson Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Drainage Swale	Town			Yes	1.25	LR	Limited
1-F-1-0-E	Davis Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Railroad Museum	Town			Yes	0.27	B-4	Perpetuity
1-F-5-0-E	Davis Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Main Street Common	Town			Yes	0.26	B-4	Perpetuity
1-F-6-0-E	Davis Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Main Street Common	Town			Yes	0.13	B-4	Perpetuity

Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels) **Table 15 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels)**

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condi-tion	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
3-K-1-0-E	Fenner Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Houghton Street Property	Town			Yes	0.17	MFR	Limited
3-K-5-0-E	Fenner Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Houghton Street Property	Town			Yes	0.16	MFR	Limited
7-B-1-0-E	Perryville Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Perryville Road Property	Town			Yes	0.2	SFR	Limited
13-K-7-0-E	Snow Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Snow Street Property	Town			Yes	0.29	MFR	Limited
12-A-1-0-E	Snow Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Snow Street Property	Town			Yes	0.19	MFR	Limited
12-A-4-0-E	Snow Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Snow Street Property	Town			Yes	0.13	MFR	Limited
7-B-1-1-E	32 Perryville Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Sewer Pumping Station	Town			No	7.4	SFR	Limited
22-A-6-1-E	Bigelow Road	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Well Protective Area	Town			No	1.53	SFR	Limited
1-F-1-0-E	Davis Street	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Parking Area	Town			Yes	0.4	B-4	Limited
1-G-4-0-E	Tracy Court	Town of Webster/ Public Works	Parking Area	Town			Yes	0.4	B-4	Limited

Table 16 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Nonprofit-Owned Parcels)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/ Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
22-A-6-0-E	Old Worcester Road	St. Joseph's Church	Cemetery	Church		None	Yes	35.2	SFR	Perpetuity
22-C-14-0-E	16 Old Worcester Road	Church of the Sacred Heart	Cemetery	Church		None	Yes	13.6	SFR	Perpetuity
15-G-64-0-E	Day Street	St. Anne's Church	School Yard	Church			No	0.98	B-4	Perpetuity
13-C-51-0-E	Negus Street	St. Louis School	School Yard	Church			No	2	MFR	Perpetuity
16-F-8-0-R	18-A Village Way	North Village Housing Dev.	Amenities for housing development	Federal			No	0.5	MFR	Perpetuity

Table 17 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (State-Owned Parcels)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
90-A-8-0-E	Gore District	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	17	ASFR	Perpetuity
91-A-1-0-E	Sutton Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	40	CON	Perpetuity
91-A-2-0-E	Rawson Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	110.35	CON	Perpetuity
72-A-2-0-R	Douglas Road	Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	240	ASFR	Perpetuity
55-A-18-0-E		Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Used by Nipmuc Ski Club	State	Good	Passive	Yes	1.3	B-5	Perpetuity
40-A-1-0-E	Lakeside Avenue	Commonwealth of MA	Boat Ramp	State			Yes	0.32	LR	Perpetuity
40-B-1-0-E	Lakeside Avenue	Commonwealth of MA	Boat Ramp	State			Yes	1.43	LR	Perpetuity

Table 17 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (State-Owned Parcels)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
79-B-7-0-E	Rawson Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	2.18	ASFR	Perpetuity
79-B-14-0-E	Rawson Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	277	ASFR	Perpetuity
83-A-1-0-E	Rawson Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	20	CON	Perpetuity
85-A-3-0-E	Kingsbury District	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	4.6	ASFR	Perpetuity
90-A-5-0-E	Sutton Road	Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	18.1	ASFR	Perpetuity
Map 66		Department of Conservation and Recreation	Wildlife area, hunting & passive recreation	State	Good	Passive	Yes	204	ASFR	Perpetuity

Table 18 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Town-Owned Parcels Leased to Nonprofit Groups)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
79-A-2-0-R	91 Gore Road	Town/Webster Fish & Game Club	Hunting and fishing	Town	Good		Yes, for fee	15	CON	Perpetuity
79-A-3-0-R	Minebrook Road	Town/Webster Fish & Game Club	Hunting and fishing	Town	Good		Yes, for fee	5.76	CON	Perpetuity
79-A-1-0-R	Minebrook Road	Town/Webster Fish & Game Club	Hunting and fishing	Town	Good		Yes, for fee	49	CON	Perpetuity

Table 19 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Privately-Owned Parcels)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
74-B-6-0-R	33 Rawson Road	Mark Mason	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	26.6	ASFR	Limited
62-F-1-0-R	Laurel Wood Drive	Wakefield Land Trust	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	5.2	LR	Limited
36-A-2-B-1-0-R	Thompson Road	Benjamin Craver	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	16.3	LR	Limited
38-A-1-1-R	Point Breeze Road	Craver Family	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	11.1	LR	Limited
47-A-9-0-R	Thompson Road	Craver Family	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	11.9	LR	Limited
47-A-20-0-R	Thompson Road	Andrew Bates,	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	4	LR	Limited
47-A-21-1-R	Thompson Road	Andrew Bates,	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	10.5	LR	Limited
62-G-1-0-R	Laurel Wood Drive	Wakefield Land Trust	Forestry (Chapter 61)				No	13.4	LR	Limited
70-A-7-0-R	106 Douglas Road	KOA Campground	Private Recreation				Fee	18.9	ASFR	None
60-D-17-0-R	200 Gore Road	Indian Ranch	Private Recreation				Fee	16.9	ASFR	None

Table 19 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Privately-Owned Parcels)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
50-A-1-0-R	4 Bates Point Road	Webster Sailing Association	Private Recreation				Fee	2.4	LR	None
67-A-2-0-R	84 Old Douglas Road	Francis Dirico, Trustee	Cell Tower				No	43	ASFR	None
70-A-8-1-R	Gore District	Charter Communications	Cable Tower				No	6.8	ASFR	None

Table 20 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (200 Sportsman's Club Inc

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
93-A-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	14	CON	Limited
93-A-2-0-R184	Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	34.5	CON	Limited
94-A-2-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	2.93	CON	Limited
94-A-3-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	21.3	ASFR	Limited
94-A-4-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	41.3	CON	Limited
95-B-5-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	5.1	ASFR	Limited
95-B-5-1-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	0.3	ASFR	Limited
102-A-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	0.2	ASFR	Limited
102-B-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	3	CON	Limited

Table 20 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (200 Sportsman's Club Inc

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
102-B-2-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	15	ASFR	Limited
102-B-3-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	96.8	CON	Limited
103-B-2-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	15	CON	Limited
103-C-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	13.1	CON	Limited
104-A-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	35.7	CON	Limited
104-B-1-0-R	184 Sutton Road	200 Sportsman's Club	Private Recreation Club				No	3.6	ASFR	Limited

Table 21 - Lands of Conservation/Recreation Interest in Webster, MA (Private Lands With Town-Owned Conservation Restrictions)

Parcel Number	Location	Owner/Manager	Use	Funds Used	Con-dition	Recre-ation Potential	Public Access	Size (Acres)	Zoning	Protection
19-B-8-0-R	5 Deerfield Street	Ceppetelli Co. New England Commons/ Webster Con. Com.	Open Space for Condo Association	Conservation Easement				16.2	SFR	Perpetuity
40-D-13-0-R	Lakeside Avenue	Sunny Shore Estates/ Webster Con. Com.	Conservation land	Conservation Restriction				22.45	ASFR	Perpetuity
44-A-5-0-R	35 Sunny Shore	Sunny Shore Estates/ Webster Con. Com.	Conservation land	Conservation Restriction				1.75	SFR	Perpetuity
44-A-13-0-R	Lakeside Drive	Sunny Shore Estates/ Webster Con. Com.	Conservation land	Conservation Restriction				5.8	LR	Perpetuity
40-D-13-46-R	Lakeside Drive	Sunny Shore Estates/ Webster Con. Com.	Conservation land	Conservation Restriction				10	LR	Perpetuity

- Rehabilitating the parking lot behind the old Armory building, which is being converted to a museum, for a multi-use recreation field for soccer and football. The pavement has been removed from the parking lot and the Town is in the process of securing the necessary funds to complete this project;
- Investigating the potential installation of multi-use fields on a piece of property in the Minebrook area. This project is currently at a standstill until the Town can secure the necessary funding to proceed, and may be re-prioritized; and
- Corbin Corner Public Library construction, completed in September 2018.

B. Town-Sponsored Recreation Programs

The Town of Webster's Recreation Committee sponsors numerous programs for local residents throughout the year:

- Summer Basketball Program: Run out of the Bartlett High School gym, this program serves grades 6 through 12.
- Winter Wonderland: This is a family event held over two nights in December. Held on Memorial Beach, this program offers a bonfire, horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, and arts and crafts. Winter Wonderland moving to Town Hall Grounds in future years.
- Easter Egg Hunt: This family event is held around the time of Easter Weekend on Memorial Beach.
- 4th of July Fireworks: This is a family event held on Memorial Beach around the weekend of the 4th of July. Historically the Town has funded this event, however in recent years due to budgetary constraints the fund for the fireworks has come from private donations.

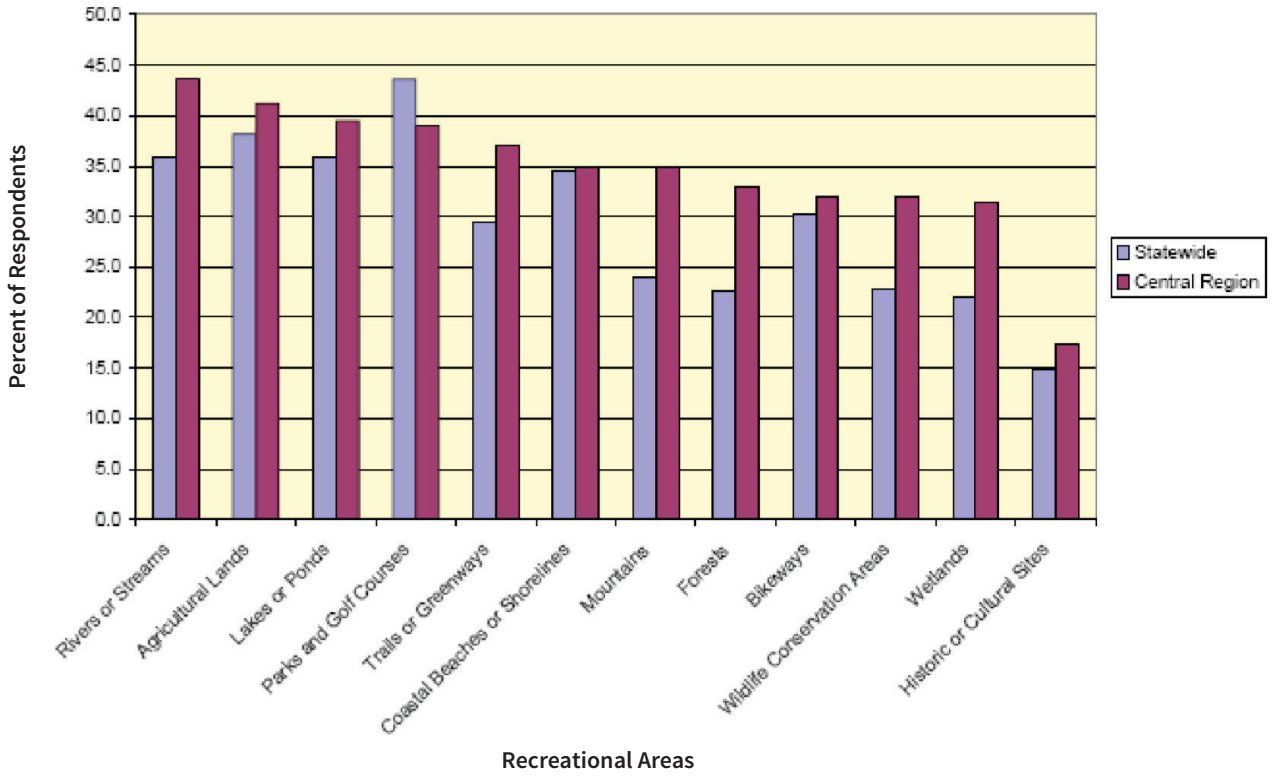
The Town has several current and pending recreation projects, as of the drafting of this Plan:

- Rehabilitating the parking lot behind the old Armory building, which is being converted to a museum, for a multi-use recreation field for soccer and football. The pavement has been removed from the parking lot and the Town is in the process of securing the necessary funds to complete this project;
- Investigating the potential installation of multi-use fields on a piece of property in the Minebrook area. This project is currently at a standstill until the Town can secure the necessary funding to proceed, and may be re-prioritized; and
- Corbin Corner Public Library construction, completed in September 2018.
- Summer Entertainment Series takes place over nine weeks of the summer at French River Park.
- Winterfire is an annual winter festival held at French River Park.
- National Night Out: The Webster Police Department sponsors and supports this annual event at the Memorial Beach.

In addition to the Town-sponsored recreation programs described above, there are numerous private recreation groups active in Webster including: Little League baseball, Pop Warner football, and numerous softball groups with a diversity of age groups participating (men and women of various age groups, co-ed, and seniors).

Several of Webster's important parks are positioned to serve its environmental justice population. Several properties on Ray Street comprise Webster Memorial park and adjoining amenities, including the unused armory which, when granted to the town, was to serve the town's youth. These facilities, totaling 30 acres, are one block from the Lincoln Street boundary of the environmental justice area. The 13 acre Slater Street Park is within the environmental justice area boundary near Arkwright Road. The 2 acre May Street playground is two blocks from the Negus Street boundary.

Much of Webster's environmental justice population is near the French River, which could offer fishing, boating, and walking. Almost all of the riverbank is in private hands, but not all of it is in active use, and there are opportunities to create various forms of public access which would serve area residents.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Percent of Respondents
Statewide
Central Region
Rivers or Streams
Agricultural Lands
Lakes or Ponds
Parks and Golf Courses
Trails or Greenways
Coastal Beaches or Shorelines
Mountains
Forests
Bikeways
Wildlife Conservation Areas
Wetlands
Historic or Cultural Sites
Recreational Areas

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Webster's primary resource protection needs continue to be two-fold: finding a way to protect and preserve the water quality of the French River and Webster Lake and finding a way to protect as much land as possible within the contiguous Supporting Natural Landscapes and Core Habitats in the eastern portion of Town within the Webster Lake watershed. With limited funding available and inflated real estate prices in the Lake area, the Town may find it difficult to protect the entirety of the State-identified Core Habitat areas. This means that future land protection will be challenging for the Town of Webster, but every effort should be made to protect as much land as possible. In regard to the water bodies in Town, there are organizations actively working to prevent any further degradation to their water quality. Both the French River Connection (FRC) and the Webster Lake Association (WLA) are addressing the future protection of two of Webster's most prominent surface water bodies. These efforts include working to strike an appropriate balance between recreational use and preservation of the surrounding landscape in a natural or recovered form. While these organizations have made notable progress, this is a continuing issue and assistance from citizens and Town officials is essential to the success of their efforts.

