Framingham
Open Space and Recreation Plan

Framingham, MA
October 2008

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Prepared by the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Community and Economic Development

Special thanks go to all the residents who responded to the survey or provided comments and suggestions at public forums or meetings; your thoughtful comments are reflected in this plan.

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Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS....3

CHAPTER 1: PLAN SUMMARY....6

A. Purpose....6
B. Process....6
C. Goals....6
D. Implementation....6
E. Highlights of the Action Plan....7

CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION....8

A. Introduction to the 2008 Plan....8
B. Statement of Purpose....8
C. Vision for Framingham....8
D. Open Space and Recreation Committee....9
E. Public Participation and Input....9

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY SETTING: A CULTURAL INVENTORY....11

A. History of the Community....11
B. Growth and Development Patterns....13
C. Regional Context....14
D. Local Context....15
E. Population and Housing Characteristics....15
F. Framingham's "Gray Infrastructure"....18
G. Framingham's "Green Infrastructure" (Environmental Resources Used by Residents)....19
H. Framingham's Unique Cultural Resources....23
I. Framingham's Regulatory and Planning Framework....28

CHAPTER 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS....34

A. Landscape Character....34
B. Geology, Soils, and Topography....34
C. Water Resources....35
D. Common and Rare Habitats: Vegetation and Associated Wildlife....40
E. Wildlife and Fisheries....44
F. Environmental Problems: Impacts of Development....46

CHAPTER 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST....56

A. Overview....56
B. Protected Open Space....58
C. Protected Active Recreation Land....66
D. Unprotected Open Space....69
E. Unprotected Active Recreation Land....72
F. Priority Parcels for Protection....73

CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY GOALS 76

CHAPTER 7: ANALYSIS OF NEED 80

A. Selection of What Has Been Accomplished from the 2003 Plan 80
B. What Remains to be Done from 2003 Plan 80
C. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 81
D. Environmental / Resource Protection Needs -- From Chapter 4 82
E. Community's Needs -- From Chapter 6 82
F. Board/Commission/Committee Priorities 82
G. A Focus on Implementation and Funding 83
H. Compilation of Needs 84

CHAPTER 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 86

CHAPTER 9: THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 87

A. Introduction 87
B. Highlights of the Action Plan 87
C. The Full Five-Year Action Plan 89

CHAPTER 10: PUBLIC COMMENT 97

CHAPTER 11: REFERENCES 1055

APPENDIX A: CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS 1077

APPENDIX B: PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS 1088

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC SURVEYS (ENGLISH, PORTUGESE, AND SPANISH) .....

APPENDIX D: ADA SELF-EVALUATION & TRANSITION PLAN (summary) .....

MAPS

1. Trails
2. Unique Cultural Features
3. Zoning
4. Land Use
5. Soils, Geology, and Other Limitations to Development
6. Water Resources
7. Protected and Unprotected Recreation and Open Land
8. The Five-Year Action Plan

CHAPTER 1: Plan Summary

A. Purpose

The overall purpose of the OSRP is to serve as a guide for protecting, managing, improving, and expanding Framingham's open space and recreation resources in the face of continuing development pressures. More specifically, the purposes of this OSRP are:

- To identify unique open space and recreation assets places that have ecological, recreational, civic, and/or scenic value,
- To prioritize the open space and recreation needs for all citizens of Framingham,
- To identify specific goals, objectives, and recommended priority actions, and
- To qualify the Town for State and Federal cost-sharing funds that might be available for capital improvement and acquisition projects.

B. Process

This 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an update of earlier versions of the Plan. In September 2007 an Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee was established to oversee revision of the Plan. Assisted by Framingham's Planning and Economic Development, the Conservation Commission staff, and Park and Recreation staff, the OSRP Committee undertook a comprehensive analysis of Framingham's Open Space and Recreation resources. Inventories of the Town's open space, recreation, and historic and cultural resources were updated. The Town's open space preservation and recreation needs were assessed through public forums, widely distributed surveys, and many meetings with municipal staff.

C. Goals

The end result of the planning process is a coordinated set of goals and objectives and a five-year action plan that outlines specific tasks to meet the Town's open space and recreation goals. The open space and recreation goals are as follows.

- Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of active recreational facilities
- Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of Conservation and open space parcels
- Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and sylvan opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities
- Creation of new recreational facilities to meet unmet needs
- Undertake other efforts that will support open space and recreation

D. Implementation

Action items designed to achieve each goal are spelled out in the Action Plan. There, detailed actions, responsible parties, and specific timeframes are identified. Since this Open Space and Recreation Plan reflects the substantive input from and broad consensus of many Town departments, boards, commissions, and committees, non-profit organizations, and resident

volunteers, and spells out specific attainable tasks, we are hopeful that implementation will be swift and effective.

E. Highlights of the Action Plan

The OSRPC believes that a few of the objectives and actions are particularly important; they are critical in achieving the stated goals or because they support other objectives and actions. They are discussed briefly below.

1. Ensure aggressive implementation of the plan.

Action 5A2: Form a new permanent Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee (OSRIC) to monitor progress of the plan, communicate with involved departments, and conduct research and develop recommendations as noted in this plan. Recommended activities include: developing coordinated administrative processes associated with land acquisition and protection, aggressively pursuing purchase or protection of priority open space parcels as they become available; identifying possible source of funding for implementation of this Action Plan; and informing and educating citizens about the open space and recreation facilities that exist in Framingham

Action 5C1: Appoint a new CPA study committee

Action 5B1: Research the list of possible funding mechanisms listed in Ch 7 and develop a report recommending funding strategies for Framingham

2. Focus on the maintenance of existing facilities and programs.

Action 1A4: Undertake actions identified in Table 7-1 for Recreation Facilities in Need of Improvements

Action 2A2: Continue and expand Conservation land steward program and workdays to help maintain and improve and make consistent open space parcels

3. Protect open space in Framingham

Action 3A1: Research private land, tax title land, other town land, etc. and identify priority parcels for acquisition (based on size, current land use, ecological diversity, presence of rare species, adjacency to protected land, etc.) This effort will involve Action 3C1: Develop a coordinated administrative process for review of tax title land prior to it being auctioned off.

4. Create non-motorized corridors in Framingham

Objective 4A: Create and complete corridors for non-motorized passage that serve as greenways and provide access to passive and active recreation facilities, places of work, school, public transportation connections, or other points of interest in town.

CHAPTER 2: Introduction

A. Introduction to the 2008 Plan

This edition of the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plans (OSRPs) (Framingham has had four previous OSRPs: 1981, 1990, 1996, and 2003) has been updated to reflect new priorities for the protection of open space and enhancement of recreation, and new opportunities for Framingham to realize its open space and recreation goals.

B. Statement of Purpose

The overall purpose of an OSRP is to serve as a guide for protecting, managing, improving, and expanding Framingham's open space and recreation resources in the face of continuing development pressures. More specifically, the purposes of this OSRP are:

- To identify unique open space and recreation assets places that have ecological, recreational, civic, and/or scenic value,
- To prioritize the open space and recreation needs for all citizens of Framingham,
- To identify specific goals, objectives, and recommended priority actions, and
- To qualify the Town for State and Federal cost-sharing funds that might be available for capital improvement and acquisition projects.

C. Vision for Framingham

Given Framingham's variety of natural resources, the town has the potential to provide residents and visitors with access to open space and recreation as integral parts of their daily lives, and to preserve open space for the long-term.

Through this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), Framingham shall commit itself to making sure that future planning, development, maintenance, and public education efforts will help:

- Preserve natural ecosystems, corridors, and historic landscapes
- Provide passive and active recreational opportunities that is accessible for all citizens of Framingham
- Provide pedestrian opportunities for all citizens of Framingham
- Enhance the quality of life, economic health, and sense of community in Framingham

This vision will help Framingham realize many of the benefits of open space protection*:

- Parks and open space often increase the value of nearby properties, along with property tax revenue,
- Parks and open space attract businesses and trained employees in search of a high quality of life,
- Parks and open space attract tourists and boost recreation spending,
- Parks and open space reduce obesity and health care costs by supporting exercise and recreation,
- Working lands, such as farms and forests, usually contribute more money to a community than the costs of the services they require,

- Conserved open space helps safeguard drinking water, clean the air, and prevent flooding – services provided much more expensively by other means.

*(*From the Fall 2007 issue of the Trust for Public Land's "Land and People" publication)*

D. Open Space and Recreation Committee

In September 2007 an Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee was established to undertake plan revision. This Committee was comprised of representatives of:

- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Planning Board
- Disability Commission
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- School Committee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Board of Selectmen
- Member At-Large

The Committee was staffed by:

- Parks and Recreation Department
- Community and Economic Development
- Conservation Commission

Staff was responsible for:

- Coordinating meetings,
- Gathering data and updating information
- Drafting the revised document

The Committee was also supported by:

- Framingham's GIS Coordinator

E. Public Participation and Input

Public input was an essential component of this plan revision. Every effort was made to assess the needs of all population groups represented in Framingham. Public input was obtained in a variety of ways:

- OSRP committee meetings: Ten (10) posted regular meetings were held between September 2007 and July 2008. All were open to the public. At those meetings, Committee members brainstormed, reviewed the 2003 plan, vetted and annotated maps and lists, achieved consensus on drafts, discussed comments from the public and other municipal boards, and voted on the final plan to be submitted to the state.
- Public forums: Four public forums were held (on 11/26/07, 12/03/07, 12/06/07, and 12/12/07) at four different locations around Framingham. These public forums were publicized through press releases, flyers, and direct mailings to Town Meeting Precinct Chairs and other individuals active in open space and recreation. The forums

introduced attendees to the open space and recreation activities in town, the 2003 OSRP, and the revision process. Facilitators then solicited input from the attendees.

- Local cable television: All four public forums were videotaped and aired on the local cable network.
- Citizen questionnaire: This year the Committee re-formatted the 2003 questionnaire (to facilitate comparison across the years). The survey consisted of forty-seven questions that focused on the types of recreational facilities and activities and open space priorities that Town residents may believe to be important for Framingham's future. The questionnaire was translated into Spanish and Portuguese. The questionnaire was distributed to every school child, made available on the town web site, distributed to several list-serves, and made available at the public libraries, Board of Selectmen office, Conservation Commission office, Park and Recreation Office, Community and Economic Development office, committee member meetings, etc. 182 paper surveys and 73 online surveys were returned to the Conservation Commission office, compiled and tallied.
- Other town boards' input: Committee members went to each of their respective boards and solicited comments on a draft of the plan. Those comments were incorporated into the final plan.

CHAPTER 3: Community Setting: A Cultural Inventory

A. History of the Community

1. Introduction

Framingham, was originally inhabited by the Native American group known as Nipmuc, a loose federation of tribes which at various times were allied with, or subjected to the more powerful Native American confederacies that surrounded them. They were a part of the Algonquin language group, agriculturalist and hunters, living by the streams and ponds of the area, from central Massachusetts to Connecticut. It is difficult to ascertain the population prior to the arrival of the Europeans, though it possibly reached10,000. A census taken after the King Philip's War totaled a mere 1,000. Many of those were bonded into slavery and sent to Jamaica or other islands in the Caribbean. Some were melded into "Christian tribes" which were interned on Deer Island in Boston Harbor.

"Danforth Farms", after Thomas Danforth, the holder of the royal land grant, was incorporated as a town in 1700. The incorporated town was eventually renamed Framingham, after Danforth's birthplace in England: Framingham.

Framingham was settled first for farming, but soon small industries sprang up along the river.

Framingham now has over 66,000 residents, and a diverse mixture of residential areas, industries, commerce, agricultural and horticultural land, and natural open space.

2. Historic Town Centers

Framingham has four major historic Town centers: Saxonville, Framingham Centre, Downtown Framingham in South Framingham, and Nobscot. These areas developed at different times-mostly due to changes in transportation modes and routes. In addition, smaller villages have developed along secondary roads.

Saxonville: was the first to be settled in the mid-17th Century due to its close proximity to the Sudbury River. A succession of mills was built along the river, which influenced the growth of the surrounding area. The most dramatic changes occurred after Michael Simpson bought the mill complex in 1858 and began manufacturing carpets. The Roxbury Carpet Company was a highly successful business, and Saxonville shared in its prosperity. Simpson owned a considerable amount of land surrounding the village, which he landscaped extensively-building scenic drives, overlooks, and rustic bridges to islands in Wildwood Pond, a man-made pond off Mill Pond. Simpson's Park was noted for its fine zoo and picnic grounds. The former park and the now covered pond are the site of the Pinefield Shopping Center.

The former village of Saxonville is now surrounded by post World War II subdivisions and the Massachusetts Turnpike cuts through what was previously Simpson Garden Park. The Danforth Street Playground on a hillside above the river and the athletic fields of Framingham High School are all that remain of the Simpson Garden Park.

Framingham Centre: Framingham Centre developed when a new meeting house was built in 1735 on a knoll above the Sudbury River at the intersection of the river and the main route from Boston (now Route 30). The old Main Street burial ground is what remains of the first meeting house. The character of Framingham Centre remained rural until the Framingham-Worcester stagecoach turnpike, built in 1806, transformed it into a center of business activity. In 1845, after a lengthy court battle (in which the court in Cambridge had to intervene and ordered the town to be surveyed, and a new town hall to be placed in the precise center of

town), a new town hall was built on town-owned grazing land to the north of the original town hall.

Being halfway between Boston and Worcester (i.e., 20 miles or one day's walk), Framingham was chosen as a repair station and a place for the changing of horses. The end of the stagecoach era and the establishment of a major railroad junction in South Framingham caused a decline in public activity at Framingham Centre. However, the area retained its Federal-era character of large homes and public buildings surrounding a common into the mid-20th century.

The Framingham Normal College, founded in the late 19th Century as the first teachers' college in the Commonwealth, has evolved into Framingham State College. The school continues to serve as a cultural center for the community.

The transformation of Worcester Road (Route 9) into a four-lane limited-access highway in 1963 bisected Framingham Centre and essentially destroyed its 19th century commercial center. The area northwest of Framingham Centre along Grove Street still retains an open quality due to the Edgell Grove Cemetery. Edgell Grove, donated by the Edgell family, was designated as a garden cemetery by the designer of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, and is one of the best preserved, despite being bisected by the Massachusetts Turnpike in the 1950s. The Barbara Gray soccer fields on Auburn Street, the Sudbury River canoe landing at Central Street, and the Centre Common are the remains of public access open space in Framingham Centre.

Downtown Framingham: Downtown Framingham became the new growth center with the building of the railroad in 1835. New industries located near the rail line, while a new downtown grew up around the railroad station, and new housing spread north and south of the tracks. The railroad also spurred the development of pleasure parks at Mount Wayte (then called Lakeview) for the Chautauqua lecture programs, camp meetings, and preaching and Harmony Grove pleasure park on the shores of Farm Pond. Large numbers of people would come by train for daily excursions. Although Harmony Grove, between Downtown Framingham and Farm Pond, has been built up with railroad yards and a mixture of urban uses, part of the Lakeview area on the other side of Farm Pond is publicly owned and is still used for outdoor recreation. The former Cushing Hospital, a facility for recovery and rehabilitation of WWII Veterans, has been transformed for open space and recreation purposes. This also led to the restoration of Cushing Chapel.

The Muster Field area, just north of downtown has been developed since World War II as the site for schools and hundreds of apartments for veterans and the elderly. The Muster Field was the encampment for soldiers preparing to ship out from the port of Boston, but it was also the site of one of the first military airfields in the country. Early pilots training at the Muster Field would have their commissioning papers signed by Orville Wright.

At present, Downtown Framingham is the governmental center of Framingham and the location of important public buildings such as the Memorial Building, Danforth Museum, Callahan Center for the elderly, the central library, and County, State, and Federal offices, as well as important mercantile buildings such as the Hemenway block and the Arcade.

Nobscot: Nobscot (originally Brackett's Corner and known for a while as New Boston) has many 17th and 18th Century rural homes on the winding old roads. Nobscot today consists of a community shopping center at the intersection of two secondary roads surrounded by new subdivisions and apartments. West of Nobscot is a large area that has remained undeveloped due to its hilly topography and to a lack of public sewer and water service. There remains an extensive undeveloped area of land in the Northwest district including the Callahan State Park

and Nobscot Mountain. The diversity of landscapes and scenic farmland are still reflective of the Towns agricultural heritage.

B. Growth and Development Patterns

1. Town-wide Patterns of Development and Land Protection

Located between Boston and Worcester, Framingham is considered an “urban-fringe” community. Like many other “urban-fringe” communities, Framingham has experienced dramatic sub-urbanization over the past two decades. While much of the Town has relatively high residential and commercial density, large portions of the town retain a somewhat rural quality.

The town's transportation networks have greatly affected development patterns. The town's major population centers developed around highway (and rail) corridors. Two large transportation corridors run east-west and bisect the town; I-90 and I-495 link the area to the Interstate Highway network, providing easy access to regional markets; direct access to I-90 is provided by two Framingham interchanges. Development is concentrated on state highways, particularly the area bordered by State Route 9 (Worcester Rd.), State Route 30, and Speen Street a regional retail district known as the Golden Triangle. Commercial development has also clustered on Routes 126 and 135.

(State Route 9) is heavily commercially developed. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) has limited access and associated development.

In the northwest, gently rolling hills and fields give way to more sizeable hills. The northwestern portion of the town is low-density suburban development, working and pleasure farms, and large tracts of state, municipal, and private protected open space, so is a large-scale patchwork of forests and fields. The eastern half of town is much more densely developed. Northeastern Framingham is predominantly single-family homes on small lots. North Framingham contains the old town center, Saxonville, and Nobscot. Southeastern Framingham holds Downtown Framingham, and is predominated by multi-family homes on smaller lots.

2. Development Trends

The Town's development has historically occurred along major transportation routes. Commercial development in particular continues to develop along these routes.

Recent development includes the expansion of Genzyme, Inc.’s technology park in southwestern Framingham, a few new subdivisions in northwest Framingham, and numerous single family homes scattered across the town.

A large planned unit development (PUD) is in the process of securing permits on a 130-acre site in northeast Framingham. It will include roughly 525 residential units (town houses and condominiums), limited commercial development, and open space preservation.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) developed a Build-Out Analysis for Framingham in 1999-2000. It indicates that between the time of the study, and full build-out (based on zoning regulations and few other firm regulatory constraints), Framingham could have 3227 new dwelling units and 7684 new residents. Some of that growth potential has already been realized, but much more could occur without significant changes in zoning, regulations, or land protection efforts.

The largest clusters of vacant developable land in Framingham appear in the northwest corner of town, north of the Massachusetts Turnpike and west of the Nobscot Village area. There is

also a sizable portion of developable land in the southeast corner of town, however, this is land located on either side of the Exit 13 interchange for the Turnpike.

If large-scale or intensive development continues, the town will experience not only a strain on public services, but a loss in environmental and aesthetic quality. This increases the importance of preserving the natural features and open space quality that Framingham residents currently enjoy.

C. Regional Context

Framingham is located within the MetroWest Sub-Region of Boston and is bordered by Sudbury to the north, Wayland and Natick to the east, Sherborn and Ashland to the south, and Southborough and Marlborough to the west. The MetroWest region is located midway between the two largest cities in Massachusetts, Boston and Worcester, and is easily accessible via the Massachusetts Turnpike, Route 9 and Route 495. Framingham is very diverse in terrain and demographics. In sharp contrast to the densely developed northeast and southeast portions of Framingham, the northwest portion of Framingham is characterized by gently rolling hills and fields, working and pleasure farms, and large (over 20 acres) tracts of state, municipal, and private forest and other open space.

Framingham is located within the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SuAsCo) River watershed. The Sudbury River bisects Framingham, entering in the southwest from Ashland, flowing for seven miles to Wayland in the northeast. Four miles of the river were designated as “scenic” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

State Route 9 and Interstate 90 run east-west through the middle of Framingham. Rte. 9 has been developed as a major commercial corridor. Interstate 90 has two interchanges in Framingham.

Framingham has two major greenway systems, essentially continuous corridors that allow the passage of wildlife (and humans). The first is the Sudbury River that runs from the southwest to the northeast. The second is the MWRA aqueduct system, comprised of the grassy-topped Hultman, Weston, and Sudbury Aqueducts that run east-west across Framingham.

As the largest urban center in the MetroWest sub-region, Framingham is a regional urban center for employment and services. Framingham's position as MetroWest's urban center also means that the Town contains a significant portion of the region's lower-cost housing and lower-income residents. Due to the easy accessibility of the region, combined with a highly educated work force and the availability of less expensive housing compared to the greater Boston area, the area has attracted many new residents and businesses. Total population in the MetroWest sub-region grew 8.5% between 1990 and 2000 (US Census, 2000); however, this growth was concentrated in Ashland and Marlborough. This growth has increased the demand for recreational resources in Framingham and the surrounding communities.

Some of the recreational resources in Framingham are important regionally as well as locally. Lake Cochituate State Park, with its main entrance on Route 30 just over the town line in Natick, is a major regional attraction for swimming and boating. Callahan State Park in Framingham's northwest quadrant provides opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking and cross-country skiing. Sudbury Valley Trustees owns several large tracts of open space with miles of trails in Framingham. The Bay Circuit Trail passes through Framingham. The New England Wild Flower Society’s Headquarters are in northeast Framingham. Boat ramps at Farm Pond (non-motorized use) and Waushakum Pond provide access to these water bodies for boaters from the surrounding area. The skating rink at Loring Arena is an important regional resource, as is the indoor swimming pool at Keefe Regional Technical High School.

The MetroWest YMCA serves Framingham and many of the surrounding communities with its facilities and diverse recreational and educational programming.

The Town of Framingham is a member of several regional planning bodies. Framingham is a member of the Metro West Growth Management Committee, one of eight Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) sub-regions.

The Metro West RTA is a locally controlled, regional bus system currently incorporates nine towns: Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Natick, Ashland, Sherborn, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston.

D. Local Context

Framingham has areas of very different landscape character, from the urban downtown, through suburban areas, to very rural and natural areas. *(Map 4: Land Use)*

With a considerable and growing number of recent immigrants from Brazil and other Latin American countries, as well as large and growing numbers of immigrants from Asia, Europe, and Africa, Framingham is more culturally and racially diverse than the immediately surrounding communities.

There are many fairly distinct/distinguishable neighborhoods in Framingham, roughly defined around commercial areas, demographics, landscape features, and transportation and waterway corridors. There is value in considering different open space and recreation resource demand and availability based on neighborhoods.

There are many local recreational resources in Framingham, including playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, basket ball courts, local swimming beaches, etc. For a complete listing of the Town's recreational resources see Chapter 5 of this plan.

E. Population and Housing Characteristics

1. Population Growth

Between 1940 and 1970 Framingham experienced a substantial population growth (Table 3-1) and this has had a dramatic effect on land use. Abundant developable land, excellent highway access to Boston, and a high demand for suburban housing helped to stimulate residential construction. Population growth was accelerated by a high birth rate. Population growth rates during this period strained the ability of the Town to preserve open space and provide outdoor recreational facilities.

Table 3-1. Population Growth in Framingham, 1940-2006

Year	Population	Percentage Change
1940	23,214	N/A
1950	28,086	21.0
1960	44,526	58.5
1970	64,048	43.8
1980	65,113	1.7
1990	64,989	-0.2
2000	66,910	3.0
2006	66,173	-1.1

*Source: U.S. Census 2000; *2006 American Community Survey*

More recently, population growth has slowed considerably. In fact, Framingham's total population declined slightly between 1980 and 1990, and again between 2000 and 2006. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council's population forecasts, however, indicate that the population will continue to increase slightly in the near term.

While the overall number of households increased by 4.1 percent between 1990 and 2000, household size declined from 2.6 to 2.4 persons during this same period (Source: US Census).

2. Age of Population

The age distribution of Framingham between 2000 and 2006 is shown in Table 3-2. Recently, there has been significant growth in young children (0-5 years) and older-middle-aged residents (55-64 years). At the same time, there has been a decline in youth and young adult residents (10-34 years) and elderly residents (75 years and older).

Table 3-2. Framingham Population by Age, 2000-2006

Age distribution	Number 2000	Percent 2000	Number 2006	Percent 2006	% Change 2000-2006
Under 5 years	4,324	6.5	5,160	7.8	**19.3**
5 to 9 years	4,059	6.1	3,985	6.0	-1.8
10 to 14 years	3,825	5.7	3,407	5.1	-10.9
15 to 19 years	3,724	5.6	3,158	4.8	-15.2
20 to 24 years	4,410	6.6	3,933	5.9	-10.8
25 to 34 years	11,622	17.4	8,919	13.5	**-23.3**
35 to 44 years	11,462	17.1	11,635	17.6	1.5
45 to 54 years	9,019	13.5	10,254	15.5	13.7
55 to 59 years	3,278	4.9	4,228	6.4	**29.0**
60 to 64 years	2,496	3.7	3,312	5.0	**32.7**
65 to 74 years	4,337	6.5	4,271	6.5	-1.5
75 to 84 years	3,001	4.5	2,638	4.0	-12.1
85 years and over	1,353	2.0	1,273	1.9	-5.9

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

The age of the population creates a demand for specific types of recreation facilities. Families with young children need neighborhood playgrounds. Youth and young adults need playfields for team sports and areas for healthful exercise such as running, skateboarding, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. Activities such as boating, fishing, gardening, and golf are popular with mid-life adults. Elderly residents, especially renters, need pleasant and safe places to walk and sit outdoors, as well as places to go for group outings.

3. Cultural Demographics

With a considerable and growing number of recent immigrants from Brazil and other Latin American countries, as well as large and growing numbers of immigrants from Asia, Europe, and Africa, Framingham is more culturally and racially diverse, than of the immediately surrounding communities (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3. Cultural Demographics of Framingham

RACE	Framingham, MA	United States
White	79.8%	75.1%
Black	5.1%	12.3%
Asian	5.3%	3.6%
American Indian	0.2%	0.9%
Other	6.3%	5.5%
Hispanic	10.9%	12.5%

Source: 2000 US Census

4. Population Density

With a land area of 26.5 square miles and a current population of 66,173 residents, the Town's overall population density is 3.9 persons per acre, but the density ranges from 9.3 persons per acre in southeast Framingham, to 2.0 persons per acre in northwest Framingham.

Population density strongly influences the demand for open space and public outdoor recreation facilities. In high-density residential areas, the houses generally lack private yard space sufficient to be of recreational value. Typically, such areas need parks for children. In residential areas with lower density the need for small parks is less significant.

5. Employment

Large employers in Framingham include Staples, Bose, Genzyme, Adessa, MetroWest Medical Center, TJX, Verizon's engineering facility, Framingham State College, Massachusetts Correctional Institution (MCI) Framingham, Perini Corporation, the Massachusetts State Police Headquarters, and Shoppers World, Target, Walmart, and other retail outlets, banks, and hotels.

Framingham also has numerous small retail businesses, particularly in what is called the "Golden Triangle" (between Route 9, Route 30 and Speen Street in Natick). The Town has adopted overlay-zoning regulations, which apply to the Route 9 and Golden Triangle areas. One of the main purposes of these regulations is to increase the amount of landscaped open space provided by businesses. It is likely that business growth, both commercial and industrial, will continue. Industrial development, however, is somewhat constrained by the limited availability of large parcels to accommodate manufacturing plants.

6. Income

According to the 2006 American Community Survey, the median household income in Framingham was $58,207, slightly lower than the state-wide median household income, which was $59,963.

Income level influences demand for public recreation facilities and open space. While higher-income households have a greater ability to pay for private recreation and have the resources to travel to recreation centers outside the Town, low and moderate-income families depend more heavily on free public recreation.

7. Housing Tenure

According to the 2006 American Community Survey, 42.7 percent of Framingham's housing units were renter-occupied, a 4.4 percentage-point increase over the 2000 estimate of 38.3 percent. Renter occupancy ranges from roughly 70 percent in the southeast to 11 percent in the northwest. This pattern of renter tenure parallels the population density factors.

Residents in rental units generally have a greater need for public outdoor recreation facilities. Although some luxury apartment complexes provide private outdoor recreation facilities for tenants, most renters lack access to private outdoor areas and must depend on public parks and playgrounds.

F. Framingham's "Gray Infrastructure"

1. Transportation Systems

The MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) operates the local bus service formerly called the LIFT (Local Inter-Framingham Transit) which provides service to other local routes. LIFT system that was initiated in September 1984 to provide low cost intra-town transportation. The MWRTA/LIFT, system currently includes six routes. The system operates six days a week and connects all sections of the town. The MWRTA, also serves the towns of Ashland, Hopkinton, Holliston, Milford, Southborough and Marlborough.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) also provides THE RIDE, a door-to-door, paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Peter Pan Bus Lines a private carrier provides bus service connecting Framingham to Boston and Worcester. Logan Express, a service of Massachusetts Port Authority, provides non-stop express bus service between Framingham and Logan airport.

Commuter rail service is available on the MBTA system, with lines from its Boston hub to Framingham, Worcester, Providence, Lowell and other communities. In September of 1994, commuter rail service to Worcester was initiated and express commuter trains between Framingham and Boston became available. The downtown rail station can be accessed via the MWRTA bus system. Amtrak provides passenger rail service from Framingham on its Boston-Washington and Boston-Chicago routes.

These systems increase access to recreation facilities for residents who do not have access to private automobiles, particularly the physically disabled, the elderly, and children.

2. Water Supply Systems

The Framingham Water Division Program is responsible for the distribution of a public water supply and for the provision of a fire suppression service to the 17,000 residential and commercial accounts within Framingham. Most (~95%) of the 8-10 million gallons/day water supply is acquired from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) new MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel and is subsequently distributed throughout the Town by means of a complicated system of pumps, valves, and reservoirs. The remaining 5% of water supply comes from private wells.

Three "surface" aqueducts cross Framingham, the Weston, the Hultman, and the Sudbury. With its leaks and aging valves, the Hultman needed to be taken off-line for major repairs. MWRA built and turned on the deep MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel in November 2004. The new tunnel greatly enhances the security, capacity and reliability of MWRA's entire water transmission system. MWRA plans to reactivate the Hultman.

The Town maintains in reserve several wellheads, and is planning to reestablish those wellheads to supply approximately half of the total municipal demand.

The Framingham Water Division provides for the maintenance and repair of the water distribution infrastructure that includes; 250 miles of conduit, 2000 hydrants, 22,000 water gate valves, 16,000 water meters, four pumping stations, one booster station, and five above ground water tanks having a storage capacity in excess of 7 million gallons. The municipal water system currently has 9% of its water "unaccounted for", that is, non-metered water lost

through leaks and cross-connections. DEP regulations now require municipal water system to have unaccounted for water figures of 15% or below and Framingham is well below this limit.

The river in Framingham passes over a series of three dams. The dams that form the Reservoirs were constructed in the late-1800s to provide Boston and the metropolitan area with a public water supply. The Reservoirs are no longer designated as back-up emergency drinking water supplies.

3. Sanitary Sewer Service

The municipal sewage system serves about 85 percent of the Town's population. It is primarily the northwest part of Town and Salem End Road that are not served by the Town system. The Sewer Division Program is responsible for the collection and sanitary disposal of 10 million gallons of sewerage each day from the 17,000 residential and commercial accounts within the community. All wastewater is discharged through the Wellesley-Framingham Interceptor to the Deer Island sewage treatment plant in Boston Harbor. The collection system consists of 226 miles of gravity sewer mains, 18 miles of sewer force mains, roughly 50 sewer pumping stations, 6900 manholes, and miles of cross country easements.

The town is actively inspecting and upgrading the system to address stormwater and groundwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer system, bottlenecks, and system maintenance.

Within Framingham, new connections to the system are limited and regulated. There are only four sewer lines that carry sewerage from the north and west across the Massachusetts Turnpike to the discharge facility on Arthur Street – adding significant volume from the northwest area, therefore, is not possible without a massive (privately funded) distribution system upgrade. Since the state (MWRA) and the Town need to limit corrosive sulfides, there is an agreement to cap and reduce the number of pump stations.

Framingham's sewer system currently does not have any serious problems with inflow and infiltration. Inflow is caused by direct connections to the sewer system from roof drains, sump pumps and any other water source directly discharging into a sewer line without the Sewer Division's knowledge. Infiltration is essentially groundwater infiltrating into the sewer pipes.

G. Framingham's "Green Infrastructure" (Environmental Resources Used by Residents)

Framingham is fortunate to have a great deal of protected and publicly accessible open space and natural resources. Inter-connected ecosystems of uplands, wetlands, and open water allow for wildlife survival and human recreation. Natural and developed trails are available for recreation and transportation. Agricultural, horticultural, and silvicultural opportunities abound in the northwest. Together, these comprise the Town's valuable "green infrastructure".

Details of these individual resources appear in Chapter 5, the land inventory. Summary lists are provided here.

1. Land

(Map 7: Protected and Unprotected Recreation and Open Land)

- Protected open space and recreation land, including:
    - Callahan State Park: 820-acre day use, primarily forested area criss-crossed with trails
    - Framingham Conservation Commission land: 414 acres of mostly forested land, with 6 parcels with established trails
    - Framingham Parks and Recreation Department parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, and passive facilities
    - SVT owns approximately 350 acres of open space in Framingham. Some of the land is managed for passive recreation, some for agricultural use, and some for watershed and wildlife habitat protection.
    - The Sudbury River -- 7.6 miles of the Sudbury River flows through Framingham
- Unprotected open space and recreation land, including:
    - New England Wildflower Society headquarters and botanic garden (Garden in the Woods) occupies 31.96 acres in the northeast of Town. It is a demonstration of native plants and a variety of ecosystem types.
    - Private farmland and forest land: There are over 700 acres of land (37 parcels) in active agriculture, horticulture, and/or silviculture.

