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Town Departments

Assessors
Building Department
Conservation Council on Aging
Economic Development
Endicott Estate
Engineering
Environmental
Facilities & Maintenance
Finance
Fire
GIS
Health

Human Resources
Library
Parks & Recreation
Planning & Zoning
Police
Public Works (DPW)
School Department
Town Clerk
Town Manager
Treasurer/Collector
Veterans Services
Youth Commission

Boards & Committees

Board of Selectman	Endicott Estate Commission
School Committee	Dedham Retirement Board
Parks & Recreation Commission	East Dedham Revitalization Committee
Planning Board	Finance & Warrant Committee
Board of Library Trustees	Historic Districts Commission/Historical Commission
Board of Assessors	Housing Authority
Building, Planning & Construction Committee	Master Plan Implementation Committee
Board of Health	Human Rights Commission
Bylaw Review Committee	Open Space & Recreation Committee
Capital Expenditures Committee	Sustainability Advisory Committee
Civic Pride Committee	School Building Rehabilitation Committee
Commission on Disability	Town Meeting
Coalition for Drug & Alcohol Awareness	Public Service Recognition Committee
Council on Aging Board	Transportation Advisory Committee
Commissioners of Trust Funds	Youth Commission
Conservation Commission	Zoning Board of Appeals
Cultural Council	
Design Review Advisory Board	

Youth & Community Organizations

Dedham Public Schools	Dedham Youth Soccer
Dedham Adult Soccer	Dedham Pop Warner
Dedham Girls Softball	HSL (Hebrew Senior Life)
Dedham Recreation Dance	Dedham Historical Society
Dedham Recreation Flag Football	Dedham Community House
Dedham Recreation Gymnastics	Noble & Greenough School
Dedham Recreation Karate	Ursuline Academy
Dedham Recreation Swim Team	Dedham Country Day
Dedham Recreation Wrestling	Dedham Jr Woman's Club
Dedham Land Trust	Manor Neighborhood Association
Livable Dedham	Mother Brook Community Group
Dedham Youth Baseball	Oakdale Square Alliance
Dedham Youth Basketball	Dedham Square Circle
Dedham Youth Hockey	Dedham Girl Scouts
Dedham Youth Lacrosse	Dedham Boy Scouts

A. Executive Summary

A strong Parks and Open Space system is an important component of any healthy community. The system of recreational and green spaces contributes directly to a town's social, cultural, environmental, and economic prosperity. Socially, these spaces create safer neighborhoods by building a stronger social fabric and community connections. They allow people of all ages to grow and explore, and they improve public and environmental health. Culturally, parks and recreation programs can nurture a sense of place in a community and the spaces provide opportunities to engage many different people, who otherwise may not meet.



This Recreation Master Plan (the “Plan”) was developed as a community-supported, long-range strategic plan to guide the management of Parks and Recreation resources in the Town of Dedham. The Recreation Master Plan was developed in parallel with and in support of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Plan will serve as a guide to keep Dedham Parks and Recreation (DPR) focused on its goals, values, vision and mission, including its mission-led programs. The Plan provides strategic direction and actions to help realize the goals, while anticipating future challenges and changing community needs and trends. As a long-range plan, it aims to provide a sustainable and balanced, equitable, accessible and inclusive park and recreation system for the community.

The Strategic Goals of the Plan...

1. Mission and Vision for why we are here

The Mission - The mission of DPR is to enhance the quality of life for Dedham's residents by providing opportunities to learn, play and grow.

The Vision - The vision of DPR is a healthy, active, and engaged community that is built on the principles of preservation, communication, collaboration and inclusion.

2. Core Value, the foundation for our Mission and Vision

Dedham's Core Value: Healthy and Engaging Community

3. A mission led department serving the community

DPR provides facilities, programs and services that meet the recreation needs of the community. DPR's focus should include areas pertinent to its “Mission” such as:

- Neighborhood Parks and Facilities
- Community Parks and Facilities
- Special Use and Signature Facilities
- Recreational Programming

4. Develop a Park Classifications System

DPR wants all of its parks to support active and diverse lifestyles, provide spaces that are safe and secure, and support economic development in the community. These spaces should also provide green space for the community and visitors where they can play, pause, relax, enjoy, grow and socialize.

In providing these spaces it is important to recognize that there are varying roles and purposes for different types of parks. Some parks attract visitors from throughout the region while others welcome neighborhood users such as a toddler learning how to navigate a slide.

The Plan recommends a Park Classification System to help DPR develop and design parks that serve unique roles in the community. At one end of the spectrum are neighborhood parks that provide safe playgrounds or small amenities within a 10 to 15 minute walk for everyone in the community. At the other end are regional destinations like the planned Manor Park where people gather for spectacular community events and bring their out-of-town guests. In between are community parks offering sports fields, spray parks, skate parks or other amenities where people can socialize, be active, take part in organized recreation programs, enjoy special events and more.



5. Maintenance

DPR strives to maintain parks and recreation facilities as safe, attractive, positive amenities for the community and the neighborhoods in which they are located. The Plan includes a maintenance plan to maintain parks and recreation facilities equitably through a tiered system of maintenance.

6. Capital Improvements

DPR has identified a list of suggested improvement projects for facilities that it maintains as well as for those whose maintenance is shared with partner organizations. These projects address needs identified in the planning process through public outreach and evaluation. Projects were assigned a priority based on needs, schedule, potential for funding and a variety of other metrics. This capital improvement plan is a living document that will change on an annual basis. Priorities will also change over time based on the immediate needs of the community and available funding.

7. Performance Measures

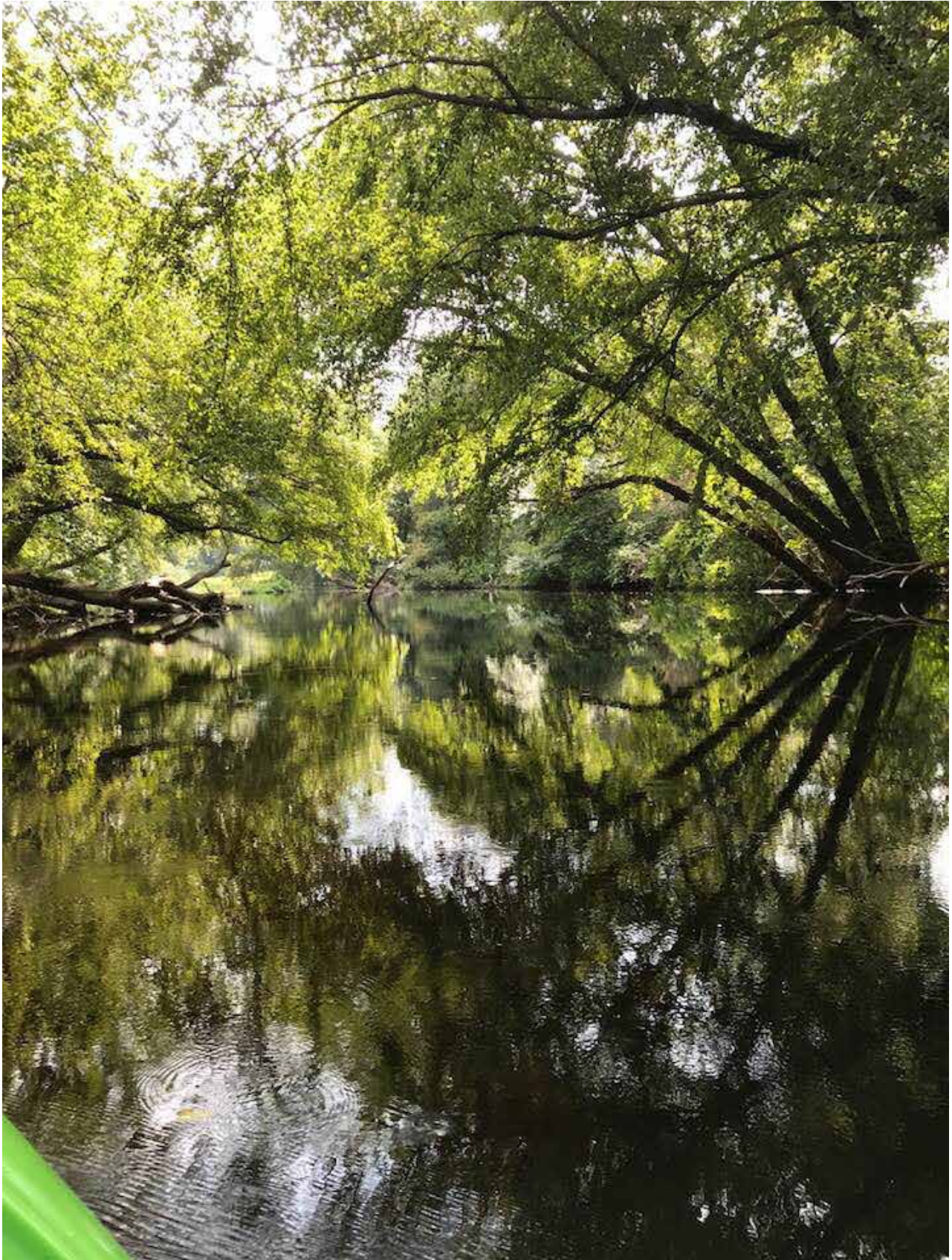
Performance measures are tied to the goals noted in the Plan. These measures will help DPR identify areas in which it is successful at meeting Plan goals as well as areas that need improvement. A variety of methods may be used to measure Plan implementation. These methods may require unified data collection and tracking as well as surveys and assessments in the following areas: program participation and attendance, revenue and costs, inventories, condition assessments and customer satisfaction.

8. Engagement and Communications

The cornerstone of this plan and priority focus for DPR over the next ten years should be communication. DPR will strive to build a brand and partnerships that are focused on its mission. DPR will engage and involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, develop recreation programming with community input, facilitate project understanding, and build public support for its initiatives.

The next 10 years will be critical as the department works to preserve and protect Dedham's park and recreation system and provide for the future. The Plan will help guide staff and elected officials.

The Plan is not a finished document to set on a shelf. Rather, it should be an ever changing guide and tool that responds to changing trends and needs of the community. DPR will continue to seek the community's input and advice as it moves forward in implementing and monitoring the Plan, so that the department continues to provide an exceptional system of parks and recreation facilities for the community. DPR will need volunteers and partners to make the vision a reality.



B. Introduction

The Town of Dedham, Massachusetts is a community that sits on the fringe of a mix of urban and suburban development as part of the southwest border of Boston. Over the past couple of decades communities like Dedham have seen a dramatic increase in the demand for recreational space and programs. Users are not looking for the same programs that they once longed for and change occurs rapidly. Shifts in the economy, education, and working life have modified today's definition of leisure time. Communities now need to provide a broad range of experiences that are both passive and active. Recreational space is critical to the daily life of a community providing a place for respite, socialization, and increasing quality of life.



The purpose of this Dedham Recreation Master Plan (the “Plan”) is to provide an understanding of the current level of service provided to the community and to identify unmet needs and gaps in service. The Plan becomes a framework for decision making with priorities for implementation based on the current and future capital and operating budgets under the guidance of community values, future needs, programs, and services.

Process

Site Reconnaissance

A full site inventory was conducted of all of the public open spaces within the Town of Dedham. There was an extensive review of the facilities including assessment of the use, size, quality, access, maintenance, and amenities provided at each facility. After the site review, GIS mapping was used to document potential opportunities and constraints at all of the facilities which include safety, environmental constraints, physical constraints, topography and boundaries. Maintenance practices were reviewed with those responsible for maintaining the facilities.

Public Meetings

Residents and users participated in their own assessments of the facilities at two public meetings. At the first public meeting (March 7, 2017), attendees were asked to provide their own evaluations of the facilities they currently use. They provided insight into the condition of the facilities, the amenities or lack thereof, and current and future needs for the public parks and open space of Dedham.

The second public meeting (June 6, 2017) allowed residents, users and stakeholders to develop goals and start to define the priority needs of the Plan. Attendees were presented with findings from the first meeting and asked to participate in activities attempting to define priority goals.



Dedham Recreation Flag Football

Surveys

A number of surveys were used to inform the project including:

- A Parks and Recreation survey was deployed before this project began, which targeted a dozen specific user groups to learn about the condition of facilities. (Appendix A)
- A community-wide survey was deployed early in the project to learn about usage, preferences, and general satisfaction. (Appendix B)
- A targeted user group survey called for detailed reviews of facilities from a wide variety of organized groups. User feedback provided insight into the use of the facilities, conditions at the facilities, and current and future needs. (Appendix C)

In some instances, targeted User Group Surveys and input from Stakeholder meetings were evaluated and factored into recommendations at a higher level than individual survey responses. The user group surveys provided input from small community groups to larger groups such as the Dedham Public Schools with hundreds of users.

Stakeholder Meetings

Following the user surveys, meetings were held with specific groups to further review the findings and provide more comprehensive feedback as to the specific current and future needs of their organization. Discussions included maintenance, hours of use, playability, quality of space, and communication amongst the Town and various organizations.

Draft/Final Recreation Master Plan

All of the information collected throughout the process was converted into graphic forms of data, which were used to complete the plan.

Data collected were then compared with the fiscal resources available to maintain the various parks and facilities, accessibility to the community, and demands of the organizations. Based on the data collected, goals and recommendations were developed with the Steering Committee to meet the recreation needs of the community.

New Parks and Reorganization of Facilities

As the Town continues to experience change in its demographics, recreational demands will change accordingly. These demographic shifts will likely create needs for new facilities, the reorganization of existing facilities, and adjustments to DPR's program offerings. These needs are especially challenging with current budgetary constraints and the current conditions of existing facilities. The Plan outlines service and facility standards for all town parks to provide equity and accessibility.

The Plan includes the addition of facilities over time, and the re-organization of existing facilities to better serve community needs. Major recommendations are made for improvements in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and the addition of amenities to increase the function of the facilities.

Park Types and Standards

The Plan also makes recommendations for the establishment of park types and definitions for the standard of care for development, maintenance and construction of facilities within the DPR. The Plan establishes parks based on the demands for high performance athletics, park/ passive recreation, and the need for general accessible open space. This overview will provide for the demands and needs of each type of park and the amenities and maintenance standards associated with them.

Operations and Maintenance

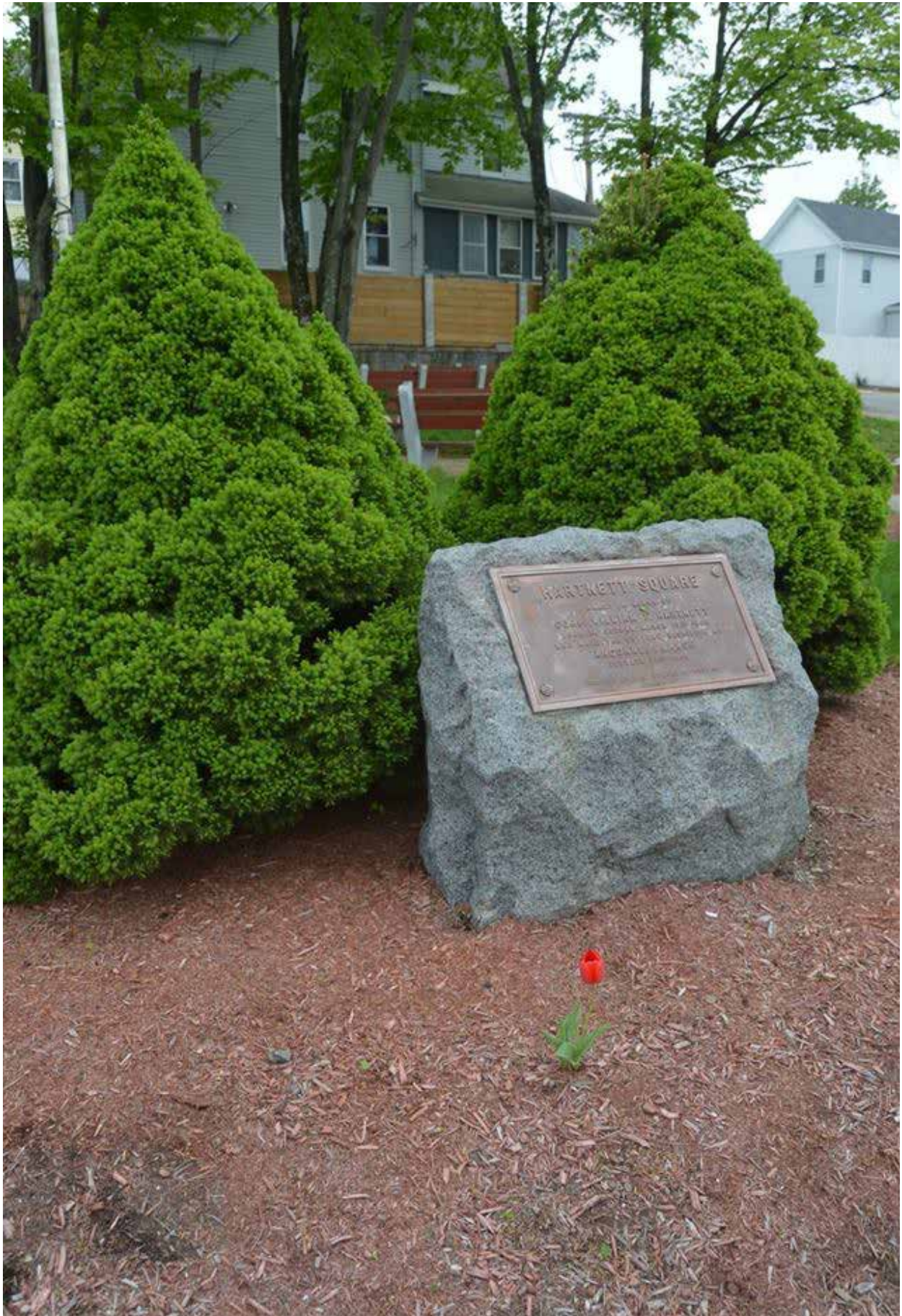
The operations and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is directly tied to their use and contribution to the community. One of the strongest requests of the public for this plan and for DPR is to improve the quality of the facilities and the maintenance associated with them. This plan will develop standards for the short-term and long-term maintenance of the facilities and encourages accountability that is tangible, including the long-term replacement of athletic fields and playground equipment.

Financing

The long-term care of facilities and the demand for ever changing programs will require a long-term funding program. Preparing for these long-term budget appropriations will require programs that not only meet the requirements of the Town, but create long-term financial sustainability of the parks.

Recreation programs are staff intensive and pose a potential for revenue loss. The Recreation Master Plan identifies general strategies and long-term opportunities to enhance programs including a town wide survey, marketing/branding and communications, and a modified fee structure.





C. Community Profile

Dedham is a historic suburban town located in Norfolk County in the southern portion of the Boston metropolitan area. The Town is bordered by Needham on the west, Boston on the north and northeast, Canton on the east, and Westwood on the south.

Due to its location immediately south of Boston, Dedham has become more urbanized, but still contains remnants of its agricultural and mill town heritage. The Town's historic development patterns evolved around its waterways with the Charles River and Mother Brook providing a means of transportation and a source of power for mills and factories. More recently, recreational use of these waterways has become an important contribution to Dedham's quality of life and is increasing as water quality improves and access is enhanced. Dedham has retained much of its natural beauty and many open lands due in large part to the significant private institutional holdings in the Town, such as Ursuline Convent, and Northeastern University.



Natural Features

Dedham has a number of landscape features that define the character of the Town. The most striking and prevalent include Dedham's waterways, which impacted historic development and provide biological, recreational, and economic benefits to the Town today. These waterways also provide important links between Dedham and other communities in eastern Massachusetts. Additionally, Wilson Mountain is a dominant landscape feature, providing scenic views of the Town from its peak with long range views of forested hillsides in the surrounding lowlands. Open landscapes are also an important feature in Dedham, ranging from manicured institutional greens to recreational fields and a private golf course. These open landscapes provide a counterpoint to both the forested and built environment, giving a sense of rhythm and relief.

Climate

As would be expected for any Massachusetts community, Dedham has a relatively mild but highly variable climate with four distinct seasons. Temperatures over the course of a four-season cycle usually range more than 100 degrees F. This phenomenon sets the stage for recreational demands that are very diverse over the course of the year, and often seasonal in nature. Seasons that tend to bring colder or otherwise unpleasant weather also create higher demand for indoor recreational facilities.

The regional climatic influences in Massachusetts vary across the Commonwealth based on a municipality's proximity to relatively mild ocean waters, its average elevation, and the type of terrain. These modifying factors divide the State into three climate divisions—western, central,

and coastal—with Dedham technically in the coastal division. Closer proximity to the ocean leads to even more dramatic variation in weather when compared with Massachusetts’ communities that are farther inland. Coastal storms and a recurring “thaw/freeze cycle” create harsh conditions for athletic fields and equipment. Annual rainfall amounts can reach as high as 60 inches, with spring being the wettest season. Coupled with melting snow and residents anxious to get outside in the warmer weather, this time of year can be particularly challenging for recreational facilities.

Vegetation

The native vegetation around Dedham is a reflection of its ties to its waterways. Much of Dedham is considered to be at or near buildout capacity with most of its land devoted to housing, business, and transportation. However there is a unique rustic character to Dedham, typified by its dense tree-lined streets and riparian areas that are punctuated by private or public parks and open space.

Vegetative communities within Dedham include the following:

Riparian Areas: Riparian areas are the lands adjacent to, and/or interacting with, rivers and streams. Healthy riparian areas generally include trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that provide shade and stabilize banks. Vegetation is usually hydrophilic in nature, thriving in wet conditions.

Wetlands: Wetlands are areas of land whose soils are saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally. They include marshes, swamps and bogs and often lie within floodplains. Dedham contains more than 1,200 acres of wetlands which is equal to 18% of its total land area. The Fowl Meadow is the largest contiguous wetland area in the Neponset River Basin and is one of the most significant wetland areas in the metropolitan Boston region.

Central and Transitional Hardwood Forests: Dedham’s woodland vegetation is typical of eastern Massachusetts. In the moderately to well-drained upland areas, many of which support second and third growth forests, the predominant tree species are oak, maple, hickory, grey birch, beech, poplar, white pine, and hemlock. White birch, ground juniper, cedar and spruce can also be found.



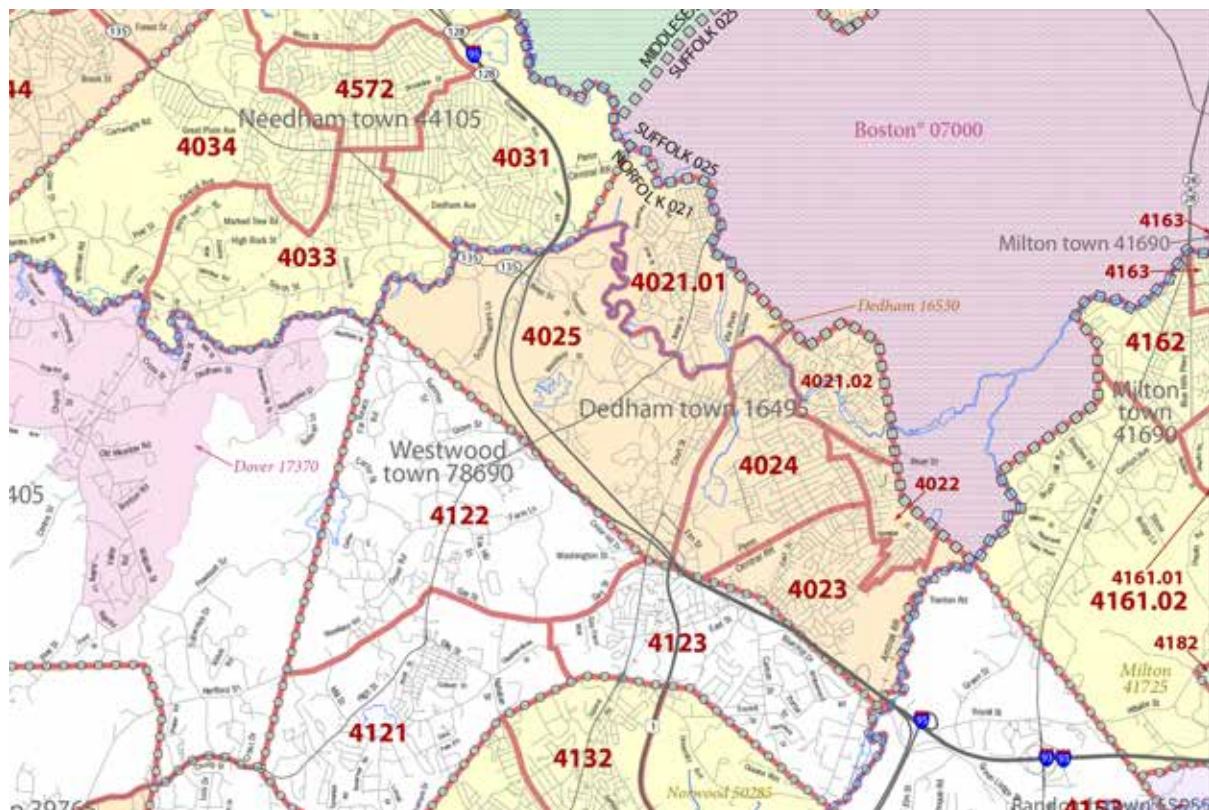
Demographic Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of Dedham are important to note since they influence recreational interests and participation. As population changes, it creates new demand for park and recreation services or programming. Factors such as age, employment, income, and cultural preferences play a role in determining recreational interests. These factors may affect an individual's level of participation, as well as his or her ability and desire for active recreation.

Note: Some of the demographic data presented in this section is organized by Census Tracts. Figure 1 can be used as a reference for this information. The “Census Tract” is an area roughly equivalent to a neighborhood established by the Bureau of Census for analyzing populations. They generally encompass a population between 2,500 to 8,000 people. The Census Bureau describes them as “relatively permanent”, but they do change over time.

C

Figure 1: Census Tracts in Dedham



Source: Town of Dedham

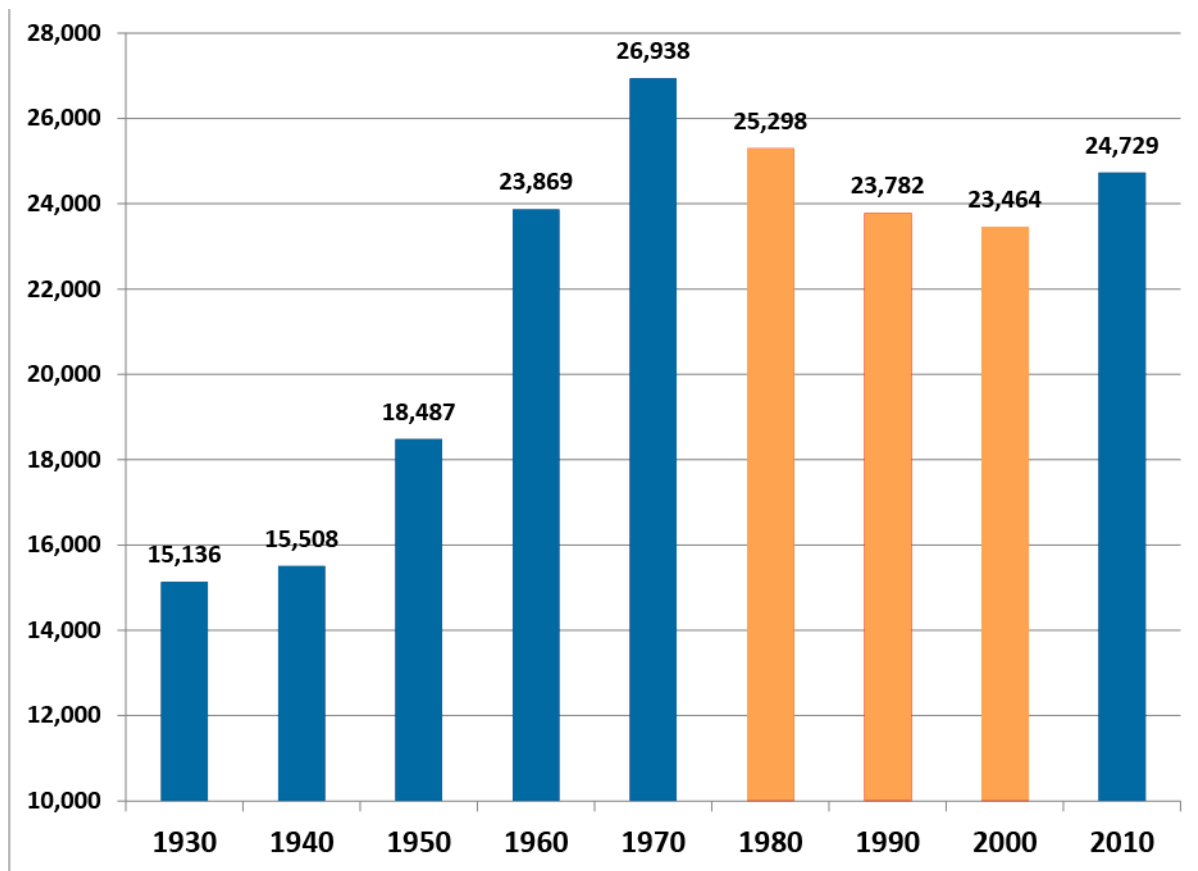
Activity in the Community

Residents in Dedham are generally more active (35%) compared with national measures (31%) and, not surprisingly, local incidence of residents being overweight or obese is slightly lower compared to the rest of the country (23% compared to 28%). Dedham and Massachusetts residents are also afforded more recreation opportunities with 50% of the population of Massachusetts living within 1/2 mile of public access to recreational open space.

General Population

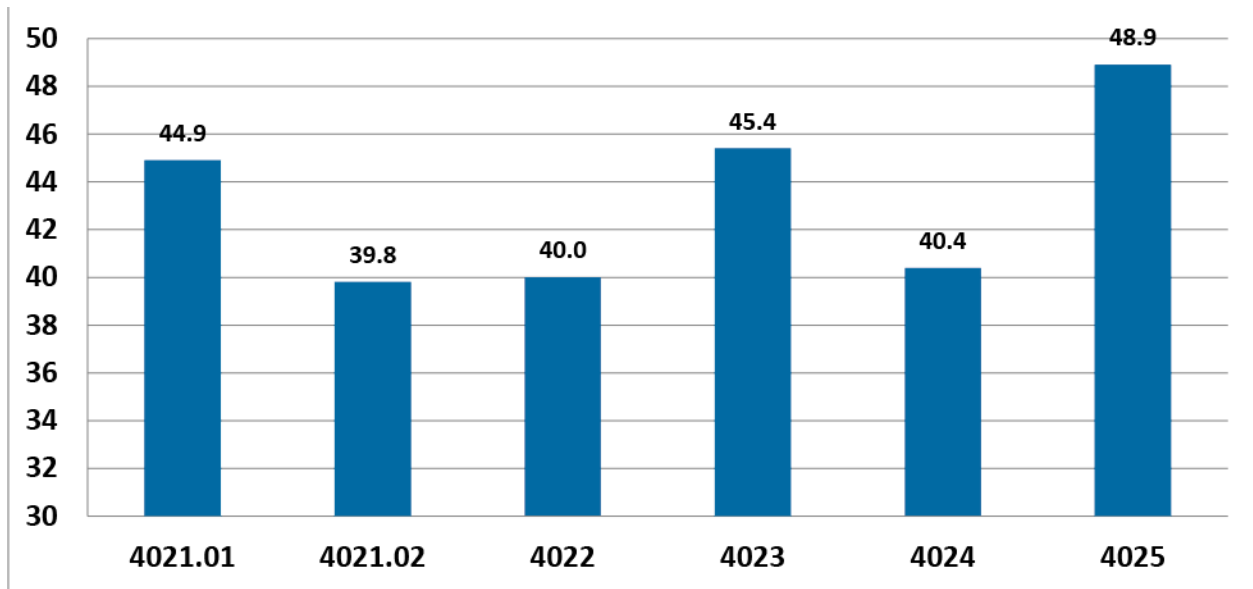
The Town of Dedham is a suburb directly South of Boston. Like most of the Boston metropolitan area, Dedham has seen a steady decline in population since the 1970s (Figure 2), although it is worth noting a modest increase did occur between 2000 and 2010. It is also worth noting that the geographic distribution of the median age varies by almost 10 years across different neighborhoods (Figure 3). When compared with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole, population growth in Dedham far outpaced the state average up to 1970. However, during the more recent population decline (1970 – 2000), the state as a whole showed a steady increase. The more recent modest increase in Dedham is more in line with statewide data (Figure 4). When compared with County data, Dedham’s population growth has generally been in-line with the County as a whole. However, Dedham’s population decline between 1970 and 2000 contrasted with the County increase of 7.5% during that period (Figure 5).

Figure 2. Population Growth in Dedham, 1930 – 2010.



