

# DEDHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

March 7, 2017



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## **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**

*The guiding document to protect and enhance the Town's open space and to provide and maintain accessible parks and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.*

## **Recreation Master Plan...**

*An assessment of recreational facilities that considers existing facilities, improve or expand existing, or build new facilities based on capacity and programming needs.*

**TWO PARALLEL**

- ❖ Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
  - Why Dedham has an Open Space and Recreation Plan
  - Update Process
  - What's in it

- ❖ Recreation Master Plan
  - Why Dedham needs a Recreation Master Plan
  - What's in it

- ❖ Facilitated Discussion



## ❖ What is Open Space?

Land that is undeveloped for...

- Public access to nature
- Protecting water quality
- Protecting habitat



Open Space and Recreation



## ❖ What is Recreation?

Indoor and outdoor facilities for recreation

- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Indoor Gyms
- Basketball Courts
- Ballfields



Open Space and Recreation

## ❖ Why does Dedham need an Open Space

- Maintain and enhance the benefits of local res
- Understand where we are, where we need to be there
- Support efforts to acquire funding



## ❖ Existing/Current Plan

- Approved August 2010
- 11 required sections
- Resource Inventory
- Needs
- Goals and Objectives
- 7 Year Action Plan



Open Space and Recreation

## ❖ Update Process

- Review data, reports, plans and inventories
- Public input – Public Workshop #1 – identify
- Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Public input – Public Workshop #2 – did we g
- Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for co
- Submit to Dept. of Conservation Services for

- ❖ Continued protection of land in critical
- ❖ Inventoried/Certified vernal pools
- ❖ Public education on natural resources
- ❖ Continued monitoring of water quality
- ❖ Organized town-wide clean-ups of wa

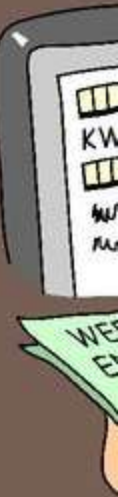
- ❖ Creation of new trails within Town Forest
- ❖ Plans developed for walking/biking trails and playing fields at Manor Fields
- ❖ Installed signage at conservation sites and information for access
- ❖ Completed *Green Communities Act* ceremony

- ❖ Condon Park improvements completed
- ❖ Churchill Park Playground improvement
- ❖ Gonzalez Park improvements in progress
- ❖ Signed/improved access to Dedham's
- ❖ Dedham Water Trail launched in 2015

- ❖ Online Community Survey

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dedham Open Space](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dedham_Open_Space)

- ❖ Interviews with Town departments, commissions and commissions



Age Groups	2000	2010	2020 projection
<b>Under 5</b>	6.1%	5.4%	5.0%
<b>5 to 19</b>	17.8%	17.2%	14.9%
<b>20 to 34</b>	17.9%	15.3%	16.6%
<b>35 to 54</b>	31.6%	30.1%	25.6%
<b>55 to 64</b>	10.0%	12.8%	15.3%
<b>65 to 74</b>	8.4%	7.8%	10.8%
<b>75 and Over</b>	8.2%	10.5%	11.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	23,464	24,729	25,587

Source: U.S. Census. MAPC Regional Growth Projections, 2016.

