

Town of Athol

Open Space and Recreation Plan 2020

1/20/2020



Photographs courtesy of Mitchell R. Grosky Photography

To contact the Open Space and Recreation Committee, please email: openspace@townofathol.org or send correspondence to departmental mailboxes in the town hall. Email is preferred and faster.

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Preface

The Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) wishes to thank the people of Athol for their participation in producing the content of this report. Every response was vital to accurately represent the diverse points of view in our town.

Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee Members (In Alphabetical Order):

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1. Plan Summary

This Open Space and Recreation (OSR) Plan Update seeks to fulfill some of the broad and specific wishes of the town's citizens and envisions a town with:

- clean and safe parks that are suitable for a wide range of recreational opportunities for children and adults,
- diverse, well-connected open space areas for water protection, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation that preserve the character of the town's rural areas, and
- open spaces that are compatible with economic development in selected locations

To reach this vision, we must:

- maintain and upgrade parks and ball fields by increasing the DPW Cemetery, Parks, and Tree Division's capacity, creating a parks advisory committee, support park friends groups, and seek additional funding for parks
- enhance and protect the town's natural attributes by making the citizens more aware of our natural lands and their importance, guiding future development into the most appropriate locations, and accommodate more recreational and open space opportunities in future economic-development projects
- expand parks and open space areas to improve them and to allow new recreational opportunities by linking scattered areas through greenways, improved sports fields and playgrounds, and creating long-term funding sources
- remain vigilant to new funding sources and new recreational needs and opportunities

2. Introduction

2.1 Statement of Purpose

Formal long-range planning for Athol's open spaces began over 38 years ago, when the Conservation Commission drafted the "Comprehensive Report on the Natural Resources Plan for the Town of Athol, Massachusetts". Information comprised in that document formed the backbone of the town's first Open Space and Recreation Plan, formally adopted in 1981. Through the coordinated efforts of several town boards and volunteers, many of the plan's recommendations—and those of subsequent revisions in 1986, 1991, 2000, and 2008—were completed.

The list of accomplishments is long and impressive, but much remains to be done. While public use of the town's open spaces has increased, some recreational facilities have fallen into disrepair due to a lack of funding and personnel. Nonetheless, Athol continues to make progress by securing land for conservation and recreation. Town committees, public/private partnerships, and volunteers are improving zoning regulations, creating new parks, protecting some parcels of land from development, and educating the public.

Thirty-eight years after the original 1981 plan was finished, this Open Space and Recreation Plan

Update reflects Athol's changing needs. Yet the overall purpose of this update remains largely the same as the original plan. Meant to act as both a planning and educational tool, this document attempts to direct development to appropriate areas while protecting environmentally sensitive resources, preserving the beauty of the landscape, and maintaining lands and infrastructure for recreation.

2.2 Planning Process and Public Participation

The Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) reformed after a several-year absence on July 20, 2016 in the Athol Public Library to discuss many of the positive changes that have happened in town since our previous plan was finished in 2008. The committee began meeting monthly in October 2016 to discuss and write the plan updates; in Spring, 2017 meetings were held weekly.

It was decided that we could get the most useful information by using the popular online survey website Survey Monkey since many people are familiar with it and because it features simple, quantifiable summary statistics which make interpreting the results less subjective. Many broad questions were kept from the previous two OSR plan's surveys to give the most accurate trend indicators, and we created new questions that would give us actionable information on specific parks and recreational needs, and to focus responses on the OSRC's area of responsibility.

Hardcopies of the survey were made available at the town hall and public library. Please see the appendix for a blank copy of the survey and a summary of individual responses and comments (names of respondents have been removed). The committee wrote the survey over two monthly meetings and received edits/comments from the Athol town planner, Conservation Commission, and the athletic director of the Athol Area YMCA. Once the survey was completed it was made available to the public between 2/6/2017 and 5/4/2017. The survey was publicized it in a variety of ways as described in chapter 6.

All Open Space and Recreation Committee meeting dates, times, and locations are made available on the town's official website; all meetings are open to the public and time is made available for public comments.

3. Community Setting

Improvements Since the Last OSR Plan

Since the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, the town has had several large capital improvements showing that the town's economy and community pride are improving.



The North Quabbin Commons shopping center located along Route 2A is almost completed and several stores have been open for the past few years; when the complex is completed, there will be over 175,000 square feet of store, restaurants, and office space providing much-needed jobs, along with additional dining and shopping opportunities. Photo from <http://www.rmd-inc.net/properties/north-quabbin-commons/>



The Athol Public Library was renovated and greatly enlarged. Green technologies were used when possible and the building is certified as LEED Platinum, the highest level available in the LEED system, and the library is the first historic library in the country to get that certification. The addition allows the building to have more educational programs, provides group-meeting spaces, and greater access to computers for the region's residents. The windowed rear of the library offers patrons a beautiful view of the Millers River. Left photo courtesy of Ed Wonsek, right photo courtesy of Mitchell R. Grosky Photography.



The newly completed Athol Community Elementary School (ACES) replaced several old school buildings and has state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities for Athol's pre-K through fourth grade children. The playground and basketball court are used by children during school and very often on weekends and during the summer. Photos courtesy of Mitchell R. Grosky Photography.

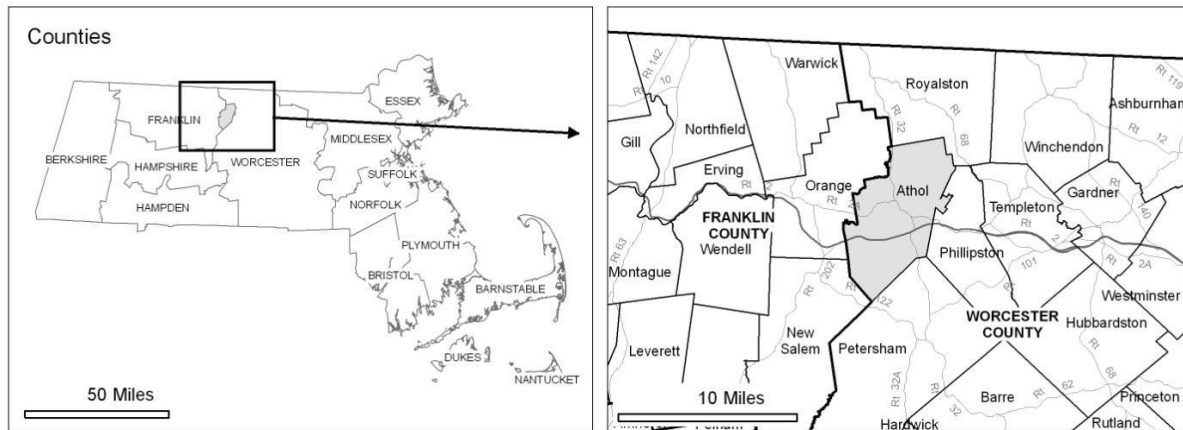
The town's newly reinvigorated Shade Tree Commission has planted over 100 trees over the six years across the town. The planted trees must be visible from the road and on locations conducive to long life, thus ensuring a long-term benefit to the town.

3.1 Regional Context

Athol, a historic manufacturing town, is situated in the North Quabbin Region of central Massachusetts, approximately 25 miles west of Fitchburg, 38 miles northwest of Worcester and 72 miles west of Boston. Located within the picturesque Millers River valley, Athol has both urban and rural areas. The traditional downtown district boasts a variety of shops, restaurants and manufacturers, while the rest of the town is largely undeveloped offering spectacular views and outstanding recreation opportunities among the lower-density housing and a newly added shopping area featuring a large grocery store, clothing shops, and office buildings.

Encompassing a geographic area of 33.4 miles, the community is bordered by New Salem and Orange to the west, Royalston to the north, Phillipston to the east and Petersham to the southeast.

State Route 2, or the Old Mohawk Trail, is Athol's principal highway. One of the oldest designated tourist and scenic routes in the country, the Mohawk Trail extends 66 miles from the Massachusetts/New York line to Millers Falls. Beyond that point, Route 2 connects to northeastern Massachusetts, ultimately linking Albany and Boston. Originating in New Hampshire, Route 202 merges with Route 2 in Phillipston and Athol before continuing on a southwesterly route to the City of Holyoke. Route 32 follows a north-south trajectory, providing access to Royalston and New Hampshire to the north and Petersham to the south. Local roads usher people to and from towns that are not linked via a state highway.



Bus service is provided through G-Link, a cooperative service connecting Greenfield, Orange, Athol, Winchendon, and Gardner. The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) supplies the western part of the G-Link service and the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) supplies the eastern part. Those living in outlying areas or unable to access regular bus stops may use the Dial-a-Ride transportation service provided by Community Transit Services. Through this service, transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, and other locations is available. G-Link and Dial-A-Ride utilize the central location and resources of the former Union Rail Station. Athol's closest airport is the Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility.

3.2 History of the Community

The European settlement of Athol began in 1735, when Richard Morton, Samuel Morton, Ephraim Smith, John Smeed, and Joseph Lord arrived with their families from Hatfield. Originally called Pequoig after the Native Americans who fished, hunted and cultivated the land, the settlement was renamed soon after John Murray, a major landholder, suggested that the area reminded him of his birthplace in Blair Castle, Atholl, Scotland. The name Athol appeared on the town's charter when legally incorporated in 1762. Land transfers during the early 1800's altered the size and shape of the original 36 square mile township, but Athol's present boundaries have remained constant since 1840.

Originally an agrarian community, an ideal combination of plentiful water and a considerable drop in elevation, helped transform Athol into a manufacturing center during the Industrial Revolution. By 1773, Athol was home to four gristmills, six sawmills, one fulling mill, and one shop with a trip-hammer, all operated by waterpower. These mills serviced the local population, supplying food, building materials, tools, and clothing. Cotton cloth manufacturing was one of the first Athol industries to serve a broader market. The Bennett and Van Valkenburg Cotton Factory, on the present-day site of the L.S. Starrett Company, manufactured cotton cloth and yarn. A scythe factory opened its doors in 1800, and a shop for the manufacture of shoe pegs was built in 1825. Charles M. Lee made shoes here, eventually amassing a considerable fortune. The L.S. Starrett Company was acclaimed in a post-1908 advertising postcard as —the largest plant in the world devoted exclusively to the production of small tools for mechanics. Other products manufactured in Athol included satinets and blankets, kegs and half-barrels, cribs, cradles, and towel racks. By the middle of the 1800s, Athol's landscape was characterized by factories and mills along rivers, houses and businesses along roads, and most

of the uplands cleared for pasture, hayfields, and cultivated fields; approximately 20% of the town remained in scattered woodlands. As agriculture declined in Athol and the rest of New England, due to opening of fertile lands in the Midwest and the availability of jobs in factories, abandoned agricultural fields quickly re-grew into young forests.

Athol's manufacturing sector continued to expand well into the 20th Century, resulting in the conversion of large tracts of former forests and farmland to industrial, commercial and residential uses. The factory owners supplied housing close to the factories and the growing population supported a number of businesses that lined the streets of downtown. By 1930, Athol looked basically the same as it does today with a highly developed urban center encircled by forests.

Athol remained an important manufacturing center until the local economy suffered a series of setbacks beginning in the 1960's and continuing to the present day. Three significant closures or layoffs in the last couple of decades have dealt a severe blow to the economic and social fabric of the community. Eastern Furniture and Woodland Products closed their doors in 1990, resulting in the combined loss of 110 jobs, and L.S. Starrett Tools laid off 100 workers in 1992. The decline of manufacturing has affected other sectors of the economy as well. The commercial vacancy rate steadily rose from 12% in 1995 to 18% in 1998, surpassing both regional and statewide averages. In 1995, Stuarts Department Store closed resulting in the loss of 20 jobs. In an effort to reverse this trend by attracting new industrial and commercial enterprises, Athol launched a downtown revitalization program. It has also taken advantage of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program. The TIF program has resulted in both expansion of existing business and development of new business. Recently Athol changed zoning to develop a business park and is currently working with developers. The established Economic and Industrial Corp (EDIC) helps to promote development. The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee is reviewing the zoning to promote smart growth initiatives for both commercial and residential growth and to ensure solar fields are located in appropriate places.

In 2005 the Town received grants to begin its implementation of the Urban Rivers Vision. This vision includes revitalization of the downtown area through efforts to improve upon the Millers River access in the downtown. Recent grants have allowed the town to engineer and construct an Environmental Park near Fish Park and the Environmental Center. The park provides car-top canoe and kayak access to the river and 15 acres of open space. Future plans are to use these assets as the starting point of a greenway (for walking or biking) that will traverse 6.2 miles from Athol to Orange; portions or all of the trail will be handicap accessible.

Athol has changed its form of government to a chartered form. This includes a town manager form of government providing day-to-day oversight. The Charter also resulted in the creation of the Board of Planning and Community Development. This Board works with other boards and committees to help implement master plan and open space plan recommendations. Athol is actively pursuing upgrading its infrastructure and facilities through an aggressive capital plan process.

3.3 Population Characteristics

3.3.1 Population

Population growth and density can have important implications for open space and recreation planning. As the community's population and density increases, Athol must meet the recreation needs of a growing population. In addition, we should identify and protect key natural and cultural resources that help define the community to help guide the location of future residential, commercial and industrial development.

Athol was home to 11,854 residents at the time of the 2010 Census (See Table 1) which is a 2.5% increase over the 2000 census. This increase is less than most surrounding towns and around half the rate of Worcester County and Massachusetts as a whole. Like other older industrial centers in the region, population growth over the past 20 years has been slow. After experiencing a steady population decline of 8.6% between 1960 and 1980, the town's population grew by 817 persons or 7.7% between 1980 and 1990 and decreased by 1.3% between 1990 and 2000 as local factories closed. This trend was reflected in other cities and older industrial towns throughout the Montachusett Region. Every urban area in the region except Ayer experienced some growth during the 1980s, in contrast to the previous decade when Athol, Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, and Gardner declined in population. There are 22 municipalities in the Montachusett Region. Between 1990 and 2000, in this region, the 2000 Census data reveals that only Athol and Fitchburg experiences decreases in population, while other industrial towns in the region have experienced some moderate growth.

	2000	2010	% change
Athol	11,299	11,584	2.5%
Orange	7,518	7,839	4.3%
New Salem	929	990	6.5%
Petersham	1,180	1,234	4.6%
Phillipston	1,621	1,682	3.7%
Royalston	1,254	1,258	0.3%
Franklin County	71,535	71,372	-0.2%
Worcester County	750,963	798,552	6.3%
Massachusetts	6,249,097	6,547,629	4.8%

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

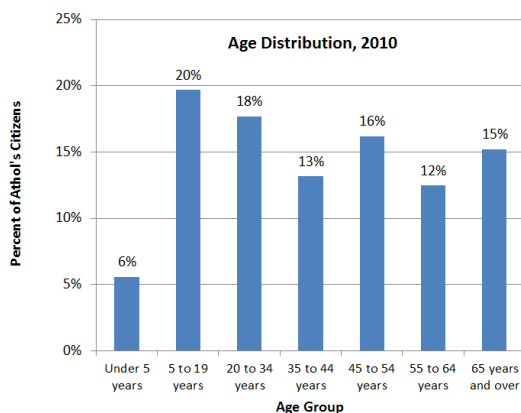
The town's population density of (346.9) people per square mile is high compared to the rest of the Montachusett Region, which is largely owing to Athol's historic development pattern.

3.3.2 Age

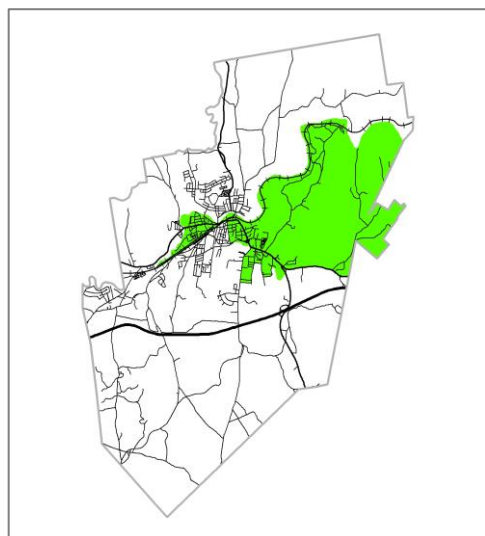
An analysis of Athol's age distribution (See Graph) displays additional planning impacts. Different age groups present different demands and offer distinct possibilities that impact the open space and recreation needs of a community. For example, senior citizens (over 65 years of age) typically require access to public transportation, delivery services and health care. Elderly individuals often prefer passive recreational facilities such as senior centers, community gardens, parks, walking paths, and fishing areas that are relatively close to home. Yet members of this age group rely on small fixed incomes that limit their ability to afford property tax increases. In 2010, (1,763) people or (15.2%) of the population were considered senior citizens (65 years of age or older). This represents a decline in the number of seniors from 17.2% of the total population in 2000. While the population of Athol itself has increased by 2.5%, the 65 and over population has decreased by 9.1% between 2000 and 2010.

Age Bracket	2000	2010	% Change
Under 5 years	648	646	-0.31%
5 to 19 years	2,514	2,279	-9.35%
20 to 34 years	1,877	2,049	9.16%
35 to 44 years	1,881	1,525	-18.93%
45 to 54 years	1,487	1,876	26.16%
55 to 64 years	952	1,446	51.89%
65 years and over	1,940	1,763	-9.12%
Town Total	11,299	11,584	2.52%

Another group that significantly impacts community planning is children. The size of the school age population determines how much money a town must allot to education, usually the largest proportion of a small community's budget. A significant increase in the number of school age children can lead to economic strain changing the direction of open space and recreation planning. While adults may be satisfied with passive recreational activities, youths often demand more expensive facilities and recreational programming including playgrounds, skateboard parks, youth centers, summer camps, swimming areas, skating rinks, running tracks, tennis courts, playing fields, and sports programs. The Census reported that 2,925 Athol residents (25.3% of the total population) were 19 years or younger in 2010.



The town has a large environmental justice area in the downtown and Bearsden areas due to lower income levels in those census blocks. It is important to consider these areas as we plan open space and recreational opportunities in town. Improvements at Silver Lake Park would be a great benefit because the park is within walking distance of the downtown environmental justice area which has one of the highest population densities in town.



Income-based environmental justice area in the downtown and Bearsden areas.

3.3.3 Employment and Industry

Athol's residents participate in a wide array of jobs (See Table 3).

Employment Sectors (2013)

Industry	Athol	Worcester Co	Franklin Co	MA	US
Ag, forestry, fishing, mining	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	1.9%
Construction	8.1%	5.4%	5.8%	5.3%	6.2%
Manufacturing	19.7%	13.7%	11.2%	9.4%	10.5%
Wholesale Trade	1.4%	2.6%	2.8%	2.4%	2.8%
Retail Trade	12.5%	11.5%	11.5%	10.9%	11.6%
Transportation & utilities	4.7%	3.8%	2.6%	3.6%	4.9%
Information	2.4%	2.0%	1.8%	2.3%	2.2%
Finance, insurance, real estate	5.5%	6.3%	5.5%	7.7%	6.7%
Professional, scientific, mgmt	5.6%	10.8%	4.3%	13.0%	6.7%
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	27.5%	27.4%	36.1%	27.8%	23.2%
Arts, Entertainment, Food Services, Recreation, Tourism	6.0%	7.6%	8.4%	8.4%	9.3%
Other services, except public administration	2.5%	4.3%	5.6%	4.5%	5.0%
Public administration	3.3%	4.0%	3.7%	4.1%	5.0%

Source: 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Athol has been known for its manufacturing industries for more than a century. Over the 1985-1999 period, manufacturing jobs in Athol, annually provided 35-42 percent of the total employment base. Employment in manufacturing ranged from 1,431 in 1985 to a high the next year of 1,708, and then dropped steadily to 1,366 in 1991. After that, jobs fluctuated upwardly until 1999 when they dipped to the lowest amount in the time period, of 1,355 employed. In 2010, nearly 20% of the town's working adults were in the manufacturing sector with an additional 8% in construction trades and 27.5% in the education, health care, and social assistance fields. When compared to Massachusetts as a whole, Athol has a higher percentage of its citizens working in manufacturing, construction, and retail and a lower percentage working in professional or management positions.

In June 2015, Athol's unemployment rate was 6.7% which is nearly 29% higher than the Worcester County unemployment rate of 5.2%. Athol's unemployment trend followed state and national economic trends and is approaching 6.1%, the rate it was prior to the "Great Recession".

The average annual income for citizens 25 years and older is \$37,821 in Athol, which is 17% lower than the average income of \$44,327 in Massachusetts as a whole. As table below shows, there is a corresponding greater poverty rate in Athol than in Worcester County, Massachusetts, or the United States as a whole. Athol officials should be mindful of resident income levels when trying to obtain funds for developing and maintaining the town's active and passive recreation facilities. Thankfully, funding sources that do not place a heavy burden on the town's residents are available through miscellaneous state programs and since part of the town is considered an Environmental Justice area, the town may be more competitive for state grants.

Household with SSI and Public Assistance

Households	Athol	Worcester Co	Franklin Co	MA	US
With SSI Income	8.3%	5.8%	7.2%	5.9%	4.9%
Avg. SSI income	\$9,167	\$9,569	\$9,730	\$9,580	\$9,152
With cash public asst. income	2.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%
Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	17.7%	12.1%	14.2%	11.7%	12.4%

Poverty: Families and Individuals with income below poverty level

Families	Athol	Worcester Co	Franklin Co	MA	US
Of those w/ Children < 18	18.7%	13.3%	13.5%	12.8%	17.8%
Families with female householder, no husband present	26.9%	26.4%	23.2%	25.3%	30.6%
All People	15.8%	11.2%	12.1%	11.4%	15.4%
Of those Under 18	23.3%	15.2%	16.3%	14.9%	21.6%
Of those 18-64	15.4%	10.3%	11.9%	10.7%	14.3%
Of those over 65	5.2%	8.6%	8.0%	9.0%	9.4%

3.4 Growth and Development Patterns

3.4.1 Patterns and Trends

During the first 150 years since Athol's incorporation, the town's pattern of development was strongly influenced by its rivers and the railroad. The early days of European settlement saw farms scattered along flat-topped ridges running north and south from the town's center, but the availability of hydroelectric power transformed Athol into a thriving manufacturing center during the Industrial Revolution. The advent of the railroad in the mid-1800's contributed to Athol's success, ushering in a period of prosperity by providing for the regional and interregional movement of people and goods. Athol's small downtown quickly grew into an urban center where factories monopolized the rail corridor and the banks of Mill Brook and the Millers River. During the late-19th and early-20th centuries, the railroad station was a focal point for activities and visitors. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt addressed Athol residents from a platform erected at the railroad station. By 1894, a trolley line linked Athol to Orange, providing more frequent and direct transportation between the town centers.

For most of the twentieth century Athol's appearance did not change very much. While the advent of the automobile made it possible to develop former woodlots and farmlands on the outskirts of town, innumerable hillsides and the constant threat of flooding limited growth in many areas. According to MacConnell Land Use data, only 10% of Athol's land area was occupied by residential, commercial and industrial development in 1985, however, new technology, the attraction of Athol's comparatively inexpensive housing stock and the willingness of people to commute longer distances to enjoy country living caused a substantial increase in residential growth during the past several years, with the majority of new construction in areas outside the town's center. Between 2000 and 2006, 255 new construction residential building permits were issued (See Table 5) (See [Land Use Map](#)).

Table 5. Building Permits Issued for New Construction Residential Buildings (1990-2015)

Fiscal Year	Number of Permits
1990-91	34
1991-92	24
1992-93	22
1993-94	22
1994-95	21
1995-96	9
1996-97	17
1997-98	15
1998-99	28
1999-00	22
2000-01	33
2001-02	37
2002-03	62
2003-04	41
2004-05	44
2005-06	38
2006-07	
2007-08	
2008-09	8

2009-10	8
2010-11	4
2011-12	1
2012-13	1
2013-14	0
2014-15	6
TOTAL:	469

Source: Athol Annual Reports, 1990-2009 and Town of Athol Housing Action Plan: 2014 by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

In 2005, the median sale price of single-family home in Athol was \$173,750, a 131% increase over the \$75,000 median price in 2000. The housing bust of 2006 reduced the median sale price of single-family homes to a low of \$77,750 in 2012. While an improving economy caused the average price to increase to \$118,450 in 2013. (Source: The Warren Group)

Athol's home prices remain more affordable than those of surrounding towns. The median sale price of single-family homes for 2006 in Athol were 3.2% less than those in Orange, 19.6% less than Phillipston, 23.4% less than Gardner, and 69.2% less than Petersham. Only in Royalston were the median sale prices of single-family homes less than in Athol, by 7.2%.

3.4.2 Infrastructure

Athol's road system is complex because the Town developed as twin villages, divided by the Millers River. The network of roads emanated from the center of town, where business and residential activity were situated. Over the course of the 20th century, the road network gradually expanded to accommodate new residential growth in outlying areas. Today, Athol has slightly more than 100 miles of roadway. The Department of Public Works anticipates that future new road construction will be limited to local (minor) roadways, created as part of residential subdivisions. Using funds from various state chapters, the Highway Division is in the process of resurfacing roadways. All costs associated with road resurfacing will be reimbursed through various Chapter 90 funds. A large problem is the great number of deteriorating bridges and culverts included in the roadway network. Recently, the Town replaced the bridge on White Pond that spans Ellinwood Brook on White Pond Road.

The public water distribution system follows major roadways, supplying approximately 3,595 residences and businesses with water. On May 1, 2000, the Tully Well Field Treatment and Distribution System went on-line. This new facility replaces the Newton Reservoir and the Phillipston Reservoir as Athol's primary source, significantly increasing the Town's capacity and abolishing the need to invest \$4,000,000 in updating Athol's antiquated filter plant. The South Street Well, with a safe yield of 1.4 million gallons per day (mgd) and permitted withdrawal of 1.08 mgd, will serve as Athol's reserve supply. Four water storage facilities augment Athol's supplies: the Garfield Road, High Knob, North Quabbin Commons, and Main Storage Tank with reported capacities of 0.25, 0.75, .31, and 2.0 million gallons, respectively.

The Tully Wells have the potential to expand available water by more than 2.0 million gallons per day and eliminate the need for the Newton and Phillipston Reservoirs, which previously served as reserve supplies. The Department of Public Works transferred management of the approximately 700-acre Newton Reservoir property to the Conservation Commission, who uses

the site for recreational purposes. The Town has not yet determined what to do with the Phillipston Reservoir. With a safe yield of 3.3 mgd, the new Tully Well is more than sufficient to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Throughout the 1990's, the Water Division launched efforts to improve Athol's water distribution system. Storage tanks had to be repaired or replaced and many water lines were worn or rusted to the point that they required replacement. Recent upgrades to the system include the renovation of Main Storage and the High Knob Tank has been cleaned and painted, inside and out. The Garfield Road storage tank was replaced in 2006.

Athol's wastewater collection system is situated along major roadways in the central part of town. Approximately 70% of Athol's housing units are linked to the system. The Town charges user fees based on water usage, which finance the operation and maintenance costs of the system. Athol's sewerage treatment plant, completed in 1971, is located off South Athol Road and discharges treated effluent into the Millers River. The plant is scheduled for a complete upgrade as this plan is being rewritten. This upgrade will address new environmental limits imposed by our discharge permit and also replace many deteriorated pieces of equipment with new efficient technology. The plant's capacity is 1.75 mgd for primary and secondary treatment. Since the plant's normal daily flows average .8 to 1.2 mgd, that capacity appears adequate to meet the Town's needs. However, the Town has a large problem with inflow and infiltration of storm water. During a major storm event and periods of high ground water, flows through the system can exceed 3.5 mgd. This causes the plant to become overwhelmed and poses the threat of violating our discharge permit that could lead to large monetary penalties. One early effort towards correcting the problem involved relining the Cass Meadow Sewer. This eliminated more than 250,000 gallons per day of infiltration when the river is high. A large section of sewer main along Sanders Street has also been replaced. Several other deteriorated sections are scheduled for repair or replacement. A major cause of inflow is direct, illegal connections of sump pumps and roof drains into the sewer system. The Town is in the process of implementing a comprehensive inflow and infiltration plan to address this problem.

3.4.3 Long-term Development Patterns

The town of Athol established the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee (ZBRC) in March 2005, with the goal of updating the town's bylaws to address changes in development and housing needs since the bylaws were first adopted in 1965 (See [Zoning Map](#)). The committee obtained a grant through the state's Smart Growth Initiative, which permitted them to hire a professional consultant to assist them in this effort.

The Committee presented at the October 2006 town meeting several warrants related to zoning bylaws. Three of the warrants provided new options for residential development. They were Open Space Residential Design (OSRD), Flag Lots, and Accessory Dwelling Units.

OSRD encourages the permanent preservation of open space, agricultural land, forest land, wildlife habitat, vistas, and other natural resources including aquifers, water bodies and wetlands, and historical and archaeological resources. Flag lots permit 5 acre and larger parcels with less than the minimum street frontage to build one principal building on the lot rather than subdividing the parcel into several housing lots. The Accessory Dwelling Units bylaw permits homeowners to build accessory dwelling units within a single-family home in all residential

districts and accessory dwelling units as part of an attached or detach building in the residential C district.

A fourth warrant updated the Groundwater Protection District bylaw to better protect the town's water supplies and assist downtown development.

All the warrants relating to the zoning bylaws were approved at the October 2006 town meeting reflecting the community's commitment to preserving open space and encouraging smart growth. This commitment was affirmed during the October 2007 town meeting with the approval of a warrant increasing the minimum amount of square footage required for each additional dwelling unit in the Residential C district feet from 10,000 square feet to 44,000 square feet.

The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee will continue to address the town's zoning bylaws. In addition to the ongoing audit of current zoning bylaws consistent with the Master Plan, the ZBRC will propose that the community redefine existing zoning district boundaries to create a larger downtown business district. The committee will also investigate and propose non-regulatory opportunities to encourage future infill development and adaptive reuse of sites in the downtown business district through the writing and implementation of a Strategic Plan for Downtown Revitalization. It is hoped that these changes will attract business to downtown Athol, providing jobs and an increased tax base while at the same time, conserving undeveloped land outside the downtown area. These recommendations will be assembled within a District Improvement Plan, which will include setting forth criteria for Tax Incentive Financing and District Improvement Financing. Future bylaw consideration will also include Ridge Line Protection, Right to Farm, and Transfer of Development Rights.

4. Environmental Inventory & Analysis

4.1 Geology, Soils and Topography

Athol's surficial geology is largely the result of the glacial activity of the Pleistocene era, 11,000 to 1,800,000 million years ago. Great ice sheets estimated up to two miles thick scraped and wore deep grooves to form Athol's landscape. The materials scraped from the underlying bedrock were carried south. As temperatures warmed, the retreating ice sheets left sediments and meltwaters. Glacial tills, consisting of unconsolidated sand, gravel, silt and clay, are today's remnants of that era. Today Athol is gifted with the resultant rivers and streams. Athol's soil is rough and stony on the eastern part of town. Moist soil of good texture blankets the southern and western portions of town, in deposits of large layers of sand, silt and gravel measuring two hundred feet thick and extending over thirteen square miles. Sand and gravel operations have flourished mining these resources. Gneiss, feldspar and mica were mined historically.

Much of the town does not readily lend itself to industrial or commercial development due to steep slopes, high water table, and abundant surface waters (see [Soils and Geologic Features](#)). However, these same characteristics make Athol an ideal destination for recreation. Residential development is impacted less by these characteristics and is more influenced more by economic factors than physical features; the 2001 Buildout Analysis indicates that more than 13,000 acres could be developed for residential use.

4.2 Landscape Character

The Millers River and its several tributary streams and brooks, many ponds, scattered wetlands, rolling hills, steep ridges, forests, and remnant farmlands and meadows lie within the 33.4 square miles that comprise Athol.

Athol also has a densely populated urban center dominated by historic mills, shops, restaurants, municipal buildings, parks, and residential subdivisions. The town's large land area and sprawling open spaces have enabled the community to conserve a significant amount of undeveloped land at relatively low cost. The success of this movement indicates a continued willingness to preserve the characteristics that make Athol special.

4.3 Water Resources

4.3.1 Rivers, Streams and Ponds

Athol is rich in water resources that include a variety of rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers (See [Water Resources Map](#)); the community's dominant water feature is the Millers River, which meanders for nearly seven miles through Athol's northern highlands.

Originating in New Hampshire, the Millers River flows westward, ultimately merging with the Connecticut River. Within Massachusetts, the river drains an area of approximately 313 square miles and includes all or a portion of seventeen municipalities. Athol owes its early industrial development to the Millers River and its tributary streams.

The W.H. Amsden Door and Sash Factory was the first local industry to utilize the main stem of the river for hydroelectric power. A variety of other factories followed suit, constructing dams and channels to control the flow of water.

Although many of these factories disappeared long ago, their legacy remains. Several Athol ponds owe their existence to the town's industrial past. Athol contains eight warm water ponds or lakes, ranging in size from 8-acre Ward Pond to 70-acre Sportsman Pond. Six of these ponds are man-made. Through a series of dams erected along its length, Mill

Brook, which once powered nine of Athol's industrial enterprises, formed Morse's Pond, Match Pond, Lord Pond and an unnamed pool used by J. Wesley Goodman & Sons Billiard and Pool Table Factory. Eventually drained, Lord Pond is now the site of the Lord Pond Plaza strip mall. The dam near the intersection of Hapgood and Chestnut Streets reminds residents about the important role rivers played in the town's historic development.

In addition to a myriad of economic and social impacts, industrialism left a deep imprint on the quality of Athol's rivers and streams. A century of industrial activity and widespread dumping took its toll on the Millers River, degrading the river's quality and character. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Millers River was among the best-stocked water corridors in Massachusetts, but by



The Millers River Park. Photo courtesy Mitchell R. Grosky Photography

the 1950s, pollution from industrial and domestic sources destroyed fish stocks and the recreation potential of the river. The Millers River Watershed Council orchestrated cleanup efforts beginning in the 1970s. Their perseverance paid off and, by 1983, the river was clean enough to resume fish stocking.

Since the last plan, the town worked with DCR PARC to create the Millers River Park by the recently renovated town library. The park has seating areas and a walled walkway overlooking the river; part of the park is used as an informal skateboarding area by local youth. Volunteers spend much time maintaining the plantings.

Several wastewater treatment facilities constructed throughout the watershed now effectively control major pollution discharges. The land under the water contains pollution from PCB's, chlorination, heavy metals, erosion, landfill leachate, storm water runoff and acid rain. However, the river has cleaned itself to the point that it is quickly reclaiming its status of one of the best fishing rivers in the nation. The local chapters of Trout Unlimited, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife and private interests have combined to create a very active stocking program. This coupled with catch and release areas have helped to make catching 2- to 5-pound trout a common occurrence. Fly-fishing has shown a dramatic increase over the last five years.

4.3.2 Wetlands and Floodplains

Many wetlands types, from vernal pools and forested wetlands to floodplains, exist along Athol's rivers, streams and ponds. These hot spots of biological diversity are nature's way of ensuring good water quality. Both inland wetlands and floodplains perform crucial functions including flood storage/control and pollution filtration. Wetlands are home to an abundance of wildlife including rare and endangered species. Since they are also common recharge zones for groundwater sources, it is important that Athol identify and protect its wetlands and floodplains. Athol's major resources include:

- The banks and vegetated wetlands associated with Newton Reservoir, Lake Ellis, Lake Rohunta, Davenport Pond, Ward Pond, White Pond, Paige Pond, Secret Lake, Reservoir #1, Sportsman's Pond, and Riceville Pond.
- The bordering vegetated wetlands, forested wetlands, and floodplains associated with the Millers River, Tully River and various brooks such as Rich Brook, East Branch – Tully River, Gulf Brook, Thousand Acre Brook, Mill Brook, Thrower Brook, West Brook, and Riceville Brook.
- Paine Swamp, Silver Lake.
- Several certified vernal pools.
- Newton Reservoir, which retains legal status as a drinking water supply.

There are presently state and federal regulations that assist in the maintenance of clean waters. Athol should consider improving local wetland bylaws and adopting smart growth principles to preserve and enhance water quality.

4.3.3 Aquifers and Watersheds

The town of Athol lies primarily within the Millers River watershed. Drinking water is obtained from aquifers and the town uses its surface waters for recreation.

Four aquifers are known to underlie the Town of Athol. Aquifers are important water resources that exist underground. When it rains, a large percentage of water infiltrates the soil, slowly migrating down to the saturated zone. The area between the saturated zone and the unsaturated zone is known as the water table of the aquifer. When more rain enters the aquifer than is taken out, the water table rises. An aquifer underlies the Tully River- a site first identified as a potential source in 1959. This aquifer now supports Athol's new Tully Well field. The second aquifer underlies the Millers River and supports the South Street Well. Because of its highly permeable soils, a third aquifer, which lies beneath the White Pond-South Athol Pond complex, may be considered as a future public groundwater resource.

The recharge areas of Athol's aquifers have been identified and mapped ([Water Resources Map](#)). The determination and protection of recharge zones has been incorporated into zoning.

4.4 Vegetation

Athol boasts a variety of plant life including coniferous and deciduous forests, grasslands, wetlands, and riparian vegetation. Soil type, elevation and climate largely determine the type of vegetation that exists (See [Soils and Geologic Features Map](#)). According to the 1999 MacConnell land-use data, forestland, including forested wetlands, occupies 16,220 acres in Athol, which equals 76 percent of the Town's total land area.

Athol is located within the North Central Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine zone. Eighteen commercial species, representing a mixture of northern hardwood, upland central hardwood and white pine forests, have been observed in the Bearsden Conservation Area, Athol's largest protected forest. The most common species, comprising 85% of the forest cover, are white pine, red oak, red maple, and black birch. Other observed species include white birch, white ash, sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, hickory, black cherry, white oak, aspen gray birch, cedar, hop hornbeam, and pitch pine. It should be noted that an increasingly rare hickory-hop hornbeam hilltop habitat is maintained within the Bearsden Conservation Area.

The Department of Public Works and the Conservation Commission have launched timber management programs on lands under their jurisdiction. Timber harvests on town-owned conservation areas periodically generate revenue for the town's general fund. If managed thoughtfully, timber cuts can bring both financial and ecological rewards by helping to create forest stands that are resistant and resilient to the effects of natural and man-made disturbances. In 2016 a 22-acre early successional habitat management harvest was made at the Bearsden Conservation. The removal of the closed canopy white pine followed by mechanical mulching of the remaining slash will create a seedbed for the regeneration of an early successional forest at this site. The town received a grant from the MA DFW to pay for the mulching. The remote location and lack of significant populations of invasive species make the site less likely to become overwhelmed by undesirable plants. A small number of glossy buckthorn, most less than 1/2 a meter in height, have recently been discovered in the area. These plants will be monitored, and control will be addressed. The creation of early successional habitat is a central component of the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan. Shrubland species including but not limited to Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Whip-poor-will, Prairie Warbler, and Indigo Bunting will benefit from including this habitat in the 950-acre Bearsden Conservation Area. This project will provide a significant early successional forest habitat along the riparian section of the Millers River and

provided \$26,000 for the town. The town will harvest a section of the Newtown Reservoir property in 2017 and will dollars for the town.

In 1997, a natural resource inventory was conducted along the stretch of the Millers River that extends from Orange Center to Athol Center. The purpose of the study was to provide information that would aid planners in making appropriate decisions about a proposed bikeway along the south side of the river, and to provide baseline data about natural resources along the river corridor. The inventory uncovered a number of interesting and unusual plant communities. Although the area contains no examples of classic floodplain forest, one small patch of silver maple dominated floodplain forest occurs north of the town well near South Athol Road. According to a report by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, floodplain forests are the most threatened, globally significant wetland community types in New England. Unfortunately, many of Massachusetts' floodplain forests have been converted to residential or commercial uses due to their scenic qualities and high soil fertility.

The Cook's Cove area, which lies northwest of Daniel Shay's Highway, is a four-hectare backwater along the drainage between Lake Rohunta and the Millers River. The cove supports aquatic vegetation throughout, including native milfoil, exotic invasive plants, and a wide array of other species. Shallow areas support emergent marsh communities. Adjacent to Cook's Cove, a stand of black ash occurs within a red maple swamp. The stand covers approximately one to two hectares, which is uncommonly large in Massachusetts. Other interesting plant communities include a black cherry stand just north of the sewage treatment plant and a wet meadow community in an old meander trace which runs between the town well and the sewage treatment plant.

4.5 Wildlife and Fisheries

A host of wildlife abounds within Athol largely because it has a wide range of habitat types. Rivers, wetlands, forests, meadows, and mountain ridges provide sustenance, mating grounds, and vegetated cover to the wildlife that dwell within. Since many species rely on a variety of habitats during different periods of their life cycle, species diversity is greatest in areas where several habitat types occur in close proximity to one another. When habitats are of high quality and ample quantity wildlife populations thrive. The forested areas and environs support a stable population of deer, otter, mink, muskrat, porcupine, fisher, and fox. The return of beaver to Athol, has led to the alteration of wetlands that provide excellent habitat for trout, horned pout (bullhead), insects, and migratory birds. The eastern coyote and the black bear have returned to our forests.



Courtesy of Mitchell R. Grosky
Photography

The Millers River, with its tributaries, lakes and wetlands, is an important flyway, providing a safe foraging and resting area for large numbers of migrating birds. The overall improvement on water quality and the foresight to set aside large contiguous supporting parcels of wilderness has led to the return of many formerly lost species. Periodic logging of forested areas has created the early successional habitats favored by some species.

Local surface waters support a diversity of fish species that are popular among anglers. Several ponds and lakes offer warm water anglers the

opportunity to catch large-mouth bass, pickerel, horned pout, and panfish. While native populations of trout can be found in Thousand Acre Brook, Buckman Brook and Thrower Brook. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks local rivers and brooks with various species of trout. Atlantic salmon reintroduction programs continue to release smolt throughout the length of the Millers River below the Birch Hill Dam.

Patricia C. Swain, an ecologist for Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, submitted a report for the Open Space Plan that expounds on the rare species and ecologically significant natural communities that have been documented in Athol ([See Appendix F Patricia C. Swain, PhD, Wildlife Report](#)).