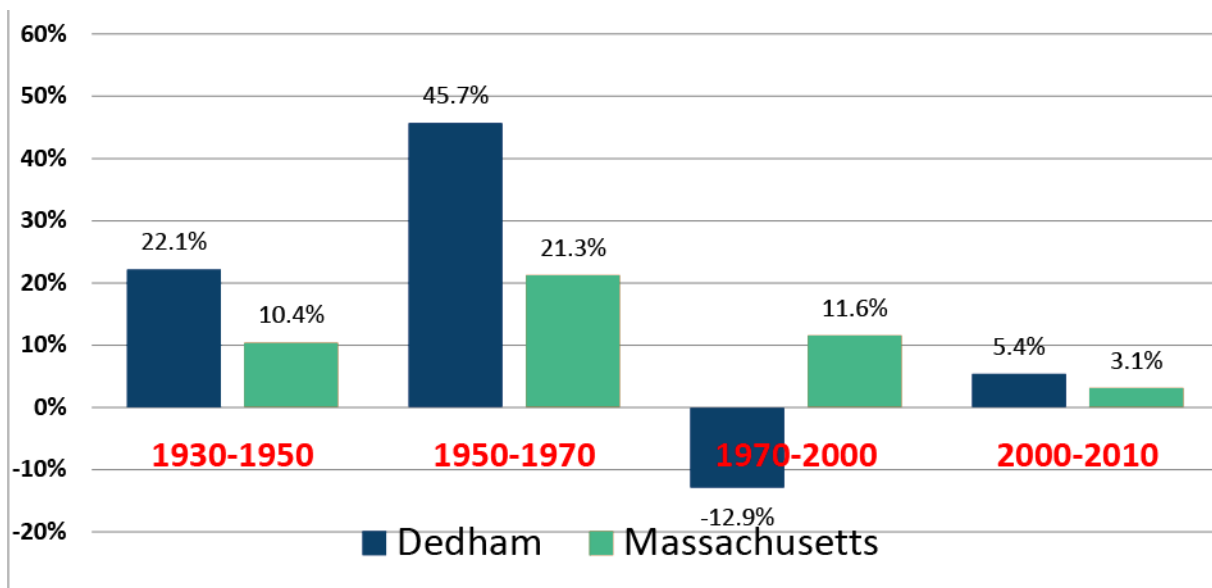
Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American Factfinder

Figure 3. Median Age of Population in 2010 by Census Tract.



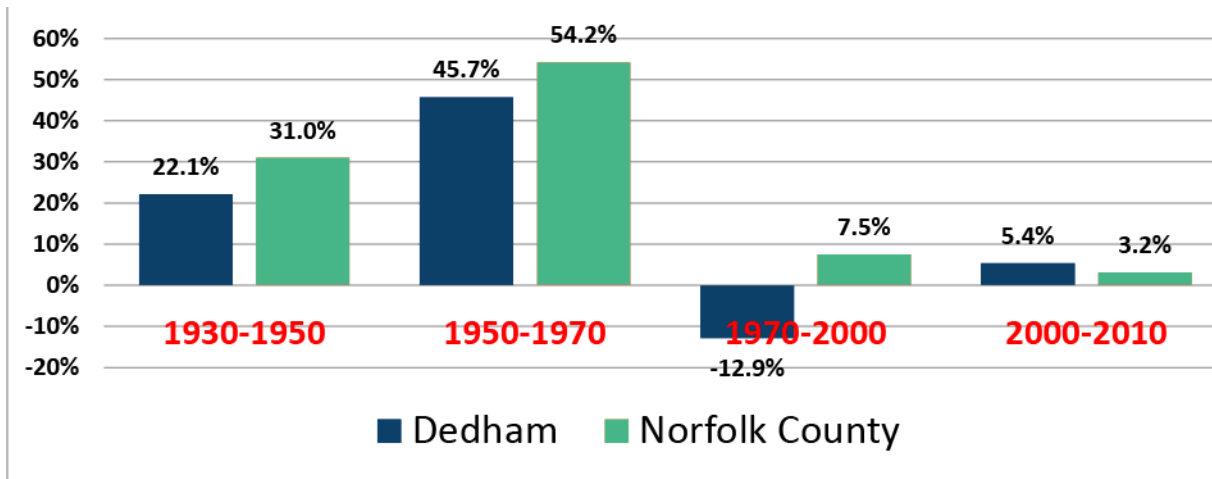
Source: USA.com Census Tract data for the Town of Dedham. Reference Figure 1 for census tract locations.

Figure 4. Population Growth: Dedham vs. Massachusetts



Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American Factfinder

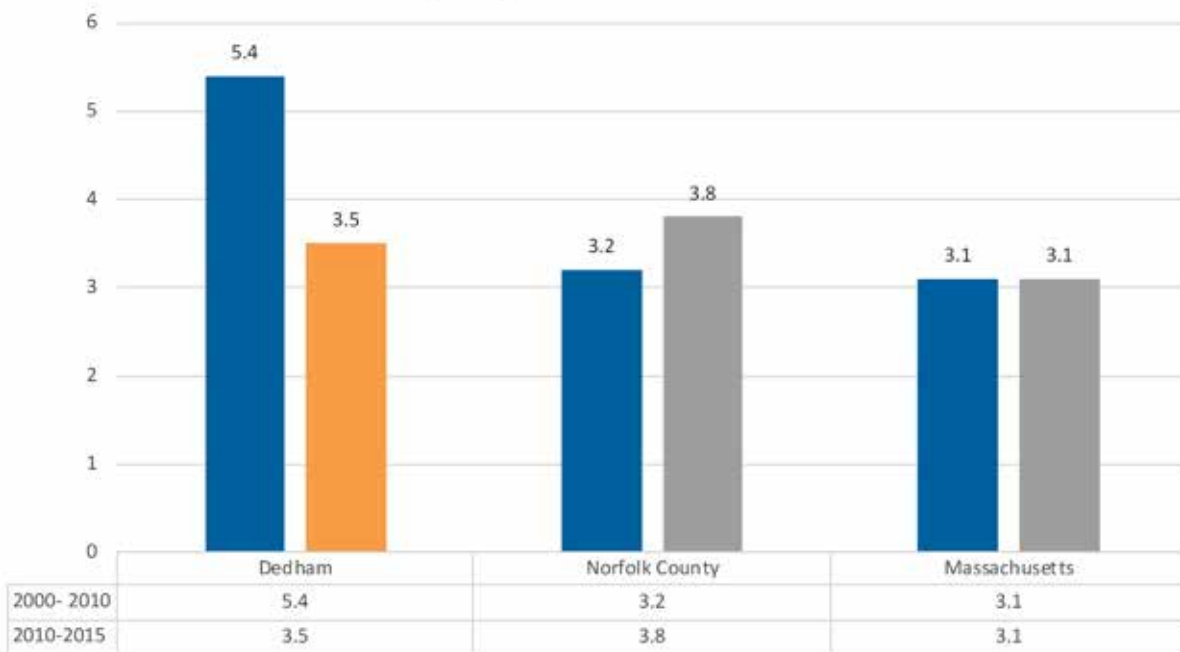
Figure 5. Population Growth: Dedham vs. Norfolk County



Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American Factfinder

Figure 6 shows the most recent population estimates for Dedham, the County, and the Commonwealth based on the 2010 and 2015 U.S. Census. For the most recent estimates (2015), all three show modest and comparable population increases.

Figure 6. Population Growth in Dedham, Norfolk County, and Massachusetts Reported for 2000-2010 and 2010-2015.



Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American FactFinder

Age Groups

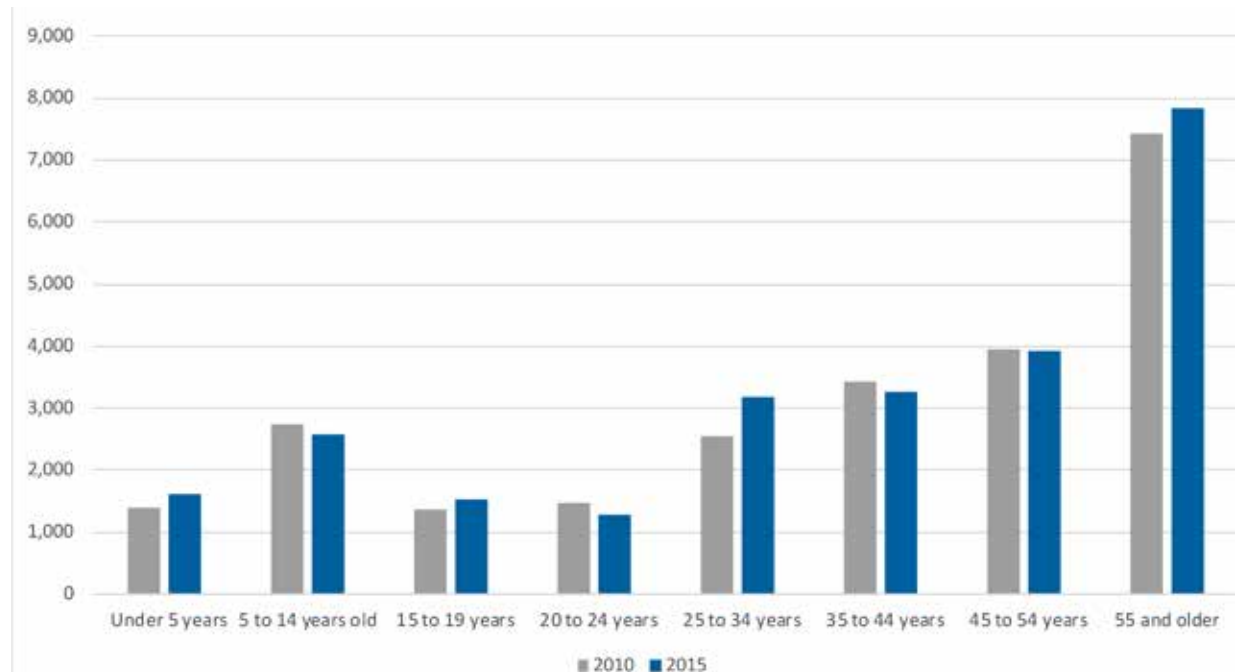
As with most communities, median age is on the rise. The Town's largest population group is comprised of those over age 55, representing 30.1% of the population in 2015. This differs from Norfolk County, where the largest "20 year" population block is 35 to 55 year olds (28%).

When planning for recreation, the following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups .

- **Under 5 years:** This group represents users of preschool and tot programs, playgrounds and are often users of walking paths with parents. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- **5 to 14 years:** This group represents current youth program participants.
- **15 to 24 years:** This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth programs and into adult programs. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers.
- **25 to 34 years:** This group represents involvement in adult programs with characteristics of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- **35 to 54 years:** This group represents users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.
- **55 years plus:** This group represents users of older adult programs exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 7 shows the distribution of these age groups in Dedham for the years 2010 and 2015. While the greatest single increase is shown in the 25 – 34 age group, the over population of residents 55 years or older is still far larger than any group and shows an increase.

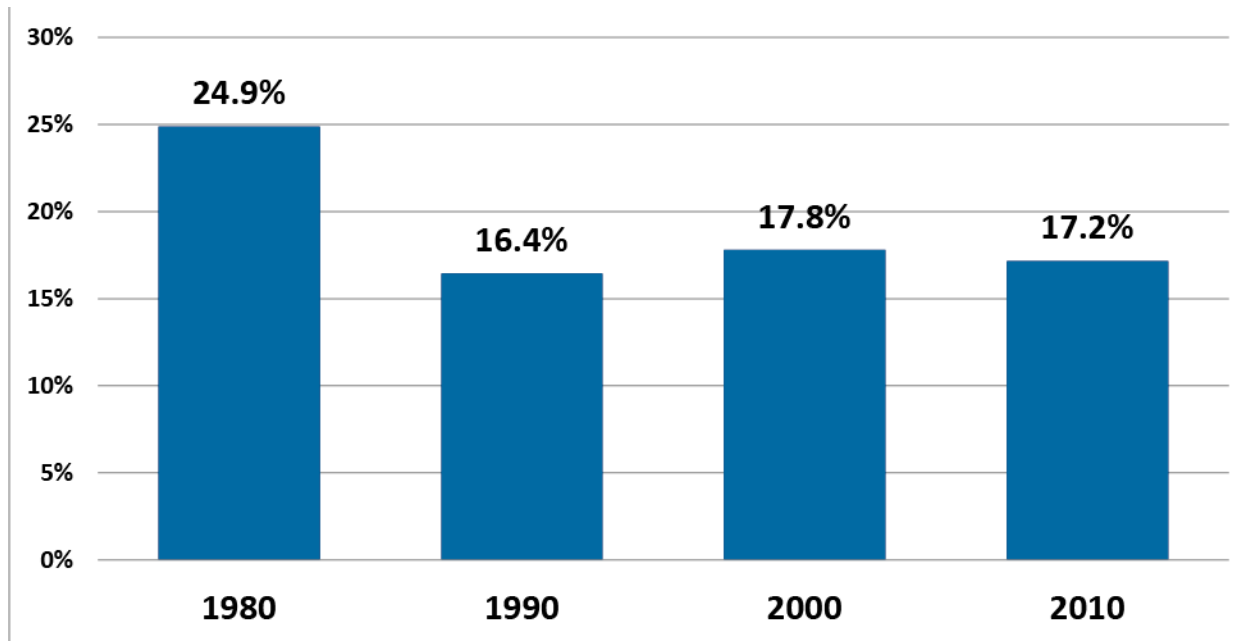
Figure 7. Dedham Population by Age Group 2010 and 2015



Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American FactFinder

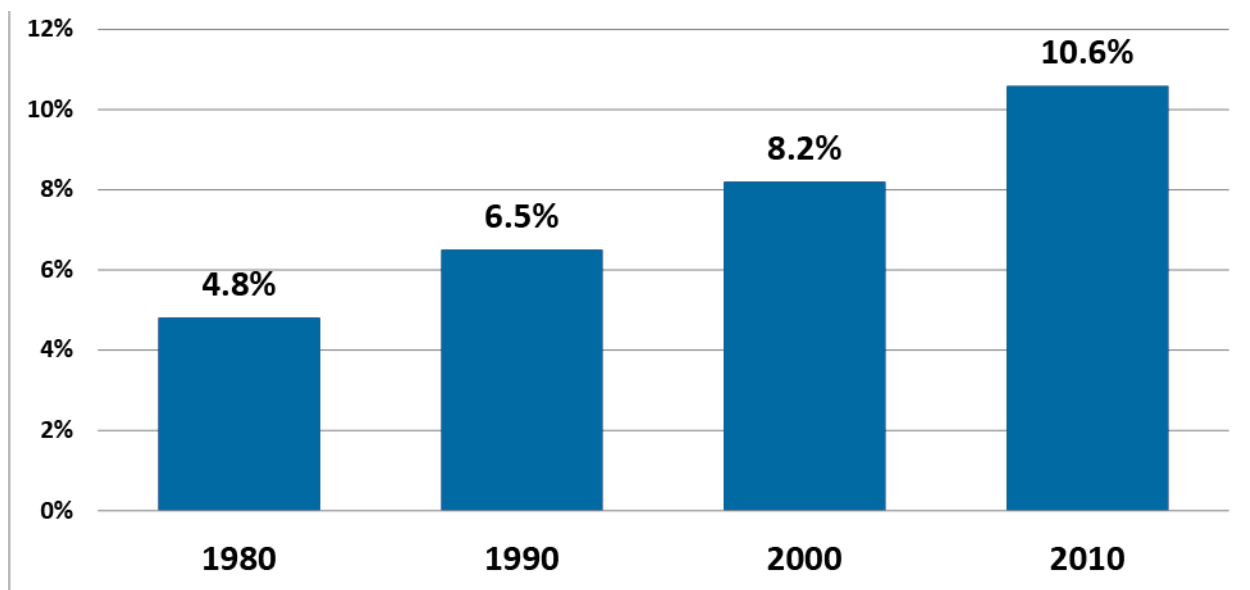
Between 1980 and 2000, Dedham's 5 – 19 year old cohort has remained fairly consistent as a percentage of the population (Figure 8), while the percentage of residents who are 75 years and older has more than doubled during the same period (Figure 9).

Figure 8. Residents Age 5-19 as a Percentage of Dedham's Population, 1980-2000



Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 - 2000); American Community Survey (2006-2010)

Figure 9. Residents Age 75 and Over as a Percentage of Dedham's Population, 1980-2000



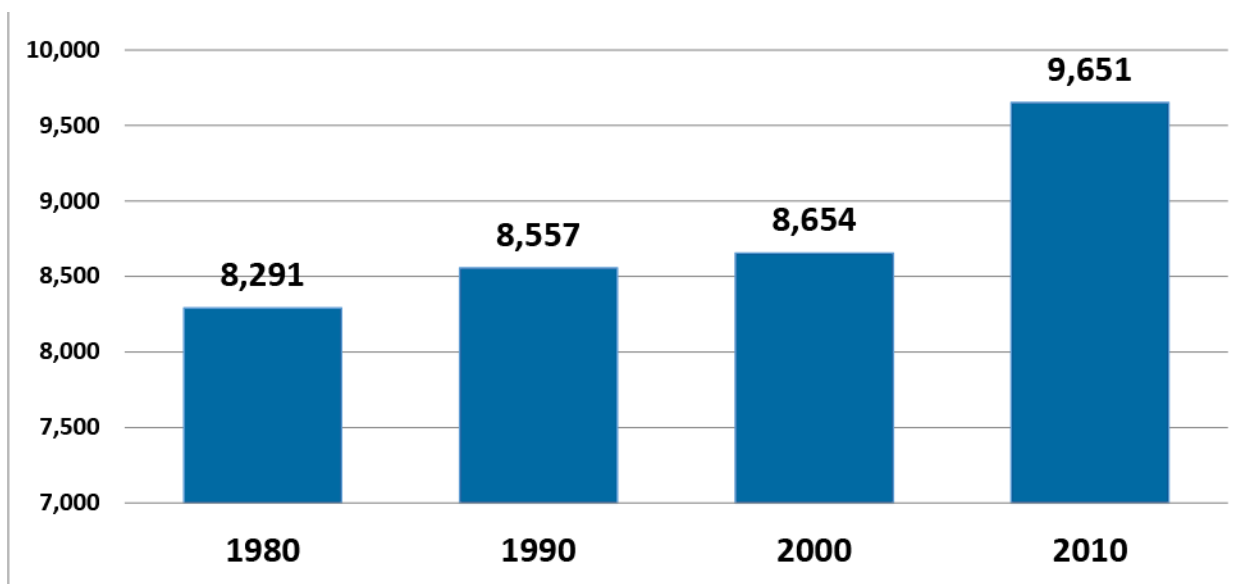
Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 - 2000); American Community Survey (2006-2010)



Household Numbers and Composition

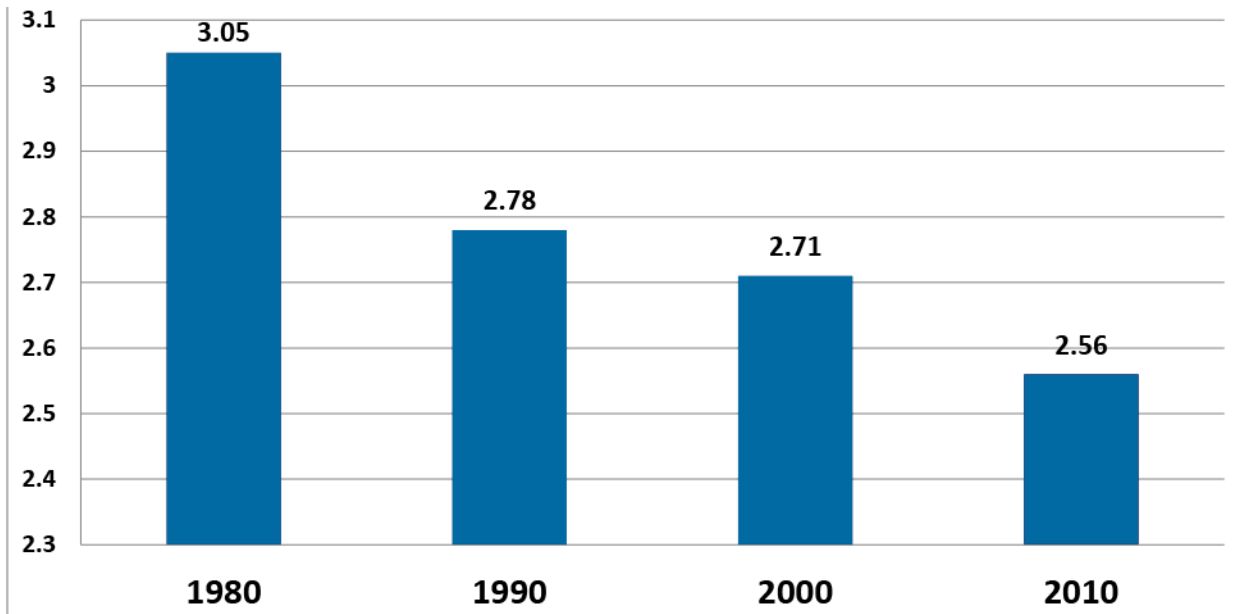
When considering household data in the context of recreational demands there are several important pieces of data to consider. Dedham's household information tells a specific story about rising needs for both programming and facilities. First, the number of households has continued to increase in Dedham, even when population declined between 1970 and 2000 (Figure 10). This information illustrates two important trends. First, increases in the number of homes developed over these past decades has consumed more land and increased the size of neighborhoods. As more land is developed, new households may find themselves farther away from recreational amenities. Second, if households are increasing in number, but population is decreasing, this suggests that the number of people in each household (i.e., "household size") is decreasing. The data in Figures 11 and 12 show this to be true. Studies from groups like the Aspen Institute show that where there are fewer siblings on average, there will be higher demand for recreational opportunities away from home.

Figure 10. Number of Households in Dedham, 1980 – 2010



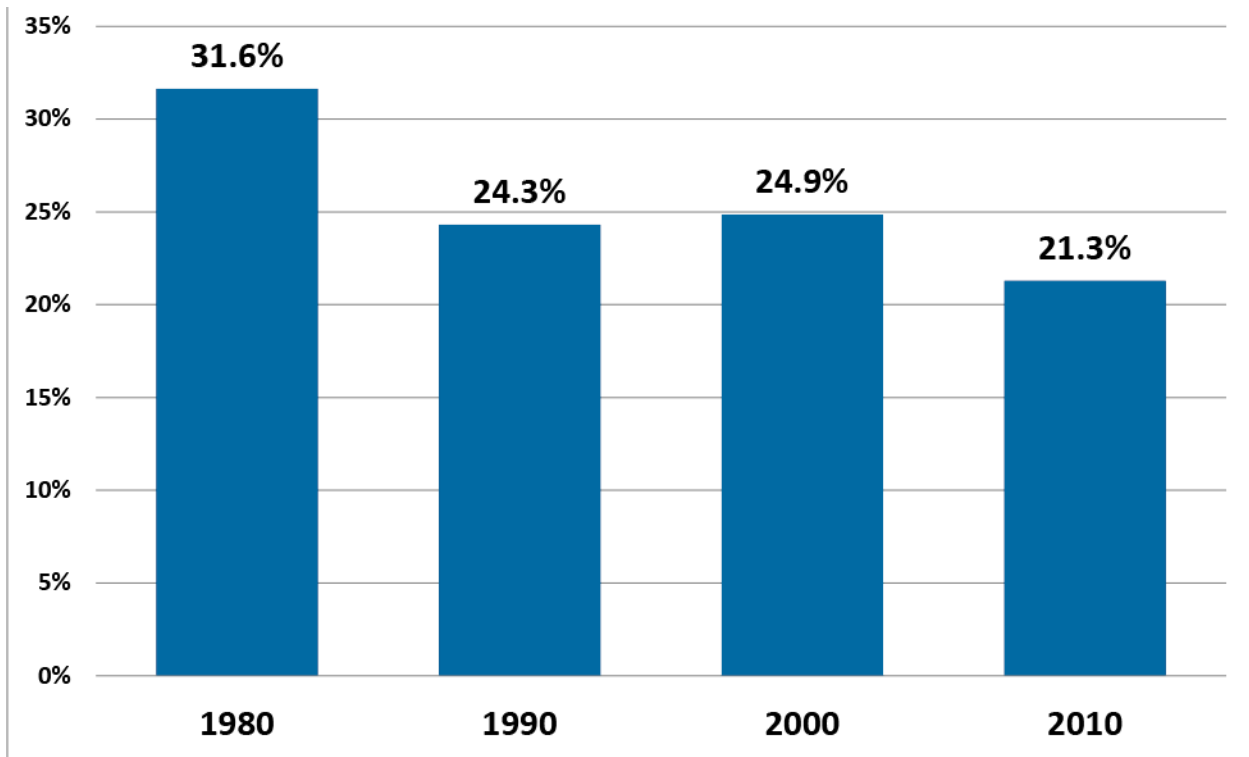
Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 - 2000); American Community Survey (2006-2010)

Figure 11. Average Household Size in Dedham, 1980 – 2010



Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 - 2000); American Community Survey (2006-2010)

Figure 12. Married-Couple Families with Children as a Percentage of Dedham Households, 1980 – 2010

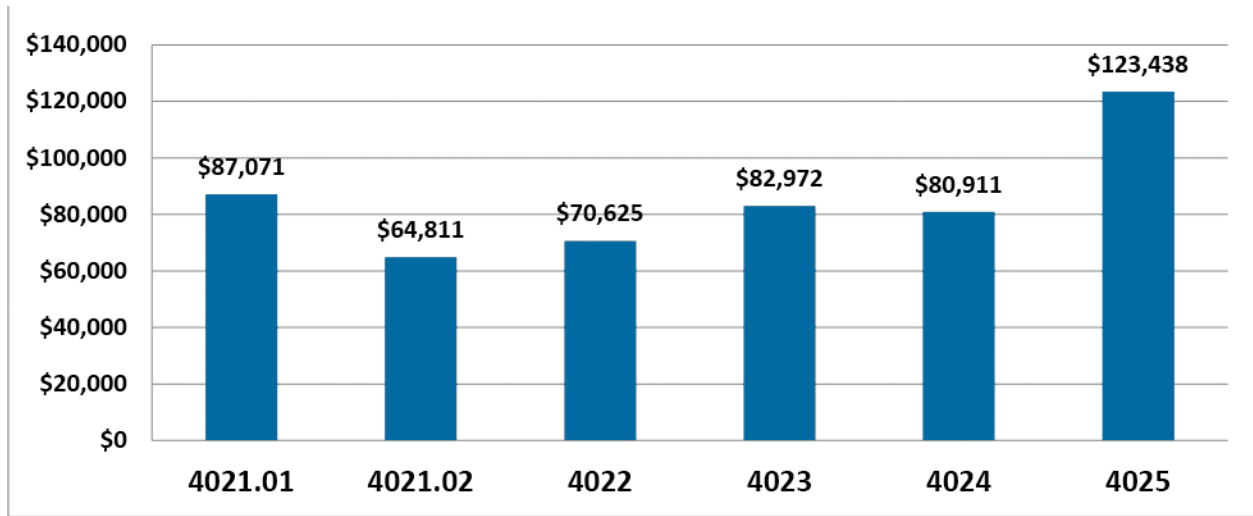


Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 - 2000); American Community Survey (2006-2010)

Household income in Dedham closely mirrors both values and trends in Norfolk County over time. Figure 13 shows median income levels from 2010 to 2015 for Dedham, the County and

Massachusetts. As expected, median household incomes in Dedham (and Norfolk County) are significantly higher than the state due primarily to its proximity to Boston.

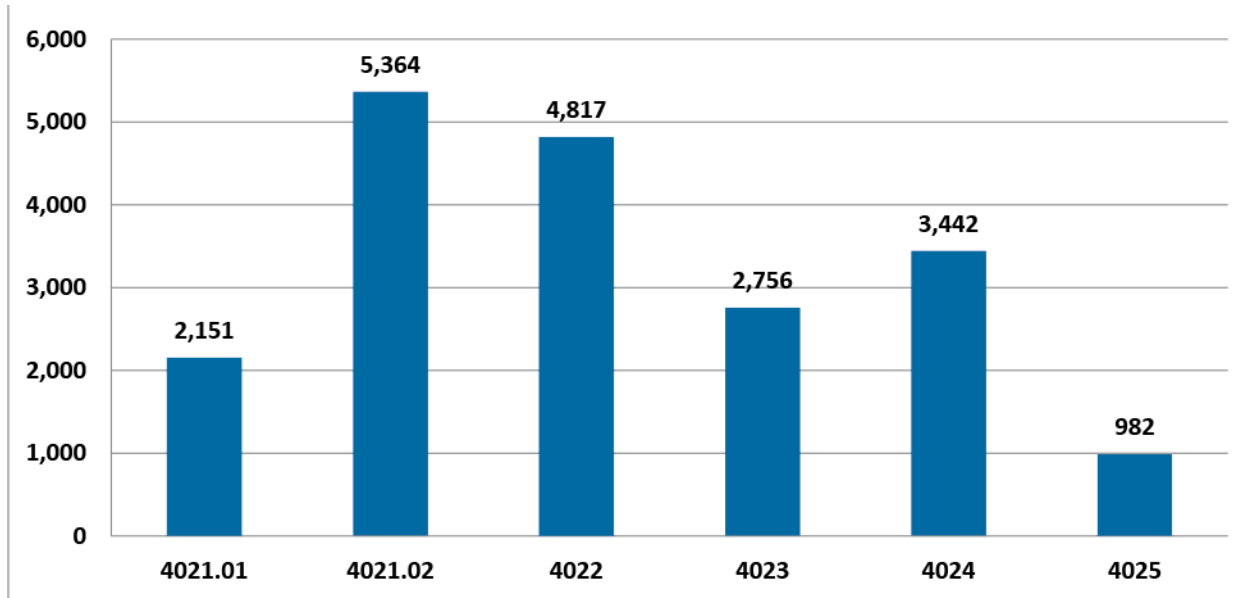
Figure 13. Household Median Income for Dedham, Norfolk County, and Massachusetts (2010 – 2015)



Source: State Data Center, MISER and U.S. Census American FactFinder. Reference Figure 1 for census tract locations.

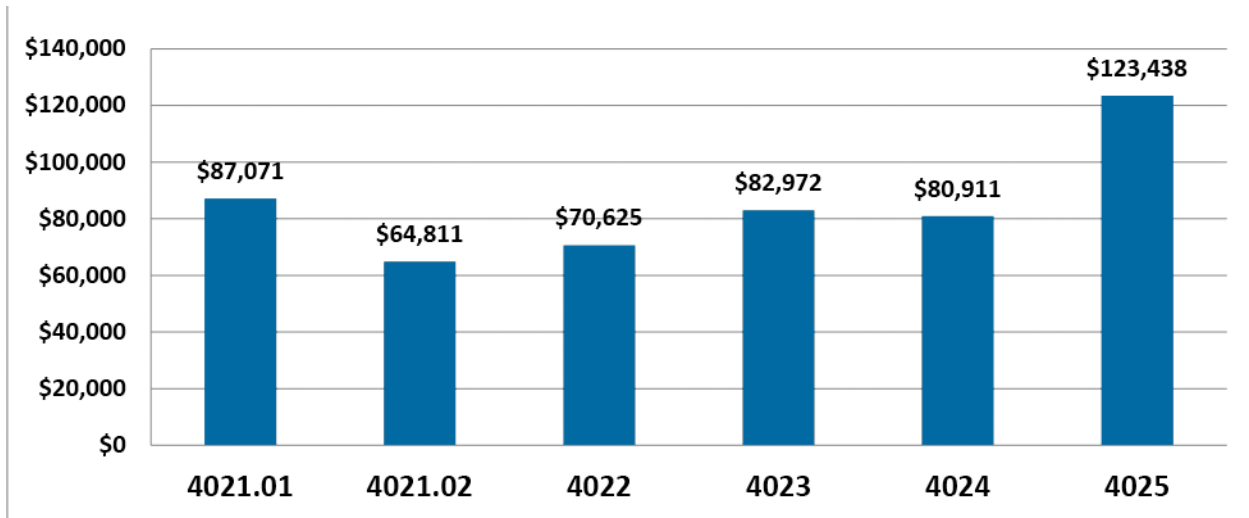
Another interesting way to look at households in Dedham is geographic distribution of population location (density) and income. Figure 14 shows population density in different Census Tracts and Figure 15 shows median income in the same areas. When compared with Figure 3 (Age by Census Tract), these three data sets show that older, wealthier households tend to own property in areas of the community that are less densely developed.