2017 Conditions – Pop

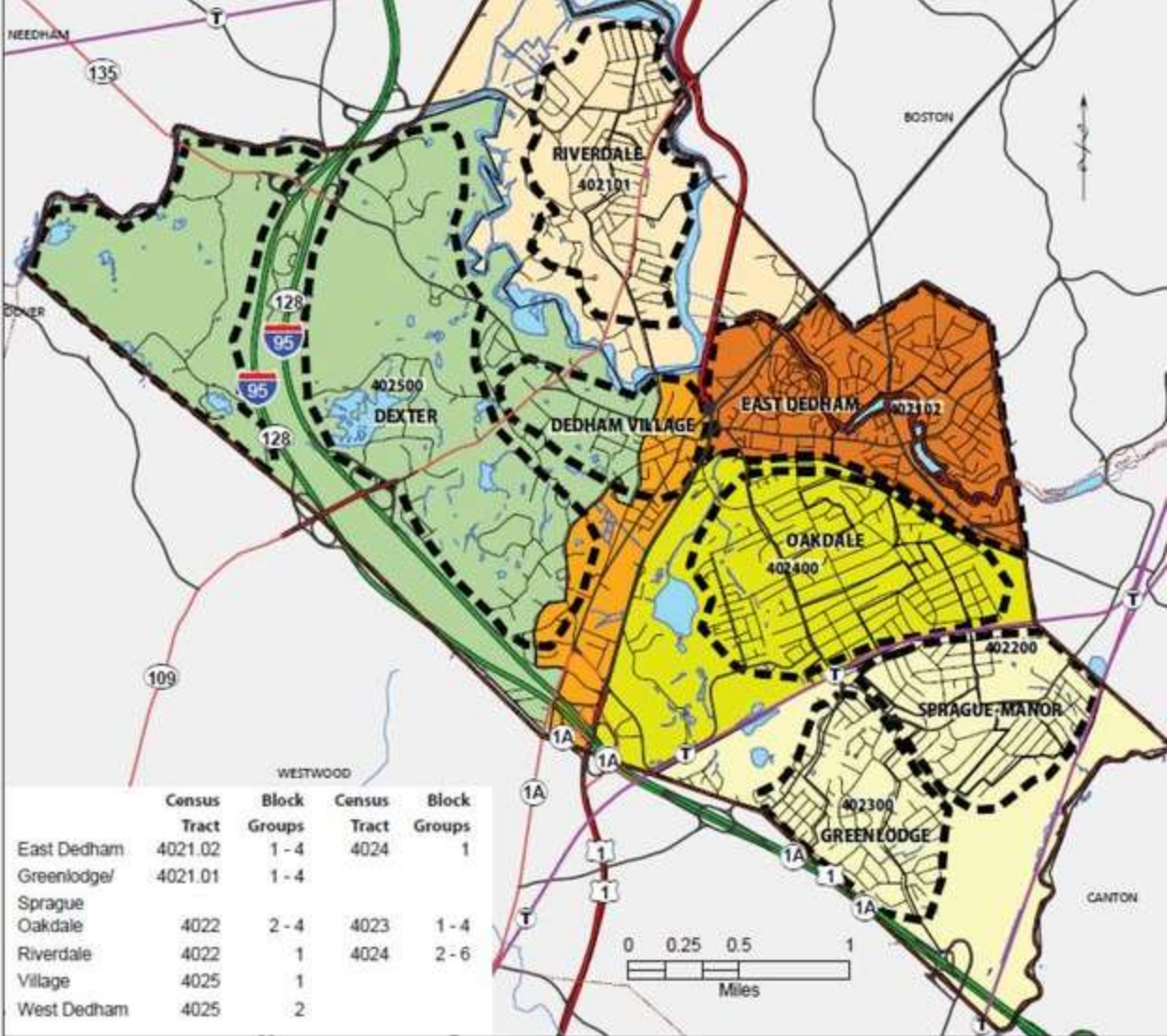


Household Type	1990	2000	2010
<b>1-Person</b>	20.7%	23.9%	28.7%
<b>Families</b>	75.4%	71.0%	65.4%
<b>Married Couples</b>	59.9%	56.3%	50.3%

Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000, 2010, American Community Survey 2011-2015.

2017 Conditions – Occup

Data Sources: MassGIS, Town of Dedham GIS.  
 This map is for general planning purposes only. The data used to create the map are not adequate for making legal or zoning boundary determinations or delineating resource areas.



	Census Tract	Block Groups	Census Tract	Block Groups
East Dedham	4021.02	1 - 4	4024	1
Greenlodge/ Sprague	4021.01	1 - 4		
Oakdale	4022	2 - 4	4023	1 - 4
Riverdale	4022	1	4024	2 - 6
Village	4025	1		
West Dedham	4025	2		

