

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk with railings winding through a dense forest. The boardwalk is made of light-colored wood and has a simple railing design. The forest is filled with tall trees and lush green foliage, including ferns and large-leafed plants in the foreground. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

TOWN OF BOXFORD

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2023

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Cover photo: Trail bridge on Nason Conservation Land. © BTA/BOLT Inc., 2019.

Abbreviations, Initialisms, and Acronyms

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACEC | = | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | MassDOT | = | Massachusetts Department of Transportation |
| ADA | = | American Disabilities Act of 1990 | MBTA | = | Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority |
| AgCom | = | Boxford Agricultural Commission | MeVa | = | Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority |
| APR | = | Agricultural Preservation Restriction | N | = | Nomadic |
| AU | = | Attained Uses | NHESP | = | Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program |
| BAA | = | Boxford Athletic Association | NPDES | = | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| BCT | = | Bay Circuit TrailBoH = Boxford Board of Health | NT | = | National Register of Historic Places |
| BoS | = | Boxford Board of Selectmen/Select Board | OSRP | = | Open Space & Recreation Plan |
| BTA/BOLT | = | Boxford Trails Association/Boxford Open Land Trust | OSRPC | = | Boxford Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee |
| C | = | Common | PARC | = | Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities |
| ConsCom | = | Boxford Conservation Commission | PFS | = | Private Funding Sources |
| CPA | = | Massachusetts Community Preservation Act of 2000 (M.G.L. Chapter 44B) | PlanBd | = | Boxford Planning Board |
| CPC | = | Boxford Community Committee | PR | = | Preservation Restriction |
| CR | = | Conservation Restriction | R | = | Rare |
| DCS | = | Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation Services | R/A | = | Residential or Agriculture |
| DPW | = | Boxford Department of Public Works | RA | = | Raise and Appropriate |
| E | = | Endangered | RAO | = | Response Action Outcome |
| ECGA | = | Essex County Greenbelt Association | RecCom | = | Boxford Recreation Committee |
| EOEEA | = | Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs | RS | = | Resident Species |
| FEMA | = | Federal Emergency Management Agency | SAFETEA-LU | = | Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act — A Legacy for Users |
| FinCom | = | Boxford Finance Committee | SB | = | Serial Bond |
| FIRM | = | Flood Insurance Rate Map | SC | = | Special Concern |
| FST | = | Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (acq. by Stantec in 2015) | SchoolCom | = | Boxford School Committee |
| G | = | Grants | T | = | Threatened |
| GIS | = | Geographic Information System | TMDL | = | Total Maximum Daily Load |
| HistCom | = | Boxford Historic Commission | TownAdmin | = | Boxford Town Administrator |
| IWPA | = | Interim Wellhead Protection Area | TTOR | = | Trustees of Reservations, The |
| LAND | = | Land Acquisition for Natural Diversity | U.S.C. | = | United States Code |
| LandCom | = | Boxford Land Committee | U.S.D.A. | = | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| LHD | = | Local Historic District | UC | = | Uncommon |
| M | = | Migratory | YMCA | = | Young Men's Christian Association |
| MassHighway | = | Current MassDOT Highway Division | | | |
| M.G.L. | = | Massachusetts General Laws | | | |
| Map Par | = | Map Parcel | | | |

Section 1 - Plan Summary

The *Boxford Open Space and Recreation Plan Report* is a community-wide inventory of land parcels and residents' perspectives on the acquisition, maintenance, and utilization of Boxford's open space areas. Its format follows the model plan report outlined in the 2008 guidelines entitled *Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements*, which were developed by the Division of Conservation Services under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

This report was written and compiled by the Boxford Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC), a group of residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen in October 2022. Ideally, it should be updated at five-year intervals in order to be available for immediate consideration by the Commonwealth's allocation of Land Acquisition for Natural Diversity (LAND), its Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), and other state-administered grants as well as for ongoing consideration of local planning support.

Historically, Boxford has prioritized the protection of water resources, rural character, and wildlife habitat and providing open space for active and passive recreation. And, the general consensus—based on this report's survey results, the track record of the town's various committees, and its residents' abiding interest in open spaces—appears to be that protecting the Boxford's natural resources and developing additional open spaces for recreation through the preservation, development, and management of key parcels of land shall be a focus of the town's endeavors also into the future.

Protecting water resources is critical for many obvious reasons. The development of parcels abutting ponds and streams can affect water resources negatively, which makes the permanent protection of parcels abutting ponds and streams of utmost importance. The town should give special consideration to large parcels for acquisition as there are only a few such plots of land remaining and their development have the potential of altering its rural character. Likewise, because the preservation of parcels abutting other previously protected parcels can create *greenway corridors*, critical to the rural character of the town and wildlife habitat, land abutting other protected open space should be considered a priority for preservation. The permanent protection of large parcels and parcels abutting other protected parcels has the collateral benefit of protecting Boxford's well-established trail system and providing areas for active recreation connected to large areas of open space.

In developing this report, the OSRPC considered responses of Boxford residents to a town-wide survey, feedback from public forums, and written statements from town committees and boards. Nearly all residents who responded to the community survey expressed concern about the protection of water resources. Moreover, respondents voiced overwhelming appreciation for its rural character, woodlands, and farms—and many residents indicated that *nature* and *rural character* were what they value most about the town. Given this appreciation, it is not surprising that *birding* was the top-rated activity; and *water* and *wildlife habitat* ranked 1 and 2 in the first section of the survey.

The OSRPC developed a seven-year action plan based on the results of the survey and input from many residents, town committees and interested parties.

A - Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to

- 1) inventory existing open space parcels in town, including the opportunities they provide for active and passive recreational use;¹
- 2) determine the town's needs for open space for the next seven years;
- 3) assess issues that might affect the availability, preservation, and acquisition of open space within Boxford; and
- 4) develop long-term goals, objectives, and plans to proactively meet the town's open space and recreation needs.

This plan recognizes that Boxford's open space and character does not exist by accident. It is, instead, the product of decades of planning and generations of Boxford residents' taking an active role in community preservation and land-use management. These efforts have been and are driven by the desire to preserve the town's rural character and to provide residents with open space for both active and passive recreation.

The current plan greatly benefits from the work undertaken by five preceding committees—from 1988, 1994, 2001, 2008, and 2015—and expands upon those previous efforts. Since the 2015-plan update, the town has acquired the Dorman and Bergstrom properties, renovated the Cole School playground, reconstructed the Stiles Pond dam, and rebuilt the Fish Brook culvert with a new stone bridge in Lockwood Forest. Approval of a \$5 million open space serial bond in 1997 for the acquisition of conservation properties and the town's adoption of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act in 2001, provided a funding mechanism for the acquisition of open space for conservation, recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing. The OSRPs issued by the five previous committees reflected the town's strong commitment to open space and provided a firm foundation and approach with which to initiate the current 2023 update.

In this plan, the term *open space* refers to agricultural land, fields, land to protect existing and future public water supplies, well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, freshwater marshes, vernal pools and other wetlands, conservation land, forests, rivers, ponds, streams and lake frontages, land for wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and heritage landscapes, and land for recreational use. The term *recreation* denotes both active and passive recreation, including the use of land for hiking, horseback riding, organized youth and adult sports, and playground activities. These definitions are consistent with those set out in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' *Open Space Planner's Workbook* and Sec. 2 of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. Ch. 44B.²

B - Planning Process

The OSRPC convened in October 2022 to initiate the planning process. The town-appointed committee consisted of five individuals; and monthly public meetings were posted on the town's website 4 days in advance. The group consisted of Jessica Grigg from BTA/BOLT,³ Doug Hamilton from Boxford's Conservation Commission, and Holly Langer from the town's Planning Board. Dennis Pyburn from BTA/BOLT and Lisa Donahue from the Recreation Committee provided occasional assistance. Jessica

¹ Active recreational use here includes football, lacrosse, soccer, and tennis, etc. Passive recreational use is walking, jogging, and horseback riding, etc.

² Melissa Cryan *et al.*, *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook* (Boston: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, EOEEA, 2008).

³ Boxford Trail Association/Boxford Open Land Trust (BTA/BOLT Inc.)

Grigg was the primary writer of the plan and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission provided assistance and reviewed the final document. Proofreading, editing, indexing, compilation, and design by Christian Schoenberg.

The product, the present draft open-space and recreation plan, was prepared following the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for the preparation of state-approved open-space and recreation master plans.

C- Public Participation

The OSRPC revised the previous survey from 2016 and mailed postcards townwide in February, with a link to the survey on the town website, as well as a QR code for an online version. Paper versions were made available at the town hall. A survey link was advertised on websites that serve the general community and emailed to various constituent groups. Respondents had approximately three weeks to complete the survey online or to return a physical copy it to town hall. It then formulated the goals and objectives of the update over the span of 16 public meetings and held a question-and-answer session for the public on June 22, 2023. We invited Essex County Greenbelt Association to present their findings from collaborative studies of land parcels in Massachusetts. Please see the following [link](#) to maps showing priority parcels for acquisition.⁴

The plan was reviewed by staff and municipal boards for comment and revision.

Over 410 surveys were returned, which represents about 15% of Boxford households. Almost all respondents completed the survey online. The results of the survey appear, along with the written comments, as an appendix to this report (Appendix III). Summary findings of the 2023 survey indicate a reaffirmation of the town's commitment and interest in the preservation of open space, the town's natural resources, and in meeting the recreation needs of its residents. Results of the survey along with other public input were used to identify the present needs of the town and Boxford's goals and objectives for the future. Boxford has a remarkable commitment to the town as demonstrated in the large number of dedicated volunteers who serve on all town committees.

Beyond this survey, the public was engaged via Zoom meetings, in-person presentations, and input was solicited from various town boards.

While the town has made great progress in the preservation of open space, it is clear that the desire and need for additional open space and recreational opportunities remain strong in the community. Boxford will have to plan carefully for its growth with this in mind. Working with the regional planning agency—the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission—regional resource protection organizations, and with the involvement and commitment from the town's numerous volunteers and committees, it is hoped that Boxford can meet the open space and recreation needs of its residents through proactive and creative planning.

⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NZCIxqxhix-N0UIsMFq_4VoKF4c311Nr/view?pli=1

Section 2 - Community Setting

A - Regional Context

1. Geographic location

The town of Boxford is located in north-central Essex County in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It covers approximately 24 square miles or 15,611 acres and extends over ten miles along a southeast-to-northwest axis. The northernmost point is 1.5 miles from the Merrimack River, bordering the towns of North Andover and Haverhill (Bradford). Its southernmost border with Topsfield and Middleton is formed by the Ipswich River and its tributary Fish Brook. The Atlantic coastline, through neighboring Ipswich, is an average 10 miles distant, easterly. Other towns sharing boundaries with Boxford are Rowley, Georgetown, and Groveland. The cities of Boston, Salem, Lowell, Lawrence, and Newburyport are all within a 30-mile radius of the town.

2. From Farming to Bedroom Community

Boxford is roughly divided into Boxford Village and West Boxford Village, once referred to as First and Second Parishes. The topography throughout the town generally varies from large glacial outwash plains and kame and esker formations in the eastern portion to large undulating drumlins and alluvial plains in the western portion. The town is considered to be rural indicative of its agricultural past. Once a ‘blue-collar’ farming town, the post-1945 suburban and urban expansions and improvement of the federal and state transportation infrastructure have transformed Boxford into an upper-income suburb of Boston, commonly referred to as a *bedroom community*.

3. Rich in Water Resources

Boxford is rich in water resources. The watershed areas are mainly divided into the tributaries that contribute to the Ipswich River and the Parker River. A third, smaller area feeds the Merrimack River. Hovey’s, Johnson’s, and Chadwick (Lily) Ponds in this area act as reserve water supplies for the City of Haverhill and Groveland. All of Boxford’s private residences are supplied by private wells, whereas neighboring towns have combination private-public or exclusively public water supplies. According to records at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP), there are 17 public water-supply wells in town. Considerable attention has been paid in the past to conserving this valuable resource. Conservancy Districts—outlined on the Historic Districts map in Appendix II—as well as a few permanent Conservation Restrictions are used to protect aquifer recharge areas. The Planning Board, Board of Health, and Conservation Commission regulations also protect local watershed areas.

4. Two-Acre Lots

In 1955 to control density and maintain water quality, Boxford began to require a two-acre minimum, residential lot size. However, continued development of increasingly marginal land today has raised public concern over the maintenance of adequate aquifer protection buffer areas and Boxford’s rural character. Since 1994, Boxford voters have responded to development pressures by approving *pond overlay districts* and enacting various bylaws that increase set-back distances from wetland resource areas.

5. Intrastate Greenway

Several state forests are contained within the town and are shared with neighboring towns, including Willowdale, Baldpate Pond, Georgetown-Rowley, and Boxford State Forests. The Boxford Bay Circuit Program Committee (1990-1991) established the initial segment dedication of a passive recreational trail

that linked these existing, permanently protected open spaces and various unprotected, privately owned open spaces. This will form part of the 200-mile Bay Circuit Trail, from Newbury to Kingston, Massachusetts. BTA/BOLT has compiled and published a second edition of their guidebook *The Bay Circuit Guide to Walks in and around Boxford*. The premise of the Bay Circuit is to further the creation of this regional recreational system and promote the development of an intrastate greenway through future land acquisition.

B - History of Boxford

1. From Seasonal Encampment to English Settlement

At the time of European settlement in the 17th century, the territory of much of the North Shore, including present day Boxford, was in the domain of Masconomo, Sagamore of the Agawams. The Agawams were a sub-tribe, probably of the Pawtucket or Massachuset Tribe. Seasonal encampments were established along the coast and near fresh water, such as the Ipswich and Parker Rivers. The Agawam population was depleted by inter-tribal war and by European-borne diseases. Masconomo sought the protection of the Commonwealth and eventually deeded the rights to his domain to John Winthrop Jr. in 1633, for 20 pounds, thus initiating a permanent English settlement north of Salem.

2. 1630s-1660s

The influx of new English immigrants in the 1630s-1640s, competitive farming practices, and the breaking up of large inland land-grants, led to the settlement of what was then the western portion of Rowley, between 1645-1650. Known as Rowley Village and set on a plain north of the *fishing brook*, the town had six initial land grants of 30-60 acres each. The house lots were fairly spread out around central common land. Two thoroughfares were laid out circa 1650-1660: one path leading from the Topsfield meeting house roughly parallel to the Fish Brook (Topsfield Rd./Main St.), and the second perpendicular to the first, running to common land. Two other county thoroughfares were built that connected Andover with Ipswich and Newbury. Neither of these roads accessed the village center but contributed to increased settlement in the western portion of the village.

Agriculture and animal husbandry were the main occupations of town residents.

3. Grant of Township in 1685

To establish their own ministry, the villagers petitioned the General Court and were granted township, choosing the name Boxford on August 12, 1685. However, it would take another 17 years before they would hire a minister or decide on a location for the meeting house. The original bounds of Boxford contained portions of the present towns of Middleton, Georgetown, and Groveland. The deed to the town was settled among Masconomo's three grandsons in 1701, in exchange for "silver, rum and vittles enuf."

4. From Pasture Back to Woods: 1850s-1930s

By the mid-19th century, the amount of land under use for agricultural purposes had peaked. Many families whose main occupation had been agriculture now supplemented income with low-scale manufactories and had begun to realize modest wealth associated with nearby urban markets and the maritime trade. Rail service, introduced in 1854, facilitated shipment of marketable goods. This proved to be an enticement to city dwellers to summer here. Eventually, as the amount of agricultural land declined toward the late-19th-early-20th century, other methods were employed to maintain farming: dairying, fodder production, domestic livestock, and broods. Specialized crops and truck farming became common. The population sought opportunity elsewhere and dropped from its 1860 high of 1,020, to a 1925 low of 581. Much of the landscape reverted from open fields and pastures back to woods.

5. Post-Second World War

Up until the period around 1945, not much had changed in the overall agricultural traditions or the quiet rural atmosphere that had been such a prevalent feature of Boxford since its early settlement. Farms that did remain were often major, centralized operations that had specialized functions and did their best to remain economically competitive and financially solvent.

According to the town's 2007 Master Plan, the opening of Interstate 95 in the 1950s accelerated Boxford's transition to a residential community whose members worked outside of the town and were not reliant on farming. Boxford's close proximity to Boston, high-quality schools, and peaceful rural character fueled the increasing value of land to the point where it was far more attractive for landowners to develop their properties than use them for farming.

By mid-1995, Boxford had experienced a rapid increase in the number of homes being built and the town began a process of acquiring land for open space to curtail development and protect agriculture and natural resources. The population increase also prompted the need to expand municipal facilities.

From 1995 to 2007, Boxford built a new police station, a new town hall, upgraded the fire stations, improved its roads, and expanded its schools and athletic fields.

From 2007 to present, Boxford renovated Lincoln Hall, purchased an adjacent property for a parking lot, and small picnic area, and the West Village Improvement Society constructed a gazebo on town land in the West Boxford Village. From 1995 to present, Boxford has purchased a significant amount of land for open space, including a small portion for recreation and community housing.

C - Population Characteristics

1. Population Trends and Density

Until the construction of I-95 in the 1950s, Boxford was mainly an agricultural town. With Boston within commuting distance, the population increased 49% from 1970 to 1990. The town currently has two elementary schools and is part of a regional high school system. Recreational facilities, both active and passive, are available. But, as the human population increases within the finite area of our community, an increasing burden will be placed on our constructed infrastructure, which includes our existing roadways, municipal buildings, and school facilities. An additional burden will inevitably be placed on our natural resources including our groundwater reserves and open-space areas.

Though chiefly a bedroom community, Boxford has historically had some limited industry. According to the Boxford Reconnaissance Report - Essex County Landscape Inventory, published by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Essex National Heritage Commission in 2005, there were several small shoe factories and textile, shoe peg, and sawmills in town in the mid- and late-19th century. In 1867 a match factory was founded on Fish Brook near the current intersection of Main Street and Lawrence Road. This facility continued to produce matches into the early 20th century. Owing to the limited waterpower available compared to mill towns along the Merrimack River, such as Lawrence and Lowell, mill-based industrial activity was never a large contributor to the economic base of Boxford.

Commercial activity in Boxford is currently limited to the two village centers and a small commercial development in the north-central section of the town, near the Georgetown line. Each center contains a post office and a general store with limited economic activity. Other business activity is tied to the land and includes farms, farm stands, plant nurseries, and a golf course.

Boxford provides housing for senior citizens at Four Mile Village, a luxury housing development for 55-and-older at The Willows at Boxford, and affordable housing at Andrews Farm. Moreover, certain in-law apartment arrangements are sanctioned by zoning bylaws. These types of comparatively dense housing arrangements create additional sewage and water considerations and increase the need to ensure proper planning by the town for future water-protection measures.

Between the town’s incorporation in 1685 until 1950—a period of 265 years that included the social disruptions in America caused by a Revolutionary War, a Civil War and two world wars—Boxford’s population reached a high of 1,014 persons. The town’s population continued to grow substantially over the latter half of the 20th century, with the greatest increase between 1960 and 1970 of 100%. The population increase has since slowed, with a relatively small increase between 2010 and 2020 of 4.4%.

Table 1. Boxford Census Counts 1940-2020

| Census Year | Persons | Increase (%) |
|-------------|---------|--------------|
| 1940 | 778 | - |
| 1950 | 926 | 19.0% |
| 1960 | 2,010 | 117.0% |
| 1970 | 4,032 | 100.0% |
| 1980 | 5,374 | 33.0% |
| 1990 | 6,266 | 16.6% |
| 2000 | 7,921 | 26.4% |
| 2010 | 7,965 | 00.6% |
| 2020 | 8,316 | 4.4% |

The following demographic data reflect the latest information available regarding population and population densities.

As mentioned, there are **2,758** housing units in Boxford; the current land area of Boxford comprises **24.39** square miles; and its current population is **8,605**, of whom **6,538** are registered voters.

Table 2. Population Density

| Year | Persons per sq. mile |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1950 | 38 |
| 1994 | 287 |
| 2000 | 324 |
| 2010 | 327 |
| 2014 | 346 |
| 2022 | 352 |

2. Number and Age of Residents

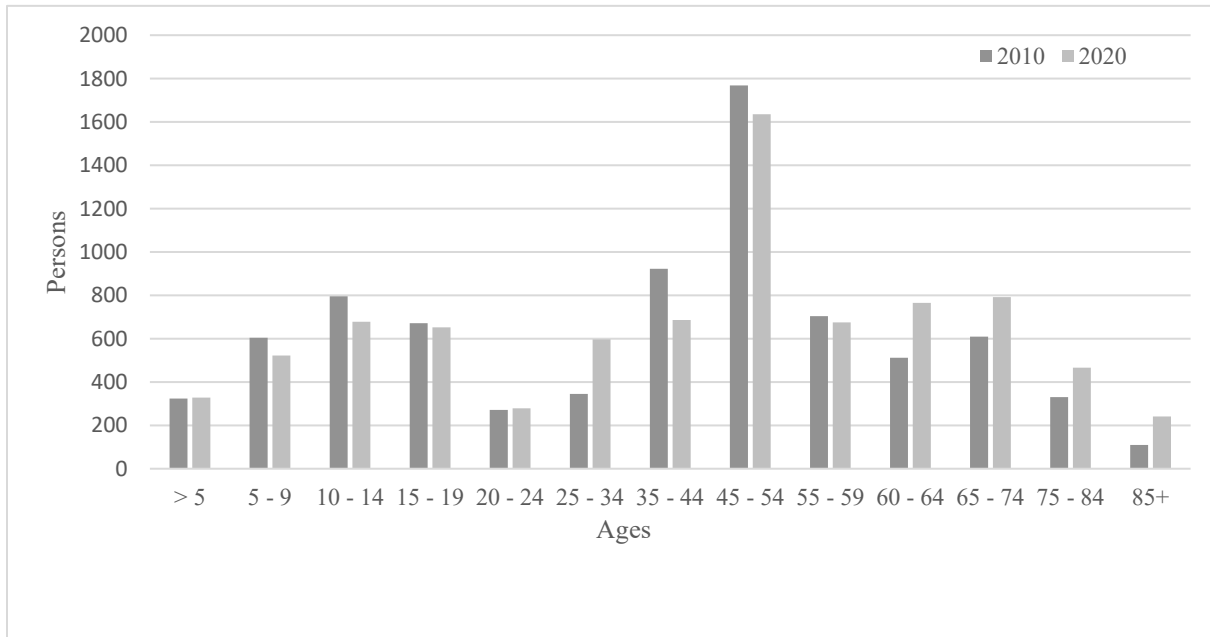
Population Trends

The table and graphic below summarize population trends in Boxford between 2010 and 2020.

Table 3. Boxford Population Distribution Trends by Age, 2010-2020

| Ages | 2010 | 2020 | Change | Change (%) |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Under 5 years | 324 | 328 | 4 | 1% |
| 5 to 9 years | 604 | 522 | -82 | -14% |
| 10 to 14 years | 795 | 678 | -117 | -15% |
| 15 to 19 years | 671 | 652 | -19 | -3% |
| 20 to 24 years | 271 | 279 | 8 | 3% |
| 25 to 34 years | 345 | 597 | 252 | 73% |
| 35 to 44 years | 922 | 686 | -236 | -26% |
| 45 to 54 years | 1768 | 1635 | -133 | -8% |
| 55 to 59 years | 704 | 675 | -29 | -4% |
| 60 to 64 years | 512 | 765 | 253 | 49% |
| 65 to 74 years | 609 | 792 | 183 | 30% |
| 75 to 84 years | 330 | 466 | 136 | 41% |
| 85 years and over | 110 | 241 | 131 | 119% |
| Total population | 7,965 | 8316 | 351 | 4% |

Figure 1. Boxford Population Distribution Trends by Age, 2010-2020



An Aging Boxford

The table and chart above show that the population grew by 4% from 2010 to 2020. Age-group trends over the past decade include a decreasing number of children and young adults aged 0-20, and an increase in adults over 60. The most notable changes include

- greatest decrease (%): 35-44 years
- greatest population decrease: 35-44 years
- greatest increase (%): 85+ years
- greatest population increase: 60-64 years

This indicates that over half the population of Boxford (55%) was over the age of 45 in 2020. Like most other communities throughout the Commonwealth and the country, Boxford is aging. This will lead to the need for more elderly housing and recreational facilities such as indoor program areas and accessible walking trails. The town’s aging population will also need more passive recreational opportunities, like accessible bird-watching locations and trails, and additional seating in park areas. While the town does have programs for the elderly at The Center at 10 Elm, these may need to be expanded as well.

The town does have recreational facilities available for the disabled and a camp for disabled youth at Camp Sacajawea run by the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative. Also, BTA/BOLT manages many miles of trails throughout Boxford that are open to the public for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

Income

According to the American Community Survey estimates from the 2020 Census, the median household income in Boxford has grown from \$113,212 in 2014 to \$179,375 in 2020, a 63% increase. In 2020, Boxford's median income of \$179,375 was more than double the county and state median at \$82,225 and \$84,385, respectively. The table below shows the shifts in Boxford's household incomes from 1999 through 2020.

Table 4. Boxford Household Income, 1999-2020

| Household Income | 1999 | (%) | 2014 | (%) | 2020 | (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Less than \$10,000 | 42 | 1.6 | 11 | 0.4 | 19 | 0.7 |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 0 | 0.0 | 33 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 98 | 3.8 | 88 | 3.3 | 18 | 0.6 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 62 | 2.4 | 66 | 2.5 | 151 | 5.3 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 163 | 6.4 | 184 | 6.9 | 55 | 1.9 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 367 | 14.3 | 169 | 6.3 | 226 | 7.9 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 303 | 11.8 | 282 | 10.6 | 274 | 9.6 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 626 | 24.5 | 648 | 24.3 | 338 | 11.8 |
| \$150,000 or more | 899 | 35.1 | 1,190 | 44.6 | 1,772 | 62.1 |
| Households, total | 2,560 | | 2,671 | | 2,853 | |
| Median household income | \$113,212 | | \$127,813 | | \$179,375 | |

3. Occupation

According to the American Community Survey for 2021, a 5-year estimate, Boxford has a working age population of 6,477. Of this, 4,261 are in the labor force and 4,078 are employed. Boxford has a minimum unemployment rate of 2.8%, or 183 persons. While Boxford's overall population of residents over the age of 16 has increased marginally since 2014, the number of individuals in the labor force has dropped from 4,411 to 4,261, which corresponds to the trend for the town's aging population.

Table 5. Labor Force 2014–2021

| | 2014 | (%) | 2021 | (%) |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Population 16 years and over | 6,264 | | 6,477 | |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 4,411 | 70.4 | 4,261 | 65.8 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 4,411 | 70.4 | 4,261 | 65.8 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 4,036 | 64.4 | 4,078 | 63 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 375 | 6.0 | 183 | 2.8 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 1,853 | 29.6 | 2,216 | 34.2 |

Of those in the labor force—a labor force that has remained stable between 2014 and 2021—most workers (23.4%) are employed in the educational, healthcare, and social services sectors. No sectors have undergone a notable change during this period. Since 2014, the largest change in occupation has been in the finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing category, which has declined 5.1%, which is proportional to the civilian employed population. Boxford’s occupational distribution remains largely stable and mostly consists of professionals in the education, healthcare, and scientific fields.

Table 6. Occupation 2014–2021

| | 2014 | (%) | 2021 | (%) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Civilian employed population 16 years and over | 4,036 | | 4,078 | |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining | 13 | 0.3 | 76 | 1.9 |
| Construction | 366 | 9.0 | 316 | 7.8 |
| Manufacturing | 445 | 11.0 | 411 | 10.1 |
| Wholesale Trade | 211 | 5.2 | 57 | 1.4 |
| Retail Trade | 352 | 8.7 | 327 | 8.0 |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 117 | 2.8 | 35 | 0.8 |
| Information | 79 | 2.0 | 110 | 2.7 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing | 414 | 10.3 | 626 | 15.4 |
| Professional, scientific, management., and admin. and waste mgmt. services | 538 | 13.3 | 697 | 17.1 |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 947 | 23.5 | 953 | 23.4 |

4. Environmental Justice and Equity

In 2002, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) adopted an Environmental Justice Policy to provide equal protection and meaningful participation for all Massachusetts residents with respect to environmental regulations and policies. This policy also supports equitable access to environmental assets, which include parks, open space, and recreation areas. The Commonwealth has identified communities that contain *environmental justice populations*, i.e., communities with high percentages of minority, non-English speaking, low-income, and foreign-born populations.

Boxford has a very small minority population and what appears to be a relatively stagnant number of households at poverty level (2.2% in 2014). Boxford does not have any state-identified environmental-justice community (which would represent a combination of these characteristics). While Boxford does not

have any such identified populations, this plan considers ways to reduce inequities in access to open space and recreation amenities.

D - Growth and Development Patterns

1. Residential Development

As one looks back to the early 20th century, perhaps the most significant land use change has been the remarkable rise in residential development in rural areas. Industrialization increased both the number of people in formerly rural areas and their amount of leisure time; and it reduced the acres of land formerly used for traditional agricultural purposes. New roadways and improved means of transportation helped extend cities and towns into outlying suburban areas. Boxford and surrounding towns are caught between an agrarian, rural past and a suburban future of increased residential development.

The first concerns for future development were addressed in 1940-41 when a monograph listing the town’s natural assets was prepared by a team of state and county planners. As a need for moderately priced housing arose, Boxford’s first zoning bylaws were adopted in 1946. Following World War II, development was guided by local zoning bylaws, most notably a two-acre minimum house lot size which was adopted in 1955. The completion of Interstate 95 (I-95) through town in the early 1950’s led to a dramatic rise in population.

Many of the once-dormant farm pastures, wood lots, and fields were slowly subdivided and developed. Although several small areas in town were zoned or grandfathered for business use, there were no industrial areas. Also, in the early 1970’s, the large Commercial Zone around Baldpate Pond was rezoned back to Residential-Agricultural.

In 2020 Boxford had 2,853 total housing units, almost all owner-occupied, and very few vacant households.⁵

The following show the changes in housing from 2000 to 2020.

Table 7. Boxford Household Characteristics, 2000-2020

| Characteristics | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total households | 2,568 | 2,688 | 2,853 |
| Family households | 2,255 | 2,289 | 2,506 |
| Average household size | 3.08 | 2.96 | 2.91 |

In order to plan for future growth, the town has conducted numerous build-out analyses. The latest analysis, conducted for the 2007 Master Plan, used the following assumptions: 10 acre or greater vacant or occupied land or land listed in Chapter 61 and 61A may be developed;

- Existing pork-chop lots cannot be further subdivided;
- Existing two (2) acre zoning is maintained;
- An allowance of 8% for roadways is provided;

⁵ This will change with The Willows at Boxford development and its additional 66 units for 55-and-older luxury housing in 2023-2024.

- No building will occur in Conservancy Districts or in wetland areas; and
- No building will occur on land that is constrained by deed restriction.

2 - Transportation

The primary cause of growth since 1950 has been the open flow of interstate traffic along I-95 through a portion of east Boxford. Boxford’s short commuting distance to metropolitan Boston (about 25 miles) and its close proximity to New Hampshire and Maine for shopping and recreation visits make Boxford very attractive to long-term residents and prospective newcomers alike. Commuter rail service is available in adjacent towns. The town is currently not serviced by any commuter buses through Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MeVa). Major throughways that are experiencing increased daily traffic volume include Route 133, Route 97, Ipswich Road , Kelsey Road, Lawrence Road, Main Street, and Topsfield Road,

The town’s primary form of transportation is automobile driving, with predominantly country roads and spread-out infrastructure making both walking and biking difficult unless on a trail. The only trails that are viable for transportation across the town and to other communities are the Border to Boston Trail, a trail system that connect with and runs through some of the most recent open-space purchases such as the Dorman Land and Boxford Common—and the Bay Circuit Trail.

3. Water Supply

All of the potable water used by Boxford residents is obtained from wells. The water supply for private residences is derived almost exclusively from private wells located on each individual residential property. The wells rely primarily on the Ipswich River watershed, which supplies at least 350,000 homes in 14 communities. In the summer of 2022, this water resource was affected by a severe, nationwide drought, raising concern for citizens utilizing private wells. A legislative proposal, brought forward by Senator Bruce Tarr in the current legislative session, seeks to promote effective drought management in communities that utilize the Ipswich River, so that private wells may continue to draw upon it for years to come. The careful design and the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission’s permitting of wells, septic systems, and wetland alteration is seen to be of critical importance in safeguarding Boxford’s drinking water supply. Future growth may necessitate the need for a third and possibly a fourth potential source of protected water supply. Town wells might eventually be fitted out and be used as emergency sources of water for firefighting.

There are a limited number of public water supply wells in Boxford subject to state-mandated water quality testing and reporting. These wells are as follows and are tabulated with respect to their Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) identification numbers and flow rates. The Andrews Farm and Four Mile Village housing developments each operate a community public water supply well and water distribution system, which serves their respective housing units. Public water supply wells also serve a limited number of commercial establishments in town: the Boxford Community Store, the Boxford Meeting Place (Georgetown Limited Partnership Building Well No. 1), the West Village Provisions Store, Ingaldsby Farm, Nason’s Stone House Farm, the Four Corners Golf Course, and the office building at 200 Washington Street. Additional public water supply wells serve the Spofford Pond School, the Harry Lee Cole School, the First Congregational Church, the Second Congregational Church, Camp Denison, the Town Beach at Keith Koster Park (Stiles Pond), and the Town Hall/DPW/Police Station complex. The following table of Boxford public water supplies is taken from the MassDEP.

Table 8. MassDEP List of Public Water Supplies in Boxford

| Public Water Supply Name/ Source Name | Public Water Supply Class | Mass. DEP Source ID | Gallons Per Day | Zone I Radius (feet) | IWPA Radius (feet)⁶ | Mass. DEP Suscep tibility |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Four Mile Village Well No. 1 | Community | 3038001-01G | 9,048 | | N/A | |
| Four Mile Village Well No. 2 | Community | 3038001-02G | 6,786 | 240 | N/A | |
| Four Mile Village Well No. 3 | Community | 3038001-03G | 10,080 | 210 | N/A | |
| Spofford Pond School Rock Well | Nontransient Non-Community | 3038008-01G | 7,860 | 240 | N/A | |
| Harry Lee Cole School Cole School Well | Nontransient Non-Community | 3038009-01G | 21,600 | 180 | 538 | High |
| West Village Provisions Store Blaines Store Well | Transient Non- Community | 3038010-01G | 955 | 100 | 421 | |
| First Church Congregation Rock Well | Transient Non- Community | 3038011-01G | 385 | 100 | 409 | Moderate |
| Far Corner Farm Golf Course Well No. 1 | Transient Non- Community | 3038012-01G | 2,500 | 160 | 456 | |
| Far Corner Farm Golf Course Well No. 2 | Transient Non-Community | 3038012-02G | 2,500 | 160 | 456 | |
| Boxford Community Store | Transient Non-Community | 3038013-01G | 1,225 | 113 | 427 | High |
| Andrews Farm Water Co. Well No. 1 | Community | 3038020-01G | 23,760 | 306 | 928 | Moderate |
| Georgetown Limited Partnership Building Well No. 1 | Transient Non-Community | 3038021-01G | 1,848 | 170 | 464 | Moderate |
| Ingaldsby Bakery & Farm Stand Well No. 1 | Transient Non-Community | 3038022-01G | 1,000 | 100 | 422 | High |
| 200 Washington Street Well No. 1 | Transient Non-Community | 3038023-01G | 1,000 | 100 | 422 | Moderate |
| Center at 10 Elm Street Well No. 1 | Transient Non-Community | 3038024-01G | 300 | 100 | 407 | Moderate |
| Second Congregational Church | Transient Non-Community | 3038025-01G | 300 | 100 | 422 | |
| Boxford Police Station/Town Hall | Nontransient Non-Community | 3038026-01G | 2,160 | 150 | 448 | |
| Willows at Boxford | Community | Supplied once active | 9,900 | 249 | 620 | |

⁶ N/A—Not applicable (Zone-II delineated).

MassDEP's website describes *well susceptibility* as

a measure of the well's potential to become contaminated by land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA). The possibility of a release from potential contaminant sources is greatly reduced if best management practices (BMPs) are used. The susceptibility determination for the wells did not consider whether BMPs are being used. Susceptibility of a drinking water well does not mean a customer will drink contaminated water. Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring water quality, treating water supplies and using BMPs and source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Of the public water supply wells, the one serving the Police Station, Town Hall, and the Department of Public Works complex was determined to have arsenic concentrations that exceeded the recently revised Federal Drinking Water Standard of 0.01 mg/l (i.e., 10 parts per billion). An analysis conducted by Weston and Sampson suggests that the arsenic appears to be a natural constituent of the groundwater at this location rather than an indication of some anthropogenic source, such as the nearby abandoned municipal landfill. The town has taken steps to remediate this issue and is now able to provide potable drinking water to the public at these facilities.

Anthropogenic groundwater contamination has occurred in Boxford along the I-95 highway corridor because of poorly considered or improper road salt storage, management, and application practices by the MassDOT Highway Division. To date, 15 wells within this corridor have exhibited chloride concentrations that exceeded either the Secondary Drinking Water Standard of 250 mg/l, or the Drinking Water Advisory Standard for sodium of 20 mg/l for individuals on a salt-restricted diet. The MassDOT Highway Division has conducted a controversial well replacement program in Boxford to provide replacement wells for selected residences in return for a waiver of liability from affected homeowners. To date 15 replacement wells have been installed under this program. Local permits for some of these wells have yet to be obtained from the Board of Health or the Conservation Commission, reflecting the MassDOT Highway Division's assertion, disputed by the town, that it is not subject to local permitting requirements.