4.6 Scenic Resources & Unique Environments

Athol boasts a number of scenic vistas and unique features that set it apart from surrounding communities (See [Unique Features Map Town Wide Level](#) and [Unique Features Map Town Center](#)). Several old mills and charming residential neighborhoods attest to Athol's history as a once thriving manufacturing village in contrast to the surrounding rural landscape. Because of the town's undulating topography, interesting glimpses of church spires, roofscapes, mountains, and rivers can be seen from various locations. The observation towers atop Round Top and Sheep Rock Mountains afford panoramic views in any direction when the surrounding vegetation is trimmed. The view at Round Top, the focal point of the Bearsden Forest, has long been recognized as the best in the area. Visitors can observe peaks in three states including Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, New Hampshire and Mount Equinox in Manchester, Vermont. Sheep Rock is a favorite haunt of YMCA youth groups, offering a rare view of the Millers River far below, and ledges across the valley.

Athol is rich in other unique features, as identified in the Conservation Commission's "Land and Waters" booklet and the "Athol Bicentennial Commission's —Athol History Trail" booklet, both of which are available at the Athol Public Library.

The following unique features and areas lie within Athol's borders:

4.6.1 Natural Features:

- Athol Fault – Extending 10 miles from Route 2 into the southern part of Royalston, this fault can be viewed in several locations where ledges are exposed and road cuts in bedrock are visible. Identification markers would be a great help to those wishing to locate this geologic feature.
- Folding – Several fine examples of folding appear along Batchelder Road, attesting to the immense geologic pressure that helped shape Athol's topography.
- Cass Meadow – Owned for many years by the Cass Family for dairy cow grazing, several different parcels of this land were donated to The Town of Athol. Comprised of approximately 45 acres, it is part of a larger parcel of land encompassing nearly 91 acres shared by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Division. These parcels of land, when combined together, stretch from the Millers River at the South Main Street bridge, north to the East Branch of Tully Brook at the boundary of the Town of Orange.
- As part of the Urban River Grants Program, the meadows future uses will consist of hiking trails and wildlife studies programs in conjunction with the Millers River

Environmental Center. The first phase of this project was completed in June 2006, with a public park and walk-in boat launch at the southern end of the meadow near the South Main Street Bridge.

4.6.2 Historical and Cultural Features:

- Cass Farm Property - The house was built by W.W. Fish in 1883. His son-in-law and grandson started the dairy farm in the early 1900s. By 1935 they produced more than a ton of milk per day that was delivered to five area towns. After the dairy business closed in 1962 the family kept Standardbred horses for 35 yrs. The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Cass family, and the Town are attempting to preserve the farm through purchasing the developing rights.
- The Athol Historical Society - Founded in 1953, has been housed in the 4th Meeting House at 1307 Main Street since 1957. Built between 1827 and 1828, it was remodeled in 1847 for use as Athol's Town Hall until 1921. The Athol Woman's Club then occupied it until 1957. The society has files of Athol's first newspaper; the original list of Minutemen drawn up in 1775 just before they left for Lexington; L.S. Starrette's first invention, the hasher or meat chopper, along with numerous artifacts, photographs and archives from Athol's history. In 2003 – 2005 the building went through a complete historical restoration lead by today's current Historical Society President, Susannah Whipps Lee, granddaughter of the society's first president, Howard W. Cook.
- The Athol History Trail – From 1975 through 1976, The Athol Bicentennial Commission along with many town organizations and clubs created the Athol History Trail. Through a grant program from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the trail sites were developed. Comprised of 24 historical sites covering 16 miles in length, the trail is marked by beautiful signs and is accompanied with the Athol History Trail guidebook. The forward at the beginning of the guidebook states —Every town holds its fascinations for all who look close enough. Each has its own story of how it came to be and where it is heading. These signs tell some of the episodes in the story of Athol, Massachusetts.
- Native American Sites and Crossings - At least 20 documented sites are located in Athol. The Historical Commission investigated these sites and placed historical markers to identify many of them. Prominent sites include:
 - Huncus Island - the area's last known Native American campsite.
 - Haley's Meadow - campground where arrowheads and other artifacts were discovered.
 - Millers River Crossing Point I - located at Cass Meadows, off South Athol Road, by the railroad trestle.
 - Millers River Crossing Point II - located in the Bearsden Conservation Area, near the location where the old Lewis Bridge crossed the Millers River.
 - Indian Cornfield - located east of Round Top Mountain, in the Bearsden Conservation Area.
- Stone Walls - Hundreds of miles of stonewalls remind Athol residents about the role agriculture played in the town's early historic development. Farmers built these walls to prepare their land for planting (by removing stones and boulders left by the last Ice Age), and to contain livestock and mark boundary lines.
- Sunday Walls - These legendary walls are situated 1,500 feet southeast of the Bearsden Road extension. As the story goes, two brothers built the walls around 1770 as part of a

contest to see who could lay the most wall in a single day. They gathered fieldstones by the dozens and commenced to build their own walls, starting about five feet apart and going in opposite directions. These walls, useless at the time but legendary now, were the subjects of curiosity for years. They were suitably marked in 1968.

- Oldest House in Athol- Located at 35 Moore Hill Road, the house was originally built as a two-room log cabin. It was later enlarged and a major restoration in 1969 gave the house its modern look. Yet much of the original interior remains intact.
- The Athol Railroad Depot – The original railroad depot known as the Fitchburg Railroad Depot at Athol was built between 1872 and 1873. The upper portion of the station housed a restaurant that was destroyed in a fire in 1892. A hip roof was placed on the remaining lower brick structure that stands today. In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt addressed the citizens of Athol from a platform erected at the railroad station. Since its closing as a railroad station in 1959 it has had many occupants. Today the depot houses the Community Transit Services and has recently undergone a major renovation.
- The Pequig Hotel - Built in 1895 of brick and brownstone with granite and terra cotta trim, sits four stories high. During its long lifespan, The Pequig both thrived and endured under a long line of proprietors, stores, fires, and renovations. Its banquet and meeting rooms drew many nationally known figures. Construction of the Route 2 bypass in the mid-1950s diverted travelers from Main St., which resulted in a drastic decrease in overnight lodgers. Store occupancy also declined through the 1960s and 70s. By 1977 the bank that held the mortgage declared it must raze the building if a buyer did not come forward. In 1978, through the work of the town, state and federal officials and concerned residents, the landmark block was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1982 a \$2.5 million restoration project began on the building. On October 19, 1983 the Pequig was reopened as a senior housing facility along with a senior center that opened in March 1984. The long empty commercial bays are now also occupied by small businesses.
- Mud Hut Colony - Remains of a mud hut colony for 125 immigrant workers who came here from Italy in 1902 to dig the 18-acre reservoir lie half hidden on the west bank of the Newton Reservoir. At least 18 of these sod mounds are still visible 200 to 300 feet west of the dam.
- Home of W.A. —Candy Cummings – Often cited as the inventor of the curveball, Candy Cummings' stellar pitching career bridged the eras of amateur and professional baseball. Following standout seasons with the amateur Star Club of Brooklyn, the slightly built Cummings pitched four seasons in the National Association and won 124 games, twice leading the league in shutouts, and once leading in innings pitched. He was the first major leaguer to start, complete and win both games of a doubleheader when he turned the trick on September 9, 1876. In 1906, he retired to 375 Pequig Avenue, Athol. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.
- The Athol Public Library – Although the library had its beginnings in 1830 it was not until 1878 that an organization was formed from which the Athol Public Library is directly related. Built on land donated to the town by L.S. Starrett. The current library building was built in 1918 from money offered by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and approved by the town in 1916. The library has been expanded as described in this plan update.
- The Athol Town Hall (Memorial Hall) – Built in 1921, is also on land donated to the

town by L.S. Starrett. The Town Hall not only functions as a government building, it has over its history been the hub for many cultural events. Some notable figures who have been on the stage of Memorial Hall included John Philip Sousa, 1926 & 1928, and Will Rogers, 1927. John F. Kennedy spoke downstairs in Liberty Hall in 1954 & 1958. Along with these notable figures there have been numerous local town events held in the Town Hall. A committee was formed to raise funds for the revitalization of the building.

- The Deep Cut - In 1907, three years after Newton Reservoir was completed, an air pocket developed in a high point of the lengthy water line, near the far end of Bearsden Road. This impeded water flow, creating constant headaches for the Water Commissioners. To eliminate the problem, the town blasted the ledge, which created a narrow, man-made canyon. Quite a feat at the time, the canyon continues to draw visitors today.

4.7 Environmental Problems

4.7.1 Non-point Source Pollution

As is common in many communities, non-point source pollution, or contaminated run-off, has contributed to the degradation of Athol's surface and ground water resources. Potential contaminants include underground storage tanks, failing septic systems, salt/sand applications to roadways, fertilizer run-off from lawns and golf courses, some agricultural activities, heavy equipment dumps, landfills, and leaking gas station tanks. These land uses may discharge sediments, pesticides, fertilizers, chlorides, effluent, and hazardous wastes into water bodies which in turn harm water quality.

As previously mentioned, non-point source pollution may be affecting the water quality of the Millers River. It may also be accelerating the eutrophication process of Athol's ponds, especially Lake Ellis and the Lake Rohunta-Eagleview Pond complex.

Although part of the natural aging process, pond eutrophication can be hastened by excessive inputs of non-point source pollutants. The impact of development can exacerbate non-point source pollution by increasing impervious surfaces, reducing the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil while increasing overland flow. Excessive inputs of non-point source pollutants from septic systems or fertilizers accelerate the growth of algae and aquatic vegetation. Decaying algae and rampant vegetation steal oxygen from other life forms, especially fish. Because algae blooms often make the water unsightly, foul smelling and void of wildlife, the recreation potential of some lakes and ponds is limited.

Given this reality and the fact that dredging and weed control measures will never be effective as long as excessive nutrients/pollutants continue to reach surface waters, the community may wish to draft a Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan and implementation of this plan as part of a long-term solution. The aim of this Plan should be to pinpoint the definitive causes of accelerated pond eutrophication in Athol and recommend strategies for minimizing pollution inputs.

Athol's Department of Public Works (DPW) purchased a catch basin cleaner in 2002 but then lost three employees in the Highway division the following year; they have reduced the amount of sand put on roads to make maintaining the catch basin easier. The DPW has experienced a

staff reduction of 28.6% during recent years. The town should support increase staffing within the DPW to ensure that the roadways are cleaned more frequently and that the catch basins and properly maintained. Other activities that the town may wish to consider undertaking are limiting salt/sand applications to roadways and launching a campaign that broadens public awareness of ways residents can help abate non-point source pollution within the watershed.

4.7.2 Chronic Flooding

In addition to invasive weeds, chronic flooding plagues Lake Ellis' residents. Several years ago, the Town demolished and backfilled the dam that originally formed the Lake and controlled its water level. A stream provided a secondary outlet beneath Route 2 but has since been blocked by beaver activity. Several efforts to eradicate the beavers through trapping have proved futile since new beavers continuously colonize the site. Town and state officials have not yet reached consensus on how to alleviate the flooding, but action should be taken to ensure adequate flood control.

Voters at Town Meeting have allocated funds to restore the original drainage of Lake Ellis under Lake Ellis Road into Mill Brook, which will improve the flooding situation at the lake. The project is still pending.

The Millers River is susceptible to ice jams, which have created localized flooding. The most sensitive area of the river is from Starrett's Dam to just downstream of Morton Meadows. In January 2005, an ice jam formed in the Millers River just above the confluence with the Tully River. The residents on Pequog Avenue sustained significant flooding damage and two homes and the Little League Field were flooded with four feet of water. Basement flooding occurred in multiple sites along Pequog Ave from Pinedale Avenue to Fish Street, along Shore Drive and on Terrace Avenue.

One-direction flow check valves were installed in storm drainpipes to prevent river waters from backing up into the Little League Field. Army Corp of Engineer ice researchers noted that Cass Meadows has grown over the past 10-year period preventing the natural flood relief the river had established.

Cass Meadow was restored to its former state during 2005 and this is expected to assist in acting as a buffer zone for any floodwaters that backup from ice jams in the area above the Tully River confluence. Floodwaters can pass through the meadow and back into the river below the jam site. The Athol Fire Department now closely monitors this area during extremely cold weather to provide early warning for mitigation if a jam forms. As more information is accumulated on how these ice jams form, additional prevention and mitigation actions are taken to minimize flood hazards.

4.7.3 Hazardous Wastes/Brownfields

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for investigating and enforcing cleanup of sites contaminated with toxic or hazardous wastes. As of July 3, 2017, 103 sites were listed on the Mass DEP web site. The list includes the 68 sites in the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The majority of the sites listed comply with Mass DEP cleanup requirements.

While a majority of these sites are small businesses, others are abandoned mills situated in the historic downtown and along riverbanks. These sites are referred to as brownfields. According to the mainstream definition, brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. Brownfields may pose serious environmental threats, but many communities are unable to afford the tremendous costs associated with remediation. Moreover, because developers do not know what potential cleanup costs may be, they often shy away from these properties. The result is a number of abandoned properties that continue to sit idle, contribute little to the tax base, threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and visually degrade the surrounding neighborhood.

Athol is actively pursuing a brownfield redevelopment grants to address these properties and return them to productive use.

4.7.4 Solid Waste Disposal

Of primary concern in Athol's previous Open Space and Recreation Plans, the Sanitary Landfill was capped and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection during FY1997. To satisfy State regulations, the Department of Public Works monitors and mows the site at least once a year. No known environmental problems presently relate to this facility.

During the May 2006 Town meeting, voters approved to bond up to \$350,000 to build a transfer station/recycling center adjacent to the landfill site on Rt. 32 and to establish the center as an enterprise fund. The process now requires a site assignment hearing and permission to construct. The Town of Athol is also part of a regional solid waste cooperative, North Central Regional Solid Waste Cooperative. This cooperative includes the towns of Athol, Ashby, Ayer, Groton, Royalston, Leominster, Petersham, Lunenburg, Townsend, Harvard, and Devens. This cooperative works in all areas of solid waste and recycling. By combining solid waste and recycling needs, the cooperative hopes to achieve economies of scale to receive better bids for services. The initial years of the cooperative were funded by a DEP grant with the Town of Athol as the host community.

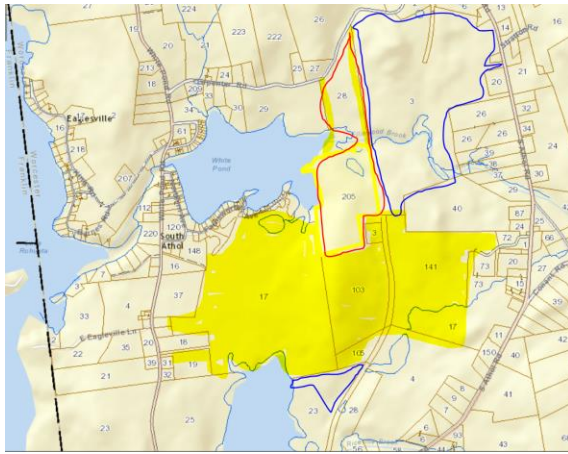
5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Since our last plan was completed (2008), several large parcels of land have been conserved through the leadership of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol's citizens, and state funding. The properties include:

- 200 acres from the Stoddard and Leblanc parcels in South Athol which together form the new South Athol Conservation Area. The South Athol Conservation Area is within the South Focus Area identified in Athol's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and portions of it are within BioMap2 Core area and Critical Natural Landscape areas
- 68 acres in the southeast part of town on land owned by the Feldman family. This property is within the South Focus Area identified in Athol's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan and contains some land identified as among the 10% largest interior forest blocks in the state
- 133 acres in the southern corner of town on land owned by Constance Blakley. This property is within the South Focus Area identified in Athol's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan
- the quarter-acre Watershed Park parcel which provides access to Cass Meadow from the Millers River Environmental Center and Fish Park neighborhoods from Walnut Street, as well as a nice sitting area for people with mobility challenges
- 0.4-acre Shore Drive Overlook which provides boating and fishing access to the Millers River
- 0.2-acre boating and fishing access area to Miller River from North Orange Road. This parcel is within a BioMap2 Core area.
- the playgrounds and basketball court at the new Athol Community Elementary School (ACES) are frequently used by children of all ages on weekends and evenings.



Watershed Park viewing area. Photo courtesy of Mitchell R. Grosky Photography.



The new South Athol Conservation Area is home to many uncommon animal species and has the historically important rail bed for the "Rabbit Run" railway. The trails on the properties could serve as the basis for moderate-distance trail system connecting the rural southern part of town to the downtown area. The properties are in the "South Focus Area" defined in the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Photo by Dave Small.

Overall, 31 conservation and recreation sites, totaling approximately 5,700 acres, lie within the Town of Athol (See [Open Space Map](#) and [Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest](#)). Approximately 80% of this land is permanently protected. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, 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 Conservation and Recreation), 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) is not protected. Unfortunately, most of Athol's existing recreation facilities lie within this category and can easily be converted to other uses.

Athol's Action Plan map (see [Action Plan Map](#)) identifies two main areas where we believe future conservation efforts should be focused. Additional land protection within these areas will connect parcels of already protected open space within Athol and the surrounding towns creating larger blocks of protected open space than we currently have. Biologists, ecologists, and watershed managers have long recognized that, in general, large blocks of open space are able to protect biological diversity, water quality, and ecosystem integrity better than similar acreages divided among a greater number of smaller blocks. The focus areas occur in the north and south parts of Athol and contain most of the areas in town identified as most in need of protection to conserve biodiversity for generations to come by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) BioMap and Living Waters projects. The northern area, including the Bearsden Forest, is among the top one percent of the state's largest interior forests as defined by NHESP. The southern focus area contains four of the largest forest blocks that are among the top 10 percent of the state. Protecting open space in these two focus areas is

also in line with the vision expressed in the conservation plan by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, reflecting the views of over 40 public and private conservation organizations.

We identify a “Park and Sports Fields Area” in the central, downtown part of the town, running from the elementary, middle, and high schools north to Sportsmans Pond. This area contains most of the existing parks, playgrounds, and ballfields, and is the town’s population center. Future park upgrades and new infrastructure or ball fields should be located in this area on existing parks whenever possible.

In addition to Athol’s existing conservation and recreation areas, a few areas are of particular interest to local citizens. These are:

- New England Equestrian Center of Athol (Whitney Hamlet) - This 155-acre site in South Athol, purchased by the Town of Athol through grants, is the largest municipal equestrian center in New England. New England Equestrian Land Management Conservation Corporation (NELMCC) received 501(c)(3) status and manages the park. A network of trails serve equine and a variety of human activities, including cross-country skiing and hiking. The park may also develop a conservation and recreation center. It is expected that the park will become a draw to the North Quabbin Region and will be self-sustaining through programs and fees. NELMCC has developed a large portion of Equestrian Park using volunteer services and fund raising. The park has also been approved through DEP to contain a composting facility
- Millers River Greenway - A permanent greenway is proposed along the southern bank of Millers River, extending from Athol Center to Orange Center. The benefits of this greenway are two-fold: (1) the greenway would help protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and (2) provide an important opportunity for linear pursuits along the river, such as hiking, biking, and walking. Ideally the trail would merge with the Tully Trail in Orange. Athol’s Greenway Committee is actively working towards making the greenway a reality by encouraging area landowners to place conservation restrictions on their property. Protection of land within the recharge area of the town’s new primary water supply, which comes from an aquifer below Millers River, should be viewed as a priority and will complement the Greenway Committee’s efforts.
- Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands - The Farmland Assessment Act allows qualifying forest, farm and recreational lands to be taxed at its current-use value rather than full market value. If a landowner intends to sell the classified land or convert it to another use, town officials must be notified by certified mail. The town is granted the right of first refusal and a penalty in the form of either a conveyance tax or a roll back tax is assessed. As of 2019, Athol has 34 parcels with 1,181 acres enrolled in Chapter 61. Currently undeveloped, these lands are of interest for both conservation and recreation purposes. Although land under this program can be taken out at the landowner’s will, these parcels constitute a large amount of Athol’s open space and, if protected, priority Chapter lands can help link existing conservation and recreation lands to form a continuous greenway network.

6. Community Goals

6.1 Description of Process

The committee used a SurveyMonkey.com survey to get the public's input on issues relevant to this plan update. Hard copies of the survey were made available at the town hall and public library. Please see the appendix for a blank copy of the survey. The committee wrote the survey over two monthly meetings and received edits/comments from the Athol town planner, Conservation Commission, and the athletic director of the Athol Area YMCA. Once the survey was completed it was made available to the public on 2/6/2017. The committee publicized it in a variety of ways including:

- Handed out 75 flyers at a special town meeting on 2/6/2017
- Wrote an article about the survey which was printed in the Athol Daily News on 2/13/2017
- Printed up fliers with pull tags containing the survey's web address and posted them at many locations including (but not limited to): Athol Town Hall vestibule, Athol Public Library, Athol Area YMCA, Hannaford Supermarket, Mount Tully Kennels, Petersham Gun Club, and The Millers River Environmental Center
- Mentioned the survey at related meetings including Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's workshop on forestry for landowners (3/4/2017), Athol Bird and Nature Club meetings, and New England Equestrian Center of Athol meetings
- Mentioned the survey in emails to related organizations such as North Quabbin Trails Association, Athol Bird and Nature Club, and Friends of Lake Ellis
- Posted survey notices on Facebook pages of relevant groups including Athol Selectmen, Athol Bird and Nature Club, Athol Community, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol History, Memories of Athol, Athol Our Hometown, and North Quabbin Trails Association
- Sent requests to the principals of Athol High School and Athol-Royalston Regional Middle School to ask if teachers would have their students do the survey as a civics project. Over 70 students from the middle school completed the survey

The survey was closed on 5/4/2017; we received 213 online surveys and 3 hardcopy surveys which were entered into the online survey by committee members. Copies of survey responses can be seen in the town hall.

6.2 Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The committee envisions a future where Athol has:

- 1) clean, safe parks suitable for a wide range of recreational interests for children and adults. These parks will have nice walking areas, ballfields, beaches, fishing areas, and places to relax
- 2) diverse, well-distributed, and connected open space areas for water protection, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and to protect the character of the rural parts of town
- 3) new and revitalized commercial and economic development areas where they are most efficient from a commercial perspective and have least negative impact on the town's natural areas

This vision was informed by the 2017 Open Space and Recreation survey available in the appendix. Some significant results include:

Question #4 showed that the respondents had:

- A very strong interest in open spaces for conservation and water protection (weighted average scores of 6.2 out of a maximum score of 8), for wildlife habitat (score of 6.1), and recreational purposes (score of 5.6)
- A strong interest in the town’s playgrounds and beaches (score of 4.9), and ballfields (score of 4.5)
- Support for farmland and public gardening areas (score of 4.9)

Please rank how important it is for Athol to preserve or protect (with 1 being most important and 8 being the least):										
Answer Options	1 - Most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 - Least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Open space for conservation & water supply needs	51	39	20	21	15	6	9	1	6.19	162
Open space for wildlife habitat	42	47	26	19	19	8	4	2	6.14	167
Open spaces for recreational purposes	30	25	47	32	12	12	9	4	5.63	171
Playgrounds and beaches	24	18	23	26	36	29	7	7	4.93	170
Ballfields (baseball, soccer, football, tennis,	19	15	17	31	21	18	25	13	4.50	159
Farmland and public gardening areas	13	20	28	25	23	25	32	7	4.48	173
The town's rural character	7	11	16	15	28	43	31	11	3.81	162
Other (please specify in box below)	15	3	2	1	3	6	8	41	3.10	79
Other or Comment										50
answered question										208
skipped question										8

Question #14 showed that the town resident respondents leaned towards being “Probably For” creating a municipal fund and using tax dollars to improve and preserve open spaces and recreation areas. They also expressed some interest in having a ballot referendum to enact a Community Preservation Act (CPA) in town, although the average response is between “ambivalent” and “probably for” suggesting that the citizens want more information on CPA before they can form a stronger opinion either for or against it:

To preserve open spaces and recreational activities, how supportive would you be for:								
Answer Options	Very much against	Probably against	Ambivalent	Probably for	Very much for	Rating Average	Response Count	
Allowing the town to establish a municipal fund to help purchase open space or recreational facilities	7	6	23	57	41	3.89	134	
Allowing a ballot referendum to enact the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to help preserve open space, historic sites, outdoor recreation facilities, etc. as funded by a surcharge of 1-3% of the tax levy. See: CPA overview for more information.	11	8	36	36	41	3.67	132	
Allowing the town to use municipal tax dollars to purchase or improve open space or recreational facilities	7	7	28	42	46	3.87	130	
Other or Comment							14	
answered question							135	
skipped question							81	

7. Analysis of Needs

7.1 Resource Protection Needs

Athol’s 33.4 square miles contain several drinking water sources with varying water quality due to the mills that once supported the economy of Athol. Athol’s wetlands and waterways are well

filtered by the vast forests but are challenged by non-point source pollution, chronic flooding and brownfields. Since the last open space and recreation plan was written, the recharge zones of the town's public water supply aquifers have been mapped and are now covered by a two-zone resource protection bylaw.

Since the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan, the impact of residential development slackened due to the "Great Recession" and in the years that followed it. However, we must remain vigilant and remember that wise management of growth is vital for better economic development and nature conservation. Through zoning, the town has introduced Smart Growth principals to help preserve green space and improve recreational opportunities. Since the last plan, there has been at least one instance where a prominent property has been removed from Chapter 61A and the town was unable to respond to the required right of first refusal because there were no funds devoted to open space and recreation land protection. We should anticipate similar situations in the future and create ways of funding land protection if the property fits into our larger goals.

Athol's diverse habitats, from ridges to wetlands, provide habitat and mating grounds for animal and raptor populations to thrive along with large number of migrating waterfowl, shore birds, and passerine birds. Various programs through the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife subsidize Athol's wildlife and fish populations. Without the education and support system of the town's residents, Athol's scenic vistas and unique features could disappear due to indifference or lack of knowledge.

7.2 Summary of Community's Needs

7.2.1 Recreation Needs

There were several similar themes running through the responses in the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Survey for both our parks and the town's natural conservation areas.

Natural Areas - Many respondents simply did not know that many of the town-owned natural areas existed or how to get there if they had heard of them. Those that used some of our most-visited natural areas such as the Newtown Reservoir and the lake at Silver Lake Park really appreciate them but mentioned concerns about the amount of trash and dog feces along trails.

Parks - We collected park-specific comments in the survey, and those comments will be used to improve specific issues at the individual parks, however, there were many common themes that are worthy of mention here.

- Many citizens requested signage to make the parks and playgrounds easier to find
- Need for trash/litter removal from all parks
- Concerns about the goose and dog feces at Lake Ellis Beach and Silver Lake Park
- Concerns about public safety, intoxicated patrons, and illicit drug use/sales at Silver Lake Park
- Need for more maintenance on buildings, pavilions, ballfields, retaining walls
- Need better bathrooms at popular sports fields such as Fish Park and Silver Lake Park
- Lake Ellis has a few unique challenges which must be addressed since it is the town's main beach and boating area. These include control of invasive plants such as Eurasian milfoil.

In the summer of 2019, a concrete-block boat ramp was installed which is a great improvement over the previous muddy ramp

- The athletic fields in town are heavily used from spring until late fall and the reservation list shows there may not be enough ball fields. It is also difficult for DPW to maintain grass on the fields as it does not get a chance to grow with so much usage
- There are currently no ball fields in town devoted to soccer. Multiuse fields at Silver Lake Park and Fish Park are used heavily by the YMCA--although they are serviceable as they are, a dedicated field would be better since the grass would have a chance to grow and recover between seasons (or artificial turf could be used) and the white lines on the field could be more permanent. A dedicated field would also be safer since the goals could be permanently anchored into the ground and would be unlikely to tip onto players.

Unmet Recreational Needs – The survey asked people what they felt were the most pressing recreation opportunity needs in town. These don't necessarily show the most enjoyed activities, rather they show those activities that people think we need more opportunities for. The top ten responses (ranked by average rating multiplied times number of people choosing that item) are:

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY NEEDS – Of the following activities, which do we need more opportunities in Athol? Please select up to 7 and rank them where 1 is the most needed and 7 is the less needed.										
Answer Options	1 - Most needed	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Less Needed	Rating Average	Response Count	Score (Ave Rating times # Responses)
Active recreation for people with mobility challenges	21	9	8	4	6	2	12	4.69	62	291
Biking, roads and bike paths	7	11	7	9	5	2	0	5.00	41	205
Dog walking	10	6	5	9	4	2	2	4.87	38	185
Hiking	9	6	8	7	3	3	3	4.74	39	185
Backpacking (camping while hiking)	6	7	8	8	4	4	1	4.66	38	177
Going to a beach	6	7	8	6	4	5	3	4.44	39	173
Camping	4	12	3	5	9	2	4	4.36	39	170
Fishing	3	3	13	6	8	6	2	4.05	41	166
Bird/animal watching	4	8	10	3	4	1	4	4.59	34	156
Gardening in a community garden	7	2	6	7	6	6	3	4.11	37	152

By a wide margin, the respondents very strongly believed that we need more recreation opportunities for people with mobility challenges. Respondents also identified a need for bike paths, dog-walking opportunities, hiking trails and backpacking camp sites, better beaches, more camping, fishing, animal watching, and community gardens. Many respondents mentioned that there needs to be places for children and teens; a splash pad or skate park could complement existing park infrastructure at Silver Lake Park or Lake Park Playground.

7.2.2 Access for Citizens with Disabilities

One third of the respondents to question #6 in the survey indicated that there needs to be more recreational opportunities for those with impaired mobility. Improved access for those with disabilities was favored by over 90% of the survey respondents in the 2006 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). We must keep those with limited mobility in mind as we improve parks, create new trails, and enlarge conservation areas; this is especially important as baby boomers are aging.

The town is addressing accessibility issues, has a transition plan to increase accessibility in all town-owned properties, and will be providing the Department of Public Works Cemetery/Park/Tree Division with \$700 per year for ADA upgrades over the next five years. Recently, the town hall has made accessibility improvements, Silver Lake Park's Phillips Pavilion was created with accessibility in mind, and Lake Park Playground was refurbished to include accessible equipment for children. The town is currently investigating the potential for

accessible trails at the Minnie French Conservation Area (near the Millers River Wildlife Management Area) and has accessible trails at the Allen Rich Environmental Park.

The Allen E. Rich Environmental Park on Main Street installed an accessible canoe-kayak dock on the Millers River. The dock was funded by The Department of Conservation and Recreation trails grant, a crowd funding initiative, and a match grant from Mass Development.



Accessible canoe-kayak dock at the Allen E. Rich Environmental Park.

7.2.3 Special Opportunity

As evidenced in previous sections, Athol boasts an array of natural resources that includes permanently protected open spaces, scenic vistas, wetlands, ponds and rivers, hunting and fishing destinations, and swimming and boating opportunities. By building on Athol's existing resources and capitalizing on the town's proximity to recreational amenities at Tully Mountain, Harvard Forest, Birch Hill Dam, Lake Dennison, and the Quabbin Reservoir, tourism can help sustain the local

economy, provide increased opportunities for self-employment, and enhance Athol residents' pride in their community. According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, outdoor recreation generated approximately \$40 billion in 1996 nationwide, accounting for 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion in annual wages. Moreover, a poll for the President's Commission found that natural beauty and scenic views were the most important criteria for tourists seeking outdoor recreation sites. Given Athol's wealth of natural resources, there is no reason to assume that the town cannot enjoy some of the economic benefits of this vibrant industry. A report for the North Quabbin Community Forestry Initiative (Barstow, 2002) showed that in 2000, over \$13 billion dollars were spent in Massachusetts by travelers of all types; 8.4% of those travelers cited outdoor recreation as their primary reason for traveling in or to the state.

7.3 Management Needs

A major concern for the Open Space and Recreation Committee is funding projects desired by the community. The Town can appeal to local businesses which are often willing to devote money, time, and expertise, when attempting to fund community projects. Athol has had success funding projects in this manner. Grants are also available to communities displaying strong public support and a significant need for a particular project. The creation of this Open Space and Recreation Plan update entitles the town to apply for these grants. Since the last plan, Athol has created a town planner position who has the expertise required to research and write grant applications, as well as manage projects. We recommend hiring additional personnel for grant writing and administration to assist the town planner.

The town needs a devoted champion for open space and recreation issues. This could be a panel of volunteers with key decision makers and representatives from relevant town departments such as the Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, and Open Space and Recreation Committee. Designating a responsible party such as a town planner, grant professional, or recreational commissioner to oversee implementation of an Action Strategy is required to meet

the current needs and goals of the community. Monitoring the progress toward these goals is assigned to the Open Space and Recreation Committee. The responsible party should have budgetary oversight for the development of a strategic plan or plans designating the current condition of all town-owned properties as well as plans to maintain these holdings and monitor all proposed changes. The group should work with existing “Friends” groups such as the self-formed Friends of Lake Ellis and work to encourage other groups such as a neighborhood and resource supporters (such as Silver Lake Users Group and Tennis Court Users Group), in order to address the issues elucidated in the public survey. The town planner could apply for grant funds to support a part-time user group facilitator. A friends group for all Athol parks could be created to raise funds through donations to improve the parks, analogous to The Friends of the Athol Public Library.

Department of Public Works should develop rotation schedules to ensure that parks are maintained on a regular schedule. All future work and improvements should be planned with low maintenance and longevity in mind.

The Public Works Department currently is responsible for maintaining all parks although they currently do not have enough full-time or seasonal staff to fulfill all needs. Prior to 2003, they had 7 full time staff and 4-6 seasonal staff—since 2015, they are down to 4 full time staff and 1 seasonal staff; this downsizing happened at a time when their responsibilities increased.

The town currently lacks funding for needed major repairs and park improvements, regular litter collection, as well as funds for strategic land protection or to respond to Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal notices.

8. Goals & Objectives

The purpose of this seven-year plan update is to examine the various factors affecting recreation areas and open spaces in Athol and devise a strategy to effectively meet current- and near-term future needs. A five-step process culminated in a list of goals and objectives. First, the committee reviewed the previous plan and survey questions to decide which issues had been addressed over the past few years, which questions were no longer relevant, and what questions would provide actionable information to town department managers. Second, the committee wrote the survey and publicized it; we are very thankful to all the citizens who took the time to complete the survey. Third, the results from the survey were summarized into broad themes and specific actions. Fourth, these summaries were used to guide the development of goals, objectives to reach those goals, and tasks to fulfill those objectives. Conversations with town officials helped us define realistic, effective, and financially efficient objectives and tasks as well as ideas to ensure longer-term sustainability for the parks and open spaces. Town officials were asked to review draft goals, objectives, and tasks; from these conversations, additional ideas were incorporated into the plan. All meetings were posted on the official town website and bulletin board so that interested citizens could attend meetings.

Goal 1: Restore and Maintain Existing Recreational Areas and Facilities

Objectives:

- A. Enable DPW to respond to issues which were frequently mentioned in the survey such as trash pickup and removing dog and goose feces and to upgrade and repair infrastructure.
- B. Seek long term, sustainable financing for maintaining and upgrading public parks.
- C. Encourage existing Friends groups and establish new ones to adopt parks and recreational areas. Existing groups include: The Friends of Lake Ellis and the Friends of the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park.
- D. Lake Ellis was once one of the nicer public beaches in the North Quabbin Region. There are many things that must be done to return it to its former glory. The town should create a Parks Advisory Committee consisting of interested volunteers, pertinent department personnel, and representatives from friends groups. This committee would ensure that decisions are made with many points of view and that there would be a concerned group of people to help raise funds or write grants for maintenance and improvements.

Goal 2: Enhance, Protect and Promote Athol's Unique Attributes

Objectives:

- A. Continue to promote the importance of Athol's natural resources for people and nature. We need to make people aware of the many places and recreational opportunities for the places we already have in town—many survey respondents simply did not know about many of our towns recreation opportunities. Getting more people using our parks and natural areas will create more support for maintaining and enhancing them.
- B. Continue to update the Master Plan to guide future development of Athol.
- C. As economic development occurs in town, The Department of Planning and Development and the Economic and Development Industrial Corp should encourage or require open space and recreational accommodations in future projects, as well as making new stores accessible by walking and biking.

Goal 3: Expand Parks and Open Space Areas to Improve Them and Create New Recreational Opportunities

Objectives:

- A. Link scattered conservation and recreation areas through the establishment of a continuous greenway network for recreation and wildlife. Portions of this network should be bike paths and usable for those with limited mobility. The historic rail bed of the “Rabbit Run” could be the nucleus or backbone of a moderate-length path linking conservation areas in South Athol the center of town. Define areas suitable for development of organized sport (baseball, soccer, etc.) facilities.
- B. Identify opportunities to improve neighborhood playgrounds and address unmet needs.
- C. Investigate town funding sources for long-term dedicated funding of open space and recreation needs. Sources could include CPA, capital campaigns, sale of development rights on some conservation areas, and funds from forest harvests on town lands.

Goal 4: Remain Vigilant - of Emerging Recreation Interests, Needs, Opportunities and OSR Plan Progress

9. Seven Year Action Strategy

The Seven-Year Action Strategy serves as a guide for the community in protecting critical natural resources, enhancing recreation opportunities and preserving the character of the landscape. The following Seven Year Action Strategy expands upon the goals and objectives listed in Section 8 by specifying tasks for accomplishing those objectives, identifying the responsible parties (organizations, town employees, town boards and committees) involved in implementing those actions over the next seven years, and the approximate time frame. See [Action Plan Map](#) for the areas where natural land activities, park, and sports field activities will be located.

Goal 1: Restore and Maintain Existing Recreational Areas and Facilities

Objectives:

- A. Enable DPW to respond to issues which were frequently mentioned in the survey such as trash pickup and removing dog and goose feces and to upgrade and repair infrastructure.
Tasks; Responsible party; Time:
 - 1. Increase number of employees in the Department of Public Works Cemetery, Park, and Tree Division to better maintain recreational facilities and activities. There should be at least seven fulltime employees as there was prior to 2003; Town manager, Superintendent of Public Works, Finance Committee; Summer 2020
 - 2. Improve public safety at parks by fixing damaged infrastructure and increasing police presence and possibly involving the Board of Health over sanitary concerns; Town manager, Superintendent of Public Works, Finance Committee, and possibly Board of Health; Spring 2020.
- B. Seek long term, sustainable financing for maintaining and upgrading public parks.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Investigate alternate financing opportunities for individual projects as well as a long-term permanent open space and recreation fund. Funding sources could include: grants, Community Preservation Act, capital campaign (donations), ball field user fees (for trash pick up, etc.). OSRC, Town Planner, and friends groups; begin in Winter 2019 and then ongoing.
- C. Encourage existing Friends group and establish new ones to adopt parks and recreational areas. Existing groups include: The Friends of Lake Ellis and the Friends of the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Provide assistance and encouragement to Friends groups. (formally recognize groups, have a volunteer coordinator, provide lunches on workdays, etc.); OSRC; ongoing.
 2. Engage with friends groups more often; OSRC; ongoing.
 3. Work with other volunteer groups to help with clean-up activities. Potential groups include: civic organizations, sheriff's department, and senior property tax abatement workers; OSRC, DPW, etc.; ongoing.
- D. Lake Ellis was once one of the nicer public beaches in the North Quabbin Region. There are many things that must be done to return it to its former glory. These include:

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Clean the beach
 2. Control the invasive plants which dominate the lake itself
 3. Fix the playscape. Consider moving equipment from the former Pleasant Street School to Lake Ellis or Silver Lake Park.
;Department of Public Works, OSRC, Friends of Lake Ellis; ongoing.
- E. Create a Parks Advisory Committee consisting of interested volunteers, pertinent department personnel, and representatives from friends groups. This committee would ensure that decisions are made with many points of view in mind, and that there would be a concerned group of people to help raise funds or write grants for maintenance and improvements.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Meet with town manager and Superintendent of Public Works to determine organization etc.
2. Make the committee a part of the town charter to ensure longevity; Town Manager, Department of Public Works, OSRC, Summer 2020.
3. Consider a friends group for the town's parks. This group could seek donations as the Friends of the Athol Public Library does; Parks Advisory Committee, OSRC; Fall 2020.

Goal 2: Enhance, Protect and Promote Athol's Unique Attributes

Objectives:

- A. Continue to promote the importance of Athol's natural resources for people and nature. We need to make people aware of the many places and recreational opportunities we already have in town—many survey respondents simply did not know about many of our towns recreation opportunities. Getting more people using

our parks and natural areas will create more support for maintaining and enhancing them.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Better, uniform signage at parks and natural areas including directional signs; OSRC and DPW; Fall 2019
2. Update trail maps. Put maps on town webpage, post on social media, etc.; OSRC; Fall 2019

B. Continue to update the Master Plan to guide future development of Athol. In progress

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Continue to work with the Master Plan Committee to ensure that they consider open space and recreational needs as they form a comprehensive plan to guide Athol's development; OSRC; ongoing

C. As economic development occurs in town, The Department of Planning and Development and the Economic and Development Industrial Corp should encourage or require open space and recreational accommodations in future projects, as well as making new stores accessible by walking and biking.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Be sure to remain diligent that open space and recreation needs are considered in new developments. Attend meeting of these boards; OSRC; ongoing.

Goal 3: Expand Parks and Open Space Areas to Improve Them and Create New Recreational Opportunities

Objectives:

A. Link scattered conservation and recreation areas through the establishment of a continuous greenway network for recreation and wildlife. Portions of this network should be bike paths and usable for those with limited mobility. The historic rail bed of the "Rabbit Run" could be the nucleus or backbone of a moderate-length path linking conservation areas in South Athol the center of town.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Develop conceptual plans for connecting recreational areas. OSRC; ongoing.
2. Keep aware of potential funding sources and collaborate with state agencies, local land trusts to help facilitate acquisitions and maintenance. OSRC, Town Planner; ongoing with more focus beginning in winter 2019/spring 2020.

