



TOWN OF SEEKONK

A photograph of a park area. In the foreground, there is a large wooden playground structure with various slides and climbing elements. Several people are seen playing on the equipment. To the right of the playground, there is a parking lot filled with cars. The background is a dense line of mature trees under a clear sky.

# OPENSPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2022

SEEKONK CONSERVATION COMMISSION & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Weston & Sampson SM



# Acknowledgements

Many town departments, commissions, boards, authorities, committees, advisory groups and other resident stakeholders contributed to the development of the Seekonk Open Space and Recreation Plan by providing valuable support materials and guidance. The effort was led by Weston & Sampson under the direction of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Working group.

We gratefully acknowledge the residents of the Town of Seekonk, the town administration staff members and the many individuals representing a variety of programs and groups who helped forge this open space and recreation plan. We would also like to express gratitude to the Seekonk residents who took the time to complete the online survey and those who attended the public meetings to express their thoughts about Seekonk's amazing system of open space and recreational assets. These expressed thoughts are represented throughout the document, but particularly in relation to the community goals, needs, and action plan recommendations.

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Runnins River Trail, Arcade Woods

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# 1

## Plan Summary

With abundant natural resources, nearly 1,400 acres of preserved open space, and several active recreation sites, the Town of Seekonk has much to offer to residents and visitors. While the Town's Master Plan addresses many aspects, including continued residential and commercial growth, there is a need to assess increased demand for both active and passive recreation opportunities as well as conservation of critical habitat and open space.

The 2022-2029 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) serves as a guiding document for current and future acquisitions, development and programming for the town, by mapping out goals, objectives, needs, and priorities for open space and recreation assets. To accomplish this, the OSRP working group examined the following:

- Inventory of current open space assets, recreation facilities and programming
- Consideration of current and future active and passive recreation trends in comparison to Town's demographics to help guide future acquisitions and services
- Community input through a variety of methods, including surveys and public meetings
- Identification of potential future acquisitions for both passive and active recreation purposes
- Identification of potential funding sources for future acquisitions and services

The working group used this crucial information to guide and develop a seven-year Action Plan with relevant and attainable goals. Specifically, the Action Plan focuses on:

- Maintenance and improvements needed at current open space assets, including individual facility plans, trails, staging areas, and signage
- Acquisition of future open space areas, protecting crucial habitat, connectivity to existing open space, providing additional pedestrian and bicycling linkages between residential and commercial areas
- Major maintenance and capital outlay needed at current active recreation assets, including sports fields, school facilities, and playgrounds
- Acquisition of future active recreation sites, meeting current needs as well as projected future needs

With a meaningful and achievable Action Plan, the 2022-2029 OSRP will aid in informing and updating important elements of the Town of Seekonk's Master Plan, ultimately providing integrated and accessible recreation opportunities to residents and visitors while protecting critical habitats.

### A. CRITICAL NEED ANALYSIS

#### Investing in Conservation and Passive Recreation

Over the last several decades, the Town of Seekonk and groups such as the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust and the Rhode Island Audubon Society have demonstrated a commitment to the conservation and

protection of natural resources, while also setting aside lands for public use and enjoyment and limiting development to less impactful areas. To preserve the valued rural character of Seekonk, it is imperative to continue acquisition of farm fields, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Land acquisitions require a large initial investment with minimal expenditures after the purchase of the properties. However, modest initial stewardship and on-going maintenance budgets are often lacking, yet are needed for basic elements, like staging areas, signage, and trails.

### Investing in Active Recreation

The Town of Seekonk has several areas that serve the active recreation needs of the school teams, local youth groups, and adult programs. Over the years, these facilities have been maintained by various groups, from the school department to volunteers to the Department of Public Works personnel. Despite everyone's best efforts to maintain the athletic fields, current field conditions are substandard and demonstrate the need for a regular field maintenance program and standard operating procedures with properly trained personnel. In addition, with the growth in formalized athletic programs and an increased selection in sport offerings, these same facilities are experiencing increased wear and tear and showing signs of overuse. So not only is there a need to address deferred facility maintenance, formalize a maintenance plan, and budget for dedicated maintenance staff, there also is a need to invest in additional athletic facilities to meet current and future demands.

Beyond traditional athletic fields, there is also a demand for other types of athletic facilities, such as hard surface courts for pickle ball, tennis, and basketball. Additionally, Seekonk lacks neighborhood parks and playgrounds, also known as "pocket parks", where families with preschool-aged children can play during school hours and neighbors can gather to recreate, celebrate special occasions, and build a sense of community.

### Other Action Plan Components

- Funding: Secure funding for on-going maintenance costs to enhance current assets like sports fields, staging areas, signage, and trails. Work with Town officials, boards and key stakeholder groups to allocate initial stewardship funds for new acquisitions as well as capital outlay funds for major maintenance projects.
- Connectivity: Work to provide better connectivity and linkages between conservation areas, residential zones and business districts. In addition, Town staff should foster new relationships with neighboring municipalities where trails, pathways, and/or conservation lands adjoin one another or have the opportunity to do so.
- Information System Integration: Both print and online information for conservation properties, from trail maps to rules and regulations, is lacking. Also, with some assets being held by different entities (i.e. Town of Seekonk, Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, and Rhode Island Audubon Society), it's important to provide an overall map of these available passive recreation areas and links to each entities specific webpages. This is also true with adjoining municipalities.
- Planning Initiatives: Using this report as a guide, particularly the seven-year action plan, committees should be established to develop and implement strategic planning initiatives related to solving issues, such as playing field shortages, upgrading trail systems, preserving farmlands and wildlife habitats, and providing better pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.



# 2

## Introduction

### A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Guide Town officials, key stakeholder groups and residents in ongoing efforts to provide passive and active recreation opportunities while preserving open space and critical habitats.
- Assess existing open space assets and recreation facilities in context to existing and projected needs.
- Preserve rural charm, farmland and pastures as well as community character
- Identify goals, objectives, needs and priorities in recreational services and open space preservation.
- Develop a prioritized five-year strategy that implements goals and objectives while addressing the critical needs.
- Position the Town for a variety of funding mechanisms through federal, state, local and private initiatives aimed at the protection and enhancement of parks, open space and recreation.

### B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The 2022-2029 OSRP represents a collaborative effort between the Town of Seekonk Planning, Conservation, Recreation, and Public Works Departments as well as the Community Preservation Committee, Seekonk Land Conservation Trust and the Historic Preservation Committee. The efforts of this working group have been bolstered by community input in multiple forums, including a public survey and multiple meetings.

1. **Public Meetings:** Four public meetings were held in order to present information and receive public input/comment. Meetings were posted in print and online to reach as many residents as possible.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
06/15/2017	Public Meeting #1	Introduce project, process involved and gather initial input
10/19/2017 & 10/25/2017	Public Meeting #2	Identify initial findings, review public survey and receive additional input
12/17/2020	Public Meeting #3	Introduce preliminary action plan, including needs, goals and priorities with opportunity for public input
06/23/2021	Public Meeting #4	Present finalized draft OSRP with final round of public input

2. **Public Survey:** In order to obtain more widespread input from residents, the 2022-2029 Seekonk OSRP Survey was created using SurveyMonkey®, a web-based platform to create and design user-friendly online surveys. The OSRP Working Group spent several meetings discussing and carefully crafting the survey questions to target specific data while attempting to not bias the outcomes. The survey was available from early June through the end of September 2017. The survey link was distributed electronically via Town webpages, e-blasts, and postings on social media. It was also provided via hard copy flyers posted at Town Hall, the library, sporting events, and trail kiosks. Computers were also made available at the public outreach meeting where the survey was announced in early June, so surveys could be completed at the meeting, if desired. The group also worked with TV9 in Seekonk to produce a short public service announcement about the plan and survey, which was aired on TV9, at BOS meetings and during public outreach sessions at Town Hall. Over 500 residents responded to the survey and some of the survey results are summarized below. The full survey results are available in the Appendix.

### Summary of Survey Results

#### **Question 1: For each age group, please enter the number of household members.**

Age Groups	Survey Results	Comparative Census Data, 2015
Youth (0-20)	636 (31%)	22% of population
Adults (20-60)	878 (43%)	56% of population
Seniors (60+)	536 (26%)	22% of population

#### **Question 2: In which recreation activities does your household currently participate? (Check all that apply)**

Participation Rate	Activity
Most Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking/walking on trails (74%)</li> <li>Biking on paved roads/paved paths (47%)</li> <li>Sporting activities requiring a sports field (45%)</li> <li>Swimming (45%)</li> <li>Accessing neighborhood playgrounds (41%)</li> </ul>
Mid-Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photography (33%)</li> <li>Dog walking on trails (33%)</li> <li>Canoeing and/or kayaking on ponds, lakes and rivers (32%)</li> <li>Sporting activities requiring an outdoor/indoor court (31%)</li> <li>Biking on trails (28%)</li> <li>Fishing in ponds, lakes and rivers (25%)</li> </ul>
Less Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Painting (12%)</li> <li>Other (incl. picnicking, skating, gardening, indoor soccer) (9%)</li> <li>Cross country skiing or snowshoeing on trails (8%)</li> <li>Frisbee (8%)</li> <li>Participating in community gardens (6%)</li> </ul>

**Question 3: In which Seekonk Parks & Recreation sponsored programs does your household currently participate? (Check all that apply)**

Participation Rate	Program
Most Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trunk or Treat (44%)</li> <li>• Summer enrichment/camp programs (37%)</li> </ul>
Mid-Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something to Do Saturdays (22%)</li> <li>• Kickball (22%)</li> </ul>
Less Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Basketball (14%)</li> <li>• Columbus Day Race (12%)</li> <li>• Ski Club (10%)</li> </ul>

**Question 4: How important is it to your household to conserve open space for the purpose of preserving the values below? (Please rank each using provided scale)**

Value	Extremely to Very Important	Important	Somewhat to Not Important
Wildlife habitat	81%	13%	6%
Water supply, wells, & aquifers	86%	12%	2%
Agricultural purposes	72%	16%	12%
Scenic areas & views	74%	18%	8%
Historic features	70%	19%	11%
Rural character	69%	18%	13%

**Question 5: How important are these recreation activities and facilities to your household? (Please rank each activity using the scale below)**

Activity	Extremely to Very Important	Important	Somewhat to Not Important
Hiking/walking on trails	75%	14%	11%
Biking on trails	39%	29%	32%
Biking on paved roads/paths	64%	17%	19%
Canoeing and/or kayaking on ponds, lakes and rivers	44%	22%	33%
Fishing in ponds, lakes and rivers	39%	22%	39%
Photography	37%	23%	40%
Painting	16%	23%	61%
Participating in community gardens	25%	25%	50%
Accessing dog parks	30%	17%	53%

Accessing neighborhood playgrounds	61%	14%	25%
Soccer fields	48%	17%	35%
Baseball/softball fields	46%	19%	35%
Lacrosse fields	27%	20%	52%
Field hockey fields	24%	21%	55%
Tennis courts	35%	24%	41%
Basketball courts	40%	20%	40%
Volleyball courts	24%	25%	51%
Pickleball courts	13%	20%	67%
Swimming pools, outdoor	52%	16%	32%
Swimming pools, indoor	52%	18%	30%
Frisbee disc golf course	14%	24%	62%

**Question 6: How important are these organized recreation programs to your household? (Please rank each program using the scale below)**

Activity	Extremely to Very Important	Important	Somewhat to Not Important
Afterschool Programs	35%	17%	48%
Summer Enrichment/Camps	28%	21%	51%
Trunk or Treat	16%	19%	65%
Ski Club	13%	13%	74%
Something to Do Saturdays Program	16%	22%	62%
Adult Basketball	12%	15%	73%
Kickball	10%	19%	71%
Columbus Day Youth Race	13%	17%	70%

**Question 7: Do you agree that these resources are adequately conserved in Seekonk? (Please rank each value using the scale below)**

Value	Strongly to Somewhat Agree	Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree
Wildlife habitat	42%	36%	22%
Water supply, wells, & aquifers	45%	38%	17%
Agricultural purposes	35%	38%	27%
Scenic areas & views	30%	40%	30%

Historic features	31%	41%	28%
Rural character	30%	34%	36%

**Question 8: Do you agree that there are an adequate number of these recreation facilities listed below in Seekonk? (Please rank each using the scale below)**

Activity	Strongly to Somewhat Agree	Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree
Hiking/walking trails	32%	33%	35%
Biking trails	16%	24%	60%
Biking paths (paved)	12%	12%	76%
Canoe and/or kayak launch sites	14%	35%	51%
Fishing access points	17%	49%	34%
Community gardens	9%	38%	53%
Dog parks	9%	24%	67%
Neighborhood playgrounds	20%	37%	44%
Soccer fields	36%	44%	20%
Baseball/softball fields	38%	45%	17%
Lacrosse fields	29%	42%	29%
Field hockey fields	28%	47%	25%
Tennis courts	22%	42%	36%
Basketball courts	25%	41%	34%
Volleyball courts	18%	32%	50%
Pickleball courts	15%	33%	52%
Swimming pools, outdoor	10%	22%	68%
Swimming pools, indoor	20%	44%	36%
Frisbee disc golf course	13%	38%	49%

**Question 9: Do you agree that there are an adequate number of these recreation programs listed below in Seekonk? (Please rank each using the scale below)**

Activity	Strongly to Somewhat Agree	Agree	Disagree to Strongly Disagree
Afterschool Programs	26%	49%	25%
Summer Enrichment/Camps	26%	47%	27%
Trunk or Treat	22%	67%	11%

Ski Club	26%	59%	15%
Something to Do Saturdays Program	21%	62%	17%
Adult Basketball	20%	56%	24%
Kickball	20%	59%	21%
Columbus Day Youth Race	21%	71%	8%

**Question 10: Please use the space below to share additional comments, suggestions, or concerns with regard to conservation lands, wildlife habitat protection, farmland, and passive or active recreation facilities, activities and programs in Seekonk.**

Over 125 written responses were received to Question #10, demonstrating strong opinions and feelings about both open space and recreation opportunities in Seekonk. While the committee recommends reviewing the full responses, which can be found in the Appendix, a quick synopsis of the comments can be found below.

**Summary of Responses:**

**59 responses focused on recreation**, mentioning everything from youth and adult programming to bike paths to availability of athletic facilities, with the heaviest focus on playground spaces that are separate from the elementary schools.

**52 responses focused on open space**, with the majority of comments centered on preserving Seekonk's rural character and curbing development of the remaining undeveloped areas.

**28 responses focused on other topics**, including more solar on public buildings, decreasing taxes, and creating survey bias. While some of these comments touch on areas that include recreation and open space, some of them are outside the parameters of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

# 3

## Community Setting

### A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

Seekonk is a suburban community of roughly 15,531 residents in southeastern Massachusetts. Located along the Rhode Island border, the Town lies just five miles east of Providence and 48 miles southwest of Boston. Seekonk is part of the Bristol/Narragansett Lowland eco-region, which is characterized by flat to gently rolling terrain, with elevations generally lower than 200 feet. Land cover is mostly mixed forest with numerous wetlands, including lakes and ponds.

Seekonk is bordered by Attleboro to the north, Rehoboth to the east, Swansea and Barrington, Rhode Island, to the south, and East Providence and Pawtucket, Rhode Island to the West. The Town has a total area of 18.4 square miles, including 0.1 square mile of water. Although once a farming community, today Seekonk is principally a bedroom community, with most residents living in single-family homes and working in one of the nearby metropolitan areas. Its median income of \$90,078 is slightly higher than the statewide median income of \$85,843 and lower than the Bristol County median income of 102,663.

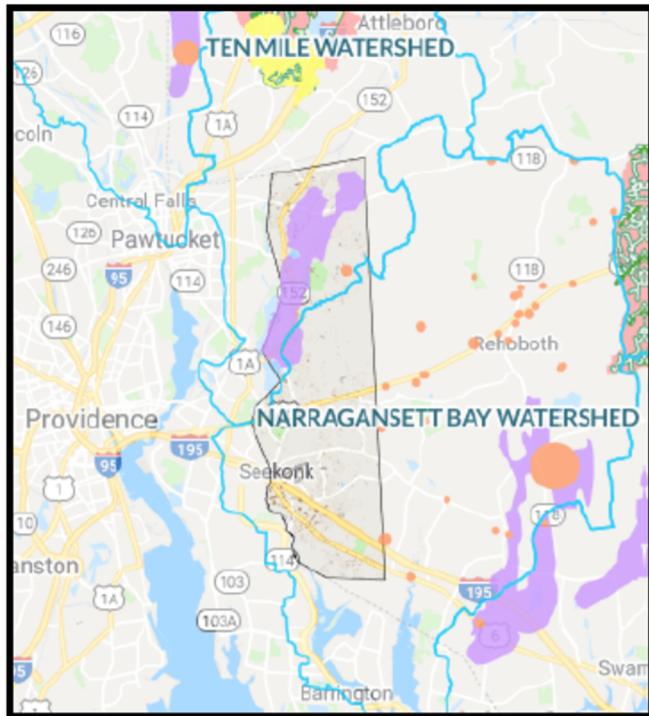


Figure 1: Regional Context Map - Water Resources

Seekonk lies within two watershed areas: the Ten Mile River Watershed and the Narragansett Bay Watershed. It shares frontage on both the Ten Mile and Runnins Rivers; with the Runnins River forming the Town's southwestern border with East Providence, RI south of County Street, running to Hundred Acre Cove and the Ten Mile River forming the town's western border from the Turner Reservoir north to the Town's northwestern corner. A substantial unbroken wooded area along the town's eastern border is shared with neighboring Rehoboth.

From the north end of Seekonk, there is easy access to both Interstate 95 and the South Attleboro stop on the MBTA's commuter rail line connecting Providence and Boston. Route 195 crosses the southern end of the town providing highway access the South Coast and Cape Cod regions of Massachusetts and the East Bay region of Rhode Island to the east and southeast, as well as, the Route 95 Providence – Boston corridor to the west. Seekonk is part of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, a regional planning agency that serves 27 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts. In 2000, SRPEDD completed A Regional Open and Recreation Space Plan for the municipalities of the Ten Mile River and Narragansett/Mt. Hope Bay Watersheds. Seekonk completed a municipal Master Plan and an Open Space and Recreation Plan the same year. This plan is one element of the town's effort to update the Master Plan.

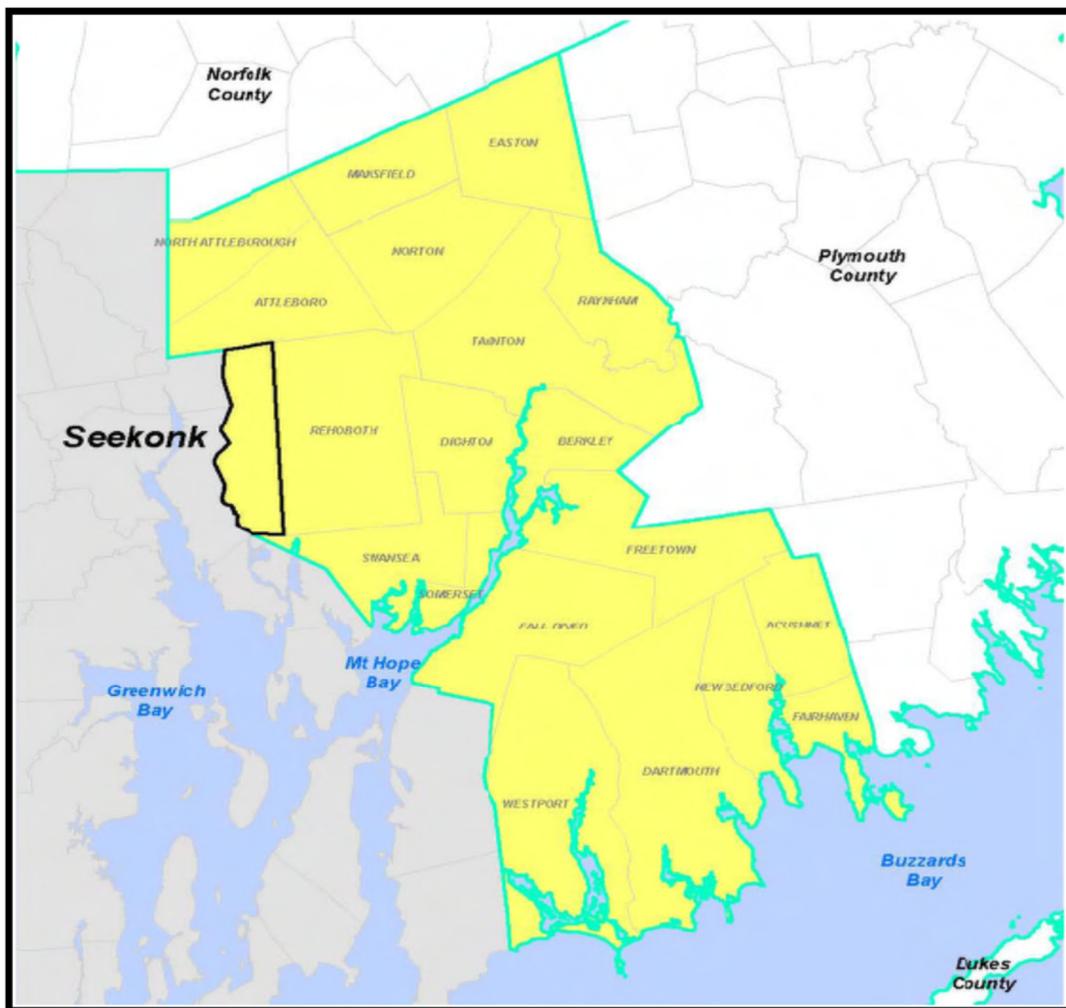


Figure 2: Regional Context Map; Bristol County, Massachusetts

## B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

### Early Years

The land that today comprises Seekonk was purchased from the Native American Wampanoag tribe in a number of tracts beginning with as an "eight square mile tract of land" in 1641 when Massasoit, the chief of the Wampanoag, and his son Wamsutta, signed a deed granting the land that is now Seekonk and several surrounding communities to Thomas Willitt, Myles Standish, and Governor Josiah Winslow on behalf of Plymouth Colony. Additional land purchases in 1645, of the area known as Wannamoisett by John Brown and the 1661 "North Purchase" again by Plymouth Colony would be added to the original purchase with the settlement originally encompassing all, or part of, the following modern communities: Seekonk, Rehoboth, Attleboro, North Attleboro, and Swansea in Massachusetts and Pawtucket, East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Cumberland, and Woonsocket in Rhode Island.

At this time the Wampanoag Tribe, who were well settled in the area, had been weakened by an outbreak of disease and were seeking a buffer between themselves and their traditional adversary the Narragansett Tribe who lived on the western side of Narragansett Bay. Several villages that had been decimated by the outbreak, were displaced and abandoned as a result of the purchases. Previously, the area was a summering ground for the Wampanoag, providing ready access to fresh water, an abundant food source in the Narragansett Bay, and the estuaries, rivers, and streams that drained to it, as well as transportation and trade routes on those same waters.

The earliest European settlers to the area were William Blackstone who settled along the river that would bear his name in what is now Cumberland, Rhode Island and Roger Williams who led a number of his Baptist followers from Massachusetts Bay Colony to Seekonk Cove (now Omega Pond) in 1635 before removing to the western side of the Seekonk River and establishing Providence in 1636. Williams had been ordered arrested by the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for his "radical" dissenting belief in the free practice of religion. Williams believed his original settlement was outside of Massachusetts in native lands. However, Governor Winslow claimed the land at Seekonk Cove was part of the land acquired by the Plymouth Bay Colony and thus Williams was still within the bounds of Massachusetts. These competing claims, eventually to be pursued by the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to the United States Supreme Court, were not fully settled until 1862. In 1638 Williams encouraged and assisted a second group of Baptist Puritans to relocate from Massachusetts Bay Colony to his former settlement site at Seekonk Cove although several of these also ultimately joined him in nearby Providence.

Many of the other early settlers of Seacunke, the Wampanoag name for the area meaning "land of the black geese", were Pilgrims from Plymouth Colony. The legal authority for the settlement, as seen in Governor Winslow's enforcement of its boundaries, was also seated in Plymouth. After a jurisdictional dispute between Puritan settlers from Massachusetts Bay Colony and Pilgrim settlers from Plymouth Colony, the authority of Plymouth Colony over the settlement was confirmed in a finding by the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England (a body comprised of representatives of all colonies in the region). The initial Puritan and Pilgrim residents of the area formed the first town government in 1644 among the "inhabitants of Seekonk" by signing a covenant and electing nine persons to lead them. In 1645, a group of Puritan settlers numbering 58 households, primarily from Weymouth, Braintree, and Hingham in the Massachusetts Bay Colony led by the Reverend Samuel Newman, came to and settle within the bounds of the Seekonk land hold. That same year their petition to have the settlement of Seekonk incorporated as the Town of Rehoboth was authorized by the General Court of Massachusetts. In 1649, a group of puritan dissenters from Reverend Newman's congregation, led by Obadiah Holmes sought to establish a Baptist church in the town. This group which, after the arrest, imprisonment, and eventual lashing of Reverend Holmes, was relocated and joined with the

congregation of Reverend John Clarke in Newport and is today known as the United Baptist Church, John Clarke Memorial. The split of the community between pilgrim and puritan settlers would have significant impact on the development of the community and foreshadow 200+ plus years of disagreement, strife, and division.

At first the settlement was centered in modern day village of Rumford, East Providence with all properties joining at a “ring of green” enclosed by a common fence erected by each property owner along the green. The green was used as a common pasture. A second concentration of settlers was also established in Wannamoisett after its acquisition from the Wampanoag in 1645. With no nearby sawmill, the initial dwellings of the residents of the settlement were simple structures of rough-hewn lumber or boards hauled to the area from more established towns. A meeting house was commenced in 1646 and completed in 1648 and housed all ecclesiastical and public functions of the early settlement. Grist mills were established at Seekonk Cove (Omega Pond) and along the Mill River (Ten Mile River today). A sawmill was also established along the later water way during this initial period of settlement.

Between 1655 and 1675 the then Town of Rehoboth began to expand and more fully develop. The Noah Newman Garrison House, a fortified structure intent to provide a place of safety and refuge in the event of an act by native war bands, was completed in 1668. The initial rough shelters began to be replaced by more substantial and permanent structures. The meetinghouse was expanded and two additional garrison houses were completed. Also, during this time trade was established with Providence via Seekonk Cove.

During this time period relations with the neighboring Wampanoag Tribe, still under Massasoit were generally peacefully. The native peoples were increasingly marginalized and often taken advantage of in land and other dealings with their new neighbors or in the resolution of other disputes, civil and criminal. This pattern would lead to a violent end with the outbreak of King Phillips War in 1675.

The Wampanoag Sachem, Massasoit, lived until he was 80 years old; passing away in 1662. While he lived, his people and the European settlers lived in relative peace although encroachment into native lands by the newcomers was a constant and growing source of friction between the two peoples. He was followed in power by his son Wamsutta, also known as Alexander who shared many of his father's attitudes toward the settlers. However, Alexander died suspiciously shortly after his father, and was succeeded by his brother Metacomet, also known as King Philip, who came to blame the English for Alexander's death. During this period, the colonial population grew significantly, putting increased pressure on nearby Native American communities and ultimately leading to conflict.

In 1675, King Philip's War began, and both sides saw this as an opportunity to claim the land for their people and their way of life. After some initial successes, in which many of the then established English settlements along Narragansett Bay were destroyed; Metacomet and his people ultimately lost the war, and the chief was killed by a mixed group of English settlers and Native warriors led by Benjamin Church, setting the stage for development of Seekonk through the 18th and 19th Centuries.

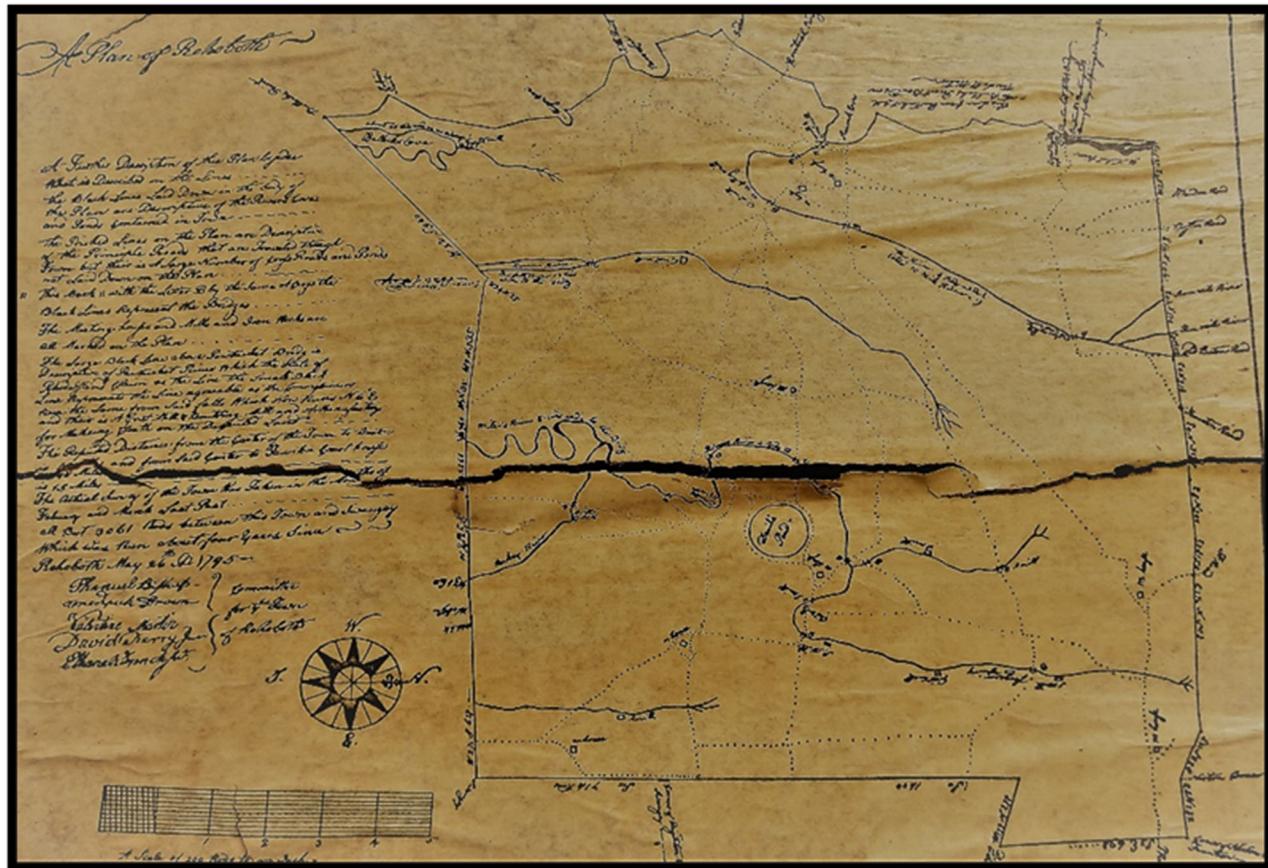


Figure 3: Map of Original Seekonk Land Holding

## Incorporation

For the next 200 years the area we now call Seekonk was primarily a farming community. Community issues within the Town and boundary disputes between Massachusetts and Rhode Island were common, with the original settlement being reconfigured a number of times throughout the 19th century and the land that is now Rehoboth, East Providence, Pawtucket and Seekonk being claimed by both states. In 1812 the Town of Seekonk was incorporated from western half of the original land holding, and the remaining eastern half becoming the Town of Rehoboth. Water-powered industries developed within the town to supplement the agricultural economy, with businesses such as The Cove Factory, the Seekonk Central Factory, the Rumford Chemical Works, and Hunts Mills, which was built in 1822, and included a grist and saw mill, cordwainer's works, and a small cotton factory.

Much of the industrial area of the Town was lost, first in 1828, with the separation of the Pawtucket from Seekonk and then in 1862, when the United States Supreme Court settled the long-standing boundary dispute between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As part of this settlement, the land that is now East Providence was removed from Seekonk and incorporated as a separate Rhode Island municipality. This reduced Seekonk's territory by half and its population by roughly two-thirds, leaving the town in its current configuration.

Several notable, historic homes and buildings remain in Seekonk, including the William H. Hunt house (1670), the Read House (1703), the Martin House (1790), and historic Jacob Hill Inn (1723).

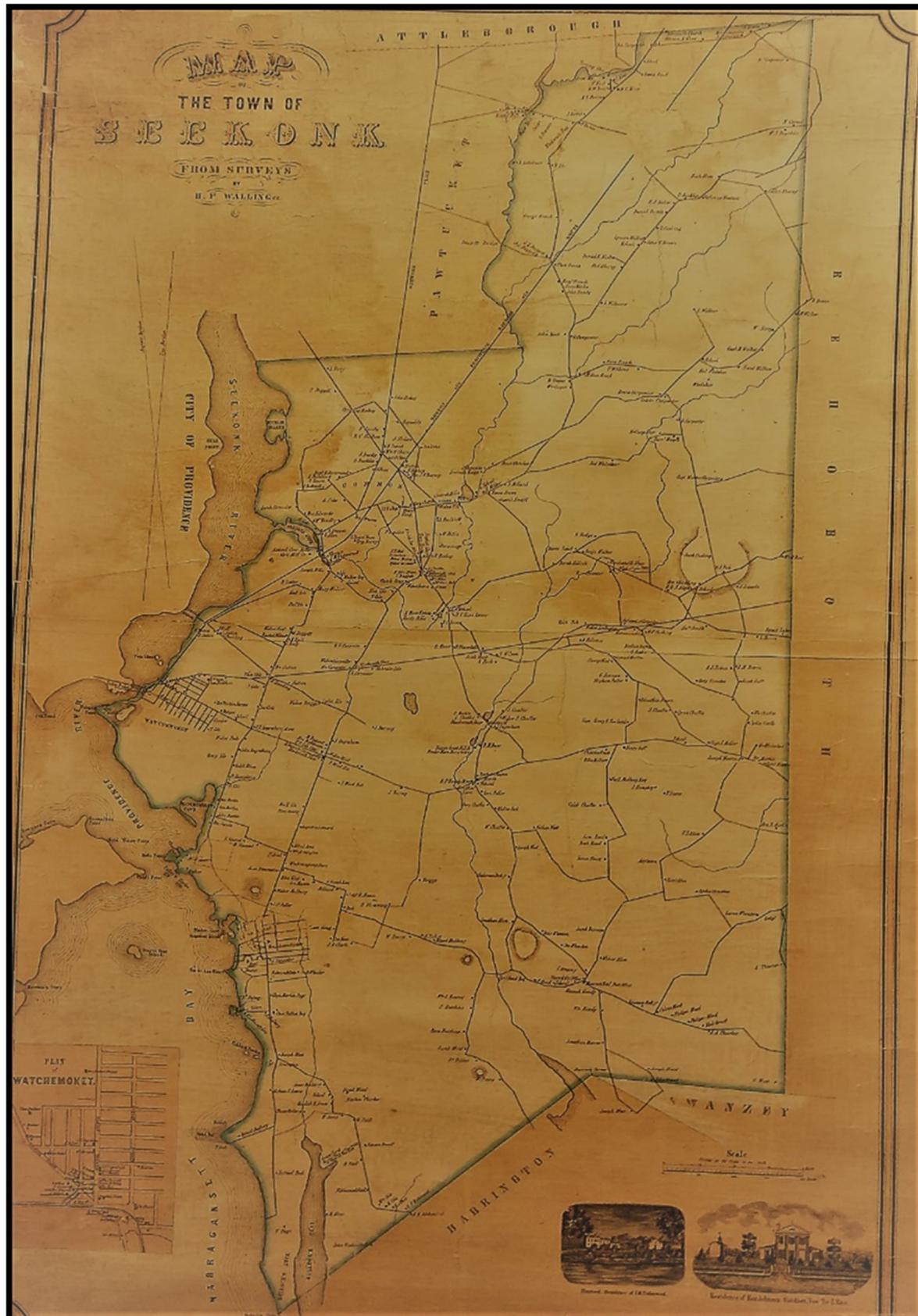


Figure 4: Map of Seekonk, 1850

## Suburbanization and Development

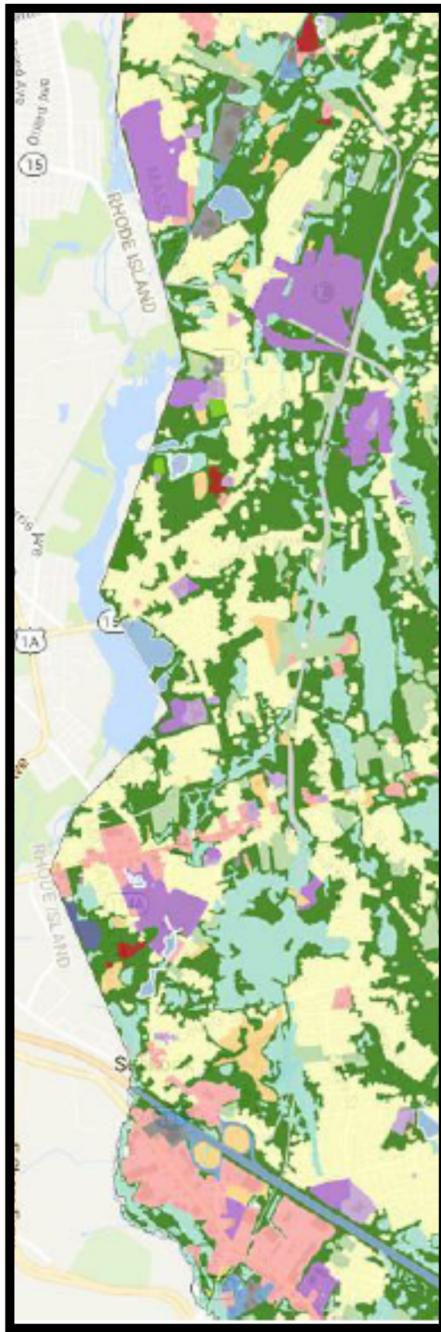
Seekonk remained largely an agricultural community through the 19th and into the 20th century, although the Kent Manufacturing Company did make tennis racquets and croquet sets on the upper reaches of the Ten Mile River and the Central Mill located on the Seekonk-East Providence line at Central Pond/Turner Reservoir operated along the river to the south. In the 19th century, development was concentrated along Newman and Central Avenues in the northern portion of Town and along Fall River Avenue in the southern section with concentrations in the Luther's Corners area and at the intersection with Warren Avenue. A rail line was established in 1835 (Boston-Providence Railroad) running through the northern Seekonk. Two Stations were established along the line; Perrin Station, near the intersection of Pine St. and Woodland Avenue and Perrin Crossing Station at the intersection of Newman Avenue and Brook Street. The rail line still remains in use albeit of limited nature serving industrial uses located along its run in Seekonk and Attleboro. With the opening of the Providence and Taunton Street Railway in 1891, Seekonk's gradual transformation into a residential suburb of Providence began.

Between 1900 and 1950, Seekonk's population grew by 4,000 from 1917 in 1905 to 6100, but was still distinguishable from neighboring "Mill towns" in the region destined for city status, such as Pawtucket and East Providence, which were much more densely developed. A lack of infrastructure (primarily wastewater treatment) to service the higher density urban land use pattern buffered the Town from those urban development pressures but not suburban development pressures. Between 1950 and 2000, the town experienced more rapid growth. Its population more than doubled from 6,104 to 13,772 as much of the land formerly used for agricultural purposes was converted into the neighborhood residential pattern that dominates many areas of the town today. During this same period, the Route 6 corridor became a major regional shopping destination with a concentration of many large national retailers, restaurants, hotels, an active motorsport's center and other commercial services. The eastern third of the corridor is one of the Town's designated industrial zones.

Today, only a few working farms remain in Seekonk with many laying fallow or otherwise abandoned from an agricultural standpoint. Residential development pressure has turned many former farms into housing developments as large formerly farmed family holdings have been sold for development. Seekonk is now largely a suburban "bedroom" community for people who work in the Providence and Boston areas. It is also known for the retail area and Speedway along Route 6. In 2016 the central location of Seekonk and easy access to the entire region via the 195 and 95 corridors played a large role in bringing a FedEx Distribution Facility to town.



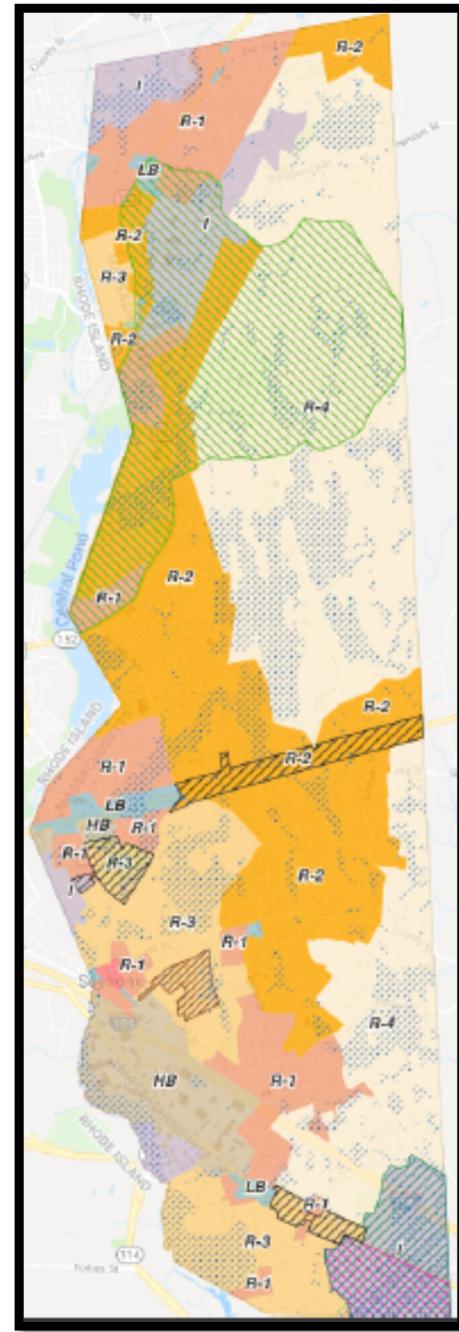
Arcade Woods



#### Land Use

- Brushland/Successional; Forest
- Cemetery
- Commercial
- Wetlands
- Agricultural
- Recreation
- Residential
- Industrial
- Junkyard; Waste Disposal
- Mining
- Open Land; Transitional
- Powerline/Utility
- Transportation
- Urban Public/Institutional
- Water

Figure 5: Land Use Map



#### Zoning and Districts

- Mixed Use Overlay
- Telecommunications Overlay District
- Adult Entertainment and Medical Marijuana Overlay
- Groundwater Aquifer Protection District
- Wetlands and Floodplain Protection District
- Multifamily Development Overlay District
- R-1
- R-2
- R-3
- R-4
- Highway Business
- Industry
- Local Business
- Planned Unit Development
- Luther's Corners Village District

Figure 6: Zoning Map

## C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### Population Trends

According to the U.S. Census, Seekonk's population in 1990 was 13,046. By 2010, the population had grown to 13,772. The 2020 population estimate was 15,531. This represents growth of 13.2 percent since the 2010 census.

As of the U.S. Census of 2000, there were 4,843 households, and 3,874 families residing in Seekonk. The population density was 733.0 people per square mile (1179/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 4,947 housing units at an average density of 270.1 per square mile (434/km<sup>2</sup>). By 2010, there were 5,071 households, and 3,941 families residing in Seekonk.

According to the currently available Census estimates there are 6,057 households, with 6,052 families residing in Seekonk. The population density is 853 people per square mile (1372/km<sup>2</sup>). There are 6,057 housing units at an average density of 330 per square mile (531/km<sup>2</sup>).

In 2000 the racial makeup of the town was 96.57% White, 0.52% African American, 0.28% Native American, 0.95% Asian and 0.69% from other races or mixed-race. Less than one percent (0.74%) of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. Popular ancestries of the population include Portuguese (22.0%), Irish (21.4%), English (16.7%), French (14.4%), Italian (11.9%) and French Canadian (6.4%). By 2010 the racial makeup of the town was 95.2% White, 1.1% African American, 0.2% Native American, 1.2% Asian and 1.4% from other races or mixed-race. 1.8 percent of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. In 2010 popular ancestries of the population include Portuguese (27.6%), Irish (24.2%), English (13.8%), French (16.6%), Italian (14.5%) and French Canadian (6.6%).

Current estimates of the racial makeup of the Town are 87.1% White, 1.3% African American, 0.2% Native American, 2.9% Asian and 5% from other races or mixed-race. 3.6% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race with popular ancestries of the population including Portuguese (20.0%), Irish (19.7%), English (18.6%), French (13.8%), Italian (11%), Polish (6.7%) and Subsaharan African (2.1%).

Of the 4,843 households in 2000, 35.7% included children under the age of 18, 67.6% were married couples living together, 16.8% were comprised of single individuals, and 15.6% were comprised of non-family households. The average household size was 2.77 and the average family size was 3.12. In 2010 there were 5,071 households, 33.4% of which included children under the age of 18, 64.9 % were married couples living together, 17.7% were comprised of single individuals, and 22.3% were comprised of non-family households. The average household size was 2.71 and the average family size was 3.08.

Currently of the 6,057 households in Seekonk 21.5% included children under the age of 18, 64.5% were married couples living together, 30.5% were comprised of single individuals, and 5% were comprised of non-family households. Currently the average household size is 2.9.

Age distribution throughout the town's population in 2000 was spread out with 25.3% under the age of 18, 6.1% from 18 to 24, 28.8% from 25 to 44, 26.4% from 45 to 64, and 13.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age in 2000 was 40 years. In 2010 population distribution was as follows: 21.8% under the age of 18, 7.4% from 18 to 24, 22.8% from 25 to 44, 33% from 45 to 64, and 15% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age in 2010 was 43.8 years.

Today the Town's population is distributed with 21.5% under the age of 18, 78.5% over the age of 18 with 4.1% under the age of 5 and 18% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age is 45 years a five-year increase in median age since 2000 documenting a generally aging population profile.

In 2000 Seekonk's median household income of \$56,364 was 6.2% higher than the statewide median income of \$50,502 with approximately 2% of the population below the poverty line with 6.7% state average. By 2010 Seekonk's median household income was \$76,826, 6.2% higher than the statewide median income of \$70,954. In 2010 4.3% of the population below the poverty line while the state average was 10.5%. Currently the median household income of \$90,078 is 9.5% higher than the statewide median income of \$85,843. Approximately 5.3% of the population is currently below the poverty line compared to the 9.4% state average.

### **Environmental Justice Populations**

According to Massachusetts GIS, census data for 2010 does not show any environmental justice populations within Seekonk.

### **Active and Passive Recreation**

Seekonk residents enjoy access to a number of active and passive recreational properties and facilities, including the playing fields located at the five Seekonk district schools, the Gammino Pond, Arcade Woods, and Burr's Conservation Areas, and the new community playground adjacent to Town Hall. The largest open space property is the Caratunk Wildlife Sanctuary, a nearly 200-acre parcel of land with six miles of trails, which is owned by the Rhode Island Audubon Society. Other open space properties include the Cushing Conservation Area and the Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge, both of which are held by the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust. Seekonk is also home to two golf courses, although neither is open to the general public. Other facilities include the Newman Branch of the YMCA and the Seekonk Swim & Tennis Club.

In 2009, residents of Seekonk voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act, which provides funding for open space protection, recreational access and opportunities, historic preservation, and affordable housing. A permanent Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was established at that time and since its inception, nearly \$3M has been set aside in CPC funding, with nearly \$1.3M being allotted to acquisition of and improvement of conservation lands. One of the first acquisitions through CPC funding was purchasing 4.3 acres in 2010 to connect the trails behind the YMCA and Town Hall. The Seekonk Land Conservation Trust raised \$60,000 for the project. The completed trail, which includes a pedestrian bridge crossing the Runnins River, bog bridging and a boardwalk, was opened to the public in 2017. Several other larger parcels have been acquired in the last decade as well, including the Benson, Lagerquist, and Young Farm properties.



### **Recreational Needs**

While the Town of Seekonk and the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust have worked together to preserve many tracts of open space for the purposes of passive recreational use, habitat protection, and preservation of Seekonk's rural character, improvements to the current facilities and construction of new facilities are needed in order to meet the greater passive and active recreation needs of Seekonk residents and its visitors. According to the 2000 Seekonk Master Plan, "although generally satisfied with

the quality of life in Seekonk, the survey results consistently identified the major concerns of residents and issues facing the Town as being sewers, the quality of schools, and a lack of park and recreation facilities and programs. Residents are also concerned about maintaining the town's rural character and quietness of the neighborhoods, and object to further growth and development that would sacrifice those traits." And again, in our 2017 OSRP Survey, residents echoed those same concerns and needs. For example, there are many more athletic leagues and program offerings available now than there were a few decades ago, such as boys & girls lacrosse, but the number of athletic fields remains unchanged and are suffering from over-use. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the need for additional passive recreation facilities, where people can walk or hike while abiding by social distancing guidelines. Our limited trail offerings meant popular trails like those at the Gammino Pond Conservation Area were often quite busy and social-distancing guidelines were difficult to maintain.