B. Summary of Community Needs

The Town of Webster utilized two methods of obtaining public input during the open space and recreation planning process: a citizen survey and a public forum. The online survey was posted on the Town website, its social media pages (i.e. Facebook) and distributed through email networks. Hard-copy surveys were also made available at Town Hall, Senior Center, and Public Library. There were over 180 responses (Results can be found in Appendix D). The survey was intended to cover a multitude of topics that impact the open space and recreation planning process and included specific questions gauging citizens preferences about recreation activities, preservation, recreation facilities and spending to name a few. This survey contained a great deal of input but not many overwhelming areas of focus. Several key themes were present in the results, including: strong support for preservation of scenic and environmentally-sensitive lands; identification of biking and walking paths, particularly in the Downtown and River Trail areas as important; the interest in having more community/recreation center facilities; expanded public access and amenities at Webster Lake; and neighborhood-scale park, picnic, and passive recreation opportunities.

In questions regarding preservation priorities, there was broad buy-in for the importance of numerous Town resources, with the highest-ranking components being Scenic Areas (4.46/5 score), Open Space for Protection of Webster Lake (4.54/5), and Forest and Wildlife Habitats (4.42/5). The lowest ranking priorities involved Open Space for ATVs and Snowmobiles (3.11/5). When it came to financing or facilitating the preservation of Open Space, the highest-scoring options involved regulations rather than funding. Changing Zoning Regulations to protect Open Space (4.04/5) and Requiring New Developments to Include Open Space (3.76/5) were far more popular than options such as private fund donations for Open Space (3.13/5) or seeing modest tax increases for dedicated Open Space purchases (3.31/5).

In assessment of existing open space and recreational facilities, there was generally a neutral response to the adequacy for various cohorts, with teenagers (2.58/5) and the physically challenged (2.62/5) receiving the lowest scoring. When asked about specific enhancements, elements such as biking trails (4.06/5), a Recreation/Community Center (4.07/5), improved sidewalks (4.24/5), the Riverwalk (4.01/5) and a dog park (3.91/5) all received substantial support. In each of those cases, more than 70% of respondents indicated that they "Strongly Agreed" or "Agreed" with the need for additional investment.

The location of specific desired recreation enhancements varied significantly with the type of facility. While the downtown area was targeted for a Recreation/Community Center (78.13% of respondents identified this area), neighborhood areas were targeted for small parks (83.44%) and basketball courts (67.2%). Unsurprisingly, the Webster Lake area was identified as key for Picnic Areas (73.5%), Conservation Areas (76.35%), Paddling Access (88.74%), Swimming Areas (90.1%) and Boating Access (89.15%).

Some free-response comments returned to specific interests such as a Farmers' Market, Dog Park, more street fairs in the Downtown area, and more community center/recreation center facilities. To the last point, the Town of Webster has made more community space available through the expansion of the Senior Center adjacent to the Town Hall. This space is widely available for a variety of meetings, events, community gatherings, and celebrations. Municipal officials acknowledge that the availability of this facility could be more widely publicized. Indoor recreation space in Town is generally limited to the public schools, but these facilities are not generally widely available to the community.

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The Town of Webster has limited internal financial resources and ongoing tight State budgets relative to local open space and recreation funding is likely to result in fewer resources for the purposes of facility and program enhancement. Identification of funding and staffing resources will be key elements of the Town's strategy for open space acquisition and upgrading recreation facilities. To this end it is imperative that Town officials, staff and members of Webster's Boards and Commissions work together to manage the resources that currently exist and any that may exist in the future. If these entities can present a unified position that focuses on the best interests of the residents of Webster, accomplishing the goals of this Plan will be much less of an uphill battle. The 2009 OSRP noted that the creation and staffing of a Town Planner position was a major priority toward leading conservation and recreation projects and unifying implementation efforts. Since that Plan's adoption, the Town has filled the Town Planner position, and the implementation and coordination of the OSRP continues to be a focus.

The division of responsibility for the upkeep and management of town-owned conservation and recreation lands need to be reviewed annually. Such assignments should be done based on the primary management objective of each parcel, taking careful consideration of the consequences and advantages of different designations. Successfully managing the land will require collaboration between Town boards and the involvement of dedicated volunteers.

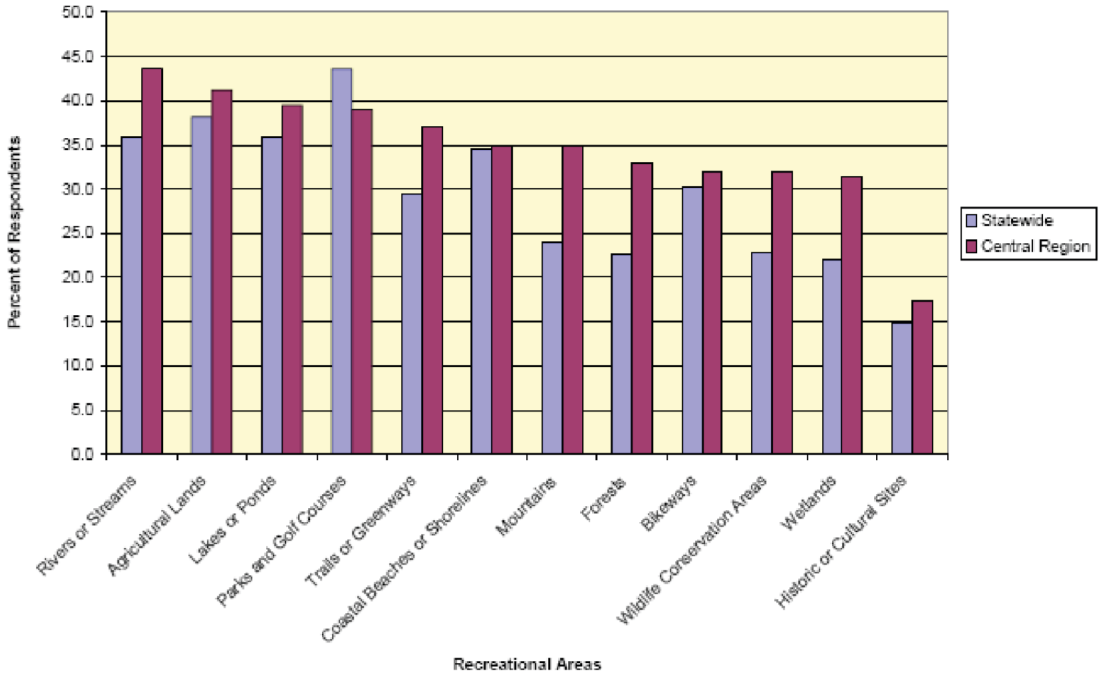
Management plans with clear objectives for each parcel will reduce conflicts and take advantage of the resources that these lands offer. Maximizing the resources that the Town has will also provide a more accurate assessment of the needs for additional recreation lands. Where specific expertise is needed, contracting professional resource managers will bring invaluable information.

Mass Outdoors 2006 (State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan), concluded the following for the Central Region, where Webster is located:

- Historic and cultural sites receive the highest satisfaction levels for the Central Region and the highest statewide. Bikeways were also high in satisfaction. Lower levels of satisfaction are reported with wetlands, rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, coastal beaches, agricultural lands and golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and tot lots. The strongest dissatisfaction ratings are given for trails and greenways, agricultural lands, and wildlife conservation areas.
- No dissatisfaction at all was reported for historic and cultural sites, albeit residents reported traveling longer distance than most for such experiences. Apparently, the lower frequency of visitation and distance are in line with the expectations of residents in this region. Clearly, this is much less the case with coastal beaches and shorelines, where the same factors of even longer distances but high frequency result in high levels of dissatisfaction.
- The overall pattern of preferences among Central Region residents regarding new funding initiatives follows that of the statewide patterns. However, feeling was strongest in this region for supporting acquisition of new recreation areas (81.1%), and the gap between this alternative and the highest ranked alternative, maintaining existing facilities (93.9%), was the smallest difference statewide. Feeling is also stronger in the Central Region in support of additional park staff (78.8%), significantly higher than other regions, although this item still ranks relatively low in the priority ranking.

- When asked what new facilities would most benefit them, residents of the Central Region showed the highest interest in facilities for walking (16.4%), swimming (17.0%), hiking (14.4%, the strongest interest in the state), road biking (12.1%), and playground activity (10.2%). A second tier of facilities interest is noted among relatively moderate percentage of Central Region respondents for mountain biking (8.5%), golfing (8.3%), picnicking (5.3%), camping (4.8%) and basketball (4.0%). Almost all categories, except off-road vehicle driving, football, sunbathing, photography and painting (all 0.0%), and sailing and pond ice skating (both 0.3%), volleyball (0.4%), and pond hockey (0.7%) reported at least some respondent interest (more than 1%) in new facilities. The low responses here should not be confused with the demand figures, which show that there is public interest in all these activities rather that residents of this region do not feel that additional facilities (or any public facilities) are needed to support the activity. Perhaps the exception here is surfing.

- These facility interests have been translated into Inferred Demand for resource types. The method used results in the highest needs – i.e. the ones which satisfy most activity desires of this region's residents - being those for rivers and streams, agricultural lands, lakes and ponds, golf courses and parks, and trails and greenways. While these are presented in order of their rank scores, the relative differences among the need for each recreational area are small.



Inferred Demand For the Central Region

Many of our objectives are related to Webster Lake and the French River, and Park improvements in line with the inferred demand for the region. Most of Webster's facilities are fully ADA compliant. Webster should consider the ADA inventory forms included in the appendices of this OSRP in determining appropriate actions to provided improved access to open space and recreation resources for the handicapped and the elderly populations. A few items that need attention might include improvement of handicapped designated parking areas at the town's recreation facilities and the addition of paved paths over existing gravel walk ways to soccer field spectator areas.

Webster has a very active Senior Center that offers many activities for its constituents such as the Silver Dippers Exercise and Line Dancing classes and the Progressive Pitch League. The recent expansion of the Town Hall complex to include a Senior Center has been a major step forward in providing valuable facilities for all residents of Town. With demographic trends making the senior population an ever-portion of the Town's population, any open space amenities added to the downtown area will serve those residents well.

The following Open Space and Recreation goals and objectives were derived from several key sources, including the goals of the 2009 OSRP, input from the public via online survey and community meeting, and the guidance of municipal officials. They support Webster's needs, and of equal importance, they seek to complement statewide policy as expressed in the Department of Conservation Resources' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's Regional Open Space Plan and trail planning initiatives for its Western Subregion.

GOAL A: Protect large areas of undeveloped space in the Town of Webster.

Objectives:

- Acquire more land for conservation and passive recreation purposes in Webster.
- Educate the citizens, school children and Town officials in Webster about open space issues and the role they play in the community's redevelopment.
- Increase open space within land that is to be developed.
- Continue progress in implementing the French River Greenway.
- Maintain an inventory of open space and conservation-land assets

GOAL B: Preserve Webster's natural resources, especially its remaining open space, wetland and wildlife communities and scenic views.

Objectives:

- Preserve and protect watersheds to ensure water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Protect water supply sites.
- Protect important wetland resource areas throughout Town.
- Identify and certify vernal pools.
- Develop town-wide Best Management Practices for the collection and treatment of stormwater.
- Identify and preserve important viewsheds at Webster Lake.

GOAL C: Preserve the quality and character of Webster Lake for all residents to enjoy.

Objectives:

- Prioritize available waterside parcels as part of open space acquisition inventory.
- Undertake a Memorial Beach Master Plan to establish goals and priorities for expansion of recreation, public assembly, water access, parking, infrastructure, and other uses.
- Protect the water quality of the Lake through monitoring of land uses, boat management, and control of invasive species.
- Work with the State of Massachusetts and Webster Lake Association to improve conditions and manage access to Lakeside Boat Ramp.
- Maintain the quality of the recreational experience for all lake users.

GOAL D: Improve and expand the Town's open space and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of all residents of Webster.

Objectives:

- Continue efforts to develop a Riverwalk in the Downtown area to offer recreational opportunities and promote environmental justice.
- Maintain the Town's current recreation areas as needed.
- Create new recreation facilities as needed.
- Increase public awareness and use of community facilities at Senior Center
- Investigate feasibility of Recreation Center in Downtown area.
- Improve parks and playgrounds adjacent to or within established neighborhoods.
- Make accessibility modifications as required to parks and recreation facilities.
- Consider using small, odd-shaped lots for recreation purposes.
- Create a new annual cultural or fun event for Webster.
- Create additional paddling access points on the French River.

GOAL E: Link active and passive recreation areas.

Objectives:

- Identify corridors that link existing recreation and conservation areas.
- Work cooperatively with Dudley, Oxford, and Thompson to realize the vision of the French River Greenway.
- Work cooperatively with other parties on the implementation of the Quinebaug Valley Trail.
- Ensure there are active town representatives on CMRPC and QSRVNHC committees.

GOAL F: Preserve and enhance the historic character of downtown Webster.

Objectives:

- Work with property owners to preserve buildings that contribute to the historic look and character of the area.
- Encourage the adaptive reuse of existing vacant and underutilized buildings.

Goal A. Protect large areas of undeveloped space in Webster.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
1. Acquire more land for conservation and passive recreation in Webster.			
a. Develop, with public input, a priority list for land acquisition/protection, preserving the ability to expend funds on targets of opportunity.	1-2	Planner, Open Space Committee	Town Budget
b. Research available funding tools, including the Community Preservation Act.	1	Planner, Open Space Committee	Town Budget
c. Foster a working relationship with a local or regional land trust.	2-3	Open Space Committee	Town Budget, Land Trust Funds
d. Develop informational materials for landowners and officials on ways to protect land.	2-3	Open Space Committee, ConCom	Town Budget, Land Trust Funds
e. Establish and begin to implement a schedule of grant writing and fundraising.	2-3	Planner	Town Budget
f. Acquire the first property under this program.	3	Planner, Town Administrator, BOS	Town Budget, CPA, LAND program
g. Acquire the second property under this program.	5	Planner, Town Administrator, BOS	Town Budget, CPA, LAND program
2. Educate the citizens, school children, and Town officials in Webster about open space issues and the role they play in the community's redevelopment.			
a. Begin an education campaign about the benefits of adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA), with a focus on open space and historic preservation.	1	Open Space Committee, Planner	No funding required, Volunteer/Staff effort
b. Prepare a town meeting article proposing the adoption of the CPA.	1	Town Administrator, Planner, Open Space Committee	No funding required, Volunteer/Staff effort
c. Encourage the Webster Education Foundation to develop a relationship with in-town conservation groups.	1	Planner, WEF, WLA, FRC	Volunteer fundraising

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Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
3. Increase open space within land that is to be developed.			
a. Create open space residential development bylaw which allows smaller lots in exchange for open spaces subject to approval by the ConCom and Planning Board site reviews.	1	Planner, Planning Board	Town Budget
b. Create a manual for developers, surveyors and engineers, as a guide to planning for open space.	2	Planner, Planning Board	Town Budget
c. Use the open space map as a guide to create the most desirable tracts of open space across development boundaries.	Ongoing	Open Space Committee	Town Budget, Agricultural Preservation & Conservation Restrictions, Chapter 61 tax benefits
d. Create incentives for developers to create recreation areas, open land, and wildlife corridors.	2-3	Planner, Planning Board	Town Budget, Dudley Land Trust
e. Adopt and implement the Smarter Land Use Program.	3-4	Planner, BOS, Planning Board, ConCom DPW	Town Budget

