

# **TOWN OF CLINTON**

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan**

**2016 – 2020**



**July 2016**

**Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee**

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## Preface • Acknowledgements

*“We cannot leave this subject without a word upon the beauty of Clinton considered as a whole. We are peculiarly blessed by nature with a picturesque and diversified river valley, with broad terrace plains and lofty hills whence the most charming views can be obtained. Under the auspices of the town, art has added to nature by the planting of trees, the laying out of parks and the construction of public buildings of architectural merit. The religious societies, the corporations and other organizations have done their part to help on the good work by the edifices they have erected. Private citizens have assisted by the good taste they have displayed in their business blocks, residences and grounds, and the care they have expended so lavishly upon them. It seemed to be the universal expression of our visitors that the beauty of Clinton was unsurpassed by that of any town they had seen.”*

*“Clinton Memorial Volume”, 1900*

While this evocative description of Clinton’s landscape was written more than one hundred years ago, the basic conceit upon which it relies—that art adds to nature to make a town—remains compelling today. This Plan considers one area where community endeavor and the landscape intersect; it articulates the desires of the community as they were expressed during a series of public forums, and it forecasts a course of action that is intended to augment the quality of life that is available to present and future residents of Clinton.

This Plan is the result of many months’ work by many individuals. The strongest debt of gratitude is owed to the many citizens of Clinton who participated in the Open Space Planning workshops held at Town Hall in the winter and spring of 2013. Jason Stanton of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission provided timely assistance with the completion of the maps included in Appendix B. At Town Hall, Town Administrator Mike Ward and Permitting Clerk Dinorah Caraballo were especially helpful.

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*cover photo by Christine Latini*

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## SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

Not more than three miles long or two miles wide, Clinton is a compact and densely settled community whose landscape is characterized by steep slopes, forested outskirts, and a multitude of water resources, which include the Nashua River and Counterpane Brook, Clamshell Pond, a network of connected ponds in the southwest corner of town, and of course, the Wachusett Reservoir. One of the most compelling qualities of life in Clinton is the proximity of these distinctive landscape features with an equally distinctive townscape of neighborhoods, parks, civic places, and historic mill complexes.

These neighborhoods are home to a diverse population who hold a range of recreational desires and differing regard for the absolute value of Open Space. By this Plan, Clinton recognizes the need to preserve priority parcels, water resources and habitats- not merely for their intrinsic resource value, but also as an essential corollary to our town's built environment. It is a fundamental goal of this Plan to establish connections—where appropriate— between these distinctive environments within our community, and also to preserve and extend core habitat connections to the larger region. This Plan also articulates a community desire to expand recreational opportunities for residents of the Town.

The purpose of the 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to balance the ecological, social, and financial needs of the community, to preserve Clinton's natural resources and unique features, and to assure that open space and recreation are central components of the Town's long-range planning. Towards these ends, the Plan intends to:

- ♦ Identify and promote the distinctive features that define the Town;
- ♦ Preserve the character of the landscape in light of future urban development;
- ♦ Protect critical natural resources from the adverse effects of development;
- ♦ Direct growth to appropriate areas;
- ♦ Enhance Clinton's recreational resources through management, upgrades and diversification;
- ♦ Expand the recreational activities available in Clinton
- ♦ Encourage active participation in regional, state and federal programs that will help Clinton accomplish its goals and objectives;
- ♦ Develop a five-year strategy with specific actions to satisfy open space and recreation goals and objectives; and
- ♦ Engage residents in shaping their community's future.

## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

### 2.A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Clinton understands the importance of providing open space and recreation opportunities to its residents. Intensive use of existing resources in Clinton is inescapable because of the Town's small size and densely developed landscape. The Town has undergone a transformation from a historically thriving mill town to a town with a declining economic base and an increase in residential development, which has consumed much of Clinton's remaining open space areas. The purpose of the *2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan* is to examine the factors affecting open space and recreation in Clinton and develop a achievable and coordinated strategy to enhance recreational opportunities and preserve the Town's unique base of natural and historically significant resources.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan follows upon plans issued in 2000 and 2007. Prior plans have immediately preceded a re-codification of zoning intended to further open space and recreational goals, and also the conveyance and management of parcels of recreational and resource protection value- Rauscher Farm, especially. During the interval of time that separates this Plan's public process and its submittal to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, multiple municipal actions have been undertaken to attain its goals. These actions include planning, the marked expansion of Parks and Recreation programs, the marked expansion of senior activities coincident with the opening of the Senior Center, improvements to park facilities, the adoption of a Complete Streets policy, and improvements to town sidewalks and crossings. In addition, public-private partnerships have created new youth athletic leagues and a community garden, located at the center of our most distressed Environmental Justice census block group.

### 2.B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Clinton initiated the process of preparing an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2012. Toward this end, the Town of Clinton Planning Board appointed an Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee (OSRPC) that was charged with overseeing the development of this plan. The OSRPC is made up of seven members, including representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Board of Selectman, the Office of Community and Economic Development, the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, and other local residents.

The Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee held numerous meetings that were posted at Town Hall and open to the public to attend. Public participation in this update of

the plan occurred through four community workshops held on the following dates: November 15, 2012, March 5, 2013, May 6, 2013, and September 17, 2013. The workshops were useful tools for gathering concerns, perceptions, likes and dislikes about Clinton's existing open space and recreation areas, and the Town's future needs. The Committee considered all of the information and opinions gathered at these workshops when developing the vision, goals and objectives for the updated 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Based on input from the public, it was determined that recreation should be a priority in this update to the plan.

The Committee also spent a considerable amount of time drafting and refining goals and objectives, and designing a five-year action strategy to accomplish them. One of the Committee's primary concerns was to devise a strategy that is realistic and achievable for the Town. When municipal open space and recreation plans fail to consider a community's resource limitations, they formulate action strategies that are overly ambitious for a five-year timeframe. The Clinton Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee has made a conscientious effort to develop a strategy that the Town can successfully implement.

## **2.C. ENHANCED OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

According to 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) data (still, the most recent dataset utilized by HUD to determine Fair Market Rents), 37% of residents reside in one of Clinton's four Environmental Justice census block groups. These neighborhoods, include downtown Clinton, and many nearby neighborhoods of older homes. Due to the historical development of the community, most of the Town's existing recreational resources are located within these block groups. The demographic fabric of Clinton, moreover, is very "smooth"; for instance while the percentage of low- and moderate income residents of these 4 block groups is 55.7%, well more than half the community- 7,575 residents- live in block groups that show a similar profile (52.3% LMI)<sup>1</sup>. There are few communities in the Commonwealth where the gap between median household income (\$64,867) and mean household income (\$73,130) is so narrow- indicating that the range of household wealth within the community is not broad<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/acs-low-mod-summary-data-block-groups-places>

<sup>2</sup> 2014 American Community Survey, Table DP-03

According to the 2010 US Census, 13.6% of the community is Hispanic or Latino of any race, the largest minority in Clinton<sup>3</sup>. According to the 2014 ACS, the percentage of Spanish speakers who speak English “less than very well” is 24.5%.

Simultaneous with the development of this Plan, the Town conducted Community Development Strategy (CDS) hearings in conjunction with its application to the Community Development Block Grant program, which in that year, targeted these same census block groups. Notice of the Open Space and Recreation Plan development was given during CDS hearings, which were held in that year at the Clinton Senior Center and Clinton Town Hall.

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<sup>3</sup> 2010 US Census, Table QT-P3

## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

### 3.A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

Clinton is a historic manufacturing community in northern Worcester County, bounded by the towns of Lancaster, Bolton, Berlin, Boylston and Sterling (Map 1). It is located about 13 miles north of Worcester and 35 miles west of Boston, and is notable within its region for its compact urban form, historic architecture, economy, and water resources. Clinton is the Commonwealth's 19<sup>th</sup> smallest town, both in total area (7.3 sq. mi) and land area (5.7 sq. mi.), and the third smallest in Worcester County. Its most noteworthy physical feature, the Wachusett Reservoir, supplies drinking water to 2.5 million people in Eastern Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).

Political boundaries are helpful for understanding a community's governmental, fiscal, population and housing characteristics, but they rarely define the location or extent of the natural resources found in cities and towns. For planning purposes, watersheds provide a more useful perspective because they relate to the topography, drainage patterns, and to a large degree variations in soils, vegetation, and wildlife. Clinton's municipal boundary includes portions of two major drainage basins (watersheds): the Nashua River Watershed, which covers about 75% of the Town, and the Assabet River Watershed, which covers the southeast section of Town. The watershed divide generally runs along or near Chace and Wilson Streets on the east side of Clinton, following a continuous ridge line that offers a distinctive eastern gateway into the community.

#### **Transportation**

Clinton's principal highways include State Routes 62, 70 and 110. Route 62 follows a primarily east-west pathway across the state, from Barre to Beverly, and provides access to Sterling and Route 190, approximately 5 miles to the west, and to Berlin and Route 495, which is approximately 5 miles to the east. Route 70 runs north to south between Worcester and Lunenburg, and Route 110, also a north-south roadway, extends from West Boylston to Salisbury, tracking the course of the Merrimack River for roughly half of its journey across Eastern Massachusetts. These roadways serve Clinton by providing access to Lancaster and Route 2, approximately 7.5 miles to the north, to Route 290, approximately 7 miles southeast, and to Worcester. The local road network moves people on in-town trips and carries regional traffic between towns not connected to a federal or state highway.

In addition to highway access, Clinton has access to other modes of transportation. Freight rail service is available from CSX and Pan American Railways. The closest airport is Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger

service. As a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), Clinton's seniors also have access to out-of-town transportation to Worcester three times per week, for medical appointments and shopping excursions. Contract bus service connecting Clinton to Worcester and Northampton commenced in 2015. The Town is currently conducting a survey of public transportation needs with the WRTA, to identify community need for the restoration of fixed-route service.

## **Economy**

In contrast to the predominantly rural, partly-developed character of neighboring towns, Clinton's development pattern is fairly urban and the town continues to function as a regional economic center. There are over 330 employer establishments in Clinton that employ 4,545<sup>4</sup>, with manufacturing, health care, retail trade, and construction among the most prominent employment sectors. Manufacturing continues to be an important industry in the Town's economic livelihood; in 2014, 19 manufacturing companies employed more than 1,450 people, with an average weekly wage, \$1,454. Across all sectors of private employment, the average weekly wage earned in Clinton was \$945 in 2014, which is lower than the average weekly wage earned in Worcester County (\$961) and in Massachusetts (\$1,246). The rate wage growth over the last 5 years (8.2%) has slightly outpaced that of the County, but has lagged behind the state's rate of growth.

One of Clinton's major planning goals is to remain a place that provides job opportunities to its own residents so that it does not become another "bedroom community" within the orbit of metropolitan Boston. Clinton is not alone in its struggle to retain employers and attract new ones. Within Clinton's region, job creation and levels of investment continue to grow at Devens, in the City of Worcester, and along the route 495 belt- albeit, not at the rates witnessed in eastern Massachusetts. For smaller, outlying communities, it remains a struggle to attract transformative capital investment; for traditional economic centers like Clinton – small in land area, largely built out and home to a mixed-income population – the challenges can be particularly daunting. Even though they have the public water and sewer service that industries demand, they do not have large amounts of construction-ready land and often, they lack the prestige that tends to lure the Commonwealth's prominent employment sectors.

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<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts EOWLD; es-202 Annual Report (2014)



### **3.B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY**

Since the time of its first settlement, much of Clinton's history has been predicated upon the abundance of useful water, and shaped by the numerous hills which are so conspicuously a part of its fabric. In turn, three centuries of human activity have just as profoundly re-shaped these elements of the natural landscape.

The first European settler within the present boundaries of the town of Clinton, John Prescott, was drawn by the running waters of South Meadow Brook (the surviving part of which is now called Counterpane Brook), where he established Worcester County's first grist mill in 1654; this mill is reputed to have been situated just north of the present day Prescott Mills on Water Street. Five years later, Prescott began operation of a saw mill upstream on the same brook, in the present-day location of the Bigelow Mills on Main Street. In order to augment the flow of South Meadow Brook, a trench 8 feet wide was actually dug at a distance of approximately ½ mile to connect the waters of Sandy Pond to the brook at a point just above the sawmill dam. This sawmill remained in operation until 1809, and improvements to its dam in 1801 created the nub of impounded water that was to become Coachlace Pond. Local access to these mill-sites was likely served by present-day Water Street, which may have been established upon an Algonquin path, and Main Street, which was laid out and improved in the seventeenth century.

Throughout the pre-revolutionary period, a small group of families continued the settlement of present-day Clinton. These families-Allen, Goss, Sawyer, Chace, Rice, Burdett, Larkin, Lowe- often established themselves upon broad terrace ridges on westerly slopes that overlooked rivers or streams. Certain of their houses can still be seen on Main Street and Chace Street, and these family names survive today as place-names or street-names. Other areas of early settlement include the vale of the south branch of the Nashua, in the area now occupied by Lancaster Mills, the north end of Main Street, and the low-lying areas adjacent to Clamshell Pond, which remains today the only significant waterbody in town that has not been decisively re-shaped by human hands.

While farming remained the principal activity of the inhabitants of present-day Clinton during the post-revolutionary era, local histories mention numerous activities that put use to the latent water-power resident in the landscape. By 1790, in order to take advantage of the 22-foot descent that separated the two Prescott privileges, a dam and sawmill were inserted between the two on South Meadow Brook. By 1804, there was a nail factory well south of the Prescott sawmill on South Meadow Brook. In 1810, a dam was constructed on the Nashua River, at the present-day site of the Lancaster Mills, to serve a gristmill and sawmill. A water privilege and comb factory were established on South Meadow brook in the area of Allen Street in 1813; another comb factory and privilege were established on Rigby Brook in 1823, and yet another comb factory and dam (the abutments are still visible today) were built

on the Nashua river at the base of Harris Hill in 1830-31; this last comb factory was enlarged numerous times and remained a going concern for over 50 years.

Industrial activity on a meaningful scale came to Clinton in 1809, when David Poignand and Samuel Plant purchased the Prescott sawmill privilege on South Meadow Brook and constructed a factory for the manufacture of linens. Poignand and Plant raised the height of the dam at their site, and in 1814, demolished the intermediary sawmill dam mentioned above in order to provide for more predictable power at their upstream site. Their enterprise, incorporated as the Lancaster Cotton Manufacturing Company is an exact contemporary of the enterprise established by Francis Cabot Lowell at Waltham, and was built on the same model of integrated production. While Poignand and Plant was not ultimately a successful enterprise, having been dissolved in 1838, their tenure provides the earliest demonstration of the new economies and new populations that were about to effect a wholesale transformation of the landscape and the community; Whereas the labor required by the proto-industries that preceded Poignand and Plant was provided by local farmers during the fallow stretches of the agricultural calendar, this new enterprise demanded a full-time labor force, primarily female. The needs of this new population required the construction of housing and the laying out of a small village- named, in fact, Factory Village. The resident male labor force found employment in the new enterprise as teamsters and jobbers, and the development of a local expertise in building was given a new impetus which would be sustained and advanced over the coming half-century. Poignand and Plant constructed the first mill complex in Clinton, one building of which, constructed in 1819, is still extant.

It is with the purchase in 1838 of the Poignand and Plant site by Erastus and Horatio Bigelow, however, that the history of Clinton as a distinct place and community begins.

Erastus Brigham Bigelow, born in West Boylston in 1814, is considered one of our nation's great mechanical geniuses; during his lifetimes he invented mechanical looms for the manufacture of coachlace trim, counterpane cloth, gingham cloth, ingrain carpet, Brussels carpet, and woven wire fabric, the last of which is used to make window screens, which did not exist prior to Bigelow's innovations. Bigelow's loom for the manufacture of Brussels carpet was the first practical application of the "binary instruction" technology developed by the French inventor Joseph Marie Jacquard, and is considered the first manifestation of the technology that serves as the basis of modern computing. The town of Clinton benefitted materially from each of these inventions except the ingrain carpet loom, and the impetus provided by the industries that each of these inventions fostered, guided by the managerial acumen and civic aspirations of Erastus' brother Horatio Nelson Bigelow, were decisive in shaping the form of this community, as well as its separation from Lancaster in 1850.

The first Bigelow enterprise, the Clinton Company, was established in 1838 upon the grounds of the Lancaster Cotton Manufacturing Company, In 1841, a second corporation, the

Lancaster Quilt Manufacturing Company, was founded downstream at the site of the present-day Prescott Mills. These corporations were immediately successful, and their principal products are still memorialized in the town's landscape—"Coachlace" pond and "Counterpane" brook. Their growth necessitated further enlargement of the village fabric (re-christened "Clintonville"), as well as more intensive reconfigurations of the landscape. In 1843, the dam upon South Meadow Brook was raised to such a height as to completely inundate its valley, enlarging Coachlace Pond and creating South Meadow Pond. The shores of two natural ponds, Mossy Pond and Sandy Pond, were breached to mingle their waters with South Meadow Pond, and an earthen dam was constructed across Rigby Brook, the natural outflow of Mossy Pond, so that its waters could be redirected toward the turbine of the Clinton Company. In the early years of the Clinton Company, these waters were carried to the mills by an open canal dug from the northeast corner of Coachlace Pond; in later years, this canal was filled in, its function having been replaced by a 32" conduit. Remnants of the canal wall can be seen sticking above ground at Duffy Park, and the cast-iron gates of the conduit feed and by-pass network can still be seen on the grounds of the mill. A successor to the 1843 turbine is still situated in the sub-basement of the Clinton Company machine shop on Main Street.

Having maximized the productive potential of South Meadow Brook, the Bigelow brothers next transformed the Nashua River; in so doing, they effected the most profound transformation of place in the community's history. In 1843, the Bigelows purchased the privilege and rickety dam that had been constructed upon the Nashua in 1810. The following year, they incorporated the Lancaster Mills, which would manufacture gingham cloth upon looms of Erastus Bigelow's invention. For eighty-five years, the Lancaster Mills would be the largest employer in the town of Clinton, with a peak employment of 2,250 in 1920. In addition to the construction of an impressive mill complex and 321-foot long dam, the success of the Lancaster Mills and the wealth it created impelled the creation of a new town. A network of roads, primarily organized as a series of elongated grids that were re-oriented in response to local topographies, was laid out to plans created by John C. Hoadley, the Bigelow's chief engineer. Housing of every description, not only for workers but for an emerging managerial class, was constructed; the institutions of community, including schools, religious societies (many of whose churches stand upon land donated by Horatio Bigelow, a library (founded in 1846), a cemetery (Woodlawn Cemetery, laid out as a garden cemetery in 1853), and a bank (incorporated 1851) were established; Public space (Central Park was established in 1852, Carlisle Park on Burdett Hill before 1857) was created; a retail district emerged on High Street; and the railroad (the Worcester and Nashua railroad came to Clinton in 1847) connected Clinton to the larger world. The population within the boundaries of Clinton, which numbered approximately 300 in 1830, grew within the span of a generation to 3,115 by 1850. The political consequence of this transformation is manifest in the incorporation of Clinton as a separate town in 1850.

While the Nashua river was capable of providing 700 horsepower to the Lancaster Mills, which was partially regularized by the construction of a reservoir atop Cedar Hill, it is interesting to note that the mill was established at the outset as a “hybrid”, with a parallel system of steam power, capable of providing 250 horsepower. In short time, steam would become the standard form of energy for Clinton’s mills, freeing enterprise from the necessity of locating on water sites, and slowly transforming the job of Clinton’s waterways from one of carrying power in to one of carrying waste out. The first enterprise to be founded on the basis of steam power was the Bigelow Carpet Company, which was incorporated in 1849. A second major enterprise, the Clinton Wirecloth Company, was incorporated in 1856 and established on Sterling Street. While Clinton’s secondary industries-the comb shops, the Fuller Yarn Mills on Rigby Brook and Fuller’s Planing Mill on Goodridge Brook- would continue to rely on the town’s secondary waterbodies, the role of useful water as a determinant of community form receded into the past. It would return though-with profound consequences-at the turn of the twentieth-century.

As the landscape and topography of Clinton were being transformed by the dictates of manufacturing, so was the community’s population. While in the earliest phases of production, the Clinton Company and the Lancaster Mills continued to rely on female labor, by 1850 the transition to a reliance on foreign-born labor and skilled workers was underway. The first decades of Clinton’s incorporation witnessed a large-scale influx of German, Scottish, and most conspicuously, Irish immigrants. Many German and Scottish immigrants were skilled weavers, and were settled on Scotch Hill, an archaic name for a portion of the neighborhood known today as the Acre, and Germantown, the section of town situated between Cedar Hill and the north bank of the Nashua- and a name by which that neighborhood is still known today. Even prior to the famine migrations of the late 1840’s, the Irish had established themselves in the community-so much so that, while the first Catholic church in Worcester County, St. Mary’s, was established at Worcester, the second mission of that church was convened in Clinton in 1845. By the advent of the Civil War, fully one in four residents of the town was born in Ireland; even today, their descendants remain the predominant cultural group within the community.

During the remainder of the nineteenth-century, Clinton continued to mature and grow along the lines established in the ante-bellum era. The landscape interventions of the previous era, however, did introduce two nuisances. The first was the risk to public health that the brackish waters of the Counterpane Pond were perceived to pose. As the necessity for storing water had disappeared with the implementation of steam power, this problem was solved by draining the pond, and placing the interstices of the brook that separated the Clinton Company Mills and the Prescott Mills in an underground culvert. By 1870, South Meadow Brook, the watercourse upon which settlement of the town was founded and which powered its nascent industrial transformation, was all but obliterated; it today flows feebly and hidden for the small remaining stretch of its natural course. In 1876 meanwhile, the

earthen dam that had been constructed at Mossy Pond's outlet to Rigby Brook gave way. The "Mossy Pond freshet" swept away dams, factories (including a tannery and three small comb shops) and houses in the vale of Rigby Brook. Subsequently, only the dam at Fuller's mill on Allen Street was rebuilt. While the pond created by that dam has long since vanished, the Fuller family is responsible for one significant element of Clinton's landscape—Fuller's Field, which for many years was the home of Clinton High School athletics. Recent historical research has established that Fuller Field is home to the nation's oldest baseball diamond in continuous use—it is depicted in its contemporary location on a map of 1872.

During the first 50 years of the town of Clinton's existence, while industry prospered and the resident population more than tripled, the landscape remained fundamentally unchanged; while the area under settlement certainly increased, it did so primarily along the lines established in the ante-bellum era. As the nineteenth century drew to a close however, the needs of a population far removed from Clinton were about to effect a profound alteration of the local landscape.

In 1897, the recently formed Metropolitan Water Commission determined that the South Branch of the Nashua River was ideally suited to meet Boston's growing demand for potable water. Over the succeeding ten years, the construction of the Wachusett dam and reservoir would dramatically reconfigure the natural and human landscapes of the southern end of Clinton. Within the boundaries of Clinton proper the minor shops and dams along Carville Brook and Mine Swamp Brook were obliterated, as were numerous houses, among them some of the oldest in Clinton. The Central Mass. Railroad was re-aligned, as were numerous local roads, and the contents of Clinton's Catholic cemetery were removed to Greeley Hill. Organic soils throughout the basin of the new reservoir were removed, and Carville Brook, Carville Pond, and Mine Swamp Brook were entirely inundated. Sandy Pond was obliterated by the construction of the North Dike, and South Meadow Pond was reconfigured. While the parkland at the base of the Wachusett Dam, laid out to designs prepared by noted landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff, constitutes Clinton's second great public space, the effect of the dam upon the riverine landscape of Clinton was disastrous. In 1895, just prior to the commencement of the reservoir, the Nashua river was described as averaging 70 feet in width and 4 feet in depth at normal flow. Today, the river is nowhere wider than 50 feet and likely averages a width of approximately 30 feet and a depth of no greater than 2 feet. While nineteenth-century post card images describe an idealized romantic depiction of the river environment, and the remnants of an allee of sycamores can still be seen on the riverbanks just north of the Water Street bridge, in the twentieth century the banks of the Nashua River became the place for a slaughterhouse, a metal scrap yard, and a wastewater treatment facility.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, the continued prosperity of local industries and the opportunities for employment provided by the construction of the Wachusett reservoir

sponsored a new wave of immigration. Much of the labor involved in the construction of the Reservoir was provided by Italians, working under the *padrone* system. Poles, Greeks, and Eastern European Jews also came to Clinton in significant numbers; each of these groups established their own distinctive institutions in the community-societies and houses of worship- which survive to this day.

As the 1920's dawned, Clinton, which had enjoyed continued growth and prosperity for more than 75 years, began to feel the effects of changing tastes and the general decline of the New England textile industry. Modern sensibilities did not favor richly patterned carpets, and flappers didn't wear gingham. In a very brief period of time-1926-1930- more than 3500 jobs were lost at the Lancaster Mills and Bigelow Carpet Mills. During the great Depression, the unemployment rate was higher than 50%; the town of Clinton very nearly ceased to be.

Local effort, however, revived the town. Most significantly, the Lancaster Mills complex was purchased by a consortium of local citizens acting as the Industrial Commission of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce; the 24-acre complex was subdivided, and new industries were induced to come to Clinton. One of these companies, the Colonial Press, would be Clinton's largest employer until its sudden closing in 1977, at which time the unemployment rate rose again to over 30%.

The final quarter of the twentieth century witnessed the adaptation of new key industries to Clinton's nineteenth-century industrial landscape. It is worth noting that, while nineteenth century industries were established in Clinton upon the premise of available water power, these twentieth-century operations are premised upon the availability of local expertise; Dunn & Company, the nation's largest commercial re-binder, succeeds Colonial Press, Weetabix succeeds Van Brode Milling(which succeeded the American Cereal Co.), Lloyd & Bouvier succeeds ITT Suprenant(which succeeds the Clinton Wirecloth Company), and the technology of injection-moulded plastics, developed by Fred Kirk in his garage on Brook Street, sponsors Nylco, Injectronics, and Nypro, which is today the community's largest employer and one of the world's largest makers of injection-moulded plastics. New immigrant groups too, adapted to Clinton's nineteenth-century stock of available housing. While immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Brazil have constituted the largest share of recent immigration, individuals from Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the Central American States have also enriched the community with their presence and their institutions.

While the automobile age has been characterized by suburbanization and the wholesale dispersal of human activity across the national landscape, the growth of Clinton during this time has been much slower and more incremental; this is largely a consequence of the limitations placed upon growth by local topographical constraints, and the limited capitalization of the community during the last century. The new growth that did occur took place in the sparsely populated North End, which was built out as an agglomeration of

industrial and residential uses, and at the periphery of established neighborhoods. The exceptions to this rule were the establishment of post-war residential neighborhoods on Woodruff Heights and at Lakeside, a public housing complex,, and the late twentieth-century construction of two large condominium complexes, Ridgefield and the Woodlands. Automobile-based retailing has been established at the north end of Main Street, which has become the town's de facto "strip" ..

### 3.C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

#### Population, Households and Families

When Clinton was incorporated in 1850, its population included 3,115 people. By 1930, Clinton had 12,817 residents, and its population remained relatively stable for about 50 years. Since the 1980s, Clinton has gradually gained population as new housing units were developed on the outskirts of town. The Bureau of the Census reports that in 2010, Clinton's population was 13,606. The most recent American Community Survey (2014) estimates Clinton's population between 13,675.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 1: Population Change, 1930-2014**

	Clinton		Worcester County	
	Total	Population	Total	Population
Year	Population	Density	Population	Density
1930	12,817	2,247.2	490,737	324.3
1940	12,440	2,181.1	504,470	333.4
1950	12,287	2,154.3	546,401	361.1
1960	12,848	2,252.7	583,228	385.4
1970	13,383	2,346.5	638,114	421.7
1980	12,771	2,239.2	646,352	427.2
1990	13,222	2,318.2	709,705	469.0
2000	13,435	2,355.6	750,963	496.3
2010	13,606	2,385.8	798,552	527.8
2014	13,675	2,397.8	806,804	533.25

Sources: UMass State Data Center, Bureau of the Census.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Division, Population Estimates July 1, 2006, <<http://www.census.gov>>, and Claritas, Inc.



Of Clinton's 5,831 households, 58.4% are families and 41.6%, non-family households. About half of the Town's 3,408 families (48.4%) have children under 18. Among non-family households, an overwhelming majority (80.4%) are single people living alone, more than one-third being senior citizens (over 65). The presence of relatively large percentages of non-family and one-person households helps to explain Clinton's fairly small average household size, 2.32 persons. Clinton noticeably exceeds Worcester County and the state as a whole for its share of one-person households, and as a result, it lags behind the county and state for percentage of families, large or small. In spite of a spate of one-family housing development in the first decade of the twenty-first century, the percentage of non-family households in Clinton has actually increased over the last 15 years, at a slightly higher rate than Worcester County. Clinton's average family household size (3.0) is approximately equal to the county average (3.02)

Overall, 22.5% of Clinton's population is composed of children under 18, and 12.7% are people 65 or older. Over the last 10 years, there has been a meaningful decline in the number of seniors living in Clinton-particularly those over the age of 75. The largest increase in any age cohort has been among those aged 45-64; while these are prime wage-earning years and may favorably have a beneficial impact on Clinton's local economy, the effect of this growth may have implications for recreation, social and leisure program planning because Clinton's existing complement of programs and services may not be adequate to meet the needs of its mature population that will begin a transition into senior years in the coming decade.

**Table 2: Population Change by Age Cohort, 1990-2010**

	Census Actual Population Count				2010 Census		
	1990	2000	Absolute Change	Percent Change	2010	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Age Cohort							
Under 5	1,025	803	-222	-21.70%	872	69	8.59%
Age 5-17	1,934	2,290	356	18.40%	2,191	-99	-4.32%
Age 18-24	1,366	1,050	-316	-23.10%	1,069	19	1.81%
Age 25-34	2,889	2,060	-829	-28.70%	1,857	-203	-9.85%
Age 35-44	1,748	2,361	613	35.10%	1,960	-401	-16.98%
Age 45-54	1,119	1,739	620	55.40%	2,264	525	30.19%
Age 55-64	1,144	1,120	-24	-2.10%	1,659	539	48.13%
Age 65-74	1,156	921	-235	-20.30%	879	-42	-4.56%
Over 75	<u>841</u>	<u>1,091</u>	<u>250</u>	29.70%	<u>855</u>	<u>-236</u>	-21.63%
	13,222	13,435	213	1.60%	13,606	171	101.27%

## **Cultural Diversity**

Compared to most small towns in its region, Clinton has a diverse population. In 2000, nearly 12% of Clinton's residents were racial minorities (1,586 people) and by 2014, the percentage had increased to an estimated 14.6% (1,992 people). Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin make up Clinton's largest minority group. During the first decade of the twenty-first century, Clinton's Hispanic population grew 11.2%, from 1,560 to 1,734 people). It is worth noting that, while Clinton's Hispanic population has increased over the last 15 years, the percentage of persons living in households where Spanish is spoken has remained constant, (approximately 9% of the population). The number of Hispanic residents who speak English "less than well" has dropped steeply over that time; in 2000, 47.4% of Clinton's Hispanic population spoke English "less than very well"; by 2014, only 24.5% labored against that same difficulty<sup>6</sup>. This data, along with a slight decrease in the number of foreign-born Hispanics, indicate that assimilation is increasing.

While the percentage of Hispanics who are foreign-born or born in Puerto Rico has decreased slightly since 2000, the percentage of Clinton residents who are foreign-born has remained constant at 9.7%. Readily-available ACS data does not provide country of origin statistics.

Clinton's diversity stands out in a region with very little racial or ethnic diversity. Lancaster is the only abutting town with a noteworthy number of minorities because as shown in Census 2010 statistics, just over 16% of Lancaster total population is African American/Black or Hispanic. However, most of Lancaster's African American total population is composed of inmates at the state prison, not persons in households. By contrast, 99% of the populations of Berlin, Bolton, Boylston, and Sterling are white.

## **Education, Labor Force and Employment**

In 1970, half of Clinton adults over 25 had not completed a high school education. Another 36% had finished high school, and less than 5% had a college degree. Most of the Town's workers had manufacturing jobs, which provided a good wage for people with limited education. Today, Clinton adults are significantly more educated than their counterparts thirty years ago. The percentage of adults over 25 without a high school education has

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<sup>6</sup> US Bureau of the Census, 2010-2014 ACS, Table 21601: Language Spoken at Home

dropped to 9.6%, and 43.7% have undergraduate or associates degree degrees.<sup>7</sup> While still slightly below the Massachusetts average, it is likely that these higher levels of educational attainment correlate highly with increased levels of household income. These changes to the community may also have an effect on recreational desires and community sensibility concerning the value of open space.

Consistent with the changes in Clinton's age cohorts since 2000, Clinton's labor force participation has increased dramatically. During that time, the number of Clinton's residents in the labor force has grown from 7,266 to 8,095- an 11.4% increase<sup>8</sup>. This increase likely correlates with a number of factors, including changes in the community's age cohorts and levels of educational attainment, and changes to Clinton's housing inventory that have been made-through development- since 2000.

Clinton's unemployment rate has fluctuated between 0.5-1.7 points above the state's unemployment rate for several years, but remained relatively close to the unemployment rate of Worcester County since 1999. The deviation from the state norm was most pronounced during the Great Recession, which inordinately affected Clinton's core employment sectors, including manufacturing and construction.

In 2014, there were 313 private-sector firms in Clinton, who employed 3,971 with an average weekly wage of \$945. Manufacturing, Health Care, Retail Trade, and Construction are the largest areas of employment within Clinton. Since 2000, the number of firms and employees in Clinton have dropped, and wage growth has failed to keep pace with county- and statewide averages.

<b>Table 3: Average Private-Sector Weekly Wages, 2001-2014</b>						
	Average Employment	Clinton	Worcester County	Massachusetts	Clinton Wage as %. Cnty	Clinton Wage as % Mass.
2001	4,274	\$759	\$710	\$876	106.9%	86.6%
2002	4,109	\$788	\$712	\$871	110.7%	90.5%
2003	4,064	\$769	\$738	\$895	104.2%	85.9%
2004	4,114	\$789	\$769	\$947	102.6%	83.3%
2005	3,693	\$841	\$784	\$970	107.3%	86.7%
2006	3,573	\$876	\$815	\$1,016	107.5%	86.2%
2007	3,720	\$873	\$849	\$1,073	102.8%	81.4%

<sup>7</sup> US Bureau of the Census, 2010-2014 ACS, Table S1501: Educational Attainment.

<sup>8</sup> Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Labor Force and Unemployment Data, not seasonally adjusted

2008	3,777	\$851	\$871	\$1,102	97.7%	77.2%
2009	3,731	\$803	\$867	\$1,090	92.6%	73.7%
2010	3,845	\$873	\$890	\$1,119	98.1%	78.0%
2011	3,854	\$884	\$919	\$1,157	96.2%	76.4%
2012	3,848	\$869	\$917	\$1,182	94.8%	73.5%
2013	4,027	\$909	\$942	\$1,198	96.5%	75.9%
2014	3,971	\$945	\$961	\$1,246	98.3%	75.8%
<i>source: Massachusetts Department of Labor &amp; Workforce Development. ES-202</i>						

## Income and Poverty

Clinton households continue to have lower incomes than their counterparts in surrounding towns, Worcester County and the state as a whole. In 1969, the median household income for Worcester County and Clinton was nearly the same, but in the ensuing years Worcester County households fared better overall than Clinton's households. Until very recently, median household income (MHI), when compared on a decennial basis, was 88-91% the state's median income; 2014 American Community Survey data indicates that Clinton's MHI, \$64,867<sup>9</sup>, is 95.6% of Massachusetts MHI. It is worth noting that wages for people who live in Clinton are growing, while wages for people who work in Clinton have not grown as well.

According to the 2014 American Community Survey, rates of poverty in Clinton, for families and for all individuals are meaningfully below state and county averages. In 2014, 4.9% of families and 8.8% of individuals had levels of income below the poverty level in the last 12 months, as compared to state and county averages of 8.3% and 11.6% respectively. Clinton's lower than average poverty levels and lower than average median household income can be construed to suggest that the community has a very "smooth" distribution of income. Clinton's relatively low mean household income, \$73,130, is only 87% that of Worcester County, and 78.8% of the Commonwealth's.

One factor that contributes to Clinton's lower-income profile is its large percentage of renters. In Clinton today, nearly 46% of all households rent the housing unit they live in, and the percentage of renters has been about the same for the past 50 years. However, renters make up anywhere from 6 to 20% of the households in all neighboring towns and just 36% of all households in Worcester County. For its comparatively large inventory of renter-occupied

<sup>9</sup> US Bureau of the Census, 2010-2014 ACS, Table DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics.

housing, Clinton is more like the cities of Northern Worcester County, such as Fitchburg, with 48% renter households and Gardner, at 45%.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Clinton evolved into a mill town by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continues to be influenced by its industrial heritage. However, nothing has affected the Town's development pattern more than the construction of the dam on the South Branch of the Nashua River in 1905. The dam caused 17% of the Town's original land area to be inundated for the Wachusett Reservoir, which provides drinking water to the Greater Boston area. The Wachusett Reservoir covers 6.5 sq. mi. in five communities, including Clinton, Boylston, West Boylston, and Sterling. When the dam was constructed, churches, factories, schools and homes were relocated or demolished, and graves in a local Catholic cemetery were exhumed and buried elsewhere. Built to supply water to 29 communities, the Wachusett Reservoir is considered the largest "hand dug" reservoir in the world today.

Clinton's early roadways originated at the center of town, where business and residential activity were situated. As development progressed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Town's infrastructure began to radiate out in all directions. Most of Clinton's major roads lead to and through its central business district – a delightful downtown area that retains much of the look, feel and walkability of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial center. Clinton also has six distinct neighborhoods: Water Street/Downtown, High Street North, Burditt Hill/the California District, Greeley Hill, Duck Harbor/Rigby Road, and Woodruff & The Acre.

#### **Neighborhood Development Pattern**

**Downtown/Water Street.** Downtown/Water Street is the historic heart of Clinton. The Town's historic mills, municipal buildings, commercial downtown, and many of its oldest residences are located here. Clinton's oldest houses are typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century farm houses, with the main house facing the street and a barn at the rear of the lot. Housing of this type can still be found in the Water Street, on Main Street and Chace Street area and other nearby neighborhoods. When the Bigelow brothers arrived from West Boylston and built three mills adjacent to the Nashua River in the mid-1800s, they attracted workers from throughout New England as well as businesses eager to locate near the mills. The mill owners built housing for workers, such as the Nelson Street Tenements, and private builders constructed

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<sup>10</sup> Herr and Associates, Clinton Master Plan, "Clinton Housing in the Seventies," 10; Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Table H4.

additional homes. Residential development in the Downtown/Water Street area includes Victorian-era single-family structures and multi-family income properties clustered along High Street, Church Street, and Green Streets. The Clinton Home for the Aged and Corcoran House, two prominent congregate elderly facilities, are also located here, as is one of the Clinton Housing Authority's elderly housing developments. The Cedar Hill district, which contains Clinton's most impressive inventory of nineteenth-century homes, lies immediately to the east of Downtown. At the base of Cedar Hill's eastern slope is the district known as Germantown, so named for the country of origin of its earliest inhabitants

**High Street North.** As Clinton grew, the town expanded north in the High Street North neighborhood and south to Burditt Hill. Just north of downtown, sandwiched between Route 70 and Route 110, the High Street North neighborhood is a community of older homes, including single-family, two-family, and multi-family housing, with houses dating from 1890-1920. Commercial uses are also located in this neighborhood.