As Boxford is large in area—with a minimum building lot size of two acres with 250 feet of frontage—a public water system would be prohibitively expensive. To address the future needs of the town, hydrogeologic tests would be required so that areas that could serve as possible sources for a municipal water supply could be identified and subsequently protected. According to the MassDEP's Priority Resource Map for the area—see Appendix I—potentially productive aquifers are located in northwest Boxford, adjacent to Johnson's Pond and along the Parker River. An additional, smaller area is in the extreme northeast corner of town within the Cleveland State Forest. Much of the aquifer area is also designated as Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) areas, which means that they support rare and endangered species. The relatively small land area designated as a potentially productive aquifer in Boxford reflects the presence of the thin or impermeable soil horizons found in much of the town and their poor water-bearing capacity.

Since none of the public water-supply wells in Boxford pump more than 100,000 gallons per day (gal/d), they are not required to delineate the Zone II or Zone III under the MassDEP's Drinking Water Regulations 310 CMR 22.21. Accordingly, each public-supply well in Boxford—except for those serving Four Mile Village as described below—has a Zone I and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area; the radius of each is determined by the approved pumping rate of each well. The only wells within Boxford that have approved Zone II delineations are those serving the Four Mile Village facility; these Zone II delineations were conducted under the MassDEP's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). Since the Zone II areas for most of Boxford's public water-supply wells are not delineated, the aquifer recharge areas of these wells

can be considered to be the area within the IWPA and Zone I. Public-supply wells located in the adjacent towns of Georgetown and Rowley have delineated Zone II areas that extend into Boxford. A large portion of these Zone II areas exists along streams and in wetland areas; such areas would be protected by state and local wetland protection laws.

4. Septic Services

All household sewage is treated by private septic and leaching field systems. Boxford remains the only community in Essex County, and only one of a handful of communities in the state that make up greater metropolitan Boston, with no municipal water distribution or public sewer system. As such, since all residents are dependent upon the quality of the groundwater on their own property and cannot depend on the town for a source of potable water, Boxford has a greater need to protect its natural water resources than most surrounding towns. At present there is neither a need nor any plans for a community-wide or area-wide sewage system in Boxford.

Septic systems are serviced by local or independent operators. Conventional septic systems can release some amounts of point source pollutants into nearby groundwater supplies, surface water bodies, and streams. For this reason, the Commonwealth overhauled its Title 5 regulations in 1996 to ensure that failed septic systems were upgraded before home ownership title transfers could be approved. Setbacks from water bodies increased in Boxford's Board of Health Regulations in 1994.

Finally, the Commonwealth's enacted Wetlands Protection Act Regulations—including the Rivers Protection Act Regulations, the Stormwater Management Policy, and the Community Preservation Act—offer substantial support to Boxford's local permit-approving authorities in protecting its natural resources. Consideration of larger lot size or cluster zoning (sometimes referred to as *open space development*) and a wholesale cap on the issuance of building permits have all been discussed since 1994. However, three other measures have been adopted to protect our natural resources, namely, (1) the Phased Growth Subdivision Regulation of 1997; (2) various restrictive regulations and bylaws initiated by all of the permit-approving authorities, including initiating legal proceedings against violators in extraordinary cases where natural resources have been placed in jeopardy; and (3) adopting a 75-foot minimum setback distance from wetlands to the edge of the one-acre minimum Contiguous Buildable Area in the Zoning Bylaw in 1995. Even with numerous laws and regulations in place, it is important to ensure that town boards follow these measures and that they not mitigate, ignore, waive, or undermine them in order to satisfy developers and landowners.

At the annual town meeting in May 2006, the town adopted a stormwater-management bylaw for the control of stormwater runoff from construction sites of one acre or more within the designated urbanized areas of town. Commercial or industrial sites that have the potential to discharge pollutants, so-called *hotspots*, are also regulated by the Stormwater Management Bylaw. The bylaw authorizes the Boxford Conservation Commission to promulgate regulations for the review, permitting, and monitoring of construction sites and hotspots. The Conservation Commission adopted Stormwater Management Regulations in September 2007. The Conservation Commission continues to update their Stormwater Management bylaw and regulations with proactive, low-impact development design standards, to encourage the mitigation of erosion and stormwater runoff during construction activities.

5. Long-term Development

Boxford is a small, rural community with historically slow development patterns that highly favor single-family homes on large parcels. Currently, there are no plans on the horizon or in the permitting phase for new large-scale subdivisions or other developments. One large development, The Willows at Boxford, is currently being constructed. These 66 units of 55-and-over, luxury housing are helping to reconcile the

community's need for small-sized housing options for the town's growing elderly population. Unfortunately, the price range for the homes at The Willows will be unaffordable for many of Boxford's elderly.

Municipally, the town is hoping to construct a new Department of Public Works facility, as the old facility is inadequate for the town's needs. Finally, Masconomet Regional High School is currently assessing a plan for a new set of athletic fields on their property. Beyond these developments, Boxford intends to maintain its rural character in the long term, with minimal development beyond what is necessary to sustain its population as it evolves, grows, and ages.

E - Recreation

Town-wide active and passive recreational activities in Boxford are developed and managed by several organizations. Most passive recreation is self-directed, but pre-arranged hikes and nature walks are organized by organizations such as BTA/BOLT Inc.

Trails are maintained by BTA/BOLT Inc volunteers, with significant contributions from the Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, and Masconomet Regional High School interns.

The Boxford Recreation Committee, appointed by the Select Board, provides, supervises, and maintains all recreational facilities in the town of Boxford. It operates the Boxford Park Program, which offers games, sports, and arts and crafts. The Recreation Committee also supervises the use of Camp Sacajawea by the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative. This camp is for severely disabled children from the North Shore area. The site is handicap accessible with pavement to all outbuildings and activity areas.

Most of the town's active recreation programs are administered by not-for-profit volunteer organizations, such as the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA), Masco Youth Football, Masco Youth Hockey, and Tribal Lacrosse. They offer sports and recreational programs for Boxford's youth and adults, including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, flag and tackle football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming classes at Stiles Pond, track and field, the Call to Honor Triathlon, and the Jennifer Tinney 4th of July Road Race.

The associations are governed by members and officers who are elected each year. The members participate in monthly meetings at which they organize the sports programs and activities and establish each program's budget. All boys and girls, regardless of ability, are invited to participate. The primary purpose of the sports programs is to teach individual sports skills, give children the opportunity to compete in a team sport, assist in the development of a sense of responsibility and cooperation, foster good sportsmanship, and have fun.

1. Inventory of Recreational Fields and Facilities

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baseball / Softball Fields (9) | Christopher Cargill Fields, at Cole School (2) Eric Luther Boy Scout Park, off Cahoon Road Johnson Fields, behind the Police Station (2) Keith R. Koster Park, at Stiles Pond Morse Field, in West Boxford village Spofford Fields, at Spofford Pond School (2) |
| Multi-Purpose Fields (7) | Boy Scout Park (2) Chadwick Fields, behind Town Hall (3) Boxford Common (2) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Temporary Multi-Purpose (1) | Outfield at Cargill (1/2) Outfield at Boy Scout (1/2) |
| Basketball Courts-outdoor (3) | Cole School Spofford Pond School West Boxford Village |
| Basketball Courts-indoor (6) | Cole School Masconomet (4) Spofford Pond School |
| Tennis Courts (5) | Masconomet (3) Police Station (2) |
| Hockey Rinks (0) | |
| Swimming Pools (0) | |
| Beaches (1) | Stiles Pond |
| Boat Ramps (3) | Baldpate Pond Hovey's Pond Stiles Pond |
| Playgrounds (4) | Ackerman Playground, at Boy Scout Park Johnson Field Cole School Spofford Pond School |

Table 9. Usage of Recreational Fields & Facilities

| Program | Age | Participants | Facilities & Fields |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baseball (BAA) | 4-15 | 232 | Boy Scout, Cargill, Koster, Morse, Spofford |
| Basketball (BAA) | 5-14 | 250 | Masco, Cole School, Spofford Pond School |
| Cross Country (BAA) | 10-14 | 45 | Bradley Parmer State Park |
| Field Hockey (BAA) | 5-14 | 51 | Boxford Common and the baseball outfield at Boy Scout Park |
| Football, Flag (BAA) | 5-14 | 88 | Chadwick |
| Football, Tackle (Masco Youth Football) | 8-14 | 114 | Not in Boxford |
| Hockey (Masco Youth Hockey) | 4-18 | 140 | Not in Boxford |
| Lacrosse (Tribal Lacrosse) | 6-15 | 167 | Limited availability at Boy Scout |
| Park Program | 5-12 | 270 | Cole School, Spofford Pond School |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Soccer (BAA) | 5-16 | 432 | Boy Scout, Chadwick, baseball outfield at Cargill, Boxford Common |
| Softball, Girls (BAA) | 8-14 | 42 | Johnson |
| Softball, Men's (BAA) | 30+ | 205 | Cargill, Boy Scout, Johnson, Spofford |
| Track and Field (BAA) | 8-15 | 73 | Masco |
| Ultimate Frisbee | All ages | 20 | - |
| Beach (BAA) | All ages | 315* | Keith Koster Park (Stiles Pond) |
| Call to Honor Triathlon (BAA) | All ages | 300 | Start and finish at Keith Koster Park (Stiles Pond) |
| Jennifer Tinney Memorial 4th of July Road Race (BAA) | All ages | 250 | Start and finish in East Village |

2. Other Recreational Activities

Walking, Biking, and Horseback Riding Trails

The largest single area used for horseback riding and walking is the Boxford State Forest, which is a collection of contiguous parcels of over 2,000 acres, owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, the Essex County Greenbelt Association, and other groups. The second largest area is the 300-plus acre Wildcat Reservation, which was purchased by the town in 1974 with a grant from the Commonwealth.

Under the direction of BTA/BOLT, a large network of trails is maintained throughout the town. Some of these are part of the Bay Circuit Trail (see Appendix I for trail map). The Community Preservation Act (CPA) has also provided funding to the Boxford Conservation Commission to preserve and expand recreational hiking trails. Some trails are protected by easements granted to the town and BTA/BOLT, but most are used by permission of individual owners. Other areas are protected by the Essex County Greenbelt Association.

Rails to Trails Project

In 2007, the commissioner of MassHighway—the current MassDOT Highway Division—recognized the regional Borders-to-Boston trail as an important project to further non-motorized transportation alternatives and created a state-level task force to guide its development.

Surrounding towns are also working on the creation and planning of similar pathways that will link to Boxford's pathway to form a contiguous 30 +/- mile recreational trail that stretches from Salisbury to Danvers along the former Newburyport Branch right-of-way. This system will be known as the Borders-to-Boston Rail Trail (see map in Appendix I).

Then-U.S. Representative John Tierney earmarked \$800,000 under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) program on the list of *high priority projects* to design, engineer, permit, and construct the *Border-to-Boston Bikeway* rail-trail project for eight north shore towns: Danvers, Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, and Salisbury. The MBTA owns the rail-bed in the southern three towns Topsfield, Wenham, and Danvers. Given a lease by the

MBTA, these three towns converted their MBTA rail bed to a compacted stone dust bike and walking trail and declined their share of the \$800,000. The northern towns have been working with the MassDOT Highway Division, National Grid, and Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) engineers on their paved bike trail. Newburyport finished the first phase of their paved bike trail several years ago. The northern towns have a license from National Grid, but need a 99-year lease in order to build the rail-trail between the parallel power lines. Under new rules, this lease will only be issued at 75% design completion.

FST and MassDOT engineers are working together to reach the 25% level of completion. When the 25% completion level is reached, a public hearing will be held and FST, MassDOT, and the Boxford Border-to-Boston Bikeway Path Committee will take the project to the required permitting Boxford commissions.

For now, the Boxford rail-bed is open for walking, running, biking, and skiing from Pond Street to the Georgetown town line and from Pye Brook Lane to the Topsfield town line, connecting with the Topsfield, Wenham, and Danvers Linear Trail.

In 2022 a federal grant of over a million dollars was awarded to finish engineering studies that would allow the building of the Boxford section of the rail/trail. This was accomplished with much help from Boxford's state representative Tram Nguyen. She was able to get the state to resume work, and brought in Seth Moulton, our national representative, who persuaded Congress to approve funding in a multipurpose bill.

Cross Country Skiing

As with horseback riding and hiking, the many open and wooded areas in Boxford offer excellent cross-country skiing when snow cover permits.

Skating

No official skating areas are maintained or supervised by the town, but residents use the town's many ponds and flooded areas when freezing temperatures permit.

Tennis

Tennis courts are available for use beside the Police Station at the corner of Spofford and Ipswich Roads. The DPW is responsible for maintaining these courts. Many residents also use the courts at Masconomet Regional High School.

Playgrounds

There is a playground behind the Spofford Pond School, a large, new playground behind Cole School, and the Ackerman Playground at Boy Scout Park. A smaller playground is available adjoining Johnson Field and Stiles Pond. The Recreation Committee received funding in 2023 to improve the playground near the DPW.

Camping and Picnicking

The Recreation Committee maintains Camp Sacajawea on Stiles Pond with facilities available for both picnicking and overnight camping. The camp is located on over 30 acres with extensive water frontage. Buildings with running water, electricity, and septic facilities are available for use by contacting the Recreation Committee.

Swimming

Under the direction of the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA), a swimming program is offered at Stiles Pond. Both swimming privileges and lessons are available to residents for a modest fee. In 2022, approximately 315 families signed up and paid for use of the beach. The proceeds from beach use are allocated exclusively to operate the beach area and to maintain its docks and facilities.

Boating/Canoeing/Fishing

Boxford offers a great variety of ponds and rivers for this use, many with well-marked public landings. Stiles, Hovey's and Baldpate ponds all have boat ramps. Sperry, Stevens and Spofford ponds are accessible via the fire hydrant areas; these areas do not have proper boat ramps. Portions of the Ipswich River and Parker River are suitable for canoeing and kayaking. Baldpate and Stiles are stocked with trout, although all these surface water bodies are fished on a regular basis. MassDEP has designated nine bodies as *great* ponds—i.e., ponds greater than 10 acres—wholly or partially located in Boxford: Bald Pate Pond, Chadwick Pond, Four-Mile Pond, Hovey's Pond, Johnson's Pond, Sperry Pond, Spofford Pond, Stevens Pond, and Stiles Pond. All Massachusetts residents have certain rights to use and enjoy great ponds.

Basketball

In addition to indoor courts at Masconomet Regional High School and courts inside and outside of each of the two elementary schools, a court is available in the West Boxford Village and at Keith Koster Park (at Stiles Pond).

Bicycling

As indicated in the latest survey, bicycling is a major pastime in Boxford both for town residents and for visitors. In addition to many miles of roads, there are trails through the woods for mountain bikers. Survey results indicate that Boxford is a destination for bikers but also that there are concerns about their safety because of the increase in vehicular traffic.

Recent Additions or Improvements to Fields and Facilities

Boxford Common has two multipurpose fields, paved walking paths, and a football-storage unit maintained by Masconomet Regional High School.

In 2014, a new playground was built at the Cole School funded under the Community Preservation Act. See above for information about the playground improvement near the DPW.

3. Survey Results Regarding Recreation

Birding, jogging and bicycling continue to be popular leisure activities in Boxford. There are many other popular recreation activities cited by the survey respondents for this plan: tennis, fishing, soccer, ice skating, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, picnicking, and playground use. (See also Appendix III.)

Support for acquiring land for passive recreation versus active recreation was generally more supported at 80%, with nearly two-thirds of respondents indicating that it continues to be important. Moreover, 71% of respondents indicated support for the rail-trail and 58% indicated support for sidewalks around schools. Paved bike paths were supported by 45% of respondents, and 41% supported designated bike lanes, but 30% indicated designated bike lanes were *less important* and another 26-28% indicated they were *not important*.

As a point of reference, the survey determined the following to be priorities (for more details, see Appendix III):

Rated to be *Important* or *Very Important* by respondents

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Providing sidewalks in neighborhoods | 27% |
| Providing bike lanes | 41% |
| Providing sidewalks in town centers | 43% |
| Providing paved bike paths | 45% |
| Aquiring land for active recreation needs | 48% |
| Providing sidewalks around schools | 58% |
| Continuing land acquisitions to protect farmland/agricultural land | 70% |
| Providing Rail Trail | 71% |
| Aquiring land for passive recreation needs | 80% |
| Continuing land acquisitions to protect the scenic/ rural character of the town | 80% |
| Continuing land acquisitions to protect forests | 85% |
| Continuing land acquisitions to protect wildlife habitat | 88% |
| Continuing land acquisitions to protect groundwater and drinking water resources | 93% |

Section 3 - Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A- Geology, Soils and Topography

According to the 1983 U.S.G.S. Bedrock Geologic Map of Massachusetts, the bedrock in the vicinity of Boxford consists of Silurian and Ordovician-aged (395-to-500 million year-old) igneous and metamorphic rocks. The main bedrock units are the Sharpner's Pond pluton, the Fish Brook gneiss and the Nashoba formation. Boxford is located between two major fault lines—the Clinton-Newbury and the Bloody Bluff faults. The Clinton-Newbury fault trends northeast through West Boxford, bisecting Johnson's Pond. The Bloody Bluff fault also trends northeast through Topsfield and Ipswich, separating the Sharpner's Pond pluton from other igneous rocks further east, e.g., the Cape Ann pluton. The bedrock geologic map also indicates the presence of several smaller faults in the area. Numerous small faults are also shown on the 1977 U.S.G.S. Preliminary Bedrock Geologic Map of the Georgetown Quadrangle, which includes East Boxford. The presence of these faults has important implications for Boxford, as fault zones are often good water-supply sources due to their relatively high permeability.

The topography in Boxford is varied with the northwestern and central sections hilly character, and the eastern sections flatter or gently rolling topography. A series of rounded hills are composed of firm, relatively impermeable till which causes seep spots and springs on the hillsides. The most notable are Mt. Hayman, Austin Hill, Byers Hill, Shaven Crown Hill, Wood Hill and Baynes Hill. The average height is 298 feet. Some of the hills have an elongated form and are oriented north-northwest. These drumlins—Bald Hill, Jobs Hill and a small unnamed hill off of Bald Hill Road—reflect the glacial history of the area and are similar to other drumlins found in eastern Massachusetts. The topography between the hills is generally flat with swampy areas composed of fine-grained glacial sediments or till. These areas are usually associated with or bordered by ponds. Other glacial features abound throughout the topography of Boxford including eskers, kames, moraines, and kettle-hole ponds. The town's 2005 open-space conservation purchase of Anvil Farm in West Boxford preserved a beautiful example of an esker.

In the western and northwestern sections of town, there are multiple large fields, some of which are still used for agricultural purposes. In East and West Boxford, there are some fields that are actively farmed for hay and pasture, while most of the open lands are small, idle, or abandoned fields. Many of the open fields in town that aren't farmed have already been developed for residential use. It is with increasing regularity that the town boards are being approached with sites that are difficult to develop due to the presence of wetlands, hilly terrain, or other nonconforming features.

Many of the soils occurring in Boxford are generally unsuitable for providing enough drinking water for other than single-family residential dwellings. These soils are either rocky, gravelly, or contain hardpan or relatively impermeable layers that preclude intensive development or the development of large water-supply wells. Many of the private water-supply wells in town are bedrock wells because of their thin, impermeable soil horizon. The following descriptions of the local soils are taken from the 1981 U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service's soil survey of Essex County. The soil survey indicates that the main soil associations found in Boxford are the Hinckley-Windsor-Merrimack association, the Paxton-Woodbridge-Montauk association, the Canton-Charlton-Sutton association, and the Charlton-Rock Outcrop-Medisapristis association. The soil survey's descriptions of these soil associations are described below.

1. Hinckley-Windsor-Merrimack Association

These sandy and loamy soils are formed in outwash deposits. They are found on nearly level-to-steep slopes and are excessively or somewhat excessively drained due to their relatively high permeability. Soils of this

association are generally suitable for farming and residential development. Some parts of the association are droughty and steep, and most of the minor soils have a seasonal high-water table in winter and spring.

2. Paxton-Woodbridge-Montauk Association

These loamy soils are formed in compact glacial till. They are found on nearly level-to-steep slopes and are well drained and moderately well drained. The soils of the association are suitable for dairy farming, orchards, and truck crops. They are well suited to residential development if sewage disposal facilities are available. The main limitations for residential development are the slowly permeable fragipan, steep slopes in some areas, and a seasonal high-water table in areas of the Woodbridge soils.

3. Canton-Charlton-Sutton Association

These loamy soils are formed in friable glacial till. They are found on nearly level-to-steep slopes and are well drained and moderately well drained. The soils of this association are suitable for dairy farming, orchards, and truck crops. Most areas are well suited for residential development. The main limitations of the Canton and Charlton soils for residential development are slope and stones in and on the surface layer. Use of the Sutton soils is limited by the seasonal high-water table.

4. Charlton-Rock Outcrop-Medisaprists Association

These loamy and mucky soils are formed in glacial till and organic deposits. The loamy soils are found on nearly level-to-steep slopes and are well drained. The mucky soils are found in nearly level areas and are very poorly drained. The soils of this association, especially the Charlton soils, are suitable for woodland and woodland wildlife habitat.

Medisaprists have good potential for wetland wildlife habitat. The Charlton soils are suitable for residential development, but wetness and a high organic matter content limit the Medisaprists for this use. The main limitations of the higher areas of the association are the frequent bedrock outcroppings and slope.

A Surficial Geology Map, based upon data from the U.S. Geological Survey, that shows soil types in Boxford is included in this report as Appendix I. As the map illustrates, Boxford is mainly covered by sand and gravel deposits or glacial till with bedrock outcrops. Minor amounts of floodplain alluvium are found near surface water bodies (ponds and streams).

B - Landscape Character

Woodlands and forests are the dominant features in Boxford. Once a quiet farming community, many of the former fields and agricultural lands have reverted to secondary growth hardwood and soft wood forest. The landscape consists of numerous wooded hills and fields interspersed with ponds and wetlands. These features provide the town with a rural character that is heightened by the lack of any centralized commercial areas. The landscape characteristics that give the town its rural character are its woodlands, fields, and farms; it is these features that Boxford's residents are striving to preserve. Since 2016, Boxford has preserved over 94.5 acres of open space for conservation and passive recreation and has about 1,658.17 acres of farmland and forest protected under Chapter 61, 61A, or other restrictions.

The town's farms, hayfields, and winding roads are often bounded by dry stone walls that meander through the landscape. The stone walls help define the town's rural character. Currently the Planning Board is considering regulations to improve the administration of the Scenic Roads Act for the protection of stone walls and trees within the town's road right of ways. The few remaining farms are valuable assets to the town and reflect the area's agrarian past. The abundant ponds in town provide recreational opportunities, many scenic vistas, and are also an important water resource.

C - Water Resources

1. Watersheds

There are three drainage basins in Boxford: The Parker, Ipswich, and Merrimack River basins. A small part of northwest Boxford lies in the Merrimack River basin. West Boxford Village lies in the Parker River basin, while East Boxford Village is situated in the Ipswich River basin. In Boxford, the Merrimack River basin consists of Hovey's, Johnson's, and Chadwick Ponds and their associated wetlands and intermittent streams. Much of the Merrimack River basin in Boxford is a public water supply watershed, as indicated on the Water Supply Protection Map.

The Parker River originates in West Boxford in wetlands west of Sperry's Pond and flows northeast under Willow Road into Groveland, Georgetown, and on through Newbury. Baldpate Pond and some small tributaries of the Mill River and Penn Brook in central Boxford also lie within the Parker River basin. Much of the Parker River basin in Boxford is designated as an approved Zone II for five municipal water-supply wells located along the Parker River in Georgetown, and for one municipal water-supply well located along the Mill River in Rowley. It should be noted that the Parker River has been determined to be hydrologically stressed.

For central and southern portions of Boxford, Fish Brook and Pye Brook are the main drainage systems. Both systems flow into the Ipswich River in Topsfield. These two brooks and their associated wetlands and tributaries drain many of the larger ponds in Boxford, including Four Mile, Spofford, Stiles, Lowe, and Kimball Ponds. All these water bodies help to contribute water flow into the Ipswich River. The Ipswich River is widely recognized as one of the most severely stressed rivers in the country due to excessive withdrawals by bordering communities and low stream flow.

2. Surface Water

The town's rivers and brooks are slow moving and much of their water flows through marshland, maple swamps, and wetlands—areas that have major resource value. They are important since they contribute to numerous water-supply wells in Boxford and adjacent towns (as evidenced by the Zone II delineations), assist in the aquifer recharge of groundwater, provide habitat cover and food for wildlife, serve as a buffer between developed areas, and store excess surface runoff to reduce peak storm discharges and flooding. They provide areas for open space, passive recreational activities, and environmental study. Many of the wetlands in Boxford are designated as Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) habitats. Notable surface waters in town include Stiles Pond, Baldpate Pond, Fish Brook, Hovey's Pond, and Steven's Pond. These resources are valued as they contribute to numerous water supply wells in Boxford and provide both passive and active recreational opportunities for residents.

3. Flood Hazard Areas

Flood zones for Boxford and vicinity are shown on the Flood Hazard Zones map. The map shows the 100 and 500-year flood zones based on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updated in 2012. The map shows that the flood hazard zones are predominantly limited to the river valleys and areas around ponds. Boxford has adopted a flood plain overlay district as part of its Zoning Code in May 2012, Article 14, to restrict development in flood zone areas.

4. Wetlands

Boxford's landscape includes an abundance of wetlands or areas of land whose soils are saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally. They include marshes, swamps, vernal pools, and bogs; and they

often lie within floodplains. Wetlands are critical to the preservation of the towns' water resources. They receive and transmit large volumes of precipitation, thus ensuring a steady supply of groundwater. They also provide natural storage for runoff during storm events, thereby reducing downstream flooding and the attendant effects of erosion and sedimentation. State laws support the Conservation Commission's efforts to protect wetlands. The town adopted a bylaw to protect the wetlands, water resources and adjoining land areas in the town, by controlling activities deemed by its Conservation Commission likely to have a significant or cumulative effect upon resource area values, including but not limited to the following: public or private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water quality, water pollution control, fisheries, wildlife habitat, rare species habitat including rare plant species, agriculture, recreation values deemed important to the community and riverfront area values.⁷

Wetlands need to maintain their natural water regime, including normal fluctuations and connections with the uplands and other wetlands in order to provide maximum water quality and quantity and wildlife habitat benefits. Protected lands within Boxford that help preserve the integrity and function of wetlands include Willowdale State Forest, Cleveland Farm, Wildcat Forest, Boxford State Forest, and others.

5. Recreational Waters

Boxford's lakes and ponds provide ample recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The town beach is located on Stiles Pond with opportunities for swimming and boating. Some of the other ponds are adjacent to nature trails, providing scenic views and opportunities for bird watching, horseback riding, and nature hiking in diverse landscapes. There are also three YMCA camps on Stiles Pond owned by the towns of Lynn, Wakefield, and Danvers; and Georgetown's Camp Dennison is located on Baldpate Pond with an pond easement approved by Boxford voters in 1999.

D - Vegetation

In July 2000, Boxford conducted its first-ever Boxford Biodiversity Days event. This community-wide event identified over 515 species of plant and wildlife. The combination of extensive forests and wetlands provide rich habitats for the following list of vegetation found in our area. It includes approximately 128 varieties of plant life and 14 varieties of trees.

1. Plant life

The following listing was prepared by Phyllis Fischer and is listed primarily by the order of seasonal appearance.

⁷ At the Boxford Town Meeting on May 13, 1986, Art. 33, updated in 1994.

| Earliest Spring | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Benzoin (Spice Bush) | False Hellebore Skunk Cabbage | Water Hemlock |
| Colt's Foot Hepatica Fumitory (Rare) | Jack-in-the-Pulpit Marsh | Wood and Rue Anemone Blood Root |
| Early Saxifrage Spring | Marigold Shad Blow Trout Lily | |
| Later | | |
| Amaryllis | Partridge Berry | of blue with various shaped leaves, including the rare Bird's Foot Violet. |
| American Star Flower | Pipsissiwa | Wild Geranium |
| Blue Flag | Quaker Ladies (Bluets) | Wild Lily of the Valley |
| Blue-Eyed Grass | Rattlesnake Plantain | Wild Oats |
| Canada Lily | Rhododendron | Wild Red Columbine |
| Dandelions | Solomon's Seal and False Solomon's Seal | Winter Green |
| Dutchman's Breeches | Solomon's Seal | Wood Betony |
| Gold Thread Orchids - Lady Slipper and Lady's Tresses | Swamp Azalea Trilium Violets: Yellow, Woolly, White, Canada White, many varieties | |
| June | | |
| Barren Raspberries | Cinquefoil Self Heal | Ox Eye Daisies |
| Bastard Toadflax | Clintonia | Pokeweed |
| Beach plum | Clover - Rabbits Foot, White, Pink and Alfalfa | Purple Vetch |
| Bear Berry | | Queen Anne's Lace |
| Bindweed | Cranberries | Ragged Robin |
| Bittersweet | Daisy Fleabane | Rattlebox |
| Black Raspberries | Dame's Racket | Roses - Small white, large pink |
| Bladder Campion | Deptford Pink | Spiderwort |
| Blazing Star | Elderberry | Spreading Dogbane |
| Blue Flag Iris | Evening Primrose | St. John's Wort |
| Blueberries | Frost Weed | Steeple Bush |
| Bouncing Bet | Golden Ragwort | Strawberries |
| Bunch Berry | Greenbriar | Tall Meadow Rue |
| Butter & Eggs | Hawkweed | Tansy |
| Buttercups | Hobble Bush | Thermopsis |
| Buttonbush | Jersey Tea | Thistle |
| Carrion Flower | Knapweed | Turtlehead |
| Catnip | Leather Leaf | Virginia Creeper |
| Celandine | Milkweed | Yarrow |
| Chicory | Mullein | |
| Summer | | |

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Asters | Brown-eyed Susans | Loosestrife |
| Bayberry | Golden Rods (many varieties) | Nightshade |
| Blue Vervain | Jewelweed | Pearly Everlasting |
| Boneset | Joe Pye Weed | Sweet Fern |

Ferns

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bracken | <i>Interrupted</i> | Polypody |
| Christmas | <i>Marsh</i> | Rattlesnake Grape |
| Cinnamon | <i>New York</i> | Royal |
| Hayscented | <i>Ostrich</i> | |

Rare

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Cardinal Flower | Fringed Gentian | Pitcher plant |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|

Non-Flowering (in addition to ferns)

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Beech drops | Indian Pipe |
| Ground Pine | Mosses |

2. Hardwoods

A listing of major species within the forested areas are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ash - White | Elm - American | Maple - Sugar and Swamp |
| Beech | Hickory - Pignut and Shagbark | Oak - White, Red and Black |
| Birch - White and Gray | Hornbeam | Sassafrass |

3. Conifers

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Pine - White, Red and Pitch | Spruce - Blue | Juniper |
| Hemlock | Cedar - White, red | Tamarack (Eastern Larch) |

4. Wetland Vegetation

Wetland vegetation includes plants that are distinct in that they are well adapted to life in saturated soil. Although some species grow only in areas that are wet year-round, most wetland plants are able to tolerate a range of hydrologic conditions and may occur in uplands as well as wetlands. Wetland vegetation types in Boxford ranges from forests to swamps, bogs, and meadows. Invasive plant species are a threat to wetlands vegetation and entire wetland systems throughout the state and region, including Boxford. More information on wetland invasive species is referenced on p. 44.

5. Forested Land

Boxford maintains a substantial amount of forested land, defined as an ecosystem with a tree-crown density of 10% or more and stocked with trees capable of producing timber or other wood products. In Boxford, forested lands are typically comprised of stands of beech, maple, oak, and hickory. The most notable stand in the town is a large Beech copse in the Boxford Town Forest. Forested land in Boxford is preserved through numerous entities and has not decreased substantially in recent years.

6. Agricultural Land

Boxford is fortunate to retain a good deal of agricultural land that is reflective of its early farming history and that today meets the needs of both crop and equestrian farms. In the western and northwestern sections of town, there are many large fields, some still being used for agricultural purposes. In East and West Boxford, there are some fields that are actively farmed for hay and pasture, while most of the open lands are small, idle, or abandoned fields.

7. Shade Trees

Public shade trees, including street trees and trees within cemeteries and other public places contribute to the town's character, to its ecological and human health and comfort. Shade trees help clean the air of toxins and pollutants, mitigate temperatures, help reduce stormwater runoff and provide food and habitat for a variety of native and migrating species. Trees can also provide buffers for privacy. The town's tree warden is responsible for the health and removal of public shade trees in Boxford and for working with National Grid to minimize tree removal as new power lines are planned. Boxford has designated all roads in town (except state numbered routes) as subject to the Scenic Roads Act. Removal of trees within scenic road right-of-way require a hearing before the Planning Board.

8. Natural Communities and Core Habitats

A good summary of Boxford's plant habitats can be found in the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) 2022 report entitled *BioMap2: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts*. BioMap2 identifies habitats that, if protected, will advance biodiversity in Massachusetts. It is a planning tool designed to help local and state agencies protect the state's most important habitat resources. BioMap2 maps resources as outlined below.

Priority Natural Communities

Natural communities are assemblages of plant and animal species that share a common environment and occur together repeatedly in the landscape. BioMap2 gives conservation priority to natural communities with limited distribution and to the best examples of more common types.

Vernal Pools

BioMap2 identifies the top five percent, most interconnected clusters, of Potential Vernal Pools in the state.

Forest Cores

In BioMap2, Core Habitat includes the best examples of large, intact forests that are least impacted by roads and development, providing critical habitat for numerous woodland species.

Wetland Cores

BioMap2 used an assessment of Ecological Integrity to identify the least disturbed wetlands in the state within undeveloped landscapes – those with intact buffers and little fragmentation or other stressors associated with development. These wetlands are most likely to support critical wetland functions and are most likely to maintain these functions into the future.

Aquatic Cores

BioMap2 identifies intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur.

The BioMap2 report identifies 14 BioMap core habitats totally or partially within Boxford, encompassing Forest Cores, Wetland Cores, Vernal Pool Cores, Aquatic Cores and Exemplary or Priority Natural Community Cores.

BioMap2 also identifies Critical Natural Landscapes—or intact landscapes that are better able to support ecological processes and disturbance regimes—and a wide array of species and habitats over long time frames. In Boxford, these include 1 Landscape Block (the most intact large areas of predominately natural vegetation), and 15 Uplands Buffers of Wetland (8) and Aquatic (7) Cores.

In total BioMap2 identifies 9,153.54 acres of Core Habitat in Boxford, 58.6% of the total town area and 5,068.84 acres of Critical Natural Landscape, 32.6% of the total town area. Some lands are identified as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape.

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program also lists seventeen varieties of rare vascular plants identified within the town:

Table 10. Rare Plant Species in Boxford

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Status |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Asclepias purpurascens</i> | Purple Milkweed | E |
| <i>Carex livida</i> | Glaucous Sedge | E |
| <i>Celastrus scandens</i> | American Bittersweet | T |
| <i>Eriophorum gracile</i> | Slender Cottongrass | T |
| <i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> | Andrews' Bottle Gentian | E |
| <i>Houstonia longifolia</i> | Long-leaved Bluet | E |
| <i>Liatris scariosa var. novae-angliae</i> | New England Blazing Star | SC |
| <i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i> | Alternate-flowered Watermilfoil | E |
| <i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i> | Adder's-tongue Fern | T |
| <i>Panicum philadelphicum ssp. philadelphicum</i> | Philadelphia Panic-grass | SC |
| <i>Platanthera flava var. herbiola</i> | Pale Green Orchis | T |
| <i>Potamogeton vaseyi</i> | Vasey's Pondweed | E |
| <i>Senna hebecarpa</i> | Wild Senna | E |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----|
| <i>Sparganium natans</i> | Small Bur-reed | E |
| <i>Viola adunca</i> | Sand Violet | SC |
| <i>Carex livida</i> | Livid Sedge | E |
| <i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i> | Slender Watermilfoil | E |

E-Endangered | T-Threatened | SC-Special Concern

9. Vegetation and Recreation

The diverse and captivating vegetation that inhabits Boxford lends itself to a multitude of recreational uses, including scenic viewing along nature trails, hunting in some forested areas, and hiking and camping among vegetative cover. The presence of several rare or endangered vegetation species throughout Boxford makes protecting their natural landscapes essential to maintaining biodiversity. Further, the plethora of unique vegetative landscapes like those found in core habitats throughout Boxford should continue to be protected from an ecosystem standpoint, so they may continue to deliver their essential ecosystem services, including providing food and shelter to associated fauna and recreational value to town residents.