4. Continue Progress in Implementation of the French River Greenway.			
a. Work with other trail interests to maximize connections.	Ongoing	French River Connection	Town Budget, FRC, MHD, Fed Land and Water Conservation Fund, Greenways and Trails Demo Grant Prog.
b. Identify preferred routes within Webster.	1-2	French River Connection, Open Space Committee	Town Budget, FRC, Greenways and Trails Demo Grant Prog.
c. Encourage the Webster Education Foundation to develop a relationship with in-town conservation groups.	2-3	French River Connection, Open Space Committee	Town Budget, FRC, Greenways and Trails Demo Grant Prog.
d. Educate the public and landowners on the benefits of the greenway; seek input on public preferences regarding its uses.	1-2	French River Connection	Town Budget, Greenways and Trails Demo Grant Prog.
e. Identify funding needs and sources.	Ongoing	Planner, French River Connection	Town Budget, FRC
f. Submit grant requests as required to complete French River Park section.	1-2	Planner, French River Connection, Office of Community Development	Town Budget, Community Development Block Grants
g. Submit grant requests as required to complete Webster Riverwalk section.	1-2	Planner, French River Connection, Office of Community Development	Town Budget, Office of Community development
h. Submit grant requests as required to complete a third section.	3	Planner, French River Connection, Office of Community Development	Town Budget, Office of Community development

Continued on next page.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
5. Maintain an inventory of open space and conservation-land assets.			
a. Create and maintain an open space map that includes all protected open space, all chapter lands, all unbuilt town owned property, all tax-title property, and tracts of undeveloped private property.	1	Open Space Committee, Assessor, Planner	Town Budget, CPA, CMRPC, Mass GIS
b. Post the newly created open space map on the town's website.	1	Town Administrator	Town Budget
c. Work with CMRPC, MassGIS, and key stakeholders to keep map updated annually.	Ongoing	Planner, Open Space Committee, Assessor, CMRPC	Town Budget
d. Require any new developments or acquisitions that include conservation land to provide digital files of mapping to Town.	1	Planner, Planning Board, Assessor	Town Budget

Goal B. Preserve Webster's natural resources, especially its remaining open space, wetland and wildlife communities and scenic views.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
1. Preserve and protect watersheds to ensure water quality and maintain wildlife habitat.			
a. Incorporate waterside parcels in the open space priority list.	1-2	Open Space Committee, Assessor, Planner	Town Budget
b. Identify funding sources that apply to river/stream/lake/pond protection and restoration and schedule a list of grant request submittals.	Ongoing	Town Administrator	Town Budget, FRC, WLA
c. Review the lake watershed protection district by-law and make changes as experience dictates.	2	Planner, Open Space Committee, Assessor, CMRPC	Town Budget, CMRPC
d. Consider extending appropriate elements of the lake watershed protection district to the French River.	2-3	Planner, Planning Board, Assessor	Town Budget, WLA, FRC, CMRPC
e. Present a French River watershed protection district by-law to the town meeting.	3	Planning Board	Town Budget
f. Ensure open space priorities appropriately consider core habitat, supporting habitat, and living waters areas.	Ongoing	ConCom, Open Space Committee	Town Budget, DCR

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Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
2. Protect water supply sites.			
a. Identify threats to wellfield water quality.	Ongoing	Board of Health, DPW	Town Budget, DEP Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program
b. Upgrade and maintain town-owned wells to ensure their long-term viability as a potable water source.	Ongoing	DPW	Town Budget, DEP Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program
3. Protect important wetland resources areas throughout Town.			
a. Determine needed elements of a wetlands protection by-law.	1	ConCom, Staff	Town Budget, CMRPC
b. Draft by-law and create an informational presentation for the public.	1-2	ConCom, Staff	Town Budget
c. Present a Wetland Protection Bylaw for passage at a town meeting.	2	ConCom, Staff	Town Budget
4. Identify and certify vernal pools.			
a. Map certified and potential vernal pools, locating them on parcels.	1-2	Open Space Committee, ConCom	Town Budget, Volunteer Effort, DCR, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
b. Work with state agencies to educate the public on vernal pools.	2-3	Open Space Committee, ConCom	Town Budget, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
c. Establish a "citizen science" program to submit data to certify vernal pools and identify additional potential vernal pools.	3-5	Open Space Committee, ConCom	Town Budget, volunteer effort, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
d. Complete certification activity for all identified vernal pool candidates.	5	Open Space Committee, ConCom	Town Budget, volunteer effort, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
5. Develop town-wide best management practices for the collection and treatment of stormwater.			
a. Develop a stormwater management bylaw which would dictate structural and nonstructural management techniques and would include provisions for maintenance and upkeep.	1-2	DPW, Planning Board	Town Budget, CMRPC, DEP
b. Create a guidebook for developers that explains the requirements of the new stormwater bylaw.	2	DPW, Planning Board	Town Budget, DEP
c. Investigate the implementation of Low Impact Development stormwater techniques.	2-3	DPW, Planning Board, ConCom, Engineer	Town Budget, DEP
d. Incorporate guidance for the implementation of low impact techniques in appropriate by-laws and regulations.	3	Planning Board, Engineer	Town Budget

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Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
6. Identify and preserve important viewsheds at Webster Lake.			
a. Identify and incorporate viewsheds into the Open Space Map.	1	Open Space Committee, Planner	Town Budget
b. Ensure the enforcement of the scenic roads bylaw.	Ongoing	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Budget, MHD
c. Put up signs identifying scenic roads.	3	DPW	Town Budget
d. Review development proposals to ensued compliance with the town's scenic roads bylaw.	Ongoing	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Budget
e. Research and develop a tree preservation plan.	3	ConCom, Planning Board, Zoning Board	Town Budget

Goal C. Preserve the quality and character of Webster Lake for all residents to enjoy.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
1. Prioritize available waterside parcels as part of open space acquisition inventory.			
a. Incorporate waterside parcels in the open space priority list.	1-2	Open Space Committee, Webster Lake Association, French River Connection	Town Budget
b. Undertake conversations with property owners of priority parcels about acquisition or permanent protection.	1-2	Town Administrator, Planner, WLA, Open Space Committee	Town Budget
2. Undertake a Memorial Beach Master Plan to establish goals and priorities for expansion of recreation, public assembly, water access, parking, infrastructure, and other uses.			
a. Establish an ad-hoc Committee to develop understanding of needs and options.	1	Town Administrator, Planner, WLA, Engineer, DPW, Beach Committee	Town Budget
b. Develop a site master plan that will guide refurbishment of existing amenities and identify appropriate additions.	1-2	Ad-Hoc Committee, Planner	Town Budget, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
c. Identify areas at Memorial Beach to remain undeveloped and develop a strategy for their permanent protection.	1-2	Planner, Ad-Hoc Committee	Town Budget
d. Review capital plan that addresses costs for maintenance and enhancements and balances these with fees collected.	1-2	DPW, Town Administrator	Town Budget
e. Determine additional funding required and submit grant requests and/or conduct capital campaigns as required.	2	DPW, Town Administrator	Town Budget
f. Complete the implementation of the site master plan to the extent funded.	3-4	DPW, Town Administrator, Engineer	Town Budget, Land and Water Conservation Fund

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Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
3. Protect the water quality of the lake.			
a. Support long term, comprehensive measurements of water quality within the watershed, especially early warning indicators.	Ongoing	Webster Lake Association, Board of Health, ConCom, DPW	Town Budget, WLA, DEP Section 604b Grant Program Water Quality Management Planning
b. Take timely action against identified pollution sources.	Ongoing	Board of Health, ConCom, DPW	Town Budget, DEP
c. Continue the program for the installation of catch basins.	Ongoing	Town Administrator, DPW, Engineer	Town Budget, DEP Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program
d. Establish a program of active monitoring for the appearance of invasive species.	1	WLA	Volunteer effort
e. Take early action against invasive species.	Ongoing	Webster Lake Association, Board of Health, ConCom, DPW	Town Budget, WLA
f. Establish a station to clean the hulls of boats launched at public sites to avoid introduction of invasive species.	1-2	Town Administrator, DPW	DCR, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
4. Work with the State of Massachusetts and Webster Lake Association to improve conditions and manage access to Lakeside Boat Ramp.			
a. Assess conditions at existing Lakeside Boat Ramp.	1	Engineer, WLA	Town Budget
b. Meet with stakeholders to identify potential improvements and future use.	1-2	Engineer, WLA, DCR, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife	Town Budget
c. Partner on joint initiative to make identified improvements.	2-3	Engineer, WLA, DCR, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife	Town Budget, WLA Funds, State DCR Funds
5. Maintain the quality of the recreational experience of all lake users.			
a. Vigorously enforce all safety, speeding and alcohol regulations.	Ongoing	Police department	WLA, WPD
b. Develop regulations governing boat noise.	2-3	Town Administrator	WPD

Goal D. Improve and expand the town's open space and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of all residents of Webster.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
1. Continue efforts to develop a Riverwalk in the Downtown area to offer recreational opportunities and promote environmental justice.			
a. Conduct public outreach on use of Riverwalk and identify gaps and expansion opportunities, including a "walking audit".	1-2	Recreation Staff, Planner, Engineer, DPW	Town Budget
b. Establish advisory group of stakeholders to prioritize improvements and continue community input.	1	Recreation Staff, Planner	Town Budget
c. Develop implementation strategy with costs for improvements.	2	Planner, Recreation Staff, Engineer, DPW	Town Budget
d. Implement expansion improvements.	3-4	Engineer, DPW, Recreation Staff	Grants, Town Budget
2. Maintain the town's current recreation areas as needed.			
a. Develop a town maintenance plan for all recreation areas.	1-2	DPW, Recreation Staff	Town Budget
b. Incorporate maintenance resources in the towns budget or capital plan.	Ongoing	Town Administrator, DPW	Town Budget
3. Create new recreation facilities as needed.			
a. Construct Dog Park.	1-2	Town Administrator, DPW, Recreation Staff	Town Budget, Grants
b. Budget for the acquisition/ development of new fields as necessary.	2-3	DPW, Town Administrator	Town Budget, CPA
4. Increase public awareness and use of community facilities at Senior Center.			
a. Develop outreach and information materials on resources and programs at the Senior Center.	1	Town Administrator, Parks & Recreation Staff	Town Budget
b. Distribute outreach materials in hard copy, on Town website, through Board of Education and social media.	1-2	Town Administrator, Parks & Recreation Staff	Town Budget

Continued on next page.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
5. Investigate feasibility of Recreation Center in Downtown area.			
a. Conduct detailed community outreach and polling about indoor recreation needs.	1-2	Recreation Staff, Parks & Recreation Commission	Town Budget
b. Develop determination of needs and programming of space/facility.	2	Recreation Staff, Parks & Recreation Commission	Town Budget
c. Review and assess feasibility/cost of facility options in Downtown areas.	2-3	Recreation Staff, DPW, Town Administrator, Engineer	Town Budget
d. Budget for the development of new facility as necessary.	2-3	DPW, Town Administrator, Recreation Staff	Town Budget, CPA
6. Improve parks and playgrounds within or adjacent to established neighborhoods.			
a. Survey neighborhood residents and users to determine specific improvement needs.	1	Recreation Committee, Staff	Town Budget
b. Incorporate identified needs into the capital budget.	1-2	DPW, Recreation Committee	Town Budget
c. Secure grants or other funding.	Ongoing	Community Development, Recreation Committee Staff	Town Budget
d. Promote volunteer programs within neighborhoods to construct, improve, and maintain their parks.	2-3	Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Recreation Committee, DPW	Town Budget, volunteer effort, FRC, WLA
7. Make accessibility modifications as required to parks and recreation facilities.			
a. Obtain funding to meet compliance requirements as previously identified.	1-2	ADA Coordinator, Town Administrator	Town Budget, ADA Grants
b. Implement accessibility modifications.	2-3	ADA Coordinator, DPW, Recreation Staff	Town Budget

Continued on next page.

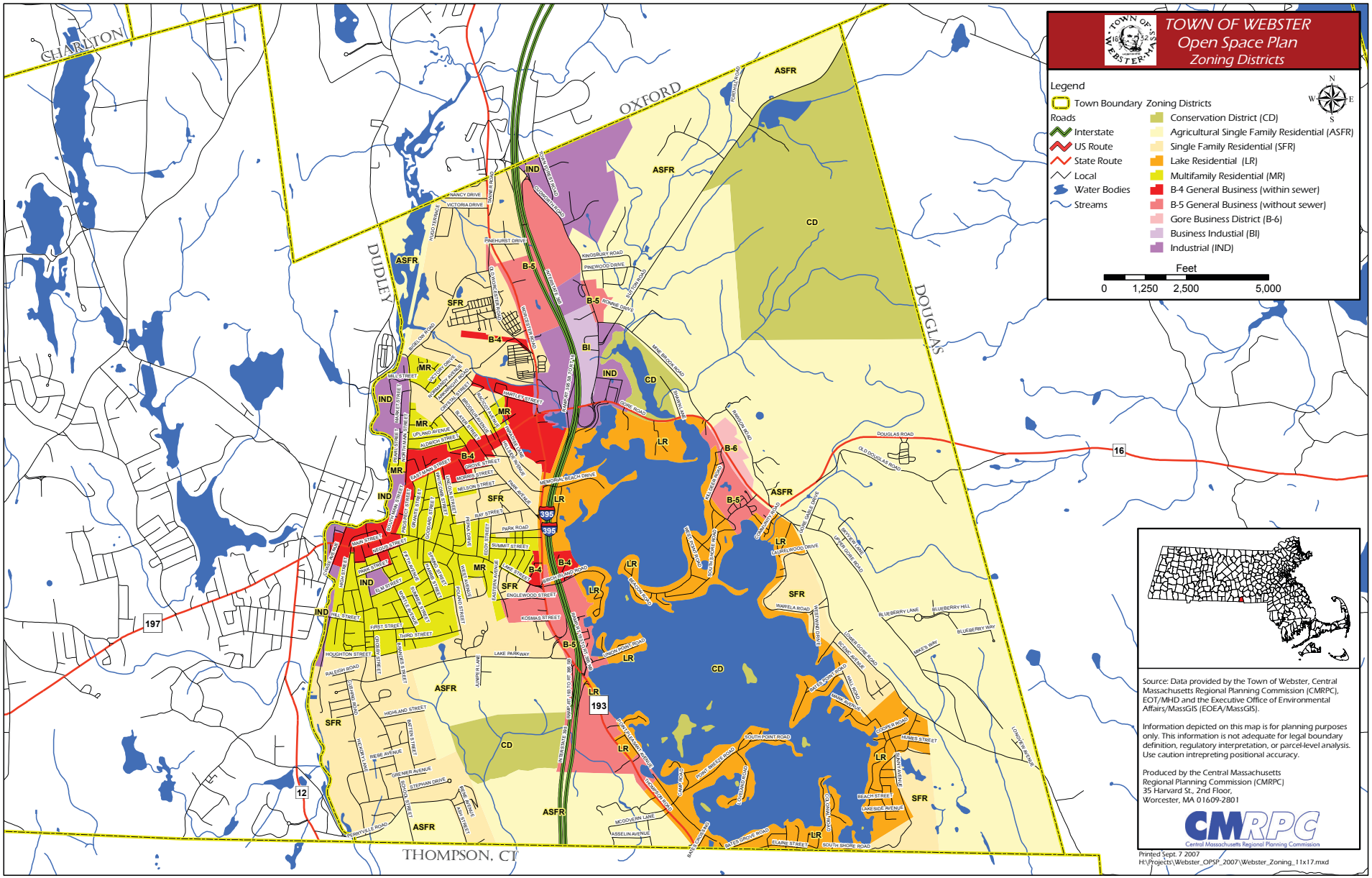
Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
8. Consider using small, odd-shaped lots for recreation purposes.			
a. Create a list, from the Open Space map, of all unusable town-owned property.	1-2	Planner, Open Space Committee, Assessor, DPW	Town Budget
b. Develop a program of recreation use and promote pilot examples.	2-3	Recreation Committee and Staff	Town Budget
c. Complete the program for all appropriate parcels.	5	Recreation Committee and Staff	Town Budget
9. Create a new annual cultural or fun event for Webster.			
a. Continue coordination with downtown merchants to organize a street fairs, concert series, or other annual events.	Ongoing	Recreation Committee and Staff	Town Budget, Webster Dudley Business Alliance
b. Continue funding revolving fund to support it.	Ongoing	Town Administrator, BOS	Town Budget
10. Create paddling access on the French River.			
a. Use town-owned land and/or secure agreements from landowners to establish access points to River.	1-2	Town Administrator, Planner, Recreation Staff	Town Budget, FRC, DCR
b. Obtain funding and engineering support from the Office of Fishing and Boating Access to build launch points on town owned land.	2-3	Town Administrator, DPW, Engineer	DCR, Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife
c. Build additional launch points on private land.	3-4	French River Connection	FRC
d. Secure the commitment of volunteers to maintain the launches.	Ongoing	Town Administrator, FRC	No funding required, volunteer effort