**Burditt Hill/The California District.** Located south of the downtown area, Burditt Hill is a residential neighborhood of attached two-family residences and single-family homes on a hillside between downtown and the Wachusett Reservoir. The east side of the neighborhood overlooks the Lancaster Mills. The homes around Carlisle Park and closest to downtown are the oldest, with houses built between 1890-1920 interspersed with newer Cape-style homes. Homes beyond Winter Street are newer, built between the 1950s and 1970s, and they include Capes, ranches, and some Colonial homes. Because the southern half of Burditt Hill was developed more recently, lots are relatively larger and homes newer than on the north side. Toward the eastern edge of Burditt Hill, there are some multi-family homes, along with two-family homes and smaller single-family homes on small lots with limited green space. These homes are on Grove Street, perched above Lancaster Mill Pond. The California District, so named because its earliest period of development coincides with the California gold rush, is nestled along the shore of the Lancaster Millpond, at the base of Rattlesnake Hill. It is a district of tightly-twisting lanes and shallow courts.

**Greeley Hill.** To the west of High Street North is the Greeley Hill neighborhood. This was the third area of Clinton to be developed. Today, U-Mass Memorial Clinton Hospital is at the center of neighborhood, and the hospital is surrounded by single family-homes and some two-family properties, built from 1900-1950.

**Duck Harbor/Rigby Road.** While housing in Burditt Hill, Water Street/Downtown, and High Street North are all developed along Clinton's traditional urban street grid, housing in the Duck Harbor/Rigby Road area falls along roads that are more irregular. The Woodlawn Cemetery and railroad separate the Duck Harbor/Rigby Road neighborhood from Greeley Hill and Burditt Hill. This neighborhood is in a low-lying wooded area between the two hills, and is somewhat isolated from the rest of Clinton by physical barriers, including Mossy

Pond to the south, the railroad tracks and Rte. 62 to the north, and Woodlawn Cemetery to the east. Both of the Clinton Housing Authority's family housing developments are located here: Harborview Apartments, a 99-unit federal public housing project of brick row houses, and the Veteran's Development, state public housing for families, located along Fitch Road and Woodlawn. Nearby Woodlawn Street, which surrounds the cemetery, is one of Clinton's older streets, with single-family and two-family houses dating from the 1850s, and Rigby Street has a mix of older and newer housing. Fitch Road, beyond the Housing Authority's developments, is dotted with new single-family homes built since 1990, including a new 22-lot subdivision, Gorman Farms.

**Woodruff and The Acre.** Northeast of downtown and across the Nashua River is the area known as Woodruff and The Acre. The neighborhood breaks with the urban street grid that organizes so much of Clinton's older development. Clinton's older neighborhoods were laid out in a traditional block form, with roads running perpendicular to each other, forming relatively uniform block sizes. Deviations from the grid were made primarily to accommodate natural forms, such as the river, and to accommodate large industrial buildings, which relied on the river for water power. However, the grid serves as a major organizing structure for most of Clinton's residential neighborhoods and its downtown. By contrast, Woodruff and The Acre can be accessed from only three roads within Clinton: Route 110, Lancaster Street, and Chace Street. It has winding roads and cul de sacs, single-family homes and a large residential condominium development. Gorham and Woodruff Streets have homes from the 1950s and 1960s, but most of this area has been developed quite recently. A major contributor to development of this area was Ridgefield Condominiums, a 360-unit townhouse development constructed in the 1980s. The townhouses are in 93 buildings, with 3-4 townhouses per building. Almost half of the 737 condominiums reported in the 2000 Census are Ridgefield condominiums.

The southeast corner of Clinton, around Clamshell Pond, has several major thoroughfares, including Wilson, Chace and Berlin Road, with a mix of single-family and multi-family housing. A major new development in this area is The Woodlands. Built by the same developer who constructed the Ridgefield Condominiums, The Woodlands is a condominium community on 217 acres near Clamshell Pond. To date, about 180 units have been constructed, but the complex is permitted for a total of 492 units. In 2008 the Town of Clinton purchased Rauscher Farm, one of the largest remaining parcels in this area.

Like most communities in Central Massachusetts, development in Clinton has been slow to recover since the Great Recession.

## **Zoning**



Clinton recodified and updated its Zoning Bylaw in 2001, and current zoning policies largely reinforce Clinton’s traditional development pattern (Map 2). The Town has a total of five use districts and five overlay districts (floodplain, wireless communications, BioScience, Mixed Use, Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting). In established residential areas, the central business district, and areas designated for commercial or industrial uses, the minimum lot area is 12,000 sq. ft. The rest of Clinton is in a single residential use district, where the minimum lot area is 18,000 sq. ft.

Table 5: Existing Zoning Districts and Basic Lot Dimensional Requirements

Use District	Total Acres	Minimum Lot Area	Minimum Frontage	Maximum Lot Coverage
Residential Neighborhood District (R1)	836.2	12,000	110	25%
Residential District (R2)	3,182.8	18,000	110	25%
Business-Retail District (BR)	67.6	5,000	50	80%
Commercial District (C)	215.6	12,000	110	35%
Industrial District (I)	352.1	12,000	110	50%
Total	4,654.3			

Source: MassGIS.

Clinton allows single-family homes as of right in both of its residential zones and by special permit in the nonresidential districts; and two-family or multi-family housing by Planning Board special permit in all use districts. Indeed, Clinton is remarkable for its multi-family zoning regulations because most of the neighboring towns either prohibit multi-family housing or allow it only under very limited conditions. Clinton also allows accessory apartments by special permit and many types of home occupations as of right. Further, Clinton provides for a flexible development option in all of its use districts, the purposes being to protect contiguous open space, promote housing diversity and housing affordability, and to encourage high-quality, creative site layouts instead of conventional subdivisions. Finally, Clinton has a mill conversion bylaw that intends to provide flexible rules and incentives for the reuse of historic mills.

The Business-Retail District includes Clinton’s downtown area, while the Commercial District runs northward along Main Street to the Lancaster town line and also applies to a small pocket of land between Greeley, Flagg and Allen Streets in the northwest part of town. There is some differentiation in uses allowed in each business district, and for the most part of the differences in use regulations make sense for each location. For example, auto-related uses and most industrial are prohibited downtown but allowed by special permit in the Commercial District, and it is easier to establish less “walkable” uses such as veterinary clinics or commercial greenhouses in the Commercial District.

Finally, Clinton's industrial zones extend from the railroad tracks into the northwest part of town, along Parker, Allen and Sterling Streets, and south and southeast of the downtown area. When Clinton recodified its zoning six years ago, the Town placed some protective controls over the types of uses that would be allowed in the industrial zones, with a clear preference for light industry and research and development activities. Other types of manufacturing uses, warehouses and distribution facilities, contractor's yards, landfills, utilities and quarrying require a special permit from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, or Board of Selectmen.

### **Infrastructure**

The Wachusett Reservoir, Clinton's sole source of drinking water, serves nearly all of the Town's homes and businesses. The only part of Clinton that is not presently connected to the public water system is the South Meadow Pond area, where residents rely on private wells. The Clinton Water Department also owns the Weekepekee Watershed in Sterling, which was the Town's original water supply and is now used as a reserve.

Clinton has a 4.225 million gallon of water storage capacity, including two tanks on Burdett Hill (each with capacities of 1.5 million gallons), a third 1.0 million-gallon tank is located off Mulberry Drive, and 225,000 gallons at the water filtration plant. The Water Department continues to improve Clinton's water distribution system. A new water filtration plant, constructed to comply with state surface water treatment regulations, came on line in January 2006. Additional anticipated improvements include periodic water main upgrades, and maintenance to the Mulberry Drive Storage tank.

Most of Clinton residences and business are connected to the public sewer system. The Town charges user fees based on metered water usage, and water revenue is used to finance the operation and maintenance costs of the system. Sewage treatment is provided at no cost to the town through a plant owned and operated by MWRA. The plant is located on Route 110 (Lower High Street) and discharges treated effluent into the Nashua River. It is permitted for 3.01 gallons per day (MGD) for primary and secondary treatment. Clinton's average daily flow is only 2.2 MGD, but actual discharges range from 2 to 4 MGD. Significant levels of inflow/infiltration prompted the adoption of a sewer moratorium that limits both new residential and commercial construction.

Clinton has a total of 48.9 miles of roadways, including 44.8 under the Town's jurisdiction. New road construction consists of local (minor) roadways that serve residential subdivisions. In addition to upgrading Clinton's water distribution system and sewer system, the Department of Public Works continues to improve Clinton's streets. Using funds from various state programs, the Highway Division has initiated an ambitious road resurfacing plan. All associated costs are reimbursed with state Chapter 90 funds.

Although Clinton has been a maturely developed town for many years, its land use pattern has changed somewhat since 1970, when the Town's first master plan was prepared. Table 6 tracks acreage in primary land use classifications from 1971-1999, as reported by MassGIS (see also, Map 3). Nearly all of the decline in agricultural land and forests was attributable to lower-density residential development and new or expanded commercial development.

Today, Clinton has almost no remaining farmland *Note: changes to MassGIS classification system make it difficult to update this table. New data has been received. Additional assistance will be sought to parse data. Sufficed to say, not much has changed in Clinton see*

<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/lus2005.html>

**Table 6: Land Use Change, 1971-1999**

Class of Use	1971 Acres	1985 Acres	1999 Acres	Chg
Agriculture (Productive)	74.9	74.9	40.9	-45.3%
Agriculture (Pasture)	41.3	35.9	29.7	-28.1%
Forest	1,680.3	1,515.8	1,402.4	-16.5%
Non-Forested Wetlands	9.4	9.4	13.8	47.0%
Mining	22.9	22.9	0.0	-100.0%
Open Land	206.8	189.5	165.5	-20.0%
Recreation-Participant	29.3	59.0	56.1	91.2%
Recreation-Spectator	9.6	9.6	0.0	-100.0%
Multi-Family Housing	15.9	57.3	112.0	603.8%
High-Density Residential	495.0	488.2	488.2	-1.4%
Moderate-Density Residential	499.9	503.1	540.0	8.0%
Low-Density Residential	30.0	44.6	137.1	356.4%
Commercial	86.0	106.2	117.5	36.6%
Industrial	137.8	137.8	140.6	2.1%
Institutional/Urban Open Space	225.6	257.4	288.3	27.8%
Transportation	21.0	38.8	36.0	71.1%
Waste Disposal	25.3	61.0	45.0	78.0%
Open Water	1,043.2	1,043.2	1,041.2	-0.2%
Total	4,654.3	4,654.3	4,654.3	0.0%

Source: MassGIS; Community Opportunities Group, Inc.

The data reported in Table 6 measure land "covered" by various uses classes, i.e., land actually used for a particular purpose. This represents a different approach to measuring land use than the methodology used by a local assessor. While environmental planners focus on land coverage to describe how land use used and how land uses have changed, assessors report land use by the amount of land in parcels that have one or more uses. For example,

virtually all of the land classified as “forest” in Table 6 is land in parcels that may be assessed as residential, commercial or industrial uses because of the buildings and other improvements they contain. The forested area represents the remaining land in these parcels, that is, the unaltered land. This is very important because using land coverage or land in parcels to estimate a community’s future development potential will produce quite different results.

Clinton’s last Open Space and Recreation Plan (2007) included an estimate of the Town’s residential buildout capacity based on parcels that were either vacant or underdeveloped, that is, parcels with existing improvements and some additional development potential. According to that analysis, Clinton had enough land to support 878 more single-family house lots. However, the study included quite a bit of state-owned land and land owned by the Town, in some cases land protected under Article 97. Excluding publicly owned land and private non-profit land that is very unlikely to be developed in the future, Clinton appears to have future growth potential for about 507 single-family homes and 341,000 sq. ft. of new commercial and industrial space.

**Table 7: Additional Growth Potential, Vacant & Underdeveloped Land**

Class of Land	Parcels	Sq. Ft. Land	Sq. Ft. in Parcels of 2+ Acres	New Lots	New Nonresidential Sq. Ft.
Vacant Residential Land					
<i>Developable</i>	134	12,447,706	9,694,278	364	
<i>Potentially Developable</i>	23	2,867,119	2,426,728	36	
Existing Residential					
<i>Single-Family 4+ Acres</i>	14	7,114,219		107	
Vacant Commercial Land					
<i>Developable</i>	11	594,594	409,900		204,950
<i>Potentially Developable</i>	3	43,996	0		
Vacant Industrial Land					
<i>Developable</i>	3	184,259	135,907		203,861
<i>Potentially Developable</i>	1	30,928			
<b>Total</b>				507	408,811

Source: Clinton Assessor’s Office; Community Opportunities Group, Inc. Author’s note: the Town’s industrial growth potential could exceed 203,861 sq. ft. if incoming industries constructed buildings that reached the maximum height limit in the industrial district, five stories. However, most of the industrial development that occurs in suburbs today does not consist of five-story buildings. The average FAR of new construction tends to be lower than the permitted or effective FAR in industrial zoning regulations.

The estimates shown in Table 7 seem like a fairly small amount of growth potential, but what Table 7 does not report is the amount of change that could occur in the future due to

redevelopment of properties such as Lancaster Mills, which was recently considered by a multi-family housing developer for demolition and new construction of more than 200 condominiums. Table 7 also does not account for the possibility that some of Clinton's vacant land or vacant/underutilized buildings may be desirable for future comprehensive permit developments. Clinton has done more than most small towns to provide affordable housing, as evidenced by its Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory, which includes 9.49% of Clinton's Census 2000 housing stock. However, two affordable housing developments have use restrictions that will expire soon – one in 2011, the other in 2016.

The most important message in Table 7 is that Clinton does not have many opportunities to preserve open space. The sum of Clinton's vacant residential, commercial and industrial land in partially improved parcels is only 652 acres, or roughly 14% of the Town's total area.

## SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### 4.A. GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

An inventory of natural resources logically begins with the characteristics of the land. The shape and materials of Clinton's diverse landscape are products of the local geology. Like all of New England, Clinton's geology reveals evidence of the glacial scouring of the relatively recent past etched into the remnants of intense tectonic activity of the distant past. The erosion, weathering, and accumulation of organic materials on the land since the glacier receded have created a diversity of soil types blanketing Clinton's hills. Still, the hard rock of the crust is often visible in bedrock outcrops.

Clinton is situated along the eastern margin of the Merrimack Belt, which consists of metasedimentary and intrusive igneous rocks of Devonian to Silurian Age. Bounded to the east by the Clinton-Newbury Fault and to the west by the Wekepeke Fault, this area is known as the Nashua Trough Sub-belt. The Clinton-Newbury Fault is a major structural dislocation in northeastern Massachusetts that consists of west-dipping thrusts and reverse faults. It is visible in outcrops along fault splays on the southwest shore of Clamshell Pond and along Willow Road. The Clinton Fault, one of the town's most prominent, runs roughly down the center of Lancaster Mill Pond, under the Wachusett Dam and forms the steep narrow gorge seen from the Dam promenade. Other minor faults are found in the area, most associated with the Clinton-Newbury Fault Zone.

The bedrock that underlies Clinton consists primarily of the following four types: (1) slates, metasiltstones and phyllites; (2) schist; (3) granite; and (4) quartzite. The slates, metasiltstones and phyllites vary in both color and consistency, from light to dark gray and brownish gray, fine to very fine-grained rocks that are of marine origin.

- ♦ Years ago, the slates were quarried for roofing materials and tombstones. Due to movement along the Clinton-Newbury Fault zone, metasiltstones and phyllites contain small chevron folds that make them distinctive in outcrops. Excellent examples are found under the bridge near Duck Harbor. The slates, metasiltstones and phyllites underlie approximately 75% of the northern and western parts of Town.
- ♦ Clinton's schists are referred to as the Reubens Hill Igneous Complex, named after the hill adjacent to Clamshell Pond where the formation is found. They range in color and consistency from greenish-gray to brownish-gray, fine to coarse-grained well-foliated rock that is of volcanic origin. Excellent examples are found in outcrops along Willow

Road and along the shore of the Wachusett Reservoir, in the Carville Basin. The Reubens Hill Igneous Complex also underlies portions of Berlin Street and Candice Street.

- ♦ Clinton's granites are classified as Ayer Granite. These light-gray, coarse grained, intrusive, igneous rocks are distinctive due to the presence of two micas (muscovite and biotite) and large white feldspar crystals. Some outcrops show strong foliation due to shear along the Clinton-Newbury Fault Zone. Wilson Hill on the Acre consists of this weather-resistant rock, and numerous outcrops appear along the railway corridor at the North Dike and along the shore of Clamshell Pond.
- ♦ Quartzites are rare in Clinton. Underlying Burdett Hill, these light-gray, fine grained, well-bedded rocks are highly resistant. They are found in the cliff along Rattlesnake Hill and in the railroad cut on the North Dike. Clinton's quartzites are shallow, submarine, channel fill deposits.

Clinton's surficial geology is attributable to glacial activity. Great ice sheets with an estimated thickness of up to two miles scraped and wore deep grooves into the land during the Pleistocene Era, 11,000 to 1.8 million years ago. As the glaciers advanced, materials scraped from the underlying bedrock were carried south. When temperatures warmed, the retreating ice sheets left sediments and meltwaters in their wake. Dense glacial tills, consisting of a mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel and boulders, are remnants of that era. Till deposits, which usually form a thin veneer over the bedrock surface, are widespread in southern and central portions of Town.

## **Soils**

Clinton's soils resulted from the deposition of Glacial Lake Nashua, which extended from Boylston to Ayer and was up to 200 feet deep. The shores of the lake spread along the ridge now traversed by Chase Street. Over thousands of years, sediments ran off surrounding hills and collected as thick layers of sand, silt and gravel on the lake bottom. When the lake drained, the rich sediments were left behind. Today, they extend from South Meadow Pond to Greeley Hill, and can be found along the steep walls of the Nashua River Valley, from Philbin Park on the Acre to Ridgefield. Over time, modern day rivers and their tributary streams carved valleys and terraces into these deep, varied glacial deposits. Regular flooding of these rivers and streams enhances the soils by leaving alluvial deposits within the level areas of floodplains. Floodplain deposits are evident along the Nashua River, particularly in Marhefka's Field, and Counterpane Brook (Map 4).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified prime farmland, farmland of statewide significance, and farmland of unique importance in Clinton, including 580 acres of prime farmland (Map 4A). The classification of



prime farmland soils is based upon pH, lack of excessive stoniness, and favorable climatic conditions for agriculture. Soils defined as prime farmland are protected under the Surface Mining Law and must be available for use as cropland, pastureland, or forest land. State or local important farmland soils are those that “fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, or forage crops. They include those soils that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.”<sup>11</sup> In Clinton, the soils found on about 454 acres qualify as farmland of statewide or unique importance, for a total of 1,034 acres of delineated farmland. In general, soils best suited for agriculture are also well-suited to competing uses, and in many locations Clinton’s farmland soils have been developed. In addition to tax incentives, which are already available, preserving the Town’s remaining farmland and areas of productive soils may require acquisition of land or of development rights to protect all or part of these important resources.

Several areas of Clinton also meet the definition of prime forest land under potential timber productivity standards published by the U-Mass Amherst Department of Natural Resources Conservation (Map 4B). The U-Mass standards for white pine productivity coincide with the Natural Resource Soil Conservation Service’s definition of prime timberland, i.e., soils with capacity for growing wood at a rate of 85+ cubic feet per acre per year.<sup>12</sup> Much like the classifications of farmland, soils with capacity for timber production also fall into less-than-prime groupings of statewide and local importance, which generally reflect lower rates of production per acre per year, and riparian forest buffer. More than half of the prime forest land in Clinton is “prime” by federal definition (853 acres) while the remaining areas (553 acres) are mainly forest land of statewide importance. Identifying and protecting forest land and farmland is important for economic, wildlife, recreational and scenic reasons.

## Topography

Geologic activity and glacial sculpting left a deep imprint on Clinton’s topography, which is highly variable with a large amount of relief. The surface topography of the north, typified by the broad plains of Greeley Hill and Woodruff Heights, is less dramatic than in other sections of Town. This is largely due to the common occurrence of slates, metasiltsstones and

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<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service, “Ecological and Interpretive Groups,” National Soil Survey Handbook, Title 430-VI (2007), at <<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook>>

<sup>12</sup> USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy (1983),

thick accumulations of glacial sediments. To the south, the topography rises steeply where resistant quartzites provide the Town's most dramatic topographic features: Burdett Hill, the Acre and the narrow gorge between them. Rising 200 feet above the Nashua River and 511 feet above sea level, these hills are the highest points in Clinton. The Acre's steep slopes mark the divide between the Nashua River Watershed and the Assabet River Watershed. In general, Clinton's topography shows a northeast-southwest trending texture resulting from the presence of numerous faults along the Clinton-Newbury Fault Zone. This texture is responsible for the regional direction of rivers and streams in the Nashua River Watershed and the Assabet River Watershed.

#### **4.B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

Clinton's unique visual character is based on its steep, hilly terrain, its well preserved mill buildings and historic neighborhoods and its proximity to a large and highly scenic body of water: the Wachusett Reservoir (Map 5). This blend of natural and cultural features is typical of many New England mill towns, which often were located near water falls in rugged terrain. However, Clinton is unique because it is a relatively well preserved mill town located not only in a steep gorge but next to a large reservoir. In addition, the steep terrain and - until recently - lower development pressures have preserved a good measure of Clinton's visual character as a densely settled community surrounded by open space and rugged natural features such as steep wooded bluffs, rocky gorges, deep river valleys, woodland ponds and farmland. This contrast between a densely settled historic mill town and dramatic open spaces sets Clinton apart from most of its contemporaries.

Clinton's visual character is most threatened by the loss of remaining unprotected open spaces and natural areas both within the Town boundaries as well as in the nearby areas of adjacent towns. The development or alteration of the steep banks of the Nashua River, of Clamshell Pond, of unprotected areas near the Wachusett Reservoir and of remaining pockets of woodland and farmland within the Town would greatly reduce Clinton's visual character. Destruction or inappropriate alteration of historic mills and erosion of the urban fabric of the Town could also have a negative effect on visual quality. The Wachusett Reservoir and surrounding lands owned by DCR or protected by easement are relatively secure, though future management decisions and technical changes to the dam, the reservoir or its banks could have potential visual impacts.

The few remaining farm lots in Clinton are a traditional part of the Town, and as a source of open space they should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Since its purchase by the Town in 2008, Rauscher Farm, which affords access to Clamshell Pond, has become a much enjoyed open space recreational area. .

#### **4.C. WATER RESOURCES**

##### **Watersheds**

Most of Clinton lies within the Nashua River Watershed, which covers 538 sq. mi. and encompasses all or substantial portions of 31 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The South Branch Nashua River flows north from the outlet of the Wachusett Reservoir at the Clinton's southwest corner, meanders through Clinton, and merges with the North Branch Nashua River at the "Meeting of the Waters" in Lancaster. From the confluence of the North and South Branches, the Nashua River flows 35 miles northward before emptying into the Merrimack River in Nashua, New Hampshire. The South Branch watershed also extends into Sterling and Lancaster outside of the Reservoir watershed. The river receives water from South Meadow Brook and an unnamed brook, which both flow from Sterling to the complex of South Meadow ponds in Clinton, and from the Goodrich Brook that flows through Lancaster into Clinton at its northern border. East Lake Waushacum in Sterling is also part of this watershed, having been diverted in the past from Wachusett Brook by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in an effort to protect the quality of water in the Wachusett Watershed.

A small portion of Clinton, the southeastern corner, is located within the North Brook sub-basin of the Assabet River. The Assabet River is part of the much larger Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed, known as the SuAsCo.

##### **Watershed Protection Act**

The Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) was enacted in 1992 (the Cohen Bill) to protect the sources of water that feed the reservoirs serving 2.5 million people in more than 40 cities and towns. The WsPA establishes a "comprehensive scheme to regulate land use and activities within critical areas" of the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds. It seeks to minimize impacts relating to the type of development, density, impervious surfaces, and proximity to streams that are tributaries to the reservoir. Toward these ends, the WsPA imposes Primary and Secondary Protection Zones along key water resources, limits impervious surfaces, and restricts hazardous waste storage and use.

In the Primary Protection Zone, which extends 400 feet from the Reservoir and 200 feet from tributaries, any alteration is prohibited. The Secondary Protection Zone covers the area between 200 and 400 feet of tributaries, surface water bodies, on land within flood plains, and over some aquifers and wetlands. There are certain restrictions on activities in the Secondary

Protection Zone, including development that exceeds specific densities. Only a small amount of privately owned land in Clinton falls under jurisdiction of the WsPA.

## **Drinking Water**

The Wachusett Reservoir is Clinton's most dominant hydrologic feature. It is a key component in the drinking water system for metropolitan Boston. Aside from numerous tributary streams, the major sources feeding the reservoir are two moderate-size rivers, the Quinapoxet and Stillwater, and the much larger Quabbin Reservoir, which is connected to the Wachusett Reservoir through an underground aqueduct.

Clinton draws its drinking water from the Wachusett Reservoir. The Town is permitted to withdraw up to 800 million gallons of drinking water per year (MGY) from the Wachusett Reservoir as a result of the 1898 agreement whereby a portion of the Town was flooded by the creation of the Reservoir.<sup>13</sup> In the past, the Town has occasionally exceeded this withdrawal limit and has been charged for the excess water use by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). However, as the 1898 agreement did not specify the implication of withdrawals in excess of the permitted amount, Clinton did not pay those bills. Average daily usage is 1.7 million gallons per day (MGD), an amount that has dropped over the past 30 years while the Town's population has remained relatively constant. Although the MWRA is capable of supplying more water than the 800 MGY that was allotted to Clinton in 1898, the resource is not unlimited, and excess withdrawals will eventually lead to financial and environmental repercussions.

Nearly all of Clinton's residents are connected to the municipal water supply, with approximately 4,100 hookups to the municipal system. Water is withdrawn from the Wachusett Reservoir through the North Dike Pump Station and treated at the Clinton Water Filtration Plant, located on West Boylston Street. The Filtration Plant came online in January 2006 and is capable of treating 4.9 MGD of drinking water. Water taken from the Reservoir is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and buffered with sodium hydroxide and sodium bicarbonate at the facility before entering the municipal distribution system.

The Filtration Plant was constructed under an Administrative Consent Order (ACOP-CE-97-5001) with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to bring the Town into compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Lead and Copper Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act. In addition to removing potentially harmful bacteria and pathogens, the plant also removes naturally occurring organic matter (NOM) that can react with chlorine and causes taste and odor problems along with harmful disinfection by-products. Periodic

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<sup>13</sup> Clinton Water Department, 2006 Annual Water Quality Report at <<http://www.clintondpw.com/>>

lead concentrations in excess of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile have also caused the Town to institute a corrosion control program to reduce the amount of lead and copper in the water at the consumer's tap.

The Clinton Water Department has an ongoing program to improve the drinking water distribution system. Several streets are known to have dead-end connections off of the water main, resulting in stagnant pockets of water that become rusty or cloudy. By making additional connections at these locations to other segments of the distribution system, the stagnant pockets will be eliminated. The resulting network will also be more resilient when breaks occur or repairs are needed.

Clinton also owns more than 500 acres of land in Sterling and Leominster to protect the Town's historic (pre-Wachusett Reservoir) water supply, the Wekepeke Brook reservoirs. Four communities have interest in the water resources of the Wekepeke Brook: Clinton, Sterling, Leominster and Lancaster. Testing by DEP has shown the water quality of the Wekepeke to be very high. Leominster presently has wells in the aquifer, and Lancaster has recently conducted exploratory drilling for a potential water source. According to USGS estimates, this aquifer could yield more than 2.0 MGD.

A hydrologic assessment conducted by Camp Dresser and McKee on behalf of the Nashua Basin Team of the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative showed that the Wekepeke sub-basin is under a medium level of stress because withdrawals from the aquifer exceed the maximum long-term yield required to maintain stream flows. Under low-flow conditions, withdrawals from the aquifer would draw water from the brook and thereby affect its health, possibly necessitating flow releases from Clinton's reserves.

## **Wastewater**

According to the Clinton Board of Health, 53 houses in Clinton utilize septic systems. Most of these are relatively new homes located in the South Meadow Road area, while the remainder are scattered throughout the Town on dead-end streets or in low-lying areas. The rest of Clinton is connected to the municipal sewer system. Sanitary sewer flows from Clinton and Lancaster are treated at the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The WWTP is located at 677 High Street and discharges flows to the South Branch Nashua River.

The MWRA assumed responsibility for operations at the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1987. It is a 12 MGD advanced sewage treatment plant that was built in 1978

(original permit issue date) and the most recent major upgrade was completed in 1992.<sup>14</sup> The most recent National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit was issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEP to the MWRA in November 2000. Effluent discharged from the plant must meet specific criteria for a variety of constituents, including bacteria and residual chlorine. During the average day, flow at the plant varies from 2 to 4 MGD, while greater peaks occur during storm events.

The Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has a design capacity of 6 MGD, yet a permitted monthly average discharge rate of only 3.01 MGD. Lancaster Sewer District's permitted contribution to that flow is 0.37 MGD, with 2.64 MGD remaining for Clinton's contribution. Since flows to the WWTP occasionally exceed that rate, the Massachusetts DEP issued an administrative consent order in 1986 that requires new connections to the sewer to reduce infiltration and inflow (I & I) to offset flows from those connections. Under this program, developers are required to repair two gallons of I & I for each one gallon of sewerage added. This program currently operates on a piecemeal basis, with each developer tasked with finding and repairing a leakage site, rather than as part of a broader I & I reduction strategy.

The Clinton WWTP meets water quality criteria for most analyses. The major exceptions are copper and zinc, which regularly exceeded both acute and chronic limits in the past. An administrative order was issued in March 2002 which provided an interim limit for copper of 20 ug/L. Following operational changes at the plant, copper levels have consistently been below that level. The most recent NPDES permit was issued on September 27, 2000 and was set to expire in November 2005.

Sewage contains bacteria and viruses which to some extent are attenuated in the soil, but may cause contamination of groundwater. Nitrates and nitrogen produced by breakdown of urea can also impact groundwater, with potential effects on the health of infants. Studies have shown that septic systems are a leading source of nitrogen in groundwater. Phosphorous is another element contained in the leachate from septic systems. Nitrogen and phosphorous are natural nutrients that encourage plant growth. As the level of nitrogen in a freshwater pond rises, the resulting increased growth of algae and freshwater plants can result in eutrophication, a permanent change in water quality, ultimately resulting in the pond filling in as plants overgrow and sediments accumulate. Poor water quality will decrease the ability of rivers, streams, and wetlands to sustain wildlife, and associated algae blooms and unpleasant odors damage their attractiveness in the landscape. Eutrophication is a potential environmental effect of septic systems located too close to contained waterbodies.

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<sup>14</sup> Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant, at <<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/clintonwwtp.htm>>.

## **Surface Water**

Approximately 23% (1,059 acres) of Clinton's total area is covered by a surface waterbody of some type. While most of the acreage was flooded by the creation of the Wachusett Reservoir, there are also a number of smaller ponds and impoundments throughout the Town, as well as stream and river corridors, wetlands, and potential vernal pools.

### **Ponds & Reservoirs**

The watershed to a reservoir is the geographic land area where all surface and groundwater flows downhill to the surface water. The most sensitive part of the watershed to a reservoir is called Zone A, or the area within a 400' lateral distance of the bank of a reservoir, and within 200' of the banks of its tributaries. Zone B is the area within a half-mile of the reservoir. The entire remainder of the watershed is termed the Zone C. Approximately 53% of the Wachusett Reservoir watershed is protected open space, either through direct ownership by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), state and local agencies, or by conservation easements. The protection of open space in the watershed is a critical component of protecting surface water quality. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) categorizes the Reservoir as Core Habitat BM710, because it and the "surrounding undeveloped lands provide habitat for wintering Bald Eagles and breeding Common Loons."

The Wachusett Reservoir is a major component of the water supply for metropolitan Boston; as a result, its watershed is highly protected and activities that might affect it are closely monitored by the MWRA. The Reservoir (PWS ID#2064000) receives water from the Ware River, the Quabbin Reservoir, and its own watershed. The MWRA is permitted to withdraw 126 MGD from the Reservoir. While the Quabbin Reservoir is perhaps the best-known component of this water supply system, much of the water withdrawn from the Quabbin travels through the Wachusett Reservoir before entering the Cosgrove Intake and being piped through the Cosgrove Tunnel to the MWRA distribution system. The Wachusett Aqueduct serves as a backup system to the Cosgrove Tunnel and was employed as recently as the winter of 2003-2004 to allow connections to be made to the new Walnut Hill Treatment Plant.

Massachusetts classifies inland waters pursuant to regulations found at 314 CMR 4.03 based on the actual or intended use of the water resource. Class A waters are designated for use as a source of public (drinking) water supply. Class B waters are designated for the uses of protection and propagation of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife; and for primary and secondary contact recreation. Class C waters are designated for the uses and protection of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife; and for secondary contact recreation. All surface waters

within the reservoir watershed are classified as “Class A” by the DEP.<sup>15</sup> Although the Reservoir is a high-quality waterbody that presents an abundance of recreational opportunities, access to the portion of the Reservoir located in Clinton is prohibited because of its designation as the Intake Protection Zone for the water supply system.

There are also several smaller ponds, both named and unnamed, scattered throughout the Town, as shown on Map 6. The noteworthy water bodies include:

- ♦ **South Meadow Pond /Mossy Pond/Coachlace Pond.** Located north and west of the Wachusett Reservoir, the South Meadow/Mossy/Coachlace Pond complex consists of about 129 acres of open water and wetlands.<sup>16</sup> The average depth for the pond complex is 9 feet, with a maximum depth of 27 feet. Boat access to all of the ponds is available from a single launch because they are inter-connected by large culverts. The 68-acre South Meadow Pond was created in the 1880s by damming South Meadow Brook, which flows from highlands in Sterling and Lancaster. The 33-acre Coachlace Pond, a converted swamp created by the damming of Counterpane Brook, lies west of Burditt Hill. The 28-acre Mossy Pond is a spring-fed natural pond that feeds Rigby Brook. All three ponds overlie an important aquifer feature.
- ♦ **Clamshell Pond.** To the north and east of the Wachusett Reservoir is Clamshell Pond; it is the only naturally-occurring water body in town that has not been decisively re-shaped by human activity. The pond is approximately 30 acres and is generally shallow, although it has a maximum depth of 30 feet near the center.<sup>17</sup> Adjacent to Clamshell Pond are a series of shallow ponds and wetland areas.

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) classifies Clamshell Pond as “Living Waters” Core Habitat, noting that it “supports a robust assemblage of aquatic plants with no invasive exotic plant species, which in turn likely supports a variety of habitats for aquatic invertebrates. It is a small, headwater pond that is relatively deep in its center. Clamshell Pond is one of the few ponds in the area that has little development in its riparian areas and watershed.”

- ♦ **Lancaster Mill Pond.** The Lancaster Mill Pond (South Branch) lies at the foot of the Wachusett Dam. It was created by damming the South Nashua for the Lancaster Mills.

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<sup>15</sup> MDC/DWM Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

<sup>16</sup> Mossy, Southmeadow, and Coachlace Ponds – MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

<sup>17</sup> History of the Origin of the Town of Clinton Massachusetts, 1653-1865.



- ♦ **Carville Basin.** The Carville Basin was formerly a five-acre pond that resulted from the impoundment of a spring-fed area. The creation of the Wachusett Reservoir flooded most this area, leaving only a remnant of the eastern shoreline exposed. The name Carville Basin remains in use on historic documents and USGS quadrangle maps.

### **Streams & Rivers**

The South Branch of the Nashua River starts at the Wachusett dam and flows in a northerly direction toward Lancaster. DEP has classified the South Branch as Class B waters, which means it is designated for the protection and propagation of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife; and for primary and secondary contact recreation. To protect the natural resources in the river, the DEP has established the minimum release flow from the Reservoir at 2.6 cubic feet per second (1.7 MGD). According to the Massachusetts Year 2006 Integrated List of Waters, the Nashua River is designated as Category 5, "Waters Requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)." The targeted pollutants are pathogens, nutrients, unknown toxicity, and "questionable deposits." Sources of these pollutants include but are not limited to: pet waste, winter road maintenance materials, illicit sewer discharges, failing septic systems, bird guano, and illicit discharges of cooling water or industrial wastes. The Clinton Department of Public Works has incorporated several best management practices (BMPs) into NPDES Phase II activities that attempt to address these impairments.

Other noteworthy streams and brooks in Clinton include the following:

- ♦ **South Meadow Brook**, which flows southeast from East Waushacum Lake and the wetland meadows of Fitch Pond in Sterling to East South Meadow and West South Meadow Lakes Clinton. It traverses pastureland of the Rota Springs Dairy Farm, a historic remnant of the early dairy industry of Sterling.
- ♦ **Goodridge Brook** (sometimes known as Goodrich) is a tributary of the Nashua River that cuts across the northwest corner of the Town. The brook originates in a wetland system in Sterling, flows south and east until entering Clinton north of St. Johns Cemetery, and then flows north and east until it joins the Nashua River near South Lancaster.
- ♦ **Counterpane Brook** runs underground in some sections. The brook was dammed to create Coachlace Pond, a power source for mills. The Town's largest aquifer lies underneath the brook, which continues north from the cluster of ponds at Clinton's western border. Development activities have affected the quality of the water in Counterpane Brook.

### **Aquifers**

At least two moderate-to-high yield aquifers exist in Clinton: the Counterpane Brook and Nashua aquifers. Clinton's surficial geology is comprised of extensive deposits of sand and gravel in the western half of the town and the floodplain region of the South Branch Nashua. These deposits form the basis for the two aquifers. In addition, dense till deposits over bedrock, consisting of a mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel and boulders, occur in the southern and central portions of the town.

- ♦ **Counterpane Brook Aquifer.** The largest aquifer lies beneath Counterpane Brook and extends nearly the entire length of town. Dense residential, commercial and industrial development along much of its extent has contributed to water quality degradation, although at least one local industry maintains two process-water production wells that tap into this groundwater resource.
- ♦ **Nashua Aquifer.** A smaller aquifer parallels the South Branch, extending from the base of the dam that forms the Lancaster Mill Pond, beneath Reisner's Scrap Metal, to the Lancaster town line in the vicinity of Fox Run. The Nashua Aquifer makes up a significant portion of the Zone II Recharge Area for the production wells that comprise Lancaster's drinking water supply.

Much of the Nashua River corridor through Clinton and the northeast corner of the Town are covered by a DEP Zone II overlay, reflecting the presence of a high-yield aquifer below these areas. To protect the groundwater resource from contamination, DEP has placed restrictions on development and activity in Zone II areas as listed in 310 CMR 22.21 (a) and (b). These restrictions include prohibitions against siting certain types of industrial facilities, junk yards, petroleum bulk stations and terminals, landfills, and snow disposal areas. In addition, land uses are prohibited that result in the conversion to impervious area of "more than 15% or 2500 square feet of any lot or parcel, whichever is greater, unless a system for artificial recharge of precipitation is provided that will not result in the degradation of groundwater quality."