E - Fisheries and Wildlife

The following extensive inventory of wildlife sighted in Boxford speaks for the interest of Boxford residents in taking to the fields, forests and streams to spot wildlife. Many residents thrive on fishing, bird watching and observing all kinds of native wildlife. Many observed species have been documented with the Conservation Commission. Retaining our uninterrupted forest and wetland corridors is of major importance to this town and the surrounding communities for the preservation of species diversity. Many of the large protected upland tracts and wetlands provide wildlife corridors, offering habitat for breeding, nesting and feeding. A black bear was sighted in Boxford for the first time in many years during the winter of 2006-2007, and as recently as the summer of 2022. Increases in the population of coyote, turkeys, fisher, and beaver have also been noted.

The NHESP report lists nine rare animal species in Boxford, comprising the blue-spotted salamander, marbled salamander, four-toed salamander, barn owl, bridle shiner, eastern pond mussel, Blanding’s turtle, Ringed Boghaunter, and Wood turtle.

1. Boxford Wildlife

| Mammals | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Beaver | Gray Fox | Red Squirrel |
| Big Brown Bat | Gray Squirrel | River Otter |
| Bobcat | House Mouse | Short-Tailed Shrew |
| Coyote | Little Brown Bat | Short-Tailed Weasel |
| Deer Mouse | Mink | Star-Nosed Mole |
| Eastern Chipmunk | Muskrat | Striped Skunk |
| Eastern Cottontail Rabbit | Opossum | Voles, Unknown Species |
| Eastern Mole | Raccoon | White-Footed Mouse |
| Fisher | Red Bat | White-Tailed Deer |
| Flying Squirrel | Red Fox | Woodchuck |

| Fish | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| American Eel | Chain Pickerel | Rainbow Trout |
| Black Crappie | Golden Shiner | Tessellated Darter |
| Bridled Shiner | Hornpout | Tessellated Darter |
| Brook Trout | Lake Trout | White Crappie |
| Brown Bullhead/ Catfish | Large and Smallmouth Bass | Yellow Perch |
| Pumpkinseed Sunfish | | |
| Reptiles | | |
| Black Racer | Musk (Stinkpot) Turtle | Smooth Green Snake |
| Blanding's Turtle | Northern Water Snake | Snapping Turtle |
| Eastern Box Turtle | Painted Turtle | Spotted Turtle |
| Eastern Garter Snake | Red-Bellied Snake | Wood Turtle |
| Hog-Nosed Snake | Ribbon Snake | |
| Milk Snake | Ring-Necked Snake | |
| Amphibians | | |
| American Toad | Leopard Frog | Spotted Salamander |
| Blue-Spotted Salamander | Marbled Salamander | Spring Peeper |
| Bullfrog | Pickerel Frog | Two-Lined Salamander |
| Gray Tree Frog | Red-Backed Salamander | Wood Frog |
| Green Frog | Red-Spotted Newt | |
| Birds | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher (M,UC) | Black-throated Blue Warbler (M,UC) | Chestnut-sided Warbler (M,UC) |
| Alder Flycatcher (M,UC) | Black-throated Green Warbler (M,C) | Chimney Swift (M,C) |
| American Bittern (M,R) | Blue Jay (R,C) | Chipping Sparrow (M,C) |
| American Coot (M,UC) | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (M,UC) | Common Goldeneye (M,UC) |
| American Crow (R,C) | Blue-winged Teal (M,UC) | Common Grackle (M,C) |
| American Goldfinch (R,C) | Blue-winged Warbler (M,UC) | Common Merganser (M,UC) |
| American Kestrel (R,UC) | Bohemian Waxwing ® | Common Nighthawk (M,UC) |
| American Redstart (M,C) | Broad-winged Hawk (M,C) | Common Redpoll (M,N) |
| American Robin (R,C) | Brown Creeper (R,C) | Common Snipe (M,R) |
| Barn Swallow (M,C) | Brown Thrasher (M,R) | Common Yellowthroat (M,C) |
| Barred Owl (R,UC) | Brown-headed Cowbird (M,C) | Connecticut Warbler (M,R) |
| Bay-breasted Warbler (M,UC) | Bufflehead (M,C) | Cooper's Hawk (M,R) |
| Belted Kingfisher (M,C) | Canada Goose (R,C) | Dark-eyed Junco (M,C) |
| Black Duck (M,C) | Canada Warbler (M,UC) | Double-crested Cormorant (M,C) |
| Black-and-white Warbler (M,C) | Canvasback (M,R) | Downy Woodpecker (R,C) |
| Black-billed Cuckoo (M,UC) | Cape May Warbler (M,R) | Eastern Bluebird (R,C) |
| Blackburnian Warbler (M,UC) | Carolina Wren (R) | Eastern Kingbird (R,C) |
| Black-capped Chickadee (R,C) | Cedar Waxwing (R,C) | Eastern Phoebe (M,C) |
| Blackpoll Warbler (M,UC) | | Eastern Wood Pewee (M,C) |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Evening Grosbeak (M,N) | Northern Mockingbird (R,C) | Savannah Sparrow (M,C) |
| Field Sparrow (M,UC) | Northern Oriole (M,C) | Scarlet Tanager (M,C) |
| Fox Sparrow (M,UC) | Northern Parula (M,UC) | Screech Owl (R,UC) |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | Northern Shrike (M,R) | Sharp-shinned Hawk (R,C) |
| Goshawk (R,UC) | Northern Waterthrush (M,UC) | Snow Bunting (M,R) |
| Gray Catbird (M,C) | Osprey (M,UC) | Solitary Sandpiper (M,R) |
| Great Black-backed Gull (R,UC) | Ovenbird (M,C) | Solitary Vireo (M,UC) |
| Great Blue Heron (M,C) | Palm Warbler (M,C) | Song Sparrow (R,C) |
| Great Cormorant (M,C) | Peregrine Falcon (M,R) | Starling (R,C) |
| Great Crested Flycatcher (M,C) | Pied-billed Grebe (M,UC) | Swainson's Thrush (M,UC) |
| Great Horned Owl (R,UC) | Pileated Woodpecker (R,UC) | Swamp Sparrow (M,UC) |
| Green-backed Heron (M,R) | Pine Grosbeak (M,N) | Tennessee Warbler (M,R) |
| Green-Winged Teal (M,UC) | Pine Siskin (M,N) | Tree Sparrow (M,UC) |
| Hairy Woodpecker (R,C) | Pine Warbler (M,UC) | Tree Swallow (M,C) |
| Hermit Thrush (M,C) | Prairie Warbler (M,UC) | Tufted Titmouse (R,C) |
| Herring Gull (R,C) | Purple Finch (M,UC) | Turkey (R,C) |
| Hooded Merganser (M,UC) | Red Crossbill (M,N) | Turkey Vulture (M,C) |
| Horned Lark (M,C) | Red-bellied Woodpecker (R,UC) | Veery (M,C) |
| House Finch (R,C) | Red-breasted Nuthatch (R,UC) | Warbling Vireo (M,UC) |
| House Sparrow (R,C) | Red-eyed Vireo (M,C) | Whip-poor-will (M,R) |
| House Wren (M,C) | Red-shouldered Hawk (M,UC) | White-breasted Nuthatch (R,C) |
| Indigo Bunting (M,UC) | Red-tailed Hawk (R,C) | White-crowned Sparrow (M,UC) |
| Least Bittern (M,R) | Red-winged Blackbird (M,C) | White-throated Sparrow (M,C) |
| Least Flycatcher (M,UC) | Ring-billed Gull (R,UC) | White-winged Crossbill (M,N) |
| Lesser Scaup (M,R) | Ring-necked Ducks (M,C) | Willow Flycatcher (M,UC) |
| Lincoln's Sparrow (M,UC) | Ring-necked Pheasant (R,UC) | Wilson's Warbler (M,UC) |
| Louisiana Waterthrush (M,UC) | Rock Dove (R,C) | Winter Wren (M,UC) |
| Magnolia Warbler (M,UC) | Rose-breasted Grosbeak (M,C) | Wood Duck (M,C) |
| Mallard (R,C) | Rough-winged Swallow (M,R) | Wood Thrush (M) C |
| Merlin (M,UC) | Ruby-crowned Kinglet (M,C) | Yellow Warbler (M,C) |
| Mourning Dove (R,C) | Ruby-throated Hummingbird (M,C) | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (M,UC) |
| Mourning Warbler (M,R) | Ruddy Duck (M,UC) | Yellow-billed Cuckoo (M,UC) |
| Mute Swan (R,UC) | Ruffed Grouse (R,C) | Yellow-rumped Warbler (M,C) |
| Nashville Warbler (M,UC) | Rufous-sided Towhee (M,C) | Yellow-throated Vireo (M,UC) |
| Northern Cardinal (R,C) | Rusty Blackbird (M,R) | |
| Northern Flicker (R,C) | | |

Characters following the species' common name indicates: (RS) Resident species, one that may be found year round; (M) Migratory species that temporarily passes through or is here for only part of the year; (C) Common, seen regularly; (UC) Uncommon, seen infrequently, small numbers yearly; (R) Rare, seen very infrequently, usually not yearly; and (N) Nomadic, depending on food supply in the north these species may be common or absent from our area in any given year(s).

2. Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are ecosystems created by small depressions in the earth that temporarily collect seasonal precipitation. They are characterized by periods of dryness and a lack of fish, which allow for the safe

development of natal amphibian and insect species. Vernal pool habitat is important to a variety of wildlife species, including some amphibians that breed exclusively in vernal pools, and other organisms such as fairy shrimp, which spend their entire life cycles in the vernal pool. Other wildlife species utilize vernal pools for breeding and feeding.

Certified vernal pools are protected by state regulations. BioMap2 identifies 7 vernal pool cores in Boxford. There are at least 115 certified vernal pools with 100-foot buffer zones that serve as areas of critical wildlife habitat. There are possibly 209 more that have been documented but not yet certified. And it is believed that many more vernal pools have not yet been documented or certified. Vernal pools fall under the jurisdictions of the town, the Commonwealth, and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

3. Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are contiguous tracts of land that provide habitat suitable to accommodate wildlife migration patterns. They often follow water courses and associated wetlands where development is limited. Large, protected forest lands that cross municipal boundaries and connect to other undeveloped lands are important corridors as well. Boxford has been successful in creating some significant wildlife corridors, and the 2023 purchase of the Dorman Land enhances this effort.

4. Rare Animal Species

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program lists seven species in Boxford that are classified as *threatened* or a *species of concern*. It is essential that the habitats in which these species reside are protected to ensure their populations may increase in size and eventually delisted.

Table 11. Rare Animal Species in Boxford

| Taxonomic Group | Scientific Name | Common Name | Status |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Amphibian | Ambystoma laterale | Blue-Spotted Salamander | SC |
| Amphibian | Ambystoma opacum | Marbled Salamander | T |
| Bird | Tyto alba | Barn Owl | SC |
| Crustacean | Eubbranchipus intricatus | Intricate Fairy Shrimp | SC |
| Dragonfly | Williamsonia linteri | Ringed Boghunter | T |
| Fish | Noropis bifrenatus | Bridle Shiner | SC |
| Mussel | Ligumia nasuta | Eastern Pondmussel | SC |
| Reptile | Emydoidea blandingii | Blanding’s Turtle | T |
| Reptile | Glyptemys insculpta | Wood Turtle | SC |

E-Endangered | T-Threatened | SC-Special Concern

F - Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Boxford's visual character is reflective of its agricultural past. Since the decline of the region's agricultural economy, much open farmland has reverted to forest in a process known as *ecological succession*. Suburban development will continue to create pressure on Boxford’s remaining open space areas. These areas contain many interrelated, intangible benefits and critical groundwater protection that should be evaluated for conservation as open space. It is difficult to account for and determine their true value. The benefits—be they aesthetic, cultural/historic or ecological and recreational—do contribute to the community's overall

sense of rural character. These value components define the existing scenic areas and areas of unique environmental resources in the following section.

1. Scenic Landscapes

The scenic landscape inventory from the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) lists the Lake Cochichewick unit as a prime scenic resource. This unit extends from North Andover to Bradford and contains a portion of West Boxford. The topography is gentle, rolling farmland and contains several water bodies. Portions of this unit in Boxford are permanently protected through the town Forest and State Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. However, most land in this area is privately owned and unprotected from future development. Other areas considered for scenic landscape protection include Main Street from Lawrence Road to Middleton Road, and the Boxford Woods area at Baldpate Pond.

Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

About 70% of Boxford is tree-covered and the town has significant areas of wetlands and numerous ponds and lakes. Examples are the Wildcat Conservation Area, the area around Baldpate Pond, and the esker system on the Anvil Farm property. Portions of each of these three areas are protected permanently through town and Commonwealth ownership, but many other areas are privately owned and are at risk of future development.

Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas

Local historic areas include Boxford Village Historic District, Howe Village Historic District, West Boxford Village, the Lowe Pond mill site, Chadwick Mill, the Howe's Pond mill site, Lockwood's Fish Brook mill and bloomery site, and the Ipswich River at Masconomet Regional High School. Boxford also has a plethora of old archeological stone walls built from glacial retreat outwash, which are important to the town's character and history.

State and National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been determined significant to American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. National Register listings include three districts and five individual properties. The three districts comprise the Boxford Village Historic District with 43 resources, the Howe Village Historic District with 14 resources, and the Rowley Village Forge Site. The three First Period dwellings comprise, the Palmer School—also known as District School #2 or the Little Red Schoolhouse—Towne Farm, and the Spofford-Barnes House. All National Register listings are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

2. Heritage Landscapes Identified by Community

The following list is a revised summary of landscapes discussed in the Boxford Reconnaissance Report/Essex County Landscape Inventory from 2005 produced by the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. Landscapes are grouped by type.

Agriculture

Alderbrook Farm | Lake Shore Road
APR. Hay is grown here. Cattle and horses grazed. Managed for grassland birds.

Cargill Field
Owned by the town and managed by the Conservation Commission. Leased for farming. CR held by BTA/BOLT. Also used for educational, historic, and cultural events.

Haynes Hayfield | Main St. & Middleton Rd.
Owned by the town and managed by the Conservation Commission. Leased for farming.

Ingaldsby Farm | Washington St.
See West Boxford listing in Priority Heritage Landscapes. Farm stand with agricultural fields.

Ingaldsby West 40* | Main Street
APR. Heritage Landscape on Hovey's Pond, farmed

King's Tree Farm | Washington St.
Privately owned nursery that sells trees and shrubs. Contains wetlands. CR Held by Essex County Greenbelt Association

Morss Berry Farm | Oak Ridge Rd. & Lake Shore Rd.
APR. Working farm.

Otis Curtis Farm/Small Ox Farm | Ipswich Rd
Actively farmed. CR held by Conservation Commission.

Paisley Farm* | Washington St.
See West Boxford listing in Priority Heritage Landscapes.

Woodspell Farm | Main St.
This farm is south of Witch Hollow Farm, on Main Street.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries

Brookside Cemetery | Main St.
In West Boxford Village. Old West Parish Burial Ground. From 1838.

Civil War Grave | Off Great Pond Rd.
This grave is reported to be in a Boxford "meadow" off Great Pond Rd. This "meadow", now woods is owned by the town.

Harmony | Ipswich Rd.
From 1717. Near the site of former Schoolhouse #3 and near Kelsey Road.

Killam Cemetery | Endicott St.
On the Masconomet Regional Junior & Senior High School property, next to Rt. 95.

Mt. Vernon Cemetery | Mt. Vernon Rd.
Just west of Main Street, this 1716 cemetery is framed by a high stone wall with a small iron

gate entrance. Markers are marble and granite, with some slate in the earlier section.

Old Burial Ground | Main St./Mill Run
From 1693. Expansion of Boxford Village NR and LHD to include this burial ground is recommended in OSRP. Clean up and maintenance plan done in 2003 as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Russell Cemetery | Bald Hill
Family burial ground from the Revolutionary War, with three graves from that period.

Village Cemetery | Georgetown Rd.
NR, LHD. On land that is site of first meetinghouse, now opposite First Congregational Church. Land donated by Asa Peabody in 1807.

Industrial

Chadwick Mill | Main St.

This 1.5-acre site, owned by the Boxford Trail Association/Boxford Open Land Trust (BTA/BOLT) is near Hovey's Pond. Has a mill race and the original mill stone.

Howe's Pond Mill | Fish Brook

Once a grist mill followed by a sawmill, the site has been converted into a Japanese garden. A small mill building with a wheel was reconstructed as part of the garden. A new bridge, completed in 2004, carries Mill Road over Fish Brook at this site.

Lockwood's Grist Mill | Lockwood Lane

On Fish Brook- the site of this grist mill is next to the Rowley Village Forge Site. This site is marked by a metal turn wheel still standing in Fish Brook mill race.

Lowe's Pond Mill | Off Depot Rd.

Once known as the Chapman Sawmill and later as Killam's, the site on Pye Brook includes a raceway, a dam, the mill pond called Lowe's Pond. It is near the old railroad station which was used to ship lumber. The dam has been reconstructed and the mill race is evident; however, no buildings remain.

Natural Features

Baldpate Pond | Boxford State Forest

The view of this pond from Great Pond Road or Baldpate Road, is one of the more spectacular views in town.

Cole's Pond | Main St.

The pond is on the northeast side of Main Street near West Boxford Village. The pond's features are a significant beaver dam, many lily pads and invasive plant material. The pond contributes to the Parker River.

Fish Brook

Viewed from Middleton Road. Headwaters include Mosquito Brook in North Andover, and Stiles and Towne ponds in Boxford.

Match Factory (John Boardman House) | 6 Lawrence Rd.

Located on Fish Brook is the superintendent's house which also served as a dormitory. The factory building, dam and pond no longer exist.

Morss Mill Site | Lake Shore Rd.

This mill site is within the agricultural preservation restriction area of the Morss Berry Farm.

Pye Brook Mill | Georgetown Rd.

Part of the stonework of the mill remains as evidence of its early history.

Rowley Village Forge Site* | Lockwood Ln.

See Priority Heritage Landscapes in Report. Bloomery included at the site.

Hovey's Pond* | West Boxford

See West Boxford Village in Priority Heritage Landscapes report.

Ipswich River

Off Endicott St. Along the southern border of Boxford, through the Masconomet Regional School property.

Johnson's Pond

Most of pond is in Groveland & Haverhill. Boxford's zoning regulating development at pond edges is more restrictive than regulations in abutting communities, particularly Haverhill.

Kimball Pond | Main St.

Located north of Sheffield Rd. One of the ponds that is drained by Fish Brook and contributes to the public water supply of the Ipswich River.

Lowe Pond | Off Depot Rd.

Connected to Pye Brook – See Industrial listings above.

Parker River | Along Rt. 133

Habitat for endangered turtle species, Blanding’s Turtle.

Pye Brook

Viewed from Depot Road. Flows through Lowe Pond. Originates at Four Mile Pond.

Spofford Pond

Between Ipswich & Spofford Rd. The Pond is

Open Space – Parks

Boxford Common | Middleton Rd.

75 acres of woodlands, meadows, trails, as well as walking paths, play structures, and athletic fields. The Town of Boxford holds the CR on 57 acres of the area.

Chadwick Mill | Main St. West Boxford

Owned and managed by BTA/BOLT.

Cleveland Farm State Forest | Rowley Rd.

CR protecting 17 acres. Owned and managed by DCR. Within the State Forest a key feature is the (former) Haynes Property Esker system.

Kelsey Arboretum | 18 Kelsey Rd.

This property is named for landscape architect Harlan P. Kelsey (1872-1958). The Arboretum was planted in 1929 as a display garden for Kelsey-Highlands Nursery. It is now owned by Kelsey Condominium Association. The Horticultural Society of Boxford was formed to hold the CR. It is a stop on the Bay Circuit Trail.

Nason Conservation Land | Washington St.

West Boxford

46 acres on Hovey's Pond, with trails and spectacular views of the Pond.

threatened by nitrogen loading due to septic systems along the shore.

Stevens Pond

South of Ipswich Rd. Most of the surrounding 22 acres of land is protected under the ownership of BTA/BOLT. There are a few privately held house lots with water frontage.

Stiles Pond* | Main St.

See Priority Heritage Landscapes in Report.

Towne Pond

Part in North Andover. Located in the southwest corner of Boxford. Zoning is an issue with denser allowances along the North Andover shores of the pond.

Round Top* | Round Top Rd.

At Chapman Way. See Priority Heritage Landscapes in Report. Camp Curtis Guild.

Wildcat Conservation Area | Herrick Rd.

Off Ipswich Rd. Located southwest of Stiles Pond, the 319.2 acre Conservation Area is town owned and under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. It was originally taken by the Town for water resource protection. The vicinity has been identified as having archaeological potential. Historically the land was pasture, woodlots, and orchards. White pine was harvested by the Diamond Match Factory at the end of the 19th century. Now the area is wetlands and wooded uplands.

Witch Hollow | Main St. & Ipswich Rd.

Town owned property under Conservation Commission. The 1690s meadow is planted with native, deep meadow/prairie grass which has 6’ to 20’ roots into ground providing a fine habitat for wildlife, especially grassland birds.

Transportation

Bay Circuit Trail

The trail passes through Boxford and is an important part of the town's trail system.

Railroad Right-of-Way

The railroad right-of-way has been partially developed into a rail trail.

Scenic Roads*

See Priority Heritage Landscapes in Report. Rural character of roadside views.

Walking Trails

BTA/BOLT maintains a system of trails for passive recreation.

*Please refer to the 2005 Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, Boxford Reconnaissance Report. Abbreviations and symbols used here: * (Priority Landscape); APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction); BTA/BOLT, Inc. (Boxford Trail Association/Boxford Land Trust); CR (Conservation Restriction); LHD (Local Historic District); NR (National Register), OSRP (Open Space & Recreation Plan); PR (Preservation Restriction); and TTOR (The Trustees of Reservations).*

3. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

This section refers to areas which are under the jurisdiction of the state environmental agencies and which should be reviewed in order to preserve the resources of that area. None are currently listed in Boxford. However, there are similar programs that both the Commonwealth and the town can utilize in protecting these valuable resources.

Brooks and Rivers

In the Riverways Program, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has cited Fish Brook as one of the critical resources needed to protect the Ipswich River Watershed. The objective should be to establish an overlay plan identifying properties and areas on the brook worthy of permanent protection, or to implement a Best Management Plan.

To protect water quality and quantity, Pye Brook and the Parker River—also sensitive regional resources—should have areas designated for protection in addition to the Rivers Protection Act regulations. Greenways are deeded, protected areas along rivers that can help connect dispersed open space parcels.

There is no formal Stream Team to monitor Pye Brook, but the Parker River has its own Clean Water Association of volunteers to monitor river changes each month. In addition, the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) has a volunteer River Watch group that monitors two sites along Fish Brook: one site at Fish Brook by Middleton Road and the other at Fish Brook by Washington Street in Topsfield. Volunteers monitor water-quality parameters such as temperature, water clarity (turbidity), and dissolved oxygen content. Data collected is available from the IRWA's website.

Lakes

About 14% of North Andover's Lake Cochichewick watershed is located in Boxford. Most of this land is under agricultural use or is unprotected, privately owned open space.

Ponds

The City of Haverhill has some rights over Johnson's Pond for secondary water supply purposes. Haverhill also has certain rights over Hovey's Pond and Chadwick Pond, as they both feed into Johnson's Pond. In 2020, the town acquired the Bergstrom Land, 15 acres on Hovey's Pond. This helped to fill in a contiguous wildlife corridor around the pond and to the Boxford Town Forest. Most of this corridor is accessible to the public. In 1996, Pond Watershed Overlay Districts were adopted by the town to provide protection to Stiles, Baldpate and Hovey's Ponds.

Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife

Boxford has extensive areas designated as Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife by the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Like the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designations along coastlines, Natural Heritage is primarily concerned with wildlife species that are of special concern, threatened or endangered. These areas are reviewed by them and are under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Protection Act.

G - Environmental Challenges and Hazardous Waste

1. Waste and Brownfield Sites

According to the MassDEP, there have been 30 oil and hazardous waste releases to the environment identified in Boxford (Boxford Board of Health). Many of these involved a release of petroleum products—such as gasoline or fuel oil—from leaking underground storage tanks or tank overfills, transformer oil leaks, or minor releases from vehicle accidents. The Boxford landfill is listed among the sites and has achieved *A2 Response Action Outcome* status.⁸ All except the most recent site, which was a truck accident-related spill on Ipswich Road in July 2022, have achieved some form of compliance status. The town is currently working with the truck owner and its Licensed Site Professional to achieve compliance for this recent spill.

2. Landfill

The Boxford landfill operated from 1944 to 1998 and was located on municipally owned land near the Town Hall/Police Station/Department of Public Works complex near the intersection of Spofford Road and Ipswich Road. The landfill was capped in accordance with a landfill closure plan approved by the MassDEP. The town is in negotiations with the MassDEP on approval of the final closure of the landfill. A series of monitoring wells have been installed around the landfill as part of the closure plan. Test results from these wells indicate exceedances of arsenic drinking water standards in some, but not all, wells. An analysis by Weston and Sampson, the town's consultant, suggests that this arsenic is from natural sources in the bedrock, rather than landfill leachate.

In cooperation with adjacent towns, Boxford also holds annual hazardous waste collection events to allow residents to dispose of waste solvents, paints, and pesticides, etc. safely. The recycling and hazardous waste collection activities as well as the landfill capping help to protect Boxford's groundwater and drinking water resources. The OSRP survey results reiterate that protecting groundwater and water supplies continues to be an issue of great concern to the town's residents.

3. Erosion and Sedimentation

Environmental quality is diminished through erosion and permanent soil loss, which reduces the land's capability to restore its vegetative cover. Erosion can particularly present a problem on construction sites and on properties with steep inclines.

Sedimentation refers to the accumulation of mineral or organic matter deposited by water, air, or ice. When sediment accumulates, it alters the related area or water body characteristics. Sedimentation can affect water depth, surface area, circulation patterns, and flow rates—all of which can impact water quality. Sedimentation can also reduce the capacity of wetlands to absorb water.

⁸ An A2 Response Action Outcome (RAO) status is defined as: "A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has not been reduced to background".

There are two locations where significant problems with erosion and sedimentation have occurred despite the best efforts of the Conservation Commission and involved regulatory agencies. Both of these locations were developed during the construction or maintenance of driveways located on the slopes of drumlins composed of glacial till, namely Bayns Hill and Jobs Hill.

The *Bayns Hill* driveway in question — an approx. 3,800-foot long gravel drive — provides access to Camp Wakanda, a YMCA summer camp. Periodic maintenance of the drainage swales and culverts is required in order to prevent the drive from eroding and becoming rutted and impassable. Several attempts have been made to improve the engineering of this drive and to reduce erosion and sedimentation — most recently, by an Order of Conditions issued by the Conservation Commission in 2023.

The *Jobs Hill* driveway serves 255A and 255B Main Street. This driveway originally escaped regulatory review because of its location outside wetlands permitting jurisdiction and the lack, at that time, of a driveway bylaw. During construction, significant erosion and sedimentation reached an adjacent wetland area, which triggered enforcement action and regulatory review by the Conservation Commission. The town subsequently enacted a driveway bylaw; and the revised driveway plan for this property was subject to review by multiple regulatory agencies under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Driveway Bylaw. Recently, clearing of vegetation on the slope of this drumlin was halted to preserve vegetative cover and reduce erosion-and sedimentation.

The Boxford Conservation Commission reviews, permits, and monitors construction projects under the Wetlands Protection Act, Boxford’s Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and Boxford’s Stormwater Management Bylaw to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are followed to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Other examples where the town is tasked with reviewing and approving construction projects include:

- Board of Health for transports exceeding 500 cubic yards of earth on or off site;
- Planning Board for driveway projects;
- Select Board or DPW Superintendent for projects involving town rights-of-way;
- Zoning Board of Appeals for special permits of site plans; and
- Board of Health for wells and septic systems.

In short, there are very few projects that involve significant disturbance to the land that do not require some sort of town review and approval.

4. Chronic Flooding.

Boxford’s abundance of wetlands helps to mitigate most high-water events attributable to large storms and spring snow melts. FEMA’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) shows that the flood hazard zones are predominantly limited to the river valleys and areas around ponds. Property bordering Four Mile Pond has been identified as an area that is regularly impacted by flooding. The flooding is caused by a lack of holding capacity at Lowe Pond Dam, which requires that flood waters during large storms be stored upstream at Four Mile Pond. This issue should be addressed as part of a watershed management program for Pye Brook and Lowe Pond Dam.

5. New Developments

Most new developments affect the environment to some degree, even as many of these impacts can be minimized by the enforcement of federal, state, and local regulations. Impacts might occur during construction as vegetation is altered and topsoils’ are disrupted, which allows wind, rainfall, and snowmelt to trigger erosion and sedimentation. Ongoing development impacts are manifested as, for example, an increase in impervious surfaces, which can contribute to reduced groundwater recharge and increased storm

water runoff, pollution from construction and industrial processes, and loss of open space, vegetation, and tree canopy.

At the Spring Annual Town Meeting in May 2006, the town adopted a Stormwater Management Bylaw that authorized the Conservation Commission to promulgate such regulations for construction sites covering at least one acre and located within the designated *Urbanized Area* as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. These threshold requirements reflect the minimum requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The Conservation Commission adopted a set of related regulations in the fall of 2007 and have expanded and updated them several times since. As currently drafted, a complete application for a Stormwater Management Permit from the Conservation Commission would include:

- A Stormwater Management Plan;
- A Hydrology Report demonstrating compliance with the MassDEP policy; and
- An Operation and Management Plan.

To date there have been seven projects reviewed under the Stormwater Management Plan requirements.

6. Impaired Water Bodies

Under the federal Clean Water Act, states are required to monitor and assess the quality of their surface and groundwater. Waters are evaluated on their capacity to support their designated uses as defined in the surface water quality standards. Waters must be evaluated for their attained uses and impairments and placed in one of the following categories:

1. Unimpaired and not threatened for all designated uses;
2. Unimpaired for some uses others not assessed;
3. Insufficient information to make assessments for any uses;
4. Impaired or threatened for one or more use but not requiring a TMDL;⁹
Category 4b indicates that the water body is expected to attain all designated uses through pollution control measures.
Category 4c indicates that the impairment is not caused by a pollutant. These impairments are often caused by noxious aquatic plants or exotic species; or
5. Impaired or threatened for one or more use requiring a TMDL.

The following table shows waters in Boxford that have been evaluated for uses and impairments from the Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters 2018-2020 Reporting Cycle.¹⁰ It should also be noted that no water bodies in Massachusetts were designated as Category 1 because of a statewide public health advisory on fish consumption.

⁹ A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed in a waterbody and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality.

¹⁰ For the most recent (draft) list—please refer to Draft Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters 2022 Reporting Cycle at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-massachusetts-integrated-list-of-waters-2022-reporting-cycle/download>.

Table 12. Evaluated Waters for Uses and Impairments in Boxford

| Water Body | Category | AU | Impairments |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baldpate Pond | 5 | – | Curly Leaf Pond Weed, Fanwort, dissolved oxygen, mercury in the fish tissue |
| Chadwick Pond | 5 | – | Mercury in fish tissue |
| Fish Brook | 5 | – | E. coli |
| Four-Mile Pond | 3 | – | |
| Hovey’s Pond | 5 | – | Mercury in fish tissue |
| Ipswich River | 5 | – | Dewatering, dissolved oxygen, mercury in fish tissue |
| Johnsons Pond | 5 | – | Mercury in fish tissue, dissolved oxygen |
| Kimballs Pond | 3 | – | |
| Lowe Pond | 5 | – | Non-native aquatic plants, mercury in fish tissue |
| Lower Four Mile Pond | 4c | – | Non-native aquatic plants |
| Mill River | 5 | – | Fish passage barrier, water chestnut, algae, non-native aquatic plants |
| Parker River | 4c | – | Dewatering, fish passage barrier |
| Penn Brook | 5 | – | Benthic macroinvertebrates, dissolved oxygen |
| Sperry’s Pond | 3 | – | |
| Spofford Pond | 3 | – | |
| Stevens Pond | 4c | – | Non-native aquatic plants |
| Stiles Pond | 3 | – | |
| Towne Pond | 3 | – | |

AU = Attained Uses

7. Dams

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation’s Office of Dam Safety has identified 11 dams in Boxford. Of these, only Stiles Pond Dam and Howe Pond Dams are identified as being of *Significant Hazard*.

Stiles Pond Dam

Stiles Pond Dam is a 170-foot long earth embankment with a 100-foot reinforced concrete center wall. The dam’s spillway is a reinforced concrete block culvert. Inside of this culvert there are stoplogs that establish normal water levels in the pond. The earthen portion of the dam was substantially repaired and improved in 2014 with the addition of clay and rip-rap to the areas that were seeping or eroding. A dam management plan has yet to be completed for this dam.

Howe Pond Dam

Howe Pond Dam was first built in the 1700s and has been repaired many times since then. It is currently privately owned and consists of three channels. The main dam, which is in the center, is approx. 100 feet across. To the right and left of the main structure, there are two spillways, the larger of which is on the left.

Both experience intermittent flow at some points during the year. The dam and surrounding areas are well maintained by the homeowner.

Lowe Pond, Four Mile Pond, and Baldpate Dams

There are also three dams identified as *Low Hazard* in Boxford: Lowe Pond Dam, Four Mile Pond Dam, and Baldpate Dam.

Lowe Pond Dam is a privately owned dam that was created in the 1950s. The dam was rebuilt in the 1970s and is comprised of two structures, an earthen dam and a concrete weir. The earthen portion of the dam is 137 feet long and the concrete weir is 53 feet long. Maintenance of this dam consists mostly of controlling erosion and vegetation management. This dam constricts water flow downstream in Pye Brook during the summer months. Floodwaters have been known to threaten the earthen part of the dam, requiring emergency assistance from the town to prevent overtopping. To ameliorate this hazard, town officials—acting under emergency powers—have occasionally stored floodwaters upstream of Four Mile Pond during large storms. Such emergency actions unfortunately increase the risk of flooding to property bordering Four Mile Pond. This issue should be addressed as part of a watershed management program for Pye Brook as well, as is mentioned in the previous section *Chronic Flooding*.

Four Mile Pond Dam is a privately owned dam located at the outlet of Lower Four Mile Pond on Georgetown Road. The dam outlet is a concrete structure with two spillways approx. 5 feet wide. There is a center, concrete post between the two spillways. This dam underwent major repairs in 2022 by replacing spalled concrete on the piers.

Baldpate Pond Dam—shown on the state GIS map as being in Boxford—consists of a large concrete culvert under a former railroad causeway located at the eastern end of Baldpate Pond in the town of Georgetown. The causeway is planned to be part of the Border-to-Boston rail-to-trail project.

Other Dams of Interest

Other dams of interest include Lockwood Dam. This dam, dating from the 1670s, is located on lower Fish Brook and is the first impoundment of Fish Brook as one moves up stream from the Ipswich River. A portion is owned by the town, while the other portion is privately owned. The dam is constructed of iron plates that are driven across the brook. It is approx. 60 feet wide and holds back approx. 2½ feet of water. The dam was repaired in the fall of 2007.

In addition to the dams noted above, barriers to fish passage have been noted in two culverts along Fish Brook: One where Fish Brook goes under Towne Road, and the other where Fish Brook goes under Main Street. If these culverts were to be replaced, they would need to comply with current stream crossing requirements that provide fish and wildlife passage.

8. Invasive Species¹¹

Invasive plants—defined as plants that grow rapidly and are difficult to remove or control once established—are often threats to forests and wetlands. When invasive species take over large areas of habitat, ecological processes are changed. Often invasive species force out native species that provide food and habitat for local species.

¹¹ Taken from a list of plants identified by the Massachusetts Invasive Plants Advisory Group. <http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/invasive.htm>.

Plants that have been identified as being a threat to Massachusetts forests include such commonly seen plants as Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), multiflora rose (*Rosa Multiflora*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus carthartica*).

Some commonly found invasive species that pose the greatest threat to wetland, floodplain, and streambank communities include Phragmites or common reed (*Phragmites australis*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and yellow iris (*Iris pseudocorus*). Recently, infestations of Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) have also been observed overtaking recently disturbed areas.

9. Forestry Issues

Forests are important for providing wildlife habitat, regulating climate, assimilating pollution, sequestering carbon, protecting water supply and quality, mitigating flooding, and retaining soils. Forests also have important aesthetic and recreation value, adding greatly to quality of life. Forests face multiple threats from invasive plant species—see above—and pests, including the Asian long-horned beetle, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and winter moth.

Limiting development in forested areas and monitoring the health of forests across the town's protected open spaces are important to ensure the long-term sustainability of Boxford's forests and the benefits they provide.

10. Environmental Equity

Environmental equity refers to a person's ability to live in a safe and healthy community, regardless of their race, color, gender, age, sexuality, national origin, ability, or income, with, for example, easy access to open space. Boxford's open-space resources are distributed throughout the town providing opportunities for access, with relative ease, for all from within Boxford and the surrounding communities. Environmental justice populations are those with high percentages of minority, non-English speaking, low-income, and foreign-born populations. As identified by the Commonwealth, Boxford has no environmental justice population.

Section 4 - Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Open space is important for protecting groundwater and drinking water, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and preserving forests. By providing parks, playgrounds, access to water, trails and athletic fields, for residents and guests, open space also serves the passive and active recreational needs of the community. Irrespective of whether it is reserved and managed for resource protection or passive or active recreation, open space contributes to the rural character of the town.