B. Define areas suitable for development of organized sport (baseball, soccer, etc.) facilities.

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Upgrade and maintain existing sport fields to make them more suitable and safer. Department of Public Works, ongoing.
2. Identify needs not met by existing fields. For example, non-dedicated soccer fields can be dangerous since goals cannot be anchored in the ground and may get blown over, the soil may have holes that could trip players, and maintenance is difficult if grass does not have "resting"

- time. OSRC, Spring 2021.
3. Identify potential locations for needed fields and potential funding sources. OSRC, Town Planner; Spring 2021.
 4. Build needed fields after upgrading and maintaining existing fields. DPW, Town Manager, OSRC; 2022-2023.
- C. Identify opportunities to improve neighborhood playgrounds and address unmet needs.
Tasks; Responsible party; Time:
1. Contact Open Space Institute to get advice on identifying need. OSRC, spring 2021.
 2. Continue to improve existing parks as staff time and finances allow. DPW; ongoing.
 3. Make improvements in Silver Lake Park, the most widely used park in the town. See survey for needed improvements. Seek funding and community input on needs; OSRC, town planner; Fall 2019.
- D. Investigate town funding sources for long-term dedicated funding of open space and recreation needs. Sources could include CPA, capital campaigns, sale of development rights on some conservation areas, and funds from forest harvests on town lands.
Tasks; Responsible party; Time:
1. Investigate alternative funding sources such as use of development rights as match for grants, or a dedicated open space and recreation trust, portion of funds from forest harvests on town lands. OSRC, Town Planner, Conservation Commission; ongoing with more focus beginning in Spring 2020.
 2. Investigate desirability and feasibility of CPA. Prepare and bring to town's citizens and town meeting if desired. OSRC, 2020-2021.

Goal 4: Remain Vigilant - of Emerging Recreation Interests, Needs, Opportunities and OSR Plan Progress

Tasks; Responsible party; Time:

1. Potential projects could include: a new skate park, a splash pad, expanded open space lands, expanded multiuse trails, etc. OSRC; ongoing.
2. Have town planner, Economic Development Industrial Corp, etc. work with developers to encourage open space and recreation opportunities in new commercial with creative planning and in residential developments with Open Space Residential Design (OSRD). Town Planner, OSRC; ongoing.
3. Have annual Open Space and Recreation Plan reviews in June of each year. OSRC, Conservation Commission, Town Planner, Town Manager, DPW; beginning in June 2020.
4. Begin rewrite of next plan in 2027 before existing plan expires. OSR; 2025.

10. Public Comments

The Open Space and Recreation Committee used a SurveyMonkey.com survey to get the public's input on issues relevant to this plan update. Hard copies of the survey were made available at the

town hall and public library. The committee wrote the survey over two monthly meetings and received edits/comments from the Athol town planner, Conservation Commission, and the athletic director of the Athol Area YMCA. Once the survey was completed it was made available to the public on 2/6/2017. The committee publicized the survey in a variety of ways including handing out flyers at a well-attended special town meeting on 2/6/2017, writing an article published on the front page of the Athol Daily News (2/13/2017), posting flyers around town, listing it in numerous Facebook group pages, and presenting it at relevant group meetings. See section 6 for list of specific activities.

11. References

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Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. 1993. The Open Space Planner's Workbook. Boston, Massachusetts: Philmore Anderson III.

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Town of Athol, Community Development Plan 2004, consultants Dufresne& Henry.

12. Letters of Support



TOWN OF ATHOL

OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

584 MAIN STREET ** ROOM 29
ATHOL, MA 01331

Telephone: 978 575 0301

Fax: 978 575 0323

e-mail: planning@townofathol.org

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 10, 2019

Ms. Cryan,

The Athol Office of Planning and Development is pleased to write this letter of review for the Athol Open Space and Recreation Plan Update which will be submitted to you. The plan not only addresses all the issues required by the Commonwealth, but the writers did an excellent job soliciting feedback from the citizens so that it reflects their true needs. While many of the objectives will be challenging to complete in the next 5-7 years, I know the Open Space and Recreation Committee is determined to stay active after the plan is accepted and I am already meeting with them, town department heads, and interested citizens to enact some of the goals related to our most popular park, Silver Lake Park.

This plan is well conceived and I am excited to help the Committee in making Athol a better place for people and nature. If you have any questions and/or comments to share as you review the Athol Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via phone at (978) 575-0301 or email at planning@townofathol.org.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Smith, AICP
Director of Planning and Development

Melissa Cryan
DCS
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 7, 2019

Dear Ms. Cryan,

I am writing this letter of review for the town's new Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Town of Athol is experiencing growing economic development and opportunities which we seek to continue over the next several years. Often there is a tension between economic growth and the protection of natural areas for wildlife, clean air and water, and recreation, however, we feel that this plan does an excellent job in providing outdoor opportunities across most of the town and acknowledging that development needs to occur in appropriate places. I am also excited by the prospect of considering outdoor recreation and walkable cities that the plan encourages in our newer commercial developments.



Dave Small (Chair)
Board of Planning and Community Development
584 Main Street
Athol, MA
01331

TOWN OF ATHOL



Board of Selectmen

Rebecca J. Bialecki, *Chairman*
Holly A. Young, *Vice Chairman*
Lee E. Chauvette
Stephen R. Raymond
William B. Chiasson

Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
Email: ssuhoski@townofathol.org

Bridget A. Sullivan, *Administrative Asst.*
Email: selectmen@townofathol.org

October 15, 2019

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Resources
100 Cambridge St., 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Athol – Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Dear Ms. Cryan:

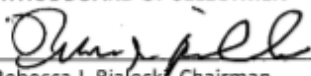
Please accept this correspondence as evidence of the support of the Board of Selectmen for the outstanding effort undertaken by the Open Space and Recreation Committee to develop Athol's Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

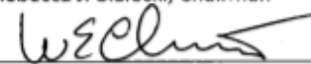
The Committee's survey and outreach activities identified many observations about the Town's parks and the recreational desires of our citizens. The Committee and members of our Dept. of Public Works have created a well-conceived plan of action to address areas of concern with a general time schedule, potential funding opportunities, staffing needs and ways of sustaining progress into the future.

The Board looks forward to working with the Open Space and Recreation Committee, Director of Planning and Development, DPW Cemetery, Park and Tree Division, Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, and the Town's citizens to make the plan's goals a reality.

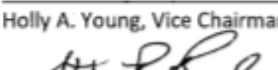
Sincerely,

ATHOL BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Rebecca J. Bialecki, *Chairman*


Lee E. Chauvette


William B. Chiasson


Holly A. Young, *Vice Chairman*


Stephen R. Raymond

cc: Open Space and Recreation Committee

584 MAIN STREET - SUITE 17
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331
TEL: (978) 249-2368 FAX: (978) 249-4960



January 10, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA
02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) staff completed a review of Athol's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OS&RP). Staff used the "Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements" written by your division at EOEEA to determine if the local planning document contained the required sections and meets requirements. Athol's plan is thorough and consists of all required sections. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all local residents and officials for putting this important document together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Hume". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, trailing "e".

John Hume
Planning and Development Director



TOWN OF ATHOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

584 MAIN STREET
Suite 7
Athol Memorial Building
Athol, MA 01331

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

January 13, 2020

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Athol Conservation Commission is pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update recently completed by our Open Space and Recreation Committee.

The committee did an excellent job getting the town's citizens' opinions and integrating those opinions into this plan's goals, objectives, and action plan. The goals address the town's natural areas which are the purview of the Conservation Commission and the town's park infrastructure which are under the Department of Public Works. The goals for natural lands do a good job in protecting our existing natural areas by seeking to enlarge and connect them, and to get more public support by making more people aware of the many opportunities that we have for outdoor recreation.

I thank the committee and congratulate them on a job well done,

Robert Muzzy
Chairman
Athol Conservation Commission
584 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331



1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331-9734

Phone: (978)248-2043 Fax: (978)248-2053

landtrust@mountgrace.org

www.mountgrace.org

Protecting land and encouraging land stewardship in North Central Massachusetts

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 23, 2019

Dear Melissa,

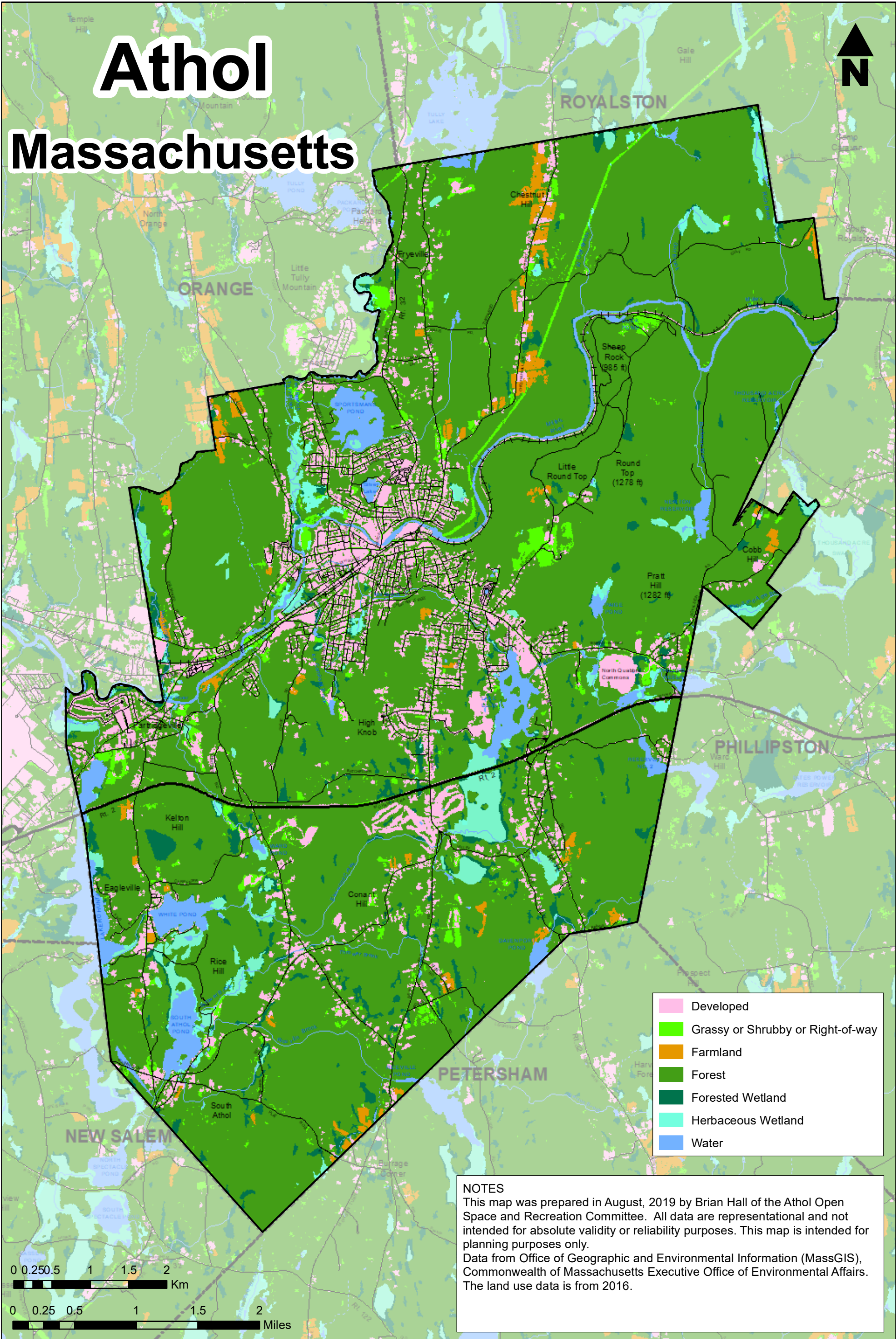
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust enthusiastically supports Athol's newly completed 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. We feel that the authors of the report have done a great job in identifying areas to protect in order to preserve the town's best natural assets, including the town's rural character, clean waters, and connected wildlife habitat. We are happy to see that the "Northern Focus Area" correlates well with a biodiversity hotspot identified in a strategic biodiversity conservation analysis conducted by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership a few years ago. The plan's emphasis on improving parks in the downtown area is also well-aligned with our own increasing interest in community conservation to address the needs of local communities, especially for those areas that are perhaps underserved by many past land protection activities. We are thrilled to support our local partners in Athol.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sarah Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" being more prominent than the last name "Wells".

Sarah Wells
Conservation Director

Land Use and Land Cover



Zoning Map

Athol Massachusetts

Unofficial Zoning

- General
- Commercial Industrial
- General Commercial
- Neighborhood Commercial
- Industrial
- Residence A
- Residence B
- Residence C







Stream

Intermittent Stream

Pond/Lake

Wetland

NOTES
Zoning data is not official and for broad-scale use only. This map was prepared in March, 2008 by Brian Hall of the Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee. All data are representational and not intended for absolute validity or reliability purposes. This map is intended for planning purposes only. Data from town officials and the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

	General
	Commercial Industrial
	General Commercial
	Neighborhood Commercial
	Industrial
	Residence A
	Residence B
	Residence C

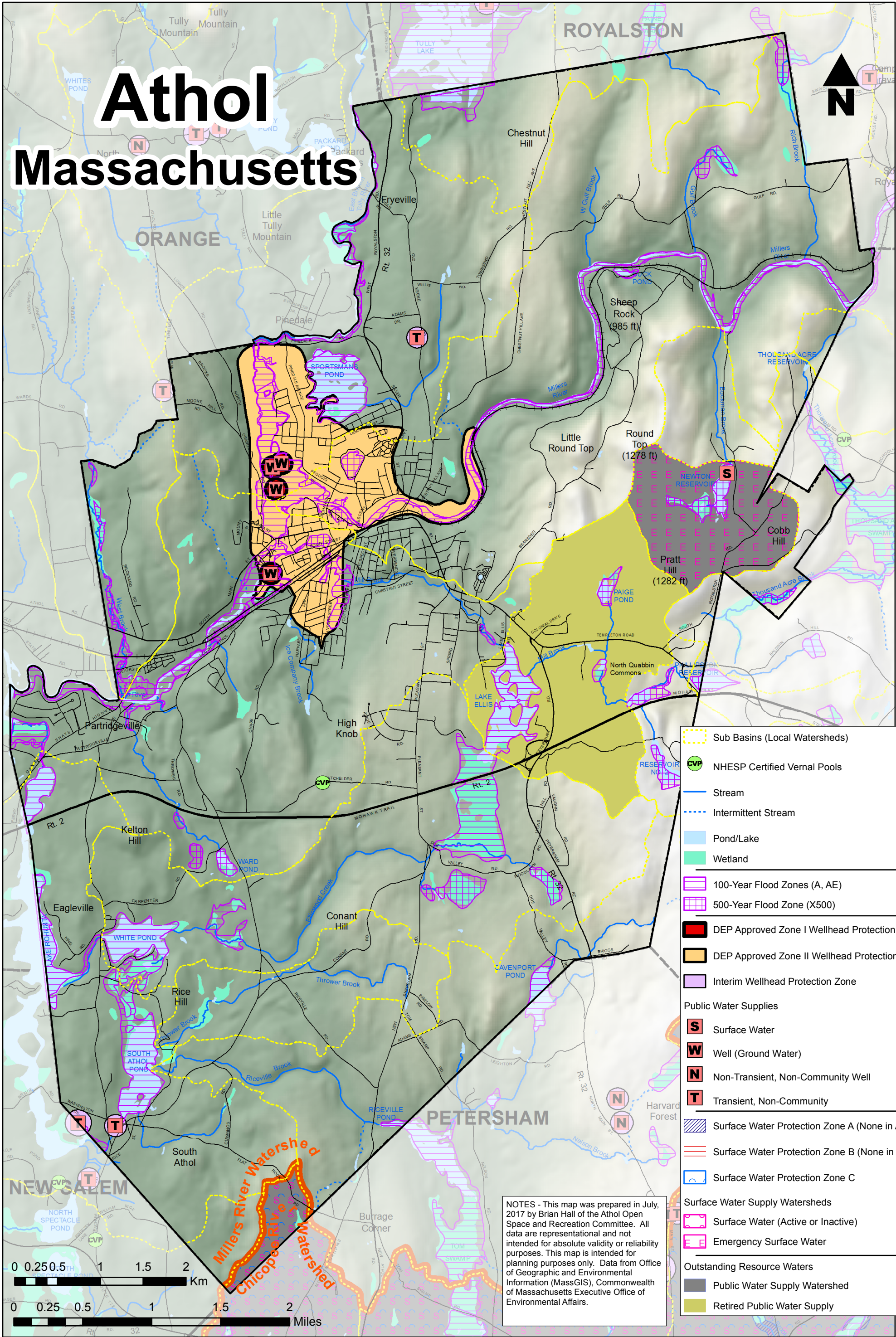
— Stream
- - - Intermittent Stream
■ Pond/Lake
■ Wetland

Zoning data is not official and for broad-scale use only. This map was prepared in March, 2008 by Brian Hall of the Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee. All data are representational and not intended for absolute validity or reliability purposes. This map is intended for planning purposes only. Data from town officials and the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Zoning data is not official and for broad-scale use only. This map was prepared in March, 2008 by Brian Hall of the Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee. All data are representational and not intended for absolute validity or reliability purposes. This map is intended for planning purposes only. Data from town officials and the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Water Resources

Athol Massachusetts



Thousand Acre Pond Dam

Athol, MA

Site Reconnaissance

Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Riverways Program

Boston, MA

June 2007



Fuss & O'Neill
78 Interstate Drive
West Springfield, MA 01089



THOUSAND ACRE POND DAM SITE RECONNAISSANCE
Riverways Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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2.0 THOUSAND ACRE POND DAM	1
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2.2 Restoration Overview	2
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3.0 CONCLUSIONS.....	4

FIGURES

END OF TEXT

Location Map

APPENDIX

END OF TEXT

- A Photographs
- B Opinion of Cost



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Thousand Acre Brook in Athol and Phillipston, MA is impounded by two structures owned by the Town of Athol. Fuss & O'Neill has been retained by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Riverways Program (Riverways) to perform site reconnaissance and opinion of cost for removal of the lower dam, Thousand Acre Pond Dam. Phillipston Reservoir Dam is located further upstream and is not yet under consideration for removal. Thousand Acre Pond Dam was visited on June 13, 2007 by Gabrielle Stebbins of Riverways, Dana Cooley of the Town of Athol DPW, and Jon Zahner of Fuss & O'Neill. This report summarizes the observed site conditions, information provided by the owner, potential restoration concepts, recommendations for further evaluation, and opinion of costs.

1.1 Dam Removal Benefits

The benefits of dam removal generally fall into two categories: elimination of potential dam safety hazards and improving ecological habitat. Many aging dams are no longer serving the purpose for which they were constructed. Although dam maintenance and repair can be expensive, unmaintained structures often pose a risk to downstream properties and populations.

In general, dams degrade stream ecosystems by slowing flowing water and causing sediment to accumulate within the impoundment. Organisms suited for a moving water system have physical adaptations that make them intolerant to ponded conditions. For instance, many coldwater salmonids (e.g. brook trout) and macroinvertebrates have adapted to cold water, high oxygen content, and the food that this system provides. The increased surface area of impounded water increases solar exposure, raising the temperature within and downstream of the impoundment. Increased temperature results in decreased capacity of the water to hold oxygen, a condition which is compounded by decomposition of organic matter at the pond bottom. Many coldwater organisms cannot function in warmer, lower oxygen water and are often extirpated from a stream following dam construction.

Dams trap nutrients by preventing sediment and organic litter from moving downstream during normal flows. During large storm events, run of river dams can release large quantities of trapped sediment, thus smothering downstream habitat such as fish nests. The more obvious ecological impact of a dam is the barrier that it presents to fish passage. Trout and other river species migrate seasonally to reproduce and find refuge from extreme temperatures. Fish also migrate daily to find optimal conditions for feeding and shelter. Dams without a provision for fish passage prevent this seasonal and daily upstream migration.

2.0 THOUSAND ACRE POND DAM

2.1 General Site Conditions

Thousand Acre Pond Dam impounds a 0.9 acre reservoir which provided 8 acre-ft of storage for the Athol water system. The impoundment is situated in a remote forested area accessible by rough logging roads. The dam consists of a concrete spillway and earthen embankment constructed around 1900. The 78 ft long 23 ft tall concrete portion of the dam includes an



intake screening chamber on the right side. A low level inlet is reported to exist within the intake chamber, but it was not visible during this site visit. The concrete is in fair condition with minor spalling and cracking. The wooden lid of the intake chamber is very deteriorated and no longer covers a portion of the 23 ft deep chamber. Fuss & O'Neill and Riverways recommended that the town of Athol take immediate action to repair the lid to prevent a hiker from falling into the chamber.

The 90 ft long, 20 ft high earthen embankment to the right of the concrete section has tree and brush growth on the downstream slope but is otherwise in fair condition. Flow from the spillway is channeled against bedrock by a 3 ft tall concrete and masonry training wall. The dam was recently determined to be a non-jurisdictional structure by DCR Office of Dam Safety.

The Athol water system has switched to groundwater wells and no longer depends on surface water supplies. Since being abandoned as a water supply reservoir, no other use of the reservoir is known.

Thousand Acre Pond was at normal pool elevation (at the spillway crest) at the time of the site visit. Despite the height of the dam, the pond is less than 1 acre in surface area. This suggests that the natural channel is fairly steep through this reach with a probable slope of 7%.

Based on water depth measurements obtained off the upstream face of the dam, the sediment depth adjacent to the structure in the vicinity of the spillway is 5 ft to 6 ft. The sediment load in this pond is likely limited to organic muck due to the undeveloped nature of the watershed and the upstream presence of the Thousand Acre Swamp and Phillipston Reservoir. There is no record of the impoundment being drawn down for maintenance of the dam, and it is unlikely that dredging has occurred.

2.2 Restoration Overview

Thousand Acre Pond Dam is the first structure on this cold water fishery upstream of the Millers River. The objective of dam removal would be to improve cold water habitat and expand habitat range, including the potential for fish passage for brook trout and other resident species. Removal of the dam would open approximately 5 miles of stream length for habitat and spawning needs in an area identified as Priority Habitat for Rare Species.

2.2.1 Full Dam Removal

Full removal of the concrete dam and earthen embankment is a feasible approach to restoration of this reach of Thousand Acre Brook. The majority of effort for removal of this structure would be concrete demolition and disposal. It is assumed that about 500 cubic yards of sediment would have to be excavated once the pond level has been dropped.

Based on the estimated channel slope of 7% and presence of ledge outcrops in the spillway area, it is possible that a natural drop in the channel could be exposed upon removal of the dam. This may pose a challenge to fish passage depending on the height of such a drop.



The fairly steep topography of this reach would likely guide the watercourse back to its original geometry and bed material if it was not excessively disturbed during dam construction. Little lateral meandering would be expected as this reach re-establishes itself unless a significant depth of sediment exists in the impoundment. Even if some meandering does occur, no structures would be affected.

2.2.2 Partial Dam Removal

A number of scenarios exist for partially removing the dam. One such alternate would be to remove the earthen embankment but leave the concrete structure in place. The drawback to this option is that the 23 ft tall concrete dam and intake chamber would be largely exposed. This may present a safety hazard to recreational users. A similar alternate is to remove the concrete portions but leave the majority of the earth embankment in place. A portion of the earth embankment could be removed or re-graded to provide a more natural stream corridor. Minimal safety hazard would be posed by this option. Additional feasibility studies would be needed to ensure habitat goals are met in the event that a partial dam removal alternative is chosen.

2.3 Recommendations for Further Evaluation

The following table summarizes the recommendations regarding the need to perform additional evaluation and design for removal of Thousand Acre Reservoir Dam.

Task	Recommendation	Explanation
Overall project management	Maybe	Athol DPW often preoccupied
Surveying and mapping (bathymetry?)	Yes	Limited topo for permitting, wetland flagging, min. bathy.
Sediment characterization	Yes	Volume/gradation needed for reuse/disposal planning
Contaminant testing	No	Undeveloped watershed
Sediment management planning	Yes	Assume excavation & disposal
Hydrology & hydraulics	Maybe	Cursory H&H for fish passage if desired, no hydraulic model
Upstream impacts (wetlands & ponds)	Yes	Permitting will require pond ecology impact assessment
Rare species presence & management	Yes	MassGIS Database: EH835 & PH 1233 (Species unknown)
Resident species & ecosystem needs	Maybe	If fish passage is desired
Surrounding infrastructure concerns	No	No structures in vicinity
Permitting	Yes	Local Con Comm; USACE PGPII



Historic assessment	Unlikely	No visible remnants, nothing listed in MassGIS database
Structure removal plan (const. access)	Yes	Temporary stream crossing required
Conceptual design plans	No	No competing alternatives
Engineering design plans	Yes	Required for permitting
Project reporting	Maybe	If rare species impacts are anticipated
Replacing current dam uses	No	No known uses
Community outreach approach	Yes	Local volunteer groups will spearhead effort*
Property ownership	No	Town owns all land

* Athol Bird and Nature Club, Millers River Environmental Center, Millers River Watershed Council

2.4 Opinion of Cost

Fuss & O'Neill has prepared an Order of Magnitude Opinion of Cost for removal of Thousand Acre Reservoir Dam. Two scenarios were considered: The following table is a summary of the detailed cost worksheets found in [Appendix B](#).

ITEM	PARTIAL REMOVAL	FULL REMOVAL
Engineering	\$25,000	\$25,000
Permitting, Construction Admin	\$25,000	\$25,000
Demolition of spillway	-	\$25,000
Sediment/embankment excavation	\$15,000	\$27,000
Other site/restoration work	\$31,000	\$26,000
Contingency (30%)	\$29,000	\$38,500
Total (Range)	\$88,000 - \$188,000	\$117,000 - \$251,000

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Dam removal, partial or full, is a feasible concept for restoration of the lower reach of Thousand Acre Brook. The town of Athol is not likely to be highly motivated to remove this structure based on its recent classification as a non-jurisdictional structure by DCR Office of Dam Safety. However, the safety hazard posed to passive recreation users of the area by the existing structure may be an incentive to pursue removal. Additionally, there is a strong commitment to environmental protection and restoration by a number of Athol residents including the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Millers River Environmental Center that could support the undertaking of this project.

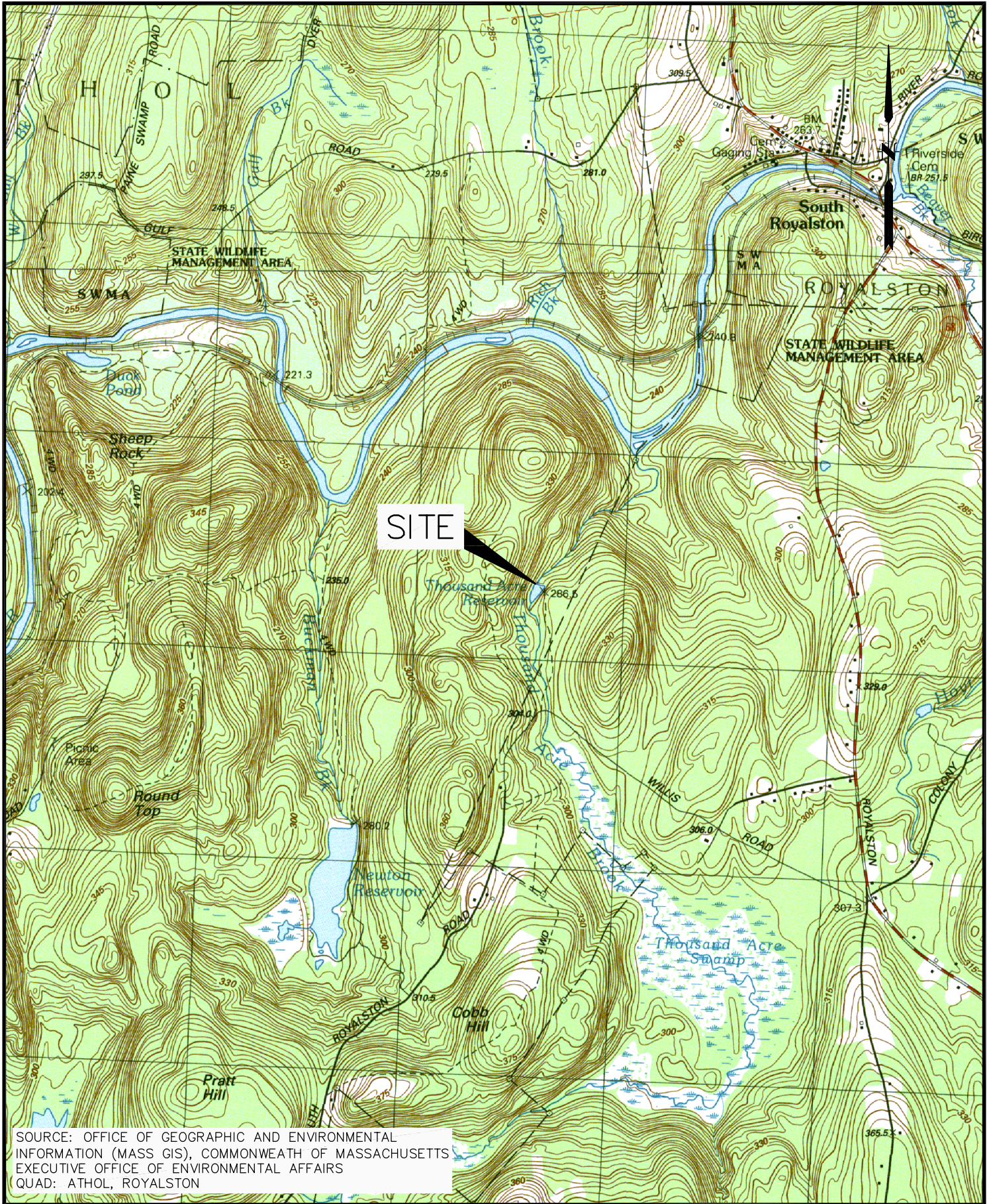


Although removal of Thousand Acre Dam could be expensive, there are many grant programs designed to encourage fish passage restoration. No such programs exist for dam repair or replacement. The likelihood of state or federal funding for a dam removal project is continually improving as environmental restoration gains greater attention. The factors which would either facilitate or hinder dam removal include:

Advantage	Disadvantage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No infrastructure impacts• No remaining impoundment uses• Low contaminated sediment potential• Small impoundment size• High quality ecological resource area• Strong support from local environmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderately difficult site access• Large volume of concrete



FIGURES



SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (MASS GIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
QUAD: ATHOL, ROYALSTON

SCALE:	
	HORZ.: 1" = 2000'
	VERT.:
DATUM:	
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508.946.1747

45A MAIN STREET, LAKEVILLE, MA 02347

www.FandO.com

RIVERWAYS PROGRAM
LOCATION MAP
THOUSAND ACRE RESERVOIR DAM

ATHOL

MASSACHUSETTS

PROJ. No.: 20051066.E10
DATE: JUNE 2007

FIG 1



APPENDIX A

PHOTOS



Photo 1: Overview of dam from left abutment



Photo 2: Overview dam from right abutment



Photo 3: Spillway



Photo 4: Intake chamber, note rotted lid

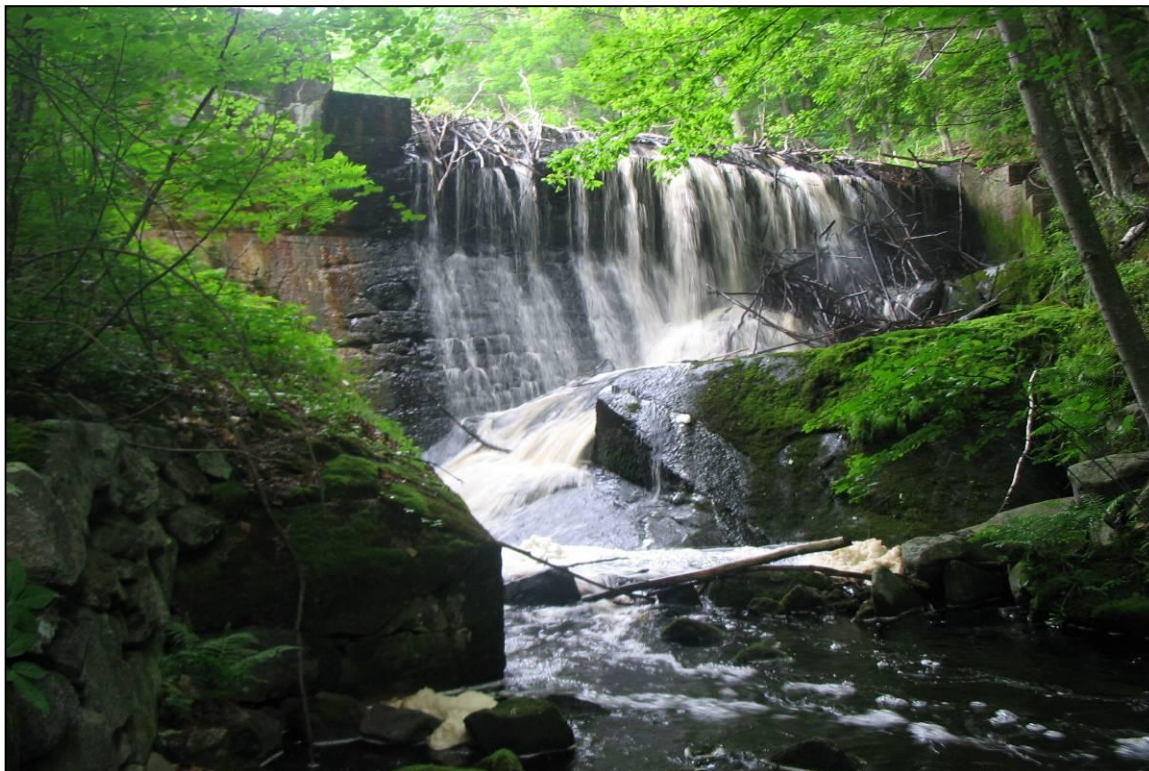


Photo 5: Downstream face of spillway, note bedrock



Photo 6: Downstream channel



Photo 7: Overview of impoundment



Photo 8: Access bridge (crosses inflow stream)



APPENDIX B
OPINION OF COST
WORKSHEET

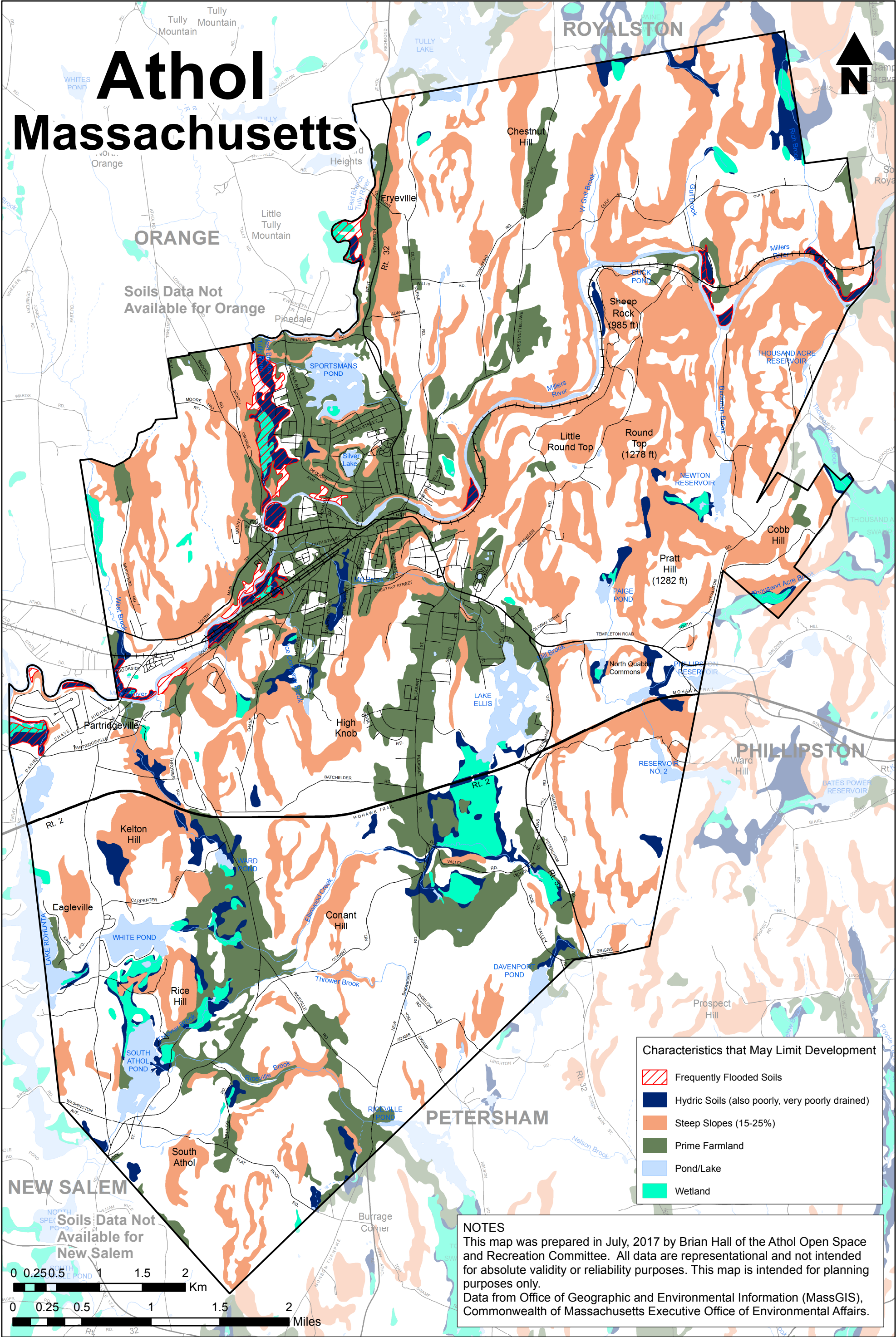
FUSS & O'NEILL, INC.146 HARTFORD ROAD
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST		DATE PREPARED :		27-Jun-07	
Type: Order of Magnitude					
PROJECT : Thousand Acre Pond Dam Removal		BASIS :			
LOCATION : Athol, MA					
DESCRIPTION: Partial Removal Alternate					
DRAWING NO. :		ESTIMATOR : JAZ		CHECKED BY : PWM	
<p>OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST - ORDER OF MAGNITUDE: An opinion of cost made without detailed engineering data. Costs may be estimated by comparison with similar projects. It is normally expected that an estimate of this type would be accurate within plus 50% or minus 30%. Since Fuss & O'Neill has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment or services furnished by others, or over the Contractor(s)' methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, Fuss & O'Neill's opinion of probable Total Project Costs and Construction Costs are made on the basis of Fuss & O'Neill's experience and qualifications and represent Fuss & O'Neill's best judgment as an experienced and qualified professional engineer, familiar with the construction industry; but Fuss & O'Neill cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Total Project or Construction Costs will not vary from opinions of probable cost prepared by Fuss & O'Neill. If prior to the bidding or negotiating Phase the Owner wishes greater assurance as to Total Project or Construction Costs, the Owner shall employ an independent cost estimator.</p>					
ITEM NO.	ITEM	UNIT MEAS.	NO. UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL COST
SOIL AND EROSION CONTROL					
02291	Sedimentation and Erosion Control	L.S.	1	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
SITE PREPARATION WORK					
	Temporary stream crossing	L.S.	1	1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Access road repairs	L.S.	1	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
02110	Clearing Embankment	L.S.	1	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
WATER CONTROL					
02199	Control of Water (assumes LLO operable)	L.S.	1	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
DEMOLITION					
03300	Concrete (assumes off-site disposal)	C.Y.	0	60.00	\$0.00
EARTHWORK					
02210	Sediment excavation (assumes on-site disposal)	C.Y.	200	30.00	\$6,000.00
	Embankment excavation (assumes on-site disposal)	C.Y.	600	15.00	\$9,000.00
SLOPE PROTECTION					
02271	Natural material	C.Y.	100	100.00	\$10,000.00
SITE STABILIZATION WORK					
	Seed impoundment area	LS	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
GENERAL CONDITIONS					
	Mobilization & Demobilization	L.S.	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
ENGINEERING/PERMITTING					
	Engineering	L.S.	1	25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	Permitting	L.S.	1	20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Construction Admin	L.S.	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$96,000.00
	CONTINGENCY (30%)				\$28,800.00
	TOTAL COST (ROUNDED TO NEAREST \$1,000)				\$125,000.00
				RANGE	\$88,000.00 \$188,000.00

FUSS & O'NEILL, INC.146 HARTFORD ROAD
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST		DATE PREPARED :		27-Jun-07	
Type: Order of Magnitude					
PROJECT : Thousand Acre Pond Dam Removal		BASIS :			
LOCATION : Athol, MA					
DESCRIPTION: Full Removal Alternate					
DRAWING NO. :		ESTIMATOR : JAZ		CHECKED BY : PWM	
<p>OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST - ORDER OF MAGNITUDE: An opinion of cost made without detailed engineering data. Costs may be estimated by comparison with similar projects. It is normally expected that an estimate of this type would be accurate within plus 50% or minus 30%. Since Fuss & O'Neill has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment or services furnished by others, or over the Contractor(s)' methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, Fuss & O'Neill's opinion of probable Total Project Costs and Construction Costs are made on the basis of Fuss & O'Neill's experience and qualifications and represent Fuss & O'Neill's best judgment as an experienced and qualified professional engineer, familiar with the construction industry; but Fuss & O'Neill cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Total Project or Construction Costs will not vary from opinions of probable cost prepared by Fuss & O'Neill. If prior to the bidding or negotiating Phase the Owner wishes greater assurance as to Total Project or Construction Costs, the Owner shall employ an independent cost estimator.</p>					
ITEM NO.	ITEM	UNIT MEAS.	NO. UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL COST
SOIL AND EROSION CONTROL					
02291	Sedimentation and Erosion Control	L.S.	1	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
SITE PREPARATION WORK					
	Temporary stream crossing	L.S.	1	1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Access road repairs	L.S.	1	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
02110	Clearing Embankment	L.S.	1	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
WATER CONTROL					
02199	Control of Water (assumes LLO operable)	L.S.	1	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
DEMOLITION					
03300	Concrete (assumes off-site disposal)	C.Y.	420	60.00	\$25,200.00
EARTHWORK					
02210	Sediment excavation (assumes on-site disposal)	C.Y.	500	30.00	\$15,000.00
	Embankment excavation (assumes on-site disposal)	C.Y.	800	15.00	\$12,000.00
SLOPE PROTECTION					
02271	Natural material	C.Y.	50	100.00	\$5,000.00
SITE STABILIZATION WORK					
	Seed impoundment area	LS	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
GENERAL CONDITIONS					
	Mobilization & Demobilization	L.S.	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
ENGINEERING/PERMITTING					
	Engineering	L.S.	1	25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	Permitting	L.S.	1	20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Construction Admin	L.S.	1	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$128,200.00
	CONTINGENCY (30%)				\$38,460.00
	TOTAL COST (ROUNDED TO NEAREST \$1,000)				\$167,000.00
				RANGE	\$117,000.00 \$251,000.00

Soils and Geologic Features





Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

May 11, 2006

Earle Baldwin, Secretary
Athol Open Space Committee
P.O. Box 506
Athol, MA 01331

Re: 2006 Open Space Plan, 06-19743
Town of Athol

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Thank you for contacting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program regarding the Open Space Plan for the Town of Athol. Enclosed is information on the rare species and ecologically significant natural communities that we have documented in the town.