2. Water Resources

(Map 6: Water Resources)

- Sudbury River – 7.6 miles of which flows through Framingham.
- Lake Cochituate – a 614-acre lake divided into three major basins located in three towns (Framingham, Wayland, and Natick), the waters are owned and managed by the state, but utilized through town beaches and a large state park.
- The major ponds – Framingham has seven major ponds: Waushakum, Learned, Norton's, Farm, Sucker, Little Sucker, and Mohawk. All but Sucker, Little Sucker, and Mohawk support recreational activities.
- Wetlands – Framingham is blessed with a rich variety of wetlands that provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife as well as providing natural flood control.
- Water supply aquifers – Framingham has large areas designated as Zone II aquifer recharge areas.

3. Canoe Landings

Framingham has several established canoe launch/landing locations.

- On Central St. near the intersection with Edgell
- At the dead end of Little Farms Rd
- At the dead end of Centennial Place
- On Farm Pond

- On Waushakum (the landing is in Ashland)

4. Trails and Corridors

(Map 1: Trails)

- Trails on Framingham Conservation Land
- Trails in Callahan State Park
- Trails on SVT properties
- The Bay Circuit Trail – The Bay Circuit Trail, located between Route 128/I-95 and I-495, is a 200-mile corridor through 50 cities and towns stretching from Newburyport to Duxbury, connecting conservation areas and enhancing recreation opportunities in a long arc through the suburbs of Boston. Roughly 5 miles of the trail traverses Framingham. It is routed through the Boy Scouts' Nobscot Reservation; DCR Division of State Parks' Nobscot parcel and Callahan State Park; Framingham's Wittenborg Woods; SVT's Gross Tract, Henry's Hill, and Welch Tract; and the DRC Division of Water Supply Protection's Sudbury Reservoir.
- The MWRA Aqueducts -- three "surface" aqueducts cross Framingham: the Weston, the Hultman, and the Sudbury. Pedestrian use of these grassy corridors is common.
- Rail Trails (Existing and Proposed). The Draft Massachusetts Bicycle Plan website (www.massbikeplan.org/index.htm) contains maps and descriptions of all existing and proposed trails in the state. A few of the most pertinent are listed below.
    - The Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT) is a proposed multi-use trail which will extend from the Village of Saxonville in Framingham to Natick Center, a distance of 4 miles. The Framingham section of the trail is currently under development. A 99-year lease has been executed with the MBTA and a design consultant has been hired.
    - The Bruce Freeman Trail begins along the unused Old Colony rail line, thirty miles from Sudbury to the junction of Routes 3 and 495 in Lowell. The railroad right-of-way, running through Sudbury, Concord, Acton, Westford, and Chelmsford, is slowly being converted into a multi-use trail. The Sudbury to Lowell trail will connect the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway Extension in Acton, the Central Mass Bikepath/Wayside Trail in Sudbury, and the Merrimac River in Lowell. Phase I from Rte 495 south to Rte 225, Phase II from Rte 225 though Acton, Concord, and Sudbury, and Phase III from Sudbury to Framingham. Phase III is still very early in the development process. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail would be situated on a right-of-way currently owned by CSX. A real estate appraisal for this land is being conducted.
    - The Northeast Marlborough Greenway starts at the proposed Wayside Rail Trail near the Hudson/Marlborough line. The greenway includes the City of Marlborough's Desert Conservation Area and a portion of Marlborough State Forest in northeast Marlborough. The proposed greenway/trail system continues in a southwesterly direction towards the Mount Ward/Ghaloni Park area. From this area existing and proposed trails lead both southerly towards the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection's Sudbury Reservoir, and southeasterly towards Callahan State Park where the greenway/trail system links with the Bay Circuit Trail.

- The South Sudbury Rail Trail -- Development of a north-south rail trail along the South Sudbury Industrial Track railroad right-of-way has been envisioned. This proposed rail trail would link the proposed Weston Aqueduct Greenway in Framingham to the proposed Wayside Rail Trail. There is still some limited use of the railroad track, so trail development may not occur in the near future.
- The Northeast Marlborough Greenway -- This trail/greenway starts at the proposed Wayside Rail Trail near the Hudson/Marlborough line. The greenway includes the City of Marlborough's Desert Conservation Area and a portion of Marlborough State Forest in northeast Marlborough. The proposed greenway/trail system continues in a southwesterly direction towards the Mount Ward/Ghaloni Park area. From this area existing and proposed trails lead both southerly towards the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection's Sudbury Reservoir, and southeasterly towards Callahan State Park where the greenway/trail system links with the Bay Circuit Trail.
- The Southborough/Callahan South Link – People are attempting to establish a hiking trail that will provide a direct link from the Pine Hill area of Southborough to the southern portions of Callahan State Park in Framingham. The trail will start at Pine Hill Road south of Graystone Way, and run easterly parallel to a private road to be constructed as part of a recently approved subdivision in eastern Southborough along the Framingham boundary. The trail will cross Angelica Brook in Southborough, follow a utility easement, and access a 50 feet wide access easement/right of way across from Currier Drive in Framingham (between 84 and 86 Angelica Drive). From there the trail will head easterly for 0.25 mile along Currier Road to Callahan State Park where it will connect with the park's trail system.
- The Wayside Rail Trail is a proposed hiking trail that would utilize 23 miles of MBTA right-of-way from Waltham to Berlin. In the project area the rail trail cuts across Sudbury through SVT's Memorial Forest, and into the Desert Conservation Land in the most northeasterly portion of Marlborough. This rail trail is connected to several other existing and potential regional trails including the Central Mass Rail Trail, the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the Red Line Linear Park, the Assabet Rail Trail, and the South Sudbury Rail Trail. It would be used for the Bay Circuit trail from Sudbury to Wayland, and has significant potential as a greenway linking several protected open spaces.
- The Upper Charles Trail is a state-funded project to convert a 20-mile, abandoned rail bed in six communities into a scenic, recreational path for bicycling, walking, cross-country skiing, roller-blading, and other non-motorized uses. It would come very close to the southern corner of Framingham.
- The Weston Aqueduct Greenway and Trail System -- Development of a greenway and related hiking and biking trail system using the MWRA-managed Weston Aqueduct and adjacent open space parcels is likely to occur. The proposed Weston Aqueduct Greenway and Trail System will provide access to Callahan State Park from eastern Framingham. The Weston Aqueduct trail(s) would connect to a series of other trails including the Saxonville Nature Trail and the Cochituate Rail Trail. The greenway/trail system would eventually connect Callahan and Cochituate State Parks. This trail system would provide residents of Natick and Wayland access to the Bay Circuit Trail.

H. Framingham's Unique Cultural Resources

Historic and cultural resources are aspects of the environment that reflect the activities and human contributions of an area. These resources give communities their character, sense of time and place, and contribute to the quality of life in an area. They include historic buildings and structures, scenic roads and landscapes, important institutions and landmarks, streetscapes, and other elements. The river is a historical resource as the river was important in Indian and Colonial settlements and to the historic evolution of the town. It also provides natural open space for recreation today. All these elements, in conjunction with the area's natural features, define a community's unique or special character. *(Map 2: Unique Cultural Features)*

Framingham benefits from the existence of privately owned resources as well as the Town-owned conservation and recreation areas. The value attributed to scenic landscapes is based on values that most people consider to be intrinsic with their own well-being. These include clean air and water, open space, solitude, and harmony between man and nature.

1. Scenic Resources

State Scenic Landscape Designation

As part of a statewide preservation effort, the Department of Environmental Management conducted a survey in 1983 to assess the Commonwealth's scenic landscape inventory. The inventory uses three classes of scenic quality: "distinctive", "noteworthy", and "common." Distinctive landscapes include areas of the highest visual quality and include only about 4% of the Commonwealth. "Noteworthy" landscapes consist of somewhat less significant, although still important, visual quality and are limited to only 5% of the Commonwealth. The "common" landscapes, comprising 91% of the Commonwealth's landscape, contain smaller sections of scenic quality but do not have the consistently high levels found in distinctive and noteworthy areas.

DEM's 1983 survey indicates that much of northwest Framingham is designated as "Distinctive" or "Noteworthy" (MDC Public Access Plan). This area is dominated by farms, horse fields, wooded hills, and stream corridors.

Additional Scenic Areas

The expanses of state park land, municipal conservation land, and private open space and agricultural land in the northwest of Framingham, and the expanse of reservoirs, free flowing river, and open space in the southwest of Framingham, are all true treasures.

Scenic River Views

Scenic areas along the Sudbury River were identified during field investigations for the report entitled The Sudbury River-A Community Resource: Opportunities and Strategies. The report lists 18 vantage points for visual access to scenic locations and interesting river views from land. The river is most scenic by the Fenwick Street Dam, near the Massachusetts Turnpike; near the Wickford Road Bridge; in the wide areas of the river before the Saxonville Dam; and around the Oxbow near the town line (Margolis, Fairbairn).

Scenic Roads

The roads listed in Table 3-6 below are designated as "scenic roads" by the Framingham Planning Board. In general, the roads represent the town's historic and rural qualities. Any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work along scenic roads which involves the cutting or removal of trees, or the destruction of a portion of a stone wall requires the approval

of the Planning Board.

Table 3-6. Scenic Roads in Framingham	
Auburn Street	In its entirety
Auburn Street Ext.	In its entirety
Barber Road	In its entirety
Belknap Road	From Pleasant Street to a point 300 feet West of Grove Street and from a point about 850 feet East of Grove Street to Edgell Road
Bethany Road	Winthrop Street to Ashland town line
Central Street	From Edgell Road to Concord Street
Dennison Avenue	In its entirety
Edgell Road	In its entirety
Edmands Road	In its entirety
Fenwick Street	In its entirety
Grove Street	In its entirety
Hemenway Road	In its entirety
Kellogg Street	In its entirety
Lake Road	In its entirety
Lakeview Road	In its entirety
Main Street	In its entirety
Mansfield Street	In its entirety
Maple Street	In its entirety
Merchant Road	In its entirety
Mill Street	In its entirety
Millwood Street	In its entirety
Nixon Road	In its entirety
Parker Road	In its entirety
Parmenter Road	In its entirety
Pond Street	In its entirety
Prindiville Avenue	In its entirety
Prospect Street	In its entirety
Salem End Road	Winter Street to Ashland Line
Singletary Lane	In its entirety
State Street	In its entirety
Warren Road	In its entirety
Wayside Inn Road	In its entirety
Winch Street	In its entirety
Winter Street	Salem End Road to Fountain Street

2. Archaeological Resources

Native Americans of the Red Paint tribe are considered to be the first settlers of the Sudbury River area. Their appearance as hunters and fishermen can be dated as early as 2000 BC. At least three distinctive Indian settlements have been discovered along the river: the Mt. Wayte area, the falls southeast of Saxonville, and the vicinity near Lake Cochituate (Hofman, Stein).

The significance of these sites represents prehistoric settlement patterns that developed within the Sudbury Watershed areas. Areas of concentrated prehistoric activity exist at the confluence of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord riverways (MDC Public Access Plan).

3. Historic Resources

Framingham has numerous entries in historic listings shown in Table 3-7 below.

Table 3-7. Framingham Entries in Historic Listings

Listings	Number of Entries
National Historic District	4
National Historic Individual Thematic Resource Areas	4
National Historic Thematic Resource Area Districts	3
State Register of Historic Places	21
Framingham Local Historic District	2
Framingham Local Historic District (LHD) properties	72
Framingham Historical Commission (FHC) marker	103
Framingham Historical Society (FHS) listing	39
Properties with preservation restrictions	2
Historic American Building Survey (HABS)	9

Framingham's current Cultural Resource Inventory was completed in 1998 and updated in 2001. Its principal purpose was to provide the Town and the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) with a list of resources which should have their architectural and/or historical value considered before any work is done by Federal, State or Town agencies which might harm those values. The inventory was uneven in quality and coverage, surveying some areas well, and others poorly. The inventory can be found in the 2002 Historical Preservation Plan.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the American cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the National Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. These resources contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the nation. The National Register program provides federal, state, and local governments and the general public with: (1) National recognition of the value of historic properties individually and collectively to the nation; (2) Eligibility for federal tax incentives and other preservation assistance; and (3) Assistance in cultural resource planning. Listing a resource is not simply honorary, but also offers protection from federally funded projects that would negatively affect it, and makes properties eligible for some grants and important tax incentives.

Framingham has 4 historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are areas of historic or architectural significance. Each of the districts contains buildings that are among the almost 600 buildings listed in the Mass Cultural Resource Information System

inventory for the Town of Framingham. Framingham also has 7 thematic resource areas listed on the National Register shown in Table 3-8 below.

Table 3-8. Current National Register Listed Properties	
Historic Districts	Year Listed
Irving Square District (Irving and Hollis Streets)	1981
Concord Square District (Concord and Park Streets)	1983
Framingham Centre Historic District (Common)	1990
Saxonville Historic District (Center and Elm Streets)	1992
Individual Thematic Resource Areas (related to water supply systems)	
Framingham Reservoir #1 Dam and Gatehouse (Off Winter Street)	1990
Framingham Reservoir #2 Dam and Gatehouse (Off Winter Street)	1990
Framingham Reservoir #3 Dam and Gatehouse (Off Worcester Road)	1990
Lake Cochituate Dam (NW side Lake Cochituate)	1990
Thematic Resource Area Districts (related to water supply systems that involve several towns)	
Weston Aqueduct Linear District	1990
Sudbury Dam District	1990
Sudbury Aqueduct Linear District	1990

State Register of Historic Places

Framingham has 21 historic sites or areas listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The unique listings are found in Table 3-9 below.

Table 3-9. State Register Listed Properties	
Area of Fram.	**Historic Site or Area**
Fram. Center	Framingham State College campus
Downtown Fram.	Framingham Army National Guard Armory Complex
Saxonville	Saxonville Mill Complex
South Fram.	Dennison Manufacturing Company complex
South Fram.	South Framingham Common
South Fram.	South Framingham Freight Office
South Fram.	Mass. Correctional Institution, Framingham
South Fram.	Gossamer Rubber Clothing Company
South Fram.	Mount Wayte area
South Fram.	Upper Singletary Lane area
South Fram.	Fountain Street Industrial Area
Southwest Fram.	United Church of Christ Conference Center
Southwest Fram.	Framingham Reservoirs
Northwest Fram.	Windswept Farm, Grove Street
Northeast Fram.	Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road

Local Historic Districts

Framingham has 2 Local Historic Districts listed in Table 3-7 below.

Table 3-10. Local Historic Districts	
Area of Fram.	**Historic Site or Area**
Fram. Center	Framingham Centre Local Historic District
Fram. Center	Jonathan Maynard Historic District

Historic Village Centers

The preservation of the four distinct village centers has maintained the historic character of the town despite its growth in the past few decades.

- South Framingham: This Downtown became the town's commercial center in 1834 when the Boston and Maine Railroad was constructed. This area is now recognized with two National Historic Districts. The Railroad station was completed in 1885, at a time when more than 100 trains a day passed through the station. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Saxonville: is the location of the first mill in the town and later, the Roxbury Carpet Mill. This area, also a National Historic District in Framingham, includes Athenaeum Hall and several historic homes.
- Framingham Centre: was the town's civic center from 1701 until 1926. The area surrounding the old Town Hall contains both a National Register District and, with different boundaries, a Local Historic District. The Jonathan Maynard Local District, along Pleasant Street, contains historically and architecturally significant 19th century homes.
- Nobscot: Nobscot (originally Brackett's Corner and known for a while as New Boston) has many 17th and 18th Century rural homes on the winding old roads.

Historic Buildings, Sites, Structures, and Objects

Framingham has 582 **historic buildings** listed with the Mass Cultural Resource Information System. Many of these buildings are scattered throughout Framingham and may not be located within a distinct district. The buildings are too numerous to map but the listing is on file with the Framingham Planning Department, Framingham Historical Commission, Framingham Library and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Some buildings are part of a grouping of structures that gives them extra meaning in terms of their cultural value. These groupings may be neighborhoods, historic districts, or institutional complexes (such as buildings of Framingham State College).

Framingham also has **20 objects**, **3 cemeteries** ("burial grounds), and **36 structures** (e.g., bridges) listed with the Mass Cultural Resource Information System.

In 1991 Town Meeting passed an historic preservation by-law that provides for a delay period before historically or architecturally significant structures can be demolished. The Historical Commission must determine if any building over fifty years old that is to be demolished is significant. While listing in this inventory does not automatically indicate significance, it would be an important factor in making the determination. Other factors include some form of recognition in the National Register of Historic Places, or by some other organization such as the Framingham Historical Society. An historic reuse zoning bylaw was adopted at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. The bylaw provides an opportunity to preserve larger historic buildings by allowing multi-family use.

I. Framingham's Regulatory and Planning Framework

Framingham has a strong framework of laws, bylaws, regulations, and plans that govern new development and redevelopment. Some of the most pertinent to this plan are described below.

1. Laws, Bylaws, and Regulations

Zoning By-Laws

(Map 3: Zoning)

Framingham's Zoning By-Laws divide the Town into ten zoning districts. The Town employs a pyramidal zoning structure with residential districts being the most restrictive. Generally, each successive district permits uses allowed in the former district. The Town also has four overlay districts that impose supplementary requirements and offer incentives to encourage or shape development.

Residential Districts: Over 85 percent of the Town is zoned for residential use. The Town has established two types of residential districts: "R" Single Residence and "G" General Residence. The Single Residence District is divided into four categories, (R1, R2, R3, & R4) the primary distinction being the minimum lot size required for each. Uses permitted in Single Residence Districts include single-family dwellings, home occupations, family day care homes, public buildings, farms and related uses, and non-profit uses by right. Charitable and welfare institutions, licensed establishments for the care of sick, crippled or convalescent persons, golf clubs, outdoor recreational facilities, and conversion of single-family detached dwellings in existence on March 15, 1939 to multifamily dwellings are allowed by special permit. The General Residence District allows all uses permitted in Single Residence Districts. Two family dwellings are allowed by special permit.

Business Districts: Business Districts allow all uses that are permitted in General Residence Districts. In addition, this district allows a variety of retail and professional offices. Light manufacturing, commercial amusement places, gasoline stations, billboards, retail dealers of structural materials, milk depots, hotels, ice dealers, trucking terminals, restaurants, and car wash facilities require a special permit.

In May of 1996, the Town adopted changes to the Zoning By-Law that created a hierarchy of Business Districts (B1, B2, B3 and B4). The intent of this effort was to encourage commercial development that is compatible with the scale and density of development in the surrounding area. The Districts range from the Neighborhood Business District (B1) that is intended to promote a scale of development that serves the immediate surrounding area to the General Business District (B4) that is designed to serve the Route 9 regional commercial center. At present, only a small portion of the Nobscot neighborhood has been rezoned from B to B2.

Office (O) and Professional Districts (P): In addition to uses allowed in Single Residence districts, the Town's "P" District allows branch banks and administrative, clerical, statistical and professional offices by special permit.

Planned Reuse District (PRD): The "PRD" District is designed to permit and encourage the appropriate reuse of land and buildings that are no longer needed or suitable for their original use, and to permit reuses that are compatible with the character of the neighborhood. The district allows all uses permissible by right or by special permit in a Single Residence District (subject to dimensional regulations applicable to R3). The regulations for this district establish a Special Reuse Permit provisions to allow multi-family or single-family residences at a greater density than normally allowed, a variety of medical

and office uses, and retail establishments.

Manufacturing District: Approximately 9 percent of Framingham is zoned for manufacturing activity. The Town has established two manufacturing districts: M-1 Light Manufacturing and M General Manufacturing. The Light Manufacturing District allows any non-residential use permissible in Business Districts, laboratories, research and testing facilities, bottling works, stone or monument works, municipal plants, and a variety of light manufacturing uses. Office and commercial uses permitted in the Business District, which require the provision of 50 or more parking spaces, require a special permit. In addition to any non-residential uses permissible in Light Manufacturing Districts, the General Manufacturing District allows wholesale lumber, fuel and oil manufacturing establishments. Manufacturing of any description utilizing processes free from neighborhood disturbing odors and/or agencies are also allowed. Uses which would be offensive because noise, vibration, smoke, gas, fumes, odors, dust, or other objectionable features, or because hazardous to the community on account of fire or explosion or any other cause require a special permit.

Open Space and Recreation District: The Town's "OR" District is designed to encourage, preserve and protect land for use for recreational purposes and to conserve natural conditions, open space, wildlife and vegetation for the general welfare of the public. This district allows agricultural uses, outdoor recreational facilities, wildlife reserves, nature areas and similar conservation uses. Greenhouses, indoor non-profit recreational facilities, mixed use cultural and education centers, public driving ranges on parcels of at least 40 acres, and ancillary structures necessary to serve recreational uses. Less than two percent of the Town is in this zoning district.

Geriatric Care/Elderly Housing District: The purpose of the Town's "G-E" District is to encourage the development of a continuum of geriatric care facilities, including housing and community services for the elderly, with a design compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and internally cohesive. This district allows housing, health care facilities, and community and social services for the elderly. The district also allows greenhouses, mixed use cultural and educational centers, health clubs, outdoor recreational facilities and accessory retail uses. Health clubs and accessory retail uses must be intended for the primary use and convenience of the residents and staff of Geriatric Care/Elderly Housing Districts and elderly residents. Indoor non-profit recreational facilities require a special permit.

Technology Park District: The Town's "TP" District is intended to promote technological and light industrial development so as to enhance employment and economic viability by allowing certain land uses at a higher density, without a corresponding increase in traffic, than is otherwise permitted in other districts. New Technology Park districts must be comprised of land located in an existing Manufacturing District and must be at least 150 acres. The district allows research and development facilities, printing, delivery services, storage and distribution facilities, business and professional offices, educational training facilities and conference centers accessory to a permitted use, and day care facilities. Non-automotive commercial uses intended for the primary use and convenience of the employees of the Technology Park District, performing arts centers, and accessory retail outlets are allowed by special permit.

Overlay Districts: The Town also has four overlay districts: the Floodplain Districts, the Planned Unit Development District, and the two Highway Overlay Districts consisting of the Regional Center District and the Highway Corridor District.

Floodplain Districts: Areas of special flood hazard in the Town are shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map published by the

Federal Emergency Management Agency. All proposed development in a Floodplain District requires a permit from the Building Commissioner and the Conservation Commission. In addition, any construction, enlargement, extension, or substantial improvement of a new or existing building for human habitation, normally allowed by right or special permit in a land area underlying a Floodplain District, requires a special permit. In the regulatory floodway, any development or encroachment, including fill, which would result in any increase in flood levels during the base flood is prohibited.

Planned Unit Development District (PUD): The Town's "PUD" District allows, by special permit, an alternative use and pattern of development for large tracts of land (50 acres or more) zoned for manufacturing, light manufacturing or business, by allowing single-family and multi-family clustered residential development and other uses while encouraging the conservation of significant open space in the district and providing affordable housing opportunity. One of the main purposes of the PUD district is to preserve significant areas of open space in perpetuity. However, the utility of this zoning district as a method of preserving open space is limited by the lack of manufacturing or business sites of at least 50 acres in the Town of Framingham. To date, only one PUD zone has been designated in the Northeast corner of the Town.

Highway Overlay Districts: The Town has also established two highway overlay districts: the Regional Center District ("RC") encompassing the area know as the "Golden Triangle" which is bounded by Routes 9, 30 and Speen Street; and the Highway Corridor District ("HC"), the Route 9 Corridor from the Southborough town boundary to the intersection of Routes 9 and 30. The regulations are intended to limit congestion, preserve environmental qualities, improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation, and mitigate adverse impacts resulting from increased development in a complex regional center. In addition, the regulations are also designed to increase open space and landscaping within the overlay districts. The Highway Overlay District Regulations also established consistent zoning regulations for highway corridor areas that are shared by the Towns of Framingham and Natick. Development in the RC or HC District may attain a higher density than allowed by right, in return for providing public benefit amenities.

Wetland Regulations: Wetland resource areas and buffer zones are regulated by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and regulations and even more stringently through the Framingham's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations.

Sub-Division Rules and Regulations: These rules and regulations were adopted for the purpose of protecting the safety, convenience and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Framingham, by regulating the lay-out and construction of streets and municipal services in subdivisions and ensuring the sanitary conditions in said subdivisions. Requirements related to preliminary and definitive plans are laid out. Design standards and specifications are clearly stated.

For lots thought not to require sub-division approval, three standards must be met: (1) At least one side of the lot must be on one of three types of ways; (2) the lot must have minimum frontage on the way; and (3) the Board must be able to determine the existence of adequate access to the portion of the lot where the building will be placed.

Land Disturbance Bylaw: As part of the Framingham Zoning By-Laws, (Section H. Supplemental Regulations) this portion of the Zoning By-Law is designed to protect natural resources including but not limited to land, water, wetlands, trees and vegetation, wildlife, and scenic vistas and historic resources and to prevent or minimize the negative impacts of

erosion, sedimentation, clearing, earth removal and fill, earth moving and stormwater runoff both on and off of the project site.

2. Municipal Plans and Policies

Master Plan

The Framingham Master Plan, as a statement of long range goals and policies provides a point of reference for evaluating and prioritizing potential actions. The Master Plan is linked closely to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, depending on it to provide information on the communities' inventory of lands and programs and to project the needs of the community based on documented use and trends of users as well as the changing conditions of the resources.

The Framingham Master Plan is expected to be completed before the end of 2009. The Town Planning Board is responsible for adopting and amending the Master Plan. Municipal officials are responsible for implementing the strategies of the Master Plan. They should also be charged with periodically reviewing the Plan in relation to their areas of responsibility, reporting on progress in meeting Master Plan goals, and advising the Planning Board as to ways in which the Plan should be amended to respond to changing conditions. The Town Meeting enacts the zoning bylaws (often a strategy for affecting land use change) and appropriates funds for municipal activities.

The Master Plan is a policy guide and a framework for future land use and development. It includes assessments of existing resources and issues, projections of future conditions and needs and consideration of community goals. The master plan's purpose is to provide strategies that will enable municipal officials to better manage change based on a clear understanding of the communities' desired vision.

The major elements of the plan include:

- Goals and Policies Statement
- Land Use Plan
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Open Space and Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- Circulation/Transportation
- Implementation Program

By understanding the goals of the Master Plan for the entire community, and across the wide spectrum of issues, municipal officials have the opportunity to consider challenges and look for solutions that cross imagined jurisdictional boundaries. (For example: Open space as a water protection strategy, as a transportation corridor, or as an enhancement to multi-family housing; Historic preservation as an economic development strategy, opportunity for a housing initiative, or within an open space acquisition.)

Water Master Plan

The Draft Final Water Distribution System Master Plan is expected to be published in 2008. It sets forth a master plan for renovating and upgrading the Town's water distribution system over a twenty-year time frame. According the to Plan, Framingham's water system is not

undersized; pumping systems and storage capacities are both adequately sized to meet the Town's requirements for the foreseeable future. However, there are challenges the system faces, including: upgrading aging pipes; upgrading aging pump station electronics; improving mixing systems at the storage tanks; improving the security at certain locations; and moving forward with activation of the Birch Road Wells in the Saxonville Area.

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan: This is a large-scale effort by the DPW that is designed to holistically assess, rate, and prioritize needed improvements to the town's sewer system using an asset management tool, allowing the town to prioritize capital expenditures using a common measure (utility risk factor) for all of its assets (sewers, manholes, siphons, force main, pumping stations). It is due to be finalized in 2008.

Land Use Policies

The Town has adopted land use and zoning controls with particular emphasis on promoting open space and creating opportunities for landscaping and buffers to screen development and preserve critical natural resource areas. These objectives have been a primary focus of the Highway Corridor and Regional Center overlay districts, described above, which establish extensive landscaping requirements and offer development density bonuses in exchange for the provision of public open space. These standards stem from a series of 47 General Land Use Policies adopted by the Town in 1992, in conjunction with the Framingham Master Plan, to guide future growth and development. Policies particularly relevant to this Open Space Plan include:

> Policy 9: Foster high standards of urban design in buildings, landscaping, streetscapes and signage throughout the Town by adopting design standards and incorporating them into the Site Plan Review process.
>
> Policy 10: Conserve valuable and important open spaces in the community by allowing cluster residential development as an alternative to lot-by-lot residential development. Cluster residential development should be allowed only under the following conditions: No more development should be permitted than would occur under lot-by-lot development; & permanent preservation of open space should result.
>
> Policy 11: Preserve and protect critical natural resource areas, such as the banks of the Sudbury River, through control of land uses, open space and buffer requirements.
>
> Policy 12: Identify critical natural resource and recreation areas, such as farms, scenic meadows, pastures, wetlands, both large and small; establish priorities for their protection, and devise means of preserving them…
>
> Policy 38: Develop the open space and historic resources of the Sudbury River and the village, and provide for public access to the river.
>
> Policy 39: Protect the local water supply source, namely the Town wells in Saxonville, as a source of future and emergency water supply.
>
> Policy 47: Minimize adverse visual and environmental impacts of development on open spaces in the area, and enhance their functions as water storage and natural habitat areas (see reference to Highway Overlay District, above).

3. Other Plans and Policies

Other plans that address open space and recreation issues in Framingham include:

- The Greater Callahan Open Space Preservation and Greenway Plan (October 2000) (revised 2006);
- The Greenways Plan for the SuAsCo Watershed (SVT, April 2000);
- Greenprint for Growth, SuAsCo Watershed (SVT and MAPC, August 2001);
- Commonwealth Connections, A Greenway Vision for Massachusetts (2002)
- SuAsCo Action Plan
- Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed Action Plan (2005)
- Sudbury Reservoir System Public Access Plan 2002 Update (May 2003)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (2006)

4. Analyses

Analyses that address open space and recreation issues in Framingham include:

- EOEA Build-Out Analysis (2002)
- Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers: Unprotected Land Inventory, SVT, (January 2003)
- BioMap With funding made available by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Natural Heritage Program developed the BioMap to identify the areas most in need of protection in order to protect the native biodiversity of the Commonwealth. BioMap focuses primarily on state-listed rare species and exemplary natural communities but also includes the full breadth of the State's biological diversity.
- SuAsCo Watershed 2001 Water Quality Assessment Report (2001)

CHAPTER 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Landscape Character

A community's character is often defined by its natural features. Natural features provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for a community. Framingham is laid out over the broad Sudbury River valley and gently rolling terrain. The western portion of the town is low density suburban development, rural farming land, and large tracts of park land. It is there that numerous working and pleasure farms, and large tracts of state, municipal, and private protected open space are found. It is, therefore, a patchwork of forests and fields. The eastern half of town is much more densely developed, with single-family and multi-family residential neighborhoods surrounding four small commercial hubs: Downtown Framingham, Framingham Centre, Saxonville, and Nobscot. Two large transportation corridors run east-west and bisect the town. Worcester Rd. (State Route 9) is heavily commercially developed. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) has limited access and associated development. *(Map 4: Land Use)*

B. Geology, Soils, and Topography

(Map 5: Soils, Geology, and Other Limitations to Development)

1. Geology

In Framingham, as throughout New England, most landforms were created by glaciation. At the end of the last Ice Age (approximately 10,000 years ago), glaciers retreated. Large lakes were formed, including what is known geologically as Glacial Lake Sudbury, which extended from Framingham to Concord (about four miles wide and twenty miles long). This glacial lake spilled over into the Charles River at three different places and times. The rivers began to cut their way through the glacial till to assume their present character with the complete retreat of the ice sheet.

Framingham is part of a broad lowland belt in Eastern Massachusetts where glacial soil deposits cover much of the bedrock. A thin veneer of till (a mixture of pebbles, cobbles, and boulders deposited by melting glaciers and embedded in a mix of sand, silt, and clay) overlays much of the bedrock and is most extensive in the hills in the western half of the Town. In the lower elevations of the western half, glacial streams deposited sandy gravel soils. Drumlins (small rounded hills formed by deposits of till) are found in various parts of the Town.

2. Soils

Most of Framingham's soil is composed of deposits left when Glacial Lake Sudbury covered the eastern part of Framingham. The landforms created by the melting glacier are gently sloping deltas or flat-lying lake-bottom deposits. The delta soils are generally coarse gravel overlying finer-textured sands. Lake bottom deposits found in the southeast corner of Framingham, are made up of fine sand.

Post-glacial soil deposits include alluvium (unstratified silt, sand and gravel) and swamp deposits. Alluvium is found in the Sudbury River floodplain and is generally considered to be good for agriculture. The most common types of soils in the Sudbury River area are located in meadows consisting of muck and peat, which are associated with a high water table. The Hinckley soil types, derived from granite rocks, drain excessively and are a low crop producing soil. The Merrimac fine sandy loam is free from stones and gravel, easy to cultivate and desirable for building. Large deposits of Ondawa fine sandy loam are located along the River

from the Saxonville Dam to the aqueduct. These deposits are close to the water level and are supplied with moisture even during dry seasons. Small swamps are found in poorly drained areas in various parts of Framingham and consist of peat and muck together with some silt and sand (Hofman, Stein).

The most economically important soil resources in Framingham are sand and gravel deposits, which have been mined in the recent past from pits in the northeast corner of Town. Swamp soils are useful as soil enriching agents, but on the whole, Framingham's soils are not agriculturally productive.