### **Recent Improvements & Investments**

Taking an adaptive and interactive approach to assessing, understanding, and meeting the recreational needs of a growing and changing community, the Town has already started implementing some of the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. For example, the Gammino Pond Conservation Area underwent a number of recent improvements, including renovating the trails, expanding the staging areas, updating the trail map and kiosks, installing new directional signage, and installing wooden steps with a railing to eliminate a trail hazard. Most recently, a Storybook Trail was added from the Gammino Pond trails to the Library Meadows. The Town has also made numerous recent field improvements including renovating one of the softball fields at the Water Lane Athletic Complex to become a dual-purpose softball/baseball field, improving the fence line and infields at two of the top little league fields, Murphy and Hipkiss Fields at the Water Lane Athletic Complex, and the Town is currently working on a project to improve Whitaker Field at Cole Street Athletic Complex to meet regulation size standards. Another very popular addition with families is Seekonk's first community playground, located adjacent to Town Hall and opened in 2020. Town residents also recently voted to expand connectivity, community walkability, and safety by adding a sidewalk with guardrail along Arcade Ave from Taunton Ave to Ledge Road, which will allow pedestrians to safely walk between the high school, senior center, Arcade Woods trails, Town Hall community playground, and the Newman YMCA.

Collaborative efforts between Town personnel, boards, and non-profit groups along with additional state funding have made these recent enhancements and additions possible and we are excited to continue this trend into the future, building new athletic fields, constructing new trails, improving wildlife corridors, and more!

## **D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

### **Development Patterns and Trends**

Early land use in Seekonk was primarily agricultural and farming dominated Seekonk's economy well into the 20th century. After World War II, suburbanization began. Early suburban residential and commercial development in Seekonk was located near the neighboring cities of Pawtucket, Providence, and East Providence. Namely, these areas are Baker's Corners, Luther's Corners, and the eastern portion of Route 44 in central Seekonk.

Since 1950, there has been continuous new development in Seekonk, especially after the introduction of Route I-195. New subdivisions extended into the rural and eastern portions of Seekonk and larger scale commercial uses grew along the Route 6 commercial corridor.

Industry has never been a major factor in Seekonk. In the town's early days, several mill operations were located along the Ten Mile River. However, the bulk of industrial development remained across the river in Pawtucket and East Providence. With no early industrial tradition in place, Seekonk's industry did not grow significantly. Today Seekonk's industrial zoning districts are located along the easternmost segment of the Route 6 corridor in Seekonk near the Swansea and Rehoboth border with additional land zoned for industrial use in the northeastern and north central area of Town. Overall industrial development is constrained by a lack of access to sewers despite the relatively close proximity of the Narragansett Bay Commission's facility at Bull's Point in East Providence and given the fact that the Attleboro wastewater treatment facility is actually located, in part, in Seekonk. The northern industrial zones are further constrained by the fact that they are located in the Town's Water Resource Protection Overlay District which protects the Town's groundwater aquifer from which the water supply is drawn by imposing additional zoning and use restrictions within the bounds of the overlay district.

The state border with Rhode Island has provided a conceptual barrier while a lack of sewage infrastructure has provided a physical barrier in the need for relatively large lot sizes to accommodate individual septic disposal systems. This has had the result of sheltering the Town from the intense urban residential development that many other communities in the immediate area have experienced. As a result, broad open spaces, large lots and wooded rural vistas persist in Seekonk. In addition, a small number of working farms remain in town. Local residents highly value this rural character and land-use pattern.

Over the last few years recent residential development has been concentrated in the central section of Town along Route 44 on land holdings many of which were formerly used for agriculture. In-fill residential development continues in the north, in the neighborhoods of Lebanon Mills and Perrins Crossing; and in the south, in the neighborhoods of Luther's Corners and South Seekonk.

Retail and commercial development is concentrated in the south along Route 6, and includes a movie multiplex, many different national retailers, and restaurants, as well as personal and professional services. Seekonk Speedway, a 1/3-mile oval track, as well as Seekonk Grand Prix, with multiple amusement rides and miniature golf. Additional commercial concentrations occur along Route 44 particularly as that roadway approaches the Massachusetts/Rhode Island border; the Bakers Corner area along Central Avenue and to a smaller extent in neighborhood and mixed-use zoning districts dispersed throughout Town.

## **Infrastructure**

Seekonk can be accessed through Interstate I-195, as well as Route 6, Route 44, Route 152 and Route 114A. Seekonk has its own exit on I-195, Massachusetts Exit 1, which provides easy access to Route 6 to the south and Route 44 to the north. Route 152, while not connected to any other state route in Town, is a major route running between East Providence and Attleboro.

Public transportation is also available. From the south end of town, access can be had by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) stop on Commerce Way. From the north end of Town, commuters use the South Attleboro stop of the MBTA's commuter line to reach both Providence and Boston. That end of Town is also served by a regional transit authority, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA). A MBTA station currently being planned on Broad Street in Pawtucket and Central Fall may provide an additional nearby public transit option in the near future.

Seekonk's drinking water is supplied by 12 municipal wells sited in three well fields. As noted above the Town's Water Resource Protection District (WRPD) provides zoning and land use protections in those portions of Town laying over the groundwater aquifer from which public water is withdrawn. The overlay district requires a minimum density of a 1 unit per 60,000 sf of area for all new development and limits

impervious lot coverage within the WRPD in addition to prohibiting specific land uses and activities that could negatively impact the aquifer. The WRPD was adopted jointly between the Seekonk Water District, the tax authority overseeing the water supply, and the Town of Seekonk in 2015.

The Town of Seekonk has no public sewage collection or treatment system. Waste issues are currently addressed through on-site disposal systems, including septic systems and cesspools. The Town of Seekonk is served by 2 drainage basins, the Ten Mile River basin in the town's northern side, and the Runnins River basin in Seekonk's southern side. The Ten Mile River serves as a discharge point for other municipalities to the north of the Town, including Plainville, North Attleboro, and the Attleboro treatment plant. The Runnins River has no point discharges, and future surface discharges into the Runnins River are prohibited. Given the fact that poor soils and a high-water table predominate in parts of town, concerns have been raised as to the impacts of on-site disposal systems on Seekonk's aquifer, from which drinking water is largely derived.

The town's nearest airport is T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island, 13 miles away. In the intervening years, during that time Logan International Airport is the nearest international airport, 50 miles away in Boston.



Runnins River Trail



Signage at Gammino Pond



Gammino Pond Trails

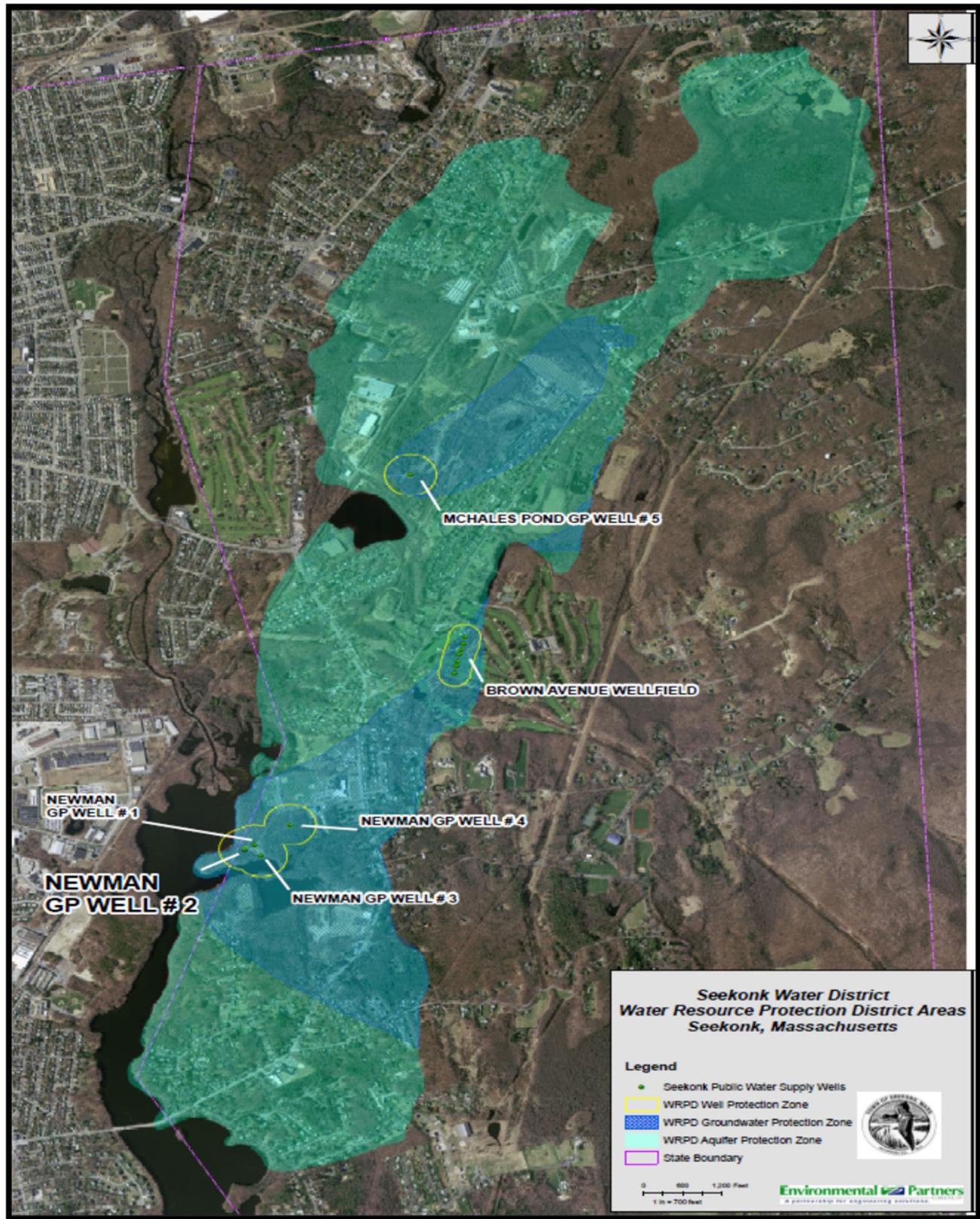


Figure 7: Water Resource Protection Map

## Long-Term Development Patterns

According to SRPEDD, urbanized acres in Seekonk increased from 2,884 in 1971 to 4,956 in 1997. This represented an increase of 72 percent.

According to SRPEDD, there were 741 permanently protected acres in Seekonk in 1999. This represented 6.3 percent of the town's land (total land area in acres was provided as 11,814). According to the same report, priority areas for protection were the Upper Runnins River Area and the Lower Ten Mile River area.

Currently residential development in Seekonk takes the form of either infill development within existing established neighborhoods or residential reuse of fallow former agricultural land. The Town has adopted voluntary "conservation subdivision" provision within the Zoning By-law in order to provide a vehicle to balance new development with protection of the Town's remaining open spaces; however, there is little incentive for a developer to participate in the voluntary process versus the by right definitive subdivision process. Commercial development activity is generally dominated by expansion or reuse of existing developed properties particularly within the Highway Business zoning districts along the Route 6 corridor, Route 44, and in the Baker's Corner's area. Additional small scale commercial development and redevelopment potential exists in these areas in the Mixed Use and Neighborhood Business Districts but is limited in scale and use by the Zoning By-law. It is anticipated any additional Industrial Development will occur within the existing Industrial zoning district at the eastern portion of Route 6 in Town and in the Industrial zones in the northern section of Seekonk. A joint remediation and reuse effort on the part of the Town, State and Federal government is underway at the Attleboro Dyeworks, an industrial site located on the Ten Mile River off Central Avenue.

In 2000, SRPEDD calculated a maximum buildout projection for Seekonk. The population estimate under the buildout scenario was 21,105 residents. This buildout projection included significant increases in student enrollment in schools, water usage and demand for septic systems.

In 2011 the town conducted a buildout analysis based on the then and still existing zoning and wetland constraints. That analysis indicated a potential additional 837 single family units. Since 2011 (2011-2018) the average number of new single family units permitted in Seekonk was 29 units. Given the potential additional 837 units identified in 2011 and the subsequent development pace since then full build out would be reached in 2048.

Year	New Single Family Units
2011	36
2012	21
2013	44
2014	27
2015	28
2016	22
2017	23
2018	34
2019	31
2020	18
	Total: 284
	Average: 28

# 4

## Environmental Inventory and Analysis

### A. GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### Geology

The Town of Seekonk is in the western portion of Bristol County in the Coastal Lowland Section of Massachusetts, immediately east of East Providence, Rhode Island. Elevations above sea level vary from a low of less than 10 feet along the Runnins River to a high of slightly over 210 feet on a hilltop west of Pine Street in northeastern Seekonk. Topography is variable, consisting of hills, lowlands, and swamps. Alternating hills and swamps are basic features of eastern and central Seekonk, which is surrounded in semi-circular fashion by a slightly undulating lowland and floodplain belt occupying central, western and northern Seekonk. Most topographic features are related to glacial activity, with recent erosional and depositional processes playing a relatively minor modifying role.

Bedrock in Seekonk is Pennsylvanian sedimentary rock of the Rhode Island Formation. It consists of 3- to 10-foot-thick inter-beds of medium grained sandstone and conglomerate with pebbles about 3 inches in maximum diameter. Beds are tilted so that no single bed is continuously exposed at a given elevation. Conglomerate beds contain partings parallel to bedding spaced 1 to 3 inches apart. Some fractures and minor faults penetrate both sandstone and conglomerate beds. Otherwise, the rocks are thoroughly cemented, hard and sound in most exposures. Surface exposures are mostly confined to hills in the center of town within an area roughly bounded by U.S. Route 44 on the south, Read Street on the north, Prospect Street on the east, and Newman and Arcade Avenues on the west. However, some rock is exposed along Woodland Avenue in northern Seekonk. Here, the rock is disintegrated and decomposed, at least at the surface, and may be confused with englacial drift. Depth to bedrock is mostly shallow throughout Seekonk, especially in central and eastern portions.

Pleistocene and recent surficial deposits both occur in Seekonk. Recent deposits are confined to stream channels and floodplains, pond bottoms and swamps. Minor amounts of slope wash may be found at the break in the slope between swamps and adjacent hills.

Pleistocene glacial deposits are found from elevations just above stream levels up to the highest elevations in the area. They were formed during the advance and retreat of the last (Late Wisconsin) continental glacier. Glacial advance probably occurred about 25,000 years BP (before present), and glacial stagnation and retreat well before 12,000 years BP. The main deposit formed during glacial advance is compacting unstratified till (lodgment till). Sediments deposited during glacial retreat include loose, generally unstratified ablation till (englacial drift) and stratified water-washed sand and gravel deposits (outwash) of streams created by melting of the glacier.

Distinction between lodgment till and englacial drift is difficult without large, fresh exposures. The basic difference between them is the degree of compactness; otherwise both are composed of an unsorted

mixture of boulders, cobbles, pebbles, sand and clay. Boulders are present where lodgment till and englacial drift probably occur in Seekonk but are referred to collectively as "glacial till" in this report.

Glacial till is found at relatively high elevations along the northeastern border of Seekonk and just south of Route 44 in eastern Seekonk. Two small, probable till outcrops occur in low hills along Olney and School Streets in southern Seekonk. Glacial till often occurs in elongated, streamlined hills known as drumlins. The prominent hill crossing Elm, Chestnut and County Streets is a drumlin. The hill crossed by Pine Street near the northeastern border of Seekonk is probably another drumlin. Since drumlins are sculptured by advancing glacial ice, the long axes of the drumlins suggest a south-southeasterly direction of ice advance. Glacial till is probably present beneath outwash in many places. Cobbles and boulders in the till are identical to bedrock in composition, suggesting a local source for the glacial till in Seekonk.

Glacial outwash deposits are the most prevalent surficial material in Seekonk. Outwash consists of cobbles and pebbles in a sand matrix with some of the sand free of coarser material. It is found in flat lowlands, or outwash plains (southernmost Seekonk), and also at higher elevations. Tops of hills underlain by outwash are generally flat. The flatness of outwash surfaces is disrupted by small gravel mounds (Mill Street between County Street and Arcade Avenue), closed depressions (west of Anthony Street), and by intermittent swamps. Depressions and swamps are probably caused by the melting of stagnant ice blocks incorporated in the outwash plain at the time of deposition. The outwash is also partially dissected by the modern drainage system.

Glacial outwash is locally overlain along Miller Street by a moderately compact till-like sediment, possibly deposited by a mudflow during glacial retreat. If this unit is present in low-lying areas, its compactness may inhibit infiltration of rain water causing localized flooding.

## Soils

In the USDA Soil Conservation Service soil report for the Town of Seekonk, soils are grouped into general soil associations. These groupings, consisting of named soils that occur in similar patterns throughout the area, are composed of dominant soils along with several others of lesser extent. Each soil association has a characteristic overall suitability for particular land uses.

The soil associations located in Seekonk are as follows:

1. **Hinckley-Windsor-Deerfield association:** Droughty and moderately well drained sandy and gravelly soils on nearly level to gentle slopes. Occupies 36 percent of the Town, mostly in a broad band extending the entire length of the western part of Town.
2. **Millis-Scituate-Whitman association:** Well drained, moderately well drained and very poorly drained, non-stony, very stony and extremely stony soils formed in glacial till on nearly level to moderately sloping terrain. Comprises 25 percent of the Town, mostly in the east-central parts.
3. **Scarboro-Whitman-Muck association:** Very poorly drained, non-stony to extremely stony, mineral and organic soils on nearly level or depressional terrain. Occupies 24 percent of the Town and includes swamps and low-lying land along streams and drainage ways.
4. **Gravel Pits-Made Land-Stripped Land association:** Areas excavated for sand and gravel, and areas so altered by cutting and filling that the soils cannot be classified. Occupies 9 percent of the Town.
5. **Canton-Whitman-Scituate association:** Well drained, moderately well drained, and very poorly drained, non-stony, very stony, and extremely stony soils formed in glacial till on nearly level to moderately sloping terrain. Comprises 5 percent of the Town.

Areas with suitability limitations are areas where soils have a limited ability to provide effective septic tank absorption fields, and support building foundations. Table 1 indicates the depth to water table and the permeability of the soil series located in Seekonk. Soils, such as Whitman and Scarboro, with a high

water table and slow permeability are problematic to development considerations. The sanitary and structural integrity of the soils are key considerations in determining which areas are suitable for development.

**Table 4-1: Soil Drainage Characteristics**

Soil Type	Depth to Water Table Ft	Permeability In/hr
Canton	>6.0	2.0 – 6.0
Deerfield	1.0 – 3.0	6.0 – 20.0
Hinckley	>6.0	6.0 – 20.0
Millis		
Scarboro	0 – 1.0	>6.0
Scituate		
Whitman	0 – 0.5	0.6 – 6.0
Windsor	>6.0	6.0 – 20.0

Several generalizations can be made about the soil character in Seekonk. The major limitation appears to be a seasonally high water table. Approximately 3,636 acres, or 31 percent of the Town's total, have a water table at or near the surface for at least seven to nine months of the year. Of 6,471 acres with severe limitations for septic tank sewage disposal, 4,283 acres exhibit severe conditions of wetness. Another 1,793 acres show the presence of a shallow hardpan that prevents surface water from penetrating into groundwater tables. Shallow depth to bedrock is less of a limitation, with 328 acres showing such conditions. Only 67 acres in the Town are on steep slopes.

### Topography

Topography pertains to the degree of slope on the land, which in turn influences such factors as erosion, lateral stability of the soil, and susceptibility to frost heaves and sumps. After determining the local topography, one can obtain an initial indication of appropriate sites for buildings, access location, and activity areas.

There are six major considerations in regard to topography and slope; these are summarized in the following list:

1. Level areas
2. High elevations – crests, ridges and hilltops
3. Low elevations – valleys, swales, depressions, wetlands and floodplains
4. Rocky areas – exposed ledge and rock outcroppings'
5. Steep slopes
6. Good views and vistas

Seekonk's topography is characterized by gently rolling countryside with elevations ranging from sea level in the tidal area of the Runnins River to 210+ feet along a portion of the eastern boundary with Rehoboth. Much of the Town is relatively flat, although there are some significant changes in elevation along the eastern portion of Town that provide visual and aesthetic variety; Jacobs Hill and Chestnut Hill are prime examples. Also of significance is the high land, overlooking the tidal portion of the Runnins River along the southwestern boundary line.

## B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

### Introduction

The landscape of Seekonk with its gentle rolling topography contains many beautiful woodlands, fields, wetlands, and open spaces and retains much of its rural character despite continuing development. The natural features and preserved areas offer Seekonk's residents and visitors many scenic views, recreational opportunities, and functional ecosystems.

### AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

Given the long history of human use and occupation of the land, it is not surprising that the physical evidence and artifacts of that history remain as documentation of those who came to live, work, fish, hunt, and play in the lands and waters comprising Seekonk and surrounding area. As with most communities in the United States, from a stand point of human occupation, there are two overarching eras to consider: "Pre-contact" (12,500 to 450 Before Present or BP) referring to the era prior to European contact, influence, impact, and ultimately settlement and "Post-Contact" referring to the era after European explorers and settlers "discovered" and colonized the land of the "New World". Each era may be further divided into distinct periods that are recognizable through the artifacts and other physical evidence which indicate use of period specific technologies and patterns in the use and exploitation of the land and its resources for shelter, sustenance, and trade which, in turn, were shaped by the environmental conditions, availability of those resources, and socio-cultural structures in each period. During transitions between periods, older technologies, practices and socio-cultural influences shifted to adapt to new conditions, access to new resources and technologies, or seminal events (i.e. the end of the last Ice Age, initial contact between Native and European peoples, etc.). The evidence of these activities are documented at numerous identified sites throughout the region including within Seekonk.

While some specific sites and the presence of land and riverine travel routes have been identified within the modern bounds of Seekonk and throughout the Southeastern Massachusetts region, other sites and the remnant physical indications of these have been negatively impacted over time by several factors. Initially, changing climatic conditions at the end of the last Ice Age (12,500 BP) most likely resulted in the inundation of the early camp sites of the nomadic hunting and gathering bands who occupied the area, at least temporarily at the time and the other indications of early human activity; as local water levels rose and water bodies covered previously dry areas along the shore or coast of the lakes, ponds, and bays of the region. Thus many early sites may now lay at the bottom of these water bodies. Another impact occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries when local collectors, in a misguided effort to amass and "save" as many Native American artifacts as they could, encouraged removal of native artifacts with little regard or awareness of the importance of, not just the individual arrowheads, tools, or pottery shards, but the context of where they were found, how they were discovered, vis a vis, other artifacts and indications of human activity, and the myriad of other indicators that allow archeologists to reconstruct how a found artifact came to be where it was found and why. While many of the "fruits" of this misguided effort ultimately were preserved in local museum collections much of the knowledge that could have been gleaned about those who knapped and used those projectile points and tools through proper and culturally respectful archeological studies was lost. A third important impact on archeological resources was the obliteration of potentially significant sites and artifacts by development activities in the Post-Contact era; as trees were cleared and land forms were altered first, for agriculture, cart paths, and homesteads and later for highways, industry, commercial uses and residential neighborhoods.

Today archeological resources are protected and considered under applicable federal and state laws such are NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy

Act) as well as specific statutory and regulatory protections within the MGL (Massachusetts General Laws) and CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations) which require consideration of impacts on cultural and archeological resources as part of the environmental review process for new development or where archeological resources are identified or suspected during construction activities. It is critical, based on these past negative impacts, that the Town of Seekonk continue to ensure that development in Town be accomplished in a manner that protects known or potential archeological resources.

### **Pre-Contact Era 12,500-450 BP**

The Pre-Contact era can be broken down into the five distinct periods each of which were shaped by the environmental conditions, socio-cultural influences, and available resources and technologies present at the time. The Pre-Contact periods are identified as follows:

1. Paleoindian 12,500 to 10,000 BP
2. Archaic 10,000 to 3000 BP
3. Transitional 3000 to 2500 BP
4. Woodland 2500 to 450 BP
5. Contact 450 BP-300 BP

A description of each period and the principle factors and indicators associated with each is provided below.

#### **Paleoindian 12,500+ to 10,000 BP**

The Paleoindian period is characterized by small highly mobile groups of hunter gatherers utilizing specialized lithic technologies. Their spear points and tools were usually fashioned from non-local deposits of flint and other chert-like materials suitable for the knapping process used to produce them. These groups appear to have travelled widely in search of seasonally varying game and other resource opportunities. Occupation of the area was likely transient as a result of those variations, as well as, the seasonal weather patterns; with the groups generally moving south and westward to seek protection from harsher weather of the winter months. During this period glacial retreat resulted in runoff which caused highly variable environmental conditions and, ultimately, flooding of previously dry areas; resulting in the inundation of sites along coastal and interior wetlands. As a result, few sites from this period have been identified. Artifacts from this period indicate the uses of fluted projectile points and tools used primarily in hunting and food/ animal processing efforts such as spears and scrapers. The wide variety and diverse source locations of materials utilized in tool and projectile point production indicates the utilization of a wide territory and/or the establishment of long distance goods exchange amongst different regional populations.

#### **Archaic 10,000 to 3,000 BP**

The Archaic period is the longest of the periods in the Pre-Contact Era and can be further subdivided in Early, Middle, and Late Archaic sub-periods. Activity in the Early Archaic period continued to reflect much of the Paleoindian period and was characterized by the continuing impact of widely varying environmental and resource conditions with small mobile groups which allowed for highly adaptive exploitation of conditions and available resources. Early Archaic sites are characterized by the small size of their camps and their bifurcated base, parallel stem and stemmed projectile points and tools with assemblages still reflecting the use much of non-local material.

By the of the Middle Archaic period with environmental conditions stabilizing as the glacial runoff began to decrease significantly and water tables and levels began to drop, larger more permanent settlements were established along the larger deeper interior wetlands and particularly at falls and rapids along river drainages. These larger settlements were supported by small groups moving to and from the main settlement to exploit specific local resource opportunities such as anadromous fish, various plant and game resources and concentrations of local lithic materials. During the Middle Archaic period, with the establishment of more permanent settlements, a shift toward the use of more local sources materials

for tools and projectile points, than are seen in Paleoindian and Early Archaic period, began to occur. Indications of the use of stone ground technology first appear during the Middle Archaic period. This can be seen in the appearance of stone containers, pendants and other implements crafted from steatite (soapstone), as well as, the basalt, rhyolite quartz, and quartzite tools associated with their production.

During the Late Archaic period numerous sites in diverse environments indicate a growing populations and specializations of those settlements based on the availability of nearby resource. This period is characterized by intensive hunting and gathering and the first indications of the use of shellfish as a primary seasonal food source. Continuing the earlier trend, points and tools of the Late Archaic period utilized predominantly local materials as demonstrated by the prevalent use of locally sourced quartz and to a lesser extent argillite for tool and projectile points. A reappearance of some non-local jaspers and chert projectile and tool points may indicate the possible reestablishment of regional and inter-regional goods exchange between population groups. Also arising during this period was the small stem and triangular point traditions that are unique to the region and may represent an example of a locally developed lithic technology. During this period early indications of an eastward (Algonquin/ Susquehanna) and southern (Laurentian) cultural and technological migrations of the more westerly and northern traditions; which would occur in the Transitional period, began to appear. This shift and development of the short stem and triangular and appearance of the new Susquehanna and Laurentian point traditions continued into the Transitional period.

### **Transitional 3000 to 2500 BP**

During the Transitional period the trends established in the Archaic period (larger more permanent settlements supported by outlying sites related to seasonal resource exploitation or known resource availability) and the influence of cultural, technological and human migrations of the Susquehanna and Laurentian traditions continued. These influences originated from the more inland regions of the continent and were concurrent with a number of important technologies and socio-cultural developments such as the refinement of stone work, the use of new materials such as bone and copper, imported from the Great Lakes, for some tools and implements, and an increase focus on ceremony and religion as seen in the increased use of cremation burials, the development and use of stone pipes and documented by the discovery of ceremonial structures as a significant part of settlements during this period. Of note with regard to the burials of the period is that there was little intermingling of the points and tools from the various culture groups in individual burials even where those burials were associated with settlement sites containing indications of the presence of multiple cultural groups. This would seem to indicate a level of societal complexity allowing for the presence of distinct cultural groups within an individual settlement.

### **Woodland 2500 to 450 BP**

During the Woodland period settlement sites were widely established in varied environmental locations with significant use of river and coastal areas. These settlements were larger than previous periods and often fortified as hostility between the various tribal groups was nearly constant. This tradition of violent competition and confrontation between indigenous groups would be an important factor leading to the decline of the indigenous peoples in the Post Contact era. As the larger and more permanent settlements were established, agricultural efforts were commenced. Seasonal movements occurred between the primary “village” settlements which were generally in more sheltered in-land locations and outlying sites strategically located to exploit known resource opportunities such as the Spring runs of anadromous fish, seasonal access to shellfish and other coastal resources, or known deposits of lithic materials. An important development in the Woodland period was earthen pottery, which supplanted much of the stone utensils used in association with food storage, preparation and consumption. The predominant and varied points indicative of the Woodland period were side-notched, small triangular, large triangular, corner removed, and leaf; and speak to the cultural influences and local technological developments that had developed during the Late Archaic and Transitional periods.

## Contact 450 BP-300 BP

The contact period began with sporadic interactions between the native populations and European explorers, fishermen, and, shortly thereafter, traders; and, at first, had limited impact on those populations. These early influences can be seen most notably in the introduction to and adoption of European "trade" goods which often replaced goods that had previously been furnished from local raw materials. However, as those initial, relatively innocuous contacts were followed by colonization and settlement, European goods and disease had an increasingly significant and often negative impact on local native communities and culture. For example, the land that would become Seekonk was acquired from the Wampanoag Tribe in 1641 after several of their villages had been ravaged by an outbreak of disease, likely of European origin, in the 1630's that almost wiped out the tribe; and also in part, to provide, an English buffer, in the form of the newly established settlement of Seacunke from their traditional enemies the Narragansetts who occupied the land around the bay which continues to bear their name today. At this time, and consistent with the pattern established in the Woodland period, core permanent settlements proximate to arable land for agriculture and water routes for transportation had been established along major rivers with their associated seasonal sites at estuaries, headwaters and interior drainages. Findings at known settlements and sites indicate diverse use of: mineral and animal resources, freshwater, game, and marine food sources, with major north south as well as east west trail running along the principal rivers and between the core area associated with those rivers respectively. One such core area and associated trail network was located along the 10 Mile and Runnins Rivers.

## Post-Contact Era 450 BP to Present

The Post-contact period may be divided into six periods reflecting and documenting the ever growing influence, impact, and intensity of human activity after the first European explorers, fishermen and eventually settlers came to the land that would become Seekonk, Massachusetts, United States of America. The Post-Contact periods are identified as follows:

1. Plantation 1500-1675 AD
2. Colonial 1675-1775 AD
3. Federal 1775-1830 AD
4. Industrial 1830-1870 AD
5. Post Industrial 1870-1915
6. Modern 1915-present

A description of each period and the principle factors and indicators associated with each is provided below.

### Plantation 1500-1675 AD

The Plantation period refers to the period of initial contact and settlement by the European colonists when large land grants or "plantations" were made, under royal authority to various colonial enterprises for reasons generally ranging from religious freedom to commercial exploitation. Settlements were initially provided for only basic needs of shelter, food, and governance (spiritual and temporal). During this period water routes and native trails were used for transportation to and among the dispersed frontier settlements with water being the primary mode of transport. Industry was limited to agricultural, at first largely subsistence, and small scale industrial efforts such as grist and saw mills. Archeological indicators of Plantation period sites include pipestems with stem diameters of 7-9/64", "Majolica" earthenware, hand wrought nail, and free blown glass.

### Colonial 1675-1775 AD

The Colonial period was punctuated by bloody conflict but also saw significant expansion and development as the initial frontier settlements gave way to towns and ultimately nascent cities with increased trade and the birth of industry. The period began with a conflict between the settlers and local

native tribes which is known as King Phillips War. The conflict resulted in attacks on 52 of the 90, then existing towns in New England and the destruction of twelve of those 52 including "Old Rehoboth" of which Seekonk was then a part. The period would be punctuated by conflict; first with the native populations who were being slowly and inexorably dispossessed of and displaced from their traditional lands, next between European powers which drew in their colonies into conflicts such as Queen Anne's War and the Seven Years War over "control" of the continent. For Great Britain, the resulting cost of these martial efforts, particularly of the later wars amongst the colonial powers, would drive attempts to recoup those costs via taxation of their American colonies leading to tension between the two that would ultimately result in the America Revolution. Another revolution was also born in this period with the beginnings of industry in the developing urban centers. There was also increased intercoastal and international trading supported the development of the shipbuilding industry while agriculture and the collection of raw materials remained important on the more rural areas. Indicators of Colonial period sites include: pipestems of 4-5/64" diameter, tin glazed earthenware, white salt glazed or scratch blue stoneware, redware, hand wrought nails, free blown glass and molded glass bottles.

### **Federal 1775-1830 AD**

The first part of the Federal period encompasses the period during which the American Revolution was fought (1775-1783) with the area being generally unaffected by the war excepting the British occupation of Newport which resulted in some raids against the communities along Narragansett Bay and the abortive effort to dislodge the British known as the Battle of Rhode Island. With the start of industrialization and growth of shipping, trade became an increasingly important although it was impacted by both the American Revolution, trade disputes in the early 1800's, and the Napoleonic wars. The last of which would, in part, lead to War of 1812 between Great Britain and the new formed United States. Rural areas remained agricultural during the Federal period while urban areas continued to grow as industrial technology continued to develop and become an increasingly important factor in the overall economy. This was supported by improvements in transportation such the expansion of roadways via turnpikes and the construction of canals for improved more direct water transport. Federal period sites are generally indicated by the following finds: 4/64th diameter pipestems, hand wrought and machine cut nails, creamware, pearlware, 3 piece mold glass bottles, tin cans.

### **Industrial 1830-1870 AD**

The Industrial period is one of significant technological advancement and growth the results of which had, arguable the most significant impact on the Town of Seekonk in that Pawtucket and East Providence would become separate communities in the state of Rhode Island leaving Seekonk with its current boundaries. During this period several factors led to a decline in the importance of agriculture and the growth the industrial centers that would become "mill" cities. One factor was the westward expansion of the United States which saw many farmers relocate to the newly "opened" and "available" territories in the "Midwest" and "West". Another was the availability of the employment in mills and factories of the region particularly in the textiles, metal working, machining, and footwear industry. Finally the introduction and rise of railroads made for ready access to those new employment opportunities from areas that were, prior to the railroad, consider rural. Common indicators of the Industrial period include pearlware, hard white earthenware, yellowware, domestic stoneware, machine cut nails, 2 piece molded bottles with pontil scar, mason and other letter patterned jars, pressed sandwich glass, and vulcanized rubber.

### **Post Industrial 1870-1915**

The Post Industrial period was marked by the continued growth and technological advancement of industry and the rise of suburbanization. Advances such as steam power, electricity, gas lighting, shipping, mass transit, and increased immigration from eastern and southern Europe as well as from the French speaking portions of Canada began to facilitate the development of large scale industry and growth of the communities outside the urban cores into the suburbs of the later 20th Century. Indicators

of the Post Industrial period include: hard white stoneware, yellowware, machine made bottles, crowned bottle caps and double seam tin cans.

### **Modern 1915- Present**

The modern era saw the long term slow decline of large scale industry in the region after the Great Depression of the 1930's, with a short recovery of this lose during and after World War Two. Gradually as the importance of large scale industrial concerns faded it was replaced by specialty manufacturing, an initial re-emphasis on agriculture and ultimately the rise of large scale retail and the personal service economy. These trends combined with the widespread availability of automobiles and single-family homeownership continues to drive the current development pattern of the Town of Seekonk today. The principle indicators of modern period "artifacts" include: hard white earthenware, stoneware, porcelains, and melamine (post WWII), fully automatic machine made bottles, purple manganese glass, beer can (1935), pull tab can opening (1962), and plastics.

## **C. WATER RESOURCES**

Water resources are defined as lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, streams and subsurface aquifers. The function of such resources is twofold: municipal water supply and recreation. Drainage patterns in the town are characteristic of those areas in the downstream portions of a watershed. Topography is subdued and streams have meandering channels with broad floodplains. There are also numerous areas with poorly defined drainage ways which result in an accumulation of surface water during periods of high precipitation and runoff.

The largest of the three watersheds is that of the Runnins River, which occupies approximately 4,775 acres in the western part of the town. Two impounded ponds, Burrs Pond and Grist Mill Pond, are located within the watershed. The Runnins River forms the town boundary south of County Street. Between County Street and Ledge Road the stream channel passes through several residential areas and one golf course.

The second largest watershed is that of the Ten Mile River, with approximately 4,000 acres located within Seekonk. While much of the watershed is rural, development near the channel itself is intensive. Waste water discharge into the river comes from three sources: two manufacturing firms and a sewage treatment plant. Because of poor water quality and frequent lowland flooding, the watershed has been the scene of much concern and study. One major tributary of the Ten Mile River, Coles Brook, has a watershed of 1,450 acres. Coles Brook arises north of the Ledgemont Country Club and drains into Central Pond. The Turner Reservoir, Gammino Pond and Brown's Pond are also located within the watershed.

The eastern part of Seekonk lies within the Palmer River Watershed, which has 3,080 acres within the town boundary. Two named streams, Clear Run Brook and Torrey Creek, flow through the watershed. Clear Run has a drainage area of approximately 900 acres, while Torrey has one of 950 acres. Miller Street Pond, a man-made impoundment, is located within the watershed.

## **D. VEGETATION**

Vegetation is the plant cover on the landscape and provides habitat for wildlife as well as a changing seasonal panorama of views for residents. Lawns and ornamental plantings are one type of humanly maintained type of vegetation, which is enjoyed for decoration and recreational purposes and can attract birds, rabbits, and other wildlife. Golf courses and sports fields also maintain grassy vegetation.

Farmland contains pastures, hayfields and cropland that all support other types of humanly maintained vegetation. These areas contrast to the areas of unmanaged vegetation, which includes woodlands, shrublands, and open fields and provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife as well as a diversity rare and scenic plant species. In fact biodiversity in Seekonk begins with the variety of vegetation types whether managed or unmanaged and wild.

Many of the environmental benefits the vegetation are often overlooked or taken for granted. Vegetation protects streams, watersheds and floodplains by stabilizing soil, which consequently helps protect water supplies; provides opportunities for recreation as well as wildlife habitat; it acts as buffer zones between incompatible uses; and it plays a major role in the ecological system of an area by cleansing the air, reducing climate fluctuations and serving as windbreaks. Other well-known benefits of vegetation are the enhancement of visual quality through the provision of aesthetic views and by adding variety to the landscape.

In this study, vegetative cover refers to woodlands and wetlands as well as several types of open land including abandoned fields and orchards, pastures, unused tillable land, and utility-line areas. Each of these open land types supports a number of different stages of vegetative succession and serves a variety of purposes.

The woodland community is by far Seekonk's most abundant vegetative resource. Although significant for the town, this does not represent a heavy forestation in comparison with surrounding towns. The town has not seen a significant decline in its woodland community over the last quarter century, as 45% of the town was forested in 1951.

Mature hardwoods dominate the town's woodland areas. Young hardwoods and young mixed hardwood/softwood stands comprise about one-fourth of the total woodland community. In addition, 5 acres are classified as stream corridor protection woodlands. Only 8.4% of the woodland community is classified as managed woodland forest.

Wetlands vegetation is found on 447 acres or 3.5% of the town's total land and water area. This represents a significant decline from 1951, when 692 acres were classified as wetlands. For the purposes of this study, wetlands include deep and shallow fresh water marshes, shrub swamps, seasonally flooded flats, and meadows. Vegetative types range from small herbaceous plants, sedges, rushes, cattails, bulrushes, and water-lilies, up to larger species such as elder, buttonbush, dogwood, and willow.

Among the open land vegetative types mentioned above, abandoned fields are the most abundant in Seekonk. Abandoned fields are lands which were previously cleared for a variety of purposes, such as agriculture (cropland or pasture land) or proposed development. Since clearing, the original intentions for use have been altered and the open land is gradually reverting to wild land. In the process of succession, woody vegetation in the form of shrubs, small trees and grasses are all abundant with tree crown cover being less than 30%. Abandoned fields serve a valuable role as wildlife habitat, and have been observed on 714 acres in Seekonk. Abandoned orchards have not been found in town.

Pasture land is defined as wild hay land which is not suitable for tillage due to steepness of slope, poor drainage, stoniness, or lack of fertility. This land has less sharply defined boundaries and may include scattered shade trees for the grazing animals. Seekonk has twenty acres of such pasture land.

Unused tillable land is defined as land which has not recently been tilled and is not part of a set agricultural unit. Because of its potential for development, it is generally mowed annually to maintain its value. Seekonk has seven acres of unused tillable land.

Utility line areas are those lands through which power lines, buried telephone lines, gas or oil pipelines, including rights of way 100 feet or more in width, are maintained through wooded areas. Seekonk has 195 acres of utility line land, much of which holds an added potential as wildlife habitat land.

Vegetation is a valuable natural resource that serves a number of important purposes. The open space plan is geared towards maintaining and upgrading Seekonk's vegetative cover.

## **E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

Wildlife areas play an integral role in maintaining ecosystem diversity and stability and therefore should be included in all community planning efforts. Protection of wildlife habitats aids in the preservation of rare or endangered species. Wetlands are one such habitat that also act as a "sponge" during periods of flooding or excess runoff and thus lessen flood impact on adjacent urbanized areas. They are native habitats for water fowl, muskrats, turtles, snakes, and a wide variety of amphibia including frogs and salamanders. They hold a great deal of educational and recreational potential, in addition to providing aesthetic relief and diversity.

Wildlife wetlands are defined as shallow and deep marshes, shrub swamps, seasonally flooded flat, bogs, meadows and river overflow land, Seekonk has approximately 400 acres in wildlife wetland use, mostly scattered throughout the town.

Seekonk contains one large area dedicated solely for the protection and preservation of wildlife. The Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, owned and maintained by the Rhode Island Audubon Society, encompasses 202 acres in the northern part of the town, off Brown Avenue. Three hundred or more acres along or just back from Prospect Street with conservation easements or belonging to the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust off Prospect Street are a good wildlife habitat area. Here live fox, coyotes, white-tailed deer, opossums, skunk, fisher cats, wild turkeys, woodcock, and many song birds. The 22 acres of the Martin Wildlife Refuge across from the Grist Mill also provides wildlife habitat and surrounds Burr Pond with a variety of fish.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game does not conduct stocking in streams or ponds in Seekonk. The Ten Mile River offers potential for fisheries management, but the present polluted state of its waters limits use for fishing. The Runnins River also offers potential for such management, but its small size and proximity to urban development could limit such use. A number of residents fish at Burr Pond along the Runnins River.

Seekonk has had limited environmental surveys, resulting in a much smaller record of rare species of plant and wildlife than what possibly exist. Although Seekonk is lacking in rare species data, the large portion of wetlands throughout the town may support species such as rare reptiles and amphibians. Records of nearby towns support this supposition. For example, Rehoboth has similar topography to Seekonk and has recorded species such as the blue-spotted salamander, wood turtle, Eastern box turtle and Eastern spade foot toad, which is listed as threatened.

Effort should be made to update surveys, and, if needed, preservation of such areas should be initiated.

## F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

With just over 10% of the total land mass in Seekonk protected either by conservation restrictions or open space designation, Seekonk residents and visitors are fortunate to enjoy a myriad of beautiful vistas and picturesque landscapes, from placid waters to fertile farmlands to meandering trails.

### Waterways

Along both the Runnins and Ten Mile Rivers, there are a number of scenic areas for passive recreation enjoyment. All of the areas mentioned below allow fishing (some are catch and release only) and non-motorized boating as well as ample opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature photography, etc.

Just off the Ten Mile River, Gammino Pond, a former quarry site, offers a cold-water fishery deep enough to support an adult fish population year-round. A little further downstream, Turner Reservoir also offers recreational access. Both sites offer loop trails for walking, hiking, and biking.

The Runnins River can be viewed along the trails of the Arcade Woods Conservation Area and the Martin Nature Preserve as well as the Grist Mill Pond and Burr's Pond Conservation Area. Fishing is permitted at the Grist Mill Pond and Burr's Pond, with the later offering non-motorized boating access as well.

### Farmlands

Seekonk has a rich agricultural history and through conservation restrictions and acquisitions has worked to maintain its rural charm and character. The Barquist and Young Farm Conservation Areas were historically used as pastureland for cattle with large meadows and while they are no longer actively grazed, the open fields are maintained regularly to prevent field succession. Osamequin, Cuddington, Oakdale, Ferry, R&R, and Four Town Farms among others are actively used for a variety of crops with portions of them preserved through agricultural preservation restrictions.

### Conservation Areas & Trails

While Seekonk has many parcels set aside as protected open space, the areas mentioned here offer passive recreation access via multi-use trails.

- Martin Nature Reserve: The 27-acre reserve, maintained for public use by the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, surrounds Burr's Pond, a wide depression along the Runnins River and provides access to the pond for fishing and other recreation. The trails offer opportunities for hiking, bird watching, or just enjoying the diverse forested vegetation. Cross-country teams from Seekonk High School train there during the fall and enjoy shaded runs in September heat. Biology classes from Seekonk High School also carry out projects there each year. The Reserve is mostly forested but contains an open field along its northwest boundary. The Reserve has two parking lots, one maintained by the town near the dam for Burr's Pond at the south end, and the other maintained by the Land Trust at the north end.
- Cushing Preserve: The Cushing Preserve is a 10.38-acre natural area with an open field and a small shaded pond with a bench, which is a short walk from the parking area. Seekonk Land Conservation Trust maintains the preserve, including the trail and annual mowing of the field. Residents enjoy bird watching within the peaceful reserve.
- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge: Established in 1971, the refuge contains 156 acres of fields, woodlands, streams, wetlands, and ponds with 3.5 miles of hiking trails maintained by the Rhode Island Audubon Society. A large barn on the property promotes environmental education by providing a meeting space for events and for a children's summer camp program. Learning about nature, bird walks

and other activities occur year round. The varied habitat allows a diversity of wildlife, birds, and plant species to inhabit the refuge.

- Arcade Woods Conservation Area: In the forested area behind the Newman YMCA and Town Hall, 1.4 miles of trails for hiking and jogging cross wetlands and the Runnins River to allow residents to walk or run from the YMCA to the trails around the Turner Reservoir. A fiber-glass footbridge and wooded walkways make the river and wetland views and hiking accessible. Bird watching is excellent along the varied habitats from upland oak and pine forest to wetland grass and shrubs. Signs at the north end of the Town Hall parking lot have maps of the trails.
- Seekonk Meadows & Gammino Pond Conservation Area: Seekonk Meadows is a nine-acre meadowland of tall grasses and wildflowers. It contains walking trails, picnic tables, benches, shrubs and bushes and an amphitheater and stage for outdoor summer concerts and events. It serves as a year-round restful community-gathering space for area residents and provides opportunities to explore and learn the joys of wildlife and plants. Its trails connect to those for the 60-acre Gammino Pond Conservation Area with its 5-acre pond. This wooded area offers jogging and hiking trails and wildlife habitat with opportunities for bird watching include waterfowl. The meadow is mowed during the year and the trails are maintained by the Conservation Commission. The Seekonk Meadows Park opened officially in 2012 as part of the bicentennial celebration for the Town of Seekonk.
- Seakuncke Sanctuary: A quiet, wooded parcel on the east side of Central Pond with occasional clearings of tall grass, the trail meanders along the Central Pond shoreline for about a half mile and by crossing into East Providence connects to the Gammino Pond trails. The property is rather quiet and peaceful, offering great birdwatching and wildlife photography opportunities.

## **G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

This section considers potential environmental challenges that could impede the realization of recreation and open space goals. These include hazardous waste sites and landfills, as well as erosion, sedimentation, water pollution, invasive species and chronic flooding. Future development also has the potential to exacerbate existing issues.