Figure 14. Population Density (persons/square mile) in Dedham by Census Tract (2010)

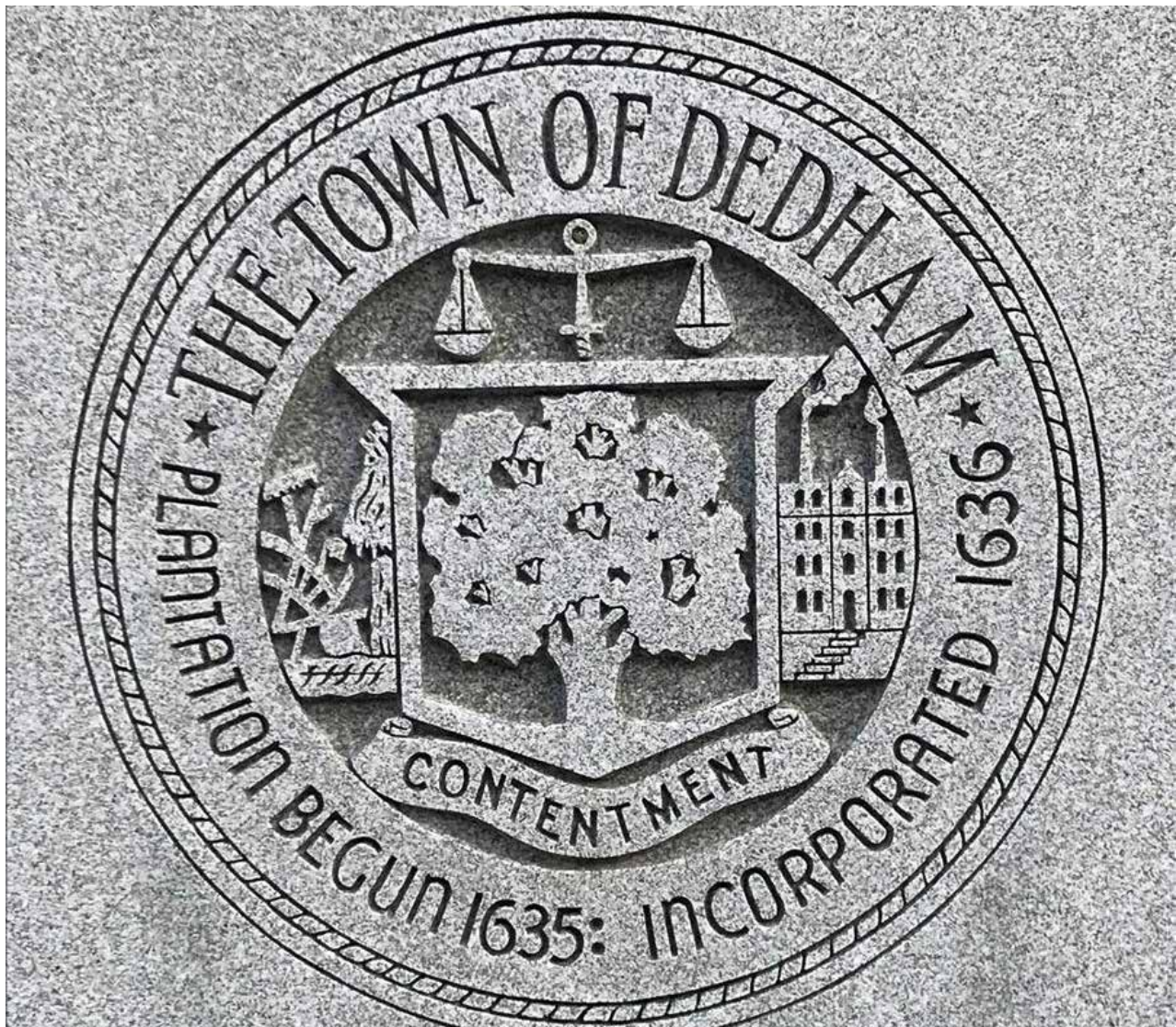


Source: USA.com Census Tract data for the Town of Deham. Reference Figure 1 for census tract locations.

Figure 15. Median Household Income in Dedham by Census Tract (2010)



Source: USA.com Census Tract data for the Town of Deham. Reference Figure 1 for census tract locations.



D. Programming

The Town of Dedham currently offers a wide range of programming options within its parks and recreational facilities. The Town currently has one indoor facility at the Dolan Recreation Center which includes offices, a multi-purpose room, a dance room, and storage located at 269 Common Street. A second indoor facility houses the Anthony P Mucciaccio Pool which includes indoor swimming and diving located at 1 Recreation Road. Both are operated by DPR. Additionally, DPR provides numerous parks, fields, and playgrounds throughout the community (Chapter E). DPR partners with the Dedham School Department and local private schools for gymnasiums, building space, tennis facilities, and athletic fields to provide recreation options and programs to residents.

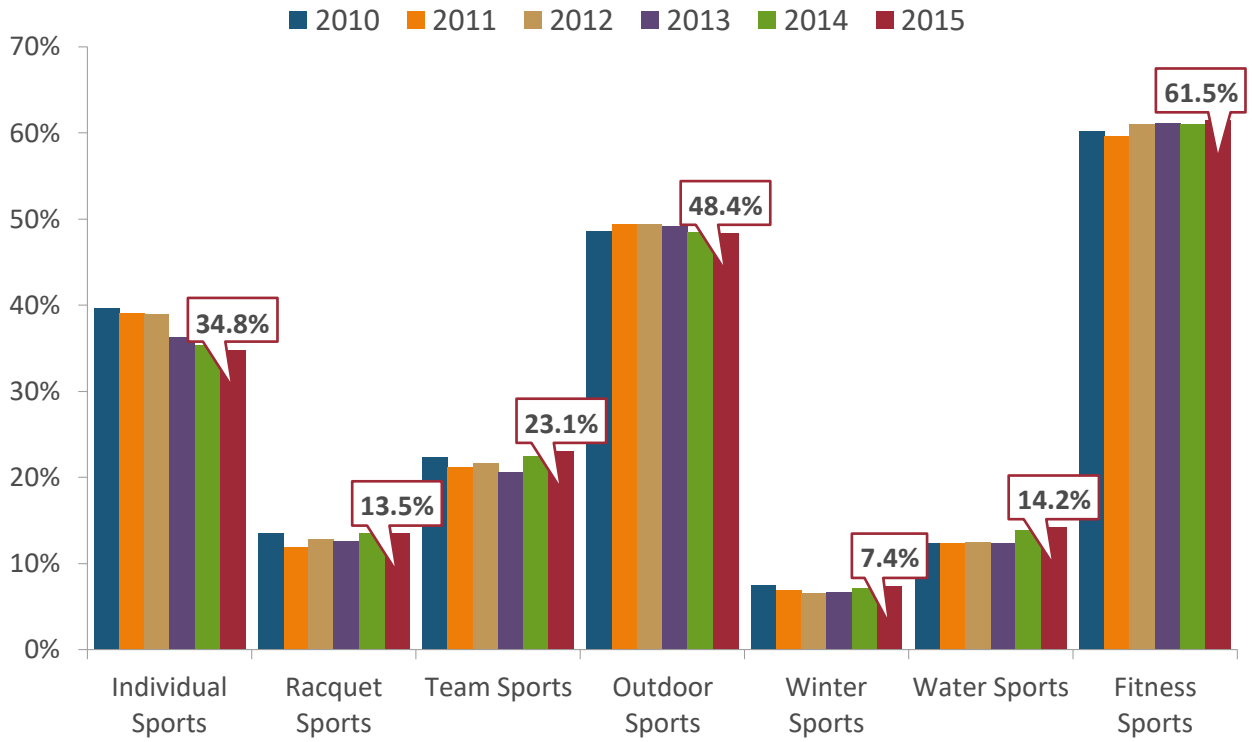


Trends in Recreation

Current national trends are moving from an inactive lifestyle to a healthy and active lifestyle in the United States according to the Physical Activity Council’s 2016 Participation Report: The Physical Activity Council’s annual study tracking sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the US. Overall increases in participation in sports, fitness and relative activities increased slightly in 2015 (Figure 16). The largest increases in participation in organized sports were in team, winter, water, and fitness categories while individual sports declined slightly and outdoor and racquet sports were flat. Example fitness sports include: Running, walking, hiking, bicycling and lifting weights. Examples of water sports include swimming, diving, and paddling.

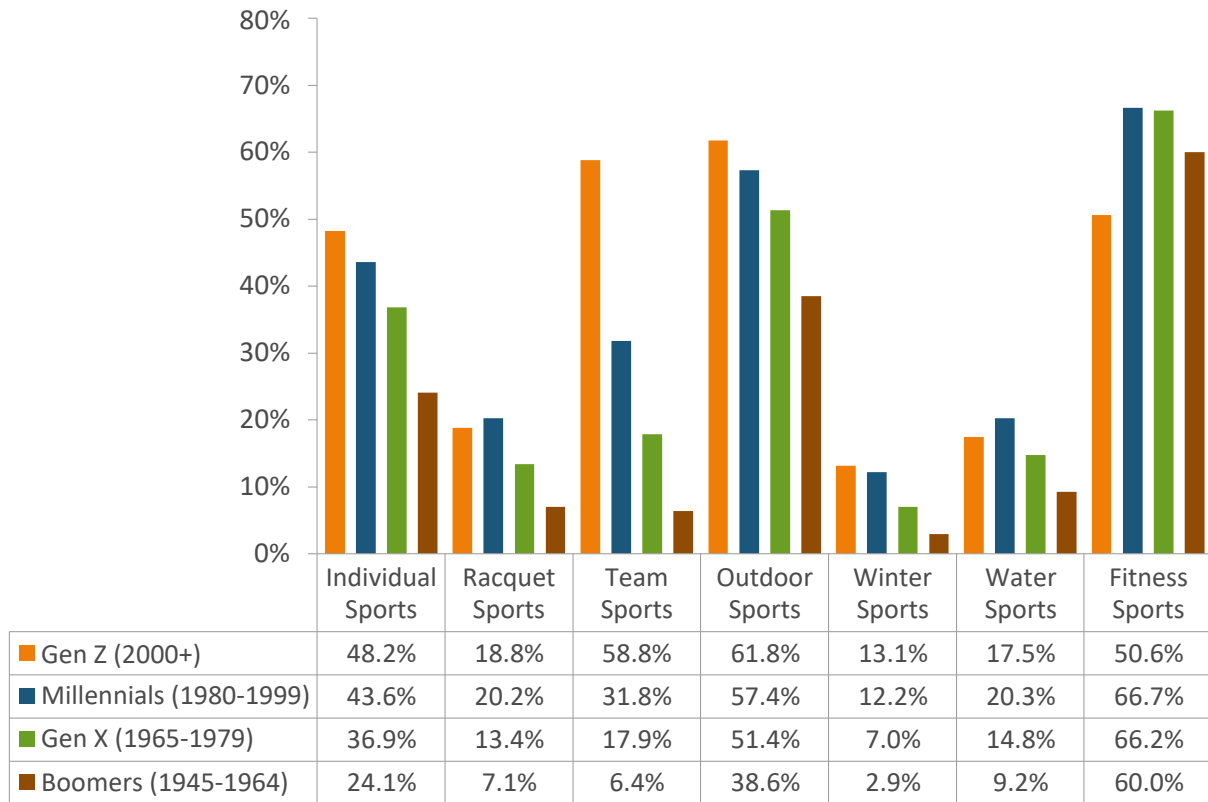


Figure 16. Participation Rates for Individuals 6+ Years of Age.



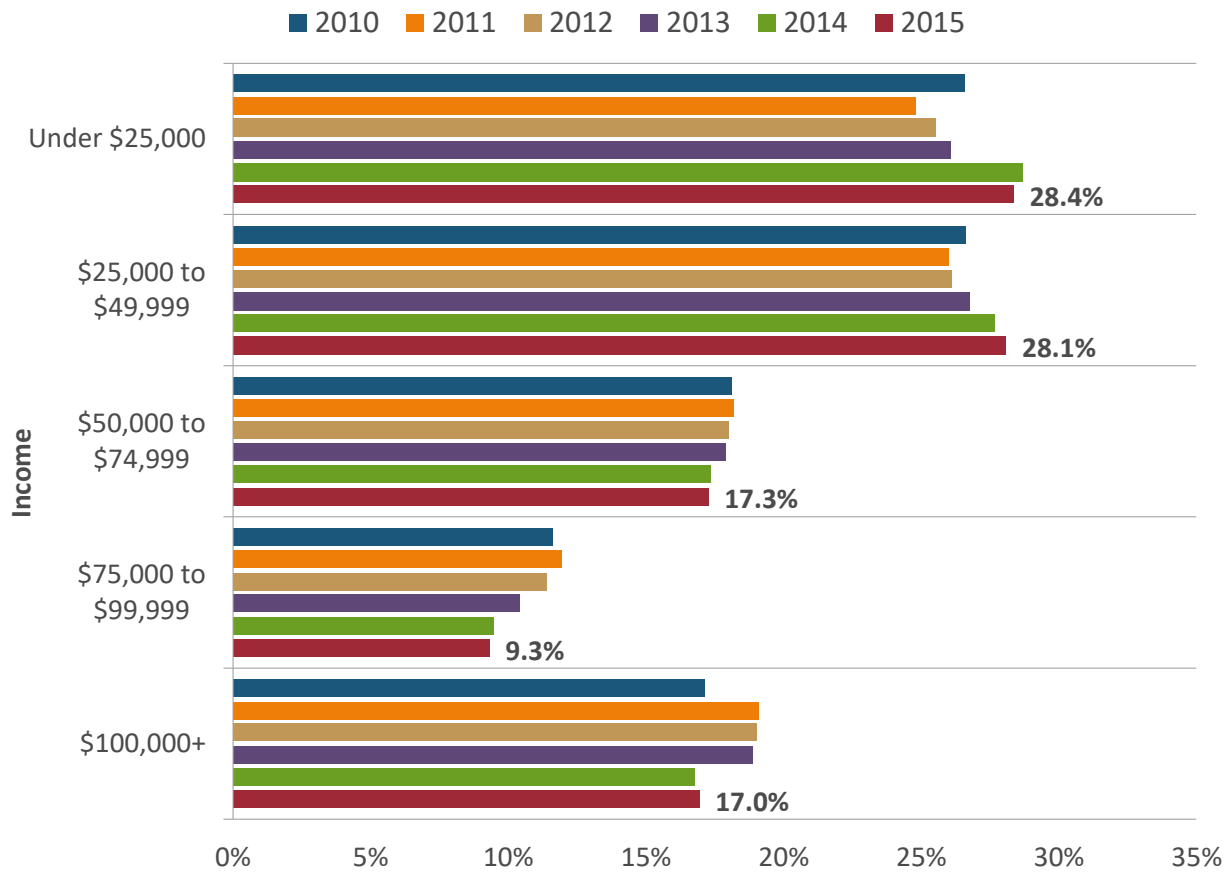
The same report indicates that active participation in recreation type is also influenced by generation. Gen Z population (2000+) preferred outdoor sports and team sports, while Millennials (1980-1999) preferred water sports and fitness sports, and Boomers (1945-1964) prefer fitness sports (Figure 17). This information is not overly surprising as interests change as people age and this ultimately affects choices in recreation.

Figure 17. Recreation Preference by Generation.



When inactivity was compared to income, inactivity remained higher in low income households. Both middle and upper class households had the lowest levels of inactivity. Those households earning \$75 to \$99.9K remained the most active and have been steady over the last five years (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Percentage of Inactivity (Nationally) by Household Income.



When individuals who did not participate in organized sports were asked about what would interest them, all age groups reported a high interest in swimming for fitness as well as an interest in activities that are outside in natural settings. Younger ages showed an interest in team sports while older participants were more interested in fitness and outdoor activities (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Recreation Interests by Age Cohort.

Interest Level	Ages 6~12				Ages 13~17				Ages 18~24				Ages 25~34			
	1	Camping				Camping				Camping				Swimming For Fitness		
2	Swimming For Fitness				Swimming For Fitness				Bicycling				Camping			
3	Bicycling				Bicycling				Swimming For Fitness				Bicycling			
4	Basketball				Working Out w/Machines				Hiking				Hiking			
5	Running/Jogging				Running/Jogging				Backpacking				Running/Jogging			
6	Soccer				Hiking				Working Out w/Weights				Canoeing			
7	Fishing				Fishing				Running/Jogging				Backpacking			
8	Football				Working Out w/Weights				Martial Arts				Working Out w/ Machines			
9	Swimming on a Team				Shooting				Working Out w/Machines				Working Out w/Weights			
10	Hiking				Martial Arts				Climbing				Kayaking			

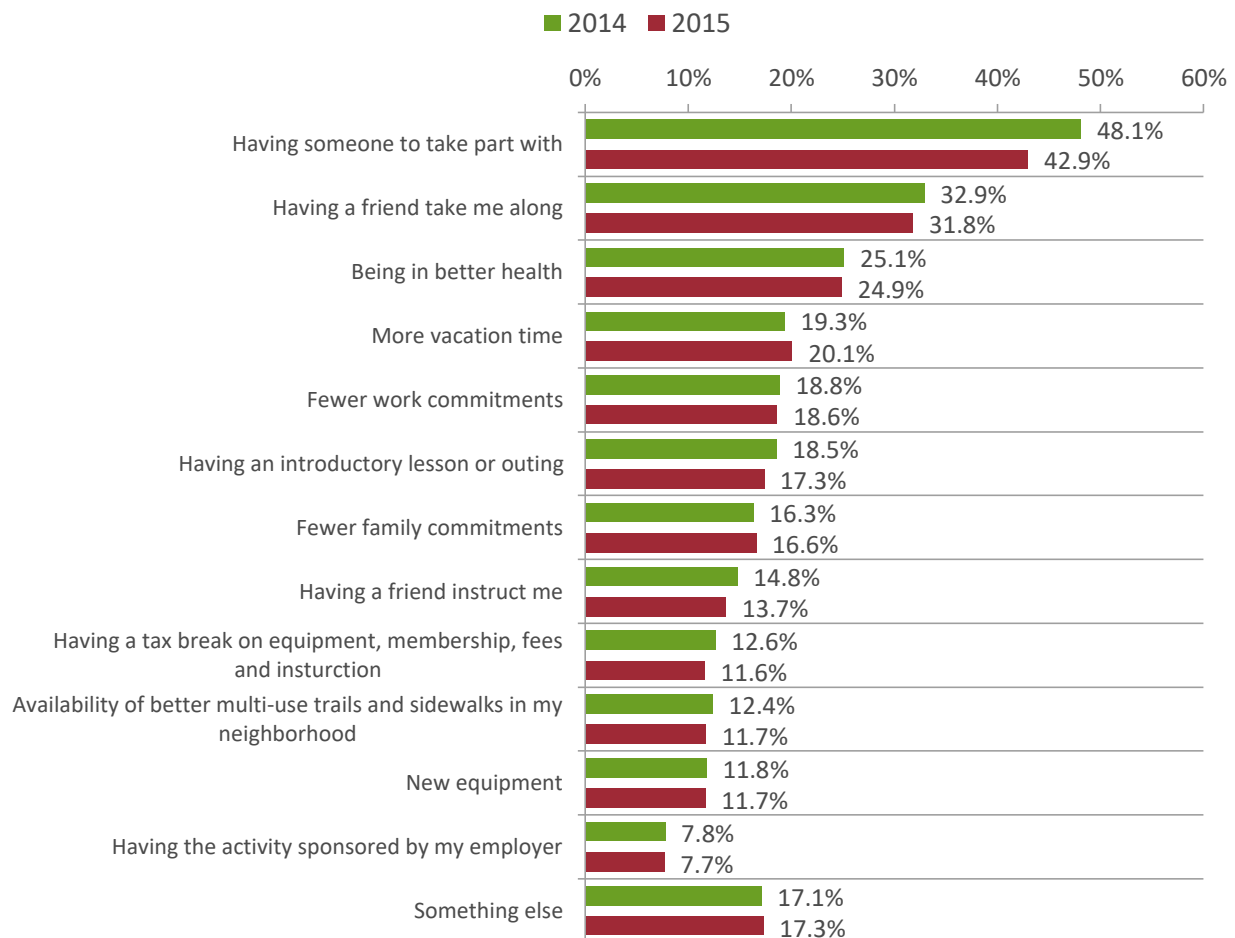
Interest Level	Ages 35~44				Ages 45~54				Ages 55~64				Ages 65+			
	1	Camping				Camping				Bicycling				Birdwatch/Wildlife Viewing		
2	Swimming For Fitness				Swimming For Fitness				Swimming For Fitness				Swimming For Fitness			
3	Bicycling				Bicycling				Camping				Working Out w/Machines			
4	Hiking				Hiking				Birdwatch/Wildlife Viewing				Fishing			
5	Working Out w/Weights				Working Out w/Machines				Hiking				Hiking			
6	Working out w/Machines				Fishing				Fishing				Bicycling			
7	Running/Jogging				Birdwatch/Wildlife Viewing				Working Out w/Machines				Fitness Classes			
8	Fishing				Canoeing				Working Out w/Weights				Working Out w/Weights			
9	Canoeing				Working Out w/Weights				Canoeing				Camping			
10	Backpacking				Backpacking				Fitness Classes				Canoeing			





Lastly, when trying to attract participants into programs and activities, the motivation to get non- participants involved in activities is directly linked to having others involved. This means programs should not be solely focused on the physical and mental attributes that an activity provides but, on the social aspects they provide. Participating with people and friends is the driving force for getting people out more and experiencing different ways to be physically active.

Figure 20. Motivation Interests for Recreation.



The State of the Industry Report

According to a national survey conducted by Recreation Management magazine's 2016 State of the Industry Report, the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years along with frequency (in parentheses) noted by survey participants including:

- Educational programs (27.1%)
- Fitness programs (26.1%)
- Mind-body/balance programs (25%)
- Teen programming (24.2%)
- Programs for active older adults (19.8%)
- Environmental education (19.7%)
- Arts & crafts (18.8%)
- Day camps and summer camps (18.3%)
- Sports tournaments and races (18.1%)
- Holiday events and other special events (17.7%)

The same report showed that public organizations planned to spend most of their capital improvement dollars on park related construction projects in 2016. This indicates an increase and desire for more amenities and programs within parks. The survey also listed the top ten planned additions or improvements to facilities based on frequency for those park systems that are planning to add or improve features at their facilities in the next three years including:

- Playgrounds (83.7%)
- Park shelters (83.5%)
- Park restrooms (77.3%)
- Outdoor sports courts (70.9%)
- Community centers (55.5%)
- Bike trails (50.1%)
- Skateparks (41%)
- Dog parks (34.8%)
- Community gardens (32.9%)
- Disc golf courses (31.4%)

The State of Sports

While national trends indicates that we as a nation are moving towards more healthy and active lifestyles, individual sports have seen a decrease in participation. Barriers to sport participation, which have been a contributing factor to the decline in participation, must be eliminated in order to increase participation and allow for kids to grow up strong.



According to the study Sport For All Play for Life: A Playbook to Get Every Kid in the Game, published by The Aspen Institute through their project play program, those barriers include:

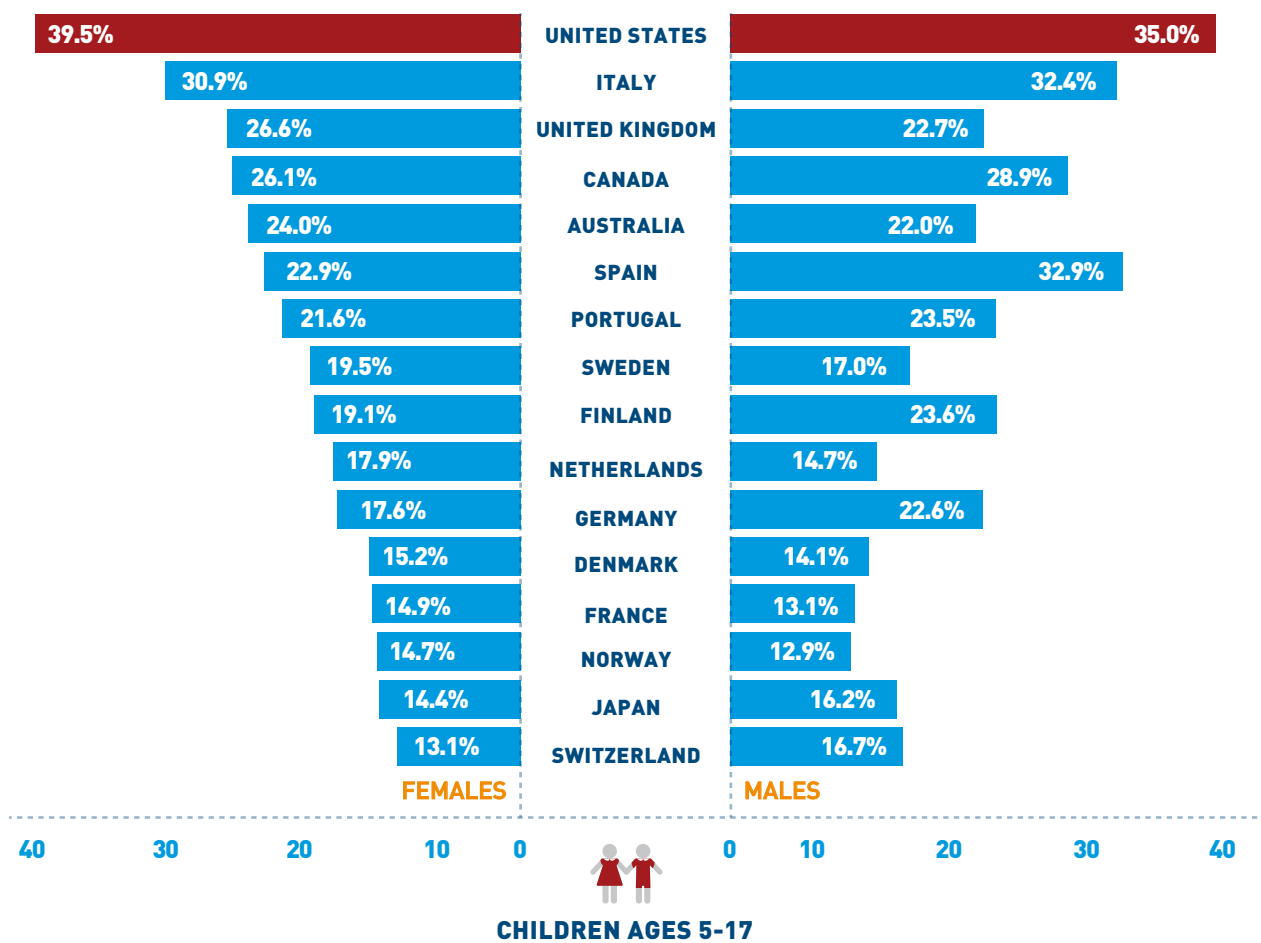
- Lack of neighborhood recreation spaces
- Inadequate coaches
- Rising costs
- Exclusionary league and team policies
- Excessive time demands on families
- Safety concerns
- Cultural norms
- Too few sport options to accommodate all interests.

These barriers contribute to nearly one in three children and teens being overweight and obese (Figure 21). Lack of active participation has led to a decline in participation as adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites physical inactivity and obesity as risk factors for cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, joint and bone disease and depression.

Figure 21. Prevalence of Obesity Around the World.

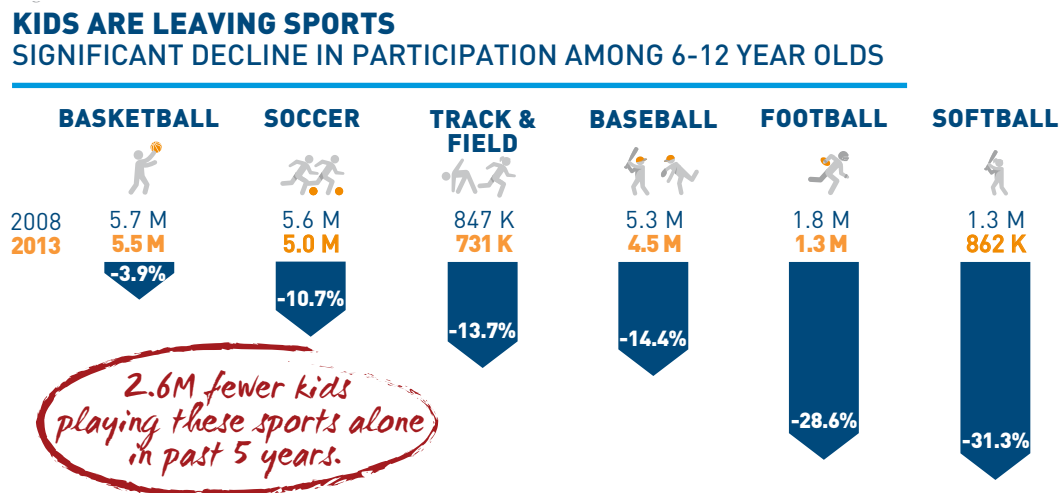
THE RACE WE DON'T WANT TO WIN

PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT/OBESE CHILDREN IN 16 PEER COUNTRIES



According to the Aspen Institute Report, fewer than half of children between ages 6 to 11 meet the US Surgeon General’s recommendation for engaging in at least 60 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week. Participation in sports from 2008 to 2013 has decreased by 8.8%. In the six major sports (basketball, soccer, track & field, baseball, football and softball), 2.6 million fewer kids are playing in those six sports alone (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Participation Decline in Sports for Children Age 6-12.



The Aspen Institute Report also surveyed children, to better understand what kids like about recreation. The following are the top and the bottom of the list:

1. Trying your best
2. When coach treats player with respect
3. Getting playing time
4. Playing well together as a team
5. Getting along with your teammates
6. Exercising and being active

48. Winning
63. Playing in tournaments
66. Practicing with specialty trainers and coaches
67. Earning medals or trophies
73. Traveling to new places to play
81. Getting Pictures Taken

Those same desires that are the outcomes of the top of the list of experiences can be found directly in the video game experience including: lots of action, freedom to experiment, competition without exclusion, social connection with friends as co-players, customization, and a measure of control over the activity.

PHIT America has recently published an article regarding the top 15 growth sports or activities in the USA in the SFIA 2015 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report. Below are the top 15 growth sports by Percentage and by Actual Growth

Table 1. Top 15 Growth Sports by Percentage of Total.

ACTIVITY OR SPORT	CORE* PARTICIPANTS	#OF NEW CORE PARTICIPANTS
High Impact Aerobics	9,504,000	1,145,000
Swimming for Fitness	8,845,000	768,000
Yoga	10,046,000	511,000
Adventure Racing	1,365,000	420,000
Mountain Biking	4,336,000	341,000
Traditional Triathlons	1,439,000	266,000
Lacrosse	1,032,000	213,000
Archery	1,414,000	201,000
Off-Road Triathlons	921,000	187,000
BMX Cycling	1,145,000	140,000
Field Hockey	764,000	105,000
Rugby	440,000	79,000
MMA for Competition	257,000	75,000
Surfing	1,076,000	75,000
Saltwater Fishing	4,819,000	70,000

* Core- Multiple times per year-Active Participant

Table 2. Top 15 Growth Sports by Actual Growth.

ACTIVITY OR SPORT	CORE* PARTICIPANTS	% INCREASE IN PAST 2 YEARS
Adventure Racing	1,365,000	20.3%
MMA for Competition	257,000	19.5%
Off-Road Triathlons	921,000	13.5%
Lacrosse	1,032,000	12.3%
Traditional Triathlons	1,439,000	12.2%
Rugby	440,000	10.7%
Archery	1,414,000	8.3%
Field Hockey	764,000	7.9%
Roller Hockey	555,000	7.1%
Boxing for Competition	204,000	7.1%
High Impact Aerobics	9,504,000	6.9%
BMX Cycling	1,145,000	6.8%
Swimming for Fitness	8,845,000	5.3%
Mountain Biking	4,336,000	5.2%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	285,000	5.2%

* Core- Multiple times per year-Active Participant

Comparison of Programs

The following table (Table 3) looks at summer programming for two neighboring communities, Norwood and Westwood. This gives a quick comparison of what neighboring recreation departments were offered in the summer of 2017 and how Dedham compares to those offerings. Items in red are programs that have been offered in the past but, are not currently offered. Some of the dropped programs have been due to participation.

Table 3. Comparison of Summer Programs in Dedham, Norwood, and Westwood (2017)

DEDHAM	NORWOOD	WESTWOOD
YOUTH		
All Day Playground	Jedi Eng. Legos: Ages 5-7	Aqua Fitness: Ages 18 & up
All Day Playground with Swims	Jedi Masters Eng. Legos: Ages 7-12	Aquanauts: Ages 12-14
All Day Playground with Tennis	Police Youth Academy: Grades 7-8	Condition Swimming: Ages 6-18
<i>Design & Build Engineering Workshop</i>	Summer Tots: Ages 3-4	Arts Studio: Ages 7-10
Friday Night Fun Swim	Summer Art: Grades 1-5	Counselor in Training
Pathfinders	Summer Camp: Grades K-1	Drivers Education: Age 15.5
Rock Jams Full Day Program	Summer Camp: Grades 2-5	Fireman's Foam
Rock Jams Half Day Program	Summer Camp: Grades 6-8	Hip Hop: Ages 5-13
<i>Rocket Science</i>	Summer TOTY: Grades 8-9	Musical Theater: Ages 6-12
Swim and Gym: Ages 4-5	Water Exploration: Ages 3-5	Safety Town
Swim and Gym: Ages 6-7	Water Babies: Ages 1-2	Summer Camp:
Swim and Gym: Ages 8-9	Swim Lessons: Level I-VI	Starfish: Ages 3-5
Summer Diving Clinic	Tennis Nights: Ages 7-12	Stingray: Grades K-6
<i>Wicked Cool Science</i>	Women's Family Nights	Summertastics: Grades 7-8
		Swim Lessons: Ages 3-5
		Swim Lessons: Grades K-8
		Tennis: Ages 7-13
		Summer Playground
		Top Secret Science: Grades K-5
		Top Secret Science: Grades K-5

DEDHAM	NORWOOD	WESTWOOD
ADULT		
Adult Aquatic Program	Boot Camp Cardio Power	Dog Training
Adult Swim Lessons	Interval Training	
Baby Boot Camp	Spin	
Dog Park	Yoga	
Dedham Grows	Zumba	
Green City Growers		
Fly Casting		
Kayak Lessons		
Kayak Rentals		
Yoga		
SPORTS		
Clipper Summer Swim Team	Field Hockey: Grades 2-8	Baseball Clinic: Ages 5-13
Field Hockey Camp	Football Clinic: Grades 4-8	Basketball Camp: Ages 7-16
Gymnastics	Girls Basketball: Grades 5-8	Flag Football: Ages 7-14
Karate	Golf Academy: Ages 8-14	Golf Academy: Ages 8-14
Lacrosse Summer Camp	Sting Ray Swim Team	Soccer:
Tennis Lessons	Thundercat Flag Football: Ages 7-12	Jr. Wolverines: Ages 4-7
Youth Flag Football	Thundercat Basketball: Ages 7-12	Jr. Soccer: Ages 5-8
	Thundercat Floor Hockey: Ages 7-12	Soccer: Ages 7-14
	Thundercat Sports Jam: Ages 7-12	Softball: Grades K-2
	Thundercat Kiddie Cat Jam: Ages 4-6	Summer Swim Team: Ages 8-18
	Tennis Program: Ages 5-12	Tennis: Ages 8-13
	Track Club	Volleyball: Grades 6-8
	Volleyball Clinic: Grades 4-9	

Dedham Programs

The Town of Dedham needs to provide access to programs that meet the distinct needs of the neighborhoods, and provide programs that access to those neighborhoods areas. Table 4 provides a snapshot of 2017 programs in Town.