Enclosed is a list from our database of all rare species and priority or exemplary natural communities currently known to occur or to have occurred in Athol. Fact Sheets describing the species and their habitats are on our website at www.nhesp.org. Relevant pages from the Classification of Natural Communities of Massachusetts are also on our website and enclosed/attached. Any species with a most recent date within the past 25 years is considered to be current.

There is a large variety of rare species in Athol. There are multiple records of several species of stream dragonflies and freshwater mussels, which imply that good populations are present in town. The water quality and quantity of the streams provides good habitat and should be a priority to maintain. Bridle Shiners are fish of slowly moving water. Wood Turtles overwinter in stream banks and tend to stay in the vicinity of the streams and wetlands through the year. Sedge Wrens are the rarest vertebrate animal known to occur in Athol. They nest in moist, not flooded, areas dominated by dense grass and sedges on the margins of rivers, streams and ponds. Their numbers have declined with the changes in land cover associated with the decrease in agriculture: wet pastures provided habitat.

Of the rare plants, two are aquatic, found in lake (Variable Pondweed) or flowing water (Threadfoot). The Mountain Firmoss (a club moss) occurs in a road cut and has continuing problems with shading. Sand Violet occurs in gravelly or sandy areas with little canopy cover. The Athol population has not been seen in 60 years, but plants might be relocated yet! Tuckerman's Sedge is a plant of riverside and other wet meadows, another plant whose population has declined with the reduction in agriculture.

All types of natural communities provide important habitat for common and uncommon species and support the biodiversity of the town. Of the uncommon natural community types tracked by NHESP, Hickory – Hop-hornbeam Forest/Woodland and Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps have been documented in Athol. Hickory – Hop-hornbeam forest/woodlands are naturally small communities, usually on slopes with shallow soils. Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps have cool conditions often associated with areas further north. They are wetlands with some peat development that support large trees that create a dark and cool habitat. In addition, because there are nearby, Kettlehole Level Bogs and Level Bogs might be reasonably sought in Athol. We have also documented good occurrences of the more common Low-energy riverbank community along the Miller's River. And there is a very good example, mostly on town land, of the matrix (wide-spread) community type, Northern Hardwood – Hemlock – White Pine Forest. It is



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581 Tel: (508) 792-7270, ext 200 Fax: (508) 792-7821

An Agency of the Department of Fish and Game

<http://www.nhesp.org>

important to conserve and maintain good examples of common community types to provide habitat for all species. That particular example contains areas that may be primary forest, described below, which are particularly important reservoirs of biodiversity in landscapes that were cleared and tilled.

Athol has areas of possible Primary Forest, areas that were forested in the 1830s and in the 1999 MassGIS land use coverage, referred to as "1830s forest" areas. The intent of this datalayer is to identify forested areas that may have been continuously forested. Primary forest is not Old Growth, but does occur on untilled soil. Even though they were usually woodlots and were cut repeatedly and were often pastured, they retain greater native biodiversity than adjoining areas that were tilled. It is not known if the areas in Athol that were forested in the 1830s and 1999 are primary forest, but they are worth checking. Much of the 1830s forest area in north central Athol is on the Wildlife Management Area, so protected. There is another area of 1830s forest south of the town lands (mentioned above), possibly water district land (according to MassGIS's open space datalayer). Several smaller parcels of town land overlap with the 1830s forest. The areas of 1830s forest on private land might be good targets for conservation acquisition to maintain the biodiversity of the town and region.

Athol has many probable vernal pools (Potential Vernal Pools, PVPs, identified through interpreting aerial photographs, available as a datalayer from MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/pvp.htm>), and six certified vernal pools. There are several clusters of vernal pools, which indicate particularly good habitat for species that depend on vernal pools. The clusters mean that there are alternate habitats if something happens to one pool, and slightly different conditions in each may provide different habitats for pool dependent species. Certifying the PVPs would provide more protection to these wetlands and the species that use them. Clusters of PVPs occur on "1830s forest" are even better conservation targets.

A copy of the report on BioMap and Living Waters Core Areas for Athol is available from the NHESP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhtwnreports.htm>. BioMap and Living Waters cores were produced by NHESP to identify the areas of most importance for biodiversity: they are based on known locations of rare species and uncommon natural communities, and incorporate the habitats needed by rare species to maintain the local populations. BioMap focused on species of uplands and wetlands; Living Waters focused on aquatic species. Large maps and copies of the report have been sent to the town showing BioMap and Living Waters areas. Large unfragmented conservation land provides the best opportunities to maintain populations of species and limit further species loss from the town. Land protection by towns that ties in with open space in other towns, and other protected open space, public or private is one way to provide important large areas of biodiversity protection. BioMap and Living Waters polygons are also available from MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/biocore.htm> and <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/lwcore.htm>. In Athol, there is a large BioMap and Living Waters area around Lake Rohunta. There is also a large BioMap core centered on the town land with the good example of the Northern Hardwoods – Hemlock – White Pine Forest. BioMap and Living Waters Core areas extend into adjoining towns and provide opportunities to identify large contiguous undeveloped lands that would be good conservation targets.

Just to differentiate the BioMap and Living Waters core areas from the following Priority and Estimated Habitats: BioMap and Living Waters core areas identify areas particularly important for conservation planning purposes. Priority and Estimated Habitats are regulatory.

The NHESP produces maps for use under the Wetlands Protection Act (Estimated Habitat maps, provided to the Conservation Commission and shown in reduced form in the Natural Heritage Atlas, reduced versions of which are enclosed, and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (also in the Natural Heritage Atlas, and enclosed with this letter). These data layers are also available from MassGIS, requiring access to some form of GIS to view them, at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/wethab.htm> and <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/prihab.htm>. These two sets of maps are created for regulatory use. Estimated Habitats are a complete subset of Priority Habitats that focus on habitat of rare wetlands wildlife. Priority Habitats are drawn for all rare species. Lists of species in each regulatory polygon are enclosed. Early planning and review of development projects under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations and Endangered Species Act does play a very positive role in protecting rare species habitats. Town commissions and boards are encouraged to request the assistance of the Natural Heritage and Endangered

May 11, 2006

Species Program in reviewing any project proposed in the habitat areas of the regulatory areas of the maps in the Natural Heritage Atlas.

Management and monitoring of conservation lands become important as acquisition and protection are accomplished. All wetlands particularly need to maintain their natural water regime, including normal fluctuations and connections with the uplands and other wetlands. Water quantity and quality are ongoing issues for wetlands. Another aspect of managing conservation lands that is important in many areas is controlling invasive non-native species that alter the habitat and occupy space that native species would otherwise use. We strongly recommend monitoring conservation land, and removing non-native species before they become a problem and impact native species.

Please note that this evaluation is based on the most recent information available in the Natural Heritage database, which is constantly being expanded and updated through ongoing research and inventory. Should new rare species information become available, this evaluation may need to be reconsidered.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (508) 792-7270 Ext. 160 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Patricia C. Swain, Ph.D.
Ecologist

cc: Melissa Cryan, EOE



Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE TOWN OF Athol

AS OF April 28, 2006

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Most recent Year</u>
VERTEBRATES			
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	- WL	1996
<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren	E	2001
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle	SC	1992
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	2005
<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Bridle Shiner	SC	1996
INVERTEBRATES			
<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Triangle Floater	SC	2004
<i>Enallagma laterale</i>	New England Bluet	SC	2003
<i>Gomphus abbreviatus</i>	Spine-crowned Clubtail	E	2004
<i>Gomphus borealis</i>	Beaverpond Clubtail	SC	2003
<i>Neurocordulia yamaskanensis</i>	Stygian Shadowdragon	SC	2004
<i>Ophiogomphus aspersus</i>	Brook Snaketail	SC	2003
<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	Creeper	SC	2004
<i>Stylurus scudderii</i>	Zebra Clubtail	E	2005
<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>	A Clubtail Dragonfly	T	2004
VASCULAR PLANTS			
<i>Carex tuckermanii</i>	Tuckerman's Sedge	E	1931
<i>Huperzia selago</i>	Mountain Firmoss	E	2003
<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	Threadfoot	SC	2005
<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>	Variable Pondweed	E	2002
<i>Viola adunca</i>	Sand Violet	E	1946
NATURAL COMMUNITIES			
Hickory - hop hornbeam forest/woodland	S2		2000
Low-energy riverbank	S4		2000
Northern hardwoods - hemlock - white pine forest	S5		2000
Spruce-fir boreal swamp	S3		2000
CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS			
6 Certified in Athol			
CERTIFIED VERNAL POOL			2000

This list does not include data sensitive species.

No date given means an old record with no date attached.

KEY TO STATUS - DFW RANK: E = Endangered. T = Threatened. SC = Special Concern. -WL = unofficial Watch List these species are not regulated under MESA. Natural communities are not regulated. The S-ranks for community types reflect general abundance on a 1-5 scale for the state, with S5 being demonstrably secure and S1 being very uncommon (generally <5 viable occurrences in the state).



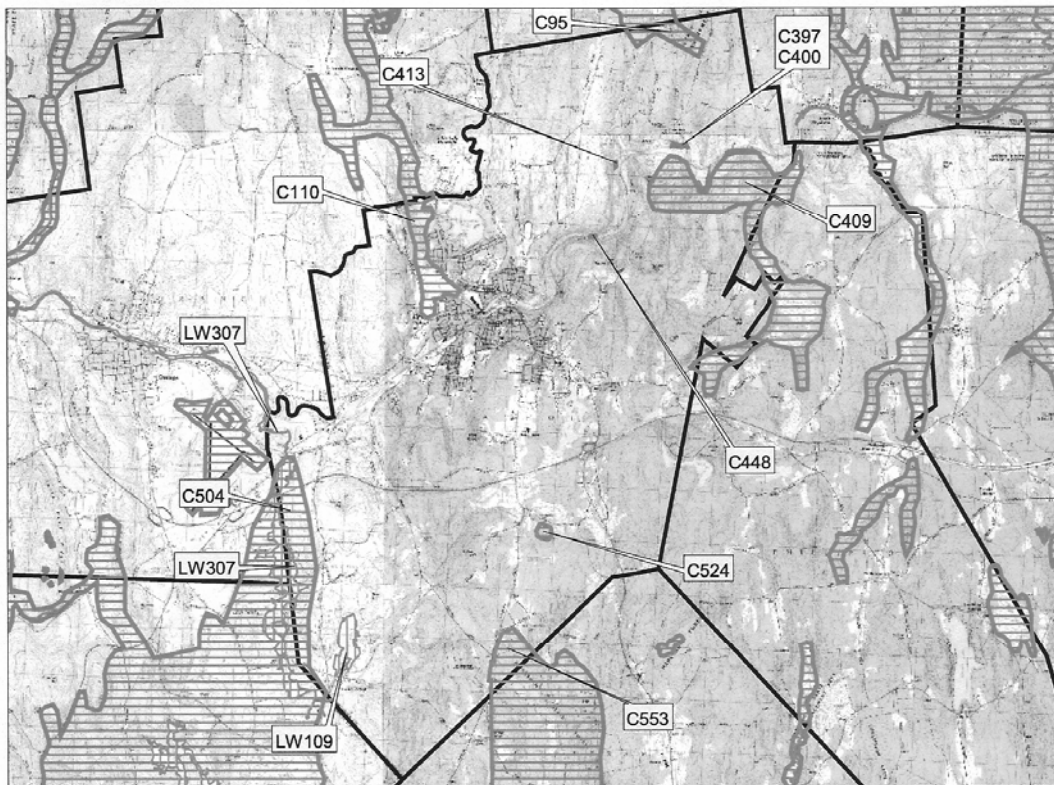
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Field Headquarters, Westborough, MA 01581 Tel: (508) 792-7270, ext 200 Fax: (508) 792-7821

An Agency of the Department of Fish & Game

<http://www.masswildlife.org>

BioMap and Living Waters: Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity



1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

-  Living Waters Core Habitat
-  BioMap Core Habitats
-  MA Town Boundaries



Data Sources:

Living Waters Habitat and Riparian Areas: Created by NHESP 2003.

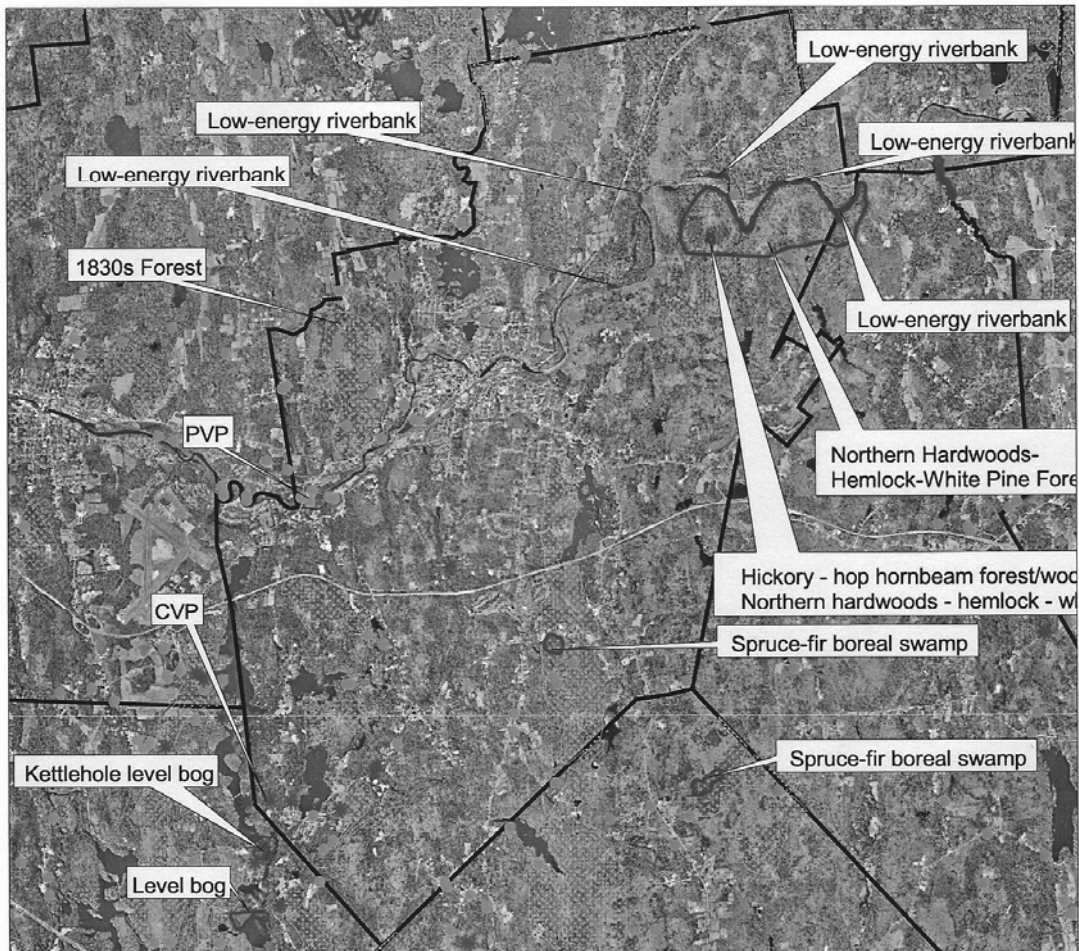
BioMap Core Habitat and SNL: Created by NHESP 2001.

MassGIS

Map printed May 11, 2006

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Natural Communities and Potential Vernal Pools



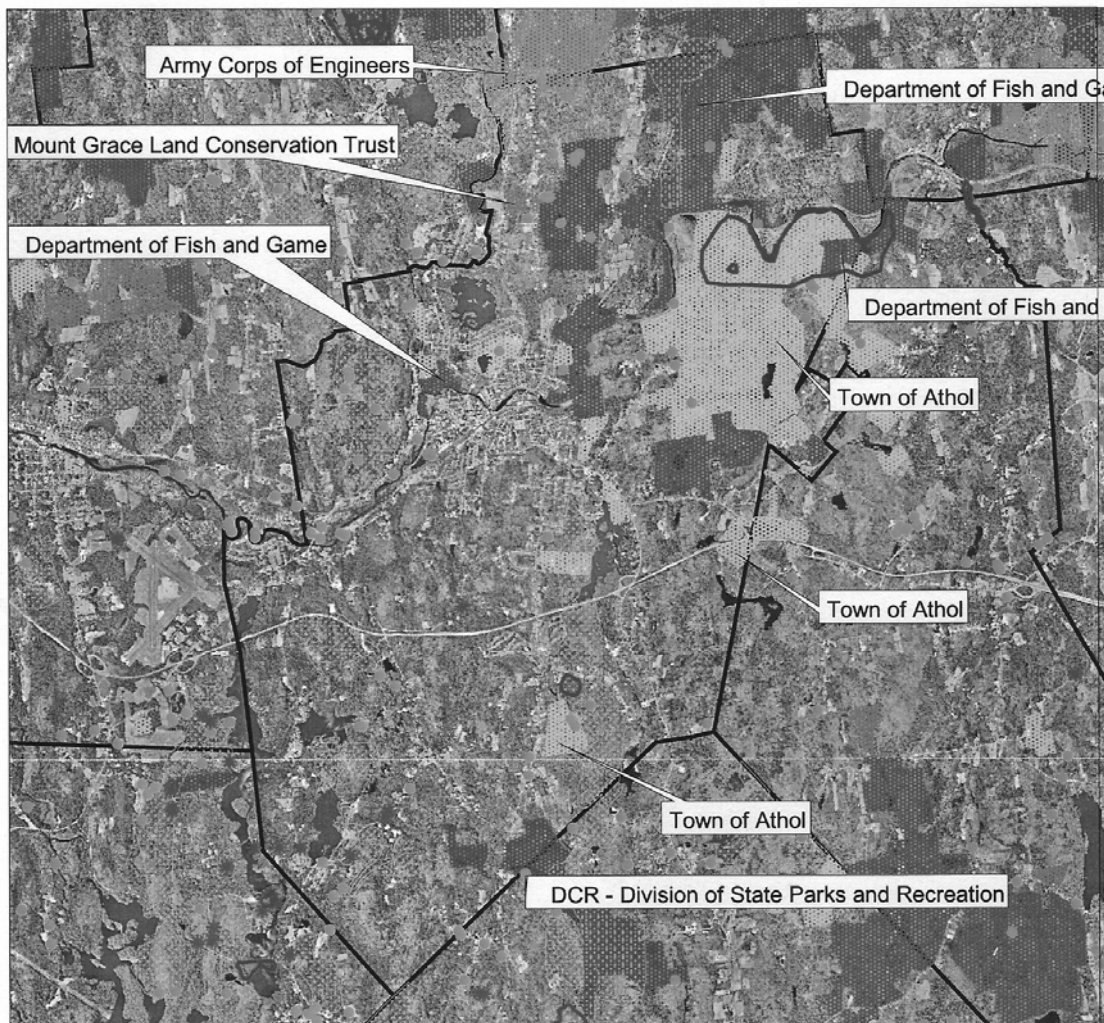
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

- NHESP Natural Communities 4-06
- * Certified vernal pools 4-2006
- Potential Vernal Pools, from aerial interpretation
- Forested 1830 and current
- MA Town Boundaries



Data Source: MassGIS and NHESP
May 10, 2006

Athol Open Space



- NHESP Natural Communities 4-06
- Certified vernal pools 4-2006
- Potential Vernal Pools, from aerial interpretation
- Forested 1830 and current
- OpenSpace by Ownership - Transparent**
- Federal
- DCR-State Parks & Recreation
- Department of Fish & Game
- Municipal
- Public Non-Profit
- Land Trust
- Conservation Organization
- MA Town Boundaries

1 0 1 2 Miles



Data from MassGIS and NHESP
Map printed May 11, 2006



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581
tel: (508) 792-7270, ext. 200; fax: (508) 792-7821
www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/nhesp

Description: This plant community is a coniferous swamp characterized by spruce and/or balsam fir as the dominant canopy trees. These swamps are typically found at stream headwaters or in poorly drained basins. Under the tree canopy, these swamps often have a patchy shrub component with mountain holly and other shrubs. The herbaceous layer is characterized by clumps of cinnamon fern with scattered bunchberry and three-seeded bog sedge. Sphagnum mosses tend to carpet the forest floor.

Environment: Boreal swamps occur in stream headwaters or in cold poorly drained areas, typically on acidic glacial till. They tend to be most common in the Berkshire Highlands and in north central portions of Massachusetts. Spruce-fir Boreal Swamps are most common at higher elevations and are often isolated from perennial streams. They typically have a small intermittent outlet channel and if there are any inlets they are usually not perennial. Organic muck or peat soils that are seasonally saturated in these swamps create acidic and nutrient poor conditions.

Characteristic Species: The tree canopy of these forested swamps is variable in cover and dominated by red spruce (*Picea rubens*) or balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) or a mixture of red or black spruce (*P. mariana*) and balsam fir. There are three noticeable variants of Massachusetts boreal swamps that are described below.

RED SPRUCE VARIANT: These forested swamps tend to occur in north central Massachusetts at elevations between 800-1100 feet. The tree canopy is typically closed and dominated by red spruce. Occasional associates in the canopy are white pine (*Pinus strobus*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), although these are much lower in abundance than spruce. The subcanopy is usually low in percent cover and may be comprised of one or more of the canopy species. The shrub component is often fairly sparse and grows primarily on the tops and sides of the hummocks. A diagnostic shrub of these swamps is mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*). Other associates that may be present include highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), wild raisin (*Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*), winterberry (*Ilex*

Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps

State Status: None
Federal Status: None

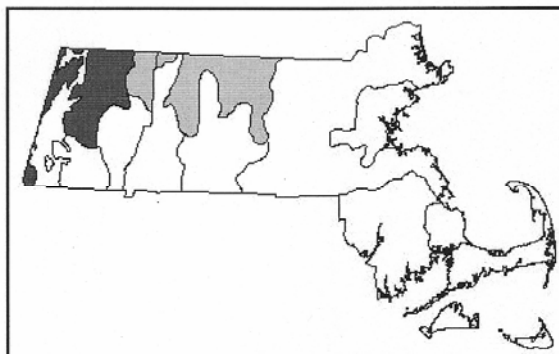


Illustration of spruce-fir swamp by Libby Davidson from *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont* by Elizabeth H. Thompson and Eric R. Sorenson. Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy. 2000.

verticillata), and an occasional azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.) or maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*). The herb layer is usually prominent and dominated by cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*). Other potential herbaceous associates are Massachusetts fern (*Thelypteris simulata*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispida*), and small amounts of three-seeded bog sedge (*Carex trisperma*). On the drier hummocks starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) may occur in small amounts. Saturated or flooded hollows between the hummocks are carpeted with mosses (primarily *Sphagnum* spp.) and are typical of Spruce-fir Boreal Swamps.

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for "endangered wildlife conservation" on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

Community Name: **SPRUCE - FIR BOREAL SWAMP**
 Community ELCODE: CP1A110000
 SRANK: S3



Concept: Forested wetlands of Berkshire Highlands and north-central Massachusetts dominated by red spruce and balsam fir.

Environmental setting: Spruce-fir swamps are typically found at stream headwaters or in poorly drained basins in the mountainous, northwestern part of the state. They develop in cold, poorly drained areas, typically on acidic glacial till. Elevation ranges from 1500-2000 ft. in the Berkshire Highlands [Weatherbee 1996]. Organic muck or peat soils are seasonally saturated. More work is needed to describe the physical setting and soil profiles of boreal swamps.

Vegetation Description: Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) are dominant in the overstory. Other canopy associates are white pine (*Pinus strobus*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Unlike spruce-tamarack forested bogs, spruce-fir boreal swamps have red spruce rather than black spruce co-dominant in the canopy, and they typically lack bog indicator species like Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) and bog laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*). The following three shrubs almost always occur in boreal swamps: mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), and wild raisin (*Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*). Other shrubs include American mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*), hobble-bush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), and mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*). Typical herbaceous species are northern awned sedge (*Carex gynandra*), New England sedge (*Carex novae-angliae*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia* ssp. *groenlandica*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), bluebead-lily (*Clintonia borealis*), one-sided pyrola (*Orthilia secunda*), bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*), lesser mitrewort (*Mitella nuda*), mountain wood-sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), and pale St. John's-wort (*Hypericum ellipticum*). The ground is often a carpet of mosses, including Sphagnum; more information is needed on the characteristic moss species. Richer variants of the community can occur in areas of calcareous groundwater seepage, but more information is needed.

Associations: Putnam(2001) described three variants: Red Spruce dominated, Mixed Canopy variant, and Balsam Fir variant.

Habitat values for Associated Fauna: Spruce-fir boreal swamps can function as vernal pool habitat if water remains standing for 2-3 months and they lack fish; these areas provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

Associated rare plants:

AMELANCHIER BARTRAMIANA	BARTRAM'S SHADBUSH	T
ARCEUTHOBium PUSILLUM	DWARF MISTLETOE	SC
LINNAEA BOREALIS	TWINFLOWER	- WL
RIBES TRISTE	SWAMP RED CURRANT	- WL

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

MIXED CANOPY VARIANT: These swamps are most commonly found in the hill towns west of the Connecticut River valley, within the Berkshire Highlands region of the state. The mixed canopy swamps tend to form headwaters for small streams and are located at the base of hillsides. There appears to be groundwater seepage influencing the floristic composition. These swamps usually have an open canopy with a diverse assemblage of trees and shrubs. The trees usually include black spruce (*Picea mariana*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red maple, (*Acer rubrum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) and occasionally black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). The subcanopy is often prominent and diverse, including many of the canopy species. Shrubs are often abundant in these swamps and include mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), wild raisin (*Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*), hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). Occasional poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.) or alders (*Alnus* spp.) occur as well. The herbaceous layer is low to moderate in cover and usually includes patches of cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) or royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*). Other herbaceous associates include blue-bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispida*) and three-seeded bog sedge (*Carex trisperma*). Sometimes other sedges are present as well. On the drier hummocks starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) are often found in small amounts. Saturated or flooded hollows occur between the hummocks that are usually carpeted with mosses (primarily *Sphagnum* spp.)

BALSAM FIR VARIANT: These swamps are often quite small and function as headwaters for small streams in the higher elevations close to the mountain tops. The open canopy is usually dominated by balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), although sometimes it is shared with lesser amounts of red spruce (*Picea rubens*) and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*). The subcanopy is usually comprised of smaller balsam fir trees with occasional red spruce and American mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*). Shrubs are not abundant and include mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*) and hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*). The herbaceous component is low in cover and is characterized by three-seeded bog sedge (*Carex trisperma*). Other associates include northern awned sedge (*Carex gynandra*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), and whorled wood-aster (*Aster acuminatus*). *Sphagnum* mosses carpet the ground.



Management Considerations: Logging, changes in hydrology, development, pollution, and exotic species are the greatest threats to Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps. Logging within these swamps or even in close proximity in the surrounding uplands may affect the hydrologic patterns, nutrient status, habitat integrity or species composition of these forested wetlands. Swamps that are adjacent to developed areas may be degraded by changes in hydrology, stormwater or wastewater discharges, elevated nutrient inputs, or exotic flora. Sedimentation from nearby logging or construction activities is a significant threat to the ecological integrity and composition of these swamps. In addition to human impacts, beavers (*Castor canadensis*) can cause significant flooding and subsequent changes in community type from forested wetland to open water, marsh or shrub swamp.

The use of undisturbed natural buffers around the best occurrences of Massachusetts Spruce-fir Boreal Swamps is encouraged. Natural wooded buffers reduce the potential for impacts to the swamps from surrounding changes in the environment and will help protect habitats for wildlife that are dependent upon these swamps for food, cover, breeding, or nesting sites.



Black Spruce

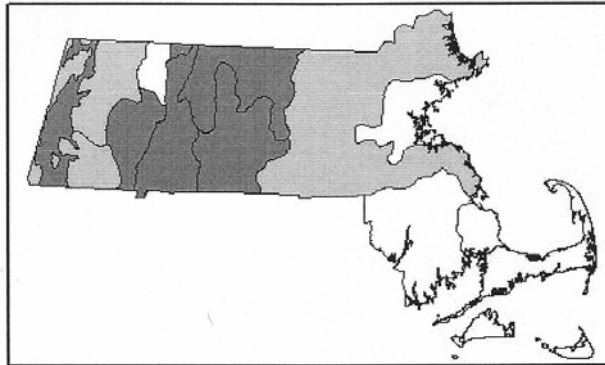
Illustration by C.E. Faxon from *Native and Naturalized Trees of Massachusetts*, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 1978.

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

Updated 2001

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Community Name: **HICKORY - HOP HORNBEAM FOREST / WOODLAND**
 Community Code: CT1B2B1000
 SRANK: S2



Concept: Mixed hardwood, open forests with a sparse shrub layer. A nearly continuous cover of graminoids includes a rich diversity of herbaceous flora.

Environmental Setting: Occurrences of the community are usually small (a few acres), on thin, well drained soils, generally in midslope on southern or eastern exposures below balds and rock outcrops on traprock ridges. The community occurs as pockets separated by oak forests growing on deeper, moister soils in erosion channels. There is great variation in environmental conditions among sites.

Vegetation Description: Hickory - hop hornbeam communities are fairly open forests dominated by a variable mixture of hardwoods, including sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Shagbark, pignut and Sweet pignut hickories (*Carya ovata*, *C. glabra*, and *C. ovalis*), and Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) as a regular and abundant subcanopy tree. The forest floor is characteristically covered by Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), other sedges (such as *C. pedunculata* and *C. laxiflora*), and grasses such as bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), Poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*) and the non-native Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), with scattered violets (*Viola triloba*), hepaticas (*Hepatica nobilis* var. *obtusata*), and several species of tick-trefoils (including *Desmodium glutinosum* and *D. paniculatum*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: These are small community occurrences, and tend to be part of the habitat of species using the surrounding forests. Species of dry sites are most likely to occur in the community occurrences.

Associated Rare Plants:

OXALIS VIOLACEA	VIOLET WOOD-SORREL	T
POA LANGUIDA	DROOPING SPEARGRASS	E
SPHENOPHOLIS NITIDA	SHINING WEDGEGRASS	T

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Joseph Skinner State Park, Hadley; Mount Holyoke Range State Park, Amherst; Mt. Toby, Sunderland; Wachusett Meadow WS (MAS), Princeton.

Threats:

Management Needs:

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Carya (glabra, ovata)- Fraxinus americana- Quercus (alba, rubra) Forest Alliance -- Carya (glabra, ovata)- Ostrya virginiana/ Carex pensylvanica Forest [CEGL006301].

MA (old name): SNE DRY RICH FOREST - Hickory - hop hornbeam forest variant.

ME: Not described.

NH: Related to : Dry Appalachian oak- hickory- forest, Rich Appalachian oak- hickory talus forest Woodlands; and Dry red oak-ironwood/sedge variant of Dry acidic oak-(hickory)-pine types.

VT: Within: Dry oak- hickory-hop-hornbeam.

NY: Within: Appalachian oak-hickory forest.

CT: Similar to: Carya glabra- Fraxinus americana/ Carex pensylvanica Community.

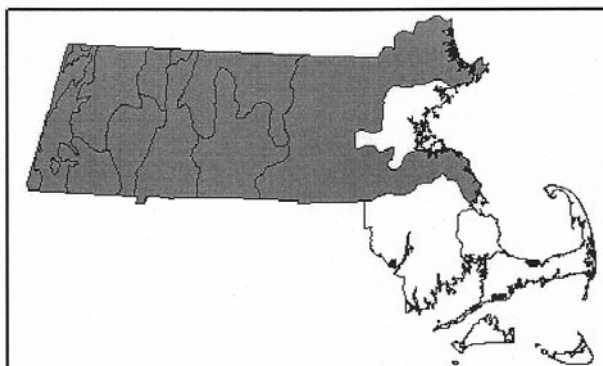
RI: Within Oak - Hickory Forest.

Weatherbee: An association within Dry Calcareous Oak / Conifer Forest Community

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 8/10/99

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Community Name: **NORTHERN HARDWOODS - HEMLOCK - WHITE PINE FOREST**
Community Code: CT1C000000
SRANK: S5

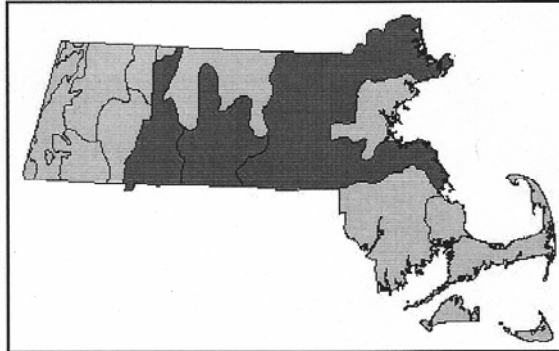


- Concept:** Closed canopy forest dominated by a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, with sparse shrub and herbaceous layers.
- Environmental Setting:** Widespread in dry to mesic, moderately acidic conditions with moderate levels of nutrients. North facing slopes and ravines, and northern areas.
- Vegetation Description:** The community type ranges from Hemlock in pure stands to a deciduous forest with scattered hemlocks. There are variable combinations of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) occur on southeast facing slopes. There are often scattered paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The shrub layer is usually open, but, often containing scattered clumps of hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), red-berried elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* ssp. *pubens*), fly-honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*), and striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*). The herbaceous layer is sparse, but fairly diverse, with intermediate woodfern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), clubmosses (*Lycopodium* spp.), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), white wood aster (*Aster divaricatus*), and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*). Occasional spring herbaceous species include painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), early yellow violet (*Viola rotundifolia*), broad-leaved spring beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*), and trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*).
- Associations:**
- Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Many animal species use parts of this type of forest, but geographical variation, structure, size, and local conditions will affect which actual species are present. Many species of neo-tropical migrant songbirds nest in large numbers in larger occurrences, including a variety of warblers. Blackburnian warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) are particularly closely associated with hemlock stands. Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), and Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) are also to be expected. Mammals include red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*), redbacked vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), masked and smoky shrews (*Sorex cinereus* and *S. fumeus*), and white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*). At elevation, deer mouse (*P. maniculatus*) and woodland jumping mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*) also occur in the forest type. Amphibians include redbacked salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) and wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*); and expected reptiles include redbelly snakes (*Storeria o. occipitomaculata*).

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Community Name: **LOW-ENERGY RIVERBANK**
Community ELCODE: CP2A0B2300
SRANK: S4



- Concept:** Open herbaceous/graminoid communities occurring on sandy or silty mineral soils of river and streambanks that do not experience severe flooding or ice scour.
- Environmental setting:** Low-energy rivers are smaller, low-gradient rivers that do not experience severe flooding. The riverbanks are generally sandy or silty. They lack the cobble substrate of high-energy areas and the muddy soils of open mud flats. These communities occur on mineral soil rather than the peaty or mucky soil that characterizes alluvial marshes and wet meadows. More information is needed.
- Vegetation Description:** The species composition is variable but the structure is always an open mixture of herbaceous and graminoid species with occasional scattered shrubs and trees at the inland margin. Common species are reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which can be dominant, cocksbur-grass (*Echinochloa muricata*), fall panic-grass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*), rice cut-grass (*Leersia oryzoides*), Canada bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis* var. *canadensis*), St. John's-wort (*Hypericum* spp.), smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and various goldenrod species (*Solidago* spp.). Species typical of disturbed areas, such as cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*) are common in both high and low-energy riverbank communities. Low-energy riverbanks are more sparsely vegetated than marshes and wet meadows.
- Associations:** No associations have been described in Massachusetts.
- Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** Can provide turtle nesting habitat, and can be used by riverine odonates
- Associated rare plants:**
NONE KNOWN
- Associated rare animals:**
- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----|
| CLEMMYS INSCULPTA | WOOD TURTLE | SC |
| GOMPHUS FRATERNUS | MIDLAND CLUBTAIL | E |
| GOMPHUS VASTUS | COBRA CLUBTAIL | SC |
| GOMPHUS VENTRICOSUS | SKILLET CLUBTAIL | SC |
| NEUROCORDULIA OBSOLETA | UMBER SHADOWDRAGON | SC |
| OPHIOGOMPHUS ASPERSUS | BROOK SNAKETAIL | SC |
| OPHIOGOMPHUS CAROLUS | RIFFLE SNAKETAIL | T |
| SOMATOCHLORA CINGULATA | LAKE EMERALD | SC |

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

SOMATOCHLORA ELONGATA	SKI-TAILED EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA	COPPERY EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI	KENNEDY'S EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA LINEARIS	MOCHA EMERALD	SC
STYLURUS AMNICOLA	RIVERINE CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SCUDDERI	ZEBRA CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SPINICEPS	A CLUBTAIL DRAGONFLY	T

Examples with Public Access: Banks of the Nashua River in Ft. Devens.

Threats: Invasion by non-native plant species is the greatest threat to the community.

Management needs: Non-native plant species removal.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Includes Calamagrostis canadensis – Phalaris arundinacea Herbaceous Alliance [CEGL005174], and Phalaris arundinacea Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation. [CEGL006335].

MA [old name]: SNE low-energy riverbank community [CT1E2B1000].

ME: Includes 2001 – Bluejoint Meadow.

VT: Similar to Rivershore grassland.

NH: Similar to Riverside meadow community.

NY: Not described.

CT: ?

RI: Not described.

Golet & Larson, 1974:

Other:

Author: J. Kearsley

Date: 7/21/99

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Associated rare animals:

PIERIS NAPI OLERACEA

MUSTARD WHITE

SC

Examples with

Peru WMA, Peru: Hinsdale WMA, Hinsdale; Ashburnham State Forest, Ashburnham.

Public Access:

Sandisfield State Forest, Sandisfield.

Threats:

Changes in hydrology and nutrient status, logging, development, and exotic species are the greatest threats to Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps.

Management needs:

Removal of exotic invasives where they are established. The use of undisturbed natural buffers around the best occurrences of the community reduces the potential for impacts from changes in the surrounding environment.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC:

Picea mariana/*Kalmia angustifolia*/Sphagnum spp. Forest [CEGL006168]; *Picea rubens*-*Abies balsamea*/*Gaultheria hispidula*/Sphagnum spp. spruce swamp of northern Appalachians [CEGL006312]; *Picea rubens*-*Abies balsamea*/Sphagnum magellanicum forest [CEGL006311]; calcareous variants correspond to *Fraxinus nigra*-*Acer rubrum*/*Nemopanthus mucronatus*-*Vaccinium corymbosum* forest [CEGL006220].

MA [old name]:

NNE Acidic Seepage Swamp [CP3B2B0000].

ME:

Spruce-fir swamp community.

VT:

Spruce-fir-tamarack swamp.

NH:

Coniferous basin swamp.

NY:

Spruce-fir swamp.

CT:

Picea rubens/*Nemopanthus mucronatus* community.

RI:

Not described.

Golet & Larson, 1974:

Evergreen wooded swamp [WS-2].

Other:

Acidic conifer swamp community [Weatherbee 1996].

Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamp. [Putnam 2001].

Author:

J. Kearsley
P. Swain edits 6/22/04

Date:

7/21/99

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Associated Rare Plants:

SOLIDAGO GLUTINOSA SSP RANDII RAND'S GOLDENROD E

Associated Rare Animals:

SOREX PALUSTRIS WATER SHREW SC

Examples with Public Access: Mohawk Trail S.F., Charlemont; Jug End WMA, Egremont; Holyoke Range State Park, Amherst; Carlisle State Forest, Carlisle; Mt. Toby, Sunderland.

Threats: Exotics do well in the community. 1999- Hemlock hosts the non-native Woolly Adelgid, which usually kills a hemlock tree after it is fully infested.

Management Needs: Exotic control.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis -(Fagus grandifolia) Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis - Fagus grandifolia /Viburnum lantanoides Forest [CEGL006252]; Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Forest Alliance --Tsuga canadensis - Fagus grandifolia Forest [CEGL006088]; and Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Lower New England, Northern Piedmont Forest [CEGL006109]; Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis Forest Alliance -- Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis Lower New England, Northern Piedmont Forest [CEGL006328].

MA (old name): Part of: CNE MESIC CONIFER [Transition] FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK/TILL and CNE DRY TRANSITIONAL FOREST ON SANDY / GRAVELLY SOILS [CT2E1B0000].

ME: Mixed hardwood - conifer forest; Hemlock slope community.

NH: Part of: Hemlock - beech -oak- pine forest; AND Semi - rich mesic sugar maple - beech forest; Includes: Hemlock forest; 1994 - Beech forest, Beech - Birch - Maple forest, and Semi - rich Mesic Forest.

VT: Mesic northern Hardwood forest [Beech - Birch - Maple forest] AND White Pine - Northern Hardwood forest; Part of Hemlock forest.

NY: Hemlock - northern hardwood forest AND Pine - northern hardwood forest.

CT: Acer saccharum - Fagus grandifolia - Betula alleghaniensis forests -- Acer saccharum - Fagus grandifolia/ Viburnum alnifolia community AND Acer saccharum - Fagus grandifolia / Dryopteris intermedia community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana - Tilia americana forests - Acer saccharum Fraxinus / Asarum canadensis community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana / Osmunda claytoniana community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana / Dryopteris noveboracensis community; AND part of Tsuga canadensis Forests.