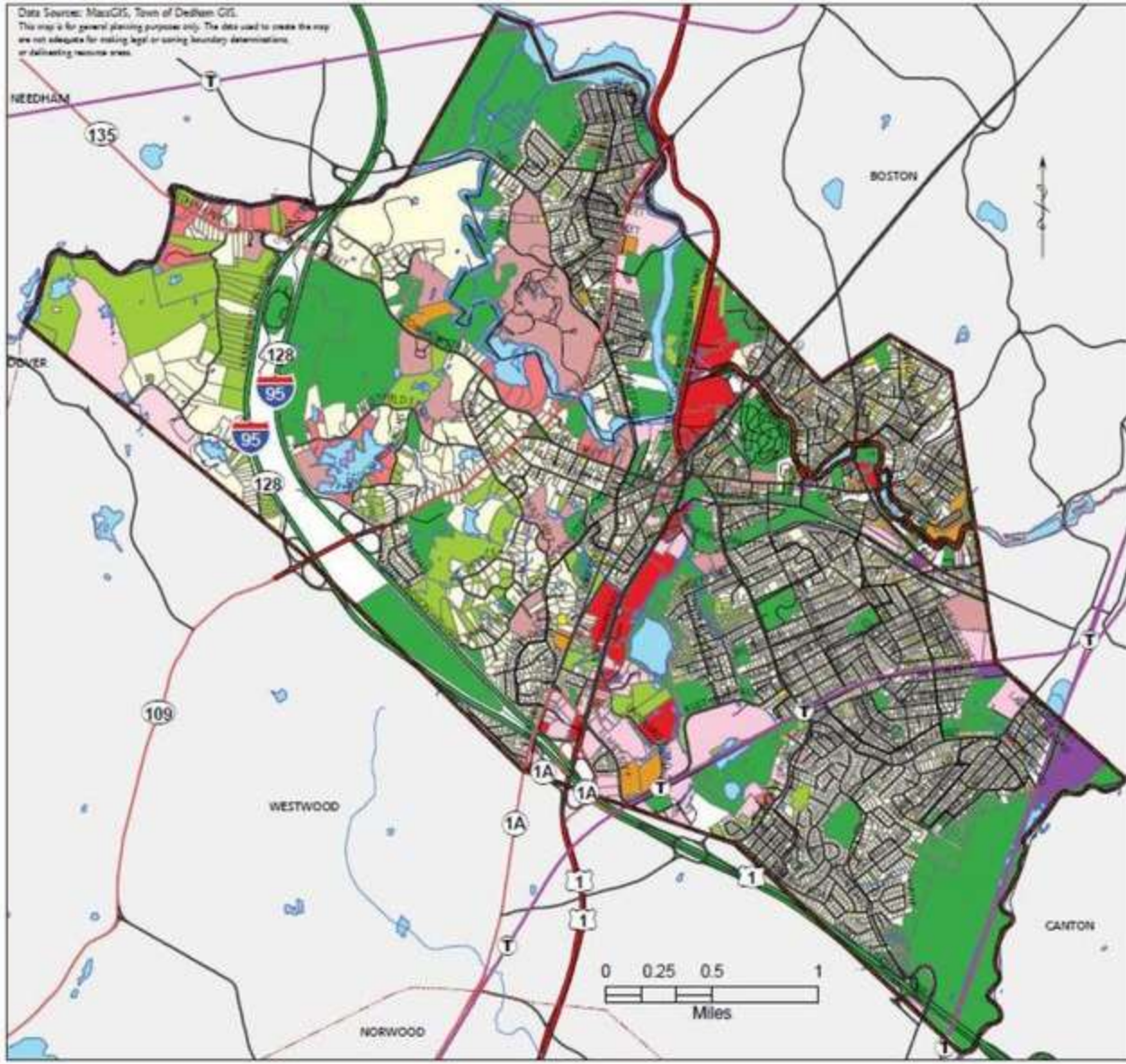
# 2017 Conditions – Pop

Census Tract (block groups)	Neighborhood	Area (acres)	Persons	Units	P D (m / :
4021.02 (1-4) 4024 (1)	East Dedham	670	4,891	2,188	
4022 (2) 4023 (1-3)	Greenlodge/ Sprague Manor	1,242	5,863	2,171	
4022 (1) 4024 (2-6)	Oakdale	1,032	6,077	2,511	
4021.01 (1-4)	Riverdale	1,064	3,634	1,560	
4025 (1)	Village	315	1,233	590	
4025 (2)	West Dedham	2,472	3,031	1,171	