### **Hazardous Waste & Brownfield Sites**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has 78 records of hazardous waste releases in Seekonk on file, from 1984 to 2018. The majority of these were small releases, such as oil spills resulting from car accidents, and they have been cleaned up and resolved in a satisfactory manner. Others were more significant, such as leaking underground storage tanks, and most of these have been resolved as well. Five properties are currently classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2 hazardous waste sites, where cleanup has not yet been completed. These include former gas stations, dry cleaners and other commercial/industrial sites. An updated list of sites is maintained at:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite/results?SearchType=All%20Sites&TownName=SEEKONK>

### **Landfills**

Seekonk has no active landfills and four closed or inactive landfills, according to mass.gov (see chart, below). Two of the former landfills were privately owned and operated. The Mello Landfill on Read Street was a former piggery and is currently not used. The owners are trying to sell the land. The Nunes Landfill on Sherman Avenue is presently undeveloped. The other two landfills were municipal landfills,

both of which are now closed and capped. The older of the two is approximately 7 acres and is located on Newman Avenue. It was closed in 1978 and has been re-purposed as a community park known as Seekonk Meadows, located adjacent to the Seekonk Public Library. The other, which was closed in 1993, is also approximately 7 acres located on Fall River Avenue and serves as the location of the town's transfer station.

SEEKONK	SE	172919	MSW	CSU-LF	
<b>MELLO LANDFILL</b>					
READ ST				tpd unkwn	Private CHARLES MELLO
SEEKONK, MA 02771					640 ARCADE AVE, SEEKONK, MA 02771
Inactive	0	1971	0	Incomplete	CHARLES MELLO
Not Lined					
SEEKONK	SE	172908	MSW	CSU-LF	
<b>NUNES LANDFILL</b>					
SHERMAN AVE WOODWARD AVE				tpd unkwn	Private JOHN NUNES
SEEKONK, MA 02771					152 SHERMAN AVE, SEEKONK, MA 02771
Inactive	1958	1981	0	Incomplete	JOHN NUNES
Not Lined					
SEEKONK	SE	172917	MSW	CLF	
<b>SEEKONK LANDFILL</b>				7.00	
FALL RIVER AVE				49 tpd	Municipal TOWN OF SEEKONK
SEEKONK, MA 02771					TOWN HALL, 100 PECK ST, SEEKONK, MA 02771
Closed	1975	1993	1995	Capped	ROBERT CANERAZZI, EXEC SEC
Not Lined					(508)336-7407
SEEKONK	SE	172918	MSW	CLF	
<b>SEEKONK OLD LANDFILL</b>				7.00	
410 NEWMAN AVE				tpd unkwn	Municipal TOWN OF SEEKONK
SEEKONK, MA 02771					100 PECK ST, SEEKONK, MA 02771
Closed	0	1978	2011	Capped	(508)336-7400
Not Lined					

### Stormwater, Erosion, & Sedimentation

Stormwater runoff, which is water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground, is a major contributor of pollution to water bodies. Stormwater picks up pollutants from surfaces such as driveways, roads, lawns, and golf courses and makes its way untreated into storm drains, which discharge to local rivers and streams. In conjunction with Conservation and Planning, the Department of Public Works (DPW) oversees stormwater management throughout the town. As a government entity, the Town of Seekonk is required to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit through the Environmental Protection Agency under a program called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The permit requires the Town to monitor stormwater outfalls for the presence of certain pollutants and to implement certain measures to reduce the pollution that its stormwater discharges contribute to local streams and rivers. These measures include public outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, control of stormwater on construction sites, stormwater management in new development and redevelopment, and good housekeeping for Town operations.

Significant occurrences of erosion and sedimentation can pose environmental challenges. Erosion can impair the land's capability for maintaining vegetative cover, habitat, and infiltration and can pollute water bodies via stormwater runoff. When soil erodes and the sediment is released into water bodies, the soil particles cloud the water and settle on the bottom, altering habitat, water quality, and water flow and depth. Some sedimentation is natural, but many human activities – including construction, agriculture, and road maintenance – increase the amount of sedimentation impacting water bodies. In compliance with the MS4 permitting, the Town has adopted a Stormwater Bylaw to ensure that development, redevelopment, and land disturbance activities do not increase stormwater runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Additionally, the state's Wetlands Protection Act and Seekonk's Local Wetlands

Protection Bylaw, upheld by the Seekonk Conservation Commission, also regulate certain activities that may result in erosion and sedimentation impacts to wetlands and water bodies.

### **Coastal & Inland Flooding**

While coastal flooding is likely to be a concern in surrounding communities, Seekonk is situated such that there is limited vulnerability to coastal storm surges. However, inland flooding is of greater concern, especially for the lower-lying sections of Seekonk. Inland flooding resulting from moderate precipitation over several days, intense precipitation over a short period, or melting snow, among other factors may cause nontidal rivers and streams to overtop their banks and inundate adjacent areas. Intense precipitation also has the potential to overwhelm stormwater systems that are undersized, resulting in flooded roadways.

Of particular concern to stakeholders are the areas surrounding the Runnins and Ten Mile River corridors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps land surrounding these rivers as both the A and AE flood zones, representing large tracts of contiguous mapped flood zones within the Town. Land uses within these flood zones range from residential and commercial development to vacant, forested land. The headwaters of the Runnins River emerge from a wetland system to the east of Prospect Street and to the South of Walnut Street. The Ten Mile River headwaters begin in Plainville, traveling through North Attleboro and Attleboro before entering North Seekonk and then crosses into the Rhode Island communities of Pawtucket and East Providence, where it joins the Seekonk River, eventually emptying into Narragansett Bay.

Inland flooding is not limited only to defined flood zones and may result from failing or compromised infrastructure such as undersized culverts, clogged catch basins, dam failure, and other anthropogenic features. Natural causes of flooding may include beaver dams or other disruptions to the flow or storage of water. There are three dams regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Dam Safety located within the Town of Seekonk.

It also should be noted that under the Massachusetts Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Viewer developed by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) StormSmart Coasts Program, portions of South Seekonk adjacent to the Runnins River are potentially vulnerable to flooding in various sea level rise scenarios. The areas to the northwest of Route 114A, while only anticipated to be impacted in four feet of sea level rise or greater, lie within areas close to residential and commercial development.

In recognizing the town's vulnerabilities in the face of climate change, Seekonk became an MVP Community in 2020, understanding that resource protection, infrastructure enhancement, and resilient community building must go hand-in-hand for Seekonk and its residents to be prepared for climate change in the years and decades ahead. With a heavy focus on flood control, storm damage prevention, and water quality protection, the preservation and restoration of wetland areas to attenuate the impact of these storm events has become even more pertinent and relevant as storm frequency and intensity increases.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change has the potential to exacerbate Seekonk's environmental challenges. Warming average temperatures may negatively impact the survival of rare and endangered species, while favoring the expansion of populations of invasive species, including certain nuisance species, such as deer ticks. Changing weather patterns are expected to lead to stronger storms and wetter springs, with greater potential for flooding. Significant portions of the watersheds of the Runnins River, Ten Mile River, Clear Run Brook and One Hundred Acre Cove lie within the 100-year flood plain, as identified by FEMA. In

addition, climate change experts predict an increase in ice storms, which can cause significant damage to forestland.

### **New Development**

Seekonk's greatest period of growth occurred between 1950 and 1970, during which time the population doubled from 6,000 to 12,000 residents. More recently, Seekonk has experienced steady but slower growth. Since 2000, 1,675 new residential units and 950,000 square feet of commercial/industrial buildings have been constructed in the town. Much of Seekonk's landmass is developed or preserved and the land-use pattern is fairly well-established, however there is the potential for continuing development, both residential and commercial. Future development will likely bring associated environmental challenges, such as increases in water pollution, storm water runoff, sedimentation, erosion, and loss of habitat. Additional efforts will be needed on the part of the Town to successfully address these issues.

### **Loss of Farmland**

Early land use in Seekonk was primarily agricultural, and farming dominated Seekonk's economy well into the 20th century. Since the end of World War II, there has been continuous new development in Seekonk, especially after the introduction of Route I-195, which was located through some of Seekonk's best agricultural soils. As a result, much of the commercial development that has occurred along the highway has displaced many former farms. Many former farms elsewhere in town have been converted into residential housing, and Seekonk is used largely as a suburban community for people who work in the Providence and Boston areas. Today, only a few working farms remain in town.

A handful of farms have been permanently protected in town. The Commonwealth acquired an APR on the Ferry Farm, of which 96 acres are in Seekonk, in 1995. Since 2009, when Seekonk residents voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA), the town has become an active participant in open space protection. Using funds raised through CPA, Seekonk has completed three more farm protection projects: 20-acre Young Farm, the 70-acre Cuddigan Farm, and the 30-acre Yaghsian Farm, the latter two in partnership with the state's APR program. In 2018, Town Meeting voted to appropriate funds to acquire and APR on the 10-acre Pray Farm in partnership with the state. That project is awaiting state and federal approval. The Seekonk Land Conservation Trust and The Trustees of Reservations have also preserved several farms through donations of conservation restrictions. These include Osamequin Farm, Jacob Hill Farm, and the Waddington Farm.

### **Ground and Surface Water Pollution (including point and nonpoint sources)**

A 2002 study by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management concludes that the Runnins River is impaired by excess coliform and expresses concern about nonpoint source pollution from Seekonk old and/or poorly functioning septic systems within the watershed as a contributing factor.

A recent assessment of water quality within the Narragansett/ Mt Hope Bay Watershed cited findings that the Runnins River (a) was populated by pollution-tolerant species, (b) suffered from low oxygen levels, (c) had elevated nutrient levels and corresponding algal blooms, and (d) had an impaired benthic community.

Route 6 Stream #2 (K)	MADEP	Storm water BMP	MA EOEA has obtained 604(b) grant to evaluate sources and potential remedies.
	Town of Seekonk	Map storm drain network. Delineate boundaries of storm drain catchments/ Investigate illegal connections to storm drains	Recommended by RIDEM
Septic systems – Seekonk (P)	MA EOEA and MADEP	Resolve authority to investigate cesspool under Clean Water Act	Recommended by RIDEM
	MADEP	Groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of Mink, School, and Leavitt Street ("the triangle")	Recommended by RIDEM. To be conducted if other abatement measures fail.
	Town of Seekonk	ISDS investigations and repairs.	Conduct investigations as indicated.
Lower Runnins River (V)	East Providence/ Seekonk, MA EOEA, RIDEM, RI CRMC	Reduce Phragmites densities to restore habitat	MA EOEA, RIDEM, EPA are resolving scope and level of effort issues.
Pleasant Street (P)	MADEP	Investigate cause of elevated dry/wet weather fecal coliform	MADEP has confirmed the elevated concentrations.
Grist Mill Pond (P)	Seekonk animal control office	Remove and deter waterfowl from pond.	Recommended by RIDEM

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/rest/pdfs/runfinal.pdf>

### Impaired Water Bodies, both in terms of water quality and water quantity (available through DEP)

Seekonk has several impaired water bodies, categorized as either Level 4 or 5 by DEP. These include Clear Run Brook, from its headwaters to the confluence with the Palmer River in Rehoboth; Fullers Brook, from its headwaters to the confluence with the Palmer River in Rehoboth; the Runnins River, from its headwaters to the Mobile Dam; Torrey Creek, from its headwaters to Barney Avenue in Rehoboth (includes culverted section [approximately 1200 feet] near the Seekonk Speedway), and an unnamed tributary, from its headwaters east of Agawam Court to an unnamed pond south of Sagamore Road. A complete list can be found on page 286-287 at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/08/zu/16ilwplist.pdf>

### Invasive Species

A number of invasive plant species can be found in Seekonk. Numerous studies have referenced the need to remove phragmites from the lower Runnins River and restore the habitat with native species. Invasive species crowd out native species, affecting habitat for wildlife and impairing the ecological function of local ecosystems. Certain invasive vines, such as Oriental bittersweet can overgrow and kill trees, as well as impinging on recreational trails and utility lines. Below is a list of prevalent invasive species:

*Acer platanoides* (Norway maple)

*Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple)

*Aegopodium podagraria* (Bishop's goutweed; bishop's weed)

*Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of heaven)

*Alliaria petiolata* (Garlic mustard)

*Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry)

*Cabomba caroliniana* (Carolina fanwort; fanwort)  
*Celastrus orbiculatus* (Oriental bittersweet; Asian or Asiatic bittersweet)  
*Cynanchum louiseae* (Black swallow-wort, Louise's swallow-wort)  
*Elaeagnus umbellata* (Autumn olive)  
*Euonymus alatus* (Winged euonymus; Burning bush)  
*Euphorbia esula* (leafy spurge; wolf's milk)  
*Frangula alnus* (European buckthorn; glossy buckthorn)  
*Hesperis matronalis* (Dame's rocket)  
*Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow iris)  
*Lepidium latifolium* (Broad-leaved pepperweed; tall pepperweed)  
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)  
*Lonicera morrowii* (Morrow's honeysuckle)  
*Lonicera x bella* (Bell's honeysuckle)  
*Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping jenny; moneywort)  
*Lythrum salicaria* (Purple loosestrife)  
*Myriophyllum heterophyllum* (Variable water-milfoil; Two-leaved water-milfoil)  
*Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian or European water-milfoil; spike water-milfoil)  
*Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed canary-grass)  
*Phragmites australis* (Common reed)  
*Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese knotweed; Japanese or Mexican Bamboo)  
*Potamogeton crispus* (Crisped pondweed; curly pondweed)  
*Ranunculus ficaria* (Lesser celandine; fig buttercup)  
*Rhamnus cathartica* (Common buckthorn)  
*Rosa multiflora* (Multiflora rose)  
*Trapa natans* (Water-chestnut)

# 5

## Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation

### INTRODUCTION



The definition of open space according to the Massachusetts' Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is broad and aligns well with the town's policies and strategies. Regardless of the type of ownership, open space includes parks, active and passive recreational lands, conservation lands, forests, agricultural fields, and greenways, as well as green buffers along roadways and streetscapes. Open spaces may also include vacant lots, brownfields or other underused, abandoned or forfeited properties that might provide recreational value to surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Open space can be used for passive (and often informal) recreational uses such as walking, hiking, jogging, fishing, bathing, boating, and picnicking, or active recreation such as field-based sports, court games, playgrounds, aquatic parks and other built facilities or amenities that require more formalized and often intensive development and management. Passive recreation might also be referred to as "low intensity recreation" as it usually relies less on built facilities and as such is typically closely aligned with the goals of preserving natural resources and natural habitats.



From another perspective, Paul M. Sherer's article titled "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space" (published by the Trust for Public Lands) articulates many societal benefits that the open space provides including:

- Improve physical and mental health of individuals
- Strengthen communities
- Expand tourism
- Benefit the economy
- Enhance the natural environment

The American Planning Association's "City Parks Forum Briefing Papers" identified 10 key ways in which open space is used by municipalities to benefit the public:

- Community Revitalization
- Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Creation of Safer Neighborhoods
- Green Infrastructure
- Help Children Learn
- Improve Public Health
- Venues for Arts and Cultural Programs
- Promote Tourism
- Promote Smart Growth
- Help Manage Climate Change



As this Open Space and Recreation Plan is unique to the Seekonk community, it is important to put open space, and what defines it, into locally relevant context. Overarching goals of the Seekonk open space system are focused on providing important outlets for passive and active recreational pursuits, building community, and creating opportunities for residents to help establish and maintain healthy lifestyles. The town has also come to appreciate that a strong open space system can help yield positive economic activity and development.

The Town of Seekonk and other important stakeholders have been unified in their common goal of balancing the preservation of important natural environments, while providing critically important recreation needs to the citizens of Seekonk. It is important to note that both these trusted allies and the Seekonk Conservation Commission preserve land not only for passive recreation use but they preserve land exclusively for wildlife restoration and ecological preservation. This allows for some properties to serve the critical role of providing habitat without human interference.

## A. OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Seekonk is not dominated by one type of open space ownership, rather it is a patchwork of assets owned by the town and other entities. The management of these properties is undertaken by different town departments depending on their use. The Conservation Commission, along with the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, and nonprofit partners, manage many of the properties used for passive recreation, while the Department of Public Works manages many of the athletic fields at the school facilities and elsewhere.

Beyond the town-owned assets, other high visibility and highly-used properties used for recreation and conservation include those owned and/or managed by the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, Catatunk Wildlife Trust, Rhode Island Audubon, and other private landowners.

The chart below identifies the major categories of ownership and management related to the various types of open space in Seekonk.

### Seekonk Open Space System's Major Owners, Custodians and Managers

Seekonk DPW & Parks

Seekonk Conservation Commission

Seekonk Public Schools

Seekonk Water District

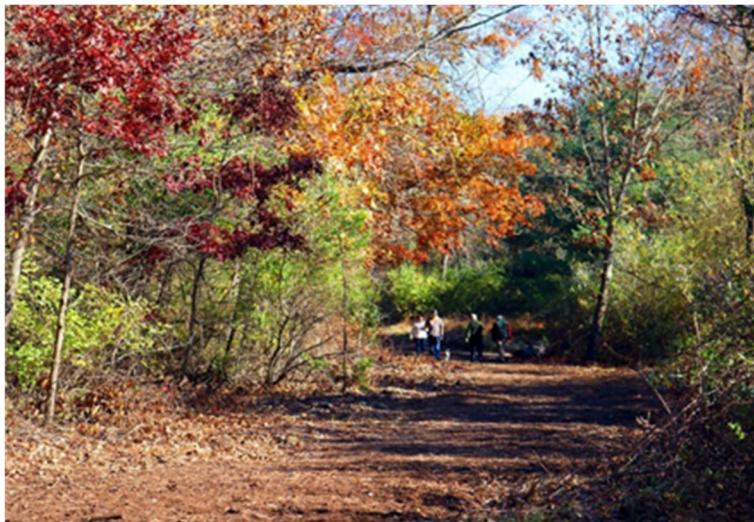
Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

RI Audubon
Privately Owned

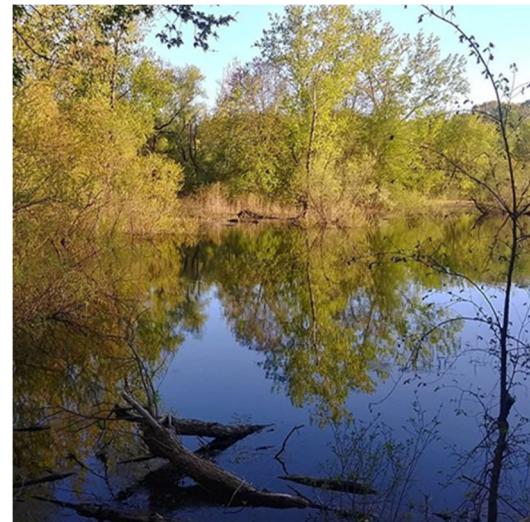
The Seekonk Conservation Commission manages three primary properties that provide opportunities for passive recreation and water-based recreation as follows:

- Burrs Pond Conservation Area
- Gammino Pond Conservation Area
- Arcade Woods Conservation Area

The Conservation Commission manages several other properties that are held only for conservation purposes without public access.



Arcade Woods



Gammino Pond

The Seekonk Land Conservation Trust (SLCT) is a small non-profit organization created in 1967 dedicated to preserving the distinct landscape and natural resources of the town. The SLCT owns 40 properties outright, encompassing 330 acres of land. Other properties they manage or have conservation restrictions (CR) on encompass roughly 364 acres. They have also assisted in securing Agricultural Restriction on an additional 212 acres. The SLCT is an excellent partner to the town with an impressive group of volunteer stewards who aid in the management and maintenance of properties, particularly in the upkeep of trails and signage systems.



Image courtesy of SLCT

**Rhode Island Audubon** is a large, non-profit conservation organization with properties throughout Rhode Island and the nearly 200-acre Caratunk Wildlife Refuge property in Seekonk. RI Audubon works to protect nature resources in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for people and wildlife. With more than 17,000 members, RI Audubon cares for 9,500 acres of conservation land, provides school, camp, and other educational programs for 15,000 children and adults annually, and advocates for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels.



Other important recreational amenities are provided at the five **Seekonk public school properties**. At these locations, outdoor playing courts, tracks, fields, children's playgrounds and undeveloped woodlands provide opportunities for a variety of recreational and educational pursuits.

The Wheeler School, a private school, in Seekonk, shares some of their facilities with the public and has large tracts of undeveloped areas that provide wildlife habitat and form a part of the town's environmental ecosystem, especially along the Runnins River.

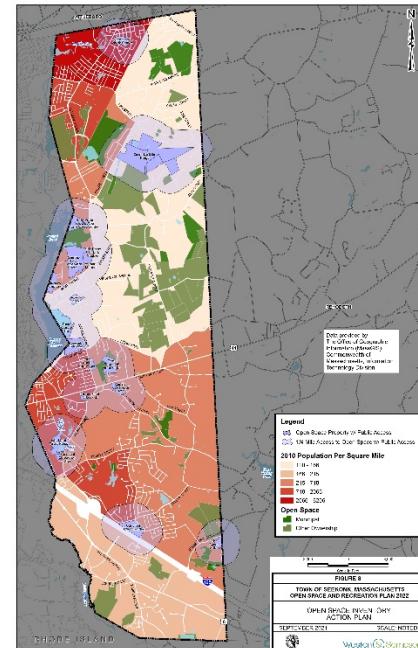
Other large open space areas include the two golf courses in town, Ledgemont Country Club, and the Pawtucket Country Club. Both are private clubs and do not provide access to the general public.

Along the town's eastern border with Rehoboth, there is large portion of agricultural land that is still in use. Some of this land has been preserved through Agricultural or Conservation Restrictions limiting the future use of the properties and preventing it from being developed into housing developments.

## B. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM INVENTORY

In updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, ten properties were visited. All of the properties provide public access to the general public. The ownership varies between the school department, conservation commission, and Seekonk DPW & Parks. School facilities that do not provide access to the general public for such organizations like sport leagues did not have a full inventory produced. Following is a narrative description of many of the Town's most prominent open space and recreation assets.

(For a comprehensive listing of all open space assets located within the Town of Seekonk, refer to Appendix B – Open Space Inventory Matrix. For the geographic location of these assets refer to Appendix A – Mapping: Town of Seekonk Open Space and Recreation Map - Figure 7.) (For a comprehensive inventory and conditions assessment of ten properties refer to the individual Site Assessment Forms contained in Appendix E – Site Assessments.)



The open space assets in Seekonk provide the general public with access to a variety of recreational opportunities with assets ranging in size from less than 0.12 acres to nearly 60 acres. Uses are varied and site amenities accommodate both passive and recreational pursuits. The narratives below are intended to be brief and to provide a quick sense of the quality and diversity of the system in images and a few accompanying words. They are not intended to convey detailed physical conditions of all natural and man-made features and facilities. Below are the 10 "briefs" from the parks and open space summaries, as well as some of the collective highlights (and challenges) that have been observed and noted throughout the system.



### **Arcade Woods Conservation Area**

Located adjacent to the Seekonk Town Hall and the new town playground (currently under construction), this natural area consists of an informal picnic area near the trail head and a series of trails and boardwalks through the woods, crossing the Runnins River and connecting to Seekonk High School. Throughout the 1.5 miles of trails, visitors have the opportunity to be fully immersed in nature. The boardwalks and stone dust trails provide good access to a river overlook and showcase a variety of native plant ecologies. The terrain is not challenging and would be ideal for full ADA compliance. The access from the parking lot and the picnic would need to be renovated to accomplish this but given the proximity of the trail head to the new playground this would serve multiple purposes.



### **Burr's Pond Conservation Area & Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge**

Encompasses both sides of Burr's Pond and Dam along the Runnins River. While the Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge is owned and operated by the SLCT, Burr's Pond parcel is owned by the Conservation Commission. Access to this parcel is located on Fall River Avenue and is in need of renovation to improve the access and parking facilities. The parcel has great potential for trail system expansion and to provide a viewpoint to the Burr's Pond Dam. Creating a fully linked trail system would benefit both parcels greatly.



### **Cole Street Athletic Complex**

One of several athletic complexes that the town operates that is adjacent to school facilities and a shared resource between schools and parks, Cole Street Athletic Complex provides multiple softball fields as well as a rectangular multipurpose field. Recreation leagues use these fields for a variety of sports, include softball, soccer, lacrosse and ultimate frisbee. The concession/ restroom building adds a needed amenity. Additional internal circulation and formalized parking could further enhance this property and make it a truly versatile resource for the town and users of many age groups.



### **Gammino Pond Conservation Area**

One of the most recently renovated conservation areas and one of the best examples of a high quality trailhead in town. Ample parking, high quality signage, trash and dog waste receptacles, as well as a picnic area make this arrival point enjoyable to trail users and it functions as a small park in itself. The 1.5 miles of trails connect to Seekonk Meadows and provides a loop trail around the pond, a remnant from an old quarry. The trail is a great location for bird watching, hiking, and running. The trail surfacing and surfacing in the picnic area could be improved to provide a fully ADA compliant system. The rustic benches are unique, but the addition of compliant benches would also broaden the range of users at the space.



### North School Athletic Complex

Located in a heavily residential area, the fields at the North School are used for tee ball and for baseball minor/farm leagues. Like many of the other active recreation facilities, the fields lack a circulation system that would help make the facility more ADA compliant and friendly from a multi-generational perspective.



### Seekonk High School - Football Field

The only portion of the high school athletic complex that is used by the general public is the football field. The remaining facilities are limited to school use only and not used by the town sports leagues.



### Seekonk Meadows

Completed in 2012 and becoming the town's first "park", the property is located in an area that was previously a landfill. This successful transformation connects a series of open space assets and is adjacent to the Town Library and the Veterans Memorial. This proximity allows it to share a parking lot. Native grasses and forbs are bisected by winding paths that connect benches and a gazebo. A concert series usually occurs in an amphitheater like landform. A rustic snake fence separates the parking and library from the meadows. This unique park is a great asset to the community and is maintained by a volunteer group from the library.



### Seekonk Veterans Memorial

The memorial honors those soldiers from Seekonk lost in service to our country. Dedicated in 2016, the names of 24 service members are inscribed on a granite wall. This memorial is located off a shared parking lot and can be seen prominently from Newman Avenue.



### Town Hall Playground

Approved by voters in 2019, construction on the community playground is almost complete. Additional parking, accessible routes, benches, a fully ADA compliant play area with accessible equipment and surfacing will make this a playground everyone can enjoy. Its proximity to the Arcade Woods will also encourage more use of the trails. The Robinia wood of the playground tower structures softens the playground's appearance and allows it blend into the natural setting, which surrounds.



### Water Lane Athletic Complex

This shared facility is located between the Seekonk Water Department and the Middle School. While this complex has its own parking lot it is also used by the school department. The facility is used by the town sports leagues for little league, pony league, and major league baseball, as well as for lacrosse and kickball. There is a restroom and concession building located on the property. The facility is one of the major active recreation assets for the town. Increasing internal circulation between fields and surrounding amenities would benefit users. There is some field lighting that is sufficient for practices.

The following tables detail the recreational amenities at each of the ten inventoried properties (Table 5.1) mentioned above (Table 5.1) and at other properties with public access in Seekonk (Table 5.2)

Table 5.1 – Recreational Amenities at Inventoried Properties

Inventoried Open Space and Recreation Property	Arcade Woods Conservation Area	Burr's Pond Conservation Area*	Cole Street Athletic Complex	Gammino Pond Conservation Area	North School Athletic Fields	Seekonk High School	Seekonk Meadows/Library	Seekonk Veterans Memorial	Town Hall Playground/Animal Shelter	Water Lane Athletic Complex	Total
Total Acreage	4.3	1.51	26.7	59.22	12.31	27.8	8.86	1.13	21.7	24.7	188.23
Approx. Acreage Allocated to Recreation/Open Space	4.3	1.51	18	59.22	6	10.5	6	1.13	21.7	24.7	153.06
Address	400 Arcade Ave.	0 Fall River Ave.	445 Cole St.	0 Newman Ave.	2 North St.	261 Arcade Ave.	410 Newman Ave	400 Newman Ave	100 Peck St.	50 Water Ln.	
Property Survey Maps		1							1		2
Parking Lot	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	15
Park Support Building			1			1			2	1	5
<b>ACTIVE USE</b>											
Football						1				0.5	1.5
Track						1					1
Multipurpose Field			3							1	4
Softball			3			1				2	6
Baseball					4	1				4	9
Basketball						1					1
Tennis							4				4
Playground			1		1				1		3
<b>PASSIVE USE</b>											
Water Resources	1	1		1							3
Bathing Beach											0
Boating		1		1							2
Fishing		1		1							2
Historic Resources								1			1
Monument/Memorial		1						1		1	3
Gazebo/Pavilion/Picnic							1				1
Amphitheater											0
Interpretive Signs & Kiosk	1			1			1	1			4
Paths & Trails	1	1		1		1	1		1		6
Unprogrammed Open	1						1				3
Picnicking	1	1		1			1				4
Woodlands	1	1		1		1			1		5
Other: Natural Area	1	1		1			1				4
Other: Community Gardens											0
Other: Golf, Dog Park											0

\* Multiple Properties

Table 5.1 – Recreational Amenities at Inventoried Properties

Other Open Space and Recreation Property With Public Access	Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School	Pleasant Street Athletic Field	Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge	Cushing Conservation Area	Allen Avenue Wetland	Turner Reservoir Trail	Caratunk Wildlife Refuge*	Total
Total Acreage	9.7	4.66	27.61	10.39	8.6	40.17	230.28	331.45
Approx. Acreage Allocated to Recreation/Open Space	0.1	2	27.61	10.39	8.6	40.17	230.28	319.15
Address	165 Newman Ave.	O Pleasant Street	O Fall River Ave.	O Chestnut Street	O Allen Ave.	Arcade Ave.	301 Brown Ave.	
Property Survey Maps			1			1	1	3
Parking Lot	3	2				1	1	7
Park Support Building	1	1					1	3
<b>ACTIVE USE</b>								
Football								0
Track								0
Multipurpose Field		2						2
Softball								0
Baseball								0
Basketball								0
Tennis								0
Playground		1						1
<b>PASSIVE USE</b>								
Water Resources			1				1	2
Bathing Beach								0
Boating			1			1		2
Fishing			1			1		2
Historic Resources								0
Monument/Memorial						1		1
Gazebo/Pavilion/Picnic Shelter						1		1
Amphitheater								0
Interpretive Signs & Kiosk						1		1
Paths & Trails			1	1	1	1	1	5
Unprogrammed Open Lawns							1	1
Picnicking							1	1
Woodlands	1		1	1	1	1	1	6
Other: Natural Area			1				1	2
Other: Community Gardens								0
Other: Golf, Dog Park								0

A full inventory of open space assets has been formulated for this document. The matrix lists all open space properties and categorizes them to better clarify ownership and acreage characteristics. Please refer to Appendix B - Open Space Inventory Matrix.

## C. CONSERVATION AND PROTECTIONS

**Article 97** protects land acquired for natural resources purposes in a very broad sense. It states that the land for “the conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources is hereby declared to be a public purpose”.

In Seekonk, most lands owned and operated by the Seekonk Conservation Commission are protected under Article 97.

Although most of the lands protected by article 97 are publicly owned, not all municipal parkland is protected. Some examples are school playgrounds and ball fields.

Privately owned lands can also be protected under Article 97 if the deed is restricted by a **Conservation Restriction**, **Agricultural Preservation Restriction**, **Historical Restriction**, or **Wetland Restriction**.

In Seekonk, organizations such as Seekonk Land Conservation Trust (SLCT), RI Audubon, other non-profits and private institutions contribute to the protection and preservation of conservation lands that save open space from development and urban sprawl.

SLCT owns land with Conservation Restrictions, but also has Conservation Restrictions on land owned by the town (Conservation Commission or DPW & Parks). The reverse is true for the town, i.e. the Conservation Commission or DPW & Parks may hold Conservation Restrictions for lands owned by non-profit organizations such as SLCT and others. These types of agreements have been mutually beneficial in Seekonk to ensure the protection and preservation of the hundreds of acres of land possessing vital recreational benefit and unique natural resources. It has also allowed the town to be able to expand and protect their acquisition of properties for the purposes of conservation.

**Chapter 61, 61A or 61B** refers to lands under special taxation programs, managed by owners of forestry, agricultural, horticultural or open space/recreational use.

### **Forest Lands under Chapter 61**

Chapter 61 of the General Laws was enacted to encourage the preservation and development of the Commonwealth's productive forest land. If forest land qualifies for classification under Chapter 61, it will be taxed exclusively under the provision of that chapter and will be exempt from full value property taxation. In order to qualify:

1. The land must consist of at least 10 contiguous acres of "forest land,".
2. The state forester must certify that the land is managed under an approved 10-year forest rest management plan.
3. A timely and completed application for classification must be submitted to the assessors. Assessed valuations are 5% of the "full and fair cash valuation" of the property or \$10 per acre, whichever is greater, plus an additional products tax of 8% on the actual products (timber) cut.

### **Agricultural Lands under Chapter 61A**

Chapter 61A – A constitutional amendment approved by the voters of the Commonwealth in 1972 authorized the General Court to provide for the valuation and taxation of agricultural/horticultural land based solely upon the land's agricultural/horticultural use.

The purpose of assessing agricultural/horticultural land solely based on the current use is to promote the development and conservation of these types of lands, considered to be a valuable resource of the Commonwealth. Qualifications for this designation include:

1. The land must be "actively devoted" to agricultural/horticultural uses
2. The parcel must be of at least 5 contiguous acres
3. The gross sales from the land actively devoted to agricultural/horticultural uses must be \$500 or more per year
4. The land must be actively devoted to agricultural/horticultural uses for at least 2 tax years immediately preceding the year for which the classification is sought.

The valuation of Chapter 61A properties are in accordance with Department of Revenue guidelines published on an annual basis.

Chapter 61B of the General Laws provides some measure of tax relief to land utilized for certain qualifying “recreational” purposes. Chapter 61B provides a tax benefit by classifying land, when appropriate, as “recreational land” and taxing it exclusively under the provisions of Chapter 61B. Under this Chapter, recreational land is valued and assessed on the basis of its present use rather than upon its full and fair value, and in no event may the valuation exceed 25% of the full and fair value. Land will qualify if it consists of five or more acres and is retained in a substantially natural, wild or open condition or in a landscaped condition, provided the condition of the land allows to a significant extent the preservation of wildlife and other natural resources. The above land need not be open to the general public for qualification. Land of five or more acres may also qualify solely on the basis of its recreational use, provided such use does not materially interfere with the environmental benefits derived from the land and the land must be made available either to the public or to members of a non-profit organization.

The only qualifying recreational uses are: hiking, camping, nature study and observation, boating, golfing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, skiing, swimming, picnicking, private non-commercial flying, hang-gliding, archery or target shooting. Refer to Appendix B – Open Space Inventory Matrix for a list of properties that fall into this category.



Image courtesy of Ledgemont Country Club  
<https://www.facebook.com/LedgemontCC/>



Image courtesy of The Wheeler School  
<http://www.thewheeler.org>

#### **D. NOTABLE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SEEKONK**

As part of the inventory effort, we have included information related to notable recreational opportunities in Seekonk, focusing on water-based recreation and linear trail systems. The following table, assembled from town information and online sources, shows the available access locations of water-based recreation activities and their amenities:

##### **Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating Facilities**

Water Body	Canoeing	Need permit	Ramp access	Parking
Central Pond*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Burrs Pond	Yes	No	No	Yes
Gammino Pond	Yes	No	No	Yes

\*Source: Paddling.com

The SLCT, Conservation Commission and RI Audubon have provided the following information on linear trail systems:

#### Places to Hike in Seekonk

Name	Length (miles)	Location
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge	3.7	Seekonk
Gammino Pond*	3	Seekonk
Burrs Pond/Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge*	1	Seekonk
Lower Ten Mile River	10	Pawtucket/E. Prov./Seekonk
Seekonk Meadows *	0.7	Seekonk
Arcade Woods/Runnins River Trail	1.7	Seekonk
Turner Reservoir	2.9	E. Prov./Seekonk

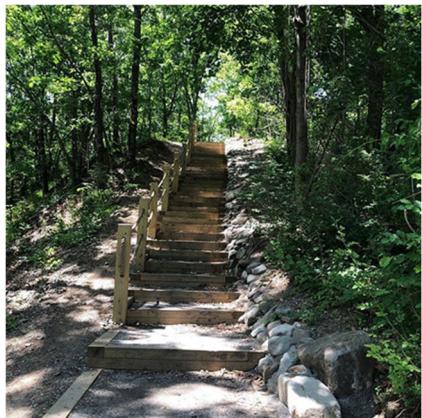
(\*) = Dogs on leashes are allowed

U = Trail has some universal access trails

Trail length is in miles, round trips & approximate)



Arcade Woods



Gammino Conservation Area



Arcade Woods

The inventory tables were compiled from the following GIS data sources: MassGIS and the Town of Seekonk GIS.

For detailed information on the open space assets' current use, condition, recreation potential and public access of park properties please refer to Appendix E - Site Assessments.

# 6

## Community Vision

### A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The goals and objectives for this 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan were derived from a series of meetings and opportunities for public input. This extensive public engagement included several public meetings, participating in public engagements, and an online community survey developed specifically for this report. Additional input was provided through collaboration with other municipal stakeholders, departments and committees. These meetings and forums offered a broad range of perspectives from the Seekonk community which were synthesized and used to inform the vision and resulting open space and recreation goals described below.



Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

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

The information garnered from the community outreach process (described above) was used to formulate new goals and objectives for the 2022 plan. The overarching open space vision for Seekonk is to improve the Town's current open space system to enhance the quality of life to residents and visitors and provide equal opportunity to engage in active and passive recreation. Achieving this vision can be accomplished through the following:

- Educate residents and visitors on Seekonk's existing open space and recreation assets.
- Ensure long-term stewardship and protection of Seekonk's open space assets and natural environment.

- Enhance pedestrian and ecological connectivity between open spaces and recreation areas.
- Maintain and improve Seekonk's existing open space and recreation facilities and promote accessibility to all residents.
- Continue to preserve key conservation areas to maintain and promote water quality, wildlife habitat, and wetland resources

More details on the specific goals and objectives can be found in *Section 8, Goals and Objectives*.



Burr's Pond Conservation Area

# 7

## Analysis of Needs

### INTRODUCTION

As described in the previous section, Seekonk's "**Community Vision**" was established as an outgrowth of the community outreach process and the inventory of actual open space and park lands. This same public outreach process was the source for much of the information contained in this section, combined with additional data extracted from the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and various publications from The Trust for Public Land (TPL).

In essence, we have identified needs based on what we have heard and what we have seen and by applying state and national recreational standards where relevant and appropriate to help identify potential gaps in service. The priority needs contained on the last page of this section are an outgrowth of this analysis of needs exercise.

This section discusses the following topics in a sequential manner:

#### A. Needs

- A.1 Needs derived through Public Feedback
- A.2 Needs derived through Open Space and Property Inventory and Mapping
- A.3 Needs derived through the Analysis of Additional Community Characteristics

#### B. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

- B.1 Statements of Resource Protection Needs
- B.2 SCORP Findings (in regard to Resource Protection Needs)

#### C. Summary of Community Needs

- C.1 Regional Context
- C.2 SCORP Findings (in regard to Community Needs)

#### D. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

- D.1 Facility Maintenance
- D.2 Recreation Programs

#### E. Priority Needs Summary

Serving the recreational needs of people in a suburban environment requires an understanding of the basic relationships between supply of recreational resources and their potential users.

A person's perception of recreation and leisure activities varies with age, sex, cultural background and personal preferences. The availability of recreation-related facilities and services also significantly affect the variety and types of activities people will choose during their leisure time. While meeting every individual's specific preference is impractical, public and private agencies can ensure that sufficient opportunities for recreation exist to accommodate the majority of recreational needs in the town. It is also important to ensure that mechanisms exist to monitor the changing recreational needs and to adjust the array of resources available to accommodate these changes.

## **A. NEEDS**

### **A.1 Needs derived through Public Feedback**

The 2022-2029 Seekonk OSRP Survey was conducted as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan process in 2017 and yielded results that helped inform community preferences. This played a large role in determining needs through the eyes of the residents of Seekonk and helped to establish overall goals and objectives in the following section.

Following, is a summary of needs extracted from the results of the 2022-2029 Seekonk OSRP Survey (Refer to Appendix C - Public Survey Results for full report). It should be noted that over 500 residents responded to this survey:

- 50%-75% of the survey participants selected hiking, biking, accessible playgrounds, and swimming as very important to them. While 40%-50% selected soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, canoeing/kayaking, and basketball courts as very important to them.
- The majority of the participants found preserving environmental and historical values extremely important.
- About a third of the respondents felt the historical and environmental resources (rural character, historic features, scenic areas, agricultural purposes, water supply, wells, and aquifers, and wildlife habitat) are not adequately conserved in town. However, approximately one third also believed the historic and environmental resources in town are adequately conserved.
- The most common activities respondents participated in were hiking/walking on trails (74%), biking on paved roads/paths (47%), sports that require a field (45%), swimming (45%), and use of neighborhood playgrounds (41%).
- While only 30% respondents stated that dog parks are personally important to them, 67% felt there are not an adequate number of them in town.

### **A.2 Needs derived through Open Space & Recreation Property Inventory and Mapping**

Using Table 5.1 and 5.2 contained in Section 5 of this document, one can begin to analyze potential recreation gaps on a town-wide basis.

Seekonk contains 18.4 square miles of land, including 0.1 square mile of water, 10% of which is protected either by conservation restrictions or open space designation. Of the 10 properties inventoried, 125 acres out of 188 acres are devoted to open space and recreation. While nearly all properties owned by the town have passive recreational amenities, far fewer possess active recreation facilities that are readily available to the community, as seen in the chart above.

#### **Aging Population**

The average age of Massachusetts residents is increasing and the facts illustrated in Section 03 Community Settings show Seekonk's trends align to those of the state in this respect.

The trends, community feedback and responses from the survey highlight a Town-wide need to focus investments on universal access, accessible and ADA compliant circulation routes, and linkages to and between various properties within the park and open space system. In essence, there is a need to make all recreational amenities available to a multi-generational population.

### Accessibility

Statewide surveys show that households with a *member with a disability* prefer gardening and swimming. Picnic and historic sites were also popular within this group.

One in seven Massachusetts households has a member with a disability that restricts his or hers ability to use outdoor recreation areas and facilities. There is a tremendous need to design park and open space facilities and programs in a way that maximizes accessibility to this large segment (the aging and those with a disability) of the population.



### A.3 Needs derived through the Analysis of Additional Community Characteristics

Information gleaned through the public outreach process was also analyzed and grouped under four basic headings in order to further inform community needs and preferences. The four headings are as follows:

Community Needs / Wishes  
Community Challenges  
Community Strengths / What Works  
Community Potential / Opportunities

Grouping public feedback into these four basic classifications allowed us to analyze and prioritize information and helped to develop the goals and objectives in subsequent sections of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

#### Community Needs / Wishes:

Stated and observed needs and wishes related to the Seekonk Parks and Open Space System are listed below.



**Improved Open Space Resource Protection and Access-** especially to water bodies and their shores, for habitat protection of existing listed species (natural) and historical resources, and for general use and enjoyment of the public.

**New Land Acquisitions-** to strengthen links between park and open space assets for conservation, for connectivity, for environmental education and for encouragement and maintenance of healthy lifestyles.

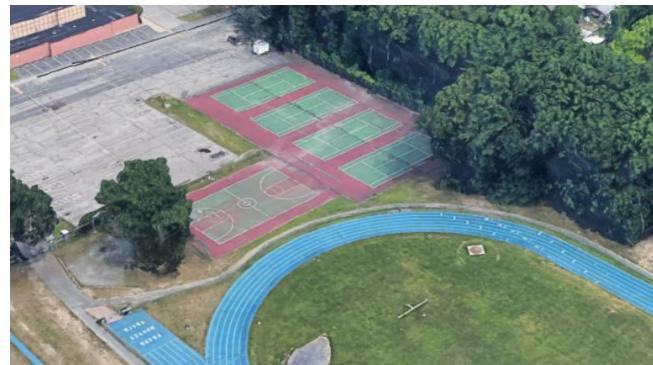
**Strengthening the connectivity of the Town's overall Open Space System** – through the creation of paths, construction or maintenance of new or existing sidewalks, enhancing streetscapes (making the main linkages boulevard-like), etc.

**Water-based Amenities**- high demand for swimming at public pool facilities and at available lakes and ponds within the Town.

**Rectangular fields**- in many communities like Seekonk, the demand for rectangular shaped fields (as compared to baseball/softball fields) exceeds the supply of such facilities. And often, while fields might be available to support actual games, finding a venue for a practice is reported to be difficult for many sports leagues. The number of rectangular fields in Seekonk were once sufficient and allowed for fields to rest, but due to the increased interest in additional sports that use rectangular fields and the increase in population, the current number of rectangular fields available in town can no longer support the demand.

**Courts**- more basketball, badminton, volleyball and handball courts are needed and/or should be renovated for better use. This is to support daily, informal use and use by organized sports leagues and school groups.

**Dog Parks**- the concept of creating sanctioned and formalized amenities that accommodate residents and their dogs was repeatedly raised in the results of the online survey.



**New Investment in Bicycle Facilities**- Many resident participants requested improved bike trails, new/better bike connections, bicycle-friendly roadway designs and the installation of bicycle racks on a more frequent basis throughout the town.

**ADA Compliant/Universal Access**- there is a need and a demand for universally inclusive activities and facilities within parks and open space facilities.

Other themes that have arisen during the public input process included:

- Shaded benches in outdoor recreational zones for summer use.
- Handrails and other support systems on trails within some of the larger, undeveloped and typically passive open space venues.
- Increased public access to water bodies and their shores, i.e. swimming, canoeing, kayaking and fishing.
- Improved opportunities for outdoor (winter) skating, skate boarding and bicycling for youth groups.



### Community Challenges:

Based on the public and stakeholder input and site visits:

**Inadequate Capital Investment into Parks** – leading to inadequate park maintenance / repair (see above), and consequently, general deterioration of conditions and usability.

**Facilities that are inadequate to meet stated needs**- can lead to misuse and disenchantment. For example, Little League fields are often used as dog parks because they are frequently enclosed, conveniently located and because of the lack in formal facilities for dog owners and their pets.

**Connectivity**- physical hardscape or greenway connections between existing and future open spaces, especially school properties, to unify existing resources and integrate potential open space opportunities, such as access to waterfronts and migration of wildlife and habitat enhancements.

**Environmental concerns**- as noted in Seekonk's 2020 Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan include, surface water quality, invasive species management, pest management, and habitat connectivity.

### Community Strengths / What Works:

The following are examples of stated and observed community strengths, policies and approaches that currently work for Seekonk Parks and Open Space System:

- Impressive range and wide distribution of conservation properties in the Town, based on the spatial analysis of open space distribution.
- Models of good public-private partnerships, such as Caratunk Wildlife Refuge and Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, and a remarkable composite of open space lands under various ownerships that could be pieced together for public use and enjoyment, and for environmental protection and conservation.

### Community Potential / Opportunities:

- Attendees at public hearings and other stakeholders identified numerous ways in which the town might enhance the overall park and open space system, including: Improve access to park and open space properties by 1) enhancing site entrances; 2) creating informational systems that direct visitors to parks and open space locations; 3) providing infrastructure upgrades to public streets that link neighborhoods (curb lines, sidewalks, ramps, bicycle lanes etc.) to park and open space properties.
- Water and sewer easements (often linear corridors through and between private properties) may provide potential connections to, from and between open space properties.
- In certain areas, vacant lots that have little economic potential might be converted into pocket parks and community gardens.
- In certain instances, cemeteries might be considered as potential connectors to open space and park properties.
- From a public information perspective, the creation of a single web-based clearinghouse that disseminates information about park and open space assets including locations, facilities available, access and transportation options, ADA compatible facilities and water resource and access options.

- To meet the needs of this diverse and important community, it is necessary to undertake innovative outreach practices, perhaps in the form of workshops or “Charrettes” that engage residents in future park and open space planning and design initiatives.

Despite the array of existing open space and recreation resources within the Town, it is clear from feedback received and from observations made, that improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities are greatly valued and continue to be needed. The majority of the user survey participants favored the protection of open space lands and improvement of existing recreational facilities over the acquisition of new ones. The town has listened and agreed with the community’s preferences through the improvements of the Town Hall Playground and the Gammino Pond Trail improvements over the last two years. However, lessons learned from other communities in Massachusetts which have limited open space to acquire or expand upon, makes the acquisition of vacant land important to consider as an action item identified later in this report.

## B. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Resource protection needs have been summarized based on results of the park and open space resource inventory effort as well as through the mapping of protected and targeted open space parcels in Seekonk.