RI: Hemlock - Hardwood Forest.

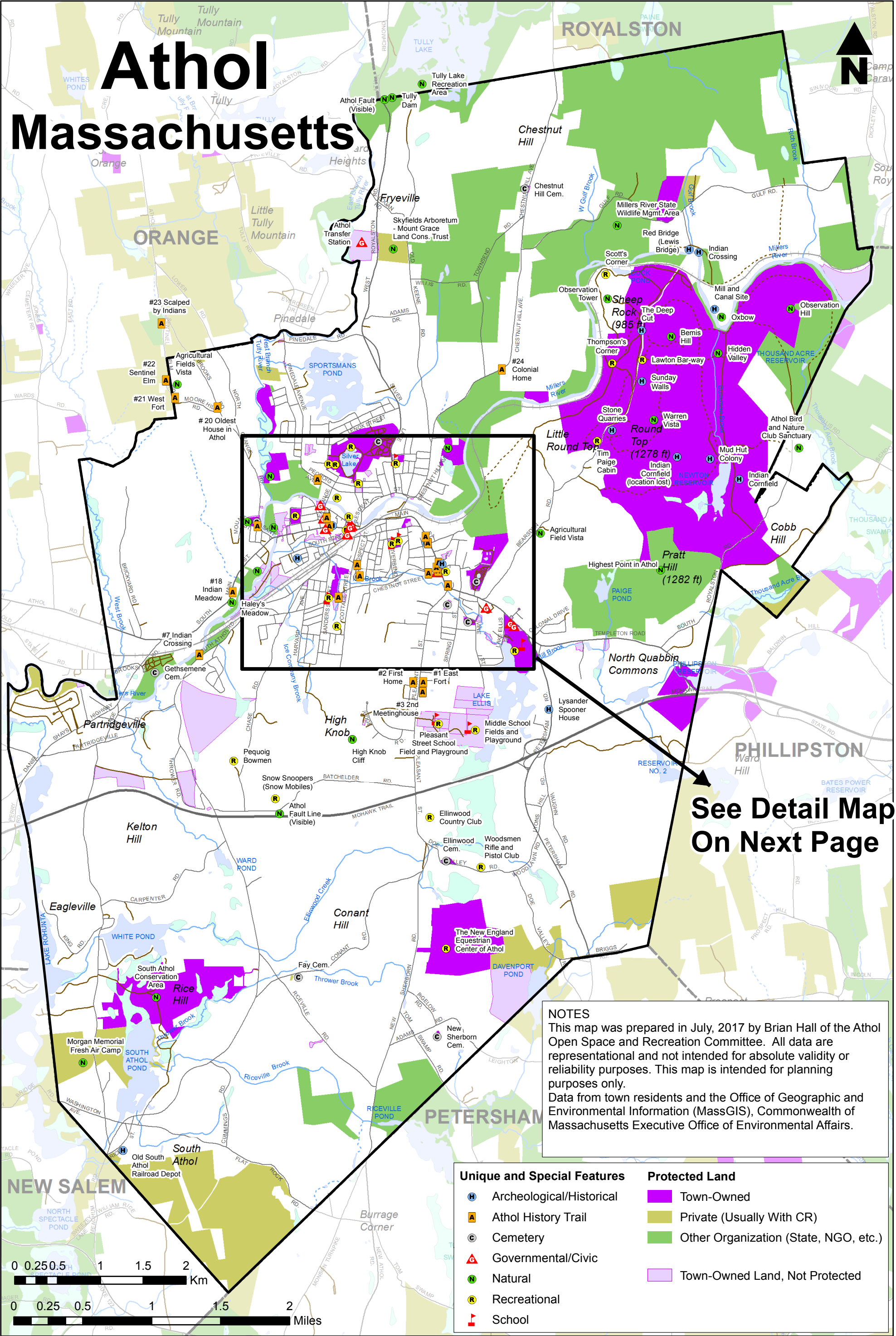
Weatherbee: Mesic Northern Hardwood Forest Community.

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 8/27/99

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

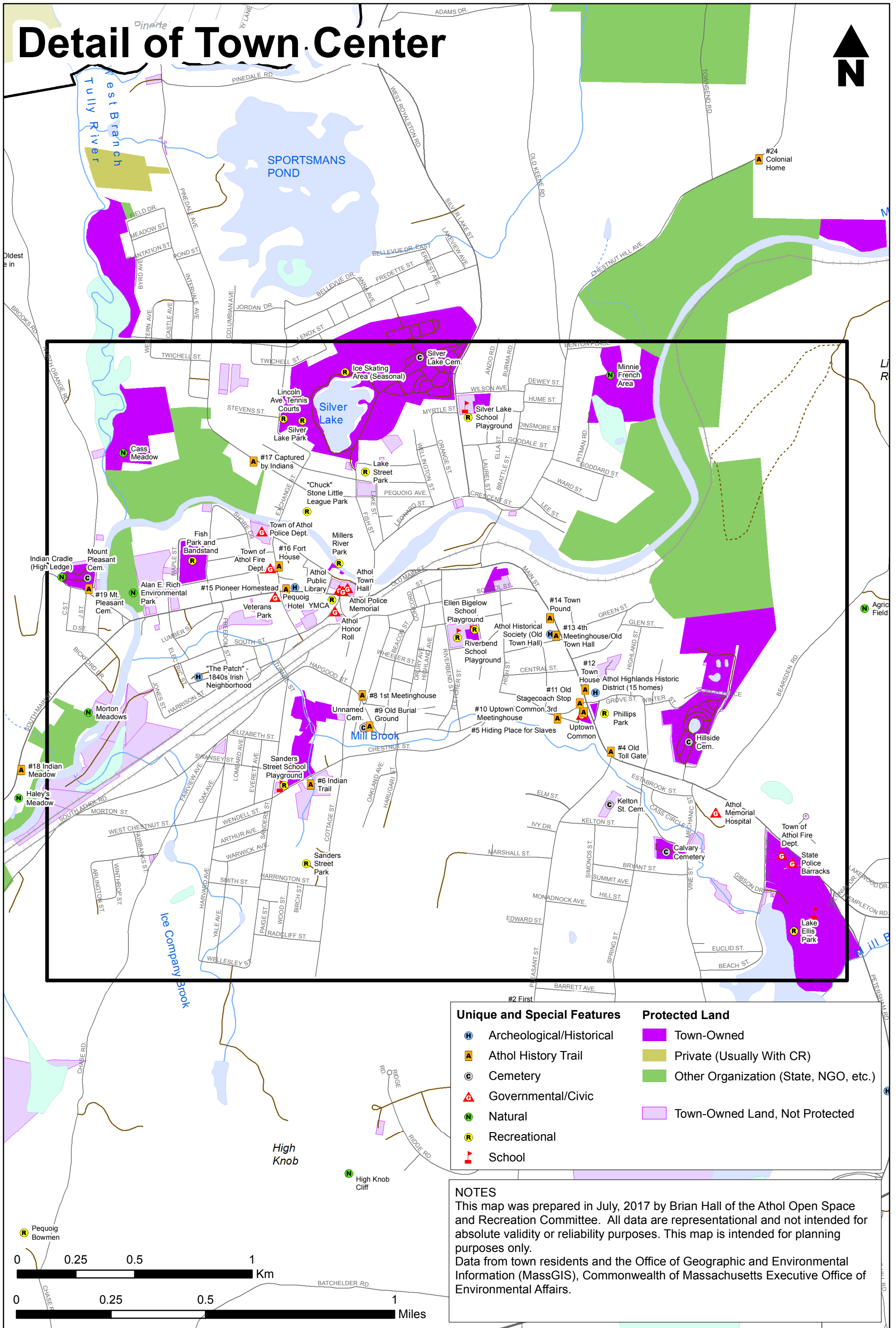
Unique and Special Landscape Features

Athol Massachusetts

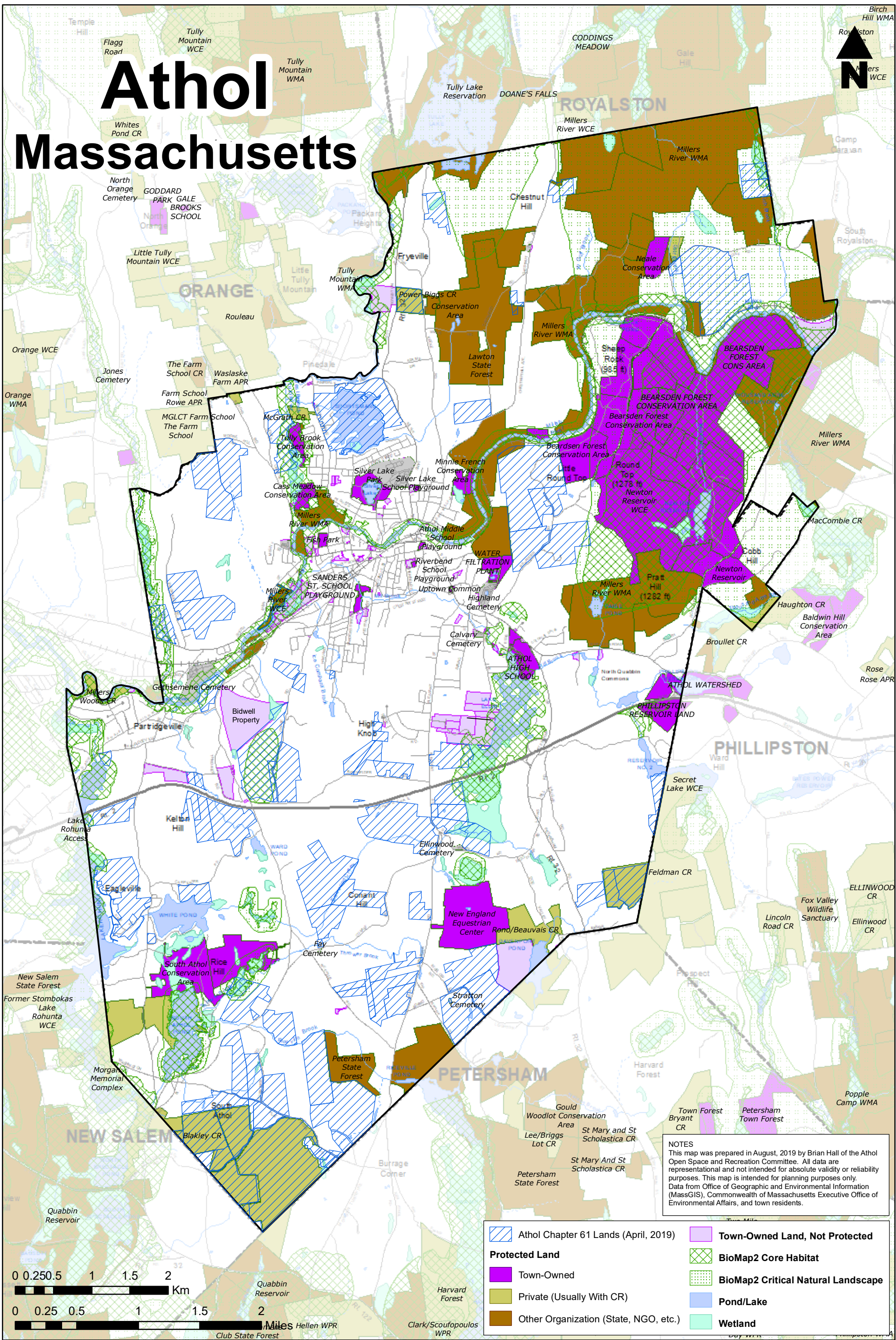


Unique and Special Landscape Features

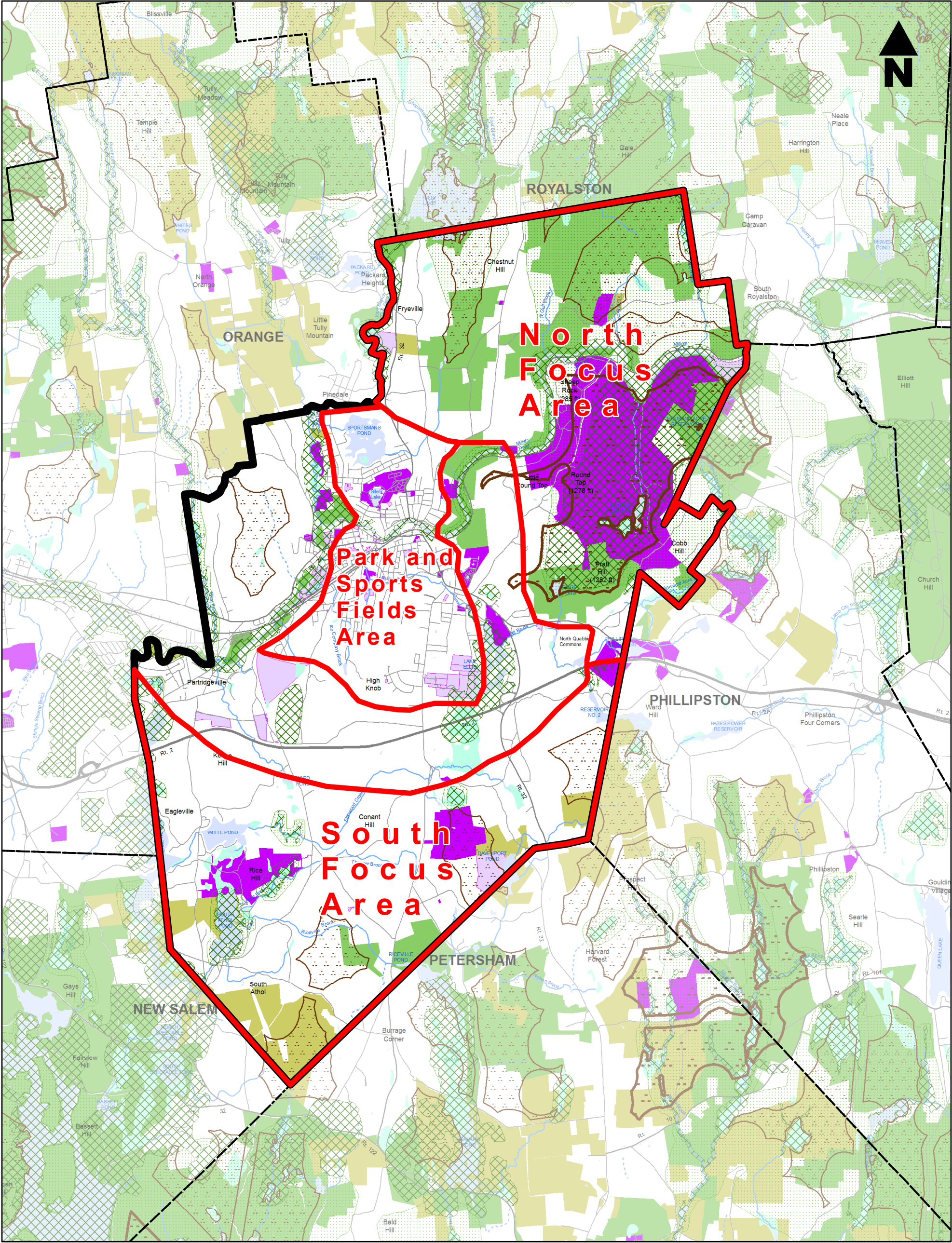
Detail of Town Center



Open Space and Protected Lands



Athol Open Space Action Plan



BioMap2 Core Habitat
 BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

Interior Forest Block (Largest 1% Statewide)
 Interior Forest Block (Largest 10% Statewide)

Protected Land

- Town-Owned
- Private (Usually With CR)
- Other Organization (State, NGO, etc.)
- Town-Owned Land, Not Protected

0 0.5 1 2 Km

0 0.5 1 Mile

NOTES - This map was prepared in July, 2017 by the Athol Open Space and Recreation Committee. All data are representational and not intended for absolute validity or reliability purposes. This map is intended for planning purposes only. Data from Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Interior forest block data is from DFG and NHESP.



TOWN OF ATHOL

OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

584 MAIN STREET ** ROOM 29
ATHOL, MA 01331

Telephone: 978 575 0301

Fax: 978 575 0323

e-mail: planning@townofathol.org

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 10, 2019

Ms. Cryan,

The Athol Office of Planning and Development is pleased to write this letter of review for the Athol Open Space and Recreation Plan Update which will be submitted to you. The plan not only addresses all the issues required by the Commonwealth, but the writers did an excellent job soliciting feedback from the citizens so that it reflects their true needs. While many of the objectives will be challenging to complete in the next 5-7 years, I know the Open Space and Recreation Committee is determined to stay active after the plan is accepted and I am already meeting with them, town department heads, and interested citizens to enact some of the goals related to our most popular park, Silver Lake Park.

This plan is well conceived and I am excited to help the Committee in making Athol a better place for people and nature. If you have any questions and/or comments to share as you review the Athol Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via phone at (978) 575-0301 or email at planning@townofathol.org.

Sincerely,

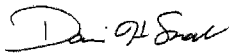
Eric R. Smith, AICP
Director of Planning and Development

Melissa Cryan
DCS
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 7, 2019

Dear Ms. Cryan,

I am writing this letter of review for the town's new Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Town of Athol is experiencing growing economic development and opportunities which we seek to continue over the next several years. Often there is a tension between economic growth and the protection of natural areas for wildlife, clean air and water, and recreation, however, we feel that this plan does an excellent job in providing outdoor opportunities across most of the town and acknowledging that development needs to occur in appropriate places. I am also excited by the prospect of considering outdoor recreation and walkable cities that the plan encourages in our newer commercial developments.



Dave Small (Chair)
Board of Planning and Community Development
584 Main Street
Athol, MA
01331

TOWN OF ATHOL



Board of Selectmen

Rebecca J. Bialecki, *Chairman*
Holly A. Young, *Vice Chairman*
Lee E. Chauvette
Stephen R. Raymond
William B. Chiasson

Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
Email: ssuhoski@townofathol.org

Bridget A. Sullivan, *Administrative Asst.*
Email: selectmen@townofathol.org

October 15, 2019

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Resources
100 Cambridge St., 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Athol – Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Dear Ms. Cryan:


Please accept this correspondence as evidence of the support of the Board of Selectmen for the outstanding effort undertaken by the Open Space and Recreation Committee to develop Athol's Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

The Committee's survey and outreach activities identified many observations about the Town's parks and the recreational desires of our citizens. The Committee and members of our Dept. of Public Works have created a well-conceived plan of action to address areas of concern with a general time schedule, potential funding opportunities, staffing needs and ways of sustaining progress into the future.

The Board looks forward to working with the Open Space and Recreation Committee, Director of Planning and Development, DPW Cemetery, Park and Tree Division, Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, and the Town's citizens to make the plan's goals a reality.

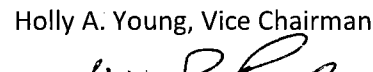
Sincerely,


ATHOL BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Rebecca J. Bialecki, Chairman


Lee E. Chauvette


William B. Chiasson


Holly A. Young, Vice Chairman


Stephen R. Raymond

cc: Open Space and Recreation Committee



January 10, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA
02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) staff completed a review of Athol's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OS&RP). Staff used the "Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements" written by your division at EOEEA to determine if the local planning document contained the required sections and meets requirements. Athol's plan is thorough and consists of all required sections. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all local residents and officials for putting this important document together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Hume". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Hume
Planning and Development Director



TOWN OF ATHOL

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

584 MAIN STREET
Suite 7
Athol Memorial Building
Athol, MA 01331

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

January 13, 2020

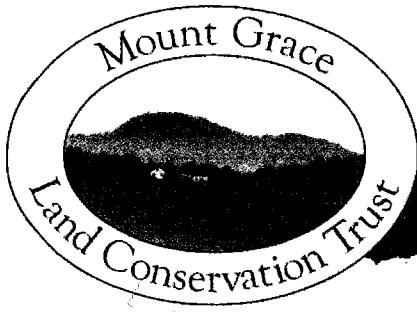
Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Athol Conservation Commission is pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update recently completed by our Open Space and Recreation Committee.

The committee did an excellent job getting the town's citizens' opinions and integrating those opinions into this plan's goals, objectives, and action plan. The goals address the town's natural areas which are the purview of the Conservation Commission and the town's park infrastructure which are under the Department of Public Works. The goals for natural lands do a good job in protecting our existing natural areas by seeking to enlarge and connect them, and to get more public support by making more people aware of the many opportunities that we have for outdoor recreation.

I thank the committee and congratulate them on a job well done,

Robert Muzzy
Chairman
Athol Conservation Commission
584 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331



1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331-9734

Phone: (978)248-2043 Fax: (978)248-2053

landtrust@mountgrace.org

www.mountgrace.org

Protecting land and encouraging land stewardship in North Central Massachusetts

Melissa Cryan
Division Conservation Services
100 Cambridge St, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

September 23, 2019

Dear Melissa,

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust enthusiastically supports Athol's newly completed 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. We feel that the authors of the report have done a great job in identifying areas to protect in order to preserve the town's best natural assets, including the town's rural character, clean waters, and connected wildlife habitat. We are happy to see that the "Northern Focus Area" correlates well with a biodiversity hotspot identified in a strategic biodiversity conservation analysis conducted by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership a few years ago. The plan's emphasis on improving parks in the downtown area is also well-aligned with with our own increasing interest in community conservation to address the needs of local communities, especially for those areas that are perhaps underserved by many past land protection activities. We thrilled to support our local partners in Athol.

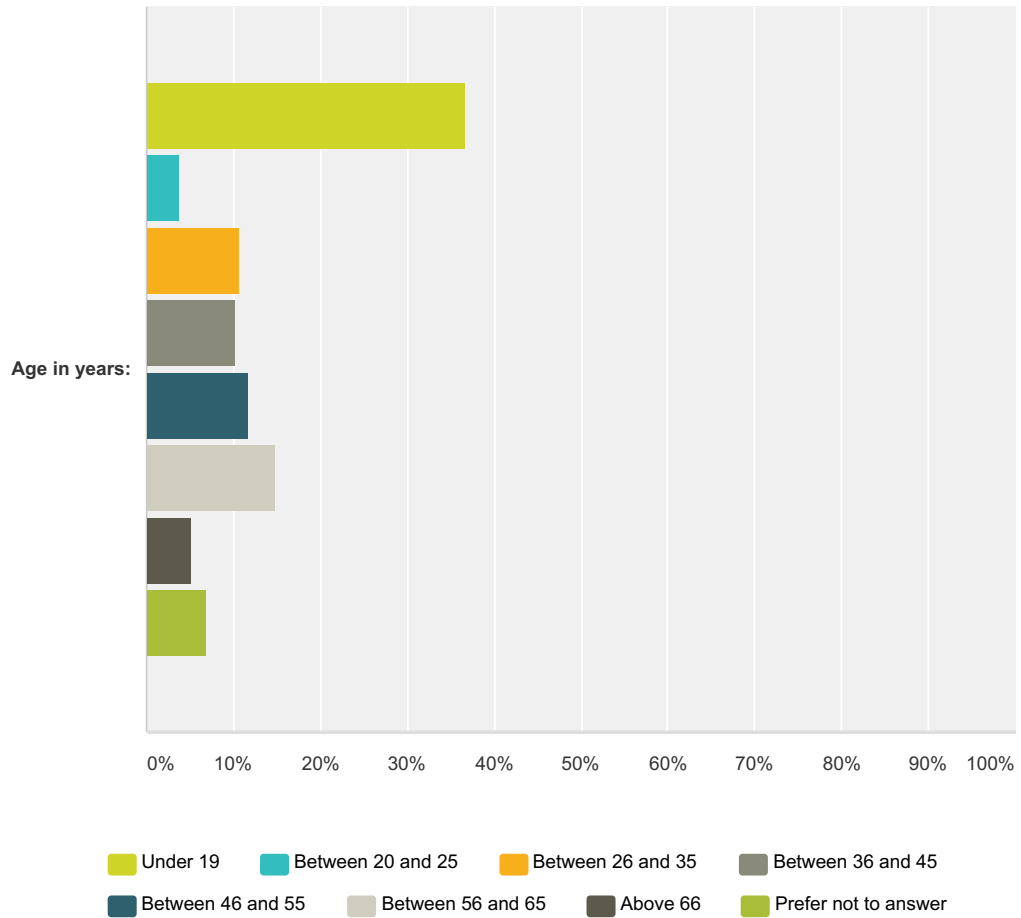
Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Wells".

Sarah Wells
Conservation Director

Q1 What is your age?

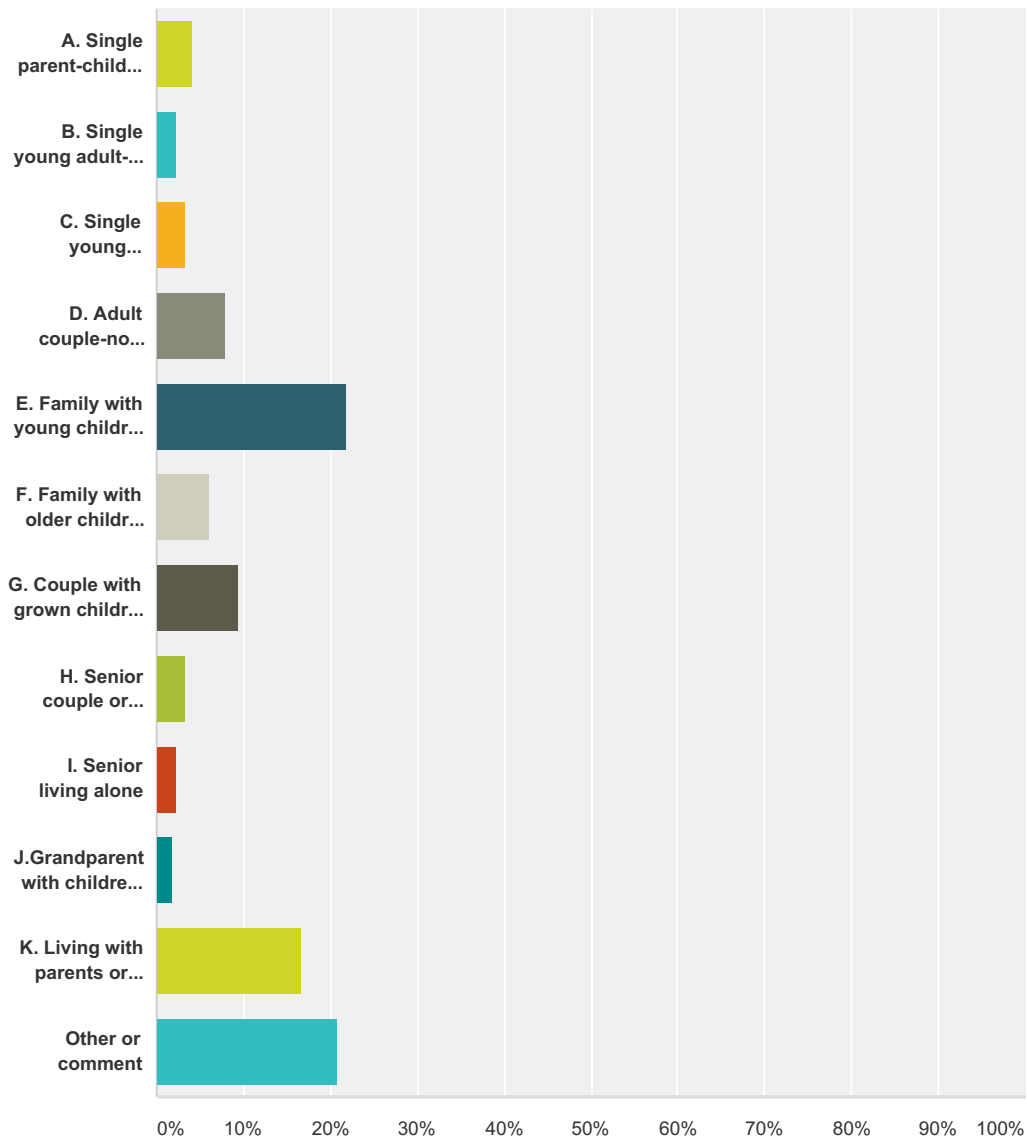
Answered: 215 Skipped: 1



	Under 19	Between 20 and 25	Between 26 and 35	Between 36 and 45	Between 46 and 55	Between 56 and 65	Above 66	Prefer not to answer	Total
Age in years:	36.74% 79	3.72% 8	10.70% 23	10.23% 22	11.63% 25	14.88% 32	5.12% 11	6.98% 15	215

Q2 Which of the following best describes you current living situation?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
A. Single parent-children at home	4.19%	9
B. Single young adult- living alone	2.33%	5
C. Single young adult-shared quarters	3.26%	7
D. Adult couple-no children	7.91%	17
E. Family with young children (<18) at home	21.86%	47
F. Family with older children (>18) at home	6.05%	13
G. Couple with grown children not at home	9.30%	20

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

H. Senior couple or family	3.26%	7
I. Senior living alone	2.33%	5
J. Grandparent with children and/or grandchildren living at home	1.86%	4
K. Living with parents or grandparents	16.74%	36
Other or comment	20.93%	45
Total		215

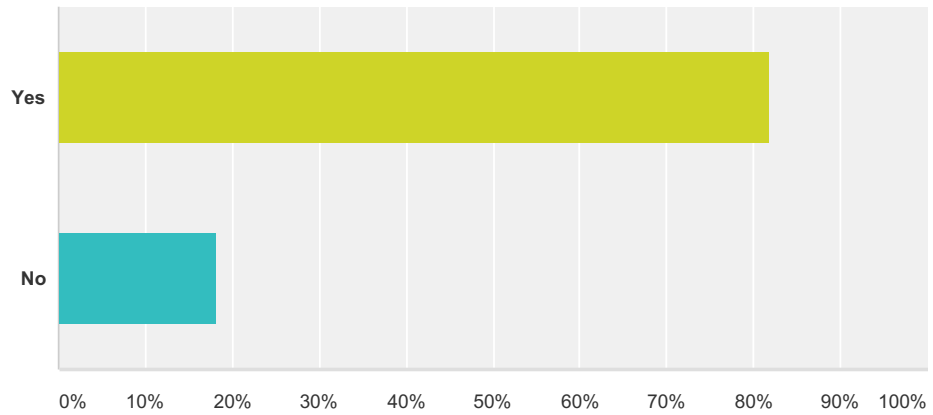
#	Other or comment	Date
1	child lives with parents	5/7/2017 7:05 PM
2	Child living with parents	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
3	blank	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
4	no children	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
5	adult living alone	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
6	I live in a house with my parents my sister who is younger than 18 and I am under 18 also	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
7	living with mother and her roommate in a condo	4/27/2017 1:28 PM
8	Middle school	4/27/2017 1:28 PM
9	Middle school	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
10	I am a child with two parents living together and 3 other siblings that are all with the same two people.	4/27/2017 1:25 PM
11	I am a child living with two parents living together.	4/27/2017 1:25 PM
12	I live with my parents with a sister under 18 I am under 18 also but my brother is over 18	4/27/2017 1:24 PM
13	live with mom in apartment	4/27/2017 1:21 PM
14	i live with my dad and stepmom	4/27/2017 12:34 PM
15	live with mother and siblings	4/27/2017 12:33 PM
16	living at home with a mom and dad with a brother and sister.	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
17	I AM A CHILD	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
18	have a bother and two partins	4/27/2017 12:30 PM
19	child (13) living with my mum and dad	4/27/2017 12:29 PM
20	a child living with my parents	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
21	live with grandparents, my aunt, my mom and my cousins	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
22	1 parent and 1 brother	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
23	i live with my mother and father with 3 younger brother	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
24	living with mom and dad	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
25	family of 7 children 2 adolts	4/27/2017 9:56 AM
26	13 year old girl that lives in Athol /orange area mainly orange .	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
27	i live with my mom and she is a single mom with 5 kids,two above 19	4/27/2017 9:49 AM
28	I have a little four year old sister, a dog, and I live with my mom and step dad. I call him dad because I've lived with him almost my whole life	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
29	13 year old. with a dad and a step-mom. Has 2 siblings. (Girl- 7 months old. Boy- 5 years old)	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
30	I live with my wife and two children their wives and their sisters and my grandson and his child in a mansion thats painted gold but is 900 years old	4/27/2017 8:16 AM
31	a child living withparent	4/27/2017 8:13 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

32	a child living with parents	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
33	living with mom and dad	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
34	A child living with parent	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
35	I'm young and taken	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
36	adult couple with one child over 18 & one under 5	4/26/2017 9:07 AM
37	Single adult living alone	4/26/2017 7:02 AM
38	Single middle age woman living in some one else's home.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
39	Man and wife, homeowners, no children.	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
40	Senior living with adult daughter	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
41	Adult living alone, not young, but not senior yet.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
42	Often have visiting young children	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
43	I'm not a senior and I'm not young, how about just Single Adult!	2/7/2017 2:46 PM
44	single never married... no kids	2/1/2017 8:11 PM
45	Brian Hall's completed survey	1/31/2017 8:56 AM

Q3 Are you currently a resident of Athol?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 2

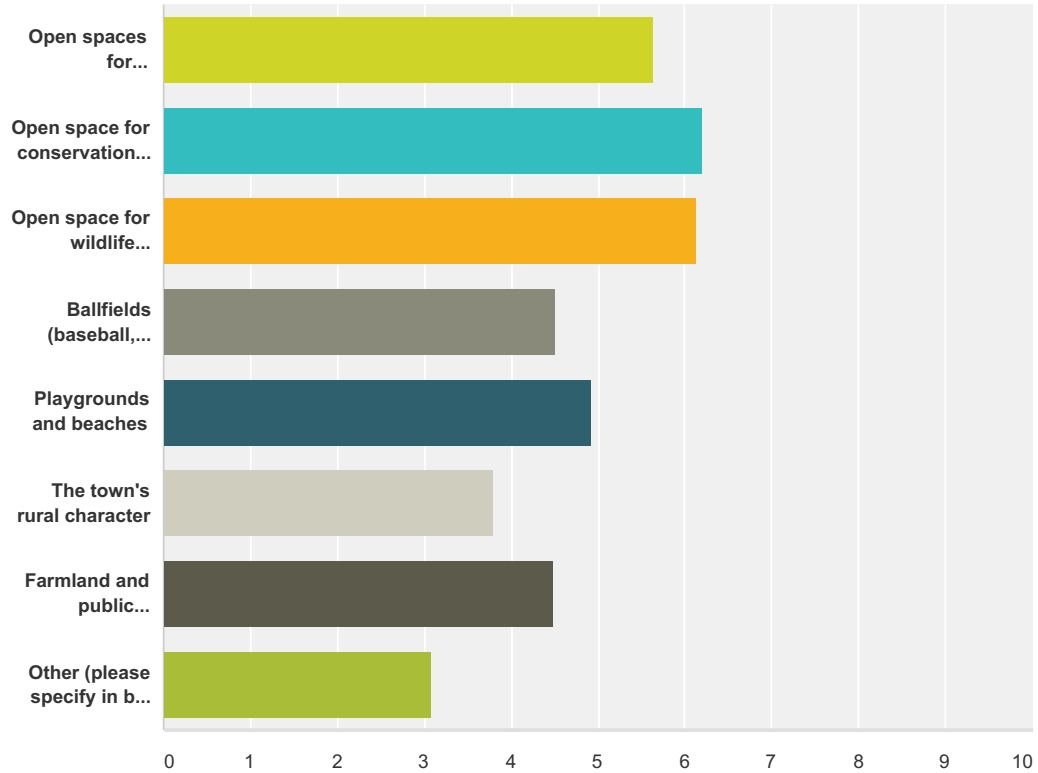


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	81.78%	175
No	18.22%	39
Total		214

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Q4 Please rank how important it is for Athol to preserve or protect (with 1 being most important and 8 being the least):

Answered: 208 Skipped: 8



	1 - Most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 - Least important	Total	Weighted Average
Open spaces for recreational purposes	17.54% 30	14.62% 25	27.49% 47	18.71% 32	7.02% 12	7.02% 12	5.26% 9	2.34% 4	171	5.63
Open space for conservation & water supply needs	31.48% 51	24.07% 39	12.35% 20	12.96% 21	9.26% 15	3.70% 6	5.56% 9	0.62% 1	162	6.19
Open space for wildlife habitat	25.15% 42	28.14% 47	15.57% 26	11.38% 19	11.38% 19	4.79% 8	2.40% 4	1.20% 2	167	6.14
Ballfields (baseball, soccer, football, tennis, basketball)	11.95% 19	9.43% 15	10.69% 17	19.50% 31	13.21% 21	11.32% 18	15.72% 25	8.18% 13	159	4.50
Playgrounds and beaches	14.12% 24	10.59% 18	13.53% 23	15.29% 26	21.18% 36	17.06% 29	4.12% 7	4.12% 7	170	4.93
The town's rural character	4.32% 7	6.79% 11	9.88% 16	9.26% 15	17.28% 28	26.54% 43	19.14% 31	6.79% 11	162	3.81
Farmland and public gardening areas	7.51% 13	11.56% 20	16.18% 28	14.45% 25	13.29% 23	14.45% 25	18.50% 32	4.05% 7	173	4.48
Other (please specify in box below)	18.99% 15	3.80% 3	2.53% 2	1.27% 1	3.80% 3	7.59% 6	10.13% 8	51.90% 41	79	3.10

#	Other or Comment	Date
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Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

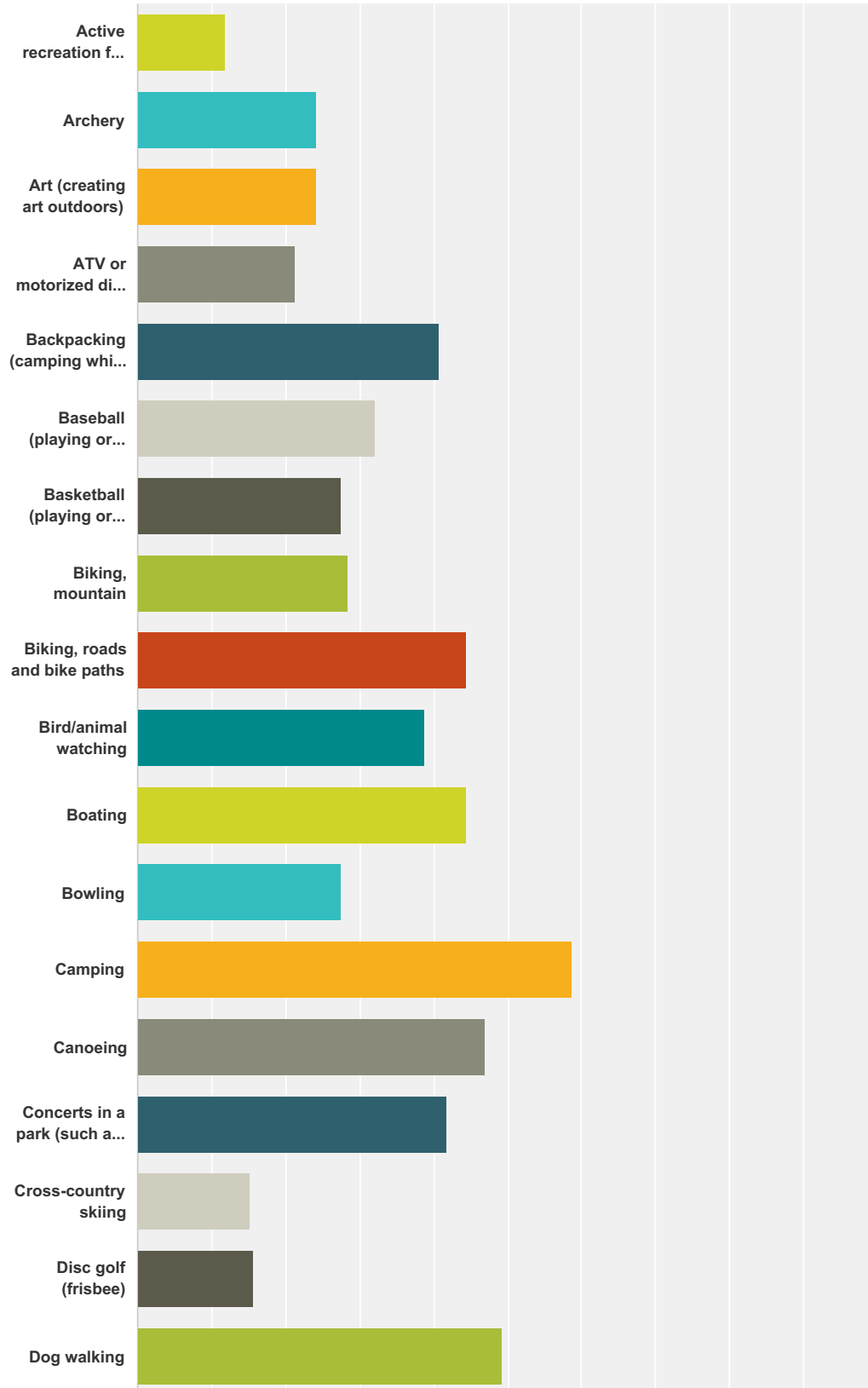
1	invalid response; all answers are 1s and 2s	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	invalid response; all are entered as Most Important	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
3	could not enter hardcopy responses because 6 were classified as 1- most important. Invalid response - BH	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
4	community garden	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
5	motorcycle & motorboat habitat. Seems to be detrimental to all others listed here.	5/2/2017 11:14 PM
6	gaming area.	4/27/2017 1:28 PM
7	Animal shelter	4/27/2017 1:28 PM
8	Animal shelter	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
9	better roads that arent in the city, like close to out of town but still in athol	4/27/2017 1:26 PM
10	Playing softball	4/27/2017 1:25 PM
11	More money and rights for teenagers also.... more video game stores	4/27/2017 1:23 PM
12	skate parks bmx parks and scooter parks	4/27/2017 12:37 PM
13	WE NEED A SKATE PARK IN ATHOL MADE OUT OF STONE NOT WOOD	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
14	SKATE PARKS	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
15	dog park/animal park	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
16	a new playground that is big. it should be bigger then the park next to silver lake. A new basketball court. Also a public pool.	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
17	childrens hangout ?	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
18	Anything else	4/27/2017 10:58 AM
19	small water park 6 months a year pepole come to stay for a day more pepol come more cash for u and pepol come to cool off in the hot sumer sun	4/27/2017 9:56 AM
20	what about dog parks?	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
21	lakes,lakes,lakes,lakes and lakes	4/27/2017 9:49 AM
22	we need a skate park	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
23	better houses	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
24	More bulidings/stores.	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
25	seventh most important would be the need areas that are much more kid friendly (ex. ally way, clearing in woods, abandon tool shed)	4/27/2017 8:16 AM
26	mostly feilds for sports	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
27	more fishing and wilderness	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
28	more fishing lakes and ponds.	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
29	mostly, fields (ballfields). nature things.	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
30	get an outdoor hockey rink	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
31	fishing lakes with areas to use gas powered boats	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
32	#4 kept bumping my answers!	4/22/2017 2:39 PM
33	Creative, enforcable zoning to promote sane development. More, bigger is not better. Controlled growth. Take care of what we have. There are better ways to develop than paving over open space that can only be accessed by car. Mass transit/trains should return to downtown Athol.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
34	Development of biking and walking trails connecting neighboring towns this will hopefully encourage an ice cream shop / bakery / restaurant and/or bike shop to be strategically located along the path where people can gather, picnic, and spread the word to others to come and visit our town and all it has to offer. What I mean by biking trails, something paved like along the Millers river not bike lanes painted on the road.	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
35	Fix what exists and is falling apart or in disrepair before new projects.Look at the wall at Silver Lake	4/14/2017 10:53 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