3. Topography

The central section of Town is fairly flat with an elevation of about 200 feet above sea level and rises to an elevation of about 400 feet in the Northwest Quadrant. This area is characterized by a combination of wetlands, steep slopes, and exposed bedrock. Throughout the remainder of the town, topographical levels range from a low of 114 feet above sea level at the surface of the Sudbury River below the Saxonville Dam, to a high of 602 feet at the top of Nobscot Hill.

4. Effect of geology, soils, & topography on development & recreational opportunities

Certain land and soil types can limit development.

Bedrock outcrops are present throughout the town but several large clusters are concentrated in the northwest. Septic tanks cannot be placed on bedrock outcrops due to the inadequacy of the topsoil for proper leaching. Development in areas with outcrops would require costly sewer system connections or excavation. The areas in Framingham that have severe limitations for development due to depth to bedrock are designated on Table 3. The soil series associated with this constraint are 7B, 7C, and 7D (Carlton-Hollis-Rock outcrops): 8C and 8D (Hollis-Rock outcrop-Carlton complex); 17C (Narragansett-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex); and 265 (Charlton-Hollis-Urban land Complex, rocky).

Steep slopes (gradients in excess of 15%) are a problem in several areas north of Edmands Road. The development costs associated with construction on steep slopes are extremely high. Necessary expenses in order to develop these slopes include grading, retaining walls, and vegetation in order to reduce run-off, erosion, lateral creep, or frost heaving. The soils that are associated with severe limitations on development due to steep slopes are: Charlton. Narragansett, Broadbrook, Canton, Paxton, Montauk, Hinckley, Quonset, and Bernardston.

Soils of low permeability, wetness and/or tendency to flooding in Framingham are also located on Table 3. These soil series include the following: Scituate, Ridgebury, Whitman, Scarboro, Pootatuck, Rippowam, Saco, Swansea muck, Freetown muck, Woodbridge, Limerick, Suncook, Winooski, Wareham, Occum, Raynham, Raypol, and Birdsall.

The areas with severe limitations on development would be prime areas for acquiring for open space. The development limitations would allow for lower acquisition costs, preservation would limit costly maintenance of public services, and by their diverse nature, they would provide valuable ecological niches and recreational opportunities.

C. Water Resources

(Map 6: Water Resources)

1. Wetland Functions and Values

Wetlands include streams, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs, and vernal pools. These water features serve a number of vital roles in both the natural and built environments. Wetlands provide vital habitat for many different species of wildlife. They provide water for drinking and irrigation. They also absorb and detain surface waters which help maintain relatively stable groundwater levels and prevent downstream damage from flooding. They also protect water quality by filtering out pollutants and thereby reducing the contamination of streams, lakes and groundwater. They provide recreational opportunities and scenic views. Water resources also play an important regional role as communities are linked through watersheds and surface water which often cross town boundaries.

It is essential that wetlands be protected due to the vital roles they play. Any activities occurring within lake or river watersheds affect that body of water and may have implications on another community downstream. Development and other activities that damage or replace wetlands with impervious surfaces, result in increased runoff rates, reduced flood storage, and elevated peak flows. This leads to greater damage from storms, reduces wildlife habitat and plant diversity, and increases the contamination of water bodies due to reduced filtration of pollutants.

Wetland Regulations

Any activity within 100-feet of wetlands and 200-feet of perennial streams falls under the jurisdiction of the Framingham Conservation Commission under the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, sec. 40). The Framingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Article V, Section 18) increases the Commission's review authority to 125 feet from wetland resource areas and adds stricter protection for vernal pools.

2. Sudbury River System and Other Major Streams

Overview of the Sudbury River in Framingham

Framingham is part of the Sudbury River Watershed. Approximately 7.6 miles of the Sudbury River flow through Framingham. The headwaters are in Cedar Swamp in Hopkinton and Westborough. The river flows easterly through Southborough and Ashland, entering Framingham from the southwest.

The river in Framingham passes over a series of three dams. The dams that form the Reservoirs were constructed in the late-1800s to provide Boston and the metropolitan area with a public water supply. By the mid-1900s the Sudbury Reservoir system was discontinued as a source of drinking water due to the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir and discovery of extensive pollution in the sediment of the Sudbury River. The 30-foot river channel broadens dramatically as it flows through two reservoirs in the southern portion of the town. The first is Bracket Reservoir (Reservoir No.2) and the second is Stearns Reservoir (Reservoir No. 3). These Reservoirs range from 200-800 feet wide. The Reservoirs are no longer designated as back-up emergency drinking water supplies.

The Sudbury River regains its narrower channel as it flows northeasterly past Route 9 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. The river channel again widens considerably to a width of 700 feet in the area known as Mill Pond above the Saxonville Dam, a dam at the bend of the river in the center of Saxonville. From an elevation of 146 feet above the Saxonville dam, the river falls to 114 feet as it winds north to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Wayland and Sudbury.

Wild and Scenic River Designation

In 1999, a 29-mile segment of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SuAsCo) was designated by Congress to be added to the National Wild and Scenic River system. Designated rivers must possess at least one "outstanding remarkable resource value." The study found that the SuAsCo segment has five of these qualities: ecological, recreational, historical and/or archaeological, scenic, and literary. 14.9 miles of the Sudbury River have been designated as scenic by the National Park Service. The section of the Sudbury River so designated begins in Framingham at the Danforth Street Bridge, includes the oxbow, and continues downstream (north) through Wayland, Sudbury, and Concord. Wild and Scenic designation protects the rivers from "federally initiated, funded, or permitted actions that would harm the values for which the rivers were designated" (US Department of Interior Wild and Scenic Designation Q and A).

Sudbury River Tributaries

Major tributaries entering the Sudbury River in Framingham are:

- Stony Brook, flows into Reservoir 3, which then flows to Reservoir 1, Stearns Reservoir
- Eames Brook (which drains Farm Pond) flows into the Sudbury River just below the Stearns Reservoir dam at the Mount Wayte neighborhood
- Cochituate Brook (which drains Lake Cochituate) flows into the Sudbury River below the Concord Street (Route 126) bridge;
- Dunsdell Brook, flows into the Sudbury River near the Massachusetts Turnpike;
- Baiting Brook flows into the Sudbury River just below the Reservoir outflow.

Other Major Streams in Framingham include:

- Hop Brook, which flows north into Sudbury and eventually into the Sudbury River; and
- Beaver Dam Brook, which flows from Waushakum Pond through southeast Framingham, into Natick, and thence into Lake Cochituate

Water Quality of the Sudbury River and Major Tributaries in Framingham

The Aquatic Life Use is assessed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as “support” status for this segment of the Sudbury River based primarily on the benthic macroinvertebrate, water quality and fish community data. The use is identified with an “alert” status, however, because of slightly elevated total phosphorus concentrations. Additionally, the lower portion of this segment is identified with an “alert” status because of the mercury contamination from the Nyanza Superfund Site.

Based on Division of Water Management (DWM) data that found elevated concentrations of mercury in edible fish tissue, Mass. Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued a site-specific fish consumption advisory that the general public should not consume any fish from the Sudbury River from Ashland to the confluence with the Assabet and Concord rivers, including Framingham Reservoirs #1 and 2.

DWM conducted dry weather fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria sampling at Winter Street in Framingham (Station SU04) in July and September 2001. Four of ten samples were elevated, during both wet and dry weather conditions. (See the end of this chapter for further discussion of water quality in Framingham.)

3. Ponds and Lakes

In addition to the Sudbury Reservoirs, Framingham has the following seven major ponds and lakes (Table 4-1). The five listed with an asterisk are recognized as "Great Ponds" by the state. Any pond or lake that contains more than 10 acres in its natural state is a "Great Pond" and requires public access.

Table 4-1. Ponds and Lakes in Framingham

Pond Name	Ac.	Public Access?	Public Uses	Abutter Uses
Farm Pond Big	124	Yes	Boating, fishing	n.a.
Farm Pond Little	23	No	Fishing	n.a.
Gleason Pond	12	Yes	Fishing	Boating, fishing
Lake Cochituate (North Pond)	195	Yes	Boating, swimming, fishing	n.a.
Learned Pond	34	Yes	Swimming	Boating
Mohawk Pond	2	Yes	Fishing	n.a.
Norton Pond	5	Yes	Fishing	Boating, fishing
Sucker Pond	6	No	none	none
Waushakum Pond	82	Yes	Boating, swimming, fishing	Boating, swimming, fishing

Farm Pond (Big and Little)* together are recognized by the State as a Great Pond. They are located in the south side of Town, paralleling Dudley Road and Franklin Street. Farm Pond is divided by a dike that carried a MWRA (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority) aqueduct. Big and Little Farm Ponds are approximately 124 and 23 acres respectively. They were once used to supply the Town's drinking water. Both water bodies are fed by numerous storm drains as well as groundwater recharge and surface water runoff. The only outlet is Eames Brook, located in the northern end of Big Farm Pond. Eames Brook drains directly into the Sudbury River. A town-owned park is located on the eastern shoreline and provides boat and fishing access to the pond.

Gleason Pond* is approximately 12 acres and is located at the intersection of Concord Street and Prindiville Avenue. It is recognized by the State as a Great Pond. The shoreline has moderate development, consisting of single family homes along the northern, western, and southern shoreline.

Lake Cochituate* is a 614-acre lake divided into three major basins or ponds, which are connected by navigable culverts. It is recognized by the State as a Great Pond. The 195-acre North Basin is the only basin partially within the town of Framingham and on the Wayland border. It has a maximum depth of 69 feet (in Wayland) with transparency of five to seven feet. The bottom is predominantly muck, but there are considerable areas of sand in the shallows at the southern end. Aquatic vegetation is common in the shadows. Lake Cochituate was a reservoir which supplied water via a 14-mile (23 km) aqueduct to the City of Boston from 1848 until 1951 when it was replaced by the Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs. Lake Cochituate was the first major water supply system for the city.

Learned Pond* is 34 acres with a maximum depth of 13 feet. It is recognized by the State as a Great Pond. It is located in a semi-urban area between Union Ave and Warren Road. The pond receives stormwater runoff from most of the surrounding streets. There are no natural inlets or outlets. The town beach is located on the eastern shore.

Mohawk Pond, located south of Mohawk Drive, is roughly 2 acres with an estimated depth of 4 feet. Most of the pond is bordered by wetlands and woods with a single house along the

northern edge. The pond is fed by a small unnamed stream that drains a wetland in Callahan State Park. The only outlet is a concrete weir on the south side of the pond which empties into a tributary to Hop Brook.

Norton Pond is a small 5 acre pond, located in the northern portion of Framingham. It is surrounded on 3 sides by single family homes and stormwater runoff comes into the pond from the north. Water from the ponds southeastern outlet creates Norton Pond Brook, which flows downhill and enters the Sudbury River.

Sucker Pond is a small 6 acre pond (made of two separate basins), located in central Framingham. There is development around much of the pond, but the shoreline is well buffered by woodland.

Waushakum Pond* is an 82-acre, irregularly shaped glacial kettle pond on the border of Framingham and Ashland. It is recognized by the State as a Great Pond. The major part of Waushakum Pond is in Framingham but 80% of its drainage area is in Ashland. The pond has an unnamed inlet stream in its southeast corner. Its outlet is on the northeastern shore next to Hollis St. This outlet feeds a tributary of Beaver Dam Brook.

4. Vegetated Wetlands

Wooded wetlands and marshes

Most of the vegetated wetlands in Framingham are swamps dominated by woody vegetation. Some border on waterways, some are isolated. See Section D below for more details.

Floodplains

Along the Sudbury River and many of the major tributaries are areas that are periodically inundated, known as floodplains. These areas may be vegetated with woody vegetation or only herbaceous vegetation. They provide flood storage capacity and unique habitat functions.

Vernal Pools

Most of Framingham's vernal pools are in depressions created by glacial action that took place thousands of years ago. Other pools occur as the result of more recent events, such as stream channel migration and changes to the forested landscape due to human influences in the past (Colburn, 2004). Vernal pools provide unique habitat for a variety of forest and wetland organisms, some of which depend on this habitat for their survival. The absence of fish within these pools is essential, as the breeding strategies of many amphibian species have evolved to the point of total reliance of these depressional wetlands (Colburn, 1997).

Seventeen vernal pools have been certified in Framingham though many others are known to exist. In fact, there are over 100 potential vernal pools in Framingham according to the Massachusetts Aerial Photo Survey of Potential Vernal Pools (Spring 2001, Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program). Vernal Pool certification through the State requires evidence that a vernal pool exists physically and that it contains the biological indicators that define it as a vernal pool. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has established specific criteria for certification of a vernal pool including: (1) and area that has a confined basin depression, (2) holds water for a minimum of two continuous months during spring and/or summer for most years, (3) be free of adult fish populations or dry up sometime during the year; and (4) provide essential breeding habitat for certain amphibians and/or food, shelter, migrating, and breeding habitat of other wildlife.

5. Aquifer Recharge Areas

An aquifer is a geologic formation that can easily yield a significant amount of groundwater. As water is withdrawn from an aquifer, it is replenished by water that is carried from the surface through permeable materials. The aquifer's "recharge area" is an area on the surface of the land below which groundwater moves to replenish the aquifer. These areas must be protected from actions that might reduce the downward flow of water or contaminate groundwater supplies. Although they are not currently in use, there are public water supply well-heads in Framingham.

6. Water-Based Recreation and Access

The Sudbury River, lakes, and ponds in Framingham provide opportunities for canoeing, power-boating, sailing, fishing, swimming, skating and other water-based activities. The Park and Recreation Department manages three town beaches at Waushakum Pond, Learned Pond, and Lake Cochituate. There is a public boat launch at the north end of Farm Pond for non-powered boats. A public access canoe launch is available at the end of Little Farms Road. Lake Cochituate is the only nearby water body suitable for power boating. Currently, boating and shore fishing are not specifically allowed on any of the three MWRA Reservoirs in Framingham but people fish in the Reservoirs from the Fountain Street Bridge, Winter Street Dam, and areas near Route 9/ Mass. Pike.

D. Common and Rare Habitats: Vegetation and Associated Wildlife

1. Natural Communities

Though Framingham consists of over 26 Natural Communities as described in the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program's '*Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts*', only the 8 most widespread natural communities are described below. Examples of Conservation Land with trails that allow visitors to observe these community types are included in each section.

White Pine – Oak Forest

Typically found on dry, moraine or till soils, this is the largest natural community in Framingham and is expressed in wide distribution throughout Town. Often times the community has transitioned from a successional White Pine community and grades into mixed oak forests. Trails along Wittenborg Woods provide visitors with an opportunity to explore this community type. The canopy is dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and oak species (*Quercus rubra, Q. velutina, and Q. alba,*) with regular but low occurrences of pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and black birch (*B. lenta*). Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is frequently present as a shrubby tree. The pine-oak communities in Framingham typically display a prominent shrub layer of lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), and have a sparse herb layer of bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*) and pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*).

Associated wildlife includes white footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*), gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), redbacked vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), and chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). Birds that nest in white pine -oak forests include Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea)*, and Red-

tailed Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*). In most cases these communities have interspersed woodland vernal pools.

Successional White Pine Forest

Often times these communities are found where old fields have been left to grow in.or along the transitional edge between woodlands and fields. While this edge habitat is valuable to the, Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Yellow Warbler (*D. dominica*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*),Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), it is particularly susceptible to the encroachment of non-native species such as buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), and Asian bittersweet *(Celastrus orbiculata)* and must be actively managed. Examples of this community type can be found near the fields of Mohawk Pond Natural Area.

Oak-Hemlock-White Pine Forest

This community is common on midslopes on rocky, shallow well-drained soils, with few nutrients. Examples of this community type can be found at Macomber Woods. It is often interspersed with the white pine-oak and mixed oak communities.

Associated plant species include: Oaks (*Quercus alba, Q. prinus, Q. rubra*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Relative proportions of the species vary greatly among sites. Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) sprouts are common and the shrub layer is patchy and sparse, with witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), and maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*). The herbaceous layer also tends to be sparse and with wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), wild oats (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), star flower (*Trientalis borealis*), and Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*).

Associated wildlife include a large suite of neotropical migrant birds including warblers, Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), and the Great Crested Flycatcher (*Miarchus crinitus*).. Common small mammals include masked shrew (*S. cinereus*), short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), woodland jumping mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*), and gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*), and red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). Amphibians include the ubiquitous Northern Redback Salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*).

Oak-Hickory Forest

Several of Framingham's conservation areas have woods that are dominated by a mixture of oak and hickory. Located along SVT's Henry's Hill and the Nobscot Boyscout property, these areas are well drained, upper slopes, with west and south-facing aspects. The canopy is dominated by one or several oaks (*Quercus rubra, Q. alba,* and *Q. velutina*) with hickories (*Carya ovata, C. tomentosa, C. glabra,* and *C. ovalis*) mixed in a lower densities. Other trees include white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The sub canopy commonly includes hop hornbeam (*Ostrya americana*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*), chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), and witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and the diverse shrub layer includes maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), beaked and American hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* and *C. americana*), and gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*). The herbaceous layer is also richer than in many oak forests and includes Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*), goldenrod (*Solidago bicolor*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), rattlesnake weed (*Hieracium venosum*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosa*), and Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*).

The oak-hickory community is highly valuable to wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and supports a mix of animal species including short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), white footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*), and chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). Birds that nest in these forests include Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*).

Cultural Grassland

Cultural grasslands are created by humans and are typically maintained by an annual mowing. Framingham has few areas of cultural grassland. These areas have historically been open and are not suitable for farming because of their dry, rocky and sandy, low-nutrient soils. An example of cultural grassland exist at Callahan State Park and Henry's Hill. Grasslands are dominated by graminoids including little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), and poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*) and typically include some mix of herbaceous species, such as goldenrods (*Solidago* and *Euthamia* spp.) and milkweed (*Asclepias* spp).

Invasive exotic plants, especially cool season grasses that form mats are a particular threat to this community and include sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odorata*), velvet-grass (*Holcus lanatus*), bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and others. European buckthorn also poses a significant threat to the cultural grasslands in Framingham.

Red Maple Swamp

Many of Framingham's wetlands are red maple swamps. The trail at Cedar Swamp off Mellon Street skirts the edge of this community type. These areas are characterized by acidic soils that are seasonally flooded by groundwater seepage or surface water flow. Red maple is the dominant canopy tree, but may associate with yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). The shrub layer is often dense and well-developed with sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), northern arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*) and nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*). The herbaceous layer is variable, but cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and wood fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*) are often common. Herbaceous species include skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), spotted touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*), swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), and the bugleweeds (*Lycopus* spp.).

Red maple swamps provide habitat for song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-eyed vireos, and black-throated green warblers. Mammals that commonly utilize these habitats include beavers, raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), mink (*Mustela vison*), and deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

Vernal pools in these habitats provide important amphibian breeding and red maple swamps contain several rare plants and animals. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Framingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw limit common threats to these critical resource areas.

Deep Emergent Marsh

Framingham has areas of deep emergent marsh along the Sudbury River and adjacent to both its natural and man-made ponds and low-grade streams. Deep emergent marshes form in

broad, flat areas where there are saturated, mucky mineral soils that are seasonally inundated and permanently saturated. There is typically a layer of well-decomposed organic muck at the surface and standing or running water covers the area during much of the year. Deep emergent marshes are dominated by tall graminoids, like cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*) and wool-grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), along with tussock-sedge (*Carex stricta*), beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp.), marsh-fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) and slender-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia tenuifolia*). These marshes often transition into shallow emergent marshes, wet meadows and shrub swamps.

These wetland communities provide critical waterfowl habitat and are home to leopard, pickerel, green and bull frogs and red-spotted newts. Wood frogs use areas that are fish free and many rare plants and animals are associated with these communities. Bird species commonly found in marshes include common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), tree swallow, swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quicula*), and red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). While the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Wetlands Protection Bylaw limit common threats to these critical resource areas they remain threatened by nutrient loading from adjacent lawns, roads and septic systems and the abundance of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and phragmites (*Phragmites australis)*.

Woodland Vernal Pool

As mentioned in the water resources section, Framingham's rolling topography makes for great vernal pool habitat. An estimated 100 vernal pools are thought to exist in town. Visitors can observe this habitat at SVT's Cowwassock Wood off Salem End Road and Macomber Woods on Badger Road These small, shallow depressions often have hydric soils, are temporarily flooded and provide important breeding habitat for wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted turtles and two local species of mole salamanders (*Ambystoma* spp.). Vernal pools also support a diverse invertebrate fauna, including fairy shrimp *(Eubranchipus* spp.) which complete their entire life cycle in vernal pools. Woodland vernal pools often have little or no vegetation, but they are ringed by upland trees or shrubs, such as sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*).

2. Framingham's Exemplary Habitats

Core and Supporting Habitats

In 2001, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) published '*BioMap: Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts'*, which identified:

- Core Habitats: most viable habitat for rare plants, rare animals, and natural communities, and
- Supporting Natural Landscape: buffer areas around Core Habitats, large undeveloped patches of vegetation, and undeveloped watersheds.

Framingham has two areas of Core Habitat and Supporting Natural Landscape. One is located in Northeast Framingham, along the Sudbury River and Oxbow; the second area is associated with Farm Pond.

Priority Habitats (All Rare Plants and Animals)

According to NHESP, Framingham has 3 areas of Priority Habitat of Rare Species. Priority Habitat is the known geographical extent of habitat for all state-listed rare species, both plants and animals, and is codified under MESA.

Estimated Habitat (Rare Wetlands Wildlife)

Framingham also has 3 areas of Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program has developed town maps of Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. These maps show habitat that is based on documented occurrences of rare wetlands wildlife within the last 25 years. Section E. discusses further rare wildlife.

3. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants

Seven species of vascular plants found or once found in Framingham are listed with the Mass. Wildlife, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program in August 2006 as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC) under MESA (the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act) and/or the Federal endangered species list (Table 4-2). It is interesting to note however, that several of these species have not been observed since the 1800s.

Table 4-2. Vascular Plants in Framingham that are Threatened, Endangered, or Rare

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Vascular Plant	*Sparganium natans*	Small Bur-reed	E	1890
Vascular Plant	*Dichanthelium dichotomum ssp. mattamuskeetense*	Mattamuskeet Panic-grass	E	1892
Vascular Plant	*Aristida purpurascens*	Purple Needlegrass	T	1911
Vascular Plant	*Lipocarpha micrantha*	Dwarf Bulrush	T	1911
Vascular Plant	*Cyperus engelmannii*	Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge	T	2001
Vascular Plant	*Nabalus serpentarius*	Lion's Foot	E	1909
Vascular Plant	*Asclepias purpurascens*	Purple Milkweed	E	1885

4. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designated or proposed within the town. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs may designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for natural areas of regional or statewide significance. The designation requires that all new developments within the ACEC be reviewed under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA, an interdisciplinary program which examines environmental impacts of major new developments). No proposed uses or developments are allowed in an ACEC that might environmentally degrade the area.

5. Threats to Framingham's Natural Communities (See section G)

E. Wildlife and Fisheries

The size and relative location of natural community types present as well as the nature of the surrounding landscape largely determines the distribution and abundance of wildlife species (DeGraaf, 2005). Framingham's diverse assemblage of natural communities of ponds, marshes, forests, and fields allows for a great assemblage of wildlife. However, in order to evaluate wildlife abundance and diversity in Framingham, one needs to look beyond town boundaries. Much of Framingham's protected open space found along its border abuts conservation land located in surrounding towns. Examples of this include: Nobscot Boy Scout Reservation (located partially in Sudbury), Callahan State Park (located partially in Marlboro),

Wittenborg Woods (which abuts Sudbury Conservation Land to the north) and Cowassock Woods (which abuts Ashland Town Forest to the south). Several wetland and riverine systems also cross town boundaries including Sudbury River, Beaver Dam Brook, and Stony Brook. These linkages create wildlife corridors and larger patches of protected open space which in turn allows a greater variety of wildlife present.

1. Inventory of Wildlife and Fisheries

Framingham's wildlife diversity and abundance has been measured using a number of methodologies. These include Biodiversity Day tallies, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Counts, and previous studies and reports that are listed as referenced in Section 12.

Mammals

Many mammal species have adapted to coexist with humans and have increased in abundance over the last 15 years. Once rare in Framingham, Fishers are now quite common. Beaver are well established in Town, particularly along the Sudbury River, Beaver Dam Brook, and Sucker Pond. The abundance of deer in Framingham is evident by the number of reported deer/car collisions, transmission of Lyme's disease and over browsing of shrub and groundcover vegetation. Raccoons, squirrels, cottontail rabbits, woodchucks, and Opossum inhabit the wooded land, especially in the northern section of Saxonville.

Birds

Bird populations have been variable. More people feed birds by putting up outdoor feeders and planting landscaping that attracts birds. This seems to enable southern birds, such as Carolina Wrens, to survive in the area year round. But large flocks of northern birds, such as evening grosbeaks, pine grosbeaks, and purple finches are diminishing. Still rebounding from the 1972 ban on DDT, bald eagles are reported occasionally around the Sudbury Reservoirs and Cooper's hawks are often seen. After a number of attempts by the state to reintroduce the wild turkey, they are now common, sometimes observed in flocks of 20-40 birds. Turkey vultures uncommon in Framingham 20+ years ago are observed regularly during warm weather. Flocks of bluebirds have been reestablished, thanks in part to many residents and organizations (such as Sudbury Valley Trustees) erecting and monitoring bluebird houses in fields. Not only is the red-bellied woodpecker increasing but also the pileated woodpecker. Mute swans, an introduced species from Europe, are becoming regulars in the vicinity of Farm Pond and the reservoirs. The oxbow of the Sudbury River in Saxonville serves as a refuge for many water birds since it is too shallow and weed-grown to permit boating for most of the breeding season (US Department of Interior).

Birds whose numbers have declined in recent years include indigo buntings, barn swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), eastern towhees , many species of warblers, chimney swifts, ruffed grouse, and pheasants.

Reptiles/Amphibians

There appears to be a general downward population trend for many of Massachusetts Reptile and Amphibians. Framingham has identified 5 vernal pools were rare amphibian species exist. Conservation staff and residents routinely assist the spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers as they cross Hemenway Road in their quest to reach their ancestral vernal pools.

Fish

Framingham water bodies are home to a variety of fish species including chain pickerel, sunfish (Enneacanthus obesus), Largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides), Redfin pickerel

(Esox americanus), and Yellow perch (Perca flavescens) among many others. The most diverse fish populations are in the Sudbury River, the MWRA Reservoirs, Lake Cochituate, and Waushakum Pond (Keller). Though, fish caught in the Sudbury River are not recommended for eating due to high mercury content.

2. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Wildlife

The following animals were listed with the Mass. Wildlife, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program in August 2006 as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC) under MESA (the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act) and/or the Federal endangered species list (Table 4-3).

Table 4-3. Wildlife in Framingham which is Threatened, Endangered, or Rare

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Amphibian	*Ambystoma laterale*	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1989
Amphibian	*Hemidactylium scutatum*	Four-toed Salamander	SC	2001
Amphibian	*Scaphiopus holbrookii*	Eastern Spadefoot	T	1852
Beetle	*Cicindela duodecimguttata*	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	SC	1907
Beetle	*Cicindela rufiventris hentzii*	Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle	T	1908
Beetle	*Cicindela purpurea*	Purple Tiger Beetle	SC	1928
Bird	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	Golden-winged Warbler	E	1982
Butterfly/Moth	*Apodrepanulatrix liberaria*	New Jersey Tea Inchworm	E	1934
Butterfly/Moth	*Metarranthis apiciaria*	Barrens Metarranthis Moth	E	1934
Fish	*Notropis bifrenatus*	Bridle Shiner	SC	1962
Mussel	*Ligumia nasuta*	Eastern Pondmussel	SC	1911

3. Important Bird Areas

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site providing essential habitat to one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. The IBA program is a national program that utilizes conservation partnerships to identify and monitor places that are critical to birds during some part of their live cycle, in order to minimize the effects of habitat loss and degradation on bird populations. These sites contain vulnerable, threatened or endangered species, endemic species, species representative of a biome, or concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, waders, or migratory land birds. Massachusetts Audubon Society has identified two IBA's in Framingham: (Sudbury & Foss Reservoirs and Sudbury/Concord River Valley).

F. Environmental Problems: Impacts of Development

1. Introduction

It is important to identify environmental problems to rectify them and to capitalize on open space and recreation opportunities they may offer. Residential and commercial development have affected and continue to affect open space and recreation in the many ways.

2. Habitat Fragmentation due to Development

Connectivity of open space and green space is continually diminishing with increased development. Development in Framingham continues, and continues in ever more marginal lands. Because of high property value in the region, development of open space is profitable, even the development of wet, steep, or rocky land.

Expansion of existing development continues as well.

- Expansion of homes, driveways, and lawns
- In-fill development in existing commercial and industrial developments
- Sub-division of large residential parcels
- In-fill development of “wood lots” in residential neighborhoods

3. Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sedimentation

Stormwater is the water that runs over land after a rain fall event. It carries with it sediment, nutrients, and toxicants that it picks up from the ground. Sediment (clean or contaminated) is then deposited in catch basins, wetlands, and stream channels. In Framingham, as everywhere, such sedimentation smothers natural habitat and introduces contamination into wetland complexes. With the great expanses of pavement and roof tops, and the piping of stormwater to catch basins and storm sewers (to limit flooding and/or ponding), natural infiltration of stormwater and the resultant natural filtration of contaminated waters and the natural recharge of aquifers are greatly decreased. Wetland health and ground water supply are both severely compromised.

Stormwater is managed to increase recharge, minimize flooding, limit erosion, and limit sedimentation. Recharge of stormwater into the ground, i.e., infiltration of stormwater, is critical for the maintenance of groundwater supply, maintenance of stream and river base flow during dry months, flood control, removal of pollutants, and the maintenance of ecosystems. Historically, however, drainage systems have been built as networks of catchments and pipes designed to quickly collect and transport stormwater away from impervious surfaces and developments to prevent flooding. These systems, therefore, bypass the local area and transport stormwater directly to nearby water bodies without opportunity for infiltration.

The land area adjacent to streams, lakes, or rivers that is likely to be inundated during snowmelt, storm, and flood events is known as the "floodplain". Floodplains are categorized according to the average frequency of flooding. Thus, the "100-year floodplain" is that area of land that is likely to be flooded once every 100 years. In other words, there is a 1% chance that the land will be flooded in any given year.

Environmental quality is notably diminished when erosion and permanent soil loss are prevalent. Erosion reduces the land's capability for maintaining vegetative cover, habitat, increased infiltration, etc. Steep slopes are particularly susceptible to erosion when vegetation is removed and/or soils are disturbed. Fortunately, no serious or chronic erosion problems are known to exist in Framingham at this time.

Sedimentation, the deposition of sediment from flowing waters, alters the physical features of a water body or buffer zone, by means of modifying vegetation, water depth, surface characteristics, circulation patterns, and flow rates. These physical changes can have a significant effect on water quality (due to the alteration of the natural self-purification processes), and habitat quality. Framingham actively tracks, monitors, and cleans its catch basins and stormwater outfalls on a pre-determined schedule and on an as-needed basis.

Framingham's Current Stormwater System

Approximately one-third of the drainage system is over 50 years old. Approximately 10% of the system dates from before 1925, and is constructed using clay pipe and stones, with very little mortar to prevent infiltration (Table 3-4).

Table 3-4. Town of Framingham Drainage System Components

Drainage Component	Total Quantity	Notes
Pipe	12,200 total pipe lines (65 mi or 343,000 ft)	4,100 pipe lines built before 1955
Catch Basins	8,200	2,500 catch basins built before 1955
Manholes	2,200	1,200 manholes built before 1955
Outfalls (includes headwalls)	500+	
Culverts	600+	

Stormwater infrastructure requirements for Framingham include:

- Several areas require an increase in capacity (even though speedy conveyance of stormwater is no longer the single goal of the system)
- Improvements to infrastructure and maintenance
- A comprehensive maintenance program for the drainage system
- Management of the Saxonville Levee
- Revision of its construction standards, including standards for materials and construction of the drainage system

Stormwater Planning

Framingham is in the process of developing a comprehensive stormwater management plan to address these and other needs. Framingham has submitted a Stormwater Drainage System Summary for inclusion in the Town's Master Plan, and is well along in its planning and implementation of the federally mandated program overseen by EPA called the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Management Phase II permitting program. The purpose of the Phase II program is to reduce pollutants in US water bodies from stormwater (or drainage) by addressing water quality (addressed in other sections of this report), erosion and sedimentation, and recharge. The Phase II program applies to municipalities with fewer than 100,000 residents and other selected legal bodies [by contrast the Phase I program applies to municipalities with populations over 100,000]. The Town of Framingham's drainage system, also known as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), operates under such a permit. The federal regulation governing this permit is 40 CFR 122.34(b)(3), known as the Storm Water Phase II MS4 Regulations. Framingham's current efforts are focusing on the two most impaired sub-basins (Beaver Dam Brook and Farm Pond) of the 22 sub-basins in Framingham. Subsequent efforts will address the next most impaired sub-basins. Framingham is also addressing areas of chronic flooding.