### B.1 Statements of Resource Protection Needs

- To *balance use of open spaces as recreational resources and their protection as important habitats of species and natural resources.*
- *Passive use in keeping with habitat protection.*
- To *actively protect and improve conservation properties and parcels.* To involve the Conservation Commission, as a key custodian and facilitator of the use of such lands, and to secure funding for this purpose.
- To recognize significant challenges of a changing climate (such as the frequency and intensity of storms that create great pressure on all natural and human made systems) and implement maintenance and management protocols to protect and manage a resilient natural system, that is able to be able to buffer and recover from these climatic change challenges.
- To better manage and regulate designated floodplains, to protect their natural functions and to minimize flood hazards to the built environment.
- To restore and preserve wetlands for wildlife habitat, water supply and open space corridors.
- To add linkages between passive and active recreation areas, other town facilities, and school properties, forming greenways and potential bikeway and/or trail connections throughout the town as well as connections to regional systems.
- To strengthen the coalition of local preservation interests to promote public/private partnerships in preservation.



- To explore additional means for obtaining and preserving conservation and open space land besides out-right purchase, including easements, zoning or other land use and development regulations, such as neighborhood preservation.
- To improve access to the town's limited water resources for appropriate recreational uses. Provide assistance with transportation, i.e. senior shuttles, bicycle facility options, sidewalks and trails to prime water front locations for the enjoyment of all Seekonk residents.
- To continue to build on the excellent work already accomplished, and promote policies that encourage preservation of privately-held farm/agricultural lands, forest, open space parcels and public education.
- To create policies which focus on the control or elimination of invasive aquatic, wetland and upland species and to enforce them (i.e. Install signage which requests operators to clean boat hulls when transferring between water bodies to prevent the spread of bacteria and invasive or non-native aquatic species).
- To identify locations, based on the expressed needs of the Seekonk community, for community gardens and acquire or gain the rights to parcels for this purpose. Plan to include community garden plots, where required, as part of the master plan development of existing park and open space properties.
- To continue mapping of natural resources on a Geographic Information System (GIS) (e.g. soils and development limitations, floodplains, wetlands).



## B.2 SCORP Findings (in regard to Resource Protection Needs)

It is noteworthy that Seekonk's resource protection needs and demands align with many of those at the state level. In 2017, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated the Massachusetts' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to help guide the distribution of federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space, renovation of parks, and development of new parks. The SCORP is a planning document that discusses the available recreational resources in a state, as well as its needs, and identified the gaps between the two. Goals and action steps were developed after distilling all of the information gathered through the public participation process. These four goals in the SCORP include:

1. Access for underserved populations.
2. Support the statewide trails initiative.
3. Increase the availability of water-based recreation (while understanding that Seekonk, with less than 1/2 of 1% of its geographic area covered by water bodies, has limitations).
4. Support the creation and renovation of community/neighborhood parks.

Several SCORP goals and objectives coalesce with the Commonwealth's desire to increase the share of cyclists and pedestrians among Massachusetts transportation choices. Most importantly, the SCORP goals are consistent with many of the goals and objectives of this open space and recreation plan.

## C. Summary of Community's Needs

### C.1 Regional Context

- Invest in roadway and street improvements (to include sidewalks, bike lanes, amenities that support recreational opportunities along streets, green infrastructure, etc.).
- Endorse stormwater treatment policies and BMP implementation to reduce flooding, water pollution problems, and sewer system costs.

### C.2 SCORP Findings (in regard to Community Needs)

Some interesting SCORP findings related to community needs have been summarized below.

Results from a **SCORP Online Survey** indicated the following:

- The top three projects that respondents would like to see funded and constructed include:

1. Trails (hiking, biking, paved walkways, trails with access for people with disabilities, and mountain biking)
2. Playgrounds (for ages 2-5, designed for people with disabilities, for ages 6-12, and for ages 6 months to 2 years)
3. Water (swimming pool, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas).

Results from a **SCORP Phone Survey** indicated the following:

- 40% of the respondents indicated that they run, jog, or walk multiple times per week.
- Other activities most frequently mentioned were hiking, road bicycling, swimming, and use of playgrounds.
- If the respondent was a youth, preferences included those items referenced above but also team sports such as field hockey, football, soccer, and lacrosse were mentioned frequently.

From a state-wide perspective, a SCORP public survey showed that while 54% of people believe that their participation in outdoor recreation will remain the same over the next five years, 35% expect to increase their activities.

From a local perspective, the SCORP highlighted what are likely to be the most popular facilities (1 being the most popular) over the next 5 years as follows:

1. Hiking trails
2. Playgrounds
3. Paved, multi-use trails
4. Outdoor swimming
5. Off-leash dog parks

"For Our Common Good: Open Space and Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts" (another statewide publication) identifies the following recreational needs deficiencies for South Eastern Massachusetts:

- Water-based recreation activities (e.g. boating, fishing and swimming)



- Trail corridor programs
- Facility maintenance programs
- Preservation and conservation of water supply areas, and public-private partnerships for the provision of golf courses and tennis courts.

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

### **D.1 Facility Maintenance**

Regular maintenance of the athletic facilities has greatly improved over the last few years through the addition of 3 staff members, bringing the total maintenance crew to 10 employees. An increase in regulatory field maintenance, such as core aerating and slice seeding, along with the investment of new, more efficient equipment has led to overall improve turf management at all facilities. The maintenance of the fields in town is critical to keeping playing surfaces in a safe playable condition as well as protecting the town's previous investments. With the population and interest in sports that require fields increasing, the need for more maintenance staff and additional equipment is necessary to accommodate the facility maintenance associated with the growing needs of the community.

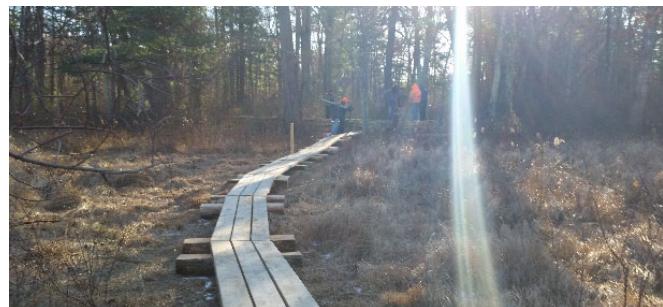
### **D.2 Recreation Programs**

Athletic facilities in town are used mostly by independent, volunteer run organizations which offer both the recreational and competitive side of their preferred sport. The town Parks and Recreation Department runs limited programs, such as summer camp, field hockey camp, and other recreation activities that also utilize the athletic facilities.

## **E. PRIORITY NEEDS SUMMARY**

When accounting for information gathered from the 2017 SCORP Plan, the publication of "For Our Common Good", various publications from The Trust for Public Land, the 2022-2029 Seekonk OSRP Survey, the site inventory process and from comments received at public meetings, we have compiled a list of the top five needs related to park and open space matters.

1. **Enhancement of Natural Resources**- with so much demand for escape from the rigors of complicated lives, there is a great need to provide improved access, improved facilities and resource enhancements of undeveloped and largely natural lands within the town's open space network.
2. **Greater Open Space System Connectivity**- there is a need to provide improved access overall, but also better connectivity between various open space resources in the town.
3. **Continued Investment in Active Recreation Facilities**- while stakeholders representing this contingent were not as vocal, these facilities (as evidenced by heavy use) are critical to support active recreational pursuits of all of residents, and particularly younger, less affluent and underserved populations.
4. **Integrated Park and Open Space Management**- there is a need to integrate new parks planning, programs and initiatives with other economic, infrastructure, health, environmental protection, and



transportation strategies. Importantly, active and passive recreational goals and pursuits have the potential to be aligned and incorporated within a single collaborative and cooperative project initiative or capital project.

5. **Design Open Space Improvements to meet the needs of a changing population-** the makeup of the community in Seekonk is changing. The population is growing and becoming more diverse, views on environmental protection, farmland protection, and preservation of historical features are gaining more traction, and many families have members with a disability. To this end, there is a critical need to advance park and open space initiatives in a way that adequately serves these important constituent groups and their expressed needs and desires.

# 8

## Goals and Objectives

### A. COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES PLANNING PROCESS

Goals and objectives have been established through public outreach efforts and through interactions with a wide range of open space and recreation stakeholders. In order for the town to successfully achieve these goals and objectives, many town boards and departments, community organizations, businesses, volunteer organizations, and citizens will be required to work in a cooperative and proactive manner in implementing the resulting 7-Year Action Plan outlined in Section 9, Action Plan. The following goals and objectives identified in this section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan correlate directly to the needs summarized at the end of Section 7, Analysis of Needs. In a similar way, the goals and objectives lead directly to the priorities identified in Section 9, Action Plan.



The natural landscape of Seekonk includes meadows, densely vegetated forest, important wildlife corridors, land significant to water quality, and wetland resources. Seekonk also has a notable network of passive and active recreation opportunities, including athletic fields and conservation areas, located across the town. In finalizing the list of goals for the 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town of Seekonk set out to continue the traditions of protecting and augmenting these open spaces and expanding recreational resources. With that in mind, the goals are focused on enhancements, maintenance, protection, acquisition, and stewardship.

The goals identified below are broad; the objectives following the goals are more targeted. The action items contained in Section 9; Seven Year Action Plan are even more precisely defined.

#### **GOAL 1 Improve Active Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk**

**Objective 1A | Comprehensive Recreation Program Inventory** - Continue to develop, expand, manage and oversee recreation programming offerings that make appropriate use of recreation amenities and facilities to meet the needs of the community. Establish more programming to target underserved populations, including youth, seniors, and the disabled.

**Objective 1B | Athletic Field Improvements** - Renovate existing playing fields that are performing at low levels due to overuse, poor initial construction, chronic drainage

problems, irregular grading, spotty turf cover and other related issues. Investigate installing new fields at existing Town-owned properties. Evaluate where additional field footprints can be added by reorganizing existing alignments and/or by making use of adjacent, undeveloped areas within the property.

**Objective 1C | Playground Improvements** - Seekonk has a limited number of playground facilities, with only one community playground. Assess the condition of all existing playgrounds to develop a priority list of improvements and repairs to keep them safe, ADA, and code compliant, as well as in good repair. Where facilities are lacking to support demand, evaluate where additional playgrounds can be added on existing town properties to meet the demand.

**Objective 1D | Expand Programming Opportunities for Residents and Visitors** – Evaluate and prioritize recreational needs in the community that may not be satisfied by the current recreation facilities. Inclusion for senior and disabled communities shall be considered in this evaluation as well.

## **GOAL 2 Improve Passive Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk**

**Objective 2A | Develop Strategic Approach to Stewardship of Town's Open Space, Increasing Public Access in Alignment with Town's Capital Plan Priorities** – Develop and coordinate a strategic approach to town improvements that enhance public access to open space assets for passive recreational use.

**Objective 2B | Improve Trailheads, Trail Systems, and Parking** – Provide consistent design of the trailheads throughout town, including trail maps, trail length, trail difficulty, and possible connections to surrounding amenities. Improve parking and accessibility to the trailheads in town.

The quality of trails at conservation properties varies by condition, surface material type and accessibility. Improved parking promotes use and accessibility, including ADA compliance and multi-generational use. Continue promoting and supporting innovative recreation resource management techniques through established and future partnerships to fill maintenance gaps created by town budget constraints.

**Objective 2C | Improve Water Access** – Provide more opportunities for public engagement with the water resources in town. This includes kayak and canoe launches, fishing spots and better proximity to the water's edge. Improve existing access points to water bodies that may not be visible or widely known to residents.

**Objective 2D | Establish New Programming for Lands of Conservation Interest** - Offer more formalized programs related to environmental awareness and protection, hiking, birdwatching, photography, and other passive outdoor recreational pursuits through a collaborative effort across multiple Town departments.

**Objective 2E | Enhance ADA and Multi-Generational Access to Conservation Lands** - As a standalone venture and related to many other initiatives, there is an opportunity to make conservation areas with public access more accessible for residents with physical limitations and seniors.

## GOAL 3

### Enhance Connectivity between Various Open Space and Active Recreation Facilities

**Objective 3A | Create Linkages Between Existing Conservation Areas through the Development of New Trails, Preserving Strategic Parcels of Land, and Acquiring Easements, where Appropriate** – Currently there is connectivity within large open space assets and between open space assets (sometimes where the assets are immediately adjacent to each other). Upgrades to trail systems and key linkages would provide greater connectivity on a Town-wide basis.

**Objective 3B | Increase Connectivity Between Conservation Areas, Parks, Schools, Playing Fields and Other Public and Publicly Accessible Lands with Sidewalk Improvements and Bikeways** – Upgrading streets and sidewalks in between properties encourages use by walkers and leads to inherent public health and environmental benefits. Improving streets and sidewalks along parks and open space assets provides improved access and connections to those facilities.

Additionally, the introduction of bicycle lanes and shared use accommodations as roadways are reconstructed would dramatically improve linkages between open space assets and encourage people to ride a bike instead of driving a car.

**Objective 3C | Land Purchases** – Work with Seekonk Land Conservation Trust in purchasing or acquiring the rights by lands with the express goal of improving connectivity between open space assets and would enhance connectivity between existing open space and recreation facilities in the town.

## GOAL 4

### Preserve Wildlife Habitat

**Objective 4A | Protect Strategic Parcels that Help Preserve Wildlife Corridors and Establish Large Contiguous Tracts of Conservation Land** – Identify and protect through various means, and, when possible, acquire strategic parcels that provide wildlife habitat and connectivity.

**Objective 4B | Preserve Key “In-Holdings,” Parcels Located Within or Adjacent to Existing Open Space Tracts** – Identify “in-holdings” in Seekonk that serve crucial roles in the long-term viability of the ecosystems involved and protect those parcels from any current or future disturbance.

**Objective 4C | Conduct Inventories of and Prioritize the Protection of Rare Species, for Inclusion Under NHESP** – Develop matrices and mapping to identify rare and endangered species located in Seekonk and establish strategies and standards to better protect them.

**Objective 4D | Preserve Unprotected Wetland Resource Areas to Safeguard Flora and Fauna Dependent on Wetland Habitats** – Continue to include public led initiatives, support from private organizations, and the fostering of existing and new public/private Partnerships that preserve and safeguard sensitive wetland flora and fauna.

## GOAL 5 Preserve Seekonk's Rural Character

**Objective 5A | Protection of Agricultural Lands** - Prioritize the preservation of Seekonk's remaining farms and open space, including developing policies and programs that protect and promote agricultural activities (e.g. establishing a local farmers' market or consider leasing previously agricultural municipal lands for agricultural purposes).

**Objective 5B | Preservation and Acquisition of Key Rural Parcels** – Preserve and acquire open space in Seekonk's most rural areas, particularly Seekonk's border with Rehoboth. Acquisition of these key properties may be through outright ownership or by less-than-fee means, such as conservation restrictions, scenic easements, and the purchase of development rights. Enlist the assistance of Federal and State open space agencies and local non-profits land stewards in the effort to acquire such parcels.

**Objective 5C | Historic Resource Protection** – Identify and preserve Seekonk's historic places, structures, and artifacts as representations of the Town's cultural heritage. Support both on-going and future efforts by public and private organizations in promoting Cultural Heritage.

## GOAL 6 Protect Waterways and Wetland Resource Areas in Seekonk

**Objective 6A | Continue to Uphold and Enforce Wetland Resource Protection Mechanisms** – Continue to ensure that development projects meet the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and Seekonk's local wetland protection bylaw.

**Objective 6B | Evaluate Wetland Regulations** - Assess Seekonk's local wetland regulations compared to other towns in the Commonwealth and consider regulation changes, as appropriate.

**Objective 6C | Potable Public Drinking Water Supply Protection** - Protect current and potential sources of public drinking water, by means of utilizing development incentives, permit enforcement, innovative land use techniques, and implementation of a comprehensive wellhead protection program. At the same time, provide opportunities for public access to restricted access areas where the safety of the water supply resource can be assured.

**Objective 6D | Evaluate and Improve Water Tributaries** - Work to improve the ecological integrity and environmental functionality of the Runnins, Ten Mile, and Palmer Rivers and their tributaries as well as ponds in Town.

**Objective 6E | Address Flood Impacts** - Acquire undeveloped adjacent wetlands and an upland buffer along the Runnins River, Ten Mile River, and their major tributaries to attenuate flood impacts, preserve wildlife habitat, provide passive recreation opportunities, etc.

**Objective 6F | Promote Water Quality Efforts** - Under the MS4 permit requirements, monitor and safeguard water quality in Seekonk's ponds, river, and streams. As capital projects are envisioned, establish suitable funding to improve stormwater management

system design, in the interest of reducing the burden on the town's nearby infrastructure and in the interest of treating water so that there are fewer down-gradient impacts to water resources.

**Objective 6G | Funding for Natural Resource Maintenance and Management** - Establish reliable funding sources to maintain and manage properties both in terms of their environmental ecosystems and to provide suitable means for public access, use and enjoyment, including undeveloped Town conservation holdings.

## **GOAL 7      Improve Climate Resiliency at Parks and Open Space**

**Objective 7A | Apply Seekonk's Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP)** - An MVP has been drafted and it establishes a series of goals and objectives intended to make the Town more resistant to climate change. The plan is global, as it addresses assets and infrastructure throughout the community. Maintain a working knowledge of the MVP, particularly as it relates to the open space and recreation system.

**Objective 7B | Park and Open Space Initiatives in Sync with MVP and Climate Change Adaptation Actions** - Continue to weigh the inherent benefits that park and open space policies and initiatives can have in relation to addressing the negative impacts associated with climate change. As enhancements to park and open space assets are pursued, ways to promote a greener, more active, and less fossil fuel dependent culture should be embedded in each initiative. This can provide direct and dramatic benefits to natural resources and the general health of the community.

## **GOAL 8      Increase Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Amenities**

**Objective 8A | Improvements to Town Mapping and Communication Resources** – Improve print and online resources and develop online interactive mapping for all open space and recreation properties. Develop a robust collection of information sources (public workshops, information brochures, links on the town's website, use of social electronic media) to heighten awareness about the parks, recreation and open space system. This includes property descriptions with amenities (and facilities) available as well as maps and plans. These can also highlight the value of protecting that system and all related recreation programming.

**Objective 8B | Improvements to Wayfinding and Signage** - Seekonk is lacking cohesive town-wide wayfinding and signage for open space, parks, and trails. Develop graphic templates for various types of signage to be installed at all open space and recreation properties throughout town. Ensure consistent naming protocols are used across all information platforms and signage.

## **GOAL 9      Establish Effective Policies that Support Open Space Preservation and Recreation Activities**

**Objective 9A | Establish the OSRP as a Priority that Guides Decisions and Actions in Seekonk** - Reconvene the OSRP Working Group semi-annually to undertake strategic planning to advance open space and recreation goals.

**Objective 9B | Appropriate Funding** – Establish reliable funding sources to acquire lands and maintain built facilities within the town’s parks and recreation system that support the remaining goals and objectives established in this OSRP.

**Objective 9C | Prioritize Application Submittals for State/Federal Funding to Further Leverage Existing Municipal Funds for Conservation and Recreation Projects** – Communities are increasingly securing funding through a host of federal, state and local sources that contribute, at least in part, to open space and recreation initiatives. Funding related to municipal vulnerability, Brownfields mitigation, linear trails establishment, open space protection and development, stormwater management and accessibility are being tapped. And on the local level funding comes increasingly through private donations, user fees, and capital project outlays.

**Objective 9D | Align Public Park and Open Space Initiatives with other Town Planning Initiatives** - Coordinate and collaborate with other town departments and agencies in ways that are mutually beneficial. As public initiatives related to roadway and utility infrastructure, transportation, schools, housing, economic development, crime prevention, elder affairs, public health and ADA compliance are contemplated, identify areas of common interest in order to maximize public investment and benefit.

# 9

## Seven Year Action Plan

This Action Plan is based on the goals and objectives identified in the preceding section and on the needs established during the planning process. The following action plan intends to deliver on the promise of the goals and objectives expressed throughout this process, with tangible steps for the town to take over the next seven years.

An Action Plan can sometimes be difficult to manage and keep on track. Items that are accomplished fade from view, while the harder to accomplish items may end up lingering. Financial and political trends may change, advancing some items while leaving others untouched. Even within a seven-year period, much can change, and priorities may shift for a variety of reasons. At the same time, it is important to understand that there is a limited tax base in Seekonk and the town must fold in other potential funding sources available to support many of the action items. To ensure the implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions, the Town of Seekonk should clearly identify a committee comprised of representatives from town staff and existing boards and commissions that will be charged with ensuring this Plan is used and followed. To this end, the town could assign this responsibility and responsibility to the members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee already in place to facilitate the on-going management and updates to the Plan.

It is recognized that no plan is perfect and that all plans must be somewhat flexible based on real-time events and needs. However, with concerted effort many of the important action items identified below can be achieved between now and 2028. This is founded on the general belief that a first-rate system can provide the following compelling benefits: building community spirit, enhancing economic development, providing meaningful outlets for citizens to be active and to maintain healthy lifestyles, and improving the environment.

## Town of Seekonk Open Space & Recreation Seven Year Action Plan

Goals	Objectives	Actions	Priority Timeline	Responsibility	Funding Source
1 Improve Active Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk	1A. Comprehensive Recreation Program Inventory	1. Continue to develop, expand, and manage a comprehensive menu of recreation program offerings.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Schools	Town, Partnerships
		2. Include activities that support a full range of populations and age groups. Examples of program offerings might include soccer, cricket, aerobics, Zumba, yoga, salsa, tai chi etc. (These activities series should run several weeks in a row, be well advertised)	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Schools	Town, Partnerships
	1B. Athletic Field Improvements	1. Allocate funds for updated field amenities (ie, player's benches, backstops, fencing, etc.)	2023	Parks & Recreation, Schools, DPW	Town, Partnerships, Grants
		2. Allocate funds to complete targeted field renovations. (ie, install subdrainage, perform deep root aeration, slit seeding etc.)	2024, Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Schools, DPW	Town, Partnerships, Grants
		3. Resolve the access issues at the Howland Street Field and return that facility to active use.	2022	Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation	Town
	1C. Playground Improvements	1. Allocate funds to build new playgrounds in areas of town with little to no access to an existing playground near by.	2022	Parks & Recreation, DPW	Town, State/Federal Grants
		2. Allocate funds for the removal and replacement of aging play structures at existing playgrounds.	2023	Parks & Recreation, DPW, Schools	Town, State/Federal Grants, Partnerships
	1D. Expand programming opportunities for residents and visitors	1. Through interactions with elected officials, constituents and advocacy groups, confirm the desire and need for new types of recreation facilities and programs.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, DPW, Schools	N/A
		2. As new needs are identified, evaluate the potential for converting existing or underused areas of parks and open space properties.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, DPW, Schools	Town, Partnerships
2 Improve Passive Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk	2A. Develop Strategic Approach to Stewardship of Town's Open Space, Increasing Public Access in Alignment with Town's Capital Plan Priorities	1. Develop a public education and public relations strategy (public workshops, information brochures, links on the town's website, use of social electronic media) to inform the community on open space and recreation matters.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Library	Town, Partnerships
		2. Improve Trailheads, Trail Systems, and Parking	Ongoing	Conservation, DPW	Town, Volunteers
	2C. Improve Water Access	1. Determine key access improvement needs to streams/water bodies.	2022	Conservation, DPW	N/A
		2. Prioritize funds to projects that address barriers to recreational water bodies. Identify the access restrictions related to Turner Reservoir and Central Pond (both are in Seekonk, but owned by East Providence originally as reservoir protection)	Ongoing	Conservation, CIC	N/A
		3. Update signage at water properties and trails leading to water access. Map access points and trails leading to water access in the GIS systems.	2022-2029	Conservation, DPW	Town
		4. Continue to improve universal access to water resources by upgrading and installing new trails and paths with ADA compliant elements.	Ongoing	Conservation, DPW	Town, State/Federal Grants
		5. Expand access to water resources through easements and new trail development.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Planning, DPW	Town, State
	2D. Establish New Programming for Lands of Conservation Interest	1. Establish more formalized educational programming supported by interpretive signage for self-guided and guided outings.	2022	Conservation	Town, Volunteers, Partnerships
		2. Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department, School Department, and Historical Commission in order to address information of historical, environmental, archeological and cultural interest.	Ongoing	Conservation, Parks & Recreation, Historical Commission & Other Entities	Town, Volunteers

		2E. Enhance ADA and Multi-Generational Use of Conservation Lands	1. Continue to identify opportunities for improving accessibility through parking and trail surfacing enhancements. Also achieve advances through the public awareness and new programming initiatives.	Ongoing	Conservation, DPW	Town, State/Federal Grants
3	Enhance Connectivity between Various Open Space and Active Recreation Facilities	3A. Create Linkages between Existing Conservation Areas through the Development of New Trails, Preserving Strategic Parcels of Land, and Acquiring Easements, where Appropriate	1. Create and construct new trail connections via new easements and agreements. This includes developing a cross town network of open spaces. A priority would be creating connections between Gammino Pond and Seekonk Meadows.	Ongoing	OSRP Working Group	Town, Grants
		3B. Increase Connectivity Between Conservation Areas, Parks, Schools, Playing Fields, and Other Public and Publicly Accessible Lands with Sidewalk Improvements and Bikeways	1. Identify and prioritize new connections between existing trails via easements or by signage along public streets and sidewalks.  2. Implement the Seekonk Bikeway Initiative	Ongoing 2022, Ongoing	OSRP Working Group Planning	Town, Grants Town, State/Federal Grants, Partnerships
		3C. Land Purchases	1. Acquire parcels that provide a key connection between two or more larger open space and recreation systems	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, DPW	Town
		4A. Protect Strategic Parcels that Help Preserve Wildlife Corridors and Establish Large Contiguous Tracts of Conservation land	1. Identify lands that provide important connections for wildlife and determine potential for conservation restrictions or acquisitions, especially where connecting other public lands.  2. Work with state agencies and environmental organizations to prioritize corridors for protection and restoration.  3. Review and revise subdivision bylaws and regulations to increase opportunities to protect and create wildlife corridors.	2022, Ongoing 2022, Ongoing	OSRP Working Group Planning	Town Town
4	Preserve Wildlife Habitat	4B. Preserve Key "In-Holdings," Parcels Which are Located Within or Adjacent to Existing Open Space Tracts	1. Identify priority "in-holding" parcels in Seekonk that serve a crucial role to the ecosystems surrounding it.  2. Work with state agencies and environmental organizations to protect the key "in-holdings."	2022, Ongoing 2022, Ongoing	Conservation Conservation	Town, State/Federal, Partnerships Town
		4C. Conduct Inventories of and Prioritize the Protection of Rare Species, for Inclusion Under NHESP	1. Work to identify key geographic locations in order to enhance/protect wildlife populations.  2. Target specific areas for protection and possible purchase.	Ongoing Ongoing	Conservation OSRP Working group	N/A Town, Grants, Partnerships
		4D. Preserve Unprotected Wetland Resource Areas to Safeguard Flora and Fauna Dependent on Wetland Habitats	1. Identify a list of unprotected wetland properties in town. Work with other town departments and the Conservation Commission to provide added protection and restrictions to the future use and development of the property.	2022, Ongoing	OSRP Working group	Town
		5A. Protection of Agricultural Lands	1. Investigate and support "Buy Local" and consumer supported agriculture initiatives  2. Inform property owners of the benefits of 61A tax status and Agricultural Preservation Restriction protection.  3. Ensure that agricultural properties are taxed as they are used, not for their development potential.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Conservation, Planning, Parks & Recreation, Schools Conservation, Planning, SLCT Planning, Assessors	Town N/A N/A
5	Preserve Seekonk's Rural Character	5B. Preservation and Acquisition of Key Rural Parcels	1. Develop priority acquisition criteria to establish and maintain a list of properties of conservation and preservation interest and potential method of acquisition.  2. New acquisitions should be paired with resources to maintain them.	2022, Ongoing Ongoing	OSRP Working Group Conservation, Planning, Parks & Recreation, DPW	Town, Grants, Partnerships Town, Grants, Partnerships

		5C. Historic Resource Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete an inventory of historic assets within parks, open space, and other town properties and make available via the town's website.</li> <li>2. Identify and track sources of funding for historical and archeological resource protection.</li> </ol>	2023	Parks & Recreation, Historical Committee	Town
				2022, Ongoing	Community Preservation Committee, Conservation, Historical Committee	Town, Volunteers, Grants

6	Protect Waterways and Wetland Resource Areas in Seekonk	6A. Continue to Uphold and Enforce Wetland Resource Protection Mechanisms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to enforce the Wetlands Protection Act, local wetland bylaws, and local zoning bylaws (Water Supply Protection, Floodplain and Watershed Protection).</li> <li>2. In alignment with the MS4 permit, implement a protocol for testing water quality in rivers, streams and brooks.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	Conservation	N/A
		6B. Evaluate Wetland Regulations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review local bylaws regarding protection of water supplies and revise as appropriate to provide protection needed.</li> </ol>	2022	Conservation	Town
		6C. Potable Public Drinking Water Supply Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to utilize permits and other incentives to protect public drinking water supplies.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	Conservation, Health Department, Water department	N/A
		6D. Evaluate and Improve Water Tributaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement a full IPM plan to manage fertilizers and pesticides, especially at school and recreational properties that are adjacent to waterways</li> </ol>	2022	Conservation, DPW, Parks & Recreation, Schools	Town, Grants
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Create a list of high priority parks, schools and/or town owned properties that adversely impact Seekonk's waterways. Implement LID and BMP to reduce runoff and improve water quality.</li> </ol>	2023, Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, DPW	Town, Grants
		6E. Address Flood Impacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate floodable areas in parks/other town properties to mitigate known stormwater flooding problems. Increase capacity of flood storage in those areas.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	Conservation, Parks & Recreation, DPW	Town, Grants, Partnerships
		6F. Promote Water Quality Efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add signage to properties to promote healthy, clean waterways and aquatic life.</li> </ol>	2022	Conservation, Health Department, DPW	Town, Grants, Partnerships
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Work with partner groups to study on site and upstream impacts to the water bodies adjacent to recreation and open space assets.</li> </ol>	2023, Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, DPW, Conservation	Town, Grants, Partnerships
		6G. Funding for Natural Resource Maintenance and Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify park and open space properties with special habitat maintenance needs and identify management strategies and funding to address them.</li> </ol>	2022	Conservation, DPW	Town
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Identify operational needs (staff, materials, equipment) needed to better maintain natural areas within public parks and open space properties.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	Parks& Recreation, Conservation, DPW	Town

7	Improve Climate Resiliency at Parks and Open Space	7A. Apply Seekonk's Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to address the action items established in the 2020 MVP Plan. Coordinate with other town departments to establish funding for implementation.</li> </ol>	2022, Ongoing	MVP Core Team	Town, State/Federal Grants, Partnerships
		7B. Park and Open Space Policy in Sync with Climate Change Adaptation Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with town departments and private organizations to develop new policies addressing the issue of climate change.</li> </ol>	2022, Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Planning, Conservation, DPW	N/A

8	Increase Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Amenities	8A. Improvements to Town Mapping and Communication Resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish detailed mapping of trail systems at all town open space and recreation properties. Identify trail difficulty ratings.</li> <li>2. Add maps from the OSRP Update to relevant town websites and create printed brochures for distribution.</li> <li>3. Develop an online, interactive map for the public that includes town-wide park and open space locations, amenities, and other relative information.</li> </ol>	2022-2025	Conservation, Parks & Recreation	Town, Partnerships, Volunteers
				2022	Parks & Recreation, Conservation	Town
				2022-2023	Parks & Recreation, Conservation	Town

		8B. Improvements to Wayfinding and Signage	1. Allocate funding to design graphic standards for wayfinding and signage.  2. Allocate funding to fabricate and install cohesive signage and wayfinding at the town's open space and recreation properties.	2023  Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, DPW  Parks & Recreation, Conservation, DPW	Town  Town
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9	<b>Establish Effective Policies that Support Open Space Preservation and Recreation Activities</b>	9A. Establish the OSRP as a Priority that Guides Decisions and Actions in Seekonk	1. Continue the approval of the current Open Space and Recreation Plan. Once approved, continue to address the goals and objectives established in this document. Coordinate funding to implement an updated OSRP in seven years.	Ongoing, 2026	OSRP Working Group	Town
		9B. Appropriate Funding	1. Explore and benchmark other communities' financial models on maintenance of parks.  2. Create/maintain funding stream for acquisition of priority open space as land becomes available for acquisition.  3. Meet with private partners interested in sponsoring/endowing park, open space and recreation initiatives.	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Planning, DPW  Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Planning, CPC  Parks & Recreation, Conservation	N/A  Town, State/Federal Grants  Town, Partnerships
		9C. Prioritize Application Submittals for State Funding, to Further Leverage Existing Municipal Funds for Conservation and Recreation Projects	1. Maintain a summary matrix and scoring system for active and/or anticipated grant applications to establish priorities and share relevant information.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Planning, DPW	N/A
		9D. Align Public Park and Open Space Initiatives with other Town Planning Initiatives	1. Schedule regular meetings with other town departments and agencies (Planning, Health, Parks and recreation, and Schools etc.) in order to find common interests and maximize public investment and benefits.  2. Include other town departments and other key constituents in the master planning process for individual park and open space initiatives.  3. Seek funding partnerships with other town departments and agencies in order to implement improvements that are mutually beneficial (include Schools, Parks and Recreation, etc.).  4. Continue exploring the creation of a Municipal Open Space Land Trust to facilitate the acquisition and management of land in the town for open space and recreation purposes	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	OSRP Working group  Parks & Recreation, Conservation  Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Planning, DPW, Schools  Board of Selectmen, Planning, and Community Preservation Commission	N/A  N/A  Town, Partnerships  Town

# 10

## Public Comments

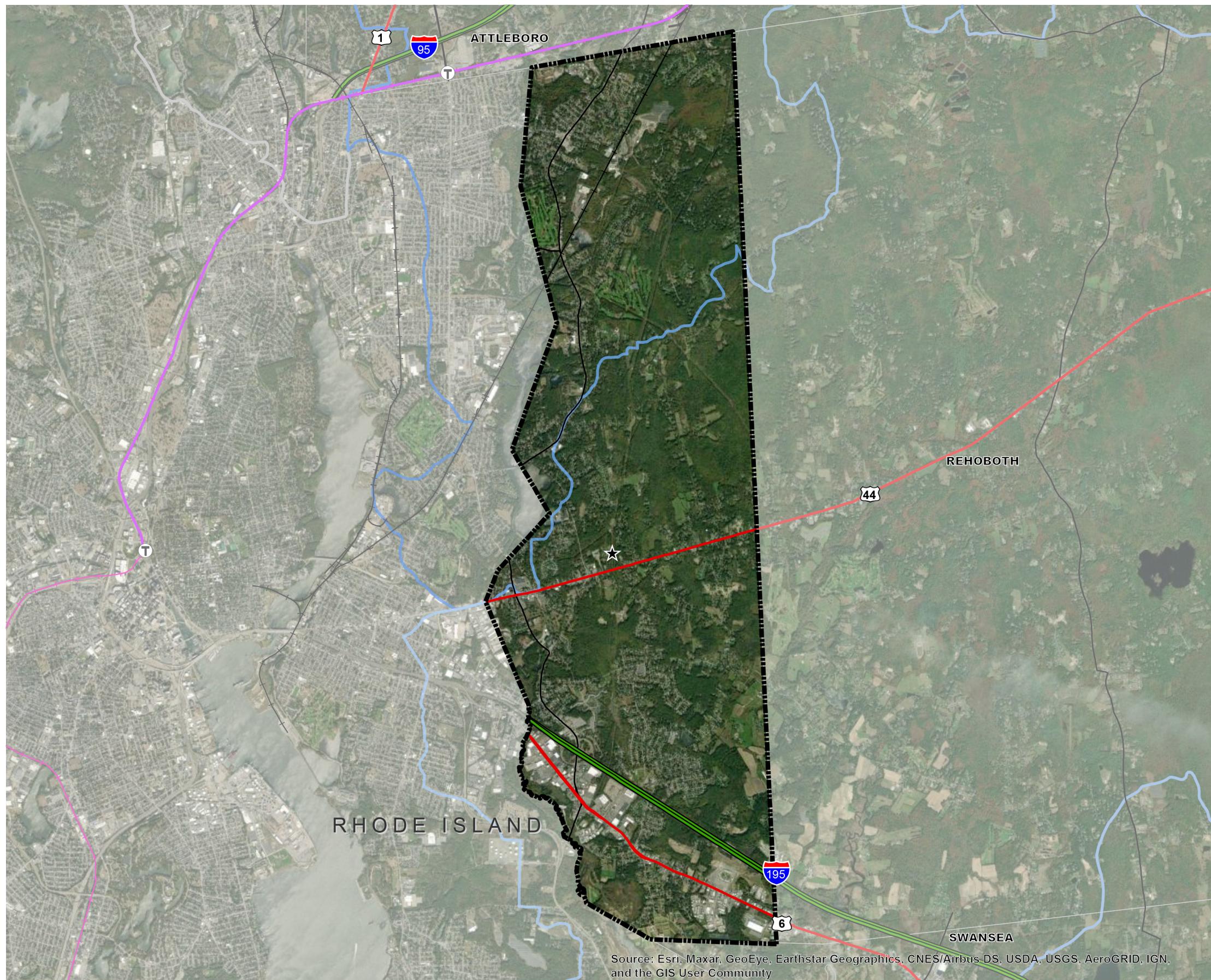
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# A

## Appendix A | Mapping

1. Regional Context Map
2. Population Change Map
3. Zoning and Overlay Map
4. Soils and Geologic Features Map
5. Unique Features Map
6. Water Resources Map
7. Open Space Inventory Map
8. Action Plan Map



### Legend

- ★ Town Hall
- Stations
- MBTA Lines
- + Amtrak/MBTA
- Railroad
- Narragansett Bay Watershed
- Ten Mile Watershed
- Major Water



Data: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Information Technology Division

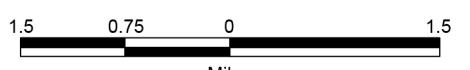


FIGURE 1

### TOWN OF SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2022

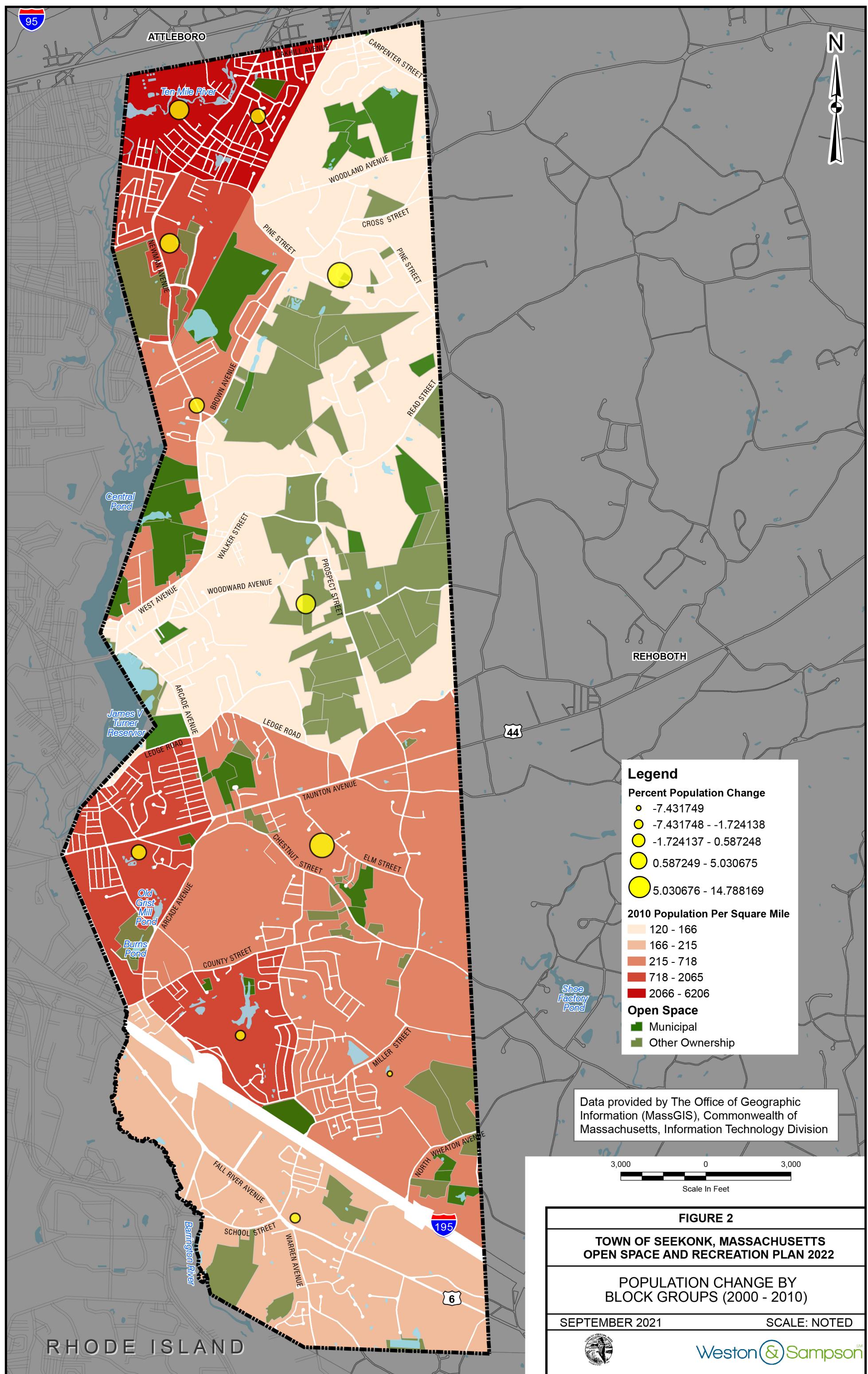
#### REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

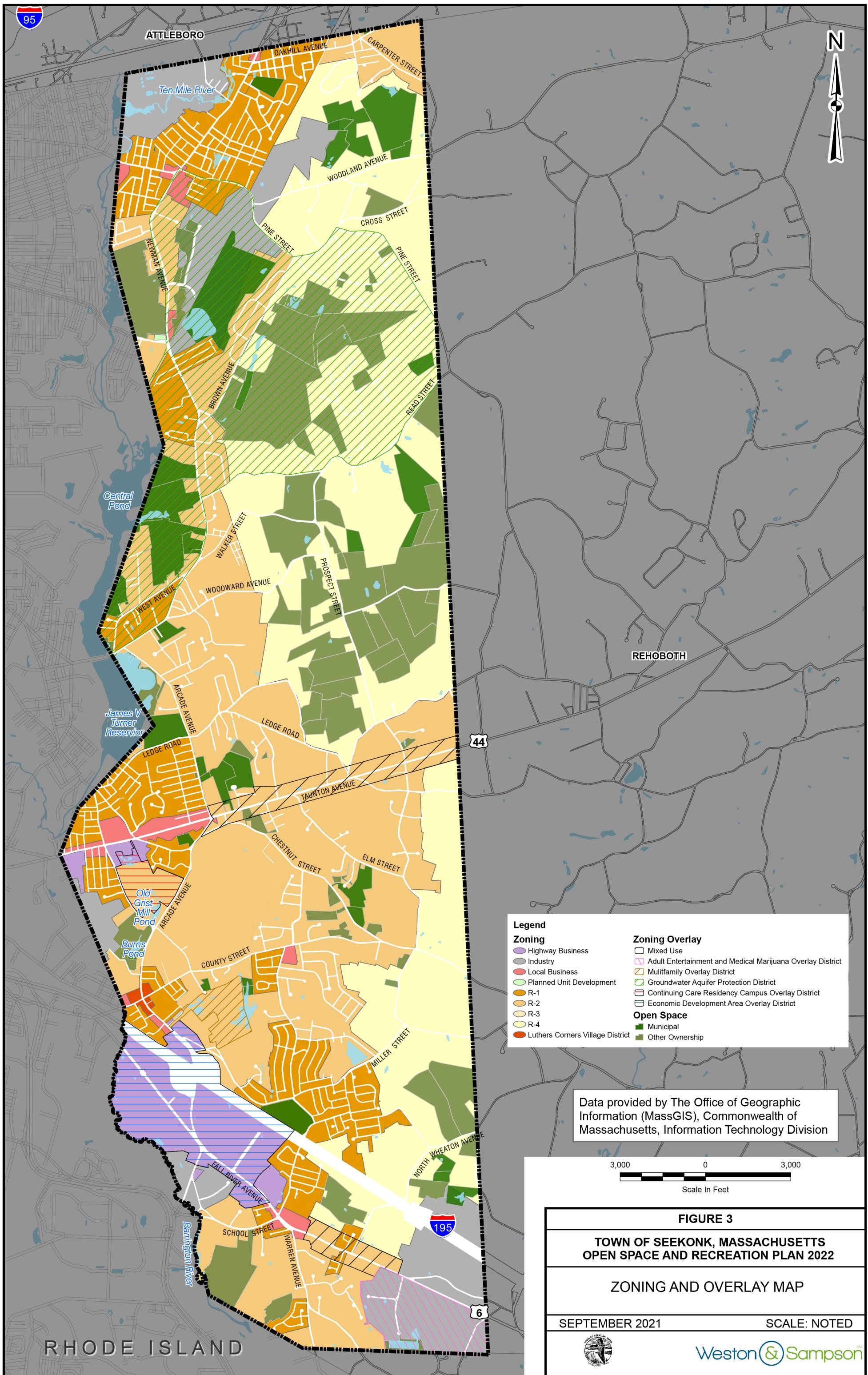
SEPTEMBER 2021

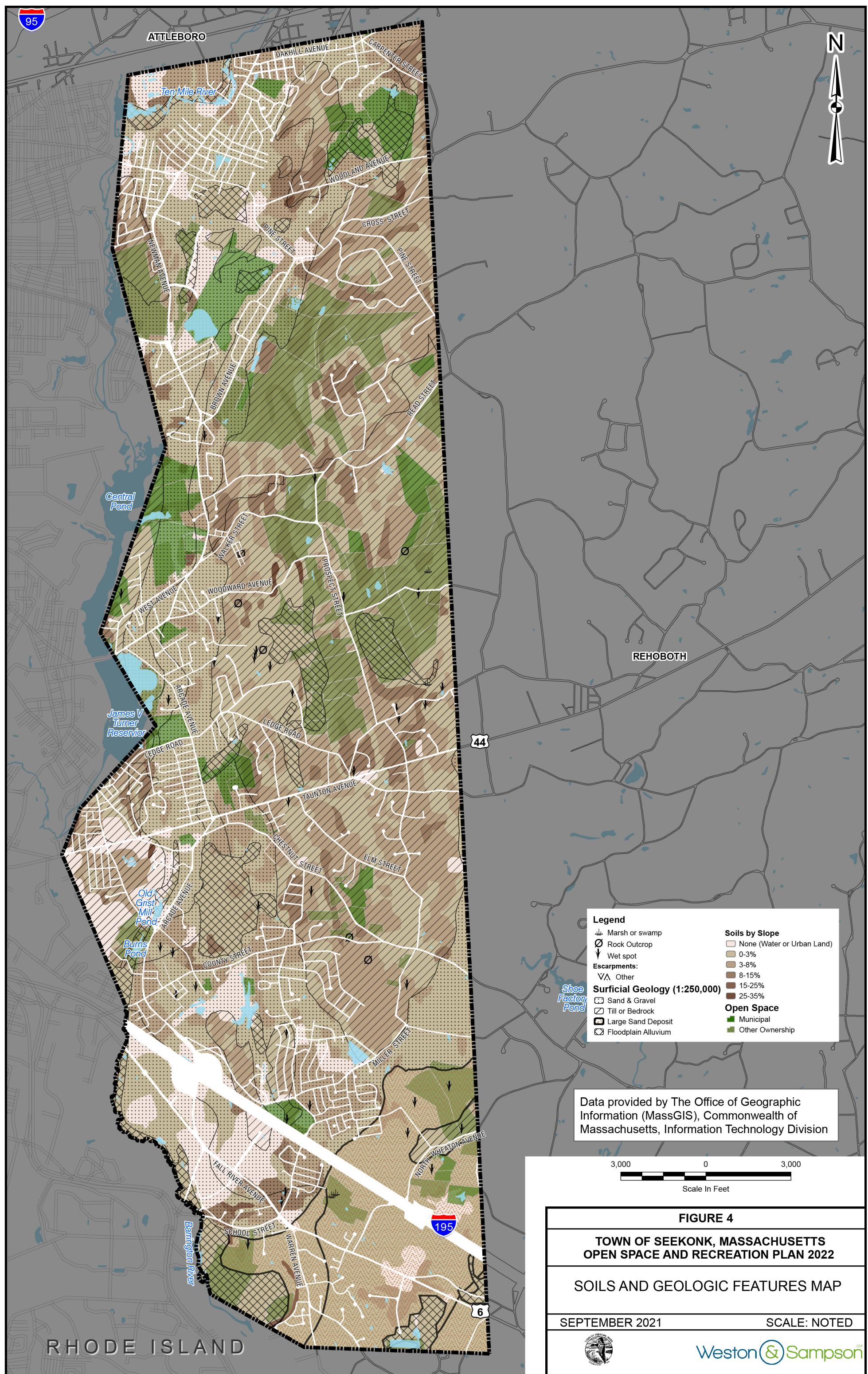
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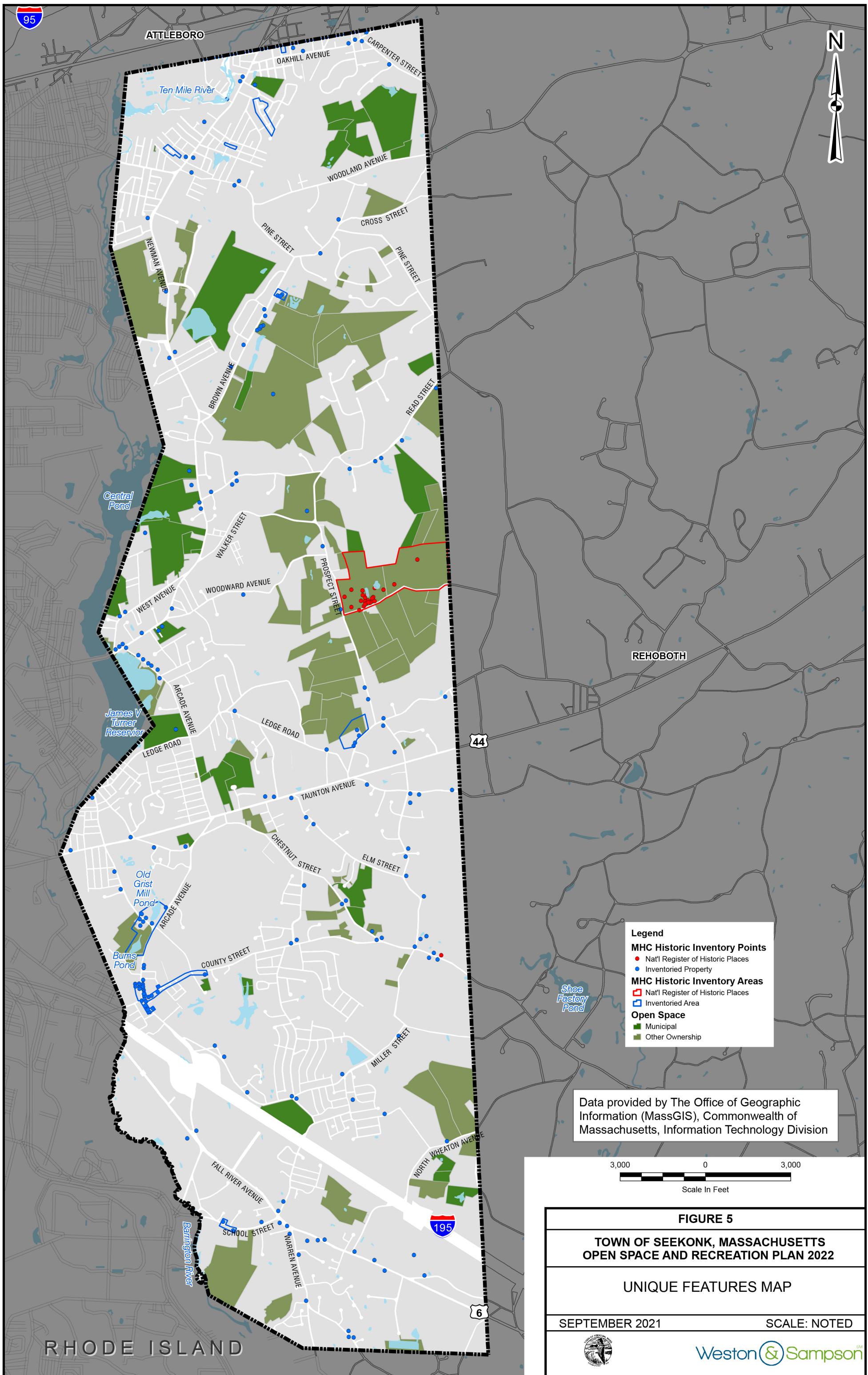