Although some small private wells exist in Clinton, they are not part of the public water supply and there are no known industrial wells. DEP Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) maps do not show any state-regulated private wells in Clinton. To the north and east of Clinton, however, several IWPA's are located in Bolton.

## **Wetlands**

Many wetland types, from vernal pools and forested wetlands to floodplains, exist along Clinton's rivers, streams and ponds. Since they are also common recharge zones for groundwater sources, it is important to identify and protect wetlands and floodplains. Though a few large, relatively undisturbed wetlands remain in Clinton, urban development

has lead to the destruction of several wetlands in the past 200 years. Clinton's major wetland resources include:

- ♦ The banks and vegetated wetlands associated with the Wachusett Reservoir;
- ♦ The banks, bordering vegetated wetlands, forested wetlands, and flood plains associated with the Nashua River and other brooks (Counterpane Brook, South Meadow Brook, North Brook, Rigby Brook);
- ♦ A large wet meadow north of Willow Road;
- ♦ The large vernal pools, vegetated wetlands and forested wetlands between Berlin Street and Wilson Street;
- ♦ The series of ponds, bordering vegetated wetlands and forested wetlands off Candice Street.

Wetlands are defined under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 as areas that are inundated or saturated by ground water (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils). The Clean Water Act prohibits virtually any ground-disturbing activities within 100 feet of all wetlands unless approved by special permit.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted the first coastal Wetland Protection Act (WPA) in the country in 1962. In the early 1970s, the act was amended to include inland wetlands. Today, the Act protects land under water bodies, banks, riverfront areas, bordering land subject to flooding, isolated land subject to flooding, certified vernal pools, coastal wetlands and bordering vegetated wetlands. M.G.L. c.131, s. 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, defines wetlands by vegetation, hydrology and topography. In Massachusetts, wetlands and associated buffer zones that border a surface water body or perennial rivers and streams are a protected natural resource. In 1996, the Rivers Protection Act added a new protected resource area and accompanying performance standards to the Wetlands Protection Act.

## **Floodplains**

Major floodplain and floodway areas are depicted on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps of the National Flood Insurance Program for the Town of Clinton. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act includes jurisdiction over the 100-year floodplain, and the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act includes jurisdiction over lands adjacent to perennial streams and rivers to protect important buffer zones. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)

identify areas subject to 100- and 500-year floods along the South Branch Nashua River, Counterpane Brook, South Meadow Brook, North Brook, and Rigby Brook.

Clinton's historical development pattern led to an urban village located on the banks of the South Branch and Counterpane Brook. This built environment exists in close proximity to, and in some cases within, the floodplain. Both the Town and state have Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans filed with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to deal with emergencies related to flooding or possible dam failure. In addition, Clinton has a Floodplain Protection Overlay Bylaw to protect residents and property owners from hazardous flooding, to preserve the natural flood control characteristics, and the flood storage capacity of the flood plain, and to pre-serve and maintain the groundwater table and water recharge areas within the flood plain. The Floodplain District corresponds to the 100-year floodplain. Clinton's bylaw regulates development within areas delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to comply with M.G.L. c.131, s. 40 and with requirements of the Massachusetts State Building Code. Building within the floodplain requires a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### **4.D. VEGETATION**

The most recent MacConnell Land Use data (Table 6) show that forests cover about 30% of Clinton's total area and agriculture, 1.1%. Most of Clinton's forested land lies in outlying sections of the Town, along the banks of the South Nashua River, and within the Wachusett Reservation. Clinton's forests are fairly typical of the southern New England hardwood forest types found throughout the region. A diverse mixture of hardwoods and conifers gives the land a quilted appearance from a distance, and also provides a wide range of habitats for wildlife. Oak, hickory, birch, maple, and Eastern white pine dominate the canopy, while the understory is populated with ferns, wildflowers, and assorted shrub species.

An exceptional characteristic of the Town is the presence of a rare natural community known as "Dry Riverside Bluff." Found only in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, the Dry Riverside Bluff community occurs next to rivers in steep, sandy areas. It provides habitat for species that enjoy dry conditions and open space, and it is globally endangered. The soils tend to be excessively drained, loamy, sands and the vegetation, ranging from woodland to scrubland, relies on periodic fires and slope erosion to thrive. Some examples of the types of flora found in a Dry Riverside Bluff environment include American hazelnut, lowbush blueberries, woodland sunflower, trembling aspen, individual or thicketed scrub oak, and goat's rue.<sup>18</sup> In Clinton, this natural community also contains the world's largest population

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<sup>18</sup> Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), "Dry Riverside Bluff" Fact Sheet, Natural Communities Fact Sheet Series, <[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/natural\\_communities](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/natural_communities)>.

of Spreading Tick-Trefoil (*Desmodium humifusum*), a state-listed endangered species (see also, “Wildlife” below).

After the Dry Riverside Bluff community was discovered in Clinton ca. 1988, the Nature Conservancy, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nashua River Watershed Association and the Town of Clinton entered into an agreement to manage the area and protect the rare species found there. The agreement identified several parcels that should be acquired and protected as a contiguous open space system, including a 12-acre parcel that Clinton already owned. The Nature Conservancy subsequently negotiated the purchase of a 42-acre parcel along Water Street and The Nashua River Watershed Association negotiated the donation of a third, 13-acre parcel to the Town. To date, the other parcels have not been acquired or placed under a conservation restriction. Contiguous open space in this area could provide a critical link in the Nashua River Greenway. If managed carefully, the area has the potential to become an important passive recreational area for activities that would not adversely affect the ecology of the Bluff.

#### **4.E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

Clinton’s forests, open fields, riverbanks, and wetlands provide a diversity of habitats. The presence of the Wachusett Reservoir is clearly a contributing factor, for 69% of the land in the Wachusett Watershed is undeveloped forest and wetlands. Clinton benefits from this largely untouched land.

##### **Fisheries**

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife lists four Clinton ponds within their database: South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Lancaster Mill Ponds. Three interconnected ponds – South Meadow, Mossy, and Coachlace – are located in the western part of Clinton directly north of the Wachusett Reservoir. The fish population in these ponds includes 11 identified species. The gamefish include chain pickerel and large mouth bass. Panfish include yellow perch, white perch, bluegills, black crappie, yellow bullheads, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds, and goldenshiners. In addition, smelt is a vital forage fish in this water body. Both major tributaries – the Quinapoxet and the Stillwater Rivers – are stocked each spring with trout. Although prohibited in Clinton, shore fishing at designated locations on the Wachusett Reservoir is a popular pastime for anglers.

Each year, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks these bodies of water and the Lancaster Mill Pond with trout. The use of South Meadow, Mossy, and Coachlace Ponds is “moderate to heavy,” according to the Fisheries and Wildlife Division. While not stocked

regularly, Clamshell Pond is suitable for fishing, according to an EPA assessment conducted in 2002. With the Town purchase of Rauscher Farm in 2008, Clamshell Pond is now accessible to the general public for recreational fishing.

While the Wachusett Reservoir makes up about 25% of Clinton's total area and is home to approximately 24 fish species, fishing is prohibited along Clinton's reservoir shoreline. The area is defined as an intake protection zone by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection. As a result, Clinton residents have to leave town in order to fish on the banks of the reservoir, or upon its two major tributaries, the Stillwater and Quinapoxet rivers. Still, the distinction of being an intake protection zone means that Wachusett Reservoir and its surroundings serve as one the best habitats for wildlife in the Clinton's area.

## Wildlife

A fisheries and wildlife inventory is important for open space and recreation planning because there is an obligation to preserve habitat for common species as well as rare ones. Moreover, communities need to consider the interactions between humans and other species both for safety and species welfare.

Many common species have been observed in Clinton, including large and small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. The large mammals include black bears, moose, and white-tailed deer. Some of the smaller mammals that reside in Clinton are grey foxes, red foxes, bobcats, hares, raccoons, striped skunks, bats, mice, moles, shrews, squirrels, and beavers. Among amphibians, Clinton has spotted salamanders, the eastern newt, eastern red-backed salamander, milksnake, and the American toad. Mallards, wild turkeys, mourning doves, bobolinks, the common raven, the European starling and a wide variety of common birds reside here as well. Wildlife in Clinton is generally consistent with the rest of the Commonwealth, but there are some exceptions. According to NHESP, Clinton is home to several rare or endangered species. Clinton's inventory includes two amphibians, two birds and four vascular plants (Table 8).

**Table 8: Rare or Endangered Species Observed in Clinton**

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State-Listed Status	Most Recent Observation
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	Threatened	2006
Amphibian	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander	Special Concern	1999
Bird	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon	Special Concern	2004
Bird	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	Threatened	1999
Vascular Plant	<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	Grass-leaved Ladies'-tresses	Threatened	2001

Vascular Plant	<i>Scleria pauciflora</i> var. <i>caroliniana</i>	Papillose Nut-sedge	Endangered	1988
Vascular Plant	<i>Arceuthobium pusillum</i>	Dwarf Mistletoe	Special Concern	1898
Vascular Plant	<i>Desmodium humifusum</i>	Spreading Tick-trefoil	Endangered	1988

Source: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

The Wachusett Reservation serves as important wildlife habitat in Clinton. The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) has made its home here. Protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Common Loon winters as far south as Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1975, it made its way to Massachusetts after nearly a century's absence. Since that time, accelerated management efforts have helped increase its breeding population from one recorded pair in 1975 to eleven pairs in 1992. According to NHESP, the leading cause of adult loon mortality on New England lakes is lead poisoning induced by ingesting fish sinkers. Additional threats include acid rain, pesticides, shoreline development, recreational boaters, and the flooding of nests due to fluctuating water levels.

Two other rare species, the Marbled Salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) and the Four-Toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) are also found in Clinton. Marbled Salamanders are largely terrestrial creatures that occur in deciduous or mixed woods of the southern New England hardwood type, but they rely on wooded vernal pools or shallow depressions for breeding. The Marbled Salamander is classified as threatened because Massachusetts is near the northern limit of its range and the state has lost wetland habitat. The Four-Toed Salamander relies on forested areas, bogs, swamps dominated by red maple and Atlantic white cedar, vernal pools and other perennial wetlands for habitat. It is threatened by habitat destruction resulting from road construction, development and timber harvesting.

### Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are unique habitats centered on ephemeral ponds that typically dry out once a year, or at least once every few years. As a result of this cyclical pattern, they do not maintain reproducing fish populations, and are therefore critical for a number of amphibian and invertebrate species whose life cycle depends on habitat that is free from fish predators. While this type of habitat is naturally scarce and is not explicitly protected, there are a number of rare and endangered species whose populations are dependent on protecting vernal pools in the landscape. The NHESP Aerial Survey of Potential Vernal Pools identifies potential locations of 26 vernal pools in Clinton, four of which have been certified. All four are located in the southeast corner of the Town, near Clamshell Pond.

#### **4.F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS**

Clinton has many scenic attributes and unique features that set it apart from surrounding communities (Map 5). The Town's old mills, ornate churches and mixed residential neighborhoods attest to its history as a thriving manufacturing village and make Clinton a regionally distinctive place. Clinton's varied topography provides interesting glimpses of church spires, clock towers and roofscapes, as well as Wachusett Mountain, which can be seen from various locations. While public access has been severely limited for a number of years, the promenade atop the Wachusett Dam, affords panoramic views in every direction. Surrounded by farms, woods and a few scattered houses, Clamshell Pond, in southeastern Clinton, is a place of scenic beauty. The site of early Indian and English farming communities, Clamshell Pond lies adjacent to Reuben's Hill in Berlin, a landscape deemed "distinctive" by the 1981 Massachusetts Landscape Inventory.

#### **4.G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

##### **Contaminated Sites**

Clinton has had an extensive history of industrial activity, the remnants of which can be seen in the mill buildings and waterways throughout the downtown area. A residual byproduct of past and present industrial activities is a number of sites that have been contaminated with oil and/or other hazardous materials. Massachusetts DEP monitors Oil or Hazardous Materials Sites through the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 21E and 310 CMR 40.00, the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). Two basic classification systems are used, depending on the severity of the contamination and the type of cleanup required.

The first classification is used to track a site once it has been identified and classified for severity of contamination. These sites are generally referred to as Chapter 21E sites. The second classification is used to track sites where oil and/or hazardous material contamination remain after a cleanup has been conducted. These sites are registered under the Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) program to identify activities and uses of the property that may and may not occur, as well as the property owner's obligation and maintenance conditions that must be followed to ensure the safe use of the property. Table 9 lists the 21E and AUL sites in Clinton, their Release Tracking Number (RTN), and the type of contamination present. Some have been remediated to meet state standards and that the response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of no significant risk or at least ensure that all substantial hazards were eliminated. (See Map 9)



<b>Table 9: Chapter 21E and AUL Sites in Clinton</b>				
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>RTN</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type of Contamination</b>
MacGregor Mills	75 Green Street	2-0015167	21E	Cyanide
William Reisner Corp	33 Elm Street	2-0001009	21E	Oil
Boston Gas Plant	136 Pleasant Street	2-0010846	21E	Coal Tar Pitch
Amory Packaging Corp	184 Stone Street	2-0000029	21E	Unknown
Prism Development	140 Brook Street	2-0015745	21E	Oil & Hazardous Material
Parker Construction Company	Rigby Road	2-0000692	21E	Unknown
Cardillo Service Station	712 Main Street	2-0014360	21E	Oil
Main Street Coal and Fuels, Inc.	546-556 Main Street	2-0014559	21E	Oil & Hazardous Material
Main Street Coal and Fuels, Inc.	546-556 Main Street	2-0015420	21E	Oil
Rockbestos Suprenant Cable	172 Sterling Street	2-0011434	AUL	Oil
Surprenant Cable Corp	172 Sterling Street	2-0011386	AUL	Oil & Hazardous Material
Injelectronics	1 Union Street	2-0012702	AUL	Fuel Oil #6
Lancaster Mills Fmr	1 Green Street	2-0001037	AUL	Petroleum Based Oil
Shanberg Estate	811 817 Main Street	2-0011387	AUL	Oil & Hazardous Material
MDC Division of Watershed Management	500 Wilson	2-0010013	AUL	Fuel Oil #2
Source: MassGIS, DEP.				

## Other Challenges

### **Impacts of Septic Systems on Groundwater and Surface Waters**

Of the 6,258 housing units in Clinton, approximately 53 (0.9%) continue to use septic systems for treatment of sanitary sewage. The Clinton Board of Health has no information on recent failures or replacements, but note that many of the systems are from recent developments that would comply with Title V regulations. Because of the Wachusett Reservoir's importance as a drinking water source, reducing contamination potential from on-site systems has long been a priority goal in the Reservoir's watershed management.

### **Stormwater and Common Household Contaminants**

Road and parking lot runoff, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are also sources of groundwater contamination associated with development. Stormwater runoff contains hydrocarbons, nitrogen, suspended solids and coliform bacteria deposited on the street by cars, pets, and other sources. Untreated runoff is a major source of poor water quality, with potential to contaminate both surface and groundwater. Its effects will increase as the Town continues to become more developed. As part of the Wachusett Reservoir management plan, much of the watershed contributing to the Reservoir has been protected by the MWRA or by the adjacent Towns. However, the Nashua River and nearby aquifers provide drinking water for additional towns downstream from Clinton.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for control of stormwater runoff include the use of open, natural drainage systems that improve water quality of the runoff and aid flood prevention. These systems include wet basins, vegetated swales and creation of wetlands to retain and recharge stormwater pollution while absorbing pollutants. Stormwater is detained in swales for short periods of time while ponds and wetlands treat stormwater for longer periods. In contrast, a closed system is one that relies on curbs, gutters, catchbasins, pipes, and culverts to quickly divert stormwater to other locations. Increases in impervious areas also contribute to flooding by increase peak stormwater flows as water travels more quickly over hard surfaces, bypassing groundwater recharge and discharge that are crucial to normal stream flow.

While it is often highly desirable to utilize infiltration practices for stormwater management, they are not always appropriate for discharges located near drinking water resources. For example, a recent project implemented by the MWRA at the Cosgrove Inlet facility diverted stormwater away from an existing leachfield to an outfall on the North Brook, as it was determined that the leachfield was located too close to the reservoir. The Town's NPDES Phase II report lists stormwater discharges to 13 surface waterbodies, including the Wachusett Reservoir. The Town should seek available state grants and funding sources for drainage improvements and stormwater mitigation for public drainage facilities in the Zone II's, the Reservoir watershed, and other sensitive areas.

Chemical substances such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides contain significant amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous. When these products are used, spilled, or discharged on the ground in watersheds or recharge areas to surface waters and groundwater, contamination may result. The Town's Stormwater Management Program includes components to inform residents of these issues, including a classroom education component, a public service announcement, and posting information on the Town's website. In addition, the Clinton DPW has worked with local Boy Scouts to stencil storm drains, and collects waste oil at the DPW garage to reduce the possibility of contamination from these sources.

#### **Hazardous Materials Resulting From Commercial and Municipal Activities**

Like septic system leachate, stormwater and household contaminants, certain materials used by businesses can have major effects on water quality. Many commercial and home businesses, such as printing, photography, woodworking, and automobile repair use chemicals that contain hydrocarbons, sodium, and volatile organic compounds. Although only a small percentage of Clinton's land is actively used for agricultural purposes, pesticides and herbicides used in agricultural activities are also considered hazardous materials.

Clinton has 59 businesses that are registered with the EPA as having the potential to release contaminants. They range from gasoline stations to metalworking operations to 21-E listed sites, with solvents and heavy metals already having been released to the environment. Underground gasoline and heating oil tanks, landfills, salt storage areas and junkyards are also sources of groundwater contamination. These land uses must be identified and managed to reduce the potential for degradation of the Town's water resources. It is important for the Town to take the necessary steps to prevent contamination since treating water after chemical pollution has occurred can be extremely costly.

The former Clinton landfill was located on South Meadow Road, near South Meadow Pond. This unlined landfill was in operation from before 1940 to 1988, when it was closed and capped. The site is 19 acres and maintained by the Town. Since the landfill was capped prior to regulations requiring a post-closure monitoring plan, none was written at the time of the closure. The DEP has requested the compilation of a comprehensive site assessment (CSA) which will provide monitoring and maintenance plans for the site. The Town is in the process of reviewing this document at this time. There is currently no known groundwater contamination by leachate escaping from the landfill. However, there are concerns about naturally-occurring iron and arsenic being released from the surrounding soils because of the anoxic conditions encountered by groundwater which flows through the landfill. A management plan for this concern will be addressed in the CSA. The Town's solid waste is currently hauled to the Waste Management, Inc.'s Fitchburg landfill, located in Leominster, MA.

The DCR Bureau of Watershed Management is responsible for monitoring and containing releases to the Wachusett Reservoir. Local spill kits were made available to communities around the reservoir, providing equipment to handle releases of up to 2,000 gallons of petroleum products. The Clinton Local Fire Department is the first responder.

Railroad tracks cross through the South Meadow Pond complex and through the downtown area. A spill or accident in the proximity of the Pond can be a potential environmental hazard. In spring 2015, the Division of Conservation Resources, in conjunction with Pan Am Railways and public safety departments in Clinton, Sterling, and West Boylston, conducted hazard emergency preparedness drills to evaluate capacity to respond to an environmental disaster in the Wachusett watershed.

## SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

Clinton's inventory of conservation and recreation land includes 45 parcels with a combined total of more than 815 acres. Seventy percent of the land is permanently protected (See Appendix A, Map 9, Open Space Inventory, and Appendix B, Lands of Conservation Interest). Levels of protection described in this plan generally adhere to criteria established by the Division of Conservation Services.

- ♦ Land is protected if it is owned by the town's Conservation Commission or Water Department, one of the state's conservation agencies (i.e. the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management), a nonprofit land trust (i.e. the Nature Conservancy), or if the town received state or federal funds for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agricultural Preservation Restriction has been placed on the property, or if DEP has placed a conservation restriction on it as part of the Wetlands Conservancy Program.
- ♦ Land owned by other agencies (local school department, recreation commission, Department of Defense) is not protected.

Since 2007, six sites have been added to Clinton's Inventory of Conservation and/or Recreation land. Three of these sites, the Rauscher Farm (two parcels), the Mossy Pond Peninsula (two parcels, including a floating island), and the Mink Farm (two parcels), have been added due to their high conservation resource value; two others, the Clinton Senior Center and the Maybarton Community Garden, have been added because of their existing recreational value. A sixth site, the American Legion Lot on Chestnut Street, is municipally-owned land that was identified during public forums as a potential dog park.

It speaks to the success of prior plans that the Inventory of Lands continues to grow.

While it is not included in this list, the Town of Clinton continues to hold an interest in the Wekepeke Watershed Lands in Sterling and Leominster, which are owned by Clinton and originally served as the Town's water supply. These 564 acres are under Conservation Restriction given to the Commonwealth and are of high resource and recreational value.

The following is a list of all open space and recreation areas in Clinton as determined by the Open Space and Recreation Committee. An inventory of privately-held parcels of interest is included as part of Appendix B; since 2007, three parcels have been added to this inventory. Please also refer to Appendix C for a list of recreation programs and activities, and Appendix D for the Town's Section 504 Self-Evaluation and ADA Transition Plan.

**5.A. PRIVATELY OWNED LAND**

**Site:** 525 Water Street

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 1.20 acres

**Zoning District:**

**Description:** Recreation land

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Bufton Farms (253 Chase Street)

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 11.20 acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:**

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Tall Pines – South of Aqueduct

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 38.17 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Conservation land

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Goodridge Brook (1181 Main Street)

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 5.80 acres

**Zoning District:** Commercial

**Description:** Conservation Land

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Nathan Heights, Phase I

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 7.02

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:**

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Saint John's Field (125 R Chestnut Street)

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 2.36 acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Gymnasium and playing field with two small baseball diamonds.

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

**Site:** Turner Hall (60 Branch Street)

**Owner:** Private

**Acreage:** 2.3 acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Gymnasium

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

**Site:** Maybarton Community Garden

**Owner:** 151 High Street Realty Trust

**Acreage:** .21 acres

**Zoning District:** BR

**Description:** Community Garden

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

**Site:** Mink Farm-Ciesluk Parcel (211R Chace Street)

**Owner:** Ciesluk Family Realty Trust\*

**Acreage:** 8.03 acres

**Zoning District:** Residential 2

**Description:** BioMap 2 Critical Habitat

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

*\* FY17 Annual Town Meeting voted to acquire parcel, subject to LAND Grant Award*

**Site:** Mink Farm-Lenkiewicz Parcel (211R Chace Street)

**Owner:** Mitchell J Lenkiewicz\*

**Acreage:** 14.03 acres

**Zoning District:** Residential 2

**Description:** BioMap 2 Critical Habitat

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

*\* FY17 Annual Town Meeting voted to acquire parcel, subject to LAND Grant Award*

## **5.B. PUBLIC & NON-PROFIT LAND**

**Site:** 225 Fitch Road

**Owner:** Town of Clinton Conservation Commission

**Acreage:** 2.08 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:**  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** 142 Wilson Street  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton Conservation Commission  
**Acreage:** 25.93 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:**  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** 1 Bolton Road  
**Owner:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Acreage:** 42.60 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Conservation, including portion of Clinton Dry Prairie Bluff  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Wachusett Reservoir  
**Owner:** Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)  
**Acreage:** 468.70 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:** Restricted area for Greater Boston Water Supply; limited public access  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** 100- ISL Rogers Field Way  
**Owner:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Department of Fish & Wildlife  
**Acreage:** 1.00 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:** Floating island in Mossy Pond  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** 48 South Meadow Road  
**Owner:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Department of Fish & Wildlife  
**Acreage:** .23 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:** Boat Access to South Meadow Pond  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent



**Site:** 26 Rogers Field Way  
**Owner:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Department of Fish & Wildlife  
**Acreage:** 15.10 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:** Conservation  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** The O.P. (155 Park Street)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 2.80  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Town of Clinton Water Supply  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** End of Pearl Street and Prescott Street  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 13.00  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Conservation  
**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** End of Elm Street (Next to Nashua River)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 12.50 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Conservation  
**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Woodlawn Cemetery  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 20.00 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Historic Cemetery  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Reservoir Pines  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 5.00 acres  
**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Cemetery

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Duck Harbor (Duffy Park)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .01

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Landscaped area at Coachlace Pond

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Triangle Park (176 Chestnut Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** Not listed on Assessor's Card

**Zoning District:** Business-Retail

**Description:** Small landscaped area at police Station

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Central Park (243 Church Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 3.82 Acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Town Common with benches, walkways and fountain.

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Turini Corner (Milestone Park; 350 High Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .06 acres

**Zoning District:** Business-Retail

**Description:** Neighborhood Park

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Memorial Park Depot (Hamilton Square, 636 Main Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .83 acres

**Zoning District:** Commercial

**Description:** Neighborhood Park

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Acre Park (Berlin and Chase Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .03 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Neighborhood Park  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Carlisle Park (68 Beacon Street)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 1.16 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Neighborhood Park  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Lakeside Field (58 Fitch Road)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton Housing Authority  
**Acreage:** Not listed on Assessor's Card  
**Zoning District:** R2  
**Description:** Small play area located at Housing Authority building  
**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Ash Street Playground (80 Church Street)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** Not listed on Assessor's Card  
**Zoning District:** Business-Retail  
**Description:** Park area with play equipment  
**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Fuller Field (570 High Street)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 7.62 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Large lit football field with bleachers, locker facilities and one large and small baseball field.  
**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Vale Street Playground (Savage Field, 36 Vale Street)  
**Owner:** Town of Clinton  
**Acreage:** 6.12 acres  
**Zoning District:** R1  
**Description:** Neighborhood playing fields.  
**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Philbin Park (Berlin and Chace Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .93 acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Neighborhood Park with play equipment and water feature. ADA accessible water fountain and parking available.

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Rogers Field (0 Rogers Field Way)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 1.93 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Neighborhood playing fields

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Clinton Middle/High Playing Fields (75 West Boylston Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 48.38 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Middle School and High School Playing Fields

**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Elementary School Play Area (140R School Street)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .15 acres

**Zoning District:** Business-Retail

**Description:** Tot Lot

**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Parks and Rec Building

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** .51 acres

**Zoning District:** Commercial

**Description:** Building and Grounds with recreation space

**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** 4 Hillside Ave

**Owner:** Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust

**Acreage:** .22 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Land set aside for neighborhood “pocket park”

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** South Meadow Road

**Owner:** Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust

**Acreage:** .11 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Access to South Meadow Pond

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** 457 Brook Street

**Owner:** Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust

**Acreage:** 2.41 acres

**Zoning District:** Commercial

**Description:** Access to Counterpane Brook

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** Rauscher Farm (20 Clamshell Road)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 32.02 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Open Space / Recreation

**Level of Protection:** Limited

**Site:** Rauscher Farm (29 Clamshell Road)

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 28.93 acres

**Zoning District:** R2

**Description:** Conservation

**Level of Protection:** Permanent

**Site:** American Legion Lot

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 1.35 acres

**Zoning District:** R1

**Description:** Vacant Land near downtown

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

**Site:** Clinton Senior Center

**Owner:** Town of Clinton

**Acreage:** 1.68 acres

**Zoning District:** BR

**Description:** Senior Center and Grounds

**Level of Protection:** Unprotected

## SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

### 6.A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

In the autumn of 2012, the Town of Clinton Community and Economic Development Office and the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust reached out to various municipal boards, as well as the community at-large, to establish an Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee. This committee was charged with the creation of a new Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which would be Clinton's third in the last 16 years. Prior plans were devised in the years 2000 and 2007.

The OSRP Planning Committee included representatives of the Clinton Board of Selectmen, the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Planning Board, the Cultural Commission, and the Rauscher Farm Management Committee. Due to frequent turnover of the Board, there was no representation of the Conservation Commission on the Committee. The OSRP Planning Committee met frequently during 2013 to review prior plans; to devise a community outreach program and to prepare for public forums; to incorporate community feedback and related planning efforts, and; to draft the OSRP (see Appendix E: Committee Meeting Minutes). Meeting notices were posted in Town Hall and on the Town's website, [www.clintonma.gov](http://www.clintonma.gov).

Insofar as this was to be Clinton's first OSRP to be developed absent the threat of large-scale development, it became obvious early on—particularly in the public forums—that recreational desires would be more prominent in this OSRP than in prior plans. Additionally, the review of prior OSRP Action Plans affirmed that goals and objectives were more likely to be accomplished when interested and active citizen groups took responsibility. These two insights provided context and focus for the OSRP; for instance, a new category, dedicated to Recreation, has been added to Section 8: Goals and Objectives. Also, in Section 9: Five-Year Action Plan, items have been reviewed to more precisely assign responsibility to targeted parties.

In November 2012, the Committee held the first of four public forums; subsequent forums would be held in March, May, and September of 2013. Notice of these public forums was posted in Town Hall, on cable access TV, and the Bigelow Free Public Library; was published in the Clinton Item, and; was given at televised meetings of the Board of Selectmen. The purpose of these forums was to solicit public input. At the November meeting, attendees were asked to identify parcels of interest on large-scale maps, and to express their desires and opinions concerning Open Space and recreational opportunities. In subsequent meetings, attendees were asked to review and refine goals and objectives for the OSRP. Preliminary drafts of the OSRP were distributed at subsequent public forums, and were available on-line

at the Town's website, as well as the websites of the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department and the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust.

Absent a hot-button issue, attendance at these forums was light, ranging from 6 to 14 people. Attendance lists, presentation materials, and forum minutes are included as Appendix F of this Plan.

During 2013, the Community & Economic Development Director regularly attended meetings of the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, and Conservation Commission, to keep members apprised of the OSRP development and to solicit their review and comment. Mapping was provided by the GIS department of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

## **6.B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS**

Clinton is a small, densely developed town with physical characteristics that dictate heavy use of existing resources. The Town's extensive water resources and many open space areas provide recreational opportunities and shape the landscape of the Town. If adequately protected and thoughtfully managed, these physical resources can be enjoyed by future generations.

Broadly stated, the goals of the *2016-2020 Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan* are to identify the various factors affecting open space and recreation in Clinton; to prepare a strategy to enhance recreational opportunities; to preserve the community's natural and cultural resources, and to increase the public's enjoyment of these, and; to encourage collaboration between interested parties to achieve these goals.

Section 8 of this plan, titled "Goals and Objectives", elaborates upon the Town of Open Space and Recreational desires; Section 9 presents a 5-year Action Plan, intended to enact the satisfaction of those desires.



## **SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS**

### **7.A. SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

As a community characterized by its small land area, steep slopes and densely-settled neighborhoods, Clinton needs to view the protection of natural and scenic resources as a major priority. Areas in need of protection include water resources, particularly, the South Branch River Corridor and South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace and Clamshell Ponds; land resources, including the preservation of the Clinton Prairie Bluff System, continued oversight of Rauscher Farm, the preservation of open space parcels and scenic vistas, and; critical habitats, including BioMap2 Core Habitats located to the east of Chace Street and on either side of Berlin Streets, including the Maffei parcel and the as-yet undeveloped parcels of the Woodlands. In addition to their intrinsic value as core habitats, these parcels are crucial links in a network of extended open space that includes multiple large parcels in Clinton and Berlin. These should be Clinton's open space protection priorities.

Participants at the three public workshops expressed their interest in better management and implementation of the Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan. They also felt that there should be additional emphasis on recreation, as previous versions of the plan had focused more on protection. Participants continued to advocate for improvements to Clinton's pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, as a recreational resource and as a link to connect residents to open space and recreation resources. All residents agreed that a successful implementation of the 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan is dependent on engaging interested parties to complete the goals and objectives. Participants felt that the steps to implement and manage the plan should continue to be a vehicle for educating Clinton's population about what open space is, where open space is located in Clinton and how these areas can be utilized by the community. Toward these ends, residents agreed that public education, communication, cooperation and awareness are priorities and that successful completion of objectives is dependent on an interested "responsible party".

### **7.B. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

As a result of discussions at the public workshops, the community's needs are divided into five distinct categories, preservation, expansion, management, linkage, and recreation. Participants want to see the preservation of open space parcels; the expansion of and accessibility of recreation areas to include the needs of populations currently under-served, such as adolescents, the elderly and people with disabilities; better management of land and facilities through the creation of maps identifying trails, open space and recreation areas; and continuous open space parcels by linking parcels to each other, thereby creating a more "walkable" Clinton.

In the interval between the public forums and formal submittal of this plan to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the community has undertaken a number of steps to meet community needs and advance the goals and objectives of this plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department has for the past several years been actively integrating ADA-Compliant facilities at its park and recreation areas and the town offers a Special Needs Summer Playground Program each year. Since the preparation of the previous Open Space and Recreation Plans (2000, 2007), several parks and recreational facilities, including the Splash Pad at Philbin Park, have been updated to better serve those with special needs. An ADA-compliant trail on Rauscher Farm is in the planning and fundraising phases. The proposed trail would extend from the parking area to a pond-side viewing platform which would afford the elderly and people with disabilities an expansive view of Clamshell Pond.

In 2015, Clinton's capacity to address the recreational needs of its senior population was greatly augmented by the opening of our new Senior Center, which can accommodate both indoor and outdoor activities. The Senior Center staff and Friends of the Senior Center have been energized by this new facility, and in the past year have constructed a bocce court, raised gardening frames, and a barbecue pit.

In 2014, the Community & Economic Development Office utilized CDBG funds to commission BETA Group to undertake a Complete Streets Study of its Environmental Justice census block groups. In 2016, Clinton became one of the first communities in Worcester County to adopt a "Complete Streets Policy", and the consistent integration of Complete Streets practices and funding are anticipated to dramatically address this community need. Additionally, the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and MRPC have mapped trails in Clinton, and Boy Scouts Troop 10 undertook to clear and mark trails connecting Rauscher Farm to the Clinton Court House parking lots on Boylston Street. Additional work remains to be done to publicize the existence of these trail resources and the availability of maps.

Most impressively, in 2014, the Parks and Recreation Commission hired Gale Associates to prepare a comprehensive recreation plan for Savage Field, a 6.1 acre playground located within one of Clinton's Economic Justice census block groups. In 2016, Town Meeting approved \$545,000 to revitalize Savage Field, to construct drainage and parking improvements, as well as a family pavilion. It is hoped that this model will be duplicated for other town-owned parcels.

## **7.C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE**

Consistent with the findings of prior plans, those in attendance at the public workshops stated that they were satisfied with the levels of cooperation and communication among town boards and departments. However, the need for professional staff to assist the permit and review boards, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and

Conservation Commission, has been expressed in other venues. Shared professional staff could facilitate greater communication between boards and departments, and insure that Open Space and community priorities are consistently considered during the evaluation of development proposals and in the formulation of regulations and zoning by-laws.

In 2015, Town Meeting voted to create a consolidated Facilities Management Department, charged with the maintenance of all properties currently managed by municipal departments. Since this Department will not be operational until FY18, the effects of this change upon the maintenance of recreational parcels and the capacity of department staff to otherwise advance the goals of this plan remain to be seen.

As in every community, the difficulty in identifying funding to advance the goals and objectives of this Plan remain a challenge. The Town should consider adoption of the Community Preservation Act to provide funding in support of this Plan.

## SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### Five Year Action Plan

The Goals and Objectives of the Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan may be broadly classified into five categories of intent; the **protection** of existing natural and recreational resources; the **expansion** of these resources, and the community's enjoyment of them; the establishment of **linkages** to connect these resources one to another, both locally and regionally; the establishment of a structural and administrative capacity for the **management** of these resources and this plan; the development of additional **recreation** opportunities.

The action items intended to attain these goals and objectives are presented below in two formats. The first of these associates each action item with the goal that it is intended to achieve; in many instances, because of the consonance of these goals, accomplishment of certain action items will bring the community closer to the attainment of more than one goal. The second format in which the goals and action items are presented is a timeline, suggesting a sequence in which these action items will be undertaken and designating an agency responsible for action. This timeline is not intended to be rigid, and in only a few instances are the initiation of certain action items predicated on the successful completion of a preceding action item.

Many of the action items that follow are included as a direct result of citizen input generated at the four public forums that were conducted in conjunction with the preparation of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. During the interval between these public forums and the submittal of this Plan to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, substantial progress has been made on the attainment of many goals and objectives (see Section 7.B; Summary of Community Needs).

### A. Protection

#### **Goal 1: Manage all open space land resources to ensure wildlife and habitat protection, the conservation of natural resources and for recreational uses.**

1. Apply conservation easements to town-owned properties in priority areas.
2. Create a management plan for all town-owned parcels of open space and recreational interest.
3. Prioritize the protection of BioMap2 Core Habitat areas.
4. Engage the community in the maintenance of open space parcels.

- a. Actively seek out the participation of youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Golden Eagles in maintenance and improvement activities appropriate to their abilities.
  - b. Seek to include activities related to the maintenance of open space parcels in Clinton's Senior Citizen Tax Abatement Program. Potential activities include:
    - i. Trail maintenance
    - ii. Map development
    - iii. Map distribution
5. Ensure all Parks provide a friendly and safe atmosphere.

**Goal 2: Manage and identify all water resources to ensure water quality, preservation of habitat and recreational uses.**

1. Identify and map Clinton's wetlands, including vernal pools.
2. Engage the community in the maintenance of Clinton's lakes, rivers, and streams.
  - a. Support the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust's annual River Walk.
  - b. Involve the community in an annual "Clean-Up" day for important water bodies, including the Nashua River, Counterpane Brook, South Meadow Pond, and Clamshell Pond.
  - c. Identify organizations that can drive this activity, include: Nashua River Watershed Association, South Meadow Pond and Wildlife Association, the Clinton Rotary Club, and the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust.
3. Whenever necessary, implement remediation efforts to reverse eutrophication of South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds.
4. Identify invasive species and where necessary implement control management in all Clinton ponds and waterways.
5. Establish a water quality monitoring program on South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds.
6. Add signage related to endangered species, invasive species, and other related information. (i.e. feeding water fowl).

**B. Expansion**

**Goal 1: Increase community awareness of Clinton's natural and recreational resources**

1. Create a master list of all open spaces in Clinton (addresses, acreage, activities, directions, etc.) to be posted in Clinton Town Hall, in the Bigelow Free Public Library, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department Office, and appropriate municipal and community web sites and via other communication vehicles.
2. Design and systematically implement a signage program for Clinton's Parks and Open Space Parcels.
3. Make copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan available to public at Town Hall, the Bigelow Free Public Library, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department Office, and appropriate municipal and community web sites and via other communication vehicles.
4. Work constructively with the Clinton Schools on initiatives that utilize the local landscape for instruction in science, resource protection, and local history.
  - a. Use Clinton's rivers and streams as a device to explain local history.
  - b. Use the differing geologies of sandy north Clinton and rocky south Clinton as a device to explain the Ice Age, glacial Lake Nashua, and to explain why the Wachusett Dam is built where it is.
  - c. Encourage partnerships between the Clinton School system and appropriate individuals and organizations to develop programs and activities such as:
    - i. Designing "field seminars" that explore Clinton's landscapes, including wetlands, streams and rivers, forests, meadows, such as those found on the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm.
    - ii. Incorporating "adopt-a-pond" or wetland programs focused on Clinton ponds and wetlands into the public school science curriculum.
    - iii. Implementing an "outreach" program, whereby the resident expertise in matters of biology and life sciences, geology, resource protection, and history is made available to Clinton students.
6. Establish self-learning nature trails through the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm that do not disrupt the ecology of the locations, but foster an understanding of and appreciation for the wildlife and plants that comprise the habitats.