Goal E. Link active and passive recreation areas.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA	STATUS
1. Identify corridors that link existing recreation and conservation areas.				
a. Create a map that places Webster in the context of neighboring towns to assist in locating the best areas for connecting open space, trail systems, and wildlife corridors.	1	Open Space Committee, Planner	Town Budget, DCR, Mass GIS	INCOMPLETE
b. Prioritize and develop budget for acquisition of connector properties or improvements of existing connections.	1-2	Open Space Committee, Planner	Town Budget	
2. Work cooperatively with Dudley, Oxford, and Thompson to realize the vision of the French River Greenway.				
a. Appoint a town representative to the adhoc French River Greenway Steering Committee.	1	BOS	No funding required, volunteer effort	INCOMPLETE
b. Support the work of the Steering Committee through meeting facilities, staff, and administration.	Ongoing	Town Administrator	Town Budget, Volunteers	
3. Work cooperatively with other parties on implementation of the Quinebaug Valley Trail.				
a. Maintain appointments of active members of the QVT advisory committee.	Ongoing	BOS	No funding required, volunteer effort	INCOMPLETE
4. Ensure there are active town representatives on CMRPC and QSRVNHC committees.				
a. Review committee structures and make appointments from appropriate boards or from among interested, qualified citizens.	Ongoing	BOS	No funding required, volunteer effort	ONGOING
b. Ensure that committee minutes are shared with Town officials.	Ongoing	Town Administrator	No funding required, volunteer effort	ONGOING

Goal F. Preserve and enhance the historic character of downtown Webster.

Objective	Year	Responsible	Funding Sources and/or TA
1. Work with property owners to preserve buildings that contribute to the historic look and character of the area.			
a. Appoint an active historic commission to take the lead on this goal.	1	BOS	No funding required, volunteer effort
b. Identify candidate buildings for preservation, starting with those listed in the state's database.	2-3	Historic Commission	Town Budget, MassPreservation
c. Following completion of pilot renovation program, seek funding to continue with additional properties.	3-5	Historic Commission, OCD	Town Budget, Community Development Block Grant
d. Put up signs on buildings clarifying their historical/ architectural significance.	1-2	Historic Commission	Town Budget, MassPreservation
e. Develop a program of historical walking tours of downtown.	1-2	Historic Commission	Town Budget, volunteer effort
f. Establish, with downtown merchants, a "pride" beautification program.	1-2	Town Administrator	Webster Dudley Business Alliance
g. Investigate the creation of a local historic district and historic designations for individual structures outside the district.	2-3	Historic Commission	Town Budget, Mass Preservation
h. Appropriately budget for the maintenance and renovation of public buildings.	Ongoing	Town Administrator	Town Budget, CDBG, American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)
i. Consider granting tax credits to property owners who restore buildings to their original character and style.	3	Historic Commission, Assessor, BOS	Town Budget, Mass Office of Business Development
2. Encourage the adaptive re-use of existing vacant and underutilized buildings.			
a. Consider creating a zoning overlay district that would express the kinds of uses that would complement those already existing and include design elements such as façade, landscaping, signage, etc.	1-2	Historic Commission, Planning Board	Town Budget, CMRPC
b. Review policies of tax incentives for the appropriate re-use of existing buildings.	1-2	BOS, Assessor	Town Budget, Mass Office of Business Development
c. Apply the preferred tax incentive policy to a pilot project.	2	Planner	Town Budget, Mass Office of Business Development


TOWN OF WEBSTER
Open Space Plan
Zoning Districts
Legend
Town Boundary
Roads
Interstate
US Route
State Route
Local
Water Bodies
Streams
Zoning Districts
Conservation District (CD)
Agricultural Single Family Residential (ASFR)
Single Family Residential (SFR)
Lake Residential (LR)
Multifamily Residential (MR)
B-4 General Business (within sewer)
B-5 General Business (without sewer)
Gore Business District (B-6)
Business Industial (BI)
Industrial (IND)
Feet
0 1,250 2,500 5,000
CHARLTON
OXFORD
DUDLEY
DOUGLAS
THOMPSON, CT
Source: Data provided by the Town of Webster, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), EOT/MHD and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS (EOEA/MassGIS).
Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution intrepreting positional accuracy.
Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
35 Harvard St., 2nd Floor,
Worcester, MA 01609-2801
CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Printed Sept. 7 2007
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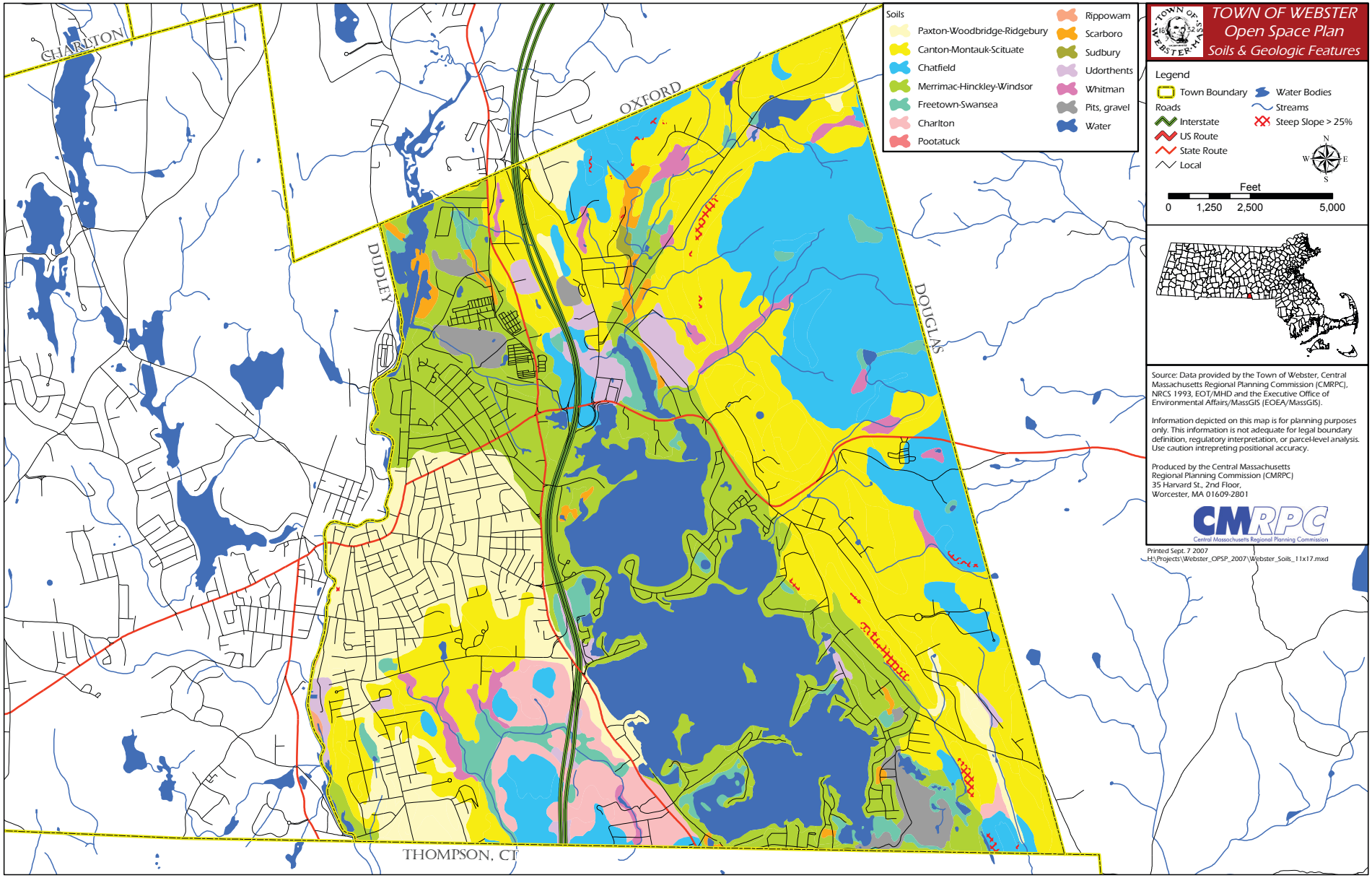
TOWN OF WEBSTER
Open Space Plan
Soils & Geologic Features
Soils
Paxton-Woodbridge-Ridgebury
Canton-Montauk-Scituate
Chatfield
Merrimac-Hinckley-Windsor
Freetown-Swansea
Charlton
Pootatuck
Rippowam
Scarboro
Sudbury
Udorthents
Whitman
Pits, gravel
Water
Legend
Town Boundary
Water Bodies
Roads
Streams
Interstate
Steep Slope > 25%
US Route
State Route
Local
N
W
E
S
Feet
0
1,250
2,500
5,000
Source: Data provided by the Town of Webster, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), NRCS 1993, EOT/MHD and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS (EOEA/MassGIS).
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CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Printed Sept. 7 2007
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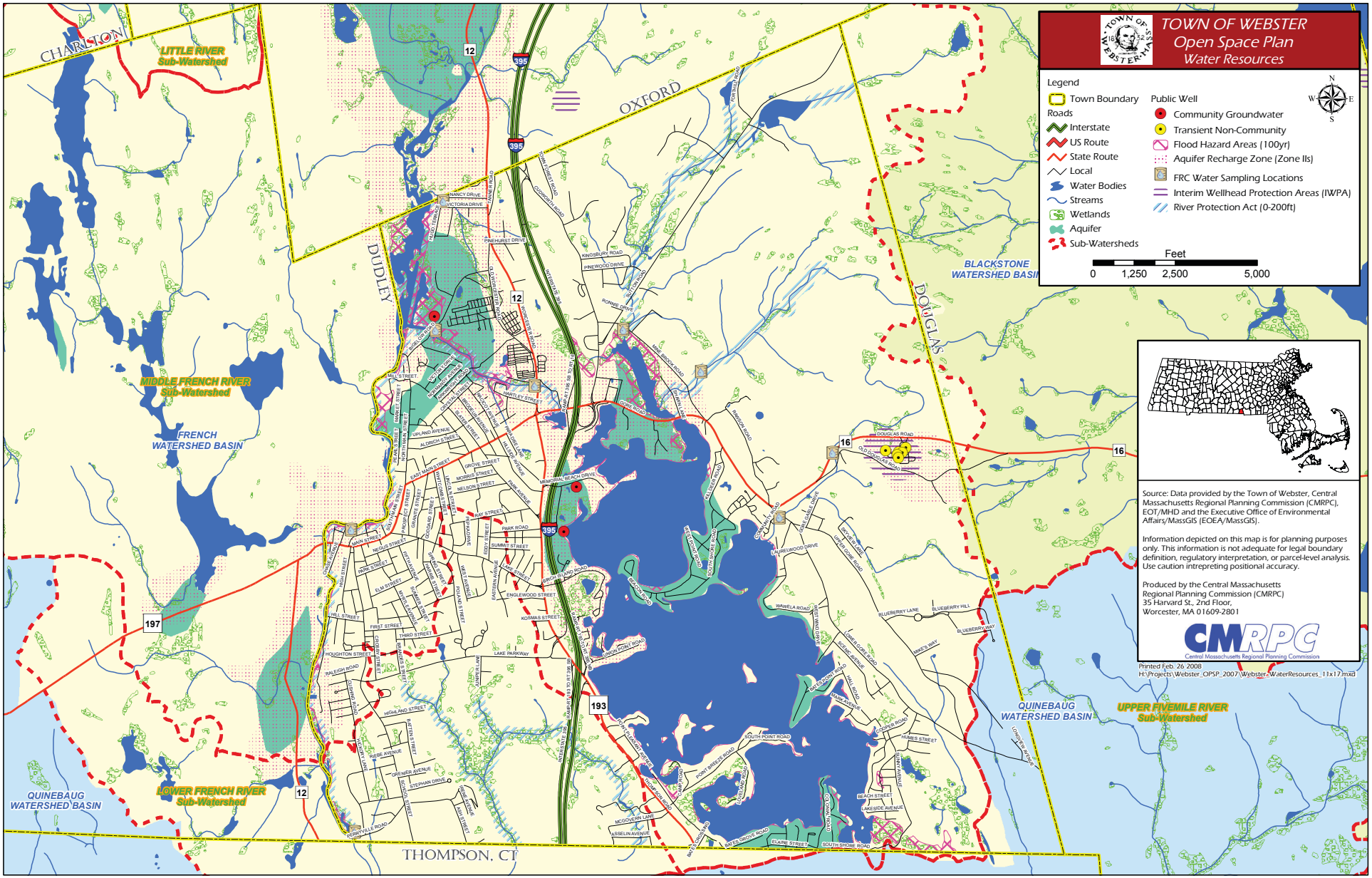
CHARLTON
OXFORD
DUDLEY
DOUGLAS
THOMPSON, CT