Stormwater Regulatory Frameworks

Several regulatory frameworks in town actively address stormwater management:

- Under the Phase II program, a new Illicit Discharge Elimination Bylaw was passed in May 2008. It will help Framingham detect and address illicit discharges by instituting procedures for: (1) locating priority areas likely to have illicit discharges; (2) tracing the

source of an illicit discharge; (3) removing the source of the discharge; and (4) evaluation and assessment.

- Wetland protection laws, bylaws and regulations, implemented by the Conservation Commission addresses erosion through the wetland permitting process, regulating pre-, during, and post-construction site characteristics.
- Subdivision rules and regulations and zoning bylaw now reference DEP's stormwater regulations that bring LID requirements to construction and redevelopment projects.
- Framingham's new land disturbance bylaw combines and strengthens three old bylaws that address earth removal, erosion control, and land clearing.

Chronic Flooding

Floodplains are delineated on the basis of topography, hydrology, and development characteristics of the area. In Framingham, the 100- and 500-year floodplains were analyzed and mapped in 1972 by the National Flood Insurance Program in the form of Flood Insurance Rate (FIRM) maps and again in 2007, though only draft maps are available at the time of this report. The 100-year floodplain is an accurate indicator of flood-prone areas, unless the area has experienced a dramatic increase in impervious area since the mapping done in 1972, in which case, flood-prone areas may extend beyond the 100-year floodplain. The areas most susceptible to recurrent flooding in the recent past are listed below in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5. Areas of High Flood Potential

Stream section	Flooding Location	Nature of Flooding
Beaver Dam Brook	From a point approximately 180' downstream of Second St. to a point approx. 2.2 miles upstream	This historically low-lying area (now with channelized brook) floods during intense storms
East Outlet of Baiting Brook	From its confluence with the Sudbury River to divergence from Baiting Brook by Edgell Grove and Central St.	Numerous sources contribute to flooding
Circle Dr., Auburn St. Extension, & Union Ave.	Residential areas	The Sudbury River "backs up" into this area
Walnut St.	The "Sucker Brook" area	The Sudbury River "backs up" into this area
McAdams St.	West of Livoli St.	This tributary to Dunsdell Brook can overflow into the street
The Sudbury River	Various bridge locations	Some bridges flood and become impassable

Much has been done to reduce flood potential.

- The Sudbury Reservoir and the Framingham Reservoir system provide some storage volume which decreases peak flood flows on the Sudbury River within the Town.
- Saxonville used to be prone to flooding, but the Saxonville Local Flood Control Protection Project was completed in 1979 at a cost of $4.75 million. The project

extends from the Saxonville Dam to the Danforth Street Bridge and consists of 3,850 feet of earthen dikes and concrete walls, pump station at Watson Place, steel vehicular gate at Concord Street, and sluice gate at the Central Street Dam. The project straightened a 1,000-foot section of the Sudbury River upstream from the Danforth Street Bridge. The Town of Framingham operates and maintains the project. (Note: The project does not include the Central Street Dam itself which is privately owned and operated.) In May, 2007, FEMA sent notices to all levee owners in the U.S. requiring certification by August 2009 for the 100-year flood, or risk losing designation as a levee-protected area. FEMA certification of the levee is likely without significant physical repairs, however we can't be certain of this until the analyses are conducted, which will take until September 2008.

- The Soil Conservation Service (now National Resource Conservation Service) constructed a flood control project for the Baiting Brook watershed that reduces the severity of flooding along major portions of Baiting Brook and Birch Meadow Brook. The project includes a dry dam on Baiting Brook and culvert and channel modifications to the east outlet diversion channel.
- Framingham installed a gate on Eames Brook that can be lowered to prevent the Sudbury River from backing up. During times of high water, the DPW lowers the gate and installs a pump, then pumps water from Farm Pond into the Sudbury River to alleviate flooding around Farm Pond.
- Development in the floodplain can increase the likelihood of flooding by decreasing flood storage and increasing the surface runoff into the stream channel. In addition, water contamination from flood-damaged sewage or septic systems and debris swept downstream from flooded properties can result in unnecessary hazards to those downstream. Therefore, development in floodplains is regulated by the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals in order to protect the health and safety and property.

4. Decreased Ground and Surface Water Quality

General Sources of Water Pollution

Water pollution can generally be described in terms of non-point source pollution and point source pollution.

Non-point source pollution results from surface runoff from parking lots, roadways, driveways, lawns, and other impervious surfaces that collect oil, fertilizers, and other harmful substances. Water (with all its associated pollutants) can no longer be absorbed into the soil and is carried over the impervious surfaces directly to streams, ponds, lakes and other water bodies.

Point source pollution, as the name suggests, is related to a particular source of pollution. Point source pollution is caused by a particular storm drain or other identifiable drainage source. Significant sources of point source pollution in Framingham include Adessa (the former GM plant on Western Blvd.) and the Nyanza Superfund Site upstream in Ashland.

General Results of Water Pollution

Algal blooms: Nutrients contribute to blooms of nuisance aquatic vegetation such as milfoil and algae. The algal and vascular plant blooms are unpleasant in and of themselves, covering whole water bodies with thick layers of green algae, watermeal, or duck weed. Then further problems occur. Decay of the plant matter results in depletion of the dissolved oxygen within

the water, and therefore, fish kills and thence high bacteria counts. This cycle often forces the Town to close the swimming beach. Eutrophic conditions and nuisance aquatic vegetation have been documented in most of the Town's ponds. An active weed control program has been in place since 1992 wherein chemical controls are employed on an as-needed basis in the town's major ponds to address blooms of exotic and nuisance macrophytes and algae.

Murkiness: Suspended sediment contributes to murkiness which reduces visibility, but also affects aquatic wildlife and native aquatic plants

Toxic pollution: Toxicants, such as E. coli and heavy metals, causes ill-health and disallows certain uses of water bodies.

Water Quality in the Sudbury River and its Major Tributaries (Table 4-4)

- Water quality problems in the Sudbury and Concord Rivers are generally related to non-point source pollution such as run-off.
- Depressed dissolved oxygen levels during low-flow summer months is the major water quality problem. This problem is predominately caused by wetland drainage into the rivers.
- High bacterial levels occur throughout Framingham
- Mercury contaminated fish have been found in the Sudbury River since 1970 and the river has been posted indicating warnings since 1986 (US Department of Interior). Elevated levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons, PCBs, and mercury found in fish have been attributed to past pesticide applications in swamps and agricultural lands and may indicate pesticide pollution of the river system (US Department of Interior). The sediment in Reservoirs 1 & 2 (now "off-line") has also been contaminated with mercury from the Nyanza Superfund Site upstream in Ashland.

Table 4-4. SuAsCo Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report (2001)

RIVER SEGMENT	**Sudbury River**	**Eames Brook**	**Sudbury River**	**Cochituate Brook**
Description	From outlet of Res #1 to inlet of Saxonville Pond	From outlet of Farm Pond to confluence w/ Sudbury River	Saxonville Dam to Wayland line (and beyond)	from outlet of Lake Cochituate to confluence w/ Sudbury River
Length	2.8 miles	0.6 miles	5.5 miles	1.3 miles
Classification	Class B, Warm Water Fishery	Class B	Class B, Aquatic Life	Class B
Sub-watershed area	82.1 mi2	1.24 mi2 watershed	116.4 mi2	20.2 mi2 watershed
Land-use estimates	Forest: 44%	Commercial: 13%	Forest: 39%	Commercial: 9%
	Residential: 28%	Residential: 17%	Residential: 33%	Residential: 40%
	Open land: 7%	Open land: 25%	Open land: 7%	Forest: 27%
Impervious area	10.9mi2 (13.3%)	0.34 mi2 (27.4%)	17.1 mi2 (14.7%)	4.5 mi2
State segment coder	MA82A-26	MA82A-13	MA82A-03	MA82A-22
Assessment sum'y	**Cat 5 impaired**	**Cat 5 impaired**	**Cat 5 impaired**	
Notes	requires a TMDL for metals, four closed or inactive landfills in sub-watershed	noxious aquatic plants, and exotic species (non-pollutant) and a TMDL is required; Framingham Compost Site and former landfill is located within this sub-watershed	requires a TMDL for metals	
Use: Aquatic Life	**Impaired**	*Not Assessed*	**Support**	**Impaired**
Cause	Benthic macro-inver-tebrate assessment			Organic enrichment biological indicators
Source	Upstream Impoundment			Upstream impoundment, Municipal urbanized high density area, discharges from municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s)

Cause	Mercury		Mercury	
Source	Nyanza Superfund Site		Nyanza Superfund Site, Atmospheric deposition	
Use: primary contact	*Not Assessed*	**Impaired**	*Not Assessed*	*Not Assessed*
Cause				
Source				
Use: secondary contact	*Not Assessed*	**Impaired**	*Not Assessed*	*Not Assessed*
Cause		Trash/debris, excess algal growth, sediment odor, fecal coliform bacteria		
Source		Discharges from municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s), landfill, municipal urbanized high density areas		
Use: Aesthetics	**Support**	**Impaired**	*Not Assessed*	**Support**
Cause		Trash/debris, excess algal growth, sediment odor		
Source		Discharges from municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s), landfill, municipal urbanized high density areas		

From: SuAsCo Watershed Year 2001 Water Quality Assessment Report http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/82wqar3.pdf

Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump

The Nyanza Chemical Waste dump is located off Megunko Road in Ashland, MA. From 1917 to 1978 several companies involved in the manufacture of chemical textile dyes and other products occupied the site, with Nyanza operating from 1965-1978.

There are 4 “operable units” associated with the Nyanza site: the landfill, off-site groundwater, wetlands, and the Sudbury River.

Mercury was the primary contaminant discharged into the Sudbury River. It is estimated that approximately 45-57 metric tons of mercury were released to the river. Since 1983 EPA has conducted extensive studies of the site to determine the distribution and levels of mercury in the Sudbury River. These studies confirmed that mercury was dispersed intermittently along the 26 miles of river that traverses Ashland, Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, and Concord.

The U.S. EPA is responsible for overseeing the cleanup of the Nyanza Site. Mitigation has begun. The landfill used for the consolidation of on-site contaminated materials was capped and completed in 1992. A plume of volatile organic compounds is present in the groundwater from the Nyanza property to about ¾ of a mile to the north and east, where it enters the Sudbury River. The EPA has installed vapor mitigation systems is local homes and will install extraction wells to remove the plume in the spring of 2008. Clean-up and restoration of the wetlands adjacent to the source and associated drainage areas was completed in 2001. Signs have been installed warning of mercury contamination along the edges of the reservoirs and river.

Once the new Feasibility Study is complete (December 2008), EPA will develop a plan for future actions.

(From: EPA Update, October 2007)

Water Quality in Framingham's Lakes and Ponds

All lakes and ponds in Framingham exhibit some signs of pollution, most prevalently, excessive nutrients (eutrophic conditions) and consequent nuisance aquatic plant growth.

For Waushakum Pond, a watershed management program is underway by both Ashland and Framingham, partially funded by a state "Section 319 Grant" to address non-point source pollution. It will include Low Impact Development (LID) best management practices such as tree filters and porous pavement. More is needed.

Learned Pond has suffered from non-point source pollution. The Town has begun addressing some of the issues of stormwater runoff. More is needed.

Water quality has been good in Lake Cochituate in recent years, however, there has been a recent burst in growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation and reduction in visibility which must be aggressively addressed.

Weekly testing is performed for total coliform and fecal coliform at all three Framingham town beaches during the 8-week swimming season. If the results are high (abnormal), the beach is closed for swimming and the tests are performed on a daily basis. Problems are generally attributable to geese, intense human use, and pet waste.

5. Invasive plants

One of the most conspicuous and unfortunate changes in Framingham is the rapid spread of non-native, invasive plants. In spite of efforts by the town and individuals to control these alien plants, they are establishing themselves on roadside, fields, woods, and ponds and displacing native plants and the native wildlife which rely upon the native plants.

Some of the most common invasive land plants include oriental bittersweet, buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, burning bush, honeysuckle, Garlic mustard, wisteria, and Asian bittersweet. They continue to spread throughout town's varied natural communities.

Some of most common invasive aquatic or wetland plants include Eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, and phragmites. Together, they choke out large areas of the Sudbury River and local ponds.

6. Brownfields

The US EPA defines "brownfields" as abandoned or underutilized properties (especially industrial and commercial facilities) wherein redevelopment or expansion is complicated by possible environmental contamination (real or perceived).

Mass DEP currently lists 445 brownfield sites in Framingham. The list is available at http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp

In October 2007, the Town of Framingham Community and Economic Development Department submitted a proposal to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency for a $200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant. These grants are intended to "provide funding for recipients to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites." The proposal asks for a "community-wide" as opposed to a "site-specific" grant, allowing the Town to investigate and assess a number of brownfields sites in the Downtown and Southeast Framingham. The bulk of the funding will pay for a state-approved Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to prepare a comprehensive inventory of brownfields sites in the study area and to perform more detailed assessments on a series of sites chosen based on their potential for redevelopment and re-

use. The grant provides for a targeted public outreach campaign that includes multi-lingual education and opportunities for community feedback on both brownfields and redevelopment issues. This project can have far-reaching effects including mitigating environmental impacts, stimulating economic development, and the engagement of under-served and minority populations.

7. Hazardous Waste

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) identifies hazardous waste sites using a tiered system. Tier 1 sites are considered to be high priority and are themselves ranked: Tier 1A (pose the most serious environmental risk by impacting air and water), Tier 1B (of concern but do not require direct oversight by DEP) and Tier 1C (pose less serious risks), and Tier 1 D (lowest priority Tier 1sites). Tier 2 sites are generally less serious contaminations, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs), small-scale spills, etc. 448 hazardous waste release sites in Framingham are listed by the DEP. The Tier 1 sites are listed in Table 4-5 below.

Table 4-5. List of Tier 1 Hazardous Waste Sites in Framingham

RTN	Release Address	Site Name/Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Com-pliance Status	Date	Chemical Type
3-0000589	350 Irving St	NSTAR (formerly Commonwealth Gas Co, manufactured gas plant)	None	1/15/1987	Tier 1B	8/3/2005	Oil
3-0003940	63 Western Ave	Adessa (formerly GMC) Settling Lagoon	None	4/15/1992	Tier 1B	10/11/2005	Oil
3-0022959	876 Edgell Rd	Exxon Station	2 hr	6/25/2003	Tier 1C	6/28/2007	Oil
3-0025846	220 Edmands Rd	No Location Aid	2 hr	4/26/2006	Tier 1C	4/26/2007	Oil
3-0021777	145 Meadow St	Ellingwood Realty Trust (NE Sand & Gravel)	72 hr	5/22/2002	Tier 1C	5/29/2003	Oil & Haz. Mat.
3-0006011	36 Berkshire Rd	Property	None	1/10/1994	Tier 1D	1/17/1995	Oil
3-0001666	127 Cochituate Rd	Commercial Property	None	4/15/1987	Tier 1D	8/9/1995	
3-0025155	125 Irving St	Parking Lot (manufactured gas plant)	2 hr	8/17/2005	Tier 1D	8/24/2006	Haz. Mat
3-0002587	192 Irving St	Commercial Property (manufactured gas plant)	None	1/15/1990	Tier 1D	8/9/1996	
3-0026440	615 Old Con. Path	Auto Repair Facility	72 hr	12/4/2006	Tier 1D	12/11/2007	Oil

From: http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/Search.asp

In addition to these sites in Framingham, the Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump in Ashland was placed on the National Priorities List in September 1983. Groundwater, sediments, and surface water are contaminated with four types of contaminants including heavy metals and chlorinated organics. Contaminants have migrated off-site and now affect the entire Sudbury River in Framingham, including the reservoirs.

8. Landfills

Framingham has no active landfills, but there area two former landfill sites.

The Dudley Road Dump Site, approximately 9.3 acres, lies just to the north of Farm Pond. In 1977 the Department of Public Works received notice from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (now DEP) that improper covering and grading at the Dudley Road site had resulted in leachate pollution to Eames Brook. The Town was asked to take corrective actions. In 2004, DEP studies leachate in Eames Brook showed that concentrations of bacteria were relatively low, especially in the vicinity of the landfill, indicating that the landfill

was not a source of bacterial pollution in the brook. In addition, the EPA 2004 studies indicated that there were no water quality impairments to the brook. (Source: http://oaspub.epa.gov/tmdl/enviro_V4.wcontrol?p_id305b=MA82A-13). Because of its proximity to Farm Pond and the adjacent park and recreation complexes, this site is planned for eventual recreation reuse.

A second former landfill exists near the Staples complex off Crossing Blvd. The landfill ceased operations and has been capped in accordance with required regulations with bituminous pavement and clean, granular soil. The site has been developed with a three-story, 100,000 square foot office and light manufacturing building and a parking lot.

9. Litter

The accumulation of litter has become a substantial problem, especially in small pockets of natural areas within heavily developed areas. Trash is dumped in "abandoned" lots (often municipal open space, trash is let go from cars or pedestrians, and litter is blown from trash barrels that await pick-up. Not only is litter unsightly, and tends to attract further dumping, it degrades habitats, and chokes and poisons wildlife.

CHAPTER 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

A. Overview

Open space provides a range of benefits to citizens of a community, beyond the benefits that accrue to private landowners. Parks and natural areas can be used for recreation; wetlands and forests supply storm-water drainage and wildlife habitat; farms and forests provide aesthetic benefits to surrounding residents. In rapidly growing urban and suburban areas, any preserved land can offer relief from congestion and other negative effects of development.

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

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

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

This chapter is divided into an Inventory (Sections B. – E.) and a list of priority parcels for protection (Section F.)

1. Summary of the Resources

Lands of conservation and recreation interest may be defined as un-built land (e.g., land used for farming and forestry, woodlands and fields used for passive recreation, and woodlands and wetland preserved for wildlife habitat and ecosystem function) as well as land developed for or developable for active recreational use (e.g., soccer fields, beaches, and playgrounds). *(Map 7: Protected and Unprotected Recreation and Open Space)*

- Protected land

- Open space:
    - State land preserved as open space, water resource protection land, and aqueduct land
    - Framingham Conservation Commission land protected under Article 97 of the State Constitution
    - Town ponds protected under Article 97 of the State Constitution
    - Framingham Parks and Recreation land protected under Article 97 of the State Constitution
    - Sudbury Valley Trustees land protected
    - Agricultural Preservation Restrictions protected through state law
    - Conservation Restrictions (perpetual deed restrictions)
- Recreation land:
    - Parks and Recreation land protected by M.G. L. Chapter 45
    - Bicycle and pedestrian corridors

- Unprotected land
    - Open space:
        - Tax title land
        - Chapter 61 and 61A land
        - other private open space
        - other municipal open space
    - Recreation:
        - Chapter 61B
        - Private recreation land

2. Uses of the Resources

Public Access

Public access is afforded on all Town Conservation land (although only 6 have well-developed and maintained trails), Town Parks and Recreation land, Callahan State Park land, open portions of the rail trails, and Chapter 61B lands. Public access is technically denied on the State Division of Conservation and Recreation reservoirs, the Metropolitan Water Resources Authority aqueducts, and portions of the not-yet-opened rail trails, as well as on private open space.

Individual Use

Many residents use open space and active recreation facilities on their own or in small groups during their own free time. Favorite activities include walking, jogging, hiking, use of playground equipment and practicing individual sports.

School Use

Team sports, Field Days and Special Events take place on the various School Fields.

Framingham Park and Recreation Sponsored Programs

The Park and Recreation Department offers over 200 recreation programs in 56 categories throughout the year for a wide range of age groups. Detailed information on these programs is provided in flyers, brochures, the department web page and newspaper advertisements. A listing of the current offerings is included in Appendix M

3. Accessibility for People with Disabilities

Since 1968, under 521 CMR Rules and Regulations of the Architectural Access Board (AAB), all new construction and renovation of public facilities is required to be accessible to people with disabilities (Margolis, Fairbairn). Amendment Article 114 of the Massachusetts Constitution states, "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual shall solely, by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be the subject to discrimination under any program or activity within the Commonwealth" (Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs – For Our Common Good, V. 2 p. 183). Also, in 1990 the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) law was passed. The ADA is in the process of rewriting the Federal ADA Accessibility Guidelines (new ADAAG) that will include access standards for outdoor activities (e.g., hiking trails and rail trails). A summary of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is included in the Appendices.

Framingham has made significant efforts to improve access to people with disabilities in recent years. In 2006 an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was completed identifying and outlining access issues which need to be addressed. Though much has been done, additional accessibility improvements are needed in an effort to better accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. The Framingham Disability Commission has had representation on the OSRP committee. The Disability Commission has provided a letter of support (Chapter 10).

B. Protected Open Space

Protected open space is land set aside and permanently restricted for conservation, agriculture, or passive recreation purposes. Protected open space includes: predominantly un-built parcels protected from development and managed by the Conservation Commission; Town-owned parcels not intended for sale or development but managed by an organization other than the Conservation Commission; and parcels owned by the State or Federal government; quasi-public; and private properties. Many of these parcels are developed for passive recreation with walking, biking, and skiing trails. Many are preserved as natural open space.

Protection is granted in different ways; some ways are listed below.

- Article 97 of the State Constitution grants citizens of Massachusetts a right to a clean environment and the enjoyment of natural resources on publicly owned land. The article requires that public land acquired for natural resource purposes (Parks and Conservation lands) not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of without a two thirds vote of Town Meeting and of each branch of the legislature. Unfortunately, conversion of land acquired for natural resource purposes to other uses has been sanctioned frequently by towns and the legislature with little examination, debate, or opposition. The protection conferred, therefore is limited.
- Deed restrictions lend protection to some parcels of land.
- Some land is protected through charitable trusts enforceable by the donor and the Massachusetts Attorney General.

1. State Open Space

The Commonwealth owns and manages several areas of open space and recreation land in Framingham.

- Callahan State Park (DCR): The largest public property in Framingham is Callahan State Park managed by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Callahan State Park is an 820-acre day use area located in northwest Framingham and eastern Marlborough. Callahan has seven miles of marked trails and is used for activities including fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Within the park are nearly 100 acres of open fields, 70 acres of which are currently under an agricultural lease.
- Lake Cochituate: the Saxonville beach portion of the 195-acre North Pond of Lake Cochituate is owned by the State, managed by the Division of Conservation Resources (DCR), and leased to the Town of Framingham. Land around the Lake is owned and managed by the DCR.
- Framingham State College land.
- Framingham Reservoirs: the impounded portions of the Sudbury River and the shores of the impoundments are owned by the State and managed by DCR.
- There are three aqueducts in Framingham, owned and managed by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).
- The Sudbury River is a navigable waterway, and so is under federal jurisdiction. Land along the Sudbury River is also protected open space.

2. Town Conservation Properties

The Conservation Commission manages 46 properties (a total of 108 parcels) (Table 5-1). This is a combined total of approximately 403 acres. About half of the properties have been delineated and bounded with small markers nailed into trees. Six properties have well-marked trails. The majority of the properties are not maintained for public use, but are managed for their wildlife habitat value or wetland resource value.

For all of the properties listed in Table 5-1, the Conservation Commission is the property owner and property manager. Many of the properties are used for passive recreation and all are open to the general public.

Table 5-1. Conservation Commission Properties							
File Name	**St #**	**Street Name**	**Assessor's**	**Acres**	**Condition**	**Potential**	**Zoning**
Arlene Drive	0	Arlene Dr	266-133-97	4.01	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Bacon Rd	0	Bacon Rd	745-1-41	11.79	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Bates Rd Extension	40	Bates Rd	165-346-3	2.50	Excellent	Passive rec.	M
Bishop St	0	Bishop St.	769-1-36B	1.42	Good	Passive rec.	G
Brook Meadow	0	Brook Meadow	438-2-0000A	5.66	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Brook St	0	Brook St	367-1-19D	1.30	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Brook St	545	Brook St	367-101-19B	1.04	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Brook St	547	Edgell Rd RR	367-101-9B	4.92	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Carol Getchell	81	Little Farms Rd	293-184-22	1.90	Excellent	Scenic view	R-3
Carol Getchell	0	Little Farms Rd,	293-184-23	1.30	Excellent	Scenic view	R-3
Carol Getchell	1	Sudbury	301-208-931*	3.3	Excellent	Scenic view	R-3
Cedar Swamp	117	Cedar St.	139-289-101	4.61	Fair	Scenic view	G
Cedar Swamp	0	Cedar St	138-286-9B	1.98	Fair	Scenic view	G
Cedar Swamp	32	Cypress St.	140-290-31	6.20	Fair	Scenic view	G
Cedar Swamp	0	Mellen St, off	138-286-10	1.25	Fair	Scenic view	G
Cedar Swamp	0	Waverly St	138-286-8A	0.39	Fair	Scenic view	G
Cedar Swamp	618	Waverly St, RR	138-286-8B	1.40	Fair	Scenic view	G
Central St	0	Central St	335-100-18	0.03	Fair	Passive rec.	R-1
Central St	425	Central St ABT	335-13-22	9.90	Good	Passive rec.	R-1
Chickatawbut Rd	0	Chickatawbut	684-1-54	6.54	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Circle Drive	60	Circle Dr	213-26-28	2.66	Good	Passive rec.	R-1
Clearview Dr	29	Clearview Drive	535-1-23	0.76	Very	Passive rec.	R-3
Cochituate Brook Res	0	Speen St., Off	311-235-7	0.70	Excellent	Passive rec.	M
Cochituate Brook Res	619	Old Conn Path	312-236-14	26.70	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Cronan Park	0	Thelma & Duffet	65-129-10	0.66	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Crosby Circle	0	Crosby Circle,	776-1-B	4.38	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Flannagan Dr	0	Flanagan Dr	773-1-B	0.23	Good	Passive rec.	R-4
Florita Dr	0	Florita Dr	363(A)-90-	7.04	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Goodnow Lane	21	Goodnow Ln	733-1-41	1.14	Good	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-22	0.57	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-12	0.51	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-18	0.64	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-20	0.81	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-14	0.71	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-6D	4.38	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove St	359-3-16A	0.68	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	8	Grove St	359-3-13	0.59	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	8	Grove St	359-3-15	0.70	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	8	Grove St	359-3-17A	2.30	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Grove St	0	Grove Street	359-3-21	1.65	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Hemenway-Catharine Rd	0	Hemenway &	713-1-1	1.47	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Hiram Pond	0	Baldwin Ave.,	403(B)-1-	2.65	Very	Scenic view	R-3
Hiram Pond	0	Hiram Rd	193-1-1111	2.36	Very	Scenic view	R-3
Hiram Pond (access)	0	Apple D'Or Rd	403-1-0000*	0.43	Fair	Pub. access	R-3
Hop Brook	963	Edgell Rd., RR	403-8-19	1.38	Good	Scenic view	R-3
Lamphere Circle	0	Lamphere Cir	545-1-B	0.98	Very	Passive rec.	R-4

Table 5-1. Conservation Commission Properties							
File Name	**St #**	**Street Name**	**Assessor's**	**Acres**	**Condition**	**Potential**	**Zoning**
Lillian Rd Extension	0	Lillian Rd	228-88-9B	2.61	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Lyman-McAdams	6	McAdams Rd	558-1-C	0.41	Very	Scenic view	R-4
Lyman-McAdams Rd	5	Lyman Rd	558-1-B	0.71	Very	Scenic view	R-4
Macomber	18	Badger Rd	447-2-3	6.50	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Macomber	26	Badger Rd	447-2-2	51.32	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Macomber	0	Hickory Hill	758-1-C	0.03	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Main St Cemetery	0	Main St	210-23-44	4.08	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Mohawk Pond	0	Edmands Rd	411-1-17B	14.96	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mohawk Pond	1	Ferrazzi Dr	410-1-24	6.19	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	3	Ferrazzi Dr	410-1-25	1.08	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	4	Ferrazzi Dr	410-1-29	1.02	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	5	Ferrazzi Dr	410-1-26	1.13	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	6	Ferrazzi Dr	410-1-28	1.01	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	0	Juniper Lane	410-1-27	2.59	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Mohawk Pond	0	Mohawk Dr	684-1-A	0.44	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Morency	67	Morency St		14.50	Excellent	Passive rec.	
Mt Wayte	0	Mt Wayte Ave	188-12-7(A)*	9.00	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	23	Vincent Ave	187-8-66L	0.43	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	14	Vincent Ave	187-8-54L	0.09	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	0	Vincent Ave	187-8-343	0.06	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	15	Vincent Ave	187-8-338	0.05	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	17	Vincent Ave	187-8-346	0.11	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	21	Vincent Ave	187-8-340	0.06	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Mt Wayte	0	Vincent, pvt	187-8-339	0.05	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-1
Nobscot Park	0	Edgell Rd, off	371-120-34A	0.43	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Nobscot Park	840	Edgell Road	371-120-13	0.61	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Nobscot Spring	124	Edgell Rd	412-1-13	5.86	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Norton Pond	0	Elm St	496-1-1	2.78	Good	Passive rec.	R-3
Norton Pond	212	Elm St	496-1-425	0.60	Good	Passive rec.	R-3
Norton Pond	230	Elm St	495-1-409	0.50	Good		R-3
Old Worcester Rd	0	Old Worcester	407-1-9	8.82	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Old Worcester Rd	0	Old Worcester	407-1-8	2.03	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Old Worcester Rd	0	Westgate Rd	407-1-47	0.96	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	0	Perry H	784-1-A	3.14	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	8	Perry H	489-1-16	0.21	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	10	Perry H	489-1-17	0.23	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	12	Perry H	489-1-18	0.30	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	34	Perry H	365-1-29	0.50	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	38	Perry H	365-1-30	0.30	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Perry H Henderson Dr	40	Perry H	365-1-31	0.29	Very	Passive rec.	R-1
Prindiville Ave	0	Prindiville Ave	52-104-000*	0.23	Good	Passive rec.	R-1
Prindiville Ave	21	Prindiville Ave	50-98-4	0.40	Good	Passive rec.	R-1
Shortiss Park	585	Central St	335-100-6	0.15	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Sucker Pond	6	Fairbanks Rd	240-75-8(C)*	4.00	Good	Scenic view	R-1
Spring Lane Woods	746	Water St., RR	375-104-3	3.1	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Spring Lane Woods	235	Brook St. RR	377-106-17	8.7	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-3
Sucker Pond	0	Hastings Street	240-75-4	4.03	Good	Scenic view	R-1

Table 5-1. Conservation Commission Properties							
File Name	**St #**	**Street Name**	**Assessor's**	**Acres**	**Condition**	**Potential**	**Zoning**
Sundial Place	0	Worcester Rd	943-9-26	2.48	Very	Passive rec.	R-3
Travis Dr	0	Fountain St, off	763-1-10A	7.21	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Travis Dr	29	William J	446-2-263	7.49	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Union Ave Terrace	571	Union Ave RR	203-5-9	0.91	Good	Passive rec.	G
Union Ave Terrace	0	Union Ave Terr	203-5-25	0.22	Good	Passive rec.	G
Walnut St	141	Walnut St	32-88-4	1.89	Good	Passive rec.	R-1
Whiting Rd	3	Whiting Rd	749-1-101	0.47	Good	Passive rec.	R-3
Winch St	297	Winch St	840-1-18C	3.29	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Wittenborg Woods	55	Wayside Inn Rd	414-1-39	83.73	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Wittenborg Woods Ponds	43	Wayside Inn Rd	414-1-38	3.00	Excellent	Passive rec.	R-4
Woodmere Rd.	Lot 1	Woodmere Rd.	602-1-1	0.46	Excellent	Scenic view	R-3
Woodmere Rd.	Lot 2	Woodmere Rd.	602-1-2	0.46	Excellent	Scenic view	R-3
Worcester Rd	1161	Worcester Rd	73-04-7178	1.53	Very	Scenic view	B
Worcester Rd	1325	Worcester Rd	408-1-48	0.24	Good	Scenic view	R-1
Total				418.5			

** Parcel numbers do not come up in the Town's GIS, but are accurate according to Town Meeting vote records*

The Conservation Commission is actively pursuing several land acquisition deals.

Stewardship of Framingham's Conservation Properties

The Conservation Commission recently undertook a major initiative to better manage its properties.

The Commission retained the services of a GPS (global positioning systems) expert to help delineate and mark the boundaries of its properties. As of the writing of this document, roughly half of the parcels the Commission owns have been delineated and marked. The remaining parcels are small, do not have ready public access, or are surrounded by otherwise protected lands.

The Commission has created trail maps of all parcels (six in total) on which it maintains trails, and made these maps available to the public in digital and electronic versions.

The Commission has also established a Stewardship program that has identified 1to 3 volunteers for each "major" (trailed) parcel who are responsible for monitoring their parcels and reporting on problem, needs, and opportunities. The Commission also sponsors monthly workdays on different parcels of Conservation land around town, engaging Stewards and other volunteers in trail maintenance, trash pick-ups, trail creation, etc.

Educational Programs by the Framingham Conservation

The Conservation Commission presents many different educational programs across the year.

"Scavenger Hunts" (4 in the spring and 4 in the fall) allow families with small children to experience guided nature walks through different conservation parcels.

Periodic educational slide presentations give residents and opportunity to learn about native wildlife, environmental problems, and ecologically sensitive practices.

Commission sponsored "Big Night" (the amphibian migration event) and "RiverFest" guided trips attract dozens of citizens.

Educational brochures and fliers are distributed widely to interested members of the public, permit applicants, and violators.

Targeted mailings to different interest groups (e.g., pond abutters or landscapers), allows the Commission to educate different segments of the community about pressing environmental issues.