7. Examine the feasibility of constructing nature observatories on Rauscher Farm, the Clamshell Pond area, the Mossy Pond Peninsula, the Nashua River Conservation Area, and other areas.
8. Provide better identification of trails and parks through improved signage, lighting, benches / tables, or parking.
9. Insure that trail maps, prepared by Montachusett Regional Trail Coalition, are readily available.
10. Expand the use of social media and websites.

**Goal 2: Increase Clinton's Inventory of Open Space and Recreational Space**

1. Encourage the acquisition of open space
  - a. Work with private property owners on the establishment of open space and recreational easements.
  - b. Encourage the Planning Board to consider the protection or provision of Open Space a matter of high priority for the community, when consistent with principals of sustainable development.

**C. Linkages**

**Goal 1: Enhance habitat quality and the creation of wildlife corridors by prioritizing contiguous parcels of interest.**

1. Continue the maintenance and protection of Rauscher Farm, which is situated between the 150-acre Woodlands parcel and the Wachusett reservation.
2. Ensure that the proposed network of trails connecting the Bufton Farm parcel to the SuAsCo's Garfield Woods is implemented.

**Goal 2: Enhance the quality of life available to the people of Clinton by facilitating the linkages of neighborhoods to parcels of natural and recreational interest.**

1. Implement "Complete Streets" strategies to accommodate the needs of walkers and bicyclists and to connect Clinton's neighborhoods to parcels of conservation and recreation interest.
2. Maintain and upgrade the sidewalks/crosswalks throughout the town to encourage walking and to facilitate access to parcels of natural and recreational interest.

3. Explore the possibility of establishing linear parks or walkways along the Nashua River and Counterpane Brook.
4. Support the “Safe Walk to Schools” program.
5. Support the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition by participating in meetings and providing updates to the trail map.

**Goal 3: Foster linkages that connect Clinton and its landscape to the regional landscape.**

1. Continue working to bring the Mass Central Rail Trail to Clinton.
2. Work with the Town of Clinton and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to preserve a right of way for the Mass Central Rail Trail adjacent to the Wachusett Reservoir and Route 110.
3. Continue working to develop a multi-purpose trail along the railroad spur that extends from Water Street, along the Vale Street Playground, to the Clinton Prairie Bluff.
4. Assist the Nashua River Watershed Association in the creation of the Nashua Greenway.
5. Work with the Town of Lancaster to determine the best strategy for protecting its groundwater supply and to address its sewerage issues.
6. Work in partnership with The Nashua River Watershed Association, land trusts, and state and federal conservation agencies to protect priority parcels.
7. Work with the relevant townships (Sterling and Leominster), agencies (Department of Conservation and Recreation) and organizations (Wekepeke Watershed Association, Sterling Land Trust) on trail development and accessibility on the Clinton-owned Wekepeke watershed property.
8. Research the use of aqueduct trails and determine the feasibility of aqueduct trail development in Clinton.
9. Work in partnership with the DCR on the development and signage of the trail from Clinton District Court on Rt. 70 to Rauscher Farm.
10. Pursue the connection of the Clinton section of the Mass Central Rail Trail with the designated trails on the Woodlands property.



11. Work with Woodlands property owners to develop the Woodlands trails and making these trails accessible to the public.

## **D. Management**

### **Goal 1: Develop an administrative and structural capacity to further the attainment of plan goals**

1. Identify working groups and/or task force groups for all identified projects.
2. Maintain the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee to manage the implementation process of the action items with guidance from the Clinton Parks and Recreation Commission.
3. Hire professional staff-a Town Planner or Conservation Agent- whose responsibilities in part shall be to assist citizen boards in the implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
4. Ensure that all parties that are charged with responsibilities in this plan are given a full presentation of the plan, including the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, Clinton Conservation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. Revise and update the Action Strategy so that it reflects Clinton's changing needs.
6. Hold meetings twice a year with all responsible parties listed in the Action Strategy to gauge their progress and ascertain plans for accomplishing each action.

### **Goal 2: Amend zoning bylaws and adopt regulations to comply with Plan recommendations.**

1. Review existing growth management strategies to determine their effectiveness.
2. Ensure that the Master Plan is regularly updated.
3. Adopt a Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

### **Goal 3: Seek funding for purposes of natural resource acquisition or protection, and for the expansion of recreational opportunities available to the people of Clinton.**

1. Seek funding to enhance recreation facilities through the Community Block Grant Program, Self-Help Program, Highway Enhancement Grant Program, and other grants offered by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and/or the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

2. Establish a municipal fund to purchase conservation easements. A real estate transfer tax is one option to consider.
3. Consider local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

## **E. Recreation**

### **Goal 1: Increase recreational opportunities available to the people of Clinton**

1. Identify unmet recreational desires and assess the community's capacity to meet these desires.
  - a. Assess community capacity to provide for a "dog park".
  - b. Construct boat ramps for car top boat access on South Meadow and Clamshell Ponds.
  - c. Examine the feasibility of establishing a new town beach on either Lancaster Millpond, South Meadow, Mossy, or Coachlace.
  - d. Identify special recreational desires of Clinton's growing elderly population by working closely with the Clinton Senior Center and the Clinton Council on Aging.
  - e. Identify special recreational desires of Clinton's culturally diverse population through surveys and questionnaires.
2. Develop playground on the north side of town on Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust parcel.
  - a. Identify the best structures to place on that parcel of land prior to installation.
3. Improve parks and playgrounds by upgrading facilities
  - a. Install accessible playground equipment in town
  - b. Develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and/or Park Maintenance Plan for all facilities
4. Provide information about the availability of public restrooms and investigate the feasibility of providing public facilities where there are none.
5. Construct picnic tables in appropriate locations.
6. Continue efforts to insure that all trails and parks provide universal access wherever feasible.

7. Continue efforts to construct the proposed universal access trail on Rauscher Farm that starts in the designated parking area on Clamshell Road and ends in a viewing platform beside Clamshell Pond.

**Goal 2: Engage more Clintonians in recreational activities**

1. Examine the feasibility of the following suggested activities, including interest, location, and ability to implement with resources available.
  - a. Develop Geo Caching activities in conjunction with Rauscher Farm
  - b. Develop mountain biking trails at Rauscher Farm and other available locations with possible help from NEMBA and/or volunteer groups
  - c. Develop an improved trail system throughout the whole town with proper signage for activities such as snowshoeing, walking trails, and biking trails
  - d. Research possibly locations to construct a Disc Golf Course
  - e. Acquire more land to add more pocket parks, playgrounds, splash pads, and skate parks
  - f. Identify ability to provide kayak rental opportunities with access to a proper boat launch
  - g. Examine the options to develop a town beach
  - h. Examine the current skate park and determine improvements needed at current site or an alternative site for a new park
  - i. Examine interest for a deck hockey rink
  - j. Identify locations for a winter ice skating rink and develop policies and procedures to implement
  - k. Acquire materials needed to host movies and concerts in the parks
  - l. Research the interest and feasibility of dirt biking / ATV trails in town
  - m. Examine the feasibility of using the Rauscher Farm and Bufton Farm and other locations for various activities
2. Develop recreational opportunities for 12 – 16 year olds,
  - a. Survey of Middle and High School students to see what activities interest this age group
  - b. Implement new programs, special events, and teen center activities as suggested

**Goal 3: Make Clinton “friendlier” to cyclists**

1. Develop dedicated bike trails and add bike racks in strategic places around town
2. Research the feasibility of adding bike lanes on road
3. Develop a bike club for those interested in riding together

**Goal 4: Increase the use of Fuller Field**

1. Improve facility by developing a maintenance plan for fields and building structures
2. Promote historical significance
3. Identify groups that can partner to maintain and promote facility (Parks & Recreation)

**Goal 5: Clean current polluted or damaged conservation and open space land**

1. Identify locations that need improvement and develop ongoing maintenance plans for each
  - a. Research feasibility of converting current open space land to passive recreation parks with walkways, benches, and lights
  - b. Research grant opportunities for the improvement and development of current conservation and open space land

## SECTION 9: FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

	Milestone	Responsible Parties	Evaluation Date	Comments/ Additional Information
<b>Ongoing:</b>				
1. Engage the community in the maintenance of open space parcels a. Actively seek out the participation of youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Golden Eagles in maintenance and improvement activities appropriate to their abilities. b. Seek to include activities related to the maintenance of open space parcels in Clinton's Senior Citizen Tax Abatement Program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
2. Create a master list of all open spaces in Clinton (addresses, acreage, activities, directions, etc.) to be posted in Clinton Town Hall, in the Bigelow Free Public Library, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department office, and appropriate municipal and community web sites and other communication vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
3. Ensure all parks provide a friendly and safe atmosphere.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Police Department		
4. Encourage the Planning Board to consider the protection or provision of Open Space a matter of high priority for the community, when consistent with principals of sustainable development.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Planning Board		

<p>5. Engage the community in the maintenance of Clinton's lakes, rivers, and streams.</p> <p>a. Support the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust's annual River Walk.</p> <p>b. Involve the community in an annual "Clean-Up" day for important water bodies, including the Nashua River, Counterpane Brook, South Meadow Pond, and Clamshell Pond.</p> <p>c. Identify organizations that can drive this activity, include: Nashua River Watershed Association, South Meadow Pond and Wildlife Association, the Clinton Rotary Club, and the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, South Meadow Pond and Wildlife Association, Clinton Rotary Club</p>		
<p>6. Identify working groups and/or task force groups for all identified projects.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission</p>		
<p>7. Maintain the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee to manage the implementation process of the action items with guidance from the Clinton Parks and Recreation Commission.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission, Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee</p>		
<p>8. Whenever necessary, implement remediation efforts to reverse eutrophication of South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Conservation Commission, South Meadow Pond and Wildlife Association, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust</p>		
<p>9. Continue the maintenance and protection of Rauscher Farm,</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Clinton Conservation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust</p>		
<p>10. Work with private property owners on the establishment of open space and recreational easements.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Planning Board, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust</p>		
<p>11. Review existing growth management strategies to</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed	<p>Planning Board</p>		

determine their effectiveness.	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			
<p>12. Work constructively with the Clinton Schools on initiatives that utilize the local landscape for instruction in science, resource protection, and local history.</p> <p>a. Use Clinton's rivers and streams as a device to explain local history.</p> <p>b. Use the differing geologies of sandy north Clinton and rocky south Clinton as a device to explain the Ice Age, glacial Lake Nashua, and to explain why the Wachusett dam is built where it is.</p> <p>c. Encourage partnerships between the Clinton School system and appropriate individuals and organizations to develop programs and activities such as: designing "field seminars" that explore Clinton's landscapes, including wetlands, streams and rivers, forests, meadows, such as those found on the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm; incorporate "adopt-a-pond" or wetland programs focused on Clinton ponds and wetlands into the public school science curriculum; implementing an "outreach" program, whereby the resident expertise in matters of biology and life sciences, geology, resource protection, and history is made available to Clinton students.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Schools Curriculum Coordinator, Conservation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
13. Support the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission Trails group by participating in their meetings and providing updates to the trail map.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		

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14. Expand the use of social media and websites.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
15. Work in partnership with The Nashua River Watershed Association, land trusts, and state and federal conservation agencies to protect priority parcels.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission		
16. Revise and update the Action Strategy so that it reflects Clinton's changing needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office		
17. Hold meetings twice a year with all responsible parties listed in the Action Strategy to gage their progress and ascertain plans for accomplishing each action.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
18. Ensure that the Master Plan is regularly updated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Planning Board, Community and Economic Development Office		
<b>Year 1: 2016</b>				
1. Apply conservation easements to town-owned properties in priority areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen		
2. Create a management plan for all town-owned parcels of open space and recreational interest.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission		
3. Identify and map Clinton's wetlands, including vernal pools.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Mass GIS  Conservation Commission		



Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

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4. Establish a water quality monitoring program on South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Department of Conservation and Recreation		
5. Work with Woodlands property owners to develop the Woodlands trails and making these trails accessible to the public.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Zoning Board of Appeals		
6. Design and systematically implement a signage program for Clinton's Parks and Open Space Parcels.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
7. Ensure that all parties that are charged with responsibilities in this plan are given a full presentation of the plan, including the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, Clinton Conservation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office, Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee		
8. Make copies of the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan available to public at Town Hall, the Bigelow Free Public Library, the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department Office, and appropriate municipal and community web sites and via other communication vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
9. Identify unmet recreational desires and assess the community's capacity to meet these desires.  a. Assess community capacity to provide for a "dog park"  b. Construct boat ramps for car top boat access on South Meadow and Clamshell Ponds..	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Council on Aging, Clinton Senior Center		

<p>c. Examine the feasibility of establishing a new town beach on either Lancaster Millpond, South Meadow, Mossy, or Coachlace.</p> <p>d. Identify special recreational desires of Clinton's growing elderly population by working closely with the Clinton Senior Center and the Clinton Council on Aging.</p> <p>e. Identify special recreational desires of Clinton's culturally diverse population through surveys and questionnaires.</p>				
<p>10. Develop playground on the north side of town on Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust parcel. Identify the best structures to place to place on that parcel of land prior to instillation</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust</p>		
<p>11. Continue efforts to construct the proposed universal access trail on Rauscher Farm that starts in the designated parking area on Clamshell Road and ends in a viewing platform beside Clamshell Pond.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission</p>		
<p>13. Implement Improvements to Savage Field, including accessibility and parking improvements, creation of family pavilion, and drainage improvements</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission</p>		
<p>12. Examine the feasibility of the following suggested activities, including interest, location, and ability to implement with resources available.</p> <p>a. Geo Caching activities in conjunction with Rauscher Farm</p> <p>b. Develop mountain biking trails at Rauscher Farm and other available locations with possible help from NEMBA and/or volunteer groups</p> <p>c. Develop an improved trail system throughout the whole</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission</p>		

<p>town with proper signage for activities such as snowshoeing, walking trails, and biking trails</p> <p>d. Research possibly locations to construct a Disc Golf Course</p> <p>e. Acquire more land to add more pocket parks, playgrounds, splash pads, and skate parks</p> <p>f. Identify ability to provide kayak rental opportunities with access to a proper boat launch</p> <p>g. Examine the options to develop a town beach</p> <p>h. Examine the current skate park and determine improvements needed at current site or an alternative site for a new park</p> <p>i. Examine interest for a deck hockey rink</p> <p>j. Identify locations for a winter ice skating rink and develop policies and procedures to implement</p> <p>k. Acquire materials needed to host movies and concerts in the parks</p> <p>l. Research the interest and feasibility of dirt biking / ATV trails in town</p> <p>m. Examine the feasibility of using the Rauscher Farm and Bufton Farm and other locations for various activities.</p>				
<p>13. Develop recreational opportunities for 12 – 16 year olds,</p> <p>a. Survey of Middle and High School students to see what activities interest this age group.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Process</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation Commission</p>		
<p>14. Work with the Town of Clinton and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to preserve a right of way for the Mass Central Rail Trail adjacent to the Wachusett Reservoir and</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Process</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable</p>	<p>Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Public Works, Office of Community and</p>		

Route 110.		Economic Development, Department of Conservation and Recreation		
<b>Year 2: 2017</b>				
1. Develop recreational opportunities for 12 – 16 year olds  Implement new programs, special events, and teen center activities as suggested by survey completed in year 1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
2. Identify invasive species and where necessary implement control management in all Clinton ponds and waterways.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Department of Conservation and Recreation		
3. Add signage related to endangered species, invasive species, and other related information. (i.e. feeding water fowl).	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Department of Conservation and Recreation		
4. Provide better identification of trails and parks through improved signage, lighting, benches / tables, or parking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
5. Construct picnic tables in appropriate locations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
6. Ensure that the proposed network of trails connecting the Bufton Farm parcel to the SuAsCo's Garfield Woods is implemented	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Planning Board, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
7. Continue working to bring the Mass Central Rail Trail to Clinton.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		

Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

8. Work with the Town of Lancaster to determine the best strategy for protecting its groundwater supply and to address its sewerage issues.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Board of Selectmen		
9. Hire professional staff-a Town Planner or Conservation Agent-whose responsibilities in part shall be to assist citizen boards in the implementation of the Open Space Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission		
10. Establish a municipal fund to purchase conservation easements. A real estate transfer tax is one option to consider.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
12. Continue working to develop a multi-purpose trail along the railroad spur that extends from Water Street, along the Vale Street Playground, to the Clinton Prairie Bluff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
13. Provide information about the availability of public restrooms and investigate the feasibility of providing public facilities where there are none.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
14. Continue efforts to insure that all trails and parks provide universal access.  a. Include this in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Park Maintenance Plan for each park  b. Install new signage in appropriate locations	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
<b>Year 3: 2018</b>				
1. Assess community capacity to provide for a "dog park"	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission		
2. Examine the feasibility of establishing a new town beach on either Lancaster Millpond, South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, or	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen		

Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

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Clamshell Ponds				
3. Develop a trail map	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Parks and Recreation Commission		
4. Adopt a Wetlands Protection Bylaw.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission		
5. Consider local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen		
6. Improve parks and playgrounds by upgrading facilities a. Install accessible playground equipment in town b. Develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and/or Park Maintenance Plan for all facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
7. Develop dedicated bike trails and add bike racks in strategic places around town	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
8. Research the feasibility of adding bike lanes on road	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Community and Economic Development Office, Planning Board		
9. Develop a bike club for those interested in riding together	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			
<b>Year 4: 2019</b>				

Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

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1. Establish self-learning nature trails through the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm that do not disrupt the ecology of the locations, but foster an understanding of and appreciation for the wildlife and plants that comprise the habitats.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
2. Examine the feasibility of constructing nature observatories on Rauscher Farm, in the Clamshell Pond area, the Mossy Pond Peninsula, the Nashua River Conservation Area, and other areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission, School Department, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
3. Explore the possibility of establishing linear parks or walkways along the Nashua River and Counterpane Brook.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Clinton Conservation Greenway Trust		
4. Implement "Complete Streets" strategies to accommodate the needs of walkers and bicyclists and to connect Clinton's neighborhoods to parcels of conservation and recreation interest.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office, Planning Board		
5. Maintain and upgrade the sidewalks/crosswalks throughout the town to encourage walking and to facilitate access to parcels of natural and recreational interest.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office, Planning Board		
<b>Year 5: 2020</b>				
1. Support the "Safe Walk to Schools" program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development Office		
2. Assist the Nashua River Watershed Association in the creation of the Nashua Greenway	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		

3. Work with the relevant townships (Sterling and Leominster), agencies (Department of Conservation and Recreation) and organizations (Wekepeke Watershed Association, Sterling Land Trust) on trail development and accessibility on the Clinton-owned Wekepeke watershed property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Wekepeke Watershed Association		
4. Research the use of aqueduct trails and determine the feasibility of aqueduct trail development in Clinton.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Department of Conservation and Recreation		
5. Upgrade trail and develop signage from Clinton District Court on Rt. 70 to Rauscher Farm.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Department of Conservation and Recreation, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
6. Pursue the connection of the Clinton section of the Mass Central Rail Trail with the designated trails on the Woodlands property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust		
7. Increase the use of Fuller Field - Improve facility by developing a maintenance plan for fields and building structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Parks and Recreation Commission, Fuller Field Commission		
8. Promote historical significance of Fuller Field.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Fuller Field Commission, Clinton Historical Society, Parks and Recreation Commission		
9. Identify groups that can partner with Parks and Recreation to maintain and promote the Fuller Field facility.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable	Fuller Field Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission		
10. Related to the goal to clean current polluted or damaged	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process	Parks and Recreation Commission		



conservation and open space lands : Identify locations that need improvement and develop ongoing maintenance plans for each  a. Research feasibility of converting current open space land to passive recreation parks with walkways, benches, and lights  b. Research grant opportunities for the improvement and development of current conservation and open space land	<input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Applicable			

## **SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS**



# TOWN OF CLINTON

Office of the Selectmen  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, Massachusetts 01510  
Tel: (978) 365-4120 • Fax: (978) 365-4130

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William F. Connolly, Jr.  
Michael J. Dziokonski  
Marc S. Iacobucci  
James J. LeBlanc  
David J. Sargent

Michael J. Ward  
*Town Administrator*

July 11, 2016

Fran Hodge  
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

### **RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan Review**

Dear Ms. Hodge:

Please accept this correspondence as notice that the Clinton Board of Selectmen has reviewed the 2016-2020 Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan and have unanimously voted to endorse the contents of the final document as prepared by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee.

The Board of Selectmen wishes to commend you and the members of your committee for the excellent work you have all done in producing this document. All interested town boards and commissions were represented throughout this process, and a series of public forums were held in support of the Plan's development.

If you need additional information pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marc S. Iacobucci - Chairman  
Clinton Board of Selectmen

RVP/mjw



# TOWN of CLINTON MASSACHUSETTS

PERMITTING OFFICE

Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510  
Tel: 978-365-4127  
Fax: 978-612-0202

*Conservation Commission • Planning Board • Zoning Board of Appeals*

Fran Hodge  
Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

July 6, 2016

Dear Ms. Hodge:

The Clinton Planning Board has reviewed the 2016-2020 Open Space Plan. Board member Paul Curran was on your committee for a while, before he had to resign due to work obligations. Phil Duffy regularly attends our meetings, and he provided us with drafts of the Plan on a regular basis.

We applaud the focus of this new Plan on recreation. In recent years, the Planning Board has been able during project review to assist town departments such as the Parks and Rec and Fuller Field Commission.

We understand that the Planning Board is given responsibilities in the 5 year Action Plan, as it has in the past.

Thank you and your committee for working on this.

Sincerely,

Douglas Price  
Planning Board chairman



# TOWN of CLINTON MASSACHUSETTS

## PERMITTING OFFICE

Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510  
Tel: 978-365-4127  
Fax: 978-612-0202

*Conservation Commission • Planning Board • Zoning Board of Appeals*

Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

June 29, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

The Clinton Conservation Commission has reviewed the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and enthusiastically endorses the plan. The Commission views the Open Space Plan as a positive step for the Town and its residents, and wishes to thank the members of your committee for all your work.

Sincerely,

Donald Brown  
Conservation Commission Chair





# MONTACHUSETT

## REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

R1427 Water Street Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420  
(978) 345-7376 FAX (978) 348-2490 Email: [mrpc@mrpc.org](mailto:mrpc@mrpc.org)

Fran Hodge, Chair  
Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

July 8, 2016

RE: 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Hodge:

MRPC staff has completed a review of the Clinton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Staff used the 2008 update to the *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook*, published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, to determine if this Plan includes the information required by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

We wish to congratulate you and your committee for having created a thorough and complete document. Moving forward, we suggest the Town re-visit its *ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan* (Griffin-Brooks Consulting, 2002) and Section 504 Evaluations, to insure that the Transition Plan is comprehensive and that it reflect the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, as promulgated by the US Department of Justice.

Our GIS staff has been happy to provide updated mapping for this project. Thank you for the opportunity to review Clinton's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Glenn P. Eaton  
Executive Director

## SECTION 11: REFERENCES

### Federal Sources

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Natural Resource Conservation Service. National Soil Survey Handbook. <<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook>>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Natural Resource Conservation Service. Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy (1983).

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. American Fact Finder, including American Community Survey Data 2006-2014  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

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U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Census 2000. Summary Files 1, 3. American FactFinder at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. State of the Cities Data System. <[socds.huduser.org/index.html](http://socds.huduser.org/index.html)>

### State Sources

Department of Housing and Community Development. Clinton Community Profile. <[www.mass.gov/dhcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd)>

Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Employment and Workforce Data (ES-202) at [http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi\\_es\\_a.asp](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_es_a.asp)

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Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare  
and Endangered Species. <[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/)>

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<[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/)>

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Division of Conservation Services.  
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BioMap2; Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World. 2010.

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Environmental Information (MassGIS). <[www.mass.gov/mgis/massgis.htm](http://www.mass.gov/mgis/massgis.htm)>

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant.  
<[www.mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/clintonwwtp.htm](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/clintonwwtp.htm)>.

### **Local and Regional Sources**

Town of Clinton. Water Department. Annual Water Quality Reports. 2005-2014.

BETA Group. Complete Streets Survey & Planning Program for Clinton, Massachusetts, vols.  
I and II. 2015

Community Opportunities Group. Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007-2011

Community Opportunities Group, Inc. Clinton Master Plan, Second Printing 2012

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2000-  
2005.

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. Town of Clinton E.O. 418 Community  
Development Plan. 2004.



### **Watershed Associations**

Nashua River Watershed Association. <[www.nashuariverwatershed.org/](http://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/)>

Organization for the Assabet River. <[www.assabriver.org/](http://www.assabriver.org/)>

SuAsCo Watershed Community Council. <<http://www.suasco.org/>>

### **Other Sources**

Herr and Associates. Planning for Clinton: Clinton Master Plan. 1972.

Claritas, Inc.

## **SECTION 12: APPENDIX**

### **Appendix A: Maps**

Map 1: Regional Context  
Map 2: Environmental Justice Census Block Groups  
Map 3A: Zoning  
Map 3B: Current Land Use  
Map 4A: Soils Map  
Map 4B: Prime Farmland  
Map 4C: Prime Forest  
Map 5: Unique Features  
Map 6: Water Resources  
Map 7: Plant and Wildlife Habitat  
Map 8: Environmental Challenges  
Map 9: Open Space Inventory Map  
Map 10: Action Plan

### **Appendix B**

Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest (Table)

### **Appendix C**

Recreation Program Statistics

### **Appendix D**

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan  
Section 504 Assessments

### **Appendix E**

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting Minutes

### **Appendix F**

Open Space Planning Workshop Attendance Lists, Minutes and

### **Appendix G**

Letters of Support



## **APPENDIX A: MAPS**

Map 1: **Regional Context**

Map 2: **Environmental Justice Census Block Groups**

Map 3A: **Zoning**

Map 3B: **Current Land Use**

Map 4A: **Soils Map**

Map 4B: **Prime Farmland**

Map 4C: **Prime Forest**

Map 5: **Unique Features**

Map 6: **Water Resources**

Map 7: **Plant and Wildlife Habitat**

Map 8: **Environmental Challenges**

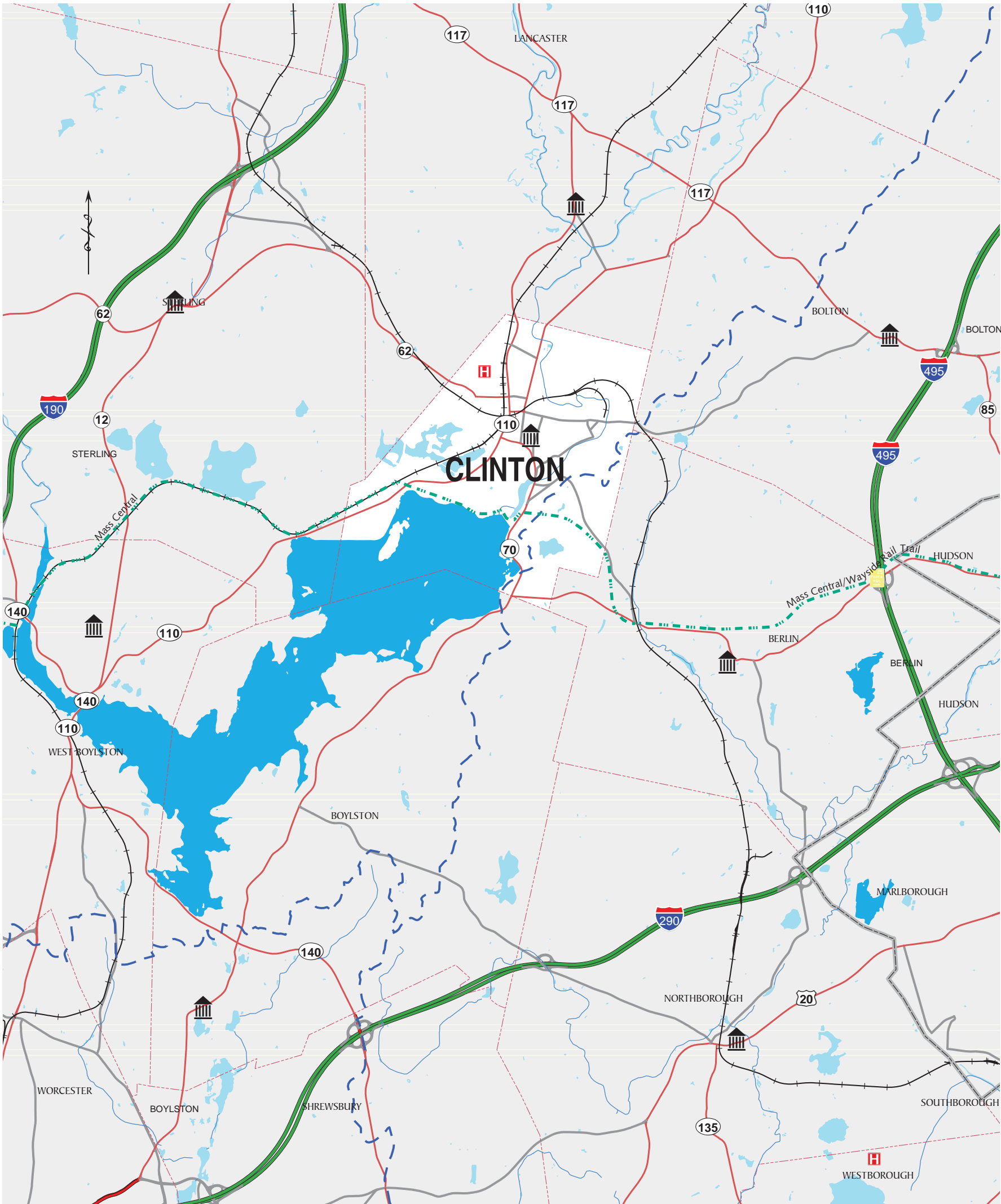
Map 9: **Open Space Inventory**

Map 10: **Action Plan**

TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020



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## Map 1 Regional Setting

June 2016  
*adapted from prior mapping by the  
Clinton Community & Economic  
Development Office*

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

LEGEND

- Watershed Boundary
- County
- City or Town
- OPEN WATER
- Pond, Lake, Ocean
- Reservoir
- River or Stream

ROADWAYS

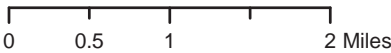
- Limited Access Highway
- Other Multi-Lane Highway
- Other Numbered Highway
- Major Road, Collector

Railroad

- MBTA Stations
- Park & Ride Lot
- Bicycle Trails

PUBLIC FACILITIES

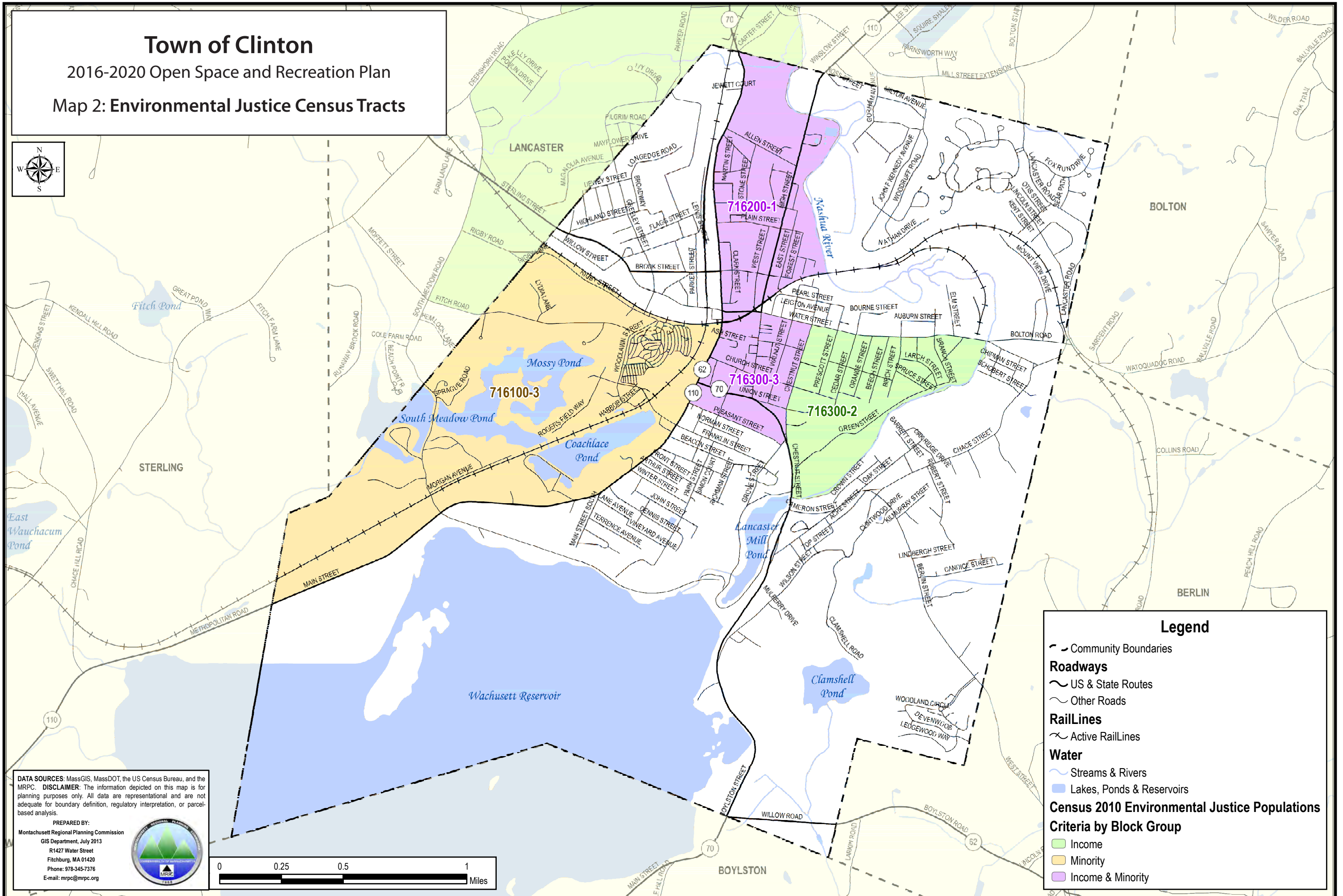
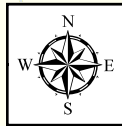
- City or Town Hall
- Hospital



# Town of Clinton


## 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Map 2: Environmental Justice Census Tracts



**DATA SOURCES:** MassGIS, MassDOT, the US Census Bureau, and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

**PREPARED BY:**  
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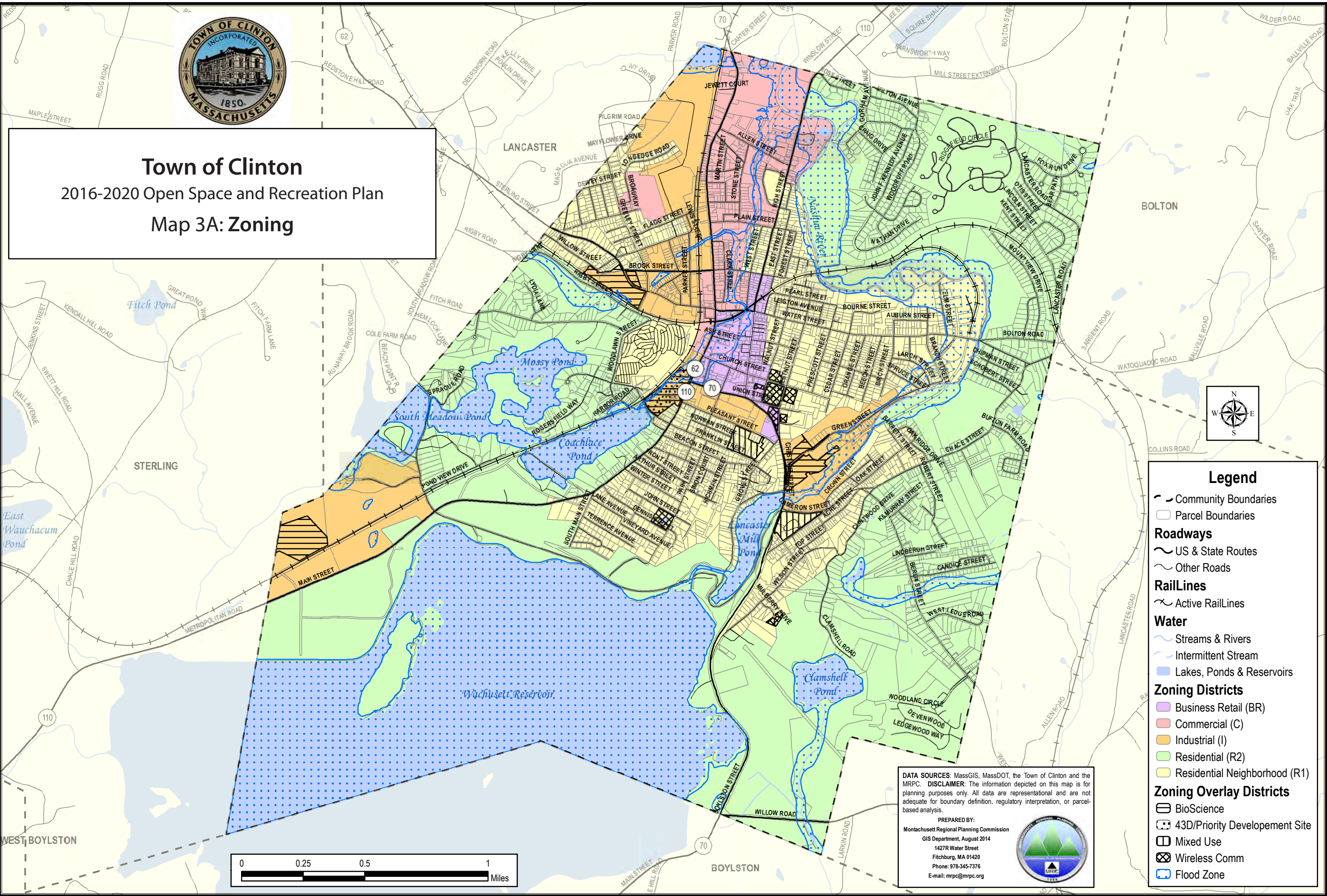
### Legend

- Community Boundaries
- Roadways**
  - US & State Routes
  - Other Roads
- RailLines**
  - Active RailLines
- Water**
  - Streams & Rivers
  - Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
- Census 2010 Environmental Justice Populations Criteria by Block Group**
  - Income
  - Minority
  - Income & Minority





**Town of Clinton**  
2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan  
**Map 3A: Zoning**



**Legend**

- Community Boundaries
- Parcel Boundaries
- Roadways**
  - US & State Routes
  - Other Roads
- RailLines**
  - Active RailLines
- Water**
  - Streams & Rivers
  - Intermittent Stream
  - Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
- Zoning Districts**
  - Business Retail (BR)
  - Commercial (C)
  - Industrial (I)
  - Residential (R2)
  - Residential Neighborhood (R1)
- Zoning Overlay Districts**
  - BioScience
  - 43D/Priority Development Site
  - Mixed Use
  - Wireless Comm
  - Flood Zone

DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Clinton and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

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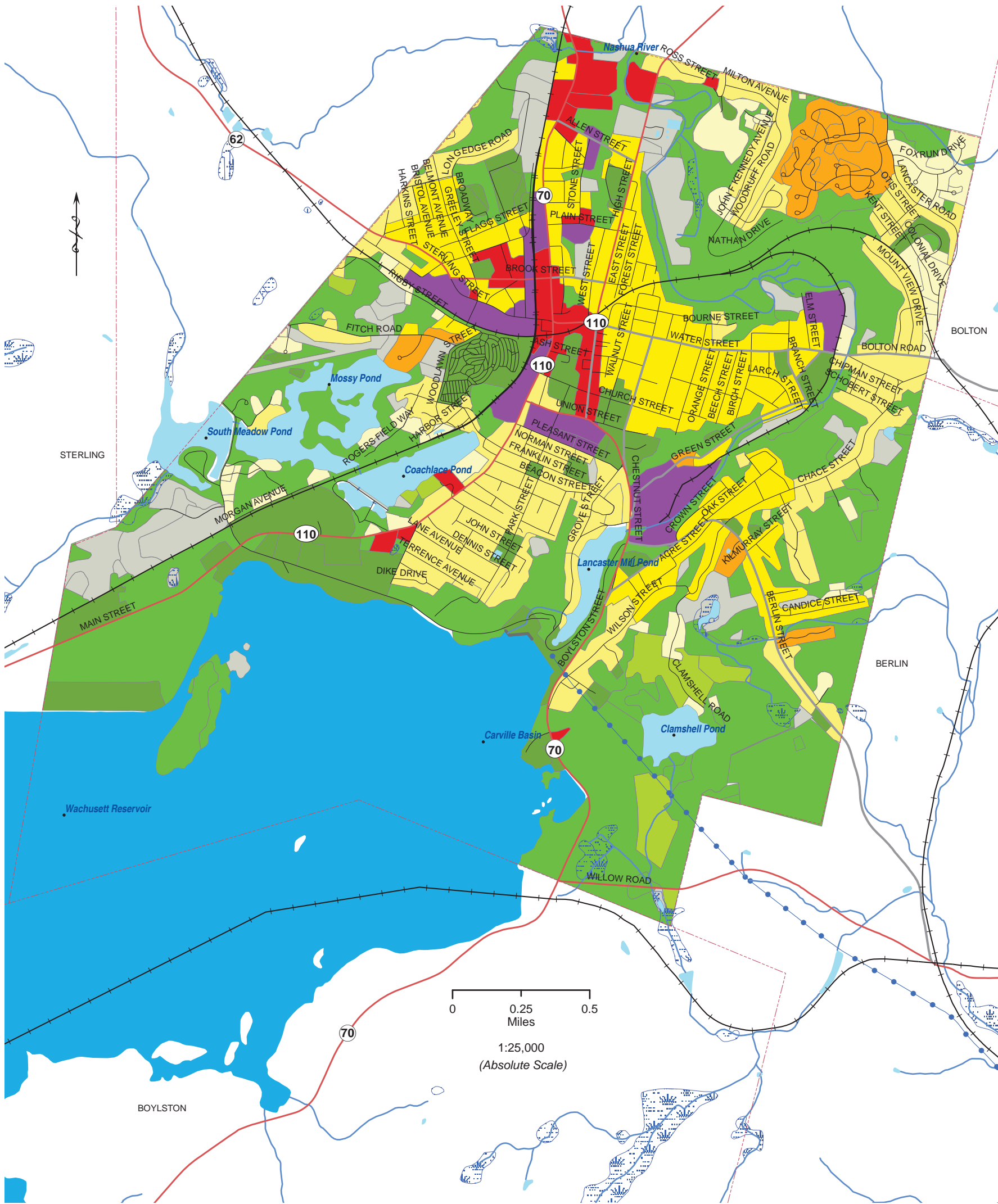




TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020



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Map 3B

Existing Land Uses

June 2016

*adapted from prior mapping by the  
Clinton Community & Economic  
Development Office*

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

LEGEND

Town Boundary

Railroad

ROADWAYS

Limited Access Highway

Other Multi-Lane Highway

Other Numbered Highway

Major Road, Collector

Local Roads

WATER RESOURCES

Pond, Lake, Ocean

Reservoir

Wetland

Stream

Ditch/Canal

Aqueduct

Dam

LAND USE

Agriculture

Forest

Recreation, Urban Open Space

Higher-Density Residential

Moderate-Density Residential

Lower-Density Resident

Multi-Family

Commercial

Industrial

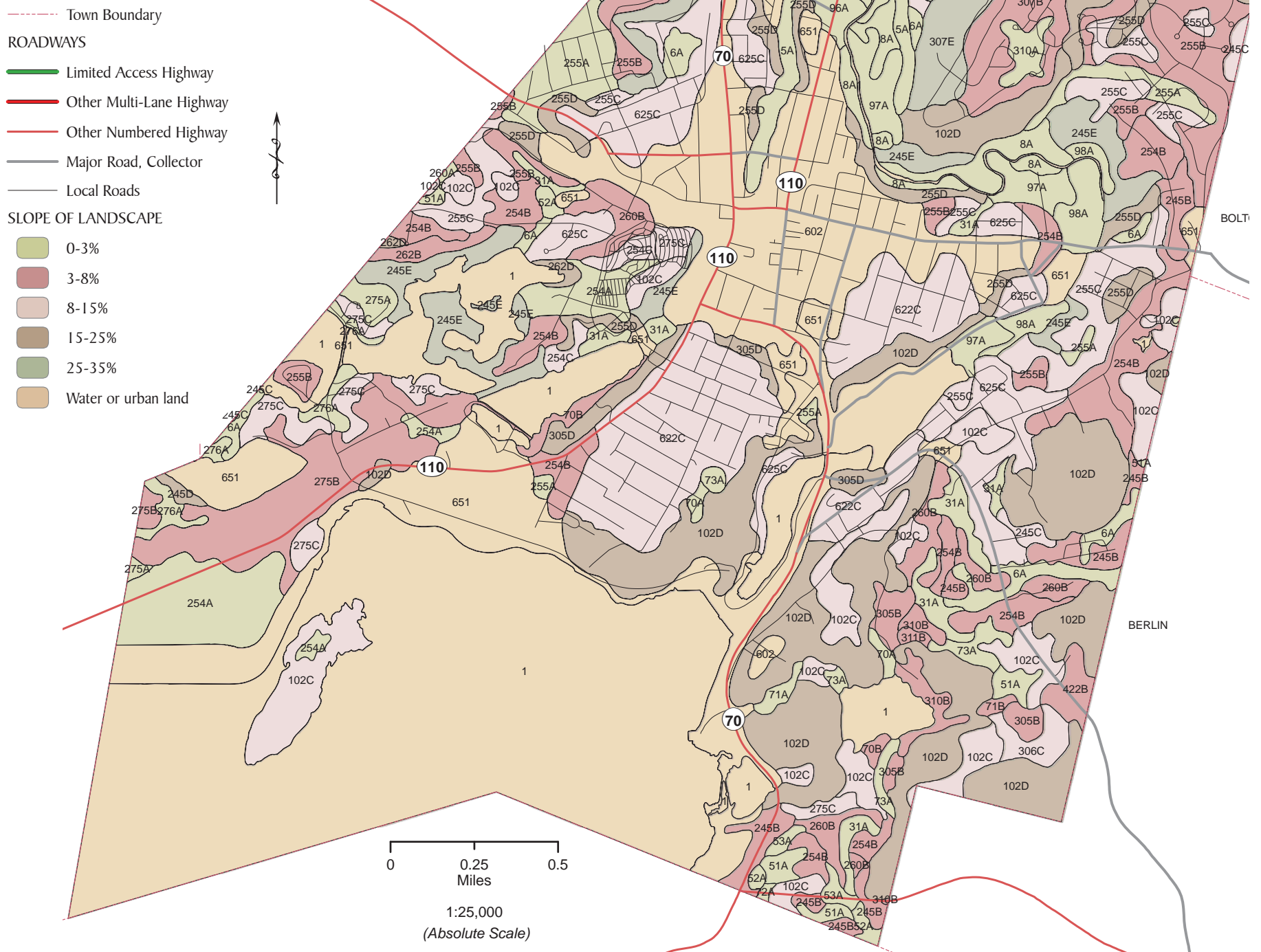
Other



## 2016-2020

## June 2016

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

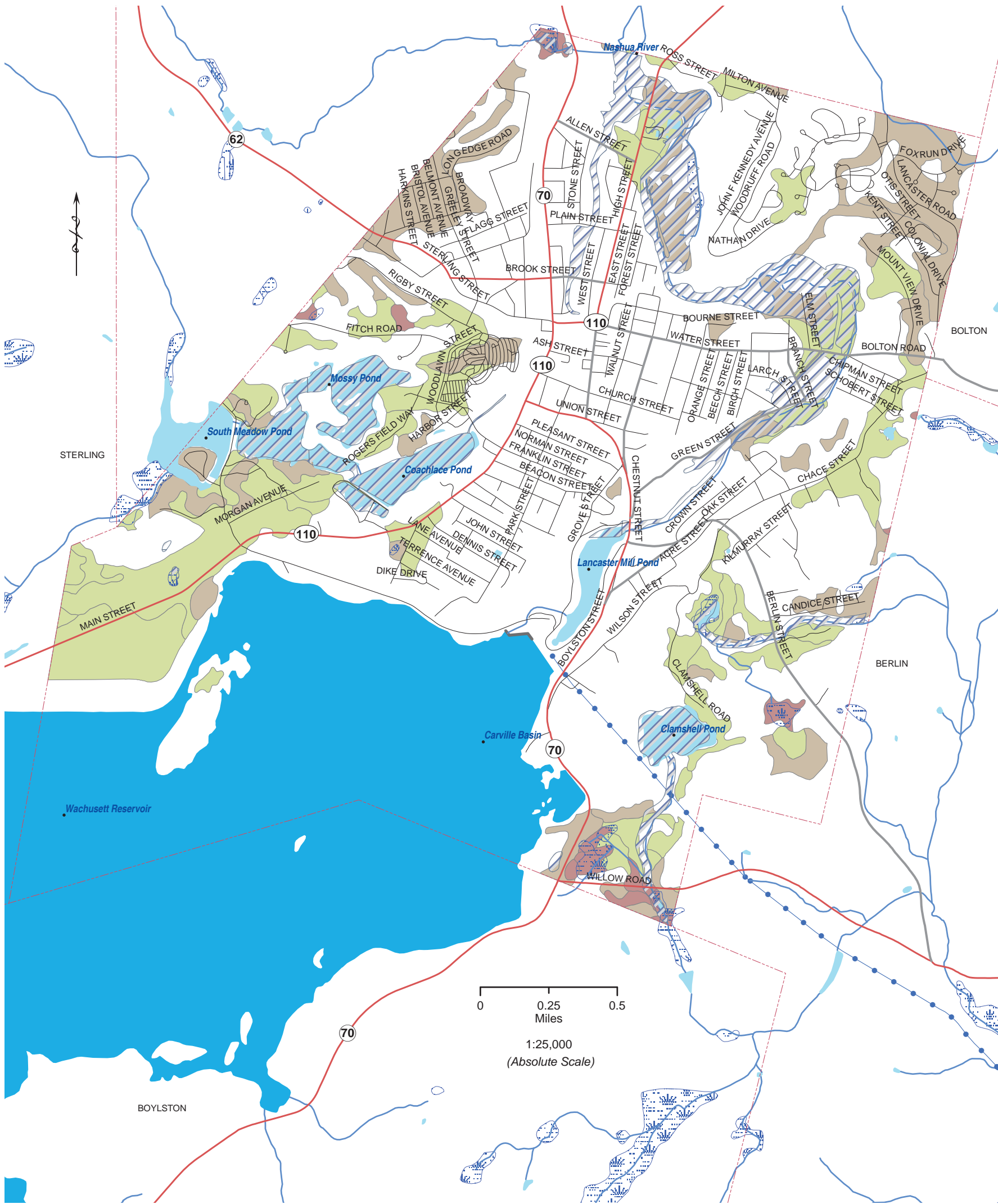


Map Codes	Taxonomic Class Code	Map Unit Name	Acres	Map Codes	Taxonomic Class Code	Map Unit Name	Acres
1	W	Water	1,044.1	305D	PaD	Paxton fine sandy loam, 15-25% slopes	28.5
602	Ur	Urban land	423.8	306C	PbC	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes, very stony	14.5
651	Ud	Udorthents, smoothed	317.7	307B	PcB	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes, extremely stony	63.0
102C	ChC	Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex, 3-15% slopes	168.4	307E	PcE	Paxton fine sandy loam, 25-35% slopes, extremely stony	37.3
102D	ChD	Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex, 15-25% slopes	431.0	310A	WrA	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	11.9
245B	HgB	Hinckley sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	55.6	310B	WrB	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	17.1
245C	HgC	Hinckley sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	9.5	311B	WsB	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0-8% slopes, very stony	2.4
245D	HgD	Hinckley sandy loam, 15-25% slopes	177.4	31A	Wa	Walpole fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	46.3
249A	De	Deerfield sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	5.1	422B	CcB	Canton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes, extremely stony	13.5
254A	MeA	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	104.3	51A	Sw	Swansea muck, 0-1% slopes	33.4
254B	MeB	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	157.0	53A	Fp	Freetown muck, ponded, 0-1% slopes	7.4
254C	MeC	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	13.0	5A	Sa	Saco silt loam, 0-3% slopes	57.1
255A	WnA	Windsor loamy fine sand, 0-3% slopes	66.8	622C	PdC	Paxton-Urban land complex, 8-15% slopes	229.8
255B	WnB	Windsor loamy fine sand, 3-8% slopes	144.3	625C	HuC	Hinckley-Urban land complex, 0-15% slopes	174.2
255C	WnC	Windsor loamy fine sand, 8-15% slopes	135.9	6A	Sc	Scarboro mucky fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	50.4
255D	WnD	Windsor loamy fine sand, 15-25% slopes	99.0	70A	RdA	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	6.0
260A	SdA	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	1.0	70B	RdB	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	10.9
260B	SdB	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	58.2	71A	RsA	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes, extremely stony	5.0
262B	QnB	Quonset loamy sand, 3-8% slopes	9.9	71B	RsB	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes, extremely stony	2.7
262D	QnD	Quonset loamy sand, 15-25% slopes	4.9	72A	Wg	Whitman loam, 0-3% slopes	1.1
275A	AgA	Agawam fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	10.7	73A	Wh	Whitman loam, 0-3% slopes, extremely stony	19.6
275B	AgB	Agawam fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	120.5	8A	Lm	Limerick silt loam, 0- 3% slopes	46.0
275C	AgC	Agawam fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	49.8	96A	HaA	Hadley very fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	13.1
276A	NgA	Ninigret fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	20.0	97A	Su	Suncook loamy fine sand, 0-3% slopes	61.6
305B	PaB	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	19.2	98A	Wo	Winooski very fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	47.1

TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020



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Map 4B

Prime Farmland

June 2016

*adapted from prior mapping by the  
Clinton Community & Economic  
Development Office*

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

LEGEND

- Town Boundary

ROADWAYS

Limited Access Highway

Other Multi-Lane Highway

Other Numbered Highway

Major Road, Collector

Local Roads
- WATER RESOURCES

Pond, Lake, Ocean

Reservoir

Wetland

Stream

Ditch/Canal

Aqueduct
- 100-Year Floodplain

FARMLAND CLASSIFICATION

Prime Farmland

Farmland of State Importance

Farmland of Unique Importance



TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Map 4C

Prime Forest

June 2016

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Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

LEGEND

Town Boundary

ROADWAYS

- Limited Access Highway
- Other Multi-Lane Highway
- Other Numbered Highway
- Major Road, Collector
- Local Roads

100-Year Floodplain

PRIME FOREST LAND

- Prime 1
- Prime 2
- Prime 3

Prime 3 Wet

- Statewide Importance
- Statewide Importance Wet
- Local Importance
- Local Importance Wet

WATER RESOURCES

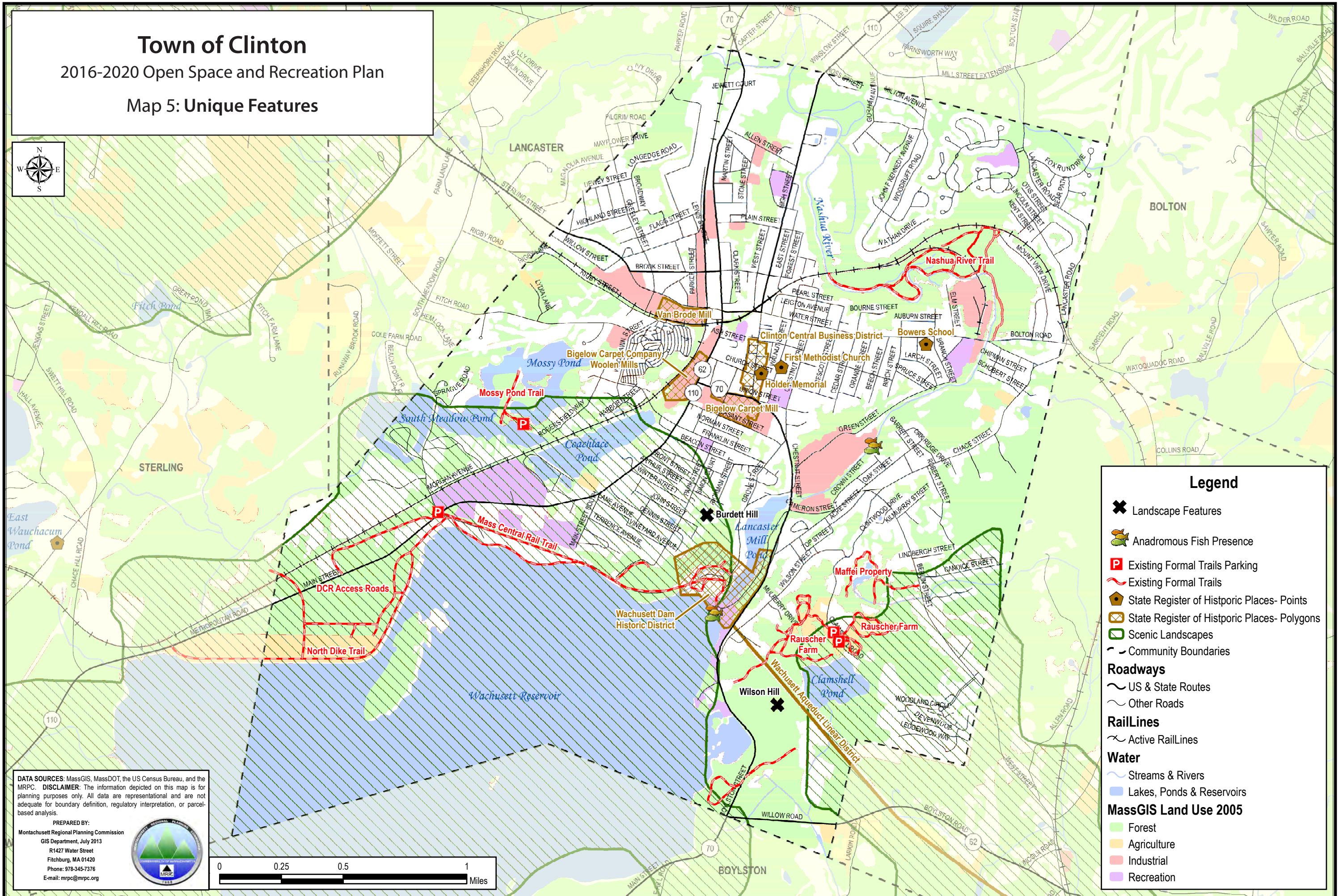
- Pond, Lake, Ocean
- Reservoir
- Wetland
- Stream
- Ditch/Canal
- Aqueduct
- Dam



# Town of Clinton

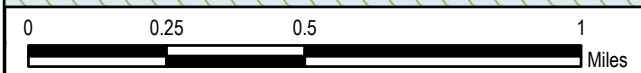
## 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Map 5: Unique Features



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the US Census Bureau, and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

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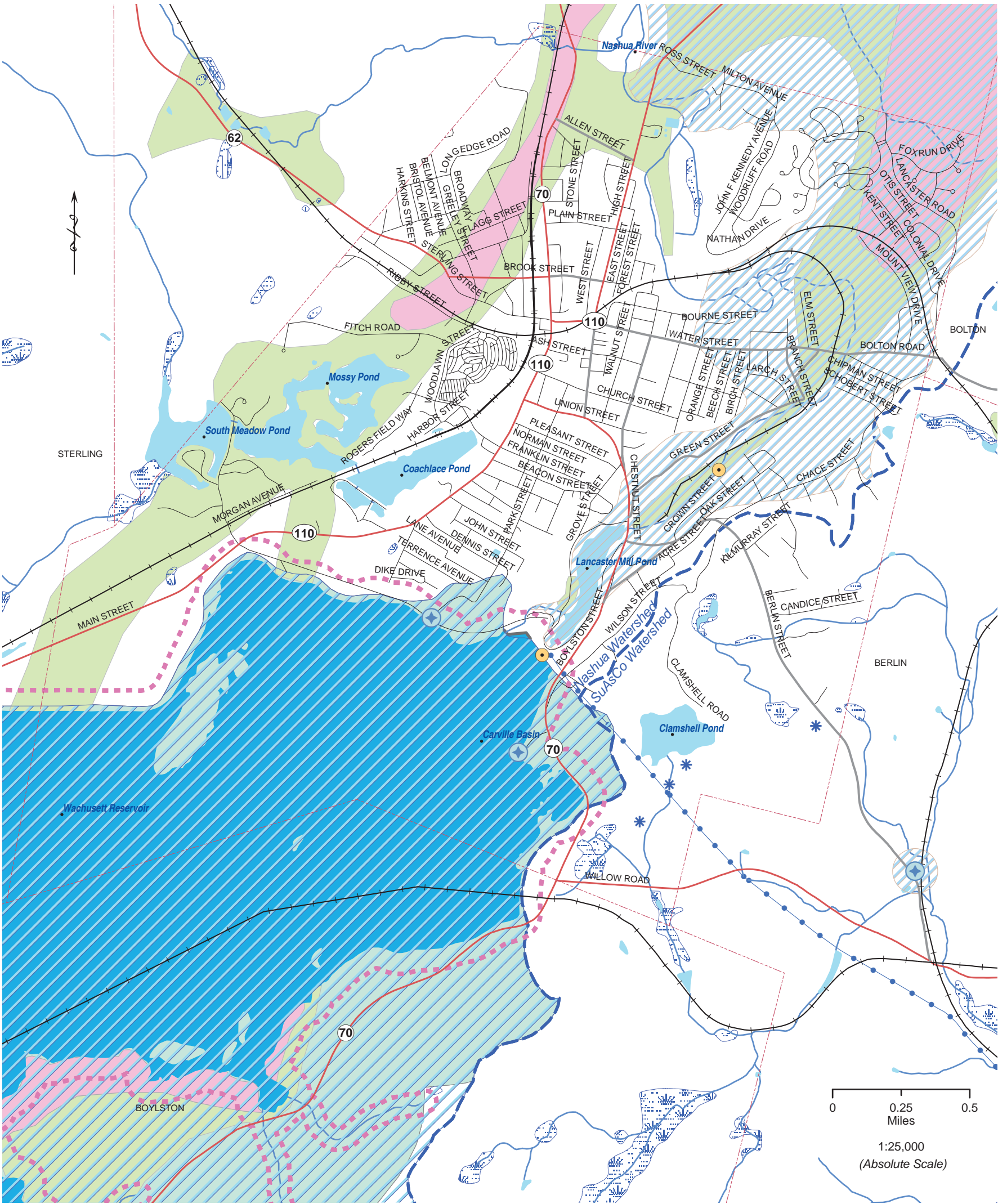




TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020



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Map 6

Water Resources

June 2016

*adapted from prior mapping by the  
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Development Office*

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

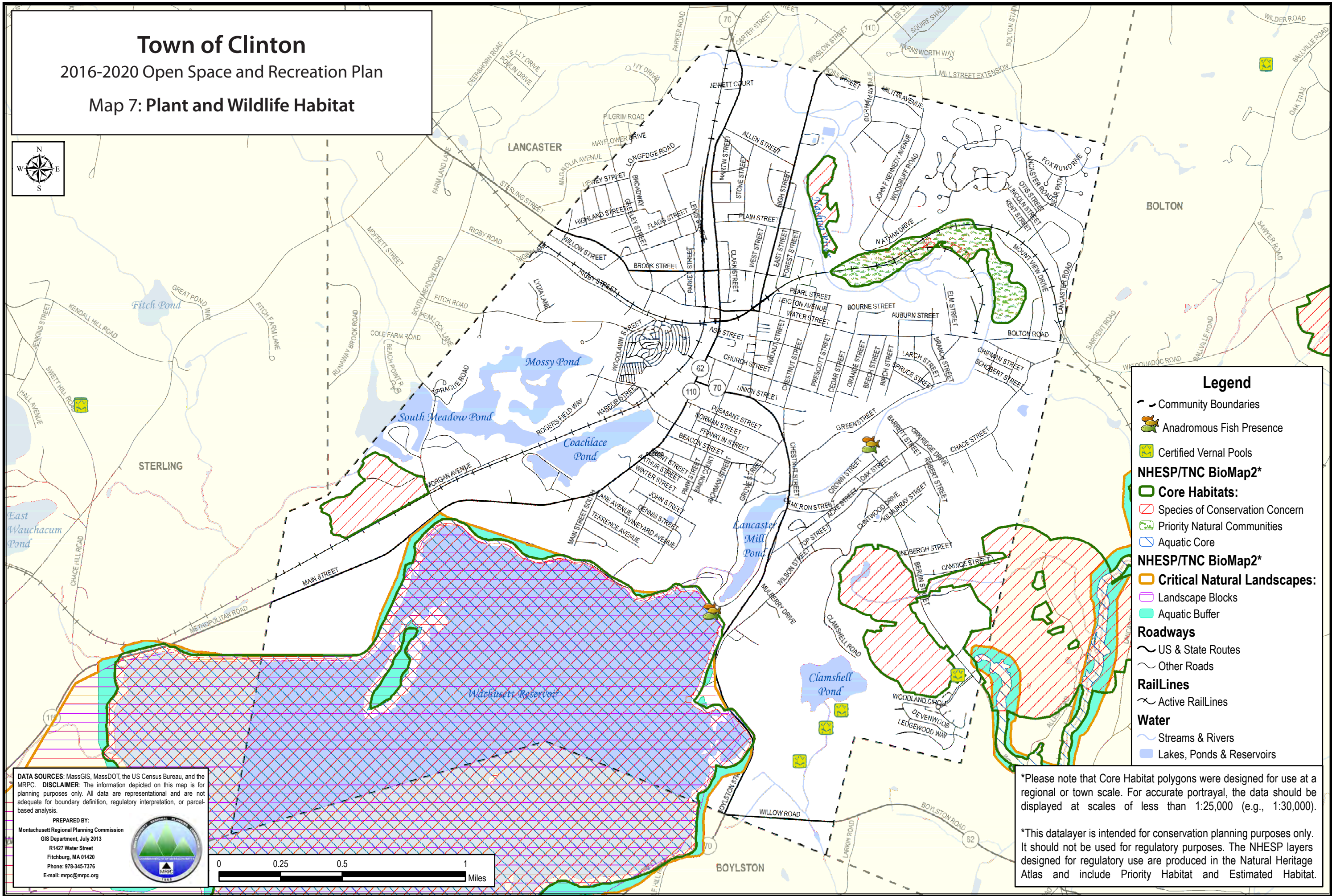
<div><div></div></div> Town Boundary	<div>WATER RESOURCES</div> <div><div></div> Watershed Boundary</div> <div><div></div> Pond, Lake, Ocean</div> <div><div></div> Reservoir</div> <div><div></div> Wetland</div> <div><div></div> Stream</div> <div><div></div> Ditch/Canal</div> <div><div></div> Aqueduct</div> <div><div></div> Dam</div>	<div>Aquifers</div> <div><div></div> High Yield</div> <div><div></div> Medium Yield</div> <div><div></div> Low Yield</div>	<div>WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION ZONES</div> <div><div></div> DEP Zone II</div> <div><div></div> DEP Drinking Water Supply</div> <div><div></div> Outstanding Resource Waters</div> <div><div></div> Zone A</div> <div><div></div> Zone B</div>
<div>ROADWAYS</div> <div><div></div> Limited Access Highway</div> <div><div></div> Other Multi-Lane Highway</div> <div><div></div> Other Numbered Highway</div> <div><div></div> Major Road, Collector</div> <div><div></div> Local Roads</div>			



# Town of Clinton

## 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Map 7: Plant and Wildlife Habitat



**Legend**

Community Boundaries

Anadromous Fish Presence

Certified Vernal Pools

**NHESP/TNC BioMap2\***

**Core Habitats:**

Species of Conservation Concern

Priority Natural Communities

Aquatic Core

**NHESP/TNC BioMap2\***

**Critical Natural Landscapes:**

Landscape Blocks

Aquatic Buffer

**Roadways**

US & State Routes

Other Roads

**RailLines**

Active RailLines

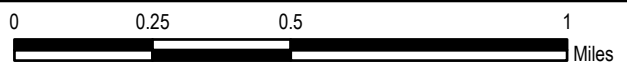
**Water**

Streams & Rivers

Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

**DATA SOURCES:** MassGIS, MassDOT, the US Census Bureau, and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

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E-mail: mrpc@mrpc.org



\*Please note that Core Habitat polygons were designed for use at a regional or town scale. For accurate portrayal, the data should be displayed at scales of less than 1:25,000 (e.g., 1:30,000).

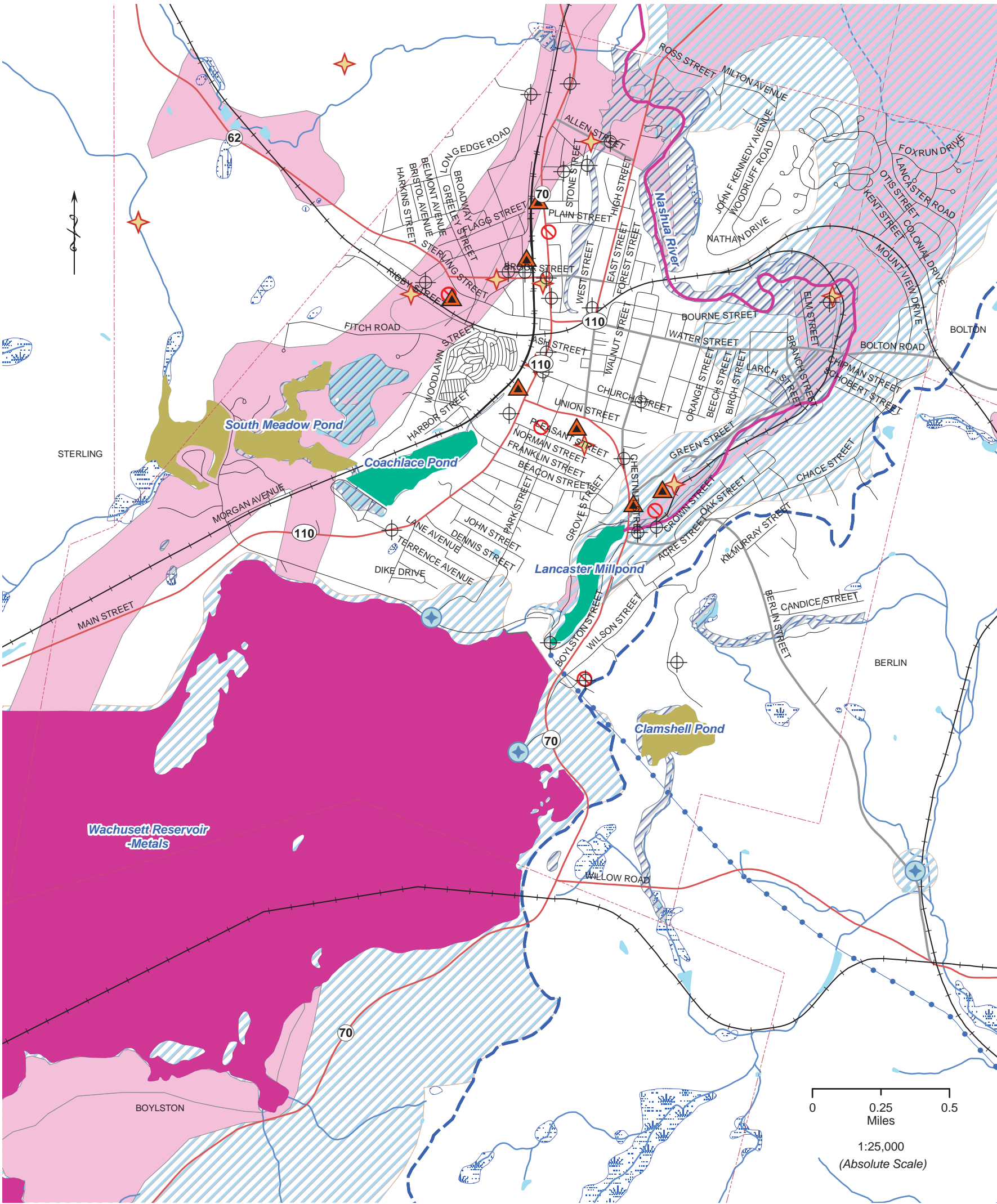
\*This datalayer is intended for conservation planning purposes only. It should not be used for regulatory purposes. The NHESP layers designed for regulatory use are produced in the Natural Heritage Atlas and include Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat.



TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

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Map 8

Environmental

Challenges

June 2016  
adapted from prior mapping by the  
Clinton Community & Economic  
Development Office

Data Sources: MassGIS, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

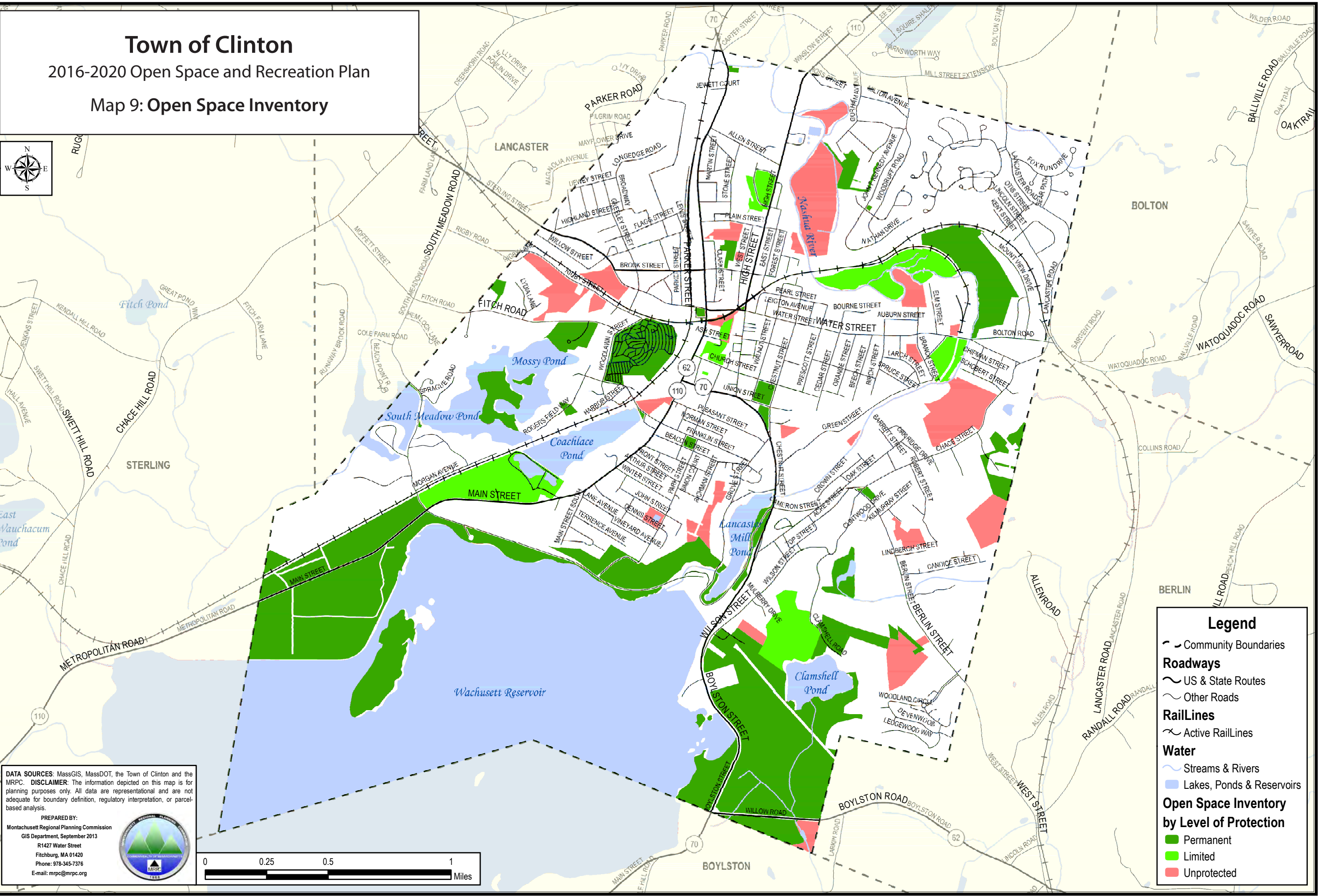
ROADWAYS	WATER RESOURCES	ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS	Integrated List of Waters (200)
<div><div></div></div> Town Boundary	<div><div></div></div> Watershed Boundary	<div><div></div></div> DEP Water Supply	<div><div></div></div> Category 2
<div><div></div></div> Railroad	<div><div></div></div> Pond, Lake, Ocean	<div><div></div></div> Water Resource Protection Area	<div><div></div></div> Category 3
<div><div></div></div> Limited Access Highway	<div><div></div></div> Reservoir	<div><div></div></div> Underground Storage Tank	<div><div></div></div> Category 4a
<div><div></div></div> Other Multi-Lane Highway	<div><div></div></div> Wetland	<div><div></div></div> Hazardous Waste Generator	<div><div></div></div> Category 4c
<div><div></div></div> Other Numbered Highway	<div><div></div></div> Stream	<div><div></div></div> Chapter 21E Site	<div><div></div></div> Category 5
<div><div></div></div> Major Road, Collector	<div><div></div></div> Ditch/Canal	<div><div></div></div> AUL Site	
<div><div></div></div> Local Roads	<div><div></div></div> Aqueduct	<div><div></div></div> Transmission Lines	
	<div><div></div></div> Dam		



# Town of Clinton

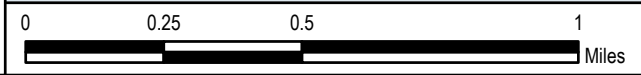
## 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Map 9: Open Space Inventory



**DATA SOURCES:** MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Clinton and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

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GIS Department, September 2013  
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Phone: 978-345-7376  
E-mail: mrpc@mrpc.org



**Legend**

- Community Boundaries
- Roadways**
  - US & State Routes
  - Other Roads
- RailLines**
  - Active RailLines
- Water**
  - Streams & Rivers
  - Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
- Open Space Inventory by Level of Protection**
  - Permanent
  - Limited
  - Unprotected



# Town of Clinton

## 2016-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Map 10: Action Plan

#### 1. Town-Wide:

- \*Apply conservation easements to town-owned properties in priority areas.
- \*Create a management plan for all town-owned parcels of open space and recreational interest.
- \*Engage the community in the maintenance of open space parcels.
- \*Ensure all Parks provide a friendly and safe atmosphere.
- \*Create a master list of all open spaces in Clinton.
- Design and systematically implement a signage program for Clinton's Parks and Open Space Parcels.
- \*Develop a trail map.
- \*Encourage the acquisition of open space.
- \*Implement "Complete Streets" strategies.
- \*Assess community capacity to provide for a "dog park".
- \*Improve parks and playgrounds by upgrading facilities.
- \*Construct picnic tables in appropriate locations.
- \*Continue efforts to make all trails and parks handicapped-accessible wherever feasible.