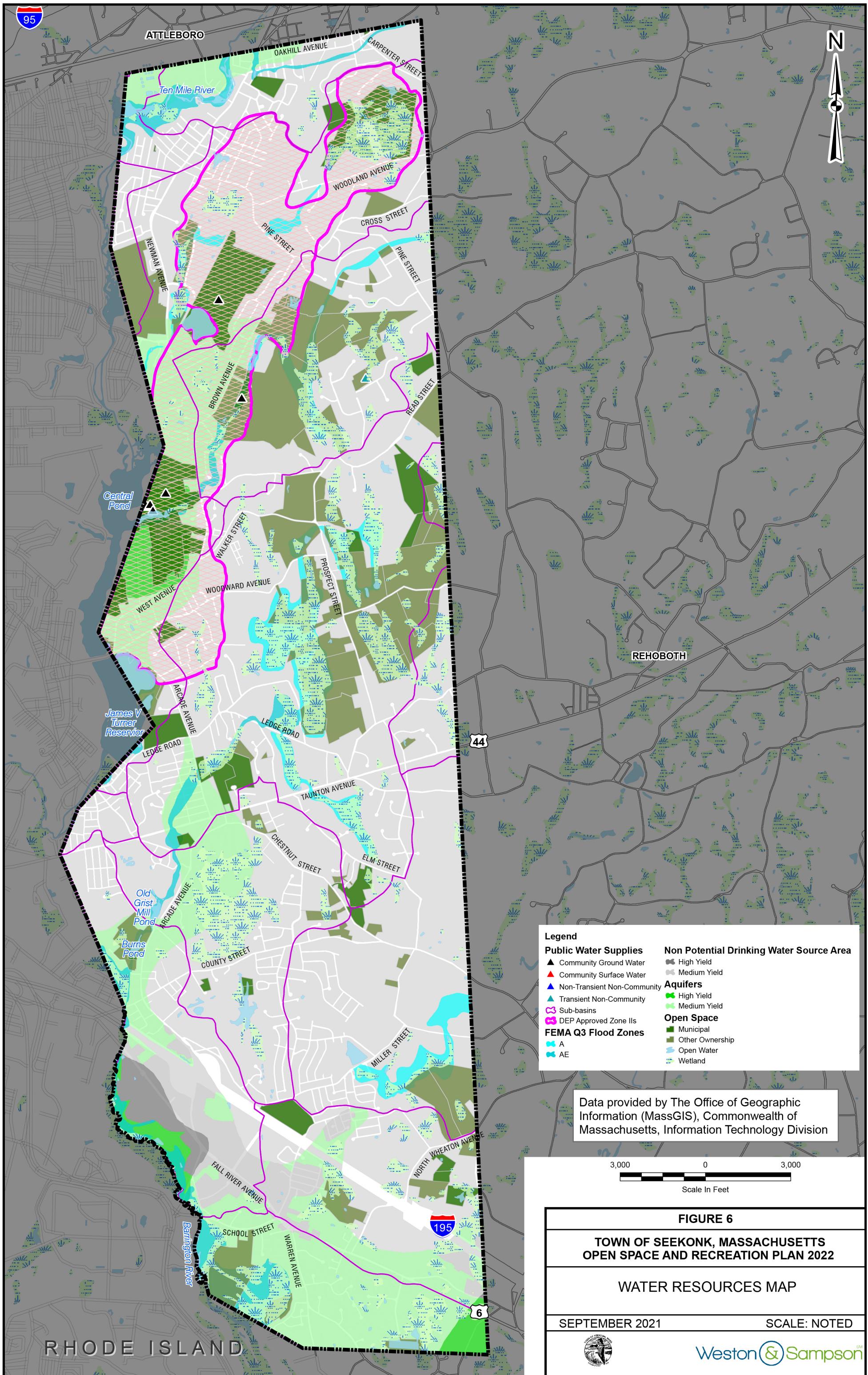
Weston & Sampson

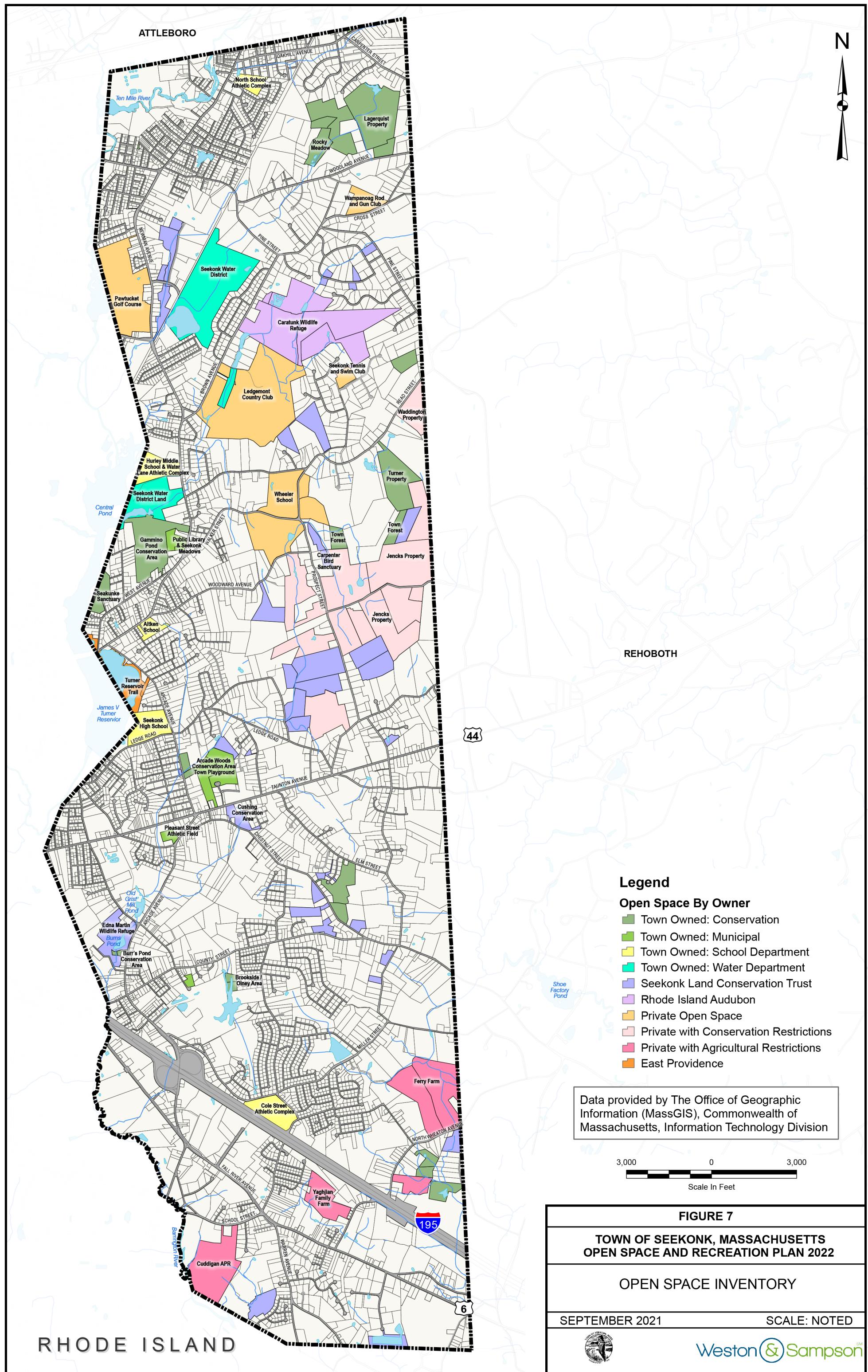


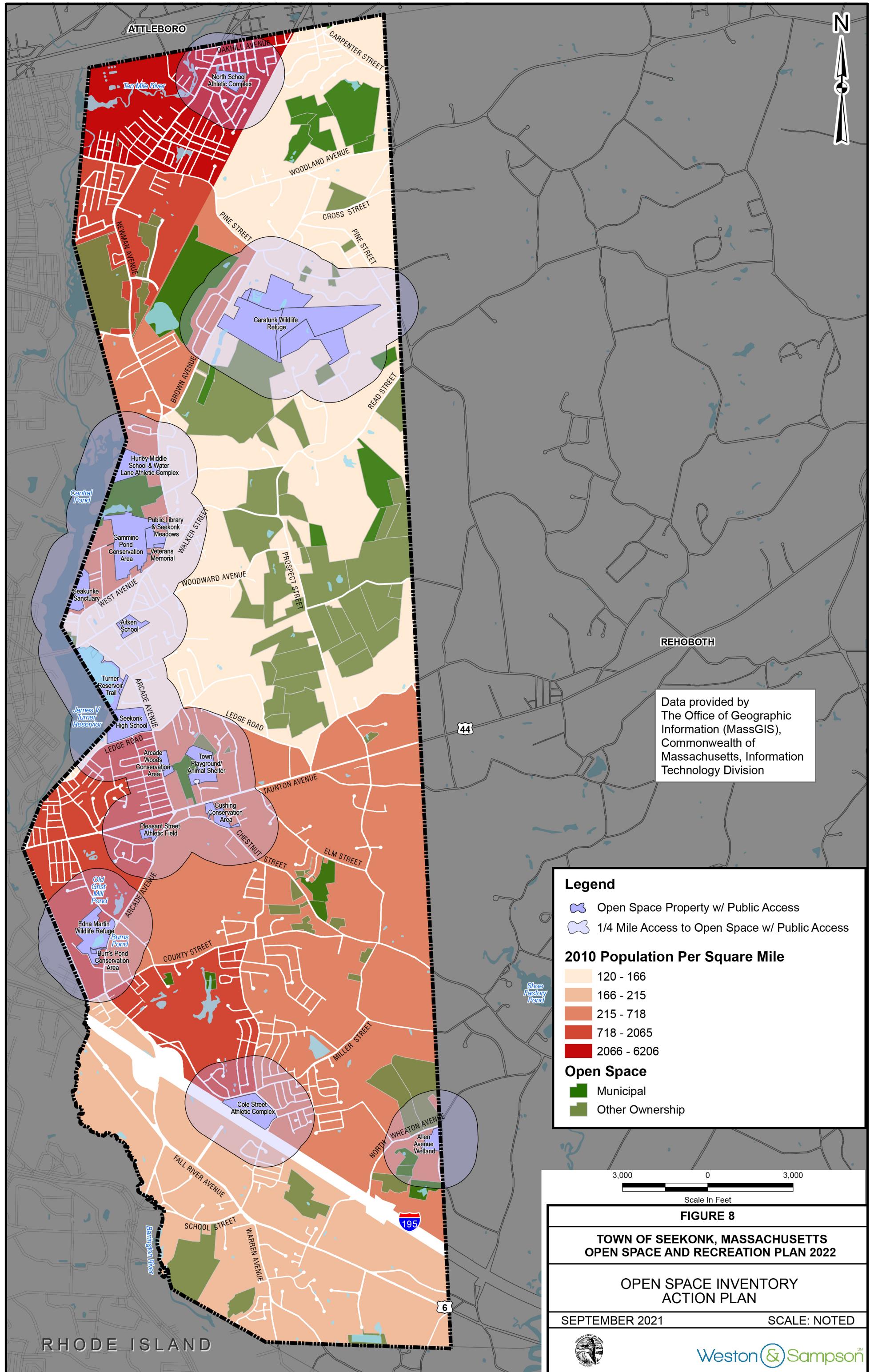












# B

## Appendix B | Open Space Inventory Matrix

# Open Space Inventory Matrix

Owner Classification	Open Space and Recreation Property	Parcel I.D. 2020	Acreage	ACTIVE USE	PASSIVE USE	PUBLIC ACCESS
CONSERVATION	Burr's Pond Conservation Area (0 Fall River Av)	265/011.0-0000-0037.0/0038.0	1.51	X	X	
CONSERVATION	Town Forest (0 Prospect St Rear)	265/023.0-0000-0016.0	7.82			
CONSERVATION	Town Forest (0 Walnut St Rear)	265/023.0-0000-0019.0	8.5			
CONSERVATION	0 North Wheaton Ave Rear	265/003.0-0000-0041.0/0042.0	11			
CONSERVATION	Rocky Meadow (0 Woodland Ave Rear)	265/036.0-0000-0003.0/0004.0/0016.0	61.25			
CONSERVATION	Peck-Chafee Reserve	265/016.0-0000-0013.0	6.22			
CONSERVATION	No Name (0 Woodland Ave)	265/037.0-0000-0008.0	7.43			
CONSERVATION	No Name(Brookside Court Rear)	265/010.0-0000-0215.0/0216.0	5.4			
CONSERVATION	Seakunke Sanctuary(0 Garden St)	265/024.0-0000-0003.0/0412.0/0414.0	15.83	X	X	
CONSERVATION	Gammino Pond Conservation Area(0 Newman Av Rear)	265/024.0-0000-0642.0	59.22	X	X	
CONSERVATION	Arcade Woods Conservation Area (100 peck street)	265/018.0-0000-0202.0/0004.0	5.97	X	X	
CONSERVATION	Oak Hill Ave	265/038.0-0000-0018.0	0.12			
CONSERVATION	Edwards Ave	265/031.0-0000-0111.0	0.29			
CONSERVATION	Lagerquist Property (0 Bittersweet Dr)	265/037.0-0000-0049.0	74.21			
CONSERVATION	Young Farm	265/016.0-0000-0082.0	20.55			
CONSERVATION	Benson Property	265/026.0-0000-0013.0	9.93			
CONSERVATION	Turner Property (Read St Conservation)(595 Read St)	265/023.0-0000-0049.0	36.24			
CONSERVATION	Aldo Rotondo Conservation Area	265/003.0-0000-0059.0	13			
<b>Total number of Conservation Properties = 18</b>			<b>Total Acres= 344.49</b>			
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	Seekonk High School	265/018.0-0000-0002.0	27.8	X		*X
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School/Water Lane Athletic Complex	265/024.0-0000-0442.0	24.7	X		*X
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School	265/021.0-0000-0055.0	9.74	X		*X
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	George R. Martin Elementary School/Cole Street Athletic Complex	265/007.0-0000-0020.0	26.7	X		*X
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	North School Athletic Complex	265/033.A-0000-0046.0	12.31	X		*X
<b>Total number of School Properties = 5</b>			<b>Total Acres= 101.25</b>			
MUNICIPAL	Seekonk Meadows/Library (410 Newman Av)	265/024.0-0000-0065.0	8.86	X	X	X
MUNICIPAL	Seekonk Veterans Memorial (400 Newman Av)	265/024.0-0000-0061.0	1.13			X
MUNICIPAL	Seekonk Fire/Police (500 Taunton Av)	265/018.0-0000-0010.0	16.63			
MUNICIPAL	Townhall Playground/Animal Shelter- Arcade Woods CA (100 Peck St)	265/018.0-0000-0011.0	21.7	X		X
MUNICIPAL	Pleasant Street Athletic Field	265/015.0-0000-0275.0	4.66	X		X
MUNICIPAL	No Name (0 Howland Street)	265/010.0-0000-0012.0	2.66			
<b>Total number of Municipal Properties = 6</b>			<b>Total Acres= 55.64</b>			
MUNICIPAL/WATER DEPARTMENT	Water Department (Water Lane)	265/024.0-0000-0072.0	48.8			
MUNICIPAL/WATER DEPARTMENT	Water Department (0 Brown Ave)	265/027.0-0000-0030.0	133.28			
MUNICIPAL/WATER DEPARTMENT	Water Department (0 Brown Ave Rear)	265/025.0-0000-0125.0	8.29			
<b>Total number of Municipal/Water Department Properties = 3</b>			<b>Total Acres= 190.37</b>			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge (0 Fall River Ave)	265/011.0-0000-0039.0	27.61	X	X	
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Cushing Conservation Area (0 Chestnut Street)	265/015.0-0000-0160.0	10.39	X	X	
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Carpenter Bird Santuary (0 Prospect Street)	265/022.0-0000-0033.0/023.0-0000-0035.0	8.3			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Tower Road Woods (0 Tower Road)	265/027.0-0000-0174.0/0016.0/0236.0/0026.0/	36.06			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Greenwood Swamp (0 Greenwood Avenue)	265/018.0-0000-0039.0/0007.0/0198.0	27.99			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Allen Avenue Wetland (0 Allen Avenue)	265/003.0-0000-0050.0/0051.0/0052.0/0053.0	8.6	X	X	
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Helen Brackett Reserve (0 Prospect Street)	265/022.0-0000-0050.0/0051.0	47.8			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Fairway Drive (0 Fairway Drive)	265/028.0-0000-0054.0/0058.0/0077.0/0078.0/	9.73			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Prospect Woods (0 Prospect Street; rear)	265/017.0-0000-0119.0/0134.0	35.5			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Carpenter Woods (0 Walnut Street; rear)	265/023.0-0000-0020.0	10			
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Wildflower Drive)	265/016.0-0000-0107.0	1.06			

SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Wildflower (0 Chestnut Street; rear)	265/016.0-0000-0127.0	1.37		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Hammond Street)	265/010.0-0000-0040.0	8.4		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Chestnut Street)	265/010.0-0000-0244.0	1.05		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Chestnut Street)	265/010.0-0000-0243.0	5.21		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 County Street)	265/010.0-0000-0207.0	4.63		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Chestnut Street)	265/016.0-0000-0060.0	4.42		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Lincoln Pond (0 Lincoln Street)	265/017.0-0000-0129.0	2.43		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Marnoch Drive)	265/002.0-0000-0035.0	15		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Hope Street)	265/018.0-0000-0024.0	0.85		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Settling Pond (0 Industrial Way)	265/001.0-0000-0142.0	11.2		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Read Street)	265/025.0-0000-0291.0	23.66		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Gas Line Station (0 Pamden Lane)	265/018.0-0000-0026.0	6.8		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (0 Bradley Street)	265/006.0-0000-0393.0/0475.0	5.63		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	No Name (Arcade Avenue)	265/019.0-0000-0173.0	0.46		
SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST	Boy Scout Parcel (0 Woodward Avenue)	265/022.0-0000-0001.0	15.93		

Total number of SLCT Properties = 26

Total Acres= 330.08

Owner Classification	Open Space and Recreation Property	Parcel I.D. 2020	Acreage	ACTIVE USE	PASSIVE USE	PUBLIC ACCESS
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OWNERS	The Wheeler School (350 Walker St)(350 Walker St)(0 Prospect ST)	265/023.0-0000-0009.0/0005.0/0024.0/0012.0	122.13	X	X	
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OWNERS	Ledgemont Country Club	265/025.0-0000-0081.0	178.99	X		
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OWNERS	Pawtucket Country Club (1180 Newman Av)	265/027.0-0000-0008.0	89.15	X		
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OWNERS	Seekonk Tennis and Swim Club (255 Davis St)	265/026.0-0000-0043.0	7.5	X		
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OWNERS	Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club	265/028.0-0000-0015.0	18.5	X		
Total number of Private Open Space Owners Properties = 5			Total Acres= 416.27			
RI AUDUBON	Caratunk Wildlife Refuge (301 Brown Ave)(0 Pine St Rear)(0 Davis Rear)(0	265/027.0-0000-0039.0/0141.0/0029.0265/026.	230.28		X	X
Total number of RI Audubon Properties = 1			Total Acres= 230.28			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Waddington Property	265/026.0-0000-0010.0	10			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Jencks Property off Prospect Street	265/022.0-0000-0011.0	47			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Mason Property	265/022.0-0000-0002.0 (in part)	18.6			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Kendrick Property	265/022.0-0000-0004.0 (in part)	18.5			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Emlen Property	265/022.0-0000-0003.0 (in part)	15.5			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Webb Property	265/017.0-0000-0036.0 (in part)	35			
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Jencks Property off Walnut Street	265/023.0-0000-0021.0	27.95		X	
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Jencks Property	265/017.0-0000-0049.0/0054.0	122.31		X	
PRIVATE W/ CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS	Jencks Property	265/022.0-0000-0035.0	69.7		X	
Total number of Conservation Restriction Properties = 9			Total Acres= 364.56			
PRIVATE W/AGRICULTURAL RESRCTIONS	Yaghjian Family Farm (0 Wheaton Ave.)	265/004.0-0000-0307.0	31.41		X	
PRIVATE W/AGRICULTURAL RESRCTIONS	Ferry Farm (0 North Wheaton Ave.)	265/005.0-0000-0003.0/0004.0	101.17		X	
PRIVATE W/AGRICULTURAL RESRCTIONS	Cuddigan APR (School Street)	265/002.0-0000-0003.0	69.8			
PRIVATE W/AGRICULTURAL RESRCTIONS	Pray Farm (287 North Wheaton Ave.)	265/003.0-0000-00071.0	9.8			
Total number of Agricultural Restriction Properties = 4			Total Acres= 212.18			
EAST PROVIDENCE	Turner Reservoir Trail (Arcade Ave.)	265/021.0-0000-0007.0/0010.0/0011.0	40.17		X	X
EAST PROVIDENCE	No Name (0 West Ave.)	265/021.0-0000-0003.0/0102.0	3.35			
Total number of Agricultural Restriction Properties = 2			Total Acres= 43.52			
Total number of Other Properties = 79			2288.64			

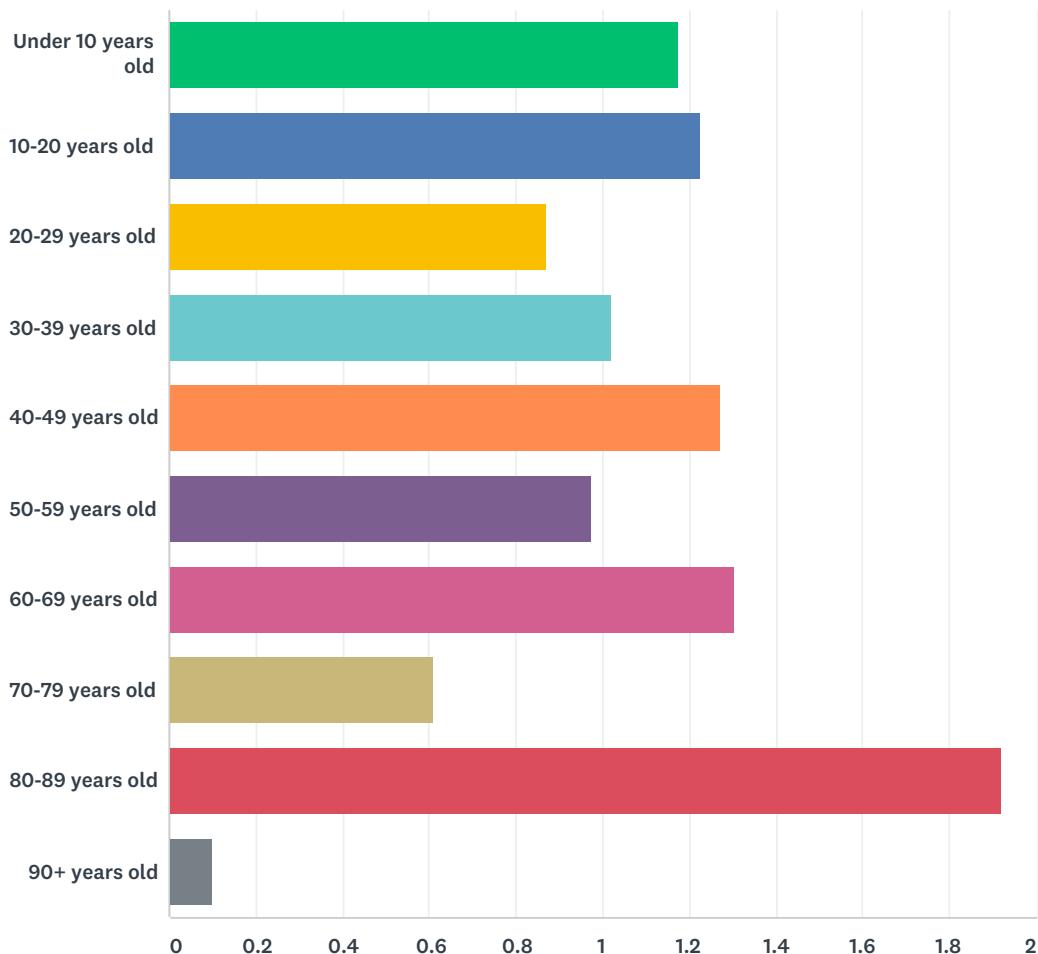
\* Public access is restricted during certain times of the day

# C

## Appendix C | Public Survey Results

## Q1 For each age group, please enter the number of household members represented.

Answered: 530    Skipped: 6

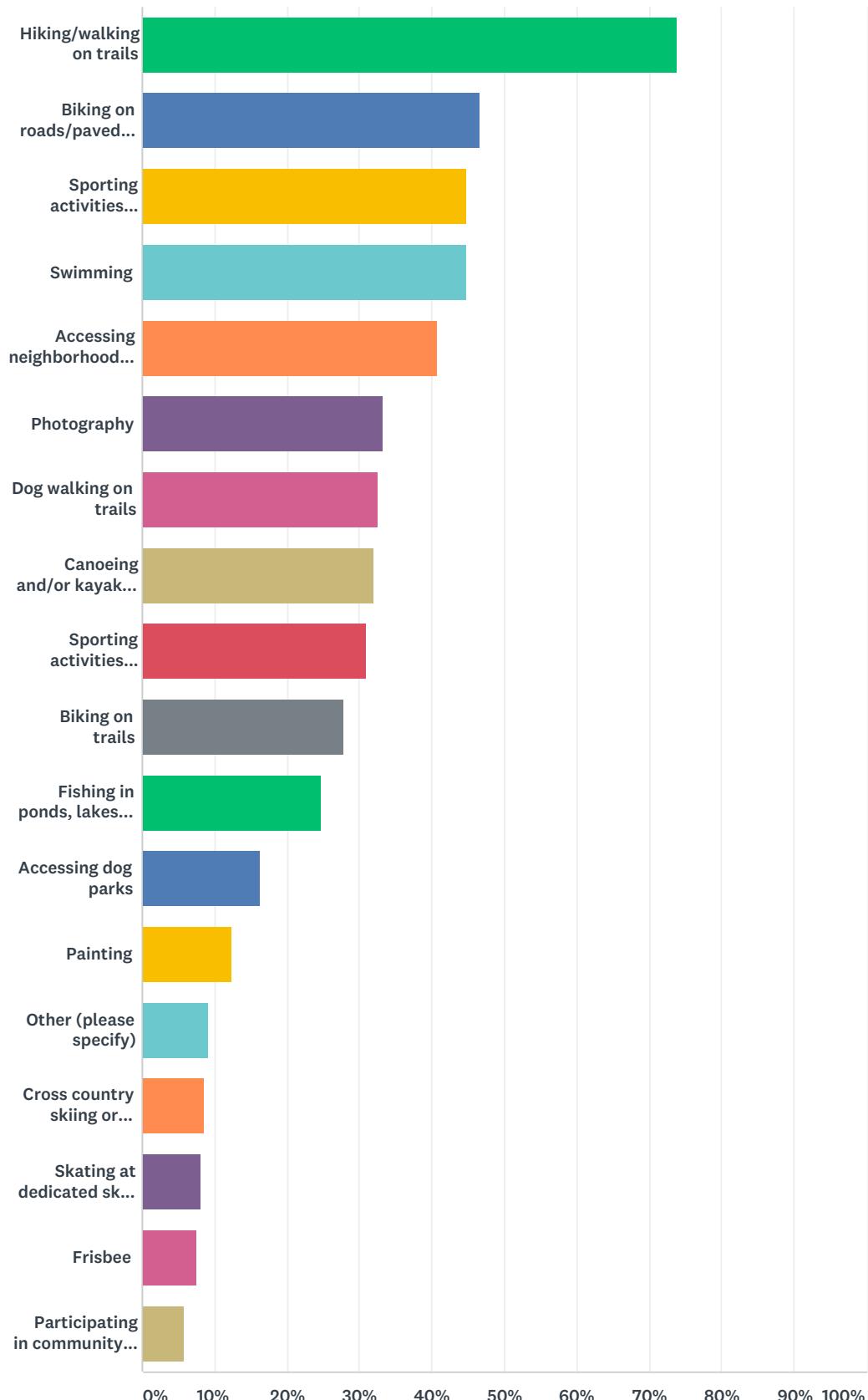


ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Under 10 years old	1	315	268
10-20 years old	1	321	262
20-29 years old	1	135	155
30-39 years old	1	223	218
40-49 years old	1	324	255
50-59 years old	1	196	201
60-69 years old	1	253	194
70-79 years old	1	82	134
80-89 years old	2	192	100
90+ years old	0	9	89

Total Respondents: 530

**Q2 In which recreation activities does your household currently participate? (Check all that apply)**

Answered: 499    Skipped: 37



## ANSWER CHOICES

Hiking/walking on trails

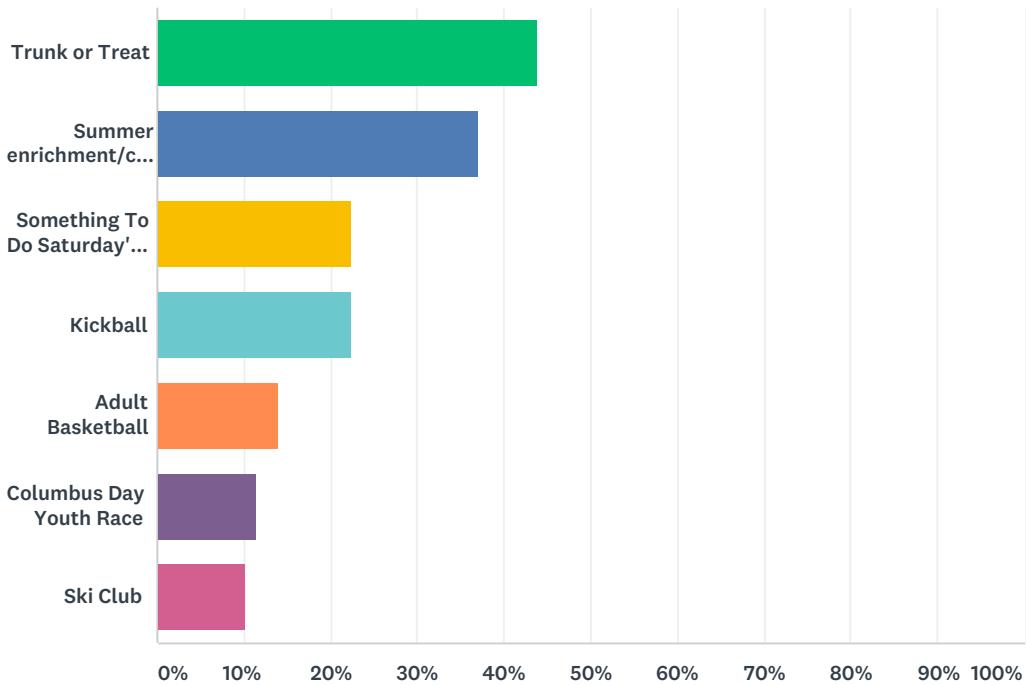
## RESPONSES

73.95% 369

Biking on roads/paved paths	46.69%	233
Sporting activities requiring a sports fields (soccer, baseball, lacrosse, etc.)	44.69%	223
Swimming	44.69%	223
Accessing neighborhood playgrounds	40.88%	204
Photography	33.27%	166
Dog walking on trails	32.67%	163
Canoeing and/or kayaking on ponds, lakes and rivers	32.06%	160
Sporting activities requiring an outdoor/indoor court (tennis, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc)	31.06%	155
Biking on trails	27.86%	139
Fishing in ponds, lakes and rivers	24.65%	123
Accessing dog parks	16.23%	81
Painting	12.42%	62
Other (please specify)	9.22%	46
Cross country skiing or snowshoeing on trails	8.62%	43
Skating at dedicated skate park	8.22%	41
Frisbee	7.62%	38
Participating in community gardens	5.81%	29
Total Respondents: 499		

**Q3 In which Seekonk Parks & Recreation Department sponsored programs does your household currently participate? (Check all that apply)**

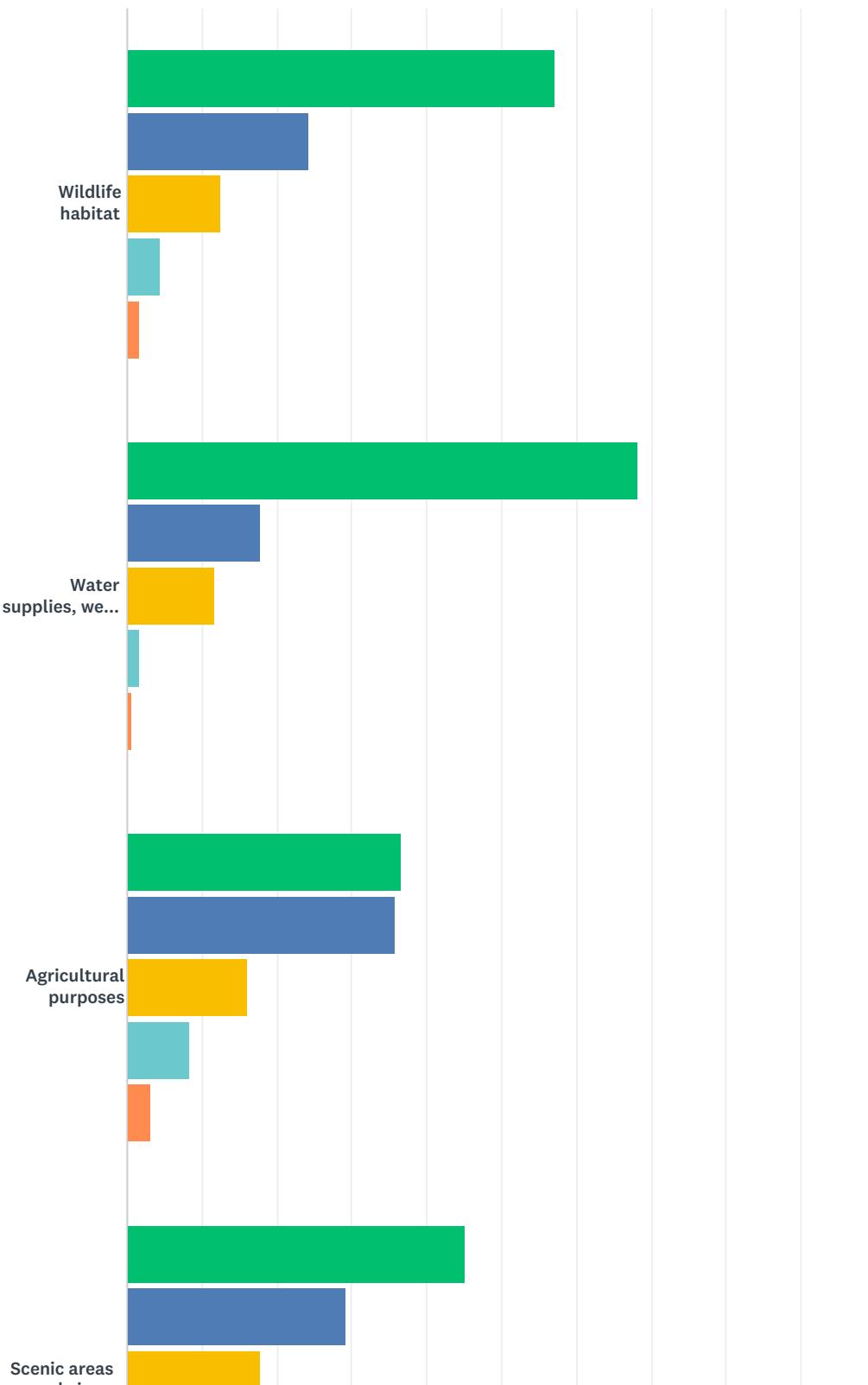
Answered: 157    Skipped: 379

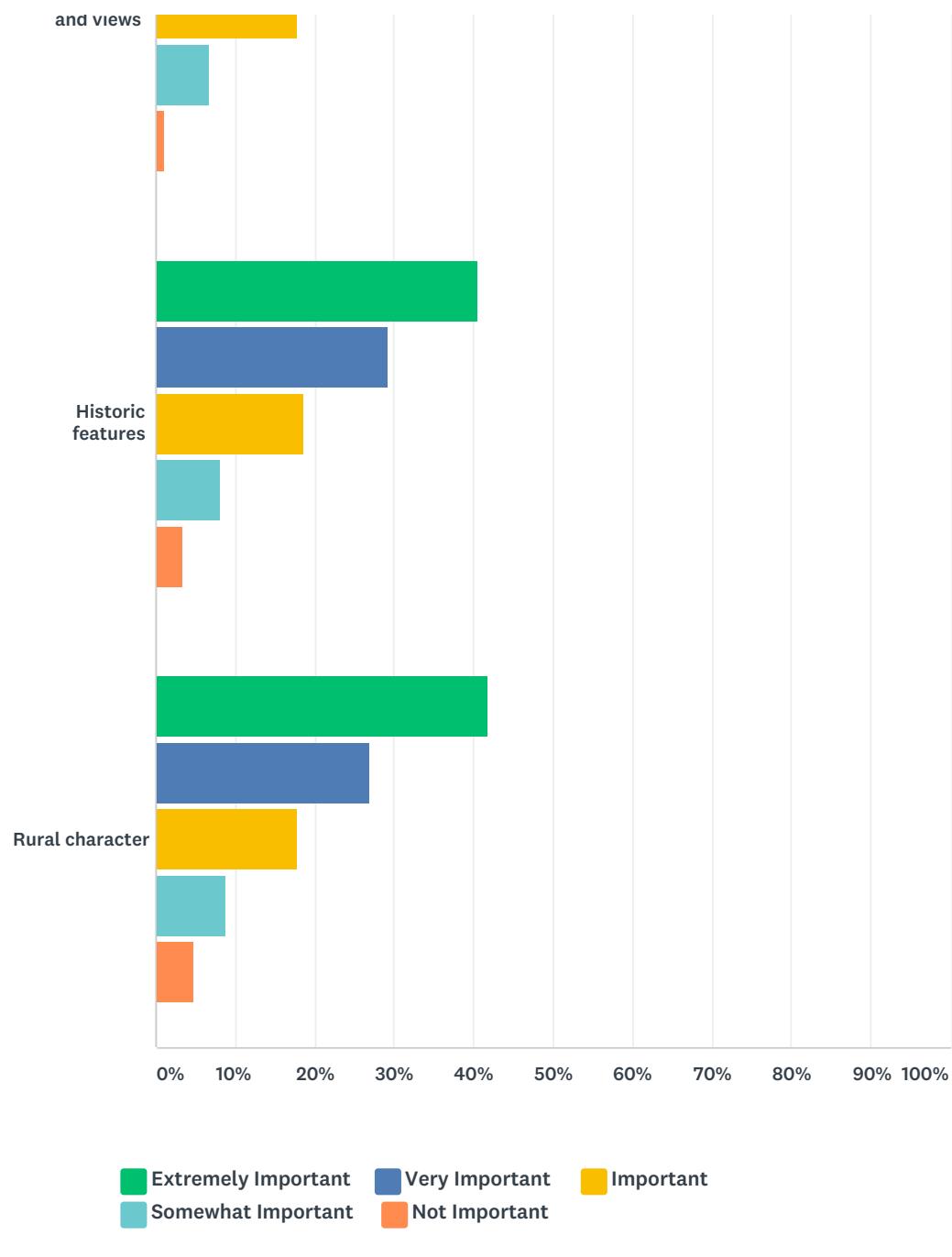


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Trunk or Treat	43.95% 69
Summer enrichment/camp programs	36.94% 58
Something To Do Saturday's Program	22.29% 35
Kickball	22.29% 35
Adult Basketball	14.01% 22
Columbus Day Youth Race	11.46% 18
Ski Club	10.19% 16
Total Respondents: 157	

**Q4 How important is it to your household to conserve open space for the purposes of preserving the values below? (Please rank each value using the scale below)**

Answered: 447    Skipped: 89





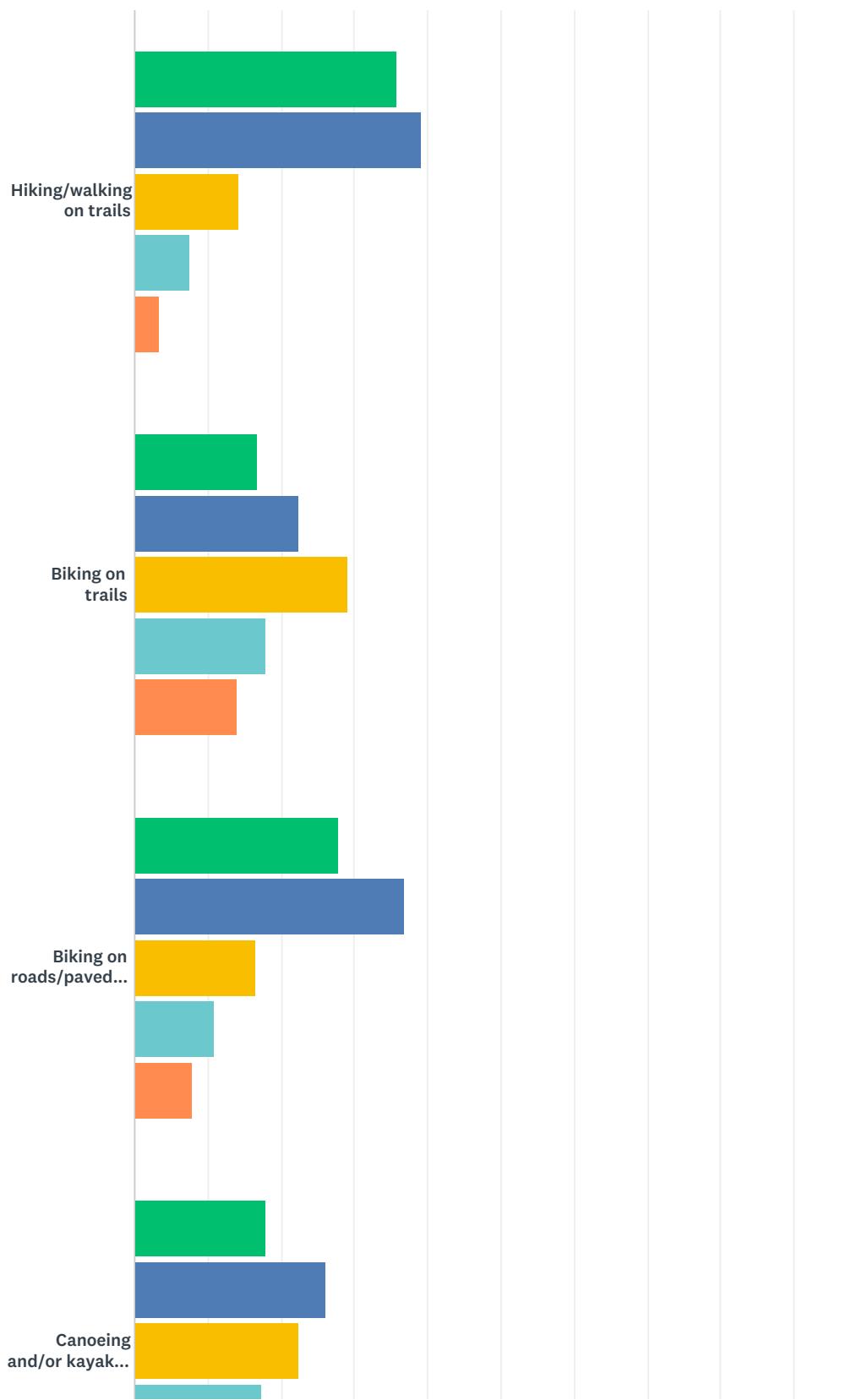
	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Wildlife habitat	57.08% 254	24.27% 108	12.58% 56	4.49% 20	1.57% 7	445
Water supplies, wells and aquifers	68.17% 302	17.83% 79	11.74% 52	1.58% 7	0.68% 3	443
Agricultural purposes	36.63% 163	35.73% 159	16.18% 72	8.31% 37	3.15% 14	445
Scenic areas and views	45.17% 201	29.21% 130	17.75% 79	6.74% 30	1.12% 5	445
Historic features	40.67% 181	29.21% 130	18.65% 83	8.09% 36	3.37% 15	445