Table 4. Dedham Recreational Programming (2017)

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
YOUTH			
Canoeing	All Day Playground	Dance	Dance
Dance	All Day Playground with Swim	Dedham Day	Diving Program
Diving Program	All Day Playground with Tennis	Design & Build Engineering Workshop	Friday Night Fun Swim
Friday Night Fun Swim	Dedham Bike Rodeo	Diving Program	Holiday Helper
Swim Lessons	Design & Build Engineering Workshop	Extreme Science	Lego and Art Combo Class
Tots Music	Friday Night Fun Swim	Friday Night Fun Swim	Musical Theater Class
	Pathfinders	Mini Blades	Swim Lessons
	Rock Jams Full Day Program	Robotics	
	Rock Jams Half Day Program		
	Rocket Science		
	Swim and Gym: Ages 4-5		
	Swim and Gym: Ages 6-7		
	Swim and Gym: Ages 8-9		
	Summer Diving Clinic		
	Wicked Cool Science		

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
ADULT			
Adult Aquatic Program	Adult Aquatic Program	Adult Aquatic Program	Adult Aquatic Program
Adult Swim Lessons	Adult Swim Lessons	Adult Swim Lessons	Adult Swim Lessons
Volleyball	Baby Boot Camp	Dedham Day	Volleyball
	Dedham Grows	Volleyball	
	Green City Growers		
	Fly Casting		
	Kayak Lessons		
	Kayak Rentals		
	Volleyball		
	Yoga		
SPORTS			
Baseball	Clipper Summer Swim Team	Clipper Swim Team	Clipper Swim Team
Clipper Swim Team	Field Hockey Camp	Competitive Diving	Competitive Diving
Competitive Diving	Gymnastics	Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Gymnastics	Karate	Karate	Karate
Karate	Lacrosse Summer Camp	Tennis Lessons	Wrestling
Wrestling	Tennis Lessons	Youth Fall Soccer Clinic	
	Youth Flag Football	Youth Flag Football	
		Wrestling	

Privately Run Programs

Several private fitness clubs and centers operate in Dedham, and these enterprises highlight the demand for recreation program choices (Table 5). These facilities vary in their offerings from very specific demands to more comprehensive facilities. These facilities will probably continue to provide more specialized activities that are not easy for the public sector to provide due to a lack of facilities or expertise.

Table 5. Snapshot of Privately Run Recreation Offerings in Dedham (2017)

ORGANIZATION	OFFERINGS	DEDHAM ADDRESS
Atlantic Sports Clubs	Weight Room, Racquetball, Pool	25 Allied Drive
Bikram Yoga for You	Yoga	602 Providence Highway
Crossfit SBF	Gym, Trainers	123 Stergis Way
Crossfit Craic	Interval Training Gym	359 Washington St
C2 Pilates	Pilates	200 Providence Highway
Dedham Community House	Outdoor Pool, Pilates, Zumba, Soccer, Summer Camp	671 High Street
Dedham Health & Athletic Complex	Karate, Racquetball, Basketball, Indoor Track, Boxing, Rock Climbing, Golf, Tennis, Pool, Training Classes, Weight Room	200 Providence Highway
Fitbox Boxing & Fitness Club	Boxing, Training	61 Legacy Blvd
Kenpo Martial Arts	Kenpo Karate	718 Washington Street
Mo's Martial Arts	Kenpo Karate, MMA	8 Sanderson Ave
Orangetheory Fitness	Bootcamp, Spin Class, Trainers, Gym	610 Providence Highway
Planet Fitness	Weight Training, Training Classes	695 Boston Highway
Rev'd Indoor Cycling	Spin Classes	81 Legacy Place
Soulcycle	Spin Classes	214 Legacy Place
Stadium Performance	Strength Training	450 Providence Highway
Stil Studio	Yoga	227 Legacy Place
The Center Pilates and More	Pilates	601 High Street
Yoga Now	Yoga	565 High Street

ORGANIZATION	OFFERINGS	DEDHAM ADDRESS
ARTS		
Dance Explosion School for the Performing Arts	Performing Arts	95 Eastern Ave
Dedham School of Music	Performing Arts	671 High Street
Dedham Square Artistic Guild	Painting	553 High Street
Discover Music & Art	Performing Arts	579 High Street
Fred Astaire Dance Studio	Dance	619 High Street
Motherbrook Arts and Community Center	Music, Painting, Sculpture, Zumba, Performance	123 High Street
Plaster Fun Time	Ceramics	691 Providence Highway
Band Gig School of Music and Performance	Performing Arts	66 Eastern Ave
The Dance Center	Dance	306 Whiting Ave
OUTDOOR/ ENVIRONMENT		
Eagles Obstacles	Outdoor Obstacle Training	80 Haven Street
LL Bean Outdoor Discovery School	Kayaking, Fly Fishing, Hiking, GeoCache	340 Legacy Place
Orvis	Fly Fishing	960 Providence Highway
SPORTS		
Dedham Co-ed Adult Softball	Softball (adult)	Not specified
Dedham Girl's Softball	Softball	P.O. Box 4155
Dedham Pop Warner	Football	P.O. Box 4100
Dedham Youth Baseball	Baseball	Not specified
Dedham Youth Hockey	Hockey	P.O. Box 64
Dedham Youth Lacrosse	Lacrosse	Not specified
Dedham Youth Soccer	Soccer	181 Rustcraft Road
MA Hockey League	Hockey (adult)	Not specified

The Town of Dedham has continually relied on a series of stalwart programs that have provided larger attendance numbers and, in turn, a majority of the income for DPR. Programs like dance, gymnastics, karate, swim, and wrestling have provided access and services to both adults and youth within in the community. Over the past three years, these programs have experienced decline in their attendance as seen in a sampling of programs reviewed in Tables 1 and 2. This decrease in attendance appears to be directly related to marketing/advertising of these programs as well as an increase in competition from privately run programs. Additionally, these programs have been run through long-time instructors and family organizations. Succession planning of these programs to the next generations will be critical to their future success.

Over the past four to five years, DPR has offered a wide range of programs with both success and failure in attendance. Based on public outreach, there appears to be a lack of communication and notification of the program offerings. The website indicates a list of programs but there are clear discrepancies between the website offerings and the actual offerings of the programs.

A more robust review of the marketing and advertising of programs is required to continue to build on the success of the current program offerings and the creation of future programming. Neighboring towns like Norwood provide a more robust and polished programming document on a seasonal basis that is comprehensive, clear and concise in the registration and participation of its town's programs.

The marketing of programs should take on a much larger multi-prong approach including:

- Social media advertising
- Booth and community event presence
- Flyers
- Free passes to new residents
- Free samples
- Groupon
- Instagram challenges
- Open house
- Instructional videos
- Rewards programs
- Sibling discounts
- Sponsorships

Currently the Sportsman SQL system provides a range of information including participation, dates and revenue, expenses and profit/loss. Information on this system is currently logged in to the system in multiple formats and currently only revenue is available for analysis. Sportsman and its use should be evaluated by DPR for its appropriateness in marketing and data collection in the future. Other similar software applications exist, such as RecDesk, and should also be evaluated to ensure the most appropriate software is being used to both market and document DPR's programming efforts. The continued development of the Sportsman SQL System or any other management software would benefit the DPR in better managing the financial ramifications of the program offerings.

Based on the public survey, public meetings and the information provided in this chapter, DPR should look at expanding its programs to offer more adult, young adult, and teen programs. These programs have had success in the past and should help in the expansion of future offerings. Programs offered should consider the following criteria:

- Implementation strategies for the efficient and effective allocation of resources
- Outcome-based programs and services
- Identification of partnership opportunities
- Creation of performance and evaluation methods
- Programs should inform capital development planning

Programs should not only focus on physical activity but also on health and wellness. Based on the current land use of the town, Dedham is well suited to programs that focus on nature and the outdoors including:

- Hiking
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Horticulture
- Nutrition
- Ecology
- Education based programming for young adults

Programming is a major source of revenue for DPR and for most Parks and Recreation Departments. Implementation of a system to assess and manage the direct and indirect costs of programs and services will be critical to successful programming going forward. Not all programming will generate revenue but each program should have goals and performance criteria that assess its success on an annual basis. As expectations for high quality facilities increase, especially on athletic fields many Parks and Recreation Departments struggle to balance the expectations within small budgets. The same is true for DPR. With a smaller than average budget, DPR is maintaining a high number of athletic surfaces, including schools and a larger than average number of those athletic surfaces are baseball/softball fields, which require a larger effort to keep the facilities safe and at a high quality. While most programs for organized athletics are offered outside DPR, the Department provides facilities for all local youth organizations at no cost.

The Plan highly recommends that DPR evaluate policies on permitting costs and pay for play. At both the state and national levels pay for play is increasing as exceptions for safer and higher quality fields increase. In the long term, it may not be sustainable to provide free facilities at the intense usage levels that DPR's athletic spaces receive. Pay for play was discussed as part of the meetings with stakeholder groups and many of the groups were supportive of the idea of contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of DPR's athletic spaces. Further discussions should be had between DPR and local organizations to determine the most appropriate solution. DPR must also consider its mission to provide equitable access to both programs and facilities.

E. Inventory and Evaluation

Parkland Classification

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for a community’s recreational needs. Currently, a classification system of Dedham’s park spaces does not exist. This master plan proposes a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying park space by function allows the Town to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Classifications also help to define amenity locations, types and level of maintenance. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following five classifications are used to define parks as part of this Recreation Master Plan and are defined as follows.

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Greenways-Conservation & Natural Areas
- Special Use Areas
- Paths & Trails



Community Parks

Community parks are the largest park classification at the local level of planning. They are generally between 12 and 50 acres in size.

Community parks should typically be developed for organized play and include a diverse collection of facilities and amenities catering to a larger and more diverse group of users. Community parks should be planned to provide both active and passive recreation opportunities as well as family activities. Community parks generally serve residents within a one-mile drive, walk, or bike ride from the site. In general, because of their size, community parks are designed and organized to support larger more intense recreation uses such as organized sports. Passive recreation and natural area components are highly encouraged in community parks to complement and support active uses. They may also provide amenities such as playgrounds, splash pads, community gardens or indoor uses to support a wider range of recreational interests. Since community parks offer recreation and programming to broader range of users these parks should also provide parking and restrooms.

Community Parks in Dedham

- Barnes Memorial Park
- Fairbanks Park
- Dolan Center
- Manor Fields and Park (as planned)
- Gonzalez Park
- Pool Field

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the backbone of most park systems. Neighborhood parks are small park areas designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They typically range in size from 2-5 acres in size depending on spatial constraints and the needs of the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to 1/4-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, open field area for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. When neighborhood parks are designed in conjunction with school sites, these sites typically include multi-use sport fields.

Meeting the goal to provide a neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) of all residents may not be fully achievable in Dedham and will require both acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations, and re-evaluating the potential use of school sites as surrogates for local neighborhood parks. As previously indicated, Dedham is nearly fully built out and acquisition opportunities are rare. The Town should be prepared to take advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations identified in the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan.

Currently it is the understanding of the Plan that the Town has a memorandum of understanding with schools to provide maintenance for open space on school grounds, not including playgrounds or structures. It is recommended that DPR establish open communications with the Dedham School Department to continue to provide maintenance of open space at a higher level, but also open discussions for additional partnerships to better serve the recreation needs of the local neighborhoods. Specifically, the Town should initiate conversations with the School Department to provide usage of school sites in off hours to serve as proxy neighborhood parks. Both groups should be involved in discussions pertaining to use, maintenance, providing of amenities such as playgrounds, park shelters, seating and permitting of fields.

Neighborhood Parks in Dedham

- Paul Park
- Condon Park
- Churchill Park
- Mill Pond Park
- School Parks
- Hartnett Square
- Oakdale Common
- The triangle
- Dedham Common

Greenways/Conservation and Natural Areas

Conservation areas are usually undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with the intent of protecting a natural resource and providing recreational use as a secondary objective. Often referred to in park planning as Greenways contiguous conservation areas provide for connected or linked open space corridors that can support broader ecological functions than stand-alone properties. Natural areas are the individual or isolated tracts of open space that are not connected to a larger contiguous Greenway network.

These conserved open spaces are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency such as the Dedham Conservation Commission or the Department of Conservation and Recreation and these spaces may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered greenways and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Greenways offer serve as trail corridors, and provide low-impact or passive recreation opportunities, such as walking, nature observation and fishing, where appropriate and not an impact to the larger objective of protecting the natural resource.

Potential Greenways Designations in Dedham

- Wigwam Greenway includes Wigwam and Little Wigwam Ponds
- Mother Brook
- Charles River
- Fowl Meadow & Neponset River
- Dedham Rail Trail

Natural Areas in Dedham

- Town Forest
- Beech Street
- Court Street

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are park spaces that generally serve a single recreation purpose. Special use areas are sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. These park settings may include sports complexes, aquatic facilities, dog parks, skate parks or any other facility intended for single use.

Special Use Parks in Dedham

- Anthony P. Mucciaccio Pool
- Loewen Field
- Sugrue Field
- Gonzalez Field

Trails in Dedham

- Hiking Trails at Dolan Center (Dedham P&R)
- Dedham Water Trail Access at Dolan Center (Dedham P&R)
- Walking Trails Mother Brook and Mill Pond Park (Dedham P&R)

- Hiking Trails at Dedham Town Forest
- Cutler Park (DCR)
- Wilson Mountain (DCR)
- Whitcomb Woods (Dedham Land Trust,DCR)
- Newbridge on the Charles (Private, but with negotiated public access)

Future plan considerations and opportunities include trails at Wigwam Pond areas, trail improvements to Dedham Town Forest, Trails at Fowl Meadow area and the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail.

Paths and Multi-Use Trails

Dedham has an active group of citizen support for trails systems, and has a good amount of trails in a variety of parkland. Previous planning for trails within Dedham has been largely opportunity based. This master plan supports previous trail planning efforts in individual parks and opportunities such as the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail and future Manor Park Trails. This Recreation Master Plan also encourages the establishment of trails system and a hierarchy of trails along with broader based planning that establishes a connectivity network joining citizens of Dedham to their home, schools, parks and places of work through a non-motorized transportation network. Below is an example of Recreational Trail Matrix as part of a park system. Note that a comprehensive trail plan or connectivity network may include facilities not listed and may also include on road facilities such as bike lanes as part of a park system (Figure 23).

Inventories

Parks and Recreation

Dedham Parks and Recreation owns and maintains just over 100 acres of park space, four playgrounds, a community center, a pool, and numerous, trails, outdoor courts and athletic fields (Table 6).

Figure 23. Sample Trail Type Matrix

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed	Trail Class 4 Highly Developed	Trail Class 5 Fully Developed
Tread & Traffic Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread intermittent and often indistinct. May require route finding. Single lane, with no allowances constructed for passing. Predominantly native materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough. Single lane, with minor allowances constructed for passing. Typically native materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread continuous and obvious. Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volume in places where there is no reasonable opportunity to pass. Native or imported materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread wide and relatively smooth, with few irregularities. Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volume in places where there is no reasonable opportunity to pass. Double lane where traffic volume is high and passing is frequent. Native or imported materials. May be hardened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform. Single lane, with frequent turnouts where traffic volume is low to moderate. Double lane where traffic volume is moderate to high. Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material.
Obstacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge. Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge. Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources. Vegetation may encroach into trailway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles may be common, but not substantial or intended to provide challenge. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles not present. Grades typically < 8%.

Table 6. Parks and Recreation Park Land

Parks and Recreation Park Land				
Parcel Name	Location	Acreage	Description/Comments	Park Classification
Manor Park	Sprague Street	25.7	Vacant	Community
Barnes Memorial Park Mary Ann Lewis Playground	Eastern Avenue	14.9	Three softball/baseball, 1 soccer, playground	Community
Gonzalez Field	High Street	6.4	One Synthetic turf Soccer, walking path	Special Use
Churchill Park	Churchill Place	0.9	One baseball/softball, One basketball/pickleball court, playground	Neighborhood
Former Landfill	Lower East Street	7.6		Neighborhood
Condon Park	Bussey Street	7.4	One baseball/softball, One soccer, playground	Neighborhood
Dedham Common	Bridge Street	2.0	Traditional Town Common, no amenities	Neighborhood
Dolan Recreation Center (SMA)	Common Street	11.4	One baseball/softball, temp. dog park, community gardens, boat launch, trails, dance studio, multi use room	Community
Fairbanks Park	Rustcraft Road	14.1	Three baseball/softball, One soccer, restrooms./ concessions	Community
Hartnett Square	Milton Street	0.1	Triangular landscape lot with benches	Neighborhood
Mucciaccio Pool	Mt. Vernon St./ High St./ Pottery Lane	4.6	U-12 soccer field, Indoor aquatic facility	Special Use
Mother Brook Park	Milton Street	1.3	Passive Recreation, walkways, deck & benches	Neighborhood
Oakdale Square (Veteran's Monument)	River Street	0.5	Landscaped fenced lot with benches	Neighborhood
Paul Park (Greg M. Riley Playground)	Cedar Street	2.9	One baseball/softball, One basketball/pickleball court, playground, benches	Neighborhood
The Triangle	Hyde Park Street	0.9	Grassy lot, walkway, Rain Garden & benches	Neighborhood
	Total (approximate)	100.7		

Source: Town of Dedham

Schools

DPR currently maintains fields at Avery School, Capen School, Loewen Field at Dedham Middle School, Greenlodge School, Oakdale School and Riverdale School (Table 7). Playgrounds and other amenities of these spaces are maintained by school groups, school staff and DPR and are open to the public in the off hours of the school day serving as surrogate neighborhood parks for the community.

School properties are not protected parkland and as a first priority are to address the educational needs of the town. The Dedham Public Schools are in the midst of updating the School Master Plan and the fields and open spaces on school properties may be needed for future construction or staging areas for future construction projects. For this reason and at the request of the Dedham School Committee school properties should not be a priority for upgrades or long term recreational facilities.

Table 7. Public School Property

Public School Property			
Parcel Name	Location	Acreage	Description/Comments
Avery School	High Street	5.6	Two playgrounds, practice field, indoor gym
Capen School	Sprague Street	5.3	Two baseball/softball, playground, One basketball (indoor) One basketball (Outdoor)
Dedham High School	Whiting Avenue	11.4	Football; soccer; track; basketball (indoor), lacrosse restrooms, concessions.
Dedham Middle School	Whiting Avenue	8.6	baseball/softball, basketball (indoor)
Curran ECEC	High Street	29.2	Playground; multi-purpose ball field; ½ court basketball
Greenlodge School	Greenlodge Street	16.7	Two baseball/softball, Two playgrounds, One indoor basketball court, ½ basketball court (outdoor)
Mucciaccio Pool	Recreation Road	4.6	Pool/ Tennis Courts/Pool Field
Oakdale School	Cedar Street	6.9	Two baseball/softball, playground, basketball (indoor)
Riverdale School	Needham Street	6.1	1 baseball/softball, 1 basketball court(outdoor), 1 soccer overlay, playground, 1 basketball court (indoor)
	Total (approximate)	94.4	

Source: Town of Dedham

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission in Dedham manages more than 271 acres of land within Dedham. These properties exist to protect specific natural resources. Because of their size and location, these areas are major connectors or linkages of green space or parks. Often referred to as “greenways” in park planning, these spaces could serve as trail corridors, and provide low-impact or passive recreation opportunities such as walking, nature observation and fishing, where appropriate and not an impact to the larger objective of protecting the natural resource.

Table 8. Dedham Conservation Commission Sites

Conservation Commission Properties	
Location	Acreage
Wigwam Pond area	57.6
Little Wigwam Pond area	52.0
Fowl Meadow area (Neponset River Reservation)	68.7
Town Forest	76.5
Mother Brook Waterfront (Colburn, Milton, and River Streets)	1.1
Corner of Westfield Street and Meadow Brook Road (near MIT Endicott House)	6.0
Court Street (along Lowder Brook)	5.8
Stony Lea Road	2.2
Beech Street	1.6
Total (approximate)	271.4

Source: Town of Dedham



State and Federal Land

The state and federal government own and maintain over 760 acres of land within Dedham, largely acquired to protect wetlands and water resources. The land also provides a large amount of the passive recreation in the community and even some active recreation spaces in Riverside Park. Over the years, land has been acquired through partnerships with non-profit organizations like the Dedham Historical Society, The Dedham Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Land. These spaces, along with DPR and Conservation Commission owned properties, create a large contiguous publicly accessible space forming a greenway that could potentially be physically connected through paths and trails creating a linked park network.

Table 9. State and Federal Recreation Lands in Dedham.

State and Federal Lands				
Name	Mgmt.	Location	Acreage	Description/Comments
Riverside Park (Marie- Louise Kehoe Park)	DCR	Riverside Drive	8.4	Playground, tennis, multi-use field, canoe launch, 1/2 court basketball courts
Cutler Park	DCR	Needham border, Needham St., Rosemary Rd.	184.3	Informal recreation, canoe launch, trails
Stimson Wildlife Sanctuary (and Dedham Boat Club)	DCR	Ames Street, Pleasant Street	17.5	Conservation, wildlife observation, boating
Neponset River Reservation (Fowl Meadow)	DCR	Neponset River at Canton Town border	205.7	Preservation
Wilson Mountain	DCR	Common Street	198.4	Hiking, preservation
Mother Brook Flood Control	DCR	Mother Brook behind Brookdale Cemetery, and east of Condon Park	13.4	Flood control
Charles River Flood Control	US Army Corps	Various	126.4	Flood control
Whitcomb Woods	DCR	Common Street	12.1	Hiking, preservation
		Total (approximate)	762.8	

Source: Town of Dedham

Avery School Practice

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address Classification	336 High Street Education
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham
Zone	LM- Limited Manufacturing
Acreage	5.6 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None, Recreation Road used to be a railroad easement which was converted with the construction of the School
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt, multiple parking lots supported by Avery School and Dedham High School.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham High School
Utilities and Infrastructure	A trench drain was observed on the south side of the soccer field, outlet and elevation are unknown.
Irrigation	Irrigation is a Hunter system in good shape, on town water. Irrigation installed in 2013
Facilities and Features	Soccer 180 feet x 135 feet U-10 Basketball 84-foot full size The space is most likely used for practice and is in great shape. Playground: Early Childhood Playground: 5 -12 years old Track Field events including, shotput, discus, and javelin
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Two playgrounds on site. Both have rubber accessible surfacing, age appropriate equipment, and controlled access.



Avery School Practice

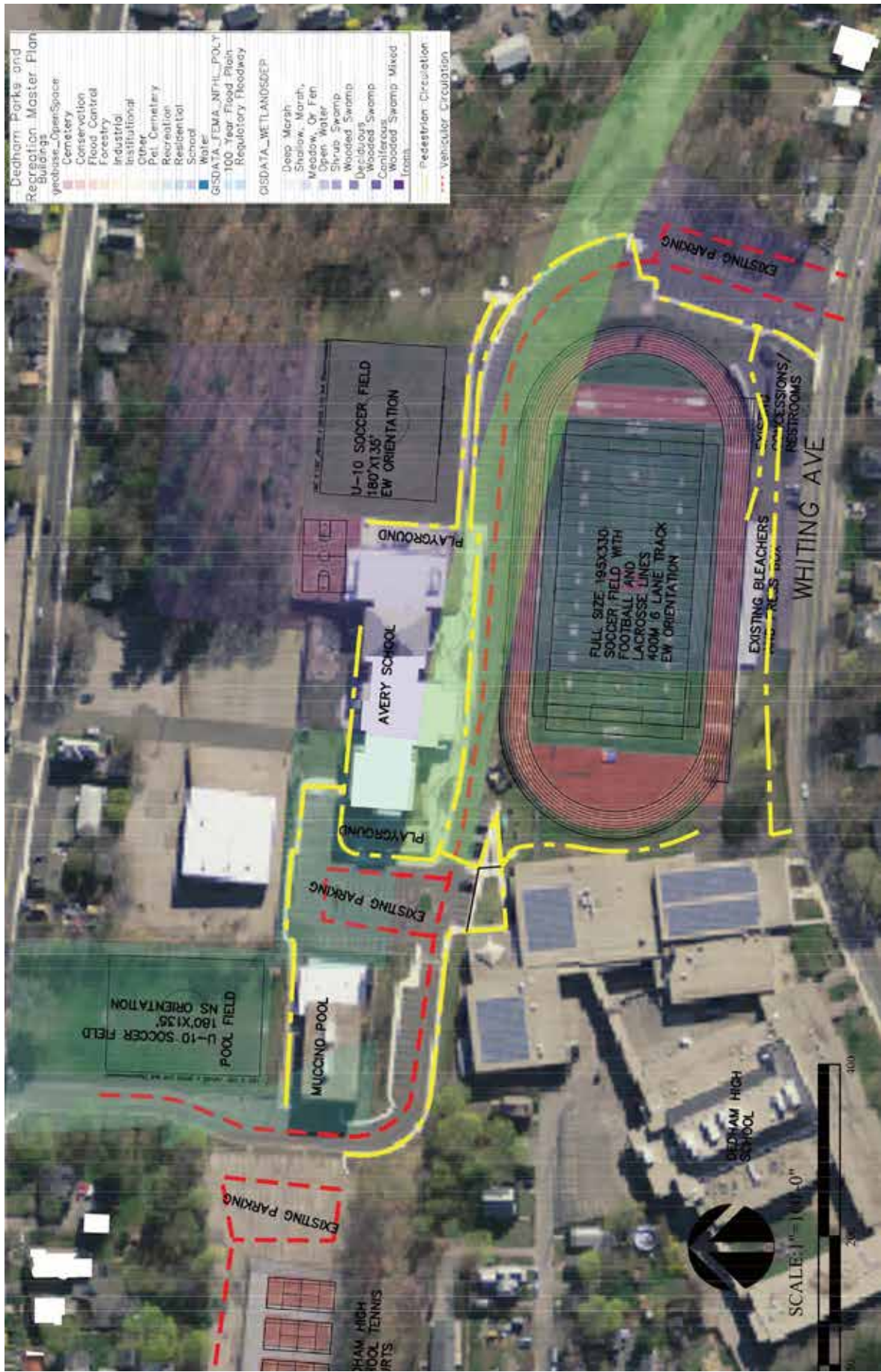
EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Avery School is a recently constructed Elementary school that forms part of a campus including Dedham High School and supporting multi-use athletic facilities. The playgrounds support the school. The open space supports the school but is also a practice field for high school and youth athletics and the designated throwing area for track events.
Opportunities	Supporting amenities such as netting soccer goals etc. could make this a more usable space to a variety of user groups.
Constraints	The field is in great shape, but is undersized to support large athletic functions.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Dedham High School and the Dedham Track and Field facility. Potential for Future Dedham Greenway Corridor and trail connections.
Neighboring Land Use	Medium Density Residential to north and east
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Recreation Road traverses the site via the old railroad ROW connecting High Street and Whiting Ave.
Pedestrian Circulation	Pedestrian circulation is formalized around the buildings, Avery School, the track complex, and the High School. Formal crosswalks and ADA access is good throughout the site.
Access Control	Limited Fencing along the south edge of the field along retaining wall and grade break.
Athletic Field Equipment	Basketball hoops in the full size basketball court.
Vegetation	Wooded area along north and east sides of the field separating residential properties.

E



Avery School Practice



Barnes Memorial Park

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	150 Eastern Avenue
Classification	Community
Neighborhood or District	Dedham Square
Zone	GR-General Residence
Acreage	14.9 Acres
Wetlands	Yes, West Side of the property along Wigwam Brook
Easements or ROW	Yes, Stormwater easement through north baseball outfield.
Flood Zone	Special Flood Hazard Zone
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt approximately 40 spaces with 3 handicapped spaces
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Pop Warner, Dedham High School Baseball and Softball, hub softball, Dedham Youth Baseball, Adult Baseball DPR
Utilities and Infrastructure	Three areas drains were observed on the east side of the property. Pipe types sizes and inverts unknown, manholes were observed full. Additional storm easement runs through the baseball and soccer field. Athletic Fields have no observed subdrainage. Site lighting includes lighting for baseball, softball and an area for football. Lighting exists for baseball and is Musco Light Structure II age is unknown. Lighting of softball and football is aged and needs replacement.
Irrigation	Irrigation covers only up to the main baseball outfield, softball and football. Water supply is from a well. Irrigation extension completed for both fields in 2013.
Facilities and Features	Baseball (Davis,Heaphy), softball (Sullivan), 5-12 playground, multi-use overlay, ice rink in the winter and concessions/restroom.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Maryanne Lewis Playground, Batting cage along Eastern Avenue. Concessions/Restrooms and Scoreboard. Fence around playground.



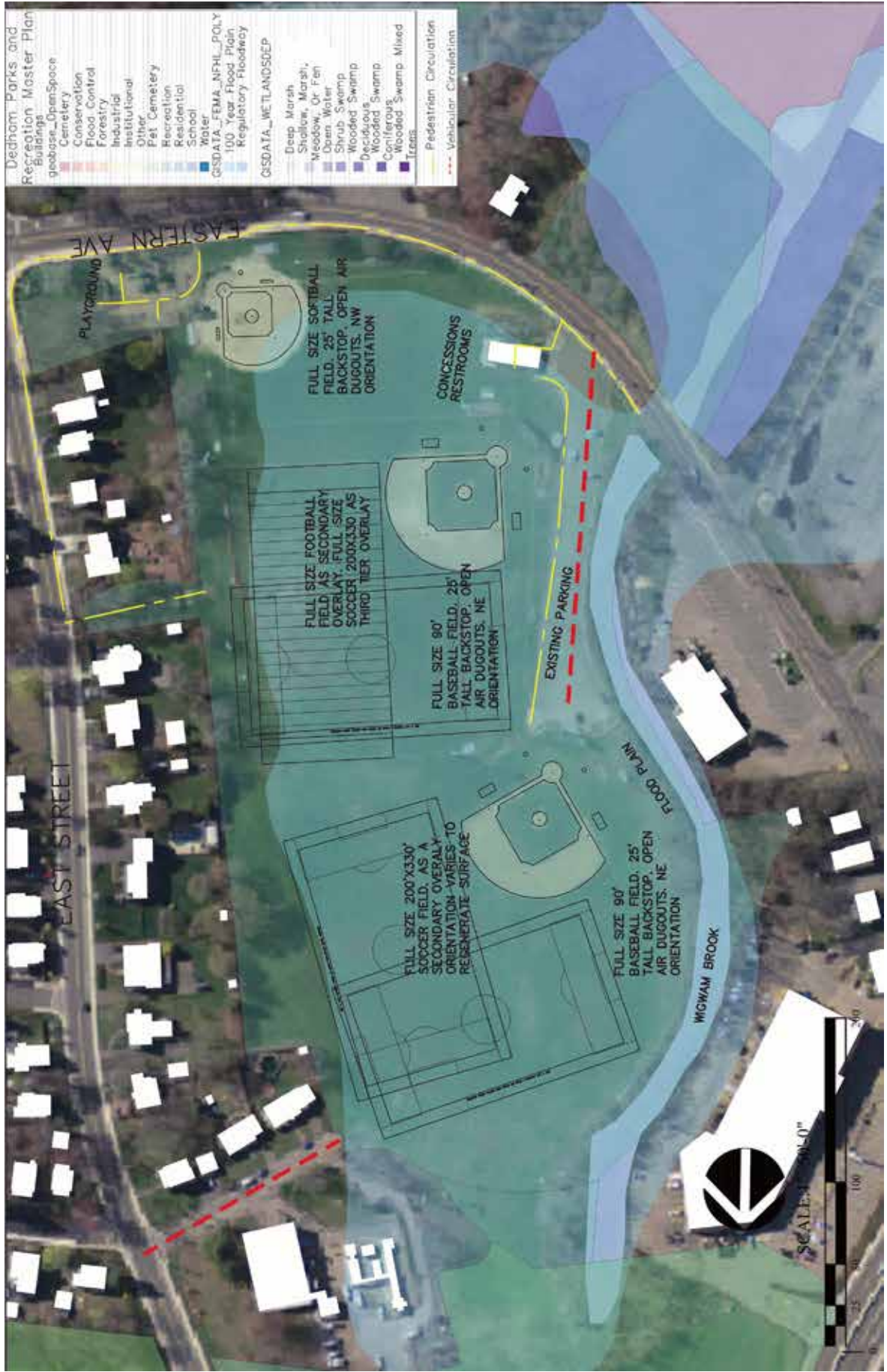
Barnes Memorial Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Memorial Park is the largest of the town owned Parks. The park largely dedicated to athletics with two full size baseball fields a full size softball field and multiple secondary overlays.
Opportunities	A playground exists, accessible from Eastern Avenue and a concessions restroom and storage is associated with the baseball field.
Constraints	Utility connections are available to the park. The park has decent neighborhood access and is close to the newly renovated Gonzalez Field.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Floodplain dominates the park and development will be a challenging process.
Neighboring Land Use	Gonzalez Field, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. The Middle School is just to the east on Whiting Avenue. Dedham Square is across a major highway.
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Residential
Pedestrian Circulation	Limited to the single parking lot off of Eastern Avenue. Eastern Avenue is a medium volume road with good access.
Access Control	No formalized access or circulation past the playground and concessions restroom building
Athletic Field Equipment	Limited fencing the park is generally open on all sides three backstops
Vegetation	Vegetation is 95% turf grass with invasive species along the stream corridor and limited canopy trees along the residential borders.