3. Town Ponds and Lakes

The Town of Framingham has an abundance of ponds (Table 5-3). The major ponds are Waushakum, Farm, Learned, Mohawk, Sucker, Gleason, and Norton. Lake Cochituate's North Pond is partially within Framingham. Swimming, fishing and boating are permitted in many of these ponds.

Table 5-3. Ponds and Lakes in Framingham

Pond Name	Ac.	Public Access?	Public Uses	Abutter Uses
Farm Pond Big	124	Yes	Boating, fishing	n.a.
Farm Pond Little	23	No	Fishing	n.a.
Gleason Pond	12	Yes	Fishing	Boating, fishing
Lake Cochituate	195	Yes	Boating, swimming, fishing	n.a.
Learned Pond	34	Yes	Swimming	Boating
Mohawk Pond	2	Yes	Fishing	n.a.
Norton Pond	5	Yes	Fishing	Boating, fishing
Sucker Pond	6	No	none	none
Waushakum Pond	82	Yes	Boating, swimming, fishing	Boating, swimming, fishing

4. Town Parks and Recreation Property

Some Park and Recreation Department parcels are natural open space and vital wildlife habitat and should remain in their current natural condition. These parcels are protected from development only in so far as Article 97 of the State Constitution prohibits disposal without a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting and a 2/3 vote of the State Legislature. These parcels are listed below in Table 5-4.

The Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages all of the properties listed below in Table 5-4. All of the properties are available for passive recreation and allow for general public access. The parklands were either purchased by the Town or were donated by generous citizens.

Table 5-4. Parks and Rec. Open Space Parcels					
Parcel Name	**Street Reference**	**Acres**	**Property Condition**	**Expansion Potential**	**Zone**
Cushing Memorial Park	Dudley Rd.	57.5	Excellent	Yes	R-1
Edgell Rd	87 Edgell Rd	6.08	Good	No	R-3
Farm Pond	Dudley Rd.	26.6	Excellent	Yes	R-1
Hemenway	Hemenway Rd.	4.49	Very Good	No	R-3
Kellog St.	Kellog/Prospect	5.35	Very Good	No	R-3
Lanewood Ave	1 Lanewood Ave	5.00	Good	No	R-4
Lyman Rd	Lyman Rd	1.09	Very Good	No	R-4
McManus Park	Pearl St.	0.21	Very Good	No	CB
Merriam Park	Prindiville Ave	13.3	Very Good	Yes	R-1
Nobscot Park	Edgell Rd.	3.2	Very Good	Yes	R-4
Old Conn Path	OCP, RR	4.01	Good	No	R-1
Park Street	Park St.	0.43	Good	No	CB
Pratt St.	Pratt St.	1.24	Fair	Yes	G
Reardon	Brownlea Rd.	3.00	Very Good	No	R-1
Salem End Triangle	Salem End Rd	0.11	Good	No	R-4
Simpson Dr	Simpson Dr	1.61	Good	Yes	R-1
Veterans Park	Concord St.	1.00	Very God	No	G
Walnut St.	105 Walnut St.	6.83	Good	No	R-1
Water St.	Water St	11.00	Good	No	R-3
Total		149.72			

5. Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) Property

Approximately 350 acres of open space in Framingham are owned by SVT. Some of the land is managed for passive recreation, some for agricultural use, and some for watershed and wildlife habitat protection (Table 5-5). All SVT properties are protected by an implied charitable trust enforceable by the donor and the Massachusetts Attorney General.

Table 5-5. SVT Properties in Framingham			
SVT RESERVATION NAME	**ACRES**	**PARCEL ID**	**PARCEL LOCATION**
Baiting Brook	66.442	64-34-7860	862 Edmands Rd.
Baiting Brook	25.963	64-53-1736	862 Edmands Rd.
Baiting Brook	18.061	64-36-8286	862 Edmands Rd.
Baiting Brook	0.421	64-36-6688	862 Edmands Rd.
Centennial Place	0.845	84-23-1239	End of Centennial Place
Ciampa Woodland	5.013	74-26-3495	1016 Edgell Rd.
Cockell Island	0.575	74-90-2969	Near 397 Central St.
Cowassock Woods	16.929	Many paper parcels & roads	888 Salem End Rd.
Cowassock Woods	9.014	Many paper parcels & roads	888 Salem End Rd.
Ferreira	1.102	74-94-5046	307 Water St.
Framingham Fields	6.946	64-64-8733	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	5.550	64-57-9079	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	3.956	64-47-8054	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	2.874	64-57-9079	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch

Framingham Fields	1.698	64-66-0712	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	1.367	64-56-1919	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	1.033	64-57-7470	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	1.003	64-57-1207	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Fields	0.771	64-73-4661	Grove/Edmands, Grove/Winch
Framingham Woodlots	17.136	64-84-0556	Grove/Edmands/Sage
Framingham Woodlots	9.966	74-03-0253	Grove/Edmands/Sage
Framingham Woodlots	6.007	64-66-7664	Grove/Edmands/Sage
Framingham Woodlots	2.002	64-95-9130	Grove/Edmands/Sage
Framingham Woodlots	0.270	64-66-7664	Grove/Edmands/Sage
Gordon's Corner	9.587	73-47-4568	211 Edgell Rd.
Gordon's Corner	2.658	73-46-5603	175 Edgell Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	29.566	64-58-2718	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	17.810	64-69-4234	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	4.115	64-57-1968	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	3.951	64-57-1968	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	3.476	64-59-2547	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Henry's Hill Conservation Area	0.970	64-58-7240	~30 Wayside Inn Rd.
Pigor's Land	3.781	63-91-0814	Near 385 Salem End Rd.
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	9.654	73-29-0438	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	6.210	73-29-4064	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	5.786	73-08-1741	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	4.004	73-08-6298	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	2.403	73-09-0051	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.930	73-18-1170	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.801	73-08-5628	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.632	73-08-0515	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.335	73-19-7023	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.163	73-18-3615	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.159	73-08-9447	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	1.113	73-18-1170	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	0.820	73-18-4527	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	0.757	73-18-1170	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Pike-Haven-Foster Environs	0.205	73-29-4064	Edgell, Belknap, Grove/Belknap
Rendell Reservation	2.320	73-64-5547/5734	94 Prospect St
TOTAL	**323.15**		

6. Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

The APR program allows the State, Town, or combination of the two, to purchase the development rights on farmland in order to preserve the land's use for agriculture. The owner is compensated by the difference between the full market value (development value) and the agricultural value (the current use). The only property in Framingham falling under this APR classification is the portion of Hanson's Farm on the west side of Nixon Road.

7. Conservation Restrictions

A conservation restriction (CR) permanently protects private property from development. The land remains in the ownership of the landowner, but the "development rights" have been permanently restricted. A CR ensures that land will remain in its predominantly natural condition. Lists of parcels in Framingham with conservation restrictions, conservation restrictions in progress, and deed restrictions follow (Tables 5-6, 5-7, and 5-8).

Table 5-6. Conservation Restrictions (Existing)

Parcel	Address	Grantor	Grantee	Ac.	Approved	Expir.
Aronson-Combs	Wayside Inn Rd., 33	B. Aronson	SVT	6.7		none
Baiting Brook Meadow Farm	Nixon Rd., 32	G. and D.D. Harrington	SVT	80.0	2007	none
Belknap	Belknap Rd., portions of 153, 85, 59, & 37	B Plympton	Con Com	13.9	25-Oct-73	none
Belknap	Belknap Rd., portion of 289	L Kendal	Con Com	4.3	25-Oct-73	none
Campanelli/ Knox Trail	Dartmouth Dr., 0	Campanelli, Inc.	Con Com	1.2	31-May-79	none
Hilltop Lane	Parmenter Rd., portions of 93, and Hilltop Ln., portion of 7	G. Harrington	Con Com	4.0	22-Feb-80	none
Overly	Edmands Rd., 1101	E. Overly	SVT	19.0	2007	none
Riverpath Dr	Birch Rd., wellfield	Riverpath Assoc	Con Com	5.6	13-Sep-04	none
Shady Lane	Shady Ln., east portions of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12	Creative Housing Co. Inc.	Con Com	0.1	05-May-82	none
Wittenborg Woods	Wayside Inn Rd., 55	Town of Framingham	State	62.7	1999	none

Table 5-7. Deed Restrictions (Existing)

Parcel	Address	Grantor	Grantee	Ac.	Approved	Expir.
Perry Henderson Dr.	Easterly portions of 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 Perry Henderson Dr.	National Development Corp.	Con Com	1.8	1983	2013
Legatt-McCall	8 Legatt-McCall Connector	Lambda Ltd. Part.	Con Com	2.8	1994	2024

Table 5-8. Conservation Restrictions (In-Process)

Parcel	Address	Grantor	Grantee	Ac.	Approved	Expir.
Brimstone Lane	Brimstone Ln., portion of 287	Albermarle Realty Corp.	Con Com	21.0		NA
Stearns St.	Stearns St., 90	Keith O'Reilly	Con Com	2.6		NA

C. Protected Active Recreation Land

Active recreation land includes land owned and managed by the Framingham Parks and Recreation Department as well as several privately owned facilities. This land is protected by the M.G.L. chapter 45.

1. Framingham Park and Recreation Property (and School Property)

Approximately 357 acres of recreation land are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department which is protected by M.G.L. Chapter 45. Below is a list of the park and recreation facilities owned by the Town of Framingham and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department (Table 5-9). Park and Recreation properties vary in size, type of facility, and intensity of use. Some are designed to serve nearby residents in surrounding neighborhoods while others may serve users from other towns.

Many of the recreation properties have been improved and upgraded within the past 5 years. A Capital Improvement Plan is in place for all areas.

An additional 80 acres of athletic fields on school property are owned by the School Department, but maintained and managed by the Park and Recreation Department. All other areas of the school grounds are maintained by the School Department. Due to the present arrangement, scheduling of events at school facilities and the maintenance of 32 school fields are the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department. This arrangement has been very beneficial to both parties.

The Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages all of the properties listed on the following page in Table 5-9. All of the properties allow for general public access. The parklands were either purchased by the Town or were donated by generous citizens.

Table 5-9. Parks and Rec. Recreational Properties and Associated Facilities

Park Land	Acres	St. Address	Condition	Expansion Potential	Zone	Basketball	Beach	Baseball/ Little League	Football	Playground	Softball	Soccer	Tennis	Track
Anna Murphy Park	3.00	Cove & Lake Av.	Excellent	No	G			1					1	
Apple Street Park	0.50	Bethany Rd.	Excellent	Yes	G	1				1				
Arlington St. Playgrnd	1.80	68 Arlington St.	Excellent	No	G	1				1				
Bates Road Park	2.60	40 Bates Rd.	Excellent	Yes	G	1		1		1	1			
Bowditch Field	18.17	475 Union Av	Excellent	No	R-1	1		1	1				4	1
Brackett Road	2.35	Brackett Rd.	Fair	Yes	M									
Brophy School	5.12	575 Pleasant St.	Excellent	No	R-3						2	2		
Butterworth Park	10.50	261 Grant St.	Excellent	Yes	G	1		1	1	1	1	1	4	
Callahan Senior Center	2.20	535 Union Ave	Excellent	No	R-1									
Carter/Keefe Tech	29.40	Dudley Rd.	Excellent	No	R-1			1						
Danforth St	9.13	Danforth St.	Excellent	No	R-1					1	1			
Forest Ave Ext.	0.66	Forest Ave	Fair	No	R-1									
Furber Park	3.78	Fairbanks Rd.	Excellent	No	R-1			1		1				
Gallagher	1.30	Concord St.	Very Good	No	G									
Juniper Hill	2.59	29 Upper Jocyln	Fair	No	R-1									
Keefe Football Field	1.84	750 Winter St.	Good	No	R-1				1					
Learned Pd. Beach	1.00	Lower Shawmut Ter.	Very Good	No	R-1		1							
Longs/Ryan Complex	5.59	Dudley Rd.	Excellent	No	R-1	1		1			1			
Mary Dennison	14.00	54 Beaver St.	Very Good	Yes	M	1		1	1	1	2	1		
Mason Park	4.70	Maple & Franklin	Good	No	R-1					1				
Merchant Road Fields	29.00	Merchant Rd.	Excellent	No	R-4							1		
Mount Wayte	1.00	Chautauqua Ave.	Very Good	Yes	R-1					1				
Musterfield/ Galvani	9.17	Guadalcanal Rd.	Excellent	No	G						2	2		
Oakvale Park	3.20	Burbank Circle	Very Good	Yes	R-3					1				
Reardon Park	10.00	Brownlea Rd.	Very Good	No	R-1	1		1		1				
Roosevelt Park	3.80	Fay Rd.	Excellent	No	PRD	1				1				
Saxonville Beach	1.84	Lake St.	Excellent	Yes	R-1		1							
Temple Street Playgrnd	1.80	Temple St	Excellent	Yes	R-1					1				
Victory Field	6.50	Auburn St.	Very Good	Yes	R-3							2		
Waushakum Beach	1.11	Nipmuc Rd.	Very Good	Yes	R-3		1			1				
Winch Park	11.32	67 A St.	Very Good	No	R-1								6	
Winter Street	5.72	340 Winter St	Very Good	No	R-1									
Woodfield	7.00	Sloane Drive	Very Good	Yes	R-3					1				
TOTALS	209.49					9	3	9	4	15	10	9	15	1

Table 5-10. School Property Maintained by Parks and Rec.											
School Property	**Total Acres**	**P&R Maintained Ac.**	**Basketball**	**Beach**	**Baseball**	**Football**	**Playground**	**Softball**	**Soccer**	**Tennis**	**Track**
Barbieri	18.48	8.27			1		1		1	2	
Brophy	28.13	5.12	1				1		1		
Cameron	30.75	2.11			1						
Dunning School	23.51	see Walsh			1		1				
Fuller	27.35	2.70							1		
Hemenway	13.67	5.79									
High School	44.41	11.32	1		1	1		2	2	6	
Juniper Hill	16.94	2.59			1		1				
King	13.70	3.53	1					1			
McCarthy	22.63	1.00	1		1		1		1		
Potter Road	12.75	6.71	1		1		1		1		
Walsh/Dunning	12.65	22.16			1		1	1			
Mass Bay	22.00	8.95			1						
TOTAL	**294.7**	**80.25**									

2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridors

The Rail Trails are on corridors of varying forms of state and municipal ownership and agreement, and so varying degrees of protection.

- The Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT) is a proposed multi-use trail which will extend from the Village of Saxonville in Framingham, southeast to Natick Center, a distance of 4 miles. The Framingham section of trail is currently under development. The Town of Framingham has a trail easement for the portion of the Cochituate Rail Trail that is owned by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. It is currently seeking a 99-year lease with the MBTA for the remainder of the trail corridor.
- The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a proposed multi-use trail on a right-of-way that extends thirty miles northward from Rte 30 to the junction of Routes 3 and 495. This project has been divided into three phases. Phase I from Rte 495 south to Rte 225, Phase II from Rte 225 though Acton, Concord, and Sudbury, and Phase III (the Nobscot right-of-way) from Sudbury to Framingham. Phase III is still very early in the development process and would be situated on a right-of-way currently owned by CSX.

The Bay Circuit Trail is a 200 mile corridor running through 50 cities and towns around greater Boston. It connects the "jewels" of the "Emerald Necklace." It was first proposed in 1929 as an outer "emerald necklace," linking parks, open spaces and waterways from Plum Island to Kingston Bay. The Bay Circuit idea, a precursor of today's national greenways movement, continues to take shape.

D. Unprotected Open Space

Following is a description of categories (and some lists of parcels) of unprotected open space in Framingham; this is the list of properties from which we will select priorities for protection.

1. Town-Owned Property

The Town owns some choice pieces of land that should be evaluated for possible protection through the Conservation Commission and/or Parks and Recreation Department.

2. Town-Owned "Tax Title Land"

The Town owns many parcels of land that were taken for tax delinquency. This list is ever changing as new parcels come onto the list and periodically parcels are disposed of at auction and to other town departments. Some parcels have value as open space, others have recreational value. All should be periodically vetted for potential public value.

Several parcels have been identified as priorities for acquisition by Conservation or Parks and Rec. Upon further analysis, others may be identified.

Table 5-11. Tax-Title Land Of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Parcel Number	Parcel Address	Interested Dept.
74-63-2303	235 Brook St. RR	Conservation
74-53-7758	Pamela	Conservation
74-53-8438	746 Water St. RR	Conservation
74-63-8399	410 Water St. RR	Conservation
930-9-24	1093 Worcester Rd.	Parks and Recreation
306-215-13.B	Old Conn Path (Reardon Park)	Parks and Recreation
53-90-1190	0 Parker Rd., off	Conservation
53-90-6648	0 Worcester Rd., off	Conservation

3. Chapter 61 and 61A Lands

Parcels taxed under the Chapter 61 (Forestry) and Chapter 61A (Agriculture and Horticulture) tax classification are in private ownership and are not protected open space areas. The tax classification enables the lands to be taxed at their use value rather than the full fair market value. The Town has the right of first refusal if the parcels are sold prior to the expiration of the tax abated status. Owners of land classified under Chapters 61 and 61A must notify the Town before selling or converting the land to another use.

The Town has 120 days to decide whether to exercise the option to purchase the land. This allows the Town to protect individual open space parcels as they enter the market or become threatened by development.

Approximately 308 acres of land (a total of 16 parcels) in Framingham are under this tax classification. Parcels taxed under Chapter 61 and 61A are listed below. Note that those parcels with Conservation Restrictions on them are listed separately at the bottom

Table 5-12. Parcels taxed under Chapter 61 and 61A

St #	Street	Owner	Acres	Chapter	Parcel Number
131	Kendall Ave,	Geoghegan, JH & RC	5.69	61 A (Ag/Hort)	101.0-0209-0010.0
0	Leland St	Geoghegan, JH & RC	0.51	61 A (Ag/Hort)	178.0-0230-0005.0
93	Leland St off	Geoghegan, JH & RC	2.60	61 A (Ag/Hort)	178.0-0230-0004.0
19	Nixon Rd	Hanson, CD & PM	12.09	61 A (Ag/Hort)	421.0-0001-0012.0
0	Edmands Rd,	Hanson,	4.30	61 A (Ag/Hort)	423.0-0003-0012.D

Table 5-12. Parcels taxed under Chapter 61 and 61A					
St #	**Street**	**Owner**	**Acres**	**Chapter**	**Parcel Number**
0	Parmenter Rd	Hundred Acre Wood RT	3.71	61 (Forest)	422.0-0002-0003.J
0	Parmenter Rd	Hundred Acre Wood RT	3.11	61 (Forest)	422.0-0002-0003.K
0	Parmenter Rd	Hundred Acre Wood RT	8.76	61 (Forest)	422.0-0002-0003.L
0	Edmands Rd,	Overly, Edith H	6.03	61 A (Ag/Hort)	423.0-0003-0012.B
1084	Grove Street	Stephan, Doug	24.00	61A (Ag/Hort)	431.0-0001-0002.A
1062	Edmands Rd	Stephan, DW,Tr	111.98	61 A (Ag/Hort)	432.0-0001-0016.0
0	Dartmouth Dr	Wayside/Realty Inn,	24.52	61 A (Ag/Hort)	686.0-0001-0067.0
0	Wayside Inn	Wayside/Realty Inn,	26.93	61 A (Ag/Hort)	686.0-0001-0067.A
1	Edmands Rd,	Whittemore, D & S	16.72	61 (Forest)	421.0-0001-0013.0
815	Edmands Rd	Whittemore, D&S Hollis	1.00	61 (Forest)	421.0-0001-0016.0
	Sub-Total		**251.95**		
0	*Nixon Rd**	*Baiting Brook, LLC*	*44.62*	*61 A (CR)*	*423.0-0003-0007.0*
32	*Nixon Rd**	*Baiting Brook, LLC*	*35.67*	*61 A (CR)*	*422.0-0003-0005.0*
	Total		**332.24**		

**These parcels are Ch 61A land, but are protected under Conservation restrictions*

4. Additional/Other Unprotected Private Open Space Over 5 Acres

There are many parcels of private land in Framingham that have significant open space and are not protected from potential development. Below are listed such parcels of 5 acres or more. Some may have portions or be entirely open space with conservation or recreation value.

Table 5-13. Additional Unprotected Private Land Over 5 Ac with Significant Open Space					
St. #	**Street**	**Owner**	**Parcel ID**	**Acres**	**Land Use Code**
0	Carter Dr	Albemarle Realty Corp	65-70-5952	6.71	Res Dev Land
	Summer St	Anderson Maria A L	73-97-2385	6.19	Priv Tax Ex
60F	Nixon Rd	Aron, Robert L Tr	65-00-8672	5.90	Res Pot Dev
211	Edgell Rd	Boudreau, Blair & Perry	73-47-4568	9.86	Priv Tax Ex
863	Central St	Carmelite Sisters For	73-57-1442	22.54	Priv Tax Ex
	Leland St	Century Estates Condo	82-23-9001	6.54	Res Dev Land
77	Bethany Rd	Congregation Of The	72-42-2777	73.40	Priv Tax Ex
0	Pearl St	Consolidated Rail Corp	73-50-1096	13.91	Priv Tax Ex
415	Cochituate Rd	DDR MDT Shoppers	83-66-1011	39.35	Com Pot Dev
91	Leland St	Exelon Framingham, LLC	82-32-5204	15.93	Indly Zoned Pot
40	Winch St	Fafard, Madlyn A &	64-54-8157	21.90	Res Dev Land
261	Edmands Rd	Fram Com RecCenter	74-07-3089	19.22	Priv Tax Ex
3	Western Ave	General Motors Corp	71-99-2449	15.65	Ind Undev Land
80	Wayside Inn	Gibbons, Debra H	65-42-4026	5.75	Res Dev Land
458	Old Conn Path	Gustin, Sarah Trustee	83-48-2856	6.32	Com Dev Land
1400	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	75-01-2517	10.30	Priv Tax Ex
1300	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	75-11-7059	42.80	Priv Tax Ex
1294	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	74-19-6802	96.92	Priv Tax Ex
830	Edgell Rd	Leach Charles E	74-23-5980	10.44	Res Undev Land
505	Pleasant St	Marist Fathers Boston	63-76-1034	7.62	Priv Tax Ex
518	Pleasant St	Marist Fathers Boston	63-75-4400	28.80	Priv Tax Ex
49	Badger Rd	Mass Congregation	62-67-3351	18.10	Priv Tax Ex
1	Badger Rd	Mass Congregation	62-69-5158	44.40	Priv Tax Ex
180	Hemenway Rd	NE Wildflower Soc., Inc.	74-59-7362	31.95	Priv Tax Ex

Table 5-13. Additional Unprotected Private Land Over 5 Ac with Significant Open Space					
St. #	**Street**	**Owner**	**Parcel ID**	**Acres**	**Land Use Code**
	Hemenway Rd	NE Wildflower Soc., Inc	74-59-3884	6.57	Priv Tax Ex
43B	Nixon Rd	Nexum Development	64-39-1805	7.02	Res Dev Land
43C	Nixon Rd	Nexum Development	64-39-1309	10.10	Res Pot Dev
264	Elm St	Novak, William J	84-27-3005	5.31	Res Dev Land
0	Parker Rd	Paul, Linda Tr	53-90-1190	9.38	Res Pot Dev
89	Mt Wayte Rd	Perini Corp.	73-40-9649	8.43	316
1147	Edmands	Quirk, Robert D	423-3-14	10.84	109
1624	Worcester Rd	RDC Water LLC	63-32-7897	6.30	Com Dev Land
0	Worcester Rd	Regan Catherine M	53-90-6648	6.81	Res Undev Land
90	Stearns St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-44-5708	5.82	Res Undev Land
0	Meadow St Ns	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-67-0197	9.80	Res Undev Land
200	Danforth St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-65-5937	10.23	Indly Zoned Pot
160	Meadow St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-45-5042	10.69	Indly Zoned Pot
125	Elm St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-45-5464	12.91	Ind Land: S&G
0	Elm St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-46-4276	13.27	Indly Zoned Pot
0	Meadow St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-56-8338	25.68	Indly Zoned Pot
220	Danforth St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-55-9239	26.26	Ind Land: S&G
0	Elm St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-57-5122	28.76	Res Undev Land
1	Fenwick St	Roman Catholic	74-70-4106	22.70	Priv Tax Ex
1824	Worcester Rd	Rose Holdings Inc	53-92-3565	12.52	Ind Undev Land
567	Salem End Rd	Sons Of Mary	63-61-6262	29.12	Priv Tax Ex
750	Winter St	South Middlesex Reg	72-35-6956	25.75	Priv Tax Ex
225	Crossing Blvd	Staples, Inc	53-71-9725	33.55	Ind Dev Land
2	Winch St	Sudbury Valley School	64-53-8238	10.08	Priv Tax Ex
0	Nixon Rd	Talmo, Robert D	64-27-0481	14.70	Res Dev Land
300	Pleasant St	Temple Beth Am	63-95-1546	10.09	Priv Tax Ex
0	Cherry St	The Catholic Cemetery	83-09-0599	14.02	Priv Tax Ex
29	Pleasant St	Thibideault, Steven	73-25-9003	5.92	101
121	Beaver St	Verelli, Domenic Et Al Trs	82-14-9933	5.24	Com Pot Dev
21	Edgebrook Rd	Walker, B.J.	73-38-7335	5.74	Res Dev Land
21	Lockland Ave	Wayside Youth And	73-84-8500	12.64	Res Pot Dev
21	Lockland Ave	Wayside Youth And	73-84-8500	12.64	Priv Tax Ex
96	Worcester Rd	Westate Llc	83-32-3892	6.53	Com Pot Dev
103	Guild Rd	Zani Donald P	71-89-3216	11.23	Res Undev Land
		TOTAL		**1007.15**	

E. Unprotected Active Recreation Land

1. Chapter 61B Lands

Parcels taxed under the Chapter 61B (Recreation) tax classification are in private ownership and are not protected. The tax classification enables the lands to be taxed at their use value rather than the full fair market value. The Town has the right of first refusal if the parcels are sold prior to the expiration of the tax abated status. Owners of land classified under Chapter 61B must notify the Town before selling or converting the land to another use.

The Town has 120 days to decide whether to exercise the option to purchase the land. This allows the Town to protect individual open space parcels as they enter the market or become threatened by development. Parcels taxed under Chapter 61B are listed below.

Table 5-14. Parcels Taxed under Chapter 61B (Recreational Land)

St #	Street	Owner	Acres*	Chap	Parcel Number
1037	Edmands St.	David Maynard	12.3	61 B	423.0-0003-0012.C
16	Gates St	Framingham Country Club	41.82	61 B	456.0-0005-0003.0
0	Parker Rd	Framingham Country Club	0.83	61 B	456.0-0005-0004.0
60	Parker Rd	Framingham Country Club	62.58	61 B	454.0-0004-0018.0
0	Parker Rd, R	Framingham Country Club	29.86	61 B	457.0-0005-0007.0
351	Belknap Rd	Fram Swimming Pool Assoc	6.00	61 B	435.0-0001-0018.F
818	Grove St	Millwood Farms Golf Course	14.38	61 B	435.0-0001-0007.0
	Grove St	Millwood Farms Golf Course	50.62	61 B	435.0-0001-0009.0
0	Pleasant St,	Robertson, D & R Secrest	2.16	61 B	379.0-0039-0016.B
95	Wayside Inn R	Ruth Snow	13.6	61 B	414.0-0001-0001.0
62	Nixon Rd	Simonelli, J & L Fratalia	4.73	61 B	422.0-0003-0002.D
	Total		**238.88**		

**Acres in Chapter 61B status*

2. Private Recreation Land

One parcel of this nature, with potential for protection, exists in Framingham: the Framingham Swimming Pool Association owns 7.28 acres of land, much of it undeveloped, at 351 Belknap Rd.

F. Priority Parcels for Protection

1. Criteria for Protecting Open Space Parcels

The Conservation Commission has a Policy on Accepting Land Donations that informs all discussions about what parcels or types of parcels the Commission would most like to acquire.

- Parcels that have high ecological value, i.e.:
    - Are connected to other protected open space (to serve as an expansion, a link, or a buffer)
    - Are large
    - Have high-quality wildlife habitat for native species
    - Protect wetlands and water resources
    - Are ecologically unique or diverse
- Parcels that have cultural value, i.e.:
    - Are publicly accessible
    - Have alternative transportation value
    - Offer opportunities for public education
    - Protect water resources
    - Protect scenic vistas or viewsheds
    - Are agriculturally productive
    - Are historically significant
    - Are located in areas with little protected open space
- Parcels that will be able to be appropriately used and maintained
    - Parcels with few invasive, exotic, hazardous, or noxious weeds or materials

2. Criteria for Protecting Recreation Parcels

The Town would like to acquire affordable parcels for recreation that:

- Offer geographic equity of recreational resources
- Require limited preparation for development
- Are readily accessible

3. Priority Parcels for Acquisition or Protection

Opportunities for acquisition or creative protection come and go and vary from situation to situation. Therefore, priorities will change as fiscal, political, and developmental circumstances change. There are, however, some parcels of such high priority, that they are worth setting forth here.

Table 5-15. Large Parcels of High Quality Private Land

St. #	Street	Owner	Parcel ID	Acres	Map Code
77	Bethany Rd	Congregation of Sisters	72-42-2777	73.40	1
0	Pearl St	Consolidated Rail Corp	73-50-1096	13.91	2
261	Edmands Rd	Fram Com Rec Center	74-07-3089	19.22	3
3	Western Ave.	General Motors	71-99-2449	15.65	4
1400	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	75-01-2517	10.30	5
1300	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	75-11-7059	42.80	6
1294	Edgell Rd	Knox Trail Council, BSA	74-19-6802	96.92	7
830	Edgell Rd	Leach Charles E	74-23-5980	10.44	8
874	Edgell Rd	Nobscot Village LLC*	74-24-5231	4.14	9
462	Edgell Rd, off	Nobscot Village LLC*	74-23-7556	3.89	10
505	Pleasant St	Marist Fathers of Boston	63-76-1034	7.62	11
518	Pleasant St	Marist Fathers of Boston	63-75-4400	28.80	12
180	Hemenway Rd	NE Wildflower Preservation	74-59-7362	31.95	13
	Hemenway Rd	NE Wildflower Presev Soc	74-59-3884	6.57	14
0	Eaton Rd.	NE Wildflower Presev Soc	74-69-0925	4.91	15
89	Mt Wayte Rd	Perini Corp.	73-40-9649	8.43	16
0	Mt. Wayte Ave	Perini Corp.*	73-40-3803	3.15	17
0	Elm St	Riverpath Associates Ltd	84-57-5122	28.76	18
567	Salem End Rd	Sons Of Mary	63-61-6262	29.12	19
225	Crossing Blvd	Staples, Inc	53-71-9725	33.55	20
103	Guild Rd	Zani Donald P	71-89-3216	11.23	21
0	Bracket Rd, off	Consolidated Rail Corp*	71-79-8231	4.5	22

** Small but contiguous parcels that should be considered*

Table 5-16. Large Parcels of Ch 61, Ch 61A, and Ch61B Land

St #	Street	Owner	Parcel Number	Acres	Map Code
16	Gates St	Framingham Country Club	456.0-0005-0003.0	41.82	23
0	Parker Rd	Framingham Country Club	456.0-0005-0004.0	0.83	24
60	Parker Rd	Framingham Country Club	454.0-0004-0018.0	62.58	25
0	Parker Rd, R	Framingham Country Club	457.0-0005-0007.0	29.86	26
818	Grove St	Millwood Farms Golf Course	435.0-0001-0007.0	14.38	27
	Grove St	Millwood Farms Golf Course	435.0-0001-0009.0	50.62	28
95	Wayside Inn R	Ruth Snow	414.0-0001-0001.0	13.6	29
0	Dartmouth Dr	Wayside/Realty Inn, LLC	686.0-0001-0067.0	24.52	30
0	Wayside Inn	Wayside/Realty Inn, LLC	686.0-0001-0067.A	26.93	31
1	Edmands Rd,	Whittemore, D & S Hollis Trs	421.0-0001-0013.0	16.72	32
815	Edmands Rd	Whittemore, D&S Hollis Trs	421.0-0001-0016.0	1.00	33
1062	Edmands Rd	Stephan, DW,Tr (Eastleigh)	432.0-0001-0016.0	111.98	34
1084	Grove Street	Stephan, Doug	431.0-0001-0002.A	24.00	35

Table 5-17. Tax-Title Land Of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Parcel Address	Interest. Dept.	Parcel Number	Acres	Map Code
746 Water St. RR	Conservation	74-53-8438	3.10	36
235 Brook St. RR	Conservation	74-63-2303	8.73	37
410 Water St. RR	Conservation	74-63-8399	3.22	38
1093 Worcester Rd.	Parks and Rec	930-9-24	???	39
Old Conn Path (Reardon Pk)	Parks and Rec	84-61-8974	3.26	40
0 Parker Rd., off	Conservation	53-90-1190	9.38	41
0 Worcester Rd., off	Conservation	53-90-6648	6.81	42

Table 5-18. Town Parcels to be Considered for Internal Transfer/Protection

St #	Street	Owner	Parcel ID	Acres	Map Code
	Pamela	Town of Framingham	74-53-7758	3.22	43
403	Hemenway Rd	Parks and Recreation	74-69-5228	4.49	44
356	Edgell Rd	Town of Framingham	73-28-5119	12.89	45
3	Carlson Rd.	Fram Housing Authority	82-35-7083	17.20	46
*	Glenn St., off	Natick Village Apart.	82-45-1346	1.89	47

Table 5-19. Other Parcels for Protection if/as They Become Available
The Sudbury Aqueduct and the Weston Aqueduct

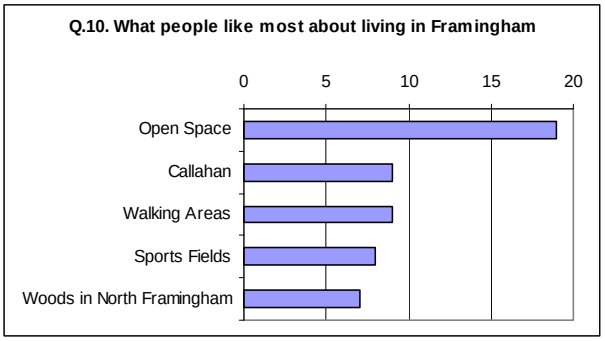
CHAPTER 6: Community Goals

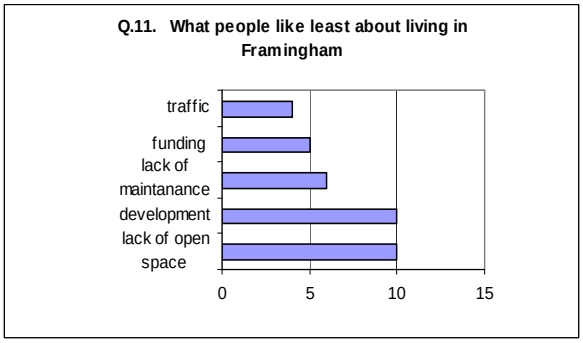
The Town of Framingham consists of a blend of urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods, which leads to a great diversity of open space and recreation needs and desires. These needs and desires were solicited be means of a public opinion survey, public forums, public meetings, and personal conversations.