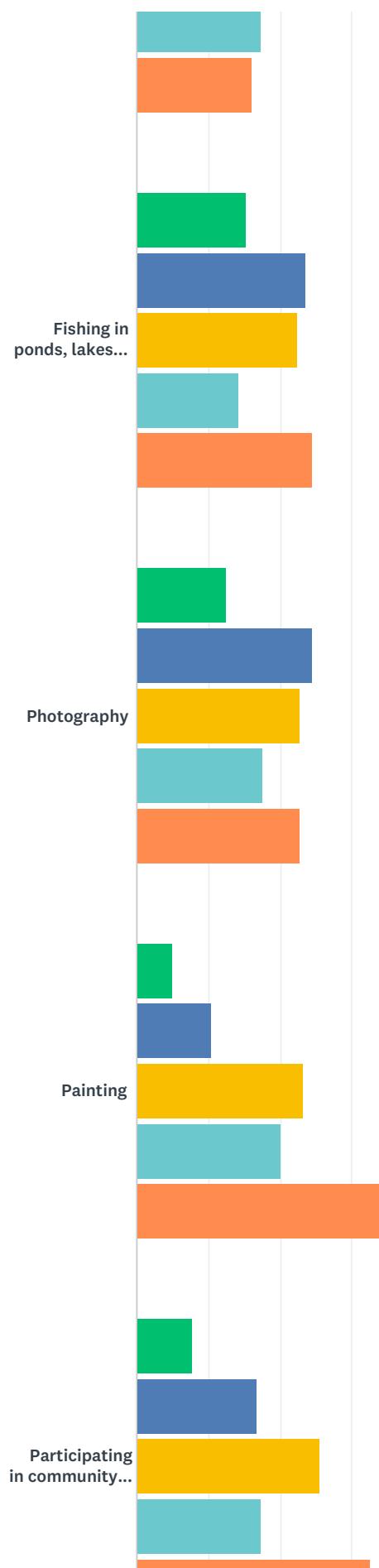
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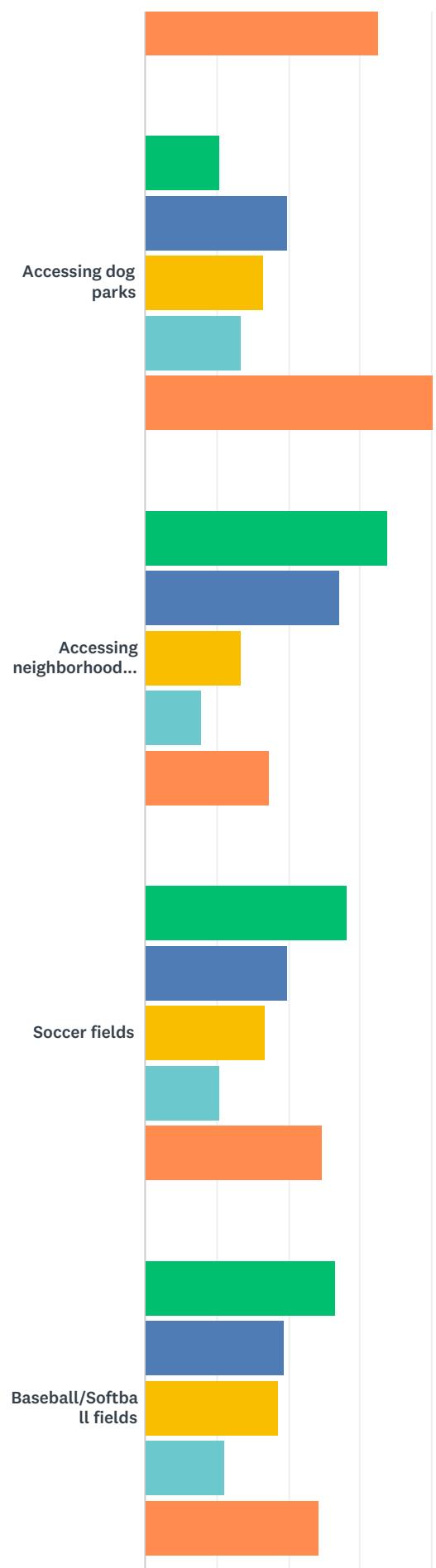
Rural character	41.80% 186	26.97% 120	17.75% 79	8.76% 39	4.72% 21	445
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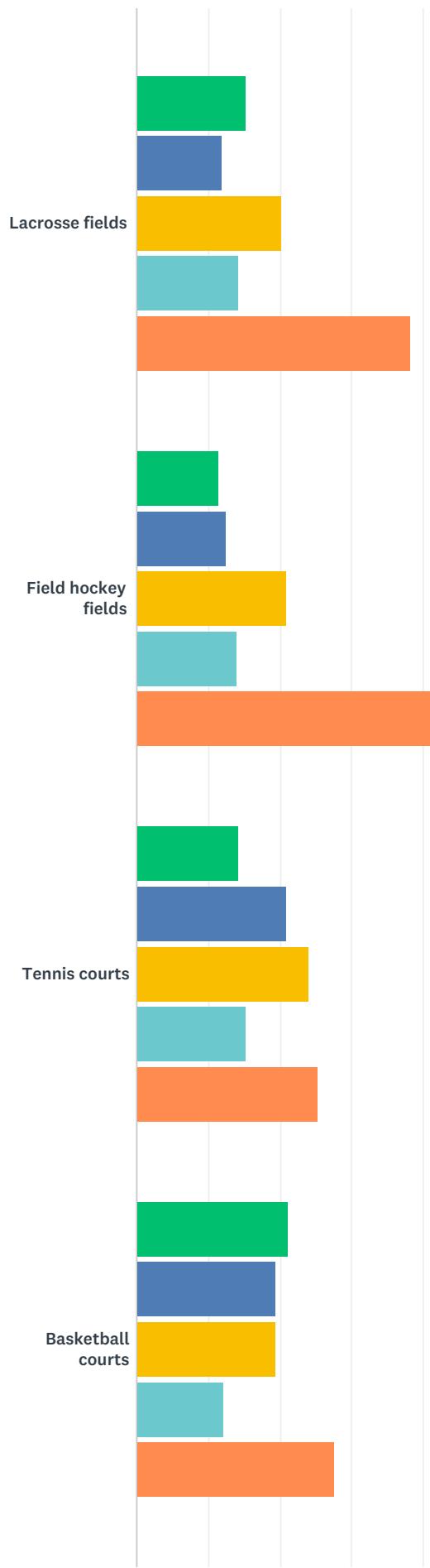
## Q5 How important are these recreation activities and facilities to your household? (Please rank each activity using the scale below)

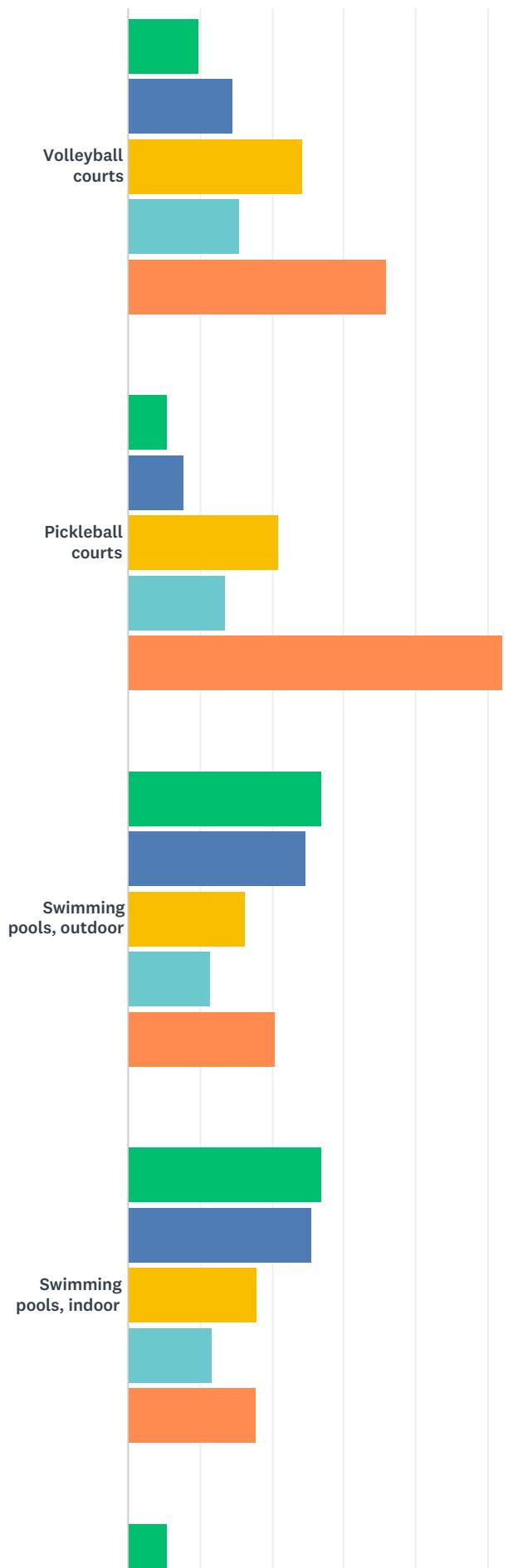
Answered: 447 Skipped: 89

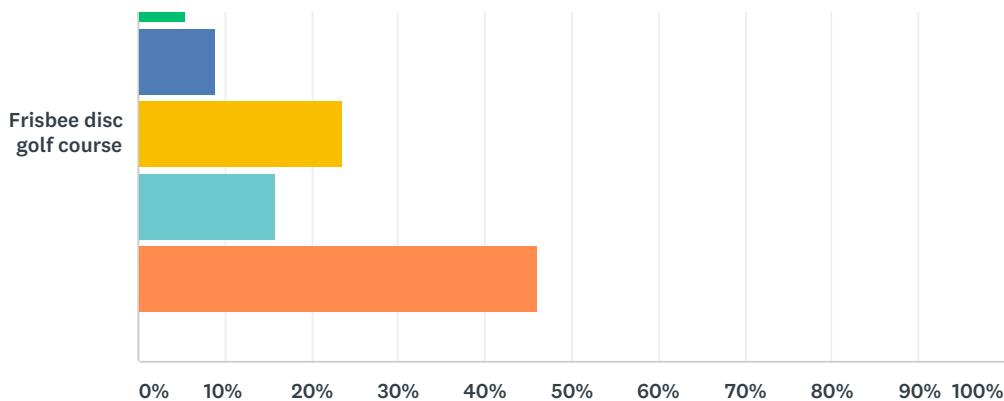












█ Extremely Important   █ Very Important   █ Important Less  
█ Somewhat Important   █ Not Important

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT LESS	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Hiking/walking on trails	35.81% 159	39.19% 174	14.19% 63	7.43% 33	3.38% 15	444
Biking on trails	16.75% 71	22.41% 95	29.01% 123	17.92% 76	13.92% 59	424
Biking on roads/paved paths	27.83% 118	36.79% 156	16.51% 70	10.85% 46	8.02% 34	424
Canoeing and/or kayaking on ponds, lakes and rivers	17.92% 76	26.18% 111	22.41% 95	17.45% 74	16.04% 68	424
Fishing in ponds, lakes and rivers	15.24% 64	23.57% 99	22.38% 94	14.29% 60	24.52% 103	420
Photography	12.56% 53	24.41% 103	22.75% 96	17.54% 74	22.75% 96	422
Painting	5.12% 21	10.49% 43	23.17% 95	20.00% 82	41.22% 169	410
Participating in community gardens	7.69% 32	16.83% 70	25.48% 106	17.31% 72	32.69% 136	416
Accessing dog parks	10.39% 43	19.81% 82	16.43% 68	13.29% 55	40.10% 166	414
Accessing neighborhood playgrounds	33.97% 142	27.27% 114	13.40% 56	7.89% 33	17.46% 73	418
Soccer fields	28.33% 117	19.85% 82	16.71% 69	10.41% 43	24.70% 102	413
Baseball/Softball fields	26.62% 111	19.42% 81	18.71% 78	11.03% 46	24.22% 101	417
Lacrosse fields	15.37% 63	11.95% 49	20.24% 83	14.15% 58	38.29% 157	410
Field hockey fields	11.52% 47	12.50% 51	20.83% 85	13.97% 57	41.18% 168	408
Tennis courts	14.25% 59	21.01% 87	24.15% 100	15.22% 63	25.36% 105	414
Basketball courts	21.22% 87	19.51% 80	19.51% 80	12.20% 50	27.56% 113	410

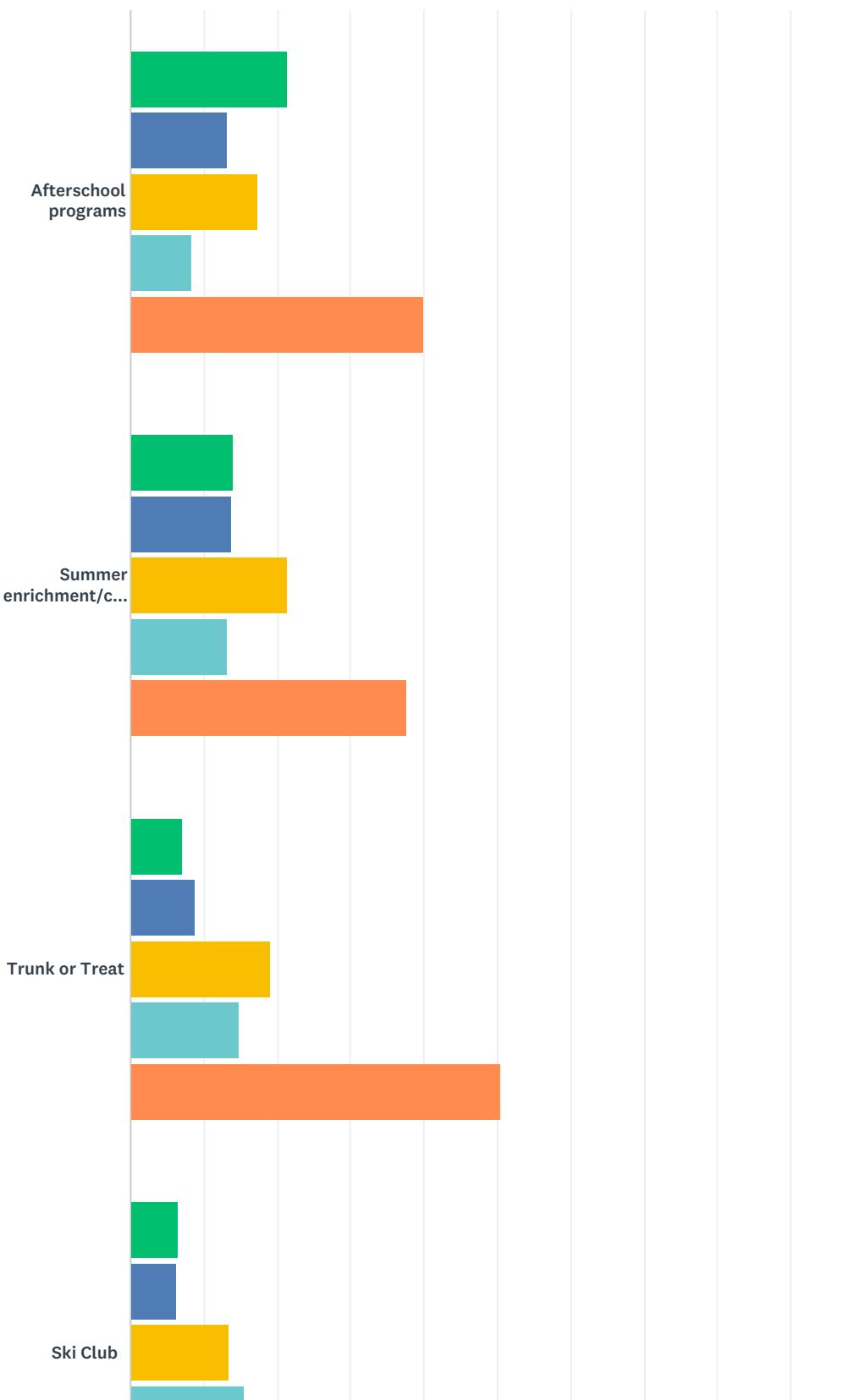
Town of Seekonk Open Space & Recreation Plan

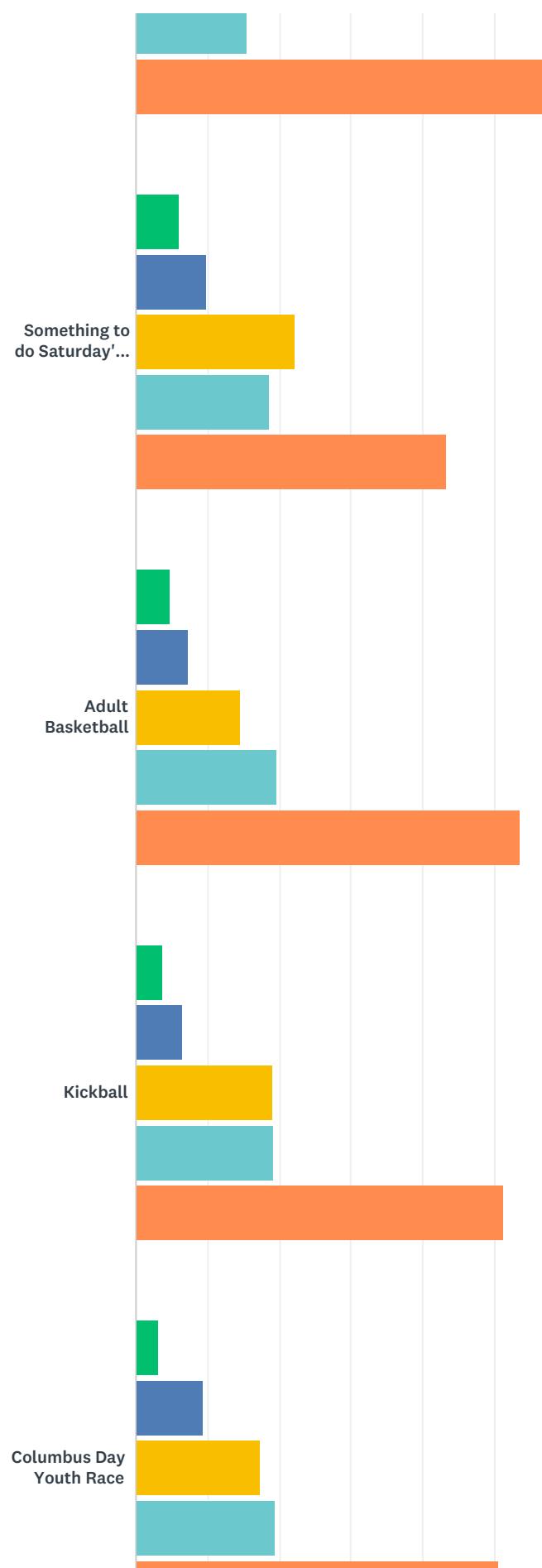
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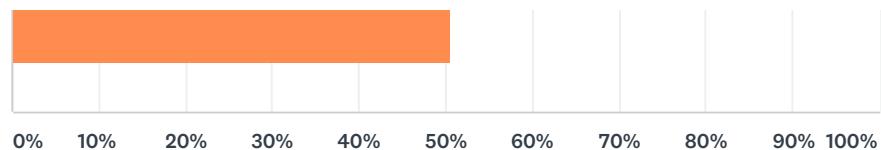
Volleyball courts	9.78% 40	14.67% 60	24.21% 99	15.40% 63	35.94% 147	409
Pickleball courts	5.37% 22	7.80% 32	20.98% 86	13.66% 56	52.20% 214	410
Swimming pools, outdoor	26.92% 112	24.76% 103	16.35% 68	11.54% 48	20.43% 85	416
Swimming pools, indoor	26.92% 112	25.48% 106	18.03% 75	11.78% 49	17.79% 74	416
Frisbee disc golf course	5.41% 22	9.09% 37	23.59% 96	15.97% 65	45.95% 187	407

## Q6 How important are these organized recreation programs to your household? (Please rank each program using the scale below)

Answered: 426 Skipped: 110





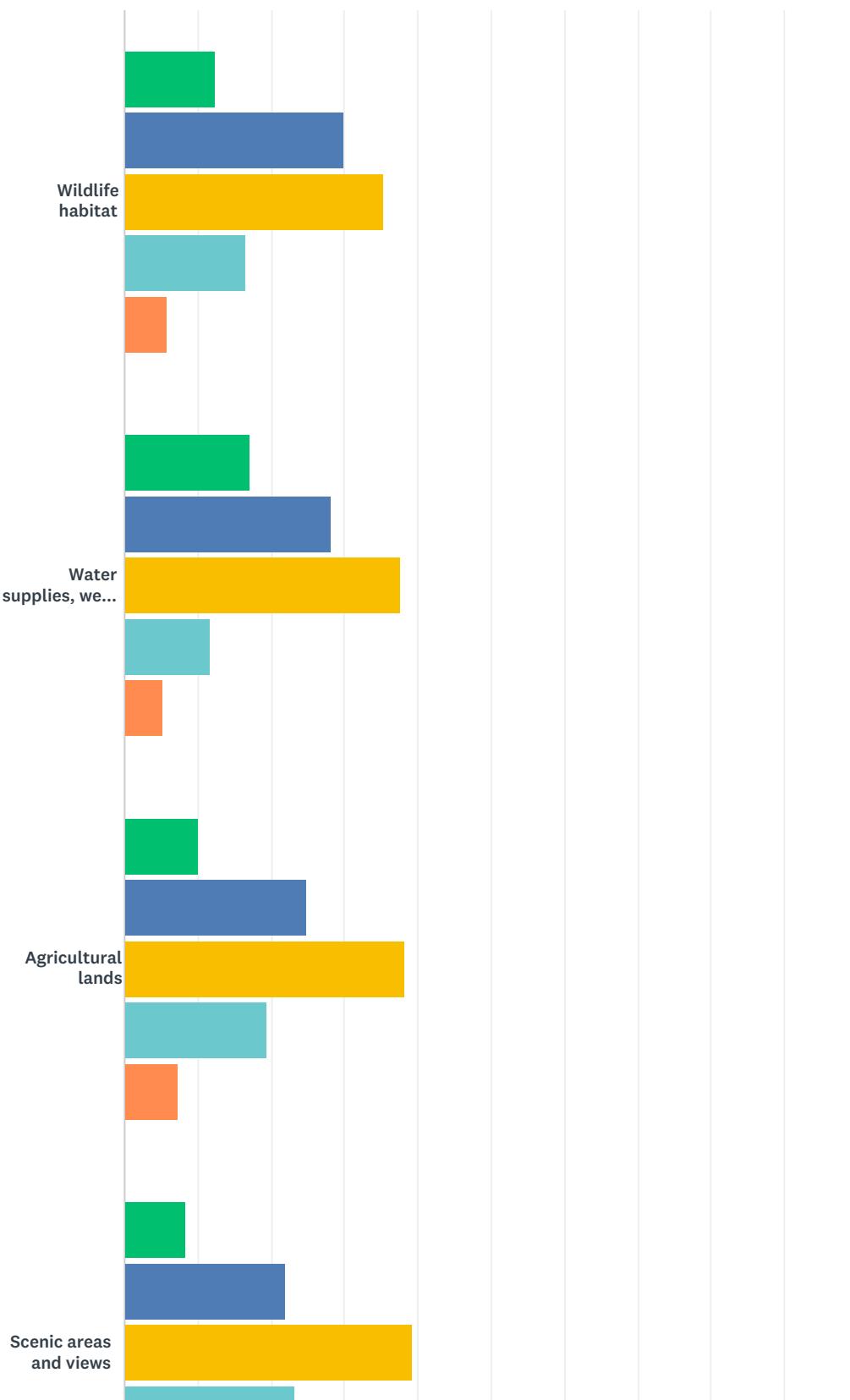


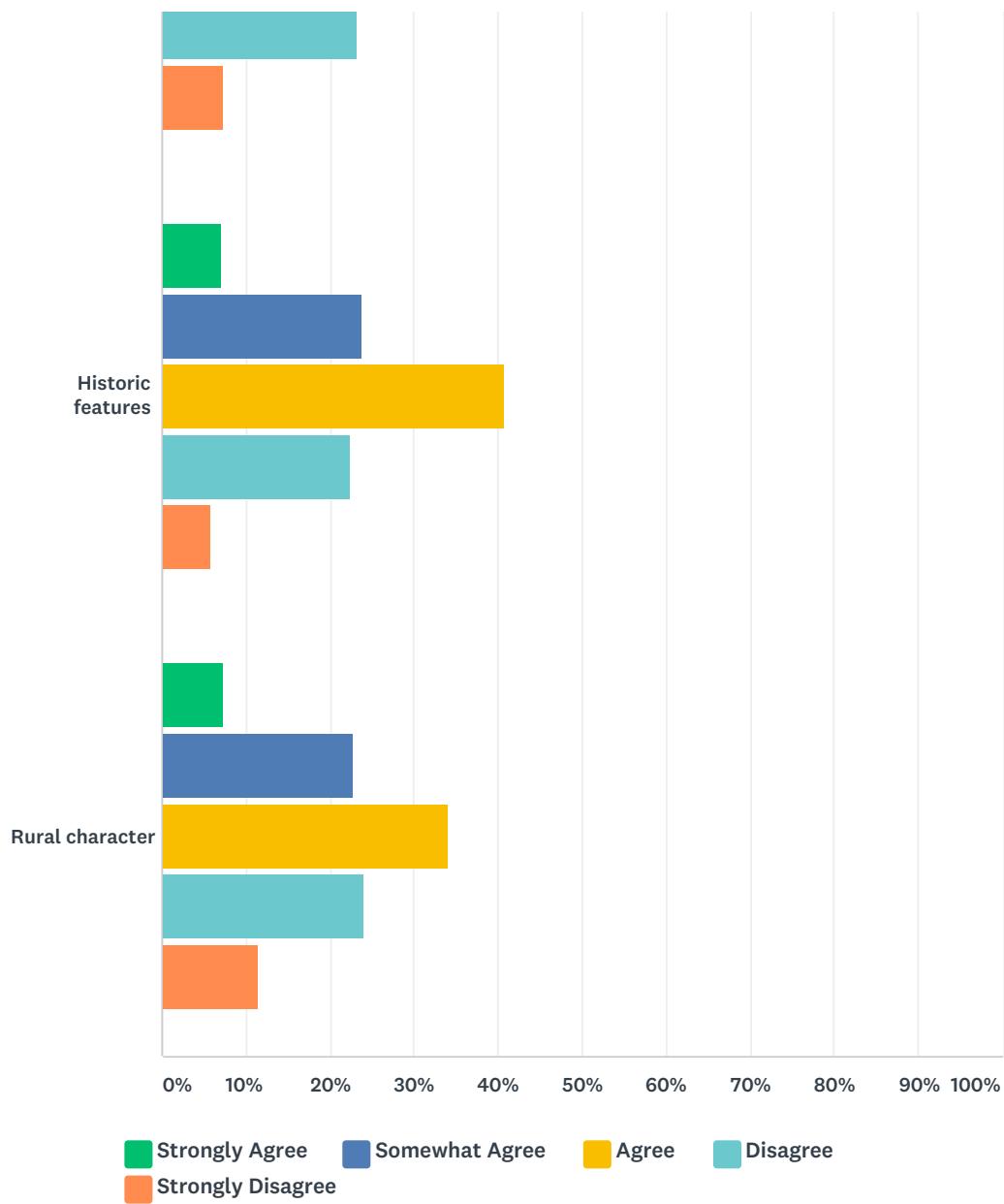
█ Extremely Important  
 █ Very Important  
 █ Important  
█ Somewhat Important  
 █ Not Important

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Afterschool programs	21.24% 89	13.13% 55	17.42% 73	8.35% 35	39.86% 167	419
Summer enrichment/camp programs	14.05% 59	13.81% 58	21.43% 90	13.10% 55	37.62% 158	420
Trunk or Treat	7.02% 29	8.72% 36	19.13% 79	14.77% 61	50.36% 208	413
Ski Club	6.49% 27	6.25% 26	13.46% 56	15.38% 64	58.41% 243	416
Something to do Saturday's Program	5.98% 25	9.81% 41	22.25% 93	18.66% 78	43.30% 181	418
Adult Basketball	4.78% 20	7.42% 31	14.59% 61	19.62% 82	53.59% 224	418
Kickball	3.86% 16	6.51% 27	19.04% 79	19.28% 80	51.33% 213	415
Columbus Day Youth Race	3.13% 13	9.40% 39	17.35% 72	19.52% 81	50.60% 210	415

## Q7 Do you agree that these resources are adequately conserved in Seekonk? (Please rank each value using the scale below)

Answered: 399 Skipped: 137



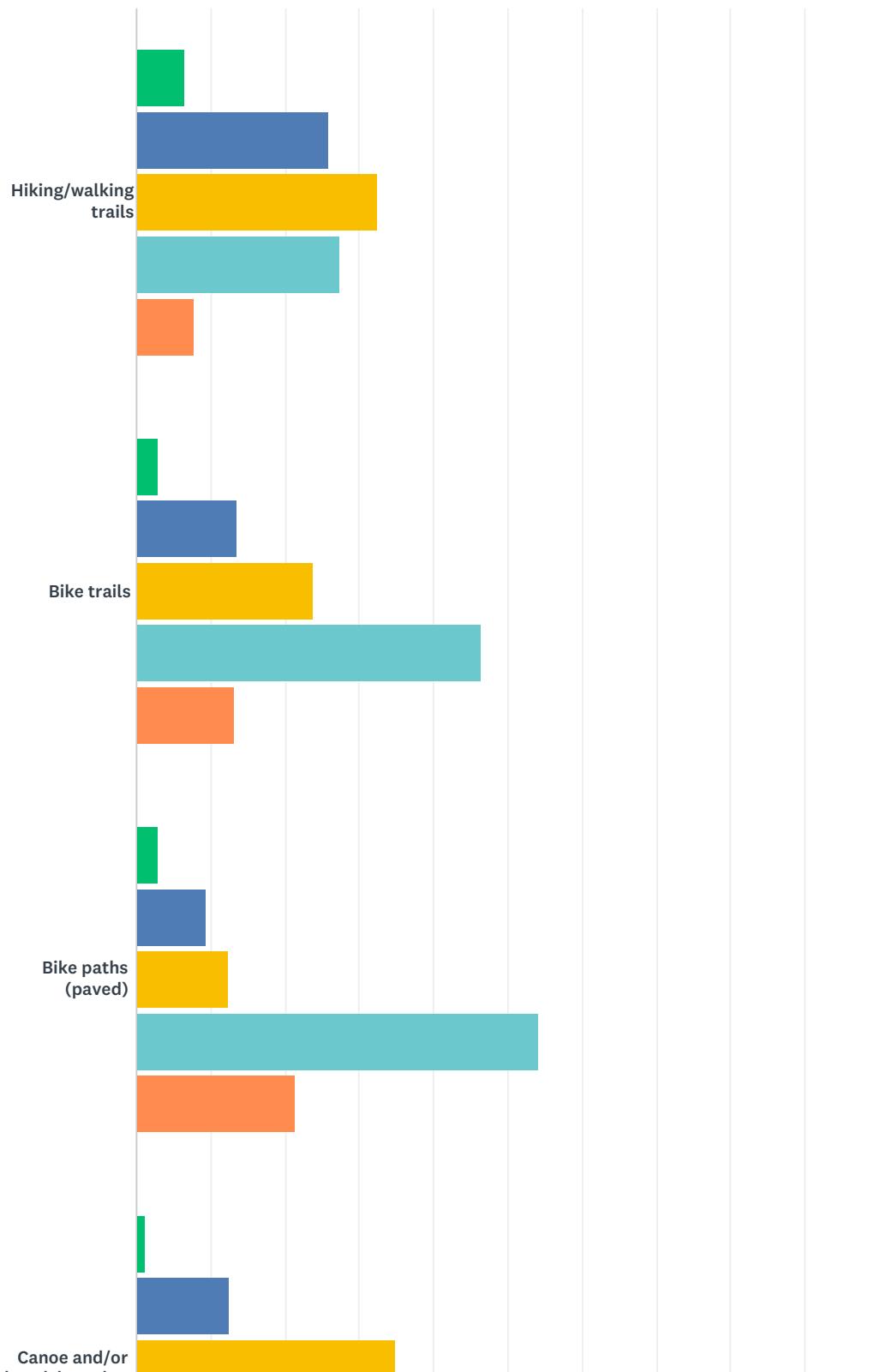


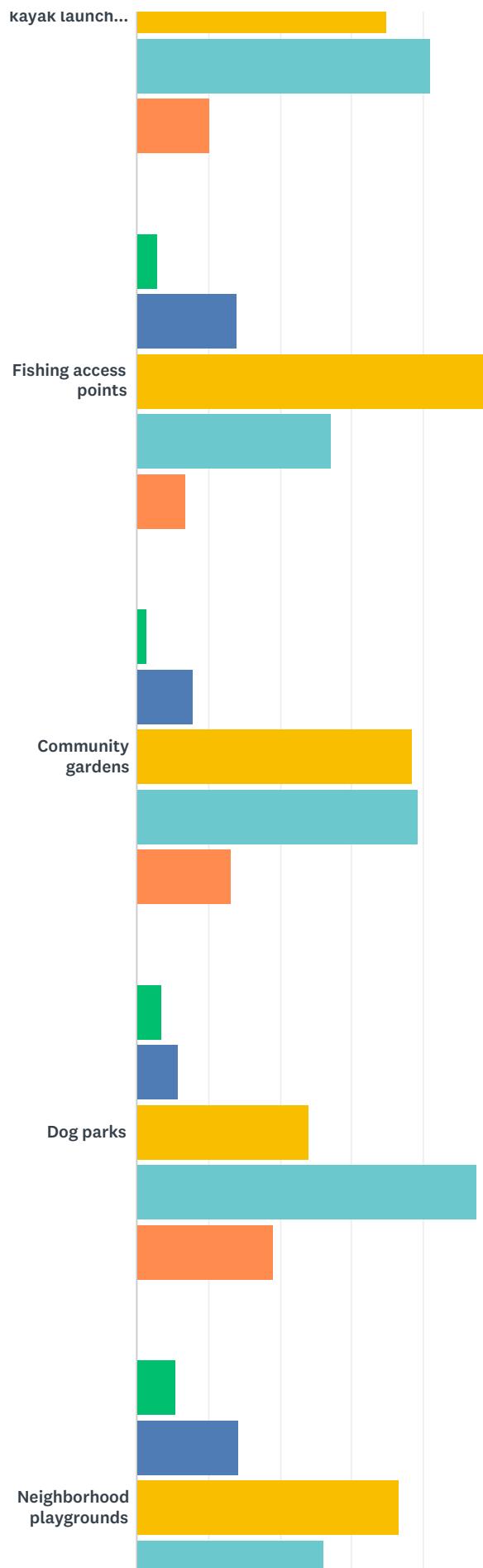
█ Strongly Agree   █ Somewhat Agree   █ Agree   █ Disagree  
█ Strongly Disagree

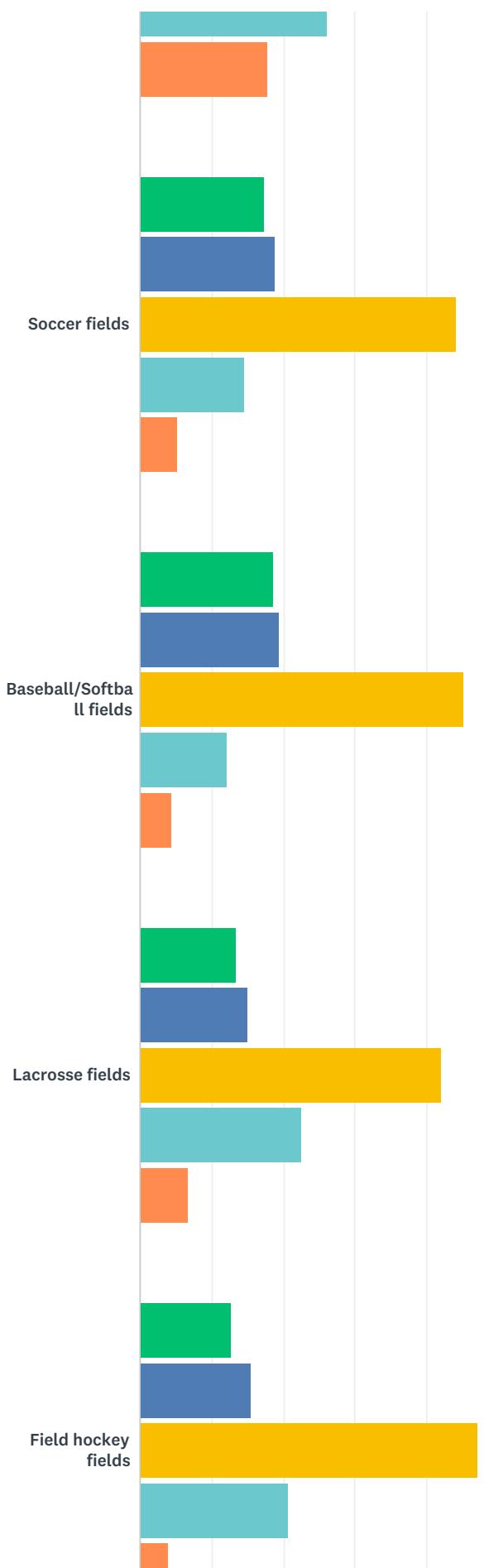
	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Wildlife habitat	12.31% 49	29.90% 119	35.43% 141	16.58% 66	5.78% 23	398
Water supplies, wells and aquifers	17.17% 68	28.28% 112	37.63% 149	11.62% 46	5.30% 21	396
Agricultural lands	9.95% 39	25.00% 98	38.27% 150	19.39% 76	7.40% 29	392
Scenic areas and views	8.31% 33	21.91% 87	39.29% 156	23.17% 92	7.30% 29	397
Historic features	7.11% 28	23.86% 94	40.86% 161	22.34% 88	5.84% 23	394
Rural character	7.29% 29	22.86% 91	34.17% 136	24.12% 96	11.56% 46	398

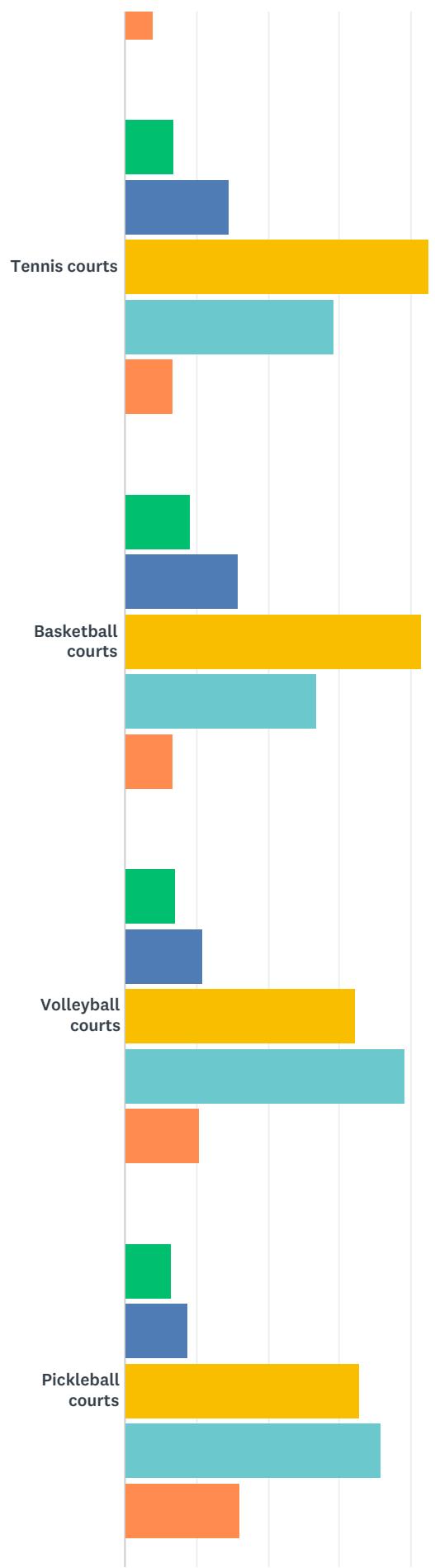
**Q8 Do you agree that there are an adequate number of these recreation facilities listed below in Seekonk? (Please rank each activity using the scale below)**

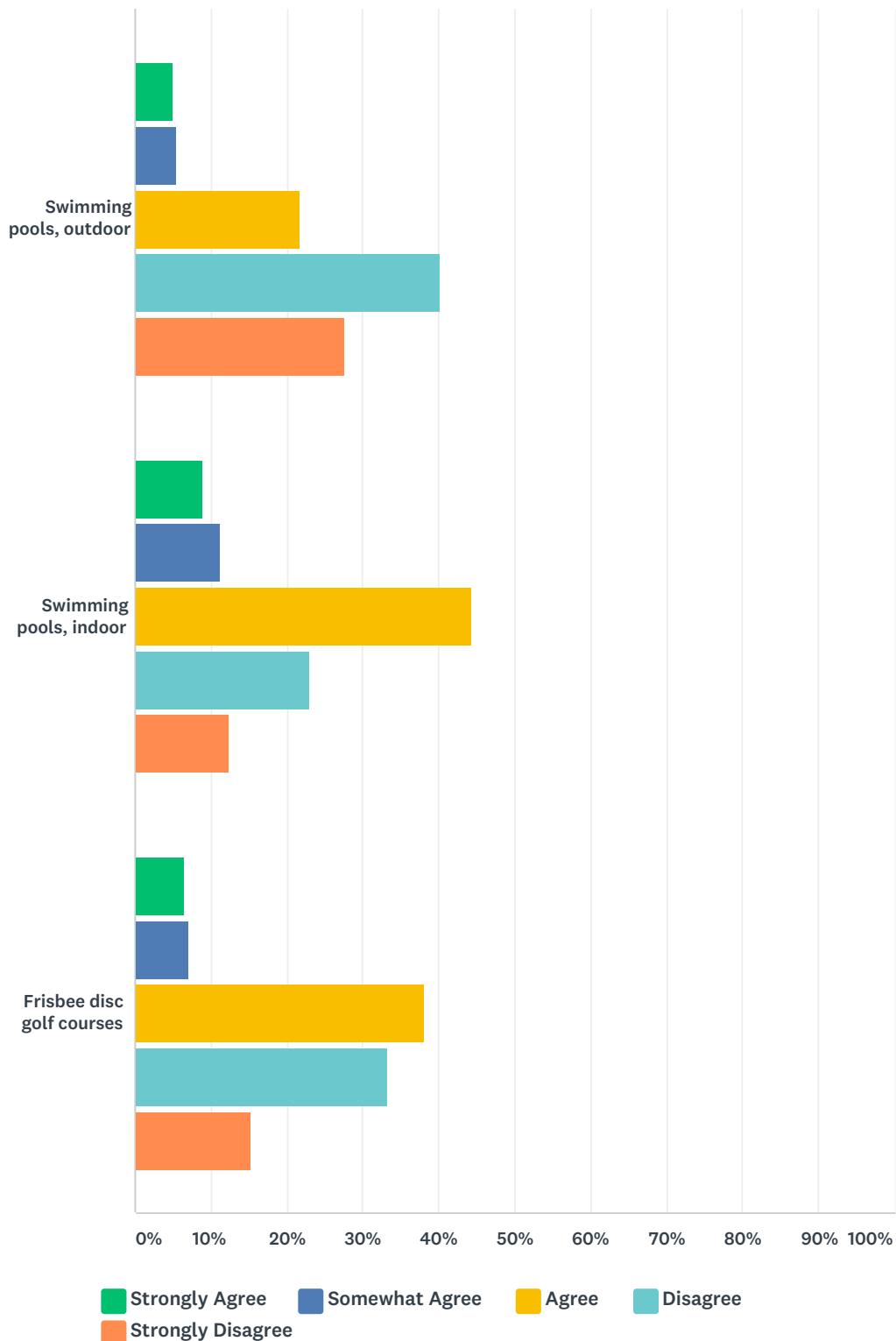
Answered: 397    Skipped: 139











	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Hiking/walking trails	6.44% 25	26.03% 101	32.47% 126	27.32% 106	7.73% 30	388
Bike trails	2.94% 11	13.64% 51	23.80% 89	46.52% 174	13.10% 49	374
Bike paths (paved)	2.93% 11	9.33% 35	12.27% 46	54.13% 203	21.33% 80	375

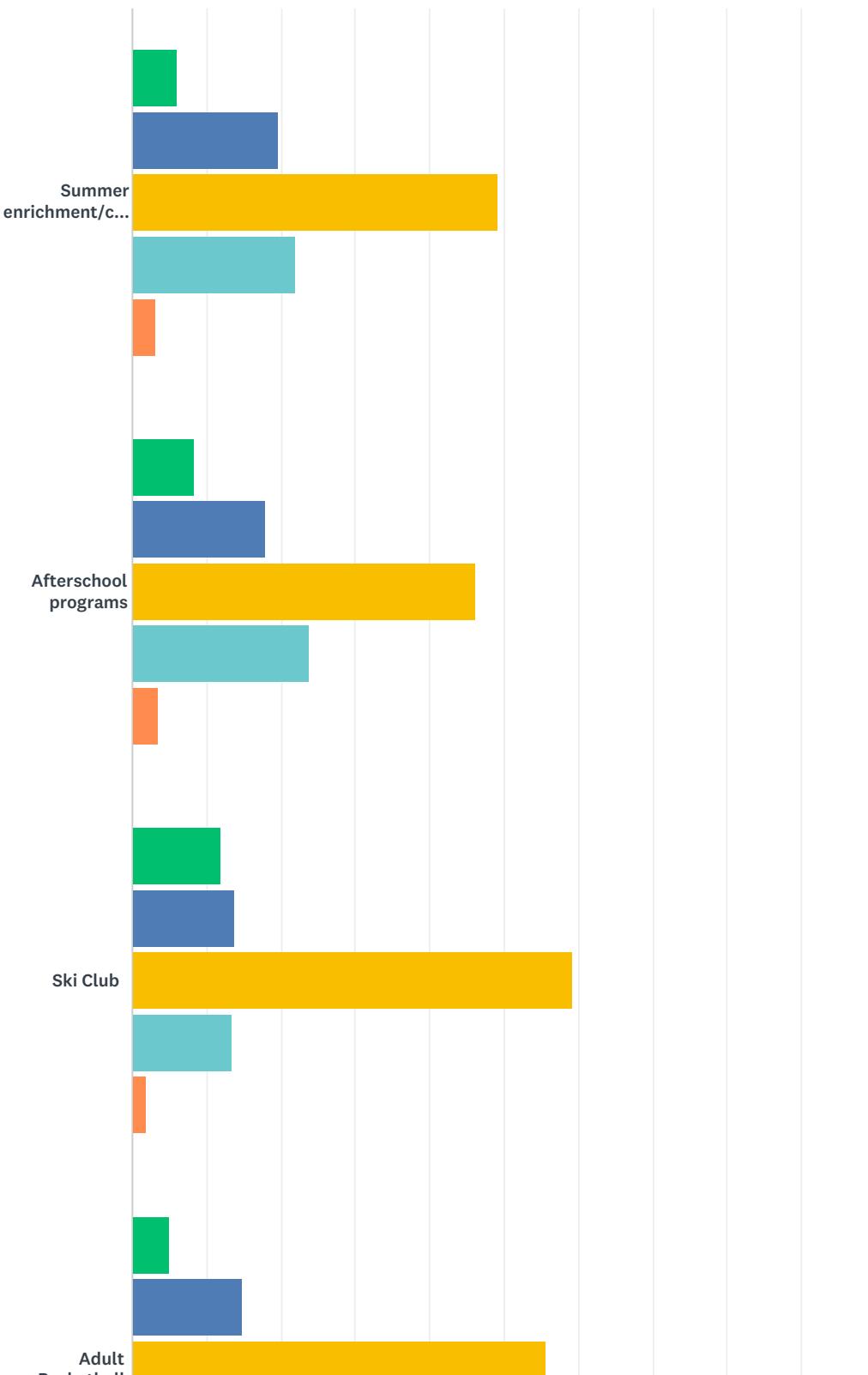
# Town of Seekonk Open Space & Recreation Plan