Barnes Memorial Park



Churchill Park

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	45 Allen Lane
Classification	Neighborhood
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham
Zone	GR-General Residence
Acreage	0.9 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	No formal parking. Parking occurs along Allen Lane.
User Groups	Dedham Girls Softball, Dedham Youth Baseball
Utilities and Infrastructure	Unknown
Irrigation	Irrigation for softball field only, 2010. Irrigation is well water.
Facilities and Features	Softball Field – 200-foot outfield, 60-foot base path. Retaining walls border the 3rd base foul line. Basketball court is a full size 84-foot court that sees regular neighborhood use. Pickle Ball Court (overlay)
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Dugouts are open air with a chain link border. The playground has relatively new equipment from Landscape Structures and is in good shape, though accessibility is fair to poor. Basketball hoops are in fair shape for their amount of use and the court is lined for pickle ball with use of portable nets.



Churchill Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Churchill Park is a small neighborhood park near the Brookdale Cemetery. The park was recently updated through a partnership with Legacy Place. The softball field is in very good condition. The basketball court sees regular neighborhood use observed by the path blazed on the hillside. The playground is a nice playground with a variety of equipment and controlled access paid for with mitigation money from Legacy Place development.
Opportunities	The 3rd base retaining wall should be padded, this a standard becoming more popular at advanced levels of play to protect athletes from more severe injury. The playground has minimal ADA access and could be improved.
Constraints	The site is small, it sits over 10 feet below both Brookdale Avenue and Harvard Street.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Brookdale Cemetery, Italian American Club
Neighboring Land Use	Cemetery, Medium Density Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	None
Pedestrian Circulation	No formalized access or circulation past the playground.
Access Control	Limited fencing around the playground. The softball field is controlled by a four-foot perimeter fence.
Athletic Field Equipment	Backstop and basketball hoops
Vegetation	None



Churchill Park



Condon Park

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	180 Bussey St.
Classification	Neighborhood Park
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham
Zone	CB- Central Business District
Acreage	7.4 Acres
Wetlands	Shrub swamp
Easements or ROW	Sewer easement along the south edge of the park and the riparian tree line.
Flood Zone	Special Flood Hazard Area
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt Parking. 25 stalls including two handicapped spaces
User Groups	Dedham Girls Softball, Dedham Youth Baseball, Dedham, Youth Soccer, Hub softball, flag football.
Utilities and Infrastructure	Sewer easement along the south edge of the park and the riparian tree line.
Irrigation	Irrigation pump house is located just south east of the parking lot. Irrigation is by well water. Completed in 2009.
Facilities and Features	Softball field with 200-foot outfield, 60-foot base path. A full size soccer field can be accommodated in multiple orientations based on intensity of use.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Dugouts are open air with a chain link border. The playground equipment from Landscape Structures installed in 2011 and is in good shape. This is the most accessible playground in the Town utilizing poured in place rubber surfacing and multiple pieces of accessible equipment.



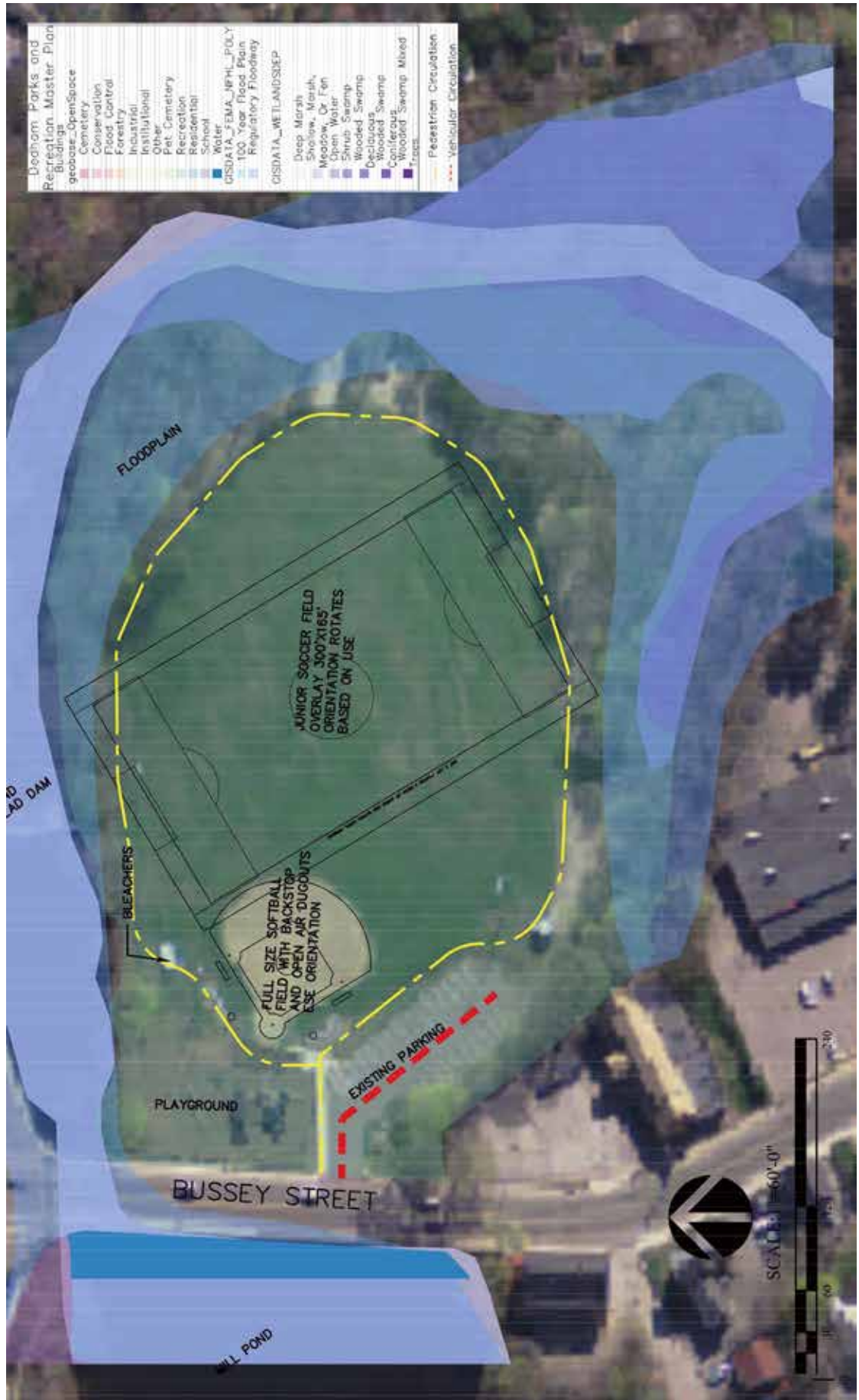
Condon Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Condon Park is a fairly large space with great views of Mill Pond and supporting wetland and sounds from the historic low head dam. A softball field is the predominant site feature. There is evidence of intense soccer use as an overlay. Mother Brook Playground is in great shape and is the most accessible playground within town.
Opportunities	There is a worn path showing evidence of use by the community for walking/recreation perhaps to take advantage of views. There is opportunity to surface this walking path and make connections to the larger system and Mill Pond Park across Bussey Street. Many residents use the park for fishing and water recreation opportunities.
Constraints	A large portion of the park is within the special flood hazard area.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Mill Pond Park
Neighboring Land Use	Commercial
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Onsite parking 25 stalls including two handicapped space
Pedestrian Circulation	No formalized access or circulation past the playground.
Access Control	Limited Fencing around the playground. The softball field has a 20-foot tall backstop
Athletic Field Equipment	None
Vegetation	Riparian Vegetation and Wetlands



Condon Park



Dolan Recreation Center

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	269 Common Street
Classification	Community Park
Neighborhood or District	West Dedham
Zone	Single Residence A
Acreage	11.4 Acres
Wetlands	Shrub Swamp
Easements or ROW	Existing ROW Easement, Flood Management Easement
Flood Zone	Special Flood Hazard Area
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt Parking. 34 parking stalls including two handicapped above and two below
User Groups	Dedham Girls Softball, Dedham High School, Ursuline, L.L. Bean, Dedham Grows, dog owners, Community at large
Utilities and Infrastructure	Sewer easement along the south edge of the park and the riparian tree line.
Irrigation	None
Facilities and Features	Softball Field - Synthetic Turf, 200-foot outfield, 60-foot base path. Dugouts are open air with a chain link border.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	The Dolan Recreation Center houses two indoor recreation spaces. A small size gym and a smaller space currently used by parks and recreation to offer dance and small internal programs.



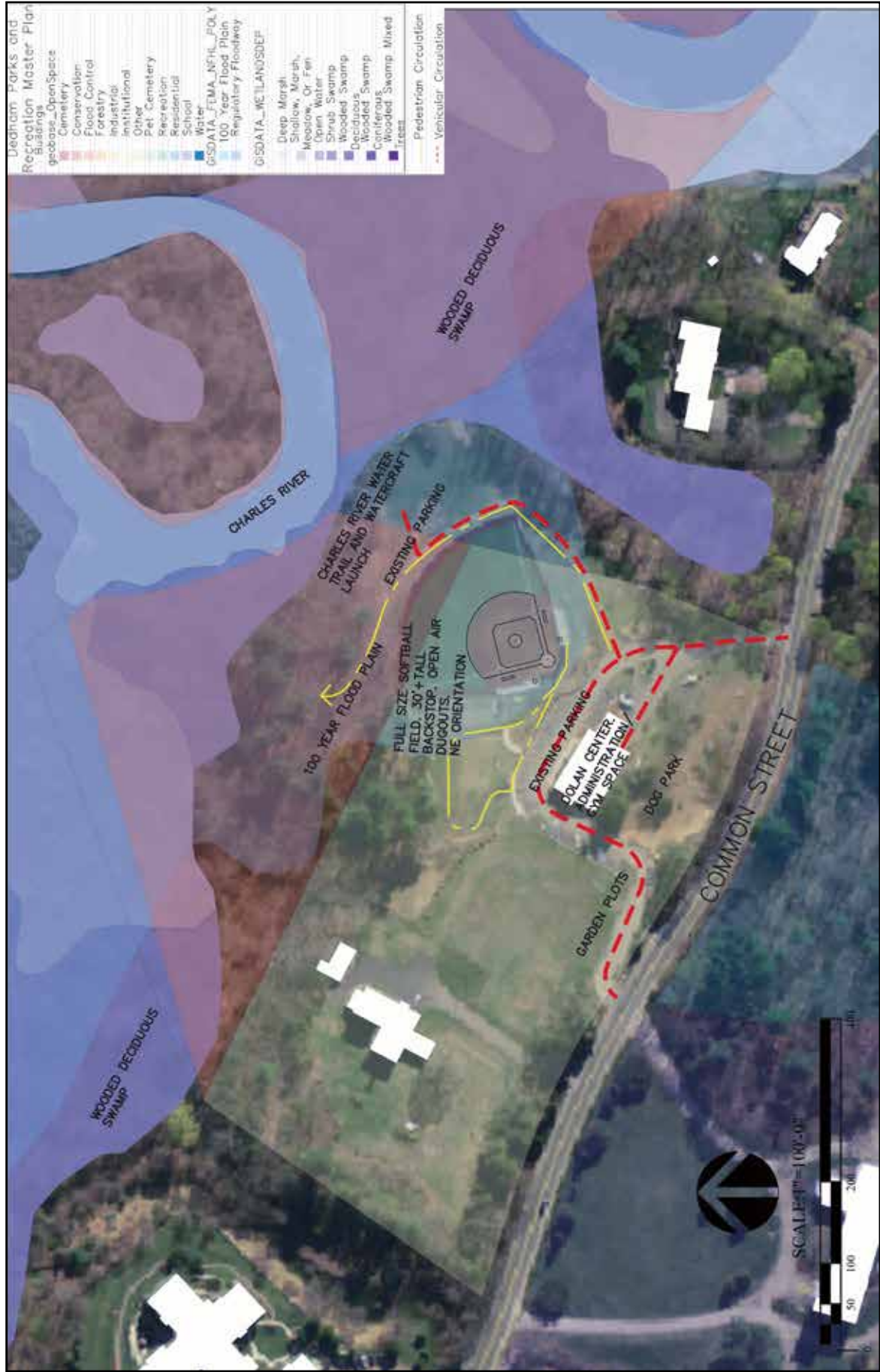
Dolan Recreation Center

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	The Dolan Recreation Center Site is a large land area predominately vegetated by Deciduous Swamp with a large flood management easement. The recreation center and temporary dog park sit high on the site out of potential flood hazards and with great views of the Charles River. The temporary dog park is a highly used amenity within the community, busy most times throughout the day. The Recreation Center houses two indoor spaces used for programming offered through DPR. The Recreation Center itself appears to be underutilized.
Opportunities	The Dolan Recreation Center offers a diversity of activities that is unmatched at any other town facility. The site’s potential is largely unrecognized because residents are unfamiliar with its offerings and opportunities. Consider adding: picnic tables/areas, pavilion, permanent grill with shelter for event rentals, and passive recreation opportunities. There are opportunities for expanded program offerings and continued partnership with the Army Corps.
Constraints	The dog park’s high use warrants upgrades to accessibility and fencing. A large portion of the park is within the special flood hazard area and a flood management easement.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Northeastern Dedham Campus and Track Facility. Society of African Missions. Wilson Mountain, Whitcomb Woods, Nobles and Greenough, MIT Endicott House. HSL Trails Connection
Neighboring Land Use	Single Residential, Recreation
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Onsite parking 34 stalls including two handicapped space
Pedestrian Circulation	Pedestrian Circulation is provided to building egresses and an accessible path wind down a hill side to the softball field and dugout .There is no formal accessible circulation throughout the dog park. A lower parking lot provides access to the water trail and informal wooded trail systems.
Access Control	The softball field is controlled by a 4-foot black vinyl fence with a 20-foot backstop. Dog Park is fenced.
Athletic Field Equipment	Storage of town owned equipments occurs within the administration office of the Dolan Recreation Center, backstop and portable bsasketball hoop.

E

Dolan Recreation Center



Capen School

SITE DATA SUMMARY

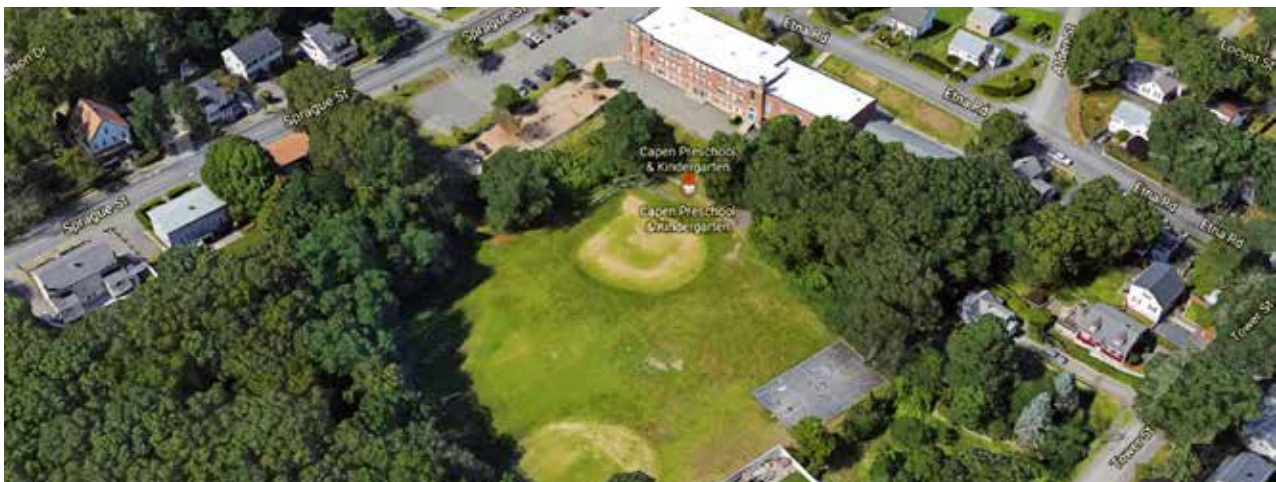
Address	322 Sprague Street
Classification	School
Neighborhood or District	Sprague/Manor
Zone	GR – General Residence
Acreage	5.3 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt approximately 54 stalls including two handicapped spaces
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Youth Baseball, Dedham Softball
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown. There is no lighting or irrigation of athletic field playground or basketball court.
Irrigation	None
Facilities and Features	Two full size softball/youth baseball fields. Basketball Court full size 84'. At the time of observation the natural grass surface had large areas where intense use from soccer had deteriorated the vegetative cover.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Playground is maintained by the School Department. The playground is not accessible and has some older pieces of equipment although still in good shape.



Capen School

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Capen School is a small facility used mainly by youth soccer and softball. A neighborhood basketball court is located at the north edge of the site abutting residential. The sites open space is located 10+ feet below parking and the school building offering little accessibility other than for maintenance. A series of informal wooded trails are located at the North East corner of the property leading to the proposed site of the Manor Park.
Opportunities	Connections to the future Manor Park and trails.
	A large portion of the park is within the special flood hazard area.
Constraints	Elevation differences between parking and field/open space access
Beneficial Adjacencies	This site will benefit from future adjacency of the Manor Park site.
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Limited to the single parking lot off of Sprague Street. A maintenance access to the fields exists but is not accessible.
Pedestrian Circulation	No formalized access to fields or basketball court. The playground is not accessible due to surface treatments. Access provided and limited to the building. Informal wooded trails exist at the northeast corner of the site.
Access Control	Limited fencing as containment for the playground.
Athletic Field Equipment	Soccer Goals, two backstops
Vegetation	Deciduous woodland along the east boundary of the site. The former quarry and planned Manor Park contains wetlands bordering the deciduous woodlands.



Capen School



Fairbanks Park

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	Rustcraft Rd. and Central Ave.
Classification	Community Park
Neighborhood or District	Oakdale
Zone	GR – General Residence
Acreage	14.1 Acres
Wetlands	Wooded Deciduous Swamp
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	Special Flood Hazard Zone
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt approximately 88 stalls including four handicapped spaces.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Youth Baseball, DHS
Utilities and Infrastructure	Capone Field is a lighted baseball field, while Frietas Field is also lighted for soccer. Underground utilities are unknown but there is a restroom/concessions building on site.
Irrigation	Irrigation is provided for three of the four fields, 2012. The system is served by a well. Age of the well is unknown. The irrigation system produces water with a rust film that covers most of the visible property and structures. The system is thought to have a bacterial rust problem. If that is correct, at this scale the problem would not be fixable.
Facilities and Features	Two full size softball/youth baseball fields with skinned in-fields. One full size youth baseball field 200-foot with grass/ skinned infield. Soccer overlay lighted with 25-foot height chain link ball stop.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Restroom concession and storage building (interior not available at the time of observation). 55-foot double batting cage.



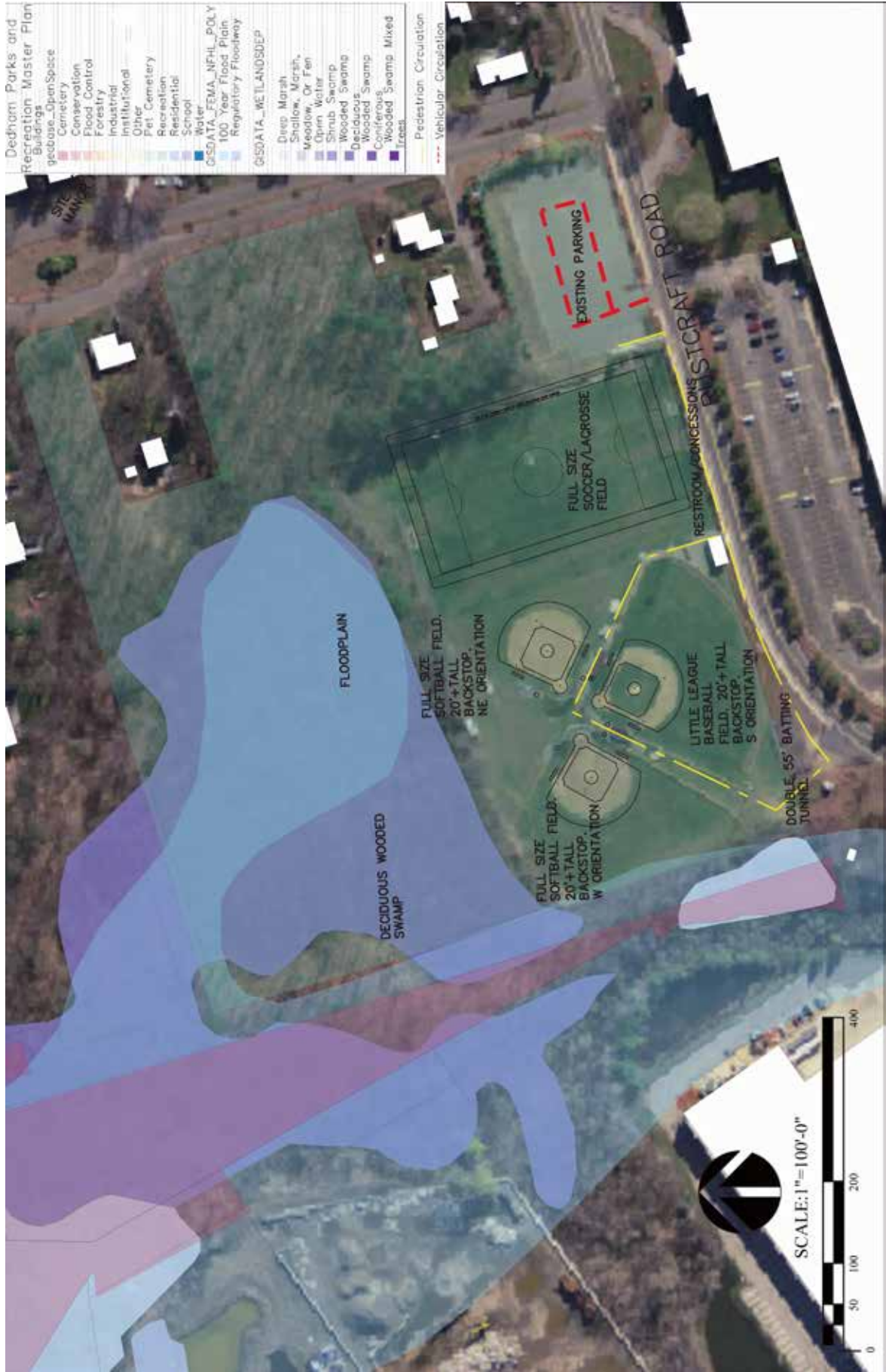
Fairbanks Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Fairbanks Park is a complex of athletic fields used mainly by Dedham Youth Baseball and Dedham Youth Soccer. The complex houses 3 youth baseball fields and a full size soccer field. The facility is supported by two restrooms and concessions building. Approximately half of the overall site sits in deciduous wooded swamp or floodplain.
Opportunities	Improve field conditions through the use of new irrigation or synthetic turf. Connect the park to a larger trail system, Wigwam Pond and Legacy Place.
Constraints	The site is largely covered by regulated wetland and floodplain.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Wigwam Pond. Legacy Place.
Neighboring Land Use	Research Development and Office space
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	No vehicular circulation through the site. Access to parking occurs off of Rustcraft Road.
Pedestrian Circulation	Pedestrian access is provided along Rustcraft Road from the parking area. Access continues past the accessory building and in between baseball fields. The access is in fair to poor shape. Fields are much too close together presenting a potential safety risk for players on opposite field and spectators. Fields should have a minimum of 106 feet between foul lines and 150 feet between home plates and additional space in all directions is recommended when space allows.
Access Control	The overall site has no access control. Frietas field has a 25-30 foot chain link fence as a ball stop to keep stray balls from entering Rustcraft Road. Capone field has a 48-inch perimeter fence and a 20-foot backstop. The two additional baseball/softball fields utilize removable fencing and 20-foot backstops.
Athletic Field Equipment	Soccer goals, three backstops, one batting cage
Vegetation	Wooded Deciduous Swap and wetland along with the regulatory floodplain dominate most of the 14-acre site.



Fairbanks Park



Gonzalez Field

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	50 Eastern ave
Classification	Community Park
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham/Dedham Square area
Zone	Central Business
Acreage	6.3 Acres
Wetlands	Wigam Brook
Easements or ROW	RK Associates and MBTA
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt approximately 44 stalls including 4 handicapped spaces.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Youth Lacrosse, Dedham High School (field hockey, soccer, lacrosse), Pop Warner Football, DPR
Utilities and Infrastructure	See construction documents for Gonzalez Field in Appendix.
Irrigation	Irrigation installed in 2017.
Facilities and Features	See construction documents for Gonzalez Field in Appendix
Structures and Supporting Amenities	See construction documents for Gonzalez Field in Appendix



Greenlodge School

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	191 Greenlodge Street
Classification	School
Neighborhood or District	Greenlodge
Zone	SBR – Single Residence B
Acres	16.7 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Asphalt approximately 43 stalls including two handicapped spaces.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Youth Baseball, flag football
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown.
Irrigation	None
Facilities and Features	Site contains two softball/youth baseball fields which oppose each other. One 5-12 year playground and a pavilion shade structure. Aside from open space/fields, the school site is not in forested woodland, and is paved with asphalt providing good accessibility but concerns for stormwater runoff.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	Playground has minimal accessible equipment that is in good condition. Site has a pavilion shade structure with tables. Proximity of the shelter is close to the playground and has very good access/sight lines.



Greenlodge School

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Greenlodge school has great accessibility to the neighborhood and provides some nice amenities through the playground and pavilion picnic structure. The open space is in very poor condition and soils seem very sandy with little ability to support vegetation without major renovation.
Opportunities	Open space has a wonderful setting with good access from surrounding neighborhood. Woodlands dominate the site but there is little access/Trails, there is great opportunity for joint outdoor learning at this facility.
Constraints	The site is largely covered by deciduous woodland.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Limited
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	No vehicular circulation through the site. Access to parking occurs off of Greenlodge Street.
Pedestrian Circulation	The site outside of the woodland areas is largely paved in asphalt. Circulation and access is good with the exception to the fields which have one path leading to Ledgewood Road connecting the site to neighboring residential.
Access Control	Site is uncontrolled with good access to the neighborhood.
Athletic Field Equipment	Two 20-foot tall backstops.
Vegetation	Dedciduous woodland to the west of school buildings.



Greenlodge School



Loewen Field

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	70 Whiting Avenue
Classification	School
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham/ Oakdale
Zone	SBR – Single Residence B
Acreage	5.3 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Parking is abundant, supported by the Middle School.
User Groups	Dedham High School, Dedham Girls Softball
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown, field is assumed to have basic needs met for underground storage/infiltration of stormwater.
Irrigation	Yes, reclaimed water system. Irrigation system was recently repaired by the School District. Irrigation installed in 2006.
Facilities and Features	Loewen Field is part of Dedham Middle School. The field sits in a large open space adjacent to school parking and along Whiting Ave. There is plenty of warm-up space adjacent to the field. Field surface is a modified soil infield. A bullpen and batting cage were recently added.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	One digital scoreboard,scoring shed and batting cage. Other amenities as parts of the school were not evaluated. One storage building.



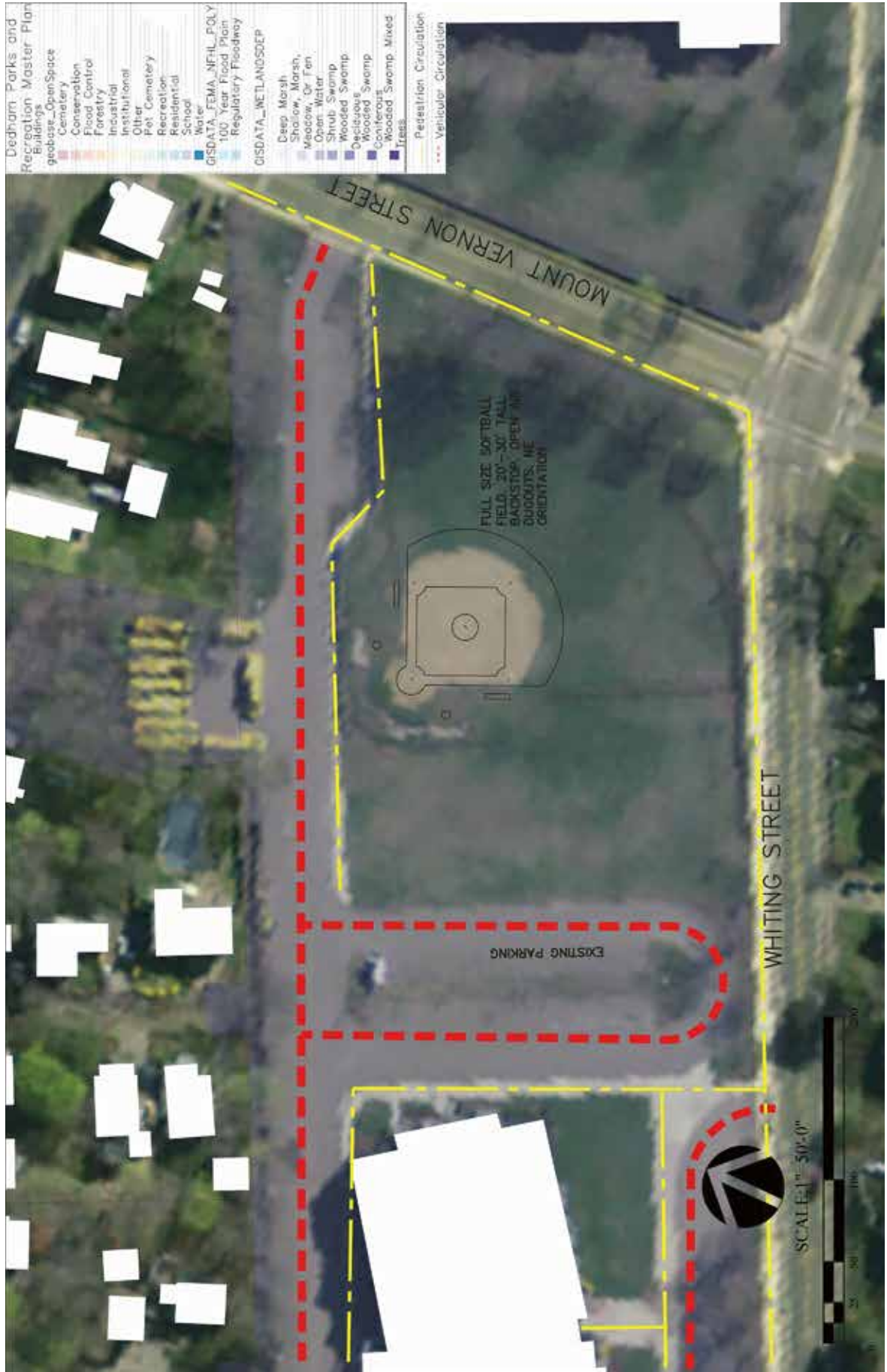
Loewen Field

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	The field is in the best shape of any of the fields observed. There a few lips and the mound and batters areas were not tarped so clay in these areas should be replaced before the season begins. Grades outside the foul lines are steep but not unplayable.
Opportunities	ADA paths were installed with a path that leads to the field but does not extend to provide access to the dugouts.
Constraints	The site is small and supports only softball.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Dedham Middle School, High School Campus, Pool, Barnes Memorial Park.
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Parking can be accessed from Whiting Ave. One way circulation occurs behind the field with access from East St to Mount Vernon Ave.
Pedestrian Circulation	ADA access it provided from parking to the field via a ramp. Access is stopped short of the field and dugouts. A wall and access from Mount Vernon Street exists but the access is unsurfaced.
Access Control	Field is controlled by a four-foot black vinyl chain link fence.
Athletic Field Equipment	One 25-foot tall backstops
Vegetation	Large canopy trees along the outfield and Mount Vernon Street, most existing site vegetation is young with the renovation of the school property.



Loewen Field



Oakdale School

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	147 Cedar Street
Classification	School
Neighborhood or District	Oakdale
Zone	SBR – Single Residence B
Acreage	6.9 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Overall there is a lack of parking to support the open space. Parking occurs mainly along Madison Street. Parking on the asphalt close to the school off hours.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Baseball & Soccer
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown.
Irrigation	None
Facilities and Features	Two little baseball/softball fields with stone dust infields. One playground. Two half court basketball courts.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	School.



Oakdale School

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Oakdale Elementary School has a large open space with two youth baseball fields. The open space has some significant grading challenges that cannot be solved appropriately without the use of site walls. Field surface is very poor, little to no vegetative cover was observed, stones larger than three inches and glass and debris in certain areas. The playground is situated in a corner adjacent to residential. The setting for the playground is great and is surrounded by a nice grove of oak trees, this area sees a lot of use evident by the surface wear.
Opportunities	The grove of trees near the playground sees a lot of use, is it also possible to provide additional programming to this space for use as an outdoor classroom without taking away from its current use.
Constraints	Grading
Beneficial Adjacencies	Paul Park, Oakdale Common Square
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Vehicles circulate in front of the building by way of a loop drive off of Cedar Street.
Pedestrian Circulation	Pedestrian circulation borders the school via paved walkways. Playground equipment is only partially accessible.
Access Control	The site and fields are not controlled by any fence other than portions of its northern border with residential.
Athletic Field Equipment	Two 20-foot tall backstops.
Vegetation	Large canopy trees are distributed nicely throughout the site with a grove of oak trees adjacent to the playground that sees heavy use and may be informally used as an outdoor classroom.