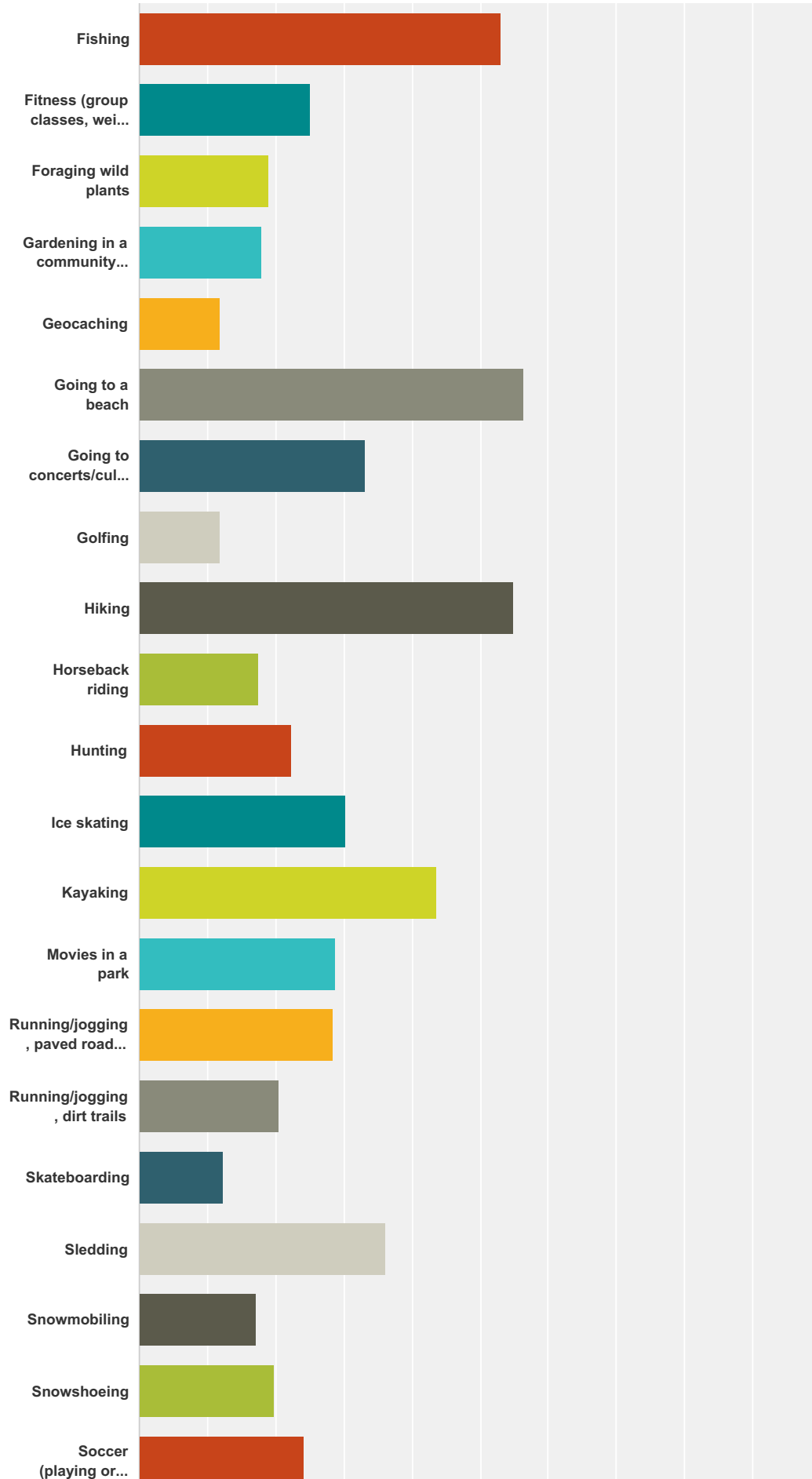
36	I really did not want to rank these the way I did-because I believe that 2nd, 3rd and 4th entries should be rated similarly, as #1, most important, the others should be rated with a 2 or 3 across the board (1st, 5th, 6th and 7th entries). So my ratings here are not a true reflection of what their true ratings should be. Thanks.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
37	I am a hunter, hiker and backpacker in my free time. At home I garden, keep hens and attempt to live as sustainably as possible	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
38	It was very difficult to rank these as I consider them ALL to be very important.	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
39	Family parks.	3/6/2017 5:59 PM
40	Legal areas for atvs dirt bikes and such	3/5/2017 11:32 PM
41	This is strange .. I cannot select two choices as Most Important?	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
42	Hunting and foraging wild edibles.1	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
43	Fields need to have a season off the silvelake fields take a beating and need time to recover. The DPW cemetery, parks and tree department deserves a larger budget to better care for the parks and cemetery's. They do a great job with what they have but they need and deserve more!!!!	2/27/2017 8:00 AM
44	I actually think that preserving the town's rural character and keeping open space for wildlife and conservation and water needs are all #1, that is, most important. The form doesn't enable rating more than one item as #1.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
45	The natural resources and physical beauty of the North Quabbin are one of our greatest assets and should be protected and promoted. I do not disapprove of my lower rankings but feel they require much more oversight as publicly supported locations as they are prone to misuse and vandalism. Also the town recently moved away from these with the removal of the Lincoln St tennis courts.	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
46	Wild Forest areas like Bearsden, 1000 acre swamp, South Athol Cons. area, and Newton Reservoir for hiking, nature study and enjoyment.	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
47	Doing something with all the abandoned houses and properties.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
48	Natural wooded areas	2/14/2017 8:22 PM
49	i would like to see the open spaces committee oppose spot zoning to create commercial/industrial pockets in rural and residential areas.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
50	Too hard to choose. I do not like this kind of survey. They are all important!!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM

Q5 Which of the following activities or places do you enjoy? Check as many as you like:

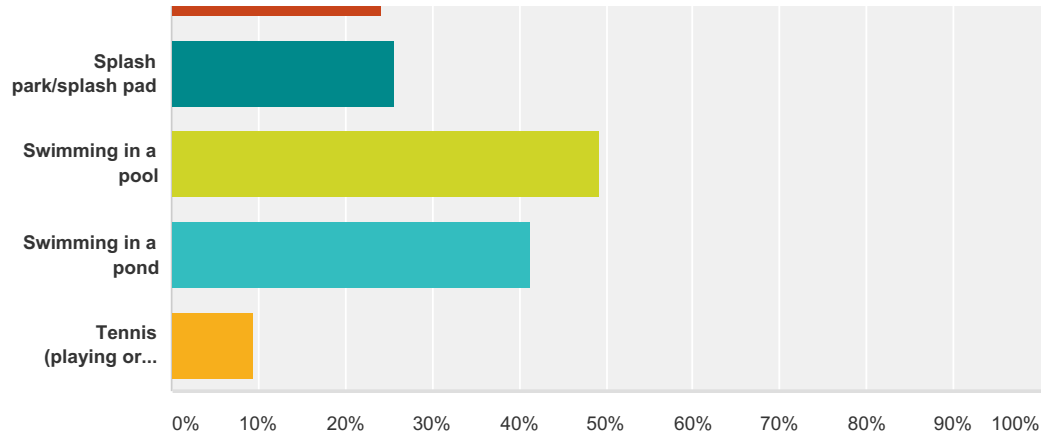
Answered: 211 Skipped: 5



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



Answer Choices	Responses	
Active recreation for people with mobility challenges	11.85%	25
Archery	24.17%	51
Art (creating art outdoors)	24.17%	51
ATV or motorized dirt bike riding	21.33%	45
Backpacking (camping while hiking)	40.76%	86
Baseball (playing or watching)	32.23%	68
Basketball (playing or watching)	27.49%	58
Biking, mountain	28.44%	60
Biking, roads and bike paths	44.55%	94
Bird/animal watching	38.86%	82
Boating	44.55%	94
Bowling	27.49%	58
Camping	58.77%	124
Canoeing	46.92%	99
Concerts in a park (such as Tool Town Live)	41.71%	88
Cross-country skiing	15.17%	32
Disc golf (frisbee)	15.64%	33
Dog walking	49.29%	104
Fishing	53.08%	112
Fitness (group classes, weight lifting,etc.)	25.12%	53
Foraging wild plants	18.96%	40
Gardening in a community garden	18.01%	38
Geocaching	11.85%	25
Going to a beach	56.40%	119

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Going to concerts/cultural events	33.18%	70
Golfing	11.85%	25
Hiking	54.98%	116
Horseback riding	17.54%	37
Hunting	22.27%	47
Ice skating	30.33%	64
Kayaking	43.60%	92
Movies in a park	28.91%	61
Running/jogging, paved roads and paths	28.44%	60
Running/jogging, dirt trails	20.38%	43
Skateboarding	12.32%	26
Sledding	36.02%	76
Snowmobiling	17.06%	36
Snowshoeing	19.91%	42
Soccer (playing or watching)	24.17%	51
Splash park/splash pad	25.59%	54
Swimming in a pool	49.29%	104
Swimming in a pond	41.23%	87
Tennis (playing or watching)	9.48%	20
Total Respondents: 211		

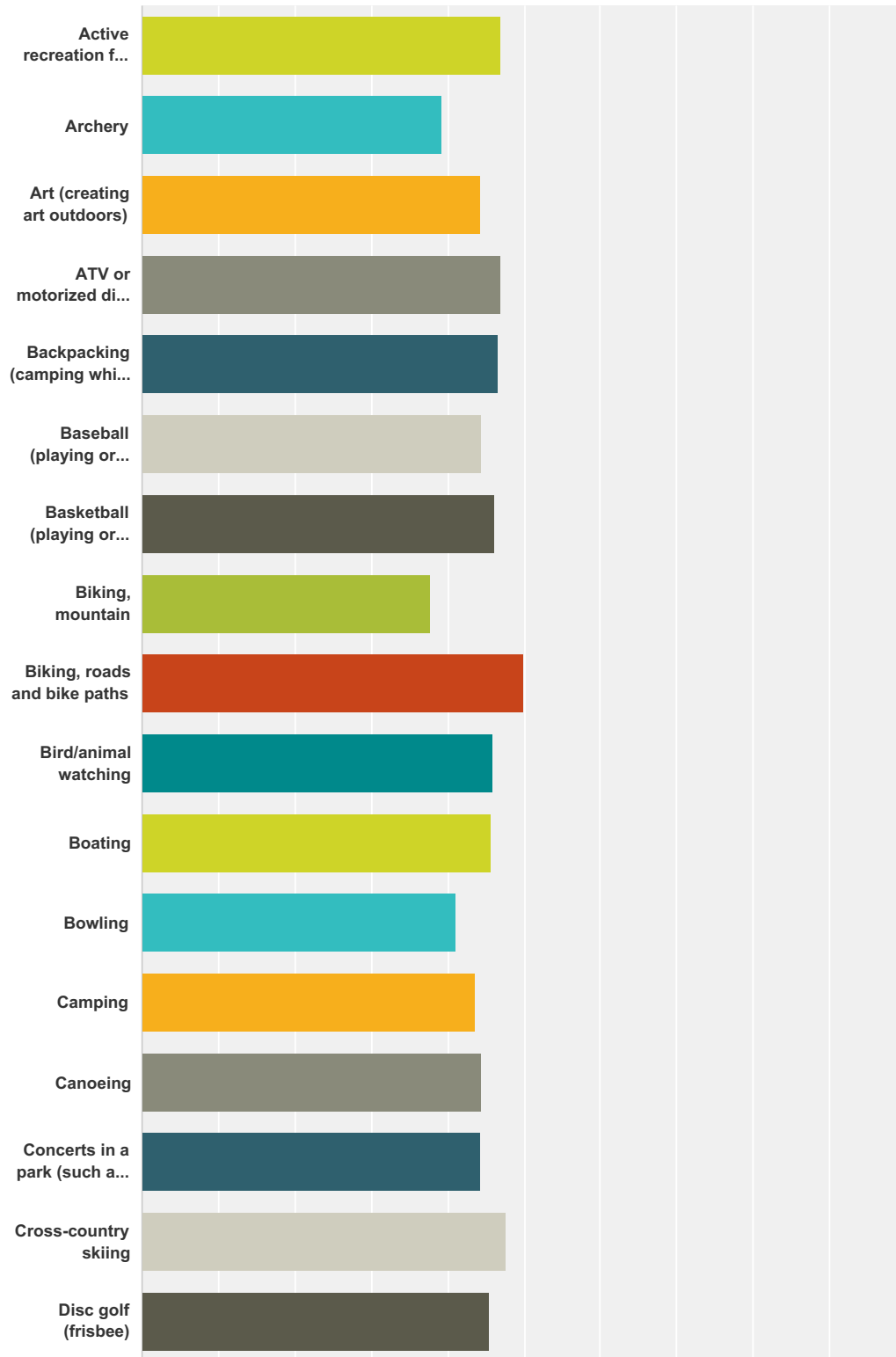
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Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

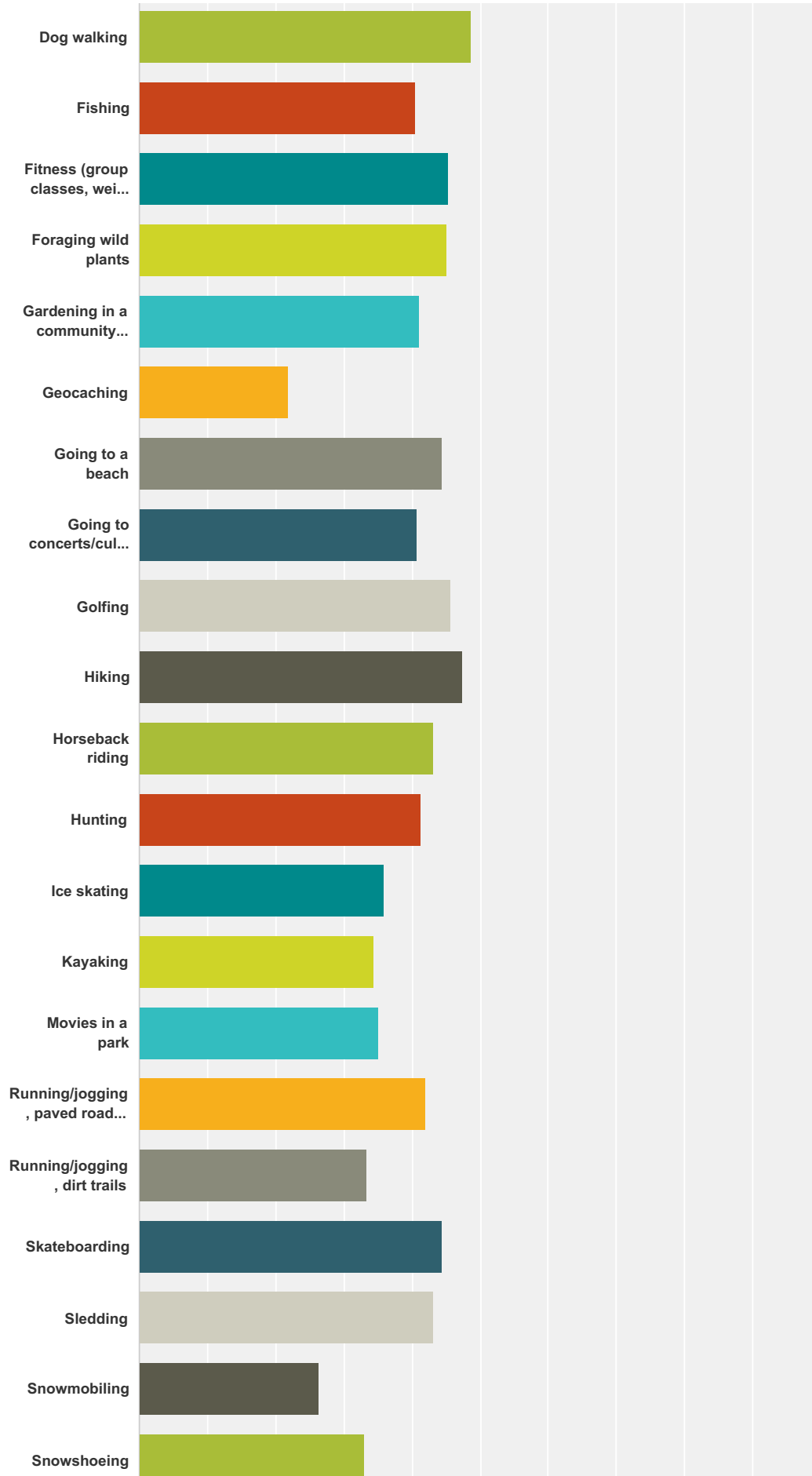
15	I also enjoy playing Hockey	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
16	skate park and volley ball nets at the high school beach	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
17	football (watching) hockey (watching and playing	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
18	softball (watching)	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
19	video game conventions	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
20	video game conventions	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
21	playing in arcades	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
22	volleyball (beach and inside)	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
23	hockey	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
24	doing track and wrestling	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
25	smooching my hot wife on the lips	4/27/2017 8:16 AM
26	softball	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
27	bass fishing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
28	hockey	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
29	softball, field hockey	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
30	Playing softball	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
31	Gardening	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
32	Waterskiing and tubing	4/15/2017 11:34 AM
33	bocce	4/12/2017 8:31 AM
34	Picnicking	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
35	auto racing	3/23/2017 9:35 AM
36	The natural surroundings the town of Athol has are hidden jems and I believe it deserves every right to be shown to our community with more enthusiasm than currently is	3/5/2017 9:11 PM
37	Need more access to the river.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
38	Walking on trails in natural areas and parks on paved roads and trails.	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
39	Rock/ice climbing; adventure races	2/16/2017 12:16 PM

Q6 RECREATION OPPORTUNITY NEEDS -
Of the following activities, which do we
need more opportunities in Athol? Please
select up to 7 and rank them where 1 is the
most needed and 7 is the less needed.

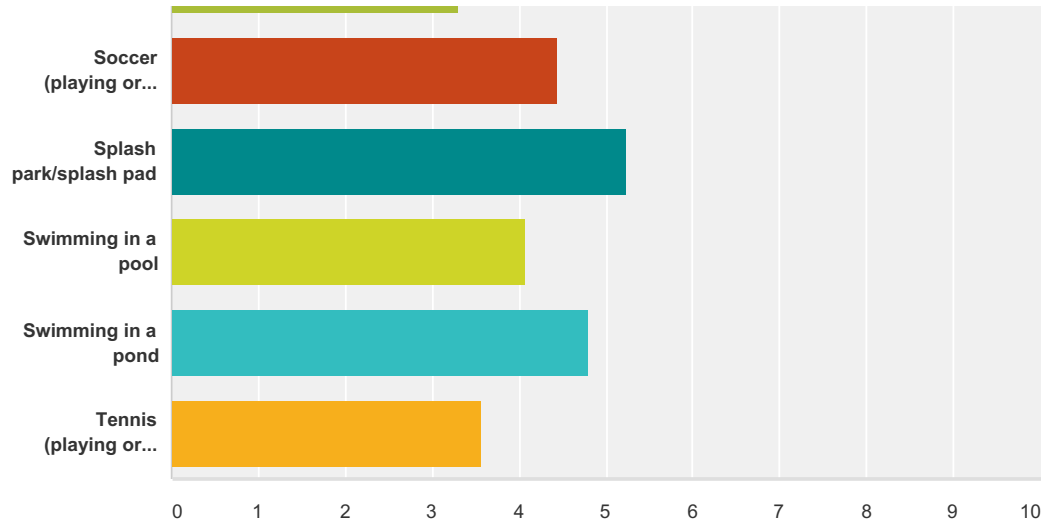
Answered: 186 Skipped: 30



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



	1 - Most needed	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Less Needed	Total	Weighted Average
Active recreation for people with mobility challenges	33.87% 21	14.52% 9	12.90% 8	6.45% 4	9.68% 6	3.23% 2	19.35% 12	62	4.69
Archery	13.51% 5	27.03% 10	5.41% 2	8.11% 3	2.70% 1	24.32% 9	18.92% 7	37	3.92
Art (creating art outdoors)	19.35% 6	19.35% 6	16.13% 5	9.68% 3	12.90% 4	9.68% 3	12.90% 4	31	4.42
ATV or motorized dirt bike riding	20.00% 6	26.67% 8	6.67% 2	13.33% 4	20.00% 6	10.00% 3	3.33% 1	30	4.70
Backpacking (camping while hiking)	15.79% 6	18.42% 7	21.05% 8	21.05% 8	10.53% 4	10.53% 4	2.63% 1	38	4.66
Baseball (playing or watching)	23.53% 8	11.76% 4	11.76% 4	14.71% 5	17.65% 6	17.65% 6	2.94% 1	34	4.44
Basketball (playing or watching)	24.14% 7	17.24% 5	17.24% 5	10.34% 3	10.34% 3	10.34% 3	10.34% 3	29	4.62
Biking, mountain	0.00% 0	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	38.89% 7	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	18	3.78
Biking, roads and bike paths	17.07% 7	26.83% 11	17.07% 7	21.95% 9	12.20% 5	4.88% 2	0.00% 0	41	5.00
Bird/animal watching	11.76% 4	23.53% 8	29.41% 10	8.82% 3	11.76% 4	2.94% 1	11.76% 4	34	4.59
Boating	19.23% 5	23.08% 6	19.23% 5	7.69% 2	7.69% 2	11.54% 3	11.54% 3	26	4.58
Bowling	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	22.22% 4	11.11% 2	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	11.11% 2	18	4.11
Camping	10.26% 4	30.77% 12	7.69% 3	12.82% 5	23.08% 9	5.13% 2	10.26% 4	39	4.36
Canoeing	13.64% 3	18.18% 4	13.64% 3	31.82% 7	4.55% 1	13.64% 3	4.55% 1	22	4.45
Concerts in a park (such as Tool Town Live)	16.13% 5	19.35% 6	16.13% 5	12.90% 4	12.90% 4	19.35% 6	3.23% 1	31	4.42
Cross-country skiing	0.00% 0	50.00% 4	12.50% 1	25.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	8	4.75

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Disc golf (frisbee)	27.27% 3	27.27% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	9.09% 1	11	4.55
Dog walking	26.32% 10	15.79% 6	13.16% 5	23.68% 9	10.53% 4	5.26% 2	5.26% 2	38	4.87
Fishing	7.32% 3	7.32% 3	31.71% 13	14.63% 6	19.51% 8	14.63% 6	4.88% 2	41	4.05
Fitness (group classes, weight lifting,etc.)	15.38% 2	15.38% 2	30.77% 4	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	13	4.54
Foraging wild plants	7.14% 1	21.43% 3	21.43% 3	21.43% 3	21.43% 3	7.14% 1	0.00% 0	14	4.50
Gardening in a community garden	18.92% 7	5.41% 2	16.22% 6	18.92% 7	16.22% 6	16.22% 6	8.11% 3	37	4.11
Geocaching	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	60.00% 3	5	2.20
Going to a beach	15.38% 6	17.95% 7	20.51% 8	15.38% 6	10.26% 4	12.82% 5	7.69% 3	39	4.44
Going to concerts/cultural events	3.57% 1	17.86% 5	14.29% 4	32.14% 9	17.86% 5	7.14% 2	7.14% 2	28	4.07
Golfing	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	7	4.57
Hiking	23.08% 9	15.38% 6	20.51% 8	17.95% 7	7.69% 3	7.69% 3	7.69% 3	39	4.74
Horseback riding	0.00% 0	33.33% 3	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	9	4.33
Hunting	12.50% 2	12.50% 2	18.75% 3	18.75% 3	18.75% 3	6.25% 1	12.50% 2	16	4.13
Ice skating	9.09% 2	22.73% 5	9.09% 2	4.55% 1	9.09% 2	22.73% 5	22.73% 5	22	3.59
Kayaking	12.50% 2	6.25% 1	18.75% 3	0.00% 0	18.75% 3	25.00% 4	18.75% 3	16	3.44
Movies in a park	4.17% 1	25.00% 6	12.50% 3	8.33% 2	4.17% 1	16.67% 4	29.17% 7	24	3.50
Running/jogging, paved roads and paths	20.00% 3	20.00% 3	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	26.67% 4	20.00% 3	6.67% 1	15	4.20
Running/jogging, dirt trails	0.00% 0	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	41.67% 5	8.33% 1	12	3.33
Skateboarding	31.25% 5	18.75% 3	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	0.00% 0	18.75% 3	18.75% 3	16	4.44
Sledding	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	4.33
Snowmobiling	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	25.00% 2	25.00% 2	25.00% 2	8	2.63
Snowshoeing	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	7	3.29
Soccer (playing or watching)	27.78% 5	11.11% 2	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	11.11% 2	5.56% 1	16.67% 3	18	4.44
Splash park/splash pad	35.71% 10	25.00% 7	10.71% 3	3.57% 1	14.29% 4	3.57% 1	7.14% 2	28	5.25
Swimming in a pool	20.00% 6	10.00% 3	20.00% 6	6.67% 2	13.33% 4	10.00% 3	20.00% 6	30	4.07

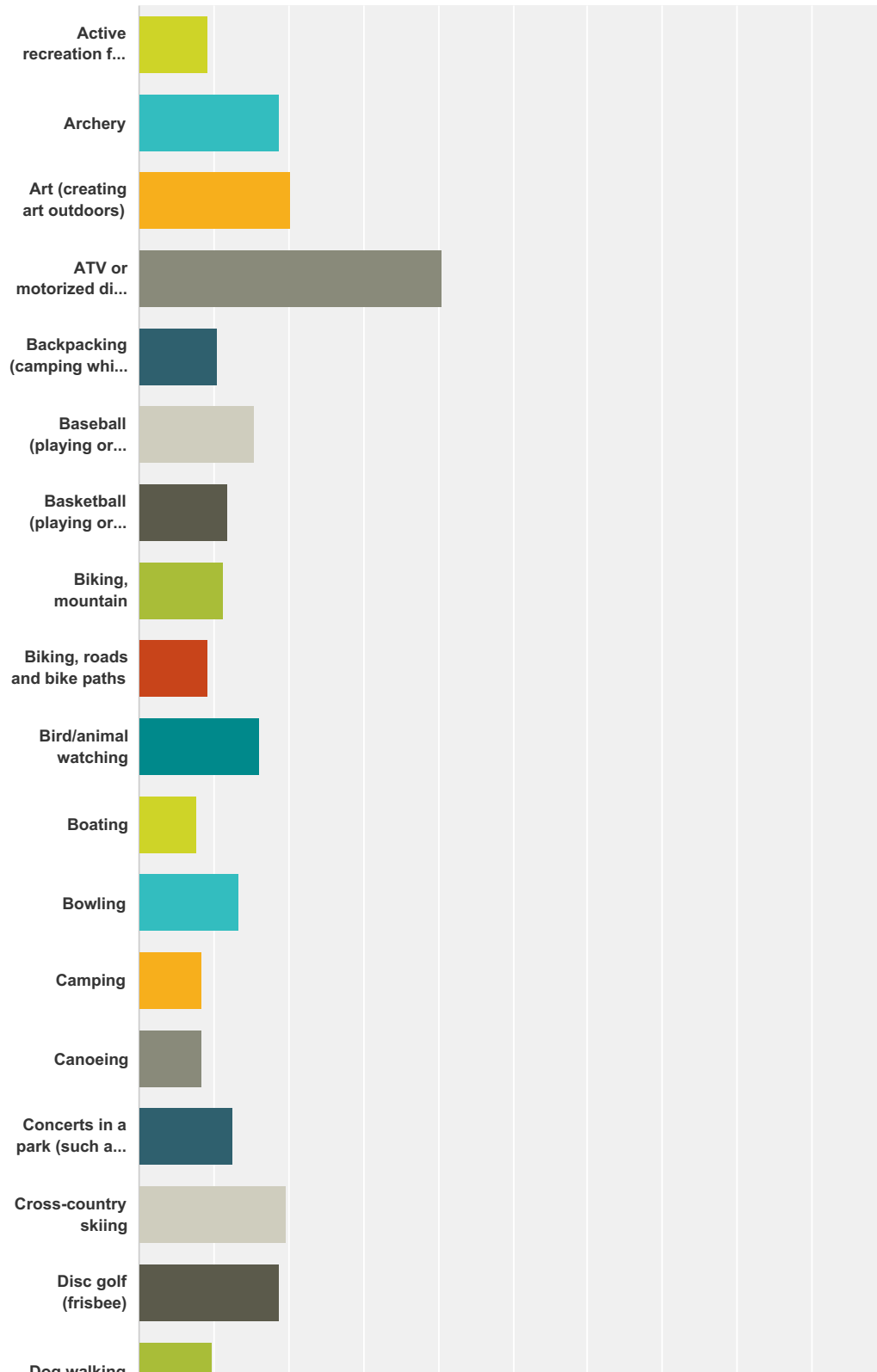
Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Swimming in a pond	36.00% 9	8.00% 2	16.00% 4	12.00% 3	8.00% 2	8.00% 2	12.00% 3	25	4.80
Tennis (playing or watching)	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	7	3.57

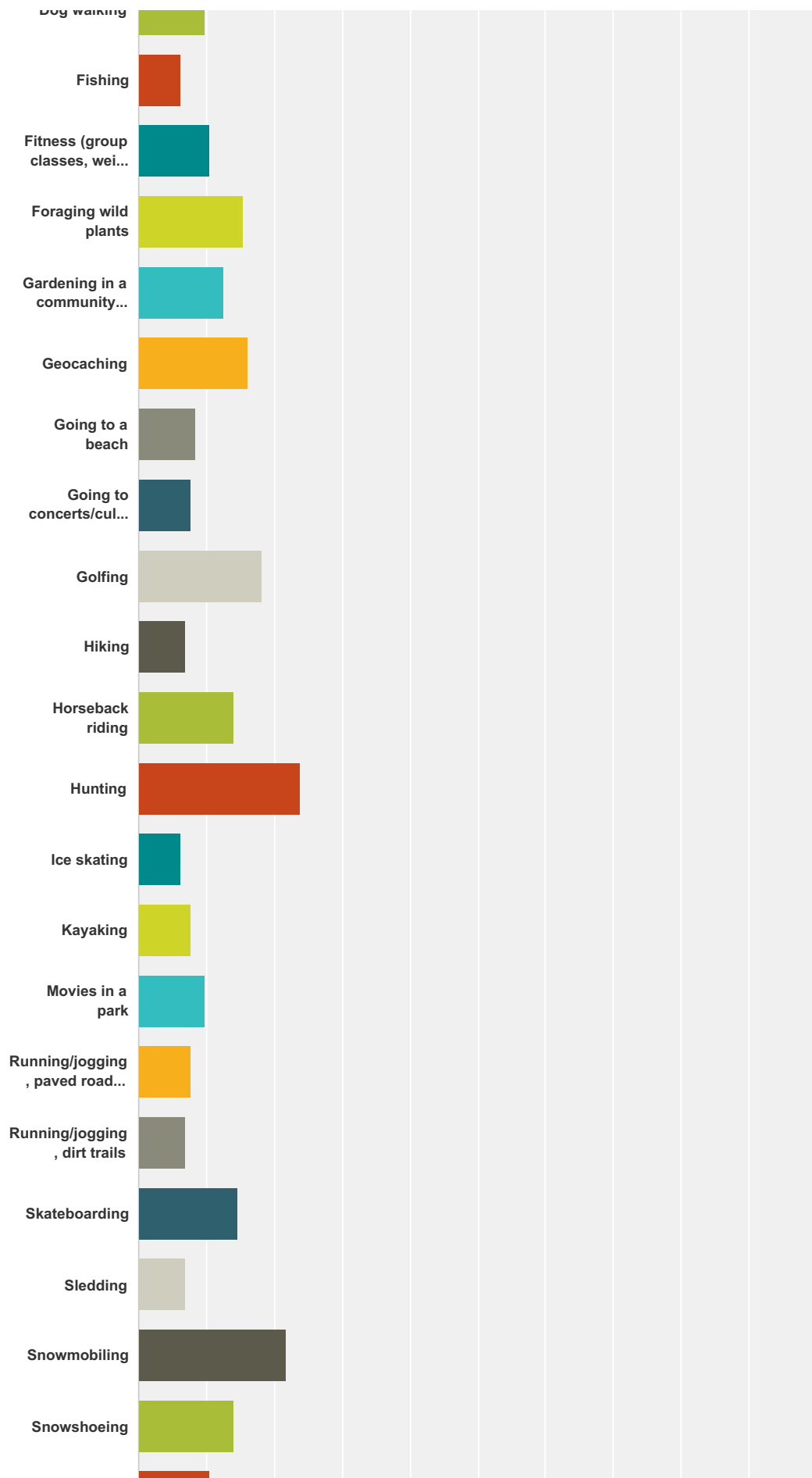
#	Other or Comment	Date
1	invalid response; selected 2 and 3 for almost every item	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
2	could not enter hardcopy responses because 7 were classified as 1- most important. Invalid response - BH	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
3	Skatepark	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
4	scooting	4/27/2017 12:37 PM
5	Scootering at a Athol SKATEPARK	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
6	I do also enjoy canoeing and I believe that's also important	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
7	parks and a skate park volley ball net at the high school beach	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
8	Middle school baseball field Middle school field middle school baseball field!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
9	animal parks and video game conventions	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
10	we just want fun things around us so when we get borad around athol /orange area but also maybe a town pool .	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
11	everyone should gather in the common and just stare at eachother for an hour every tuesday	4/27/2017 8:16 AM
12	Kept bumping my answers	4/22/2017 2:39 PM
13	Keep enough open spaces that off road vehicle activities and hunting do not get banned.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
14	What would be nice is if the town would clear spots on Lake Ellis and Silver lake in the winter for skating and also put up lights and have them on timers for some night time skating for the young folks in town.	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
15	I like all of these categories and would love to see everything in our area. Hiking, swimming, snowshoeing, skiing, sports, beaches, walking, running...are great ways to get outside. I love the movies and concerts in the park. I also like having areas where the handicapped can participate. I cannot vote on any one thing, because I really think we would benefit from most of these choices.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
16	I have found ample opportunity for the recreation I enjoy inAthol. Keeping it that way will be the challenge.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
17	Even though I do not play disc golf or bike on bike paths. I believe these are important activities going forward. Hiking trails and open space for wildlife are important to me and the future of the area.	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
18	Wish for more access to the river.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
19	Music lessons for people of all ages. Chess and math olympics, anything to bring up the level of education of our young and older population. When our schools are strong and the level of education is high, more people will want to live here.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
20	All the activities listed are important and have an interest group I ranked the ones that I feel would attract users and are not already supported by other private groups/organizations.	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
21	Walking trails	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
22	Way too many choices here. Especially to rank, rather confusing format	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
23	Rock climbing (indoors and out)(There is some limited outdoor climbing in Athol)	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
24	I think this town needs everything. And more for teens to do around here so they can stay out of trouble and off of drugs.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
25	Public shooting range	2/6/2017 6:58 PM
26	money for maintenance and administration of town facilites	2/1/2017 8:11 PM

**Q7 WE HAVE ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES
OR I DON'T WANT - Are there any activities
that you DO NOT WANT TO SEE more of in
Athol? Check as many as you like:**

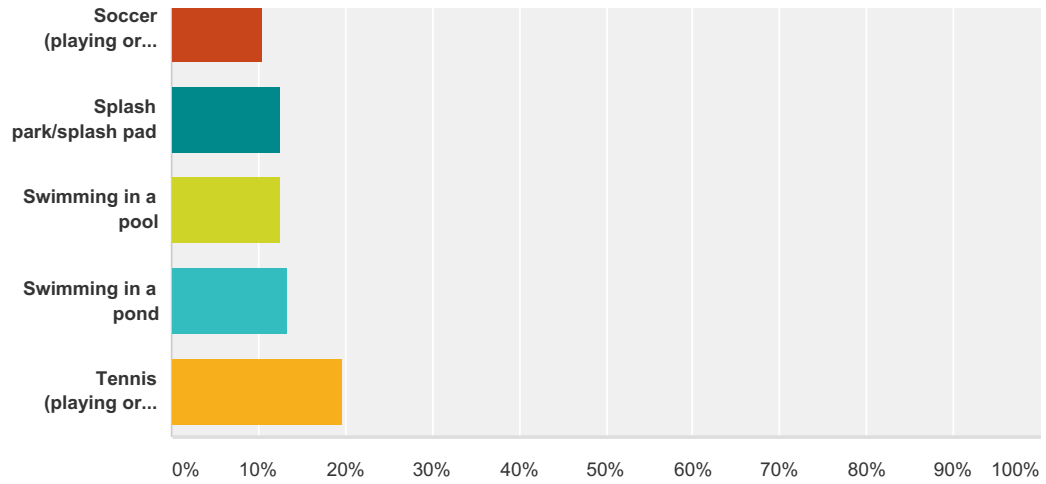
Answered: 143 Skipped: 73



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey



Answer Choices	Responses	
Active recreation for people with mobility challenges	9.09%	13
Archery	18.88%	27
Art (creating art outdoors)	20.28%	29
ATV or motorized dirt bike riding	40.56%	58
Backpacking (camping while hiking)	10.49%	15
Baseball (playing or watching)	15.38%	22
Basketball (playing or watching)	11.89%	17
Biking, mountain	11.19%	16
Biking, roads and bike paths	9.09%	13
Bird/animal watching	16.08%	23
Boating	7.69%	11
Bowling	13.29%	19
Camping	8.39%	12
Canoeing	8.39%	12
Concerts in a park (such as Tool Town Live)	12.59%	18
Cross-country skiing	19.58%	28
Disc golf (frisbee)	18.88%	27
Dog walking	9.79%	14
Fishing	6.29%	9
Fitness (group classes, weight lifting,etc.)	10.49%	15
Foraging wild plants	15.38%	22
Gardening in a community garden	12.59%	18
Geocaching	16.08%	23

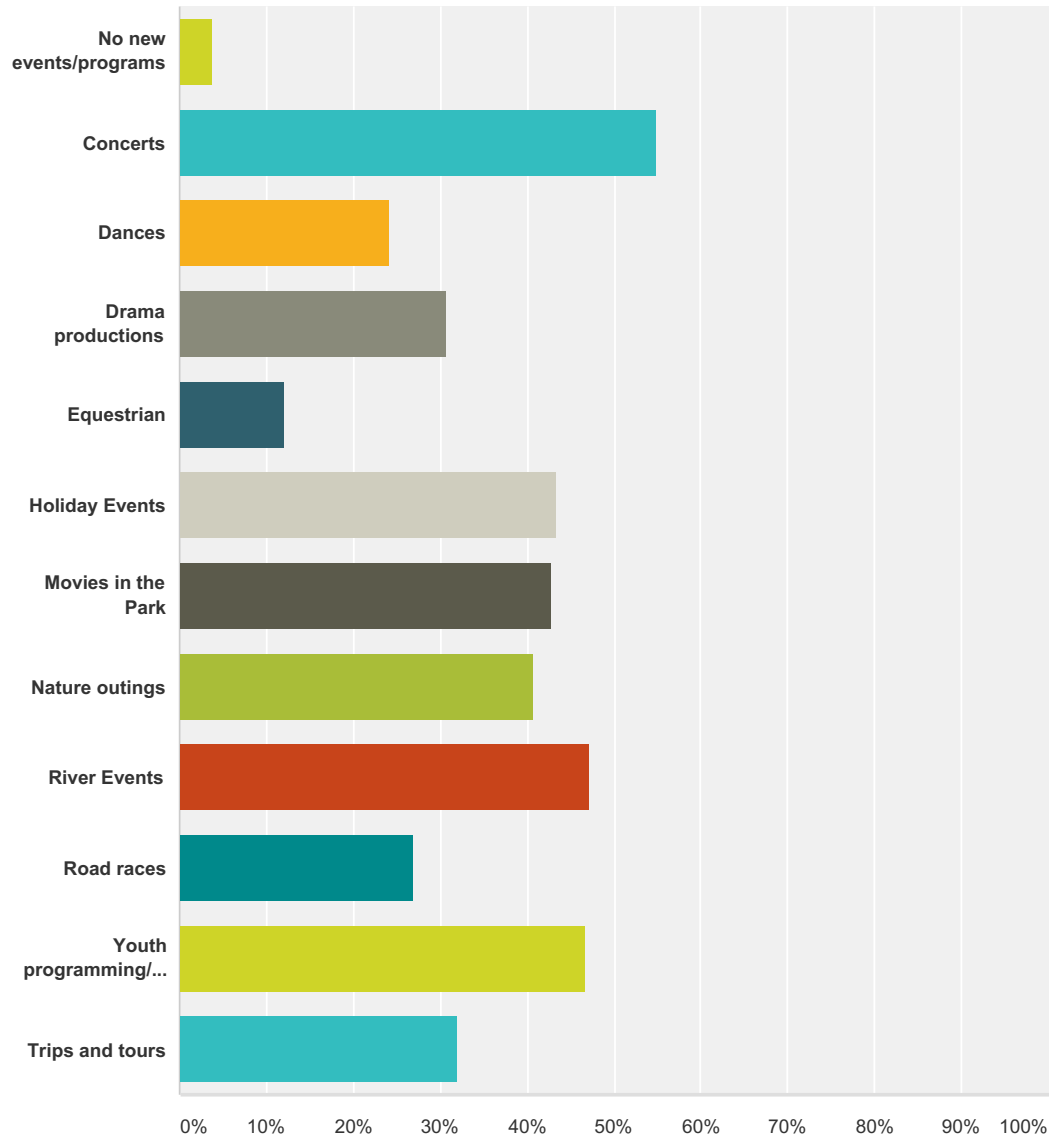
Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Going to a beach	8.39%	12
Going to concerts/cultural events	7.69%	11
Golfing	18.18%	26
Hiking	6.99%	10
Horseback riding	13.99%	20
Hunting	23.78%	34
Ice skating	6.29%	9
Kayaking	7.69%	11
Movies in a park	9.79%	14
Running/jogging, paved roads and paths	7.69%	11
Running/jogging, dirt trails	6.99%	10
Skateboarding	14.69%	21
Sledding	6.99%	10
Snowmobiling	21.68%	31
Snowshoeing	13.99%	20
Soccer (playing or watching)	10.49%	15
Splash park/splash pad	12.59%	18
Swimming in a pool	12.59%	18
Swimming in a pond	13.29%	19
Tennis (playing or watching)	19.58%	28
Total Respondents: 143		