TOWN OF WEBSTER
Open Space Plan
Water Resources
Legend
Town Boundary
Roads
Interstate
US Route
State Route
Local
Water Bodies
Streams
Wetlands
Aquifer
Sub-Watersheds
Public Well
Community Groundwater
Transient Non-Community
Flood Hazard Areas (100yr)
Aquifer Recharge Zone (Zone II's)
FRC Water Sampling Locations
Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA)
River Protection Act (0-200ft)
Feet
0 1,250 2,500 5,000
Source: Data provided by the Town of Webster, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), EOT/MHD and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS (EOEA/MassGIS).
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Worcester, MA 01609-2801
CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Printed Feb. 26 2008
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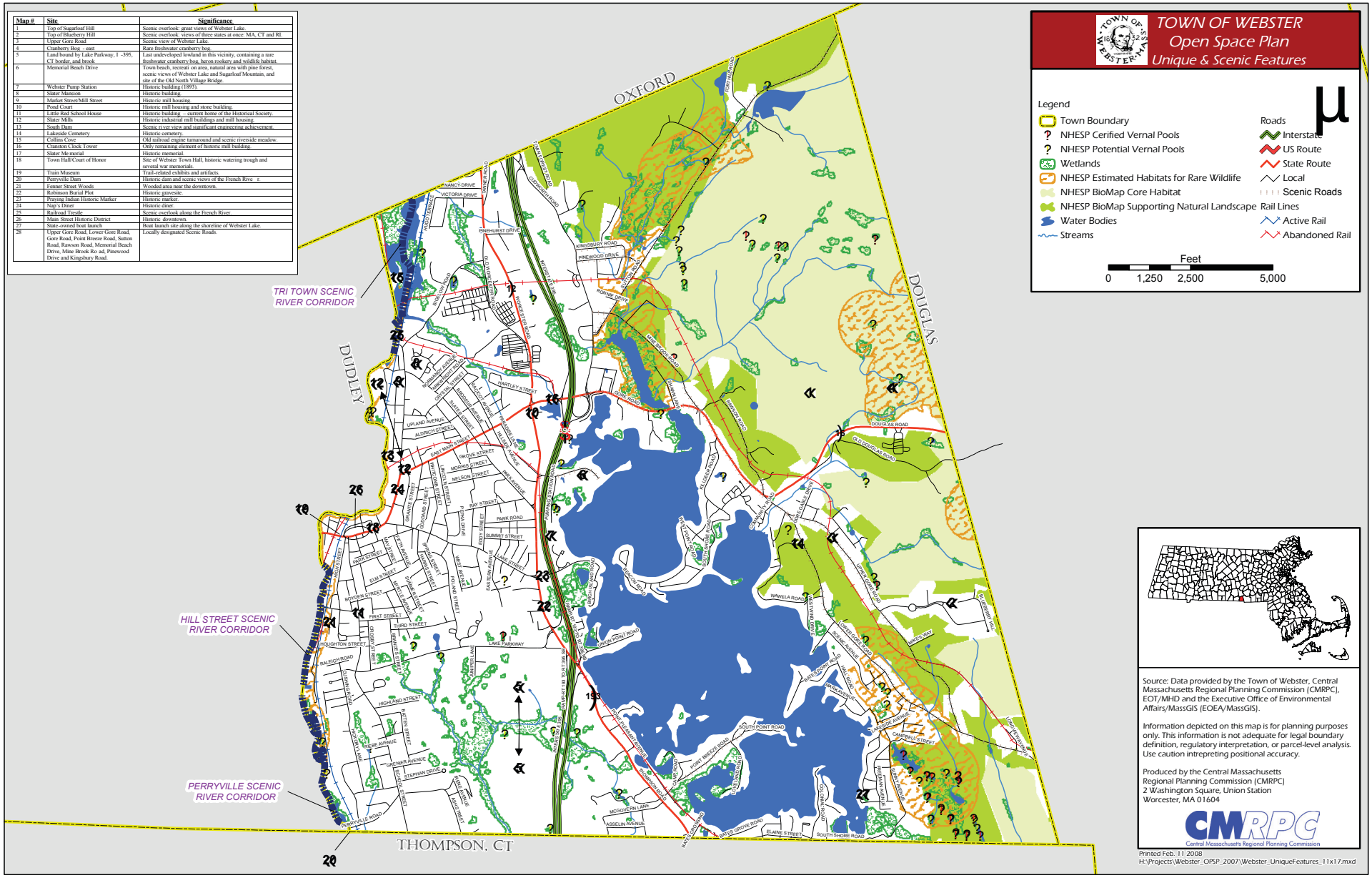
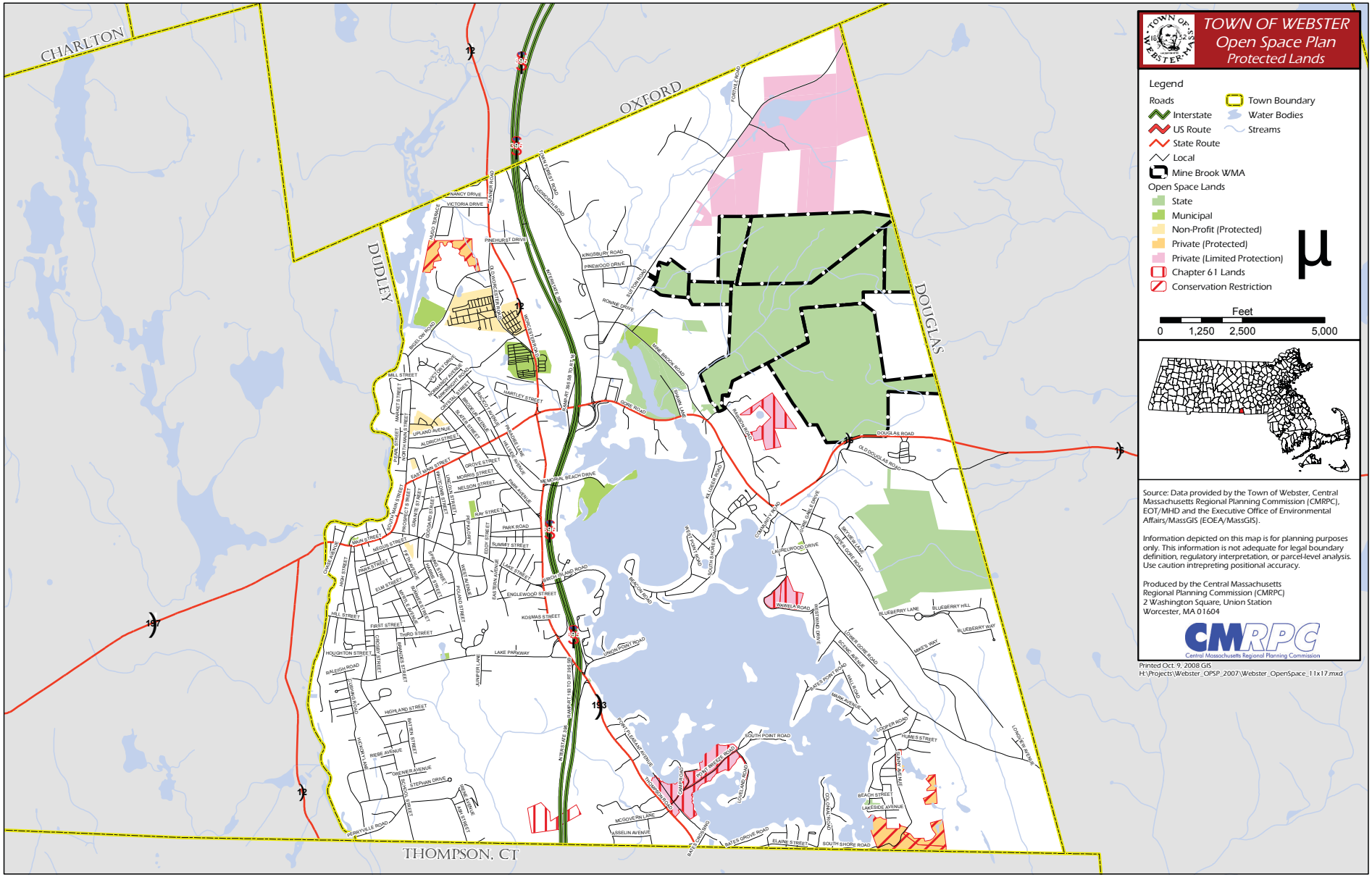
CHARLTON
OXFORD
DUDLEY
DOUGLAS
THOMPSON, CT
LITTLE RIVER Sub-Watershed
MIDDLE FRENCH RIVER Sub-Watershed
FRENCH WATERSHED BASIN
LOWER FRENCH RIVER Sub-Watershed
QUINEBAUG WATERSHED BASIN
BLACKSTONE WATERSHED BASIN
UPPER FIVEMILE RIVER Sub-Watershed
395
12
16
197
193

Map #	Site	Significance
1	Top of Sugarloaf Hill	Scenic overlook: great views of Webster Lake.
2	Top of Blueberry Hill	Scenic overlook: views of three states at once: MA, CT and RI.
3	Upper Gore Road	Scenic view of Webster Lake.
4	Cranberry Bog - east	Rare freshwater cranberry bog.
5	Land bound by Lake Parkway, I -395, CT border, and brook	Last undeveloped lowland in this vicinity, containing a rare freshwater cranberry bog, heron rookery and wildlife habitat.
6	Memorial Beach Drive	Town beach, recreati on area, natural area with pine forest, scenic views of Webster Lake and Sugarloaf Mountain, and site of the Old North Village Bridge.
7	Webster Pump Station	Historic building (1893).
8	Slater Mansion	Historic building.
9	Market Street/Mill Street	Historic mill housing.
10	Pond Court	Historic mill housing and stone building.
11	Little Red School House	Historic building – current home of the Historical Society.
12	Slater Mills	Historic industrial mill buildings and mill housing.
13	South Dam	Scenic river view and significant engineering achievement.
14	Lakeside Cemetery	Historic cemetery.
15	Collins Cove	Old railroad engine turnaround and scenic riverside meadow.
16	Cranston Clock Tower	Only remaining element of historic mill building.
17	Slater Me morial	Historic memorial.
18	Town Hall/Court of Honor	Site of Webster Town Hall, historic watering trough and several war memorials.
19	Train Museum	Trail-related exhibits and artifacts.
20	Perryville Dam	Historic dam and scenic views of the French Rive r.
21	Fenner Street Woods	Wooded area near the downtown.
22	Robinson Burial Plot	Historic gravesite.
23	Praying Indian Historic Marker	Historic marker.
24	Nap's Diner	Historic diner
25	Railroad Trestle	Scenic overlook along the French River.
26	Main Street Historic District	Historic downtown.
27	State-owned boat launch	Boat launch site along the shoreline of Webster Lake.
28	Upper Gore Road, Lower Gore Road, Gore Road, Point Breeze Road, Sutton Road, Rawson Road, Memorial Beach Drive, Mine Brook Ro ad, Pinewood Drive and Kingsbury Road.	Locally designated Scenic Roads.




TOWN OF WEBSTER
Open Space Plan
Protected Lands
Legend
Roads
Interstate
US Route
State Route
Local
Mine Brook WMA
Town Boundary
Water Bodies
Streams
Open Space Lands
State
Municipal
Non-Profit (Protected)
Private (Protected)
Private (Limited Protection)
Chapter 61 Lands
Conservation Restriction
Feet
0
1,250
2,500
5,000
Source: Data provided by the Town of Webster, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), EOT/MHD and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS (EOEA/MassGIS).
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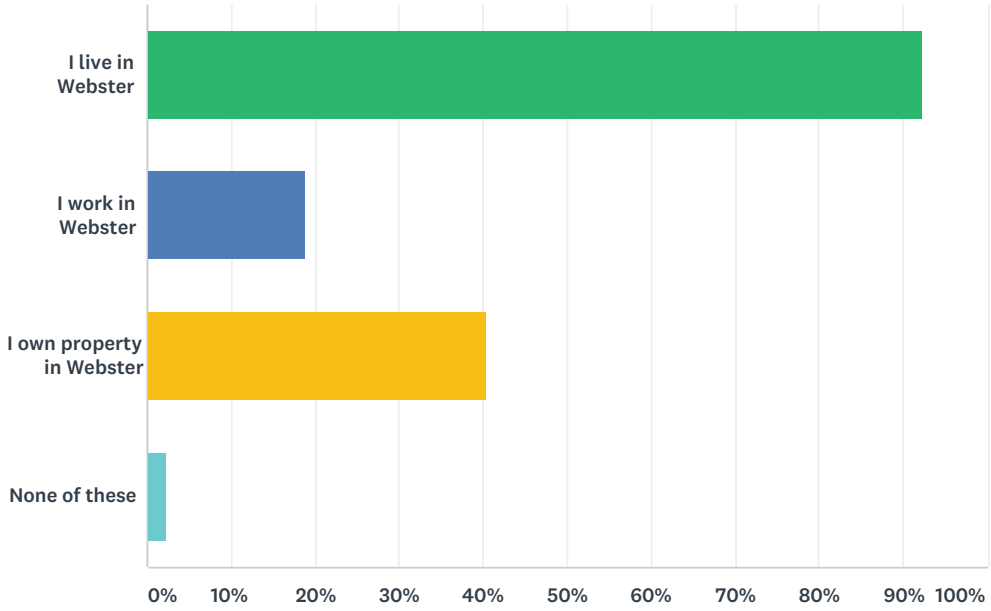
Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
2 Washington Square, Union Station
Worcester, MA 01604
CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Printed Oct. 9, 2008 GIS
H:\Projects\Webster_OPSP_2007\Webster_OpenSpace_11x17.mxd
CHARLTON
OXFORD
DUDLEY
DOUGLAS
THOMPSON, CT

Q1 What is Your Connection to Webster? (Check all that apply)

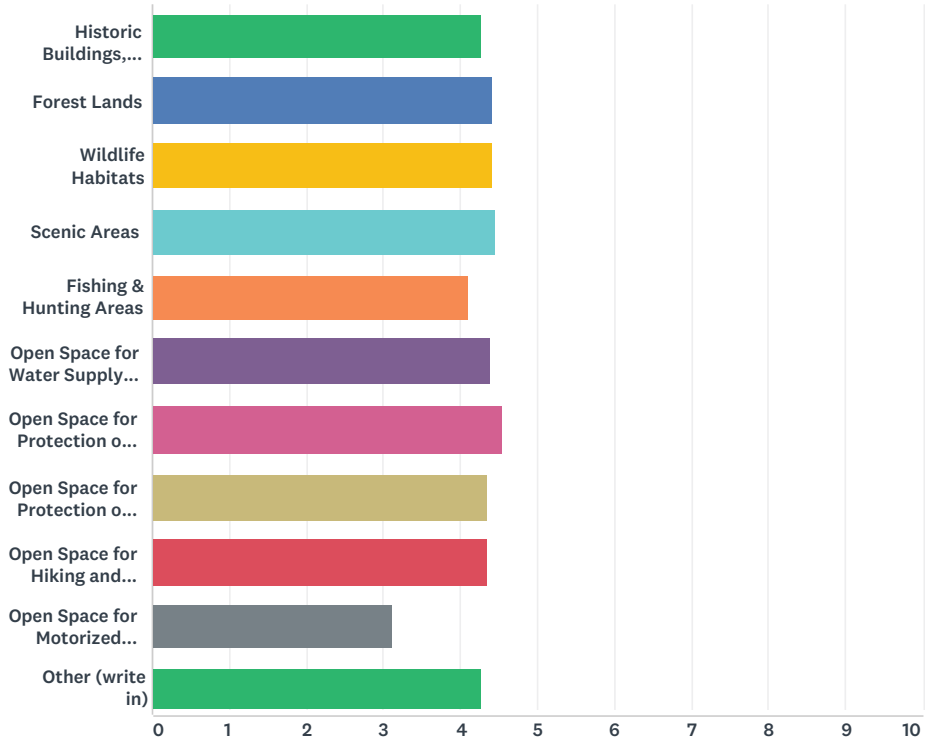
Answered: 181 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Webster	92.27%	167
I work in Webster	18.78%	34
I own property in Webster	40.33%	73
None of these	2.21%	4
Total Respondents: 181		

Q2 Do You Favor the Preservation of the Following in Webster?