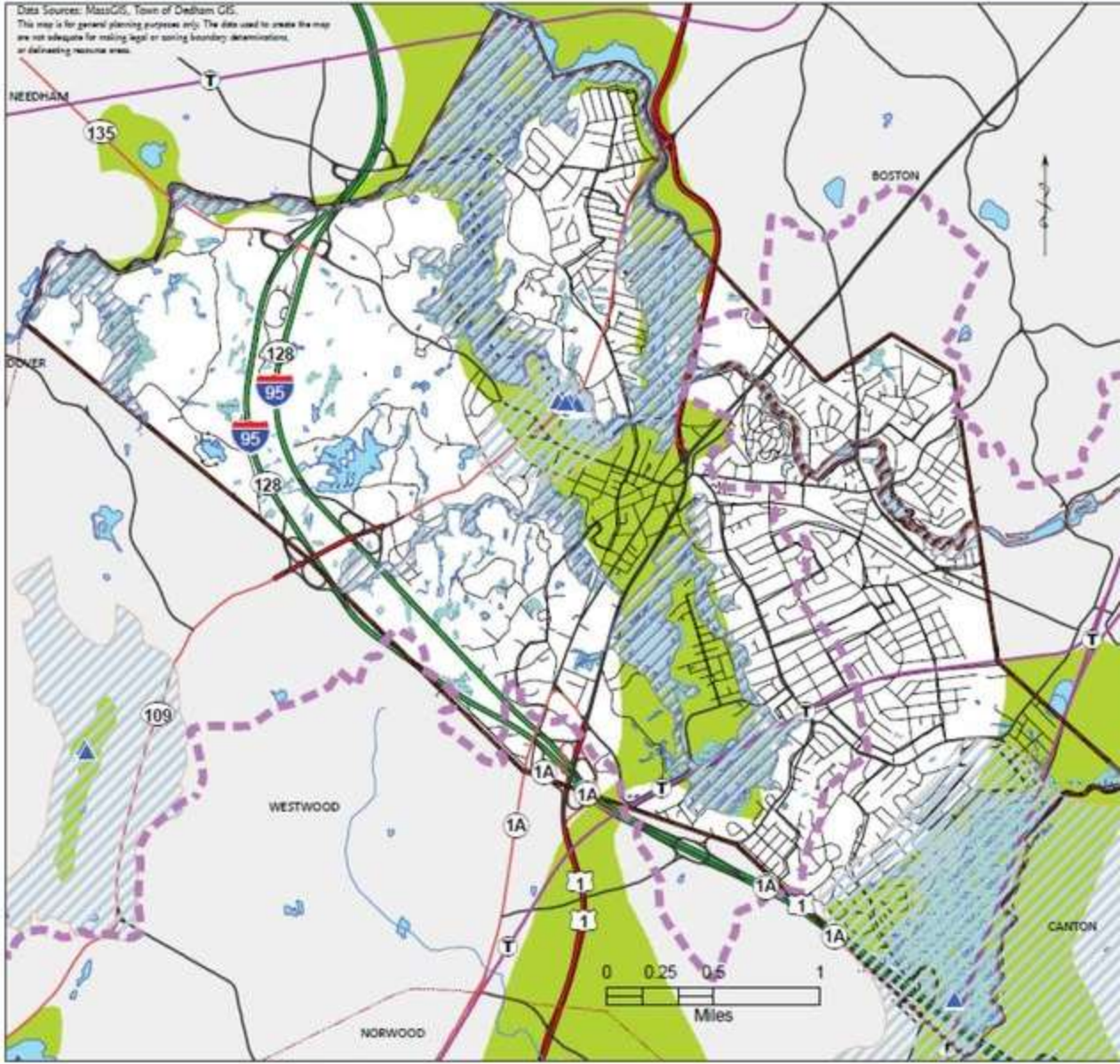
2017 Conditions – Pop



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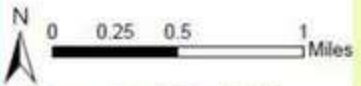
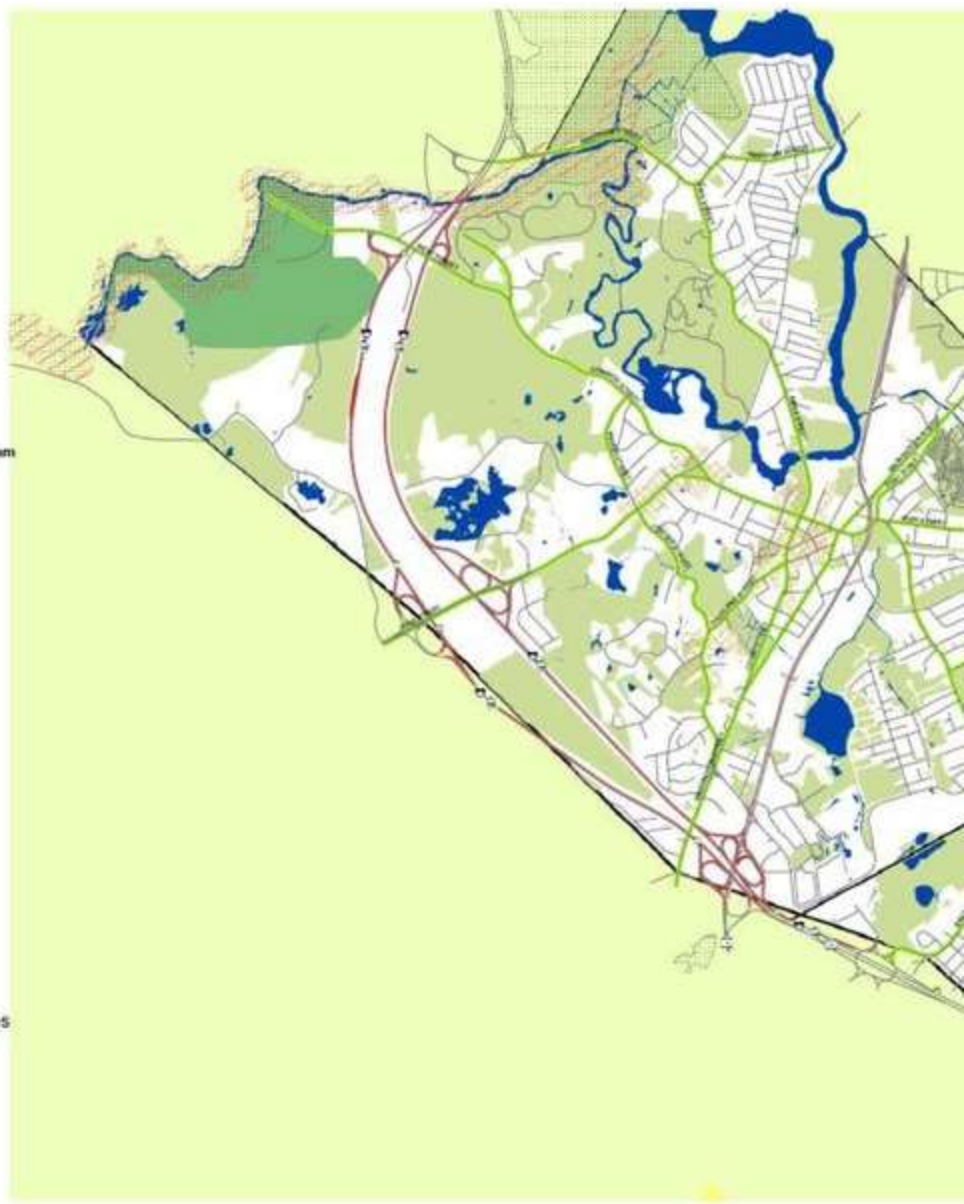


### Town of Dedham Massachusetts



#### Map 5 Unique Features

-  Open Space Properties
-  Historic Districts
-  Potential Scenic Roads
- Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program**
  -  Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
  -  Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- MA Scenic Landscape Inventory (1982)**
  -  Scenic Landscape
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern**
  -  Fowl Meadow / Neponset River



Data sources: Town of Dedham, MassGIS

This document is intended for  
Town of Dedham planning  
purposes only.

Produced by:

Tantor & Associates, Inc. June 2010



### Town of Dedham Massachusetts



Map 7 Open Space Inventory

- Chapter 61 (Forestry)
- Chapter 61B (Recreation)
- Conservation Restriction
- Ownership / Management**
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Private Undeveloped
- Private Cemetery / Church
- Private Conservation Org.
- Private Recreation
- Private School / Institution
- Commonwealth of MA (flood control)
- Commonwealth of MA (DCR)
- Town - Unassigned
- Town DPW (cemetery)
- Town Conservation Comm.
- Town Historical
- Town Parks & Rec.
- Public Schools
- Dedham Westwood Water District