#### 9. Mass Central Rail Trail:

- \*Work with the Town of Clinton and the DCR to preserve a right of way for the Mass Central Rail Trail adjacent to the Wachusett Reservoir and Rt.110.

#### 14. Fuller Field:

- \*Increase the use of Fuller Field and improve facility by developing a maintenance plan for fields and building structures.
- \*Promote historical significance.
- \*Identify groups that can partner to maintain and promote facility (Parks and Recreation).

#### 15. Wekepeke:

- \*Work with the relevant townships (Sterling and Leominster), agencies (DCR) and organizations (Wekepeke Watershed Association, Sterling Land Trust) on trail development and accessibility on the Clinton-owned Wekepeke watershed property.

#### 6. River and Counterpane Brook:

- \*Explore the possibility of establishing linear parks or walkways along the Nashua River and Counterpane Brook.

#### 13. High Street Area:

- \*Develop dedicated bike trails and add bike racks in strategic places around town.
- \*Research the feasibility of adding bike lanes on road.

#### 2. Ponds and Nashua River:

- \*Engage the community in the maintenance of Clinton's lakes, rivers, and streams.
- \*Whenever necessary, implement remediation efforts to reverse eutrophication of South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds.
- \*Identify invasive species and where necessary implement control management in all Clinton ponds and waterways.
- \*Establish a water quality monitoring program on South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds.
- \*Add signage related to endangered species, invasive species, and other related information (i.e. feeding water fowl).
- \*Construct boat ramps for car top boat access on South Meadow and Clamshell Ponds.
- \*Examine the feasibility of establishing a new town beach on either Lancaster Millpond, South Meadow, Mossy, or Coachlace.

#### 16. Lancaster Groundwater Supply:

- \*Work with the Town of Lancaster to determine the best strategy for protecting its groundwater supply and to address its sewerage issues.

#### 12. CGCT JFK Parcel:

- \*Develop playground on the north side of town on Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust parcel.

#### 7. Nashua River:

- \*Assist the Nashua River Watershed Association in the creation of the Nashua Greenway.
- \*Support the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust Annual River Walk.

#### 10. Lancaster Mill Rail Trail:

- \*Continue working to develop a multi-purpose trail along the railroad spur that extends from Water Street, along the Vale Street Playground, to the Clinton Prairie Bluff.

#### 3. Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm:

- \*Establish self-learning nature trails through the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm.

#### 5. Bufton Farm:

- \*Ensure that the proposed network of trails connecting the Bufton Farm parcel to the SuAsCo's Garfield Woods is implemented.

#### 8. Mass Central Rail Trail:

- \*Continue working to bring the Mass Central Rail Trail to Clinton.

#### 4. Rauscher Farm:

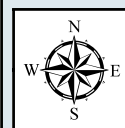
- \*Continue the maintenance and protection of Rauscher Farm, which is situated between the 150-acre Woodlands parcel and the Wachusett reservation.
- \*Research the use of aqueduct trails and determine the feasibility of aqueduct trail development in Clinton.
- \*Work in partnership with the DCR on the development and signage of the trail from Clinton District Court on Rt.70 to Rauscher Farm.
- \*Continue efforts to construct the proposed handicapped-accessible trail on Rauscher Farm that starts in the designated parking area on Clamshell Road and ends in a viewing platform beside Clamshell Pond.
- \*Develop mountain biking trails at Rauscher Farm and other available locations with possible help from NEMBA and/or volunteer groups.

#### 11. Woodlands Property:

- \*Pursue the connection of the Clinton section of the Mass Central Rail Trail with the designated trails on the Woodlands property.
- \*Work with Woodlands property owners to develop the Woodlands trails and making these trails accessible to the public.

### Legend

- Central Mass Rail Trail
- Community Boundaries
- Roadways**
- US & State Routes
- Other Roads
- RailLines**
- Active RailLines
- Water**
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
- Open Space Inventory by Level of Protection**
- Permanent
- Limited
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DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Clinton and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

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Montachusett Regional Planning Commission  
GIS Department, August 2014  
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E-mail: mrpc@mrpc.org



0 0.25 0.5 1  
Miles

**APPENDIX B: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION  
AND RECREATION INTEREST**

		Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020												
APPENDIX B: LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST														
EXISTING INVENTORY OF PARCELS														
					Parcel Size					Recreation		Level		
Parcel ID	Use Code	Property Name	Street Address	Property Owner*	Acres	Current Use(s)	Public Access	Accessible	Significance	Potential	Zoning	of Protection*	Grant Source	Deed Restriction
128-4071	903V	Woodruff Pocket Park	4 Hillside Ave	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust	0.22	Recreation	Yes	No	land for neighborhood park	High	Residential 2	P		
131-4301	903V	South Meadow Conservation Area	South Meadow Road	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust	0.11	Conservation	Yes	No	South Meadow Pond access	Moderate	Residential 2	P		
18-4338	903V	Counterpane Conservation Area	457 Brook Street	Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust	2.41	Conservation	Yes	No	Counterpane Brook access	Low	Residential 1	P		
127-3402	903V	Nashua River Bend Conservation Area	End Pearl & Prescott St	Town of Clinton	13.00	Floodplain area	None	No	Nashua River and floodplain	Moderate	Residential 1	L		
127-3290	903V	Van Brode Land	End Elm St (X River)	Town of Clinton	12.50	Floodplain area	None	No	Nashua River and floodplain	Moderate	Residential 1	L		
131-4143	903V	Sigert Parcel	225 Fitch Road	Town of Clinton Conservation Commission	2.08	Conservation	None	No	wetlands	Low	Redidential 2	P		
120-1824	903V	Maffei Parcel	142 Wilson Street	Town of Clinton Conservation Commission	25.93	Conservation	None	No	wetlands	Low	Residential 2	P		
125-2044	901V	Nashua River Sandy Bluff	1 Bolton Road	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	42.60	Conservation	Yes	No	Nashua River and dry Sandy Bluff	High	Residential 1	P		
116-1979 (1980)	915V	Wachusett Reservoir		Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)	468.70	Water Supply	Limited		Wachusett Reservation	High	Residential 2	P		
131-1473	911V	Mossy Pond Floating Island	100- ISL Rogers Field Way	Comm of Mass- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	1.00	Conservation	None	No	Floating Island	None	Residential 2	P		
131-4298	911V	South Meadow Boat Launch	48 SO Meadow Road	Comm of Mass- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	0.23	Conservation	Yes	No	Boatin Access	High	Residential 2	P		
131-1469	911V	Mossy Pond Peninsula	26 Rogers Field Way	Comm of Mass- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	15.10	Conservation	Yes	No	Pond Access	High	Residential 2	P		
86-(no parcel number available)		Duck Harbor (Duffy Park)	Duck Harbor Road	Town of Clinton	approx 0.25	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Neighborhood Pocket Park	High	Residential 1	P		
23-3849	9030	Parkhurst School	560 High Street	Town of Clinton	0.55	Recreation	Yes	Yes	abuts Fuller Field	High	Commercial	L		
56-3663	903I	Triangle Park (small park at Police Station)	176 Chestnut Street	Town of Clinton	approx 0.50	Recreation	Yes	Yes	former High School Yard	Moderate	Commercial	P		
104-3683 A	9080	Lakeside Field (play area owned by Housing Authority)	58 Fitch Road	Town of Clinton	approx 2.00	Recreation	Yes		Housing Complex playground	High	Residential 2	P		
2-3661	9033	Ash Street Playground	80 Church Street	Town of Clinton	6.50	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Elementary School Playground	High	Commercial	L		
132-4136	9030	Clinton Middle/High Playing Fields	75 West Boylston Street	Town of Clinton	48.38	Recreation	Yes	Yes	High School Playing Fields	High	Residential 2	L		
1-3653	903V	Elem. School Play Area	140 R School Street	Town of Clinton	0.15	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Tot Lot	High	Retail	L		
7-3815	903V	Central Park	243 Church Street	Town of Clinton	3.82	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Historic Common	High	Residential 1	P		
16-3366	903V	Turini Corner (Millstone Park)	350 High Street	Town of Clinton	0.06	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Urban Pocket Park	Low	Retail	P		
26-501	903V	Fuller Field	570 High Street	Town of Clinton	7.62	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Historic Schoolboy Field	High	Residential 1	L		
45-3671	903V	Vale Street Playground (Savage Field)	36 Vale Street	Town of Clinton	6.12	Recreation	Yes	No	Playing Fields	High	Residential 1	L		
83-3884	903V	Memorial Park Depot (Hamilton Square)	636 Main Street	Town of Clinton	0.83	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Historic Urban Park	High	Commercial	P		
87-3680	903V	Woodlawn Cemetery	2 Woodlawn Street	Town of Clinton	20.00	Historic	Yes	Yes	Historic Cemetery	Low	Residential 1	P		
122-3877	903V	Acre Park	Berlin and Chase Street	Town of Clinton	0.03	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Monument site	Low	Residential 1	P		
122-3878	903V	EDW Philbin Park	Berlin and Chase Street	Town of Clinton	0.93	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Playground	High	Residential 2	P		
131-3825	903V	Rogers Field	0 Rogers Field Way	Town of Clinton	1.93	Recreation	Yes	No		Low	Residential 2	P		
60-3817	903V	Carlisle Park	68 Beacon Street	Town of Clinton	1.16	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Historic Neighborhood Park	High	Residential 1	P		
68-3652	906V	St. John's Field	125 R Chestnut Street	St. John's School Corp.	2.36	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Private gym and grounds	High	Residential 1	U		
44-3370	3530	Turner Hall	60 Branch Street	Turn Verein Corporation	2.15	Recreation	Yes	Yes	Private gym and picnic grounds	High	Residential 1	U		
116-2752	9300	Rauscher Farm	20 Clamshell Road	Town of Clinton	32.00	Recreation	Yes	No	Town-owned former farm	High	Residential 2	P		
120-2753		Rauscher Farm	29 Clamshell Road	Town of Clinton	28.90	Recreation	Yes	No	Town-owned former farm	High	Residential 2	U		
45-1352	1020	525 Water Street	525 Water Street	River's Edge LLC	1.20	Recreation	Yes	No	abuts Savage Field and River	Moderate	Residential 2	L		
123-4407	2110	Bufton Farms	253 Chace Street	2100 Corp.	11.20	Conservation	Yes	No	abuts Garfield Woods	High	Residential 1	P		
117-2766	1320	Tall Pines-south of Aquaduct	No street address	Tall Pines Realty Corp.	38.17	Conservation	Yes	No	Mt. Pigsah area	High	Residential 2	P		
48-1366	330	Goodbridge Brook	1181 Main Street	John Boisenau	5.80	Conservation	Yes	No	abuts Nashua River	Moderate	Commercial	P		
129-4346	9030	Nathan Heights phase 1	No street address	G&D Ventures	7.02	Conservation	Yes	No	abuts Mahefka's Field	Low	Residential 1	P		
132-4138	9030	Reservoir Pines	225 West boylston Street	Town of Clinton	5.00	Cemetery	Yes	Yes	Cemetery	Low	Residential 2	P		
115-A	903V	The O.P.	155 Park Street	Town of Clinton	2.80	Water Supply	None	No	Former Municipal Reservoir site	Low	Residential 1	U		
6-3312	3900	Maybarton Garden	151 High Street	151 High Street RT	0.21	Vacant Land	Yes	No	Community Garden	Moderate	Retail	U		
Levels of Protection:														
P= Protected														
U = Unprotected														
L = Limited														

		Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016-2020												
APPENDIX B: LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST														
PARCELS OF OPEN SPACE OR RECREATION INTEREST														
					Parcel Size					Recreation		Level		
Parcel ID	Use Code	Property Name	Street Address	Property Owner*	Acres	Current Use(s)	Public Access	Accessible	Significance	Potential	Zoning	of Protection*	Grant Source	Deed Restriction
3-2571	3920	623 R Main Street	623R Main Street	New York Central Lines LLC	0.21		None	No	abuts playground	Moderate	Retail	U		
3-2572	3920	623 Main Street	623 Main Street	New York Central Lines LLC	0.15		None	No	abuts playground	Moderate	Retail	U		
18-1909	1300	110 West Street	100 West Street	Young, John	0.43		None	No	potential access to Counterpane	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
19-3846	3900	64 Plain Street	64 Plain Street	Innamorati, Alexander	3.43		None	No	potential access to Counterpane	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
18-1910	1300	100 West Street	110 West Street	Young, John	0.32		None	No	potential access to Counterpane	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
23-3715	3920	534 R High Street	534 R High Street	Innamorati, Alexander	0.58		None	No	abuts Counterpane Brook	Low	Commercial	U		
28-1502	1320	28-30 R Lowe Street	28-30 R Lowe Street	Phebus, Willian D.	1.87		None	No	abuts Nashua River	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
35-2099	1320	End of Centennial	End of Centennial	Mulgrew, Ann	6.7		None	No	abuts Nashua River	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
37-1931	4230	498 Water Street	498 Water Street	Masachusetts Electric Company	1.07		None	No	abuts Nashua River	Moderate	Industrial	U		
66-1936	4230	665 High Street	665 High Street	Masachusetts Electric Company	5.8		None	No	abuts Nashua River	High	Commercial	U		
85-1669	4400	Old Softball Field	460 Main Street	TYCA Corporation	3.12		None	No	former softball field	Moderate	Industrial	U		
94-4077	4030	Weetabix-southeast of Factory along river	145 R Green Street	Weetabix Co Inc.	1.2		None	No	abuts Nashua River	High	Residential 1	U		
105-2457	1300	44-48 Rigby Street	44-48 Rigby Street	Parker, Patrick A.	3.66		None	No	Rigby Brook wetlands	Low	Residential 2	U		
105-3735	1310	40-42 Rigby Street	40-42 Rigby Street	Parker, Patrick A.	0.33		None	No	Rigby Brook wetlands	Low	Residential 2	U		
110-1935	4230	69 Fairmount Street	69 Fairmount Street	Massachusetts Electric Co	0.28		None	No	scenic bluff-Rattlesnake Hill	Low	Residential 1	U		
110-2604	1310	69 R Faimount Street	69 R Faimount Street	Rice, David	3.38		None	No	scenic bluff-Rattlesnake Hill	Low	Residential 1	U		
110-3686	1320	7 R Fairview Street	7 R Fairview Street	Maypothor, Eric	0.29		None	No	scenic bluff-Rattlesnake Hill	Low	Residential 1	U		
111-2291	4230	245 R Grove Street	245 R Grove Street	New England Power CO	1.59		None	No	scenic bluff/abuts MDC	Low	Residential 1	U		
112-463	1320	21 A Ledge Court	21 A Ledge Court	Chiavaras, Peter	1.74		None	No	scenic bluff-Rattlesnake Hill	Low	Residential 1	U		
112-3765	1320	21 R Ledge Court	21 R Ledge Court	Chiavaras, George R.	0.85		None	No	scenic bluff-Rattlesnake Hill	Low	Residential 1	U		
116-248	1320	450 R Wilson Street	450 R Wilson Street	Bradford, Janet R.	3.16		None	No	abuts Rauscher farm	Moderate	Residential 2	U		
117-2765	1320	Off Boylston Road	Off Boylston Road	Rauscher, Donald J.	4.49		None	No	abuts MDC	Low	Residential 1	U		
119-239	1010	Johnson Property	351 Berlin Street	Johnson, Gary L.	16.1		None	No	abuts Central Mass rail	High	Residential 2	U		
122-2963	1300	23 Coyne Street	23 Coyne Street	Notaro, Joseph P & Lois L., Trustees	5.16		None	No	wetlands/woodlands	Moderate	Residential 2	U		
123-2338	1310	Lenkiewicz Parcel	213 R Chase Street	Lenkiewicz, Mitchel J.	14.03		None	No	wetlands/woodlands	High	Residential 2	U		
123-1745		Ciesluk Parcel	211 R Chace Street	Ciesluk Family RT	8.03		None	No	wetlands/woodlands	High	Residential 2	U		
124-2312	1016	Wallat Parcel	252 Chace Street	Nisula/Wallat Family Realty Trust	30.83		None	No	wooded slope above Nashua river	High	Residential 2	U		
128-1856	1310	Marhefka's Field	635R High Street	627 High Street Realty Trust	36.00		None	No	River plain and Meadow	High	Residential 2	U		
131-1155	1300	Ashjian Parcel	52 Rigby Street	Ashjian, Diane	16.6		None	No	Rigby Brook wetlands & uplands	Moderate	Residential 2	U		
9-3605	9300	Legion Lot	239 Chestnut Street	Town of Clinton	1.35		Yes	No	Undeveloped Lot near downtown	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
120-2767		Off Clamshell Road	off Clamshell Road	Rauscher RT	2.26		None	No	Clamshell Pond Frontage	High	Residential 2	U		
90-697		Coachlace Nursing Home	250 Main Street	250 Main Street RT	2		None	No	Coachlace Pond Frontage	Moderate	Residential 1	U		
102-1416		Rockbestos Site	172 Sterling Street	Hongli Yu	8.43		None	No	brownfield	Moderate	Industrial	U		
Levels of Protection:														
P= Protected														
U = Unprotected														
L = Limited														

## **APPENDIX C: RECREATION PROGRAM STATISTICS**

One of the most remarkable transformations in recent years is the explosion of recreational options in Clinton. Over the past few years, new facilities and new leadership at the Parks and Recreation Department, Senior Center, and Rauscher Farm have greatly expanded the number and range of available activities. The Clinton Youth Basketball League, which commenced in 2011, includes hundreds of boys and girls in grades 3-8. The Maybarton Community Garden, installed on a long-vacant downtown lot in downtown in 2015, partners with Growing Places inc to teach the fundamentals of raising food. To-date, the garden includes 31 planting frames. Running clubs such as Moxie LLC and Runway are using the roads. Runway sponsors "Move-it Monday" a free, early hour fitness program for middle-schoolers. Achieve Fitness and Training offers "Speed Camp", a free summer training program for boys and girls in grades 7-12.

## Recreational Activities and Programs

### *Sponsored by the Clinton Parks and Recreation Commission*

- **Fall Programs:**
  - Toddler Gymnastics and Tumbling
  - The Gift of Art
  - Intro to Skateboarding
  - Babysitting Training
  - Youth Tennis
  - Adult Fitness Classes
  - Yoga
  - Bus Trips
  - Scarecrow Building Contest
  - Pumpkin Carving Workshop
- **Winter Programs:**
  - Toddler Creative Movement and Reading
  - Toddler Gymnastics
  - LEGO Programs
  - Knitting Program
  - Adult Fitness Programs
  - Bus Trips
  - February Vacation Programs
  - Student Ski and Snowboard Program
  - Daddy Daughter Dance
  - Mother Son Movie
  - Block Party on Ice
  - Light Up Clinton Event
  - Tree Lighting Ceremony
  - Holiday Pops Concert
  - Boston Celtics Game
  - Ice Rink at Savage Field
- **Spring Programs:**
  - Toddler Gymnastics and Tumbling
  - Explorations with Knucklebones
  - Let's Get Cooking
  - STEM Beginnings
  - Wicked Cool for Kids
  - Discovery Lab
  - Youth Tennis
  - Teen Knitting Program
  - Adult Fitness Programs
  - CPR and First Aid Certification
  - Knitting Program
  - Spring Bus Trips
  - Clinton Youth Softball League
  - Red Sox Game
  - April Vacation Programs
- **Summer Programs:**
  - Yoga Programs
  - Town Wide Yard Sale
  - Adventures in Space Summer Programs
  - Crafty Kids
  - Summer LEGO Program
  - Summer Bus Trip
  - Summer Playground Program
  - Teen Adventure Program
  - Micro Soccer
  - Summer Concert Series
  - Adult Fitness Programs

***Sponsored by the Clinton Senior Center***

- Swimming
- Yoga
- Art Lessons
- Cribbage
- Knitting
- Congregate Lunch
- Bingo
- Garden Club
- Stay-Well Classes
- Holiday Parties
- Wii Fit Classes
- Clinton Steppers
- Spanish Programs
- Movie Matinees
- Cake Decorating workshops
- Flower Arranging workshops
- Senior Singers
- Field Trips
- Bocce
- Cooking and Wellness classes
- Referrals
- Computer Classes
- Walking Program
- Sewing Circle

***Sponsored by Turner's Hall***

- Gymnastics Academy

***Sponsored by St. John's Gym***

- Senior Dance Class
- Summer 3 on 3 Basketball
- Adult Basketball League
- Unstructured youth play(ages 14-17)
- Adult Volleyball League

***Sponsored by Clinton Youth Soccer Association***

- Co-Ed Youth Soccer(ages 4-6)
- Boys Youth Soccer(ages 7-14)
- Girls Youth Soccer(ages 7-14)
- Indoor Soccer
- Spring Soccer

***Sponsored by Clinton Little League***

- Co-Ed T-Ball(ages 4-6)
- Fall Baseball
- Boys Baseball(ages 7-10)
- Boys Baseball(ages 11-12)

***Sponsored by Clinton Pop Warner League***

- Boys Flag Football(ages 6-7)
- Boys Football(ages 8-14)



***Sponsored by Clinton Schools***

- Summer Enrichment Programs

***Sponsored by Clinton Softball Association***

- Adult Men's Softball
- Sunday Co-ed League
- Co-ed Fall League

***Sponsored by Clinton Women's Softball Association***

- Adult Women's Softball

***Sponsored by Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Inc.***

- Annual Nashua River Walk

***Sponsored by Friends of Rauscher Farm/Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, Inc.***

- Nature Adventures on Rauscher Farm (week-long annual program)
- Guided Monthly WalkAbouts on Rauscher Farm
- Guided Monthly Sunset Strolls on Rauscher Farm
- Letterboxing on Rauscher Farm
- Geocaching on Rauscher Farm
- Early Bird Special on Rauscher Farm (guided bird walk)
- Fall Fun on Rauscher Farm (program)
- Winter Wonderland on Rauscher Farm (program)
- StoryWalks® on Rauscher Farm (The Frog Princess?, The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child, Henry Hikes to Fitchburg)
- Night Sky Gazing on Rauscher Farm
- Our Surprising Sun (program)
- Is Anyone Out There? (program)
- Let's Build a Fairy House on Rauscher Farm (annual event)
- Mushroom Walk on Rauscher Farm (guided walk)



**APPENDIX D**

**ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN (2002)**

**SECTION 504 ASSESSMENTS**



**TOWN OF CLINTON**

**ADA SELF-EVALUATION**  
**And**  
**TRANSITION PLAN**

**Prepared by Griffin-Brooks Consulting**  
**September, 2002**

# Town of Clinton

## ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

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## Executive Summary

### Introduction

It is the policy of the Town of Clinton to provide equal access to all Town sponsored services, programs, and activities for citizens and employees with disabilities. Equal employment opportunity will be provided for all qualified individuals with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Town of Clinton has been working for a number of years to improve handicap access to its facilities, programs, services and pedestrian spaces. It has an ADA Coordinator (Town Assistant Administrator) and an active Disability Commission.

The Town Hall and library have been improved with a an elevator. There is a fully accessible high school and middle school as well as an accessible elementary school. There are accessible recreational facilities and bleachers, an accessible police station and fire station with a TDDY 911 emergency system. All of Clinton's Commissions and Boards meet in accessible spaces and all of the Towns voting activities take place in "State Certified" accessible spaces in Town Hall.

The Town is also currently completing the following accessible building projects: a streetscape project in a retail district, a new elementary school, and the rehabilitation of the historic "old fire station". The old fire station is being transformed into a complex that will house an intergenerational center and School Department Offices.

However, the Town of Clinton recognized that in order to achieve full compliance with ADA regulations, it needed to complete a self-evaluation process.

### Self-Evaluation Process

The self-evaluation process was comprised of the following: A Self-Evaluation Survey, review of Town policies and the development of a Transition Plan.

The Self-Evaluation Survey Tool was an extensive questionnaire that was completed by all Town Department Heads or Program Managers. The survey required the Department Heads to identify and evaluate any existing activity, program or service barriers to the disabled citizen.

The self-evaluation process also included the development of a Transition Plan that identified physical obstacles in Town owned or leased facilities that limited the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with disabilities.

The Clinton Disability Commission played a significant role in developing the ADA Transition Plan and was part of the team that conducted the "barrier-removal" evaluation of the Town's facilities. Members of the Clinton Disability Commission have been certified as ADA Community Access Monitors by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. Other team members included Michael Ward, Town Assistant Administrator and ADA Coordinator, Donald Lowe, Community and Economic Development Director, William Spratt, Superintendent of Public Works, and Kate Griffin-Brooks, Griffin-Brooks Consulting. A draft Transition Plan was prepared by Griffin-Brooks Consulting.

The Clinton Disability Commission held a public hearing to review, amend and prioritize the items of the proposed Transition Plan. The plan was then presented to the Clinton Selectmen who voted unanimously to approve the Transition Plan through a resolution.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law on July 26, 1990, provides comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, a telecommunications. Regulations issued by the U.S. Justice Department clarify the obligation applicable to local government services.

### **Background on the Disability Rule**

Subtitle A of the Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. This subtitle prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the services, programs, or activities of all state and local governments. While some state and local governments are presently covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA extends disability discrimination prohibitions to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by public entities or any other instrumentalities or agencies. The regulation covers all facilities, including building structures, sites, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, and other properties.

The coverage of the rule can be broken down in three main categories. These include:

- 1) Employment activities (which may also be covered by the employment rules of Title I of ADA);

- 2) Programs and activities involving the general public; and
  - 3) Public services directly administered by the entities for program participants.
- In addition to these, the rule covers communication with the public through telephone contact or any other use of the public facilities.

#### **Definition of Disability - as Defined by the ADA**

In determining obligation under ADA, it's important what constitutes a disability. The term "disability" means:

- (a) A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual;
- (b) A record of such an impairment; or
- (c) Being regarded as having such impairment. In such a case that an individual meets any one of these three tests, he or she is considered an individual with a disability for coverage under the ADA.

#### **Definition of Impairment - as Defined by the ADA**

An "impairment" is any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculo-skeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine, or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

#### **Definition of Substantially Limiting Impairments**

The "impairment" must be one which limits a major life activity. Such activities include caring for one, performing manual tasks, and walking. Minor or trivial impairments are those expected to be of temporary duration and are not regarded as disability for the purpose of the ADA.

#### **Public Accommodations**

ADA requires public accommodations to be maintained in operable working condition so as to permit ready access and accessibility by persons with disabilities. However, a public entity need not provide personal devices such as wheelchairs or hearing aids to make the program accessible.

While a public entity must attempt to make existing facilities readily accessible and usable, it's not necessary that each existing facility be accessible, and usable by individuals with disabilities. Nor is it necessary to make fundamental alterations in the nature of the services, programs or activities, or to incur undue financial or administrative burdens. The public entity need not take any action which would threaten or destroy the historic significance of a historic property. However, with regard to historic preservation, the public entity must provide alternative methods to achieve program accessibility; i.e., by providing audio-visual material devices to depict those portions of a historic property which cannot otherwise be made accessible.

## **Communication**

A public entity must ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities. To assure that communication, the public entity shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids. "Auxiliary aids" include such services or devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening headsets, television captioning, telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD's), Braille materials, and large prints. A public entity must also ensure telephone emergency services including 911 services, and post signs at all inaccessible entrances to each of its facilities, directing users to an accessible entrance.

## **New Construction**

For new construction and alteration, the new construction must be designed and built in such a manner that the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with a disability if construction is commenced after January 26, 1992. Public entities may choose between two technical standards for accessible design: The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for buildings and facilities (ADAAG).

## **Transportation**

Under the ADA, public transportation providers must offer accessible services to individuals with disabilities. The ADA affects public transit in the following categories: accessible vehicles, services, and facilities.

## **Self-Evaluation Requirements**

Public entities are required to do self-evaluation to determine if their operations tend to impact the ability of the disabled person to utilize the public services or facility. The self-evaluation should include:

- 1) A list of interested persons consulted.
- 2) A description of areas examined and any problems identified.
- 3) A description of any modification made.

## **Transitional Plan Requirements**

In the event that structural changes to facilities will be undertaken to achieve program accessibility, a public entity must develop a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes. A public entity shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities to participate in the development of the transition plan by submitting comments.

The transition plan shall at a minimum:

- 1) Identify physical obstacles in the public entity's facility that limits the accessibility of its program or activities to individual with disabilities.
- 2) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible.
- 3) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance.

- 4) Indicate the official responsible for implementation.
- 5) If the public entity has already complied with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, then the transition will apply only to those policies and practices that were not included in the previous plan.

### **Complaint Procedures\Public Notice**

A complaint procedure to resolve grievances in prompt and equitable manner is required of all jurisdictions employing 50 or more employees. The grievance procedure must be formally adopted and published.

Cities and towns of all sizes are required to advise all applicants, beneficiaries and other interested persons that information is available on how government programs are complying with ADA.

## **General Overview of Town Operations**

### **Town Operations**

The Town of Clinton has over 400 employees providing services such as fire-fighting, emergency rescue, law enforcement, inspections, planning, economic development, water and sanitation services, recreation, events, classes, and public information dissemination.

The Town provides high quality municipal services to protect, preserve, and enhance the Town for present and future generations. It strives to be a high-performing, inclusive government, which partners with the community to create and preserve a safe, clean, and vibrant Town.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has made revolutionary changes in almost every segment of American life. The potential scope of the ADA is enormous when one considers the number of Americans who have disabilities.

The Town has continually strived to eliminate barriers that may prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying employment, access to Town facilities and services or other benefits.

In an effort to comply with the provisions of the ADA and to ensure that the operation of each Town service, activity, and program is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, the Town has evaluated its facilities and developed a transition plan. This plan outlines structural changes required for program accessibility and evaluates its services, policies and practices.



## **Activities, Programs and Services Standard Practice Delivery System**

A comprehensive self-evaluation was undertaken by the Town of Clinton for the purpose of reviewing and assessing the Town's Activities, Programs and Services for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Each department head was asked to complete a comprehensive survey that consisted of six sections: Program Background, General Public Contact, Intensive Client Contact, Contracting, Purchasing and Staff Training.

The "General Public Contact" portion of the survey was the most comprehensive section of the survey. It was also the survey section most relevant to all Town Departments. The following three categories: Public Contact, Printed Materials, and Meetings, outline the many ways that Clinton Town employees interact with the community as part of their standard practice delivery system.

### **Public Contact**

Public contact is typically defined as one-on-one interaction between staff member(s) and member(s) of the general public. Public contact may take one or more of the following forms:

**Telephone** - Most Town offices receive numerous calls on a daily basis requesting information on a wide range of topics. Additionally, the Town provides special phone hotline service through Emergency Assistance 911 that is accessible to the deaf through TTDY service.

Other examples are:

- Requests for information and assistance
- Registration for various programs or services
- Reporting abandoned vehicles, graffiti or code violations
- Interviews with witnesses, victims, etc.

**Internet** - The Town provides access to varied information via its web page. Citizens are able to view information regarding municipal events, meetings, news and updates, and information on doing business.

**Counter/Walk-in Assistance** - Many offices within the Town receive "foot traffic" on a regular basis, as part of the day-to-day operation. Individuals "walk in" to request information and a variety of types of services, including:

- Applications for various licenses and permits
- Payment collection on bills or citations
- Document requests
- Services specific to a department

- Emergency assistance
- Employment applications

**Volunteers** - The Town uses volunteers to enhance many of its programs. Some volunteers work directly with the public in a variety of roles, such as:

- Staffing special events, fairs and celebrations
  - Providing staff and/or program support to departments
- Applicants for employment go through an interview process. Depending upon the type of work they perform, they may be asked to take additional skill tests. Other uses of interviewing and/or testing are:
- Witness, suspect and victim contacts
  - Complaint investigation

## **Printed Materials**

In addition to direct public contact, information regarding Town services, programs and activities is distributed through the use of printed materials. Although the initial contact may be by phone, a typical request could be for a brochure, report or application.

**Applications** - Many Town activities or service requests, which must comply with rules, regulations, or ordinances, are processed through the use of applications. Applications are also required as the initial step of employment, registration for participation in programs and services offered by the Town, and membership to boards or commissions. The format of the application varies based on the purpose. Some typical areas of use are:

- Obtaining a license or permit to build a structure, operate a business or reserve a facility for a special event or activity
- Applying for a staff, board or commission position with the Town
- Registering for programs or activities

**Brochures/Fliers** - These are used as informational and promotional tools to enhance participation. Brochures and fliers provide information to the public about workshops or community education programs or can be used to promote an upcoming special event. Examples are:

- Announcements regarding community meetings or event
- Information on fire safety, recycling, and water conservation
- Newsletters
- Educational or recreational programs

**Billing** - The means by which the Town collects fees and other revenues for activities and/or services provided to the public, including the following:

- Utility bills
- Citations

- Licenses
- Class or activity registration

**Noticing** - Provides legal notification to the public on municipal affairs.

Examples are:

- Agendas and public notices for Selectmen, Commissions and Boards
- Scheduled public hearings
- Official publications in local media

**Document/Records/Staff Reports** - These reflect the legal and historical records of the Town. Examples are:

- Administrative staff reports
- Meeting minutes
- Contracts and agreements
- Ordinances and resolutions
- Budget or audit documents

## **Meetings**

Meetings are a part of the daily operation. Some meetings are formal and noticed. Others are working sessions focusing on project management or Town operations. Some examples are:

**Official Public Meeting**

- Selectmen
- Planning Commission
- Other Boards and Commissions

**Inspections** - In order to ensure public compliance with state and local ordinances, qualified staff from various departments conduct inspections.

These include:

- Code enforcement
- Fire prevention
- Occupancy
- Certification audits

**Project Meetings** - Meetings used to review projects include:

- Pre-proposal/ pre-construction meetings
- Walk-throughs

**Advisory/Focus Groups**

- Task forces
- Emerging and Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee
- Affirmative Action Advisory Committee

**Visual Displays** - Materials used for informational, educational or training purposes, include:

- Bulletin boards materials
- Audio and visual presentation i.e. internet and local cable television

- **Classes and Workshops** - Classes and workshops are conducted by some of the Town Departments. At times the Town contracts with outside providers to offer classes and workshops on the City's behalf. Examples of such include:
  - Recreational classes and activities
  - Training and educational classes
  - Workshops and presentations

## Activities, Programs and Services (APS) Unique Program Delivery Systems

The "Unique" activities, programs and services (APS) differ from the Standard Practice Delivery System (APS) in its basic delivery system. There are two forms of the unique (APS); Accessible or Inaccessible, which are defined below.

1) **ACCESSIBLE Unique (APS)** deliver its services and interactions in a way other than that of the Town's standard practice delivery system. Most unique (APS) are just as accessible as the common (APS), though very specialized. The following are examples:

**Emergency Response** - The Fire Department responds to fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical aid, and hazardous material emergencies.

**Arrest of Suspects** - The Police Department arrest and cites suspects.

**Securing Vendors/Contractors/Consultants** - Through solicitation and the RFP process, Town staff advertises for, interviews and contracts with vendors, consultants and contractors for the procurement of material, supplies, design, or project development.

2) **INACCESSIBLE Unique (APS)** exist to cover circumstances where, because of safety concerns, required proficiency levels, and/or sanctioned requirements of law enforcement procedures, (APS) are and will likely be inaccessible to some members of the community with disabilities. Other methods of (APS) delivery are necessary. Each inaccessible unique (APS) listed below is followed by a brief description of the areas of concern that may make that (APS) inaccessible.

**Recreation & Competitive Sports** - The Parks and Recreational Department offers a broad range of recreational activities. Most recreational (APS) held in a class or clinic can be adapted to allow participation by persons with disabilities.

Where competitive leagues and tournaments are offered to the general public, the flexibility to be adaptive is impacted by safety

concerns, proficiency requirements and/or the rules of the sanctioning organization. In all cases, a review of each individual situation will occur in order to explore all possibilities and opportunities for participation.

Generally: Individuals needing assistive devices that may pose a hazard for the safe play of others are likely to be denied participation (someone in a wheelchair or wearing an unpadded brace may present an on the floor/field hazard to teammates and opponents). Such decisions are made on a case by case basis. Safety for both the participant and other players must be considered in all cases.

When an umbrella organization sanctions an event, the published rules of that organization will provide the framework for determining proficiency/skill levels of play, unless governing regulations allow rule modification by the local agency.

Assistive devices will be provided to enable equal opportunity when it has been determined that safety, sanctioning rules and proficiency levels can be met. The Town will continue its efforts to provide services in the most integrated setting possible.

## **Self-Evaluation Survey Summary**

The following Town Departments received and completed the Self-Evaluation Survey: Town Administrator, School Department, Department of Public Works, Library, Police Department, Fire Department, Council on Aging, Retirement Board, Veterans Services, Town Clerk, Building Commission, Parks and Recreation Department, Town Accounting Office, Town Treasurer, Board of Assessors, Town Collector. (sample of survey available in Appendix 1)

A review and evaluation of the surveys has made it clear that it will be necessary for the Town of Clinton to make some reasonable and minor modifications in policies, practices, and procedures to ensure equal access to individuals with disabilities. These include but are not limited to a written Grievance Policy, a Reasonable Accommodation Policy, Emergency Evacuation Procedures, ADA Training for new hires and general staff, and a written assistive services and devices process that will be included on all public meeting agendas and notices.

The following Administrative Procedures, Employment Practices, and Policy and Procedures actions will further enhance the Town of Clinton's ADA compliance efforts.

### **Administrative Procedures**

1. The Town of Clinton will adopt a written Grievance Policy/Procedure
2. Questions concerning general ADA policy, reasonable accommodations, and grievances by citizens or employees not resolved by departments shall be directed to the ADA Coordinator for resolution.
3. The ADA Coordinator shall resolve issues/grievances, convene an ADA Compliance Committee Meeting to hear appeals of citizen grievances, or simply make recommendations to departments, the Town Manager, his/her designee or the Selectmen as appropriate.
4. The Town will make every reasonable effort to provide auxiliary aids and services to provide effective communication and will adopt a written communication procedure to be used by all Departments, Boards and Commissions.
5. Building inspections will ensure that all plans for new construction and major alterations comply with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or Title III standards of the ADA prior to issuing a building permit. The review and inspection process will include parking, ramps, signage and access for new and existing facilities.
6. All departments are responsible for continually monitoring and evaluating current policies, procedures, facilities and programs to achieve and maintain compliance with this directive and in turn the Americans with Disabilities Act.
7. The Town will adopt a written emergency evacuation procedure
8. The Clinton Disability Commission will be notified of all reasonable accommodation decisions and grievance procedures and will act as a source of information on the ADA for the Town of Clinton

## **Employment Practices**

The Town's employment practices have been in compliance with the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, therefore, significant changes are not necessary to comply with the ADA. The following actions will be taken to meet new or expanded requirements.