Answered: 182 Skipped: 0

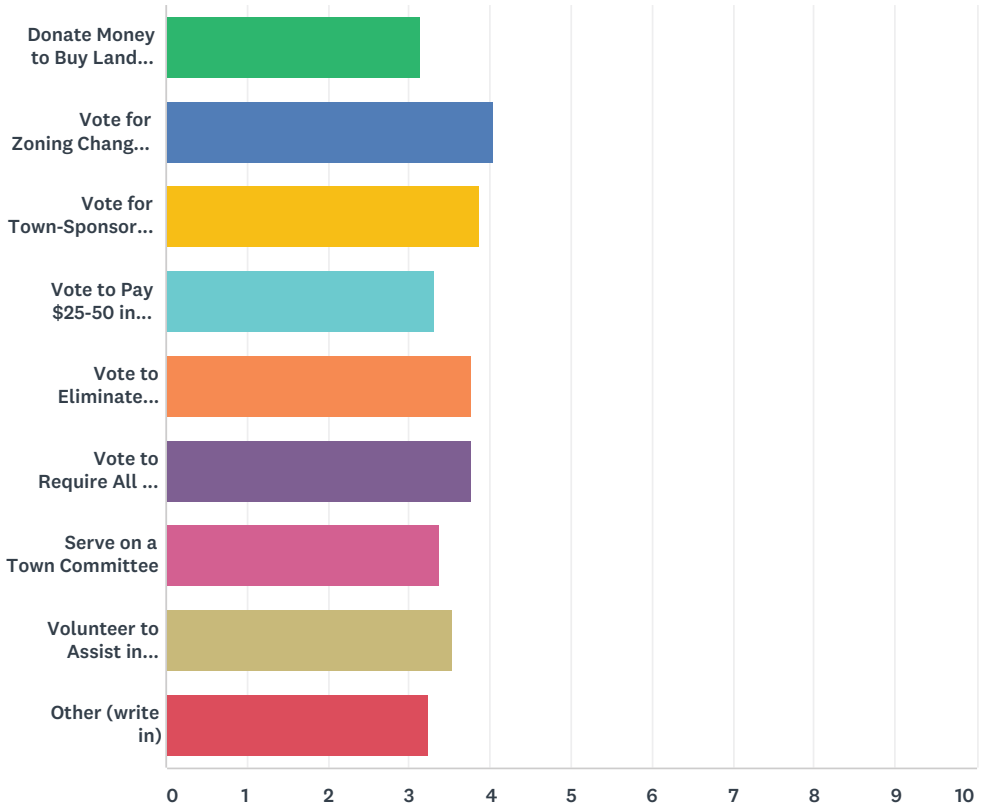


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Historic Buildings, Places, and Sites	45.05% 82	40.11% 73	12.64% 23	1.10% 2	1.10% 2	182	4.27
Forest Lands	51.11% 92	40.00% 72	8.89% 16	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	180	4.42
Wildlife Habitats	55.62% 99	31.46% 56	11.80% 21	1.12% 2	0.00% 0	178	4.42
Scenic Areas	55.00% 99	36.67% 66	7.78% 14	0.56% 1	0.00% 0	180	4.46
Fishing & Hunting Areas	40.11% 73	32.97% 60	23.63% 43	2.20% 4	1.10% 2	182	4.09
Open Space for Water Supply Protection	52.20% 95	36.26% 66	10.99% 20	0.55% 1	0.00% 0	182	4.40
Open Space for Protection of Webster Lake	63.74% 116	29.12% 53	6.04% 11	0.00% 0	1.10% 2	182	4.54
Open Space for Protection of Wetlands, Streams, Ponds, and Vernal Pools	54.40% 99	29.12% 53	13.74% 25	2.75% 5	0.00% 0	182	4.35
Open Space for Hiking and Biking Trails	51.93% 94	35.36% 64	9.94% 18	1.66% 3	1.10% 2	181	4.35
Open Space for Motorized Vehicles (snowmobiles, ATV, etc.)	17.32% 31	18.99% 34	32.96% 59	18.99% 34	11.73% 21	179	3.11
Other (write in)	60.00% 21	14.29% 5	20.00% 7	2.86% 1	2.86% 1	35	4.26

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Four wheeler trails, the ability to do more in town for children to enjoy	8/1/2018 9:31 PM
2	Picnic earas and ball fields	8/1/2018 8:44 PM
3	Pickleball courts	6/28/2018 4:56 PM
4	Pro anything that doesnt raise my property taxes	1/31/2018 9:45 PM
5	Cleaning Up The Lake Water NO pesticides .. Neighbor Uses Pesticides on lawn/ weeds 6mths a year goes right into lake	1/30/2018 11:29 PM
6	BAND stand for french river park	1/30/2018 10:53 AM
7	More recreational halls for kids	1/20/2018 4:15 PM
8	Recreational complex Southbridge and Putnam have Y's; Whitinsville has a lovely community center. Webster has nothing.	1/19/2018 6:31 PM
9	Dog Park	1/19/2018 5:02 PM
10	cross-country ski trail, pickle and volley ball courts at beach ...	1/8/2018 6:59 PM
11	protecting potential vernal pools until the commonwealth has time to certify them	1/8/2018 3:24 PM
12	Dog park and places for families and kids	1/4/2018 11:52 AM
13	Open space for recreation activities (ie, sports), dog park	1/4/2018 11:47 AM
14	Hiking trails open for dog walking	1/4/2018 9:54 AM
15	Parks	12/28/2017 7:48 PM
16	Open up sports fields and bill new fields	12/28/2017 10:17 AM
17	Playspaces for kids	12/28/2017 3:48 AM
18	Something for kids to do	12/27/2017 11:21 PM
19	Preservation of the Beach and Island	12/27/2017 10:39 PM
20	Bringing in revenue to our town	12/27/2017 9:04 PM
21	Land where I can bring my dog (but not specifically a dog park)	12/27/2017 9:00 PM
22	We need a local theater. Music, plays, open mic	12/27/2017 8:54 PM
23	Parks & recreation areas for area youth	12/27/2017 7:13 PM
24	Proposed Dog Park	12/27/2017 6:14 PM
25	More activities at Memorial beach	12/27/2017 5:29 PM
26	Marina	12/27/2017 1:26 PM
27	More family friendly areas	12/27/2017 1:24 PM
28	Love to see the development of some running and/or bike trails similar but longer to whats beyond French River Park	12/27/2017 1:13 PM

Q3 To Preserve Open Space Town, Would You:

Answered: 182 Skipped: 0

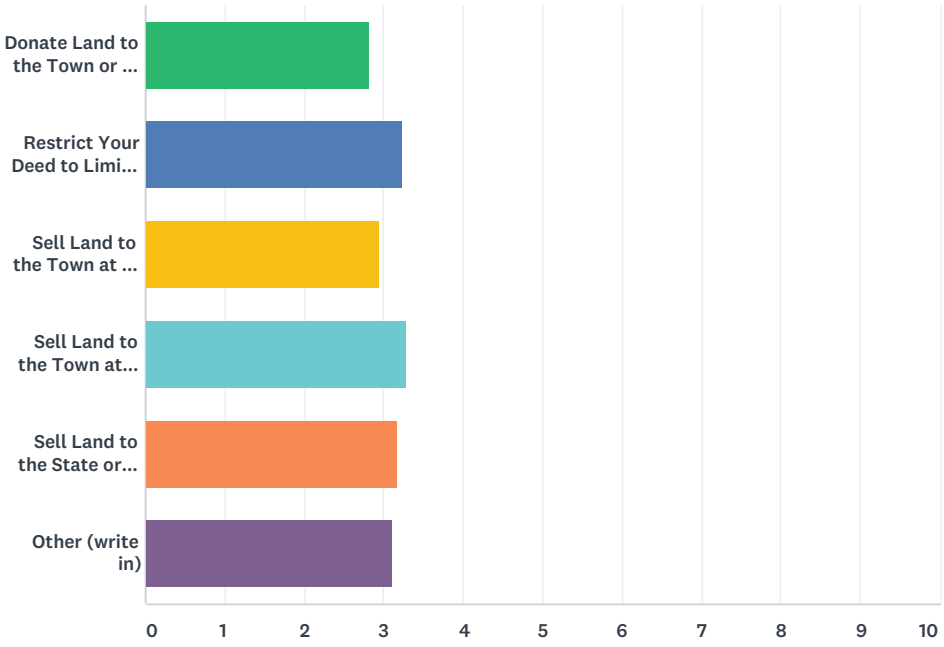


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Donate Money to Buy Land (via a Land Trust)	8.94% 16	27.93% 50	38.55% 69	16.20% 29	8.38% 15	179	3.13
Vote for Zoning Changes to Protect Open Space	34.25% 62	40.33% 73	22.65% 41	1.10% 2	1.66% 3	181	4.04
Vote for Town-Sponsored Land Acquisition	29.44% 53	37.22% 67	27.78% 50	3.33% 6	2.22% 4	180	3.88
Vote to Pay $25-50 in Additional Taxes to Dedicate to Open Space	21.67% 39	30.56% 55	20.00% 36	12.78% 23	15.00% 27	180	3.31
Vote to Eliminate Property Taxes for Seniors who Donate Land	30.39% 55	34.81% 63	20.44% 37	9.39% 17	4.97% 9	181	3.76
Vote to Require All New Developments to Include Open Space	32.04% 58	26.52% 48	30.94% 56	6.08% 11	4.42% 8	181	3.76
Serve on a Town Committee	12.99% 23	25.99% 46	48.59% 86	8.47% 15	3.95% 7	177	3.36
Volunteer to Assist in Operation & Maintenance of a Recreation Resource ("Adopt a Park")	14.04% 25	41.01% 73	33.71% 60	7.30% 13	3.93% 7	178	3.54
Other (write in)	18.75% 3	12.50% 2	56.25% 9	0.00% 0	12.50% 2	16	3.25

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Volunteer to assist? Is t that why we pay taxes?	8/1/2018 7:30 PM
2	Pickleball courts at memorial field tennis courts	6/28/2018 4:56 PM
3	Neighborhood subdivisions should be open to all not just that neighborhood if the town is paying for it	2/17/2018 11:06 PM
4	Agree to Be able to Put Land IN TRUST with 2nd Trust like Ronald McDonald House for kids with Cancer or such as	1/30/2018 11:29 PM
5	Help push agenda to get things done	1/30/2018 10:53 AM
6	The town should apply for state and federal grants. CPA may be an alternative, however, this is an economically disadvantaged community.	1/8/2018 3:24 PM
7	NA	12/28/2017 6:14 PM
8	I would volunteer in youth programs	12/27/2017 5:29 PM
9	notify people on facebook	12/27/2017 2:42 PM

Q4 If You Own Land, Would You do the Following to Preserve Open Space:

Answered: 163 Skipped: 19

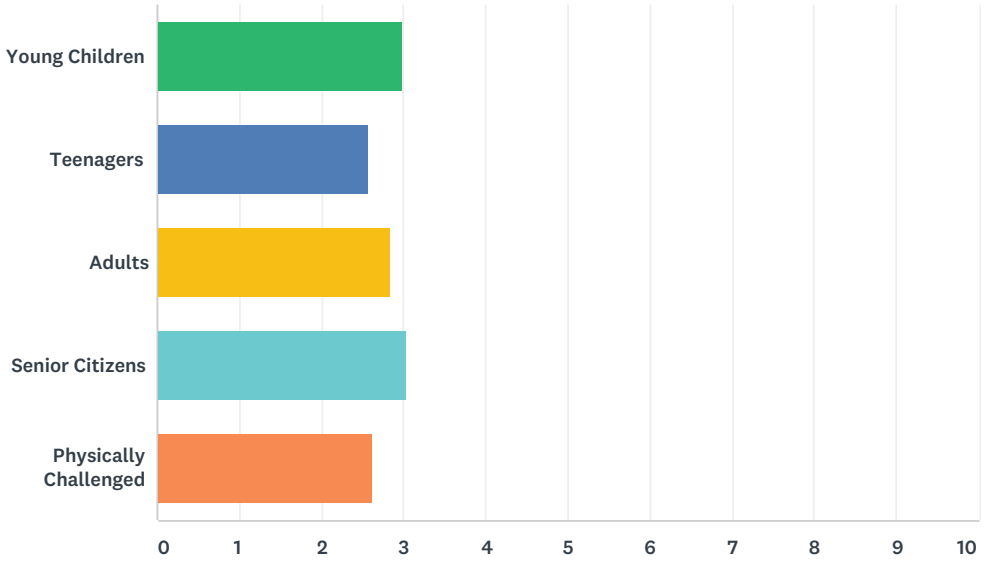


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Donate Land to the Town or a Conservation Group/Land Trust	4.32% 7	14.20% 23	53.09% 86	17.28% 28	11.11% 18	162	2.83
Restrict Your Deed to Limit Future Use/Development of Your Land	12.42% 20	29.19% 47	38.51% 62	10.56% 17	9.32% 15	161	3.25
Sell Land to the Town at a "Bargain" Price (may have tax advantage)	4.97% 8	18.01% 29	52.17% 84	16.15% 26	8.70% 14	161	2.94
Sell Land to the Town at Market Value	8.64% 14	32.10% 52	44.44% 72	8.64% 14	6.17% 10	162	3.28
Sell Land to the State or a Conservation Group/Land Trust	7.41% 12	24.69% 40	52.47% 85	9.26% 15	6.17% 10	162	3.18
Other (write in)	11.11% 2	5.56% 1	72.22% 13	5.56% 1	5.56% 1	18	3.11

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Where is the n/a	8/1/2018 10:24 PM
2	In Trust for Kids that can have a chance to enjoy The Lake like the way it was 20-30 yrs ago.	1/30/2018 11:29 PM
3	not applicable	1/20/2018 11:39 AM
4	N/A	12/30/2017 3:29 PM
5	Would need more info on what to do in situation like this, not familiar with real estate issues.	12/28/2017 8:40 PM
6	I don't own land for preservation.	12/28/2017 6:50 PM
7	I don’t own land or a home in webster	12/27/2017 6:44 PM
8	0wn no land.	12/27/2017 2:42 PM

Q5 Existing Recreational Opportunities in Town are Adequate for:

Answered: 179 Skipped: 3



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Young Children	12.85% 23	24.58% 44	21.79% 39	30.17% 54	10.61% 19	179	2.99
Teenagers	10.06% 18	14.53% 26	16.20% 29	41.34% 74	17.88% 32	179	2.58
Adults	7.26% 13	26.82% 48	23.46% 42	27.37% 49	15.08% 27	179	2.84
Senior Citizens	11.17% 20	26.82% 48	24.58% 44	30.17% 54	7.26% 13	179	3.04
Physically Challenged	7.87% 14	10.67% 19	33.15% 59	32.02% 57	16.29% 29	178	2.62

Q6 What Recreational Facilities are Needed in Town?