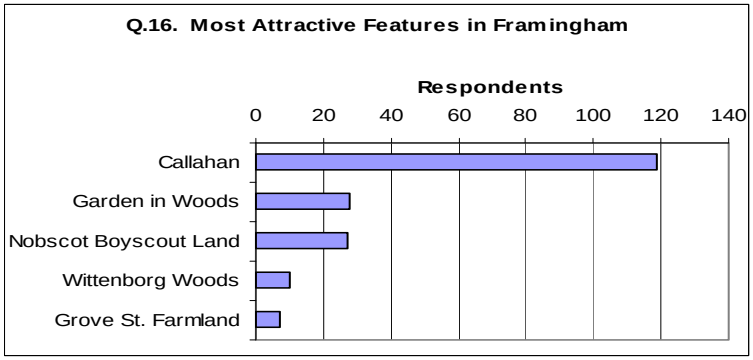
Of the public opinion survey's 47 questions, perhaps the most telling were:

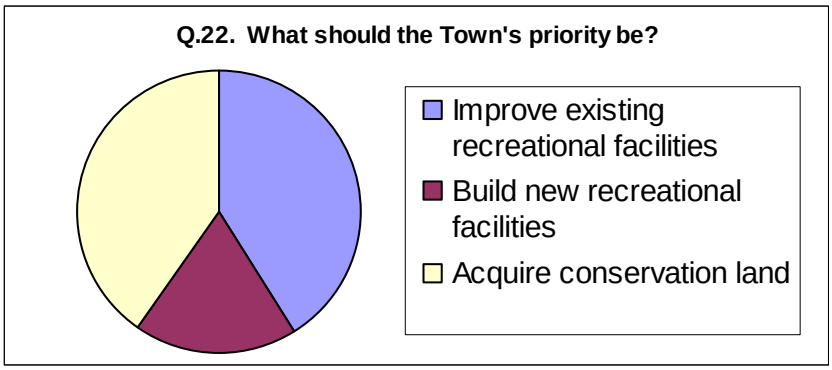
- Question 10: What do you like most about Framingham?
- Question 11: What do you like least about Framingham?
- Question 16: Most attractive features of Framingham?
- Question 22: What should the Town's priority be?
- Question 23: Most frequent recreational activities?
- Question 24: What does the Town need more of?
- Question 38-47: How important is it to preserve different land uses?

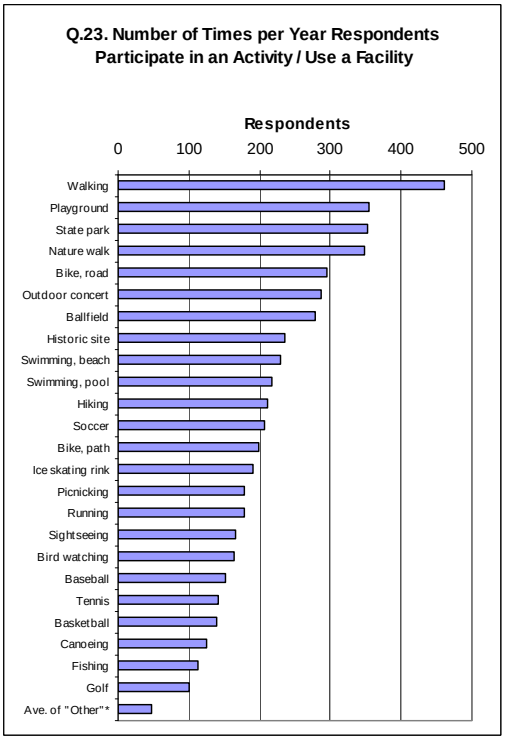
The charts below indicate the survey results for those questions.

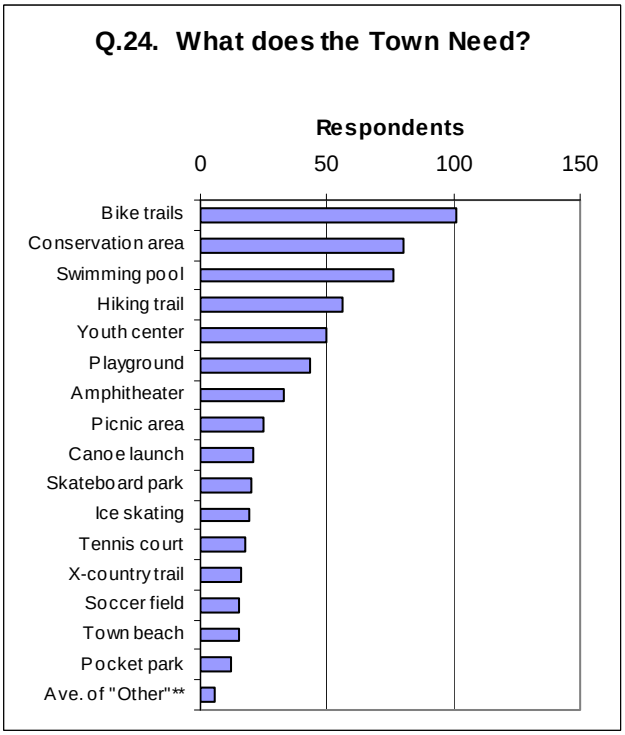


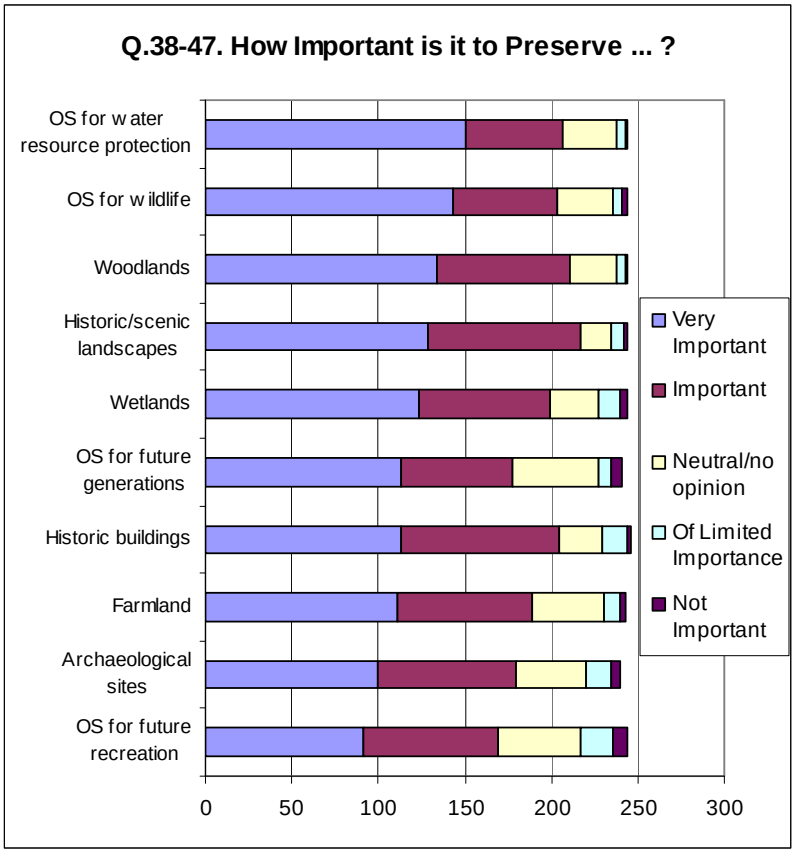





Q.22. What should the Town's priority be?
Improve existing recreational facilities
Build new recreational facilities
Acquire conservation land


Q.23. Number of Times per Year Respondents Participate in an Activity / Use a Facility
Respondents
0
100
200
300
400
500
Walking
Playground
State park
Nature walk
Bike, road
Outdoor concert
Ballfield
Historic site
Swimming, beach
Swimming, pool
Hiking
Soccer
Bike, path
Ice skating rink
Picnicking
Running
Sightseeing
Bird watching
Baseball
Tennis
Basketball
Canoeing
Fishing
Golf
Ave. of "Other"*


Q.24. What does the Town Need?
Respondents
0
50
100
150
Bike trails
Conservation area
Swimming pool
Hiking trail
Youth center
Playground
Amphitheater
Picnic area
Canoe launch
Skateboard park
Ice skating
Tennis court
X-country trail
Soccer field
Town beach
Pocket park
Ave. of "Other"**



Together, the surveys and the public forums generated many good narratives, comments, and suggestions, from which parcels of land residents felt were the most important to protect, to what actions the town should take to improve recreational opportunities for different user groups. From the public surveys and the public forums, the Planning Board Master Plan Open Space and Recreation Public Forum, the Framingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Downtown Railroad Crossing Task Force and Open Space, and Recreation Planning Committee discussions, the Committee gleaned five major interests to be addressed by this Plan, and many supporting suggestions.

1. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of passive and active recreational facilities
    - Emphasize accessibility and user-friendliness of facilities
    - Promote resources and facilities that already exist
    - Upgrade Bowditch facility
    - Better snow removal at Cushing Memorial Park, Wittenborg Woods, and other open space and recreational facilities
    - Better monitoring and removal of litter and dumping from town lands and rail corridors
2. Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and sylvan opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities
    - Promote more stewardship and “policing” of conservation lands
    - More actively manage and promote Framingham’s water resources (ponds and the Sudbury River)

- Pursue more aggressively the protection of parcels of open space to keep a balance of developed and rural land in Framingham
- Research to determine if deer are causing ecological problems at Macomber and Wittenborg
- Address deterioration of encroachment into wetlands
- Reduce outdoor lighting that scatters skyward to increase night-time darkness

3. Creation of corridors for non-motorized passage for recreation and transit: i.e., expanded pedestrian access to municipal amenities, access to public transport, safe, accessible, walkable recreation areas, etc.
    - Complete development of rail trails: Cochituate, Bruce Freeman, Upper Charles
    - Complete trail to and around Farm Pond and connect it to downtown
    - Acquire rail rights-of-way for trail creation
    - Promote alternative transportation opportunities and facilities such as racks, lockers, restrooms, benches, etc.
    - Refurbish trails that lead to the schools
    - Create dedicated bike trails, bike lanes, bike lockers, etc. of increase bicycle friendliness of Framingham
    - Connect neighborhoods to one another, commercial areas, and public transit with trails
    - Provide more opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, road biking, pedestrian traffic, etc.
    - Increase access opportunities for non-motorized boats
    - Develop historic walking trails
4. Creation of new recreational facilities to meet unmet needs
    - Build a town pool, wading pool, and sprinkler playground
    - Create natural history education facilities throughout town
    - Create new neighborhood parks
5. Other efforts (fiscal, educational, managerial, etc.) that will support open space and recreation goals
    - Develop permanent Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
    - Increase youth recreation programming
    - Increase “green-ness” of cemetery maintenance
    - Educate all town departments about the value of and means of protecting open space, wetlands, etc.
    - Increase public engagement with conservation, stewardship, and maintenance of public resources and facilities
    - Increase focus on protection of historic resources
    - Green the downtown
    - Improve restroom facilities at public outdoor facilities
    - Explore ways to utilize DCR reservoirs and MWRA aqueducts for recreation

CHAPTER 7: Analysis of Need

This section is a compilation of needs and a prioritization of those needs.

A. Selection of What Has Been Accomplished from the 2003 Plan

Some of the most significant accomplishments from the 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan are listed below.

New Development/Regulations/Implementation

- Developed Cushing Memorial Park Phase I-III.
- Developed the old Roosevelt School property as a park.
- Worked with the Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT) Committee to develop the CRT, which once completed will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Adopted "Land Disturbance" Bylaw in 2007 which included regulations on earth removal, erosion and sedimentation control, and land clearing thresholds
- In the process of reviewing the Illicit Discharge bylaw and regulations - expected to be reviewed at 2008 Annual Town Meeting.
- Developed Construction Standards (which include water, sewer, roadway, and drainage standards) that reference the DEP's Stormwater Management Standards, for approval in April 2008.
- Restored the Danforth Street Bridge's historic and aesthetic appeal.
- Town Meeting approved Ag Commission
- Planning Department purchased 20 bike racks with EOT multi-modal grant funding. A few have been installed at McCauliff Library. Remainder will be installed in near future. FBPAC working to identify locations for additional bike racks. PD looking for additional funding sources to purchase additional bike racks (MAPC program).
- Completed an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
- Established an ADA Transition Plan Sub-Committee to oversee and implement recommendations outlined in the Plan

Maintenance

- Monitored the quality of water in ponds and treated ponds annually to improve the water clarity and quality.
- Marked trails on 6 major conservation parcels; developed and distributed trail maps for each parcel; established a volunteer stewardship program to assist with trail maintenance.

Education and Outreach

- Park & Rec. ensures that events, programs, and services they offer are held in accessible locations. They provide an ADA statement in their public notices.
- Sponsored Salamander Big Night which First Graders have participated in; approved Eagle Scout Projects along Carol Getchell N.T. which students access; hold spring and fall nature programs on conservation land.

B. What Remains to be Done from 2003 Plan

Many of the recommendations from the 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan are in progress, some are yet to be addressed. Some of the most significant on-going or outstanding recommendations are listed below.

1 . Maintenance Projects

- Restore and enhance Bowditch Field Complex according to the Master Plan.
- Evaluate parks and CC properties for access issues.
- Identify open space parcels under private ownership and continually update the status of the parcel and degree of protection if applicable (see Appendix Q).

2. New Development/Regulations/Implementation Projects

- Investigate opportunities for land acquisition and or protection (see Appendix Q for privately and publicly owned properties identified as needing protection for open space preservation or for future recreational use).
- Continue Cushing Memorial Park Parcels B & C in accordance with the Master Plan.
- Develop small neighborhood parks and improve/enhance existing parks in several locations. Parks Develop Neighborhood Tot-Lots.
- Upgrade existing paths at Farm Pond Park and create a path for travel through the park that is accessible to people with disabilities.
- Create a process for review by appropriate departments and commissions to assess whether or not the Town should retain ownership before a parcel is sold at auction for tax default.
- Encourage BOS to appoint new CPA Study Committee to re-evaluate Framingham's CPA proposal with modification of percentage and/or exemptions.
- Create a database or tracking system to monitor Chapter 61, 61A and B lands and assign priorities for acquisition if removed from the program.
- Continue development of the Cochituate Rail Trail.
- Pursue connection from Downtown (near Rt. 126 and Rt. 135) to Farm Pond area by a pedestrian and bicycle route.
- Look at possibility of developing a loop trail around Farm Pond.
- Develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Develop trails to connect to Framingham State College property, Mount Wayte, Cushing Memorial Park, Farm Pond, and eventually Downtown.
- Develop Historic Trails throughout Town.

C. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) describes the open space and outdoor recreation policies of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). The document is used by the EOEA to guide expenditures authorized by the legislature. The 2001 SCORP uses a method of determining demand which is based on the result of a survey of Massachusetts residents. The survey determined statewide and regional participation rates, frequencies in various recreational activities, and the "latent demand" for recreational facilities (the percentages of the population that would participate in an activity if more facilities were available). The results of the survey were used to create a model for demand estimation at a regional level. The model is based on sample data available at the regional level and is not intended to be applied to smaller areas such as individual towns. For purposes of the model, Framingham is considered to be part of the Northeast Massachusetts Region, where the activities with the highest unmet needs were road biking, playground activities, swimming, and walking.

D. Environmental / Resource Protection Needs -- From Chapter 4

The primary environmental challenges facing Framingham (and most communities in the region) were discussed at some length in Chapter 4. They are summarized here.

- Wildlife habitat and green corridor fragmentation
- Stormwater management
- Decreased water quality (groundwater and surface water)
- Invasive plants and loss of rare and common plants and wildlife habitat
- Hazardous and toxic waste discharges
- Litter
- Sedimentation and Erosion
- Landfills

E. Community's Needs -- From Chapter 6

The primary goals, for open space and recreation, gleaned from the residents of Framingham and the professional municipal employees and volunteers on the Open Space and Recreation Committee were discussed in Chapter 6. They are listed here.

- Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of passive and active recreational facilities.
- Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and sylvan opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities
- Creation of corridors for non-motorized passage for recreation and transit: i.e., expanded pedestrian access to municipal amenities, access to public transport, safe, accessible, walkable recreation areas, etc.
- Creation of new recreational facilities to meet unmet needs
- Other efforts (fiscal, educational, managerial, etc.) that will support open space and recreation goals

F. Board/Commission/Committee Priorities

Based on feedback from the Boards and Commissions and Committees represented on the OSRPC, the following were identified as priorities.

- Agriculture Commission – Protect agricultural, horticultural, and silvicultural land
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – develop multi-use trails linking work and recreation destinations, neighborhoods, public transportation, etc. Develop supporting facilities such as racks, benches, and rest areas
- Community and Economic Development – improve linkages between open spaces and facilitate planning for long-term trail development
- Conservation Commission – Expand stewardship program and address encroachments onto conservation land
- Disabilities Commission – Work with town departments to ensure that current regulatory standards are implemented in all new construction and maintenance

efforts, implement recommendations in the ADA plan, and increase education and outreach to the disability community about existing accessible facilities

- Historic Commission – Elevate scenic landscapes in their priority for protection, promote scenic roads, expand historic districts
- Planning Board – Increase incentives for developers to utilize cluster development
- Parks and Recreation Commission – Focus on maintenance and improvements to existing facilities. See Table 7-1 below.

Table 7-1. Recreation Facilities in Need of Improvements

Park	Needed Improvements	Map 8 Code
Anna Murphy Park	Backstop replacement	A
Bates Road Park	Backstop replacement, basketball	B
Cushing Memoria Park	Implement Phase IV of Master Plan	C
Merchant Road Fields	Additional parking	D
Lake Waushakum Beach	Plumbing fixtures, handicapped accessibility	E
Bowditch Field	Implement Master Plan	F
Butterworth Park	Full irrigation, new tennis lighting, new playground	G
Farm Pond Recreation Area	Shelter and restroom facilities	H
Long's Complex	New skate park and playground	I
Learneds Pond Beach	Implement storm drain system	J
Mason Park	Parking improvements	K
Mt. Wayte Park	New playground equipment, new basketball court	L
Temple Street Playground	Additional fencing and playground equipment	M
Saxonville Beach	Landscaping and storm drain system	N
Danforth Park	New basketball court and restrooms	O
Winch Park	New basketball court, tennis, playground equip.	P
Furber Park	New playground equipment, basketball court, retaining wall	Q
Oakvale Park	New playground equipment, new backstops	R
Saxonville Falls Park	Replace small playground equipment	S
Victory Field	Irrigation wells	T

G. A Focus on Implementation and Funding

A plan is only effective in so far as it is implemented. Implementation requires leadership, coordination, and, very often, funding.

The OSRPC believes the greatest need of all is the formation of an Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee to serve along side the involved staff, to help oversee the implementation of this plan by periodically reviewing this plan over the course of its life, working with the various departmental (and non-government) leaders to ensure that their actions are being accomplished, and undertaking research and developing recommendations.

The OSRPC also understands the need for new sources of revenue to pay for those initiatives that require new funding. Following is list of possible funding mechanisms that should be researched for feasibility.

1. Passing a bond for open space protection (like Ipswich, Boxford and West Newbury)
2. Establishing a local land trust which can partner with the town to purchase land (like Bolton)

3. Setting aside a small amount of money at Town Meeting on a regular basis to build up a land conservation fund that could be used to do appraisals for land purchases or to supplement other money for actual land purchases.
4. Placing cell phone towers on town property and dedicating the yearly rental to land protection.
5. Establishing quasi-public utilities (electric and/or water), then taking steps to protect land (Littleton's department has worked on protecting critical land crucial to the protection of water resources).
6. Operating farm land, then sinking profits back into the land protection fund.
7. Passing the CPA, one of the best bets for towns to protect important natural spaces, as well as protecting historically significant properties and landscapes and providing good affordable housing (7 of 10 of the towns surrounding Framingham have passed the CPA).
8. Establishing a process for channeling back taxes received due to the sale or transfer of Chapter lands into a revolving land protection fund.
9. Aggressively pursuing grant opportunities such at the state Land and Water Conservation Fund and Self Help grants.

H. Compilation of Needs

Based on an analysis of the above listed needs, the Open Space and Recreation Committee developed a list of priority goals and objectives.

1. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of active recreational facilities
    A. Improve routine maintenance and continue to improve existing facilities
2. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of Conservation and open space parcels
    A. Increase active stewardship and land management of Conservation land and other municipal open space parcels
    B. Address encroachments by abutters to Conservation land
    C. Address invasive aquatic weed infestations
3. Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and silvicultural opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities
    A. Identify priority parcels for acquisition/protection for ecological value, agricultural value, and recreational value
    B. Coordinate with regional land protection efforts
    C. Develop coordinated administrative processes associated with land acquisition and protection
    D. Aggressively pursue purchase or protection of priority open space parcels as they become available
    E. Provide more education and outreach addressing the preservation of natural resources (e.g., stormwater management, invasive species, illicit discharge, nutrient loading)

4. Creation of new recreational facilities and programs to meet unmet needs
    A. Create and complete corridors for non-motorized passage that serve as greenways and provide access to passive and active recreation facilities, places of work, school, public transportation connections, or other points of interest in town
    B. Create new parks, playgrounds, and passive facilities
    C. Determine what new recreation programs are needed
    D. Determine what new Conservation land amenities are needed
5. Undertake other town-wide efforts that will support open space and recreation
    A. Pursue aggressive implementation of this plan
    B. Identify possible sources of funding for implementation of this Action Plan
    C. Aggressively pursue the recommended funding strategies noted in the report cited in 5B1.
    D. Maintain current and complete records of municipal resources
    E. Ensure that departmental budgets have adequate maintenance line items
    F. Inform and educate citizens about the open space and recreation facilities that exist in Framingham
    G. Address invasive species town-wide
    H. Preserve scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, cultural, and geologic features, and the open space surrounding significant historic and landscape features.
    I. Maximize preservation of open space in development projects

CHAPTER 8: Goals and Objectives

1. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of active recreational facilities
    A. Improve routine maintenance and continue to improve existing facilities
2. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of Conservation and open space parcels
    A. Increase active stewardship and land management of Conservation land and other municipal open space parcels
    B. Address encroachments by abutters to Conservation land
    C. Address invasive aquatic weed infestations
3. Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and silvicultural opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities
    A. Identify priority parcels for acquisition/protection for ecological value, agricultural value, and recreational value
    B. Coordinate with regional land protection efforts
    C. Develop coordinated administrative processes associated with land acquisition and protection
    D. Aggressively pursue purchase or protection of priority open space parcels as they become available
    E. Provide more education and outreach addressing the preservation of natural resources (e.g., stormwater management, invasive species, illicit discharge, nutrient loading)
4. Creation of new recreational facilities and programs to meet unmet needs
    A. Create and complete corridors for non-motorized passage that serve as greenways and transit corridors, and provide access to passive and active recreation facilities, places of work, school, public transportation connections, or other points of interest in town
    B. Create new parks, playgrounds, and passive facilities
    C. Determine what new recreation programs are needed
    D. Determine what new Conservation land amenities are needed
5. Undertake other town-wide efforts that will support open space and recreation
    A. Pursue aggressive implementation of this plan
    B. Identify possible sources of funding for implementation of this Action Plan
    C. Aggressively pursue the recommended funding strategies noted in the report cited in 5B1.
    D. Maintain current and complete records of municipal resources
    E. Ensure that departmental budgets have adequate maintenance line items
    F. Inform and educate citizens about the open space and recreation facilities that exist in Framingham
    G. Address invasive species town-wide
    H. Preserve scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, cultural, and geologic features, and the open space surrounding significant historic and landscape features.
    I. Maximize preservation of open space in development projects

CHAPTER 9: The Five-Year Action Plan

A. Introduction

This chapter is the five-year action plan the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee (OSRPC) feels is necessary to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the previous chapter (see Map 8: Action Plan). It is critical that this plan remain an active document, used by all relevant departments in their planning and day-to-day operations. This will require dedicated coordination at the departmental staff level, as well as oversight and coordination by an implementation committee with broad representation and vision (see below). Staff should develop a roughly quarterly meeting schedule to ensure that efforts are being undertaken and well-coordinated. An implementation committee should be formed, meet roughly quarterly, and serve as a guiding body that undertakes research and issues recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and other relevant boards.

B. Highlights/Priorities of the Action Plan

The OSRPC believes that a few of the objectives and actions are particularly important; they are critical in achieving the stated goals or because they support other objectives and actions. They are discussed briefly below.

1. Ensure aggressive implementation of the plan.

Action 5A2: Form a new permanent Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee (OSRIC) to monitor progress of the plan, communicate with involved departments, and conduct research and develop recommendations as noted in this plan

The OSRPC feels that the establishment of an OSRIC is vital to maintain focus on the goals, objectives, and actions of the plan and to promote creative solutions to accomplish them.

As seen in the “Lead Dept.” column, the leadership required to accomplish the actions in this chapter will have to come from many different groups within town. Coordination and oversight are essential. In Framingham, the Conservation Commission has the primary responsibility of ensuring that the Open Space Plan is updated every 5 years, but coordination of diverse departments must be supported by the Board of Selectmen. To that end, the OSRPC would like to see an OSRIC created by the Board of Selectmen. This committee would be charged with periodically reviewing this plan over the course of its life, working with the various departmental (and non-government) leaders to ensure that their actions are being accomplished, and undertaking research and developing recommendations.

The OSRPC chose not to recommend a particular constituency, structure, or meeting schedule for the OSRIC. This was not due to a lack of opinions, but rather due to the understanding that the OSRPC will cease to exist upon completion of this plan, and that the Board of Selectmen will need to decide how to staff the OSRIC as the OSRIC will advise the Board of Selectmen and work on its behalf.

The OSRPC did outline in the Action Plan specific objectives and actions it feels the OSRIC needs to fully implement this plan. The relevant objectives and actions include: (1) Increase active stewardship and land management of Conservation land and other municipal open space parcels, (2) Identify priority parcels for acquisition/protection for ecological value, agricultural value, and recreational value, (3) Develop coordinated administrative processes associated with land acquisition and protection, (4) Aggressively pursue purchase or protection of priority open space parcels as they become available, (5) Identify possible source of funding for implementation of this Action Plan, (6) Maintain current and complete records of municipal resources, and (7) Inform and educate citizens about the open space and recreation facilities that exist in Framingham

Action 5C1: Appoint a new CPA study committee

The surveys and forums identified an interest in taking another look at the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as a means to fund some of the actions in this chapter. This would provide one means of funding.

Action 5B1: Research the list of possible funding mechanisms listed in Ch 7 and develop a report recommending funding strategies for Framingham

The OSRPC understands that the town is struggling with a difficult financial situation. That will make it more difficult to achieve many of the objectives and actions in this Plan. The OSRPC would like to see new funding sources identified and pursued aggressively.

2. Focus on the maintenance of existing facilities and programs.

Action 1A4: Undertake actions identified in Table 7-1 for Recreation Facilities in Need of Improvements

One of the most important activities identified in the surveys, forums, and OSRPC discussions is the need to adequately maintain the current inventory of active recreational facilities. Table 7-1 in this plan identifies recreational facilities in need of improvements and maintenance. It is necessary that the Parks & Recreation Dept. be given the resources it needs to accomplish this action.

Action 2A2: Continue and expand Conservation land steward program and workdays to help maintain and improve and make consistent open space parcels

This is a similar maintenance theme as in 1A3 above for our active conservation land. Trails and access points are of little value if they are poorly marked, overgrown, or difficult to access. It is necessary that the Conservation Commission have the resources it needs to accomplish this action.

3. Protect open space in Framingham

Action 3A1: Research private land, tax title land, other town land, etc. and identify priority parcels for acquisition (based on size, current land use, ecological diversity, presence of rare species, adjacency to protected land, etc.)

The surveys and forums identified a strong desire on the part of the citizens of Framingham to identify parcels of open space and establish priorities for protection. This was reinforced last year at Town Meeting, when there was a vote blocking some

tax title properties from being auctioned off. This is an area where much research is needed as it falls outside the boundaries of most departments' daily responsibilities. There must be time put in to characterizing properties, prioritizing characteristics for acquisition, and identifying sources of funding. The OSRPC would like to see the IOSRPC take the lead in identifying parcels and seeking grants and other funding sources to finance preservation.

This effort will involve Action 3C1: Develop a coordinated administrative process for review of tax title land prior to it being auctioned off. A major concern of the OSRPC is that there is no standard procedure or checklist now being used to identify parcels of land taken by the town that the town may wish to preserve. The implementation committee should advise the Board of Selectmen on policies and best practices to review land taken by tax title

4. Create non-motorized corridors in Framingham

Objective 4A: Create and complete corridors for non-motorized passage that serve as greenways and provide access to passive and active recreation facilities, places of work, school, public transportation connections, or other points of interest in town.