Boxford's current inventory of lands is enumerated in this section. The inventory contains two categories as defined by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services: *Protected lands* that are protected in perpetuity from development; and *unprotected lands* that are not protected from development.¹² Lands that fall into the latter category might be used for the construction of town buildings or sold to private developers, unless their purchase was funded either by the Boxford Open Space Bond or CPC Open Space Funds. All unprotected lands not protected by deed restriction or a funding mechanism are at risk of being converted to a use other than open space.

The Inventory of Lands also includes *parcels of interest*. These are lands identified as town acquisition or preservation priorities based upon the results of community input and on the consideration of the town's most sensitive and vulnerable resources, including lands identified as core habitat and critical landscapes.

Protected lands are shown on the Open Space Inventory Map in Appendix I and contained within a matrix in Appendix II. Data for the spreadsheet were obtained from the local Assessor's Office. Protected lands include:

- State-owned open space;
- Town-owned open space; and
- Privately-owned open space – Lands owned by BTA/BOLT, Essex County Greenbelt, lands with Conservation Restrictions (CR) and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR).

The Open Space Inventory Map also includes unprotected lands categorized as *public lands* and *private lands* that are subject to development and not permanently protected. They include:

- State lands;
- Municipal lands;
- Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B;
- Institutional and non-profit properties;
- Rail/utility right of way; and
- Other private property parcels.

In addition to these land categories, the Open Space Inventory Map includes lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands, and Historic District boundaries.

A - Protected Lands

The category *protected lands* includes both land owned by the Commonwealth, Boxford, BTA/BOLT, Essex County Greenbelt Association and Conservation and Agricultural Preservation Lands (Appendix II).

¹² Note that lands owned by the Commonwealth or the town that do not carry a conservation restriction are included in the list of Unprotected Lands.

These lands have a conservation deed restriction or are protected by Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution that protects lands acquired for the preservation of resources or for recreational purposes from development unless five actions are met, including a two-thirds vote by the State Legislature, to change use. While conversions of Article-97 land do occur, the process is purposefully onerous in order to provide the most stringent protection possible. Deed-restricted lands are protected in perpetuity.

1. State Lands

Based on assessor records there are 1,371 acres of state-owned and protected land in Boxford. State-owned lands include Baldpate Pond State Forest, Cleveland State Forest, and Boxford/Rowley/Georgetown State Forest owned by the Department of Conservation Services, and Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary owned by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

All state-owned protected lands are open to the public for recreational purposes.

2. Municipal Lands

The Town of Boxford owns approx. 1,220 acres of protected land for conservation and recreation purposes. Primary parks and open spaces include:

Anvil Farm | 28 acres

Consists of forests, fields, streams, hills, an esker, a beaver pond, and a vernal pool.

Bergstrom Land | 15 acres

Mixed woodland, overlooking Hovey's Pond

Boxford Common | 75.5 acres

Purchased with CPC funds from 3 sources; Conservation Land, Recreation Land and Community Housing. Purchased for athletic fields, community housing and open space; largely mixed woodland, pond, stream.

Boy Scout Park | 22 acres

Mixed use playing fields and meadow. Natural features include Fish Brook, woods, fields, and gravel and sand beds.

Cargill Fields | 14.5 acres

Hay land and mixed forest fronting on Fish Brook.

Davis Hayfield | 4.5 acres

Hay land.

Dorman Land | 35.5 acres

Forested conservation land with maintained trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Contains several ecologically significant environments. Contiguous to Boxford Common and Haynes Elmlea, providing an extension of habitat and water protection

Haynes Field | 5 acres

Open meadow; hayed.

Hovey's Pond Meadow | 8 acres

Wetland on Hovey's Pond; bird habitat.

Lockwood Forest | 100 acres

Includes frontage on both banks of Fish Brook, a tributary of the Ipswich River, and abuts over 2,000 acres of existing conservation land. Home to a variety of native and exotic plants. The property provides habitat for herons, ducks, geese, red tailed hawks, deer, fox, wild turkeys, coyotes, otter, fisher and possibly bobcat.

Lord Forest and Fields | 34 acres

Mixed woodland, planted evergreens, "Fairy Ring," grazing pasture.

Lord Woods | 31.5 acres

Mixed woodland; stream.

Millbrook Farm | 11 acres

Grazing land, with trail leading to private wooded trails. A variety of birds can be found along with beaver, otter, and mink.

Nason Conservation Land | 45 acres

Mixed woodland, overlooking Hovey's Pond; power lines, providing bird habitat.

Stiles Pond Field and Beach | 7.7 acres

Pond beach area, shaded area with picnic tables.

Town Forest | 60 acres

Consist primarily of hardwood trees with some evergreens. There is an extensive beech grove in the southern parcel. The forest provides habitat for wild turkeys, deer, and a large variety of songbirds and vernal pond species.

Whitney Woods | 10 acres

Mixed woodlands, trail.

Wildcat Conservation Area | 319 acres

Forested conservation land with maintained trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain

biking. Contains several ecologically significant environments. The wetlands feed into the nearby Stiles Pond, Fish Brook, and Pye Brook.

Witch Hollow Farm | 17 acres

Open, wet meadowland, managed for native grasses and bird and wildlife habitat; hayed once a year.

Wunnegen Conservation Area | 135 acres

Home to several rare and endangered species. The terrain is woodlands, wetlands, small streams, and uplands.

3. Nonprofit Lands

There are two nonprofit land preservation organizations in Boxford.

The Boxford Trails Association/Boxford Open Land Trust (BTA/BOLT) is a volunteer, private, nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and protecting environmentally and aesthetically important land and habitat, including fields, forests, wetlands, and trails, and preserving the nature of Boxford. BTA/BOLT owns 262 acres in Boxford including:

Ericson Woods | 15 acres

Abutting Lord's Woods, stream and woodlands.

Fish Brook Parcel | 15 acres

Wetland which abuts Fish Brook property, which is owned by ECGA.

French Family Woodlot | 15 acres

Suburban trails, part of Bay Circuit Trail. Steven's Pond Wetland | 22 acres) A large pond surrounded by wetland vegetation. Alpers' Woods | 14 acres) On Stiles Pond, trails and a boat landing.

Owen Land | 15 acres

Abuts the Lockwood Forest.

Perkins' Woods | 18 acres

Meadow and woodland trail.

Potters Farm and Barker's Property | 76 Acres combined

Mixed Forest, several vernal pools, wetlands, hemlock groves, trails, power line habitat. Several endangered species can be found here including Blanding's turtles, blue spotted salamanders and box turtles.

Shaven Crown Hill | 35 acres

Open meadow leading into forested trail, including woodlands, wildlife and vernal ponds.

Townsend Farm Parcel A | 12 acres

Wetland in a subdivision.

The Essex Country Greenbelt Association (ECGA) is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the open-space heritage of Essex County. ECGA owns around 455 acres in Boxford, including:

Carter Fields | 85 acres

Part of the Lake Cochichewick watershed, North Andover's sole source of drinking water. A large blue-heron rookery becomes active in May and June, as up to 70 pairs of herons create annual nests at this site.

Haynes Elmlea Land | 42 acres

Contiguous to Boxford Common and the Haynes Field. Extensive trails, habitat and wetlands. CR held by BTA/BOLT

Ingalls Memorial Wetlands | 31 acres

Wetlands within Ingaldsby Farm abuts 88 acres CR held by ECGA within Ingaldsby Farm.

Price Reservation | 88 acres
Includes the features of a classic northeast woodland; mixed stands of hardwoods and softwoods across a rolling landscape, frontage

on Towne Pond, a shallow farm pond teaming with wildlife and a brook that flows out of Towne Pond and through a large wetland where beavers are active.

4. Deed-Restricted Lands

Boxford's Conservation Commission (ConsCom), BTA/BOLT, ECGA, the state and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation all hold deed restrictions on privately held properties to protect them in perpetuity. Together, these restrictions protect over 750 acres. For a full list of deed-restricted lands, see Appendix II. Some of the larger or more visible properties protected by deed restrictions in Boxford include:

Alderbrook Farm | 70 acres
APR by State Department of Agriculture

Anvil Farm | 28 acres
APR by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Cargill Fields | 14 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

Cleveland Farm | 30 acres
CR by Essex County Greenbelt Association

Coolidge 100-Acre Woods | 85 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

Davis Hayfield | 4 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

Hills Property | 22 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

Ingaldsby Farm West Forty | 40 acres
APR by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

King Tree Farm | 24.7 acres
CR by Essex County Greenbelt Association

Lord Property | 64 acres
CR by the Conservation Commission and Essex County Greenbelt Association

Morss Berry Farm | 125 acres
APR by State Department of Agriculture

Price Property | 88 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

Shaven Crown Property | 40 acres
CR by ECGA

Smolak Farms | 50 acres
CR by the Conservation Commission

Town Forest | 60 acres
CR by BTA/BOLT

B - Unprotected Lands

Unprotected lands include both public and private lands, including lands that have partial or temporary protection. Unprotected lands are at risk of a change in use—e.g., development—and include:

1. Municipal Lands

Unprotected town-owned lands are lands that do not have a conservation restriction and are not protected by Article 97. They include school properties, other lands serving municipal purposes, gifted lands, and tax-title lands. Unprotected town-owned lands can be developed or sold subject to the approval of a town meeting.

2. Chapter 61

Private landowners can manage their properties for open-space purposes and benefit from reduced property taxes under three distinct special taxation programs:

- State Chapter 61 (Forestry);
- Chapter 61A (Agriculture); and
- Chapter 61B (Recreation).

These classifications do not provide permanent protection as landowners may withdraw their properties from these programs at any time. If these properties are offered for sale while within the program, the town has a *right of first refusal* to purchase the property within 120 days after a purchase and sale agreement for the property has been signed by a private buyer. Based on assessor's data, there were 1,694 acres under Chapter 61 tax-abatement programs in 2023.

Institutional and nonprofit unprotected properties include a number of camps, cemeteries, and church properties including Camp Sackajawea, Camp Rotary, and Far Corners Golf Club. These lands may be developed or sold.

3. Rail/Utility Rights of Way

National Grid owns the right of way formally known as the *Newburyport Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad*. A long-term lease is being considered so that the right of way can be used as an extension of the proposed northern branch of the Borders to Boston Trail, connecting Danvers to Salisbury.

There are utility corridors throughout Boxford that are used for hiking, biking and wildlife corridors. These Rail/Utility Rights of Way can be developed or sold, unless there is a successful lease.

C - Parcels of Interest

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has determined that questions with 59% or higher rating should be targeted for Protection or Acquisition. The criteria for land preservation and land acquisition are defined as:

1. Protection and acquisition of lands that protect the groundwater and drinking water resources. Many of these parcels are located along riparian areas along the two major rivers in Boxford: The Parker River and Fish Brook.
2. Protection and acquisition of lands along major road corridors to preserve the rural character of the town. Major road corridors are:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Elm Street | Main Street |
| Georgetown Road | Middleton Road |
| Herrick Road | Route 133/Washington Street |
| Ipswich Road | Route 97 |
| Lawrence Road | Topsfield Road |

3. Identification of lands over 10 acres for:
 - Protection of wetland and wildlife habitat
 - Protection of forests and woodlands
 - Protection of real estate values
 - Active recreation
 - Passive recreation
 - Protection of farm/agricultural land

D - American with Disabilities Act

Refer to Appendix IV.

Section 5 - Community Vision

A - Description of Process

At the end of 2022, the Select Board appointed a five-member Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) to update the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan. After reviewing the previous plan and the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services guidelines for Open Space and Recreation Plans, the committee developed a survey that was distributed to all 2,758 households in Boxford.

In addition to compiling the results of the 410 completed surveys—a response rate of approximately 15% of households—the committee also asked for a written statement of need or held discussions with the following committees or groups:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Agricultural Committee | Boxford School Committee |
| Board of Health | Conservation Commission |
| Board of Selectmen | Masco Youth Football and Cheerleading |
| Boxford Athletic Association (BAA) | Planning Board |
| Boxford Recreation Committee | Tribal Lacrosse |

Letters outlining the objectives of interested parties are included in Appendix III of this report. The goals outlined in this report reflect the discussions the committee had with members of boards, committees, groups, and the community through various outreach efforts and the data collected from the community-wide survey.

B - Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Boxford continues to be a town that many cherish for its rural character and open space. Over the past two decades, the town and local land trust organizations have been successful in acquiring many open space lands, helping to preserve the rural character of the town. The survey results indicate that preservation of open space continues to be an important priority for a majority of town residents.

Over 96% of residents indicated that their highest priority was the preservation of open space to protect groundwater and drinking water resources, which was also the highest priority in the previous 2008 and 2016 surveys. Other important priorities included preserving the rural character of the town, protecting wildlife habitat, preserving forests, and protecting farmlands—cited as *very important* or *important* by at least 88% of respondents. Preserving or improving open space to use for passive recreation and preserving the rural nature of the town was ranked as *very important* by 80% of all respondents, while 48% of respondents ranked preserving or improving open space to use for active recreation as *very important*. A rate of 58% were interested in the creation of sidewalks around the schools.

Based on the input received, the OSRC recommends that Boxford continue to preserve or improve open space, with the highest priority given to the following items.

Boxford is a small town that relies on groundwater and other water resources for drinking with limited secondary infrastructure. It is therefore essential to keep these structures safe. Further, maintaining the town's unique and valuable wetland and wildlife habitats, as well as rural character, is important.

- Preserve and protect:
 - Groundwater and drinking water resources;
 - Wetlands and wildlife habitat, including riparian areas and wildlife corridors; and
 - Lands along major road corridors to help preserve the town's rural character.

Preserving large parcels of land in Boxford to maintain their historic uses will aid in maintaining the town's overall rural character and conserve its valuable natural resources.

- Identify parcels of land over 10 acres for:
 - Preservation of forests;
 - Preservation of farm/agricultural land; and
 - Passive recreation.

Many citizens identified a need for more passive recreation facilities in Boxford in their survey responses. Expansion of these parcels will ensure that Boxford residents have equitable and frequent access to passive recreation and immersion in nature, while also ensuring that Boxford's rural character is maintained.

- Acquire land for passive recreation.

Boxford is an active community that takes advantage of its existing trail network for biking and walking. Continuing to grow and maintain this network, while ensuring that residents are safe from vehicular traffic, will result in higher-quality use of this recreational resource.

- Improve roadside safety for walking and biking.

While many Boxford residents take part in outdoor recreation, it is essential to remind residents and inform newcomers of the town's offerings. Building messaging around available recreational resources will ensure all community members are aware of their recreational opportunities.

The members of this Committee press upon the select people, town manager, committees, and boards to invest in quality of life by implementing initiatives that achieve the goals set forth in this report.

Section 6 - Analysis of Needs

A - Summary of Resource-Protection Needs

As is evident from this plan's preceding sections, Boxford's residents enjoy a wide variety of natural attributes. There are open fields, woodlands, and wetlands that support all manner of flora and fauna. Recreational opportunities include trail systems on both public and private lands that allow residents and visitors to take advantage of the outdoors. There are multiple ponds with public access for canoeing, fishing, and swimming. There are many miles of roads in town, which provides recreational opportunities for cyclists and joggers, even as survey results and comments indicated that traffic volume and speed are a widespread concern.

The town owns or manages many open spaces for a wide range of uses. Survey results indicated a particular interest in further acquiring and preserving Boxford's unprotected open-space parcels and its natural resources. The natural features and landscape of Boxford contribute greatly to the town's rural character.

As in previous surveys, the 2023 survey indicated a strong desire on the part of the town's residents to protect Boxford's natural resources. Over 90% of survey respondents described it as either *important* or *very important* to preserve or acquire open space to protect the town's groundwater and drinking water resources. Given that all households in town have private wells to supply drinking water, it is gratifying to see the residents' realization of the importance of protecting drinking water resources. Efforts by the Board of Health and Conservation Commission continue to place a high priority on protecting groundwater and drinking water resources. The Ipswich River Watershed Association and Friends of the Parker River also operate on Boxford's behalf by monitoring water quality and reducing withdrawals from stressed surface water bodies.

More than 96% of those surveyed ranked it as *very important* or *important* for the town to acquire land to protect ground water and drinking water resources. No fewer than 93% of respondents want the town to continue to acquire land to protect those resources. Almost 90% of survey respondents indicated that it was *important* or *very important* that the town acquired open space to protect wildlife habitat and forests. Over 70% voiced their interest in protecting farmlands. Sixty-eight percent would like to continue to acquire open space for farming.

Survey comments also indicated a desire to

- a) Preserve open space along rivers and streams to protect riparian areas;
- b) Acquire open space to link existing preserved parcels and trail networks to provide both wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities; and
- c) Protect large undeveloped parcels, such as farms or woodlots, to preserve rural character and provide land for both active and passive recreational opportunities.

There was a strong interest in enhancing the town's regulations to protect its natural resources.

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission requested we include information from the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Massachusetts Outdoors 2017*. SCORP is a five-year planning document showing the available recreational resources in the Commonwealth, along with the needs of its residents, and helps identify the gap between availability and need. The plan is used to distribute the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies, as well as other state funding, for open space and recreation projects throughout the state.

To determine the demand for outdoor recreation, the 2017 SCORP update used a combination of an online survey, a statistically relevant phone survey, and a survey targeted specifically to middle and high school students. The top responses to the general participation survey for recreational facilities were a desire for multi-use trails for walking and biking; water-based recreation, including swimming, canoeing, and park-type amenities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog parks and community gardens. The most popular outdoor activities identified by the student survey included team field activities such as soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. The most common activities for students across age groups and gender were running, walking, swimming, and road bicycling.

B - Summary of Community Needs

The community needs and desires as expressed in the survey, public meetings, and by town boards, committees, and user groups focused mainly on four areas: wetlands, preservation of the rural character of the town, safety along the roadways for bikers and walkers, and more open space.

Respondents selected several factors contributing to rural character, including roadside trees, fields, meadows, ponds and streams, forested landscapes, stone walls, and civic spaces.

Safety along the roadways was ranked as *important*, but the solution remained unclear. While 27% expressed a desire for sidewalks in neighborhoods, 58% supported them around schools. The benefits of a sidewalk linking Cole School and Boxford Common to the Community Store, as well as a sidewalk between Spofford School and the library were mentioned. Some respondents expressed hope for a sidewalk in the West Boxford Village. Forty-three percent of respondents would like sidewalks in town centers, but there was very little interest in sidewalks anywhere else in the community. Slightly more than 40% of the respondents would like bike lanes or bike paths. Seventy-one percent were interested in completing the rail trail. Techniques for traffic calming and controlling speeds were noted several times in the comments section and by town boards.

The need for additional recreation facilities was not strongly indicated in the survey. Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated that it was *important* or *very important* that the town acquired land for active recreation (athletic fields), while support for acquiring additional land for this purpose declined to 48%. Across the board, respondents expressed the opinion that they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the recreational facilities, with most support for existing facilities for toddler-through-elementary grades stood at 78%, 76% for seniors, 72% for adults, and 69% for middle and high schoolers. The addition of the new playing fields at Boxford Commons—as well as its paved walking trails, and the opening of 10 Elm, which will enhance activities for seniors—may have had a bearing on the change of satisfaction regarding the need for more fields since the 2016 Open Space Plan survey.

However, five activities that require facilities were among the top 15 listed, including field hockey, indoor basketball, tennis, outdoor basketball, and pickleball. Perhaps repurposing and maintaining the current fields and facilities need to be addressed.

In the comments section, many stated that Boxford had no need for new facilities, but also that a *very high priority* should be given to improving the maintenance of existing fields and playgrounds. Several respondents pointed out the need to improve Johnson Field and the nearby playground and expressed a desire to provide a *facelift* to the whole center of the town. Better maintenance of the Ackerman Playground at Boy Scout Park by collecting garbage more regularly and managing wasp infestations was mentioned several times.

C - Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The 2023 Boxford Open Space and Recreation community survey was instructive in identifying numerous management needs for the town's open space. There were many comments about drainage problems at the existing playing fields, which have resulted in the loss of use for several weeks in the spring. Respondents also indicated the trail system and playground areas need to be better maintained. CPA funds are available for the Conservation Commission to improve some of the open space it manages through clearing new trails, move trails away from beaver-flooded areas, and improve parking areas for conservation lands. These funds paid for the construction of a major wetlands crossing in Wildcat, as well as for signage along trails and at trailheads. The CP Committee also helped fund the re-construction of the playground at the Cole School. Trail maintenance, including signage and kiosk maintenance, is handled by BTA/BOLT.

The elementary schools would like to continue to enjoy safe access to the adjacent woodlands and vernal pools for outdoor classrooms. The Spofford School basketball courts need improvement, and there are plans to install a full-size basketball court at Cole School when funds are available.

Managing an extensive inventory of open space involves more than just maintenance. It includes building awareness, organizing events, and recruiting volunteers. The town's Apple Festival, Memorial Day Parade, 4th of July Road Race and Parade, the Call to Honor Triathlon, BTA/BOLT-organized trail hikes, youth sports, and winter festivals all contribute to Boxford's sense of community. Schools, the library, the Center at 10 Elm, and other civic buildings bring people together. Trails, ponds, athletic fields, scenic roadways, and open spaces in the villages host activities that connect people to each other and the outdoors. They contribute to the vibrancy of the community. Residents recognize this connection and would like to see more opportunities to forge community ties.

Section 7 - Goals and Objectives

This section synthesizes and expands on the vision and general goals of Section 6 and the data analysis of Section 7 to create a comprehensive set of goals and objectives for the town. These goals were arrived at by assessing Boxford's current open-space inventory, survey results, comments from municipal figures, and comments from citizens; and they are a synthesis that will seek to fill open space gaps in the community and fulfill community desires and needs for land preservation and additional recreation.

A - Groundwater, Drinking Water, Ponds, Streams, Wetlands, and Wildlife Habitat

Goal: Preserve and Protect Groundwater Resources, Drinking Water Resources, Ponds, Streams, Wetlands, and Wildlife Habitat

The preservation and protection of water resources is critical to the public health of the town as private wells are the sole source of potable water. This includes watershed protection, storm-water management of new construction, stream and pond protection, conformance with state wastewater disposal laws, and water conservation.

B – Rural Character of the Town

Goal: Preserve and Protect the Rural Character of the Town

Despite the growth of the suburbs throughout eastern Massachusetts, Boxford has been able to preserve its rural character due to the following:

1. Minimum house lots size of two acres;
2. Regulatory protection of streams, ponds, and wetland systems and other natural features that exist throughout the town;
3. The efforts of the state, town, BTA/BOLT, Essex County Greenbelt Association, and others to acquire land to preserve in perpetuity;
4. Acquisition of land along major road corridors; and
5. Limited commercial development.

Objective B-1

Preserve and acquire lands along major road corridors to preserve the scenic value and rural character of the town.

Objective B-2

Preserve and acquire woodlands, farmland/agricultural land and wetlands.

Objective B-3

Identify parcels of land owned by the town that should be protected from development by a conservation restriction.

Objective B-4

Preserve and protect the Historic Districts and structures within the town and support the Historic Document Center.

C - Lands for Active and Passive Recreation Needs

Goal: Preserve, Enhance and Acquire Lands for Active and Passive Recreation Needs

Objective C-1

Acquire lands that connect existing open-space parcels and trails.

Objective C-2

Develop and Implement a five-year capital plan for the maintenance of playgrounds and recreation facilities.

Objective C-3

Implement the recommendations for ADA compliance for existing facilities to provide access for all as applicable. Consider feasibility of developing All Access Trails.

D - Public Awareness

Increase Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Resources and Programs

Implement links on the Town's website to "Support Organizations" including BTA/BOLT, Inc., the Boxford Athletic Association and other nonprofit Boxford organizations for trails, recreation sites, and programs.

Section 8 – Seven-Year Action Plan

This action plan builds on the “Goals and Objectives” outlined in section 7. Action items are listed by specific strategies and described with responsible parties designated with priority rating from High (immediate action desired) to Low (as funds or capacity is available). All recommendations are considered important. The actions listed below include the milestone steps that need to be taken to accomplish the outlined objectives.

| Group | Abbreviation |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Agricultural Commission | AgCom |
| Board of Health | BoH |
| Board of Selectmen/Select Board | BoS |
| Boxford Athletic Association | BAA |
| Boxford Trails Association/Boxford Open Land Trust | BTA/BOLT |
| Conservation Commission | ConsCom |
| Department of Public Works | DPW |
| Finance Committee | FinCom |
| Historic Commission | HistCom |
| Land Committee | LandCom |
| Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee | OSRPC |
| Planning Board | PlanBd |
| Recreation Committee | RecCom |
| School Committee | SchoolCom |
| Town Administrator | TownAdmin |

| Funding Sources | Abbreviation |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Grants | G |
| Community Preservation Act | CPA |
| Serial Bond | SB |
| Private Funding Sources | PFS |
| Raise and Appropriate | RA |

Goal A: Preserve and protect groundwater resources, drinking water resources, ponds, streams, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat.

Objective A-1: Preserve and protect groundwater and drinking water resources.

1. Identify parcels of lands for potential acquisition or other protection measures which are not protected by state/local laws which may serve as potential high-yield water supplies.

Responsible Parties: LandCom, BoH, ConsCom, BTA/BOLT

Priority: High | Funding Sources(s): G, CPA, SB PFS, RA

Objective A-2: Preserve and protect ponds, streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat.

1. Identify parcels of lands for acquisition or other protection measures that are not protected by state/local laws.

Responsible Parties: LandsCom, ConsCom, BTA/BOLT

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): G,CPA,SB,PFS,RA

2. Continue to monitor and assess the quality of surface and ground water as required by the Federal Clean Water Act. Develop remedies for use impairments.

Responsible Parties: ConsCom, BoH

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): ConsComm Budget

3. Continue to identify management issues, assess the health of ponds, wetlands and streams to make informed management decisions

Responsible Parties: ConsCom, BoH

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): ConsComm/BoH

4. Consider regulations for construction sites to conform to the 10 standards in the State Department of Environmental Protection Storm Water Management Policy.

Responsible Party(ies): ConsCom

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): ConsComm/DPW Budget

5. Develop a dam maintenance and operation plan for Stiles, Lowe, Four Mile, Lockwood and Howe Pond dams. Update the plan annually.

Responsible Party(ies): ConsCom/DPW

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): DPW Budget

Goal B: Preserve and protect the rural character of the town.

Objective B-1: Preserve and acquire lands along major road corridors to preserve the scenic value and rural character of the town. Major road corridors are Topsfield Road, Elm Street, Main Street, Middleton Road, Georgetown Road, Ipswich Road, Lawrence Road, Herrick Road, Route 133/Washington Street, Route 97.

1. Maintain a map of all roadways and abutting properties

Responsible Party: Assessor's Office

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): Dept/Com Budgets

2. Identify all undeveloped parcels which abut roadways

Responsible Party: Assessor's Office

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): Dept/Comm Budgets

3. Review undeveloped parcels for conformance with objective B-1

Responsible Party: LandCom

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): Dept/Comm Budgets

4. Make recommendations as to which parcels should be acquired
 Responsible Parties: LandCom/Selectmen, Consult BTA/BOLT
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): Dept/Comm Budgets
5. Work with Landowners to determine interest
 Responsible Party: LandCom
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A
6. Purchase or otherwise protect as appropriate
 Responsible Party: Land Comm
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): CPA, G, SP, PFS, RA

Objective B-2: Preserve and acquire woodlands, farmland/agricultural lands and wetlands.

1. Help to promote agricultural activities on town-owned and privately owned land and to preserve existing farms.
 Responsible Party:
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): Dept/Com Budget
2. Make recommendations as to which parcels should be acquired.
 Responsible Party(ies): LandCom/BoS/BTA/BOLT
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A
3. Work with Landowners to determine interest.
 Responsible Party: LandCom
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A
4. Purchase or otherwise protect as appropriate.
 Responsible Party: LandCom
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): CPA, G, SB, PFS, RA

Objective B-3: Identify parcels of land owned by the town that should be protected from development by a conservation restriction.

1. Maintain a list of town owned parcels.
 Responsible Parties: Assessor, ConsCom/LandCom/BoS
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A
2. Review Parcels for conformance with Objective B-3.
 Responsible Parties: ConsCom, LandCom, BoS
 Priority:High | Funding Source(s): N/A
3. Make recommendations as to which parcels should be protected.
 Responsible Party(ies): LandCom/BoS
 Priority: High | Funding Source(s):N/A

4. When appropriate, hire an attorney or work with Land Trust to place conservation restrictions on identified parcels.

Responsible Party(ies): BoS/BTA/BOLT

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): G, C, PFS

Objective B-4: Preserve and protect the Historic Districts and structures within the town and support the Historic Document Center.

1. Review historic districts and boundaries and inventory of historic structures and prepare/maintain comprehensive list.

Responsible Party: HistCom

Priority: Medium | Funding Source: HistCom

2. Contact and work with land/homeowners who may have historic properties which should be protected and/or preserved.

Responsible Party: HistCom

Priority: Medium | Funding Source: HistCom

Goal C: Preserve, enhance and acquire lands for active and passive recreation needs.

Objective C-1: Develop a comprehensive analysis of all playing fields to determine conditions and improvements that impact the use and playability of the fields and maintenance needs. Maintain list of all fields. (BAA, RecCom)

1. Assess current field conditions.

Responsible Party(ies): RecCom/DPW/BAA/Tribal/MYF

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): DPW

2. Create a Field Maintenance Plan.

Responsible Party(ies): RecCom/DPW

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): DPW Budget

3. Implement and Fund Field Maintenance Plan.

Responsible Party(ies): DPW

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): DPW Budget/Capital Budget

Objective C-2: Acquire lands that connect existing open-space parcels and trails.

1. Utilize OSRP mapping to identify lands that meet objective C-3 and C-4.

Responsible Party(ies): BoS/ConsComm

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): N/A

2. Develop and maintain list of lands of interest.

Responsible Party(ies): LandCom/BTA/BOLT

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A

3. Contact landowners to gauge interest in selling/donating land or easement through property and follow through as needed.

Responsible Parties: BTA/BOLT/LandCom, SchoolCom

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): CPA, G, SB, P, RA

Objective C-3: Develop and implement a five-year capital plan for playgrounds and recreation facilities.

1. Perform annual assessments of all ballfields and playgrounds to determine immediate and long-term needs. Prioritize into a five-year capital plan.

Responsible Parties: RecCom, BAA, SchoolCom, FinCom

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): N/A

2. Identify funding sources for needed improvements and make improvements as funding is received.

Responsible Parties: RecCom, BAA, SchoolCom, FinCom

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): CPA, G, P

3. Update the five-year plan annually to reflect on-going improvements and assessments.

Responsible Parties: RecCom, BAA, SchoolCom, FinCom

Priority: Medium | Funding Source(s): N/A

Objective C-4: Implement the recommendations for ADA compliance for existing facilities to provide access for all as applicable.

1. Review recommendations for ADA compliance, identify funding sources and prioritize list for implementation.

Responsible Parties: BoS/DPW/ADA Coordinator

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A

2. Expand accessibility to Stiles Pond beach and facilities, including ADA compliant bathrooms.

Responsible Party(ies): DPW

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): DPW,G,CPA

Objective C-5: Continue to support the development of the Rail-to-Trail.

Goal D: Increase public awareness of open space and recreation resources and programs.

Objective D-1: Establish an outreach campaign to distribute the Open Space and Recreation Plan, especially the Plan Summary (Section 1) and/or Analysis of Needs (Section 7).

1. Identify volunteers to develop strategies for distributing Plan and sharing information.

Responsible Party(ies): PlanBd, RecCom

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): N/A

2. Support outreach campaign with the development of material as needed.

Responsible Party(ies): PlanBd, RecCom

Priority: High | Funding Source(s): ConsCom Budget

1. Strategies for Implementation

This section describes some of the techniques available to Boxford to acquire and protect its important waterways, farmlands and other natural resources. These techniques should be integrated into the following general strategies for implementing this Open Space and Recreation Plan:

1. Enhance cooperation between Town boards and departments having jurisdiction in matters relating to permits, water, solid waste, energy, transportation and other land use issues.
2. Coordinate efforts with neighboring communities to protect and preserve resource areas that share common boundaries; active involvement with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission should assist in this effort.
3. Encourage landowners and potential developers of environmentally sensitive lands to adopt sound conservation practices in order to protect water resources.
4. Enlist the skill and knowledge of local volunteers, and the resources of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, to enhance the open space planning efforts of local land use and development boards.

A description of available resources to implement these general strategies include the following:

2. DCS Grant Programs

Administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services

Grant programs include the Self-Help program which offers towns up to 70% reimbursement for the cost of land purchased or developed for conservation or for passive outdoor recreation. Other grant programs include the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

3. National Register of Historic Places

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 915, U.S.C. 470

Under this program, the National Park Service can make funds available for the acquisition and development of significant historical, archeological, architectural and cultural sites.

4. Gift of Land in Trust

This is a charitable gift in trust and is a well-recognized device in Massachusetts for preserving land in its natural state. Land gifted to a private land trust is insured against being diverted for other municipal purposes.

5. Conservation Restrictions

M.G.L. Ch.184, Secs. 31-33

Simply stated, a conservation restriction/easement is a written agreement between a property owner and a governmental or private agency by which the owner agrees to restrict development of his or her land in certain ways. For example, a restriction can take the form of prohibiting construction of a building detrimental to preservation of an historical site. Conservation restrictions vary widely. They may be purchased or granted through a gift. They can range from outright purchase of development rights - under which arrangement the land is still privately owned - to simple easements across the land for public right-of-way. The owner of land subject to an easement has all the rights and benefits of ownership consistent

within the terms of the easement. The easement does not transfer title of the land, nor dispossess the owner; it is, however, binding on all future grantees of the land. A conservation restriction often qualifies a property owner to receive certain tax advantages (M.G.L. Ch. 719, Acts of 1972) while still permitting use of the land for such purposes as recreation, farming, and other activities consistent with the terms of the restriction. For a community a restriction is also financially beneficial. When purchasing land for conservation, passive recreation or scenic enjoyment, property can often be acquired at considerably less than full-title purchase, and sometimes at no cost at all if the land is donated by the owner. Conservation restrictions are perpetual and run with the land.

6. Agricultural Preservation Restriction

M.G.L. Ch. 184, Sec. 31

This is a type of conservation restriction in which a landowner signs a covenant promising the Commonwealth or a private agency that the land will not be developed for non-agricultural purposes. The restriction holder will pay the landowner a sum not exceeding the difference between the value of the land before it was restricted and its value for farming purposes after restriction. Agricultural restrictions are perpetual and run with the land.

7. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

M.G.L. Ch. 44B

The Commonwealth enacted enabling legislation that allows towns and cities to establish their own prescribed real estate surcharge tax of up to 3% of individual property valuations for the purposes of: acquiring, creating and preserving open space; acquiring and preserving historic resources; acquisition creation and preservation of land for recreational use; creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created by CPA funds. Boxford adopted the surcharge in 2001 and established the Community Preservation Committee to administer the CPA funds in Boxford.

8. Historic Districts

M.G.L. Ch. 40C

Boxford has two Historic Districts, the Howe Village and Boxford Village Historic Districts. Development within these Districts must be reviewed by the Boxford Historic District Commission to ensure that they will not detract from the historic character of the District.

9. Eminent Domain

This is usually a means of last resort. Taking land under eminent domain requires a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting. There must be reasonable compensation to the landowner accompanying the taking.

10. Wetlands Protection Act

M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40

This act controls, but does not ban, development on wetlands. Wetlands as defined here are marshes, meadows, swamps bordering on rivers, streams, and ponds – almost any land which is periodically wet. The Act also covers coastal wetlands. The law requires that any person or governmental agency intending to remove, fill, dredge, or alter a wetland must ensure that the activity will have no adverse effect on water supplies, flood safety, pollution prevention, or fisheries protection. In effect, the owner must develop his wetlands in accord with the public’s interest and safety.

11. Rivers Protection Act

This act was enacted by the Legislature in 1996 as an amendment to the Wetlands Protection Act to protect twenty-seven rivers in the Commonwealth, including their tributaries, as well as all perennial and intermittent streams. The 200 foot setback distance on either side of a perennial river’s edge is the Riverfront Area in which development is prevented unless there are no other alternatives.

12. Boxford Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations

Boxford first adopted a local Wetlands Protection Bylaw in 1986. The Bylaw went further than the Commonwealth’s Wetlands Protection Act by establishing the 100-foot buffer zone around wetlands- a zone of jurisdiction without any real restrictions on use- as a legally protected “Resource Area”. In 1994, Boxford adopted regulations governing the Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Both the Bylaw and Regulations have been amended numerous times, and today they are among the strongest in the Commonwealth. Among other protections, there is a 25 foot “no disturb” zone around wetlands, as well as a 75 foot “no-build” zone. Vernal Pools, landscape features that support rare amphibian wildlife, receive even greater protection. Boxford’s Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations translate into significantly greater protection of undeveloped natural areas, including wetlands, streams, the forests around them, and other natural areas, than in towns without a local wetlands bylaw or regulations.

13. Stormwater Management Regulations

Boxford adopted a Stormwater Management Bylaw in 2006 that conforms to the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit program administered by the U.S. EPA. In Boxford, development related disturbance, greater than one acre in extent and located within the “Urbanized Area” as mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, is subject to review and permitting under the Bylaw.

14. Inland Wetlands Restriction Act

M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40A

This legislation is designed to supplement the regulative approach of the Wetlands Protection Act with a planning approach not dependent upon the landowner’s applying for a permit. The Commissioner of wildlife, fisheries, water resources, and floodplain areas and agriculture, is directed to issue orders restricting development of inland wetlands.