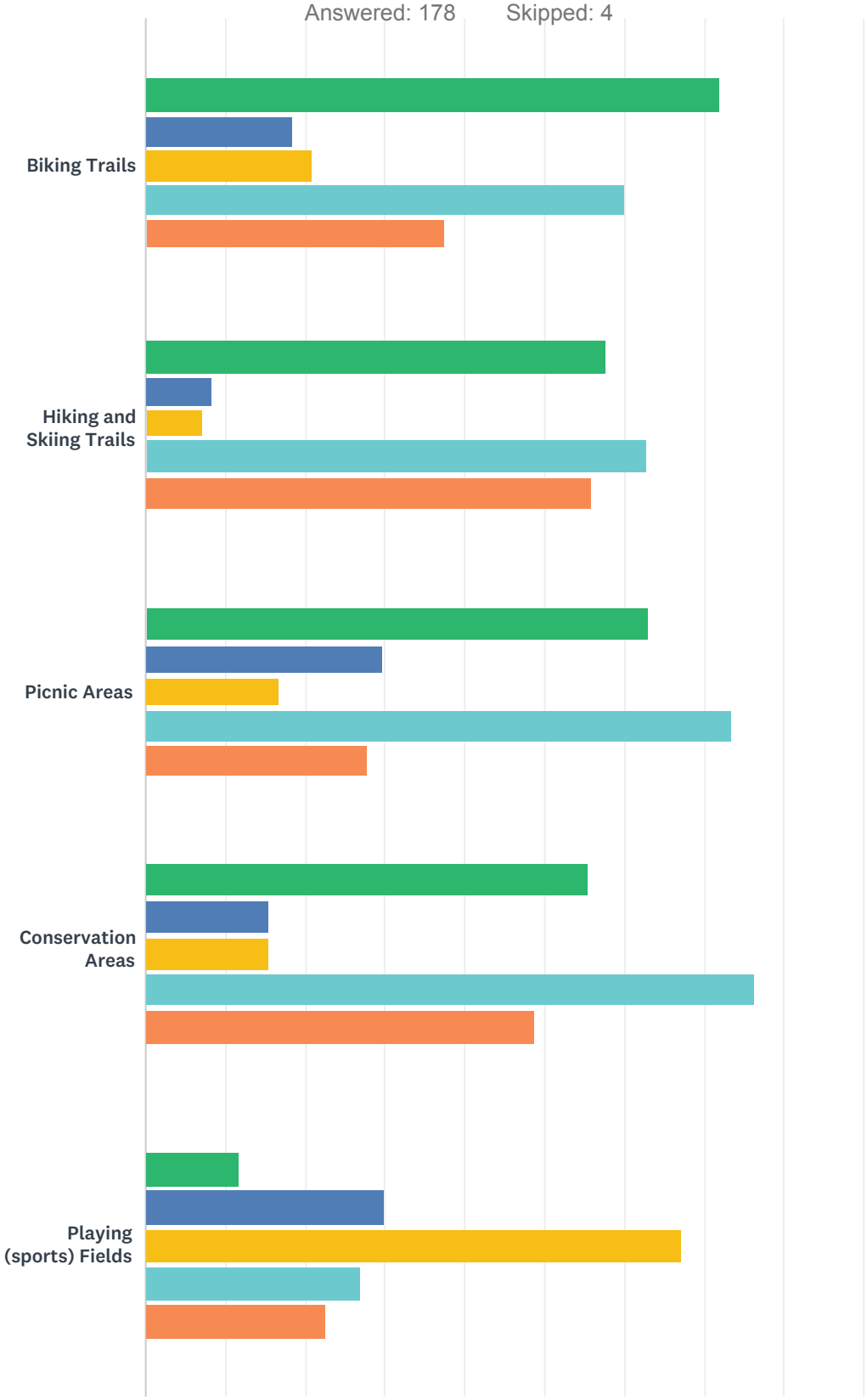
Answered: 181 Skipped: 1

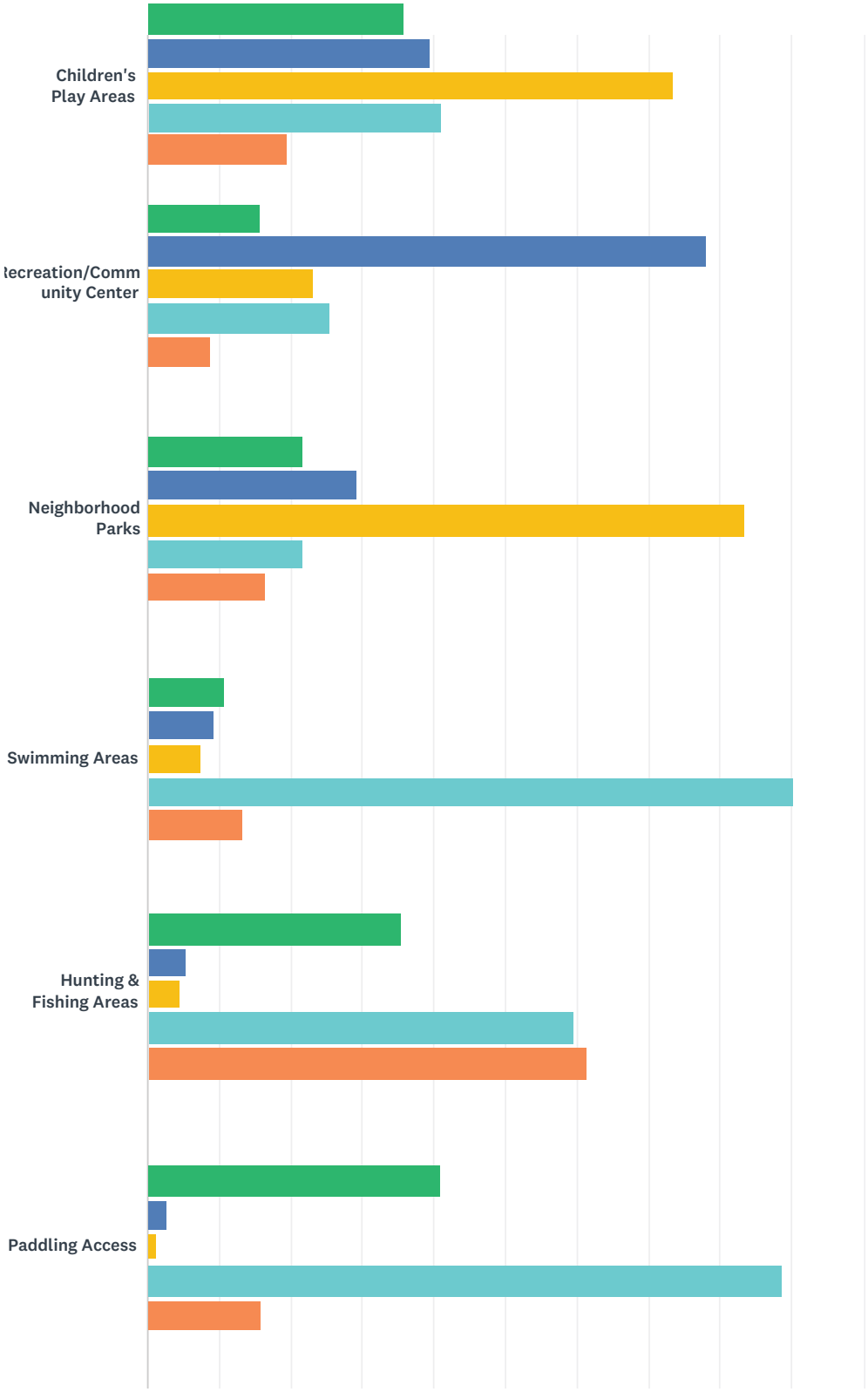
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Biking Trails	36.11% 65	38.89% 70	20.56% 37	3.33% 6	1.11% 2	180	4.06
Hiking and Skiing Trails	34.64% 62	34.64% 62	22.35% 40	7.26% 13	1.12% 2	179	3.94
Picnic Areas	28.09% 50	39.33% 70	26.97% 48	5.62% 10	0.00% 0	178	3.90
Conservation Areas	30.17% 54	36.87% 66	29.05% 52	2.23% 4	1.68% 3	179	3.92
Playing (sports) Fields	19.10% 34	33.15% 59	33.71% 60	11.80% 21	2.25% 4	178	3.55
Children's Play Areas	27.53% 49	38.76% 69	23.60% 42	8.43% 15	1.69% 3	178	3.82
Recreation/Community Center	39.11% 70	36.31% 65	18.99% 34	3.91% 7	1.68% 3	179	4.07
Neighborhood Parks	32.40% 58	39.66% 71	20.11% 36	6.15% 11	1.68% 3	179	3.95
Swimming Areas	29.61% 53	33.52% 60	19.55% 35	14.53% 26	2.79% 5	179	3.73
Hunting & Fishing Areas	18.54% 33	19.10% 34	42.13% 75	14.61% 26	5.62% 10	178	3.30
Paddling Access	24.72% 44	38.20% 68	28.09% 50	7.87% 14	1.12% 2	178	3.78
Motor and Sailboat Access	15.82% 28	23.73% 42	33.90% 60	20.34% 36	6.21% 11	177	3.23
Basketball Courts	14.04% 25	33.15% 59	36.52% 65	11.80% 21	4.49% 8	178	3.40
Tennis Courts	10.67% 19	30.34% 54	42.70% 76	10.67% 19	5.62% 10	178	3.30
Improved Sidewalks	48.62% 88	31.49% 57	16.57% 30	1.66% 3	1.66% 3	181	4.24
Ice Skating Facilities	20.45% 36	37.50% 66	25.57% 45	10.80% 19	5.68% 10	176	3.56
Skateboard Parks	11.86% 21	24.86% 44	38.98% 69	15.25% 27	9.04% 16	177	3.15
Campgrounds	13.07% 23	17.61% 31	40.91% 72	19.32% 34	9.09% 16	176	3.06
Dog Park	38.76% 69	28.65% 51	21.35% 38	7.30% 13	3.93% 7	178	3.91
Riverwalk	37.43% 67	36.31% 65	19.55% 35	3.35% 6	3.35% 6	179	4.01
Downtown/Urban Park	28.74% 50	37.93% 66	23.56% 41	6.90% 12	2.87% 5	174	3.83
Open Space Downtown	26.26% 47	34.08% 61	30.17% 54	6.70% 12	2.79% 5	179	3.74
Other (write in)	52.63% 10	10.53% 2	31.58% 6	0.00% 0	5.26% 1	19	4.05

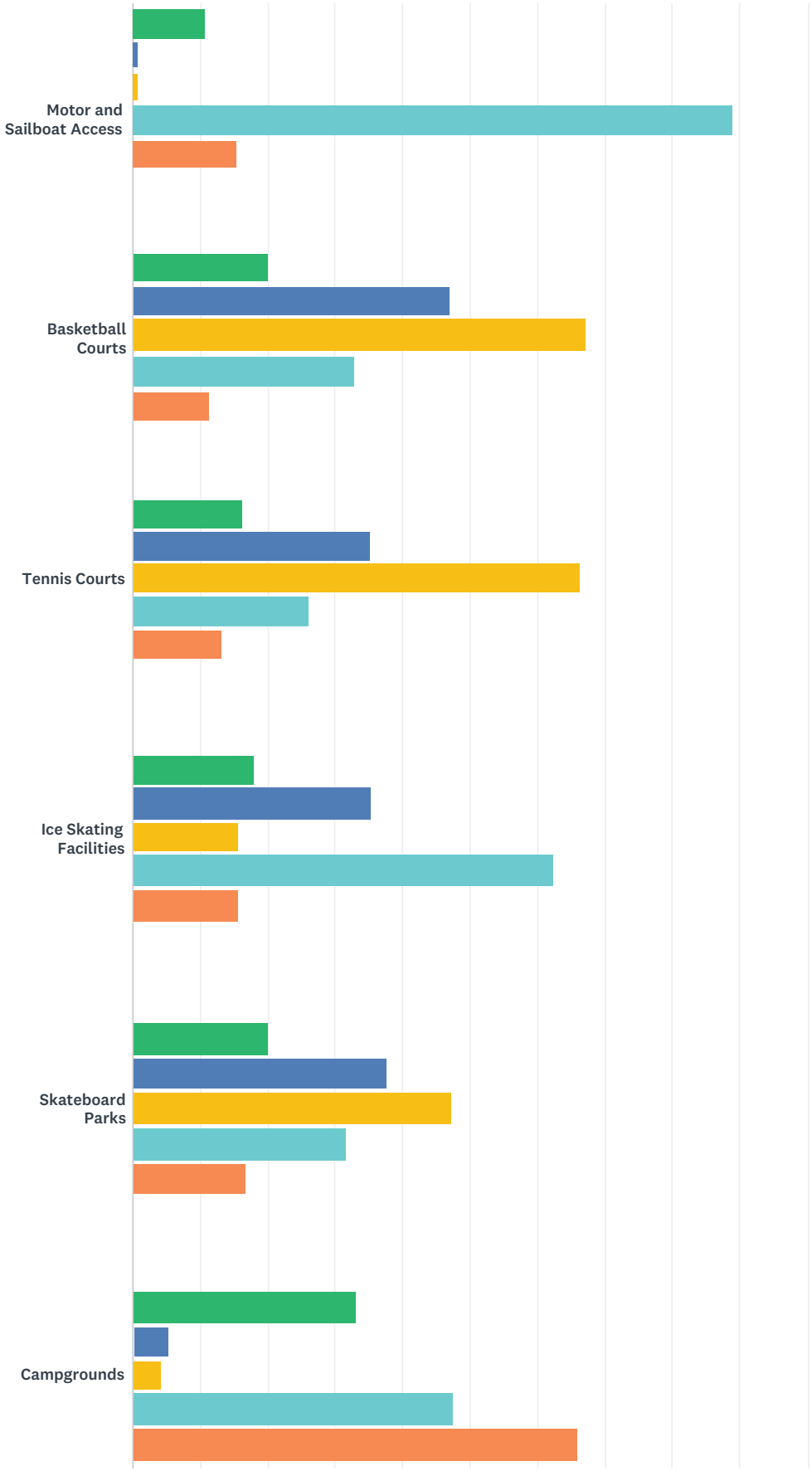
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Safe drug free play grounds that are policed since no one can use any like at May St or Ray st due to the riff raff	8/1/2018 7:06 PM
2	Pickleball courts	6/28/2018 4:56 PM
3	significant improvement of existing ones	2/25/2018 10:10 PM
4	Better use and care of Memorial beach in the fall is needed	2/17/2018 11:06 PM
5	River Tubing	2/12/2018 12:14 PM
6	A LOCAL theater!! Live bands LIVE plays	1/30/2018 10:53 AM
7	We have many of these things. Wher we have enough- I chose neutral as we already have enough,	1/20/2018 11:39 AM
8	sidewalk on Thompson Rd	1/8/2018 6:59 PM
9	An indoor swimming pool or a partnership with a gym to build one , cudworth rd gym appears to have space or at the High School	1/8/2018 3:24 PM
10	Make boat ramp on lakeside ave for webster residents only out of town people pack the area bec	1/4/2018 12:29 PM
11	more opportunitites at lake	1/4/2018 11:52 AM
12	Need to stop commercial zoning in the lake area	12/29/2017 3:46 PM
13	Snowmobile trails	12/28/2017 3:07 PM
14	All area the town has now need to be renvovated and up dated, ie may st park, Ray st fields, Slater st park	12/27/2017 11:18 PM
15	Local theater	12/27/2017 8:54 PM
16	Local mom and pop restaurants	12/27/2017 4:31 PM