Oakdale School



Paul Park

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	330 Cedar Street
Classification	Neighborhood Park
Neighborhood or District	Oakdale/Ashcroft
Zone	SBR – Single Residence B
Acreage	2.9 Acres
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Parking on Tower & Paul Street
User Groups	Dedham Youth Baseball
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown. Field is assumed to have basic needs met for underground storage/infiltration of stormwater.
Irrigation	No irrigation
Facilities and Features	McGowan Field is a single youth baseball/softball field. Other facilities include a full size 84-foot basketball court. Gregory M. Riley Memorial Playground est. 2002.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	There are no supporting structures on site other than the playground. The site has some healthy large canopy trees that shade the playground and some picnic tables. Bicycle rack and picnic area are accessible off of Tower Street. Basketball court & Pickle ball overlay.



Paul Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	The field is in average to poor shape. There are few lips and the mound and batters areas were not tarped, so clay in these areas should be replaced before the season. Grades past the outfield drop off significantly and could pose a safety risk. There is evidence of a permanent fence in this area previously.
Opportunities	Potential to be a wonderful small neighborhood park. The baseball field fragments the park due to grades and the basketball court is completely separated with no access. Analysis needed to see if this park warrants reprogramming and to identify improvements for better circulation and access. Park has plans for stormwater improvements through a state grant.
Constraints	Lack of parking to support high-demand events or uses.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Oakdale School
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Parking along Tower and Paul Streets. The only access within the park is along Tower Street to the playground.
Pedestrian Circulation	ADA access is provided from the street to the playground, but there is no formal circulation throughout the park.
Access Control	The park is not controlled by any fences. Wooden guard-rail separates vehicles from the park. Fence at playground.
Athletic Field Equipment	One 20-foot tall backstop.
Vegetation	The site has some nice larger canopy trees that shade the playground and provide some nice neighborhood picnic area opportunities.



Paul Park



Mucciaccio Pool Field

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	316 High Street
Classification	Park/School
Neighborhood or District	East Dedham
Zone	LMA – Limited Manufacturing A
Acreage	1.5 Acres (Field Parcel Only)
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	Sewer easement through the center-east half of the field.
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Parking is abundant on the campus. Immediate parking is adjacent to the field along Recreation Road and additional parking is across Recreation Road adjacent to the tennis courts.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Pop Warner, Dedham High School, Avery School
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown.
Irrigation	Irrigation installed in 2018.
Facilities and Features	The pool field sits on the Dedham High School campus.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	There are no supporting structures on site with the exception of the Mucciaccio pool facility.



Mucciaccio Pool Field

EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	The Mucciaccio Pool field was in very poor condition at the time of observation. It is our understanding that the facility was used for snow storage the last few winters. However, the field was completely replaced and is currently in excellent condition.
Opportunities	Recent improvements have dramatically improved the field.
Constraints	Dimensions (specifically the width) prevent use as a full soccer or multi-use field.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Mucciaccio Pool, Dedham High School campus and outdoor stadium. Senior Housing.
Neighboring Land Use	Residential/Institutional
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Major circulation occurs along Recreational Road and at the beginning and end of the school day this area sees heavy traffic.
Pedestrian Circulation	There is a large pedestrian network that connects the campus. Unfortunately, when the field was replaced, ADA improvements were not incorporated.
Access Control	The field is controlled by a four-foot black vinyl chain link fence.
Athletic Field Equipment	None
Vegetation	Limited vegetation on site.

E



Mucciaccio Pool Field



Riverdale School

SITE DATA SUMMARY

Address	143 Needham Street
Classification	School
Neighborhood or District	Riverdale
Zone	SBR – Single Residence B
Acreage	3 Acres (Open space parcel only, 6.1 total)
Wetlands	None
Easements or ROW	None
Flood Zone	None
Parking Quantity & Materials	Parking is limited according to user groups of the facility, there are two parking lots supporting the school, both are accessed from Needham Street. Main entrance has a small looped drop off with 29 stalls including one handicapped space.
User Groups	Dedham Youth Baseball, Dedham Youth Soccer
Utilities and Infrastructure	Underground infrastructure is unknown, field is assumed to have basic needs met for underground storage/infiltration of stormwater.
Irrigation	None
Facilities and Features	The school has one of the largest open spaces accommodating multiple user groups. The site features one full size baseball field with the ability to overlay a full size (195-foot x 330-foot) soccer field. Also on site accessible from the parking area is a 5-12-year old playground and full size outdoor basketball court.
Structures and Supporting Amenities	There are no supporting structures on site other than the playground and basketball court. The playground is large but only minimally accessible.



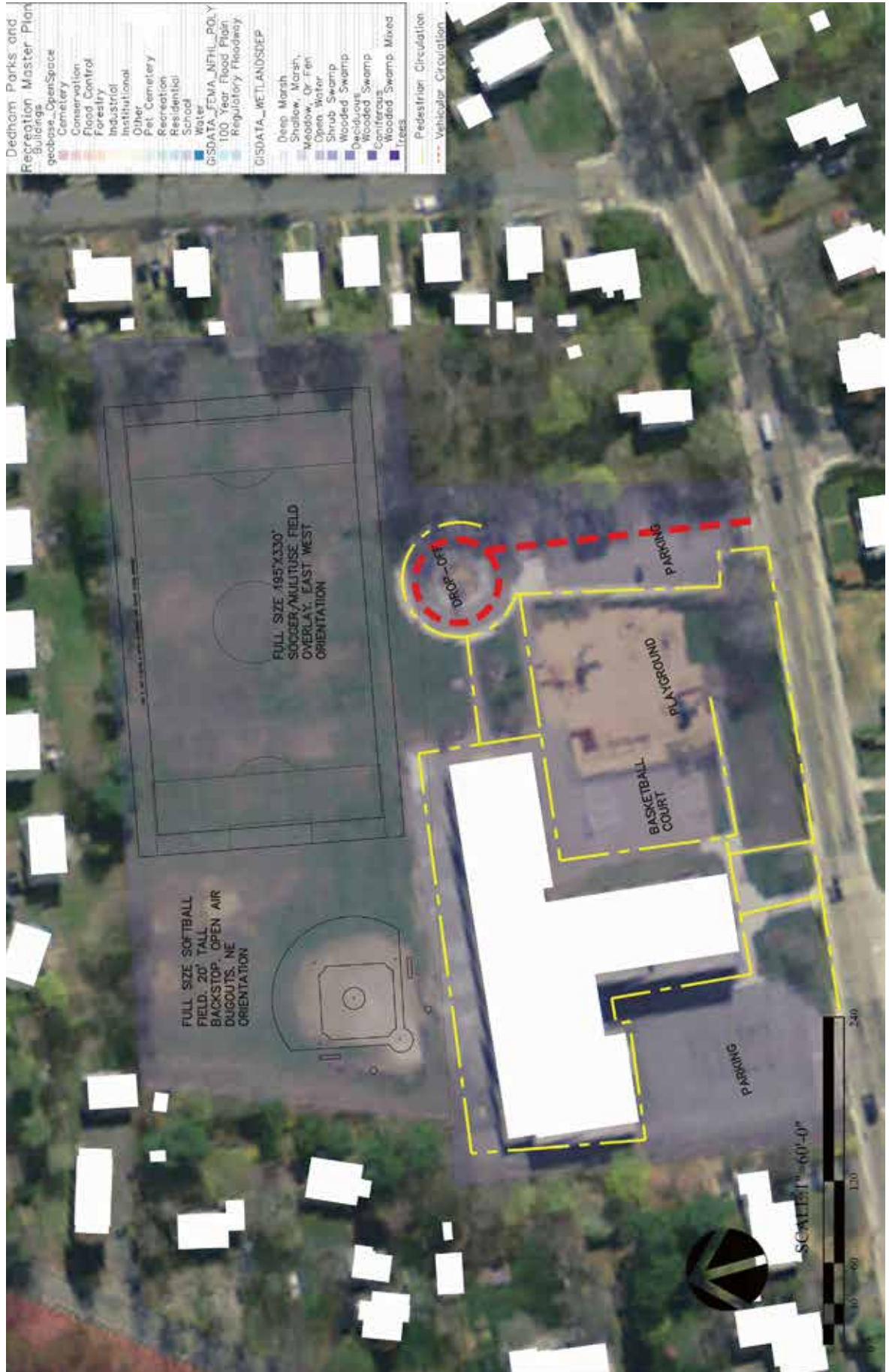
Riverdale School

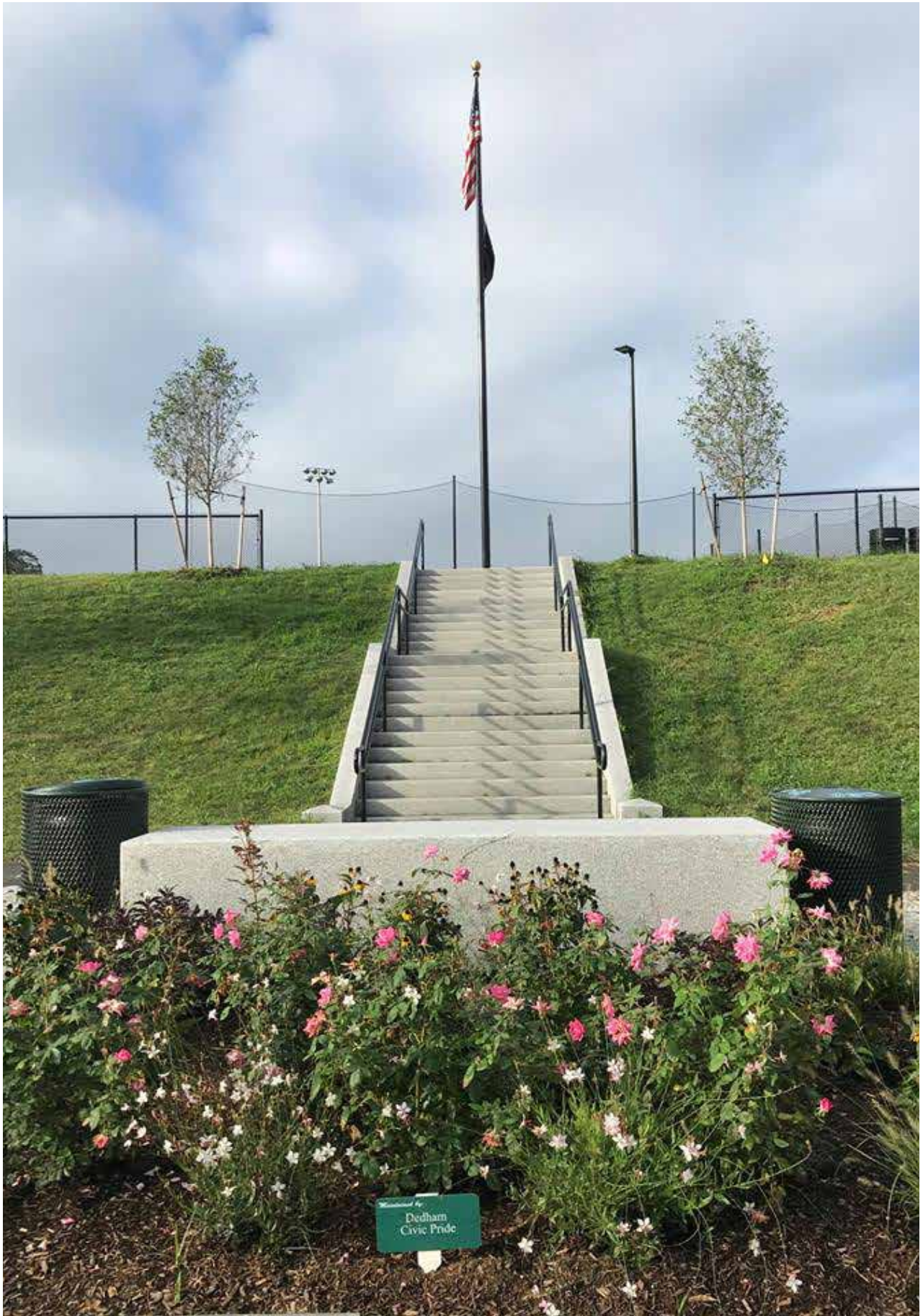
EXISTING CONDITIONS EVALUATION

Overall	Riverdale has a great setting overall. Vehicle circulation off of Needham Street is good, and limited to the two parking lots, preventing conflict. The site is reasonably accessible and has a large playground and outdoor basketball court. The open space is a good size. The primary field is baseball with a modified soil infield skin. The secondary overlay is one of the few in town that can accommodate a full size soccer field. Field condition is fair to good with some lip and mound maintenance needed on the infield and a number of bare spots in the natural grass areas.
Opportunities	Adding irrigation and drainage improvements to this open space can drastically improve the sites ability to host more events with less visible wear to the field surface.
Constraints	User groups voiced concern over lack of parking when multiple events occur simultaneously.
Beneficial Adjacencies	Cutler Park, Kehoe Park
Neighboring Land Use	Residential
Vehicular Circulation & Parking	Parking is supported by the school through two parking lots. Vehicular circulation is limited to those areas.
Pedestrian Circulation	ADA access is good but could be improved. Neighborhood access to the east is overgrow, and obstacles block travel and entry from Hillside Street.
Access Control	The school not fully controlled by fences. Fences exist along the north and east residential borders with an access gate to the east. The playground is partially controlled by a four-foot black vinyl chain link fence.
Athletic Field Equipment	Twenty-foot tall backstops, soccer goals on site.
Vegetation	Limited vegetation on site.



Riverdale School





F. Needs Assessment

Community Needs

This chapter documents the needs that influence the types and number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in the community. The needs assessment phase of the Recreation Master Plan documents the demand for services from current and future residents in association with the inventory of existing facilities (Chapter E) and highlights potential areas of shortfall or oversupply. This will in turn give direction to future master plan recommendations. Identifying levels of satisfaction, perceptions, use patterns, and priorities for recreational programs and facilities through contact with the user public was an important part of this process. Accurately assessing the needs of the community requires a diverse approach, using many different techniques to gather information. Collectively, the data from these various sources create a picture of what is needed and desired within Dedham, and can serve as the basis from which to develop a list of projects, priorities and actions. Each technique used in this process provides valuable information, but the data from any one technique should not be viewed in isolation and without comparing the needs to the Mission, Vision, Goals, and Objectives of the community.



Needs Assessment

Chapter C includes population and growth projections and demographic characteristics in Dedham. This chapter and Chapter D (Programming) summarize a comparison of peer communities and national standards to determine the levels of service they provide for parkland, common recreation facilities, and recreation programming. The data set serves as a benchmark when determining the levels of service that are appropriate for Dedham.

Recreational preferences and the level of demand for additional park amenities and recreational opportunities are also addressed in this chapter. Pertinent information from national databases on recreation participation levels and data from the Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012 were considered. Two public open houses were held to solicit input from the general public, and a community wide survey with questions related to the planning process and open space was made available to the public. Comments were also solicited from the public through a project website. Members from the local organizations, businesses, Dedham Schools, and town staff from various departments also participated in meetings to help provide insight to the issues and needs present in the community. Additionally, interviews were conducted with representatives of other public and nonprofit recreation providers in Dedham to assess any specific needs their organizations may have.

Residents of Dedham care greatly about their parks and open space. Public participation in the master plan process was excellent with just over 500 responses to the public survey. The public workshops were well attended with 60+ people attending the initial workshop and approximately 150 attendants at the second workshop, filling the Oakdale School Gymnasium where survey findings were presented. A summary of the survey findings can be found in the Town's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Dedham residents largely participate in recreation activities in a manner similar to state-level and national trends. Residents of Dedham get most of their recreational activity through fitness sports (walking, biking, jogging, aerobics, etc.) National trends show us that while fitness sports and outdoor sports are popular amongst all age groups, individual and team sports are most popular for the Gen Z and Millennials population. The last Massachusetts Open Space and Recreation Survey found that, while participation in youth sports is high, there are exceptions for both baseball and softball which were mentioned less frequently in survey responses and have seen a decline at both the state and national level.

How residents of Dedham recreate and currently use their parks is an important piece of the needs analysis. Equally important is what Dedham sees as needs and/or demands for recreation opportunities in the future. Responses to the town wide survey were wide spread and included both active and passive forms of recreation. Respondents to the survey want more bike paths and walking and hiking trails in order to accommodate their largest form of recreation.

Based on public input, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee interpreted the wide spread needs and aspirations of the community and summarized the key findings into four major community impact or benefit areas: environment, social, economic, and cultural. Subsequently, this group asked the community whether they had heard their voices and understood their needs correctly through a second public workshop. The interpretation of community needs provided a foundation on which the Mission, Vision and Goals were established.



Key findings of community needs and aspirations are summarized as follows:

Environmental:

- There is an opportunity for DPR to take more of a role in the support of environmental stewardship and green practices.
- Residents use trails in parks and would like to have a connected system of trails, pathways and sidewalks throughout the Town and connecting open spaces.
- Residents want better management of natural resources and more environmental education on protection and restoration.
- Some residents would like to see more use of parks and open space for environmental education, programming and wildlife exploration opportunities.
- A large majority of residents would like to see better maintenance of existing park facilities, specifically athletic fields.

Social:

- The community expects DPR to help socially knit the community together and strengthen neighborhoods through communication and partnerships within the community.
- The community expects DPR to foster social equity and provide affordable and accessible programs and services in parks and facilities to serve all populations.
- The community needs adaptive and specialized programs and ADA accessible facilities for persons with disabilities.
- The community appreciates that safe parks can enhance public safety and build strong neighborhoods. Residents want their parks safe and clean.
- The community expects DPR to provide more programming for its adult and senior populations.
- The community expects DPR to provide more programming for its teen population.

Economic:

- Residents value community wellness and physical activities to keep them healthy and active.
- The community expects DPR to invest in the younger generation to reap longer-term fiscal, social and health benefits.
- Taxpayers/voters expect DPR to be fiscally responsible.
- The community expects DPR to provide better and higher quality care of existing facilities.
- The community prefers free and self-directed opportunities in parks near their homes to keep them healthy.

Cultural:

- Parts of the community recognized that DPR can play a significant role in “place-making” and shaping a livable town through culture and heritage programs.
- The community appreciates special events and festivals like Dedham Day and the annual Flag Day Parade which make Dedham a fun and engaging place to live.

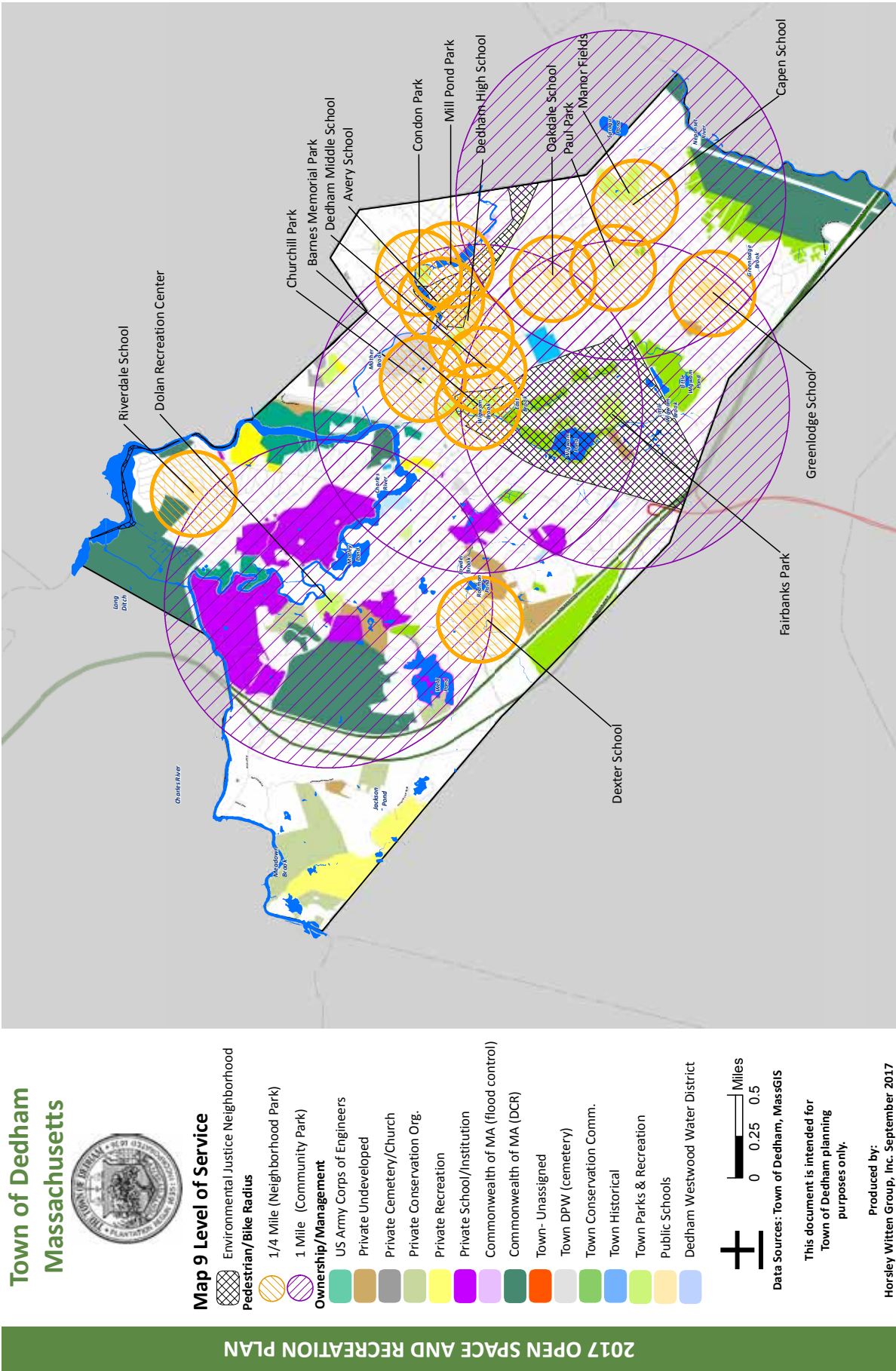
Level of Service

Level-of-service (LOS) standards are measures of the minimum amount of a public facility which must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations. LOS measures are typically expressed as ratios of facility capacity to the number of users. For example, a community may set a standard for how many park acres are needed per 1,000 population. Other examples of LOS representation include the median number of residents per facility or amenity, or the ratio of distance to a particular facility.

In Chapter E, as part of a review of the DPR's existing facilities, the recommendation was made to develop a park classification system within Dedham. That classification system allows DPR to assess the needs for particular facilities or amenities based on established measurements for each classification. The Table in Chapter E: (Parks and Recreation Land) summarizes proposed park classification systems. The following map shows the level of service as a ratio of distance for each of the classification types based on national standards for Towns of similar population. Deficiencies fall outside of the highlighted areas.

DPR manages portions of 22 parks including open spaces associated with schools and just over 188 acres of land. That is one park for every 1,147 residents and 7.45 acres for every 1,000 residents. Compared to national standards of one park for every 1,331 (Dedham performs better) residents and 9.6 acres for every 1,000 residents (Dedham performs worse). In addition to the land areas managed by DPR, there are a number of amenities and areas that provide unique experiences. In order to determine needs or deficiencies in park amenities, a diverse approach was used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data for comparison and evaluation. Table 10 summarizes national standards for median population per facility as part of annual survey conducted by National Parks and Recreation Association sent out to all participating communities.

Map Level of Service, Park Classification System.



**Town of Dedham
Massachusetts**



Map 9 Level of Service

- Environmental Justice Neighborhood
- Pedestrian/Bike Radius
- 1/4 Mile (Neighborhood Park)
- 1 Mile (Community Park)
- 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 & Recreation
- Public Schools
- Dedham Westwood Water District



Data Sources: Town of Dedham, MassGIS

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Town of Dedham planning
purposes only.

Produced by:
Horsley Witten Group, Inc. September 2017

2017 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Table 10. Nation Standards for Median Population per Facility

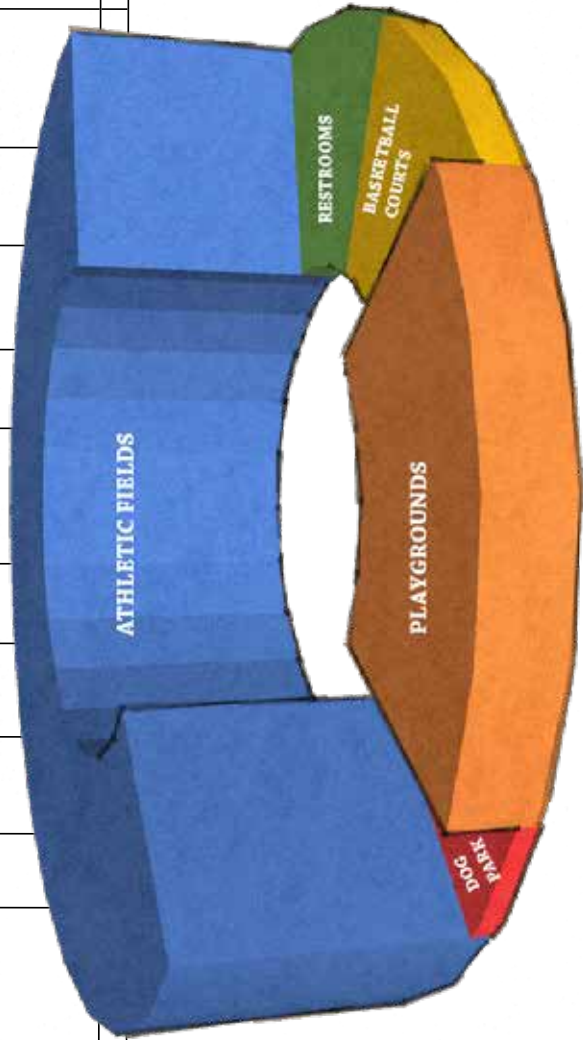
Facility	% of Communities Offering	National Standard Median Population per Facility	Dedham Median Population Per Facility
Diamond Field Softball/Youth baseball	68	6,453	1,401
Diamond Fields Adult Baseball	49	19,226	12,612
Playground	90	3,633	2,522
Basketball Court Outdoor	82	7,430	5,044
Tennis Court Outdoor	72	4,375	8,408
Multi-Use Field Rectangular Youth	45	6,199	5,044
Multi-use Field Rectangular Field Full Size	41	12,226	8,408
Multi-use Synthetic Turf Rectangular Full Size	11	34,242	12,612
Recreation Center	59	27,591	25,224
Gym	56	28,856	25,224
Swimming Pool Outdoor	53	33,128	25,224
Dog Park	52	42,500	25,224
Community Garden	45	31,000	25,224
Swimming Pool Indoor	8	47,800	25,224

Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

The tables show that DPR is generally meeting or exceeding its peers on a national scale when it comes to providing the most popular park amenities. Certain amenity areas such as picnic areas, restrooms and shelters were not included in the 2017 NPRA Agency Review, but these are areas in which DPR can improve. A large number of spaces and amenities are not accessible as defined by code, and while the spaces may be old enough to be grandfathered in, attempts should be made in the future to bring facilities up to code and reflect the mission of DPR. A full assessment of ADA components can be found in the appendix of the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Figure 24. Inventory of Uses and Opportunities at Each Facility

	Churchill Park	Fairbanks Park	Condon Park	Dolan Center	Memorial Park	Gonzalez Field	Pool Field	Paul Park	Harnett Square	Former Landfill	Manor Park	Oakdale Square	The Triangle
Athletic Field Type	Softball	Youth base-ball/Softball	Youth base-ball/Softball	Softball	Baseball	Soccer	U-10 Soccer	Youth baseball/Softball		VACANT	VACANT		
# of Athletic Fields	1	3.5	1.5	1	3.5	1	1	1				13.5	
Athletic Field Overlay	0	Soccer	Soccer	0	Multi-use	0	0	0				0	
Basketball Court	1		0	0	0	0	0	1				2	
Picnic Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
Restrooms	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0				2	
Structures or Shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
Playground	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1				4	
Trail System	None	None	None	Yes	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Dog Park	None	None	None	1	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	1
Skate Park	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
*Note: Picnic Areas must be accessible as defined by ADA code													



Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017

In the areas pertaining to athletic recreation spaces, the Town appears to largely out perform its peers, providing more public athletic recreation spaces than the national average with the exception of football and lacrosse, which do not have dedicated facilities. However, members of the Steering Committee and the public believed, based on its participation numbers and quality of its athletic spaces, that this comparison did not adequately reflect the community's needs.

The current trends in athletics were evaluated from a local, state, and national perspective to help better understand the need for additional athletic fields over the next 10+ years. Sources utilized as part of this analysis include: a questionnaire survey of the user groups; interactive workshops with representatives of the Town; participation statistics provided by the DPR; and participation statistics from the National Federation of High School Association (NFHS).

The evaluation from a national and state perspective provides a comprehensive understanding of the trends in athletics. Boys and girls lacrosse are the fastest growing sport from a national and state perspective among the sports that utilize the athletic fields included in the Recreation Master Plan.

The user groups that participated in the questionnaire included representatives in the following sports: Dedham Youth Baseball, Dedham Girls Softball, Dedham Pop Warner Football, Dedham Youth Lacrosse, Dedham Youth Soccer, Dedham Youth Hockey, Dedham High Athletics and Dedham Youth Basketball.

Through interaction with the user groups in workshops and the questionnaire process it was noted there is consistently an issue with scheduling of the athletic open spaces and each group would prefer the ability to manage the schedule of certain spaces. It was also noted that maintenance, quality and overuse are major issues amongst both user groups and the general public. Most user groups agreed that some of the need for additional space could be addressed by improving the existing fields to provide a better natural turf playing surface.

Further evaluation was done to assess the quality and make up as well as the hours that each facility was used. After evaluation facilities were assigned a weighted value based on make up. The make up of each facility was defined by a combination of drainage characteristics, irrigation and surface treatment. The table below defines the weighted values.

Table 11. Recommended Use by Event and Intensity

Field Construction Type	Recommended Primary Use	Recommended Number Weekly Events	Avg Hours of Use Weekly
Synthetic	Game	25	37.5
Engineered/Irrigated	Game	18	27
Engineered/non irrigated	Game/Practice	13	19.5
Non Engineered/Irrigated	Practice Low Level Games	12	18
Non Engineered/Non Irrigated	Practice Only	9	13.5

Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017

Table 12. Spring Season Capacity by Facility and User Group

Spring Season April 1st-June 30th	Avery Practice Park	Chur-chill Park	Capen School	Capone Field (Fairbanks Park)	Collins Field (Fairbanks Park)	Condon Park	Sugrue Field (Dolan Center)	Davis Field (Memorial Park)	Frietas Field (Fairbanks Park)	Gonzalez Field	Green-lodge School	Heaphy Field	Lowen Field	Lower Memorial Park	Nagle Field (Fairbanks Park)	Oakdale School	Pool Field	Paul Park	Sullivan (Memorial Park)	Riverdale School
Field Use	Soccer	Softball/ Youth baseball	Softball/ Youth baseball overlay	Softball/ Youth baseball	Softball/ Little League	Multi-use	Softball/ Youth baseball	Baseball	Soccer	Soccer	Multi-use	Baseball	Softball/ Youth baseball	Football/ Soccer	Softball/ Little League	Multi-use	Soccer	Softball/ Little League	Softball/ Little League	Multi-use
Size	U-10	60'	60'	60	60	60	60	90	Full Size	Full Size	60	90	60	Full Size	60	60	Junior	60	60	60/Full Size
Recommendation			Full size multi-use													Remove				
Dedham Youth Soccer			210			288			406	336				210		42	336			322
Dedham Youth Baseball				574	378	168		378			252	728			378	210		378		210
Dedham Girls Softball	322						422						322						75	
Dedham Pop-war-ner																				
Dedham Youth Lacrosse																				
Dedham High School	82.5						105	174				133	105						90	
Hub Softball						96														
Ursuline			105							105										
Socca Sista									24											
Mens Soccer																				
Rental																			168	
Spring Season Length 14wk avg	14	404.5	315	574	378	552	527	552	406	465	252	861	427	210	378	252	336	378	333	532
Field Construction Type (1-5)	2	2	5	4	4	4	1	4	4	1	5	2	2	5	4	5	4	5	4	5
Capacity/wk	27	27	13.5	18	18	18	37.5	18	18	37.5	13.5	27	27	13.5	18	13.5	18	13.5	18	13.5
Avg HRs/wk	378	378	189	252	252	252	525	252	252	525	189	378	378	189	252	189	252	270	23.8	38.0
Capacity/season	378	378	189	252	252	252	525	252	252	525	189	378	378	189	252	189	252	270	23.8	38.0
Season Use	404.5	404.5	315	574	378	552	527	552	406	465	252	861	427	210	378	252	336	378	333	532

Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017

Using the weighted values, a capacity of hours was determined for each field over the course of both the Spring and Fall seasons (Tables 12, 14, and 15). Use beyond the hours indicated per week or per season begins to degrade the playing surface excessively wearing out the vegetative cover and not allowing the field to recover properly.