#	Other or Comment	Date
1	camara's	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
2	cameras	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
3	less pizza places	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	Engines and nature do not work well, together IMO. The noise destroys the peace and solitude of the woods.	4/19/2017 12:21 PM
5	Still seeing dog walkers allowing their dogs to poop and not cleaning up after. Keep you dogs home.	3/24/2017 7:30 AM
6	Putting resources into these areas does not interest me.	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
7	atvs and snowmobiles are loud, smelly, dangerous, and destroy habitat. They impinge upon the rights of others. I can still enjoy hiking while someone is geocaching or bird watching or kayaking, but atvs and/or snowmobiling would disrupt all of those and many other activities	3/6/2017 12:39 PM
8	Although not checked I am not super supportive of motorized ORV's	2/18/2017 7:31 AM

Q8 EVENTS - Which of the following special events, programs or efforts, if any, would you like to see more of in Athol? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 182 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses
No new events/programs	3.85% 7
Concerts	54.95% 100
Dances	24.18% 44
Drama productions	30.77% 56
Equestrian	12.09% 22

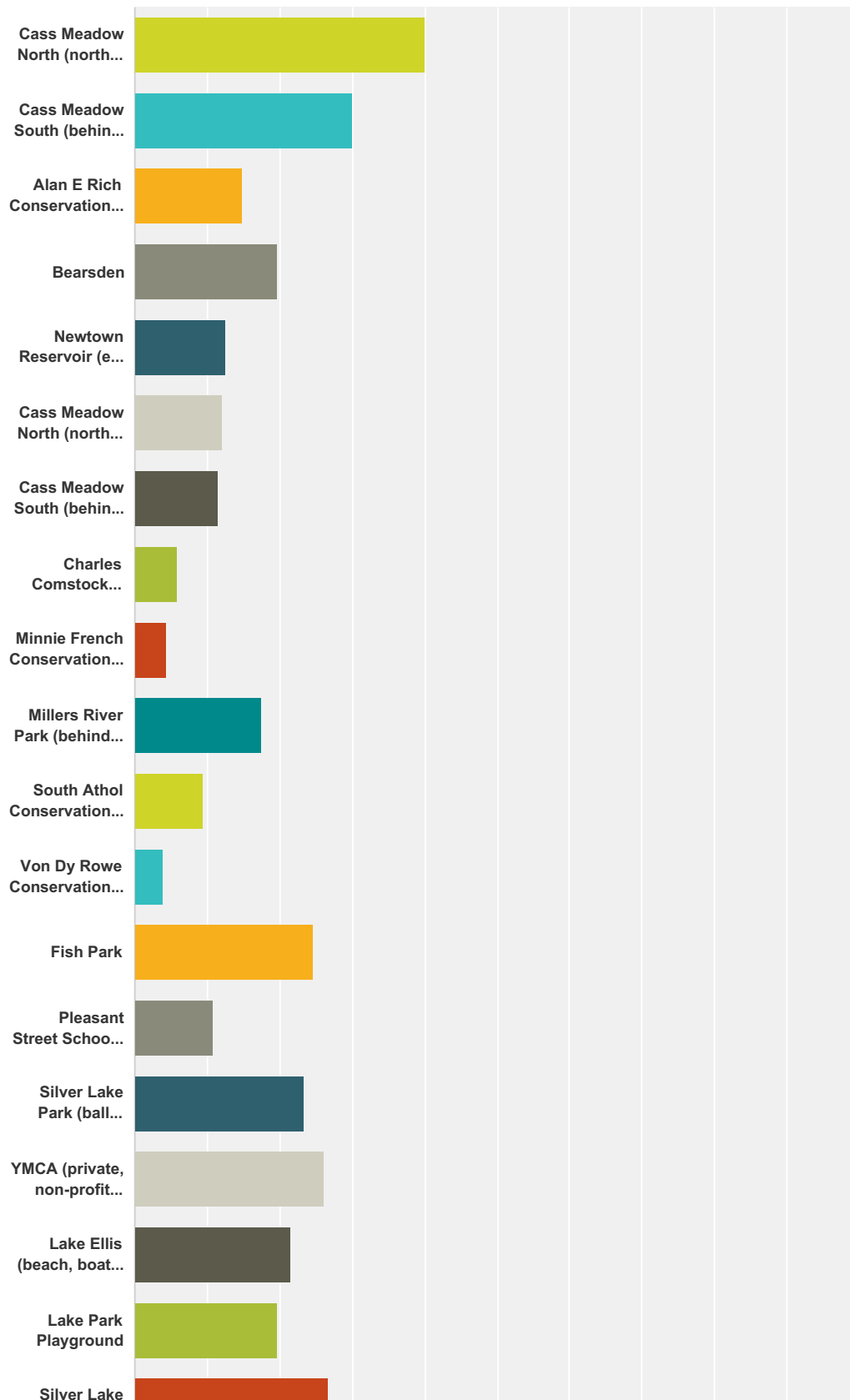
Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Holiday Events	43.41%	79
Movies in the Park	42.86%	78
Nature outings	40.66%	74
River Events	47.25%	86
Road races	26.92%	49
Youth programming/activities	46.70%	85
Trips and tours	31.87%	58
Total Respondents: 182		

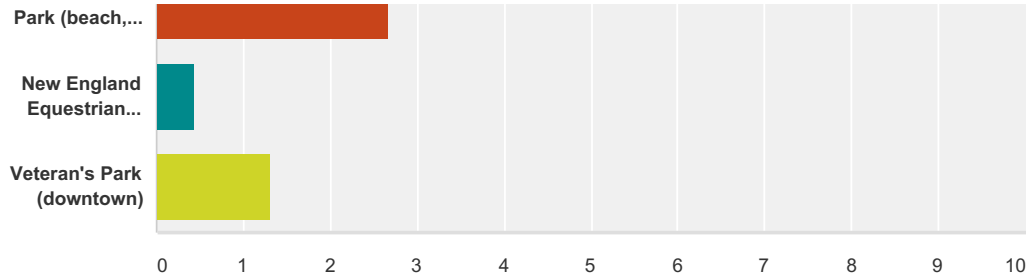
#	Other or Comment	Date
1	blank	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
2	I would want to see scooter, skateboarding and box competitions in a skate park	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
3	schools bowling	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
4	snowmobiling/ATV trails	4/27/2017 10:56 AM
5	sports	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
6	i want to see more fishing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
7	sports	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
8	Support and maintain what we have. They will grow based on use. More events in downtown Athol that will draw attention and business to the downtown.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
9	4th of July parade and fireworks	4/15/2017 11:34 AM
10	Fix what's broken follow through with past projects problems,what happened to the ball field above Silver Lake?If it's a no go make it look better plant a tree reseed put in a granite bench bird watching on a bench is free,and quiet. Why can't it look like Fish park minus the Gazebo???? I called about dangerous stones falling off the stone wall at Silver Lake there's a chance children adults even walking there will be injured.Whomever answered the phone at town hall said there was no money for repairs. If we can't keep up and maintain what we already have why are we exploring more opportunities to spend what we don't have. Dreams are good but not for town governments you need a reality check.	4/14/2017 10:53 AM
11	I am a musician, a fiddler looking to start a folk orchestra in town (see worcesterfolkorchestra.com).	4/14/2017 9:36 AM
12	I enjoy the Chamber Fall fest and the animal shelter flea markets on main st. , the garden club sale, the Christmas lights downtown and in the eternal park, Memorial Day decoration as and Fourth of July. Although not in Athol I enjoy the WWII event at the airport and the engine show and will miss the fall car show and harvest fair. Maybe this could occur in a modified format in downtown Athol, either as part of the chamber event or a second event staged in the Job Lots plaza. Would really like the farmers market to move to downtown.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
13	As a child I enjoyed first night activities and the fourth of July fireworks / fair put on by the lions club at the high school	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
14	We need to keep young people busy! They need someplace to go to help them stay out of trouble.	3/6/2017 12:39 PM
15	Community building events.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
16	More nature outings for people who are unable to exert themselves.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
17	Mixed adventure races; Local trail crew programs to get more people involved in local conservation areas and improve the existing trails at the same time;	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
18	Historical reenactments	2/6/2017 6:58 PM

Q9 How often do you visit the following conservation and recreation areas?

Answered: 188 Skipped: 28



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	More than once per week	Once per week	Once per month	Every three or four months	Once per year	Every few years	Have never been there	Have never heard of it	Total	Weighted Average
Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1	4.00
Cass Meadow South (behind Allan E. Rich Conservation Area)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1	3.00
Alan E Rich Conservation Area	4.35% 7	6.83% 11	5.59% 9	9.32% 15	12.42% 20	13.04% 21	19.88% 32	28.57% 46	161	1.48
Bearsden	4.22% 7	6.63% 11	12.05% 20	12.05% 20	20.48% 34	13.25% 22	15.06% 25	16.27% 27	166	1.97
Newtown Reservoir (east Bearsden)	3.85% 6	5.77% 9	3.85% 6	10.26% 16	8.33% 13	10.26% 16	24.36% 38	33.33% 52	156	1.25
Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	3.18% 5	3.82% 6	7.64% 12	8.92% 14	5.10% 8	15.92% 25	26.11% 41	29.30% 46	157	1.22
Cass Meadow South (behind Allan E. Rich Conservation Area)	3.87% 6	5.16% 8	5.16% 8	8.39% 13	4.52% 7	11.61% 18	27.10% 42	34.19% 53	155	1.15
Charles Comstock Conservation Area	1.30% 2	2.60% 4	5.19% 8	3.25% 5	2.60% 4	1.95% 3	25.32% 39	57.79% 89	154	0.58
Minnie French Conservation Area	0.67% 1	2.67% 4	2.00% 3	2.00% 3	4.00% 6	3.33% 5	28.67% 43	56.67% 85	150	0.43
Millers River Park (behind library)	4.94% 8	6.79% 11	12.35% 20	12.96% 21	7.41% 12	8.64% 14	30.25% 49	16.67% 27	162	1.75
South Athol Conservation Area	1.94% 3	3.87% 6	1.94% 3	9.03% 14	10.32% 16	7.10% 11	30.97% 48	34.84% 54	155	0.94
Von Dy Rowe Conservation Area	0.71% 1	3.55% 5	1.42% 2	0.71% 1	4.26% 6	2.13% 3	24.11% 34	63.12% 89	141	0.40
Fish Park	8.81% 14	9.43% 15	11.32% 18	18.24% 29	12.58% 20	20.75% 33	11.95% 19	6.92% 11	159	2.46
Pleasant Street School ballfield	2.10% 3	4.20% 6	3.50% 5	5.59% 8	11.19% 16	20.98% 30	41.26% 59	11.19% 16	143	1.08
Silver Lake Park (ball fields)	10.20% 15	10.20% 15	10.20% 15	12.93% 19	11.56% 17	19.05% 28	21.09% 31	4.76% 7	147	2.34
YMCA (private, non-profit organization)	20.50% 33	8.07% 13	10.56% 17	8.07% 13	4.97% 8	21.74% 35	22.98% 37	3.11% 5	161	2.61
Lake Ellis (beach, boat launch, playground)	8.61% 13	5.96% 9	6.62% 10	21.85% 33	10.60% 16	19.87% 30	20.53% 31	5.96% 9	151	2.15

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Lake Park Playground	6.12% 9	10.88% 16	12.93% 19	8.84% 13	8.84% 13	9.52% 14	23.13% 34	19.73% 29	147	1.97
Silver Lake Park (beach, pond, and picnic area)	8.44% 13	14.29% 22	11.69% 18	16.88% 26	14.94% 23	17.53% 27	11.69% 18	4.55% 7	154	2.67
New England Equestrian Center	0.68% 1	2.03% 3	0.68% 1	1.35% 2	9.46% 14	3.38% 5	54.05% 80	28.38% 42	148	0.43
Veteran's Park (downtown)	2.00% 3	7.33% 11	4.00% 6	6.00% 9	17.33% 26	14.67% 22	33.33% 50	15.33% 23	150	1.32

#	Comments, or any other places in Athol? (Please specify).	Date
1	throwers rd	4/27/2017 1:21 PM
2	To be honest I am unsure how many times I have been to some of these places and the names of the ones I have been to	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
3	high school beach	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
4	millers river royalston	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
5	mostly ballfields	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
6	Been too busy with keeping small business in business. Spend time in my garden and on my land when I have it or walking the streets and woods around my property in South Athol.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
7	I work in Boston and have wanted to take advantage of all of these areas in town, but just have not had the time to do so. However, after seeing everything listed here, I am going to try to visit them this summer. I am embarrassed because I know how much there is to do and see in our area, but have not been able to do them I am grateful to all of these places and we are so fortunate to have things so close to us.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
8	New to town, since July, 2016, although I lived here 45 years ago!	4/14/2017 9:36 AM
9	Because of the area I live in I pretty much just step out my backdoor and wander off into the woods or my gardens. I am a fairly new resident in Athol and hope to visit all of the hove in the coming years.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
10	Equestrian Park is a waste	3/24/2017 7:30 AM
11	probably been to the above areas. Don't know their names.	3/5/2017 11:39 PM
12	Our lake beaches are disgusting and the water seems just awful. I love lakes but ours are just plain awful. I'm embarrassed to take visitors to our lakes so I just don't take them.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
13	South Athol Cons. area is a gem of of varied natural resource opportunity and should be supported and promoted.	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
14	Veterans Park needs to be more friendly to folks in the vicinity. Are there any benches there? For a spot in the center of town, it could be more attractive, especially to out of towners.	2/17/2017 9:41 AM

Q10 WHAT DO YOU LIKE about the following parks, conservation, and recreation areas? Please note: the following question is about what you would like to improve in the same places; this question is about what you like about them).

Answered: 99 Skipped: 117

Answer Choices	Responses
Allen E. Rich Conservation Area	47.47% 47
Bearsden	55.56% 55
Newtown Reservoir area (east Bearsden)	34.34% 34
Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	28.28% 28
Cass Meadow South (behind and Allan E. Rich Conservation Area)	28.28% 28
Charles Comstock Conservation Area	21.21% 21
Minnie French Conservation Area	19.19% 19
Millers River Park (behind library)	33.33% 33
South Athol Conservation Area	23.23% 23
Von Dy Rowe Conservation Area	17.17% 17
Fish Park	53.54% 53
Pleasant Street School ballfield	20.20% 20
Silver Lake Park (ball fields)	34.34% 34
YMCA (private, non-profit organization)	46.46% 46
Lake Ellis (beach, boat launch, playground)	38.38% 38
Lake Park Playground	37.37% 37
Silver Lake Park (beach, pond, and picnic area)	38.38% 38
New England Equestrian Center	21.21% 21
Veteran's Park (downtown)	30.30% 30
Comments, or any other places in Athol? (Please specify).	20.20% 20

#	Allen E. Rich Conservation Area	Date
1	butterfly bluebird viewing	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	Beautiful along river and not a lot of people.	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
3	easy access in town	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
4	I don't know	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
5	none	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
6	never heard of it	4/27/2017 12:25 PM

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7	never been	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
9	nothing	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
10	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
11	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
12	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
13	Never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
14	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
15	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
16	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
17	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
18	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
19	\	4/27/2017 8:09 AM
20	dont know this place	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
21	Nice natural area	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
22	Plants and tress and info	4/19/2017 8:09 PM
23	Easy access and use for small children	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
24	Easy a ess and. Lose by	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
25	Set up, easy to find it, signage, maintenance/well taken care of	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
26	Nature , walkability	4/11/2017 7:52 PM
27	Serene	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
28	accessibility	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
29	Walking	3/23/2017 9:35 AM
30	Easy walking distance from home. Quiet and pleasant.	3/23/2017 9:31 AM
31	Great easy hiking for kids	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
32	Accessibility	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
33	Nice downtown greenery.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
34	Promotes wild life diversity.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
35	Easily accessible.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
36	It's easy to get to	2/23/2017 4:16 PM
37	Natural plantings	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
38	Natural, beauty, wildlife, picnic, boat launch	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
39	good access	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
40	Great spot for hiking	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
41	Well maintained and easy access to the Millers River.	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
42	Secluded, not popular during the day	2/14/2017 8:36 PM
43	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
44	fabulous for watching birds, butterflies and dragonflies	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
45	Beatyful. Short walk! Lovely river!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
46	I've never experienced this area but look forward to it and like what I've read about it.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
47	easy access, nice running trails, trout releasing	1/31/2017 8:56 AM

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#	Bearsden	Date
1	wilderness river trails, views, size	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	Nice hiking area	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
3	remote yet near town, size, variety of terrain, natural space, good for wildlife	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
4	The wilderness	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
5	none	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
6	never been	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
7	fun place to be when u are bored.	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
8	love it	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
9	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
10	Hikes	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
11	never been	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
12	i like going there because of the view	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
13	lots of open space	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
14	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
15	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
16	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
17	Never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
18	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
19	its quiet and its a nice area	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
20	caves and rivers	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
21	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
22	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
23	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
24	Love hiking there with my kids	4/25/2017 8:13 PM
25	hiking trail	4/25/2017 3:48 PM
26	great hiking	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
27	Beauteous nature and trails	4/19/2017 8:09 PM
28	secluded and many trails	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
29	Nice walk	4/19/2017 3:40 PM
30	Nature	4/19/2017 10:36 AM
31	Peacefulness, marked trails	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
32	Very natural environment	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
33	Well marked trails. Offers many lengths and intensity.	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
34	Set up, good location, signage, maintenance/well taken care of	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
35	Love the walking/hiking trails. Lots of nature to take in and even foraging!	4/13/2017 10:48 AM
36	great hiking	4/12/2017 8:31 AM
37	Forest, walkability, diversity	4/11/2017 7:52 PM
38	Pretty	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
39	i like the hiking trails and wildlife	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
40	Really enjoy the hiking trails.	3/23/2017 3:57 PM

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41	beauty	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
42	Trails and wilderness areas	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
43	Love the hut, wild place for adventures with grandchildren	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
44	Beautiful many trails	2/23/2017 6:47 AM
45	Solitude, varied hiking terrain	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
46	Nature, walking, wildlife, trees, foraging	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
47	Paiges cabin, remoteness	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
48	Great spot	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
49	Extensive and mostly well maintained trails through a variety of quiet, secluded, natural landscapes.	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
50	location	2/15/2017 11:18 AM
51	More camping	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
52	this is the greatest gift the town ever gave to its people for hiking and exploration of nature.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
53	Great trails. Clean and quiet.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
54	Have hiked out on the trails in Bearsden several times... not as often as we'd like.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
55	long trails and access to Millers river	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Newtown Reservoir area (east Bearsden)	Date
1	catching newts and salamanders	5/7/2017 7:05 PM
2	catching newts; nice to hang out there; calming; not too crowded;	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
3	easy scenic walk	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
4	Not many people around	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
5	natural space, good for wildlife	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
6	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
7	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
8	never been	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
9	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
10	nope	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
11	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
12	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
13	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
14	Never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
15	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
16	i enjoy the fishing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
17	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
18	fun	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
19	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
20	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
21	Beautiful area love the history	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
22	Accessibility	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
23	Beautiful	2/23/2017 6:47 AM
24	history , fishing	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
25	Nature, walking, wildlife, trees, foraging	2/17/2017 2:01 PM

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26	uncrowded, wildlife viewing,	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
27	?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
28	location	2/15/2017 11:18 AM
29	My dog loves it	2/14/2017 8:36 PM
30	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
31	i consider this to be part of bearsden, it is a wonderful gift to the people of town.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
32	Great walk, not to long. Lovely lake!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
33	I've probably been near here, just not sure of the seperate areas?	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
34	long trails, the reservoir for fishing and wildlife watching	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	Date
1	birding, habitat for wildlife	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	natural space, good for wildlife	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
3	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
4	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
5	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
7	no	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
8	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
9	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	Never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
12	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
13	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
14	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
15	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
16	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
17	All of. Asss meadow is a favorite place for birding	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
18	preservation seems important because of the water supply for the town.	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
19	interesting	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
20	Wildlife	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
21	Promotes wild life diversity	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
22	accessability, wildlife habitat	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
23	Natural area and wildlife	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
24	Great	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
25	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
26	fabulous for watching birds, butterflies and dragonflies and great place for wildflowers	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
27	Have not been there, but know of it and have been by there serval times.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
28	trails for running and river access	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Cass Meadow South (behind and Allan E. Rich Conservation Area)	Date
1	butterflies, bluebirds, habitat	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	natural space, good for wildlife	5/4/2017 9:06 PM

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3	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
4	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
5	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
7	na	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
8	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
9	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	Never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
12	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
13	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
14	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
15	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
16	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
17	Love walks by river	4/19/2017 8:09 PM
18	Nice to have this preserved in the downtown area	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
19	Great easy hiking for kids	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
20	Wildlife	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
21	Promotes wild life diversity	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
22	accessibility, wildlife habitat	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
23	Nature, walking, wildlife, foraging	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
24	Great	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
25	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
26	fabulous for watching birds, butterflies and dragonflies	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
27	Haven't experienced this yet but look forward to it.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
28	trails for running and river access	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Charles Comstock Conservation Area	Date
1	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
4	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
5	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
6	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	Never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
10	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	fun	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
12	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
13	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
14	Promotes wild life diversity	3/3/2017 12:44 AM

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15	fishing,	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
16	Where is it?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
17	location	2/15/2017 11:18 AM
18	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
19	Have not been, not quite sure where it is located, will have to look into it.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
20	improve trails	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
21	nice hiking trails and Tully brook access	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Minnie French Conservation Area	Date
1	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
4	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
5	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
6	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	Never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
10	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
12	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
13	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
14	Promotes wild life diversity	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
15	?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
16	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
17	nice place for a forest walk	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
18	I have heard of Minnie French Conservaton Area but have not been there.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
19	nice hiking and river access via DFW land	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Millers River Park (behind library)	Date
1	cool to look at, nice, splashing water,	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	fall foliage	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
3	it Quiet good place to think	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
4	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
5	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
6	maybe	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
8	chill place to hang out	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
9	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
10	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
12	It is a beautiful place	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
13	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM

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14	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
15	fun fishing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
16	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
17	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
18	its a river	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
19	Great improvement - nice to have a place to enjoy near the river	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
20	Nice for kids	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
21	Very accessible since we visit the library frequently	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
22	wonderful addition to downtown	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
23	Beautiful little area	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
24	Attractive use of small space but no access to river	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
25	Classes up downtown.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
26	public access and use	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
27	Nice area. I don't think there needs to be any improvement here expand its usage	2/17/2017 1:34 PM
28	conveneint location, nice view of the river.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
29	?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
30	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
31	Nice place to hang out!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
32	Haven't been there	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
33	nice place to sit and look at river	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	South Athol Conservation Area	Date
1	Rabbit Run railroad bed, wetlands	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
4	sure	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
5	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
6	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
7	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	Never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
12	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
13	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
14	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
15	Unlimited low impact use potential	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
16	Saved from development	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
17	Where exactly is this area?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
18	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
19	fabulous for hiking and exploring nature.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
20	Great hike. Swamps and nice vegetation.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

21	Not sure of this area	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
22	improve trails and expand	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
23	nice hiking area, pretty scenery	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Von Dy Rowe Conservation Area	Date
1	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
4	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
5	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
6	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	hate it so much	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	Never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
10	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
12	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
13	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
14	?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
15	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
16	Not sure of this area	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
17	easy river access	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Fish Park	Date
1	Something needs to be done about trash, dog feces	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
2	Tennis courts	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
3	open space in neighborhoods is good to have	5/4/2017 9:06 PM
4	The gazebo	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
5	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
6	the baseball feild	4/27/2017 12:30 PM
7	it has a lot of space to play	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
8	love it	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
9	fun to play basketball in	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
10	love it	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
11	Have practices for soccer or softball there.	4/27/2017 11:00 AM
12	love going there its so fun	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
13	it is so funngoining with my freinds	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
14	i go here with my friends	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
15	good place to skate	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
16	needs a skatepark	4/27/2017 9:46 AM
17	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
18	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
19	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

20	I forgot what it looks like	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
21	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
22	the hills for sleiding	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
23	fun	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
24	fun	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
25	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
26	make it known	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
27	wide and open area can have multiple eventsat once	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
28	its ok but small	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
29	good area for concerts	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
30	My kids love to run and play	4/19/2017 8:09 PM
31	concerts in the park	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
32	big open area with plenty of space for multiple groups of people to enjoy the fields and courts at the same time.	4/19/2017 7:38 AM
33	A lot to do in one place	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
34	Great for family time	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
35	Tennis courts	4/15/2017 12:42 PM
36	Great place for. Families wth young children	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
37	I love the location and how it is maintained.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
38	Sports	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
39	Wslking	3/23/2017 9:35 AM
40	Proximity to my home! Watching kids sled in the winter. Summer events.	3/23/2017 9:31 AM
41	Great for sledding	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
42	Concerts	3/5/2017 9:18 PM
43	Nice park for music	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
44	Sledding	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
45	Great area needs to be utilized more	2/27/2017 9:51 PM
46	central location	2/23/2017 1:26 PM
47	public access and use	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
48	Just need to better maintenance maybe a public bathrooms	2/17/2017 1:34 PM
49	nice central location for community gatherings	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
50	Nice	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
51	More park for kids	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
52	Been there many times, mostly with my grandchildren.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
53	concerts and some YMCA sports	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Pleasant Street School ballfield	Date
1	Its open	4/27/2017 1:26 PM
2	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
4	fine	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
5	its near my house so its fun	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
6	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

7	I have been near there, but not there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	burn it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	It is a good place to do sports	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
12	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
13	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
14	clean it up	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
15	Sports	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
16	Clean it up and maintain it better. Publicist that it is open.	3/24/2017 7:30 AM
17	Great area needs to be utilized more	2/27/2017 9:51 PM
18	Great for kids in that part of town.	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
19	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
20	Haven't been here.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
#	Silver Lake Park (ball fields)	Date
1	A nice place to play ball needs a little TLC	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
2	The playground	4/27/2017 1:26 PM
3	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
4	great for sports	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
5	swiming	4/27/2017 12:30 PM
6	you can practice baseball and softball	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
7	amazing	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
8	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
9	fine	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
10	its kinda fun	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
11	fun	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
12	ok	4/27/2017 9:46 AM
13	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
14	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
15	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
16	I never really go there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
17	clean it up and make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
18	ball feild	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
19	playing softball	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
20	fun	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
21	TRASH!!	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
22	clean it up make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
23	open area can have two or three different games at one time	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
24	ball fields for softball	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
25	good place to spend a day	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
26	Can see multiple games at once	4/16/2017 3:26 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

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Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

31	So much to do	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
32	Programs	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
33	A must for this community as it keeps kids a yiveand off the street. I attend many classes sevser times a wk	4/15/2017 10:41 AM
34	Great location, great facility!	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
35	Kids	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
36	A great community resource for all ages.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
37	Many youth activities (sports, lessons, special events)	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
38	"center" of town activities.	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
39	Great facility	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
40	Always good to have a YMCA in town	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
41	nice facilities (equipment, pool, etc.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
42	What a gem. Needs updating though	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
43	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
44	Great resources! Reasonable prices.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
45	Don't go there often, never took part in any of the programs except for what the kids had been involved in.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
46	great facilities and exercise classes	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Lake Ellis (beach, boat launch, playground)	Date
1	swimming	5/7/2017 7:05 PM
2	local swimmin opportunities	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
3	swimming	4/27/2017 1:26 PM
4	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
5	I LIVE THERE	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
6	amazing	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
7	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
8	ok	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
9	I go fishing at lake Ellis with my friends.	4/27/2017 11:00 AM
10	its fun to fish	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
11	fun	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
12	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
13	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
14	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
15	I like fishing there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
16	clean it up	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
17	the fishing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
18	the lake	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
19	good fishing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
20	fun	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
21	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
22	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
23	really good fishing lake need to have a boat rental nearby so kids can boat and fish deeper waters	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
24	lake	4/27/2017 8:07 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

25	fishing, kayaking, swimming, skating in the winter, beach	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
26	Great location	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
27	Easy access and lot to enjoy on water	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
28	Love this lake. Swimming, boating, berry picking! Wish the park at the beach was bigger though!	4/13/2017 10:48 AM
29	if cleaned up, nice area	4/12/2017 8:31 AM
30	Fishing, swimming, boating, nature, diveristy	4/11/2017 7:52 PM
31	Everything g	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
32	Handicap accessible and get rid of the geese	3/24/2017 7:30 AM
33	beautiful area	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
34	Swimming when it was safe	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
35	Seems run down to me.	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
36	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
37	I've never been to Lake Ellis.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
38	beach, boat launch	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Lake Park Playground	Date
1	the big artificial rock; tire swing; the whole playground is nice; little kid playground is cool for little kids	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	very nice. good place to get kids outdoors	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
3	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
4	it's a good area for family's to get outside and do something fun	4/27/2017 12:35 PM
5	pretty fun	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
6	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
7	cool and fun for kids.	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
8	ok	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
9	Been only a few times.	4/27/2017 11:00 AM
10	nice park	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
11	been there with my papa	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
12	fun	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
13	nothing	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
14	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
15	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
16	It is fun for kids to go there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
17	never been	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
18	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
19	The events such as the haunted hayride	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
20	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
21	fun	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
22	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
23	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
24	Keep it clean. Nice playground. Take my grandson there when he visits.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
25	Lots of different things for the kids to play with	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
26	Great playground	4/15/2017 12:48 PM

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27	It's fenced in.	4/14/2017 11:03 AM
28	kids had fun playing there when they were younger	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
29	BEST playground	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
30	Great selection	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
31	Ties the neighborhood together.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
32	Great place	2/27/2017 9:51 PM
33	Better maintenance and maybe a public bathrooms	2/17/2017 1:34 PM
34	Where is this?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
35	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
36	Not sure of the location?	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
37	nice and clean, cool equipment, lots of people using it... a very alive place	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Silver Lake Park (beach, pond, and picnic area)	Date
1	good for fishing; nice for swimming in;	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	duck viewing	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
3	Great place to walk if it not too crowded - often has rude people, loose dogs, trash	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
4	Dog walking	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
5	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
6	i like the water	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
7	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
8	love it	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
9	kinda old but fun to fish at	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
10	gross needs help	4/27/2017 9:46 AM
11	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
12	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
13	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
14	I like it because I fish there every summer	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
15	make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
16	the fishing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
17	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
18	fishing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
19	needs more fish	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
20	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
21	make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
22	lots of trash needs better sanitation and needs to be able to use gas powered boats	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
23	This should be a real jewel of a beach/park. Needs alot of work and maintenance.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
24	nice area to walk around	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
25	Love how easy to get to and amount of wildlife to see	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
26	Fix the falling walls get a granite bench so children don't throw them in the Lake	4/14/2017 10:53 AM
27	Love this area, it is well maintained, great place to get outdoors.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
28	Exercise	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
29	Handicap accessible. Get rid of the geese	3/24/2017 7:30 AM

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30	lovely area, nice to have access to pavillion	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
31	Easy nature hike.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
32	this is my favorite facility in Athol. Convenient location, nice place to walk with and without dogs, nice place for kids to swim, nice pavillion	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
33	Nice	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
34	A natural jewel in the middle of town	2/15/2017 8:12 AM
35	Its a flat level safe place to walk my dog and observe wildlife.	2/14/2017 8:39 PM
36	To be cleaned up from druggies	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
37	Have been there many times.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
38	beach for swimming and fishing.	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	New England Equestrian Center	Date
1	Love horses	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
2	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
4	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
5	nothing	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
6	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
7	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	Never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
12	TRASH!!	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
13	never been	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
14	Grandkids	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
15	Always clean and well taken care of, there a lot of options for activities at the location.	3/23/2017 3:57 PM
16	very nicely developed equestrian facility!	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
17	Great for children to have a chance to ride	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
18	Great if you own a horse. Is it available to all people in town? Do they offer classes for kids without means?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
19	Don't know about it so maybe more references to them.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
20	I know where this is located but have not had the occasion to go there.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
21	nice running trails	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Veteran's Park (downtown)	Date
1	The honoring to the vetrans	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
2	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
4	yes	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
5	i dont think people should be sitting around it and stuff	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
7	?	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM

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9	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
11	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
12	fun	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
13	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
14	never heard of it	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
15	needs to have more ythigs representing veterans like names of fallen and respect notes or something like that	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
16	I love that we have a Veteran's Park centrally located but feel that this space is under used and poorly sited/designed for it's location.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
17	nice to have a gathering spot for veterans activities in the center of town	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
18	This area is wonderful, wish that there were not so many teenagers hanging out there.	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
19	Programs	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
20	Move the vagrants	3/24/2017 7:30 AM
21	central location	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
22	nice remembrance	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
23	Too formal, not inviting	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
24	Love the fountain and the holiday decorations	3/5/2017 5:22 PM
25	Attracts vagrants away from other parks and open spaces.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
26	Needs some major work done in a very poor state	2/27/2017 9:51 PM
27	Would like to see some grass instead of all those bricks	2/17/2017 1:34 PM
28	Keep it clear from loitering, young kids and druggies	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
29	Been at the park a couple times, pass by often and appreciate it.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
30	I have never been in it.	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Comments, or any other places in Athol? (Please specify).	Date
1	NONE	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	no	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
3	no	4/27/2017 12:18 PM
4	aces the elementary school	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
5	none	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
6	i love the YMCA	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	never been there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
8	no comments	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
9	The Library	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
10	idk	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
11	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
12	middle school high school ballfield- softball	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
13	I like that we have all these locations and would like to see them maintained and preserved, added to.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
14	Ease of access for all. Cleanliness of all. Glad Bearsden has set hours of sunrise to sunset, but wish Road path inside to river was better maintained. Fishing hike can mean a turned ankle.	4/19/2017 12:21 PM
15	The remains of the Morgan Memorial camp and the preservation of the are. Like time travel just to bike thru the area. Quiet and rural and now seriously endangered by the prospect of another route 2 interchange. Bad idea, very bad. Don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM

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16	I think Veterans Park could be improved on. Cleaned up, flowering plants, "respected" space	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
17	Uptown common .. is there another name? This is a great place for all kinds of vendor shows ... local farmers, local crafters, etc. Handsome gazebo.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
18	I'm newish in the area--I've been here for about 3 years and haven't heard of almost all of these places.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
19	I think it's very important to keep the outdoor recreation areas in Athol in good condition and improve any areas need upkeep.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
20	Each of these spaces is unique and have great assets	2/4/2017 7:17 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

Q11 WHAT WOULD YOU IMPROVE about the following parks, conservation, and recreation areas?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 142

Answer Choices	Responses
Allen E. Rich Conservation Area	20.27% 15
Bearsden	22.97% 17
Newtown Reservoir (east Bearsden)	20.27% 15
Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	18.92% 14
Cass Meadow South and Allan E. Rich Conservation Area	17.57% 13
Charles Comstock Conservation Area	14.86% 11
Minnie French Conservation Area	16.22% 12
Millers River Park (behind library)	14.86% 11
South Athol Conservation Area	17.57% 13
Von Dy Rowe Conservation Area	17.57% 13
Fish Park	33.78% 25
Pleasant Street School ballfield	20.27% 15
Silver Lake Park (ball fields)	31.08% 23
YMCA (private, non-profit organization)	25.68% 19
Lake Ellis (beach, boat launch, playground)	48.65% 36
Lake Park Playground	21.62% 16
Silver Lake Park (beach, pond, and picnic area)	37.84% 28
New England Equestrian Center	18.92% 14
Veteran's Park (downtown)	27.03% 20
Comments, or any other places in Athol? (Please specify).	24.32% 18

#	Allen E. Rich Conservation Area	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing, never been there	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	More plants and biodiversity	4/19/2017 8:09 PM

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10	More signage	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
11	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
12	Fine spot	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
13	Mow more often in summer	2/14/2017 8:36 PM
14	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
15	Nothing!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
#	Bearsden	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	nothing i like the view	4/27/2017 9:53 AM
3	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	clean it up	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	make it known	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
11	nothing!	4/13/2017 10:48 AM
12	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
13	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
14	Improve the area map to best reflect the present trail systems and improve a few trails that need work.	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
15	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
16	stop clear cutting the trees damit . . . do controlled burns instead.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
17	Nothing!	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
#	Newtown Reservoir (east Bearsden)	Date
1	don't like all the trees on dam; the walk to the water is kind of long;	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	stock it with more fish	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
9	more bass	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
10	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
11	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
12	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
13	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
14	leave it alone . . . do not remove the dam or drain the pond.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
15	Nothing.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
#	Cass Meadow North (north of Millers River)	Date

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1	bridge connecting over river	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
11	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
12	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
13	cut the weeds . . . it used to be a meadow . . . make it that again.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
14	remove dam on Tully Brook!	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Cass Meadow South and Allan E. Rich Conservation Area	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
11	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
12	cut the weeds . . . it used to be a meadow . . . make it that again.	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
13	can it be connected somehow to Cass Meadow North?	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Charles Comstock Conservation Area	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	Need to know where it is	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
11	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Minnie French Conservation Area	Date

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1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	promotion	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
11	Need to know where it is	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
12	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Millers River Park (behind library)	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	clean it	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	Could use some shade	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
11	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	South Athol Conservation Area	Date
1	first trail blazes, maps	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
11	More signage for existing access and continued development of additional access points/parking	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
12	Ill defined	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
13	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Von Dy Rowe Conservation Area	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM

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3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	promotion	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
11	Where is it	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
12	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
13	easier parking, more visible sign	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Fish Park	Date
1	Upkeep - repair walls, bandstand, clean it up.	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
2	More tennis courts ~ instead of repairing the courts on Lincoln Avenue, they were removed ~ a travesty!	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
3	Clean it up	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
4	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
5	bigger baseball feiled	4/27/2017 12:30 PM
6	a soccer field	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
7	make better things to do	4/27/2017 12:24 PM
8	nothing its perfect	4/27/2017 10:58 AM
9	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
10	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
12	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
13	put in more grass	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
14	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
15	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
16	more things on the park	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
17	trash/recycle bins need to placed at the park, as well as having the town empty them on a regular basis. right now there are individuals who go and clean up the trash a few days a week since the drink bottles and other trash build up quickly.	4/19/2017 7:38 AM
18	Ball field needs tending to	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
19	Better clean up, bins for people to place trash. Carry in carry out signs	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
20	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
21	Rebuild to flatten bottom surfaces	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
22	Upkeep and infrastructure investment	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
23	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
24	Would like to see more of a park for kids	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
25	bathrooms	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Pleasant Street School ballfield	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	redo the feild	4/27/2017 12:32 PM

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3	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	Make the grass more green	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
11	Work on the keeping it mowed and user friendly	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
12	Fencing to keep equipment out of marshes	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
13	Use it in a rotation to give silver lake a break	2/27/2017 8:00 AM
14	How about areas for kids in other parts of town that area easily accessible.	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
15	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Silver Lake Park (ball fields)	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	soft ball man and women	4/27/2017 12:30 PM
3	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
9	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
10	idfk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
11	make it nicer	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
12	fences for homeruns	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
13	better ball fields for softball	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
14	Level the ground so people stop feeling their ankles	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
15	More trash bins. Carry in carry out signs.	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
16	return of the demolition derby and ice racing at silverlake?	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
17	Regular maintenance	3/23/2017 10:12 AM
18	Dedicated soccer space with lighting	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
19	Give more money to maintain and allow a season off to recover	2/27/2017 8:00 AM
20	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
21	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
22	Top priority to rebuild this beautiful park into the towns crown jewel	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
23	needs nicer bathrooms that are not used for equipment storage	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	YMCA (private, non-profit organization)	Date
1	better locker rooms (cleaner); maybe a bigger pool (shallow end is so little);	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM

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3	nothing	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	more stuff to do... sports, maybe a YMCA feild	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	actual park	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	Clean The Pool More	4/27/2017 8:09 AM
11	Police presence in downtown to connect with teens, and roust them from hanging and smoking in front of the library no smoking sign.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
12	Parking	3/23/2017 10:12 AM
13	They need a new building center!	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
14	Expand	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
15	hot tub, somehow lower the membership fee, more open time in the pool, less wait time for exercise equipment	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
16	Lots of people use it, Needs some updating	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
17	Nothing	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
18	Nothing.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
19	membership is very expensive for what you get compared to other health clubs in other towns	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Lake Ellis (beach, boat launch, playground)	Date
1	clean up goose poop	5/7/2017 7:05 PM
2	enforce boating speed limits first	5/2/2017 11:14 PM
3	Clean up	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
4	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
5	put a volley ball net on the beach and help freinds of lake ellis	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
6	clean up some of the trash	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
7	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
8	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	clean it up	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
12	help the fish in there	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
13	clean it	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
14	more bass	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
15	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
16	cleaner lake	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
17	Clean it up from winter fishing	4/20/2017 10:50 PM
18	somehow doing away with the Canadian geese who do nothing but contaminate the beach, play ground and high school property with their droppings and also contaminating the water which prevents people from enjoining the water.	4/19/2017 7:10 PM
19	The beach needs a lot of work new playground equipment is a must. More picknicking areas. fix the boat ramp.	4/19/2017 3:40 PM
20	New sand, better playground equipment maybe a couple of picnic tables	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
21	Trash bins. Enforcement of no smoking on beach around children	4/15/2017 12:48 PM