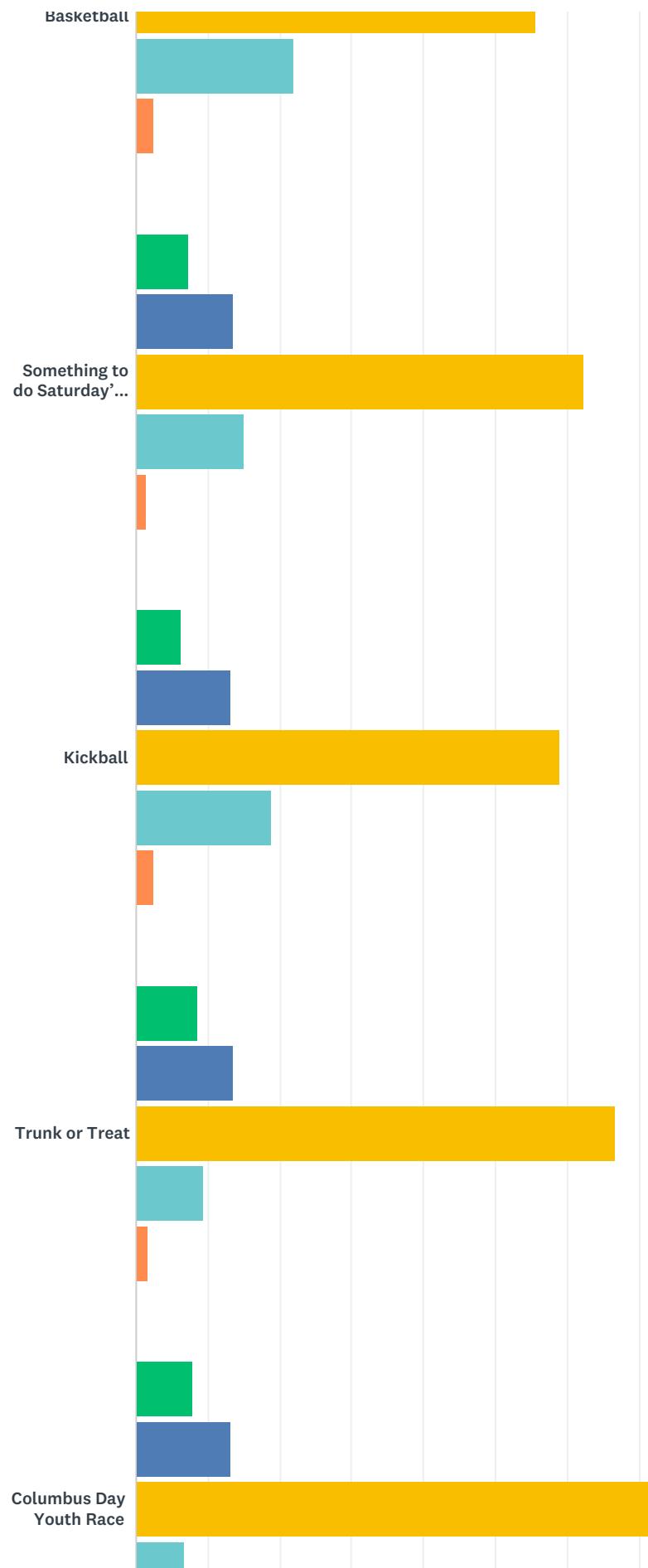
SurveyMonkey

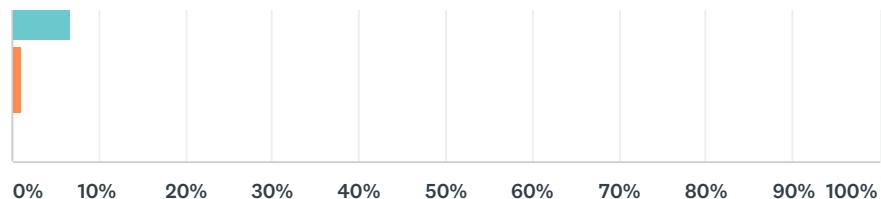
Canoe and/or kayak launch sites	1.34% 5	12.57% 47	35.03% 131	40.91% 153	10.16% 38	374
Fishing access points	3.01% 11	13.97% 51	49.04% 179	27.12% 99	6.85% 25	365
Community gardens	1.36% 5	7.90% 29	38.42% 141	39.24% 144	13.08% 48	367
Dog parks	3.52% 13	5.96% 22	24.12% 89	47.43% 175	18.97% 70	369
Neighborhood playgrounds	5.38% 20	14.25% 53	36.56% 136	26.08% 97	17.74% 66	372
Soccer fields	17.30% 64	18.92% 70	44.05% 163	14.59% 54	5.14% 19	370
Baseball/Softball fields	18.70% 69	19.51% 72	45.26% 167	12.20% 45	4.34% 16	369
Lacrosse fields	13.45% 48	15.13% 54	42.02% 150	22.69% 81	6.72% 24	357
Field hockey fields	12.68% 44	15.56% 54	46.97% 163	20.75% 72	4.03% 14	347
Tennis courts	6.93% 25	14.68% 53	42.38% 153	29.36% 106	6.65% 24	361
Basketball courts	9.22% 33	15.92% 57	41.34% 148	26.82% 96	6.70% 24	358
Volleyball courts	7.20% 25	10.95% 38	32.28% 112	39.19% 136	10.37% 36	347
Pickleball courts	6.41% 22	8.75% 30	32.94% 113	35.86% 123	16.03% 55	343
Swimming pools, outdoor	4.96% 18	5.51% 20	21.76% 79	40.22% 146	27.55% 100	363
Swimming pools, indoor	9.04% 33	11.23% 41	44.38% 162	23.01% 84	12.33% 45	365
Frisbee disc golf courses	6.43% 22	7.02% 24	38.01% 130	33.33% 114	15.20% 52	342

Q9 Do you agree that there are an adequate number of the recreation programs listed below in Seekonk? (Please rank each activity using the scale below)

Answered: 352    Skipped: 184







Strongly Agree  
 Somewhat Agree  
 Agree  
 Disagree  
 Strongly Disagree

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Summer enrichment/camp programs	6.14% 21	19.59% 67	49.12% 168	21.93% 75	3.22% 11	342
Afterschool programs	8.43% 29	18.02% 62	46.22% 159	23.84% 82	3.49% 12	344
Ski Club	11.84% 38	13.71% 44	59.19% 190	13.40% 43	1.87% 6	321
Adult Basketball	5.08% 16	14.92% 47	55.56% 175	21.90% 69	2.54% 8	315
Something to do Saturday's Program	7.41% 24	13.58% 44	62.35% 202	15.12% 49	1.54% 5	324
Kickball	6.31% 20	13.25% 42	58.99% 187	18.93% 60	2.52% 8	317
Trunk or Treat	8.54% 27	13.61% 43	66.77% 211	9.49% 30	1.58% 5	316
Columbus Day Youth Race	7.99% 25	13.10% 41	71.25% 223	6.71% 21	0.96% 3	313

**Q10 Please use the space below to share additional comments, suggestions and/or concerns regarding conservation lands, wildlife habitat protection, farmland and passive or active recreation facilities, activities, and programs in Seekonk. (Maximum 200 characters)**

Answered: 163 Skipped: 373

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We need more summer camp and afterschool options. We need more fitness options for adults and kids. yoga, aerobics, adult dance classes, parent and child exercise classes. Need activities for children with special needs to learn sports/fitness, riding a bike, running races etc.	9/27/2017 1:54 PM
2	Please protect water. We keep building on land we should protect. Build more fields---soccer, baseball, etc. We could use a rec center with courts. Volleyball and basketball. We need to use our pool better. Get the kids back swimming in the pool. Let the YMCA barracudas swim team (feeder for SHS swim program) into our pool. It is a gorgeous facility that is sadly underused. We need more summer programs for working families. 9-12 or 1-3 is not a summer program. Most families in town have two working parents. How about a true summer program from 8-4? Even for the older kids....some programming they can show up to---not a full summer camp, but perhaps using the pool, fields, etc. The library does a decent job of programming some things over the summer for the older kids.....it is a great way to get them involved. Even have volunteer opportunities for them!	9/25/2017 11:26 AM
3	I wish Seekonk would be more strict about housing communities building in our town and the amount of land allotted to each house. Additionally, I wish they would have restrictions on the amount of trees builders take down. It's awful. Why isn't there a mandatory replacement program for builders?	9/24/2017 11:09 AM
4	The hiking trails in town are great.. However, the large number of people who walk their dogs off leash on these trails make it very unenjoyable for those who walk their dogs on leash. To the point that many people avoid walking their dogs on the trails altogether. It would be great if the leash law was better enforced on our trails.	9/11/2017 7:18 PM
5	My biggest concern is that many parcels of Open Space are getting developed, and that we will soon look like Cranston. The town keeps allowing development, which reduces wildlife habitats and ruins the rural nature of the town. In addition, the cost of the schools and services needed to serve the influx of families and children will soon be a challenge for the town.	9/10/2017 7:40 PM
6	so much of Seekonk has been developed ...either housing or business. It is imperative that we realize that not much is left for open space and it needs to be protected. I remember this town in the 70's. It was so very different. The town was very rural and beautiful, even route 6. We need to save what little is left for posterity.	9/10/2017 4:35 PM
7	Tax support to increase wetlands protection, farmland preservation, wildlife habitat protectin, and passive recreation creation.	9/9/2017 12:09 PM
8	Besides their economic value, parks and open space are important for environmental quality, our health and social well being. We need more large parcels of land for passive and active recreation. Ledgemont and Pawtucket Country Clubs should be on the watch list of properties to acquire. These are beautiful properties that would have lasting positive impact on quality of life in Seekonk if preserved forever, to be used for passive and active recreation. Bike paths are a tremendous asset to a community. The East Providence and East Bay bike paths are well used by all ages of people, and links to existing paths should be pursued. I am not aware of Adult rec programs in Seekonk and would therefore recommend more recreational opportunities for adults and seniors. Also there is not good publicity on programs, maybe because of lack of weekly newspaper. Weekly email from the town to residents could be an option.	9/9/2017 11:14 AM
9	It would be wonderful if Seekonk had a dog park Also, an outdoor pool. Maybe Seekonk could consider purchasing Gristmill pool club for town use?	8/17/2017 8:07 AM
10	Forget trying to keep Seekonk rural. It us too late for that.	8/16/2017 5:25 PM

11	What dog park? Adult basketball too late at night!	8/13/2017 9:14 PM
12	With all the new developments popping up around Seekonk, I'm concerned that Seekonk, especially North Seekonk, will lose its rural and scenic charm that entices homebuyers and enhances the day to day living of our residents. I think it's more important than ever to invest in hiking trails, overlooks, bike paths, and more wildlife conservation to protect the beauty and history of our rural town. The wonderful thing about Seekonk is it's a short drive to the city (both Providence and Boston) but a special little rural oasis. I think that's the biggest value Seekonk holds, and why we purchased a home here at the beginning of this year.	8/10/2017 7:54 AM
13	Conservation of land is important for wildlife and to keep seekonk rural. Somewhat difficult to do this when houses are being built the way they are.. not one or two here or there but 10-20 at a shot. I find it interesting that there isn't a playground that doesn't have swings for a baby or for those who are handicapped. In a world where money wasn't an option.. the old seekonk showcase would be a great sports complex... could have not only indoor sports but outdoor.. and there is ample parking.	8/10/2017 6:03 AM
14	Unified/inclusive sports opportunities for young developmentally disabled adults should also be considered. i.e.: Basketball, running/walking club, social opportunities.	8/9/2017 3:23 PM
15	Seekonk needs to have more open area for outdoor recreation, as well as, the need for additional sports fields. It appears that school teams take precedent over recreation teams on the athletic fields (possibly because the fields are mostly located on school property). It would be nice to have sport fields that could be accessed by everyone of all ages and not just the school teams. Also there are not enough playgrounds for the smaller children in areas for the public to access. The current playgrounds are limited to the old North School and Aitken School and no one is allowed on these playgrounds during school hours. As for fishing, kayaking and canoeing....is there any area of Seekonk that can be utilized?	8/9/2017 2:26 PM
16	Seekonk is becoming too commercialized. Too many developments with little land space and it is losing its rural character as a result! Please do not cut down trees to make room for more houses!!! We need more scenic and common areas for residents to gather. A Farmer's market would also be greatly appreciated!!	8/8/2017 9:07 PM
17	Not enough courts and fields for the rec. programs. This is esp. true in the winter. Not enough courts for everyone to practice on. Many of the b-ball courts are to small (no room for spectators). Ideal would be to have a town sports center--priority given to town sports, rent out is space available. Not enough sports programs for adults. Partially caused by lack of space??? Town is losing its rural feel. Need to put even more effort into preserving land, making trails, etc. Community garden would be great.	8/8/2017 8:45 PM
18	I'm very concerned over the consistent building of apt/condos and new home developments. Seekonk is losing its rural, country feel. In particular the apartment, condo building needs to stop. I'd love to see a community center which with activities that would encourage adult team sports such as Kickball, dodgeball, hiking, wallyball, volleyball, etc.	8/8/2017 5:09 PM
19	I know most of the land surrounding the James Turner res is actually part of East Providence but something has to be done about the amount of littering going on back there. Every so often I see a trash bag at the ledge st parking area but. I think an actual barrel might be a better option. Also I think the barrel is just a start maybe a sign there about Leave No Trace would be good too to start to inform people. Also I'd love to see some more access to McHales Pond for kayaks and car top type boats.	8/8/2017 1:37 PM
20	The survey was VERY poorly designed. I have participated in many and this was the worst.	8/8/2017 10:41 AM
21	200 chars?! Seekonk is rapidly shifting from a rural community to suburb and in a few decades could be like East Providence. NOT GOOD. Crafting a long term plan to limit dense building is imperative.	8/8/2017 8:56 AM
22	Outside of playgrounds at the elementary schools I see a lack of playground areas. If you have children that are not yet in school you need to travel to a different community for access to playgrounds during school hours. I think it would be a wonderful addition to add something like this - it would also help new mothers build a sense of community here in Seekonk.	8/8/2017 8:11 AM
23	There is WAY too much building going on in town on every lot of land. We are losing sight of the original feel of Seekonk. Can we set up an organization, that is fueled by donation, to buy open areas when they are available? This is done in NH and they have purchased 1000's of acres for conservation and habitat protection. The wild animals have no where to go anymore. We are too interested in tax money and not enough interest in maintaining our town for future generations.	8/8/2017 6:43 AM

24	It's extremely important for us to conserve our rural beauty here in town and give access to hikers/walkers, bikers and runners to enjoy that beauty. There are many runners (of all ages) on our narrow roads in town and it's extremely important for them to have safe places to run along with our bikers and walkers in town.	8/8/2017 6:26 AM
25	It would nice to see more nature type activities that are well advertised. Walking and bike paths are costly but well worth the investment!	8/8/2017 5:38 AM
26	More adult leagues. When you talk about land there is so much development going on in seekonk are we really conserving our land???	8/8/2017 5:32 AM
27	Should have a play ground near the libraby or another open area. Don't just have them at the schools. We are always going to attleboro or east providence playgrounds	8/7/2017 9:53 PM
28	I do not feel that seekonk is doing a good job maintaining its rursl appeal Too much business encroachment from rt 6 way too many trees being cut down and not replaced and way too many housing developments being built rather than preserving open space and causing overcrowding. In the schools too	8/7/2017 9:42 PM
29	Seekonk needs a top of the line recreation area for children to play. I find myself traveling to Pawtucket, East Providence, and Barrington to go to playground with my children. We should not have to leave Seekonk to provide adequate activities for our children.	8/7/2017 9:29 PM
30	Seekonk is showing signs of moving from a small rural town to a small city. Every postage stamp of land is being sold and built. This needs to stop!! We need to preserve more of our land for our wildlife. Housing developments, additional gas stations, etc seem to keeping being added to our town and once it's done, we can't go back.	8/7/2017 9:28 PM
31	there are two places that Seekonk doesn't have , That would behoove the community and its residence . One A play ground , and a dog park. There is no play ground for the children of Seekonk to go to. The school play grounds are not open to the public during school in session hours. I have to take my children to surrounding towns to access a play ground. Also I have to do the same for my dog as well. Seekonk has enough soccer fields, Baseball fields , Commercial businesses and a big Senior center. Wouldn't a playground behind the library make sense ?	8/7/2017 9:07 PM
32	I think that soccer is a huge sport in this town along with baseball and lacrosse becoming increasing popular that we need to invest money into our field quality and appearance to make our town more competitive!!	8/7/2017 8:57 PM
33	There needs to be more activities at a reasonable rate or a place that kids can go supervised at the Jr high school ages. There is nowhere for kids 12 to 16 to go after school. Seekonk lacks in this as well as family recreation at a reasonable cost compared to other surrounding towns that have rec departments.	8/7/2017 8:27 PM
34	We need a good playground in town for the children use.	8/7/2017 8:19 PM
35	We in to put more into our sports fields for our children, bike paths so families can go on safe bike rides	8/7/2017 8:15 PM
36	The middle school soccer field is a disgrace. The town is lucky no one was hurt. There is a lack of non-sports related activities. It would be nice to have an outdoor skate park.	8/7/2017 8:10 PM
37	Town purchasing Firefly land to prevent possibility of rumored rehab clinics and having a town golf course or using that land for a park with playground, farmer's market, short bike path, daffodil fields (like Parson's Reserve in Dartmouth), fair grounds in spring/summer.	8/7/2017 8:10 PM
38	Zero area for younger children to play, Seekonk has no adequate playgrounds. Yes small areas but no playgrounds like other towns. There is way to much building of new homes that have turned Seekonk into an overpopulated town with no family resources causing families to leave town to go utilize their facilities.	8/7/2017 8:03 PM
39	I would love a track program for kids. Something like what east greenwich does: <a href="http://www.ewgsummertrack.org">http://www.ewgsummertrack.org</a>	8/7/2017 8:01 PM
40	Please stop building homes in seekonk! Conserve more land for wildlife and the public to enjoy. So many vacant stores/shops/buildings, repurpose those before building on land.	8/7/2017 7:58 PM
41	I feel seekonk should try harder to secure more open space which then encourages more wildlife, hiking trails, improves the rural feel..Seekonk has become all about developments, not the charm that it had even 10 years ago...	8/7/2017 7:58 PM

42	Protect water resources. Ledgemont specifically. We also need a recreation center...with outdoor fields and a field house.	8/7/2017 7:49 PM
43	There are few options for summer programs for children who have parents who work full time that are provided by the town. These are the people bringing in taxes to the town. It would be nice to see seekonk become more concerned with open space and limiting the expansion of commercial and residential properties.	8/7/2017 7:48 PM
44	Open space is still available in a town if a majority of people choose to use it for other purposes. Once it is full of houses it ceases to have that potential. Do we want to look like East Providence in a decade or two? That is not what is attracting people here now.	8/4/2017 9:48 AM
45	We need to conserve as much land for wildlife habitat as possible. If we continue to build homes, condos, and businesses, we will continue to lose the natural beauty of our community. I moved to Seekonk over twenty years ago because of the natural beauty, well kept neighborhoods, and rural feel of the town among other reasons. Since then, I have seen destruction of it's beautiful open spaces, loss of habitat for much wildlife, and too much building. This town has a rich history of farmlands, let's keep most of this beautiful town rural with as much open conserved space as possible. CONSERVE CONSERVE CONSERVE!	7/29/2017 1:08 PM
46	Seekonk needs to invest in more/better after school programs for kids in Middle and High School. Including 5/6th grades. Town needs to have more Adult active sports activities like it did years ago. Lack of space forced out adult leagues of all kinds. Better/more facilities potential for revenue to the Town. Then increase Recreation facilities.	7/22/2017 6:51 PM
47	Do not know about the extent of some of the programs questioned in the survey as due to our age we are not involved in them. I do think Seekonk does a great job with the activities and recreational opportunities we read about.	7/22/2017 8:39 AM
48	Although no longer directly involved and not sure if it falls under recreation plan, but I still support the Seekonk majorettes. My daughter was in it for 8 years from 200 to 2008 and during that time they were always competing for gym time. outside (ie not school or seekonk rec leagues) got priority over them. I dont know if that is still the case, its that gray area as to whether they are considered a club or a sports team (theyve also removed all their championship banners from the gym). My husband and I always joke that if we had the money we would purchase the vacnt showcase cinema and turn it into an indoor meeting/sports facility. keep 1 theater and convert all the other theaters to sports arenas. There's plenty of parking. On the upside, the dog and I really enjoy walking through Seekonk meadows and back through those woods. My son spent 3 days cleaning up the old tennis court behind North school over 10 years ago for his Eagle Scout project, too bad parks and rec never did anything with it. It would be a great street hockey rink.	7/13/2017 9:38 PM
49	I'm not entirely sure I've seen paved bike path's in town. This is our first year in the summer camp program and so far it is great. We also visited trunk or treat and I think it was a decent event. I think seeing if more businesses or local groups want to participate would be nice.	7/13/2017 7:28 PM
50	What scenic areas are in Seekonk? The speedway? The 'rural' aspect in Seekonk disappeared a long time ago.	7/12/2017 10:40 AM
51	no comment at this time.	7/11/2017 10:23 AM
52	Playgrounds!!!!!!	7/10/2017 7:55 PM
53	Seekonk has far too many homes being built in very sensitive, natural areas that may later impact our quality of life as well as animal life. I see too many new homes being built in developments that seem so close to each other. How long before lawn chemicals begin to appear in our drinking water? If we can begin to set more land aside to conservancy let us try. Thank you.	7/10/2017 6:56 PM
54	Insufficient places to take dogs.	7/10/2017 6:31 PM
55	I am quite concerned with the number of new developments in the town. i also was not aware of many of the offerings in the survey- not sure that parks and rec communicates their offerings very well, or maybe it is only through the public school system. It often seems like activities are built around a family with one stay at home parent, which is not very common anymore. I would like to see a playground for all residents that is not linked to an elementary school. It would be amazing if the town had a community center, with swimming pool, tennis courts, and other recreation facilities. It would serve as a gathering space and build community. I am pleased to see the new senior center, but wish it was open on the weekends to encourage inter-generational gatherings. The town I am from had so many options for families, seniors, and adults in the town- take a look @ <a href="http://www.amherstyouthandrec.org/Default.aspx?id=1">http://www.amherstyouthandrec.org/Default.aspx?id=1</a> , so I see a lot of opportunities for growth in this area in Seekonk. Thanks for collecting feedback!	7/10/2017 9:01 AM

56	I have 2 primary concerns. 1- There is a lack of space for sports teams for families and athletes in Seekonk currently. 2 - With the growing development on housing in Seekonk open land spaces for wildlife are disappearing. We need to preserve our wildlife in Seekonk.	7/10/2017 7:20 AM
57	Outdoor music programs were not mentioned in this survey.	7/9/2017 9:07 PM
58	It is our feeling that the town does not do enough to save open space for recreational use and wildlife. There always seems to be more housing developments or condominiums going up in town. We think that more needs to be done to save what little open space is left. When we moved to Seekonk we purposely did not look at new developments but at an existing home. We felt that buying new was what is best for the town. But most people here do not seem to agree.	7/9/2017 8:20 PM
59	Here is too much construction in the town which is affecting the wild life, our town's ability to preserve open space and to develop more recreational areas. Seekonk also lacks a central town common or park that would include recreational space for sports and leisure activities	7/8/2017 8:22 PM
60	Due to the commercial and residential growth of Seekonk, and the government mandates and regulations that come down from on high, I think we need to be most concerned with the basics. As it pertains to this survey, I think we should focus on water quality and the supply far into the future.	7/8/2017 5:45 AM
61	It would be great if Seekonk HS public open swim time would be available more often and longer than 1 hour.	7/7/2017 2:36 PM
62	The town needs stronger protection of the water district well recharge areas. Developers are not required to respect the critical need to protect our source of drinking water.	7/7/2017 2:03 PM
63	Full day summer camp is needed for working parents. Evening adult exercise classes running simultaneously as youth class for single parents please.	7/7/2017 1:18 PM
64	Walking trails in back of the library (other than the gravel paths) need better markings and a cleared space for walking. There is no bike path at all that I've heard of in Seekonk. A dog park is needed for Seekonk. I use the one in Pawtucket or Attleboro, but I should be able to stay in my own town for one. There are a large number of dog owners in town. A dog park would go hand-in-hand with an improved animal shelter.	7/7/2017 12:22 PM
65	We need more sidewalks!!!! Especially on Brown, Pine, Read & area. People drive fast down Brown & Pine and it is often scary to walk my dogs along there - we almost got hit once by a distracted driver who crossed from the other side and almost took us out. More adult sports or fitness opportunities would be nice.	7/7/2017 11:53 AM
66	There should have been some kind of "lack enough information to rate" choice.	7/7/2017 11:29 AM
67	I wish Seekonk had a paved bike path. My husband and I use the ones in RI regularly. I am afraid to ride on most of the streets in town due to distracted drivers. We also need a small playground for preschoolers that parents and grandparents could take children to during the day. The ones at the schools can't be used by the public during school hours.	7/7/2017 11:20 AM
68	I think it is imperative to preserve the natural land in seekonk as unpaved trails and walkways through natural scenic routes and paths. Our family enjoys doing things outdoors and in the natural habitat. I would love to know about more of these opportunities. I will access the parks and rec website to do so. The adults often participate in activities in Pawtucket to play tennis, disc golf, soccer, kickball, or other intramural activities (slater park or hank soar). We also go to parks and playgrounds in Pawtucket because we don't know of many in seekonk. More in seekonk would be welcome and fun. Thank you for doing this survey.	7/7/2017 9:55 AM
69	Not having any children, we may not be aware of all that Seekonk already has in place as far as these facilities and activities are concerned, other than what we have read about or seen listed in the library or school billboards. It may have been helpful to have had a list of what the pre-existing facilities are and what they have available, prior to taking this survey.	7/7/2017 9:29 AM
70	Seekonk has lost its rural character. Everywhere there is an open lot there will soon be a house going up.	7/7/2017 9:13 AM
71	Information on all the options available in Seekonk. Some/all programs are not marketed enough to know what is going on.	7/7/2017 7:02 AM

72	I think it would be so nice to have a town playground and some basketball or tennis courts. The only options are to use the public school play spaces and they can not be used during school hours. At a community playground families meet and share information about town events and it really enforces a sense of community. Most days I bring my children to the playgrounds in Barrington or East Providence and I pay a yearly fee to take books out at those libraries as the playgrounds are near the libraries. Because of the amount of time I spend in Barrington and East Providence, I end up getting information about the programs there for children from other parents and tend to sign my children up for activates in those towns. I know a lot of my Seekonk friends with children wish there was a safe place to meet and play outside in Seekonk. Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.	7/7/2017 5:23 AM
73	We need to conserve more land for conservation and wildlife habitat protection. Once we build on it, it is lost forever. If we want to keep Seekonk beautiful, we need to set aside more land for conservation. Seekonk is becoming increasingly more unattractive the more they build. It is horrible what they did on County St with the newest houses. It is no longer the sweet rural town I grew up in. It is now total surbian.	7/6/2017 9:29 PM
74	I was not aware there was a dog park. Lived here for over 30 years. These recreation facilities might become more important sometime in the future	7/6/2017 9:08 PM
75	We desperately need a community center to house all the community events, recreation, and adult learning classes our community deserves! (And less new housing developments ????)	7/6/2017 9:08 PM
76	The land at the end of Maple Ave needs to become a dedicated outdoor park.	7/6/2017 9:05 PM
77	Make seekonk a better place to live...	7/6/2017 8:52 PM
78	I wish Seekonk would stop building so many houses and developments and have more opportunities to use the rural spaces we have	7/6/2017 8:36 PM
79	I would love to see a playground where the community of young families could come together. In other towns, this serves as a meeting point for families at a young age, when the sense of community is established. If there were a playground at the Seekonk library, I would choose to take my children there to play and visit the Seekonk library. Instead, I much more often choose to go to Barrington playground and visit that library	7/6/2017 8:21 PM
80	We need a playground in Seekonk for kids! One besides the elementary schools that parents can take their kids to year round. Seekonk parents have to travel to Barrington, East Providence and surrounding towns for a decent playground. It would bring parents of infants, toddlers and school-age children closer together in a tighter-knot community.	7/6/2017 8:00 PM
81	Conservation Habitat protection, agriculture and passive recreation activities are very important we do not need facilities the activites are outdoors. Have info about the activities at the library and small display for the meadows and surroundings.	7/6/2017 7:35 PM
82	I think what we have is sufficient for a community our size. More access to the indoor pool would be great & better upkeep of current outdoor fields and ball courts.	7/6/2017 7:19 PM
83	It would be nice to have more outside music events. Seekonk is not designed/planned with an actual town center which is unfortunate in trying to build a community. Also, better promotion, NOT on town website of events would be nice.	7/6/2017 7:05 PM
84	It would be good to preserve more open land as the uptick in building/clearing land in Seekonk has driven wildlife into neighborhoods, causing problems with pets and destruction to landscaping.	7/6/2017 6:50 PM
85	Every year I see more and more agricultural land and woodland being developed, leaving little open space left. Our town has changed from rural to suburban. I support any efforts for land conservation. Regarding recreation, it would be nice to have access to the various bodies of water in town for kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc. Currently very difficult to access.	7/6/2017 6:46 PM

86	I've lived in Seekonk pretty much all of my 76 years and the town bears no resemblance to the rural community I grew up in! We have a lot of wildlife that visit our property because of the Runnins River; however, the more houses allowed, the less habitat and the greater danger of domestic pets becoming food for the predators! All the businesses, active and the one shut down, and all the traffic because of them makes us use the back roads to avoid it all. The lack of things for seniors in declining health should be considered! We waited so long to get the Senior Center, on the ground floor, up and running that I have all I can do to participate and I honestly think that applies to many other seniors?? (Actually, we were beginning to wonder if it'd ever get built!) Maybe a farmer's market at the Senior Center or the Library would be appreciated? (I'd love to be able to buy fresh, organic, GMO free food at one of these locations instead of having to go out of town or settle for whatever the supermarkets have. We should also provide good activities for our kids and youth that don't cost an arm and a leg!	7/6/2017 5:50 PM
87	Public buildings should use solar. Not enough recreational facilities and current ones aren't easy access for handicapped. Very little farmland. Homeowners should be allowed to raise more animals instead of land restrictions. Restrictions should apply to each lot size. Not just a minimum acreage.	7/6/2017 5:49 PM
88	As the number of public open spaces increases dual control of the properties will become an issue. ALL open space, including The Meadows, should be controlled by the BOS through the Park and Recreation Commission. Library Commission should be concentrating on expansion of library services.	7/6/2017 5:05 PM
89	Glad to see the new senior center is now available .	7/6/2017 5:02 PM
90	We LOVE the meadows, walking trails and Gamino Pond. It would be great if there were a better canoe launch area. There have been more bikers using the walking paths recently so it can sometimes feel less safe. A community dog park would be amazing to add to the meadows. It would be wonderful to have better paved sidewalks, especially on Newman Ave so that our older children could bike to school in a safer manner. (The current state of the sidewalks is extremely bumpy and feels dangerous)	7/6/2017 4:51 PM
91	Caratunk is wonderful but Seekonk must work hard to continue to push forward in this area.	7/6/2017 4:31 PM
92	Town should make an effort to buy/conserve more land to keep it from becoming house lots. Town should block development on marginal lands or wet lots . Town needs more open space	7/6/2017 4:24 PM
93	In my opinion , Seekonk is increasingly loosing its rural atmosphere. Big business seems to be taking over and there is little value placed on the aesthetic and historic quality of the town. There seems to be an attitude of apathy on the part of those in office. They seldom participate in local activities, giving little support to various town organizations.	7/6/2017 4:24 PM
94	Hunting is an essential component of conservation and there are too few public/conservation areas in Seekonk where hunting is allowed. There are no designated Wildlife Management Aread.	7/6/2017 4:18 PM
95	We have enough already.	7/6/2017 4:12 PM
96	I would like to go on a path that is away from traffic noise. So hard to find peace around here.	7/6/2017 4:00 PM
97	I wish Seekonk had two things. One, communal playground. One at Martin and one at Aitken continues to segregate the community. Two, I wish we had a decent Christmas tree during the tree lighting. I	7/6/2017 3:57 PM
98	Love the summer concerts at the Meadows!	7/6/2017 3:53 PM
99	As an older person, I don't use athletic facilities but feel very strongly about preservation of open space and habitat as well as responsible development. Years ago when I served on the sewer committee, I was told by our health agent that there were 68 buildable lots remaining in Seekonk. Now every quarter acre is perked and developed - not to mention the large apartment development that was added.	7/6/2017 3:46 PM
100	We need to protect Aquafar area and maintain open space. Seekonk should purchase pcc or ledgemont and build a Rec facility with a field house. Also make more sports fields. Ledgemont would be ideal since it is our water area and has cleared space for fields and a field house. Just like wheeler has done	7/6/2017 3:45 PM
101	Would love to see more adult activities. As for conservation when we bilt our house 4 years ago there was minimal land and now there are platts all over seekonk. Our neighbors are plowing over wetlands so I think we are doing a poor job in monitoring/protecting wetland/conservation lands. Our son is 3 right now and in a few years a lot of the activities will be more relevant.	7/6/2017 3:42 PM

102	Conservation property is important. what can be done to keep it well maintained. I have lived in town 4 years and haven't used or didn't know about many of the things listed though I use the library and town's website often.	7/6/2017 3:41 PM
103	Keep taxes down	7/6/2017 3:32 PM
104	I feel that any added recreation facilities and activities for our youth and families to use and come together would benefit our town. Our children need more to do to get them away from screen time. It could bring our community together in this divided society/time.	7/6/2017 3:30 PM
105	We have conserved enough land in seekonk.....tax bills prove it.	7/6/2017 3:23 PM
106	I would like to see connected parcels of open space to create wild life corridors. I wish the town would help us community gardeners with water in the summer. We need protect and help our farmers who provide fresh local food. Over fertilized and pampered lawns are not a benefit to our citizens' health and welfare.	7/5/2017 12:05 PM
107	When all the old farmland in Seekonk is developed we will look just like Cranston	6/30/2017 1:59 PM
108	Suggest additional agricultural land be acquired, maintain open fields.	6/30/2017 12:58 PM
109	Aside from the Seekonk Land Trust I see little evidence that anything is being done to preserve quality of life and the rural nature that brought us to Seekonk. Some good things have been done at Library and behind Town Hall. Mostly I see new developments going in and can only hope that they will not negatively impact the nature of the town or our taxes and water supply. Maintaining outdoor recreational access, sports venues, and the rural nature of the town is important not only for quality of life but to maintain our property values.	6/30/2017 9:02 AM
110	Would like to see more space reserved and not developed. Also would like to ensure that developers - when building a new house - don't clear-cut the whole property and leave some trees. Tennis courts and basketball courts at the high school need to be resurfaced. Please continue to preserve and protect open space and develop opportunities for recreation in Seekonk. Thank you.	6/30/2017 7:09 AM
111	WAY, WAY, WAY TOO MUCH LAND AND HABITAT-DESTROYING RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. STOP THE MADNESS AND PUT THE GREEDY DEVELOPERS IN THEIR PLACE --- TOO MUCH PALSY WALSY, OLD BOY STUFF AT THE PLANNING BOARD ETC. START PRESERVING LAND AND HABITAT IN AN AGGRESSIVE WAY.	6/29/2017 7:22 PM
112	Our current zoning encourages wasteful development. For instance, the seven acre lot near me was not allowed to put two or three additional homes on the lot. (There was one already there.) Because of zoning and frontage issues, a huge road was put in - and eleven new homes will be built. Ridiculous awakes are necessary to contain the run off from the very wide road. If a dirt or cinder driveway was allowed with a couple of additional homes, the damage to the local environment would have been minimal. Instead, in order to make the finances of development feasible, the entire lot will be developed. Extensive blasting occurred. It's a devastated area now. We need to fix our zoning laws!	6/29/2017 4:09 PM
113	We don't know the answer to some of your questions but we are concerned about development and how that is changing the rural character of the town as well as stressing our resources.	6/29/2017 1:53 PM
114	Keep up the good work!	6/29/2017 8:28 AM
115	Crying need for more trails, open space, parks, agricultural preservation, historical preservation.	6/29/2017 8:06 AM
116	there seems to be a blatant disregard for the rules regarding wetlands and building on them. With the number of foreclosed properties in Seekonk I fail to see why additional building is taking place, particularly in swamps.	6/29/2017 6:47 AM
117	difficult to comment on some of the programs listed (for instance for children) as these are not services I use currently so haven't really paid attention to this! are there paved bike trails in seekonk? I don't know of any... but easily accessible in Rumford The hiking behind the library continuing to the Mararian farm area is fantastic, I use this ALL the time. A similar sized parcel elsewhere in town would be wonderful!	6/28/2017 10:02 PM
118	Seekonk is special in the places that have kept the rural character, protection of wildlife and historic feeling. That's what I care about most.	6/28/2017 9:59 PM
119	It is difficult for me to answer most of the questions regarding recreational facilities as they relate to children and my kids have grown up.	6/27/2017 2:31 PM
120	More farmlands, natural woodlands, and wildlife habitats need preservation to maintain the rural nature of Seekonk.	6/26/2017 2:45 PM

121	I feel it's ridiculous that a town would sell out field use for corporate soccer teams and then restrict use of town soccer to use those fields because the corporate team paid money to take fields over we all pay taxes and the kids of the town should come first! I think the kids in this town need a positive outlet to utilize the open space in town and not leagues that will pay to take them over. This new practice is disgusting to me as a tax payer!!!	6/23/2017 4:35 PM
122	The Seekonk High School Pool should work together with the Newman YMCA.	6/23/2017 4:30 PM
123	I would like to see things preserved as they are or improved with regards to wildlife habitat and conservation land. I would like to see more bike lanes being put in on ALL roads, or at least ample breakdown lanes for riding. Also, sidewalks could be more user friendly, as most in my area (Hope St., Arcade, Ledge st.) are non-existent or in need of desperate repair. I am new to town, and would like to know more about the ski club, pickle ball opportunities as well as what other pools there are besides the Newman Y.	6/23/2017 4:05 PM
124	Love ski club. Thanks for bring it back. Seekonk parks and recreation does a great job, thanks	6/23/2017 12:51 PM
125	Please take into consideration the increased number of children playing soccer and the limited number of field space for practice when we are supposed to play on the same fields as lacrosse, Rush, and frisbee. This is very difficult to schedule or reschedule practices and games due to rain. Travel soccer should practice at least twice a week and are not able to at this time. If we want our town to be competitive and to keep kids in our program we need to make this happen. Our fields need to be seeded and rolled and filled. WE had holes on some of the fields this year. All fields need to be open as well. Closing a field this spring really hurt the program, and then add RUsh, frisbee and lacrosse into the mix and it really didn't help. I think Lacrosse also needs their own shed space if this program is going to grow. Soccer already has limited space and now we have to share it. Not sure if possible but paving the Cole Street fields parking lots would add more parking and look better. WE also need regular trash removal and trash can covers to decrease the trash blowing around and bees. Thank you	6/23/2017 9:26 AM
126	Seekonk is a wonderful town to live in. My family and I are very fortunate to be able to live in this town. Many of the reasons we choose to move here was being able to bring up our children in a place where farmland and wildlife habitat protection is important especially conservation on our lands not to forget the wonderful school system. However, we are concerned about the amount of new neighborhoods being built. Feeling we are loosing our farmland and other important values for our children. Feeling we are getting over crowded.....On another note, seeing there are so many vacant business buildings ie. old shoe case, would be a great area for indoor rec center. Let's utilize the vacant buildings rather than build and empty lots!	6/23/2017 8:30 AM
127	Field access was severely limited this spring w/ 1 Cole Street field closed & the other rented to a club soccer org. It drastically reduced access to the field for members of the town & resulted in more wear & tear on the 1 open field. Preference should go to town teams before out-of-town club soccer teams just because they will pay.	6/23/2017 7:42 AM
128	I would like there to be a racquetball/handball court	6/23/2017 5:57 AM
129	I would appreciate an email blast when opportunities such as ski club are being offered. Because my children attend private schools, we are oftentimes not made aware of the opportunities available in the town because correspondence is sent home with the child from school. We find this frustrating as we are paying taxes for town services. Our children play town sports and opportunities such as ski club are another way for them to feel part of the town community.	6/23/2017 1:29 AM
130	Athletic fields would benefit from work to make more playable	6/22/2017 8:46 PM

131	I grew up in the town of Seekonk and the "small town" feel is gone. We are over building and not conserving precious lands and wooded areas. Our residents/students should have first priority for reserving places to play sports. As usual soccer gets the short end of the stick. Although town soccer is not going on during the winter months, many town coaches continue the season to indoors, practicing indoors is always a fiasco. I understand basketball needs their time and space, but many times, basketball reserves the space and doesn't use it, it could be passed on to the soccer coaches. Also, this year we were only allowed to practice once week and we were limited to the field space. But a club team was able to get 2 days a week plus fields to play games. We had a difficult time trying to reschedule games, because of the club team. We have many other fields in town that are not being used. Why can't the club use the other fields (there's a field behind greenbrier, north school, aitken etc..).why are we limited on the fields? Town coaches would like to be able to practice twice a week as well. Also, a couple of our town soccer teams made playoffs, fields should be put aside for soccer up until father's day weekend when the finals are completed. That includes frisbee, they can hold off a week or limit their time for a week or two. Why should our coaches look to another town or go to slater park to get some practice time in before the playoffs. Also , it would be nice if parks could have a Friday night movie at one of the school fields, once a month.	6/22/2017 8:46 PM
132	I am fairly new to Seekonk so I hoe stay don't know if there are any walking or hiking trails or bike paths.....	6/22/2017 7:56 PM
133	I think the town needs more soccer fields as fields are being used by lacrosse and frisbee. The town also needs baby swings. There are none. A Bike path in town would also be great!!	6/22/2017 4:34 PM
134	When we moved to Seekonk, we were very disappointed to find out that there was no community playground, other than at the schools! When school is in session, you cannot use the ones at the schools with your younger, not school aged children, so I found myself having to drive to Barrington, East Providence, Warren, or Attleboro to find a playground. It also would have really helped us to meet new friends when we moved here, if there was a community playground. Ideally we would also love a community splash pad or pool but I know that is asking a lot. Also, the town my husband and I grew up in, had a kids summer track program and its still running to this day. It was for kids 3-14 and HS track athletes helped to run the program. That would be a great idea for Seekonk.	6/22/2017 4:21 PM
135	The lack of fields available for our children's sporting activities is shameful. As taxpayers, I would expect that the town work with town sports leagues first, so they can secure all their needed field time. Then rent out field space if available to premier leagues and other leagues. As taxpayers we pay for the right to use our fields.	6/22/2017 4:04 PM
136	I think seekonk needs more fields for soccer and sports activities. I would also like to see the fields in better shape as well. Personally I don't feel like ultimate frisbee and club sports teams (not from seekonk) should be using our fields. We don't have enough space for the youth to practice as it is and now we have to share it with other non town sports. I would love to see an outdoor community pool and neighborhood playgrounds. 2 of our children are involved with the ski club. We love it! Thanks for doing this survey. I would love to see more active recreation facilities for our town.	6/22/2017 3:53 PM
137	At the moment I see a lot of new home developments being constructed in Seekonk. There is a lot of land being developed and this is impacting Seekonk's rural and small town feel. It is beginning to get over developed. Seekonk used to be such a nice scenic, quiet, rural community but it is slowly (or maybe quickly) becoming an over built and overcrowded community. Traffic during rush hour in certain areas of Seekonk is terrible. Some of the new developments (the new one on Route 44 for example) are allowing new houses to be built basically right on top of each other. Looks terrible and makes Seekonk look like it is heading toward a "city" look. If you are going to allow Seekonk's land to be developed at least do it in a tasteful manner. Require there to be spacious untouched land between the houses. The way things are headed Seekonk will look no different than Attleboro or East Providence. I miss the Seekonk that was a nice quiet, quaint, peaceful place to live.	6/22/2017 3:50 PM
138	I have no knowledge of outdoor pools or adult basketball so I would be interested in both and I have lived here eight years!	6/22/2017 3:34 PM
139	Over the last few years Seekonk have OVER developed. At this rate I don't believe our natural resources can sustain the growth. Our town officials needs to stop looking at the dollars and start looking to preserve our natural resources. PLEASE STOP ALL THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS. Seekonk is starting to loose it's country charms!	6/22/2017 3:01 PM
140	Seekonk needs to be more thoughtful and mindful with their approach to open space.	6/22/2017 2:47 PM

141	To me is how do we keep these areas from being deteriorated, poor lighting, insufficient signage, overgrown weeds, etc. Seekonk is a beautiful historic place but sometimes is not well taken care of.	6/22/2017 2:42 PM
142	The soccer fields are slowly deteriorating in quality. It would be fantastic if our town pool was available to get used by the community-a collaboration with the Newman Ymca would be great for our younger swimmers.	6/22/2017 2:41 PM
143	Some questions were tricky because I would have entered an NA into the space. I do believe that with the rapidly expanding residential community (which is another story all together and needs to slow down) that it must be difficult to maintain Seekonk's recreational spaces. Because my kids are currently younger we use a lot of the field space in they are sometimes packed to the max and it seems that there are now some outside groups using the space which can be frustrating when you hear that you can't get practice time for town teams. We use the trails by the reservoir all the time and they are a part of our day to day lives along with heavy use of the Seekonk "meadows" near the library.	6/22/2017 2:40 PM
144	We need to utilize time and fields for in house tax paying use. Not rented to outside club teams, frisbee etc....	6/22/2017 2:34 PM
145	The girs softball feilds are a disgrace. Our high school girls have to be bused everyday instead of someone fixing the feild. The middle school feild is shameful. Looking at the boys nice clean feilds with new fence and dug outs the gils have rusty torn fence and a uncovered wooden bench. The girls softball teams record was fantastic and the boys terrible. The cole street feilds fill with puddles and also have uncovered dugouts. The town is really letting girls down and setting a stigma that only boys sports matter.	6/22/2017 2:27 PM
146	I believe there are not enough soccer fields for our town to properly develop and keep our program strong. Teams are constantly being pushed aside for outside club teams and ultimate frisbee. This past season was not fun trying to fit in a practice within a one hour time slot and designated for only one day a week.	6/22/2017 12:16 PM
147	Town of Seekonk does not have adequate fields\courts for baseball, soccer and basketball. We need more fields/courts for youth sports in our community. This will help produce a more competitive experience within youth sports. We have many thriving businesses that we need to tap into to sponsor fields ...Tasca...Target...Walmart...BJs...and many more.	6/21/2017 6:45 PM
148	Please update the current fields and invest more space to Seekonk youth sports!	6/21/2017 11:53 AM
149	Many pay-to-play groups get free access to our facilities under the guise of travel teams. These teams have players from out of town paying for a team that uses Seekonk facilities for free. Aslo, any Seekonk recreation group using Seekonk facilities should be posted as "open enrollment" if non-Seekonk residence fill spaces, (they should be able to be bumped) and/or out of town residence should pay an additional fee that goes toward maintenance of facilities.	6/21/2017 11:30 AM
150	Consider hubs for fields for specific sports. Softball at cole street, cole street	6/21/2017 11:12 AM
151	Town needs more youth sport fields. The fields are overburdened. The high school should not have to play offsite. Should be more cooperation between town field workers, rec dept and schools. Outside rentals should not take priority and abuse our fields. Turf fundraiser??? Only answer in a multisport/use bad weather area.	6/21/2017 10:28 AM
152	Overall, I think the town does a decent job with outdoor activities but their is definitely room for improvement. The baseball facilities all need a major face lift. Most of the fields are dangerous in terms of their current condition. There needs to be some sort of plan in place to evaluate and improve the facilities. Most neighboring towns have far superior complexes.	6/21/2017 10:24 AM
153	As a soccer family we were disappointed at the field space available to our teams during this past spring season. The onset of LaCrosse and the introduction of an outside club from Rhode Island made it very difficult for our team, and our league as we understand it, to remain competitive with other towns in our divisions. As a result, we fear that some families will not return for the fall season and/or may move on to private clubs or other leagues. It would be a shame to see Seekonk Youth Soccer to begin seeing dwindling numbers as families grow more frustrated with field usage restraints and deteriorating field quality. Seekonk has a long tradition of being a competitive soccer town but there didn't seem to be a priority put forth to make sure adequate field times were allotted this spring. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the town and the league, especially with presenting residents with a survey. We look forward and hope for improvement in the next year.	6/21/2017 10:21 AM

154	Link our pathways together( middle school, library meadows, high school, townhall) and then connect to the east providence and pawtucket bike paths via the reservoir bridge Brooke street. Also create a park like north attleboros world war 1 park for kids with water fountains for summertime	6/20/2017 9:47 PM
155	The rural character of Seekonk is among its most valuable resources. The town must plan for growth that respects green and open spaces. The two features can coexist, but require a concerted effort of education and planning. Thank you.	6/20/2017 7:30 AM
156	Critical we maintain the rural character of the town while also encouraging town spirit.	6/16/2017 7:09 AM
157	More options needed for full time working parents. Full day summer camp, after school swimming lessons, an all-ages playground/ bike path. group exercise classes for adults 4:30-6:00pm. Would love community gardens for the schools to participate and teach children how to grow food.	6/13/2017 8:04 AM
158	I would love to see some thoughtful, forceful consideration of the amount of building that is occurring in town. We are seriously in danger of overcrowding (schools, traffic) because of the new construction happening. The subdivisions off of Newman Ave in particular are concerning and show very little care or concern for the environment or the landscape of this town.	6/11/2017 7:48 AM
159	Seekonk's rural character needs to be maintained, but I also agree that there are not enough playing fields and play grounds for the kids in town. I have four grandchildren who are active in sports and it seems like more space is needed.	6/9/2017 9:31 AM
160	1. The survey makes assumptions about programs being needed when asking questions. 2. Quantitative demonstration for types of activities using populations by age groups within the town population need to be analyzed when presenting a rationale for including activities. 3. It will be interesting to see how bias is managed in the results of the survey. Comment #2 will be an important perspective to consider.	6/7/2017 5:08 PM
161	We should look at adding a town playground/athletic fields. We currently only have them located at the schools.	6/7/2017 3:56 PM
162	Would be nice to have a playground for the kids or maybe a pool that is open when families that work can actually use them	6/6/2017 7:10 PM
163	Seekonk is a beautiful community with an abundant amount of commercial activity. Further, new homes are popping up everywhere and interest in living in Seekonk is growing. Stronger efforts to promote, enhance and protect open spaces and wetlands is needed. For example, the new(ish) trailhead for the paths behind the library on the reservoir is greatly appreciated. Better maps for visitors would be helpful. It is gorgeous back there and obvious that many citizens enjoy the space. Also, to clean up and conserve the Ten Mile Reservoir for public use would be an absolute dream! The pond is teeming with wildlife - foxes, swan families, and fish. How can we add this to the Seekonk's conservation land?! Further on Arcade Avenue, if there are any public access easements to the Reservoir they are a mystery. Safer boating and fishing access on 152 would also be lovely. Maybe a kayak or canoe rental place on the reservoir? Thank you!	6/5/2017 1:14 PM

# D

## Appendix D | Public Comments and Meeting Minutes

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**OPEN SESSION of June 23, 2021**  
**Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street**  
**BOS Meeting Room**  
**JUNE 23, 2021**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio,  
David Andrade, Michael Healy

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Asst. Town Administrator/  
Director of Human Resources Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Any person recording must notify the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS**

Mr. Healy announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 BOS); Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS); Economic Development Committee (5 BOS); Energy Committee (1 BOS); Historical Commission (3 BOS); Recycling Committee (2 BOS); South End Fire Station Building Committee (1 Moderator), Veterans' Council (1 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 alternates)

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS** – None.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**A. Consider accepting the donation to the Seekonk Animal Shelter in the amount of \$2,510.75 from Jaylyn Kenney in memory of Dexter.**

Chairperson Sullivan said there are many people and children in the community that are inspired by what Miss Kenney has done. He read and presented a proclamation and Town tile to Jaylyn Kenney for her donation to the Town and Animal Shelter.

