

TOWNSEND

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2012



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION I: PLAN SUMMARY</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>SECTION II: INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>4</u>
2.1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.....	4
2.2 PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	6
<u>SECTION III: COMMUNITY SETTING.....</u>	<u>7</u>
3.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT	7
3.1.1. <i>Location and Physical context</i>	7
3.1.2. <i>Socio-Economic context</i>	7
3.1.3. <i>Shared Resources</i>	8
3.2 HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY	10
3.3 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	13
3.4 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	14
3.4.1 <i>Growth and Development Patterns</i>	14
3.4.2 <i>Infrastructure</i>	15
3.4.3 <i>Long-term Development Patterns</i>	18
<u>SECTION IV: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>19</u>
4.1 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS	19
4.1.1 <i>Topography</i>	19
4.1.2 <i>Geology</i>	20
4.1.3 <i>Soils</i>	21
4.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	22
4.3 WATER RESOURCES	23
4.3.1 <i>Rivers, Streams and Wetlands</i>	23
4.3.2 <i>Flood Hazard Areas</i>	25
4.3.3 <i>Water Supply</i>	25
4.4 VEGETATION	26
4.4.1 <i>Forests</i>	26
4.4.2 <i>Open fields</i>	27
4.4.3 <i>Public Shade Trees</i>	27
4.4.4 <i>Unique Natural Resources</i>	28
4.5 FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE	28
4.6 SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS	30
4.6.1 <i>Scenic Landscapes and Geologic Features</i>	30
4.6.2 <i>Cultural and Historic Areas</i>	31
4.6.3 <i>Unique Environments - ACEC</i>	31
4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS	33
4.7.1 <i>Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites</i>	33
4.7.2 <i>Landfills</i>	33
4.7.3 <i>Erosion and Sedimentation</i>	34
4.7.4 <i>Chronic Flooding</i>	34
4.7.5 <i>Septic Systems</i>	34
4.7.6 <i>Stormwater</i>	34
4.7.7 <i>New Development</i>	35
4.7.8 <i>Ground & Surface Water Pollution</i>	35
4.7.9 <i>Impaired Water Bodies</i>	36
4.7.10 <i>Forestry Issues</i>	36
4.7.11 <i>Invasive Species</i>	36
4.7.12 <i>Environmental Equity Issues</i>	36
<u>SECTION V: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION</u>	
<u>INTEREST.....</u>	<u>37</u>
5.1 PRIVATE PARCELS	38

5.1.1 Chapter 61 – Forest lands	38
5.1.2 Chapter 61A – Agricultural lands.....	38
5.1.3 Chapter 61B – Recreation lands.....	39
5.1.4 Private Parcels with Restrictions.....	39
5.2 PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS	40
TABLE 5.1 PRIVATELY OWNED PARCELS.....	41
TABLE 5.2 PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS	44
SECTION VI: COMMUNITY VISION	53
6.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS.....	53
6.2 STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS	53
SECTION VII: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	54
7.1 SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS	54
7.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY’S NEEDS	54
7.3 MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE	55
7.4 COMMUNITY NEEDS IN RELATION TO SCORP	55
SECTION VIII: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	56
SECTION IX: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN	59
SECTION X: REFERENCES.....	69
APPENDIX A:	71
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES	82
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION SURVEY COMMENTS 11/17/2010.....	85
APPENDIX B:	96
MASSACHUSETTS NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES INFORMATION.....	96
APPENDIX C:	106
HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES AND SPILLS.....	106
APPENDIX D:	110
PUBLIC FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT.....	111
PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES.....	112
PUBLIC FORUM SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION	114
APPENDIX E:	120
LETTERS OF COMMENT FROM TOWN BOARDS.....	120
APPENDIX F:	125
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT SELF-EVALUATION.....	125
APPENDIX G:.....	126
MAP 1: REGIONAL CONTEXT	126
MAP 3: ZONING DISTRICTS.....	126
MAP 4: SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES	126
MAP 5: SURFACE WATER RESOURCES.....	126
MAP 6: FEMA FLOODPLAINS.....	126
MAP 7: WATER SUPPLY RESOURCES	126
MAP 8: NHESP PRIORITY HABITAT OF RARE SPECIES	126
MAP 9: NHESP BioMap2 AREAS	126
MAP 10: UNIQUE AND SCENIC FEATURES.....	126
MAP 11: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	126
MAP 12: OPEN SPACE AND CHAPTER 61 LANDS.....	126

MAP 13: ACTION PLAN.....126