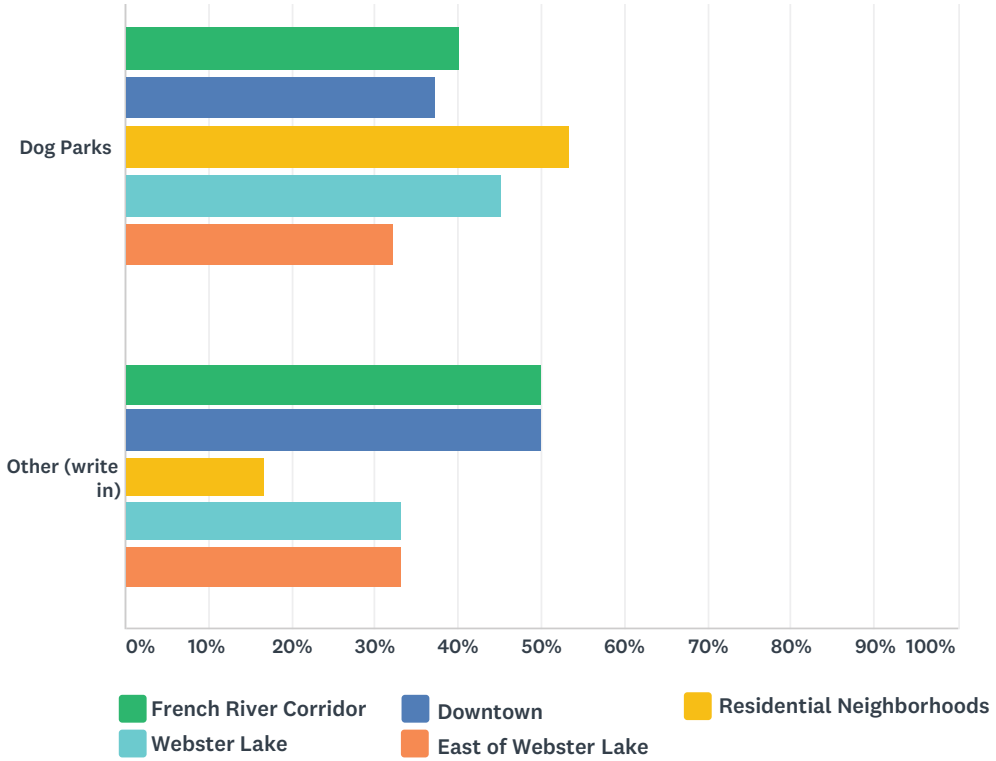
Q7 Where in Town Would You Like to Have These Facilities? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 178 Skipped: 4




Children's Play Areas
ecreation/Comm unity Center
Neighborhood Parks
Swimming Areas
Hunting & Fishing Areas
Paddling Access

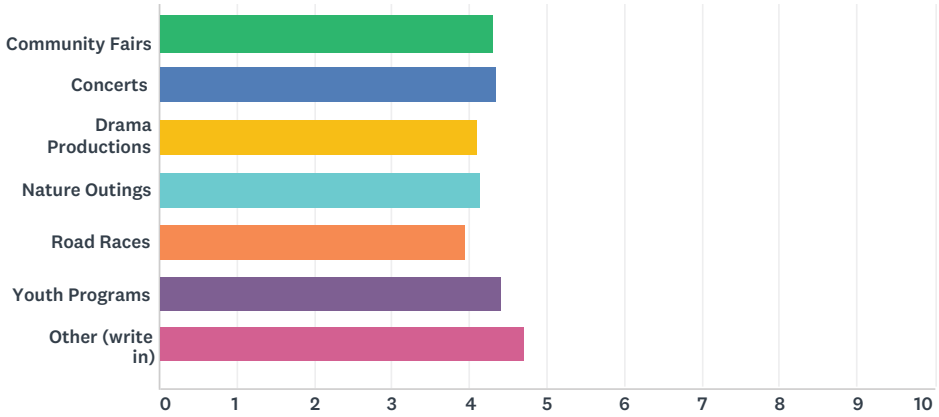

Motor and Sailboat Access
Basketball Courts
Tennis Courts
Ice Skating Facilities
Skateboard Parks
Campgrounds



	FRENCH RIVER CORRIDOR	DOWNTOWN	RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS	WEBSTER LAKE	EAST OF WEBSTER LAKE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Biking Trails	72.02% 121	18.45% 31	20.83% 35	60.12% 101	37.50% 63	168
Hiking and Skiing Trails	57.69% 90	8.33% 13	7.05% 11	62.82% 98	55.77% 87	156
Picnic Areas	62.96% 102	29.63% 48	16.67% 27	73.46% 119	27.78% 45	162
Conservation Areas	55.41% 82	15.54% 23	15.54% 23	76.35% 113	48.65% 72	148
Playing (sports) Fields	11.68% 16	29.93% 41	67.15% 92	27.01% 37	22.63% 31	137
Children's Play Areas	35.71% 55	39.61% 61	73.38% 113	40.91% 63	19.48% 30	154
Recreation/Community Center	15.63% 25	78.13% 125	23.13% 37	25.62% 41	8.75% 14	160
Neighborhood Parks	21.66% 34	29.30% 46	83.44% 131	21.66% 34	16.56% 26	157
Swimming Areas	10.60% 16	9.27% 14	7.28% 11	90.07% 136	13.25% 20	151
Hunting & Fishing Areas	35.34% 41	5.17% 6	4.31% 5	59.48% 69	61.21% 71	116
Paddling Access	41.06% 62	2.65% 4	1.32% 2	88.74% 134	15.89% 24	151
Motor and Sailboat Access	10.85% 14	0.78% 1	0.78% 1	89.15% 115	15.50% 20	129

Q8 What Programs and Cultural Events Would You Like to See in Webster?

Answered: 180 Skipped: 2

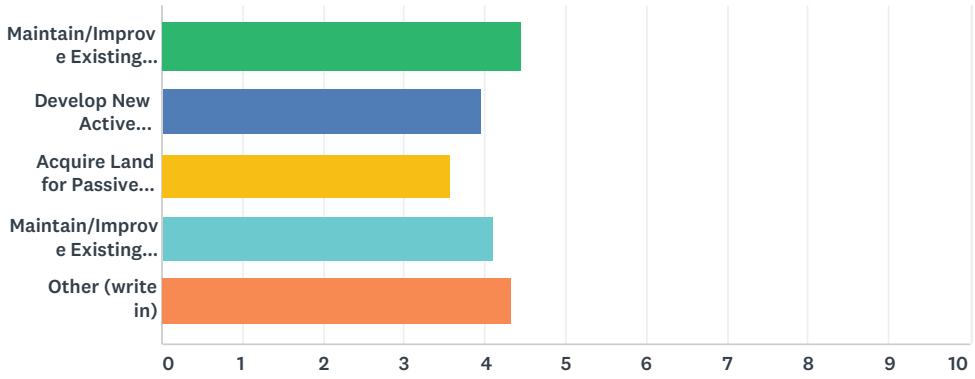


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community Fairs	41.14% 72	42.86% 75	12.00% 21	2.86% 5	1.14% 2	175	4.30
Concerts	45.14% 79	42.86% 75	10.29% 18	1.71% 3	0.00% 0	175	4.35
Drama Productions	31.58% 54	39.77% 68	24.56% 42	2.34% 4	1.75% 3	171	4.09
Nature Outings	33.91% 59	44.25% 77	19.54% 34	1.72% 3	0.57% 1	174	4.15
Road Races	22.49% 38	28.40% 48	32.54% 55	10.06% 17	6.51% 11	169	3.96
Youth Programs	51.43% 90	35.43% 62	11.43% 20	1.14% 2	0.57% 1	175	4.41
Other (write in)	85.71% 12	0.00% 0	14.29% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14	4.71

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	pay to play summer rec programs	8/3/2018 10:29 AM
2	Exercise classes, lessons on topics, crafts, etc. Framingham has a well developed rec dept	8/1/2018 9:00 PM
3	Community center with a pool can offer a rev swim league and revenue of charging for swimming times	8/1/2018 7:06 PM
4	Farmers Markets	2/12/2018 12:14 PM
5	A small movie theater even a screen at town hall with 1980s movies all the way to 1920s>> I would volunteer a few weekends for sure	1/30/2018 10:53 AM
6	Theater, demonstrations, speakers	1/8/2018 6:59 PM
7	Allow only non-motorized boat access on lakeside, canoes, kayakes, etc. Move motorized access to the town/state partnership boat ramp.	1/8/2018 3:24 PM
8	summer camps for kids we pay in oxford and dudley for camp now	1/4/2018 11:52 AM
9	Farmers Market or Open Air Market	12/29/2017 3:46 PM
10	Over 18 youth activities	12/29/2017 12:33 AM
11	Block parties, town wide yard sales, car shows	12/28/2017 8:40 PM
12	More community involoment	12/27/2017 8:54 PM
13	Karaoke, Comedy, Interactive Improv for teenagers?	12/27/2017 6:14 PM
14	Downtown business fairs	12/27/2017 4:43 PM
15	Boat races	12/27/2017 1:26 PM

Q9 What are Your Priorities for Open Space and Recreation Spending?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 3

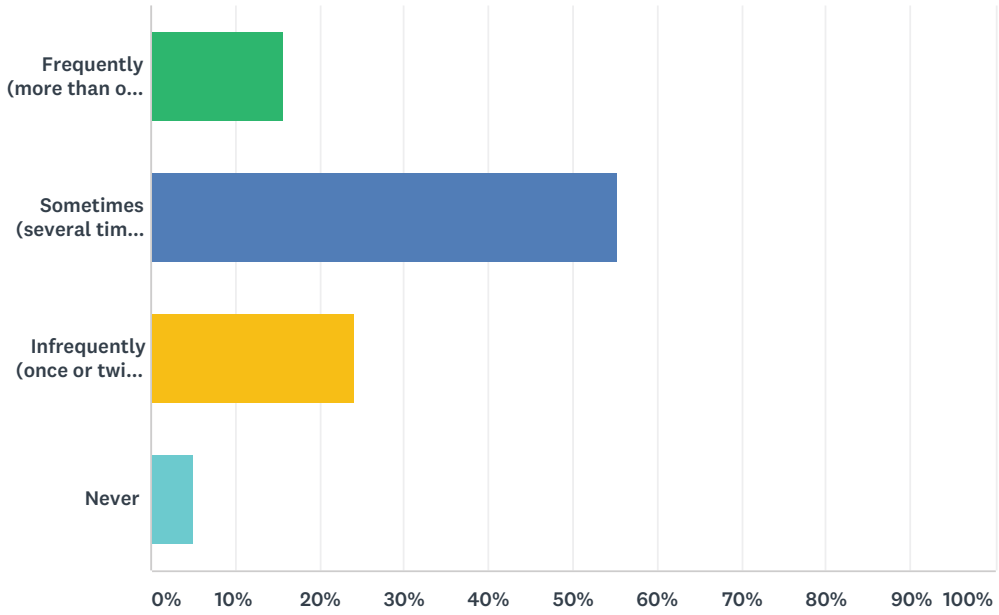


	HIGHEST PRIORITY	MODERATE-HIGH PRIORITY	MODERATE-LOW PRIORITY	LOWEST PRIORITY	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Maintain/Improve Existing Active Recreation Facilities (Parks, Ballfields, Beaches, Rec. Center, etc.)	50.84% 91	43.58% 78	5.03% 9	0.56% 1	0.00% 0	179	4.45
Develop New Active Recreation Facilities	33.90% 60	38.42% 68	18.64% 33	7.91% 14	1.13% 2	177	3.95
Acquire Land for Passive Recreational Use (hiking, paddling, nature watching)	25.70% 46	24.58% 44	31.84% 57	17.32% 31	0.56% 1	179	3.57
Maintain/Improve Existing Passive Recreation Land	39.43% 69	37.71% 66	17.14% 30	4.57% 8	1.14% 2	175	4.09
Other (write in)	77.78% 7	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	9	4.33

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Any initiatives that are brought forth to the selectmen or initiated by the selectmen should be considered only after it is proven that it will benefit the property owners and reduce real estate taxes and excise taxes. Any town sponsored program should show the full projected costs with the anticipated impact on real estate taxes and other fees.	8/2/2018 11:05 AM
2	Better maintain the beach. Especially in sept and October	2/17/2018 11:06 PM
3	restrict lake shore property building height to 1 story	1/31/2018 4:09 PM
4	GET people INVOLVED	1/30/2018 10:53 AM
5	Really do not know enough about what is available to make an informed decision.	1/20/2018 11:39 AM
6	Use land we already have.	1/19/2018 3:49 PM
7	Charge out of town residents accordingly in the lake area and use that money to better	12/29/2017 3:46 PM
8	Maintain/improve on what we presently have before taking on anything new.	12/28/2017 8:40 PM
9	Bike trail	12/28/2017 7:48 PM
10	Utilize what we have	12/27/2017 8:54 PM
11	We need activities to promote positive youth development	12/27/2017 5:29 PM
12	A community center like the one in Oxford in one of the many empty spaces downtown	12/27/2017 12:39 PM

Q10 How Often do You Attend or Participate in Webster Recreational Activities?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 3

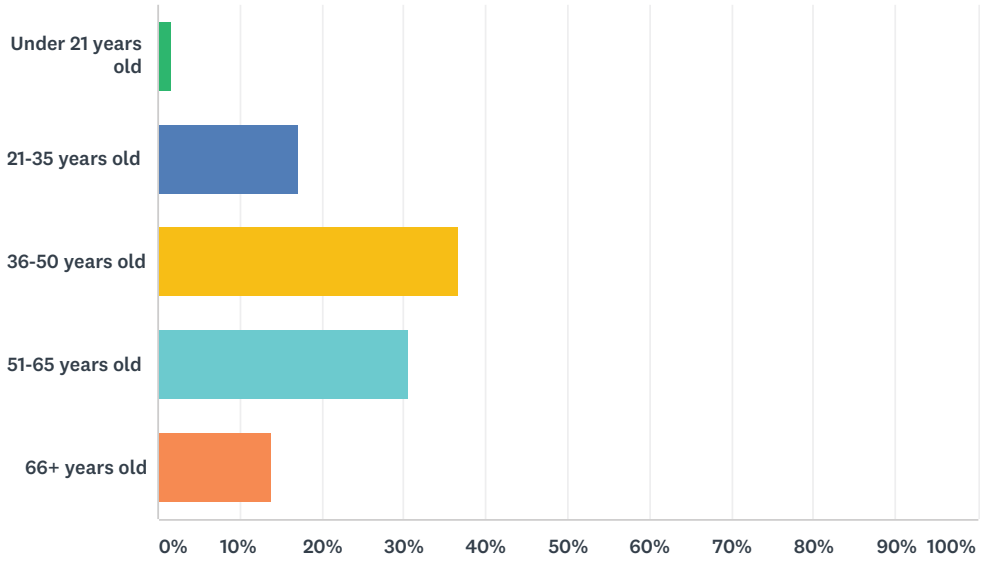


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Frequently (more than once a month)	15.64%	28
Sometimes (several times per year)	55.31%	99
Infrequently (once or twice a year)	24.02%	43
Never	5.03%	9
TOTAL		179

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I'm new to the area I haven't yet been to any yet	1/20/2018 4:15 PM
2	go to other towns for activities since they are beautiful, webster lake run down sign says dont run at webster lake track? unwelcoming	1/4/2018 11:52 AM

Q11 What is Your Age Range? (for demographic purposes only)

Answered: 180 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 21 years old	1.67%	3
21-35 years old	17.22%	31
36-50 years old	36.67%	66
51-65 years old	30.56%	55
66+ years old	13.89%	25
TOTAL		180

TOWN OF WEBSTER

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

October 2018