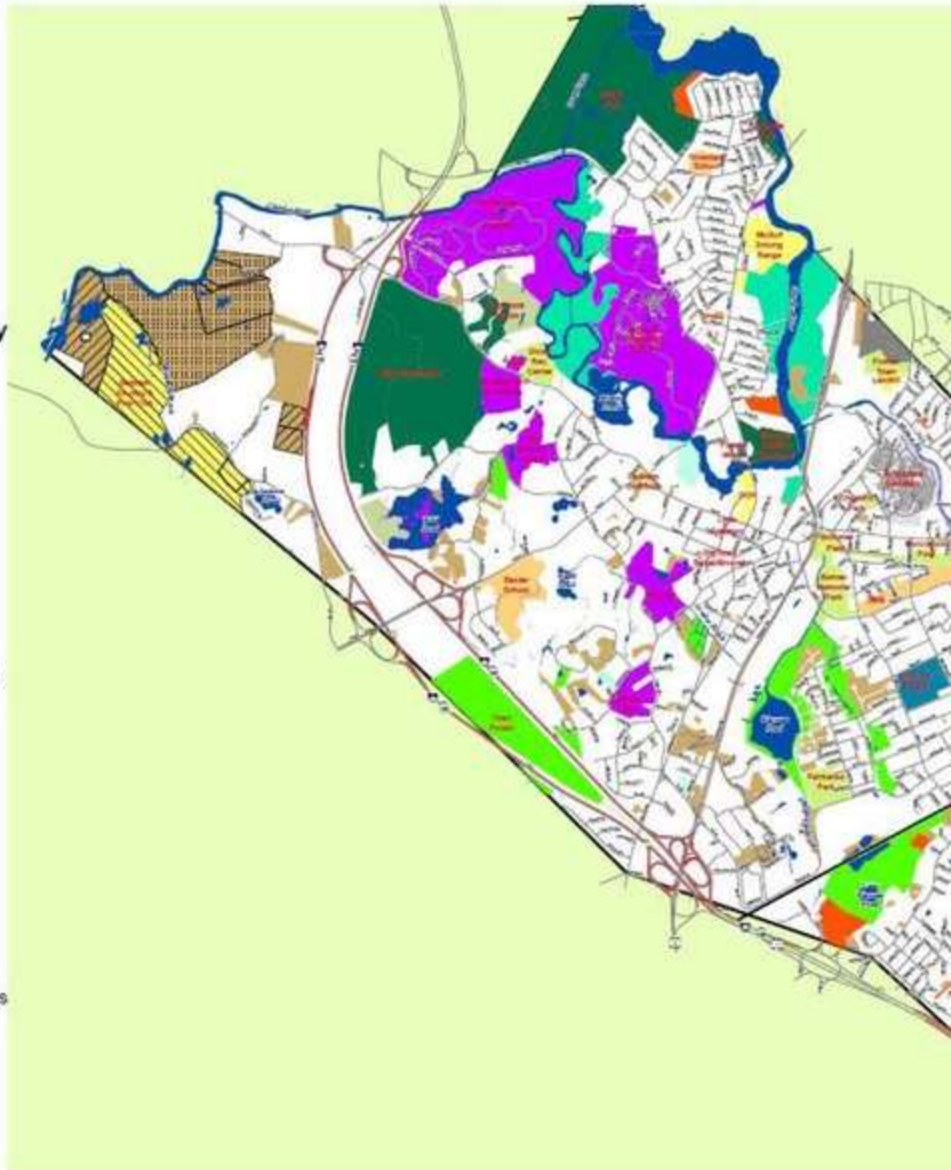


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## ❖ Types

- Conservation Commission (non facility-based a
- Park and Recreation Land (facility-based activ
- School Department property
- State and Federal lands
- Non-Profit organizations (Dedham Community  
Land Trust and MA Audubon Society)

## ❖ Types

- Major Institutional holdings (over 700 acres of holdings, mostly in West Dedham)
- Private, vacant parcels over 4.5 acres (over 13 lots near or adjacent to open spaces)
- Chapter 61 Program lands (property tax relief willing to commit to keeping some or all of their for a specified period of time)

## ❖ Environmental Justice and Equity

- In 2002, the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs adopted a policy that supports equitable access to environmental assets (parks, open space and recreation).
- Two neighborhoods now qualify as EJ due to the high percentage of minority residents.
- Both neighborhoods, however, are very well served by public facilities.

Equitable Access to

# Why does Dedham need a Recreation Master Plan?

- Takes the *Inventory and Needs Analysis* of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, and drills down to the details to develop a concise strategy for improvements based on findings and coordination with user groups.