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the donation to the Seekonk Animal Shelter in the amount of \$2,510.75 from Jaylyn Kenney in memory of Dexter; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **B. Consider the request for a Transfer of an Off-Premise Wines and Malt Beverages license from RWJ Beverage (MA) LLC, d/b/a The Wine Cellar of Seekonk to Mormax Corporation d/b/a BJ's Wholesale Club and an Alteration of Premises at 175 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA**

A. Petronio read the public notice into the record: *The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., or as close to that time as possible, in the Meeting Room, located at Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk MA 02771 to consider the request for a Transfer of an Off-Premise Wines and Malt Beverages license from RWJ Beverage (MA) LLC, d/b/a The Wine Cellar of Seekonk to Mormax Corporation d/b/a BJ's Wholesale Club and an Alteration of Premises at 175 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA*"

**M. Healy made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

Attorney Eugene Richard from Hurwitz, Richard & Sencabaugh, LLP, 35 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 201 in Braintree, MA 02184 was present to summarize BJ's application to transfer their license. When BJ's first held the Off-Premise Wines and Malt Beverages License, the sales displays were located in the rear of the store and all sales went through the front sales registers. Attorney Richard addressed a letter of concern with minors being served. He advised they have not had an issue with minors having access to, or stealing the alcohol. Attorney Richard also discussed BJ's compliance operations and facility security. A warehouse model differs from the typical package store model. They do not sell cold beverages; everything is sold at room temperature.

Chairperson Sullivan asked if any Board members had any questions prior to opening it up for public comment.

D. Andrade asked Attorney Richard if the transfer would be contingent on having access to the entire store.

Attorney Richard stated the reason the application reads the whole store is to allow a buyer to shop the entire store before having to check out at the front of the store.

Someone in the audience said BJ's would still want to transfer the license even if access to the entire store is not granted.

Chairperson Sullivan asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak in favor or opposed to the transfer of the license and the proposed changes.

Keith Rondeau of 17 Shady Lane stated he was a distribution manager when large chain stores were allowed to serve alcohol in a store. Originally it did not seem restricting the alcohol area would be a benefit, however, with a dedicated area and dedicated cash register, a business could have some asset protection, better loss prevention, less sales to minors, and theft. Having all these controls are also a benefit to the Town, as well as general public.

Guy Larimar of 296 Anthony Street said he appreciates the benefit being offered, but would prefer if more controls would be in place. He supports the selling of products, but he would like to see the same controls that smaller stores are required to follow.

Nelson Almeida of 48 Quarry Street said as a resident and father of five children, he believes kids do not belong in a liquor store. He prefers the way BJ's is set up now with a store located at the entrance.

**A motion was made by D. Andrade to close the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

M. Healy stated he has concerns with how the store layout is being proposed may affect smaller businesses and that he prefers the current set up; therefore, he would not approve the license transfer.

D. Andrade stated that he believes the ABCC would have addressed any legal concerns and that it is the Board's purview to expand the square footage.

A. Petronio stated he also has concerns about the safety and image it presents to the community and minors. He also has concerns regarding the lack of controls as an open-ended business model. He would like it to remain in the caged area with the separate register for checkout.

C. Zorra asked Attorney Richard if there has been any theft at BJ's or in the Seekonk location.

Attorney Richard stated they have not had any violations, but it would be difficult to say that any business does not experience some amount of theft. He also stated BJ's business model has an employee standing at the entrance to verify receipts against items exiting the store.

C. Zorra stated he is ok with the transfer of the license as long as the product remains in the caged area.

D. Andrade said he was on the Board when the license was originally approved and thinks the convenience of BJ's having these items in a caged area allows a balance. He stated he does not see the benefit of opening it up to the entire store without having a loss of control. He asked if it's opened up to the store, does a customer have to provide a membership card to purchase the alcohol?

Attorney Richard stated having a membership is not a requirement to purchase alcohol because the ABCC does not allow a restriction to purchase of alcohol without a membership card, but someone cannot check out alcohol without having a TIPS trained cashier process the sale. D. Andrade said he does not see a problem with retaining the product in the cage. He believes the logic should remain under the current guidelines and stipulations set forth by the Board and the ABCC. He also stated he would not support the transfer of the license.

Chairperson Sullivan stated he is not in favor of expanding the sale of alcohol through the entire store but he would support maintaining the current process and would support with the transfer of the license.

Chairperson Sullivan entertained a motion to approve the license transfer as requested while maintaining the current square footage in the cage-in area with an independent register, and to adhere to all Massachusetts state laws.

**D. Andrade made the motion to approve the request for a transfer of an Off-Premise Wines and Malt Beverages license from RWJ Beverage (MA) LLC, d/b/a The Wine Cellar of Seekonk to Mormax Corporation d/b/a BJ's Wholesale Club and an Alteration of Premises at 175 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA while maintaining the current square footage in the caged-in area with an independent register, "as it currently exists," and adhere to all Massachusetts state laws and it was seconded by C. Zorra.**

**VOTE: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay  
Mr. Healy – Nay; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.**

### **LICENSE HEARING**

**C. Consider the request from National Grid to install 4 new solely owned poles #P2191-2, P2191-3, P2191-4, P2191-5 at 331 Central Avenue and Willis Avenue**

**D. Andrade made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved**

A. Petronio read the public notice into the record: "*The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on June 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as close to that time as possible, in the Meeting Room at the Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA, to consider a petition from National Grid to install 4 new solely owned poles #P2191-2, P2191-3, P2191-4, P2191-5 at 331 Central Avenue and Willis Avenue. Please contact the office of the Board of Selectmen during regular business hours with any questions at 508-336-2910*"

Al Galvin, the design engineer from the Hopedale office, stated they would be installing a three-phase primary off Central Avenue, and in doing so, they would need four poles for the three transformers and the one disconnect switch which would allow them to have two primary taps. This will allow for a quicker response to power outages during inclement weather. They reviewed the Superintendent of Public Works, Dave Cabral request and they will coordinate with

DPW to push the poles four feet off of the paved surface to allow for a buffer zone or any future sidewalks.

A. Petronio asked if there would be any communications lines on these poles and whether or not they would be disrupted.

Mr. Galvin answered no and that any communications are on the primary. He said it will be beneficial to new homes in the area.

D. Andrade asked if a three-phase currently exists on the pole that is there.

Mr. Galvin answered yes, down Central Avenue.

D. Andrade asked if the transformers could be added to the existing poles.

Mr. Galvin answered not the way it is currently constructed.

D. Andrade said they often have issues with getting responses from National Grid, as well as pole removal.

A. Petronio stated this may be a different topic than what they were discussing at this meeting.

M. Healy stated that he is unsure if the gentleman present can answer the questions being posed.

Mr. Cadime stated that some of the existing poles around Town also have some old fire lines that exist on the remaining poles.

D. Andrade stated he's supportive of the infrastructure and redundancy to avoid outages.

Mr. Galvin stated as it is structured now National Grid places the poles and Verizon removes the poles.

Chairperson Sullivan stated that there are unresolved issues with National Grid and shares in Mr. Andrade's frustration.

D. Andrade expressed his frustration with National Grid's unresponsiveness when the Town was trying to open Aitken School.

Chairperson Sullivan asked Mr. Galvin to notify individuals at National Grid that someone needs to reach out to the Town to address some outstanding concerns.

Mr. Cadime stated he will reach out to Verizon where the double poles are and ask for a government representative to attend a meeting.

A. Petronio asked how quickly Verizon can get to a meeting.

Mr. Cadime stated he believes it would be reasonable to have someone present for an August or September meeting.

A. Petronio asked the Board members when approval for new items would stop.

Chairperson Sullivan stated that these tend to come before the Board on an as needed basis.

**D. Andrade made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

Chairperson Sullivan asked if there were any further questions or discussion.

**C. Zorra made the motion for National Grid to install 4 newly solely owned poles ##P2191-2, P2191-3, P2191-4, P2191-5 at 331 Central Avenue and Willis Avenue; it was seconded by A. Petronio.**

**VOTE: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay**

**Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Nay; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.**

Mr. Andrade stated he welcomes the new infrastructure, but is unhappy with National Grid's response time.

**D. Consider the request for the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity to use Taunton Avenue for their annual procession**

Chairperson Sullivan requested that this item be passed since there may have been some changes.

**E. Consider the reappointment of Jennifer Miller as Conservation Agent for a three-year term**

Mr. Cadime stated that he recommends Jennifer Miller for reappointment to another three-year term. The reappointment is in alignment with the Town Charter regarding reappointments.

**D. Andrade made a motion to reappoint Jennifer Miller as Conservation Agent for a three-year term; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTED: 5-0 all in favor**

**F. Presentation and Discussion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) by the OSRP Working Group**

Jennifer Miller the Conservation Agent, John Aubin the Town Planner, and Gene Bollinger and Amanda Gall with Weston and Sampson were in attendance.

Jen Miller, Conservation Agent, stated that the open space and recreation plan has been a collaborative effort with the Seekonk Land Trust, Community Preservation Commission, Planning Department, and Recreation Committee. She explained this has been a three to four-year process and the purpose is to use it as a guiding document for future decisions, for both open space and recreation, as well as an element of the Master Plan, and providing key grant opportunities.

Gene Bollinger with Weston and Sampson stated this is just a draft and there is need to incorporate public comment at this time. Mapping updates were completed to identify open spaces, natural resources, and assets. The highest and greatest needs were evaluated through meetings and surveys to help identify action items which will be a part of the draft report. The draft will be posted for public comment tomorrow and those comments received will be incorporated into the final document.

Amanda Gall with Weston and Sampson stated that property types have been categorized into Town-owned, private, and non-profit. All of the well-known properties have been listed within the individual categories. Ten different properties were inventoried: 1) Arcade Woods; 2) Burr's Pond; 3) Cole Street Athletic Complex; 4) Gammino Pond; 5) North School Athletic Complex; 6) Seekonk High School football field; 7) Seekonk Meadows; 8) Veterans Memorial; 9) Town Hall playground; and 10) Water Lane Athletic Complex. The general conditions were evaluated at each of these locations. All of this evaluating was incorporated into a needs analysis summary which was gathered through public meetings and surveys.

Tom Webb, President of the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, stated that over several years the Land Trust has been cooperating with the Town. One of the main locations was the Arcade Avenue Woods where there are now trails connecting to the Town Hall trails. He is also excited that the Town Hall playground has been added which allows those who come visit the playground to access the trails.

Scott Olobri, Assistant DPW Superintendent, said the Town Hall playground was an idea brought to the Preservation Committee in 2018. Construction started in 2020, but COVID delayed it slightly. The playground opened for use in the Fall. There has been an overwhelming response from the Town. They are hoping to have a grand opening in the future. Site work remains ongoing and he hopes it will be near completion in late fall of 2021.

J. Miller stated that when she started Gammino Pond was an existing site. While collaborating with other organizations, they were able to open the staging area and increase the parking lot. Another staging area for those trails has been added at Dexter Ave. A lot of work has been done on those trails, including stairs which has increased safety. The storybook trail was also recently

added. The collaborative efforts show what we are able to do when all of these groups are brought together.

A. Petronio stated he is happy to see how far this has progressed and he is appreciative of the efforts. Hopefully this document will solve goals and interoperability with the overall Master Plan as it relates to open space, recreation, and grant writing.

Mr. Cadime said a lot of the work takes place behind the scenes and there is an amount of savings when all of the stakeholders work together. Sometimes the work and investment are overlooked and not always appreciated. The support and funding have allowed us to further improve these resources that the Town has. The playground has exceeded any of our expectations. He wanted to recognize the Department Heads for their hard work, the support from the Board of Selectmen, and the investment from stakeholders involved.

**G. Consider the acceptance of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant in the amount of \$4,692**

**A. Petronio made a motion to acceptance of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant in the amount of \$4,692; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTED: 5-0 all in favor**

**H. Consider the acceptance of the Senior Student Awareness of Fire Education grant in the amount of \$2,480**

**A. Petronio made a motion to consider the acceptance of the Senior Student Awareness of Fire Education grant in the amount of \$2,480; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**I. Consider accepting the donation of 30 mattress covers from Walmart to the Fire Department**

D. Andrade asked how this need for mattress covers were identified.

Fire Captain Michael Bourque said it was determined through COVID that mattress covers can offer additional protection against infection. The mattress covers are removed and washed daily to help cut down on infection rate.

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept 30 mattress covers from Walmart to the Fire Department; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**J. Consider the Bid Award for the Department of Public Works 2022-01 Surface Treatments to All States Construction, Inc.**

Superintendent of Public Works, Dave Cabral stated that the bid in 2019 was not advertised correctly in Goods and Services through MA procurement. The bid document was posted exactly as the prior bid. The Department of Public Works solicited for bids for use in public works operations. Advertisements were placed with local media as well as with required state agencies. Bids were received at the Town Hall through Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 1:00PM at which time bids received were publicly opened, read and recorded. A copy of the results was attached for the Board's review. The bid is for three years starting July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, with the option of three additional one-year extensions. After review of all the submitted packages, the Department of Public Works recommends awarding this bid to the lowest bidder, All States Construction, Inc.

Chair Sullivan questioned if there were funds carried over for those particular projects.

Mr. Cadime confirmed there were.

Chair Sullivan asked if this was the only bid that was received.

Mr. Cabral stated it is not uncommon. All States typically do these types of projects.

**D. Andrade made a motion to accept the Bid Award from All States Construction for the Department of Public Works Surface Treatments for 2022-01; it was seconded by A. Petronio and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**K. Consider the Bid Award for the Department of Public Works 2022-02 Tree Trimming and Removal Services to North-Eastern Tree Services, Inc**

**D. Andrade made a motion to accept the Bid Award for the Department of Public Works 2022-02 Tree Trimming and Removal Services to North-Eastern Tree Services, Inc.; it was seconded by A. Petronio and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**L. Consider the Bid Award for the Department of Public Works 2022-03 Boiler Removal and Installation (at the Public Safety Complex) to Industrial Burner Systems, Inc.**

Mr. Cabral stated the existing boiler is out of operation at public safety. The price exceeded the \$50,000 and the procurement law had to be followed. The Department of Public Works solicited for bids for use in public works operations. Advertisements were placed with local media as well as with required state agencies. Bids were received at the Town Hall through Wednesday, June 9,

2021 at 2:30 p. m. at which time bids received were publicly opened, read and recorded. A copy of the results was attached for the Board's review. The bid will become effective immediately upon your approval and will last for the duration of the project. After review of all the submitted packages the Department of Public Works recommends awarding this bid to the lowest bidder, Industrial Burner Systems, Inc.

**C. Zorra made a motion to consider the Bid Award for the Department of Public Works 2022-03 Boiler Removal and Installation (at the Public Safety Complex) to Industrial Burner Systems, Inc.; it was seconded by D. Andrade and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**M. Consider the reappointment of Board and Committee members; Cultural Council, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Human Services Council, and Recycling Committee**

M. Healy questioned a member that was not listed for reappointment on the Zoning Board of Appeals and if the individual is not being reconsidered.

Mr. Cadime confirmed that he will have the individuals before the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting, once he's had an opportunity to meet with Department Heads. Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointments as follows for three-year terms to expire on June 30, 2024:

Patti Dalton – Cultural Council  
Michael Dressler – Historical Commission  
Irene Andrews – Human Services Council  
Josephine Veaider – Human Services Council  
Paul Coutu – Recycling Committee  
Donald Robillard – Zoning Board of Appeals  
Shane Halajko – Zoning Board of Appeals

**C. Zorra made a motion to reappoint the members; it seconded by A. Petronio, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**Moderator Appointments**

Chairman Sullivan read the Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil's reappointment recommendation for the Finance committee: Philip Yan, Nelson Almeida, and Derick Medeiros with a term expiration of June 30, 2024.

**N. – P. Consider the disclosure of G.L.c. 268A, § 20(f) and the reappointment of Special Police Officers James Roy, William Dallaire, and Ronald Rickey**

A motion was made by A Petronio to approve the disclosure of G.L. Chapter 268A. § 20(f) and the reappointment of Special Police Officers James Roy, William Dallaire, and Ronald Rickey; it was seconded by Mr. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**Q. – S. Consider the disclosure of G.L.c. 268A, § 20(f) and the reappointment of Detention Attendants Kathleen Coyle, Lisa Parker, and Melissa Zasowski**

A motion was made by D. Andrade to approve the disclosure of G.L. Chapter 268A. § 20(f) and the reappointment of Detention Attendants Kathleen Coyle, Lisa Parker, and Melissa Zasowski; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**T. Consider the reappointment of Constables, Special Police Officers, Detention Attendants and Traffic Constables not requiring disclosure as recommended by the list provided by Police Chief Dean Isabella, dated June 15, 2021.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously voted to reappoint the following individuals:**

	<u>Constables 2021-2022</u>	
Chief Dean Isabella	Deputy Chief David Enos	Lt. Gerard LaFleur
Capt. Matthew Jardine	Sgt. Steven Fundakowski	Sgt. Thomas Hedrick
Lt. Christopher Kelly	Sgt. Adam Laprade	Sgt. Shaun Kelley
Lt. Eric Chalifoux	Sgt. Nicholas Peterson	Sgt. Gregory Casper
Sgt. Sean Dowd		

	<u>Special Police Officers 2021-2022</u>	
Andrew Galvao	Eric Dallaire	Paul Strollo
Scott Dumond	Edward McDonald	Craig Mace
Jason O'Hara	David Miller	

	<u>Detention Attendants 2020-2021</u>
Sandra Phillips	

**VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

**U. Discussion to give grant application authority to the Town Administrator unless it is a matching grant**

Mr. Cadime stated grants require application sign-offs and he is requesting the Board for a general blanket to approve the submitted grants, unless it is a matching grant then it would come

before the Board of Selectmen. Once a grant was submitted and awarded, it would still require the approval from the Board of Selectmen. Based on timing, an opportunity may be missed if a vote from the Board is required.

D. Andrade stated in the past there were presentations from individuals that have an impact on policies and budget by applying for the grant. He would like to see a cap or expiration on this.

Mr. Cadime stated it should be approved each fiscal year.

Mr. Andrade said as long as the understanding that adding personnel would be considered a matching grant, he would be ok with that.

**A. Petronio made a motion to give grant application authority to the Town Administrator unless it is a matching grant for Fiscal Year 2022; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 4-1**

**The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Nay; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.**

**V. Discussion regarding noise complaints and soil disturbance concerns on property owned by Lynch Corp.**

Chairperson Sullivan stated Mr. Andrade brought this to his attention regarding ongoing issues and complaints that he had been receiving.

D. Andrade stated this issue has come before the Board in the past for excessive noise, and late night/early morning construction activities occurring during off hours. He has received continued messages about being woken up at 5- 6 a.m. There has also been a mound that has gradually increased in size and has caused concerns about it encroaching onto conservation areas. He contacted both Mr. Abelson or Ms. Miller. Mr. Andrade also stated he was repeatedly told that residents have made noise complaint calls to the Police Department. Lynch Company has been to a prior Board meeting and expressed their desire to be a good neighbor. He asked that Mr. Abelson and Ms. Miller to discuss what their findings were after their inspections.

The Building Inspector, Neal Abelson stated that he received a call from Mr. Andrade since Ms. Miller was on vacation that week. The Town Charter gives the Building Inspector the right to enter and inspect the property. On May 5<sup>th</sup> he went to Carter's Way to see if there was an open violation of wetland. He saw an excavator well within 50 feet of the wetland area. He was asked to cease and desist, which was agreed to. At that point, the owner of the company approached Mr. Abelson and stated he was trespassing. Mr. Abelson identified himself and provided his contact information. At that time, he called the Assistant Town Administrator to notify her of his actions. Mr. Abelson went back to Carter's Way the next day to view whether or not the activity was still ongoing. He continued to inspect the area over the next several days and it appeared the activity had ceased.

The Conservation Agent, Jen Miller stated the actual facility has a 0 Taunton Ave address. She provided a summary of her site visit on May 12<sup>th</sup>. She noted an issue with accumulation of materials and a separate berm, which now has arborvitae trees to provide a visual buffer to Carter's Way. Some of that berm had been removed to start on the accumulation materials and is encroaching on the wetland's buffer. Ms. Miller advised the Board that Lynch Company will be coming to the July 12<sup>th</sup> Conservation hearing for a restoration plan, and eventually, for a Notice of Intent to see if they can be permitted to do the work they're looking to complete. Ms. Miller expressed concerns about baghouse fines being dumped, on the Seekonk side, which are an end product from the asphalt process and should not be disposed of in that way. They're being dumped into a wetland area which continues into Seekonk. Ms. Miller reached out to DEP to see if there is a separate contamination issue. That day, and immediately thereafter, Lynch was very cooperative in putting up the barriers that were requested, but there remains a lot more to resolve at this site.

D. Andrade asked who would be responsible for the removal of the baghouse fines and remediation of the space?

J. Miller stated that would be Lynch's responsibility.

D. Andrade stated the residents in the area should continue to monitor the area and make complaints. This will allow the police department to track it and allow for appropriate actions to the company if they continue to operate in this manner.

M. Healy asked J. Miller if Lynch has contacted the Conservation Commission regarding the actions required.

J. Miller stated they are set to appear at their July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

M. Healy stated they would not be able to meet the 30-day timeline outlined and according to this noticed they would be fined \$300 a day.

J. Miller stated that the Conservation Commission ratified the notice of violation on June 14<sup>th</sup>, which would begin the start of the 30 days since it hadn't been ratified yet.

A. Petronio stated that if they continue to violate the By-law noise ordinance, a violation can be issued.

D. Andrade stated that is a good distinction in case the work is being completed in East Providence.

J. Miller stated that all the work occurring on that parcel is in Seekonk.

Antonio Goulart of 20 Carter's Way was present and stated that he resides behind Lynch and that the parcel is completely in Seekonk. Mr. Goulart said he purchased his parcel in 2012 and the mound has been growing ever since. He said he understands they are trying to run a business, but

they are not being a good neighbor. It's blowing nasty stuff and pollution onto Carter's Way. They've started again with the loud trucks and pollution. He said this is a Rhode Island business bringing stuff into our Town because not one piece of work and pollution resides on the Rhode Island parcel. He said he noticed someone grabbing dirt from the top of a pile and pushing it into wetlands. Every bit of the work they're doing is on Seekonk side. He said it has been better since the Conservation Agent went there. The gate has been locked and he hasn't seen that in years. The mound has been getting larger and wider.

Lawrence McCarthy, Vice President and general counsel of J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc., was in attendance. Mr. McCarthy stated that he was in attendance in 2015 when there were 5 noise complaints. Mr. McCarthy said Lynch is an essential business which has contracts with Massachusetts and Rhode Island and those contracts request night work. Lynch does the best they can to control the noise and asks that workers do not go back there before the start time of 7:00 a.m. He said they need to know when there are complaints so they can address them. He said this location was purchased in 1998 and has been a sand and gravel plant since the 40's. MassDEP promotes the recycling of ABC material and are told to pile the material. They do not want the material to go to landfills. If it's being done in the purview of an asphalt plant, it does not require a permit. Lynch proposed to build a visual barrier and to minimize noise as well.

Chair Sullivan stated that Conservation should have been consulted, since Lynch knows the property abuts wetlands.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Lynch will comply with whatever requests are made from the Conservation Commission.

Chair Sullivan stated that Lynch and the Town need to work together to ensure that Lynch is not causing unnecessary noise for residents on Carter's Way.

D. Andrade stated it affects other neighborhoods in the area as well.

Mr. McCarthy stated he needs that type of information in order for it to be managed.

D. Andrade stated that Lynch can be proactive by reaching out to residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to encourage direct communication for complaints.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Lynch has the resources to manage the situations.

A. Petronio stated that Lynch should make sure that permits are being applied for and rules are being followed.

Mr. McCarthy stated there was a hearing on June 14<sup>th</sup> and a comment was made at the hearing asking why Lynch was not present. Mr. McCarthy said they did not receive notice until June 21<sup>st</sup>.

M. Healy asked Mr. McCarthy about the statement regarding the certified letter being received by Lynch on June 21<sup>st</sup> when the letter was mailed on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McCarthy stated the letter was received via email on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

J. Miller stated she is unsure why the certified letter did not reach Lynch. An email was sent on June 21<sup>st</sup> when the representative did not attend the June 14<sup>th</sup> hearing. She said the mountain is significantly higher than the berm, and it is unclear why the statement was made that the mountain needs to be built up to reach the height of the berm.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the materials are being brought down.

J. Miller stated she was under the impression that the mountain of debris would continue to grow in both height and diameter.

C. Zorra asked if there were any future plans to take that mound and convert it to reprocessed gravel.

Mr. McCarthy stated they've already spent funds to start that process, but the market doesn't justify reprocessing gravel.

Mr. Andrade asked for the Board to receive an update following the Conservation Commission hearing on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**W. Consider the appointment of KP Law as Town Counsel for Fiscal Year 2022**

Mr. Cadime recommended that KP Law be appointed for fiscal year 2022.

A motion was made by M. Healy to the appoint KP Law as Town Counsel for Fiscal Year 2022; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and unanimously approved.

**VOTE: 5-0**

**X. Review and discuss the Open Meeting Law complaint dated June 11, 2021, regarding the Board of Selectmen's Executive Session minutes and response to the complaint filed by Doreen Taylor**

Chairman Sullivan read the complaint into record. He also read the Town's response to the open meeting law complaint that will be sent to the State.

**D. Andrade made a motion to accept receipt of the open meeting law complaint dated June 11, 2021; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0**

**Y. Consider accepting the Regular Session Minutes of April 14, 2021 and April 28, 2021**

**M. Healy made a motion accept the regular session minutes of April 14, 2021 and April 28, 2021; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and it was unanimously approved.**

**VOTE: 5-0**

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Keith Rondeau of 17 Shady Lane, also the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was in attendance to speak. He said he was pleased to see the reappointment of Donald Robillard and Shane Halajko to the Zoning Board of Appeals but was confused at the omission of Vice-Chair Gary Sagar on the agenda. He advised the Zoning Board of Appeals sent a letter to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen to recommend the reappointment of all three members at their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Gary is a long-time member and probably has the best knowledge of the Zoning By-laws of anyone else on the board. He asked the Board of Selectmen to consider his reappointment before their Board's next meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER BUSINESS – None.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - None**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report**

C. Zorra advised a virtual tour of Aitken School has been released on-line and that a date will be determined soon for in-person access to the school. Channel 9 recorded the video and it is on the school's website.

**540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report**

C. Zorra advised that he should have more to report following next week's meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**At 8:59 p.m. D. Andrade motioned and M. Healy seconded to go into Executive Session to:**

- A. To consider the purchase exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to MGL c 30A § 21(a) (6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (650 Newman Avenue)
- B. To consider the purchase exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to MGL c 30A § 21(a) (6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (320 Pleasant Street)

- C. To consider the purchase exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to MGL c 30A § 21(a) (6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (2 North Street)
- D. To consider the purchase exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to MGL c 30A § 21(a) (6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (445 Cole Street)
- E. Skipped.
- F. To conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (2) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town.
- G. Skipped.
- H. To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (1) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town.
- I. To act under authority of the Open Meeting Law, General Laws Chapter 30A § 22(f) and § 22(g), and review and approve the executive session minutes of April 14, 2021 and April 28, 2021 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(7).

**VOTE: 5-0**

**Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Nay; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:  
Kristen L'Heureux

**Items Distributed at the June 23, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

Documents for a transfer of license from RWJ Beverage (MA) LLC dba The Wine Cellar of Seekonk to Mormax Corporation dba BJ's Wholesale Club for use at 175 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA.

Petition for pole locations from National Grid.

Memo from David Cabral for Bid Award for DPW 22-01 Surface Treatments.

Memo from David Cabral for Bid Award for DPW 22-02 Tree Trimming and Removal.

Memo from David Cabral for Bid Award for DPW 22-03 Boiler Removal and Installation at the Public Safety Complex.

Correspondence from Department of Fire Services on the approval and funding of the Student Awareness of Fire Education and Senior SAFE grant applications.

Memo from Dean Isabella for the annual appointments of Constables, Special Police Officers, Traffic Constables, and Detention Attendants.

Notice of Violation 2021-03 Seekonk Wetlands Protection Bylaws to Lynch Corp.

Correspondence from Dean Isabella regarding noise complaints from Lynch Corp.



Seekonk, Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreation Plan | 2021

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN PRESENTATION

June 23, 2021

### PRESENTERS

Town of Seekonk

Jennifer Miller

Conservation Agent

Weston & Sampson

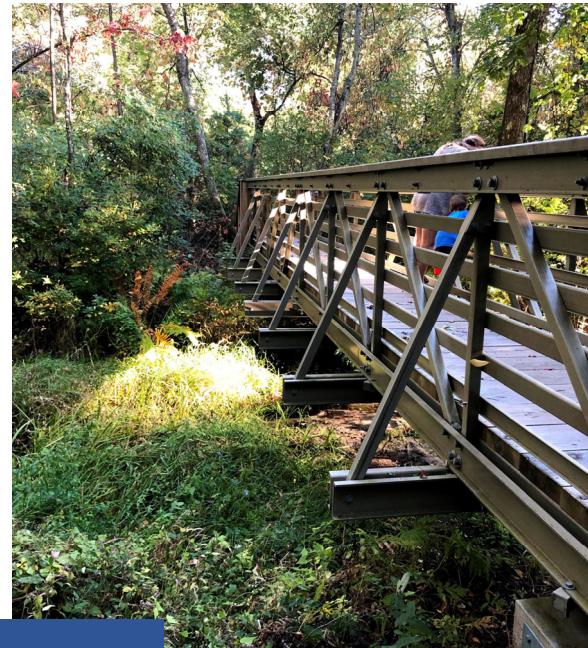
Eugene R. Bolinger, RLA

Vice President

Weston & Sampson

Amanda Gaal

Project Manager





Seekonk, Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreation Plan | 2021

## OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

**David Sullivan**

Planning Board

**John Alves**

Community Preservation Committee

**John Aubin**

Town Planner

**John Pozzi**

Recreation Director

**Nathan Socha**

Conservation Commission

**Scott Olobri**

Public Works Department Asst. Superintendent

**Stephen Sloan**

Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

**Tom Webb**

Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

**Willit Mason**

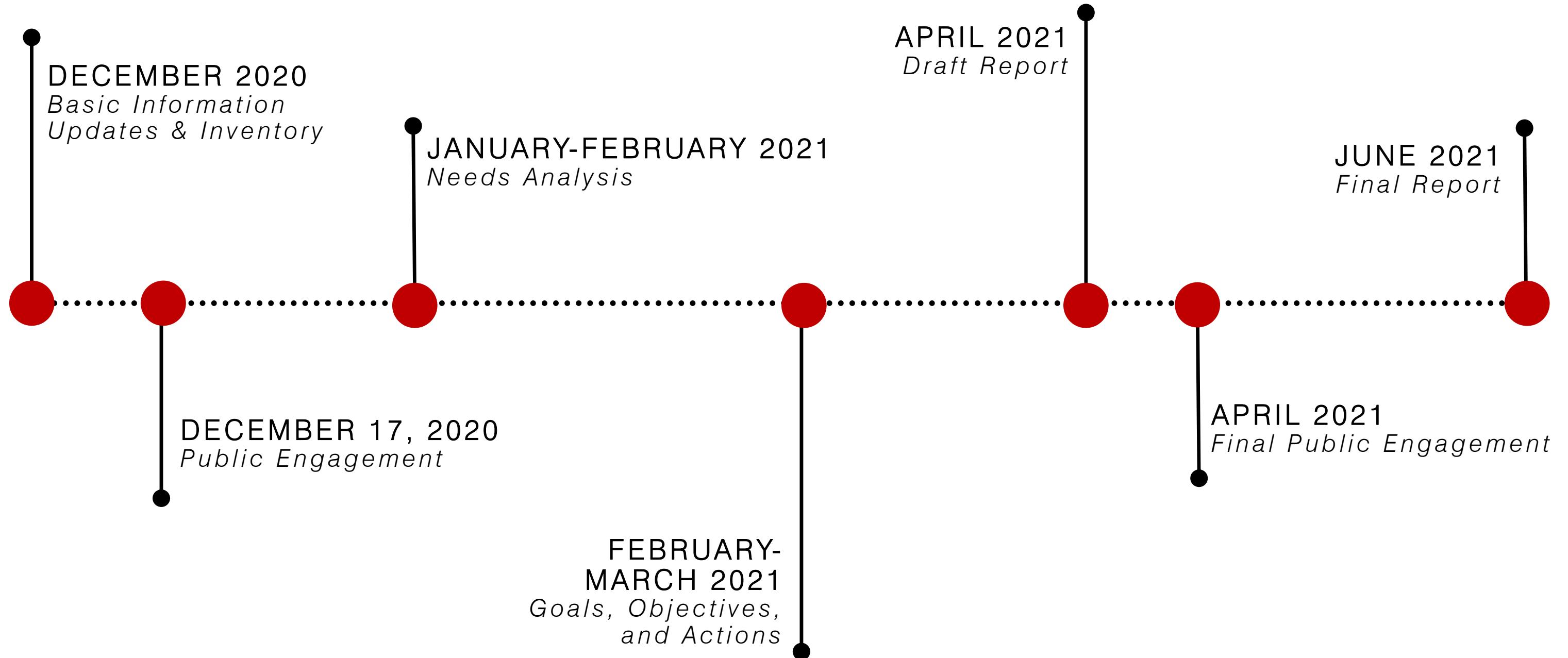
Community Preservation Committee

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Project Schedule
- Summary of Property Types
- Site Visits
- Mapping Updates
- Needs Analysis
- Goals & Objectives
- Action Items
- Recent Accomplishments
- Q&A



# PROJECT SCHEDULE



# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## 1) TOWN OWNED LAND

### RECREATION



## 2) PRIVATELY OWNED LAND



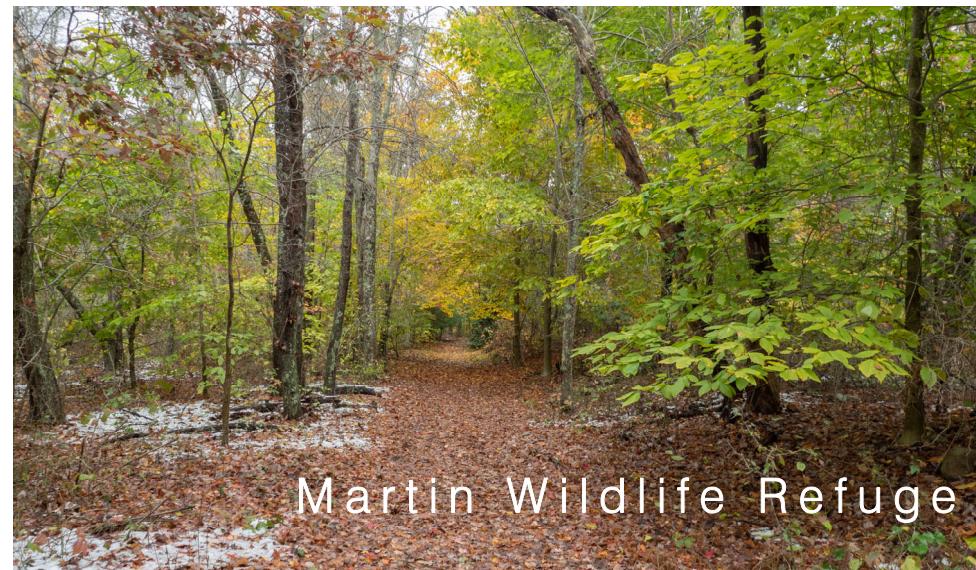
# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## 3) NONPROFIT

### RHODE ISLAND AUDUBON



### SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## TOWN OWNED LAND

RECREATION	CONSERVATION
Seekonk Meadows/Library	Burr's Pond Conservation Area
Seekonk Veterans Memorial	Gammino Pond Conservation Area
Town Hall Playground	Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Pleasant Street Athletic Field	Seakunke Sanctuary
Cole Street Athletic Complex	Town Forest
Water Lane Athletic Complex	Rocky Meadow
North School Athletic Complex	Lagerquist Property
Seekonk High School	Benson Property
Various Others (no names)	Turner Property
	Young Farm
	Peck-Chafee Reserve
	Aldo Rotondo Conservation Area
	Various Others (no names)

# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## PRIVATELY OWNED LAND

The Wheeler School
Ledgemont Country Club
Pawtucket Country Club
Seekonk Tennis and Swim Club
Firefly Golf Course
Waddington Property
Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club
Yaghjian Family Farm
Ferry Farm
Mason Property
Emlen Property
Jencks Property
Kendrick Property
Pray Farm
Webb Property
Cuddingan APR

## NONPROFIT

RI Audubon
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
Seekonk Land Conservation Trust
Cushing Conservation Area
Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge
Various Others (no names)

# SITE VISITS

## INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

- Arcade Woods Conservation Area
- Burr's Pond Conservation Area
- Cole Street Athletic Complex
- Gammino Pond Conservation Area
- North School Athletic Complex
- Seekonk High School-Football Field
- Seekonk Meadows
- Seekonk Veterans Memorial
- Town Hall Playground
- Water Lane Athletic Complex



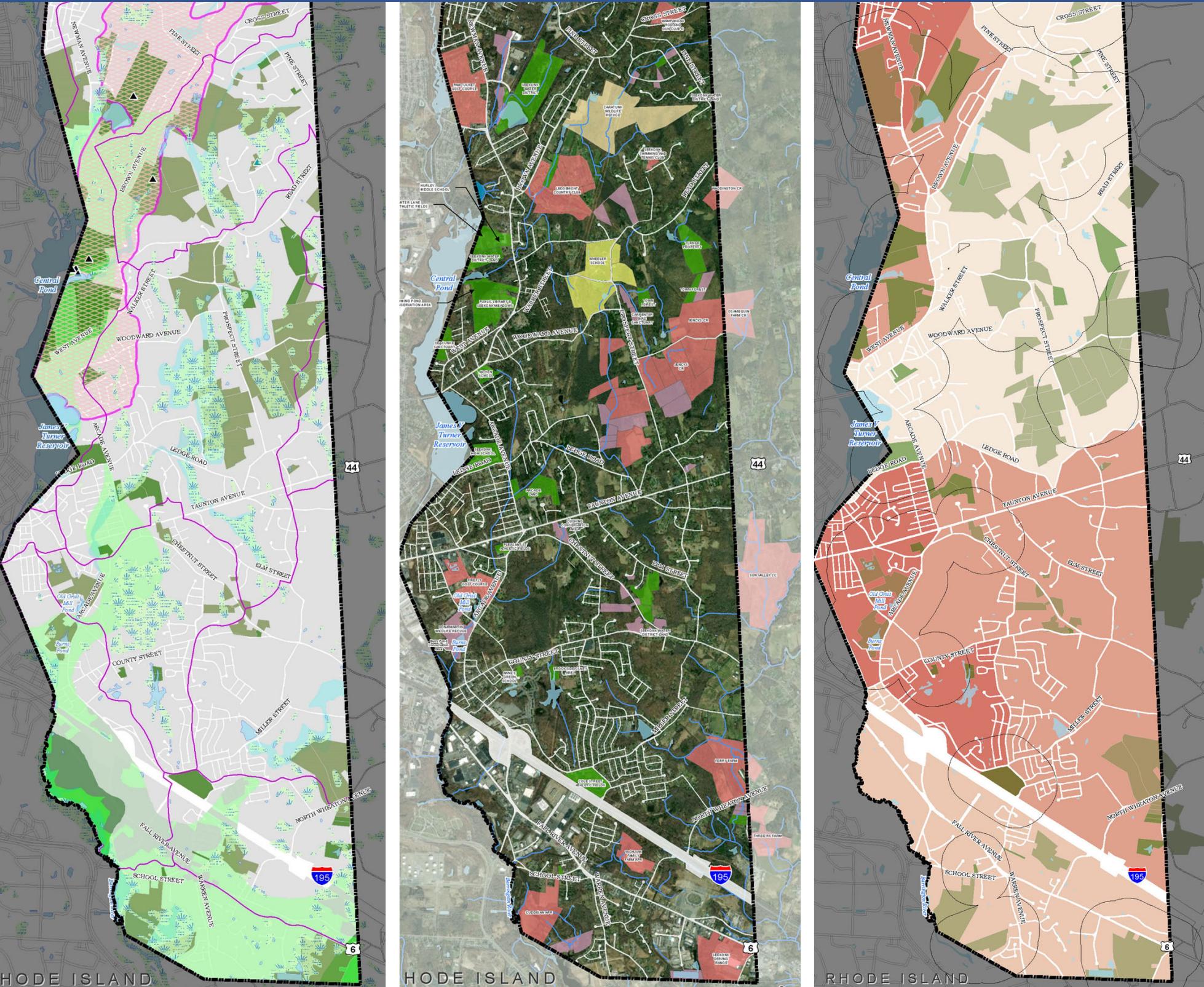
# SITE VISITS



## ELEMENTS EVALUATED

- General conditions
- Roads, paths, & pavings
- Accessibility
- Fencing
- Site amenities
- Fields, courts, & active uses
- Trails & passive recreation
- Signage/monuments
- Water access
- Structures/facilities

# MAPPING UPDATES



## OPEN SPACE MAPS

- Regional Context Map
- Population Change Map
- Zoning Map
- Soils and Geologic Features Map
- Unique Features Map
- Water Resources Map
- Open Space Inventory Map
- Action Plan Map

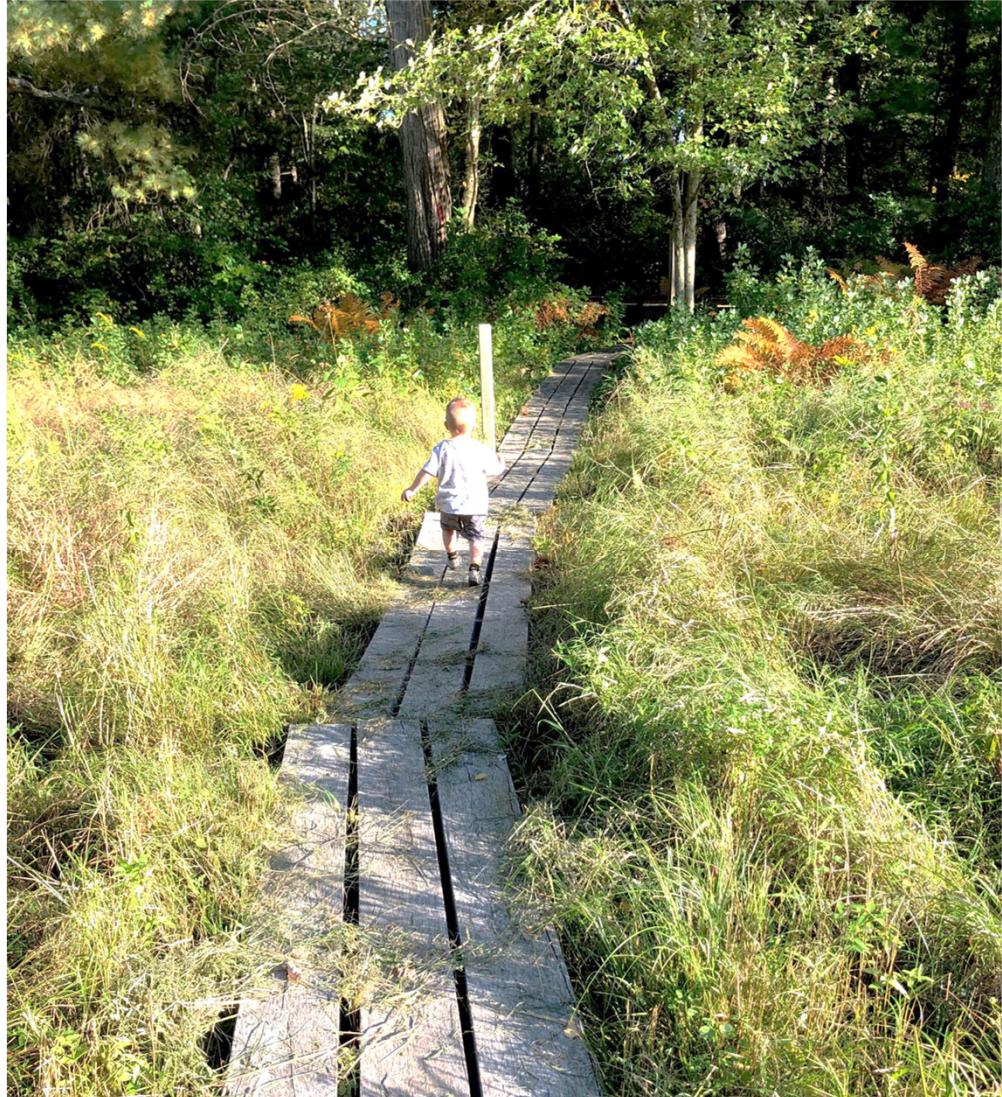
# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## NEEDS ARE DERIVED FROM

Community Input

Mapping & Information Gathered from the Town

Site Inventory Visits



## NEEDS ANALYSIS PRIORITY SUMMARY

1. Enhancement of Natural Resources
2. Greater Open Space System Connectivity
3. Continued Investment in Active Recreation Facilities
4. Integrated Park and Open Space Management
5. Design Open Space Improvements to meet the needs of a changing population