15. Scenic Rivers Act

M.G.L. Ch. 21A, Sec. 11C

This act empowers the Department of Environmental Management to restrict or prohibit dredging, filling or otherwise altering or polluting scenic and recreational rivers. These have been defined to include all rivers and streams in the Commonwealth, plus contiguous land up to 100 yards on each side of the river or stream banks.

16. Tax Incentives

M.G.L. Ch. 61 and 61A—Classification and Taxation of Forest Lands and Agricultural/Horticultural Lands

This law encourages the preservation of forests, farmland, and open space in Massachusetts. It affords local tax abatements to landowners willing to commit to long term forestry, farming, or open space. Should use of land at sale change from agricultural/forestry/open space, towns have 120 days of right of first refusal to a bona fide purchase and sale agreement. In addition, the seller is responsible for payment of taxes abated for the previous five years.

17. Land Trusts

Nonprofit land trusts use funding sources such as state and federal grants, foundations, CPA funding and private donations to acquire conservation land in fee or by easement. Trusts can acquire land that overlaps town boundaries, an effective technique for protecting a watershed. BTA/BOLT, Essex County Greenbelt Association, and The Trustees of Reservations are examples of such trusts in Essex County.

Section 9 - Public Comments

The draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was placed on the Town of Boxford web site and all Town boards and committees were notified of its availability and encouraged to submit responses to be included in the final OSRP report.

The OSRPC revised the previous survey from 2016 and mailed postcards townwide in February, with a link to the survey on the town website, as well as a QR code for an online version. Paper versions were made available at the town hall. A survey link was advertised on websites that serve the general community and emailed to various constituent groups. Respondents had approximately three weeks to complete the survey online or to return a physical copy it to town hall. It then formulated the goals and objectives of the update over the span of 16 public meetings and held a question-and-answer session for the public on June 22, 2023. We invited Essex County Greenbelt Association to present their findings from collaborative studies of land parcels in Massachusetts. Please see the following [link](#) to maps showing priority parcels for acquisition.

The plan was reviewed by staff and municipal boards for comment and revision.

Letters from responding boards, committees and organizations are provided in Appendix 3 Community Input.

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Map D: Action Plan

Map E: Population Characteristics

Map F: Historic Districts

Map G: Water Resources

Appendix 2 – Inventory

Appendix 3 – Community Input

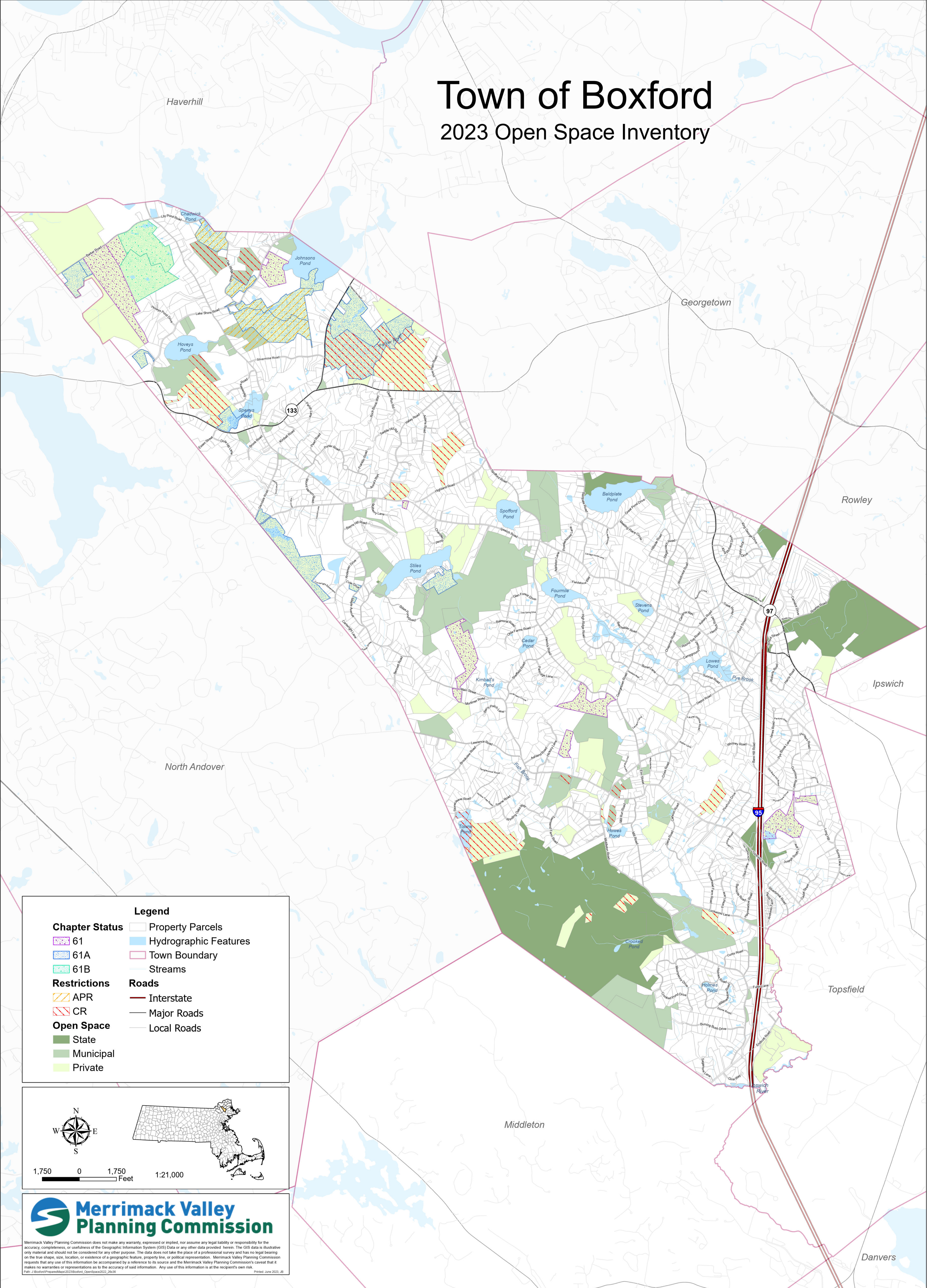
Appendix 4 – ADA Assessment

Appendix 5 – Survey Results 2023

Appendix 1 – Map A: Town of Boxford

Town of Boxford

2023 Open Space Inventory



Legend

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chapter Status | Property Parcels |
| 61 | Hydrographic Features |
| 61A | Town Boundary |
| 61B | Streams |
| Restrictions | Roads |
| APR | Interstate |
| CR | Major Roads |
| Open Space | Local Roads |
| State | |
| Municipal | |
| Private | |

North Arrow

Scale: 1:21,000
0 to 1,750 Feet

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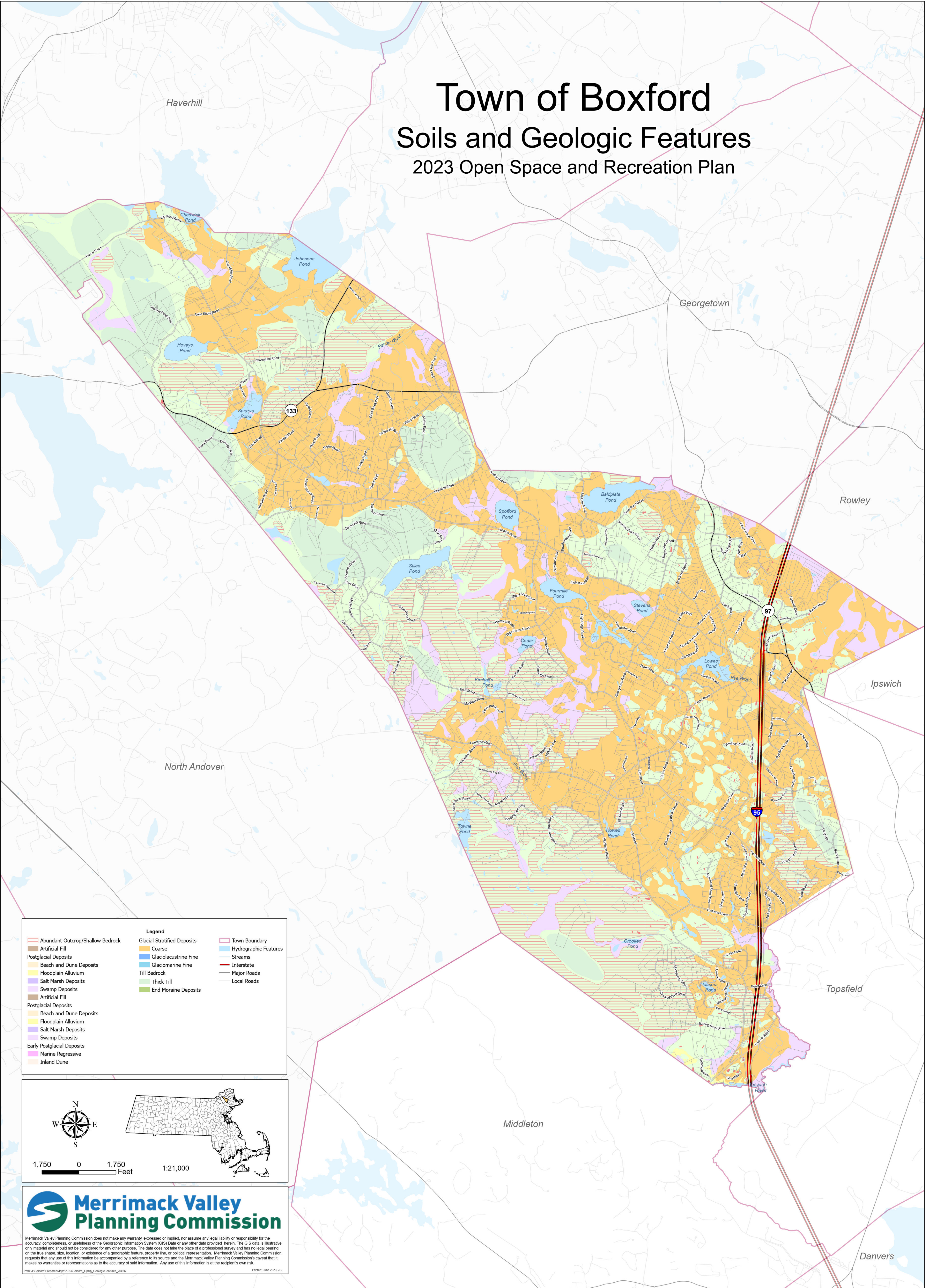
Printed: June 2023, 48

Appendix 1 – Map B: Soils and Geologic Features

Town of Boxford

Soils and Geologic Features

2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan



| Legend | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Abundant Outcrop/Shallow Bedrock | Glacial Stratified Deposits | Town Boundary |
| Artificial Fill | Coarse | Hydrographic Features |
| Postglacial Deposits | Glaciolacustrine Fine | Streams |
| Beach and Dune Deposits | Glaciomarine Fine | Interstate |
| Floodplain Alluvium | Till Bedrock | Major Roads |
| Salt Marsh Deposits | Thick Till | Local Roads |
| Swamp Deposits | End Moraine Deposits | |
| Artificial Fill | | |
| Postglacial Deposits | | |
| Beach and Dune Deposits | | |
| Floodplain Alluvium | | |
| Salt Marsh Deposits | | |
| Swamp Deposits | | |
| Early Postglacial Deposits | | |
| Marine Regressive | | |
| Inland Dune | | |

1:21,000

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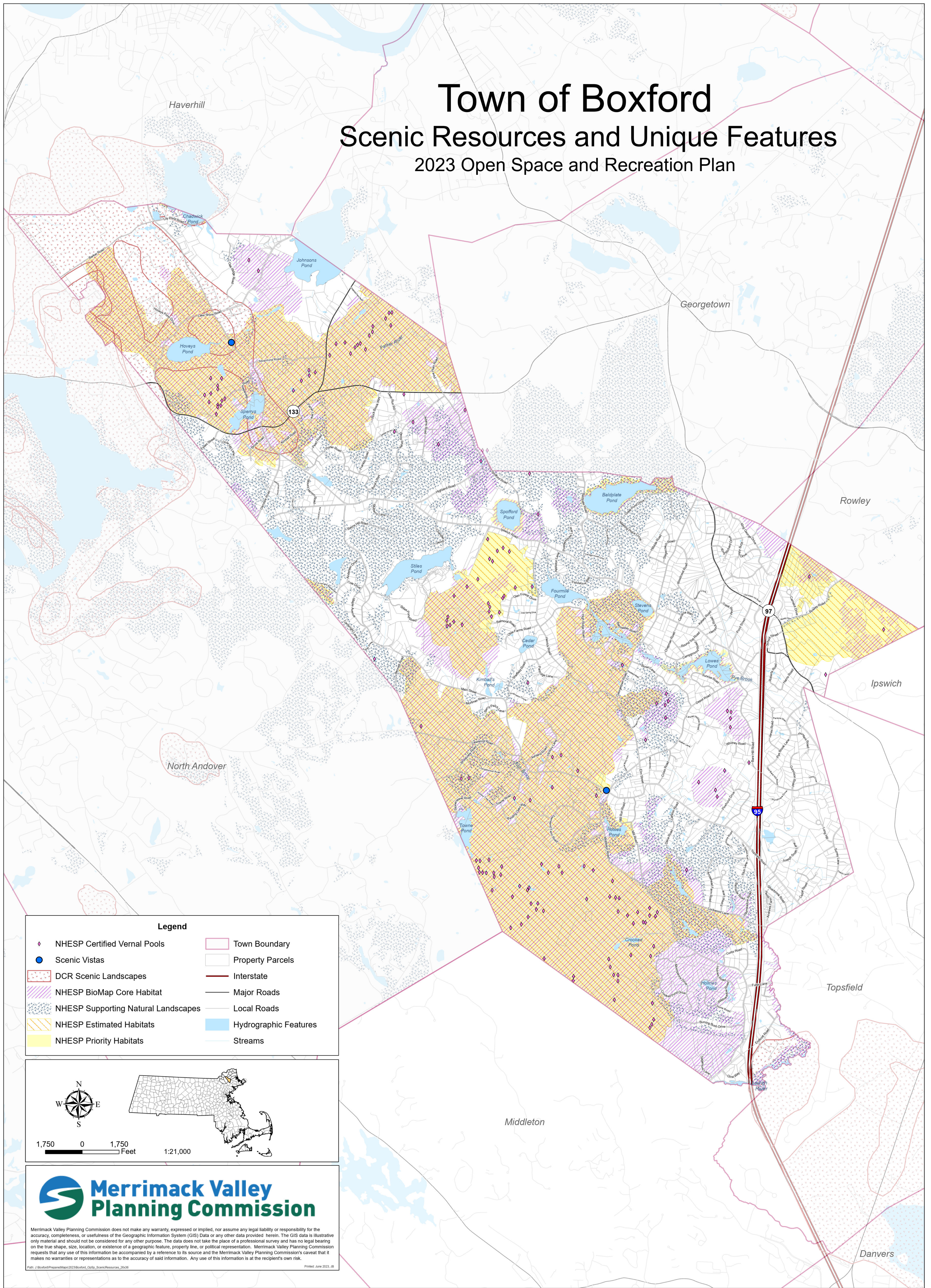
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Printed: June 2023, 08

Appendix 1 – Map C: Scenic Resources and Unique Features















Town of Boxford

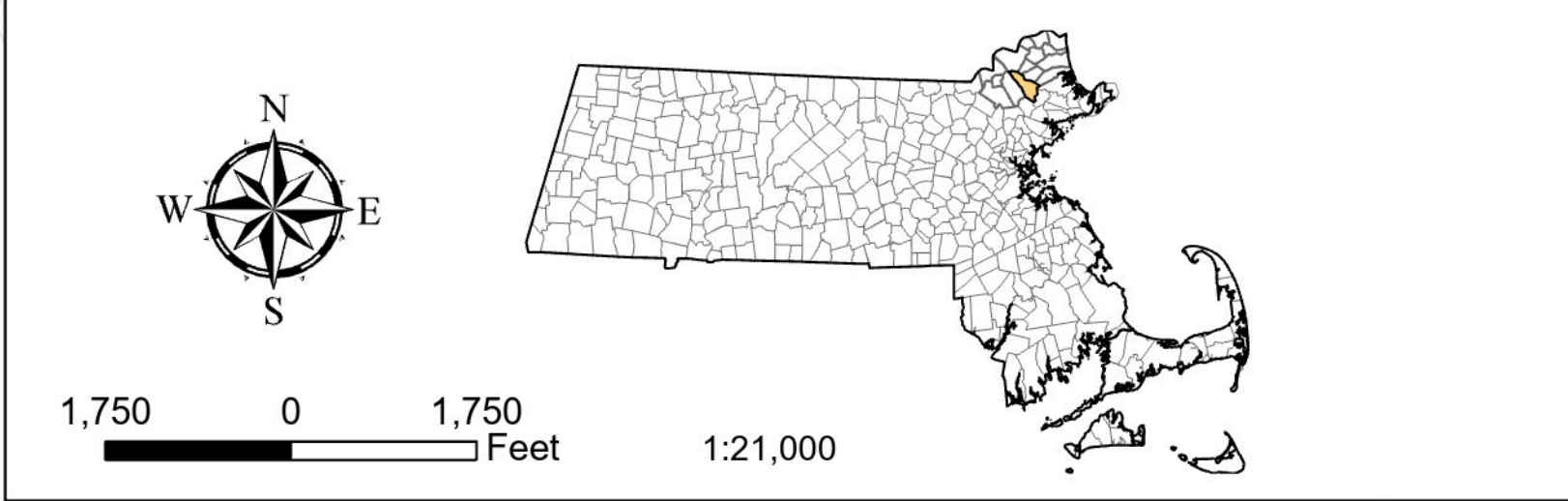

Scenic Resources and Unique Features

2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
-  Scenic Vistas
-  DCR Scenic Landscapes
-  NHESP BioMap Core Habitat
-  NHESP Supporting Natural Landscapes
-  NHESP Estimated Habitats
-  NHESP Priority Habitats
-  Town Boundary
-  Property Parcels
-  Interstate
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Hydrographic Features
-  Streams

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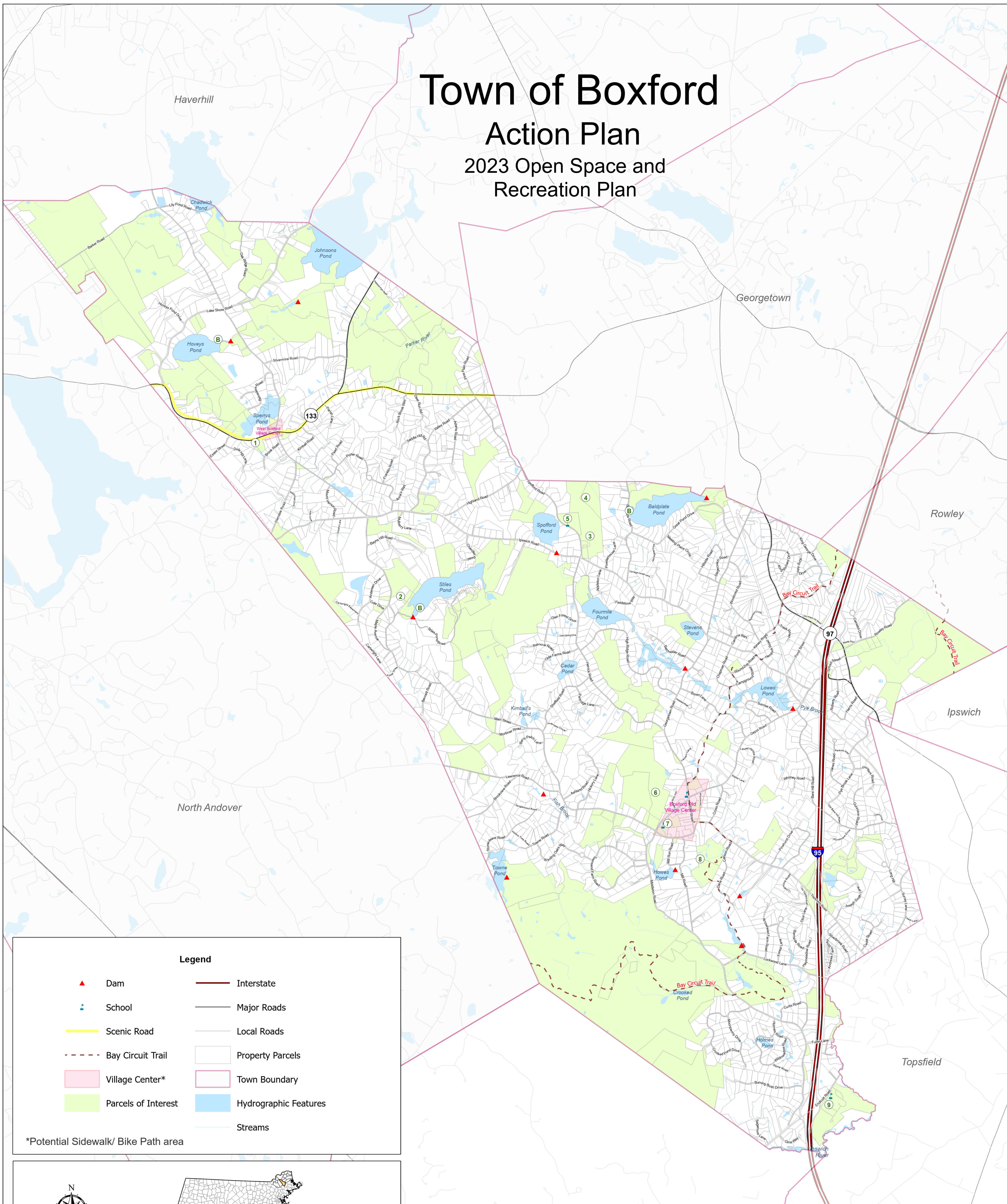
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Appendix 1 – Map D: Action Plan

Town of Boxford

Action Plan

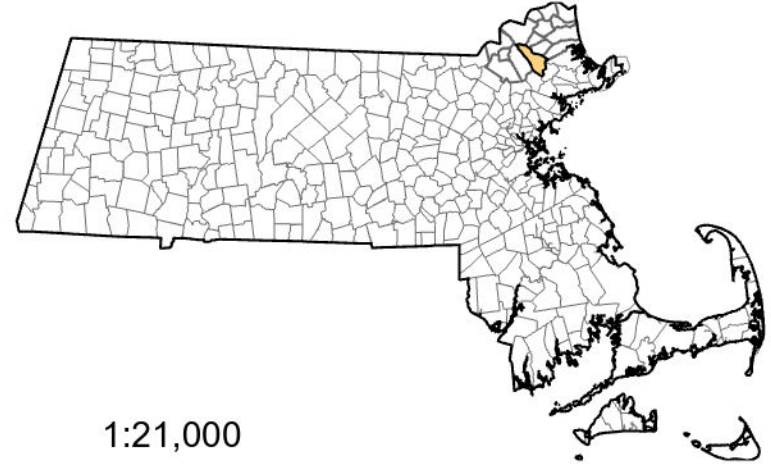
2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

- ▲ Dam
- ⚓ School
- Scenic Road
- Bay Circuit Trail
- Village Center*
- Parcels of Interest
- Interstate
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Property Parcels
- Town Boundary
- Hydrographic Features
- Streams

*Potential Sidewalk/ Bike Path area



1,750 0 1,750
Feet

1:21,000

| Recreation Areas | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Morse Field | 1 |
| Keith R. Koster Park | 2 |
| Johnson Fields | 3 |
| Chadwick Fields | 4 |
| Spofford Fields | 5 |
| Haynes Fields (Proposed) | 6 |
| Christopher Cargill Fields | 7 |
| Eric Luther Boy Scout Park | 8 |
| Masconomet Fields | 9 |
| Boat Ramp | B |



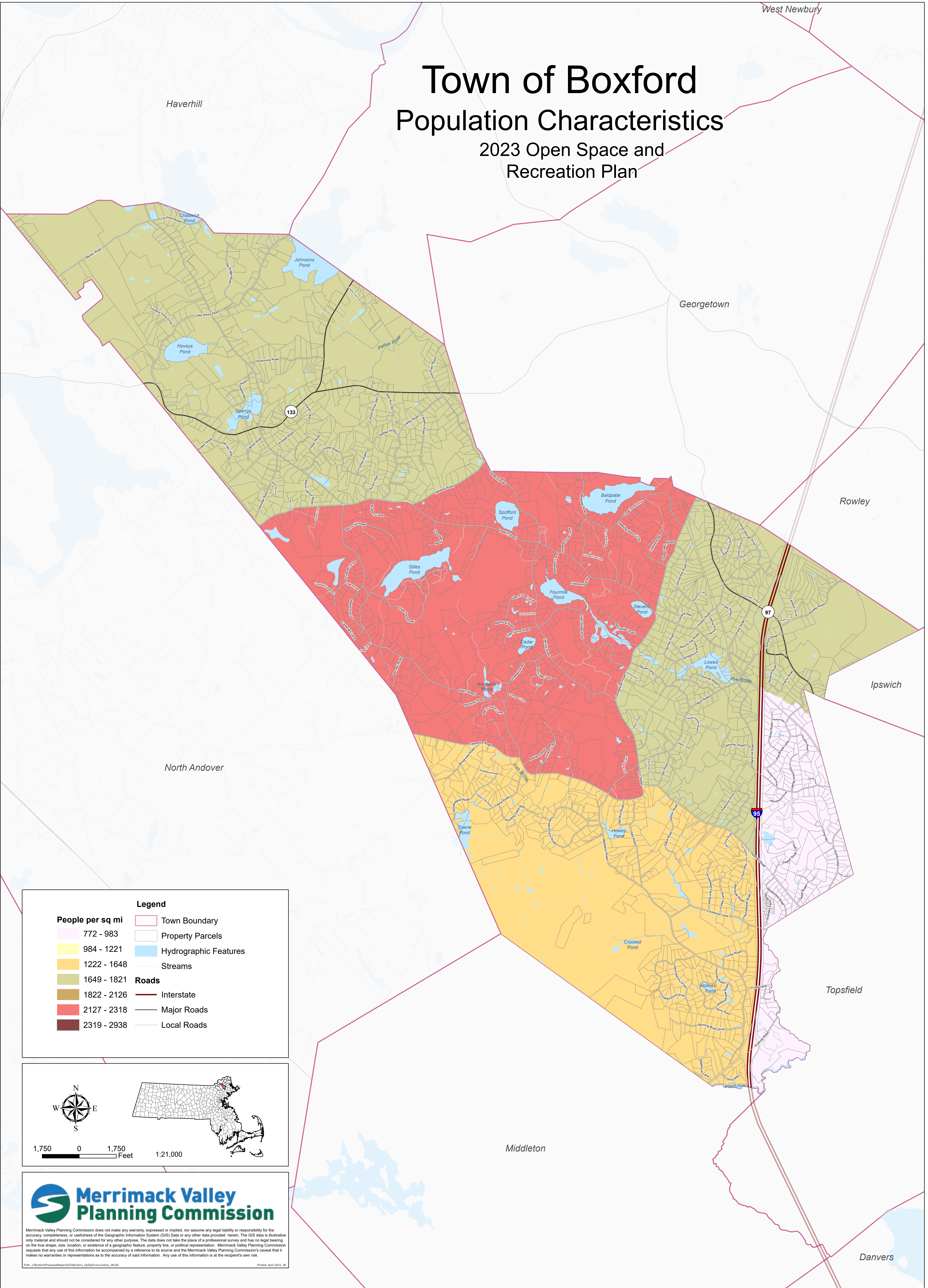
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Appendix 1 – Map E: Population Characteristics

Town of Boxford

Population Characteristics

2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| People per sq mi | Town Boundary |
| 772 - 983 | Property Parcels |
| 984 - 1221 | Hydrographic Features |
| 1222 - 1648 | Streams |
| 1649 - 1821 | Roads |
| 1822 - 2126 | Interstate |
| 2127 - 2318 | Major Roads |
| 2319 - 2938 | Local Roads |

North

1,750 0 1,750 Feet 1:21,000

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Appendix 1 – Map F: Historic Districts

Town of Boxford

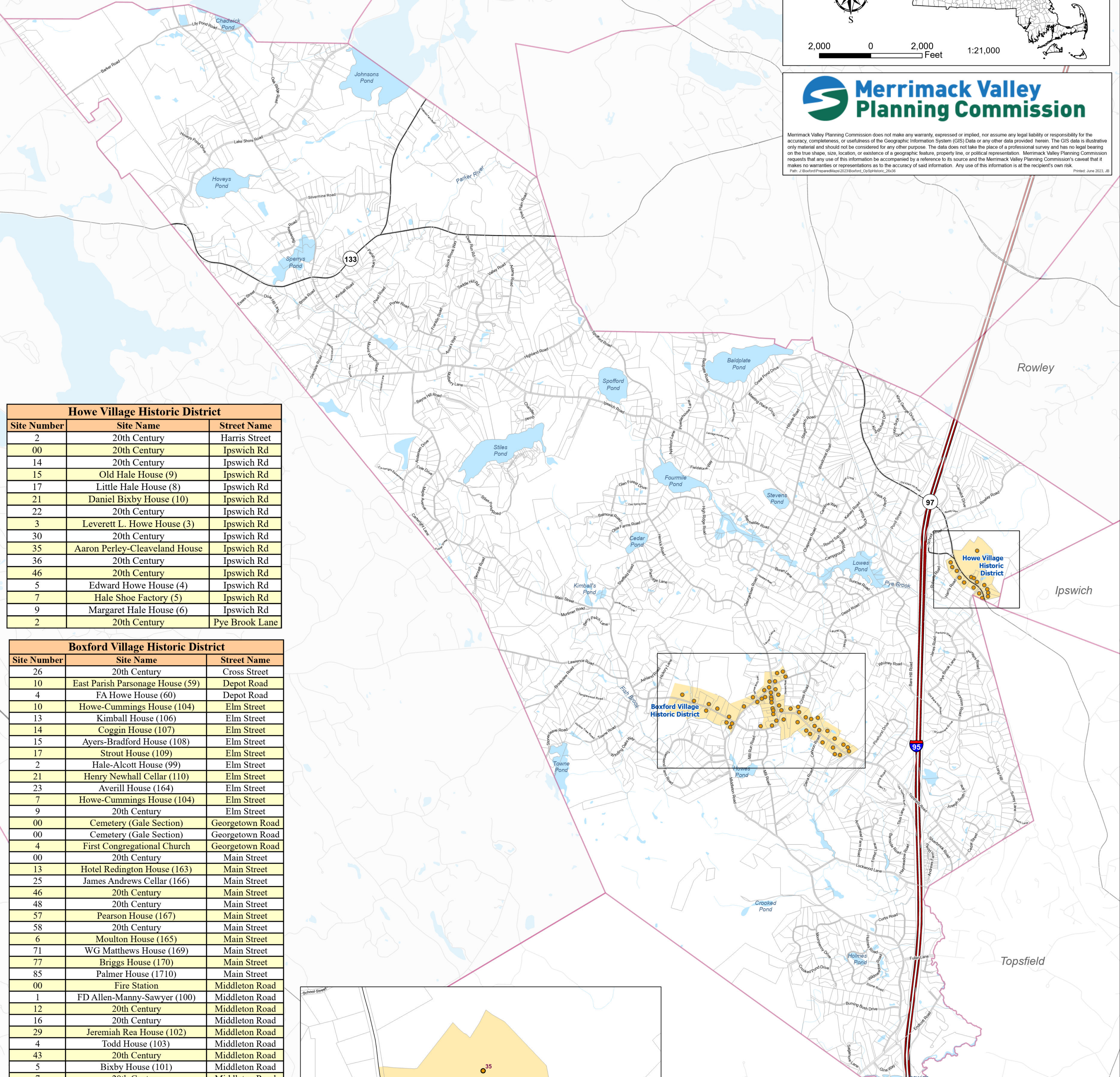
Haverhill

Historic Districts

2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan

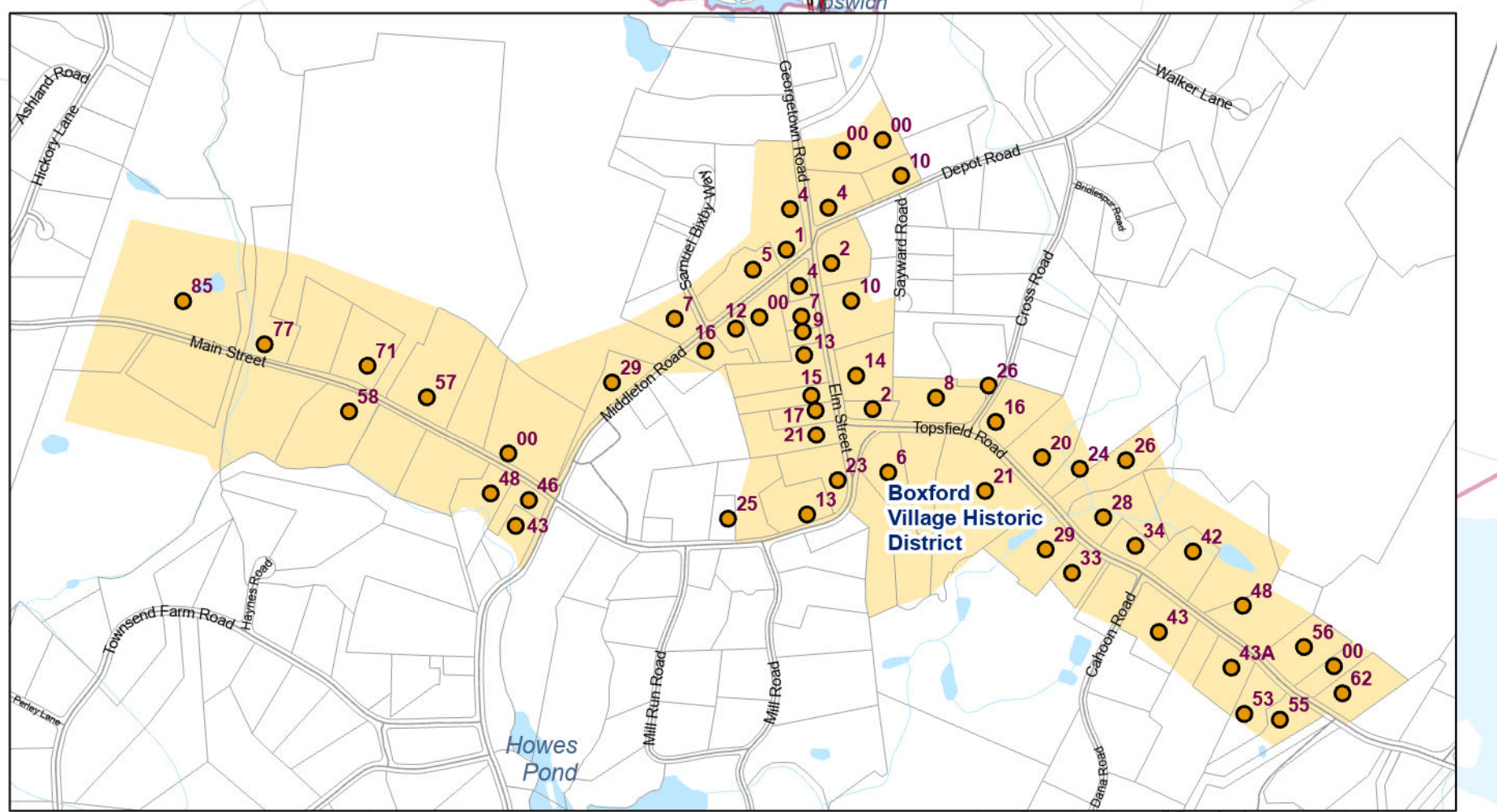
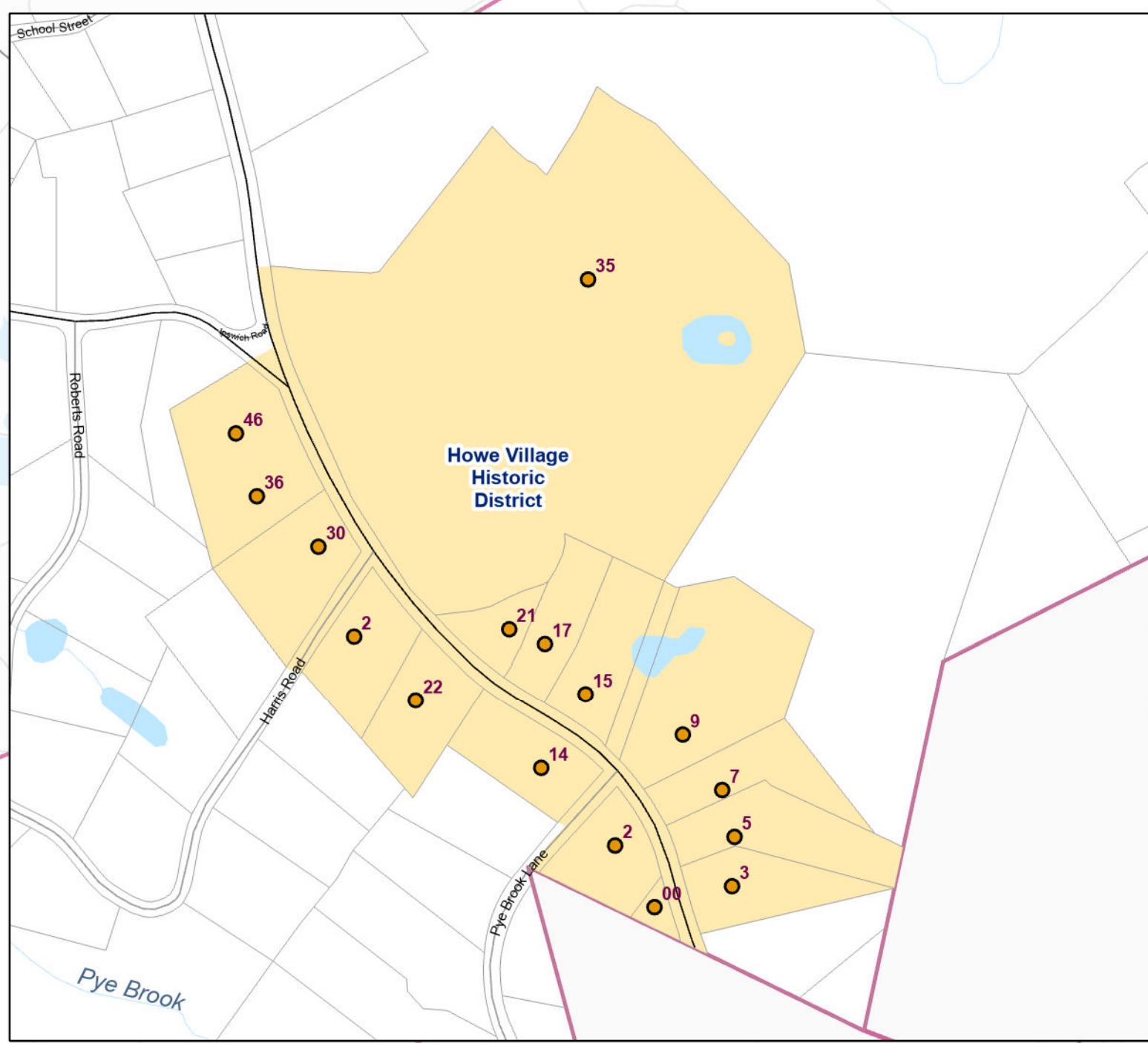
Legend