### C. Geometry Evaluation:

181. User groups and level of play for each dia. (Athletes, recreational, etc.)

- High School Football
- High School Varsity Soccer (Only/None)
- High School Varsity Volley (Only/None)
- Adult Recreational Softball

Narrative of Geometry evaluation as it relates to user groups and level of play associated plan or match showing dimensions of field.

- The field measures 300' at wide (edge of back to edge of back) and 160' at deep (end zone to high fence) including end zone.
- The field is currently all one piece (quarter field).



181. Athletes and recreational users for each field.

- The back is sitting at the long jump/long jump on the west end of the field. Approximately 4' x 5'. The long jump/long jump surface is in the corner of the field and is not used (corner of the field). The back has the same width as the field but is not used (corner of the field).
- The field has a catch and needs to be upgraded for a more modern field.
- There is a conflict between the soccer goal and the location of the catch and needs to be upgraded for a more modern field.
- There is a field that has been built on which is located on the field of the school. It should be used for this facility, the school should be used.
- The field is not used for this purpose. It should be used for this purpose, the school should be used.

### MEDFIELD ATHLETIC FIELD

#### FIELD 1: May First School and Moseley Fields NATURAL TURF FIELDS



#### High Priority

1.0 Drainage on all fields

2.0 Fencing for full size baseball field

#### Medium Priority

1.7 Lighting for Fields

#### Low Priority

1.0 Revise site layout

The first impressions of the fields at Finn School are impressive. Finn 1 and the Majors fields are maintained by the youth baseball organization and such well-maintained for its amount of use. Overall the site feels like a baseball complex that has potential, but there are some areas where the site falls short and there are some safety and layout problems preventing it from being a premier facility.

In other recommendations for other facilities there were full elements that received little use in their respective locations and the areas associated with them may have been suited better for other open space activities. Those recommendations included that Finn School may be an opportunity to relocate those facilities or their intended uses.

Consolidating baseball and softball into one location opens space for other activities and sports at the other facilities. It also centralizes a maintenance practice that is specific to these types of fields making it easier and more cost-effective to maintain. Land it gives and identity to the facility that says "Here is where you go for baseball and softball in Southborough".

#### Recommendations:

Relocate 90' baseball diamond to nearby school and combine it with other activities to create a synthetic turf facility for baseball and a full size multi-use facility in the outfield. Relocate Fay Memorial Park ball diamond to Finn School and relocate softball fields at "Inlet", Rink and Choice to Finn School. Finn School is also home to a soccer field, tennis courts and probably the biggest user of a school field.

The soccer field should be relocated along with the 90' baseball field. Neither is grassed properly for their specific sports and create potential safety issues. The playground associated with the school can be relocated to the current "Inlet 2" field along with a new basketball court. The school should continue to use open space for classroom and activity purposes as needed. The existing Tennis Courts see little use based on observation and their facilities may be better located for the public at another location.

Layout concepts are provided on the following pages. Option 1 shows two newly relocated diamonds capable supporting women's fast pitch softball, 60' and 70' baseball and adult softball. The option leaves in place the Finn 1 diamond and Majors diamond. Option 2 is a pinwheel concept ranging all 4 diamonds around a central space that may be used for tents, a press box, concessions, restrooms, etc.

It should be noted that this area was envisioned as an emergency landing space which was unable to be verified in depth at the time of this report. The recommendations do not take into account regulations or restrictions associated with the emergency landing area and such restriction should be investigated in further planning efforts.

SECTION 4: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATION AND MINOR FIELDS

### SOUTHBOROUGH ATHLETIC MASTER PLAN

Will result in more options and a more probable outcome.

Includes a demand for and life of the facility.

## Recreation

## ❖ Process

- Review data, reports, plans and inventories
- Site visits, interviews and surveys with administrative staff, programming staff, maintenance staff, and users
- Needs Analysis and Prioritization
- Public input – Public Workshop #2 – did we get it right?
- Identification of funding, operations and maintenance costs and feasibility
- Development of conceptual cost estimates
- Identification of alternative funding options



Questions?





❖ Objective:

*To understand how residents gauge the progress in meeting needs for natural resource protection and recreation opportunities*

- What is working well...*
- Areas for improvement...*
- Areas for opportunity...*



- *Everyone should have an equal opportunity*
- *Focus on the questions asked and your group*
- *Respect limited time*
- *Listen, be honest, and avoid criticizing others*
- *Please turn your cell phones off*