- Continue to review employment rules and regulations to ensure that they do not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.
- As recruitment occurs, physical or cognitive skills shall be reviewed to ensure that requirements relate to performance of essential functions of the positions.
- With the exception of positions covered by regulation, there are no automatic disqualifications for medical conditions. Each case is considered individually and reasonable accommodation is considered in all cases.
- Positions requiring a physical agility examination will be reviewed to ensure the job relatedness of all physical activities simulated in the test.
- Reasonable accommodations are available upon request to ADA Coordinator for use in the selection/hiring process. However, a written "Reasonable Accommodation Policy" needs to be adopted
- Job announcement should be available, upon request, in alternate formats.
- The Town's EEO/AA Statement will be included on job fliers and employment applications.
- Potentially discriminating language is not allowed in job postings, applications or test material.
- Orientations for interview panels shall include a discussion of non-discriminatory conduct for the interview selection process.
- Outreach efforts shall include mailings to agencies servicing persons with disabilities.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Policies**

One required component of the self-evaluation is a review of policies that affect accessibility to Town services. The ADA requires that where policies are found to be discriminatory, appropriate modifications will be made.

A review was made of all existing policies within the Town. This review considered both official and informal policies. Some areas require policies to be created; other policies need to be modified.

The policies that follow reflect actions taken and are recognized by the Town of Clinton as basic in providing activities, programs and services to all residents of the community and to job applicants and employees.

- It is the Town's intent to ensure that all individuals - employees, applicants and the public-at-large - are knowledgeable of the requirements of ADA and is informed on the process and resources used by the Town to make services, activities and programs accessible.
- The Town will assure equal employment opportunity and fair employment practices through affirmative action to all persons regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, medical condition or disability.
- Town activities, programs, and services will be offered in an accessible fashion. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be responded to positively where no proficiency, safety and/or sanctioned requirements are in place.
- Efforts will be taken to ensure that all public meetings are accessible. If no notification is received prior to a meeting, items of interest may be rescheduled to a time when a needed accommodation can be provided.
- All material prepared for official public meetings of the Town will be available, upon request, in alternate formats.
- All Town contracts made with entities that will provide a service, activity or program to the public, on behalf of the Town, should include a clause requiring compliance by the contractor with all Town policies concerning accessibility.
- Procedures to ensure compliance with the ADA and implementation of these policies will be developed and disseminated to appropriate Town staff.



## Procedures

- New employee orientation will include a section that covers Town policies concerning ADA.
- Training will be provided on disability awareness to new employees and general staff.
- Notification to the public will occur through statements. On all public meeting agendas and announcements, the process for requesting auxiliary aids will be noted.
- Upon request, the following assistive services and devices may be made available (This list is not meant to be all-inclusive):
  1. Large-Type documents
  2. Documents on tape or in Braille-readers for individuals with visual impairments
  3. Amplification or listening devices for the hearing impaired participating in Town sponsored meetings.
  4. Interpreters.
  5. Transcripts from meetings and of City produced video programs.
  6. All agendas, event fliers, meeting or activity display ads, etc. will contain the following or similar note:

"In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this (event/meeting), please contact (name) at (phone number). The request should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation for participation."

- Efforts will be made to include individuals with disabilities in graphic depictions showing participants in Town activities, programs, and services
- All informational brochures, booklets, and fliers will contain the following or similar statement:

"In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting (name) at (phone number)."

- Phone listings in Town publications and local directories will contain information developed to alert individuals to 911 services that will include reference to direct TTY access.
- Where counter heights are too high to be accessible, an alternate transaction area will be identified and/or

lapboards or clipboards will be provided as an assistive device.

## **TOWN OF CLINTON TRANSITION PLAN**

### **PROCESS**

1. Town properties identified by Assessors Office
2. Clinton Disability Commission meets to discuss Transition Plan project
3. Clinton Disability Commission Members that are certified Community Access Monitors assist in the evaluation of the Town Hall, Library, Police Station, and Central Park using a checklist of "Standards for Accessible Design".
4. Old Fire Station evaluation is conducted with School Superintendent Philbin and Donald Lowe, Community and Economic Development Director.
5. Evaluation of all other Town properties conducted by Kate Griffin-Brooks
6. First Draft of Plan delivered to Jan Rusiecki, Disability Commission Chairperson, and Donald Lowe, Community and Economic Development Director on September 3rd.
7. Comments of Disability Commission Members incorporated into draft plan.
8. Estimates for cost of work requested
9. Public Hearing Advertised
10. Public Hearing convened with the purpose of taking comments and suggestions and prioritizing items on the draft Transition Plan
11. Incorporate suggested changes into Transition Plan
12. Submit completed Plan to Disability Commission and Select-Board for approval

## **Town Properties Evaluated for ADA Transition Plan**

Town Hall, 242 Church Street

Library, 54 Walnut Street

New Clinton Fire Department, 559 Main Street

Old Clinton Fire Department, 42 Church Street

Clinton Police Department, 176 Chestnut Street

School, 560 High Street

School, 140 School Street

School, 75 Boylston Street

School, 200 Boylston Street

Central Park, 243 Church Street

Park, 68 Beacon Street

Park, 350 High Street

Memorial Park Depot, 636 Main Street

Playground, 36 Vale Street

Philbin Memorial Park, Berlin and Chace

Fuller Field, 570 High Street

Veterans Memorial Athletic Complex, 50 West Boylston Street

Water Filtration Plant

Clinton Civil Defense, 359 High Street

Clinton Cemetery, 225 West Boylston Street

D.P.W. Garage, 99 Woodlawn Street

142 and 144 Church Street Parking Lots

Pond Court Parking Lot

24 Walnut Street Parking Lot

18 Water Street Parking Lot

High Street Parking Spaces

### **Town of Clinton Transition Plan Priorities**

The Transition Plan is a required element of ADA regulations. It is a written plan that identifies the modifications and physical changes necessary to achieve program, service and activity access.

At a September 17, 2002 Public Hearing, the Clinton Disability Commission developed the following list of ADA Transition Plan priorities.

1. Library
2. Town Hall
3. Central Park
4. Parking Areas
5. Public Ways
6. High School
7. Middle School
8. Fuller Field
9. Park, 36 Vale Street
10. Philbin Memorial Park
11. Park, 68 Beacon Street

# **TOWN OF CLINTON TRANSITION PLAN**

## **Town Buildings**

**Facility: Clinton Town Hall, 242 Church Street**

Responsible Party: Building Inspector

Date for Completion of Work: June, 2003

Estimate for all work: \$24-30,000.00

### **Structural Changes**

1. Install automatic door opener on Walnut Street entrance
2. Install rubber EZ-Edge Ramp bevels on all office thresholds and basement egress (24 in all)
3. Install Braille sign for elevator emergency button
4. Provide lighting for handicap entrance on Walnut Street
5. Provide lighting for basement egress
6. Provide a location sign for elevator in entry hall
7. Provide a table (28"-34" high with 27" of knee room) to hold the Assessor's hallway computer and provide a chair
8. Adjust pressure on front door (Church St.)
9. Install non-slip treads on main staircase or a sign that states "slippery when wet-please use elevator"
10. Repair concrete pavement area that leads to ramp

11. Install a sign in front of Walnut Street entrance that states "Handicap Parking Only"

12. Install an upright handicap parking sign in front of Town Hall

13. Move handicap van space across the street to include 96" unloading space with signage and striping

14. Add a table in Chambers that has 27" knee clearance and that has a table top between 28" and 34" from the floor with microphone

15. Have offices such as the Retirement Office, Treasurer's Office, Town Administrator's Office rearrange their furniture to create 36" wide entry aisles

16. Make first floor bathrooms accessible and remove accessible signs from basement and second floor bathrooms

17. Provide signage (including Braille signs) on basement and second floor bathrooms directing disabled to accessible first floor bathrooms

18. Provide sign at Church Street entrance that directs people to handicap entrance/ramp on Walnut Street

19. Secure railing along handicap ramp

20. Have policy/procedure in place to ensure that when auditorium seats are in use there is a wide enough aisle created for wheelchair seating (60"). In areas that have the capacity for 51-300 seats there must be four wheelchair spaces provided. Wheelchair spaces must have a complete view of the stage and must be fixed for the duration of an event.

21. Install at least one TTDY phone (text phone for deaf and hearing impaired) in the Town Hall

## **Facility: Clinton Library, 54 Walnut Street**

### **Structural Changes**

1. Install automatic door at handicap entrance
2. Install visible and auditory fire alarm system
3. Provide illuminated Exit signs on all floors
4. At least one computer (perhaps the one on first floor) in study area needs to be raised from between 28" to 34" and have 27" clear for knees for wheelchair access
5. Provide sign on Walnut Street entrance that locates handicap parking
6. Repair hard surface in front of handicap entrance
7. Repair driveway off Walnut Street that leads to handicap entrance
8. Adjust closing time on elevator door (the current setting of six seconds is too fast)
9. Install lever handles on sink in handicap bathrooms in basement
10. Adjust closing speed of handicap bathroom door
11. Install accessible soap dispenser and toilet paper holder

**Facility: Clinton Police Department, 176 Chestnut Street**

This facility is totally accessible. The Police Department has a 911 TTDY relay emergency system, accessible holding cells, an accessible conference area, and utilizes an ambulance if there is a need to arrest a disabled citizen.

**Facility: Clinton New Fire Department, 559 Main Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Move handicap parking space to completely paved area and include upright handicap sign

**Facility: Clinton Old Fire Department, 42 Church Street**

This structure is currently being renovated under a grant from the Mass Historic Commission by the School Department. It will house an intergenerational center and offices and conference room on the first floor and administrative offices on the second floor. It will require a lift, or an elevator for access to the second floor. It is possible that this building could receive a variance for this requirement -if applied for- from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

**Facility: Clinton Middle School, 75 West Boylston Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Replace one missing handicap parking sign
2. Create accessible pathway to playing fields

**Facility: Clinton High School, 200 West Boylston Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Develop access to playing fields
2. Create accessible shower for girls locker room



3. Provide visual fire alarms throughout entire school
4. Make tot-lot accessible
5. Install striping between existing side by side handicap spaces for wheelchair access
6. Address slope of curb cuts
7. Add curb cuts for access to playground and woodshop
8. Create 36" accessible aisle in Nurse's Office
9. Provide counter at Credit Union that is accessible
10. Decrease door pressure on entry-way door

**Facility: Former Clinton High School, 80 Church Street**

This building has been demolished and a new elementary school is currently being constructed on this site

**Facility: Elementary School, 140 School Street**

This building has an elevator and is considered an accessible school. The Town has plans to apply for a grant that will among other things provide for new accessible sidewalks on School Street.

**Facility: Clinton Civil Defense Building, 359 High Street**

There is no parking or sidewalk access to this building. Any meetings that relate to civil defense need to be held in an accessible space in a location other than this building.

**Facility: Clinton Cemetery, 225 West Boylston Street**

The cemetery office building is accessible.

**Facility: Clinton D.P.W. Garage, 99 Woodlawn Street**

The D.P.W. Superintendent has an accessible office space at Town Hall. However, this space could be accessed through the garage doors.

**Facility: Clinton Water Filtration Plant, 55 West Boylston Street**

This building is under construction and plans should be reviewed for handicap access

## **Town Fields and Parks**

### **Facility: Fuller Field, 570 High Street**

#### **Structural Changes**

1. Move small set of bleachers blocking ladies room
2. Add EZ-Edge Ramp bevel to bathrooms
3. Create paved pathway to baseball diamond
4. Repave blacktop to playground area
5. Create opening in wooden berm surrounding play equipment
6. Install rubber mat surface in play area
7. Install handicap accessible play equipment

### **Facility: Central Park, 243 Church Street**

#### **Structural Changes**

1. Add handicap parking space with signage on Union Street
2. Add handicap parking space with signage on Walnut Street nearest curb cut
3. Create accessible curb cuts on all four corners of
4. Repair access to pathways

from curb cuts

5. Create accessible pathways throughout the park

**Facility: Turini Park, 350 High Street**

This pocket park with benches at the corner of High Street and Water Street is completely accessible

**Facility: Park, 36 Vale Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Create accessible route to fields
2. Create seating area on flat site
3. Pave and line parking area
4. Create handicap parking spaces

**Facility: Park, 68 Beacon Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Repair curb cuts  
at all four corners
2. Blacktop paths repaved to create  
accessible pathways

**Facility: Philbin Memorial Park, Berlin and Chace Street**

**Structural Changes**

1. Repair curb cut
2. Install upright handicap parking sign  
for existing handicap parking space
3. Pave path to play equipment  
about 20'
4. Repair existing pavement

**Facility: Memorial Park Depot, 636 Main Street**

This park with benches and paved pathways at the corner of Main and Water Street is completely accessible

**Facility: Clinton Veterans Athletic Complex, West Boylston Street**

This outdoor recreational facility has accessible bleachers, fields and a track area. It has the appropriate number of handicap parking spaces that are striped and signed.

1. Install railing along ramp

**Facility: Philip Weihn Pool, 50 West Boylston Street****Structural Changes**

1. Reline and sign  
handicap parking (in process)
2. Change "no dogs"  
rule to accommodate service animals

Note: Pool facilities are accessible and there is a wheelchair lift for the pool

**Town Parking Areas****Facility: 142 and 144 Church Street Parking Lots****Structural Changes**

1. Create at least 3 handicap parking  
Spaces with pavement signage and  
Upright signs
2. Create a handicap van space with a  
96" side aisle with appropriate signage

## **Facility: Pond Court Parking Lot (#10, 14, 18, 22, 29)**

### **Structural Changes**

1. Create at least one handicap parking space with appropriate signage

## **Facility: 24 Walnut Street Parking Lot**

### **Structural Changes**

1. Repave and reline lot

## **Facility: 18 Water Street Parking Lot**

### **Structural Changes**

1. Repave and reline lot
2. Create curb cut
3. Provide at least one handicap parking space with appropriate signage

## **Facility: High Street Parking Spaces**

### **Structural Changes**

1. There should be at least one handicap parking space provided for every 25 spaces (but at least one) and at least one van accessible space with a 96" striped aisle on either side of High Street between Union Street and Church Street. The spaces should be located adjacent to the new curb cuts. The same holds for the area between Church and Water Street.

# **Model Grievance Procedures**

## **American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Grievance Procedures**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, in the easiest and most efficient manner, resolution of grievances. For the purpose of this organization, a grievance shall be defined as a complaint regarding access or alleged discrimination.

### **Scope**

This procedure shall be available to all individuals utilizing the services and facilities of the Town, applicants for employment with the Town, and all employees of the Town of Clinton.

### **Complaint Process**

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#### **STEP 1**

All grievances are to be submitted in writing to the ADA Coordinator. The grievant shall set forth in the body of the grievance the nature of the complaint, the facts upon which it is based, the specific nature of the perceived barrier to access or alleged discrimination, and the relief requested. No grievance shall be accepted which has been submitted: 1) More than one hundred and eighty (180) days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance; or 2) Within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the grievant, through the use of reasonable diligence, should have had knowledge of the event.

Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the written grievance, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the grievant, and attempt to resolve the grievance. The ADA Coordinator will provide a written response to the grievant within ten (10) calendar days of the meeting. If the ADA Coordinator's response does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the grievant, he or she may proceed to Step 2 by giving written notice no more than ten (10) days after the ADA Coordinator's response is received or due.

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#### **STEP 2**

All written requests of appeal will be considered by the ADA Compliance Committee. The committee shall be comprised of three (3) members; a Select Board Member, the Town Administrator or his/her designee, and a member of the Clinton Disability Commission appointed by the Select Board to serve a term of two (2) years. Consultation will be sought from an expert in the specific

disability area related to the complaint in question. Following the Committee's review of the written appeal, a hearing will take place in which the grievant may present the specifics of the grievance and the desired relief. The Clinton Disability Commission will be notified. Notice of the public hearing will be given and the proceedings of the hearing shall be open to the public. The Commission shall issue a written decision within forty-five (45) calendar days of being notified of the appeal. All committee proceedings shall be recorded, transcribed and maintained. If the complaint still has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, he or she may proceed to Step 3 by giving written notice no more than ten (10) calendar days after the ADA Committee's written decision is received or due.

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### STEP 3

Step 3 appeals will be considered by the Select Board in a public hearing. A determination must be made within thirty (30) days of the public hearing. All determinations of the Select Board shall be final.

#### **Records**

Record of proceedings and action taken on each request a complaint must be maintained for each level of the grievance process.

#### **Reprisal**

Reprisal against any grievant or witness is prohibited.

## **Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

### **EXPLANATION:**

The methods that a program may use to assure equal opportunity to persons with disabilities will vary according to the type of service and the nature of the disability in question. The regulations require adjustments to service delivery methods and/or settings to meet the individualized needs of disabled recipients. These accommodations may include changes in service policies and practices and/or provision of specialized equipment or auxiliary aids. The following policy provides a definition and examples of service recipient accommodations.

### **I. MODEL POLICY**

If the provision of services to qualified persons with disabilities requires accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of the individual to enable equal participation in activities, programs, or services

provided by the Town, efforts shall be undertaken to provide accommodation.

**A. Definition:**

Service recipient accommodation is an adjustment to service delivery methods and/or settings to meet the individualized needs of a disabled applicant or candidate for services. It includes changes in service policies and practices and/or provision of specialized equipment. Service recipient accommodation removes, on a case-by-case basis, barriers which prevent or limit equal opportunity and fair treatment in such areas as eligibility and admissions standards and requirements, pre-registration, registration, re-licensing, licensing methods, and participation in activities and programs.

**B. Examples of Service Recipient Accommodation:**

**1. Service Restructuring:**

- Counseling
- Client service specifications
- Transfers
- Reinstatements
- Compensation
- Benefits
- Client assessment systems
- Service termination procedures
- Department sponsored activities

**2. Support Service Accommodations:**

- Readers
- Markers
- Interpreters

**3. Special Testing Arrangements:**

- Test administration methods
- Exam format and/or time frame
- Practical examination of skills

**4. Equipment Accommodations:**

- Writing Aids
- Braille typewriter
- Braille writer
- Cassette recorder
- Dictation equipment
- Line Spacer
- Magnetic ruler
- Mouth sticks



- Slate and stylus
- Talking calculator

#### **Speaking Aids**

- Loudspeaker/amplifier
- Microphone
- Teletype writing devices

#### **Visual Aids**

- Closed circuit television
- Image sensing devices
- Magnification devices

#### **Reading Aids**

- Book aids
- Cantilevered table
- Page turner
- Magnifying glasses
- Projector
- Taped/recorded materials

#### **Reaching/Grasping Aids**

- Tongs
- Knobs
- Lever handles
- Switches

#### **Hearing Aids**

- Assistive Listening Devices
- Headset
- Teletype writing devices

### **5. Architectural Accommodations**

#### **Doorways and Entrance Doors**

- Widened
- Automatic

#### **Fixtures**

- Dispensers
- Drinking fountains
- Electrical switches
- Elevator panels
- Files
- Public telephones
- Shelves and counter tops

#### **Paths of Travel**

- Elevators
- Handrails
- Ramps
- Parking
- Walkways

## **II. Departmental Responsibilities for Implementation**

- A. All announcements and application forms for service should invite applicants and clients to identify if specialized accommodations are needed.
- B. Money for accommodations should be in the budget. Fees for reasonable accommodations cannot be imposed on the clients.

## **III. Service Recipient Accommodation Request, Review & Approval Procedure**

### **A. General Responsibilities**

- 1. Applicants/Candidates for Services or Service Recipients are to provide as much information as possible on:
  - a. Type of accommodation needed
  - b. Availability of accommodation
  - c. Benefit of accommodation, and be knowledgeable about information regarding most useful and helpful types of accommodations to meet the needs of this current situation.
- 2. Department "Request Reviewers"
  - Are to gain knowledge and information about:
    - a. Various types of accommodation for individual recipient's special needs
    - b. Availability of accommodation
    - c. Benefit of accommodation to performance of service requirements
    - d. Alternative types of accommodations to meet the specific situation

Consult with the applicant or candidate for services or service recipient in identifying his/her special needs related to the service and in determining which modifications/accommodations are most appropriate.

- B. The procedure for submitting and reviewing service recipient Accommodation requests are presented on the following charts:

**NOTE:** Some accommodations may be pre-approved or very simple and need not be involved in the formal request procedure, such as the availability of a reader for a visually impaired client or Assistive listening devices for the hearing impaired.

**Major steps in submitting and reviewing service recipient accommodation requests:**

1. The applicant/candidate or service recipient makes a request for some accommodation.

Review Action: Initiates request and submits it to the program manager

2. Request review process: Program Director reviews the request for type of the request for type of request and approval level required

Review Action: If within the program director's area of authority, and the request is approved, the program director initiates action to implement the request and advises the Applicant/candidate or service recipient.

If not within area of authority, the program director advises applicant/candidate or service recipient that his/her request is being sent to the department director (or designee)

If the request is denied, the department director provides applicant/candidate or service recipient with a copy of request including rationale for denial, the options to appeal, and the appeal process.

If the request is denied, the department director provides applicant/candidate or service recipient with a copy of request including rationale for denial, the options to appeal, and the appeal process.

3. Appeal Resolution Process: Town Administrator may require an investigation of the appeal, facilitate departmental resolutions and render decision.

The Town Administrator requires an investigation of the appeal and initiates action to facilitate resolution. If not informally resolved within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal, the Town Administrator may:

1. Extend the time frame for resolution if sufficient progress warrants the extension.
2. Render a decision, which shall be final.

## Emergency Evacuation Procedures

All buildings that are open to the public must be prepared to provide safe exit of all occupants and visitors in an emergency situation. Under ADA Section 504 listing the requirements for program accessibility, emergency procedures must also make equal provision for the safety and evacuation of disabled persons.

The following information may be used as a guide to assist staff when responding to emergencies and providing assistance to persons with disabilities. It is recommended that all staff, board, and commission members be expected to familiarize themselves with the procedures.

### Basic Guidelines: Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Persons with Disabilities

In emergency evacuation situations, persons with disabilities must be assisted according to the extent of their disability and the nature of the emergency. NEVER LEAVE A DISABLED PERSON ALONE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

#### 1.0 Visually Impaired

1.1 Describe the nature of the emergency.

1.2 Offer to guide them and inquire whether they might prefer taking your elbow. Lead them to a safe area. Advise them of any obstacles. Most visually impaired persons are familiar with the immediate area and can be independent once a safe area is reached.

1.3 Do not take cane or dog away.

#### 2.0 Hearing Impaired

2.1 Persons with impaired hearing may not hear the warning bells and buzzers used for evacuation of buildings.

2.2 Usually they will sense the emergency situation by noting the actions of other occupants of the building. If necessary, write down the nature of the emergency and direct them to the nearest evacuation route.

### **3.0 Persons Using Crutches, Canes or Walkers**

3.1 Before moving a semi-ambulatory person, discuss and agree upon a procedure.

3.2 Usually they can be lifted without complications or jeopardizing their health.

3.3 They may be lifted using a 2-man lock-arm carry or can be transferred to an office-type chair (preferably with arms) and carried down stairs by two persons.

### **4.0 Persons Confined to Wheelchairs**

4.1 DO NOT REMOVE A PERSON FROM A WHEELCHAIR UNLESS THE OCCUPANT AGREES TO SUCH A PROCEDURE.

4.2 The requirements of persons in wheelchairs vary considerably with the type of disability and individual preference.

4.3 Some persons can tolerate only minimal movement. Lifting them from their wheelchair may result in severe pain or injury. Removal from the chair may induce spasticity or result in loss of use of an artificial respirator on the chair. Some occupants may be connected to a catheter bag.

4.4 Some electric wheelchairs with batteries weigh in excess of 400 pounds.

4.4.1 The batteries are usually the sealed type and the cables are connected to the terminals with wing nuts for easy removal.

4.4.2 The batteries should be removed before attempting to carry the electric chair down a flight of stairs either with or without the occupant in the chair. The batteries can be carried separately.

4.4.3 It may be possible to lift a light-weight model chair that is unoccupied with the batteries attached. If this procedure is used, be sure the batteries are not tilted or bounced.

4.4.4 If the wheelchair occupant uses a respirator, the batteries must be reinstalled as soon as possible. In some cases it may be necessary to wait for a portable respirator to be used while the occupant is disconnected from his battery operated system before moving the occupant from the emergency situation.

5.0 Wheelchairs have moveable or weak parts, which are not constructed to withstand the stress of lifting. Follow the instructions from the wheelchair occupant on how and where to lift the wheelchair.

5.1 If it is necessary to carry a wheelchair and occupant down the stairs, at least four persons should assist.

5.2 Occupant should be securely strapped into wheelchair.

**6.0 IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE COMMON SENSE, ASSESS THE SITUATION THOROUGHLY AND DECIDE ON POSSIBLE OPTIONS.**

**DECISION DEPENDS ON TIME AVAILABLE, NUMBER OF PERSONS AVAILABLE AND INDIVIDUAL TOLERANCE OR PREFERENCE OF THE PERSON BEING MOVED.**

## **Guidelines and Suggestions**

These are suggestions to help departments understand and plan for the needs of persons with disabilities in Town offerings. For the purpose of this guideline, four broad impairment categories were identified. They are as follows: Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Mobility Impaired, and Learning Impaired. Please be aware that some individuals experience more than one disability. A description of each impairment category is listed below. The vast majority of persons with disabilities can receive and/or participate in the same services/activities/programs as individuals within the community who do not have disabilities.

### **Definitions**

**Visually Impaired (VI)** A person is considered legally blind if their visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best correction. A person who is legally blind may have some useful vision. Many people with severe vision problems can enjoy many of the same activities the sighted enjoy if someone will offer guidance and orientation to the surroundings.

Hearing Impaired (HI) Total or partial impairment of hearing may result from a variety of causes, the onset being either at birth or occurring later in life. Impairments vary from mild to severe. A person with a hearing impairment may use a hearing aid to increase his/her hearing capabilities, or read lips or sign to communicate. A person with a hearing impairment may also have some difficulty with speech.

Mobility Impairment (MI) A person's mobility may be limited as a result of a traumatic accident, birth defects or aging. Weakness may range from involvement of one arm or leg to involvement of all extremities and trunk. A person may use a wheelchair, walker, scooter, prosthetic limb, cane or crutches to assist with mobility.

Learning Impairment (LI) Ability to learn may be hampered by a traumatic accident or birth defect resulting in brain damage. Learning impairments vary from mild to severe. A person may have speech or communication problems in addition to cognitive and memory problems. New material to be learned may need to be adapted according to a person's limitations.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STAFF TRAINING

### GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL IMPAIRMENTS

- Keep in mind that a person who has a disability is a "person" just like anyone else.
- If you don't know what to do or say, allow the person who has a disability to help put you at ease.
- Offer assistance if asked or if a need seems obvious, but don't insist.
- Be considerate of the extra time it may take for a person to get things said or done.
- Speak directly to a person who has a disability. Don't consider a companion to be a conversational go-between.
- If the facility in which you offer services, activities or programs is not accessible, or an individual has difficulty with transportation, consider a home visit, interview by phone, arrange a meeting in an accessible facility or mail printed information.
- Ensure that goods, services, privileges, advantages, accommodations and services, are provided to an individual with a disability in the "most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual."

NOTE: Accommodations or adjustments that are made for one individual with a disability may not be necessary or desirable for another who has a similar disability.

## **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (VI)**

Provide staff assistance to individuals who may need help with reading information or filling out an application.

Make all signage large print, provide contrasting color, and use simple color like black on white.

## **HEARING IMPAIRMENT (HI)**

In testing or interviewing situations, present information to the applicant in written form, or use an interpreter, if appropriate.

If required, communicate by exchanging written notes.

If a person lip-reads, position them in a place where they can see the speaker.

## **MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT (MI)**

Provide accessible vehicles for activities involving City provided transportation

Rearrange office furniture or conference rooms to accommodate wheelchairs.

## **LEARNING IMPAIRMENT (LI)**

One-on-one or small group communication is ideal for learning.

When talking on the phone, speak slowly and clearly. Allow the person enough time to comprehend and respond to you.

## **PUBLIC CONTACT**

- When talking on the phone, speak slowly and clearly to allow the person enough time to respond to you. (LI)
- Use a TTY. (HI)
- When interacting with a person one on one, speak clearly and face the person with whom you are speaking. (HI)
- Always identify yourself when beginning a conversation. (VI)
- Communicate with pencil and paper. (HI)
- If public counter height is above 34" in your office, find an alternate meeting spot, i.e., a lower table, a lower bench, or pull up a chair and sit next to the person at eye level. (MI)
- Provide assistance in filling out an application. (VI, LI)
- Provide assistance to those who may need help with reading information. (VI, LI)
- Have staff available to answer questions either over the phone or at the counter. (ALL)
- Rearrange office furniture to accommodate wheelchairs in the office, or use an alternate location. (MI)
- Take extra time to explain things one on one. (LI)
- Use repetition, especially with verbal information. (LI)



- Simplify instruction (both written and verbal). (LI)
- Make a flier with commonly asked questions and answers. (HI)
- Make home visits or interview by phone if individuals can't come to you. (ALL)
- Train employees and volunteers to recognize disabilities and to make appropriate accommodations. (ALL)
- In testing situations or interviews, present the information to an applicant in written form. (HI)
- Provide alternate ways to do staff testing based on a person's limitations. (ALL)
- Assist with tour of station/facility. (VI, MI)
- Document tours of facilities and historical sites with videotape and audiocassette productions. (MI, VI)
- Tours of a facility or historical site could be further enhanced through use of an interpreter, pre-labeled equipment and flashcards. (HI)
- Hire a reader or get a qualified volunteer to assist on excursions. (VI, MI) Use accessible vehicles for excursions as needed. (MI)

#### **PRINTED MATERIALS**

- Increase type size of handouts, applications, citations, bills, violation reports, etc. With pre-printed materials, blow them up on a copier and when recording request 12-point type. (VI)
- Mail printed information to individual requesting information from an inaccessible facility or to individuals who have problems with transportation. (MI)

#### **MEETINGS / TRAINING / ACTIVITIES**

- Wheelchair clearance under a table is 27".
- Assist with the opening of doors in building and meeting rooms. (VI,MI)
- Know the group to which you are presenting. Call ahead and find out if any of your audience members has special needs and plan accordingly. (ALL)
- Use clear and descriptive audiovisual materials during presentations, i.e. video, film and overhead projectors. (ALL)
- At special events make all signs in large print. (VI)
- Use a PA system when making a presentation to a group. (HI)
- Staff, volunteers and family can assist participants during activities. (ALL)
- Pair a person with impairment with a non-impaired person to assist in participation in class. (ALL)
- Increase the lighting where the staff and participants are working. (VI)

- Provide auxiliary assistance with interpreters, written material, and assistive listening devices during meetings, classes, and workshops. (HI)
- Call people with reminders of meetings instead of mailing fliers. (VI)
- Use tactile teaching at workshops and educational presentations. (VI,LI)
- If the activity site is a grass area, provide staff that can assist with wheelchair mobility over the grass area. (MI)
- Use a lot of praise. (LI)
- Make learning situations "fun;" it promotes motivational learning. (LI)
- Provide success-oriented activities. (LI)
- For wheelchair sports classes, participants must meet eligibility requirements. (MI)
- Use adaptive equipment to allow greater independence in various programs. (ALL)
- Use flashcards for instructions during classes, i.e. swimming. (HI)
- Provide alternate vehicles for transportation when arresting. (MI)
- Remove barriers for wheelchair access at parks and facilities. (MI)

## **Model Public Notice**

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Town of Clinton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Michael Ward, Town Administrator/ ADA Coordinator, 1-978-365-4120 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in Department of Justice regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including section 35.107. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided there under, is available from the ADA coordinator, and from the Office on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20035-6118, (202) 514-0301 [Voice], 514-0381 [TTY].

## **Model Policy Announcement Accessibility of Public Meetings**

**TO:** All Department Directors, Chairs, Boards and Commissions

**FROM:** Office of the Town Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Accessibility of Public Meeting Places

Effective immediately: all meetings, conferences and hearings sponsored by or for Town departments, boards and commissions shall be held to the greatest extent possible in facilities that are free from architectural and communication barriers.

It is recommended, in order to facilitate and ensure understanding, that departments include a statement such as "the Facility is accessible to persons with disabilities," on all announcements for meetings, conferences and hearings.

The announcement should also include a statement to allow participants to identify if specialized accommodations are needed. For example, "if specialized accommodations are needed (e.g., interpreters), please call four working days in advance to make arrangements."

If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact Michael Ward, ADA Compliance Officer, at 978-365-4120.

## **APPENDIX E: PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
January 8, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Philip Duffy, Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Michael Dziokonski, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie, Yoanna Osborne

Open meeting: 5:09 PM

Close meeting: 6:00 PM

- Review minutes at next meeting
- Sub-committee updates
- Section 6 – Community Goals and Vision
- Section 3 – Philip Duffy – update and review
- Section 4 & 5 – Jessica Brodie and Frannie Hodge
- Section 8 & 9 – Frannie Hodge, Gloria Parkinson and Jessica Brodie – Review Goals and Objectives
- Clinton Parks and Recreation will be asked to oversee the action plan
- Invite Paul Truesdell to future meeting
- Public Input – Clinton Item and Telegram
- Next meeting January 22, 2013 at 5 PM

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
January 29, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Michael Dziokonski, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie

Open meeting: 5:00 PM

Close meeting: 5:40 PM

At Future Public Forums:

- Review of Draft goals and objectives
- Handouts and post on line available before meeting
- Incorporate suggestions and ideas from public

Public Forums - Review of Draft Plan

Topics:

- Draft Goals and Objectives – Tuesday, March 5 at 7 PM
- Draft Plan – tentative date of first week in May

Catagories:

Protect – Link – Develop – Manage – Expand

Management and Implementation of Plan – Form Committee to oversee Plan

To Do:

Frannie: send word version of plan to make suggestions and send input

Group: Read Goals and Objectives and make suggestions

Review suggestins at next meeting

Planning Board needs to approve Plan

Next meeting February 12, 2013 at 5 PM

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
February 12, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie, Yoanna Osborne

Open meeting: 5:10 PM

Close meeting: 6:00 PM

Philip Duffy, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development, requested letter of support for a Community Block Grant from OSC Chair, Frannie Hodge.

Frannie to write letter and send to Phil

Review 5 year action plan draft and make updates

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
February 26, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Deborah Grant, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie, Yoanna Osborne, Philip Duffy, Michael Dziokonski

Open meeting: 5:11 PM

Close meeting: 6:28 PM

Discussion of Public Meeting on March 5, 2013 at 7 PM

- Meeting to be facilitated by Philip Duffy, Vice Chair of OSC
- Power Point presentation for public
- Review Goals and Objectives
- Deb Grant to bring Map

Montachusett Trail Meeting in March

Reach out to the following groups for input to Open Space Plan:

- Senior Center, Fuller Field Commission, Clinton Fish and Game, Guidance Counselor, Rose Solar at Clinton High School, Cyclists, Bikers, Walkers



**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
March 12, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Philip Duffy, Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Michael Dziokonski

Open meeting: 5:09 PM

Close meeting: 6:10 PM

- Review of OSC Public Meeting minutes of March 5, 2013
- Incorporate more information into Goals and Objectives
- Post meetings to Philip Duffy

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
April 9, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Philip Duffy, Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Michael Dziokonski, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie

Open meeting: 5:05 PM

Close meeting: 6:00 PM

- Review Draft and 5 year action plans
- Incorporate safe walk to schools
- Schedule Public Meeting for Monday, May 6, 7 PM
- Meet in 2 weeks – 4/23/13 at 5 PM – Post meeting
- Motion to Adjourn: Gloria Parkinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Brodie
- Vote: All in Favor

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
July 30, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Gloria Parkinson, Deborah Grant, Frannie Hodge, Jessica Brodie, Yoanna Osborne

Open meeting: 5:45 PM

Close meeting: 6:35 PM

- Review and approve minutes from previous meetings
- Updates from sub-committees on progress to date
- Review open items to finalize Plan
  - o Provide updates to MRPC for the open space map and the action plan map, discussion of parcels from Appendix B
  - o Incorporate details on our process into the draft plan – Frannie
  - o Update Section 3 – Phil
  - o Decide on additional public meeting – tentative for Tuesday, 9/17/13 at 7 PM
  - o Request letters from town boards and other interested parties:
    - Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust
    - Parks and Recreation
    - Rauscher Farm Management Sub-committee
    - Conservation Commission
    - Planning Board
    - Select Board
    - DPW
    - Economic Development

## **APPENDIX F: OPEN SPACE PLANNING WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE LISTS**

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Meeting  
Thursday, November 15, 2012  
7 PM – Selectman's Chambers**

Meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Philip Duffy, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development. The Open Space and Recreation Planning document needs to be updated every 5 years and is essential for the Town of Clinton to apply for grants. Plan was last updated in 2007.

Presentation turned over to Frannie Hodge, Member of Board of Directors, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust.

14 members of the community attended the meeting and were asked to brainstorm ideas to update the plan.

Jessica Brodie, Director of Clinton Parks and Recreation started the discussion with a list of ideas received by her department other members of the audience added to the list.

**Suggestions for activities:**

Geo Caching Activities  
Mountain Bike Trails  
Snowshoeing  
Disc Golf  
Dog Park  
Kayaking  
Walking Trails  
Additional Splash pad and playgrounds  
Beach and Boat launch  
Deck Hockey  
Skateboard Park  
Ice skating rink  
Movies in the Park  
Concerts on the Common  
Dirt biking  
ATV riding

**Suggestions to expand recreation activities:**

Develop dedicated bike trails and make Clinton friendlier to cyclists and add bike racks in strategic places around town.