- Historic Buildings
- Historic District
- Property Parcels
- Town Boundary
- Hydrographic Features
- Streams
- Interstate
- Major Roads
- Local Roads



| Howe Village Historic District | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Site Number | Site Name | Street Name |
| 2 | 20th Century | Harris Street |
| 00 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 14 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 15 | Old Hale House (9) | Ipswich Rd |
| 17 | Little Hale House (8) | Ipswich Rd |
| 21 | Daniel Bixby House (10) | Ipswich Rd |
| 22 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 3 | Leverett L. Howe House (3) | Ipswich Rd |
| 30 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 35 | Aaron Perley-Cleaveland House | Ipswich Rd |
| 36 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 46 | 20th Century | Ipswich Rd |
| 5 | Edward Howe House (4) | Ipswich Rd |
| 7 | Hale Shoe Factory (5) | Ipswich Rd |
| 9 | Margaret Hale House (6) | Ipswich Rd |
| 2 | 20th Century | Pye Brook Lane |

| Boxford Village Historic District | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Site Number | Site Name | Street Name |
| 26 | 20th Century | Cross Street |
| 10 | East Parish Parsonage House (59) | Depot Road |
| 4 | FA Howe House (60) | Depot Road |
| 10 | Howe-Cummings House (104) | Elm Street |
| 13 | Kimball House (106) | Elm Street |
| 14 | Coggin House (107) | Elm Street |
| 15 | Ayers-Bradford House (108) | Elm Street |
| 17 | Strout House (109) | Elm Street |
| 2 | Hale-Alcott House (99) | Elm Street |
| 21 | Henry Newhall Cellar (110) | Elm Street |
| 23 | Averill House (164) | Elm Street |
| 7 | Howe-Cummings House (104) | Elm Street |
| 9 | 20th Century | Elm Street |
| 00 | Cemetery (Gale Section) | Georgetown Road |
| 00 | Cemetery (Gale Section) | Georgetown Road |
| 4 | First Congregational Church | Georgetown Road |
| 00 | 20th Century | Main Street |
| 13 | Hotel Redington House (163) | Main Street |
| 25 | James Andrews Cellar (166) | Main Street |
| 46 | 20th Century | Main Street |
| 48 | 20th Century | Main Street |
| 57 | Pearson House (167) | Main Street |
| 58 | 20th Century | Main Street |
| 6 | Moulton House (165) | Main Street |
| 71 | WG Matthews House (169) | Main Street |
| 77 | Briggs House (170) | Main Street |
| 85 | Palmer House (1710) | Main Street |
| 00 | Fire Station | Middleton Road |
| 1 | FD Allen-Manny-Sawyer (100) | Middleton Road |
| 12 | 20th Century | Middleton Road |
| 16 | 20th Century | Middleton Road |
| 29 | Jeremiah Rea House (102) | Middleton Road |
| 4 | Todd House (103) | Middleton Road |
| 43 | 20th Century | Middleton Road |
| 5 | Bixby House (101) | Middleton Road |
| 7 | 20th Century | Middleton Road |
| 00 | Essex County Greenbelt | Topsfield Road |
| 16 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 2 | Holyoke-French House (111) | Topsfield Road |
| 20 | Howe House (113) | Topsfield Road |
| 21 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 24 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 26 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 28 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 29 | Old Connant House Cellar (116) | Topsfield Road |
| 33 | Ancil Dorman House (117) | Topsfield Road |
| 34 | Russell Cellar (118) | Topsfield Road |
| 42 | Moses Dorman House (119) | Topsfield Road |
| 43 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 43A | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 48 | Nat Dorman House (120) | Topsfield Road |
| 53 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 55 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 56 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 62 | 20th Century | Topsfield Road |
| 8 | Connant House (112) | Topsfield Road |



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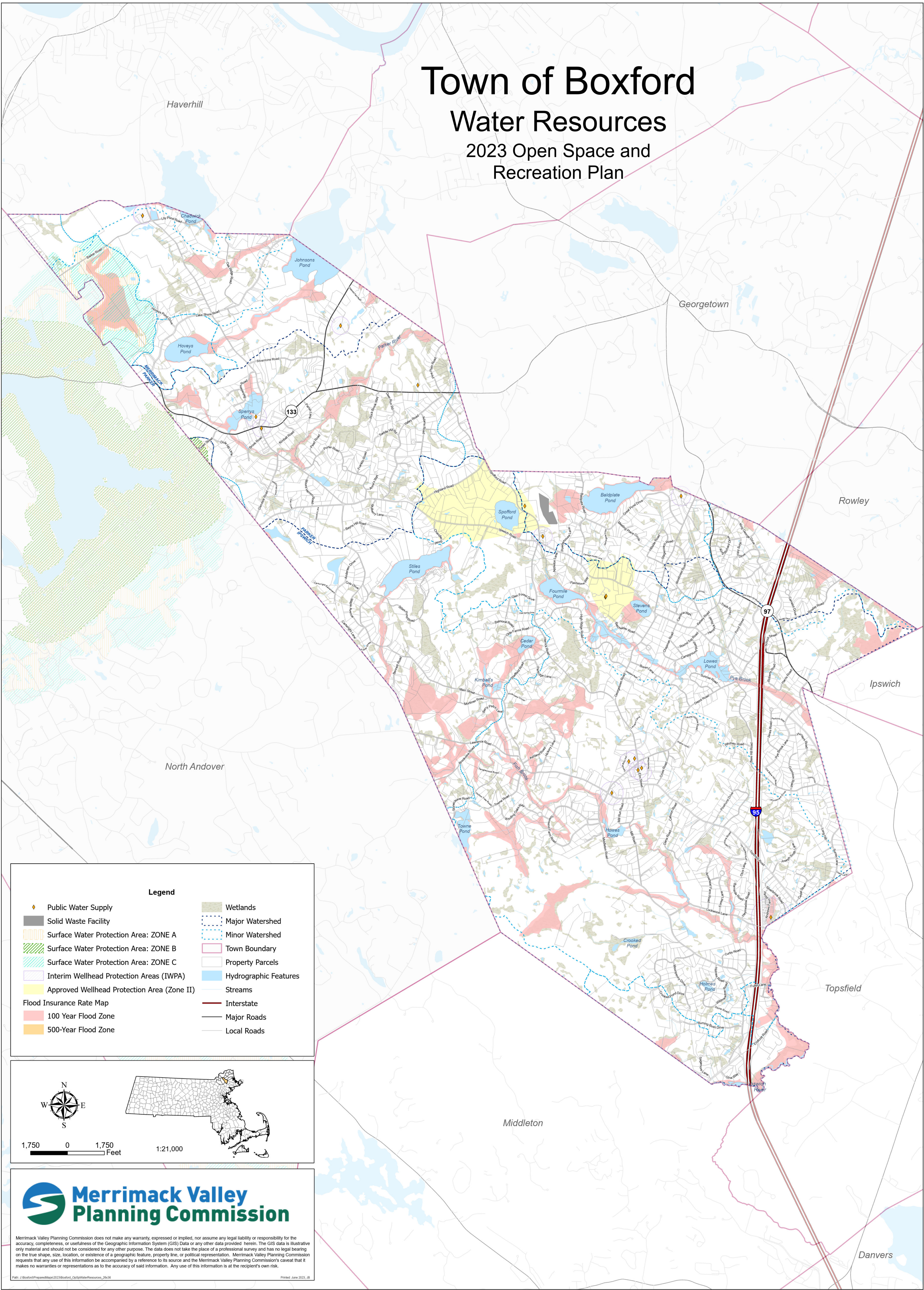
Printed: June 2023, JB

Appendix 1 – Map G: Water Resources

Town of Boxford

Water Resources

2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

- Public Water Supply
- Solid Waste Facility
- Surface Water Protection Area: ZONE A
- Surface Water Protection Area: ZONE B
- Surface Water Protection Area: ZONE C
- Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA)
- Approved Wellhead Protection Area (Zone II)
- 100 Year Flood Zone
- 500-Year Flood Zone
- Wetlands
- Major Watershed
- Minor Watershed
- Town Boundary
- Property Parcels
- Hydrographic Features
- Streams
- Interstate
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

1,750 0 1,750 Feet 1:21,000

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Appendix 2 – Land Inventory

A – Town/County/State Ownership

1. Town of Boxford
2. City of Haverhill
3. Town of Georgetown
4. Commonwealth of Massachusetts
5. Essex County

B – Nonprofits

1. BTA/BOLT
2. Essex County Greenbelt Association
3. Other Nonprofits

C – Chapter 61 - Forest

D – Chapter 61 - Agriculture

E – Chapter 61 B - Recreation

F – Private (Not Nonprofit)

Note: The data contained in this appendix are available as an Excel file from the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee website at <https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/open-space-recreation-plan-committee>.

A – Town/County/State Ownership

1. Town of Boxford

Boxford Common, Middleton Road (Acres: 75.52 | Map Par ID: 28-2-17.1 Book/Page: 27401/149) Current use: Trails/Athletic fields | Recreational potential: Passive and active rec | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Woodland and athletic fields | Funding: CPC | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Cargill Fields, 28 Middleton Road (Acres: 3.2 | Map Par ID: 32-1-21 Book/Page: 4210/376) Current use: Ag field and | Recreational potential: in use, Ag lease, passive rec | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Ag field and woods with stream | Funding: Self Help | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, 40 Middleton Road (Acres: 7.43 | Map Par ID: 32-02-06 Book/Page: 27333/524) Current use: Open Space/Recreation/Trails | Recreational potential: Trails/passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Meadow/Woods | Funding: CPC | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Main Street (Acres: 6.76 | Map Par ID: 32-2-26 Book/Page: 27333/524) Current use: Farm field/ | Recreational potential: In Use Passive Rec/Farm | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Farm field/Woodlot | Funding: Self Help | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Carr Fields, Carr Way (Acres: 2.67 | Map Par ID: 32-1-17 Book/Page: 13075/427) Current use: Baseball Fields | Recreational potential: In use/athletic fields | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Athletic Fields | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Cedar Pond, Herrick Road (Acres: 9.8 | Map Par ID: 24-3-27 Book/Page: 8297/166) Current use: Fishing/Boating | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Cedar Pond Assoc. | Condition: Pond | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Community Center/Council on Aging, 10 Elm Street (Acres: 3.37 | Map Par ID: 29-2-1 Book/Page: 6926/749) Current use: Council on Aging/Community Center | Recreational potential: Picnic/playground | Managed by Select Board/Council on Aging | Condition: Community Building | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Curtis Road (Acres: 7.8 | Map Par ID: 40-4-14 Book/Page: 5496/572) Current use: Unimproved woods | Recreational potential: Potential | Managed by BS | Condition: Vacant House/lot | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Davis Hayfield, Main Street Frnt Fld (Acres: 4.41 | Map Par ID: 32-3-10 Book/Page: 15092/173) Current use: Farm field/trail | Recreational potential: In Use Passive Rec/Farm | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Farm field | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Dorman Land, Herrick Road (Acres: 35.58 | Map Par ID: 28-2-16.1 Book/Page: 5210/132) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: Passive Recreation | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Funding: CPC | Protection: CR (Pending) | Access: Yes | Zoning: R/A

East Boxford Fire Station, 6 Middleton Road (Acres: 2.06 | Map Par ID: 28-2-33.1 Book/Page: 6565/394) Current use: West Fire Station | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Select Board/Fire Dept | Condition: East Fire Station/parking | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Endicott Road (Acres: 1.6 | Map Par ID: 42-01-23 Book/Page: 6049/430) Current use: | Recreational potential: | Access: Zoning:

Former Russell House, 27 Main Street (Acres: 3.5 | Map Par ID: 32-01-22 Book/Page: 40910/056) Current use: Vacant residential lot | Recreational potential: Future school parking | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Lawn/woods | Access: Yes | Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Georgetown Road (Acres: 0.75 | Map Par ID: 28-2-22 Book/Page: 13446/145) Current use: Unimproved Swamp | Recreational potential: Minimal | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Swamp | Access: Potential | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Greenbelt Trail, Sunrise Road (Acres: 0.53 | Map Par ID: 25-03-44 Book/Page: 10620/573) Current use: Open Space/Recreation/Trails | Recreational potential: Trail | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Woods | Access: Yes | Zoning: Residential/Agricult

Greenbelt/Coolidge, Topsfield Road (Acres: 22.31 | Map Par ID: 33-2-6 Book/Page: 5138/528) Current use: Farm and Forest | Recreational potential: in use, passive rec | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Farm & forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Haynes Field, Cor Main & Middleton Road (Acres: 5.22 | Map Par ID: 32-3-26 Book/Page: 15403/243) Current use: Farm field/trail | Recreational potential: In Use Passive Rec/Farm | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Farm field | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Holmes Pond, Holmes Road (Acres: 3.6 | Map Par ID: 40-1-70 Book/Page: 10110/0 57) Current use: Scenic Vista | Recreational potential: Vista Only | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Pond | Access: No | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Killam Cemetery, Killam Cemetery (Acres: 0.1 | Map Par ID: 42-2-3) Current use: Cemetery | Recreational potential: Minimal | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Woods | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lockwood Forest, Middleton & Lockwood (Acres: 82.13 | Map Par ID: 37-1-3 Book/Page: 14587/409) Current use: Equestrian trails | Recreational potential: in use active rec | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Equestrian trails | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Middleton Road (Acres: 16.5 | Map Par ID: 37-1-3.5 Book/Page: 14587/409) Current

use: Equestrian trails | Recreational potential: in use active rec | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Equestrian trails | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lockwood Lane (Acres: 1.5 | Map Par ID: 37-1-76 Book/Page: 18030/437) Current use: Unimproved swamp | Recreational potential: Minimal | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Swamp | Access: Minimal | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lord Woodlot, Lawrence Road (Acres: 31.53 | Map Par ID: 27-1-26 Book/Page: 15092/211) Current use: Forest trails | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lot 51 Lockwood Lane (Acres: 2 | Map Par ID: 37-1-75 Book/Page: 125259) Current use: Unimproved woods | Recreational potential: Minimal | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Vacant Houselot | Access: Minimal | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lowe Pond Trailhead, Sunrise Road (Acres: 2.59 | Map Par ID: 25-1-1 Book/Page: 10620/573) Current use: Pond Access | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Meadow/Wildlife Habitat | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Middleton Road (Acres: 1.39 | Map Par ID: 40-4-3 Book/Page: 5580/790) Current use: ROW Expansion | Recreational potential: Potential | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Woods | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 1.8 | Map Par ID: 40-4-6) Current use: ROW Expansion | Recreational potential: Potential | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Woods | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 5.6 | Map Par ID: 32-02-21.A)

Mill Run Road (Acres: 0.71 | Map Par ID: 32-2-17) Current use: Open Space | Recreational potential: Park | Managed by Select Board |

Condition: Woods | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Old Boxford Cemetery, Old Chapman Road (Acres: 4.93 | Map Par ID: 29-1-16.0 Book/Page: 5304/247) Current use: Cemetery | Recreational potential: in use/passive recreation | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Cemetery | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Old Community Center Lawn, Middleton Road (Acres: 0.4 | Map Par ID: 28-2-30) Current use: Old Council on Aging Lawn | Recreational potential: Picnic area | Managed by Select Board/Council on Aging | Condition: Community Building lawn | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Old Community Center, 4 Middleton Road (Acres: 0.139 | Map Par ID: 28-2-29 Book/Page: 4604/475) Current use: Old Council on Aging Building | Recreational potential: Meeting place | Managed by Select Board/Council on Aging | Condition: Community Building | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Palmers Woods, Main Street (Acres: 27.41 | Map Par ID: 32-3-9 Book/Page: 15092/173) Current use: Forest trails | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Peabody Field, Main Street (Acres: 2.15 | Map Par ID: 32-3-20 Book/Page: 15092/173) Current use: Fallow farm field | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Farm field | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Main Street (Acres: 4.56 | Map Par ID: 32-3-11.1 Book/Page: 25139/367) Current use: Fallow farm field | Recreational potential: In Use Passive Rec/Farm | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Farm field | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Pond Street (Acres: 0.18 | Map Par ID: 25-05-19.A Book/Page: 6821/134) Current use: Pull-off at Pond Street near Killam Hill Road | Recreational potential: Pull-off/rest area |

Managed by Select Board | Condition: Pull-off/Woods/Swamp | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Pye Brook Lane, Off (Acres: 10 | Map Par ID: 30-01-07 Book/Page: 18636/016) Current use: Open Space/Vista | Recreational potential: Potential | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Roundtop Park, Round Top Road (Acres: 4.34 | Map Par ID: 25-2-10 Book/Page: 4604/476) Current use: unimproved woods | Recreational potential: Potential | Managed by Select Board | Condition: Meadow/Wildlife Habitat | Access: Potential | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Samuel Bixby Way (Row) (Acres: 0.25 | Map Par ID: 28-2-28.5 Book/Page: 20770/552) Current use: Trail Easement | Recreational potential: Trail easement | Managed by Planning Board | Condition: Path | Zoning: Trail Easement

Titus Lane (Acres: 0.2 | Map Par ID: 33-2-15.2) Current use: | Recreational potential: | Managed by Select Board | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Wunnegen, Crooked Pond Road, Off (Acres: 12 | Map Par ID: 40-1-36 Book/Page: 19739/588) Current use: Forest Trails | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Forest | Funding: Land and Water | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Crooked Pond Road, Off (Acres: 33.5 | Map Par ID: 39-1-1 Book/Page: 19739/588) Current use: Forest Trails | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Forest | Funding: Land and Water | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Wunnegen, Crooked Pond Road, Off (Acres: 73.5 | Map Par ID: 40-1-37.1 Book/Page: 19739/596) Current use: Forest Trails | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ConsCom | Condition: Forest |

Funding: Land and Water | Access: Yes |
Zoning: Official/Open Space

2. City of Haverhill

Lake Shore Road (Acres: 11.4 | Map Par ID: 3-1-5 Book/Page: 1704/405)

3. Town of Georgetown

Camp Dennison, Great Pond Drive (Acres: 10 | Map Par ID: 16-1-3 Book/Page: 14617/406)
Current use: Summer Camp | Recreational potential: In use, camping | Managed by the Town of Georgetown | Condition: Summer camp | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

4. Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Bald Hill, Middleton Road (Acres: 525.99 | Map Par ID: 36-1-2 Book/Page: 5234 479) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Baldpate Pond State Forest, Baldpate Road (Acres: 2.6 | Map Par ID: 15-2-8.2 Book/Page: 5365/505) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Baldpate Road (Acres: 32.1 | Map Par ID: 15-2-7 Book/Page: 5373/16) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Boxford State Forest, Middleton Road (Acres: 8.9 | Map Par ID: 36-1-4 Book/Page: 2947/480) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Cleaveland Farm, Rowley Road (Acres: 163.17 | Map Par ID: 26-3-13 Book/Page: 12652/152) Current use: State Forest | Recreational

potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Rowley Road (Acres: 2 | Map Par ID: 26-3-13.4 Book/Page: 12652/145) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Rowley Road (Acres: 2.02 | Map Par ID: 26-3-13.3 Book/Page: 12652/145) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Rowley Road (Acres: 4 | Map Par ID: 26-3-13.1 Book/Page: 12652/157) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Rowley Road (Acres: 47 | Map Par ID: 26-3-14) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Rowley Road (Acres: 6 | Map Par ID: 26-3-13.2 Book/Page: 12652/145) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Interstate 95 (Acres: 0.2 | Map Par ID: 20-3-1 Book/Page: 6047/769)

— (Acres: 0.7 | Map Par ID: 26-1-6 Book/Page: 6047/773)

— (Acres: 0.82 | Map Par ID: 26-1-5 Book/Page: 5960/201)

— (Acres: 1 | Map Par ID: 26-1-7 Book/Page: 6047/765)

— (Acres: 1.51 | Map Par ID: 26-2-2.1 Book/Page: 6047/776)

— (Acres: 3.34 | Map Par ID: 26-1-1 Book/Page: 5839/117) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: | Managed by Mass DCR | Zoning:

Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, Middleton Road (Acres: 55.88 | Map Par ID: 37-1-1 Book/Page: 9695/198) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Rowley Georgetown State Forest, Rowley-Georgetown (Acres: 23 | Map Par ID: 21-1-1 Book/Page: 2973/131) Current use: State Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Mass DCR | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Topsfield Road (Acres: 13 | Map Par ID: 34-1-18 Book/Page: 5220/798)

— (Acres: 7.26 | Map Par ID: 33-4-1.1 Book/Page: 5929/370)

— (Acres: 8.2 | Map Par ID: 33-4-1.4)

5. Essex County

Pine Plain Road, Rear (Acres: 3.8 | Map Par ID: 07-1-2 Book/Page: 5935/119) Current use: Swamp | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Essex County | Condition: Swamp | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

B – Nonprofits

1. BTA/BOLT Inc,

Alpers, Herrick Road (Acres: 20.7 | Map Par ID: 19-2-13 Book/Page: 12654/576) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Chadwick Mill, Main Street (Acres: 1.69 | Map Par ID: 40299 Book/Page: 28096/309) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc

| Condition: Farm | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Dorman, Bare Hill Road, Off (Acres: 8.5 | Map Par ID: 29-3-25 Book/Page: 13630/411) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Dubrue Woods, Ipswich Road (Acres: 0.96 | Map Par ID: 13-02-02.1 Book/Page: 27230/587) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Ericson Woods, Lawrence Road (Acres: 15 | Map Par ID: 27-1-25.1 Book/Page: 23683/502) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Fish Brook Parcel, Fuller Lane (Acres: 12.77 | Map Par ID: 40-5-5.2 Book/Page: 23962/359) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

French Family Woodlot, Depot Road, Off (Acres: 14.91 | Map Par ID: 29-1-10 Book/Page: 12042/375) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Hemlock Junction, Hemlock & Kelsey (Acres: 1.69 | Map Par ID: 25-01-27 Book/Page: 35718/402) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Owen's Land, Lockwood Lane (Acres: 15.4 | Map Par ID: 37-1-77 Book/Page: 22472/576) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Perkins Woods, Ipswich Road (Acres: 0.6 | Map Par ID: 26-03-03.1 Book/Page: 18118/472) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Ipswich Road (Acres: 17.78 | Map Par ID: 26-3-16 Book/Page: 18118/470) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Potter's Farm, Washington Street (Acres: 12.7 | Map Par ID: 09-1-27 Book/Page: 12494/322) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Washington Street (Acres: 2.77 | Map Par ID: 09-1-39 Book/Page: 25589/124) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Washington Street (Acres: 3.37 | Map Par ID: 09-1-40 Book/Page: 25589/124) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Washington Street R (Acres: 35 | Map Par ID: 09-1-24 Book/Page: 12494/322) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Washington Street, Off (Acres: 14 | Map Par ID: 09-1-33 Book/Page: 12494/322) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Washington Street, Off (Acres: 8.3 | Map Par ID: 09-1-34 Book/Page: 12494/322) Current

use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Shaven Crown, Highland Road (Acres: 35.26 | Map Par ID: 14-1-15 Book/Page: 14097/12) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Shulman Wetland, Main Street, Off (Acres: 6.5 | Map Par ID: 28-1-34 Book/Page: 14630/604) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Steven's Pond, Ipswich Road (Acres: 22 | Map Par ID: 19-2-20 Book/Page: 15315/41) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Townsend Farm Parcel, Townsend Farm Road (Acres: 11.77 | Map Par ID: 32-4-26 Book/Page: 22544/581) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

2. Essex County Greenbelt Association

100-Acre Woods, Topsfield Road (Acres: 22 | Map Par ID: 33-1-13 Book/Page: 5583/411) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

44 Stonecleave Road (Acres: 17.5 | Map Par ID: 31-2-1 Book/Page: 24889/361) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

51 Bare Hill Road (Acres: 2.48 | Map Par ID: 29-03-23.14 Book/Page: 31065/365) Current

use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Bald Hill (Acres: 11.5 | Map Par ID: 36-1-5 Book/Page: 5143/659) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 4 | Map Par ID: 37-1-2 Book/Page: 5420/447) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Towne Road, Off (Acres: 12.5 | Map Par ID: 31-2-17 Book/Page: 5050/243) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Bare Hill Road (Acres: 1.33 | Map Par ID: 29-03-23.19 Book/Page: 31065/365) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Bare Hill Road, Rear (Acres: 9.59 | Map Par ID: 29-03-23.1 Book/Page: 10359/374) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Boxford State Forest Lane (Acres: 12 | Map Par ID: 00-00-05 Book/Page: 4837/223) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Brookview Road (Acres: 0.5 | Map Par ID: 27-02-01 Book/Page: DOC 508574) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Cargill Field, Middleton Road (Acres: 2.5 | Map Par ID: 32-2-5 Book/Page: 8669/373) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Carter Fields, Lot 3 Bradford Street (Acres: 26.14 | Map Par ID: 04-1-3 Book/Page: 23782/423) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

——, Lot 5 Bradford Street (Acres: 58.95 | Map Par ID: 04-1-3.1 Book/Page: 23782/423) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Chadwick Farm Road (Acres: 19.63 | Map Par ID: 06-2-3 Book/Page: UNKNOWN) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Curtis Road, Near (Acres: 5 | Map Par ID: 40-2-10 Book/Page: 5856/83) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Endicott Road (Acres: 28.91 | Map Par ID: 43-01-02 Book/Page: 5135/425) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 4.8 | Map Par ID: 42-02-04 Book/Page: 33366/506) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Haynes Elmlea Land, Main Street (Acres: 41.88 | Map Par ID: 28-02-17 Book/Page: 13826/485) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by BTA/BOLT Inc | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Haynes Road (Acres: 12.1 | Map Par ID: 32-3-11.3 Book/Page: 16198/47) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Highland Road (Acres: 14.7 | Map Par ID: 14-2-39 Book/Page: 7053/148) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lawrence Road (Acres: 2.23 | Map Par ID: 27-2-4 Book/Page: 9820/567) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lawrence Road, Off (Acres: 3.2 | Map Par ID: 27-02-18 Book/Page: PL305/061) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Long Meadow (Acres: 8 | Map Par ID: 00-00-06 Book/Page: 4837/224) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Lord Land, Townsend Farm Road (Acres: 3.73 | Map Par ID: 32-3-9.1.3 Book/Page: 10660/325) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Middleton Road, Off (Acres: 20 | Map Par ID: 36-1-1 Book/Page: 5051/389) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 3 | Map Par ID: 36-1-14 Book/Page: 6569/770) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Spofford Road (Acres: 12.8 | Map Par ID: 14-2-25 Book/Page: 7020/285) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Towne Road (Acres: 73.55 | Map Par ID: 31-2-16.B Book/Page: 18117/557) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use |

Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Wildcat Conservation Area, Main Street, Off (Acres: 13.68 | Map Par ID: 27-1-4 Book/Page: 7004/669) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Wildmeadow Road, Off (Acres: 0.28 | Map Par ID: 40-1-60 Book/Page: 6658/495) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Willow Road (Acres: 1.3 | Map Par ID: 10-2-26 Book/Page: 5659/135) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 2 | Map Par ID: 10-2-2.1 Book/Page: 5935/6024) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—— (Acres: 3.8 | Map Par ID: 10-2-38 Book/Page: 6433/247) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In passive use | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

3. Other Nonprofits

Boxford Boy Scouts, Inc., Boy Scout Park, Topsfield Road (Acres: 14 | Map Par ID: 33-2-7 Book/Page: 3945/302) Current use: Forest/Club house | Recreational potential: in use camping | Managed by Boy Scouts | Condition: Forest/Club house | Access: With permission | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Boxford Friendship Foundation, Four Mile Village, 50 Four Mile Village (Acres: 31 | Map Par ID: 19-02-18.E Book/Page: 7680/504) Current use: Community Center | Recreational potential: in use housing | Managed by Owner | Condition: Housing | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Boxford Historical Society Inc, French Holyoke Home and Barn, 2 Topsfield Road (Acres: 0.5 | Map Par ID: 33-1-25 Book/Page: 3281/282) Current use: Historical Compound | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Historical Society | Condition: History Park | Funding: Essex Cnty Hist Grant | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Brooks School, Washington Street (Acres: 0.21 | Map Par ID: 09-1-6 Book/Page: 3096/246) Current use: School | Recreational potential: Unknown | Managed by Owner | Condition: Unknown | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Danvers YMCA, Camp Sackajawea, 4a Stiles Pond (Acres: 3.2 | Map Par ID: 17-2-29 Book/Page: 4251/128) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: in use camp | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Summer camp | Access: Camp only | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Main Street, Off (Acres: 0.43 | Map Par ID: 17-2-28 Book/Page: 6830/061) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

—, Stiles Pond (Acres: 11 | Map Par ID: 17-02-27 Book/Page: 3666/058)

First Church Congregation, 4 Georgetown Road (Acres: 7.73 | Map Par ID: 28-02-26 Book/Page: 22072/437) Current use: Parsonage | Recreational potential: | Zoning:

Harmony Cemetary Corporation, Ipswich Road (Acres: 3.17 | Map Par ID: 25-04-06 Book/Page: 15595/370) Current use: Cemetery

Horticultural Society of Boxford, Ipswich Road (Acres: 0.18 | Map Par ID: 25-01-15 Book/Page: 28200/049)

—, Ipswich Road (Acres: 3.5 | Map Par ID: 25-01-13 Book/Page: 28200/049)

Ingalls Memorial Library Assoc., 173a Washington Street (Acres: 0.2 | Map Par ID: 12299 Book/Page: Unknown) Current use: Document Center

Lynn Camp Rotary, Camp Rotary, 372 Ipswich Road (Acres: 48 | Map Par ID: 18-2-4 Book/Page: 2836/494) Current use: Summer Camp | Recreational potential: in use summer camp | Managed by Boston YMCA | Condition: Summer camp | Access: Camp only | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Masconomet Regional School District, Masconomet Regional School, 20 Endicott Road (Acres: 72 | Map Par ID: 43-1-1 Book/Page: CERT 111999) Current use: School | Recreational potential: Unknown | Managed by Owner | Condition: Unknown | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

May Institute, The., 110 Valley Road (Acres: 2.07 | Map Par ID: 11-01-11.3 Book/Page: 27319/518) Current use: Group Home | Recreational potential: | Zoning:

Mt Vernon & Brookside Cemetery Assoc, Mt Vernon Road (Acres: 11.34 | Map Par ID: 13-03-30 Book/Page: 2254/445)

Mt Vernon & Brookside Cemetery Assoc., Main Street (Acres: 2 | Map Par ID: 13-03-05 Book/Page: 2254/445) Current use: Cemetery

N.E.E.D.S., 15 King Richard Drive (Acres: 1.31 | Map Par ID: 20-05-09 Book/Page: 40658/385) Current use: Group Home

New England Forestry, Herrick Road (Acres: 95 | Map Par ID: 24-4-9.3 Book/Page: 10669/313) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by NEFF | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

Pine Plain Road, Rear (Acres: 3.8 | Map Par ID: 07-1-2 Book/Page: 5935/119) Current use: Swamp | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by Essex County | Condition: Swamp | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Second Congregational Church, 173 Washington Street (Acres: 1.3 | Map Par ID: 09-1-17 Book/Page: 6105/218) Current use: Church | Recreational potential: Unknown | Managed by Owner | Condition: Unknown | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, 570 Main Street (Acres: 2.44 | Map Par ID: 09-2-32 Book/Page: 14836/220) Current use: Church | Recreational potential: Unknown | Managed by Owner | Condition: Unknown | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, Washington Street (Acres: 1.05 | Map Par ID: 10-1-231) Current use: Church | Recreational potential: Unknown | Managed by Owner | Condition: Unknown | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Turning Point Inc., 461 Ipswich Road (Acres: 2 | Map Par ID: 13-02-09 Book/Page: 33465/255) Current use: Group Home

—, 7 Glendale Road (Acres: 2.08 | Map Par ID: 13-03-06 Book/Page: 37540/306) Current use: Group Home

Windrush Farm Therapeutic Equitation, Brookview Road (Acres: 8.34 | Map Par ID: 31-01-16 Book/Page: DOC 505782) Current use: Horse Farm

YMCA Greater Boston Camp Wakanda, 443 Main Street (Acres: 25.84 | Map Par ID: 18-1-30 Book/Page: 4500/598) Current use: Forest | Recreational potential: In use, passive recreation | Managed by ECGA | Condition: Forest | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official/Open Space

C – Chapter 61 - Forest

Barker Elizabeth E & Karen J Trust, Barker Road (Acres: 5 | Map Par ID: 01-1-1 Book/Page: 32072/297) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Dresser Chadwick K Jt, Lake Shore Road (Acres: 32.5 | Map Par ID: 03-1-2 Book/Page: 29703/449) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Drohosky Steven & Sandra, 43 Hickory Ln (Acres: 26.07 | Map Par ID: 28-01-04.12 Book/Page: 36823/559) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by

Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Fishman Jayme & Gretchen, 395b Ipswich Road (Acres: 19 | Map Par ID: 14-02-33 Book/Page: 35146/448) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Jack Pearl, Barker Road (Acres: 97.25 | Map Par ID: 01-1-2 Book/Page: 16897/148) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Zoning: R/A

Johnston Lucy, 85 Main Street (Acres: 12 | Map Par ID: 28-1-3.A Book/Page: 364775/010) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Jones Carlton, 444 Ipswich Road (Acres: 25.17 | Map Par ID: 14-02-01 Book/Page: 36388/139) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Jones Dorothy S, Ipswich Road (Acres: 1.77 | Map Par ID: 14-2-2 Book/Page: 36388/139) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Knowles Stephen & Susan, 21 Long Hill (Acres: 13.5 | Map Par ID: 34-01-49 Book/Page: 41119/150) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

— Bare Hill Road (Acres: 41.75 | Map Par ID: 34-1-4 Book/Page: 41119/146) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

— E1 Bare Hill Road (Acres: 7.1 | Map Par ID: 34-1-4.1.1 Book/Page: 41119/153) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Langer Mary, 146 Middleton Road (Acres: 35.7 | Map Par ID: 37-01-03.4 Book/Page: 24252/057) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Lillooet Farm LLC, Lillooet Farm, 42 Topsfield Road (Acres: 55.23 | Map Par ID: 33-01-16 Book/Page: 34008/207) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—— Lillooet Farm, 42 Topsfield Road (Acres: 7.73 | Map Par ID: 33-01-16.1 Book/Page: 34008/207) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—— Lillooet Farm, Depot Road (Acres: 40.86 | Map Par ID: 29-03-11 Book/Page: 34008/207) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Martin Karen, Bradford Street (Acres: 15 | Map Par ID: 38078 Book/Page: 28055/153) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Morss Farm LLC, Lily Pond Road (Acres: 27.7 | Map Par ID: 02-2-7 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Protection: APR | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Penni Marjorie & Samuel, 524 Ipswich Road (Acres: 41.48 | Map Par ID: 13-01-25 Book/Page: 40182/461) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Smolak, Michael, Small Ox Farm, 494 Ipswich Road (Acres: 49.8 | Map Par ID: 17-01-07 Book/Page: 95586/589) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by

Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Stavis Norman A TE, 235 Main Street (Acres: 43.13 | Map Par ID: 23-01-09 Book/Page: 8647/030) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

——, Main Street (Acres: 4.7 | Map Par ID: 27-1-8 Book/Page: 10246/409) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

——, Main Street (Acres: 52 | Map Par ID: 23-1-6) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Van Dusen Mary, Main Street (Acres: 10.45 | Map Par ID: 28-01-02.1 Book/Page: 27681/596) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Williams Pamela S Trust, Barker Road (Acres: 15.5 | Map Par ID: 01-1-3 Book/Page: 41449/552) Current use: Woodlot | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Woodlot Owner | Condition: Woodlot | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

D – Chapter 61 - Agriculture

Barker Elizabeth E & Karen J Trust, Barker Road (Acres: 23 | Map Par ID: 04-1-2 Book/Page: 32072/297) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Canonica Patrick G & Vaturro Melinda Trust, 17 Maple Ave (Acres: 6.67 | Map Par ID: 17-02-17 Book/Page: 33470/239) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

— 18 Maple Ave (Acres: 1.01 | Map Par ID: 17-2-18 Book/Page: 33470/239) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

— Cole Drive Maple Ave (Acres: 2.3 | Map Par ID: 17-2-16 Book/Page: 33470/239) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Dike Laura & Miller Vaughn, 35 Ipswich Road (Acres: 34.24 | Map Par ID: 26-03-07 Book/Page: 33476/064) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Eldred F G & E L Trust, Ipswich Road (Acres: 71.2 | Map Par ID: 17-1-19 Book/Page: 12837/418) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Fairbanks Michael & Marylee, 5 Essex Street (Acres: 18.68 | Map Par ID: 09-01-10 Book/Page: 38681/266) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Grant Barbara, 363 Main Street (Acres: 19.41 | Map Par ID: 17-02-25 Book/Page: 12593/194) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Hamilton Douglas & Julie, 11 Washington Street (Acres: 18.15 | Map Par ID: 06-01-02.1 Book/Page: 36070/473) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Johnson Randolph & Carol, 120 Middleton Road (Acres: 3.1 | Map Par ID: 36-01-12 Book/Page: 40317/296) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Johnson Randolph & Carol, 120 Middleton Road (Acres: 3.4 | Map Par ID: 36-01-11 Book/Page: 34852/332) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Katherine Phillips, Mill Road (Acres: 8 | Map Par ID: 32-02-13 Book/Page: 9567/185) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

King Realty Holding LLC, 44 Belvedere Road (Acres: 17.26 | Map Par ID: 09-1-23 Book/Page: 41140/475) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Protection: CR-ECGA | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

King Richard Q & Eva L, Johnson's Pond On (Acres: 26 | Map Par ID: 06-1-3.1 Book/Page: 28043/513) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Kreiner Daniel TE, 114 Stiles Pond Road (Acres: 22.89 | Map Par ID: 18-1-3 Book/Page: 15538/269) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Latty Alexander B & Latty Bonnie Trust, 166 Main Street (Acres: 15.89 | Map Par ID: 27-01-18 Book/Page: 41424/524) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, 166 Main Street (Acres: 15.6 | Map Par ID: 28-01-11 Book/Page: 41424/524) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Leonhard Byron C Trust, Ipswich Road (Acres: 5.49 | Map Par ID: 13-3-34 Book/Page: 25000/15) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Martin Karen, Lot 2 Lake Shore Road (Acres: 9.27 | Map Par ID: 09-1-1 Book/Page: 16451/40) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Morss Farm LLC, Lake Shore Road (Acres: 1.25 | Map Par ID: 05-2-7 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Protection: APR | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, Lake Shore Road (Acres: 15.16 | Map Par ID: 05-2-2 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Protection: APR | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, Lake Shore Road (Acres: 56.5 | Map Par ID: 05-1-24 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Funding: NA | Protection: APR | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, Morss Farm, 77 Lake Shore Road (Acres: 4.04 | Map Par ID: 05-02-03 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

—, Oak Ridge Road (Acres: 24.34 | Map Par ID: 05-02-05 Book/Page: 25693/280) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Murphy George & Linda, 17 Silvermine Road (Acres: 7 | Map Par ID: 10-01-02 Book/Page: 5661/267) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Oeller Wolfgang, 97 Lake Shore Road (Acres: 6.8 | Map Par ID: 05-02-06 Book/Page: 20350/428) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Paisley William, Paisley Farm, Washington Street (Acres: 6 | Map Par ID: 09-01-22.A

Book/Page: 6696/426) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Price Thomas M, Ingaldsby Farm, 22 Washington Street (Acres: 79.7 | Map Par ID: 06-02-02.B Book/Page: 39968/017) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Price Thomas M, Ingaldsby Farm, Groveland Line (Acres: 18.15 | Map Par ID: 07-1-3 Book/Page: 39968/017) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Price Thomas M, Ingaldsby Farm, Washington Street (Acres: 50.6 | Map Par ID: 06-02-02.A Book/Page: 39968/017) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Rogers Catherine, Main Street (Acres: 39.2 | Map Par ID: 05-01-07 Book/Page: 39968/012) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Sholomith Martin, 12 Mortimer Road (Acres: 6.3 | Map Par ID: 27-01-11 Book/Page: 22420/132) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

E – Chapter 61 B - Recreation

Borylo Kathryn, 283 Main Street (Acres: 19.84 | Map Par ID: 23-01-12.4 Book/Page: 24673/423) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Open Condition/Natural Wild | Condition: Farm | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: R/A

Far Corner Farm Golf, Far Corners Golf Course, Barker Road (Acres: 80.6 | Map Par ID: 02-01-08 Book/Page: 5365/328) Current use: Golf Course | Recreational potential: Yes |

Managed by Far Corners Golf Club | Condition: Golf Club | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official Open Space

— Barker Road (Acres: 72.17 | Map Par ID: 02-1-9 Book/Page: 5379/683) Current use: Golf Course | Recreational potential: Yes | Managed by Far Corners Golf Club | Condition: Golf Club | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official Open Space

Flynn William J Trust, Far Corners Golf Course, Main Street (Acres: 78.63 | Map Par ID: 05-2-16 Book/Page: 25079/171) Current use: Golf Course | Recreational potential: Yes | Managed by Far Corners Golf Club | Condition: Golf Club | Access: Yes | Zoning: Official Open Space

Grigg Family Trust, Alderbrook Farm, 92 Lake Shore Road (Acres: 70.5 | Map Par ID: 05-1-17 Book/Page: 14119/410) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Private Farmer | Condition: Farm | Protection: APR | Access: Yes | Zoning: R/A

Grigg Natalie & Jennifer, 665 Main Street (Acres: 9.03 | Map Par ID: 05-01-12 Book/Page: 36687/473) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Open Condition/Natural Wild | Condition: Farm | Protection: CR | Access: Yes | Zoning: R/A

Martin Gary & Karen, 179c Lake Shore Road (Acres: 10.41 | Map Par ID: 09-01-01.2 Book/Page: 15761/544) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: None | Managed by Open Condition/Natural Wild | Condition: Farm | Access: Yes | Zoning: R/A

E – Private (Not Nonprofit)

Dumas Margaret & Dumas Michelle, 437 Ipswich Road (Acres: 9.4 | Map Par ID: 14-1-20

Book/Page: 35316/406) Current use: Private Home | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Haynes Charles W, Main Street (Acres: 2.38 | Map Par ID: 32-3-25 Book/Page: 40617/343) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private Farmer | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

King Richard Q TE, 44 Belvedere Road (Acres: 7.3 | Map Par ID: 09-2-34 Book/Page: 41140/480) Current use: Farm/Nursery | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Kotarski Michael TE, 427a Ipswich Road (Acres: 6.04 | Map Par ID: 14-1-20.1 Book/Page: 27958/338) Current use: | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Ousler George, 17 Washington Street (Acres: 6.25 | Map Par ID: 06-01-02 Book/Page: 33432/116) Current use: Farm | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private Farmer | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

PEA Films Inc, PEA Films, Barker Road (Acres: 158 | Map Par ID: 01-1-4 Book/Page: 7568/132) Current use: Woodlot/Field | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Toll Northeast V Corp, The Willows, Washington & Willow (Acres: 115.6 | Map Par ID: 06-2-2.2 Book/Page: 41357/207) Current use: Housing/Residential | Recreational potential: Unknown | Condition: Private | Access: No | Zoning: R/A

Appendix 3 – Community Input

A – Letter of June 26, 2023: Boxford Land Committee

B – Letter of June 26, 2023: Boxford Conservation Commission

C – Letter of June 26, 2023: Boxford Planning Board

D – Letter of June 27, 2023: Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

E – Letter of June 27, 2023: Boxford Community Preservation Committee

F – Letter of June 30, 2023: Ipswich River Watershed Association

G – Letter of January 29, 2024: Town Administrator, Town of Boxford



OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD of THE LAND COMMITTEE

MASSACHUSETTS

01921

June 26, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

On behalf of the Land Committee I would like express our thanks to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. The Land Committee supports the Town's efforts to identify Boxford's open space and recreational needs and to develop an action plan to meet those needs.

Additionally, the Land Committee has the following comments on the draft OS&RP document:

Generally speaking, this excellent effort to collect pertinent data via the survey of the population regarding its primary goals and interests in the open space and recreation aspect of Boxford, is enormously helpful to the Land Committee as we review various properties for acquisition by the Town, taking into account the desires for open space and resource protection as expressed in this OS&RP.

Sincerely,


Natasha Grigg

Chair of Land Committee

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921



TOWN of BOXFORD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS
01921

June 26, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

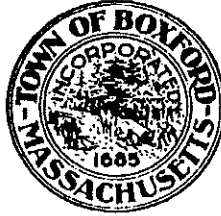
Dear Chairman Hamilton,

On behalf of the Boxford Conservation Commission, I would like express our thanks to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. I would like to give special thanks to you personally, as the Conservation Commission liaison to the Committee, and for serving as Chair. The Conservation Commission supports the Town's efforts to identify Boxford's open space and recreational needs and to develop an action plan to meet those needs.

Sincerely, 

David Smallman, Chair
Boxford Conservation Commission

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921



TOWN of BOXFORD PLANNING BOARD

MASSACHUSETTS

01921

June 26, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

On behalf of the Boxford Planning Board, I would like express our thanks to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. I would like to give special thanks to Holly Langer for her contribution as the Planning Board liaison and member of the Committee. The Planning Board supports the Town's efforts to identify Boxford's open space and recreational needs and to develop an action plan to meet those needs.

Sincerely,

Bob Gore, Chair
Boxford Planning Board

June 27, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

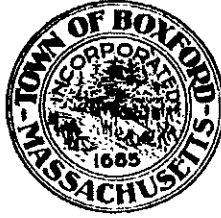
On behalf of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, I would like express our thanks to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission supports and commends the Town's efforts to identify Boxford's open space and recreational needs and to develop an action plan to meet those needs.

The Planning Commission was heavily involved in the writing and map design of the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan and has read and provided edits on the document on several occasions. Thus, there are no further comments at this time.

Sincerely,



Jerrard Whitten, Executive Director



OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD
of THE Community Preservation COMMITTEE
MASSACHUSETTS
01921

June 26, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

On behalf of the Community Preservation Committee, I would like express our thanks to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. The Communitie Preservation Committee supports the Town's efforts to identify Boxford's open space and recreational needs and to develop an action plan to meet those needs.

Additionally, the Community Preservation Committee has the following comments on the draft OS&RP document:

This excellent effort to collect pertinent data via the survey of the population regarding its primary goals and interests in the open space and recreation aspect of Boxford, as well as the history and illustration of Boxford's past interests regarding its history, open space and types of zoning is enormously helpful to the Community Preservation Committee as we review various requests to purchase properties for acquisition by the Town as well as requests for helping to fund the restoration of historical buildings. The OSRP helps us to take into account the various desires of Boxford's residents as expressed in this OS&RP.

Sincerely,

Natasha Grigg, Chair of the CPC

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921



June 30, 2023

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

On behalf of the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA), as well as the PIE-Rivers Partnership of which Boxford is a member, I would like to offer the following comments on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update.

For context, IRWA's mission is to "protect nature and make sure that there is enough clean water in the Ipswich River watershed for people, fish and wildlife, today and for our children and theirs. Through our work with the PIE-Rivers partnership, which we coordinate, this mission is expanded to include the Parker River and Essex River watersheds as well. As you know, parts of the town of Boxford sits within the Parker watershed and the Ipswich watershed.

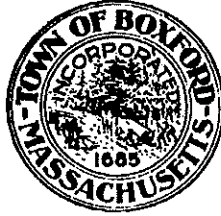
First, open space and conservation is the best and most effective way to advance our mission: to protect water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, pollution prevention in our rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. We are pleased that Boxford's open space plan highlights as Goal A to "Preserve and protect groundwater resources, drinking water resources, ponds, streams, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat." We also support all of the objectives under this goal which align with our mission to protect our local water resources.

IRWA and the PIE-Rivers Partnership look forward to working with the town of Boxford to further these areas of mutual priority. Please feel free to reach out to us if there is anything we can do to facilitate this work.

Sincerely,

Erin Bonney Casey,
ebcasey@ipswichriver.org
Planning and Resiliency Program Manager (IRWA)
Partnership Coordinator (PIE-Rivers)

Cc: Ross Povenmire, Boxford Director of Conservation & Planning via email



TOWN of BOXFORD
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
MASSACHUSETTS
01921

January 29, 2024

Doug Hamilton
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Comment on the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

As the chief municipal officer for the town of Boxford, I would like express my thanks and support to the Open Space & Recreation Committee for their work in completing the 2023/2024 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the town of Boxford. It is particularly gratifying that this excellent document is the product of dedicated volunteer effort by Boxford residents.

Sincerely,

Matt Coogan, Town Administrator

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921

Appendix 4 – ADA Assessment

A – Colby Park at Washington Street

B – Bergstrom Land

C – Boxford Common Conservation Area

Note: *The Boxford Self-Evaluation ADA Report (2017)* is available as a separate PDF file from the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee website at <https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/open-space-recreation-plan-committee>.

Colby Park at Washington Street

Property name: Colby Park at Washington Street (adjacent to the Lincoln Hall and West Village Provisions parking area)

Survey date: June 15, 2023

In attendance: ADA Coordinator Mary Anne Nay and Holly Langer, Planning Board and Open Space and Recreation Committee

Property description: Ron Holmgren, a long-standing Boxford resident, formed a committee to redesign a former park site, working in conjunction with the DPW. The erstwhile West Boxford Grange applied for grants to help fund the plantings for the redesign. This park is a work in progress, as it is considered a volunteer concept. There is a sign at the entrance with a proposed design, including for a trail through the park. The park is a mostly flat area that needs mowing and maintenance.

Handicapped access—parking: There is a gravel parking area, which is adjacent to the Lincoln Hall parking lot. There is one handicapped parking sign, which has tipped over and is not visible. There should be another such sign placed next to the existing one.

Site improvement: The trail that runs through the park should be at least 3 ft. wide—it is not. The park has not been mowed or maintained recently and the entire area is overgrown. There is a picnic table that appears to be composting in place. Again, access is difficult for disabled people because of the overgrowth and lack of maintenance.

Comments: The “proposed design” sign, which hangs against a tree, reminds us that this is a work in progress. The DPW needs to mow the area so that it can be used. It is overgrown. The trail should be at least 3 ft. wide for accessibility. More attention to this area should be considered.

Bergstrom Land

Property name: Bergstrom Land

Survey date: June 15, 2023

In attendance: ADA Coordinator Mary Anne Nay and Holly Langer, Planning Board and Open Space and Recreation Committee

Property description: This property can be reached by hiking through the Town's Nason's Conservation Land from from Lake Shore Road. As a disabled person, I was not able to evaluate the property because of the rough terrain.

Handicapped access—general: This trail is only to disabled individuals with assistance. A wheelchair would not be able to maneuver over the very rough terrain.

Handicapped access—parking: There is a parking area at the Nason's Conservation Land on Lake Shore Road. This small, mowed parking area leads to the trail that eventually leads to the Bergstrom Property. Signage cannot be read due to the overgrowth, including poison ivy. There is no handicapped parking signage.

Site improvement: The Nason's Conservation Land on Lakeshore Road is a meadow that Mary Anne Nay, as ADA Coordinator, had previously evaluated. This flat meadow should be cleared around the perimeter, which would allow handicapped individuals access so everyone can benefit from Boxford's open space. There is currently no trail. The trail leading to the Bergstrom Property is overgrown and access is very difficult. The sign is not visible because of the overgrowth. Again, DPW should mow and maintain the area as stated.

Boxford Common Conservation Area

Property name: Boxford Common Conservation Area

Survey date: June 15, 2023

In attendance: ADA Coordinator Mary Anne Nay and Holly Langer, Planning Board & Open Space Committee

Property description: There are two ballfields. The first field is turf with playground structures and benches, and parking. The second field is grass with adjacent play structures. There are HP-portable toilets at each of the fields. There are paved HP-accessible trails around the field perimeters.

Handicapped access—parking: First field: There are two HP-parking spots with curb stops at the entrance. Second field: There are three HP-parking spots with curb stops at the entrance.

Site improvements: Curb stops are only at the HP-parking area. All spaces should have curb stops to prevent car bumpers from encroaching onto the paved sidewalks, which are part of the trails.

At both fields, the underlying material of the playground structures are not ADA compliant. ADA Coordinator Mary Anne Nay brought this to the attention of the Town of Boxford and was told that they were not going to replace the material, but that, instead, they would remove the play structures. Neither has occurred.

Comments: The fields and grass around the fields need to be maintained. The BAA could help the DPW with mowing and maintenance. As described above, curb stops should be installed. The material at the playgrounds should be replaced with ADA-compliant material.

Appendix 5 – Survey Results 2023

Town of Boxford Open Space and Recreation Plan

Survey Results — April 12, 2023



Town of
Boxford
Massachusetts

Town of Boxford Open Space and Recreation Plan **Survey Results**

April 12, 2023

1. How important is it to you that the Town has acquired land in the past for:



2. How important is it to you that the Town continues to acquire land for:



3. How important is it to you that the Town provide:



4. What elements or characteristics, if any, within Boxford do you feel are important contributors to the Town's scenic/rural quality?



| 1. How important is it to you that the Town has acquired land in the past for: | Protecting groundwater/drinking water resources | | Protecting wildlife habitat | | Protecting forests | | Protecting farmland | | Active recreation (organized sports) | | Passive recreation (hiking/birding/etc.) | | Protecting the town's scenic/rural quality | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Important | 329 | 80.24% | 250 | 60.98% | 248 | 60.49% | 177 | 43.17% | 106 | 25.85% | 216 | 52.68% | 241 | 58.78% |
| Important | 66 | 16.10% | 116 | 28.29% | 120 | 29.27% | 140 | 34.15% | 123 | 30.00% | 150 | 36.59% | 95 | 23.17% |
| Less Important | 10 | 2.44% | 35 | 8.54% | 34 | 8.29% | 72 | 17.56% | 128 | 31.22% | 29 | 7.07% | 50 | 12.20% |
| Not Important | 4 | 0.98% | 8 | 1.95% | 6 | 1.46% | 18 | 4.39% | 50 | 12.20% | 12 | 2.93% | 20 | 4.88% |
| No Opinion | 1 | 0.24% | 1 | 0.24% | 2 | 0.49% | 3 | 0.73% | 3 | 0.73% | 3 | 0.73% | 4 | 0.98% |

| 2. How important is it to you that the Town continues to acquire land for: | Protecting groundwater/drinking water resources | | Protecting wildlife habitat | | Protecting forests | | Protecting farmland | | Active recreation (organized sports) | | Passive recreation (hiking/birding/etc.) | | Protecting the town's scenic/rural quality | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Important | 305 | 74.39% | 232 | 56.59% | 237 | 57.80% | 167 | 40.73% | 83 | 20.24% | 198 | 48.29% | 222 | 54.15% |
| Important | 78 | 19.02% | 112 | 27.32% | 110 | 26.83% | 118 | 28.78% | 117 | 28.54% | 130 | 31.71% | 104 | 25.37% |
| Less Important | 10 | 2.44% | 40 | 9.76% | 41 | 10.00% | 87 | 21.22% | 116 | 28.29% | 52 | 12.68% | 46 | 11.22% |
| Not Important | 17 | 4.15% | 26 | 6.34% | 22 | 5.37% | 35 | 8.54% | 91 | 22.20% | 28 | 6.83% | 34 | 8.29% |
| No Opinion | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 3 | 0.73% | 3 | 0.73% | 2 | 0.49% | 4 | 0.98% |

| 3. How important is it to you that the Town provide: | Parks and community gathering spaces | | Paved bike paths | | Bike lanes | | Rail trail | | Sidewalks in town centers | | Sidewalks around schools | | Sidewalks in neighborhoods | | Community garden plots | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Important | 148 | 36.10% | 103 | 25.12% | 86 | 20.98% | 144 | 35.12% | 91 | 22.20% | 109 | 26.59% | 64 | 15.61% | 30 | 7.32% |
| Important | 159 | 38.78% | 78 | 19.02% | 79 | 19.27% | 148 | 36.10% | 86 | 20.98% | 131 | 31.95% | 46 | 11.22% | 83 | 20.24% |
| Less Important | 76 | 18.54% | 119 | 29.02% | 126 | 30.73% | 75 | 18.29% | 103 | 25.12% | 84 | 20.49% | 106 | 25.85% | 121 | 29.51% |
| Not Important | 26 | 6.34% | 107 | 26.10% | 116 | 28.29% | 40 | 9.76% | 125 | 30.49% | 79 | 19.27% | 183 | 44.63% | 166 | 40.49% |
| No Opinion | 1 | 0.24% | 3 | 0.73% | 3 | 0.73% | 3 | 0.73% | 5 | 1.22% | 7 | 1.71% | 11 | 2.68% | 10 | 2.44% |

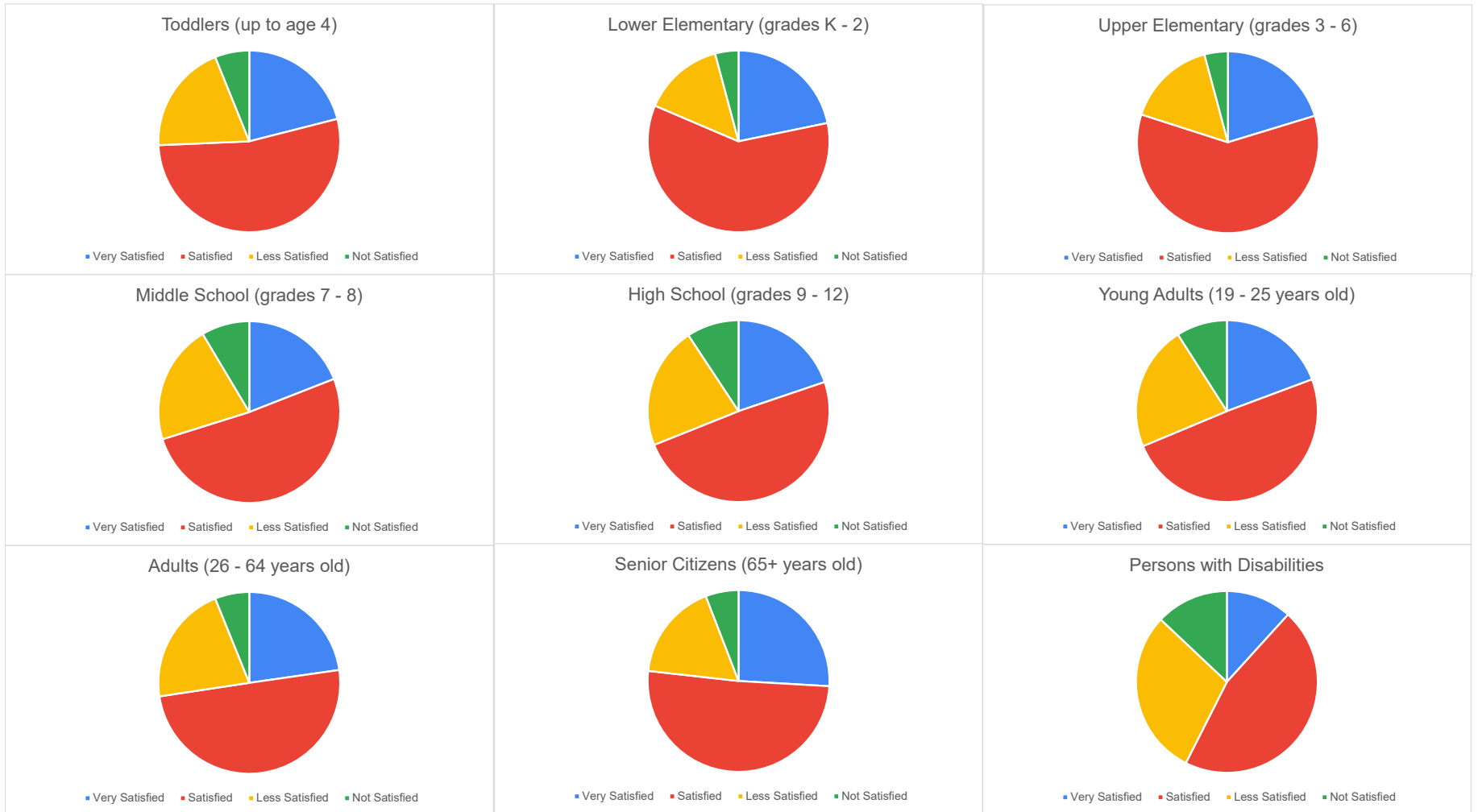
| 4. What elements or characteristics, if any, within Boxford do you feel are important contributors to the Town's scenic/rural quality? | Roadside trees | | Open landscapes (fields, meadows, wetlands) | | Forested landscapes | | Lakes, rivers, and other water bodies | | Rustic, natural stone walls | | Historic districts | | Farms | | Narrow roadways | | Space between neighbors | | Civic buildings | | Civic spaces (town green, parks) | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Important | 178 | 43.41% | 214 | 52.20% | 224 | 54.63% | 266 | 64.88% | 194 | 47.32% | 124 | 30.24% | 141 | 34.39% | 65 | 15.85% | 215 | 52.44% | 37 | 9.02% | 92 | 22.44% |
| Important | 155 | 37.80% | 155 | 37.80% | 139 | 33.90% | 128 | 31.22% | 143 | 34.88% | 144 | 35.12% | 164 | 40.00% | 94 | 22.93% | 126 | 30.73% | 142 | 34.63% | 184 | 44.88% |
| Less Important | 58 | 14.15% | 33 | 8.05% | 41 | 10.00% | 10 | 2.44% | 59 | 14.39% | 100 | 24.39% | 79 | 19.27% | 138 | 33.66% | 43 | 10.49% | 156 | 38.05% | 97 | 23.66% |
| Not Important | 16 | 3.90% | 6 | 1.46% | 3 | 0.73% | 2 | 0.49% | 12 | 2.93% | 38 | 9.27% | 23 | 5.61% | 99 | 24.15% | 23 | 5.61% | 67 | 16.34% | 36 | 8.78% |
| No Opinion | 3 | 0.73% | 2 | 0.49% | 3 | 0.73% | 4 | 0.98% | 2 | 0.49% | 4 | 0.98% | 3 | 0.73% | 14 | 3.41% | 3 | 0.73% | 8 | 1.95% | 1 | 0.24% |

5. Please identify the recreational activities which you or your family currently participate in or would like to participate in:

| Please identify the recreational activities which you or your family currently participate in or would like to participate in: | Number of Responses | % |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Birding | 324 | 9.04% |
| Jogging | 315 | 8.79% |
| Swimming | 225 | 6.28% |
| Field Hockey | 169 | 4.71% |
| Indoor Basketball | 169 | 4.71% |
| Frisbee | 168 | 4.69% |
| Tennis | 152 | 4.24% |
| Canoeing/Kayaking/etc. | 143 | 3.99% |
| Track and Field | 139 | 3.88% |
| Ice Skating | 137 | 3.82% |
| Sailing | 136 | 3.79% |
| Fishing | 132 | 3.68% |
| Cross Country Skiing | 127 | 3.54% |
| Pickleball | 126 | 3.51% |
| Outdoor Basketball | 113 | 3.15% |
| Cross Country (running) | 97 | 2.71% |
| Walking | 95 | 2.65% |
| Mountain Biking | 92 | 2.57% |
| Softball | 88 | 2.45% |
| Golf | 76 | 2.12% |
| Snow Shoeing | 72 | 2.01% |
| Baseball | 64 | 1.79% |
| Hunting | 55 | 1.53% |
| Hiking | 51 | 1.42% |
| Soccer | 46 | 1.28% |
| Horseback Riding | 45 | 1.26% |
| Lacrosse | 37 | 1.03% |
| Frisbee Golf | 31 | 0.86% |
| Cycling (road) | 30 | 0.84% |
| Skateboarding | 30 | 0.84% |
| Flag Football | 24 | 0.67% |
| Football | 23 | 0.64% |
| Playground | 22 | 0.61% |
| Picnicking | 22 | 0.61% |
| Ultimate Frisbee | 10 | 0.28% |

| Others | Number of Responses | % |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Dog Activities | 6 | 0.17% |
| Meditating in the Woods | 1 | 0.03% |
| Star Gazing | 1 | 0.03% |
| Volleyball | 1 | 0.03% |
| Yoga | 1 | 0.03% |
| Pilates | 1 | 0.03% |
| Tai Chi | 1 | 0.03% |
| Drama Class | 1 | 0.03% |
| Music Pavilion | 1 | 0.03% |
| 4-Wheeling | 1 | 0.03% |
| Enjoying Wildlife | 1 | 0.03% |

6. How satisfied are you with the Town's number of recreational places for each of the age groups listed below:



7. How satisfied are you with the amenities available at the Town's recreational facilities (equipment, parking, shade, etc.) for each of the age groups listed below:



8. How satisfied are you with the condition of the Town's recreational fields and facilities for:



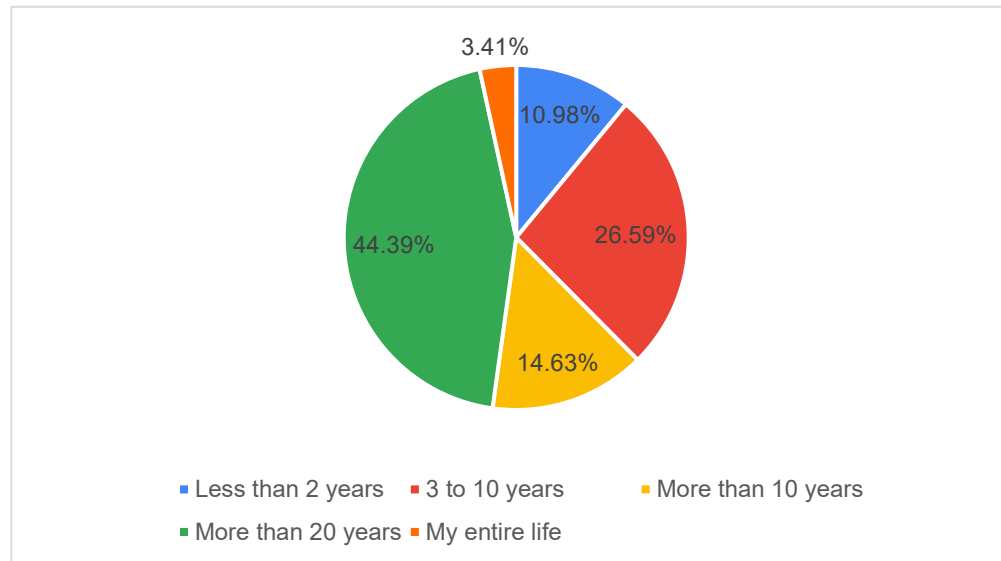
| 6. How satisfied are you with the Town's number of recreational places for each of the age groups listed below: | Toddlers (up to age 4) | | Lower Elementary (grades K - 2) | | Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6) | | Middle School (grades 7 - 8) | | High School (grades 9 - 12) | | Young Adults (19 - 25 years old) | | Adults (26 - 64 years old) | | Senior Citizens (65+ years old) | | Persons with Disabilities | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 86 | 21.03% | 89 | 21.76% | 83 | 20.29% | 78 | 19.07% | 81 | 19.80% | 79 | 19.32% | 93 | 22.74% | 106 | 25.92% | 48 | 11.74% |
| Satisfied | 218 | 53.30% | 244 | 59.66% | 244 | 59.66% | 209 | 51.10% | 201 | 49.14% | 202 | 49.39% | 204 | 49.88% | 208 | 50.86% | 187 | 45.72% |
| Less Satisfied | 80 | 19.56% | 59 | 14.43% | 65 | 15.89% | 87 | 21.27% | 89 | 21.76% | 91 | 22.25% | 87 | 21.27% | 71 | 17.36% | 121 | 29.58% |
| Not Satisfied | 25 | 6.11% | 17 | 4.16% | 17 | 4.16% | 35 | 8.56% | 38 | 9.29% | 37 | 9.05% | 25 | 6.11% | 24 | 5.87% | 53 | 12.96% |

| 7. How satisfied are you with the amenities available at the Town's recreational facilities (equipment, parking, shade, etc.) for each of the age groups listed below: | Toddlers (up to age 4) | | Lower Elementary (grades K - 2) | | Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6) | | Middle School (grades 7 - 8) | | High School (grades 9 - 12) | | Young Adults (19 - 25 years old) | | Adults (26 - 64 years old) | | Senior Citizens (65+ years old) | | Persons with Disabilities | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 80 | 19.56% | 79 | 19.32% | 79 | 19.32% | 74 | 18.09% | 79 | 19.32% | 80 | 19.56% | 82 | 20.05% | 91 | 22.25% | 56 | 13.69% |
| Satisfied | 228 | 55.75% | 241 | 58.92% | 240 | 58.68% | 229 | 55.99% | 222 | 54.28% | 217 | 53.06% | 224 | 54.77% | 220 | 53.79% | 195 | 47.68% |
| Less Satisfied | 73 | 17.85% | 65 | 15.89% | 67 | 16.38% | 79 | 19.32% | 77 | 18.83% | 79 | 19.32% | 81 | 19.80% | 73 | 17.85% | 114 | 27.87% |
| Not Satisfied | 28 | 6.85% | 24 | 5.87% | 23 | 5.62% | 27 | 6.60% | 31 | 7.58% | 33 | 8.07% | 22 | 5.38% | 25 | 6.11% | 44 | 10.76% |

| 9. How satisfied are you with the condition of the Town's recreational fields and facilities for: | Toddlers (up to age 4) | | Lower Elementary (grades K - 2) | | Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6) | | Middle School (grades 7 - 8) | | High School (grades 9 - 12) | | Young Adults (19 - 25 years old) | | Adults (26 - 64 years old) | | Senior Citizens (65+ years old) | | Persons with Disabilities | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 85 | 20.78% | 83 | 20.29% | 86 | 21.03% | 87 | 21.27% | 92 | 22.49% | 87 | 21.27% | 86 | 21.03% | 92 | 22.49% | 59 | 14.43% |
| Satisfied | 225 | 55.01% | 235 | 57.46% | 220 | 53.79% | 216 | 52.81% | 219 | 53.55% | 218 | 53.30% | 222 | 54.28% | 211 | 51.59% | 199 | 48.66% |
| Less Satisfied | 74 | 18.09% | 67 | 16.38% | 78 | 19.07% | 76 | 18.58% | 65 | 15.89% | 74 | 18.09% | 74 | 18.09% | 81 | 19.80% | 108 | 26.41% |
| Not Satisfied | 25 | 6.11% | 24 | 5.87% | 25 | 6.11% | 30 | 7.33% | 33 | 8.07% | 30 | 7.33% | 27 | 6.60% | 25 | 6.11% | 43 | 10.51% |

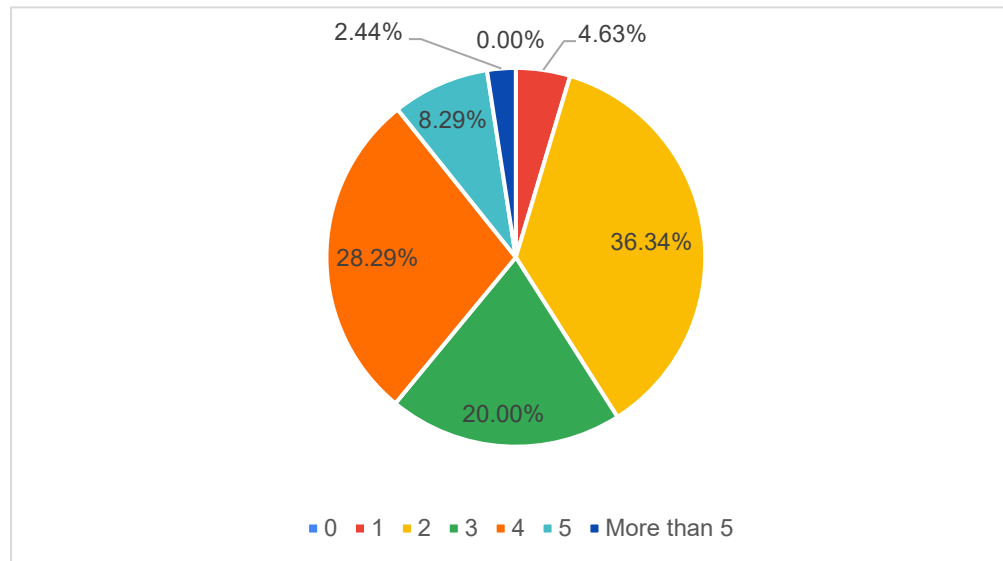
9. How many years have you lived in Boxford?