Following the determination of a capacity for both spring and fall athletic seasons, demand was determined using a combination of the permit inventories provided by DPR and responses to the survey by each user group. Permitted hours and evaluations for each facility are shown in Figures 25-27.

Table 13. Projected Need by Over-Demand vs. Capacity

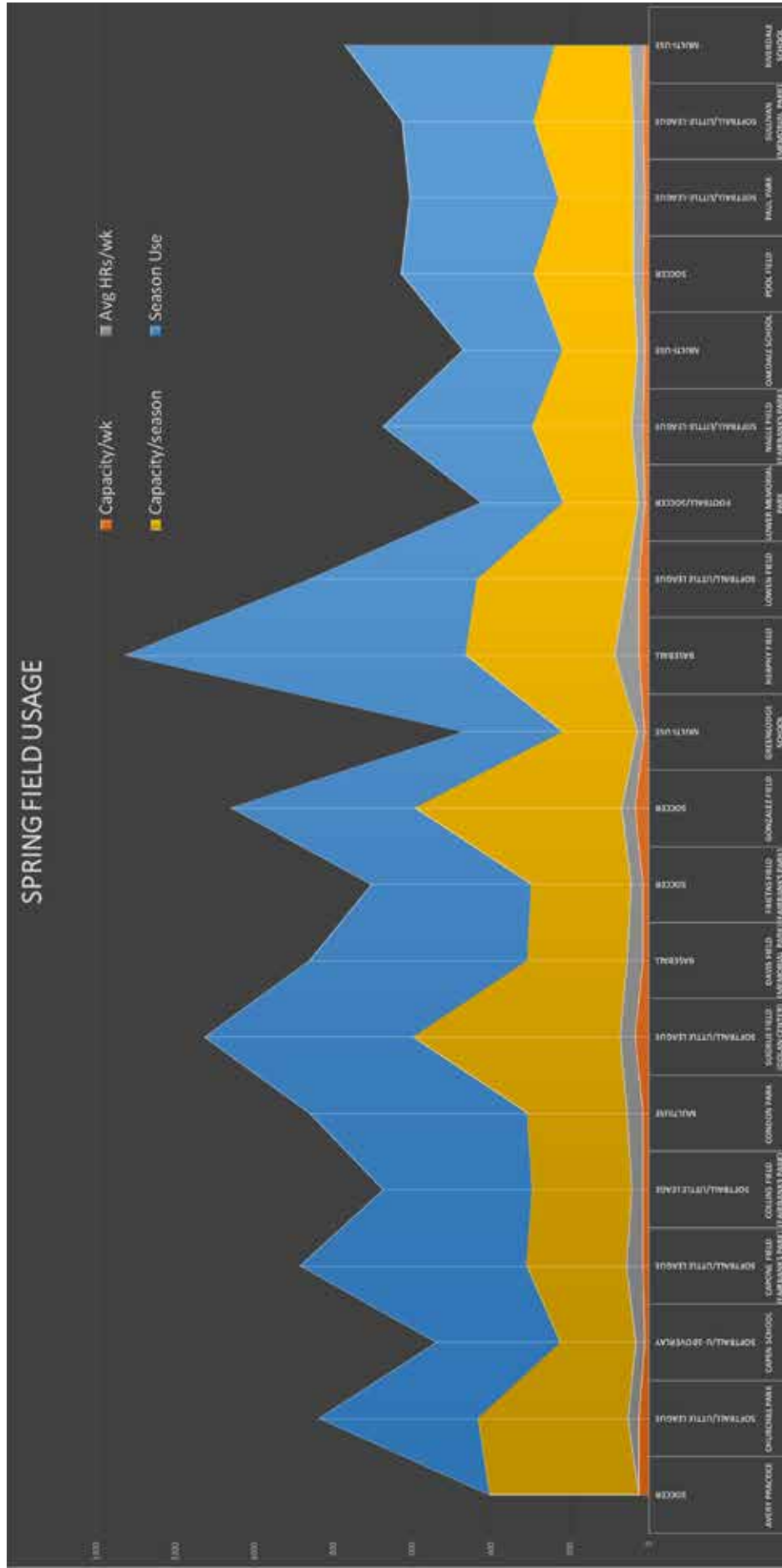
Spring	Total Hrs Over Capacity	New Engineered Irrigated Field x 14 wks	Fields Short (Demand)
Softball	630	378	1.67
Soccer	241	378	0.64
u-10	84	378	0.22
Football	0	378	1
Lacrosse	0	378	1
Baseball 90'	783	378	2.07
Baseball	1060.5	378	2.81

Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017.

The demand versus capacity comparison portrays the amount that athletic fields in Dedham are over scheduled and overused compared to their capacity. A number of things can be done to help relieve capacity related issues. Improving grading, drainage, and natural turf surfaces for natural turf fields, are all recommendations to improve the quality and capacity of playing fields. However natural grass fields need to be rested, and allowed to recover, or degradation and failure of the surface will occur. DPR should develop a scheduling system with input from user groups that will allow for a more equitable reservation and division of athletic spaces. DPR should also revise its maintenance practices, limit hours of use to something closer to the facility's capacity and consider reorganization of spaces over time to alleviate capacity and align facilities with current trends and participation numbers.

Synthetic turf fields are another solution and an increasingly popular trend for athletic fields to address issues related to over-use, maintenance, and limited space. Synthetic turf generally has a lifecycle of 8-12 years with an unlimited amount of use. Sports lighting dramatically increases potential for use, extending playable hours past dark.

Figure 25. Springfield Capacity vs. Use by Facility and User Type.



Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017.

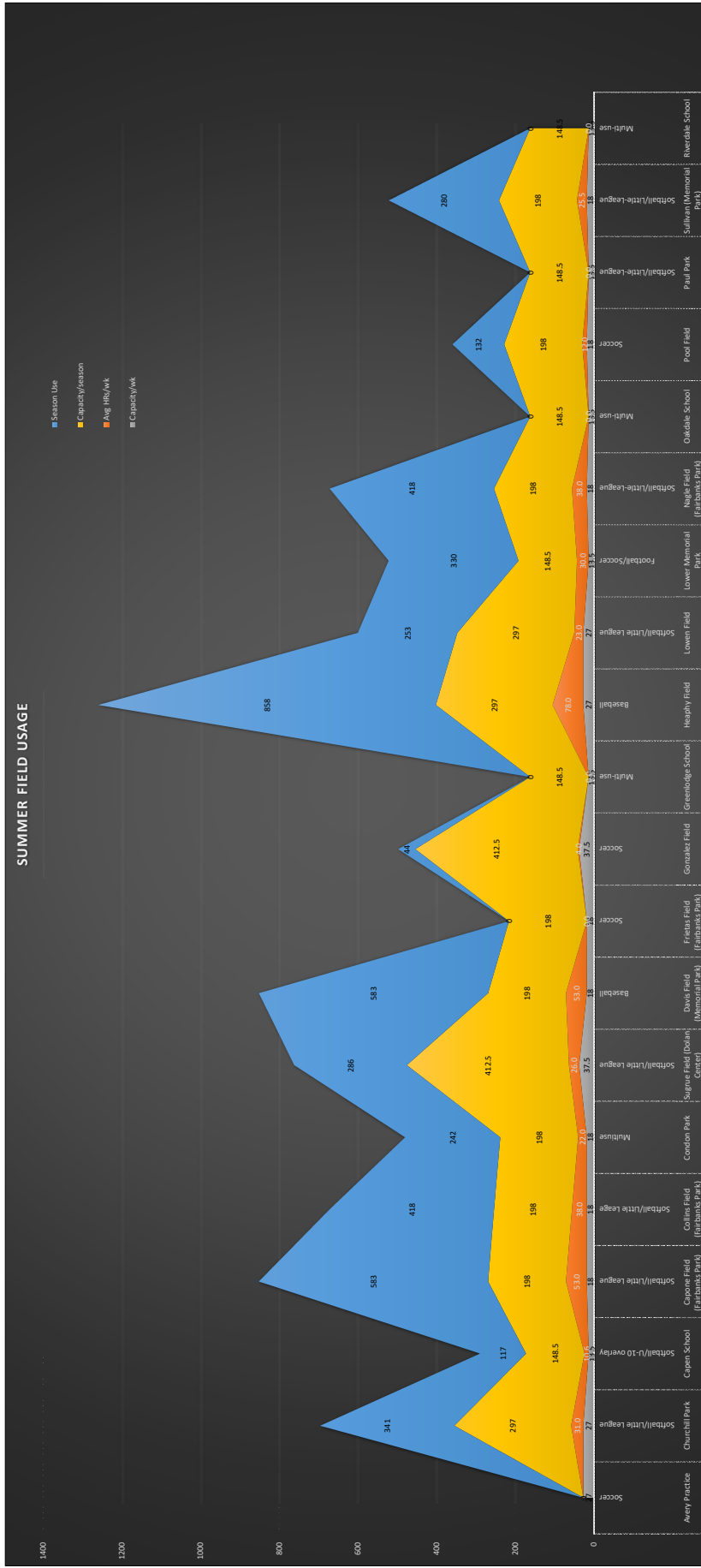
The graph for athletic field hours of use during the summer shows a dramatic difference in hours of use as compared to the spring. There is still a significant amount of over use on certain fields. However, based on user group interviews and survey information a portion of the hours of overuse is inflated based on the current permitting process. Baseball for example is reserving fields in blocks for use but may not be using all of those hours. The data also show that Dedham should be limiting hours per field and spreading out hours among facilities. None of the school youth baseball fields are being used during the summer yet the youth baseball fields at Fairbanks Park are dramatically overused and the baseball program is actually causing a significant amount of damage to fields that is unnecessary.

Fairbanks Park fields should be used for games only during summer, and practices for youth baseball should be spread among the remaining youth baseball fields. The Dolan Center synthetic turf field should support the most youth baseball/softball use of any single field in the system and it currently only supports half that of other youth baseball fields. This graph also brings into consideration the plan for Manor Park (as planned). While the Plan supports the plan for Manor Park and its amenities, improvements to Manor Park will not solve the dramatic over utilization of Heaphy and Davis fields.



Fall athletic field usage shows similar trends to the summer usage. While there is some need for rectangular sports fields to support usage by soccer, football and lacrosse, the biggest trend continues to show the over use of baseball fields. Hours can be spread among youth baseball facilities for baseball in the fall specifically where there are shorter days and shorter windows of usage without lighting. The amount of time spent in hours of use per participant in baseball far exceeds that of any other sport. This Recreation Master Plan does not support the addition of youth baseball fields to the Dedham parks system but rather encourages a permitting system that is both fair and supportive of baseball but limits use of facilities in order to preserve the facilities in the long term future. Steps taken by DPR to renovate Gonzalez Field and the continued support of Manor Park (as planned) will go a long way in the support of rectangular multi-use field space. Based on participation information collected in the Plan and future trends, Dedham should have enough multi-use field space to support its programming in the near future with the addition of Manor Park. Future planning of school yards and the former landfill should address the need for an additional full size baseball field to support usage trends.

Figure 26. Summer Field Capacity vs. Use by Facility and User Type.



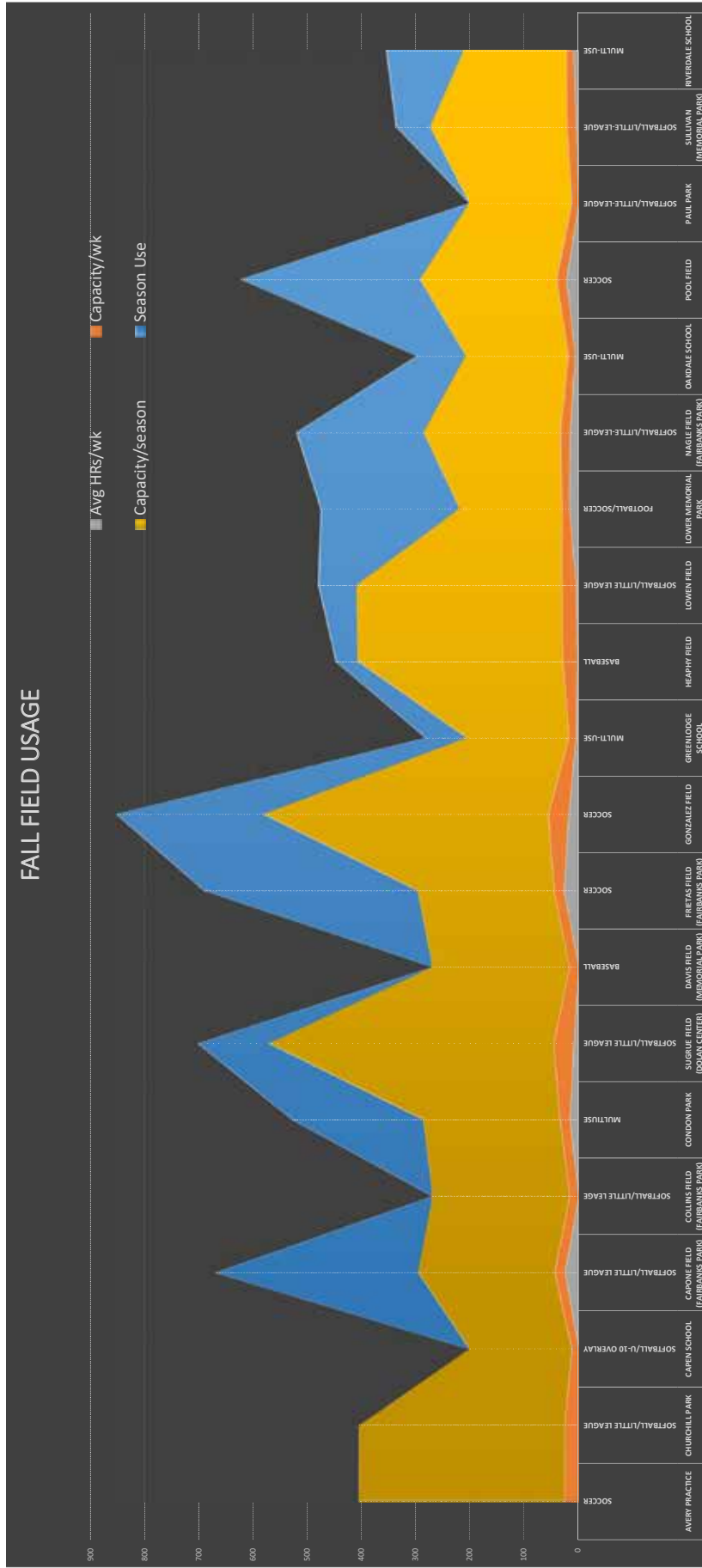
Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017.

Table 14. Summer Season Capacity by Facility and User Group.

Summer Season June 1st-August 31st	Avery Practice	Churchill Park	Capen School	Capone Field (Fairbanks Park)	Collins Field (Fairbanks Park)	Condon Park	Sugrue Field (Dolan Center)	Davis Field (Memorial Park)	Frietas Field (Fairbanks Park)	Gonzalez Field	Greenlodge School	Heaphy Field	Lowen Field	Lower Memorial Park	Nagle Field (Fairbanks Park)	Oakdale School	Paul Park	Sullivan (Memorial Park)	Riverdale School	
Field Use	Soccer	Softball/ Youth baseball	Softball/ U-10 overlay	Softball/ Youth baseball	Softball/ Little League	Multiuse	Softball/ Youth baseball	Baseball	Soccer	Soccer	Multi-use	Baseball	Softball/ Youth baseball	Football/ Soccer	Softball/ Little League	Multi-use	Softball/ Little League	Softball/ Little League	Multi-use	
Size	U-10	60'	60'	60	60	60	60	90	Full Size	Full Size	60	90	60	Full Size	60	60	60	60	60/Full Size	
Recommendation			Full size multi-use																	
Dedham Youth Soccer																				
Dedham Youth Baseball				583	418			583				858			418					
Dedham Girls Softball		341				176	286						253							
Dedham Pop-warmer														330			132			
Dedham Youth Lacrosse																				
Dedham High School																				
Hub Softball						66												280		
Rental			117							44										
Spring Season Length 14wk avg	14	341	117	583	418	242	286	583	0	44	0	858	253	330	418	0	132	0	280	0
		14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Field Construction Type (1-5)	2	2	5	4	4	4	1	4	4	1	5	2	2	5	4	5	4	5	4	5
Capacity/wk	27	27	13.5	18	18	18	37.5	18	18	37.5	13.5	27	27	13.5	18	13.5	13.5	18	13.5	13.5
Avg HRs/wk		24.4	8.4	41.6	29.9	17.3	20.4	41.6	0.0	3.1	0.0	61.3	18.1	23.6	29.9	0.0	9.4	0.0	20.0	0.0
Capacity/season	378	378	189	252	252	252	525	252	252	525	189	378	378	189	252	189	252	189	252	189
Season Use		341	117	583	418	242	286	583	0	44	0	858	253	330	418	0	132	0	280	0

Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017

Figure 27. Fall Field Capacity vs. Use by Facility and User Type.



Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017.

Table 15. Fall Field Capacity vs. Use by Facility and User Type.

Fall Season September 1st - November 15th	Avery Practice	Churchill Park	Capen School	Capone Field (Fair- banks Park)	Collins Field (Fair- banks Park)	Condon Park	Sugrue Field (Dolan Center)	Davis Field (Memori- al Park)	Frietas Field (Fair- banks Park)	Gonzalez Field	Green- lodge School	Heaphy Field	Lowen Field	Lower Memorial Park	Nagle Field (Fair- banks Park)	Oakdale School	Pool Field	Paul Park	Sullivan (Memori- al Park)	Riverdale School	
Field Use	Soccer	Softball/ Youth baseball	Soft- ball/U-10 overlay	Softball/ Youth baseball	Softball/ Little League	Multiuse	Softball/ Youth baseball	Baseball	Soccer	Soccer	Multi-use	Baseball	Softball/ Youth baseball	Football/ Soccer	Softball/ Lit-	Multi-use	Soccer	Softball/ Lit-	Softball/ Lit-	Multi-use	
Size	U-10	60'	60'	60	60	60	60	90	Full Size	Full Size	60	90	60	Full Size	60	60	Junior	60	60	60/Full Size	
Recommendation			Full size multit-use																		
Dedham Youth Soccer								217		132	75					90	119			75	
Dedham Youth Baseball				372								40			234						
Dedham Girls Softball						90	130						70								
Dedham Pop-war- ner														75							
Dedham Youth Lacrosse																					
Dedham High School						150		175		90				180			210			67.5	
Mens Soccer																					
Rental										48									63		
Spring Season Length 14wk avg	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
Field Construction Type (1-5)	2	2	5	4	4	4	1	4	4	1	5	2	2	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	
Capacity/wk	27	27	13.5	18	18	18	37.5	18	18	37.5	13.5	27	27	13.5	18	13.5	18	13.5	18	13.5	
Avg HSs/wk		0.0	0.0	26.6	0.0	17.1	9.3	0.0	28.0	19.3	5.4	2.9	5.0	18.2	16.7	6.4	23.5	0.0	4.5	10.2	
Capacity/season	378	378	189	252	252	252	525	252	525	525	189	378	378	189	252	189	252	189	252	189	
Season Use		0	0	372	0	240	130	0	392	270	75	40	70	255	234	90	329	0	63	142.5	

Source: Traverse Landscape Architects, 2017



G. Goals

Goal 1: Community Engagement and Communication

Strategy:

- 1.1 Establish an effective communication and marketing plan

Actions:

- 1.1.1 Develop a clear, concise and appealing brand for Dedham Parks and Recreation that reflects its vision and mission.
- 1.1.2 Produce accurate, timely, transparent and easy to understand internal and external communications.
- 1.1.3 Strive to incorporate new technologies that enhance community access to information including social networks
- 1.1.4 Develop a seasonal program guide
- 1.1.5 Develop a monthly parks and recreation mailer
- 1.1.6 Create or reference a single DPR website for dissemination of information related to parks and recreation services and program registration.
- 1.1.7 Develop a policy for naming of facilities, amenities and elements with parks.
- 1.1.8 Distribute a map or resource with all parks and open spaces available to the public and list the amenities of each space.



Strategy:

- 1.2 Partner with other committees and local organizations.

Actions:

- 1.2.1 Seek face to face opportunities to increase awareness, such as community open houses, presentations to neighborhood groups and staffed booths at community events.
- 1.2.2 Market through existing community meeting places such as clubs, coffee shops, churches etc.
- 1.2.3 Market fitness programs to local health care providers who encourage active and healthy lifestyles.
- 1.2.4 Market volunteerism as both a social and a recreational activity.
- 1.2.5 Develop and maintain partnership with the Dedham School District to improve access to school facilities, such as classrooms, gyms and sports facilities.
- 1.2.6 Partner with the Council on Aging, Youth Commission, and Commission on Disabilities for program and facility improvements.

Strategy:

1.3 Ensure equitable recreation experiences for the diverse community.

Actions:

- 1.3.1 Ensure that programs are conveniently located and geographically accessible
- 1.3.2 Periodically assess programs to identify potential barriers to participation and possible solutions (both internally and through public survey).
- 1.3.3 Conduct a Town wide needs assessment every five years.
- 1.3.4 Update this Plan every 10 to 12 years in order to respond to changing trends and demographics.

Goal 2: Preservation, Growth, and Management

Strategy:

2.1 Establish an evaluative system for current programs and incorporation of future programs

Actions:

- 2.1.1 Consider various methods, such as surveys and questionnaires, to solicit public input for program evaluation and adjustment, based on attendance and achievement of program outcomes, to tie in with the budget process.
- 2.1.2 Conduct Town-wide community needs assessments to address the emerging community needs, trends and demographic changes and to solicit community input to major revisions of program plans every five years.
- 2.1.3 Implement a system to track trends in sports and recreation activities. Implement a system to track partner and competitor service delivery to help set targets for DPR to work with partners.



Strategy:

2.2 Utilize best practices for the development and implementation of DPR programs.

Actions:

- 2.2.1 Define standards and criteria to ensure that DPR's instructors, educators, and sports coaches are certified.
- 2.2.2 Offer high quality, on-going training to program providers.
- 2.2.3 Develop an orientation/training program that fosters the core value, mission and goals/guidelines of each mission led program area for instructors/coaches.
- 2.2.4 Develop a business plan for each mission led program area that outlines, among others, performance participation goals, cost recovery targets and standards that can be used as benchmarks for success.

Strategy:

- 2.3 Create funding strategies to provide the resources required to build, maintain and operate DPR'S system of parks and programs.

Actions:

- 2.3.1 Emphasize capital projects that can either reduce current operating costs or generate new net revenue.
- 2.3.2 Consider establishing an outcome-based budgeting process that allows resources to be focused on the most vital programs and services. Establish quantifiable performance measures to evaluate these outcomes.
- 2.3.3 Develop multiple, new, high net revenue-generating programs and services.
- 2.3.4 Implement a system to assess and manage the direct and indirect costs of programs and services.
- 2.3.5 Establish and update the maintenance management plan regularly to identify all preventive maintenance priorities, implementation schedules and costs.
- 2.3.6 Establish a capital renovation/repair account with a dedicated funding source for major improvements in parks, facilities.
- 2.3.7 Consider contracting out of services as well as the transfer of program responsibility to partner agencies when appropriate.

Strategy:

- 2.4 Foster stewardship of historic, cultural and environmental assets through planning, programming and partnerships.

Actions:

- 2.4.1 Provide interpretive signage about the natural and historic environment along trails where feasible to increase opportunities for self-directed stewardship (both conservation and preservation). Provide signage to identify appropriate recreation activities and environmental stewardship purposes within green space.
- 2.4.2 Integrate and align nature and environment programs with active living (physical recreation) and cultural and heritage programs whenever appropriate. Consider nature-based activities for day camps and playground programs, outdoor clubs with an emphasis on outdoor adventures, a nature-themed adventure playground, and outdoor adventure program for active seniors, eco-tours and tours that combine nature, wildlife, historic and art appreciation.
- 2.4.3 Collaborate with other agencies to provide trails in green space areas, utilizing undeveloped rights-of-way and other publicly owned green space to support nature and the environment, and active living programming.
- 2.4.4 Support the efforts of partner agencies to preserve the environment through active participation and input in planning and regulatory processes such as comprehensive plans, zoning, green space plans, and trails plans.
- 2.4.5 Work with other agencies in town to develop a public arts policy for all town owned properties.

Strategy:

2.5 Provide adequate facilities to support active living programs and services.

Actions:

- 2.5.1 Seek solutions to meet the need for a minimum of one more full size baseball field.
- 2.5.2 Fund the implementation of Manor Park (as planned).
- 2.5.3 In the long term, reduce the number of youth baseball/softball fields in partnership with schools to provide more and higher quality multi-use open space.
- 2.5.4 Conduct economic feasibility and marketing studies to explore the development of new active living specialty facilities. These studies should identify programming, financial pro forma, and operating/management oversight recommendations. Specialty facilities may include:
 - Skate facilities, including skateboarding, roller and in-line skating/hockey.
 - Climbing facilities, such as rock climbing, mountaineering resources, ropes course, urban tree climbing, etc. This could be incorporated as part of children’s play areas. Work with partners to investigate the feasibility of incorporating an Outdoor Adventure and Ropes program into a community signature park
 - Fitness facilities that use natural elements.
 - Outdoor water-related facilities include kayaking, canoeing, rowing and other non-motorized watercraft/boating.
 - Spray/Splash pads
- 2.5.5 Consider lighting of athletic field

Strategy:

2.6 Implement a tiered system of maintenance through the Maintenance Management Plan to ensure that maintenance dollars are invested in tasks that support recreation activities.

Actions:

- 2.6.1 Identify average per-unit maintenance budget costs for park and facility classifications. Use that figure as a guideline for budgeting for maintenance of existing parks and facilities and forecasting operations impacts when new parks and facilities are brought on-line. Maintenance unit costs should be established and periodically reviewed for the following:
 - General park infrastructure
 - Developed landscapes
 - Playgrounds
 - Green space
 - Trails
 - Athletic recreation spaces
- 2.6.2 Regularly assess long-term maintenance, repair and replacement needs for all parks, facilities and equipment.

Goal 3: Connectivity

Strategy:

- 3.1 Support efforts to develop a comprehensive trail plan.

Actions:

- 3.1.1 Work closely with other agencies to identify opportunities, plan and implement trails facilities
Identify a person or committee to represent DPR in trail related activities and planning.
- 3.1.2 Coordinate trail planning efforts with public agencies, such as Mass DCR and MA Department of Transportation, to ensure that Town and regional trails connect with major destinations, such as neighborhood, community and regional parks, green space, community centers, schools, libraries, business districts, and transportation centers.



Strategy:

- 3.2 Provide adequate access to parks and facilities town-wide.

Actions:

- 3.2.1 Provide neighborhood parks and community parks within 1/2 mile and three miles respectively of most residents for convenient access. Take into consideration major streets, railways, topography and water bodies to ensure safe and convenient park access for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3.2.2 Conduct accessibility reviews and develop an implementation strategy to remove existing barriers at parks and facilities for people with and without disabilities.
- 3.2.3 Provide internal pathways connecting park elements in all parks.

Strategy:

- 3.3 Consider future creation of linear parks.

Actions:

- 3.3.1 Partner with other agencies to link open spaces throughout town with a system of linear parks or greenways.



H. Recommendations

Throughout the plan development process, community members have expressed the need for more variety focusing on programming opportunities for youth and older adults, exercise, health and ways to experience nature. Based on these needs, new and existing parks should be designed to offer recreation variety, creating experiences with wide-ranging benefits. Improved facilities should include both traditional facilities such as play areas, and sports fields, as well as alternative options such as nature play, community gardens, and splash pads.



Summary

Expand places for children to play

- Add new and varied play areas and equipment. As part of a capital plan DPR should plan to replace at least one playground every four years and anticipate a lifecycle of 10-15 years. New and rebuilt play areas should be distinct from nearby play areas, and should offer more active play and seating areas for caregivers. Where two play areas are in close proximity, consider varying equipment offerings to diversify types of play. More types of equipment, including climbers, spinners, and disk swings, and ADA accessible structure and surfaces should be incorporated.
- Add nature play elements into existing parks or town owned natural areas. The town should consider nature play in addition to or as an alternative to traditional playground equipment in neighborhood parks throughout the Town. Consider testing out a nature play area within Fairbanks park as a pilot project in connection with providing access to Wigwam Pond. This would be a lower maintenance and more context sensitive solution than placing manufactured equipment in the greenway setting.
- Develop a destination play area. Consider developing at least one destination play area. Destination play areas are designed around a common theme, usually inspired by the location, providing play opportunities that are hands-on, physically challenging and/or educational.
- Destination play areas should be located in the signature park. In this case The Dolan Center makes a lot of sense, it provides a needed amenity to that part of the community. A destination playground at the Dolan Center also brings people to the flagship park of Dedham where there is the greatest opportunity to disseminate information and establish a brand for DPR.

Improve opportunities to experience nature

- Integrate natural processes. Reveal and enhance nature and natural processes through the use of native plantings and green infrastructure as aesthetic park features.

- Add natural play elements-Develop natural play areas where appropriate to protection of the resource and allowing children can interact with nature.
- Provide interpretive signage. Provide signage consistent with brand and marketing message to support environmental education and interpretation. Including wildlife with parks and natural areas, points of interest, plants, history and waterfront areas.
- Increase Access. Build paths and trails with existing parks and natural areas to increase access and interaction. Connect internal park trails with larger plans for greenways, rail trail, neighborhood trails and connections to commercial areas.

Develop new outdoor facilities

- Manor Park has already gone through the process of design and permitting and because much of the amenities within the plans are identified as community needs within this Recreation Master Plan, Manor Park should be a high priority for implementation for DPR. Manor Park is a large project with budget impacts not only upon implementation but also in future maintenance. Consideration should be given to organizing and developing planning and implementation strategies associated with “GOAL 2: Preservation, Growth and Management” prior to implementing Manor Park.
- Identify locations to add community gardens. Identify opportunities to add community gardens within park sites and in partnership with neighborhood organizations. Sites should have minimum six hours of sunlight, a water service and maintenance access. Programming offered could expand on Dedham Grows with partner Green City Growers and add additional programming like environmental, agricultural and nutritional education for youth.
- Add a skate park. Consider adding an active recreation program to the parks system other than organized sports. A skate park offers a new active recreation component and equipment. This may be able to pair with a more permanent outdoor or winter skate rink.
- Add a Spray Ground or Splash Pad. Less maintenance intense than an outdoor pool, splash pads can have a relatively small footprint and can be designed to be sustainable and eco-friendly with recirculation and capture and re-purpose water management systems. Dedham currently does not maintain any outdoor aquatic facilities.
- Add a neighborhood park or pocket park to the Dedham Village/Common area. This area of Dedham is relatively under served by neighborhood or community parks and amenities.
- Previous plans for the former landfill are dated and no longer meet the future needs of the community. A new park master plan should be developed that considers the need for an additional full size baseball field, general open space and trails, and new and potential new amenities such as playgrounds, sport courts, small skate parks or splash pads, see Figure H2 Concept plan for former Dedham landfill.

Consider New Indoor Facilities

- Consider a completing a feasibility study for an indoor community center. As part of the needs assessment it was determined that the community and local organizations are in need of additional indoor space. A feasibility study specific to an indoor community center should be completed to verify these findings. The community center should look to offset indoor programs offered at the Dolan Recreation Center and include at a minimum a full size gym space. Consideration should be given to expanding or renovating the Mucciaccio Pool in combination with a community center.

Develop a Greenway Linkages Plan or Trail Connectivity Plan

When developed, the future trail system should meet the need for nearly all areas of the Town. Though the plan may not be the single answer to creating or improving greenways, it provides important guidance for creating a more robust system. Using the plan as a model, the Town would have the ability to leverage an interconnected trail and greenway system as a major attraction, a recreation resource and a transportation asset.

- Identify utility corridors for greenway and trail expansion. Dedham has several public utility or transit corridors that can double as public trail corridors and improve connections, as suggested in previous planning efforts. The Town should carefully examine these corridors and consider the potential of a trail project to provide connections while improving the aesthetics of the corridor. The Town should work with neighbors early in the process to uncover potential issues and opportunities along these corridors.
- Collaborate with other departments. Development of the trail and greenway system will require close collaboration with other departments including those managing State and Federal lands. Parks, transportation, and public works representatives, as well as utility providers and other agency staff, should work closely to identify a process for moving a trails plan forward.
- Identify a wayfinding system. In conjunction with development of a trails plan a comprehensive wayfinding system should be developed that is recognizable and understandable to all users. The system of signs should indicate where greenways and trailheads are located, distances between destinations, and safety and educational information. It should include a consistent design theme and call for signs that are durable and easy to maintain.
- Identify potential for primary and secondary trailheads. Trailheads should be added throughout the trail network to provide access points and encourage use of the trail system. Both primary and secondary trailheads should be provided and should conform to a consistent design theme. Primary trailheads function as the main entrance for a trail and include restrooms and designated parking. Secondary trailheads provide additional access to trails and do not include restrooms. Trailheads should be incorporated into existing and proposed parks and added as standalone facilities where trail access is needed.

Recommendations for Existing Parks

The condition of the Town's existing parks is important to residents. To further the vision, the Town will need to invest in upgrades to many parks.

Replace playgrounds

Most of the Town's existing playgrounds are composed of a typical post and deck system which does not challenge older youth and does not contribute to park identity. Playgrounds require periodic replacement and have a life cycle of about 12 -15 years, as they age as and as new safety requirements are put in place. The playgrounds listed below should be replaced within the next 12 years. As the Town replaces these playgrounds, the elements should be diversified to include swings, net climbers, spinners, and other more varied manufactured play equipment. Nature play and other types of play experiences should also be incorporated.