More accessible playground equipment for existing playgrounds

Improve and install more and better sidewalks for walking

Increase use of Fuller Field, improve facilities, promote historical significance

Research use of Aqueduct Trails in Clinton, 2 aqueduct areas

Trail from Clinton Court House on Rt. 70 to Rauscher Farm and Rail Trail off of Berlin St

Develop trail map of Clinton

Expand access to Wekepeke area, improve parking, add signs and inform public

**Other suggestions:**

Develop open space management plans once the open space recreation plan is complete

Identify trails, post signs and make information on trails and open space available on line and through other means to general public

Develop recreational opportunities for 12 – 16 year olds, survey of Middle and High School students to see what activities interest this age group

Research Preservation Act to see if it would benefit town, matching funds from State

Use of rifle range, in litigation

**Suggestions for ways to generate public input:**

Post Open Space and Recreation plan on town site

Facebook page for updates on Open Space and Recreation plan

Survey using a survey tool

Contact Senior Center for senior's ideas

Contact Middle School and High School students for ideas

Post information on Clinton MA site

Report information in newspapers

**Potential open space to expand activities:**

Rauscher Farm

Buften Farm

Nathan Heights

Woodlands Development

Water St – Van Brody parcel

Maffei parcel

4 Hillside Ave

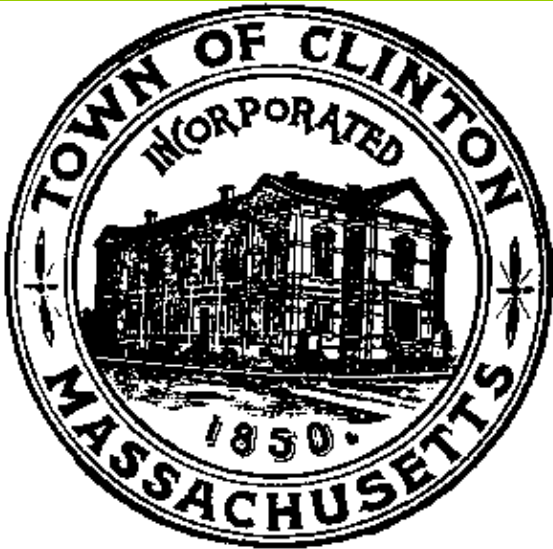
American Legion lot

Connecting Town and State land

**Town of Clinton**  
**Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum**  
**November 15, 2012**

**Sign-in Sheet**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>email address</u>
Bill Connolly	46 Wintthrop St	connolly2@aol
Bill Latimer	38 Lowe St	williamlatimer@aol.com
Deb Grant	17 Clamshell Rd.	deb0204@comcast.net
Jessica Brodie	9 Hamilton St.	jbrodie@clintonma.gov
FRANNIE HODGE	16 HARBOR ST.	FRANNIEHODGE@COMCAST.NET
DIANNE MATHER	114 HASKELL AVE	DIANNE MATHER@VERIZON.NET
Michael Dziokonski	183 Berlin St.	MDziokonski@AOL.COM
Jim Webster	90 Haskell Ave	jwebster@parkinsonsgroup.c
Laura Crook	444 Wintthrop	Laura Crook 202 @ verizon
KEN MACGRAY	38 LANE AVE	KMACGRAY@GMAIL.COM
Mary Walsh	352 Church St	mabinalsh@aol.com
Yvonne Osborne	180 Main St.	leadmare3@.VERIZON.NET
RICH FREEL	121 ORANGE ST	RICHNFREEL@COMCAST.NET
Philip Duff	260 Church. St.	



# **Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan**

*November 15, 2012*





# Open Space Committee Members

*Jessica Brody*

*Paul Curran*

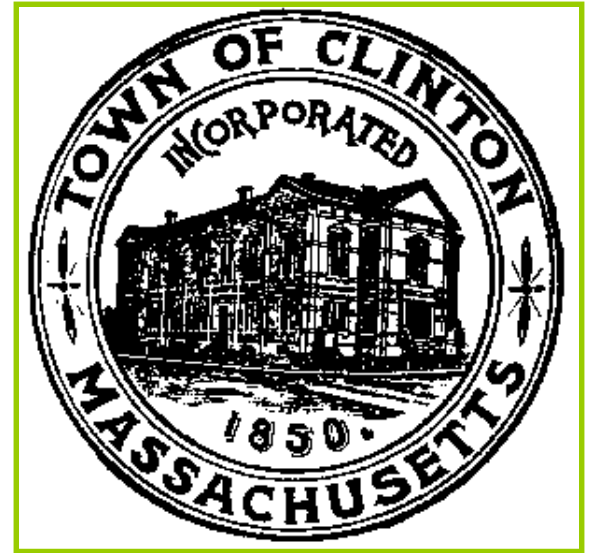
*Michael Dziokonski*

*Phil Duffy*

*Frannie Hodge / Deb Grant*

*Gloria Parkinson*

*Yoanna Osborne*



## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



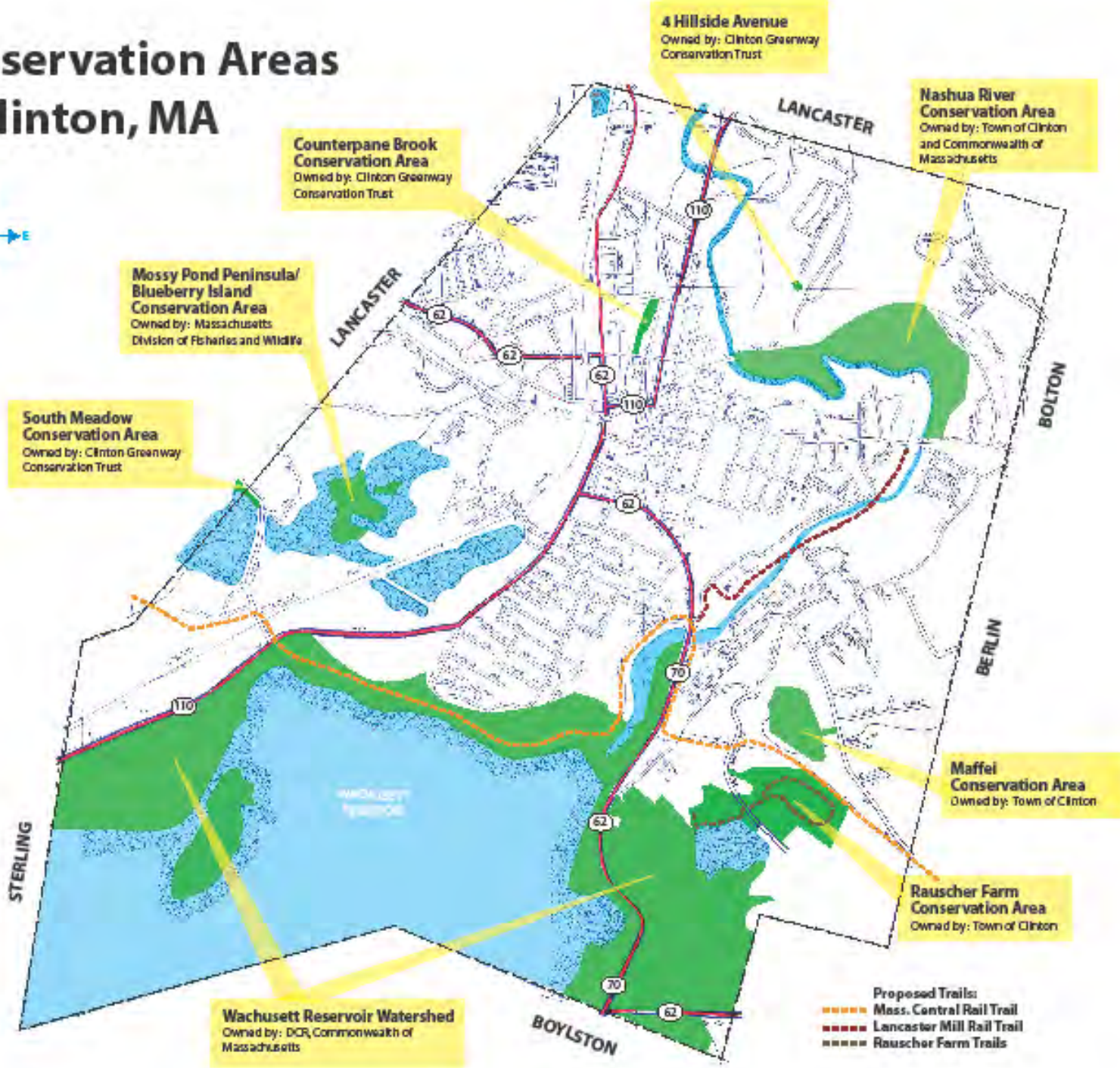
# Why are we here?

- **Update Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2007 – 2011**
- **Focus in 2007 – 2011: Protect, Expand, and Link Existing Resources**
- **Focus for updated plan is our discussion tonight**
  - **Maps to provide some context on locations**
  - **Flip charts to capture ideas**

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Conservation Areas in Clinton, MA



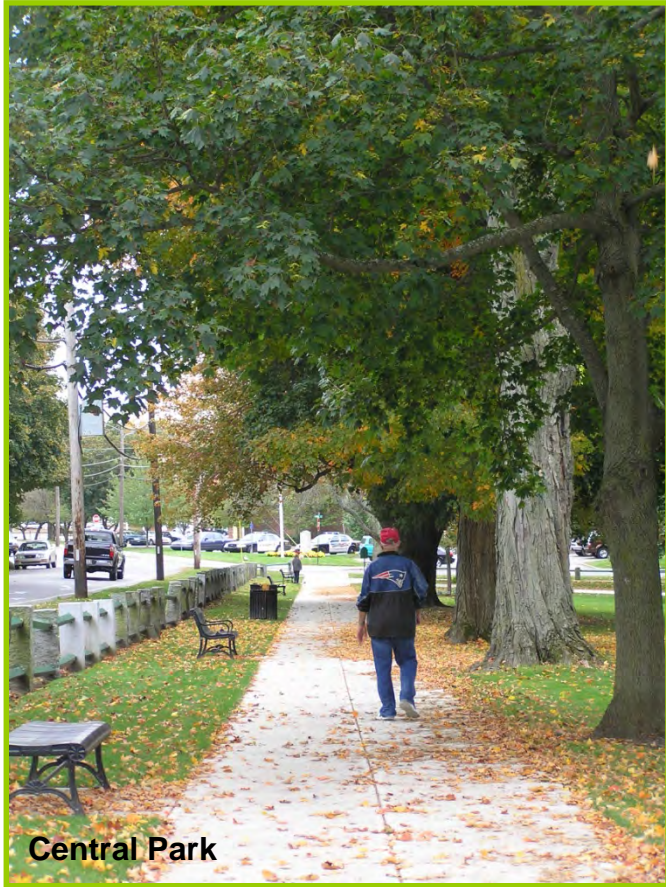


# Protect, Link, Expand Open Space and develop Recreation Resources in Clinton

## HOW?

### *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





Central Park



Philbin Park

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Protect Existing Resources

## Existing Resources

Acre Park  
Duffy Park  
Triangle Park  
Central Park  
Turini Corner  
Acre Park  
Carlisle Park  
Memorial Park Depot  
Lakeside Field  
Rogers Field  
Fuller Field  
Vale Street Playground (Savage Field)  
Old High School Playing Fields  
Elementary School Play Area  
Clinton Middle/High School Playing Fields



Central Park

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Expand Existing Resources

## Other Existing Resources

Rauscher Farm  
Marhefka Farm  
Nashua River  
St. John's Gym  
Mossy Pond  
Counterpane Brook  
Coachlace Pond  
Small Pond  
Muddy Pond  
Land at the Woodlands  
Wachusett Dam Area  
South Meadow Pond  
Land behind water filtration plant  
Brandli Parcel (In Lancaster, owned by Clinton)  
Banking of Chestnut Street



Rauscher Farm

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Link Existing Resources

## Opportunities to Link Existing Resources

Ask private property owners with open space for “right of way – walking access” across land.

Create footpaths, public right of ways to open space properties and waterways in Clinton

Link Clinton’s open space with other towns where open space abuts on another.

Create and post a directory of open space/recreation areas, their location and their uses.



## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





**Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
March 5, 2013**

Meeting was opened at 7:10 PM by Philip Duffy, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development.

11 People attended:

6 OSC members – 5 Public members

Review goals and objectives of Open Space Plan

The Open Space and Recreation Committee is a sub-committee of the Planning Board

Philip Duffy:

- Open Space Plan to be updated and submitted to DCR within a few months
- State is pushing to adopt complete streets initiative

John Woodsmall

- Safe walk to schools program – DOT – John Woodsmall
  - o Encourages walking to schools – walking buses
  - o Can lead to infrastructure improvements
- Open Space and watersheds – State to treat hydrofoil
- Examining affects of deer on Open Space, deer ticks and other issues with deer

**Ideas generated by public members:**

- Develop and link trails around Rauscher Farm to Berlin Rail Trail and aqueduct and Willow Rd
- Aqueduct goes out near Woodlands – Clamshell Pond
- Need community involvement to make everything happen
- Connect blocks on old railroad foundation on Nashua River to cross water
- Zip line and gondola over Nashua River
- Zip line through railroad tunnel
- Town Beach at Nashua River
- Parking on Grove St near spillway
- Include 4H – Boy Scouts – Girl Scouts
- Small farm and animals on Rauscher Farm
- Tap into schools and children to see what they would like and need
- Kids – contest – What do you want in town?
- Survey to Parents and Children in Town
- Utilize Clinton Parks and Recreation – Director and staff to find out what children would like

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2013 Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan**

#### **A. Protection**

**Goal 1: Manage all open space land resources to ensure wildlife and habitat protection, the conservation of natural resources and for recreational uses.**

1. Apply conservation easements to town-owned properties in priority areas. [continuing from 2007 plan]
2. Create a management plan for all town-owned parcels of open space and recreational interest. [continuing from 2007 plan]
3. Engage the community in the maintenance of open space parcels [continuing from 2007 plan]
  - a. Actively seek out the participation of youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Golden Eagles in maintenance and improvement activities appropriate to their abilities.
4. Seek to include activities related to the maintenance of open space parcels in Clinton's Senior Citizen Tax Abatement Program.
5. Ensure all Parks provide a friendly and safe atmosphere.

**Goal 2: Manage and identify all water resources to ensure water quality, preservation of habitat and for recreational uses.**

1. Involve volunteers with the identification and mapping of Clinton's wetlands, including vernal pools.
2. Engage the community in the maintenance of Clinton's lakes, rivers, and streams.
  - a. Support the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust's annual River Walk.
  - b. Involve the community in an annual "Clean-Up" day for important water bodies, including the Nashua River, Counterpane Brook, South Meadow Pond, and Clamshell Pond.

3. Whenever necessary, implement remediation efforts to reverse eutrophication of South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds.
4. Identify invasive species and where necessary implement control management in all Clinton ponds and waterways.
5. Establish a water quality monitoring program on South Meadow, Mossy, Coachlace, and Clamshell Ponds

## **B. Expansion**

### **Goal 1: Increase community awareness of Clinton's natural and recreational resources [ all ongoing from 2007 plan]**

1. Create a master list of all open spaces in Clinton (addresses, acreage, activities, directions, etc.) to be posted on Clinton website, in Clinton Town Hall, in the Bigelow Free Library and any other area that is appropriate.
2. Design and systematically implement a signage program for Clinton's Parks and Open Space Parcels.
3. Make copies of 2013 Open Space Plan available to public at Town Hall, the Bigelow Free Library, Clinton High School, and appropriate municipal and community web sites and via other communication vehicles.
4. Work constructively with the Clinton Schools on initiatives that utilize the local landscape for instruction in science, resource protection, and local history.
  - a. Encourage partnerships between the Clinton School system and appropriate individuals and organizations to develop programs and activities such as:
    - Designing "field seminars" that explore Clinton's landscapes, including wetlands, streams and rivers, forests, meadows, such as those found on the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm.
    - Incorporating adopt-a-pond or wetland programs focused on Clinton ponds and wetlands into the public school science curriculum.
    - Implementing an "outreach" program, whereby the resident expertise in matters of biology and life sciences, geology, resource protection, and history is made available to Clinton students.

5. Establish self-learning nature trails through the Clinton Prairie Bluff and Rauscher Farm that do not disrupt the ecology of the locations, but foster an understanding of and appreciation for the wildlife and plants that comprise the habitats.
6. Examine the feasibility of constructing a nature observatories on Rauscher Farm, the Clamshell Pond Area, and other areas [Mossy Pond Peninsula, Nashua River Conservation area].
7. Better identification of trails and parks.
8. Develop a trail map.
9. Better use of social media and websites.

**Goal 2: Increase recreational opportunities available to the people of Clinton**

1. Identify unmet recreational desires and assess the community's capacity to meet these desires.
  - a. Assess community capacity to provide for a "dog park"
  - b. Construct a town boat ramp on South Meadow Pond.
  - c. Construct town boat ramps on South Meadow and Clamshell Ponds for car-top boats. [don't think "car top" was the original intent on this item]
  - d. Examine the feasibility of establishing a new town beach on either Lancaster Millpond, South Meadow, Mossy, or Coachlace Pond.
  - e. Identify special recreational desires of Clinton's growing elderly population by working closely with the Clinton Senior Center and the Clinton Council on Aging.
2. Develop playground on the north side of town on CGCT parcel.
3. Improve parks and playgrounds by upgrading facilities, including more accessible playground equipment.
4. Provide information about the availability of public restrooms and investigate the feasibility of providing public facilities where there are none.
5. Construct picnic tables in appropriate locations.
6. Continue efforts to make all trails and parks handicapped-accessible.

7. Continue efforts to construct the proposed handicapped- accessible trail on Rauscher Farm that starts in the designated parking area on Clamshell Road and ends in a viewing platform beside Clamshell Pond.

**Goal 2a: Engage more Clintonians in recreational activities**

1. Examine the feasibility of the following suggested activities, including interest, location, etc. ?
  - Geo Caching Activities
  - Mountain Bike Trails
  - Snowshoeing
  - Disc Golf
  - Dog Park – [already covered, so we can remove from here]
  - Kayaking
  - Walking Trails – [covered under other goals?]
  - Additional Splash pad and playgrounds
  - Beach and Boat launch
  - Deck Hockey
  - Skateboard Park
  - Ice skating rink
  - Movies in the Park
  - Concerts on the Common
  - Dirt biking
  - ATV riding
2. Develop recreational opportunities for 12 – 16 year olds,
  - a. Survey of Middle and High School students to see what activities interest this age group

**Goal 2b: Make Clinton “friendlier” to cyclists**

1. Develop dedicated bike trails and add bike racks in strategic places around town

**Goal 2c: Increase the use of Fuller Field**

1. Improve facility
2. Promote historical significance

## **Goal 2d: Determine locations for recreational activities**

### **1. Examine feasibility of the following locations for various activities:**

- Rauscher Farm
- Bufton Farm
- Nathan Heights
- Woodlands Development
- Water St – Van Brody parcel
- Maffei parcel
- 4 Hillside Ave
- American Legion lot
- Connecting Town and State land

## **Goal 3: Increase Clinton's Inventory of Open Space and Recreational Space**

### **1. Encourage the acquisition of open space**

- a. Work with private property owners on the establishment of open space and recreational easements.
- b. Encourage the Planning Board to consider the protection or provision of Open Space a matter of high priority for the community, when consistent with principals of sustainable development.

## **C. Linkages**

### **Goal 1: Enhance habitat quality and the creation of wildlife corridors by prioritizing contiguous parcels of interest.**

1. Continue the maintenance and protection of Rauscher Farm, which is situated between the 150-acre Woodlands parcel and the Wachusett reservation.
2. Ensure that the proposed network of trails connecting the Bufton Farm parcel to the SuAsCo's Garfield Woods is implemented.
3. Pursue the connection of the Clinton section of the Mass Central rail trail with the designated trails on the Woodlands property. [add to goal 3]
4. Work with Woodlands property owners to develop the Woodlands trails and make accessible to the public. [add to goal 3]

**Goal 2: Enhance the quality of life available to the people of Clinton by facilitating the linkages of neighborhoods to parcels of natural and recreational interest.**

1. Maintain and upgrade the sidewalks/crosswalks throughout the town to encourage walking and to facilitate access to parcels of natural and recreational interest.
2. Explore the possibility of establishing linear parks or walkways along the Nashua River and Counterpane Brook.
3. Ensure that the proposed parking spur and river access at 1181 Main Street are implemented.

**Goal 3: Foster linkages that connect Clinton and its landscape to the regional landscape.**

1. Continue working to bring the Central Mass. Rail-Trail to Clinton.
2. Continue working to develop a multi-purpose trail along the railroad spur that extends from Water Street, along the Vale Street Playground, to the Clinton Prairie Bluff.
3. Assist the Nashua River Watershed Association in the creation of the Nashua Greenway.
4. Work with the Town of Lancaster to determine the best strategy for protecting its groundwater supply and to address its sewerage issues.
5. Work in partnership with The Nashua River Watershed Association, land trusts, and state and federal conservation agencies to protect priority parcels.
6. Work with the relevant townships (DCR?) on trail development and accessibility on the Clinton-owned Wekepeke property.
7. Research use of Aqueduct Trails in Clinton, 2 aqueduct areas and determine feasibility for aqueduct trail development in Clinton.
8. Develop trail from Clinton Court House on Rt. 70 to Rauscher Farm and Rail Trail off of Berlin St

#### **D. Management [This section needs some input from the public]**

##### **Goal 1: Develop an administrative and structural capacity to further the attainment of plan goals**

2. Maintain the Open Space Sub-Committee to manage the implementation process of the action items with guidance from the Clinton Conservation Commission.
3. Hire professional staff-a Town Planner or Conservation Agent- whose responsibilities in part shall be to assist citizen boards in the implementation of the Open Space Plan.
4. Insure that all parties that are charged with responsibilities in this plan are given a full presentation of the plan, including the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, Clinton Conservation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. Revise and update the Action Strategy so that it reflects Clinton's changing needs.
6. Hold meetings twice a year with all responsible parties listed in the Action Strategy to gage their progress and ascertain plans for accomplishing each action.

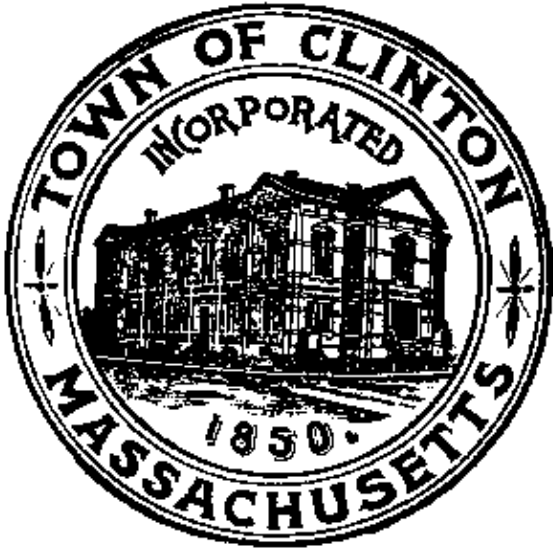
##### **Goal 2: Amend zoning bylaws and adopt regulations to comply with Plan recommendations.**

1. Review existing growth management strategies to determine their effectiveness.
2. Ensure that the Master Plan is regularly updated.
3. Amend subdivision regulations so that all developers must submit both conventional and flexible development designs.
4. Adopt a Wetlands Protection Bylaw.
5. Use Best Management Practices that incorporate the use of naturally occurring vegetation around ponds.

##### **Goal 3: Seek funding for purposes of natural resource acquisition or protection, and for the expansion of recreational opportunities available to the people of Clinton.**



1. Seek funding to enhance recreation facilities through the Community Block Grant Program, Self-Help Program, Highway Enhancement Grant Program, and other grants offered by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and/or the Department of Conservation and Recreation
2. Establish a municipal fund to purchase conservation easements. A real estate transfer tax is one option to consider.
3. Consider local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.



# Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan

*March 5, 2013*



# Open Space Committee Members

*Jessica Brody*

*Phil Duffy*

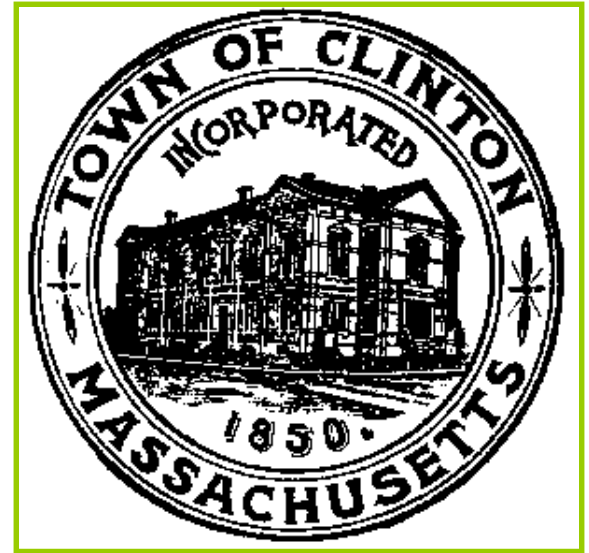
*Michael Dziokonski*

*Deb Grant*

*Frannie Hodge*

*Yoanna Osborne*

*Gloria Parkinson*



## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Why are we here?

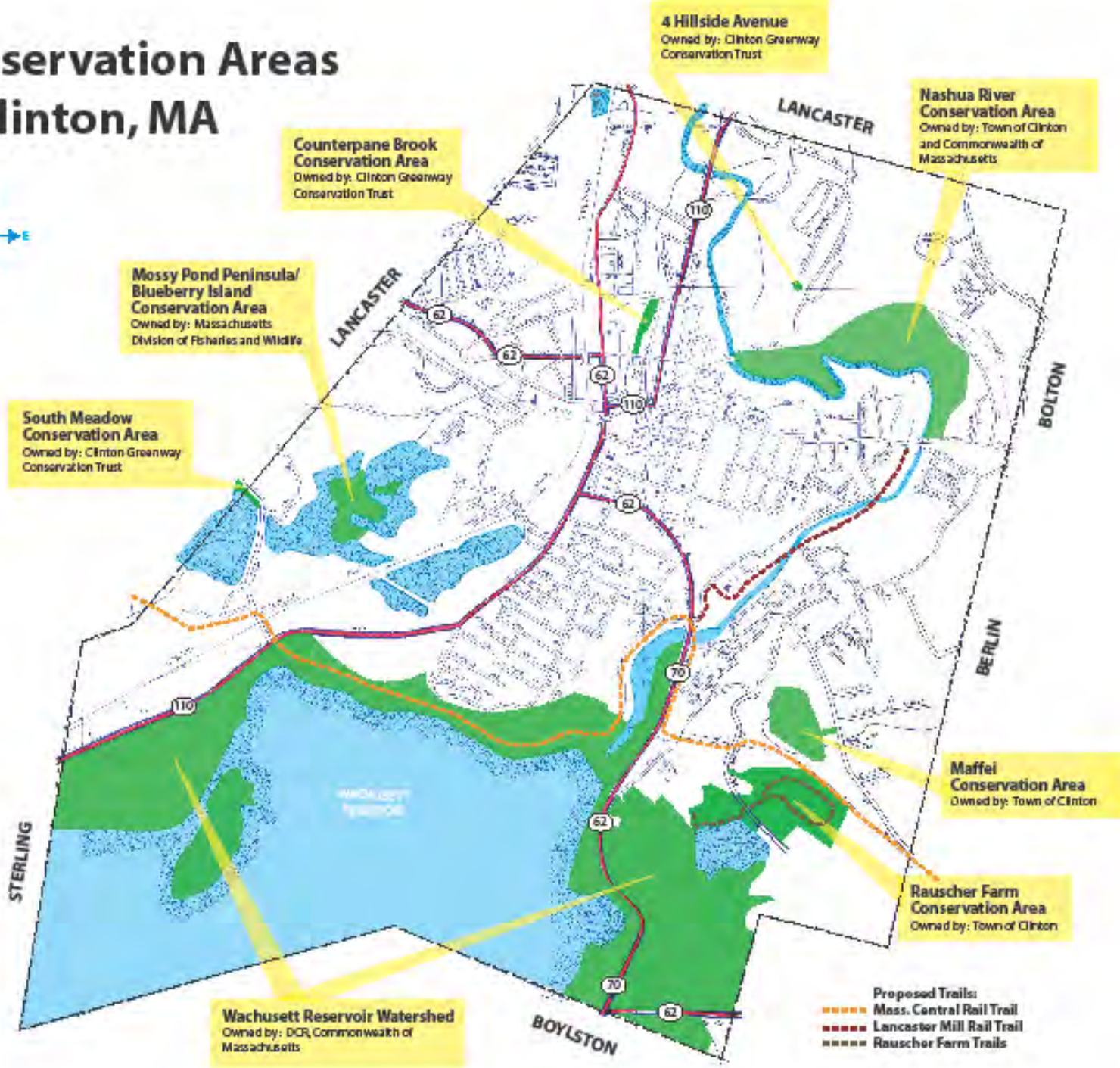
- **Update Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2007 – 2011**
- **Focus in 2007 – 2011: Protect, Expand, and Link Existing Resources**
- **Suggested Categories for 2013, based on 11/15/12 Workshop**
  - **Protection, Expansion, Linkages, Management, Recreation**

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Conservation Areas in Clinton, MA



# Protection goals

- **Goal 1: Protect Land Resources**
  - Wildlife and Habitat Protection
  - Natural Resource Conservation
  - Recreational Use

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Protection goals

- **Goal 2: Protect Water Resources**
  - Identify Wetlands and Vernal Pools
  - Maintain lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands
  - Remediate eutrophication of ponds
  - Identify invasive species
  - Recreational Use

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Expansion goals

- **Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness**
  - Create a Master List of all Open Spaces
  - Signage
  - Make the Open Space Plan available to all
  - Work with schools
  - Trail Maps
  - Web presence

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Expansion goals

- **Goal 2: Engage the Community**
  - Identify Unmet Needs and Wishes
  - 12-16 year olds
  - Increase offering of recreational activities
  - Make trails and facilities handicapped-accessible

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Recreational Offerings

- Geo-Caching
- Snowshoeing
- Movies in the Park
- Concerts on Central Park
- Kayaking
- Walking Trails
- Dirt Bike Riding
- ATV Riding

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Expansion goals

- **Goal 3: Increase Inventory of Open and Recreational Space**
  - Easements
  - Work with Planning Board
  - Central Mass Rail Trail

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Expansion goals

- **Goal 4: Expand and Improve Facilities**
  - Improve parks and playground facilities
  - Make trails and facilities handicapped-accessible
  - Build multi-use trails
  - Improve Fuller Field
  - Make Clinton's Streets walk and bike friendly

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Recreation Facilities

- Dog Park
- Deck Hockey
- Community Gardens
- Disc Golf
- Skateboard Park
- Beach and Boat Launch
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Ice Skating Rink

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Linkage goals

- **Goal 1: Wildlife Corridors**
  - Rauscher Farm and the Wachusett Reservation
  - The Acre, Bufton Farms and Garfield Woods
  - Rivers and Streams

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Linkage goals

- **Goal 2: Link neighborhoods to Open Space and to Recreational facilities**
  - Sidewalks
  - Linear parks
  - Woodlands Trails
  - Trail head parking

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# Linkage goals

- **Goal 3: Link to the Regional Landscape**
  - Central Mass Rail Trail
  - Nashua Greenway
  - Wekepeke
  - Aqueduct trails
  - Lancaster wells

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*





# Management goals

- **Your support required!**
- Develop professional capacity
- Communicate responsibilities to town boards
- Amend By-laws and Plans
- Seek Funding
- Community Preservation Act

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# 5 Year Action Plan

- Establishes a timeline
- Assigns

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



# What is missing?



## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*



**Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Meeting  
Clinton Town Hall  
May 6, 2013**

Attendees:

OSC members: Philip Duffy, Jessica Brodie, Deborah Grant, Michael Dziokonski

Public: James Webster

Open Meeting – 7:09 PM – Philip Duffy

Close Meeting – 7:50 PM

Review of Draft 5 Year Action Plan



Matter parcel  
should run  
to Berden St.  
and along MA Central  
RR

Rail Trail ~~on~~  
MCRT on DCR  
Property including  
(connect the blocks  
on Nashua River)

E/1/6; E/2/34c; E3  
(Multiple goals) C/3/2; C/3/8919;  
Build an accessible bike trail  
network thru town, mainly  
off-road.  
Utilize MA Central, Lancaster  
Mills, CSX + PanAm RRs  
Also run along Nashua R &  
other waterways, utility  
corridors, large parcels, etc  
Connect to town population, schools,  
recreation, business, open space,  
and to neighboring towns  
& trails/greenways (Nashua  
River, etc)

1. Rail Trail !
2. Complete Streets
3. Counterpane Brook

Goal : Develop a Park or Town Beach  
at the old Nursery home on  
Coachlace Pond

Goal : Create a river walk along the  
Nashua River and Counterpane  
Brook.

Goal : Create trailhead markers and maps  
for all trails in town.

Goal : Improve and add to existing  
Parks & Rec. facilities : Savage Field,  
Acre, Fuller Field, Carlisle Park, and  
any others acquired for new facilities



JASON

- Use a different shade of green or /// hashes to limited

A. Protection

1. apply conservation easements to town owned property

Goal: Develop a playground on the North side of town.

Goal: Develop a park on the old Supernant lots

Goal: Develop a park on the old American Legion parcel near Central Park

Goal: Develop recreational activities at Rauscher Farm

Goal: Develop a Dog Park on an appropriate site

## **APPENDIX G: LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



## Clinton Greenway

Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust  
PO Box 683  
Clinton, MA 01510

July 10, 2016

Michael Dziokonski  
Member, Clinton Open Space Plan Subcommittee  
Clinton Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, Massachusetts 01510

Dear Michael,

As the President of the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust, I am honored to provide this letter of support for the Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2016. Since I am also the chair of the Clinton Open Space Plan Subcommittee, I am addressing this letter to you, as it seems odd to send it to myself.

The CGCT is particularly pleased with the plan's goals and objectives which have incorporated input from the community. Many of our members participated in the public forums and we are pleased to see the ideas presented in the public forum integrated into the plan.

I would like to also use this opportunity to thank the members of our Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee. This group included several of our CGCT members including yourself, Gloria Parkinson, Deb Grant, and Phil Duffy. In addition our parks and recreation directors – Jessica Brodie and later Emily Easterling – and their board member, Yoanna Osborne, contributed tirelessly to the development of this plan. Thanks very much to all of you for your generous support over multiple years to bring this plan to completion.

The CGCT is aware that we continue to have an active role in the implementation of the town of Clinton goals and objectives related to open space and recreation. We realize that our success in implementing the plan is dependent on the support of our members and the Clinton community. We are ready and willing to work with the Clinton community and our neighboring communities to implement this plan.

Sincerely,

Frannie Hodge  
President, Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust





Sudbury Valley Trustees

*Conservation, Collaboration, and Community since 1953*

July 11, 2016

Frannie Hodge  
Chair, Clinton Open Space & Recreation Plan Subcommittee  
Clinton Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

Mrs. Hodge,

Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) has reviewed the updated Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan and we are pleased with the plan's goals and objectives. These goals and objectives, which encourage an increase in natural resource protection and stewardship, as well as the awareness and appreciation of natural resources, fall perfectly in line with SVT's goals for the communities within our service area.

SVT is most excited about the opportunities that having an Open Space and Recreation Plan will bring to the Town of Clinton. This plan will open the door to grant opportunities from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will also allow for greater interest of local supporters and funders. With a demonstration of the goals of not only a community's leaders, but its residents, an Open Space and Recreation Plan proves that investment in a community's open space and recreational assets are both necessary and worthwhile to those that will benefit from the investment.

Sudbury Valley Trustees supports the Town of Clinton's Open Space and Recreation Plan and we are looking forward to working with the Town of Clinton's leaders and residents in the near and long term to further its goals.

Sincerely,

Lisa Vernegaard  
Executive Director  
Sudbury Valley Trustees



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Friends of Rauscher Farm  
C/O Gloria Parkinson  
90 Haskell Avenue  
Clinton, MA 01510

July 11, 2016

Frannie Hodge  
Chair, Clinton Open Space & Recreation Plan Subcommittee  
Clinton Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

Dear Frannie Hodge:

The Friends of Rauscher Farm (FORF), a volunteer subcommittee of the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust (CGCT), is in full support of the updated Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Since a number of us were involved in the update process, which included gathering input from various departments and organizations in town, as well as from members of the public via public hearings, the FORF is delighted with the goals and objectives described in the updated plan. We also know that the updated plan is both doable and of incalculable benefit to the community.

Our conviction comes from experience. The FORF and CGCT have been very active in sponsoring the many recreational activities on Rauscher Farm, property purchased by the Town of Clinton in 2008 as an open space and recreational amenity for the community. We have watched as the Clinton community embraced the many opportunities Rauscher Farm has provided since its purchase. To see even more community opportunities, as described in the goals and objectives of the updated Open Space and Recreational Plan, is very exciting.

Clinton is a small, densely populated town. We are committed therefore to work hard to protect and expand our open space and recreational resources. The goals and objectives in the updated Clinton Open Space and Recreational Plan and the willingness of Clinton's Parks and Recreation Commission to monitor the plan's implementation and keep us all on track illustrate this commitment and who we are as a community.

Sincerely,

Gloria Parkinson  
Member of the Friends of Rauscher Farm and Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust



*Protecting our water, our land, our communities*

July 11, 2016

Frannie Hodge  
Clinton Open Space Plan Subcommittee, Chair  
Clinton Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, Massachusetts 01510

Dear Ms. Hodge:

The Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) is pleased to endorse and support the 2016 Updated Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan. Its goals are laudable, and its actions are implementable.

Much can be summed up in this quote from the Plan: "Clinton does not have many opportunities to preserve open space." Additionally, we note the following: "The development or alteration of the steep banks of the Nashua River, of Clamshell Pond, of unprotected areas near the Wachusett Reservoir and of remaining pockets of woodland and farmland within the Town would greatly reduce Clinton's visual character." Indeed, with nearly all of the farmland – with the exception of Rauscher Farm -- and much of the undeveloped forested parcels in town already converted to other uses, a plan such as this is crucial for guiding targeted conservation efforts.

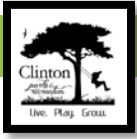
As appropriate parcels are protected from development and public trails, and as facilities and other cultural/recreational opportunities are enhanced and made accessible to the general public, both environmental quality and quality of life will improve. Furthermore, protection of open space in Clinton means that its significant water resources – the Wachusett Reservoir and the "headwaters" of the South Nashua River, not to mention its two aquifers – will not be impacted by new non-point sources of pollution. We encourage the Conservation Commission's ongoing work, and most notably the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust's ongoing work, as they strive to provide active and passive recreation and "conservational" use of land available to residents of Clinton and throughout the Nashua River basin. We welcome the plan's inclusion of offer to "assist the NRWA in the creation of the Nashua Greenway".

This well-written and well-researched plan indicates that the committee responsible for its completion was most serious in its efforts. We commend the work of the committee and support its acceptance. If you have any questions or desire further information please contact me at (978) 448-0299.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Futterman".

Al Futterman  
Land Programs Director



## Clinton Parks & Recreation 2013

### Parks & Recreation Commission

Edward Verrier  
Esteban Mendoza  
Yoanna Osborne  
Paul Zapantis  
Laura Biskaduros

Jessica Brodie, Director

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Frannie Hodge  
Chair, Clinton Open Space & Recreation Plan Subcommittee  
Clinton Town Hall  
242 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

To Mrs. Hodge,

The Clinton Parks and Recreation commission has reviewed the updated Town of Clinton Open Space and Recreation Plan as to be presented at the September 17th, 2013 Public Hearing, and has unanimously voted to endorse the contents of the final draft at our meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The Parks & Recreation commission is very pleased with the plan's goals and objectives which incorporated input from the community and our department as well. The Director of our department, along with one of the commissioners, participated in public forums and were pleased to see the ideas presented in the public forum into the updated plan. All of the members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Subcommittee have spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to produce this comprehensive document.

Our commission is aware that our department has an active role in the implementation of this plan. We plan to create new committees to focus on some aspects of the plan that are directly linked to some of the facilities we manage and programs we run. We realize our success in implementing the plan is dependent on the support of our members, staff, and volunteers. We are excited and ready to work with the residents of Clinton and neighboring communities to help implement all aspects of this plan.

If you need any additional information pertaining to the plan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward Verrier, Chairmen  
Clinton Parks & Recreation