| How many years have you lived in Boxford? | Number of Responses | % |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Less than 2 years | 45 | 10.98% |
| 3 to 10 years | 109 | 26.59% |
| More than 10 years | 60 | 14.63% |
| More than 20 years | 182 | 44.39% |
| My entire life | 14 | 3.41% |



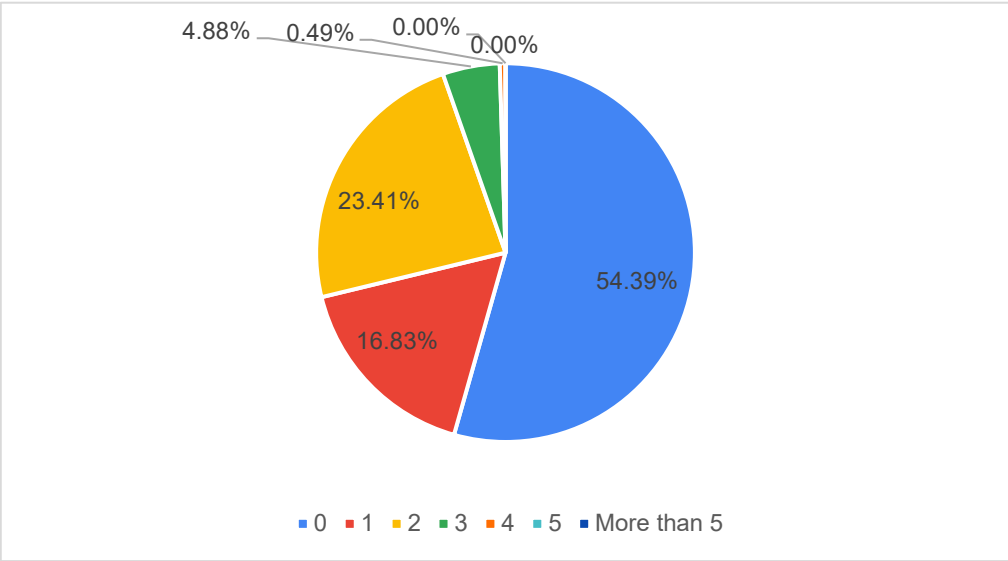
10. How many people reside in your household?

| How many people reside in your household? | Number of Responses | % |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 1 | 19 | 4.63% |
| 2 | 149 | 36.34% |
| 3 | 82 | 20.00% |
| 4 | 116 | 28.29% |
| 5 | 34 | 8.29% |
| More than 5 | 10 | 2.44% |



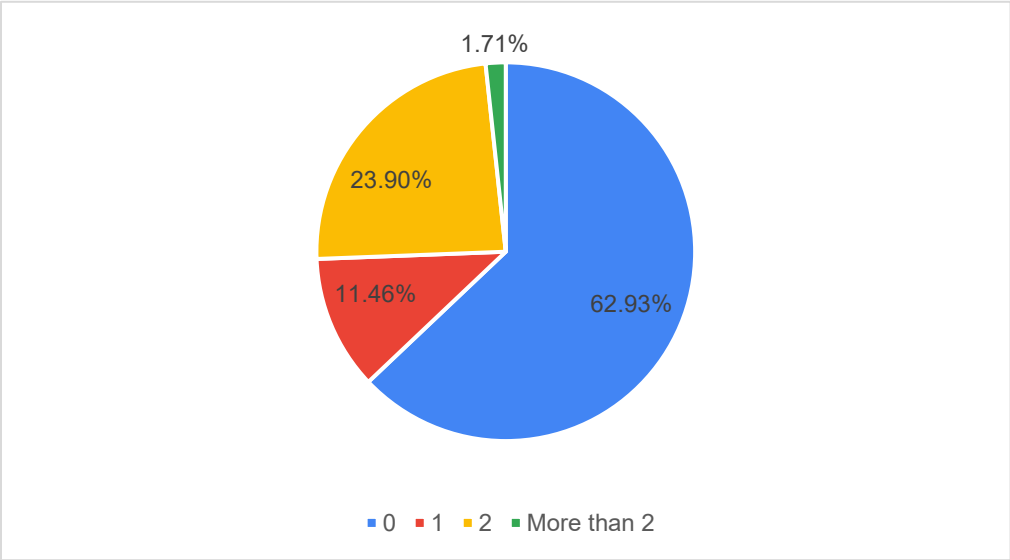
11. How many people in your household are children (18 or younger)?

| How many people in your household are children (18 or younger)? | Number of Responses | % |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 0 | 223 | 54.39% |
| 1 | 69 | 16.83% |
| 2 | 96 | 23.41% |
| 3 | 20 | 4.88% |
| 4 | 2 | 0.49% |
| 5 | 0 | 0.00% |
| More than 5 | 0 | 0.00% |



12. How many people in your household are 65 or older?

| How many people in your household are 65 or older? | Number of Responses | % |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 0 | 258 | 62.93% |
| 1 | 47 | 11.46% |
| 2 | 98 | 23.90% |
| More than 2 | 7 | 1.71% |



13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I feel like I have filled this same survey out several times. There is zero chance of significant sidewalks in Boxford. While "sports fields" are nice and important, I am very much against the idea of dugouts, snack bars, etc that just result in more things to maintain. Playgrounds are now extremely expensive to build due to the surface requirements etc, I guess I am more of a back to basics person, but an open field, a bat, a baseball and a couple of bases ought to be plenty. Morse field in West Boxford used to be fine for baseball, now the BAA thinks it is not good enough. The baseball field at Stiles pond is often wet. Maybe we should fix the fields we already have before listening to the BAA complain that they do not have enough baseball fields. Perhaps the kids involved with the sports and their parents ought to be involved with actually improving the fields.

There should be a "No Opinion" column for the Satisfaction questions. We are retired and no grandchildren, so how would we know what the facilities for Toddlers are?

Boxford roads do not lend themselves to safe walking or bike riding.

Strongly believe there should be a side walk on ONE side of MAJOR ROADWAYS only in Boxford. Currently, it is extremely dangerous for people of ALL AGES to walk/hike/run/etc on the major connecting roadways (Georgetown Rd, Ipswich Rd, Main St, Topsfield Rd, Herrick Rd, etc.). This would be the MOST BENEFICIAL and UNIVERSAL improvement the town could make.

I enjoy the walking trails in Boxford

Replace park at Johnson field. People get hurt there.

There really is not anything for kids to do in town. Nothing except the parks at school which they're at every day anyway. And boyscout park is not fun for older kids and always has bees. The fields for baseball are embarrassing. Put in some things for kids like indoor/outdoor basketball, an arcade room with snack bar, indoor bouncy house, sidewalks so kids can walk or ride a bike to their local food store in the centers to meet friends. I do enjoy the trails so kudos to BTA/BOLT!

Installing benches in trail areas and public recreation areas would be beneficials

A town swimming pool would be awesome for those who cannot put one at their house. Elementary soccer fields are terrible.

The fields and playground behind town hall are very sub par.

We would love to see more inclusive and accessible environments and experiences for children and individuals with disabilities. Our daughter has Down syndrome and we are always wanting to build an inclusive community for her.

I love this town and hope it stays just as it is.

Maintenance of any park, field, recreational area and garden area in town is problematic. Ongoing maintenance is poor to nonexistent.

I would like sidewalks and shoulders where sidewalks are not feasible. It's impossible to walk anywhere in town. You have to choose between potentially being hit by a car or being bitten by a tick while catching poison ivy.

If buying more land means higher taxes then it is the wrong thing to do. This behavior will drive the elderly that love and live in this town out of town. Has anyone though of reducing spending and therefore reduce taxes?

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Would love to see sidewalks/hike/bike trails connecting the elementary schools to their surrounding areas. Specifically Spofford to the Library/Town Hall and Cole to Boxford Common and East Boxford Center/10 Elm - especially if there will be future children's/youth programming there. Would also love more playground/rec choices and more links throughout town to the Topsfield hike/bike trail so our older kids can ride to Topsfield Center, Library, and the new Pump Track there. There seems to be some issues with the upkeep of the Boyscout Park playground. There is always SO MUCH trash on the playground and during the late fall/winter there is no trash can either. I try to take a trashbag when we go and collect, but it really is pretty gross. Some of the equipment is broken/worn and I'd love to see it updated/expanded while keeping the original character. And finally, I'd love to see something done about the playground behind the Police Station. It would be a lovely little area for a playground, more tennis/basketball/pickleball courts and maybe an outdoor concert/gathering space for the library and community to use as well. If this area is supposed to be a town center (as home to the town hall and library) let's make it look and act like one so that it becomes a place people actually want to spend time. Thanks for listening and for all the work you do for Boxford! :)

We don't need to destroy any more land. Plenty of spaces not used as it is. Where are the select board? Where is the oversight? Why isn't the town administration fighting to protect land? You aren't representing me.

Great idea getting a survey with demographics. Boxford is a great town to raise your kids, and I think, move away when empty nesters. Having 2 in college and 2 in high school, that's our plan. It been a great 13 years with plans of another 6-8 more! Thank you

Why can't DPW provide trash cans in all parks and trailheads in town? It's ridiculous that we're the only town around that encourages littering and pet waste left for animals choke on.

no experience to make a statement on seniors or the disabled so mark not satisfied. there was no option to say not applicable.

would like to see better use of open spaces for recreation and/or sports

. Wild spaces are a schoolroom for developing life long values of respect for nature and regard for others and oneself.

Tennis courts could be better maintained. Nets are in bad shape. Power wash periodically for safety.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I feel it is very important to keep acquiring open space and forests, for all the obvious reasons, but also to try to mitigate against climate change. We are all on well water so are relying on clean, safe water, streams and brooks. We need to be protecting habitat and forests and encouraging a more climate friendly/healthy way of living in the suburbs.

If we are to develop housing it should be affordable housing, built in a "green" and sustainable way, not like the horrendous Willows Homes - which are only for the wealthy. We need to actually plan town projects. Now we have the disappointing COA buildings, which should have been done in an environmentally friendly way.

We should be only planning and repurposing our town buildings in "green and sustainable" ways.

We do not need any more ball fields - we need to take care of what we have.

Thank you VERY much for doing this survey and for all your hard work!

Perhaps no more ball fields.

would like to see a community garden

Parking at Boxford commons field is horrible. Johnson field playground should get a major update

We need a dedicated dog park!

Playgrounds need improvement and updating. Glad to finally see a new community center in process. Roads are dangerous to walk for adults and treacherous with children and pets. Fields have improved since our family was using them but more improvement is needed. Community activities would enhance community involvement and neighborly feeling. Better communication regarding townwide events would encourage broader participation. We love the rural feel but also want safety. Trees and roadways need to be maintained too. Way too much trash on side of roads...so unsightly and unnecessary. Animal waste on trails and roadside should be picked up. Pride in our community should be encouraged. Need a campaign to promote this.

The Elm St. project should be open soon. Let's see how it works out with the many spaces.

I have the same 'complaint' each time I attend an event or go to an area for a hike or use of the facility - we need to do better with more seating so that folks who want to sit and enjoy the area and watch or maybe are older and require rest stops have something to use. I also think we need to address more parking spaces at all local trail heads.

The recreational fields in town ie: the baseball and soccer fields need a lot of work and way more upkeep especially the overgrown weeds and grass. They are an embarrassment to the town. The playgrounds specifically Boy Scout always has overgrown weeds and a nasty bee problem that my kids don't even want to go near it in the summer. It's disappointing for such a beautiful town.

Too much focus on old ways and preservation. Town has to modernize, ie sidewalks and safe roads. The idea that narrow roads add to the rustic or forrest-y atmosphere is folly. Recreation is very nice.... Boxford Town Commons is an absolute gem, Masconomet should be able to use it for the girls soccer and field hockey teams MUCH more often. The improvements of the rail trail are also very exciting.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The baseball fields in town and the park st Johnson field are a disgrace |
| Boxford is a beautiful forested quiet town which offers land and privacy between neighbors which is the reason we've been living here for over 20 years. I just hope you're not trying to turn this into a North Andover. For the people who want to transform Boxford, move to another town. |
| A renovation to the softball field and playground at the Town Hall is desperately needed. Also our little league fields at all levels are an embarrassment compared to other towns in the area |
| I do not favor any taxpayer monies being spent on recreational facilities, but would welcome those who wish to use such to pay fees to cover those expenses. |
| We live in a modern world mixing all ages with cars, bikes, and pedestrians. I would like to see a modern rural friendly approach that improves walk-ability/ bike-ability of Boxford in a safe way that is compatible with cars on the bigger thoroughfares. We have ample space to offer bike lanes and sidewalks as part of town right of ways, but it seems that preserving evolving definitions of rural beauty is winning out over utility. |
| Survey needs a 'no response' option for satisfaction by age group. Survey takers may not know what options are afforded to all age groups I marked Satisfied for all as I didn't have a reply. |
| Boxford is such a rare place so close to Boston. It is critical that we continue to preserve the rural character. If we don't we will lose what makes Boxford special forever and it will become just like any of the 100s of towns around the area. |
| Basketball court at 10 Elm |
| Boxford' s value has decreased and not kept up to other towns. Price per sq/ft is less than neighboring towns. Amenities, lack of community all contribute to this in my opinion. Folks move after their children graduate. |
| We need more spaces for organized activities that compare to neighboring towns. Thanks! |
| Keep boxford a quiet, rural town. Too many towns in Essex county are overdeveloping, and it is ruining the state, as well as the environment. Boxford must stay a rural town with minimal to no development |
| Baseball fields need a lot of work. Improperly graded, lots of tripping hazards in outfields, infields are rocky/gravelly (we are always envious of other fields in Middleton/Topsfield). Playground at Johnson need to be replaced. Turf field at Boxford Commons is great but parking is brutal. |
| More benches or log to sit and meditate |

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

This plan must include recommendations and support for improving existing recreational sites before advocating for new sites. The Morse Field in West Boxford should be improved and dedicated to girls youth softball. The tennis court near the police station should be dedicated to tennis. Pickle-ball courts could be built behind the closed West Boxford library next to the gazebo and also at Colby Park, Boy Scout Park and at the new Council on Aging site. All these have existing parking areas. The men's softball fields should be improved. Can you imagine being a pitcher and go from one field to another and having the pitching The poor conditions at these fields are dangerous. It is not the fault of the understaffed DPW. The Recreation Committee and BAA should work together with DPW to develop an annual budget for maintenance and improvements of the ballfields, soccer field and work to get approval from the Finance Committee and Select Board. This should be a well thought out budget developed well in advance of the annual Town Meeting, not rushed and slapped together without building support.

Important to be able to ride a bike and walk in the town. Knew when I moved here that the roads were narrow and sidewalks limited however as long as the police monitor the speeds and traffic I am happy. The open space and freedom that the environment offers is why I moved to Boxford. If I wanted a more organized outdoor space I could move or would have chosen a different town.

Middle aged people and parents with small children who often stay close to home could benefit from programming and spaces for us. The new community center seems like a great opportunity to help with that.

Sidewalks would make our town much much safer.

Minimal activities/amenities for young parents,

I noticed that the latest bta/bolt map does not include all of the trail updates (sheffield rd to boxford commons & btc in boxford forest). An updated trail map would be much appreciated- especially for those newer to boxford. I always like a laid out trail run for a 5k,10k,halfmarathon with a few markers -- maybe an eagle scout project?

Thank you for conducting the survey

We don't use the playgrounds or playing fields besides the tennis courts and are not able to say if we are satisfied, but it appears necessary to answer in order to submit this survey. We enjoy the tennis courts by the police station. The high school courts are not as nice and a windscreen would be helpful there.

I feel the Town should continue to acquire and protect open space when possible. I also feel that existing recreational facilities such as Boy Scout park, around Town Hall, the COA area, Stiles Pond, the old West Boxford library, the new park near the West Boxford store, and at the schools, should be maintained and/or improved before building new facilities on undeveloped open space.

Don't need any more building projects

Stop buying land for no purpose other than open space. We have more than enough.

Pickleball courts would be amazing. And they are inexpensive to build

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

While the spaces between neighbors in most of the town and the rural atmosphere are critical, I do think we could find some room for small sections of somewhat denser more affordable housing, particularly along some main roads.

The town center on Georgetown Rd. needs a facelift

I would like more trails in Boxford that connect to rail trails in neighboring areas. I would also like more tennis courts. Pickle ball has crowded out a lot of the available court time.

Parks are not just about soccer fields. Build some tennis/pickleball courts, walking paths, etc.

A town stage or bandstand would be great, for performances of youth and local bands, speakers, holidays. Similar to what N Andover has in their green space.

We would love sidewalks in more areas, especially near schools and village centers (west Boxford village etc.)

Keep real estate taxes from rising low, thus no expensive projects and keep Town on a financially conservative base. Open space and water quality is very good currently, not an issue really. Keep private wells free. Focus on Boxford first, and limit influence activist outside organizations such as IRWA that want to tell Boxford residents how to live there lives. IRWAs agenda is control your private wells and take away your private property rights. Limit Boxford officials involvement with IRWA (conflicts of interest), put Boxford first. Keep Boxfords wells free (Boxford has enormous water resources and limited number of residents, well water usage a non-issue.). Keep 2 acre zoning.

Thank you for the survey. It's important to maintain the atmosphere of Boxford, however the constant and long term power outages have to end. If that means trimming more tress and getting aggressive then that need to happen

We need sidewalks on the main roads (i.e. Ipswich, Main) and more recreational fields.

You should have provided a list of town recreational facilities. I couldn't think of any for some of the age groups.

I have lived here my entire life (30 years old). I bought a home here as soon as I could after graduating through our school system. I am planning on raising my family here and staying a resident till I die. I have always enjoyed the trails for hiking and biking and have almost been killed on the paved roads for years now just walking my dog. I would love to see some widened roads with a walking lane or paved pedestrian lane on the main roads. I often find myself hiking around town through the trails and coming out to a main road miles away from where I began. It takes hours to hike back through to the beginning. It would be much safer to walk or bike a pedestrian lane on my travels back to my car or house. (At least for the main roads). Boxford is also a major cycling route between Beverly and Newburyport. We have had countless accidents and disputes involving motorists and cyclists, a pedestrian lane could minimize these issues. It's my understanding that the town already owns the space from pavement to rock wall on many main roads. A responsible city planner could design a pedestrian lane that seamlessly fits into our town without destroying the rural beauty. Hey maybe we would see even more people walking about and interacting with each other. I understand speeding cars are a constant issue but you can't control everyone in the world, you can however provide alternative and safer paths for people to travel.

We miss a gathering spot for middle and high schoolers to give them something to do on Friday/Saturday evenings (and I am not thinking about the library). My kids at 16 and 20 and that has been the most mentioned by them. There is nothing to do in Boxford for us!!

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Roads are extremely dangerous to step foot on. Sidewalks and ways to slow traffic are imperative. Wenham has done a good job of adding sidewalks to areas that are wooded and uneven with stone walls mixed in. Amenities around recreational fields are not existent and parking is less than satisfactory.

Boxford has between 1200 and 1600 licensed dogs each year. Leash laws and traffic hazards of walking on local roads makes it difficult for our canine pets to socialize with other dogs and get needed exercise. BOXFORD NEEDS A DOG PARK like many other towns in the area. L. J. Guilbault, 978-352-4174

Boy Scout park playground needs fix up. For example - baby swing straps (formerly there) now missing. Tight rope on ground. Several decorative plaques (pumpkins, leaves, etc) missing. Trash is also all around.

The playground by the dump needs to be repaired (very outdated swings, monkey bars, spinning wheel/merry go round). Boy Scout Park has the underlayers of the playground bottom coming up (big pieces of fabric sticking up from the ground). Paved bike paths and sidewalks would be safe and great for families! THANKS!

I like the town to be small, peaceful and rural.

This town doesn't care about conservation. Hell, you would regulate a fart if you had the chance. This is a BS question and you are only doing it because you are required to, not because you actually care about what your taxpayers have to say about it. You won't change jack squat. The conservation commission is ruining this town and the commission is not experienced in anything other than being Boxford lifers and Ross knows it; he used to be a respected environmental attorney; now he's just a puppet of petulant public nuisance. All you care about is wetlands and not the tax payers who cannot thrive because Ross found a puddle on their lawn or some West Boxford farmers and horsemen don't like you; you can't have a back deck or fence but they can walk their horses down your street and leave feces on your driveway. Or some old town corpse had an ax to grind against their neighbor; the town files are littered with the complaints of a set few bullies. And the turtles and beavers don't pay taxes; just saying. DO BETTER! The bylaws are poorly written and the leadership is subjective and have their own personal interests and the interest of their friends. Get some ethics, start there, then ask your survey questions, FIX YOUR BYLAWS!

Sidewalks would be amazing to be able to take a family walk without almost getting hit by a car

Boxford has purchased more than enough recreation fields/soccer parks recently. In addition, the boxford library is part of the Merrimack Valley consortium of libraries so we do not need to act as if it is the only library around for 200 miles.

Paving more roads!

Raised our kids in Boxford

I would much rather having an actual business in Boxford than another park/farm/etc. Every other town around here has businesses which offset taxes and help residents have some place to shop. Parking at Boxford Common SUCKS. And why are there no bleachers? Who designed that place?!?! Please don't put in bike lanes. We already have tiny windy roads. Cars won't be able to drive if we have more people on bikes in wider lanes.

Keep Boxford a quaint town!

Masconomet fields need serious investment

Playground at Johnson is a dump and dangerous.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

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| Sidewalks down the major roads like main st would be good. Mailboxes on both sides of the streets. |
| New field across from Spofford were a good addition, though they screwed up some nice cc skiing trails with spring flooding |
| we moved to Boxford because of the school system and the rural feel of this town. We have used it for over 40 years. We have had animals - horses, goats, pigs, etc. We have utilized the town and school sports and been happy with what the town had to offer. People should learn more about where they are moving to and accept it for what it is and its benefits. There are many other towns in the area that have other things to offer. |
| Land conservation is my primary concern. Save the trees! |
| Please keep Boxford rural. Please no sidewalks street lights, no bike lanes. Keep it a small town and anyone who doesn't like it move plenty of room in Cambridge for you |
| While the idea of the Boxford Common is great, it is a disgrace; parking, bathrooms, stands, scoreboard, etc make it embarrassing to be a resident of an affluent town. |
| Too much is spent on sr center. I do not support any hunting. |
| Improving the bridle path in Lockwood and upkeep. We are one of 2 agricultural towns in Massachusetts. We should celebrate and embrace that. That is why we live here. Helping farms stay farms and not be developed. |
| More recreation and sidewalks in boxford would be great |
| No big developments, ruins the feel of the town. The best part of town is quiet streets and neighborhoods and minimal traffic. Large developments disrupt all of that. |
| The he questions that asked me to answer on my feelings about resources for age groups I do t have should have a button of na or that I am unable to answer- for example I have never used the rec fields so I cannot answer how well they work |
| Given the quality of recreational facilities, fields, parks, and parking availability in surrounding communities, Boxford is not on par. Boxford should be meeting or exceeding the quality of what's available compared to surrounding communities, but it is not. Parking is a constant issue, as well as field availability and quality. |
| It would be great to have access to an indoor 25 yd/meter swimming pool facility within 5 miles of the center of town. Either exclusively for Boxford or the Masco community of towns. |
| You should include a selection for "unknown" in the questionnaire. I can't speak to the situation for toddlers in Boxford since i don't have contact with them. |
| Boxford needs more open space that's visible from our roads, like it looked 100 years ago. The center of town could use a few more commercial buildings like a coffee shop, hardware store, grocer. Also, we should not let people divide our farmland. For example, the current small farm/home for sale on Main Street near the center. We have a fond of trails, which is awesome! We also need to get people to drive slower near our ponds. The roads near baldpate pond have so many crushed animals on them and people just drive too fast. Thanks for listening! :-) |

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

The most important way to improve the rural nature of the town would be to put electrical wiring underground, particularly in the 2 village centers. The current overhead system, is unsightly and has forced most households to install inefficient and expensive individual generators, and has resulted in the need to remove many trees (recently along Georgetown Rd and parts of Herrick Rd.) the cost of which is passed onto consumers.

New plantings on town-owned land should be restricted to native species. That should apply to the electric company installations; e.g. at the junction of Pond St. and Ipswich Rd. and at the 10 Elm St. property.

I was very disappointed that Boxford built a beautiful new senior citizen center but played it cheap with the library which would have served people of all age groups. I guess this reflects the aging demographics of the town.

I like the rural nature of the roads but I don't think they're safe/conducive to recreation (anything other than motor vehicle traffic). I would like to see semi-paved paths to take the walkers/hikers/dogs/bikes OFF of the vehicular roadways. For example, Middleton road is a very dangerous road due to it's heavy use by cyclists and walkers. I would like to see pathways through/around Boxford State forest to give those folks alternatives to using vehicular spaces for non-vehicular uses. I'm sure the same can be said for many other town conserved areas. We have a TON of open space. Why isn't any of it conducive to getting from A to B so as to avoid the sidewalkless town roads? Ideally, one could traverse all of Boxford from East to West or North to South via rail trails, walking paths, etc without ever hitting vehicular roadways.

This survey was difficult to answer as I needed to answer N/A to many questions since our children are all grown and I do not have an opinion on spaces for younger people not should I because it does not matter to me.

No more artificial turf

We love Boxford and support any endeavors to continuously improve or preserve its history, wildlife, forests & trails, outdoor activities, family events and overall charm.

Keep Boxford the way it is. That's what enticed us to move here.

I appreciate all the forests for hiking and biking and am a road biker, but worried about the big groups of riders who ride parallel to one another and take up all the road, it is dangerous for them and auto drivers. I also think a comprehensive plan for recreation is necessary to benefit all the age groups in town as the equipment at places like Boy Scout and Johnson need repairs and replacement while some of the fields and parking lots and trails need some TLC as well. I recognize that it is a big undertaking and I appreciate you asking our opinions and wanting to do more for the citizens of Boxford. Thank you

Town Forest parking areas should have trash receptacles or at least "Do Not Litter" signs, and police patrols to discourage sex/drinking/marijuana usage. "No guns!" signs would be appreciated.

Boyscout park has so many bees. We can rarely go and stay because they are not removed or treated to keep them out. We have to go to other town playgrounds.

Boxford is full of natural beauty and we hope it stays that way and are happy to volunteer our time to help keep it so.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Love Boxford! Lived here since 1996, raised my family here, who were very involved with sports. They have all grown and moved to NYC (go figure), but each time I visit, I am excited to be home. Boxford is truly my slice of paradise on earth. Thank you immensely to those who work in public service. My sincere gratitude to you. And, thank you to the townspeople who love Boxford and work hard to maintain its charm and integrity.

We need safe sidewalks and bike lanes to enjoy the beautiful nature in boxford without fear of getting hit by a car/truck. The trails could be better marked for new residents.

Mens softball fields are terrible. The men's softball league is very important in this town and these fields need to be better maintained

I love our rural community but I would also love to see more bike-able and walkable spaces in town. Thank you!

I would like to see an emphasis on using Native plants in our landscapes. Also, should have included an N/A or unknown as option.

Most Boxford residents greatly appreciate and enjoy the many natural areas we are lucky to have in town.

The rail trail is important, but it is not important that it be paved (there are important reasons that it not be).

We have enough playing fields, e.g. for middle and high school students and adults.

Please do not clear any more forested areas (especially no more clearing within areas of MA Estimated Habitat of Rare and Endangered Species or other environmentally sensitive areas) for playing fields. Any future playing fields should be constructed only in areas that currently are fields, without trees, and not within or next to environmentally sensitive areas.

Perhaps we need a designated area/paths where mountain bikes specifically are allowed. The devastation of trails and sensitive natural areas, including documented areas of endangered species, in Wildcat Conservation Area (including with created, unauthorized, heavily used "bike" trails) is truly heartbreaking and should not be allowed to continue.

Preserve, protect, restore...

Last year's (2022)drought was especially hard on everything and everyone living in Boxford, including its people. Lack of water, including lack of drinking water for humans, has severe consequences, including long-term detrimental consequences. Every proposal for development of open space for recreational purposes must include and require preservation of quantity and quality of water resources.

- Except where removal is necessary for creating a trail or because of clear danger, preserve the trees, which store significant amounts of water, absorb CO2, etc.,

- No irrigation (except as may be necessary for some agriculture),

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

We have much open space currently- maintenance is a must. With 2 acre + zoning we have naturally created self owned open space. Any walking and riding bikes on our roadways is unsafe. This limits the ability of any age group to get exercise or go to a destination safely without getting into a car. On another note, it's time our elected officials addressed the zoning in our 2 centers for small scale nonresidential zoning, to include housing for residents to enable them to sell their big homes and age in place in smaller units in their town. Clearly there is a demand! Controversial to many, but very much needed.

Leave west village alone. Get rid of artificial surfaces in playgrounds sport areas

Drama class and craft spaces :)

The town offers Very Very little for anyone!!! If you do not play group sports there is nothing. Buying historical hayfields was a joke and will be for years to come!!! Put money into a decent library and hire staff that actually runs activities for kids, young teens and teens. For our taxes we get NOTHING!!! It is just so sad. Few things for seniors but from 12 to 60 there is nothing if you do not play sports.

We need side walks! I want to walk/jog outside of my home without risk of getting hit by a car every time. I want my kids to have access to the roads as well. I always imagined them being able to walk and bike to their friends homes and school, but it's impossible because it is so dangerous in this town. I would also like to see the town remove the infestation of poison ivy we have in town. When we do risk our lives to go for a walk we have to walk in the road because the streets are lined with poison ivy. I am more than happy to help with this. But please, give us sidewalks.

I love boxford, the only thing that I would like to see more of is safer walking/biking areas in the neighborhoods. I'd like to be able to go for a run/walk without having to drive and not feel like I'm going to get hit by a car.

It would have been helpful to have an "Unsure" option" Very Satisfied-> Not Satisfied questions, since I think we are fairly unaware of what's available, other than the new project on Elm.

Keep Boxford wild

Some of my answers are based on what I remember from when my kids were young (youngest is now 25). Not sure of what changes or upgrades have been made to the fields, the parking, or availability. I still feel that there should be more offered in town for children such as an outdoor skating rink, a community ctr for pick up sports....

The questions regarding satisfaction with recreational fields & facilities for the different age groups should have a N/A answer option. I am neither satisfied nor dissatisfied for most of these, as no one in our household is a user of, or knowledgeable about, the recreational fields & facilities for most of the age groups listed. So my answers as being "satisfied" are mostly meaningless for these specific questions.

I don't think we need more ball fields just better maintenance of the ones we have(eg. Boxford Common field). A pickle all court would be great but shouldn't be near homes due to the noise. Bike lanes would be helpful for safety!

Investment into moving power lines underground! Also, it would be amazing to have more commercial areas in the town center for some small businesses like coffee shop, bakery etc

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I raised my 3 children in Boxford and coached sports throughout their childhood. The condition of the fields, particularly in baseball, was terrible. This does not mean that new fields were needed, it means that the fields that we had needed to maintained.

Stop spending unnecessary money. Our taxes are too high for the services received

Hi, I have great hopes for the new Center at 10 Elm which is why I rated the Town's recreational facilities for Seniors as very satisfied. If they can add multigenerational and youth programming then I think the town will be on its way to providing for our younger generation. I feel we are always behind on providing services and recreational spaces for those with disabilities and we need to rebuild our playground at Boy Scout Park to be accessible! Lastly, sidewalks in the East Village make sense - to connect the school/fields to the new Center -- it will help Boxford become a safer healthier community.

We should not build new playgrounds/ courts/ballfields/parking lots until the ones we have can be well maintained.

There is little information about recreational opportunities in and around Boxford. The Town relies too much on BTA/BOLT and the BAA. At the very least let's get good, current, easily accessible information on the Town's web site.

Boxford has purchased enough open space. We need to create housing for residents to age in place. Take a look at surrounding towns and what they have in place - Boxford's Andrews Farm is a fraction of what we should be doing. We can build while maintaining Boxford's rural charm. The town also has to sink some cash into maintaining the buildings that we have. The west side of town could use a rehaul of the ball field at the old west library. Tear the building down and create a playground for all ages, next to the basketball court. Add a track for walking around the perimeter of the property for some safe exercise. The gazebo is there and would make a great gathering area for residents at that end of town. Put our cpa \$\$ to good use. Let's take care of our kids and the wellness of our adults (physical and mental) and create places on land we already own to draw folks outside. The key is utilizing the space the town already owns. We need to create more revenue to offset taxes, and taking land off our tax rolls is not the way to do it. Let's move forward and be progressive.... and generate some tax revenue.

Although we are over 65, we use all the toddler/preschool facilities for visiting grandkids!

Ackerman and Johnson parks are great but need updates!

Would like to see dedicated pickleball courts perhaps at Boxford Commons.

The woods, fields, farmland and trails are, for me, what makes Boxford special. I hope that efforts continue to protect the remaining unprotected open space and trails.

Our town NEEDS sidewalks. We can't walk safely along our beautiful windy roads. It's a shame and goes against the town's "rural living" commitments when our only option is to drive down the road to a neighbors'! I think cement sidewalks would not be pretty, but our town does such a beautiful job with maintaining our trails, what if we essentially built dirt walking trails on both sides of the roads, allowing people to be off the street when walking.

Town lands that I appreciate are conservation areas with hiking trails

How about a dog park?

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

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| <p>We are always enthusiastic about helping with continued trail maintenance and improvement. We live in the Stiles Pond area, and it would be great to develop some more trail connectors, for example between Wildcat and Lords Woods as well as Leonard Farm and Witch Hollow. There are existing easements and I'm sure enthusiastic landowners that might be willing to support an expansion of our beautiful trail network in town.</p> |
| <p>I know 0 about younger needs. Forced to answer all questions, I check them "Not Satisfied."</p> |
| <p>I am unable to comment on facilities for people with disabilities and young children, however the survey required a response. Please disregard.</p> |
| <p>Please create more parking at hiking spots throughout town. Or have the small lots cleared of snow in the winter.</p> |
| <p>Need more safe, updated playgrounds. Need a space for toddlers both indoors and out.</p> |
| <p>I understand there is a big push for more fields for team sports. As a long time resident, senior citizen, never with children, I feel I've supported enough playing fields in town. If any more are built it should be supported by "pay for play". We could use a playground for little kids in the West village. We could also use a park for picnics or a dog park (I don't have a dog). City type parks would also provide an area for residents with disabilities. We have enough trails and hiking paths. I will definitely vote against additional funds spent on fields and any more recreational expenditures in "East".</p> |
| <p>Would love to see more progress on the rail trail!! and information disseminated about any of this in a town newsletter of sorts...</p> |
| <p>I am concerned about the cost of open space.</p> |
| <p>We need to be wise in preserving land that will keep our rural qualities but also keep our tax rate at a reasonable level.</p> |
| <p>We need bike or walking lanes</p> |
| <p>Townpeople tend not to understand the resource value of trees and native plants for water quality and flow, and for all native species of birds and animals. A goal of educating the townspeople would be useful.</p> |
| <p>Traffic on streets is out of control and it is dangerous to walk or bike since there is no space except on street. Kelsey Rd should have no through traffic. It is very narrow and the bike trail and Kelsey Nursery are both there.</p> |
| <p>It doesn't seem like our athletic field locations are set up to have multigenerational use. It would be nice if our spaces had offerings for everyone. Our roads are busier and it's getting less safe to ride bikes or even walk on our roadways. Investment into spaces where everyone can remain active as they age would be beneficial to our entire community. It seems like we have a lot of focus on athletic fields for our youth, but not much to offer our older residents.</p> |
| <p>Boxford is a rare jewel of a town thanks to its rural, bucolic nature. Please, let's encourage more preservation, conservation and retention of the Town's natural qualities. Reducing development and expenses should be the primary goal.</p> |
| <p>Peace and quiet is very important!!</p> |
| <p>The playground at Johnson Field/Town Hall could use an update.</p> |
| <p>Boxford has several meeting centers (2 churches for example) and outdoor venues (trails etc.), available at present. The addition of the new "COMMUNITY CENTER" will greatly add to the list - IF people decide to take advantage of them. It is a wonderful Town, with many generous volunteers who give of our time, talent and treasure. I am pleased to live here!</p> |

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Be sure to retain roadways for safe bicycling (narrow and shaded with slow speed limited to keep 'cut through' drivers from using Boxford roads.) Do not cut down forests with hiking trails for ball fields.

Don't widen the roads to make it easier for people to cut through town.

The town NEEDS to stop buying property. There is no need to mortgage all of this land "in case" we may need it in the future. Because it "might be nice to have" is not a reason to go further into debt.

This survey is identified as a plan. However continuing to take out more bonds on land and projects may not be beneficial for the needs of the town when the projects such as the land purchased at Cole school for example sits unfinished and unused. The new community/senior center seems to cover many opportunities for the residents of our community.

The Kelsey Arboretum at 18 Kelsey Road can offer many opportunities for participation by families at all levels. Jr and Sr High School internships have been offered.