The surveys and forums identified a very strong interest on the part of the citizens of Framingham to create safe passages that could be used by walkers and bicyclists to move about town. It will be especially important to address rail-trail corridors and south/north connectivity, since Framingham is so effectively divided by Route 9 and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

C. The Full Five-Year Action Plan

1. Key to the Lead Municipalities

Table 9-1. Key to Lead Municipal Bodies in Action Plan Below

Acronym	Body Name
Agri. Com	Agricultural Commission
B&PAC	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
BOS	Board of Selectmen
CED	Community and Economic Development
CC	Conservation Commission
DC	Disability Commission
DPW	Department of Public Works
HC	Historic Commission
HDC	Historic District Commission
OSRIC	Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee
P&R	Parks and Recreation Department
PB	Planning Board
Sch D	School Department

2. The Action Plan

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	**Goal**	**Objective**	**Action**	**Lead Dept.**	**Potential Funding Source**
1A1	1. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of active recreational facilities	A. Improve routine maintenance and continue to improve existing facilities	1. Undertake necessary improvements of recreation facilities identified in Table 7-1. Those facilities in need of upgrades are listed below. • Anna Murphy Park (A) • Bates Road (B) • Bowditch Field (C) • Butterworth Park (D) • Cushing Memorial Park (E) • Danforth Park (F) • Farm Pond Recreation Area (G) • Furber Park (H) • Lake Waushakum Beach (I) • Learneds Pond Beach (J) • Long's Complex (K) • Mason Park (L) • Merchant Road (M) • Mt. Wayte Park (N) • Oakvale Park (O) • Saxonville Beach (P) • Saxonville Falls Park (Q) • Temple Street Playground ® • Victory Field (S) • Winch Park (T)	P&R	PARC grant, Federal Land & Water Conservation grant, town funds
1A2			2. Continue to use GIS technology to keep up-to-date lists of parcels managed by the Parks and Rec. Department	P&R	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
1A3			3. Seek opportunities modernize technological support for facilities tracking and maintenance	P&R	Municipal staff, town funds
1A4			4. Continue coordination with schools and the private sector for maintenance and use of facilities	P&R, School Dept.	Municipal and school staff – no funds necessary
1A5			5. Encourage the development of “neighborhood” stewardship groups	P&R	Municipal staff, volunteers and town funds
1A6			6. Implement ADA improvements needed as outlined in the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan as well as any other access improvements needed at existing recreational facilities	P&R, DC	CDBG grant program, PARC grant, Land & Water Conservation grant, town funds

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	Goal	Objective	Action	Lead Dept.	Potential Funding Source
1A7			7. Undertake stormwater improvements near the town's recreational beaches	P&R, DPW	DEP grants and town funds
2A1	2. Maintenance and improvement of the current inventory of Conservation and open space parcels	A. Increase active stewardship and land management of Conservation land and other municipal open space parcels	1. Continue to use GIS technology to keep up-to-date lists of parcels managed by the Conservation Department	CC	Municipal staff and volunteers – no funds necessary
2A2			2. Encourage the development of stewardship groups such as "Adopt-a-Park", "Adopt-a-CC Parcel", "Adopt-a-River", "Adopt-a-Tree", and "Adopt-a-Trail" programs	OSRIC, P&R, CC	Municipal staff and volunteers – no funds necessary
2A3			3. Continue and expand Conservation land steward program and workdays to help maintain and improve trails and infrastructure	CC	Municipal staff and volunteers – no funds necessary
2A4			4. Encourage Eagle Scouts, community service students, and other volunteers to undertake conservation projects	CC	Municipal staff and volunteers – no funds necessary
2A5			5. Ensure that each trailed parcel of Conservation land is welcoming, informative, and user-friendly (i.e., all parcels should have trail head signs, maps and map boxes, trail markers, land use regulations, etc.)	CC	Municipal staff, DCR Recreational Trails grant, Land & Water Conservation grant, town funds
2A6			6. Create new trails layer in town GIS	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
2A7			7. Implement ADA/access improvements needed at all conservation and open space parcels	DC CC	Municipal staff, DCR Recreational Trails grant, Land & Water Conservation grant
2B1		B. Address encroachments by abutters to Conservation land	1. Create an encroachment policy, identify major and minor violations and begin pursing compliance	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
2C1		C. Address invasive aquatic weed infestations	1. Continue the Town's pond management program	CC	Municipal staff, town funds, DEM Lakes & Ponds grant
			2. Support DCR in their efforts to address weed infestations in Lake Cochituate	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	**Goal**	**Objective**	**Action**	**Lead Dept.**	**Potential Funding Source**
3A1	3. Conservation of natural resources and open space to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and horticultural, agricultural and silvicultural opportunities, and passive recreational opportunities	A. Identify priority parcels for acquisition/protection for ecological value, agricultural value, and recreational value	1. Research private land, tax title land, other town land, etc. and identify priority parcels for acquisition and/or protection (based on size, current land use, ecological diversity, presence of rare species, adjacency to protected land, etc.)	OSRIC, CC, P&R, BOS	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
3A2			2. Research and identify parcels for suggested voluntary addition to Chapter 61 program or Agricultural Preservation Restriction or Conservation Restriction	OSRIC, Agri. Com	Municipal staff – Chapter program, APR, Conservation Restriction
3B1		B. Coordinate with regional land protection efforts	1. Remain engaged in the Greater Callahan State Park land protection effort to enlarge the protected open space network near Callahan State Park	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
3B2			2. Remain engaged in the effort to protect the Sudbury River Oxbow by transferring it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
3C1		C. Develop coordinated administrative processes associated with land acquisition and protection	1. Develop coordinated administrative process for review of tax title land prior to it being sold at auction and undertake annual review of tax title list for possible acquisition priorities	BOS, OSRIC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
3C2			2. Develop coordinated administrative process for dealing with Ch61 land when it becomes available through the right of first refusal (i.e., consider adopting the Mt. Grace process)	Agri. Com, BOS	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
3C3			3. Bring town departments together to identify land management needs; then develop a recommendation for the BOS for a coordinated program for addressing maintenance of town-owned land	OSRIC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	Goal	Objective	Action	Lead Dept.	Potential Funding Source
3D1		D. Aggressively pursue purchase or protection of priority open space parcels as they become available	1. Pursue priority lands identified in Tables 5-15 through 5-19. Develop and distribute educational materials, seek sources of funding and support, encourage the development of "neighborhood" advocacy groups	OSRIC	PARC grant, Land & Water Conservation grant, CPA, town funds
3E1		E. Provide more education and outreach addressing the preservation of natural resources (e.g., landscaping and land stewardship practices, water resource protection, stormwater management, invasive species, illicit discharge, nutrient loading)	1. Increase general public education and outreach efforts through the development and distribution of flyers, initiation of cable TV programming, lectures, or nature walks, etc.	CC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
4A1	4. Creation of new recreational facilities and programs to meet unmet needs	A. Create and complete corridors for non-motorized passage that serve as greenways and transit corridors, and provide access to passive and active recreation facilities, places of work, school, public transportation connections, or other points of interest in town	1. Form a taskforce/committee (with representation by DC) to develop an integrated long-term plan for public trails in Framingham. Include existing trail corridors (e.g., Bay Circuit Trail, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Cochituate Rail Trail, municipal trails, SVT trails, state park trails, and school trails), proposed major "arteries" (e.g., CSX right-of-way, South Sudbury Aqueduct, and Weston Aqueduct), proposed destination trails (e.g., Farm Pond loop trail and new historic trails), and proposed connector trails (e.g., downtown-train station, downtown-Farm Pond). The committee should act as advocates for new trail projects and provide maintenance for existing trails in Framingham	BOS, B&PAC	Municipal staff, local rail-trail groups, volunteers – no funds necessary
4A2			2. Complete and open the Cochituate Rail Trail	CED, CRT	Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	Goal	Objective	Action	Lead Dept.	Potential Funding Source
4A3			3. Continue preliminary studies and advanced planning in support of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail	CED, B&PAC	Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds
4A4			4. Support the planning for the South Sudbury Rail Trail, Upper Charles Trail, the Southborough/Callahan South Link, and the Weston Aqueduct Greenway and Trail System	BOS, B&PAC	Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds
4A5			5. Develop mass transit connection points at trail heads where feasible (e.g., MWRTA bus stops at trail heads)	CED	Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds
4A6			6. Install bike racks throughout downtown Framingham and bike lockers at train station	CED, DPW	LIFT funds, WRTA mitigation payments, town funds
4A7			7. Support the Bay Circuit Trail effort by attending meetings and implementing recommendations	B&PAC	Municipal staff – no funds necessary
4A8			8. Re-establish trails leading to the Framingham schools	School Dept.	Volunteers – no funds necessary
4A9			9. Ensure that all new facilities are adequately lit, patrolled, and maintained, and that they meet current AAB and ADA laws. Ensure that existing and new public trails meet ADA and AAB regulations where feasible.	PB, DC	Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds plus staff time
4B1		B. Create new parks, playgrounds, and passive facilities	1. Study the need for and develop a report that identifies priority locations/areas for new recreation facilities (consider: multi-use neighborhood fields/parks, basketball courts, tot lots, skate parks, river and pond and lake access/boat launches, dog parks, golf courses, softball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, an amphitheater, facilities for elderly residents).	P&R	Town funds and staff time
4B2			2. Implement the report cited in 4B1 as possible; ensure that all new facilities are adequately lit, patrolled, and maintained; and ensure that they meet current AAB and ADA laws	P&R, DC	PARC grant, Land & Water Conservation grant, Recreational Trails grant, Greenway Trail grant, ISTEA, town funds
4B3			3. Pursue Brownfields grants to accommodate new facilities	CED	Federal Brownfields grant

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	Goal	Objective	Action	Lead Dept.	Potential Funding Source
4C1		C. Determine what new recreation programs are needed	1. Study the need for, develop a report, and implement new and varied programs for "youth at risk", "disabled", and "special needs" populations	P&R DC	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
4D1		D. Determine what new Conservation land amenities are needed	2. Identify locations for possible new trails, outdoor classrooms, public access points, and camping areas on conservation land. Implement as possible	CC	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
5A1	5. Undertake other town-wide efforts that will support open space and recreation	A. Pursue aggressive implementation of this plan	1. Form a new Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee to monitor progress of the plan, communicate with involved departments, and conduct research and develop recommendations as noted in this plan	BOS	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
5A2			2. Develop routine staff meeting schedule to discuss and coordinate implementation of this plan	BOS, CC, P&R	Staff time – no funding necessary
5B1		B. Identify possible sources of funding for implementation of this Action Plan	1. Research the list of possible funding mechanisms listed in Ch 7 and develop a report recommending funding strategies for Framingham	OSRIC	Staff time – no funding necessary
5B2			2. Appoint new CPA Study Committee to determine the feasibility, costs, and benefits of passing the CPA in Framingham	BOS	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
5C1		C. Aggressively pursue the recommended funding strategies noted in the report cited in 5B1.	1. Develop a recommendation to establish, through Town Meeting, a fund (and a policy) to channel money from Ch 61 back taxes to a fund dedicated to land conservation efforts	Agri. Com	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
			2. Pursue other funding mechanisms identified in the report cited in 5B1 as appropriate	OSRIC	Staff time – no funding necessary
5D1		D. Maintain current and complete records of municipal resources	1. Ensure the routine updating of inventories of Conservation land and Parks and Recreation land and routine coordination with the Assessor's Office	BOS, OSRIC	Staff time – no funding necessary
5E1		E. Ensure that departmental budgets have adequate maintenance line items	1. Issue directive to pertinent departments (e.g., Conservation, Parks and Recreation) to include maintenance in their annual budgets	BOS, CC, P&R	Town funds and staff time

Table 9-2. Five-Year Action Plan (2008-2012)					
#	**Goal**	**Objective**	**Action**	**Lead Dept.**	**Potential Funding Source**
5F1		F. Inform and educate citizens about the open space and recreation facilities that exist in Framingham	1. Develop a comprehensive and consistent set of maps and lists of facilities of Parks and Recreation and Conservation lands and facilities; identify handicapped access; post on the town website, public access television, and MRRS	OSRIC	Staff time and volunteers – no funding necessary
5G1		G. Address invasive species town-wide	1. Develop a management plan for invasive species on town land	CC, DPW, P&R	Staff time – no funding necessary
5H1		H. Preserve scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, cultural, and geologic features, and the open space surrounding significant historic and landscape features.	1. Develop recommendation for Town Meeting for the expansion of local historic districts	HDC	Staff time – no funding necessary
			2. Develop historic landscapes as historic districts	HDC	Staff time – no funding necessary
			3. Undertake stonewall preservation education	HC, HDC	Staff time – no funding necessary
			4. Undertake scenic road marking and outreach to address tree preservation along scenic roads	PB	Staff time – no funding necessary
5I1		I. Maximize preservation of open space in development projects	1. Provide incentives for developers to practice low impact development and cluster development by developing changes to the zoning bylaw that addresses incentives in the special permit process	PB	Staff time – no funding necessary

CHAPTER 10: Public Comment

FRAMINGHAM DISABILITY COMMISSION

150 CONCORD STREET ✓ MEMORIAL BUILDING
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
TEL/VOICE MAIL: (508) 532-5540
TTY: (508) 620-4851
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July 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that the Framingham Disability Commission writes this letter of support with the conclusion of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Disability Commission had representation on the 2003 as well as the 2008 Committee. The Framingham Disability Commission was established by town Meeting on May 8, 2002. It consists of 9 members, meets once a month and has several sub-committees. Consistent with our bylaws, the majority of the members have a disability or have a family member with a disability. The major role of the Commission is to ensure that the town is meeting its obligations and is in compliance with state and federal disability laws.

To that end, we advise the town on its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a federal law which protects persons with disabilities from discrimination and was signed into law on July 26, 1990. We also work with the town to insure it is in compliance with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) Rules & Regulations. The AAB is a state law established in 1968 and is part of the building code. In addition, the Commission provides financial assistance, through its Handicapped Parking Fine account, to help make town related programs & services accessible for persons with disabilities.

Since the completion of the last OSRP in 2003 there have been many improvements for persons with disabilities. One major accomplishment occurred in 2005-2006. Framingham completed its ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and is available on the town's website as well as in various town offices. The plan focuses on the town's physical access as well as access to programs and services, policies, practices and procedures that incorporate Accessibility in town departments. With the completion of the plan, an ADA Transition Plan Sub-Committee was established. Though improvements have been made, much still needs to be done and the Disability Commission is fully committed to making sure that this Plan is implemented, and that all recommendations outlined in the Plan are addressed under the deadlines established.

The Commission's involvement with this Committee as well as other town committees, Commissions & Boards is the first step towards making our town fully accessible for all its residents with disabilities.

Dennis Polselli
Chair, Disability Commission

Town of Framingham
Park & Recreation Department

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475 UNION AVE. FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
TEL: (508) 532-5960
FAX: (508) 872-2591

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Robert L. Merusi

July 18, 2008

Framingham Conservation Commission
150 Concord Street
Framingham, Ma 01702

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

The Park & Recreation Commission has reviewed the Town of Framingham Open Space Plan dated July of 2008. We have found the process described in the plan appropriate and thorough. The identified goals are consistent with the department's general direction, challenging, and mostly attainable.

The Open Space Plan will be a good overall guide for the Town and provide added credibility for the capital planning and operational efforts of our department. We would like to thank the Open Space Committee for all their hard work, time, and commitment and whole heartedly endorse the plan.

Sincerely,

Barry Bograd
Chairman

– Dedicated to excellence in public service –

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

Memorial Building, 150 Concord Street, Room 121, Framingham, MA 01702
508-532-5400 | 508-532-5409 (fax) | selectmen@framinghamma.gov | www.framinghamma.gov

Town Manager
Julian M. Suso

Assistant Town Manager
Timothy D. Goddard

Board of Selectmen
Jason A. Smith, Chair
A. Ginger Esty, Vice Chair
Charles J. Sisitsky, Clerk
Dennis L. Giombetti
Laurie Lee

August 5, 2008

Framingham Conservation Commission
150 Concord St.
Framingham, MA, 01702

Dear Conservation Commission Members:

We have received and reviewed the draft 2008 Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan. We found it thorough, thoughtful, and appropriately targeted.

The Board of Selectmen is in unanimous agreement that this plan reflects and honors the unique features and characteristics of Framingham.

The five-year action plan sets forth a creative structure for implementation and reasonable objectives focused on the maintenance of existing resources, the creation of non-motorized corridors, and on an increase in education and outreach.

We endorse this plan as one that will well serve the needs of the residents of Framingham and the municipal staff that works hard to protect and promote its unique resources.

The goals, objectives, and action items in this plan align themselves well with the goals of the Board of Selectmen. This plan will compliment the efforts outlined in the Master Plan.

Again, we appreciate the effort involved in compiling this plan and the product that resulted. We look forward to working with the contributing boards during the implementation of this plan.

On Behalf of the Board,

Jason A. Smith, Chair

Cc: Board of Selectmen

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

60 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 617-451-2770 fax 617-482-7185 www.mapc.org

Serving 101 cities and towns in metropolitan Boston

August 18, 2008

Jennifer Steel
Assistant Conservation Agent
Town of Framingham
Conservation Commission
Room 211 Memorial Building
150 Concord Street
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Ms. Steel:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has reviewed the Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan July 2008. The plan is thorough and well-written and includes a good discussion of regional open space resources. I would like to offer the following comments to help strengthen the plan.

The regional development plan and open space/recreation planning - As the regional planning agency for the 101 cities and towns of the Boston metropolitan area, one of MAPC's legislative mandates is to prepare a "comprehensive regional plan for the physical, social and economic improvement of the region". The last such plan, MetroPlan, was adopted in 1990. On May 23, 2008 the MAPC Council adopted MetroFuture as the new regional plan. MetroFuture is a detailed vision for the future and includes specific goals and objectives as well as implementation strategies.

The plan's relevant goals include the protection of 139,000 acres of developable land identified as a high priority by the State Land Conservation Plan. The plan also envisions at least 1,800 acres of new urban parks and community gardens.The goals and objectives of MetroFuture will be achieved through a series of thirteen (13) implementation strategies which are currently in draft form. In light of the fact that Framingham includes both urban and suburban areas, the two strategies that are most relevant to open space and recreation planning are *Strategy #8: Improve City Life and School Quality* which addresses urban parks and *Strategy #10: Protect Natural Landscapes* which address land protection and park planning in the suburban and rural areas of the region.

Much more information on MetroFuture and the strategies can be found at http://www.metrofuture.org/strategies. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan. The plan can only be implemented through the coordinated efforts of many stakeholders, including local municipal boards and departments.

Jay Ash, *President* Michelle Ciccolo, *Vice President* Grace S. Shepard, *Treasurer* Marilyn Contreas, *Secretary*

Marc D. Draisen, *Executive Director*

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Environmental Justice – The new 2008 guidelines for preparing an open space plan now have requirements for addressing environmental justice. Because the guidelines have only recently been changed, we recommend that you consult with Melissa Cryan at the Division of Conservation Services regarding whether or not the plan you are submitting will need to meet these requirements. If so, you should consult the Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook for more details on these requirements. The workbook is on-line at (http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/pdf/osrp_workbook.pdf).

Mapping – The new guidelines require eight maps. The draft is missing an Environmental Justice map and a Regional Context map. Information on these maps can also be found in the Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: A. Ginger Esty, MAPC Representative, Town of Framingham
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services
Donna Jacobs, MetroWest Growth Management Committee

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

Planning and Economic Development

Conservation Commission

Room 211 • Memorial Building
150 Concord Street
Framingham, MA • 01702
Telephone: (508) 532-5460
Fax: (508) 872-5616
E-mail: Conservation.Commission@framinghamma.gov

August 20, 2008

Open Space and Recreation Committee
c/o Framingham Conservation Commission
150 Concord St.
Framingham, MA, 01702

Members of the Open Space and Recreation Committee,

We have received and reviewed the draft 2008 Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan. We found it thorough, thoughtful, and appropriately targeted.

Our Commission is in unanimous agreement that this Plan reflects and honors the unique features and characteristics of Framingham.

The five-year action plan sets forth a creative structure for implementation and reasonable objectives focused on the maintenance of existing resources, the creation of non-motorized corridors, and on an increase in education and outreach.

We endorse this plan as one that will well serve the needs of the residents of Framingham and the municipal staff that work hard protect and promote its unique resources.

We appreciate the effort involved in compiling this Plan and the product that resulted. We look forward to working with the contributing boards during the implementation of this Plan.

Sincerely,

Pamela Helinek

Sampath Bade

William Merriam

Robert McArthur

Kevin O'Neill

Steven Orr

Judith Perry

SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES

Conservation, Collaboration, and Community since 1953

September 3, 2008

Framingham Conservation Commission
150 Concord St.
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

Thank you for providing Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) an opportunity to review the draft 2008 Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan. We found it to be a thoughtful and thorough review and analysis of current and future open space needs, and sets forth an appropriately ambitious agenda for protecting and preserving the Town's open space and community character, while addressing the recreation needs of residents.

Our Land Protection staff is in agreement that this five-year action plan presents reasonable objectives and a creative structure for implementing the protection of open space, the maintenance of existing resources, the creation of non-motorized corridors, and the increase in education and outreach.

As a regional land trust operating throughout the SuAsCo watershed, SVT looks forward to partnering with the Town, the State and private landowners to protect the parcels of conservation interest that are enumerated in the plan.

On behalf of SVT, I am pleased to endorse Framingham's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan and recommend it for acceptance by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gellenbeck

Kathryn Gellenbeck
Land Protection Specialist

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

18 WOLBACH ROAD • SUDBURY, MA 01776-2429 • TEL 978-443-5588 FAX 978-443-2333 • WWW.SVTWEB.ORG

FRAMINGHAM PLANNING BOARD

MEMORIAL BUILDING • ROOM B-37 • 150 CONCORD STREET • FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
TELEPHONE [508] 532-5450 • FAX [508] 872-0523 • EMAIL: jwg@framinghamma.gov

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Andrea Carr-Evans, Vice Chairperson
Susan P. Bernstein, Clerk
Thomas F. Mahoney
Christine Long
Kathy Vassar, Associate Member

Planning Board Staff:
John. W. Grande, AICP, Director
John M. Charbonneau, Senior Planner
MaryRuth Reynolds, Administrative Assistant

October 16, 2008

Framingham Conservation Commission
150 Concord St.
Framingham, MA, 01702

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

The Planning Board has received and reviewed the draft 2008 Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan. We found it thorough, thoughtful, and appropriately targeted.

The Planning Board is in unanimous agreement that this Plan reflects and honors the unique features and characteristics of Framingham.

The five-year action plan sets forth a creative structure for implementation and reasonable objectives focused on the maintenance of existing resources, the creation of non-motorized corridors, and on an increase in education and outreach.

We endorse this plan as one that will well serve the needs of the residents of Framingham and the municipal Staff that work hard protect and promote its unique resources.

The goals, objectives, and action items in this Plan align themselves well with the goals of the Planning Board. This Plan will compliment the efforts we have outlined in our Master Plan.

Following are comments and concerns that we noted during our review:

- The Planning Board had some recommended changes that are minor in nature to the Plan to enhance the implementation strategy. Staff has been directed to meet with you to discuss this at your earliest convenience.

Again, we appreciate the effort involved in compiling this Plan and the opportunity to offer comments.

Sincerely,

John W. Grande
Director

CHAPTER 11: References

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (2006)

BioMap (Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Natural Heritage Program)

Commonwealth Connections, A Greenway Vision for Massachusetts (2002)

EOEA Build-Out Analysis (2002)

Greater Callahan Open Space Preservation and Greenway Plan (Greater Callahan Working Group, October 2000, revised 2006)

Greenprint for Growth, SuAsCo Watershed (SVT and MAPC, August 2001)

Greenways Plan for the SuAsCo Watershed (Sudbury Valley Trustees, April 2000)

Greenways Plan for the SuAsCo Watershed (SVT, April 2000)

Mass. Statewide Bicycle Transportation Plan (Massachusetts Highway Department, draft 2008)

Massachusetts Cultural Resources Inventory

Nyanza Site Update (US EPA, 2007)

Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements (Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services)

Open Space Planner's Workbook (Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, Revised February 1993)

Public Access Plan for the MDC Sudbury Watershed (Metropolitan District Commission, June 1994)

SuAsCo Action Plan

SuAsCo Watershed 2001 Water Quality Assessment Report (2001)

Sudbury Reservoir System Public Access Plan 2002 Update (May 2003)

Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers: Unprotected Land Inventory (SVT, January 2003)

Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers: Unprotected Land Inventory (Sudbury Valley Trustees, January 2003)

Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed Action Plan (2005)

Town of Concord Open Space and Recreation Plan (2004)

Town of Framingham Build-out Analysis of Residential Zoning Districts (Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2000).

Town of Framingham Build-out Analysis of Residential Zoning Districts (Planning Board. 2003).

Town of Framingham Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (Department of Public Works, draft 2008).

Town of Framingham Master Plan (Planning Department, draft 2008).

Town of Framingham Open Space and Recreation Plan (Conservation Commission, 2003).

Town of Framingham Tercentennial Park Master Plan (Parks and Recreation Department, 2001)

Town of Framingham Water Master Plan (Department of Public Works, draft 2008).

Town of Framingham River Views (Maroglis and Fairbairn, 2003)

Town of Framingham Zoning By-Law (Planning Board, 2008)

Town of Lincoln Open Space and Recreation Plan (2008)

Appendix A

Conservation Commission Public Education and Outreach Efforts

In 2007 the Framingham Conservation Commission sponsored 11 environmental programs

- Family spring scavenger hunts (4)
- Family fall scavenger hunts (4)
- RiverFest nature trips (2)
- Environmental workshops and forums (2)

Roughly 140 residents attended these programs.

The Conservation Office continued to expand and improve its web site.

The Commission produced a flyer that was sent to all pond abutters alerting them to the potential impacts they can have on pond health. Landscapers were sent information about wetland laws and proper disposal of leaves, grass, and brush.

The Commission continued to collaborate with local organizations such as Sudbury Valley Trustees, New England Wildflower Society, Bay Circuit Trail Alliance, SuAsCo Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Counsel, and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to protect the Town's wetland resource areas and open space.

Appendix B

Framingham Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

* 2008 SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS *

Bug Crafts - Ages 2 ½ - 6 yrs.
Tuesday, May 20
9:30am – 11:00am
$20 per child
Become the bug with bug-r-ific games and crafts!
Class held at Cushing Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park.

Kids Just Love Crafts - Ages 2 – 4 yrs.
Session I – Tuesdays, April 29 – June 3
Session II – Tuesdays, July 8 – July 29
10:30am -11:15am
$40 per child (Session I) ~ $33 per child (Session II)
Classes held at the Recreation Office.
Register April 3 for Session I and May 8 for Session II.

Pre-School Puppet Making - Ages 2 ½ - 6 yrs.
Monday, April 28
9:30am – 11:00am
$20 per child
Bring your parent to help you create and design your own puppet.
Class held at Cushing Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park.

Pre-School Playgroups - Ages 2 ½ - 4 yrs.
Week of April 7 – Week of June 2
Mondays **or** Thursdays for age 2 ½ yrs.
Wednesday **or** Friday for ages 3 & 4 yrs.
9:45am -11:15am
$32 per child
Proof of age REQUIRED @ registration! (2yrs. by 9/1/07)
Classes held at Cushing Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park.

Start Smart Baseball - Ages 3 – 5 yrs.
Saturdays, May 31 – June 28
9:00am – 10:00am
$50 per child
Class will be held at Hemenway School. Fundamentals and proper baseball (t-ball) techniques will be taught. Parent MUST participate with child. Children keep their equipment.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Aikido - Ages 8 – 14 yrs.
Saturdays, April 26 – June 7
1:30pm -2:30pm
$40 per child
Classes held at Framingham Aikikai, 61 Fountain St.

Baby Sitting Class - Ages 11 – 15 yrs.
Saturdays, May 3 **&** May 10
9:30am – 2:30pm
$75 per child
Student MUST attend BOTH classes. Class will be held at the Rec.Office.

Basketball Clinic - Ages 7-16 (girls) & 7-15 (boys)
June 23 – 27
9:00am – 3:00pm
$100 per child
Clinic held in gyms at Walsh or Dunning Schools.

Camp Arrowhead
Day Camp in Natick for youths who are physically challenged. Please call 508-532-5960 for more information.

Camp McCarthy
Special Needs Day Camp. Activities encourage social interaction and emotional development. To register, call in early May for information. Appointment needed for first year campers.

Creative Movement Dance Class - Ages 5-7 yrs.
Wednesdays, April 9 – May 21
3:30pm – 4:30pm
$50 per child
Class will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park.

Home Alone Safety - Ages 8 – 11 yrs.
Thursday, May 29
4:00pm – 6:00pm
$35 per child
Learn different techniques to help you stay safe when you are home alone. Class will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Cushing **Indoor Golf** - Ages 6 – 17 yrs.
Thursdays, April 10 – May 22 (No Class April 24)
4:30pm – 5:30pm
$79 per child
Introductory skills using a virtual golf simulator and taught by PGA Professionals. Class held at CitiGolf, Speen St., Natick.

Introduction to Kayaking - Ages 10 – 15 yrs.
Tuesdays, July 29, August 5, & August 12
10:30am – 12:30pm
$80 per child
Classes will be held at Farm Pond, Dudley Rd.

Jr. Farmer Days - Ages 5 – 12 yrs.
Session I – July 14 – July 18
Session II – Aug. 4 – Aug. 8
9:00am – 12:30pm
Price TBA
Learn about, handle, and have fun with barnyard animals! T-shirt & Scrapbook included. Held at Lil Folk Farm in Holliston.

Karate - Ages 6 – 12 yrs.
Saturdays, April 26 – June 7
12:15pm – 1:00pm
$60 per child
Classes held at Nick Cerio's Studio, 885 Waverly Street.

Keyboard
Sundays, April 27 – May 18 ~ 2:00pm – 3:00pm ~~ Grades K-3
Sundays, April 27 – May 18 ~ 5:00pm – 6:00pm ~~ Grades 3-5
Tuesdays, April 29 – May 20 ~ 5:30pm – 6:30pm ~~ Grades 6-8
$40 per child
Classes held at Paula Giles' Studio, 44 Lake Road.

Kid Fit - Ages 5-17 yrs.
13 week class held at Suburban Athletic Club
Begins April 28
$10 per child
Fitness program with emphasis on weight loss and control.
Thank You - Framingham Chapter Metro West Community Health Care Foundation

Modern Dance Class - Ages 8-12 yrs.
Wednesdays, April 9 – May 21
4:45pm – 5:45pm
$50 per child
Class will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park.

PAL Gym Schedule - Grades 6-12
April 2008 – June 2008
Mondays – 6:30-8:30pm – Grades 4-8 – Woodrow Wilson Gym
Tuesdays – 6:30-8:30pm – Grades 4-8 – Woodrow Wilson Gym
Wednesdays – 7-9pm – Grades 6-12 – Danforth Gym
Thursdays – 7-9pm – Grades 6-12 – Danforth Gym
Sundays – 6:30-8:30pm – Grades 4-8 – Woodrow Wilson Gym

Robotics - Ages 8 – 12yrs.

April 22 – 25 (school break week)
10:00am – 11:30am
$130 per child (Robot Included)
Learn how electric motors operate and develop an understanding for programming. Class will be held at the Recreation Office.

Skyhawks Volleyball Clinic - Ages 7 – 14 yrs.
July 7 – 11
9:00am – 12:00pm
$95 per child
Clinic will be held at the Long's Field Complex on Dudley Rd.

Skyhawks Flag Football Clinic - Ages 7 – 14 yrs.
July 28 – August 1
9:00am – 12:00pm
$95 per child
Clinic will be held at the Long's Field Complex on Dudley Rd.

Skyhawks MiniHawk Sports Clinic - Ages 4 – 6 yrs.
Session I – July 7 – July 11
Session II – July 28 – August 1
9:00am – 12:00pm
$95 per child per session
Clinic will be held at the Long's Field Complex on Dudley Rd.

Skyline
Programs for persons with disabilities. Bowling, Art, Sports, etc.
Please call 508-647-6530 for more info.

Summer Recreation Centers - Ages 5 – 13 yrs.
Session I – July 7 – July 18
Session II – July 21 – August 1
Session III – August 4 – August 15
9:00am – 3:30pm ~~ Prices TBA
Register at the Academy Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park on May 1st from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Spy Adventure - Grades K - 5
Wednesday, April 23 (school break week)
9:30am – 11:30am
$22 per child
Make gadgets, play spy games, learn secret codes and be sent on a secret mission! Class will be held at the Cushing Bldg. at Cushing Mem. Park.

Start Smart Sports Development for Children with Special Needs - Ages 5 – 10 yrs.
Saturdays, May 31 – June 28
10:00am – 11:00am
$60 per child
Class will be held at Hemenway School. Learn fundamental sport skills. Parent MUST participate with child. Children keep their equipment.

Swim Lessons - Ages 3 – 18+ yrs.
Session I – July 7 – July 16
Session II – July 28 – August 6
$25 per swimmer per session
Register 9:30am – 11:00am on Thursday, June 26 for Session I and on July 17 for Session II.

Swim Team - Ages 6 – 18 yrs.
Practice times TBA
$100 per swimmer
Register at the Academy Bldg. at Cushing Memorial Park on May 28th from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Soccer Clinic - Ages 5 – 13 yrs.
Session I – April 22 – 25 @ Barbieri School (school break week)
Session II – July 14 – 18 @ Long's Field
Session III – August 4 – 8 @ Long's Field
9:00am – 12:00pm
$85 per child (Session I) ~~ $95 per child (Session II & III)
Register April 3rd for Session I and on May 8th for Sessions II & III.

Taekwon-Do - Ages 4 – 6 yrs.
Mondays, April 7 – May 19 (No Class April 21)
3:30pm – 4:15pm
$65 per child
Introductory class to martial arts instruction and games.
Classes held at 495 Worcester Rd.

Track Clinic - Ages 8 – 14 yrs.
Mondays, April 28 – June 9
6:00pm – 7:00pm
$30.00 per child

Tennis Lessons - Ages 6-14 yrs.
Week of July 7th – August (Monday – Thursday)
9:15am for ages 6 – 9 yrs. ~~ 10:15am for ages 8 – 14 yrs.
$42 per child for 6 classes (additional classes $7 each)
Classes held at Bowditch Field.
Register May 8th at the Recreation Office.

Weight Lifting - Grades 7 - 12
Begins July 7th (Mondays – Thursdays) Subject to change.
7:00am – 9:00am @ Framingham High ~ ~ Register on-site.

Wrestling - Ages 13 – 19 yrs.
Begins Wednesday, March 26
6:00pm – 8:00pm
$30 per child for USA Wrestling Membership, payable first evening
Class held at Framingham High School in the back gym.

*** * For more Wrestling Information, please call Wrestling Coach Jon Kanavich at 508-733-3979 * ***

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Adult & Family Trips
March 27 – Foxwoods
May 27-29 – Atlantic City
May 30-June 1 – Red Sox @ Orioles
July 19 – Ellis Island
August – Lobster Bake
Aug. 22-25 – Red Sox @ Blue Jays
October 25-26 – Nantucket
Dec. 14 – Newport Christmas Tour

Bowditch & Winch Park Tennis Court Lights
End of May – Mid-October from dusk to 10:00pm

Bowditch Track Lights
April – Mid-October from dusk to 10:30pm

CIRCUS!!!
Anticipated Dates – June 27th -29th
Call 508-532-5960 for more information.

CONCERTS ON THE COMMON!!! - Sponsored by Buildings & Grounds
Friday Evenings ~ ~ June, July, & August @ 6:30pm

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION!!!
June 14 & 15 ~ ~ Cushing Memorial Park

Family Nature Scavenger Hunts
April 3, 10, 17, 24 ~ ~ Free for Residents!
3:30-5:00pm ~ ~ Call the Conservation Dept. @ 508-532-5460 for info.

Father's Day Kayak Trip
June 8
2:00pm – 5:00pm
$60 per adult, $30 per child (6-15yrs), 5 & under free
Take Dad on a pre-Father's Day kayak trip down the Sudbury River.

GREEN UP DAY!!! -- Volunteers Needed ! !
Saturday, May 3rd
Town-Wide Clean-Up ~ ~ Call 508-532-5960 for more info.