- Paul Park
- Barnes Memorial Park
- Churchill Park
- Condon Park

Continue to work on partnering with schools to utilize the properties as surrogate parks in off hours of school day. Use parks expertise to help schools replace playgrounds and include ADA-accessible surfacing.

- Fairbanks Park
- Dolan Center
- Manor Park

Resurface existing sports courts

Dedham has sports courts available for basketball and tennis. To be in playable condition, court surfaces should be smooth without cracks and painted lines should be clearly visible. DPR plans to consider lighting of highly used court facilities with the replacement of each court at the end of its current lifecycle. Court resurfacing should be conducted at the following parks.

- Dedham High School (Tennis) part of MOU
- Churchill Park (Basketball)
- Consider the addition of another Tennis Facility (Dedham is underserved compared to national standards)

Add Shelters

The approach to shelters should fall in line with the community’s identified interest in a higher design quality and in having accessible places to gather. Shelters should be designed based on individual park or neighborhood character and preferences and should fit the scale of the parks in which they are located. Larger structures with greater design detail and features should be provided in larger community parks, while shelters in smaller parks can be smaller and more basic in design. Shelters should be added in the following parks:

- Barnes Memorial Parks
- Churchill Park
- Condon Park
- Fairbanks Park
- Paul Park

Add Restrooms

Parks that attract a high level of community use or attract users for extended time should have restrooms. This was one of the largest categories of feedback that we received input on in the community survey. Restrooms should be added to the following parks:

- Paul Park
- Condon Park
- Dolan Recreation Center (separate from existing building)

Improve existing park entrances and access

Park entrances are important elements of site design, providing a gateway and creating identity. Formal entrances also discourage traffic where it is undesirable, reducing impacts on landscaping and adjacent neighbors. Landscaping, lighting, and park entrance signs are all effective ways to formalize entrances and establish identity. Parks should have clear and accessible entrances from a public street, pathway and/or off-street parking areas. In most cases, entrances must be suitable for maintenance and emergency vehicles. Improved entrances and access should be provided for the following parks.

- Barnes Memorial Park
- Condon Park
- Fairbanks Park
- Church Hill Park
- Dolan Recreation Center

ADA Transition Plan

Most parks have recreation facilities with numerous accessibility barriers (see ADA Access Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in the appendix of the Open Space and Recreation Plan). Improvements include providing an accessible path of travel through each site and to each facility, linking all facilities; adding accessible amenities such as picnic tables, water fountains, restrooms and benches; and ensuring that accessible safety surfacing is provided at all renovated play areas. In addition, ADA guidelines should be considered in all park planning efforts.

Recommendations for Athletic Fields

As identified in the Needs Assessment, Dedham has a need for a mix of formal and informal fields for soccer and other sports requiring rectangular field space. However, many existing parks have spatial constraints that cannot accommodate large field sizes, making the addition of new athletic fields challenging.

Relieving capacity needs will require new facilities as well as changes to existing facilities in order to increase the quantity, quality and availability of field space. The recommended improvements should be phased in over time and addressed from highest priority to lowest priority. Recommended improvements include increasing maintenance on existing athletic fields, replacing existing natural athletic turf fields, re-orienting existing fields, and constructing new fields in town-owned properties.

Core Recommendations

- Establish policies for field usage for leagues and organizations based on a defined number of games and practices for each team.
- Update maintenance standards on all fields as outlined in the maintenance section of this

report (Chapter I).

- Evaluate policies related to fees on scheduled fields.
- Establish a life cycle maintenance and renewal/replacement program for all athletic fields to extend the life of fields and have the ability to replace or renovate fields once they have reached their useful lives.

Athletic Field Capital Improvement Plan

Establish a phased Athletic Field Capital Improvements Plan focusing on the following: Address high priority needs within five years beginning with redevelopment of school yards to allow current usage to shift to those fields while funding and development of new takes place. Address medium and low priority needs within five to 15 years while considering the overall effectiveness of the high priority improvements and any shifts in demand that might occur during this period.

Additional improvements that should be included in all redevelopment and new development projects including field amenities such as restrooms, subsurface drainage, irrigation, scoreboards, bleachers, and storage facilities.

High Priority

Implement proposed plans for Manor Park. This project is well supported by the public. The plans have a number of benefits beyond athletic recreation space including new playgrounds, tennis courts a permanent dog park and a large system of trails. The proposed synthetic turf fields will alleviate some pressures on the system for more athletic recreation space and lighting of the fields will dramatically extend their use, however without rehabilitation of the school yards into safer multi-use open space, Dedham will still have a lack of athletic space to support its youth organizations.

Medium Priority

Plan and implement a new Park Master Plan for Fairbanks Park. Fairbanks park currently serves as a special use park with three youth baseball fields and Frietas Soccer Field. Major improvements are needed to replace the contaminated irrigation system and the fields are extremely close to one another creating unsafe playing conditions when fields are being concurrently used. Once Manor Park (as planned) is constructed Frietas field will no longer be needed for soccer capacity and the park should be re-planned to serve as community park. The plan should include a tournament level youth baseball/softball complex with three fields properly spaced apart and oriented. The plan should also accommodate a system of trails that provides access to Wigwam Pond, a natural playground or splash pad and outdoor fitness stations.

Low Priority

DPR should strongly consider partnering with the Dedham School District to create new site master plans that address the following concerns:

- Updating of the open space within the school yards reduces the amount of intense maintenance required by baseball/softball fields. Fields that are engineered and irrigated can withstand a more intense amount of use which will have a positive effect on the capacity of athletic recreation space. Natural turf fields need to be rested and steps should be taken to ensure that the number of events that occur on each field are regulated by a field policy in order to help maintain a healthy playing surface.
- Plan and Implement a new park master plan for Barnes Memorial Park.
- Barnes Memorial Park is the largest park in the park system. It is also the most heavily used for athletic recreation purposes. The fields receive an unsustainable amount of use by baseball, softball, soccer, and football. Lighting is outdated and needs to be replaced, and only portions of the site are irrigated. With pressure relief from school yards and the proposed Manor Park, Barnes Memorial should be re-planned. Davis field should become a dedicated baseball field with updated fences including the outfield, new dugouts, a score board, and new lighting. Heaphy Field and the softball field should updated but remain primary fields with secondary overlays. The park edges could be softened with developed plantings and gardens to support adult and environmental programming and internal trails system linking spaces and the new Gonzalez Field.

School	Planning Recommendations
Capen School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove baseball/softball fields. • Re-purpose area to be general open space that accommodates practice and low level soccer. • Relocate the basketball court to the upper part of the site and combine with a new playground.
Greenlodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the south west facing baseball/softball field. • Re-grade the entire area. • Provide subsurface drainage and irrigation throughout the open space. • Replace playground. • Provide pathways for better accessibility to the athletic open space and playground.
Loewen Field (Middle School)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible pathways to the dugouts and field. • Install new irrigation system.
Oakdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove softball fields. • Re-grade the open space to accommodate a single large multi-use field with maximum 2% slope. • Install irrigation and subsurface drainage. • Replace playground.
Riverdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update irrigation and provide subsurface drainage. • Provide accessible pathways to the dugouts. • Renovate and replace infield. • Replace playground in future project.

Figure 27. Example of Concept Master Plan for Former Dedham Landfill



I. Maintenance Plan

DPR maintains 96+ acres of park land in addition to athletic fields and open space associated with the Town's schools. Similar to other parks and recreation entities throughout the country a large portion of DPR's operating expenses are dedicated to maintenance. DPR has annual budget of approximately \$1,200,000, of which approximately \$800,000 is allocated through the Town of Dedham. This chapter outlines a plan for a tiered approach to the maintenance of parks spaces and amenities carefully considering the most efficient use of capital and labor resources. Other budgetary responsibilities of DPR include:



- Operating and maintaining indoor facilities at the Dolan Recreation Center.
- Budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff.
- Organization of major Town-wide special events.
- Operate, maintain or manage trails within parks.
- Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces.
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports fields.
- Operate Manage and maintain an indoor aquatic facility.

The average annual operating expenses for a parks and recreation agency based on the “2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review” is \$77.32 per capita. The typical parks and recreation agency generates approximately \$19.04 per capita and has a staff average of 7.3 full time employees for every 10,000 residents.

DPR also maintains the follow equipment used for the maintenance of park facilities:

- Sit on lawn mowers (2)
- Dump trucks (3)
- Pickup trucks (2)
- Front end loaders (2) (Kaboda and Ford)
- Aerator (1)
- Small aerator (1)
- Push mowers (5)
- Sand pro (1)
- Weed wackers (4)
- Leaf blowers (2)
- Slice seeder small (1)
- Snow blower (1)

The maintenance plan will outline a maintenance approach under the following five divisions: Turfgrass, Trees & Landscaped Areas, Skinned Infields, Synthetic Turf, Walking Trails, and Facilities & Site Amenities.

Turfgrass

Table 16. Level 1 Turf Grass Maintenance (Low use general open space)

Mowing and Trim	Satisfactory turf coverage will be mowed and trimmed as needed to maintain a height-of-cut (HOC) between 2.5” and 4”. Clippings will be side discharged or mulched into the turf canopy.
Seeding	Thin or bare areas deemed unacceptable will be documented and addressed by priority. Renovation will consist of soil cultivation, seeding, and fertilization using a “starter” type product. Methods of renovation will be determined by site restrictions, equipment, labor, and material availability.
Herbicides	Obstructions requiring hand trim work (such as: fences, permanent structures, and other immovable objects) will be assessed and treated with non-selective herbicides to reduce labor inputs.
PGR's	Plant growth regulators (PGR's) may be utilized on turf areas to reduce labor requirements.

Table 17. Level 2 Turf Grass (General open space non- athletic use)

Mowing and Trim	Satisfactory turf coverage will be mowed and trimmed as needed to maintain a height-of-cut (HOC) between 2.0” and 3.5”. Clippings will be side discharged or mulched into the turf canopy.
Seeding	Thin or bare areas deemed unacceptable will be documented and addressed by priority. Renovation will consist of soil cultivation, seeding, and fertilization using a “starter” type product. Methods of renovation will be determined by site restrictions, equipment, labor, and material availability.
Cultivation	Aerification will be done once annually or as equipment and labor are available. Preferred equipment will be the ground driven aerifier with a ¾-inch dual hollow tine set-up. Seeding operations should be coordinated with aerification to maximize the value of both processes.
Fertilization	Turf will receive one annual application of fertilizer in the autumn of each year that consists of at least 1 lb of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet. Fertilizer products having 30% to 50%+ slow release properties will be favored with the intention of building a “bank” of available nutrients. Additional fertilizer inputs will be driven by labor and resource availability.
Herbicides	Obstructions requiring hand trim work (such as: fences, permanent structures, and other immovable objects) will be assessed and treated with non-selective herbicides to reduce labor inputs.
PGR's	Plant growth regulators (PGR's) may be utilized on turf areas to reduce labor requirements.

Table 18. Level 3 Turf Grass Maintenance (Non-Irrigated Athletic Open Space)

Mowing and Trim	Turf will be mowed and trimmed as needed and no less than once weekly to maintain a HOC between 1.5 inches and 3.0 inches to be determined by the Grounds Manager. Clippings will be side discharged or mulched into the turf canopy.
Seeding	Seeding will be done as needed to maintain an acceptable turf stand. The preference will be a full-scale, fall overseeding in conjunction with hollow tine aerification. Spring and summer seeding will be as needed and will be paired with some form of cultivation to maximize the efficacy of the seeding operation. Thinning or bare areas will be treated as a priority. Sod will be utilized as a last resort in areas where excessive use prevents establishment of turf from seed.
Cultivation	Aerification will be performed at least once and preferably twice annually with the ground driven aerifier. A ¾ inch dual hollow tine set-up and 2X pattern will achieve 12% surface disruption per operation. Aerification and seeding should be combined whenever possible.
Fertilization	Fertilizer will be applied to achieve a minimum annual input of four pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Fertilizer products having 30% to 50%+ slow release properties will be favored with the intention of building a “bank” of available nutrients. Macro and micro nutrient inputs will be based in part on soil and water test results. Additional fertility inputs will be driven by labor and resources.
Irrigation	Water will be applied as needed to supplement natural rainfall with a target amount of one inch per week. The policy will favor deep and infrequent applications. Level three areas do not have in-ground irrigation systems. Rain Train style units will be utilized where available.
Herbicides	Preemergent herbicides will be applied in the spring as dictated by soil temperatures and germination characteristics of crabgrass and other grassy weeds. Broadleaf weeds will be treated one or two times annually as weather and labor permit. The three-year plan is to reduce broadleaf weeds to an aesthetically acceptable level and reduce herbicide inputs to one annual “spot treatment” type application. Obstructions requiring hand trim work (such as: fences, permanent structures, and other immovable objects) will be assessed and treated with non-selective herbicides to reduce labor inputs.
PGR's	Plant growth regulators (PGR's) may be utilized on turf areas to reduce labor requirements.
Insecticides	One application annually to prevent all species of white grubs. Additional inputs needed to control surface feeding insects will be evaluated to assess potential damage and treated accordingly.
Soil and Water Testing	Soil and water tests will be taken once annually or at a reasonable interval to be determined by the Grounds Manager. Immobile nutrients such as phosphorous, calcium and magnesium will be applied at the time of aerification and rates will be driven by soil and water test results. Soluble products like gypsum, potassium, sulfur and any recommended micronutrients will be applied during the course of normal fertilization operations.

Table 19. Level 4 Turf Grass Maintenance (Irrigated Dedicated Athletic Space)

Mowing and Trim	Turf will be mowed and trimmed as needed and no less than 2 times weekly to maintain a HOC between 1.5” and 2.5” to be determined by the Grounds Manager. Clippings will be side discharged or mulched into the turf canopy.
Seeding	Seeding will be done as needed to maintain an acceptable turf stand. The preference will be a full-scale, fall overseeding in conjunction with hollow tine aerification. Spring and summer seeding will be as needed and will be paired with some form of cultivation to maximize the efficacy of the seeding operation. Thinning or bare areas will be treated as a priority. Pregerminated seed may be utilized when appropriate for quick coverage. Sod will be utilized as a last resort in areas where excessive use prevents establishment of turf from seed.
Cultivation	Aerification will be performed at least once and preferably twice annually with the ground driven aerifier. A ¾” dual hollow tine set-up and 2X pattern will achieve 12% surface disruption per operation. Aerification and seeding should be combined whenever possible. Cultivation with solid tines, knives, or other equipment will be scheduled as need by the Grounds Manager to aid in seeding, topdressing, to achieve improved soil structure, reduced compaction and promote gas exchange within the root zone.
Fertilization	Fertilizer will be applied to achieve a minimum annual input of 4.9 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet. Fertilizer products having 30% to 50%+ slow release properties will be favored with the intention of building a “bank” of available nutrients. Macro and micro nutrient inputs will be based in part on soil and water test results. Additional fertility inputs will be driven by labor and resources.
Irrigation	Level 4 areas have in-ground irrigation systems run by a central controller. Water will be applied on an as needed basis with an emphasis placed on maintaining the driest conditions possible to support the turfgrass stand. Reduced length of turfgrass wetness will be the primary goal when programming. Nozzle precipitation rates will determine run times. Syringing will be performed in the afternoons if turfgrass stands display signs of wilt. All efforts will be made to coordinate notification with appropriate departments and organizations when syringing is necessary.
Herbicides	Pre-emergent herbicides will be applied in the spring as dictated by soil temperatures and germination characteristics of crabgrass and other grassy weeds. Broadleaf weeds will be treated one or two times annually as weather and labor permit. The three-year plan is to reduce broadleaf weeds to an aesthetically acceptable level and reduce herbicide inputs to one annual “spot treatment” type application. Obstructions requiring hand trim work (such as: fences, permanent structures, and other immovable objects) will be assessed and treated with non-selective herbicides to reduce labor inputs.

Plant growth regulators (PGR's)	PGR's may be utilized on turf areas to reduce labor requirements.
Insecticides	Insecticides will be applied preventatively with an emphasis placed on low toxicity products. The organophosphate family of insecticides will be avoided. Product selection and use will be at the discretion of the Grounds Manager.
Soil and Water Testing	Soil and water tests will be taken once annually or at a reasonable interval to be determined by the Grounds Manager. Immobile nutrients such as phosphorous, calcium and magnesium will be applied at the time of aerification and rates will be driven by soil and water test results. Soluble products like gypsum, potassium, sulfur and any recommended micronutrients will be applied during the course of normal fertilization operations.
Topdressing	Topdressing will be implemented as aggressively as possible. Targeted annual depth will be ½ inch of a sand based material applied incrementally not to exceed 1/8 inch per application. Sand particle size should fall within the medium specifications not to exceed one mm in size. Organic matter should compose at least 20% of the mix. Topdressing will be combined with cultivation operations whenever possible.

The average cost to maintain a Level 4 USGA sand-based rectangular multi-use field (Avery School) mowings twice weekly for 33 weeks, including:

- Cultivation
- Watering
- Overseeding
- Chemical Application
- Topdressing
- Game Prep

Cost \$0.22/sf

The average cost to maintain a Level 3 rectangular multi-use field of approximately 70,000 square feet including mowings 1.5 times average weekly for 33 weeks, including:

- Cultivation
- Watering
- Overseeding
- Chemical Application
- Game Prep

Cost \$0.18/sf

Skinned Infields

Skinned infields require a significant amount of labor to keep them safe and playable. Approximately 75% of the game of softball or baseball is played on the infield and as players become older and the game gets faster it becomes more crucial that an infield is properly maintained to prevent injury. It is important to know a field's composition. ASTM publishes a range for standard infield mix composition. It is recommended that all DPR skinned infields be made up of approximately 70% sand and 30% silt/clay with a silt-to-clay ratio of 0.5-1.0.

Management of multiple types of infield mixes across the various parks and schools makes it difficult to maintain consistent playing surfaces. The most crucial part to maintaining an infield mix is moisture which is directly correlated to a skinned infield's composition. Hot weather or rain can adversely affect moisture in the field. DPR will work with local organizations to develop a tarp policy as part of an agreement for use of the fields. Nail dragging is a vital tool for maintaining a field's surface as it removes imperfections and help create a firm surface. Nail dragging should be done as often as resources allow, a minimum of twice weekly for higher level fields and once a week for lower level fields. Finish or smooth dragging should be done after nail dragging. Smooth drag patterns should be in the opposite direction of nail drag patterns. Additional smooth dragging can be done as necessary by walking with a smooth drag.

DPR should work with local organizations using the fields to develop a field policy that requires mandatory performance of daily tasks to keep the field in good playing condition. Tasks should include position maintenance, mound and batter's box maintenance after each practice or event to prevent low spots or excessive degradation of the infield. This type of field policy create a sense of pride and ownership by getting the community involved, including athletes, parents, booster club members, etc.

- Have players work on their specific areas (pitchers on mound, infielders on lips, etc) for greater connection and sense of ownership.
- Take advantage of work-study programs.

The primary role of DPR management and staff will be to train others to properly perform daily tasks that provide good playing conditions without detrimental effects to the fields and to provide the maintenance outlined in the following table.

Table 20. Skinned Infields Maintenance

Debris Removal	Remove debris such as rocks, grass clippings, trash, weeds, etc. Remove chalk down the base paths and around home plate with a flat square shovel. This helps prevent a 'build-up' or hump that can occur down the middle of the baseline and around the home plate area.
Water	Water is very important in an infield mix. Infield should maintain a cork-board effect or cleat in cleat out. Use the "key test". Use a spare key, insert it into the infield dirt. The key should go through the infield dirt with relative ease and when pulled out should not break apart; this will make for a clean spike mark as well. Repeat this method randomly throughout the skinned area in order to gauge proper moisture.

Lip Maintenance	Inspect for clay or conditioner in lips (where grass meets dirt) of the skinned area where dirt can accumulate. If there is a build-up present, use a plastic fan rake, pine broom and/or blast the dirt back with a water hose onto the infield when really bad.
Dragging	Nail Drag two times a week but only when the infield has the proper moisture. Nail Drag in different directions to avoid waves or ruts. Stay at least one inch away from all edges. Mat drag or finish drag two times weekly. Drag in 9'-10' circles from third to first vary starting locations each time you drag at a speed not faster than you can walk. Mat drag base paths by hand in the direction of the base paths and never across the base path. Always carry drags off the field.
Edging	Trim all infield edges once a month. After trimming roll all edges and base- paths.
Mounds	Mound maintenance should be done daily. Holes in the mounds should be filled with proper mound clay. Remove surface material down to the clay product. Scarify wet and add clay in lifts tamping to compact product. Cover clay product with between one half and one inch of infield mix and cover with tarp.
Testing	Infield make up should be tested every other year. Consistency of products should be maintained for all infields across DPR. Infield mix should be between 60 and 70% sand and 30-40% clay (adjust to best maintain moisture levels.) Infield mix should have a silt to clay ratio of 0.5-1.0
Season End	Remove all conditioner products by sweeping into piles and placing in five gal buckets and store in cool dry area.
Bi-annual	Infields should be laser graded on a bi-annual basis. This is preventative maintenance to keep from infield replacement. Infield mix should added as necessary and tilled into the full profile to create a good bond. After infield is laser graded it should be rolled and surveyed for records and reestablishment.

The average annual cost to maintain a softball field including mowing two times average weekly for 33 weeks:

- Cultivation
- Watering
- Overseeding
- Chemical Application
- Game Prep
- Skin and Mound Maintenance

Cost \$0.36/sf

The average annual cost to maintain a baseball field including mowing two times average weekly for 33 weeks

- Cultivation
- Watering
- Overseeding
- Chemical Application
- Game Prep
- Skin and Mound Maintenance

Cost \$0.20/sf

Synthetic Turf

Synthetic turf is relatively low maintenance compared to high end natural grass fields, but synthetic turf fields are not “NO” maintenance. All synthetic turf fields should be groomed every 100 hours of use. This includes brooming, using a magnet to pick up any small metal objects, and use of a sweeper and litter catcher to remove debris. High use areas should be checked daily for infill depth and migration, these areas are often the first to degrade and can void a warranty if they are not cared for as outlined by the synthetic turf manufacturer. Seams and inlays should be checked every time a field is groomed these areas are also prone to degradation over time but the repairs can be simple if caught early. Annual maintenance, inspection and testing done by the manufacturer or professional service is recommended, it often prolongs the life of the turf and should be built into the annual budget for each field.

Table 21. Synthetic Turf Maintenance

Grooming	Fields should be groomed every 100 hours of use or as directed in your synthetic turf maintenance manual.
Infill	Depth of infill should be measured in all high traffic and high wear areas every day when fields are used on a regular basis. Add infill and brush in by hand or with a broom to maintain appropriate depth.
Annual Maintenance	Annual Maintenance shall be contracted to occur prior to the fall sports season for all synthetic turf fields. Annual maintenance includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Grooming • Deep Cleaning • Line Repair • Seam Repair • Infill Replenishment • Line Striping Magnetic • Sweeping • Brushing • G-Max / HIC Testing

The average annual cost to maintain a Synthetic turf field including grooming weekly for 33 weeks,

- Adding Infill
- Seam Repair
- Game Prep
- Annual Maintenance

Total = \$8,000 including labor and supplies (does not include electricity for sports lighting)

*Note this is an average and costs are often heavier on the back end of a synthetic turf field’s life cycle.



Trees and Landscape

The intent of providing a maintenance plan for tree and landscape areas is the beautification of public spaces throughout Dedham. Proper plant selection, pruning, fertilization, weed control, and water management will all result in plant material and overall landscaping that are aesthetically pleasing.

Table 22. Trees and Landscape Maintenance.

Plant Selection	<p>The addition of new plant material will be approached with site characteristics in mind first. Both woody and herbaceous plants will thrive and require the least amount of additional inputs when located appropriately on site.</p> <p>Plant material will be chosen to match or compliment the original design of existing landscaped areas when rehabilitation or expansions are undertaken. When a master plan exists, choices will be made from the recommendations of the landscape architect. Plant selection should be native and drought tolerant with exceptions only being made for specific programming functions.</p>
Pruning and Removal	<p>Best Practices as outlined by the International Society of Arborists (ISA) and other resources deemed as “expert” will govern the techniques and practices employed. It is expected that the grounds management workers will have practical knowledge of these practices and techniques.</p> <p>An inventory and assessment of trees was performed in 2006 for eight parks in Dedham (Appendix D) and data on the condition of trees was delivered to the Town in GIS files. The report includes recommendations for tree and landscape maintenance including, but not limited to, the removal or pruning of trees, routine mulching of beds, removal of invasive species, and poison ivy management. This report can be used as an implementation plan for the immediate future. The Town should work to both expand the scope of the report to other parks and to routinely update the GIS documentation.</p>
Bed Maintenance	<p>Hard edging will be performed once annually with soft edging to follow as needed throughout the season to maintain a defined edge. Mulch or other treatments may be applied to cover the soil for aesthetic and protective purposes. Mulching will take place once annually in the spring. Cleaning, raking, or the addition of a mulch material will take place at the discretion of the Grounds Manager to maintain a neat appearance.</p>

Trails

DPR currently maintains a small amount of hard surface trails with-in its current park system. However walking trails were one of the most popular forms of recreation and requested amenities on the public survey. The following table represents a preliminary plan for maintenance accommodations of trails in the future of Dedham’s park system.

The average annual cost for trail maintenance is between \$2,500 and \$6,000 per mile. Variations in surfacing, width, and areas with structures such as bridges, walls, drainage utilities, etc. make up the largest differences in cost.

Table 23. Trails Maintenance

Aggregate Trails	Trails will be toppedressed and compacted with matching material to maintain a surface free of ruts or other tripping hazards on an annual basis in the spring. Stabilization of surface material may be achieved using various urethane based products in areas that consistently experience water erosion.
Hard Surface Trails	Hard surface trails will be blown or swept free of debris as necessary to maintain a surface free of tripping hazards. Condition of the hard surface material will be assessed during weekly and monthly inspections and deficiencies will be reported to the necessary departments to schedule for repair or replacement. DPR shall remove snow from all hard surface trails with its parks.



J. Capital Improvements Planning

A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), or Capital Improvements Program, is a short-range plan (typically four to ten years) that identifies necessary projects or equipment, a schedule for completion, and potential funding sources. Coordination with the Town's Capital Expenditures Committee and attention to the needs of DPR will be critical to meeting the goals and actions outlined in this Master Plan.

Resources used to implement the CIP will come from the following sources:



- **General Fund:** Each new budget cycle, the Town reviews overall capital needs for the next fiscal year and allocates a specified dollar amount from the general fund toward capital improvements, depending upon overall priorities and budget resources.
- **Department of Conservation and Recreation:** The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is an agency of the State of Massachusetts. This agency is a major funder of recreation and conservation projects throughout the state through competitive grants. The grant application process weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria.
- **Federal grants:** In addition to federal funding that passes through the DCR, additional grant funding is available through a variety of federal agencies. DPR specifically anticipates targeting grants benefiting waterfront and water quality improvements.
- **Private donations:** The CIP anticipates successful personal and corporate fundraising for projects with special public interest, such as special exhibits or work at individual park sites. This work will primarily be accomplished through coordinated efforts with various user groups and organizations.
- **Grants (state and local):** In addition to DCR grant funding, other grant funding is available through a variety of state agencies, local jurisdictions and private foundations. The CIP assumes that funding will be from a variety of sources in order to meet DPR long term goals.
- **Private Public Partnerships:** This revenue category includes funding from major sponsors who receive a high benefit from being associated with certain locations or having facilities dedicated to certain users. This could include developer contributions toward these sites or projects, but they should be in line with Town and DPR policies for naming rights, permitting uses, and social equity to facilities.

The adoption of this Recreation Master Plan by DPR is only the first step in establishing a long-term strategic direction for the organization. Beyond its adoption, DPR will implement the plan by further developing an action plan and operating budgets to achieve the vision, mission and goals as outlined.

Plan Implementation

Implementing the long-term vision, mission, and goals outlined in this Recreation Master Plan requires a deeper level of understanding. This involves further work to direct the development and prioritization of action strategies, mid-term DPR program services, business plans, and budgets that must be aligned with the Town's CIP funding cycle.

Upon adoption of the Plan, DPR staff will undertake subsequent tasks to provide guidance for plan implementation:

- Develop an impact assessment checklist for inclusion in all staff reports and memoranda to the Park Commissioners for decision-making. The checklist should be designed to help staff determine the environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits and risks associated with any proposed actions to the organization and the community-at-large and identify population groups being affected in the community.
- Reassess park level of service (LOS), as recommended in Chapter E, to further ensure “close proximity” of parks to support healthy communities and neighborhoods.
- Develop and adopt program LOS to uphold social equity.
- Determine DPR's respective roles as a primary provider, a facilitator, a partner, a sponsor or an information clearing house in addressing future park and recreation needs in Dedham.
- Further assess facility classification and capital needs based on an adopted programs and LOS.

Planning is a continuous process and so this document should be considered to be a living document that will change and evolve with trends and the needs of the Town. Changing needs and analysis of performance outcomes will constantly inform the organization whether the plan is on the right track or needs revision. To help monitor plan implementation, DPR must apply performance criteria and be engaged in a continuous learning, self-evaluation and improvement process.

Moving forward with the completion of this plan DPR will get started with the following tasks to create and nurture a performance management culture within the organization:

- Train staff to integrate core values and performance management best practices into daily business and operations.
- Operationalize defined performance measures and develop a manual to provide staff guidance on the timeline, frequency and logistics of performance data collection.
- Conduct community surveys and other assessments to collect baseline data for the defined performance measures.
- Develop achievable targets, with other town departments and staff, for each performance criteria using data collected.
- Ensure consistent use and interpretation of data in all levels of planning and strategic alignment by allocating resources to coordinate Town-wide performance management activities in conjunction with planning.

Table 24. Recommendations for Capital Improvement Planning.

Project Type	Park	Description	Priority			Project Cost	Maintenance Impact
			High	Medium	Low		
ND	Dolan Recreation Center	Park Improvements will include 4 new sand volley- ball courts, ADA accessible path ways, improvements for a permanent dog park, new entrance design and signage, a restroom to support volleyball, softball and boat launch and general improvements to park common areas.		x		\$350,000	4,000
I	All Park Properties	New Signage/Entrances, to be developed with DPR’s branding and marketing efforts	x			\$150,000	None
ND	Dedham Village	Design and Develop a new neighborhood park to serve the Dedham Village area.			x	\$300,000	Impact will be based on new park plans
P	Greenway Plan	Develop trails and connectivity plan to connect public open space in town	x			\$85,000 -125,000	\$6,000/ mi
R	Capen School	Remove baseball/softball fields re-purpose area to be general open space that accommodates practice and low level soccer. Relocate the basketball court to the upper part of the site and combine with a new playground.					\$-4,000

R	Green-lodge School	Remove the south west facing baseball/ softball field. Regrade the entire area Provide subsurface drainage and irrigation throughout the open space. Replace playground Provide pathways for better accessibility to the athletic open space and playground.			x	\$600,000	-4 000
I	Loewen Field, Middle School	Provide accessible pathways to the dug-outs and field. Install new irrigation system.		x		\$60,000	None
I	Riverdale	Update irrigation and provide subsurface drainage Provide accessible pathways to the dug-outs Renovate and Replace Infield			x	\$100,000	4,000
R	Riverdale	Replace Playground			x		\$2,000
ND	Manor Park	Construct the proposed design plans for Manor Park	x			\$14,000,000	\$30,000
ND		Community Gardens		x		\$100,000	\$5,000
ND		Splash Pad/Spray Ground		x		\$250,000	\$15,000
ND		Skate Park		x		\$500,000	
P		Exploration of a new indoor facility		x		\$65,000	NA

Project Type

I – Improvements

ND – New Development

P – Planning

R – Renovation

R	Paul Park	New shelter/re-stroom, Replacement of existing playground, renovation of existing ball diamond, construction of accessible pathways			x	\$600,000	\$2,000
R	Condon	New shelter/ re-stroom, construction of accessible pathways, replacement of existing playground. Renovation of existing baseball diamond		x		\$650,000	\$2,000
R	Fairbanks	Master Plan and Renovate Fairbanks Park (see recommendations)			x	\$4,500,000	NA
R	Barnes Memorial Park	Master Plan and Renovate Barnes Memorial Park (See Recommendations)			x	\$2,000,000	NA
R	Barnes Memorial Park	Field lighting replacement	x			\$1,200,000	NA
ND	Nature Playground				x	\$250,000	\$2,000
ND	Destination Playground	Nature play, ropes course or other programming that diversifies current offerings and is large enough to be considered a regional attraction	x			400,000-1M May choose to do more than one specifically if implemented at the Dolan Recreation Center.	\$2,000

Project Type

I – Improvements

ND – New Development

P – Planning

R – Renovation

ND	Former Landfill	Previous plans for the former landfill are dated and no longer meet the future needs of the community. New concept plan should be developed and implemented that considers the need for an additional full size baseball field, general open space and trails, and new and potential new amenities such as playgrounds, sport courts, small skate parks or splash pads.			x	Because of the potential financial impact of Manor Park, concept planning for the Former landfill site may be a medium priority but its design and construction should remain a low priority with expectations that funding will be more long term. \$3.3-4 Million	Impact will be based on new park plans
I	ADA Transition Plans*		x			\$2-5 Million	NA

*See ADA Transition Plans in the Dedham Open Space and Recreation Plan, Section 504 Accessibility Report.

Project Type

I – Improvements

ND – New Development

P – Planning

R – Renovation