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22	Beach & swimming area. Overgrowth & weed contr	4/15/2017 11:34 AM
23	the park at the beach could use improvment, bigger/safer equipment. The parking lot needs to be repaved and lined. A boat dock would be cool or maybe a fishing dock so you can fish right from the edge.	4/13/2017 10:48 AM
24	New boat launch, clean up the weeds, new playground, handicapped acessibility fishing pier	4/11/2017 7:52 PM
25	Geese and weed control	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
26	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
27	humane reduction of goose population	3/23/2017 1:26 PM
28	Clean ecoli	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
29	Beach maintenance (parks department needs more money!!)	2/27/2017 8:00 AM
30	Support the boat ramp upgrade	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
31	need to improve water quality and remove invasive weeds	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
32	do something so that the lake doesn't have to be closed for pollution so often.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
33	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
34	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
35	minor upgrades to boat ramp, expand playground mre like Lake Park for folks in uptown	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
36	goose poop in sand is disgusting! and a health risk. Boat launch needs to be improved and made in deeper water.	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Lake Park Playground	Date
1	another tire swing since its always being used;	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	Add more structure	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	Trash recipticals	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
11	remove the rubber tires used as gravel. Put up more equipment, add one more shaded area and more benches around the park	4/14/2017 11:03 AM
12	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
13	Better cleanliness!	3/5/2017 8:58 PM
14	Needs police officers on foot to scare off drug dealers.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
15	Where is it	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
16	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Silver Lake Park (beach, pond, and picnic area)	Date
1	beach always has goose poop in it; beach is kind of small;	5/7/2017 6:08 PM
2	make easier to find - road signs	5/7/2017 10:42 AM
3	UpKeep - keep cleaner, Fix wall.	5/7/2017 10:33 AM
4	People need to pick up their dog's feces.	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
5	Clean up	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
6	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
7	clean up	4/27/2017 8:18 AM

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8	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
9	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
10	Nothing	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
11	make it nicerand clean it up	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
12	help the fish	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
13	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
14	more fish	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
15	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
16	this area is under-utilized....it could be so much more. Clean up the far end by the sand banks and sheild from view the DPW area	4/20/2017 9:15 PM
17	Clean it	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
18	Better trail around lake for walking and no cardboard. Emergency vehicle access only. New parking area with lines	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
19	The old skate park/basketball area is needing some work! Repave the loop around the lake, its pretty bad!	4/13/2017 10:48 AM
20	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
21	Complete re-do, overhaul	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
22	add tables and grills around the pond and try to keep them maintained. Get rid of the incinerator trash thing that is always overflowing and have cans that are regularly emptied. Perhaps a scout troop could help with maintainence.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
23	Fine	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
24	additional trash recepticle and cigarette butt recepticles	2/15/2017 8:12 AM
25	Empty trash barrel more often and put an additional one on the other side of the lake. Vandalism empty liquer bottles, needles, dirty diapers, used condoms and other drug related trash can be found weekly. Maybe increased police presence could help. I've seen evidence of homeless people living there as well.	2/14/2017 8:39 PM
26	To be cleaned up	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
27	Top priority to rebuild this beautiful park into the towns crown jewel	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
28	get rid of goose poop on beach, nicer bathrooms, reduce erosion in fishing spots,	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	New England Equestrian Center	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	never been there	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
3	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
4	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
8	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
9	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
10	Trail system expansion and more activities would be wonderful.	3/23/2017 3:57 PM
11	Possible development of uses for non equestrian uses	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
12	This place is in my backyard and I've only been inside once. The gate is always locked and when I've called to use a trail, I've been refused. This place isn't even really open to the public.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
13	Is this available to all. Can kids in need use this?	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
14	More references to them	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
#	Veteran's Park (downtown)	Date

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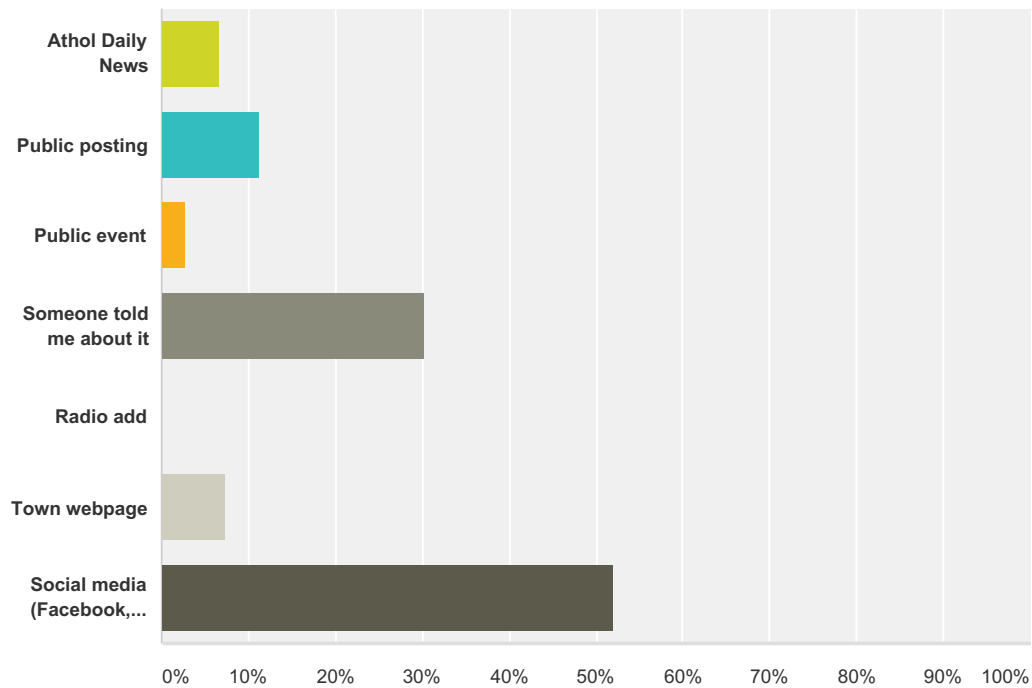
1	Better maintained - move the memorial markers by the Y to Veteran's Park	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
2	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
3	nothing	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
4	make it more known	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
5	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
6	never went there	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
7	nothing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
8	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
9	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
10	Keep it clean and keep the kids out of there at night	4/16/2017 3:26 AM
11	More plants and flowers to create a greener space	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
12	Directions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
13	As previously mentioned above	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
14	Soften it up somehow.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM
15	Wish less people would stop hanging out there, smoking, letting their dogs run free	3/5/2017 5:22 PM
16	Space could be used to promote area events to everyone.	3/3/2017 12:44 AM
17	I don't find this park attractive or appealing. A park should have benches and greenery. On Memorial Day it is attractive with all of the plants	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
18	Poor design, especially for something in the center of town, it needs a face lift to make it user friendly	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
19	To keep the druggies away from it	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
20	I am not sure how welcome people are; all I hear about it are complaints of people loitering.	1/31/2017 8:56 AM
#	Comments, or any other places in Athol? (Please specify).	Date
1	NO	4/27/2017 1:22 PM
2	signs so i know they exist	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
3	no comments	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
4	nothing	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
5	idk	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
6	Maintain what we have.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
7	I love the ecotourism of all the above. We are a well kept secret in this state. Add in Tully, Jacob's Ladder and Royalston Falls, and we live in a gold mine of outdoor options. Shhh! Don't tell Boston or they'll figure out a way to destroy it.	4/19/2017 12:21 PM
8	Advertise more that they all exist.	4/19/2017 10:36 AM
9	Maintain it the highest, cleanest level possible the facilities we have.Iwould like to see the uptown Atholcommon restored to some	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
10	Descriptions	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
11	maybe another disc golf area in town, tully seems popular	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
12	Silver Lake Cemetery is a mess! It has been neglected for too long and needs LOTS of tender, loving care!!!!	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
13	Looking for an all encompassing space...gazebo, soccer fields, softball fields, and playground...similar to hubbardston	3/6/2017 12:28 AM
14	Most places have trash everywhere.	3/5/2017 5:22 PM
15	I think the town needs to invest more money in our fields and look into repairing the vets park	2/27/2017 9:51 PM
16	For all of them, publicity so that we know they're there. Maybe have an open parks day or weekend where maps with descriptions can be given out and we can drive from one park to another to learn about them. Like the maps we get on the garden tours, which I love!	2/24/2017 2:02 AM

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17	I really wouldn't be able to comment on these areas unless I frequent them more often. Perhaps having benches and spots to relax and enjoy if they do not already exist.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
18	More hiking trail maps available online for all conservative areas	2/7/2017 5:32 PM

Q12 How did you hear about this survey? Pick as many as you like.

Answered: 152 Skipped: 64



Answer Choices	Responses
Athol Daily News	6.58% 10
Public posting	11.18% 17
Public event	2.63% 4
Someone told me about it	30.26% 46
Radio add	0.00% 0
Town webpage	7.24% 11
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	51.97% 79
Total Respondents: 152	

#	Other or Comment	Date
1	dad helped create it	5/7/2017 7:05 PM
2	I picked it up when I licensed by dog.	5/5/2017 7:46 AM
3	My teacher	4/27/2017 2:42 PM
4	teacher made me	4/27/2017 1:27 PM
5	Our science teacher forced us to take a survey on a town that none of us even like...	4/27/2017 1:26 PM
6	Im only doing this because i've been told be my teacher that its this or another assignment, and id much rather take your crappy survey then do a paper	4/27/2017 1:23 PM
7	my teacher sent it to me	4/27/2017 1:23 PM

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8	teacher	4/27/2017 1:21 PM
9	MY TEACHER MADE ME DO IT	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
10	My teacher	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
11	my teacher	4/27/2017 12:32 PM
12	Teacher told us about it	4/27/2017 12:29 PM
13	my teacher had my class do it	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
14	My teacher made me do.	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
15	teacher	4/27/2017 12:28 PM
16	my teacher made me do an assignment on this	4/27/2017 12:27 PM
17	by a teacher	4/27/2017 12:25 PM
18	27 of 2017 at athol roylstin middle school	4/27/2017 10:59 AM
19	Josiah	4/27/2017 10:58 AM
20	my mom	4/27/2017 10:58 AM
21	My Teacher told me	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
22	teacher made us.	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
23	teacher	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
24	teacher made us	4/27/2017 10:57 AM
25	my teacher	4/27/2017 10:56 AM
26	my teacher	4/27/2017 9:56 AM
27	school	4/27/2017 9:48 AM
28	Our teacher had us do it.	4/27/2017 8:18 AM
29	my teacher told me about it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
30	teacher made me do this	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
31	My teacher made us do it	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
32	my teacher	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
33	My teacher made me to this	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
34	School	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
35	teacher	4/27/2017 8:12 AM
36	MY TEACHER	4/27/2017 8:11 AM
37	my teacher	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
38	My teacher made me do this	4/27/2017 8:09 AM
39	teacher	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
40	teacher	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
41	never heard about this	4/27/2017 8:07 AM
42	My teacher.	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
43	my teachers making me take it	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
44	Online	3/24/2017 7:39 PM
45	Jeff Thiem	3/24/2017 1:54 PM
46	Posting at hannafor	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
47	I wouldn't have known about it if I hadn't gone to pay my taxes online.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
48	MREC/ABNC Dave Small	2/18/2017 7:31 AM

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49	email	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
50	Athol Bird and Nature Club	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
51	i was at the open spaces meeting so i knew this would be happening . . . spotted the article in ADN	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
52	I got the paper about this survey at the Town meeting that took place regarding the Town Dispatching.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
53	on the committee	2/1/2017 8:11 PM

Q13 ANY COMMENTS? Please make any general or broad comments you have about parks, conservation, or recreational areas in Athol.

[illegible]

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

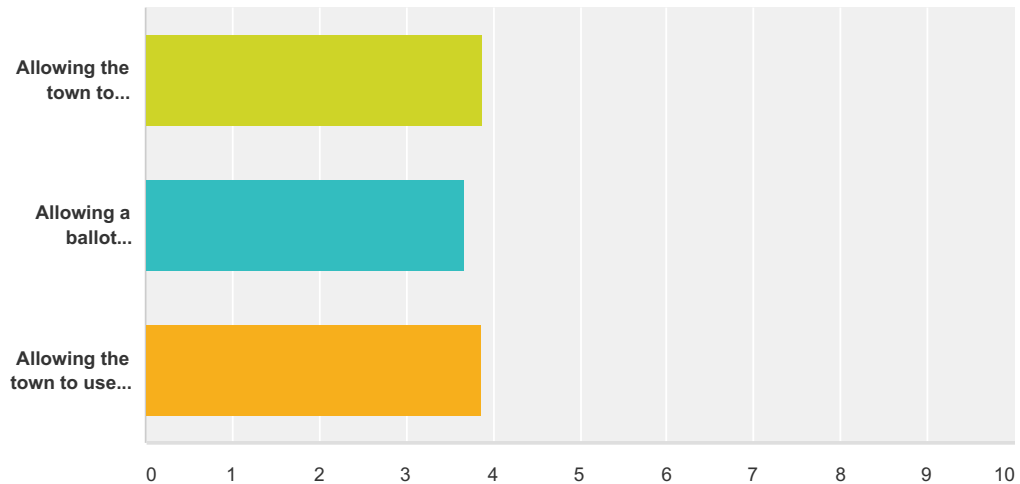
23	There should be a dog park. Kid friendly and lots of toys. There should be a bin of toys supplied by them so the dogs can have toys there too.	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
24	Athol has the 8th cheapest houses in Massachusetts fix that	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
25	Make a place for animals to live in peace. Of course some can be left out to hunt but the species that are endangered or almost is endangered please keep them safe! I want to be able to see these beautiful creatures of life up close and keep it that way;	4/27/2017 8:17 AM
26	more fishing	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
27	No other comments	4/27/2017 8:13 AM
28	I would want more sport centers or fields and gyms and things	4/27/2017 8:10 AM
29	Clean the parks more	4/27/2017 8:09 AM
30	an outdoor hockey rink being built near the indoor one so all the kids in athol can have a rink to just go and play on without paying money to rent the rink since its indoors	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
31	a outdoor hockey rink needs to be built	4/27/2017 8:08 AM
32	dont let kids take this	4/27/2017 8:05 AM
33	I had applied to be a commissioner on the Recreation committee a few years back and never got a responds. I have certification in Physical Education, a certified Life Guard and am an avid outdoor adventurer. Please contact me. Lee Ann 978 413-2989	4/26/2017 7:02 AM
34	We need some really creative zoning regulations to stop the town from getting bulldozed by big box corporate retail. I fled eastern MA because of the proliferation of development. Need trains back to Athol. Mass transit, not highways. No new on/off ramp at Rte2.	4/21/2017 9:11 AM
35	Need better and supervised recreation areas for young and older teens.	4/20/2017 10:50 PM
36	Hope we someday have a walking/bike path next to the Millers the length of the River Rat Race. THAT would be fantastic, and IMO, very well used.	4/19/2017 12:21 PM
37	A family program introducing hiking and exploring the outdoors. Ways and places parents can enjoy nature with their children with minimal prior experience. More opportunities for people to throw away trash to discourage littering. Biodegradable Dog waste bags available at areas to help owners pick up after pet	4/15/2017 12:48 PM
38	We are incredibly fortunate to have so many areas in Athol that are close by. I wish more people would take advantage of them and use them more, myself included. The conservation efforts in the North Quabbin area are magnificent-so many people care about preserving our land. I love it!	4/14/2017 9:44 AM
39	add some bocce courts	4/12/2017 8:31 AM
40	We only have two town owned beaches we should take care of them for future generations	4/11/2017 1:50 PM
41	I would like to see the uptown Athol common restored and the zoning improved to prevent further encroachment of ugly development, gas stations, fast food joints. A streetscape makeover of the uptown "shopping area", sidewalks, parking, and other buildings. Silver Lake Park needs a makeover to highlight it's natural beauty and make it easier to maintain. Redevelop what we have in areas that have been vacant and abandoned before anything else. I don't see the Market Basket Plaza as a plus. But it's here. Now let's not fall victim to the fallacy that a gobstop more is better.	3/27/2017 10:04 PM
42	more funding for the existing town parks.	3/24/2017 1:54 PM
43	I would like to see a bike path along the millers? Or just one in general. One connecting athol and orange? Similar to the one that connects Amherst and Northampton? We backpack and mountain climb that usually takes us out of the area. It was encouraging to see at the garlic festival a booth with the development of hiking trails in the north quabbin. This may not be the space to express this last opinion, but getting a train station in town that connects us to the Fitchburg line? and maybe extending to greenfield?	3/23/2017 7:17 PM
44	Athol, in general, has done a fantastic job of getting its town and citizens through the "depression." "Keep up the good work!"	3/23/2017 9:56 AM
45	Always seems to be more and more areas added for hiking and bikes and horses but never any room for atvs. Horses do a lot of damage at newtons walk to the back trails in the spring and see how tore up the trails are. At least atvs give money through registration fees unlike all mentioned above	3/5/2017 11:32 PM
46	I have lived in Athol since 1987 and I love it. The town is looking good. Plant more trees, open up areas along the river, make a water park area for little kids, start a hundred-mile yard sale along Route 2A? Make some measured walking paths in the downtown? (One mile, one half mile, etc.) Build a boathouse like the one in Orange? Have rental kayaks, stand up paddleboards, etc. Sponsor food trucks at local gatherings.	3/5/2017 8:37 PM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

47	The Parks department does a great job with there small budget. To improve the Athol parks and open spaces they need the right funding! Stop taking away from these areas and let them have what they need to maintain and improve our parks the way they should!	2/27/2017 8:00 AM
48	I wish the area were more cared for. I wish funds could be found to restore that beautiful but decaying fire engine parked on our main street. I wish we could hold a contest to see which street would be the most tended and beautiful and that the main throughway (Templeton Road into Main Street) didn't look so neglected. And I wish that we had fewer businesses along that way that are things like car sales and that we had more beautifully restored historical buildings. The buildings are there, but they need to be tended to just like the roadway. It seems like the town is only trying to get more tax money and so allows unattractive businesses to set themselves up where they are most visible. Please, let's do something to promote the beauty and rural character of our wonderful town (and restore the gazebo in the main square) and stop chasing low-class businesses that make us look low class. And please, let's improve the level of education for our citizens.	2/24/2017 2:02 AM
49	Protection,development,management and promotion of our towns varied and tremendous natural resources should remain a high priority to the towns overall growth plan. I realize it does not pay taxes but helps retain, support and attract those who do.	2/18/2017 7:31 AM
50	This brings to my mind all the good places to enjoy nature and the out of doors we already have here in Athol. Keep up the good work!	2/17/2017 2:01 PM
51	Silver Lake needs help in the maintenance dept. Other than that, I think a good job is being done in general.	2/17/2017 10:42 AM
52	More publicity about what's available would help. The Miller's River Environmental Center does a good job. Make sure the assets that are already in place stay at the level they are before new projects begin. Nice to see people want to make our community a better place. Thanks for all your good work!	2/17/2017 9:41 AM
53	Athol has some very nice parks, conservation and recreation areas but the public interest in these could be further piqued through more public events and guided opportunities to explore and appreciate these places.	2/16/2017 12:16 PM
54	My wife and I walk our dog at silver lake and pick up trash a few times a week. We find tons of cigarette butts. Also many booze bottles. Occasional needles, condoms and in warmer weather dirty diapers (1-2 per week, not kidding). I think extra trash barrels and something to put cigarettes in might help. People smoke down there (not me) even if they're not supposed to. Increased police to help prevent the vandalism that goes on may help too.	2/15/2017 8:12 AM
55	For the past 4 yrs I've walked my dog at Silver Lake a few times a week. I bring an extra bag and pick up trash each day I go. I call police or DPW if something large has been dumped which happens occasionally. I see the items mentioned above all the time. Some people who use the ball field are very good at picking up after themselves while others are not. The same can be said about the pavilion. There seems to be a lack of respect for the environment in this town. Maybe that could be addressed through the schools.	2/14/2017 8:39 PM
56	Some of these parks have potential but the drugs in this area is horrendous. It's really shameful that you can't take your kids to the park without seeing some sort of paraphernalia or needles there. The parks just need to be cleaned up more often. Half of these areas I've never even heard of and I've lived here for a little over 10 years now, so maybe having some sort of reference to them or maybe every few months have something there. Such as a walk to remember, like a show and tell of the area. Maybe even more mentioning of them in the local paper even. Small concerts/play groups for kids just to bring people to those areas.	2/14/2017 8:26 PM
57	where is the question about earmarking a percentage of property taxes to conservation?	2/14/2017 8:01 PM
58	I love thi area. So many options for outdoor activities.	2/12/2017 3:26 PM
59	Anything to improve and keep the parks, conservation and recreational areas in the town of Athol is a huge plus! While our Town continues to grow and offer more it's the natural sites that are so very important to have. It's important that we can experience Nature whenever possible.	2/11/2017 9:43 AM
60	More handicap accessible opportunities please.	2/8/2017 8:08 AM
61	Actually takes a few minutes to complete :-)	2/4/2017 7:17 AM
62	as much we need to staff and maintain what we have.... so that id does not degrade but building gets grants....	2/1/2017 8:11 PM

Q14 To preserve open spaces and recreational activities, how supportive would you be for:

Answered: 135 Skipped: 81



	Very much against	Probably against	Ambivalent	Probably for	Very much for	Total	Weighted Average
Allowing the town to establish a municipal fund to help purchase open space or recreational facilities	5.22% 7	4.48% 6	17.16% 23	42.54% 57	30.60% 41	134	3.89
Allowing a ballot referendum to enact the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to help preserve open space, historic sites, outdoor recreation facilities, etc. as funded by a surcharge of 1-3% of the tax levy. See: CPA overview for more information.	8.33% 11	6.06% 8	27.27% 36	27.27% 36	31.06% 41	132	3.67
Allowing the town to use municipal tax dollars to purchase or improve open space or recreational facilities	5.38% 7	5.38% 7	21.54% 28	32.31% 42	35.38% 46	130	3.87

#	Other or Comment	Date
1	entered by BH on 5/7/2017 from hard copy.	5/7/2017 10:34 AM
2	use the tax money to make a skate park	4/27/2017 12:34 PM
3	Depends on where the open spaces are.	4/27/2017 12:33 PM
4	Maintain what we have first. Preserve the character of the town, including uptown and downtown Athol. This town is special!	4/21/2017 9:13 AM
5	I don't get this are you saying buy more space then we have...aren't all the ones listed on previous pages belong to Athol?Buy more???Lets maintain what we have.I go back to what I say on previous comments I was told there was no money. Are you going to raise taxes for it? You have Seniors on fixed incomes and younger families struggling to maintain the rising costs of clothing food and more.Barely affording the houses available you don't want to loose that tax base.	4/14/2017 11:04 AM
6	I would support these propositions. I believe in conservation lands and appropriate land usage.	3/23/2017 7:25 PM
7	Tired of being taxed to death and nothing to show for it in this town!	3/23/2017 10:19 AM
8	Community spaces are an under-valued resource!	3/23/2017 9:33 AM
9	The town needs to build its own outdoors culture.	3/3/2017 12:48 AM
10	They need the funding!!!!	2/27/2017 8:01 AM

Athol Open Space And Recreation Survey

11	And improve education!!!!	2/24/2017 2:04 AM
12	I would not support the use of any cpa money or any tax dollars for housing.	2/23/2017 1:38 PM
13	in my opinion, the town should always have a million dollars set aside to purchase conservation land.	2/14/2017 8:04 PM
14	I would have to research the pros and cons on these before answering.	2/8/2017 8:09 AM

Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest - Fee and CRs										
MassGIS ID	Site Name	Group	Owner	Owner Type	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	
NA	Alan E. Rich Environmental Park	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol	rec. and education	excellent	more trails	yes	
1465	Athol High School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school	moderate	fully developed	yes	
5635	Athol Middle School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school	excellent	Trails access to Lae Ellis	yes	
5610	Athol Watershed	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Water Department	recreation	undeveloped	more trails	yes	
1446	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
1447	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
1448	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
1449	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
1479	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5606	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5607	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5608	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5609	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5610	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5611	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5612	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5614	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5615	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5616	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
5617	Bearsden Forest Cons Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	more trails and camping shelters	yes	
1480	Bearsden Wshed/Newton Resrvr	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	backup water and rec.	undeveloped	more trails, potentially some can be wheelchair accessible	yes	
5618	Bearsden Wshed/Newton Resrvr	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	backup water and rec.	undeveloped	more trails, potentially some can be wheelchair accessible	yes	
5619	Bearsden Wshed/Newton Resrvr	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	backup water and rec.	undeveloped	more trails, potentially some can be wheelchair accessible	yes	
5620	Bearsden Wshed/Newton Resrvr	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	backup water and rec.	undeveloped	more trails, potentially some can be wheelchair accessible	yes	
5594	Calvary Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
1455	Cass Meadow Cons. Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	short natural trails	yes	
1440	Chestnut Hill Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
5587	Cons Comm Land Near Millers River Wma	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	access to river	yes	
5593	Ellinwood Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
5605	Fay Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
1457	Fish Park	Park	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Parks Department	recreation	ood, recent improvements	bathrooms	yes	
1469	Gethsemene Cemetery	Cemetery	Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester	N	Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester	cemetery	good	NA	yes	
1461	Highland Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
NA	Hutchinson Forest Legacy Cr	Natural Area	Szyndlar, Brian and Suzanne	P	Szyndlar, Brian and Suzanne	land protection	undeveloped	privately owned	yes	
1466	Lake Ellis Beach	Park	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	recreation	fair, needs improvements	bathrooms	yes	
NA	Lake Park	Park	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	recreation	excellent	fully developed, bathrooms	yes	
90	Lawton State Forest	Natural Area	Department of Conservation and Recreation	S	Department of Conservation and Recreation	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5653	Lawton State Forest	Natural Area	Department of Conservation and Recreation	S	Department of Conservation and Recreation	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5597	Lyman Ward School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school	fair	N/A	yes	
44	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
56	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
58	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
59	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
82	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
92	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
100	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
114	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
115	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
117	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
126	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
129	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
146	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
1406	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
1442	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5544	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5545	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5547	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5548	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5550	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5582	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5585	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5586	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5649	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5650	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5651	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5652	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5656	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5657	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5658	Millers River WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
5	Millers River WMA Access Parcel CR	Natural Area	Carmilla, John	P	Carmilla, John (DFG owns CR)	recreation	undeveloped	privately owned	yes	
1451	Minnie French Cons. Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	better trails	yes	
NA	Morgan Memorial Fresh Air Camp CR	Natural Area	Morgan Memorial Fresh Air Camp	P	Morgan Memorial (DCR ownd CR)	recreation and education	undeveloped	privately owned	yes	
1456	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
1441	Neale Conservation Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	rugged trail access to river	yes	
5646	New England Equestrian Center	Park/Recreation	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Parks and Recreation Department	recreation	in progress	possible horse-related buildings/barns	yes	
5647	New England Equestrian Center	Park/Recreation	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Parks and Recreation Department	recreation	in progress	possible horse-related buildings/barns	yes	
5634	New Sherborn Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
263	Petersham State Forest	Natural Area	Department of Conservation and Recreation	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
1520	Petersham State Forest	Natural Area	Department of Conservation and Recreation	S	Department of Conservation and Recreation	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
1462	Phillipston Reservoir Land	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	water protection	undeveloped	public access may be possible	no	
1463	Phillipston Reservoir Land	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	water protection	undeveloped	public access may be possible	no	
1464	Phillipston Reservoir Land	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	water protection	undeveloped	public access may be possible	no	
1467	Pleasant Street School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school	ood, recent improvements	fully developed	yes	
5596	Riverbend School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school	ood, recent improvements	fully developed	yes	
1459	Sanders St. School Playground	Park	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Parks Department	recreation	ood, recent improvements	fully developed	yes	
5604	Silver Lake Cemetery	Cemetery	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	cemetery	adequate	NA	yes	
1452	Silver Lake Park	Park/Recreation	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Parks Department	recreation	ome recent improvements	trails, some maintenance needed	yes	
5599	Silver Lake School	School	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol School Department	school, discontinued	fair	a committee is currently searching for alternative uses	yes	
5638	Skyfields	Natural Area	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	L	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	land trust headquarters and rec.	excellent	privately owned	yes	
5654	Skyfields	Natural Area	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	L	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	land trust headquarters and rec.	excellent	privately owned	yes	
5648	Tully Brook Access	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	Hiking river access	yes	
1454	Tully Brook Cons. Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	Hiking river access	yes	
5645	Tully Brook Cons. Area	Natural Area	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	undeveloped	Hiking river access	yes	
5165	Tully Lake	Natural Area	Army Corps of Engineers	F	Army Corps of Engineers	flood control and rec.	excellent	federally owned	yes	
5193	Tully Mountain WMA	Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	S	Department of Fisheries and Game	recreation	undeveloped	state owned	yes	
1438	Tully River Reservation	Natural Area	Army Corps of Engineers	F	Army Corps of Engineers	flood control and rec.	excellent	federally owned	yes	
1439	Tully River Reservation	Natural Area	Army Corps of Engineers	F	Army Corps of Engineers	flood control and rec.	excellent	federally owned	yes	
1521	Tully River Reservation	Natural Area	Army Corps of Engineers	F	Army Corps of Engineers	flood control and rec.	excellent	federally owned	yes	
5595	Uptown Common	Park/Recreation	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Department of Public Works	recreation	good	bathrooms	yes	
1450	Water Dept. Land (Near Cobb Hill)	Town Utility	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Water Department	water	undeveloped	trails connecting Bearsden to Phillipston conservation land	yes	
1460	Water Filtration Plant	Town Utility	Town of Athol	M	Town of Athol Water Department	water	needs improvement	Universal access birding trail	yes	
149	Feldman CR	Natural Area	Feldman Family	P	Felman Family	recreation	excellent	privately owned	yes	
148	South Athol Conservation Area (Leblanc)	Natural Area	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	excellent	excellent	yes	
93	outh Athol Conservation Area (Stoddard/Meuse)	Natural Area	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	M	Town of Athol Conservation Commission	recreation	excellent	excellent	yes	
421	Blakley CR	Natural Area	Blakley, Constance V	P	MGLCT owns CR	recreation	excellent	privately owned	limited	

Amendment to Town of Athol Transition Plan For 2019 OSR Plan.

This amendment includes the recreational facilities and trails listed in the open space plan.

Alan E. Rich Environmental Park is an area in downtown Athol that includes approximately 6 acres. This sight is a certified animal habitat and has wood turtles and fresh water mussels. Even though it is in the downtown we have seen deer, Bald Eagles and other wildlife including a variety of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. The trail floods during the spring but does dry out to become mostly accessible. It has handicapped parking and picnic facilities.

Action 1: Working with numerous state partners to build handicap accessible boat/canoe launch area. FY2018.

Silver Lake Park is the most popular park in the town and will be a focus area for many of our planned improvements.

Action 1: Investigate the potential for a fishing dock/platform. The lake has many catchable fish including sunfish, largemouth bass, and stocked trout. FY2020

Action 2: If the town improves the existing bathrooms or gets portable toilets we will make them handicap accessible. FY2023.

Lake Park Playground- has the town's best playscape. It has handicap accessible portable toilet during the spring and summer as well as an accessible tent pavilion.

Action 1: Put out an accessible table under pavilion. FY2019.

Bearsden Conservation Area is an area with many trails. Many of these trails follow the natural topography of the area which limits the accessibility. There are tables, benches and a Clivis that are located along accessible trails. Parking at the drivable entrance consists of 25 slots of which 4 are accessible. The parking areas are not appropriately signed or marked for handicap parking.

Action 1: Provide appropriate signage and improve surface in the area of these parking signs. FY18

Action 2: Continue to make improvements on other trails to work towards more accessibility. On going

Newton Reservoir is an area that used to be a water supply. A CR was placed on 600 acres including this area. There is an access road going to the reservoir and the remains of some mud huts used by people who built the dams. This area is not accessible but has perhaps the best potential to become accessible. The reservoir is approximately ½ mile

from the road. The ½ mile access road has some steep grades but also has substantial flat areas. A handicap accessible parking area has been established.

Action 1: Get funding for a design to make the trail accessible to Newtown Reservoir. FY22

Action 3: Seek funding to construct accessible route FY21

Action 4: Build accessible cabin to allow overnight visits FY24

Rowe Conservation Area is a small accessible area that was developed using grant funds from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. It has accessible parking and an accessible picnic table.

Action: promote awareness of the site, on going.

Minnie French is a 15 acre site that is not maintained. It does have the potential of being accessible and one trail could lead to the Millers River overlook.

Action: Work with DPW to move bollard rocks farther away from gates to make them accessible. FY19

Tully Area/Comstock is 50 acres. It is hard to find and undeveloped but does provide potential for trail. It does have potential for accessible trails but would be at a lower priority than the other sites.

Action 1: Improve access to parking and trails. FY19

Action 2: Improve access along trails, install signage and promote the trails. FY18 and FY19

TOWN OF ATHOL GRIEVANCE POLICY

For the General Public

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1:

The Town Manager will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours.

When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification, is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation, or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request, for program, for policy interpretation, or classification will be responded to within ten working days(if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc)

Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (i.e. park commission, conservation commission). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2:

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Manager. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within twenty (20) working days by the Town Manager in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

Facility Inventory		LOCATION: Allen E. Rich Environmental Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES		
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	- Yes	
		Access to Open Spaces	- Yes	
		Back and Arm Rests	- Yes	
		Adequate number	- Yes	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface		
		Located adjacent to accessible paths		
	Trash Cans	- None	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths		
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,				
Trails		Surface material	- Grass, gravel	
		Dimensions	- Min three feet wide	
		Rails	- No	
		Signage (for visually impaired)	- No	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance		
		Location from accessible parking		
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired		
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water		
		Handrails		
		Location from accessible parking		
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all		
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		
		Berm cuts onto courts		
	Equipment	Height		
		Dimensions		
Spectator Seating				
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	- Yes	
		Handrails	- No	
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		
		Handrails		
	Equipment	Arm Rests		
		Bait Shelves		
		Handrails		
		Fish Cleaning Tables		
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible? - Yes	Learn-to-Swim		
		Guided Hikes		
		Interpretive Programs		
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired			
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

LOCATION: Bearsden Conservation Area			
PARKING:			
Total Spaces 12 slots, 25 available		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces: 4 available in Bearsden	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	x		N/A
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.	x		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	x		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	x		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		x	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		x	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		x	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		x	
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			there are no handrails
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	x		
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	x		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			There are no buildings.
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			

Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼” and 1½”			
1½” clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32” clear opening			
At least 18” clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3” of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½” high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36”, maximum 48” above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12” from the floor	x		1 handicap bathroom
At least one Sink: -There is no sink			
Clear floor space of 30” by 48” to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34” to top of rim			
Extends at least 22” from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19” deep, 30” width, and 27” high	x		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall: - There are no stalls			

Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall	x		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	x		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	x		
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	x		
1¼" diameter	x		
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	x		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	x		
42" long	x		
Fixtures:			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	x		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES: -No fountains or telephones			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Floors:			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			

Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains:			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones:			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES: - There are no handicap signs			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Ramp at least 34” wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			There is no swimming pool.
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18” above the path of travel and a minimum of 18” wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48” wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stalls 36” by 60” minimum, with a 36” door opening			There is no shower.
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42” to 72” above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16” deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18” to the top of the seat, and at least 24” long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30” and one 48” long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36” above the floor line			
PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			There are picnic tables located throughout the conservation area.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Bearsden is the crown jewel of Athol. It is trailmarked, has picnic tables, and is mapped. It has multi-usage hiking, hiking, equestrian access, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, skiing, snowshoe cache, mushrooms, and the Bird and Nature Club has active trail groups and children programs. It has one handicap bathroom. Bearsden could easily be adopted for handicap with the main artery, Bearsden Road, resurfaced leading down to the picnic areas.

LOCATION: Cass Meadow Conservation Area			
PARKING: None			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			Primitive parking. Surface okay for wheelchairs
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs			
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			

Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼” and 1½”			
1½” clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32” clear opening			
At least 18” clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3” of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½” high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36”, maximum 48” above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12” from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30” by 48” to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34” to top of rim			
Extends at least 22” from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19” deep, 30” width, and 27” high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			

Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures:			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Floors:			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			

Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains:			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones:			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Ramp at least 34” wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18” above the path of travel and a minimum of 18” wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48” wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stalls 36” by 60” minimum, with a 36” door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42” to 72” above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16” deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18” to the top of the seat, and at least 24” long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30” and one 48” long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36” above the floor line			
PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

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

Facility Inventory		LOCATION:
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Shade provided
	Access Routes	Same experience provided to all
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Equipment	Berm cuts onto courts
		Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

Facility Inventory		LOCATION: Fish Park	
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Access to Open Spaces	
		Back and Arm Rests	
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material	
		Dimensions	
		Rails	
		Signage (for visually impaired)	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	
		Location from accessible parking	
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	
		Handrails	
		Location from accessible parking	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Shade provided	
		Same experience provided to all - Swing seat not appropriate for wheelchair or handicapped	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths - Yes	
	Equipment	Berm cuts onto courts	
		Height	
		Dimensions	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Spectator Seating - None Available	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
	Equipment	Arm Rests	
		Bait Shelves	
		Handrails	
		Fish Cleaning Tables	
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	
		Guided Hikes	
		Interpretive Programs	
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		

Facility Inventory		LOCATION:	Minnie French
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Access to Open Spaces	
		Back and Arm Rests	
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom,			
Trails		Surface material	
		Dimensions	
		Rails	
		Signage (for visually impaired)	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	
		Location from accessible parking	
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	
		Handrails	
		Location from accessible parking	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	
	Equipment	Berm cuts onto courts	
		Height	
		Dimensions	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Spectator Seating	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
	Equipment	Arm Rests	
		Bait Shelves	
		Handrails	
		Fish Cleaning Tables	
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	
		Guided Hikes	
		Interpretive Programs	
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		

LOCATION: Rowe Conservation Area			
PARKING:			
Total Spaces: Eight		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces: 2 handicap spots available	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	x		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.	x		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	x		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	x		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	x		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	x		
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12	x		
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails		x	
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		x	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		x	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		x	
Handgrip oval or round		x	
Handgrip smooth surface		x	
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"		x	
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail	x		
Non-slip surface	x		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	x		
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	x		
3 ft wide minimum	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	x		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		x	
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	x		No buildings
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors		x	
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)		x	
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	x		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	x		
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		x	
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened		x	
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed		x	
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum		x	
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		x	
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		x	
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs:			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			

Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼” and 1½”			
1½” clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors:			
Minimum 32” clear opening			N/A
At least 18” clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3” of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½” high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36”, maximum 48” above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules:			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12” from the floor			N/A
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30” by 48” to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34” to top of rim			
Extends at least 22” from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19” deep, 30” width, and 27” high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			

Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures:			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES:			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Floors:			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			

Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains:			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones:			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers a t least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

SWIMMING POOLS- accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			
PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access		x		1 picnic table
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide		x		
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground		x		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions				
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear				
Notes				The Rowe Conservation Area was developed by a grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. It was constructed by handicap guidelines. A small acre with ample parking, including 2 handicap spots, and there is a picnic bench overlooking Millers River and meadow.

LOCATION: Silver Lake Park			
PARKING:			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces - None marked handicapped	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			Unmarked
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		Unmarked
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		Phillips area
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		Phillips area
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12	X		Paved drive access to ball field. Adequate disabled access
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			
Needs more single grills with picnic tables and improved/new toto equipment.			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		Unmarked
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water			Some - Paved entrance to ball area
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	Grass, dirt, paved, sand
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			

Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs - Cement stairs access to ball fields			
No open risers	X		
Nosings not projecting	X		
Treads no less than 11" wide		X	
Handrails on both sides	X		

Handrails 34"-38" above tread			Not sure
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			Not sure
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip has a smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"		X	
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			

Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures:			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			
Handicapped facilities available. Not accessible at this time for our inspection.			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Floors:			
Non-slip surface			

Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains:			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones:			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			

Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

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

LOCATION: Tully Area			
PARKING:			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces: There are 5-7 spaces.		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	x		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.	x		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	x		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	x		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		x	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		x	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	x		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		x	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		x	
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	x		
3 ft wide minimum	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		x	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			

Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼” and 1½”			
1½” clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32” clear opening			N/A
At least 18” clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3” of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½” high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36”, maximum 48” above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12” from the floor			N/A
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30” by 48” to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34” to top of rim			
Extends at least 22” from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19” deep, 30” width, and 27” high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			

Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures:			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Floors:			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			

Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains:			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones:			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers a t least 1 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Ramp at least 34” wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18” above the path of travel and a minimum of 18” wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48” wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stalls 36” by 60” minimum, with a 36” door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42” to 72” above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16” deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18” to the top of the seat, and at least 24” long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30” and one 48” long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36” above the floor line			
PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access				No tables
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide				
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground				
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions				
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter				
Notes				This large 50 acre tract is hard to find with no signage. It has, however, wide, open trails leading along the Tully. This would be an ideal handicap development.

LOCATION: Veteran's Park			
PARKING: In-street parking			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			On street
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes

Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		Parking area around corner from accessible entrance
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	Uneven - could cause falls
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane		X	Surface not level
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			

Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			
Stairs and Doors			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
Stairs			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			

Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼” and 1½”			
1½” clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors			
Minimum 32” clear opening			
At least 18” clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3” of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum ½” high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36”, maximum 48” above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transitions Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12” from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30” by 48” to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34” to top of rim			
Extends at least 22” from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19” deep, 30” width, and 27” high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			

Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet:			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars:			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures:			
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