Public Beaches ~ Open June 19 – August 14 ~ 10:00am – 7:00pm
Beach Tags go on sale beginning June 9, from 10:00am – 4:00pm
Special evening hours on Monday, June 9, from 5:00pm – 6:00pm
$10 per resident / $30 Maximum per family, Non-Res. rates avail.

Track Meets - All Ages
Wednesdays, June 11 – August 13
5:30pm at Bowditch Track
Register on-site each week. Sponsored by the Greater Framingham Running Club.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Group Exercise
April 28 – August 15
$50 per person ~~ www.tri-valleytennis.com
Choose 10 classes of cardio or strength training during this trial membership. Class held at Tri-Valley Tennis Club in Ashland.

Golf Lessons
Five week program ~~ Prices & Times TBA
Class will be held at Framingham Country Club.
Register April 10th at the Parks & Recreation Office.

First Aid & CPR
Thursday, May 29
6:00pm – 9:30pm
$65 per person
American Heart Association Certificate – good for 2 years.
Class will be held at the Academy Building at Cushing Memorial Park.

Adult Keyboard - Ages 16 - Adult
Sundays, April 27 – May 18
6:00pm – 7:00pm
$40 per person
Introductory classes held at Paula Giles' Studio, 44 Lake Road.

Men's Slow Pitch Softball
$550 (team registration only)
League plays May through August.

Open Gym Schedule
Danforth Gym
Tuesdays – 5:30pm-8:00pm * Saturdays – 3:30pm-7:00pm
Sundays – 12:00pm – 3:00pm
$2 per person

Tennis Lessons
Monday **OR** Tuesday – Beginner ~ Wednesday **OR** Thursday - Intermediate
Week of May 5 – Week of June 9
6:30pm – 8:00pm
$75 per person
Classes held at Bowditch Field.

Yoga
Mondays, April 14 – May 19 (No Class April 21)
6:00pm – 7:00pm
$25 per adult ($30 Non-Residents)
Classes held at Brophy School gym.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Senior Citizen Exercise
Ongoing Classes at the Callahan Center
Tuesdays 10:00am – 11:00am
No Fee!
Additional classes have been arranged at Focus on Fitness, 63 Fountain St. Classes held on Wed. at 10:30am. $5.00 per class.

Senior Softball
Age 55 & over, League Play ~~ www.emass-seniorsoftball.com
Contact Gerry Yaffe at 508-877-7244 or gyaffe@aol.com

Framingham Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

475 Union Ave.
Framingham MA 01702
Telephone 508- 532-5960

* 2007 FALL PROGRAMS *

Daddy & Me - Ages 3 – 6 yrs.
Saturday, November 3
10-11am
$15 per child
Special story, art project, and games.
Classes held at the Cushing Bldg., Dudley Rd.

Kids Just Love Crafts - Ages 2 – 4 yrs.
Tuesdays, Oct. 9 – Nov. 13
10:30-11:15am
$40 per child
Classes held at the Recreation Office.

Music, Mommy, & Me - Ages 6mo. – 5 yrs.
Tuesdays, Oct. 16 – Nov. 20
9:30-10:15am **or** 11:30-12:15pm – ages 6mo.-24mo.
10:30-11:15am – ages 2-3yrs.
4:30-5:15pm – ages 2-5yrs. in Spanish
$36 per child ($45 non-residents)
Classes held at the Cushing Bldg., Dudley Rd.

Pre-School Playgroups - Ages 2 ½ - 4 yrs.
Week of Oct. 15 – Week of Dec. 3
Mondays **or** Thursdays for age 2 ½ yrs.
Wednesday **or** Friday for ages 3 & 4 yrs.
9:45-11:15am
$32 per child
Classes held at Cushing Bldg., Dudley Rd.

Start Smart Soccer - Ages 3-5 yrs.
Saturdays, Oct. 13 – Nov. 17
10-11am
$45 per child
Fundamentals and proper soccer techniques will be taught. Parent MUST participate with child. Children keep their equipment at the end of the program.

***** Look for our Princesses' Tea Party, Baton, Kid Fit, & Swimming programs under Youth Programs *****

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Aikido - Ages 8-14 yrs.
Saturdays, Oct. 13 – Nov. 17
1:30-2:30pm
$40 per child
Martial art system of self-defense.
Classes held at Framingham Aikikai, 61 Fountain St.

Art Classes - Grades 6-10
Week of Sept. 27 – Week of Nov. 19
Thursdays, 4-6pm for grades 6-8
Saturdays, 1-3pm for grades 8-10
$134 per child
Taught by the Danforth Museum of Art.

Babysitting Certification Course - Ages 11-15 yrs.
Saturdays, Oct. 27 & Nov. 3
9:30am-2:30pm
$75 per child

Baton - Ages 5-18 yrs.
Wednesdays, Sept. 26 – Dec. 5
6-9:30pm (class times vary depending on skill)
$50 per child

Bowling League - Ages 7-17 yrs.
League play begins Sept. 14
3:30-5pm
$10 per child/per week
Register at Fairway Bowling, Rt. 9 Natick (508)653-5820.

Girl Force - Girls ages 9-11 yrs.
Monday, Nov. 12
9:30am-1pm
$35 per child

PAL Gym Schedule - Grades 6-12
September – April 2008
Mondays – 7-9pm – Grades 6-8 – Woodrow Wilson Gym
Tuesdays – 7-9pm – Grades 6-8 – Woodrow Wilson Gym
Wednesdays – 7-9pm – Grades 9-12 – Danforth Gym
Thursdays – 7-9pm – Grades 9-12 – Danforth Gym
Sundays – 7-9pm – Grades 9-12 – Danforth Gym

Karate - Ages 6-12 yrs.
Saturdays, Oct. 13 – Nov. 17
12:15-1pm
$60 per child
Classes held at 885 Waverly Street Studio.

Keyboard Lessons - Grades K-8
Sundays, Oct. 14 – Nov. 4 * 1:15-2:15pm – grades K-2 2:15-3:15pm – grades 3-5 * 7:30-8:30pm – grades 6-8
$50 per child (4 weeks)
Tuesdays, Oct. 9 – Nov. 6 * 4:30-5:30pm – grades 2-5
$60 per child (5 weeks)
Classes include 1 private lesson. Keyboard or piano needed for home use. Held at Paula Giles' Studio, 44 Lake Rd.

Kid Fit - Ages 5-17 yrs.
Oct. 29 – Jan. 15 at Suburban Athletic Club
Days & Times vary
$10 per child
Fitness program with emphasis on weight loss and control.

Lifeguard Training - Ages 15+ yrs.
Saturdays, Oct. 6 – Nov. 24
$200 per swimmer
Register on Tuesday, Sept. 25th from 6-7pm. Registration will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Tercentennial Park. Use the parking lot off Winter St., next to Keefe Tech.

Princesses' Coronation Tea Party - Girls ages 4-8 yrs.
Saturday, September 29
12-1:30pm
$20 per child

A proper Tea Party where Princesses are announced, tiaras are made, and proper etiquette is learned. Party held at the Wayland Senior Center, 41 Cochituate Rd., Wayland.

Skating Lessons - Ages 5-10 yrs.

Saturdays, Nov. 3 – Dec. 8
9-10am **or** 10-11am
$30 per child ($35 non-residents)
Register from 5:30-6:30pm, Oct. 1st at Loring Arena

Swim Lessons - Ages 3 – 18+ yrs.

Saturdays, Oct. 6 – Nov. 24
$30 per swimmer
Register on Tuesday, Sept. 25th from 6-7pm. Registration will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Tercentennial Park. Use the parking lot off Winter Street, next to Keefe Tech.

Swim Team - Ages 6-18 yrs.
Begins in November
Evening practice times TBA
$110 per child / $175 per family
Registration will be on Sat., Oct. 13 from 9-10am at the Academy Bldg. at Tercentennial Park. Use the parking lot off Winter Street, next to Keefe Tech.

Teddy Bear Bash - Ages 4-12 yrs.

Monday, Nov. 12
2-3:30pm
$20 per child
Stuff a furry friend with love.

Tennis Lessons - Ages 6-14 yrs.
Sundays, Oct. 14 – Nov. 18
5-6pm
$72 per child
Classes held at the Tri Valley Tennis Club in Ashland.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Day Trips
October 13th – Putney Inn
October 17th – Foxwoods
December 1st – NYC Shopping Spree
December 8th – Stockbridge
Detailed information is available at the Rec. Office

! Pumpkins in the Park !

Ages 3-12 yrs.
Saturday, Oct. 27
1-3pm
Free event for Framingham residents!
Must Pre-Register no later than Oct. 22
Pumpkin decorating and hayrides!

Fall Foliage Kayak Trip
Sunday, Oct. 14
2-5pm
$65 per adult, $35 per child 12yrs. and under
Instruction and tour given by Still River Outfitters.

Horseback Riding Lessons - Ages 8-Adult
Saturdays, Nov. 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8
$260 per person
Lessons held at August Farm in Holliston.

Nobscot Family Fun Day
Saturday, October 13
$15 per person
Enjoy hiking, crafts, scavenger hunts and a campfire at the Boy Scout Nature Trail in Nobscot. Bus leaves Bowditch Field at 11:30am and will return at 6:30pm.

Public Swim
All Ages
Oct. 6 – April at Keefe Tech Pool
Saturdays, 3-4:30pm * Sundays, 2-3:30pm
$4 per adult / $2 per child

Family Nature Scavenger Hunts
October 2, 9, 16, 23, or 30
3:30-5pm
Free event for Framingham residents! Call the Town Conservation Office at (508)532-5460 for more info.

Public Skate
Begins Sept. 9
Mondays – 10am-2pm * Tues.- Fridays – 10am-Noon
Sundays – 2-3:45pm * $4 per adult/$3 ages 12 and under
Stick Time:
Tues.- Thurs. – 12:15 – 2pm * $5 per person
Call Loring Arena at (508)532-5950 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Trips
Nov. 16-18 – NE Patriots vs. Buffalo Bills in Buffalo
Nov. 26-28 – Atlantic City
Dec. 9-11 – New York/Atlantic City
Detailed information is available at the Rec. Office.

First Aid & CPR

Thursday, Nov. 8
6-10pm
$65 per adult
American Heart Association certificate – good for 2 years. Class will be held at the Academy Bldg. at Tercentennial Park. Use the parking lot off Winter St., next to Keefe Tech.

Keyboard
Mondays, Oct. 15 – Nov. 5
7:15-8:15pm
$50 per adult
Classes include 1 private lesson. Keyboard or piano needed for home use. Held at Paula Giles' Studio, 44 Lake Rd.

Open Gym Schedule
September – April 2008
Danforth Gym
Tuesdays – 5:30-8pm * Saturdays – 3:30-7pm
Sundays – Noon-3pm

T'ai Chi
Tuesdays, Oct. 16 – Dec. 18
6:30-7:30pm
$60 per adult
Class held at Brophy School gym.

Tennis Lessons

Week of Oct. 11 – Week of Nov. 15
Beginners – Thurs. 6-7pm * Intermediate – Sun. 5-6pm
$72 per person
Classes held at the Tri Valley Tennis Club in Ashland.

Yoga
Mondays, Oct. 15 – Nov.19
6-7pm

$30 per adult ($35 Non-Residents)
Classes held at Brophy School gym.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Senior Citizen Exercise
Ongoing Classes at the Callahan Center
Tuesdays 10-10:45am
No Fee!

Senior Citizen Swim
Oct. – April at Keefe Tech. Pool
Saturdays 2-3pm
No Fee!

The Town of Framingham intends to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need a reasonable modification of policies , auxiliary aides, or services, Please contact us at least two weeks before the event or as soon as possible.

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Non-Profit Recreation Groups and Organizations
Bay Path Figure Skating Club - (508) 429-1789 *
Temple Beth Am Basketball League - (508) 877-3365
Youth Football and Cheering - (774) 279-9220 *
Framingham Youth Hockey - (508) 877-2870
Fram. Youth LAX: - www.framinghamyouthlacrosse.webexone.com *
Fram. United Soccer - (508) 875-3872

****

** * CLASSES ARE LIMITED AND BASED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS * **

Residents Register on first day of Registration, Non-Residents the next day if space available. On-line registration included.

REGISTRATION IS AT THE PARK AND RECREATION OFFICE, 9am-5pm, 475 UNION AVE.

*** * ALL RECREATION PROGRAMS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE * ***

For more information on any recreation programs call:

Dan Avery, Elaine Intze or Trisha Powell at (508) 532-5960

Spanish translation provided by Ramonita Santiago; Portuguese translation provided by Livia Kropf.

~Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service~

Framingham Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

475 Union Ave. Framingham, MA 01702

Telephone 508 532-5960

Register on line @ www.framinghamma.gov/parks

2008 WINTER PROGRAMS

Adult & Family Trips – Stockbridge & Bright Lights Dec. 8th, Foxwoods January 10, 2008, Atlantic City, February 20-22, 2008. Indianhead, Lincoln, N.H. March 15, 2008, Call 508 532-5960 for detailed brochures.

Adult Group Exercise – Held at Tri-Valley Tennis Club in Ashland 10 classes for $50 from Jan.7 through February 15; times vary – cardio or strength training. www.trivalleytennis.com; or call 508 881-7111. Reg. Dec. 5

Adult Swim Lessons: Beginner level, Mondays 5:45- 6:30 or Wednesdays 6:00-6:45 P.M. Classes held at the Suburban Athletic Club. 6-weeks/$99.00 begins January 7th. Register at the Recreation Office on December 5th.

All Aboard for Fun- Be a little train conductor! Ages 3 – 6. Monday, January 21. $20 per child. Class held 10-11am at the Parks & Rec. Office. Register Dec. 5th.

Aikido – Ages 8-14 - Martial art system of self-defense that develops a strong, flexible body and a relaxed mind. Classes held Saturdays 1:30 – 2:30 PM at Framingham Aikikai, 61 Fountain St., beginning January 5, 2008. Fee is $40.00 for 6 classes. Register Dec. 5th at Park & Rec. office.

Annual Basketball Clinic – 33rd Annual Basketball Clinic for grades 4 - 8 students; includes instruction in individual skill development and team play. Clinic starts March 6th and continues for 6 Thursdays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Walsh Middle School. Registration begins February 7, 2008 at the Rec.office. The fee is $35.

Basketball Grades 1-3 - Boys and Girls. Begins Saturday, January 5th at the Stapleton School;

9:30 - 11:00, 11:00 - 12:30, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M. (2:00-3:30 P.M. for Girls) - 6 weeks $35.00. Individual skill development and limited team play will be the focus. Register at the Park & Recreation Office beginning December 5, 2007.

Basketball Grades 4-6 - Begins Saturday, January 5th at the Potter Rd School; 9:00 - 10:30,

10:30 - 12:00, (12:00-1:30 P.M. for Girls) 6 weeks $35.00. Individual skill development and limited team play will be the focus. Register at the Park & Rec. Office beginning Dec. 5, 2007.

Baton - Ages 5 and up; Classes held between 6:00 - 9:30 P.M. on Wednesdays at the Stapleton Gym. Beginning January 9, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. - $75.00 (16 sessions). Register at Park & Recreation Office December 5th.

Bowditch Track Lights - Joggers & Walkers from Dusk to 10:00 PM, weather permitting.

Creative Movement Dance – Ages 5 – 7. Classes on Wednesdays, Jan 30 – Mar. 12 (No class Feb. 20). 3:30 – 4:30pm Class held at the Academy Building in Tercentennial Park. 6 classes $50.00 – Register at Rec. Office December 5th.

Modern Dance – Ages 8 – 12. Classes on Wednesdays, Jan 30 – Mar. 12 (No class Feb. 20). 4:45-5:45pm Class held at the Academy Building in Tercentennial Park. 6 classes $50.00 – Reg. at Rec. Office December 5th.

Fashion Show & Tea – Ages 5 – 9. Sunday, April 6th. Come see your favorite American Girl fashions. Show held from 1 – 2:30pm at the Fairbanks Community Center in Sudbury. $15 per child, $20 per adult.

Girl Force – Girls Ages 9 – 11. Feb. 19th. Class held from 12:30 – 3:30pm at the Academy Building at Tercentennial Park. Register at Rec. Office on December 5th.

Goldfish Swim Lessons- Held at Suburban Athletic Club, parent participation required - ages 6 mos. – 3 yrs. Tuesday at 9:30 or Friday at 10:00 AM beginning January 8th - 6 weeks $70.00 - Register at Rec. Office December 5th.

Golf (Indoor) – Ages 6-17, Thursdays 4:30-5:30 P.M. Introductory skills using virtual golf simulator taught by PGA Professionals. Classes held at City Golf in Natick Begins January 17, 2008. 5 wks. $79.00. Register beginning Dec. 5th at the Park & Rec. Office.

Open Gym Schedule- Schedule will run through the winter months. Schedule may vary.

Mon & Tues	6:30-8:30 P.M.	Woodrow Wilson	Grades 4-8
* Tuesday	5:30-8:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Adult Basketball
Wednesday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Middle & High School
Thursday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Middle & High School
Saturday	3:30-7:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Adult Basketball
* Sunday	3:30-7:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Adult Basketball
Sunday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	Danforth Gym	Middle & High School

* Adult Admission fee of $2.00.

Holiday Crafting – Ages 5 – 12. Monday, December 17. $15 per child. Class held from 10-11am at the Parks & Rec. Office. Register Dec. 5th.

Home Alone Safety – Techniques to stay safe when home alone. February 19th. Ages 8 – 11. Class held

9am – Noon at the Academy Building in Tercentennial Park. $35 per child. Register Dec. 5th.

Kid Fit – Ages 5-17. Fitness Program with emphasis on weight loss and weight control offered at the Suburban Athletic Club. Times vary. 13 weeks $10.00. Provided by a grant from the Framingham Chapter Metro West Community Health Care Foundation. Register Dec. 5th at the Recreation office.

Kids Just Love Crafts - Ages 2 – 4, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Classes begin Jan. 15th at the

Park & Rec. Office. 6 weeks @ $40. Register December 5th at the Park & Rec. Office.

Mad Science – Fun experiments and take home creations. Feb. 19 – 22. Ages 8 – 11. Class held 9am – Noon at the Parks & Rec. Office. $80 per child. Register Dec. 5th.

Pre-School Playgroups- informal group play, social interaction at the Cushing Building. Must be required age by July 1, 2007. Mondays or Thursdays, age 2 ½ , 9:45-11:15, Wednesdays or Fridays ages 3 & 4, 9:45-11:15. Registration begins Dec. 5th and will be ongoing at the Park & Rec. office.

12-weeks for $48. Classes begin the week of January 7; Proof of age required at registration.

"Santa's Little Sports" - Re-create the Christmas Spirit with the Recreation Department. If you know a needy family, names will be taken Nov. 5 - Dec. 3, 2007. Please call the office at 532-5960. If you'd like to donate a toy for a child (Birth - 10 yrs. of age), please drop off at the

Recreation office any time until December 14, 2007. Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 - 5:00 PM.

Senior Citizen Swim-Saturdays, 2:00-3:00 P.M. Keefe Pool. No Fee. Program ongoing thru April. **Pool will be closed December 1st, February 2nd and 16th, and March 1st.**

Senior Citizen Exercise-Tuesdays 10-11:00 A.M. at the Callahan Senior Center. No Fee. Program is ongoing. Additional classes have been arranged at the Fitness Company, 63 Fountain St., Framingham. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. - $3.50 per class.

Skating - Ages 5-10. Registration December 11th, 5:30-6:30 P.M. at **LORING ARENA**. Lessons held on Saturdays at Loring Arena 9:00 or 10:00 A.M. $30.00, for 6 weeks, begins Jan. 5, 2008.

Proof of age is required for 5 year olds, and a skating helmet is required for all participants.

Public Skating - Mon.10:00-2:00; Tues. - Fri. 10:00-Noon; Sat & Sun 2:00-3:45. $4.00/Adults,

$3.00/12 & Under. Stick time: Tues. - Thurs. Noon - 2:00 PM - $5.00. Call 620-4877 for info.

Start Smart Basketball – Ages 3 – 5 years. Saturdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 2. $50 per child. Class runs from EITHER 2 – 3pm OR 3 – 4pm and will be held at Potter Road School. Register Dec. 5th.

Public Swim Keefe Pool: - October through April, Saturdays 3:00 - 4:30 P.M. and Sundays

2:00 - 3:30 P.M. - $4.00 adult entrance fee, $2.00 for children. Schedule subject to change. **Pool will be closed Dec. 1, 2; Feb. 2, 3, 16 & 17; and March 1 & 9.**

Swim Lessons: - Pre-School (ages 3 & 4) to Adult Levels. Register at **THE ACADEMY BUILDING**

Thursday EVENING, Feb. 7, 2008 from 6:00-7:00 P.M. - $30.00 for Framingham residents.

Classes will begin March 8th and continue for 8 weeks.

Lifeguard Training: - Ages 15 and up, Saturdays 12:30 to 3:30 P.M., beginning March 8, 2008. Register Thursday EVENING, Feb. 7th from 6:00-7:00 PM. at **THE ACADEMY BUILDING.**

Fee for the 8-week course is $200.

Introduction to Snowshoeing Clinic – Ages ?? Saturday, January 5th. $?? Per person. Class will be held from 1 – 4pm at Tercentennial Park. Register Dec. 5th.

Ski Lessons - Register November 29, 2007; 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. at **THE ACADEMY BUILDING.**

Nashoba Valley - Grades 4-12, Sun. mornings 7:30-1:30 P.M. Transportation from Bowditch Field,

1 hr. lesson and 2 hrs. of skiing for 6 wks. $210 (rentals $80 extra) 1st lesson January 6, 2008

Snow Boarding - Grades 4-12, Sundays at Nashoba Valley; 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM 1-hour lesson and 2 hours of snow boarding. Transportation from Bowditch Field to Nashoba Valley. Reg. Nov. 29th from

5:30 - 6:30 PM at **THE ACADEMY BUILDING**. $210 (Rentals $80 EXTRA). Begins Jan. 6, 2008.

Soccer- Sponsored by the Bulldogs/Renegades –Tuesday-Friday of school vacation, Feb. 19-22, 2008

Ages 5 – 13. Barbieri School Gym. 9-Noon. $85 - Register at the Park and Rec. Office Dec 5th.

Taekwon-Do - Ages 4-6, Mondays 3:30-4:15. Intro Martial arts instruction and games. Classes held at studio 495 Worcester Road. 6 Wks. $65.00 begins January 28, 2008. Register at Rec Office Dec. 5th.

Tennis Lessons (Adult) – 6 weeks, $72 at the Tri Valley Tennis Club in Ashland. Classes are held Sundays 5:00–6:00 PM for Intermediates. Registration begins December 5th Classes begin Dec. 9th.

Tennis Lessons (Youth) – 6 weeks, $72 at the Tri Valley Tennis Club in Ashland. Classes are held Sundays from 5:00–6:00 PM or 6:00-7:00 PM for ages 6 & up. Register December 5th at the Rec. Office. The first class will be December 9th.

Wrestling – Grades K-8 at Framingham High School Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning Dec.11 for

Grades 5-8; January 8, 2008 for Grades K-4. Practice will be 7:00–8:30 PM until Dec. 31, and

6:00–7:30 PM until February 28, 2008. Fee is $95. for Grades 5-8; $85. for Grades K-4. For more information contact Jon Kanavich 508-733-3979. Register at Park & Rec. Dec.5th.

Yoga: Adults - Monday, 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. at the Brophy School Gym; 5 weeks @ $25;

begins January 7th. Register at the Park & Recreation Office December 5th.

For more information on Recreation Programs
Call **Dan Avery, Elaine Intze** or **Trisha Powell** at 508 532-5960.

Classes are limited and based on a first come first serve basis. Framingham residents register on the first day of registration, non-residents on the second day if there is space available. Registration is held at the Park and Recreation Office, 9:00-5:00, 475 Union Ave. unless noted otherwise.

On-line registration begins at same time as scheduled walk-in registration.

All Recreation programs are non-refundable, unless canceled by the Department.

The Town of Framingham intends to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need a reasonable modification of policies or practices, auxiliary aides, or services, please contact us at least two weeks before this event, or as soon as possible

NON-PROFIT RECREATION GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL - 508-626-2254; www.flbl.org *** BABE RUTH BASEBALL - John Gillis – 508-877-6471
GIRLS SOFTBALL – 508 405-1716 or framinghamsoftball.org *** UNITED SOCCER – Info Line - 508-875-3872; fusc.org
BROTHERHOOD BASKETBALL – Len Brenner–508-877-3365 *** FOOTBALL – 774-279-9220; www.framinghamyouthfootball.org
BAY PATH SKATING – 508-429-1798 *** FRAMINGHAM YOUTH LACROSSE – Deb Rollo 508 877-3231
FRAMINGHAM YOUTH HOCKEY – Ages 4 ½ - 9. John Hart 508 877-2870
Spanish translation provided by Ramonita Santiago; Portuguese translation provided by Livia Kropf.

Framingham Open Space and Recreation Planning Study

2007 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey is being conducted to understand the needs and concerns of the residents of Framingham. **Please take 10 mintues** to fill in the survey and play an active role in planning Framingham's future. We value and need your input. Please **complete both sides** of the questionnaire. If you wish to qualify your answers or give general comments, please fill out the comment section at the bottom of page 2 or **attach additional sheets**. If you need this questionnaire in an alternative format, please contact the Community and Economic Development Department, 508-532-5455. Thank you for your assistance.

Hand in questionnaire by Dec. 21, 2007 to:

- Framingham Board of Selectmen's Office;
- Framingham Town Clerk's Office; or
- any Framingham Public Library

OR

Mail questionnaire by Dec. 21, 2007 to:

Open Space and Recreation Planning Study
Department of Community and Economic Development
150 Concord St., Room B2, Framingham, MA 01702

1. In which precinct do you live? _____
2. On what street do you live (optional)? _____
3. Does anyone in your household own real estate in Town (other than your home)? Yes No
4. Number of people in your household? _____
5. Number in household under the age of 18? _____
6. Number in household over the age of 60? _____
7. Number in household with access problems due to mobility impairments? _____
8. Which of the following best describes your living situation?
   a. Single adult - living alone. _____
   b. Single adult - sharing living quarters. _____
   c. Single parent - children at home. _____
   d. Young Couple - no children. _____
   e. Young family with young children. _____
   f. Family with older children. _____
   g. Family, children no longer at home. _____
   h. Senior couple or family. _____
   I. Senior living alone. _____
   j. Other _____
9. How long have you lived in Framingham?
   a. Less than 5 years _____
   b. 5 to 10 years _____
   c. 10 to 20 years _____
   d. More than 20 years _____
10. What do you like most about living in Framingham? _____
11. What do you like least about living in Framingham? _____
12. What is the most critical problem facing our Town? _____
13. Has anyone in your household ever participated in a Town of Framingham sponsored recreational activity? Yes No
14. Are there sufficient sidewalks or walkways in your neighborhood? Yes No
15. Should major roads in Framingham be striped for bikes lanes? Yes No
16. What do you consider to be our Town's most attractive landscapes or natural features? (Name up to three in order of preference.)
    a. _____
    b. _____
    c. _____
17. What residential growth policy do you favor for Town?
    a. No growth. _____
    b. Growth evenly spread. _____
    c. Additional residential units in existing developed areas. _____
    d. Concentrate new residential development in undeveloped areas. _____
    e. Other _____
18. Is there privately-owned open space in Town in need of permanent protection? Not Sure Yes No
    If yes, please describe: _____
19. Would you support Town appropriations for acquisition or construction of additional recreational facilities**? Yes No
20. Would you support seasonal or annual user fees to support specific recreational facilities** or conservation areas? Yes No
21. Would you support Town appropriations for acquisition of open space*? Yes No
22. What should be the Town's more important priority?
    a. Improve existing recreational facilities** _____
    b. Acquire and/or build additional recreational facilities** _____
    c. Acquire conservation lands for passive recreation _____

Over, please

** For the purpose of this survey, "open space" is defined as any private or publicly owned undeveloped lands. These properties may be permanently protected or unprotected. They may be owned by non-profit organizations, corporations, private citizens, the Town, the State, or other entity.*

*** For the purpose of this survey, "recreational facilities" are either Town-owned park properties, Town-sponsored recreation activities, or other public or private properties used for active or passive recreation.*

23. Indicate approximately the number of times you or a family member participate in each recreational activity during an average year. (Fill in the corresponding letter.)

A = A few (1-3) times/yr **B** = 4-10 times/year
C = Many (10+) times/yr **blank** = zero times/year

Use of Playground	____	Walking	____
Use of Ballfield	____	Run/Jog	____
Boating - Motorized	____	Hiking	____
Street Hockey	____	Baseball	____
Ice Skating - Rink	____	Softball	____
X Country Skiing	____	Basketball	____
Horseback Riding	____	Football	____
Swimming - Pool	____	Soccer	____
Swimming - Beach	____	Canoeing	____
Bird Watching	____	Sailing	____
ATV/Motorcycling	____	Fishing	____
Snowmobiling	____	Hunting	____
Outdoor Concert	____	Camping	____
Visit Historic Site	____	Archery	____
Visit State Park	____	Handball	____
Skiing - Downhill	____	Tennis	____
Rollerblading	____	Picnicking	____
Bike - On Road	____	Volleyball	____
Bike - Bike Path	____	Golf	____
Mountain Bicycling	____	Sightseeing	____
Nature Walk	____	Ice Hockey	____
Skateboarding	____	Bocci	____

Other (Please specify) _____

24. Which of the following does the Town need more?
(Check off the top three (3) facilities you feel are needed.)

Amphitheater	____	Swimming Pool	____
Softball Field	____	Canoe Launch	____
Baseball Field	____	X Country Trail	____
Bike Trails	____	Boat Launches	____
Pocket Park	____	Conservation Area	____
Track	____	Basketball Court	____
Picnic Areas	____	Skateboard Park	____
Hiking Trails	____	Town Beach	____
Playground	____	Golf Course	____
Ice Skating	____	Bocci Court	____
Bridle Paths	____	Youth Center	____
Tennis Court	____	Senior Center	____
Camp Ground	____	Handball Court	____
Soccer Field	____	Other (Specify below)	____

_____
_____

Comments _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Please enter the number corresponding to your choice.
5 = Very Satisfied; **4** = Satisfied; **3** = Neutral;
2 = Dissatisfied; **1** = Very Dissatisfied.

25. How satisfied are you with the places available in Town for recreational use by adults? ____
26. How satisfied are you with the places available in Town for recreational use by children? ____
27. How satisfied are you with the places available in Town for recreational use by seniors? ____
28. How satisfied are you with the places available in Town for recreational use by people with disabilities? ____

To preserve open space in Town, would you:

29. Contribute land to the Town or other organization?	NA	Yes	No
30. Donate money to buy land?		Yes	No
31. Rewrite your deed to limit future development of your land?	NA	Yes	No
32. Sell land to the Town at a bargain price?	NA	Yes	No
33. Sell land to the Town at fair market price?	NA	Yes	No
34. Sell or contribute conservation restrictions to protect your land from future development?	NA	Yes	No
35. Vote for Town supported land acquisition if it can be done without raising taxes?		Yes	No
36. Vote for Town supported land acquisition if it meant an increase of 25 to 50 cents on the present assessed value of real estate per $1,000?		Yes	No
37. Approve the use of zoning bylaws to guide growth in areas that can support increased development (e.g., areas with municipal water and sewer), and discourage development in areas that are less suitable for development?		Yes	No

Please enter the number corresponding to your choice.
5 = Very Important; 4 = Important; 3 = Neutral;
2 = Less important; 1 = Not at all important.

How important is it to you to preserve:

38. Historic buildings? ____
39. Historic or scenic landscapes? ____
40. Land containing archaeological resources? ____
41. Farmlands? ____
42. Wetland areas? ____
43. Woodland areas? ____
44. Undeveloped land for future generations? ____
45. Undeveloped land for future recreational needs? ____
46. Open space* for protection of water resources? ____
47. Open space* for protection of wildlife habitat? ____

FRAMINGHAM DISABILITY COMMISSION

150 CONCORD STREET ✓ MEMORIAL BUILDING
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
TTY: (508) 620-4851
FAX: (508) 620-4807

Summary of Framingham's ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Law passed in 1990 required that all cities and towns complete an ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan. In 2005 Framingham contracted with David Lieb of Lieb Studios to conduct an ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan of town owned buildings and programs & services offered. In 2006 the ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan was completed and it was submitted to the Board of Selectmen in August 2006.

In November 2006 an ADA Transition Plan Sub-Committee was established to ensure the recommendations outlined in the plan be prioritized and implemented. The ADA Transition Plan Sub-Committee is comprised of representatives from various town departments, town meeting members and representatives from the Disability Commission.

The task of the committee is to prioritize what needs to be accomplished and come up with a plan to spread ADA-required upgrades to town buildings over a five-year time frame. The committee divided the buildings in the consultant's report into four separate groups. The four groups are:1) Schools 2) Public Safety Buildings (Police Station, Fire Station etc.) & Parks & Recreation 3) Memorial building and lastly 4) All other, including the libraries, historical buildings and buildings owned by the town that are rented out or leased. As well as structural changes needed the Committee will look at changes needed for access to programs and services in all town departments.

The ADA Transition Plan Sub-Committee will continue to meet to insure that all the required changes addressed in the plan will be implemented in a timely basis.

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